

Where Do The Measures of the Incidence of Crime Come From?

The two principal data collection efforts are the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program and the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey. Begun in 1929, the Uniform Crime Reports collect data on eight "index" offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) and 21 other crimes. The data are supplied by *participating law enforcement agencies*, which submit monthly tallies of reported crimes. Today, though not in earlier periods, the Uniform Crime Reports cover most jurisdictions in the country. But they include only *reported crimes*, and local police may use different definitions.

Unlike the Uniform Crime Reports, data for the National Crime Victimization Survey, begun in 1973, are collected by the US Census Bureau through personal interviews, from large nationally representative samples. The surveys are designed to measure crime incidence, regardless of whether the crime was reported to law enforcement agencies. They include demographic profiles of victims and offenders. However, since the surveys rely on respondents' perceptions of past incidents—which may or may not be actual criminal offenses—inaccurate reporting may result.

The BJS National Crime Victimization Surveys Show Marked Declines in Reported Victimization on Rape, Burglary, and Robbery; Modest Declines in Other Types of Crime

Year	Rape	Burglary	Robbery	Assault	Violent Crime
1973	2.3	110.0	6.9	38.3	48.6
1974	2.6	111.7	7.4	38.0	49.2
1975	2.3	110.0	7.0	39.1	48.9
1976	2.1	106.7	6.7	39.2	48.6
1977	2.3	106.2	6.4	41.7	50.5
1978	2.6	103.2	6.1	42.0	50.2
1979	2.8	100.9	6.5	42.5	51.4
1980	2.3	101.2	6.8	40.3	49.6
1981	2.6	105.5	7.6	42.1	52.6
1982	2.1	93.8	7.3	41.4	51.1
1983	2.1	84.0	6.2	38.2	46.2
1984	2.3	76.9	6.0	38.6	46.8
1985	1.8	75.2	5.3	38.0	44.7
1986	1.8	73.8	5.3	34.9	41.9
1987	2.1	74.5	5.5	36.4	43.7
1988	1.5	74.3	5.5	37.0	44.1
1989	1.8	67.7	5.6	36.9	44.4
1990	1.5	64.6	5.9	39.2	44.1
1991	2.3	64.7	6.1	40.5	48.0
1992	1.8	58.6	6.1	40.0	49.0
1993	1.5	59.9	6.1	42.9	51.3
1994	1.5	54.4	6.1	42.7	50.8
1995	1.1	47.4	5.3	37.6	44.5

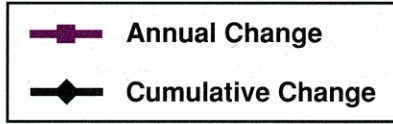
1995 rate as a percent of 1973 rate: **48%** **43%** **77%** **98%** **92%**

Note: Victimization rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, or, in the case of "burglary," per 1,000 households.

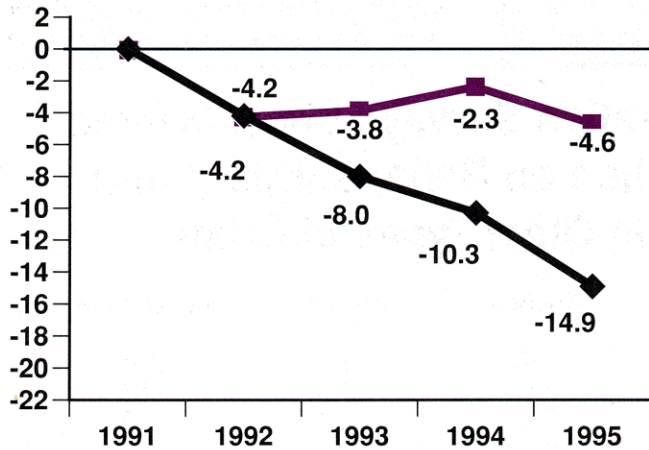
Because the National Crime Victimization Survey was redesigned in 1992, rates for the period 1973-91 had to be adjusted to make them comparable to the findings of the later victimization surveys. The adjustments were made using methods presented in Michael R. Rand, James P. Lynch, and David Cantor, *Criminal Victimization, 1973-95*, NCJ-163069, April 1997.

Sources: Bruce M. Taylor, *Changes in Criminal Victimization, 1994-95*, Bureau of Justice Statistics publication NCJ-162032, April 1997, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States: 1973-92 Trends*, NCJ-147006, July 1994.

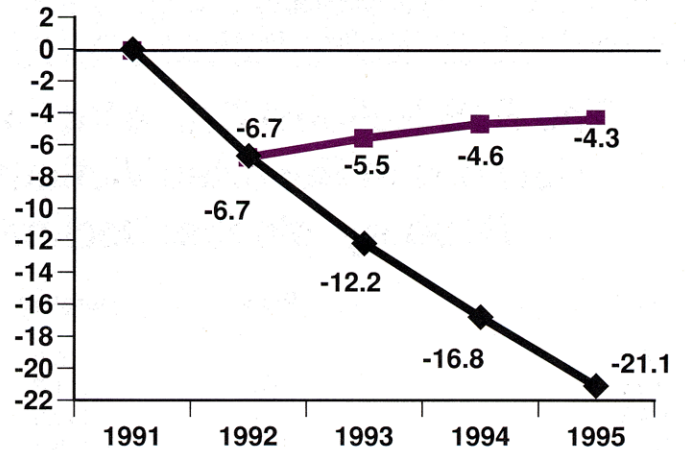
The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports Show A Major Decline In Most Crimes...



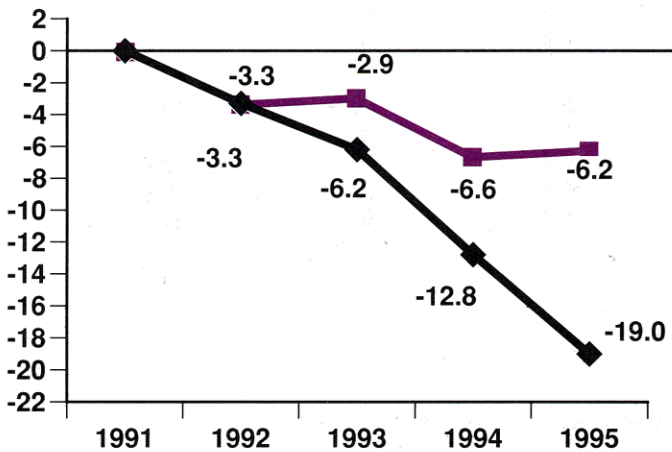
Motor Vehicle Theft



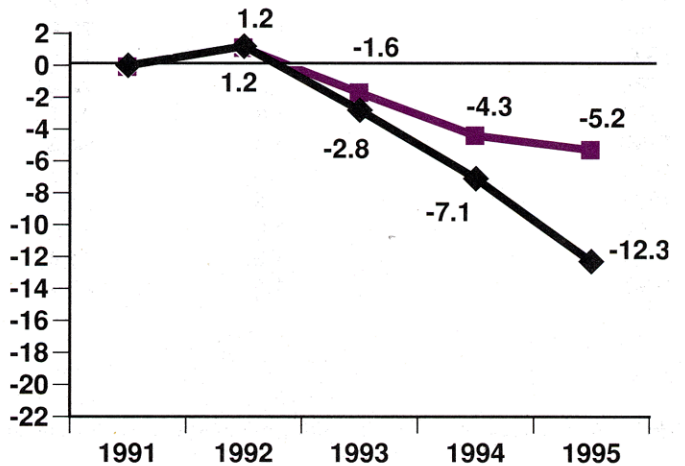
Burglary



Robbery

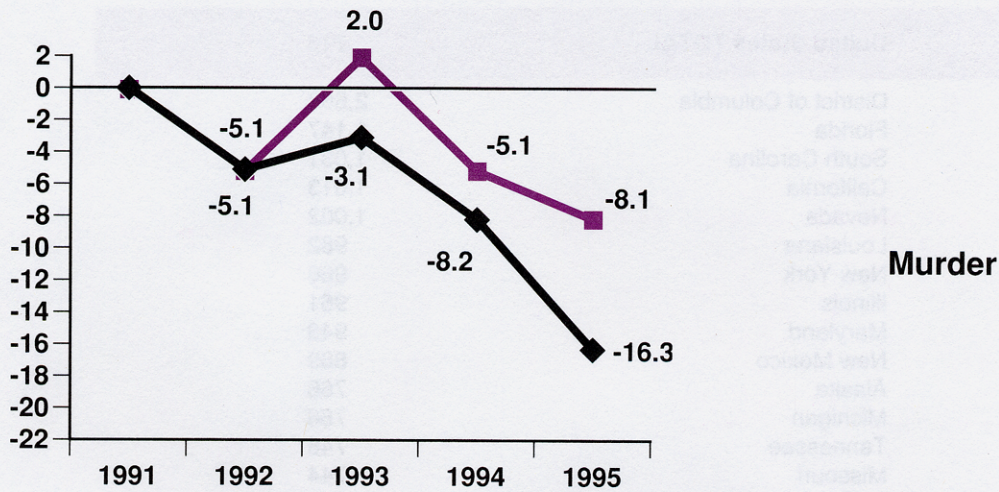


Rape



Source: *Crime in the United States, 1995*, based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report.

...Including Murder, in the 1990s



Murder Victims Far More Likely to be Men than Women, More Likely to be Black than White, 1995

Though Just 13% of the Population, African-Americans are Nearly Half of All Murder Victims

	Gender				Race			
	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black	Other	Unknown
Total	20,043	15,356	4,654	33	9,613	9,694	542	194
Percent	100.0%	76.6%	23.2%	0.2%	48.0%	48.4%	2.7%	1.0%

Those Committing Murder Far More Likely to be Men than Women, More Likely to be Black than White, 1995

	Gender				Race			
	Total	Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black	Other	Unknown
Total	22,434	14,609	1,400	6,425	7,071	8,285	418	6,660
Percent	100.0%	65.1%	6.2%	28.6%	31.5%	36.9%	1.9%	29.7%

* Because of rounding, may not add to total.

Source: *Crime in the United States, 1995*, based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report.

The Incidence of Violent Crime Varies Sharply From State to State

United States TOTAL	716
District of Columbia	2,663
Florida	1,147
South Carolina	1,031
California	1,013
Nevada	1,002
Louisiana	982
New York	966
Illinois	961
Maryland	948
New Mexico	889
Alaska	766
Michigan	766
Tennessee	748
Missouri	744
Massachusetts	708
Texas	707
Arizona	703
Alabama	684
Georgia	668
North Carolina	655
Oklahoma	652
New Jersey	614
Kentucky	605
Arkansas	595
Delaware	561
Indiana	525
Oregon	521
Washington	511
Colorado	510
Mississippi	494
Ohio	486
Kansas	479
Connecticut	456
Pennsylvania	427
Nebraska	390
Rhode Island	376
Minnesota	359
Virginia	358
Iowa	315
Utah	305
Idaho	286
Wyoming	273
Wisconsin	271
Hawaii	262
South Dakota	228
West Virginia	216
Montana	177
Maine	130
New Hampshire	117
Vermont	97
North Dakota	82

Note: The numbers are per 100,000 of the population. "Violent crimes" are the combined incidences of rape, assault, murder or manslaughter, and robbery.

Source: *Crime in the United States, 1994*, based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report.