



U.S. Department of Justice  
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Bureau of Justice Statistics

# BJS Data Report, 1989

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According to the U.S. Department of Justice,  
the chance of being a murder victims is:

- 1 in 30 for black males
- 1 in 179 for white males
- 1 in 132 for black females
- 1 in 495 for white females

(BJS Data Report, 1989, page 20)

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### Violent crime

In 1988 a member of almost 5% of all households was a victim of a violent crime.

Violent crime rates are —

- highest against black males overall
- higher against blacks than whites or members of other minority groups
- higher against unemployed persons — whether male, female, white, or black — than employed persons in their respective groups
- higher against males than females
- lowest against white females.

Rates for crimes of violence and theft are highest for young persons age 12 to 24.

Homicide is the second greatest cause of death among men and women 15 to 34 (the leading cause is accidents).

At current homicide rates, the lifetime chance of being a murder victim is —

- 1 in 30 for black males
- 1 in 179 for white males
- 1 in 132 for black females
- 1 in 495 for white females.

The violent crime rate rose in the 1970's, but it fell sharply in the 1980's.

Violent victimizations per 1,000 residents age 12 and older were —

- 36 in 1973
- 39 in 1981
- 38 in 1982
- 32 in 1985
- 30 in 1988.

*Sources: Households touched by crime, 1988. Criminal victimization 1988. Report to the Nation on crime and justice: Second edition. Violent crime trends.*

### Victims of crime

#### 1988 victimizations per 1,000 persons or households

	Personal crimes		Household crimes*
	Violence	Theft	
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	36	73	...
Female	24	68	...
<b>Age</b>			
12-15	57	112	...
16-19	72	121	...
20-24	59	123	...
25-34	35	82	...
35-49	22	65	...
50-64	10	39	...
65 and older	4	18	...
<b>Race</b>			
White	28	71	160
Black	40	69	244
Other	30	67	178
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	35	64	247
Non-Hispanic	29	71	165
<b>Income</b>			
Less than \$7,500	50	74	190
\$7,500-9,999	45	65	190
\$10,000-14,999	31	59	169
\$15,000-24,999	29	64	164
\$25,000-29,999	27	73	166
\$30,000-49,999	22	72	162
\$50,000 or more	21	83	167
<b>Residence</b>			
Central city	41	89	229
Suburban	27	71	153
Non-metropolitan areas	22	48	127

...Not available.  
\*For household crimes, race and ethnicity are for the head of household; income is the annual family income.

Victimization rates for crimes of violence and theft—

- were highest for youths ages 12 to 24
- decreased as age increased for persons over age 24
- were lowest for the elderly (age 65 and older).

The chance of being a victim of assault is much greater than of being a victim of robbery. The chance of being a victim of robbery is much greater than of being a victim of rape.

Overall, household crime victimization was—

- highest for black households
- much higher for Hispanic households than Non-Hispanic ones.

*Source: Criminal victimization in the United States, 1988.*

