



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

## *A National Crime Survey Report*

# Crime and the Nation's Households, 1989

By Michael R. Rand  
BJS Statistician

A fourth of the 95 million households in the United States were victimized by a crime of violence or theft in 1989, the same proportion that were victimized by crime during each of the previous 4 years. The estimate remained at the lowest level since 1975, the first year it was available, when a third of American households experienced crime victimization. Except for household burglary, which was lower in 1989 than in 1988, and household theft, slightly higher in 1989, there were no measurable differences between 1989 and either of the 2 previous years in the percentages of households victimized by any of the crimes measured: rape, robbery, assault, personal theft, and motor vehicle theft (table 1).

A household refers both to a dwelling unit like a house or an apartment and to the people who live in it. A household victimized by crime during a year meets one of the following criteria:

- It fell victim to a burglary, motor vehicle theft, or household theft.
- A household member age 12 or older was raped, robbed, or assaulted.
- A household member age 12 or older experienced a personal theft.

The crimes include attempted as well as completed offenses and crimes not reported to the police as well as those reported. They are measured by the National Crime Survey (NCS), the source of this Bulletin.

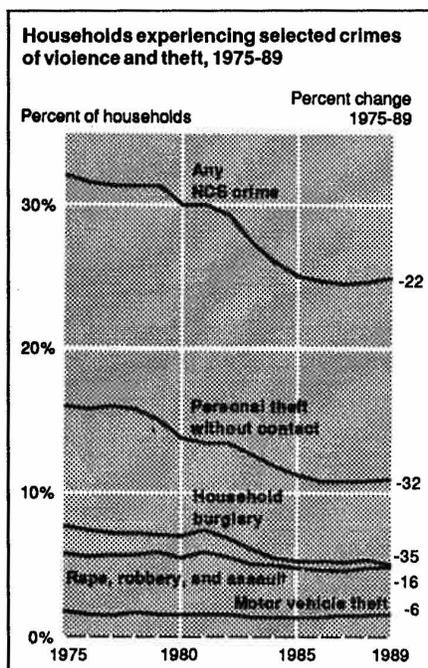


Figure 1

Five percent of the Nation's households had a member age 12 or older who was the victim of a violent crime during 1989. Five percent of all households experienced at least one attempted or completed burglary during the year, and 18% were victimized by a completed or attempted theft. In 1989, as in previous years, households with higher incomes, households in urban areas, and black households were more vulnerable to crime than others. During 1989, 27% of households with incomes of \$25,000 or more, 29% of black house-

September 1990

A fourth of all households in 1989— an estimated 22.8 million— either were hit by a theft or burglary or had at least 1 household member fall victim to a rape, robbery, or assault. The annual percentage of households experiencing a crime has not changed measurably since 1985, according to this analysis of the latest statistics on crime reported or not reported to the police.

Gauging the level of crime experienced from 1975 to present, this Bureau of Justice Statistics indicator uses data from the Nation's second largest ongoing national household survey: the National Crime Survey. Previous years' results were reported in *Households Touched by Crime* Bulletins.

By measuring dispersion of crime in society, the indicator provides an essential element, based on the reports of crime victims, to understand the prevalence of crime. The indicator reveals how much crime afflicts households of different races, income levels, regions, and other categories.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.  
Director

holds, and 31% of urban households were touched by crime. Hispanic households continued to be more vulnerable to crime than non-Hispanic households, and house-

**Table 1. Households experiencing crime, 1989, and relative percent change since 1988**

Households	1988		1989		Relative percent change, 1988-89
	Number of households	Percent	Number of households	Percent	
Total	92,892,000	100.0%	94,549,000	100.0%	
Victimized by:					
Any NCS crime	22,844,000	24.6%	23,520,000	24.9%	1.2%
Violent crime	4,482,000	4.8	4,624,000	4.9	1.4
Rape	141,000	.2	124,000	.1	-13.8
Robbery	872,000	.9	968,000	1.0	9.0
Assault	3,676,000	4.0	3,722,000	3.9	-5
Aggravated	1,418,000	1.5	1,445,000	1.5	.1
Simple	2,502,000	2.7	2,562,000	2.7	.6
Total theft	16,182,000	17.4%	16,848,000	17.8%	2.3%
Personal	10,188,000	11.1	10,390,000	11.2	.3
With contact	432,000	.5	494,000	.5	12.3
Without contact	10,038,000	10.8	10,296,000	10.9	.8
Household	7,174,000	7.7	7,692,000	8.1	5.3*
Burglary	5,049,000	5.4	4,791,000	5.1	-6.7*
Motor vehicle theft	1,431,000	1.5	1,558,000	1.6	7.0
Crimes of high concern (a rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary)	7,190,000	7.7%	7,081,000	7.5%	-3.2%

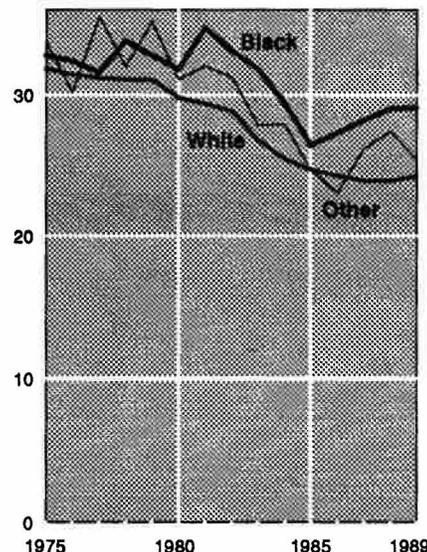
Note: Detail does not add to total because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes. Relative percent change is based on unrounded figures.

\*Change was statistically significant at the 90% confidence level. No other change was statistically significant at or above that level.

**Households experiencing selected crimes, by race of household head, 1975-89**

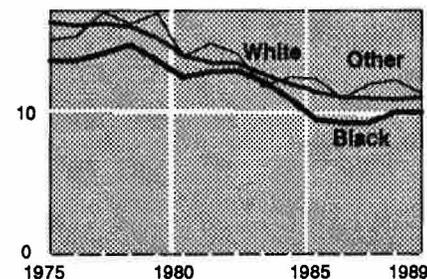
**Any NCS crime**

Percent of households



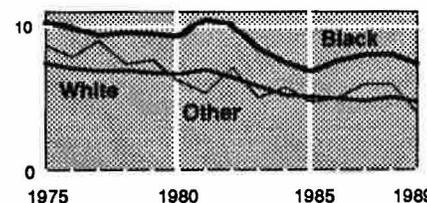
**Personal theft without contact**

Percent of households



**Household burglary**

Percent of households



**Rape, robbery, and assault**

Percent of households

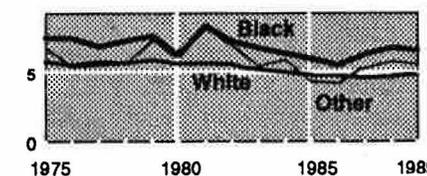


Figure 2

holds in the West continued to have the highest proportion of households touched by crime (30%), while the Northeast had the lowest (19%). Twenty-four percent of households in the Midwest and 25% of households in the South were victimized by crime in 1989.

**Trends**

The percentage of all households sustaining crime has never shown a year-to-year increase since the inception of the indicator in 1975 (figure 1). The period 1975 to 1985 was one of decreasing household vulnerability to crime. Since 1985 the percentage of households victimized by crime has remained unchanged (table 2). The lack of change, however, masks differing trends for urban and rural households and for white and black households.

Since 1986 the percentage of urban households victimized has risen from 28% to 31%, while that for rural households has fallen from 20% to 17%. White households in 1989 were about as vulnerable to crime as they had been in 1985, while black households became more vulnerable during these years (figure 2). While the percentages of both white and black households victimized by crime in 1989

remained well below the percentages victimized in 1975, black households had a much smaller relative decrease over the period than did white households. The overall difference in the trends for white and black households was caused primarily by differences in the trends for crimes of theft.

**1988-89 comparisons**

The overall percentage of households touched by crime was unchanged in 1989 from the previous year because a marginal increase in the percentage of households experiencing household theft was offset by a marginal decrease in the percentage sustaining a burglary. Except for households in the South, which were somewhat more likely to have experienced crime in 1989 than in 1988, the overall households-victimized-by-crime indicator was stable between the 2 years for all demographic groupings examined: race, household income, size of household, ethnicity, and region. Some demographic groups, however, experienced some changes for specific types of crime between 1988 and 1989.

**Table 2. Percent of households experiencing crime, by type of crime, 1975-89**

Type of crime	Percent of households experiencing crime														
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Any NCS crime	32.0%	31.5%	31.3%	31.3%	31.3%	30.0%	30.0%	29.3%	27.4%	26.0%	25.0%	24.7%	24.5%	24.6%	24.9%
Violent crime	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.9	5.6	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.9
Rape	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1
Robbery	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	.9	1.0	.9	1.0
Assault	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9
Personal theft	16.4	16.2	16.3	16.2	15.4	14.2	13.9	13.9	13.0	12.3	11.5	11.2	11.1	11.2	11.3
Household theft	10.2	10.3	10.2	9.9	10.8	10.4	10.2	9.6	8.9	8.5	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.7	8.1
Burglary	7.7	7.4	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.1	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.1
Motor vehicle theft	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6
Households touched by crime (in millions)	23.377	23.504	23.741	24.277	24.730	24.222	24.863	24.989	23.621	22.806	22.191	22.201	22.404	22.844	23.520
Households in U.S. (in millions)	73.123	74.528	75.904	77.578	78.964	80.622	82.797	85.178	86.146	87.791	88.852	90.014	91.391	92.892	94.549

Note: Detail does not add to total because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes.

The percentage of white households experiencing household theft increased slightly.<sup>1</sup> The percentages of black households with a member who suffered an attempted or completed rape and of "other race" households that were burglarized declined a small amount.

Households with incomes between \$7,500 and \$14,999 experienced relatively more household thefts in 1989 than the year before; otherwise, households grouped by income had the same proportions of different types of crime in 1989 as in 1988.

Relatively more Hispanic households were victimized by crime, primarily because of a slight increase in the percentages sustaining theft and motor vehicle theft. Non-Hispanic households had a substantial decrease in their vulnerability to burglary.

When 1989 is compared with 1988, some evidence indicates that urban households were more susceptible to household theft and that suburban household members were more likely to have suffered a "serious violent crime" (rape, robbery, or aggravated assault). A marginally smaller percentage of rural households were burglarized in 1989 than in 1988.

For the South a small increase in the percentage of households experiencing a household theft led to a slight overall increase in crime. Households in the Midwest were slightly more vulnerable to vio-

<sup>1</sup>For this analysis, the race of the household is considered to be that of the household head.

**Table 3. Percent of households experiencing crime, by race and ethnicity of household head, 1989**

Percent of households experiencing:	Race of household head			Ethnicity of household head	
	White	Black	Other	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
Any NCS crime	24.3%	29.1%	25.5%	24.3%	33.8%
Violent crime	4.7%	6.4%	5.4%	4.7%	7.3%
Rape	.1	.2	--	.1	.1
Robbery	.9	2.2	1.0	.9	2.3
Assault	3.9	4.4	4.7	3.8	5.2
Aggravated	1.4	2.1	2.0	1.5	2.2
Simple	2.7	2.5	3.2	2.7	3.4
Total theft	17.7%	18.7%	17.9%	17.5%	22.7%
Personal	11.3	10.9	11.9	11.2	12.7
Household	8.0	9.4	7.6	7.9	12.4
Burglary	4.8	7.4	4.0	4.9	7.4
Motor vehicle theft	1.5	2.8	2.1	1.5	3.6
Serious violent crime <sup>a</sup>	2.4%	4.3%	2.9%	2.5%	4.5%
Crimes of high concern <sup>b</sup>	7.1%	10.2%	7.2%	7.2%	11.9%

Note: Detail does not add to total because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes.  
--Too few cases to obtain a statistically reliable estimate.

<sup>a</sup>Rape, robbery, or aggravated assault.  
<sup>b</sup>A rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary.

lent crime in 1989 because of a small increase in the percentage of households with members who were victims of assault. Some evidence shows that western households sustained relatively fewer burglaries in 1989.

Two-to-three-member households, a category that includes almost half the Nation's households, experienced a slight increase in the percentage victimized by theft and a slight decrease in the percentage victimized by household burglary.

**Race and ethnicity of household**

In 1989, black households were more vulnerable to crime than were white households and were slightly more vulnerable than households of other races—Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans (table 3). Black households suffered, proportionately, more violent crime, household theft, and motor vehicle theft than did white households and more robbery and household burglary than did white or other race households. White, black, and other race households had similar susceptibilities to crimes of theft.

**Table 4. Percent of households experiencing crime, by selected characteristics, 1989**

Percent of households experiencing:	Annual household income				Place of residence <sup>a</sup>			Region			
	Under \$7,500	\$7,500-\$14,999	\$15,000-\$24,999	\$25,000 or more	Urban	Suburban	Rural	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
	Any NCS crime	23.6%	23.5%	23.8%	27.0%	31.2%	24.2%	17.2%	19.4%	24.3%	25.5%
Violent crime	6.4%	5.0%	4.8%	4.5%	6.2%	4.7%	3.3%	4.0%	4.3%	5.0%	6.3%
Rape	.2	.2	.2	--	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1
Robbery	1.6	1.2	.7	.9	1.7	.9	.4	1.2	.7	1.1	1.2
Assault	4.8	3.9	4.1	3.8	4.6	4.0	2.9	2.8	3.7	4.0	5.3
Aggravated	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.1	.9	1.4	1.7	2.0
Simple	3.3	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.6	3.8
Total theft	15.2%	16.5%	16.7%	20.3%	22.1%	17.6%	12.0%	13.3%	18.0%	17.9%	22.2%
Personal	8.9	9.2	10.4	13.7	13.5	11.7	7.3	8.6	11.7	11.3	13.3
Household	7.7	8.8	7.8	8.4	11.0	7.4	5.5	5.6	7.8	8.1	11.2
Burglary	6.8	5.4	4.8	4.6	6.5	4.6	3.9	3.4	4.9	6.0	5.6
Motor vehicle theft	.9	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.7	1.5	.6	1.8	1.2	1.5	2.3
Serious violent crime <sup>b</sup>	3.7%	2.8%	2.5%	2.2%	3.6%	2.4%	1.5%	2.2%	2.2%	2.8%	3.2%
Crimes of high concern <sup>c</sup>	9.7%	7.6%	7.1%	7.0%	9.8%	7.0%	5.0%	5.5%	6.7%	8.3%	9.0%

Note: Detail does not add to total because of overlap in households experiencing various crimes.  
--Too few cases to obtain a statistically reliable estimate.

<sup>a</sup>These estimates are not comparable to estimates for place of residence prior to 1986 because of changes in geographic classification (see footnote 3).

<sup>b</sup>Rape, robbery, or aggravated assault.

<sup>c</sup>A rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger, or a burglary.

Hispanic households were more likely than non-Hispanic households to have experienced crime in 1989 because of their greater susceptibility to almost every category of crime: robbery, assault, burglary, household theft, motor vehicle theft, and — to a lesser degree — personal theft.

**Household Income**

Households with higher incomes were more susceptible to crimes involving theft and less susceptible to crimes involving violence than were lower-income households (table 4). Overall, because theft comprises almost two-thirds of all criminal victimizations measured by the NCS, the percentage of households with higher incomes that were victimized by crime in 1989 was greater than the percentage of lower-income households sustaining crime victimization. Households with incomes of at least \$25,000 were about 1 1/2 times as likely to have experienced a personal theft as were households with incomes below \$7,500. Despite differing risks for personal theft, households at all income levels appeared equally susceptible to household theft.

Households earning less than \$7,500 experienced violent crimes and burglary to a greater degree than did households in higher income categories.

**Place of residence**

In 1989 households in urban areas continued to be the most likely and those in rural areas continued to be the least likely to be victimized by crime. For all but one of the crimes measured, the vulnerability of suburban households fell between that of urban and rural households. Urban and suburban households did not differ measurably in the percentage with members who were victims of aggravated assault. In 1989, 1 in 59 urban households had a member who was the victim of a robbery, compared with 1 in 133 suburban households and 1 in 280 rural households.

**Region**

As in the 3 previous years, during 1989, households in the Northeast were the least vulnerable to crime (19%), while those in the West were the most vulnerable (30%). Households in the South (25%) were slightly more vulnerable to crime than those in the Midwest (24%).

The pattern of the Northeast's being lower and the West's being higher than the Midwest and South was true for most crimes measured. Some exceptions did exist. No measurable differences existed between percentages of northeastern and southern households victimized by violent crime. Northeastern, southern, and western households had similar percentages of households with members who were victims of robbery.

Midwestern, southern, and western households had similar vulnerability to burglary. There was no difference in the percentages of southern and western households experiencing a crime of high concern — a rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a burglary.

**Size of household**

In general, the more people in a household, the greater is its vulnerability to crime (table 5). This tendency is more pronounced for personal crimes than for household crimes because larger households have more members at risk for personal crimes, but each household, regardless of size, is at risk for household crimes. Vulnerability to personal crime victimization generally does not increase at a rate proportional to increases in household size. For example, in 1989 the percentage of six-or-more-person households victimized by personal theft was about 2 1/2 times that of one-person households.

**Table 5. Percent of households experiencing selected crimes, by size of household, 1989**

Percent of households experiencing:	Number of persons in household			
	1	2-3	4-5	6+
Any NCS crime	17.3%	24.4%	33.0%	38.9%
Violent crime	2.9%	4.4%	7.5%	10.3%
Total theft	11.2	17.8	24.2	28.2
Personal	6.9	11.2	15.6	18.6
Household	5.2	8.1	11.0	12.9
Burglary	4.6	4.9	5.7	6.8
Motor vehicle theft	1.2	1.6	2.1	3.3

One reason why personal crime victimization is not simply proportional to household size is that many households with two or more members include children under age 12. Crimes against such young children are not included in the measurement of households victimized by crime.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, differences in demographic characteristics and lifestyles among different size households will affect the degree to which they experienced crime because both of these factors are related to crime vulnerability.

The relationship between household size and vulnerability to crime shown in past years also held for 1989:

- Fewer than 1 in 5 single-person households were victimized by crime, compared with 2 in 5 households with six or more persons.
- Households with six or more members were about 4 times more likely than single-person households to have members who were victims of violent crime (10% versus 3%) and 2 1/2 times more likely to be victimized by personal or household theft (28% versus 11%).

As in previous years, the percentages of households of different sizes victimized by crime varied least for burglary. In 1989, 5% of single-person households were burglarized one or more times, compared to 7% of households with six or more members.

### Crimes of high concern

In 1989, as in 1988, 1 in 13 households in the Nation were burglarized or had a member who was the victim of a violent crime (rape, robbery, or assault) committed by a stranger. These crimes, which many people consider the most threatening, have been designated "crimes of high concern" in this report.

In 1989, black, low-income, and urban households were the most likely to be victims of crimes of high concern (figure 3). By region, the percentage of households victimized by a crime of high concern was highest in the South and West and lowest in the Northeast.

<sup>2</sup>Crimes against children under age 12 are excluded from the NCS because asking sensitive questions about victimization might be stressful to the child or the parents, possibly discouraging adult participation in the survey.

From 1981, when 11% of all households were victimized by a crime of high concern, until 1985, when 8% of all households were so victimized, the percentage of households victimized by such a crime decreased yearly. Since 1985 the percentage of households victimized by a crime of high concern has not changed measurably.

### Race and crime seriousness

In 1989 black households were not only more vulnerable to crime than white households but were also more likely, if victimized, to be victimized by a serious violent crime or a crime of high concern (table 3). In 1989, 15% of the black households that experienced crime had a member victimized by a rape, robbery, or aggravated assault, while 10% of white households experiencing crime had a member who suffered one of these crimes. Similarly, 35% of black households victimized by crime, compared to 29% of white households victimized by crime, sustained crimes of high concern.

### Factors affecting trends

Population movements and changes in household composition have undoubtedly affected the overall downward trend that the households-victimized-by-crime indicator has shown since 1975.

American society is extremely mobile. For some time the population has been moving away from the Northeast and Midwest into the South and West as well as away from urban areas into suburban and rural areas. In 1975, 50% of the U.S. population lived in the Northeast or Midwest, compared to 45% in 1987. Between 1975 and 1985 the percentage of households located in urban areas fell from 32% to 29% of all households, while suburban and rural households increased from 68% to 71% of all American households.<sup>3</sup>

People are constantly moving into and out of different households, creating new households, and merging existing households. During the 1975-89 period the average American household decreased in size. One-person households represented 21% of all households in 1975 but

<sup>3</sup>Estimates of households in urban, suburban, and rural areas for 1986-89 are not comparable to those of previous years. Geographic codes for 1986 through 1989 estimates are based on 1980 census definitions, and estimates for earlier years are based on 1970 census definitions.

### Households experiencing crimes of high concern, by race of household head, 1981-89

(A rape, robbery, or assault by a stranger or a household burglary)

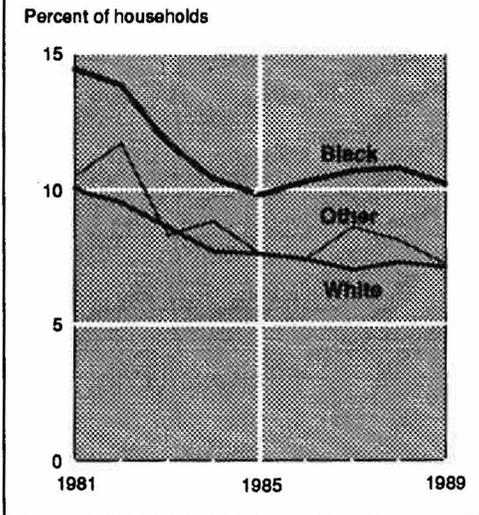


Figure 3

25% in 1989. The percentage of households containing six or more persons fell from 7% to 3% during this period.

Two of these movements shift population from households more vulnerable to crime — larger ones and those in urban areas — to those less vulnerable — smaller ones and those in suburban or rural areas. The third movement has shifted the population in the opposite direction, from the Northeast, a region with a lower likelihood of crime, to the West, where a higher proportion of households experience crime.

While current data do not permit measurement of the degree to which all population movements have affected the indicator, estimates can be made for the effect of changes in household size. If the size distribution of American households were the same in 1989 as in 1975, the estimate of households experiencing crime would have been 25.9% rather than 24.9%.<sup>4</sup>

This adjusted estimate, however, is still significantly below the 1975 estimate of 32% of households victimized by crime.

<sup>4</sup>This analysis assumes that in each category of household size the percentage of households victimized by crime in 1989 would be unchanged, given the size distribution for all households that existed in 1975.

## Methodology

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) developed the households-victimized-by-crime indicator in 1981 to improve our understanding of the impact of crime on our society.<sup>5</sup> The household was chosen as the unit of analysis because crimes such as burglary are crimes against an entire household and crimes against persons affect not only the victim but also members of the victim's household.

Households-victimized-by-crime estimates are derived from NCS statistics on rape, personal robbery, assault, household burglary, personal and household theft, and motor vehicle theft.<sup>6</sup> Because the NCS counts only crimes for which the victim can be interviewed, homicide is not counted. Its exclusion does not noticeably affect the estimates. If each of the homicides during 1989 had occurred in a different household and if these households had been victimized by no other crime (the largest possible effect), then the inclusion of homicides in these findings would not have raised the overall percentage of households victimized by crime (24.9%) by as much as 0.05%.<sup>7</sup>

Other crimes against persons or their households, such as fraud, confidence games, kidnaping, and arson, are not included in this analysis because they are not measured by the NCS.

Traditional measures of crime are in the form of volumes or rates. Data on the volume of crime have limited usefulness because the size of the population is not taken into account. Rates — expressed in the NCS as crimes per 1,000 households or per 1,000 persons — automatically correct for different population sizes, but they do not show whether a given amount of crime is widely spread or highly concentrated within a limited population.

For each type of crime examined, a household is counted only once, regardless of how many times that household was victimized. For example, if a house-

hold were burglarized twice and one of its members robbed once during the year, it is counted once for households sustaining a burglary even though it was victimized twice by burglary. It is also counted once for households victimized by robbery. Finally, it is counted once in the overall measure, households victimized by crime.

Consequently, the households-victimized-by-crime estimate for 1989 (24.9%) is less than the sum of the estimates for households victimized by personal crimes (14.8%) and those victimized by household crimes (13.5%) because 3.5% of U.S. households were victims of both personal and household crimes. Similarly, because about 1.3% of the U.S. households experienced both personal theft and violence, the sum of households victimized by personal theft (11.2%) and those victimized by violence (4.9%) exceeds the estimate of those victimized by personal crime (14.8%).

All data in this Bulletin are from the NCS except those specifically attributed to other sources. The NCS is an ongoing survey conducted for BJS by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Interviews are conducted at 6-month intervals with all occupants age 12 or older in about 49,000 housing units (99,000 persons). Because the NCS does not obtain information about crimes against persons under age 12, households experiencing only such crimes are not included in the estimate of households victimized by crime.

Beginning in 1987 about 5% of the NCS sample has been interviewed through computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). In CATI an interviewer enters responses directly into a computer rather than on a printed form. Previous NCS reports excluded data from CATI households, pending study of the effects of the new procedures. This report incorporates CATI data for 1987-1989. For this reason, estimates for 1987 in this report differ slightly from those published in *Households Touched by Crime, 1987*.

The estimates in this bulletin are derived from sample survey data, and they are subject to sampling variation.<sup>8</sup> Because the procedure used to produce estimates

of households sustaining crime differs from that for victimization rates, the households-victimized data have standard errors about 8% higher than those for victimization rates with the same population bases, even though they are derived from the same sample survey.

Comparisons presented in this report were determined to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, meaning that the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error. Statements of comparison qualified by language such as "slightly" or "somewhat" indicate statistical significance at the 90% level (1.6 standard errors).

The estimates are also subject to response errors, including crimes that are forgotten or withheld from the interviewer. Such response errors tend to cause understated counts of households victimized by crime.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup>A more detailed description of the procedures used to estimate households victimized by crime appears in an unpublished memorandum prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The memorandum is available from Michael Rand, c/o Bureau of Justice Statistics, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20531, telephone (202) 307-0774.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by the staff of BJS. Michael R. Rand wrote this bulletin. Thomas Hester edited it. Marianne Zawitz assisted in data presentation. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered production, assisted by Tina Dorsey, Betty Sherman, Dorothea Proctor, Yvonne Boston, Jayne Pugh, and Mildred Shuebrooks.

September 1990, NCJ-124544

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

<sup>6</sup>*The Prevalence of Crime*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75905, April 1981.

<sup>7</sup>These crimes are defined in *Measuring Crime*, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-75710, February 1981. As used in this report, the term "theft" is synonymous with the term "larceny" used in previous reports.

<sup>8</sup>The FBI reported that 21,500 homicides occurred in 1989 (Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, 1990).

<sup>9</sup>Details of the NCS sample design, the standard error computation, and the customary estimation procedure for victimization rates and counts may be found in *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1987*, NCJ-115524, June 1989, appendix III.