

# **Crime in America**

Presented by: James P. Lynch, Ph.D. Director Bureau of Justice Statistics May 24, 2012

## **Three Questions**

- What is the role of a national statistical office in the collection of crime statistics?
- What is the role of a national statistical office in coordinating with other agencies in the collection of crime statistics?
- What is the role of a national statistical office in coordinating with international organizations in the collection of crime statistics?

# NSO Role

- Reiterate advantages of having NSOs collecting crime data.
- To collect objective, timely and high quality data on crime and the response to crime.
- To disseminate those data in a way that informs the public and policy makers and assists their decision-making.

# Role Conflict

- Principles and practices that foster independence and quality are often at variance with timeliness and influence.
  - Descriptive statistics with no analysis
  - Fixed dates of release announced well in advance
  - Prescribe response rates
- Advantages of NSOs will depend upon achieving a balance among objectivity, quality and relevance.
- An NSOs ability to "hold the line" will depend greatly on its institutional context.

## Co-ordination with other Agencies

- Forms of co-ordination
  - Requests for and exchanges of information
  - Contracting for the collection of data
  - Standardization of measurement
  - Dividing the labor
- In the relationship the NSO should have final decision on what should be collected and how

## Coordination with International Organizations

- Our coordination with international organizations is largely reactive.
  - Response to information requests
  - Conference participation
- International Consortium on Victim Survey Research.
  - Organize a common research agenda
  - Share questions, data and research result electronically on topics in an organized way
  - This will provide more continuous exchange supplemented by episodic meetings

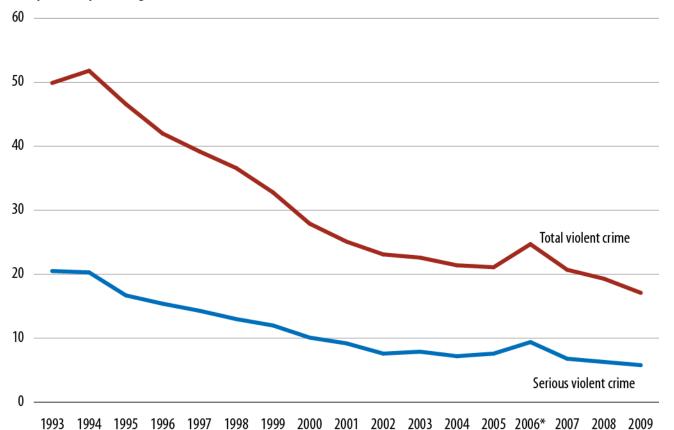




# **Violent Crime**

# Figure 1. Violent and serious violent victimization rate



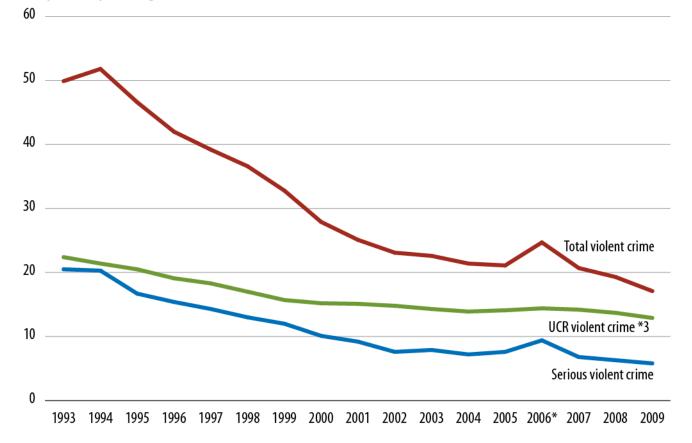


Note: National Crime Victimization Survey rates include series victimizations as one incident. Series victimizations are incidents that are similar in type but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall or describe each event in detail. \*Due to methodological changes, use caution when comparing NCVS 2006 criminal victimization estimates to other years. See *Criminal Victimization, 2007*, www.bjs.gov, for more information. Source: National Crime Victimization Survey.



## Figure 2. Violent and serious violent victimization rate

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older

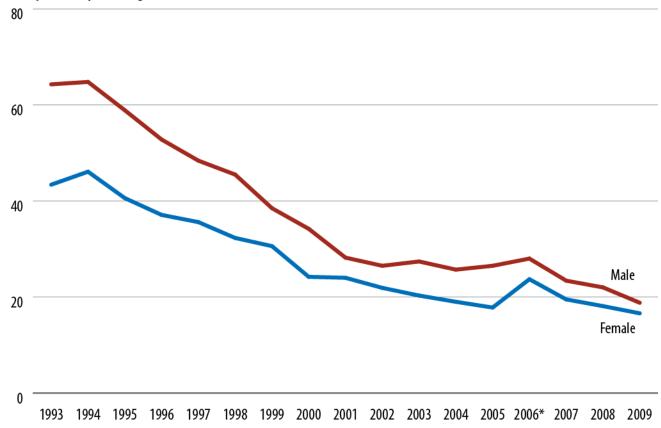


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## Figure 3. Violent victimization rate by sex

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and older

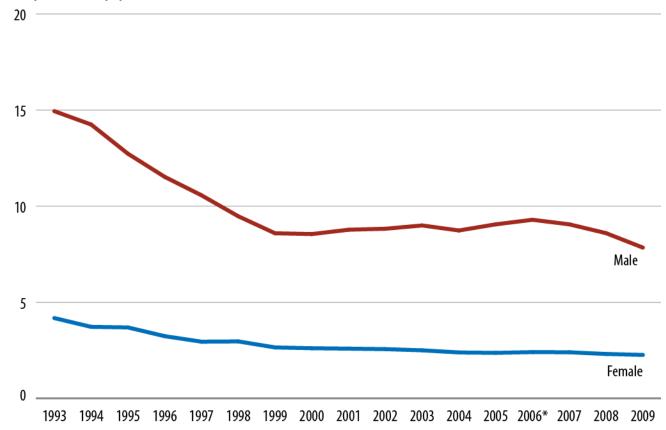


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## Figure 4. Homicide by sex

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: BJS analysis of the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports.

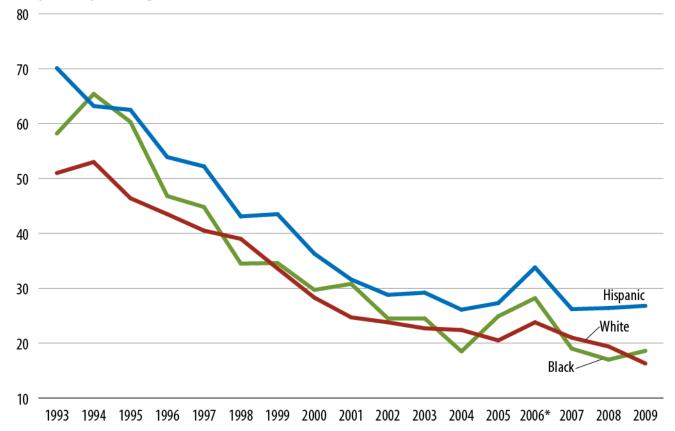


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## Figure 5. Violent victimization rate by race

Rate per 1,000 peresons age 12 or older



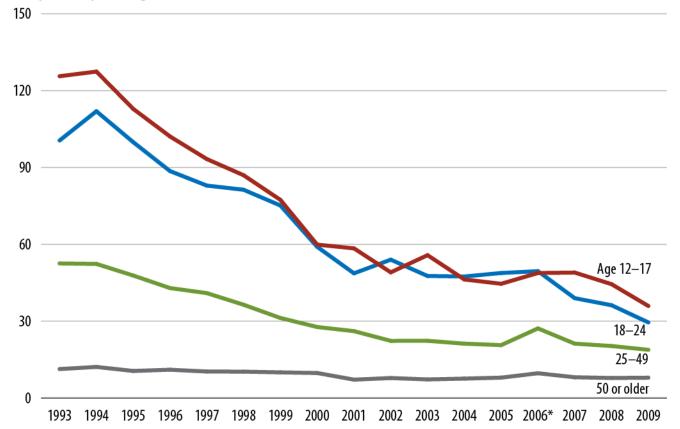
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## Figure 6. Violent victimization rate by age

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older



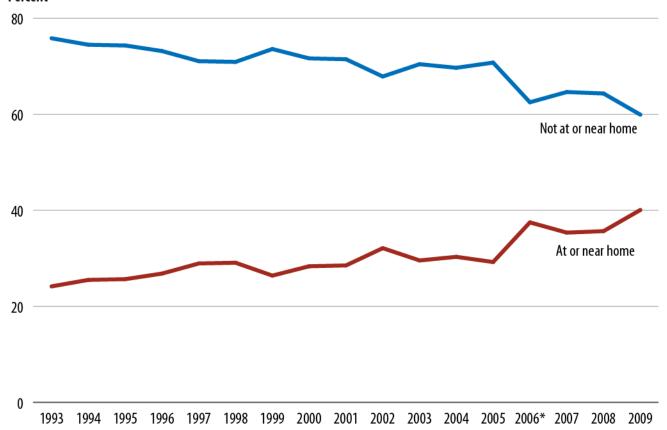
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## Figure 7. Violent victimization rate by place

Percent



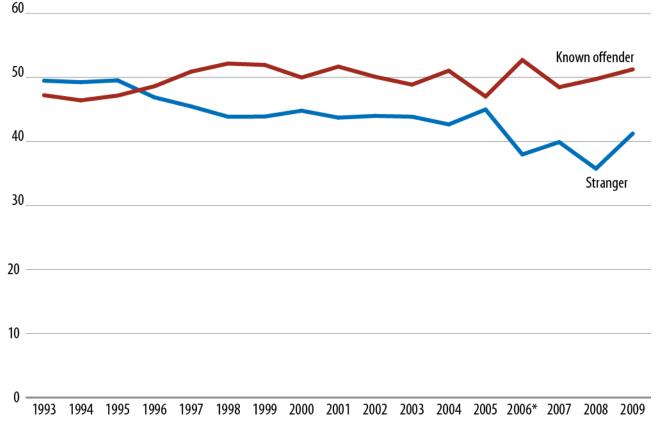
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## Figure 8. Violence by victim-offender relationship

Percent

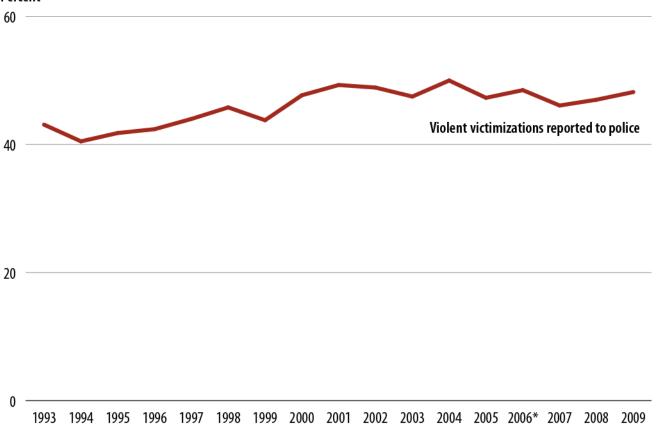


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## Figure 9. Violent victimizations reported to police

Percent

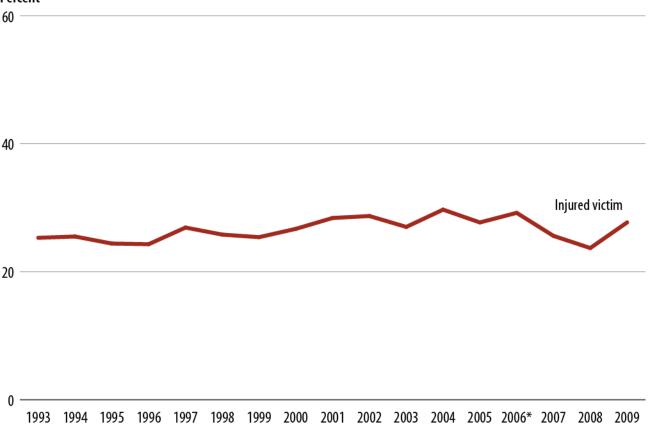


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## Figure 10. Violent victimization resulting in injury



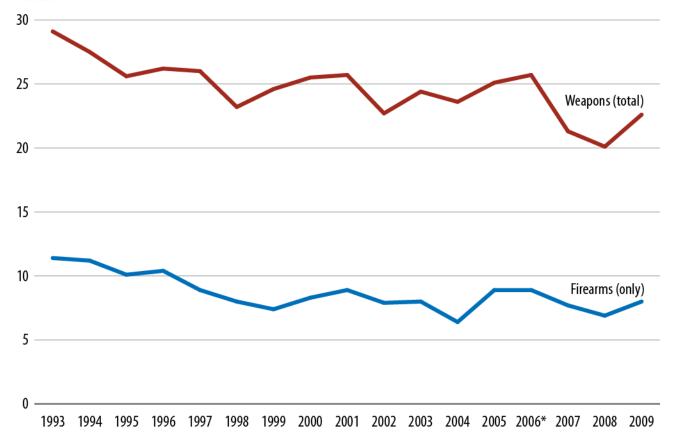


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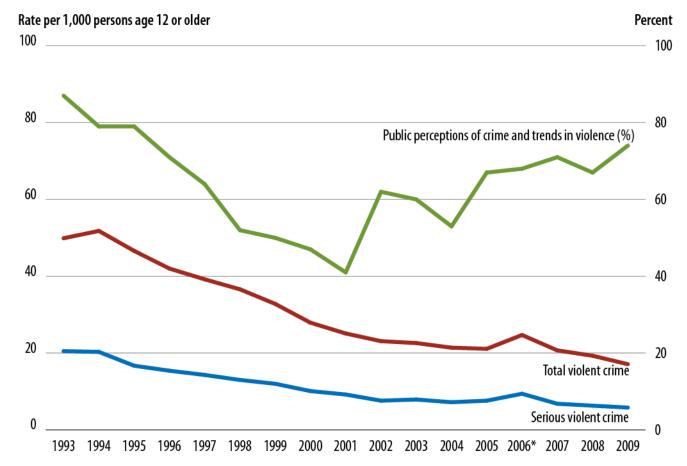
## Figure 11. Violent victimization involving weapons

Percent



Note: National Crime Victimization Survey rates include series victimizations as one incident. Series victimizations are incidents that are similar in type but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall or describe each event in detail. \*Due to methodological changes, use caution when comparing NCVS 2006 criminal victimization estimates to other years. See *Criminal Victimization, 2007,* www.bjs.gov, for more information. Source: National Crime Victimization Survey.

## Figure 12. Violent and serious violent victimization



Note: Public opinion data for 1994, 1995, and 1999 were interpolated. Source: National Crime Victimization Survey and *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online*, http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t2332010pdf.

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# Summary

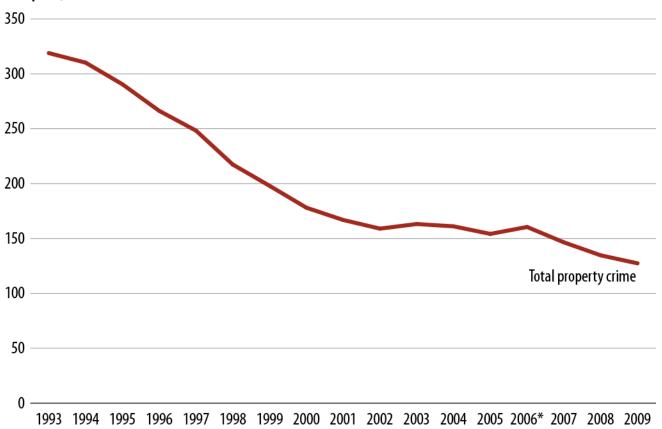
- Massive drop in violence from 1994 to 2011 in both police and victim survey indicators.
- Steepest drop from 1994 to 2000.
- Decline greater for African Americans and Hispanics than whites.
- Decrease greater for men and younger people.
- Decrease greater in public places and in crime by strangers



# **Property Crime**

## Figure 13. Property victimization rate

Rate per 1,000 households

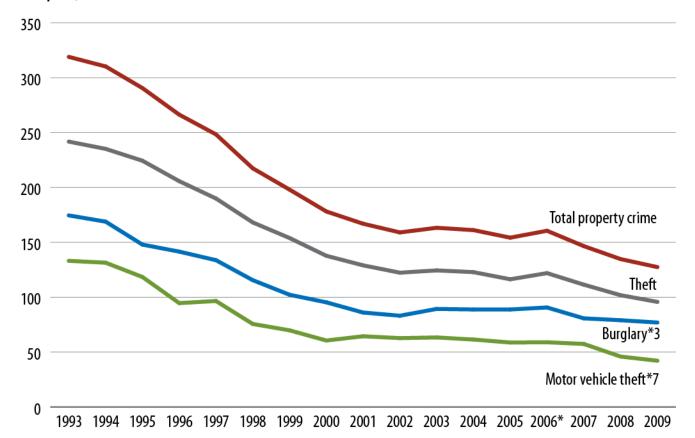


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# Figure 14. Total property, burglary and motor vehicle theft victimization rate

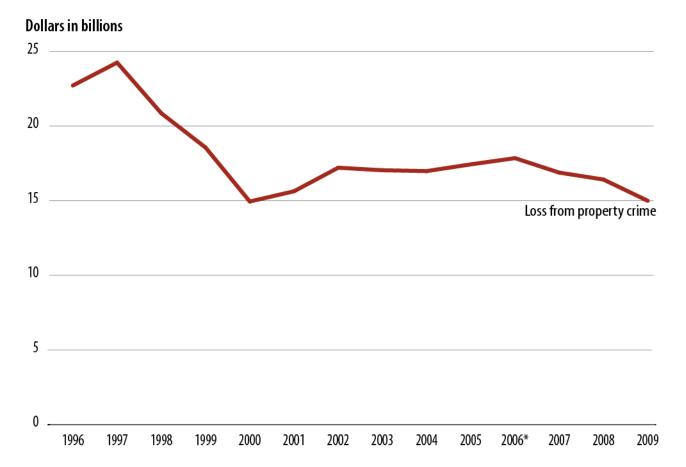
Rate per 1,000 households



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## Figure 15. Dollar loss from property crimes



\*Due to methodological changes, use caution when comparing NCVS 2006 criminal victimization estimates to other years. See *Criminal Victimization, 2007, www*.bjs.gov, for more information. Source: National Crime Victimization Survey.



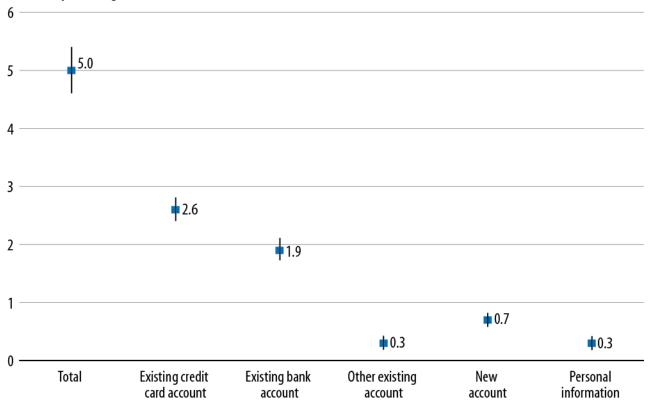




# **Identity Theft**

# Figure 16. Percent of persons who experienced identity theft, by type of theft, 2008

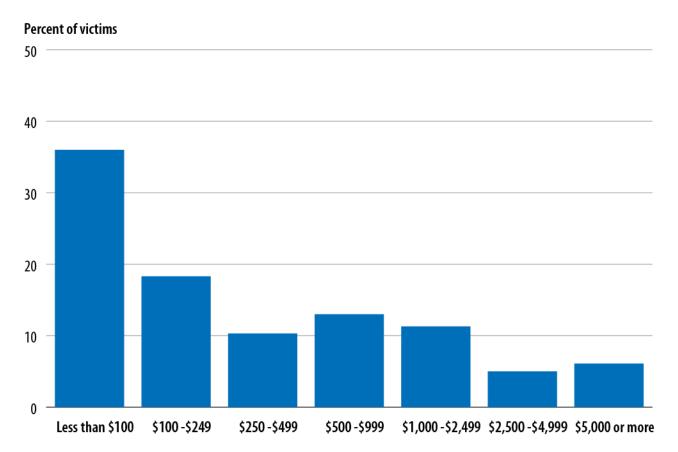




Note: Details do not sum to total because persons may report more than one type of identity theft. Estimate is presented with 95% confidence intervals shown by the lines. Data collected January–June 2008 and reported by persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful incident of identity theft during the two years preceding the interview. Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement., 2008.



# Figure 17. Total out-of-pocket loss for identity theft victims with some financial loss, 2008

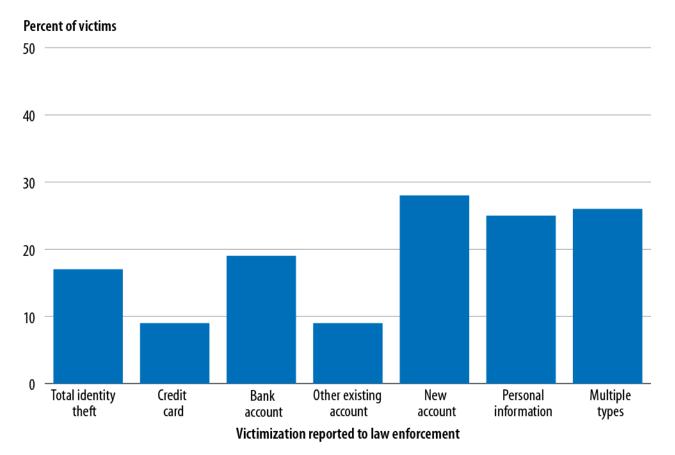


Note: Data collected January–June 2008 and reported by persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful incident of identity theft during the two years preceding the interview. Financial loss is computed from the 23% of identity theft victims who experienced a direct or indirect financial loss of at least \$1.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2008.



# Figure 23. Identity theft victimizations reported to law enforcement, by type of identity theft, 2008

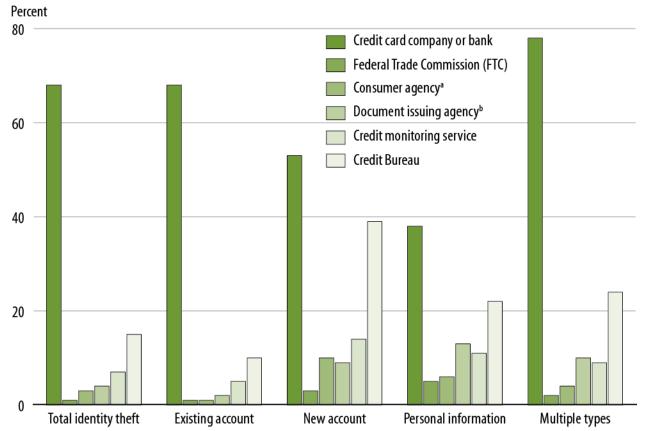


Note: Data collected January–June 2008 and reported by persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful incident of identity theft during the two years preceding the interview.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2008.



# Figure 18. Identity theft victims who contacted an organization about the crime, 2008



Note: Data collected January–June 2008 and reported by persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful incident of identity theft during the two years preceding the interview.

<sup>a</sup>Includes government consumer affairs agencies and agencies such as the Better Business Bureau.

<sup>b</sup>Includes agencies that issue drivers' licenses or Social Security cards.

Percentages will not sum to 100% due to respondents taking multiple actions with the credit bureau and unknown responses. Source: National Crime Victimization Survey and Identity Theft Supplement, 2008.



# Summary

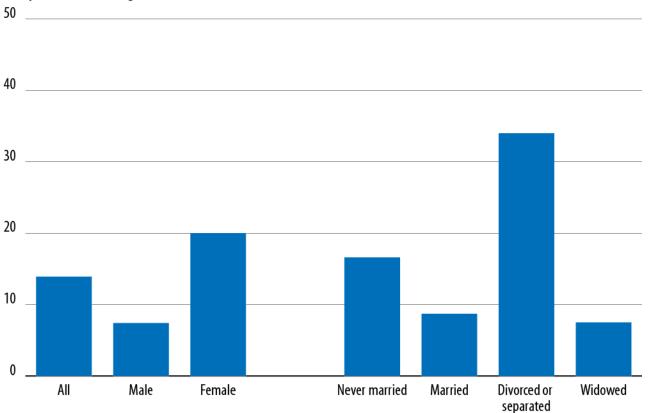
- Identity theft is about as prevalent as burglary.
- Credit card theft and theft from bank accounts are the most prevalent forms of identity theft.
- Most identity theft results in no out of pocket loss to the victim.
- Small percentage results in very large losses.
- Remedies sought from sources other than the police.



# Stalking

## **Figure 19. Characteristics of stalking victims**

Rate per 1,000 victims age 18 or older



Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, Supplemental Victimization Survey.

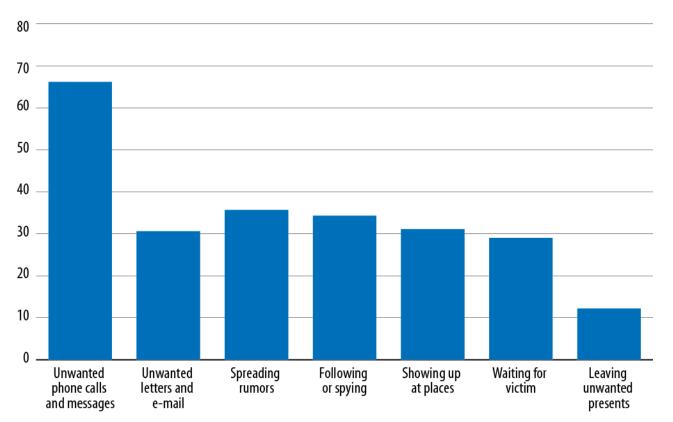


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# Figure 20. Nature of stalking behavior experienced by victims

Percent of victims



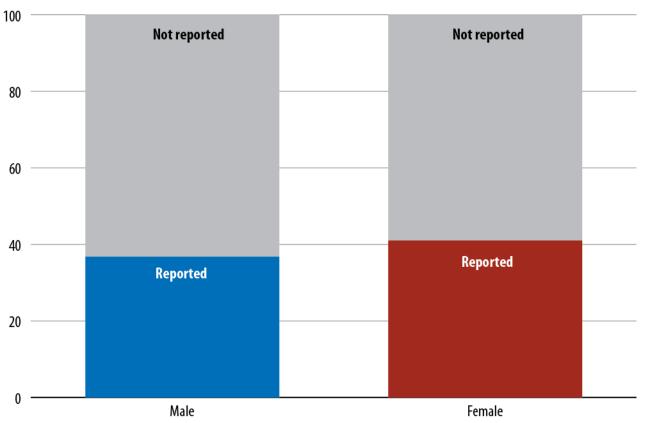
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, Supplemental Victimization Survey.



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# Figure 21. Stalking victimizations reported to the police, by victim sex

Percent of victims



Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, Supplemental Victimization Survey.

