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Gun Homicide Rate Down 49% Since 1993 Peak; Public Unaware

Pace of Decline Slows in Past Decade

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Pace of Decline Slows in Past Decade

By D'Vera Cohn, Paul Taylor,
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CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW

National rates of gun homicide and other violent gun crimes are strikingly lower now than during their peak in the mid-1990s, paralleling a general decline in violent crime, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data. Beneath the long-term trend, though, are big differences by decade: Violence plunged through the 1990s, but has declined less dramatically since 2000.

Compared with 1993, the peak of U.S. gun homicides, the firearm homicide rate was 49% lower in 2010, and there were fewer deaths, even though the nation's population grew. The victimization rate for other violent crimes with a firearm—assaults, robberies and sex crimes—was 75% lower in 2011 than in 1993. Violent non-fatal crime victimization overall (with or without a firearm) also is down markedly (72%) over two decades.
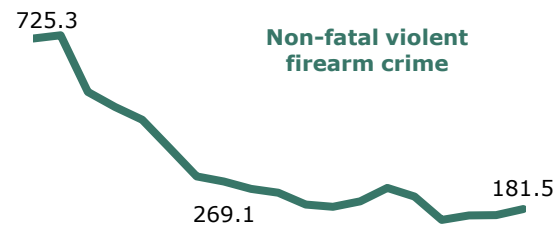
Nearly all the decline in the firearm homicide rate took place in the 1990s; the downward trend stopped in 2001 and resumed slowly in 2007. The victimization rate for other gun crimes

Crime Rates Drop in 1990s, Then Decline More Slowly

Deaths per 100,000 people (all ages)
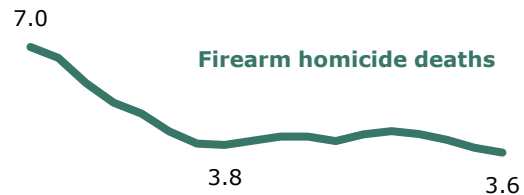
Firearm homicide deaths

7.0 · 3.8 · 3.6

1993 · 1997 · 2001 · 2005 · 2010

Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

Non-fatal violent firearm crime

725.3 · 269.1 · 181.5

1993 · 1997 · 2001 · 2005 · 2009 · 2011

Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

All non-fatal violent crime

7,976.3 · 3,748.9 · 2,254.2
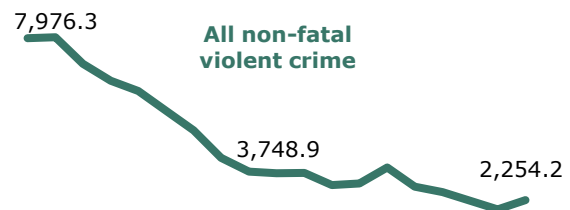
1993 · 1997 · 2001 · 2005 · 2009 · 2011

Note: Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2011. 2006 NCVS victimization estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Sources: For firearm homicide deaths, CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS); for non-fatal victimizations, Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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plunged in the 1990s, then declined more slowly from 2000 to 2008. The rate appears to be higher in 2011 compared with 2008, but the increase is not statistically significant. Violent non-fatal crime victimization overall also dropped in the 1990s before declining more slowly from 2000 to 2010, then ticked up in 2011.

Despite national attention to the issue of firearm violence, most Americans are unaware that gun crime is lower today than it was two decades ago. According to a new Pew Research Center survey, today 56% of Americans believe gun crime is higher than 20 years ago and only 12% think it is lower.

Looking back 50 years, the U.S. gun homicide rate began rising in the 1960s, surged in the 1970s, and hit peaks in 1980 and the early 1990s. (The number of homicides peaked in the early 1990s.) The plunge in homicides after that meant that firearm homicide rates in the late 2000s were equal to those not seen since the early 1960s.[1] The sharp decline in the U.S. gun homicide rate, combined with a slower decrease in the gun suicide rate, means that gun suicides now account for six-in-ten firearms deaths, the highest share since at least 1981.

Trends for robberies followed a similar long-term trajectory as homicides (National Research Council, 2004), hitting a peak in the early 1990s before declining.

Rate of Firearm Homicide Deaths, 1981-2010

Per 100,000 people
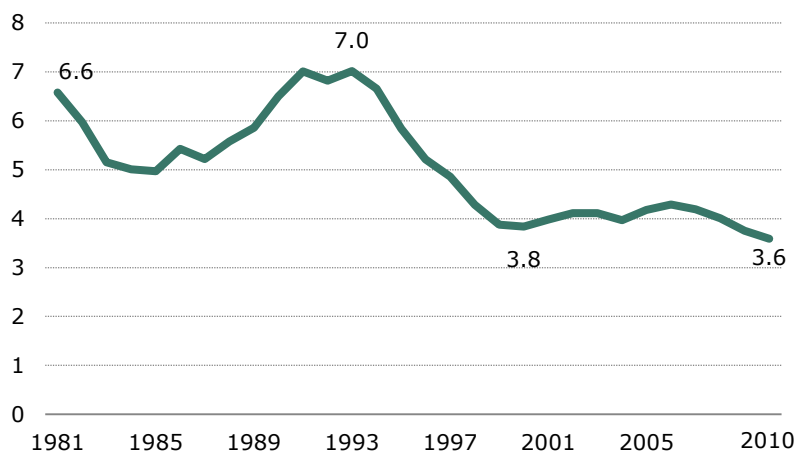
Note: Data labels shown for 1981, 1993, 2000 and 2010.

Source: CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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This report examines trends in firearm homicide, non-fatal violent gun crime victimization and non-fatal violent crime victimization overall since 1993. Its findings on firearm crime are based mainly on analysis of data from two federal agencies. Data from the Centers for Disease

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[1] See Cooper and Smith, 2011. The rate declined through at least 2010.

Control and Prevention, using information from death certificates, are the source of rates, counts and trends for all firearm deaths, homicide and suicide, unless otherwise specified. The Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey, a household survey conducted by the Census Bureau, supplies annual estimates of non-fatal crime victimization, including those where firearms are used, regardless of whether the crimes were reported to police. Where relevant, this report also quotes from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (see text box at the end of this chapter and the Methodology appendix for more discussion about data sources).

Researchers have studied the decline in firearm crime and violent crime for many years, and though there are theories to explain the decline, there is no consensus among those who study the issue as to why it happened.

There also is debate about the extent of gun ownership in the U.S., although no disagreement that the U.S. has more civilian firearms, both total and per capita, than other nations. Compared with other developed nations, the U.S. has a higher homicide rate

Rate of Non-fatal Firearm Crime, 1993-2011

Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older
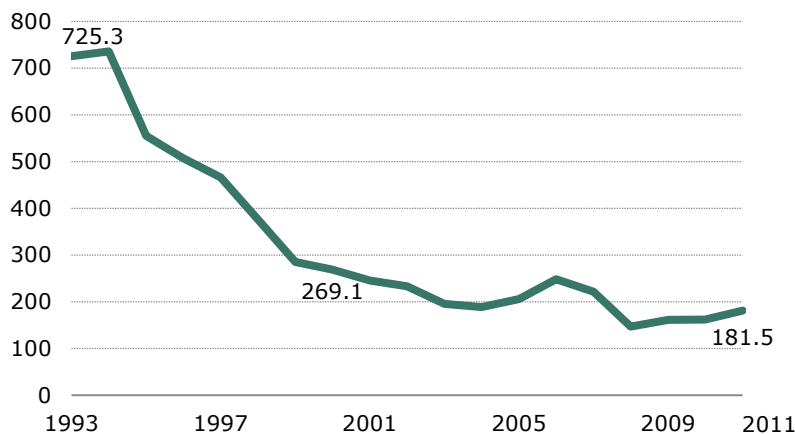
Note: Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2011. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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and higher rates of gun ownership, but not higher rates for all other crimes. (See Chapter 5 for more details.)

In the months since the mass shooting at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school in December, the public is paying close attention to the topic of firearms; according to a recent Pew Research Center survey (Pew Research Center, April 2013) no story received more public attention from mid-March to early April than the debate over gun control. Reducing crime has moved up as a priority for the public in polling this year.

Mass shootings are a matter of great public interest and concern. They also are a relatively small share of shootings overall. According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics review, homicides that claimed at least three lives accounted for less than 1% of all homicide deaths from 1980 to 2008. These homicides, most of which are shootings, increased as a share of all homicides from 0.5% in 1980 to 0.8% in 2008, according to the bureau's data. A Congressional Research Service report, using a definition of four deaths or more, counted 547 deaths from mass shootings in the U.S. from 1983 to 2012.[2]

Looking at the larger topic of firearm deaths, there were 31,672 deaths from guns in the U.S. in 2010. Most (19,392) were suicides; the gun suicide rate has been higher than the gun homicide rate since at least 1981, and the gap is wider than it was in 1981.

Knowledge about Crime

Despite the attention to gun violence in recent months, most Americans are unaware that gun crime is markedly lower than it was two decades ago. A new Pew Research Center survey (March 14-17) found that 56% of Americans believe the number of crimes involving a gun is higher than it was 20 years ago; only 12% say it is lower and 26% say it stayed the same. (An additional 6% did not know or did not answer.)

Men (46%) are less likely than women (65%) to say long-term gun crime is up. Young adults, ages 18 to 29, are markedly less likely than other adults to say long-term crime is up—44% do, compared with more than half of other adults. Minority adults are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to say that long-term gun crime is up, 62% compared with 53%.

Most Americans Unaware of Big Crime Drop Since 1990s

In recent years, has the number of gun crimes in America gone up, gone down or stayed the same? (%)
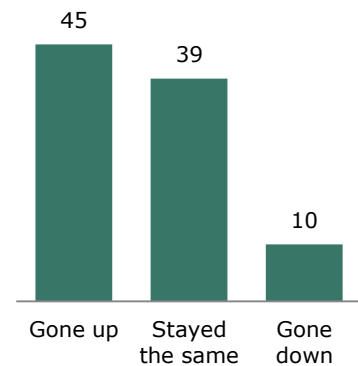
Compared with 20 years ago, has the number of gun crimes in America gone up, gone down or stayed the same? (%)
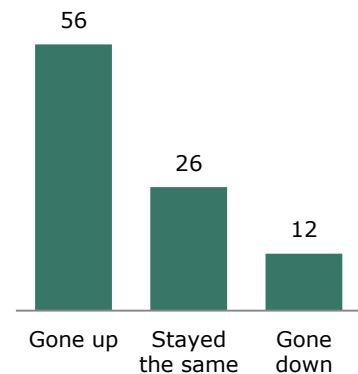
Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey, March 14-17, 2013, N=924

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[2] A *USA Today* analysis in 2013 found that 934 people died since 2006 in mass shootings, defined as claiming at least four victims, and that most were killed by people they knew: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/02/21/mass-shootings-domestic-violence-nra/1937041/

Asked about trends in the number of gun crimes "in recent years," a plurality of 45% believe the number has gone up, 39% say it is about the same and 10% say it has gone down. (An additional 5% did not know or did not answer.) As with long-term crime, women (57%) are more likely than men (32%) to say that gun crime has increased in recent years. So are non-white adults (54%) compared with whites (41%). Adults ages 50 and older (51%) are more likely than those ages 18-49 (42%) to believe gun crime is up.

What is Behind the Crime Decline?

Researchers continue to debate the key factors behind changing crime rates, which is part of a larger discussion about the predictors of crime.[3] There is consensus that demographics played some role: The outsized post-World War II baby boom, which produced a large number of people in the high-crime ages of 15 to 20 in the 1960s and 1970s, helped drive crime up in those years.

A review by the National Academy of Sciences of factors driving recent crime trends (Blumstein and Rosenfeld, 2008) cited a decline in rates in the early 1980s as the young boomers got older, then a flare-up by mid-decade in conjunction with a rising street market for crack cocaine, especially in big cities. It noted recruitment of a younger cohort of drug seller with greater willingness to use guns. By the early 1990s, crack markets withered in part because of lessened demand, and the vibrant national economy made it easier for even low-skilled young people to find jobs rather than get involved in crime.

At the same time, a rising number of people ages 30 and older were incarcerated, due in part to stricter laws, which helped restrain violence among this age group. It is less clear, researchers say, that innovative policing strategies and police crackdowns on use of guns by younger adults played a significant role in reducing crime.

Some researchers have proposed additional explanations as to why crime levels plunged so suddenly, including increased access to abortion and lessened exposure to lead. According to one hypothesis, legalization of abortion after the 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision resulted in fewer unwanted births, and unwanted children have an increased risk of growing up to become criminals. Another theory links reduced crime to 1970s-era reductions in lead in gasoline; children's exposure to lead causes brain damage that could be associated with violent behavior. The National Academy of Sciences review said it was unlikely that either played a major role, but researchers continue to explore both factors.

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[3] Much of this section draws from Blumstein and Rosenfeld, 2008.

The plateau in national violent crime rates has raised interest in the topic of how local differences might influence crime levels and trends. Crime reductions took place across the country in the 1990s, but since 2000, patterns have varied more by metropolitan area or city.[4]

One focus of interest is that gun ownership varies widely by region and locality. The National Academy of Sciences review of possible influences on crime trends said there is good evidence of a link between firearm ownership and firearm homicide at the local level; "the causal direction of this relationship remains in dispute, however, with some researchers maintaining that firearm violence elevates rates of gun ownership, but not the reverse."

There is substantial variation within and across regions and localities in a number of other realms, which complicates any attempt to find a single cause for national trends. Among the variations of interest to researchers are policing techniques, punishment policies, culture, economics and residential segregation.

Internationally, a decline in crime, especially property crime, has been documented in many countries since the mid-1990s. According to the authors of a 30-country study on criminal victimization ([Van Dijk et al., 2007](#)), there is no general agreement on all the reasons for this decline. They say there is a general consensus that demographic change—specifically, the shrinking proportion of adolescents across Europe—is a common factor causing decreases across Western countries. They also cite wider use of security measures in homes and businesses as a factor in reducing property crime.

But other potential explanations—such as better policing or increased imprisonment—do not apply in Europe, where policies vary widely, the report noted

Among the major findings of this Pew Research Center report:

U.S. Firearm Deaths

- In 2010, there were 3.6 gun homicides per 100,000 people, compared with 7.0 in 1993, according to CDC data.

- In 2010, CDC data counted 11,078 gun homicide deaths, compared with 18,253 in 1993.[5]

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[4] The diversity of homicide trend by city was the topic of a recent forum, ["Putting Homicide Rates in Their Place,"](#) sponsored by the Urban Institute.

[5] There were 11,101 gun homicide deaths in 2011 and the gun homicide rate remained 3.6 per 100,000 people, according to preliminary CDC data.

- Men and boys make up the vast majority (84% in 2010) of gun homicide victims. The firearm homicide rate also is more than five times as high for males of all ages (6.2 deaths per 100,000 people) as it is for females (1.1 deaths per 100,000 people).

- By age group, 69% of gun homicide victims in 2010 were ages 18 to 40, an age range that was 31% of the population that year. Gun homicide rates also are highest for adults ages 18 to 24 and 25 to 40.

- A disproportionate share of gun homicide victims are black (55% in 2010, compared with the 13% black share of the population). Whites were 25% of victims but 65% of the population in 2010. Hispanics were 17% of victims and 16% of the population in 2010.

- The firearm suicide rate (6.3 per 100,000 people) is higher than the firearm homicide rate and has come down less sharply. The number of gun suicide deaths (19,392 in 2010) outnumbered gun homicides, as has been true since at least 1981.

U.S. Firearm Crime Victimization

- In 2011, the NCVS estimated there were 181.5 gun crime victimizations for non-fatal violent crime (aggravated assault, robbery and sex crimes) per 100,000 Americans ages 12 and older, compared with 725.3 in 1993.

- In terms of numbers, the NCVS estimated there were about 1.5 million non-fatal gun crime victimizations in 1993 among U.S. residents ages 12 and older, compared with 467,000 in 2011.

U.S. Other Non-fatal Crime

- The victimization rate for all non-fatal violent crime among those ages 12 and older— simple and aggravated assaults, robberies and sex crimes, with or without firearms— dropped 53% from 1993 to 2000, and 49% from 2000 to 2010. It rose 17% from 2010 to 2011.

- Although not the topic of this report, the rate of property crimes—burglary, motor vehicle theft and theft—also declined from 1993 to 2011, by 61%. The rate for these types of crimes was 351.8 per 100,000 people ages 12 and older in 1993, 190.4 in 2000 and 138.7 in 2011.

Context

- The number of firearms available for sale to or possessed by U.S. civilians (about 310 million in 2009, according to the Congressional Research Service) has grown in recent years, and the 2009 per capita rate of one person per gun had roughly doubled since 1968. It is not clear, though, how many U.S. households own guns or whether that share has changed over time.

- Crime stories accounted for 17% of the total time devoted to news on local television broadcasts in 2012, compared with 29% in 2005, according to Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Crime trails only traffic and weather as the most common type of story on these newscasts.

About the Data

Findings in this report are based on two main data sources:

Data on homicides and other deaths are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on information from death certificates filed in state vital statistics offices, which includes causes of death reported by attending physicians, medical examiners and coroners. Data also include demographic information about decedents reported by funeral directors, who obtain that information from family members and other informants. Population data, used in constructing rates, come from the Census Bureau. Most statistics were obtained via the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), available from URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars. Data are available beginning in 1981; suitable population data do not exist for prior years. For more details, see Appendix 4.

Estimates of crime victimization are from the National Crime Victimization Survey, a sample survey conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the Census Bureau. Although the survey began in 1973, this report uses data since 1993, the first year employing an intensive methodological redesign. The survey collects information about crimes against people and households, but not businesses. It provides estimates of victimization for the population ages 12 and older living in households and non-institutional group quarters; therefore it does not include populations such as homeless people, visiting foreign tourists and business travelers, or those living in institutions such as military barracks or mental hospitals. The survey collects information about the crimes of rape, sexual assault, personal robbery, aggravated and simple assault, household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft. For more details, see Appendix 4.

Roadmap to the Report

The remainder of this report is organized as follows. **Chapter 2** explores trends in firearm homicide and all firearm deaths, as well as patterns by gender, race and age. **Chapter 3** analyzes trends in non-fatal violent gun crime victimizations, as well as patterns by gender, race and age. **Chapter 4** looks at trends and subgroup patterns for non-fatal violent crime victimizations overall. **Chapter 5** examines issues related to the topic of firearms: crime news, crime as a public priority, U.S. gun ownership data, and comparison of ownership and crime rates with those in other nations. **Appendices 1-3** consist of detailed tables with annual data for firearm deaths, homicides and suicides, as well as non-fatal firearm and overall non-fatal violent crime victimization, for all groups and by subgroup. **Appendix 4** explains the report's methodology.

Notes on Terminology

All references to whites, blacks and others are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations. Hispanics can be of any race.

"Aggravated assault," as defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is an attack or attempted attack with a weapon, regardless of whether an injury occurred, and an attack without a weapon when serious injury results.

The terms "firearm" and "gun" are used interchangeably.

"Homicides," which come from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, are fatal injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill. Deaths due to legal intervention or operations of war are excluded. Justifiable homicide is not identified.

"Robbery," as defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is a completed or attempted theft, directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon, and with or without injury.

"Sex crime," as defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, includes attempted rape, rape and sexual assault.

"Simple assault," as defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is an attack (or attempted assault) without a weapon resulting either in no injury, minor injury (for example, bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches or swelling) or in undetermined injury requiring less than two days of hospitalization.

"Victimization" is based on self-reporting in the National Crime Victimization Survey, which includes Americans ages 12 and older. For personal crimes (which in this report include assault, robbery and sex crime), it is expressed as a rate based on the number of victimizations per 100,000 U.S. residents ages 12 and older. See the Methodology appendix for more details.

Acknowledgments

CHAPTER 2: FIREARM DEATHS

In 2010, there were 31,672 deaths in the U.S. from firearm injuries, mainly through suicide (19,392) and homicide (11,078), according to CDC compilation of data from death certificates.[6] The remaining firearm deaths were attributed to accidents, shootings by police and unknown causes. The gun homicide rate in 2010 was the lowest it had been since CDC began publishing data in 1981. Other homicide data, from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (Cooper and Smith, 2011), indicate that homicide rates are as low now as they were in the 1960s.

Rate of Firearm Deaths, 1993-2010

Per 100,000 people

All firearm deaths —— Suicides ·—· Homicides

15.2
10.2
10.3
7.3
5.9
6.3
7.0
3.8
3.6

1993   1997   2001   2005   2010
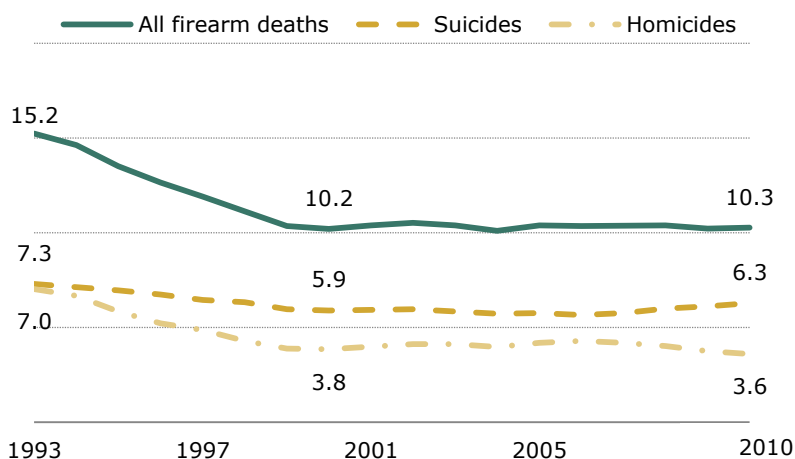
Note: Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2010.

Source: Source: CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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The U.S. gun homicide rate and number of homicide victims plunged during the 1990s, but there has been little change since the end of that decade. From 1993 to 2000, the death rate dropped 45%, and the number of victims killed each year fell by nearly 7,500. From 2000 to 2010, the death rate declined 7%, and the number of victims did not change much.[7]

Still, due in part to recent increases in the number of suicides, firearm homicide accounted for 35% of firearm deaths in 2010, the lowest share since 1981, the first year for which the CDC published data.

The gun suicide rate has declined far less than the gun homicide rate since the mid-1990s; the gun suicide rate began rising in recent years, and the number of victims is slightly higher than two decades ago. See the textbox at the end of this section for more detail.

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[6] According to preliminary 2011 data, there were 32,163 deaths by firearms, including 11,101 homicides and 19,766 suicides. The overall rate, 10.3 per 100,000 people, was unchanged.

[7] According to preliminary 2011 CDC data, there was virtually no change from 2010 on these measures.

Firearms were used in 68% of homicides in 2010, according to CDC data. That share has ranged from 64% to 71% since the 1990s.[8] In 2010, firearm homicide was the fifth leading cause of violent death, after motor vehicle deaths, unintentional poisoning such as drug overdose, falls and suicide by firearm.

Homicide by means other than firearms also has declined, though not as much as gun homicide; the non-firearm rate declined 41% from 1993 to 2010, according to CDC data.

Another way of examining firearm violence is to look at data from the CDC for firearm injuries, which comes from a survey of hospital emergency rooms. In 2011, nearly 74,000 injuries from firearms were reported in the CDC database, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. Of those, about 56,000 (75%) resulted from assaults.[9] Since 2000, the share of firearm injuries that are the result of assaults has ranged from 63% to 75%.

Number of Firearm Deaths, 1993-2010

All firearm deaths — — Suicides — · — Homicides

39,595

28,663

31,672

18,940

16,586

19,392

18,253

10,801

11,078

1993   1997   2001   2005   2010
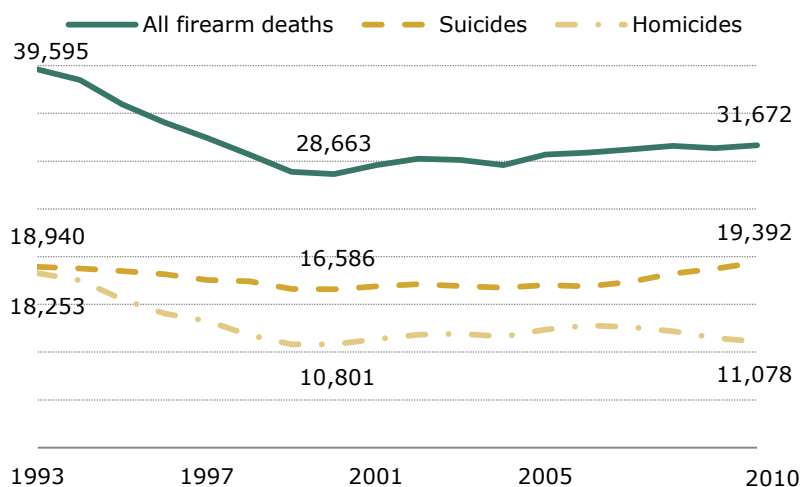
Note: Totals not shown for residual categories of firearm death, such as accidents. Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2010.

Source: CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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[8] Except for 2001, the year that terrorist attacks killed about 3,000 people, when it was 56%.
[9] Remaining injuries were unintentional, deliberately self-inflicted or the result of "legal intervention" by law enforcement officers.

Deaths from mass shootings are a relatively small share of firearm homicides. According to a recent Congressional Research Service report (Congressional Research Service, 2013), 78 public mass shootings occurred in the United States from 1983 through 2012, claiming 547 lives and injuring 476 people. (The count does not include the shooters.)

The Congressional Research Service report did not assess whether mass shootings are more or less frequent than they used to be, but noted that they are relatively uncommon. It stated: "Mass shootings are rare, high-profile events, rather than broad trends that require systematic data collection to understand."

Noting that definitions differ, the report defined "public mass shootings" as those happening in relatively public places, killing at least four people (not including the shooter) and having a "somewhat indiscriminate" choice of victims. The violence in these cases counted by CRS was "not a means to an end such as robbery or terrorism."

A Bureau of Justice Statistics review of homicide trends from 1980 to 2008 (Cooper and Smith, 2011) found that homicides with multiple victims (in this case, three or more) have increased somewhat as a share of incidents, but are a small share of the total.[10] Less than 1% of homicides each year claim three or more victims. These homicides, most of which are shootings, increased as a share of all homicides from 0.5% in 1980 to 0.8% in 2008, according to the bureau's data.

Homicides with more than one victim were more likely to involve firearms than single-victim homicides, the review concluded. In 2008, 77% of homicides with two or more victims involved guns, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics review, compared with 66% of single-victim homicides.

Multiple-victim Homicides Rise, But Are Still a Small Share of All Homicides

Homicides with three or more victims, as % of all homicides
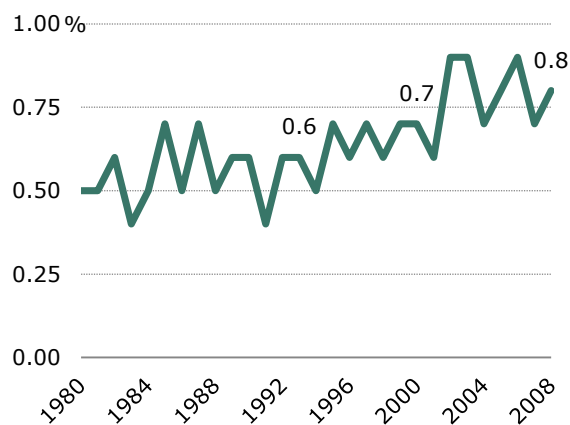
Note: Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2008.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2011. Homicide Trends in the United States, 1980-2008. Washington, D.C.

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[10] Data in this Bureau of Justice Statistics report come from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports, part of the Uniform Crime Reporting program. See Methodology for more details on differences between this source and the CDC data used elsewhere in this report.

Gender and Age Groups

Men (and boys) make up the vast majority (84% in 2010) of gun homicide victims.

The gun homicide rates for both genders have declined by similar amounts since the mid-1990s, though the male rate is much higher—6.2 gun homicides per 100,000 people in 2010, compared with 1.1 for females.

By age group, 69% of gun homicide victims are ages 18 to 40, a proportion that has changed little since 1993. These groups also have the highest homicide rates: In 2010, there were 10.7 gun homicides per 100,000 people ages 18 to 24, compared with 6.7 among those ages 25 to 40, the next highest rate. The lowest rates are for children younger than 12 and for adults ages 65 and older.

Rates of gun homicide fell in all age groups from 1993 to 2000, most dramatically for teenagers, and leveled off or fluctuated since then. From 1993 to 2010, the gun homicide rate declined 65% for those ages 12 to 17, the largest percentage decrease among age groups. The smallest decrease, 37%, was for people ages 25 to 40.

Rate of Firearm Homicide Deaths, by Age, 1993-2010

Per 100,000 people
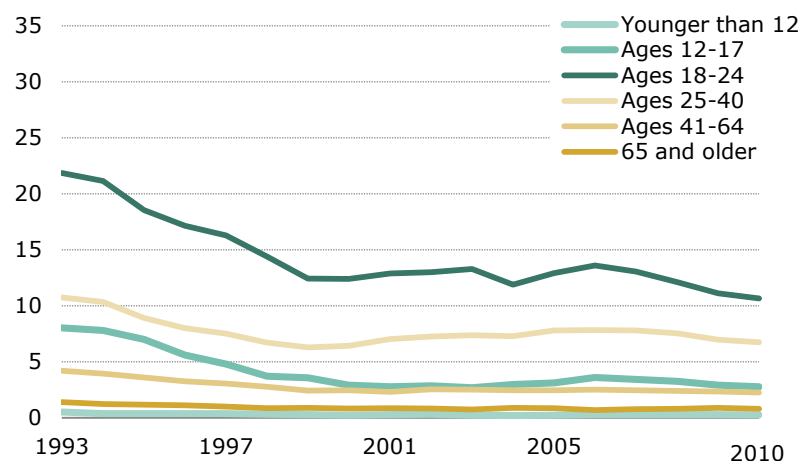
Note: See Appendix 1 for underlying data.

Source: CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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Younger adults are disproportionately likely to be firearms homicide victims. In 2010, young adults ages 18 to 24 were 30% of gun homicide victims in 2010, a higher likelihood than their 10% share of the population would suggest. Similarly, in 2010, people ages 25 to 40 accounted for 40% of gun homicide victims, though they were 21% of the population that year.

Racial and Ethnic Groups

Looked at by race, blacks are over-represented among gun homicide victims; blacks were 55% of shooting homicide victims in 2010, but 13% of the population. By contrast, whites are underrepresented; whites were 25% of the victims of gun homicide in 2010, but 65% of the population. For Hispanics, the 17% share of gun homicide victims was about equal to their 16% proportion of the total population.

The black homicide death rate has declined 50% since its peak in 1993, and the number of black homicide

Rate of Firearm Homicide Deaths, by Race/Ethnicity, 1993-2010

Per 100,000 people
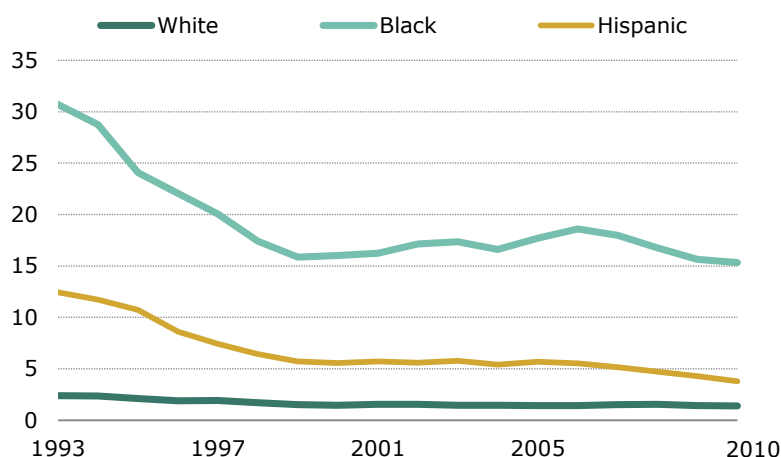
Note: See Appendix 1 for underlying data. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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deaths fell by more than a third (37%) from 1993 to 2010. The white homicide death rate has declined by 42% over that time, and the number of white homicide deaths declined 39%. The Hispanic shooting homicide rate fell 69% from 1993 to 2000, and the number of deaths declined by 40%. From 2000 to 2010, when the overall gun homicide rate decline slowed, the Hispanic rate fell 32%, while the black and white rates declined only 4%.

The share of victims by racial or ethnic group has changed little since 1993, but the makeup of the U.S. population has altered. For example, in 1993, Hispanics were 10% of the population, blacks 12% and whites 73%. From 1993 to 2010, the Hispanic population share rose 66%, but the Hispanic share of gun homicide victims has not increased.

The larger decline in gun homicides among blacks and Hispanics, compared with whites, has had a disproportionate effect in driving down the overall gun homicide rate. If the black and Hispanic homicide rates had declined at the same rate as that of whites, the U.S. gun homicide rate would have declined by 35%, instead of 49%, from 1993 to 2010, according to a Pew Research Center analysis.

Suicide by Firearm

Based on death certificates, 19,392 people killed themselves with firearms in 2010, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That is the highest annual total since the CDC began publishing data in 1981, when the suicide toll was 16,139. Firearm suicide was the fourth leading cause of violent-injury death in 2010, following motor vehicle accidents, unintentional poison (including drug overdose) and falls. Firearms accounted for 51% of suicides in 2010.

The firearm suicide rate peaked in 1990, at 7.6 per 100,000 people, before declining or leveling off for most years since then. However, in recent years, the rate has risen somewhat: From 2007 to 2010, it went up 9%. The firearm suicide rate in 2010 (6.3 per 100,000 people) was the same as it was in 1998. Preliminary 2011 data show 19,766 deaths, and no change in rates from 2010.

The number of firearm suicides has been greater than the number of firearm homicides since at least 1981. But as firearm homicides have declined sharply, suicides have become a greater share of firearm deaths. In 2010, 61% of gun deaths were due to suicide, compared with about half in the mid-1990s. (The remaining firearm deaths, in addition to suicide and homicide, are accidental, of undetermined intent or the result of what the CDC terms "legal intervention," generally a police shooting.)

Males are the vast majority of gun suicides (87% in 2010), and the suicide rate for males (11.2 deaths per 100,000 people) is more than seven times the female rate (1.5 deaths). The highest firearm suicide rate by age is among those ages 65 and older (10.6 per 100,000 people). The rate for older adults has been relatively steady in recent years; the rate is rising, though, among those ages 41-64, according to CDC data. Among the three largest racial and ethnic groups, whites have the highest suicide rate at 8.5 per 100,000, followed by blacks (2.7) and Hispanics (1.9).

Comparing homicide and suicide rates, suicide rates are higher than homicide rates for men; they are about equal for women. By age group, suicide rates are higher than homicide rates only for adults ages 41-64 and those ages 65 and older. Homicide rates are higher than suicide rates for blacks and Hispanics; for whites, the suicide rate is higher than the homicide rate. Detailed tables on gun suicide can be found in Appendix 1.

CHAPTER 3: NON-FATAL VIOLENT FIREARM CRIMES

Over the past two decades, the rate of non-fatal violent firearm crime victimizations among Americans ages 12 and older was highest in the early 1990s, and fell sharply (63%) from 1993 through 2000, according to analyses of data from the National Crime Victimization Survey. From 2000 to 2011, the rate declined 33%.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the rate of non-fatal firearm crime appeared to rise, compared with the prior year, but the changes are not statistically significant. In 2011, the non-fatal firearm crime rate was 75% lower than it had been in 1993.

Rate of Non-fatal Violent Firearm Crime, by Type of Crime, 1993-2011
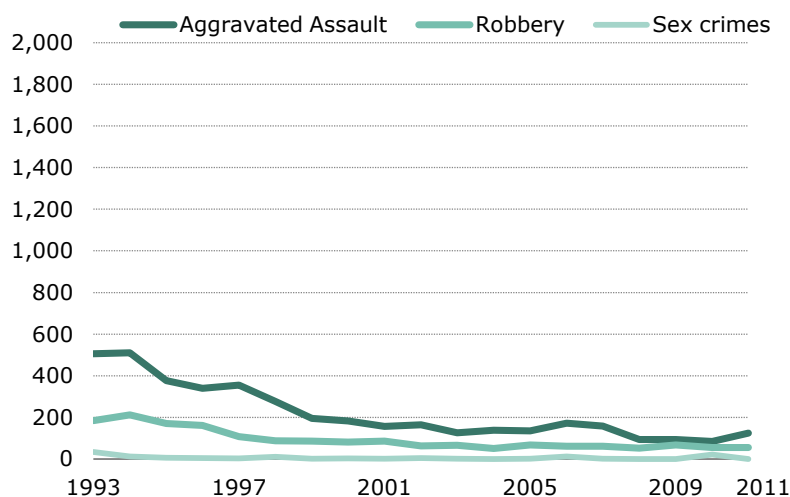
Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

Note: See Appendix 2 for underlying data, including cautions about small sample sizes for some years. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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For non-fatal gun crimes overall, there were 725.3 victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older in 1993; in 2011, it fell to 181.5 victimizations per 100,000 people.

Non-fatal firearm crimes are defined throughout this section as aggravated assault, robbery and sex crimes in which the victim saw a weapon. Aggravated assault and robbery are the main components of non-fatal firearm crime; there are too few sex crimes reported to analyze annual trends reliably.

Over the 1993-2011 period, the victimization rate for aggravated assault with firearms declined 75% and the rate for robbery with firearms declined 70%.

The rate for both gun crimes displayed the same general pattern of large declines in the 1990s. From 2000 to 2011, rates for aggravated assault declined overall. There was no clear trend for robbery with a firearm from 2000 to 2011.

Gender

As with firearm homicide, males account for most victimizations by non-fatal violent firearm crime.[11] However, men and boys are not as large a share of non-fatal firearm crime victims as they were two decades ago.

Violent victimization rates involving firearms declined for both males and females from 1993 to 2011, with fluctuations in some years.

The male victimization rate declined somewhat more than the female rate—by 79% compared with 68%—from 1993 to 2011. As a result, the share of non-fatal firearm crime victimizations involving men and boys, 66% in 1993, declined to 56% in 2011. The 2011 share of victimizations is higher than the 49% male share of the U.S. population ages 12 and older.

Rate of Non-fatal Violent Firearm Crime, by Gender of Victim, 1993-2011
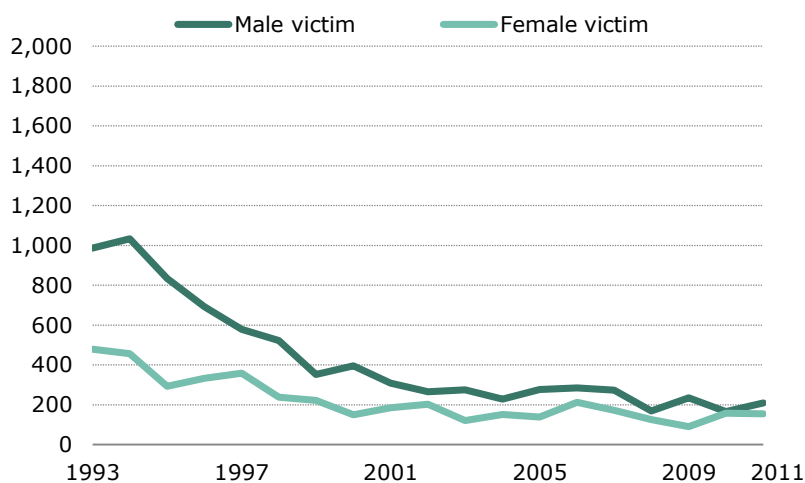
Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

Note: See Appendix 2 for underlying data. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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Girls and women made up 51% of the U.S. population ages 12 and older in 2011 but were 44% of the victims of non-fatal violent firearm crime in that age group.

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[11] Firearms homicides are based on the total population and victimizations on the population ages 12 and older.

Age Groups

As with gun homicides, young adults are at higher risk than older adults of being the victim of a non-fatal gun crime.

Two decades ago, young adults ages 18 to 24 were more likely than any other age group (among the population ages 12 and older in the victimization survey) to be a victim of non-fatal firearm crime. But the victimization rate of 18- to 24-year-olds declined 80% from 1993 to 2011, compared with the 75% overall decline in non-fatal firearm victimization during those years. By 2011, the rate for

Rate of Non-fatal Violent Firearm Crime, by Age of Victim, 1993-2011
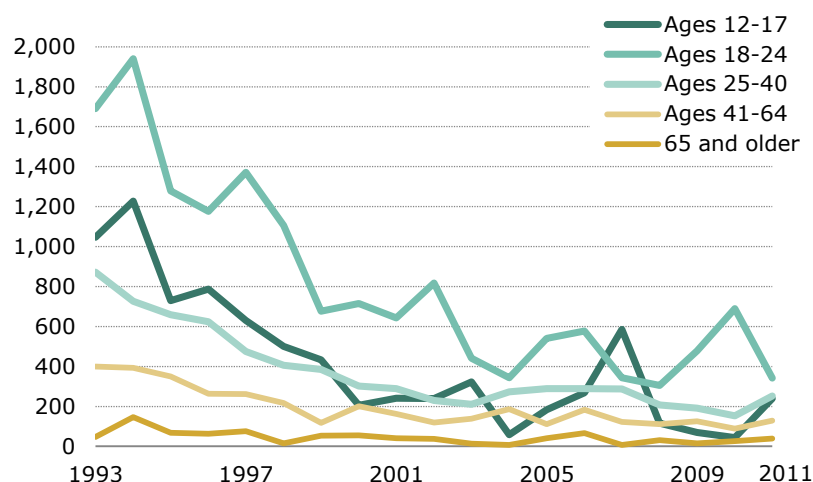
Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

Note: See Appendix 2 for underlying data, including cautions about small sample sizes for some age groups for some years. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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this age group was only higher than rates for adults ages 41 and older, but not statistically different from the rate for 12- to 17-year-olds or 25- to 40-year-olds.

In both 1993 and 2011, adults ages 65 and older were less likely than other age groups to be the victim of non-fatal firearm crimes.[12] Adults ages 41 to 64 had lower victimization rates for non-fatal firearm crime in 1993 than younger age groups; in 2011, this group had lower rates than adults ages 18 to 24 and 25 to 40, but not than those ages 12 to 17.

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[12] This finding should be interpreted with caution because the estimated victimization rate for adults ages 65 and older is based on a sample of fewer than 10 cases.

Racial and Ethnic Groups

In 2011, the white rate of non-fatal gun crime victimization appears to be somewhat lower than those of Hispanics and blacks, although the differences are not statistically significant. (Those rates were 158.7 victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older for whites, 215.0 for Hispanics and 245.5 for blacks.)

That is different from the pattern for gun homicide, and represents a change from 1993, when the white victimization rate (499.1 per 100,000 people ages 12 and older) was lower than those for Hispanics (1,286.8) and blacks (1,570.0) ages 12 and older.

Rate of Non-fatal Violent Firearm Crime, by Race/Ethnicity of Victim, 1993-2011

Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older
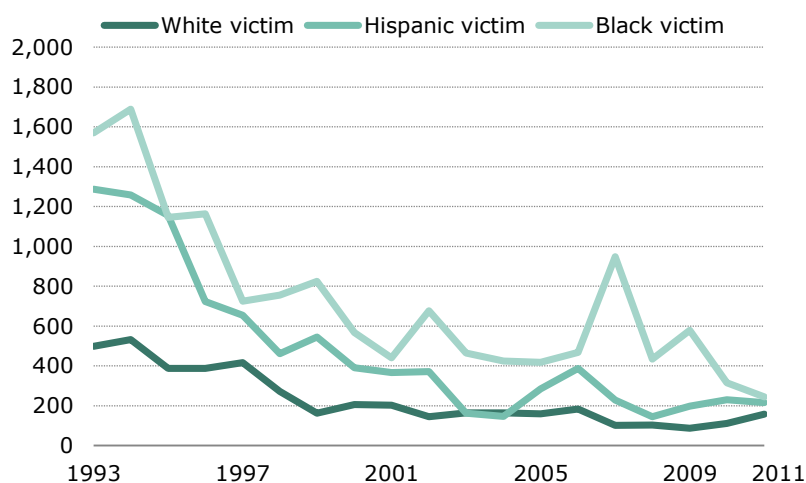
Note: See Appendix 2 for underlying data, including cautions about small sample sizes in some years. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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The non-fatal firearm crime victimization rates of Hispanic and black Americans ages 12 and older fell somewhat more sharply than the white rate from 1993 to 2011: by 83% for Hispanics and 84% for blacks, compared with 68% for whites. The Hispanic population ages 12 and older has more than doubled in size since then, so its rate is a larger factor than in the past in driving the overall rate. (The black population grew 24% in that time, and the white population grew 7%).

All three groups showed a similar pattern of sharper declines from 1993 to 2000 than over the period from 2000 to 2011, for those ages 12 and older. However, in the period from 2008 to 2011, the non-fatal gun crime rate rose for whites (54%). After a single-year spike in 2007, the rate declined for blacks from 2008 to 2011 (44%).

CHAPTER 4: ALL NON-FATAL VIOLENT CRIMES

As with firearm crimes, the rate of overall non-fatal violent crime—defined as aggravated or simple assault, robbery or sex crimes (with or without a gun)—also is lower than it was in the early 1990s. From 1993 to 2011, the U.S. non-fatal violent crime victimization rate for Americans ages 12 and older declined 72%.

There were 2,254 non-fatal violent crime victimizations per 100,000 Americans ages 12 and older in 2011, compared with 7,976 in 1993. The number of such victimizations in 2011—5.8 million—also was a decline from 16.8 million victimizations in 1993.

Rate of Non-fatal Violent Crime, 1993-2011

Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older
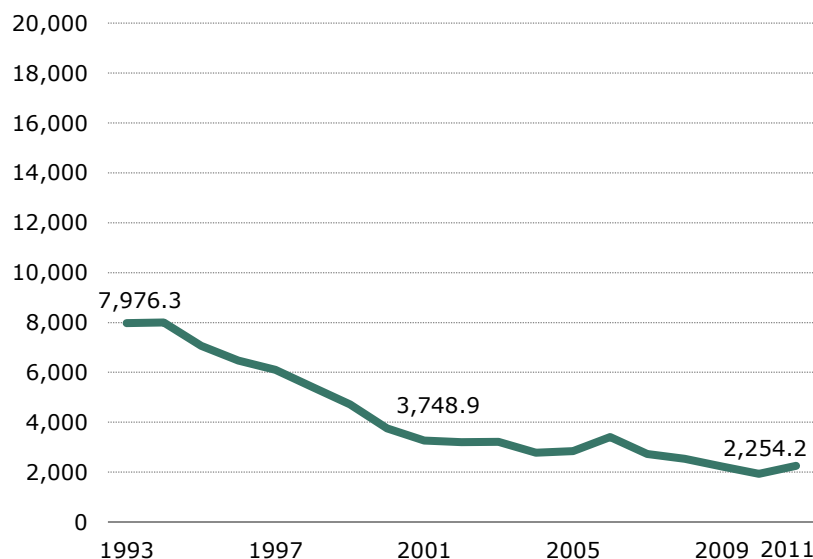
Note: Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2011. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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The non-fatal violent crime victimization rate declined 53% from 1993 to 2000 and decreased an additional 49% from 2000 to 2010. In 2011, the rate grew by 17%.

Looking at the main components of non-fatal violent crime, in 2011, 31% of aggravated assault victimizations involved a gun, the same share as in 1993. In 2011, 26% of robbery victimizations involved a gun, similar to the 22% share in 1993.

By gender, males accounted for 55% of non-fatal violent crime victimizations in 2011, somewhat higher than their 49% proportion of the population ages 12 and older.

Age Groups

In terms of age, young adults have the highest victimization rates. The highest rate is among those ages 18 to 24, followed by those ages 12 to 17.

Those ages 12 to 24 are a higher share of victims (41% in 2011) than of the population ages 12 and older (21%). Adults ages 41 and older are a lower share of victims (29%) than their share of the population ages 12 and older (53%). Those ages 25 to 40 are a slightly larger share of victims (30%) than of the population ages 12 and older (26%).

Teens ages 12 to 17, for example, are 9% of the population ages 12 and older

Non-fatal Violent Crime Rate, by Age of Victim, 1993-2011
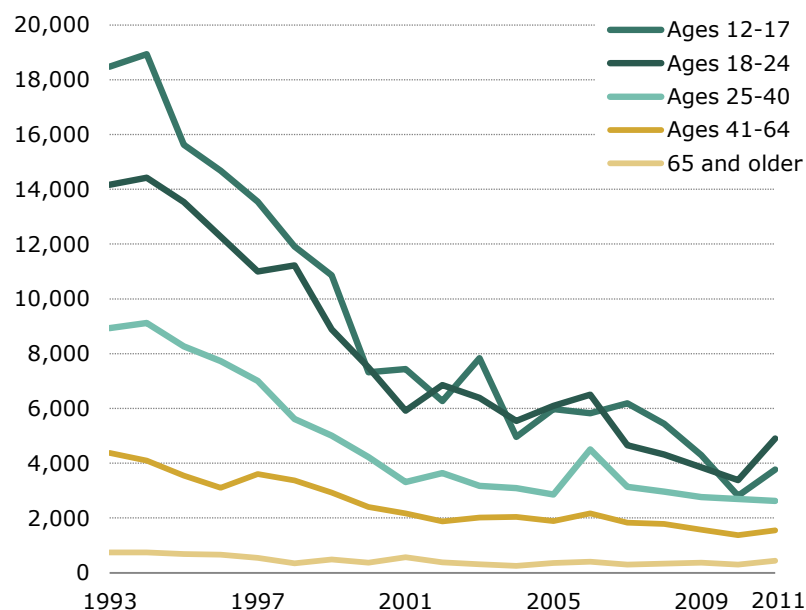
Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

Note: See Appendix 3 for underlying data. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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but were 16% of the victims of non-fatal violent crime in 2011. Adults ages 65 and older are 15% of the population ages 12 and older but were 3% of the victims of non-fatal violent crime in 2011.

Racial and Ethnic Groups

There were no statistically significant differences by racial and ethnic group in 2011 rates of non-fatal violent crime.

Non-fatal violent crime rates declined at a similar pace from 1993 to 2010 among those ages 12 and older in the nation's three largest racial and ethnic groups—77% for whites, 79% for Hispanics and 71% for blacks.

From 2010 to 2011, the non-fatal violent crime rate for Hispanics went up 42%; the rate for whites rose 18%; and the rate for blacks was essentially stable (up 2%).

Non-fatal Violent Crime Rate, by Race/Ethnicity of Victim, 1993-2011
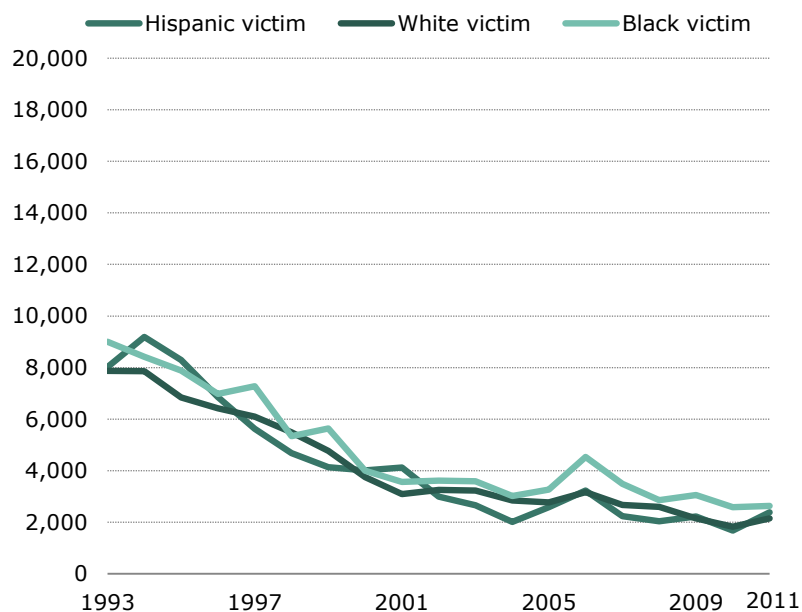
Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older

Note: See Appendix 3 for underlying data. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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CHAPTER 5: CONTEXT

Crime News

Americans are hearing less about crime these days on their local television newscasts than they did a few years ago, but crime remains a common type of story on these local broadcasts, trailing only traffic and weather.

According to the "The State of the News Media 2013" report from Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, 2013) crime accounted for 17% of the total time devoted to news on local broadcasts in 2012, compared with 29% in 2005. The largest component of local newscasts, traffic and weather stories, accounted for 29% of local newscast content in 2012, compared with 25% in 2005.

Looking at the national newscasts on ABC, CBS and NBC, crime news grew somewhat as a percentage of the network TV evening time devoted to news, to 9% in 2012 from 7% in 2007.

Crime coverage on the morning network shows grew to 14% of the time devoted to news in 2012, compared with 9% in 2007. This was due largely to stories about the death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Florida teenager who was fatally shot by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Trayvon Martin coverage also was a factor in the growth of crime coverage on the evening news.

News stories about fatal shootings were among the coverage most closely followed by the public in 2012, according to the Pew Research Center's News Interest Index. The fatal mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., ranked second in public attention, behind the presidential election, with 57% of Americans saying they followed the story very closely. The mass shooting in an Aurora, Colo., movie theater ranked fifth, with 48% following it very closely. The Trayvon Martin shooting ranked 11th, with 35% of Americans saying they tracked the story very closely (Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2012).

More recently, 39% of Americans say they followed very closely the debate about gun control in late April, the week the Senate rejected gun control legislation. It was the second most closely followed story from April 18 to 21, following the bombings at the Boston marathon (Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2013).

Public Priority to Crime

When it comes to the public's priorities for the president and Congress, reducing crime has rebounded as a top concern. In a Pew Research Center survey in January, the month after the mass shooting in Newtown, 55% of Americans called crime reduction a top priority for Washington (Pew Research Center, January 2013). Two years ago, in 2011, just 44% said so. However, the share is much lower than it was in Pew Research Center surveys in the early 1990s or 2000s, when three-quarters or more said reducing crime should be a top priority.

Strengthening gun control laws was rated a top priority for officials in Washington by 37% of Americans in the January Pew Research Center survey. Gun control had last been included in the annual public priorities survey in 2001; in the survey that year, 47% of Americans called it a top priority.

Gun Ownership

The number of firearms available for sale to or possessed by U.S. civilians has grown in recent years, according to the Congressional Research Service and other research. A 2012 CRS report estimated that about 310 million firearms were available to or owned by civilians in the U.S. in 2009—114 million handguns, 110 million rifles and 86 million shotguns (Congressional Research Service, 2012). The figure was derived from manufacturing, export and import data published by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The 2009 per capita rate of one person per gun in the U.S. had roughly doubled since 1968, the report said.

The 2007 Small Arms Survey, conducted by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (Completing the Count, 2007), estimated that 270 million firearms were owned by private citizens in the U.S. that year,[13] or about 90 firearms per 100 people. The Small Arms Survey relied on ATF data and independent surveys.

It is not clear, however, how many U.S. households owned guns or whether the share of gun-owning U.S. households has changed over time.

According to a recent Pew Research Center survey (Pew Research Center, March 2013) 37% of adults say they or someone else in their household owns a firearm of some kind. The 2012 General Social Survey (GSS) reports 34% do. However, a Gallup survey in 2012 found that 43% of respondents said there was at least one gun in their household.

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[13] The CRS report estimated that civilians had 294 million firearms available for sale or owned in 2007.

As for whether gun ownership is rising or falling, the GSS reports a long trend of decline. In 1973, about half of households (49%) owned firearms, according to GSS data. Gallup survey data indicates that the share of households with guns is the same now as in 1972 (43%), although there was a dip in gun ownership in the 1990s.

Respondent error or misstatement in surveys about gun ownership is a widely acknowledged concern of researchers. People may be reluctant to disclose ownership, especially if they are concerned that there may be future restrictions on gun possession or if they acquired their firearms illegally. For whatever reason, husbands are more likely than wives to say there is a firearm in their households (Wright et al., 2012). Household surveys do not cover all gun ownership; they include only firearms owned by people in households.

As a 2004 National Academy of Sciences review stated, "Concerns about response errors in self-reported surveys of firearms possession and use require much more systematic research before surveys can be judged to provide accurate data to address critical issues in the study of firearms and violence. … Without systematic research on these specific matters, scientists can only speculate" (National Research Council, 2004).

International Context

How do U.S. gun ownership or gun crime compare with those in other nations? Although international data collection suffers from the same problems as gathering information about guns in the U.S., most research agrees that civilians in the United States own more firearms both total and per capita than those in any other nation.

The Small Arms Survey in 2007 found not only that U.S. civilians had more total firearms than any other nation (270 million) but also that the rate of ownership (about 90 firearms for every 100 people) was higher than in other countries. "With less than 5 percent of the world's population, the United States is home to 35-50 per cent of the world's civilian-owned guns," according to the survey, which included estimates for 178 countries.

As for gun crime, research has found that the U.S. has a higher gun homicide and overall homicide rate than most developed nations, although the U.S. does not have the world's highest rate for either. The U.S. does not outrank other developed nations for overall crime, but crimes with firearms are more likely to occur in the U.S. (Van Dijk, et al., 2007).

The United Nations Global Study on Homicide (UNODC, 2011) estimated that 199,000 homicides, or 42% of the 468,000 worldwide total in 2010, were committed by firearm.

According to U.N. statistics, the U.S. firearm homicide rate and overall homicide rate are higher than those in Canada and in Western European and Scandinavian nations, but lower than those in many Caribbean and Latin American countries for which data are available.

Where does the U.S. rank internationally in terms of gun crime of all types? A report that compared 2003-2004 victimization survey data for 30 countries, including most developed nations, found that the U.S. ranked about average in an overall index of common crimes (Van Dijk et al., 2007).

However, the report placed the U.S. among the top countries for attacks involving firearms. "Mexico, the USA and Northern Ireland stand out with the highest percentages gun-related attacks (16%, 6% and 6% respectively)." The U.S. had the highest share of sexual assault involving guns.

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APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL TABLES ON FIREARM DEATHS

All Firearm Deaths, Total and by Gender, 1981-2010

	-----------All-----------		----------Male----------		--------Female--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year						
2010	31,672	10.3	27,356	18.0	4,316	2.7
2009	31,347	10.2	26,921	17.9	4,426	2.8
2008	31,593	10.4	27,336	18.3	4,257	2.8
2007	31,224	10.4	27,047	18.3	4,177	2.7
2006	30,896	10.4	26,712	18.2	4,184	2.8
2005	30,694	10.4	26,657	18.4	4,037	2.7
2004	29,569	10.1	25,498	17.7	4,071	2.7
2003	30,136	10.4	26,124	18.3	4,012	2.7
2002	30,242	10.5	26,098	18.5	4,144	2.8
2001	29,573	10.4	25,480	18.2	4,093	2.8
2000	28,663	10.2	24,582	17.8	4,081	2.8
1999	28,874	10.3	24,700	18.1	4,174	2.9
1998	30,708	11.1	26,189	19.4	4,519	3.2
1997	32,436	11.9	27,756	20.8	4,680	3.4
1996	34,040	12.6	29,183	22.1	4,857	3.5
1995	35,957	13.5	30,724	23.6	5,233	3.8
1994	38,505	14.6	33,021	25.7	5,484	4.1
1993	39,595	15.2	33,711	26.6	5,884	4.4
1992	37,776	14.7	32,425	25.9	5,351	4.1
1991	38,317	15.1	32,882	26.6	5,435	4.2
1990	37,155	14.9	31,736	26.1	5,419	4.2
1989	34,776	14.1	29,596	24.6	5,180	4.1
1988	33,989	13.9	28,674	24.1	5,315	4.2
1987	32,895	13.6	27,569	23.4	5,326	4.3
1986	33,373	13.9	28,084	24.0	5,289	4.3
1985	31,566	13.3	26,382	22.8	5,184	4.2
1984	31,331	13.3	26,229	22.9	5,102	4.2
1983	31,099	13.3	25,945	22.8	5,154	4.3
1982	32,957	14.2	27,517	24.4	5,440	4.6
1981	34,050	14.8	28,343	25.4	5,707	4.8

Notes: Firearm deaths include those that are unintentional, violence-related (suicide, homicide and legal intervention) and of undetermined intent.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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All Firearm Deaths, by Age, 1981-2010

	-----Younger than 12-----		--------Ages 12-17--------		--------Ages 18-24-------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year						
2010	180	0.4	1,157	4.6	5,244	17.1
2009	182	0.4	1,210	4.7	5,259	17.2
2008	192	0.4	1,283	5.0	5,586	18.5
2007	195	0.4	1,325	5.1	5,780	19.4
2006	185	0.4	1,408	5.4	5,971	20.2
2005	171	0.4	1,319	5.1	5,735	19.5
2004	147	0.3	1,238	4.8	5,513	18.8
2003	158	0.3	1,159	4.6	5,909	20.4
2002	191	0.4	1,252	5.0	5,756	20.2
2001	194	0.4	1,239	5.0	5,668	20.2
2000	176	0.4	1,368	5.7	5,467	20.1
1999	190	0.4	1,586	6.6	5,508	20.6
1998	235	0.5	1,736	7.3	6,061	23.3
1997	249	0.5	2,035	8.6	6,519	25.6
1996	264	0.6	2,259	9.8	6,936	27.5
1995	272	0.6	2,762	12.1	7,597	29.8
1994	278	0.6	3,040	13.7	8,610	33.5
1993	346	0.8	2,945	13.6	8,870	34.2
1992	308	0.7	2,740	13.0	8,353	32.0
1991	286	0.6	2,659	13.0	8,370	31.7
1990	312	0.7	2,386	11.9	7,628	28.4
1989	368	0.8	2,129	10.6	6,754	24.9
1988	331	0.8	1,998	9.7	6,278	23.0
1987	302	0.7	1,690	8.1	5,985	21.6
1986	267	0.6	1,667	7.8	6,187	21.9
1985	316	0.8	1,567	7.2	5,689	19.7
1984	302	0.7	1,464	6.7	5,771	19.6
1983	269	0.7	1,379	6.2	5,853	19.6
1982	338	0.8	1,462	6.5	6,504	21.6
1981	347	0.9	1,593	7.0	7,119	23.5

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All Firearm Deaths, by Age, 1981-2010 (Cont.)

Year	--------Ages 25-40--------		--------Ages 41-64--------		--------65 and older--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
2010	9,059	13.8	11,322	11.6	4,703	11.7
2009	8,918	13.6	11,047	11.4	4,723	11.9
2008	9,201	14.1	10,761	11.2	4,566	11.8
2007	9,287	14.3	10,334	10.9	4,292	11.3
2006	9,177	14.2	9,963	10.7	4,183	11.3
2005	9,237	14.3	9,897	10.8	4,325	11.8
2004	8,915	13.8	9,539	10.7	4,190	11.6
2003	9,192	14.1	9,468	10.9	4,232	11.8
2002	9,410	14.3	9,216	10.8	4,402	12.4
2001	9,416	14.2	8,673	10.5	4,364	12.4
2000	9,092	13.5	8,278	10.4	4,264	12.2
1999	9,326	13.8	7,911	10.2	4,333	12.5
1998	9,872	14.4	8,264	11.0	4,514	13.0
1997	10,778	15.6	8,331	11.4	4,497	13.1
1996	11,334	16.4	8,509	12.0	4,710	13.8
1995	12,183	17.7	8,337	12.1	4,776	14.1
1994	13,372	19.5	8,441	12.6	4,734	14.2
1993	13,716	20.0	8,749	13.5	4,935	15.0
1992	13,133	19.3	8,426	13.3	4,789	14.8
1991	13,536	20.0	8,499	13.8	4,916	15.5
1990	13,442	20.1	8,356	13.9	4,980	15.9
1989	12,560	18.9	8,077	13.7	4,852	15.8
1988	12,568	19.1	7,883	13.6	4,880	16.2
1987	11,929	18.2	8,042	14.2	4,909	16.6
1986	12,181	19.1	8,265	14.7	4,758	16.4
1985	11,385	18.3	8,139	14.6	4,443	15.6
1984	11,306	18.6	8,238	14.9	4,217	15.1
1983	11,449	19.3	8,169	15.0	3,949	14.4
1982	12,215	21.2	8,609	15.9	3,799	14.2
1981	12,630	22.6	8,950	16.6	3,377	12.9

Notes: Firearm deaths include those that are unintentional, violence-related (suicide, homicide and legal intervention) and of undetermined intent.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

All Firearm Deaths, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2010

	---------All---------		-------White-------		------Hispanic------		-------Black-------	
	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*
Year								
2010	31,672	10.3	20,513	10.2	3,008	6.0	7,330	18.6
2009	31,347	10.2	19,955	10.0	3,202	6.5	7,345	18.8
2008	31,593	10.4	19,873	9.9	3,256	6.8	7,741	20.0
2007	31,224	10.4	18,861	9.5	3,492	7.6	8,133	21.3
2006	30,896	10.4	18,312	9.2	3,464	7.8	8,294	22.0
2005	30,694	10.4	18,521	9.3	3,469	8.1	7,865	21.1
2004	29,569	10.1	18,200	9.2	3,278	7.9	7,347	19.9
2003	30,136	10.4	18,457	9.3	3,319	8.3	7,566	20.8
2002	30,242	10.5	18,762	9.5	3,143	8.1	7,494	20.8
2001	29,573	10.4	18,676	9.4	3,087	8.3	7,063	19.8
2000	28,663	10.2	18,042	9.1	2,891	8.2	6,958	19.8
1999	28,874	10.3	18,260	9.3	2,878	8.5	6,933	20.0
1998	30,708	11.1	19,365	9.8	3,085	9.5	7,391	21.6
1997	32,436	11.9	19,912	10.2	3,331	10.8	8,264	24.6
1996	34,040	12.6	20,004	10.4	3,638	12.4	8,962	27.3
1995	35,957	13.5	20,764	10.8	4,204	15.0	9,435	29.3
1994	38,505	14.6	21,549	11.3	4,383	16.3	10,986	34.7
1993	39,595	15.2	21,960	11.6	4,399	17.1	11,434	36.8
1992	37,776	14.7	21,137	11.3	4,325	17.6	10,603	34.8
1991	38,317	15.1	21,629	11.6	4,205	17.9	10,678	35.8
1990	37,155	14.9	20,701	11.4	3,762	16.8	8,960	32.1

Continued on next page

All Firearm Deaths, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2010 (Cont.)

	American Indian/ -------------Alaskan Native--------------		----------Asian/Pacific Islander----------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year				
2010	293	11.4	383	2.4
2009	268	10.5	413	2.6
2008	256	10.1	382	2.5
2007	228	9.1	419	2.8
2006	264	10.7	459	3.2
2005	285	11.6	432	3.1
2004	261	10.7	381	2.8
2003	259	10.8	428	3.3
2002	271	11.4	417	3.3
2001	221	9.4	381	3.2
2000	226	9.6	411	3.6
1999	247	10.9	437	4.0
1998	261	11.8	442	4.2
1997	261	12.1	503	5.0
1996	223	12.2	475	5.0
1995	258	14.6	559	6.1
1994	277	16.0	549	6.3
1993	242	14.4	585	7.0
1992	199	12.2	501	6.3
1991	245	15.4	514	6.9
1990	222	14.4	401	5.7

Notes: Hispanics are of any race. White, black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander include only non-Hispanics. Data on Hispanic Origin were not gathered prior to 1990. Firearm deaths include those that are unintentional, violence-related (suicide, homicide and legal intervention) and of undetermined intent.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearm Homicide Deaths, Total and by Gender, 1981-2010

Year	-----------All-----------		----------Male----------		--------Female--------	
	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*	Number	Rate *(per 100,000)*
2010	11,078	3.6	9,340	6.2	1,738	1.1
2009	11,493	3.7	9,615	6.4	1,878	1.2
2008	12,179	4.0	10,361	6.9	1,818	1.2
2007	12,632	4.2	10,767	7.3	1,865	1.2
2006	12,791	4.3	10,886	7.4	1,905	1.3
2005	12,352	4.2	10,561	7.3	1,791	1.2
2004	11,624	4.0	9,921	6.9	1,703	1.1
2003	11,920	4.1	10,126	7.1	1,794	1.2
2002	11,829	4.1	9,899	7.0	1,930	1.3
2001	11,348	4.0	9,532	6.8	1,816	1.3
2000	10,801	3.8	9,006	6.5	1,795	1.3
1999	10,828	3.9	8,944	6.5	1,884	1.3
1998	11,798	4.3	9,771	7.2	2,027	1.4
1997	13,252	4.9	11,147	8.4	2,105	1.5
1996	14,037	5.2	11,735	8.9	2,302	1.7
1995	15,551	5.8	13,021	10.0	2,530	1.9
1994	17,527	6.7	14,766	11.5	2,761	2.1
1993	18,253	7.0	15,228	12.0	3,025	2.3
1992	17,488	6.8	14,747	11.8	2,741	2.1
1991	17,746	7.0	14,926	12.1	2,820	2.2
1990	16,218	6.5	13,629	11.2	2,589	2.0
1989	14,464	5.9	12,018	10.0	2,446	1.9
1988	13,645	5.6	11,134	9.3	2,511	2.0
1987	12,657	5.2	10,202	8.6	2,455	2.0
1986	13,029	5.4	10,656	9.1	2,373	1.9
1985	11,836	5.0	9,532	8.2	2,304	1.9
1984	11,815	5.0	9,615	8.4	2,200	1.8
1983	12,040	5.1	9,863	8.7	2,177	1.8
1982	13,830	6.0	11,402	10.1	2,428	2.0
1981	15,089	6.6	12,548	11.3	2,541	2.2

Note: There were 11,101 firearm homicide deaths in 2011 and the rate of 3.6 per 100,000 people remained the same, according to preliminary Centers for Disease Control data.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearm Homicide Deaths, by Age, 1981-2010

Year	-----Younger than 12-----		--------Ages 12-17--------		--------Ages 18-24--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
2010	127	0.3	708	2.8	3,273	10.7
2009	142	0.3	745	2.9	3,398	11.1
2008	140	0.3	844	3.3	3,662	12.1
2007	140	0.3	898	3.5	3,895	13.1
2006	142	0.3	940	3.6	4,030	13.6
2005	111	0.2	810	3.1	3,808	12.9
2004	105	0.2	763	3.0	3,485	11.9
2003	121	0.3	684	2.7	3,840	13.3
2002	151	0.3	721	2.9	3,708	13.0
2001	150	0.3	685	2.8	3,611	12.9
2000	110	0.2	709	2.9	3,371	12.4
1999	142	0.3	859	3.6	3,319	12.4
1998	157	0.3	888	3.7	3,753	14.4
1997	174	0.4	1,134	4.8	4,148	16.3
1996	178	0.4	1,295	5.6	4,334	17.2
1995	183	0.4	1,597	7.0	4,726	18.6
1994	176	0.4	1,736	7.8	5,435	21.2
1993	240	0.5	1,735	8.0	5,673	21.8
1992	182	0.4	1,599	7.6	5,402	20.7
1991	167	0.4	1,509	7.4	5,386	20.4
1990	174	0.4	1,297	6.5	4,598	17.1
1989	197	0.5	1,078	5.4	3,837	14.1
1988	176	0.4	864	4.2	3,471	12.7
1987	139	0.3	704	3.4	3,181	11.5
1986	131	0.3	653	3.1	3,195	11.3
1985	149	0.4	553	2.6	2,673	9.2
1984	156	0.4	511	2.3	2,744	9.3
1983	122	0.3	503	2.3	2,775	9.3
1982	158	0.4	587	2.6	3,211	10.6
1981	149	0.4	662	2.9	3,668	12.1

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Firearm Homicide Deaths, by Age, 1981-2010 (Cont.)

Year	--------Ages 25-40--------		--------Ages 41-64--------		--------65 and older--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
2010	4,422	6.7	2,212	2.3	331	0.8
2009	4,564	7.0	2,277	2.3	361	0.9
2008	4,913	7.5	2,300	2.4	318	0.8
2007	5,048	7.8	2,346	2.5	296	0.8
2006	5,063	7.8	2,344	2.5	264	0.7
2005	5,047	7.8	2,245	2.5	322	0.9
2004	4,718	7.3	2,210	2.5	322	0.9
2003	4,797	7.4	2,188	2.5	272	0.8
2002	4,780	7.3	2,161	2.5	295	0.8
2001	4,664	7.0	1,920	2.3	307	0.9
2000	4,335	6.4	1,971	2.5	293	0.8
1999	4,270	6.3	1,912	2.5	311	0.9
1998	4,585	6.7	2,091	2.8	306	0.9
1997	5,183	7.5	2,245	3.1	351	1.0
1996	5,519	8.0	2,313	3.3	382	1.1
1995	6,152	8.9	2,471	3.6	398	1.2
1994	7,105	10.3	2,640	4.0	413	1.2
1993	7,371	10.8	2,743	4.2	465	1.4
1992	7,185	10.5	2,669	4.2	428	1.3
1991	7,432	11.0	2,757	4.5	454	1.4
1990	7,106	10.6	2,548	4.2	455	1.5
1989	6,427	9.7	2,434	4.1	460	1.5
1988	6,347	9.6	2,296	4.0	451	1.5
1987	5,845	8.9	2,280	4.0	478	1.6
1986	6,144	9.6	2,415	4.3	452	1.6
1985	5,525	8.9	2,448	4.4	467	1.6
1984	5,428	8.9	2,520	4.6	432	1.5
1983	5,573	9.4	2,627	4.8	415	1.5
1982	6,334	11.0	2,994	5.5	525	2.0
1981	6,719	12.0	3,373	6.3	493	1.9

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearm Homicide Deaths, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2010

	---------All---------		-------White-------		------Hispanic------		-------Black-------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year								
2010	11,078	3.6	2,775	1.4	1,919	3.8	6,051	15.3
2009	11,493	3.7	2,860	1.4	2,115	4.3	6,117	15.6
2008	12,179	4.0	3,117	1.6	2,260	4.7	6,481	16.8
2007	12,632	4.2	3,053	1.5	2,385	5.2	6,867	18.0
2006	12,791	4.3	2,860	1.4	2,472	5.5	7,021	18.6
2005	12,352	4.2	2,871	1.4	2,453	5.7	6,600	17.7
2004	11,624	4.0	2,921	1.5	2,241	5.4	6,119	16.6
2003	11,920	4.1	2,883	1.5	2,316	5.8	6,319	17.3
2002	11,829	4.1	3,052	1.5	2,168	5.6	6,181	17.1
2001	11,348	4.0	3,085	1.6	2,123	5.7	5,790	16.2
2000	10,801	3.8	2,861	1.4	1,958	5.5	5,622	16.0
1999	10,828	3.9	2,995	1.5	1,939	5.7	5,508	15.9
1998	11,798	4.3	3,340	1.7	2,090	6.5	5,957	17.4
1997	13,252	4.9	3,751	1.9	2,298	7.4	6,737	20.0
1996	14,037	5.2	3,631	1.9	2,529	8.6	7,231	22.1
1995	15,551	5.8	4,054	2.1	3,008	10.7	7,765	24.1
1994	17,527	6.7	4,528	2.4	3,149	11.7	9,112	28.8
1993	18,253	7.0	4,566	2.4	3,192	12.4	9,548	30.7
1992	17,488	6.8	4,546	2.4	3,237	13.2	8,899	29.2
1991	17,746	7.0	4,679	2.5	3,103	13.2	9,039	30.3
1990	16,218	6.5	4,191	2.3	2,737	12.2	7,484	26.9

Continued on next page

Firearm Homicide Deaths, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2010 (Cont.)

	American Indian/ -------------Alaskan Native--------------		----------Asian/Pacific Islander----------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year				
2010	101	3.9	155	1.0
2009	99	3.9	199	1.3
2008	86	3.4	198	1.3
2007	83	3.3	190	1.3
2006	109	4.4	270	1.9
2005	106	4.3	258	1.9
2004	96	4.0	187	1.4
2003	101	4.2	233	1.8
2002	109	4.6	233	1.9
2001	78	3.3	181	1.5
2000	80	3.4	204	1.8
1999	94	4.1	224	2.0
1998	91	4.1	232	2.2
1997	91	4.2	289	2.9
1996	74	4.1	293	3.1
1995	107	6.0	334	3.7
1994	107	6.2	318	3.6
1993	91	5.4	392	4.7
1992	79	4.8	313	4.0
1991	92	5.8	340	4.6
1990	70	4.6	245	3.5

Notes: Hispanics are of any race. White, black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander include only non-Hispanics. Data on Hispanic origin were not gathered prior to 1990.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearm Suicide Deaths, Total and by Gender, 1981-2010

Year	-----------All-----------		----------Male----------		--------Female--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
2010	19,392	6.3	16,962	11.2	2,430	1.5
2009	18,735	6.1	16,307	10.8	2,428	1.6
2008	18,223	6.0	15,931	10.7	2,292	1.5
2007	17,352	5.8	15,181	10.3	2,171	1.4
2006	16,883	5.7	14,734	10.0	2,149	1.4
2005	17,002	5.8	14,916	10.3	2,086	1.4
2004	16,750	5.7	14,523	10.1	2,227	1.5
2003	16,907	5.8	14,827	10.4	2,080	1.4
2002	17,108	5.9	15,045	10.7	2,063	1.4
2001	16,869	5.9	14,758	10.5	2,111	1.5
2000	16,586	5.9	14,454	10.5	2,132	1.5
1999	16,599	5.9	14,479	10.6	2,120	1.5
1998	17,424	6.3	15,104	11.2	2,320	1.6
1997	17,566	6.4	15,194	11.4	2,372	1.7
1996	18,166	6.7	15,808	12.0	2,358	1.7
1995	18,503	6.9	16,060	12.3	2,443	1.8
1994	18,765	7.1	16,287	12.7	2,478	1.8
1993	18,940	7.3	16,381	12.9	2,559	1.9
1992	18,169	7.1	15,802	12.6	2,367	1.8
1991	18,526	7.3	16,120	13.1	2,406	1.9
1990	18,885	7.6	16,285	13.4	2,600	2.0
1989	18,178	7.4	15,680	13.0	2,498	2.0
1988	18,169	7.4	15,656	13.1	2,513	2.0
1987	18,136	7.5	15,539	13.2	2,597	2.1
1986	18,153	7.6	15,518	13.3	2,635	2.1
1985	17,363	7.3	14,809	12.8	2,554	2.1
1984	17,113	7.3	14,504	12.6	2,609	2.2
1983	16,600	7.1	13,959	12.3	2,641	2.2
1982	16,560	7.1	13,872	12.3	2,688	2.3
1981	16,139	7.0	13,378	12.0	2,761	2.3

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearm Suicide Deaths, by Age, 1981-2010

	-----Younger than 12-----		--------Ages 12-17--------		--------Ages 18-24--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year						
2010	4	0.0	371	1.5	1,752	5.7
2009	0	0.0	401	1.6	1,665	5.5
2008	3	0.0	358	1.4	1,698	5.6
2007	2	0.0	323	1.2	1,628	5.5
2006	5	0.0	366	1.4	1,669	5.6
2005	6	0.0	406	1.6	1,634	5.5
2004	1	0.0	383	1.5	1,779	6.1
2003	5	0.0	372	1.5	1,772	6.1
2002	4	0.0	419	1.7	1,751	6.1
2001	2	0.0	449	1.8	1,769	6.3
2000	6	0.0	531	2.2	1,840	6.8
1999	6	0.0	552	2.3	1,860	7.0
1998	7	0.0	641	2.7	2,016	7.7
1997	7	0.0	672	2.9	2,035	8.0
1996	16	0.0	704	3.0	2,166	8.6
1995	9	0.0	827	3.6	2,416	9.5
1994	12	0.0	890	4.0	2,630	10.2
1993	8	0.0	824	3.8	2,568	9.9
1992	10	0.0	811	3.9	2,427	9.3
1991	7	0.0	781	3.8	2,477	9.4
1990	11	0.0	747	3.7	2,551	9.5
1989	13	0.0	703	3.5	2,439	9.0
1988	7	0.0	758	3.7	2,376	8.7
1987	10	0.0	710	3.4	2,354	8.5
1986	9	0.0	709	3.3	2,521	8.9
1985	8	0.0	688	3.2	2,524	8.7
1984	7	0.0	565	2.6	2,512	8.5
1983	7	0.0	567	2.6	2,511	8.4
1982	11	0.0	551	2.5	2,690	8.9
1981	4	0.0	572	2.5	2,764	9.1

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Firearm Suicide Deaths, by Age, 1981-2010 (Cont.)

Year	--------Ages 25-40--------		--------Ages 41-64--------		--------65 and older--------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
2010	4,258	6.5	8,729	8.9	4,276	10.6
2009	4,004	6.1	8,415	8.7	4,248	10.7
2008	3,932	6.0	8,089	8.4	4,143	10.7
2007	3,859	6.0	7,643	8.1	3,895	10.3
2006	3,725	5.8	7,289	7.8	3,828	10.3
2005	3,787	5.9	7,279	8.0	3,889	10.6
2004	3,834	5.9	6,994	7.8	3,756	10.4
2003	3,962	6.1	6,942	8.0	3,854	10.7
2002	4,204	6.4	6,722	7.9	4,006	11.3
2001	4,315	6.5	6,385	7.7	3,943	11.2
2000	4,334	6.4	6,001	7.5	3,869	11.1
1999	4,576	6.8	5,679	7.3	3,921	11.3
1998	4,806	7.0	5,837	7.7	4,113	11.9
1997	5,090	7.4	5,747	7.9	4,008	11.7
1996	5,262	7.6	5,824	8.2	4,184	12.3
1995	5,457	7.9	5,530	8.1	4,258	12.6
1994	5,574	8.1	5,462	8.2	4,191	12.6
1993	5,610	8.2	5,625	8.7	4,301	13.1
1992	5,284	7.7	5,402	8.5	4,233	13.1
1991	5,519	8.2	5,406	8.8	4,329	13.6
1990	5,693	8.5	5,481	9.1	4,396	14.1
1989	5,487	8.3	5,288	8.9	4,247	13.8
1988	5,551	8.4	5,207	9.0	4,264	14.2
1987	5,380	8.2	5,386	9.5	4,294	14.5
1986	5,326	8.3	5,441	9.7	4,143	14.3
1985	5,086	8.2	5,242	9.4	3,813	13.4
1984	5,151	8.5	5,282	9.6	3,590	12.9
1983	5,056	8.5	5,088	9.3	3,366	12.3
1982	5,044	8.7	5,138	9.5	3,120	11.6
1981	5,032	9.0	5,027	9.3	2,734	10.4

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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Firearm Suicide Deaths, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2010

	---------All---------		-------White-------		------Hispanic------		-------Black-------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year								
2010	19,392	6.3	16,928	8.5	962	1.9	1,057	2.7
2009	18,735	6.1	16,351	8.2	955	1.9	1,024	2.6
2008	18,223	6.0	15,968	8.0	863	1.8	1,034	2.7
2007	17,352	5.8	15,073	7.6	931	2.0	975	2.6
2006	16,883	5.7	14,721	7.4	817	1.8	994	2.6
2005	17,002	5.8	14,829	7.5	824	1.9	997	2.7
2004	16,750	5.7	14,507	7.3	888	2.1	995	2.7
2003	16,907	5.8	14,737	7.4	835	2.1	993	2.7
2002	17,108	5.9	14,865	7.5	834	2.2	1,041	2.9
2001	16,869	5.9	14,648	7.4	798	2.1	1,069	3.0
2000	16,586	5.9	14,333	7.3	813	2.3	1,073	3.1
1999	16,599	5.9	14,316	7.3	794	2.3	1,112	3.2
1998	17,424	6.3	15,081	7.7	840	2.6	1,098	3.2
1997	17,566	6.4	15,113	7.7	850	2.8	1,189	3.5
1996	18,166	6.7	15,240	7.9	923	3.1	1,288	3.9
1995	18,503	6.9	15,509	8.1	983	3.5	1,274	4.0
1994	18,765	7.1	15,653	8.2	1,021	3.8	1,353	4.3
1993	18,940	7.3	15,904	8.4	982	3.8	1,323	4.3
1992	18,169	7.1	15,249	8.1	880	3.6	1,245	4.1
1991	18,526	7.3	15,636	8.4	906	3.9	1,205	4.0
1990	18,885	7.6	15,274	8.4	840	3.8	1,113	4.0

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Firearm Suicide Deaths, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2010 (Cont.)

	American Indian/ -------------Alaskan Native-------------		----------Asian/Pacific Islander----------	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000)	Number	Rate (per 100,000)
Year				
2010	169	6.6	211	1.3
2009	151	5.9	199	1.3
2008	144	5.7	172	1.1
2007	126	5.0	212	1.4
2006	139	5.6	170	1.2
2005	155	6.3	143	1.0
2004	143	5.9	178	1.3
2003	125	5.2	180	1.4
2002	140	5.9	167	1.3
2001	124	5.3	179	1.5
2000	126	5.4	185	1.6
1999	128	5.6	199	1.8
1998	143	6.5	196	1.9
1997	143	6.6	194	1.9
1996	126	6.9	170	1.8
1995	119	6.7	197	2.2
1994	140	8.1	204	2.3
1993	123	7.3	162	1.9
1992	92	5.6	163	2.1
1991	112	7.1	161	2.2
1990	120	7.8	136	1.9

Notes: Hispanics are of any race. White, black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander include only non-Hispanics. Data on Hispanic origin were not gathered prior to 1990.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

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APPENDIX 2: ADDITIONAL TABLES ON NON-FATAL VIOLENT FIREARM CRIMES

Non-fatal Firearm Crimes, Total and by Gender, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

Year	-----------All-----------		----------Male----------		--------Female--------	
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
2011	467	181.5	264	209.3	203	154.7
2010	415	162.1	207	166.0	208	158.5
2009	410	161.4	292	235.3	118	90.9
2008	371	147.2	208	169.2	163	126.2
2007	555	221.6	334	273.8	220	171.9
2006	614	248.5	344	285.7	270	213.2
2005	504	205.9	330	277.3	174	138.4
2004	457	188.9	269	228.9	188	151.0
2003	467	195.3	319	275.0	148	120.2
2002	540	233.2	298	265.2	242	203.0
2001	563	245.7	344	309.6	219	185.5
2000	610	269.1	434	395.2	176	150.6
1999	641	285.4	382	352.0	259	223.0
1998	835	376.5	563	522.9	273	238.8
1997	1,024	465.8	617	579.3	407	359.0
1996	1,101	506.7	728	692.8	373	332.5
1995	1,193	554.8	867	834.1	326	293.6
1994	1,568	735.8	1,066	1,034.2	502	456.2
1993	1,530	725.3	1,008	987.4	522	479.5

Notes: 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Includes aggravated assault, robbery and sex crimes committed with a firearm.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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Non-fatal Firearm Crimes, Total and by Age, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

| Year | -----------All----------- | | --------Ages 12-17-------- | | --------Ages 18-24-------- | |
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
2011	467	181.5	58	238.7	102	341.8
2010	415	162.1	*11	*44.2	206	689.6
2009	410	161.4	*17	*69.0	141	478.4
2008	371	147.2	*29	*116.0	89	305.3
2007	555	221.6	*149	*585.5	100	342.6
2006	614	248.5	68	268.5	164	577.7
2005	504	205.9	*46	*182.5	154	539.7
2004	457	188.9	*15	*58.9	97	343.4
2003	467	195.3	81	323.3	123	441.4
2002	540	233.2	59	238.8	224	817.0
2001	563	245.7	58	240.2	175	643.4
2000	610	269.1	49	205.5	190	714.3
1999	641	285.4	104	433.4	176	676.5
1998	835	376.5	118	500.7	281	1,105.9
1997	1,024	465.8	148	629.7	344	1,372.4
1996	1,101	506.7	183	787.9	291	1,176.7
1995	1,193	554.8	167	729.9	320	1,279.4
1994	1,568	735.8	275	1,228.0	494	1,940.9
1993	1,530	725.3	229	1,046.5	434	1,689.7

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Non-fatal Firearm Crimes, Total and by Age, 1993-2011 (Cont.)

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

| | --------Ages 25-40-------- | | --------Ages 41-64-------- | | --------65 and older-------- | |
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
Year						
2011	166	252.5	126	128.5	*16	*39.1
2010	101	153.3	87	89.3	*10	*27.0
2009	126	191.3	121	125.8	*6	*14.5
2008	136	206.8	105	110.7	*12	*31.3
2007	189	287.5	115	122.2	*3	*7.3
2006	188	288.7	170	183.3	*24	*66.7
2005	187	289.0	101	111.8	*14	*41.2
2004	178	273.0	164	185.8	*2	*6.8
2003	139	211.1	119	138.4	*5	*13.9
2002	145	229.4	99	119.8	*12	*37.4
2001	186	289.6	131	162.3	*13	*40.2
2000	195	301.0	158	200.7	*18	*54.3
1999	253	385.5	90	118.2	*18	*54.2
1998	270	406.5	161	217.3	*5	*14.5
1997	319	474.0	189	262.2	*24	*76.5
1996	422	623.1	184	263.7	*20	*63.7
1995	448	659.3	237	350.0	*21	*67.2
1994	494	726.0	260	392.7	45	145.9
1993	595	871.8	257	399.2	*14	*47.0

Notes: *Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases. Figures are not available for people younger than 12. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Includes aggravated assault, robbery and sex crimes committed with a firearm.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Non-fatal Firearm Crimes, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

	---------All---------		-------White-------		------Hispanic------		-------Black-------		--------Other--------	
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
Year										
2011	467	181.5	274	158.7	81	215.0	76	245.5	37	223.7
2010	415	162.1	195	112.0	82	229.9	96	315.8	*42	*263.4
2009	410	161.4	151	87.0	70	198.6	172	579.6	*17	*110.4
2008	371	147.2	179	102.9	50	144.4	125	434.7	*17	*114.1
2007	555	221.6	176	102.3	79	228.2	272	948.3	*29	*188.1
2006	614	248.5	317	183.4	121	388.2	134	468.0	*43	*293.8
2005	504	205.9	274	159.6	90	284.8	117	418.2	*23	*170.0
2004	457	188.9	281	165.2	45	147.0	118	424.8	*12	*94.4
2003	467	195.3	280	165.1	49	162.2	126	464.2	*12	*96.8
2002	540	233.2	241	144.3	100	371.8	192	677.3	*7	*72.1
2001	563	245.7	337	202.3	93	366.4	123	441.1	*10	*108.2
2000	610	269.1	343	206.8	96	390.7	156	568.0	*16	*175.2
1999	641	285.4	269	162.5	125	544.6	223	824.7	*24	*262.8
1998	835	376.5	447	271.3	100	461.5	201	755.5	87	995.0
1997	1,024	465.8	683	416.0	138	654.0	190	724.5	*13	*152.8
1996	1,101	506.7	635	388.1	148	723.2	295	1,164.4	*23	*291.3
1995	1,193	554.8	631	387.3	224	1,155.4	289	1,145.6	50	659.1
1994	1,568	735.8	864	532.5	233	1,258.3	424	1,689.2	47	649.4
1993	1,530	725.3	808	499.1	220	1,286.8	389	1,570.0	113	1,572.9

Notes: *Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases. Hispanics are of any race. White, black and "other" include only non-Hispanics. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Includes aggravated assault, robbery and sex crimes committed with a firearm.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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Non-fatal Firearm Crimes, Total and by Type of Crime, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

Year	All Number (in thousands)	All Rate (per 100,000)	Aggravated assault Number (in thousands)	Aggravated assault Rate (per 100,000)	Robbery Number (in thousands)	Robbery Rate (per 100,000)	Sex crimes Number (in thousands)	Sex crimes Rate (per 100,000)
2011	467	181.5	322	124.9	143	55.5	*3	*1.0
2010	415	162.1	218	85.2	141	54.9	*56	*22.0
2009	410	161.4	239	93.9	172	67.5	---	---
2008	371	147.2	238	94.4	133	52.8	---	---
2007	555	221.6	397	158.5	155	61.9	*3	*1.1
2006	614	248.5	427	172.7	154	62.5	*33	*13.4
2005	504	205.9	330	134.9	168	68.7	*6	*2.4
2004	457	188.9	335	138.6	122	50.3	---	---
2003	467	195.3	302	126.4	159	66.4	*6	*2.4
2002	540	233.2	382	165.1	146	63.1	*11	*4.9
2001	563	245.7	360	157.2	197	86.0	*6	*2.4
2000	610	269.1	417	183.7	187	82.5	*7	*2.9
1999	641	285.4	440	196.0	195	87.0	*6	*2.5
1998	835	376.5	615	277.1	195	87.9	*26	*11.6
1997	1,024	465.8	781	355.1	236	107.4	*7	*3.3
1996	1,101	506.7	738	339.8	351	161.4	*12	*5.5
1995	1,193	554.8	810	376.4	368	171.1	*15	*7.2
1994	1,568	735.8	1,089	510.8	453	212.8	*26	*12.2
1993	1,530	725.3	1,068	506.4	390	185.1	71	33.8

Notes: *Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases. "---" means no cases available. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

APPENDIX 3: ADDITIONAL TABLES ON ALL NON-FATAL VIOLENT CRIMES

All Non-fatal Violent Crimes, Total and by Gender, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

| Year | -----------All----------- | | ----------Male---------- | | --------Female-------- | |
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
2011	5,805	2,254.2	3,206	2,542.6	2,599	1,977.5
2010	4,936	1,928.4	2,511	2,008.6	2,425	1,851.9
2009	5,669	2,231.1	2,760	2,225.4	2,909	2,236.4
2008	6,393	2,534.7	3,317	2,694.9	3,077	2,382.0
2007	6,814	2,721.9	3,751	3,071.1	3,064	2,389.3
2006	8,430	3,409.9	4,482	3,720.5	3,949	3,114.8
2005	6,948	2,841.6	4,044	3,399.5	2,904	2,313.0
2004	6,726	2,782.8	3,553	3,024.6	3,173	2,554.1
2003	7,679	3,208.9	4,014	3,459.5	3,665	2,972.9
2002	7,425	3,205.9	3,756	3,346.5	3,668	3,073.7
2001	7,477	3,261.8	3,828	3,446.6	3,648	3,088.1
2000	8,503	3,748.9	4,809	4,379.0	3,694	3,157.4
1999	10,601	4,720.5	5,486	5,049.0	5,115	4,412.5
1998	12,011	5,413.1	6,835	6,352.5	5,176	4,528.6
1997	13,425	6,106.9	7,198	6,752.9	6,227	5,498.9
1996	14,060	6,472.1	7,860	7,482.3	6,199	5,526.0
1995	15,202	7,068.1	8,657	8,329.0	6,545	5,889.0
1994	17,059	8,003.8	9,522	9,236.5	7,537	6,848.9
1993	16,823	7,976.3	9,891	9,690.1	6,932	6,369.0

Notes: 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Includes aggravated and simple assault, robbery and sex crimes, committed with and without a firearm.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

All Non-fatal Violent Crimes, Total and by Age, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

Year	All Number (in thousands)	All Rate (per 100,000)	Ages 12-17 Number (in thousands)	Ages 12-17 Rate (per 100,000)	Ages 18-24 Number (in thousands)	Ages 18-24 Rate (per 100,000)
2011	5,805	2,254.2	915	3,765.2	1,460	4,903.4
2010	4,936	1,928.4	688	2,813.6	1,012	3,388.5
2009	5,669	2,231.1	1,059	4,295.9	1,131	3,846.9
2008	6,393	2,534.7	1,360	5,434.4	1,261	4,317.0
2007	6,814	2,721.9	1,571	6,182.9	1,356	4,661.4
2006	8,430	3,409.9	1,485	5,825.9	1,852	6,506.7
2005	6,948	2,841.6	1,518	5,978.0	1,741	6,095.4
2004	6,726	2,782.8	1,254	4,965.5	1,571	5,541.2
2003	7,679	3,208.9	1,974	7,831.0	1,779	6,382.8
2002	7,425	3,205.9	1,554	6,272.3	1,876	6,851.2
2001	7,477	3,261.8	1,802	7,442.5	1,607	5,919.8
2000	8,503	3,748.9	1,757	7,316.8	1,999	7,501.2
1999	10,601	4,720.5	2,596	10,865.5	2,313	8,886.8
1998	12,011	5,413.1	2,816	11,906.0	2,853	11,224.8
1997	13,425	6,106.9	3,189	13,549.6	2,756	10,998.8
1996	14,060	6,472.1	3,410	14,678.8	3,038	12,268.7
1995	15,202	7,068.1	3,578	15,626.3	3,386	13,538.2
1994	17,059	8,003.8	4,246	18,932.8	3,667	14,420.4
1993	16,823	7,976.3	4,043	18,480.4	3,642	14,163.3

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All Non-fatal Violent Crimes, Total and by Age, 1993-2011 (Cont.)

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

Year	--------Ages 25-40--------		--------Ages 41-64--------		--------65 and older--------	
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
2011	1,731	2,628.6	1,523	1,555.5	176	443.8
2010	1,784	2,700.2	1,337	1,379.6	116	299.3
2009	1,822	2,768.2	1,514	1,573.7	143	375.6
2008	1,956	2,968.1	1,691	1,780.2	125	337.3
2007	2,061	3,137.3	1,718	1,828.3	109	299.8
2006	2,938	4,510.9	2,012	2,173.5	143	402.6
2005	1,854	2,862.2	1,708	1,883.3	127	360.9
2004	2,008	3,085.9	1,807	2,043.0	86	249.1
2003	2,082	3,168.1	1,738	2,015.1	106	310.0
2002	2,307	3,644.2	1,562	1,880.7	126	379.6
2001	2,128	3,312.7	1,755	2,172.6	185	563.3
2000	2,738	4,226.3	1,887	2,398.7	122	373.6
1999	3,293	5,011.2	2,242	2,932.5	157	483.9
1998	3,731	5,617.0	2,501	3,369.5	111	344.0
1997	4,713	7,010.2	2,593	3,600.5	174	544.4
1996	5,240	7,728.3	2,162	3,101.3	211	664.1
1995	5,617	8,271.9	2,406	3,549.9	215	681.4
1994	6,209	9,122.5	2,707	4,091.0	230	740.7
1993	6,093	8,927.4	2,816	4,374.1	230	748.5

Notes: Figures are not available for people younger than 12. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Includes aggravated and simple assault, robbery and sex crimes, committed with and without a firearm.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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All Non-fatal Violent Crimes, Total and by Race/Ethnicity, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

	---------All---------		-------White-------		------Hispanic------		-------Black-------		--------Other--------	
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
Year										
2011	5,805	2,254.2	3,715	2,152.4	895	2,384.3	811	2,636.4	384	2,309.3
2010	4,936	1,928.4	3,182	1,831.6	604	1,684.9	787	2,590.7	363	2,268.0
2009	5,669	2,231.1	3,737	2,151.8	786	2,220.7	905	3,056.4	241	1,563.3
2008	6,393	2,534.7	4,499	2,592.2	702	2,033.0	823	2,852.8	370	2,413.8
2007	6,814	2,721.9	4,607	2,676.5	772	2,242.1	998	3,485.2	438	2,885.2
2006	8,430	3,409.9	5,486	3,171.2	1,005	3,228.0	1,294	4,533.6	645	4,432.8
2005	6,948	2,841.6	4,751	2,772.5	822	2,587.1	913	3,271.9	462	3,429.1
2004	6,726	2,782.8	4,849	2,846.6	621	2,012.5	837	3,021.6	419	3,275.6
2003	7,679	3,208.9	5,490	3,232.3	805	2,657.6	976	3,586.0	409	3,412.9
2002	7,425	3,205.9	5,433	3,257.3	808	2,994.9	1,024	3,609.5	160	1,690.3
2001	7,477	3,261.8	5,159	3,095.5	1,048	4,118.1	993	3,570.3	277	2,979.0
2000	8,503	3,748.9	6,220	3,754.6	984	4,016.0	1,096	3,998.4	202	2,191.4
1999	10,601	4,720.5	7,880	4,765.4	950	4,138.2	1,524	5,638.1	245	2,669.1
1998	12,011	5,413.1	9,044	5,486.9	1,016	4,680.4	1,420	5,338.2	532	6,066.2
1997	13,425	6,106.9	10,001	6,094.8	1,190	5,623.2	1,911	7,273.3	324	3,894.6
1996	14,060	6,472.1	10,491	6,414.4	1,405	6,855.0	1,768	6,981.1	395	5,030.0
1995	15,202	7,068.1	11,144	6,838.9	1,605	8,291.2	1,985	7,881.6	467	6,168.0
1994	17,059	8,003.8	12,748	7,857.3	1,700	9,188.6	2,112	8,415.8	498	6,838.5
1993	16,823	7,976.3	12,738	7,869.6	1,371	8,019.1	2,231	9,002.4	484	6,738.9

Notes: Hispanics are of any race. White, black and "other" include only non-Hispanics. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details. Includes aggravated and simple assault, robbery and sex crimes, committed with and without a firearm.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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All Non-fatal Violent Crimes, Total and by Type of Crime, 1993-2011

Victimizations among people ages 12 and older

	---------All---------		---Aggravated-----------assault-----		--Simple assault--		-----Robbery-----		----Sex crimes----	
	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)	Number (in thousands)	Rate (per 100,000)
Year										
2011	5,805	2,254.2	1,052	408.5	3,953	1,534.8	557	216.2	244	94.7
2010	4,936	1,928.4	858	335.1	3,241	1,266.3	569	222.1	269	104.9
2009	5,669	2,231.1	1,029	405.1	3,699	1,455.8	635	249.9	306	120.3
2008	6,393	2,534.7	969	384.2	4,395	1,742.3	680	269.5	350	138.6
2007	6,814	2,721.9	1,219	486.9	4,571	1,826.1	776	309.8	248	99.2
2006	8,430	3,409.9	1,754	709.4	5,281	2,135.9	932	377.1	464	187.5
2005	6,948	2,841.6	1,281	524.1	4,689	1,917.9	769	314.6	208	85.0
2004	6,726	2,782.8	1,419	586.9	4,435	1,835.0	616	255.0	256	105.8
2003	7,679	3,208.9	1,362	569.3	5,283	2,207.7	708	296.0	325	135.9
2002	7,425	3,205.9	1,333	575.4	5,118	2,209.9	624	269.6	350	151.0
2001	7,477	3,261.8	1,384	603.7	4,949	2,158.9	668	291.3	477	207.9
2000	8,503	3,748.9	1,565	689.9	5,685	2,506.6	886	390.7	367	161.7
1999	10,601	4,720.5	1,962	873.6	7,028	3,129.7	1,019	453.8	591	263.4
1998	12,011	5,413.1	2,318	1,044.9	8,330	3,754.4	971	437.5	391	176.3
1997	13,425	6,106.9	2,895	1,317.0	8,788	3,997.3	1,189	540.8	554	251.8
1996	14,060	6,472.1	2,877	1,324.5	9,320	4,290.1	1,425	656.2	437	201.3
1995	15,202	7,068.1	2,894	1,345.7	10,394	4,832.6	1,351	627.9	563	261.9
1994	17,059	8,003.8	3,413	1,601.3	11,296	5,299.9	1,676	786.3	674	316.4
1993	16,823	7,976.3	3,481	1,650.5	10,691	5,068.9	1,753	831.0	898	425.9

Notes: 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

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APPENDIX 4: METHODOLOGY

Data on Homicides, Suicides and Other Deaths and Data on Firearms Injuries

The Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) is the primary source for data on deaths, homicides and suicides. WISQARS is part of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars. It is also the primary source for data on non-fatal firearms related injuries.

WISQARS data on deaths are drawn from information contained in death certificates filed in state vital statistics offices. This information includes causes of death reported by attending physicians, medical examiners and coroners, including deaths due to firearms. The data also include demographic information about the deceased reported by funeral directors, who obtain that information from family members and other informants. Data on the annual number of deaths used in this report are drawn from WISQARS for 1981 through 2011.

WISQARS data on non-fatal firearms injuries come from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System–All Injury Program (NEISS-AIP), a collaborative operation of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Information is collected from a sample of hospital emergency rooms that represent a range of hospital types and locations. Data on non-fatal injuries can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/nonfatal/datasources.htm.

For this report, homicides are defined as fatal injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill. Note that deaths due to legal intervention or operations or deaths due to war are excluded. Justifiable homicide is not identified in the WISQARS data.

Calculating Annual Death Rates

Throughout this report, annual death rates per 100,000 people are shown based on data provided by WISQARS. The annual death rate is calculated as follows:

$$Annual\ death\ rate = \left[\frac{(number\ of\ deaths\ in\ a\ year)}{(year's\ population\ estimate)}\right] \times [100{,}000]$$

WISQARS provides the number of deaths in a given year. Population data, used in constructing rates, come from the Census Bureau's annual population estimates. For 1990 through 2011, population estimates were obtained via WISQARS. For 1981 through 1989, population estimates were obtained from the Census Bureau through http://www.census.gov/popest/data/national/asrh/1980s/80s_nat_detail.html.

Data on Criminal Victimizations

Crime victimization estimates are drawn from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS provides national estimates of the levels and characteristics of criminal victimization in the U.S., including crimes not reported to police departments. The NCVS is an annual survey of some 140,000 persons ages 12 and older in about 80,000 households. A household that is selected participates in the NCVS for three years, with survey respondents interviewed every six months. In addition to persons living in households, the survey includes persons living in group quarters such as dormitories but excludes persons living in institutional settings such as military barracks, mental hospitals, or correctional facilities. The survey also excludes persons who are homeless or visiting from abroad.

The NCVS has been conducted annually since 1972 and is the primary source of information on crime victimizations in the U.S. NCVS respondents are asked about non-fatal personal crime victimizations such as rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault and personal larceny. Respondents are also asked about household property crime victimizations such as burglary, motor vehicle theft and other thefts. Survey respondents who have been victims of a crime are then asked about details related to the crime, including whether the offender had a weapon, such as a gun. Fatal crimes such as homicides are not included in the NCVS. Respondent demographic characteristics are also collected.

NCVS data collection began in 1972. This report uses data collected from 1993, the first year employing an intensive methodological redesign, through 2011. In addition, analysis of crime victimizations is limited to those that occurred in the U.S. and criminal victimizations that occurred in a single data collection year.

This report analyzes victimizations and not incidents; more than one person may be victimized by a single incident.

Criminal Victimization Statistics and Measures

Most statistics based on the NCVS were obtained using the BJS's online NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT). The NVAT can be accessed through http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat. The BJS also provided the Pew Research Center with a single data file containing concatenated incident data files from the 1993 through 2011 NCVS data collections. That file was used to tabulate crime victimization statistics for those ages 25 to 40 and ages 41 to 64.

Two measures of victimization based on the NCVS are used in this report—the estimated number of crime victimizations and the estimated crime victimization rate per 100,000 population. These measures are reported for guns, or firearms, non-fatal violent crime victimizations and for all violent crime victimizations. In some cases, crime victimization estimates based a sample size of fewer than 10 cases are reported. These estimates are denoted by an asterisk (*) in the report's appendix tables and should be interpreted with caution. For some demographic subgroups in some years, no crime victimization estimates are provided because of no sample cases were available. These instances are denoted with dashes (---) in the report's appendix tables.

Throughout the report, NCVS data from 2006 are reported but should be interpreted with caution. In 2006, several methodological changes were made to the NCVS data collection that distinguish it from other years (Truman and Planty, 2012).

Counting Series Victimizations

The analysis in this report utilizes the protocol developed by the BJS to analyze series victimizations in the NCVS. A series victimization (or repeat victimization) involves a crime in which a victim finds it difficult to distinguish multiple incidents from each other and provide details of each individual incident. Examples of such crimes include intimate partner violence or bullying by schoolmates.

Since 2012 (Lauritsen, et. al., 2012), the BJS has developed the following protocol for counting series victimizations. Today, the BJS includes series victimizations in its annual estimates of victimization. For any given series victimization over a six-month period, up to 10 incidents are counted as individual criminal victimizations. Prior to 2012, series victimizations were often excluded from BJS victimization estimates.

As a result of this change, which has been incorporated into the data analysis for this report, the number of victimizations estimated in the NCVS for years prior to 2011 is higher than

estimates published prior to 2012. For more details, see *Criminal Victimizations, 2011* (Truman and Planty, 2012).

Testing Statistical Significance

Throughout the report, comparisons of crime victimization rates between demographic subgroups or comparisons of crime rates across years were tested for statistical significance. Since the NCVS has a complex sample design, any tests of statistical significance require taking that complex design into account.

For this report, all statistical tests for the NCVS were conducted using spreadsheets provided by the BJS. These spreadsheets contain formulas for statistical tests that account for the NCVS's complex sample design.

Differences Between the NCVS and the UCR

The NCVS and the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data are the two main components of the nation's crime reporting system. However, the two collections differ significantly in methodology and in crime definitions.

The NCVS is a survey of the general public ages 12 and older asking about crime victimizations, including those not reported to police. By comparison, the UCR covers crimes against persons and businesses known to and recorded by law enforcement agencies.

The universe of crimes measured in the NCVS and the UCR differs. For example, the UCR includes homicide, arson, and commercial crimes, while the NCVS does not.

The NCVS does not measure criminal victimizations among children under age 12, persons in institutions such as correctional institutions or nursing homes, homeless people or people from other countries who come to the U.S. for tourism, business or other temporary reasons. Victimizations among these groups may be included in the UCR.

According to the BJS (Truman and Planty, 2012), preliminary estimates from the FBI indicate that violent crimes and property crimes reported by the UCR declined from 2010 to 2011. By contrast, the NCVS reports that over the same period the number of violent crimes and property crimes increased. Even when limiting NCVS victimizations to those reported to police, the number of violent crimes and property crimes remained unchanged between 2010 and 2011.

Public Opinion Survey Methodology

The public opinion survey analysis in this report is based on a telephone survey of 924 adults ages 18 and older conducted March 14-17, 2013, in the continental U.S. Some 512 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone and 412 were interviewed on a cellular telephone, including 197 who had no landline telephone. The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and University Survey under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.