



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Statistical Tables

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National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008

Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2008

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In households in the United States, persons age 12 or older with disabilities experienced approximately 730,000 nonfatal violent crimes and 1.8 million property crimes in 2008 (table 1). This excludes persons living in institutions. Nonfatal violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and property theft. Disability is defined as a sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or longer that makes it difficult for a person to perform activities of daily living.

About 37% of the violent crimes against persons with disabilities in 2008 were serious violent crimes: rape or sexual assault (40,000), robbery (116,000), or aggravated assault (115,000). Persons with disabilities also were victims of about 459,000 simple assaults in 2008.

These statistical tables present data on the victimization experiences of persons with disabilities from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), including comparisons to persons without disabilities, comparisons by types of disabilities, victim characteristics, and crime characteristics. To identify victims of crime who had disabilities, the NCVS adopted the survey questions about disabilities from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Because the NCVS does not identify persons in the general population with disabilities, data from the ACS were used to estimate rates of victimization for people with and without disabilities. (See *Methodology* for more information on the data sources and data limitations.)

TABLE 1.

Estimated number of violent and property crimes against persons, by type of crime and victim disability status, 2008

Type of crime	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Violent crime	729,980	4,312,190
Rape/sexual assault	40,040	181,280
Robbery	115,840	451,040
Aggravated assault	115,200	737,660
Simple assault	458,900	2,672,210
Property crime	1,793,490	14,638,240
Household burglary	449,980	2,769,840
Motor vehicle theft	56,810	738,350
Theft	1,286,710	11,130,040

Note: Estimates based on the noninstitutional U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008. Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation.

To compare crime victimization rates for persons with and without disabilities an age adjustment was necessary. In the United States the population with disabilities tends to be older than the population without disabilities. When victimization rates were age-adjusted, people with disabilities experienced higher rates of violence than people without disabilities—40 victimizations per 1,000 persons with disabilities compared to about 20 per 1,000 without disabilities. In fact, the age-adjusted rates of all crimes measured were at least twice as high for persons with disabilities. (See *Methodology* for more information on the age adjustment.)

Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act (Public Law 105-301), 1998

The Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act mandated that the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) include statistics on crimes against people with disabilities and the characteristics of the victims of those crimes. The act was designed “to increase public awareness of the plight of victims of crime with developmental disabilities, to collect data to measure the magnitude of the problem, and to develop strategies to address the safety and justice needs of victims of crime with developmental disabilities.”

Section 5 of the act directed the Department of Justice to include statistics relating to “the nature of crimes against people with developmental disabilities; and the specific characteristics of the victims of those crimes” in the NCVS. This is the second report in the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) series on crime against people with disabilities. The first report, *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2007*, NCJ 227814, October 2009, is available on the BJS Website. Because of changes in the questionnaire, comparisons between 2007 and 2008 should not be made. (See *Methodology* for more information on changes to the NCVS and ACS questionnaires.)

Data from the 2008 NCVS and ACS data collections provide estimates on victim and crime characteristics of persons with and without disabilities, including crime rate, type of offenses, age, race and gender distribution, type of disabilities, and victim injuries.

Violent crime rates

- Adjusting for the varied age distributions of persons with and without disabilities, the violent crime rate against persons with disabilities was 40 violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, which was double the violent crime rate for persons without disabilities (20 per 1,000)(table 2).
- In 2008 the age-adjusted rate of serious violent crime against persons with disabilities was about 16 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, compared to about 6 per 1,000 for persons without disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities age 12 or older experienced violent crime at age-adjusted rates that were two to three times that of persons without disabilities for each violent crime measured (rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault).

Violent crime victim characteristics

- Persons ages 12 to 24 and ages 35 to 49 with disabilities were nearly twice as likely as persons in these age groups without disabilities to be victims of violent crime when comparing rates that were not adjusted for age (table 3).
- Regardless of disability status, persons ages 25 to 34 experienced violence at about the same rate (not adjusting for age).
- Among persons with disabilities, females had a higher risk of violent crime than males (after adjusting for age) in 2008 (table 4).
- Whites and blacks with disabilities were equally likely to experience a violent crime after adjusting for age.
- After adjusting for age, non-Hispanics with disabilities (42 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older) were more likely to experience a violent crime than Hispanics with disabilities (29 per 1,000 age 12 or older) in 2008.

Violent crime characteristics

- About 15% of violent crime victims with disabilities said that they suspected that they had been targeted due to their disabilities. Another 35% did not know if they had been targeted because of their disabilities (not shown in table).
- Males with disabilities were less likely than males without disabilities to be victims of intimate partner violence. Among females the likelihood of intimate partner violence did not vary by disability status (table 5).
- The percentage of crimes against persons with disabilities committed by well known or casual acquaintances was similar for male (40%) and female (36%) victims.

- Persons with disabilities were slightly less likely than persons without disabilities to offer any type of resistance during a violent crime, including threatening or attacking the offender and using nonconfrontational tactics, such as yelling at or running from the offender (table 6).
- About a fifth of violence against persons with disabilities involved an offender with a weapon (table 7).
- Similar percentages of nonfatal violent crimes involving an offender armed with a firearm were committed against victims with (8%) and without (7%) disabilities.
- About 27% of violent crime victims with disabilities were injured as a result of the crime; 11% sought treatment (table 8).
- Violent crimes against about half of all victims were reported to the police in 2008, regardless of the victim's disability status (table 9).
- Violent crime victims with disabilities were almost twice as likely to seek help from a victim advocacy agency (12%) as victims without disabilities (6%) (table 10).

Types of disabilities

- Among the types of disabilities measured in 2008, persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest risk of violent victimization (table 11).
- No statistically significant differences emerged by type of disability in the rate of rape or sexual assault or in the rate of aggravated assault against persons with disabilities.
- Persons with a cognitive disability had higher rates of robbery and simple assault than persons with other types of disabilities.
- Females with a hearing disability were slightly more likely than males with a hearing disability to experience violent crime (table 12).

Property crime*

- Household burglary made up a higher percentage of all property crime against households with persons with a disability (25%) than against households without persons with disabilities (19%) (table 13).
- Property crime (overall property crime, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft) against households with persons with disabilities was less likely to be reported to police than when it was committed against households without persons with disabilities (table 14).

*Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation.

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TABLE 2.

Violent victimization rates, by type of crime and disability status, 2008

Type of crime	Violent victimization rate per 1,000—		
	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities
	Age-adjusted ^a	Unadjusted	
Total	40.1 *	21.1	20.0
Serious violent crime^b	15.6 *	7.8	6.4
Rape/sexual assault	1.7 *	1.2	0.8
Robbery	7.4 *	3.4	2.1
Aggravated assault	6.6 *	3.3	3.4
Simple assault	24.5 *	13.3	13.7

Note: Rates based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the U.S. had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*.

*Difference between the age-adjusted rate for persons with disabilities and the unadjusted rate for those without disabilities is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

^aThe age-adjusted victimization rate for persons with disabilities is calculated by multiplying the unadjusted rate for each age group with disabilities by the proportion of the population in that age group without disabilities. The sum of these weighted estimates represent the overall age-adjusted rate.

^bSerious violent crime includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault and excludes simple assault.

TABLE 3.

Violent victimization rates, by age and disability status, 2008

Age	Rate unadjusted for age per 1,000—	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
12-15 years old	134.8 *	38.5
16-19	85.9 *	34.3
20-24	71.2 *	37.7
25-34	30.0	25.3
35-49	30.5 *	16.5
50-64	17.6 *	9.7
65 or older	2.7	3.4

Note: Rates based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the United States had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*.

*Difference between the rate unadjusted for age for persons with disabilities and the unadjusted rate for those without disabilities is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

TABLE 4.
Violent victimization rates by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and disability status, 2008

Victim characteristics	Violent victimization rate per 1,000—		
	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities
	Age-adjusted ^a	Unadjusted	
Total	40.1 *	21.1	20.0
Gender			
Male	36.2 *	21.4	22.5
Female	43.1 *	20.9	17.7
Race^b			
White	41.3 *	20.1	20.3
Black/African American	37.3 *	25.6	27.5
Other race ^c	15.7 ^*	11.8 ^	8.4
More than one race	103.4 ^*	62.4 ^	28.6
Hispanic origin^d			
Hispanic	28.6 *	16.6	16.8
Non-Hispanic	41.6 *	21.7	20.6

Note: Rates based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older, in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the U.S. had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*.

^aEstimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

*Difference between the age-adjusted rate for persons with disabilities and the unadjusted rate for those without disabilities is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

^aThe age-adjusted victimization rate for persons with disabilities is calculated by multiplying the unadjusted rate for each age group with disabilities by the proportion of the population in that age group without disabilities. The sum of these weighted estimates represent the overall age-adjusted rate.

^bEach racial group includes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin.

^cIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

^dIncludes persons identifying two or more races.

TABLE 5.
Victim /offender relationship in violent crimes, by disability status, 2008

Victim/offender relationship	Percentage of violent victimization against—			
	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Intimate partner ^a	1.1 % [^]	27.3 %	4.4 %	24.1 %
Other relatives ^b	6.4 ^	9.4	3.3	9.2
Well known/casual acquaintance	40.0	35.6	31.3	32.5
Stranger	42.7	20.5	48.0	28.6
Don't know relationship	9.8 ^	7.2 ^	13.0	5.7

^aEstimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aDefined as current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

^bDefined as parents, siblings, or cousins.

TABLE 6.
Victim resistance in violent crimes, by disability status, 2008

Type of resistance	Percentage of violent crime victims—	
	With disabilities	Without disabilities
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %
Offered no resistance	50.8 %**	42.5 %
Offered resistance	49.2 %**	57.5 %
Threatened/attacked offender—		
with a firearm	-- ^	-- ^
with other weapon	0.3 ^	0.9
without a weapon	18.6	21.6
Nonconfrontational tactics/yell/run/argued	34.8 *	45.4
Other reaction	8.2	6.0
Unknown reaction	1.0 % [^]	0.5 % [^]

Note: Due to multiple responses for type of resistance, percentages sum to more than total.

--Less than 0.05%.

[^]Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

*Difference between percentages for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Difference between percentages for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

TABLE 7.**Violent crime, by offender weapon use and disability status, 2008**

Type of weapon	Percentage of violent crime victims—	
	With disabilities	Without disabilities
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %
No weapon	71.9 %	73.6 %
Weapon	19.5 %	20.2 %
Firearm	8.3	6.6
Knife	4.5 ^	6.4
Other weapon type	5.8	5.6
Weapon type unknown	0.8 ^	1.6
Do not know if offender had weapon	8.6 %	6.2 %

Note: Detail may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

^Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

TABLE 8.**Injury and medical treatment as a result of violent crime, by disability status, 2008**

Type of injury	Percentage of violent crime victims—	
	with disabilities	without disabilities
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %
Not injured	73.5 %	76.7 %
Injured	26.5 %	23.2 %
Not treated	15.5	13.6
Treated	11.0	9.6
On scene, home, neighbor's or friend's home	4.2 ^	3.8
Medical doctor's office/clinic, health unit, stadium, park	1.0 ^	1.0
Hospital, not admitted	4.7 ^	4.8
Hospital, overnight stay	1.1 ^	-- ^
Other location	-- ^	0.1 ^
Do not know	-- %^	0.1 %^

Note: Detail may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

^Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Less than 0.05%.

TABLE 9.**Violent crime reported to police, by type of crime and disability status, 2008**

Type of crime	Percentage of violent crime victims—	
	With disabilities	Without disabilities
Total	49.9 %	46.5 %
Serious violent crime	62.2 %	57.9 %
Rape/sexual assault	49.7	39.2
Robbery	64.8	59.0
Aggravated assault	63.8	61.8
Simple assault	42.7 %	41.2 %

TABLE 10.**Violent crime victims who used non-police victim advocacy agencies, by disability status and type of agency, 2008**

Type of agency	Percentage of violent victimizations against—	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Used victim agency	11.9 %*	6.2 %
Government agency	8.1 %**	4.1 %
Private agency	2.4 ^	1.3
Do not know type of agency	1.4 ^	0.8 ^

^Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

*Difference between percentages for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Difference between percentages for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

TABLE 11.**Violent victimization rates of persons with disabilities, by type of crime and type of disability, 2008**

Type of crime	Violent victimization rate per 1,000 persons with disabilities, by type of disability					
	Hearing	Vision	Ambulatory	Cognitive	Self-care	Independent living
Total	13.6	18.2	12.8	34.3	9.7	12.7
Serious violent crime	4.8	7.2	4.2	12.9	3.3 ^	4.3
Rape/sexual assault	1.3 ^	0.6 ^	0.9 ^	1.5 ^	0.4 ^	0.7 ^
Robbery	1.0 ^	2.1 ^	0.7 ^	6.8	0.5 ^	1.2 ^
Aggravated assault	2.4 ^	4.5 ^	2.7	4.6	2.3 ^	2.4 ^
Simple assault	8.9	11.0	8.6	21.4	6.4	8.5

Note: Rates based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older, in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau, and include victims with more than one disability. See *Methodology* for information about definitions of disabilities.

^Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

TABLE 12.**Violent victimization rates of persons with disabilities, by type of disability and gender, 2008**

Type of disability	Violent victimization rate per 1,000 persons with disabilities	
	Male	Female
Hearing	9.5 **	19.2
Vision	16.6	19.4
Ambulatory	10.6	14.3
Cognitive	36.6	32.3
Self-care	11.1 ^	8.7
Independent living	13.5	12.2

Note: Rates based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older, in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau, and include victims with more than one disability. See *Methodology* for information about definitions of disabilities.

^Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

**Difference between rate of violent crime against males and females with a hearing disability is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

TABLE 14.**Property crime reported to police, by type of crime and household disability status, 2008**

Type of property crime	Percentage of households with persons—	
	With disabilities	Without disabilities
Total	35.6 %	40.9 %
Household burglary	45.3 %	57.9 %
Motor vehicle theft	42.6 ^	82.5
Theft	31.9	33.9

Note: Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation.

^Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

TABLE 13.**Property crime occurring in households, by type of crime and disability status, 2008**

Type of property crime	Percentage of households with persons—	
	With disabilities	Without disabilities
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %
Household burglary	25.1 %*	18.9 %
Motor vehicle theft	3.2 *	5.0
Theft	71.7 **	76.0

Note: In 2008, about 26,600,850 households in the U.S. included a person age 12 or older with a disability as measured by the American Community Survey, 2008. Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation.

*Difference between percentages for households with persons with disabilities and households with persons without disabilities is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Difference between percentages for households with persons with disabilities and households with persons without disabilities is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

Methodology

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, reported and not reported to the police, against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. Survey results are based on data gathered from residents living throughout the United States, including persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. The scope of the survey excludes Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks and persons living in an institutional setting, such as a correctional or hospital facility. For more detail, see the *Methodology* in the BJS series, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, Statistical Tables* available on the BJS Website. (*Criminal Victimization in the United States, Statistical Tables, 2007*, NCJ 227669, February 2010.)

Data sources

The NCVS adopted questions from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to measure the rate of victimization against people with disabilities. The ACS Subcommittee on Disability Questions developed the disability questions based on questions used in the 2000 Decennial Census and earlier versions of the ACS. The questions identify persons who may require assistance to maintain their independence, be at risk for discrimination, or lack opportunities available to the general population because of limitations related to a prolonged (6 months or longer) sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition. More information about the ACS and the disability questions is available on the U.S. Census Bureau Website (<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>).

In this report, disability is defined as a sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or longer that makes it difficult for a person to perform activities of daily living. The questions adopted from the ACS identified the following six types of disabilities:

- Hearing limitation entails deafness or serious difficulty hearing.
- Vision limitation is blindness or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses.
- Cognitive limitation includes serious difficulty in concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition.
- Ambulatory limitation is difficulty walking or climbing stairs.
- Self-care limitation is a condition that causes difficulty dressing or bathing.
- Independent living limitation is a physical, mental, or emotional condition that impedes doing errands alone, such as doctor visits or shopping.

For more detailed definitions of the types of disabilities measured, see U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, 2008 Subject Definitions*. Retrieved October 26, 2010 from <http://www.cen>

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2008_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf.

Changes to the disability questions on the NCVS and ACS in 2008

In 2008 the U.S. Census Bureau changed some of the disability questions on the ACS. The question about sensory disability was separated into two questions about blindness and deafness, and the questions about physical disability were asked only about serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Also, questions on employment disability and about going outside of the home were eliminated in 2008. Census Bureau analysis of 2007 and 2008 ACS disability data revealed significant conceptual and measurement differences between the 2007 and 2008 disability questions. The Census Bureau concluded that data users should not compare the 2007 and 2008 estimates of the population with disabilities. Because the 2007 and 2008 NCVS disability questions mirrored the ACS, estimates of victimization of people with disabilities from the 2007 and 2008 NCVS should not be compared. Further explanation about incomparability of the 2007 and 2008 ACS disability data is accessible at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/2008ACS_disability.pdf.

*Disability questions included in the NCVS in 2008**

Questions 168 through 173 in the NCVS 2008 survey asked respondents for information related to health conditions, impairments, or disabilities.

168. Research has shown that people with disabilities may be more vulnerable to crime victimization. The next questions ask about any health conditions, impairments, or disabilities you may have.

169a. Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?

169b. Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

170a. Because of a physical mental or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty:

- (1) Concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
- (2) Walking or climbing stairs?
- (3) Dressing or bathing?

170b. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

171. Is "Yes" marked in any of 169a-170b? (That is, has the respondent indicated that he/she has a health condition or disability?)

172. During the incident you just told me about, do you have reason to suspect you were victimized because of your health condition(s), impairment(s), or disability(ies)?

173. What health conditions, impairments, or disabilities do you believe cause you to be targeted for this incident?

*The full NCVS questionnaire and an expanded *Methodology* are available on the BJS Website (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>).

Calculation of rates using the NCVS and the ACS

The disability-related questions were not administered to each person in the NCVS sample in 2008. Questions were administered to people who reported being a victim of one of the measured offenses (as part of the crime incident report). To calculate rates of victimization for people with and without disabilities, BJS obtained 2008 population data about persons age 12 and older from the Census Bureau's ACS program. Because NCVS questions mirror the ACS questions, it is possible to combine victimization estimates from the NCVS for people with disabilities with population data from the ACS to produce population based rates of victimization.

Age-adjusted violent victimization rates

In general, the population with disabilities is older than the population without disabilities. To account for this difference in the age distribution, many comparisons between the victimization experiences of the people with and without disabilities use age-adjusted victimization rates. Without this adjustment, comparisons would be confounded by differences that may be attributed to the age distribution rather than disability status.

Direct standardization of populations was used to calculate the age-adjusted violent victimization rates. Other federal agencies use similar methods to calculate age-adjusted rates of diseases and mortality.

The population with disabilities was taken from the ACS and divided into seven age categories: ages 12 to 15, 16 to 19, 20 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65 or older. For each age category, the original unadjusted rate of violent crime was calculated by dividing the number of violent victimizations for people in that age group in the NCVS by the number of people in the same age group from the ACS. A weight for each age group was computed by dividing the number of all persons in an age group without disabilities by the total number of persons without a disability. The weight computed for a particular age group was multiplied by the original unadjusted violent victimization rate for the same age group. This procedure was completed for each age group.

Results were summed across all age groups to obtain age-adjusted rates of violent victimization against persons with disabilities. This procedure was used to produce the age-adjusted rates of violent victimization of persons with disabilities by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and type of violent crime.

For more information on direct standardization of populations, see Curtin, L.R., & Klein, R.J. (1995). *Direct Standardization (Age-adjusted Death Rates)*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved November 29, 2010, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statnt/statnt06rv.pdf>.

Potential undercount of property crime

The NCVS measure of property crime is a household-based measure. The questions NCVS used to identify whether a person had a disability were asked only of those respondents who reported that they had been victimized. If the person who reported the

property crime was a household member with a disability, then the NCVS identified the property crime as one against a household that has a person with a disability. If a household member without a disability reported the property crime during the survey, the NCVS did not ask whether any other household member had a disability. For this reason, the estimate of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount of such crimes.

Limitations of the estimates

The NCVS was designed to measure the incidence of crime against the U.S. civilian population, excluding persons who live in institutions. A significant number of people with disabilities, especially those with the most profound and severe conditions, live in institutional settings. The measures of crime against persons with disabilities (as measured by the NCVS) covers only those people with disabilities who are living among the general population in household settings.

The survey instruments, modes of interview, and interviewing protocols used in the NCVS may not be suited for interviewing people with difficulty communicating, especially by telephone. Currently, about 70% of the interviews conducted for the NCVS are by telephone. Some people have disabilities that limit their verbal communication and use technology to enhance their ability to communicate, but many people do not have access to such technology. Additionally, the survey questionnaire, while avoiding legal terminology, incorporates some complex concepts and language that may not be easily understood by people with cognitive disabilities.

The survey also requires direct interviews with eligible respondents and allows the use of proxy interviews in a limited set of circumstances. A proxy interview is allowed when a respondent is physically or mentally incapable of responding. The survey restrictions on proxy interviews were instituted because someone else may not know about the victimization experiences of the respondent, and because the person providing the information via proxy may be the perpetrator of the abuse or violence experienced by the respondent.

Overall, the effects on the estimates due to proxy responses are probably small. However, when measuring victimization of people with disabilities, the use of proxies could be a significant issue. About 1% of the crimes reported to the NCVS in 2008 were obtained from proxy interviews. In the NCVS data on crimes against persons with disabilities, about 2% were obtained from proxy interviews. Since proxy respondents may be more likely to omit crime incidents or may not know some details about reported crime incidents, the number of crimes against persons with disabilities may have been undercounted.

While the NCVS and ACS have identical disability questions, other factors associated with the surveys may impact the calculation and comparisons of victimization rates. For example, the NCVS is conducted by personal visits and telephone interviews while the ACS is a self-administered survey. The response rate for the NCVS in 2008 was 90.4% of households and 86.2% of eligible individuals. The response rate for the ACS was 97.9%. Response rates for persons with disabilities could not be calculated because information in disability is not available for nonrespondents. Possible non-interview biases that may affect the estimates have not been studied. Most variables used in this report had a very low item non-response.

Standard error computations

Comparisons of percentages and rates made in this report were tested to determine if observed differences were statistically significant. Differences described as higher, lower, or different passed a hypothesis test at the 0.05 level of statistical significance (95%-confidence level). The tested difference was greater than twice the standard error of that difference. For comparisons that were statistically significant at the 0.10 level (90%-confidence level), the terms “somewhat,” “slightly,” or “marginally” are used to note the nature of the difference.

Significance-testing calculations were conducted at BJS using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS by the U.S. Census Bureau. These programs take into consideration many aspects of the complex NCVS sample design when calculating estimates. Estimates based on 10 or fewer sample cases have high relative standard errors. Care should be taken when comparing such estimates to other estimates when both are based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

APPENDIX TABLE 1.**Standard errors for estimated number of violent and property crimes against persons, by type of crime and victim disability status, 2008**

Type of crime	Standard error of the number	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Violent crime	67,401	192,426
Rape/sexual assault	13,588	30,688
Robbery	24,013	51,136
Aggravated assault	23,941	67,810
Simple assault	51,641	144,644
Property crime	114,122	392,129
Household burglary	51,067	147,772
Motor vehicle theft	16,362	67,847
Theft	93,808	335,967

Note: In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the U.S. had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 1.

APPENDIX TABLE 2.**Standard errors for violent victimization rates, by type of crime and disability status, 2008**

Type of crime	Standard error of the rates		
	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities
	Age-adjusted ^a	Unadjusted	
Total	1.39	1.91	0.91
Serious violent crime^b	0.78	1.10	0.46
Rape/sexual assault	0.21	0.40	0.14
Robbery	0.50	0.70	0.24
Aggravated assault	0.47	0.69	0.31
Simple assault	1.03	1.48	0.72

Note: Rates are based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the U.S. had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 2.

^aThe age-adjusted victimization rate for persons with disabilities is calculated by multiplying the unadjusted rate for each age group with disabilities by the proportion of the population in that age group without disabilities, divided by the total population without disabilities. The sum of these weighted estimates represent the overall age-adjusted rate.

^bSerious violent crime includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault and excludes simple assault.

APPENDIX TABLE 3.**Standard errors for violent victimization rates of persons, by age and disability status, 2008**

Age	Standard error of the rates	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
12-15 years old	24.98	3.73
16-19	19.51	3.42
20-24	16.71	3.38
25-34	7.77	2.06
35-49	5.06	1.34
50-64	3.07	1.10
65 or older	0.93	0.84

Note: Rates are based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the U.S. had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 3.

APPENDIX TABLE 4.

Standard errors for violent victimization rates by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and disability status, 2008

Victim characteristics	Standard error of the rates		
	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities
	Age-adjusted ^a	Unadjusted	
Total	1.39	1.91	0.91
Gender			
Male	1.69	2.67	1.27
Female	1.84	2.49	1.09
Race^b			
White	1.56	2.07	1.01
Black/African American	3.02	5.07	2.55
Other race ^c	1.94	4.75	1.38
More than one race	11.57	19.58	6.01
Hispanic origin^d			
Hispanic	2.36	4.62	1.75
Non-Hispanic	1.50	2.04	0.98

Note: Rates are based on the U.S. resident population age 12 or older in the American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008 approximately 34,542,850 persons age 12 or older in the U.S. had a disability, excluding persons living in institutions. See *Methodology*. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for table 4.

^aThe age-adjusted victimization rate for persons with disabilities is calculated by multiplying the unadjusted rate for each age group with disabilities by the proportion of the population in that age group without disabilities, divided by the total population without disabilities. The sum of these weighted estimates represent the overall age-adjusted rate.

^bEach racial group includes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin.

^cIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

^dIncludes persons of all races.

APPENDIX TABLE 5.

Standard errors for victim/offender relationship in violent crimes, by disability status, 2008

Victim/offender relationship	Standard error of the percentage			
	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Intimate partner ^a	1.21	4.96	0.95	2.28
Other relatives ^b	2.90	3.18	0.82	1.49
Well known/casual acquaintance	5.98	5.36	2.32	2.53
Stranger	6.05	4.47	2.55	2.43
Don't know relationship	3.54	2.81	1.62	1.18

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 5.

^aDefined as current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

^bDefined as parents, siblings, or cousins.

APPENDIX TABLE 6.**Standard errors for victim resistance in violent crimes, by disability status, 2008**

Type of resistance	Standard error of the percentages	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Offered no resistance	4.16	1.89
Offered resistance	4.16	1.93
Threatened/attacked with a firearm	--	--
Threatened/attacked with other weapon	0.41	0.31
Threatened/attacked without a weapon	3.15	1.52
Nonconfrontational tactics/yell/run/argued	3.92	1.91
Other reaction	2.18	0.82
Unknown reaction	0.76	0.23

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 6.

--Less than 0.01.

APPENDIX TABLE 7.**Standard errors for violent crime, by offender weapon use and disability status, 2008**

Type of weapon	Standard error of the percentages	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
No weapon	3.78	1.74
Weapon	3.21	1.48
Firearm	2.19	0.87
Knife	1.62	0.85
Other weapon type	1.84	0.80
Weapon type unknown	0.68	0.41
Do not know if offender had weapon	2.23	0.84

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 7.

APPENDIX TABLE 8.**Standard errors for injury and medical treatment as a result of violent crime, by disability status, 2008**

Type of injury	Standard error of the percentages	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Not injured	3.71	1.67
Injured	3.61	1.57
Not treated	2.92	1.24
Treated	2.50	1.05
On scene, home, neighbor's or friend's home	1.57	0.65
Medical doctor's office/clinic, health unit, stadium, park	0.76	0.32
Hospital, not admitted	1.66	0.74
Hospital, overnight stay	0.80	--
Other location	--	0.10
Do not know	--	0.10

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 8.

--Less than 0.01.

APPENDIX TABLE 9.**Standard errors for violent crime reported to police, by type of crime and disability status, 2008**

Type of crime	Standard error of the percentages	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Total	4.16	1.92
Serious violent crime	6.39	3.12
Rape/sexual assault	16.38	7.71
Robbery	9.40	5.11
Aggravated assault	9.48	4.06
Simple assault	5.06	2.21

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 9.

APPENDIX TABLE 10.**Standard errors for victims who used non-police victim advocacy agencies, by disability status and type of agency, 2008**

Type of agency	Standard error of the percentages	
	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Used victim agency	2.59	0.84
Government agency	2.16	0.68
Private agency	1.19	0.37
Do not know type of agency	0.90	0.29

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 10.

APPENDIX TABLE 11.**Standard errors for violent victimization rates of persons with disabilities, by type of crime and type of disability, 2008**

Type of crime	Standard error of the rates, by type of disability					
	Hearing	Vision	Ambulatory	Cognitive	Self-care	Independent living
Total	2.58	3.68	1.88	3.87	2.56	2.20
Serious violent crime	1.48	2.26	1.03	2.28	1.46	1.24
Rape/sexual assault	0.75	0.63	0.46	0.73	0.49	0.48
Robbery	0.66	1.19	0.40	1.62	0.55	0.63
Aggravated assault	1.03	1.76	0.81	1.32	1.21	0.91
Simple assault	2.06	2.82	1.51	3.00	2.06	1.77

Note: Rates include victims with more than one disability. See *Methodology* for definitions of the types of disabilities. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 11.

APPENDIX TABLE 12.**Standard errors for violent victimization rates of persons with disabilities, by type of disability and gender, 2008**

Type of disability	Standard error of the rates	
	Male	Female
Hearing	2.76	4.56
Vision	5.14	4.96
Ambulatory	2.57	2.50
Cognitive	5.53	5.00
Self-Care	4.16	3.10
Independent living	3.49	2.70

Note: Rates include victims with more than one disability. See *Methodology* for definitions of the types of disabilities. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. These standard errors are for estimates in table 12.

APPENDIX TABLE 13.**Standard errors for property crime occurring in households, by type of crime and disability status, 2008**

Type of property crime	Standard error of the percentages	
	Households with persons with disabilities	Households without persons with disabilities
Household burglary	2.09	0.80
Motor vehicle theft	0.78	0.40
Theft	2.28	0.98

Note: In 2008 about 26,600,850 households in the U.S. included a person age 12 or older with a disability as measured by the American Community Survey, 2008. See *Methodology*. Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation. These standard errors are for estimates in table 13.

APPENDIX TABLE 14.**Standard errors for property crime reported to police, by type of crime, and household disability status, 2008**

Type of property crime	Standard error of the percentages	
	Households with persons with disabilities	Households without persons with disabilities
Total	2.35	1.07
Household burglary	4.51	2.08
Motor vehicle theft	11.77	2.82
Theft	2.62	1.12

Note: Standard errors were calculated using NCVS general variance parameters developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates of property crime against people with disabilities may be an undercount. See *Methodology* for detailed explanation. These standard errors are for estimates in table 14.

APPENDIX TABLE 15.**U.S. population by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age, and by disability status, 2008**

Population characteristics	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Total	34,542,850	215,281,100
Gender		
Male	16,134,760	105,024,230
Female	18,408,100	110,256,880
Race^{a,b}		
White	26,779,910	164,212,730
Black/African American	4,750,700	24,747,120
Other race ^c	2,232,130	22,603,650
More than one race ^d	691,130	3,717,600
Hispanic origin		
Hispanic	3,570,960	31,381,360
Non-Hispanic	30,971,900	183,899,740
Age		
12-15 years old	891,960	15,589,310
16-19	966,910	16,508,510
20-24	1,108,790	19,176,890
25-34	2,254,470	36,890,080
35-49	5,847,340	58,637,060
50-64	9,293,610	45,449,810
65 or older	14,179,780	23,029,460

Note: Population estimates were drawn from the American Community Survey and do not include persons living in institutions.

^aIncludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin.

^bAbout 89,000 persons with disabilities did not report information on race to the ACS that matched one of the NCVS racial categories. Persons whose race could not be matched to racial categories in the NCVS were excluded from the racial distribution analyses.

^cIncludes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

^dIncludes persons identifying two or more races.



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