

URBAN AND RURAL CRIME

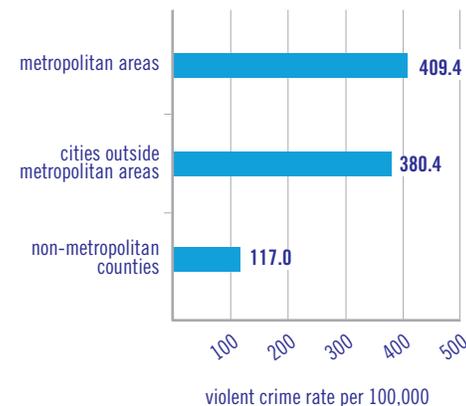
When national crime statistics are reported, they may mask important differences among geographic areas. The FBI's annual *Crime in the United States* relies on Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) data and provides subnational statistical breakdowns for geographic areas by county type (rural, suburban, and urban), city population size, or a combination of both. The Bureau of Justice Statistics' annual report *Criminal Victimization* relies on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and provides subnational statistics for geographic areas by rural, suburban, and urban areas. The UCR and NCVS use slightly different sets of definitions in their accountings by geographical area due to the manner in which the data are collected. The UCR data are generated from local and state police agencies. As such, the crimes are known to law enforcement and are located based on where the crime actually occurred. The NCVS data are collected from crime victims and can include those incidents not reported to police, in addition to reported crime. The NCVS crimes are located based on the victim's residence rather than where the incident occurred. The different place definitions and data criteria may result in different statistics that can be difficult to compare.

This section provides crime statistics from both UCR and NCVS data sources. In general, statistics show that crime rates in metropolitan or urban areas, as well as the criminal justice response, differ from those in suburban areas, cities outside metropolitan areas, and non-metropolitan or rural areas. The uneven distribution of crime has implications for responding to crime, supporting victims, and allocating criminal justice system resources. As Americans become more mobile, it becomes increasingly important to understand the impact of geographic differences on crime rates and the ability of local criminal justice systems to protect citizens.

- The FBI reports the 2012 rate of violent crime known to law enforcement within metropolitan areas was 409.4 per 100,000 persons. The rate of violent crime per 100,000 persons in cities outside metropolitan areas was 380.4, and for non-metropolitan counties it was 177.0.¹

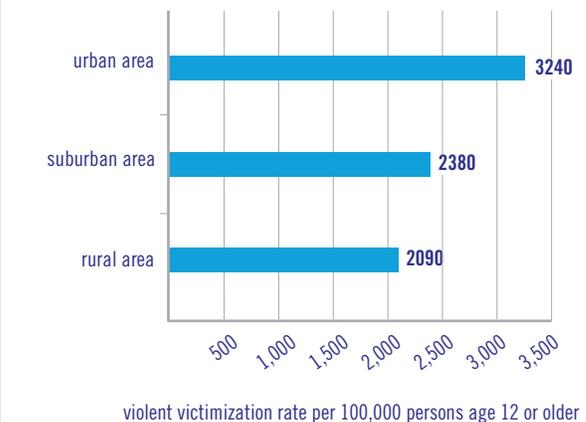
¹ As defined by the FBI, metropolitan areas are cities or urbanized areas of 50,000 or more inhabitants; cities outside metropolitan areas are incorporated areas; and non-metropolitan counties are unincorporated areas. Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, "Area Definitions," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/resource-pages/area-definitions/areadefinitions>; Table 2, accessed July 24, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/2tabledatadecoverviewpdf/table_2_crime_in_the_united_states_by_community_type_2012.xls.

VIOLENT CRIME RATES KNOWN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA, 2012



- In 2012, the rate of violent victimizations reported by victims to the NCVS was 3,240 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in urban areas, 2,380 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in suburban areas, and 2,090 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in rural areas.²

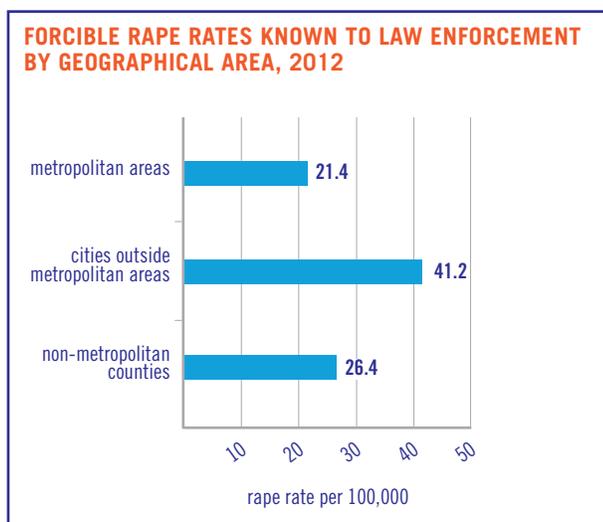
VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION RATES REPORTED BY VICTIMS TO THE NCVS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA, 2012



² "Reported by victims" means reported to interviewers for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Crimes reported to NCVS interviewers were not necessarily reported to law enforcement. As defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the urban, suburban, and rural definitions are based on the Office of Management and Budget Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) designations. Urban is the largest city/grouping of cities in a MSA; suburban is a county/counties containing a central city plus any contiguous counties that are linked socially and economically to the central city (i.e., those portions of MSAs outside of "central cities"); rural ranges from sparsely populated areas to cities with populations of less than 50,000 residents (i.e., a place not located in an MSA). Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Violent Victimization by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

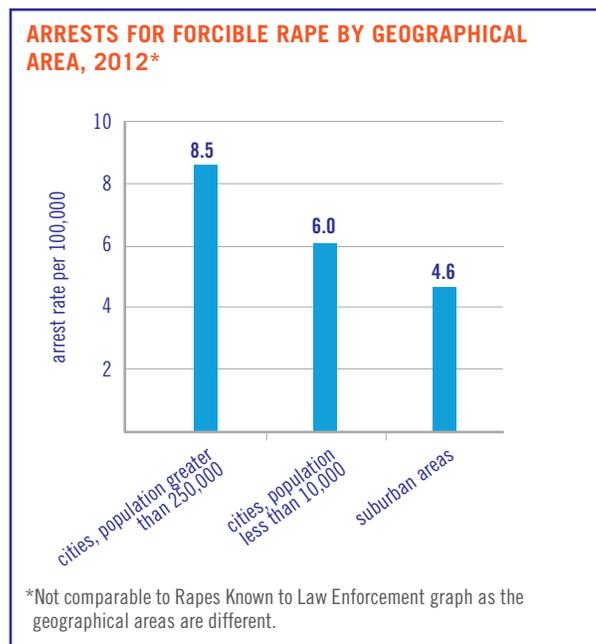
² "Reported by victims" means reported to interviewers for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Crimes reported to NCVS interviewers were not necessarily reported to law enforcement. As defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the urban, suburban, and rural definitions are based on the Office of Management and Budget Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) designations. Urban is the largest city/grouping of cities in a MSA; suburban is a county/counties containing a central city plus any contiguous counties that are linked socially and economically to the central city (i.e., those portions of MSAs outside of "central cities"); rural ranges from sparsely populated areas to cities with populations of less than 50,000 residents (i.e., a place not located in an MSA). Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Violent Victimization by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

- The FBI reports metropolitan cities had a murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate known to law enforcement of 4.9 per 100,000 persons in 2012. Cities outside metropolitan areas had a murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate of 3.8 per 100,000 persons, while non-metropolitan counties had a rate of 3.3 per 100,000 persons.³
- The FBI reports the rate of forcible rape⁴ known to law enforcement within metropolitan areas was 26.4 per 100,000 persons, with no change compared to the 2011 rate. The rate of forcible rape in cities outside metropolitan areas was 41.2 per 100,000. Non-metropolitan counties had a rate of 21.4 per 100,000 persons.⁵



- The 2012 rate of rapes and sexual assaults reported by victims to the NCVS was 180 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in urban areas, 120 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in suburban areas, and 6 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in rural areas.⁶

- The FBI reports the 2012 rate of arrest for forcible rape was 5.8 per 100,000 inhabitants. In cities under 10,000, the rate was 6.0 per 100,000; in suburban areas, the rate was 4.6 per 100,000; and in large cities (populations of 250,000 and more), the rate was 8.5 per 100,000.⁷



- The FBI reports the 2012 aggravated assault rate known to law enforcement within metropolitan areas was 250.2 per 100,000 persons. The rate of aggravated assault in cities outside metropolitan areas was higher at 283.9 per 100,000 persons. The rate of aggravated assault in non-metropolitan counties was lowest at 139.7 per 100,000 persons.⁸
- The 2012 rate of aggravated assault reported by victims to the NCVS was 470 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in urban areas, 360 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in suburban areas, and 260 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in rural areas.⁹

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 2.

⁴ The FBI's definition of forcible rape presented here is "the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts or assaults to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded." This definition was revised in 2012. For more information, see <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/recent-program-updates/new-rape-definition-frequently-asked-questions>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The rural rape/sexual assaults rates are based on 10 or fewer sample cases, therefore caution should be employed when interpreting. Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Rape/Sexual Assaults by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 31, accessed October 1, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/31tabledataecpdf>.

⁸ Ibid., Table 2.

⁹ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Aggravated Assaults by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

- The FBI reports metropolitan areas had a 2012 robbery rate known to law enforcement of 127.9 per 100,000 persons, compared to a rate of 51.6 per 100,000 persons in cities outside metropolitan areas and 12.6 per 100,000 persons in non-metropolitan counties.¹⁰
- The 2012 rate of robberies reported by victims to the NCVS was 490 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in urban areas, 180 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in suburban areas, and 190 per 100,000 persons age 12 or older in rural areas.¹¹
- The FBI reports a total of 5,086 bank robberies were reported to law enforcement in 2011. Of these, 46 percent occurred in metropolitan areas, 34 percent occurred in small cities or towns, 18 percent occurred in suburban areas, and 2 percent occurred in rural areas.¹²
- The FBI reports the national property crime rate known to law enforcement in the United States in 2012 was 2,859.2 per 100,000 persons.¹³
- Cities outside metropolitan areas had the highest property crime rate known to law enforcement in 2012 with a rate of 3,534.8 per 100,000 persons. Metropolitan areas had a property crime rate of 2,949.8 per 100,000 persons, and non-metropolitan counties had a property crime rate of 1,539.3 per 100,000.¹⁴
- The 2011 rate of property victimizations reported by victims to the NCVS was 187.0 per 1,000 households in urban areas, 138.9 per 1,000 households in suburban areas, and 142.9 per 1,000 households in rural areas.¹⁵



- The FBI reports the rate of burglaries known to law enforcement was highest in cities outside of metropolitan areas in 2012 with a rate of 792.1 per 100,000 persons. Burglaries in metropolitan areas occurred at a rate of 676.2 per 100,000 persons, and in non-metropolitan areas, they occurred at 530.0 per 100,000 persons.¹⁶
- The 2012 rate of household burglary reported by victims to the NCVS was 33.9 per 1,000 households in urban areas, 24.3 per 1,000 households in suburban areas, and 39.0 per 1,000 households in rural areas.¹⁷
- The FBI reports the rate of larceny-theft known to law enforcement was highest in cities outside metropolitan areas in 2012 with a rate of 2,696.5 per 100,000 persons. Metropolitan areas had the second highest rate at 2,022.9 per 100,000 persons, followed by non-metropolitan counties at a rate of 915.6 per 100,000 persons.¹⁸
- The 2011 rate of household theft reported by victims to the NCVS was 146.2 per 1,000 households in urban areas, 110.7 per 1,000 households in suburban areas, and 99.4 per 1,000 households in rural areas.¹⁹

¹⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 2.

¹¹ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Robberies by Location of Residences, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navat>.

¹² Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Bank Crime Statistics (BCS)," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2012), accessed October 1, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/bank-crime-statistics-2011/bank-crime-statistics-2011>.

¹³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 2.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Property Victimization by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navat>.

¹⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 2.

¹⁷ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Household Burglary by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navat>.

¹⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 2.

¹⁹ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Thefts by Location of Residence, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool,

Urban and Rural Crime

- The FBI reports the rate of motor vehicle thefts known to law enforcement was highest in metropolitan areas in 2012 with a rate of 250.7 per 100,000 persons. Cities outside metropolitan areas had the second highest rate at 136.0 per 100,000 persons, and non-metropolitan counties had a rate of 93.8 per 100,000 persons.²⁰
- The 2012 rate of motor vehicle theft reported by victims to the NCVS was 6.9 per 1,000 households in urban areas, 3.9 per 1,000 households in suburban areas, and 4.5 per 1,000 households in rural areas.²¹
- The FBI reports cities with more than 250,000 inhabitants had 2.7 law enforcement officers per 1,000 persons in 2012, cities under 10,000 had 3.6 law enforcement officers per 1,000 persons, and suburban areas had 2.4 law enforcement officers per 1,000 persons.²²
- In 2012—in cities larger than 250,000—72.3 percent of law enforcement officers were male and 27.7 percent were female. Cities under 10,000 people had 79.3 percent male officers and 20.7 percent female officers. The percentage of male and female officers in suburban areas was 73.2 percent and 26.8 percent, respectively.²³



accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navat>.

²⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 2.

²¹ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rates of Motor Vehicle Thefts by Location of Residences, 2011-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navat>.

²² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 71, accessed October 1, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/71tabledatadecoverviewpdfs/table_71_fulltime_law_enforcement_officers_by_region_geographic_division_by_number_and_rate_per_100000_2012.xls.

²³ Ibid., Table 74, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/74tabledatadecoverviewpdfs/table_74_full_time_law_enforcement_employees_by_population_group_percent_male_and_female_2012.xls.