

1999

American Indians and Crime

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice

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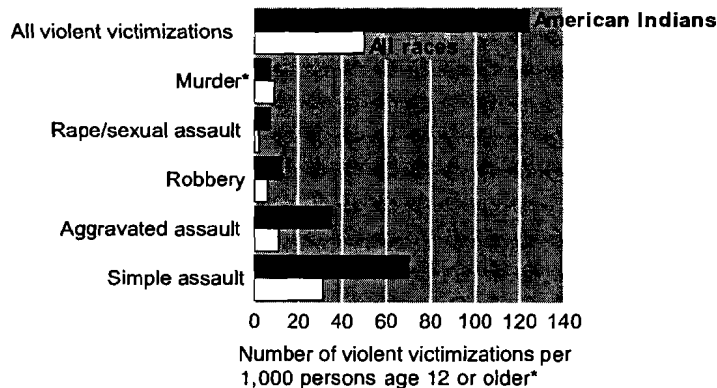


Bureau of Justice Statistics

American Indians and Crime

Average annual number of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 1992-96

The rate for American Indians (124 violent crimes per 1,000 American Indians) was more than twice the rate for the Nation (50 per 1,000 persons)



*The annual average murder rate is per 100,000 residents of all ages.

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American Indians and Crime

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February 1999, NCJ 173386

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics

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report for final publication.

This report and its data are
available on the Internet:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

The National Archive of
Criminal Justice Data also
offers the data for the National
Crime Victimization Survey,
the Survey of Inmates in
Local Jails, and the Surveys
of Inmates in State or Federal
Correctional Facilities:

[http://www.ojp.icpsr.umich.edu/
NACJD/home.html](http://www.ojp.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html)

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Foreword

This report represents a compilation and new analysis of data on the effects and consequences of violent crime among American Indians. The report uses data from a wide variety of sources, including statistical series maintained by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the FBI, and the Bureau of the Census. Data are reported from American Indian crime victims on how they were affected by the victimization and about who victimized them. The report also includes the first BJS estimates of the total number of American Indians under the custody or supervision of the justice system.

The findings reveal a disturbing picture of American Indian involvement in crime as both victims and offenders. The rate of violent victimization estimated from responses by American Indians is well above that of other U.S. racial or ethnic subgroups and is more than twice as high as the national average. This disparity in the rates of violence affecting American Indians occurs across age groups, housing locations, income groups, and sexes.

With respect to the offender, two findings are perhaps most notable: American Indians are more likely than people of other races to experience violence at the hands of someone of a different race, and the criminal victimizer is more likely to have consumed alcohol preceding the offense. However, the victim/offender relationships of American Indians parallel that of all victims of violence.

On a given day, an estimated 1 in 25 American Indians age 18 or older is under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system — 2.4 times the per capita rate of whites and 9.3 times the per capita rate of Asians. But black Americans, with a per capita rate nearly double that of American Indians, are more likely to be under the care or custody of correctional authorities.

This report is the first step in a vigorous BJS effort to document issues of crime and justice affecting American Indians. Statistical programs have been instituted to learn more about tribal criminal justice agencies, such as law enforcement and confinement facilities, and these will complement data available from other BJS series covering the justice system.

This study was prepared as a resource to respond to frequent inquiries. Since the number of American Indians in our annual samples are inadequate to provide definitive statistics, this report cumulates data from over a 5-year period. I hope that this report will serve as a foundation for other reports and discussions about how best to address the problem of crime affecting this segment of our population.

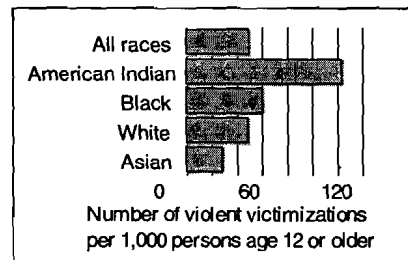
BJS has undertaken improvements in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), designed to improve future data collection on crime and its consequences for American Indians. This year BJS enhanced the NCVS to permit future analyses to report statistics on victimizations occurring on tribal lands. In addition, victim descriptions of the offender were modified to permit greater precision in future statistics about the victim's perceptions of the offender's race. Together, these NCVS upgrades will result in much greater detail about both locations of crime incidents and perpetrators.

Valuable contributions to the report were made by Norena Henry, Director of the American Indian/Alaska Native Affairs in the Office of Justice Programs, and Melvinda Pete, a BJS university student intern. In the development of the report, they helped to provide context for the statistical findings.

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics

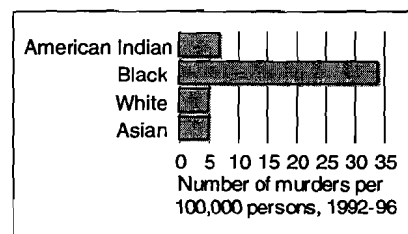
Highlights

Violent victimizations*



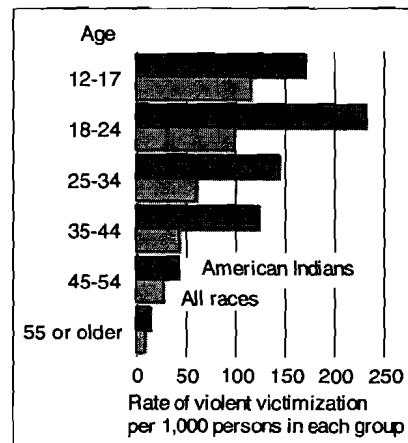
- American Indians[‡] experience per capita rates of violence which are more than twice those of the U.S. resident population.

Murder*



- The murder rate among American Indians is 7 per 100,000, a rate similar to that found among the general population. The rate of murder among blacks is more than 5 times that among American Indians.

Age*



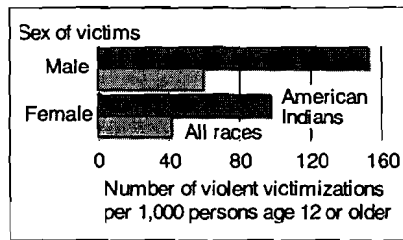
- Rates of violence in every age group are higher among American Indians than that of all races.

- Nearly a third of all American Indian victims of violence are between ages 18 and 24. This group of American Indians experienced the highest per capita rate of violence of any racial group considered by age — about 1 violent crime for every 4 persons of this age.

*Average annual rate, 1992-96.

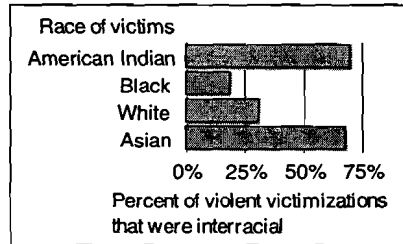
[‡]American Indians in this report include Alaska Natives and Aleuts. Asians include Hawaiian Natives and Pacific Islanders.

Sex*



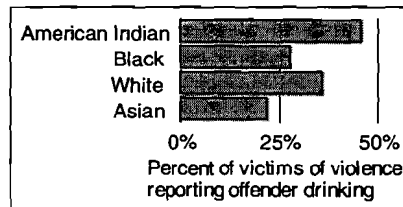
- Rates of violent victimization for both males and females are higher among American Indians than for all races. The rate of violent crime experienced by American Indian women is nearly 50% higher than that reported by black males.

Offender race*



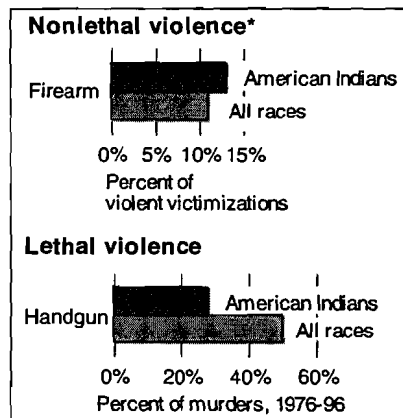
- At least 70% of the violent victimizations experienced by American Indians are committed by persons not of the same race — a substantially higher rate of interracial violence than experienced by white or black victims.

Alcohol use by offender*



- American Indian victims of violence were the most likely of all races of victims to indicate that the offender committed the offense while drinking.

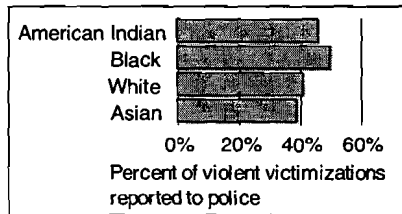
Weapon use by offender



- More than 10% of American Indian nonlethal violent victimizations involved a firearm. American Indian murder victims were less likely to have been murdered by a handgun than victims of all races.

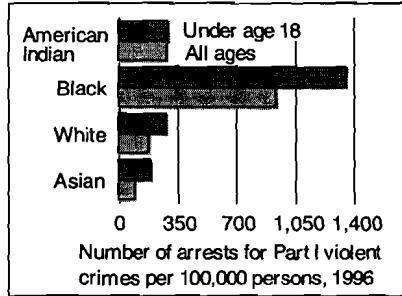
*Average annual rate or percentage, 1992-96.

Crimes reported to police*



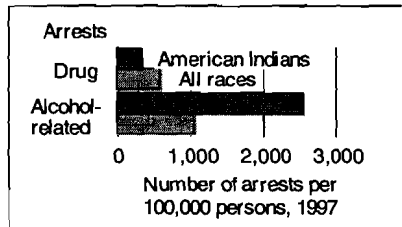
- American Indian victims of violence reported the crime to the police at about the average rate for all races.

Arrests of adults and youth



- American Indian arrest rates for violence among youth were about the same as the rates among white youth in 1996.
- Violent crime arrest rates for American Indian adults were similar to those for youth. Among other racial groups, arrest rates for adults are lower than for youth.

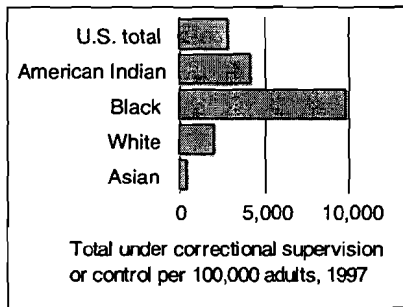
Arrests for drug and alcohol offenses



- The 1997 arrest rate among American Indians for alcohol-related offenses (driving under the influence, liquor law violations, and public drunkenness) was more than double that found among all races. Drug arrest rates for American Indians were lower than average.

*Average annual percentage, 1992-96.

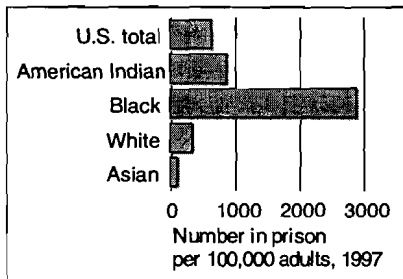
Under correctional supervision or control



- An estimated 63,000 American Indians are under the care, custody, or control of the criminal justice system on an average day — about 4% of the American Indian population age 18 or older.

- On average in 1997 about 2,000 American Indians per 100,000 adults (persons age 18 or older) were serving a sentence to probation, about half the rate found among blacks.

In State or Federal prison



- In 1997 about 16,000 American Indians were held in local jails — a rate of 1,083 per 100,000 adults, the highest of any racial group.

- The rate of American Indians on parole is similar to that of the general population, about 300 per 100,000 adults.

- On a per capita basis, American Indians had a rate of prison incarceration about 38% higher than the national rate.

Federal convictions

American Indians convicted in Federal district court, fiscal year 1997

Total	854	100%
Violent		
Murder	81	9%
Assault	153	18
Robbery	22	3
Rape	168	20
Other	23	3
Property	178	21
Drug	93	11
Other*	134	15

*Includes persons for whom the offense was unknown.

- American Indians accounted for 1.5% of Federal case filings in U.S. district courts in 1997, and half of these were for violent offenses.

- 854 American Indians were convicted in Federal court — 9% for murder and 20% for rape.

Measuring criminal victimization among American Indians

American Indians have higher per capita rates of violent criminal victimization than whites, blacks, or Asians in the United States, according to data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

Population estimates from the Bureau of the Census for July 1, 1998, indicate that American Indians account for just under 1% of the U.S. population:

All races	270,029,000	100.0%
American Indian*	2,357,000	0.9
White	222,932,000	82.6
Black	34,370,000	12.7
Asian	10,370,000	3.8

Two demographic factors distinguish American Indians from other racial groups: in 1998 the median age of the American Indian population is nearly 8 years younger than the U.S. resident population, and American Indians are the most likely to report Hispanic ethnicity.

Race	Median age	Percent Hispanic
All races	35.2 years	11.3%
American Indian	27.4	15.2
White	36.3	12.4
Black	29.9	5.0
Asian	31.2	5.8

This report presents data on the rates and characteristics of violent crimes, including murder, experienced by American Indians. Information is also

*In this report the term *American Indian* refers to Alaska Natives, Aleuts, and American Indians. The term *Asian* encompasses Asians, Hawaiian Natives, and Pacific Islanders.

provided on American Indians in the criminal justice system.

The NCVS collects information on the Nation's experience with crime. It also collects information on the race of the victim and the race of the offender as reported by the victim.

The NCVS provides estimates of the violent crimes of rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault for persons age 12 or older. During 1992-96 the NCVS found that American Indians experienced an average of almost 150,000 violent crimes per year from among the estimated 10.8 million violent crimes occurring on average per year among all racial groups. Victimization data for 1996 indicate that American Indians accounted for about 1.4% of all violent victimizations that year, about the same percentage as in preceding years.

American Indian tribes in the United States, 1996

The indigenous peoples in the United States belong to about 550 federally recognized tribes that have a distinct history and culture and often a separate language.

Tribe	Percent of American Indians
Cherokee	16.4%
Navajo	11.7
Chippewa	5.5
Sioux	5.5
Choctaw	4.4
Pueblo	2.8
Apache	2.7
All other tribes	51.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1997*, table 51, p. 51.

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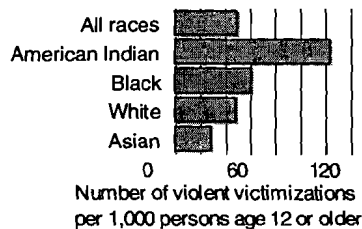
Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1997*, table 51, p. 51.

Table 1. Annual average violent victimization rates for persons age 12 or older, by race, 1992-96

	Annual average		
	Population age 12 or older	Number of violent victimizations	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons age 12 or older
All races	213,660,000	10,784,826	50
American Indian	1,204,014	149,614	124
White	180,543,825	8,880,083	49
Black	25,587,158	1,570,386	61
Asian	6,325,003	184,743	29

Note: The NCVS estimates of the racial distribution of the resident population age 12 or older for the period 1992-96 correspond closely to the estimates reported by the Bureau of the Census in their P-25 series of population estimates. The NCVS estimate shows that American Indians represented 0.6% of those interviewed while the P-25 estimate shows that American Indians account for 0.8% of the resident population age 12 or older.

The average annual violent crime rate among American Indians — 124 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older — is about 2½ times the national rate (table 1).



The average annual violent crime rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older during that period was 49 for whites and 61 for blacks.

The aggravated assault rate among American Indians (35 per 1,000) was more than 3 times the national rate (11 per 1,000) and twice that for blacks. The rate of robbery experienced by American Indians (12 per 1,000) was similar to that of black residents (13 per 1,000) (table 3).

American Indians are overrepresented among victims of violence compared to their share of the general population age 12 or older.

	Annual average for persons age 12 or older, 1992-96	
	NCVS estimates of population	Victims of violence
Total	213.7 million	10.8 million
American Indian	0.6%	1.4%
White	84.5	82.3
Black	12.0	14.6
Asian	3.0	1.7

Table 2

Table 3. Annual average rate of rape and sexual assault, robbery, and assault, by race of victim, 1992-96

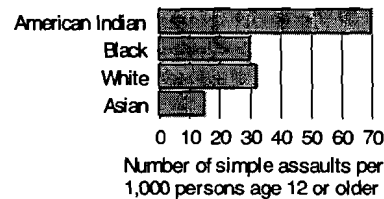
	Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in each racial group				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Violent victimizations	50	124	49	61	29
Rape/sexual assault	2	7	2	3	1
Robbery	6	12	5	13	7
Aggravated assault	11	35	10	16	6
Simple assault	31	70	32	30	15

For the 1992-96 period, the average annual per capita rate of violent victimization translates into about 1 violent crime for every 20 residents age 12 or older. Substantial variation, however, was evident by race. American Indians experienced about 1 violent crime for every 8 residents age 12 or older compared to 1 violent victimization for every 16 black residents, 1 for every 20 white residents, and 1 for every 34 Asian residents.

Types of violent crime

The Nation's population of American Indians age 12 or older experienced an annual average of 126,400 simple and aggravated assaults, 14,800 robberies, and 8,400 rapes or sexual assaults during 1992-96.

The types of violent crimes experienced by American Indians were generally similar to that found across the Nation (table 4). The most common type of violent crime experienced by American Indian victims was simple assault (56%).



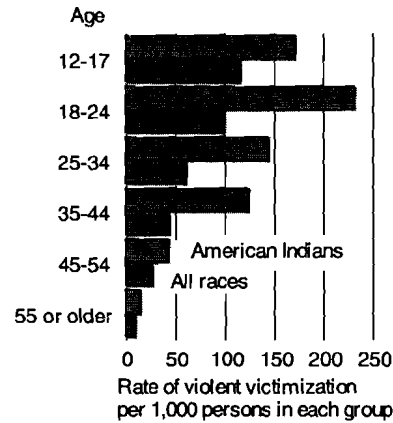
Among all the violent crimes reported by American Indians, 28% were aggravated assault, 10% robbery, and 6% rape/sexual assault. Asian and black victims of violence were more likely than American Indian or white victims to have reported a robbery.

Table 4. Violent crime, by type of crime and race of victim, 1992-96

Type of crime	Percent of violent victimizations				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Rape/sexual assault	4.3	5.6	4.3	4.4	4.1
Robbery	11.7	9.9	9.7	21.5	24.6
Aggravated assault	21.8	28.4	21.0	25.7	21.0
Simple assault	62.2	56.1	65.0	48.5	50.2
Average annual number of victimizations	10,784,826	149,614	8,880,083	1,570,386	184,743

Sex, age, and location of residence of victims of violent crime

The violent crime rate among American Indian males was 153 per 1,000 males age 12 or older, more than double that found among all males (60 per 1,000 age 12 or older) (table 5). The violent crime rate for American Indian females during this period was 98 per 1,000 females, a rate higher than that found among white females (40 per 1,000) or black females (56 per 1,000).



violent crime rate was more than twice that found among whites and blacks of the same age.

About 40% of American Indians reside in rural areas, compared to 18% of whites and 8% of blacks. The violent crime rate for American Indians was highest for those in urban areas, 207 per 1,000, and lowest for those in rural

In 1995 the Bureau of Census reported 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives residing in the United States, about 1.94 million of whom were American Indians. In 1990 over half of American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in 10 States:

Oklahoma	252,000
California	242,000
Arizona	204,000
New Mexico	134,000
Alaska	86,000
Washington	81,000
North Carolina	80,000
Texas	66,000
New York	63,000
Michigan	56,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 CP-2-1A, *Social and Economic Characteristics, American Indian and Alaska Native Areas.*

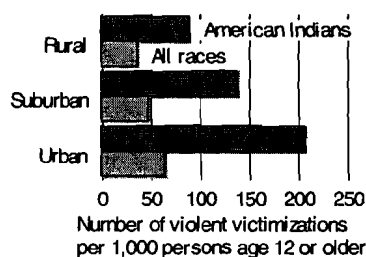
Among the different age groups, violent crime rates were highest (232 per 1,000 persons) for American Indians age 18 to 24. This

Table 5. Violent crime rates for persons 12 or older, by age, sex, location of residence, and race, 1992-96

Victim characteristic	Annual average rates of violent victimization per 1,000				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	50	124	49	61	29
Sex					
Male	60	153	59	68	37
Female	42	98	40	56	21
Age					
12 to 17	116	171	118	115	60
18 to 24	100	232	101	105	41
25 to 34	61	145	61	66	34
35 to 44	44	124	43	51	24
45 to 54	27	43	27	30	15
55 or older	9	14	8	11	5
Location					
Urban	65	207	63	75	29
Suburban	48	138	48	52	29
Rural	37	89	37	33	30

Table 6. Violent victimizations, by age, sex, and race of victim, 1992-96

Victim age/sex	Percent of violent victimizations				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
12-17	24.2%	20.4%	23.8%	26.8%	24.0%
18-24	23.6	31.5	23.4	24.0	21.7
25-34	23.6	23.5	23.6	23.2	26.3
35-44	17.0	18.0	17.1	16.6	18.3
45-54	7.5	4.7	7.8	6.1	7.3
55 or older	4.1	1.9	4.3	3.3	2.4
Male	57.4%	58.9%	58.4%	50.5%	62.6%
Female	42.6	41.1	41.6	49.5	37.4
Number of violent victimizations	10,784,826	149,614	8,880,083	1,570,386	184,743



areas, 89 per 1,000. However, this rural crime rate for American Indians is more than double that found among rural whites (37 per 1,000) or blacks (33 per 1,000). The urban crime rate

for American Indians is more than 3 times that found among urban whites.

About half (52%) of the violent crimes committed against American Indians occurred among those age 12 to 24 years (table 6). Two percent of the violent crimes committed against American Indians were against the elderly, age 55 or older.

Nearly 6 in 10 of the violent crimes experienced by American Indians had been committed against males, similar to the national distribution.

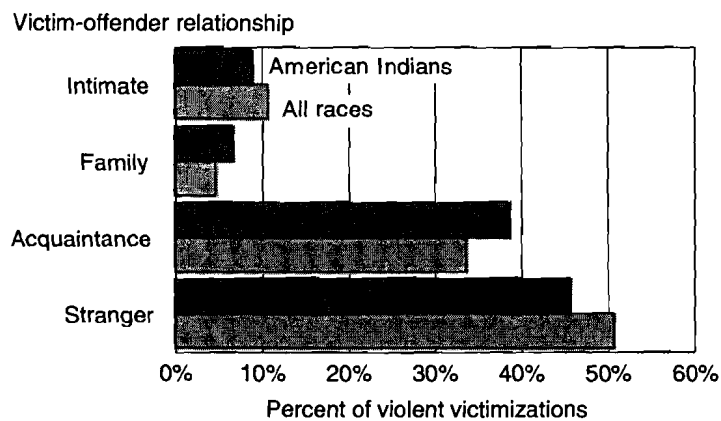
American Indians with incomes under \$10,000 had the highest rate of violent victimization, 182 per 1,000.

At every income category American Indians had a higher rate of violent victimization than persons of other races.

Table 7. Violent victimization rates, by annual household income and race, 1992-96

Household income	Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$10,000	73	182	74	71	30
\$10,000 - 19,999	54	137	51	70	30
\$20,000 - 29,999	48	104	47	56	32
\$30,000 - 39,999	46	72	46	54	22
\$40,000 or more	42	84	42	50	22

More than half the violent victimizations of American Indians involved victims and offenders who had a prior relationship, about the same percentage as for all violent victimizations.



Note: Figure excludes those victimizations in which the victim did not know the relationship to the offender or those in which the number of offenders could not be specified.

Victim-offender relationship

Overall, strangers were reported to have committed 46% of the violent crimes against American Indians (table 8).

More than half of the violent victimizations of American Indians involved offenders with whom the victim had a prior relationship. About 1 in 6 violent victimizations among American Indians

involved an offender who was an intimate or family member to the victim, about the same as for victims of all races.

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of violence	
	All races	American Indians
Intimates	11%	8%
Family members	5	7
Acquaintances	34	38
Strangers	51	46

Table 8. Violent victimizations of American Indians, by victim-offender relationship and type of victimization, 1992-96

Type of victimization	Percent of violent victimizations against American Indians			
	Total	Intimates/ family members	Acquaintances	Strangers
All	100%	15%	38%	46%
Rape	100	25	43	32
Robbery	100	10	14	76
Aggravated assault	100	7	41	51
Simple assault	100	19	40	40

Race of offender

Violent crime against white or black victims is primarily intraracial. Among white victims of violence, 69% of offenders were white (table 9). Likewise, black victims of violence were most likely to have been victimized by a black offender (81%).

The NCVS classifies as "other race" those offenders whom victims perceive to be Asian or American Indian.

However, based on self-reports of offender race, it is clear that American Indians and Asians, when victimized by violence, were the most likely to report that the offender was from a different race.

The majority (60%) of American Indian victims of violent crime described the offender as white, and nearly 30% of the offenders were likely to have been other American Indians. An estimated 10% of offenders were described as black.

The less serious the offense, the higher was the percentage of American Indian victims of violence describing the offender as "other race" (table 10).

Table 9. Percent of violent victimizations, by race of victim and race of offender, 1992-96

Race of victim	Race of offender			
	Total	Other	White	Black
All races	100%	11%	60%	29%
American Indian	100	29	60	10
White	100	11	69	20
Black	100	7	12	81
Asian	100	32	39	29

Note: Table excludes an estimated 420,793 victims of violence (3.9% of all victims) who could not describe the offender's race.

American Indian victims of rape/sexual assault most often reported that the victimization involved an offender of a different race. About 9 in 10 American Indian victims of rape or sexual assault were estimated to have had assailants who were white or black.

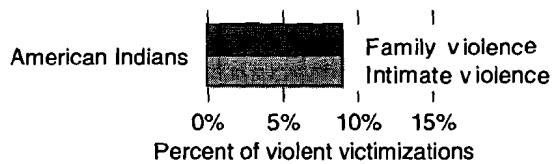
Two-thirds or more of the American Indian victims of robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault described the offender as belonging to a different race.

Race of offender	Percent of American Indian victims, 1992-96				
	All violent victimizations	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
White	63%	82%	55%	61%	59%
Black	10	6	24	12	8
Other	29	12	21	27	34

Table 10

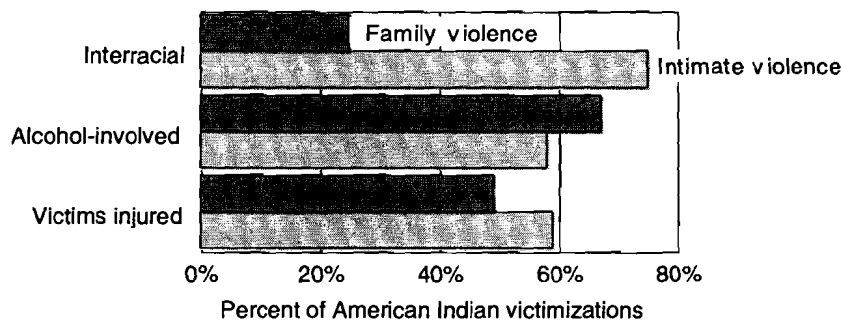
Intimate and family violence

Intimate and family violence each account for about 9% of all violent victimizations experienced by American Indian victims, about the same percentage as found among all victims of violence. (See *Note* on the graph below.)



Most striking among American Indian victims of violence is the substantial difference in the racial composition of offenders in intimate violence incidents when contrasted with family violence. Among violence victims of all races, about 11% of intimate victims and 5% of family victims report the offender to have been of a different race; however, among American Indian victims of violence, 75% of the intimate victimizations and 25% of the family victimizations involved an offender of a different race.

Intimate and family violence involve a comparatively high level of alcohol and drug use by offenders as perceived by victims — as is the case for Indian and non-Indian victims. Indian victims of intimate and family violence, however, are more likely than others to be injured and need hospital care.



Note: *Intimate violence* refers to victimizations involving current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. *Family violence* refers to victimizations involving spouses and other relatives. Alcohol-involved incidents included only those incidents in which the victim felt that he/she could determine whether the offender had been using drugs or alcohol.

Table 11. Violent crime, by the perceived drug or alcohol use of the offender and by race of victim, 1992-96

Race of victim	Perceived drug or alcohol use by offender				
	Total	Alcohol	Drugs	Both	Neither
Total	100%	28%	8%	7%	57%
American Indian	100	38	9	8	45
White	100	29	8	7	56
Black	100	21	7	7	65
Asian	100	20	3	2	75

Note: Table excludes those respondents who were unable to report whether they perceived the offender to have been using drugs or alcohol.

Alcohol, drugs, and crime

Alcohol and drug use was a factor in more than half of violent crimes against American Indians (table 11).

Substantial differences can be found by race in the reports of victims of violence of their perceptions of drug and alcohol use by offenders. Among those who could describe alcohol or drug use by offenders, American Indian

victims of violence were the most likely to report such perceived use by the offender.

Overall, in 55% of American Indian violent victimizations, the victim said the offender was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. The offender's use of alcohol and/or drugs was somewhat less likely in violent crimes committed against whites (44%) or blacks (35%).

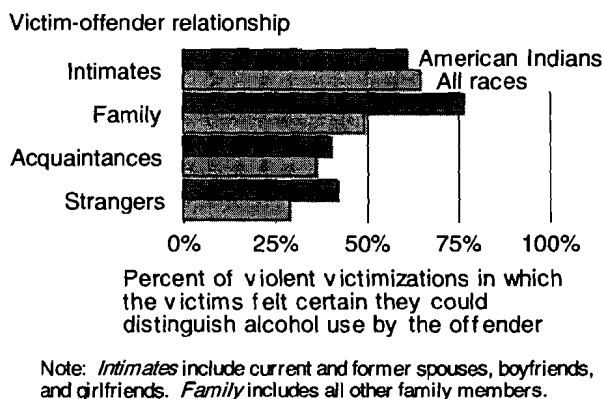
Offenders' use of alcohol and drugs reported by American Indian victims of violence varied with the race of the offender: Intraracial violence was more likely to involve a drinking offender while interracial violence involved higher levels of offender drug use.

According to American Indian victims of violence, offender use of alcohol was a factor in nearly two-thirds of the violent victimizations in which the offender was neither white nor black.

Race of victim/offender	Percent of victimizations in which the offender was perceived using—			
	Alcohol	Drugs	Both	Neither
American Indian/white	30%	10%	8%	52%
American Indian/black	35	13	3	49
American Indian/other	57	1	8	34
White/white	36%	8%	1%	48%
Black/black	21	8	6	66
Asian/other	18	2	3	77

Table 12

An estimated 3 in 4 American Indian victims of family violence reported that they perceived the offender to have been drinking at the time of the offense. About half the persons of all races who were victims of family violence reported a drinking offender.



Location of violent crime

Just over 40% of American Indian victims of violence reported that the incident occurred in or around their own home or that of a friend, relative, or neighbor (table 13). This is higher than the approximately one-third of violent victimizations reported by

victims of all races to have occurred at or near a home.

Nineteen percent of violent victimizations against American Indians took place in open areas, on the street or on public transportation. Fewer than 1 in 10 violent crimes were reported to have occurred at school.

Table 13. Violent incidents, by place of occurrence and race of victim, 1992-96

Place of occurrence	Percent of violent victimizations				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Home or lodging	14	12	14	17	12
Near own home	11	17	11	14	9
At, in, or near friend's, relative's, or neighbor's home	9	14	9	10	7
Commercial places	13	13	14	9	19
Parking lots/garages	8	9	8	6	9
School	13	7	13	11	12
Open areas, on street or public transportation	22	19	21	28	24
Other	10	9	10	6	9

Time of occurrence	Table 14. Violent crime, by time of occurrence and race of victim, 1992-96				
	Time of violent crime occurrence	Percent of violent victimizations			
		American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Half of the violent crimes committed against American Indians occurred after dark. About 1 in 5 of the violent victimizations took place between midnight and 6:00 a.m.	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Light	44	52	51	51
	Dark	52	44	46	45
	Dawn	5	4	4	4
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
	6 am-12 noon	11	14	13	17
	12 noon-6 pm	30	38	38	34
	6 pm-midnight	40	35	38	38
	Midnight-6 am	19	13	11	11

Crime in the workplace

On average nearly 2 million violent crimes occurred in the workplace every year. The workplace accounted for about 1 in 5 violent crimes experienced by the public.

Among American Indians about 14% of the violent victimizations were reported to have occurred in the workplace.

About 1 in 4 employed American Indian victims of violence said that the incident occurred in the workplace.

	Percent of victims of violence				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Unemployed	40%	48%	37%	52%	41%
Employed	60	52	63	48	59
Percent reporting workplace violence	31%	26%	32%	25%	31%
Percent of all violent incidents which occurred at the workplace	19%	14%	20%	12%	18%

Table 15

Table 16. Violent victimizations, by use of weapon and race of victim, 1992-96

Offender use of weapon	Percent of violent victimizations				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
No weapon used	74%	66%	76%	62%	68%
Hands/feet only	35	33	35	34	34
Weapon used	26%	34%	24%	38%	33%
Firearm	11	13	9	19	17
Knife	7	7	6	9	8
Blunt object	4	7	4	4	5
Other weapon	5	6	5	5	4

Weapons used in violent crime

In about a third of the violent crime incidents American Indian victims were faced with an offender who had a weapon (table 16). About 13% of the crimes involved an offender with a firearm.

In almost 70% of the violent crime incidents, the American Indian victim resisted the offender, most frequently through the use of physical force (table 17). American Indian victims used a weapon in self-defense in less than 3% of the violent incidents committed against them.

Table 17. Self-protective measures employed by victims, by race of victim, 1992-96

Self-protective actions taken during incident	Percent of violent victimizations			
	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
None	31%	28%	31%	37%
Confrontational actions				
Used physical force toward offender	18%	14%	15%	9%
Weapons	3	3	4	1
No weapons	16	11	12	9
Chased, tried to catch/hold offender	2	1	1	1
Defended self/property	16	15	16	11
Scared or warned off offender	4	5	5	5
Nonconfrontational actions				
Persuaded or appeased offender	7%	9%	8%	11%
Ran away, hid, locked door	12	12	11	14
Got help or gave alarm	4	4	4	3
Other	7	12	10	9

Note: Victims may have used more than one measure.

Table 18. Violent victimizations in which the victims sustained physical injury or received medical care, by race

Victim reported physical injury	Percent of violent victimizations				
	All victims	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Yes	25%	32%	24%	31%	25%
Type of Injury					
Sexual assault	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Shot/internal injuries	1	3	1	3	2
Broken bones/concussion	2	5	2	2	1
Bruises	18	18	18	19	17
Other injuries	3	2	2	4	2
Treatment for injuries					
Not treated	57%	48%	59%	45%	55%
Treated	44	53	41	55	44
At hospital	19	32	16	26	24

Note: The percent treated was calculated on those injured during the violent incident. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Injury rates, hospitalization, and financial loss

American Indian victims of a violent crime were more likely to have been injured than were white or Asian crime victims. Nearly a third of the American Indian violent crime victims were injured during the incident (table 18). About a quarter of all violence victims of all races were injured during the incident.

As a result of their victimizations, an estimated 18% of American Indian victims of violence sustained bruises, the most commonly reported injury. Among those injured, about half received some kind of medical treatment — a third at the hospital.

Seventy-one percent of American Indian crime victims who were injured during the incident and sought medical treatment had medical insurance or qualified for public medical benefits.

Injured American Indian victims of violence who sought treatment for their injuries were as likely as other racial groups to have some form of coverage for medical benefits.

<u>Injured victims</u>	<u>Percent with coverage</u>
American Indians	71%
White	69
Black	71
Asian	64

Victims of violence were asked to report the value of losses associated with the violence they experienced. These losses could include medical expenses, property lost or damaged, and pay lost by missing work.

About 1 in 4 American Indian victims of violence suffered an economic loss as a consequence of the victimization. The average per-victim loss among American Indian victims of violence reporting a loss was \$936 (table 19).

The total annual loss for American Indians arising from violent criminal victimization translates into more than \$35 million (table 20). The losses reported by American Indian victims of violence largely resulted from medical expenses that accounted for more than \$21 million.

Losses to American Indian victims of violence were distributed as follows:

Medical	60.4%
Cash	2.7
Property	
Loss	4.0
Repair	5.4
Replacement	2.9
Lost pay	
From injury	12.6
Other causes	11.7

Table 19. Average dollar loss per victim of violence, by race of victim, 1992-96

Race of victim of violence	Average dollar loss
All	\$878
American Indian	936
White	818
Black	1,081
Asian	810

Table 20. Economic loss to American Indian victims of violent crime, by type of loss, 1992-96

Reason for loss	American Indian victims of violence	
	Average loss per victim	Estimated total annual loss
Total	\$936	\$35,123,400
Medical expenses	\$2,407	\$21,227,333
Cash loss	223	960,907
Property		
Loss	\$155	\$1,403,370
Repair	152	1,907,680
Replacement	191	1,013,064
Lost pay from —		
Injury	\$641	\$4,433,797
Other causes	754	4,116,086

Child abuse and neglect

In the United States from 1992 to 1995, American Indians and Asians were the only racial or ethnic groups to experience increases in the rate of abuse or neglect of children under age 15, as measured by incidents recorded by child protective service agencies.

The increase in reported incidents involving American Indian children was more than 3 times as large as that for Asian children. The per capita rate for American Indian children was 7 times that of Asian children.

	Number of victims per 100,000 children, age 14 or younger		
	1992	1995	Percent change
All children	1,866	1,724	-8%
American Indian	2,830	3,343	18
White	1,628	1,520	-7
Black	3,560	3,323	-7
Asian	454	479	6
Hispanic	1,486	1,254	-16

Note: Rates were calculated on the number of children age 14 or younger because they account for at least 80% of the victims of child abuse and neglect.

Each year the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System of the Department of Health and Human Services obtains from child protective service agencies nationwide the number of reports of alleged maltreatment of children. Published data for 1995 indicate that about 1 million children were substantiated to have been victims of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, medical neglect, or other forms of verified maltreatment.

	Number of victims of maltreatment*	Percent American Indian
1992	1,044,480	1.5%
1993	966,163	1.6
1994	1,011,595	1.8
1995	1,000,502	1.9

*Reported by child protective agencies. Data may contain duplicate counts of incidents.

Source: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System

Non-Hispanic American Indians accounted for just under 2% of the victims of child abuse/neglect in reports collected nationwide in 1995. There is evidence that their share has been increasing. Non-Hispanic American Indians, who accounted for just under 1% of the population age 14 or younger, were overrepresented twofold as victims of child abuse.

On a per capita basis, 1995 data indicate about 1 substantiated report of a child victim of abuse or neglect for every 30 American Indian children age 14 or younger.

Nationwide, the 1995 rates translate into about 1 child victim of maltreatment known to a child protective services agency for every —

- 58 children of any race
- 66 white children
- 30 black children
- 209 Asian children
- 80 Hispanic children

Table 21

American Indians differ little from other racial groups in their reporting of violent crime to the police or in the likelihood that the victim knows of the arrest of the offender.

	Average annual number of victimizations 10,785,800		
	<u>Victims</u>	<u>Reported to the police</u>	<u>Subsequent arrest of offender (reported offenses only)</u>
American Indian	149,600	45%	28%
White	8,880,100	41	28
Black	1,570,400	50	22
Asian	184,700	39	19

Table 22

Reporting violent crime to the police

Forty-five percent of American Indian victims of violent crime reported the crime to the police (table 22). This level of crime reporting was similar to that found among white (41%) and black (50%) violent crime victims.

Among victims not reporting the crime to the police, the reasons that persons of different racial backgrounds had for not reporting were also similar. Nearly half of both American Indians not reporting the violent crime to the police and victims of all races who did not report the violence to the police said that they considered the matter private or too minor to bother the police (table 23).

Table 23. Reasons why victims of violence did not report the victimization to the police, by race of victim, 1992-96

Reason for not reporting to the police	Percent of victims of violence not reporting the victimization to the police	
	All races	American Indians
Total	100%	100%
Personal matter	21	26
Too unimportant	24	24
Police of limited assistance	11	14
Reported to other authority	13	8
Fear of or worry about offender	7	6
Too busy	3	2
Other reasons	22	20

For those violent crimes reported to the police victims said that police made an arrest in about a quarter of the cases (table 24).

Twelve percent of the victims who reported their violent crime to the police received victim services assistance.

Arrests of offenders and services to victims

Table 24. Violent victimizations reported to the police, by whether an arrest was made and whether victim services were provided, by race of victim, 1992-96

	Percent of violent victimizations reported to the police				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Was an arrest made?					
Yes	27%	27%	28%	22%	19%
No	66	65	65	70	71
Do not know	7	8	7	8	11
Victim services assistance?					
Yes	10%	12%	10%	9%	9%

Note: The percent reporting an arrest and the percent reporting that they had received assistance from a victim services agency were based on those victimizations reported to the police.

There were no differences between victims of violence who were American Indians and victims of all races in the percentage having contacts with the prosecutor's office or a victim services agency.

For all victims such contacts were higher in those cases in which an arrest was known to have occurred.

	Average annual number of violent victimizations reported to the police 4,525,200	
	Resulted in —	
	Arrests	No arrests
Victims of all races	1,228,400	3,296,800
Subsequent contact with —		
Prosecutor's office	23%	3%
Victim services agency	17	7
American Indian victims	19,000	49,000
Subsequent contact with —		
Prosecutor's office	25%	3%
Victim services agency	21	8

**Average annual rates of violent victimization,
by race and ethnicity, 1992-96**

	Number of violent victimizations, per 1,000, age 12 or older		
	All ethnicities	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
All races	50	58	50
American Indian	124	243	116
White	49	56	48
Black	61	85	61
Asian	29	63	28

Note: The table excludes respondents who did not provide complete data on race and ethnicity.

Race and ethnicity in violent victimization

The NCVS asks respondents about both race and ethnicity. For 1992-96 about 9% of all participants, or about 18.5 million residents age 12 or older in an average year, were of Hispanic origin and belonged to one of the four primary racial groups sampled in the survey—white, black, American Indian, or Asian. Hispanic residents were estimated to consist of 17.8 million whites, 0.5 million blacks, about 0.1 million Asians, and a slightly smaller number of American Indians.

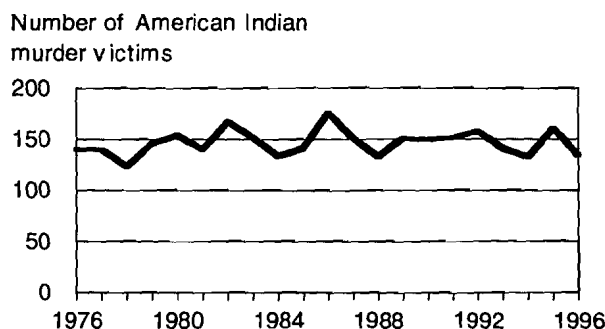
Across each racial group, Hispanic residents were found to have higher average per capita rates of violent victimization. Among all racial and ethnic groups, non-Hispanic Asians were found to have the lowest estimated rates of violent victimization, about 1 violent crime for every 36 residents. By contrast, American Indian residents who also identified themselves as Hispanic reported a rate of violent victimization that translated into about 1 violent crime for every 4 residents.

- While about 7% of all American Indian participants in the NCVS reported they were also of Hispanic ethnicity, nearly 14% of those American Indians victimized by violence were of Hispanic origin.

- Among American Indians who also described themselves as Hispanic, the rate of violent victimization was 4 times the rate found among all Hispanics and twice the rate found among non-Hispanic American Indians.

Table 25

Annual number of murders of American Indians, 1976-96



Murder among American Indians

Each year about 150 American Indians become murder victims. Little year-to-year variation occurred in the number of American Indian murder victims, but recent years were below the peak reached in 1986.

American Indians were 0.7% of all murder victims nationwide, about the same as their share of the population (table 26). From 1976 to 1996 an estimated 3,100 American Indians were murdered. Because of variations in reporting by law enforcement agencies over time, detail on these murder victims is available for 2,826 American Indian murder victims or about 92% of the total estimated number of victims.

Over the 21-year period, just under 14% of the murders of American Indians occurred in California, proportional to California's share of the American Indian population. Alaska, by contrast, accounts for about 10% of American Indian murder victims over the period but just over 4% of the American Indian population

nationwide. In Alaska in 1976-96, American Indians and Alaska Natives composed about 16% of the population but 28% of that State's murder victims. The 10 States in which about 63% of the American Indian population reside have accounted for about 75% of the murders.

Rates of murder

As observed across the other racial groups, the number of murders per capita among American Indians has been declining. The rate of murder among American Indians in 1996 was below the national average for ages under age 40 (table 27). For ages 40 or older, murder rates are close to the national average.

For persons age 24 or younger in 1996, American Indian rates of murder closely paralleled the rates among whites and Asians and were well below the rates among black victims. For those age 25 to 29, the 37% decline in the rate of murder among American Indians reflects the largest decline of any racial group.

Table 26. Murders of American Indians, as a percent of all American Indians and of all murder victims, by State, 1976-96

States with the largest number of American Indian murder victims	Number of murders of American Indians	Percent of —		American Indians as a percent of —	
		All murders of American Indians	The American Indian population	All murder victims	Total resident population
U.S. total	2,826	100.0%	100.0%	0.7%	0.8%
California	386	13.7	13.7	0.6	1.0
Oklahoma	326	11.5	11.9	6.2	8.1
Alaska	268	9.5	4.2	28.0	15.5
North Carolina	245	8.7	3.9	2.0	1.2
Arizona	233	8.2	10.8	4.1	5.8
Washington	191	6.8	4.4	4.2	1.8
Minnesota	164	5.8	2.5	7.4	1.2
New Mexico	160	5.7	6.7	7.5	8.9
New York	75	2.7	3.1	0.2	0.4
Oregon	71	2.5	2.0	2.7	1.4
All other States	707	25.0	36.8	0.3	0.4

Note: Supplementary Homicide Data are for 1976-96.
Population data are for 1994.

Table 27. Number of murders per 100,000 population, by race and age, 1991 and 1996

	Age of murder victims						
	17 or younger	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-49	50 or older
Murder rate, 1996							
Total	7.9	19.6	14.5	10.8	9.2	6.6	4.4
American Indian	4.0	9.1	11.2	10.8	8.8	7.2	5.7
White	4.9	9.5	7.4	6.2	5.8	4.3	3.3
Black	24.3	76.6	58.2	40.8	32.7	24.1	14.0
Asian	4.3	9.0	6.2	5.3	3.4	3.2	3.3
Murder rate, 1991							
Total	9.3	23.9	18.6	15.0	12.0	8.7	5.7
American Indian	5.0	9.7	17.8	14.1	11.7	7.0	5.1
White	5.4	11.6	9.8	8.5	7.2	5.6	4.0
Black	30.6	97.4	75.0	60.0	46.3	34.1	21.1
Asian	4.7	9.9	9.5	7.7	7.9	6.2	4.9
Percent change, 1991-96							
Total	-15.1%	-18.0%	-22.0%	-28.0%	-23.3%	-24.1%	-23.6%
American Indian*	-20.0	-6.2	-37.1	-23.4	-24.8	2.8	12.7
White	-9.3	-18.1	-24.5	-27.1	-19.4	-22.4	-18.7
Black	-20.6	-21.4	-22.4	-32.0	-29.4	-29.4	-33.6
Asian	-8.5	-9.1	-34.7	-31.2	-57.0	-48.9	-33.2

*Increases occurred from 4 additional murders of persons age 40 to 49 and 4 additional murders of persons age 50 or older. Denominators for the oldest group included persons age 50 to 74 years.

Table 28. Circumstances of murder, by race, 1976-96

Murders with known circumstances	Murders				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Violent felony	14	11	16	11	27
Other felony offenses	10	5	10	11	8
Suspected felony	4	4	4	3	3
Brawl under the influence of alcohol/drugs	5	13	6	4	2
Arguments	43	45	38	50	35
Other circumstances	24	22	27	21	25
Number	344,928	2,515	181,043	156,203	4,545

Note: Table excludes an estimated 101,446 murder victims for whom the circumstances were not known.

Source: FBI, Supplemental Homicide Reports, 1976-96.

Circumstances of murder

Supplemental data regarding murders with known circumstances indicate that American Indian murder victims were more likely to have been killed during a brawl involving alcohol or drugs (13%)

than white (6%), black (4%), or Asian (2%) murder victims (table 28). Forty-five percent of American Indian murder victims were killed during an argument, and 11% were killed during the commission of a violent felony.

American Indian and Asian murder victims, whether victims of violent felony murder or murders arising from arguments, were more likely than whites or blacks to have been victimized by an offender of a different race.

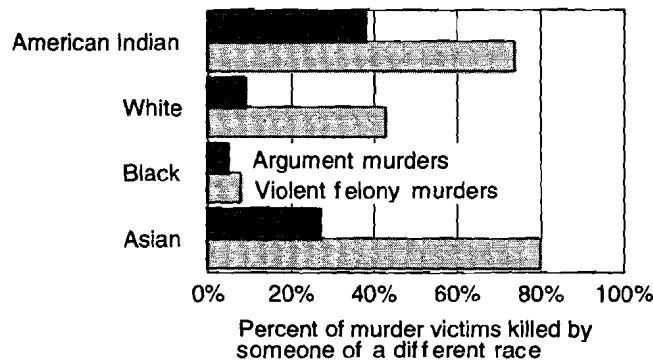


Table 29. Murders, by victim-offender relationship and race, 1976-96

	Percent of murder				
	Victims of all races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Victim/offender had prior relationship	81.2	83.9	78.4	84.5	70.9
Victim/offender were strangers	18.8	16.1	21.6	15.5	29.1
Same race	13.8	3.9	14.4	13.4	8.2
Different races	5.0	12.2	7.1	2.1	20.9
Number of murder victims	281,603	2,242	147,417	128,551	3,393

Note: Table excludes victims with unknown relationship to offender and victims and offenders of unspecified races.

Victim-offender relationship in murder cases

offender relations in American Indian murder cases were similar to those found among all murders.

In American Indian murder cases in which the victim offender-relationship was known, strangers accounted for approximately 16% of the murders (table 29). Acquaintances accounted for about half the murders. Victim-

American Indian and Asian murder victims were more likely than white or black murder victims to have been killed by a stranger of a different race.

Table 30. Murders, by race of offender and victim, 1976-96

Race of offender	Race of murder victim				
	All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
American Indian	0.8%	56.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%
White	47.6	32.5	85.6	5.8	22.1
Black	50.4	9.7	13.3	94.0	18.1
Asian	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.1	59.2
Number	313,032	2,381	162,609	143,854	3,688

Note: Table excludes cases in which the race of the victim or offender is unknown.

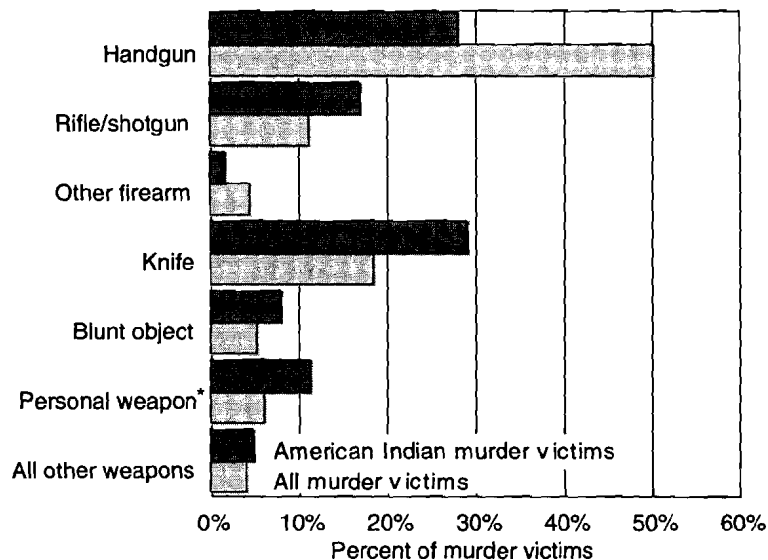
Source: Supplemental Homicide Data are for the period 1976-96. Population data are for 1994.

Race of murderers

In most murder cases involving a white or black victim, the offender was of the same race as the victim (table 30).

However, when the races of the offender and victim were known, more than 40% of American Indian murder victims were killed by an offender who was not an American Indian; in 33% of the cases the offender was white.

Compared to all murder victims, American Indian murder victims were substantially less likely to have been killed by a handgun but more likely to have been killed by a rifle or shotgun or stabbed.



*Includes hands and feet.

Note: Excludes cases in which type of weapon is unknown.

Murder weapons

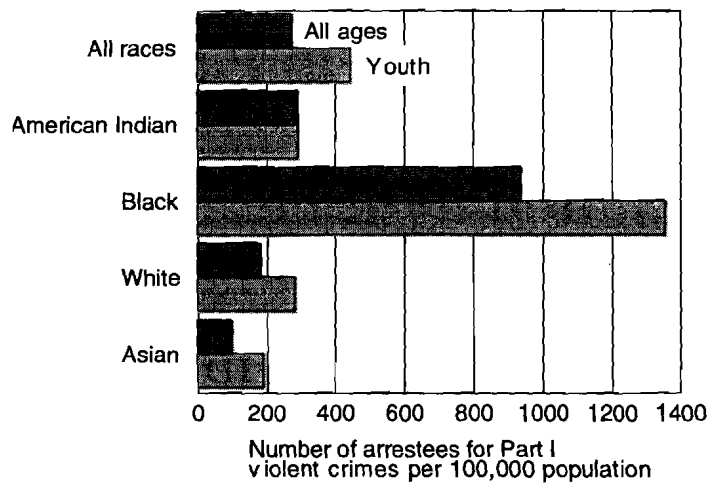
American Indian murder victims were substantially less likely (28% to 50%) than all murder victims to have been killed by a handgun. Almost 30% of American Indian murder victims were killed by a knife, compared to less than 20% of all murders.

Arrests and convictions of American Indians

Arrest data for 1996, provided by local law enforcement agencies, indicate that American Indians account for 0.9% of the arrests for Part I violent crimes (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) — an estimated 6,600 arrests for these offenses.

Approximately 17% of American Indians arrested for these violent offenses are under age 18, nearly the same percentage found among arrestees for all violent crimes in 1996. The 1996 arrest rates for Part I violent crimes among American Indian youth were about the same as for white youth and were about a fifth of those of black youth.

Unlike the pattern of violent crime arrest rates for other racial groups — higher for youth than for the whole population — among American Indians the arrest rates for those under age 18 did not vary from the overall rate.



Note: Arrest rates for youth were based on the estimated number of arrests of persons under the age of 18 and calculated on the number of residents age 10-17.

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1996*.

American Indians have a rate of arrest for alcohol violations (DUI, liquor law violations, and public drunkenness) more than double the national rate. Arrests of American Indians under age 18 for alcohol-related violations are also twice the national average.

	Number of arrests per 100,000 population			
	All ages		Youth	
	All races	American Indian	All races	American Indian
Total violent	275	291	445	294
Murder	7	7	9	5
Rape	13	16	19	14
Robbery	59	37	165	67
Aggravated assault	197	231	252	208
Total property	1,039	1,369	2,783	3,026
Total alcohol violations	1,079	2,545	649	1,341
DUI	553	1,069	61	98
Liquor laws	255	727	510	1,108
Drunkenness	271	749	78	135

Note: Arrest rate is the number of arrests per 100,000 resident population. Arrest rates for youth were based upon the estimated number of arrests of persons under the age of 18. The youth arrest rate was calculated on the number of residents age 10-17.

Table 31

Felony convictions in State courts

On average there are annually about 900,000 felony convictions in State courts. American Indians account for just over 1/2 of 1% of felony convictions across the Nation (table 32).

In 1996 State and local felony courts throughout the United States convicted an estimated 1 million defendants. Among these were an estimated 7,000 felony convictions of American Indians, a rate of approximately 1 felony conviction for every 200 American Indians age 18 or older. By contrast in 1996 whites experienced a felony conviction rate of about 1 conviction per 300 adults; among blacks the rate of felony

Table 32. Annual average number of felony convictions in State courts, by race, 1990-96

	Felony convictions	
	Average annual number	Percent
Total	898,290	100%
American Indian	4,980	0.6
White	468,944	52.2
Black	418,124	46.6
Asian	6,243	0.7

Note: The annual average estimates are based on the National Judicial Reporting Program, 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996.

conviction was 1 for every 51 adults; and Asians reflected the lowest rate, about 1 felony conviction for every 600 Asian residents age 18 or older.

Table 33. Correctional population, by status and race, 1997

	Number	Percent of correctional populations				
		All races	American Indian	White	Black	Asian
Number of offenders						
Total corrections	5,751,277	100%	1.1%	58.8%	39.6%	0.5%
Probation	3,261,888	100%	0.9	66.5	32.3	0.4
Local jails	557,974	100%	2.9	53.1	42.8	1.0
State prisons	1,131,581	100%	1.0	43.1	55.4	0.5
Federal prisons	112,973	100%	1.5	60.1	37.0	1.5
Parole	685,033	100%	0.6	52.6	46.4	0.5
Offenders per 100,000 resident population age 18 or older						
Total corrections		2,907	4,194	2,036	9,863	414
Probation		1,650	1,965	1,306	4,561	183
Local jails		282	1,083	178	1,031	78
State prisons		572	757	294	2,714	80
Federal prisons		57	113	41	181	24
Parole		346	275	217	1,376	48

American Indians under correctional supervision

American Indians accounted for about 1% of the more than 5.7 million adults under correctional care, custody, or control on a single day in 1997 (table 33). The estimated 62,600 American Indians with a correctional status accounted for just over 4% of the American Indian adult population (not shown in a table).

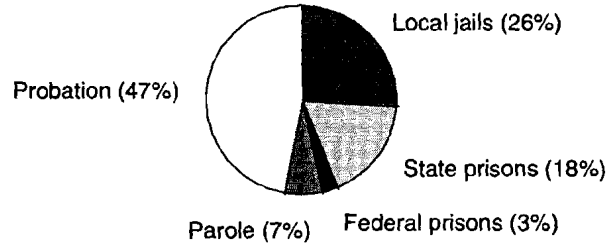
By comparison, an estimated 2% of white adults, 10% of black adults, and less than a half of 1% of Asian adults were under correctional supervision (not shown in a table).

In 1997, 54% of the American Indians under correctional supervision were in the community — on probation (47%) or parole (7%). Twenty-five percent were held in local jails, 18% in State prisons, and 3% in Federal prisons.

In 1997 just under half of the American Indian offenders under the care, custody, or control of Federal, State, or local correctional authorities were confined in prisons or jails. By contrast, less than a third of correctional populations nationwide were confined in prisons or jails.

American Indian correctional population

62,659



Nationwide correctional population

5,751,277

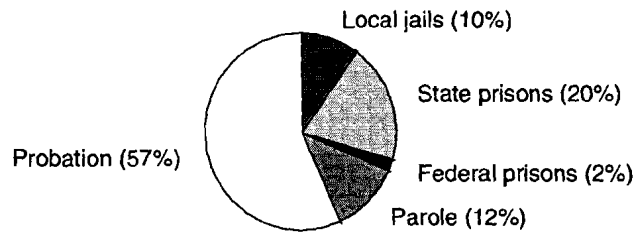


Table 34. American Indian jail inmates, by offense, 1996

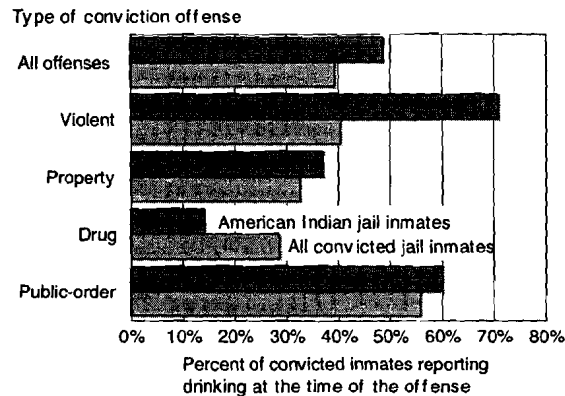
	Unconvicted jail inmates		Convicted jail inmates	
	All races	American Indians	All races	American Indians
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Violent	36.7%	26.6%	21.7%	21.9%
Homicide	6.6	2.7	1.5	0.2
Sexual assault	3.8	--	3.0	7.1
Robbery	8.8	2.2	5.5	7.9
Assault	15.4	15.7	10.0	10.1
Other violent	2.1	5.9	1.7	1.6
Property	25.6%	27.4%	28.6%	27.0%
Burglary	7.7	11.5	8.0	8.1
Larceny	5.6	2.3	9.5	6.2
Motor vehicle theft	3.3	7.3	2.3	4.7
Other property	9.0	6.3	8.8	7.9
Drugs	20.2%	6.5%	23.7%	15.8%
Public-order	17.4%	39.5%	25.6%	35.3%
Weapons	2.2	8.2	2.4	0.7
DWI	3.6	13.8	9.6	13.1
Other public-order	11.6	17.5	13.6	21.5
Number	165,733	4,241	314,867	9,824

--Too small to estimate.

American Indians comprised just over 1% of the offenders on probation or parole or in State or Federal prisons but an estimated 2.9% of persons in local jails nationwide. American Indians accounted for 2.5% of those detained in local jails who had not been convicted of crimes and 3% of the convicted offenders in jail serving shorter sentences or awaiting transfer to other institutions.

Compared to jail inmates of all races, when the statuses of conviction are combined, American Indians were less likely to have been jailed for a violent or drug offense (table 34). However, consistent with their higher arrest rates for driving under the influence of alcohol, a substantial percentage of American Indians reported that they were in jail charged with or convicted of an offense involving driving while intoxicated (DWI). American Indians accounted for an estimated 10% of unconvicted jail inmates charged with DWI and just over 4% of convicted DWI offenders in local jails.

About half of convicted American Indian inmates in local jails had been consuming alcoholic beverages at the time of the offense for which they had been convicted. An estimated 7 in 10 American Indians in local jails convicted of a violent crime had been drinking when they committed the offense.



Blood alcohol concentration calculated from inmates' reports of drinking at the time of their offense

	Jail	Prison
All races	0.20	0.27
American Indian	0.23	0.32
White	0.20	0.28
Black	0.18	0.26
Asian	0.20	0.20

Note: Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is the number of grams of alcohol per deciliter of blood.

Nearly 4 in 10 American Indian inmates held in local jails had been charged with a public-order offense — most commonly driving while intoxicated.

Sixteen percent of convicted American Indians serving time in local jails had been convicted of a drug offense.

In fiscal year 1996 U.S. attorneys investigated 1,927 suspects for offenses committed in Indian country.

Distribution of Indian country suspects investigated, by Federal court district—

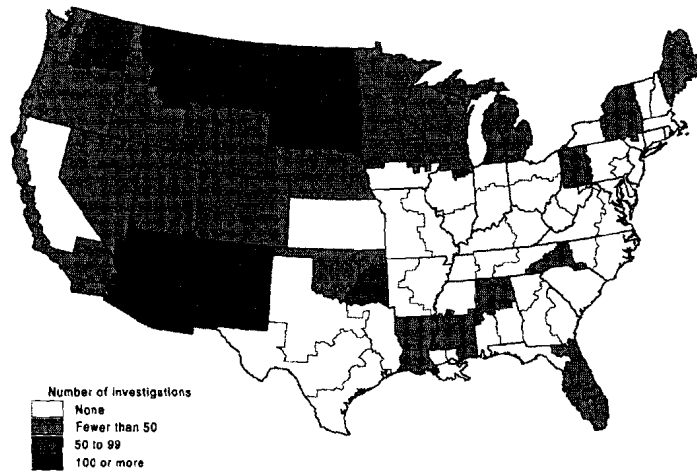


Table 35. Types of offenses charged in cases filed in U.S. district courts, 1997

Type of offense	Federal district court filings, 1997	
	All cases	American Indian cases
Total	100.0%	100.0%
Violent	6.7	47.5
Fraud	18.3	9.1
Property	5.2	12.9
Drugs	39.5	14.7
Regulatory	3.3	2.0
Other	27.0	13.8
Number	60,403	1,126

American Indians in the Federal justice system

In 1997 U.S. attorneys filed cases in Federal district court against 1,126 American Indians. Almost half of these cases involved a violent crime.

The majority of cases were filed in U.S. district courts in South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana.

American Indian youth detained

In September 1994, American Indians were 75 of the 124 juvenile delinquents confined under Federal jurisdiction — about 60% of such juveniles.

The BJS Special Report *Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System*, February 1997, NCJ 163066, describes the circumstances of youth in the Federal system.

American Indians and the death penalty

Over the period 1973-97, 6,139 persons were sentenced to death in the United States. During the same years 52 American Indians were sentenced to death, 0.8% of the total. Between 1976 and 1997 a total of 432 persons were executed, including 3 American Indians (0.7%

of those executed). This translates into a rate of execution for those sentenced to death of about 7 per 100 persons receiving a death sentence and for American Indians, about 5.8 per 100.

Among the 6,139 persons sentenced to death, 3,335 were still under a death sentence at the end of 1997—54.3% of those entering death row over the period. For American Indians, 28 of the 52 (53.8%)

	All races	American Indians
Sentenced to death, 1973-97	6,139	52
Executions, 1976-97	432	3
Percent executed	7.0%	5.8%
Removed from death row by means other than execution	2,372	21
Percent removed by other means	38.6%	40.4%
Remaining under sentence of death, 1997	3,335	28
Percent remaining, 1997	54.3%	53.8%

sentenced to death between 1973 and 1997 still remained under a death sentence at the close of 1997.

About half of all death sentences imposed upon American Indians were in North Carolina (11) and Oklahoma (14). Oklahoma (8) had the largest number of American Indians currently under a sentence to death. No Federal death sentences were imposed on American Indians during the period 1973-97.

State	Total sentenced to death 1973-97	Executed	Died from other causes	Sentence overturned or commuted	Under sentence of death 12/31/97
Alabama	1			1	
Arizona	5			1	4
California	5			1	4
Delaware	1	1			
Florida	1				1
Georgia	1				1
Idaho	1			1	
Maryland	1			1	
Montana	3			2	1
Nebraska	2			1	1
New Mexico	1			1	
North Carolina	11			7	4
Ohio	1				1
Oklahoma	14	1	1	4	8
Oregon	1				1
Tennessee	1				1
Texas	1	1			
Utah	1				1
U.S. total	52	3	1	20	28

Table 36

American Indian tribal criminal justice

The BJS Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 1996 identified 135 tribal law enforcement agencies with a total of 1,731 full-time sworn officers. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which also has law enforcement responsibility for selected tribal jurisdictions, reported 339 full-time officers authorized to make arrests and carry firearms.

In addition to law enforcement services, American Indian tribes and the BIA operate jails in tribal areas.* Data provided by BIA indicate that these facilities employed 659 persons and had an authorized capacity to house just over 2,000 adults and juveniles (table 37).

*BJS has conducted a survey of tribal confinement facilities. Analysis of survey responses will be reported in *Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 1998*, forthcoming, NCJ 173410.

Table 37. Tribal jail capacity and jail staff, by State and tribe, 1998

State	Tribe	Capacity		Staff
		Adult	Juvenile	
Alaska	Metlakatla Indian Community	8		4
Arizona	Navajo Nation	208	36	96
	Colorado River Indian Tribes	30	8	12
	Fort Mohave Indian Tribe	1	1	4
	White Mountain Apache Tribe	31	17	22
	Hopi Tribe	68	28	8
	Tohono O'odham Nation	33	16	31
	Gila River Indian Community	73	32	40
	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	70	33	18
	San Carlos Apache Tribe	38		14
	Hualapai, Havasupai, Prescott Apache, and Tonto Apache	36	8	7
	Supai Tribe	4		2
	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	1	1	6
California	Chehalis Indian Tribe	2		1
Colorado	Southern Ute Tribe	4		5
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	14	2	5
Idaho	Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	24	4	4
Michigan	Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	2	6	9
Minnesota	Boise Forte Tribe	8	1	
	Red Lake Chippewa Tribe	18	4	13
Mississippi	Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	32	8	17
Montana	Blackfeet Tribe	34	34	12
	Crow Tribe	12	2	5
	Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribe	8		5
	Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe	21	21	19
	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	10	3	3
	Chippewa Cree Tribe	22	4	3
	Confederated Tribes of Salish and Kootenai	16	4	11
Nebraska	Omaha Tribe	20	12	9

Table 37. Continued.

State	Tribe	Capacity		Staff
		Adult	Juvenile	
Nevada	Battle Mountain, Duckwater, Ely, Goshute, South Fork, Elko Band, and Wells Band	28		5
New Mexico	Jicarilla Apache Tribe	0	8	0
	Laguna Pueblo Tribe	12	4	5
	Mescalero Apache Tribe	24		7
	Taos Pueblo	8		5
	Ramah Navajo	10		5
	Isleta Pueblo	6		6
	Zuni Pueblo	22	12	13
	Navajo Nation	41	14	21
North Dakota	Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe	25	8	5
	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	42	8	8
	Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe	22	8	8
	Three Affiliated Tribes	8		6
Oklahoma	Sac and Fox Nation		69	23
Oregon	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	32	12	13
	BIA Law Enforcement Services		4	
South Dakota	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	53	10	24
	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	10	4	2
	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	14	2	4
	Oglala Sioux Tribe	52	32	31
	Rosebud Sioux Tribe	48	16	12
	Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe	16	4	5
Utah	Uintah and Ouray Tribe	24		5
Washington	Olympic Peninsula Tribe	14	4	8
	Puget Sound Tribe	7	1	7
	Kalispel and Spokane Tribe	8		4
	Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation	30	17	10
Wisconsin	Menominee Tribe	32	10	16
Wyoming	Shoshone and Arapaho Tribe	26	4	6
Total		1,462	536	649

Note: Data were supplied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. Data are for April 1998. Staff of the facilities includes juvenile and adult detention officers and dispatchers.

Sources of data on American Indians and crime

One of the challenges facing all Federal statistical agencies is that representative statistical data about American Indians are difficult to acquire and use. This is true for a number of reasons with respect to crime data:

Sampling — Most Federal surveys utilize nationally representative samples of persons or households, thus limiting the capability to describe small population subgroups in detail. (American Indians comprise under 1% of the U.S. population.) In addition, sampling procedures, relying upon selection of respondents within clustered geographical sampling units, may by chance miss those areas where concentrations of residences of small subgroups (such as American Indians) may be located. Finally, the fluidity of population movement between tribal and nontribal areas for both Indian and non-Indian populations makes it difficult to systematically describe those living in these areas. The 1990 Census revealed, for example, that nearly half the population of reservation and trust lands was non-Indian.

The design of national surveys such as the NCVS does not permit calculating separate statistics for each American Indian tribe.

Coverage of data — Statistical coverage of incidents or cases in Indian country utilizing law enforcement, judicial, or corrections data is difficult to quantify because Federal, State, and

local authorities may have overlapping jurisdiction on tribal lands. Data about some crimes are collected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Indian country while other crimes by or against American Indians are recorded by local sheriffs or police. Arrest data are profoundly limited by the lack of information on arrest coverage among tribal and BIA law enforcement agencies.

Data on trends — Crime data relying upon either samples of population or incident and case-level data from administrative records suffers from the lack of repetitive collection so that change rates and trends can be analyzed. Much data on the employment, education, and quality of life measures of American Indians are only available from periodic collections and are often of only limited value for comparisons over time. Often many years have passed since they were last conducted. Agencies do not generally use some form of aggregation or multi-year averages for examining change or for comparisons to other racial or ethnic groups.

These limitations severely circumscribe the depth and generalizability of data on American Indians and inhibit the Nation's ability to know much of the details about victims, offenders, and the consequences of crime for both. BJS has made a strong commitment toward improving this situation through the National Crime Victimization Survey, improvements planned for the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and periodic BJS surveys of offender populations.

National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is one of two statistical series maintained by the Department of Justice to learn about the extent to which crime is occurring. The NCVS, which gathers data on criminal victimization from a national sample of household respondents, provides annual estimates of crimes experienced by the public without regard to whether a law enforcement agency was called about the crime. Initiated in 1972, the NCVS was designed to complement what is known about crimes reported to local law enforcement agencies under the FBI's annual compilation known as the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

The NCVS gathers information about crime and its consequences from a nationally representative sample of U.S. residents age 12 or older about any crimes they may have experienced. For personal contact crimes the survey asks about the perpetrator. Asking the victim about his/her relationship to the offender is critical to determining whether the crime occurred between intimates.

In the latter half of the 1980's, BJS, with the Committee on Law and Justice of the American Statistical Association, sought to improve the NCVS components to enhance the measurement of crimes including rape, sexual assault, and intimate and family violence. The new questions and revised procedures were phased in from January 1992 through June 1993 in half the sampled households. Since July 1993 the redesigned methods have been used for the entire national sample.

One of the important contributions of the NCVS is that it permits multiple years of responses to the same questions to be analyzed, facilitating research on small subgroups of the population. For this study 5 years of NCVS data (1992-96) were combined, resulting in more than 1.1 million interviews, just over 7,000 of which were conducted among American Indians. This represents the largest national sample of American Indians assembled for purposes of better understanding the incidence and effects of criminal victimization. In addition, changes are being introduced to the NCVS which will permit future disaggregation of those incidents occurring on tribal lands from those occurring elsewhere.

Uniform Crime Reporting program

The UCR program of the FBI provides another opportunity to examine the issue of crime and violence among American Indians through the incident-based Supplementary Homicide Report program and the summary compilation of national arrest data. The summary-based arrest component of the UCR provides data by race of arrestees for both Part I crimes and the less serious Part II crimes.

In 1996 detailed data by race and offense were available for about 3 out of 4 arrests nationwide (about 11.1 million of the estimated 15.2 million arrests that year). American Indians are estimated to account for just under 1% of those arrested for Part I violent crimes and a slightly higher percentage of those arrested for Part I property crimes. Part II arrest offenses show that American Indians comprise larger percentages of those arrested for DUI,

vagrancy, liquor law violations, and public drunkenness.

Specific UCR coverage of those arrests by tribal or BIA law enforcement agencies is not known, and the extent to which they are included in the national estimates of arrests is not systematically described. In addition, the 1996 UCR does indicate reduced reporting of arrests by race (table 43) and that a number of jurisdictions (Kentucky, Illinois, the District of Columbia, Florida, Vermont, Kansas, and Montana) supplied either limited or no arrest data. Some of these incomplete or missing States, notably Montana, may affect the national estimates for American Indians.

National Incident-Based Reporting System

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) represents the next generation of crime data from law enforcement agencies. Rather than being restricted to a group of 8 Index crimes that the summary-based program uses, NIBRS obtains information on 57 types of crimes. The information collected on each violent crime incident includes victim-offender demographics, victim-offender relationship, time and place of occurrence, weapon use, and victim injuries. An important contribution of NIBRS is that investigating officers are asked to record information on the race of victims and offenders in the incident.

As of the end of 1997, jurisdictions certified by the FBI as capable of reporting incident-based data in the required format accounted for just over

7% of the U.S. population (about 19 million Americans) and just over 6% of all Index crimes (murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts). In those States with certified NIBRS systems, about 50% of the population is now covered by NIBRS reporting to the FBI.

BJS is currently funding preliminary studies of NIBRS data on two Indian reservations and their utility for improving our knowledge of crime with special regard for such concerns as intimate violence, family violence, and domestic violence and the role alcohol may play in these kinds of police-reported incidents. The Mille Lac (Minnesota) and Lummi (Washington) tribal law enforcement agencies will use NIBRS data as a part of a case-tracking system to follow the subsequent processing of criminal incidents brought to the attention of police.

Surveys of probationers and jail and prison inmates

BJS also conducts national surveys of persons under probation supervision and those confined in local jails and State and Federal prisons. These nationally representative surveys are the principal source of information on those serving time following a conviction: their backgrounds, their prior criminal histories, and the circumstances surrounding the offense for which they had been incarcerated. Both jail and prison surveys obtain from violent offenders details about the offender's relationship to the victim and how the crime was carried out. All surveys ask respondents to identify their race and ethnicity.

Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics

BJS maintains the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) series as the principal national source of data on the operations of police and sheriff's departments nationwide. LEMAS compiles information every 3 to 4 years from all large law enforcement agencies (at least 100 sworn personnel) and a sample of all other departments. To create the sample BJS also sponsors the Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, collecting basic information about the functions and number of personnel of all agencies in the United States.

LEMAS data are obtained on the organization and administration of law enforcement agencies, agency responsibilities, operating expenditures, job functions, weapons policies, and demographic characteristics of sworn personnel. BJS obtains similar information from campus law enforcement agencies and Federal law enforcement agencies.

LEMAS data are available on the race and ethnicity of law enforcement personnel since 1987.

National Judicial Reporting Program

The National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP) is a biennial sample survey of court records on convicted felons nationwide. Using a nationally representative sample of counties, NJRP compiles information on the sentences that felons receive in State courts and on the characteristics of convicted felons. The NJRP first

reported felony sentencing data for 1986 and has provided national estimates at 2-year intervals since that time.

In addition to the convicted felon's race and ethnicity, NJRP obtains individual-level data on the conviction offense, sentences received, case-processing, methods of conviction, and a wide variety of other defendant characteristics.

Federal Justice Statistics Program

The Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP) provides annual data on workload, activities, and case outcomes in the Federal criminal justice system. Information is reported on all aspects of case processing in the Federal justice system including the number of persons investigated, prosecuted, convicted, incarcerated, sentenced to probation, released prior to trial, handled by magistrates, sentencing outcomes, and time served. Data for this series are obtained from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Data are available by defendant race and ethnicity at each processing stage of the Federal criminal justice system. The FJSP was initiated in 1980.

Numerical tables for the graphical figures

Cover. Violent victimization rates, 1992-96

Age of victim	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons under age 12 in each group	
	All races	American Indians
All violent	50	124
Murder*	9	7
Rape/sexual assault	2	7
Robbery	6	12
Aggravated assault	11	35
Simple assault	31	70

*The average annual murder rate is for 100,000 persons, all ages, 1992-96.

Highlights. Pages v and 2. Violent victimizations, 1992-96

	Number of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older
All races	50
American Indian	124
Black	61
White	49
Asian	29

Highlights. Page v. Murder, 1992-1996

Race of victim	Number of murders per 100,000 persons
American Indian	7
Black	34
White	5
Asian	5

Highlights. Pages v and 4. Age of victim, 1992-96

Age of victim	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons in each group	
	All races	American Indians
12-17	116	171
18-24	100	232
25-34	61	145
35-44	44	124
45-54	27	43
55 or older	9	14

Highlights. Page vi. Sex of victim, 1992-96

Sex of victim	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons age 12 or more in each group	
	All races	American Indians
Male	60	153
Female	42	98

Highlights. Page vi. Offender race, 1992-96

Race of victim	Percent of violent victimizations that were interracial
American Indian	70%
Black	19
White	31
Asian	68

Highlights. Page vi. Alcohol use by the offender, 1992-96

Race of victim	Percent of victims of violence reporting offender drinking
American Indian	46%
Black	28
White	36
Asian	22

Highlights. Page vi. Weapon use by offender, 1992-96

Age of victim	Percent of violent victimizations or murders	
	All races	American Indians
Firearm in non-lethal violence	11%	13%
Handgun in lethal violence	50%	28%

Highlights. Page vii. Crimes reported to the police, 1992-96

Race of victim	Percent of violent victimizations reported to the police
American Indian	46%
Black	50
White	41
Asian	39

Highlights. Page vii. Arrests of adults and youth, 1996

Race of arrestees	Number of arrests for Part I violent crimes per 100,000 persons in each group	
	All ages	Under age 18
American Indian	291	294
Black	937	1,356
White	182	283
Asian	98	192

Highlights. Page vii. Arrests for drug and alcohol offenses, 1997

Arrest offense	Number of arrests per 100,000 persons	
	All races	American Indians
Drug	592	344
Alcohol-related	1,064	2,550

Highlights. Page viii. Under correctional supervision or control, 1997

	Total under correctional supervision or control per 100,000 adults
U.S. total	2,907
American Indian	4,193
Black	9,863
White	2,036
Asian	414

Highlights. Page viii. In State or Federal prison, 1997

	Number in prison per 100,000 adults
U.S. total	629
American Indian	870
Black	2,895
White	335
Asian	104

Page 3. Simple assault rates, 1992-96

Race of victim	Number of simple assaults per 1,000 persons age 12 or older
American Indian	70
Black	30
White	32
Asian	15

Page 5. Location of victims of violence, 1992-96

Residence of victim	Number of violent victimization per 1,000 persons age 12 or more in each group	
	All races	American Indians
Rural	37	89
Suburban	48	138
Urban	65	207

Page 6. Victim-offender relationship in violent victimizations, by race, 1992-96

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of violent victimizations	
	All races	American Indians
Intimate	10.7%	8.9%
Family	4.7	6.7
Acquaintance	33.7	38.7
Stranger	50.8	45.7

Page 8. Characteristics of intimate and family violence among American Indians, 1992-96

	Percent of violent victimizations against American Indians	
	Intimates	Family members
Interracial	75%	25%
Alcohol-involved	58	67
Victims injured	59	49

Page 10. Violent offender use of alcohol, by victim-offender relationship and race, 1992-96

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of violent victimizations in which the victims felt certain they could distinguish alcohol use by the offender	
	All races	American Indians
Intimate	64.7%	60.9%
Family	49.2	76.5
Acquaintance	36.1	40.0
Stranger	28.9	42.0

Page 19. Number of murders of American Indians, 1976-96

	Number of murders of American Indians
1976	140
1977	140
1978	123
1979	146
1980	154
1981	140
1982	167
1983	152
1984	133
1985	141
1986	176
1987	151
1988	133
1989	151
1990	150
1991	152
1992	158
1993	141
1994	133
1995	161
1996	134

Page 21. Murders by someone of a different race from the victim, by race of victim and type of murder, 1976-96

Race of murder victim	Percent of murder victims killed by someone of a different race, committed during —	
	Commission of a felony	An argument
American Indian	74%	38%
Black	8	5
White	43	9
Asian	80	27

**Page 23. Murder weapons used,
by race of victim, 1992-96**

Weapon*	Percent of murder victims	
	All races	American Indians
Handgun	50.3%	28.1%
Rifle/shotgun	11.2	17.0
Other firearm	4.5	1.6
Knife	18.5	29.1
Blunt object	5.3	8.0
Personal weapon, including hands and feet	6.1	11.3
Other types of weapons	4.1	4.9

*Excludes cases in which type of weapon is unknown.

Page 24. Arrests of adults and youth for violent crimes, by race, 1996

Race of arrestees	Number of arrests for Part I violent crimes per 100,000 persons in each group, 1996	
	All ages	Under age 18
All races	275	445
American Indian	291	294
Black	937	1,356
White	182	283
Asian	98	192

Page 29. Use of alcohol by convicted jail inmates at the time of their offense, by offense type and race, 1996

Most serious offense	Percent of convicted jail inmate reporting alcohol use at the time of their offense	
	All races	American Indians
All offenses	39.5%	48.8%
Violent	40.6	71.0
Property	32.8	37.1
Drug	28.8	14.3
Public-order	56.0	60.2

Page 30. Map of Federal district courts. Investigations by U.S. attorneys of suspects in Indian country, fiscal year 1996

U.S. district court	Number of suspects from American Indian country
Northern Alabama	2
Arizona	355
Central California	2
Northern California	2
Southern California	1
Colorado	21
Middle Florida	3
Southern Florida	1
Northern Iowa	3
Idaho	47
Northern Illinois	1
Western Louisiana	5
Maine	3
Eastern Michigan	6
Western Michigan	10
Minnesota	15
Montana	115
Western North Carolina	21
North Dakota	149
Nebraska	21
New Mexico	333
Nevada	7
Northern New York	1
Eastern Oklahoma	66
Northern Oklahoma	31
Western Oklahoma	44
Oregon	6
Western Pennsylvania	1
South Dakota	479
Utah	46
Eastern Washington	58
Western Washington	19
Eastern Wisconsin	15
Western Wisconsin	2
Wyoming	24

Source: Federal Justice Statistics Program