

Table 3.34.2006

Estimated percent distribution of reasons for reporting personal and property victimizations to police

By type of crime, United States, 2006<sup>a</sup>

| Reasons for reporting to police                             | Personal crimes    |                    |                  |                  | Property crimes |                  |                  |                     |       |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------|
|   | Total <sup>b</sup> | Crimes of violence |                  |                  | Total           | Household        |                  | Motor vehicle theft | Theft |
|   |                    | Total <sup>c</sup> | Robbery          | Assault          |                 | burglary         |                  |                     |       |
| Number of reasons for reporting victimizations <sup>d</sup> | 2,722,640          | 2,597,790          | 448,550          | 2,030,960        | 9,362,880       | 2,669,050        | 983,250          | 5,710,580           |       |
| Total   | 100%               | 100%               | 100%             | 100%             | 100%            | 100%             | 100%             | 100%                |       |
| Stop or prevent this incident                               | 23.8               | 24.4               | 8.6 <sup>e</sup> | 28.5             | 8.8             | 11.3             | 5.3              | 8.3                 |       |
| Needed help due to injury                                   | 3.0                | 2.8                | 1.6 <sup>e</sup> | 2.9              | 0.4             | 0.1 <sup>e</sup> | 0.0 <sup>e</sup> | 0.6 <sup>e</sup>    |       |
| To recover property   | 4.3                | 3.0                | 15.2             | 0.3 <sup>e</sup> | 23.1            | 18.0             | 33.5             | 23.6                |       |
| To collect insurance  | 0.6 <sup>e</sup>   | 0.7 <sup>e</sup>   | 1.5 <sup>e</sup> | 0.5 <sup>e</sup> | 3.9             | 3.0              | 6.2              | 4.0                 |       |
| To prevent further crimes by offender against victim        | 20.9               | 21.4               | 20.0             | 21.9             | 9.0             | 12.3             | 5.4              | 8.0                 |       |
| To prevent crime by offender against anyone                 | 8.5                | 8.8                | 13.2             | 8.2              | 6.9             | 7.9              | 6.8              | 6.5                 |       |
| To punish offender  | 6.5                | 6.8                | 5.9 <sup>e</sup> | 6.6              | 4.9             | 5.5              | 5.0              | 4.5                 |       |
| To catch or find offender                                   | 5.6                | 5.4                | 9.3              | 4.2              | 7.2             | 8.6              | 6.7              | 6.6                 |       |
| To improve police surveillance                              | 3.2                | 2.9                | 3.3 <sup>e</sup> | 2.7              | 7.5             | 9.3              | 5.3              | 7.1                 |       |
| Duty to notify police                                       | 5.2                | 5.2                | 7.4 <sup>e</sup> | 4.8              | 6.9             | 6.8              | 4.9              | 7.3                 |       |
| Because it was a crime                                      | 13.7               | 13.6               | 11.1             | 14.2             | 19.0            | 15.2             | 19.1             | 20.7                |       |
| Some other reason   | 3.4                | 3.6                | 2.1 <sup>e</sup> | 3.9              | 1.8             | 1.5              | 0.9 <sup>e</sup> | 2.1                 |       |
| Not available   | 1.4                | 1.5                | 0.9              | 1.4              | 0.6             | 0.5              | 0.8              | 0.7                 |       |

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is conducted annually for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates are based on data derived from a continuous survey of a representative sample of housing units in the United States. For the 2006 survey, approximately 135,300 residents in 76,000 housing units were interviewed. Response rates were 91% of eligible housing units and 86% of eligible individuals in interviewed households. In 2006, the total U.S. population age 12 and older was 247,233,080. The total number of households in the United States in 2006 was 117,858,380. The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

Users should be aware that due to changes in methodology implemented for the 2006 survey, these national level estimates are not comparable to NCVS estimates from previous years. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 8](#).

<sup>a</sup>Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

<sup>b</sup>Includes crimes of violence and purse snatching/pocket picking not listed separately.

<sup>c</sup>Includes rape and sexual assault not listed separately.

<sup>d</sup>Some respondents may have cited more than one reason for reporting victimizations to the police.

<sup>e</sup>Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006 Statistical Tables*, NCJ 223436, Table 101 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> [Sept. 17, 2008]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.