

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t3352007.pdf

Table 3.35.2007

Estimated percent distribution of reasons for not reporting personal and property victimizations to police

By type of crime, United States, 2007^a

Reasons for not reporting to police	Personal crimes				Property crimes			
	Total ^b	Crimes of violence			Total	Household burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
		Total ^c	Robbery	Assault				
Number of reasons for not reporting victimizations ^d	3,157,450	3,083,710	266,080	2,641,780	12,893,430	1,838,880	180,600	10,873,940
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Reported to another official	15.1	15.1	4.6 ^e	16.7	7.5	4.5	1.4 ^e	8.2
Private or personal matter	20.4	20.7	14.5	21.7	6.3	8.1	18.0 ^e	5.8
Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	17.1	17.0	23.1	17.2	25.8	22.5	28.4	26.3
Not important enough	5.5	5.5	3.0 ^e	5.7	4.1	4.5	1.5 ^e	4.1
Insurance would not cover	0.2 ^e	0.2 ^e	2.5 ^e	0.0 ^e	2.2	1.9	0.0 ^e	2.2
Not aware crime occurred until later	0.1 ^e	0.1 ^e	1.0 ^e	0.0 ^e	4.8	6.2	4.8 ^e	4.6
Unable to recover property; no ID number	0.0 ^e	0.0 ^e	0.0 ^e	0.0 ^e	5.6	4.3	5.3 ^e	5.9
Lack of proof	2.6	2.7	2.6 ^e	2.4	8.6	8.5	4.3 ^e	8.7
Police would not want to be bothered	9.0	8.5	9.8 ^e	8.4	14.8	13.2	10.0 ^e	15.2
Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	3.8	3.9	7.6 ^e	3.5	5.4	9.2	6.5 ^e	4.7
Fear of reprisal	4.8	4.8	3.6 ^e	4.2	0.6	0.8 ^e	0.7 ^e	0.5
Too inconvenient or time consuming	5.8	5.8	11.6 ^e	5.2	4.4	6.1	5.8 ^e	4.1
Other reasons	15.6	15.7	16.3	15.0	9.8	10.3	13.4 ^e	9.7

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 2007 survey, approximately 73,650 residents in 41,000 households were interviewed; each household was interviewed twice during the year. Response rates were 90% of eligible housing units and 86% of eligible individuals in interviewed households. In 2007, the total U.S. population age 12 and older was 250,344,870. The total number of households in the United States in 2007 was 119,503,530. The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

Users should note that the 2007 NCVS estimates are comparable to 2005 and previous years but not to 2006 estimates due to changes in methodology implemented for the 2006 NCVS. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 8](#).

^aDetail may not add to total because of rounding.

^bIncludes crimes of violence and purse snatching/pocket picking not listed separately.

^cIncludes rape and sexual assault not listed separately.

^dSome respondents may have cited more than one reason for not reporting victimizations to the police.

^eEstimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2007 Statistical Tables*, NCJ 227669, Table 102 [Online]. Available: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cvus07.pdf> [Mar. 18, 2010]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.