

**Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online**

http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t3352006.pdf

Table 3.35.2006

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

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

Reasons for not reporting to police	Personal crimes				Property crimes			
	Total <sup>b</sup>	Crimes of violence			Total	Household	Motor	
		Total <sup>c</sup>	Robbery	Assault		burglary	vehicle theft	Theft
Number of reasons for not reporting victimizations <sup>d</sup>	3,675,450	3,581,620	416,490	3,007,110	14,704,510	2,337,170	224,990	12,142,350
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Reported to another official	13.0	12.9	5.4 <sup>e</sup>	14.2	7.7	5.2	3.4 <sup>e</sup>	8.3
Private or personal matter	20.7	20.8	12.2	21.8	5.6	7.0	7.9 <sup>e</sup>	5.3
Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	17.3	17.3	11.2	18.5	27.4	21.4	16.3	28.7
Not important enough	6.2	6.2	1.9 <sup>e</sup>	7.1	4.6	6.2	0.0 <sup>e</sup>	4.4
Insurance would not cover	0.1 <sup>e</sup>	0.1 <sup>e</sup>	0.7 <sup>e</sup>	0.0 <sup>e</sup>	2.8	3.4	3.4 <sup>e</sup>	2.6
Not aware crime occurred until later	0.4 <sup>e</sup>	0.4 <sup>e</sup>	2.1 <sup>e</sup>	0.2 <sup>e</sup>	5.4	7.1	4.7 <sup>e</sup>	5.1
Unable to recover property; no ID number	0.3 <sup>e</sup>	0.1 <sup>e</sup>	0.0 <sup>e</sup>	0.2 <sup>e</sup>	6.1	4.8	1.0 <sup>e</sup>	6.5
Lack of proof	3.4	3.0	10.2	2.1	10.3	12.1	13.1 <sup>e</sup>	9.9
Police would not want to be bothered	6.3	6.4	11.4	5.8	10.5	10.9	3.1 <sup>e</sup>	10.5
Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	4.6	4.7	17.8	3.1	4.4	6.9	15.3 <sup>e</sup>	3.8
Fear of reprisal	7.3	7.5	5.8 <sup>e</sup>	7.3	0.6	1.0 <sup>e</sup>	1.3 <sup>e</sup>	0.5
Too inconvenient or time consuming	4.7	4.7	7.5 <sup>e</sup>	4.2	4.1	3.5	6.4 <sup>e</sup>	4.1
Other reasons	15.7	15.9	13.8	15.6	10.6	10.3	24.2	10.4

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 not 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 102 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus06.pdf> [Sept. 17, 2008]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.