

# Summary of Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2008-2010 – Statistical Tables

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The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a household survey administered annually by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to measure the frequency of crime victimization in the United States. The survey gathers information on assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, rape, and robbery. Data is analyzed further to describe crime victimization in groups including crime experienced against persons with disabilities. Questions for this survey regarding persons with disabilities were adopted from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) which measured victimization rates against persons with disabilities. In this report, disabilities were classified into six limitations: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living limitations. (Because older populations are more likely to have the limitations listed, age-adjusted rates were calculated for this report.)

In 2010, approximately 567,000 nonfatal violent crimes occurred against persons with a disability who were age 12 and older. These nonfatal violent crimes included rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault. Although there was a 25% decrease in the total number of crimes against this population from 2009, the number of rape/sexual assault has increased from 111,480 in 2009 to 161,640 in 2010. The full report can be found at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd10st.pdf>.

## Summary of 2010 Findings

- Persons with a disability are about twice as likely (28 victimizations per 1,000) to experience violent victimization than persons without disabilities (15 per 1,000)
- Rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault accounted for 50% of the victimization
- 2.4 per 1,000 experienced rape/sexual assault
- 0.5 persons with ambulatory limitations, 2.6 with cognitive limitations, and 1.1 independent living limitations per 1,000 experienced rape/sexual assault<sup>1</sup>
- 12.8 per 1,000 rapes/sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults was inflicted by an intimate partner, 10.9 by another relative, 39.5 by a well known/casual acquaintance, and 32.6 per 1,000 by a stranger.
- Approximately 60% of rape/sexual assault experienced was reported to police<sup>2</sup>

## Limitations

- The NCVS survey did not include persons living in institutions or are homeless.
- 70% of interviews were conducted by phone so persons who have certain disabilities who do not have access to assistive technology were excluded.

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<sup>1</sup> Data is based on 10 or fewer cases or variation of data may be greater than 50%

<sup>2</sup> Standard error of 15.6%

- Proxy interviews were permitted when persons with cognitive disabilities were not able to complete the surveys themselves. The proxy might not have been aware of victimization experienced by the person with the disability; therefore, potentially underestimating the rates of victimization.