

Summary of Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2013—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 by groups including persons with disabilities. In this report, disabilities were classified based on six types of limitations: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living limitations. To generate populations by disability status for 2008 through 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau calculated estimates for the BJS from the full, confidential American Community Survey (ACS) dataset. According to the ACS, about 14% of the U.S. population that are age 12 or older and lived outside of institutions in 2013 had a disability.

Comparisons between the characteristics of populations with and without disabilities are presented in Appendix table 18. In 2013, among noninstitutionalized persons with disabilities, 48% were male and 52% were female. Whites accounted for about 77% of the population with disabilities, blacks accounted for 14%, and persons of two or more races accounted for 2%. About 11% were Hispanic. About 42% of the population with disabilities was age 65 or older, compared to about 12% of the population without disabilities. The full report can be found at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0913st.pdf>.

Estimates are based on 2-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year. For example, estimates reported for 2013 represent the average estimates for 2012 and 2013. This method improves the reliability and stability of estimate comparisons over time. In 2013, persons with disabilities experienced 1.3 million violent victimizations, accounting for 21% of all violent victimizations. The nonfatal violent crimes included rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault.

Summary of findings from 2009-2013 data

- Serious violence (rape or sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault) in 2013 accounted for a greater percentage of violence against persons with disabilities (39%) than violence against persons without disabilities (29%).
- In 2013, 24% of violent crime victims with disabilities believed they were targeted due to their disability, an increase from 2009 (13%).

Summary of sexual assault findings from 2013 data

- In 2013, persons with a single disability type had a slightly lower rate of rape and sexual assault at 1 per 1,000 than those with multiple disability types, which was 3 per 1,000.
- In 2013, for females with disabilities, the rate of violence was 35 per 1,000 compared to 12 per 1,000 for females without disabilities.
- In 2013, persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rate of violent victimization among all disability types measured at 67 per 1,000. This was similar to previous years.

Limitations

- The NCVS survey did not include persons with disabilities who live in institutions (1,248,000 individuals) or individuals with disabilities who are homeless.
- 62% of interviews were conducted by telephone. As a result, persons who experienced limited verbal communication and who did not have access to telephone assistive technology were excluded from the survey. Proxy interviews (a person who is interviewed as a representative of the patient/participant) were not administered to a large number of these populations.