

VOLUME I
1996 PENNSYLVANIA CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY
EXECUTIVE REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This summary presents an overview of findings from the *1996 Pennsylvania Crime Victimization Survey* conducted for The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) by the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg. Altogether, ten categories of crime were measured during the survey. These categories include:

- Personal and Household Theft
- Breaking and Entering
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Crime
- Personal Violence or Use of Weapons
- Offender Known to Victim
- Household Vandalism
- Unwanted Sexual Activity
- Other Reported Crime
- Unreported Crime

The data provided in this summary are based on a telephone survey of 3,096 Pennsylvanians age 18 or older residing in 2,554 Pennsylvania households and reporting 804 crime victimizations. Interviews conducted between August 1996 and January 1997 were based on instrumentation used by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics in the conduct of the National Crime Victimization Survey. These questionnaires known as NCVS1 and NCVS2 were adapted slightly to facilitate the study process. The *1996 Pennsylvania Crime Victimization Survey* replicates the questions and procedures used in the *National Crime Victimization Survey*.

The *Pennsylvania Crime Victimization Survey* is a first generation survey designed to produce baseline victimization data. Regular collection of these data promises to illuminate crime victimization in Pennsylvania as much as the National Crime Victimization Survey has in the United States. For more detailed information on evaluation of comparable studies, survey instrumentation, methodological notes and marginal frequencies, please see VOLUME II—Technical Compendium.

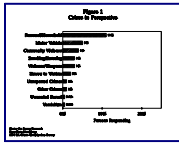
Crime in Perspective

In 1996 Pennsylvania residents age 18 or older experienced approximately ($\pm 25\% \times 9,199,592$) = $\pm 2,300,000$ crimes. This is equivalent to 250 victimizations per 1000 persons age 18 or older. Personal and household theft is the single most frequently reported crime accounting for 1 of every 2 crimes (50%). All together three categories of crime—personal and household theft, motor vehicle theft, and neighborhood/workplace/community crime accounts for 75% of all crimes (Table 1).

Table 1		All Crimes			
All Categories of Crime					
		Percent of All Crime	Percent Stranger	Percent In/Near Home	Percent Occurred 6 p.m. - 6 a.m.
Respondents Reporting					
Personal and Household Theft	50	28	59	42	11
Breaking and Entering	5	25	91	57	3
Motor Vehicle Theft		14	50	56	60
Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Violence	11 31	25	34	4	
Personal Violence or Use of Weapons	9	46	43	52	3
Offender Known to Victim	5	0	61	33	2
Unwanted Sexual Activity	1	0	57	86	0.5
Other Reported Crime		2	36	61	41
Unreported Crime		2	50	44	42
Household Vandalism	1 100	67	100	0.5	
Total Crime	100				

Another way to characterize overall crime in Pennsylvania is in terms of the proportion of people who experience various kinds of crime. About 1 of 9 people (11%) report

personal and household crimes, while about 1 in 20 (5%) report motor vehicle theft and about 1 in 25 (4%) report crimes of neighborhood/workplace/community crime.



At the other end of the scale, only about 1 in 200 report household vandalism(0.5%) or unwanted sexual activity (0.5%) (Figure 1).

Personal and Household Theft

One in every nine Pennsylvanians (11%) report the category of personal and household theft. This crime alone accounts for half of all crime victimizations in Pennsylvania (50%). It is a category of crime that rises sharply with increasing family income. For example, only about 1 in 12 of the crimes in this category (8%) are reported by people with family income below \$15,000 while almost 1 in 3 of the crimes in this category (32%) are reported by people with family income of \$50,000 and above (Table 2).

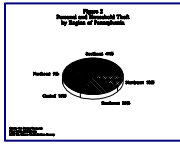
Urban areas account for almost 6 of every 10 personal and household theft crimes (59%). Similarly, women report almost 6 of every 10 household crime victimizations (59%).

Table 2 Personal and Household Theft

Personal and Household Theft Reported by 11 Percent of All Respondents (N=3,096)

<u>Characteristics of Individuals</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	41
Female	59
18 - 24 Years Old	16
25 - 34 Years Old	22
35 - 44 Years Old	26
45 - 54 Years Old	19
55 - 64 Years Old	7
65 and Over	8
Under \$7,500	4
\$7,500 - \$14,999	4
\$15,000 - \$24,999	6
\$25,000 - \$34,999	9
\$35,000 - \$49,999	13
\$50,000 and Over	32
White	83
Black	10
Other	3
Urban	59
Rural	38
Southeast Pennsylvania	44
Northeast Pennsylvania	9
Central Pennsylvania	16
Northwest Pennsylvania	10
Southwest Pennsylvania	22
Non-High School Graduate	7
High School Graduate	34
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	31
Four-Year College Graduate	18
Post-Graduate School	11

Regional variations also exist for these crimes. Two of every three personal and household theft crimes occur either in southeast Pennsylvania (44%) or southwest



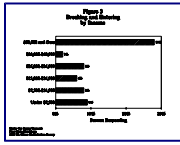
Pennsylvania (22%) (Figure 2).

Breaking and Entering

Breaking and entering crime victimizations are reported by about 1 in 30 Pennsylvania households (3%). As a crime category it accounts for about 1 in 20 of all crime victimizations (5%). Urban and rural areas are about equally likely to report breaking and entering crimes, but southwest Pennsylvania (23%) and southeast Pennsylvania (36%) account for about 6 of every 10 breaking and entering crimes (Table 3). The least likely age group to report these crimes is people 65 years or older (6%), while 25-34 year olds (30%) are the most likely age group to be victims of breaking and entering.

Table 3 Breaking and Entering	
Breaking and Entering Reported by 3 Percent of All Households (N=2,554)	
<u>Characteristics of Household</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	34
Female	66
18 - 24 Years Old	13
25 - 34 Years Old	30
35 - 44 Years Old	25
45 - 54 Years Old	9
55 - 64 Years Old	13
65 and Over	6
Under \$7,500	9
\$7,500 - \$14,999	8
\$15,000 - \$24,999	6
\$25,000 - \$34,999	8
\$35,000 - \$49,999	2
\$50,000 and Over	28
White	79
Black	8
Other	2
Urban	49
Rural	45
Southeast Pennsylvania	36
Northeast Pennsylvania	15
Central Pennsylvania	15
Northwest Pennsylvania	11
Southwest Pennsylvania	23
Non-High School Graduate	9
High School Graduate	36
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	23
Four-Year College Graduate	19
Post-Graduate School	13

High income groups are disproportionately victimized by this category of crime. For example, about 1 in 12 households with incomes of \$15,000 report this crime, but more than 1 in 4 households with incomes of \$50,000 and more incomes (28%) are victims of



breaking and entering (Figure 3).

Motor Vehicle Theft

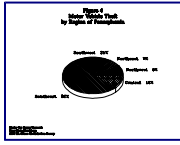
Motor vehicle theft victimizations are reported by about 1 in 20 Pennsylvania households. This category of crime accounts for 1 in every 7 victimizations in Pennsylvania (14%). Urban areas account for almost 6 of 10 (58%) motor vehicle theft crimes (Table 4). Age group 35-44 is most likely to report motor vehicle crimes (32%) while age 65 and over is least likely to report this crime (5%). People with family income of \$50,000 and above report the highest proportion of motor vehicle theft (30%) while people under \$15,000 report only about one tenth that rate.

Table 4 Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor Vehicle Theft Reported by 5 Percent of All Households (N=2,554)

<u>Characteristics of Household</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	36
Female	64
18 - 24 Years Old	12
25 - 34 Years Old	24
35 - 44 Years Old	32
45 - 54 Years Old	15
55 - 64 Years Old	10
65 and Over	5
Under \$7,500	1
\$7,500 - \$14,999	3
\$15,000 - \$24,999	8
\$25,000 - \$34,999	15
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11
\$50,000 and Over	30
White	80
Black	13
Other	2
Urban	58
Rural	38
Southeast Pennsylvania	53
Northeast Pennsylvania	7
Central Pennsylvania	12
Northwest Pennsylvania	9
Southwest Pennsylvania	21
Non-High School Graduate	7
High School Graduate	39
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	27
Four-Year College Graduate	14
Post-Graduate School	12

Regions of Pennsylvania report sharply different victimization rates for motor vehicle theft. Southeast Pennsylvania accounts for more than half of these crimes (53%), while southwest Pennsylvania accounts for one in five (21%) of them (Figure 4). Together, southeast Pennsylvania and southwest Pennsylvania report almost 3 of every 4 motor



vehicle theft victimizations (74%).

Neighborhood\Workplace\ Community Crime

About 1 in every 25 Pennsylvanians age 18 or over report this category of victimization (4%). As a category, Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Crime accounts for 1 of every 9 victimizations in Pennsylvania (11%). Rural areas (52%) are somewhat more likely to report this crime than urban areas (44%) and women (57%) are more likely than men (43%) to report it (Table 5).

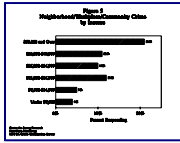
Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Crime is also related to age and income. In general, younger Pennsylvanians are considerably more likely than older Pennsylvanians to experience victimizations. For example, people age 35-44 are four times as likely (24%) to report Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Crime as people 55-64 years old (5%) or 65 and older (7%).

Table 5 Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Crime

Neighborhood/Workplace/Community Crime Reported by 4 Percent of All Respondents (N=3,096)

Characteristics of Individuals	%
Male	43
Female	57
18 - 24 Years Old	20
25 - 34 Years Old	23
35 - 44 Years Old	24
45 - 54 Years Old	18
55 - 64 Years Old	5
65 and Over	7
Under \$7,500	4
\$7,500 - \$14,999	5
\$15,000 - \$24,999	12
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11
\$50,000 and Over	21
White	88
Black	6
Other	3
Urban	44
Rural	52
Southeast Pennsylvania	36
Northeast Pennsylvania	7
Central Pennsylvania	21
Northwest Pennsylvania	7
Southwest Pennsylvania	30
Non-High School Graduate	7
High School Graduate	40
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	29
Four-Year College Graduate	12
Post-Graduate School	11

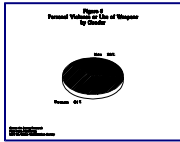
Income is also related to this category of crime with victimization rising as income increases. People with lowest incomes (under \$7,500) are least likely to report this crime (4%), while highest income groups (\$50,000 and over) are most likely to report



victimizations (21%) (Figure 5).

Personal Violence or Use of Weapons

Personal violence or use of weapons victimizations are reported by about 1 in 30 Pennsylvanians age 18 or older (3%). As a category, these crimes make up about 1 in 11 of all crime victimizations (9%). Women (61%) are considerably more likely than men (39%) to report this category of victimization (Figure 6).



Older Pennsylvanians are least likely to report this crime while younger Pennsylvanians frequently report it. For example, about 1 in 30 people age 55-64 report victimizations (3%) but more than 1 in 4 people 25-35 report personal violence or use of weapons crimes (28%) (Table 6).

<u>Characteristics of Individuals</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	39
Female	61
18 - 24 Years Old	22
25 - 34 Years Old	28
35 - 44 Years Old	21
45 - 54 Years Old	21
55 - 64 Years Old	3
65 and Over	2
Under \$7,500	5
\$7,500 - \$14,999	6
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7
\$25,000 - \$34,999	15
\$35,000 - \$49,999	12
\$50,000 and Over	25
White	84
Black	9
Other	3
Urban	51
Rural	47
Southeast Pennsylvania	40
Northeast Pennsylvania	9
Central Pennsylvania	12
Northwest Pennsylvania	9
Southwest Pennsylvania	30
Non-High School Graduate	9
High School Graduate	30
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	32
Four-Year College Graduate	16
Post-Graduate School	13

Urban areas (51%) are about as likely as rural areas (47%) to report victimizations. However, southeast Pennsylvania (40%) and southwest Pennsylvania (30%) alone account for 7 of every 10 of these crimes.

Offender Known to Victim

Offender Known to Victim crimes are reported by about 1 in 50 Pennsylvanians age 18 or older. As a category these crimes account for about 5% of all crime victimizations in Pennsylvania. Women (71%) are more than twice as likely as men (29%) to report this category (Table 7). Older Pennsylvanians however, are less likely to report this category than younger Pennsylvanians. For example, people age 35-44 (26%) are three times as likely to report this victimization as 55-65 year olds (9%) and 13 times as likely then 65 and over (2%).

Table 7 Offender Known to Victim

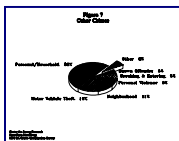
Offender Known to Victim Reported by 2 percent of All Respondents (N=3,096)

<u>Characteristics of Individuals</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	29
Female	71
18 - 24 Years Old	20
25 - 34 Years Old	18
35 - 44 Years Old	26
45 - 54 Years Old	22
55 - 64 Years Old	9
65 and Over	2
Under \$7,500	4
\$7,500 - \$14,999	7
\$15,000 - \$24,999	18
\$25,000 - \$34,999	15
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11
\$50,000 and Over	16
White	78
Black	18
Other	2
Urban	58
Rural	42
Southeast Pennsylvania	38
Northeast Pennsylvania	4
Central Pennsylvania	16
Northwest Pennsylvania	11
Southwest Pennsylvania	31
Non-High School Graduate	11
High School Graduate	35
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	35
Four-Year College Graduate	11
Post-Graduate School	9

Other Victimizations

Source: 1996 Pennsylvania Crime Victimization Survey, Center for Survey Research, Penn State Harrisburg

Other categories of crime victimizations account for a combined total of about 6 of every 100 victimizations (Figure 7). These include: (1) Household Vandalism (1% of all crimes) and reported by about 1 in 200 people age 18 and over (Table 8), (2) Unwanted Sexual Activity (1% of all crimes) and reported by about 1 in 200 people (Table 9), (3) Other Reported Crimes (2% of all crimes) and reported by about 1 in 100 people (Table



10) and (4) Other Unreported Crimes (2% of all crimes) and reported by about 1 in 100 people (Table 11).

Table 8 Household Vandalism

Household Vandalism Reported by 0.5 Percent of All Respondents (N=2,554)

Characteristics of Household	%
Male	39
Female	62
18 - 24 Years Old	8
25 - 34 Years Old	15
35 - 44 Years Old	23
45 - 54 Years Old	39
55 - 64 Years Old	15
65 and Over	0
Under \$7,500	8
\$7,500 - \$14,999	0
\$15,000 - \$24,999	0
\$25,000 - \$34,999	23
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8
\$50,000 and Over	46
White	69
Black	15
Other	8
Urban	62
Rural	31
Southeast Pennsylvania	31
Northeast Pennsylvania	23
Central Pennsylvania	23
Northwest Pennsylvania	0
Southwest Pennsylvania	23
Non-High School Graduate	15
High School Graduate	31
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	23
Four-Year College Graduate	23
Post-Graduate School	8

Now I'd like to ask about vandalism that may have been committed during the last 6 months against YOUR household. Vandalism is the deliberate, intentional damage to or destruction of household property. Examples are breaking windows, slashing tires, and painting graffiti on walls.

In the past 6 months, has anyone intentionally damaged or destroyed property owned by you or someone else in your household?

(EXCLUDE any damage done in conjunction with incidents already mentioned.)

AND

In the vandalism just mentioned, were you (was the respondent) attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to you (the respondent) or another household member? (other than any incident(s) already mentioned)

Table 9 Unwanted Sexual Activity

Unwanted Sexual Activity Reported by 0.5 Percent of All Respondents (N=3,096)

Characteristics of Individuals	%
Male	14
Female	86
18 - 24 Years Old	43
25 - 34 Years Old	36
35 - 44 Years Old	7
45 - 54 Years Old	7
55 - 64 Years Old	0
65 and Over	0
Under \$7,500	7
\$7,500 - \$14,999	14
\$15,000 - \$24,999	14
\$25,000 - \$34,999	7
\$35,000 - \$49,999	0
\$50,000 and Over	14
White	93
Black	0
Other	0
Urban	57
Rural	43
Southeast Pennsylvania	21
Northeast Pennsylvania	14
Central Pennsylvania	14
Northwest Pennsylvania	14
Southwest Pennsylvania	36
Non-High School Graduate	0
High School Graduate	50
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	43
Four-Year College Graduate	7
Post-Graduate School	0

Involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to report. (Other than any incidents already mentioned,) have you ever been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by -

Someone you didn't know before -

A casual acquaintance -

OR

Someone you know well?

Table 10 Other Reported Crime

Other Reported Crime Reported by 1 Percent of All Respondents (N=3,096)

<u>Characteristics of Individuals</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	30
Female	70
18 - 24 Years Old	4
25 - 34 Years Old	33
35 - 44 Years Old	22
45 - 54 Years Old	26
55 - 64 Years Old	11
65 and Over	4
Under \$7,500	11
\$7,500 - \$14,999	0
\$15,000 - \$24,999	19
\$25,000 - \$34,999	15
\$35,000 - \$49,999	7
\$50,000 and Over	15
White	78
Black	15
Other	4
Urban	48
Rural	48
Southeast Pennsylvania	33
Northeast Pennsylvania	0
Central Pennsylvania	26
Northwest Pennsylvania	15
Southwest Pennsylvania	26
Non-High School Graduate	0
High School Graduate	37
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	44
Four-Year College Graduate	7
Post-Graduate School	11

Did you call the police during the last 6 months to report something (else) that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime? (other than any incidents already mentioned)

AND

Were you (was the respondent) attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to you (the respondent) or another household member?

Table 11 Unreported Crime

Unreported Crime Reported by 1 Percent of All Respondents (N=3,096)

<u>Characteristics of Individuals</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	37
Female	63
18 - 24 Years Old	15
25 - 34 Years Old	30
35 - 44 Years Old	19
45 - 54 Years Old	22
55 - 64 Years Old	4
65 and Over	7
Under \$7,500	4
\$7,500 - \$14,999	0
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7
\$25,000 - \$34,999	4
\$35,000 - \$49,999	33
\$50,000 and Over	22
White	74
Black	15
Other	4
Urban	56
Rural	41
Southeast Pennsylvania	56
Northeast Pennsylvania	7
Central Pennsylvania	15
Northwest Pennsylvania	19
Southwest Pennsylvania	4
Non-High School Graduate	11
High School Graduate	37
Some College/Two-Year/ Technical Degree	22
Four-Year College Graduate	11
Post-Graduate School	15

Did anything happen to YOU during the last 6 months which you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police? (other than any incidents already mentioned)

AND

Were you (was the respondent) attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to you (the respondent) or another household member?