

**THE 1997 IOWA ADULT CRIME
VICTIMIZATION SURVEY**

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Executive Summary

Crime is one of our most important social problems, but determining the exact size of the problem is not a straight-forward process. The most commonly used measure of crime is one based on events reported to the police, and deemed to be “founded,” meaning there is a reasonable basis to believe a criminal offense has occurred. These events are summarized in the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) that tabulate incidents from reporting agencies according to standard definitions of a core set of offenses (known as “serious crimes”). The Iowa UCR data for 1996 indicate that 173,534 serious crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies resulting in 105,739 arrests (Iowa Department of Public Safety, 1997).

An alternative measure of crime looks to the victims as the source of information. Since 1972, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) has randomly sampled U.S. residents to describe their experiences as victims of crime. This source is more comprehensive than the UCR because it includes a broader range of attempted crimes as well as completed crimes, crimes not reported to the police as well as crimes that were reported, and events that police might not have considered to be offenses as well as those that would have been. Thus, the NCVS yields significantly higher estimates of the crime problem. Unfortunately, the NCVS does not provide reliable estimates of crime victimization in Iowa, but only for the nation. By population size, Iowa is a small part of the USA, so very few Iowans are selected in even large national samples used for the NCVS.

The 1997 Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey (IACVS) was conducted to provide detailed information on crime victimization in Iowa. Its specific goals were to:

- C Estimate the rate of personal and property crime victimization in Iowa
- C Differentiate the rates of victimization by demographic characteristics of victims
- C Detail the circumstances of the victimizations.
- C Estimate the number of victims who do not report their victimization to law enforcement officials and define barriers to such reporting

- C Identify both demographics and behaviors of populations more at risk for victimization
- C Compare statewide victimization with other sources measuring crime

Methods

A random digit dialing (RDD) procedure was used to reach Iowa residents, age 18 and older. The IACVS is primarily a study of adult victimization. The adult respondents were asked about personal crimes they, personally, had experienced and property crimes that were committed against their households. While reported property crimes could have been committed against juveniles in the households, any personal crimes committed against those juveniles were completely beyond the scope of the IACVS. Hence the IACVS is primarily a study of adult victimization.

A total of 2,036 respondents across Iowa were interviewed for the IACVS. The interview consisted of two basic parts, the main crime screen and the incident reports. The main screen asked respondents to indicate whether or not they experienced any of several types of criminal victimization within the last 12 months. Respondents who were victims of crime within the past 12 months were then asked a series of follow-up questions about the details of their victimization in the corresponding incident reports. The interview for each respondent closed with questions regarding neighborhood attachment, home protection behaviors, lifestyle choices, and demographics.

The survey data were weighted on the basis of 1990 Census counts that indicated a population of 2,057,411 Iowans age 18 and older. The data were weighted by gender, age, and income for all analyses relating to personal crimes, and weighted by household income for analyses relating to property crimes.

Sources of Error

As with data from any self-report victimization study, data should be interpreted with caution due to several possible sources of error. Because of practical limitations, respondents were asked about the victimizations they have experienced in the past year. However, prior research indicates that when utilizing a one- year reference period, some crimes can be forgotten while others are placed in the wrong month or even year (Block 1984). Another potential problem has been termed “fictimization,” referring to respondents who may fabricate crimes. Levine (1976) states that respondents may feel compelled “to do something about crime” and, therefore, report crimes that did not actually occur. In addition to these potential problems, a small sample size can be a source of error. The present study includes data from 2,036 respondents, which is adequate for estimating many crimes. However, estimates for the less common types of crimes and respondents can be unreliable.

Lastly, caution should be used when comparing results from the present study to other victimization studies. Results from this study are not directly comparable to others due to the potential differences in crime coding, crime definitions, and other methodological considerations. Crime definitions for the present study are based on definitions provided by a police consultant and NCVS information. It is possible, however, an incident reported by a respondent may not have been considered a criminal victimization according to NCVS coding procedures or law enforcement regulations.

A major difference between the NCVS and the Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey (IACVS) is the age qualification for the samples used. The NCVS measures the victimization rate as the number of incidents per 1,000 persons, age 12 and older. The IACVS measures the victimization rate as the number of incidents per 1,000 adults, age 18 and older.

Another major difference between the NCVS and the IACVS is the treatment of the series victim. The NCVS excludes the victim reports if one has been victimized six or more times in a similar way in the previous six months (BJS, 1992). Rather than discounting these victims the IACVS codes

six or more similar incidents per person as six incidents.

Prevalence of Adult Crime Victimization

Consistent with other victimization research, Iowa victimization rates are higher for property crimes than for personal crimes. There were an estimated 409 incidents of property crime per 1,000 households and 239 incidents of personal crime (“violence”) per 1,000 adults in Iowa (see Table 1.1, on following page).

Expressed as rates per 1,000 adult households, there were 202 victims of property crimes including:

- C 41 victims of attempted or completed burglary
- C 151 victims of attempted or completed property theft
- C 12 victims of motor vehicle thefts or attempted thefts
- C 51 victims of vandalism.

For every 1,000 adult Iowans, there were 102 victims of violence including:

- C 24 victims of attempted or completed rape/sexual assault
- C 67 victims of other types of assault
- C 10 victims who were threatened with a weapon
- C 12 victims of purse snatching or pocket picking.

Victims of attempted/threatened violence accounted for 42.7% of the victims of all violent crime. (Attempted violent crimes included attempted rapes, attempted sexual assaults, and attempted or threatened violence--including threats with weapons).

C As Figures 1.A through 1.C illustrate, incidents of theft are the most prevalent form of victimization (40.2%).

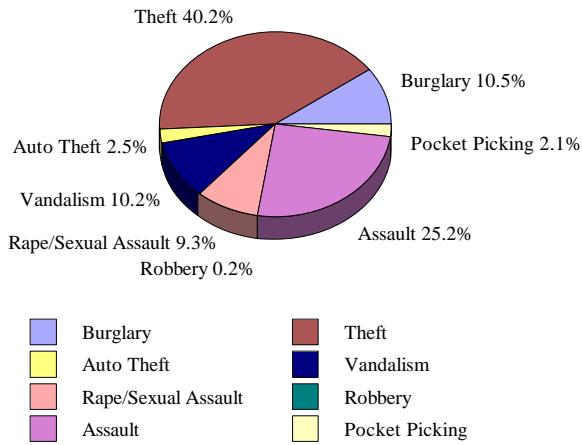
C Approximately one in four of all victimizations were assaults. Assaults comprised 68.7% of personal crimes.

C Figures 1.A and 1.C reveal that incidents of rape and sexual assault, both completed and attempted, are not rare events.

Table 1.1. Number and Rate of Victims and Incidents by Type of Crime

| Type of Crime* | Victims | | Incidents | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households** | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households** |
| All Crimes | 573 | *** | 1315 | *** |
| Property Crimes | 412 | 202.4 ± 17.5 | 833 | 409.1 ± 21.4 |
| Household burglary | 83 | 40.8 ± 8.6 | 138 | 67.8 ± 10.9 |
| Completed | 70 | 34.4 ± 7.9 | 115 | 56.5 ± 10.0 |
| Attempted forcible entry | 15 | 7.4 ± 3.7 | 23 | 11.3 ± 4.6 |
| Theft | 307 | 150.8 ± 15.5 | 528 | 259.3 ± 9.0 |
| Completed | 294 | 144.4 ± 15.5 | 473 | 232.3 ± 8.3 |
| Attempted | 34 | 16.7 ± 5.6 | 55 | 27.0 ± 7.0 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 24 | 11.8 ± 4.7 | 33 | 16.2 ± 5.5 |
| Completed | 22 | 10.8 ± 4.5 | 31 | 15.2 ± 5.3 |
| Attempted | 2 | 0.1 ± 1.4 | 2 | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Vandalism | 104 | 51.1 ± 9.6 | 134 | 65.8 ± 10.8 |
| Total Weighted Households | 2036 | | | |
| | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Adults** | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Adults** |
| Personal Crimes ("violence") | 207 | 102.5 ± 13.2 | 482 | 238.6 ± 18.6 |
| Crimes of violence | 206 | 102.0 ± 13.2 | 455 | 225.2 ± 18.2 |
| Completed violence | 168 | 83.2 ± 2.0 | 420 | 207.9 ± 17.7 |
| Attempted violence | 23 | 11.4 ± 0.3 | 35 | 17.3 ± 5.7 |
| Rape/Sexual assault | 48 | 23.8 ± 0.6 | 122 | 60.4 ± 10.4 |
| Rape/attempted rape | 30 | 14.9 ± 0.3 | 73 | 36.1 ± 8.1 |
| Sexual Assault | 25 | 12.4 ± 4.8 | 49 | 24.3 ± 6.7 |
| Robbery | 2 | 0.9 ± 1.3 | 2 | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Completed/property taken | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 |
| Attempted/No property taken | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 |
| Assault | 135 | 66.8 ± 11.0 | 331 | 163.9 ± 16.1 |
| Threatened with weapon | 21 | 10.3 ± 4.4 | *** | *** |
| Purse snatching/ Pocket picking | 21 | 11.9 ± 4.7 | 27 | 13.4 ± 5.0 |
| Total Weighted Persons | 2020 | | | |
| <p>* To facilitate comparison with national data, threats without weapons are not included in the computation of attempted threatened violence, crimes of violence, personal crimes, or all crimes. Likewise, vandalism is not included in the computations of property crimes or all crimes.</p> <p>** 95% confidence interval shown as ± values</p> <p>*** Not applicable</p> | | | | |

Figure 1.A
Incidents of Crime*



*Includes Attempted Crimes

Figure 1.B
Incidents of Property Crime

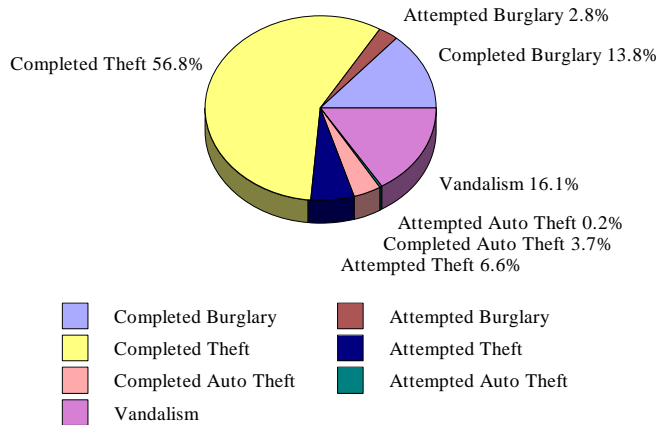
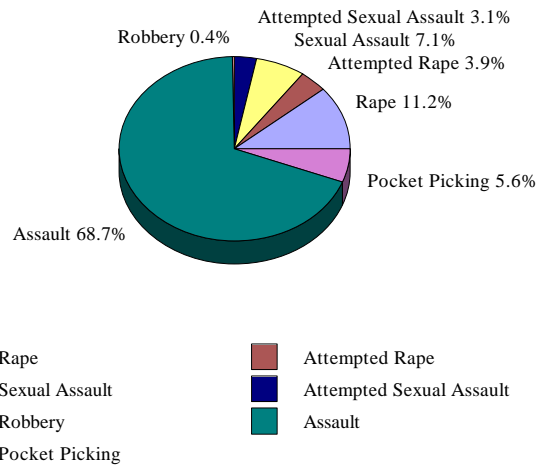


Figure 1.C
Incidents of Personal Crime



Characteristics of Victims of Property Crimes

- C Burglary was the only property crime significantly related to income level ($p < .05$). Households in the lowest two income levels were burglarized at about twice the rate of higher income households.
- C Rates for both vandalism and theft were significantly higher in urban than in rural areas ($p < .05$).
- C Households in cities with 50,000 or more inhabitants were more at risk for property crimes than households located in less densely populated areas. Interestingly, the rates for theft and burglary were higher in towns of 2,500 - 5,000 than in small cities with 5,000 - 50,000 residents ($p < .05$).
- C Households with no children had the lowest rates of property crimes. In general, single parent households were most vulnerable to property crime ($p < .05$).

Characteristics of Victims of Personal Crimes

- C The young and those who have never married were the most vulnerable to crimes of violence ($p < .05$).
- C Persons in the 18-24 age group were more likely to be victimized than any other age group. The rate of victimization decreases with age for assaults, sexual assaults, and threat ($p < .05$).
- C Although the rate of violence victimization appears to decrease with increasing education, these differences are not significant at the ($p < .05$) level.
- C Persons in the lowest income bracket are significantly more likely than any other group to be victims of assault ($p < .05$). However, income was not significantly related to sexual assault or threat.
- C Compared to married persons, those who have never married were 3.6 times more likely to be assaulted, 14.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted (women only), and 2.3 times more likely to be threatened ($p < .05$).

Table 1.2. Property Crime Victimization Rates by Demographic Characteristics of Victims

| | Rate per 1000 Households* of | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Theft | Burglary | Vandalism |
| County Type | | | |
| Urban | 189 ± 22.4 | 38 ± 10.9 | 69 ± 14.4 |
| Rural | 133 ± 22.7 | 29 ± 11.3 | 27 ± 10.8 |
| Community Type | | | |
| Farm | 127 ± 35.0 | 17 ± 13.7 | 29 ± 17.6 |
| Small town | 111 ± 31.2 | 41 ± 19.7 | 33 ± 17.8 |
| Town (2,500 to 5,000) | 200 ± 52.3 | 40 ± 25.5 | 53 ± 29.4 |
| Small city (5,000 to 50,000) | 146 ± 29.4 | 22 ± 12.1 | 56 ± 19.1 |
| City (>50,000) | 246 ± 37.5 | 53 ± 19.6 | 75 ± 23.0 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less than \$15,000 | 195 ± 33.3 | 48 ± 17.9 | 52 ± 18.6 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 158 ± 37.9 | 56 ± 24.0 | 39 ± 20.2 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 155 ± 33.7 | 25 ± 14.4 | 54 ± 21.0 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 144 ± 34.2 | 20 ± 13.6 | 55 ± 22.1 |
| \$75,000 and above | 193 ± 66.5 | 15 ± 20.4 | 75 ± 44.5 |
| Refused | 137 ± 54.5 | 20 ± 22.0 | 39 ± 30.6 |
| Household Composition | | | |
| Two parents with children at home | 194 ± 34.7 | 26 ± 14.0 | 64 ± 21.5 |
| Two parents and one or more adults | 250 ± 127.9 | 44 ± 60.2 | 114 ± 93.8 |
| One parent with children | 349 ± 77.3 | 151 ± 58.0 | 110 ± 50.7 |
| One parent with children and one or more adults | 262 ± 133.0 | 48 ± 64.4 | 48 ± 64.4 |
| Two or more adults with no children | 110 ± 24.4 | 24 ± 11.8 | 33 ± 13.9 |
| One adult and no children | 127 ± 28.0 | 20 ± 11.8 | 35 ± 15.4 |
| Something else | 353 ± 227.2 | 118 ± 153.2 | 118 ± 153.2 |
| *95% confidence interval shown as ± value | | | |

| | Assault* | Sexual Assault** | Threat* |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 72 ± 17.2 | *** | 31 ± 11.5 |
| Female | 63 ± 14.1 | 25 ± 9.1 | 28 ± 9.5 |
| Age | | | |
| 18-24 | 169 ± 41.5 | 63 ± 36.0 | 58 ± 25.8 |
| 25-34 | 75 ± 25.3 | 48 ± 27.7 | 46 ± 20.1 |
| 35-49 | 80 ± 24.3 | 24 ± 19.0 | 27 ± 14.6 |
| 50-64 | 32 ± 18.6 | 5 ± 10.4 | 26 ± 16.9 |
| 65 or older | *** | *** | *** |
| Education Level | | | |
| Some high school or less | 83 ± 28.1 | 17 ± 16.7 | 35 ± 18.6 |
| High school graduate | 65 ± 17.9 | 28 ± 15.7 | 29 ± 12.1 |
| Beyond high school | 68 ± 20.2 | 36 ± 20.0 | 25 ± 12.7 |
| 4 year college degree or more | 50 ± 24.0 | 6 ± 12.5 | 28 ± 18.2 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less than \$15,000 | 100 ± 25.7 | 36 ± 18.4 | 40 ± 16.9 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 43 ± 21.2 | 21 ± 20.3 | 34 ± 19.1 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 64 ± 22.6 | 17 ± 16.4 | 24 ± 14.2 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 49 ± 20.8 | 22 ± 21.4 | 22 ± 14.1 |
| \$75,000 or more | 51 ± 37.1 | 17 ± 32.9 | 15 ± 20.2 |
| Refused | 79 ± 43.1 | 33 ± 36.3 | 20 ± 22.4 |
| Marital Status | | | |
| Married | 38 ± 11.8 | 4 ± 5.4 | 17 ± 8.0 |
| Widowed, Separated, or Divorced | 56 ± 20.2 | 29 ± 16.9 | 22 ± 12.9 |
| Single | 136 ± 29.5 | 58 ± 28.7 | 58 ± 20.2 |
| Total Number of Weighted Victims | 135 | 29 | 59 |
| * Rates per 1000 adults | | | |
| ** Rates per 1000 women. | | | |
| *** No reliable estimates available | | | |

Of the 207 victims of violent crime, slightly over one-third (36.7%; weighted n=76) indicated that either the offender or they, personally, were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident

Figure 1.D
Presence of Alcohol in Violent Crime



Crimes Reported to Police

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Burglary | 48 | 63.8 |
| Property Thefts | 146 | 43.3 |
| Vandalism | 70 | 67.6 |
| Assault | 61 | 45.2 |
| Sexual Assault | 0 | 0 |
| Threat | 14 | 24.1 |
| Total | 283 | 49.7 |

CThose most likely to report a crime to the police were victims of vandalism and burglary.

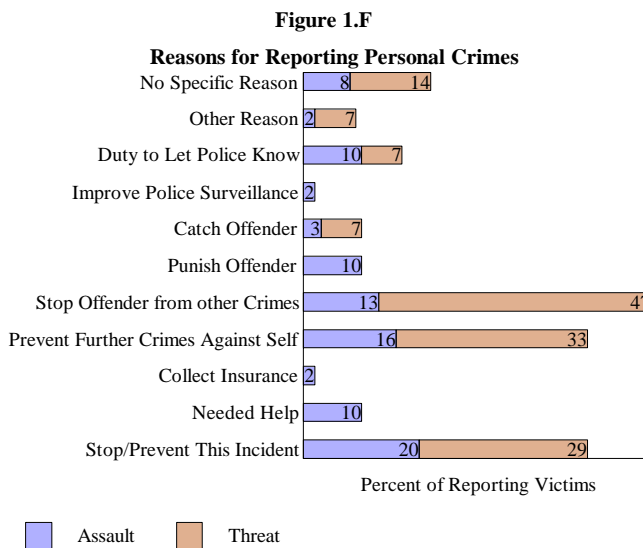
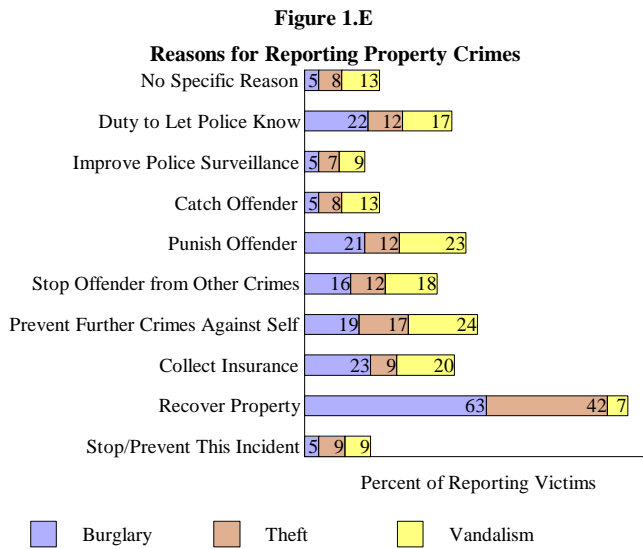
CNone of the victims of sexual assault in the present sample reported the crime to the police.

CSlightly under half of the victims (49.7%) reported at least one victimization to law enforcement officials.

Violent Crime and Alcohol

Figures 1.E and 1.F depict the self-reported reasons why victims of property and personal crimes reported an incident to the police. Victims of property crime most frequently reported their crimes to the police in order to:

- Crecover property,
- Cprevent or protect against further crimes,
- Ccollect insurance, and
- Cpunish the offender.



In comparison, victims of personal crimes were more frequently motivated to report the crimes to the police in order to:

- Cstop the offender from committing more crimes,
- Cprotect themselves from further crimes, and

Cto stop or prevent the incident as it was happening.

Crimes Not Reported to Police

CSexual assault was the crime which most frequently went unreported (100%). This is not to imply that no victims of sexual assault in Iowa reported the crime to the police in the last year. However, the finding that none of the sexual assault victims in the present sample reported an incident to the police illustrates that far more victims of sexual assault remain silent about their experience than commonly may be assumed.

CVandalism had the fewest victims who did not report an incident (32.4%).

COver seventy percent of victims did not report at least one crime to the police.

Table 1.5. Number of Victims Who Did Not Report a Crime to the Police by Type of Crime*

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Burglary | 43 | 55.0 |
| Theft | 231 | 63.3 |
| Vandalism | 49 | 32.4 |
| Assault | 85 | 63.0 |
| Sexual Assault | 29 | 100.0 |
| Threat | 44 | 74.6 |
| Total | 405 | 71.2 |

*Victims who have been victimized more than once may have reported one crime but not the other(s).

It is notable that victims of both property and personal crime most commonly report that the incident is too private or not important enough to report to the police. However, victims of property crime offer a greater variety of reasons for not reporting the crime than victims of personal crime.

CThe most common reasons for not reporting a property crime to the police were that respondents felt it was not important and/or that it was a private matter. These reasons were endorsed more by theft and burglary victims than by victims of vandalism. Victims of vandalism instead reported more often that they could not identify the offender.

COther common reasons for not reporting the crime were that the property loss was not covered

Figure 1.G

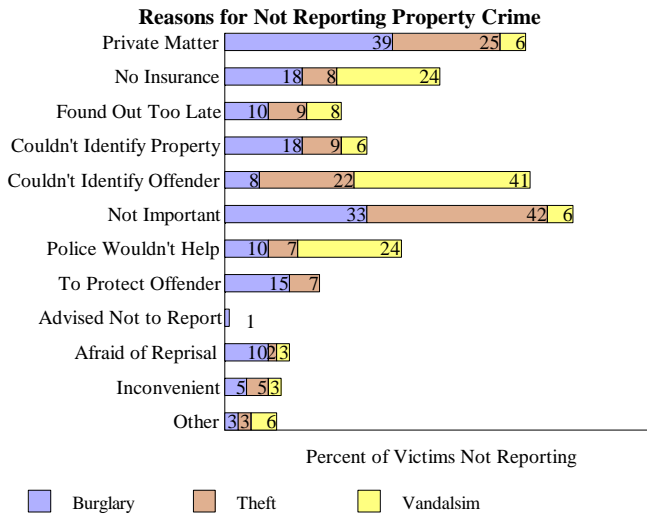
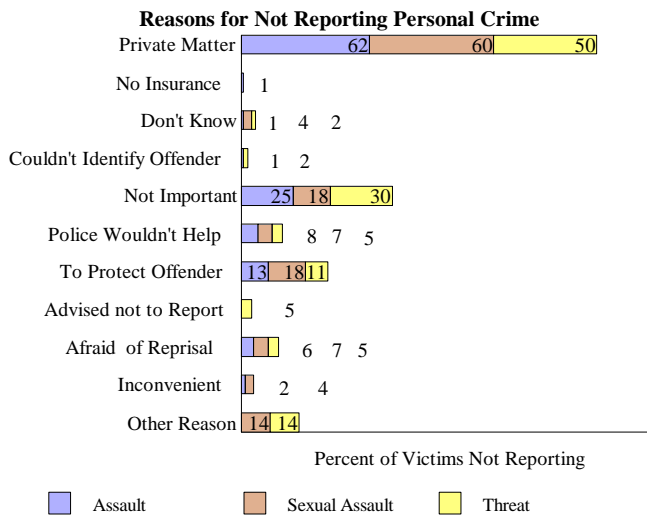


Figure 1.H



by insurance and the perception that police would not help.

Overwhelmingly, the most common reason for not reporting a personal crime was that it was considered to be a private matter.

Other common reasons were that the incident was not important enough to report, and that the victim wished to protect the offender from getting into trouble.

Victim Views on Sentencing

Figures 1.I and 1.J display the sentences that victims advocated for their offenders. Respondents could select as many sanctions as they wanted.

The sentences ranged in severity from a simple fine to more than one year in prison.

In general, victims of personal crime appeared to have more of a rehabilitative orientation than did victims of property crime, although both categories of victims commonly supported treatment and rehabilitation.

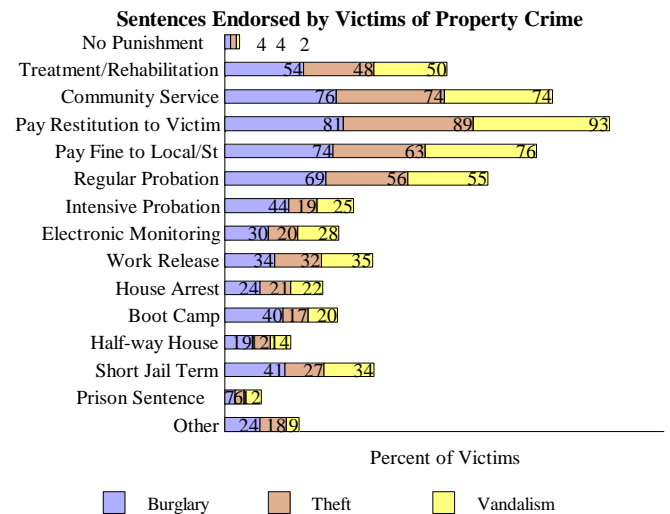
Victims of personal crime were more likely than victims of property crime to indicate that no punishment was necessary for the offender.

Victims of property crime preferred sentences that required the offender to be financially responsible for their actions. Sentences such as community service, restitution, and fines were the most commonly endorsed options among property crime victims. In contrast, victims of personal crimes most favored court-ordered treatment or rehabilitation.

Approximately the same proportion of property crime victims endorsed a short jail term as did personal crime victims. A slightly larger proportion of personal crime victims indicated that a prison sentence would be appropriate.

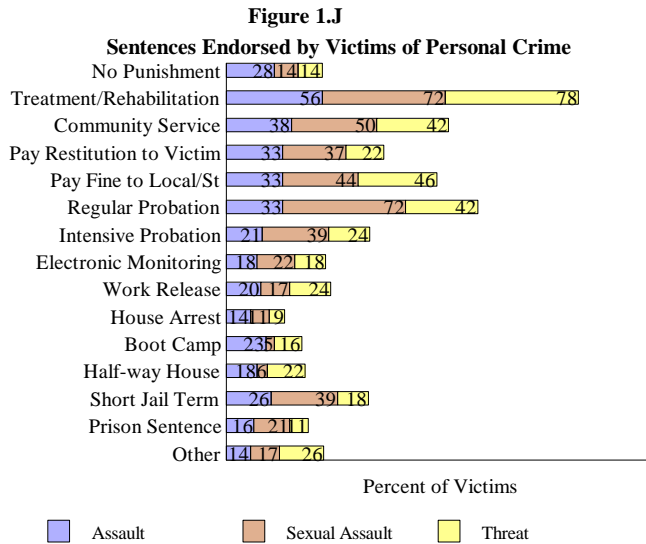
Regular probation, a traditional sentencing alternative, received strong support by victims of both property and personal crimes.

Figure 1.I



In general, slightly more victims of property crime favored the nontraditional sentencing alternatives such as intensive probation, electronic monitoring, etc. than did victims of personal crime. For both groups, nontraditional alternatives were less commonly endorsed than rehabilitation, financial

punishments, and regular probation. Non-traditional alternatives were more popular than prison by property crime victims, while victims of personal crime tended to endorse these alternatives about as much as they endorsed prison.



Victim Assistance Services: Awareness and Utilization by Victims of Assault and Sexual Assault

Assault victims were separated into those who have been assaulted once during the last 12 months, those who have been assaulted multiple times, and sexual assault victims (Table 1.6). Presumably, those who have been assaulted multiple times have a greater need for victim assistance programs than those who have only been assaulted once.

Table 1.6. Percent of Assault Victims Aware of and Utilizing Victim Assistance Services by Number of Assaults and Sexual Assault Victims

| | Percent Aware | Percent Utilized |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Single Assault | 30.0 | 5.8 |
| Multiple Assault | 48.4 | 18.8 |
| Sexual Assault | 46.4 | 3.4 |

- Less than half of the victims were aware of victim assistance services. Victims of multiple assaults and victims of sexual assault were more aware of victim assistance services than victims of a single, non-sexual assault.
- Victims of multiple assaults were most likely to utilize victim assistance services.
- Sexual assault victims were the least likely to use victim services

Table 1.7 concerns victims who knew about victim assistance services but did not seek any assistance from the services. The barriers to seeking these services are listed by the type of victimization.

Table 1.7. Percent of Assault Victims Not Seeking Assistance by Reasons for Not Seeking Assistance

| | Single Assault | Multiple Assault | Sexual Assault |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Did not feel in need | 95.0 | 66.7 | 4.9 |
| Not enough information | 5.0 | 0.0 | 7.7 |
| Not convenient | 0.0 | 5.6 | 0.0 |
| Private Matter | 0.0 | 22.2 | 30.8 |
| Other | 0.0 | 5.6 | 7.7 |

Victims who had been assaulted once tended to feel they were not in need of victim assistance services (95.0%). Fewer victims of multiple assaults expressed this sentiment (66.7%), while only 4.9% of sexual assault victims felt they were not in need of services.

Viewing the experience as a private matter was a barrier for both victims of multiple assaults (22.2%) and victims of sexual assault (30.8%). Only a small proportion of victims indicate that lack of information was a barrier to seeking treatment. However, a representative from the Iowa Crime Victim Assistance Division suggested that one barrier to seeking assistance may be the misconception that victim assistance comes only in the form of emotional assistance. Many victims are surprised by, but more willing to accept, financial assistance in the form of victim compensation and free sexual abuse examinations (Crime Victim Assistance Division, Iowa Attorney General’s Office 1997). Therefore, victims may be less informed than they believe themselves to be.

Correlates of Crime

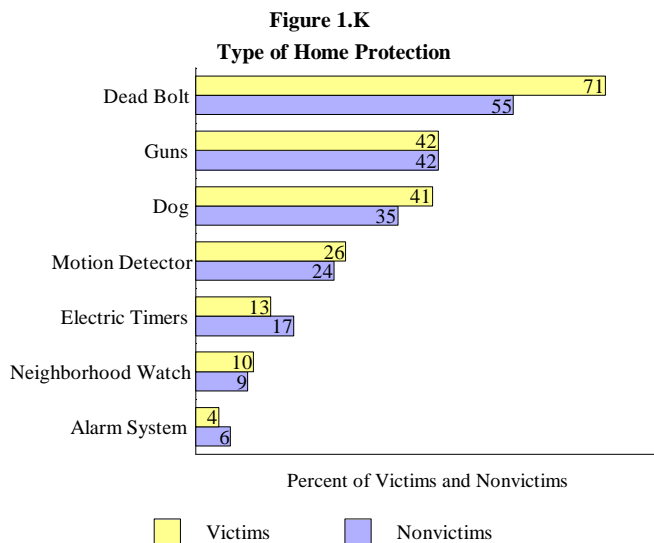
Three possible correlates of victimization (lifestyle choices, home protection, and neighborhood attachment) were assessed. Those who spent almost every evening out averaged 4.18 victimizations in the past 12 months. Iowans who spent more time at home experienced three to five times fewer incidents of victimization ($p < .05$).

Consistent with prior research, individuals who more frequently engaged in binge drinking were more vulnerable to criminal victimization. Respondents who reported having five or more drinks almost every day averaged over seven victimizations in the last 12 months. Those who engaged in binge drinking less than once a week or never, were 3-5 times less likely to be crime victims ($p < .05$).

Persons who shop almost every day were 3 times more at risk for victimization than those who limit their shopping to at least once a week ($p < .05$).

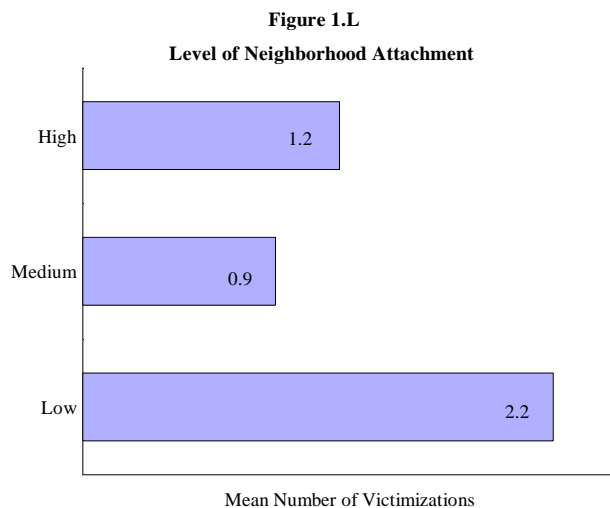
Those who reported visiting a doctor or counselor in the last year for mental health problems averaged about three times as many victimizations over this time span as those who did not ($p < .05$).

- The home protection questions revealed that proportionately, fewer victims than non-victims lived in households protected by electronic timers ($p < .05$). However, more victims than non-victims lived in households utilizing measures such as dead bolts and dogs ($p < .05$). It can not be determined if the dead bolts and dogs are being used as a response to their victimization, or whether the measures existed before but were ineffective at preventing the reported crimes.



| Table 1.8. Number and Mean Number of Victimization by Lifestyle of Victims | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| | Frequency | Mean |
| Spending the Evening Out | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 302 | 4.18 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 1057 | 0.74 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 656 | 1.27 |
| Significant differences ($p < .05$) found between Groups 1 and 2, and Groups 1 and 3 | | |
| Having 5 or more Alcoholic Drinks On One Occasion | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 14 | 7.20 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 189 | 2.01 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 1811 | 1.32 |
| Significant difference ($p < .05$) found between Groups 1 and 3 | | |
| Drug Use for Non-Medical Reason | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 6 | 5.24 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 10 | 0.94 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 1998 | 1.42 |
| Use of Public Transportation | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 42 | 0.56 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 34 | 3.17 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 1939 | 1.42 |
| Shopping | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 425 | 2.34 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 1310 | 0.82 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 277 | 2.93 |
| Significant difference ($p < .05$) found between Groups 1 and 2 | | |
| Visited Doctor Due to Physical Health Problems in the Last Year | | |
| Yes | 955 | 1.79 |
| No | 1059 | 1.11 |
| Visited Doctor/Counselor for Mental Health Problems in the Last Year | | |
| Yes | 175 | 4.04 |
| No | 1838 | 1.18 |
| Significant difference between groups | | |

C The final correlate, neighborhood attachment, was not a consistent indicator of victimization. However, respondents with low neighborhood attachment scores averaged 2.5 times the number of victimizations as those with medium attachment scores, and 1.9 times as many as those who have high attachment scores ($p < .05$).



Appropriate Sentencing

A special section of the 1997 Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Study addressed respondent views on the appropriate sentencing of hypothetical criminals. Each respondent was given two scenarios, one describing a personal crime and one describing a property crime. Two characteristics for each scenario, the age and prior record of the offender, were randomly varied. All other characteristics within the types of crime were held constant. The result was six different scenarios for robbery and six different scenarios for theft.

The respondents were provided a list of possible sentences the offender could receive if found guilty of the offense described. Respondents could select as many sanctions as they wanted. The sentences ranged in severity from a simple fine to more than one year in prison. Several “alternative” sentences to prison, such as boot camp, house arrest, half-way house, and electronic monitoring were included.

There were several strong patterns in the choices of sentences. Iowans tended to apply sentences differently to younger offenders and to offenders without a record, therein distinguishing between appropriate applications of prison sentences versus alternative sentences.

- Well over half (59.1%) of the respondents would sentence a robbery offender with a prior record to a prison term of over one year. Only about one in four respondents (26.8%) would sentence a robbery offender without a prior record to such a prison term.
- Over half of the respondents (51.9%) would sentence a 25-year-old to prison for robbery, but only about one in three (34.2%) would sentence a 14-year-old to prison for robbery.
- Over half of the respondents (51.8%) would sentence a 14-year-old offender to house arrest for theft, but only about one in three (35.6%) respondents would sentence a 25-year-old to house arrest for theft.
- Nearly three-fourths (72.4%) of respondents felt the appropriate sentence for a 25-year-old offender with a prior record of personal crimes was a prison term of over one year. However, about half felt that 14 and 16-year-old repeat offenders of personal crimes should be given a prison term of over one year, 47.1% and 55.7% respectively.

C Restitution, fines, and rehabilitation received support from at least 75% respondents regardless of offender age, prior record, or type of crime.

A conclusion that can be drawn from these findings is that prison is still considered by many Iowans to be an important part of sentencing violent and/or habitual criminals. But a majority of Iowans also believe that prison is not necessarily the best choice for juveniles and first time offenders of lesser crimes. Moreover, this suggests that there is not a universal demand to treat juvenile offenders as adults in cases of theft and robbery. This conclusion may or may not apply to a more serious violent crime (e.g. murder, rape). Nevertheless, the findings are relevant for public policy considerations.

Conclusions

Crime Rates

Results from the IACVS indicated that per every 1,000 households there were 409 incidents of property crime committed against 202 persons, and for every 1,000 adults there were 239 incidents of personal crime committed against 102 persons. When projected to the state's adult population, these numbers estimate that there were over 215,000 victims of property crime and over 209,000 victims of personal crime in the past 12 months. Calculating both property and personal crimes on a per person basis, the IACVS estimates that 28% of adult Iowans were the victim of a crime in the preceding 12 months. The IACVS victimization rates are notably higher than officially reported and recorded rates presented by the Iowa Uniform Crime Reports.

Crime is an Iowa problem that deserves our continued attention. Specifically, more in-depth examinations are needed of victim assistance service use, public opinion on sentencing, victims of multiple crimes, correlates of victimization, and victims of violent crime are warranted.

Crime Reported to the Police

Less than half of the victims in the present study reported any victimization to the police.

The finding that the majority of crimes are not brought to the attention of officials may lead to unrealistically low estimates of crime levels in Iowa.

Increased officer-community involvement may strengthen neighborhoods and promote greater crime prevention and reporting.

Victim Assistance Services

Most victims are not utilizing victim assistance services.

Victim assistance services might reach more victims by increasing awareness and marketing their services more aggressively.

Victim assistance services that emphasize discretion and sensitivity as well as the availability of financial assistance would be predicted to be utilized at higher rates than at present.

With additional funding, victim assistance services could buttress community safety by teaching crime prevention measures.

Sentencing

The predominant public view is that prison terms are not necessarily the only, or even the most appropriate, sentence in many instances. This challenges any assumption that Iowans always want greater use of prisons to combat crime.

Iowans believe sentences should be applied differently for juvenile and/or first-time offenders, as compared to adult and repeat offenders.

New efforts to develop alternatives to prison would be consistent with the bulk of public opinion.

Part 1 Introduction

Few social issues can command as much public attention as crime. Personal crime in the United States is estimated to cost \$450 billion annually in medical costs, lost wages, programs, pain, suffering, property loss and reduced quality of life (Miller, Cohen, and Wiersema, 1996). On a straight per capita basis, that would put Iowans' cost at \$5.024 billion in 1996. Iowa recorded 173,534 serious crimes (Group A) in 1996, which partially includes 43 incidents of hate crimes and 6,163 incidents of domestic violence (Iowa Department of Public Safety, 1997). For the same year there were 105,739 criminal arrests.

Yet for all the concern and statistics, we are not certain how much crime truly exists (Davis, Lurigio, and Skogan, 1997). Measuring the size of the crime problem is not a straight-forward process. There is no single definition of "crime" and each definition leads to its own set of measurements. Should crime be viewed from the point of view of the court, prosecutors, defenders, investigators, police, offenders, victims, or society? Each perspective will provide a different measure of the amount of crime.

Until approximately 25 years ago, the standard definitions of crime were based on data collected by the criminal justice agencies, especially the police. Here the focus has been on the numbers of persons who have come to the attention of the police and who have been determined to have committed a criminal offense. This forms the foundation of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) that tabulate incidents according to standard definitions of a core set of offenses.

However, in 1972 the first National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) was conducted as an additional and alternative measure of crime. The NCVS (and other similar surveys) moved the focus from offenders to victims, and from criminal justice perspectives to public perspectives. The approach gave opening to a new set of issues that influence our views of crime. The offenses that receive official attention are known to be affected by such characteristics as the use of a weapon, occurrence

of personal injury, place and time of the offense, and difficulty of apprehension and investigation (Block and Block, 1980). Some would add age, sex, and race to this list (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997; Davis, Lurigio, and Skogan, 1997). In contrast, surveys of citizens are more focused on the victims, their demographics and lifestyles, their utilization of victim services and the interaction between victim and offender. Unlike UCR tabulations, victimization surveys include a broader range of attempted crimes as well as completed crimes, and those crimes that were not reported to the police as well as those that were reported. Still omitted from these surveys are offenses which are unknown to the victim or not revealed by the victim to the interviewer.

Victimization studies are important because they supplement and enlarge our views of crime. They supplement by including some instances that other approaches have discounted and they enlarge by adding some types of offenses that are otherwise overlooked. They also are more closely reflective of the informal and unofficial definitions of crime that the public uses. Because victimization surveys are more inclusive, they yield higher counts and rates of crime. In these ways they better indicate the quality of life as it is subjectively defined by the public itself. Neither source is complete; some crimes are omitted from each source and so both provide undercounts of crime in total. Neither approach is incorrect or correct; rather they define crime differently, use different methods of measurement, and reveal different aspects of the crime problem.

The amount of crime in Iowa has largely been defined in the traditional ways. Using UCR data, we have come to form particular impressions of the number of offenders in the state. Similar to national trends, total Iowa crime, as measured by the UCR, has increased in post World War II years to a peak in the early 1980s, and then started to drift downward. Contrary to this recent general downward pattern, there has been an increase in violent crime committed by juveniles. For those with the most studious interest, these crime

statistics have been augmented with findings from the NCVS. However, the NCVS does not include enough Iowans in the sample to warrant estimations of crime in Iowa based on NCVS results.

The primary purpose of the 1997 Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey (IACVS) was to provide Iowa-specific measures of crime victimization. These findings have major implications, showing sharp differences between victimizations and reported crimes, but also informing us about the nature of victimization. An important complement to the UCR, the IACVS reveals new aspects of the overall picture of crime in Iowa.

This study was also completed with the intent that Iowans in the general public, in policy making positions, and in program delivery positions will use these findings to refine their impressions of the crime problem in Iowa by considering the perspective of the victims. This perspective will not only give insight into the seriousness of the crime problem, but also ideas for how the state can offer services that prevent crime and assist victims.

The IACVS findings are organized into the following sections: methodology of the study, crime against property, crime against persons, correlates of victimization, and public views of appropriate sentencing for offenders. Special sections comparing this study with the findings of the Iowa Uniform Crime Report and the National Crime Victimization Study are also included to give an idea of the differences in reported crime rates.

The conclusion section begins with a brief summary of major findings and an overview of policy implications that can be derived from this initial attempt at measuring victimization in Iowa. This final section examines the current focus of state and local institutions established to serve victims and makes suggestions as to how these programs might improve their services to the public.

Part 2 Methods

Sampling Plan

A random digit dialing (RDD) telephone interviewing method was used as the sampling strategy. Sampling began with a statewide list of telephone numbers. Each number was screened to determine whether it was a private residence and whether English was spoken. The adult with the most recent birthday was selected to complete the interview by telephone. The adult respondent was asked about personal crimes he/she, individually experienced and about property crimes that were committed against the household. While reported property crimes could have been committed against juveniles in the households, any personal crimes committed against those juveniles were completely beyond the scope of the IACVS. Hence the IACVS is primarily a study of adult victimization.

Instrument

The instrument utilized in the present study was largely based on the 1992 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) instrument. The questionnaire consists of two basic parts, the main crime screen and the incident reports. The main screen first asked respondents to indicate whether or not they experienced any of several types of criminal victimization within the past 12 months. Respondents who were victims of crime within the past 12 months were then asked a series of follow-up questions about the details of the victimization (including a description of the incident, behavior of the victim, characteristics of the offender, and police response/outcomes to the incident) in the corresponding incident reports. The interview for each respondent closed with questions regarding neighborhood attachment, home protection behaviors, lifestyle choices, and demographics.

Although the present study was interested in following the NCVS as closely as possible for data comparison purposes, the NCVS did not completely fit the specific needs for victimization surveying Iowa. Therefore, the IACVS instrument is a reconstructed and revised version of the NCVS. The following describe the most

significant variations:

- C Although the NCVS gathers information regarding crime that occurred in the last six months, the 1997 IACVS gathers information regarding crime that occurred in the last 12 months.
- C The lengthy crime screen questions of the NCVS, although appropriate for face-to-face interviewing, were shortened and split into multiple questions to facilitate clarity for telephone interviewing.
- C In the NCVS all respondents who report experiencing criminal victimization are questioned from a single, all encompassing crime incident report. However, in the present study in order to simplify the questioning and demonstrate sensitivity to the uniqueness of the respondent's experience with victimization, incident reporting was split into 10 specific types of reports. With this format, each respondent only answered questions appropriate to his or her specific experience with victimization.
- C The NCVS defines a series incident as any similar incident that happened six or more times within the reference period and an incident report is completed for the five most recent incidents. In contrast, the IACVS uses the term "repeat incident" to refer to a series of similar incidents that happen more than once within the reference period and involves the same offender. The IACVS asks the respondents to complete one incident report describing the "typical" experience with each different offender.
- C Unlike the NCVS, the IACVS measured respondent awareness and use of victim assistance services.
- C The IACVS also added measures of public opinion regarding sentencing for hypothetical crimes as well as actual crimes that were reported.
- C The IACVS further added measures of the respondent's drug and alcohol use, history of mental health treatment, and prior arrests and convictions.

Instrument Testing

During the development phase of the survey instrument, a series of cognitive tests and pilot tests were performed to scrutinize the syntax and clarity of the wording. Changes were made to the instrument on the basis of these tests.

Data Collection and Analysis

All data were collected by telephone between the dates of June 6, and October 2, 1997. Except during the initial days of data collection, the main part of the instrument (introductory screen, crime screen, home protection behaviors, neighborhood attachment, lifestyle choices, and demographics sections) was completed using a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) system, while the crime incident reports were collected on paper instruments.

Table 2.1 displays the final disposition of telephone calls made to the sample households. As indicated, 7,699 calls were made. Of these, approximately 44% were ineligible to participate in the study. Ineligible respondents included non-working or non-residential telephone numbers and persons who were not available for an interview during the data collection period. Eight percent refused to participate in the study, and 2.6% were not able to complete the interview either because of language problems, health, or other reasons. Eleven percent of the numbers dialed were “undetermined” as they were always busy or answered by an answering machine. The number of completed interviews was 2,036. The response rate for known eligibles was 62.3%. The number of respondents participating in the study by county were widely and representatively distributed (Figure 2.A, page 5).

| | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Completed Interviews | 2036 | 26.4 |
| Refusals | 638 | 8.3 |
| Incomplete | 591 | 8.8 |
| Undetermined | 857 | 10.0 |
| Not Able | 198 | 2.6 |
| Ineligible | 3380 | 43.9 |
| Total RDD Numbers | 7699 | 100.0 |

The data from the CATI system file and the paper

entry file were merged and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS; version 7.5) computer program. The data were weighted on the basis of 1990 Census data, which indicated a population of 2,057,411 Iowans age 18 and older. Data were weighted by gender, age, and income for all analyses relating to personal crimes, and weighted by household income for analyses relating to property crimes. A comparison of the adult household composition in the IACVS sample with Census data suggested that the IACVS sample closely approximated Iowa’s population in that regard. Table 2.2 (page 6) presents a comparison of the demographic characteristics of the respondents in this study, with and without case weights, to 1990 Census data. After weighting, the sample closely approximated the Iowa adult population in most respects.

Prior research showed that criminal victimization is sometimes concentrated among a small number of chronic victims (Farrell 1992, Ellingworth, et. al., 1995). However, the extent of this concentration is often excluded or misrepresented in victimization studies. For example, the National Crime Victimization Survey excludes the victim from reports if he or she has been victimized six or more times in a similar way in the previous six months (BJS, 1992). The British Crime Survey classifies such series of incidents as a single event (Ellingworth, 1995). Rather than discounting these victims, or recoding each series as one incident, the IACVS, recodes six or more similar incidents per person as six incidents.

The IACVS findings are presented in several ways appropriate to the specific issue being addressed. The presentation includes weighted frequencies for the sample, weighted and projected frequencies and percentages for the population, rates per 1,000 adult Iowans for personal crimes, and rates per 1,000 Iowans households for property crimes. It is critical that the reader attend closely to the specific form of reporting in each instance to clearly understand the findings.

Figure 2.A
Number of Respondents Per County

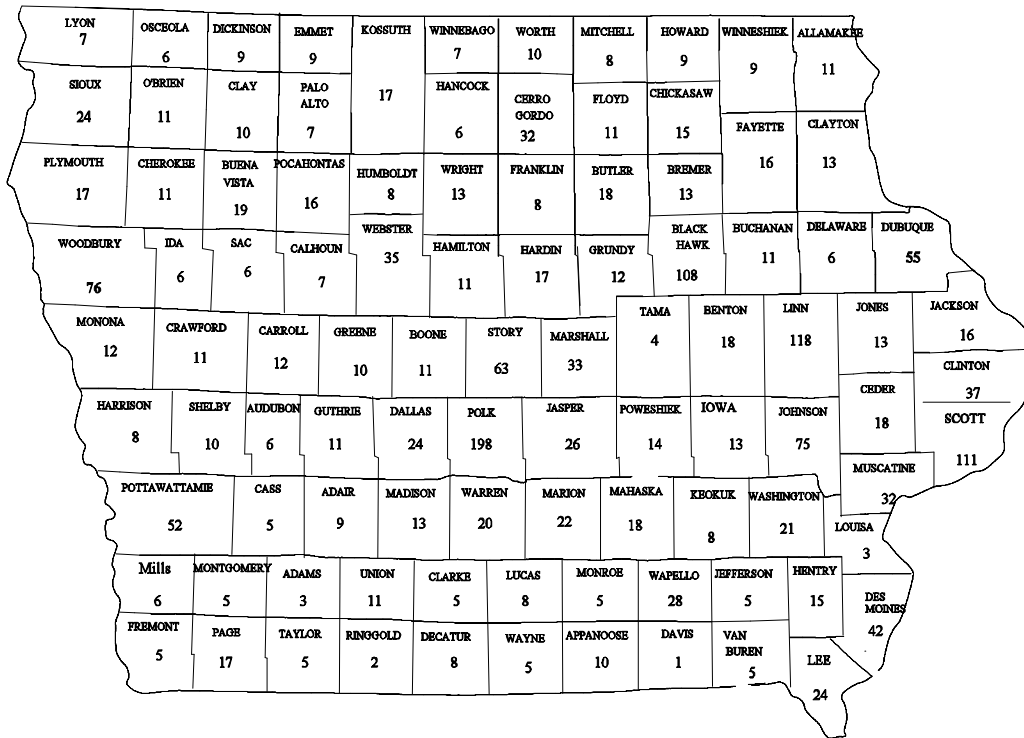


Table 2.2. Comparison of Sample Demographic Characteristics with 1990 Iowa Census of the Population Characteristics

| | 1997 Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey | | | | 1990 Iowa Census | |
|--------------------------|--|---------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Weighted Sample Frequency | Percent | Population Frequency | Percent |
| Gender by Age | | | | | | |
| Male | 805 | 39.5 | 869 | 43.0 | 976,040 | 47.5 |
| 18-24 | 81 | 4.0 | 138 | 6.8 | 141,843 | 6.9 |
| 25-34 | 130 | 6.4 | 186 | 9.2 | 213,521 | 10.4 |
| 35-49 | 283 | 13.9 | 228 | 11.3 | 270,921 | 13.2 |
| 50-64 | 153 | 7.5 | 155 | 7.7 | 180,911 | 8.8 |
| 65 and Older | 158 | 7.8 | 162 | 8.0 | 168,844 | 8.2 |
| Female | 1231 | 60.5 | 1150 | 56.9 | 1,081,371 | 52.5 |
| 18-24 | 89 | 4.4 | 174 | 8.6 | 138,770 | 6.7 |
| 25-34 | 217 | 10.7 | 229 | 11.3 | 217,470 | 10.6 |
| 35-49 | 348 | 17.1 | 253 | 12.5 | 271,694 | 13.2 |
| 50-64 | 212 | 10.4 | 188 | 9.3 | 196,432 | 9.5 |
| 65 and Older | 365 | 17.9 | 306 | 15.1 | 257,005 | 12.5 |
| Race | | | | | | |
| White | 1970 | 96.8 | 1939 | 96.0 | 2,685,099 | 96.7 |
| Black | 23 | 1.1 | 31 | 1.5 | 47,259 | 1.7 |
| Asian/Pacific | 7 | 0.3 | 11 | 0.5 | 24,325 | 0.9 |
| Native American | 5 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.2 | 7,811 | 0.3 |
| Other | 22 | 1.1 | 25 | 1.2 | 12,261 | 0.4 |
| Missing | 9 | 0.4 | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | |
| Some High School or Less | 336 | 16.5 | 372 | 18.4 | 398,904 | 19.4 |
| High School or GED | 725 | 35.6 | 733 | 36.3 | 767,097 | 37.3 |
| Beyond High School | 610 | 30.0 | 592 | 29.3 | 570,749 | 27.7 |
| 4 Year. Degree or More | 358 | 17.6 | 318 | 15.7 | 320,661 | 15.6 |
| Missing | 7 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.2 | | |
| Urban/Rural | | | | | | |
| Urban | 860 | 42.2 | 813 | 40.2 | 1,682,860 | 60.6 |
| Rural | 1176 | 57.8 | 1207 | 59.8 | 1,093,895 | 39.4 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Less than \$10,000 | 81 | 4.0 | 323 | 16.0 | 173,098 | 16.2 |
| \$10,000 - 14,999 | 112 | 5.5 | 197 | 9.8 | 111,561 | 10.4 |
| \$15,000 - 49,999 | 1407 | 69.1 | 1166 | 57.7 | 608,073 | 57.1 |
| \$50,000 - 99,999 | 376 | 18.5 | 290 | 14.4 | 150,233 | 14.1 |
| \$100,000 or more | 60 | 2.9 | 43 | 2.1 | 22,278 | 2.1 |

Part 3 Crime in Iowa

3.1 Prevalence of Adult Crime Victimization

| | All Crime |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of Victims | |
| Sample | 573 |
| Population | 580,527 |
| Rate per 1000 Adults | 284 |
| Number of Incidents | |
| Sample | 1,315 |
| Population | 921,267 |
| Ratio of Incidents to Victims | 2.3 |

C The IACVS estimates that for every 1,000 Iowan adults, 284 were the victim of a crime in the last year. When projected to the state's adult population, the Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey estimates that there were approximately 580,000 adult victims of crime in the last year.

C The IACVS respondents reported approximately 1,315 crimes within the last year. When projected to the state's adult population, there were approximately 921,000 incidents of victimization against adults in the last year.

C For every one adult victim, there were, on average, 2.3 incidents of crime.

The 1997 IACVS estimates that 202 of every 1,000 Iowa households are victims of property crimes, and 102 of every 1,000 adults were the victims of personal crimes (Table 3-2, page 8). The higher rate for property crimes than personal crimes is consistent with other victimization research and UCR findings.

C Calculating both property and personal crimes on a per person basis, the IACVS estimates that 28% of adult Iowans were the victims of a crime in the preceding 12 month period.

Expressed as rates per 1,000 households, there were 202 victims of property crimes including:

C 41 victims of attempted or completed burglary

C 151 victims of attempted or completed property theft

C 12 victims of motor vehicle thefts or attempted thefts

C 51 victims of vandalism.

For every 1,000 adult Iowans, there were 102 victims of violence including:

C 24 victims of attempted or completed rape/sexual assault

C 67 victims of assault

C 21 victims who were threatened with a weapon

C 1 victim of robbery

C 12 victims of purse snatching or pocket picking.

Victims of attempted violence accounted for 11.2% of the victims of violent crime. Attempted violent crimes included attempted rapes, and attempted sexual assaults.

As Figures 3.A through 3.C illustrate (page 9), incidents of theft were the most prevalent form of victimization. This is consistent with NCVS findings.

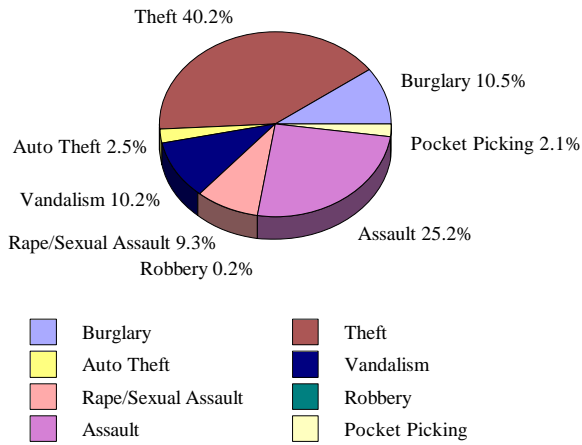
C Approximately one in four victimizations were assaults. Assaults comprise 68.7% of personal crimes.

C Figures 3.A and 3.C reveal that incidents of rape and sexual assault, both completed and attempted, were far from rare. Non-sexual assault was the second most prevalent crime, and sexual assaults were nearly as common as vandalism and burglary.

Table 3.2 Number and Rate of Victims and Incidents by Type of Crime

| | Victims | | Incidents | |
|---|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households* | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households* |
| Property Crimes** | 412 | 202.4 ± 17.5 | 833 | 409.1 ± 21.4 |
| Household burglary | 83 | 40.8 ± 8.6 | 138 | 67.8 ± 10.9 |
| Completed | 70 | 34.4 ± 7.9 | 115 | 56.5 ± 10.0 |
| Attempted forcible entry | 15 | 7.4 ± 3.7 | 23 | 11.3 ± 4.6 |
| Theft | 307 | 150.8 ± 15.5 | 528 | 259.3 ± 9.0 |
| Completed | 294 | 144.4 ± 15.5 | 473 | 232.3 ± 18.3 |
| Attempted | 34 | 16.7 ± 5.6 | 55 | 27.0 ± 7.0 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 24 | 11.8 ± 4.7 | 33 | 16.2 ± 5.5 |
| Completed | 22 | 10.8 ± 4.5 | 31 | 15.2 ± 5.3 |
| Attempted | 2 | 0.1 ± 1.4 | 2 | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Vandalism | 104 | 51.1 ± 9.6 | 134 | 65.8 ± 10.8 |
| Total Weighted Households | 2036 | | 2036 | |
| | | Rate per 1000 Adults* | | Rate per 1000 Adults* |
| Personal Crimes*** | 207 | 102.5 ± 13.2 | 482 | 238.6 ± 18.6 |
| Crimes of violence | 206 | 102.0 ± 13.2 | 455 | 225.2 ± 18.2 |
| Completed violence | 168 | 83.2 ± 12.0 | 420 | 207.9 ± 17.7 |
| Attempted violence | 23 | 11.4 ± 2.3 | 35 | 17.3 ± 5.7 |
| Rape/Sexual assault | 48 | 23.8 ± 6.6 | 122 | 60.4 ± 10.4 |
| Rape/Attempted rape | 30 | 14.9 ± 5.3 | 73 | 36.1 ± 8.1 |
| Sexual assault/Attempted Sexual Assault | 25 | 12.4 ± 4.8 | 49 | 24.3 ± 6.7 |
| Robbery | 2 | 0.9 ± 1.3 | 2 | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Completed/property taken | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 |
| Attempted/no property taken | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 1 | 0.5 ± 1.0 |
| Assault | 135 | 66.8 ± 11.0 | 331 | 163.9 ± 16.1 |
| Threatened with weapon | 21 | 10.3 ± 4.4 | **** | **** |
| Purse snatching/ pocket picking | 21 | 11.9 ± 4.7 | 27 | 13.4 ± 5.0 |
| Total weighted number of persons | 2020 | | | |
| Total weighted number of households | | | 2036 | |
| * 95% confidence interval shown as ± values ** Respondents who fall into more than one subcategory are only counted once in the total number of victims of property crime *** Respondents who fall into more than one subcategory are only counted once in the total number of victims of personal crime **** Data not available | | | | |

Figure 3.A
Incidents of Crime*



*Includes Attempted Crimes

Figure 3.B
Incidents of Property Crime

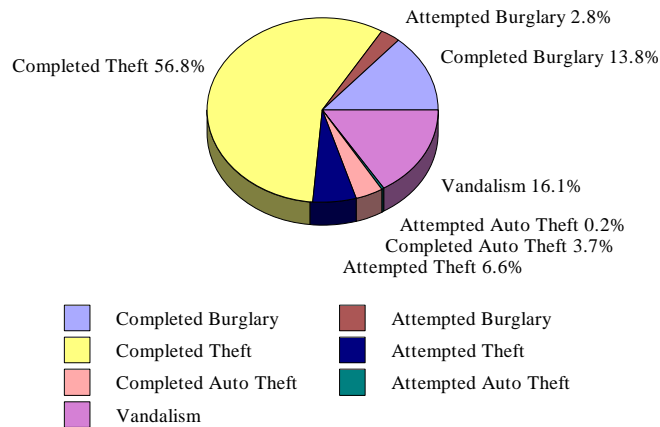
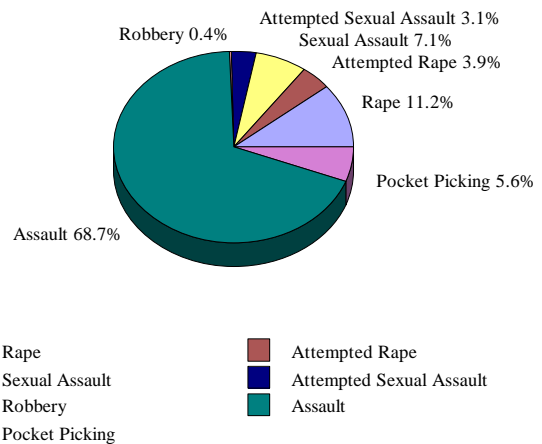


Figure 3.C
Incidents of Personal Crime



Part 4 Property Crimes

| | Victims | | Incidents | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households* | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households* |
| Property Crimes** | 412 (215,808) | 202.4 ± 17.5 | 833 (435,959) | 409.1 ± 21.4 |
| Household burglary | 83 (43,571) | 40.8 ± 8.6 | 138 (71,930) | 67.8 ± 10.9 |
| Completed | 70 (36,754) | 34.4 ± 7.9 | 115 (59,988) | 56.5 ± 10.0 |
| Attempted forcible entry | 15 (7,620) | 7.4 ± 3.7 | 23 (11,942) | 11.3 ± 4.6 |
| Household Theft | 307 (160,459) | 150.8 ± 15.5 | 528 (276,365) | 259.3 ± 9.0 |
| Completed | 294 (153,975) | 144.4 ± 15.5 | 473 (247,710) | 232.3 ± 18.3 |
| Attempted | 34 (17,987) | 16.7 ± 5.6 | 55 (28,655) | 27.0 ± 7.0 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 24 (12,482) | 11.8 ± 4.7 | 33 (17,701) | 16.2 ± 5.5 |
| Completed | 22 (11,618) | 10.8 ± 4.5 | 31 (16,404) | 15.2 ± 5.3 |
| Attempted | 2 (864) | 0.1 ± 1.4 | 2 (1,297) | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Vandalism | 104 (54,554) | 51.1 ± 9.6 | 134 (69,963) | 65.8 ± 10.8 |

Weighted n= 2036 households
 * 95% confidence interval shown as ± values
 ** Respondents who fall into more than one subcategory are only counted once as victims of property crime

4.1 Property Crime Overview

The 1997 Iowa Crime Victimization Survey estimates that over 215,000 households experienced a property crime in the last 12 months. This estimate constitutes roughly two-thirds of all the victim-reported crimes in Iowa. Of every 1,000 Iowa households, 202 households were victims of 409 property crimes.

The left side of Table 4.1.1 presents the victimization rate by number of victimized households per 1,000 households, whereas the right side of the table presents the victimization rate by number of incidents per 1,000 households. A comparison of the two rates indicates that for every victim of a property crime, there were an average of 2.02 incidents. The most common property crime was theft. An estimated 247,710 households reported that something was stolen during a theft.

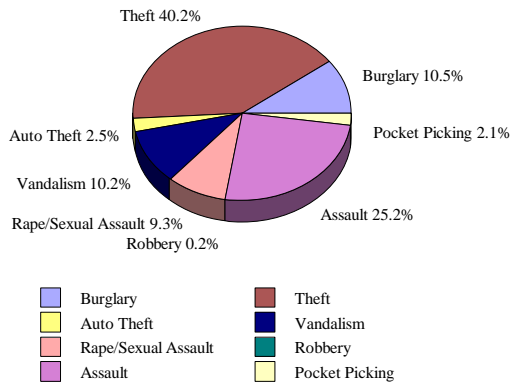
Purse snatching/pick pocketing are not included in the property crime totals here because they are commonly considered to be personal crimes. Due to the small number of victims and other methodological considerations, purse snatching/pick pockets are included with the “other thefts” in the theft section (4.2) rather than in its own chapter in the personal crimes section of this report. Therefore, in section 4.2 that follows, “total theft” includes purse snatching/pick pocketing, household, and motor vehicle thefts.

Figures 4.1.A and 4.1.B illustrate the relative prevalence of property crimes.

C Consistent with NCVS findings, incidents of theft were the most prevalent form of victimization. Approximately 2 of every 5 incidents of crime were thefts.

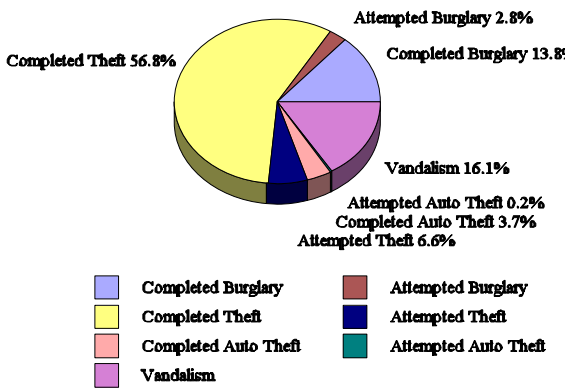
C Over half of all property crimes (56.8%) were thefts.

Figure 4.1.A
Incidents of Crime*



*Includes Attempted Crimes

Figure 4.1.B
Incidents of Property Crime



The following sections explore the details of property crimes including the demographic characteristics of the victims, the location of the incidents, the types of property damaged or destroyed, the dollar values of the property, the insurance status of the victims, the percentage of property crimes that are reported to law enforcement officials, the reasons for and against reporting the crime, and the victims' opinions of the appropriate sentences for the offenders.

4.2 Theft

Table 4.2.1. Number and Rate of Theft Victims and Incidents by Type of Theft

| Type of Theft | Victims | | Incidents | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households |
| Total completed theft | 331 | 165.5 ± 16.1 | 531 | 260.8 ± 19.1 |
| Completed motor vehicle theft | 22 (11,618) | 10.8 ± 4.5 | 31 (16,404) | 15.2 ± 5.3 |
| Attempted motor vehicle | 2 (864) | 0.1 ± 1.4 | 2 (1,297) | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Personal theft | 21 (21,714) | 11.9 ± 4.7 | 27 (26,159) | 13.4 ± 5.0 |
| Completed household thefts | 294 (153,975) | 144.4 ± 15.5 | 515 (519,231) | 232.3 ± 18.3 |
| Attempted household theft | 34 (17,987) | 16.7 ± 5.6 | 63 (64,084) | 27.0 ± 7.0 |

Thefts were by far the most common crime in the present study. Three different kinds of theft were explored in the study: motor vehicle theft, personal theft, and property thefts, defined as follows:

Motor vehicle theft: Unauthorized use of any motor vehicle (including cars vans, trucks, motorcycles, all-terrain-vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, etc.).

Personal theft: Pocket picking, purse snatching, or the act of stealing something directly out of the personal possession of the victim without excessive force, violence, or a threat of violence. The difference between personal theft and robbery is that robbery includes the use or threat of force. Personal thefts are actually personal crimes, along with assaults, sexual assaults, and threats. However, due to the methodology of the present study, personal thefts will be reported with the other thefts in the theft section.

Household thefts: Other thefts that were included in this study are any thefts from a victim's personal property by someone who was

allowed to be there (such as a friend, relative, baby-sitter, repair person, etc.). Also included are thefts from a household member's property that did not require the offender to illegally enter a building. Examples are theft of livestock, pets, produce, tools, machinery, lawn decorations, toys, etc.

C According to these definitions, of every 1,000 households: 11 had a car stolen, 12 experienced a personal theft, and 144 were the victim of some other kind of property theft in the last 12 months.

The charts in this section present a summary of the multiple responses that a victim may have given while describing several similar incidents. Respondents may fall into more than one category per chart. Therefore, percentages may exceed 100.

Characteristics of Victims

Table 4.2.2 (page 14) presents the household characteristics of theft victims.

C Perhaps due to the small number of households that experienced a motor vehicle theft or a personal theft, these crimes were not significantly correlated with household characteristics. However, household theft, and all thefts combined, were correlated with several household characteristics.

C Households in urban counties were 1.4 times more likely to experience a theft than households in rural counties ($p < .05$).

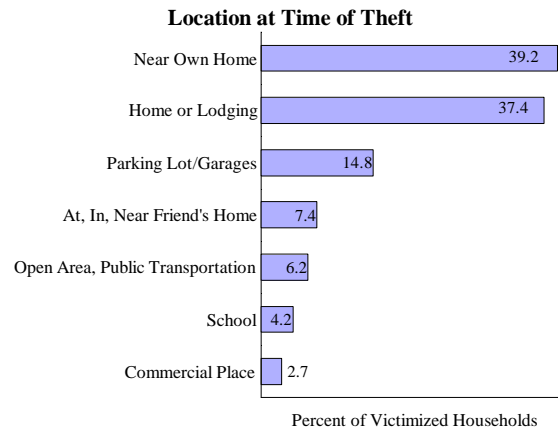
C Households with no children living at home had the lowest theft rates. Households with single parents were the most vulnerable to theft.

Location at Time of Theft

Respondents were asked where the theft against them took place (Figure 4.2.A).

C The most common locations for thefts to occur were near the victim's home (39.2%) and in the victim's home or lodging (37.4%). These results are to be expected since most of the thefts were household thefts, rather than motor vehicle or personal thefts, which would be more likely to occur in public places.

Figure 4.2.A



Property Stolen During Theft

Respondents were also asked what types of items were taken from them in the theft (Figure 4.2.B).

C The items most commonly stolen were motor vehicle parts/accessories (34.1%). This includes gasoline, oil, bicycles, and bicycle parts.

C Personal effects (including clothing, luggage, jewelry, toys, and recreation equipment) were reported stolen by 28.2% of the theft victims.

Figure 4.2.B

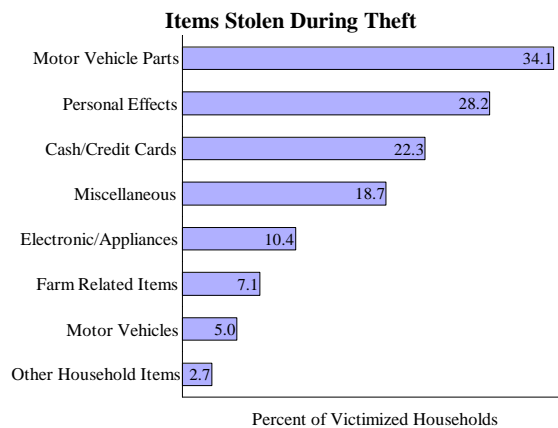


Table 4.2.2. Number and Rate of Theft Victims by Type of Theft and Demographic Characteristics of Victims

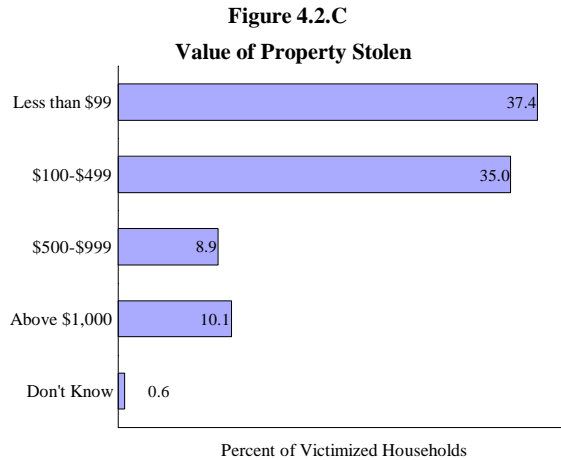
| | All Thefts | | Motor Vehicle | | Personal Theft | | Household Thefts | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households* | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households* | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households* | Sample Frequency | Rate per 1000 Households* |
| County Type | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 223 | 189 ± 22.4 | 16 | 14 ± 6.6 | 12 | 10 ± 5.7 | 196 | 166 ± 21.2 |
| Rural | 114 | 133 ± 22.7 | 7 | 8 ± 6.0 | 8 | 9 ± 6.4 | 99 | 116 ± 21.4 |
| Community Type | | | | | | | | |
| Farm | 44 | 127 ± 35.0 | 3 | 9 ± 9.8 | 2 | 6 ± 8.0 | 38 | 110 ± 32.9 |
| Small town | 43 | 111 ± 31.2 | 3 | 8 ± 8.7 | 7 | 18 ± 13.2 | 32 | 82 ± 27.3 |
| Town (2,500 to 5,000) | 45 | 200 ± 52.3 | 2 | 9 ± 12.2 | 1 | 4 ± 8.7 | 42 | 187 ± 50.9 |
| Small city (5,000 to 50,000) | 81 | 146 ± 29.4 | 7 | 13 ± 9.3 | 3 | 5 ± 6.0 | 71 | 128 ± 27.8 |
| City (>50,000) | 124 | 246 ± 37.5 | 7 | 14 ± 10.2 | 7 | 14 ± 10.2 | 111 | 219 ± 36.1 |
| Household Income | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$15,000 | 106 | 195 ± 33.3 | 6 | 11 ± 8.8 | 4 | 7 ± 7.2 | 98 | 180 ± 32.2 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 56 | 158 ± 37.9 | 5 | 14 ± 12.3 | 6 | 17 ± 13.4 | 49 | 138 ± 35.9 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 69 | 155 ± 33.7 | 4 | 9 ± 8.8 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 144 ± 32.6 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 58 | 144 ± 34.2 | 6 | 15 ± 11.8 | 6 | 15 ± 11.8 | 44 | 109 ± 30.4 |
| \$75,000 and above | 26 | 193 ± 66.5 | 1 | 7 ± 14.5 | 3 | 22 ± 24.9 | 20 | 148 ± 59.9 |
| Refused | 21 | 137 ± 54.5 | 1 | 7 ± 12.7 | 1 | 7 ± 12.7 | 20 | 130 ± 53.1 |
| Household Composition | | | | | | | | |
| Two parents with children at home | 97 | 194 ± 34.7 | 7 | 14 ± 10.3 | 6 | 12 ± 9.6 | 82 | 164 ± 32.5 |
| Two parents and one or more adults | 11 | 250 ± 127.9 | 2 | 44 ± 60.2 | 1 | 23 ± 44.0 | 10 | 227 ± 123.8 |
| One parent with children | 51 | 349 ± 77.3 | 2 | 14 ± 18.7 | 1 | 7 ± 13.4 | 47 | 322 ± 75.8 |
| One parent with children and one or more adults | 11 | 262 ± 133.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 262 ± 133.0 |
| Two or more adults with no children | 70 | 110 ± 24.4 | 10 | 16 ± 9.7 | 6 | 10 ± 7.5 | 54 | 85 ± 21.8 |
| One adult and no children | 69 | 127 ± 28.0 | 2 | 4 ± 5.1 | 6 | 11 ± 8.8 | 63 | 116 ± 26.8 |
| Something else | 6 | 353 ± 227.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 353 ± 227.2 |

Weighted n= 2036 households

* 95% confidence interval shown as ± values

Value of Property Stolen

- C The value of the stolen property was under \$100 for 37.4% of the theft victims.
- C Approximately the same percent of victims (35%) reported the property loss to be between \$100 and \$499.



Insurance Status of Theft Victims

- C Sixty-nine percent of theft victims indicated that the property loss was not covered by insurance. This finding is surprising considering that, proportionately, more victims of other property crimes in this study reported being insured for some or all of the loss of property. In fact only 26.8% of burglary victims and none of the vandalism victims indicated that the property loss/damage was not covered.

| Insured For Property Loss | Sample Frequency* | Percent |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| All | 66 | 19.6 |
| Some | 20 | 5.9 |
| None | 234 | 69.4 |

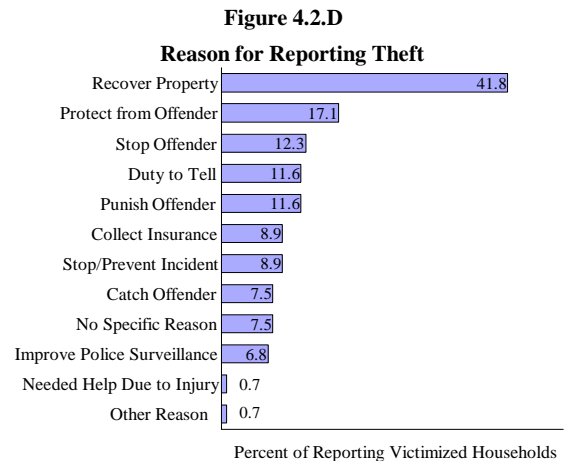
*Includes only theft victims who had property stolen

Theft Reported to Police

Forty-three percent of theft victims reported an incident to the police (weighted n=146). Figure 4.2.D presents the motivations for reporting the crime. The respondents were instructed to select as many of the listed statements as applied to them.

- C Clearly the most common reason for theft victims to report a theft was to recover the property (41.8%). In comparison, none of the other motivations were reported by more than 20% of respondents.

- C Only 11.6 % were motivated to see the offender punished, even fewer reported the crime so that the police could catch the offender (7.5%).



Theft Not Reported to Police

Of all the theft victims, 63.3% did not report at least one theft in the 12 months prior to their interview (weighted n=231). Figure 4.2.E summarizes the reasons for not reporting a theft. Respondents were read a list of possible reasons and asked to indicate all that applied to their situation.

- C The most common reason for not reporting the incident to the police was that the victims felt that the theft was not important enough (41.6%).
- C Other common reasons were that it was considered to be a private matter (25.2%) and the victim could not identify the offender (22.4%).



Victim Views on Sentencing

Table 4.2.4 displays the punishments that victims of theft felt were most appropriate for their offenders. Victims were asked to choose as many or as few sentences as they deemed appropriate from a list of 14 possibilities.

The majority of theft victims felt that the offender should be held financially responsible for their actions. Eighty-nine percent supported restitution to the victim, 74% supported community service, and 63% supported fines.

Respondents were given a variety of sentences that offered an alternative to a prison sentence. Regular probation, a traditional alternative, was endorsed by 55.6% of the theft victims. Non-traditional alternatives such as work release, house arrest, electronic monitoring, intensive probation, and boot camp received support ranging from 16.7% to 31.5%.

A short jail term was supported by 27.4% of theft victims, but far fewer supported a longer prison term (5.8%).

Table 4.2.4. Sentences for Theft Endorsed by Theft Victims

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Pay restitution to victim | 323 | 88.5 |
| Community service | 270 | 74.0 |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 230 | 63.0 |
| Regular probation | 203 | 55.6 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 176 | 48.2 |
| Placement in a work release facility | 115 | 31.5 |
| Short jail term (less than one year) | 100 | 27.4 |
| House arrest | 77 | 21.1 |
| Electronic monitoring program | 72 | 19.7 |
| Intensive probation | 68 | 18.6 |
| Boot camp | 61 | 16.7 |
| Half-way house | 45 | 12.3 |
| Prison sentence of one year or more | 21 | 5.8 |
| No punishment needed | 15 | 4.1 |
| Other | 64 | 17.5 |

* Multiple responses possible

4.3 Household Burglary

Table 4.3.1. Number and Rate of Burglarized Households

| | Victims | | Incidents | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households |
| Burglary | 70 (136,754) | 34.4 ± 7.9 | 115 (59,988) | 56.5 ± 10.0 |
| Attempted burglary | 15 (7,620) | 7.4 ± 3.7 | 23 (11,942) | 11.3 ± 4.6 |

The IACVS defined burglary as any forced or illegal entry into one's property, including a house or apartment, garage, shed, storage room, farm building, hotel room or vacation house. In accordance with Iowa laws, any forced or illegal entry was included in this definition, whether or not property was actually stolen in the course of the incident. According to this definition, 34 out of every 1,000 Iowan households were burglarized during the 12 months prior to their interview.

The charts in this section present a summary of the multiple responses that a victim may have given while describing several similar incidents. Respondents may fall into more than one category per chart. Therefore, percentages may exceed 100.

Characteristics of Victims

C Households in the lowest two income brackets were the most vulnerable to burglary ($p < .05$).

C Burglary rates differed significantly by community type, ($p < .05$) however, there was not a linear relationship between size and burglary rates. Households in a city of 50,000 or more were victimized at the highest rate followed by households in towns of less than 5,000. Households located on farms and in small cities (5,000-50,000) had the lowest burglary rates.

C Household composition was significantly related to burglary ($p < .05$). Households with no children had the lowest rates of burglary. In contrast, single parent households were most vulnerable.

Location of Burglary

Respondents were asked the location where the burglary took place. Table 4.3.3 shows the percentage of burglary respondents that were burglarized at home and away from home.

C Nearly all (94.3%) burglaries took place at the victim's homes, with only 5.7% occurring in vacation homes, storage facilities and other non-specified locations.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| Home | 66 | 94.3 |
| Away from home* | 4 | 5.7 |

*Includes vacation homes, storage facilities, and other non-specified

| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Rate per 1000 Households* |
|---|------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| County Type | | | |
| Urban | 45 | 64.3 | 38 ± 10.9 |
| Rural | 25 | 35.7 | 29 ± 11.3 |
| Community Type | | | |
| Farm | 6 | 8.6 | 17 ± 13.7 |
| Small town | 16 | 22.9 | 41 ± 19.7 |
| Town (2,500 to 5,000) | 9 | 12.9 | 40 ± 25.5 |
| Small city (5,000 to 50,000) | 12 | 17.1 | 22 ± 12.1 |
| City (>50,000) | 27 | 38.6 | 53 ± 19.6 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less than \$15,000 | 26 | 37.1 | 48 ± 17.9 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 20 | 28.6 | 56 ± 24.0 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 11 | 15.7 | 25 ± 14.4 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 8 | 11.4 | 20 ± 13.6 |
| \$75,000 and above | 2 | 2.9 | 15 ± 20.4 |
| Refused | 3 | 4.3 | 20 ± 22.0 |
| Household Composition | | | |
| Two parents with children at home | 13 | 18.6 | 26 ± 14.0 |
| Two parents and one or more adults | 2 | 2.9 | 44 ± 60.2 |
| One parent with children | 22 | 31.4 | 151 ± 58.0 |
| One parent with children and one or more adults | 2 | 2.9 | 48 ± 64.4 |
| Two or more adults with no children | 15 | 21.4 | 24 ± 11.8 |
| One adult and no children | 11 | 15.7 | 20 ± 11.8 |
| Something else | 2 | 2.9 | 118 ± 153.2 |

Weighted n= 2036 households
* 95% confidence interval shown as ± values

Methods of Entry

Respondents were also asked if there was any evidence of forced entry into their property (Table 4.3.4).

- C Approximately four in ten (43.7%) of the burglary victims indicated the offender had used force, damaging doors or windows, to gain entry. The other 65.7% of the burglary victims indicated that the offender used other means to illegally enter the property (such as keys, burglary tools, or unlocked doors and windows).
- C Of all burglary victims, 40% indicated that the offender entered through an unlocked door or window. Another 4.3% stated that the offender entered through a door or window that was left open.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--|------------------|----------|
| Evidence of force | 31 | 43.7 |
| Damaged window | 11 | 15.7 |
| Damaged door | 21 | 30.0 |
| No evidence of force | 46 | 65.7 |
| Let in | 4 | 5.7 |
| Pushed way in after door opened | 2 | 2.8 |
| Through open door or other opening | 3 | 4.3 |
| Through unlocked door or window | 28 | 40.0 |
| Through locked door or window-Had key or picked lock | 9 | 12.9 |
| Through locked door or window -Don't know how | 2 | 2.9 |

* Multiple response possible

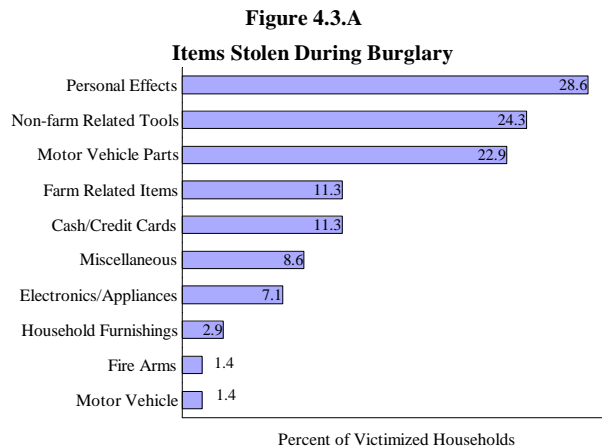
Property Stolen During Burglary

Table 4.3.5 shows that 82% of burglary victims report that something was stolen and almost 17% report that nothing was stolen during the incident. Figure 4.3.A shows the breakdown of items respondents reported as stolen in burglaries when something was taken.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Something stolen | 58 | 81.7 |
| Nothing stolen | 12 | 16.9 |

*Excludes 3 missing data cases

- C Personal effects including clothing, luggage, jewelry, recreation equipment, toys and other portable objects were the most commonly reported items stolen in the course of a burglary (28.6%).
- C The second most common type of stolen items included tools or machines (non-farm related), produce, food or liquor, and other unspecified objects. Almost one in four (24.3%) of burglary victims reported something of this nature was stolen.



- C Farm-related items were stolen from 11.3% of burglary victims. This is a reflection of Iowa's rural population (39%).
- C Stolen cash or credit cards were reported by 11.3% of burglary victims.

Value of Stolen Property

Respondents were asked the value of the property that was stolen during the burglary. Table 4.3.6 (page 19) summarizes the responses.

- C Approximately 34% of the burglary victims who lost property indicated that the value of their loss was over \$1,000.
- C More than 20% of burglary victims suffered a property loss between \$100-\$500.

C Over 25% of burglary victims reported relatively minor losses of less than \$99.

| | Sample Frequency* | Percent |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------|
| Less than \$100 | 16 | 26.2 |
| \$100-499 | 13 | 21.3 |
| \$500-999 | 11 | 18.0 |
| \$1000 or more | 21 | 34.4 |

* Includes only burglary victims who had property stolen

Insurance Status of Burglary Victims

The study asked victims of burglary how much of their loss was insured. Table 4.3.7 summarizes the percent of victims who were insured for all, some, or none of their loss.

| | Sample Frequency* | Percent |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------|
| All | 20 | 35.1 |
| Some | 9 | 15.5 |
| None | 19 | 32.8 |
| Missing cases (n=8) | | |

*Includes only burglary victims who had property stolen

C Thirty percent of burglary victims report being insured for all the property lost during the burglary. Only 15.5% were partially insured, and 32.8% of burglary victims were insured for none of the loss.

Burglary Reported to Police

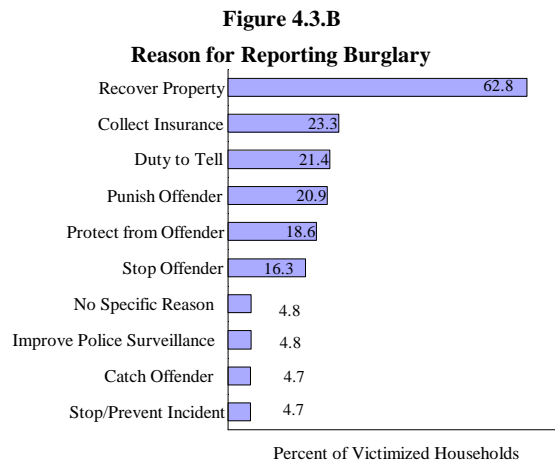
Of all the burglary victims, 63.8% reported a burglary to the police at least once (Table 4.3.8). Figure 4.3.B summarizes the reasons victims gave for reporting the burglaries.

C The most common reasons for reporting a burglary to the police was to recover the loss of property. Almost two-thirds (62.8%) stated they reported the burglary to the police to recover the stolen property, and 23.3% stated they reported the burglary in order to collect insurance.

C Many of the respondents said their reasons for reporting related to the offender. Twenty-one percent wished to see the offender punished.

Likewise, 18.6% wanted to protect themselves from any further crimes by the offender.

C Another popular reason for reporting the burglary was a desire to have the police informed. Specifically, 21.4% indicated a perceived “duty to let the police know” and 4.8% stated that a desire for improved surveillance of their property provided motivation to inform the police.



Burglary Not Reported to Police

Fifty-three percent of burglary victims (weighted n=40) did not report at least one burglary to the police. Figure 4.3.C (page 20) summarizes the reasons victims gave for not reporting their burglary.

C Privacy was the most frequently reported reason for not notifying the police (38.5%).

C One-third stated that the burglary was not important enough to them to bother reporting. In addition, 15% indicated that they did not want to get the offender into trouble.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Did report at least one burglary | 48 | 63.8 |
| Did not report at least one burglary | 40 | 53.3 |

* Multiple response possible



Victim Views on Sentencing

Table 4.3.9 displays the sentences burglary victims thought were appropriate for the offender in their case. Victims were instructed to choose as many or as few punishments as they deemed appropriate. The majority of the burglary victims favored holding the offender financially responsible for their crime. Specifically, 81.4% indicated restitution would be appropriate, and 74.3% endorsed paying fines to the state or local government.

Community service and regular probation are two traditional sentences with a rehabilitative goal. Support for these punishments were 75.7% and 68.6%, respectively.

Victims were asked about a number of nontraditional sentences such as boot camp, intensive probation, work release, electronic monitoring and house arrest.

Support for these options, which provide an alternative to incarceration while including an element of rehabilitation ranged from 24.3% to 43.7%. The most popular of these was intensive probation.

Only 41.4% of burglary victims were in favor of a short jail term. Far fewer, (7.1%) were in favor of a prison term of one year or more.

Only 4% of burglary victims felt that no punishment was necessary.

Table 4.3.9. Sentences for Burglary Endorsed by Burglary Victims

| | Sample Frequency | Percent of Victims* |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Pay restitution to victim | 57 | 81.4 |
| Community service | 53 | 75.7 |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 52 | 74.3 |
| Regular Probation | 48 | 68.6 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 38 | 53.5 |
| Intensive probation | 31 | 43.7 |
| Short jail term (less than one year) | 29 | 41.4 |
| Boot camp | 28 | 40.0 |
| Placement in a work release facility | 24 | 34.3 |
| Electronic monitoring program | 21 | 29.6 |
| House arrest | 17 | 24.3 |
| Half-way house | 13 | 18.6 |
| Prison sentence of one year or more | 5 | 7.1 |
| No punishment needed | 3 | 4.2 |
| Other | 17 | 23.9 |

* Multiple responses possible

4.4 Vandalism

Table 4.4.1. Number and Rate of Vandalized Households

| | Victims | | Incidents | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Households | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 households |
| Vandalism | 104 (108,160) | 51.1 ± 9.6 | 134 (69,963) | 65.8 ± 10.8 |

The IACVS defined vandalism as the deliberate damage to or destruction of one's personal property. Respondents were given the examples of "breaking windows, slashing tires, and painting graffiti on walls." To remain consistent with the 1992 Iowa Incident Based Reporting offense classifications, only incidents that involved damages exceeding \$99 were included in the tabulations.

The following tables present a summary of each household's experience with vandalism in the 12 months prior to their interview. Results are reported per respondent and not per incident. Therefore, percentages may exceed 100%.

Characteristics of Victims

C Vandalism was not significantly ($p < .05$) related to income level.

C The rate of vandalism was 2.5 times higher for households located within urban counties as households located in rural counties ($p < .05$). Sixty-nine out of every 1,000 households within urban counties were vandalized.

C Households in cities of over 50,000 people were significantly more vulnerable to vandalism than households located in small cities, towns, or on farms.

C The rate of vandalism was lowest for households with no children living at home. Among the households with the highest vandalism rates were single parent households (with no other adults) and households which included two parents, children, and other adults ($p < .05$).

Property Damaged During Vandalism

Victims of vandalism were asked to identify the property that was vandalized (Table 4.4.3).

C Motor vehicles were clearly the most common target for vandalism (86.5% of vandalism victims). By comparison, damage done to a house or other property was relatively uncommon.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Motor Vehicle | 90 | 86.5 |
| House window/screen/door | 9 | 8.7 |
| Other** | 8 | 7.7 |

* Multiple response possible
 ** Other includes damage to yards, home furnishings, mailboxes, farm machinery, and other non-specified property.

| County Type | | | |
|---|----|------|-------------|
| Urban | 81 | 77.9 | 69 ± 14.4 |
| Rural | 23 | 22.1 | 27 ± 10.8 |
| Community Type | | | |
| Farm | 10 | 9.6 | 29 ± 17.6 |
| Small town | 13 | 12.5 | 33 ± 17.8 |
| Town (2,500 to 5,000) | 12 | 11.5 | 53 ± 29.4 |
| Small city (5,000 to 50,000) | 31 | 29.8 | 56 ± 19.1 |
| City (>50,000) | 38 | 36.5 | 75 ± 23.0 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less than \$15,000 | 28 | 22.4 | 52 ± 18.6 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 14 | 14.0 | 39 ± 20.2 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 24 | 24.3 | 54 ± 21.0 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 22 | 22.4 | 55 ± 22.1 |
| \$75,000 and above | 10 | 9.3 | 75 ± 44.5 |
| Refused | 6 | 7.5 | 39 ± 30.6 |
| Household Composition | | | |
| Two parents and children at home | 32 | 32.0 | 64 ± 21.5 |
| Two parents and one or more adults | 5 | 5.0 | 114 ± 93.8 |
| One parent with children | 16 | 16.0 | 110 ± 50.7 |
| One parent with children and one or more adults | 2 | 2.0 | 48 ± 64.4 |
| Two or more adults with no children | 21 | 21.0 | 33 ± 13.9 |
| One adult and no children | 19 | 19.0 | 35 ± 15.4 |
| Something else | 2 | 2.0 | 118 ± 153.2 |

Weighted n= 2036 households

| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Rate per 1000 Households |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
|--|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|

Value of Property Vandalized

Respondents were also asked the value of the property that was vandalized (Table 4.4.4).

C The majority of respondents (54.8%) reported that the value of the property damage was between \$100 and \$500.

C Damages exceeded \$1,000 for only 8.7% of the vandalism victims.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| \$100-499 | 57 | 54.8 |
| \$500-1000 | 16 | 15.2 |
| \$1000 or more | 9 | 8.7 |
| Don't Know (More than \$100) | 22 | 21.2 |

*Estimates based on the cost of repairing or replacing damaged or destroyed property

Insurance Status of Vandalism Victims

The study asked victims of vandalism for how much of the damage they were insured. Table 4.4.5 summarizes the percent of victims who were insured for all, some, or none of the property damage.

C Almost all of the vandalism victims were partially insured for the damage (96.2%).

C None of the vandalism victims indicated that none of the damage was covered.

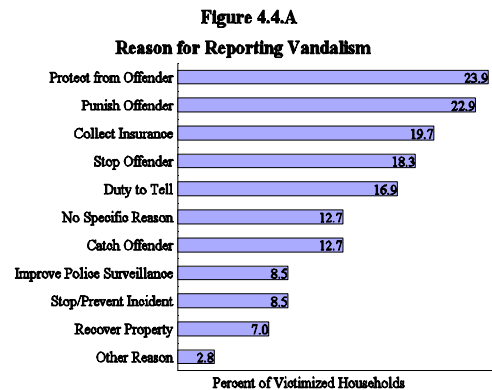
| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|------|------------------|---------|
| All | 4 | 3.8 |
| Some | 100 | 96.2 |
| None | 0 | 0.0 |

Vandalism Reported to Police

Sixty-seven percent of the vandalism victims reported at least one vandalism to the police in the last year (weighted n=70). Figure 4.4.A summarizes the reasons for reporting a vandalism to the police.

C The two most common reasons for reporting a vandalism incident to the police were to prevent further crimes against the respondent (23.9%) and to punish the offender (22.9%).

C 18.3% of vandalism victims said they reported the incident to stop the offender from committing a crime against anyone else.

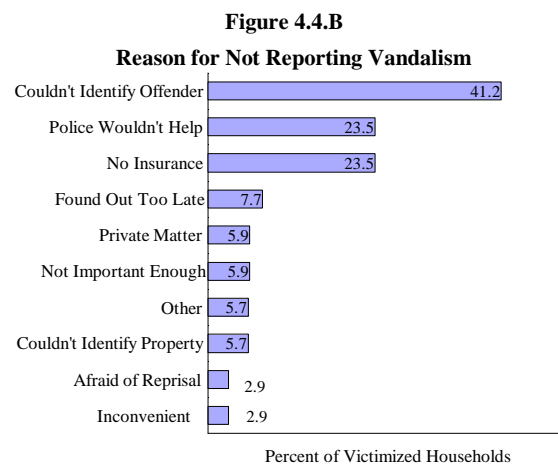


Vandalism Not Reported to Police

Almost thirty-three percent of vandalism victims (32.4%, weighted n = 49) indicated that they did not report a vandalism incident to the police. Table 4.4.B presents the reasons for not reporting a vandalism.

C The most common reason for not reporting a vandalism incident to the police was the inability to identify the offender (41.2%).

C Other common reasons for not reporting the crime were the belief that police would not help and that insurance would not cover the loss (both 23.5%).



Victim Views on Sentencing

Table 4.4.6 displays the sentences that victims of

vandalism felt were most appropriate for their offenders. Victims were asked to choose as many or as few sentences as they deemed appropriate.

C The majority of the vandalism victims thought the offender should be financially responsible for the crime. Restitution was favored by 93.3%, and fines were favored by 76%.

C Respondents were given a variety of sentences which offered an alternative to a prison sentence. Several of the more traditional options, such as probation, community service, and treatment/rehabilitation were endorsed by approximately half of the victims.

C A number of non-traditional alternative sentences were included, as well. Options such as work release, intensive probation, electronic monitoring, boot camp, and house arrest received support ranging from 20.2% to 35.2% of vandalism victims.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Pay restitution to victim | 98 | 93.3 |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 79 | 76.0 |
| Community service | 77 | 74.0 |
| Regular Probation | 57 | 54.8 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 52 | 50.0 |
| Placement in a work release facility | 37 | 35.2 |
| Short jail term (less than one year) | 36 | 34.3 |
| Electronic monitoring program | 29 | 27.6 |
| Intensive probation | 26 | 25.0 |
| House arrest | 23 | 22.1 |
| Boot camp | 21 | 20.2 |
| Half-way house | 15 | 14.3 |
| Prison sentence of one year or more | 12 | 11.5 |
| No punishment needed | 2 | 1.9 |
| Other | 9 | 8.7 |

* Multiple responses possible

Table 4.4.6. Sentences for Vandalism Endorsed by Vandalism Victims

Part 5 Personal Crimes

| | Victims | | Incidents | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rates per 1000 Adults* | Sample Frequency (population) | Rates per 1000 Adults* |
| Personal Crimes** | 207 (209,786) | 202.4 ± 13.2 | 482 (485,308) | 238.6 ± 18.6 |
| Crimes of violence | 206 (208,442) | 102.0 ± 13.2 | 455 (459,149) | 225.2 ± 18.2 |
| Completed violence | 168 (170,125) | 83.2 ± 12.0 | 420 (422,912) | 207.9 ± 17.7 |
| Attempted violence | 23 (23,467) | 11.4 ± 2.3 | 35 (36,237) | 17.3 ± 5.7 |
| Rape/Sexual assault (including attempts) | 48 (48,344) | 23.8 ± 6.6 | 122 (106,549) | 60.4 ± 10.4 |
| Rape | 16 (16,690) | 7.9 ± 3.8 | 54 (51,659) | 26.7 ± 7.0 |
| Attempted rape | 14 (13,900) | 6.9 ± 3.6 | 19 (20,983) | 9.4 ± 4.2 |
| Sexual Assault (non- intercourse) | 14 (14,366) | 6.9 ± 3.6 | 34 (35,675) | 16.8 ± 5.6 |
| Attempted Sexual Assault (non-intercourse) | 11 (11,054) | 5.4 ± 3.2 | 15 (15,254) | 7.4 ± 3.7 |
| Robbery | 2 (***) | 0.9 ± 1.3 | 2 (***) | 1.0 ± 1.4 |
| Completed/property taken | 1 (***) | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 1 (***) | 0.5 ± 1.0 |
| Attempted/No property taken | 1 (***) | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 1 (***) | 0.5 ± 1.0 |
| Assault | 135 (137,031) | 66.8 ± 11.0 | 331 (335,578) | 163.9 ± 16.1 |
| Threatened with weapon | 21 (21,741) | 10.3 ± 4.4 | *** | *** |
| Purse snatching/ Pocket picking | 21 (21,714) | 10.3 ± 4.4 | 27 (26,159) | 13.4 ± 5.0 |

Weighted n=2020 persons
 * 95% confidence interval shown as ± values
 ** Respondents who fall into more than one subcategory are only counted once as victims of personal crime
 *** Data not available

5.1 Personal Crime Overview

The Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey estimates that there were over 209,000 victims of personal crime in the last 12 months. The left side of Table 5.1.1 presents the victimization rate by number of **victims** per 1,000 adults, whereas the right side of the table presents the victimization rate by number of **incidents** per 1,000 adults. A comparison of the two rates indicates that for every victim of a personal crime, there were an average of 2.3 incidents.

For a largely rural state, the estimates of personal crime may seem surprisingly high. One should note that these rates come from self-reports that include not only crimes that were reported to the police and may be included in other official crime statistics, but also crimes that were never reported to the police. Also included are incidents that the police

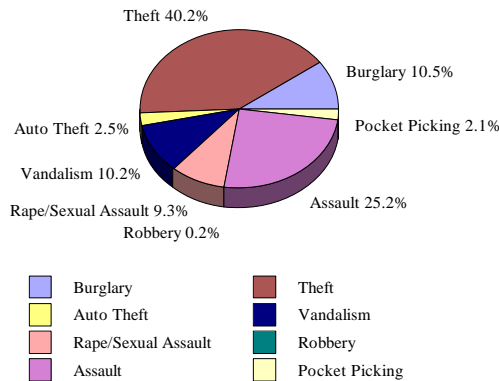
did not define, or would not have defined, as a crime had they been reported.

In Table 5.1.1, the completed violence category includes all completed rapes, sexual assaults, assaults, and robberies. The attempted violence category includes only attempted rapes, attempted sexual assaults, and attempted robberies. The personal crimes total at the top equals the sum of the crimes of completed violence, attempted violence, threats with a weapon, and purse snatching or pocket picking. Purse snatching or pocket picking is considered a personal crime and is included on this chart. However, the details of this crime are included with the information on the other kinds of theft in the property crimes section. Finally, the “all crimes” category includes the number of personal crimes plus the number of property crimes (see the property crimes section, Part 4).

Figures 5.1.A and 5.1.B demonstrate the relative proportions of various personal crimes.

- C Approximately one in four of all victimizations were assaults. Assaults comprise 68.7 % of personal crimes.
- C Incidents of rape and sexual assault, both completed and attempted, are not as rare as may be commonly assumed.

Figure 5.1.A
Incidents of All Crime*



* Includes Attempted Crimes

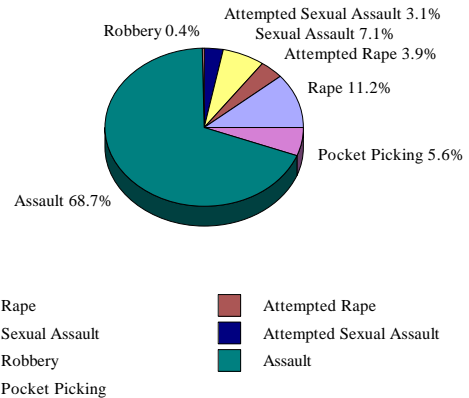
The following sections explore the details of each of the main types of personal crimes, including the demographic characteristics of the victims, the victim-offender relationship, the victim-offender interaction, the presence of alcohol, weapons involvement, injuries suffered, the percent of crime reported to the police, reasons for and against reporting crimes to the police, the victim views on the appropriate sentence for the offender, and awareness and use of victim assistance services. Due to the small number of robbery victims, the details of this type of crime are not included.

5.2 Assault

| | Sample | | Incidents | |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Adults | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Adults |
| Assault | 135 (137,031) | 66.8 ± 11.0 | 331 (335,578) | 163.9 ± 16.1 |

The IACVS defines an assault victim as anyone who has been intentionally hit, slapped, tripped, knocked down, hit with a blunt object, hit with a thrown object, stabbed or cut with a sharp object,

Figure 5.1.B
Incidents of Personal Crime



shot at, or burned. According to this definition, 66.8 out of every 1,000 adult Iowans were assaulted at least once in the 12 months prior to their interview. This number projects to an estimated 137,031 adult Iowans as victims of assault in a one year time period.

The figures in this section represent a summary of the multiple responses that a victim may have given while describing several similar incidents. Respondents may fall into more than one category per chart, therefore, percentages may exceed 100.

Characteristics of Victims

Table 5.2.2 (page 27) shows the demographic characteristics of assault victims. Characteristics are reported both as a percentage of assault victims and as a rate per 1,000 adults.

C Gender and education level were not significantly related to the rate of assault.

C The rate of assault was highest for those in the 18-24 age group and, for the most part, tended to decrease with age. The rate of assault sharply declined after age 24.

C Nearly four of every ten assault victims had a household income of less than \$15,000. Compared to persons in the lowest income groups, members of households in other income groups were far less likely to be victims of assault. Persons in the lowest income group were almost two times more likely to be assaulted than those in the higher income groups.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Rate per 1000 Adults* |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 63 | 46.3 | 72 ± 17.2 |
| Female | 73 | 53.7 | 63 ± 14.1 |
| Age | | | |
| 18-24 | 53 | 39.3 | 169 ± 41.5 |
| 25-34 | 31 | 23.0 | 75 ± 25.3 |
| 35-49 | 38 | 28.1 | 80 ± 24.3 |
| 50-64 | 11 | 8.1 | 32 ± 18.6 |
| 65 or older | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less Than \$15,000 | 52 | 38.2 | 100 ± 25.7 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 15 | 11.0 | 43 ± 21.2 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 29 | 21.3 | 64 ± 22.6 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 21 | 15.4 | 49 ± 20.8 |
| \$75,000 and above | 8 | 5.9 | 51 ± 37.1 |
| Refused | 12 | 8.8 | 79 ± 43.1 |
| Education | | | |
| Some high school or less | 31 | 22.8 | 83 ± 28.1 |
| High school graduate | 48 | 35.3 | 65 ± 17.9 |
| Beyond high school | 41 | 30.2 | 68 ± 20.2 |
| 4 year college degree or beyond | 16 | 11.8 | 50 ± 24.0 |
| Marital Status | | | |
| Married | 38 | 27.9 | 38 ± 11.8 |
| Widowed, separated, or divorced | 28 | 24.7 | 56 ± 20.2 |
| Never married | 70 | 51.5 | 136 ± 29.5 |
| Weighted n= 2020 persons | | | |
| * 95% confidence interval shown as ± value | | | |

- The rate of assault was lowest for married people. Those who have never been married were approximately 3.6 times more likely to be assaulted than married persons and 2.4 times as likely to be assaulted as those who were formerly married.

Victim-Offender Relationship

Table 5.2.3 shows the relationship between assault victims and their offenders. The most common victim-offender relationships differ by gender of the victim.

- C The most common victim-offender relationships for males were friends (52.4%) and, secondarily, girlfriends (20.6%). These were also the most common relationships for females, except the distributions were reversed. Thirty-seven percent of female assault victims were assaulted by boy/girlfriends and 21.9% were assaulted by friends.
- C More males (12.9%) than females (2.8%) were assaulted by a stranger.
- C More females (12.5%) than males (3.2%) reported being assaulted by a spouse.
- C Females reported being assaulted by an ex-spouse (4.1%) or another relative (12.3%) more often than males, (1.6%) and (4.8%), respectively.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Females | | |
| | 73 | 53.7 |
| Spouse | 9 | 12.5 |
| Ex-Spouse | 3 | 4.1 |
| Other Relative | 9 | 12.3 |
| Boy/ Girlfriend | 27 | 37.0 |
| Friend/Acquaintance | 16 | 21.9 |
| Stranger | 2 | 2.8 |
| No Information | 1 | 1.4 |
| Males | | |
| | 63 | 46.3 |
| Spouse | 2 | 3.2 |
| Ex-Spouse | 1 | 1.6 |
| Other Relative | 3 | 4.8 |
| Boy/ Girlfriend | 13 | 20.6 |
| Friend/Acquaintance | 33 | 52.4 |
| Stranger | 8 | 12.9 |
| No Information | 4 | 6.3 |
| * Multiple responses possible | | |

Presence of Alcohol in Assault

Of the 135 survey victims of assault, 41.5% (weighted n = 56) indicated that either the offender or they, personally, were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident (Figure 5.2.A).

Figure 5.2.A
Presence of Alcohol in Assault

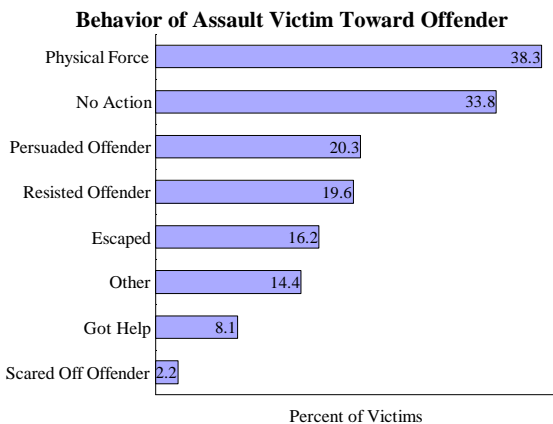


Victim-Offender Interaction

Respondents were asked whether or not they took any action against the offender while the crime was taking place. Figure 5.2.B shows the percentage of different measures of resistance used by assault victims.

- C Using physical force against the offender was the most common response from assault victims (38.3%).
- C However, almost as many took no action or kept still (33.8%).

Figure 5.2.B

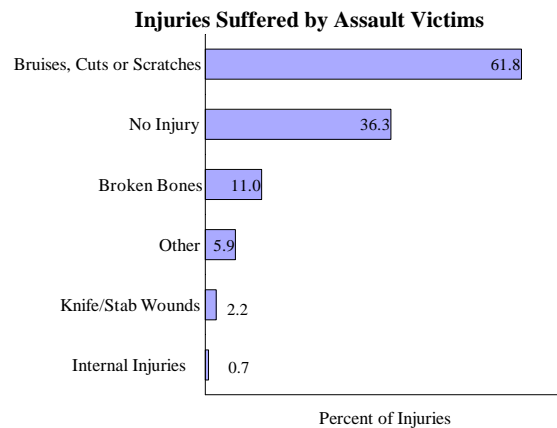


Injuries Suffered

To help determine how violent the assault was, respondents were asked whether they suffered any physical injuries as a result of the assault (Figure 5.2.C).

- C By far, the most commonly reported injuries were bruises, black eyes, and cuts (61.8%).
- C Thirty-six percent of the assault victims reported, at least on one occasion, their assault did not lead to physical injuries.

Figure 5.2.C



Use of Weapons

Another question dealing with the violence associated with reported assaults asked the respondents what, if any, weapons were used (Table 5.2.4).

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------|------------------|----------|
| No Weapon | 107 | 79.3 |
| Blunt Object | 23 | 17.0 |
| Firearm | 6 | 4.4 |
| Sharp Object | 4 | 2.9 |
| Knife | 3 | 2.2 |
| Other Weapon | 2 | 1.5 |

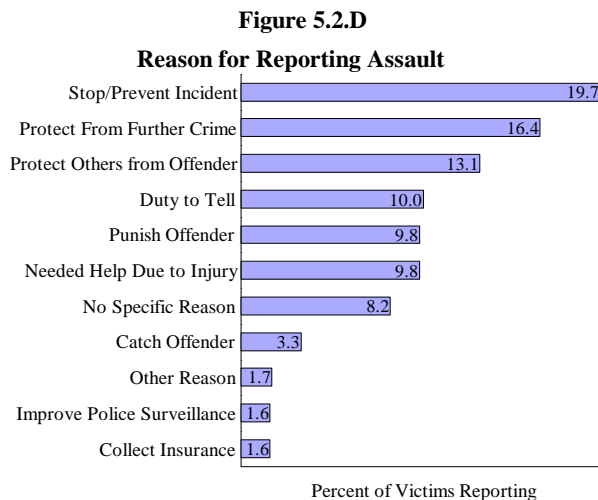
* Multiple responses possible

- C Most victims reported an assault that did not involve the use of weapons (79.3%).
- C A blunt object was the most commonly reported weapon (17.0%).
- C Only 4.4 percent of the assault victims reported that a firearm was involved in their assault.

Assault Reported to Police

Overall, 45.2 % of assault victims in the sample reported an assault to the police. Figure 5.2.D presents the reasons assault victims gave for reporting the incident.

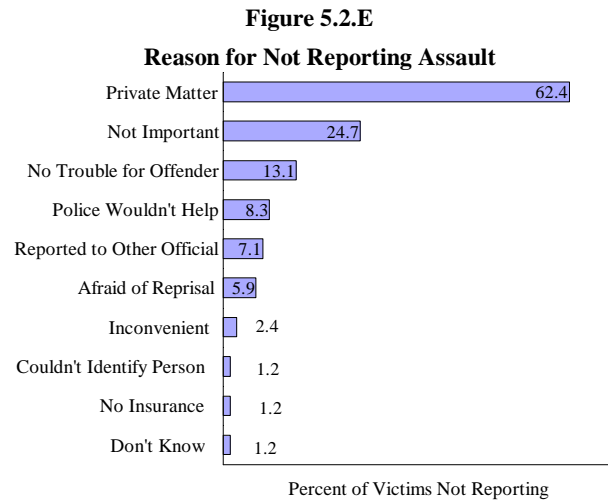
- C The most common reason given for reporting an assault was to stop or prevent an assault from occurring (19.7%), followed closely by to prevent further crimes against the respondent by the offender (16.4%), and to protect others from the offender (13.1%).
- C Approximately 10% each reported the crime as a civic duty, in order to punish the offender, and because they needed help due to an injury.



Assault Not Reported to Police

Overall, 63% of the assault victims stated they did not report an assault to the police. Figure 5.2.E shows the reasons respondents gave for not reporting an assault.

- C The most common reason for not notifying authorities was that it was a “private matter” (62.4%).
- C One-fourth (24.7%) of the assault victims stated the incident was not important enough to them to report. Another 13.1% stated that they did not want to get the offender in trouble.



Victim Views on Sentencing

Table 5.2.5 displays the sentences that assault victims suggested were appropriate for their offender. Victims were asked to choose as many or as few sentencing options as they deemed appropriate.

- C The majority of assault victims advocated treatment for their offenders (56.1%).
- C About one-third of the assault victims were in favor of the less restrictive sentences including community service, fines, restitution, and/or regular probation.
- C One-fourth selected a short jail term. Even less (15.9%) were in favor of a longer prison term. Victims were asked about a number of nontraditional punishments such as boot camp, intensive probation, work release, electronic monitoring, and house arrest.
 - Support for these nontraditional options, which provide an alternative to incarceration, ranged from house arrest (14%) to boot camp (22.8%).
- C Over one-fourth (27.9%) of the victims of assault thought it would be appropriate for their offender to receive no punishment.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 64 | 56.1 |
| Community service | 43 | 37.7 |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 38 | 33.3 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 38 | 33.3 |
| Regular Probation | 38 | 33.3 |
| Short jail term (less than one year) | 29 | 25.7 |
| Boot camp | 26 | 22.8 |
| Intensive probation | 24 | 21.1 |
| Placement in a work release facility | 23 | 20.2 |
| Electronic monitoring program | 21 | 18.4 |
| Half-way house | 20 | 17.5 |
| Prison sentence of one year or more | 18 | 15.9 |
| House arrest | 16 | 14.0 |
| No punishment needed | 38 | 27.9 |
| Other | 16 | 14.0 |

* Multiple responses possible

Victim Assistance Services: Awareness and Utilization

Table 5.2.6 shows the awareness of victim assistance services by victims of assault while the utilization of victim assistance services is depicted in table 5.2.7. Assault victims have been divided into those who have been assaulted once during the 12 months prior to their interview and those who have been assaulted more than once. Presumably, those who have been assaulted more than once have a greater need for victim assistance programs.

C Less than half (48.4%) of the victims who have been assaulted more than once were aware of any victim assistance programs. Even fewer single assault victims were aware of programs (30.0%)

C Only 18.8% of those who had been assaulted more than once reported utilizing the assistance programs. Only 5.8% of the victims of a single assault sought victim assistance.

C Crisis intervention was the service of which victims of multiple assaults were most frequently aware (43.4%). However, the most

commonly used service by victims of multiple assaults were counseling services (15.1%).

Table 5.2.7 (page 31) includes information on the statewide utilization of selected victim assistance services from another source. Unfortunately, such data were not available for all of the victim assistance services included in the IACVS study.

C According to data provided by Crime Victim Assistance Division at the Iowa Attorney General's Office (1997), 1,302 victims of assault and domestic violence received compensation through the Crime Victim Compensation Program and 12,805 victims of assault received assistance in the form of crisis intervention in 1997. There were 3,499 victims of domestic violence who utilized an overnight shelter provided by the Victim Service Grant Program.

- None of the assault victims in the sample, in either category, reported utilizing the Iowa Victim Compensation Program, overnight shelters, or using restitution.

| | Single Assault | Multiple Assaults |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Crisis intervention | 18.3 | 43.4 |
| Iowa Victim Compensation Program | 18.3 | 18.9 |
| Court assistance | 14.8 | 26.4 |
| Counseling services | 28.3 | 37.7 |
| Overnight shelters | 18.3 | 39.6 |
| Restitution | 23.3 | 45.3 |
| Other service | 1.7 | 1.9 |
| Total | 30.0 | 48.4 |

* Total number of assault victims: single assault = 60, multiple assaults = 53

| | Percent Sought Service | | Frequency |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Single Assault | Multiple Assaults | Statewide Use of Victim Assistance Services* |
| Crisis intervention | 8.3 | 7.5 | 12,805 (domestic violence only) |
| Iowa Victim Compensation Program | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,302 (includes assault and domestic violence) |
| Court assistance | 1.6 | 0.0 | Data not available |
| Counseling services | 3.3 | 15.1 | Data not available |
| Overnight shelters | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3,499 (domestic violence only) |
| Restitution | 0.0 | 0.0 | Data not available |
| Other service | 0.0 | 1.9 | Data not available |
| Total | 5.8 | 18.8 | Data not available |

Total number of assault victims: single assault = 60, multiple assaults = 53
 *Data provided by the Crime Victim Assistance Division at the Iowa Attorney General's Office

The IACVS study estimates there were 137,031 adult victims of assault in the last 12 months. Assuming this number represents an accurate estimate of assault in Iowa, less than 15% of Iowa's assault victims utilized the services provided by the Victim Service Grant Program. Although based on a small sample of assault victims, Table 5.2.7 similarly indicates only a small percent of victims sought victim assistance of any kind. Less than 10% of single assault victims utilized any victim assistance service, and less than 20% of the multiple assault victims utilized any victim assistance service.

IACVS assault victims were asked to identify the reasons (barriers) they did not use victim services. Due to the small frequencies in the cells of Table 5.2.8, caution should be used when generalizing the reported results.

Ninety-five percent of the single assault victims who were aware of victim assistance services attributed their non-use of these services to a lack of personal need. Fewer, but yet a very large proportion, (67%) of multiple assault victims felt they were not in need of victim assistance services.

C Twenty-two percent of multiple assault victims indicated that they did not seek services because it was a private matter.

| | Single Assault | Multiple Assault |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Did not feel in need | 95.0 | 66.7 |
| Not enough information | 5.0 | 0.0 |
| Not convenient | 0.0 | 5.6 |
| Private Matter | 0.0 | 22.2 |
| Other | 0.0 | 5.6 |

5.3 Sexual Assault

| | Victims | | Incidents | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Adults | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Adults |
| Total | | | | |
| Completed Sexual Assault | 29 (28,989) | 14.3 ± 5.2 | 88 (91,473) | 43.6 ± 8.9 |
| Rape (completed) | 16 (16,690) | 7.9 ± 3.9 | 54 (51,659) | 26.7 ± 7.0 |
| Sexual Assault (non-intercourse) | 14 (14,366) | 6.9 ± 3.6 | 34 (35,675) | 16.8 ± 5.6 |

For the purposes of the 1997 Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey, rape is defined as forced or coerced sexual intercourse. When non-intercourse sexual assault is mentioned, the reference is to any unwanted grabbing, petting, or fondling. In this section, the term "sexual assault" refers to both rape and non-intercourse sexual assault.

The charts in this section represent a summary of the multiple responses that a victim may have given while describing several similar incidents. Respondents may fall into more than one category per chart. Therefore, percentages may exceed 100.

Characteristics of Victims

C Twenty-five of every 1,000 adult Iowan women experienced a sexual assault in the last 12 months. No males in this sample reported experiencing a sexual assault.

C The rate of sexual assault declined as the age of respondents increased (significant at the .05 level). The sample indicates that 63 out of every 1,000 women aged 18-24 were sexually assaulted in the last 12 months.

C Income level and education were not significantly related to sexual assault.

C Married women had a very low rate of sexual assault (4 per 1,000). Married women are 7.25 times less likely to be sexually assaulted than divorced women, and 14.5 times less likely to be sexually assaulted than women who have not been married.

Victim-Offender Relationship

Table 5.3.3 displays the reported relationship between the victims of sexual assault and the offenders.

C 93% of the victims knew their offender.

C Slightly over half (51.7%) of the sexual assault victims indicated that the offender was a friend or acquaintance.

C Nearly a quarter (24.1%) of the victims were sexually assaulted by a boyfriend.

C Sexual assault by a stranger was a relatively uncommon occurrence (6.9%).

| | Sample Frequency* | Percent |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Spouse | 1 | 3.5 |
| Ex-Spouse | 4 | 13.8 |
| Boy/Girlfriend | 7 | 24.1 |
| Friend/Acquaintance | 15 | 51.7 |
| Stranger | 2 | 6.9 |

* All females

Table 5.3.2. Number and Rate of Sexual Assault Victims by Demographic Characteristics of Victims

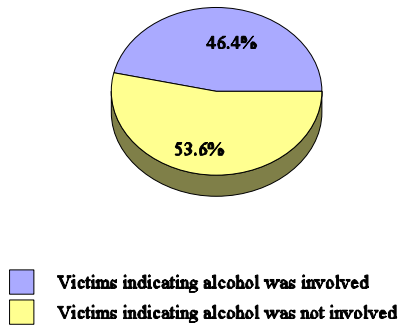
| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Rate per 1000 Adult Women* |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Female | 29 | 100.0 | 25 ± 9.1 |
| Age | | | |
| 18-24 | 11 | 37.9 | 63 ± 36.0 |
| 25-34 | 11 | 37.9 | 48 ± 27.7 |
| 35-49 | 6 | 20.7 | 24 ± 19.0 |
| 50-64 | 1 | 3.4 | 5 ± 10.4 |
| 65 or older | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less Than \$15,000 | 14 | 46.7 | 36 ± 18.4 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 4 | 13.3 | 21 ± 20.3 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 4 | 13.3 | 17 ± 16.4 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 4 | 13.3 | 22 ± 21.4 |
| \$75,000 and above | 1 | 3.3 | 17 ± 32.9 |
| Refused | 3 | 10.0 | 33 ± 36.3 |
| Education | | | |
| Some high school or less | 4 | 13.8 | 17 ± 16.7 |
| High school graduate | 12 | 41.4 | 28 ± 15.7 |
| Beyond high school | 12 | 41.4 | 36 ± 20.0 |
| 4 yr college degree or beyond | 1 | 3.4 | 6 ± 12.5 |
| Marital Status | | | |
| Married | 2 | 7.1 | 4 ± 5.4 |
| Widowed, separated, or divorced | 11 | 39.2 | 29 ± 16.9 |
| Never married | 15 | 53.6 | 58 ± 28.7 |

* Weighted n=1551 females

Presence of Alcohol in Sexual Assault

Of the 29 victims of sexual assault in the sample, 46.4% (weighted n = 13) indicated that either the offender or they, personally, were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident (Figure 5.3.A).

Figure 5.3.A
Presence of Alcohol in Sexual Assault

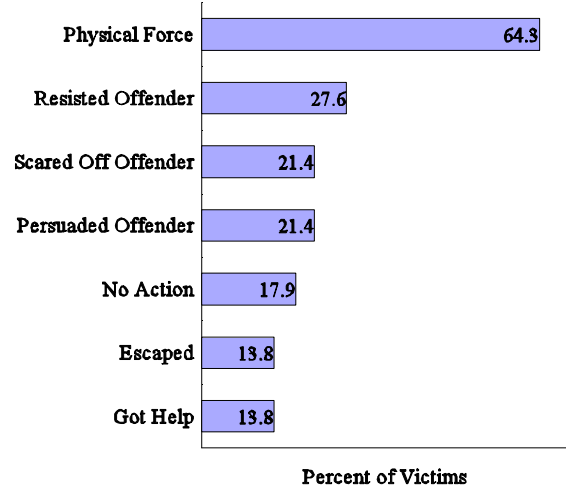


Victim-Offender Interaction

Respondents were asked whether or not they took any action against the offender while the crime was taking place. The following are some of the major points as shown in Figure 5.3.B.

- CThe majority of sexual assault victims used physical force against the offender (64.3%).
- COne-fourth (27.6%) of the victims resisted the offender without using force.
- CSlightly over one in five (21.4%) victims reported the non-violent behaviors of scaring off or trying to persuade the offender to stop.
- CLess than one-fifth (17.9%) of sexual assault victims took no action or kept still during the assault.

Figure 5.3.B
Behavior of Sexual Assault Victims Toward Offender



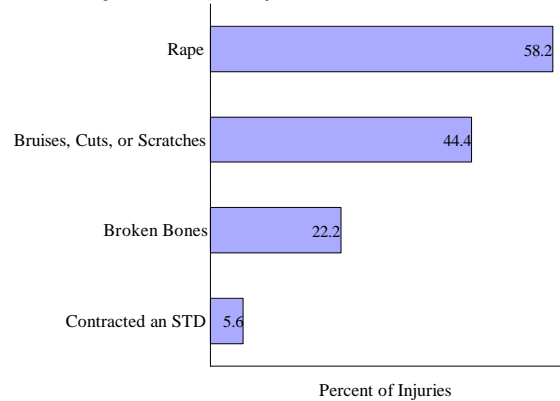
Injuries Suffered

To determine whether the sexual assault involved violence, victims were asked whether they sustained any injuries, including rape, during the assault (Figure 5.3.C)

COf all the sexual assault victims, 61.2% reported being raped or injured in some other way. Rape was the most commonly reported injury, making up over half (58.2%) of the reported injuries.

- Bruises, cuts, or scratches were the second most common injury (44.4%).

Figure 5.3.C
Injuries Suffered by Sexual Assault Victims

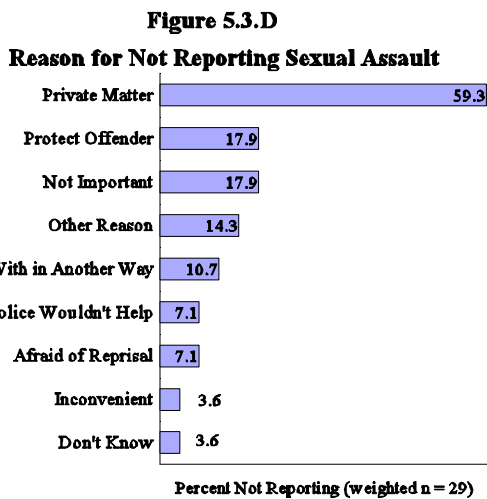


Sexual Assault Not Reported to Police

Of the 29 victims of sexual assault in the sample, none of them reported the incident to the police. Figure 5.3.D presents the reasons sexual assault victims offered for not reporting the crime.

The majority of sexual assault victims (59.3%) did not report the incident because they felt it was a private matter.

- About one-sixth (17.9%) of the victims indicated that they did not want the offender to get in trouble for the sexual assault. This probably reflects the earlier finding that 93% of the sexual assault victims knew their attacker.



Victim Views on Sentencing

Table 5.3.4 presents the sentences that victims of sexual assault endorsed for the offender who committed the crime against them.

Treatment/rehabilitation and regular probation were endorsed by the majority of sexual assault victims (72.2%).

Respondents were offered a number of less traditional sentencing options which provide alternatives to a prison sentence.

Support for alternative sentences ranged from a low for boot camp (5.3%) to a high for intensive probation (38.9%).

Unlike the victims of property crime, holding the offender financially responsible was not the top priority of sexual assault victims, although a sizable proportion did endorse this concept.

Community service was endorsed by 50%, fines were endorsed by 44.4%, and financial restitution was supported by 36.8%.

- A short jail term was favored by 38.9% of sexual assault victims. A prison term of more than one year was supported by even fewer victims (21.1%).

Table 5.3.4. Sentences for Sexual Assault Endorsed by Sexual Assault Victims

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 13 | 72.2 |
| Regular Probation | 13 | 72.2 |
| Community service | 9 | 50.0 |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 8 | 44.4 |
| Intensive probation | 7 | 38.9 |
| Short jail term (less than one year) | 7 | 38.9 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 7 | 36.8 |
| Electronic monitoring program | 4 | 22.2 |
| Prison sentence of one year or more | 4 | 21.1 |
| Placement in a work release facility | 3 | 16.7 |
| House arrest | 2 | 11.1 |
| Half-way house | 1 | 5.6 |
| Boot camp | 1 | 5.3 |
| No punishment needed | 4 | 14.3 |
| Other | 3 | 16.7 |

* Multiple responses possible

Victim Assistance Services: Awareness and Utilization

Table 5.3.5 shows the awareness of victim assistance services by victims of sexual assault.

Less than half of the sexual assault victims (46.4%) were aware of any victim assistance services at the time of their victimization.

Crisis intervention was the most recognized service (41.4%), yet none of the sexual assault victims utilized this service.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Not aware of services | 17 | 58.6 |
| Crisis intervention | 12 | 41.4 |
| Counseling services | 11 | 37.9 |
| Overnight shelters | 7 | 25.0 |
| Iowa Victim Compensation Program | 6 | 20.7 |
| Court assistance | 6 | 20.7 |
| Restitution | 2 | 6.0 |
| Other service | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 13 | 46.4 |

Utilization of victim assistance services is displayed in Table 5.3.6. As noted earlier, statewide data are not available for all of the victim assistance services included in the present study.

Only one of the sexual assault victims used any victim assistance services.

According to data provided by Crime Victim Assistance Division at the Iowa Attorney General's Office (1997), 132 victims of sexual assault received compensation through the Crime Victim Compensation Program in 1996, and 1,782 victims of sexual assault received assistance in the form of crisis intervention through the Victim Service Grant Program.

The present study estimates that there were 28,989 adult victims of completed sexual assault incidents in Iowa within the last 12 months. Assuming this number represents an accurate estimate of sexual assault in Iowa, then only six percent of the sexual assault victims utilized the services provided by the Victim Service Grant Program. Although based on a small sample of sexual assault victims, Table 5.3.6 similarly indicates only a small percent of these victims sought victim assistance of any kind.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Statewide Use of Assistance Services* |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| Crisis intervention | 0 | 0.0 | 1782 |
| Counseling services | 1 | 3.4 | Data not available |
| Overnight shelters | 0 | 0.0 | Not applicable |
| Iowa Victim Compensation Program | 0 | 0.0 | 132 |
| Court assistance | 0 | 0.0 | Data not available |
| Restitution | 0 | 0.0 | Data not available |
| Other service | 0 | 0.0 | Data not available |
| Total | 1 | 3.4 | Data not available |

*Data provided by the Crime Victim Assistance Division at the Iowa Attorney General's Office

Due to the small frequencies in the cells of Table 5.3.7, caution should be used when generalizing the reported results. However, it is interesting to note that 42.9% of the women who knew about victim assistance services did not think that their experience warranted any assistance.

The need for privacy was a barrier to seeking assistance for 30.8% of the victims who knew about the services.

Only 7.7% of victims indicated that lack of information was a barrier to seeking treatment. However, a representative from the Crime Victim Assistance Division stated that one barrier to seeking assistance is the misconception that victim assistance comes only in the form of emotional assistance (1997). Many victims are surprised by, but more willing to accept financial assistance in the form of victim compensation and free sexual abuse examinations.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|---|------------------|---------|
| Did not feel in need | 6 | 42.9 |
| Private Matter | 4 | 30.8 |
| Not enough information | 1 | 7.7 |
| Other | 1 | 7.7 |
| Not convenient | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total victims who were aware of services but did not utilize them | 12 | |

5.4 Threat

| | Sample | | Incidents | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per,000 Adults | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Adults |
| Threat | 59 (59,444) | 29.2 ± 7.3 | 166 (166,275) | 82.2 ± 12.0 |
| Threatened with a weapon | 21 (21,741) | 10.3 ± 4.4 | * | * |

* Data not available

The threat section of the interview was included as an exploratory section. For threats that did not include a weapon, there was insufficient information to determine if these incidents would have been founded as crimes. Therefore, only threats with a weapon are included in the estimates of personal crimes. Despite its exploratory nature, the threat section yielded important information which is included in this report.

The IACVS defines threat as any expression of an intention to harm someone that is not acted upon. Respondents were asked whether anyone had threatened, in any way which they took seriously, to hit, slap, trip, knock down, hit with a blunt object, stab, cut, shoot, burn, rape, or sexually assault them. According to this definition, 29 out of every 1,000 adult Iowans reported they were threatened in the last year. Ten of every 1,000 adults were threatened with a weapon. For every person who was threatened with a weapon, there were on average (mean) of 1.73 incidents of this nature.

The findings in this section include a summary of the multiple responses that a victim may have given while describing several similar incidents. Respondents may fall into more than one category per chart. Therefore, percentages may exceed 100.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent | Rate per 1000 Persons |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 27 | 46.6 | 31 ± 11.5 |
| Female | 31 | 53.4 | 28 ± 9.5 |
| Age | | | |
| 18-24 | 18 | 31.0 | 58 ± 25.8 |
| 25-34 | 19 | 32.8 | 46 ± 20.1 |
| 35-49 | 13 | 22.4 | 27 ± 14.6 |
| 50-64 | 3 | 5.2 | 26 ± 16.9 |
| 65 or older | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Household Income | | | |
| Less Than \$15,000 | 21 | 36.2 | 40 ± 16.9 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 12 | 20.7 | 34 ± 19.1 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 11 | 19.0 | 24 ± 14.2 |
| \$40,000 to \$74,999 | 9 | 15.5 | 22 ± 14.1 |
| \$75,000 and above | 2 | 3.4 | 15 ± 20.2 |
| Refused | 3 | 5.2 | 20 ± 22.4 |
| Education | | | |
| Some high school or less | 13 | 22.4 | 35 ± 18.6 |
| High school graduate | 21 | 36.2 | 29 ± 12.1 |
| Beyond high school | 16 | 25.9 | 25 ± 12.7 |
| 4 year college degree or beyond | 9 | 15.5 | 28 ± 18.2 |
| Marital Status | | | |
| Married | 17 | 29.3 | 17 ± 8.0 |
| Widowed, separated, or divorced | 11 | 19.0 | 22 ± 12.9 |
| Never married | 30 | 51.7 | 58 ± 20.2 |

Weighted n=2020 persons

Characteristics of Victims

- Overall the rate of threat was not significantly related to gender, education, or income. The rate of threat declined with increasing age ($p < .05$). Fifty-eight out of every 1,000 18 to 24-year-olds were the victims of a threat. Only 26 out of 1,000 50 to 64-year-olds were threatened.
- Persons who have never been married were 2.3 times more likely to have been threatened as those who have been married.

Victim-Offender Relationship

Table 5.4.3 presents the reported relationship between the victims of threat and the offender.

- The most common victim-offender relationship was between friends or acquaintances. Almost one-third of female victims (31.3%) and 44.4% of male victims were threatened by a friend or acquaintance.
- Second to friends and acquaintances, females were most commonly threatened by a boyfriend or girlfriend (21.9%).
- Although very few females were threatened by a stranger (3.1%, weighted sample $n = 1$), strangers were the second most common offenders among the males in this sample (38.5%).

Presence of Alcohol in Threat

Of the 59 victims of threat, 27.1% (weighted sample $n = 16$) indicated that either the offender or they, personally, were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|
| Females | 32 | 54.2 |
| Spouse | 5 | 15.6 |
| Ex-Spouse | 0 | 0.0 |
| Other Relative | 2 | 6.3 |
| Boy/Girlfriend | 7 | 21.9 |
| Friend/Acquaintance | 10 | 31.3 |
| Stranger | 1 | 3.1 |
| Males | 27 | 45.8 |
| Spouse | 1 | 3.7 |
| Ex-Spouse | 1 | 3.8 |
| Other Relative | 1 | 3.7 |
| Boy/Girlfriend | 0 | 0.0 |
| Friend/Acquaintance | 12 | 44.4 |
| Stranger | 10 | 38.5 |

* Multiple responses possible

Figure 5.4.A
Presence of Alcohol in Threats



Activity at Time of Incident

Table 5.4.4 details the activities the victims were taking part in when their incidents began.

- Over one-third of all threat victims (35.6%) were victimized while participating in activities at home.
- Nearly one-third of the victims (30.5%) reported being threatened at work. This percentage could be a reflection of the large number of people who were threatened by friends and acquaintances (who may actually be coworkers and clients/customers).

| | Sample Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Activities at home | 21 | 35.6 |
| Working | 18 | 30.5 |
| Leisure activity away from home | 10 | 16.9 |
| On the way to or from somewhere | 6 | 10.2 |
| Other | 3 | 5.1 |
| Shopping | 1 | 1.7 |

Victim-Offender Interaction

Table 5.4.5 details the behavior of the victims toward the offender. Victims were asked to indicate all of the behaviors that applied to their situation.

- C Over one-third (35.6%) of threat victims were able to persuade or appease the offender in order to de-escalate the situation.
- C Thirty-four percent of threat victims indicated that they took no action or kept still while being threatened.
- C Slightly over one-fifth (22%) of victims were able to scare or warn off the perpetrator.

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| Persuaded offender | 21 | 35.6 |
| No action | 20 | 33.9 |
| Scared off | 13 | 22.0 |
| Got help | 6 | 10.0 |
| Resisted offender | 8 | 13.8 |
| Escaped | 2 | 3.4 |
| Reacted to emotion | 1 | 1.7 |

* Multiple responses possible

Use of Weapons

Table 5.4.6 shows the type of weapon used by the threat offender. About one-third of the victims of threat (n=21) were threatened with a weapon.

- C Two-thirds of victims were threatened by an offender without a weapon.
- C Due to the small frequencies, it is difficult to say with confidence what kind of weapon was most frequently used. Knives, handguns, and other

weapons were each reported by less than 10 percent of the theft victims.

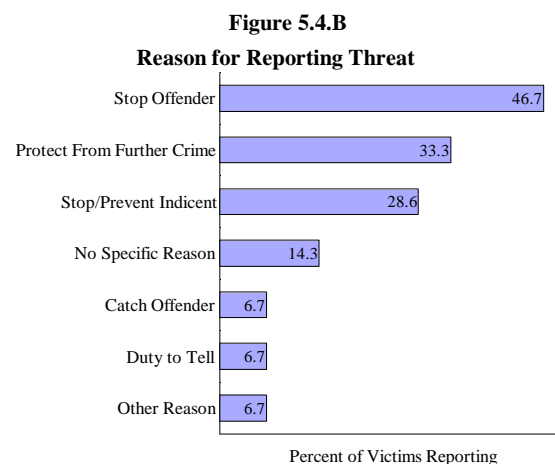
| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| No Weapon | 39 | 66.1 |
| Knife | 7 | 11.9 |
| Handgun | 6 | 10.2 |
| Other Weapon | 5 | 8.5 |
| Blunt Object | 3 | 5.2 |
| Other Sharp Object | 2 | 3.4 |

* Multiple responses possible

Threats Reported to Police

Only 24.1% of the threat victims (weighted sample n=14) indicated that they reported any threats to the police. Figure 5.4.B presents the motivations for reporting the threats to the police.

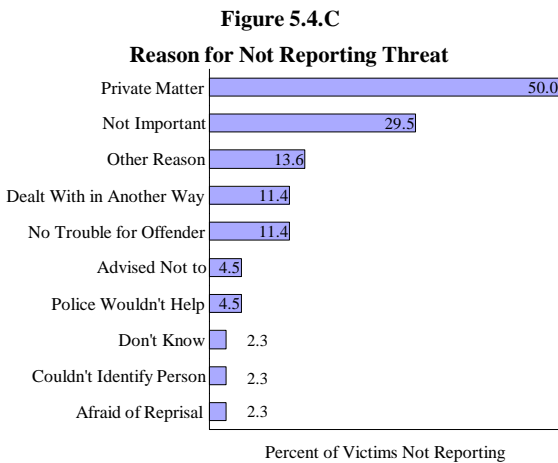
- Nearly one-half (46.7%) of threat victims reported the incident to police because they wanted to stop the offender from re-offending.
- Only 6.7% reported the incident because they felt it was their duty to do so.



Threats Not Reported to Police

Three-fourths of the victims, (74.6%, weighted sample n = 44) did not report at least one threat incident to the police. Figure 5.4.C presents the reasons threat victims offered for not reporting the incident.

- The most common reason for not reporting a threat incident (50%) was the feeling that it was a private matter.
- Nearly one-third (29.5%) of non-reporting threat victims did not do so because they felt it was not important enough.
- Relatively few (4.5%) threat victims did not report the incident because they felt the police would not help.



Victim Views on Sentencing

Table 5.4.7 summarizes the sentences threat victims thought were appropriate for their offender. Victims were asked to choose as many or as few of the options as they deemed appropriate.

- By far, the most common sentence chosen by threat victims was treatment or rehabilitation (78.2%)
- Many more victims felt their offender should pay a fine to the government (45.5%) than felt their offender should pay restitution to them personally (21.8%).

Respondents were given a variety of sentences that offered an alternative to prison. These sentences consisted of sanctions such as intensive probation, half-way houses, and boot camps.

- The most common alternative sanction was a traditional sentence of regular probation, endorsed by 41.8% of threat victims.
- Of the non-traditional sentences, intensive probation (23.6%) and work release facility (23.6%) were the most favored.
- Nearly one in five threat victims (18.2%) wanted their offender to serve a short jail term while only about one in 10 threat victims wanted their offender to be given a prison sentence of a year or more.

Table 5.4.7. Sentences for Threat Endorsed by Threat Victims

| | Sample Frequency | Percent* |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 43 | 78.2 |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 25 | 45.5 |
| Community service | 23 | 41.8 |
| Regular Probation | 23 | 41.8 |
| Intensive probation | 13 | 23.6 |
| Placement in a work release facility | 13 | 23.6 |
| Half-way house | 12 | 21.8 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 12 | 21.8 |
| Short jail term (less than one year) | 10 | 18.2 |
| Electronic monitoring program | 10 | 17.9 |
| Boot camp | 9 | 16.4 |
| Prison sentence of one year or more | 6 | 10.9 |
| House arrest | 5 | 9.1 |
| No punishment needed | 8 | 13.6 |
| Other | 14 | 25.5 |

* Multiple responses possible

Part 6 Comparison of This Study to the National Crime Victimization Study and the Iowa Uniform Crime Reports

Comparison With the National Crime Victimization Study

Compared to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey (IACVS) generally finds higher statewide crime rates. However, comparisons between the two sources should not lead to the conclusion that Iowa crime rates are higher than the national average. Rather, any direct comparison between the two sources should be tempered by understanding that methodological differences between the two surveys would in themselves likely result in different estimates of criminal victimization. Because some readers will be interested in making comparisons, this section describes the most relevant differences in the two victimization surveys.

Series Incidents

An advantage of the IACVS is that, in contrast to the NCVS, it includes series victimization in the computations of rates. In the NCVS, similar incidents that occur to a victim six or more times within the reference period are excluded from the report. The IACVS considers chronic victimization to be a problem that needs to be included. However, the problem with including these chronic victims is that it may be difficult for these persons to accurately remember the number of times a similar incident occurred. This is especially true for victims of domestic abuse who may be victimized as often as daily. Research shows that individuals do not have accurate, detailed memory of incidents that have occurred more than six times (U.S. Dept of Justice, 1997). Therefore, all similar incidents that occurred more than six times were counted as six incidents in the IACVS tabulations. A series of analyses indicated that including these incidents drastically increases some crime rates, especially the rate of assault. This one methodological difference accounts for a large part, but not all of the difference in crime rates between IACVS and NCVS.

Sample Characteristics

A major difference between the NCVS and the IACVS is the age qualification for the samples used. The NCVS presents the victimization rates as number of incidents per 1,000 persons age 12 and older. The Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey (IACVS) presents the victimization rate as the number of incidents per 1,000 adults age 18 and older. Although the logical effect of the age difference between the two samples would be lower IACVS crime rates, that was not the finding.

Another difference between the surveys is sample size. It is important to note that the IACVS employs a small sample size, 2036 unweighted cases, as compared to the approximately 50,000 households and 110,000 persons sampled by the NCVS. Estimates become more accurate as the sample size increases, all other things being equal.

Data from both surveys are weighted to reflect the demographic characteristics of the population. These case weights, however, would ordinarily lead to more variance in the data for the smaller IACVS data set than it would in the NCVS data set. Therefore, a relatively few reported incidents of a certain crime in the IACVS sample can have a more dramatic effect on the estimated frequency in the Iowa's population than on a similar situation in the national survey.

Reference Period

An important characteristic of victimization surveys is their reliance on self-reported experiences of respondents. Both the IACVS and the NCVS are therefore subject to potential respondent memory error and subjective interpretation of life experiences as they relate to the survey questions. Despite these possible sources of error, no independent source is available to assess the accuracy of the self-reported incidents. Respondents may report a distorted account of an incident, may accurately recount the details of an incident that happened

prior to the study period, or make other similar errors.

Prior research indicates that when utilizing a one-year reference period, some crimes are forgotten while others are placed in the wrong month or even wrong year, a phenomenon labeled as “tunneling” (Block, 1984). Early pilot studies of the NCVS also indicated that people are very inaccurate in remembering when they were victimized. According to Skogan (1990), “tunneling” can increase the estimated crime rate by 40 to 50 percent. These inflated rates are most significant in regards to assault, and least significant in regards to simple thefts. Consistent with this, the discrepancies between the IACVS and the NCVS are most apparent in assault and other personal crimes than for theft and other property crimes.

To combat the “tunneling effect”, the NCVS employs several methodological strategies. First, the NCVS utilizes a six-month reference period rather than a 12-month reference period. Second, the respondents in the NCVS continue to be surveyed every six months for a period of three years. The first interview is “bound,” meaning it is not used for crime estimation purposes. During the second interview, any incidents that are repeated between the first two interviews are edited out. Due to practical limitations, the IACVS utilized a one-year reference period and the data in the present study are not “bound.”

Survey Design

Other methodological differences between the studies may further contribute to the differences in crime rates. In general, the definitions utilized in the IACVS are very similar to the definitions used in the NCVS. However, the two surveys operationalized the crime definitions a bit differently in the actual questioning. It is possible that the different wording of questions and general survey format may have had different effects on respondent memory and subjective interpretation of experiences. For example, questions regarding rape and sexual assault are much more specific in the IACVS. The question regarding sexual assault in the NCVS is as follows:

- “Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual

acts are often difficult to talk about. (Other than any incidents already mentioned), have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by (a) Someone you didn’t know before (b) A causal acquaintances OR (c) someone you know well?”

In contrast, the IACVS provides two, very specific questions that may more effectively cue the recall of respondents and help them to classify their experiences within the scope of the survey. The questions are as follows:

- “Next I would like to ask you about assault. Assault is when someone attacks you, injures you, or forces or coerces sexual acts upon you against your will. It may or may not involve a weapon and the attacker could be a complete stranger or someone you know such as an acquaintance, a friend, or a relative... In the last 12 months did anyone actually force or coerce you to have sexual intercourse against your will?”
- “Now I want to talk about other ways a person can be sexually assaulted, specifically when sexual intercourse does not take place. An example may be unwanted grabbing, petting or fondling... In the last 12 months did any one sexually assault you through unwanted grabbing, petting or fondling?”

The National Women’s Study also provides an estimate of rape that is significantly higher than that provided by the NCVS. After an exhaustive comparison of the two studies’ methodologies, Lynch (1996) similarly concluded that several methodological differences, including the explicit language used in the National Women’s Study, may have contributed to the discrepant rates.

Data Collection

An additional methodological difference between the two surveys involves the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). The IACVS utilized only CATI, while the NCVS conducts the first interview face-to-face, and the subsequent interviews with CATI. Although cost effective, the drawback in using CATI for the first (or only) interview is that the response rate may be different than face-to-face interviews. In the

present study, the response rate for eligible respondents was approximately 62%. It is impossible to know whether the eligible respondents who did not complete the survey, or the few who do not even own a phone, were victimized at a greater or lesser rate. (The telephone connect rate in Iowa is 97%).

Comparison of Victimization Rates

Table 6.1 displays the crime victimization rates of both the IACVS and the NCVS. Keeping in mind the important differences between the two studies, some cautious comparisons can be made between the victimization rates.

| Type of crime | Victims | | Incidents | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|---|
| | IACVS Sample Frequency | IACVS Rate per 1000 Adults Age 18 and Older | IACVS Sample Frequency | IACVS Rate per 1000 Adults Age 18 and Older) | NCVS Rate per 1000 Persons Age 12 and Older |
| Property Crimes | 386 | 175.3 ± 16.5 | 699 | 343.3 ± 20.6 | 266.3 |
| Household burglary | 89 | 40.8 ± 8.6 | 138 | 67.8 ± 10.9 | 47.2 |
| Completed | 75 | 34.4 ± 7.9 | 115 | 56.5 ± 10.0 | 39.5 |
| Attempted forcible entry | 15 | 7.4 ± 3.7 | 23 | 11.3 ± 4.6 | 7.7 |
| Theft | 334 | 150.8 ± 15.5 | 528 | 259.3 ± 19.0 | 205.7 |
| Completed | 320 | 144.4 ± 15.5 | 473 | 232.3 ± 18.3 | 197.7 |
| Attempted | 41 | 16.7 ± 5.6 | 55 | 27.0 ± 7.0 | 8.0 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 27 | 11.8 ± 4.7 | 33 | 16.2 ± 5.5 | 13.5 |
| Completed | 26 | 10.8 ± 4.5 | 31 | 15.2 ± 5.3 | 9.1 |
| Attempted | 1 | .1 ± 1.4 | 2 | 1.0 ± 1.4 | 4.4 |
| Total number of households | 2,036 | | 2036 | | 102,697,490 |
| Personal Crimes | 207 | 102.5 ± 13.2 | 482 | 238.6 ± 18.6 | 43.5 |
| Crimes of violence | 206 | 102.0 ± 13.2 | 455 | 225.2 ± 18.2 | 42.0 |
| Completed violence | 168 | 83.2 ± 12.0 | 420 | 207.9 ± 17.7 | 12.4 |
| Attempted violence | 23 | 11.4 ± 2.3 | 35 | 17.3 ± 5.7 | 29.6 |
| Rape/Sexual assault | 48 | 23.8 ± 6.6 | 122 | 60.4 ± 10.4 | 1.4 |
| Rape/attempted rape | 30 | 14.9 ± 5.3 | 73 | 36.1 ± 8.1 | 0.9 |
| Sexual Assault (including attempts) | 25 | 12.4 ± 4.8 | 49 | 24.3 ± 6.7 | 0.5 |
| Robbery | 2 | .9 ± 1.3 | 2 | 1.0 ± 1.4 | 5.2 |
| Completed/property taken | 1 | .5 ± 1.0 | 1 | .5 ± 1.0 | 3.5 |
| Attempted/no property taken | 1 | .5 ± 1.0 | 1 | .5 ± 1.0 | 1.7 |
| Assault | 135 | 66.8 ± 11.0 | 331 | 163.9 ± 16.1 | 35.4 |
| Threatened with weapon | 21 | 10.3 ± 4.4 | ** | | 6.4 |
| Purse snatching/ pocket picking | 21 | 11.9 ± 4.7 | 27 | 13.4 ± 5.0 | 1.5 |
| Total weighted number of incidents | | | 1,249 | | 36,796 |
| Total weighted number of respondents | | | 2,020 | | NA |

* Reliable estimate not available
 ** To facilitate comparison with national data, threats without weapons are not included in the computation of attempted threatened violence, crimes of violence, personal crimes, or all crimes. Likewise, vandalism is not included in the computations of property crimes or all crimes.

C For every 1,000 adult Iowans aged 18 and

older, the IACVS estimates approximately 343

property crimes were committed against approximately 175 victims. The NCVS estimates the national rate for property crime to be about 266 crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 and over.

- C For every 1,000 adult Iowans the IACVS estimates approximately 239 personal crimes were committed against approximately 102 victims. The NCVS estimates the national rate for personal crime to be about 44 crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 and over.
- C Attempted motor vehicle theft was the only property crime NCVS reported a higher rate of than the IACVS.
- C With the exception of robbery and attempted or threatened violence, IACVS victimization rates for each type of personal crimes were usually much higher than the NCVS reported victimization rates for personal crimes.
- C Robbery was the only type of personal crime the IACVS reported occurring at a lower rate per 1,000 people than the NCVS reported occurring per 1,000 people (1.0 vs 5.2).

As noted earlier, extreme caution must be taken when comparing the victimization rates between Iowa and the nation using the IACVS and NCVS results, due to differences in sampling techniques, instrument design, and the treatment of the “series victim.”

Comparison With The 1997 Iowa Uniform Crime Report

The 1997 Iowa Uniform Crime Report (IUCR) calculates the rate of both personal and property crime per capita. To facilitate comparison between the IUCR and the IACVS in Table 6.2 (page 45), several modifications were made in the way both studies report crime rates. The ICVS findings were re-calculated as rates per person for both personal and property crime in this section. (Throughout the other parts of this report, the rate of property crimes is calculated per 1,000 households). The IUCR personal crime figures were re-calculated to include only crimes against adults.

Also reported in Table 6.2 are the FBI estimates of crime in Iowa. This estimate utilizes the Iowa Uniform Crime Report data, but includes estimates of the amount of crime that occurred in the

counties that did not submit data to the UCR. Therefore, like the UCR, the FBI estimates report personal crimes that occur against persons of all ages. In order to obtain a figure comparable to the IACVS, the FBI figures for personal crimes presented were re-calculated to include only crimes against adults. These FBI figures were derived through extrapolation utilizing the ratio of the original IUCR : FBI estimates of personal crimes against persons of all ages.

Due to the definitional and methodological differences between the IACVS and the IUCR, the data are not strictly comparable. For example, IACVS rates of burglary include only household burglary, whereas IUCR rates include both household and commercial burglaries. Furthermore, while IACVS estimates include self-report data from persons age 18 and older, the IUCR includes crimes committed against all persons of all ages.

- C With these limitations in mind, the data suggest that for every 7 burglaries or thefts (IACVS), only one of each is reported to and classified as a crime by law enforcement officials. This ratio is much larger for rapes (1:172).

As would be expected, data from the IACVS indicate higher rates of crime than the IUCR. However, the observed large difference in rates are likely to be partly caused by methodological and definitional differences between the two sources. In addition, one should note that included in the IACVS are not only those crimes that were never reported to police, but also incidents that were reported to police that did not conform to the IUCR definitions of crime.

As noted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (1995), there are significant differences between crime report studies and victimization studies in objective as well as design. The Iowa Uniform Crime Report is designed to provide findings, based on the perspective of police departments, that will guide policies for law enforcement administration. In contrast, victimization studies are based on the perspective of the victim and provide details about the characteristics of crime, victims, and offenders, as well as information regarding the number and types of crimes not reported to law enforcement officials. Because

each study has its different strengths, data from one study are not meant to be replaced with the other. Rather, each study presents a different perspective of crime in Iowa. By understanding

the strengths and unique perspectives of each data source, it is possible to achieve a more complete understanding of the nature of crime in Iowa.

| Type of crime | Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey | | Iowa Uniform Crime Reports | | Number of Reported UCR Cases : Number of IACVS Cases | FBI Estimates of Crime in Iowa (includes estimates of crime for non-reporting counties) | | Number of Cases by FBI Estimates : Number of IACVS Cases |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|---|----------------------|--|
| | Sample Frequency (population) | Rate per 1000 Adults | Frequency | Rate per 1000 Adults | | Frequency | Rate per 1000 Adults | |
| Property Crimes | | | | | | | | |
| Completed Burglary* | 115 (59,988) | 56.5 ± 10.0 | 16,748 | 8.0 | 1:7 | 18,954 | 6.6 | 1:9 |
| Completed Theft | 473 (247,710) | 232.3 ± 18.3 | 69,490 | 34.0 | 1:7 | 71,893 | 25.2 | 1:9 |
| Completed Motor Vehicle Theft | 31 (16,404) | 15.2 ± 5.3 | 4,906 | 2.4 | 1:6 | 5,449 | 1.9 | 1:8 |
| Vandalism | 134 (69,963) | 65.8 ± 10.8 | 38,571 | 18.8 | 1:4 | ** | ** | ** |
| Personal Crimes | | | | | | | | |
| Rape | 54 (51,659) | 26.7 ± 7.0 | 299 | 0.2 | 1:172 | 249 | 0.1 | 1:207 |
| Completed Robbery | 1 (***) | 0.5 ± 1.0 | 892 | 0.4 | 1:1 | 1015 | 0.5 | 1:1 |
| Weighted n= 2020 persons * UCR estimates of burglary include commercial burglary ** Comparable estimate not available *** Reliable estimate not available | | | | | | | | |

Part 7 Correlates of Victimization

Three sections of the 1997 IACVS were devoted to investigating possible correlates of victimization. Specifically, lifestyle choices, home protection, and neighborhood attachment were measured for each respondent and compared to his or her victimization experiences.

Lifestyle Choices

Certain people are believed to place themselves at greater risk of becoming victims because of their lifestyle choices. Questions were included in the study to determine whether certain activities were indicators of a lifestyle more at risk of becoming of a victim. Respondents were asked the frequency at which they took part in five activities: (1) Spending the evening away from home, (2) Having five or more drinks on an occasion, (3) Using a drug for a non-medical reason, (4) Use of public transportation, and (5) Shopping.

As shown in Table 7.1, three of the five activities were strong correlates of victimization. Those who spent the evening away from their homes almost every day averaged over 4 victimizations in the last 12 months. In contrast, those who spent the evening out only once a week averaged less than one victimization in the last 12 months.

Heavy alcohol use (five or more drinks on one occasion) was also a strong indicator of victimization. Respondents who reported having five or more drinks almost every day averaged over seven victimizations in the last 12 months. Those who reported heavy drinking at least once a week had a much lower average number of victimizations (2.01), but still higher than those who reported heavy drinking even less often (1.32).

Table 7.1 also shows the mean number of victimizations reported by those who had physical and mental health problems in the last year. Those who reported visiting a doctor or counselor in the last year for a mental health problem averaged about three times as many victimizations over this time span as those who did not have to make such visits.

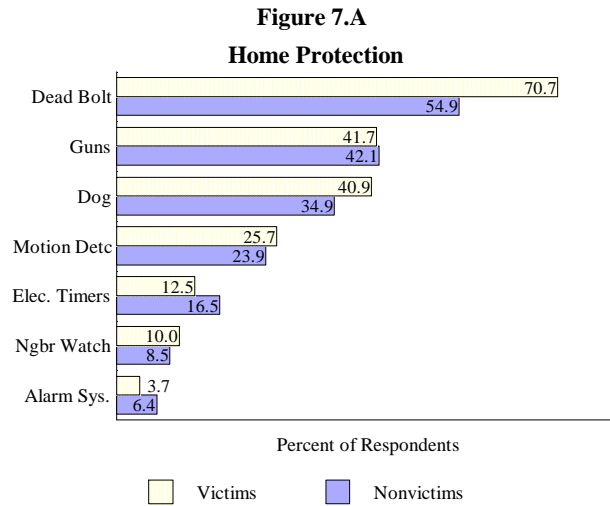
| Table 7.1. Number and Mean Number of Victimizations by Lifestyle of Victims | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Sample Frequency | Mean |
| Spending the Evening Out | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 302 | 4.18 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 1057 | 0.74 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 656 | 1.27 |
| Significant differences (p<.05) found between Groups 1 and 2, and Groups 1 and 3 | | |
| Having 5 or more Alcoholic Drinks On One Occasion* | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 14 | 7.20 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 189 | 2.01 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 1811 | 1.32 |
| Significant difference (p<.05) found between Groups 1 and 3 | | |
| Drug Use for Non-Medical Reason | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 6 | 5.24 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 10 | 0.94 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 1998 | 1.42 |
| Public Transportation Use | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 42 | 0.56 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 34 | 3.17 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 1939 | 1.42 |
| Shopping | | |
| Group 1: Almost Every Day | 425 | 2.34 |
| Group 2: At Least Once A Week | 1310 | 0.82 |
| Group 3: Fewer to Never | 277 | 2.93 |
| Significant difference (p<.05) found between Groups 1 and 2 | | |
| Visited Doctor Due to Physical Health Problems in the Last Year | | |
| Yes | 955 | 1.79 |
| No | 1059 | 1.11 |
| Visited Doctor/Counselor for Mental Health Problems in the Last Year | | |
| Yes | 175 | 4.04 |
| No | 1838 | 1.18 |
| Significant difference (p<.05) found between answers | | |
| * Analysis which corrects for the positively skewed distribution in the variable representing total victimization reveals that there are significant differences only between those who drink at least once a week and those who drink less often or never. | | |

Home Protection

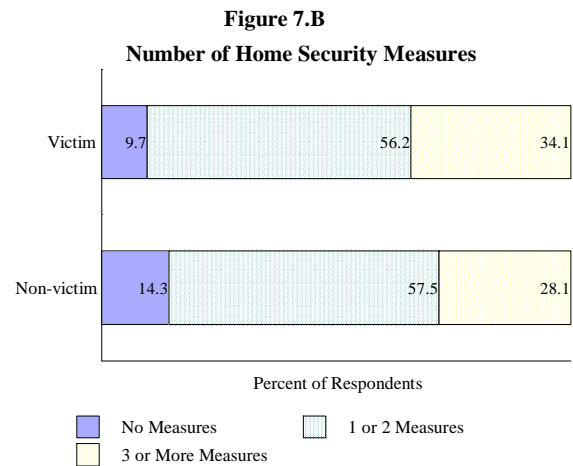
Respondents were also asked about measures they had taken to protect themselves and their homes against crime. Table 7.2 shows the number of respondents, and the projected number of adult Iowans, who live in households that use each of the safety measures. The most common home protection measure, used by nearly 60% of the sample respondents, was dead bolt locks. This percentage projects to 1.2 million Iowans who live in a residence protected by dead bolt locks. In contrast, about 9% of respondents took part in a neighborhood watch program and about 6% had alarm systems. These percentages project to 181,813 and 113,116 adult Iowans, respectively.

| | Sample Frequency (population) | Percent |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Dead Bolt Locks | 1191 (1,206,442) | 59.3 |
| Guns | 837 (847,565) | 42.0 |
| Dog | 731 (741,141) | 36.6 |
| Motion Detectors | 490 (495,970) | 24.4 |
| Electronic Timers | 308 (312,329) | 15.4 |
| Neighborhood Watch | 179 (181,813) | 8.9 |
| Alarm System | 112 (113,116) | 5.6 |

Figure 7.A displays the percentage of victims and non-victims who live in a home protected by each of the measures. The chart shows larger percentages of victims using such measures as dead bolts and dogs than did non-victims ($p < .05$). It can not be determined, however, whether these measures were taken as a response to their victimizations, or whether the measures existed previously and were ineffective at preventing the reported crimes.



Three summary categories were created consisting of those who have no home protection measures, those who have used one or two measures, and those who have used three or more measures. Figure 7.B shows that a higher percentage of victims have made extensive measures (3+), while a higher percentage of non-victims have used no measures ($p < .05$).



Neighborhood Attachment

The third correlate of victimization examined in the study was neighborhood attachment. Respondents were asked 13 Likert-type questions concerning the social bonds that exist within their neighborhoods (Appendix A). Responses were then appropriately weighted and combined to create a scale score for

each respondent. Finally, the scores were split into thirds, creating categories for high, medium and low attachment scores.

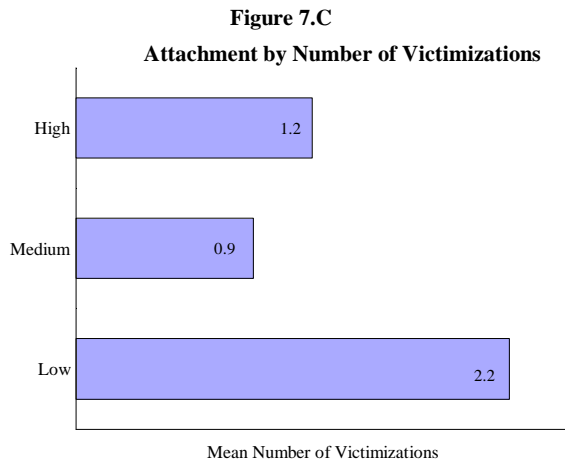
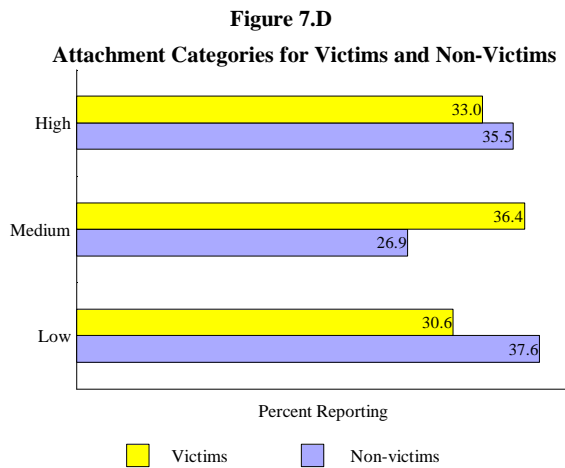


Figure 7.C shows the average number of victimizations reported by respondents within each attachment category. Those who scored low on the attachment scale reported significantly more ($p < .05$) victimizations than those who scored medium and high attachment. The low number of crimes reported by those with a medium attachment score may help explain the larger percentage of non-victims who scored in the medium range and the higher percentages of victims scoring in the high and low ranges (Figure 7.D).



Victim Correlates Summary

Of the three types of victimization correlates, lifestyle choices best explained who was at risk of victimization. Respondents who reported daily heavy drinking averaged over three more victimizations than moderate users and nonusers. There were also significant differences between those who spent the evening out and went shopping more often than not.

The home protection questions revealed that victims have actually gone to greater lengths in protecting their homes than non-victims. Whether this was a result of their victimization experiences or an indicator of insufficient protection methods is impossible to tell.

Neighborhood attachment was also an indicator of victimization. Respondents with low neighborhood attachment averaged significantly more victimizations as those with medium attachment scores.

Part 8 Appropriate Sentencing

A special section of the 1997 Iowa Crime Victimization Survey examined respondent views on the appropriate sentencing of offenders. Each respondent was presented with two scenarios; one scenario describing a personal crime (robbery) and one describing a property crime (theft), both committed by a male offender. Two characteristics for each scenario, the age and prior record of the offender, were randomly varied. All other characteristics within the types of crime were held constant and interviewers were instructed not to provide any additional assumptions. The result was six different scenarios for robbery and six different scenarios for theft (Appendix B).

For each scenario, the respondents were provided a list of possible sentences an offender could be given if found guilty of the offense described. Respondents were not limited to one sentence, but could select as many options as they wanted. The sentences ranged in severity from a simple fine to more than a year in prison. Several “alternative” sentences to prison, such as boot camp, house arrest, half-way house, and electronic monitoring, were included.

Effect of a Prior Record

Table 8.1 shows that in the robbery scenarios, there were significant ($p < .05$) differences in the suggested use of 7 of the 13 sentences would be appropriate based on the prior record of the offender.

- The largest difference occurred in the sentence of prison for more than 1 year. Nearly 60% of respondents believed a robber with a prior record should receive a prison sentence.
- In comparison, only 26.8% of respondents would sentence a robber without a prior record to a prison term of more than one year.

| | Prior Record | No Prior Record |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| Pay fine to state or local government | 77.0 | 77.0 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 97.0 | 97.0 |
| Regular Probation* | 54.7 | 75.2 |
| Intensive Probation* | 67.7 | 58.6 |
| Jail Term (less than 1 year) | 56.7 | 53.7 |
| Prison Sentence (more than 1 year)* | 59.7 | 26.8 |
| Boot camp | 57.1 | 52.8 |
| Work release* | 42.5 | 51.6 |
| House arrest | 36.5 | 40.8 |
| Halfway house | 33.8 | 29.8 |
| Electronic monitoring* | 51.4 | 45.1 |
| Community service* | 80.9 | 88.9 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation* | 88.0 | 81.3 |
| * Difference is statistically significant ($p < .05$) | | |

| | Prior Record | No Prior Record |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|
| Pay fine to state or local government* | 81.4 | 76.1 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 97.6 | 97.8 |
| Regular Probation* | 59.7 | 78.5 |
| Intensive Probation* | 73.1 | 42.9 |
| Jail Term (less than 1 year)* | 60.5 | 45.7 |
| Prison Sentence (more than 1 year)* | 31.9 | 9.9 |
| Boot camp* | 59.1 | 43.7 |
| Work release | 52.2 | 55.7 |
| House arrest* | 46.7 | 40.4 |
| Halfway house* | 36.7 | 24.4 |
| Electronic monitoring* | 52.1 | 37.0 |
| Community service* | 88.8 | 92.3 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation* | 87.1 | 77.6 |
| *Difference is statistically significant ($p < .05$) | | |

Table 8.2 (previous page) shows that in the theft scenarios, there were significant ($p < .05$) differences for 11 of the 13 sentences would be appropriate based on the prior record of the offender. The largest difference, once again, occurred in the sentence of prison for more than one year. Slightly over 30% of respondents felt a theft with a prior record should result in a prison sentence of more than a year. In comparison, slightly under 10% of the respondents would sentence a theft offender without a prior record to a prison term of more than one year.

Effect of Offender Age

Within the robbery and theft scenarios, comparisons can also be made between the ages of offenders. Three ages, 14, 16, and 25, were designated. As with prior record history, these categories were randomized into otherwise controlled scenarios.

Within the robbery scenarios, age was a significant factor in 7 of the 11 sentencing options.

- As shown in Table 8.3, the largest differences were found in boot camp (24.6 percentage point difference between ages 14 and 25) and prison (17.7 percentage point difference between ages 14 and 25).

Within the theft scenarios, age was a significant factor in 6 of the 11 sentencing options.

- As shown in Table 8.4, the largest differences were found in boot camp (21.8 percentage point difference between ages 14 and 25) and house arrest (16.2 percentage point differences between ages 14 and 25).

| | Age of Offender | | |
|--|-----------------|------|------|
| | 14 | 16 | 25 |
| Pay fine to state or local government* | 75.2 | 74.9 | 81.4 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 96.3 | 97.3 | 97.2 |
| Regular Probation | 69.0 | 64.9 | 62.7 |
| Intensive Probation | 65.5 | 62.0 | 61.6 |
| Jail Term (less than 1 year) | 54.7 | 54.7 | 56.0 |
| Prison Sentence (more than 1 year)* | 34.2 | 40.0 | 51.9 |
| Boot camp* | 65.6 | 59.9 | 41.0 |
| Work release | 44.3 | 48.2 | 48.8 |
| House arrest* | 47.3 | 39.9 | 30.2 |
| Halfway house | 32.6 | 34.0 | 29.1 |
| Electronic monitoring* | 52.6 | 43.9 | 47.9 |
| Community service* | 87.5 | 85.5 | 82.5 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation* | 88.7 | 83.6 | 81.6 |

*Difference is statistically significant ($p < .05$)

| | Age of Offender | | |
|--|-----------------|------|------|
| | 14 | 16 | 25 |
| Pay fine to state or local government* | 77.4 | 76.8 | 82.2 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 96.7 | 98.1 | 98.2 |
| Regular Probation | 68.7 | 68.8 | 68.9 |
| Intensive Probation | 59.7 | 56.6 | 59.5 |
| Jail Term (less than 1 year)* | 48.5 | 48.9 | 62.0 |
| Prison Sentence (more than 1 year)* | 14.5 | 19.1 | 29.6 |
| Boot camp* | 59.6 | 59.0 | 37.8 |
| Work release* | 45.6 | 55.1 | 60.5 |
| House arrest* | 51.8 | 44.2 | 35.6 |
| Halfway house | 33.2 | 29.6 | 29.7 |
| Electronic monitoring | 45.4 | 44.2 | 44.9 |
| Community service | 90.2 | 91.1 | 90.0 |
| Treatment/rehabilitation | 81.0 | 81.8 | 84.6 |

*Difference is statistically significant ($p < .05$)

The Severity of Prison

Tables 8.3 and 8.4 suggest that respondents were hesitant to sentence younger offenders (14 and 16 year olds) to prison. In these scenarios, the respondent was more likely to select an alternative sentence, such as boot camp or house arrest, as the appropriate sentence. This same pattern also seemed to occur when considering offenders without a record (Tables 8.1 and 8.2). In the scenarios when the offender did not have a record, the respondent was less likely to give prison as the appropriate sentence and more likely to list an alternative to prison such as community service or probation.

In these comparisons, Iowans appear to perceive sentencing a young male to a year or more in prison as a very serious punishment, much more appropriate for offenders who had a prior record or who are older.

Table 8.5 shows the distribution of respondents who selected prison as an appropriate sentence for each of the 12 scenarios that were used in the study. As suggested earlier, respondents were less likely to offer prison as a sentence to younger offenders, those with no prior record, and those who were guilty of a crime against property.

The comparatively large percentage of respondents selecting alternative sentences to prison, along with the clear discrimination between those offender characteristics which make offenders more or less suitable for a sentence as serious as prison, suggests Iowans want more from their criminal justice system than only incarceration of offenders.

| | Robbery | Theft |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 14-Year-Old with No Prior Record | 21.9 | 5.6 |
| 14-Year-Old with Prior Record | 47.1 | 21.8 |
| 16-Year-Old with No Prior Record | 28.0 | 10.5 |
| 16-Year-Old with Prior Record | 55.7 | 28.5 |
| 25-Year-Old with No Prior Record | 29.9 | 12.9 |
| 25-Year-Old with Prior Record | 72.4 | 44.7 |

The Iowan Idea of an Appropriate Sentence

There are definite patterns to the appropriate sentencing of offenders as expressed by the

respondents. These ideas can be observed in the distinctions between prison and alternative sentences respondents suggested in sentencing younger offenders and offenders without a record.

- Well over half (59.7%) of the respondents would sentence a robbery offender with a prior record to a prison term of over one year. Only about one in four respondents (26.8%) would sentence a robbery offender without a prior record to a prison term of over one year.
- Over half of the respondents (51.9%) would sentence a 25-year-old to prison for robbery, but only about one in three (34.2%) would sentence a 14-year-old to prison for robbery.
- Over half of the respondents (51.8%) would sentence a 14-year-old offender to house arrest for theft, but only about one in three (35.6%) would sentence a 25-year-old to house arrest for theft.

There is a threshold, however, to the type of offender Iowans feel should be given a chance at rehabilitation without prison.

- Nearly three-fourths (72.4%) of respondents believed the appropriate sentence for repeat, 25-year-old offenders of personal crimes was a prison term of over one year.
- About half of respondents believed 14 and 16-year-old repeat offenders of personal crimes should be given a prison term of over one year, 47.1% and 55.7% respectively.

A conclusion can be drawn from the preceding findings that prison is considered by Iowans to be an important part of sentencing violent, habitual criminals. But Iowans also believe that prison is not necessarily the best choice in sentencing younger and first time offenders who commit lesser crimes.

Part 9 Summary, Conclusion and Possible Implications

Summary

The 1997 Iowa Adult Crime Victimization Survey, based on telephone interviews with a weighted random sample of 2020 adult Iowans, provides a detailed picture of criminal victimization in Iowa. The most important findings are recapped here.

Total Crime

Calculating both property and personal crimes on a per person basis, the IACVS estimates that 28% of adult Iowans were the victims of a crime in the preceding 12 month period.

Property Crimes

- C An estimated 202 of every 1,000 Iowan households were the victim of a property crime in the last 12 months.
- C There were an estimated 409 incidents of property crimes per 1,000 households in that same period.
- C Households with no children had the lowest rates of property crimes. In general, single parent households were most vulnerable to property crime ($p < .05$).
- C Households in cities with 50,000 or more inhabitants were more at risk for property crimes than households located in less densely populated areas ($p < .05$).
- C Forty percent of burglary victims indicated the offender entered through an unlocked door or window.
- C Motor vehicle parts and personal effects, jewelry or sports/recreation equipment, were the most frequently stolen items during the course of a burglary or theft.
- C Motor vehicles were the items most commonly targeted in vandalism.
- C The value of the loss or damage from property crimes varied by the type of crime. Loss or damage ranging from \$100 to \$500 was reported by 35% of theft victims, 21% of burglary victims, and 55% of vandalism victims.
- C Those uninsured for lost/stolen property constituted 69% of theft victims, 33% of burglary victims, and 0% of vandalism victims.

- C Proportionately fewer victims of theft indicated that they reported the crime to the police than did victims of burglary or vandalism. Forty-three percent of theft victims, 64% of burglary victims, and 68% of vandalism victims reported the crime.
- C The most commonly reported reasons for reporting a property crime were to recover property, collect insurance, prevent further crimes, and to punish the offender.
- C The most commonly reported reasons for not reporting a property crime were that it was not important enough, the feeling that it was a private or personal matter, and inability to identify the offender.
- C When asked what the appropriate sentence would be for the offender, victims of property crimes most commonly desired the offender to be held financially responsible for the crime. Fines, restitution, and community service were favored by the majority of property crime victims.
- C Treatment/rehabilitation and regular probation were other commonly endorsed sentences. Few respondents indicated that a prison sentence would be appropriate.

Personal Crimes

- C An estimated 102 out of every 1,000 adult Iowans were the victims of a personal crime in the past 12 months.
- C There were an estimated 239 incidents of personal crime per 1,000 adults in that same period.
- C The young and the single were the most vulnerable to personal crimes.
- C Thirty-eight percent of violent crime victims indicated that either the offender or they, personally, were drinking at the time of the incident.
- C For male victims, the most common victim-offender relationship was a friend or acquaintance, followed by girlfriend. For females this distribution was reversed, as the offender most often was a boyfriend.

- C Few victims of personal crimes indicated that the offender was a stranger. However, males reported that they were threatened by a stranger at a much higher rate than were females.
- C Most of the personal crimes did not involve the use of a weapon. Only 4% of assault victims and 10% of threat victims reported that a firearm was involved.
- C When asked whether they took any action to stop the personal crime as it occurred, 18% of sexual assault victims reported they took no action or kept still, compared to 34% of assault victims.
- C Thirty-eight percent of assault victims and 64% of sexual assault victims stated that they used physical force to stop the offender.
- C A minority of personal crime victims reported the incident to the police. Forty-five percent of the assault victims, 24% of the threat victims, and none of the sexual assault victims reported the crime to the police.
- C A majority of the personal crime victims who did not report the incident to the police stated as a reason that it was a private or personal matter. That it was not important enough was also a common reason.
- C The most common reasons for reporting a personal crime to the police were to stop the offender from hurting others, to protect themselves from further crime, and to stop/prevent the incident from occurring.
- C When asked what the appropriate sentence would be for the offender, victims of personal crimes most commonly endorsed treatment or rehabilitation followed by regular probation.
- C Compared to victims of property crime, more victims of personal crimes endorsed a prison sentence, however, there were also comparatively more victims of personal crime who thought that it would be appropriate if the offender was not punished at all.

Comparison With National and Other State-Wide Data

Iowa victimization rates generally exceed rates reported by the National Crime Victimization Survey. However, due to practical considerations, the methods of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) could not be replicated as closely as would be necessary to render directly comparable results. It would be inappropriate to

conclude that Iowa's crime victimization rates are higher than the national rates. Rather, one must consider that several key methodological differences between the two studies resulted in data that are not directly comparable.

- C A major difference between the NCVS and the IACVS is the age qualification for the samples used. The NCVS presents the victimization rates as number of incidents per 1,000 persons age 12 and older. The IACVS presents the victimization rate as the number of incidents per 1,000 adults age 18 and older.
- C The NCVS excludes data from respondents who have been victimized in a similar way six or more times. If employed in the present survey, this method would have drastically reduced the rates for personal crime.
- C The NCVS survey instrument asks respondents about crimes that occurred in the previous six months, whereas the IACVS utilizes a 12 month reference period. Prior research indicates that when utilizing a one-year reference period, some crimes are forgotten while others are placed in the wrong month or even wrong year. This can increase the estimated crime rate by 40 to 50%.
- C The IACVS utilizes more specific language than the NCVS does in some questions. It is likely that the different wording of questions and general survey format would have different effects on respondent memory and subjective interpretation of experiences.

The crime rates presented in the IACVS are higher than may have been expected. However, these are incidents that Iowans are subjectively classifying as victimizations. Although the descriptions that Iowans provide of these incidents do conform to technical definitions of crime, these incidents, if reported to law enforcement officials, may not have been founded as crimes. However, the bottom line is, when asked, many Iowans state they have been victim to what they consider to be crimes. Furthermore, a proportion of these victims state they have experienced a high number of crimes.

Comparison With Iowa Uniform

Crime Reports

One of the original interests for the IACVS was to provide statewide victimization rates that could be compared with Iowa Uniform Crime Reports data. Due to definitional and methodological differences between the IACVS and the IUCR, the data are not strictly comparable.

C With these limitations in mind, findings suggest that for every seven burglaries and thefts (IACVS), only one is reported to and classified as a crime by law enforcement officials. This difference is even larger for rapes 1:172.

Correlates of Crime

- Respondents who reported daily heavy drinking averaged 3 to 5 times more victimizations than moderate users and nonusers. There were also significantly higher victimization rates for those who “spent the evening out” almost every evening and for those who went shopping almost daily, rather than less often.

C The home protection questions revealed that victims tended to use a greater number of home protection methods than did non-victims. Whether this was a result of their victimization or an indicator of insufficient protection methods is impossible to tell.

C Respondents with low neighborhood attachment averaged 2.5 times the rate of victimization as those with medium attachment, and 1.9 times as many victimizations as those who have high attachment.

Appropriate Sentencing of Offenders

- When given controlled hypothetical crime scenarios, Iowans suggested different sentences for juvenile and/or first time offenders than for older and habitual offenders.
- Respondents seemed to believe that a prison term is a serious punishment best used for older and habitual offenders. Respondents were often willing to support alternatives to prison (boot camp, house arrest, etc.) as the appropriate sentence for younger and first time offenders.
- There was extensive support for rehabilitation and treatment of all types of offenders considered in the scenarios.

Conclusion

National and statewide studies have found the rates of recorded crimes to be dropping over the past few years. While fewer crimes actually being reported to the police and then officially recorded does not necessarily mean that fewer people are being victimized, findings from the NCVS do show the same trend in victimizations nationally.

Recognizing the potential for differences between sources such as the Uniform Crime Report and the actual number of victimizations experienced by the public, victimization studies, like the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), were developed. Victimization studies are designed to provide a more complete picture of the frequency of crime by taking into consideration both instances of reported crimes and unreported/unrecorded victimizations.

Unfortunately, the NCVS does not provide state-level estimates, leaving a void of information regarding the estimated number of victimizations in Iowa. Part of the purpose of the IACVS was to fill this void.

Using methods based on the NCVS model, victimization rates were detected in Iowa that exceed the corresponding crime rates reported in the Iowa Uniform Crime Report. Even though the IACVS rates are not directly comparable to those of the Iowa Uniform Crime Report, the finding that so many Iowans reported in the IACVS experiences that they subjectively consider to be crimes cannot be ignored.

Since this was an initial attempt at measuring the rates of victimizations in Iowa, this study cannot conclude whether victimization rates are falling parallel to the official rates of reported and recorded crimes. What this study can conclude, however, is that crime in the state is much more common than otherwise reported.

The IACVS clearly shows that Iowa does have many crime victims. For every 1,000 adults in the state, there were approximately 409 incidents of property crime committed against approximately 202 persons, and 239 incidents of personal crime committed against 102 persons. When projected to

the state's adult population, these numbers estimate that in the last 12 months there were 436,000 incidents of property crime committed against 215,000 victims, of property crime and almost 210,00 victims of personal crime.

Although the majority of these crimes were relatively minor (thefts were the most commonly reported), it is still noteworthy that there were over 700,000 incidents of criminal victimization over the course of a single 12-month period.

Also notable was the reported non-use of agencies and programs that exist for the purpose of helping victims. Only about one-half of all victims reported at least one of their victimizations to the police, a finding that explains a large portion of the difference between the IACVS and the Iowa Uniform Crime Reports. Few victims of violent crime indicated an awareness of victim assistance programs such as the Iowa Victim Compensation Program, crisis intervention centers, and counseling services. Even fewer, still, reported utilizing these programs.

Possible Implications

Crime is a problem in the state that certainly deserves our attention and resourcefulness. With so few Iowans reporting their victimizations to the police and using victim assistance programs, developing more effective strategies to aid victims is a clear need. New law enforcement and victim assistance programs will only be effective when victims actually know about and start using these services. To heighten awareness and use of existing agencies, one promising strategy may be to focus on victim prevention efforts.

Two aspects of victim prevention were highlighted in this study. The first focused on the offender by studying the public perception of the appropriate sentencing of criminals to reduce recidivism rates. The second focused on the personal characteristics of Iowans who are most at risk of becoming victims.

The public seems to understand that more than punishment should come into consideration when choosing the appropriate sentence for a convicted offender. This public perception that prison terms

are not necessarily the only, or even the most appropriate, sentence challenges the common assumption that Iowans always want greater use of prisons to combat crime. Instead, many Iowans seem to favor the use of rehabilitative sentences, that theoretically help the offender rejoin civil society while adding a type of controlled structure to his or her life. A truly rehabilitated offender does not recidivate, and thus, has no more victims. As a generalization, and except for the more violent and chronic offenders, Iowans do not generally favor a prison term as the best sentence.

New efforts to develop and expand the use of alternatives to prison can be made, therefore, with the support of general public sentiment. For the crimes considered in the IACVS, the public favors not focusing on prison as the sole means of sentencing in the state. Alternatives such as intensive probation, work release programs, and boot camps may better fit the public's perception of an appropriate, rehabilitative sentence. This finding is consistent with findings from the recent Iowa Commission on Community Justice Report (1997). The commission similarly found that Iowans were disillusioned with prison, considered restitution and rehabilitation to be especially important goals for nonviolent offenders, and were in support of alternative sentences for both nonviolent offenders and offenders guilty of domestic violence.

In the IACVS, it was significant that across several categories of offenses, the first or second most common reasons for not reporting the incident to the police was that the victim defined the incident as a "private" matter. Similarly, the recommended punishment for many property crimes was financial restitution. Together such findings suggest that many conflicts that meet the legal definition of crime are defined by the victim as a private matter, especially in light of the victim-offender relationships. Rather than focusing on the amounts of unreported crime (the "dark figure" of crime) there seems to be room for "rethinking" institutional responses to criminal incidents involving people who are known to each other. This does not imply a laissez-faire approach. Rather, it suggests a need for intermediate, even informal responses to some crimes, such as mediation.

Again the idea of intermediate responses is congruent with findings of the Iowa Commission on Community Justice (1997). Results of that study indicated that Iowans defined punishment to include actions such as making the offender accountable, paying back the victim, and completing community service. In effect, Iowans felt that making the offender a responsible citizen could be a more appropriate “punishment” than jail or prison terms. One specific concept that Iowans were in support of were “wrap around services.” Wrap around services focus on both the offender and their families in a holistic manner. These services attempt to end the cycle of welfare dependency and criminal involvement which may trap families from generation to generation. Iowans were also in support of increased involvement from businesses and faith communities.

In addition to implications for sentencing, a second strategy for victim prevention focuses on the victim. Perhaps even more appreciable than the high number of Iowans who were victims of crimes in the last 12 months is the number of Iowans who were the victim of multiple crimes in this time period. In the IACVS, approximately 14% of all victims experienced 49% of the victimizations. Whether it is a woman hesitant to leave an abusive relationship, a man who is often assaulted when he becomes intoxicated, or a family that never locks its doors, some people are more prone to becoming victims than others.

One correlate of multiple victimizations is alcohol use. An obvious strategy to prevent victimizations, therefore, is to limit alcohol use in high risk situations. Unfortunately, this strategy is much easier said than done. Iowa has an extensive substance abuse prevention program. The state’s levels of alcohol use and dependency in the general population are significant; 77.1% recent use and 8.3% dependent (Lutz et al., 1995). The state has also witnessed the rebirth of marijuana as a popular “drug of choice” among the youth and the strong possibility of a statewide methamphetamine epidemic. Efforts at substance abuse prevention should be supported, but perhaps as importantly, efforts to make treatment more available for substance abusers (including those who have criminally offended) should be expanded. A

rehabilitated substance abuser is less likely to commit a crime or become a crime victim.

Problems relating to alcohol use make for easy targets when pointing to the ways victimizations can be reduced. An inability to prevent substance abuse, however, makes strategies to combat victimizations on this front hard to come by. Fortunately there are other ways to help prevent potential victims from falling prey to crime.

Just as an appropriate sentence can help rehabilitate an offender, appropriate training and assistance can help teach a victim how not to become a victim again. Furthermore, non-victims can be advised how best to continue avoiding crime. It is in this vein that law enforcement and victim assistance programs may be best utilized. In addition to responding to victimizations that have already happened, these agencies may also be used to help prevent victimizations from occurring in the first place.

The IACVS found that since individuals who have low neighborhood attachment are more frequently the victims of crime. Thus, policies such as community policing and neighborhood development might be implemented to help strengthen neighborhood attachment. Community policing (Kelling, 1988) is based on the idea that an atmosphere of violent crime is born out of an extension of tolerance for relatively “minor” crimes. The law enforcement focus, therefore, shifts from responding to crimes already committed to preventing future crime by upholding community standards. These standards may range from making sure an old, unused car is not left “parked” on the street to clearing prostitutes and drug dealers from an area. In order to uphold the standards of the community, however, a law enforcement officer must first be accepted as part of the community. This acceptance often means parking the squad car and walking a beat, or stopping to ask about citizen concerns.

This same model of community involvement can also be used by victim assistance programs. Instead of waiting for victims to seek assistance, victim assistance programs can help teach community members to avoid becoming victims. The focus of these programs could be to become as

accepted in the community as a police officer who walks a beat or asks citizens of their concerns. Once accepted into the community, victim assistance personnel might not be viewed as outsiders whose confidentiality and discretion are questioned by those who need help. Instead, they could be neighbors who teach the elderly the importance of dead-bolting their doors, organizing a neighborhood cleanup day, and teaching young women the dangers of an abusive relationship before they get into one. Until this community role and trust are established, victim assistance will likely remain a relatively unused service by those who need it.

The concept of crime control through increased community involvement is not entirely a new one. A recent movement which stems from community policing is community justice. Community justice fully involves the victim, the offender, and the rest of the community. Community justice requires the punishment to fit the crime, the wrong to be made right.

While in theory preventative measures dealing with victimization appear to be the most appropriate, practical limitations often hinder such efforts. To assume that a greater amount of public trust in law enforcement and victim services is immediately achievable is probably unrealistic. If these service personnel are overburdened with their current caseloads, they will be hard pressed to take hold of opportunities to branch into the suggested preventative directions. If no one knows the services exist, becoming a more integral part of the community seems impossible. If funding is not available to cover the most basic functions of law enforcement, expecting more is unreasonable.

Law enforcement and victim services need support to strengthen their staffs and to improve public recognition. Without the needed support, any hope that law enforcement and victim services can improve on their current services and begin taking more preventative measures in combating crime is unrealistic.

It has been the goal of the 1997 IACVS to not only give a more complete picture of crime victimization in Iowa, but to also help shed light on possible methods Iowa can use in combating crime. Expanding the missions of law enforcement and victim assistance programs to include victim prevention strategies will help to strengthen communities, empower citizens against victimization, and establish these programs as trusted mentors, standard bearers, and protectors of the community. If these goals are achieved, the differences between officially reported crime and victimizations that were the impetus of victimization surveys will diminish.

Until this time victimization studies will remain a valuable data source of unreported crimes, and a strong basis for public policy decisions. Victimization studies should not be perceived as conflicting with sources such as the Iowa Uniform Crime Report, but as complementing them. When used together, the reports can help policy makers attain a more accurate view of the entire crime problem in the state, anticipate what services are needed, understand which programs are meeting their goals, and develop better ideas for existing programs to serve the public.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Neighborhood Attachment

| | Strongly Disagree | | Disagree | | Neither | | Agree | | Strongly Agree | |
|--|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % |
| I like the neighborhood I live in | 11 | 0.6 | 60 | 3.0 | 8 | 0.4 | 884 | 43.8 | 999 | 49.4 |
| I would ask a neighbor for help if I needed it | 22 | 1.1 | 166 | 8.2 | 17 | 0.8 | 812 | 40.2 | 943 | 46.7 |
| People in my neighborhood move in and out a lot | 482 | 23.9 | 1023 | 50.6 | 28 | 4.1 | 309 | 15.3 | 102 | 5.0 |
| Most kids in our neighborhood have chance of success | 31 | 1.5 | 95 | 4.7 | 170 | 8.4 | 1017 | 50.3 | 613 | 30.3 |

| | Never | | Hardly ever | | Sometimes | | Often | |
|--|--------------|----------|--------------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % |
| You and your neighbors exchange favors | 199 | 9.9 | 334 | 16.6 | 773 | 38.3 | 648 | 32.1 |
| You share information about school, kid's programs, etc. | 556 | 27.5 | 290 | 14.4 | 528 | 26.1 | 565 | 28.0 |
| You watch others' property when at work or on vacation | 224 | 11.1 | 104 | 5.1 | 442 | 21.9 | 1178 | 58.3 |
| You keep an eye on each others' children | 318 | 15.7 | 128 | 6.3 | 346 | 17.1 | 556 | 27.5 |
| You ask advice and discuss personal things | 576 | 28.5 | 441 | 21.8 | 592 | 29.3 | 344 | 17.0 |
| You have block parties | 1271 | 62.9 | 307 | 15.2 | 281 | 13.9 | 87 | 4.3 |
| You visit each others homes | 413 | 20.5 | 358 | 17.7 | 748 | 37.0 | 430 | 21.3 |
| You take care of each others' kids when parent runs errand | 501 | 24.8 | 170 | 8.4 | 352 | 17.4 | 212 | 10.5 |

| | Not at All | | A Little | | Some | | Very Much | |
|--|-------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % |
| How much you would miss your neighborhood if you had to move | 158 | 7.8 | 252 | 12.5 | 587 | 29.0 | 950 | 47.0 |

Appendix B

Appropriate Sentencing Choices

| Table B.1. Appropriate Sentencing Choices by Type of Crime, Prior Record, and Offender Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------|
| | Robbery | | | | | | | | | | | | Theft | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No Prior Record | | | | | | Prior Record | | | | | | No Prior Record | | | | | | Prior Record | | | | | |
| | 14 | | 16 | | 25 | | 14 | | 16 | | 25 | | 14 | | 16 | | 25 | | 14 | | 16 | | 25 | |
| | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % | | |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 238 | 77.0 | 261 | 72.5 | 291 | 83.9 | 294 | 73.3 | 207 | 77.8 | 298 | 79.3 | 207 | 72.9 | 250 | 74.4 | 261 | 80.6 | 280 | 81.2 | 242 | 79.3 | 299 | 83.8 |
| Restitution | 303 | 95.6 | 345 | 96.9 | 346 | 98.3 | 290 | 97.0 | 274 | 97.9 | 360 | 96.3 | 278 | 96.9 | 329 | 97.9 | 319 | 98.5 | 340 | 96.6 | 303 | 98.1 | 350 | 98.3 |
| Probation | 246 | 78.3 | 256 | 72.7 | 258 | 75.0 | 173 | 59.0 | 150 | 54.7 | 190 | 51.4 | 223 | 78.5 | 255 | 77.3 | 255 | 79.7 | 210 | 60.5 | 179 | 59.5 | 206 | 59.0 |
| Intensive probation | 184 | 59.9 | 203 | 58.7 | 194 | 57.2 | 203 | 71.5 | 181 | 66.3 | 236 | 65.6 | 128 | 45.1 | 122 | 37.8 | 144 | 46.2 | 247 | 71.6 | 233 | 76.6 | 249 | 71.6 |
| Jail less than a year | 156 | 50.8 | 187 | 54.0 | 189 | 56.1 | 168 | 58.9 | 150 | 55.6 | 205 | 55.9 | 97 | 35.1 | 131 | 40.4 | 191 | 60.3 | 205 | 59.4 | 176 | 58.1 | 224 | 63.6 |
| Prison | 65 | 21.9 | 96 | 28.0 | 101 | 29.9 | 131 | 47.1 | 147 | 55.7 | 262 | 72.4 | 16 | 5.6 | 34 | 10.5 | 41 | 12.9 | 76 | 21.8 | 84 | 28.5 | 157 | 44.7 |
| Boot camp | 184 | 62.2 | 194 | 57.1 | 131 | 39.9 | 196 | 69.3 | 168 | 63.6 | 144 | 42.0 | 132 | 48.4 | 166 | 53.4 | 94 | 29.9 | 234 | 68.6 | 195 | 64.8 | 154 | 44.8 |
| Work release | 155 | 50.0 | 171 | 49.3 | 187 | 55.2 | 110 | 38.1 | 125 | 46.8 | 153 | 42.6 | 120 | 43.2 | 190 | 58.1 | 203 | 64.4 | 164 | 47.8 | 156 | 51.8 | 199 | 56.9 |
| House arrest | 142 | 47.3 | 147 | 42.4 | 111 | 33.1 | 134 | 47.3 | 99 | 36.8 | 99 | 27.7 | 128 | 46.7 | 135 | 42.5 | 105 | 32.8 | 193 | 55.8 | 134 | 46.0 | 133 | 38.1 |
| Halfway house | 83 | 28.7 | 112 | 33.6 | 89 | 27.0 | 102 | 36.6 | 91 | 34.5 | 109 | 31.1 | 70 | 26.0 | 74 | 23.1 | 78 | 24.6 | 128 | 39.0 | 108 | 36.7 | 117 | 34.7 |
| Electronic monitoring | 152 | 50.5 | 141 | 42.1 | 148 | 43.0 | 155 | 54.8 | 125 | 46.1 | 185 | 52.6 | 107 | 38.4 | 113 | 35.3 | 117 | 37.1 | 170 | 51.1 | 161 | 53.5 | 177 | 51.9 |
| Community service | 283 | 89.6 | 308 | 87.3 | 315 | 90.0 | 249 | 85.3 | 230 | 83.3 | 276 | 75.4 | 257 | 89.5 | 312 | 93.4 | 303 | 93.2 | 315 | 90.8 | 272 | 88.6 | 308 | 87.0 |
| Treatment rehabilitation | 269 | 86.8 | 276 | 78.6 | 274 | 78.7 | 266 | 90.5 | 249 | 89.9 | 303 | 84.4 | 215 | 75.7 | 252 | 76.8 | 256 | 80.3 | 292 | 85.4 | 263 | 87.1 | 312 | 88.6 |

Appendix C

Computation of Sentencing Component Scores Using Factor Weights

Rpubsaf=AP6.1(.589)

Rrehab = AP3.1(.169)+AP4.1(.156)+AP5.1(.150)+AP7.1(.163)+AP8.1(.190)+AP9.1(.201)+AP10.1(.172)+
AP11.1(.178)+AP12.1(.207)+AP13.1(.172)

Rfinan = AP1.1(.322)+AP2.1(.505)

Lpubsaf=AP6.2(.414)

Lrehab = AP3.2(.125)+AP4.2(.126)+AP5.2(.133)+AP7.2(.180)+AP8.2(.170)+AP9.2(.198)+AP10.2(.171)+
AP11.2(.189)+AP12.2(.181)+AP13.2(.194)

Lfinan = AP1.2(.396)+AP2.2(.390)

| | Robbery | | Theft |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Rpubsaf = | Public Safety component of sentencing robbery offenders | Lpubsaf = | Public Safety component of sentencing theft offenders |
| Rrehab = | Rehabilitation component of sentencing robbery offenders | Lrehab = | Rehabilitation component of sentencing theft offenders |
| Rfinan = | Financial Restitution component of sentencing robbery offenders | Lfinan = | Financial Restitution component of sentencing theft offenders |
| AP1.1 = | Said yes to pay fine to state/local government | AP1.2 = | Said yes to pay fine to state/local government |
| AP2.1 = | Said yes to pay restitution to victim | AP2.2 = | Said yes to pay restitution to victim |
| AP3.1 = | Said yes to sentenced to probation | AP3.2 = | Said yes to sentenced to probation |
| AP4.1 = | Said yes to sentenced to intensive probation | AP4.2 = | Said yes to sentenced to intensive probation |
| AP5.1 = | Said yes to jail term of less than 1 year | AP5.2 = | Said yes to jail term of less than 1 year |
| AP6.1 = | Said yes to prison sentence | AP6.2 = | Said yes to prison sentence |
| AP7.1 = | Said yes to being sent to boot camp | AP7.2 = | Said yes to being sent to boot camp |
| AP8.1 = | Said yes to being put on work release | AP8.2 = | Said yes to being put on work release |
| AP9.1 = | Said yes to put on house arrest | AP9.2 = | Said yes to put on house arrest |
| AP10.1= | Said yes to being sent to a halfway house | AP10.2= | Said yes to being sent to a halfway house |
| AP11.1= | Said yes to electronic monitoring | AP11.2= | Said yes to electronic monitoring |
| AP12.1= | Said yes to have to do community service | AP12.2= | Said yes to have to do community service |
| AP13.1= | Said yes to send to treatment or rehabilitation | AP13.2= | Said yes to send to treatment or rehabilitation |

| Table C.1. Factor Weights | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Robbery Factor Weights | Theft Factor Weights |
| Pay fine to state/local government | 0.322 | 0.396 |
| Pay restitution to victim | 0.505 | 0.390 |
| Sentenced to probation | 0.169 | 0.125 |
| Sentenced to intensive probation | 0.156 | 0.126 |
| Jail term (less than 1 year) | 0.150 | 0.133 |
| Prison | 0.589 | 0.414 |
| Boot camp | 0.163 | 0.180 |
| Work release | 0.190 | 0.170 |
| House arrest | 0.201 | 0.198 |
| Halfway house | 0.172 | 0.171 |
| Electronic monitoring | 0.178 | 0.189 |
| Community Service | 0.207 | 0.181 |
| Treatment or rehabilitation | 0.172 | 0.194 |

| Table C.2. Emphasis Cut-Off Points and Percentage of Respondents Classified as Putting High Emphasis on Each Component | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Robbery | | Theft | |
| | Cut-Off | Percent | Cut-Off | Percent |
| Public Safety | >0.0000 | 39.7% | >0.9218 | 20.2% |
| Rehabilitation | >1.0171 | 49.4% | >0.0000 | 50.0% |
| Financial Restitution | >0.8269 | 73.1% | >0.7859 | 74.5% |

Appendix D

Crime Definitions

Assault: An assault victim is anyone who has been intentionally hit, slapped, tripped, knocked down, hit with a blunt object, hit with a thrown object, stabbed or cut with a sharp object, shot at, or burned.

Attempted Crimes involve a criminal action which was blocked or otherwise not completed.

Burglary: Any forced or illegal entry into someone's property, including a house or apartment, garage, shed, storage room, farm building, hotel room or vacation house.

Completed Crimes are defined as successfully carrying out criminal actions directed against an individual or their belongings/property.

Personal Crimes: Crimes committed directly against an individual's own person, including assault, both completed and attempted; sexual assault, completed and attempted; threats, and purse snatching or pocket picking.

Property Crimes: Crimes involving actual damage or destruction to an individual's property, or attempts at this sort of violence. These include theft, burglary, and vandalism.

Robbery: The taking of anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force, threat of force, or violence; and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm..

Sexual Assault:

Rape: forced or coerced sexual intercourse.

Non-intercourse sexual assault: any unwanted grabbing, petting, or fondling.

Theft Related Crimes:

Motor vehicle theft: Unauthorized use of any motor vehicle (including cars vans, trucks, motorcycles, all-terrain-vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, etc.).

Personal theft: pocket picking, purse snatching, or the act of stealing something directly out of the personal possession of the victim without excessive force, violence, or a threat of violence. The difference between personal theft and robbery is that robbery includes the use or threat of force. Personal thefts are actually personal crimes, along with assaults, sexual assaults, and threats. However, due to the methodology of the present study, personal thefts will be reported with the other thefts in the property crime section.

Property thefts: Other thefts that were included in this study are any thefts from a victims personal property by someone who was allowed to be there (such as a friend, relative, baby-sitter, repair person etc.). Also included are thefts from a victims property that did not require the offender to illegally a building. Examples would be theft of livestock, pets, produce, tools, machinery, lawn decorations, toys, etc.

Threat: Any expression of intention to harm someone which is not acted upon.

Vandalism: The deliberate damage to or destruction of someone's personal property. Consistent with Iowa's Incident Based Crime Classification System, only incidents where the damage exceeded \$100 were included.