

Crime Against People with Disabilities

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Crime Victims with Disability Awareness Act

- Public Law 105-301 passed in 1998
- Section 5 of the Act directed U.S. Department of Justice to include statistics relating to “the nature of crimes against people with developmental disabilities; and the specific characteristics of the victims of those crimes” in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

Reasons for Act

- Few studies conducted on crime against persons with disabilities
- Available studies had many limitations
 - Not nationally representative
 - Limited samples
 - Limited focus
 - Little contextual data

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- Initiated in 1972 (as the National Crime Survey)
- Redesigned in early 90s
- Purposes:
 - Measure “dark figure of unreported crime”
 - Obtain information on characteristics of crime victims and crime events
 - Provide estimates of year to year change

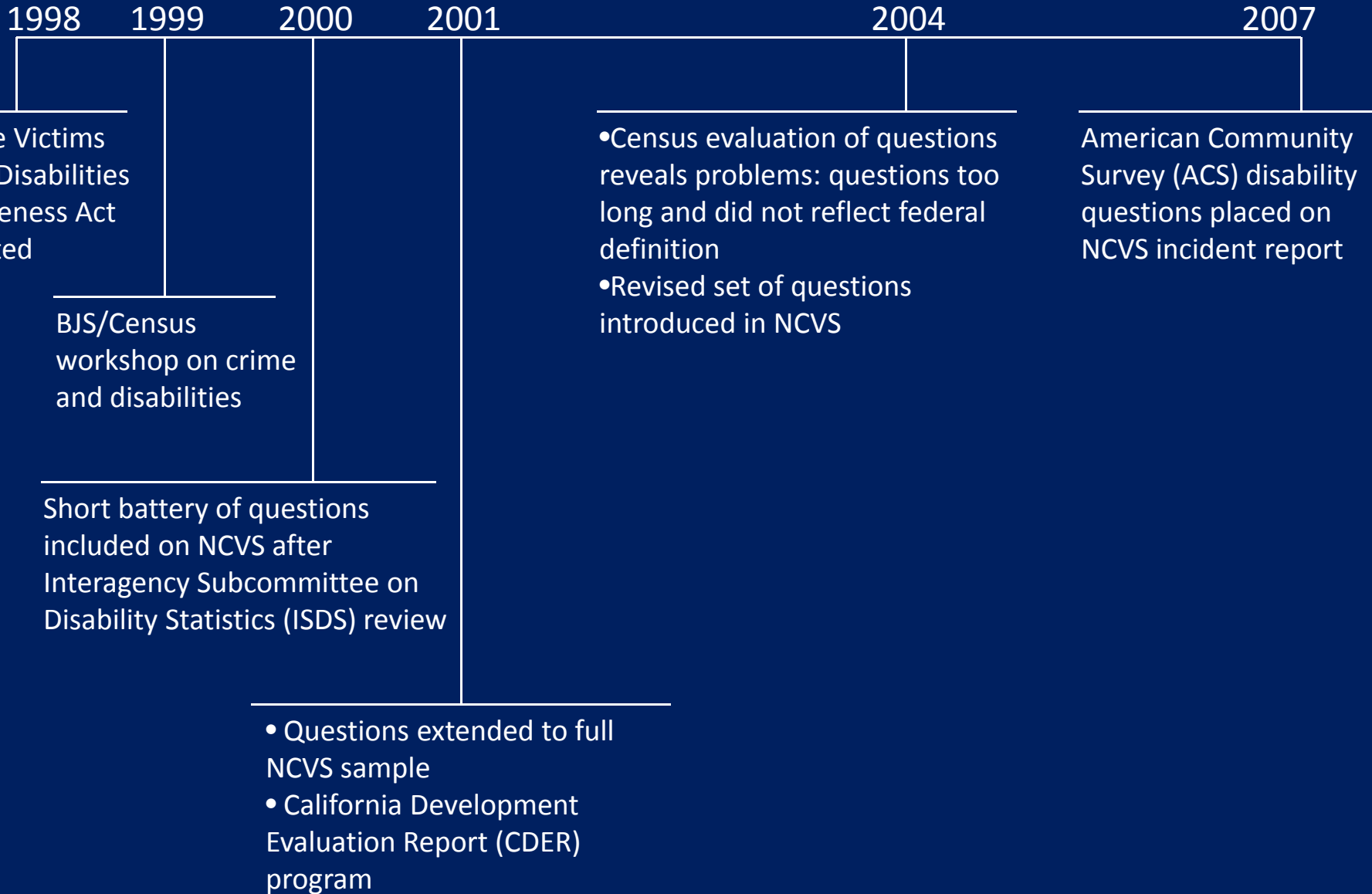
Crimes measured by the NCVS

- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault
- Simple assault
- Pocket picking/purse snatching
- Burglary
- Motor vehicle theft
- Theft

NCVS Design

- Nationally representative stratified multistage sample drawn from Decennial Census
- Household (address)-based survey
- One of the largest ongoing government surveys
- Interviews with non-institutionalized persons age 12 or older
- Sample interviewed every 6 months
 - 38,500 households
 - 67,000 people

Timeline



American Community Survey (ACS)

- Administered by the U.S. Census Bureau; initiated in 1996
- Each year provides communities with the same kind of demographic information previously available only when the Decennial Census was conducted
- Used in population estimates and calculation of rates of crime against persons based on disability status

Definition of disability

- **Disability** -a long-lasting (6 months or more) sensory, physical, mental or emotional condition that makes it difficult to perform activities of daily living, such as walking, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering
- Used in both ACS and NCVS

Types of disabilities

- *Cognitive function limitation*-a physical, mental, or emotional condition that makes learning, remembering, or concentrating difficult
- *Sensory limitation*-a condition, such as blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment
- *Physical limitation*-a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking

Types of disabilities, continued

- *Self-care limitation*-a condition that makes dressing, bathing, or getting around in the home difficult
- *Going-outside-home limitation*-a condition that makes going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office difficult
- *Employment limitation*-a physical, mental, or emotional condition that make it difficult to work at a job or business

Survey Issues

- Proxy interviews in the NCVS
 - Allowed if R is physically/mentally incapable of responding
 - May lead to crime undercount: Proxy respondents may not know about all crime incidents or may be the perpetrator of incidents
 - Made up 1% of all crimes and 2% of crimes against persons with disabilities reported to the NCVS in 2007
- Potential property crime undercount-HH disability status based on disability status of HH respondent who reported property crime incident

Survey Issues, continued

- NCVS/ACS differences
 - NCVS-personal visit and telephone interviews; ACS-self administered; Mode effects?
 - Would affect crime rates
- Non-institutional sample-ACS and NCVS
- NCVS-No accommodations were made for persons with communications disabilities
- No information on homicide

Unadjusted violent crime rates by disability status and age, 2007

Age	Persons with disabilities	Persons w/o disabilities
12-15	81.2	40.0
16-19	82.7	47.0
20-24	35.1	35.4
25-34	30.9	24.9
35-49	31.2	16.1
50-64	12.2	11.6
60 or older	2.1	3.0

Age-adjustment of crime rates

- Needed to account for differing age distributions of persons with and w/o disabilities
- Calculated by:
 - unadjusted crime rate=number of crime incidents(NCVS) against persons with disabilities in age group divided by number of persons with disabilities in age group (ACS)
 - ratio=number of persons w/o disabilities in age group divided by total number of persons w/o disabilities
 - weighted estimate=unadjusted crime rate for age group multiplied by ratio for age group
 - sum of weighted estimates for all age groups=age-adjusted rate for persons with disabilities

Violent crime rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older by disability status and type of crime, 2007

Type of crime	Persons with disabilities		Persons w/o disabilities
	Age-adjusted	Unadjusted	
Total nonfatal violent crime	32.4	18.1	21.3
Serious violent crime	11.1	6.1	7.0
Rape/sexual assault	2.4	1.2	0.9
Robbery	3.2	2.0	2.5
Aggravated assault	5.5	2.9	3.6
Simple assault	21.3	12.0	14.3

Number of nonfatal violent crimes by disability status and type of crime, 2007

Type of crime	Persons with disabilities	Persons w/o disabilities
Total nonfatal violent crime	716,320	4,432,460
Serious violent crime	240,070	1,460,450
Rape/sexual assault	47,440	185,600
Robbery	78,990	516,000
Aggravated assault	113,640	758,900
Simple assault	476,250	2,972,020

Violent crime rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older by disability status and gender, 2007

	Persons with disabilities		Persons w/o disabilities
	Age-adjusted	Unadjusted	
Total	32.4	18.1	21.3
Gender			
Males	29.5	18.5	23.7
Females	34.8	17.8	18.9

Violent crime rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older by disability status and race, 2007

	Persons with disabilities		Persons w/o disabilities
	Age- adjusted	Unadjusted	
Total	32.4	18.1	21.3
Race			
White	34.1	18.4	22.4
Black/African American	31.2	18.3	25.8
Other race	2.3*	3.5*	12.3
2 or more races	91.0	70.7	51.6

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Violent crime rates by disability status and Hispanic origin, 2007

	Persons with disabilities		Persons w/o disabilities
	Age-Adjusted	Unadjusted	
Total	32.4	18.1	21.3
Hispanic origin			
Hispanic	19.0	12.2	19.1
Non-Hispanic	33.9	18.8	21.6

Unadjusted violent crime rates per 1,000 age 12 or older by type of disability and gender, 2007

Type of disability	Total	Male	Female
Sensory	11.8	13.4	9.8
Physical	13.5	15.3	12.2
Cognitive	27.8	24.1	31.3
Self-care	10.5	17.1	6.0*
Go-outside-home	11.8	13.9	10.5
Employment	15.6	16.0	15.2

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Among males and females with disabilities, those with a cognitive disability had the greatest risk of violent victimization.

Victim/offender relationship of violent crime

- Intimate partner violence-
 - 16% of violence against females with disabilities and 5% of violence against males with disabilities
 - Smaller gender difference in persons with disabilities (16% vs. 5%) than in persons w/o disabilities (27% vs. 3)
- Stranger violence-
 - more prevalent in males than females regardless of disability status
 - 34% of violence against females with disabilities and 24% of violence against females w/o disabilities

Victim resistance during violent crime

- About 2/3 of violent crime victims with disabilities resist offender, similar to persons w/o disabilities
- Victims with disabilities were less likely to resist **without** a weapon than victims w/o disabilities. (20% vs. 26%)

Offender weapon and firearm use in violent crime

- About 18% of violent crime victims with a disability faced an offender with a weapon
- There was no statistically significant difference by disability status in the risk of facing an offender with a weapon
- Violent crime victims with disabilities were less likely to face an offender (4%) armed with a firearm than victims w/o disabilities (9%)

Injury and medical treatment as a result of violent victimization

- About a quarter of violent crime victims with disabilities report being injured, similar to victims w/o disabilities
- About 13% of violent crime victims with disabilities sought medical treatment for injuries, similar to victims w/o disabilities
- Less than 1% of victims with disabilities were admitted to hospital for overnight stay

Victim experience with police

- 43% of nonfatal violence against persons with disabilities reported to police, not statistically significant from percentage for victims w/o disabilities (47%)
- According to violent crime victims, police responded to a lower percentage of reported violence against victims with disabilities (74%) than victims without disabilities (84%)

Violent crime victim experience with non-police victim assistance agencies

Type of agency	Victims with disabilities	Victims w/o disabilities
Used victim agency	9.4%	8.6%
Government agency	5.7	5.4
Private agency	2.8*	2.5
Did not know agency type	0.9*	0.6*

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

No statistically significant difference between the percentage of violent crime victims with disabilities and violent crime victims w/o disabilities in the percentage of victims that used a victim assistance agency other than the police in 2007.

Number of property crimes by household disability status and type of crime, 2007

	Households with persons with disabilities	Households w/o persons with disabilities
Total property crime	2,320,360	14,739,140
Household burglary	527,040	2,619,960
Motor vehicle theft	107,260	845,060
Theft	1,686,070	11,274,120

More Information

- Possibly include disability questions on the NCVS-1 to gain disability population estimates through NCVS
- Changed disability questions on 2008 NCVS to match 2008 ACS disability questions
- Annual report
- Report availability:
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/capd07
- Conclusion and wrap up

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