



National Incident-Based Reporting System

Violent Crime against the Elderly Reported by Law Enforcement in Michigan, 2005-2009

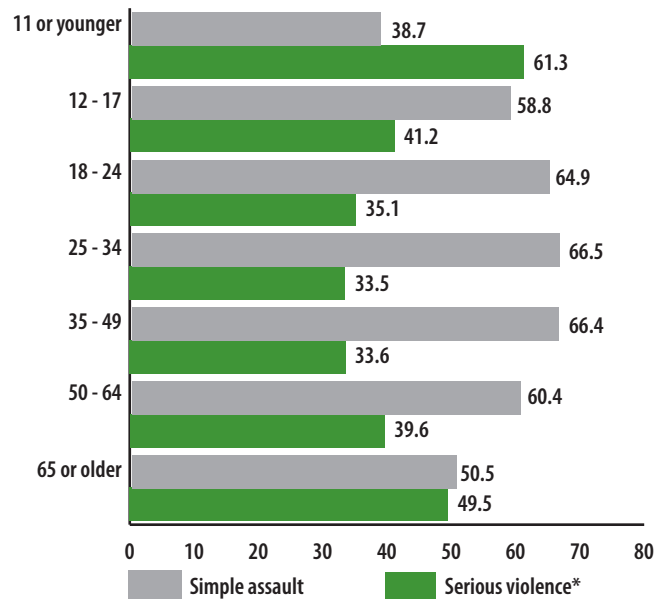
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Abuse of elderly victims age 65 or older can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, financial or material exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. While a large scale effort to track these various forms of elder abuse does not exist in the United States, data reported to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) can shed light on specific aspects of elder abuse in many jurisdictions across the nation. Annually, NIBRS compiles incident-based administrative data on all crimes recorded by participating state and local law enforcement agencies, including physical and sexual abuse of the elderly. The NIBRS data capture a wide range of information on the victims and offenders, as well as characteristics of the incidents. The FBI acts as a central collection agent for these data. While NIBRS is not yet national, sixteen states submitted administrative data on all crimes known to law enforcement agencies in 2012. (See *Methodology*.)

Because NIBRS data are not nationally representative, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) focused on data from Michigan, which was a complete reporting state from 2005 to 2009. This allowed BJS to demonstrate the capabilities of NIBRS data when looking at the violent victimizations of people age 65 or older. During this 5-year period, Michigan

FIGURE 1

Percent of violent victimizations known to law enforcement in Michigan, by seriousness of the offense and age of victim, 2005-2009



*Includes murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and kidnapping.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Half (49.5%) of violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan involved serious violence—murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and kidnapping (figure 1).
- Three out of 10 elderly victims of reported violence were victimized by their own child or grandchild.
- More than a third of violent victimizations of elderly women (37.8%) involved the victim's child or grandchild, compared to less than a quarter of victimizations of elderly men (22.5%).
- The rate of reported violence against elderly men (247.7 per 100,000 males age 65 or older) was 1.4 times higher than the rate for elderly women (172.9 per 100,000 women age 65 or older).
- The rate of reported violent victimization by a stranger was more than 2 times greater for elderly men (65.5 per 100,000 males age 65 or older) than for elderly women (29.2 per 100,000 women age 65 or older).

law enforcement agencies that reported incident-based data represented 95% or more of Michigan's population. As a result of Michigan's complete reporting status, BJS was able to produce population-based reported violent victimization rates that compare the number of violent victimizations known to law enforcement to the number of residents in that state. The data detail violent victimization of people age 65 or older who were victims of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, violent sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and simple assault. Rates in this report are expressed as the number of reported violent victimizations per 100,000 Michigan residents. (See *Methodology* for additional information on the NIBRS data and the Michigan sample.)

Beyond recognizing the various types of crime to which the elderly may be subjected, little is known about how often these victimizations occur or the severity of the incidents. Recent studies have measured the prevalence of various forms of elder abuse; however, these studies acknowledge the lack of available data on elder abuse and mistreatment while noting the likely magnitude of the problem. Several research studies have been conducted to provide a national estimate of elder abuse and mistreatment, but no data collection has been implemented that can supply a national source of data measuring victimization trends over time. (See *References* in *Methodology* for more information). This report demonstrates the value of NIBRS data for examining violent victimization of the elderly and provides a framework for describing trends for two types of elder abuse—physical violence and sexual abuse.

Michigan residents age 65 or older had the lowest rate of reported violent victimization compared to other age groups

Nearly 824,000 violent victimizations came to the attention of law enforcement in Michigan from 2005 to 2009. Victimization of the elderly accounted for 1.6% (or 13,220) of the total (not shown in a table). The rate of violent victimization known to law enforcement increased dramatically for Michigan residents from childhood to young adulthood, peaking between the ages of 18 and 24 ([table 1](#)). Thereafter, the rate of reported violent victimization diminished greatly with age, regardless of sex or race.

Elderly persons age 65 or older experienced the lowest annual rate of personal violence—204.5 violent victimizations per 100,000 persons in that age group. This rate was based on violent crimes known to law enforcement. Because not all violent crimes are reported to authorities, the rate is an undercount of the total victimization rate. Data from BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which collects information directly from victims on both reported and unreported victimizations, indicated that from 2005 to 2009, 47.4% of nonfatal violent victimizations (forcible rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) were reported to law enforcement. Elderly victims reported a higher percentage (58.5%) of nonfatal violent victimizations to law enforcement, compared to other age groups (47.2%).

TABLE 1

Rate of violent victimizations known to law enforcement in Michigan, by age, sex, and race of the victim, 2005-2009

Age of victim	Annual rate per 100,000 Michigan residents						
	Sex of victim			Race of victim*			
	All victims	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
All victims	1,640.7	1,424.4	1,850.2	1,229.1	4,236.0	540.3	226.3
11 or younger	601.2	583.2	620.1	536.6	993.8	239.7	54.3
12 - 17	2,951.8	2,695.7	3,221.3	2,310.7	5,934.5	648.5	272.3
18 - 24	3,917.0	2,974.4	4,894.8	2,962.8	9,401.7	883.1	412.4
25 - 34	2,961.6	2,221.3	3,716.4	2,239.3	7,088.5	898.2	341.1
35 - 49	1,759.7	1,510.1	2,007.0	1,339.2	4,641.3	621.7	225.6
50 - 64	675.4	740.1	613.6	481.1	2,157.2	238.4	183.2
65 or older	204.5	247.7	172.9	145.4	744.9	239.6	131.9
Total violent victimizations	823,587	351,710	471,877	506,017	312,666	2,036	2,868

Note: Counts of violent victimizations by victim's age, sex, and race are presented in appendix table 1. Michigan population data are presented in appendix table 2.

*Due to a large amount of missing data, information on Hispanic origin of the victim is not displayed.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Elderly males had a higher rate of reported violent victimization than elderly females

In Michigan, the annual rate of violence known to law enforcement against elderly males (247.7 per 100,000 males age 65 or older) was 1.4 times higher than the rate for elderly females (172.9 per 100,000 females age 65 or older).

Rates of reported violent victimization in Michigan varied by race and age group:

- Elderly whites (145.4 per 100,000 white persons age 65 or older) and elderly Asians and Pacific Islanders (131.9 per 100,000 Asians and Pacific Islanders age 65 or older) were victimized at a similar rate.
- Elderly blacks, who experienced the highest rate of reported violence (744.9 per 100,000 black persons age 65 or older), experienced violent victimizations at 5 times the rate of elderly whites or Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- The violent victimization rate for elderly American Indian and Alaska Natives (239.6 per 100,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives age 65 or older) was higher relative to the rate for whites and Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- The victimization rate for persons ages 65 to 74 (244.1 per 100,000 residents ages 65 to 74) was about 1.5 times greater than the rate for persons ages 75 to 84 (164.4 per 100,000) or age 85 or older (156.1 per 100,000) (not shown in a table).

Some care should be taken when comparing victimization rates within the elderly population, or between elderly and nonelderly groups. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that an estimated 14.0% of U.S. residents age 85 or older resided in a skilled nursing facility or other long-term care facility in 2009, compared to 1.2% of residents ages 65 to 74 and 4.0% of residents ages 75 to 84 (not shown in table).¹ Violent offenses that occur in these facilities may be reported to and investigated by authorities other than local law enforcement. As a result, elder victimization captured by NIBRS data is likely an undercount of the volume of such crimes known to authorities in general.

Offenders who victimized the elderly tended to be older than offenders who victimized younger persons

Offending rates were calculated to compare the likelihood of elderly persons being victimized by an offender in one particular demographic group compared to other age groups. Information is based on the primary offender, or

¹U.S. Census Bureau (2009). American Community Survey, S2601A, Characteristics of the Group Quarters Population; S2601B, Characteristics of the Group Quarters Population by Group Quarters Type. Retrieved from http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/population/households_families_group_quarters.html (table 73).

the offender with the closest relationship to the victim based on data known to law enforcement (see *Methodology*.) Offending rates are expressed as the average annual number of reported violent victimizations of the elderly committed by an offender subgroup (e.g., males) for every 100,000 individuals in the same demographic subgroup who resided in Michigan during the 5-year study period.

Known offending rates against elderly victims in Michigan varied by age, sex, and race:

- Males were more likely than females to victimize the elderly. The rate of elderly victimizations involving male offenders (48.5 victimizations per 100,000 males) was 3 times higher than the rate involving female offenders (14.6 victimizations per 100,000 females) (table 2).
- Black offenders (104.4 victimizations per 100,000 blacks) victimized the elderly at a rate 5 times higher than white offenders (19.7 victimizations per 100,000 whites).
- Elderly victims were more likely to be victimized by young adult offenders ages 18 to 24 than by offenders of other ages.

TABLE 2
Offending rate of reported violent victimizations of the elderly per 100,000 Michigan residents, by sex, race, and age of offender, 2005-2009

Offender characteristic	Annual rate per 100,000 population
Total	31.2
Sex	
Male	48.5
Female	14.6
Race*	
White	19.7
Black	104.4
American Indian/Alaska Native	6.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.4
Age	
12-17	31.4
18-24	45.1
25-34	34.6
35-49	35.5
50-64	21.7
65 or older	23.5

Note: Data on the offender's sex were known for 91.3% of victimizations, race for 88.7%, and age for 87%. Rate per 100,000 based on Michigan residents age 12 or older, as no offenders in the state between 2005 and 2009 were younger than age 12.

*Due to a large amount of missing data, information on Hispanic origin of the offender is not displayed.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Despite elderly victims experiencing a higher rate of reported violence by offenders ages 18 to 24, offenders who perpetrated violence against persons age 65 or older tended to be older than offenders who perpetrated violence against victims younger than 65. The mean age of offenders of elderly victims was 39 years old, compared to the mean age of 29 among offenders of younger victims (not shown in a table).

- Elderly victims (27.0%) were more likely than other victims (7.2%) to be victimized by an offender who was age 50 or older (table 3).
- About 10.4% of elderly victims were victimized by a juvenile offender, compared to 17.2% of younger victims.
- A third (33.0%) of elderly victims were victimized by offenders ages 18 to 34, compared to half (50.5%) of younger victims.
- Nearly 11.5% of violence against elderly victims was allegedly perpetrated by offenders age 65 or older, compared to less than 1% of younger victims.

The majority of reported violence against the elderly was intraracial

Elderly victims of violent crime were more likely to be victimized by offenders of the same race than by offenders of a different race. In Michigan between 2005 and 2009, 85.1% of reported violence against the elderly was intraracial (not shown in a table). The majority of victimizations of elderly whites were perpetrated by white offenders (79.6%), and most victimizations of elderly blacks were perpetrated by black offenders (95.8%).

TABLE 3
Age of victims of violence known to law enforcement in Michigan, by age of offender, 2005-2009

Age of offender	Age of victim	
	Age 64 or younger	Age 65 or older
17 or younger	17.2%	10.4%
18-24	25.1	16.9
25-34	25.4	16.1
35-49	25.1	29.6
50-64	6.4	15.5
65 or older	0.8	11.5

Note: Age of offender was known for 87% of violent victimizations.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Most violent crime against elderly victims involved one offender and one victim

More than two-thirds (69.5%) of violence against elderly victims known to law enforcement in Michigan was perpetrated by one offender against one victim (table 4). Overall, nearly 7 in 8 violent victimizations (86.9%) of a single elderly victim involved a lone offender. One in 5 (20.0%) victimizations of the elderly involved multiple victims (i.e., a victimization in which at least one of the victims was age 65 or older). Of victimizations involving multiple victims, about two-thirds (68.7%) were perpetrated by a single offender, while the remaining third (31.3%) involved two or more offenders.

3 out of 10 elderly victims of violent crime known to law enforcement were abused by their own child or grandchild

Half (49.7%) of elderly victims of reported violent crime were victimized by a family member, such as intimate partners (12.9%), the victim's own children (22.0%), grandchildren (8.5%), or other relatives (6.3%) (table 5). The offender was more likely to be a family member in victimizations against an elderly female (60.0%) than an elderly male (38.6%).

TABLE 4
Victims and offenders involved in violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, 2005-2009

Number of victims	All offenders	Number of offenders	
		One	Two or more
All elderly victims	100%	83.3%	16.7%
One	80.0%	69.5	10.5%
Two or more*	20.0	13.8	6.3

*Includes victimizations in which at least one of the victims was age 65 or older.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

TABLE 5
Victim-offender relationship in violent victimizations against the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by sex of victim, 2005-2009

Relationship to victim	Victims age 65 or older		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
Intimate partner	12.9%	10.8%	14.9%
Spouse/ex-spouse	10.0	7.4	12.4
Boy/girlfriend	2.9	3.4	2.5
Other family member	36.7%	27.8%	45.1%
Child	22.0	17.6	26.0
Grandchild	8.5	4.9	11.8
Other relative	6.3	5.2	7.3
Friend/acquaintance	28.8%	35.0%	23.1%
Stranger	21.5%	26.4%	16.9%

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Relationship between the primary offender and the victim was known for 74.3% of victims age 65 or older. Intimate partners include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Among reported violent victimizations of the elderly, women were more likely than men to be—

- victimized by a spouse or ex-spouse (12.4% of elderly female victims compared to 7.4% of elderly male victims)
- victims of violence by their child (26.0% of elderly female victims compared to 17.6% of elderly male victims)
- victims of violence by their grandchild (11.8% of elderly female victims compared to 4.9% of elderly male victims).

An estimated 26.4% of elderly male victims were victimized by a stranger, compared to 16.9% of elderly female victims. Friends or acquaintances of the victim accounted for 35.0% of offenders involved in violence against elderly male victims, compared to 23.1% of violence against elderly female victims.

The rate of violent victimization by a stranger was more than 2 times greater for elderly males than elderly females

The annual rate of violent victimization by a spouse or ex-spouse in Michigan was higher among elderly females (21.5 per 100,000 females age 65 or older) than elderly males (18.4 per 100,000 males age 65 or older), while the rate of victimization by a boyfriend or girlfriend was higher among elderly males (8.4 per 100,000 males age 65 or older) than elderly females (4.3 per 100,000 females age 65 or older) (figure 2).

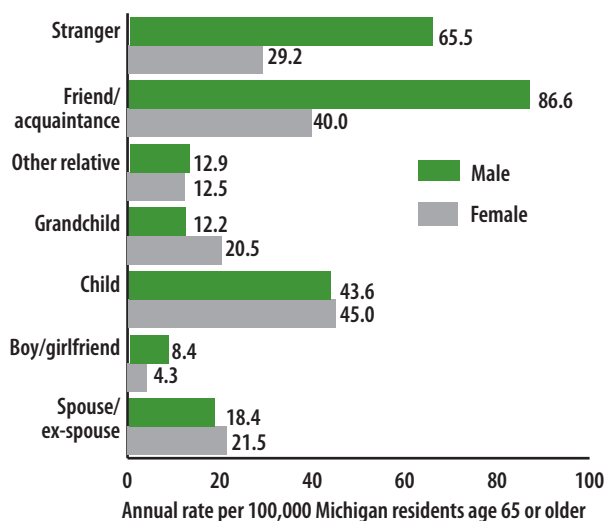
The annual rate of reported violent victimization by—

- the victim's child was similar for elderly males (43.6 per 100,000 males age 65 or older) and elderly females (45.0 per 100,000 females age 65 or older)
- a grandchild was 1.7 times greater for elderly females (20.5 per 100,000 females age 65 or older) compared to elderly males (12.2 per 100,000 males age 65 or older)
- a friend or acquaintance or a stranger was more than 2 times greater for elderly men than for elderly women.

Half of violent victimization of the elderly was serious violence

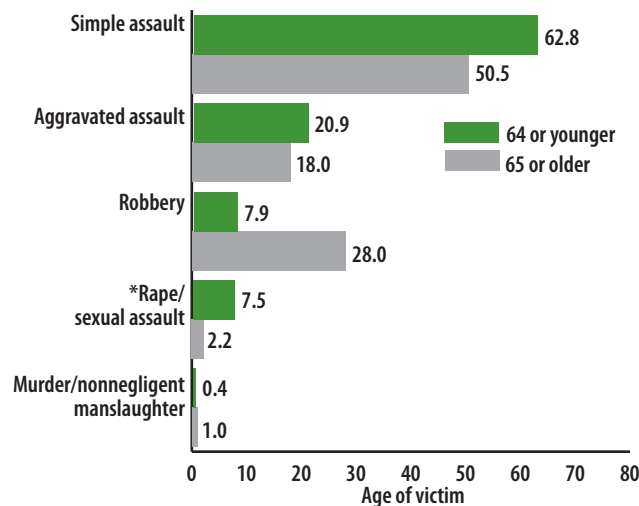
Half of reported (50.5%) elderly victims of violence in Michigan were victims of simple assault (figure 3). Another 18.0% were victims of aggravated assault and 28.0% were robbery victims. The percentage of elderly victims who were robbed was more than 3 times higher than the comparable percentage for nonelderly victims. While murder and manslaughter percentages were small, the proportion of elderly victims who were murdered (1%) was 2 times greater than the proportion of nonelderly victims.

FIGURE 2
Rate of reported violence per 100,000 Michigan residents age 65 or older, by victim-offender relationship and sex of victim, 2005-2009



Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

FIGURE 3
Percent of violent victimization known to law enforcement in Michigan, by type of offense and age of victim, 2005-2009



*Excludes statutory rape and incest. (See Methodology.)

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

NIBRS data were less likely to have identifying information about the offender when the victim was elderly

The completeness of data recorded by law enforcement about offenders who perpetrated violent victimizations may indicate information about the investigation of the incident, such as the willingness or ability of the victim to provide information about the crime. Key pieces of offender information examined here are the completeness of demographic information (i.e., age, race, or sex) about the primary offender involved in a violent victimization and the relationship between the primary offender and the victim in the incident.

Information on an offender's age, race, or sex was less likely to be available for violent victimizations involving older victims than for those involving younger victims. From 2005 to 2009, law enforcement provided information on the age, race, or sex of the primary offender for the vast majority (92.5%) of all violent victimizations reported to NIBRS in Michigan (table 6). For victims age 49 or younger, 7.4% of offender demographic information was unknown or not reported. For the oldest victims, those age 85 or older, the percentage was nearly double, at 12.5%.

TABLE 6
Percent of victimizations for which age, sex, or race of the offender was known, by age of victim, 2005-2009

Age of victim	All offenders	Age, sex, or race of offender was—	
		Known	Unknown
All victims	100%	92.5	7.5
Under 50	100%	92.6	7.4
50-64	100%	91.7	8.3
65-74	100%	90.5	9.5
75-84	100%	88.1	11.9
85 or older	100%	87.5	12.5

Note: Offender data were known if a valid value was recorded for at least one of the three offender demographic variables. Data for all three demographic variables were available for 85.6% of all victims of violence, an additional 5.7% had data for two of the variables, and another 1.1% had data for one of the variables.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

A similar pattern was found when examining the relationship between the victim and the primary offender. As victim age increased, the percentage of unknown victim-offender relationships increased. For victims age 49 or younger, 17.5% of victim-offender relationships were unknown or not reported, compared to 29.5% for victims age 85 or older (table 7).

TABLE 7
Percent of victimizations for which the victim-offender relationship was known, by age of victim, 2005-2009

Age of victim	All offenders	Relationship between offender and victim was —	
		Known	Unknown
All victims	100%	82.1	17.9
Under 50	100%	82.5	17.5
50-64	100%	79.3	20.7
65-74	100%	75.7	24.3
75-84	100%	72.4	27.6
85 or older	100%	70.5	29.5

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Among the elderly, persons age 85 or older had the highest rate of rape and sexual assault

The rate of reported violent victimization in Michigan among the elderly generally decreased with age; however, there were exceptions to this pattern (table 8). The murder rate of persons 85 or older (3.3 per 100,000 persons age 85 or older) was 1.5 times higher than the rate for persons age 65 to 84 (1.9 per 100,000 persons age 65 to 84). The rate of forcible rape and sexual assault of persons age 85 or older (11.9 per 100,000 persons) was more than 3 times greater than the rate for persons ages 65 to 84 (3.6 per 100,000 persons). Finally, the robbery rates were relatively similar for victims age 70 or older.

Firearms were involved in 1 out of 6 violent crimes against elderly victims known to law enforcement in Michigan

Three out of 10 (31.0%) violent victimizations of the elderly involved a nonpersonal weapon (i.e., a firearm, knife, or blunt object) (table 9). A firearm was the weapon most often (16.5%) involved in violent crimes against elderly victims, with the majority of those being handguns. Of all violent crimes committed by a stranger against the elderly, 35.6% involved a firearm, compared to 5.6% of violence committed by a friend or acquaintance, 3.0% of violence committed by an intimate partner, and 1.6% of violence committed by the victim's own child or grandchild. An estimated 50.9% of violent crimes against the elderly involved personal weapons (i.e., hands, fists, feet, and teeth) while another 18.1% involved no weapon or physical force.

TABLE 8

Rate of violent victimization of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by type of offense and age of victim, 2005-2009

Type of offense	Annual rate per 100,000 Michigan residents in each age group					
	All victims age 65 or older	65 to 69	70 to 74	75 to 79	80 to 84	85 or older
All violent offenses	204.5	277.3	202.1	175.5	150.1	156.1
Murder/manslaughter	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.8	3.3
Rape/sexual assault*	4.4	3.7	3.2	3.8	3.9	11.9
Robbery	57.3	64.2	54.5	58.4	51.9	54.4
Aggravated assault	36.8	52.2	38.1	30.7	24.4	23.4
Simple assault	103.3	154.9	104.3	79.8	66.6	62.7

*Excludes statutory rape and incest. (See *Methodology*.)

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

TABLE 9

Weapons involved in violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by victim-offender relationship, 2005-2009

Type of weapon involved	Total victimizations	Intimate partner	Child or grandchild	Other family member	Friend or acquaintance	Stranger
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Firearm	16.5%	3.0%	1.6%	3.9%	5.6%	35.6%
Handgun	12.0	1.5	0.8	2.9	3.7	28.4
Other gun	4.4	1.5	0.8	1.0	2.0	7.2
Knife or other sharp object	4.8	6.4	5.6	4.5	5.6	3.6
Blunt object	4.2	4.6	3.5	3.4	6.4	3.3
Other type of weapon	5.4	6.8	4.7	5.7	7.4	4.4
Hands, fists, feet, or teeth	50.9	64.6	68.1	64.8	57.8	32.5
No weapon or physical force involved	18.1	14.6	16.4	17.7	17.2	20.6

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Weapon involvement was known for 96.4% of violent crimes against elderly victims age 65 or older. Relationship between the primary offender and the victim was known for 74.3% of victims age 65 or older.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

About 4 out of 10 elderly victims of violent crime known to law enforcement were physically injured during the incident

Among elderly victims of violent crimes known to law enforcement—

- The majority (60.3%) were not physically injured during the incident (not shown in a table).
- About 33.2% experienced a minor physical injury.
- Nearly 6.5% suffered a major physical injury as a consequence of the incident, such as death (1.0%), rape or sexual assault (2.2%), or severe lacerations (1.2%).

Two-thirds of violence against the elderly occurred inside a residence; more than half of violence inside a residence occurred between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m.

The majority (63.6%) of elderly victims of reported violent crime were victimized inside a residence (not shown in a table). NIBRS data do not distinguish between types

of residence and may include the victim's own home, the home of another person, or group quarters (e.g., a residential or long-term care facility). An estimated 59.9% of victimizations inside a residence were committed by a family member, most often by the victim's own children (25.5%), grandchildren (10.0%), or spouse or other intimate partner (17.8%) ([table 10](#)). Friends or acquaintances of the victim were responsible for a quarter (29.1%) of residential violence against the elderly, while strangers were responsible for a tenth (10.9%). Reported violent victimization of the elderly that occurred outside a residence was less likely to be committed by a family member (18.2%), compared to a stranger (54.1%) and a friend or acquaintance (27.7%).

Violence inside a residence generally occurred later in the day than violence outside a residence. Violence inside a residence peaked at 8 p.m., with half of these crimes taking place between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. ([figure 4](#)). Violence outside a residence peaked at 2 p.m., with half of these crimes taking place between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., then declining steeply through the night and early morning hours.

TABLE 10
Location of violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by victim-offender relationship, 2005-2009

Location	Total	All relationships	Relationship to victim						
			Intimate partner	Child	Grandchild	Sibling	Other family member	Friend or acquaintance	Stranger
Total	13,220	100%	13.3%	18.2%	6.8%	1.6%	4.8%	28.6%	26.6%
Residence ^a	8,408	100%	17.8	25.5	10.0	1.1	5.6	29.1	10.9
Nonresidence ^b	4,812	100%	5.6	5.4	1.3	2.6	3.3	27.7	54.1

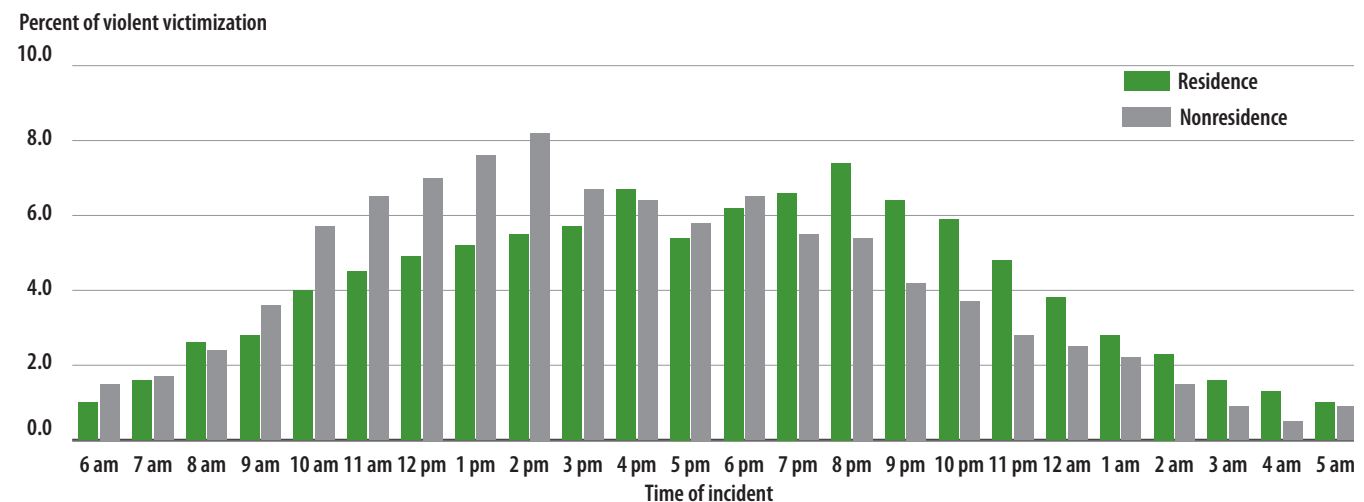
Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding.

^aIncludes 0.8% of incidents that occurred in a hotel or motel.

^bIncludes incidents that occurred in public places, commercial businesses and buildings, and locations classified as other or unknown.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

FIGURE 4
Time of day during which violent crime against the elderly occurred, by location, 2005-2009



Note: Time of day calculations were based on incident date information, which was reported for 79.2% of violent victimizations of victims age 65 or older. Among offenses for which incident date information were available, time of day during which the incident occurred was available for 98.2%.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Elderly women were nearly twice as likely as elderly men to be assaulted by a child or grandchild in a residence

Data from NIBRS made it possible to estimate the probability that the violent victimization of an elderly person in Michigan would exhibit certain characteristics. Differences existed in the location, offense, and victim-offender relationship characteristics of a typical 1,000 reported violent victimizations of elderly males and a typical 1,000 reported violent victimizations of elderly females (table 11). When the elderly victim was male, the violent victimization was most likely a simple assault that took place inside a residence by a child or grandchild (probability 15.2%) or a friend or acquaintance (12.2%), or it was a robbery that occurred outside a residence by a stranger (16.3%). Elderly female victims were most often victims of a simple assault in a residence perpetrated by their child or

grandchild (27.7%), an intimate partner (10.8%), or a friend or acquaintance (10.7%). An estimated 11.6% of elderly female victimizations was a robbery by a stranger that occurred outside a residence.

Robberies accounted for 17.9% of elderly female victimizations and 26.4% of elderly male victimizations. Regardless of victim sex, more than two-thirds of these robberies occurred outside a residence and were typically committed by an offender who was a stranger to the victim. In comparison, aggravated assaults of elderly male and female victims more often occurred in a residence and typically involved an offender who was known to the victim (i.e., an intimate partner, child or grandchild, family member, or friend or acquaintance). For elderly male victims, 77.2% of victimizations by a stranger occurred outside a residence, compared to 72.3% of victimizations of elderly females.

TABLE 11
Victim-offender relationship in an average 1,000 reported violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by sex of victim, location, and most serious offense, 2005-2009

	Total victimizations	Relationship to victim				
		Intimate partner	Child or grandchild	Other family member	Friend or acquaintance	Stranger
Elderly male victims	1,000	101	212	52	338	297
Offenses inside a residence	605	91	197	41	208	68
Robbery	77	3	4	1	23	45
Aggravated assault	139	26	39	7	56	10
Simple assault	379	61	152*	33	122*	11
Other serious violence**	11	1	1	0	7	1
Offenses outside a residence	395	10	16	11	129	229
Robbery	187	0	0	2	22	163*
Aggravated assault	68	3	2	2	33	28
Simple assault	136	7	13	6	73*	37
Other serious violence**	4	0	1	1	2	1
Elderly female victims	1,000	141	364	69	234	192
Offenses inside a residence	753	130	346	59	165	53
Robbery	53	0	6	0	12	35
Aggravated assault	121	18	58	9	27	8
Simple assault	545	108*	277*	47	107	6
Other serious violence**	34	3	6	2	19	4
Offenses outside a residence	247	11	18	10	69	139
Robbery	126	0	1	1	8	116*
Aggravated assault	25	1	4	1	13	6
Simple assault	81	9	13	7	37	15
Other serious violence**	15	1	1	1	11	2

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Data on the offender with the closest relationship to the victim were known for 74.3% of victims age 65 or older.

*Shaded cells indicate the locations, offense types, and victim-offender relationships that accounted for at least half of the victimizations involving elderly male victims and half of the victimizations involving elderly female victims.

**Includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, and kidnapping.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Differences existed in the location, age of offender, and victim-offender relationship characteristics of a typical 1,000 reported violent victimizations of elderly males and a typical 1,000 reported violent victimizations of elderly females. An elderly male victim was most likely to be victimized in a residence by his own adult child or grandchild between the ages of 35 and 49 (probability 8.1%) or a friend or acquaintance in the same age group (8.1%) (table 12). About 1 in 10 offenses against elderly males took place outside a residence and were perpetrated by a stranger between the ages of 12 and 24.

Elderly female victims were most often victimized in a residence by their own adult child or grandchild between the ages of 35 and 49 (probability 13.9%) or an intimate partner of similar age to the victim (9.1%). More than a third (34.6%) of violence against elderly female victims occurred in a residence at the hands of the victim's own child or grandchild.

TABLE 12

Victim-offender relationships in an average 1,000 reported violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by sex of victim, location, and age of offender, 2005-2009

	Total victimizations	Relationship to the victim				
		Intimate partner	Child or grandchild	Other family member	Friend or acquaintance	Stranger
Elderly male victims	1,000	101	212	52	338	297
Offenses inside a residence	605	91	197	41	208	68
12-17	49	0	31*	2	8	8
18-24	88	4	29	4	26	25
25-34	97	7	37*	5	29	19
35-49	219	28	81*	19	81*	11
50-64	100	28	18	6	44*	3
65 or older	53	25	0	6	21	1
Offenses outside a residence	395	10	16	11	129	229
12-17	48	0	3	0	10	35*
18-24	103	0	2	2	16	83*
25-34	86	1	3	2	22	57*
35-49	89	4	5	4	39*	36*
50-64	46	2	2	2	26	14
65 or older	23	2	0	1	16	4
Elderly female victims	1,000	141	364	69	234	192
Offenses inside a residence	753	130	346	59	165	53
12-17	74	0	58*	3	8	5
18-24	84	1	40*	5	19	19
25-34	90	1	43*	7	24	14
35-49	233	10	139*	23	52*	10
50-64	141	26	65*	12	36	2
65 or older	130	91*	2	9	26	2
Offenses outside a residence	247	11	18	10	69	139
12-17	36	0	3	1	8	25
18-24	65	0	2	0	10	52*
25-34	48	0	2	1	12	33
35-49	52	1	8	4	18	20
50-64	22	1	3	3	10	6
65 or older	23	8	0	1	12	2

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Data on the offender with the closest relationship to the victim were known for 74.3% of victims age 65 or older. Data on the primary offender's age were known for 87.0% of victimizations.

*Shaded cells indicate the locations, offender ages, and victim-offender relationships that accounted for at least half of the victimizations of elderly male victims and half of the victimizations of elderly female victims.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

2 out of 5 elderly victims of intimate partner violence were male

While females accounted for 59.6% of elderly victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) reported by law enforcement, the percentage of elderly IPV victims who were male (40.4%) was double the comparable percentage of male IPV victims under age 65 (19.4%) (not shown in a table). Unlike younger males and females, the rate of IPV was nearly equal for elderly males (rate of 22.2 per 100,000 males age 65 or older) and elderly females (rate of 23.9 per 100,000 females age 65 or older) (table 13).

Among elderly victims of IPV, the offense profile was different for males than for females. While IPV offenders who victimized an elderly person were 3 times more likely to be a spouse or ex-spouse than a boyfriend or girlfriend, a larger percentage of elderly male (31.5%) than elderly female (16.6%) victimizations involved a boyfriend or girlfriend (table 14). Elderly male IPV victims (28.9%) were more likely than elderly female IPV victims (13.7%) to experience an aggravated assault at the hands of an intimate partner. IPV victimizations of elderly males were more likely to involve a gun, knife, or other nonpersonal weapon (31.2%) than IPV victimizations of elderly females (13.7%).

Research conducted by the Police Foundation found that a larger proportion of elderly male than elderly female domestic abuse victims received police assistance. This finding may indicate a difference between elderly males' and females' willingness to contact the police after victimization. The NIBRS data show that a larger percentage of elderly male than elderly female IPV victims experienced an aggravated assault or a victimization involving a weapon, which could also influence the likelihood that more elderly male IPV victimizations were known to law enforcement.²

²Amendola, K.L., M.G. Slipka, Hamilton, E.E., & Whitman, J.L. (2010). *The Course of Domestic Abuse among Chicago's Elderly: Risk Factors, Protective Behaviors, and Police Intervention*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

TABLE 13

Rate of intimate partner violence in Michigan, by age and sex of victim, 2005-2009

Age of victim	Annual rate per 100,000 Michigan residents		
	All IPV victims	Male	Female
All ages	508.3	203.2	799.4
12-17	179.2	26.9	339.5
18-24	1,081.6	282.7	1,910.4
25-34	1,147.8	422.6	1,887.1
35-49	618.6	290.4	943.8
50-64	146.3	101.4	189.2
65 or older	23.2	22.2	23.9

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

TABLE 14

Intimate partner violence victimizations of elderly males and females in Michigan, by victim-offender relationship, type of offender, and type of weapon involved, 2005-2009

Offense characteristic	All elderly IPV victims	Male	Female
All offenses	100%	100%	100%
Relationship to victim			
Spouse/ex-spouse	77.4%	68.5%	83.4%
Boy/girlfriend	22.6	31.5	16.6
Type of offense			
Murder/manslaughter	1.1%	0.6%	1.4%
Rape/sexual assault	0.9	^	1.5
Robbery	0.6	1.0	0.3
Aggravated assault	19.8	28.9	13.7
Simple assault	77.6	69.5	83.2
Type of weapon involved			
Gun	3.0%	2.6%	3.2%
Knife	6.4	11.6	2.9
Other weapon	11.4	16.9	7.6
Hands, fists, feet, or teeth	64.6	56.6	70.1
No weapon or physical force involved	14.6	12.2	16.2

^Based on 10 or fewer cases.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Intimate partners who victimized elderly men were much younger than their victims

Among IPV victimizations of the elderly, 60.5% involved victims who were older than their offenders, 32.8% were younger, and 6.7% were the same age (table 15). Overall, 60.9% of IPV victimizations involved victims who were within 10 years of the age of their offenders. However, the pattern for victimizations of males was much different than for victimizations of females.

IPV victimizations of elderly males (88.8%) were more than twice as likely as IPV victimizations of elderly females (42.2%) to involve victims who were older than their offenders. Moreover, elderly male victims of IPV were more likely than elderly female victims of IPV to be substantially older than their offenders. Overall, nearly two-thirds of IPV victimizations of elderly males involved a victim who was more than 10 years older than the intimate partner who victimized him, compared to a fifth of IPV victimizations of elderly females. Further, IPV victimizations of elderly males (42.4%) were two times more likely than IPV victimizations of elderly females (10.5%) to involve victims who were more than 20 years older than their offenders. Three-quarters of elderly female victims of IPV victimizations were within 10 years of the age of their offenders, compared to just over a third of elderly male victims.

About a third of violent crimes against the elderly known to law enforcement were cleared

Law enforcement agencies clear a crime when at least one person is arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution. Law enforcement agencies may also clear a crime by exceptional means, meaning that they have identified the offender and have gathered enough evidence to support that offender’s arrest and prosecution, but have encountered a circumstance outside the control of law enforcement that prohibits the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender. Examples of exceptional clearances include, but are not limited to, the death of the offender (e.g., suicide or justifiably killed by law enforcement or citizen), the prosecutor’s decision to decline prosecution of the case after it was referred from law enforcement, the victim’s refusal to cooperate with the prosecution after the offender had been identified, or the denial of extradition because the offender had committed a crime in another jurisdiction and is being prosecuted for that offense.

TABLE 15
Victim-offender age differences among intimate partner violence victimizations of the elderly in Michigan, by sex of victim, 2005-09

Age difference between victim and offender	Victims age 65 or older		
	All	Male	Female
All intimate partners	100%	100%	100%
Victim was —			
Younger than offender	32.8%	6.7%	49.6%
1– 5 years	21.9	5.0	32.9
6–10	8.0	^	12.4
11 years or more	2.8	^	4.3
Same age as offender	6.7%	4.5%	8.1%
Older than offender	60.5%	88.8%	42.2%
1– 5 years	15.6	15.7	15.5
6–10	8.6	11.4	6.8
11–15	6.6	9.3	4.9
16 –20	6.7	10.0	4.6
21–30	13.5	23.6	7.1
31 years or more	9.4	18.8	3.4

^Based on 10 or fewer cases.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Law enforcement cleared 35.4% of reported violent crimes committed against the elderly, with 31.6% of victimizations resulting in the arrest of at least one offender and 3.8% being cleared by exceptional means (table 16). The overall clearance rate for violent crimes involving elderly victims did not differ from the clearance rate of violent crimes involving younger victims (not shown in a table).

Violence perpetrated by a person known to the elderly victim was more likely to be cleared than violence by a stranger. Offenses committed by the elderly victim's own child or grandchild were the most likely to result in an arrest (63.6%) compared to other victim-offender relationships.

Among violent crimes against the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan—

- Homicides were the most likely (51.2%) to be cleared, followed by simple assault (46.6%) (table 17).
- Robberies were the least likely (13.6%) to be cleared.
- Less than 1 out of 4 forcible rapes and other violent sexual assaults were cleared.
- The majority of clearances were the result of an arrest being made.

About 9 out of every 10 clearances in Michigan were the result of an arrest. One exception to this pattern was among clearances for forcible rape and sexual assault. Of all clearances of rape and sexual assaults of the elderly, about 6 in 10 were cleared due to arrest, and an additional 3 in 10 were cleared because the prosecution declined the case.

TABLE 16

Victim-offender relationship in violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by type of clearance, 2005-2009

Relationship	All clearances*	Percent of crimes cleared by —		
		Arrest	Prosecution declined	Exceptional means of — Victim refused to cooperate
All elderly victims	35.4%	31.6%	2.5%	1.2%
Relationship to victim				
Intimate partner	56.2%	48.6	5.5	2.0
Child/grandchild	63.6%	59.7	2.4	1.2
Other family member	41.5%	33.1	4.7	3.4
Friend/acquaintance	33.4%	27.3	4.2	1.8
Stranger	25.7%	24.1	0.6	0.9

Note: The clearance rate for all victimizations of elderly victims includes victimizations for which the relationship between the primary offender and the elderly victim was not known.

*Includes crimes cleared because the offender died, extradition of the offender was denied by another jurisdiction, or the offender was a juvenile but no referral was made to the juvenile court as a matter of accepted law enforcement policy.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

TABLE 17

Type of offense in violent victimizations of the elderly known to law enforcement in Michigan, by type of clearance, 2005-2009

Type of offense	All clearances ^a	Percent of crimes cleared by —		
		Arrest	Prosecution declined	Exceptional means of — Victim refused to cooperate
All offenses	35.4%	31.6%	2.5%	1.2%
Murder/manslaughter	51.2%	48.8	^	^
Rape/sexual assault ^b	22.7%	13.7	7.2	^
Robbery	13.6%	13.5	^	^
Aggravated assault	38.4%	36.6	1.0	0.8
Simple assault	46.6%	40.4	4.2	2.0

Note: The clearance rate for all offenses includes kidnapping, which is not shown.

^aIncludes crimes cleared because the offender died, extradition of the offender was denied by another jurisdiction, or the offender was a juvenile but no referral was made to the juvenile court as a matter of accepted law enforcement policy.

^bExcludes statutory rape and incest. (See *Methodology*.)

^Based on 10 or fewer cases.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

Methodology

About the data

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is a data collection system designed and maintained by the FBI that compiles data on all crimes recorded by participating state and local law enforcement agencies. NIBRS captures extensive information on each incident known to law enforcement. The NIBRS database collects detailed offense information using a large set of offense codes and incident attributes. Information captured by NIBRS includes: victim and offender demographics, date and time of incidents, locations where incidents occurred, types of weapons involved, magnitude of victim injury, and victim-offender relationships, as well as whether the incident resulted in an arrest or some other type of clearance.

Participation by law enforcement in NIBRS is voluntary and requires certification by the FBI before an agency's data are included in the system. In 2009, approximately 44% of state and local law enforcement agencies reported their crime data in the NIBRS format. Those agencies represented 28% of the U.S. population, and their reported crime data represented 26% of the estimated crimes known to law enforcement agencies in the nation. (See the FBI's *Crime in the United States, 2009* at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/09cius.htm>.)

This report uses NIBRS data provided by law enforcement agencies in Michigan from 2005 to 2009 on violent crimes—murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and simple assault. Forcible rape includes forcible sodomy. Sexual assault includes the violent offenses of sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling. Sexual assault excludes statutory rape and incest. Over this period, Michigan was a complete reporter, meaning that the law enforcement agencies reporting to NIBRS in that state represented 95% or more of Michigan's population in all 5 years.

The unit of analysis for this report is a victimization reported to NIBRS by law enforcement. A victim can be an individual, a business, government agency, religious organization, or the public. This report analyzed information on victimizations of individuals only. A criminal incident could contain one or more victimizations, depending on the number of victims in the incident. In addition, an individual could have more than one victimization over the time period. Of the 823,587 violent victimizations known to law enforcement in Michigan between 2005 and 2009, 76.8% involved only one victim, while in the remaining 23.2% the victimization involved two or more individual victims. Among elderly victims age 65 or older, 80.0% of victimizations involved a single victim.

The NIBRS reporting structure allows for multiple offenses to be recorded for each victim. Of the more than 823,000 violent victimizations of individuals in Michigan, 6.9% were victimizations with more than one offense, and victims in 7.3% of elderly victimizations experienced two or more offenses. For those victims who experienced multiple offenses in a single incident, a hierarchy rule was used to determine the most serious offense. The NIBRS crime types were ordered following the general hierarchy of violent, property, drugs, weapons, and public order offenses. Within the violent offense set, the hierarchy rule ordered offenses from most to least serious as follows: murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and simple assault.

About a sixth (17.1%) of individual victims of violence were victimized by two or more offenders. To determine which offender to classify as the primary offender, offenders were ranked hierarchically on a continuum that ranged from the following: intimate partner, child, grandchild, sibling, other family member, friend or acquaintance, and stranger. The offender with the closest relationship to the victim was targeted in the analysis as the primary offender.

Rate calculations

All victimization rates were calculated using the number of victimizations across the 5-year study period from 2005 to 2009 as the numerator, then dividing that total by the annual estimate of the resident population of Michigan summed across the 5-year period for the appropriate groups or subgroups. This report used bridged-race population estimates developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau.³ All rates were per 100,000 Michigan residents in the specific age, sex, or race group. Rates by Hispanic origin were not calculated due to a large amount of missing information on that variable in the NIBRS data.

³National Center for Health Statistics. (2010). Postcensal estimates of the resident population of the United States for July 1, 2000-July 1, 2009, by year, county, age, bridged race, Hispanic origin, and sex. Available at: www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm.

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APPENDIX TABLE 1

Number of violent victimizations known to law enforcement in Michigan, by age, sex, and race of victim, 2005-2009

Victim age	All victims	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
Total	823,587	351,710	471,877	506,017	312,666	2,036	2,868
11 or younger	46,883	23,268	23,615	32,537	14,045	164	137
12 - 17	129,650	60,722	68,928	78,507	50,607	257	279
18 - 24	194,301	75,125	119,175	117,217	76,052	425	607
25 - 34	181,924	68,884	113,040	108,623	72,072	469	761
35 - 49	194,042	82,888	111,154	122,017	70,814	517	693
50 - 64	63,568	34,055	29,513	38,790	24,342	144	292
65 or older	13,220	6,768	6,452	8,327	4,734	59	100

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Michigan population, by age, sex and race of residents, 2005 to 2009

Victim age	All victims	Sex of victim		Race of victim*			
		Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
Total	50,196,052	24,691,325	25,504,727	41,170,772	7,381,194	376,803	1,267,283
11 or younger	7,797,742	3,989,508	3,808,234	6,063,586	1,413,163	68,466	252,527
12 - 17	4,392,306	2,252,566	2,139,740	3,397,555	852,767	39,675	102,309
18 - 24	4,960,405	2,525,683	2,434,722	3,956,246	808,914	48,161	147,084
25 - 34	6,142,718	3,101,099	3,041,619	4,850,790	1,016,737	52,161	223,030
35 - 49	11,027,294	5,488,897	5,538,397	9,111,226	1,525,744	83,205	307,119
50 - 64	9,411,164	4,601,327	4,809,837	8,063,132	1,128,399	60,464	159,169
65 or older	6,464,423	2,732,245	3,732,178	5,728,237	635,470	24,671	76,045

*Due to a large amount of missing data, information on Hispanic origin of the victim is not displayed.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Michigan data, 2005-2009.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. James P. Lynch is the director.

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