

The rate of violent victimization for persons with disabilities (36 per 1,000) was more than twice the age-adjusted rate for persons without disabilities (14 per 1,000) in 2013. Because persons with disabilities—hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, selfcare, or independent living limitations—are generally older, the age adjustment standardizes the rate of violent crime to show what it would be if the age distribution was similar in the two populations.

Persons with disabilities experienced about 1.3 million violent victimizations in 2013. Rates of serious violent victimization—rape, sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault—were more than three times higher for persons with disabilities (14 per 1,000) than the age-adjusted rate for persons without disabilities (4 per 1,000).

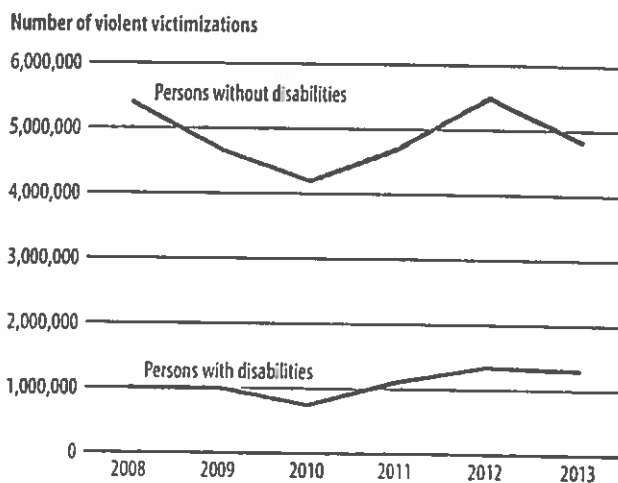
Crime and Victims

Among violent crime victims with disabilities, about a quarter (24%) believed they were targeted because of their disability—up from 13% in 2009. Persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rate of violent victimization (67 per 1,000) and persons with hearing disabilities had the lowest rate of violent victimization (17 per 1,000). About half (51%) of violent crime against persons with disabilities involved persons with multiple disabilities in 2013.

According to the survey, whites (38 per 1,000) and blacks (31 per 1,000) had higher rates of violent victimization than persons of other races (15 per 1,000) in 2013. Males and females with disabilities were victimized at similar rates in 2013. The rate of violent victimization against males with disabilities was more than double that of males without disabilities, and the rate of victimization against females with disabilities was nearly triple that of females without disabilities.

Additionally, 41% of violent crime against persons with disabilities was committed by persons they knew well or by casual acquaintances, compared to 35% of violent crime against persons without disabilities in 2013. An estimated 58% of violent crime against persons with disabilities occurred during the daytime, compared to 53% of violent crime against persons without disabilities.

Annual number of violent victimizations, by victim disability status, 2008–2013



Note: Based on the noninstitutionalized U.S. residential population age 12 or older. See appendix table 1 in the report for estimates and appendix table 2 in the report for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2008–2013.

Reporting the Crime

Nearly half (48%) of violent crime against persons with disabilities was reported to police in 2013, similar to that reported for persons without disabilities (44%). The reasons persons with disabilities did not report the crime to police were because they dealt with it in another way (44%), they believed it was not important enough (21%), they believed police wouldn't help (19%), or other reasons (38%). Violent crime victims with disabilities (12%) were somewhat more likely than those without disabilities (8%) to receive assistance from victim services agencies in 2013.

The full report (*Crime Against Persons with Disabilities*, NCJ 248676), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.