

A 3D illustration of a wooden gavel. The gavel has a cylindrical head with three horizontal grooves and a handle with three segments. It is resting on a circular wooden base. The background is a solid dark brown color.

Crime in America

Chapter 7



The Nature of Crimes

- **A crime**
 - is something that a person does or fails to do that violates the law.
 - The government establishes penalties for such behavior.



Crime rates

- influenced by many factors,
- although many people disagree about the causes of crime and the best solutions to the problem.
- The FBI uses 8 crimes as “**index crimes**” for its **Uniform Crime Reports**, (*murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson*)

Figure 7.2 U.S. Crime Clock

Crime	1996	2001	2006
PROPERTY CRIME	One every: 3 seconds	One every: 3 seconds	One every: 3.2 seconds
Larceny/Theft	4 seconds	4.5 seconds	4.8 seconds
Burglary	13 seconds	14.9 seconds	14.4 seconds
Motor Vehicle Theft	23 seconds	25.7 seconds	26.4 seconds
VIOLENT CRIME	One every: 19 seconds	One every: 22 seconds	One every: 22.2 seconds
Murder	27 minutes	32.9 minutes	30.9 minutes
Forcible Rape	6 minutes	5.8 minutes	5.7 minutes
Robbery	59 seconds	1.2 minutes	1.2 minutes
Aggravated Assault	31 seconds	34.8 seconds	36.6 seconds

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

2009

3.4 seconds

5.0 seconds

14.3 seconds

39.7 seconds

23.9 seconds

34.5 minutes

6.0 minutes

1.3 minutes

39.1 seconds

*Is the crime
rate going UP
or DOWN?*



2013 CRIME CLOCK STATISTICS

A Violent Crime occurred every 27.1 seconds

One Murder every 37.0 minutes

One Rape every 6.6 minutes

One Robbery every 1.5 minutes

One Aggravated Assault every 43.5 seconds

A Property Crime occurred every 3.7 seconds

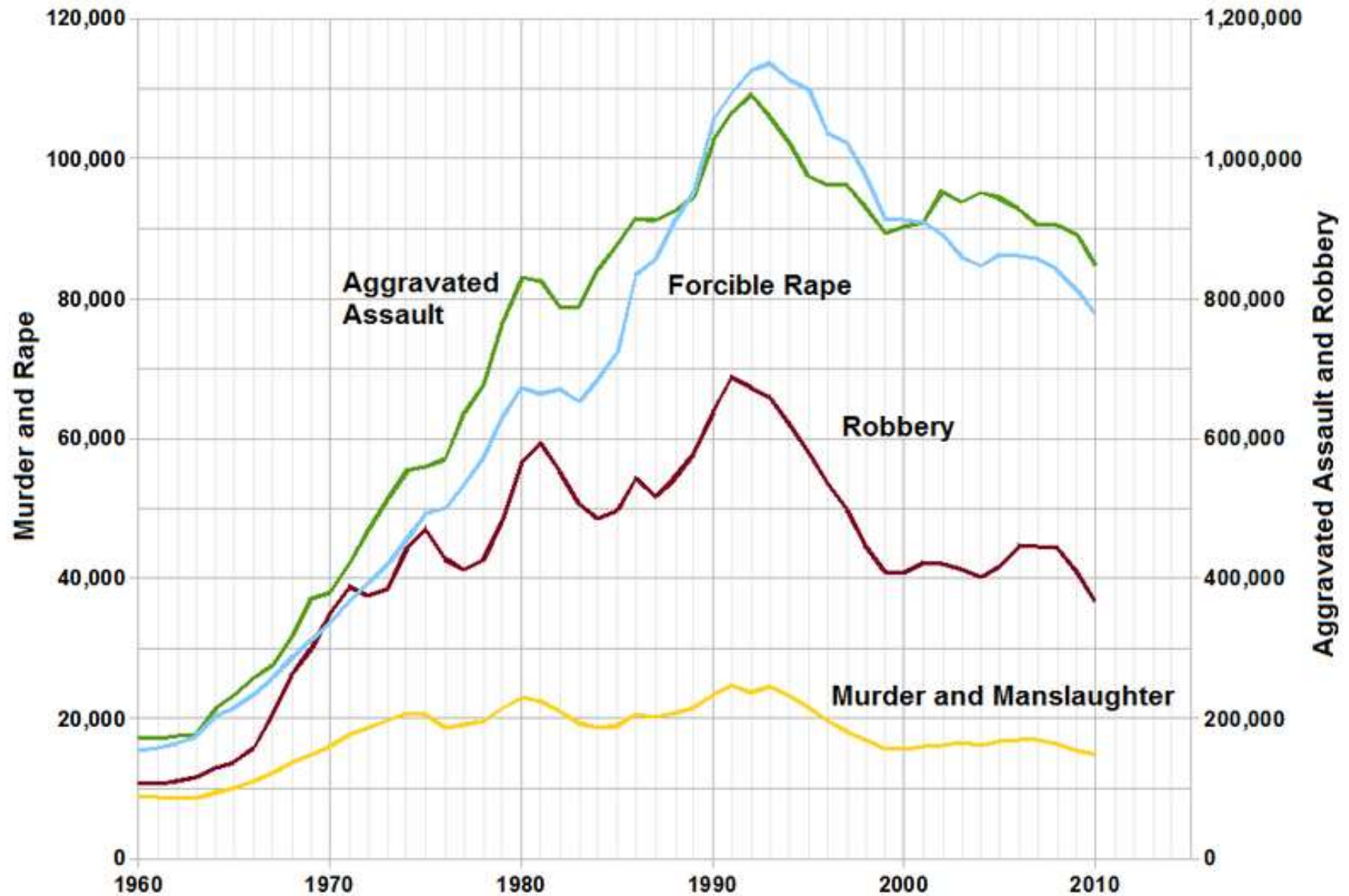
One Burglary every 16.4 seconds

One Larceny-theft every 5.3 seconds

One Motor Vehicle Theft every 45.1 seconds

Text pg. 74: Crime rate clock

Violent Crime in the United States

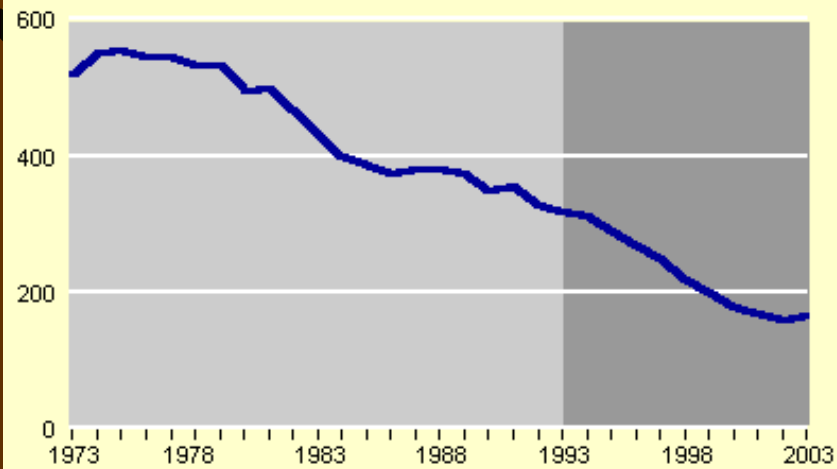


Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports



Property crime rates

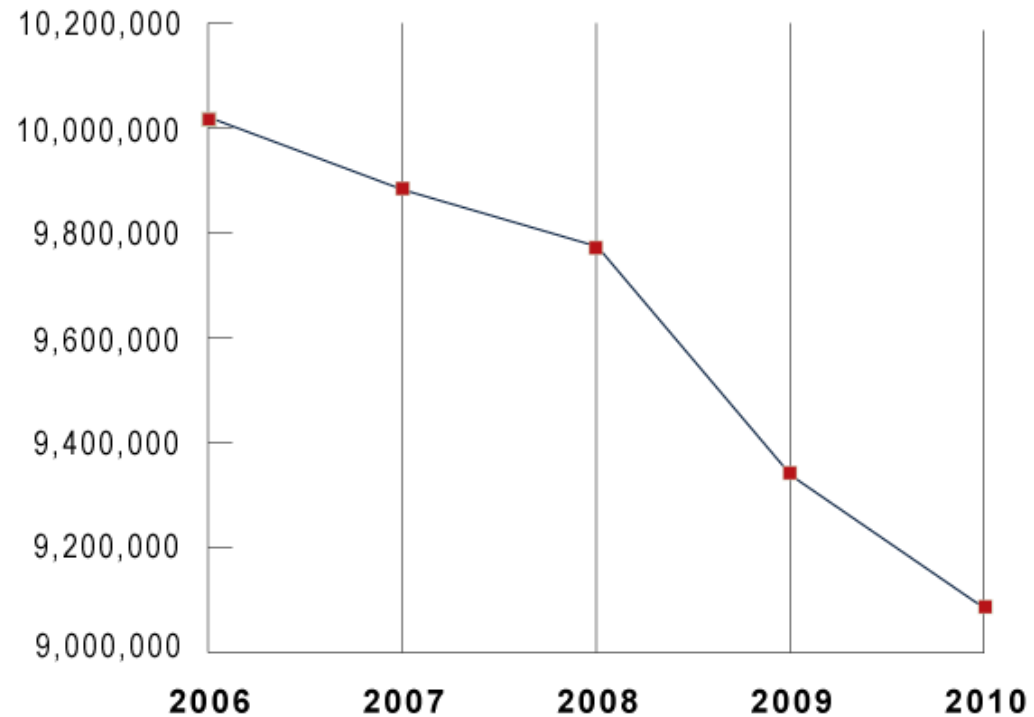
Adjusted victimization rate
per 1,000 households



Property Crime Offense Figure

Five-Year Trend, 2006-2010

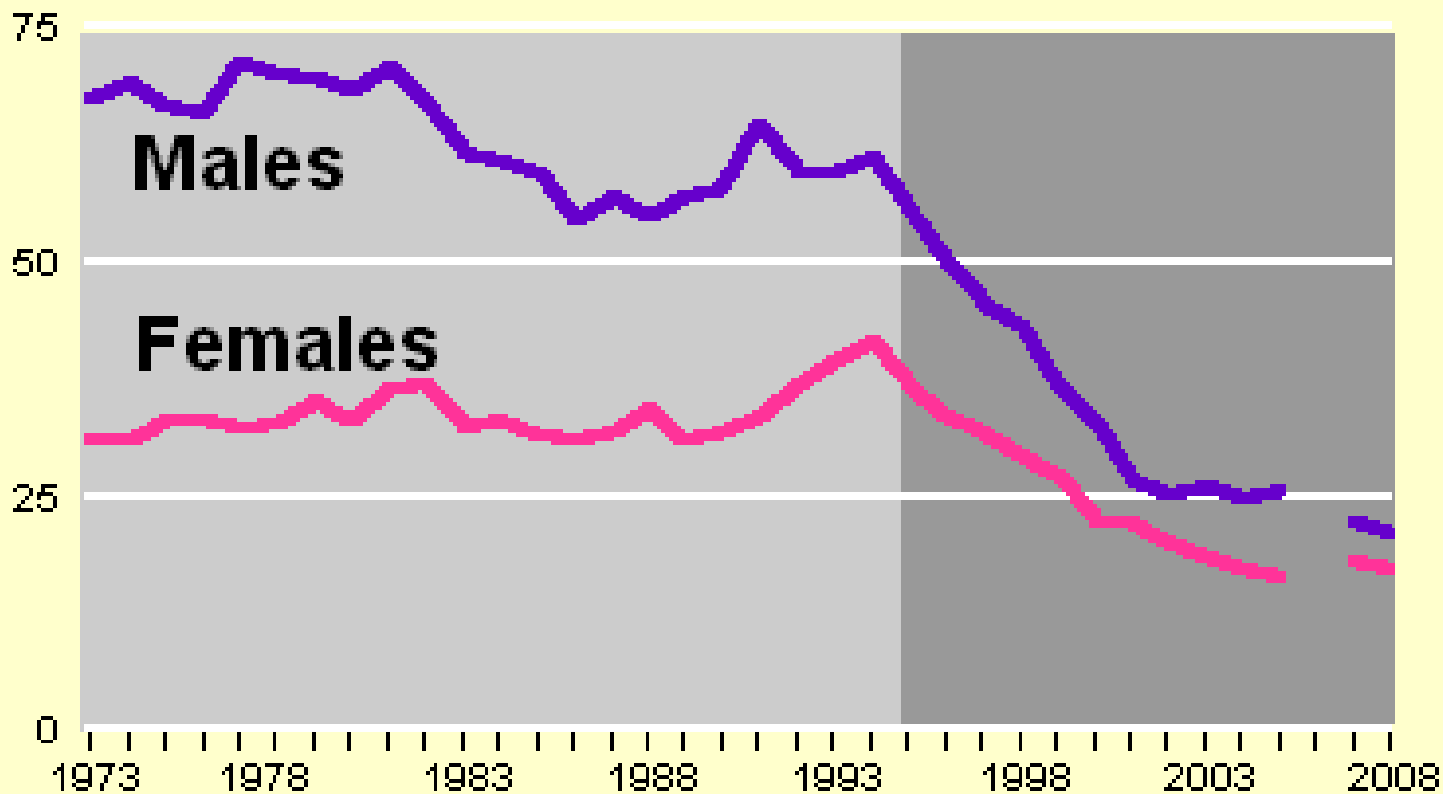
Estimated
number of offenses





Violent crime rates by gender of victim

Adjusted victimization rate
per 1,000 persons age 12 or older



*Victimization rate trends excludes NCVS estimates for 2006 because of methodological inconsistencies between the data for that year and the data for other years. Changes to the NCVS and their impact upon the survey's estimates in 2006 are discussed in the [*Criminal Victimization, 2006 Technical Notes*](#).

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey



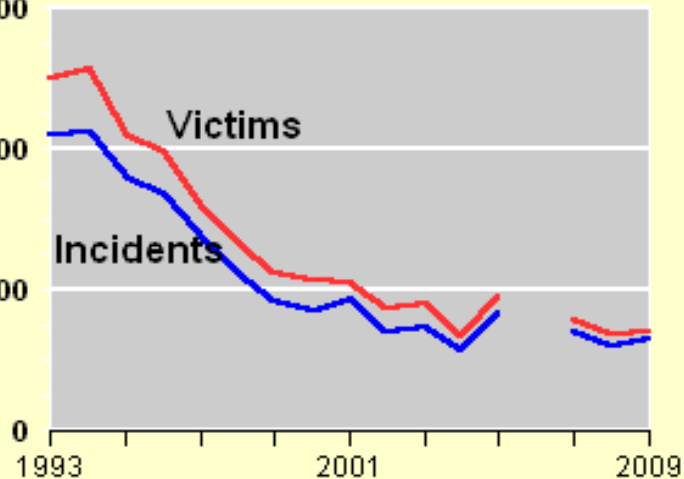
Nonfatal firearm-related violent crimes, 1993-2009

Number

1,500,000

1,000,000

500,000



Violent victimization reported and not reported to police, 1993-2012

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older

100

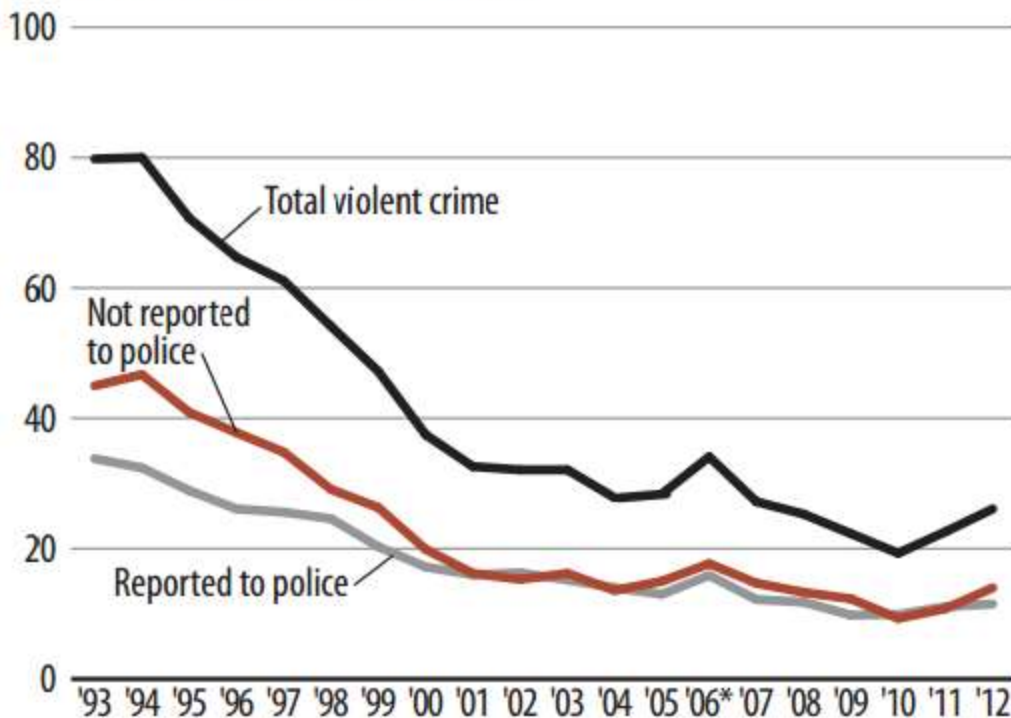
80

60

40

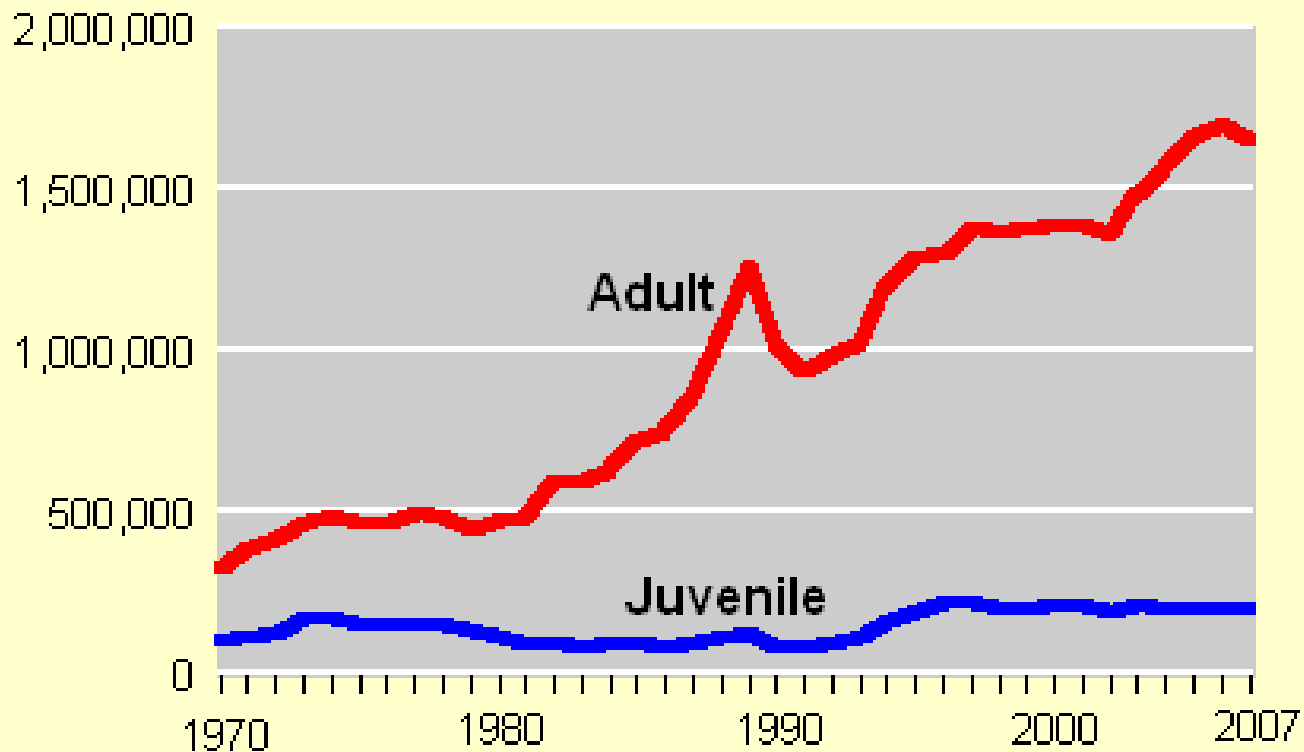
20

0





Drug arrests by age, 1970-2007

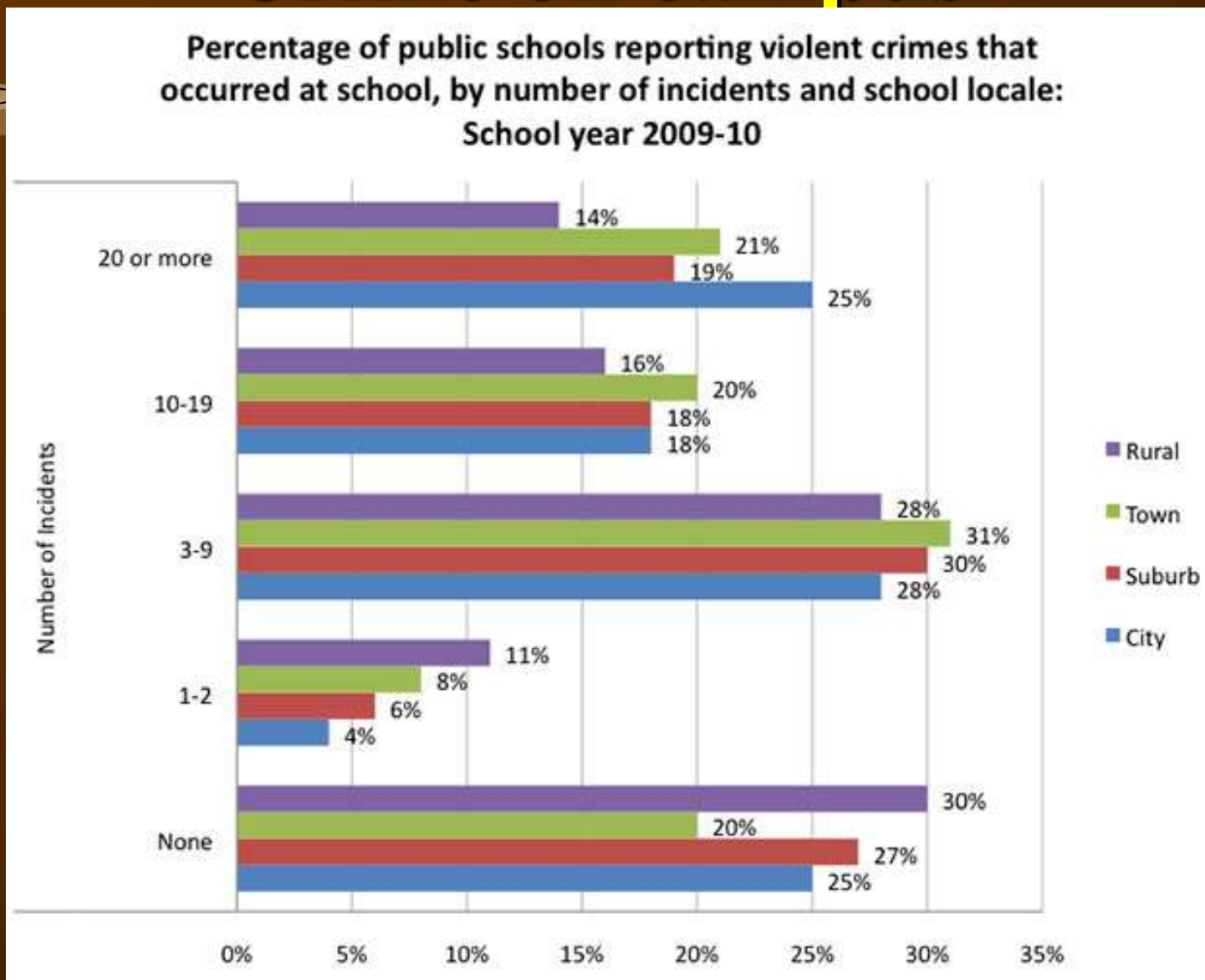


There were 1.6 million adult drug arrests in 2010, up 5% since 2001

There were 107,000 juvenile drug arrests in 2010, down 13% since 2001

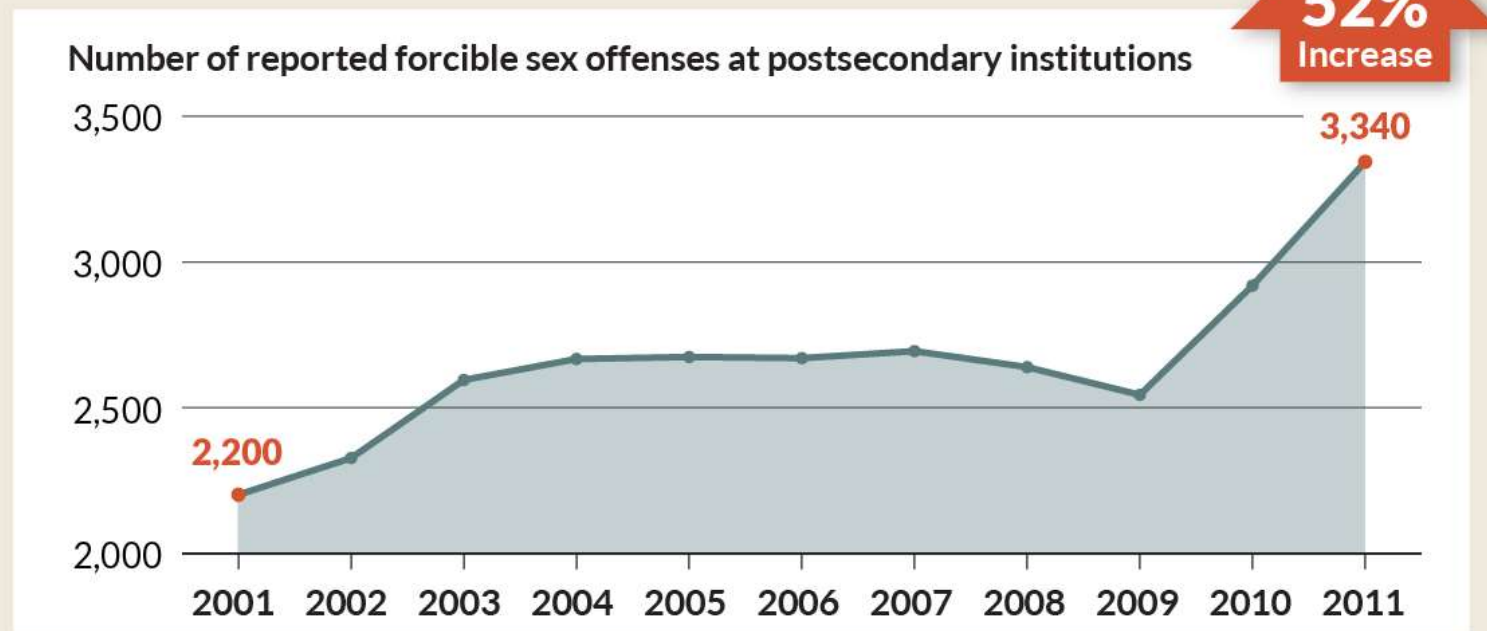


Crime on campus





Reports of College Campus Sex Offenses on the Rise



Source: Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2013, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education

American Institutes for Research | www.air.org

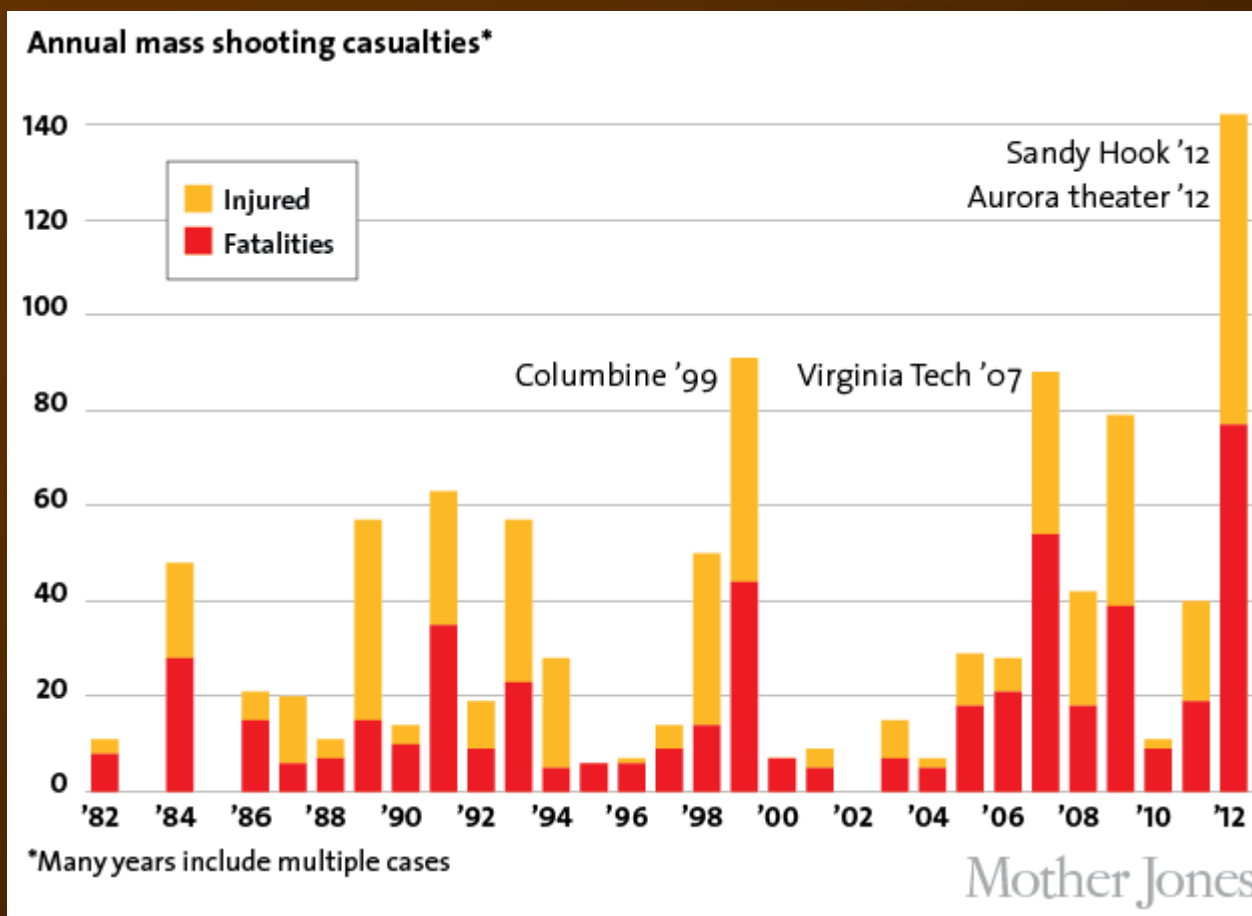


Real rates of campus crime

- However, despite much publicized incidents like the shootings at Sandy Hook in 2012, Columbine and Santee 15 years ago, and occasional incidents since then, no consistent pattern of increase or decrease was observed in the number of homicides or suicides of school-aged youth at school
- The numbers have ranged between 34 and 14 total for the entire nation.



Mass shooting casualties



From Mother Jones Magazine; most school-associated violent deaths occur during transition times – immediately before and after the school day and during lunch.



Crime is costly

- in addition to the loss of life and property,
- it costs the government a great amount of money to
- prevent, investigate, and prosecute crime.

A wooden gavel with a smooth, polished finish is positioned diagonally across the frame. The head of the gavel is on the left, resting on a flat wooden block. The handle extends towards the right. The background is a solid, dark brown color.

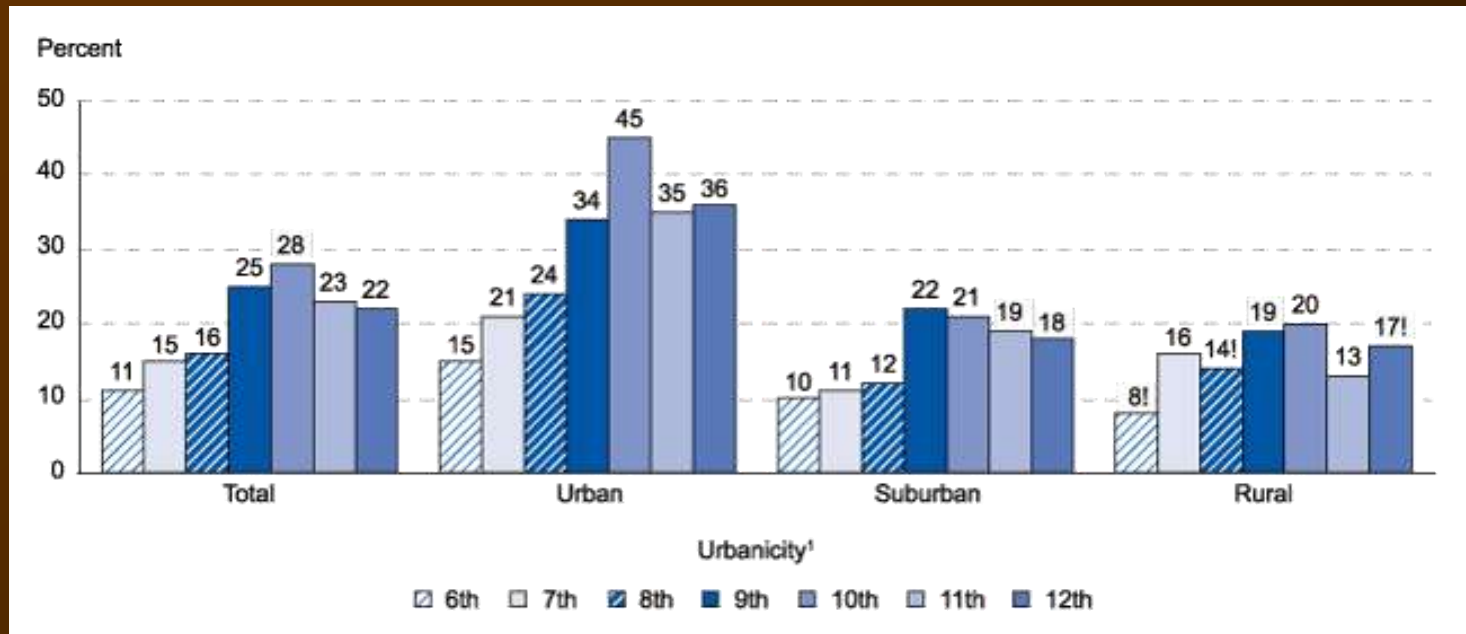
Gangs

An association of 3 or more persons who adopt a specific group identity and whose purpose is, in part, to engage in criminal activity; and whose members engage in such criminal activity to benefit the group's power, reputation, or economic resources.



Gangs and Crime

- Gangs are active in towns and cities of all sizes throughout the country.



Percentage of students ages 12–18 who reported that street gangs were present at school during the previous year, by urbanicity and grade, 2009

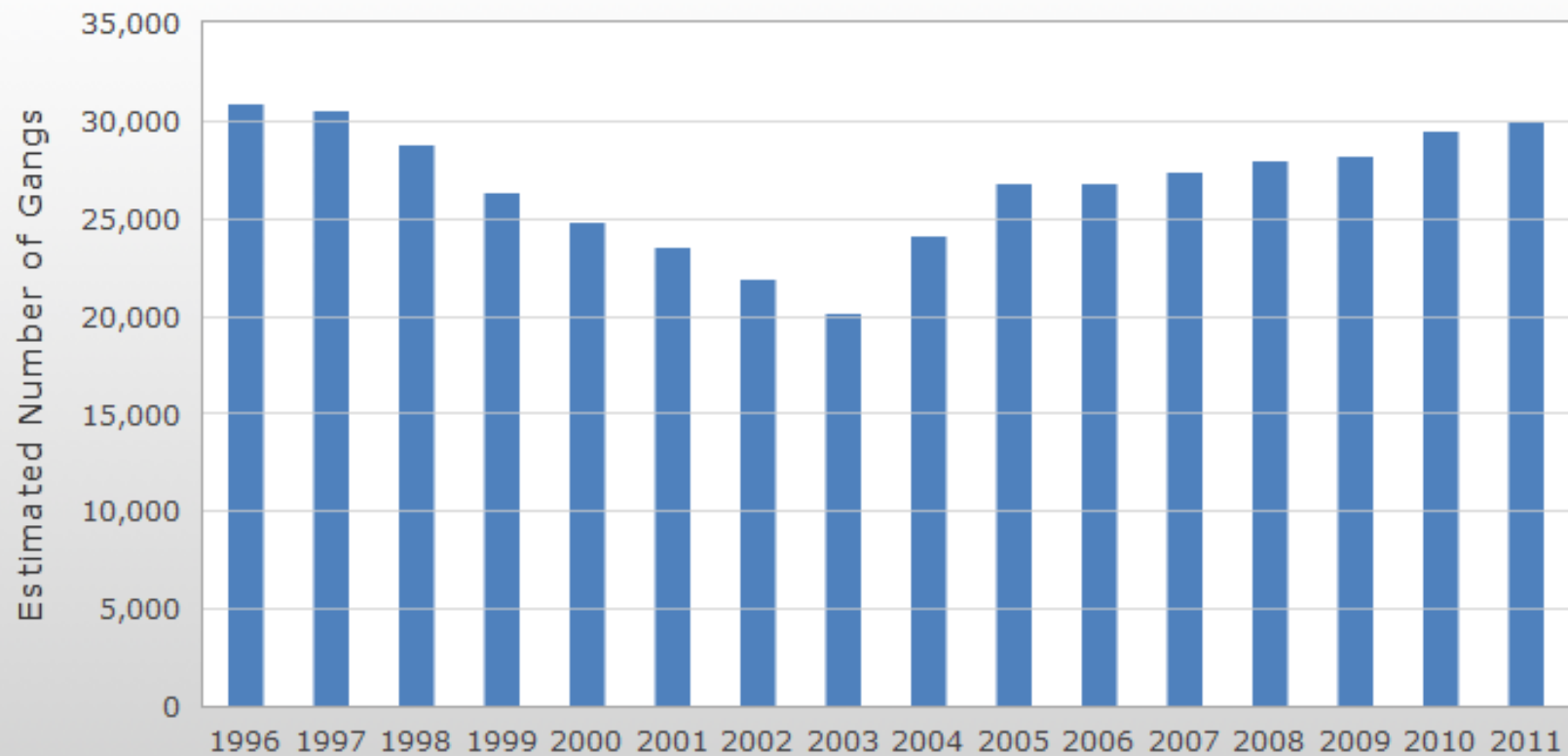


Gangs

- **Gangs expose their members and their communities to extreme violence and danger. Many youths join gangs because gangs**
 - **offer a sense of belonging and**
 - **an opportunity to earn money.**



Estimated Number of Gangs, 1996–2011



According to the FBI, there were approximately 1.4 million firearms in the US in 2011.



Gang prevention

- Most people agree that a promising strategy to discourage gang membership is to
 - provide young people with opportunities and
 - community connections that will offer them
 - a greater sense of belonging.

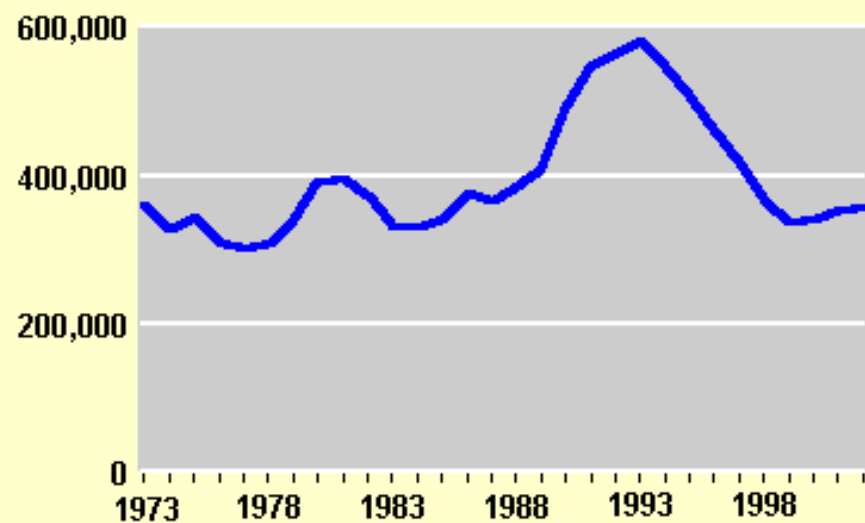
A 3D illustration of a wooden gavel. The gavel has a cylindrical head with three horizontal bands and a handle with three segments. It is resting on a circular wooden base. The entire scene is set against a dark brown background.

Guns and Crime

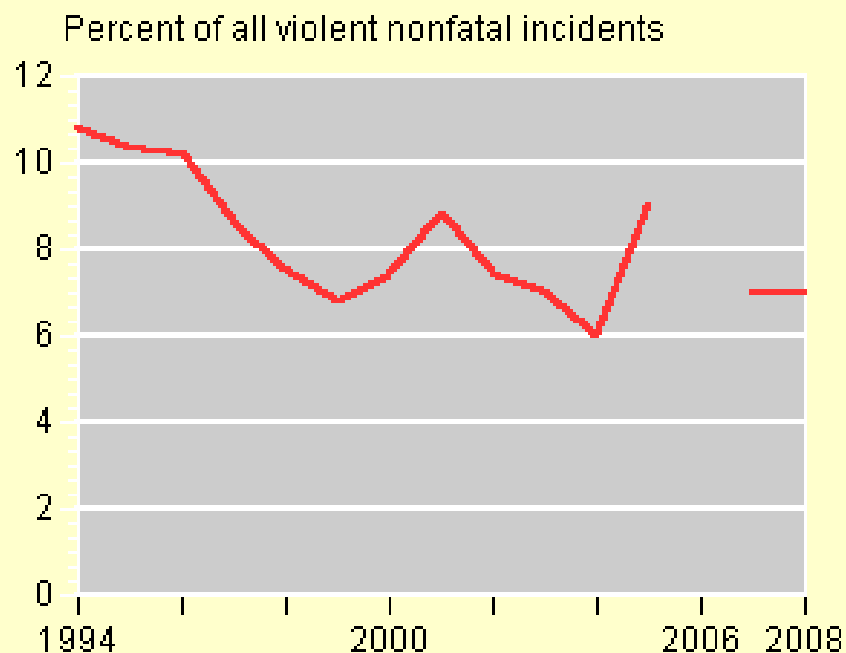


Guns and the Law

Crimes committed with firearms, 1973-2002



Percent of violent crimes involving firearms, 1993-2008



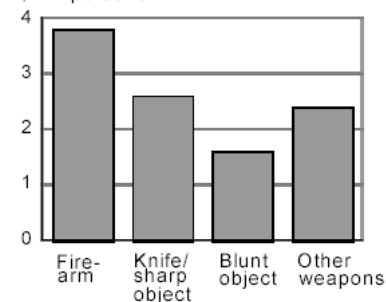


Weapons use and violent crime

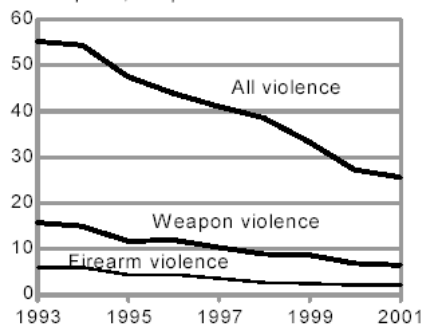
Highlights

For nonfatal violent crimes, offenders were more likely to have a firearm than a knife or club. From 1993 to 2001 the rate of firearm violence fell 63%

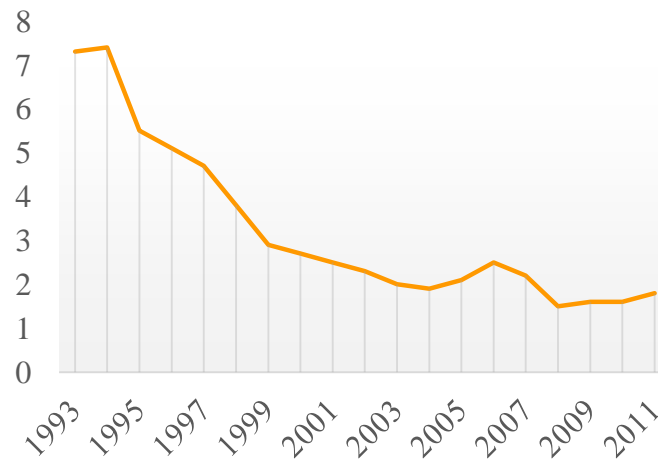
Rates of violent crime per 1,000 persons



Rates per 1,000 persons



Non-fatal firearm crime rate US Dept. of Justice

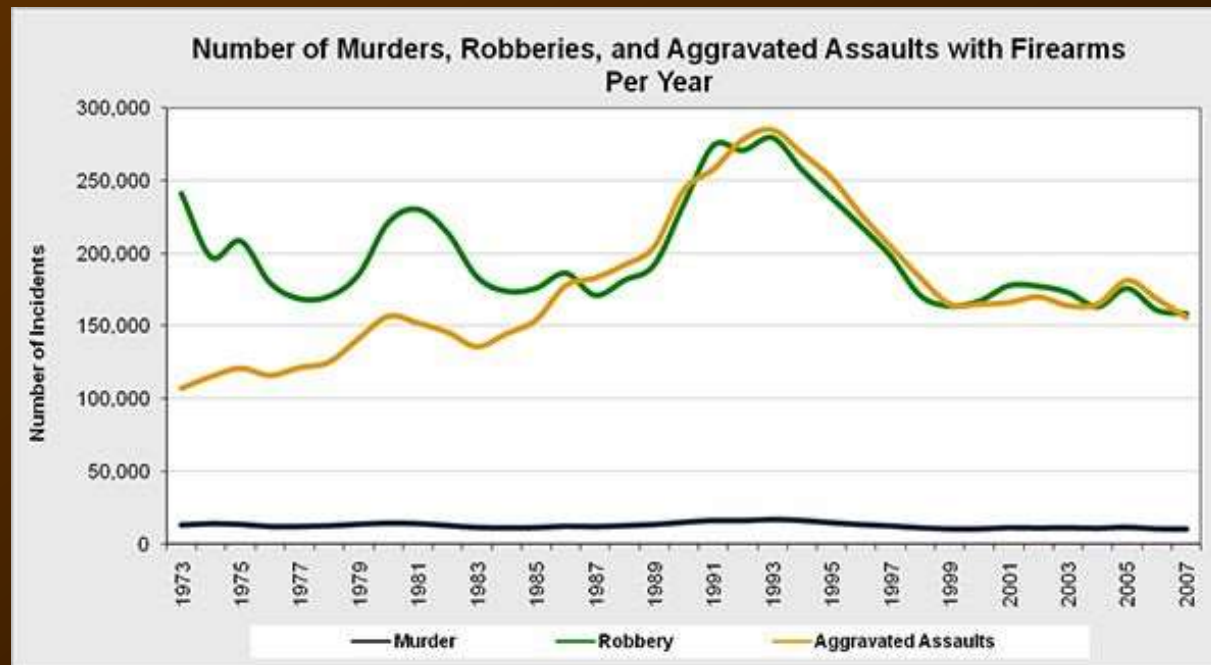


Rates of crime per 1000 persons



Weapons and crime statistics

- Approximately **half of all robberies**, about a quarter of all assaults, and roughly a twelfth of all rapes/sexual assaults **involved an armed assailant**.
- About **90% of homicide victims** were **killed with a weapon**.





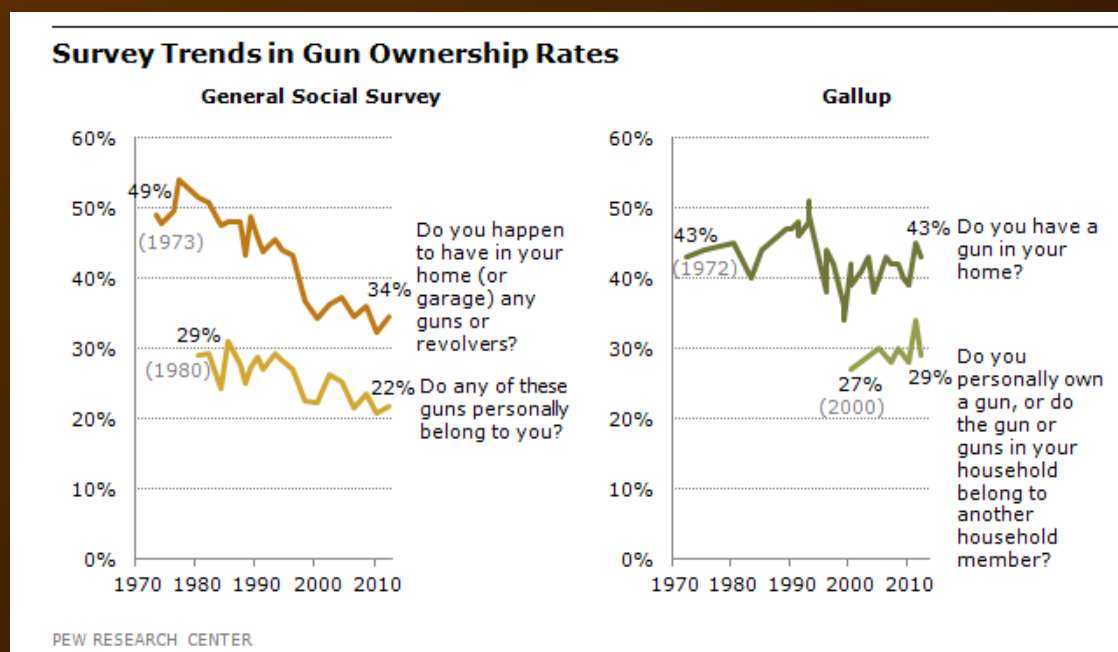
Weapons and crime statistics

- From 1993 through 2001 the number of **murders declined** 36% while the number of murders by firearms dropped 41%.
- From 1994 through 1999, the years for which data are available, about **7 in 10 murders at school involved some type of firearm**, and approximately 1 in 2 murders at school involved a handgun.



Guns and the Law

- Most Americans who own firearms own them legally and use them lawfully.
- About 37% of Americans own a firearm.
- However, guns are often used in violent crimes.
- Estimates of the number of guns in the US range from 270 million to 310 million





Guns and the Constitution

- The Second Amendment to the Constitution:
- *A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.*
 - *Second Amendment Worksheet: With a partner, answer the questions on Side A and the majority or dissenting questions on Side B.*



Gun control?

- Many people disagree about the government's role in controlling gun ownership.
 - Some people believe that the Second Amendment **gives the state power to maintain a militia** but does not entitle individuals to own guns.
 - Some groups believe the Second Amendment **protects the right of individuals** to own guns.
 - The Supreme Court agreed with the latter in 2008 in the **Heller decision**



Federal Gun Laws

- The *Federal Gun Control Act of 1968* is
 - the primary federal gun-control law.
 - Congress amended this law 1993 by enacting the *Brady Act*.
 - Provided for background checks and waiting periods before a purchase



Assault weapons

- In 1994, Congress passed legislation to ban 19 types of military **assault weapons**
- That ban was allowed to lapse on September 13, 2004
- Gun groups are opposed to renewal of the ban; police and law enforcement groups are in favor of renewal



Local Gun laws

- Gun laws have also been enacted at the state and local levels.
- California (as well as New York, Massachusetts, and Hawaii) maintains a more stringent assault weapons ban than the old federal law
 - Many of these laws are under scrutiny since the SCOTUS ruled guns are personal right in 2008, and applied that to the states in 2010

A 3D rendering of a wooden gavel. The gavel has a cylindrical head with a flat top, resting on a circular wooden base. The handle is long and tapers slightly, with a small circular detail near the head. The wood has a natural grain and is lit from the side, creating highlights and shadows. The background is a solid dark brown.

Substance Abuse and Crime



Substance Abuse and Crime

- Abuse of alcohol and drugs, often called substance abuse, contributes to many social problems and
- often leads to other criminal activity.

Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported using alcohol during the previous 30 days, by sex: Selected years 1993–2001

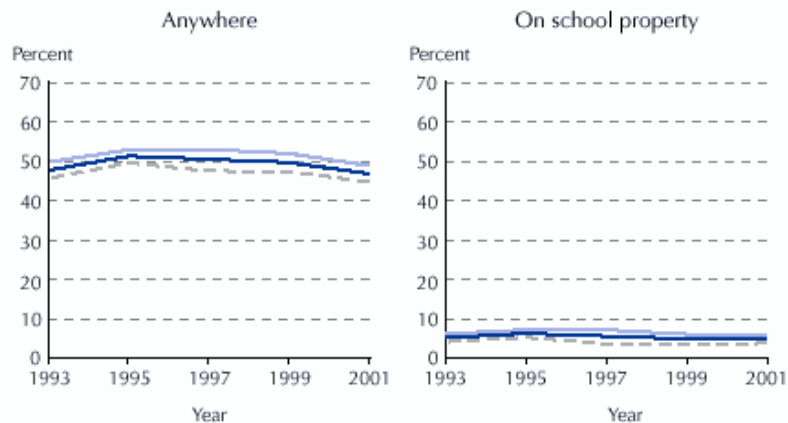
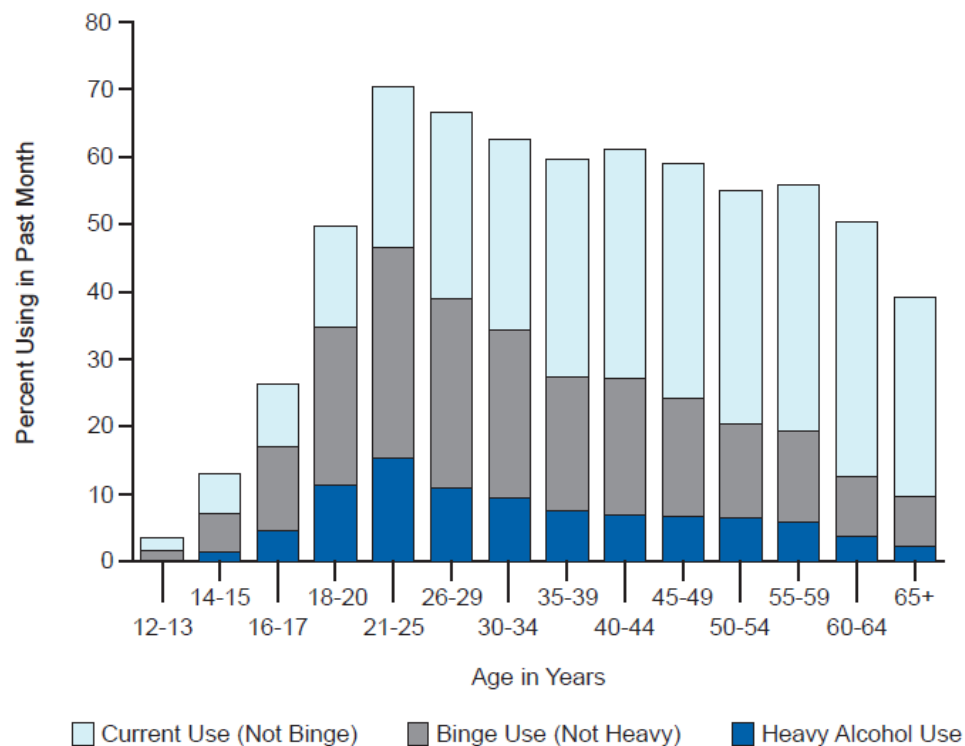


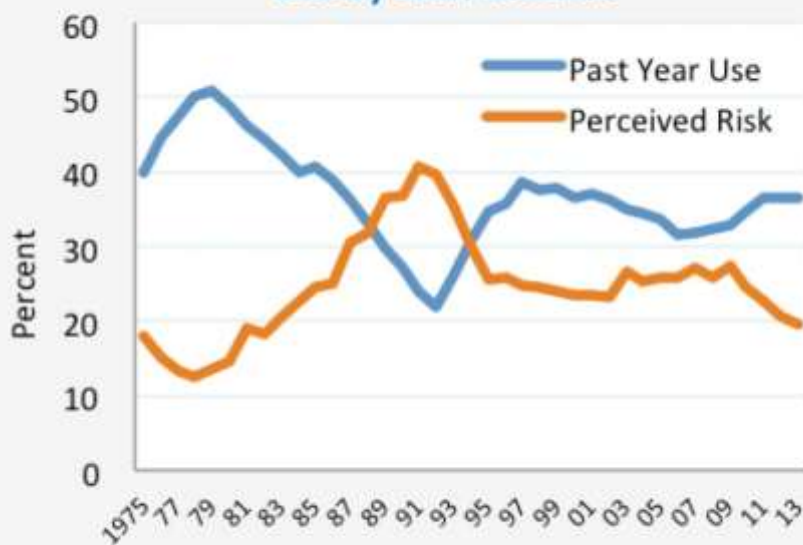
Figure 3.1 Current, Binge, and Heavy Alcohol Use among Persons Aged 12 or Older, by Age: 2009





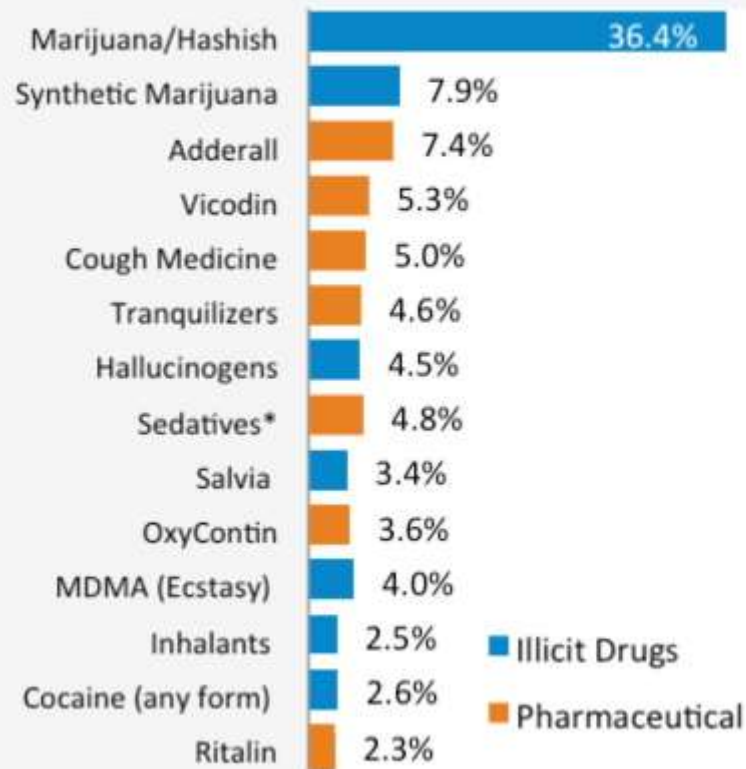
Source: National Institutes of Health

Marijuana Perceived Risk vs. Past Year Use by 12th Graders



SOURCE: University of Michigan, 2013 Monitoring the Future Study

Past-Year Use of Various Drugs by 12th Graders (Percent)



SOURCE: University of Michigan, 2013 Monitoring the Future Study



Alcohol

- Although many adults use alcohol responsibly...
- alcohol abuse can be very harmful to society.
- A 1995 National Institute on Drug Abuse report estimates the total cost of the abuse of alcohol alone is \$150 billion per year (accidents, health care, treatment, lost productivity, etc.)



Drug use and Crime: Local findings

From over 7000 bookings taken during a 2-week sample period

Urinalysis Findings

Percent Positive



Any Drug^a 73.5

Cocaine 18.4

Marijuana 50.0

Opiates 3.3

Methamphetamine 29.3

PCP 0.3

Multiple Drugs 25.3

2000 FINDINGS -

Sacramento, California



Catchment Area:
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

From the National Institute of Justice
Annual Report of 2003: Year 2000
Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring



Solutions?

- Some people argue that the best way to handle the drug problem is to **legalize some or all drugs**.
- They believe legalization would allow the government to better **regulate drugs** and
- would **eliminate the problems** that are associated with illegal distribution of drugs.
- Many others, however, strongly oppose legalization.

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Crime Victims



Victims of Crime

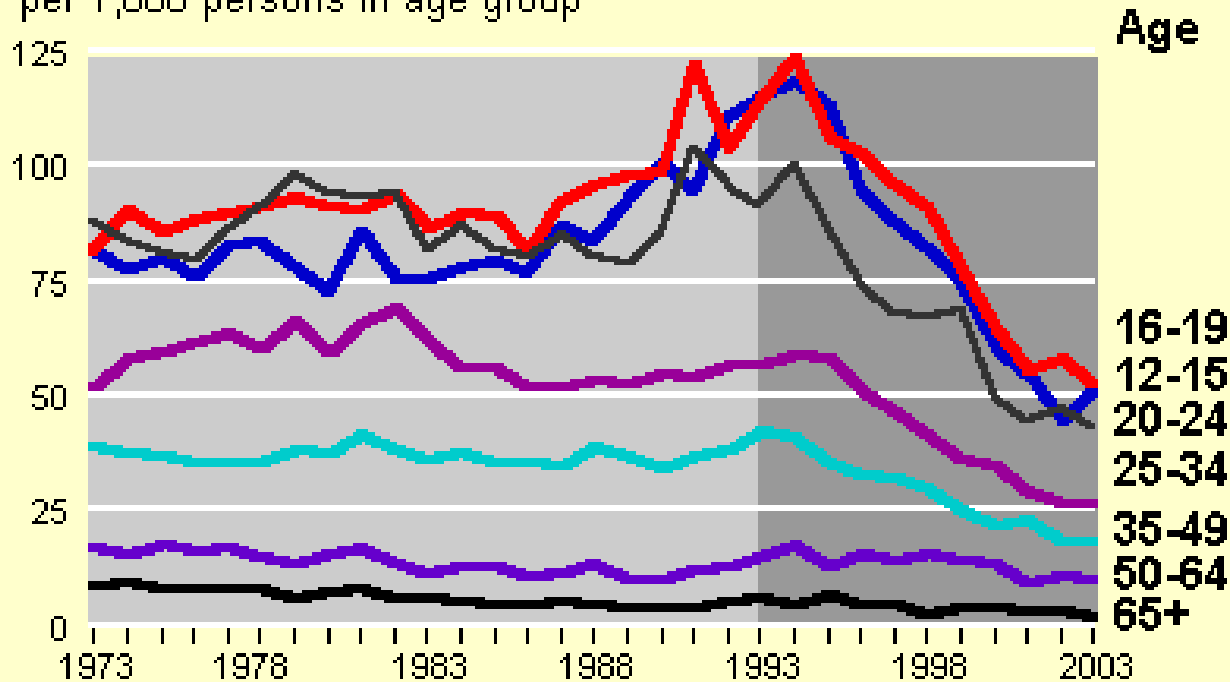
- Every person is at risk to be a victim of crime.
- However, teens and young adults are more likely than any other age groups to be victims.



Victims of Crime by Age

Violent crime rates by age of victim

Adjusted victimization rate
per 1,000 persons in age group



Persons age 12 to 24 sustained violent victimization at rates higher than individuals of all other ages. Beginning with the 20-24 age category, the rate at which persons were victims declined significantly as the age category increased.



Victim advocacy

- Victim advocacy groups work to protect victims by...
- promoting the concerns and rights of victims.



Preventing and Reporting Crime

- You can help fight crime by learning how to protect yourself.
- Also, reporting crime can help to prevent others from being victims.



Crime victim assistance

- There are many organizations and programs that exist to assist victims of crime and prevent future crime.
 - **National** Center for Victims of Crime
 - **California** Victims Compensation Board
 - Victims Services Program of **Yolo County**
 - **WEAVE**: Women Escaping A Violent Environment (Sac County)