1. Abstract

For 2022, the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) focus on new documents and procedures. The purpose of this document is to examine these changes from a self-defense perspective. All in all, the movement to the National Incident-Based Reporting System or NIBRS (pronounced "nighburrs") is great. The UCR moves more towards the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in terms of information content that is actionable by those with a self-defense interest. However, it is important to be cautious as NIBRS is a set of information that must be interpreted. How it is interpreted becomes important.

2. UCR Summary of Crime in the Nation, 2022

To read the UCR report, go here: https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home

Then click "Go" under "Special Reports."
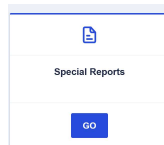
By pressing GO, you'll open up the following document: UCR Summary of Crime in the Nation, 2022.

Here is the FBI's press release covering the document: https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-2022-crime-in-the-nation-statistics

3. Terminology

To understand the report, we need to brush up on the terms. Here is where the user manual is: https://le.fbi.gov/informational-tools/ucr/ucr-technical-specifications-user-manuals-and-data-tools

Incidents

Incident: "one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place." NOTE: See the Appendix for definitions from the user manual of acting in concert and the same time/place. I'll try and keep it simple by providing examples.

For example, an ex-boyfriend breaks into his ex-girlfriend's home and rapes her. After he rapes her, he kills her to try and cover up his rape crime. In this situation, there is one incident, two offenses, one victim, and one offender. The two offenses would be rape and homicide.

Here is another example taken from the 2023.0 user manual:

> "A domestic argument escalated from a shouting match between a husband and wife to an aggravated assault during which the husband began beating his wife. The wife, in her own defense, shot and killed her husband. […] The LEA [Law Enforcement Agency] would submit one incident involving the aggravated assault perpetrated by the husband and a second incident involving the killing."

As the last example shows, incidents are necessarily unique in terms of participants.

Offenses

Offenses are broken up into two groups: Group A and Group B. For our purposes, these groups don't matter. For violent crime, here are the offenses and the ones that are looked at in the Crime Data Explorer for NIBRS are in bold.

Homicide Offenses
    Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter
    Negligent Manslaughter
    Justifiable Homicide
Sex Offenses
    Rape
    Sodomy
    Sexual Assault With An Object
    Fondling
    Incest
    Statutory Rape
    Failure to Register as a Sex Offender
Robbery Offenses
    Robbery
Assault Offenses
    Aggravated Assault
    Simple Assault
    Intimidation

Some of the offenses are mutually exclusive, and some are considered lesser offenses that are also not reported if a main offense is reported. For an example of the first, murder and negligent homicide are mutually exclusive. An offender cannot have an offense of murder as well as an offense negligent homicide for the same victim. Only one can be chosen. For an example of the second, aggravated assault is considered a lesser offense that is a part of robbery. Therefore, an offender would not have an offense of aggravated assault and robbery for the same victim unless something odd occurred (i.e., the victim was robbed at gunpoint, then beaten with a stick).

Let's look at the definitions of our violent crimes from the UCR users' guide.

Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter - The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

Rape (except Statutory Rape) - Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, or by a sex-related object. This definition also includes instance in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (include due to the influence of drugs or alcohol) or because of age. Physical resistance is not required on the part of the victim to demonstrate lack of consent.

Robbery - The taking of anything of value from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

Aggravated Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a dangerous weapon or displays it in a threatening manner or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, or where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure.

Except for aggravated assault, all the definitions are pretty clear. Aggravated assault needs a bit more analysis. There are the four cases here:

a. The offender uses a dangerous weapon.
b. OR displays it [a dangerous weapon] in a threatening manner.
c. OR the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury.
d. OR where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure.

The NIBRS documentation does not ever officially define "weapon." This lack of definition is unfortunate as the document "UCR Summary of Crime in the Nation, 2022" showcases weapons extensively (more on this later) in the NIBRS Estimates section. In this case, the definition uses "dangerous weapon", which is also not defined. The lack of these definitions is unfortunate because the NIBRS documentation also states:

> "The weapons used or the extent of the injury sustained typically will be the deciding factors in distinguishing Aggravated from Simple Assault."

Let's look at the definition of simple assault (which is not considered a violent crime) so we can compare it to aggravated assault.

Simple Assault - An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a dangerous weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

In passing, the NIBRS documentation does mention a weapon and seems to give a decent definition of it: "A weapon can be a gun, knife or anything that could be used to harm someone else (a broken glass bottle, rocks, a shoe, etc.)"

Based upon this "definition," it seems like a weapon is an inanimate object used to harm someone else. I suspect a "dangerous" weapon is dependent on whether the victim believed it to be dangerous. For example, someone with a severe peanut allergy could be attacked by someone with a can of peanuts. In most cases, a can of peanuts wouldn't be considered a dangerous weapon. However, a person with a severe peanut allergy would disagree.

To complicate matters, there is something the UCR defines as a personal weapon: "Personal Weapons (hands, fist, feet, arms, teeth, etc.)." This definition does not sound like an inanimate object.

Based upon all this information, we can try and work out what aggravated assault means in layman's terms by providing some simple examples.

a. The offender uses a dangerous weapon. Example: An argument escalates, and a man uses a gun to shoot (and miss) at another man in a parking lot.
b. The offender displays it [dangerous weapon] in a threatening manner. Example: In a road rage incident, one driver points his handgun at the other driver but doesn't shoot.
c. The victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury. Example 1: A man beats up another man with a baton and the victim has to be hospitalized. Example 2: A man beats up another man with his fists and the victim has to be hospitalized.
d. Where there was a risk for serious injury/intent to seriously injure. Example: A man plants an explosive at a gas station, but it fails to detonate. The potential victims were never aware that they were in any danger.

NOTE: Keep in mind that statistical categories that are used to report crime do not necessarily reflect criminal charges against the offender. For example, attempted murder may be criminally charged in some of the examples above. However, for the purposes of the UCR, they will statistically be categorized as aggravated assault.

Because aggravated assault is generally a weapon crime, I suspect the UCR invented the category of "Personal Weapon" to handle case c / example 2. This invention is unfortunate as it makes the category of "No Weapon" confusing. Given the definition of "Personal Weapon," what is the definition of "No Weapon?" Here is an example from NIBRS documentation:

> "LE [Law Enforcement] should classify cases involving pretend weapons or those in which the robber claims to possess a weapon but the victim does not see it as Robbery and report the alleged weapon. If an immediate on-view arrest proves there was no weapon, the agency should classify the offense as Robbery and report the weapon with the data value "None.""

In short, the "No Weapon" category is actually a "Pretended to Have a Weapon" category.

I don't think you could have purposely designed a more confusing designation as the UCR does around "weapon."

Advantages and Disadvantages

Let's imagine an example, a scaled down UCR report for a small town in a rural area. Call it Crime in Our Town, 2022. The UCR report starts out:

> There were 12 aggravated assault offenses in our town last year. In all 12 aggravated assaults, weapons were used.

The local town paper interprets those two sentences as follows in a large front-page headline: "Local Crime is Out of Control!" The text of the article begins: "There were 12 aggravated assaults, with at least 12 offenders, and at least 12 victims. For each offense, a weapon was used to inflict harm!"

One local decides to do a deep dive on the 12 aggravated assault offenses and discovers the following:

> All 12 aggravated assault offenses involved a local couple. On odd-numbered months, the husband beat up the wife, and the wife called the police. On even-numbered months, the wife beat up the husband, and the husband called police. In short, there were 12 aggravated assault incidents, 12 offenses, two offenders (the husband, the wife), two victims (the husband, the wife), and two unique participants for all 12 offenses. No inanimate objects were used as weapons, but "Personal Weapons" were designated as weapons since the couple used their hands/fists to inflict injury.

The local writes a letter to the editor explaining what happened and suggest the couple be exiled from the town to reduce violent crime by 100%.

An advantage of NIBRS is that it allows for much more detail on crime and is much more accurate than the Summary Reporting System (SRS) which was used by the UCR for decades. However, it does have a disadvantage. It greatly increases the number of offenses for those offenders who have already shown they are violent offenders. In short, the UCR cannot answer if 1000 uniquely identifiable offenders are responsible for all violent crime offenses or if all the offenses were committed by uniquely different offenders (NOTE: the UCR uses the term "known offender" which does not mean uniquely identifiable offender). This fact means that the data could be interpreted in a similar way as the local paper in our example did, which greatly amplifies the scope of offenders. Whether that is justified or not requires much more data research.
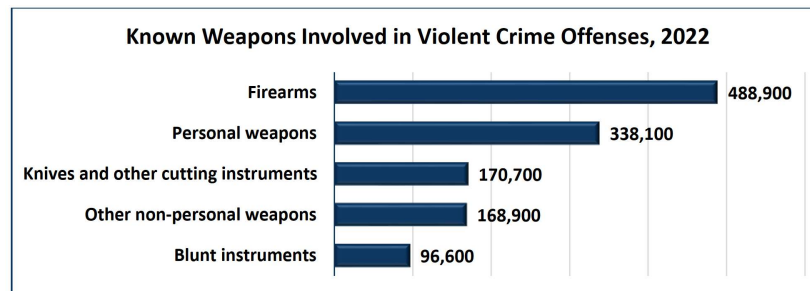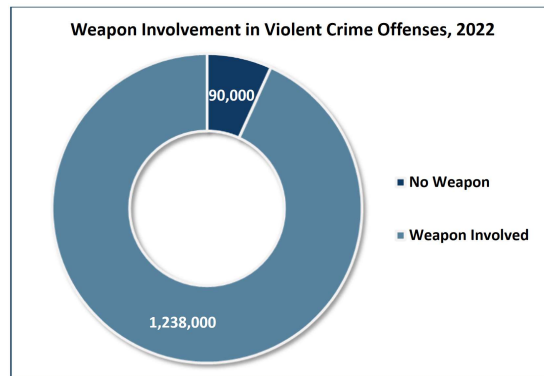
4. NIBRS Estimates, 2022 Highlights

This section in the UCR report begins with the following:

> "A robust and complex NIBRS estimation process generated the NIBRS Estimates, 2022 report to provide an adequate representation of granular crime details for the entire nation. Accordingly, NIBRS Estimates, 2022 will be examined to assess these detailed national crime trends within this summary."

The report begins with charts discussing weapons. Let's look at them.

Weapon Involvement in Violent Crime Offenses, 2022

- 90,000
- 1,238,000
- ■ No Weapon
- ▪ Weapon Involved

Known Weapons Involved in Violent Crime Offenses, 2022

Weapon	Count
Firearms	488,900
Personal weapons	338,100
Knives and other cutting instruments	170,700
Other non-personal weapons	168,900
Blunt instruments	96,600

Unfortunately, the totals don't add up. In the first graph, the total is 1,328,000. In the second graph, the total is: 1,263,200. If we add in the 90,000 for a "pretend weapon," we get 1,353,200. I'll use the last number to calculate the percentages. Here would be my update to this section:

Known Weapons Involved in Violent Crime Offenses, 20226
- Firearms: 488,900 / 36.13%
- Non-Firearm Weapons (knives, blunt, other): 436,200/ 32.23%
- No Weapons (Hands, feet, etc…): 338,100 / 25%
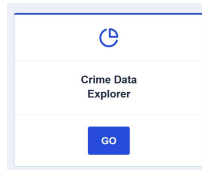- Pretend Weapons: 90,000 / 6.65%

With this procedure, we can see non-firearm weapons are only 3% away from firearms, something the original chart doesn't clearly convey.

The 2022 Uniform Crime Reports: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

In general, I think leading with weapons is the wrong approach. It would be better to discuss the types of violent crime and break them out by percentage. Let's do that.
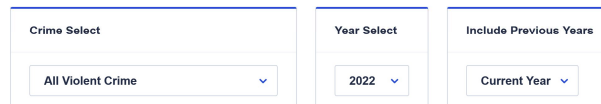
We can go to the Crime Data Explorer here:

https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home

We'll then go to here:

Instead of looking at "All Violent Crime" in the drop-down box, we'll select each one individually: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. As an example, let's select "Homicide."

At the bottom, the following blurb is shown.

> "In **2022**, there were **15,047 homicide** incidents, and **16,485** offenses reported in the United States by **13,293** law enforcement agencies that submitted National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, and covers **75%** of the total population."
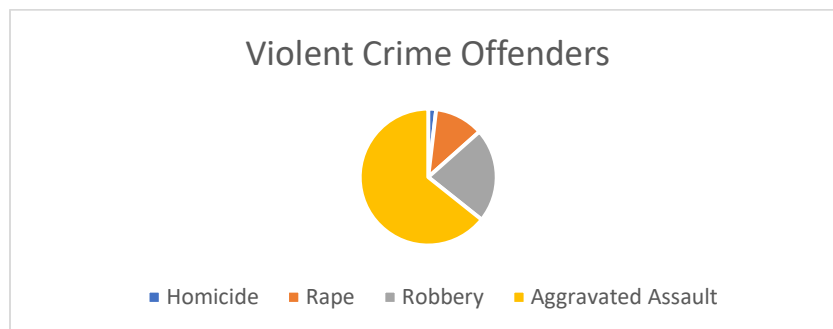
We can see the incidents and offenses reported. Further down, we can get offender and victim counts. I've created a table of all the violent crimes with incidents, offenses, offenders, and victims.

Violent Crime	Incidents	Offenses	Offenders	Victims
Homicide	15,047	16,485	16,769	16,485
Rape	102,947	106,521	101,623	106,521
Robbery	150,107	150,107	195,669	168,341
Aggravated Assault	541,280	678,157	565,532	678,157
Total	809,381	951,270	879,593	969,504

The 2022 Uniform Crime Reports: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Violent Crime	Incidents	Offenses	Offenders	Victims
Homicide	1.86%	1.73%	1.91%	1.7%
Rape	12.72%	11.2%	11.55%	10.99%
Robbery	18.54%	15.78%	22.25%	17.36%
Aggravated Assault	66.88%	71.29%	64.29%	69.95%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

We can see Homicide is less than two percent of all violent crime. Also, aggravated assault dominates all violent crimes by a considerable margin. Let's look at these in chart form.

Violent Crime Incidents

■ Homicide ■ Rape ■ Robbery ■ Aggravated Assault

Violent Crime Offenses

■ Homicide ■ Rape ■ Robbery ■ Aggravated Assault

Violent Crime Offenders

■ Homicide ■ Rape ■ Robbery ■ Aggravated Assault

Violent Crime Victims

■ Homicide ■ Rape ■ Robbery ■ Aggravated Assault
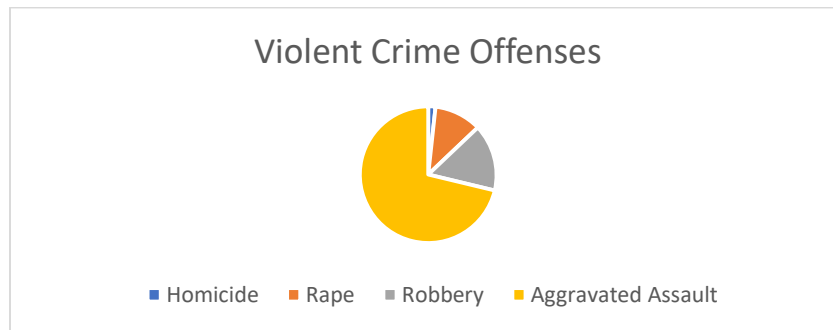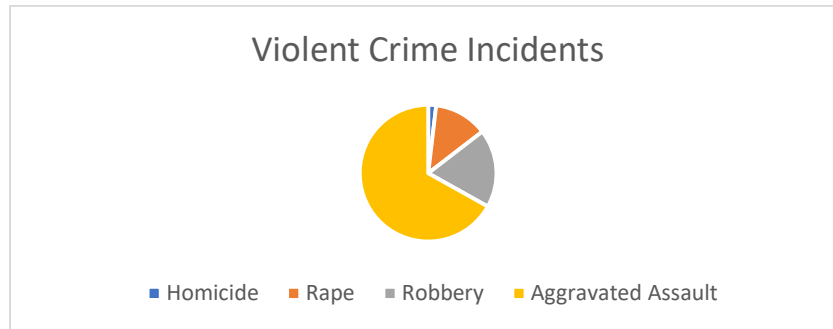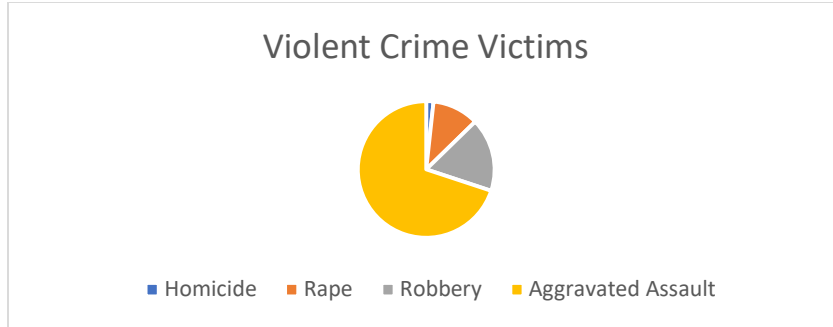
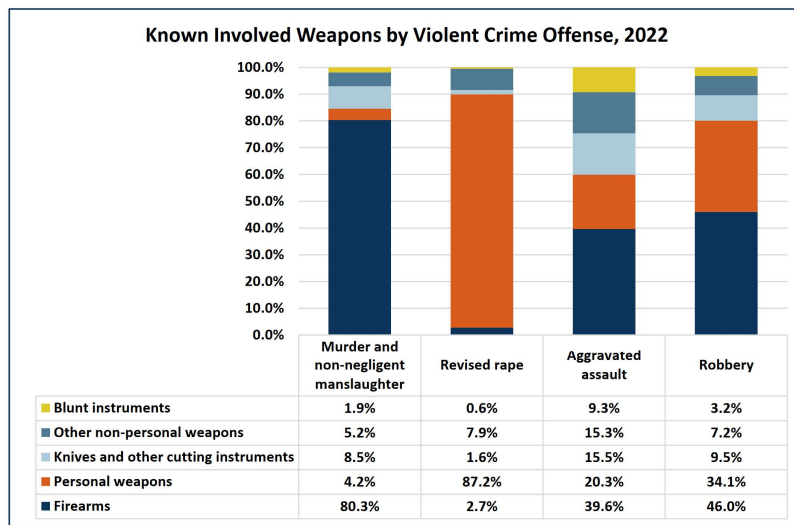Now that we have a proper breakdown of violent crime, we can see that charts like these can be misleading because they seem to put all violent crimes on an equal footing.

Known Involved Weapons by Violent Crime Offense, 2022

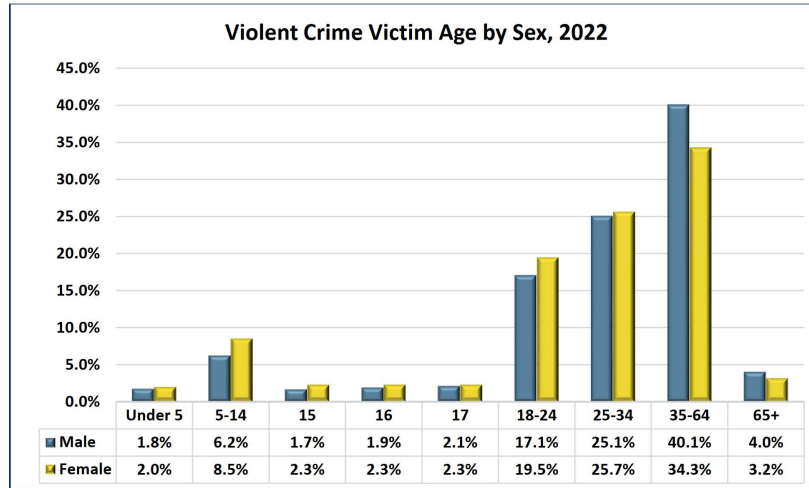|	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Revised rape	Aggravated assault	Robbery
■ Blunt instruments	1.9%	0.6%	9.3%	3.2%
■ Other non-personal weapons	5.2%	7.9%	15.3%	7.2%
■ Knives and other cutting instruments	8.5%	1.6%	15.5%	9.5%
■ Personal weapons	4.2%	87.2%	20.3%	34.1%
■ Firearms	80.3%	2.7%	39.6%	46.0%

The point is that eliminating murder impacts less than two percent of violent crime in the nation, but you can't see that because you have no idea how much murder is going on in the country.

Next, the report looks at all violent crimes in terms of sex and age. Because aggravated assault consists of 71 percent of all violent crime, it is likely that if there are any differences in age groups for the various violent crimes, aggravated assault will drown out the differences.

Here is the report text:

"In 2022, an estimated 40.1 percent of male violent crime victims and 34.3 percent of female violent crime victims were between the ages of 35 and 64 years old. Considering the age distribution percentages, violent crime victims below the age of 35 were more often female, while violent crime victims aged 35 or older were more often male."

Violent Crime Victim Age by Sex, 2022

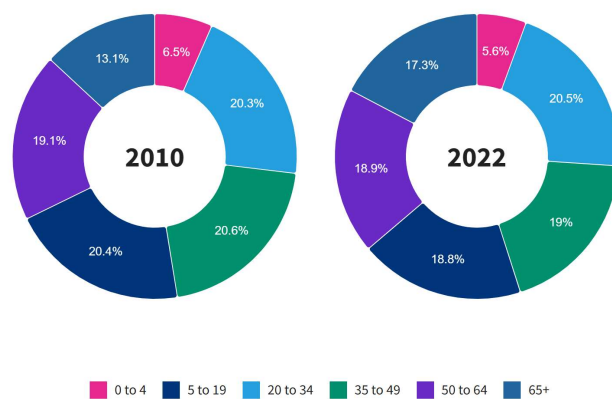|	Under 5	5-14	15	16	17	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+
Male	1.8%	6.2%	1.7%	1.9%	2.1%	17.1%	25.1%	40.1%	4.0%
Female	2.0%	8.5%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	19.5%	25.7%	34.3%	3.2%

The first observation I would have on this graph is how odd it is that when you turn 65, you have a 36% drop in victimization if you are a male and a 31% drop if you are a female. It is almost like Medicare gives you a violent crime shield! The 5-14 breakdown is also a bit misleading because it includes children and young adults. I suspect that puberty is mostly responsible for the peak in the 5-14 category. I believe the chart would be better if it had an "Under 10" and then the 10-17 category.

Another question you would want to ask is what the population density is for the various age groups. For example, if the population density was much greater for 35-64 than other groups, the increase there would be explained by that. This type of problem is why rates are used instead.

Let's do a quick check on population density: https://usafacts.org/data/topics/people-society/population-and-demographics/our-changing-population/
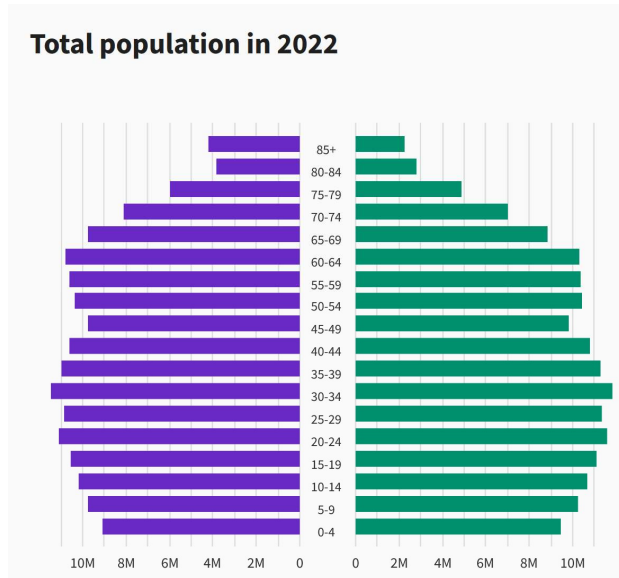
The total population in 2022 was
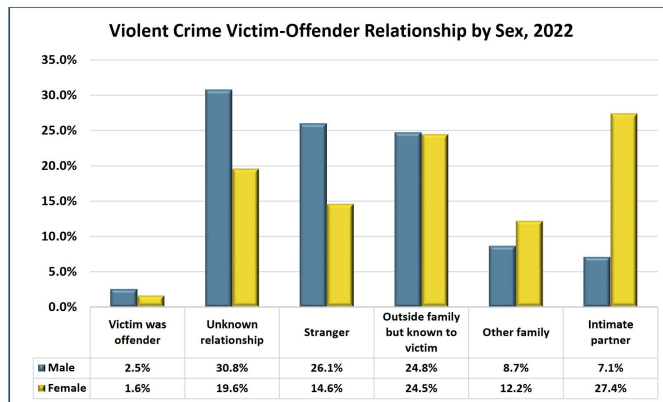

0:4 – 5.6%
5:19 – 18.8%

20:34 – 20.5%
35:49 – 19%
50:64 – 18.9%
65+ - 17.3%

From a population perspective, we are close for the age ranges of 5:64. Looking at the sex differences:

It doesn't appear that anything is too crazy off of 50/50. I'll cover victim ages for each individual violent crime as I believe it is more accurate to do so.

Finally, let's look at the victim/offender relationship.

	Victim was offender	Unknown relationship	Stranger	Outside family but known to victim	Other family	Intimate partner
Male	2.5%	30.8%	26.1%	24.8%	8.7%	7.1%
Female	1.6%	19.6%	14.6%	24.5%	12.2%	27.4%

We'll ignore the "Victim was offender" section.

Given these basic statistics, we should assume that the victimization of aggravated assault would likely drown out all the other violent crimes in terms of age and sex. After all, aggravated assault is 71% of the offenses. To avoid such confusion, we'll again break down each violent crime individually.

We have access to a basic set of NIBRS data, as I covered previously. Let's review:
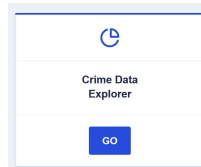
https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home

We'll then go to here:

Instead of looking at "All Violent Crime" in the drop-down box, we'll select each one individually: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault.

5. Aggravated Assault

Aggravated assault accounts for 71.29% of all the violent crime offenses. If there was one violent crime we should focus on to make America safer, this one would be it. For more details on aggravated assault, please see my book.

We can go back to the weapons chart listed at the end of the last section.

Known Involved Weapons by Violent Crime Offense, 2022

	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Revised rape	Aggravated assault	Robbery
Blunt instruments	1.9%	0.6%	9.3%	3.2%
Other non-personal weapons	5.2%	7.9%	15.3%	7.2%
Knives and other cutting instruments	8.5%	1.6%	15.5%	9.5%
Personal weapons	4.2%	87.2%	20.3%	34.1%
Firearms	80.3%	2.7%	39.6%	46.0%
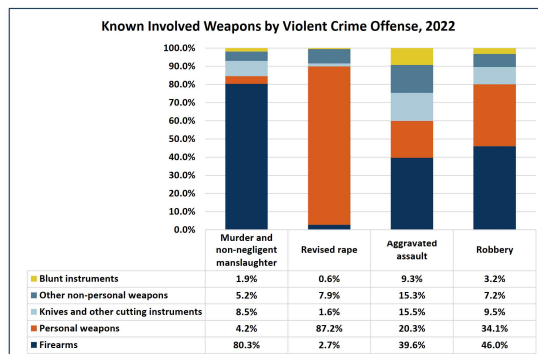
Let's make it a bit more meaningful for aggravated assault.

- Aggravated Assault makes up 71.29% of all violent crime in 2022.
- Non-Firearm Weapons make up 40.1% of weapons used.
- Firearms make up 39.6% of weapons used.
- Hands, feet, teeth, and so forth, "Personal Weapons", make up 20.3% of weapons used.

Let's check this against the NIBRS data. NOTE: I do not look at anything lower than 1%, so my values will not add up perfectly to the Crime in the Nation figures. I'm just looking to see if it is in the ballpark.

Weapon Type

Type of Weapon Involved by Offense	
Sort By: Category	
Personal Weapons	21%
Handgun	19%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	16%
Firearm	11%
Blunt Object	10%
Other	10%
Asphyxiation	3%
None	3%
Unknown	2%
Rifle	1%
Other Firearm	1%
Handgun (Automatic)	1%
Shotgun	1%
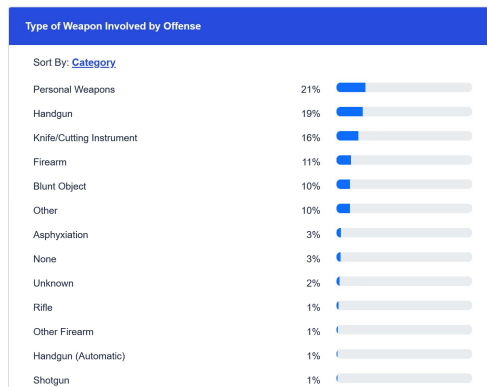
- Non-Firearm Weapons (39%): knife + blunt + other + asphys = 16 + 10 + 10 + 3 = 39%
- Firearms (34%): handgun + firearm + rifle + other firearm + handgun(A) + shotgun = 19+11+1+1+1+1 = 34%.
- Hands, feet, teeth, and so forth, "Personal Weapons", 21%

Everything is close except firearms. I suspect the "NIBRS Estimation" process shows an additional 5% of firearm uses that the NIBRS data doesn't have.

Victim Age

Victim Age	
Sort By: Category	
20-29	26%
30-39	24%
40-49	15%
10-19	14%
50-59	10%
60-69	5%
0-9	4%
70-79	1%
Unknown	1%

Essentially, crime from 0-49 represents 83 percent. 0-39 represents 68 percent. 50-79 make up for just 16%. Unfortunately, victim sex is not broken down by age. In general, I would say the "Crime in the Nation" 35-64 age category is misleading at best, especially since the FBI's own web page breaks it down in ten-year increments.

Victim Sex

For aggravated assault, here is the victim sex but not broken down by age (for any crime):
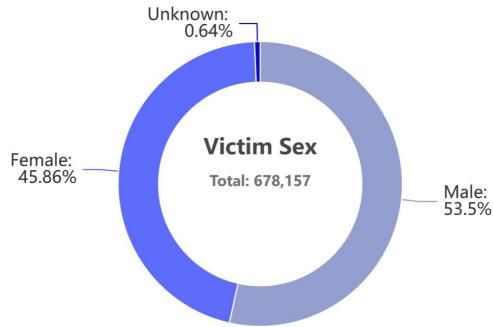
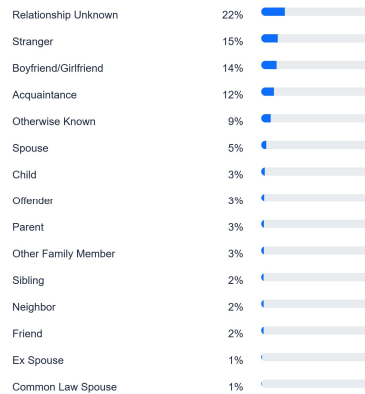Males are over 50%, making them the dominant victim sex, but not by much.

Location Type
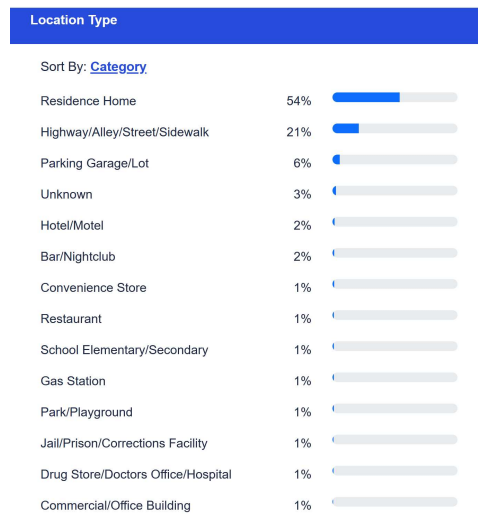
You can see the breakdown between Home and public locations like parking lots and streets. Home is likely domestic violence involving a couple while public places are likely strangers and things like road rage. See my book to learn more.

Victim/Offender Relationship

Relationship	Percentage
Relationship Unknown	22%
Stranger	15%
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	14%
Acquaintance	12%
Otherwise Known	9%
Spouse	5%
Child	3%
Offender	3%
Parent	3%
Other Family Member	3%
Sibling	2%
Neighbor	2%
Friend	2%
Ex Spouse	1%
Common Law Spouse	1%

I'll try and make a best guess as to what the Crime in The Nation is using for categories.

Intimate Partner (20%): Spouse, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Common Law Spouse: 5% + 14% + 1% = 20%. Sex breakdown is not available. The graph in the report shows Intimate Partner as F: 27.4% and M: 7.1% which averaged is 34.5%/2 = 17.25%. This value seems on the money as we still have Robbery (primarily men), Rape (almost 90% women), and Homicide (primarily men) to cover.

Other Family (11%): Child, Parent, Sibling, Other Family Member: 3% + 3% + 2% + 3% = 11%. For the report, the Other Family Average is 12.2% + 8.7% = 20.9%/2 = 10.45% which is close to the 11%. We'll see what the other violent crimes turn up.

6. Robbery

Robbery accounts for 18.54% of all violent crime offenses. In the category of Robbery, the UCR includes both robberies of commercial establishments, such as banks or convenience stores, as well as individuals. In fact, it thoroughly mixes them. From the user manual:
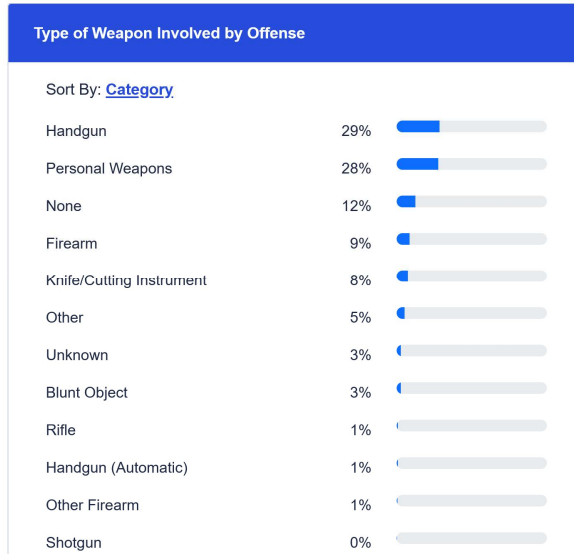
> "As in the case of all Crimes Against Property, LE [Law Enforcement] should report only one offense for each distinct operation of Robbery, regardless of the number of victims involved. However, the victims of a Robbery include not only those persons and other entities (businesses, financial institutions, etc.) from whom property was taken (or was attempted to be taken), but also those persons toward whom the robber(s) directed force or threat of force in perpetrating the offense. Therefore, although the primary victim in a bank robbery would be the financial institution, LE should report as a victim the teller toward whom the robber pointed a gun and made a demand, as well as any other person against whom the offender committed an assault during the course of the Robbery."

As you may guess, when a commercial establishment is robbed, masks and firearms are common because of witnesses, cameras, and the need to establish the threat of force at a distance as well
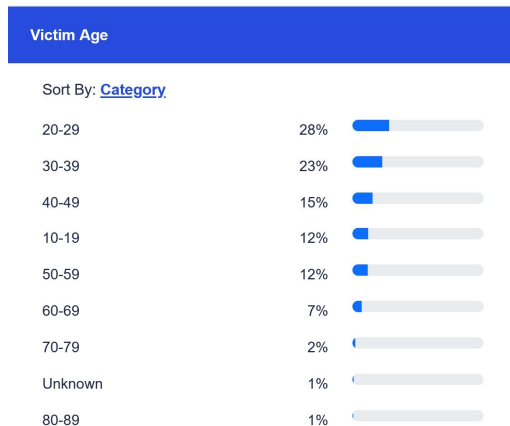
as intimidation (i.e., firearm). These factors will likely mean that victim's relationship with the offender will be "unknown" since the offender has a mask on. It also means firearms will be more common. Due to these issues, in my book I focus mostly on the NCVS robbery statistics to get a better handle on self-defense strategies.

Weapon Type

Type of Weapon Involved by Offense	
Sort By: **Category**	
Handgun	29%
Personal Weapons	28%
None	12%
Firearm	9%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	8%
Other	5%
Unknown	3%
Blunt Object	3%
Rifle	1%
Handgun (Automatic)	1%
Other Firearm	1%
Shotgun	0%

- Firearms (41%) = Handgun + Firearm + Rifle + Handgun (Automatic) + Other Firearm = 29 + 9 + 1 +1 + 1 = 41%
- Hands, Feet, Teeth, etc.. (Personal Weapons) = 28%
- Non-Firearms (19%): Knife + Other + Unknown + Blunt Object = 8+5+3+3 = 19%
- Pretend Weapons: 12%

Victim Age

Victim Age	
Sort By: **Category**	
20-29	28%
30-39	23%
40-49	15%
10-19	12%
50-59	12%
60-69	7%
70-79	2%
Unknown	1%
80-89	1%

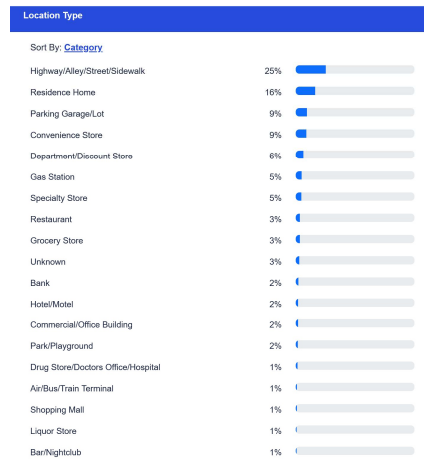We see that 49 and younger are the majority victims of robbery.

- 0-49: 12+28+23+15 = 78%
- 0-39: 12+28+23 = 63%
- 50-89: 12+7+2+1 = 22%
- 60-89: 7+2+1 = 10%

Victim Sex

Victims are mostly male, but no breakdown of age is available.

Location Type

We'll try and break down what is likely a commercial "victim" from an individual.

- Commercial (40%): Convenience Store + Department/Discount Store + Gas Station + Restaurant + Specialty Store + Grocery Store + Bank + Commercial Office Building + Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital + Liquor Store = 9+6+5+5+3+3+2+2+1+1 = 40%
- Individual (47%): Highway + Home + Hotel/Motel + Park/Playground + Air/Bus/Train Terminal + Bar/Nightclub = 25+16+2+2+1+1 = 47%

Victim/Offender Relationship

Victim's Relationship to the Offender

Sort By: **Category**

Relationship Unknown	42%	
Stranger	38%	
Acquaintance	8%	
Otherwise Known	4%	
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	2%	
Friend	2%	
Other Family Member	1%	
Parent	1%	
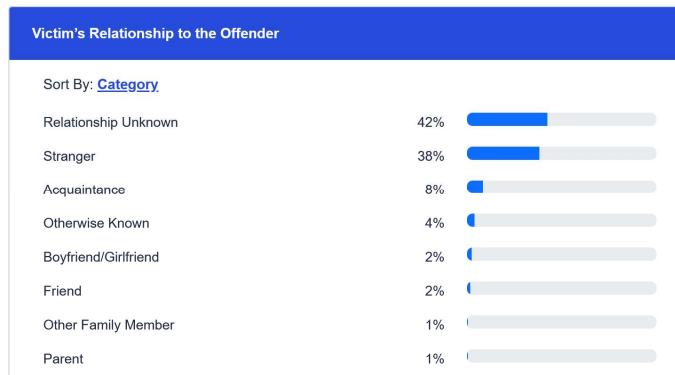
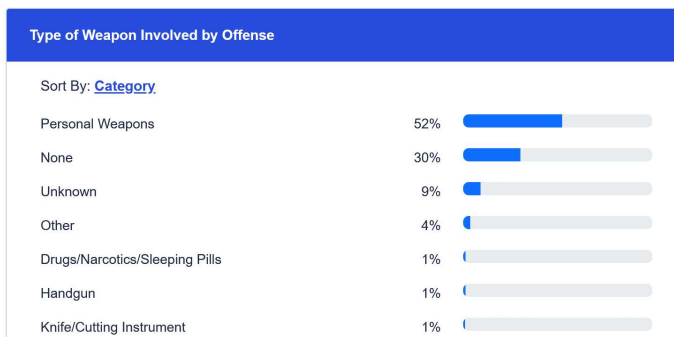Around 80% is a stranger or relationship unknown. The rest is being robbed by someone you know: 18%. I would suspect than any robber wearing a mask, regardless of commercial or individual, would fall under "relationship unknown." Robbers not wearing masks that were identified as strangers I would assume would be targeting individuals, with locations being parking lots, alleyways, and the like.

7. Rape

Rape is a very underreported crime (see my book), but here we are looking at law enforcement reports which puts rape at 11.2% of all offenses. Let's check it out.

Weapon Type

Type of Weapon Involved by Offense

Sort By: **Category**

Personal Weapons	52%	
None	30%	
Unknown	9%	
Other	4%	
Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	1%	
Handgun	1%	
Knife/Cutting Instrument	1%	

Here, personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.) make up 52% while none makes up 30%. Firearms hardly make an appearance.
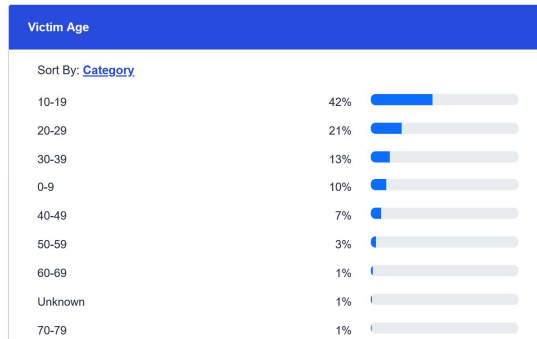
It isn't clear to me if the distinction between Personal Weapons and None is of the following:
- The offender restrained the victim by using hands/arms (personal weapon)
- The offender used a pretend weapon (none) to rape

- Or there is some kind of confusion by law enforcement when submitting the reports selecting between personal weapons and none. Remember that rape is a consent issue and physical force is not required for a rape to occur. It isn't clear in this data whether physical force was used for personal weapons and no physical force was used for None (e.g., the victim was passed out).

Victim Age

Victim Age	
Sort By: **Category**	
10-19	42%
20-29	21%
30-39	13%
0-9	10%
40-49	7%
50-59	3%
60-69	1%
Unknown	1%
70-79	1%

Rape targets the young.
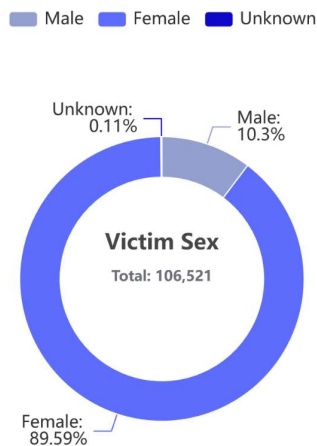
0-39: 42+21+13+10 = 86%
0-29: 42+21 = 63%
40 & over: 7+3+1+1 = 12%

Victim Sex

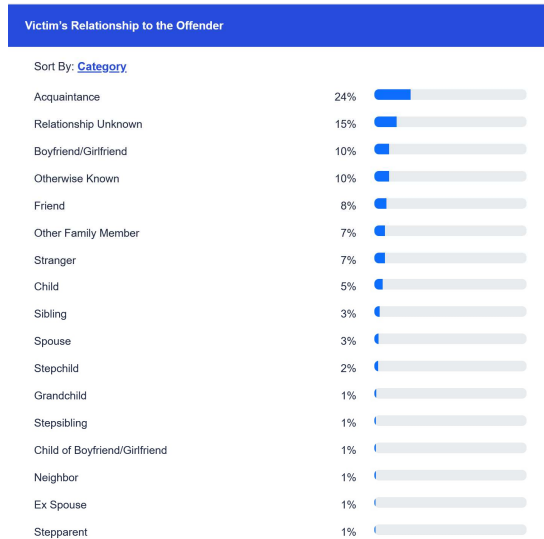Not surprisingly, women make up almost 90% of the victims.

Male   Female   Unknown

Unknown: 0.11%   Male: 10.3%

Victim Sex
Total: 106,521

Female: 89.59%

Location Type

Location Type		
Sort By: Category		
Residence Home	69%	
Unknown	6%	
Hotel/Motel	5%	
Highway/Alley/Street/Sidewalk	4%	
Parking Garage/Lot	3%	
School Elementary/Secondary	2%	
Park/Playground	2%	
Drug Store/Doctors Office/Hospital	1%	
Field/Woods	1%	
Jail/Prison/Corrections Facility	1%	
School College/University	1%	
Government/Public Building	1%	
Bar/Nightclub	1%	
Commercial/Office Building	1%	
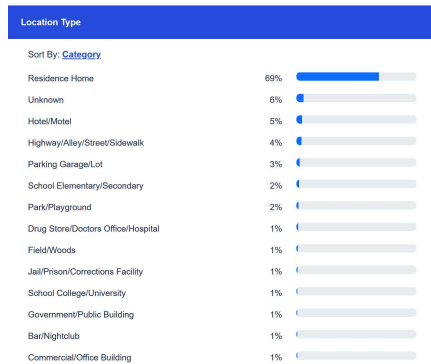
Residence Home makes up almost 70% of where rapes occur.

Victim/Offender Relationship

Victim's Relationship to the Offender		
Sort By: Category		
Acquaintance	24%	
Relationship Unknown	15%	
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	10%	
Otherwise Known	10%	
Friend	8%	
Other Family Member	7%	
Stranger	7%	
Child	5%	
Sibling	3%	
Spouse	3%	
Stepchild	2%	
Grandchild	1%	
Stepsibling	1%	
Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend	1%	
Neighbor	1%	
Ex Spouse	1%	
Stepparent	1%	

Biological Family (9%): Child+Sibling+grandchild = 5+3+1 = 9%
Step Family (5%): Stepchild+Stepsibling+Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend + Stepparent = 2+1+1+1 = 5%
Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Spouse/Ex: 10+3+1 = 14%
Stranger: 7%

Biological family has a greater percentage than stepfamily and is higher than a stranger. Think about that for a bit.

We can sum this up easier:

Known: 78%
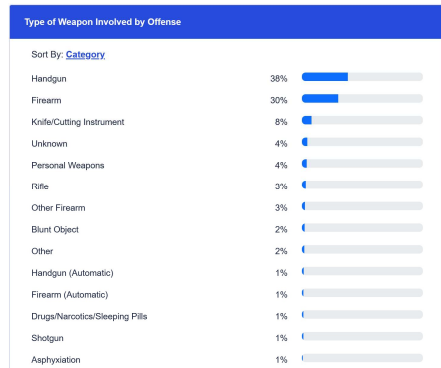Unknown (22%): Stranger + Relationship Unknown = 7+15 = 22%

In all honesty, I suspect Relationship Unknown is mostly women who fear the repercussions of naming their offender, who is someone they know.

8. Murder / Non-Negligent Manslaughter (called "Homicide" in the drop-down box).

This category gets the most attention in the news and comes in at 1.73% of total violent crime offenses.

Weapon Type

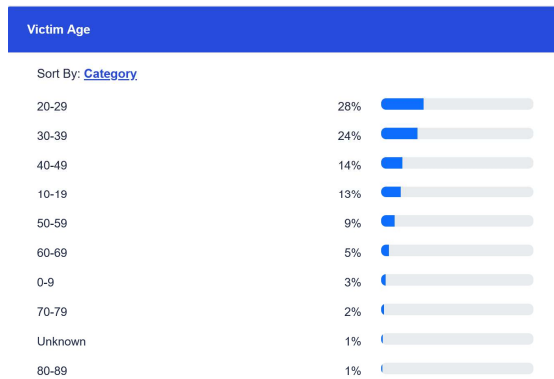| Type of Weapon Involved by Offense	
Sort By: **Category**	
Handgun	38%
Firearm	30%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	8%
Unknown	4%
Personal Weapons	4%
Rifle	3%
Other Firearm	3%
Blunt Object	2%
Other	2%
Handgun (Automatic)	1%
Firearm (Automatic)	1%
Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	1%
Shotgun	1%
Asphyxiation	1%

Without a doubt, firearms are the most popular weapon for homicide.

Firearms (77%): Handgun+Firearm+Rifle+Other Firearm+Handgun(A) + Firearm (A) + Shotgun = 38+30+3+3+1+1+1 = 77%
Non-Firearm (18%): knife+unknown+blunt object+other+drugs+asphyxiation = 8+4+2+2+1+1 = 18%
Hands/Feet/Teeth (personal weapons) = 4%

Victim Age

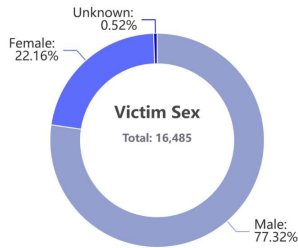| Victim Age	
Sort By: **Category**	
20-29	28%
30-39	24%
40-49	14%
10-19	13%
50-59	9%
60-69	5%
0-9	3%
70-79	2%
Unknown	1%
80-89	1%

0-49: 3+13+28+24+14 = 82%
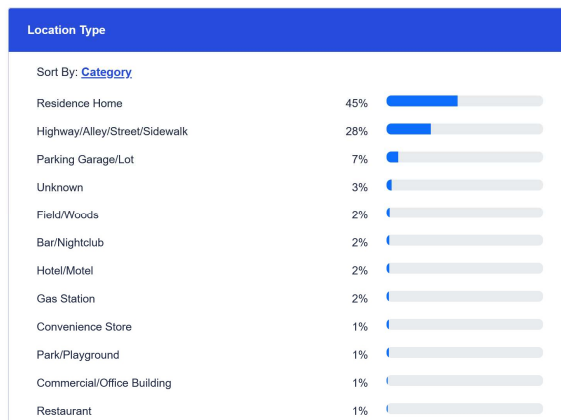0-39: 68%

50+: 9+5+2+1 = 17%

Two-thirds of the victims of homicide are under 40.

Victim Sex

Men are the primary victims at over 75%
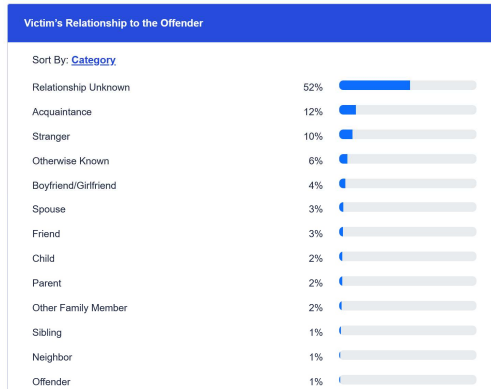
Location Type

Home: 45%
Public Places (38%): highway+parking+field+park = 28+7+2+1 = 38%
Commercial Places (9%): bar+hotel+gas+store+restaurant = 2+2+2+1+1+1 = 9%

Victim/Offender Relationship

Victim's Relationship to the Offender

Sort By: **Category**

Relationship Unknown	52%
Acquaintance	12%
Stranger	10%
Otherwise Known	6%
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	4%
Spouse	3%
Friend	3%
Child	2%
Parent	2%
Other Family Member	2%
Sibling	1%
Neighbor	1%
Offender	1%

- Family (7%): child + parent + other + sibling = 2+2+2+1 = 7%
- Known (36%):
  acquaint+otherwise+bf/gf+spouse+friend+child+parent+other+sibling+neighbor = 12+6+4+3+3+2+2+2+1+1 = 36%
- Stranger: 10%
- Relationship Unknown: 52%

When ordinary civilians murder other ordinary civilians, I suspect the offender is known as these homicides likely represent a dire emotional situation. I would speculate that "relationship unknown" is likely criminals targeting other criminals where the offender is unknown (e.g., drive-by).

A stranger committing homicide is likely an aggravated assault in a public place that escalated.

9. Conclusion

NIBRS offers a considerable upgrade for the UCR in terms of detail. However, the Crime in the Nation report does need work. It doesn't breakdown violent crimes, so you know what is common and what is not. Its weapon section is extremely misleading and so is the victim age section. Hopefully, these can be corrected in the future.

I'm working on a project to take the NIBRS data and make it for self-defense strategies. The output of this project will be an annual report much more focused on self-defense.

Appendix

Incidents – acting in concert, and same time and place.

"Acting in Concert requires all the offenders to actually commit or assist in the commission of all of the crimes in an incident. […] This is important because NIBRS considers all of the offenders in an incident to have committed all of the offenses in an incident. The arrest of any offender will clear all of the offenses in the incident. If one or more of the offenders did not act in concert, then the LEA should report more than one incident."

"The fundamental concept of Same Time and Place presupposes that if the same person or group of persons committed more than one crime and the time and space intervals separating them were insignificant, all the crimes make up a single incident. Normally, the offenses must have occurred during an unbroken time period and at the same or adjoining locations. However, incidents can also be comprised of offenses which, by their nature, involve continuing criminal activity by the same offenders at different times and places if, LE deems the activity to constitute a single criminal transaction."

"In Summary Reporting System (SRS), LEAs used the concept of Same Time and Place to determine whether they should apply the Hierarchy Rule to a group of crimes. The agency reported only the crime highest in the hierarchy."

Example: "A domestic argument escalated from a shouting match between a husband and wife to an aggravated assault during which the husband began beating his wife. The wife, in her own defense, shot and killed her husband. The responding officer submitted one incident report. The LEA should have reported this information via NIBRS as two separate incidents because the husband could not have been acting in concert with the wife in his own killing. The LEA would submit one incident involving the aggravated assault perpetrated by the husband and a second incident involving the killing."

Mutually Exclusive and Lesser Included Offenses

Here I will quote from the NIBRS technical specification 2023.0 https://le.fbi.gov/file-repository/nibrs-technical-specification-063023.pdf/view

"Mutually Exclusive offenses are ones that cannot occur to the same victim by UCR definitions. A Lesser Included offense is one that is an element of another offense and should not be reported as having happened to the victim along with the other offense. Lesser Included and Mutually Exclusive offenses are defined as follows:
1) Murder – Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, and
Intimidation are all Lesser Included offenses of Murder.
Negligent Manslaughter is Mutually Exclusive.
2) Aggravated Assault – Simple Assault and Intimidation are
Lesser Included. Note: Aggravated Assault is a Lesser
Included offense of Murder, Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault

With An Object, and Robbery.

3) Simple Assault – Intimidation is a Lesser Included offense of Simple Assault. Note: Simple Assault is a Lesser Included offense of Murder, Aggravated Assault, Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault With An Object, Fondling, and Robbery.

4) Intimidation – Intimidation is a Lesser Included offense of Murder, Aggravated Assault, Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault With An Object, Fondling, and Robbery.

5) Negligent Manslaughter – Murder, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, and Intimidation are Mutually Exclusive offenses. Negligent Manslaughter is defined as the killing of another person through negligence, while assault offenses are characterized by unlawful attack(s).

6) Rape – Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation, and Fondling are Lesser Included offenses of Rape. Incest and Statutory Rape are Mutually Exclusive offenses and cannot occur with Rape. The prior two offenses involve consent, while the latter involves action against the victim's will.

7) Sodomy – Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation, and Fondling are Lesser Included offenses of Sodomy. Incest and Statutory Rape are Mutually Exclusive offenses and cannot occur with Sodomy. The prior two offenses involve consent, while the latter involves action against the victim's will.

8) Sexual Assault With An Object – Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation, and Fondling are Lesser Included offenses of Sexual Assault with an Object. Incest and Statutory Rape are Mutually Exclusive offenses and cannot occur with Sexual Assault With An Object. The prior two offenses involve consent, while the latter involves action against the victim's will.

9) Fondling – Simple Assault and Intimidation are Lesser Included offenses of Fondling. Incest and Statutory Rape are Mutually Exclusive offenses and cannot occur with Fondling. The prior two offenses involve consent, while the latter involves forced action against the victim's will. Note: Fondling is a Lesser Included offense of Rape, Sodomy, and Sexual Assault With An Object.

10) Incest – Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, and Fondling are Mutually Exclusive offenses. Incest involves consent, while the prior offenses involve sexual relations against the victim's will.

11) Statutory Rape – Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault With An Object, and Fondling are Mutually Exclusive offenses.

Statutory Rape involves consent, while the prior offenses
involve sexual relations against the victim's will.
12) Robbery – Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation,
and all Theft offenses (including Motor Vehicle Theft) are
Lesser Included offenses of Robbery.