

COST OF CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

In 2004, fifteen percent of violent crimes and 95 percent of property crimes resulted in economic losses involving theft or damage loss.¹

In 2004, the total economic loss to victims was \$1.1 billion for violent crime and almost \$15 billion for property crime.²

The average loss to telemarketing scam victims was \$2,892 in 2005, compared to \$1,974 in 2004. The total loss in 2005 was \$4.9 million, compared to \$2.6 million in 2004.³

The average loss to Internet scam victims was \$1,917 in 2005, compared to \$895 in 2004. The total loss in 2005 was \$13.9 million, significantly higher than the \$5.8 million reported loss in 2004.⁴

In 2003, the United States (at federal, state, and local levels) spent a record \$185 billion for police protection, corrections, and judicial and legal activities. Since 1982, expenditures for operating the criminal justice system increased 418 percent, not accounting for inflation.⁵

In 2005, \$367 million worth of property was stolen during robberies. The average dollar value of property stolen per robbery offense was \$1,230.⁶

The average value for property stolen during the commission of a larceny-theft was \$764 per offense. The total value of stolen property was \$3.9 billion.⁷

In 2005, the average dollar loss due to arson was \$14,910.⁸

In 2005, the average dollar loss per burglary offense was \$1,725. The total amount lost to burglaries was \$3 billion.⁹

A total of \$56.6 billion in identity fraud losses occurred in 2005; this figure includes both individual and corporate losses.¹⁰

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2004: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006), Table 81, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus04.pdf> (accessed September 19, 2006).

² Ibid., Table 82.

³ National Fraud Information Center, "Telemarketing Scams: January-December 2005 Statistics," (Washington, DC: National Consumers League, 2006), http://www.fraud.org/toolbox/2005_Telemarketing_Fraud_Report.pdf (accessed September 20, 2006).

⁴ National Fraud Information Center, "Internet Scams: Fraud Trends January-December 2005," (Washington, DC: National Consumers League, 2006), http://www.fraud.org/2005_Internet_Fraud_Report.pdf (accessed September 20, 2006).

⁵ Kristen A. Hughes, "Justice Expenditure and Employment in the United States, 2003," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics), 1, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/jeeus03.pdf> (accessed September 20, 2006).

⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2005, Table 23," (Washington, DC: FBI, 2006), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_23.html (accessed September 19, 2006).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2005, Arson," (Washington, DC: FBI, 2006), http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property_crime/arson.html (accessed September 19, 2006).

⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States 2005, Table 23."

Victims of violent crime and their families received compensation benefits totaling \$427 million in 2004.¹¹

Victim compensation programs paid \$16.8 million for forensic sexual assault exams in 2004, an almost 50 percent increase from 2003.¹²

Victims of child abuse constituted 18 percent of the recipients of crime victim compensation in 2004.¹³

In 2004, domestic violence victims made up 20 percent of all adult victims compensated by victim compensation programs; 34 percent of all assault claims were paid to domestic violence victims.¹⁴

In 2004, medical expenses constituted 53 percent of all victim compensation payments; economic support for lost wages for injured victims and for lost support in homicides made up 19 percent of the total; 11 percent of total payments were for funeral bills; and 8 percent went toward mental health counseling for crime victims.¹⁵

The direct cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States totals more than \$24 billion annually. When factoring in indirect costs, the figure rises to more than \$94 billion annually.¹⁶

Insurance fraud (non-health insurance) costs the average family between \$400 and \$700 per year, with a total cost exceeding \$40 billion.¹⁷

Many school districts report losses in excess of \$250,000 because of school closings due to bomb threats and costs of bomb search squads.¹⁸

¹⁰ United States Delegation to the Intergovernmental Expert Group, "Response of the United States Delegation to the Intergovernmental Expert Group. Questionnaire on Fraud and the Criminal Misuse and Falsification of Identity (Identity Fraud)," (Washington, DC: United States Delegation, 2006), 37, <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/UNODCQuestionnaireUSGResponseFinal.pdf> (accessed September 15, 2006).

¹¹ National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, "FY 2004: Compensation to Victims Continues to Increase," (Alexandria, VA: NACVCB, 2005), <http://www.nacvcb.org> (accessed September 19, 2006).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Suzette Fromm, "Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect," (Washington, DC: Prevent Child Abuse America, 2001), 2, 3, http://www.preventchildabuse.org/documents/index/cost_analysis.pdf (accessed September 26, 2006).

¹⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Financial Crimes Report to the Public," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2005), http://www.fbi.gov/publications/financial/fcs_report052005/fcs_report052005.htm (accessed September 26, 2006).

¹⁸ Graeme Newman, "Bomb Threats in Schools," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2005), 4, <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=1433> (accessed September 26, 2006).