



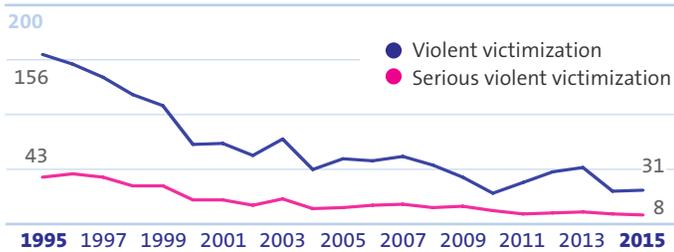
Youth Victimization

Young children and adolescents are victims of the same crimes as adults (e.g., theft, assault), but as an age group they are also more vulnerable to crimes like neglect, medical neglect, and psychological abuse. This victimization can be difficult to capture. Combined with stringent guidelines regarding data collection from minors, **researchers often struggle to gather comprehensive data on childhood victimization.**^A While age and dependence contribute to higher levels of vulnerability among youth, certain environments also pose a greater threat than others. **Childhood exposure to victimization increases the probability of experiencing future victimization** as well as multiple forms of victimization (polyvictimization), which increases risk factors over time.^B *For more on youth victimization, see the School Victimization and Campus Victimization fact sheets in this series.*

CRIME TRENDS

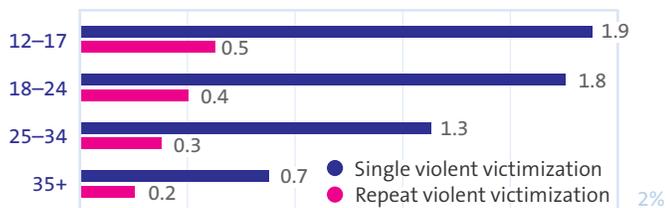
From 1995 to 2015, the rate of violent victimization—robbery, rape/sexual assault, aggravated assault, and simple assault—reported by adolescents age 12 to 17 **decreased from 156 to 31 violent victimizations** for every 1,000 adolescents. Similarly, the rate of serious violent victimization (which does not include simple assault) also decreased from 43 serious violent victimizations for every 1,000 adolescents in 1995 to 8 per 1,000 in 2015.^C

Adolescent Victimization, Age 12–17, by Type^C
rate per 1,000 adolescents



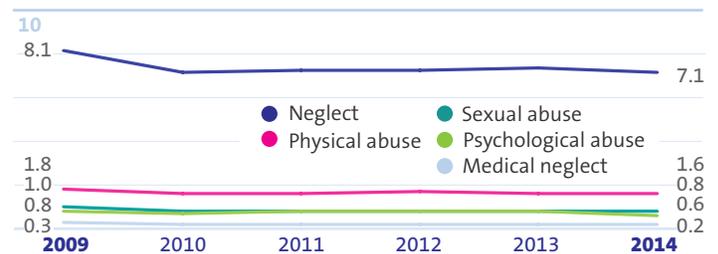
A higher percentage (2.4%) of adolescents age 12 to 17 experienced at least one instance of violent victimization compared to people age 25 to 34 (1.6%), and those 35 and older (0.9%). Of those adolescents who do experience violent victimization, 1.5% were victims of a single violent crime and 0.5% were victims of repeat violent crimes.^E

Prevalence of Violent Crime^E
by single and repeat victimization and age



The rate of **other forms of known victimization remained fairly constant** between 2009 and 2014. In 2014, about 7 of every 1,000 youth age 0 to 17 were victims of neglect. Fewer than 2 of every 1,000 youth were victims of physical abuse, and less than 1 of every 1,000 were victims of sexual, medical neglect, or psychological abuse in 2014.^D

Youth Victimization, Age 0–17, by Type^D
rate per 1,000 youth



DID YOU KNOW?

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) collects and analyzes data on child abuse and neglect in the United States submitted by mandated reporters, as well as reports by family, friends, and neighbors.

In 2015, more than **683,000 children** were victims of child abuse or neglect, and **1,670 died** as a result. NCANDS refers to these deaths as **child fatalities**.^F

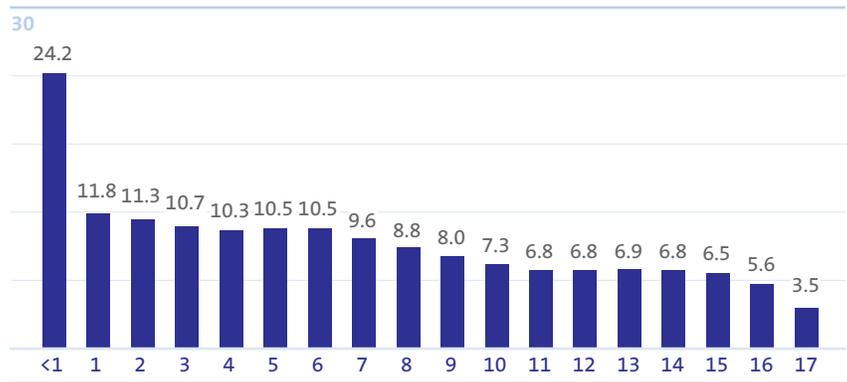
Of child fatality victims in 2015, **74.8% were younger than 3 years old**.^F

31 states reported on preservation services. Of these, **12% of child fatality victims received family preservation services** within the previous 5 years.^F

CURRENT DATA ON YOUTH VICTIMIZATION

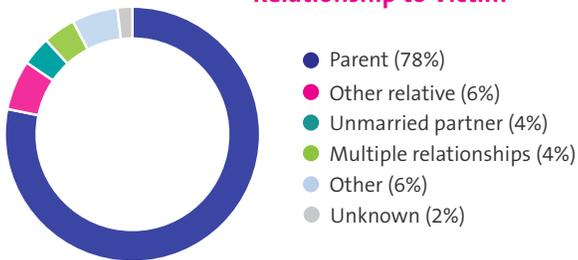
In 2015, youth **less than one year of age** were the most vulnerable, accounting for **14% of all known youth victimization**. The average rate of victimization for this age group (24.2 per 1,000) was **more than 2.5x higher** than the rate of victimization for all youth (9.2 per 1,000). The rate of victimization for youth 1 to 10 years of age was greater than the rate of victimization for youth 10 to 16. Youth age 17 were the least vulnerable to victimization.^F

Victimization by Age^F
rate per 1,000 children



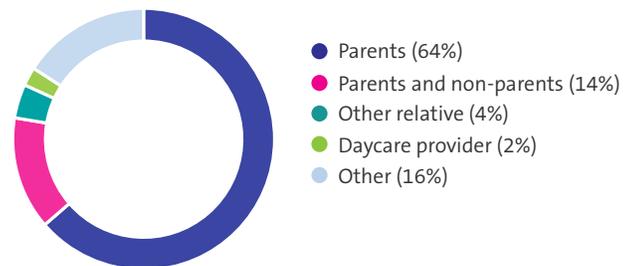
In 2015, **78% of child victimization perpetrators were parents of the victim**. Other perpetrators were relatives (6%), unmarried partners (4%), or multiple perpetrators (4%).^F

Child Victimization by Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim^F



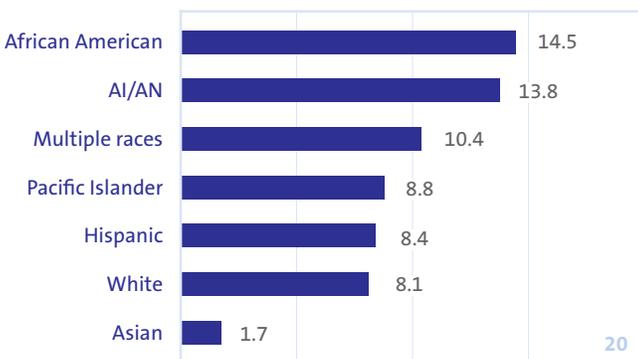
At least one parent is responsible in 78% of child fatalities resulting from maltreatment—neglect or medical neglect, or any form of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. Specifically, in 27% of child fatality cases, the mother alone was responsible, while in 15% of cases the father alone was responsible. In 22% of cases, both parents were responsible.^F

Fatalities by Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim^F



Compared to all measured races and ethnicities, **African American and American Indian/Alaska Native youth are the most vulnerable to victimization** (14.5 per 1,000 youth and 13.8 per 1,000 youth, respectively). In 2015, the rate of victimization among African American and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth was more than **8x** that of Asian youth and more than **1.2x greater than youth of any other race** or ethnicity.^F

Victimization by Race and Ethnicity^F
rate per 1,000 youth



SOURCES

- A "Prevalence of Child Victimization, Abuse, Crime, and Violence Exposure," in J.W. White, M.P. Koss, and A.E. Kazdin (Eds.), *Violence Against Women and Children: Mapping the Terrain*, (Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2011), 9-28
- B David Finkelhor et al., *National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (2015)*, "Prevalence of Childhood Exposure to Violence, Crime, and Abuse," <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2344705>
- C Bureau of Justice Statistics, *National Crime Victimization Survey, Concatenated File, 2015*, (U.S. Department of Justice)
- D Child Trends, "Child Maltreatment 2016," (based on CDC data), www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/40_appendix2.pdf
- E Barbara A. Ouderkerk and Jennifer Truman, "Repeat Violent Victimization, 2005-14," (2017), www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rvv0514.pdf
- F Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2015*, (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2017), www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2015