

National Index of Violence and Harm
2003 Definitions and Sources
November 12, 2005

U.S. Population

The estimated number of people residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia as of July 1st. Defined by the U.S. Census Bureau to “exclude the United States Armed Forces overseas, as well as civilian United States citizens whose usual place of residence is outside the United States.”

Figures from 2000 onward are found in *Monthly Population Estimates for the United States: April 1, 2000 to September 1, 2005* (October 5, 2005)

<<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/NA-EST2004-01.html>>.

1995–1999 figures are based on *Intercensal Estimates of the United States Population by Sex, 1990-2000: Selected Months* (August 13, 2004)

<<http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/EST90INTERCENSAL/US-EST90INT-01.html>>.

Personal Index

Interpersonal

1. Homicide* – “Criminal homicide” is defined as murder and non-negligent manslaughter: the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. This does not include justifiable homicides or manslaughter by negligence. *Source:* Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), *Table 1, page 70 (October 27, 2004)*. U.S. Department of Justice, *Federal Bureau of Investigation*. <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

2. Sexual Offenses –

a) **Forcible Rape*** – the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will, including attempts or assaults to rape. *Source:* Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), *Table 1, page 70 (October 27, 2004)*. U.S. Department of Justice, *Federal Bureau of Investigation*. <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

b) **Other Offenses**** – other sexual offenses including statutory rape and offenses against chastity, common decency, and morals, including attempts. *Source:* Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), *Table 31, page 272 (October 27, 2004)*. U.S. Department of Justice, *Federal Bureau of Investigation*. <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

3. Battery –

a) **Aggravated Assaults*** – assaults intended for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, usually accompanied by a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. *Source:* Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), *Table 1, page 70 (October 27, 2004)*. U.S. Department of Justice, *Federal Bureau of Investigation*. <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

b) Other Assaults** – assaults and attempted assaults where no weapons are used and which do not result in serious or aggravated injury to the victim. *Source: Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), Table 31, page 272 (October 27, 2004). U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.* <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

4. Robbery* – “Robbery” is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear. *Source: Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), Table 1, page 70 (October 27, 2004). U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.* <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

5. Reckless Behavior** – Includes “Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.” and “Driving under the influence.” The former is comprised of all violations of regulations or statutes controlling the carrying, using, possessing, furnishing, and manufacturing of deadly weapons or silencers, including attempts. The latter is driving or operating any vehicle while drunk or under the influence of liquor or narcotics. *Source: Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), Table 1, page 70 (October 27, 2004). U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.* <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

Intrapersonal

6. Suicide/Self-Injury* – number of suicides, injuries occurring during attempted suicide, and self-inflicted injuries reported as intentional. *Source: Sum of the variables X60–X84 and Y87.0, found in Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics.* (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables E950–E959 were used.) <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_05.pdf>

7. Substance Abuse Deaths* –

a) Smoking – total number of deaths that are attributable to cigarette smoking and are due to either malignant neoplasms (cancer of the trachea, lungs, or bronchus) or to selected chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (bronchitis, emphysema and other chronic airways obstruction). The U.S. Census Bureau calculates the percentages of these deaths that are caused directly by smoking. Thus we use 83% of deaths caused by these cancers plus 80% of deaths caused by these pulmonary diseases. *Source of percentages: SAMMEC software – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. SAMMEC 3.0 (Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Morbidity, and Economic Costs): Computer Software and Documentation, Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, 1996.*

Source for Malignant Neoplasms of lungs, trachea, bronchus: Sum of variables C33 & C34, found in Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables 162 was used.) <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf>.

Source for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: Sum of variables J40 through J44 and J47, found in Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables 490–492, 494 & 496 were used.)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf >

b) Alcohol – the sum of: i) deaths from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis and ii) alcohol-induced deaths (including deaths from dependent and non-dependent use of alcohol and also accidental poisoning by alcohol, but not including accidents, homicides, other causes indirectly related to alcohol use, or newborn deaths due to maternal alcohol use).

Source of i): Sum of Variables K70, K73 & K74 found in Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variable 571 was used.)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf >

Source of ii) Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf >

c) Other Drugs – the number of deaths from all drug-induced causes (both legal and illegal drugs), but not including accidents, homicides, other causes indirectly related to drug use, or newborn deaths due to maternal drug use. *Source: Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics.*

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf >.

Societal Index

Government

8. Correctional System* –

a) Capital Punishment – the number of legal executions in the U.S. *Source: Executions in the United States from 1976 to 2004 (November 7, 2005). Death Penalty Information Center.*

<<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?scid=8&did=146>>

b) Nonviolent Incarceration – the number of sentenced inmates held in state correctional institutions for nonviolent offenses as of December 31st of the prior year. This consists of property, drug, and public disorder offenses. *Source: Prisoners in 2004, Table 12, page 9 (October 2005). U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Statistics.*

<<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/p04.pdf>>

9. Law Enforcement* –

a) Deaths by Police Intervention – the number of fatal injuries inflicted by the police or other law-enforcing agents, including military on duty, in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest lawbreakers, suppressing disturbances, maintaining order, and other legal action. *Source: Sum of variables Y35.0–Y35.7, Y89.0 (except Y35.5, legal executions found in Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 2 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics.* From the reported value, the number of legal executions (Variable #8a) is subtracted. For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables, E970–E977 were used.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf>

b) Abuse/Misconduct – the number of law enforcement officers (e.g., police, sheriffs’ deputies, state and federal correctional officials, INS officers, and boarder patrol agents) charged by the U.S. Department of Justice for police abuse or official misconduct (generally excessive use of force). Data used is for the federal fiscal year, from October 1st of the prior year through September 30th of the current year. *Source: Summary of Criminal Section Activities – Cases Filed FY 2003. U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division - Criminal Section.* Obtained via an FOIA request on June 29, 2005.

Corporate

10. Air Pollution – the three air pollution indicators are based on data collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These variables relate to the six “criteria” pollutants the EPA has identified as creating a public health risk: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter (ten micrometers or less in diameter) and sulfur dioxide.

a) People Experiencing Pollution* – the number of people living in counties with air pollution concentrations that exceeded at least one of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) levels for the six criteria pollutants. These are the NAAQS “primary” standards, set to protect against adverse effects to human health. (For ozone we use the EPA’s 8-hour data available from 1997 onward and adjust the 1-hour data from 1995 and 1996 appropriately.) *Source: 2003 data obtained from David Mintz, Statistician, Air Quality Data Analysis Group Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior years’ data obtained from Latest Findings on National Air Quality: 2002 Status and Trends, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.* <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/2002_airtrends_final.pdf>

b) Ambient Pollution Level – the average of individual indices for the air concentration levels of the six criterion pollutants. Ambient levels are measured either in parts per million or micrograms per cubic meter. (For all variables, we use the “Arithmetic Mean;” for ozone we use the 1-hour criterion and for sulfur dioxide we use the annual mean criterion.) We do not adjust this measurement by the U.S. population since excessive levels of these pollutants present the same harm to an individual regardless of the population size. *Source: 2003 data obtained from David Mintz, Statistician, Air Quality Data Analysis Group Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior years’ data obtained from Latest Findings on*

National Air Quality: 2002 Status and Trends, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*.
<http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/2002_airtrends_final.pdf>

c) Pollution Emitted* – the average of individual indices for the total amount (in thousands of short tons) of the six criteria pollutants estimated to be emitted into the air. For emissions, the pollutants ozone and nitrogen dioxide are replaced by volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides since, in combination with sunlight, these compounds produce ozone and nitrogen dioxide. These emissions are primarily from power generation, industrial processes and transportation. We choose to include pollution from transportation sources since i) much of the nation’s transportation is for corporate purposes, ii) manufacturers have significant control over pollutants generated by the fuels and vehicles they produce, and iii) removal of the transportation pollutants did not significantly change the trend observed for this indicator. *Source: Air Emissions Trends - Continued Progress Through 2003 (August 19, 2005). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.* <<http://www.epa.gov/air/airtrends/aqtrnd04/econ-emissions.html>>

11. Consumers/Employees –

a) Product Injuries* – the number of injuries associated with the use of certain consumer products that were treated by hospital emergency rooms (based on the 12-month period ending on September 30th of the current year). *Source: 2003 Annual Report, Appendix A - Table 2. United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.* <<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/reports/2003rpt.pdf>>

b) Occupational Injury/Illness – the overall rate of injury or illness in private-industry workplaces per 100 full-time workers. *Source: Workplace Injuries and Illnesses in 2003 (December 14, 2004 news release). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.* <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/osh.pdf>>

c) Occupational Fatalities – the number of fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time workers, age 16 and over in private industry. *Source: Fatal occupational injuries, employment, and rates of fatal occupational injuries by selected worker characteristics, occupations, and industries, 2003. Table provided to authors by Stephen Pegula, Economist, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 21, 2005.*

Family

12. Domestic Violence** – the number of “offenses against family and children: nonsupport, neglect, desertion or abuse of family or children.” (This variable includes only criminal offenses, whereas Variable 13 - Child Abuse/Negligence includes civil cases handled administratively.) *Source: Crime in the United States, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), Table 31, page 272 (October 27, 2004). U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.* <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>>

13. Child Abuse/Neglect* – victimization rate of children 17 and under who were subject to medical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, and other types of maltreatment, including abandonment, threats of harm to the child, and congenital drug addiction.

Source: Child Maltreatment 2002, Table 3-2, page 32. The Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services.
 <<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm03/cm2003.pdf>>

Structural

14. Social Negligence –

a) Lack of Health Insurance – the percentage of people in the United States who were not covered by any type of health insurance during the entire calendar year. *Source: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage: 2003, Table 5, page 15 (August 2004). U.S. Census Bureau.*

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p60-226.pdf>>

b) Hunger – This indicator is the average of indexed values for the following two sub-indicators.

(i) Food Requests - the mean percent change in requests for emergency food for cities represented in The United States Conference of Mayors. *Source: A Status Report on Hunger and Homeless in America's Cities – 2003, Table "City Data on Hunger," page 34 (December 2003). The United States Conference of Mayors.*

<<http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/hungersurvey/2003/onlinereport/HungerAndHomelessnessReport2003.pdf>>

(ii) Food Insecurity – The percent of households in the U.S. that experienced “food insecurity (without hunger)” at some time during the year. This is defined by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as “limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.” <www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/measurement> *Data prior to 2000 has been adjusted to be comparable to the 2000 and later data. Source: Economic Research Service of the USDA, Household Food Security in the United States, 2003, Table 1, page 6 (October 2004). U.S. Department of Agriculture.* <<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr35>>

c) Drop-Out Rate – the high school (event) dropout rate is the percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in grades 10 through 12 who dropped out in the twelve months prior to October of the current year. *Source: School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 2003, Table D, page 8 (May 2005). U.S. Census Bureau.*

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p20-554.pdf>>

d) Homelessness – the mean percent increase in requests for emergency shelter for cities represented in The United States Conference of Mayors. *Source: A Status Report on Hunger and Homeless in America's Cities – 2003, Table "City Data on Homelessness," (page 7 (December 2003)). The United States Conference of Mayors.*

<<http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/hungersurvey/2003/onlinereport/HungerAndHomelessnessReport2003.pdf>>

15. Infant Mortality/Life Expectancy –

a) Infant Mortality – the number of deaths of infants under the age of one, per 1,000 live births. *Source: Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 42 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics.*

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf>

b) Life Expectancy – defined as the reciprocal of *Life Expectancy* (in years), for those born in the current year. This is the only positive variable in the Index (i.e., an increase in value indicates an improvement). By using the reciprocal it becomes a negative variable and thus comparable to the other NIVAH variables. *Source: Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2003, NVSR Vol. 53, No. 15, Table 6 (February 28, 2005). National Center for Health Statistics.*

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf>

16. Hate Crimes* – the total number of victims of bias-motivated criminal incidents. The term “criminal incidents” includes the following: murder and non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation; robbery; burglary; larceny-theft; motor vehicle theft; arson; and destruction, damage, or vandalism of property. The term “victim” may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole. Hate crimes are not separate crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender’s bias; therefore they are also collected under the traditional criminal reporting of the UCR. In 1997, the FBI added a new form of bias to their hate crime collecting: mental and physical disability. Since these numbers were a small percentage of the total hate crimes, they did not have a significant impact on the 1997 Index.

Source: Hate Crime Statistics, 2003 (Uniform Crime Reports), Table 1, page 10 (November 2004). U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03hc.pdf>>

17. Employment Discrimination* – the total number of charges of employment discrimination filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Types of discrimination include: race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, and equal pay act. *Source: Charge Statistics FY 1992 Through FY 2004 (January 27, 2005). The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. <<http://www.eeoc.gov/stats/charges.html>>*

18. Poverty Disparity

a) Class – the ratio of the 95th percentile of household income to the 10th percentile. *Source: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage: 2003, Table A-3, page 36 (August 2004). U.S. Census Bureau. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p60-226.pdf>>*

b) Race – the ratio of the poverty rate for Blacks, Asian and Pacific Islanders and those of Hispanic origin compared to the poverty rate for Whites, not of Hispanic origin. *Source:* Poverty Status of People by Family Relationship, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2004 *Table 2 (August 30, 2005). U.S. Census Bureau.* <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/hstpov2.html>>

c) Gender – the ratio of the poverty rate for females compared to the rate for males. *Source:* Table 7. Poverty of People, by Sex: 1966 to 2004, *Table 7 (August 30, 2005). U.S. Census Bureau.* <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/hstpov7.html>>.

d) Age – the ratio of the poverty rate for those under 18 compared to the rate for those 18 years and over. (Note: Prior to 1984, those age 65 and over, had higher poverty rates than adults 18 to 64. Since that time there has been no significant difference between adults above and below 65.) *Source:* Poverty Status of People, by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2004, *Table 3 (August 30, 2005). U.S. Census Bureau.* <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/histpov/hstpov3.html>>

19. Gang Membership* – the number of participants in groups of youths or young adults that law enforcement or other community agents classify as a “gang.” Motorcycle gangs, hate or ideology groups, prison gangs, and exclusively adult gangs are excluded. *Source:* The National Youth Gang Survey. *National Youth Gang Center. Available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service web site* <<http://www.ncjrs.org>>

Notes

(*) These variables are adjusted per U.S. resident population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau on July 1st of each year. (Rates are per 100,000 people.)

(**) These categories of offenses are adjusted per the population base corresponding to the actual law enforcement jurisdictions reporting each year. The size of this population varies slightly from year to year and generally represents 65–70% of the total U.S. population. (Rates are per 100,000 people)