Notes: Crime
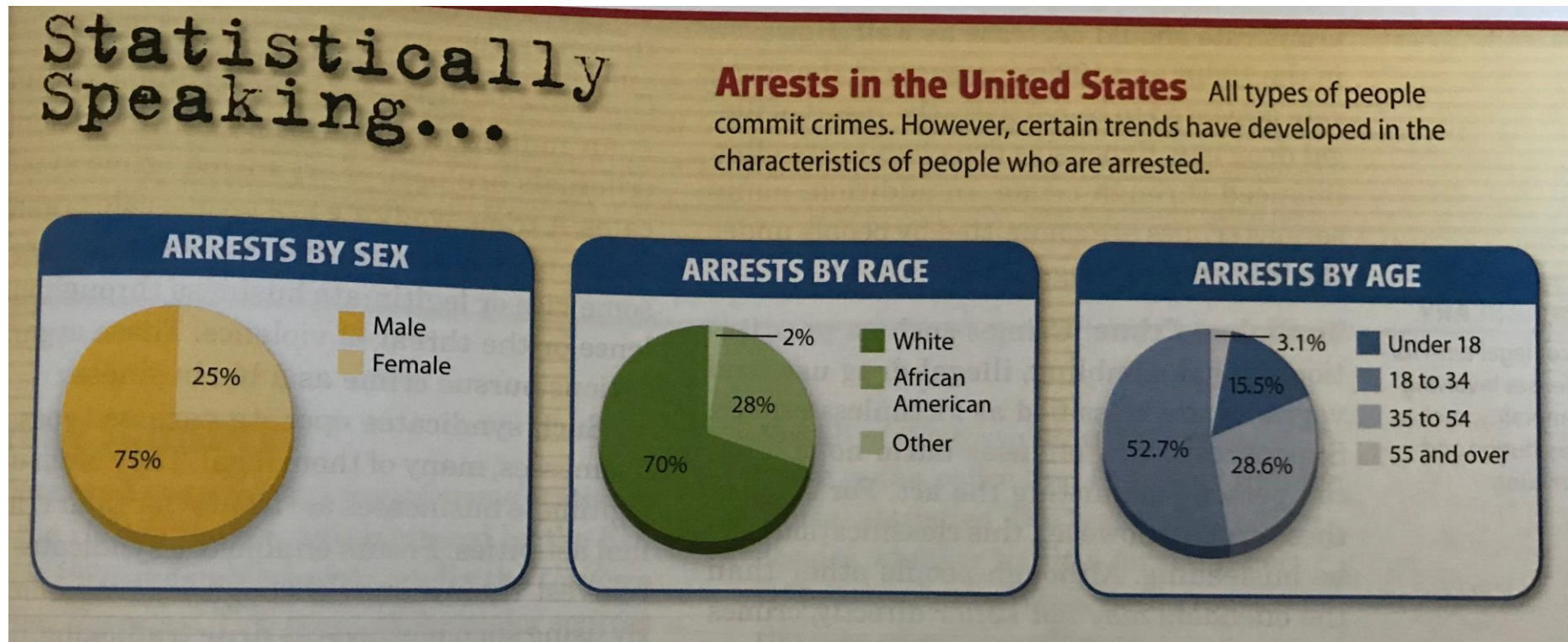
Crime

- A **crime** is any act that is labeled as such by those in authority and is prohibited by law

Statistically Speaking...

Arrests in the United States All types of people commit crimes. However, certain trends have developed in the characteristics of people who are arrested.

ARRESTS BY SEX
- Male
- Female
- 75%
- 25%

ARRESTS BY RACE
- White
- African American
- Other
- 70%
- 28%
- 2%

ARRESTS BY AGE
- Under 18
- 18 to 34
- 35 to 54
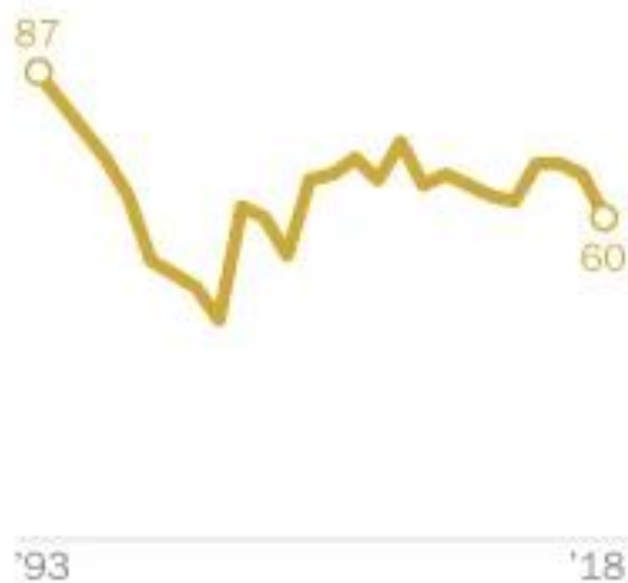- 55 and over
- 52.7%
- 28.6%
- 15.5%
- 3.1%

Crime and Criminals

- Crime affects everyone in the United States
  - Victims, criminals, bystanders

- Our experiences and exposure to crime through mass media make many consider crime a serious social problem
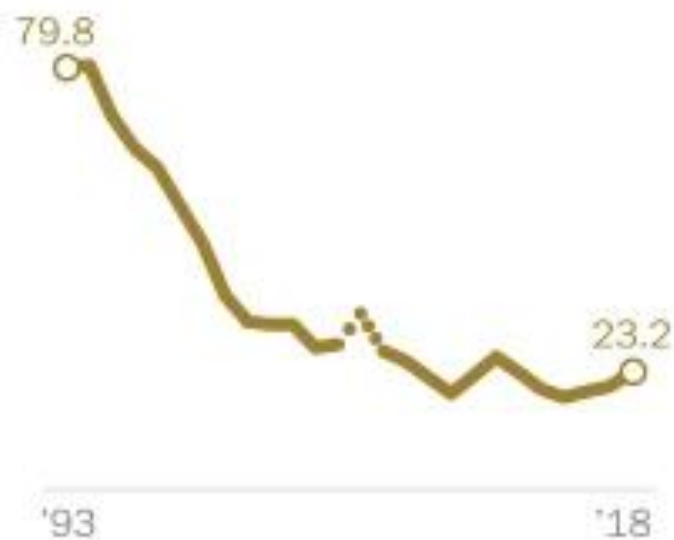

7:03

VIOLENT CRIME UP ACROSS BAY AREA

KTVU.COM   PALO ALTO   8AM 53° NOON 81° 5PM 88°

Public perception of crime rate at odds with data

% saying there is more crime in the U.S. than a year ago

87

60

'93   '18

Violent crimes per 1,000 people ages 12 and older

79.8

23.2

'93   '18

Note: 2006 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) estimates are not comparable to those in other years due to methodological changes.
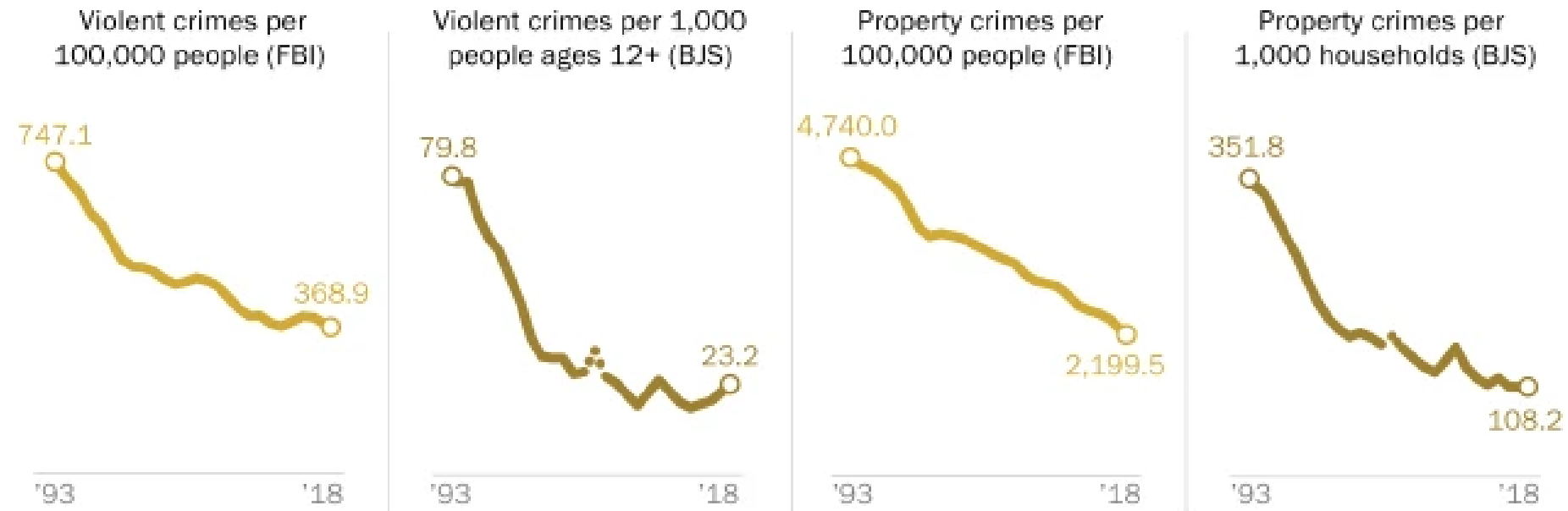Source: Gallup, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The violent crime rate fell 71% between 1993 and 2018

Crime rates have fallen since the early 1990s

Trends in U.S. violent crime and property crime, 1993-2018

Violent crimes per 100,000 people (FBI): 747.1 → 368.9

Violent crimes per 1,000 people ages 12+ (BJS): 79.8 → 23.2

Property crimes per 100,000 people (FBI): 4,740.0 → 2,199.5

Property crimes per 1,000 households (BJS): 351.8 → 108.2

'93 — '18

Note: FBI figures include reported crimes only. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) figures include unreported and reported crimes. 2006 BJS estimates are not comparable to those in other years due to methodological changes.
Source: FBI, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Most crimes are not reported to police, and most reported crimes are not solved.

- In its annual survey, BJS asks victims of crime whether they reported that crime to police.

- In 2018, only 43% of violent crimes tracked by BJS were reported to police. And in the much more common category of property crime, only about a third (34%) were reported.

- There are a variety of reasons crime might not be reported, including a feeling that police "would not or could not do anything to help" or that the crime is "a personal issue or too trivial to report,"

Types of Crime

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) organizes crime into 29 separate classifications with two levels of severity
- Five general categories of crime:
  - Violent Crime
  - Property Crime
  - Victimless Crime
  - White-Collar Crime
  - Organized Crime

Property Crime

- All property crimes either involve stealing or intentionally damaging someone else's property

- Crimes against property are more common than violent crimes
  - burglary (breaking and entering)
  - larceny (theft other than auto)
  - motor vehicle theft
  - arson

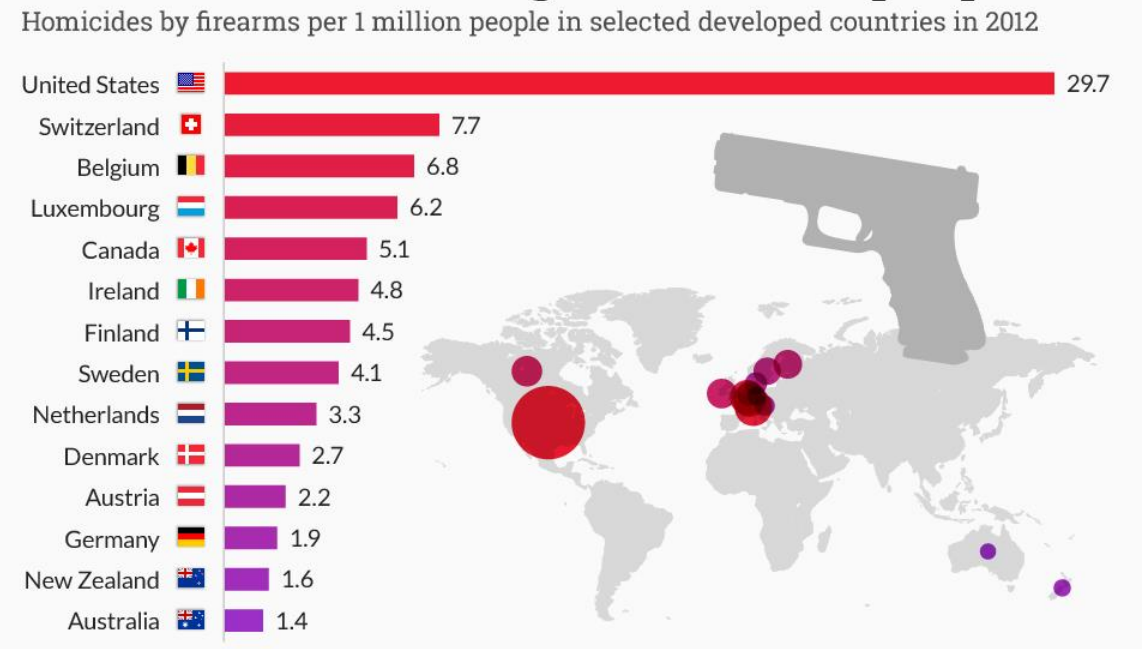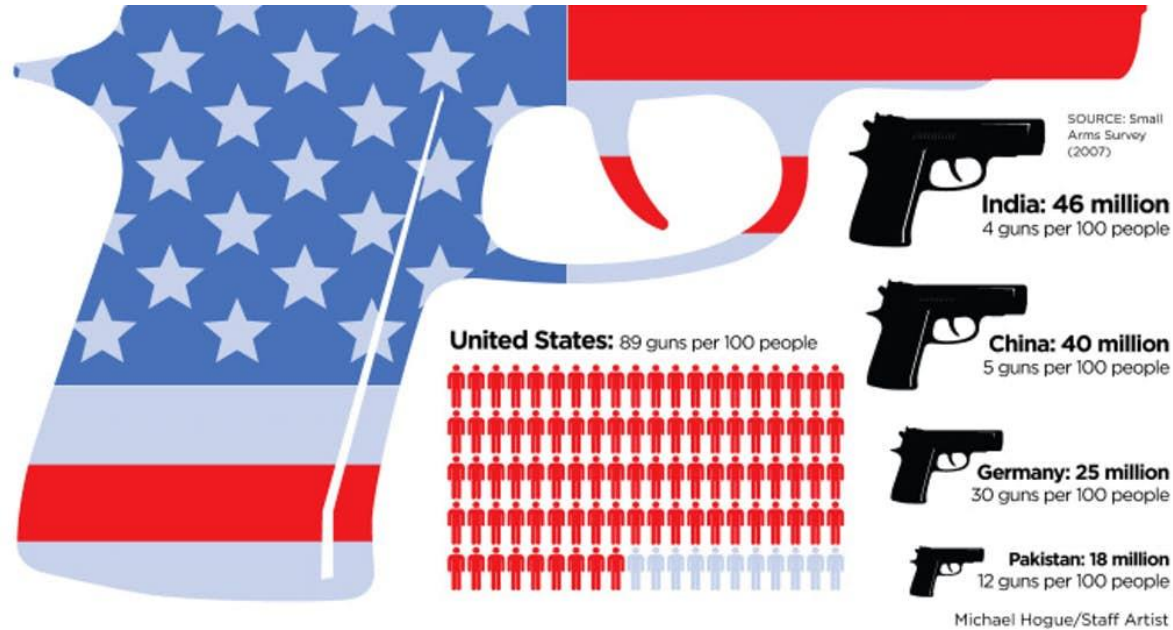|	
Burglary	430.4
Larceny-theft	1,694.4
Motor vehicle theft	237.4
Total property crime	**2,362.2**

Violent Crime

- Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

- Violent crimes make up a very small percentage of all crimes
  Most victims of violence are African American

- Black men between the ages of 18 and 24 have a victimization rate that is 8 times that of black women and white men, and 30 times that of white women

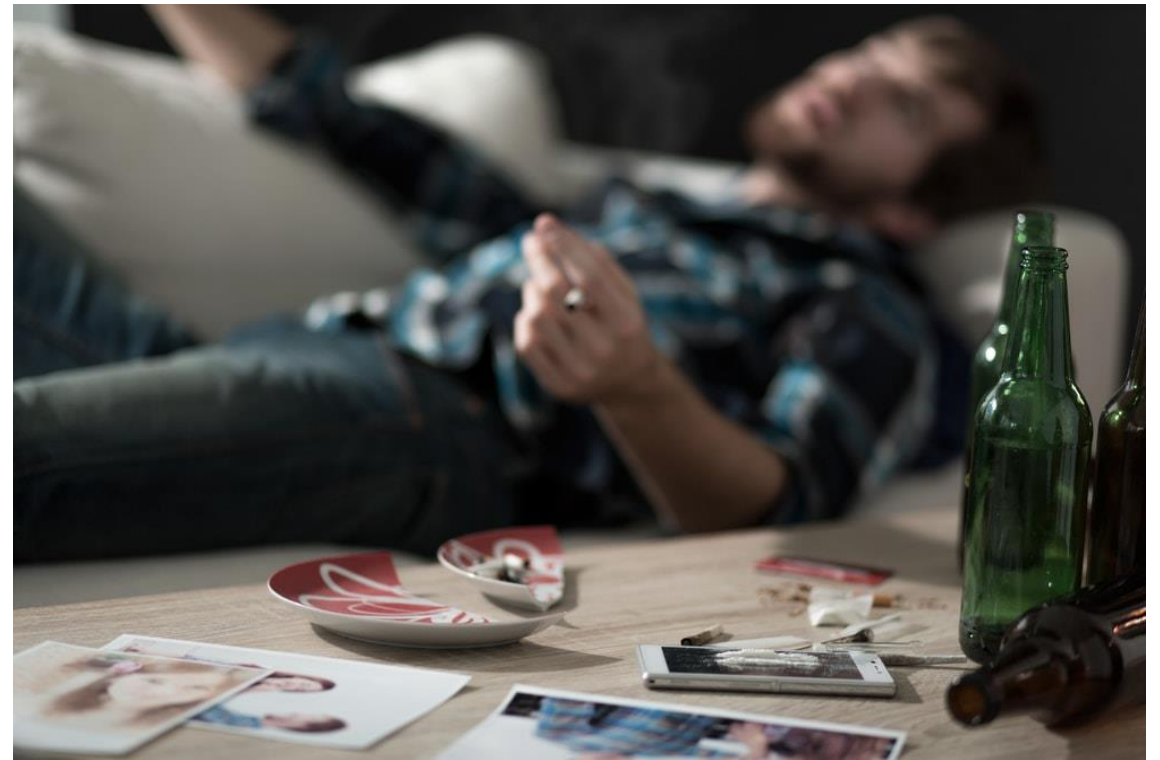|	
Homicide	5.3
Rape	41.7
Robbery	98.0
Aggravated assault	248.9
Total violent crime	**382.9**

Violent Crime

- The majority of murders are committed with guns (69%)
- The rate of handgun use in homicides is higher in the United States than in any other industrialized country in the world

SOURCE: Small Arms Survey (2007)

India: 46 million
4 guns per 100 people

United States: 89 guns per 100 people

China: 40 million
5 guns per 100 people

Germany: 25 million
30 guns per 100 people

Pakistan: 18 million
12 guns per 100 people

Michael Hogue/Staff Artist

Homicides by firearms per 1 million people in selected developed countries in 2012

Country	Rate
United States	29.7
Switzerland	7.7
Belgium	6.8
Luxembourg	6.2
Canada	5.1
Ireland	4.8
Finland	4.5
Sweden	4.1
Netherlands	3.3
Denmark	2.7
Austria	2.2
Germany	1.9
New Zealand	1.6
Australia	1.4

Victimless Crime

- Offenses harm no one but the person committing the act
  - Prostitution
  - Illegal Gambling
  - Illegal Drug Use
  - Vagrancy
- Although people might not suffer directly, there can be significant consequences for family and society

White-Collar Crime

- Offenses committed by people of high social status in the course of their professional lives.
  - Politicians, employees of corporations, and corporations themselves
- Offenses include:
  - Fraud
  - Tax evasion
  - Embezzlement
  - Price-fixing
  - Toxic pollution
  - Insider trading
  - Political corruption
- Costs US over $300 billion/yr

Organized Crime

- A crime syndicate is a large-scale organization of professional criminals that controls some vice (gambling, prostitution, drugs) or legitimate business through violence or threat of violence

- They often use legitimate businesses as fronts for their criminal activities