Study Shows Personal Crime Costs $450 Billion Annually

A recently released research report provides estimates of the costs and consequences of personal crime in America. The estimates are produced using tangible losses, such as medical expenses and property loss, as well as intangible losses--pain, suffering, and lost quality of life. The study estimates that personal crimes cost an estimated $450 billion annually, the majority ($426 billion) lost to violent crimes. Rape causes the highest annual victim costs, followed by assault, murder, drunk driving, and child abuse. A copy of the report may be ordered from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 800-851-3420 or 301-251-5500.

Estimated Annual Losses Due to Personal Crime, in Billions, 1987-1990*

Type of Crime	Annual Losses in Billions
Rape and Sexual Assault	$127
Assault or Attempt	93
Murder	71
Drunk Driving (including fatalities)	61
Child Abuse (including sexual assault)	56
Robbery or Attempt	11
Larceny or Attempt	9
Burglary or Attempt	9
Motor Vehicle Theft or Attempt	7
Arson (including fatalities)	7
Total	**$450**

*Annual losses estimated in 1993 dollars. Total does not equal the sum of the types of crimes due to rounding.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Ted R. Miller, Mark A. Cohen, and Brian Wiersema, *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look*, National Institute of Justice Research Report, February 1996. For more information, contact Ted Miller at 301-731-9891, extension 103.

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