

**HUNTER COLLEGE READING/WRITING CENTER**  
**Writing Across the Curriculum**  
**The CUNY Proficiency Examination**  
**Task 2 Sample Reading 1**

**Reading Selection**

**Crime Prevention**

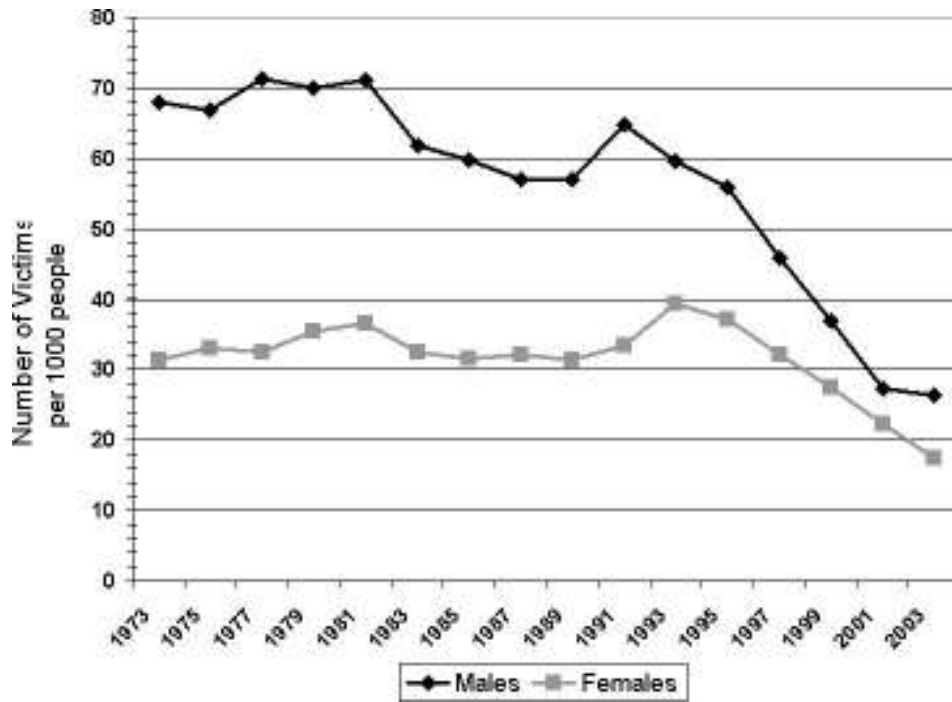
Many crime-prevention and self-defense classes are geared toward women who want to ward off sexual predators. As laudable as this goal is, it turns out that sexual crimes are much rarer than other violent crimes, and that men are more likely than women to be victims of violent crimes. These classes would be more effective if they taught both men and women to defend themselves against all sorts of criminal attacks.

Historically, men have been victimized by violent crimes far more than women have. In the 1970s, men's rate of victimization was, on average, approximately twice as great as that of women. In the mid-1980s, women's rate held steady while men's rate fell. It is true that in the early 1990s the rates for both men and women went up, but they came down afterward. More recently, the gap between genders is closing to the advantage of both. By 2003, men and women were being victimized at rates of less than 20 per 1000 people. For both men and women, the current rates are the lowest rates for the last quarter-century. Still, as low as the rates are, and as close as the rates are, the rates for men have always been higher.

Of course, women are far more subject to the crime of rape than men are. Still, as horrific a crime as rape is, it is also a very uncommon crime compared to other crimes. Only murder is a less common crime than rape is today. Violent crimes such as robbery and aggravated assault both occur approximately 10 times more often than rape occurs. Theft occurs 40 times more often than rape. Both men and women should learn to defend themselves against these non-sexual crimes as well as against sexual crimes.

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**Task 2 Sample Charts 1**

**Figure 1: Violent Crime Rates by Gender of Victim**  
 This graph was compiled by the US Department of Justice in 2006.



**Figure 2: 2004 Uniform Crime Report - Philadelphia, PA**  
 This graph was posted on the official web site of the Philadelphia Police Dept.

