



# Crime in the United States

# 1998

## Uniform Crime Reports



Printed Annually  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Advisory:  
Criminal Justice Information Systems Committee,  
International Association of Chiefs of Police;  
Criminal Justice Information Services Committee,  
National Sheriffs' Association;  
Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board

---

For sale by Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, D.C. 20402-9328

ISBN 0-16-048756-0

# FOREWORD

For nearly seven decades, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have reported crime statistics to the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. As the twenty-first century approaches, the Program continues working diligently to maintain the accuracy and credibility of the statistics received from participating agencies across the Nation. Detailed and timely submissions of data from monthly reports or individual crime incident records enable the UCR Program to compile a reliable set of statistics that can be used to help understand and combat crime.

The UCR Program continues its commitment and support towards the full implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Through its progressive, automated collection methods, NIBRS offers a wealth of crime information which has never before been available, taking crime reporting into the next century. As NIBRS becomes the standard of UCR, it will provide a more comprehensive national perspective of the characteristics, elements, volume, diversity, and complexity of reported crime.

The significant challenge of reducing crime requires commitment from all law enforcement agencies. The evolution of the UCR Program continues to bring about improvements that will provide additional information to the criminal justice community, government agencies, researchers, students, and others. Helping to prepare law enforcement agencies to meet daily challenges, this publication exists as one weapon in the fight against crime.

# CRIME FACTORS

Each year when *Crime in the United States* is published, many entities—news media, tourism agencies, and other groups with an interest in crime in our Nation—use reported Crime Index figures to compile rankings of cities and counties. These rankings lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses which often create misleading perceptions adversely affecting cities and counties, along with their residents. Assessing criminality and law enforcement’s response from jurisdiction to jurisdiction must encompass many elements, some of which, while having significant impact, are not readily measurable nor applicable pervasively among all locales. Geographic and demographic factors specific to each jurisdiction must be considered and applied if crime assessment is to approach completeness and accuracy. There are several sources of information which may assist the responsible researcher. The U.S. Bureau of the Census data, for example, can be utilized to better understand the makeup of a locale’s population. The transience of the population, its racial and ethnic makeup, its composition by age and gender, education levels, and prevalent family structures are all key factors in assessing and comprehending the crime issue.

Local chambers of commerce, planning offices, or similar entities provide information regarding the economic and cultural makeup of cities and counties. Understanding a jurisdiction’s industrial/economic base, its dependence upon neighboring jurisdictions, its transportation system, its economic dependence on nonresidents (such as tourists and convention attendees), its proximity to military installations, etc., all contribute to accurately gauging and interpreting the crime known to and reported by law enforcement.

The strength (personnel and other resources) and the aggressiveness of a jurisdiction’s law enforcement agency are also key factors. While information pertaining to the number of sworn and civilian law enforcement employees can be found in this publication, assessment of the law enforcement emphases is, of course, much more difficult. For example, one city may report more crime than a comparable one, not because there is more crime, but rather because its law enforcement agency through proactive efforts identifies more offenses. Attitudes of the citizens toward crime and their crime reporting practices, especially concerning more minor offenses, have an impact on the volume of crimes known to police.

It is incumbent upon all data users to become as well educated as possible about how to categorize and quantify the nature and extent of crime in the United States and in any of the approximately 17,000 jurisdictions represented by law enforcement contributors to this Program. Valid assessments are possible only with careful study and analysis of the various unique conditions affecting each local law enforcement jurisdiction.

Historically, the causes and origins of crime have been the subjects of investigation by varied disciplines. Some factors which are known to affect the volume and type of crime occurring from place to place are:

- Population density and degree of urbanization.
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration.
- Stability of population with respect to residents’ mobility, commuting patterns, and transient factors.
- Modes of transportation and highway system.
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level, and job availability.
- Cultural factors and educational, recreational, and religious characteristics.
- Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness.
- Climate.
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies.

Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement.

Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional, and probational).

Citizens' attitudes toward crime.

Crime reporting practices of the citizenry.

The Uniform Crime Reports give a nationwide view of crime based on statistics contributed by state and local law enforcement agencies. Population size is the only correlate of crime utilized in this publication. While the other factors listed above are of equal concern, no attempt is made to relate them to the data presented. *The reader is, therefore, cautioned against comparing statistical data of individual reporting units from cities, counties, metropolitan areas, states, or colleges and universities solely on the basis of their population coverage or student enrollment.*

**Data users are cautioned against comparisons of crime trends presented in this report and those estimated by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Because of differences in methodology and crime coverage, the two programs examine the Nation's crime problem from somewhat different perspectives, and their results are not strictly comparable. The definitional and procedural differences can account for many of the apparent discrepancies in results from the two programs.**

# CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Section I. Summary of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section II. Crime Index Offenses Reported</b>	<b>5</b>
Narrative comments:	
Crime Index Total	5
Violent Crime:	10
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	13
Forcible rape	23
Robbery	26
Aggravated assault	31
Property Crime:	35
Burglary	38
Larceny-theft	43
Motor vehicle theft	49
Arson	53
Hate Crime	57
Crime Index Tabulations	63
Figures:	
Crime clock, 1998	4
Crime Index total, 1994-1998	7
Crime Index offenses, percent distribution, 1998	8
Regional violent and property crime rates, 1998	9
Violent crime, 1994-1998	12
Murder, 1994-1998	15
Forcible rape, 1994-1998	25
Robbery, 1994-1998	28
Robbery analysis, 1994-1998	30
Aggravated assault, 1994-1998	33
Property crime, 1994-1998	37
Burglary, 1994-1998	40
Burglary analysis, 1994-1998	41
Larceny-theft, 1994-1998	45
Larceny analysis, 1994-1998	46
Larceny analysis, 1998	47
Motor vehicle theft, 1994-1998	51
Bias-motivated offenses, 1998	59
Tables:	
Crime Index total by month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	6
Violent crime total by month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	11
Murder:	
By month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	14
Victims by race and sex, 1998	14
Age, sex, and race of victims, 1998	16
Age, sex, and race of offenders, 1998	16
Victim/offender relationship by age, 1998	17

Victim/offender relationship by race and sex, 1998	17
Types of weapons used, 1998	18
Victims, types of weapons used, 1994-1998	18
Victims, types of weapons used, 1998	18
Circumstances by relationship, 1998	19
Circumstances by weapon, 1998	20
Circumstances, 1994-1998	21
Circumstances by victim sex, 1998	21
Justifiable homicide by weapon, 1994-1998:	
Law enforcement	22
Private citizen	22
Forcible rape, by month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	24
Robbery:	
By month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	27
Percent distribution, region, 1998	27
Percent distribution, population group, 1998	29
Types of weapons used, 1998	29
Aggravated assault:	
By month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	32
Types of weapons used, 1998	32
Property crime total by month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	36
Burglary, by month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	39
Larceny-theft:	
By month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	44
Percent distribution, region, 1998	44
Motor vehicle theft:	
By month, percent of annual total, 1994-1998	50
Percent distribution, region, 1998	50
Arson, 1998:	
Rate, population group	54
Type of property	54
Structures not in use	55
Monetary value of property damaged	55
Offenses cleared by arrest	55
Offenses cleared by arrest of persons under 18 years of age	56
Hate Crime, 1998:	
Number of incidents, offenses, victims, and known offenders by bias motivation, 1998	58
Number of offenses, victims, and known offenders by offense, 1998	60
Number of known offenders by race, 1998	60
Agency hate crime reporting by state	61
Index of crime:	
United States, 1979-1998	64
United States, 1998	65
Regional offense and population distribution, 1998	65
Region, geographic division, and state, 1997-1998	66
State, 1998	74
Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1998	83
Offense analysis, United States, 1994-1998	109
Number of offenses known to the police, 1998:	
Cities and towns 10,000 and over in population	110



Tables — Continued	Page
Universities and colleges	150
Suburban counties	160
Rural counties 25,000 and over in population	174
Crime trends, offenses known to the police, 1997-1998:	
Population group	181
Suburban and nonsuburban cities, population group	183
Suburban and nonsuburban counties, population group	184
Offense breakdown, population group	185
Crime rates, offenses known to the police, 1998:	
Population group	188
Suburban and nonsuburban cities, population group	190
Suburban and nonsuburban counties, population group	191
Offense breakdown, population group	192
Murder, state, types of weapons, 1998	194
Robbery, state, types of weapons, 1998	195
Aggravated assault, state, types of weapons, 1998	196
Offense analysis, 1998, and percent change from 1997	197
Type and value of property stolen and recovered, 1998	197
<b>Section III. Crime Index Offenses Cleared</b>	<b>199</b>
Narrative comments	199
Figures:	
Crimes cleared by arrest, 1998	200
Tables:	
Offenses known and percent cleared by arrest, 1998:	
Population group	201
Geographic region and division	203
Offense breakdown, population group	205
Offenses cleared by arrest of persons under 18 years of age, 1998	207
<b>Section IV. Persons Arrested</b>	<b>209</b>
Narrative comments	209
Tables:	
Arrests for drug abuse violations, 1998	209
Total estimated arrests, United States, 1998	210
Arrests, number and rate, 1998:	
Region	211
Population group	212
Total arrest trends:	
1989-1998	214
Sex, 1989-1998	215
1994-1998	216
Sex, 1994-1998	217
1997-1998	218
Sex, 1997-1998	219
Total arrests, 1998:	
Distribution by age	220
Male arrests, distribution by age	222
Female arrests, distribution by age	224

Of persons under 15, 18, 21, and 25 years of age	226
Distribution by sex	227
Distribution by race	228
City arrest trends:	
1997-1998	231
Sex, 1997-1998	232
City arrests, 1998:	
Distribution by age	233
Of persons under 15, 18, 21, and 25 years of age	235
Distribution by sex	236
Distribution by race	237
Suburban county arrest trends:	
1997-1998	240
Sex, 1997-1998	241
Suburban county arrests, 1998:	
Distribution by age	242
Of persons under 15, 18, 21, and 25 years of age	244
Distribution by sex	245
Distribution by race	246
Rural county arrest trends:	
1997-1998	249
Sex, 1997-1998	250
Rural county arrests, 1998:	
Distribution by age	251
Of persons under 15, 18, 21, and 25 years of age	253
Distribution by sex	254
Distribution by race	255
Suburban area arrest trends:	
1997-1998	258
Sex, 1997-1998	259
Suburban area arrests, 1998:	
Distribution by age	260
Of persons under 15, 18, 21, and 25 years of age	262
Distribution by sex	263
Distribution by race	264
Police disposition of juvenile offenders taken into custody, 1998	267
Arrests by state, 1998	268
<b>Section V. Incidents of Family Violence: A Special Study</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>Section VI. Law Enforcement Personnel</b>	<b>291</b>
Narrative comments	291
Tables:	
Full-time law enforcement employees, October 31, 1998:	
Employees, number and rate per 1,000 inhabitants, geographic region and division by population group	292
Officers, number and rate per 1,000 inhabitants, geographic region and division by population group	293
Employees, range in rate per 1,000 inhabitants	294

Officers, range in rate per 1,000 inhabitants	295
Employees, percent male and female	296
Civilian employees, percent of total, population group	297
State law enforcement agencies	298
States	299
Cities	300
Universities and colleges	365
Suburban counties	371
Rural counties	378
<b>Section VII. Appendices</b>	<b>394</b>
Appendix I. Methodology	394
Appendix II. Offenses in Uniform Crime Reporting	402
Appendix III. Uniform Crime Reporting Area Definitions	404
Appendix IV. The Nation's Two Crime Measures	407
Appendix V. Directory of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs	410
Appendix VI. National Uniform Crime Reporting Program Directory	417
Appendix VII. Uniform Crime Reporting Publications List	418

