

## **SECTION III**





# Offenses Cleared

Law enforcement agencies reporting offenses to the national UCR Program can clear these offenses in one of two ways: by arrest or by exceptional means. However, the administrative closing or “clearing” of a case by a local law enforcement agency does not necessarily mean that the agency can clear an offense for UCR purposes. To clear an offense within the Program’s guidelines, the reporting agency must adhere to certain criteria.

## Cleared by Arrest

In the UCR Program, when a law enforcement agency reports that an offense is cleared, or solved by arrest, all of the following conditions have been met. At least one person was:

- Arrested.
- Charged with the commission of an offense.
- Turned over to the court for prosecution.

The UCR Program counts clearances by the number of offenses that are solved, not by the number of persons arrested. The arrest of one person may clear several crimes. Conversely, the arrest of many persons may clear only one offense. In addition, the clearances that an agency recorded in a particular calendar year such as 2003 may include offenses that occurred in previous years.

## Cleared by Exceptional Means

When elements beyond law enforcement’s control prevent the agency from placing formal charges against the offender, the agency can clear the offense exceptionally. There are four UCR Program requirements that law enforcement must meet in order to clear an offense

by exceptional means. The agency must have:

- Identified the offender.
- Gathered enough evidence to support an arrest, make a charge, and turn over the offender to the court for prosecution.
- Identified the offender’s exact location so that the suspect could be taken into custody immediately.
- Encountered a circumstance outside the control of law enforcement that prohibits the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender.

Examples of exceptional clearances include, but are not limited to, the death of the offender (suicide, justifiably killed by law enforcement officers or private citizens, etc.); the victim’s refusal to cooperate with the prosecution after having identified the offender; or the denial of extradition because the offender committed a crime in another jurisdiction and is being prosecuted for that offense. In the UCR Program, the recovery of property does not clear an offense.

## 2003 National Clearances

Nationwide, law enforcement agencies cleared 46.5 percent of violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and 16.4 percent of property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft). Additionally, law enforcement cleared 16.7 percent of reported arson offenses.

Continuing a long-term trend, in 2003 law enforcement cleared a higher percentage of violent crimes than property crimes. Violent crimes often

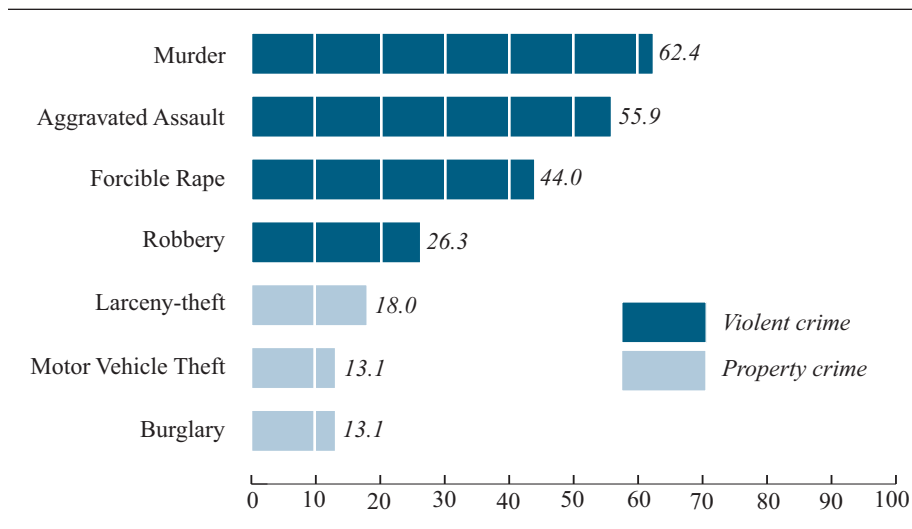
undergo a more vigorous investigative effort than crimes against property, and they more often involve victims and/or witnesses who are able to identify the perpetrators. A further breakdown of the violent crime clearances for 2003 revealed that the Nation’s law enforcement agencies cleared 62.4 percent of murders, 55.9 percent of aggravated assaults, 44.0 percent of forcible rapes, and 26.3 percent of robberies. A review of the clearances for property crimes indicated that law enforcement cleared 18.0 percent of larceny-thefts and 13.1 percent of both burglaries and motor vehicle thefts. (See Table 25.)

## 2003 Regional Clearances

An examination of the 2003 clearance data for the four regions of the country showed that law enforcement agencies in the Northeast cleared the highest percentage of violent crimes in 2003—49.8 percent. Agencies in the West followed with a 47.2 clearance percentage for violent crimes. Law enforcement in the South and the Midwest cleared 45.7 percent and 44.8 percent, respectively, of their violent crimes. Clearance data for property crime reflected that agencies in the Northeast cleared 20.1 percent of those crimes, and law enforcement in the South and Midwest cleared 16.6 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively. Agencies in the West cleared 14.4 percent of their property crimes. (See Table 26.)

## 2003 Clearances by Population Group

When presenting crime data, the UCR Program uses eight population group designations for aggregating data for the Nation’s cities, metropolitan counties, and nonmetropolitan counties.

**Figure 3.1****Crimes Cleared by Arrest**  
Percent of crimes cleared by arrest, 2003

(Appendix III furnishes a breakdown of these classifications.) Clearance data for 2003 revealed that law enforcement agencies in the Nation's cities cleared 44.7 percent of all reported violent crimes. Agencies in cities collectively cleared 61.9 percent of murders, 54.6 percent of aggravated assaults, 43.4 percent of forcible rapes, and 25.7 percent of robberies. Law enforcement in cities with populations ranging from 10,000 to 24,999 cleared the greatest percentage of murders—71.8 percent. Cities with 100,000 to 249,999 inhabitants cleared the lowest percentage of murders—58.7 percent.

In 2003, agencies in metropolitan counties cleared 51.6 percent of their violent crimes. Of those crimes, 60.0 percent of murders were cleared, 58.8 percent of aggravated assaults were cleared, 45.4 percent of forcible rapes, and 29.0 percent of robberies were cleared.

Law enforcement in nonmetropolitan counties cleared 59.9 percent of reported violent crimes. Within that category, agencies in those counties cleared 76.3 percent of murders, 62.9 percent of aggravated assaults, 46.8 percent of

forcible rapes, and 43.1 percent of robberies.

An examination of data for property crime clearances reflected that agencies in the Nation's cities cleared 16.3 percent of those crimes in 2003. Of the property crimes cleared, law enforcement in cities collectively most often solved larceny-theft offenses, clearing 18.1 percent of those crimes. Similarly, agencies in metropolitan counties cleared 16.2 percent of their total property crimes, and they most often cleared larceny-theft offenses, reporting a 17.4 clearance percentage for that category. Data for nonmetropolitan counties reflected that law enforcement cleared 17.8 percent of their total property crimes, and the highest percentage of their clearances for that category—27.1 percent—was for motor vehicle theft. (See Table 25.)

**Clearances Involving Only Persons Under 18 Years of Age**

When an offender under the age of 18 is cited to appear in juvenile court or before other juvenile authorities, the UCR Program considers that incident to be

cleared by arrest although a physical arrest may not have occurred. In addition, according to Program definitions, clearances involving both adult and juvenile offenders are classified as adult clearances. Therefore, because the juvenile clearance percentages in this publication include only those clearances in which there were no adults involved, these figures should not be used to present a definitive picture of juvenile involvement in crime.

Of the violent crime clearances that were reported in the Nation's cities in 2003, 12.2 percent involved only juveniles. In addition, 19.3 percent of property crime clearances involved only juveniles. Nationally, murder clearances showed the lowest percentage of involvement by juveniles only—5.2 percent, and arson clearances showed the highest percentage—41.3 percent.

Upon consideration of clearance data broken down by population group, 12.2 percent of the violent crime clearances in cities collectively involved juveniles only, which mirrored the national clearance percentage for violent crimes. Of the city groups, cities with populations ranging from 25,000 to 49,999 reported the largest percentage of violent crime clearances that involved juveniles only—14.9 percent. During 2003, 12.7 percent of violent crime clearances in metropolitan counties and 9.8 percent of the violent crime clearances in nonmetropolitan counties involved juveniles only.

Property crime data for the Nation's cities for 2003 showed that 20.1 percent of the clearances for those offenses involved juveniles only. In metropolitan counties, 16.7 percent of the property crime clearances involved juveniles only; and in nonmetropolitan counties, 15.7 percent of property crime clearances involved juveniles only. (See Table 28.)

**Table 25**

**Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

by Population Group, 2003  
[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Violent crime					Property crime				
	Violent crime	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson <sup>1</sup>
<b>TOTAL ALL AGENCIES:</b>										
<b>12,781 agencies;</b>										
<b>population 236,223,505</b>										
Offenses known	1,126,180	13,373	76,714	328,951	707,142	8,728,536	1,793,829	5,850,494	1,084,213	65,414
Percent cleared by arrest	46.5	62.4	44.0	26.3	55.9	16.4	13.1	18.0	13.1	16.7
<b>TOTAL CITIES: 9,050 cities;</b>										
<b>population 156,449,643</b>										
Offenses known	882,189	10,387	56,395	284,361	531,046	6,829,725	1,303,202	4,655,542	870,981	48,102
Percent cleared by arrest	44.7	61.9	43.4	25.7	54.6	16.3	12.5	18.1	12.3	16.5
<b>GROUP I</b>										
62 cities, 250,000 and over; population 38,800,523										
Offenses known	390,601	5,498	17,617	146,873	220,613	2,216,153	429,385	1,378,410	408,358	19,460
Percent cleared by arrest	40.2	60.1	47.8	23.0	50.6	12.8	11.0	14.2	10.1	10.9
8 cities, 1,000,000 and over; population 13,684,275										
Offenses known	143,795	1,899	5,579	56,459	79,858	700,897	136,801	418,599	145,497	6,420
Percent cleared by arrest	41.6	56.4	48.5	24.1	53.1	12.7	11.3	14.2	9.5	9.3
20 cities, 500,000 to 999,999; population 13,023,877										
Offenses known	131,601	1,920	6,176	48,303	75,202	800,072	155,376	506,684	138,012	6,344
Percent cleared by arrest	38.6	64.9	47.7	21.9	47.9	11.9	10.4	12.9	10.0	13.2
34 cities, 250,000 to 499,999; population 12,092,371										
Offenses known	115,205	1,679	5,862	42,111	65,553	715,184	137,208	453,127	124,849	6,696
Percent cleared by arrest	40.3	58.8	47.3	22.8	50.5	13.9	11.5	15.5	11.0	10.1
<b>GROUP II</b>										
158 cities, 100,000 to 249,999; population 23,578,375										
Offenses known	141,997	1,736	9,414	48,035	82,812	1,146,915	222,807	765,303	158,805	7,885
Percent cleared by arrest	43.1	58.7	40.0	26.1	53.0	15.3	11.6	17.1	11.2	15.4
<b>GROUP III</b>										
374 cities, 50,000 to 99,999; population 25,886,988										
Offenses known	123,611	1,185	9,172	37,310	75,944	1,038,809	202,977	716,893	118,939	6,746
Percent cleared by arrest	46.0	63.2	40.4	27.8	55.4	17.2	12.1	19.6	11.5	18.1
<b>GROUP IV</b>										
693 cities, 25,000 to 49,999; population 24,075,976										
Offenses known	84,801	753	7,529	22,856	53,663	855,299	160,746	616,551	78,002	5,300
Percent cleared by arrest	49.0	66.4	40.2	30.7	57.8	18.7	12.7	20.8	14.7	19.3
<b>GROUP V</b>										
1,545 cities, 10,000 to 24,999; population 24,374,785										
Offenses known	75,908	641	6,897	18,084	50,286	833,892	153,275	619,076	61,541	4,637
Percent cleared by arrest	52.4	71.8	42.6	31.9	61.0	20.7	15.0	22.2	19.1	26.4

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 25**

**Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

by Population Group, 2003—Continued

[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Violent crime					Property crime				
	Violent crime	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson <sup>1</sup>
<b>GROUP VI</b>										
6,218 cities, under 10,000; population 19,732,996										
Offenses known	65,271	574	5,766	11,203	47,728	738,657	134,012	559,309	45,336	4,074
Percent cleared by arrest	57.6	69.3	45.3	33.6	64.5	19.7	16.5	20.0	24.2	27.6
<b>METROPOLITAN COUNTIES</b>										
1,537 agencies; population 57,457,449										
Offenses known	198,030	2,260	15,163	41,342	139,265	1,517,290	364,856	968,497	183,937	13,767
Percent cleared by arrest	51.6	60.0	45.4	29.0	58.8	16.2	13.8	17.4	14.7	16.0
<b>NONMETROPOLITAN COUNTIES</b>										
2,194 agencies; population 22,316,413										
Offenses known	45,961	726	5,156	3,248	36,831	381,521	125,771	226,455	29,295	3,545
Percent cleared by arrest	59.9	76.3	46.8	43.1	62.9	17.8	16.3	17.5	27.1	23.5
<b>SUBURBAN AREA<sup>2</sup></b>										
6,777 agencies; population 105,694,902										
Offenses known	338,098	3,434	27,034	77,599	230,031	3,069,739	642,917	2,104,718	322,104	22,911
Percent cleared by arrest	51.4	62.4	44.3	29.4	59.6	17.4	13.8	18.9	15.2	18.8

<sup>1</sup> Because arson is reported to the FBI separately from other offenses, the number of agency reports used in arson clearance rates is less than those used in compiling other offense clearance rates.

<sup>2</sup> Suburban area includes law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (see Appendix III). Suburban area excludes all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also appear in other groups within this table.

**Table 26**

**Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

by Geographic Region and Division, 2003

[2003 estimated population]

Geographic region/division	Violent crime					Property crime				
	Violent crime	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson <sup>1</sup>
<b>TOTAL ALL AGENCIES:</b>										
<b>12,781 agencies;</b>										
<b>population 236,223,505</b>										
Offenses known	1,126,180	13,373	76,714	328,951	707,142	8,728,536	1,793,829	5,850,494	1,084,213	65,414
Percent cleared by arrest	46.5	62.4	44.0	26.3	55.9	16.4	13.1	18.0	13.1	16.7
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>										
741 agencies;										
population 11,682,176										
Offenses known	39,977	267	3,233	11,550	24,927	299,786	57,436	205,062	37,288	1,892
Percent cleared by arrest	47.7	61.8	40.1	26.7	58.3	15.4	12.8	16.8	11.6	16.1
<b>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</b>										
1,966 agencies;										
population 30,177,502										
Offenses known	104,790	1,352	6,615	39,799	57,024	723,637	136,259	501,242	86,136	5,597
Percent cleared by arrest	50.6	68.6	52.6	31.2	63.5	22.0	19.1	23.9	15.7	22.3
<b>NORTHEAST</b>										
2,707 agencies;										
population 41,859,678										
Offenses known	144,767	1,619	9,848	51,349	81,951	1,023,423	193,695	706,304	123,424	7,489
Percent cleared by arrest	49.8	67.5	48.5	30.2	61.9	20.1	17.3	21.9	14.4	20.7
<b>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</b>										
1,574 agencies;										
population 26,650,577										
Offenses known	100,910	1,330	10,349	29,653	59,578	894,348	180,790	609,681	103,877	8,810
Percent cleared by arrest	40.6	56.1	35.6	23.2	49.8	15.4	11.5	17.0	12.8	14.2
<b>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</b>										
1,751 agencies;										
population 17,178,081										
Offenses known	53,592	532	5,147	10,525	37,388	578,156	103,611	421,553	52,992	4,727
Percent cleared by arrest	52.7	80.5	44.3	28.9	60.2	18.4	13.1	19.6	18.3	19.7
<b>MIDWEST</b>										
3,325 agencies;										
population 43,828,658										
Offenses known	154,502	1,862	15,496	40,178	96,966	1,472,504	284,401	1,031,234	156,869	13,537
Percent cleared by arrest	44.8	63.1	38.5	24.7	53.8	16.5	12.1	18.1	14.6	16.1
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>										
2,575 agencies;										
population 47,020,232										
Offenses known	280,673	3,255	14,794	82,024	180,600	1,931,194	423,924	1,292,004	215,266	10,762
Percent cleared by arrest	46.8	61.7	49.9	25.8	55.8	17.4	14.9	18.6	15.2	20.1

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 26**

**Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

by Geographic Region and Division, 2003—Continued

[2003 estimated population]

<i>Geographic region/division</i>	<i>Violent crime</i>					<i>Property crime</i>				
	<i>Violent crime</i>	<i>Murder and non-negligent manslaughter</i>	<i>Forcible rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Aggravated assault</i>	<i>Property crime</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny-theft</i>	<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	<i>Arson<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</b>										
881 agencies; population 11,884,622										
Offenses known	65,626	803	4,495	17,348	42,980	515,909	125,552	343,043	47,314	2,288
Percent cleared by arrest	41.5	70.7	38.7	22.2	49.0	16.0	11.0	18.0	15.0	19.6
<b>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</b>										
1,436 agencies; population 29,495,670										
Offenses known	165,455	2,178	11,160	46,649	105,468	1,335,007	292,835	912,624	129,548	9,827
Percent cleared by arrest	45.4	66.1	46.1	25.5	53.7	15.7	11.5	17.2	14.3	17.4
<b>SOUTH</b>										
<b>4,892 agencies; population 88,400,524</b>										
<b>Offenses known</b>	<b>511,754</b>	<b>6,236</b>	<b>30,449</b>	<b>146,021</b>	<b>329,048</b>	<b>3,782,110</b>	<b>842,311</b>	<b>2,547,671</b>	<b>392,128</b>	<b>22,877</b>
<b>Percent cleared by arrest</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>18.9</b>
<b>MOUNTAIN</b>										
736 agencies; population 17,715,023										
Offenses known	78,465	1,002	6,792	19,673	50,998	797,873	151,525	530,527	115,821	4,614
Percent cleared by arrest	43.7	53.1	36.6	23.4	52.3	15.0	11.5	16.6	12.3	19.2
<b>PACIFIC</b>										
1,121 agencies; population 44,419,622										
Offenses known	236,692	2,654	14,129	71,730	148,179	1,652,626	321,897	1,034,758	295,971	16,897
Percent cleared by arrest	48.4	57.5	44.4	27.4	58.7	14.0	12.0	15.9	9.7	11.9
<b>WEST</b>										
<b>1,857 agencies; population 62,134,645</b>										
<b>Offenses known</b>	<b>315,157</b>	<b>3,656</b>	<b>20,921</b>	<b>91,403</b>	<b>199,177</b>	<b>2,450,499</b>	<b>473,422</b>	<b>1,565,285</b>	<b>411,792</b>	<b>21,511</b>
<b>Percent cleared by arrest</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>13.5</b>

<sup>1</sup>Because arson is reported to the FBI separately from other offenses, the number of agency reports used in arson clearance rates is less than those used in compiling other offense clearance rates.



**Table 27**

**Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

Breakdown of Offenses Known  
by Population Group, 2003  
[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Forcible rape		Robbery				Aggravated assault				Burglary			Motor vehicle theft			Arson <sup>1</sup>		
	Rape by force	Assault to rape-attempts	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other weapon	Strong-arm	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other weapon	Hands, fists, feet, etc.	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Autos	Trucks and buses	Other vehicles	Structure	Mobile	Other
<b>TOTAL ALL AGENCIES:</b>																			
12,168 agencies; population 217,009,079																			
Offenses known	62,519	6,480	122,222	26,646	27,243	114,257	119,472	110,806	209,843	169,722	995,600	499,820	101,276	728,978	179,309	76,315	25,091	20,538	15,142
Percent cleared by arrest	43.2	43.7	20.9	27.9	27.8	30.8	39.7	61.4	55.6	63.9	12.4	14.1	11.0	13.3	11.0	12.1	21.5	6.8	20.9
<b>TOTAL CITIES: 8,712 cities;</b>																			
population 146,707,339																			
Offenses known	47,207	5,177	106,304	23,636	23,619	102,392	96,561	90,004	163,525	125,901	738,357	371,073	78,084	609,876	145,332	51,486	19,135	14,523	11,382
Percent cleared by arrest	42.9	43.6	20.7	27.4	27.1	30.4	37.2	60.4	54.2	64.6	11.9	13.7	10.5	12.6	10.5	11.3	20.9	6.2	21.5
<b>GROUP I</b>																			
57 cities, 250,000 and over; population 36,423,898																			
Offenses known	14,749	2,016	59,968	11,915	11,465	50,947	52,180	38,230	71,257	38,019	269,594	105,310	21,662	274,588	88,425	21,222	7,462	7,703	2,984
Percent cleared by arrest	47.2	50.3	18.6	24.7	24.0	28.0	32.7	58.2	52.0	65.2	10.4	12.1	9.7	10.8	8.3	8.5	15.0	3.6	18.5
8 cities, 1,000,000 and over; population 13,684,275																			
Offenses known	4,703	876	25,562	5,670	4,465	20,762	21,109	14,534	24,193	20,022	93,610	36,110	7,081	99,213	37,745	8,539	2,194	3,160	1,066
Percent cleared by arrest	48.2	50.1	18.8	25.2	26.1	29.9	31.3	57.1	52.2	74.4	10.9	12.6	10.1	11.1	6.0	6.3	14.8	1.9	19.8
18 cities, 500,000 to 999,999; population 11,602,906																			
Offenses known	5,149	610	19,214	3,466	4,300	14,640	16,761	13,300	26,341	8,350	95,979	34,770	7,928	89,702	28,960	7,655	2,841	2,062	646
Percent cleared by arrest	47.3	51.1	16.8	24.4	22.0	26.7	33.0	56.2	50.3	52.1	9.3	10.3	9.4	10.0	10.0	4.6	17.5	4.9	20.6
31 cities, 250,000 to 499,999; population 11,136,717																			
Offenses known	4,897	530	15,192	2,779	2,700	15,545	14,310	10,396	20,723	9,647	80,005	34,430	6,653	85,673	21,720	5,028	2,427	2,481	1,272
Percent cleared by arrest	46.3	49.8	20.6	24.0	23.7	26.8	34.3	62.4	54.0	57.5	11.0	13.3	9.5	11.1	10.2	18.2	12.4	4.7	16.3
<b>GROUP II</b>																			
144 cities, 100,000 to 249,999; population 21,373,745																			
Offenses known	7,412	1,015	17,828	4,100	4,121	16,643	15,208	14,637	27,401	15,405	125,942	57,398	12,790	112,364	23,019	7,525	3,081	2,301	1,899
Percent cleared by arrest	39.9	31.1	21.7	26.4	27.3	29.8	37.9	60.1	52.3	62.6	11.2	12.7	11.3	11.0	10.6	10.1	19.0	5.6	19.5

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 27****Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

Breakdown of Offenses Known  
by Population Group, 2003—Continued  
[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Forcible rape		Robbery				Aggravated assault				Burglary			Motor vehicle theft			Arson <sup>1</sup>		
	Rape by force	Assault to rape-attempts	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other weapon	Strong-arm	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other weapon	Hands, fists, feet, etc.	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Autos	Trucks and buses	Other vehicles	Structure	Mobile	Other
<b>GROUP III</b>																			
344 cities, 50,000 to 99,999; population 23,733,013																			
Offenses known	7,520	675	11,945	3,166	3,161	14,164	11,426	12,845	23,501	18,441	106,668	60,272	13,899	87,085	13,174	6,692	2,616	1,741	1,954
Percent cleared by arrest	39.5	43.4	21.8	30.5	29.2	31.7	38.3	60.3	55.1	62.2	11.3	13.4	9.7	11.1	11.5	11.4	21.9	7.6	20.5
<b>GROUP IV</b>																			
655 cities, 25,000 to 49,999; population 22,708,306																			
Offenses known	6,455	488	6,996	2,022	2,080	8,734	6,510	9,091	15,656	16,193	83,672	51,119	11,130	57,961	8,091	5,599	2,080	1,186	1,747
Percent cleared by arrest	39.3	39.5	25.7	31.0	31.8	34.3	44.4	61.1	56.3	61.8	12.0	13.8	9.9	14.3	15.5	12.4	24.2	9.3	20.3
<b>GROUP V</b>																			
1,475 cities, 10,000 to 24,999; population 23,301,899																			
Offenses known	6,030	510	5,738	1,514	1,668	7,422	6,208	8,396	14,081	16,814	82,230	49,638	10,018	45,427	6,968	5,440	1,949	914	1,538
Percent cleared by arrest	42.5	42.0	26.8	35.4	33.6	36.0	49.0	64.8	59.4	65.5	14.9	15.9	11.6	19.3	18.6	16.1	30.4	14.8	28.4
<b>GROUP VI</b>																			
6,037 cities, under 10,000; population 19,166,478																			
Offenses known	5,041	473	3,829	919	1,124	4,482	5,029	6,805	11,629	21,029	70,251	47,336	8,585	32,451	5,655	5,008	1,947	678	1,260
Percent cleared by arrest	44.8	47.4	27.1	35.1	33.5	38.4	56.5	67.0	60.5	68.4	16.7	16.6	12.4	25.1	23.7	18.4	31.6	17.8	26.4
<b>METROPOLITAN COUNTIES</b>																			
1,368 agencies; population 48,896,786																			
Offenses known	10,820	964	14,716	2,760	3,238	10,812	17,260	16,176	36,712	30,249	181,155	92,034	17,251	102,710	28,989	18,449	4,219	5,164	2,957
Percent cleared by arrest	43.2	42.8	20.4	30.2	31.5	33.3	45.9	65.0	60.3	61.4	12.6	14.7	11.0	14.9	11.4	12.1	23.2	6.9	17.6

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 27**

**Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

Breakdown of Offenses Known  
by Population Group, 2003—Continued  
[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Forcible rape		Robbery			Aggravated assault				Burglary			Motor vehicle theft			Arson <sup>1</sup>			
	Rape by force	Assault to rape-attempts	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other weapon	Strong-arm	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other weapon	Hands, fists, feet, etc.	Forcible entry	Unlawful entry	Attempted forcible entry	Autos	Trucks and buses	Other vehicles	Structure	Mobile	Other
NONMETROPOLITAN COUNTIES																			
2,088 agencies; population 21,404,954																			
Offenses known	4,492	339	1,202	250	386	1,053	5,651	4,626	9,606	13,572	76,088	36,713	5,941	16,392	4,988	6,380	1,737	851	803
Percent cleared by arrest	46.5	47.8	39.2	49.6	43.8	48.4	61.9	69.4	62.5	63.6	16.2	16.2	18.3	30.8	25.5	17.9	25.0	15.4	24.4
SUBURBAN AREA <sup>2</sup>																			
6,381 agencies; population 94,684,897																			
Offenses known	20,911	1,826	26,236	5,762	6,534	24,672	26,911	29,549	61,233	62,422	320,406	184,901	36,507	205,106	43,505	29,421	7,877	7,080	6,025
Percent cleared by arrest	42.8	42.9	22.0	30.9	31.3	34.0	46.6	64.7	59.7	63.7	13.0	14.8	10.7	15.2	13.0	12.8	25.3	8.4	20.8

<sup>1</sup> Because arson is reported to the FBI separately from other offenses, the number of agency reports used in arson clearance rates is less than those used in compiling other offense clearance rates. Agencies must report arson clearances by detailed property classification as specified on the *Monthly Return of Arson Offenses Known to Law Enforcement* to be included in this table; therefore, clearances in this table may differ from other clearance tables.

<sup>2</sup> Suburban area includes law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (see Appendix III). Suburban area excludes all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also appear in other groups within this table.

**Table 28**

**Number of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

Percent of Clearances Involving Persons Under 18 Years of Age  
by Population Group, 2003  
[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Violent crime					Property crime				
	Violent crime	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson <sup>1</sup>
<b>TOTAL ALL AGENCIES:</b>										
<b>11,814 agencies;</b>										
<b>population 209,050,305</b>										
Total clearances	435,481	7,074	28,735	72,278	327,394	1,215,611	195,744	898,948	120,919	9,744
Percent under 18	12.2	5.2	11.5	14.1	11.9	19.3	16.8	20.2	17.3	41.3
<b>TOTAL CITIES: 8,525 cities;</b>										
<b>population 140,970,503</b>										
Total clearances	339,526	5,500	21,569	62,963	249,494	975,395	140,819	740,728	93,848	7,113
Percent under 18	12.2	5.3	10.6	14.2	12.0	20.1	16.8	21.0	17.8	44.2
GROUP I										
54 cities, 250,000 and over; population 34,515,076										
Total clearances	135,898	2,714	7,622	29,536	96,026	248,822	40,747	170,797	37,278	1,791
Percent under 18	10.0	6.1	7.2	13.1	9.3	16.7	13.3	17.0	18.9	38.7
8 cities, 1,000,000 and over; population 13,684,275										
Total clearances	59,797	1,071	2,707	13,604	42,415	88,831	15,461	59,575	13,795	596
Percent under 18	9.0	7.0	8.3	12.9	7.8	15.5	11.9	16.3	16.3	40.8
15 cities, 500,000 to 999,999; population 9,694,084										
Total clearances	35,936	737	2,386	7,328	25,485	69,200	11,270	47,121	10,809	564
Percent under 18	9.9	4.1	7.0	12.1	9.7	15.5	11.9	14.9	21.7	30.9
31 cities, 250,000 to 499,999; population 11,136,717										
Total clearances	40,165	906	2,529	8,604	28,126	90,791	14,016	64,101	12,674	631
Percent under 18	11.5	6.6	6.2	14.2	11.3	18.8	16.0	19.3	19.2	43.9
GROUP II										
136 cities, 100,000 to 249,999; population 20,204,537										
Total clearances	50,408	886	2,968	10,372	36,182	143,625	21,148	108,009	14,468	1,031
Percent under 18	12.2	4.9	10.1	15.3	11.7	19.8	15.5	21.2	15.7	41.6
GROUP III										
332 cities, 50,000 to 99,999; population 22,994,251										
Total clearances	48,445	660	3,189	8,722	35,874	154,329	20,907	121,870	11,552	1,106
Percent under 18	13.6	5.6	12.6	15.6	13.3	22.5	18.0	23.6	18.6	45.8
GROUP IV										
642 cities, 25,000 to 49,999; population 22,275,240										
Total clearances	36,151	442	2,702	6,028	26,979	141,804	17,821	113,942	10,041	967
Percent under 18	14.9	4.1	13.4	15.5	15.1	22.4	19.0	23.4	17.4	46.0

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 28**

**Number of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means**

Percent of Clearances Involving Persons Under 18 Years of Age  
by Population Group, 2003—Continued  
[2003 estimated population]

Population group	Violent crime					Property crime				
	Violent crime	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson <sup>1</sup>
<b>GROUP V</b>										
1,402 cities, 10,000 to 24,999; population 22,166,613										
Total clearances	34,399	419	2,656	4,989	26,335	153,132	20,077	122,778	10,277	1,146
Percent under 18	14.0	3.6	13.2	14.2	14.2	21.2	18.8	21.9	17.3	48.3
<b>GROUP VI</b>										
5,959 cities, under 10,000; population 18,814,786										
Total clearances	34,225	379	2,432	3,316	28,098	133,683	20,119	103,332	10,232	1,072
Percent under 18	14.6	4.0	13.3	15.2	14.7	20.1	20.3	20.4	16.5	48.5
<b>METROPOLITAN COUNTIES</b>										
1,292 agencies; population 47,528,319										
Total clearances	71,476	1,075	4,977	8,131	57,293	180,004	36,704	123,273	20,027	1,860
Percent under 18	12.7	4.8	13.6	13.8	12.6	16.7	17.0	16.8	15.3	37.1
<b>NONMETROPOLITAN COUNTIES</b>										
1,997 agencies; population 20,551,483										
Total clearances	24,479	499	2,189	1,184	20,607	60,212	18,221	34,947	7,044	771
Percent under 18	9.8	4.2	16.0	8.6	9.4	15.7	16.2	15.0	17.6	24.6
<b>SUBURBAN AREA<sup>2</sup></b>										
6,182 agencies; population 91,824,179										
Total clearances	132,743	1,780	9,494	17,272	104,197	433,692	69,988	324,498	39,206	3,828
Percent under 18	14.1	4.7	13.8	15.2	14.1	19.1	18.3	19.6	16.0	45.0

<sup>1</sup> Because arson is reported to the FBI separately from other offenses, the number of agency reports used in arson clearance rates is less than those used in compiling other offense clearance rates.

<sup>2</sup> Suburban area includes law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (see Appendix III). Suburban area excludes all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also appear in other groups within this table.

