



Area Definitions

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects crime data and supplemental information that make it possible to generate a variety of statistical compilations, including data presented by reporting areas. These statistics provide data users with the opportunity to analyze local crime data in conjunction with data for areas of similar geographic location or population size. The reporting areas that the UCR Program uses in its data breakdowns include community types, population groups, and regions and geographic divisions. For community types, the UCR Program considers proximity to metropolitan areas using the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) designations. (Generally, sheriffs, county police, and state police report crimes within counties but outside cities; local police report crimes within city limits.) The number of inhabitants living in a locale (based on the U.S. Census Bureau's figures) determines the population group into which the program places it. Finally, in its geographic breakdowns, the UCR Program divides the United States into regions and divisions.

Community types

In order to assist data users who wish to analyze and present uniform statistical data about metropolitan areas, the UCR Program uses reporting units that represent major population centers. The program compiles data for these areas according to three types of communities:

1. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)—Each MSA contains a principal city or urbanized area with a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants. MSAs include the principal city; the county in which the city is located; and other adjacent counties that have, as defined by the OMB, a high degree of economic and social integration with the principal city and county as measured through commuting. In the UCR Program, counties within an MSA are considered metropolitan. In addition, MSAs may cross state boundaries. In 2015, approximately 85.5 percent of the nation's population lived in MSAs.

Some presentations in this publication refer to Metropolitan Divisions, which are subdivisions of an MSA that consists of a core with "a population of at least 2.5 million persons. A Metropolitan Division consists of one or more main/secondary counties that

represent an employment center or centers, plus adjacent counties associated with the main county or counties through commuting ties,” (*Federal Register* 65 [249]). Also, some tables reference suburban areas, which are subdivisions of MSAs that exclude the principal cities but include all the remaining cities (those having fewer than 50,000 inhabitants) and the unincorporated areas of the MSAs.

Note: Because the elements that comprise MSAs (particularly the geographic compositions) are subject to change, the program discourages data users from making year-to-year comparisons of MSA data.

2. Cities Outside MSAs—Ordinarily, cities outside MSAs are incorporated areas. In 2015, cities outside MSAs made up 5.9 percent of the nation’s population.

3. Nonmetropolitan Counties Outside MSAs—Most nonmetropolitan counties are composed of unincorporated areas. In 2015, 8.6 percent of the nation’s population resided in nonmetropolitan counties.

Community types are further illustrated in the following table:

Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
Principal Cities (50,000+ inhabitants)	Cities outside Metropolitan Areas
Suburban Cities	
Metropolitan Counties	Nonmetropolitan Counties

Population groups

The UCR Program uses the following population group designations:

Population Group	Political Label	Population Range
I	City	250,000 and more
II	City	100,000 to 249,999
III	City	50,000 to 99,999
IV	City	25,000 to 49,999
V	City	10,000 to 24,999
VI ^{1, 2}	City	Less than 10,000
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County) ²	County	N/A
IX (Metropolitan County) ²	County	N/A

¹Includes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

²Includes state police to which no population is attributed.

Individual law enforcement agencies are the source of UCR data. The number of agencies included in each population group may vary from year to year because of population growth, geopolitical consolidation, municipal incorporation, etc. In noncensus years, the UCR Program estimates population figures for individual jurisdictions. (A more comprehensive explanation of population estimations can be found in the Methodology.)

The table below shows the number of agencies within each population group that contributed data to the UCR Program for 2015:

Population Group	Number of Agencies	Population Covered
I	83	61,173,970
II	218	32,439,832
III	497	34,534,593
IV	900	31,133,502
V	1,924	30,704,780
VI ^{1, 2}	9,691	26,604,998
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County) ²	2,890	27,652,980
IX (Metropolitan County) ²	2,236	77,174,165
Total	18,439	321,418,820

¹Includes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

²Includes state police to which no population is attributed.

Regions and divisions

The map below illustrates the four regions of the United States along with their nine geographic divisions as established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The UCR Program uses this widely recognized geographic organization when compiling the nation's crime data.

The following table lists the 50 states and the District of Columbia arranged according to the regions and geographic divisions of the United States.

NORTHEASTERN STATES

New England	Middle Atlantic
Connecticut	New Jersey
Maine	New York
Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
New Hampshire	
Rhode Island	
Vermont	

MIDWESTERN STATES

East North Central	West North Central
Illinois	Iowa
Indiana	Kansas
Michigan	Minnesota
Ohio	Missouri
Wisconsin	Nebraska
	North Dakota
	South Dakota

SOUTHERN STATES

South Atlantic	East South Central
Delaware	Alabama
District of Columbia	Kentucky
Florida	Mississippi
Georgia	Tennessee
Maryland	West South Central
North Carolina	Arkansas
South Carolina	Louisiana
Virginia	Oklahoma
West Virginia	Texas

WESTERN STATES

Mountain	Pacific
Arizona	Alaska
Colorado	California
Idaho	Hawaii

Montana	Oregon
Nevada	Washington
New Mexico	
Utah	
Wyoming	