



Data Declaration

Number of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means, Percent of Clearances Involving Persons Under 18 Years of Age by Population Group, 2016

The FBI collects these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

Important note about rape data

In 2013, the UCR Program initiated the collection of rape data under a revised definition and removed the term “forcible” from the offense name. The UCR Program now defines rape as follows:

Rape (revised definition): Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. (This includes the offenses of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object as converted from data submitted via the National Incident-Based Reporting System.)

Rape (legacy definition): The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.

General comments

- This table provides the number of clearances for violent crimes and property crimes with a breakdown of clearances for those offenses as well as the percentage of those clearances that involved only juveniles.
- The number of agencies meeting the criteria for inclusion in this table and the 2016 estimated population for those agencies are provided by city population groups, county population groups, and suburban areas.
- Suburban areas include law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

- Suburban areas exclude all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also appear in other groups within this table.
- When an offender under the age of 18 is cited to appear in juvenile court or before other juvenile authorities, the UCR Program considers the incident to be cleared by arrest, even though a physical arrest may not have occurred.
- Clearances for offenses that include both adult and juvenile offenders are classified as clearances for crimes committed by adults and are, therefore, not included in this table.
- Because the clearance percentages for crimes committed by juveniles include only those clearances in which no adults were involved, the figures in this table should not be used to present a definitive picture of juvenile involvement in crime.

Methodology

- The data used in creating this table were from all law enforcement agencies submitting at least 6 months of complete offense reports for 2016.
- The FBI bases percent cleared statistics on aggregated offense and clearance totals. The percentage of crimes cleared by arrest is obtained first by dividing the number of offenses cleared by the number of offenses known and then multiplying the resulting figure by 100.

Population estimation

For the 2016 population estimates used in this table, the FBI computed individual rates of growth from one year to the next for every city/town and county using 2010 decennial population counts and 2011 through 2015 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Each agency's rates of growth were averaged; that average was then applied and added to its 2015 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2016 population estimate.