Data Declaration

Crime Trends, Additional Information About Selected Offenses by Population Group, 2015-2016

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 [NIBRS]).

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

Since the implementation of the revised definition of rape in 2013, not all agencies/state UCR programs have had the ability to change their records management systems to accommodate the change. Therefore, this report provides a column for rape (revised definition) and a column for rape (legacy definition). The data shown in the rape (revised definition) column include those from agencies that reported rape under the UCR revised definition for 2015 and 2016 as well as converted data from agencies that reported data for rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object via the NIBRS for both years. The data shown in the rape (legacy definition) column include only those agencies that reported rape under the legacy definition via the Summary Reporting System (SRS) for 2015 and 2016; it does not include any converted NIBRS data.

General comments

- This 2-year trend table provides the 2015 and 2016 breakdowns (such as attempts, weapons, types of entry, and property types for the offenses of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson) and the percent change between these 2 years.

- 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.

Methodology

- The data used in creating this table were from all law enforcement agencies submitting at least 6 common months of complete offense reports with breakdowns for 2015 and 2016. If the FBI determines certain variables have created unusual fluctuations in the data, those data are excluded from the tabulations.

- A crime trend represents the percentage change in crime based on data reported in a prior equivalent period. In calculating trends, the UCR Program includes only common reported months for individual agencies.

- The rape figures for those agencies that changed from reporting rape under the legacy definition in 2015 to the UCR revised definition of rape in 2016 are not included in this table. Because the UCR Program has not received 2 consecutive years of data for rape (legacy definition) or 2 consecutive years of data for rape (revised definition), the national UCR Program cannot provide a 2-year rape comparison for these agencies. This includes 1,824 agencies with a total population of 31,342,173 inhabitants.

- The percent changes shown for the offense of rape (revised definition) are based on data from those agencies that submitted rape data according to the UCR

revised definition for both 2015 and 2016 as well as converted data from agencies that reported data for rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object via the NIBRS for both years.

- The percent changes shown for the offense of rape (legacy definition) are based only on data from those agencies that submitted rape data according to the legacy definition via the SRS for both years; it does not include converted NIBRS data.

- Because rape data reported by all agencies for 2015 and 2016 cannot be aggregated for reasons noted above, the percent changes from one year to the next are calculated with smaller numbers than in recent years. Offenses with fewer counts are often sensitive to minor differences when calculating trends. The following table provides the actual number of reporting agencies and populations covered for each definition of rape. (As previously noted, agencies that submitted data using rape [legacy definition] for 2015 and rape [revised definition] for 2016 are not included in this table.)

Populations used to calculate rape trends (based on rape definition used for submitted data)
by Population Group, 2016

Population Group	Agencies using the revised UCR rape definition		Agencies using the legacy UCR rape definition	
	Agency count	Population	Agency count	Population
Total all agencies	13,107	262,188,589	1,501	27,048,169
Total Cities	9,222	181,133,736	1,118	14,114,492
I (250,000 inhabitants and more)	76	55,545,148	5	2,482,852
Ia (1,000,000 and over)	10	24,933,624	0	0

Ib (500,000 to 999,999)	21	15,324,060	2	1,457,939
Ic (250,000 to 499,000)	45	15,287,464	3	1,024,913
II (100,000 to 249,999 inhabitants)	201	29,678,226	11	1,787,501
III (50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants)	420	29,174,068	30	2,058,504
IV (25,000 to 49,999 inhabitants)	706	24,625,130	75	2,558,192
V (10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants)	1,464	23,347,217	175	2,741,698
VI (Less than 10,000 inhabitants)	6,355	18,763,947	822	2,485,745
IX (Metropolitan County)	1,740	61,197,381	186	9,565,220
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County)[1]	2,145	19,857,472	197	3,368,457
Suburban Area[2]	7,163	110,436,715	774	14,281,457

[1]Includes state police agencies that report aggregately for the entire state.

[2]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.

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

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

[2]Includes state police to which no population is attributed.

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.