



Rape

Definition

In 2013, the FBI UCR Program began collecting rape data under a revised definition within the Summary Reporting System. Previously, offense data for forcible rape were collected under the legacy UCR definition: the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Beginning with the 2013 data year, the term “forcible” was removed from the offense title, and the definition was changed. The revised UCR definition of rape is: 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. Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included in the statistics presented here; however, statutory rape and incest are excluded.

All rape data submitted in 2016—whether collected under the revised definition or the legacy definition—are presented in this publication. However, because only four years of rape data have been collected under the revised definition, the overview presented here discusses only legacy definition rape data.

Data collection

The UCR Program counts one offense for each victim of a rape, attempted rape, or assault with intent to rape, regardless of the victim’s age. Sexual relations without the victim’s consent which involves a familial offender is counted as a rape and not an act of incest. All other crimes of a sexual nature are considered to be Part II offenses; as such, the UCR Program collects only arrest data for those crimes. The offense of statutory rape, in which no force is used but the female victim is under the age of consent, is included in the arrest total for the sex offenses category.

Overview

There were an estimated 95,730 rapes (legacy definition) reported to law enforcement in 2016. This estimate was 4.9 percent higher than the 2015 estimate, 12.4 percent higher than the 2012 estimate, and 3.9 percent higher than the 2007 estimate. (See Tables 1 and 1A.)

Expanded data

Expanded offense data are the details of the various offenses that the UCR Program collects beyond the count of how many crimes law enforcement agencies report. These details may include the type of weapon used in a crime, type or value of items stolen, and so forth. In addition, expanded data include trends (for example, 2-year comparisons) and rates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Expanded information regarding rape is available in the following tables:

Trends (2-year): Table 10

Rates (per 100,000 inhabitants): Table 11

What you won't find on this page

Clearance and arrest data for rape.