Data Declaration

Table 25

Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means, by Population Group, 2017

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

Important note about rape data

In 2013, the FBI's UCR Program initiated the collection of rape data under a revised definition within the Summary Based Reporting System. The term "forcible" was removed from the offense name, and the definition was changed to "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."

In 2016, the FBI Director approved the recommendation to discontinue the reporting of rape data using the UCR legacy definition beginning in 2017. Therefore, the rape data reported by those agencies using the UCR legacy definition are not included in this table.

General comments

- This table provides the number of violent crimes and property crimes with a breakdown of the offenses known to law enforcement and the percentage of those offenses that were cleared by arrest or exceptional means.

- The number of agencies meeting the criteria for inclusion in this table and the 2017 estimated population for those agencies are provided by city population groups, county population groups, and suburban areas.

- Not all agencies submit data reports for arson to the FBI. Therefore, the agency counts and estimated population presented in this table do not represent participation for the reporting of arson.

- 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 months of complete offense reports for 2017.

- The FBI bases percent cleared statistics on aggregated offense and clearance totals. The percentage of crimes cleared by arrest is obtained by dividing the number of offenses cleared by the number of offenses known and then multiplying the resulting figure by 100.

- The rape figures are based only on those agencies reporting rape using the revised definition. See table below.

Populations used to calculate rape clearances by Population Group, 2017		
	Agency count and population (based on revised rape data)	
Population Group	**Agency count**	**Population**
Total all agencies	14,544	286,979,255
Total Cities	10,637	196,373,351

I (250,000 inhabitants and more)	78	57,594,292
Ia (1,000,000 and over)	10	25,129,639
Ib (500,000 to 999,999)	23	16,656,794
Ic (250,000 to 499,000)	45	15,807,859
II (100,000 to 249,999 inhabitants)	207	30,838,178
III (50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants)	455	31,819,756
IV (25,000 to 49,999 inhabitants)	804	28,024,094
V (10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants)	1,661	26,543,517
VI (Less than 10,000 inhabitants)	7,432	21,553,514
IX (Metropolitan County)	1,809	68,468,580
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County)[1]	2,098	22,137,324
Suburban Area[2]	7,971	123,883,536

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 2017 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 2016 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 2016 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2017 population estimate.