# Data Declaration

**Table 12**

**Crime Trends, by Population Group, 2017–2018**

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 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.

**General comments**

- This 2-year trend table provides the number of offenses for 2017 and 2018 and the percent change between these 2 years, listed by population group.

- Metropolitan counties include sheriffs' offices and county law enforcement agencies associated with a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

- Nonmetropolitan counties include sheriffs' offices and county law enforcement agencies that are not associated with an MSA.

- Suburban areas include law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within an MSA.

- 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 for 2017 and 2018. 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 data reported by those agencies using the UCR legacy definition for either 2017, 2018, or both years are not included. This includes 348 agencies covering a total population of 9,831,110 for Table 12.

- The percent changes shown for the offense of rape are based on data from those agencies that submitted rape data according to the UCR revised definition for both 2017 and 2018 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 following table provides the actual number of reporting agencies and populations covered for rape.

| Populations used to calculate rape trends by Population Group, 2018 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Agencies using the revised UCR rape definition** | |
| **Population Group** | **Agency count** | **Population** |
| Total all agencies | 15,161 | 302,268,401 |
| Total Cities | 11,024 | 208,513,938 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I (250,000 inhabitants and more) | 82 | 61,404,742 |
| Ia (1,000,000 and over) | 11 | 27,887,008 |
| Ib (500,000 to 999,999) | 25 | 17,805,452 |
| Ic (250,000 to 499,000) | 46 | 15,712,282 |
| II (100,000 to 249,999 inhabitants) | 218 | 32,160,528 |
| III (50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants) | 485 | 33,827,457 |
| IV (25,000 to 49,999 inhabitants) | 874 | 30,290,726 |
| V (10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants) | 1,774 | 28,315,905 |
| VI (Less than 10,000 inhabitants) | 7,591 | 22,514,580 |
| IX (Metropolitan County) | 1,892 | 70,895,088 |
| VIII (Nonmetropolitan County)[1] | 2,245 | 22,859,375 |
| Suburban Area[2] | 8,404 | 130,620,555 |

[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 2018 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 2017 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 2017 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2018 population estimate.