



## Data Declaration

### Table 14

#### **Crime Trends, by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties 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 for metropolitan counties and nonmetropolitan counties.
- 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.

## 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 87 agencies covering a total population of 4,480,158 for Table 14.
- 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.

| <b>Population used to calculate rape rates<br/>by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties<sup>1</sup><br/>by Population Group, 2018</b> |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <b>Population Group</b>   | <b>Agencies using the revised UCR rape definition</b> |                   |
|   | <b>Agency count</b>                                   | <b>Population</b> |
| <b>Metropolitan</b>   |   |                   |
| Counties 100,000 and over   | 162   | 44,142,973        |
| 25,000 to 99,999  | 422   | 21,876,826        |

|                          |       |           |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Under 25,000             | 1,308 | 4,875,289 |
| <b>Nonmetropolitan</b>   |       |           |
| Counties 25,000 and over | 247   | 9,919,905 |
| 10,000 to 24,999         | 548   | 8,772,773 |
| Under 10,000             | 1,450 | 4,166,697 |

<sup>1</sup>Metropolitan counties include sheriffs and county law enforcement agencies associated with a Metropolitan Statistical Area. Nonmetropolitan counties include sheriffs and county law enforcement agencies that are not associated with a Metropolitan Statistical Area. The offenses from state police agencies are not included in this table.

### **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.