# Arson

## *Definition*

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines arson as any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

## *Data collection*

Only the fires that investigation determined to have been willfully set are included in this arson data collection. Fires labeled as suspicious or of unknown origin are excluded from these data. Points to consider regarding arson statistics include:

- This data collection does not include any estimates for arson because the degree of reporting arson offenses varies from agency to agency. Because of this disparity in reporting, arson offenses are excluded from Tables 1-7, all of which contain offense estimations.

- Arson rates are calculated based upon data received from all law enforcement agencies that provide the UCR Program with data for 12 complete months and are presented in Arson Table 1.

The number of arsons reported by individual law enforcement agencies is available in Tables 8-11, arson trend data (indicating a year-to-year change) are in Tables 12-15, and arson clearance data (crimes solved) can be found in Arson Table 2 and Tables 25-28.

## *Overview*

- In 2019, law enforcement agencies (providing from 1 to 12 months of arson data) reported 33,395 arsons. Participating agencies provided expanded offense data regarding 32,199 arsons. (Based on Tables 12 and 15.)

- More than 42 percent (42.2) of all arson offenses involved structures (e.g., residential, storage, public, etc.). Mobile property was involved in 22.6 percent of

arsons, and other types of property (such as crops, timber, fences, etc.) accounted for 35.2 percent of reported arsons. (Based on Table 15.)

- The average dollar loss per arson was $16,371. (See Arson Table 2.)

- Arsons of industrial/manufacturing structures resulted in the highest average dollar losses (an average of $190,336). (See Arson Table 2.)

- Arson offenses decreased 4.9 percent in 2019 when compared with arson data reported in 2018. (See Table 12.)

- Nationwide, there were 10.9 arson offenses for every 100,000 inhabitants. (Based on Table 12.)

### *Expanded data*

Expanded offense data are the details of the various offenses that the program collects beyond the count of how many crimes law enforcement agencies report. These details may include the type of weapons 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 arson is available in the following tables:

Trends (2-year): Tables 12, 13, 14, and 15

Property types: Table 15

Arson Table 1, Arson Rate, by Population Group, 2019

Arson Table 2, Arson, by Type of Property, 2019

### *What you won't find on this page*

- Estimated arson data. The FBI does not include any estimates for arsons because the degree of reporting arson offenses varies from agency to agency.

- Arrest data for arson.