Data Declaration

Offenses Involving Weapon Use
Offense Category
by Type of Weapon/Force Involved, 2016

The FBI collected these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

General Comment

- This table shows the number of offenses per offense category by the type of weapon/force used by the offender.

- In NIBRS, data concerning the use of weapons or the force involved in the commission of crimes are collected only for 8 offense categories, which are comprised of 15 offense types. (For a breakdown of the offense types included in each category, see Crimes Against Persons, Property, and Society in this publication.)

- Law enforcement agencies may report up to three types of weapons/force involved for each of the 15 offense types for which weapon/force information is collected. However, homicide offenses cannot be reported with the value of None; a different type of weapon must be reported.

Methodology

- To arrive at the offense totals provided for each column of data, the UCR Program used the following counting rules:

    o Crime Against Person—one for each victim.

    o Crime Against Property—one for each unique offense type.

    o Crime Against Society—one for each unique offense type.

    o In a multiple-offense incident, count one for each offense type in the incident.

- The offense data were aggregated by their respective offense categories and by the weapon types associated with the reported offenses.

- Because law enforcement can report up to three types of weapons/force involved for each offense (up to ten) in an incident, some offenses may have been counted more than once in order to attribute them to each of the weapon types associated with them.

Therefore, the figures in the table do not reflect the number of weapons used or offenses reported in the related incidents.