

Appendix 3

Crime in the United States Definitions of terms

Note: The following information has been excerpted from U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2002*, pp. 442-444, 448, 454-457; *2003*, pp. 5, 6, 482-484, 490, 497-500; *2004*, pp. 5, 6, 488-497, 505-508 (Washington, DC: USGPO); *2005* [Online]. Available: <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/about/index.html> [Mar. 23, 2007]; *2006* [Online]. Available: <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/about/index.html> [Dec. 5, 2007]; *2007* [Online]. Available: <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/about/index.html> [Feb. 12, 2009]; *2008* [Online]. Available: <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/about/index.html> [Jan. 25, 2010]; *2009* [Online]. Available: <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/about/index.html> [Nov. 16, 2010]. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made. See U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook*, Revised 2004 [Online]. Available: http://www.fbi.gov/aboutus/cjis/ucr/additional-ucr-publications/ucr_handbook.pdf for further definitions and information on classification and counting rules.

Population definitions

For purposes of statistical presentation, the cities and counties in the United States are divided into groups based on population size. The population group classifications used by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program are shown in Table 1.

Based on data from the 2000 decennial census, the U.S. Census Bureau revised the criteria for metropolitan area designation. Based on the revised standards, the UCR Program, beginning in 2003, refers to "suburban" counties as "metropolitan" counties, "rural" counties as "nonmetropolitan" counties, and "central" cities as "principal" cities.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)--This includes a central (principal) city or an urbanized area of at least 50,000 people. The county containing the central (principal) city and other adjacent counties having a high degree of economic and social integration with the central (principal) city and county also are included. Counties in an MSA are designat-

ed "suburban" (metropolitan) for UCR purposes. An MSA may cross State lines.

Table 1. Population group, political label, and population coverage

Population group	Political label	Population coverage
I	City	250,000 and over
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	City ^a	Less than 10,000
VIII	County ^b	NA
(Rural county ^c)		
IX	County ^b	NA
(Suburban county ^d)		

^aIncludes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

^bIncludes State police to which no population is attributed.

^c"Nonmetropolitan" county beginning in 2003.

^d"Metropolitan" county beginning in 2003.

Due to changes in the geographic composition of MSAs, no year-to-year comparisons of data for those areas should be attempted. New England MSAs are comprised of cities and towns instead of counties. For purposes of tabular presentation, the UCR Program assigns New England cities and towns to the proper MSAs. Some counties, however, have both suburban and rural portions. Data for State police and sheriffs in those jurisdictions are included in statistics for the rural areas. MSAs made up approximately 80% of the total U.S. population in 2002, 83% in 2003-2006, and 84% in 2007-2009.

Rural (nonmetropolitan) counties--counties outside MSAs that are comprised of mostly unincorporated areas. Rural county law enforcement agencies served 12% of the national population in 2002 and 10% in 2003-2009.

Suburban areas--These areas consist of cities with populations of less than 50,000 as well as unincorporated areas within an MSA, and exclude central (principal) cities. Suburban areas can, therefore, be divided into suburban cities and suburban counties.

Other cities--Other cities are urban places outside MSAs; most of these areas are incorporated. These cities comprised 8% of the 2002 national population, 7% of the population in 2003-2006, 6% in 2007, 7% in 2008, and 6% in 2009.

As a general rule, sheriffs, county police, and State police report on crimes committed within the limits of counties, but outside cities; local police report on crimes committed within city limits.

The major source of UCR data is the individual law enforcement agency. The number of agencies included in each population group will vary slightly from year to year due to population growth, geopolitical consolidation, municipal incorporation, etc. (see Table 2 on last page). For noncensus years, population figures for individual jurisdictions are estimated by the UCR Program. The UCR Program obtains current population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau to estimate population counts for all contributing law enforcement agencies. The Census Bureau also provides revised State and national population estimates for the previous year and provisional State and national population estimates for the current year (see Table 3 on last page for national population estimates). Using these revised census data, the national UCR Program updates the previous year's Census Bureau city and county estimates and calculates current year State growth rates. The UCR Program updates population figures for individual jurisdictions by applying current year State growth rates to the updated Census Bureau data for the prior year.

Regions and divisions

The United States is divided into four regions; these regions are further divided into nine divisions. The following is a list of States within divisions and regions.

Northeast:

New England--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Middle Atlantic--New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

Midwest:

East North Central--Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin.

West North Central--Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

South:

South Atlantic--Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia.

East South Central--Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee.

West South Central--Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

West:

Mountain--Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific--Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington.

The Crime Index, Part I, and Part II offenses

The Crime Index

The following offenses and attempts to commit these offenses were used in compiling the Crime Index: (1) murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, (2) forcible rape, (3) robbery, (4) aggravated assault, (5) burglary, (6) larceny-theft, (7) motor vehicle theft, and (8) arson. Arson was added as the eighth index offense in October 1978. (Manslaughter by negligence and simple or minor assaults are not included in the Crime Index.)

Beginning with publication of the 2003 data, the UCR Program discontinued use of the Crime Index. In recent years the Crime Index has been driven up by the offense with the highest incidence, larceny-theft, creating a bias against jurisdictions with a high number of larceny-thefts but a low number of other more serious crimes. Larceny-theft accounts for nearly 60% of reported crime and the sheer volume overshadows more serious but less frequently committed offenses. As a result, it was determined that the Crime Index no longer served its original purpose.

Offenses in the UCR Program are divided into two groups, Part I and Part II. Each month, participating law enforcement agencies submit information on the volume of Part I offenses known to the agencies, those cleared by arrest or exceptional means, and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested for each offense. Only arrest data are collected for Part II offenses.

Part I offenses

Criminal homicide--a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter: the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are excluded. Justifiable homicides are limited to: (1) the killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty or (2) the killing of a felon, during commission of a felony, by a private citizen. **b.** Manslaughter by negligence: the killing of another person through gross negligence. Traffic fatalities are excluded.

Forcible rape--The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Included are rapes by force and attempts or assaults to rape, regardless of the age of the victim. Statutory offenses (no force used--victim under age of consent) are excluded.

Robbery--The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, cus-

tody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated assault--An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Simple assaults are excluded.

Burglary--breaking or entering--The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. Attempted forcible entry is included.

Larceny-theft (except motor vehicle theft)--The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles or automobile accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that is not taken by force and violence or by fraud. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, check fraud, etc., are excluded.

Motor vehicle theft--The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is self-propelled and runs on land surface and not on rails. Specifically excluded from this category are motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment.

Arson--Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Part II offenses

Other assaults (simple)--Assaults and attempted assaults where no weapon is used and that do not result in serious or aggravated injury to the victim. Stalking, intimidation, coercion, and hazing are included.

Forgery and counterfeiting--Altering, copying, or imitating something without authority with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or anything altered or imitated as that which is original or genuine; or the selling, buying, or possession of an altered, copied, or imitated thing with intent to deceive or defraud. Attempts are included.

Fraud--The intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person or entity, in reliance upon it, to part with something of value or surrender a legal right. Fraudulent conversion and obtaining of money or property by false pretenses. Included are confidence games and bad checks, except forgeries and counterfeiting.

Embezzlement--The unlawful misappropriation or misapplication of money or property, or some other thing of value entrusted to one's care, custody, or control.

Stolen property; buying, receiving, possessing--Buying, receiving, possessing, selling, concealing, or transporting any prop-

erty with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, including attempts.

Vandalism--Willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement, or defacement of any public or private property, real or personal, without consent of the owner or persons having custody or control. Attempts are included.

Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.--Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment, or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices, or other deadly weapons. Attempts are included.

Prostitution and commercialized vice--Unlawful promotion of or participation in sexual activities for profit. To solicit customers or transport persons for prostitution purposes; to own, manage, or operate a dwelling for the purpose of providing a place where prostitution is performed. Attempts are included.

Sex offenses (except forcible rape, prostitution, and commercialized vice)--Statutory rape; incest; and indecent exposure; and offenses against chastity, common decency, morals, and the like. Attempts are included.

Drug abuse violations--Violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances. The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance. Violation of State and local offenses relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, and manufacturing of narcotic drugs. The following drug categories are specified: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics--manufactured narcotics that can cause addiction (demerol, methadone); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine).

Gambling--To unlawfully bet or wager money or something of value; assist, promote, or operate a game of chance for money or some other stake; possess or transmit wagering information; manufacture, sell, purchase, possess, or transport gambling equipment, devices, or goods; or tamper with the outcome of a sporting event or contest to gain advantage.

Offenses against family and children--Unlawful nonviolent acts by a family member or guardian that threaten the physical, mental, or economic well being or morals of another family member and that are not classifiable as another offense such as assault. Attempts are included.

Driving under the influence--Driving or operating any motor vehicle or common carrier while mentally or physically impaired as the result of consuming an alcoholic beverage or using a drug.

Liquor laws--Violation of State or local laws prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages, not including "drunkenness" and "driving under the influence." Federal violations are excluded.

Drunkness--To drink alcoholic beverages to the extent that one's mental faculties and physical coordination are substantially impaired, not including "driving under the influence."

Disorderly conduct--Any behavior that disturbs the public peace or decorum, scandalizes the community, or shocks the public sense of morality.

Vagrancy--Violation of a court order, regulation, ordinance, or law requiring the withdrawal of persons from the streets or other specified area; prohibiting persons from remaining in an area in an idle or aimless manner; prohibiting persons from going from place to place without visible means of support.

All other offenses--All violations of State or local laws not specifically identified as Part I or Part II offenses, except traffic offenses.

Suspicion--Arrested for no specific offense and suspect released without formal charges being placed.

Curfew and loitering laws (persons under age 18)--Violations by juveniles of local curfew or loitering ordinances.

Runaways (persons under age 18)--Limited to juveniles taken into protective custody under provisions of local statutes.

Offense estimation

Not all law enforcement agencies provide data for complete reporting periods. The UCR Program generates estimated crime counts for agencies with incomplete reporting. These estimated counts are used to generate offense totals for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), cities outside MSAs, and rural (nonmetropolitan) counties. Using the known crime figures of similar areas within a State, the national UCR Program computes estimates by assigning the same proportional crime volumes to nonreporting agencies or agencies with missing data. The size of the population covered by the law enforcement agency; type of jurisdiction, e.g., police department versus sheriff's office; and geographic location are considered in the estimation process. Various circumstances require the national Program to estimate certain State offense totals. For example, some States do not provide forcible rape figures in accordance with UCR guidelines; reporting problems at the State level have, at times, resulted in little or no usable data; and the conversion of summary reporting to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) has contributed to the need for unique estimation procedures.

The Illinois (beginning in 1985), Michigan (1993), and Minnesota (1993 and 2009) State UCR Programs were unable to provide forcible rape figures in accordance with UCR guidelines. The rape totals were

estimated using national rates per 100,000 inhabitants within the eight population groups and assigning the forcible rape volumes proportionally to each State. The Delaware State UCR Program was unable to provide 1998 forcible rape figures in accordance with UCR guidelines; the 1998 forcible rape total was estimated by reducing the number of reported offenses by the proportion of male forcible rape victims statewide.

In recent years, a number of States have been involved in the NIBRS conversion process. During the conversion process, little or no data were available from law enforcement agencies in these States. The following is a summary of States providing either incomplete data or no data for certain years, either due to NIBRS conversion or due to other reporting problems:

- 1988: Florida, Kentucky
- 1991: Iowa
- 1993: Illinois, Kansas
- 1994: Illinois, Kansas, Montana
- 1995: Illinois, Kansas, Montana
- 1996: Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana
- 1997: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont
- 1998: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin
- 1999: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire
- 2000: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana
- 2001: Illinois, Kentucky
- 2002: Illinois, Kentucky
- 2003: Illinois, Kentucky
- 2004: Illinois
- 2005: Illinois
- 2006: Illinois
- 2007: Illinois
- 2008: Illinois
- 2009: Illinois

State totals were estimated using procedures based on data availability specific to each State, and the population group and geographic division to which the State belongs.

See Tables 2 and 3 on next page.

Table 2. Population group and number of contributing agencies

Population group	Number of agencies							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
I	71	71	71	70	72	73	76	76
II	171	176	181	187	189	189	198	202
III	423	431	439	451	457	472	473	479
IV	803	823	833	826	838	848	857	866
V	1,867	1,873	1,877	1,895	1,907	1,907	1,902	1,918
VI ^a	8,735	8,776	8,830	8,862	8,895	9,022	9,115	9,321
VIII (Rural county ^{b,c})	3,437	3,070	3,105	3,016	3,009	3,054	3,028	3,024
IX (Suburban county ^{c,d})	1,817	2,161	2,163	2,149	2,156	2,173	2,150	2,099
Total	17,324	17,381	17,499	17,456	17,523	17,738	17,799	17,985

^aIncludes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

^b"Nonmetropolitan" county beginning in 2003.

^cIncludes State police to which no population is attributed.

^d"Metropolitan" county beginning in 2003.

Table 3. Total U.S. population, 1960-2009^a

Population		Population	
1960	179,323,175	1990	248,709,873
1961	182,992,000	1991	252,177,000
1962	185,771,000	1992	255,082,000
1963	188,483,000	1993	257,908,000
1964	191,141,000	1994	260,341,000
1965	193,526,000	1995	262,755,000
1966	195,576,000	1996	265,284,000
1967	197,457,000	1997	267,637,000
1968	199,399,000	1998	270,296,000
1969	201,385,000	1999	272,691,000
1970	203,235,298	2000	281,421,906
1971	206,212,000	2001	284,796,887
1972	208,230,000	2002	288,368,698
1973	209,851,000	2003	290,809,777
1974	211,392,000	2004	293,655,404
1975	213,124,000	2005	296,410,404
1976	214,659,000	2006	299,398,484
1977	216,332,000	2007	301,621,157
1978	218,059,000	2008	304,059,724
	220,099,000	2009	307,006,550
1980	225,349,264		
1981	229,146,000		
1982	231,534,000		
1983	233,981,000		
1984	236,158,000		
1985	238,740,000		
1986	241,077,000		
1987	243,400,000		
1988	245,807,000		
1989	248,239,000		

^aPopulation figures are U.S. Census Bureau provisional estimates as of July 1 for each year except 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000, which are the decennial census counts. These population figures are taken from the first year they are published by the Source and do not reflect subsequent revisions made by the Source based on U.S. Census Bureau adjustments.