

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 4.1.2003

Estimated number of arrests^a

By offense charged, United States, 2003

Offense charged	
Total ^b	13,639,479
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	13,190
Forcible rape	26,350
Robbery	107,553
Aggravated assault	449,933
Burglary	290,956
Larceny-theft	1,145,074
Motor vehicle theft	152,934
Arson	16,163
Violent crime ^c	597,026
Property crime ^d	1,605,127
Other assaults	1,246,698
Forgery and counterfeiting	111,823
Fraud	299,138
Embezzlement	16,826
Stolen property; buying, receiving, possessing	126,775
Vandalism	273,431
Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.	167,972
Prostitution and commercialized vice	75,190
Sex offenses (except forcible rape and prostitution)	91,546
Drug abuse violations	1,678,192
Gambling	10,954
Offenses against family and children	136,034
Driving under the influence	1,448,148
Liquor laws	612,079
Drunkenness	548,616
Disorderly conduct	639,371
Vagrancy	28,948
All other offenses (except traffic)	3,665,543
Suspicion (not included in total)	7,163
Curfew and loitering law violations	136,461
Runaways	123,581

Note: These data were compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. On a monthly basis, law enforcement agencies report the number of offenses that become known to them in the following crime categories: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Beginning in 1960, the UCR Program used these crime categories to establish a "crime index," which is a simple sum of the index offenses. Arson was designated a Part I Index offense in October 1978; data collection began in 1979. Beginning with publication of the 2003 UCR data, the Source discontinued use of the crime index. See Appendix 3 for more information.

Arrest statistics are compiled as part of this monthly data collection effort. Participating law enforcement agencies are instructed to count one arrest each time a person is taken into custody, notified, or cited for criminal infractions other than traffic violations. Annual arrest figures do not measure the number of individuals taken into custody because one person may be arrested several times during the year for the same type of offense or for different offenses. A juvenile is counted as a person arrested when he/she commits an act that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult. Two offense categories, "curfew and loitering" and "runaway," are tabulated only for juveniles. Violations of local juvenile acts other than runaway and curfew and loitering law violations are included in the "all other offenses" classification (U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1984), p. 60).

Data in this table are estimates based on arrest statistics for all law enforcement agencies in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, including those submitting reports for less than 12 months in 2003 (Source, p. 494). Because of reporting problems, only limited arrest data were provided by Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada, and South Carolina and no arrest data were available from the District of Columbia. Twelve months of arrest data also were not available for New York City, some Florida law enforcement agencies, and the newly formed city-county law enforcement agency of Louisville, Kentucky. Arrest totals for these States, Louisville, New York City, and the District of Columbia were estimated by the Source for inclusion in the above table. Subsequent tables, displaying detailed breakdowns of persons arrested, contain limited or no data for these jurisdictions (Source, p. 484).

For definitions of offenses, see [Appendix 3](#).

^aData are based on all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas.

^bBecause of rounding, figures may not add to total. Total does not include suspicion.

^cViolent crimes are offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

^dProperty crimes are offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2003* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 2004), p. 270, Table 29.