

Table 4.20.2007

Offenses known to police and percent cleared by arrest<sup>a</sup>

By type of offense, United States, 1971-2007

	Total Crime Index <sup>b</sup>		Violent crime <sup>c</sup>		Property crime <sup>d</sup>	
	Offenses known to police	Percent cleared by arrest	Offenses known to police	Percent cleared by arrest	Offenses known to police	Percent cleared by arrest
1971	5,377,735	20.9%	473,126	46.5%	3,126,936	15.7%
1972	5,345,468	22.0	506,938	48.8	3,189,111	16.1
1973	6,412,766	21.2	685,982	45.2	5,726,784	18.3
1974	7,226,079	21.3	750,341	45.2	6,475,738	18.5
1975	8,198,613	21.0	797,688	44.7	7,400,925	18.5
1976	8,647,303	20.5	791,409	45.5	7,855,894	18.0
1977	8,007,135	21.0	773,328	45.8	7,233,807	18.3
1978	8,431,644	20.8	830,565	45.5	7,601,079	18.1
1979	9,143,082	19.8	914,576	43.7	8,228,506	17.1
1980	12,483,038	19.2	1,242,511	43.6	11,240,527	16.5
1981	12,715,894	19.5	1,275,135	42.9	11,440,759	16.9
1982	11,932,744	20.1	1,195,533	45.4	10,737,211	17.3
1983	11,403,141	20.6	1,166,888	46.5	10,236,253	17.7
1984	11,121,418	21.0	1,172,616	47.4	9,948,802	17.9
1985	11,762,540	20.9	1,240,134	47.6	10,522,406	17.8
1986	12,734,405	20.7	1,445,965	46.3	11,288,440	17.5
1987	12,502,268	20.9	1,354,012	47.4	11,148,256	17.7
1988	12,059,648	20.7	1,355,693	45.7	10,703,955	17.5
1989	12,124,462	21.1	1,364,705	45.8	10,759,757	18.0
1990	13,468,228	21.6	1,700,303	45.6	11,767,925	18.1
1991	13,334,099	21.2	1,682,487	44.7	11,651,612	17.8
1992	13,644,294	21.4	1,854,630	44.6	11,789,664	17.7
1993	12,863,631	21.1	1,772,279	44.2	11,091,352	17.4
1994	12,586,227	21.4	1,720,302	45.3	10,865,925	17.7
1995	11,859,129	21.2	1,531,703	45.4	10,327,426	17.6
1996	10,419,304	21.8	1,293,408	47.4	9,125,896	18.1
1997	10,928,483	21.6	1,343,642	48.3	9,584,841	17.9
1998	9,583,738	21.3	1,178,388	49.1	8,405,350	17.4
1999	9,659,727	21.4	1,164,380	50.0	8,495,347	17.5
2000	9,366,936	20.5	1,131,923	47.5	8,235,013	16.7
2001	8,884,332	19.6	1,024,134	46.2	7,860,198	16.2
2002	10,121,721	20.0	1,184,453	46.8	8,937,268	16.5
2003	X	X	1,126,180	46.5	8,728,536	16.4
2004	X	X	1,152,733	46.3	8,925,398	16.5
2005	X	X	1,197,089	45.5	8,935,714	16.3
2006	X	X	1,240,985	44.3	8,851,465	15.8
2007	X	X	1,227,330	44.5	8,716,315	16.5

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. 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.

An offense is "cleared by arrest" or solved for crime reporting purposes when at least one person is: (1) arrested; (2) charged with the commission of the offense; and (3) turned over to the court for prosecution. An offense is also counted as cleared by arrest if certain "exceptional" conditions pertain, including suicide of the offender; double murder; deathbed confession; offender killed by police or citizen; confession by offender already in custody; extradition denied; victim refuses to cooperate in prosecution; warrant is outstanding for felon but prior to arrest the offender dies of natural causes or as a result of an accident, or is killed in the commission of another offense; or, handling of a juvenile offender either orally or by written notice to parents in instances involving minor offenses where no referral to juvenile court is customarily made.

The number of agencies reporting and the populations represented vary from year to year. Due to National Incident-Based Reporting System conversion efforts beginning in 1991 as well as other reporting problems, complete arrest data were not available for a small number of jurisdictions for certain years. See [Appendix 3](#) for a list of jurisdictions omitted. This table presents data from all law enforcement agencies submitting complete reports for 12 months or fewer in 1971-80 and at least 6 months in 1981-2007. For definitions of offenses, see [Appendix 3](#).

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenses cleared by exceptional means.

<sup>b</sup>Beginning with publication of the 2003 UCR data, the Source discontinued use of the Total Crime Index. See [Appendix 3](#) for more information.

<sup>c</sup>Violent crimes are offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>d</sup>Property crimes are offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Data are not included for the property crime of arson.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1971*, p. 104; *1972*, p. 107; *1973*, p. 109; *1974*, p. 166; *1975*, p. 166; *1976*, p. 162; *1977*, p. 162; *1978*, p. 177; *1979*, p. 179; *1980*, p. 182; *1981*, p. 153; *1982*, p. 158; *1983*, p. 161; *1984*, p. 154; *1985*, p. 156; *1986*, p. 156; *1987*, p. 155; *1988*, p. 159; *1989*, p. 163; *1990*, p. 165; *1991*, p. 204; *1992*, p. 208; *1993*, p. 208; *1994*, p. 208; *1995*, p. 199; *1996*, p. 205; *1997*, p. 213; *1998*, p. 201; *1999*, p. 203; *2000*, p. 207; *2001*, p. 222; *2002*, p. 223; *2003*, p. 257; *2004*, p. 266 (Washington, DC: USGPO); *2005*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table\\_25.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_25.html) [Oct. 12, 2006]; *2006*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table\\_25.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table_25.html) [Oct. 27, 2007]; *2007*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table\\_25.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_25.html) [Jan. 15, 2009]. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.