

Table 4.21.2007

Percent of offenses known to police that were cleared by arrest^a

By extent of urbanization and type of offense, 1972-2007

	Cities			Suburban ^b			Rural (nonmetropolitan) counties		
	Total Crime Index ^c	Violent crime ^d	Property crime ^e	Total Crime Index ^c	Violent crime ^d	Property crime ^e	Total Crime Index ^c	Violent crime ^d	Property crime ^e
1972	20.6%	48.8%	16.1%	17.2%	50.3%	14.0%	25.2%	70.2%	20.1%
1973	21.2	45.2	18.3	19.2	51.2	17.0	23.5	69.5	19.3
1974	21.3	45.2	18.5	19.5	50.0	17.3	24.0	69.7	19.7
1975	21.0	44.7	18.5	19.7	50.0	17.6	23.6	70.1	19.4
1976	20.5	45.5	18.0	19.1	51.3	16.9	22.7	69.5	18.7
1977	21.0	45.8	18.3	19.3	50.9	16.9	23.1	69.2	18.8
1978	20.8	45.5	18.1	19.4	49.9	17.0	22.7	67.9	18.4
1979	19.8	43.7	17.1	19.0	49.3	16.6	22.8	67.0	18.8
1980	19.2	41.7	16.6	18.6	48.4	16.2	20.5	64.9	16.7
1981	19.5	40.9	17.0	19.4	48.7	17.0	20.7	63.8	17.0
1982	20.0	43.5	17.3	20.4	50.9	17.8	22.1	66.4	18.1
1983	20.5	44.5	17.7	21.1	52.3	18.4	22.1	66.9	18.0
1984	21.0	45.5	18.0	21.7	53.8	18.8	22.3	65.7	18.1
1985	20.9	45.7	17.9	21.1	53.2	18.2	22.9	67.0	18.4
1986	20.7	44.6	17.5	21.1	51.7	18.3	22.0	63.9	17.7
1987	21.0	46.0	17.9	21.2	51.3	18.4	21.6	61.8	17.6
1988	20.7	44.2	17.7	21.2	51.7	18.4	21.9	63.5	17.8
1989	21.3	44.4	18.2	21.4	51.3	18.7	22.2	61.7	18.2
1990	21.7	43.9	18.3	21.8	51.7	18.7	22.3	61.3	18.1
1991	21.3	42.9	18.1	21.7	51.2	18.6	22.9	63.0	18.6
1992	21.5	43.1	18.0	21.9	51.1	18.6	23.0	60.7	18.4
1993	21.2	42.5	17.6	21.7	51.0	18.3	22.9	60.7	18.3
1994	21.5	43.5	17.8	22.0	52.5	18.5	23.6	60.9	18.7
1995	21.1	43.5	17.7	22.1	52.7	18.6	23.2	60.9	18.6
1996	21.8	45.9	18.3	22.3	53.7	19.1	24.3	62.3	19.8
1997	21.4	46.2	17.9	22.5	54.5	18.9	23.9	62.2	19.2
1998	21.3	47.7	17.5	21.9	54.5	18.4	23.4	60.2	18.7
1999	21.4	48.3	17.6	22.0	54.4	18.4	23.4	61.4	18.4
2000	20.2	45.4	16.8	21.6	53.8	17.9	23.7	61.3	18.7
2001	19.4	44.0	16.2	20.5	53.5	17.2	23.0	62.0	18.1
2002	19.7	44.5	16.4	21.3	53.4	17.8	23.2	61.4	18.3
2003	X	44.7	16.3	X	51.4	17.4	X	59.9	17.8
2004	X	43.7	16.4	X	53.3	17.9	X	60.6	17.8
2005	X	42.9	16.2	X	52.9	17.4	X	61.6	18.0
2006	X	42.0	15.7	X	50.9	16.8	X	59.3	16.8
2007	X	42.5	16.6	X	50.6	17.6	X	57.4	17.1

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. Beginning with publication of the 2003 data, the "rural" county designation was changed to "nonmetropolitan" county. For definitions of offenses, city and suburban areas, and nonmetropolitan counties, see Appendix 3.

^aIncludes offenses cleared by exceptional means.

^bIncludes law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area; excludes all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also will appear in other groups within this table.

^cBeginning with publication of the 2003 UCR data, the Source discontinued use of the Total Crime Index. See Appendix 3 for more information.

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

^eProperty 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, 1972*, pp. 107, 108; *1973*, pp. 109, 110; *1974*, pp. 166, 167; *1975*, pp. 166, 167; *1976*, pp. 162, 163; *1977*, pp. 162, 163; *1978*, pp. 177, 178; *1979*, pp. 179, 180; *1980*, pp. 182, 183; *1981*, pp. 153, 154; *1982*, pp. 158, 159; *1983*, pp. 161, 162; *1984*, pp. 154, 155; *1985*, pp. 156, 157; *1986*, pp. 156, 157; *1987*, pp. 155, 156; *1988*, pp. 159, 160; *1989*, pp. 163, 164; *1990*, pp. 165, 166; *1991*, pp. 204, 205; *1992*, pp. 208, 209; *1993*, pp. 208, 209; *1994*, pp. 208, 209; *1995*, pp. 199, 200; *1996*, pp. 205, 206; *1997*, pp. 213, 214; *1998*, pp. 201, 202; *1999*, pp. 203, 204; *2000*, pp. 207, 208; *2001*, pp. 222, 223; *2002*, pp. 223, 224; *2003*, pp. 257, 258; *2004*, pp. 266, 267 (Washington, DC: USGPO); *2005*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: 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 [Oct. 25, 2007]; *2007*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_25.html [Jan. 15, 2009]. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.