

Table 4.21.2010

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

By extent of urbanization and type of offense, 1972-2010

	Cities		Suburban ^b		Rural (nonmetropolitan) counties	
	Violent crime ^c	Property crime ^d	Violent crime ^c	Property crime ^d	Violent crime ^c	Property crime ^d
	1972	48.8%	16.1%	50.3%	14.0%	70.2%
1973	45.2	18.3	51.2	17.0	69.5	19.3
1974	45.2	18.5	50.0	17.3	69.7	19.7
1975	44.7	18.5	50.0	17.6	70.1	19.4
1976	45.5	18.0	51.3	16.9	69.5	18.7
1977	45.8	18.3	50.9	16.9	69.2	18.8
1978	45.5	18.1	49.9	17.0	67.9	18.4
1979	43.7	17.1	49.3	16.6	67.0	18.8
1980	41.7	16.6	48.4	16.2	64.9	16.7
1981	40.9	17.0	48.7	17.0	63.8	17.0
1982	43.5	17.3	50.9	17.8	66.4	18.1
1983	44.5	17.7	52.3	18.4	66.9	18.0
1984	45.5	18.0	53.8	18.8	65.7	18.1
1985	45.7	17.9	53.2	18.2	67.0	18.4
1986	44.6	17.5	51.7	18.3	63.9	17.7
1987	46.0	17.9	51.3	18.4	61.8	17.6
1988	44.2	17.7	51.7	18.4	63.5	17.8
1989	44.4	18.2	51.3	18.7	61.7	18.2
1990	43.9	18.3	51.7	18.7	61.3	18.1
1991	42.9	18.1	51.2	18.6	63.0	18.6
1992	43.1	18.0	51.1	18.6	60.7	18.4
1993	42.5	17.6	51.0	18.3	60.7	18.3
1994	43.5	17.8	52.5	18.5	60.9	18.7
1995	43.5	17.7	52.7	18.6	60.9	18.6
1996	45.9	18.3	53.7	19.1	62.3	19.8
1997	46.2	17.9	54.5	18.9	62.2	19.2
1998	47.7	17.5	54.5	18.4	60.2	18.7
1999	48.3	17.6	54.4	18.4	61.4	18.4
2000	45.4	16.8	53.8	17.9	61.3	18.7
2001	44.0	16.2	53.5	17.2	62.0	18.1
2002	44.5	16.4	53.4	17.8	61.4	18.3
2003	44.7	16.3	51.4	17.4	59.9	17.8
2004	43.7	16.4	53.3	17.9	60.6	17.8
2005	42.9	16.2	52.9	17.4	61.6	18.0
2006	42.0	15.7	50.9	16.8	59.3	16.8
2007	42.5	16.6	50.6	17.6	57.4	17.1
2008	43.1	17.6	51.1	18.6	57.7	17.9
2009	45.1	18.7	52.8	19.9	60.3	18.3
2010	45.3	18.4	52.6	19.6	61.1	18.2

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.

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

^dProperty 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://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2005/data/table_25.html [Oct. 12, 2006]; *2006*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table_25.html [Oct. 25, 2007]; *2007*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_25.html [Jan. 15, 2009]; *2008*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_25.html [Jan. 21, 2010]; *2009*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table_25.html [Nov. 12, 2010]; *2010*, Table 25 [Online]. Available: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10tbl25.xls> [Nov. 11, 2011]. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.