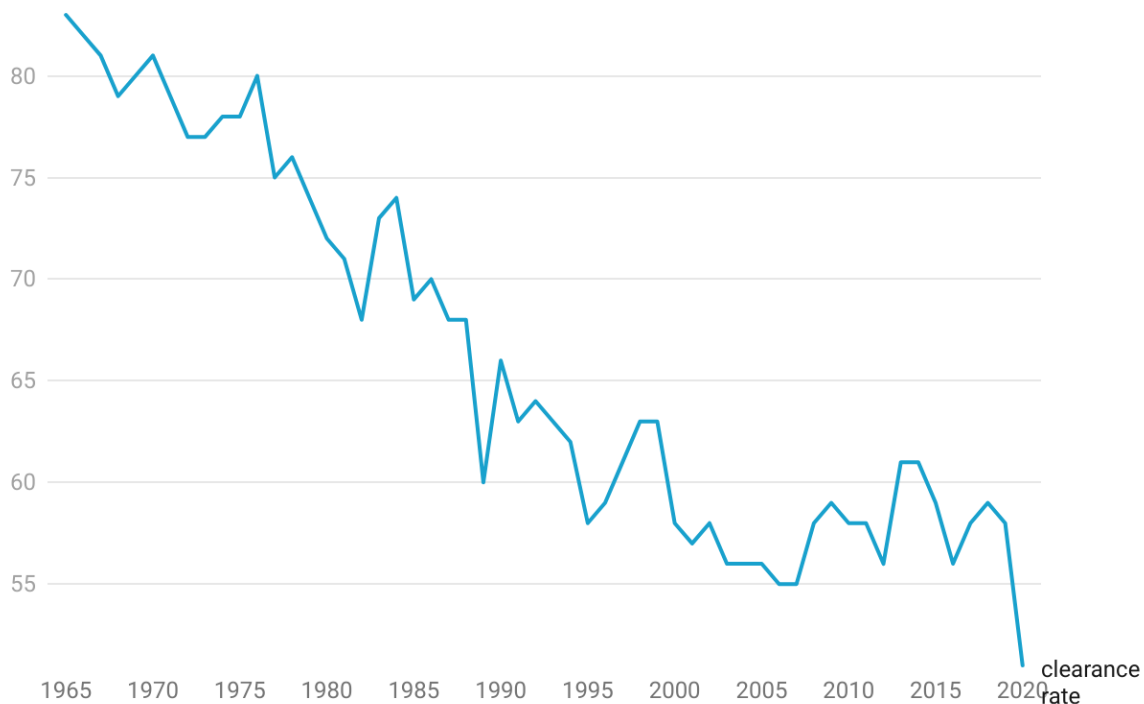


CBS Affiliate Summary of Clearance Rate Project

National data

According to data from the FBI's uniform crime reporting system, the murder clearance in 2020 was just over 50% -- the lowest it's been since 1965. Back then, police departments reported clearance rates of 80 percent or more, but in recent years it's fallen significantly.

National Clearance Rate, 1965-present



Local data

We localized this analysis to get data for each state. Policing has changed a lot since the 1960s, so we limited our analysis to more recent years: 1995 onward. In the Excel spreadsheet titled "state_clearance_rate_data.xlsx," you'll find a comparison of every state's clearance rate for the most recent year, 2020, as well as annual breakdowns of each state's clearance rates for all of those years.

Use the tabs at the bottom of the screen to see the annual data for your state:

	63%								
	66%								
2020 comparison	AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DC	DE

FAQs

What is a "clearance rate?"

A clearance rate is a measure of a police department's ability to solve cases. It's measured by dividing the number of cases that were solved in a given year by the number of murders that occurred in that same year. The cases solved could have occurred that year or in years prior, but they always get counted in the year that they were solved.

For example: In 2020, there were 19,719 homicides reported to the FBI by the agencies in our data, and 10,114 cases cleared. Some of those cleared murders happened in 2020, and some happened in years prior, but they still get counted in 2020. By that method, the clearance rate nationally is about 52%.

Where's my state?

Some states didn't have enough data to calculate a clearance rate. Some police departments, such as Chicago and New York City, for example, don't report data to the FBI on homicide clearances at all. Many more report data inconsistently, i.e., one year reporting data, the next year reporting none. We removed those agencies from this analysis to ensure the data is consistent. For some states, that means there is no reliable data available.

Why does my state have missing data?

Some states with extremely low murder rates, such as Rhode Island, had a few years when not enough agencies reported consistent homicide data, and therefore are missing data for those years.

Why is the clearance rate over 100%?

Because the clearance rate is calculated using *all* cases cleared in a given year, not just the ones that *occurred in that year*, the clearance rate can be over 100% for some years.