Data Dictionaries for Standardized Federal Data

This document describes three datasets created by The Trace and BuzzFeed News for the purposes of analyzing FBI crime data in a standardized fashion. More details about the process of creating datasets can be found in the methodology linked from this project's repository.

reta-annual-counts.csv

Annual offense and clearance counts for murder and aggravated assault from the FBI's Return A data.

Column Name	Description	Example Values
agency_ori_7	The agency's FBI-assigned Originating Agency Identification (ORI) number. In this case, the 7-digit version, as recorded in Return A.	AK00101, AK00102, AK00103, [...]
year	The year corresponding to the counts in this row.	1960, 1961, 1962, [...], 2017
offense	The type of offense corresponding to the counts in the row. (See definitions below.)	murder, assault_gun, assault_hands, [...]
actual	The number of "actual" offenses reported to the agency in the given year. (Excludes "unfounded" offenses.) Calculated by summing monthly totals.	0, 36, 146, [...]
cleared	The number of offenses cleared (by arrest or "exceptional means") by the agency in the given year. Calculated by summing monthly totals.	0, 21, 103, [...]

Offenses included:

Offense Abbrev.	FBI Description
murder	"Murder"
assault_gun	"Assault With a Gun"
assault_total	"Assault Total"
assault_knife	"Assault With a Knife"
assault_othweap	"Assault - Other Weapon"
assault_hands	"Assault With Hands, Feet, etc."
assault_simple	"Simple Assault"

shr-victims.csv

Victim-level data from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report.

Column Name	Description	Example Values
victim_uid	An identifier that is unique, throughout the dataset, to this row, which represents one victim in one incident. Created by combining the `incident_uid` with the victim's sequence number (1 for the first victim, 2, for the second, etc.).	SC00201|17|11|001-1, SC00201|17|11|001-2, SC00800|17|03|001-1, [...]
incident_uid	An identifier that is unique, throughout the dataset, to this particular incident (which may involve multiple victims). Created by combining `agency_ori_7`, the two-digit year, the two-digit month, and (as designated in the raw SHR data) the incident sequence within the month.	KS08703|17|01|002, SC00201|17|11|001, KS08703|17|11|005, [...]
year	The year the incident occurred.	1980, 1981, [...], 2017
month	The month the incident occurred.	1, 2, 3, [...], 12
agency_ori_7	The agency's FBI-assigned Originating Agency Identification (ORI) number. In this case, the 7-digit version, as recorded in Return A.	AK00101, AK00102, AK00103, [...]
top_offense_code	The NIBRS code for the victim's death. One of three values: 09A, 09B, 09C. See "NIBRS Offense Codes" below for descriptions. Based on a combination of SHR's "type of offense" (to identify negligent manslaughter) and offender "circumstance" fields (to identify incidents involving justifiable homicides).	09A, 09B, 09C
offender_age_known	Whether the SHR data for this incident includes any of the offenders' ages.	Either 0 or 1.
firearm_ind	Whether any of the weapons listed in the incident were a firearm (e.g., gun, rifle, shotgun, etc.).	Either 0 or 1.
domestic_violence_ind	Whether any of the recorded relationships between the first victim and any of the offenders (e.g., "Husband," "Ex-Wife," "Boyfriend") indicate domestic violence. (Note: SHR does not include relationships between the offenders and any other victims other than the first-listed victim.)	Either 0 or 1.
family_violence_ind	Whether any of the recorded relationships between the first victim and any of the offenders	Either 0 or 1.

	(e.g., "Husband," "Brother," "Daughter") indicate family violence. (Note: SHR does not include relationships between the offenders and any other victims other than the first-listed victim.)	
circumstance_main	The first-listed circumstance type for the first offender in the incident.	Robbery; Brawl due to influence of narcotics; Circumstances undetermined [...]
victim_age	The victim's listed age.	00, 01, 02, [...]. Also includes "NB", "BB", and a few apparent typos.
victim_sex	The victim's listed sex. • F ("Female") • M ("Male") • U ("Unknown")	F, M, U
victim_race	The victim's listed race. • A ("Asian") • B ("Black or African American") • I ("American Indian or Alaska Native") • U ("Unknown") • W ("White")	A, B, I, U, W
victim_ethnicity	The victim's listed ethnicity. • H ("Hispanic or Latino") • N ("Not Hispanic or Latino") • U ("Unknown or not reported") • [blank]	H, N, U, [blank]

nibrs-victims.csv

Victim-level data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Column Name	Description	Example Values
victim_uid	An identifier that is unique, throughout the dataset, to this row, which represents one victim in one incident. Created by combining the `incident_uid` with the victim's sequence number (1 for the first victim, 2, for the second, etc.).	VA0370000|1996|Z63 BRW5HPU72-1, MI8234900|2007|130 GQMHO9J1H-1, MI8234900|2015|M1-1 VSQ9G89-1, [...]
incident_uid	An identifier that is unique, throughout the dataset, to this particular incident (which may involve multiple victims). Created by combining `agency_ori_9,` the four-digit year, and the incident ID listed in the raw data.	VA0370000|1996|Z63 BRW5HPU72, MI8234900|2007|130 GQMHO9J1H, MI8234900|2015|M1-1 VSQ9G89 [...]
occurred_date	The date the incident occurred, formatted as YYYYMMDD.	19960621, 20070926, 20151113, [...]
year	The year the incident occurred.	1980, 1981, [...], 2017
month	The month the incident occurred.	1, 2, 3, [...], 12
agency_ori_9	The agency's FBI-assigned Originating Agency Identification (ORI) number. In this case, the 9-digit version, as recorded in Return A.	AK00101, AK00102, AK00103, [...]
top_offense_code	The offense code for the top offense for this victim, based on the FBI's "Hierarchy Rule", which places the top offenses in the following order: homicide, sexual offenses, robbery, and then aggravated assault. See "NIBRS Offense Codes" below for descriptions.	09A, 09B, 09C, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 120, 13A
primary_weapon_category	The first-listed weapon for the offense, categorized into a few major groups. (Offenses can be associated with multiple weapons.) See below for classifications.	firearm, knife, contact, other, missing
firearm_ind	Whether any of the weapons listed in the incident were a firearm (e.g., gun, rifle, shotgun, etc.).	Either 0 or 1.
domestic_violence_ind	Whether any of the recorded relationships between the victim and any of the offenders (e.g., "Spouse," "Ex-Spouse," "Boyfriend/Girlfriend") indicate domestic violence.	Either 0 or 1.

family_violence_ind	Whether any of the recorded relationships between the victim and any of the offenders (e.g., "Spouse," "Parent," "Stepchild") indicate family violence.	Either 0 or 1.
circumstance_1	The code listed in the "Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circumstances 1" field. See the official NIBRS codebook for translations.	1, 2, 3, [...], 34
circumstance_2	The code listed in the "Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circumstances 2" field. See the official NIBRS codebook for translations.	1, 2, 3, [...], 34
location_home_ind	Whether the value for the "Location Type" field is "Residence/Home".	Either 0 or 1.
victim_age	The victim's listed age.	00, 01, 02, [...]. Also includes "NN" (under 24 hours old), "NB" (1-6 days old), and "BB" (7-364).
victim_sex	The victim's listed sex. • F ("Female") • M ("Male") • U ("Unknown")	F, M, U
victim_race	The victim's listed race. • A ("Asian") • B ("Black or African American") • I ("American Indian or Alaska Native") • P ("Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander") • U ("Unknown") • W ("White")	A, B, I, P, U, W
victim_ethnicity	The victim's listed ethnicity. • H ("Hispanic or Latino") • N ("Not Hispanic or Latino") • U ("Unknown or not reported") • [blank]	H, N, U, [blank]
victim_officer_ind	Whether the "type of victim" is listed as "Law Enforcement Officer".	Either 0 or 1.
victim_injury_category	A classification, based on the five "type injury" fields, of the most serious injury listed. See below for classifications.	major, minor, none, missing
victim_count	The total number of victims (regardless of offense type) for this particular incident.	1, 2, 3, [...], 141

arrest_date	The first arrest date (if any) listed in the NIBRS arrests table for the given incident, formatted as YYYYMMDD.	20071212, 20111130, 20151104
exc_clearance_date	The date of exceptional clearance (if any) listed in for the given incident, based on the "Exceptional Clearance Date" in the NIBRS incident table, and formatted as YYYYMMDD.	
arrest_ind	Whether there is an arrest for this incident in the NIBRS arrests table.	Either 0 or 1.
exc_clearance_ind	Whether there is an exceptional clearance listed for this incident.	Either 0 or 1.
clearance_ind	Whether there is an arrest or exceptional clearance for this incident.	Either 0 or 1.

Offenses included:

Offense Code	FBI Description
09A	Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter
09B	Negligent Manslaughter
09C	Justifiable Homicide
11A	Rape
11B	Sodomy
11C	Sexual Assault With An Object
11D	Fondling (Indecent Liberties/Child Molesting)
120	Robbery
13A	Aggravated Assault

Weapon classifications:

NIBRS Weapon	Classification
11 - Firearm (type not stated)	firearm
11A - Firearm (type not stated), automatic	firearm

12 - Handgun	firearm
12A - Handgun, automatic	firearm
13 - Rifle	firearm
13A - Rifle, automatic	firearm
14 - Shotgun	firearm
14A - Shotgun, automatic	firearm
15 - Other Firearm	firearm
15A - Other Firearm, automatic	firearm
20 - Knife/Cutting Instrument (ice pick, screwdriver, ax, etc.)	knife
30 - Blunt Object (club, hammer, etc.)	contact
35 - Motor Vehicle	other
40 - Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth, etc.)	contact
50 - Poison	other
60 - Explosives	other
65 - Fire/Incendiary Device	other
70 - Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	other
85 - Asphyxiation (by drowning, strangulation, suffocation, gas, etc.)	contact
90 - Other	other
95 - Unknown	missing
99 - None	missing

Injury classifications:

NIBRS Injury Type	**Classification**
Unconsciousness	Major
Apparent Broken Bones	Major
Severe Laceration	Major
Loss of Teeth	Major
Possible Internal Injury	Major
Other Major Injury	Major

Apparent Minor Injury	Minor
None	None
[All fields blank]	Missing