



Data Declaration

Table 6

Crime in the United States, by Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2008

The FBI collects these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

General comments

- This table provides crime data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and their estimated populations, the counties included in each MSA, and estimated populations for principal cities in MSAs. The table also includes the rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) of offenses for each MSA and the estimated and actual offense totals.
- This table provides crime statistics for the Metropolitan Divisions (MDs), which are subdivisions of MSAs that have a core population of at least 2.5 million people. The table also includes the rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) of offenses for each MD and estimated and actual offense totals.
- The UCR Program does not have sufficient data to estimate for arson.

Caution against ranking

Any comparisons of crime among different locales should take into consideration relevant factors in addition to the area's crime statistics. Variables Affecting Crime provides more details concerning the proper use of UCR statistics.

Methodology

- The data used in creating this table were from all law enforcement agencies in the UCR Program (including those submitting less than 12 months of data).
- Crime statistics include estimated offense totals (except arson) for agencies submitting less than 12 months of offense reports for each year.

- This table includes all currently designated MSAs in which at least 75 percent of the agencies within the MSA reported data to the UCR Program and for which the principal city/cities submitted 12 months of complete data for 2008.
- The statistics under the heading “Total area actually reporting” represent offense totals for agencies submitting 12 months of data and estimated totals for agencies submitting less than 12 but more than 2 months of data.
- The statistics under the heading “Estimated total” represent the above “Total area actually reporting” plus estimated totals for agencies submitting 2 months or less of data.

Population estimation

For the 2008 population estimates used in this table, the FBI computed individual rates of growth from one year to the next for every city/town and county using 2000 decennial population counts and 2001 through 2007 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Each agency's rates of growth were averaged; that average was then applied and added to its 2007 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2008 population estimate.

If you have questions about this table

Contact the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division via e-mail at cjis_comm@leo.gov or by telephone at (304) 625-4995.