Data Declaration

Table 15

Crime Trends, Additional Information About Selected Offenses by Population Group, 2017–2018

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

Important note about rape data

In 2013, the FBI's UCR Program initiated the collection of rape data under a revised definition within the Summary Reporting System. The term "forcible" was removed from the offense name, and the definition was changed to "Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim."

In 2016, the FBI Director approved the recommendation to discontinue the reporting of rape data using the UCR legacy definition beginning in 2017.

General comments

- This 2-year trend table provides the 2017 and 2018 breakdowns (such as attempts, weapons, types of entry, and property types for the offenses of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson) and the percent change between these 2 years.

- Suburban areas include law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

- Suburban areas exclude all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also appear in other groups within this table.

Methodology

- The data used in creating this table were from all law enforcement agencies submitting at least 6 common months of complete offense reports with breakdowns for 2017 and 2018. If the FBI determines certain variables have created unusual fluctuations in the data, those data are excluded from the tabulations.

- A crime trend represents the percentage change in crime based on data reported in a prior equivalent period. In calculating trends, the UCR Program includes only common reported months for individual agencies.

- The rape data reported by those agencies using the UCR legacy definition for either 2017, 2018, or both years are not included. This includes 348 agencies covering a total population of 9,831,110 for Table 15.

- The percent changes shown for the offense of rape are based on data from those agencies that submitted rape data according to the UCR revised definition for both 2017 and 2018 as well as converted data from agencies that reported data for rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object via the NIBRS for both years.

- The following table provides the actual number of reporting agencies and populations covered for rape.

Populations used to calculate rape trends by Population Group, 2018		
	Agencies using the revised UCR rape definition	
Population Group	**Agency count**	**Population**
Total all agencies	14,467	290,391,257
Total Cities	10,428	198,445,461

I (250,000 inhabitants and more)	81	58,685,591
Ia (1,000,000 and over)	10	25,167,857
Ib (500,000 to 999,999)	25	17,805,452
Ic (250,000 to 499,000)	46	15,712,282
II (100,000 to 249,999 inhabitants)	212	31,321,876
III (50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants)	464	32,436,082
IV (25,000 to 49,999 inhabitants)	812	28,217,088
V (10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants)	1,659	26,426,540
VI (Less than 10,000 inhabitants)	7,200	21,358,284
IX (Metropolitan County)	1,846	69,643,476
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County)[1]	2,193	22,302,320
Suburban Area[2]	7,939	125,105,339

[1]Includes state police agencies that report aggregately for the entire state.

[2]Suburban areas include law enforcement agencies in cities with less than 50,000 inhabitants and county law enforcement agencies that are within a Metropolitan Statistical Area. Suburban areas exclude all metropolitan agencies associated with a principal city. The agencies associated with suburban areas also appear in other groups within this table.

Population groups

The UCR Program uses the following population group designations:

Population Group	Political Label	Population Range
I	City	250,000 and more
II	City	100,000 to 249,999
III	City	50,000 to 99,999
IV	City	25,000 to 49,999
V	City	10,000 to 24,999
VI[1,2]	City	Less than 10,000
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County) [2]	County	N/A
IX (Metropolitan County) [2]	County	N/A

[1]Includes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

[2]Includes state police to which no population is attributed.

Population estimation

For the 2018 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 2010 decennial population counts and 2011 through 2017 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 2017 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2018 population estimate.