Data Declaration

Table 2

Crime in the United States, by Community Type, 2019

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 table provides the estimated number of offenses and the rate of crime per 100,000 inhabitants for the nation.

- This table provides the estimated number of offenses and the actual number of offenses reported in Metropolitan Statistical Areas, cities outside metropolitan areas, and nonmetropolitan counties, and the rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) for each community type, and their estimated populations.

- Violent crime includes the offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape (revised definition), robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

- The UCR Program does not have sufficient data to estimate for arson.

Methodology

- The data used in creating this table were from all law enforcement agencies participating in the UCR Program (including those submitting less than 12 months of data).

- Crime statistics for the nation and for community types include estimated offense totals (except arson) for agencies submitting less than 12 months of offense reports for each year.

- The statistics under the heading "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 "Area actually reporting" totals plus estimated totals for agencies submitting 2 months or less of data.

- The FBI derives national statistics for community types by using the community type estimates for individual states as shown in Table 5.

Offense estimation

These tables contain statistics for the entire United States. Because not all law enforcement agencies provide data for complete reporting periods, the FBI includes estimated crime numbers in these presentations. The FBI computes estimates for participating agencies that do not provide 12 months of complete data. For agencies supplying 3 to 11 months of data, the national UCR Program estimates for the missing data by following a standard estimation procedure using the data provided by the agency. If an agency has supplied less than 3 months of data, the FBI computes estimates by using the known crime figures of similar areas within a state and assigning the same proportion of crime volumes to nonreporting agencies. The estimation process considers the following: population size covered by the agency; type of jurisdiction, e.g., police department versus sheriff's office; and geographic location.

In response to various circumstances, the FBI has estimated offense totals for some states. For example, problems at the state level (e.g., noncompliance with UCR

guidelines, technological difficulties) have, at times, resulted in data that cannot be used for publication and estimation was necessary. Also, efforts by an agency to convert to the National Incident-Based Reporting System have contributed to the need for unique estimation procedures.

A summary of state-specific and offense-specific estimation procedures is available in the "Estimation of state-level data" section of the Methodology.

Population estimation

For the 2019 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 2018 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 2018 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2019 population estimate.