

Violent Crimes Committed Against Senior Citizens

Data Set Overview and History

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on the number of Violent Crimes Committed Against Senior Citizens (VCASC). The VCASC data is collected from various Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) throughout the State on a monthly basis. The data set provides summary statistical data on the total number persons 60 years of age or older who were victims of homicide, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault.

Statutory Authority

DOJ has the statutory authority to collect VCASC data pursuant to Penal Code sections 13010-13012 and 13020-13021.

Data Characteristics and Known Limitations

1. An aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, such as broken bones, internal injuries, or cuts requiring stitches.
2. In 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program revised the definition of "forcible rape" (the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will) to "rape" and defined as "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." The California Department of Justice implemented this definition change in January 2014, leading to an increase in reported rapes.
3. In 2016, the FBI Director informed all state Statistical Analysis Centers that the FBI UCR program would be transitioning to a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)-only data collection by January 1, 2021. The California DOJ embarked on a five year effort to develop and implement a new state repository, the California Incident-Based Reporting System (CIBRS), to house the new FBI statistical reporting format. The CIBRS repository is a combination of the federal NIBRS requirements with additional California specific data elements. The California DOJ began collecting data in CIBRS in 2021. However, not all California law enforcement agencies (LEAs) have transitioned.

The data, starting in 2021, are a combination of both the summary and incident-based reporting (IBR) formats. There is an established method for converting IBR data into summary data for comparison and trending purposes. In order to present the most comprehensive and complete picture of crime, the summary and IBR data were combined and are presented in the summary format.

4. Definitional differences exist between summary and IBR reporting. The IBR collection has built-in validations that prohibit the reporting of rape offenses where the victim and offenders' sex is the same.

Data Elements and Values Defined

Cell Location	Data Element	Description/Definition	Value
A	YEAR	The Year the data was reported for.	A four digit number (YYYY)
B	COUNTY	County of reporting agency.	Numeric (01-58)
C	NCIC_AGENCY_CODE	The number for the reporting Agency.	Four digit alpha-numeric (0100-5899)
D	MONTH	The Month the data was reported for.	Numeric (1-12)
E	SUB_HOMICIDE	The total number of homicides committed against senior citizens.	Numerical count
F	SUB_RAPE	The total number of rapes committed against senior citizens.	Numerical count
G	SUB_ROBBERY	The total number of robberies committed against senior citizens.	Numerical count
H	SUB_ASSAULT	The total number of aggravated assaults committed against senior citizens.	Numerical count