Data Declaration

Table 31

Number and Rate of Arrests by Population Group, 2017

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 Based 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 number of persons arrested and the arrest rate per 100,000 inhabitants for the eight UCR population groups (see below), U.S. cities collectively, and for the nation in 2017.

- These data represent the number of persons arrested; however, some persons may be arrested more than once during a year. Therefore, the statistics in this table could, in some cases, represent multiple arrests of the same person.

Methodology

- The data used in creating this table were from all law enforcement agencies submitting 12 months of arrest data for 2017.

- The FBI derived the arrest rates by first dividing the total aggregated arrests by the aggregated populations covered by contributing agencies and then multiplying the resulting figure by 100,000.

- The rape figures in this table are aggregate totals of data submitted using both the legacy and revised UCR definitions of rape.

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 2017 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 2016 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 2016 Census population estimate to derive the agency's 2017 population estimate.