



Aggravated Assault

Definition

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines aggravated assault as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. The UCR Program further specifies that this type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempted aggravated assault that involves the display of—or threat to use—a gun, knife, or other weapon is included in this crime category because serious personal injury would likely result if the assault were completed. When aggravated assault and larceny-theft occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery.

Overview

- In 2020, there were an estimated 921,505 aggravated assaults in the nation. The estimated number of aggravated assaults increased 12.1 percent when compared with the 2019 estimate and increased 22.5 percent when compared with the 2011 estimate. (See Tables 1 and 1A.)
- The estimated rate of aggravated assaults in 2020 was 279.7 per 100,000 inhabitants. From 2011 to 2020, the rate of aggravated assaults increased 15.8 percent. (See Tables 1 and 1A.)
- Of the aggravated assault offenses for which law enforcement provided expanded data in 2020, 34.9 percent were committed with firearms. Personal weapons, such as hands, fists, or feet, were used in 20.2 percent of aggravated assaults, and knives or cutting instruments were used in 16.4 percent. Other weapons were used in 28.5 percent of aggravated assaults. (Based on Table 19.)

Expanded data

Expanded offense data are the details of the various offenses that the UCR Program collects beyond the count of how many crimes law enforcement agencies report. These details may include the type of weapon used in a crime, type or value of items stolen, and

so forth. In addition, expanded data include trends (for example, 2-year comparisons) and rates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Expanded information regarding aggravated assault is available in the following tables:

Trends (2-year): Tables 12, 13, 14, and 15

Rates (per 100,000 inhabitants): Tables 16, 17, 18, and 19

Weapons: Tables 15, 19, and 22

Aggravated Assault Table, “Aggravated Assault, Types of Weapons Used, Percent Distribution by Region, 2020”