



## Arrests

### *Definition*

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program counts one arrest for each separate instance in which a person is arrested, cited, or summoned for an offense. The UCR Program collects arrest data on 28 offenses, as described in Offense Definitions. (Please note that, as of 2010, the UCR Program no longer collects data on runaways.) Because a person may be arrested multiple times during a year, the UCR arrest figures do not reflect the number of individuals who have been arrested; rather, the arrest data show the number of times that persons are arrested, as reported by law enforcement agencies to the UCR Program.

### **Important note about rape data**

In 2013, the UCR Program initiated the collection of rape data under a revised definition and removed the term “forcible” from the offense name. The UCR Program now defines rape as follows:

Rape (revised definition): 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. (This includes the offenses of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object as converted from data submitted via the National Incident-Based Reporting System.)

Rape (legacy definition): The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.

For tables that present data for 2020 only or provide a 2- or 5-year trend, the rape figures are an aggregate total of the data submitted based on both the legacy and revised UCR definitions. For 10-year trend tables, the rape figures for the previous year (2011) are based on the legacy definition and the 2020 rape figures are an aggregate total based on both the legacy and revised definitions. For this reason, a percent change is not provided.

## ***Data collection—juveniles***

The UCR Program considers a juvenile to be an individual under 18 years of age regardless of state definition. The program does not collect data regarding police contact with a juvenile who has not committed an offense, nor does it collect data on situations in which police take a juvenile into custody for his or her protection, e.g., neglect cases.

### ***Overview***

- Nationwide, law enforcement made an estimated 7,632,473 arrests in 2020. Of these arrests, 482,408 were for violent crimes, and 871,370 were for property crimes. (Note: the UCR Program does not collect data on citations for traffic violations.) (See Table 29.)
- The highest number of arrests were for drug abuse violations (estimated at 1,155,610 arrests), driving under the influence (estimated at 778,906), and larceny-theft (estimated at 629,024). (See Table 29.)
- The estimated arrest rate for the United States in 2020 was 2,312.2 arrests per 100,000 inhabitants. The arrest rate for violent crime (including murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was 147.9 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the arrest rate for property crime (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) was 267.3 per 100,000 inhabitants. (See Table 30.)
- Two-year arrest trends show violent crime arrests decreased 4.1 percent in 2020 when compared with 2019 arrests, and property crime arrests decreased 21.0 percent when compared with 2019 arrests. (See Table 36.)
- Arrests of juveniles for all offenses decreased 36.7 percent in 2020 when compared with the 2019 number; arrests of adults decreased 21.2 percent. (See Table 36.)
- Nearly 74 percent (73.5) of the persons arrested in the nation during 2020 were males. They accounted for 79.2 percent of persons arrested for violent crime and 65.8 percent of persons arrested for property crime. (See Table 42.)

- In 2020, 70.0 percent of all persons arrested were White, 26.0 percent were Black or African American, and the remaining 4.0 percent were of other races. (See Table 43.)

### ***Expanded arrest data***

Expanded data about arrests include information about the age, gender, race, and ethnicity of the arrestees. These data are available in the following tables:

Age: Tables 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 46, 47, 50, 52, 53, 56, 58, 59, 62, 64, and 65

Gender: Tables 33, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57, 60, 63, and 66

Race and Ethnicity: Tables 43, 49, 55, 61, and 67