

Clearance Rate

For Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, a crime index offense is cleared when a law enforcement agency has identified the offender, there is enough evidence to charge him, and he is actually taken into custody. The arrest of one person can clear several crimes, or several persons may be arrested in the process of clearing one crime.

Crime solutions are also recorded in exceptional circumstances when some elements beyond law enforcement control precludes formal charges against the offender. An offense may be exceptionally cleared when it falls into one of the following categories:

1. The offender commits suicide.
2. A double murder occurs (two persons kill each other).
3. The offender dies after making a confession (dying declaration).
4. The offender is killed by law enforcement officers.
5. The offender confesses to committing a crime while already in custody for another crime or serving a sentence.
6. The offender is prosecuted in another city for a different crime by federal, state or local authorities, or for the same offense, and the other jurisdiction refuses to release the offender.
7. Another jurisdiction refuses to extradite the offender.
8. The victim of a crime refuses to cooperate in the prosecution.
9. The offender is prosecuted for a less serious charge than the one for which he was arrested.
10. The offender is a juvenile who is handled by a verbal or written notice to the parents in instances involving minor offenses such as petit or simple larceny.

During 1997, 29.3% of reported index crimes were cleared, either by arrest or exceptional means. The state clearance rate, slightly higher than the 27.6% rate for 1996, continues to be consistently higher than the national average of approximately 21.8%. The percentage of violent crimes cleared in 1997 was 59.9%, while the clearance rate for property crimes was 28.1%.

<i>Clearance Rate of Index Offenses, January–December 1997</i>			
Classification	Number of Offenses	Number Cleared	Percent Cleared
Murder	19	15	78.9%
Forcible Rape	276	113	40.9%
Robbery	258	111	43.0%
Aggravated Assault	954	664	69.6%
Burglary	8,152	1,753	21.5%
Larceny-Theft	27,449	8,065	29.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,642	636	38.7%
Arson	253	76	30.0%
Totals	39,003	11,433	29.3%

(Note: Offenses cleared do not necessarily relate to the actual offenses during the January–December period. Offenses can be cleared from prior periods.)

Analysis of Offenses Cleared — by Age of Offender(s)

