

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 2005, 28.1% of reported index crimes were cleared, either by arrest or exceptional means. The state clearance rate, lower than the 28.3% rate for 2004, continues to be consistently higher than the national average of approximately 16.9%. The percentage of violent crimes cleared in 2005 was 64.4%, while the clearance rate for property crimes was 26.4%.

<i>Clearance Rate of Index Offenses, January–December 2005</i>			
Classification	Number of Offenses	Number Cleared	Percent Cleared
Murder	19	18	94.7%
Forcible Rape	322	157	48.8%
Robbery	323	158	48.9%
Aggravated Assault	826	626	75.8%
Burglary	6,277	1,318	21.0%
Larceny-Theft	24,153	6,690	27.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,344	440	32.7%
Arson	177	N/A	—
Totals	33,441	9,407	28.1%

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

