

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.
11. Prosecution declined.

During 2009, 30.8% of reported index crimes were cleared, either by arrest or exceptional means. The state clearance rate, higher than the 29.6% rate for 2008, continues to be consistently higher than the national average of approximately 20.9% (2008 data). The percentage of violent crimes cleared in 2009 was 54.0%, while the clearance rate for property crimes was 29.7%.

Clearance Rate of Index Offenses, January–December 2009

Classification	Number of Offenses	Number Cleared	Percent Cleared
Murder	26	24	92.3%
Forcible Rape	374	147	39.3%
Robbery	398	147	36.9%
Aggravated Assault	742	514	69.3%
Burglary	6,711	1,498	22.3%
Larceny-Theft	23,900	7,529	31.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,018	353	34.7%
Arson	243	79	32.5%
Totals	33,412	10,291	30.8%

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

