

Cleveland Police Data Indicators

CRIMES in POLICE REPORTS AND ARRESTS MADE BY THE CLEVELAND POLICE

Note: 1998 Cleveland Police Data are unavailable due to a change in the reporting system.

Counts of criminal incidents, of victims, and of arrests are provided for several crime types. Crime types are based on the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports crime definitions. Violent and property crimes reported in NEO CANDO are based on Part I, or Index Crimes, as defined by the FBI. Other crime types fall into the FBI's Part II crimes.

The crime categories that appear in NEO CANDO include:

Violent crimes, which include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault;

Property crimes, which include burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft, and arson;

Illicit drug arrests, which include illicit drug possession, illicit drug trafficking, and other illicit drug violations;

Liquor law violation arrests;

Non-aggravated assaults (also called simple assaults);

Domestic violence assaults;

Part I crime and Part II crimes

Crimes in Police Reports

Crime data for violent crimes, property crimes, domestic violence assaults, and non-aggravated assaults are derived from the data on crimes in police reports.

Arrests

Crime data for drug law violations and liquor law violations are based on the number of arrests and **not** on crimes reported to the police.

We provide arrest information by age, race and gender for most crimes. There can be more than one person arrested for a crime.

Victims

We only provide victim information for the following crimes: homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, non-aggravated assaults (simple assaults), and domestic violence assaults. There may be more than one victim per crime, however, we currently only have victim information for one victim. Therefore, the counts of crimes should match the number of victims.

Suppression of arrest counts for homicides, violent crimes and Part I crimes

Beginning in 1999, we used Cuyahoga County Coroner data to determine the number of homicides. According to the police, the Coroner may have a more accurate count of the homicides in their system. Unlike the police the Coroner does not necessarily have the number of arrests for homicides they only have suspect information. Because we do not know from the Coroner's information if an actual arrest has been made, we could not report arrest information for homicides during these years. Therefore, we have put an "NA" in these fields. Because

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homicides are part of total violent crimes and Part I crimes, we had to suppress arrest counts for both violent crimes and Part I crimes.

I. Definitions

Violent Crime (Total violent crime includes four offenses: homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault).

Homicide consists of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, defined as the willful killing of one human being by another. Not included in the counts for this offense are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are classified as aggravated assaults.

Rape, or forcible rape, is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

Robbery is the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury.

Property Crime (Property crimes include the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The offenses involve the taking of money or property, with no force or threat of force against the victims).

Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force is not required to classify an offense as burglary.

Larceny-theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. No use of force, violence, or fraud occurs.

Auto theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, snowmobiles, etc.

Arson is defined as any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle, aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Illicit Drug Arrests

Illicit drugs consist of any illegal substance including marijuana, cocaine, heroin, etc. Alcohol is considered a licit drug.

Crimes of **possession** refer to incidents in which an individual is arrested for possessing, administering or using a substance illegally, e.g., possession of heroin.

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Crimes of **trafficking** refer to incidents related to the manufacture, distribution or sale of a substance illegally, e.g., growing marijuana, selling cocaine, selling alcohol to a minor, etc.

Other illicit drug crimes refer to cases in which a search warrant was issued regarding a drug-related incident, but the nature -- possession or trafficking -- was not specified.

Liquor law violation arrests

Liquor law violations include underage drinking, providing alcohol to minors, and violating terms of liquor permits.

Non-aggravated assaults

Domestic violence assaults include non-aggravated assaults that are considered domestic in nature. This would include such things as spousal abuse, parental abuse, and sibling abuse.

Non-aggravated assaults excluding domestic violence include non-aggravated assaults, menacing and aggravated menacing and intimidation.

Part I and Part II crimes

Part I crimes include the violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assaults) and property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft and arson).

Part II crimes include everything else such as non-aggravated assaults, forgery, fraud, embezzlement, receiving stolen property, vandalism, weapons violations, prostitution, drug violations, family offenses, disorderly conduct, kidnapping and all others.

Crime and arrest **rates** are defined as the number of crimes (arrests) divided by the population times 100,000. For example, the **total violent crime rate** is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Number of violent crimes reported to the police} \times 100,000}{\text{total population}}$$

LOCATION OF CRIMES, VICTIMS, AND ARRESTS

Neighborhood-level counts and rates of crimes and arrests are based on the location of the criminal incident. Incidents that occur within a neighborhood are tabulated to give that neighborhood's reported crime rate. The victim counts and characteristics associated with reported crimes are tabulations based on the location of the incident and not on the location of the victim's residence. Similarly, the location of arrests associated with criminal victimizations are based on the location of the criminal incident and not on the location of the arrest or on the location of the residence of the person arrested. The location of arrests associated with drug law violations, however, is based on the location of the arrest.

II. Precautions and Information regarding use of data

Rates per 100,000 are commonly used when reporting crime related indicators at the national and state levels.

The police data record criminal offense occurrences but not the corresponding judicial action. Therefore, because a person may have been arrested for a crime does not mean that he/she was convicted of that crime.

Police investigation subsequent to the reporting of a crime may indicate that a crime has been determined "unfounded." Unfounded crimes have been excluded.

Crime counts and rates may not exactly match those available from other published sources (e.g., Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reports). The crime data in NEO CANDO, those reported to the FBI, and others generally originate from the same underlying police records; however, not all are generated at the same time and are not necessarily processed and updated in the same manner. However, comparisons across data sources should be expected to yield similar totals.

Crimes reported in NEO CANDO represent the most serious crime committed during any given incident. If an individual committed more than one crime during a given incident, e.g., a murder and robbery, only the most serious crime -- in this case the murder -- is reported.

Beginning in 1999, more than one victim per incident was reported; however, we count only the first victim (primary victim) when reporting the victim characteristics. The number of victims will always equal the number of crimes -- this is consistent with previous years of data.

Crimes of rape and attempted rape both appear under the crime type labeled "Rape."

The domestic violence assaults include only non-aggravated assaults. Some of the Aggravated Assaults may be domestic in nature, but we are unable to determine this with certainty.

Vehicular and negligent homicides are excluded from the homicide tabulations.

Data acquired from the Cleveland Police Department indicate the "complainant" for each crime. It is assumed that this person is the victim of the crime; while this is true in most cases, it is not always the case. The complainant could also be someone reporting the crime for the victim.

Roughly 5-10% of the crime incidents that occurred in the city could not be successfully geocoded and assigned to the census tract in which it occurred. Therefore, the total number of violent crimes in the City of Cleveland, for example, may be larger than the sum of violent crimes occurring in each census tract.

Cases which geocoded outside the City of Cleveland are included in the City of Cleveland total. These cases are assigned to the Unknown category for the other geographies.

When comparing Cleveland's violence indicators to those of other municipalities in the state and nation, it is important to account for differences in population density,

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urbanization and other such factors in order to draw meaningful interpretations based on the differences in indicators.

The user should be cautioned about the reliability of rates in non-residential areas. For example, in an area such as Downtown Cleveland the number of people susceptible to victimization is likely greater than the actual residential population. Ideally, in an area such as Downtown, the average daily population including employees and visitors would be the best denominator to use. However, since we do not have this figure, we use the residential population. Therefore, the user must be cautioned when interpreting a crime rate in an area such as Downtown where the average daily population is much greater than the residential population.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We did not have a complete count of the homicides from the Cleveland Police Department after 1998. Therefore, we used data from the Cuyahoga County Coroner to obtain the number of homicides and the corresponding characteristics of victims and arrestees information.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Domestic violence is a complex and important issue facing our community. The laws surrounding domestic violence have changed dramatically during the past several years. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and concomitant laws within the State of Ohio have given domestic violence cases increased and deserved attention. One of the changes that the laws intended to bring about was to increase the reporting of domestic violence. And, over time, the data show that the number of reported domestic violence crimes has increased. However, these indicators of domestic violence do not enable data users to distinguish between increases in the incidence of the crimes and increases due to increased reporting of the crimes to police. An interpretation of the trends that concludes that there was an increase in the incidence of domestic violence assaults would not necessarily be correct. Alternatively, an interpretation that discounts the data completely as simply an increase in reporting would be equally wrong.

III. Data source and suggested citation

Source of Cleveland Police Data: Cleveland Police Department, Crime Analysis Unit

Update Schedule: Annually in March

Years Available: Earliest year available -- 1990

Geographic Coverage: City of Cleveland

Suggested Citation: NEO CANDO system, Center on Urban Poverty and Social Change, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University (<http://neocando.case.edu>).

IV. Links to related web sites

[The Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#)

[Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)

Information regarding Cleveland police indicators in NEO CANDO

[Uniform Crime Reports - County level data](#)

[Office of Criminal Justice Services, State of Ohio](#)

[City of Cleveland Police Department](#)

[Cuyahoga County Coroner](#)