



Aggravated Assault

Definition

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines aggravated assault as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. The Program further specifies that this type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempted aggravated assault that involves the display of—or threat to use—a gun, knife, or other weapon is included in this crime category because serious personal injury would likely result if the assault were completed. When aggravated assault and larceny-theft occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery.

Overview

- Nationwide during 2007, there were an estimated 855,856 aggravated assaults.
- The 2- and 10-year trends indicate that the estimated number of aggravated assaults in 2007 declined less than 1 percent (-0.6) when compared with the offense estimates from 2006 and declined 12.4 percent from the 1998 estimate.
- An examination of the 10-year trend data for the rate of aggravated assaults revealed that the rate in 2007 declined 21.5 percent when compared with the rate for 1998. (See Tables 1 and 1A.)
- The rate of aggravated assaults in the Nation was estimated at 283.8 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants in 2007.
- In 2007, 21.4 percent of the aggravated assaults for which law enforcement agencies provided expanded data involved a firearm. (Based on Table 19.)
- The use of firearms during aggravated assaults decreased 2.8 percent when 2007 data were compared with 2006 data. (See Table 15.)

Expanded aggravated assault data

Expanded offense data are the details of the various offenses that the Program collects beyond the count of how many crimes law enforcement agencies report. These details may include the type of weapons used in a crime, type or value of items stolen, and so forth. In addition, expanded data include trends (for example, 2-year comparisons) and rates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Expanded information regarding aggravated assault is available in the following tables:

- Trends (2-year): Tables 12, 13, 14, and 15
- Rates (per 100,000 inhabitants): Tables 16, 17, 18, and 19
- Weapons: Tables 15, 19, and 22
- Aggravated Assault Table, “Aggravated Assault, Types of Weapons Used, Percent Distribution by Region, 2007”

What you won't find on this page

- Information on simple assaults. Assaults that do not involve the use of a firearm, knife or cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapon and in which the victim did not sustain serious or aggravated injuries are reported as Other Assaults—Simple, Not Aggravated. These data are not included in the aggravated assault statistics. See arrests for information on other assaults.
- Clearance and arrest data for aggravated assault.