

Glossary of Terms

Adult - In Texas, an adult is a person 17 years of age or older.

Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means - For Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, an offense is cleared by arrest or solved when at least one person is arrested, charged with the commission of an offense and turned over to court for prosecution. In certain situations, police are not able to follow these three steps, and if the following four conditions can be met, the offense can be cleared exceptionally: (1) the investigation has definitely established the identity of the offender; (2) there is enough information to support an arrest, charge, and turning over to the court for prosecution; (3) the exact location of the offender is known so that he could be taken into custody; (4) there is some reason outside the police control that prevents the arresting, charging, and prosecuting of the offender.

Crime Index - The sum of seven index offenses used to measure the extent, fluctuation and distribution of a crime in a given geographical area. Crime classifications used in the Crime Index are: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft. While arson is also an index offense, it is not part of the Crime Index.

Crime Rate - The number of offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. To calculate a crime rate, divide the population by 100,000 and then divide the number of offenses by that answer. The crime rate is useful in determining the relative frequency of crime without regard to fluctuations in population.

Index Crime - A crime for which reports of offenses committed are collected. Index crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Juvenile - In Texas, a juvenile is a person 16 years of age or under.

Non-Violent Crime - Property crimes; the index offenses of burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

Personal Weapon - The use of hands, feet, fists and teeth as a weapon to commit a crime; also termed strong-arm weapon.

Strong-Arm Weapons - The use of hands, feet, fists and teeth as a weapon to commit a crime; also termed personal weapon.

Violent Crime - Consists of the Index Offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assaults. Also referred to as crimes against persons.