



## **Violent Crime**

### ***Definition***

In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes are defined in the UCR Program as those offenses which involve force or threat of force.

### ***Data collection***

The data presented in *Crime in the United States* reflect the Hierarchy Rule, which requires that only the most serious offense in a multiple-offense criminal incident be counted. The descending order of UCR violent crimes are: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

### ***Overview***

- Nationwide, an estimated 1,408,337 violent crimes occurred in 2007.
- There were an estimated 466.9 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants.
- When data for 2007 were compared with 2006 data, the estimated volume of violent crime declined 0.7 percent.
- Aggravated assault accounted for 60.8 percent of violent crimes, the highest number of violent crimes reported to law enforcement. Robbery comprised 31.6 percent and forcible rape accounted for 6.4 percent. Murder accounted for 1.2 percent of estimated violent crimes in 2007.
- In 2007, offenders used firearms in 68.0 percent of the Nation's murders, 42.8 percent of robberies, and 21.4 percent of aggravated assaults. (Weapon data are not collected for forcible rape offenses.) (Based on Robbery Table 3, Aggravated Assault Table, and Expanded Homicide Data Table 6.)

### ***What you won't find on this page:***

Clearance and arrest data for violent crime.