



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FOR RELEASE
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Serious crime in the United States increased 11 percent in 1969 when compared with 1968 according to figures made available today through the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports and released by Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said all Crime Index offenses registered increases in volume. Crimes of violence were up 11 percent, led by forcible rape up 16 percent, robbery 13 percent, aggravated assault 9 percent, and murder 7 percent. The crimes against property rose 11 percent as a group. Individually, larceny \$50 and over in value rose 21 percent, auto theft 12 percent, and burglary was up 5 percent.

Mr. Hoover stated crime increases were reported by all city population groups. Large core cities 250,000 and above in population noted an overall increase of 9 percent in volume. The suburban areas recorded an increase of 13 percent, while the rural areas were up 11 percent.

The crime increases, according to Mr. Hoover, were constant throughout the United States. The North Central States recorded an increase of 15 percent, the Western States 12 percent, the Southern States 11 percent, while the densely populated Northeastern States recorded an average increase of 7 percent.

The FBI Director noted that the violent crime of armed robbery experienced an upswing of 16 percent and armed robbery made up 61 percent of all robbery offenses. Street robbery made up over one-half of all robbery offenses and rose 15 percent. Street larcenies recorded a 12 percent rise over 1968 and made up 61 percent of all larceny offenses. Serious assaults where a gun was used as the weapon rose 12 percent and nearly one out of every four aggravated assaults was committed with a gun.

The figures released by the FBI disclose that in 1969 police arrests for criminal acts, excluding traffic offenses, increased 7 percent. Arrests of adults rose 6 percent, while arrests of juveniles continued to climb in 1969 with an 11 percent rise.

A copy of the preliminary crime figures for the year 1969 is attached. Final crime figures and crime rates per unit of population will be available in the detailed annual Uniform Crime Reports scheduled for release in the Summer of 1970.

Enclosure

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING
(1969 Preliminary Annual-Release)

During calendar year 1969 serious crime, as measured by the Crime Index, nationally increased 11 percent over 1968. The violent crimes as a group rose 11 percent with murder up 7 percent, forcible rape 16 percent, robbery 13 percent, and aggravated assault 9 percent. The property crimes recorded an overall rise of 11 percent led by larceny \$50 and over up 21 percent, auto theft 12 percent, and burglary 5 percent. Crime in the large core cities with populations of 250,000 and over increased 9 percent, suburban communities reported a 13 percent increase and the rural areas 11 percent.

TABLE 1

CRIME INDEX TRENDS

(Percent change 1969 over 1968, offenses known to the police)

Population Group and Area	Number of Agencies	Population in thousands	Total	Violent	Property	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny \$50 and over	Auto theft
Total all agencies	5,101	155,896	+11	+11	+11	+ 7	+16	+13	+ 9	+ 5	+21	+12
Cities over 25,000	820	88,137	+11	+12	+11	+ 9	+18	+13	+ 9	+ 5	+19	+12
Suburban area	1,923	46,446	+13	+12	+14	+10	+12	+14	+10	+ 5	+25	+13
Rural area	1,209	19,269	+11	+ 7	+11	- 13	+ 8	+12	+ 8	+ 6	+20	+ 9
Over 1,000,000	6	19,444	+ 7	+ 9	+ 6	+ 9	+13	+12	+ 4	+ 2	+11	+12
500,000 to 1,000,000	18	11,733	+13	+19	+11	+14	+34	+18	+19	+ 9	+15	+12
250,000 to 500,000	30	10,724	+ 8	+ 5	+ 9	+ 1	+ 6	+ 5	+ 7	+ 3	+18	+ 9
100,000 to 250,000	97	14,314	+14	+13	+14	+ 4	+19	+17	+ 9	+ 9	+22	+12
50,000 to 100,000	242	16,876	+14	+13	+14	+13	+17	+12	+13	+ 8	+22	+12
25,000 to 50,000	427	15,045	+14	+16	+14	+12	+16	+23	+12	+ 4	+25	+12
10,000 to 25,000	1,039	16,350	+15	+ 7	+16	+ 2	+24	+16	+ 2	+ 6	+30	+ 9
Under 10,000	1,780	9,296	+13	- 1	+14	+ 4	+10	+ 7	- 4	+ 5	+28	+11

Crime increases were recorded in all geographic regions with a 15 percent rise in the North Central States, 12 percent in the Western States, 11 percent in the Southern States, and 7 percent in the Northeastern States.

TABLE 2

CRIME INDEX TRENDS BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

(1969 over 1968)

Region	Total	Violent	Property	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny \$50 and over	Auto theft
Northeastern States	+ 7	+ 8	+ 7	+ 3	+15	+10	+ 6	+ 1	+19	+ 8
North Central States	+15	+15	+16	+11	+14	+17	+12	+10	+24	+15
Southern States	+11	+11	+11	+ 4	+14	+19	+ 6	+ 5	+21	+12
Western States	+12	+12	+12	+15	+20	+ 9	+14	+ 6	+20	+11

Robbery continued to register significant increases in all regions ranging from 9 percent in the Western States to 19 percent in the Southern States. Armed robbery recorded a 16 percent rise over 1968. Unarmed robbery, where no weapon was used, recorded an upswing of 10 percent. Street robberies made up over one-half of all robbery offenses and rose 15 percent. Street thefts recorded a 12 percent rise over 1968. Nationally, police successfully solved 20 percent of the Crime Index offenses. Overall clearance rates recorded a decline of 3 percent, 1969 versus 1968. During 1969 police arrests for all criminal acts, excluding traffic offenses, rose 7 percent. Adult arrests were up 6 percent and arrests of persons under 18 years of age increased 11 percent.

TABLE 3

OFFENSE ANALYSIS

(January - December, percent change 1969 over 1968)

Robbery	Burglary	Larceny
Street	Residence, night	Pocket-picking
+15	+10	+ 4
Business house	Residence, day	Purse-snatching
+ 5	+11	+18
Service station	Nonresidence, night	Shoplifting
+10	- 3	+17
Chain store	Nonresidence, day	From autos
+23	+ 5	+15
Residence		Auto accessories
+64		+12
Bank		From buildings
- 1		+ 7

Issued by John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20535

Advisory: Committee on Uniform Crime Records, International Association of Chiefs of Police

Table 4

Offenses Known to the Police, 1968 and 1969
Cities over 100,000 in Population

Table with columns for City, State, Year, Murder, non-negligent manslaughter, Forcible rape, Robbery, Aggravated assault, Burglary, breaking or entering, Larceny, Auto theft, Murder, non-negligent manslaughter, Forcible rape, Robbery, Aggravated assault, Burglary, breaking or entering, Larceny, Auto theft.

(1) 1968 figures not comparable with 1969, and are not used in trend tabulations. Agency reports which are determined to be influenced by a change in reporting practices, for all or specific offenses, are removed from trend tables. All 1969 crime figures from reporting units are preliminary. Final figures and crime rates per unit of population are not available until the annual publication scheduled for release in the Summer of 1970. Trends in this report are based on the volume of crimes reported by comparable units.

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PLEASE NOTE

Figures used in this release are submitted voluntarily by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Individuals using these tabulations are cautioned against drawing conclusions by making direct comparisons between cities due to the existence of numerous factors which affect the amount and type of crime from place to place. Some of these factors are listed in the annual Uniform Crime Reports. More valid use can be made of these figures by determining deviations from national averages and through comparisons with averages for cities in similar population groups. (Table 1) It is important to remember that crime is a social problem and, therefore, a concern of the entire community. The efforts of law enforcement are limited to factors within its control.