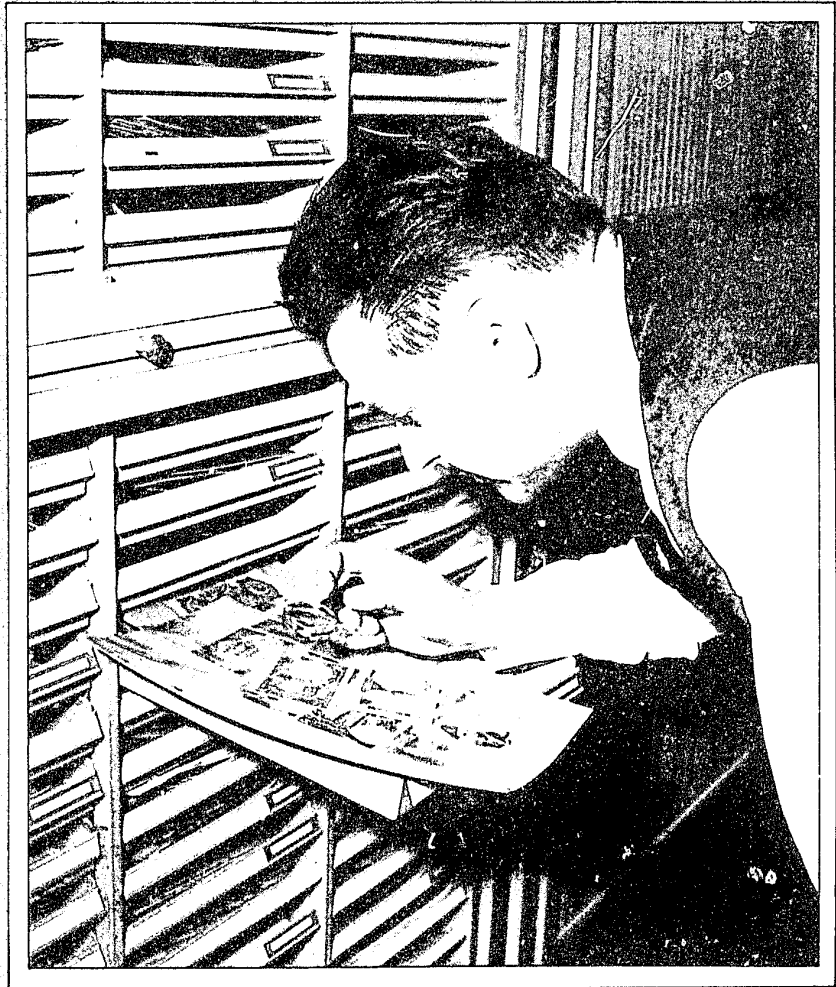


LAW
ENFORCEMENT
EDUCATION

OCTOBER 1984



96578-
9658

FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

OCTOBER 1984, VOLUME 53, NUMBER 10

Contents

- Cooperation** **1** **INTERPOL:** 96578
The international Criminal Police Organization
By Charles E. Colitre
- Arson** **8** **Arson: A Statistical Profile** 96579
By Dr. Yoshio Akiyama and Peter C. Pfeiffer
- Crime Statistics** **15** **Crime in the United States—1983** 96580
- Communications** **19** **Neighborhood Crime Watch—A Communication Problem** 96581
By James H. Howell
- Administration** **23** **Missing the Boat**
By Peter A. Stone
- The Legal Digest** **25** **The Collective Knowledge Rule**
By Jeffrey Higginbotham
- 32** **Wanted By The FBI**

NCJRS

DEC 10 1984

ACQUISITIONS



The Cover: Interpol employee searches counterfeit currency file at Interpol's headquarters in St. Cloud, France. See article p. 1.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535**

William H. Webster, Director

The Attorney General has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of the Department of Justice. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through June 6, 1988.

Published by the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs,
William M. Baker, *Assistant Director*

Editor—Thomas J. Deakin
Assistant Editor—Kathryn E. Sulewski
Art Director—Kevin J. Mulholland
Writer/Editor—Karen McCarron
Production Manager—Jeffrey L. Summers
Reprints—Marlethia S. Black



ISSN 0014-5688

USPS 383-310

Crime in the United States 1983

In 1983, the largest annual decrease for serious crime in the past 23 years was recorded, according to statistics compiled by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Not only was the 1983 downturn the largest decrease since 1960, it was also the first time the Nation's crime volume declined in two consecutive years and the fourth annual decrease to occur.

An estimated 12,070,200 Crime Index offenses were reported to law enforcement in 1983, an overall decrease of 7 percent from the previous year's total. Nearly 16,000 law enforcement agencies, covering 97 percent of the total U.S. population, reported data to the FBI.

Violent Crime

A 5-percent decrease in violent crime—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—was recorded in 1983. Murder and robbery totals each declined 8 percent, and aggravated assault was down 2 percent. Forcible rape showed virtually no change in volume since 1982. For violent crime, the crime rate was 529 per 100,000 inhabitants, a decrease of 6 percent from 1982.

MURDER—An estimated 19,308 murders occurred last year, with a murder rate of 8 per 100,000 inhabitants. Of every 100 murder victims, 76 were male, 55 were white, 33 were between the ages of 20 and 29, and 20 were Hispanic. Firearms were the dominant weapons used to commit this crime, with handguns being used in 44 percent of all cases.

In 57 percent of all murders, the

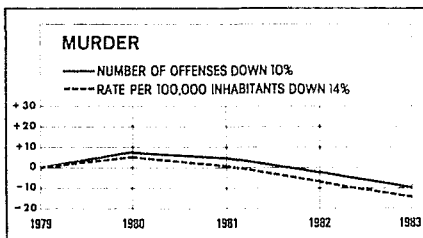
Index of Crime, United States, 1974-1983

Population ¹	Crime Index total ²	Modified Crime Index total ³	Violent crime ⁴	Property crime ⁴	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson ⁵
Number of offenses ⁶												
1974 211,392,000	10,253,400		974,720	9,278,700	20,710	55,400	442,400	456,210	3,039,200	5,262,500	977,100	
1975 213,124,000	11,256,600		1,026,280	10,230,300	20,510	56,090	464,970	484,710	3,252,100	5,977,700	1,000,500	
1976 214,659,000	11,315,600		988,410	10,327,200	18,780	57,180	422,450	489,990	3,099,800	6,264,800	962,600	
1977 216,332,000	10,950,700		1,013,270	9,937,400	19,120	63,610	407,440	523,100	3,062,700	5,900,500	974,200	
1978 218,059,000	11,174,000		1,068,280	10,105,800	19,560	67,720	421,580	559,430	3,119,300	5,985,900	1,000,600	
1979 220,099,000	11,174,000		1,188,870	11,022,300	21,460	76,510	474,680	616,220	3,313,200	6,595,300	1,108,800	
1980 225,349,264	13,366,100		1,323,400	12,042,700	23,040	83,130	558,750	656,480	3,784,300	7,130,800	1,127,700	
1981 229,146,000	13,384,500		1,340,540	12,043,900	22,520	82,630	585,480	649,910	3,768,800	7,188,300	1,086,800	
1982 231,534,000	12,933,700		1,361,500	11,632,200	21,010	78,900	546,200	655,380	3,437,200	7,136,400	1,058,600	
1983 233,381,000	12,070,200		1,237,980	10,832,200	19,310	78,920	500,220	639,530	3,120,800	6,707,000	1,004,400	
Rate per 100,000 inhabitants ⁷												
1974	4,850.4		461.1	4,389.3	9.8	26.2	209.3	215.8	1,437.7	2,489.5	462.2	
1975	5,281.7		481.5	4,800.2	9.6	26.3	218.2	227.4	1,525.9	2,804.8	469.4	
1976	5,271.4		460.5	4,811.0	8.8	26.6	196.8	228.3	1,444.0	2,918.5	448.4	
1977	5,062.0		468.4	4,593.6	8.8	29.4	188.3	241.8	1,415.7	2,727.5	450.3	
1978	5,124.3		489.9	4,634.4	9.0	31.1	193.3	256.5	1,430.5	2,745.1	458.9	
1979	5,548.1		540.2	5,007.9	9.7	34.8	215.7	280.0	1,507.6	2,996.5	503.8	
1980	5,931.3		587.1	5,344.0	10.2	36.9	247.9	292.2	1,679.3	3,164.3	500.4	
1981	5,841.0		585.0	5,256.0	9.8	36.1	255.5	283.6	1,644.7	3,137.0	474.3	
1982	5,586.1		562.1	5,024.0	9.1	34.1	235.9	283.1	1,484.5	3,082.2	457.2	
1983	5,158.6		529.1	4,629.5	8.3	33.7	213.8	273.3	1,333.8	2,861.5	429.3	

¹ Populations are Bureau of the Census provisional estimates as of July 1, except April 1, 1980, preliminary census counts, and are subject to change.
² Due to rounding, the offenses may not add to totals.
³ Although arson data are included in the trend and clearance tables, sufficient data are not available to estimate totals for this offense.
⁴ Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes are offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Data are not included for the property crime of arson.
⁵ Annual total for years prior to 1983 have been adjusted and may not be consistent with those in prior editions of this publication. See "Offense Estimation," page 3 and 4 for details.
⁶ All rates were calculated on the offenses before rounding.

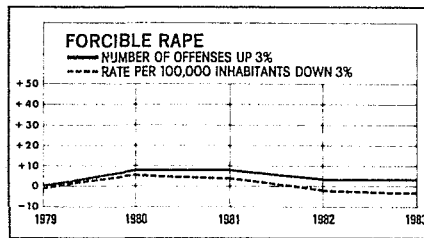
victims were slain by relatives or acquaintances, and spouse against spouse were involved in 9 percent of the murders. Arguments resulted in 44 percent of all murders, while 18 percent took place as a result of felonious activities such as robbery, arson, etc.

Of those arrested for murder, 41 percent were under 25 years of age, 50 percent were black, and 16 percent were Hispanic. The 18- to 24-year age group accounted for 34 percent of the total murder arrests. Seventy-six percent of all murders have been cleared by law enforcement.



FORCIBLE RAPE—During 1983, an estimated 78,918 forcible rapes occurred, representing virtually no change in volume from the previous year. In Uniform Crime Reporting, the victim of forcible rape is always female. The rate increased 2 percent from 1982, but was 1 percent below that of 1979. For every 100,000 females in the United States, an estimated 66 were reported rape victims. Of the offenses reported, 77 percent were rapes by force and the remainder were attempts or assaults to commit forcible rape. As in previous years, forcible rapes were more prevalent in the summer months than during other times of the year.

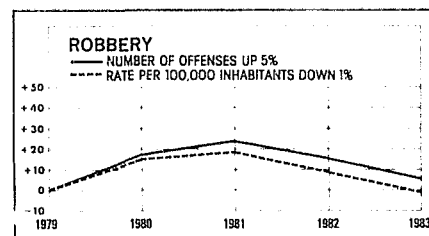
The number of arrests for this violent crime was up 1 percent from 1982, and of those arrested, 50 percent were white, 49 percent were black, and 10 percent were Hispanic. Persons under 25 years of age accounted for 50 percent of the arrests, while 25 percent of the arrests were of those 18 to 22 years of age. The national clearance rate was 52 percent.



ROBBERY—Robberies fell 8 percent nationwide from 1982, registering a decrease in all regions and population groups. An estimated 500,221 robberies took place, with losses to the victims reaching an estimated \$323 million or an average loss of \$645 per incident. Bank robberies registered the highest average loss, \$4,057 per incident, although they comprised only 1 percent of all robberies. The 1983 rate for this crime was 214 per 100,000 inhabitants. Robberies on streets or highways accounted for more than half of the total offenses in this category.

Sixty percent of these offenses were armed robberies, and the remainder were those in which strong-armed tactics were employed. Firearms were used most often in the commission of armed robberies, accounting for 37 percent of the total; knives or cutting instruments were used in 14 percent; other dangerous weapons in 9 percent.

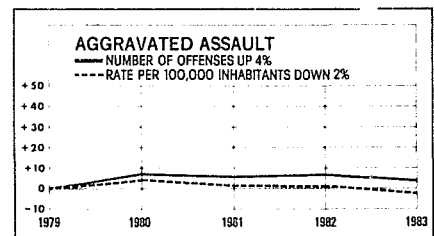
Robbery arrests were down 5 percent from 1982. Of those arrested, 68 percent were under 25 years of age, 93 percent were male, 63 percent were black, 36 percent were white, and 12 percent were Hispanic. The national robbery clearance rate was 26 percent, and persons under the age of 18 were the offenders in 12 percent of the clearances.



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT—The number of aggravated assaults declined 2 percent in 1983 from the pre-

vious year's total, with an estimated 639,532 offenses occurring nationwide. As with forcible rape, more aggravated assaults took place during the summer months. For every 100,000 inhabitants, there were, on the average, 273 victims of aggravated assault. Blunt objects or other dangerous weapons were used in 29 percent of the offenses; personal weapons such as hands, fists, feet in 26 percent; knives or cutting instruments in 24 percent; and firearms in 21 percent.

Total arrests for this offense dropped 3 percent from 1982, and the national clearance rate for aggravated assault was 61 percent. Of those arrested, 59 percent were white, 39 percent were black, and the remainder were of other races. Arrests of males outnumbered those of females by 6 to 1.



Property Crime

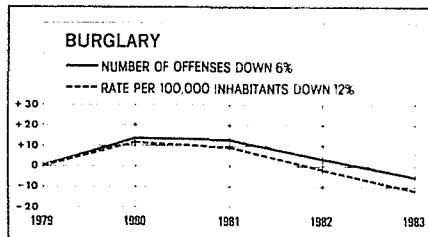
Like the Crime Index, property crime—burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft—dropped 7 percent in 1983. Among the individual property crimes, burglary was down 9 percent; larceny-theft, 6 percent; motor vehicle theft, 5 percent. Arson, the eighth Index crime, declined 11 percent in volume. The 1983 rate of 4,630 property crimes per 100,000 inhabitants dropped 8 percent.

BURGLARY—Over 3 million burglaries were estimated to have occurred in 1983, for a 9-percent drop in volume from the previous year. On the average, 1,334 burglaries were reported per 100,000 inhabitants nationally, and estimated property losses totaled \$2.7 billion, an average loss of \$860 per offense.

Seventy-one percent of all burglaries involved forcible entry, and residential burglaries accounted for 66 percent of the reported offenses.

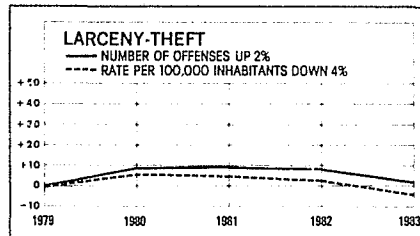
More burglaries occurred in January than in any other month in 1983.

Burglary arrests decreased 9 percent nationwide in 1983. Of the total number arrested, 75 percent were under 25 years of age; 38 percent were younger than 18, 93 percent were male, 67 percent were white, and 13 percent were Hispanic. The national clearance rate for this offense was 15 percent. Adults were involved in 77 percent of all burglary clearances, and those under 18 years of age were offenders in the remaining 23 percent.



LARCENY-THEFT—While the number of larceny-thefts totaled over 6.7 million in 1983, the volume decreased 6 percent from 1982. This offense occurred most frequently in August and least often during February. On the average, 2,866 larcenies were reported per 100,000 people, 7 percent less than the 1982 rate. Property losses to larceny-theft victims totaled an estimated \$2.3 billion or a \$348 loss per incident. By type, the highest average losses were due to miscellaneous thefts from buildings, \$510; thefts from motor vehicles, \$381; and thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories, \$238. Pocket-picking resulted in average losses of \$218; purse-snatching, \$178; and shoplifting, \$72.

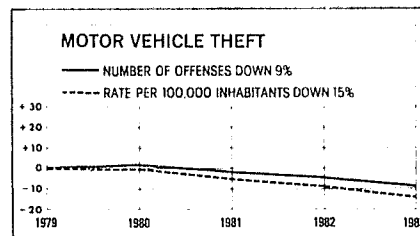
Total arrests for this offense were down 4 percent from 1982. Forty-eight percent of the arrestees were under 21 years of age, 32 percent were under 18, 65 percent were white, and 33 percent were black. The national larceny-theft clearance rate was 19 percent.



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT—An estimated 1,004,372 motor vehicle thefts were reported in 1983, 5 percent lower in volume than in 1982. The motor vehicle theft rate was 429 offenses per 100,000 population, down 6 percent from the previous year's rate. An estimated average of 1 of every 161 registered motor vehicles was stolen nationally, for an estimated \$4 billion property loss to victims.

Of all vehicles stolen, 76 percent were automobiles, 14 percent were trucks or buses, and the remainder were other types. August and February were the months in which the most and least motor vehicle thefts occurred, respectively.

Motor vehicle theft arrests dropped 8 percent from 1982. Over half of those arrested for this crime (55 percent) were under 21 years of age, while those under the age of 18 accounted for 35 percent of the total. Sixty-six percent of the arrestees were white, 32 percent were black, and the remainder were of other races. The national clearance rate for this crime was 15 percent, and persons under age 18 accounted for 18 percent of the total clearances.



ARSON—A total of 101,947 arson offenses were reported by 11,286 law enforcement agencies during 1983. Structures accounted for 61 percent and mobile property for 23 percent of property targeted by arsonists in 1983, with the remainder being directed at such property as crops,

timbers, fences, etc. Structural arson involved residential property in 63 percent of the offenses and 91 percent of mobile arsons involved motor vehicles. Averaging \$9,384 per incident, the property value damaged by arson totaled \$795 million. Industrial/manufacturing structures registered the highest average loss, \$59,372 per offense.

In 1983, 17 percent of reported arsons were cleared by law enforcement, while 34 percent of the clearances involved those under 18 years of age. The number of arson arrests reached 19,800, of which 88 percent were male, 76 percent were white, and 62 percent were under the age of 25.

Based on reports from law enforcement agencies providing at least 6 months of arson data in 1982 and 1983, arson trends showed an 11-percent decrease from 1982. Independently computed rates based on 12 months of reports showed a national rate of 49 arson offenses per 100,000 population.

Crime Distribution

Geographically, declines in the overall Crime Index were recorded in all regions for the same 2-year period. The Northeastern States recorded an 8-percent decrease; the Southern States, a 7-percent decrease; and in both the North Central and the Western States, a 6-percent decrease. The country's cities, rural counties, and suburban areas all recorded 7 percent fewer Index crimes in 1983.

Down 8 percent from the previous year, the 1983 national crime rate was 5,159 Crime Index offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The rate, which relates the crime volume to population, fell 7 percent from 1979, but was 6 percent higher than the 1974 rate.

Clearances

Law enforcement agencies cleared 21 percent of the total Crime Index offenses in 1983. Forty-six percent of all reported violent crimes

Total Estimated Arrests,¹ 1983

TOTAL ²	11,700,500	Drug abuse violations	661,400
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter.....	20,310	Opium or cocaine and their derivatives....	149,500
Forcible rape.....	34,080	Marijuana.....	406,900
Robbery.....	146,170	Synthetic or manufactured drugs	22,300
Aggravated assault	298,830	Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	82,700
Burglary.....	475,800		
Larceny-theft.....	1,315,000	Gambling.....	41,000
Motor vehicle theft.....	119,400		
Arson.....	19,800	Bookmaking	3,500
		Numbers and lottery	7,300
		All other gambling	30,200
Violent crime ³	499,390		
Property crime ⁴	1,930,000		
		Offenses against family and children	56,300
Crime Index total ⁵	2,429,400	Driving under the influence.....	1,921,100
		Liquor laws.....	498,300
Other assaults	547,500	Drunkenness.....	1,115,200
Forgery and counterfeiting.....	85,600	Disorderly conduct.....	757,400
Fraud.....	309,800	Vagrancy.....	33,700
Embezzlement.....	8,800	All other offenses (except traffic).....	2,267,900
Stolen property; buying, receiving, possess- ing.....	127,700	Suspicion (not included in totals).....	13,800
Vandalism.....	243,500	Curfew and loitering law violations	75,000
Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.....	179,600	Runaways	128,900
Prostitution and commercialized vice	125,600		
Sex offenses (except forcible rape and prostitution)	87,000		

¹ Arrest totals based on all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas.

² Because of rounding, items may not add to totals.

³ Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

⁴ Property crimes are offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

⁵ Includes arson.

were cleared, while the overall property crime clearance rate was 18 percent. Persons under the age of 18 accounted for 20 percent of the Index clearances, with those in this same age group accounting for 9 percent of the violent crime clearances and 23 percent of those for property crimes.

Arrests

Arrests for all offenses except traffic violations totaled an estimated 11.7 million in 1983. Among the offenses for which the highest volume of arrests was recorded were drunkenness with 1.1 million; larceny-theft, 1.3 million; and driving under the influence of liquor or narcotics, 1.9 million. The national arrest rate was 5,120 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Total arrests were down 3 percent from 1982, with adult arrests declining 2 percent and arrests of those under the age of 18 dropping 10 percent. Arrests for drug abuse violations increased 5 percent over the 1982 level. Of all arrestees, 51 percent were under 25 years of age and 83 percent were males. Larceny-theft

was the single offense for which females were most often arrested, accounting for 20 percent of all female arrests.

Assaults on Law Enforcement

Nationwide, an average of 17 of every 100 local, county, and State law enforcement officers were assaulted in 1983, a 6-percent decline from the 1982 rate. Of the 62,324 assaults reported by nearly 10,000 law enforcement agencies, personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) were used in 83 percent; firearms in 5 percent; knives or cutting instruments in 3 percent; and other dangerous weapons in the remaining 9 percent. Responses to all types of disturbance calls (family quarrels, man-with-gun calls, bar fights, etc.) continued to lead all other circumstances with 33 percent of all assaults.

Law Enforcement Officers Killed

During 1983, 80 law enforcement officers were killed feloniously in the line of duty, fewer than in any other year of the past decade and 12 less than the 1982 total. Of the 80 victims, 42 were city policemen, 24 were county officers, 11 were employed by State law enforcement agencies, and 3 were Federal officers.

As in past years, more officers (31) were killed while attempting arrests than while involved in any other activity. Eleven officers were killed while attempting to thwart robberies or were in the pursuit of robbery suspects when slain; 7 were investigating drug-related matters; 4 were handling burglary-in-progress calls or were pursuing burglary suspects; and 9 were attempting arrests for other than the above-mentioned crimes. Seventy-four out of 80 officers were slain by firearms, with handguns being used in 54 of the murders. Twelve officers were killed with their own service weapons, and law enforcement has cleared 91 percent of the murders.

FBI