

Urban and Rural Crime

While national crime statistics provide important information regarding overall crime trends, they do not identify differences among geographic areas. In general, statistics show that crime rates in metropolitan or urban areas, as well as the criminal justice response, differ from those in suburban areas, cities outside metropolitan areas, and non-metropolitan or rural areas. The uneven distribution of crime has implications for policymakers in responding to crime, supporting victims, and allocating criminal justice system resources. As Americans become more mobile, it becomes increasingly important to understand the impact of geographic differences on crime rates and the ability of local criminal justice systems to protect citizens.

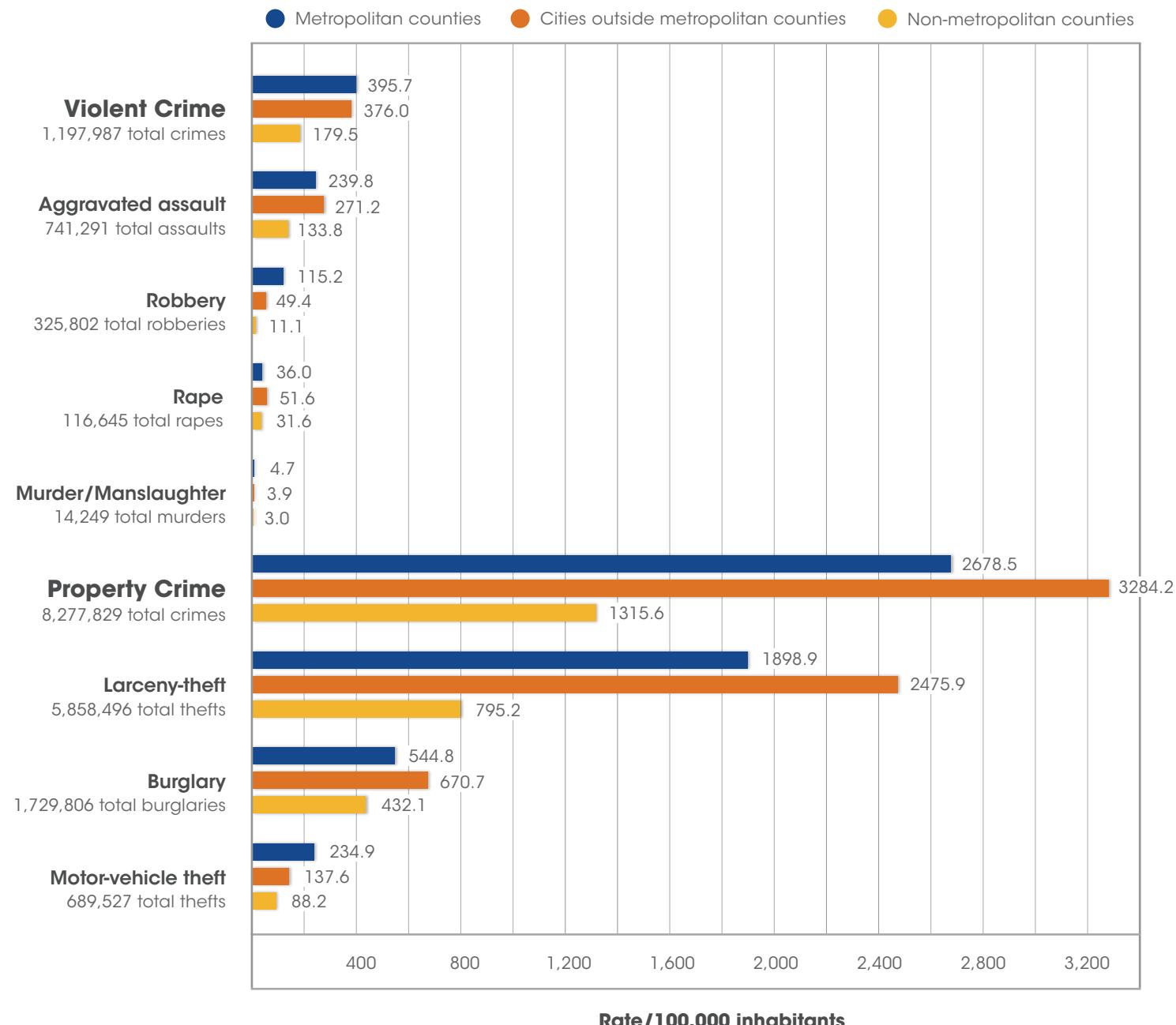
NOTE: Data for 2014 unless otherwise indicated.
Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.



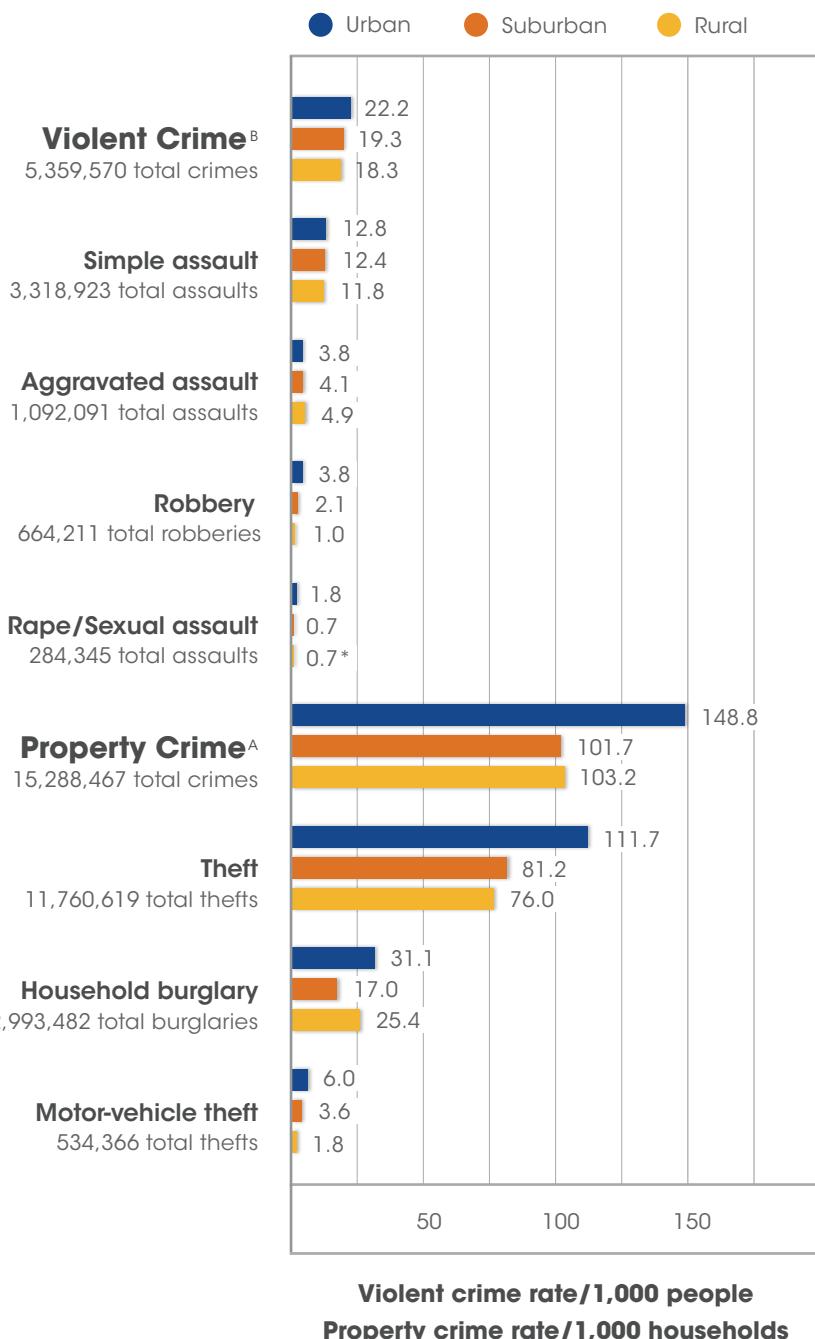
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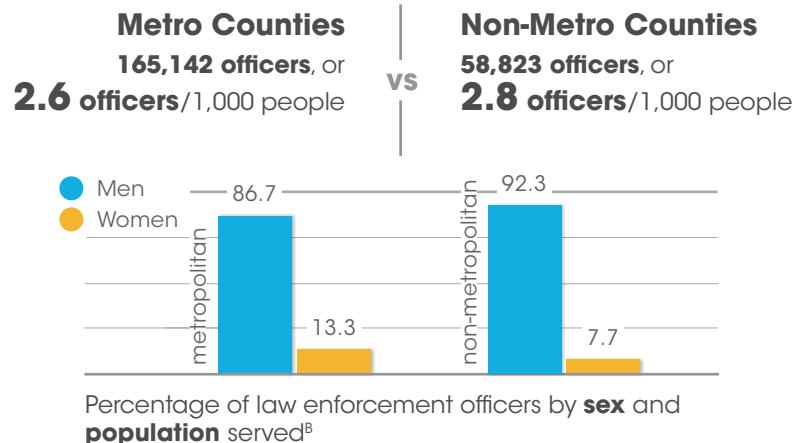
Crime Reported to Police by Community Type^c



Victimization by Location of Residence



Law Enforcement Levels by Community Type^c



About the Numbers

The FBI's annual *Crime in the United States* relies on Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) data and provides subnational statistical breakdowns for geographic areas by **county type** (rural, suburban, and urban), **city population**, or **both**.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics' annual report *Criminal Victimization* relies on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and provides subnational statistics for geographic areas by **rural**, **suburban**, and **urban areas**.

The UCR data are generated from local and state police agencies. As such, the crimes are known to law enforcement, and rates are based on **where the crime took place**.^c

The NCVS data are collected from crime victims and can include those incidents not reported to police, in addition to reported crime. The NCVS rates are based on the **victim's residence** rather than where the incident occurred.^d

NOTES

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

SOURCES

- A** Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Household Victimization by Location of Residence*, 2014, NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>
- B** ---Personal Victimization by Location of Residence, 2014, NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>

^c Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 2014, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2015), <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u-s/2014/crime-in-the-u-s-2014/cius-home>

^d Jennifer L. Truman and Lynn Langton, *Criminal Victimization*, 2014, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2015), <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv14t/pub/pdf/wv09.pdf>