

Violent Crime Definitions

The FBI's violent crime category is composed of four offenses: murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's definition, violent crimes involve force or threat of force. The violent crimes are defined below:

Murder

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines murder and non-negligent manslaughter as the willful killing of one human being by another. The UCR Program does not include the following situations in this offense classification: deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

Rape

Forcible rape, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, is the carnal knowledge of a person forcibly and against their will. Assaults and attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

Robbery

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines robbery as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines aggravated assault as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. The Program further specifies that this type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempted aggravated assault that involves the display of—or threat to use—a gun, knife, or other weapon is included in this crime category because serious personal injury would likely result if the assault were completed. When aggravated assault and larceny-theft occur together, the offense falls under the category of robbery.