

# BURGLARY

## DEFINITION

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary in this Program is categorized into three subclassifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.

<b>TREND</b>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of offenses</i>	<i>Rate per 100,000 inhabitants</i>
1998	2,332,735	863.0
1999	2,099,739	770.0
Percent change	-10.0	-10.8

The eighth consecutive annual decline in volume was recorded in 1999 for burglary offenses which were estimated at 2,099,739 nationwide and measured as the lowest since 1969. Regional distribution indicated that the most populous Southern States recorded the highest burglary volume, 44 percent. The Western States followed with 22 percent, the Midwestern States with 21 percent, and the Northeastern States with 13 percent. (See Table 3.)

In 1999, monthly figures revealed that the greatest number of burglaries occurred in August, and the lowest volume was recorded during February. (See Table 2.26.)

Table 2.26

**Burglary by Month**

Percent distribution, 1995-1999

Month	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
January	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.9	8.3
February	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.5	7.2
March	8.2	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.9
April	7.7	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.7
May	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2
June	8.3	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.4
July	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0
August	9.2	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.1
September	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.4	8.6
October	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.6
November	8.3	8.0	8.2	7.9	8.4
December	8.1	8.6	8.6	8.2	8.4

Compared to the 1998 national volume figures, burglary declined 10 percent in 1999. By community type, at 11-percent the Nation's cities overall experienced the greatest decline, with cities with populations of 25,000 to 49,999 showing the greatest decline in burglary, 13 percent. Suburban counties showed a 10-percent decline and rural counties a 9-percent decrease. (See Table 12.)

In 1999, decreases from the previous year's burglary volumes were recorded in all four regions of the United States. The greatest decrease, 14 percent, was registered in the Western States. A 12-percent decline was recorded in the Northeastern States. The Midwestern and Southern States recorded burglary volume decreases of 9 and 8 percent, respectively. (See Table 4.)

National 5- and 10-year trends indicate burglary was down 19 percent from the 1995 level and down 32 percent compared to the 1990 volume.

**Rate**

The national offense rate for burglary in 1999—770 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants—was the lowest since 1966. The rate was 11 percent lower than the 1998 figure, 22 percent under the 1995 figure, and 38 percent below the 1990 figure. The burglary rate in the metropolitan areas registered 802 offenses for every 100,000 in population; cities outside metropolitan areas recorded a rate of 783; and rural counties showed a rate of 551.

Regional comparisons demonstrate that the Southern States experienced the highest burglary rate, 959 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The Western States recorded a rate of 756, and the Midwestern States registered a rate of 701. The lowest rate, 520, was recorded in the Northeastern States. All regions indicated declines in rates compared to the previous year's numbers. The Western Region recorded a decline of 16 percent; the Northeastern Region recorded a 12-percent decline; and the Midwestern and the Southern Regions showed decreases of 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively. (See Table 4.)

**Nature**

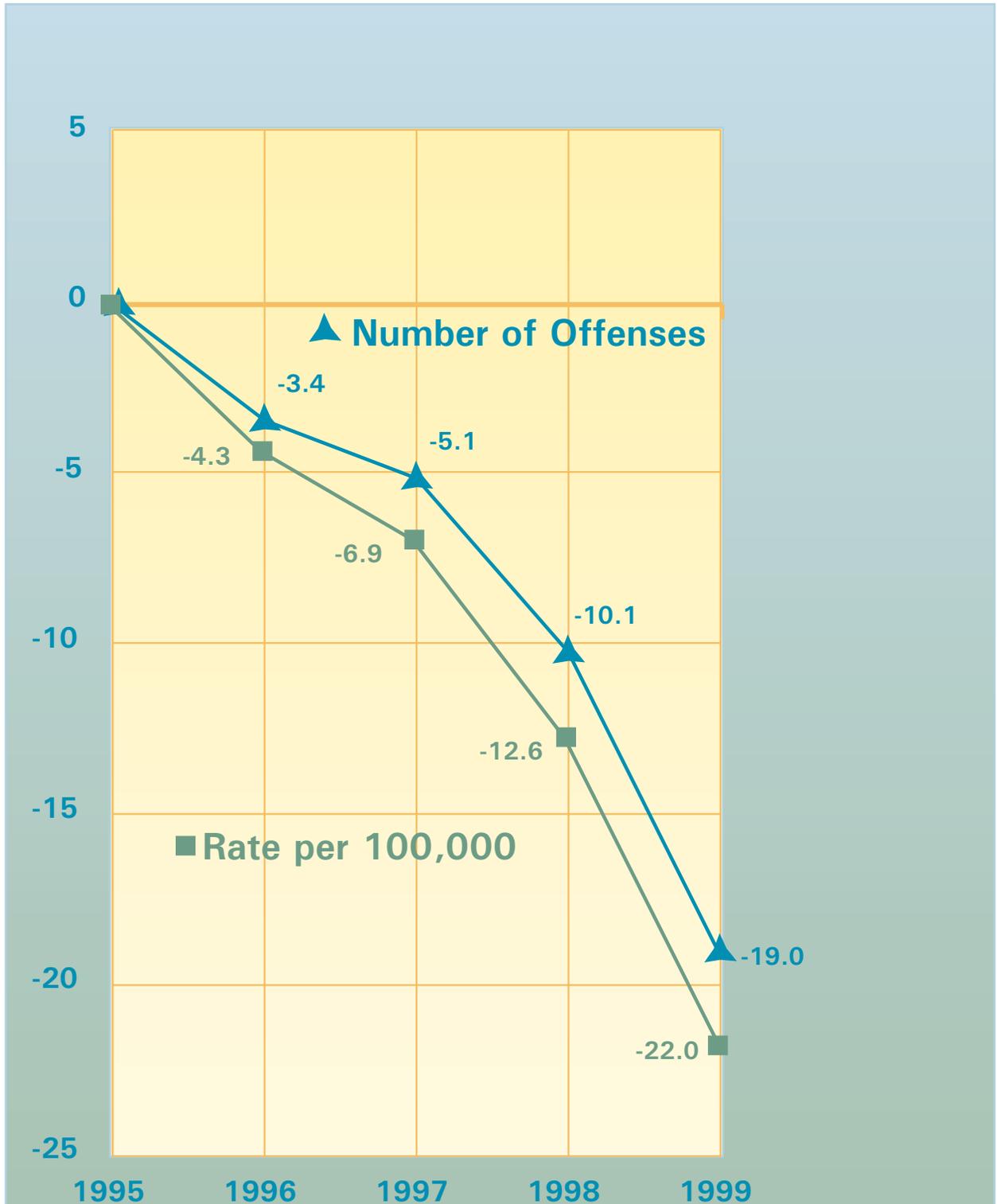
Forcible entry was involved in 64 percent of all burglaries in 1999, 29 percent were unlawful entries (without force), and the remaining 7 percent were forcible entry attempts. Two of every 3 burglaries in 1999 were residential in nature. Offenses for which time of occurrence was reported showed that burglaries occurred more commonly during the day, 53 percent, than at night, 47 percent. Burglaries of residences occurred more frequently during daytime, 60 percent, than burglaries of nonresidences which occurred more frequently at night, 61 percent.

Although the 1999 average loss for both residential and nonresidential property burglary fell from the previous year, victims experienced an estimated loss of \$3.1 billion. The average dollar loss per burglary was \$1,458. Losses for residential offenses were recorded at \$1,441 and for nonresidential burglaries at \$1,490.

Both nonresidential and residential burglary volumes declined in 1999. Residential burglaries dropped 11 percent from the previous year's figure, and nonresidential burglary volume showed a 9-percent decline. (See Table 23.)

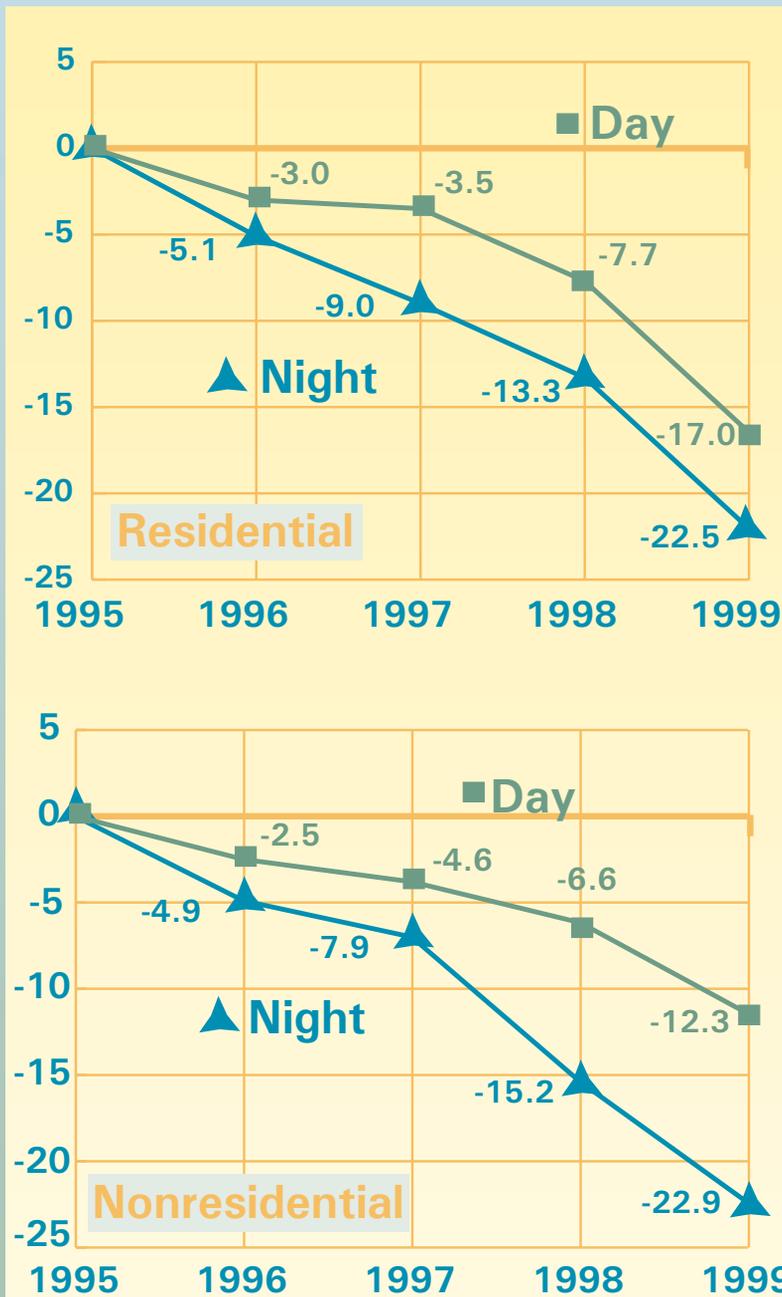
# Figure 2.13

**Burglary**  
Percent Change from 1995



# Figure 2.14

**Burglary**  
Residential and Nonresidential  
Day and Night  
Percent Change from 1995



## Law Enforcement Response

A 14-percent clearance rate was recorded for burglary offenses known to law enforcement in 1999. Regionally, the Northeast had a clearance rate of 16 percent; the South, 14 percent; the West, 13 percent; and the Midwest 12 percent. (See Table 26.)

Rural county law enforcement agencies cleared 16 percent of the burglaries reported in their jurisdictions. Law enforcement agencies in suburban counties cleared 14 percent, and those in cities collectively cleared 13 percent. (See Table 25.)

The higher percent of burglary offense clearances, 81 percent, involved adult offenders, and juvenile offenders (people under 18 years of age) were involved in the remaining 19 percent of clearances. The highest percent of juvenile clearances occurred in the Nation's smallest cities (under 10,000 in population), which recorded 25 percent. In suburban counties, the burglary clearance rate for juveniles was 21 percent. In both rural counties

and cities collectively, juveniles accounted for 19 percent of clearances. (See Table 28.)

In the UCR Program, several persons may be arrested in connection with the clearance of one crime, or the arrest of one individual may clear numerous offenses. The latter is often true in cases of burglary for which an estimated 296,100 arrests were made in 1999.

In 1999, total burglary arrests were down 11 percent from the previous year's figure. Arrests of both juveniles and adults declined by 15 and 9 percent, respectively. An 11-percent decrease in burglary arrests for the Nation's cities overall was recorded for the same timeframe. Burglary arrests in rural counties declined 9 percent and in suburban counties decreased 14 percent.

At 87 percent of the total, males comprised the greater number of arrestees for burglary in 1999. By age, persons under the age of 25 made up the majority of arrestees, 63 percent. By race, whites accounted for 69 percent of all persons arrested for burglary, blacks for 29 percent, and other races for the remainder.