

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is comprised of an entire county or group of counties with at least one core city, with the entire area meeting criteria of certain metropolitan characteristics established by the United States Bureau of the Census. It should be noted that the crime rate of core city jurisdictions in MSAs continued to be much higher than the suburban jurisdictions. The volume of offenses was higher in suburban jurisdictions than the core jurisdictions and was also the highest among all population groups. No attempt is made throughout this report to correct for the influx of seasonal, temporary residents, and tourists during the year. Crime rates are based upon the permanent population.

Arrests

Arrests are primarily a measure of success in police investigation in relation to the criminal offenses taking place within a community. Arrest practices, policies, and enforcement emphasis will vary from place to place and from time to time within a community. Arrests do, however, provide a useful indicator as to the age, sex, and race of persons involved in criminal acts, especially for crimes that have high solution rates.

A total of 471,887 arrests were made in Pennsylvania in 2009, a 4.5 percent decrease from the previous year. As indicated in the following table, Part II offense arrests totaled 386,810 or 82.0 percent of all arrests, a 4.9 percent decrease from the previous year. Part I offense arrests numbered 85,077 or 18.0 percent of all arrests, decreasing by 3.1 percent from the previous year.