A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is composed of an entire county or group of counties that include at least one core city, with the entire area meeting criteria of certain metropolitan characteristics established by the United States Census Bureau. In 2013, the overall volume of offenses was highest in MSA Suburban jurisdictions; however, the crime rate of MSA Core City jurisdictions continued to be much higher than the MSA Suburban jurisdictions during this period. It should be noted that 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 by police 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 440,729 arrests were made in Pennsylvania in 2013, a 2.6 percent decrease from the previous year. As indicated in the following table, Part II offense arrests totaled 352,493 or 80.0 percent of all arrests, a 3.0 percent decrease from last year. Part I offense arrests numbered 88,236 or 20.0 percent of all arrests, decreasing by 1.0 percent from the previous year.