

Information gathered from this website:

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances#:~:text=Overview,by%20arrest%20or%20exceptional%20means.>

## **Overview**

- In the nation in 2019, 45.5 percent of violent crimes and 17.2 percent of property crimes were cleared by arrest or exceptional means.
- When considering clearances of violent crimes, 61.4 percent of murder offenses, 52.3 percent of aggravated assault offenses, 32.9 percent of rape offenses, and 30.5 percent of robbery offenses were cleared.
- In New England in 2019, 54.4 percent of murder offenses were cleared by arrest.

2019 Rhode Island data:

Providence reported 13 murder offenses

[https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-8/table-8-state-cuts/rhode\\_island.xls](https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-8/table-8-state-cuts/rhode_island.xls)

2019 Providence population: 179, 762

60.7 percent of murder offenses were cleared in population groups of similar size to Providence

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-25>

Based on the Providence Police Department's 2019 annual report (page 35), there were 13 total homicides and 9 were cleared:

- ***When compared to population groups of similar size***, Providence's 2019 clearance rate for murder offenses (69.2 percent) was better than average (60.7 percent)
- ***When compared to New England***, Providence's 2019 clearance rate for murder offenses (69.2 percent) was better than average for clearance by arrest (54.4 percent)
- ***When compared to the nation***, Providence's 2019 clearance rate for murder offenses (69.2 percent) was better than average (61.4 percent)

## **How does the FBI define a clearance?**

In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, law enforcement agencies can clear, or "close," offenses in one of two ways: by arrest or by exceptional means.

- In certain situations, elements beyond law enforcement's control prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. When this

occurs, the agency can clear the offense *exceptionally*. Law enforcement agencies must meet the following four conditions in order to clear an offense by exceptional means. The agency must have:

- Identified the offender.
- Gathered enough evidence to support an arrest, make a charge, and turn over the offender to the court for prosecution.
- Identified the offender's exact location so that the suspect could be taken into custody immediately.
- Encountered a circumstance outside the control of law enforcement that prohibits the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender.

(Examples of exceptional clearances include, but are not limited to, the death of the offender (e.g., suicide or justifiably killed by police or citizen); the victim's refusal to cooperate with the prosecution after the offender has been identified; or the denial of extradition because the offender committed a crime in another jurisdiction and is being prosecuted for that offense. In the UCR Program, the recovery of property alone does not clear an offense.)