

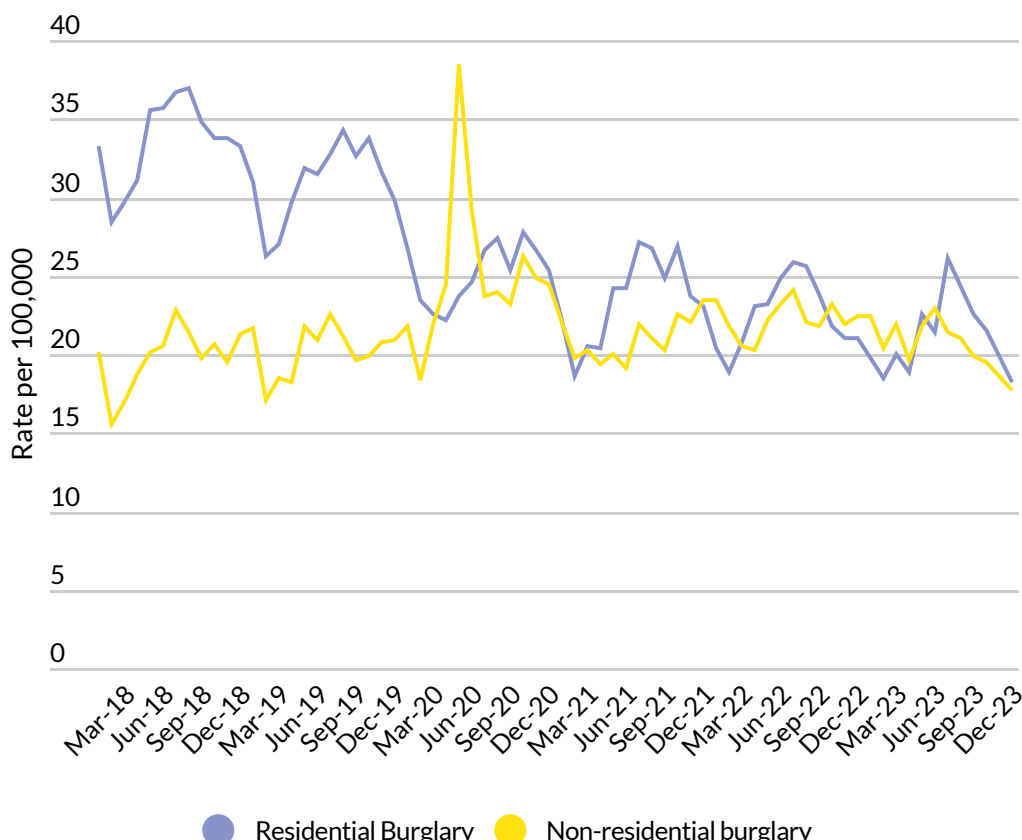
Trends in Burglary: What You Need to Know

Burglaries involve breaking and entering a residential or commercial premise for the purpose of committing a crime.

- The rate of burglaries reported to United States law enforcement agencies peaked in 1980, fell to an historic low in 2015, and continued to drop through 2022.
- Residential burglary rates in cities with 500,000 to 999,999 residents were twice as high than in cities with fewer than 100,000 people.
- The juvenile arrest rate for burglaries, once three times higher than the rate for adults, has decreased dramatically since the 1980s and is now similar to the adult rate.
- Following a trend seen with other property crimes, the clearance rate for burglaries has dropped substantially since the 1960s; in 2022, 13% of all burglaries were cleared.

Monthly Burglary Trends in 18 Cities, 2018-2023

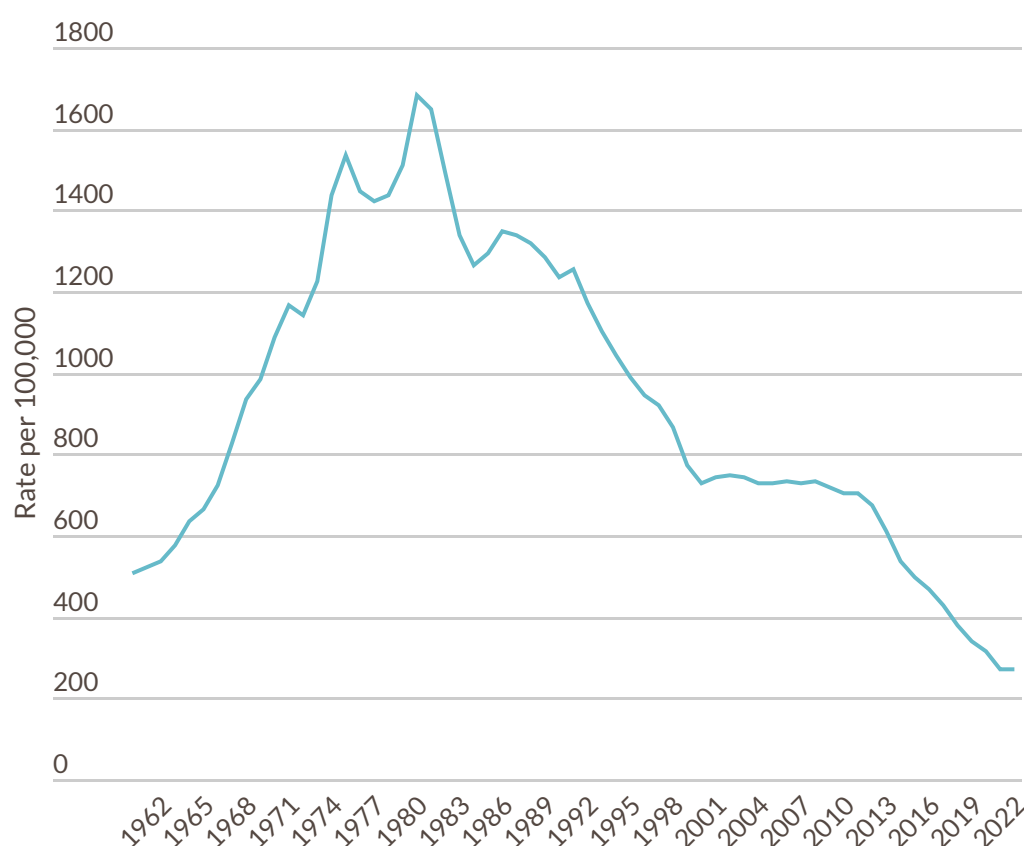
Reported residential burglaries in a sample of 18 cities that publish monthly data were **26% lower** in 2023 than in 2019, the year before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, while non-residential burglaries were **3% higher**. In 2023, there were **3% fewer** residential burglaries and **7% fewer** non-residential burglaries in the study cities than in 2022.



Source: Data adapted from [Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Year End 2023 Update](#). See the report for the list of cities.

Burglary Rates, 1960 - 2022

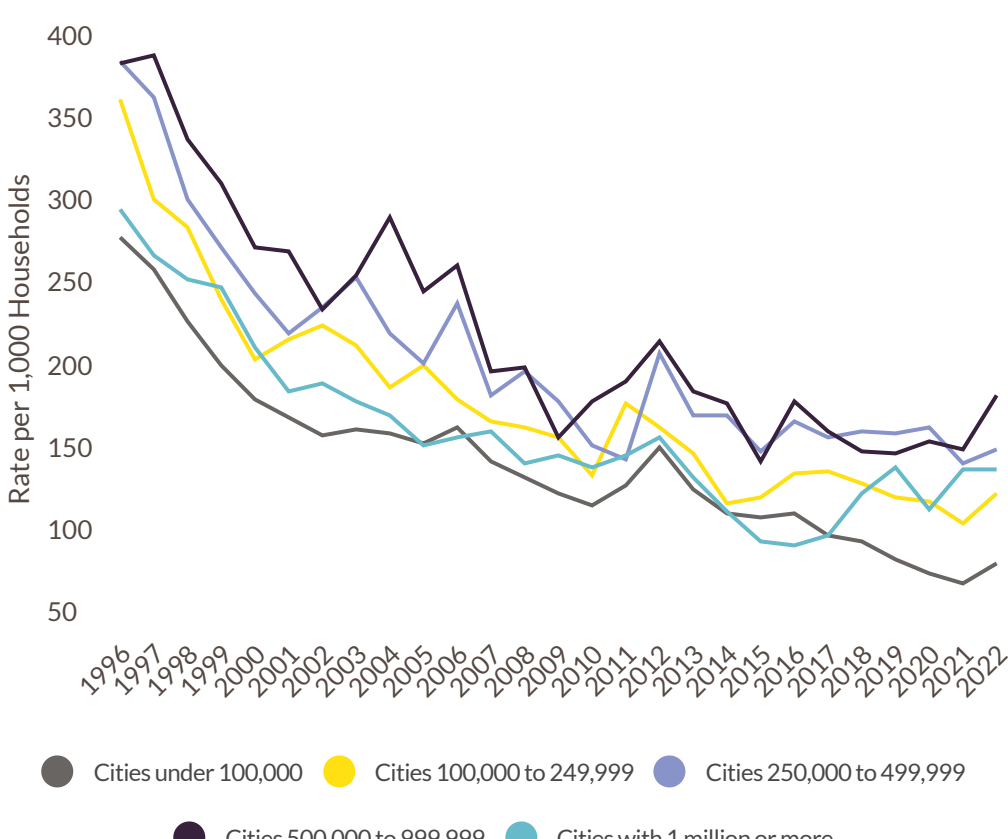
The overall residential and non-residential burglary rate **peaked nationally in 1980** at a rate of 1,684 per 100,000 people. By 2015, the rate had **dropped 71%** to 495 per 100,000 people, lower than at any point since 1960, when modern record-keeping began. This downward trend continued after the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, and burglary **decreased 21%** from 2019 to 2022. The reported burglary rate in 2022 was **84% lower** than the 1980 peak.



Sources: 1960-1978: The Disaster Center. (2019). [United States crime rates 1960-2019](#); 1979-2022: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). [Crime data explorer](#).

Residential Burglary by City Size, 1993-2022

Reported residential burglary rates were generally higher in larger cities than in smaller cities. In 2022, rates were **twice as high** in cities with 500,000 to 999,999 residents than in cities with fewer than 100,000 people.



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). [National crime victimization survey data dashboard \(N-DASH\)](#).

Residential Burglaries, 1975 - 2022

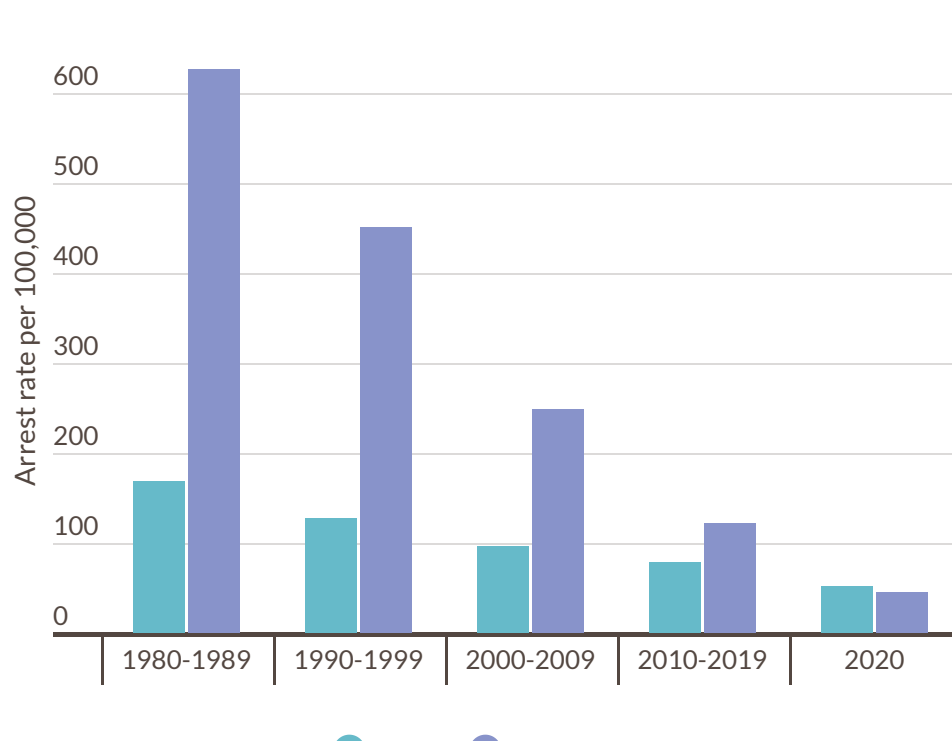
From 1975 (the first year of available data) to 2006, residential burglary consistently comprised about **two thirds** of total reported burglaries. Between 2007 and 2019, that share increased modestly, to an **average of 71%**. From 2019 to 2022, however, the share of residential burglaries **dropped 11%**, and in 2021 and 2022, it was **53%**, the lowest since at least 1975.



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). [National crime victimization survey data dashboard \(N-DASH\)](#).

Burglary Arrest Rates by Age

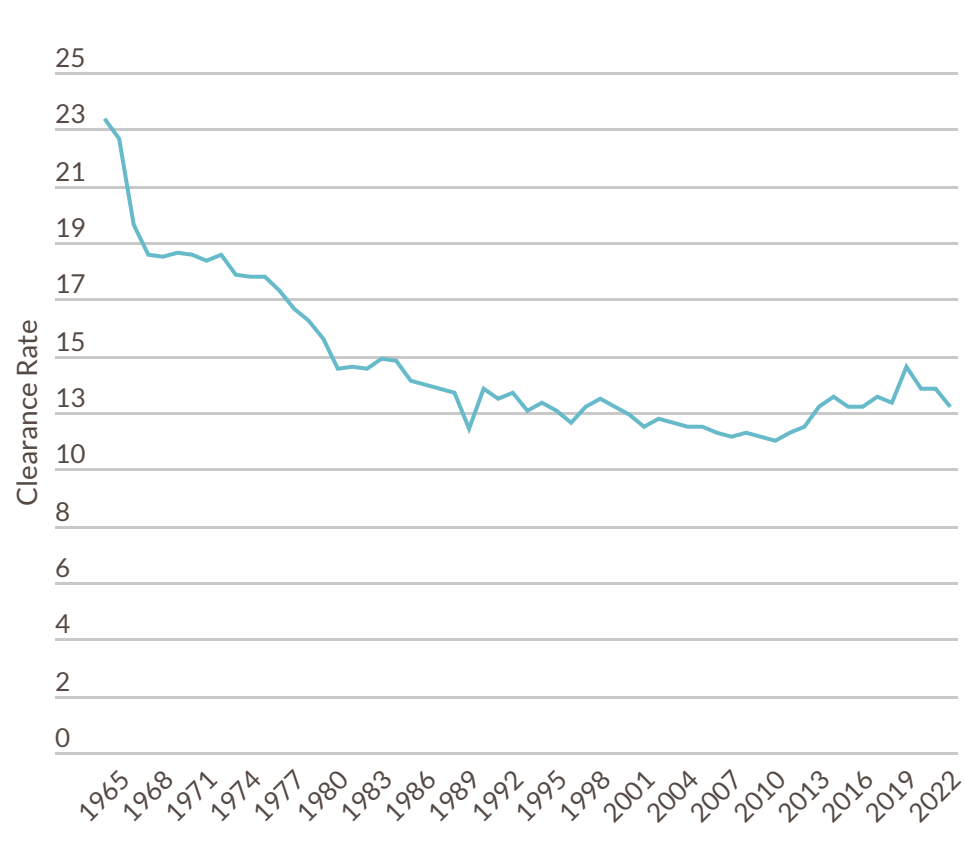
In the 1980s and 1990s, juvenile arrest rates for burglary were **more than three times higher** than rates for adults. From its average level in the 1980s to 2020, the juvenile burglary arrest rate **fell by 93%** while the adult rate **dropped 69%**. By 2020, adults had a slightly higher arrest rate.



National arrest rates are not available from the FBI or OJJDP for 2021-2022. Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (n.d.). [Statistical briefing book](#).

Burglary Clearance Rates

The overall burglary clearance rate **dropped by nearly half** (46%) from 1964 to 2022, falling from 23% to 13%. Since 1966, **fewer than one out of every five** reported burglaries has been cleared by arrest or other means. In 2022, the overall burglary clearance rate was similar to the larceny clearance rate (12%) and higher than the rate for motor vehicle theft (9%). In contrast, the homicide clearance rate in 2022 was 52%.



Source: Kaplan, Jacob. Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: [Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Offenses Known and Clearances by Arrest \(Return A\)](#), 1960-2022.

*Analyses that use data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System should be viewed with caution due to the low number of reporting agencies. Click [here](#) for additional information.

This brief was prepared for the Council on Criminal Justice Crime Trends Working Group as part of a series examining major crimes as defined by the FBI. It explores relevant data from multiple sources but does not seek to explain the causes of the patterns.