

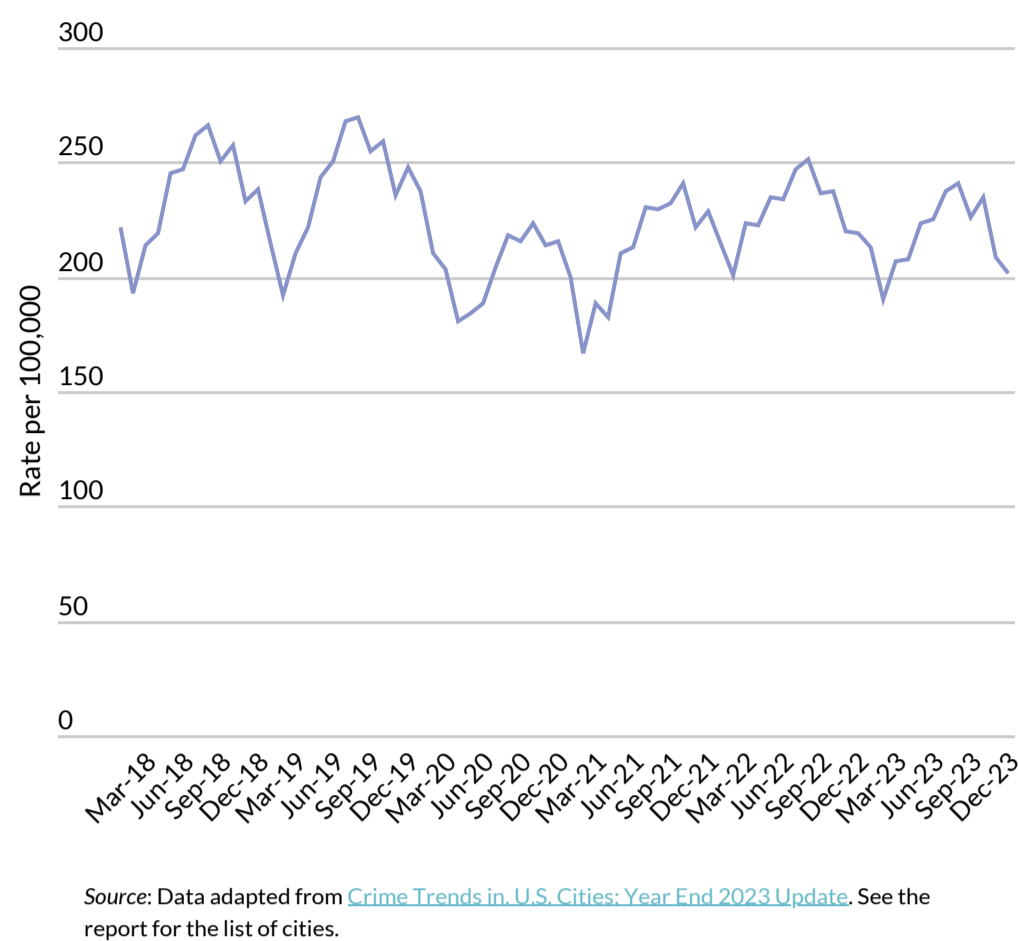
Trends in Larceny: What You Need to Know

Larcenies are thefts unaccompanied by force or breaking and entering.

- The rate of larcenies reported to United States law enforcement agencies peaked in 1995; it then fell steadily through 2021, dropping to levels last seen in the mid-1960s, before rising in 2022.
- The share of reported larcenies that involve shoplifting from commercial establishments has nearly doubled since the mid-1970s, from 11% to 21%.
- Juvenile arrest rates for larceny were significantly higher than adult arrest rates in the four decades from 1980 through 2019; in 2020, however, the adult rate was higher.
- The clearance rate for larcenies hovered between 15% and 20% for most of the past 60 years, but rose to a high of 22% in 2013-2014 before dropping to a record low of 12% in 2022.

Monthly Larceny Trends in 32 Cities, 2018-2023

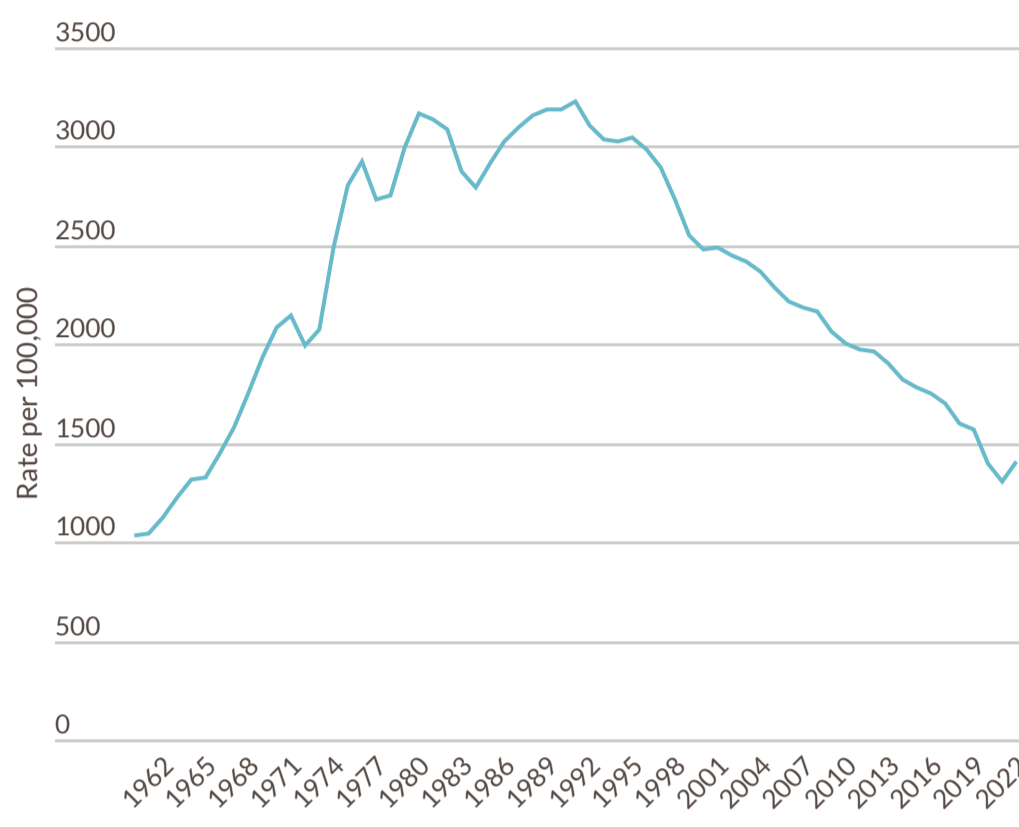
The rate of reported larcenies in a sample of 32 large cities that publish monthly larceny data was **7% lower** in 2023 than in 2019, the year before the coronavirus pandemic. The rate **fell by 4%** from 2022 to 2023, representing 19,209 fewer reported incidents in the sample cities. Compared to the same periods in 2022, larceny **decreased by 2%** in the first half of 2023 and **by 5%** in the second half of the year.



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

Larceny Rates, 1960 - 2022

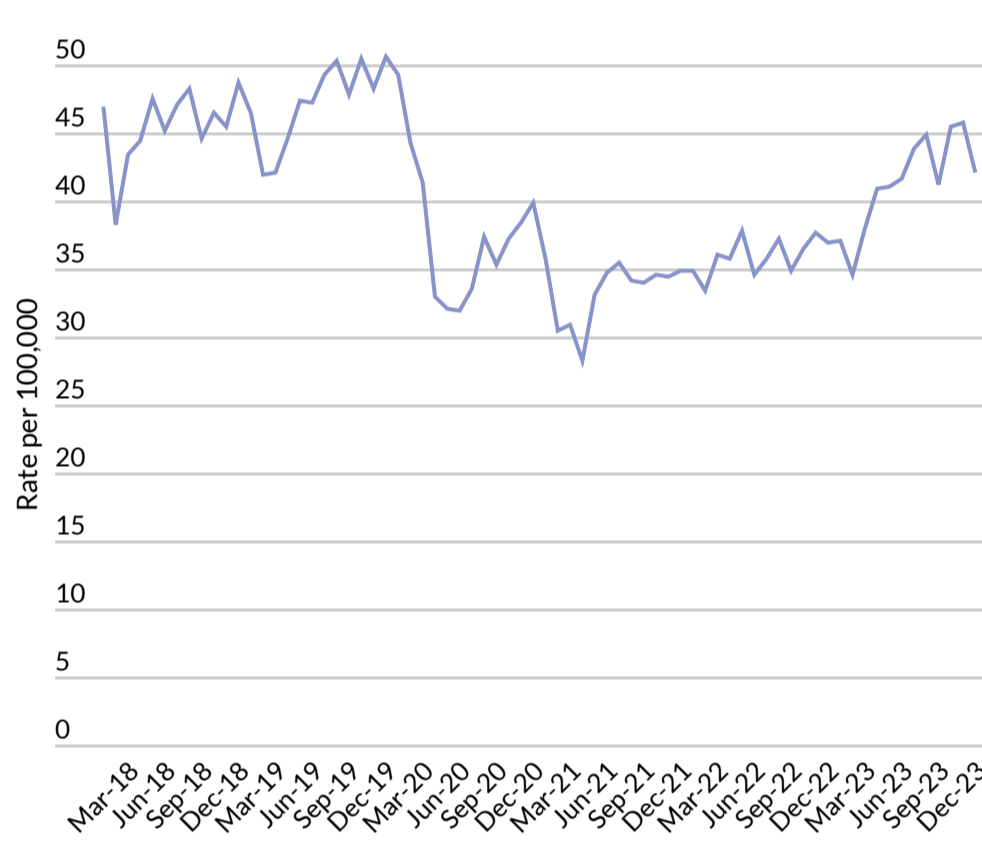
Larceny **peaked in 1995** at a rate of 3,043 per 100,000 people. By 2019, that rate had **dropped by half (48%)** to 1,569 per 100,000 people, lower than at any point since 1967. The downward trend continued, with larceny 11% lower in 2022 than in 2019 despite a 7% rise in 2022.



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

Monthly Shoplifting Trends in 25 Cities, 2018 - 2023

The reported shoplifting rate in a sample of 25 cities with available monthly data was **2% lower** in 2023 than in 2019. The rate **rose by 22%** from 2022 to 2023, representing 14,743 additional incidents in the study cities. Compared to the same periods in 2022, reported shoplifting **increased by 18%** in the first half of 2023 and **by 26%** in the second half of the year.

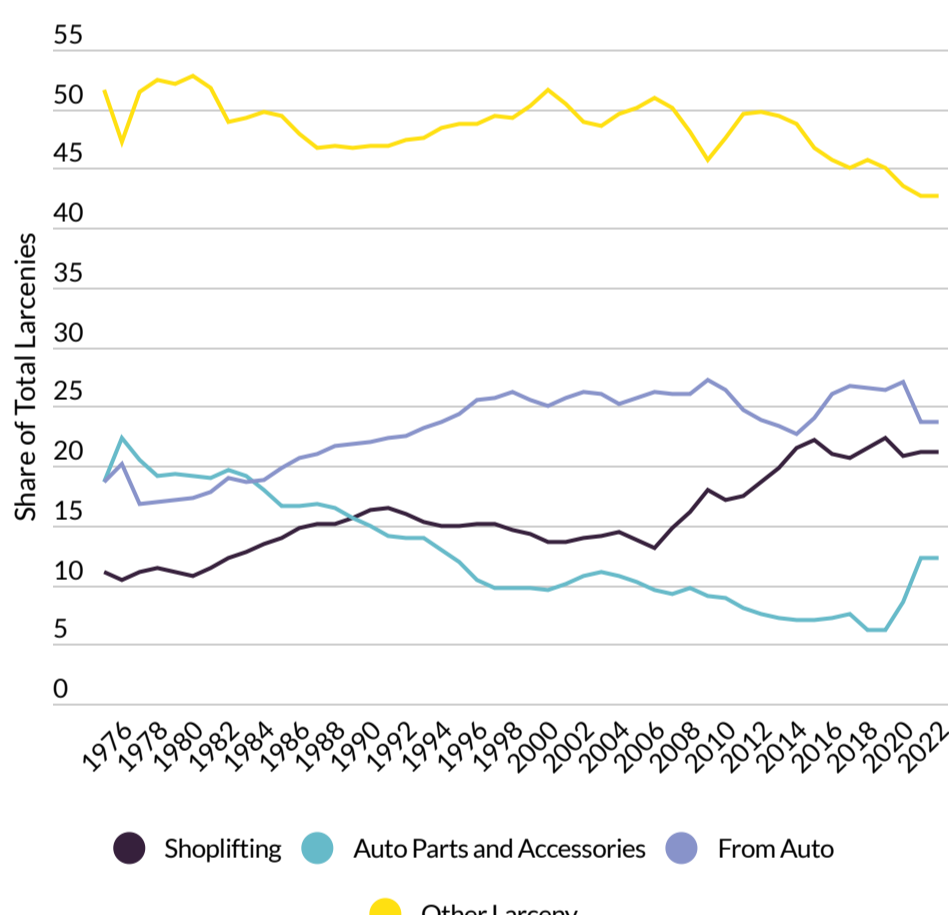


Source: Data adapted from [Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Year End 2023 Update](#). See the report for the list of cities.

For more information, see [Shoplifting Trends: What You Need to Know](#).

Larceny Types, 1975 - 2022

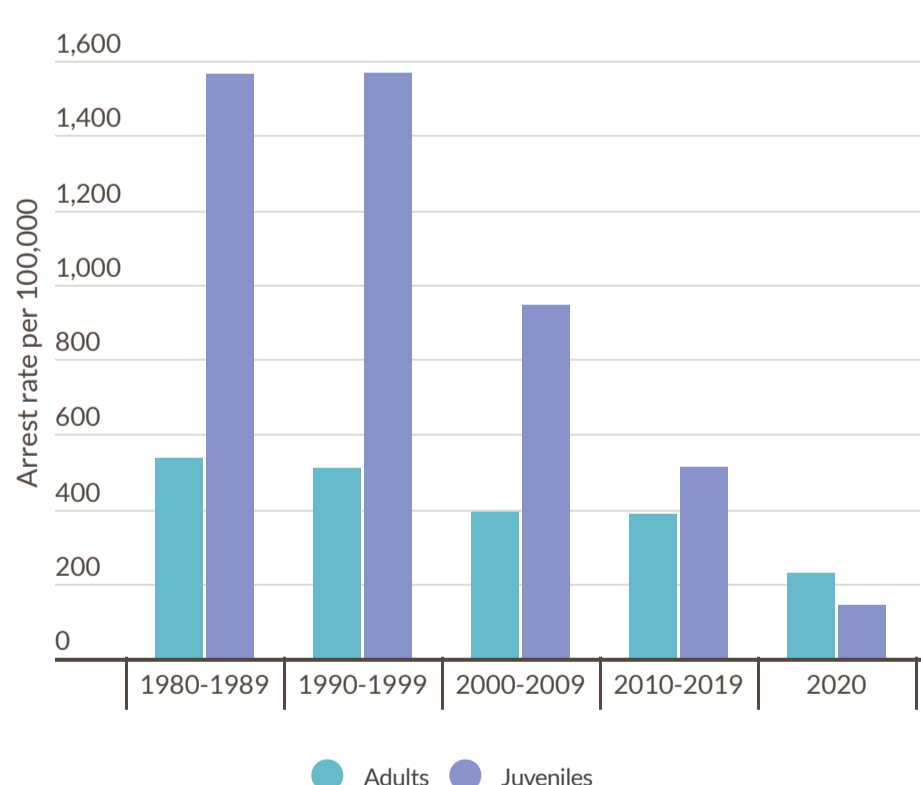
The FBI organizes larceny into nine categories. Shoplifting and thefts from motor vehicles are the largest, while the “other” category consists of unspecified larceny types and less common theft types, such as purse-snatching. The share of shoplifting larcenies **nearly doubled** from 1975 (11%) to 2022 (21%), while the share of thefts from autos **increased by 28%** and the share of auto accessories and parts thefts **decreased by 34%**. The share of “other” larcenies was **17% lower** in 2022 compared to 1975.



Sources: 1975-2017: Kaplan, Jacob. Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: [Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Offenses Known and Clearances by Arrest \(Return A\), 1960-2022](#); 2018-2022: [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(n.d.\), Crime data explorer](#).

Larceny Arrest Rates by Age

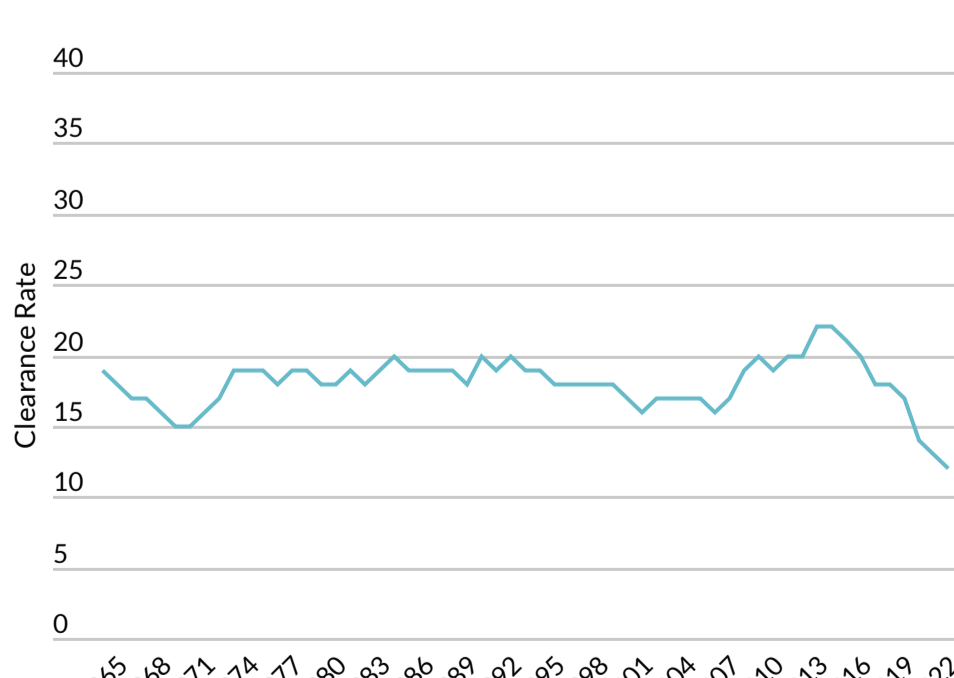
In the 1980s and 1990s, juvenile arrest rates for larceny were about **three times higher** than rates for adults. But the gap shrank in the 2000s and 2010s, and by 2020, the most recent year for which data are available, the juvenile arrest rate was about **40% lower** than the adult rate. From the 1980s to 2020, the juvenile arrest rate **dropped 91%**, while the adult arrest rate **dropped 58%**.



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](#).

Larceny Clearance Rates

In nearly every year since 1964, **fewer than one out of every five** larcenies has been cleared by arrest or other means. Larceny clearance rates were **35% lower** in 2022 than in 1964, dropping from 19% to 12%. In 2022, the clearance rate for larceny was similar to the rate for burglary (13%) and motor vehicle theft (12%), and about half the homicide clearance rate (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.