

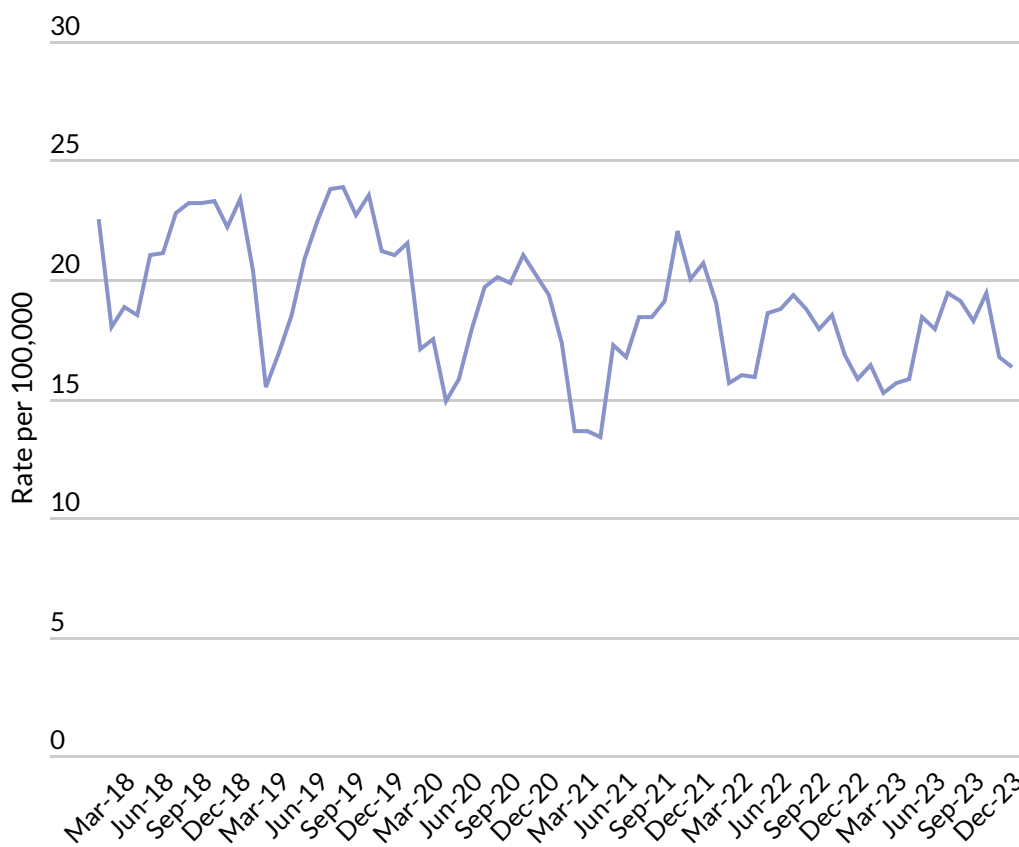
# Trends in Robbery: What You Need to Know

*Robberies are thefts committed with force or the threat of force.*

- The rate of robberies reported to United States law enforcement agencies peaked in 1991, then dropped by 2020 to levels not seen since the early 1960s.
- The majority of reported robberies involve a weapon, with a firearm being the most common weapon.
- While both juvenile and adult arrest rates for robbery have declined since the 1990s, in 2020, the juvenile rate was about 65% higher than the adult rate.
- Following a trend seen with other crimes, the clearance rate for robberies has dropped since the 1960s; in 2022, 23% of all robberies were cleared by law enforcement.

## Monthly Robbery Trends in 33 Cities, 2018-2023

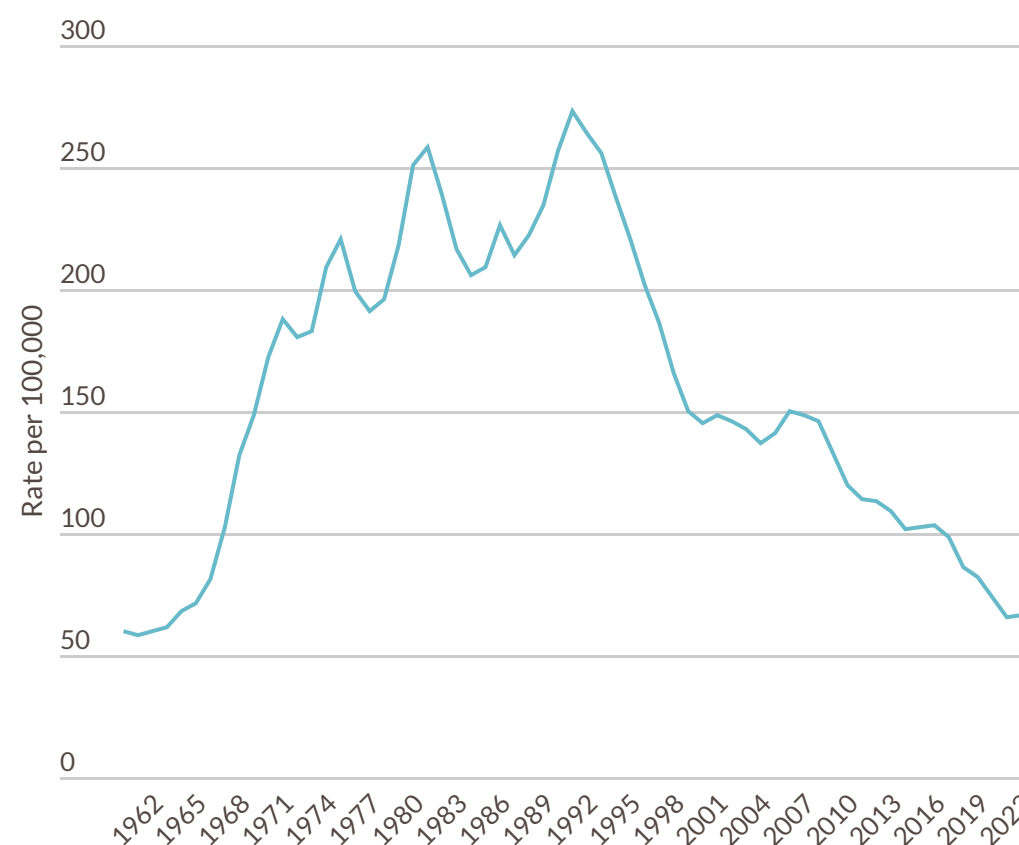
The robbery rate in a sample of 33 cities that publish monthly data was **1% higher** in 2023 than it was in 2019. From 2022 to 2023, the robbery rate **rose 2%**, representing 1,206 additional robberies in the study cities. Compared to the same periods in 2022, reported robberies **decreased by 3%** in the first half of 2023 and **increased by 6%** 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.

## Robbery Rates, 1960 - 2022

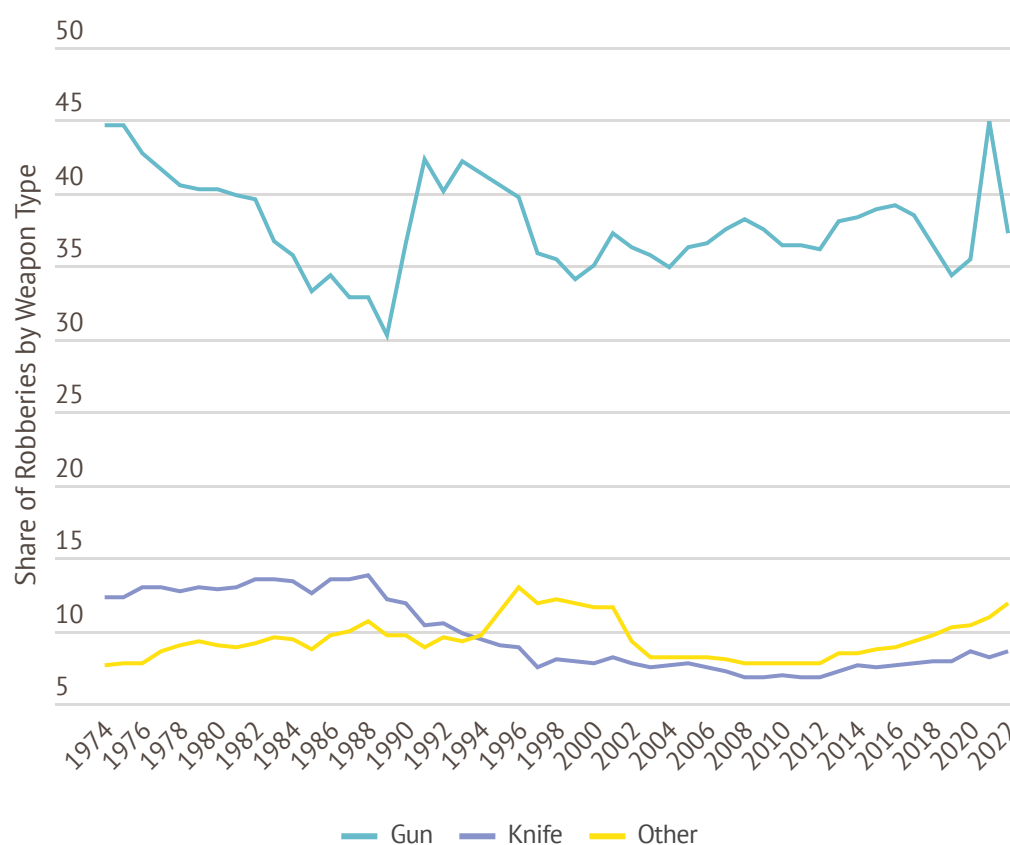
Nationally, the reported robbery rate **peaked in 1991** at 273 per 100,000 people. By 2019, that rate had **dropped 70%** to 82 per 100,000 people, lower than at any point since 1966. This downward trend continued, with robbery **decreasing by 19%** from 2019 to 2022.



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

## Share of Robberies by Weapon Type

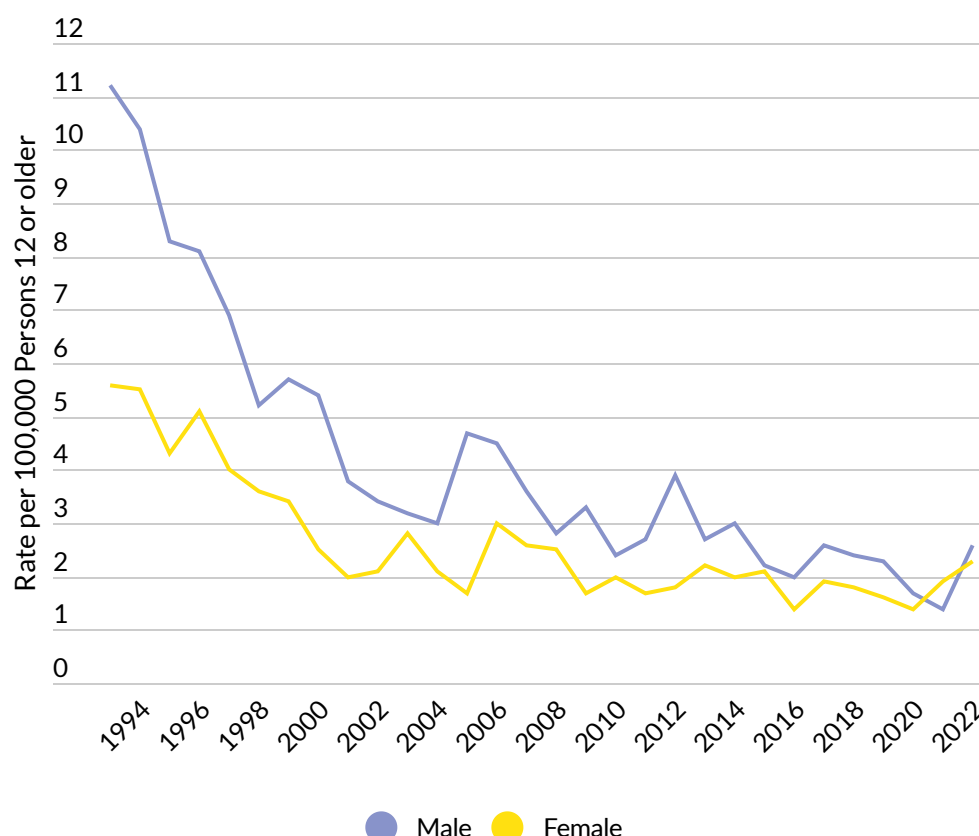
Nearly **60%** of reported robberies involve a gun, knife, or other weapon. From 1974 to 2022, firearms were involved in about **38%** of robberies. In 2021, the proportion of robberies involving a firearm jumped from **35% to 45%** (an increase of 27% from 2020), but that share declined back to **37%** in 2022.



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

## Robberies by Victim Sex, 1993 - 2022

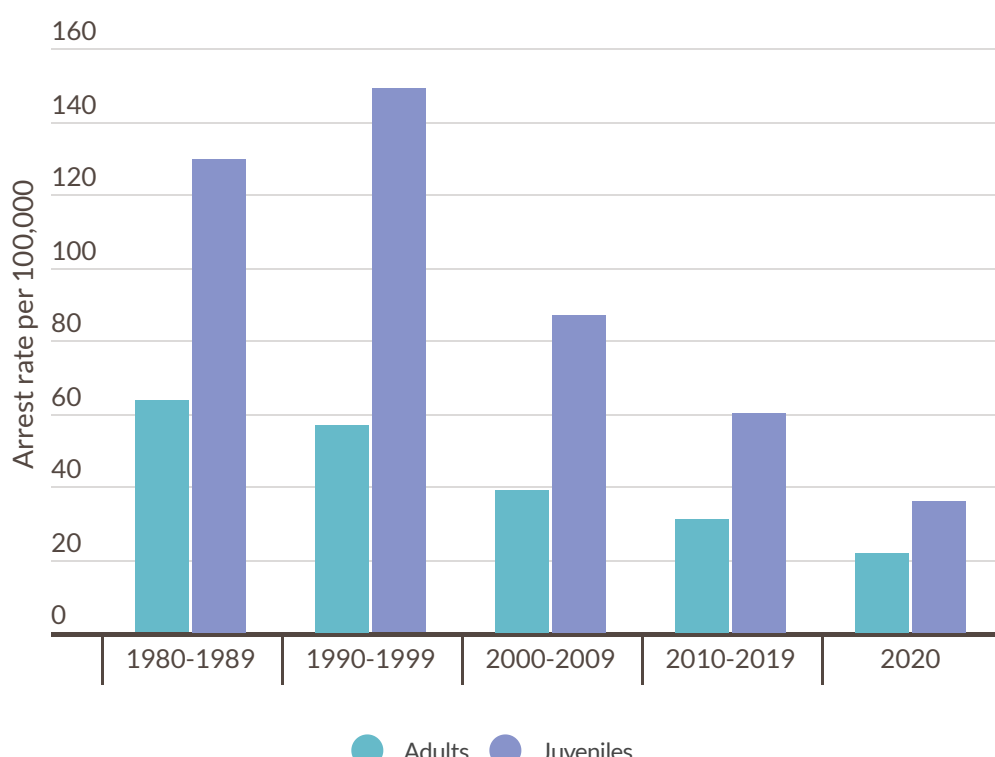
From 1993 (the first year of available data) to 1995, men were **twice as likely** as women to report being the victim of a robbery. Since then, however, that gap has narrowed considerably. From 1995 to 2022, the victimization rate **dropped 69%** for men and **47%** for women. In the year 2021, the robbery victimization rate for women was **slightly higher** than for men.



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

## Robbery Arrest Rates by Age

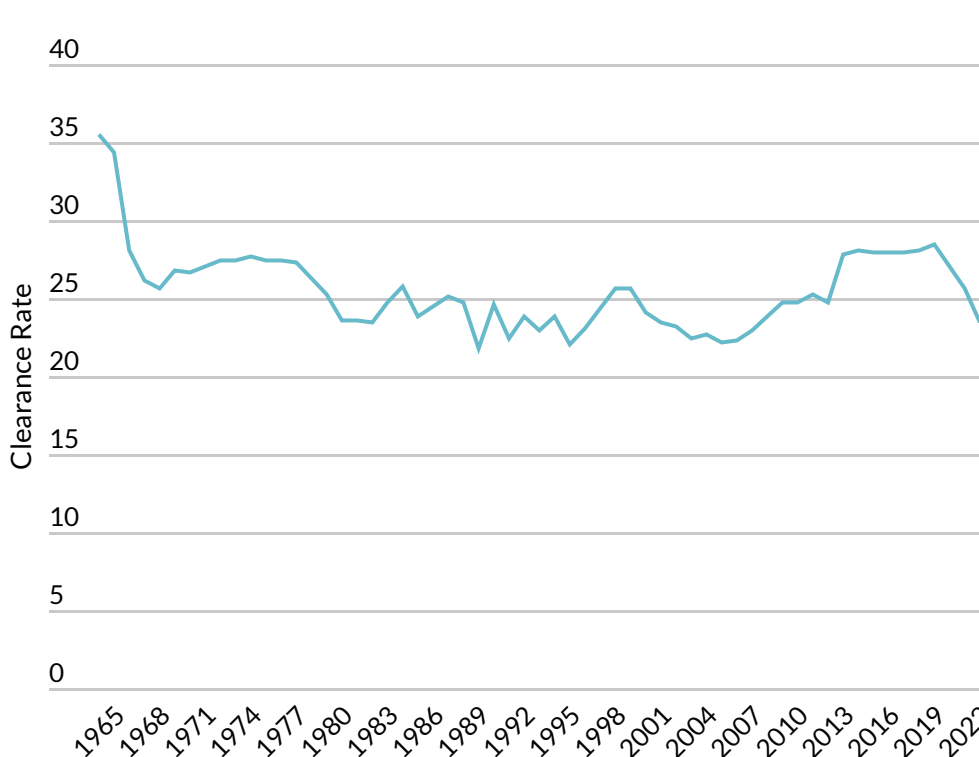
In the 1980s, juvenile robbery arrest rates were about **double** the adult rates. During the 1990s, the juvenile rate rose to an average of **2.6 times higher**, before falling over the past two decades to about **1.7 times higher** than the adult rate in 2020. From the 1980s to 2020, the juvenile arrest rate **dropped 72%**, while the adult arrest rate **dropped 66%**.



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](#).

## Robbery Clearance Rates

Robbery clearance rates **decreased by 34%** from 1964 to 2022, dropping from 36% to 23%. Since 1966, **fewer than one out of every three** robberies has been cleared by arrest or other means. In 2022, this rate was higher than the clearance rates for larceny (12%) and burglary (13%), and was roughly 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.