

### Classifying & Scoring Procedures

- Classifying
- Hierarchy Rule
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- Scoring
- Unfounded Complaints
- Clearances
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Classifying

Classifying is determining the proper crime categories in which to report offenses in UCR.

The classification of the offense is based on the facts of an agency's investigation of a crime.



### Classifying

The process of UCR - SRS classification can occur at any one of the following points in time.

- -Calls for Service
- Complaints
- and/or Investigations



#### Classifying

The UCR records law enforcement offense counts.

#### **Not the findings of:**

- Court
- Coroner
- Jury
- Decision of a Prosecutor





### Classifying

The process of classification begins by determining (based upon UCR - SRS

definitions) which reportable offense(s) occurred during an incident.



#### Classifying

Part I or Part II Agencies must first appropriately classify offenses known to police into Part I or Part II standard offense categories as defined by the Program.



#### Classifying Part I offenses are as follows:

1. Criminal homicide

3. Robbery

5. Burglary

2. Forcible rape

4. Aggravated assault

6. Larceny-theft (Except **Motor Vehicle theft)** 

7. Motor vehicle theft 8. Arson

Complete UCR - SRS definitions of these offenses will be covered in another block of instruction.



#### **Hierarchy Rule**

Criminal homicide
Forcible rape
Robbey
Assault
Burglay
Larceny-theft
Motor vehicle theft

The Hierarchy Rule requires that when more than one Part 1 offense is classified, the law enforcement agency must locate the offense that is highest on the hierarchy list and score that offense involved and not the other offense(s) in the multiple-offense situation.



### Classifying Part II offenses are as

follows: 9. Other Assaults 10. Forgery and

Counterfeiting 11. Fraud 12. Embezzlement 13. Stolen Property 14. Vandalism 15. Weapons 16. Prostitution and Commercialized Vice 17. Sex Offense 18. Drug Abuse Violations 19. Gambling 20. Offense Against the Family and Children 21. Driving Under the Influence 22. Liquor Laws 23. Drunkenness 24. Disorderly Conduct 25. Vagrancy 26. All Other Offenses 27. Suspicion 28. Curfew and Loitering Laws 29. Runaways



### Scoring

Classifying and Scoring are the



two most important functions that a participant in the UCR Program performs.



#### Classifying

Special Note – Generally, agencies classify attempts to commit a crime as though the crimes were actually completed. The only exception to this rule applies to attempts or assaults to murder wherein the victim does not die.

These offenses must be classified as aggravated assaults rather than attempted murders.



### Classifying & Scoring Procedures

### Classifying

If only one Part I crime occurred in an incident the next step would be to score it on the Return A.

Scoring will be discussed later in this block of instruction.



# Hierarchy Rule The hierarchy of Part I Offenses is as follows:

#### 1. Criminal homicide

a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter

b. Manslaughter by negligence



#### **Hierarchy Rule**

#### 2. Forcible rape

- a. Rape by force
- b. Attempts to commit forcible rape

#### 3. Robbery

- a. Firearm
- b. Knife or cutting instrument
- c. Other dangerous weapon
- d. Strong-arm hands, fists, feet, etc.



#### **Hierarchy Rule**

#### 4. Aggravated assault

- a. Firearm
- b. Knife or cutting instrument
- c. Other dangerous weapon
- d. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - aggravated injury





#### **Hierarchy Rule**

#### 5. Burglary

- a. Forcible entry
- b. Unlawful entry no force
- c. Attempted forcible entry



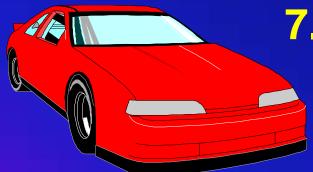
(except motor vehicle theft)







#### **Hierarchy Rule**



7. Motor vehicle theft

a. Autos

**b.** Trucks and Buses

c. Other vehicles

#### 8. Arson

a. - g. Structural

h. - I. Mobile

j. Other



### **Hierarchy Rule**



The hierarchy rule applies only to crime reporting and does not reflect the number of charges for which the defendant may be prosecuted in the courts.



#### **Hierarchy Rule**

The Hierarchy Rule does not apply to the offense of arson.

For a multiple-offense situation, of which one offense is arson, the reporting agency must report the arson and then apply the Hierarchy Rule to the remaining Part 1 offenses to determine which one is the most serious.





Hierarchy Rule

Put more simply, when an arson is involved in a multiple-offense situation, the reporting agency must report two Part I offenses, the arson as well as the additional Part I offense.



### Classifying & Scoring Procedures

Hierarchy Rule - Example

During the commission of an armed

bank robbery, the offender strikes a teller with a butt of a handgun. The robber runs from the bank and steals an automobile at curb side.





### Classifying & Scoring Procedures

### Hierarchy Rule - Example

**Crimes committed during this incident** 

- 3.a. Robbery by firearm
- 4.c. Aggravated Assault other dangerous weapon
- 7.a. Motor Vehicle Theft auto

Which of these crimes is ranked highest on hierarchy above?

Then classify this incident as a 3.a. Robbery by firearm.



#### Separation of Time & Place Rule

If there is a separation of time and place between the commission of several crimes, the reporting agency must handle each crime as a separate incident and must classify and score each offense individually.

1 P.M.

2 P.M.

3 P.M.



### Separation of Time & Place Rule

Same time and place means that the time interval between the offenses and the distance between locations where they occurred are insignificant.

1 P.M.

2 P.M.

3 P.M.



#### Separation of Time and Place Rule - Example

A man and a woman were parked at a secluded location. A gunman surprised them and shot and killed the man when he resisted. He abducted the woman and drove her across town to a secluded area where he forcibly raped her. The police arrested the perpetrator at the scene.



Separation of Time and Place Rule - Example

**Application of the Separation of Time and Place Rule:** 

Crimes committed during this incident(s):

1.a. Criminal Homicide

2.a. Forcible Rape

The Hierarchy Rule does not apply because there is a separation of time and place between the two crimes.



#### Separation of Time & Place Rule - Example

A robber entered a bank, stole \$5,000 from a teller and then escaped in a getaway car.

At a shopping center parking lot across town, the robber and an accomplice stole a car in their effort to elude police.



### Separation of Time & Place Rule Example

How many Incidents do we have here?

2

What crimes are included for each?

3.a. Robbery by Firearm

7.a. Motor Vehicle Theft Auto



### Scoring

Scoring is counting the number of offenses after they have been classified and entering the total count on the appropriate reporting form.

The appropriate scoring of Part 1 crime is directly related to the two types of crimes involved, *crimes against the person and crimes against property.* 



#### **Scoring**

The appropriate scoring of Part I crimes is directly related to the two types of crimes involved, crimes against the person and

crimes against property.



#### Scoring

The crimes against persons category includes the following Part I offenses:

Criminal homicide
Forcible rape
Aggravated assault



### Scoring

The offenses of criminal homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated assault are crimes against the person. For these crimes, one offense is counted for each victim.

Example - If one offender rapes two women, 2 offenses of forcible rape are scored on the Return A.



#### **Scoring**

The crimes against property category includes the following Part I offenses:

Robbery
Larceny-theft

Burglary Motor ve

**Motor vehicle theft** 

**Arson** 



### Scoring

The offenses of robbery, burglary, larcenytheft, motor vehicle theft, and arson are crimes against property. For these crimes, one offense is counted for each distinct operation or attempt, except in the case of motor vehicle theft for which one offense is counted for each stolen vehicle and one offense for each attempt to steal a motor vehicle.



### **Scoring**



An exception to the scoring crimes against property procedure (one offense per distinct operation or attempt) involves the offense of theft of motor vehicles. In the theft of motor vehicles, one offense is counted for each stolen motor vehicle and one offense for each attempt to steal a motor vehicle.



#### **Scoring**

For these crimes, one offense is counted for each distinct operation or attempt, except in the case of motor vehicle theft for which one offense is counted for each stolen vehicle and one offense for each attempt to steal a motor vehicle.

Example - If 3 purses belonging to 3 different women were simultaneously taken from a picnic table in a park while they were watching a soccer game, 1 offense of Larceny - theft would be scored on the Return A.



### Unfounded Complaints

An agency which receives a

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complaint which it later determines to be false or baseless can "unfound" their original report of the offense.



### **Unfounded Complaints**

To "unfound" an offense that was scored in Column #2 on the Return A score one offense in Column #3 for each unfounded offense.

1	D A	2	3	4	5	6
CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	A E N T R	OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE "UNFOUNDED" AND ATTEMPTS)	UNFOUNDED I.E., FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS (INCLUDES COL 6)	NUMBER OF QLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
2 Forcible Rape Total	11	5	1	4		
a. Rape by Force	21	3	1	2		
b. Attempts to commit Forcible Rape	22	2		2		



### **Unfounded Complaints**

None of the following events allow for the legitimate unfounding of an offense.

- Low value of stolen property
- -Refusal of the victim to cooperate
- -Failure to make an arrest
- Findings of a coroner, court, jury, or prosecutor

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# Classifying & Scoring Procedures (Page 78)

### **Unfounded Complaints**

A woman claimed that a man attempted to rape her in his automobile. When law enforcement personnel talked to both individuals, the complainant admitted that she had exaggerated and that the man did not attempt to rape her.

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
2. FORGIBLERAPETOTAL	20	1	1			
a. Rape by Force	21					
b. Attempts to commit Forcible Rape	22	1	1			



Unfounded Complaints

Law enforcement received a report of a burglary. Upon investigation, officers determined that a man climbed through the window of his own home after having locked himself out of his house by mistake. A neighbor had thought he was a burglar and called the police.

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R Y	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
5. BURGLARY TOTAL	50	1	1			
a. Forcible Entry	51					
b. Unlawful Entry - No Force	52	1	1			
c. Attempted Forcible Entry	53					



#### **Unfounded Complaints**

While attending a convention, a man reported to the police that his wallet was stolen by a pickpocket. It was later recovered at the convention's lost and found department. The police concluded that he had dropped his wallet.

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 CHIENSES REPORTEDOR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDEDAND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E FALSEOR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBEROF CLEARANCES INVOLVING CNLYPERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
6. LARCENY-THEFT TOTAL	60	1	1			



#### Clearances

Part I offenses reported on the Return A can be cleared either by arrest or exceptional means. However, no distinction between cleared by arrest and cleared by exceptional means is made on the report when filling out Column 5.



### Clearances - By Arrest

An offense is cleared by arrest, or solved for crime reporting purposes, when at least one person is:

Arrested
Charged with the commission of the offense AND



### **Clearances - By Arrest**

Turned over to the court for prosecution (whether following arrest, court summons, or police notice). Although it makes no physical arrest, an agency can claim an offense is cleared by arrest when the offender is a person under 18 years of age and is cited to appear in juvenile court or before other juvenile authorities.



### Clearances - By Arrest Remember

It is the number of offenses and not the number of persons arrested that are being counted in the clearances that they record on the *Return A*.

Several crimes may be cleared by the arrest of one person, or the arrest of many persons may clear only one crime.



### Clearances - By Arrest Remember

Once there is an arrest of one person for an offense, that arrest clears the offense. When the other person(s) involved in the crime are arrested at a later date, the agency must not record another clearance because the offense was already cleared following the arrest of the first person.



### Clearances - By Arrest - Example

A murder was committed. The police subsequently arrested a suspect whom they charged and turned over to the court.

Score one offense of Murder (Also complete Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR))

Score one clearance for the offense of Murder.



### Clearances - By Arrest - Example

Five thieves broke into a warehouse; law enforcement arrested and charged one of the thieves.

Score how many offenses of Burglary?

Score how many clearances for the offense of Burglary?

Later the other four are arrested

Score how many offenses of Burglary?

Score how many clearances for the offense of Burglary?



### Clearances - By Arrest - Example

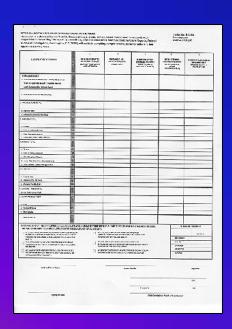
The police arrested one suspect identified in connection with five separate forcible entry burglaries and charged him with the five offenses.

Score how many offenses of Burglary?

Score how many clearances for the offense of Burglary?



#### **Clearances - by Exceptional Means**



In certain situations, law enforcement is not able to follow the three steps outlined under "Cleared by Arrest" to clear offenses known to them.



Clearances - by Exceptional Means

If agencies can answer all of the following questions in the affirmative, they can clear the offense exceptionally for the purpose of reporting to UCR.



#### Clearances - by Exceptional Means

- 1. Has the investigation definitely established the identity of the offender?
- 2. Is there enough information to support an arrest, charge, and the turning over to the court for prosecution?



#### **Clearances - by Exceptional Means**

- 3. Is the exact location of the offender known so that the subject could be taken into custody now?
- 4. Is there some reason outside of law enforcement control that precludes arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender?



#### Clearances - by Exceptional Means

The administrative closing of a case or the clearing of it by departmental policy does not permit exceptionally clearing the offense unless all questions mentioned earlier can be answered yes.



### Clearances - by Exceptional Means Examples (Not Inclusive)

- Suicide of the offender
- Double murder
- Deathbed confession
- Offender killed by police or citizen
- Confession by an offender already in custody or serving sentence



### Clearances - by Exceptional Means Examples (Not Inclusive)

- Offender prosecuted by state or local authorities in another city for a different offense or prosecuted in another city or state by the federal government for an offense which may be the same
- Extradition denied



### Clearances - by Exceptional Means Examples (Not Inclusive)

- Victim refuses to cooperate w/prosecution
- Warrant is outstanding for felon, but before being arrested the offender dies
- Handling of juvenile offender either orally or by written notice to parents in instances involving minor offenses, such as petty larceny, no referral is made to juvenile court as a matter of publicly accepted law enforcement policy



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

Law enforcement investigation in the current month may show that actual offenses the agency recorded on a previous month's report require adjustment.



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

Agencies can make needed adjustments on the current month's report; these do not affect the reliability of the figures because such adjustments tend to offset one another from month to month over a period of time.



Adjustments to Previous Returns

Possible Reasons for adjustments.

Offense determined to be "unfounded"

Offense determined to require "reclassification"



## Classifying & Scoring Procedures

#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

To execute an adjustment merely add or subtract accordingly from the current month's totals.





### Classifying & Scoring Procedures

#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

For a given month you have 3 forcible entry burglaries, 2 unlawful entry no force burglaries and 0 attempted forcible entry burglaries. A department investigation determines that 1 of the forcible entry burglaries you reported last month was unfounded. How do you report it this month?

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
5. BURGLARY TOTAL	50	5	1	4		
a. Forcible Entry	51	3	1	2		
b. Unlawful Entry - No Force	52	2		2		
c. Attempted Forcible Entry						



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

If the existing month has no offenses for that classification the use of an "asterisk" next to the number in the "unfounded" column and a brief explanation at the bottom of the report would be helpful to the state and/or National UCR programs.



### Classifying & Scoring Procedures

#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

For a given month you have 0 forcible entry burglaries, 0 unlawful entry no force burglaries and 0 attempted forcible entry burglaries. A department investigation determines that 1 of the forcible entry burglaries you reported last month was unfounded. How do you report it this month?

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R Y	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
5. BURGLARY TOTAL	50		*1	-1		
a. Forcible Entry	51		*1	-1		
b. Unlawful Entry - No Force	52					
c. Attempted Forcible Entry	53					

<sup>\*</sup> Actual Offense last month, unfounded this month



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

In March, an agency scored an offense of Robbery-Strong-arm (3d). Investigation in April showed the offense was unfounded or false. Therefore, the reporting agency must add 1 to April's figures in Column 3 of the *Return A*. (The agency must make no entry in Column 2 to adjust the figure.)

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
3. ROBBERY TOTAL	30		*1	-1	
a. Firearm	31				
b. Knife or Cutting Instrument	32				
c. Other Dangerous Weapon	33				
d. Strong Arm (Hands, Fists, Feet)	34		*1	-1	

<sup>\*</sup> Actual Offense last month, unfounded this month



#### Adjustments to Previous Returns

Further, if the agency received five complaints of robbery (three by firearm, two strong-arm) in April and none were unfounded, the entry in example 1 would result in the agency's reducing the five robberies to four actual offenses, as shown below.

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
3. ROBBERYTOTAL	30	5	1	4		
a. Firearm	31	3		3		
b. Knife or Cutting Instrument	32					
c. Other Dangerous Weapon	33					
d. Strong Arm (Hands, Fists, Feet)	34	2	1	1		



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

In February, a police department reported an actual offense of Aggravated Assault-Knife or Cutting Instrument (4b). Two months later, the victim died as a result of injuries received during the assault, so the department must classify the offense as Criminal Homicide – Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (1a) and prepare the *Return A* as follows:



1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	DATA EXTRY	2  OFFENSES  REPORTED  OR KNOWN TO  POLICE  (INCLUDE  "UNFOUNDED" AND  ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E., FALSEOR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4  NUMEER OF ACTUAL  OFFENSES (COLUMN 2  MNUS COLUMN 3)  (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS (INCLUDES COL. 6)	6  NUMEER OF CLEARANCES INVCLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
CRIMNAL HOMODE     a. MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT     HOMODE (score attempts as aggravated assault) If homicide reported, submit Supplemental Homicide Report	11	1		1		
4. ASSAULTTOTAL	40	-1		-1		
4. ASSAULT TOTAL  a. Firearm	40	-1		-1		
		-1 -1		-1 -1		
a. Firearm	41	-		-1 -1		
a. Firearm  b. Knifeor Cutting Instrument	41 42	-		-1 -1		



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

Police questioned a suspect about forcible entry burglaries. The suspect admitted to two burglaries that police had recorded on crime reports in previous months, as well as five others during prior months that had not been reported by the victims.

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
5. BURGLARY TOTAL	50	5		5	7	
a. Forcible Entry	51	5		5	7	
b. Unlawful Entry - No Force	52					
c. Attempted Forcible Entry						



#### **Adjustments to Previous Returns**

In September, a couple returned from a month-long vacation and discovered their house had been broken into. Police investigation determined that the burglary most likely occurred in August just after the couple had left. The reporting agency must include the offense on September's *Return A* as follows:

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	D A T A E N T R	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWNTO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) (INCLUDE ATTEMPTS)	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
5. BURGLARYTOTAL	50	1		1		
a. Forcible Entry	51	1		1		
b. Unlawful Entry - No Force	52					
c. Attempted Forcible Entry						