

What is Case Clearance?

- The closing of criminal investigations for a particular case, usually by arresting a suspect
- A crucial part of police work
- Shows the ability of police to enforce the law
- Removes dangerous offenders
- Potentially deters future offending
- Multitude of important characteristics in process

Here we will be looking at what factors help solve especially violent cases, such as assaults and homicides.

Homicide clearance rates in Rochester are around 80-85%, with a national average of about 63% in 2012. Assault case clearance rates tend to be lower.

Objectives

In order to assess what details are useful for carrying out a successful criminal investigation, we need to look at the two categories of important factors in every case:

- **Environmental factors**, or the details specific to each individual case
- **Investigational factors**, or the actions which are taken by the police

Through exploration of previous research and interviewing individuals heavily involved with the investigative process, we can identify some significant features that may lead to a successful investigation.

Environmental Factors



- Witnesses are valuable in any investigation as they are able to describe what happened and identify who was involved.
- The location of the crime is important as crimes happening in public rather private locations are much more difficult to solve.
- If weapons were used, the type of weapon is important. Cases involving the use of a firearm are more difficult to solve than cases involving a contact weapon such as a knife.
- Severe crimes, such as homicide, are more likely to be solved due to a greater devotion of resources and more cooperative witnesses.

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Investigational Factors



- The ideal number of investigators assigned to a specific case is four investigators.
- Police agencies which emphasize crime analysis techniques, such as tracking of criminal data and construction of criminal databases, rather than lab work are generally more successful.
- Investigators who are good at interacting with and networking with potential witnesses tend to be more successful.

References

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