

Chapter 2

TEXAS CRIME ANALYSIS

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2

CRIME MEASUREMENTS

Crime affects every Texan in some fashion. To gain a measurement of crime trends, Texas participates in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. UCR makes possible the analysis of crime trends primarily through the Crime Index.

The Crime Index

To track the variations in crime, the UCR data collection program uses a statistical summary tool referred to as the Crime Index. Rather than collecting reports of all crimes that were committed in a particular year, UCR collects the reports of seven index crimes. The crimes in this group are all serious, either by their very nature or because of the frequency with which they occur, and present a common enforcement problem to police agencies.

Crimes within this index can be further categorized as violent crimes, which include murder, rape,

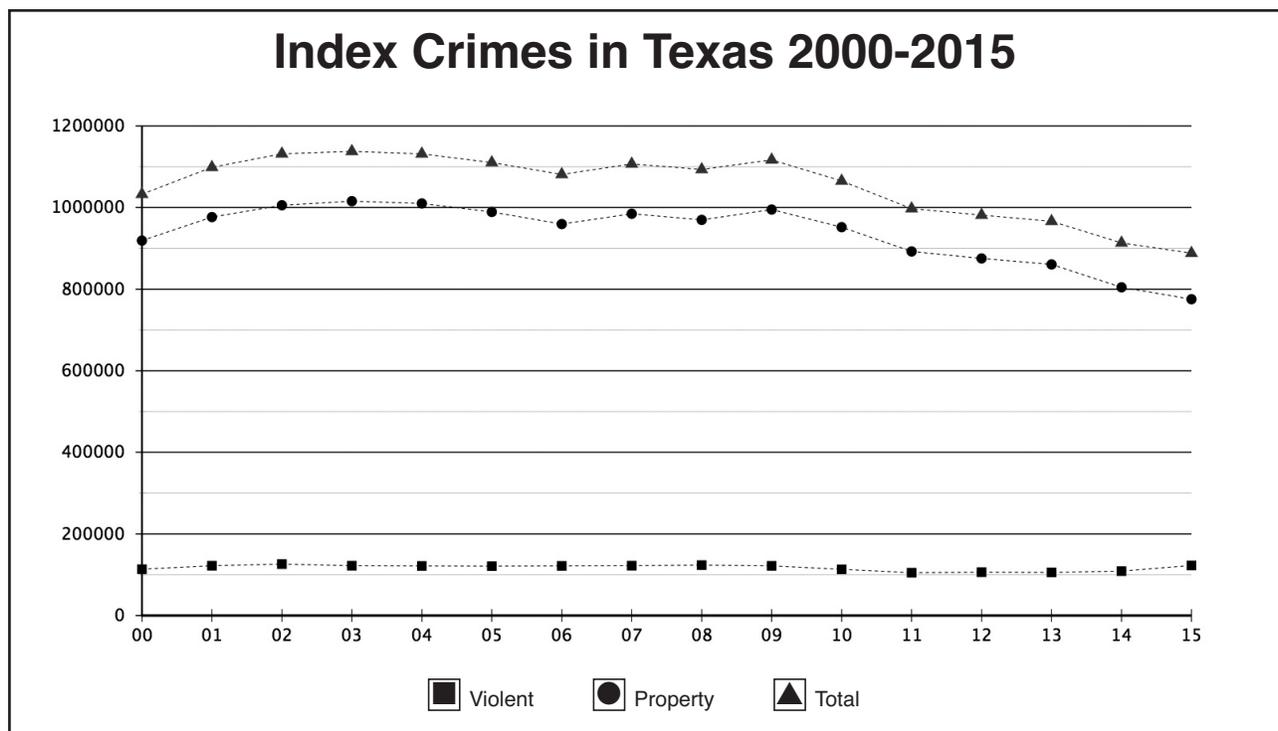
robbery and aggravated assault, or as property crimes, which consist of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. By reducing the overall occurrence of crime to this Crime Index, the annual comparison of crime trends is simplified. Although arson and human trafficking are index crimes in that the number of reported offenses is collected, neither is a part of the Crime Index.

Rape Definition

In 2014, the Rape definition was redefined by the FBI in the Uniform Crime Reporting program as:

“Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.”

Statistics reported in this crime category include assaults to commit rape; however, statutory rape (rape against a female under the age of consent) is excluded.



CRIME TRENDS

Texas crime trends are analyzed using two separate methods: crime volume and crime rates. Crime volume is merely the aggregate sum of the Crime Index. By comparing the crime volume from year to year, trends in the number of crimes committed can be studied. Crime rates, however, are compiled to compensate for changes in the size of Texas' population and to show the number of people affected by crime in a given population. Texas crime rates are generally expressed as the number of crimes per 100,000 residents.

Crime Volume

During calendar year 2015, there was a reported total of 888,155 index offenses in Texas. The crime volume decreased 2.8 percent when compared to 2014.

In addition to the above offenses, there were 3,536 cases of arson reported which represent a decrease of 7.2 percent from 2014. There were also 285 human trafficking offenses committed in 2015.

2015 Texas Index Crime by Volume			
	2015	2014	% Change
Murder	1,314	1,187	10.7
Rape	12,208	11,466	6.5
Robbery	31,883	30,857	3.3
Aggravated Assault	67,358	65,338	3.1
Violent Crime Total	112,763	108,848	3.6
Burglary	152,444	166,429	-8.4
Larceny-Theft	555,867	570,385	-2.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	67,081	67,741	-1.0
Property Crime Total	775,392	804,555	-3.6
GRAND TOTAL	888,155	913,403	-2.8

Crime Rates

During calendar year 2015, Texas' crime rate was 3,233.3 crimes per 100,000 persons. This is a decrease of 4.7 percent from the previous year. The crime rate is based on the 2015 Texas population of 27,469,114.

2015 Texas Crime Rate by Offense			
	2015	2014	% Change
Murder	4.8	4.4	9.1
Rape	44.4	42.6	4.2
Robbery	116.1	114.6	1.3
Aggravated Assault	245.2	242.6	1.1
Violent Crime Total	410.5	404.2	1.6
Burglary	555.0	618.1	-10.2
Larceny-Theft	2,023.6	2,118.3	-4.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	244.2	251.6	-2.9
Property Crime Total	2,822.8	2,988.0	-5.5
GRAND TOTAL	3,233.3	3,392.2	-4.7

Annual Crime Trends

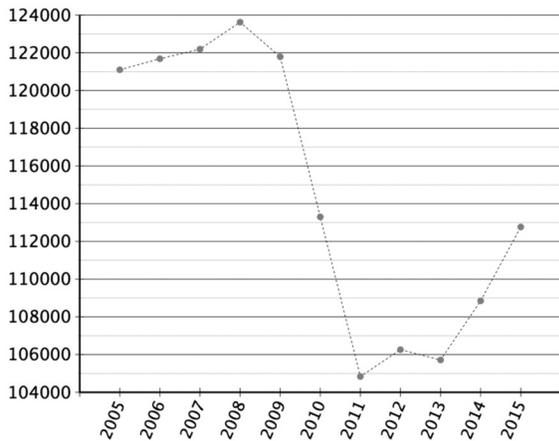
Monthly crime variations show that, in general, crime occurrences peaked in the month of July. Individual index crime trend graphs are located in Chapter 3.



TYPE OF CRIME

Crime analysis generally looks at the two categories of crime discussed above: violent crimes (or crimes against persons) and property crimes. In 2015, 12.7 percent of the Crime Index were violent crimes and 87.3 percent were property crimes.

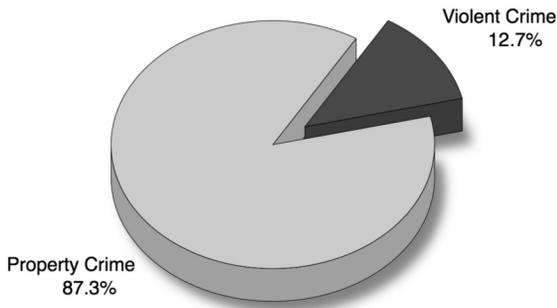
Violent Crime Offenses 2005-2015



Violent Crimes

Violent crimes involve the element of personal confrontation between the perpetrator and the victim. Because of their nature, violent crimes are considered to be more serious than property crimes. A reported 112,763 violent crimes occurred during 2015, a 3.6 percent increase from 2014. The violent crime rate was 410.5 crimes per 100,000 Texans, a 1.6 percent increase from the rate posted in 2014.

Type of Crime in Texas



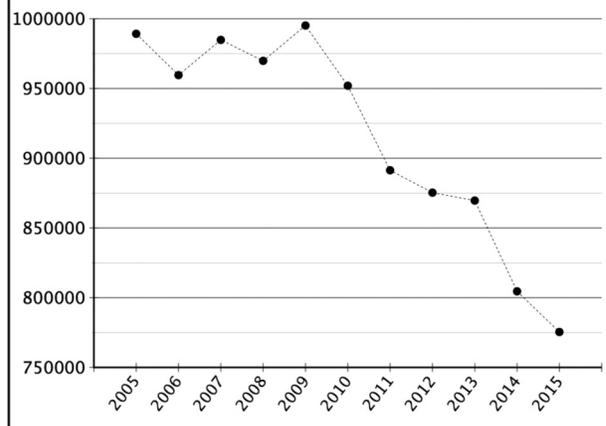
Violent Crime by Offense



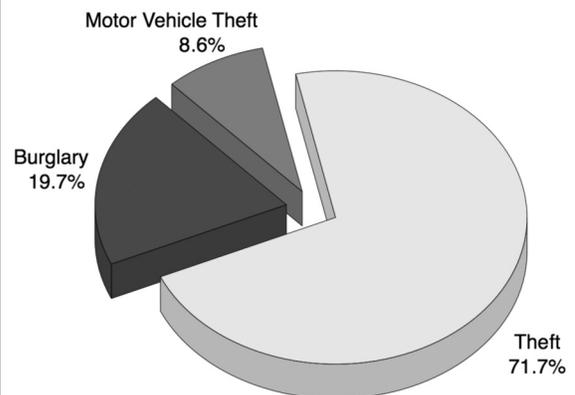
Property Crimes

The number of property crimes reported in 2015 was 775,392. Property crimes decreased 3.6 percent from 2014. Burglary accounted for 19.7 percent of all property offenses, larceny-theft accounted for 71.7 percent, and motor vehicle theft accounted for 8.6 percent. The 2015 property crime rate was 2,822.8 crimes per 100,000 Texans, a decrease of 5.5 percent when compared to the rate for 2014.

Property Crime Offenses 2005-2015



Property Crime by Offense



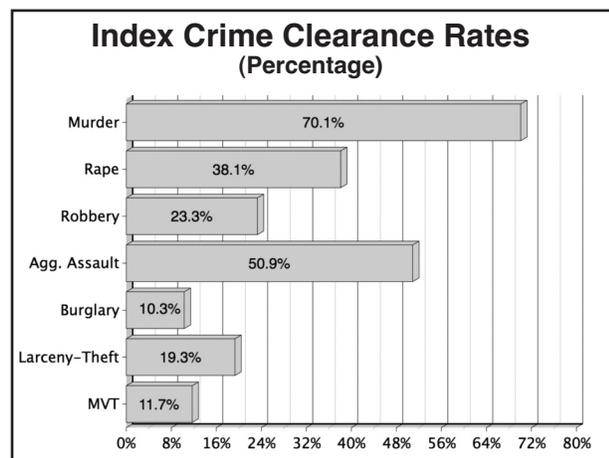
CLEARANCES

For Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, an offense is cleared only when a law enforcement agency has identified the offender, enough evidence exists to press charges, and the subject is actually taken into custody. The arrest of one person can clear several crimes or several persons may be arrested in the process of clearing one offense. Law enforcement agencies may also clear a crime by exceptional means when some element beyond law enforcement control precludes the placing of formal charges against the offender.

Law enforcement officers cleared 20.1 percent of all index offenses reported to them in 2015, by arrest or exceptional means. Of the violent crimes reported, 41.9 percent were cleared, while 17.0 percent of all property crimes were cleared.

The relatively high clearance rate for violent crimes compared to the non-violent property crimes is, in part, attributable to the element of confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator, which contributes to identification of the offender.

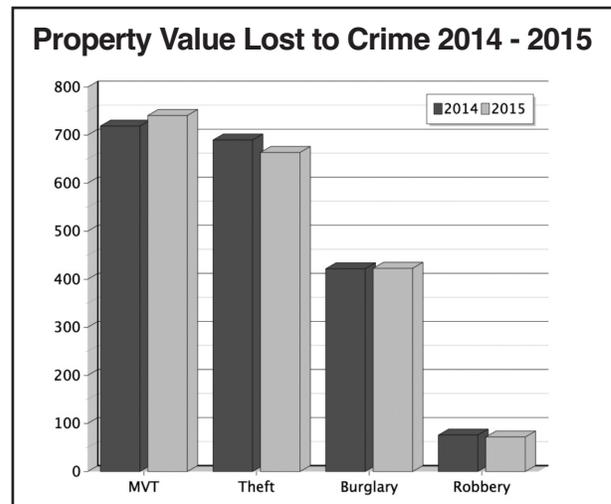
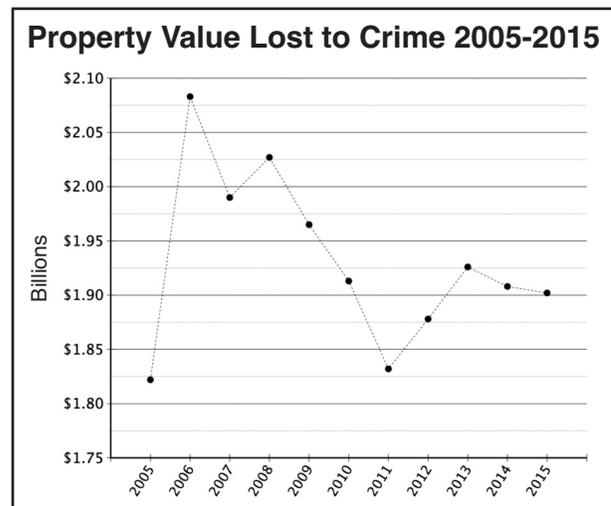
In 2015, arrests of persons under the age of 18 represented 9.9 percent of all index crimes solved, accounting for 7.9 percent of violent crimes cleared and 10.5 percent of property crimes cleared. Of the violent crimes solved, persons under the age of 18 were responsible for 3.6 percent of murder clearances, 14.4 percent of rape clearances, 11.7 percent of robbery clearances, and 6.4 percent of aggravated assault clearances. For non-violent crimes solved, this age group accounted for 10.5 percent of burglaries cleared, 10.4 percent of larceny-thefts cleared, and 12.2 percent of the motor vehicle thefts cleared.



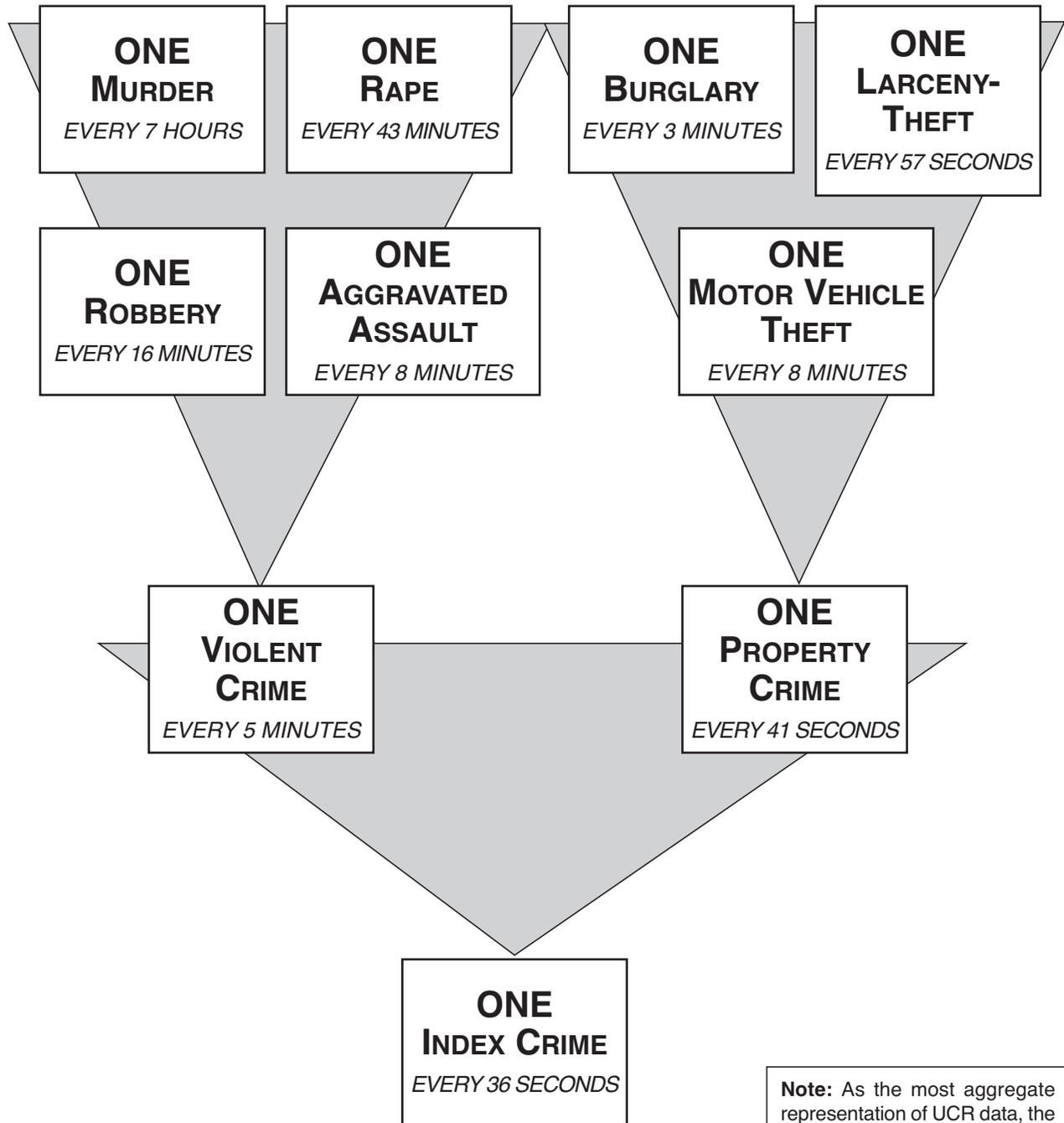
STOLEN PROPERTY VALUE

The total value of reported property stolen during 2015 in Texas was \$1,901,940,482.

Type of Property	Stolen	Recovered
Currency, Notes, Etc.	\$157,003,770	\$2,825,515
Jewelry & Precious Metals	\$151,624,616	\$13,011,635
Clothing & Furs	\$44,146,693	\$3,695,756
Locally Stolen Motor Vehicles	\$760,807,891	\$413,428,753
Office Equipment	\$75,724,184	\$3,397,995
Televisions, Radios, Stereos, Etc.	\$73,341,127	\$3,793,962
Firearms	\$25,618,416	\$1,972,055
Household Goods	\$34,776,613	\$993,288
Consumable Goods	\$13,228,363	\$2,001,010
Livestock	\$2,999,041	\$380,363
Miscellaneous	\$562,669,768	\$53,672,730
TOTAL	\$1,901,940,482	\$499,173,062



TEXAS CRIME CLOCK, 2015



Note: As the most aggregate representation of UCR data, the Crime Clock should be viewed with care. The Crime Clock conveys the relative frequency of Index Crimes. This display does not imply any regularity in the commission of crimes, but rather, the clock represents the annual ratio of crimes to fixed time intervals.

CRIME FACTS AT A GLANCE

2015

- There were 888,155 index crime offenses reported with a 20.1 percent clearance rate for Texas in 2015.
- The crime rate for the State of Texas was 3,233.3 index offenses for every 100,000 inhabitants.
- During 2015, Texas law enforcement officers made 829,051 arrests. Of those arrested, 6.3 percent were 16 years of age and under.
- The value of stolen property totaled \$1,901,940,482.
- The offense of larceny-theft accounted for 62.6 percent of all index crimes and had a clearance rate of 19.3 percent.
- Firearms were used in 72.9 percent of all murders reported.
- There were 67,358 aggravated assaults reported. Of these, 19.9 percent were committed by the use of hands, fists, and feet; 20.5 percent involved a knife or cutting instrument; and 26.9 percent involved a firearm.
- Residential burglaries accounted for 69 percent of all burglaries reported.
- The number of motor vehicle thefts reported was 67,081, for a total dollar loss of \$740,819,760.
- There were 194,872 family violence incidents during 2015. There were 211,301 victims and 205,154 offenders.
- In 2015, there were 193 hate crime incidents reported with 205 victims, 213 offenders and 206 offenses.
- There were 18,636 sexual assault incidents reported with 19,537 victims and 19,648 offenders.
- There were 4,310 assaults on officers reported with 95.4 percent cleared.
- A total of four law enforcement officers were killed, all of whom were feloniously killed in the line of duty.