

TEXAS CRIME ANALYSIS

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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.

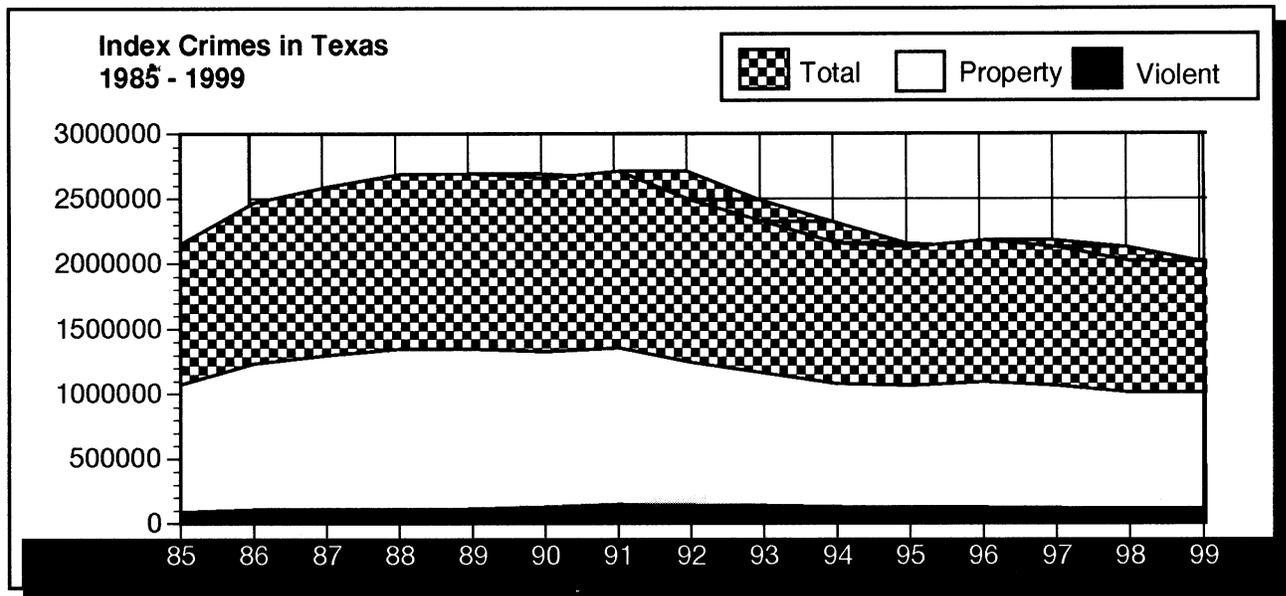
The Crime Index

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, forcible 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 is an index crime in that the number of reported offenses are collected, arson is not a part of the Crime Index.

Offense Estimation

Because a few Texas law enforcement agencies experienced difficulty in finalizing their 1999 crime reports prior to state and national release deadlines, it has been necessary to estimate the number of offenses for these agencies. The methodology for this estimation process has remained the same throughout the Texas UCR program, making it possible to compare crime trends from year to year without the results being skewed by changes in the number of reporting agencies. No attempt, however, is made to estimate for unreported or under-reported crimes. A full discussion of reporting practices and other factors affecting crime trends can be found in Chapter One's section on Crime Factors.



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 1999, there was an estimated total of 1,009,253 index offenses in Texas. The crime volume decreased 0.06 percent when compared to 1998.

In addition to the above offenses, there were 8,397 cases of arson reported which represented a decrease of 0.7 percent from 1998.

Offense	1999	1998	% Change
Murder	1,218	1,343	-9.3%
Rape	7,629	7,914	-3.6%
Robbery	29,424	28,672	+2.6%
Aggravated Assault	74,165	73,648	+0.7%
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	112,436	111,577	+0.8%
Burglary	190,347	194,872	-2.3%
Theft	614,478	606,805	+1.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	91,992	96,614	-4.8%
PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL	896,817	898,291	-0.2%
INDEX CRIME TOTAL	1,009,253	1,009,868	-0.06%

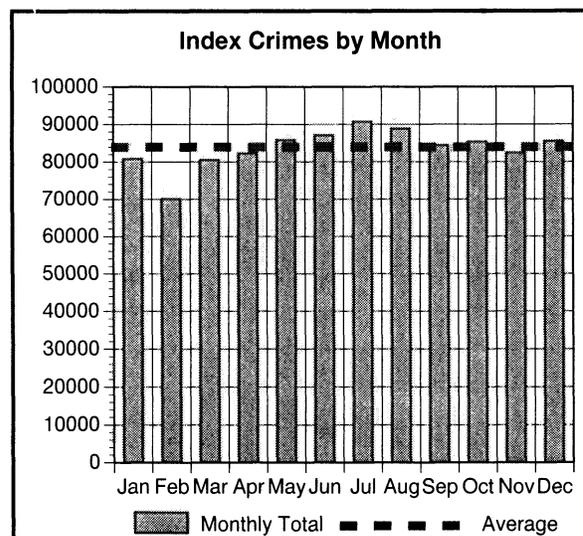
Crime Rates

During calendar year 1999, Texas' crime rate was 5,035.2 crimes per 100,000 persons. The crime rate decreased 1.5 percent from the previous year.

Offense	1999	1998	% Change
Murder	6.1	6.8	-10.3%
Rape	38.1	40.1	-5.0%
Robbery	146.8	145.1	+1.2%
Aggravated Assault	370.0	372.7	-0.7%
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	561.0	564.7	-0.7%
Burglary	949.6	986.2	-3.7%
Theft	3,065.6	3,070.9	-0.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	459.0	488.9	-6.1%
PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL	4,474.2	4,546.0	-1.6%
INDEX CRIME TOTAL	5,035.2	5,110.7	-1.5%

Annual Crime Trends

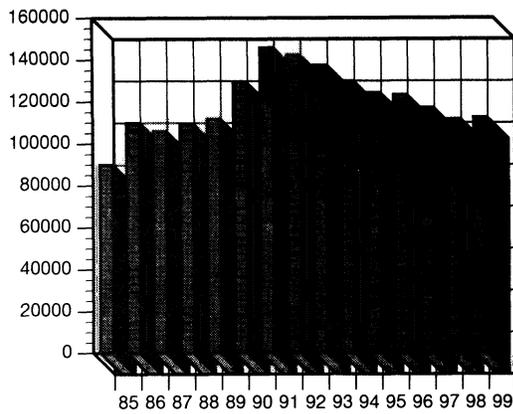
Monthly crime variations show that, in general, crime occurrences peak in the summer month of July. Individual index crime trend graphs are located in Chapter 3.



TYPE OF CRIME

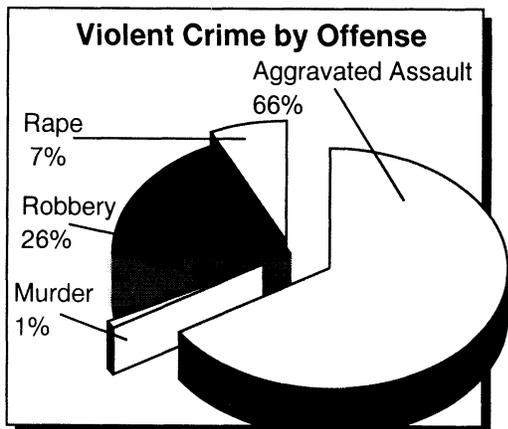
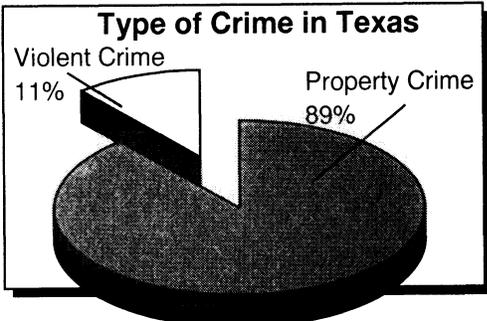
Crime analysis generally looks at the two categories of crime discussed above: Violent crimes (or crimes against persons) and property crimes. In 1999, 11 percent of the Crime Index was made up of violent crimes and 89 percent were property crimes.

Violent Crime Offenses 1985 - 1999



Violent Crimes

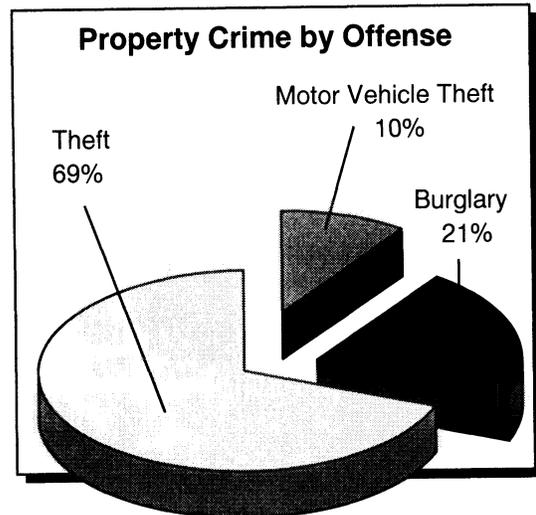
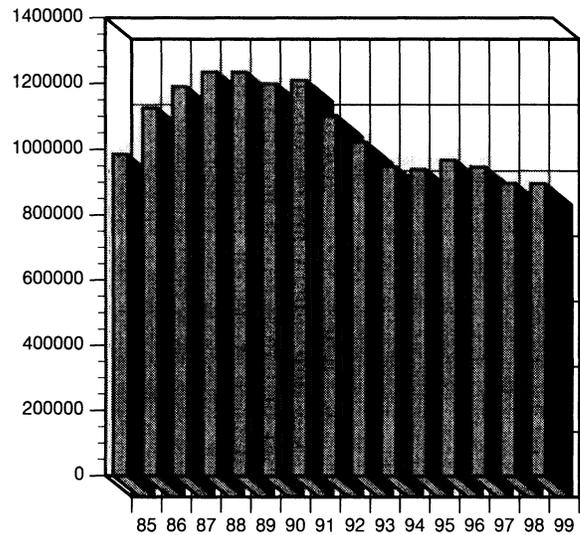
Violent crimes involve the element of personal confrontation between the perpetrator and the victim. Because of their nature, violent crimes are considered to be more serious than property crimes. An estimated 112,436 violent crimes occurred during 1999,--a 0.8 percent increase from 1998. The 1999 violent crime rate was 561.0 crimes per 100,000 Texans--a 0.7 percent decline from the rate posted in 1998.



Property Crimes

The number of property crimes occurring during 1999 was estimated at 896,817. Property crimes decreased 0.2 percent from 1998. Burglary accounted for 21 percent of all property offenses, larceny-theft accounted for 69 percent, and motor vehicle theft accounted for 10 percent. The 1999 property crime rate was 4,474.2 crimes per 100,000 Texans--a decrease of 1.6 percent when compared to the rate for 1998.

Property Crime Offenses 1985 - 1999



CLEARANCES

For Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, an offense is cleared 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 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 percent of all index offenses reported to them in 1999, by arrest or exceptional means. Of the violent crimes reported, 49 percent were cleared while 16 percent of all property crimes were cleared.

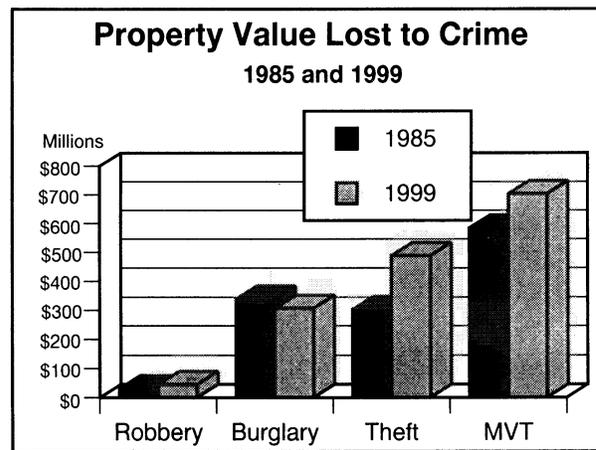
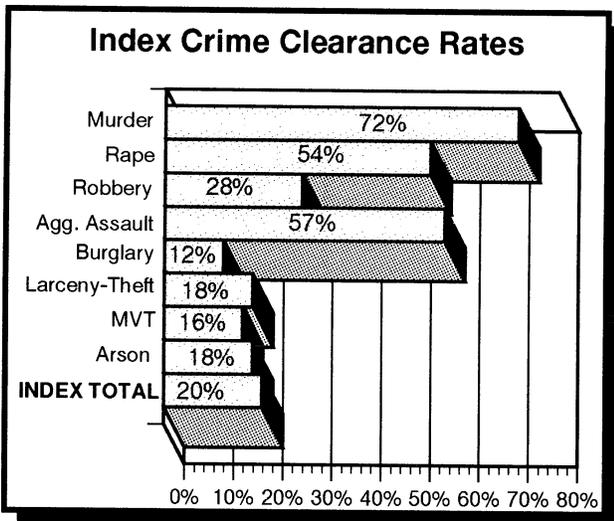
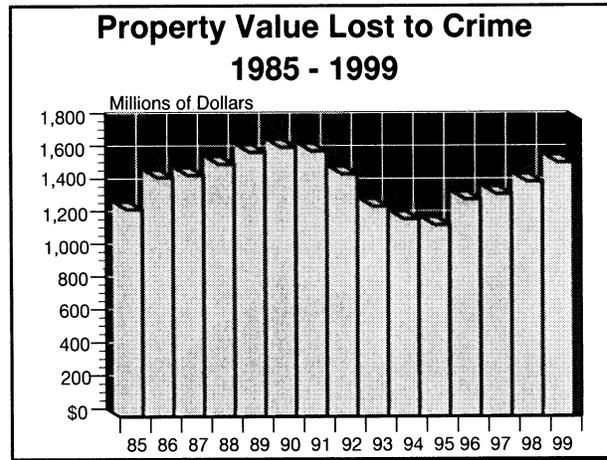
The relatively high clearance rate for violent crimes compared to the non-violent property crimes is, in part, attributable to the element of confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator which contributes to identification of the offender.

In 1999, persons arrested under the age of 18 represented 16 percent of all cases solved accounting for 10 percent of all violent crime clearances and 19 percent of property crimes. The involvement rate of persons under 18 years of age was 8 percent for murders, 10 percent for forcible rape, 11 percent for robbery, and 10 percent for aggravated assault. In the non-violent crime categories, this age group accounted for 16 percent of the solved burglaries, 20 percent of the thefts, and 15 percent of the motor vehicle thefts.

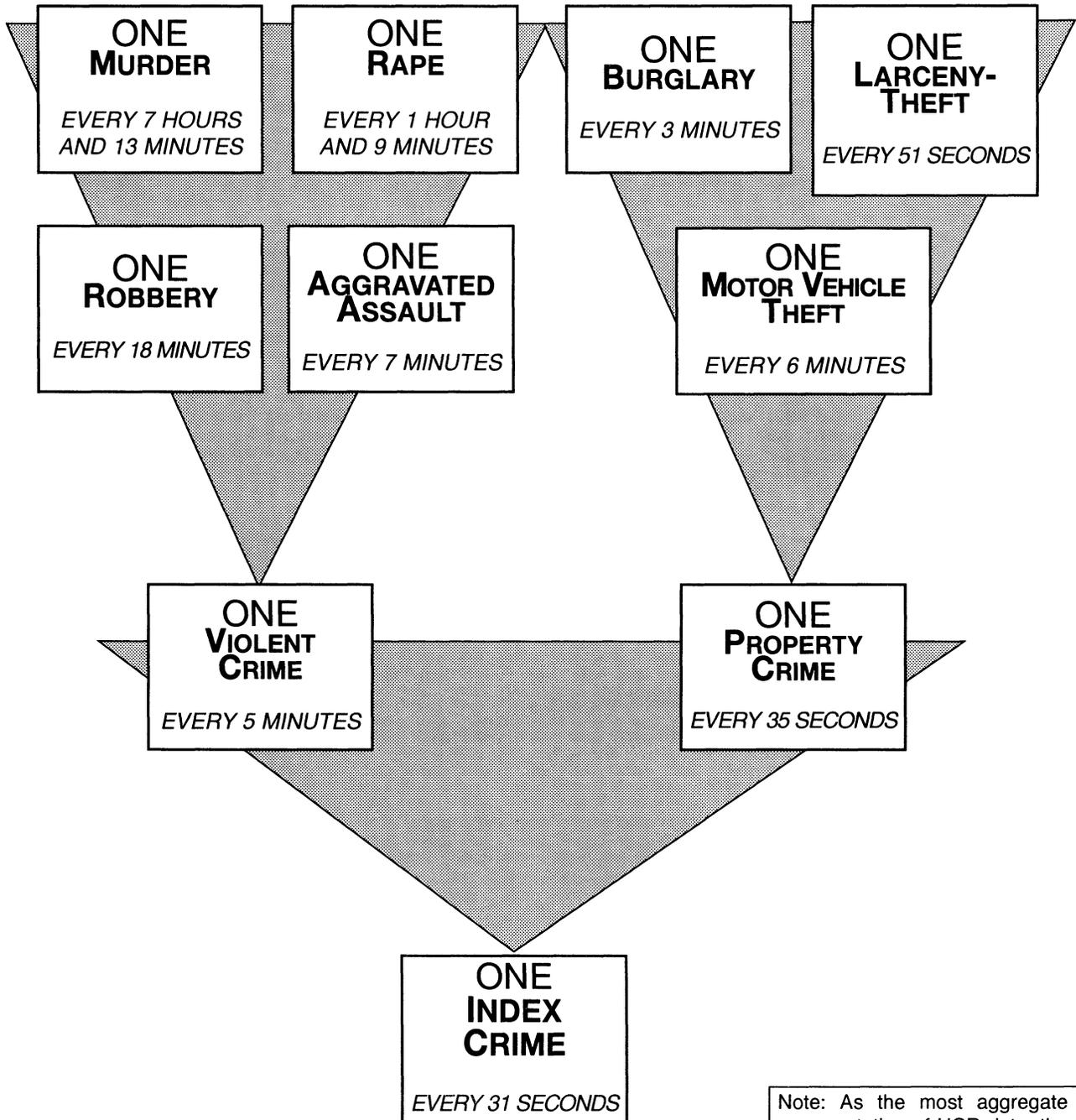
STOLEN PROPERTY VALUE

The total value of property stolen during 1999 in Texas was \$1,545,318,566.

Property Type	Stolen Value	% Recovered
Currency, Notes, Etc.	79,851,571	5
Jewelry & Precious Metals	105,700,693	6
Clothing & Furs	39,483,342	11
Locally Stolen Motor Vehicles	726,845,185	74
Office Equipment	49,628,704	6
Televisions, Radios, Stereos, Etc.	134,865,055	4
Firearms	15,312,332	9
Household Goods	24,519,870	5
Consumable Goods	15,688,399	7
Livestock	2,740,467	30
Miscellaneous	350,682,948	10
TOTAL	1,545,318,566	39



TEXAS CRIME CLOCK, 1999



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.

ESTIMATED CRIME IN TEXAS

The offenses in this chart were compiled from reports submitted to the UCR program by Texas law enforcement agencies. Because reporting compliance has varied, it has been necessary to estimate offenses for non-reporting jurisdictions. Previous editions of *Crime in Texas* have estimated crime in non-reporting jurisdictions based on an average of the reporting agencies in the same population group or by projecting annual totals from agency reports that cover less than 12 months. This same logic is followed here. The term "Rate" refers to the number of crimes per 100,000 population.

Year	State Population	Index	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	TOTAL
1985	16,370,000	Volume	2,124	8,367	31,693	47,868	289,913	596,130	99,561	1,075,656
		Rate	13.0	51.1	193.6	292.4	1,771.0	3,641.6	608.2	6,570.9
1986	16,682,000	Volume	2,256	8,608	40,021	59,042	341,750	665,035	119,122	1,235,834
		Rate	13.5	51.6	239.9	353.9	2,048.6	3,986.6	714.1	7,408.2
1987	16,789,000	Volume	1,960	8,068	38,049	57,903	355,732	711,739	123,378	1,296,829
		Rate	11.7	48.1	226.6	344.9	2,118.8	4,239.3	734.9	7,724.3
1988	16,780,000	Volume	2,021	8,122	39,307	60,084	362,099	739,784	134,271	1,345,688
		Rate	12.0	48.4	234.2	358.1	2,157.9	4,408.7	800.2	8,019.6
1989	16,991,000	Volume	2,029	7,953	37,910	63,978	342,360	741,642	150,974	1,346,846
		Rate	11.9	46.8	223.1	376.5	2,014.9	4,364.9	888.6	7,926.8
1990	16,986,510	Volume	2,388	8,749	44,319	73,889	314,507	731,080	154,407	1,329,339
		Rate	14.1	51.5	260.9	435.0	1,851.5	4,303.9	909.0	7,825.9
1991	17,349,000	Volume	2,651	9,265	49,698	84,104	312,719	734,177	163,837	1,356,451
		Rate	15.3	53.4	286.5	484.7	1,802.3	4,231.5	944.3	7,818.0
1992	17,656,000	Volume	2,239	9,425	44,583	86,106	268,907	689,589	145,048	1,245,897
		Rate	12.7	53.4	252.5	487.7	1,523.0	3,905.7	821.5	7,056.5
1993	18,031,000	Volume	2,149	9,923	40,464	84,892	233,944	664,738	124,822	1,160,932
		Rate	11.9	55.0	224.4	470.8	1,297.5	3,686.6	692.3	6,438.5
1994	18,378,000	Volume	2,023	9,101	37,639	81,079	214,691	624,035	110,772	1,079,340
		Rate	11.0	49.5	204.8	441.2	1,168.2	3,395.6	602.7	5,873.0
1995	18,724,000	Volume	1,694	8,526	33,666	80,377	202,637	632,523	104,939	1,064,362
		Rate	9.0	45.5	179.8	429.3	1,082.2	3,378.1	560.5	5,684.5
1996	19,128,000	Volume	1,476	8,374	32,796	80,572	204,335	659,397	104,928	1,091,878
		Rate	7.7	43.8	171.5	421.2	1,068.3	3,447.3	548.6	5,708.3
1997	19,439,000	Volume	1,328	8,007	30,513	77,239	200,966	645,174	101,687	1,064,914
		Rate	6.8	41.2	157.0	397.3	1,033.8	3,319.0	523.1	5,478.2
1998	19,760,000	Volume	1,343	7,914	28,672	73,648	194,872	606,805	96,614	1,009,868
		Rate	6.8	40.1	145.1	372.7	986.2	3,070.9	488.9	5,110.7
1999	20,044,000	Volume	1,218	7,629	29,424	74,165	190,347	614,478	91,992	1,009,253
		Rate	6.1	38.1	146.8	370.0	949.6	3,065.6	459.0	5,035.2

CRIME FACTS AT A GLANCE

1999

- There were an estimated 1,009,253 index offenses reported with a 20 percent clearance rate for Texas in 1999.
- The crime rate for the State of Texas was 5,035.2 index offenses for every 100,000 inhabitants.
- During 1999, Texas law enforcement officers made 1,073,388 arrests. Of those arrested, 15 percent were 16 years of age and under.
- The value of stolen property totaled \$1,545,318,566.
- The offense of larceny-theft accounted for 61 percent of all index crimes and had a clearance rate of 18 percent.
- Firearms were used in 63 percent of all murders reported. All other weapons made up the remaining 37 percent.
- There were an estimated 74,165 aggravated assaults. Of these, 21 percent were committed by the use of hands, fists, and feet.
- Residential burglaries accounted for 67 percent of all burglaries reported.
- The estimated number of motor vehicle thefts were 91,992, for a total dollar loss of \$703,689,576.
- Five law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. Three were killed in duty-related accidents.
- There were 5,019 assaults on officers reported with 93 percent cleared.
- In 1999, there were 267 hate crime incidents reported with 262 victims, 302 offenders and 286 offenses.
- Family violence incidents totaled 177,176 during 1999. There were 192,202 victims and 186,265 offenders.