

**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.

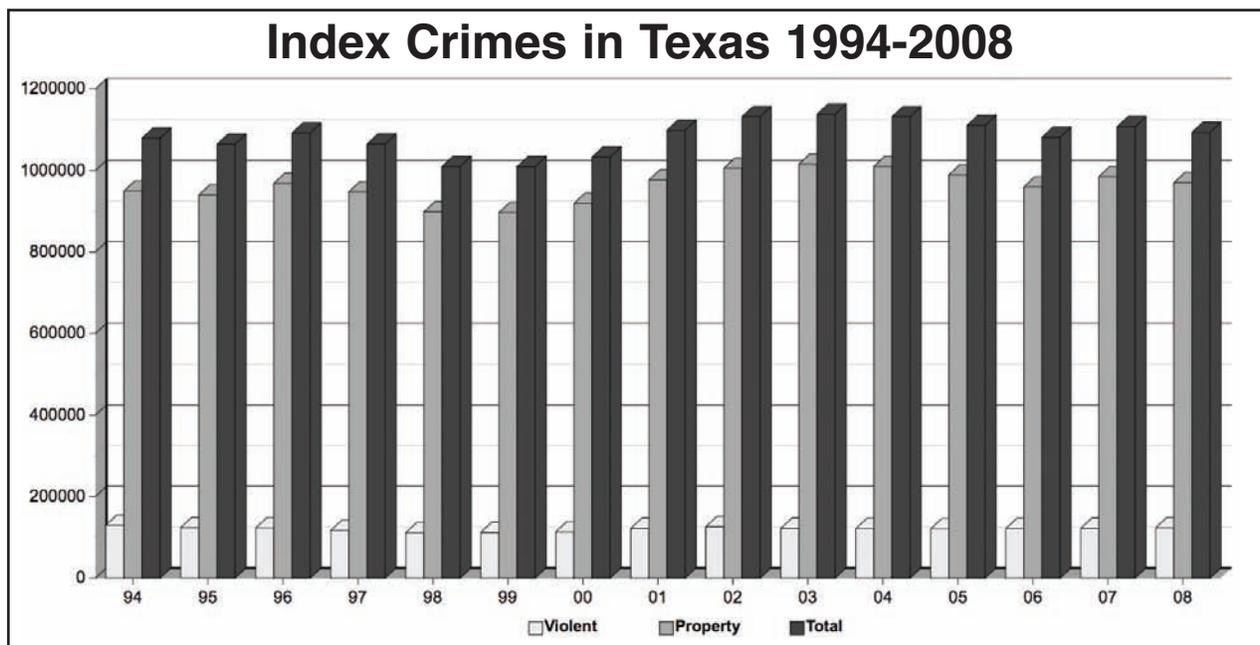
The Crime Index

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, 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 2008 crime reports prior to state and national deadlines, it was necessary to estimate the number of offenses for these agencies. In 2008, 1,026 law enforcement agencies participated in the UCR program representing 99.9 percent of the population. 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 the Crime Factors section of Chapter One.



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 2008, there was an estimated total of 1,093,428 index offenses in Texas. The crime volume decreased 1.2 percent when compared to 2007.

In addition to the above offenses, there were 6,363 cases of arson reported which represented an increase of 6.0 percent from 2007.

Offense	2008	2007	% Change
Murder	1,373	1,415	- 3.0 %
Rape	8,004	8,430	- 5.1 %
Robbery	37,757	38,777	- 2.6 %
Aggravated Assault	76,487	73,570	+ 4.0 %
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	123,621	122,192	+ 1.2 %
Burglary	230,263	228,325	+ 0.8 %
Larceny-Theft	654,133	662,481	- 1.3 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	85,411	94,026	- 9.2 %
PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL	969,807	984,832	- 1.5 %
INDEX CRIME GRAND TOTAL	1,093,428	1,107,024	- 1.2 %

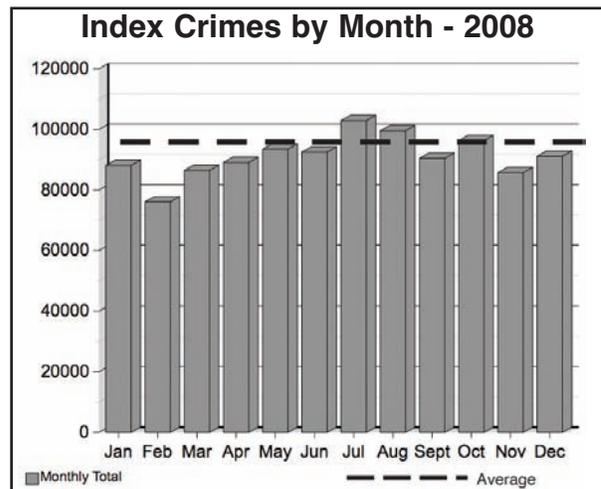
Crime Rates

During calendar year 2008, Texas' crime rate was 4494.7 crimes per 100,000 persons. This is an decrease of 2.9 percent from the previous year. The crime rate is based on the 2008 Texas population of 24,326,974.

Offense	2008	2007	% Change
Murder	5.6	5.9	- 5.1 %
Rape	32.9	35.3	- 6.8 %
Robbery	155.2	162.2	- 4.3 %
Aggravated Assault	314.4	307.8	+ 2.1 %
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	508.2	511.2	- 0.6 %
Burglary	946.5	955.2	- 0.9 %
Larceny-Theft	2,688.9	2,771.4	- 3.0 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	351.1	393.3	- 10.7 %
PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL	3986.6	4,119.9	- 3.2 %
INDEX CRIME GRAND TOTAL	4,494.7	4,631.1	- 2.9 %

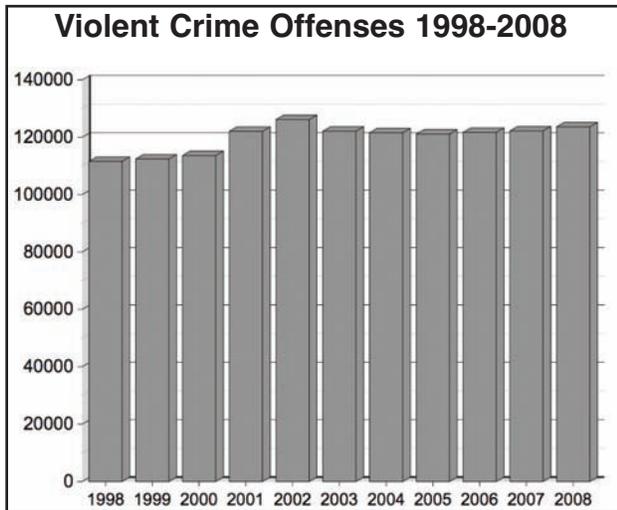
Annual Crime Trends

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.



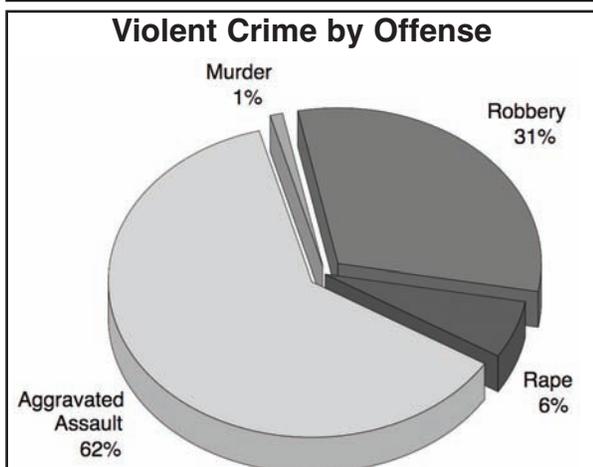
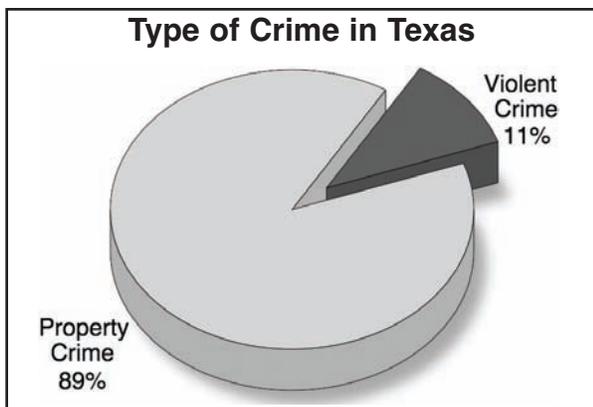
TYPE OF CRIME

Crime analysis generally looks at the two categories of crime discussed above: violent crimes (or crimes against persons) and property crimes. In 2008, 11 percent of the Crime Index were violent crimes and 89 percent were property crimes.



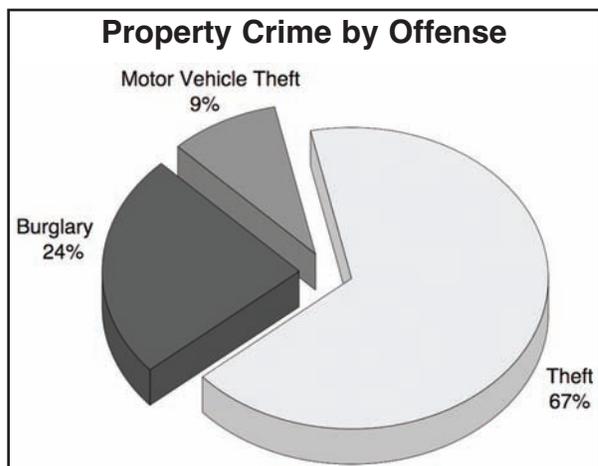
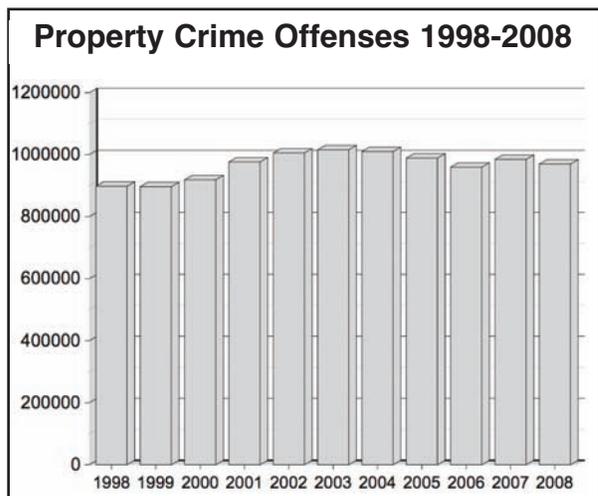
Violent Crimes

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 123,621 violent crimes occurred during 2008, a 1.2 percent increase from 2007. The 2008 violent crime rate was 508.2 crimes per 100,000 Texans, a 0.6 percent decrease from the rate posted in 2007.



Property Crimes

The number of property crimes occurring during 2008 was estimated at 969,807. Property crimes decreased 1.5 percent from 2007. Burglary accounted for 24 percent of all property offenses, larceny-theft accounted for 67 percent, and motor vehicle theft accounted for 9 percent. The 2008 property crime rate was 3986.6 crimes per 100,000 Texans, a decrease of 3.2 percent when compared to the rate for 2007.



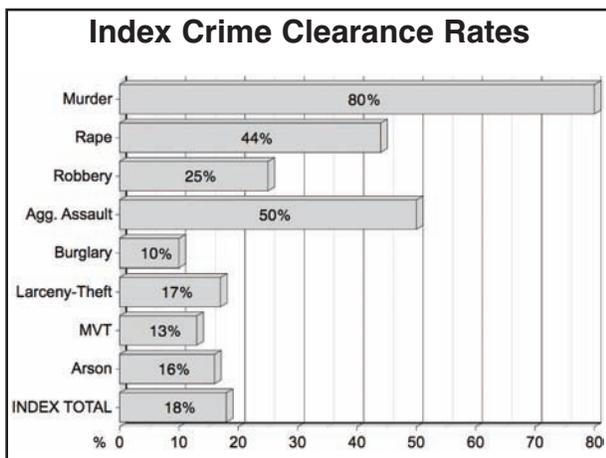
CLEARANCES

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 18 percent of all index offenses reported to them in 2008, by arrest or exceptional means. Of the violent crimes reported, 42 percent were cleared, while 15 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.

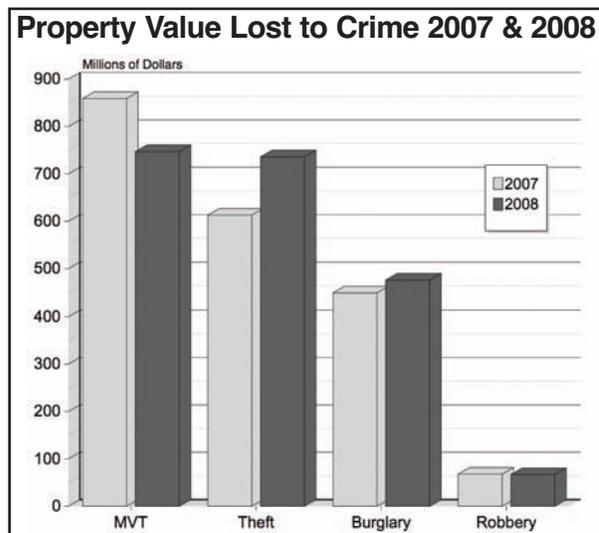
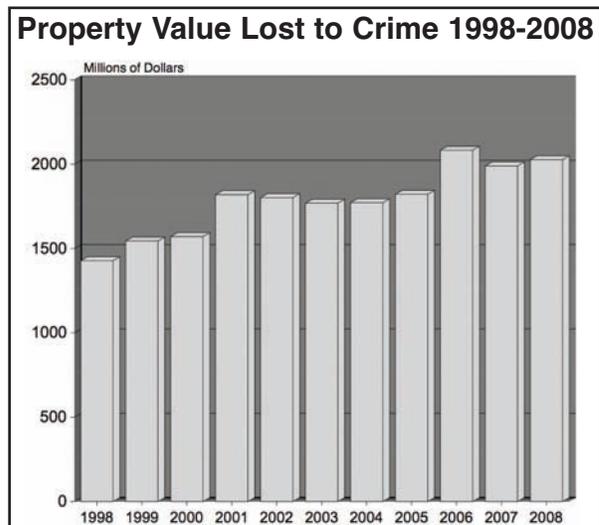
In 2008, persons arrested under the age of 18 represented 15 percent of all cases solved, accounting for 10 percent of all violent crime clearances and 17 percent of property crimes. The involvement rate of persons under 18 years of age was 5 percent for murders, 12 percent for forcible rape, 12 percent for robbery, and 9 percent for aggravated assault. In the non-violent crime categories, this age group accounted for 16 percent of the solved burglaries, 17 percent of the thefts, and 12 percent of the motor vehicle thefts.



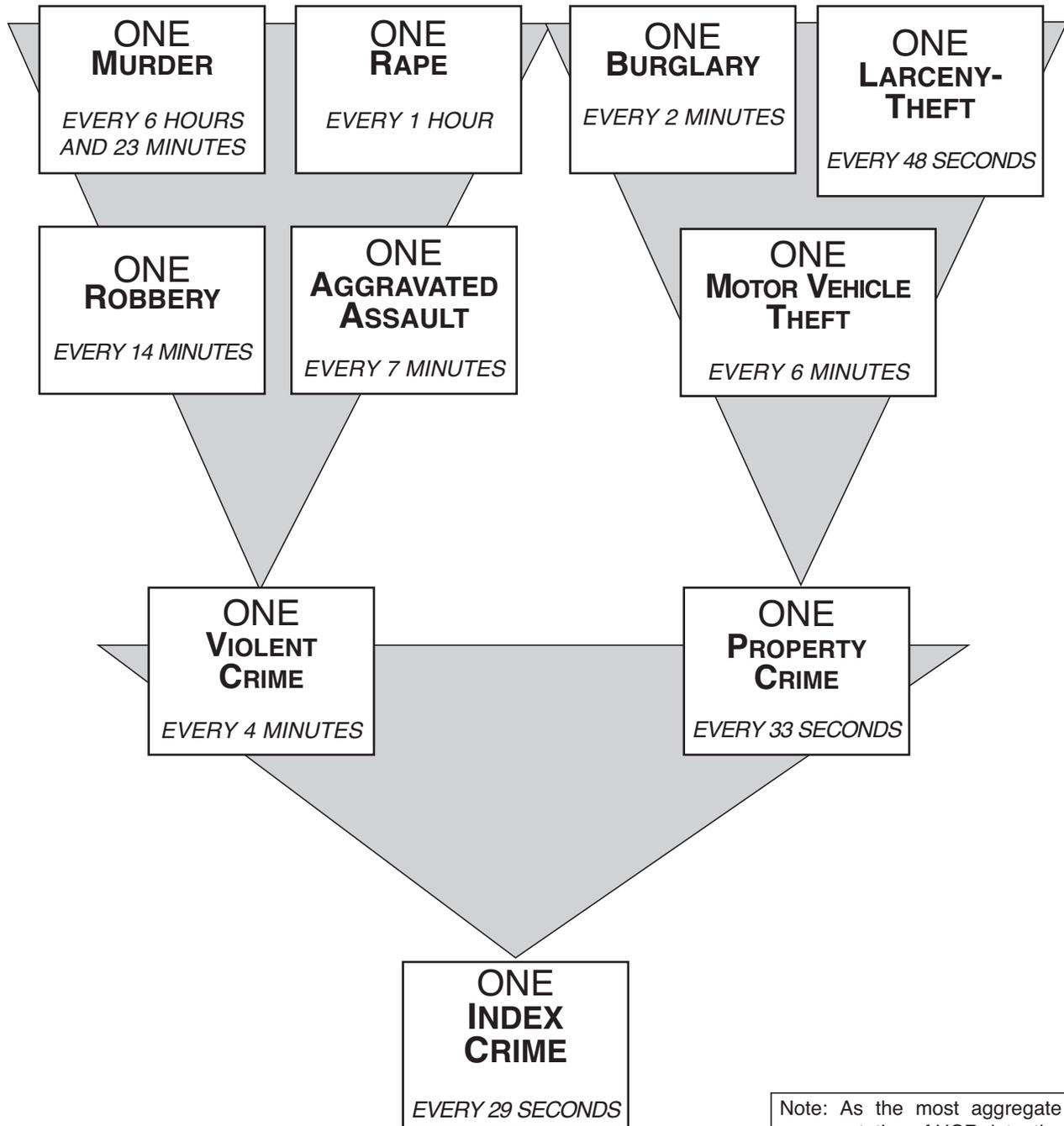
STOLEN PROPERTY VALUE

The total value of reported property stolen during 2008 in Texas was \$2,027,030,439.

Property Type	Stolen Value	% Recovered
Currency, Notes, Etc.	99,345,672	3
Jewelry & Precious Metals	160,846,070	5
Clothing & Furs	39,171,327	8
Locally Stolen Motor Vehicles	770,984,111	62
Office Equipment	196,326,336	2
Televisions, Radios, Stereos, Etc.	141,680,572	5
Firearms	16,174,347	8
Household Goods	42,664,771	4
Consumable Goods	22,234,788	5
Livestock	3,164,238	7
Miscellaneous	534,438,207	9
TOTAL	2,027,030,439	27



TEXAS CRIME CLOCK, 2008



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. 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
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
2000	20,851,820	Volume	1,236	7,851	30,230	74,288	189,012	636,942	93,111	1,032,670
		Rate	5.9	37.7	145.0	356.3	906.5	3,054.6	446.5	4,952.4
2001	21,325,018	Volume	1,331	8,191	35,330	77,221	204,240	669,587	102,838	1,098,738
		Rate	6.2	38.4	165.7	362.1	957.7	3,139.9	482.2	5,152.3
2002	21,779,893	Volume	1,305	8,541	37,599	78,713	212,702	690,028	102,943	1,131,831
		Rate	6.0	39.2	172.6	361.4	976.6	3,168.2	472.7	5,196.7
2003	22,118,509	Volume	1,417	7,986	37,000	75,706	219,733	697,790	98,174	1,137,806
		Rate	6.4	36.1	167.3	342.3	993.4	3,154.8	443.9	5,144.1
2004	22,490,022	Volume	1,359	8,401	35,811	75,983	220,079	696,220	93,844	1,131,697
		Rate	6.0	37.4	159.2	337.9	978.6	3,095.7	417.3	5,032.0
2005	22,859,968	Volume	1,405	8,505	35,781	75,409	219,733	676,022	93,471	1,110,326
		Rate	6.1	37.2	156.5	329.9	961.2	2,957.2	408.9	4,857.1
2006	23,507,783	Volume	1,384	8,406	37,271	74,622	215,754	648,083	95,750	1,081,270
		Rate	5.9	35.8	158.5	317.4	917.8	2,756.9	407.3	4,599.6
2007	23,904,380	Volume	1,415	8,430	38,777	73,570	228,325	662,481	94,026	1,107,024
		Rate	5.9	35.3	162.2	307.8	955.2	2,771.4	393.3	4,631.1
2008	24,326,974	Volume	1,373	8,004	37,757	76,487	230,263	654,133	85,411	1,093,428
		Rate	5.6	32.9	155.2	314.4	946.5	2,688.9	351.1	4,494.7

CRIME FACTS AT A GLANCE

2008

- There were an estimated 1,093,428 index offenses reported with a 18 percent clearance rate for Texas in 2008.
- The crime rate for the State of Texas was 4,494.7 index offenses for every 100,000 inhabitants.
- During 2008, Texas law enforcement officers made 1,191,155 arrests. Of those arrested, 15 percent were 16 years of age and under.
- The value of stolen property totaled \$2,027,030,439.
- The offense of larceny-theft accounted for 60 percent of all index crimes and had a clearance rate of 17 percent.
- Firearms were used in 67 percent of all murders reported. All other weapons made up the remaining 33 percent.
- There were an estimated 76,487 aggravated assaults. Of these, 20 percent were committed by the use of hands, fists, and feet.
- Residential burglaries accounted for 69 percent of all burglaries reported.
- The estimated number of motor vehicle thefts was 85,411, for a total dollar loss of \$747,107,771.
- Three law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. Nine were killed in duty-related accidents.
- There were 5,184 assaults on officers reported with 96 percent cleared.
- In 2008, there were 246 hate crime incidents reported with 276 victims, 230 offenders and 258 offenses.
- There were 193,505 Family Violence incidents during 2008. There were 208,073 victims and 203,682 offenders.