



Montana's Reservations: *Fast Facts*

Montana is home to seven Indian Reservations,

- The Blackfeet Reservation is the third largest reservation in Montana, covering 1.5 million acres. It is located in Northwest Montana, and situated in Glacier and Pondera counties. Reservation boundaries are Canada to the north, Lewis and Clark National Forest to the south, Reservation is policed by 11 sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Crow Reservation in South Central Montana is bordered by Wyoming on the south and by the Northern Cheyenne Reservation on the east. This Reservation is approximately 60 miles wide and 40 miles long, encompassing 1.57 million acres. It is the fifth largest reservation in the country, and the largest in Montana. The Reservation is policed by 20 sworn law enforcement officers.
- Fort Belknap Indian Reservation is home to the Gros Ventre and the Assiniboine tribes. The Reservation is located forty miles south of the Canadian border and 20 miles north of the Missouri River in North Central Montana, extending approximately 28 miles east/west and 35 miles north/south. This is the fifth largest in the state, encompassing 651,648 acres. The Reservation is policed by 12 sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Fort Peck Indian Reservation is home to Sioux and Assiniboine tribal members. This is the second largest reservation in Montana, and covers more than two million acres in the northeast corner of Montana. It lies 40 miles west of the North Dakota border and 50 miles south of the Canadian border. The Fort Peck Reservation is policed by 28 sworn law enforcement officers.

- The Rocky Boy's Reservation, located in north-central Montana, encompasses 122,000 acres. It is located nearly 50 miles south of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Canadian border. It is policed by 23 sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Northern Cheyenne Reservation encompasses 445,000 acres between the Crow Reservation and the Tongue River Valley. In southeastern Montana. It is policed by nine sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Flathead reservation, headquartered in Pablo, is the fourth largest reservation in Montana, encompassing 1,244,000 acres in four counties. The reservation is policed by 19 sworn law enforcement officers.

Reservations are territories reserved by tribes as permanent homelands. Some were created through treaties, others by statutes or executive orders. There is great diversity among the Tribal Nations of Montana in terms of language, culture, history and government.

Crime Data in Indian Country

At the time of the 2000 Census, American Indians and Alaska Natives comprised about 4.3 million (1.5 percent) of all people in the United States. About 58 percent (2.5 million) of them listed American Indian or Alaska Native as their only race; 1.8 million (42 percent) stated that they were American Indian or Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races. Approximately 44 percent of all American Indians/Alaska Natives resided on Federal reservations or in a tribal statistical area at the time of the 2000 Census.

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) has begun working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement and Security in Region 5 to collect tribal crime data, starting with data for 2004. Region 5 is home to 47 American Indian Tribes in Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Reported offense data for 2004 and 2005 were available for 38 tribal law enforcement agencies in these western states. Twenty-two agencies submitted reports for 2004 and 2005; 11 reported for 2005 alone and 7 reported offense information for 2004 alone. In Montana, data was provided for the Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne and Rocky Boy's reservations for one or both years.

- *The clearance rate for crimes on Montana reservations is 98.7 percent.*

A total of 29,087 *defined* offenses were reported for 2004 and 2005; 28,697 were cleared. This amounts to a 98.7 percent clearance rate. This is attributed to thorough law enforcement practices and personal knowledge of local residents and family relationships.

An additional 17,145 *undefined* offenses were also reported under a category of "All Other Crimes." There was a clearance rate of 94.1 percent for these offenses.

- *The total of all defined and undefined offenses reported by Montana tribes for 2004 and 2005 was 46,232 crimes.*

Montana's Tribal Crime Data in the Aggregate

The opportunity to gather tribal crime data is important because prior to this very little information on tribal offenses has been reported.

Types of Crime

- Overall, 6.7 percent of the 46,232 offenses reported were crimes against persons, 5.6 percent were property crimes, 27.3 percent were substance use violations and 37.1 percent fell into undefined "All Other Offenses" category.
- Except for the "All Other" category, the most common offenses reported were related to substance abuse, and included such violations as public intoxication, liquor law violations, Driving Under the Influence (DUI), and drug violations. Other common violations included disorderly conduct and assault.

Alcohol and/or Drug Use as a Factor

- The rate of alcohol usage as a contributing factor in the commission of crimes was consistent with National data.
- Nationally about 40 percent of all crimes are committed under the influence of alcohol. Overall for the 38 agencies in the six-state region, offenses involving alcohol use for all crimes was 40.6 percent for 2004 and 2005.
- The rate of alcohol use as a contributing factor varied greatly among reporting agencies (rates ranged from 0.0 percent to 85.8 percent) for all offenses reported in 2004 and 2005.

Juvenile Crime on Montana Reservations

- Juveniles were involved in 4,318 of the reported 29,087 defined offenses reported in 2004 and 2005. Of these, 50 percent were status offenses or conduct offenses including runaway, liquor law violations, curfew or loitering. About 6 percent of juvenile crimes on Montana reservations were crimes against persons, 11 percent were property crimes, and 12 percent were substance abuse violations.

Index Crimes include homicide (including negligent manslaughter), forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

Tribal Nations Crime Data

All seven reservations submitted some annual crime data. Three submitted data for both 2004 and 2005, two submitted data for 2005 only and two submitted data for 2004 only. Cumulatively, reservations reported 46,232 offenses for the two year period of 2004 and 2005.

Of the total crimes reported, 3,099 (6.7 percent) were crimes against persons; 2,589 (5.6 percent) were crimes against property; 1,983 (4.3 percent) were crimes of domestic of sexual violence; 12,607 (27.3 percent) were substance use violations; 8,785 were ancillary crimes (19 percent); and 17,145 (37.1 percent) were categorized as “all other offenses.” These offense categories are more clearly defined on page 4.

The Crime Index for Montana’s reservations statewide was 1,024 for 2004 and 1,878 for 2005. This is the total of all of the seven most serious crimes. This reflects 5.1 percent of all reported crimes for 2004, and 7.2 percent of all reported crimes for 2005. Totals include the “All Other Offenses” category.

Index Crime Rate: The Index Crime Rate looks at what the number of crimes would be per 100,000 population, based on actual numbers. There were an estimated 56,705 persons living on Reservation and Off-reservation Trust Lands in Montana at the time of the 2000 Census. Using this as a population base for all Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Lands, the Index Crime Rate is 1,806 per 100,000 for 2004, and 3,312 per 100,000 for 2005. The national average is approximately 2,575 crimes per 100,000. These rates compare favorably to state Index Crime Rates, per the column at right.

By far, the most frequently reported offenses on Montana’s reservations fell into the “All Other Offenses” category, which account for 37.1 percent of all reported crimes. These offenses are not further delineated, so it is impossible to tell what has been included in this category.

Of the defined crimes, the nine most common crimes accounted for 85 percent of all defined and reported crimes.

- Public intoxication: 25.4%
- Disorderly conduct: 21.6%
- Liquor law violations: 10%
- Assault: 6.4%
- DWI: 6.1%
- Curfew and loitering: 4.3%
- Domestic violence: 4.1%
- Larceny/Theft: 3.2%

The **Crime Index** is the total of the 7 most serious crimes.

The **Crime Rate**, also based on the 7 most serious crimes, reflects the number of crimes per a specific number of people.

***Index Crime Rate per 100,000 =** Number of Crimes/Population*100,000

Montana Crime Data

Data from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics for Montana revealed a total of 5,357 of the most serious violent crimes for the period that included 2004 - 2005. The two-year total included:

- Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter -- 48;
- Forcible rape - 574;
- Robbery - 410; and
- Aggravated assault - 4,325.

Data for the same period revealed a total of 56,622 of the most serious property crimes. The total included:

- Burglary - 7,157;
- Larceny Theft - 45,876; and
- Motor Vehicle Theft - 3,589.

According to this data, the Crime Index Rate for Montana would be 3,230 for 2004, based on a Census estimated statewide population of 926,920. The Crime Index Rate for 2005 was 3,424, based on the Census estimate of 935,670 for that year.

By far, the most common type of crime among the seven index crimes for Montana was Larceny/Theft, with 45,876 of the 61,979 index crimes reported for 2004 and 2005.

For more information, visit: <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/>



