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CRIME

IN MONTANA

1981 ANNUAL REPORT

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MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

CRIME IN MONTANA

1981
ANNUAL REPORT .

Compiled by the
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER
OF THE MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

Dr. Gordon Browder, Chairman

criminal
justice
data
center

FOREWORD

The data contained in this annual report points out that crime remains a social problem of grave concern. We must be cognizant however, that our law enforcement agencies are limited in their role in crime detection and suppression. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice said it very well when they stated in their report "The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society":

> But the fact that the police deal daily with crime does not mean that they have unlimited power to prevent it, or reduce it, or deter it. The police did not create and cannot resolve the social conditions that stimulate crime. They did not start and cannot stop the convulsive social changes that are taking place in America. They do not enact the laws that they are required to enforce, nor do they dispose of the criminals they arrest. The police are only one part of the criminal justice system; the criminal justice system is only one part of the government; and the government is only one part of society. Insofar as crime is a social phenomenon, crime prevention is the responsibility of every part of society. The criminal process is limited to case by case operations, one criminal or one crime at a time. (1967-pg 92).

This report presents an overview of the nature and extent of crime in our state as reported to our law enforcement agencies. They in turn voluntarily submit their data to the Criminal Justice Data Center. Without their continuing support this publication would not be possible.

Mike A. Lavin
Administrator

Mike Lavin, Administrator

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INTRODUCTION

This report by the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center contains the most complete and accurate information currently available about crime in Montana. It contains an extensive collection of facts and detailed analyses of the prevalence of different types of crimes, crime trends, and offenses known and arrests made by law enforcement. It is a summary of the nature, extent, and location of crime in the State of Montana.

Crime in Montana addresses the informational needs of law enforcement administrators, planners, legislators, and local government officials. It also affords citizens an opportunity to assess the state's crime situation.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER

The major mission of the Criminal Justice Data Center has been to develop, implement, and maintain data collection systems to store and analyze criminal justice information. The data collection systems provide information to strengthen the management and administration of the criminal justice system in Montana. The Data Center maintains data including law enforcement manpower, salary range, and equipment records; Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (L.E.A.A.) subgrant information; jail inspection records; county demographics; and the Montana Uniform Crime Reporting (M.U.C.R.) system records.

The Criminal Justice Data Center functions as the statistical analysis center for criminal justice data for Montana. It serves as a clearinghouse for the data and provides analytical services as requested by public and private entities.

MONTANA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM

Montana became involved in the National Uniform Crime Reporting program in September, 1978 when the F.B.I. transferred data collection responsibility from its Uniform Crime Reporting division to the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center. This transfer has enhanced crime data collection by giving the state more control over crime reporting, closer contact with local law enforcement agencies, and more detailed information about crime.

The new Montana Uniform Crime Reporting (M.U.C.R.) system has encouraged law enforcement participation in data collection, recordkeeping, and data analysis and application. Law enforcement agencies are wholly responsible for compiling their own crime reports and submitting them to the Data Center on a monthly basis.

The M.U.C.R. program involves two distinct incident based data systems: the Offense and Activity Information System and the Custody Information System. The Offense and Activity System summarizes the types of crimes being committed, the date, time, and location of each occurrence, the type and value of property stolen and/or recovered, and the status of each case. A report on the number of law enforcement officers killed or assaulted is also included. The Custody Information System records the types of arrests made, the sex, race, and age of persons arrested, the types of court charges made, and the disposition of each case.
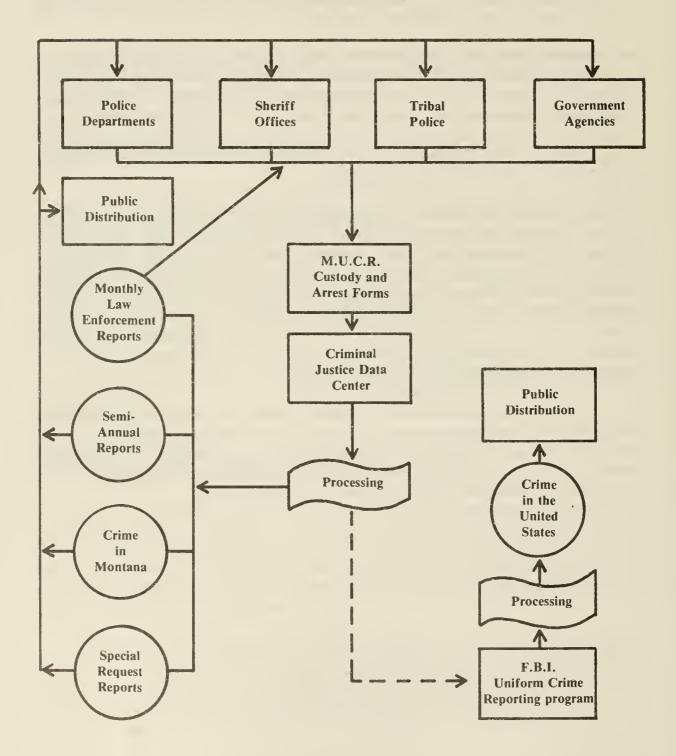
Criminal justice data is furnished to the Data Center on Custody and Offense forms by county law enforcement agencies, local police departments, and government agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service. In addition, many small police departments and campus police units report to the sheriff's department in their county and the data is forwarded to the Data Center. Although reporting is voluntary, 93.8% of law enforcement agencies in Montana provided data in 1981. These agencies represent 98.8% of the state's population.

Each agency's information is processed and compiled into monthly law enforcement reports. A particularly important service of the M.U.C.R. program is the statistical feedback to contributors provided by these monthly reports. Data is returned to contributors in the form of computerized summaries of misdemeanor and felony offenses and arrests, showing crime by offense and arrest categories, such as offenses known, unfounded offenses, actual offenses, adult and juvenile clearances, and type and value of property stolen and/or recovered. All of this information is useful to departments in planning resource allocation, identifying needs and problems, managing budget and manpower allocations, and maintaining good public relations.

Other reports and publications are compiled from the M.U.C.R. data. These include semi-annual state and agency reports, the annual *Crime in Montana* publication, and any special reports requested by private or public groups. The monthly M.U.C.R. data is also sent to the F.B.I. for processing with other state's Uniform Crime Reporting data. This information is published annually in *Crime in the United States*.

A flowchart showing the movement of M.U.C.R. data through the Criminal Justice Data Center is shown below.

MONTANA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM
SOURCES AND USES OF DATA

Police Departments

Sheriff Offices

Tribal Police

Government Agencies

Public Distribution

Monthly Law Enforcement Reports

M.U.C.R. Custody and Arrest Forms

Criminal Justice Data Center

Semi-Annual Reports

Public Distribution

Crime in Montana

Processing

Crime in the United States

Special Request Reports

Processing

F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reporting program

CRIME FACTORS

The amount and type of crime reported in *Crime in Montana* is based on actual offenses reported to the police and does not measure those offenses unknown to the law enforcement community. A considerable volume of crime is not reported to law enforcement agencies because the victims may consider the offenses against them to be of very little consequence, they believe there is very little the police can do about them, or they fear publicity of a police investigation or retaliation from offenders. Recent national victimization surveys indicate that the actual number of certain index offenses committed may be fully double the number that are made known to police.

A report on the number and types of crime alone doesn't tell the whole story of criminal activity within the state. Other factors which may influence the type and volume of crime are:

        density and size of community
        composition of the population with reference to age, race and sex
        economic status of the population
        stability of population such as seasonal workers and tourism
        educational, recreational and religious characteristics
        efffective strength of the police force
        policies of the prosecuting officials and the courts
        attitude of the public toward law and law enforcement

STATISTICAL METHOD OF REPORTING

Several statistical measurements are used to make the crime data more meaningful: *crime index and crime rate*. These are discussed below.

CRIME INDEX

The crime index has been used nationwide for many years as a standard for comparing the amount and extent of serious crime. It is the total number of the actual seven major crimes reported.

The index includes seven crimes divided into two groups, crimes against persons and crimes against property. The sub-classification allows comparison and contrast of the groups. The Montana Uniform Crime Reporting System defines these crimes as follows:

Crimes Against Persons . . . .

Homicide—The willful killing of one human being by another.

Rape—The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will and all attempts to commit forcible rape.

Robbery—The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault—An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Crimes Against Property . . . .

Burglary—The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.

Larceny/Theft—The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

Motor Vehicle Theft—The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

These seven crimes are recognized as the most serious crimes in our society and the most likely to be reported to law enforcement.

The crime index is only an indication of the amount and type of crime occurring in a jurisdiction. It is not an absolute measure. If multiple crimes were committed during an incident and reported, only the most serious is recorded in the index.

CRIME RATE

One of the most commonly used statistical measurements is the crime rate, which calculates the number of incidents which occur for every 100,000 residents. The crime rate is useful in comparing the amount of crime in two areas with unequal populations.

The crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of index crimes (the seven major index crimes) by the population or estimated population and multiplying the answer by 100,000 as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Crimes}}{\text{Population of Law Enforcement Jurisdiction}} \times 100,000 = \text{Crime Rate}$$

SECTION TWO

CRIME
SUMMARY

STATE SUMMARY OF OFFENSES

The 1981 state summary of offenses known to the police is given on the following page. This summary presents a breakdown of the numbers of offenses reported to police, unfounded or baseless offenses reported, actual offenses, and offenses cleared by arrest. The column "Cleared by Arrest" gives the total numbers of offenses, adult and juvenile, cleared by arrest. The "Cleared by Arrest Under 18" presents only juvenile arrests. The "Percent of Actual Offenses Cleared by Arrest" is the percent of total offenses, adult and juvenile, cleared by arrest.

1981
STATE SUMMARY OF
OFFENSES KNOWN TO THE POLICE

PART I —
SEVEN INDEX OFFENSES

	Offenses Reported Or Known By Police	Unfounded Offenses	Actual Offenses	Cleared By Arrest	By Arrest Under 18	% Actual Offenses Cleared By Arrest
Homicide	40	0	40	31	0	77.5
Rape	209	23	186	90	9	48.4
Rape By Force	166*	19*	147*	75*	8*	51.0*
Attempts To Commit Forcible Rape	43*	4*	39*	15*	1*	38.5*
Robbery	295	15	280	88	16	31.4
Aggravated Assault	1,363	48	1,315	647	149	49.2
Total Offenses Against Persons	**1,907**	**86**	**1,821**	**856**	**174**	**47.0**
Burglary	7,486	342	7,144	1,051	393	14.7
Larceny/Theft	25,487	542	24,945	4,868	1,612	19.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,249	287	1,962	594	134	30.3
Autos	1,360*	212*	1,148*	356*	77*	31.0*
Trucks and Buses	544*	58*	486*	167*	43*	34.4*
Other Vehicles	345*	17*	328*	71*	14*	21.6*
Total Offenses Against Property	**35,222**	**1,171**	**34,051**	**6,513**	**2,139**	**19.1**
Total 7 Major Offenses	**37,129**	**1,257**	**35,872**	**7,369**	**2,313**	**20.5**

PART II OFFENSES

Negligent Manslaughter	10	1	9	7	0	77.8
Other Assaults-Simple-Not Aggravated	2,758	51	2,707	1,529	124	56.5
Arson	190	4	186	54	22	29.0
Forgery and Counterfeiting	647	8	639	245	33	38.3
Fraud	1,736	15	1,721	886	31	51.5
Embezzlement	12	1	11	2	0	18.2
Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possessing	194	5	189	118	23	62.4
Vandalism	10,944	107	10,837	1,501	486	13.9
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, Etc...	329	16	313	157	20	50.2
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	36	0	36	23	3	63.9
Sex Offenses	757	12	745	239	28	32.1
Narcotic Drug Laws	983	20	963	808	156	83.9
Narcotics	41*	1*	40*	30*	2*	75.0*
Marijuana	736*	14*	722*	627*	138*	86.8*
Dangerous Drugs	206*	5*	201*	104*	16*	51.7*
Gambling	36	1	35	17	0	48.6
Offenses Against Family and Children	542	32	510	268	57	52.5
Total Other Offenses	**19,174**	**273**	**18,901**	**5,854**	**983**	**31.0**
GRAND TOTAL	**56,303**	**1,530**	**54,773**	**13,223**	**3,296**	**24.1**

*Indicates sub-categories of offense.

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1981 — CRIME RATE
SEVEN MAJOR INDEX CRIMES

According to the F.B.1. and Bureau of the Census, Montana's estimated 1981 population is 792,000. This is the figure on which the crime rates are based in the following illustration.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS			CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		
Index Offenses	Number of Actual Offenses	Rate Per 100,000 Population	Index Offenses	Number of Actual Offenses	Rate Per 100,000 Population
Homicide	40	5.1	Burglary	7,144	902.0
Rape	186	23.5	Larceny/		
Robbery	280	35.4	Theft	24,945	3,149.6
Assault	1,315	166.0	Motor Veh.		
			Theft	1,962	247.7
Total	1,821	229.9	Total	34,051	4,299.4
GRAND TOTAL				35,872	4,529.3

Comparison of the amount of crime and estimated population for the state shows a crime rate of 4529.3. This means that 4529 out of every 100,000 Montanas were victims of a major crime — or more simply there were:

4529.3 crimes per 100,000 persons
453.0 crimes per 10,000 persons
45.0 crimes per 1,000 persons
4.5 crimes per 100 persons

Out of every 100 Montanans, 4.5 were victims of an index crime in 1981. In 1980, the level of victimization was 4.7 per 100 persons.

CRIME INCIDENCE COMPARISON

A comparison of the total number of crimes reported in 1981 to those reported in 1980 provides a measure of the fluctuation in criminal activity.

The number of index crimes decreased this year. The total of 35,872 index crimes in 1981 is 919 lower than the 36,791 index crimes reported in 1980. A comparison of total crime between 1980 and 1981 is shown in the following illustration. The percentage of change from 1980 to 1981 is shown in the column at the right.

CRIME INCIDENCE COMPARISON
1980-1981

Offense	1980	1981	Percent Change
Homicide	30	40	+ 33.3
Rape	166	186	+ 12.0
Robbery	257	280	+ 8.9
Aggravated Assault	1,243	1,315	+ 5.8
Total Offenses Against Persons	**1,696**	**1,821**	**+ 7.4**
Burglary	7,027	7,144	+ 1.7
Larceny/Theft	25,749	24,945	- 3.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,319	1,962	- 15.4
Total Offenses Against Property	**35,095**	**34,051**	**- 3.0**
Total 7 Major Offenses	**36,791**	**35,872**	**- 2.5**
Negligent Manslaughter	8	9	+ 12.5
Other Assaults	2,628	2,707	+ 3.0
Arson	182	186	+ 2.2
Forgery and Counterfeiting	572	639	+ 11.7
Fraud	2,042	1,721	- 15.7
Embezzlement	12	11	- 8.3
Stolen Property	171	189	+ 10.5
Vandalism	11,973	10,837	- 9.5
Weapons	222	313	+ 41.0
Prostitution	29	36	+ 24.1
Sex Offenses	406	745	+ 83.5
Drugs	917	963	+ 5.0
Gambling	28	35	+ 25.0
Offenses Against Family	640	510	- 20.3
Total Other Offenses	**19,830**	**18,901**	**- 4.7**
GRAND TOTAL	**56,621**	**54,773**	**- 3.3**

The overall incidence of crime decreased 3.3 percent for all crimes between 1980 and 1981 for a total decrease of 1,848 offenses.

The seven major offenses showed a 2.5 percent decrease overall. Total offenses against persons increased 7.4 percent, from 1,696 to 1,821 offenses. This increase was offset by a 3.0 percent decrease in total offenses against property from 35,095 to 34,051 offenses.

Part II crimes decreased in 1981 by 4.7 percent overall, from 19,830 to 18,901 offenses.

This decrease can be attributed to percentage decreases in offenses with high crime indices. High percentage decreases occurred in three offense categories. Offenses against the family decreased 20.3%, fraud decreased 15.7%, and vandalism decreased 9.5%.
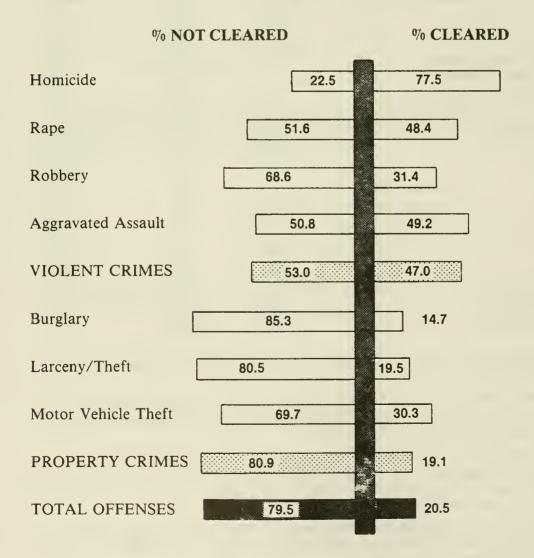
High percentage increases occurred in four offense categories. However, these offenses had relatively low crime indices. Sex offenses increased 83.5%, weapons offenses increased 41.0%, gambling offenses increased 25.0%, and prostitution increased 24.1%.

CLEARANCES
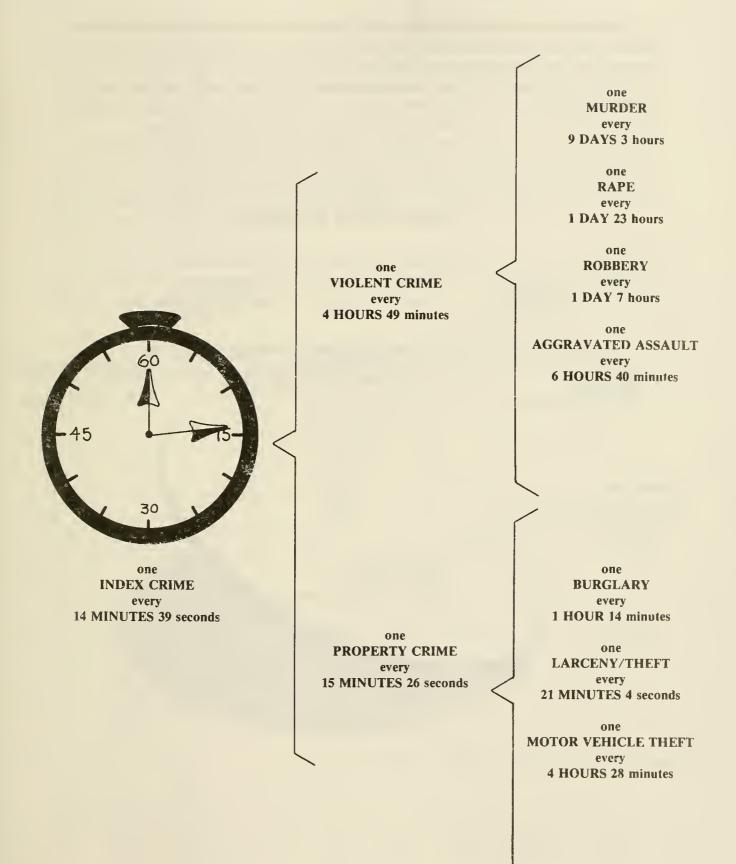
An offense is considered cleared when a law enforcement agency has identified the offender, gathered sufficient evidence, and filed a charge. The arrest of one person can clear several crimes or conversely, several persons may be arrested in the process of clearing one crime.

The following illustration shows the percentage of actual offenses cleared by arrest. Note that property crimes — burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft — have the lowest percentages of clearance, while violent crimes or crimes against persons have the highest percentages of clearance.

PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL OFFENSES
CLEARED BY ARREST — 1981
SEVEN INDEX CRIMES

	% NOT CLEARED	% CLEARED
Homicide	22.5	77.5
Rape	51.6	48.4
Robbery	68.6	31.4
Aggravated Assault	50.8	49.2
VIOLENT CRIMES	53.0	47.0
Burglary	85.3	14.7
Larceny/Theft	80.5	19.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	69.7	30.3
PROPERTY CRIMES	80.9	19.1
TOTAL OFFENSES	79.5	20.5

1981 MONTANA CRIME CLOCK

one
MURDER
every
9 DAYS 3 hours

one
RAPE
every
1 DAY 23 hours

one
VIOLENT CRIME
every
4 HOURS 49 minutes

one
ROBBERY
every
1 DAY 7 hours

one
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
every
6 HOURS 40 minutes

one
INDEX CRIME
every
14 MINUTES 39 seconds

one
BURGLARY
every
1 HOUR 14 minutes

one
PROPERTY CRIME
every
15 MINUTES 26 seconds

one
LARCENY/THEFT
every
21 MINUTES 4 seconds

one
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
every
4 HOURS 28 minutes

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CRIME INDEX PROFILE

The circle below shows the proportion of each index crime to the total of all index crimes committed in Montana in 1981.

The three property crimes, burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft, accounted for 94.9 percent of all index crimes. The violent crimes, homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, accounted for 5.1 percent of the index crimes.

1981 -
CRIME INDEX PROFILE

HOMICIDE
40 Offenses
.1% of Index Crime

ROBBERY
280 Offenses
.8% of Index Crime

RAPE
186 Offenses
.5% of Index Crime

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
1,962 Offenses
5.5% of Index Crime

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
1,315 Offenses
3.7% of Index Crime

BURGLARY
7,144 Offenses
19.9% of Index Crime

LARCENY/THEFT
24,945 Offenses
69.5% of Index Crime
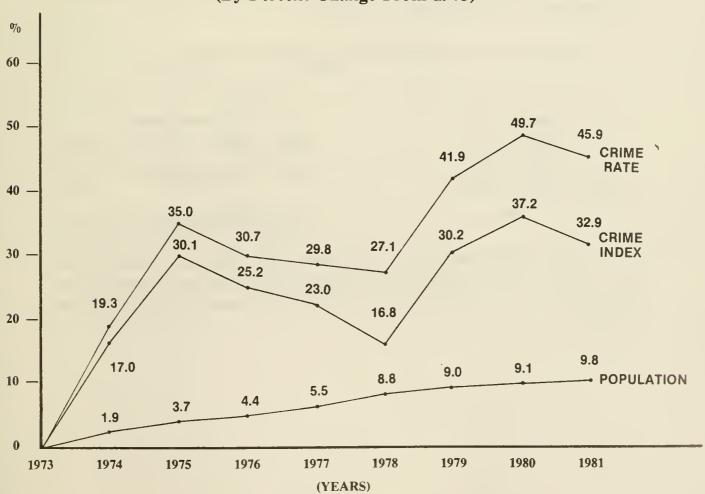
CRIME AND POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS

In order to demonstrate the crime and the population growth trends over a period of years, percentage changes were calculated using 1973 as the base year. This was the year in which the Criminal Justice Data Center in Montana began collecting data on both arrests and offenses. This is similar to the current Montana Uniform Crime Reporting system.

Montana recorded 24,581 index crimes in 1973 with a crime rate of 3409.3 per 100,000 and a population of 721,000. By 1981, the number of index crimes had risen to 35,872 with a crime rate of 4529.3 and a population of 792,000. These figures represent a 45.9 percent increase in the crime index, a 32.9 percent increase in the crime rate, and a 9.8 percent increase in population.

The graph below shows that both the crime index and crime rate rose sharply between 1973 and 1975, dropped in 1978, then peaked in 1980. During this time period the state population showed a steady, but slight, increase.

CRIME INDEX, CRIME RATE, AND POPULATION
(By Percent Change From 1973)

%

60 —								
50 —							49.7	45.9 CRIME RATE
						41.9		
40 —		35.0					37.2	32.9 CRIME INDEX
		30.1	30.7	29.8	27.1	30.2		
30 —			25.2	23.0				
	19.3			16.8				
20 —	17.0							9.8 POPULATION
10 —		3.7	4.4	5.5	8.8	9.0	9.1	
	1.9							
0								

| 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 |

(YEARS)

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CRIME PROJECTION

The number of recorded index offenses in Montana increased from 24,581 in 1973 to 35,872 in 1981. This change indicates a 45.9 percent increase. Much of this increase can be attributed to better and more sophisticated reporting methods by the law enforcement agencies. In addition, the increased population has an influence on the number of crimes.

The illustration on the following page shows the trend increases and decreases in crime from 1973 as well as projections to 1986 based on previous years.
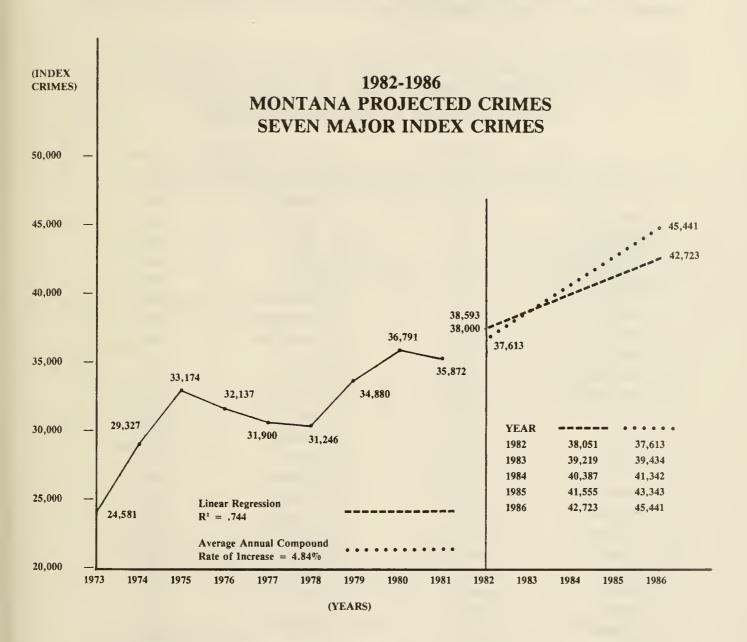
Two linear methods were used in developing the crime projections. The first, linear least squares regression, plots on the illustration the number of crimes for the nine-year period including 1973 to 1981. Using the regression formula, $y = a + bx$, a line is then projected from 1973 to 1986. By this method, the number of crimes is projected to be 42,723 in 1986.

The second method, average annual compound rate of increase, projects the 1982 to 1986 crime rate using a compound annual rate of increase of 4.84 percent. This technique projects the 1986 crime rate to be 45,441.

A summary of the two projection methods is shown as follows:

Projection Method	Projected Crimes				
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Linear Regression	38,051	39,219	40,387	41,555	42,723
Average Annual Compound Rate of Increase	37,613	39,434	41,342	43,343	45,441

It is important to note that the projections are not point estimations but rather trend estimates. Thus, using linear techniques, it is predictable that Montana can anticipate the number of crimes in 1986 to be between 42,723 and 45,441 if present trends continue.

1982-1986
MONTANA PROJECTED CRIMES
SEVEN MAJOR INDEX CRIMES

(INDEX CRIMES)

50,000 —

45,000 —   45,441

40,000 —   42,723

                                                    38,593
                                                    38,000
35,000 —   33,174   37,613
         29,327   32,137   36,791
                                                    35,872
30,000 —   31,900   31,246 34,880
                                                         YEAR
25,000 —   24,581   Linear Regression   1982   38,051   37,613
                       R² = .744   1983   39,219   39,434
                                                          1984   40,387   41,342
                       Average Annual Compound   1985   41,555   43,343
20,000 —   Rate of Increase = 4.84%   1986   42,723   45,441

         1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986

                                  (YEARS)

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The F.B.I. publication, *Crime in the United States*, ranked the estimated crime rates of the fifty states for 1981. Using a partial year's data, the F.B.I. estimated Montana's crime rate at 5018.9. Although this is higher than the crime rate of 4529.3 figured using a full year's data, the following table shows where Montana fell in relation to other states when comparing 1981 estimated crime rates.

1981
ESTIMATED CRIME RATE OF EACH STATE
BY RANK FROM LOWEST TO HIGHEST

Rank	State	Crime Rate*	Rank	State	Crime Rate*
1.	West Virginia	2618.7	26.	Missouri	5351.4
2.	North Dakota	2991.0	27.	Kansas	5404.4
3.	Kentucky	3531.5	28.	Ohio	5447.4
4.	Mississippi	3537.4	29.	Georgia	5628.5
5.	Pennsylvania	3683.2	30.	Utah	5750.0
6.	Arkansas	3796.5	31.	Massachusetts	5835.4
7.	Nebraska	4177.5	32.	Connecticut	5837.3
8.	Maine	4243.3	33.	Rhode Island	5851.8
9.	Tennesse	4311.4	34.	Texas	6050.3
10.	New Hampshire	4321.8	35.	New Jersey	6179.8
11.	North Carolina	4520.8	36.	New Mexico	6200.6
12.	Idaho	4530.8	37.	Hawaii	6543.4
13.	Indiana	4539.8	38.	Maryland	6557.7
14.	Virginia	4670.8	39.	Alaska	6594.9
15.	Iowa	4716.5	40.	Delaware	6689.3
16.	Minnesota	4736.7	41.	Washington	6742.0
17.	Wisconsin	4766.8	42.	Michigan	6854.0
18.	Oklahoma	4837.3	43.	New York	6905.4
19.	Alabama	4898.7	44.	Oregon	7036.9
20.	Illinois	4950.2	45.	Colorado	7353.2
21.	**Montana**	**5018.9**	46.	California	7590.5
22.	Vermont	5060.8	47.	Arizona	7613.9
23.	Wyoming	5131.9	48.	Florida	8032.5
24.	Louisiana	5267.7	49.	Nevada	8592.0
25.	South Carolina	5319.1	50.	Dist. of Columbia	10934.0

*Estimated crime rates.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime In The United States — 1981* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1982).

THE UNITED STATES AND MONTANA COMPARISONS

Comparison of the crime rate for the nation and this state shows Montana had a crime rate of 4,529.3 per 100,000 population while the United States crime rate was 5,799.9. This indicates that Montana had a lower crime rate than the national average.

A comparison of the percentage change in the crime index from 1980 to 1981 provides a measure of fluctuation in criminal activity. The number of index crimes decreased 2.5 percent in Montana in 1981. This exceeded the national rate of decrease of 1.7 percent.

UNITED STATES AND MONTANA — 1981
COMPARISON OF CRIME RATE AND PERCENTAGE
CHANGE IN CRIME INDEX

INDEX OFFENSES	1981 Crime Rate		% Change 1980-1981 Crime Index	
	United* States	Montana**	United* States	Montana**
Homicide	9.8	5.1	- 3.9	+ 33.3
Rape	35.6	23.5	- 2.2	+ 12.0
Robbery	250.6	35.4	+ 2.9	+ 8.9
Aggravated Assault	280.9	166.0	- 3.3	+ 5.8
Total Offenses Against Persons	**576.9**	**230.0**	- .7	+ 7.4
Burglary	1,632.1	902.0	- 2.2	+ 1.7
Larceny/Theft	3,122.3	3,149.6	- 1.1	- 3.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	468.7	247.7	- 5.2	- 15.4
Total Offenses Against Property	**5,223.0**	**4,299.4**	- 1.8	- 3.0
TOTAL INDEX CRIME	**5,799.9**	**4,529.3**	- 1.7	- 2.5

* Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States — 1981* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1982).

** Source: State of Montana, Montana Board of Crime Control, Criminal Justice Data Center, Helena, Montana 1982.

1981
OFFENSE SUMMARY

* Crimes against property accounted for 94.9 percent of all reported index offenses.

* Crimes against persons accounted for 5.1 percent of all reported index offenses.

* An index crime occurred every 14 minutes with a property crime occurring every 15 minutes. A violent crime occurred every 5 hours.

* From 1973 through 1981, the number of crimes increased 45.9 percent while the estimated population increased only 9.8 percent.

* Crime rates relate the incidence of crime to population. The crime rate can be considered a victim risk rate because it demonstrates the risk of becoming a crime victim. Thus, of every 100 Montanans, 4.5 were victims of an index crime and 6.9 of every 100 were victims of either an index crime or a serious crime.

* Of the 35,872 actual major offenses, 20.5 percent were cleared, either by arrest or exceptional means.

SECTION THREE

**MONTANA CRIMES
REPORTED BY
CONTRIBUTOR**

The 1981 crime rate for each county in Montana is listed below. Eight counties were above the statewide average of 4,529.3 crimes reported per 100,000 of population. These eight counties contained 45.3 percent of the total state population and were the scene of 65.0 percent of the reported index crimes.

The eight counties are not a contiguous geographical high-crime area, nor do they all represent high population areas. Of the eight, the first four counties correspond to the high population areas of the state. The other four, Roosevelt, Broadwater, Lincoln, and Hill are moderate to low population areas. In areas of relatively low population any fluctuation in the number of crimes creates a major impact on the crime rate.

CRIME RATE BY COUNTY
1981 Ranking
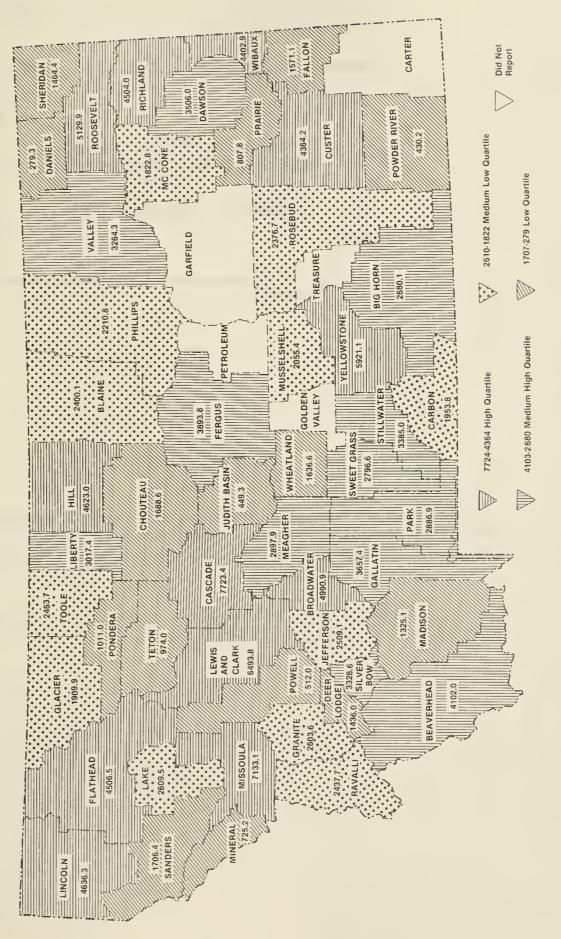
Rank	County	Crime Rate	Rank	County	Crime Rate
1.	Cascade	7723.4	26.	Granite	2603.6
2.	Missoula	7133.1	27.	Jefferson	2509.1
3.	Lewis & Clark	6493.8	28.	Toole	2463.7
4.	Yellowstone	5921.1	29.	Ravalli	2437.7
5.	Roosevelt	5129.9	30.	Blaine	2400.1
6.	Broadwater	4990.9	31.	Rosebud	2376.7
7.	Lincoln	4636.3	32.	Phillips	2210.8
8.	Hill	4623.0	33.	Musselshell	2055.4
	STATE TOTAL	4529.3	34.	Carbon	1953.8
9.	Flathead	4506.5	35.	Glacier	1909.9
10.	Richland	4504.0	36.	McCone	1822.8
11.	Wibaux	4402.9	37.	Sanders	1706.4
12.	Custer	4364.2	38.	Choteau	1688.6
13.	Beaverhead	4102.0	39.	Wheatland	1636.6
14.	Fergus	3893.8	40.	Fallon	1571.1
15.	Gallatin	3657.4	41.	Sheridan	1464.4
16.	Dawson	3506.0	42.	Deer Lodge	1436.0
17.	Stillwater	3385.0	43.	Madison	1325.1
18.	Silver Bow	3328.6	44.	Pondera	1011.0
19.	Valley	3264.3	45.	Teton	974.0
20.	Liberty	3017.4	46.	Prairie	807.8
21.	Meagher	2897.9	47.	Mineral	725.2
22.	Park	2886.9	48.	Powell	512.0
23.	Sweet Grass	2796.6	49.	Judith Basin	449.3
24.	Big Horn	2680.1	50.	Powder River	430.2
25.	Lake	2609.5	51.	Daniels	279.3
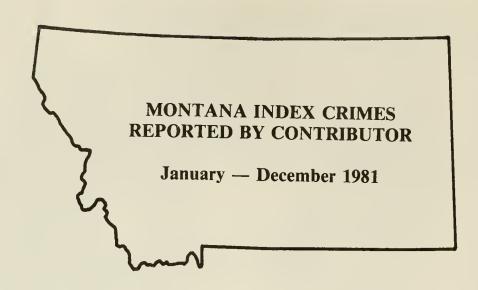
Carter, Garfield, Golden Valley, Petroleum, and Treasure Counties did not report.

MONTANA — 1981
CRIME RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION (BY QUARTILE)

The map below shows a breakdown, by quartile, for each county's 1981 crime rate. The high quartile counties had crime rates below 7,724 but above 4,364. Medium high quartile counties had crime rates below 4,103 but above 2,680. Medium low quartile county crime rates were between 2,610 and 1,822. The low quartile county crime rates fell between 1,707 and 279. Five counties did not report.

LINCOLN 4636.3

SANDERS 1706.4

FLATHEAD 4506.5

LAKE 2609.5

MINERAL 725.2

MISSOULA 7133.1

GLACIER 1909.9

TOOLE 2463.7

PONDERA 1011.0

TETON 974.0

LEWIS AND CLARK 6493.8

POWELL 512.0

GRANITE 2603.6

RAVALLI 2437.7

DEER LODGE 3328.6

SILVER BOW 1436.0

JEFFERSON 2509.1

BROADWATER 4990.9

MADISON 1325.1

BEAVERHEAD 4102.0

GALLATIN 3657.4

PARK 2886.9

MEAGHER 2897.9

CASCADE 7723.4

LIBERTY 3017.4

HILL 4623.0

CHOUTEAU 1688.6

JUDITH BASIN 449.3

FERGUS 3893.8

WHEATLAND 1636.6

SWEET GRASS 2796.6

STILLWATER 3385.0

CARBON 1953.8

DANIELS 1464.4

SHERIDAN 279.3

ROOSEVELT 5129.9

RICHLAND 4504.0

DAWSON 3506.0

VALLEY 3264.3

PHILLIPS 2210.8

BLAINE 2400.1

MC CONE 1822.8

GARFIELD

PETROLEUM

PRAIRIE 807.8

WIBAUX 4402.9

FALLON 1571.1

CUSTER 4364.2

POWDER RIVER 430.2

CARTER

MUSSELSHELL 2055.4

GOLDEN VALLEY

YELLOWSTONE 5921.1

TREASURE

ROSEBUD 2376.7

BIG HORN 2680.1

7724-4364 High Quartile

4103-2680 Medium High Quartile

2610-1822 Medium Low Quartile

1707-279 Low Quartile

Did Not Report

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MONTANA INDEX CRIMES
REPORTED BY CONTRIBUTOR

January — December 1981

This section is a summary of offenses reported to each law enforcement agency. Several crime rates may appear to be extreme for some jurisdicitions; however, this is because in communities with low populations, any flucutation in the number of crimes creates a major impact on the crime rate.

The population figures for each jurisdiction are provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Bureau of Census.

INDEX CRIMES REPORTED BY CONTRIBUTOR

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIB-UTED	1981 POPULA-TION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100.000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRA-VATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY		8313	4102.0	341	1	8	0	40	51	219	22
Sheriff	6	4280	1098 1	47	1	2	0	2	5	33	4
Dillon	12	4033	7289 9	294	0	6	0	38	46	186	18
BIG HORN COUNTY		11231	2680.1	301	0	5	6	21	112	144	13
Sheriff	12	6262	3577 1	224	0	3	2	21	79	106	13
Crow Tribe	A	4969	1549.6	77	0	2	4	0	33	38	0
BLAINE COUNTY		7083	2400.1	170	1	2	1	25	44	91	6
Sheriff	12	3963	2800.9	111	0	0	0	13	21	71	6
Ft Belknap	A	2097	2622.8	55	1	2	0	9	23	20	0
Harlem	12	1023	391.0	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
BROADWATER COUNTY		3306	4990.9	165	0	0	0	9	21	128	7
Sheriff	12	3306	4990.9	165	0	0	0	9	21	128	7
CARBON COUNTY		8189	1953.8	160	0	0	0	7	67	78	8
Sheriff	12	6271	2344 1	147	0	0	0	3	61	77	6
Red Lodge	8	1918	677.8	13	0	0	0	4	6	1	2
CARTER COUNTY											
Sheriff	0	1824	DID	NOT	REPORT						
CASCADE COUNTY		81713	7723.4	6311	2	18	72	85	1441	4394	299
Sheriff	12	24392	819 9	200	0	2	4	7	56	118	13
Great Falls	12	57321	10661 0	6111	2	16	68	78	1385	4276	286
CHOTEAU COUNTY		6173	1688.6	103	2	0	0	6	19	66	10
Sheriff	12	4453	1549.5	69	2	0	0	1	11	47	8
Fort Benton	11	1720	1976.7	34	0	0	0	5	8	19	2
CUSTER COUNTY		13244	4364.2	578	0	0	2	14	119	390	53
Sheriff	10	3530	2068 0	73	0	0	0	4	7	56	6
Miles City	12	9714	5198 7	505	0	0	2	10	112	334	47
DANIELS COUNTY		2864	279.3	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Sheriff	5	2864	279.3	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
DAWSON COUNTY		12008	3506.0	421	0	0	1	11	32	350	27
Sheriff	12	5897	2255 4	133	0	0	0	1	7	121	4
Glendive	12	6111	4712.8	288	0	0	1	10	25	229	23
DEER LODGE COUNTY/ ANACONDA		12674	1436.0	182	1	0	1	5	70	98	7
Sheriff	4	12674	1436.0	182	1	0	1	5	70	98	7
FALLON COUNTY		3819	1571.1	60	0	0	2	2	10	37	9
Sheriff	12	1431	1327 7	19	0	0	0	0	2	13	4
Baker	12	2388	1716.9	41	0	0	2	2	8	24	5
FERGUS COUNTY		13226	3893.8	515	0	0	0	29	90	377	19
Sheriff	12	6053	1833 8	111	0	0	0	5	16	86	4
Lewistown	12	7173	5632.2	404	0	0	0	24	74	291	15

See notes at end of table

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AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIB-UTED	1981 POPULA-TION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100.000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRA-VATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
FLATHEAD COUNTY		52147	4506.5	2350	7	27	1	98	511	1585	121
Sheriff	12	34937	3394 7	1186	2	21	0	54	352	698	59
Columbia Falls	3	3144	1145.0	36	0	0	0	0	7	29	0
Kalispell	12	10436	805B.6	841	5	4	1	37	97	650	47
Whitefish	12	3630	7906.3	287	0	2	0	7	55	208	15
GALLATIN COUNTY		43391	3636.7	1578	0	2	5	39	220	1239	73
Sheriff	12	20750	597.6	124	0	0	0	9	21	87	7
Bozeman	12	21899	5867.8	1285	0	1	5	27	165	1027	60
West Yellowstone	12	742	22776.3	169	0	1	0	3	34	125	6
GARFIELD COUNTY											
Sheriff	0	1671	DID	NOT	REPORT						
GLACIER COUNTY		9791	1909.9	187	1	5	4	13	112	52	0
Sheriff	0	3159	DID	NOT	REPORT						
Blackfeet Tribe	A	6632	2819.7	187	1	5	4	13	112	52	0
GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY											
Sheriff	0	1031	DID	NOT	REPORT						
GRANITE COUNTY		2727	2603.6	71	1	2	0	6	26	31	5
Sheriff	12	2727	2603.6	71	1	2	0	6	26	31	5
HILL COUNTY		18170	4623.0	840	1	4	6	50	182	561	36
Sheriff	8	5286	2005.3	106	0	1	0	7	45	47	6
Rocky Boy Tribe	A	1817	2477.6	47	0	0	0	3	15	29	0
Havre	12	10987	6252.8	687	1	3	6	40	122	485	30
JEFFERSON COUNTY		7134	2509.1	179	0	0	0	16	38	114	11
Sheriff	12	7134	2509 1	179	0	0	0	16	38	114	11
JUDITH BASIN COUNTY		2671	449.3	12	0	0	1	1	4	5	1
Sheriff	5	2671	449.3	12	0	0	1	1	4	5	1
LAKE COUNTY		19352	2609.5	505	1	5	3	24	122	315	35
Sheriff	12	14504	2764 8	401	1	4	2	19	102	240	33
Flathead Tribe	A	3300	2454.5	81	0	1	1	5	16	58	0
Ronan	5	1548	1485 8	23	0	0	0	0	4	17	2
LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY		43626	6493.B	2833	1	12	23	59	455	2121	162
Sheriff	12	17826	2614.2	466	0	9	1	20	143	259	34
East Helena	12	1665	5705.7	95	0	0	0	5	4	77	9
Helena	12	24135	9413.7	2272	1	3	22	34	308	1785	119
LIBERTY COUNTY		2353	3017.4	71	0	1	0	1	14	50	5
Sheriff	12	2353	3017.4	71	0	1	0	1	14	50	5
LINCOLN COUNTY		17967	4636.3	833	1	3	7	56	182	555	29
Sheriff	12	14084	3990.3	562	1	3	5	53	130	349	21
Troy	12	1098	2276.9	25	0	0	0	1	5	16	3
Libby	12	2785	8833.0	246	0	0	2	2	47	190	5
McCONE COUNTY		2743	1822.8	50	0	0	0	0	1	49	0
Sheriff	12	2743	1822.8	50	0	0	0	0	1	49	0

See notes at end of table

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AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIB- UTED	1981 POPULA- TION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100,000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRA- VATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
MADISON		5509	1325.1	73	0	0	0	10	17	42	4
Sheriff	12	5509	1325 1	73	0	0	0	10	17	42	4
MEAGHER COUNTY		2174	2897.9	63	0	1	0	1	15	45	1
Sheriff	12	2174	2897.9	63	0	1	0	1	15	45	1
MINERAL COUNTY		3723	725.2	27	0	0	0	4	2	16	5
Sheriff	3	3723	725 2	27	0	0	0	4	2	16	5
MISSOULA COUNTY		74302	7133.1	5300	5	40	47	188	888	3824	308
Sheriff	12	43158	3394 5	1465	4	13	11	100	328	907	102
Missoula	12	31144	12313.8	3835	1	27	36	88	560	2917	206
MUSSELSHELL COUNTY		4476	2055.4	92	0	0	0	18	23	49	2
Sheriff	12	4476	2055 4	92	0	0	0	18	23	49	2
PARK COUNTY		12851	2886.9	371	0	0	3	13	68	264	23
Sheriff	9	5760	1875.0	108	0	0	3	11	24	63	7
Livingston	12	7091	3708.9	263	0	0	0	2	44	201	16
PETROLEUM COUNTY											
Sheriff	0	666	DID	NOT	REPORT						
PHILLIPS COUNTY		5428	2210.8	120	1	1	0	7	10	94	7
Sheriff	12	3032	2506.6	76	1	1	0	6	7	55	6
Malta	12	2396	1836.4	44	0	0	0	1	3	39	1
PONDERA COUNTY		6825	1011.0	69	0	0	1	2	11	47	8
Sheriff	11	3710	1401 6	52	0	0	1	2	3	38	8
Conrad	12	3115	545.7	17	0	0	0	0	8	9	0
POWDER RIVER COUNTY		2557	430.2	11	0	0	0	2	2	6	1
Sheriff	12	2557	430 2	11	0	0	0	2	2	6	1
POWELL COUNTY Deer Lodge-Powell County Combined		7031	512.0	36	0	0	0	2	2	31	1
	3	7031	512.0	36	0	0	0	2	2	31	1
PRAIRIE COUNTY		1857	807.8	15	0	0	0	0	5	9	1
Sheriff	12	1857	807 8	15	0	0	0	0	5	9	1
RAVALLI COUNTY		22726	2437.7	554	0	1	1	34	94	404	20
Sheriff	9	18831	1635.6	308	0	1	1	23	69	204	10
Stevensville	10	1203	5486 3	66	0	0	0	2	14	46	4
Hamilton	12	2692	6686 5	180	0	0	0	9	11	154	6
RICHLANO COUNTY		12389	4504.0	558	0	0	1	26	73	408	50
Sheriff	5	6589	2018.5	133	0	0	0	10	15	100	8
Sidney	12	5800	7327.6	425	0	0	1	16	58	308	42
ROOSEVELT COUNTY		10585	5129.9	543	3	14	1	45	99	348	33
Sheriff	12	4490	6904 2	310	2	0	0	10	19	249	30
Fort Peck Tribe	A	5095	3022.6	154	1	13	0	29	45	65	1
Poplar	10	1000	7900.0	79	0	1	1	6	35	34	2

See notes at end of table

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIB- UTED	1981 POPULA- TION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100,000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRA- VATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
ROSEBUD COUNTY		10098	2376.7	240	1	0	2	10	43	156	28
Sheriff	12	6988	3362.9	235	1	0	2	10	43	155	24
Northern Cheyenne	A	3110	160.8	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
SANDERS COUNTY		8673	1706.4	148	1	0	0	16	30	93	8
Sheriff	12	8673	1706 4	148	1	0	0	16	30	93	8
SHERIDAN COUNTY		5463	1464.4	80	0	1	1	3	20	48	7
Sheriff	12	2987	937.4	28	0	0	1	1	13	10	3
Plentywood	5	2476	2100.2	52	0	1	0	2	7	38	4
SILVER BOW COUNTY		38455	3328.6	1280	0	8	21	159	279	719	94
Butte-Silver Bow Combined	12	38455	3328.6	1280	0	8	21	159	279	719	94
STILLWATER COUNTY		5672	3385.0	192	0	0	1	16	28	140	7
Sheriff	12	5672	3385.0	192	0	0	1	16	28	140	7
SWEETGRASS COUNTY		3254	2796.6	91	0	0	0	2	25	61	3
Sheriff	10	3254	2796 6	91	0	0	0	2	25	61	3
TETON COUNTY		6571	974.0	64	0	0	0	4	14	45	1
Sheriff	12	6571	974.0	64	0	0	0	4	14	45	1
TOOLE COUNTY		5642	2463.7	139	0	0	0	7	22	101	9
Sheriff	9	5642	2463.7	139	0	0	0	7	22	101	9
TREASURE COUNTY		944									
Sheriff	0	994	DID	NOT	REPORT						
VALLEY COUNTY		10385	3264.3	339	1	3	0	13	27	279	16
Sheriff	12	5868	1959 8	115	1	1	0	3	11	92	7
Glasgow	12	4517	4959.0	224	0	2	0	0	6	187	9
WHEATLAND COUNTY		2383	1636.6	39	0	0	0	4	11	23	1
Sheriff	12	2383	1636.6	39	0	0	0	4	11	23	1
WIBAUX COUNTY ·		1499	4402.9	66	0	0	0	2	18	46	0
Sheriff	12	1499	4402.9	66	0	0	0	2	18	46	0
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY		109371	5921.1	6476	8	21	66	110	1364	4542	365
Sheriff	12	34559	4163 9	1439	2	1	8	49	256	1037	86
Laurel	8	5542	3951 6	219	0	0	3	8	48	152	8
Billings	12	69270	6955 4	4818	6	20	55	53	1060	3353	271
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK	A			62	0	2	0	0	11	48	1
STATE TOTAL		792000	4529.3	35872	40	186	280	1315	7144	24945	1962

1   A — Submitted Annually

2   DID NOT REPORT means the agency did not report any data for the year.

3   The crime rate per 100,000 is given for each agency as if a full 12 months of data had been submitted

4   The 1981 population data were obtained from the FBI-UCR program and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. FBI data were based on preliminary Bureau of the Census estimates

5.   The crime rate per 100,000 of 4529.3 for the state total is based upon the total state population of 792,000. If the crime rate is figured only for the population of those agencies reporting, the crime rate is 4584 5 for a population of 782,468

6   Some cities are not indicated as their crime reports are submitted through the county sheriff's office

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