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CRIME IN MONTANA

1996

ANNUAL REPORT

**Compiled by the
Statistical Analysis Center**

Montana Board of Crime Control

Gary Buchanan, Chairman

Ellis E. Kiser, Executive Director

Tom Murphy, Statistical Analysis Center Director

**Montana Board of Crime Control
303 North Roberts
Helena, MT 59620
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STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

303 North Roberts - PO Box 201408 - Helena, MT 59620-1408

Joseph P. Mazurek
Attorney General



Phone (406) 444-3604
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August 1997

Dear Reader:

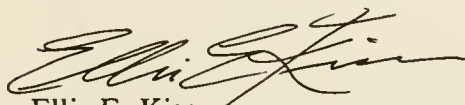
CRIME IN MONTANA - 1996 ANNUAL REPORT is prepared by the Statistical Analysis Center of the Montana Board of Crime Control. Crime Statistics are important bench marks revealing trends, patterns and clues to the future of crime in Montana. The Montana Uniform Crime Reporting (MUCR) system, the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and the Juvenile Probation Information System (JPIS) are the vehicles which afford the state and the nation information on crime.

Because the number of law enforcement agencies that report can fluctuate from year to year, it is important to recognize that the most accurate measure of the change in the incidence of crime is the *crime rate*. Crime rates can be found on pages 4-6 of the report. All police departments and sheriff's offices are listed in Table 8 of the report. It is noted in Table 8 as to whether or not they reported in 1996.

The 1996 data collected from Montana law enforcement agencies indicates a 12.6% drop in the crime rate. The crime rate is calculated by using the number of crimes reported and the total population of the jurisdictions of reporting agencies. In 1996 there were 4,793 major crimes reported per 100,000 people. This number compares to a crime rate of 5,484 reported in 1995. The crime rate in all seven major crime categories dropped in 1996. Motor vehicle thefts had the largest decline of 20%.

We recognize the amount of time and effort that goes into collecting the data used in this report. We would like to thank all those people who gathered and reported data throughout the year to make this report possible.

Sincerely,


Ellis E. Kiser,
Executive Director

Data used in the preparation of this publication
was compiled by the
staff of the
Statistical Analysis Center
of the
Montana Board of Crime Control.

The Board of Crime Control thanks all the
local law enforcement contributors for
the thousands of hours they
give to data entry.

Without the local contributor, this document
would not be possible.

Thank you!



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GENERAL CRIME STATISTICS FROM THE MONTANA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM

Overview and Introduction

This report contains the most complete, up-to-date and accurate information currently available about crime in the State of Montana. It is intended to address the informational needs of law enforcement administrators, planners, legislators and local government officials.

The data and statistics presented below are initiated primarily by the police departments and sheriff offices throughout the state. These agencies provide basic information about each crime which is reported to them and about each arrest they make to the Montana Uniform Crime Reporting (MUCR) system. In turn, the MUCR program feeds data into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

The number of reporting agencies can fluctuate from year to year. This accounts for some fluctuation in the number of offenses reported, making it difficult to use the number of offenses for comparisons. A better measure of the trend would be a comparison of the crime rate. The crime rates can be found on pages 4-6. To see which agencies are included in this report and which are not, go to Table 8 on page 24-27.

It is emphasized that the amount and type of crime reported in this document is based upon the number of reported offenses and does not measure those offenses unknown to the law enforcement community. Many crimes, for example, may go unreported because the victims are unaware they have been victimized or have themselves been participants in illegal activity.

At the same time, many sociological and environmental factors influence the type and volume of criminal activity in a particular geographical area. These include the density and size of the community, demographic characteristics of the populations, the economic status of the population, educational, recreational, and religious characteristics of the population, effective strength of local law enforcement agencies, policies of prosecuting officials and the courts and public attitudes toward laws and law enforcement. Many of these are beyond the ability of local law enforcement agencies to control.

1996 MONTANA CRIME CLOCK



ONE HOMICIDE
EVERY
12 DAYS, 14 HOURS

ONE RAPE
EVERY
43 HOURS, 9 MINUTES

ONE ROBBERY
EVERY
38 HOURS, 35 MINUTES

ONE INDEX CRIME
EVERY
14 MINUTES 40 SECONDS

ONE AGGRAVATED
ASSAULT EVERY
9 HOURS, 53 MINUTES

ONE VIOLENT CRIME
EVERY
6 HOURS, 30 MINUTES

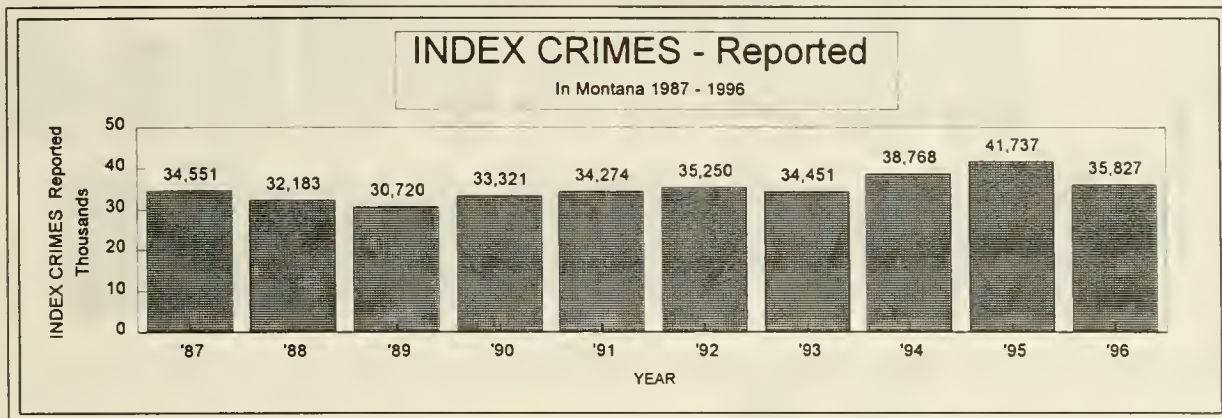
ONE BURGLARY
EVERY
2 HOUR 3 MINUTES

ONE PROPERTY CRIME
EVERY
15 MINUTES, 15 SECONDS

ONE LARCENY
EVERY
18 MINUTES, 33 SECONDS

ONE MOTOR VEHICLE
THEFT EVERY
4 HOURS, 39 MINUTES

STATE CRIME INDEX



Because of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence and the reliability of their reporting, the crimes of willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft are used as a gauge with which to measure the amount of crime and how much it increases or decreases over time. The *crime index* is the total number of these offenses that comes to the attention of law enforcement agencies.

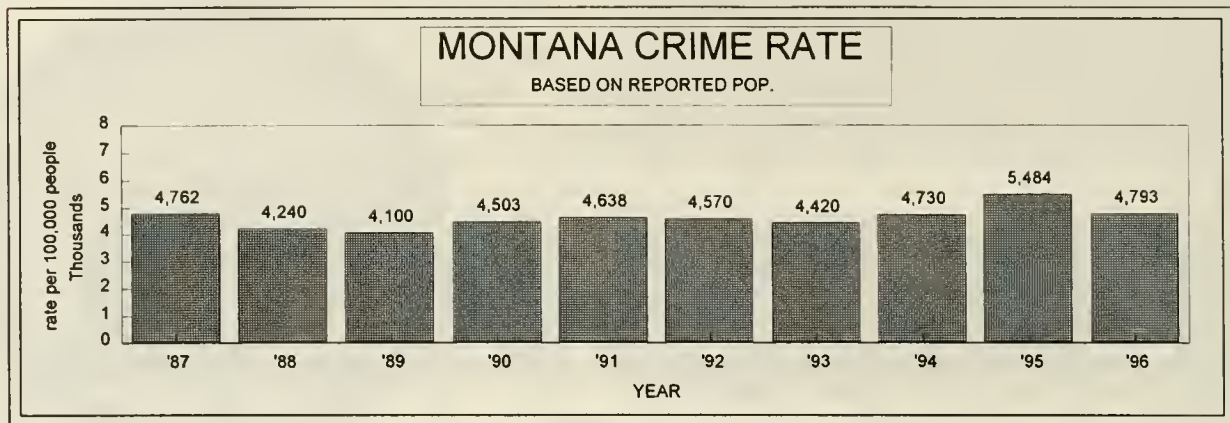
The number of major crimes or the *crime index* declined from 1995 to 1996. A drop in the number of larcenies, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts accounts for most of the decline. After a substantial increase in the number of index crimes reported in 1995, the 1996 count is more in line with the period from 1991 through 1994.

Nearly 80% of the law enforcement agencies in Montana reported their 1996 crime data to the Board of Crime Control. The jurisdiction of these agencies accounts for 85% of Montana's population. About half (49%) of the agencies reported less crime in 1996 than in 1995. At the same time 48% reported more crimes, and two agencies reported the same number of crimes in 1996 as in 1995.

Since Larcenies account for about 80% of the major crime in Montana, the change in the number of larcenies from one year to the next many times reflects the change in the overall crime index.

The most accurate measure of crime over time is the *Crime Rate*. The number of law enforcement agencies reporting crime to the Board of Crime Control can fluctuate from one year to the next, the crime rate takes this into consideration; therefore the crime rate on the following page should be used to measure the change in crime

CRIME RATE



The **crime rate** of a given area is defined as the number of index crimes per 100,000 population. By using rates per population, comparisons can be made between jurisdictions of unequal populations. **The crime rate is considered to be one of the best tools to measure the trend of crime or in comparing the change from year to year.** The rate takes into consideration the population of the jurisdictions reported on, but does not incorporate other elements, such as sociological and environmental factors which may contribute to the amount of crime reported in a given community.

The population figures used to calculate the state's crime rate for 1996 were provided for use in the Montana Uniform Crime Report by the U. S. Bureau of Census through the FBI. In 1996, Montana's population was estimated to be 879,000. The total population of the jurisdictions of law enforcement agencies which reported to the Montana Board of Crime Control was 747,458. The adjusted population figure of 747,458 was used to calculate the 1996 crime rate.

Montana's 1996 crime rate of 4,793 crimes per 100,000 people is 12.6% below the 1995 crime rate of 5,484; however, the 1996 rate is only 4% higher than the average of the four years (1990-1994) prior to 1995.

Of the seven major crimes used in the calculation of the crime rate, all seven were reported as having lower crime rates in 1996 than in 1995.

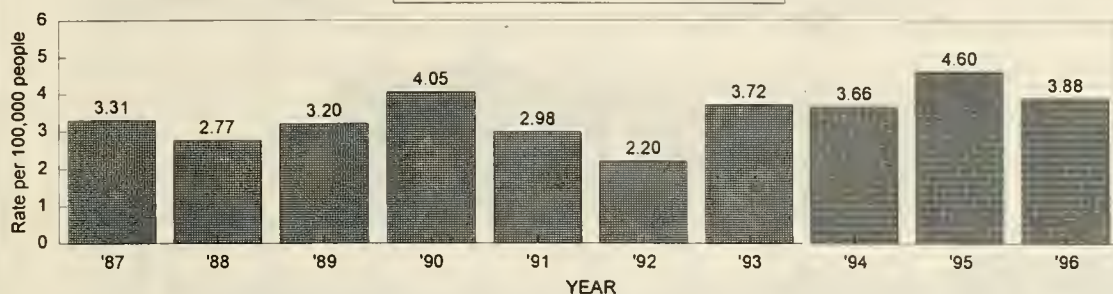
Most of the decline in the crime rate can be attributed to the drop in the rate of burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts in 1996. In 1996 the burglary rate dropped by 14%; larceny by 12%; and motor vehicle thefts by 20%.

Montana's 1996 crime rate of 4,793 crimes per 100,000 people is 9% lower than the 1995 United States crime rate of 5278. The national crime rate for 1996 has not yet been released as of the printing of this report.

Rates of Crime Per 100,000 People

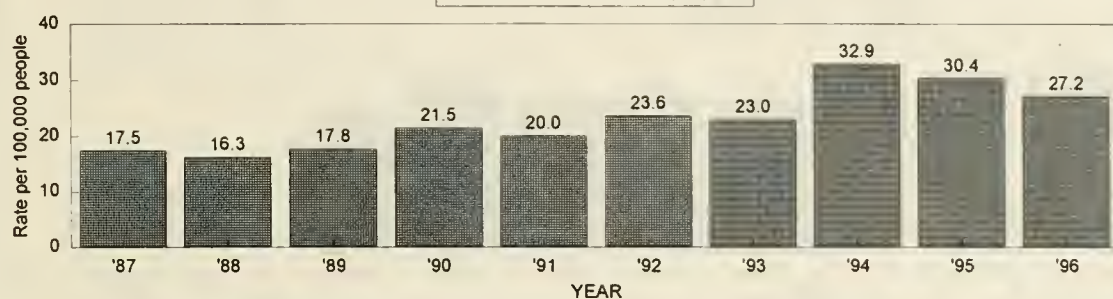
RATE OF HOMICIDE

In Montana Per 100,000 people



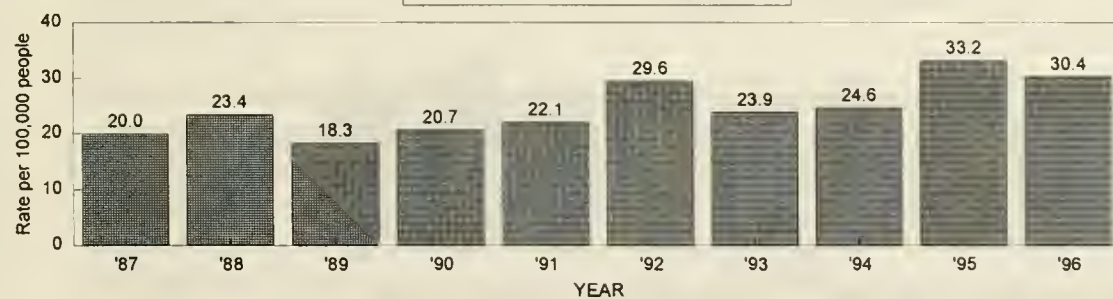
RATE OF RAPE

In Montana Per 100,000 people



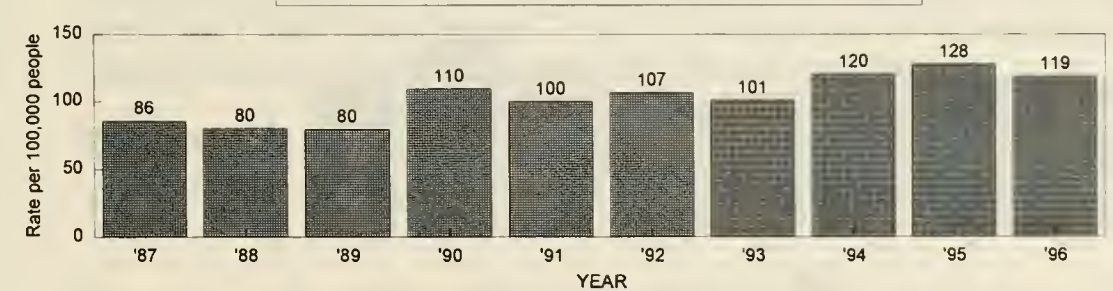
RATE OF ROBBERY

In Montana Per 100,000 people



RATE OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

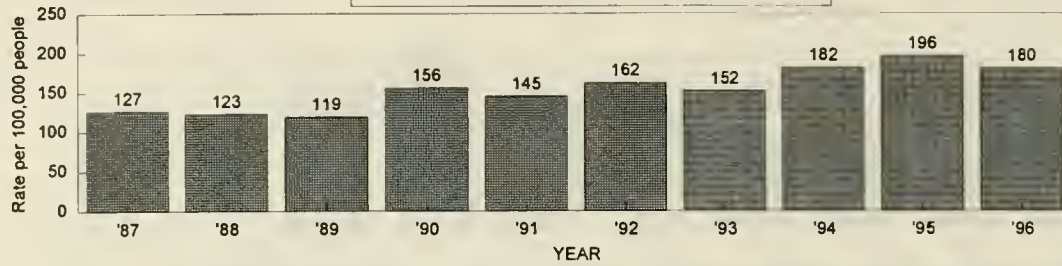
In Montana, per 100,000 people



Rates of Crime Per 100,000 People

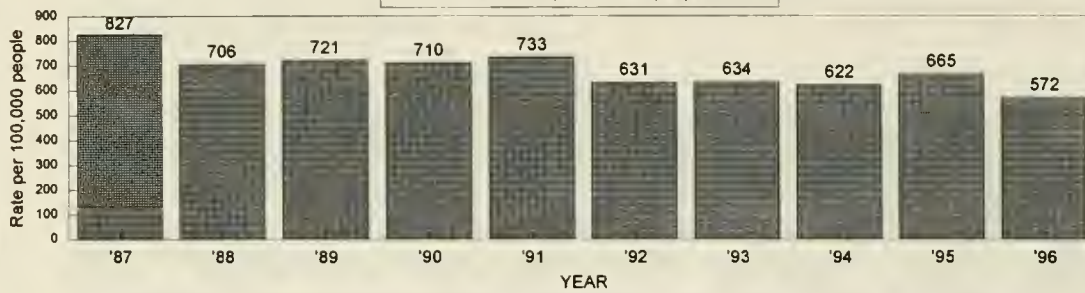
RATE OF VIOLENT CRIME

In Montana, per 100,000 people



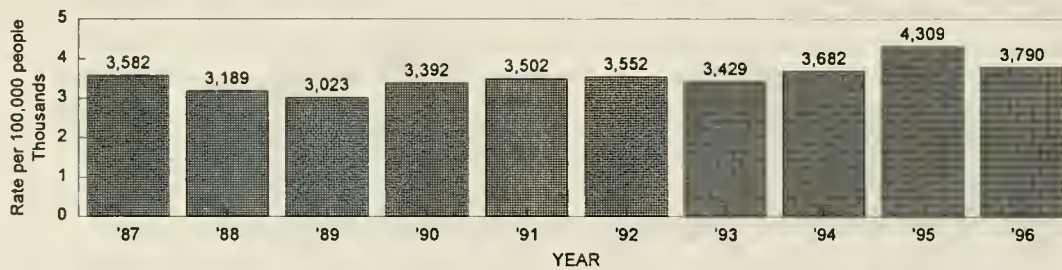
RATE OF BURGLARY

In Montana, per 100,000 people



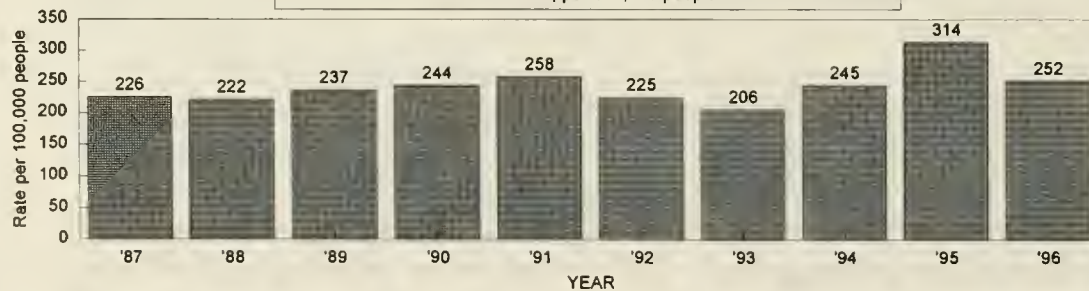
RATE OF LARCENY

In Montana, per 100,000 people

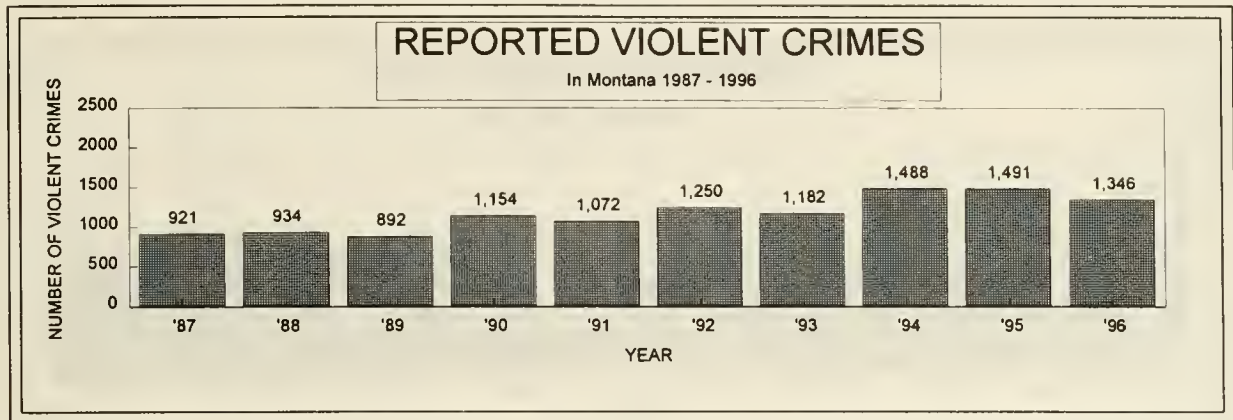


RATE OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

In Montana, per 100,000 people



VIOLENT CRIMES



Violent Crime is composed of homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. All violent crimes involve force or threat of force.

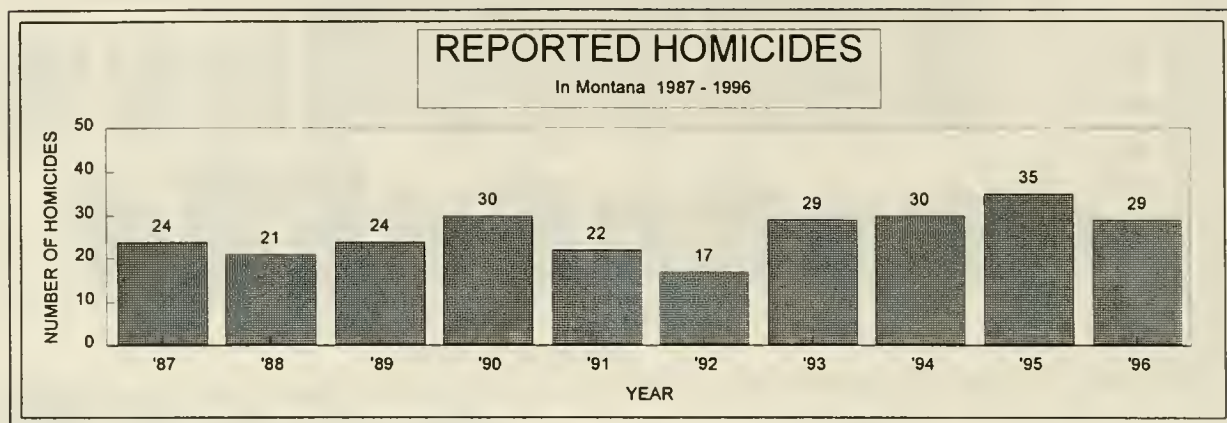
Total violent crimes reported to law enforcement in 1996 amounted to 1,346 or a rate of 180 violent crimes per 100,000 people. Even though this rate of 180 is 5% lower than the average of 1994 and 1995, it is 19% higher than the average violent crime rate over the previous nine years (1987-1995), which is calculated to be 154 violent crimes per 100,000 people.

Most (two-thirds) of the violent crimes in Montana are made up of aggravated assault offenses. Aggravated assaults in 1996 accounted for 119 of the 180 violent crimes per 100,000 people. The crime rate per 100,000 people for all four offenses used in the calculation of the violent crime rate showed declines during 1996. The homicide rate dropped by 16%, the rate of reported rapes dropped by 11%, the rate at which robberies were committed dropped by 8%, and the aggravated assault rate was down by 7%.

Montana's 1996 violent crime rate of 180 violent crimes per 100,000 people is nothing to ignore, but relatively speaking, the rate is very low compared to the 1995 violent crime rate for the United States. The national rate was 685 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 1995. **The 1996 national rate is not yet available.**

During 1996 a violent crime was committed every 6 hours, 30 minutes in Montana.

HOMICIDE



Homicide is the willful, non-negligent killing of one human being by another. It includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter, but does not include justifiable homicide where an offender is killed by a police officer in the line of duty or a felon killed during the commission of a crime by a private citizen.

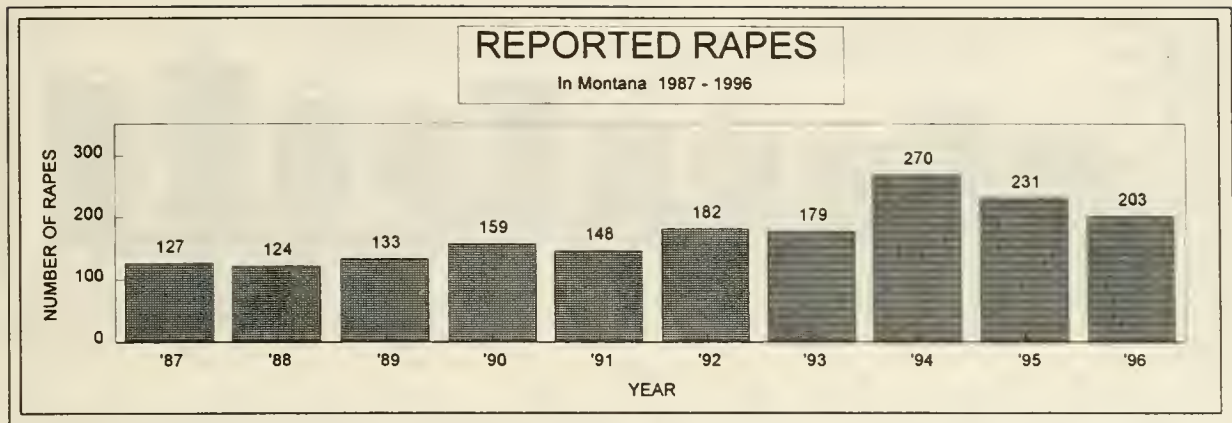
The rate at which homicides were committed in 1996 declined by 16% since 1995. A total of 29 homicides or a rate of 3.9 homicides per 100,000 people was reported to law enforcement agencies in 1996. The homicide rate of 3.9 is only slightly lower than the average of the last three years (1993-1995), a rate of 4.0.

Over the past ten years there have been an average of 26 homicides reported to law enforcement. This is an average rate of 3.4 homicides per 100,000 people, which is about 15% lower than the 1996 rate of 3.9.

Montana's homicide rate for 1996 is less than half the 1995 national rate of 8.2 homicides per 100,000 people.

In Montana there was one homicide committed every 12 days, 14 hours in 1996.

RAPE



Rape is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Both assaults and attempts to commit rape by force are included in this definition. Statutory rape (without force) and sexual assaults against males are classified as sexual offenses and are not counted under this classification.

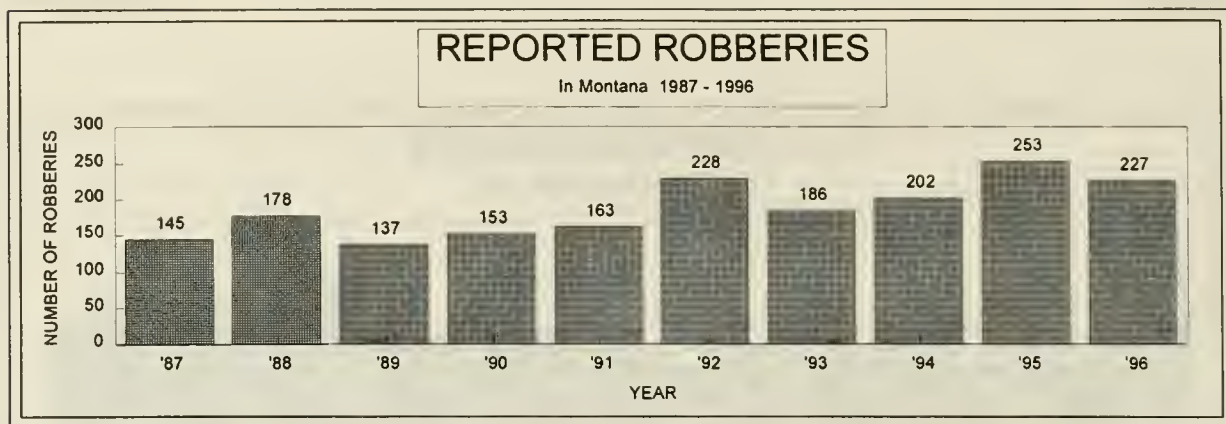
The total number of rapes reported to law enforcement in 1996 was 203. When adjusted based on population the rate is 27 rapes per 100,000 people. The 1996 rate was 11% lower than the 1995 rate of 30.

After climbing to a high of 270 or 33 rapes per 100,000 people in 1994 the number and rate of rapes were down in both 1995 and 1996. The 1996 rate is still 36% higher than the seven year (1987-1993) average prior to 1994.

The national rate of rape dropped by 5.6% from 1994 to 1995. The 1995 national rate of 37 rapes per 100,000 people is 27% higher than Montana's 1996 rate.

In Montana, one rape or attempted rape was committed every 43 hours, 9 minutes in 1996.

ROBBERY



Robbery is the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or the threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a crime in which the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender is present. Attempts to commit robbery are included in the robbery count.

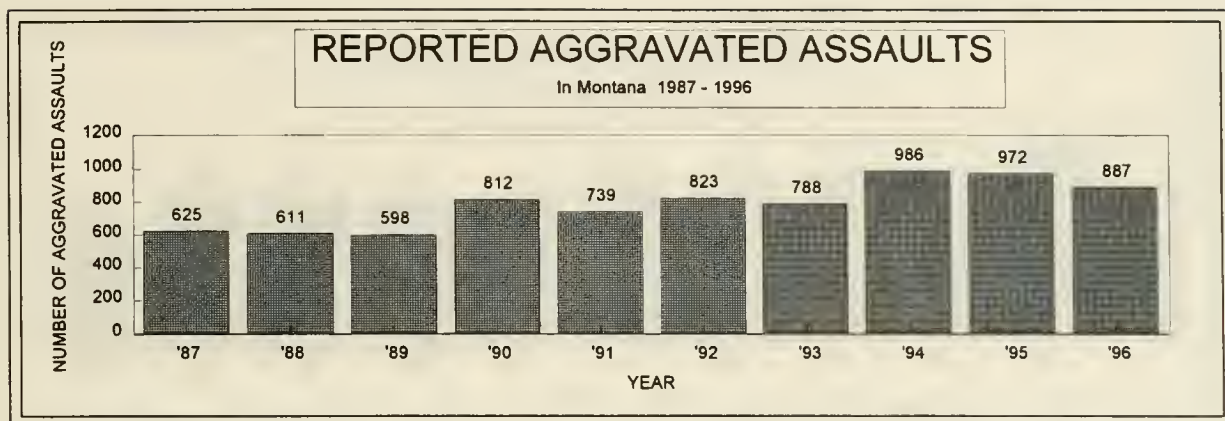
In 1996, 227 robberies were reported to law enforcement. When basing this on a rate per population, a rate of 30 robberies per 100,000 people is 8% lower than the 1995 rate of 33. The 1996 rate is also nearly 8% lower than the most recent ten-year (1987-1996) average of 25 robberies per 100,000 people.

Of the seven major crimes used to measure the overall crime rate, five rates dropped more than the 8% seen in robbery. They were homicide, rape, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle thefts. Aggravated assaults dropped slightly less than robbery.

The robbery rate of 30 per 100,000 people in 1996 amounts to only 14% of the national rate of robbery reported in 1995. In the United States there were 221 robberies reported per 100,000 people.

One robbery was reported every 38 hours, 35 minutes in Montana during 1996.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



Aggravated assault is the unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon, or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Any assault which does not involve the use of a weapon and does not result in serious injury is classified as a simple assault and is reported under a separate crime category.

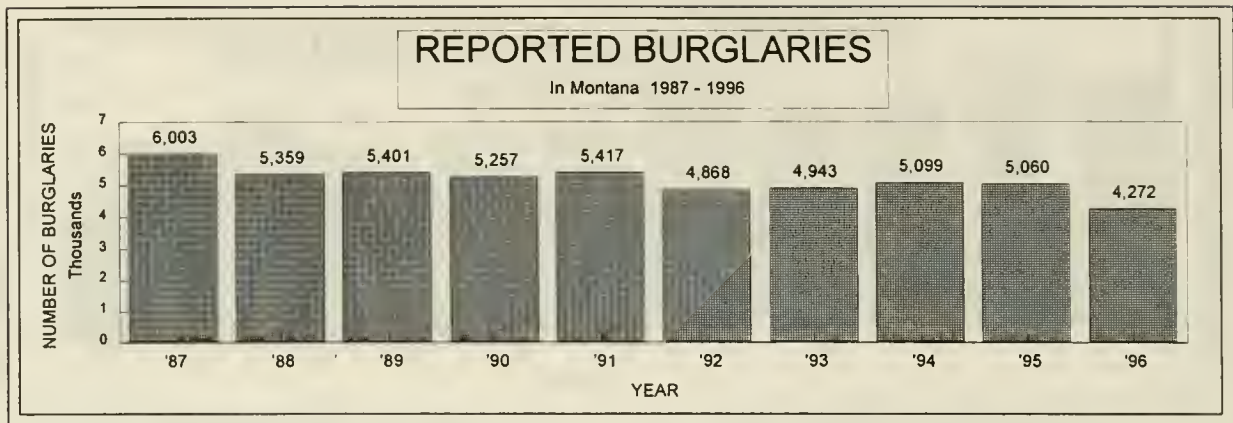
Aggravated assaults dropped by 7% from 1995 to 1996. Even though a decline was reported, the 7% drop was the lowest of all seven crimes used in measuring the overall crime rate.

There were 887 aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement in 1996. A 1996 rate per 100,000 people of 119 compares to a rate of 128 in 1995. The average rate of aggravated assault in the last three years (1994-1996) of 122 is 28% higher than the average rate for the seven previous years (1987-1993) of 95 per 100,000 people.

Aggravated assaults in Montana are not happening at near the rate they are on the national level. Even with the Montana rate being substantially higher in the last three years than in previous years, the rate is only one-quarter the 1995 rate for the United States. The national rate for aggravated assaults was 418 per 100,000 people.

An aggravated assault or an attempt of aggravated assault is committed every 9 hours, 53 minutes in Montana.

BURGLARY



Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The theft of items from a building is classified as burglary if it is accompanied by a breaking or unlawful entry (trespass) without breaking. If the building is open to the general public and the offender has legal access, it is considered a larceny.

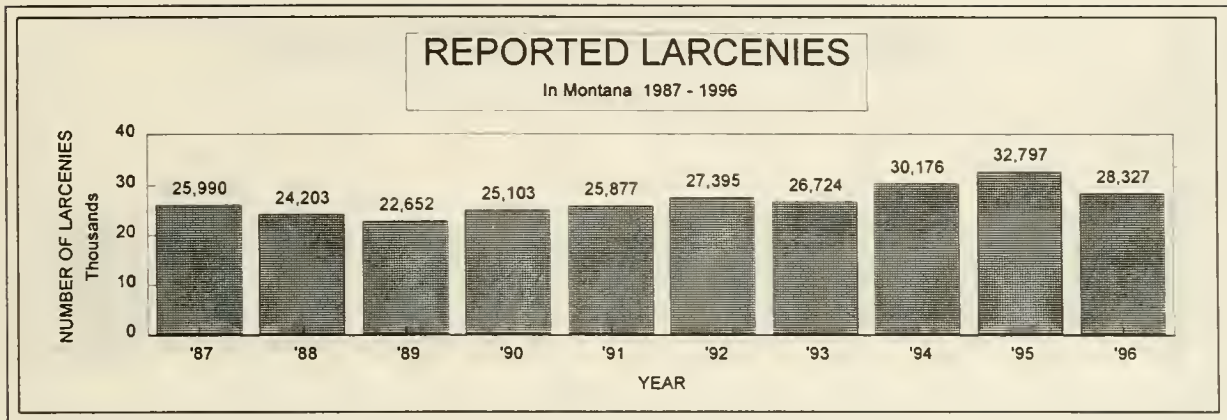
The trend in burglaries on the average has been decreasing in recent years. This can be seen in the graph above. There were 4,272 burglaries reported to law enforcement in 1996. A rate of 572 per 100,000 people in Montana is the lowest rate reported since at least as far back as 1982.

Burglaries dropped at a faster rate than the overall crime rate from 1995 to 1996. The rate of 572 per 100,000 people was 14% lower than the rate of 665 reported in 1995. The 1996 rate was 8% lower than the average of the previous nine years (1987-1995) of 694.

The incidence of forcible burglary or attempted burglary in Montana of 572 is just over half (58%) of the national rate of 988 reported in 1995.

Montana experienced one burglary every two hours and three minutes in 1996.

LARCENY



Larceny is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Larceny includes such crimes as pickpocket, purse snatching, shoplifting, theft from motor vehicles, and theft from buildings where forced entry is not involved. It does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, or bad checks. Similarly motor vehicle theft is not included in this category since it is considered a major crime by itself.

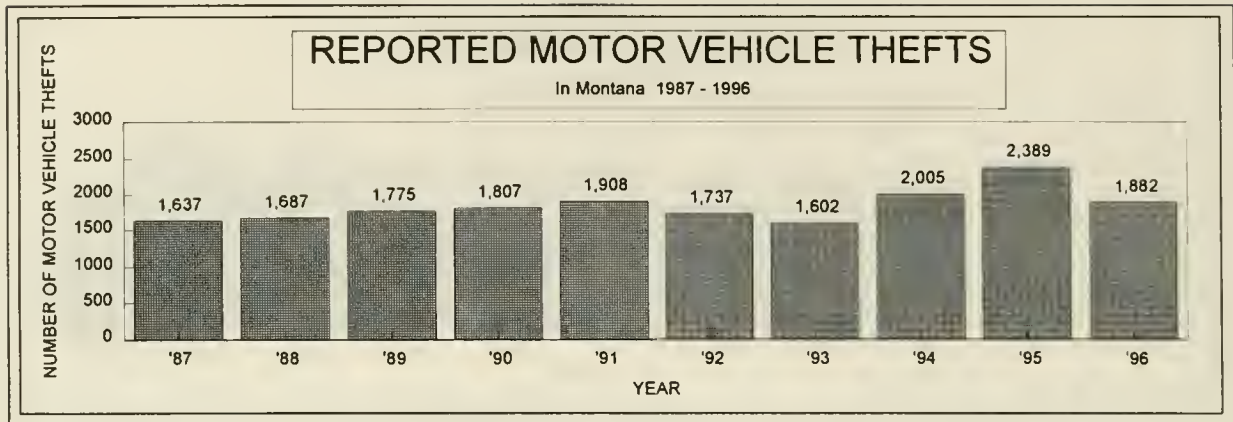
Larcenies account for nearly 80% of all major crimes in Montana. Since the incidence of larceny is the most common of the seven crimes used in the calculation of the overall crime rate, it may often reflect the direction of the change in the total crime rate.

After an increase in the rate of larcenies in both 1994 and 1995, the rate at which larcenies were committed in 1996 was 3,790 per 100,000 people, which was 12% lower than the rate of 4,309 in 1995. At the same time the overall crime rate decreased by 12.6%

Larceny is the only major crime in Montana that appears to be higher than the national rate. The 1996 rate of 3,790 larcenies per 100,000 people is nearly one-quarter (25%) higher than the 1995 national rate of 3,045.

In Montana, one larceny was reported to law enforcement on an average of every 18 minutes, 33 seconds in 1996.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



Motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft of or attempted theft of a vehicle which is self-propelled and runs on the surface and not on rails. It includes automobiles, trucks, buses, vans, motorcycles and snowmobiles. It does not include motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes and farming equipment.

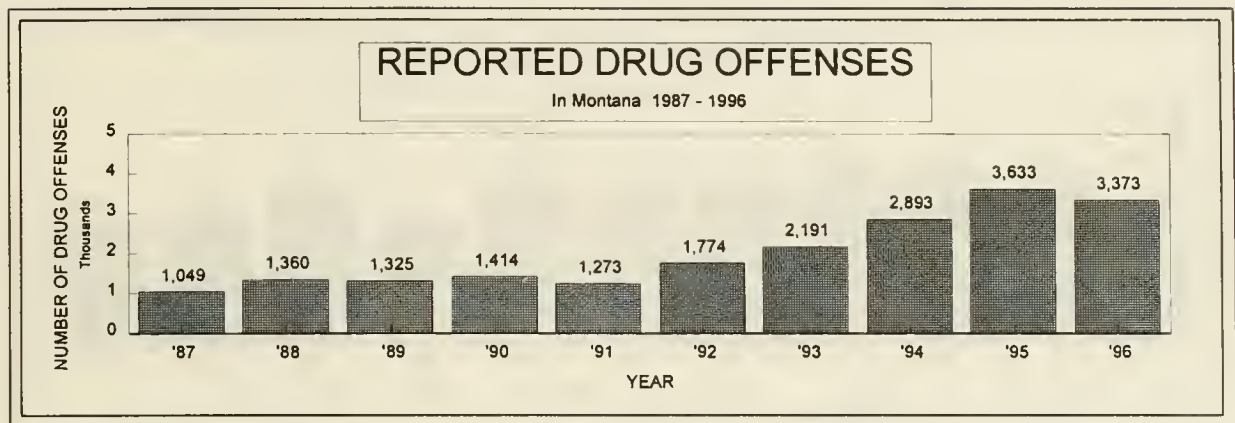
After a report of 2,389 motor vehicle thefts in 1995, law enforcement received reports of 1,882 in 1996. The rate was 252 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 people in 1996 compared to 314 in 1995, which was a drop of 20%.

The decline in the motor vehicle theft rate of 20% is the largest drop of all index offenses in 1996. Motor vehicle thefts are the third most common major offenses reported to law enforcement. The two offenses that occur more often are larcenies and burglaries, with larcenies being the higher of the two.

Montana's 1996 rate of 252 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 people amounts to only 45% of the 1995 national rate of 561.

In 1996, motor vehicles were stolen in Montana at a rate of one every 4 hours and 39 minutes.

DRUG OFFENSES



Drug offenses involve the unlawful possession, sale, use, cultivation, and manufacturing of controlled substances and narcotic drugs.

Drug offenses reported to law enforcement dropped for the first time since at least 1982. There were a total of 3,373 drug offenses reported in 1996 compared to 3,633 in 1995. A more accurate measure of the difference is the rate of crime based on the population in each year. The rate for 1996 was 451 per 100,000 people compared to 477 in 1995, a drop of 5%.

In 1996, drug offenses were reported to law enforcement at a rate of one every 2 hours, 36 minutes.

SEX OFFENSES



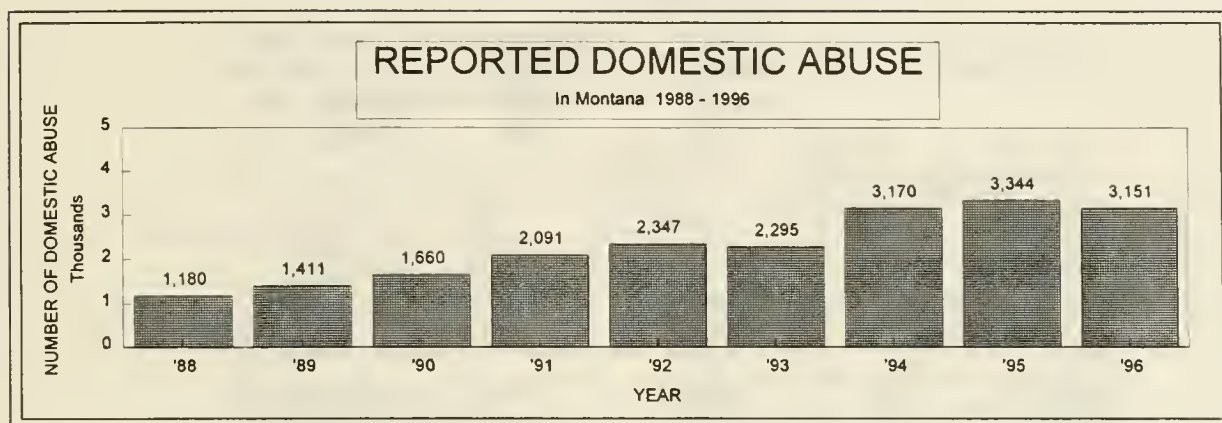
Sex offenses include offenses against chastity, common decency, morals and the like. Montana law lists four specific crimes: sexual assault, deviate sexual conduct, indecent exposure and incest. Excluded under this category are forcible rape, prostitution and commercial vice.

Reported sex offenses continued to drop only slightly in 1996 after remaining fairly steady from 1987 through 1994. In 1996 there were 1,188 sex offenses reported to law enforcement. A 1996 rate of 159 per 100,000 people is only 2% lower than the 1995 rate of 163.

The average rate for 1995 and 1996 of 161 is 16% lower than the average of the eight previous years (1987-1994) which was 191 sex offenses per 100,000 people.

Sex offenses were reported to law enforcement at a rate of one every 7 hours, 22 minutes in 1996.

DOMESTIC ABUSE



*A person commits the offense of **domestic abuse** if he/she: (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to a family member or household member; or (b) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in a family member or household member.*

Domestic abuse offenses were broken out of the assault category starting in 1988 for reporting purposes. Since that time the numbers continued to climb at a rate of 15% per year through 1995. In 1996 there was a slight decrease of 4% in the rate of reported domestic abuse incidents.

There were 3,151 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement in 1996. The 1996 rate per 100,000 people of 422 was only 4% lower than the rate in 1995 of 439. The average rate for 1994-1996 of 416 is still a considerable 43% higher than the average of 290 offenses per 100,000 people in the six previous years (1988-1993).

The 1996 rate at which domestic abuse is reported to law enforcement in 1996 was one incident every 2 hours, 47 minutes.

TABLE 2
1995 AND 1996 COMPARISON
OF CRIME RATES BY OFFENSE
IN MONTANA

	Rate per 100,000 people 1995	Rate per 100,000 people 1996	Percent Change
OFFENSE			
Homicide	4.6	3.9	-15.6%
Rape	30.4	27.2	-10.5%
Robbery	33.2	30.4	-8.6%
Aggravated Assault	127.7	118.7	-7.1%
Total Violent	195.9	180.1	-8.1%
Burglary	664.9	571.5	-14.0%
Larceny	4,309.5	3,789.8	-12.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	313.9	251.8	-19.8%
Total Property	5,288.3	4,613.1	-12.8%
TOTAL PART I	5,484.2	4,793.2	-12.6%
Other Assaults *	1,147.5	1,044.9	-8.9%
Domestic Abuse	439.4	421.6	-4.1%
Arson	19.8	21.0	5.9%
Forgery	332.2	189.8	-42.8%
Fraud	309.8	218.7	-29.4%
Embezzlement	5.1	5.2	1.8%
Stolen Property	29.6	48.7	64.7%
Vandalism	2,239.4	1,748.9	-21.9%
Weapons	157.4	128.4	-18.4%
Prostitution	2.9	7.2	149.9%
Sex Offenses	163.1	158.9	-2.5%
Narcotics	477.4	451.3	-5.5%
Gambling	0.79	0.80	1.8%
Offenses Against Family	175.3	164.0	-6.4%
DUI	716.1	598.6	-16.4%
Liquor	519.3	541.7	4.3%
Disorderly Conduct	1,707.4	1,715.7	0.5%
Other Total **	1,959.9	1,986.3	1.3%
TOTAL PART II **	9,963.0	9,030.2	-9.4%
GRAND TOTAL **	15,447.2	13,823.4	-10.5%

- * Other Assaults consist of assaults other than those considered aggravated.
If a domestic abuse is considered aggravated it will be counted as aggravated
and also as domestic abuse. Other Assaults include Domestic Abuse.
- ** Other Total includes trespass, escape, kidnap, curfew, runaway and other
- *** Totals do not include DUIs.

Source: Montana Board of Crime Control, Uniform Crime Report Data

TABLE 2
1996 RATE OF ARREST BY OFFENSE TYPE
IN MONTANA

These Offense counts will not match other offense counts in this publication.
This table includes only offenses for those agencies that also report their
arrest data to the Board of Crime Control.

	Offenses Reported 1996	Cleared By Arrest 1996	Percent Cleared By Arrest
CRIME			
Homicide	28	23	82.1%
Rape	180	22	12.2%
Robbery	225	63	28.0%
Aggravated Assault	784	282	36.0%
Total Violent Crimes	1,217	390	32.0%
Burglary	3,940	375	9.5%
Larceny	26,958	4,661	17.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,758	349	19.9%
Total Property Crimes	32,656	5,385	16.5%
TOTAL PART I CRIMES	33,873	5,775	17.0%
Other Assaults *	7,235	3,548	49.0%
Domestic Abuse **	2,893	1,854	64.1%
Arson	141	52	36.9%
Forgery	1,357	280	20.6%
Fraud	1,550	497	32.1%
Embezzlement	35	18	51.4%
Stolen Property	355	84	23.7%
Vandalism	12,118	1,228	10.1%
Weapons	888	165	18.6%
Prostitution	53	46	86.8%
Sex Offenses	1,060	161	15.2%
Narcotics	3,156	2,075	65.7%
Gambling	6	2	33.3%
Offenses Against Family	1,132	135	11.9%
DUI	4,284	3,570	83.3%
Liquor Laws	3,893	2,988	76.8%
Disorderly Conduct	12,554	2,818	22.4%
All Other	13,480	3,898	28.9%
TOTAL PART II CRIMES	29,086	8,291	28.5%
GRAND TOTAL	62,959	14,066	22.3%

* Other Assaults consist of assaults other than those considered aggravated.

** Other Assaults include Domestic Abuse.

Source: Montana Board of Crime Control, Uniform Crime Report data

TABLE 4
FREQUENCY (%) OF USE OF WEAPONS
IN THE COMMISSION OF VIOLENT CRIMES
IN MONTANA
1996

			TYPE OF CRIME								
<u>WEAPON</u>			Homicide		Rape		Robbery		Aggr.Asslt		Total
Firearm			73%		6%		30%		24%		23%
Knife			15%		72%		51%		40%		46%
Other Dangerous			8%		5%		11%		20%		16%
Hands, Feet, Etc.			4%		17%		8%		16%		15%
Total Cases											
Involving Weapons	**		26		134		139		694		967

** Total Cases Involving Weapons include only crimes which were reported as involving weapons.

Source: Montana Board of Crime Control, Uniform Crime Report Data

TABLE 5
Combined Sheriff Office and Police Dept.
Ranked by their 1996 Crime Rates*

COUNTY TOTALS		Rate Per 100,000
1	Hill Cnty Total	7985
2	Cascade Cnty Total	7457
3	Yellowstone Cnty Total	7337
4	Park Cnty Total **	7002
5	Silver Bow Cnty Total	6336
6	Mineral Cnty Total	6300
7	Custer Cnty Total	6201
8	Gallatin Cnty Total	5133
9	Sheridan Cnty Total	5097
10	Ravalli Cnty Total **	4864
	STATE AVERAGE	4793
11	Meagher Cnty Total	4633
12	Richmond Cnty Total **	4624
13	Wheatland Cnty Total	4510
14	Flathead Cnty Total	4115
15	Sanders Cnty Total **	4088
16	Big Horn Cnty Total	4038
17	Lewis & Clark Cnty Total **	3874
18	Powell Cnty Total	3872
19	Toole Cnty Total	3829
20	Carter Cnty Total **	3636
21	Fergus Cnty Total	3552
22	Missoula Cnty Total **	3426
23	Granite Cnty Total	3413
24	Musselshell Cnty Total	3172
25	Valley Cnty Total	2846
26	Chouteau Cnty Total	2574
27	Petroleum Cnty Total	2559
28	Rosebud Cnty Total	2554
29	Deer Lodge Cnty Total	2504
30	Glacier Cnty Total **	2194
31	Lake County Total **	2058
32	Carbon Cnty Total **	1886
33	Phillips Cnty Total	1875
34	Blaine Cnty Total	1809
35	Powder River Cnty Total	1700
36	Madison Cnty Total	1663
37	Golden Valley Cnty Total	1644
38	Sweet Grass Cnty Total	1639
39	Beaverhead Cnty Total	1530
40	Lincoln Cnty Total **	1279
41	Pondera Cnty Total	1128
42	Stillwater Cnty Total **	1124
43	Dawson Cnty Total	1029
44	Jefferson Cnty Total **	1011
45	Fallon Cnty Total	637
46	Teton Cnty Total	545
47	Liberty Cnty Total	522
48	Daniels Cnty Total	181
49	McCone Cnty Total	46
50	Treasure Cnty Total	0

* This ranking, based on a population of 100,000, includes only those agencies that participate in reporting to the Board of Crime Control. Refer to Table 8 for information on counties that had incomplete data or did not report.

** The county includes one or more agencies which did not report or reported incomplete data. Only data and population numbers from the reporting agencies were used in calculating the crime rate.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

TABLE 6
Sheriff Offices
Ranked by their 1996 Crime Rates*

SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS		Rate Per 100,000
1	Broadwater Cnty S.O.	6675
2	Butte/Silver Bow L.E. **	6336
3	Mineral Cnty S.O.	6300
	STATE AVERAGE	4793
4	Meagher Cnty S.O.	4633
5	Wheatland Cnty S.O.	4510
6	Big Horn Cnty S.O.	4038
7	Deer Lodge / Powell Cnty L.E. **	3872
8	Shelby / Toole Cnty S.O. **	3829
9	Granite Cnty S.O.	3789
10	Custer Cnty S.O.	3745
11	Yellowstone Cnty S.O.	3642
12	Carter Cnty S.O.	3636
13	Hill Cnty S.O.	3623
14	Musselshell Cnty S.O.	3172
15	Cascade Cnty S.O.	2918
16	Sheridan Cnty S.O.	2774
17	Gallatin Cnty S.O.	2699
18	Missoula Cnty S.O.	2634
19	Petroleum Cnty S.O.	2559
20	Rosebud Cnty S.O.	2554
21	Anaconda / Deer Lodge Cnty L.E. **	2504
22	Lewis & Clark Cnty S.O.	2379
23	Glacier Cnty S.O.	2194
24	Carbon Cnty S.O.	2181
25	Flathead Cnty S.O.	2167
26	Valley Cnty S.O. / Fort Peck P.D. / Opheim P.D. **	2160
27	Chouteau Cnty S.O.	2063
28	Phillips Cnty S.O.	1875
29	Fergus Cnty S.O.	1816
30	Powder River Cnty S.O.	1700
31	Madison Cnty S.O.	1663
32	Golden Valley Cnty S.O.	1644
33	Sweet Grass Cnty S.O.	1639
34	Lincoln Cnty S.O. / Libby P.D. **	1319
35	Lake Cnty S.O.	1302
36	Beaverhead Cnty S.O.	1166
37	Stillwater Cnty S.O.	1124
38	Jefferson Cnty S.O. / Boulder PD **	1011
39	Blaine Cnty S.O.	696
40	Dawson Cnty S.O.	632
41	Liberty Cnty S.O.	522
42	Pondera Cnty S.O.	468
43	Teton Cnty S.O.	455
44	Fallon Cnty S.O.	238
45	Daniels Cnty S.O.	181
46	McCone Cnty S.O.	0
47	Treasure Cnty S.O.	0

* This ranking, based on a population of 100,000, includes only those agencies that participate in reporting to the Board of Crime Control. Refer to Table 8 for information on agencies which had incomplete data or did not report.

** This ranking includes agencies that combine data for reporting purposes or the agencies have a combined form of government. These agencies are also included in the Police Department rankings (Table 7).

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

TABLE 7
Police Departments
Ranked by their 1996 Crime Rates*

POLICE DEPARTMENTS		Rate Per 100,000
1	West Yellowstone P.D.	12390
2	Havre P.D.	11203
3	Kalispell P.D.	9832
4	Great Falls P.D.	9261
5	Billings P.D.	8814
6	Plentywood P.D.	7806
7	Hamilton P.D.	7343
8	Miles City P.D.	7150
9	Whitefish P.D.	7131
10	Livingston P.D.	7002
11	Bozeman P.D.	6500
12	Butte / Silver Bow L.E.	** 6336
13	Plains P.D.	5686
14	Belgrade P.D.	5608
15	Harlem P.D.	5286
16	Polson P.D.	5247
17	Lewistown P.D.	5246
18	Helena P.D.	5210
	STATE AVERAGE	4793
19	Sidney P.D.	4624
20	Laurel P.D.	4607
21	Stevensville P.D.	3979
22	Columbia Falls P.D.	3957
23	Glasgow P.D.	3926
24	Deer Lodge / Powell Cnty L.E.	** 3872
25	Shelby / Toole Cnty S.O.	** 3829
26	Fort Benton P.D.	3725
27	Manhattan P.D.	3602
28	Chinook P.D.	3141
29	Thompson Falls P.D.	2809
30	Anaconda / Deer Lodge Cnty L.E.	** 2504
31	Valley Cnty S.O. / Fort Peck P.D. / Opheim P.D.	** 2160
32	Conrad P.D.	1999
33	Dillon P.D.	1924
34	Red Lodge P.D.	1838
35	Darby P.D.	1418
36	Glendive P.D.	1394
37	Belt P.D.	1368
38	Three Forks P.D.	1364
39	Lincoln Cnty S.O. / Libby P.D.	** 1319
40	Jefferson Cnty / Boulder PD	** 1011
41	Baker P.D.	905
42	Choteau P.D.	789
43	Eureka P.D.	736
44	Drummond P.D.	337
45	Circle P.D.	141
46	Joliet P.D.	0
47	Nashua P.D.	0
48	Pinesdale P.D.	0

* This ranking, based on a population of 100,000, includes only those agencies that participate in reporting to the Board of Crime Control. Refer to Table 8 for information on agencies which had incomplete data or did not report.

** This ranking includes agencies that combine data for reporting purposes or the agencies have a combined form of government. These agencies are also included in the Sheriffs Department rankings (Table 6).

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

TABLE 8
1996 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY	1996 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Beaverhead Cnty S.O.	4719	55	1166	0	0	0	2	22	24	7
Dillon P.D.	4366	84	1924	0	0	0	5	3	73	3
Beaverhead Cnty Total	9085	139	1530	0	0	0	7	25	97	10
Big Horn Cnty S.O.	12383	500	4038	0	8	2	35	81	312	62
Big Horn Cnty Total	12383	500	4038	0	8	2	35	81	312	62
Blaine Cnty S.O.	4743	33	696	0	0	0	0	6	22	5
Chinook P.D.	1592	50	3141	0	0	0	2	5	41	2
Harlem P.D.	908	48	5286	0	1	0	1	16	29	1
Blaine Cnty Total	7243	131	1809	0	1	0	3	27	92	8
Broadwater Cnty S.O.	3775	252	6675	0	0	3	11	60	165	13
Broadwater Cnty Total	3775	252	6675	0	0	3	11	60	165	13
Carbon Cnty S.O.	4907	107	2181	0	0	1	1	41	61	3
Red Lodge P.D.	2340	43	1838	0	0	0	0	2	39	2
Bridger P.D.	* 784		Did Not Report							
Fromberg P.D.	* 449		Did Not Report							
Joliet P.D.	705	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carbon Cnty Total	** 7952	150	1886	0	0	1	1	43	100	5
Carter Cnty S.O.	275	10	3636	0	0	0	1	6	3	0
Ekalaka P.D.	* 1297		Did Not Report							
Carter Cnty Total	** 275	10	3636	0	0	0	1	6	3	0
Cascade Cnty S.O.	22996	671	2918	0	0	0	21	102	507	41
Great Falls P.D.	59819	5540	9261	5	21	39	23	522	4679	251
Belt P.D.	585	8	1368	0	0	0	2	5	0	1
Cascade Cnty Total	83400	6219	7457	5	21	39	46	629	5186	293
Chouteau Cnty S.O.	3877	80	2063	1	0	0	1	16	53	9
Fort Benton P.D.	1718	64	3725	0	0	0	4	8	47	5
Chouteau Cnty Total	5595	144	2574	1	0	0	5	24	100	14
Custer Cnty S.O.	3471	130	3745	0	0	0	10	15	99	6
Miles City P.D.	8979	642	7150	0	6	1	56	66	473	40
Custer Cnty Total	12450	772	6201	0	6	1	66	81	572	46
Daniels Cnty S.O.	2207	4	181	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Daniels Cnty Total	2207	4	181	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Dawson Cnty S.O.	4427	28	632	0	1	0	4	5	17	1
Glendive P.D.	4807	67	1394	0	0	0	6	3	54	4
Dawson Cnty Total	9234	95	1029	0	1	0	10	8	71	5
Anaconda / D.L. Cnty	10503	263	2504	0	0	0	9	46	184	24
Deer Lodge Cnty Total	10503	263	2504	0	0	0	9	46	184	24
Fallon Cnty S.O.	1263	3	238	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Baker P.D.	1878	17	905	0	0	1	1	8	6	1
Fallon Cnty Total	3141	20	637	0	0	1	1	10	6	2
Fergus Cnty S.O.	6386	116	1816	0	0	0	1	14	95	6
Lewistown P.D.	6538	343	5246	0	1	0	6	28	294	14
Fergus Cnty Total	12924	459	3552	0	1	0	7	42	389	20

Source: MT Board of Crime Control * Agency did not report or had incomplete data. ** The crime rate is calculated based on an adjusted population which excludes the population of the jurisdiction of non-reporting agencies.

TABLE 8 cont.
1996 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY		1996 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Flathead Cnty S.O.		47295	1025	2167	1	23	2	72	198	668	61
Columbia Falls P.D.		3235	128	3957	0	0	1	4	8	105	10
Whitefish P.D.		4992	356	7131	0	0	1	4	28	309	14
Kalispell P.D.		13568	1334	9832	1	6	7	25	83	1162	50
Flathead Cnty Total		69090	2843	4115	2	29	11	105	317	2244	135
Gallatin Cnty S.O.		25752	695	2699	0	5	0	14	89	534	53
Bozeman P.D.		25740	1673	6500	0	2	14	31	140	1401	85
Belgrade P.D.		4244	238	5608	0	0	2	14	21	196	5
Three Forks P.D.		1393	19	1364	0	0	0	1	3	13	2
West Yellowstone P.D.		1025	127	12390	0	2	1	1	8	110	5
Manhattan P.D.		1166	42	3602	0	0	0	0	0	41	1
MSU Police	unv	n/a	251	n/a	0	2	0	6	7	224	12
Gallatin Cnty Total		59320	3045	5133	0	11	17	67	268	2519	163
Garfield Cnty S.O.	*	1471		Did Not Report							
Garfield Cnty Total	*	1471									
Glacier Cnty S.O.	I	2325	51	2194	1	0	0	1	20	27	2
Cut Bank P.D.	*	3268		Did Not Report							
Glacier Cnty Total	**	2325	51	2194	1	0	0	1	20	27	2
Golden Valley Cnty S.O.		973	16	1644	0	0	0	1	3	8	4
Golden Valley Cnty Total		973	16	1644	0	0	0	1	3	8	4
Granite Cnty S.O.		2428	92	3789	0	0	0	1	33	50	8
Drummond P.D.		297	1	337	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Granite Cnty Total		2725	93	3413	0	0	0	1	34	50	8
Hill Cnty S.O.		7619	276	3623	0	2	1	5	62	189	17
Havre P.D.		10328	1157	11203	0	4	1	26	67	1024	35
Hill Cnty Total		17947	1433	7985	0	6	2	31	129	1213	52
Jefferson Cnty/Boulder PD		8012	81	1011	2	3	0	17	13	37	9
Whitehall P.D.	*	1215		Did Not Report							
Jefferson Cnty Total	**	8012	81	1011	2	3	0	17	13	37	9
Judith Basin Cnty S.O.	*	2305		Did Not Report							
Judith Basin Cnty Total	*	2305									
Lake Cnty S.O.		17437	227	1302	1	2	4	24	29	137	30
Polson P.D.		4136	217	5247	0	0	3	9	21	169	15
Ronan P.D.	*	1783		Did Not Report							
St. Ignatius P.D.	*	927		Did Not Report							
Lake County Total	**	21573	444	2058	1	2	7	33	50	306	45
Lewis & Clark Cnty S.O.		24166	575	2379	0	24	0	27	90	394	40
Helena P.D.		27045	1409	5210	1	18	29	74	161	1030	96
East Helena P.D.	*	1695		Did Not Report							
Lewis & Clark Cnty Total	**	51211	1984	3874	1	42	29	101	251	1424	136
Liberty Cnty S.O.		2297	12	522	0	0	0	3	7	0	2
Liberty Cnty Total		2297	12	522	0	0	0	3	7	0	2

Source: MT Board of Crime Control * Agency did not report or had incomplete data. ** The crime rate is calculated based on an adjusted population which excludes the population of the jurisdiction of non-reporting agencies. I=Tribal population excluded

TABLE 8 cont.
1996 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY	1996 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Libby/Lincoln Cnty S.O.	16678	220	1319	1	0	0	11	47	146	15
Eureka P.D.	1223	9	736	0	0	0	6	0	3	0
Troy P.D.	* 999		Did Not Report							
Lincoln Cnty Total	** 17901	229	1279	1	0	0	17	47	149	15
McCone Cnty S.O.	1489	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Circle P.D.	708	1	141	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
McCone Cnty Total	2197	1	46	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Madison Cnty S.O.	6555	109	1663	1	0	0	4	29	70	5
Madison Cnty Total	6555	109	1663	1	0	0	4	29	70	5
Meagher Cnty S.O.	1878	87	4633	0	0	0	1	34	50	2
Meagher Cnty Total	1878	87	4633	0	0	0	1	34	50	2
Mineral Cnty S.O.	3730	235	6300	0	1	4	14	61	140	15
Mineral Cnty Total	3730	235	6300	0	1	4	14	61	140	15
Missoula Cnty S.O.	41387	1090	2634	5	25	10	50	171	778	51
Missoula P.D.	* 46582		Did Not Report							
U of M Police	unv n/a	328	n/a	0	0	0	2	20	304	2
Missoula Cnty Total	** 41387	1418	3426	5	25	10	52	191	1082	53
Musselshell Cnty S.O.	4540	144	3172	0	0	1	19	52	69	3
Musselshell Cnty Total	4540	144	3172	0	0	1	19	52	69	3
Park Cnty S.O.	* 8457		Did Not Report							
Livingston P.D.	7612	533	7002	0	0	0	9	40	457	27
Park County Total	** 7612	533	7002	0	0	0	9	40	457	27
Petroleum Cnty S.O.	547	14	2559	0	0	0	1	1	12	0
Petroleum Cnty Total	547	14	2559	0	0	0	1	1	12	0
Phillips Cnty S.O.	5173	97	1875	0	0	0	3	11	69	14
Phillips Cnty Total	5173	97	1875	0	0	0	3	11	69	14
Pondera Cnty S.O.	3631	17	468	0	0	1	2	4	5	5
Conrad P.D.	2752	55	1999	0	0	0	1	3	49	2
Pondera Cnty Total	6383	72	1128	0	0	1	3	7	54	7
Powder River Cnty S.O.	2059	35	1700	0	0	0	1	0	33	1
Powder River Cnty Total	2059	35	1700	0	0	0	1	0	33	1
Deer Lodge / Powell Cnty	6974	270	3872	0	1	0	11	32	216	10
Powell Cnty Total	6974	270	3872	0	1	0	11	32	216	10
Prairie Cnty S.O.	* 1365		Did Not Report							
Prairie Cnty Total	* 1365									
Ravalli Cnty S.O.	* 24739		Did Not Report							
Hamilton P.D.	3500	257	7343	0	1	2	6	20	225	3
Stevensville P.D.	1533	61	3979	0	0	0	0	2	59	0
Darby P.D.	846	12	1418	0	0	0	1	2	9	0
Pinesdale P.D.	905	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ravalli Cnty Total	** 6784	330	4864	0	1	2	7	24	293	3

Source: * Agency did not report or had incomplete data. ** The crime rate is calculated based on an adjusted population which excludes the population of the jurisdiction of non-reporting agencies.

TABLE 8 cont.
1996 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY	1996 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Richland Cnty S.O.	* 4537		Did Not Report							
Sidney P.D.	5320	246	4624	0	1	1	5	16	212	11
Fairview P.D.	* 801		Did Not Report							
Richmond Cnty Total	** 5320	246	4624	0	1	1	5	16	212	11
Roosevelt Cnty S.O.	* 7561		Did Not Report							
Poplar P.D.	* 912		Did Not Report							
Wolf Point P.D.	* 2952		Did Not Report							
Roosevelt Cnty Total	* 11425									
Rosebud Cnty S.O.	11043	282	2554	0	4	4	20	39	191	24
Rosebud Cnty Total	11043	282	2554	0	4	4	20	39	191	24
Sanders Cnty S.O.	* 6721		Did Not Report							
Hot Springs P.D.	* 580		Did Not Report							
Thompson Falls P.D.	1495	42	2809	0	0	1	9	17	14	1
Plains P.D.	1196	68	5686	0	1	0	5	9	50	3
Sanders Cnty Total	** 2691	110	4088	0	1	1	14	26	64	4
Sheridan Cnty S.O.	2451	68	2774	0	0	0	3	15	44	6
Plentywood P.D.	2101	164	7806	0	0	0	6	33	106	19
Sheridan Cnty Total	4552	232	5097	0	0	0	9	48	150	25
Butte/Silver Bow	35748	2265	6336	2	6	9	77	265	1833	73
Silver Bow Cnty Total	35748	2265	6336	2	6	9	77	265	1833	73
Stillwater Cnty S.O.	5606	63	1124	0	2	1	7	27	22	4
Columbus P.D.	* 1809		Did Not Report							
Stillwater Cnty Total	** 5606	63	1124	0	2	1	7	27	22	4
Sweet Grass Cnty S.O.	3356	55	1639	0	0	0	2	5	41	7
Sweet Grass Cnty Total	3356	55	1639	0	0	0	2	5	41	7
Teton Cnty S.O.	4835	22	455	0	0	0	1	12	6	3
Choteau P.D.	1775	14	789	0	0	0	1	2	5	6
Teton Cnty Total	6610	36	545	0	0	0	2	14	11	9
Shelby/Toole Cnty S.O.	5223	200	3829	0	0	0	3	59	129	9
Toole Cnty Total	5223	200	3829	0	0	0	3	59	129	9
Treasure Cnty S.O.	898	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasure Cnty Total	898	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Cnty S.O.	4398	95	2160	0	0	0	4	20	62	9
Glasgow P.D.	3770	148	3926	0	1	0	0	6	135	6
Fort Peck P.D.	Included with Valley Co.									
Opheim P.D.	Included with Valley Co.									
Nashua P.D.	369	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Cnty Total	8537	243	2846	0	1	0	4	26	197	15
Wheatland Cnty S.O.	2417	109	4510	0	0	0	6	11	85	7
Wheatland Cnty Total	2417	109	4510	0	0	0	6	11	85	7
Wibaux Cnty S.O.	* 1167		Did Not Report							
Wibaux Cnty Total	* 1167									
Yellowstone Cnty S.O.	30699	1118	3642	0	0	8	13	189	817	91
Billings P.D.	88886	7834	8814	7	28	72	15	831	6501	380
Laurel P.D.	6512	300	4607	0	1	0	5	13	272	9
Yellowstone Cnty Total	126097	9252	7337	7	29	80	33	1033	7590	480
STATE TOTAL	879000			29	203	227	887	4272	28327	1882
ADJUSTED STATE TOTAL	** 747458	35827	4793							

Source: * Agency did not report or had incomplete data. ** The crime rate is calculated based on an adjusted population which excludes the population of the jurisdiction of non-reporting agencies.

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JUVENILE STATISTICS

Reported to the Juvenile Probation Information System

Introduction

The Juvenile Probation Information System (JPIS) was started by the Montana Board of Crime Control in the early 1970's. The primary purpose of the JPIS system was to serve as a central collection point for statistical data relating to juveniles in the criminal justice system. Prior to 1993 the MBCC was collecting data from 90% of the Juvenile Probation Offices around the state of Montana. Crime in Montana annual reports summarized and reported this data in as fair a manner as possible.

During 1993 a new case management/data collection program was provided to all Juvenile Probation offices throughout Montana. 1993 was a banner year in that 100% of the Juvenile Probation Offices were reporting statistical data to the MBCC.

A note of caution to all who use this document to report juvenile criminal activity in the state. Since the MBCC now has 100% reporting, comparative analysis with prior years may show major data discrepancies. As an example, in prior years there have been an average of about 4,500 juveniles appearing in Juvenile Probation offices. The figures for 1993 through 1995 show an average of over 9,200 youth who have been processed through this same system, and in 1996 there were 9,756 youth referred to Juvenile Probation. This increase is due to an improved reporting base and does not necessarily reflect an increase in the overall caseload of the system. Therefore, care needs to be taken when comparing data from one year to another.

Based on this improved reporting base the data analysis that follows will be directly aimed at 1994, 1995 and 1996 with limited prior year comparisons. When comparisons are made it will be done mostly on the basis of percentages and not whole numbers.

Montana's Juvenile Justice System

Montana's Juvenile Justice System allows youth to be given consideration not available to adults and, at the same time, denies them some of the constitutional rights adults have. The Youth Court is part of each District Court, but operates as a civil rather than a criminal process. In Youth Court, for example, juveniles are "referred" rather than "arrested" or "charged". They are found to be "delinquent" or "in need of supervision", but are not "convicted" of specific crimes, and, they are "disposed" rather than "sentenced".

A youth may be found to be delinquent only if he/she has committed an act which is criminal for an adult. Burglary, assault, or shoplifting can all lead to a finding of delinquency. A Youth in Need of Supervision (YINS) is a youth who has committed non-criminal acts such as running away, being "ungovernable" or violating curfew. These are only "crimes" because of the youth's age. They are commonly referred to as "status" offenses.

General Activity

The activities of Montana's Youth Courts and Juvenile Probation Offices is typically measured in four components:

1. *The Number of Cases* - the number of individual youth who become involved with the juvenile justice system for some reason, criminal or not. The number of individual youth processed by Youth Courts in Montana in 1994 reached 8,803, in 1995 the number increased to 9,851, and in 1996 there was a small decrease in the number of Youth processed through the system to about 9,756. About two-thirds of the cases were males (67-68%) throughout the three year period.

2. *The Number of Referrals* - the number of youth encounters with the juvenile justice system. An individual can be referred more than once during the year. Probation offices handled 14,505 referrals in 1994, 16,656 in 1995, and 13,695 in 1996. In any referral, a youth may be charged with more than one crime. However, most youth are referred because of a single crime.

The average number of youth involved with the probation system on a single basis is seventy percent with 73.6% in 1994, 67.2% in 1995, and 64.3% in 1996. Almost fourteen percent (13.9%) had two referrals, and twenty percent (20.8%) had more than two referrals during 1996. The distribution is fairly static over the past several years. Nevertheless, the overwhelming majority of Montana's youth who have had an encounter with the system, have only one such encounter.

3. *The number of Offenses* - the number of crimes attributed to youths who have been referred to the system. The Montana Youth Court System charged youth with 16,813 offense charges in 1994, 17,605 in 1995., and 18,786 in 1996.

4. *The number of detentions* - the number of times youths are confined awaiting court action. Counties have established regional detention programs in response to state and federal requirements to not hold juveniles in adult facilities. Those programs provide both secure and non secure detention. In some rural areas, juveniles are still detained in adult facilities (held separately from the adult inmates) for up to twenty-four hours. Any juvenile requiring detention beyond the twenty-four hour period are

transferred to one of the regional detention centers. There were 1,564 total detentions recorded through JPIS in 1996.

Referrals by Age and Sex

The rate of referral for each age and sex can be used to identify critical age/sex groups and predict potential changes in Youth Court activities.

The age/sex pattern for delinquent crimes in Montana appears to follow national statistics. The national statistics (95 UCR) are data submitted to the FBI by law enforcement across the country. 1995 is the latest year of data available for comparison. Comparing Montana's juvenile referrals over a four year period shows a fairly static pattern.

PERCENTAGE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY AGE

Federal UCR - 1995

Age Bracket	Female	Male
Less than 10	1.12%	1.85%
10-12	7.56%	7.70%
13-14	30.62%	22.80%
15	22.06%	19.27%
16	20.96%	22.99%
17	17.68%	25.38%

Female

Age Bracket	93 Mt	94 Mt	95 Mt	96 Mt
Less than 10	1.26%	2.53%	2.14%	1.54%
10-12	5.10%	5.66%	7.89%	9.53%
13-14	25.28%	20.79%	26.31%	33.36%
15	20.20%	21.26%	21.65%	21.37%
16	20.82%	21.95%	23.12%	19.88%
17	18.16%	18.04%	18.90%	14.33%

Male

Age Bracket	93 Mt	94 Mt	95 Mt	96 Mt
Less than 10	2.75%	2.35%	3.23%	2.79%
10-12	9.60%	10.21%	11.39%	10.99%
13-14	20.18%	21.25%	25.25%	28.62%
15	15.79%	17.21%	18.47%	20.69%
16	19.58%	18.34%	20.12%	19.21%
17	21.10%	20.04%	21.54%	17.71%

95 UCR statistics compiled from the 1995 "Crime in the United States"

Ethnic Origin - Juveniles

Patterns for ethnic origin of juveniles referred to the Youth Court System have remained relatively constant over the years. The following figures represent the total ethnic origin over the past three years.

Ethnic	1994	1995	1996
Caucasian	81.5%	84.1%	83.19%
Black	0.8%	1.2%	0.66%
Indian	15.1%	13.2%	14.45%
Spanish	1.5%	1.2%	1.11%
Other	1.2%	0.3%	0.59%

Source of Referral

Law enforcement authorities are the primary referral source for delinquent youth in Montana. In 1996, police departments and sheriff's offices accounted for over 90% of delinquent referrals. Over the years, local law enforcement has traditionally provided the bulk of referrals to the juvenile justice system. The remaining percentage is composed of a wide variety of referral sources including the State Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, other courts, parents, and school officials.

Law enforcement was responsible for approximately 85% of the status referrals. The Montana Highway Patrol and Courts appear to be responsible for a slightly larger percentage of status referrals over delinquent referrals.

Offense Categories

Currently Offenses are divided into seven major categories.

1. *Crimes against persons* include criminal homicide, forcible rape, sex crimes, robbery, family crimes, and assault. In 1996, the juvenile justice system identified 2,560 crimes against persons.

2. *Property crimes* include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, vandalism, receiving and possessing stolen property, and trespassing. In 1996, Montana youth were charged with 7,200 property crimes.

3. *Offenses against the public order* include weapon offenses, sex offenses, driving under the influence of intoxicants, disorderly conduct, traffic crimes, and court and justice system offenses (escape, contempt, and probation violations). In 1996, 1,163 offenses against public order were processed.

4. *Offenses against public administration* include false reports to law enforcement, obstructing justice, resisting arrest, and others. In 1996, Montana youth were charged 1,143 times for public administration violations.

5. *Status offenses* include these offenses which strictly pertain to juveniles. They include runaways, curfew violations, ungovernable, and liquor violations. In 1996, there were 4,115 status offenses in Montana.

6. *Drug offenses*. In 1996, 1,286 offenses were listed for substance abuse in Montana.

As indicated above, most juvenile referrals in Montana are primarily for property crimes (38.3%) or for status offenses (21.9%). Referrals against public order accounted for 6.2%, public administration for 6.1%, and crimes against persons for 13.6%. Drug offenses were involved only 6.9% of the time.

Referral Offenses

The ten most frequent types of specific delinquent offenses which result in a referral to youth court accounted for 75-80% of all the charges made in 1996. Although many of the top ten offenses are the same for either sex, the ranking is different. The most common reason for a juvenile to appear in youth court is misdemeanor theft. Misdemeanor theft accounted for 19.8% of the male offenses and 21.3% of the female offenses. The most common violent crime is simple assault. It accounts for 6.6% of the male referrals and 5.6% of the female referrals.

The 1996 statistics for drug offenses show that drug offenses committed by 380 males is mid-range for the offense frequency accounting for 429 of the total offenses. There were 133 females charged with drug offenses which accounted for 138 total offenses.

The Number of Detentions and Their Trend

The number of youth sent to detention in 1996 was 1,033, compared to 964 total detentions in 1995. During 1996, 297 youth (33.4%) were detained more than once. A similar percentage of youth were detained more than once during 1995.

Disposition of Juvenile Offenders

Considering that 70% of the youths appearing before youth court are first offenders, the punishment meted out by the court seems appropriate. Almost half of the delinquent referrals are handled informally. Over 12% of these cases resulted in a warning, and 21.2% resulted in probation. In 6.7% of all referrals the youth had to make restitution.

TABLE 9
1996 SUMMARY OF
JUVENILE OFFENSES

REASON FOR REFERRAL	NUMBER OF OFFENSES	PERCENT OF TOTAL
<u>STATUS OFFENSES</u>		
Liquor violations	1,044	5.56
Ungovernable, truancy	2,006	10.68
Runaway	1,065	5.67
Total Status	4,115	21.90
<u>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</u>		
Homicide	13	0.07
Rape	41	0.22
Robbery	45	0.24
Aggravated Assault	133	0.71
Simple Assault	1,325	7.05
Other	1,003	5.34
Total Offenses Against Persons	2,560	13.63
<u>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</u>		
Burglary	481	2.56
Larceny	4,112	21.89
Arson and Vandalism	1,429	7.61
Trespassing	973	5.18
Other Property	205	1.09
Total Property	7,200	38.33
<u>OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</u>		
Obstructing, Resisting	610	3.25
Other	533	2.84
Total Public Administration	1,143	6.08
<u>OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER</u>		
Weapons	119	0.63
Disorderly Conduct	1,044	5.56
Total Public Order	1,163	6.19
<u>DRUG OFFENSES</u>		
Drug offenses	755	4.02
Drug Paraphernalia	531	2.83
Total Drug Offenses	1,286	6.85
<u>OTHER OFFENSES</u>		
Traffic, City, Conspiracy, etc.	1,319	7.02
Total Other Offenses	1,319	7.02
GRAND TOTAL	18,786	100.0

TABLE 10
1996 SUMMARY OF
JUVENILE REFERRALS
(STATUS VS DELINQUENT CASES)

REASON FOR REFERRAL	NUMBER OF CASES	PERCENT
STATUS OFFENSES	4,115	21.9%
DELINQUENT OFFENSES	14,671	78.1%
TOTAL	18,786	100.0%

TABLE 11
COMPARISON OF JUVENILE OFFENSES
IN MONTANA
(1994 - 1996)

OFFENSE	% REPORTED		
	1994	1995	1996
Crimes Against Persons	12.73%	13.20%	13.63%
Crimes Against Property	40.29%	40.27%	38.33%
Crimes Against Public Order	6.14%	7.31%	6.19%
Crimes Against Public Admin.	4.89%	5.67%	6.08%
Drug Offenses	4.91%	5.42%	6.85%
Status Offenses	21.99%	20.64%	21.90%
Other	9.05%	7.49%	7.02%

