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CRIME
IN MONTANA

1997

ANNUAL REPORT

MBCC
Montana Board of Crime Control

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February, 1999

Montana Board of Crime Control

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Board of Crime Control
Members

Dear Reader:

CRIME IN MONTANA - 1997 ANNUAL REPORT is prepared by the Research and Analysis Unit of the Montana Board of Crime Control. Crime Statistics are important benchmarks 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 5-7 of the report. All police departments and sheriff's offices are listed in Table 7 which starts on page 25 of the report. It is noted in Table 7 as to whether or not they reported in 1997.

The 1997 data collected from Montana law enforcement agencies indicates a 7.9% increase in the overall crime rate. The crime rate is calculated using the number of crimes reported and the total population of the jurisdictions of reporting agencies. In 1997 there was a rate of 5,117 major crimes reported per 100,000 people. This number compares to a crime rate of 4,744 reported in 1996. The crime rate dropped in only one of the seven major crime categories. The robbery rate dropped by 4.3%, while the crime rate rose in the other six major crime categories. The crime rate was up by 6.5% for homicide, 3.0% for rape, 6.2% for aggravated assault, 7.0% for burglary, 7.6% for larceny, and a 15.7% increase was seen in the motor vehicle theft rate. Violent crimes rose to 185 violent crimes per 100,000 people, for an increase of 3.9%.

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 crime data throughout the year to make this report possible.

Sincerely,

Ellis E. Kiser,
Executive Director

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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 as defined and discussed on page 5. The crime rates can be found on pages 5-7. To see which agencies are included in this report and which are not, go to Table 7 starting on page 25.

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.

Summary of 1997 Crime in Montana

➤ 1997 Estimated Population: 879,000

➤ Total number of police departments and sheriffs offices in Montana: 115

➤ Total number of agencies contributing data: 101

➤ Total population of the jurisdictions of reporting agencies: 822,897

➤ Number of sworn law enforcement officers in police departments and sheriffs offices in 1997: 1,274

➤ Number of law enforcement officers assaulted (none were killed): 17

➤ Total Index crimes reported to law enforcement: 42,105

➤ Crime rate per 100,000 people: 5,117

➤ Percentage of index offenses cleared by arrest: 16%

➤ Total violent crimes reported to law enforcement: 1,525

➤ Violent crime rate per 100,000 people: 185

➤ Driving Under the Influence reports to law enforcement: 3,817

➤ Drug offenses reported to law enforcement: 4,220

➤ Drug crime rate per 100,000 people: 513

➤ Domestic abuse offenses reported to law enforcement: 2,949

➤ Domestic abuse crime rate per 100,000 people: 358

➤ Number of juveniles referred to the juvenile justice system: 9,359

1997 MONTANA CRIME CLOCK
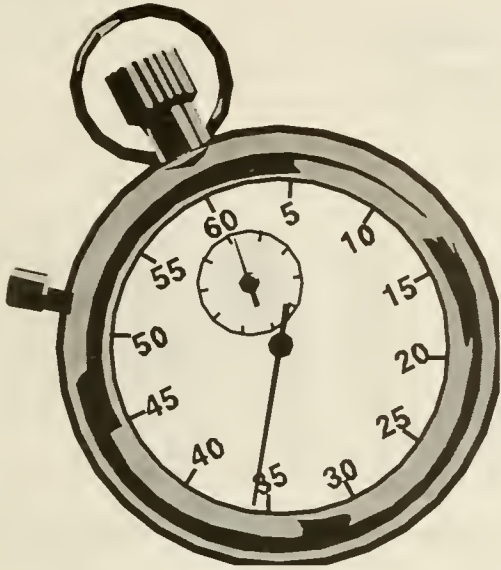
One **Homicide**
every 10 days, 18 hours

One **Rape**
every 38 hours, 15 minutes

One **Robbery**
every 36 hours, 39 minutes

One **Index Crime**
every 12 minutes, 29 seconds

One **Aggravated Assault**
every 8 hours, 34 minutes

One **Violent Crime**
every 5 hours, 45 minutes

One **Burglary**
every 1 hours, 45 minutes

One **Property Crime**
every 12 minutes, 57 seconds

One **Larceny**
every 15 minutes, 50 seconds

One **Motor Vehicle Theft**
every 3 hours, 41 minutes

Reported Index Crimes
In Montana 1988 - 1997

Counts	32,183	30,720	33,321	34,274	35,250	34,451	38,768	41,737	35,461	42,105
	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
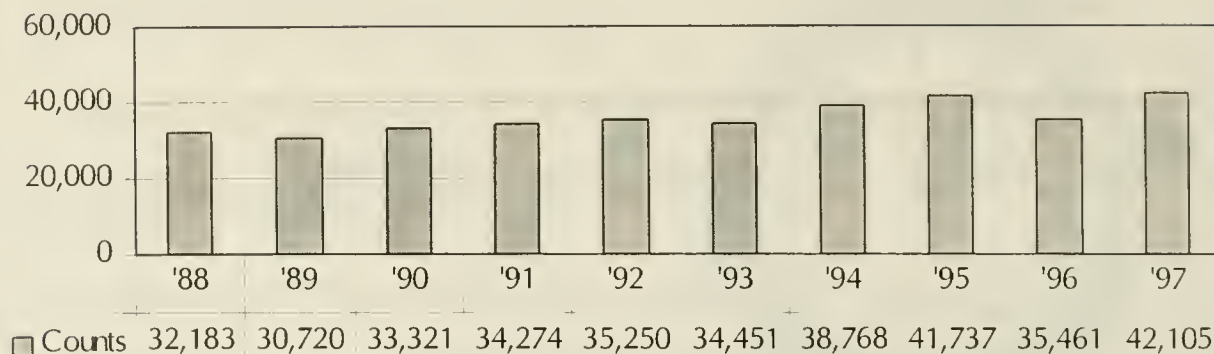
Because of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence and the reliability of their reporting, the crimes of willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft are used as a gauge with which to measure the amount of crime and how much 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.

Of the 116 police departments and sheriffs offices in Montana, 87% or 101 of them participated in reporting to the Board of Crime Control. The percentage of Montana's total population which was covered by the jurisdiction of the reporting agencies is 93.6%. Since a good portion of the state population is covered by reporting agencies, the statewide total of index crimes can give you a fair indication as to the number of crimes being committed in each crime category. Refer to the crime rates on the following three pages for the measure of the change in crime from year to year.

Following is the count of index crimes for 1997 used in the crime rate calculation: homicide, 34; rape, 229; robbery, 239; aggravated assault, 1,023; burglary, 5,007; larceny, 33,193; and motor vehicle theft, 2,380. Index crimes were committed every 12 minutes, 29 seconds.

Violent crimes which include, homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault totaled 1,525 offenses. There was one violent crime committed ever 5 hours, 45 minutes in 1997. Property crimes, which include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft were committed an average of once every 12 minutes, 57 seconds. Violent crimes account for 3.6% of all index crimes, while property offenses make up the other 96.4%.

Montana Crime Rate
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	4,240	4,100	4,503	4,638	4,570	4,420	4,730	5,484	4,744	5,117
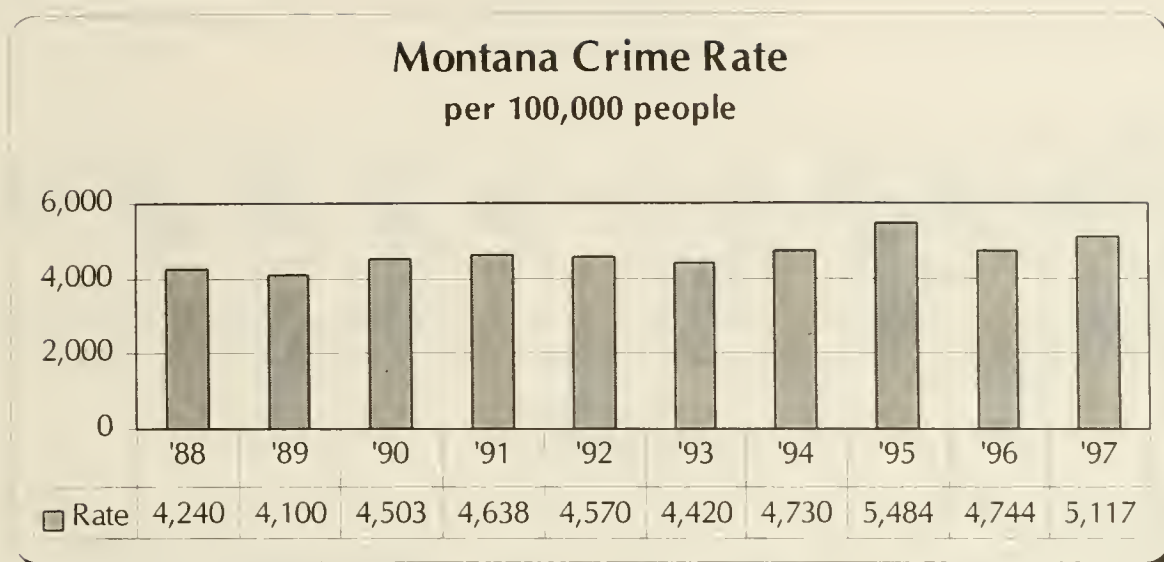
The *crime rate* of a given area is defined as the number of index crimes per 100,000 population. By using rates per population, comparisons can be made between jurisdictions of unequal populations. **It is recommended that you use the *crime rate* when looking at the crime trend or comparing one year to another.** The *crime rate* takes into consideration the total population of the reporting jurisdictions; however, the rate 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 1997 were provided for use in the Montana Uniform Crime Report by the U. S. Bureau of Census through the FBI. Montana's population estimate for 1997 remained the same as the estimate for 1996 which was 879,000 people. The total population of the jurisdictions of law enforcement agencies which reported to the Montana Board of Crime Control was 822,897. This adjusted population figure is used to calculate the crime rate.

Montana's 1997 crime rate of 5,117 crimes per 100,000 people is 7.9% higher than the 1996 crime rate of 4,744. Of the seven major crimes used in the calculation of the crime rate robbery was the only one which had a lower crime rate in 1997 than in 1996.

The robbery rate dropped by 4.4%. The other six index crimes increased by the following rates: 6.5% for homicide, 3.0% for rape, 6.2% for aggravated assault, 7.0% for burglary, 7.6% for larceny and motor vehicle theft was up considerably by 15.7%.

The crime rate charts for individual index crimes can be found on the following two pages.

Rates of Crime Per 100,000 People by Crime Type

Rate of Homicide
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	2.77	3.20	4.05	2.98	2.20	3.72	3.66	4.60	3.88	4.13
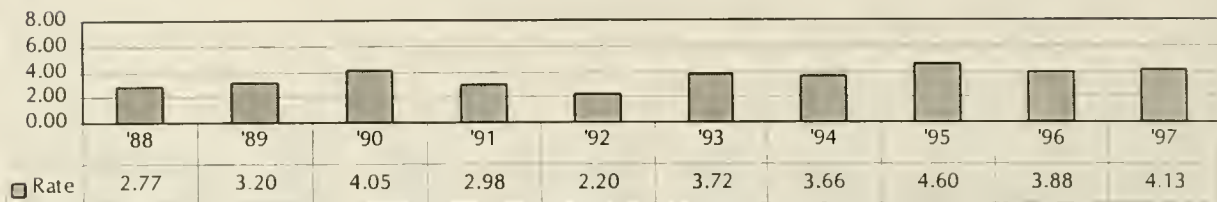
Rate of Rape
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	16.3	17.8	21.5	20.0	23.6	23.0	32.9	30.4	27.0	27.8
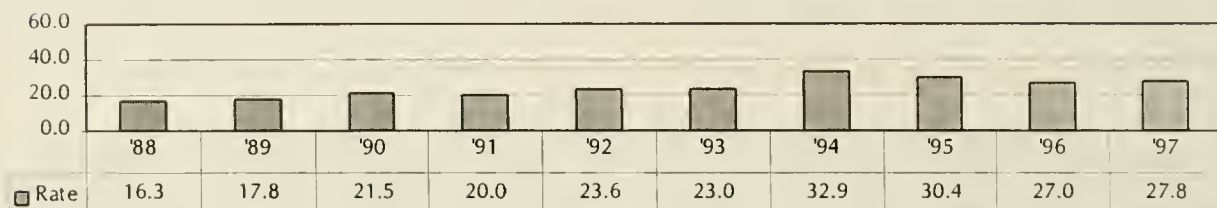
Rate of Robbery
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	23.4	18.3	20.7	22.1	29.6	23.9	24.6	33.2	30.4	29.0
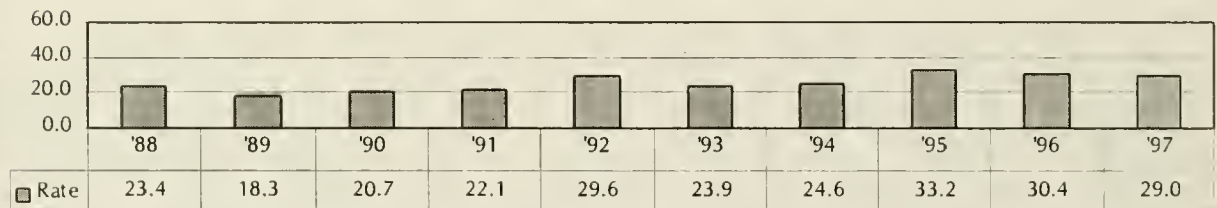
Rate of Aggravated Assault
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	80	80	110	100	107	101	120	128	117	124
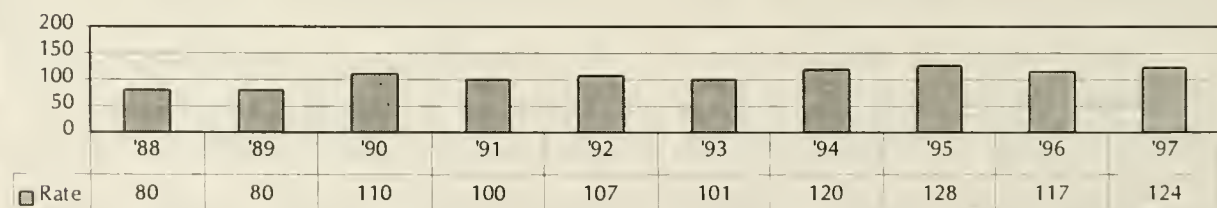
Rates of Crime Per 100,000 People by Crime Type

Rate of Violent Crime
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	123	119	156	145	162	152	182	196	178	185
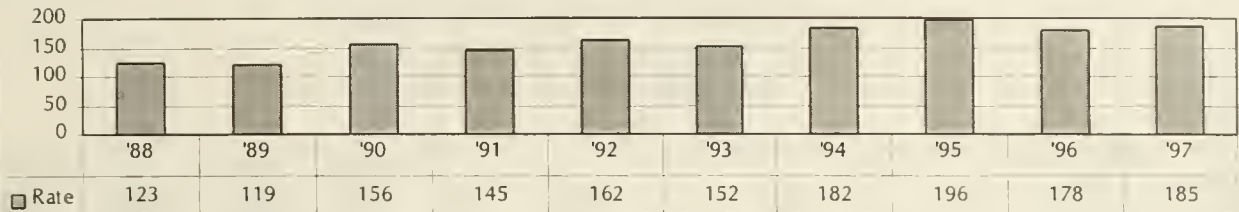
Rate of Burglary
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	706	721	710	733	631	634	622	665	569	608
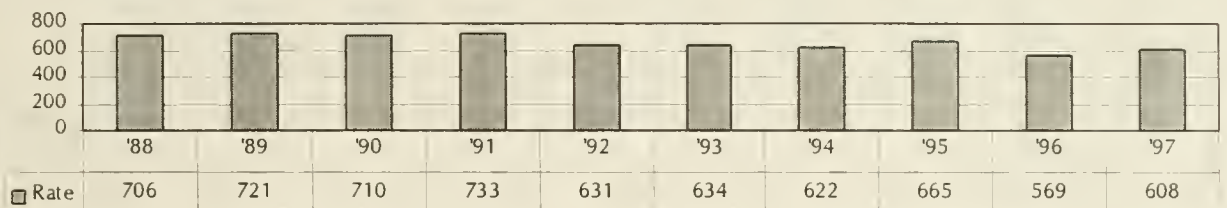
Rate of Larceny
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	3,189	3,023	3,392	3,502	3,552	3,429	3,682	4,309	3,747	4,034
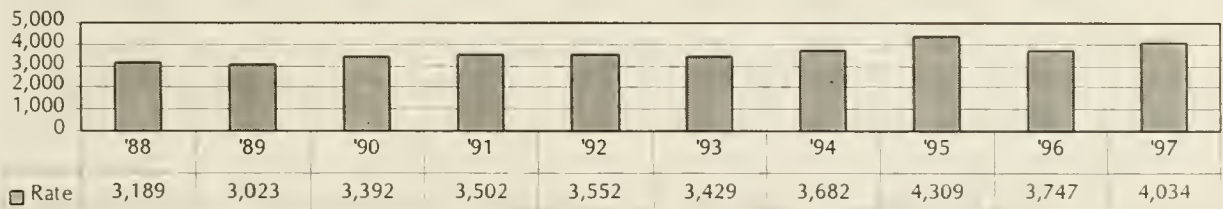
Rate of Motor Vehicle Theft
per 100,000 people

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Rate	222	237	244	258	225	206	245	314	250	289
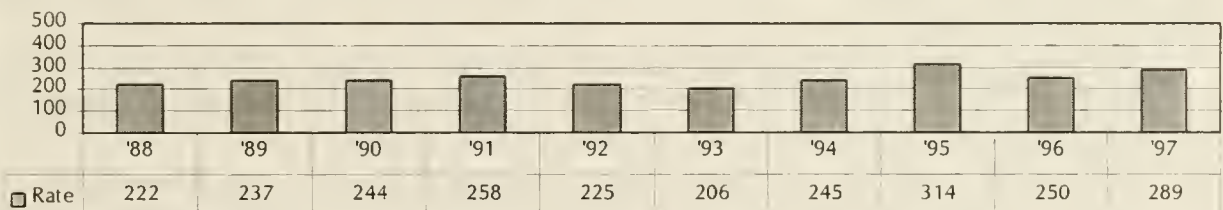
VIOLENT CRIMES

Reported Violent Crime
In Montana 1988 - 1997

Counts	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
	934	892	1,154	1,072	1,250	1,182	1,488	1,491	1,333	1,525
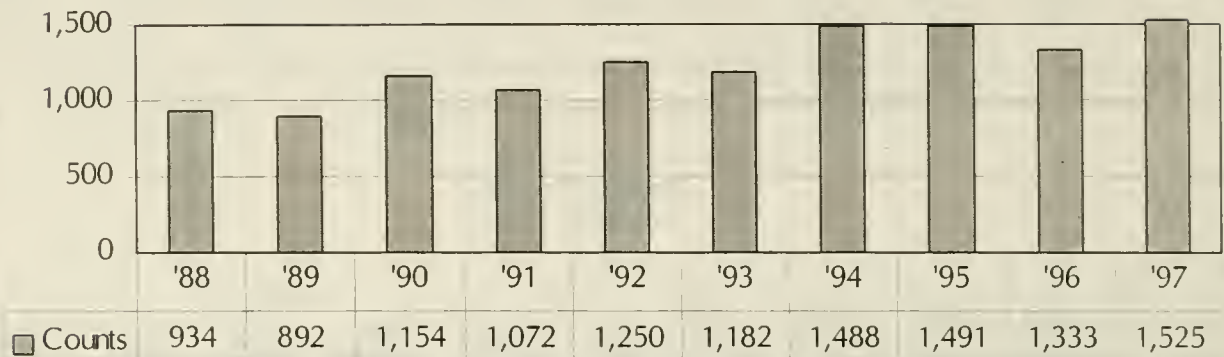
Violent Crime is composed of homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. All violent crimes involve force or threat of force.

The total number of violent crimes reported to law enforcement in 1997 amounted to 1,525 or a rate of 185 violent crimes per 100,000 people. After experiencing a drop in the violent crime rate from 1995 to 1996, the 1997 violent crime rate was up by 3.9% over the 1996 rate.

From 1990 through 1993 the average violent crime rate was 154 violent crimes per 100,000 people. When compared to the next four years, 1994 through 1997, we see a 20% increase to a violent crime rate of 185 in the last four years.

Aggravated assaults account for 1,023 of the 1,525 or 67% of violent crimes. The other 33% are made up of homicides with 2%, rape with 15%, and robbery with 16% of the violent crime total.

During 1997 a violent crime was committed every 5 hours, 45 minutes in Montana. Nationally there is a violent crime committed every 19 seconds.

HOMICIDE

Reported Homicide
In Montana 1988 - 1997

Counts	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
	21	24	30	22	17	29	30	35	29	34
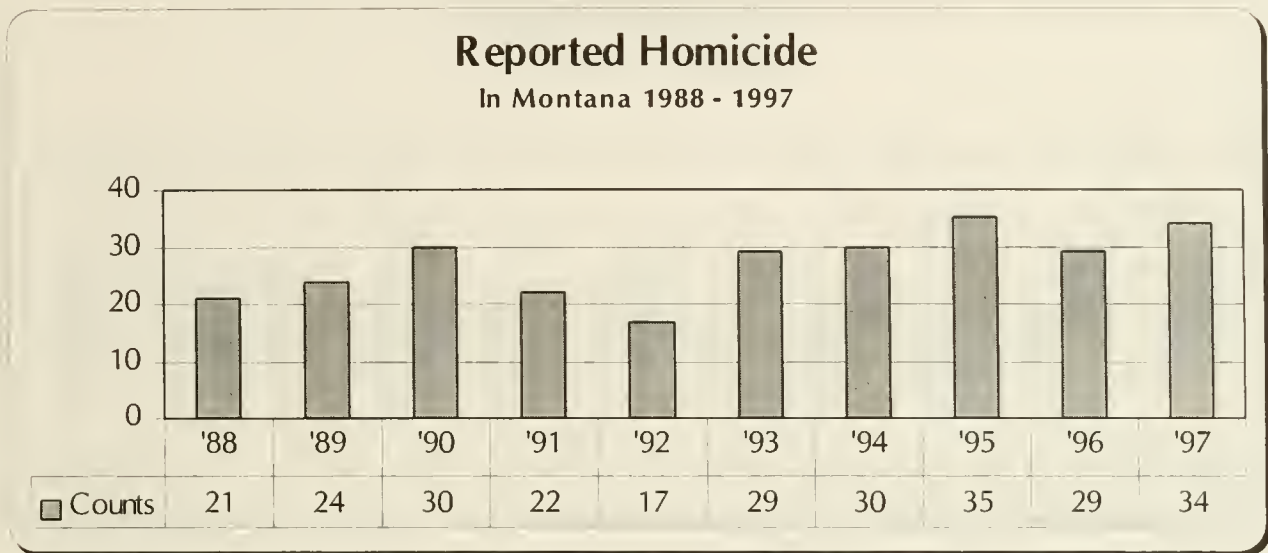
Homicide is the willful, non-negligent killing of one human being by another. It includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter, but does not include justifiable homicide where an offender is killed by a police officer in the line of duty or a felon killed during the commission of a crime by a private citizen.

Local law enforcement agencies reported 34 homicides in 1997, which compares to 29 reported in 1996. The rate of homicide, which takes into consideration the population of the jurisdiction or reporting agencies, increased by 6.5% over the 1996 rate. The 1997 rate was 4.13 per 100,000 people compared to 3.88 in 1996.

Over the past ten years Montana has reported an average of 27 homicides per year. The total number of homicides reported has ranged from 17 to 35. When looking at the rate of homicide, the average over the past ten years was 3.5 homicides per 100,000 people.

Montana's homicide rate of 4.1 in 1997 is considerably less than the national rate of 6.4 homicides per 100,000 people.

In Montana there was one homicide committed every 10 days, 18 hours in 1997. The national crime clock shows one homicide every 29 minutes during 1997.

Reported Rape
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	124	133	159	148	182	179	270	231	202	229
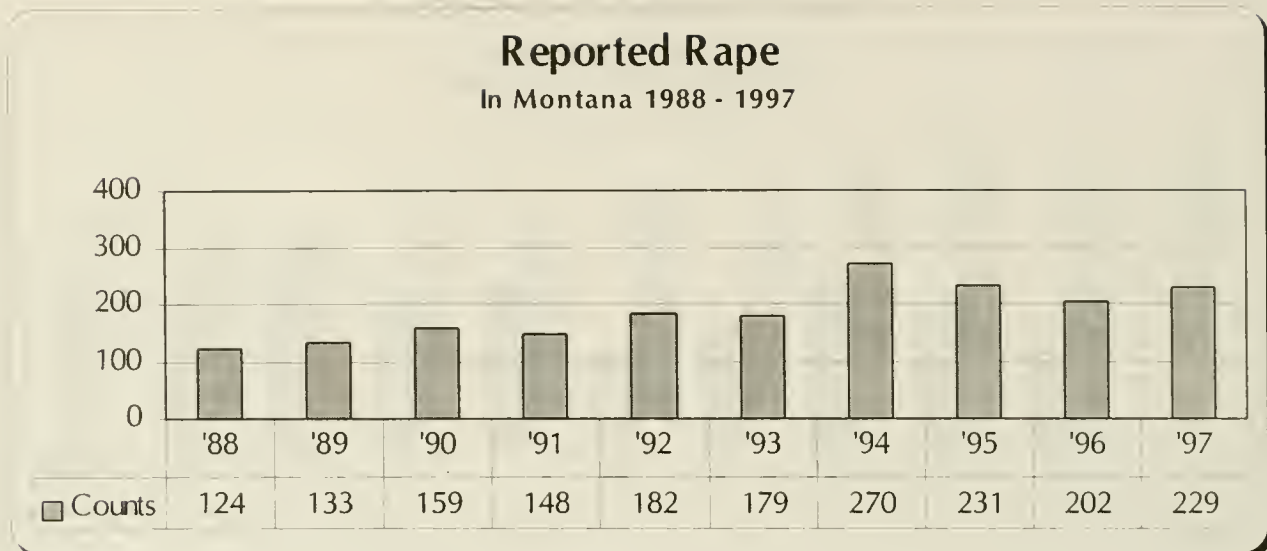
Rape is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Both assaults and attempts to commit rape by force are included in this definition. Statutory rape (without force) and sexual assaults against males are classified as sexual offenses and are not counted under this classification.

In 1997 there were 27 more rapes reported to law enforcement agencies than were reported in 1996. A total of 229 rapes in 1997 account for 15% of all violent crimes reported in 1997.

When the counts of rape are adjusted based on the reporting population, the rate of rape increased by 3% to 27.8 in 1997, from a rate of 27.0 in 1996.

Comparing the Montana rate to the national rate of rape in 1997, the national rate was 29 percent higher at 35.9 rapes per 100,000 people.

In Montana, one rape or attempted rape was committed every 38 hours, 15 minutes in 1997, while on the national crime clock, one rape is committed every 5 minutes in the United States.

ROBBERY

Reported Robbery
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	178	137	153	163	228	186	202	253	227	239
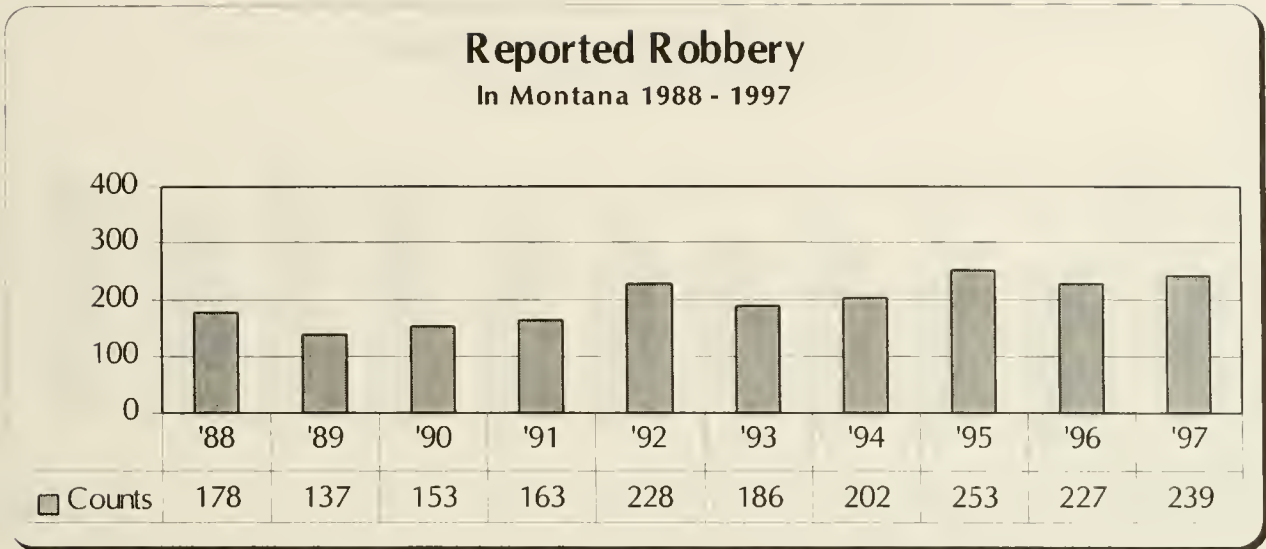
Robbery is the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or the threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a crime in which the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender is present. Attempts to commit robbery are included in the robbery count.

In 1997, 239 robberies were reported to law enforcement. This compares to 227 reported in 1996. Because of more law enforcement agencies participating in reporting in 1997 the crime rate for robbery actually dropped in 1997.

During 1995 the robbery rate per 100,000 people was the highest in the past ten years at 33.2. Since then, the robbery rate dropped in both 1996 and 1997 to 30.4 and 29.0 respectively.

Robbery accounts for 16% of all violent crimes in during 1997, and 0.6% of all index crimes. Nationally, robbery is calculated at 30.5% of all violent crimes, and 3.8% of all index crimes.

One robbery was reported every 36 hours, 39 minutes in Montana during 1997. In the United States there is one robbery committed every minute.

Reported Aggravated Assault
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	611	598	812	739	823	788	986	972	875	1,023
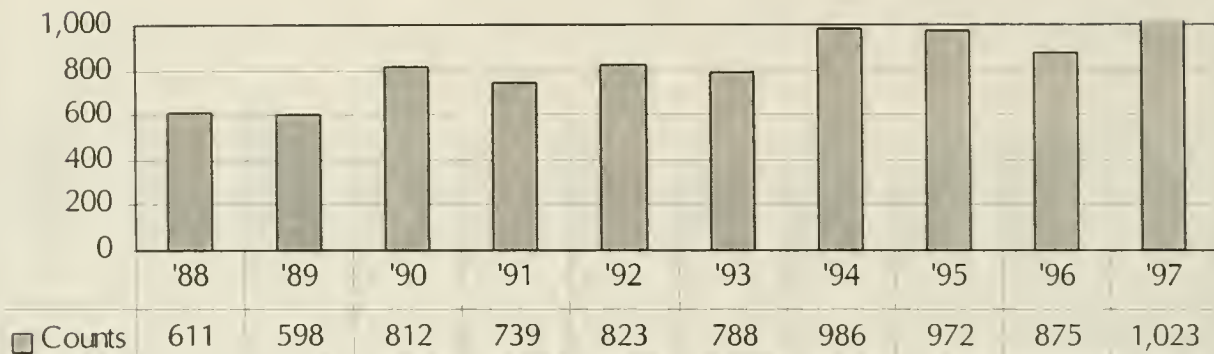
Aggravated assault is the unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon, or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Any assault which does not involve the use of a weapon and does not result in serious injury is classified as a simple assault and is reported under a separate crime category.

The aggravated assault rate increased by 6.2% from 1996 to 1997. The aggravated assault rate per 100,000 people was 117 in 1996 and 124 in 1997. The Montana rate was only 32% of the national aggravated assault rate of 382.

Law enforcement agencies reported 1,023 aggravated assaults in 1997, which makes up the majority of the violent crimes in Montana. Aggravated assaults account for 67% of the 1,525 violent crimes reported in 1997. On the national level a lower percentage (62.5%) of violent crimes were made up of aggravated assault. Only 2.4% of all index crimes in Montana were aggravated assaults, compared to 7.8% of the index crimes in the United States.

The 1997 Montana Crime Clock shows one aggravated assault occurring every 8 hours, 34 minutes. When combining all aggravated assaults in the United States, there was one reported every 31 seconds.

BURGLARY

Reported Burglary
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	5,359	5,401	5,257	5,417	4,868	4,943	5,099	5,060	4,250	5,007
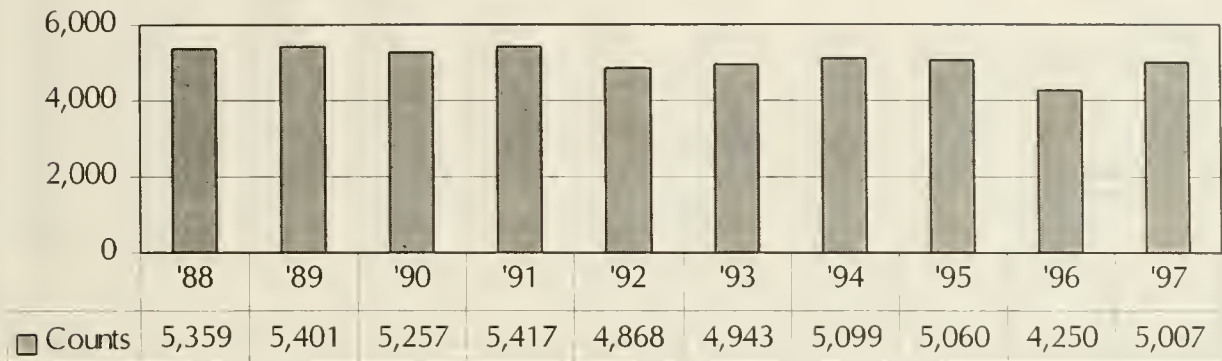
Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The theft of items from a building is classified as burglary if it is accompanied by a breaking or unlawful entry (trespass) without breaking. If the building is open to the general public and the offender has legal access, it is considered a larceny.

The crime rate calculated for burglary in 1997 was 608 per 100,000 people. This rate is 7% higher than the 1996 rate of 569. In 1996 and 1997 we experienced the lowest burglary rates of the past ten years. The rate was as high as 901 in 1983, which is 48% higher than 1997 rate. The crime rate for burglary in the United States in 1997 was 920, which is half again as high as the Montana rate.

Property crimes are made up of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. In 1997, law enforcement agencies reported 40,580 property crimes, 12% of which are made up of 5,007 burglaries. At the national level, burglaries account for 21% of all property crimes reported.

A burglary is reported in Montana an average of once every 1 hour, 45 minutes. The national crime clock records a burglary being reported every 13 seconds.

LARCENY

Reported Larceny
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	24,203	22,652	25,103	25,877	27,395	26,724	30,176	32,797	28,009	33,193
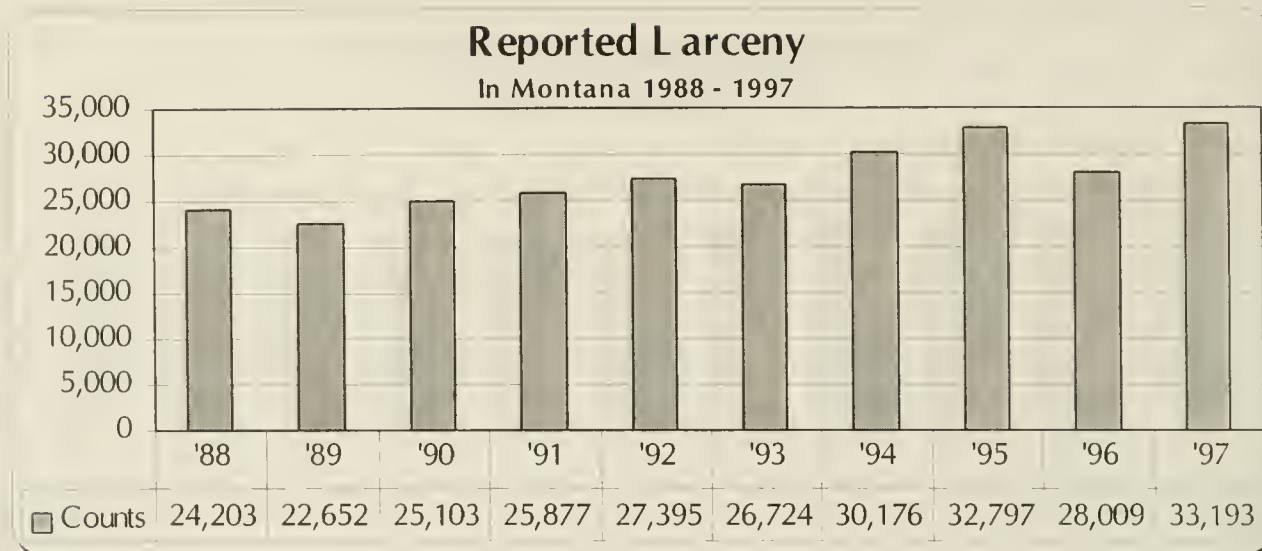
Larceny is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Larceny includes such crimes as pickpocket, purse snatching, shoplifting, theft from motor vehicles, and theft from buildings where forced entry is not involved. It 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 accounted for 79% of all major crimes in Montana during 1997. Since the incidence of larceny is the most common of the seven crimes used in the calculation of the overall crime rate, it often reflects the direction of the change in the total crime rate. As larceny increased by 7.6% in 1997, the overall crime rate increased by 7.9%.

After a 17% increase in larcenies was reported in from 1994 to 1995, the rate dropped by 13% to 3,747 in 1996. The 1997 larceny rate of 4,034 falls in the middle of rates calculated for 1995 and 1996; however, the 1997 rate still remains considerably higher than the national rate of 2,887 larcenies per 100,000 people.

Police departments and sheriffs offices reported 33,193 larcenies in 1997. This total accounts for 82% of all property crimes.

In Montana, a larceny was reported to law enforcement an average of once every 15 minutes, 50 seconds during 1997, compared to one every 4 seconds in the United States.

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Reported Motor Vehicle Theft
In Montana 1988 - 1997

Counts	1,687	1,775	1,807	1,908	1,737	1,602	2,005	2,389	1,869	2,380
	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
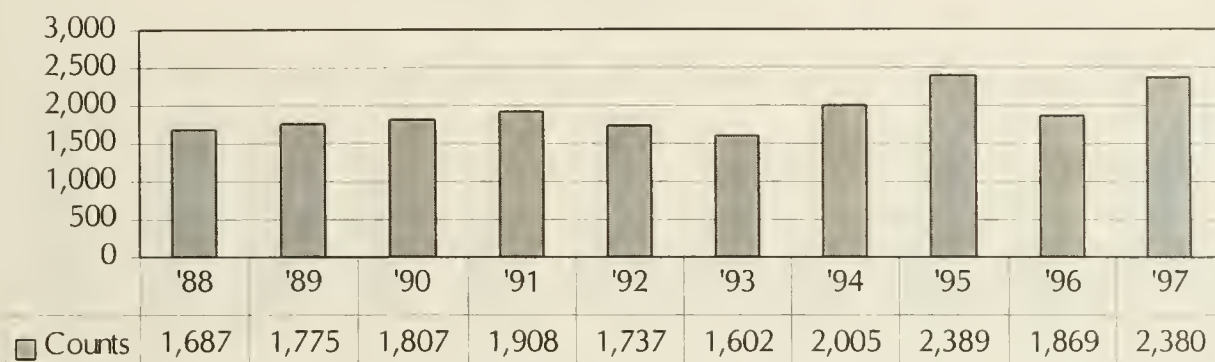
Motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft of or attempted theft of a vehicle which is self-propelled and runs on the surface and not on rails. It includes automobiles, trucks, buses, vans, motorcycles and snowmobiles. It does not include motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes and farming equipment.

After a report of 2,389 motor vehicle thefts in 1995, law enforcement agencies recorded a sizable drop to 1,869 in 1996, and then an increase back up to 2,380 in 1997. Motor vehicle thefts account for only 5.9% of all property crimes reported in 1997, and 5.7% of all index crimes.

Motor vehicle thefts rose by 15.7% from 1996 to 1997. In looking back over the last fifteen years, the rate for 1995 of 314 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 people is the only rate higher than the 1997 motor vehicle theft rate of 289.

Montana's 1997 motor vehicle theft rate is only 57% of the rate of 506 reported for the United States.

During 1997, motor vehicles were stolen in Montana at a rate of one every 3 hours and 41 minutes. When combining all motor vehicle thefts in the country, there was one being stolen every 23 seconds.

DRUG OFFENSES

Reported Drug Offenses
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	1,360	1,325	1,414	1,273	1,774	2,191	2,893	3,633	3,335	4,220
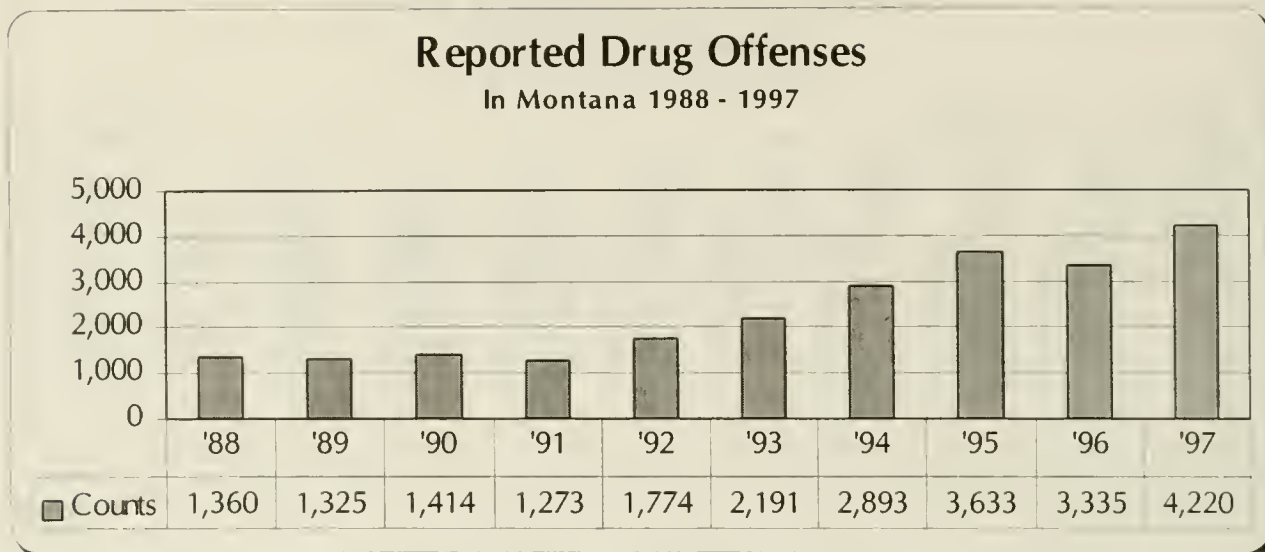
Drug offenses involve the unlawful possession, sale, use, cultivation, and manufacturing of controlled substances and narcotic drugs.

After a slight decline in drug offenses reported in 1996, the count continued back upward in 1997 to a rate of 513 per 100,000 people, which is a 15% increase over the 1996 rate of 446. The number of drug offenses reported in 1997 totaled 4,220 compared to 3,335 reported in 1996.

In looking at the chart above, there has been a steady increase in drug offenses reported since 1991. The increases may be attributed in part to the increased efforts of the drug task forces around the state.

In 1997, drug offenses were reported to law enforcement at a rate of one every 2 hours, 5 minutes, or between eleven and twelve drug arrests every day in Montana.

Reported Sex Offenses
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
☐ Counts	1,533	1,499	1,489	1,438	1,538	1,186	1,450	1,241	1,177	1,212
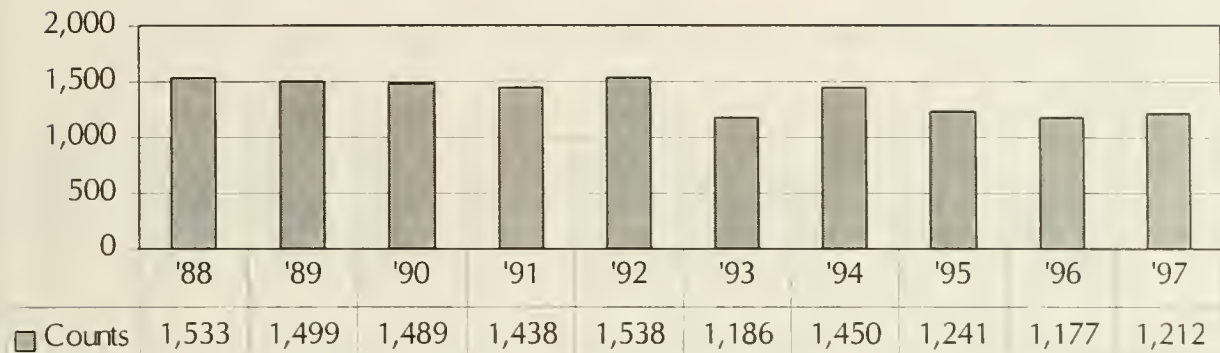
Sex offenses include offenses against chastity, common decency, morals and the like. Montana law lists four specific crimes: sexual assault, deviate sexual conduct, indecent exposure and incest. Excluded under this category are forcible rape, prostitution and commercial vice.

After a decline in sex offenses from 1995 to 1996, the number reported by law enforcement agencies increased by 35 to 1,212 in 1997. This was more than likely due to the fact that there were a few more agencies which reported in 1997.

When taking into consideration the adjusted population based on the number of law enforcement agencies reporting, the rate at which sex offenses were committed actually continued the decline that has been seen since 1994. The sex offense rate per 100,000 people dropped by 6.5% from 157 in 1996 to 147 in 1997. The fact that there was an increase in the offense count while the sex offense crime rate went down, is an example of why the *crime rate* should be used to compare the change in crime from year to year as opposed to the offense counts.

The average sex offense rate for the last five years (1993-1997) is 159, which is 18.4% lower than the average for the ten previous years' (1983-1992) rate of 196.

Sex offenses were reported to law enforcement at a rate of one every 7 hours, 14 minutes, or an average of 3.3 sex offenses per day in 1997.

Reported Domestic Abuse
In Montana 1988 - 1997

	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Counts	1,180	1,411	1,660	2,091	2,347	2,295	3,170	3,344	3,121	2,949
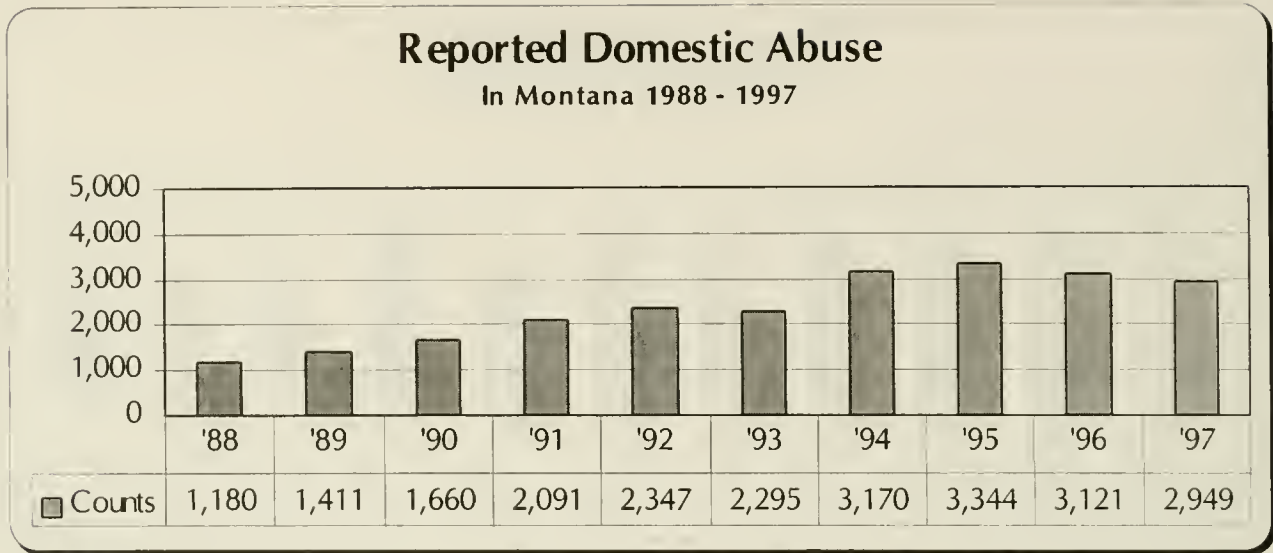
*A person commits the offense of **domestic abuse** if he/she: (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to a family member or household member; or (b) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in a family member or household member.*

For reporting purposes, domestic abuse offenses were broken out of the assault category starting in 1988. Since then the numbers reported by law enforcement agencies continued to climb at an average rate of 15% per year through 1995, then the counts began to drop in 1996 and 1997.

There were 2,949 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement in 1997, compared to 3,121 in 1996, and 3,344 in 1995. Even though the counts have remained fairly stable during the last three years, the rate at which they were committed, based on the population of the jurisdictions for reporting agencies, has dropped in 1996 and 1997 by 5% and 14% respectively.

Domestic abuse was reported to law enforcement in 1997 an average of once every 2 hours, 58 minutes, or approximately 8 per day.

TABLE 1
1996 AND 1997 COMPARISON
OF CRIME RATES BY OFFENSE
IN MONTANA

Offense		1996 Rate*		1997 Rate*		Percent Change
Homicide		3.9		4.1		6.5%
Rape		27.0		27.8		3.0%
Robbery		30.4		29.0		-4.4%
Aggravated Assault		117.1		124.3		6.2%
Total Violent		178.3		185.3		3.9%
Burglary		568.6		608.5		7.0%
Larceny		3747.2		4033.7		7.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft		250.0		289.2		15.7%
Total Property		4565.9		4931.4		8.0%
TOTAL PART I		**4744.2**		**5116.7**		**7.9%**
Other Assaults	**	1031.2		931.0		-9.7%
Domestic Abuse		417.5		358.4		-14.2%
Arson		20.9		20.7		-1.0%
Forgery		188.2		204.6		8.7%
Fraud		217.5		195.4		-10.2%
Embezzlement		5.2		4.7		-9.2%
Stolen Property		48.6		44.6		-8.2%
Vandalism		1728.5		1644.8		-4.8%
Weapons		127.5		52.0		-59.2%
Prostitution		7.2		1.6		-78.1%
Sex Offenses		157.5		147.3		-6.5%
Narcotics		446.2		512.8		14.9%
Gambling		0.8		0.4		-54.6%
Offenses Against Family		161.1		163.6		1.5%
DUI		595.1		463.8		-22.1%
Liquor		523.6		549.2		4.9%
Disorderly Conduct		1685.3		752.6		-55.3%
Other Total	***	1927.5		1668.5		-13.4%
TOTAL PART II		**8871.9**		**7357.5**		**-17.1%**
GRAND TOTAL		**13616.1**		**12474.2**		**-8.4%**

*   Rate per 100,000 population

**   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

1996 Rates have been updated

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

TABLE 2
1997 PERCENTAGE OF OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST
IN MONTANA

Crime Type		Percent Cleared By Arrest
Homicide		51.6%
Rape		17.6%
Robbery		27.1%
Aggravated Assault		50.7%
Total Violent Crimes		41.4%
Burglary		8.7%
Larceny		15.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft		19.1%
Total Property Crimes		15.2%
TOTAL PART I CRIMES		**16.1%**
Other Assaults		50.8%
Domestic Abuse		68.7%
Arson		30.2%
Forgery		20.0%
Fraud		21.3%
Embezzlement		29.7%
Stolen Property		19.9%
Vandalism		9.6%
Weapons		40.6%
Prostitution		84.6%
Sex Offenses		13.7%
Narcotics		77.7%
Gambling		66.7%
Offenses Against Family		13.4%
DUI		72.6%
Liquor Laws		71.4%
Disorderly Conduct		36.2%
All Other		22.4%
TOTAL PART II CRIMES		**35.0%**
GRAND TOTAL		**27.4%**

* "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.

** "All Other" total includes trespass, escape, kidnap, curfew, runaway and other

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

TABLE 3
FREQUENCY (%) OF WEAPONS USE
IN THE COMMISSION OF VIOLENT CRIMES
IN MONTANA
1997

Weapon Type	Type of Crime				
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggr.Asslt	Total
Firearm	72.7%	3.5%	49.6%	18.3%	22%
Knife	13.6%	2.7%	9.3%	13.7%	12%
Other Dangerous	4.5%	24.8%	8.5%	17.5%	17%
Hands, Feet, Etc.	9.1%	69.0%	32.6%	50.5%	49%
Total Cases Involving Weapons	22	113	129	827	1091

* Total cases involving weapons include only crimes which were reported as involving weapons.

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

The percentage of crimes where a particular type of weapon is used is the best measure available for the type of weapons used in crimes. Only incidents where the weapon type was reported are used in this table; therefore, the number of cases involving weapons may be low.

Firearms are the weapons used the majority of the time in homicides and robberies. Homicide offenses have a firearm involved 72.7% of the time, while robberies are reported as involving firearms 49.6% of the time. Incidents of rape and aggravated assault, on the other hand, involve "Hands, Fist and Feet" as the weapon most of the time. Rapes involve "Hands, Fist and Feet" 69% or the time, where 50.5% of aggravated assaults involve "Hands, Fist and Feet".

TABLE 4
County Crime Rate Combining Sheriff Office and Police Department
Ranked by their 1997 Crime Rates*

	County Totals		Rate Per 100,000
1	Cascade Cnty Total	**	8305
2	Yellowstone Cnty Total	***	7895
3	Flathead Cnty Total		6244
4	Mineral Cnty Total		6005
5	Silverbow Cnty Total	***	5961
6	Hill Cnty Total		5845
7	Missoula Cnty Total	,	5351
8	Ravalli Cnty Total	**	5330
	STATE AVERAGE		5117
9	Sanders Cnty Total	**	4983
10	Custer Cnty Total		4948
11	Gallatin Cnty Total		4533
12	Park County Total		4468
13	Lewis & Clark Cnty Total	**	4347
14	Powell Cnty Total	***	4187
15	Lincoln Cnty Total		4116
16	Wheatland Cnty Total		3765
17	Meagher Cnty Total		3674
18	Broadwater Cnty Total		3338
19	Deer Lodge Cnty Total		3190
20	Valley Cnty Total		3022
21	Fergus Cnty Total		2971
22	Richland Cnty Total		2871
23	Toole Cnty Total		2776
24	Lake County Total	***	2763
25	Big Horn Cnty Total		2649
26	Granite Cnty Total		2642
27	Phillips Cnty Total		2571
28	Musselshell Cnty Total		2401
29	Blaine Cnty Total		2389
30	Roosevelt Cnty Total		2354
31	Sheridan Cnty Total		2263
32	Chouteau Cnty Total		2234
33	Rosebud Cnty Total		2182
34	Dawson Cnty Total		2112
35	Carbon Cnty Total		2058
36	Jefferson Cnty Total	**	1885
37	Pondera Cnty Total	***	1582
38	Powder River Cnty Total		1457
39	Liberty Cnty Total		1437
40	Madison Cnty Total	**	1170
41	Beaverhead Cnty Total		1112
42	Fallon Cnty Total		1082
43	Sweet Grass Cnty Total		983
44	Teton Cnty Total	***	938
45	Treasure Cnty Total		780
46	Stillwater Cnty Total	**	671
47	Golden Valley Cnty Total		514
48	Petroleum Cnty Total		366
49	Judith Basin Cnty Total		304
50	McCone Cnty Total		273
51	Daniels Cnty Total		136

* 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 7 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.

*** One or more of the agencies within the county had estimated data used in the calculations.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

TABLE 5
Sheriff Offices
Ranked by their 1997 Crime Rates*

	Sheriff Departments		Rate Per 100,000
1	Mineral Cnty S.O.		6005
2	Butte / Silverbow Cnty LEA	***	5961
3	Flathead Cnty S.O.		5476
	STATE AVERAGE		5117
4	Deer Lodge / Powell Cnty LEA	***	4187
5	Lincoln Cnty S.O.		3905
6	Wheatland Cnty S.O.		3765
7	Meagher Cnty S.O.		3674
8	Yellowstone Cnty S.O.		3652
9	Broadwater Cnty S.O.		3338
10	Hill Cnty S.O.		3294
11	Lewis & Clark Cnty S.O.		3232
12	Anaconda / D.L. Cnty	**	3190
13	Cascade Cnty S.O.		2996
14	Granite Cnty S.O.		2933
15	Shelby / Toole Cnty S.O.	**	2776
16	Big Horn Cnty S.O.		2649
17	Phillips Cnty S.O.		2571
18	Musselshell Cnty S.O.		2401
19	Missoula Cnty S.O.		2399
20	Gallatin Cnty S.O.		2260
21	Rosebud Cnty S.O.		2182
22	Chouteau Cnty S.O.		2167
23	Valley Cnty S.O. / Fort Peck P.D. / Opheim P.D.	**	2120
24	Custer Cnty S.O.		2074
25	Carbon Cnty S.O.		1953
26	Jefferson Cnty / Boulder PD	**	1885
27	Park Cnty S.O.		1762
28	Powder River Cnty S.O.		1457
29	Liberty Cnty S.O.		1437
30	Fergus Cnty S.O.		1425
31	Richland Cnty S.O.		1379
32	Sheridan Cnty S.O.		1224
33	Madison Cnty S.O.		1170
34	Roosevelt Cnty S.O.		1005
35	Sweet Grass Cnty S.O.		983
36	Blaine Cnty S.O.		886
37	Lake Cnty S.O.	***	872
38	Treasure Cnty S.O.		780
39	Pondera Cnty S.O.	***	744
40	Stillwater Cnty S.O.		671
41	Beaverhead Cnty S.O.		657
42	Dawson Cnty S.O.		565
43	Fallon Cnty S.O.		554
44	Teton Cnty S.O.	***	538
45	Golden Valley Cnty S.O.		514
46	Petroleum Cnty S.O.		366
47	Judith Basin Cnty S.O.		304
48	McCone Cnty S.O.		204
49	Daniels Cnty S.O.		136

* 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 7 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 6).

*** One or more of the agencies within the county had estimated data used in the calculations.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

TABLE 6
Police Departments
Ranked by their 1997 Crime Rates*

	Police Departments		Rate Per 100,000
1	West Yellowstone P.D.		14537
2	Great Falls P.D.		10346
3	Billings P.D.		9547
4	Kalispell P.D.		9397
5	Hamilton P.D.		9171
6	Ronan P.D.		9030
7	Havre P.D.		7727
8	Harlem P.D.		7489
9	Livingston P.D.		7475
10	Missoula P.D.		7288
11	St. Ignatius P.D.		7120
12	Polson P.D.		7060
13	Wolf Point P.D.		6402
14	Plains P.D.		6355
15	Whitefish P.D.		6070
16	Miles City P.D.		6059
17	Butte / Silverbow Cnty LEA	***	5961
18	Libby		5826
19	Bozeman P.D.		5738
20	Laurel P.D.	***	5344
21	Helena P.D.		5343
22	Troy P.D.		5205
	STATE AVERAGE		5117
23	Belgrade P.D.		4713
24	Columbia Falls P.D.		4513
25	Lewistown P.D.		4481
26	Glasgow P.D.		4350
27	Thompson Falls P.D.		4348
28	Deer Lodge / Powell Cnty LEA	***	4187
29	Sidney P.D.		4060
30	Chinook P.D.		3957
31	Hot Springs P.D.		3793
32	Glendive P.D.		3537
33	Plentywood P.D.		3475
34	Fairview P.D.		3325
35	Anaconda / D.L. Cnty	**	3190
36	Bridger P.D.		3189
37	Shelby / Toole Cnty S.O.	**	2776
38	Red Lodge P.D.		2692
39	Conrad P.D.		2689
40	Fort Benton P.D.		2386
41	Manhattan P.D.		2144
42	Valley Cnty S.O. / Fort Peck P.D. / Opheim P.D.	**	2120
43	Choteau P.D.		2028
44	Stevensville P.D.		2022
45	Jefferson Cnty / Boulder PD	**	1885
46	Eureka P.D.		1881
47	Dillon P.D.		1603
48	Darby P.D.		1528
49	Baker P.D.		1438
50	Three Forks Marshals Office		1220
51	Poplar P.D.		439
52	Circle P.D.		413
53	Joliet P.D.		326
54	Nashua P.D.		262
55	Fromberg Marshals Office		233
56	Pinesdale P.D.		102
57	Drummond 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 7 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 5).
*** One or more of the agencies within the county had estimated data used in the calculations.
Source: MT Board of Crime Control

TABLE 7
1997 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY		1997 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Beaverhead Cnty S.O.		4719	31	657	0	0	0	0	11	15	5
Dillon P.D.		4366	70	1603	0	0	1	2	2	61	4
Beaverhead Cnty Total		**9085**	**101**	**1112**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**13**	**76**	**9**
Big Horn Cnty S.O.		12383	328	2649	2	1	1	21	63	215	25
Big Horn Cnty Total		**12383**	**328**	**2649**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**21**	**63**	**215**	**25**
Blaine Cnty S.O.		4743	42	886	0	0	0	2	15	22	3
Chinook P.D.		1592	63	3957	0	0	0	5	10	39	9
Harlem P.D.		908	68	7489	0	0	0	6	10	46	6
Blaine Cnty Total		**7243**	**173**	**2389**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13**	**35**	**107**	**18**
Broadwater Cnty S.O.		3775	126	3338	1	0	0	3	32	75	15
Broadwater Cnty Total		**3775**	**126**	**3338**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**32**	**75**	**15**
Carbon Cnty S.O.		5018	98	1953	0	0	0	2	21	71	4
Red Lodge P.D.		2340	63	2692	0	0	0	0	5	55	3
Bridger P.D.		784	25	3189	0	0	0	2	2	20	1
Fromberg Marshals Ofc.		430	1	233	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Joliet P.D.		613	2	326	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Carbon Cnty Total		**9185**	**189**	**2058**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**28**	**147**	**9**
Carter Cnty S.O.	*	1139			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Ekalaka P.D.	*	433			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Carter Cnty Total	*	**1572**									
Cascade Cnty S.O.		22996	689	2996	1	2	1	16	76	553	40
Great Falls P.D.		59819	6189	10346	6	17	47	52	568	5247	252
Belt P.D.	*	585			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Cascade Cnty Total	**	**82815**	**6878**	**8305**	**7**	**19**	**48**	**68**	**644**	**5800**	**292**
Chouteau Cnty S.O.		3877	84	2167	0	0	0	4	14	59	7
Fort Benton P.D.		1718	41	2386	0	0	0	2	3	34	2
Chouteau Cnty Total		**5595**	**125**	**2234**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**17**	**93**	**9**
Custer Cnty S.O.		3471	72	2074	0	1	0	2	14	50	5
Miles City P.D.		8979	544	6059	0	3	1	19	74	426	21
Custer Cnty Total		**12450**	**616**	**4948**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**21**	**88**	**476**	**26**
Daniels Cnty S.O.		2207	3	136	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Daniels Cnty Total		**2207**	**3**	**136**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Dawson Cnty S.O.		4427	25	565	0	1	0	0	0	24	0
Glendive P.D.		4807	170	3537	0	0	0	7	19	135	9
Dawson Cnty Total		**9234**	**195**	**2112**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**7**	**19**	**159**	**9**
Anaconda / D.L. Cnty		10503	335	3190	0	0	0	11	40	266	18
Deer Lodge Cnty Total		**10503**	**335**	**3190**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**40**	**266**	**18**
Fallon Cnty S.O.		1263	7	554	0	0	0	1	1	3	2
Baker P.D.		1878	27	1438	0	0	0	1	4	14	8
Fallon Cnty Total		**3141**	**34**	**1082**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**5**	**17**	**10**
Fergus Cnty S.O.		6386	91	1425	0	0	0	1	19	68	3
Lewistown P.D.		6538	293	4481	1	1	0	6	27	255	3
Fergus Cnty Total		**12924**	**384**	**2971**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**7**	**46**	**323**	**6**

Source: * Agency did not report or had incomplete data.   Est.= index is estimated because of missing or incomplete data.
MT Board of Crime Control   ** Data is not available, incomplete, or estimated for one or more agencies; crime rate is based on adjusted population.

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TABLE 7 cont.
1997 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY		1997 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Flathead Cnty S.O.		47295	2590	5476	1	32	3	44	586	1784	140
Columbia Falls P.D.		3235	146	4513	0	0	0	6	19	116	5
Whitefish P.D.		4992	303	6070	0	0	0	11	35	247	10
Kalispell P.D.		13568	1275	9397	1	8	3	19	112	1088	44
Flathead Cnty Total		**69090**	**4314**	**6244**	**2**	**40**	**6**	**80**	**752**	**3235**	**199**
Gallatin Cnty S.O.		25752	582	2260	0	6	2	11	108	407	48
Bozeman P.D.		25740	1477	5738	2	1	6	14	121	1281	52
Belgrade P.D.		4244	200	4713	0	0	2	16	27	142	13
Three Forks Marshals Ofc.		1393	17	1220	0	0	0	0	3	13	1
West Yellowstone P.D.		1025	149	14537	0	0	0	1	11	122	15
Manhattan P.D.		1166	25	2144	0	1	0	0	1	22	1
MSU Police	unv	n/a	239	n/a	0	4	0	10	7	214	4
Gallatin Cnty Total		**59320**	**2689**	**4533**	**2**	**12**	**10**	**52**	**278**	**2201**	**134**
Garfield Cnty S.O.	*	1471			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Garfield Cnty Total	*	**1471**									
Glacier Cnty S.O.	*	2325			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Cut Bank P.D.	*	3268			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Glacier Cnty Total	*	**2325**									
Golden Valley Cnty S.O.		973	5	514	0	0	0	0	1	3	1
Golden Valley Cnty Total		**973**	**5**	**514**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**1**
Granite Cnty S.O.		2455	72	2933	0	0	0	1	21	40	10
Drummond P.D.		270	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Granite Cnty Total		**2725**	**72**	**2642**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**21**	**40**	**10**
Hill Cnty S.O.		7619	251	3294	0	1	0	4	52	178	16
Havre P.D.		10328	798	7727	0	2	1	17	70	666	42
Hill Cnty Total		**17947**	**1049**	**5845**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**21**	**122**	**844**	**58**
Jefferson Cnty/Boulder PD		8012	151	1885	0	10	0	40	26	61	14
Whitehall P.D.	*	1215			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Jefferson Cnty Total	**	**8012**	**151**	**1885**	**0**	**10**	**0**	**40**	**26**	**61**	**14**
Judith Basin Cnty S.O.		2305	7	304	0	0	0	1	4	0	2
Judith Basin Cnty Total		**2305**	**7**	**304**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**0**	**2**
Lake Cnty S.O.	Est	17437	152	872	Data was incomplete; estimates were used						
Polson P.D.		4136	292	7060		1	0	8	21	249	13
Ronan P.D.		1783	161	9030	0	0	0	9	29	111	12
St. Ignatius P.D.		927	66	7120	0	0	0	8	16	37	5
Lake County Total	**	**24283**	**671**	**2763**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**25**	**66**	**397**	**30**
Lewis & Clark Cnty S.O.		24166	781	3232	1	17	2	54	153	483	71
Helena P.D.		27045	1445	5343	0	26	54	75	175	1007	108
East Helena P.D.	*	1695			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Lewis & Clark Cnty Total	**	**51211**	**2226**	**4347**	**1**	**43**	**56**	**129**	**328**	**1490**	**179**
Liberty Cnty S.O.		2297	33	1437	0	0	0	3	7	20	3
Liberty Cnty Total		**2297**	**33**	**1437**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**7**	**20**	**3**

Source:
MT Board of Crime Control

* Agency did not report or had incomplete data. **Est.**= index is estimated because of missing or incomplete data

** Data is not available, incomplete, or estimated for one or more agencies; crime rate is based on adjusted population

TABLE 7 cont.
1997 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY		1997 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Lincoln Cnty S.O.		13983	546	3905	0	0	0	31	98	385	32
Libby		2695	157	5826	1	0	0	4	23	124	5
Eureka P.D.		1223	23	1881	0	1	0	4	6	9	3
Troy P.D.		999	52	5205	0	0	0	2	6	43	1
Lincoln Cnty Total		**18900**	**778**	**4116**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**41**	**133**	**561**	**41**
McCone Cnty S.O.		1470	3	204	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Circle P.D.		727	3	413	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
McCone Cnty Total		**2197**	**6**	**273**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Madison Cnty S.O.		5555	65	1170	0	0	0	6	6	45	8
Ennis P.D.	*	1000			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Madison Cnty Total	**	**5555**	**65**	**1170**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**6**	**45**	**8**
Meagher Cnty S.O.		1878	69	3674	0	0	0	1	9	58	1
Meagher Cnty Total		**1878**	**69**	**3674**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**9**	**58**	**1**
Mineral Cnty S.O.		3730	224	6005	1	0	2	15	34	152	20
Mineral Cnty Total		**3730**	**224**	**6005**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**15**	**34**	**152**	**20**
Missoula Cnty S.O.		41387	993	2399	1	16	4	51	161	696	64
Missoula P.D.		46582	3395	7288	3	26	17	72	269	2912	96
U of M Police	unv	n/a	319	n/a	0	1	0	2	30	275	11
Missoula Cnty Total		**87969**	**4707**	**5351**	**4**	**43**	**21**	**125**	**460**	**3883**	**171**
Musselshell Cnty S.O.		4540	109	2401	1	0	1	18	45	32	12
Musselshell Cnty Total		**4540**	**109**	**2401**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**18**	**45**	**32**	**12**
Park Cnty S.O.		8457	149	1762	0	0	0	3	41	90	15
Livingston P.D.		7612	569	7475	0	0	0	8	31	504	26
Park County Total		**16069**	**718**	**4468**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**72**	**594**	**41**
Petroleum Cnty S.O.		547	2	366	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Petroleum Cnty Total		**547**	**2**	**366**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Phillips Cnty S.O.		5173	133	2571	1	0	0	4	12	107	9
Phillips Cnty Total		**5173**	**133**	**2571**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**12**	**107**	**9**
Pondera Cnty S.O.	Est	3631	27	744	Data was incomplete; estimates were used						
Conrad P.D.		2752	74	2689	0	0	0	0	7	62	5
Pondera Cnty Total	**	**6383**	**101**	**1582**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**62**	**5**
Powder River Cnty S.O.		2059	30	1457	1	0	0	3	2	24	0
Powder River Cnty Total		**2059**	**30**	**1457**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**2**	**24**	**0**
Deer Lodge / Powell Cnty	Est	6974	292	4187	Data was incomplete; estimates were used						
Powell Cnty Total		**6974**	**292**	**4187**							
Prairie Cnty S.O.	*	1365			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Prairie Cnty Total	*	**1365**									
Ravalli Cnty S.O.	*	24656			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Hamilton P.D.		3500	321	9171	2	0	0	3	25	282	9
Stevensville P.D.		1533	31	2022	0	0	0	3	5	21	2
Darby P.D.		851	13	1528	0	0	1	10	1	0	1
Pinesdale P.D.		983	1	102	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ravalli Cnty Total	**	**6867**	**366**	**5330**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**16**	**32**	**303**	**12**

Source:	* Agency did not report or had incomplete data. Est.= index is estimated because of missing or incomplete data.
MT Board of Crime Control	** Data is not available, incomplete, or estimated for one or more agencies; crime rate is based on adjusted population.

TABLE 7 cont.
1997 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED
BY INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

AGENCY		1997 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MVT
Richland Cnty S.O.		4496	62	1379	0	0	0	1	15	41	5
Sidney P.D.		5320	216	4060	0	2	0	0	20	181	13
Fairview P.D.		842	28	3325	0	0	0	1	2	24	1
Richland Cnty Total		**10658**	**306**	**2871**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**37**	**246**	**19**
Roosevelt Cnty S.O.		7561	76	1005	0	1	0	4	20	41	10
Poplar P.D.		912	4	439	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
Wolf Point P.D.		2952	189	6402	0	3	0	9	17	147	13
Roosevelt Cnty Total		**11425**	**269**	**2354**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**15**	**38**	**188**	**24**
Rosebud Cnty S.O.		11043	241	2182	0	2	1	15	32	176	15
Rosebud Cnty Total		**11043**	**241**	**2182**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**15**	**32**	**176**	**15**
Sanders Cnty S.O.	*	6721			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Hot Springs P.D.		580	22	3793	0	0	0	5	9	7	1
Thompson Falls P.D.		1495	65	4348	0	0	3	16	26	20	0
Plains P.D.		1196	76	6355	0	0	1	3	13	55	4
Sanders Cnty Total	**	**3271**	**163**	**4983**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**24**	**48**	**82**	**5**
Sheridan Cnty S.O.		2451	30	1224	0	0	0	2	13	13	2
Plentywood P.D.		2101	73	3475	0	0	1	1	6	60	5
Sheridan Cnty Total		**4552**	**103**	**2263**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**19**	**73**	**7**
Butte/Silver Bow	Est	35748	2131	5961	Data was incomplete; estimates were used						
Silver Bow Cnty Total		**35748**	**2131**	**5961**							
Stillwater Cnty S.O.		5518	37	671	0	1	1	1	28	0	6
Columbus P.D.	*	1897			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Stillwater Cnty Total	**	**5518**	**37**	**671**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**28**	**0**	**6**
Sweet Grass Cnty S.O.		3356	33	983	0	0	0	1	3	29	0
Sweet Grass Cnty Total		**3356**	**33**	**983**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**29**	**0**
Teton Cnty S.O.	Est	4835	26	538	Data was incomplete; estimates were used						
Choteau P.D.		1775	36	2028	0	0	0	1	3	31	1
Teton Cnty Total	**	**6610**	**62**	**938**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**31**	**1**
Shelby/Toole Cnty S.O.		5223	145	2776	0	0	1	8	22	103	11
Toole Cnty Total		**5223**	**145**	**2776**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**8**	**22**	**103**	**11**
Treasure Cnty S.O.		898	7	780	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
Treasure Cnty Total		**898**	**7**	**780**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**	**0**
Valley Cnty S.O.		4386	93	2120	0	0	0	2	18	69	4
Glasgow P.D.		3770	164	4350	0	1	0	4	11	143	5
Fort Peck P.D.		Included with Valley Co.									
Opheim P.D.		Included with Valley Co.									
Nashua P.D.		381	1	262	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Valley Cnty Total		**8537**	**258**	**3022**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**	**30**	**212**	**9**
Wheatland Cnty S.O.		2417	91	3765	0	0	0	1	12	76	2
Wheatland Cnty Total		**2417**	**91**	**3765**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**12**	**76**	**2**
Wibaux Cnty S.O.	*	1167			Did Not Report or data was incomplete						
Wibaux Cnty Total	*	**1167**									
Yellowstone Cnty S.O.		30699	1121	3652	1	0	7	21	177	805	110
Billings P.D.		88886	8486	9547	4	30	65	33	773	6974	607
Laurel P.D.	Est	6512	348	5344	Data was incomplete; estimates were used						
Yellowstone Cnty Total	**	**126097**	**9955**	**7895**	**5**	**30**	**72**	**54**	**950**	**7779**	**717**
STATE TOTAL	***	**822897**	**42105**	**5117**	**34**	**229**	**239**	**1023**	**5007**	**33193**	**2380**

Source:	* Agency did not report or had incomplete data.
MT Board of Crime Control	** Data is not available, incomplete, or estimated for one or more agencies; crime rate is based on adjusted population.
	*** Adjusted counts include estimated agency counts; exclude non-reporting agency populations. Est = Estimated

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.

A new case management/data collection program was provided to all Juvenile Probation offices throughout Montana in 1993. 1993 was a banner year in that 100% of the Juvenile Probation Offices were reporting statistical data to the MBCC. During this same time frame the Montana Department of Health and Human Services instituted a computerized case tracking system, which was to track the payments for children, and adult protective needs such as foster care payments. The program was known as the Child and Adult Protective Services program (CAPS).

Another milestone in the JPIS case management/data collection program occurred in 1998. The Montana Department of Health and Human Services also included in the CAPS program a method for tracking juvenile criminal activity by providing a case management component for Juvenile Probation offices throughout the state. A joint effort between the Montana Board of Crime Control and the Montana Department of Health and Human Services transferred all JPIS functions and historical data into the CAPS case management system. The Probation offices can enter all juvenile offense (referral) information into the CAPS program and maintain electronic case files on juvenile criminal activity. The referral data collected in CAPS is provided to the Board of Crime Control on a quarterly basis.

Thus, the Board of Crime Control no longer has the responsibility for collection of offense/referral information. The Board's role is one of data analysis based on the statistical data provided to the Board by the Montana Department of Health and Human Services.

A note of caution to persons using this document to report juvenile criminal activity in the state. Over the past several years record systems have become more sophisticated, data entry accuracy has improved, and each record more complete. A combination of enhanced record systems and 100% reporting has created a comparative analysis anomaly. Multi-year comparative analysis may show major data discrepancies. As an example, in prior years there has been an average of about 4,500 juveniles appearing in Juvenile Probation offices. The figures for 1993 through 1996

show an average of over 9,200 youth that have been processed through this same system, and in 1997 there were 9,359 youth referred to Juvenile Probation. This increase is due in part 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 aimed primarily at 1994 through 1997. 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 that 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 by the following 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:

1994	8,803
1995	9,851
1996	9,756
1997	9,359

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. 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, 64.3% in 1996 and 69.9% in 1997. Almost sixteen percent (15.6%) had two referrals, and thirty percent (30.1%) had more than two or more referrals during 1997. 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. Total referrals handled by the Juvenile Probation offices:

1994	14,505
1995	16,656
1996	13,695
1997	17,115

3. *The number of Offenses* - the number of crimes attributed to youths that have been referred to the system. The Montana Youth Court System charged youth with total offenses as follow:

1994	16,813
1995	17,605
1996	18,863
1997	20,020

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 has remained fairly static over the past several years.

PERCENTAGE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY AGE

Female Crimes by age

Age Bracket	1994	1995	1996	1997
Less than 10	2.53%	2.14%	1.54%	1.22%
10-12	5.66%	7.89%	9.53%	7.31%
13-14	20.79%	26.31%	33.36%	26.30%
15	21.26%	21.65%	21.37%	27.70%
16	21.95%	23.12%	19.88%	22.17%
17	18.04%	18.90%	14.33%	15.80%

Male Crimes by age

Age Bracket	1994	1995	1996	1997
Less than 10	2.35%	3.23%	2.79%	1.82%
10-12	10.21%	11.39%	10.99%	9.35%
13-14	21.25%	25.25%	28.62%	24.17%
15	17.21%	18.47%	20.69%	20.53%
16	18.34%	20.12%	19.21%	23.80%
17	20.04%	21.54%	17.71%	20.35%

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 four years.

Ethnic Breakout Percent of Total	1994	1995	1996	1997
Caucasian	81.5%	84.1%	83.19%	80.77%
Black	0.8%	1.2%	0.66%	0.92%
Indian	15.1%	13.2%	14.45%	16.39%
Spanish	1.5%	1.2%	1.11%	0.88%
Other	1.2%	0.3%	0.59%	0.50%

Source of Referral

Law enforcement authorities are the primary referral source for delinquent youth in Montana. In 1997, 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. The juvenile justice system identified 2,935 crimes against persons in 1997.

2. *Property crimes* include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, vandalism, receiving and possessing stolen property, and trespassing. Montana youth were charged with 7,343 property crimes during 1997.

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). Offenses against public order counted 1,264 in 1997.

4. *Offenses against public administration* include false reports to law enforcement, obstructing justice, resisting arrest, and others. In 1997, Montana youth were charged 1,619 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. There were 4,406 status offenses in Montana in 1997.

6. *Drug offenses*. There were 1,339 reported offenses were listed for substance abuse in Montana during 1997.

As indicated above, most juvenile referrals in Montana are primarily for property crimes (36.68%) or for status offenses (22.01%). Referrals against public order accounted for 6.31%, public administration for 8.09%, and crimes against persons for 14.66%. Drug offenses were involved only 6.69% of the time.

Referral Offenses

The ten most frequent types of specific delinquent offenses that result in a referral to youth court accounted for 68-69% of all the charges made in 1997.

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 18.2% of the male offenses and 17.89% of the female offenses. The most common violent crime is simple assault. It accounts for 5.92% of the male referrals and 4.75% of the female referrals.

The 1997 statistics for drug offenses show that drug offenses committed by 756 males is mid-range for the offense frequency accounting for 1,059 of the total offenses. Females charged with drug offenses were at 220 and accounted for 280 total offenses.

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 21% of these cases resulted in a warning, and 14.2% resulted in probation. In 2.3% of all referrals the youth had to make restitution and 7.6% had to perform community service.

TABLE 8
1997 SUMMARY OF
JUVENILE OFFENSES

REASON FOR REFERRAL	NUMBER OF OFFENSES	PERCENT
STATUS OFFENSES		
Liquor violations	855	4.27
Ungovernable, truancy	2,869	14.33
Runaway	682	3.41
Total Status	**4,406**	**22.01**
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS		
Homicide	6	0.03
Rape	22	0.11
Robbery	27	0.13
Aggravated Assault	120	0.60
Simple Assault	1,152	5.75
Other	1,608	8.03
Total Offenses Against Persons	**2,935**	**14.66**
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		
Burglary	496	2.48
Larceny	4,342	21.69
Arson and Vandalism	1,514	7.56
Trespassing	782	3.91
Other Property	209	1.04
Total Property	**7,343**	**36.68**
OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION		
Obstructing, Resisting	627	3.13
Other	992	4.96
Total Public Administration	**1,619**	**8.09**
OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER		
Weapons	77	0.38
Disorderly Conduct	1,187	5.93
Total Public Order	**1,264**	**6.31**
DRUG OFFENSES		
Drug offenses	690	3.45
Drug Paraphernalia	649	3.24
Total Drug Offenses	**1,339**	**6.69**
OTHER OFFENSES		
Traffic, City, Conspiracy, etc.	1,114	5.56
Total Other Offenses	**1,114**	**5.56**
GRAND TOTAL	**20,020**	**100.0**

TABLE 9
1997 SUMMARY OF
JUVENILE REFERRALS
(STATUS VS DELINQUENT CASES)

REASON FOR REFERRAL	NUMBER OF CASES	PERCENT
STATUS OFFENSES	4,406	22%
DELINQUENT OFFENSES	15,614	78%
TOTAL	20,020	100.0%

TABLE 10
COMPARISON OF JUVENILE OFFENSES
IN MONTANA
(1994 - 1997)

OFFENSE	% REPORTED			
	1994	1995	1996	1997
Crimes Against Persons	12.73%	13.20%	13.63%	14.66%
Crimes Against Property	40.29%	40.27%	38.33%	36.68%
Crimes Against Public Order	6.14%	7.31%	6.19%	6.31%
Crimes Against Public Admin.	4.89%	5.67%	6.08%	8.09%
Drug Offenses	4.91%	5.42%	6.85%	6.69%
Status Offenses	21.99%	20.64%	21.90%	22.01%
Other	9.05%	7.49%	7.02%	5.56%