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# **CRIME IN MONTANA**

## **1998 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**CRIME IN MONTANA**

**1998**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**November, 1999**

**Montana Board of Crime Control**

**Gary Buchanan, Chairman  
Ellis E. Kiser, Executive Director**

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Dear Reader:

CRIME IN MONTANA - 1998 ANNUAL REPORT is prepared by the Research and Statistics Unit of the Montana Board of Crime Control. The Montana Uniform Crime Reporting (MUCR) system, the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the Juvenile Probation Information System (JPIS), and the Child and Adult Protective Services program (CAPS) are the vehicles which afford the state and the nation information on Montana 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*. Data for all police departments and sheriff's offices are listed in Table 8 which starts on page 24 of the report. Agencies which did not report in 1998 are listed in Table 1 on page 2.

The 1998 data collected from Montana law enforcement agencies indicates a 6.2% decrease in the overall crime rate. Crime statistics are calculated using the crime data submitted by local law enforcement agencies. It should be noted that twenty-nine of the law enforcement agencies, which amounts to 25%, did not submit data or their data was incomplete in 1998.

The crime rate is calculated using the number of crimes reported and the total population of the jurisdictions of reporting agencies. In 1998 there was a rate of 4,799 major crimes reported per 100,000 people. This number compares to a rate of 5,117 reported in 1997. The crime rate dropped in five of the seven major crime categories. The homicide rate dropped by 47.1%, robbery decreased by 0.1%, burglary was down by 4.7%, larceny dropped by 7.3% and motor vehicle theft fell by 11.5%. The crime rate was up by 5.3% for rape, while a substantial increase of 31.8% was reported for aggravated assault. Violent crimes rose to 224 violent crimes per 100,000 people, for an increase of 21.1%.

We recognize the effort involved and would like to thank all those people who gathered and reported crime data throughout the year to make this report possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ellis E. Kiser".

Ellis E. Kiser,  
Executive Director



Data used in the preparation of this publication  
were compiled by the  
staff of the  
Research and Statistics Unit  
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. The following page will give you some idea of the size of jurisdictions of the non-reporting agencies. With 25 percent of the law enforcement agencies not reporting, it is difficult to use the number of offenses for year-to-year comparisons. A better measure of the trend would be a comparison of the crime rates as discussed and displayed on page 6-17. To see which agencies are included in this report, go to Table 8 starting on page 24.**

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.

TABLE 1

## Non-reporting agencies in 1998

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Jurisdiction Size</u>
Big Horn County S.O.	12,631
Broadwater County S.O.	4,088
Carter County S.O.	1,072
Choteau P.D.	1,793
Columbia Falls P.D.	3,966
Columbus P.D.	1,897
Dillon PD	4,316
East Helena P.D.	1,722
Ekalaka P.D.	433
Fromberg Marshal's Office	430
Garfield County S.O.	1,446
Glacier County S.O.	9,184
Kalispell P.D.	15,855
Lake County S.O.	18,140
Laurel P.D.	6,145
Libby P.D.	2,705
Lincoln County S.O.	13,946
Mineral County S.O.	3,729
Plains P.D.	1,214
Pondera County S.O.	3,514
Powell County	7,080
Prairie County S.O.	1,337
Ravalli County S.O.	26,548
Sanders County S.O.	7,025
Silver Bow/Butte	34,480
Teton County S.O.	4,554
Wheatland County S.O.	2,336
Whitehall P.D.	1,357
<u>Wibaux County S.O.</u>	<u>1,107</u>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>194,050</b>

## **Summary of 1998 Crime in Montana**

- Total number of police departments and sheriffs offices in Montana: 116
- Total number of agencies contributing data: 87
- Total estimated population for 1998: 880,000
- Total population of the jurisdictions of reporting agencies: 685,950
- Number of sworn law enforcement officers in police departments and sheriffs offices in 1998: 1,282
- Number of law enforcement officers assaulted (none were killed): 15
- Crime rate per 100,000 people: 4,799
- Percentage of index offenses cleared by arrest: 18.1%
- Violent crime rate per 100,000 people: 224
- Drug crime rate per 100,000 people: 460
- Domestic abuse crime rate per 100,000 people: 421
- Number of juveniles referred to the juvenile justice system: 8,687

## 1998 MONTANA CRIME CLOCK \*



**One Homicide**  
every 20 days, 7 hours

**One Rape**  
every 37 hours, 17 minutes

**One Robbery**  
every 37 hours, 46 minute

**One Index Crime**  
every 13 minutes, 41 seconds

**One Aggravated Assault**  
every 6 hours, 40 minutes

**One Violent Crime**  
every 4 hours, 52 minutes

**One Burglary**  
every 1 hour, 53 minutes

**One Property Crime**  
every 14 minutes, 21 seconds

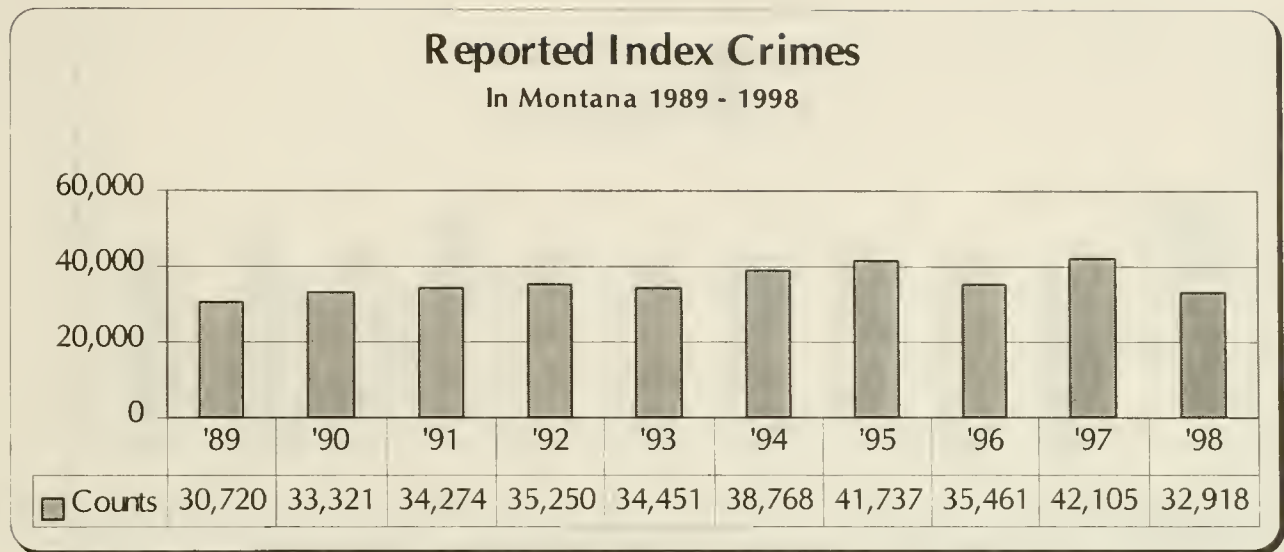
**One Larceny**  
every 17 minutes, 33 seconds

**One Motor Vehicle Theft**  
every 4 hours, 17 minutes

\*Total crime counts used in the calculation of the crime clock are statewide estimates based on the crime rate of reporting agencies.



## 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.*

Of the 116 police departments and sheriffs offices in Montana, three quarters of them (87 agencies) participated in reporting to the Board of Crime Control. The percentage of Montana's total population which was covered by the jurisdictions of the reporting agencies is 78%. Since only three-quarters of the law enforcement agencies participated in 1998, the statewide total of index crimes reported appear to be back down to a level of ten years ago. Normally the number of agencies that report is higher and the total population of their jurisdiction is over 90%.

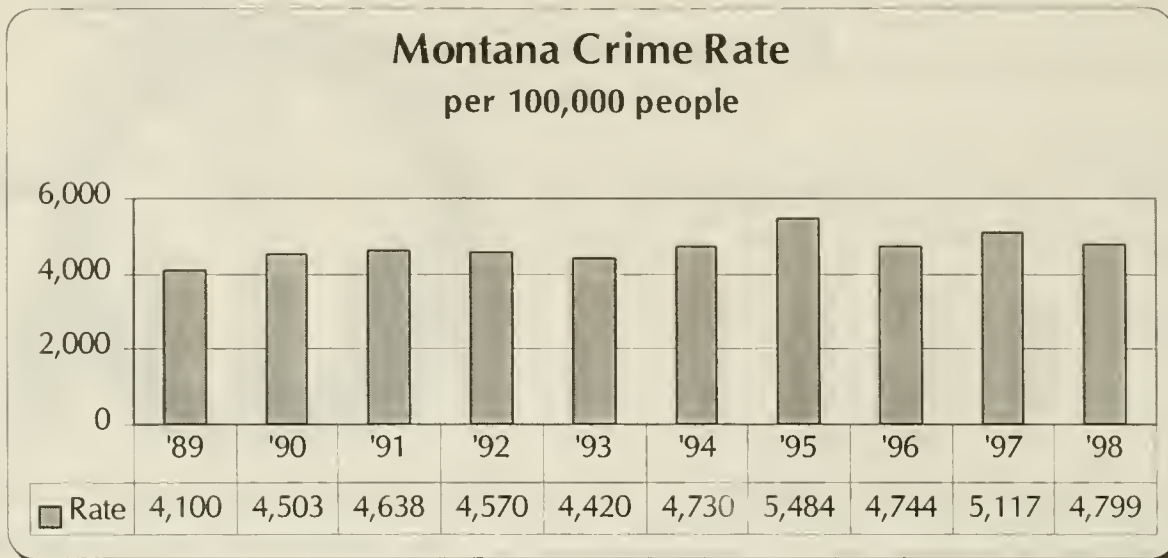
Refer to the crime *rates* on pages 6-17 for the most accurate measure of the change in crime from year to year.

Estimates of total crime counts were made based on the crime rate of the reporting agencies and on previous years' reporting history. Following are the statewide estimated counts of index crimes for 1998: total index crimes, 38,430; homicide, 18; rape, 235; robbery, 232; aggravated assault, 1,312; burglary, 4,644; larceny, 29,940; and motor vehicle theft, 2,049. Violent crimes which include, homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault totaled 1,797 offenses.

Violent crimes account for 4.7% of all index crimes, while property offenses make up the other 95.3%.



## STATE 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 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 1998 were provided in the Montana Uniform Crime Report by the U. S. Bureau of Census through the FBI. Montana's population estimate for 1998 was 880,000 people. The total population of the jurisdictions of law enforcement agencies which reported to the Board of Crime Control was 685,950. This adjusted population figure is used to calculate the crime rate. The rate is calculated by multiplying the total index crime count by 100,000, then dividing by the total population of the jurisdictions of reporting agencies. The numbers at the bottom of page 30 were used in the calculations.

Montana's 1998 crime rate of 4,799 crimes per 100,000 people is down by 6.2% from the 1997 crime rate of 5,117. Of the seven major crimes used in the calculation of the crime rate, the rate of homicides, robberies, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts were down from the previous year. The two major crimes which recorded higher crime rates in 1998 were rape and aggravated assault.

The homicide rate dropped by 47.1%, robbery decreased by 0.1%, burglary was down by 4.7%, larceny dropped by 7.3%, and motor vehicle thefts fell by 11.5%. The two major crimes which were up in 1998 were rape, up by 5.3% and aggravated assaults were reported as increasing by a substantial 31.8%.

## VIOLENT CRIMES



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

Aggravated assaults in recent years have accounted for about two-thirds of all violent crimes. In 1998; however, aggravated assaults make up 73% of all violent crimes. The large increase in the number of aggravated assaults reported in 1998 has caused the violent crime rate to climb by 21.1% over the 1997 violent crime rate.

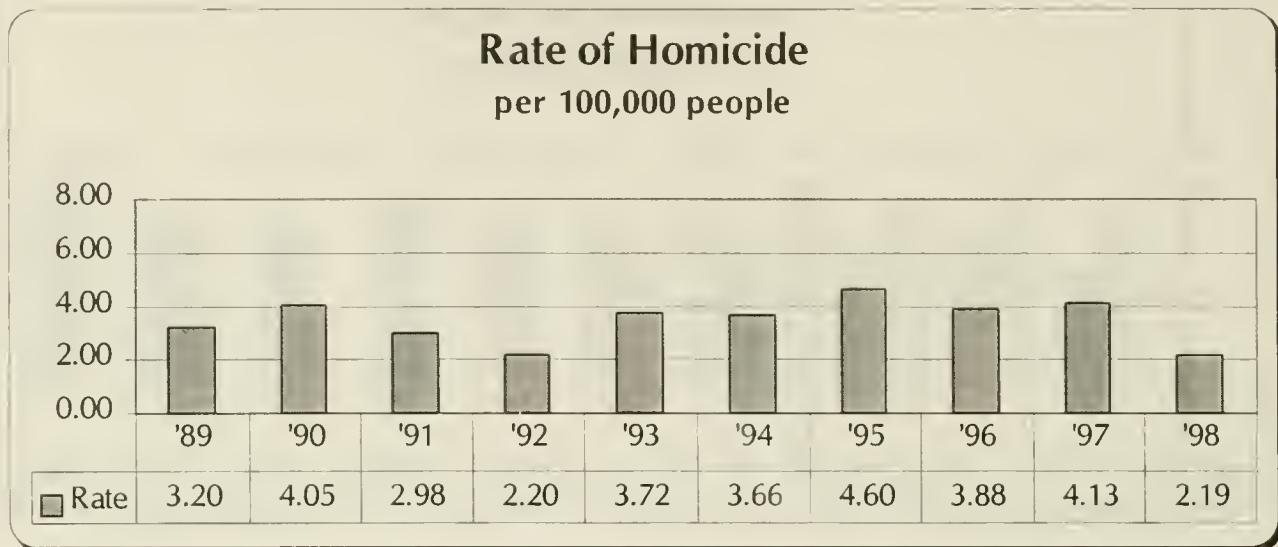
Of the other violent crimes, the rates for homicide and robbery were both down in 1998, while the crime rate for rape increased by 5.3%.

The rate of 224 violent crimes per 100,000 persons in 1998 is 25% higher than the average over the previous five years which was 178.6. The 1997 rate was 185.

The violent crime rate for the United States was two and a half times higher than that in Montana; the national violent crime total was 566 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Montana had an estimated 1,797 violent crimes committed during 1998. The Crime Clock records one violent crime every 4 hours, 52 minutes.

## 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.

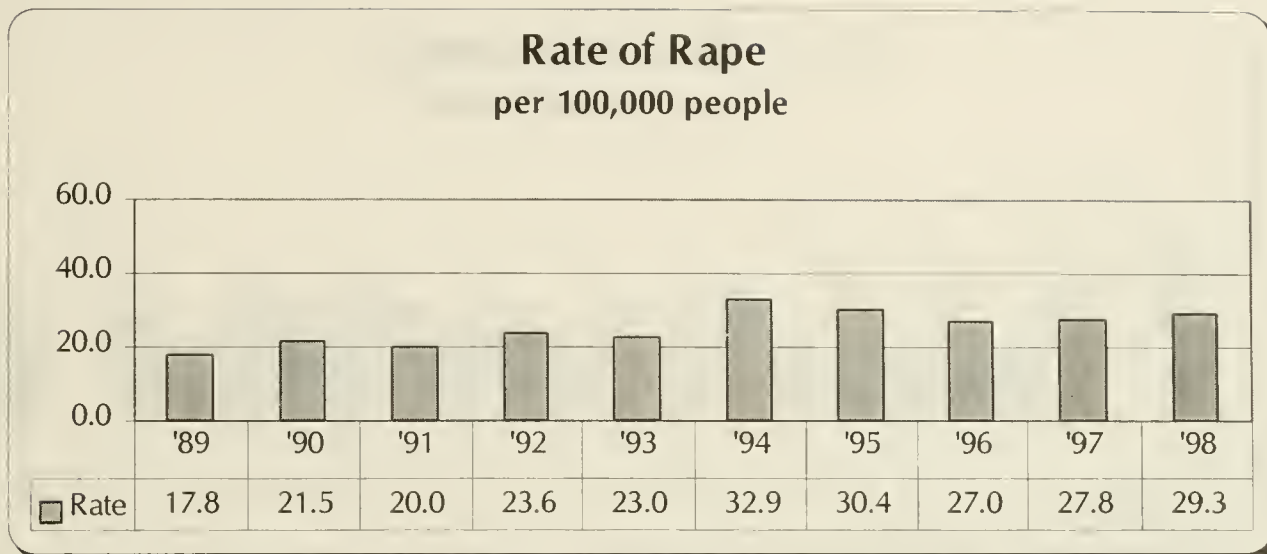
Local law enforcement agencies reported 2.19 homicides per 100,000 persons in 1998, which is nearly half, or 47.1% lower than the previous year's rate of 4.13. Montana being a fairly small state when measured by population, typically has a low number of homicides. For this reason, the fluctuation in these low numbers can seem quite substantial from year to year. The national rate for homicide in 1998 was 6.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.

The population number used in the calculation of the crime rate is adjusted to reflect the population of only the reporting agencies; however, it is difficult to know if there would be any change in the calculated rates if all agencies were participating in reporting.

Based on the homicide rate of all reporting agencies, it is estimated there were 18 homicides in Montana in 1998. The total number of homicides reported in 1997 was 34.

The Crime Clock shows one homicide committed every 20 days, 7 hours. Homicides accounted for only 1% of all violent crimes in 1998.

## 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.

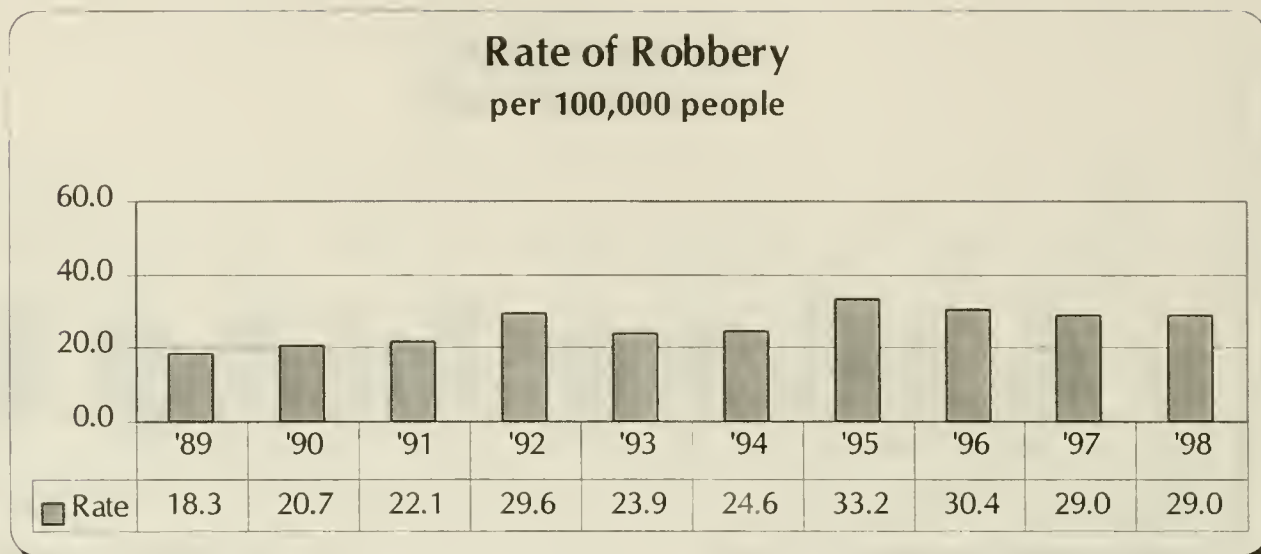
A rape was reported to law enforcement, on average, once every 37 hours, 17 minutes in 1998. The rate of reported rape when calculated per 100,000 inhabitants was 29.3, which is 5.3% higher than the 1997 rate of 27.8.

Based on the rate at which rape was reported to law enforcement agencies, there were an estimated 235 rapes in 1998, compared to 229 reported in 1997. Rapes made up 13% of the 1998 violent crimes.

Montana's rate of rape occurrence is 14.8% lower than the national rate of 34.4 rapes per 100,000 persons.



## ROBBERY



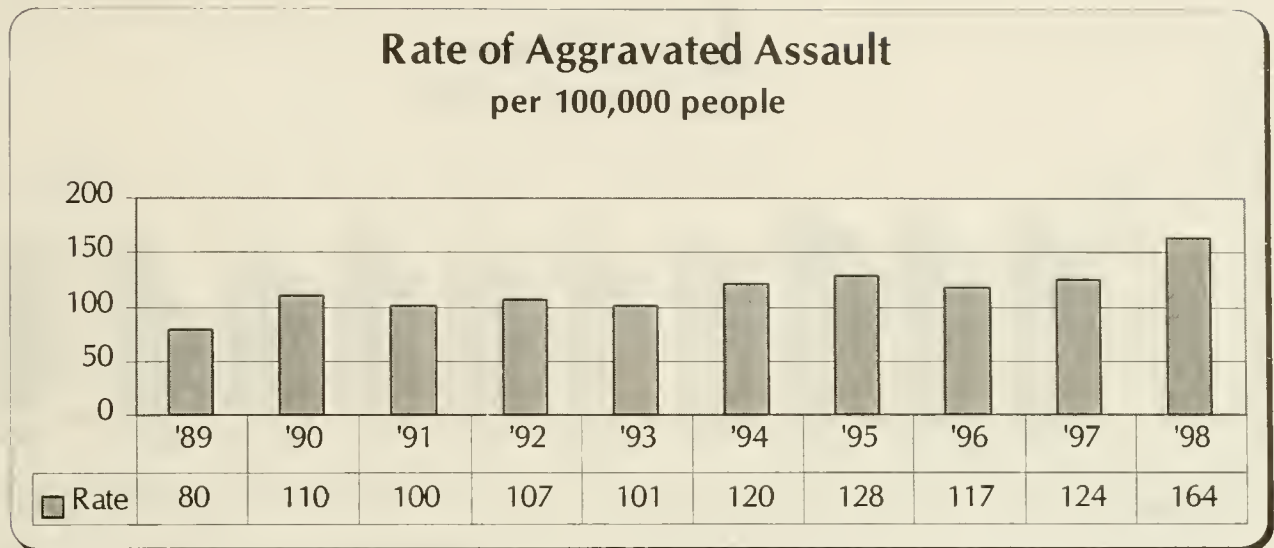
**Robbery** is the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or the threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a crime in which the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender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

During 1998, robberies were reported to law enforcement at a rate of 29 per 100,000 inhabitants. This rate is only 0.1% lower than the 1997 rate. In fact when rounded, both rates come out to be 29.0.

Based on the 1998 rate of 29.0 per 100,000, the estimated total number of reports to law enforcement was 232. When looking at the Crime Clock, robbery and rape are committed at nearly the same rate. The clock shows a robbery occurring every 37 hours, 46 minutes, compared to every 37 hours, 17 minutes for rape.

Robbery in Montana accounted for 13% of all violent crimes in 1998. Montana robbery is being reported 82% less often than the national rate of 165 robberies per 100,000 persons.

## 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.

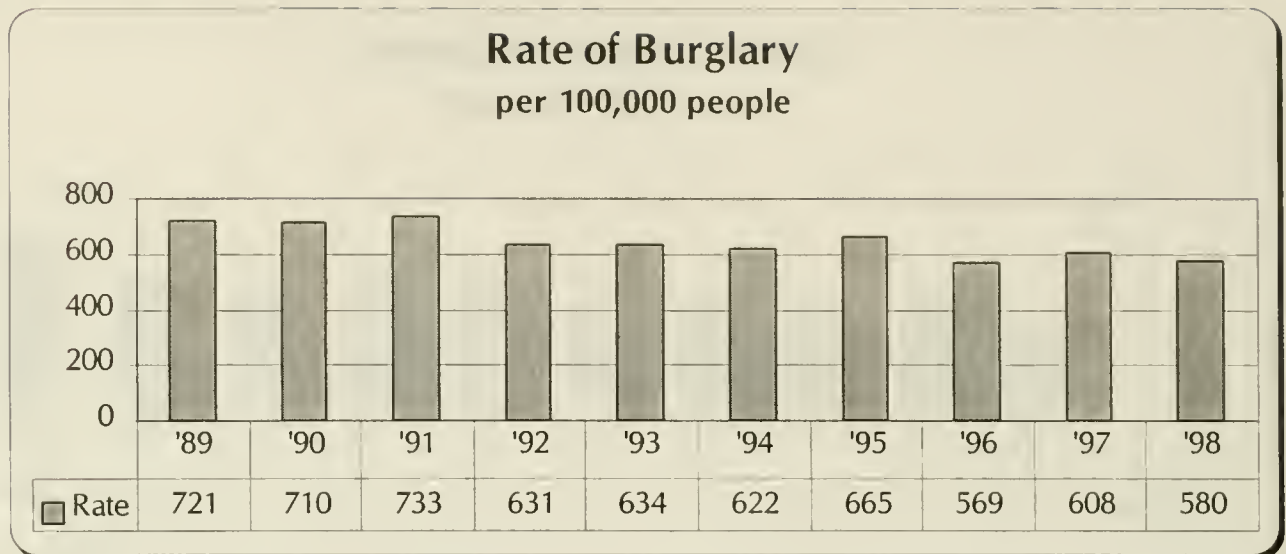
Aggravated assaults in 1998 were higher than any previous year on the 10-year chart above. The rate of 164 assaults per 100,000 inhabitants is 31.8% higher than the previous year's rate of 124.

Even though this is high for Montana, it is only 45% of the 1998 national rate of 360 aggravated assaults per 100,000 persons.

Aggravated assaults account for 73% of all violent crimes reported. The estimated statewide count of aggravated assaults, based on the crime rate of reporting agencies, is 1,312.

The Crime Clock shows the occurrence of an aggravated assault at once every 6 hours, 40 minutes.

## 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 1998 crime rate calculated for burglary was 580 incidents per 100,000 persons, which falls 4.7% lower than the 1997 rate of 608. The last three years have remained fairly stable after a considerable drop of 14.4% from 1995 to 1996. As can be seen in the chart above, the last three years have been lower than any of the previous seven years.

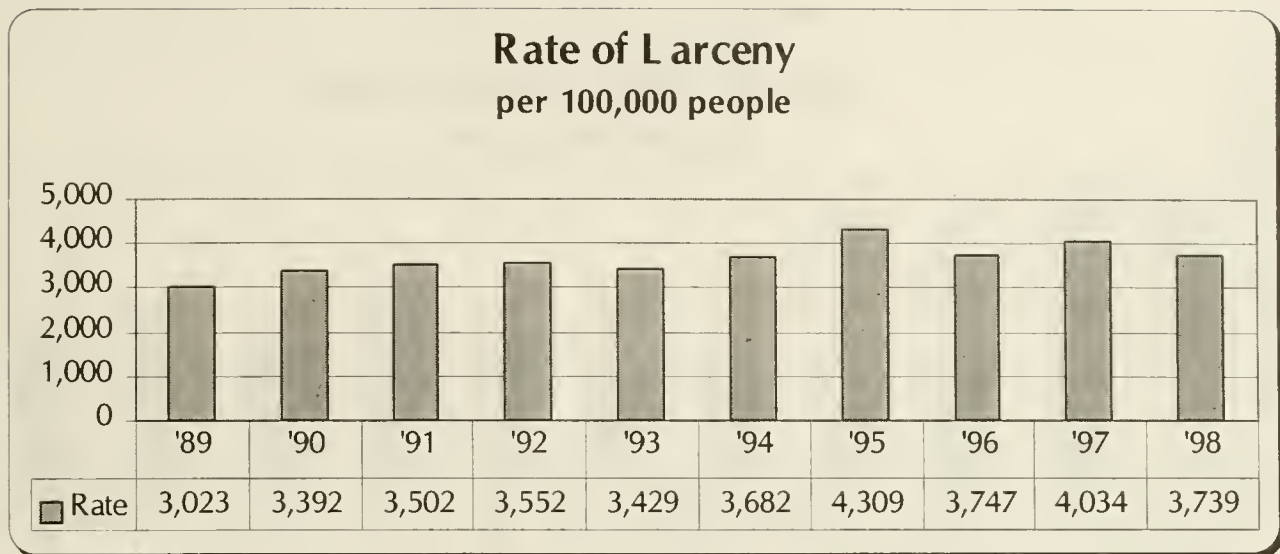
When using the combined crime rate of the 87 law enforcement agencies that reported in 1998, it is estimated there were 4,644 burglaries committed in 1998.

Property crimes are made up of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Law enforcement agencies reported a property crimes 4,575 times per 100,000 persons in 1998. Burglaries accounted for 12.7% of all property crimes.

Burglaries are reported in Montana an average of one every 1 hour, 53 minutes. The burglary rate of 580 is only 67% of the national rate of 862 per 100,000 persons.



## 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.*

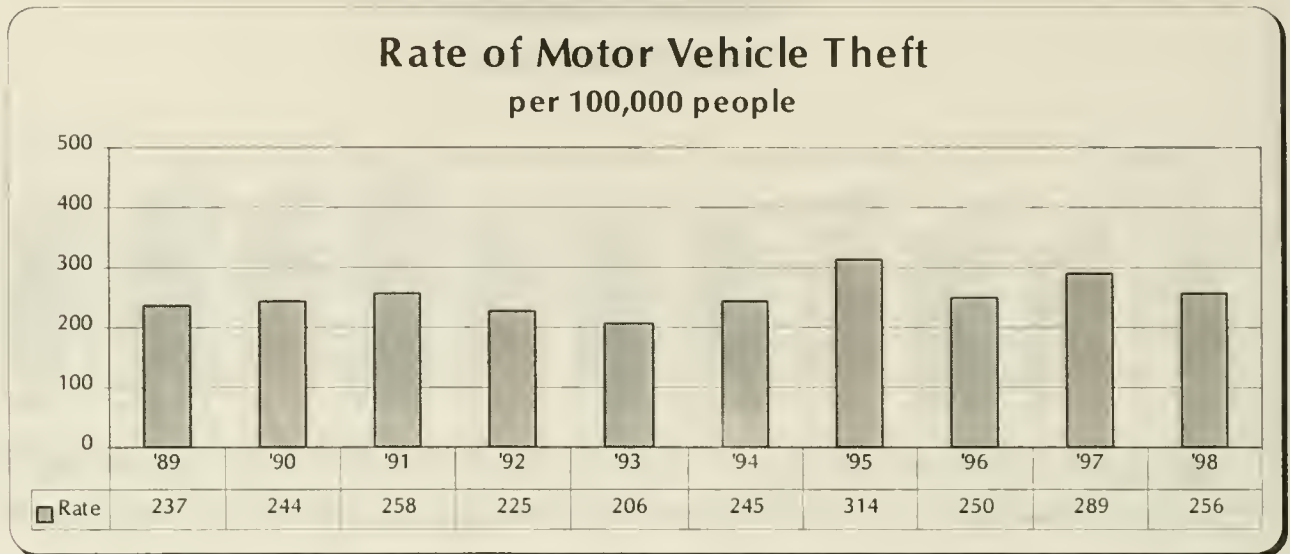
Larceny being the most common major crime, accounted for 80% of all index crimes in Montana during 1998. Since the larceny as a percentage of all index crimes is as high as it is, the incidence of larceny can often be an indicator of what overall crime rate is in the state. For example, in 1998 the larceny rate dropped by 7.3%, which is only 1.1% higher than the drop in the overall crime rate. the 1997 difference between the change in Larceny and the change in the overall crime rate was only 0.3%.

After a 7.8% increase in larceny from 1996 to 1997, the drop in the larceny rate in 1998 to 3,739 per 100,000 inhabitants, brings the rate back down to the 1996 level. There were an estimated 29,940 larcenies reported to law enforcement agencies in 1998.

Larceny is occurring 37% more often in Montana than at the national level. The national crime rate for larceny was 2,728.

In Montana larceny was reported to law enforcement every 17 minutes, 33 seconds.

## MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



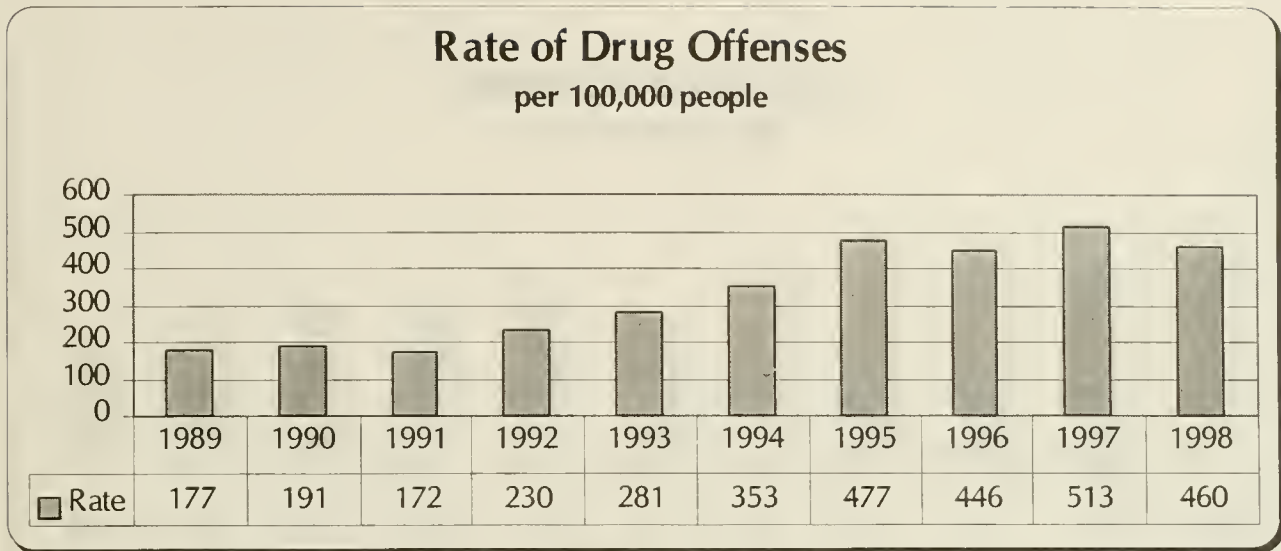
**Motor vehicle theft** is defined as the theft of or attempted theft of a vehicle which is self-propelled and runs on the surface and not on rails. It includes automobiles, trucks, buses, vans, motorcycles and snowmobiles. It does not include motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes and farming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

During 1998, motor vehicle thefts dropped by 5.6%. There were 256 motor vehicles stolen for every 100,000 people, while in 1997 the number was 289. An estimated 2,049 vehicles were stolen in 1998. Since 1993, motor vehicle theft has been increasing by an average of 13 incidents per year for every 100,000 persons.

Motor vehicle theft in Montana is only occurring 56% of the time that they occur at the national level. The national motor vehicle theft rate was 459 per 100,000 persons.

The Crime Clock shows a motor vehicle theft being reported every 4 hours, 17 minutes in Montana.

## DRUG OFFENSES



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

Drug offenses have begun to level out in the past four years. After steady increases between 1991 and 1995, the drug crime rate has been averaging 474 per 100,000 inhabitants from 1995 through 1998.

The rate of 460 in 1998 is 10.2% lower than the 1997 rate of 513, but only 3% lower than the average over the last four years. There were an estimated 2,049 drug offenses reported to police during 1998.

When drug offenses are entered into the Crime Clock, they are being reported every 2 hours, 22 minutes, or about ten drug offenses occurring every day in Montana.

## SEX OFFENSES



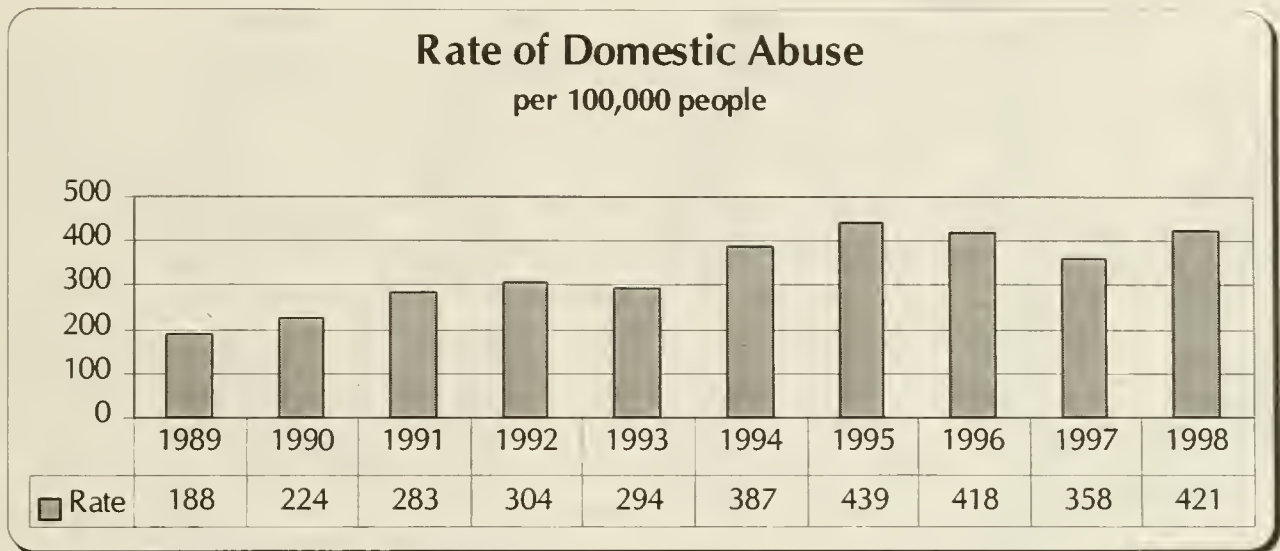
**Sex offenses** include offenses against chastity, common decency, morals and the like. Montana law lists four specific crimes: sexual assault, deviate sexual conduct, indecent exposure and incest. Excluded under this category are forcible rape, prostitution and commercial vice.

Reported sex offense counts remained stable between 1989 and 1994. Then in 1993 a gradual decline of reported incidents began. The chart above shows the 1998 rate as the lowest of the last ten years. The 1998 rate which takes into consideration the number of law enforcement agencies submitting data to the Board of Crime Control, was 123 per 100,000 people. This amounts to a 16.7% drop in sex offenses since 1997.

An estimated 3,687 sex offenses were committed in 1998; or a sex crime occurring every 8 hours, 55 minutes.



## 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.*

For record keeping purposes, domestic abuse offenses were broken out of all other assaults beginning in 1988. Since that time, the rate at which offenses were reported to police increased through 1995. After 1995 the rate began dropping in each of the following two years.

In 1998; however, the domestic abuse rate was 421 per 100,000 inhabitants, which is an increase of 17.6% over 1997.

It is estimated there were 3,375 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement in 1998.

A domestic abuse was reported, on average, every 2 hours, 36 minutes, or 9.2 occurrences per day in Montana.

**TABLE 2**  
**1997 AND 1998 COMPARISON**  
**OF MONTANA CRIME RATES BY OFFENSE**

Offense		1997 Rate *		1998 Rate *		Percent Change
Homicide		4.1		2.2		-46.8%
Rape		27.8		29.3		5.3%
Robbery		29.0		29.0		-0.1%
Aggravated Assault		124.3		163.9		31.8%
<b>Total Violent</b>		<b>185.3</b>		<b>224.4</b>		<b>21.1%</b>
Burglary		608.5		579.9		-4.7%
Larceny		4033.7		3738.8		-7.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft		289.2		255.8		-11.5%
<b>Total Property</b>		<b>4931.4</b>		<b>4574.5</b>		<b>-7.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL PART I</b>		<b>5116.7</b>		<b>4798.9</b>		<b>-6.2%</b>
Other Assaults	**	931.0		1063.4		14.2%
Domestic Abuse		358.4		459.4		28.2%
Arson		20.7		19.5		-5.4%
Forgery		204.6		166.5		-18.6%
Fraud		195.4		218.3		11.7%
Embezzlement		4.7		6.5		37.5%
Stolen Property		44.6		87.2		95.6%
Vandalism		1644.8		1547.9		-5.9%
Weapons		52.0		120.8		132.2%
Prostitution		1.6		9.1		473.3%
Sex Offenses		147.3		133.8		-9.2%
Narcotics		512.8		501.8		-2.1%
Gambling		0.4		0.6		74.3%
Offenses Against Family		163.6		142.5		-12.9%
DUI		463.8		540.4		16.5%
Liquor		549.2		532.0		-3.1%
Disorderly Conduct		752.6		1632.7		117.0%
Other Total	***	1668.5		1629.2		-2.4%
<b>TOTAL PART II</b>		<b>7357.5</b>		<b>8352.5</b>		<b>13.5%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>12474.2</b>		<b>13151.4</b>		<b>5.4%</b>

\* Rates are based on 100,000 population.

\*\* Other Assaults consist of assaults other than those considered aggravated. If a domestic abuse is considered aggravated it will be Reported as both aggravated and domestic.

\*\*\* Other Total includes trespass, escape, kidnap, curfew, runaway and other

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

**TABLE 3**  
**1998 PERCENTAGE OF OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST**  
**IN MONTANA**

Crime		Percent Cleared By Arrest
Homicide		58.3%
Rape		30.6%
Robbery		39.3%
Aggravated Assault		50.3%
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>		<b>46.7%</b>
Burglary		10.9%
Larceny		17.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft		19.9%
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>		<b>16.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL PART I CRIMES</b>		<b>18.1%</b>
Other Assaults	*	54.5%
Domestic Abuse		65.5%
Arson		34.5%
Forgery		20.7%
Fraud		22.8%
Embezzlement		20.5%
Stolen Property		16.4%
Vandalism		11.1%
Weapons		36.5%
Prostitution		50.0%
Sex Offenses		18.4%
Narcotics		81.0%
Gambling		0.0%
Offenses Against Family		20.2%
DUI		94.0%
Liquor Laws		89.5%
Disorderly Conduct		51.4%
All Other	**	34.8%
<b>TOTAL PART II CRIMES</b>		<b>43.6%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>33.7%</b>

\* Other Assaults consist of assaults other than those considered aggravated. If a domestic abuse is considered aggravated, it will be counted as aggravated and 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 4**  
**FREQUENCY (%) OF USE OF WEAPONS**  
**IN THE COMMISSION OF VIOLENT CRIMES**  
**IN MONTANA**  
**1998**

Weapon Type	Type of Crime					
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Total	
Firearm	44.4%	2.5%	35.2%	16.1%	18.0%	
Knife	11.1%	5.1%	5.6%	19.1%	15.8%	
Other Dangerous	33.3%	31.6%	12.0%	19.6%	19.7%	
Hands, Feet, Etc.	11.1%	60.8%	47.2%	45.2%	46.6%	
<b>Total Cases Involving Weapons</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>*</b>

\* Total cases involving weapons include only crimes, which were reported as involving weapons. Some incidents are reported, while the type of weapon involved in the incident was not reported to MBCC.

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

**TABLE 5**  
**County Crime Rate Combining Sheriff Office and Police Department**  
**Ranked by their 1998 Crime Rates\***

<b>County Totals</b>		<b>Rate Per 100,000</b>
1	Yellowstone County	** 7098
2	Glacier County	** 7051
3	Lake County	** 6874
4	Cascade County	6574
5	Hill County	6219
6	Missoula County	5617
7	Lewis & Clark County	** 5253
8	Custer County	4840
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>4799</b>
9	Musselshell County	4534
10	Park County	4502
11	Granite County	4364
12	Ravalli County	** 4363
13	Gallatin County	4361
14	Dawson County	3809
15	Lincoln County	** 3782
16	Flathead County	** 3691
17	Deer Lodge County	3068
18	Valley County	2565
19	Fergus County	2510
20	Toole County	2488
21	Phillips County	2403
22	Meagher County	2380
23	Sanders County	** 2320
24	Sheridan County	2209
25	Rosebud County	2113
26	Richland County	1990
27	Pondera County	** 1949
28	Carbon County	** 1899
29	Chouteau County	1889
30	Liberty County	1462
31	Sweet Grass County	1439
32	Blaine County	1439
33	Golden Valley County	1426
34	Madison County	1245
35	Roosevelt County	1230
36	Petroleum County	1156
37	Fallon County	1119
38	Powder River County	1047
39	Jefferson County	** 1031
40	Judith Basin County	733
41	Treasure County	714
42	Beaverhead County	** 552
43	Stillwater County	** 404
44	Daniels County	340
45	McCone County	196

\* 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 Office**  
**Ranked by their 1998 Crime Rates\***

<b>County Totals</b>		<b>Rate Per 100,000</b>
	<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>	<b>4799</b>
1	Musselshell County Sheriffs Office	4534
2	Granite County Sheriffs Office	4364
3	Lewis & Clark County Sheriffs Office	4245
4	Flathead County Sheriffs Office	3513
5	Yellowstone County Sheriffs Office	3419
6	Hill County Sheriffs Office	3300
7	Anaconda / Deer Lodge County	** 3068
8	Park County Sheriffs Office	2906
9	Gallatin County Sheriffs Office	2675
10	Cascade County Sheriffs Office	2632
11	Dawson County Sheriffs Office	2527
12	Toole County Department of Public Safety	** 2488
13	Custer County Sheriffs Office	2411
14	Phillips County Sheriffs Office	2403
15	Meagher County Sheriffs Office	2380
16	Missoula County Sheriffs Office	2341
17	Rosebud County Sheriffs Office	2113
18	Valley County Sheriffs Office	1756
19	Chouteau County Sheriffs Office	1572
20	Fergus County Sheriffs Office	1468
21	Liberty County Sheriffs Office	1462
22	Sweet Grass County Sheriffs Office	1439
23	Golden Valley County Sheriffs Office	1426
24	Madison County Sheriffs Office	1371
25	Carbon County Sheriffs Office	1318
26	Petroleum County Sheriffs Office	1156
27	Sheridan County Sheriffs Office	1097
28	Powder River County Sheriffs Office	1047
29	Fallon County Sheriffs Office	1035
30	Richland County Sheriffs Office	954
31	Jefferson County Sheriffs Office	854
32	Judith Basin County Sheriffs Office	733
33	Treasure County Sheriffs Office	714
34	Roosevelt County Sheriffs Office	684
35	Beaverhead County Sheriffs Office	552
36	Blaine County Sheriffs Office	509
37	Stillwater County Sheriffs Office	404
38	Daniels County Sheriffs Office	340
39	McCone County Sheriffs Office	153

\* 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.

\*\* 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 1998 Crime Rates\***

<b>Police Department Totals</b>		<b>Rate Per 100,000</b>
1	West Yellowstone Police Department	10120
2	Ronan Police Department	8586
3	Havre Police Department	8328
4	Billings Police Department	8232
5	Great Falls Police Department	8130
6	Missoula Police Department	7528
7	Hamilton Police Department	7360
8	Cut Bank Police Department	7051
9	Polson Police Department	6627
10	Livingston Police Department	6312
11	Helena Police Department	6102
12	Miles City Police Department	5738
13	Hot Springs Police Department	5544
14	Whitefish Police Department	5087
15	Glendive Police Department	5081
16	Bozeman Police Department	5016
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>		<b>4799</b>
17	St. Ignatius Police Department	4521
18	Belgrade Police Department	4200
19	Troy Police Department	4167
20	Belt Police Department	4110
21	Red Lodge Police Department	3810
22	Glasgow Police Department	3779
23	Plentywood Police Department	3544
24	Lewistown Police Department	3534
25	Harlem Police Department	3476
26	Eureka Police Department	3423
27	Anaconda / Deer Lodge County	** 3068
28	Sidney Police Department	3046
29	Wolf Point Police Department	2865
30	Chinook Police Department	2832
31	Fort Benton Police Department	2601
32	Manhattan Police Department	2566
33	Toole County Department of Public Safety	** 2488
34	Conrad Police Department	1949
35	Stevensville Police Department	1876
36	Boulder Police Department	1784
37	Bridger Police Department	1453
38	Thompson Falls Police Department	1349
39	Fairview Police Department	1188
40	Baker Police Department	1178
41	Three Forks Marshals Office	1129
42	Ennis Police Department	500
43	Joliet Police Department	489
44	Darby Police Department	470
45	Poplar Police Department	431
46	Circle Police Department	275
47	Pinesdale Police Department	102
48	Nashua Police Department	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.

\*\* 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 Sheriff Department Rankings (Table 6)

Source: MT Board of Crime Control



TABLE 8  
1998 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED  
By INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

Agency	1998 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle	Drug Offenses	Sex Offenses	Domestic Abuse
Beaverhead Cnty S.O.	4706	26	552	1	0	0	6	8	7	4	1	3	0
Dillon P.D.	*	4316	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Beaverhead Cnty Total	**	4706	26	552	1	0	6	8	7	4	1	3	0
Big Horn Cnty S.O.	*	12631	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Big Horn Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaine Cnty S.O.	4522	23	509	0	0	0	1	8	13	1	10	3	1
Chinook P.D.	1589	45	2832	0	0	0	3	9	30	3	3	0	7
Harlem P.D.	978	34	3476	0	0	0	3	9	22	0	6	1	4
Blaine Cnty Total	7089	102	1439	0	0	0	7	26	65	4	19	4	12
Broadwater Cnty S.O.	*	4088	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Broadwater Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carbon Cnty S.O.	5310	70	1318	0	0	0	1	26	40	3	2	1	13
Red Lodge P.D.	2257	86	3810	0	0	0	0	16	68	2	10	5	1
Bridger P.D.	826	12	1453	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	1	2	8
Fromberg Marshals Ofc.	*	430	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Joliet P.D.	613	3	489	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	4
Carbon Cnty Total	**	9006	171	1899	0	3	1	43	119	5	19	8	26
Carter Cnty S.O.	*	1072	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Ekalaka P.D.	*	433	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Carter Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cascade Cnty S.O.	21999	579	2632	1	5	4	27	67	438	37	65	21	48
Great Falls P.D.	56641	4605	8130	2	21	32	98	414	3835	203	0	0	0
Belt P.D.	584	24	4110	0	0	0	2	7	13	2	2	0	4
Cascade Cnty Total	79224	5208	6574	3	26	36	127	488	4286	242	67	21	52
Chouteau Cnty S.O.	3627	57	1572	0	0	0	2	16	29	10	8	4	6
Fort Benton P.D.	1615	42	2601	0	0	0	4	3	34	1	8	5	1
Chouteau Cnty Total	5242	99	1889	0	0	0	6	19	63	11	16	9	7

\* Agency did not report or had incomplete data.

\*\* 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.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

est = Estimated

unv = University Police

**1998 MAJOR CRIMES REPORTED  
By INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES**

Agency	1998 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle	Drug Offenses	Sex Offenses	Domestic Abuse
Custer Cnty S.O.	3276	79	2411	1	1	0	9	9	55	4	4	1	13
Miles City P.D.	8853	508	5738	1	3	2	44	74	368	16	7	14	61
<b>Custer Cnty Total</b>	<b>12129</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>4840</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>74</b>
Daniels Cnty S.O.	2059	7	340	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Daniels Cnty Total</b>	<b>2059</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Dawson Cnty S.O.	4512	114	2527	0	0	0	5	25	76	8	38	13	18
Glendive P.D.	4546	231	5081	0	2	0	5	34	184	6	19	11	27
<b>Dawson Cnty Total</b>	<b>9058</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>3809</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>
Anaconda / D.L. Cnty	10006	307	3068	0	0	1	12	45	224	25	43	19	42
<b>Deer Lodge Cnty Total</b>	<b>10006</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>3068</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>42</b>
Fallon Cnty S.O.	1256	13	1035	0	0	0	2	5	2	4	1	1	0
Baker P.D.	1782	21	1178	0	0	0	4	5	5	7	0	0	1
<b>Fallon Cnty Total</b>	<b>3038</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Fergus Cnty S.O.	6201	91	1468	1	0	0	2	23	57	8	27	1	13
Lewistown P.D.	6311	223	3534	1	0	0	9	16	189	8	31	8	36
<b>Fergus Cnty Total</b>	<b>12512</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>2510</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>
Flathead Cnty S.O.	46110	1620	3513	1	25	4	55	287	1158	90	234	53	157
Columbia Falls P.D.	* 3966	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
Whitefish P.D.	5858	298	5087	0	0	0	13	30	249	6	53	12	25
Kalispell P.D.	* 15855	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete									
<b>Flathead Cnty Total</b>	<b>51968</b>	<b>1918</b>	<b>3691</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>182</b>
Gallatin Cnty S.O.	23249	622	2675	0	4	0	18	117	431	52	188	39	12
Bozeman P.D.	29008	1455	5016	0	0	9	28	109	1233	76	272	58	63
Belgrade P.D.	4928	207	4200	0	0	1	13	26	155	12	19	10	29
Three Forks Marshals Ofc.	1506	17	1129	0	0	0	0	4	10	3	1	1	7
West Yellowstone P.D.	1087	110	10120	0	0	2	2	8	90	8	27	3	19
Manhattan P.D.	1403	36	2566	0	0	0	2	5	26	3	4	0	5
MSU Police	unv	n/a	n/a	0	2	0	1	2	209	7	18	6	0
<b>Gallatin Cnty Total</b>	<b>61181</b>	<b>2668</b>	<b>4361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>2154</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>135</b>

\* Agency did not report or had incomplete data.

\*\* Data is not available, incomplete, or estimated; crime rate is based on adjusted population.

\*\*\* Adjusted counts include estimated agency counts; exclude non-reporting agency populations.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

est = Estimated  
unv = University Police



TABLE 8  
1998 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED  
By INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

Agency	1998 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle	Drug Offenses	Sex Offenses	Domestic Abuse
Garfield Cnty S.O.	*	1446	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glacier Cnty S.O.	*	9184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cut Bank P.D.		3517	248	7051	0	0	8	25	196	19	0	3	63
Glacier Cnty Total	**	3517	248	7051	0	0	8	25	196	19	0	3	63
Golden Valley Cnty S.O.		1052	15	1426	0	0	0	1	13	1	6	2	0
Golden Valley Cnty Total		1052	15	1426	0	0	0	1	13	1	6	2	0
Granite Cnty S.O.		2635	115	4364	0	1	4	33	67	9	13	4	11
Granite Cnty Total		2635	115	4364	0	1	4	33	67	9	13	4	11
Hill Cnty S.O.		7363	243	3300	0	4	5	45	161	28	42	17	21
Havre P.D.		10195	849	8328	0	4	15	60	726	43	60	22	95
Hill Cnty Total		17558	1092	6219	0	8	20	105	887	71	102	39	116
Jefferson Cnty S.O.		6906	59	854	0	0	9	12	34	4	0	0	0
Boulder P.D.		1626	29	1784	0	0	2	2	24	1	0	0	0
Whitehall P.D.	*	1357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson Cnty Total	**	8532	88	1031	0	0	11	14	58	5	0	0	0
Judith Basin Cnty S.O.		2319	17	733	0	0	2	9	3	3	0	0	1
Judith Basin Cnty Total		2319	17	733	0	0	2	9	3	3	0	0	1
Lake Cnty S.O.	*	18140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polson P.D.		4391	291	6627	0	1	26	96	141	23	49	3	13
Ronan P.D.		1910	164	8586	0	0	12	32	109	10	32	0	13
St. Ignatius P.D.		929	42	4521	0	0	6	15	15	6	4	0	4
Lake County Total	**	7230	497	6874	0	1	44	143	265	39	85	3	30
Lewis & Clark Cnty S.O.		23582	1001	4245	0	16	52	156	705	72	83	51	116
Helena P.D.		28008	1709	6102	1	30	143	247	1181	90	218	67	267
East Helena P.D.	*	1722	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis & Clark Cnty Total	**	51590	2710	5253	1	46	195	403	1886	162	301	118	383
Liberty Cnty S.O.		2394	35	1462	0	0	1	11	19	4	0	0	3
Liberty Cnty Total		2394	35	1462	0	0	1	11	19	4	0	0	3

\* Agency did not report or had incomplete data.

\*\* 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.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

est = Estimated

unv = University Police



TABLE 8

**1998 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED  
By INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES**

Agency	1998 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle	Drug Offenses	Sex Offenses	Domestic Abuse
Lincoln Cnty S.O.	*	13946	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Libby	*	2705	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka P.D.		1110	38	3423	0	0	18	4	15	1	3	0	0
Troy P.D.		1032	43	4167	0	0	1	6	36	0	4	0	5
Lincoln Cnty Total	**	2142	81	3782	0	0	19	10	51	1	7	0	5
McCone Cnty S.O.		1310	2	153	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Circle P.D.		727	2	275	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
McCone Cnty Total		2037	4	196	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	2
Madison Cnty S.O.		5907	81	1371	0	0	2	16	61	2	19	4	14
Ennis P.D.		1000	5	500	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0
Madison Cnty Total		6907	86	1245	0	0	2	16	64	4	19	4	14
Meagher Cnty S.O.		1807	43	2380	0	0	9	8	23	3	4	2	8
Meagher Cnty Total		1807	43	2380	0	0	9	8	23	3	4	2	8
Mineral Cnty S.O.	*	3729	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missoula Cnty S.O.		37339	874	2341	1	16	5	27	123	662	40	0	112
Missoula P.D.		51580	3883	7528	0	26	39	118	406	3154	140	196	80
U of M Police	unv	n/a	238	n/a	0	0	0	1	16	219	2	94	0
Missoula Cnty Total		88919	4995	5617	1	42	44	146	545	4035	182	290	192
Musselshell Cnty S.O.		4610	209	4534	0	0	0	12	34	153	10	7	15
Musselshell Cnty Total		4610	209	4534	0	0	0	12	34	153	10	7	15
Park Cnty S.O.		8466	246	2906	1	2	6	11	61	141	24	31	19
Livingston P.D.		7462	471	6312	0	3	2	7	47	399	13	29	21
Park County Total		15928	717	4502	1	5	8	18	108	540	37	60	40
Petroleum Cnty S.O.		519	6	1156	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0
Petroleum Cnty Total		519	6	1156	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0
Phillips Cnty S.O.		4910	118	2403	0	0	0	2	24	86	6	6	18
Phillips Cnty Total		4910	118	2403	0	0	0	2	24	86	6	6	18

\* Agency did not report or had incomplete data.

\*\* 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.

Source: MT Board of Crime Control

est = Estimated

unv = University Police

TABLE 8  
1998 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED  
By INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

Agency	1998 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle	Drug Offenses	Sex Offenses	Domestic Abuse
Pondera Cnty S.O.	*	3514	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete								
Conrad P.D.		2924	57	1949	0	0	1	5	48	3	5	0	3
Pondera Cnty Total	**	2924	57	1949	0	0	1	5	48	3	5	0	3
Powder River Cnty S.O.		1911	20	1047	0	0	3	2	15	0	11	0	0
Powder River Cnty Total		1911	20	1047	0	0	3	2	15	0	11	0	0
Powell Cnty	*	7080	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete								
Powell Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Cnty S.O.	*	1337	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete								
Prairie Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ravalli Cnty S.O.	*	26548	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete								
Hamilton P.D.		4185	308	7360	0	0	10	16	267	15	11	4	12
Stevensville P.D.		2026	38	1876	0	1	2	7	28	0	8	0	3
Darby P.D.		851	4	470	0	0	3	1	0	0	7	0	6
Pinesdale P.D.		983	1	102	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ravalli Cnty Total	**	8045	351	4363	0	1	15	24	295	15	26	6	21
Richland Cnty S.O.		4403	42	954	0	0	2	15	22	3	3	4	10
Sidney P.D.		4958	151	3046	0	2	3	8	133	5	15	15	14
Fairview P.D.		842	10	1188	0	0	0	9	0	1	16	0	4
Richland Cnty Total		10203	203	1990	0	2	5	32	155	9	34	19	28
Roosevelt Cnty S.O.		7310	50	684	0	1	6	16	25	2	7	0	4
Poplar P.D.		927	4	431	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	10
Wolf Point P.D.		2897	83	2865	0	0	36	17	19	11	0	3	19
Roosevelt Cnty Total		11134	137	1230	0	2	42	33	47	13	9	3	33
Rosebud Cnty S.O.		10221	216	2113	1	2	15	20	160	18	28	7	25
Rosebud Cnty Total		10221	216	2113	1	2	15	20	160	18	28	7	25
Sanders Cnty S.O.	*	7025	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete								
Hot Springs P.D.		469	26	5544	0	0	5	5	15	1	6	0	1
Thompson Falls P.D.		1557	21	1349	0	0	6	5	6	4	4	1	1
Plains P.D.	*	1214	0	0	Did Not Report or data was incomplete								
Sanders Cnty Total	**	2026	47	2320	0	0	11	10	21	5	10	1	2
Sheridan Cnty S.O.		2371	26	1097	0	0	2	5	17	2	1	1	0
Plentywood P.D.		1975	70	3544	0	0	0	8	60	2	2	2	3
Sheridan Cnty Total		4346	96	2209	0	0	2	13	77	4	3	3	3

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TABLE 8

1998 MAJOR OFFENSES REPORTED  
By INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES

Agency	1998 Population	Crime Index	Crime Rate	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle	Drug Offenses	Sex Offenses	Domestic Abuse
Butte / Silver Bow	*	34480	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silver Bow Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stillwater Cnty S.O.		5947	24	404	0	0	0	21	0	3	8	0	13
Columbus P.D.	*	1897	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stillwater Cnty Total	**	5947	24	404	0	0	0	21	0	3	8	0	13
Sweet Grass Cnty S.O.		3404	49	1439	0	0	3	10	31	5	4	0	5
Sweet Grass Cnty Total		3404	49	1439	0	0	3	10	31	5	4	0	5
Teton Cnty S.O.	*	4554	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Choteau P.D.	*	1793	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teton Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toole Cnty		4823	120	2488	0	2	1	23	70	3	158	6	18
Toole Cnty Total		4823	120	2488	0	2	1	23	70	3	158	6	18
Treasure Cnty S.O.		840	6	714	0	0	0	4	0	2	21	1	0
Treasure Cnty Total		840	6	714	0	0	0	4	0	2	21	1	0
Valley Cnty S.O.		4271	75	1756	0	1	0	12	56	5	1	2	11
Glasgow P.D.		3652	138	3779	0	1	0	8	118	8	13	6	20
Fort Peck P.D.		Included with Valley Co.											
Nashua P.D.		381	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Cnty Total		8304	213	2565	0	2	0	20	174	13	14	8	31
Wheatland Cnty S.O.	*	2336	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatland Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wibaux Cnty S.O.	*	1107	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wibaux Cnty Total	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowstone Cnty S.O.		28283	967	3419	1	0	4	33	167	80	250	23	141
Billings P.D.		91715	7550	8232	1	22	59	101	694	415	569	139	933
Laurel P.D.	*	6145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowstone Cnty Total	**	119998	8517	7098	2	22	63	134	861	495	819	162	141
STATE TOTAL	***	685950	32918	4799	15	201	199	1124	3978	25646	1755	3158	842
													2891

\* Agency did not report or had incomplete data.

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

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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.

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.

The 1998 juvenile crime data has been drawn exclusively from the CAPS system unlike the 1997 data which was a combination of both CAPS and JPIS. It seems that anytime a new record system is put in place there are some end result statistical differences. This is probably due, in part, to the "learning curve" required in the enhanced record management system. Thus, a lag time in reaching 100% participation in the entire system. Caution has to be used in trend analysis based on the changing systems.

Similar changes took place in 1993 and one of the examples given last year was that prior to 1993 there had 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. 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. The new record system in 1998 shows 8,687, which is a substantial decrease in juveniles involved in this process. Therefore, care needs to be taken when comparing data from one year to another.

Based on these multiple improved reporting systems the data analysis that follows will be aimed primarily at 1994 through 1998. 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:

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Youth	8,803	9,851	9,756	9,359	8,687

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, 69.9% in 1997, and 83.3% in 1998. Almost thirteen percent (12.8%) had two referrals, and four percent (3.9%) had three or more referrals during 1998. The multiple referral rate is a substantially less than last year, and is a major shift from the trends for 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:

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Referrals	14,505	16,656	13,695	17,115	15,753

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:

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Offenses	16,813	17,605	18,863	20,020	19,187

## Referrals by Age and Gender

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.

**TABLE 9**  
**PERCENTAGE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY AGE AND GENDER**

<b>Female</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Less than 10	2.53%	2.14%	1.54%	1.22%	1.26%
10-12	5.66%	7.89%	9.53%	7.31%	10.29%
13-14	20.79%	26.31%	33.36%	26.30%	32.73%
15	21.26%	21.65%	21.37%	27.70%	25.07%
16	21.95%	23.12%	19.88%	22.17%	18.87%
17	18.04%	18.90%	14.33%	15.80%	11.77%

<b>Male</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Less than 10	2.35%	3.23%	2.79%	1.82%	2.81%
10-12	10.21%	11.39%	10.99%	9.35%	12.37%
13-14	21.25%	25.25%	28.62%	24.17%	27.16%
15	17.21%	18.47%	20.69%	20.53%	19.91%
16	18.34%	20.12%	19.21%	23.80%	21.48%
17	20.04%	21.54%	17.71%	20.35%	16.28%

## 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 five years.

**TABLE 10**

	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Caucasian	81.5%	84.1%	83.19%	80.77%	82.47%
Black	0.8%	1.2%	0.66%	0.92%	0.79%
Indian	15.1%	13.2%	14.45%	16.39%	14.38%
Spanish	1.5%	1.2%	1.11%	0.88%	1.98%
Other	1.2%	0.3%	0.59%	0.50%	.38%

## Source of Referral

Law enforcement authorities are the primary referral source for delinquent youth in Montana. In 1998, 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 1,955 crimes against persons in 1998.
2. *Property crimes* include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, vandalism, receiving and possessing stolen property, and trespassing. Montana youth were charged with 7,607 property crimes during 1998.
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 1,260 in 1998.
4. *Offenses against public administration* include false reports to law enforcement, obstructing justice, resisting arrest, and others. In 1998, Montana youth were charged 1,307 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 4,936 status offenses in Montana in 1998.
6. *Drug offenses*. There were 1,415 reported offenses listed for substance abuse in Montana during 1998.

As indicated above, most juvenile referrals in Montana are primarily for property crimes (39.65%) or for status offenses (25.73%). Referrals against public order accounted for 6.57%, public administration for 6.81%, and crimes against persons for 10.19%. Drug offenses were involved only 7.37% of the time.

## **Referral Offenses**

The ten most frequent types of specific delinquent offenses that result in a referral to youth court accounted for 65-66% of all the charges made in 1998.

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 18.8% of the male offenses and 18.3% of the female offenses. The most common crime against person is simple assault. It accounts for 9.2% of the male referrals and 7.7% of the female referrals.

The 1998 statistics show that 1,079 drug offenses were committed by males. Females were charged with 336 drug offenses during the same time period.

## **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 11**  
**1998 SUMMARY OF**  
**JUVENILE OFFENSES**

REASON FOR REFERRAL	NUMBER OF OFFENSES	PERCENT
<b><u>STATUS OFFENSES</u></b>		
Liquor violations	1,452	7.57
Ungovernable, truancy	1,395	7.27
Runaway	1,147	5.98
Curfew	650	3.39
Tobacco	259	1.35
Other	33	0.17
<b>Total Status</b>	<b>4,936</b>	<b>25.73</b>
<b><u>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</u></b>		
Homicide	4	0.02
Rape	35	0.18
Robbery	34	0.18
Aggravated Assault	137	0.71
Simple Assault	1,587	8.27
Other	158	0.82
<b>Total Offenses Against Persons</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>10.19</b>
<b><u>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</u></b>		
Burglary	592	3.09
Larceny	4,063	21.18
Arson	107	0.56
Vandalism	1,582	8.25
Trespassing	843	4.39
Motor Vehicle Theft	269	1.40
Other Property	151	0.79
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>7,607</b>	<b>39.65</b>
<b><u>OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</u></b>		
Obstructing	543	2.83
Resisting	81	0.42
Other	683	3.56
<b>Total Public Administration</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>6.81</b>
<b><u>OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER</u></b>		
Weapons	121	0.63
Disorderly Conduct	1,055	5.50
Other	84	0.44
<b>Total Public Order</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>6.57</b>
<b><u>DRUG OFFENSES</u></b>		
Drug offenses	755	3.93
Drug Paraphernalia	660	3.44
<b>Total Drug Offenses</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>7.37</b>
<b><u>OTHER OFFENSES</u></b>		
Traffic, City, Conspiracy, etc.	707	3.68
<b>Total Other Offenses</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>3.68</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>19,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**TABLE 12**  
**1998 SUMMARY OF**  
**JUVENILE REFERRALS**  
**(STATUS VS DELINQUENT CASES)**

REASON FOR REFERRAL	NUMBER OF CASES	PERCENT
STATUS OFFENSES	4,936	25.7%
DELINQUENT OFFENSES	14,251	74.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,187</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**TABLE 13**  
**COMPARISON OF JUVENILE OFFENSES**  
**IN MONTANA**  
**(1994 - 1998)**

OFFENSE	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Crimes Against Persons	12.73%	13.20%	13.63%	14.66%	10.19%
Crimes Against Property	40.29%	40.27%	38.33%	36.68%	39.65%
Crimes Against Public Order	6.14%	7.31%	6.19%	6.31%	6.57%
Crimes Against Public Admin.	4.89%	5.67%	6.08%	8.09%	6.81%
Drug Offenses	4.91%	5.42%	6.85%	6.69%	7.37%
Status Offenses	21.99%	20.64%	21.90%	22.01%	25.73%
Other	9.05%	7.49%	7.02%	5.56%	3.68%







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