

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Arizona Property Crime Trends, CY2000-2009 Fact Sheet



Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a valuable tool for analyzing crime totals and rates by state and across the country. According to the FBI, the U.S. property crime rate, as measured by three property index offenses, has decreased by 16.1 percent from calendar years (CY) 2000 through 2009. This fact sheet addresses crime rate trends for

three property offenses: burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson offense rates are not available for Arizona, but arrest and conviction data for arson in Arizona are included in Table 2 and Chart 4. Data for the UCR program come from local police agencies across Arizona and the nation. The information in this brief comes from the UCR annual reports published by the FBI.

Property Crime Index Offenses Reported to Police

The property index offense rates for both Arizona and the United States decreased from CY2000 to CY2009 (Chart 1). In Arizona, the rate of property crimes reported to law enforcement per 100,000 residents reached a high of 5,833.4 for this period in CY2002. After CY2002, the property crime rate in Arizona steadily fell to a 10-year low of 3,556.5 incidents reported in CY2009. The national rate also reached a 10-year low in CY2009 at 3,036.1 property crimes reported per 100,000 U.S. residents.

Although Arizona's property crime rate remains higher than the U.S. rate, Arizona's rate decreased more rapidly than the U.S. rate from CY2000 to CY2009. The property crime rate in Arizona dropped 32.9 percent compared to 16.1 percent for the U.S. rate during the 10-year period.

Chart 1. Reported Property Index Offense Rates
CY2000-2009

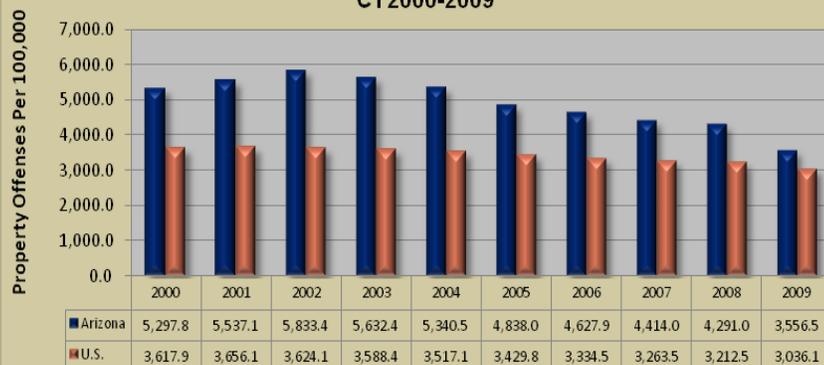


Chart 2. Reported Burglary Rates
CY2000-2009



Burglaries Reported to Police

According to UCR data, from CY2000 to CY2009 the rate of burglaries reported to law enforcement per 100,000 residents decreased more noticeably in Arizona than nationally (Chart 2). After increasing from 1,011.6 burglaries per 100,000 residents in CY2000 to 1,082.9 in CY2002, the reported burglary rate in Arizona steadily fell to a low during this time period of 809.8 in CY2009. The U.S. reported burglary rate remained mostly steady ranging from 746.2 to 716.3 burglaries reported per 100,000 residents over the 10-year period. From CY2000 to CY2009, Arizona's burglary rate dropped 19.9 percent while the U.S. burglary rate fell only 1.7 percent.

Chart 3. Reported Larceny-Theft Rates
CY2000-2009



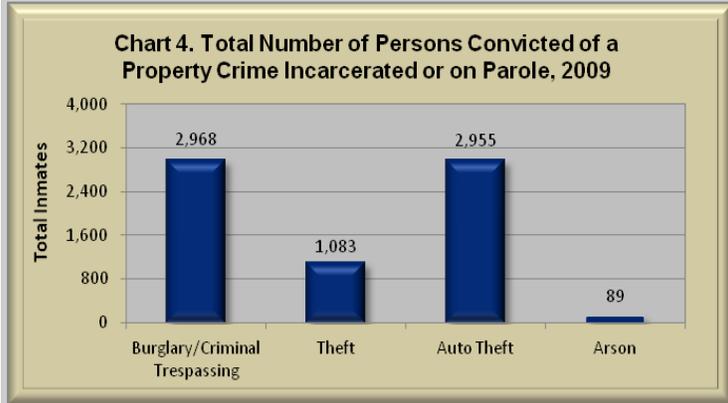
Larceny-Thefts Reported to Police

The rate of larcenies-thefts reported to the police in Arizona also declined from CY2000 to CY2009 (Chart 3). In CY2000, the rate of larcenies-thefts reported to the police in Arizona was 3,444.1 per 100,000 residents and rose to a high during the decade of 3,693.6 in CY2002. With the exception of a single year increase in CY2008, the Arizona larceny-theft rate consistently decreased from the reported level in CY2002 to 2,352.8 by CY2009. Overall, the Arizona reported larceny-theft rate dropped 31.7 percent over the 10-year period.

The U.S. reported larceny-theft rate also fell from CY2000 to CY2009. In CY2000, the larceny-theft rate in the U.S. was 2,475.3 per 100,000 residents, dropping to 2,060.9 in CY2009, a 16.7 percent decrease.

Offenders Imprisoned for Property Crimes

According to the Arizona Department of Corrections, the total number of inmates imprisoned for burglary (including criminal trespassing), theft, auto theft, and arson in Arizona as of December 31, 2009 was 7,095 (Chart 4). The number of Arizona inmates imprisoned for these property crimes constituted 17.5 percent of the total number of inmates in state prisons on this date. Of the 7,095 inmates, 41.8 percent (2,968) were incarcerated for burglary and criminal trespassing charges, 15.3 percent (1,083) were imprisoned on theft charges, 41.6 percent (2,955) were incarcerated after being convicted of auto theft, and 1.3 percent (89) were incarcerated for arson.



The data in Chart 4 provide state-level numbers for prison inmates by presenting property offense. It is important to note that the ADC offense categories do not necessarily match the offense categories found in the UCR data. For instance, the Arizona Department of Corrections data include burglary and criminal trespassing in the same offense category. Additionally, it is unclear as to whether auto theft, as defined by the Arizona Department of Corrections, incorporates the same vehicle types as motor vehicle thefts, as defined by the UCR. The UCR definition includes "sport utility vehicles, automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles," among other vehicles.¹

¹ Crime in the United States, 2009. 2010. U.S. Department of Justice-Federal Bureau of Investigation. 2 February 2011 <<http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/index.html>>.

vehicle theft fell by 47.8 percent from CY2000 to CY2009, despite having risen to a high of 5,262 arrests in CY2003. Arrests for arson also decreased over the 10-year period by 15.6 percent. Notably, a total of 1,348 arson arrests took place in CY2001, a much higher total than the 289 or fewer recorded during other years.

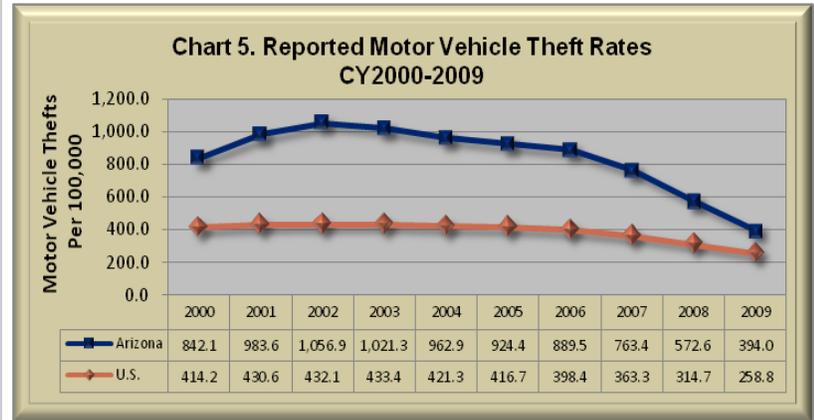
Not only did the rate of reported property index offenses fall, but the total number of property offenses reported to law enforcement

Table 2. Number of Property Crime Arrests in Arizona CY2000-2009

	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2000	4,390	29,041	3,658	270
2001	4,614	28,267	4,351	1,348
2002	4,903	29,643	5,055	259
2003	5,198	29,615	5,262	230
2004	5,179	31,272	5,180	263
2005	4,636	28,513	5,062	287
2006	4,629	25,846	4,538	288
2007	4,681	30,342	3,924	289
2008	5,086	33,963	2,593	262
2009	4,547	37,430	1,911	228

Motor Vehicle Thefts Reported to Police

From CY2000 to CY2009, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate fell significantly (Chart 5). The state's rate of motor vehicle thefts reported to law enforcement in CY2000 was 842.1 thefts per 100,000 residents and increased to 1,056.9 in CY2002. After CY2002, the Arizona rate declined steadily reaching a decade low in CY2009 of 394.0 motor vehicle thefts reported per 100,000 residents. Over the 10-year period, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate decreased 53.2 percent. Despite the large decrease, Arizona's motor vehicle theft rate is still above the national rate.



Although the national motor vehicle theft rate also decreased from CY2000 to CY2009, the reduction nationally was not as large as the reduction in Arizona. From CY2000 to CY2009, the U.S. rate dropped from 414.2 to 258.8, a 37.5 percent reduction over the 10-year period.

Total Property Crimes and Arrests Reported by Police

According to UCR data, the total number of arrests for burglary and larceny-theft in Arizona has increased from CY2000 to CY2009 while the number of arrests for motor vehicle theft and arson has decreased (Table 2). Burglary arrests rose 3.6 percent over the 10-year period. Arrests for larceny-theft increased more noticeably over the period at 28.9 percent. Meanwhile, arrests for motor

Table 1. Number of Property Crimes Reported, CY2008-2009

	2008	2009
Burglary	56,481	53,412
Larceny-Theft	185,221	155,184
Motor Vehicle Theft	37,218	25,986

vehicle theft fell by 47.8 percent from CY2000 to CY2009, despite having risen to a high of 5,262 arrests in CY2003. Arrests for arson also decreased over the 10-year period by 15.6 percent. Notably, a total of 1,348 arson arrests took place in CY2001, a much higher total than the 289 or fewer recorded during other years.

not only did the rate of reported property index offenses fall, but the total number of property offenses reported to law enforcement also declined from CY2008 to CY2009 (Table 1). The total number of burglaries reported in CY2009 was 5.4 percent lower than the total number reported in CY2008. Larcenies-thefts fell by 16.2 percent from CY2008 to CY2009 while the total number of motor vehicle thefts decreased by more than 30 percent. Overall, there was a 15.9 percent decrease in reported property crimes from CY2008 to CY2009.

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