

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Arizona Property Crime Trends, CY2002-2011 Data Brief



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

February 2013

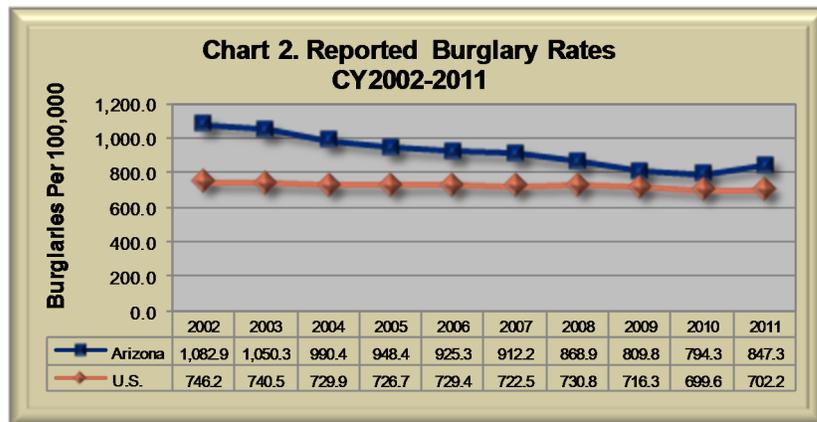
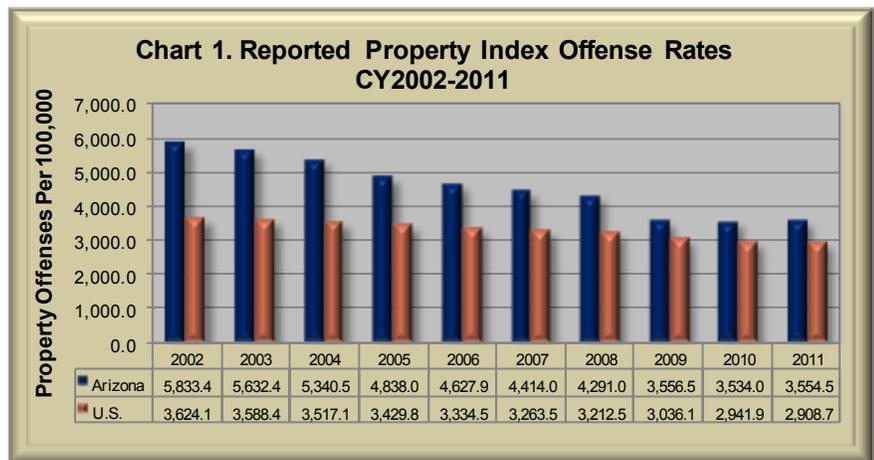
The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a valuable tool for analyzing the frequency and rate of crime in Arizona and across the country. According to the FBI, the U.S. property crime rate, as measured by three property index offenses (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft), has decreased from calendar years (CY) 2002 through 2011. This data

brief looks more closely at the trends over time in Arizona for the three property index offenses. Although arson is often included in national data, arson offense rates are not available for Arizona. Instead, data on the U.S. arson offense rate and arrests for arson in Arizona are provided. The data used in this brief were submitted to the FBI's UCR program by local police agencies across Arizona and the nation and was published by the FBI in their UCR program report titled *Crime in the United States*.

Property Crime Index Offenses Reported to Police

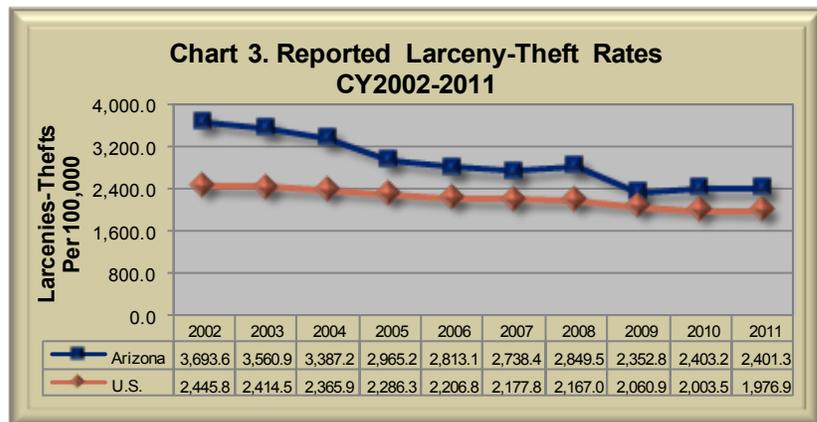
The property index offense rates for both Arizona and the United States decreased from CY2002 to CY2011 (Chart 1). In Arizona, the rate of property crimes reported to law enforcement per 100,000 residents fell from a high of 5,833.4 in CY2002 to a ten-year low of 3,534.0 in CY2010. In CY2011, the property crime rate in Arizona increased slightly to 3,554.5. The national rate also decreased from CY2002 to CY2010; however, the decrease at the national level was not as large as was realized in Arizona.

Although Arizona's property crime rate remains higher than the U.S. rate, Arizona's rate dropped 39.1 percent from CY2002 to CY2011 compared to 19.7 percent for the U.S. rate during the same 10-year period.



Burglary Offenses Reported to Police

According to UCR data, from CY2002 to CY2011 the Arizona rate of burglaries reported to law enforcement per 100,000 residents decreased from 1,082.9 to 847.3 (Chart 2). Despite seeing consistent decreases in the Arizona burglary offense rate from CY2002 to CY2010, the Arizona burglary rate increased from CY2010 to CY2011. The U.S. burglary rate remained mostly steady ranging from 746.2 burglaries reported per 100,000 residents in CY2002 to 699.6 in CY2010. From CY2002 to CY2011, Arizona's burglary rate dropped 21.8 percent while the U.S. burglary rate fell only 5.9 percent during that same time.



Larceny-Theft Offenses Reported to Police

The rate of larcenies-thefts reported to the police in Arizona also declined from CY2002 to CY2011 (Chart 3). In CY2002, the rate of larcenies-thefts reported to the police in Arizona was 3,693.6 per 100,000 residents and consistently decreased through CY2007. After a single year increase in the larceny-theft offense rate in CY2008, the Arizona rate continued to decline to a low of 2,352.8 during the time period examined. After CY2009, the rate rose and leveled out at 2,401.3 in CY2011. Overall, the Arizona larceny-theft rate dropped 35.0 percent over the 10-year period during which the U.S. larceny-theft rate fell by 19.2 percent. Despite the decrease in Arizona's larceny-theft offense rate, Arizona's rate continues to be higher than the rate nationally.

U.S. Arson Offenses Reported to Police

Included in the UCR data collection effort as a property crime, the arson offense rate is reported in *Crime in the United States* at the national level, but not at the state level. The FBI cites the variation in the reporting of arson offenses across agencies as the reason for excluding arson as part of the property crime index. The data in Chart 4 shows that the arson offense rate throughout the U.S. declined from CY2002

**Chart 4. Reported Arson Rates
CY2002-2011**



to CY2011. During this time period, the arson offense rate fell by approximately 44 percent, from 32.4 arson offenses reported to law enforcement per 100,000 U.S. residents in CY2002 to 18.2 offenses per 100,000 in CY2011.

Total Arizona Property Crimes and Arrests

The number of property crime index offenses that are reported to the police decreased from CY2002 to CY2011 (Chart 6). The number of burglaries reported to the police in Arizona dropped by seven percent from 59,087 offenses in CY2002 to 54,929 in CY2011. The number of larceny-thefts fell from 201,541 to 155,664, which represents a decrease of roughly 23 percent during the same time period. The greatest percentage decrease in the number of property offenses reported to the police was for motor vehicle thefts, which decreased from 57,668 offenses in CY2002 to 19,829 in CY2011 (65.6 percent).

According to state arrest trends for property crimes, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson arrests declined while larceny-theft arrests increased from CY2002 to CY2011 (Table 1). Burglary arrests fell from 4,903 in CY2002 to 4,615 in CY2011. Arson arrests also dropped from 259 to 239 over this ten-year period. Motor vehicle theft arrests fell from 5,055 in CY2002 to 1,402 in CY2011, a 72.3 percent decrease. Larceny-theft was the only property index offense where arrests increased, from 29,643 in CY2002 to 33,888 in CY2011.

**Table 1. Number of Property Crime Arrests
in Arizona, CY2002-2011**

	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
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
2010	4,185	32,822	1,411	198
2011	4,615	33,888	1,402	239

Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses Reported to Police

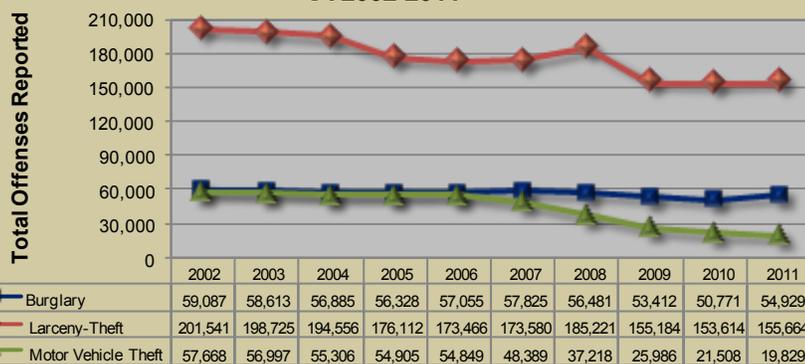
From CY2002 to CY2011, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate fell by more than 70 percent (Chart 5). The state's rate of motor vehicle thefts reported to law enforcement in CY2002 was 1,056.9 thefts per 100,000 residents and decreased to 305.9 in CY2011. During the same time period, the national motor vehicle theft rate also decreased from 432.1 per 100,000 in CY2002 to 229.6 in CY2011.

**Chart 5. Reported Motor Vehicle Theft Rates
CY2002-2011**



Because of the large decrease in Arizona's motor vehicle theft rate, Arizona's motor vehicle theft rate approached the rate nationally, but remains higher than the national rate.

**Chart 6. Number of Property Crimes Reported in Arizona
CY2002-2011**



Conclusion

Despite overall decreases in the Arizona property index offense rates from CY2002 to CY2011, Arizona property crime offense rates remain higher than national rates. Additionally, although Arizona has seen their property crime index offense rates decrease during this time, each property offense that comprises the property crime index either began to level off during CY2011 or increased. Data collected during CY2012 and published later in 2013 will determine whether the decrease in Arizona's property crime rates will continue or whether we are seeing the beginning of a leveling off or increase in these rates.

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