

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



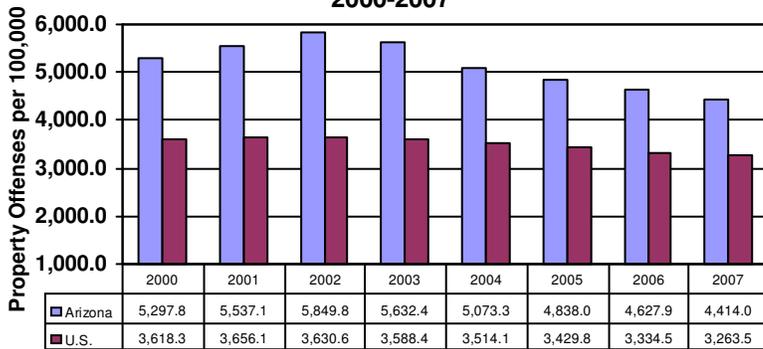
Arizona Property Crime Trends Fact Sheet

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

August 2009

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program* is a valuable tool for analyzing property crime totals and property crime rates in both Arizona and the United States. According to the UCR data, the index offense rate has decreased from 1998 through 2007. This fact sheet looks to take the UCR data a step further and concentrate specifically on property index offenses—burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft—as they are reported to law enforcement both in the state of Arizona and the United States through the UCR Program. Arson has been excluded from the fact sheet due to the limited availability of national data. Property crime data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) is also included in the fact sheet.

**Chart 1. Reported Property Index Offense Rates
2000-2007**



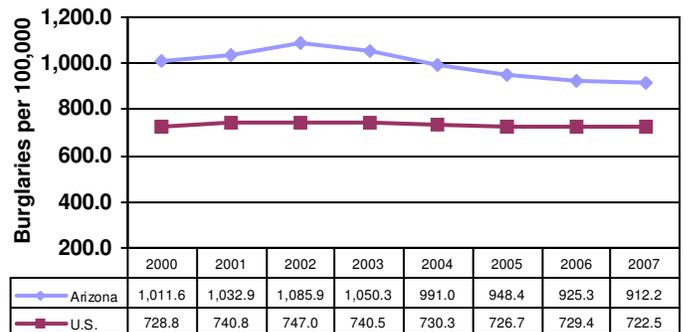
Property Crime Index Offenses Reported to Police

The property crime rate per 100,000 residents in Arizona is higher than the U.S. property crime rate in each year from 2000 to 2007 (Chart 1). In 2000, the property crime rate in Arizona was 5,297.8 property crimes per 100,000 residents while the national rate was 3,618.3 per 100,000 residents. The Arizona property crime rate rose to 5,849.8 in 2002 before it began a steady decline over the next five years where it settled at 4,414.0 property crimes in 2007. The U.S. property crime rate also increased slightly to 3,656.1 incidents in 2001, and similar to the Arizona rate, declined steadily to 3,263.5 property crimes per 100,000 residents in 2007.

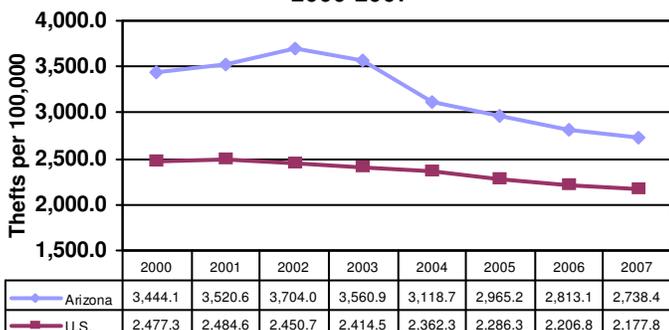
Burglary Reporting Rates

Overall, the burglary rates for both Arizona and the United States decreased from 2000 to 2007 (Chart 2). The Arizona burglary rate increased from 1,011.6 per 100,000 residents in 2000 to 1,085.9 in 2002, but then fell each year to a low of 912.2 burglaries per 100,000 by 2007. The U.S. burglary rate changed little over the eight-year period, but overall, decreased from 728.8 burglaries per 100,000 residents in 2000 to 722.5 by 2007.

**Chart 2. Reported Burglary Rates
2000-2007**



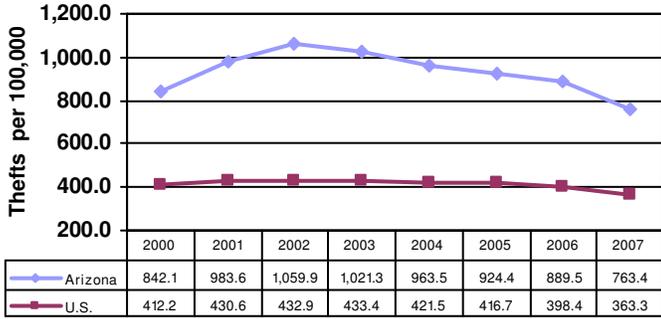
**Chart 3. Reported Larceny-Theft Rates
2000-2007**



Larceny-Theft Reporting Rates

The larceny-theft rates show the same trends as were discovered in the burglary and overall property crime rates (Chart 3). The Arizona larceny-theft rate rose from 3,444.1 in 2000 to 3,704.0 in 2002 before it dropped to 2,738.4 incidents by 2007. After reaching a high of 2,484.6 larcenies/thefts per 100,000 residents in 2001, the U.S. larceny-theft rate fell to 2,177.8 by 2007.

**Chart 4. Reported Motor Vehicle Theft Rates
2000-2007**



Motor Vehicle Theft Reported to Police

For the most part, the motor vehicle theft rates in Arizona and the United States continue to follow the same trends as were found in the other property crimes (Chart 4). The Arizona motor vehicle theft rate increased from 842.1 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 residents in 2000, to 1,059.9 in 2002. From 2003 to 2007, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate fell steadily to a low of 763.4 in 2007. The U.S. motor vehicle theft rate also increased, from 412.2 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 in 2000 to 433.4 in 2003 before dropping to 363.3 in 2007.

The margin between the two motor vehicle theft rates is stronger than that of the other property crimes. In 2000, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate was 104.3 percent higher than

the U.S. rate. Arizona's motor vehicle theft rates increased to 144.8 percent of the U.S rate in 2002. By 2007, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate was 110.1 percent higher than the U.S. rate.

National Crime Victimization Survey

The criminal justice community has long been aware that, for a variety of reasons, many crime victims fail to come forward and report their victimization. As a result, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) was created to provide an estimate of the total number of crimes committed in the United States through a sampling of residents who are asked a series of questions regarding crime victimization.

In 2006, fewer than 50 percent of burglary victims reported their victimization to law enforcement (Table 1). The reporting rate of larceny-theft victims was even lower with less than one-third of victims reporting to law enforcement. In contrast, a higher percentage of motor vehicle theft victims (81 percent) report their victimization to law enforcement.

Table 1. Percentage of Crimes Reported to Law Enforcement, 2006

Type of Crime	Percent
Burglary	49.6%
Larceny-Theft	31.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	81.0%

Chart 6 illustrates the strong disparity in the total number of property crimes between victim accounts through NCVS and victim reporting to law enforcement as captured by the UCR program. Beginning in 2000, the number of burglaries, larcenies, and thefts reported by victims through the NCVS was 89 percent higher than the number of incidents reported to law enforcement. By 2006, the total number of incidents reported in the NCVS was 88.4 percent higher than the total number of incidents reported to law enforcement.

Chart 6. Reported Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft Totals, 2000-2006

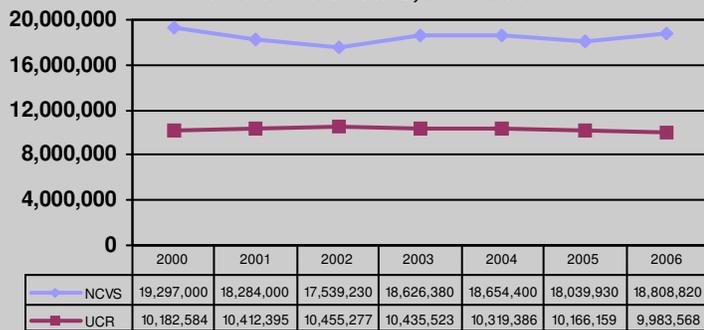
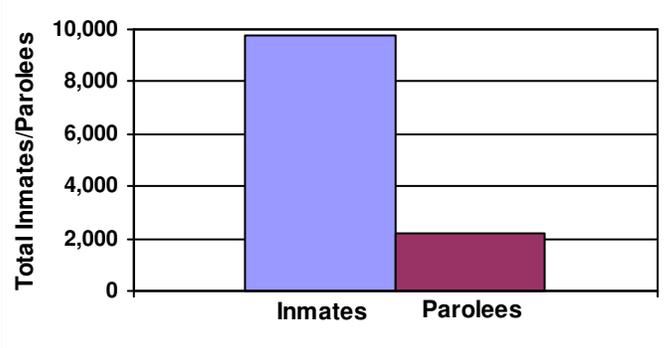


Chart 5. Total Number of Inmates and Parolees Convicted of Property Crimes, 2007



Offenders Convicted of Property Crimes

The total number of inmates imprisoned for property crimes in Arizona reached 9,799 inmates in December of 2007 (Chart 5). The total number of inmates imprisoned for property crime was lower than the number of inmates imprisoned for a violent crime (14,977) but higher than the number imprisoned for a drug crime (7,595) and inmates of other crimes (5,375). Overall, inmates sentenced on property crimes made up 26 percent of the total Arizona inmate population in December of 2007.

Chart 5 also shows that the number of parolees of property crimes in Arizona totaled 2,219 in December of 2007. The total number of property crime parolees was the highest of all the crime types ahead of drug crime parolees (1,914), violent crime parolees (1,359) and parolees convicted of other crimes (1,315). Parolees of property crimes accounted for 32.6 percent of the total number of parolees in Arizona in December 2007. The data provided in this section and Chart 5 was made available by the Arizona Department of Corrections.

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