

Missouri State Highway Patrol

Statistical Analysis Center



Crime in Missouri 2014

Executive Summary

October 2015

FOREWORD

This publication is produced by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Statistical Analysis Center. Crime in Missouri is intended to provide rudimentary analysis of Missouri's crime statistics.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol assumed management of the Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program in 2001. It is the responsibility of the UCR Program to collect, maintain, and ensure the integrity of Missouri UCR crime statistics. In addition, the Missouri UCR Program is responsible for reporting monthly crime statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Uniform Crime Reporting Program. This report is produced annually to document crime activity reported to these programs.

I encourage all criminal justice and other public officials to review this publication. If additional research or statistical information services about Missouri's crime totals is needed, please contact the Statistical Analysis Center for assistance.

J. Bret Johnson, Colonel
Superintendent

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has worked with Missouri law enforcement agencies to meet mandatory reporting compliance as mandated by Section 43.505 RSMo. On behalf of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center, I would like to thank the Criminal Justice and Information Division, Information and Communications Technology Division, and Research and Development Division. Personnel in these divisions play an integral role in making this report possible.

Missouri law enforcement agencies that submit crime and employment information to the Missouri UCR Program play a critical role in development of this report. Their participation in the program is indicative of their desire to improve Missouri's law enforcement information capabilities.

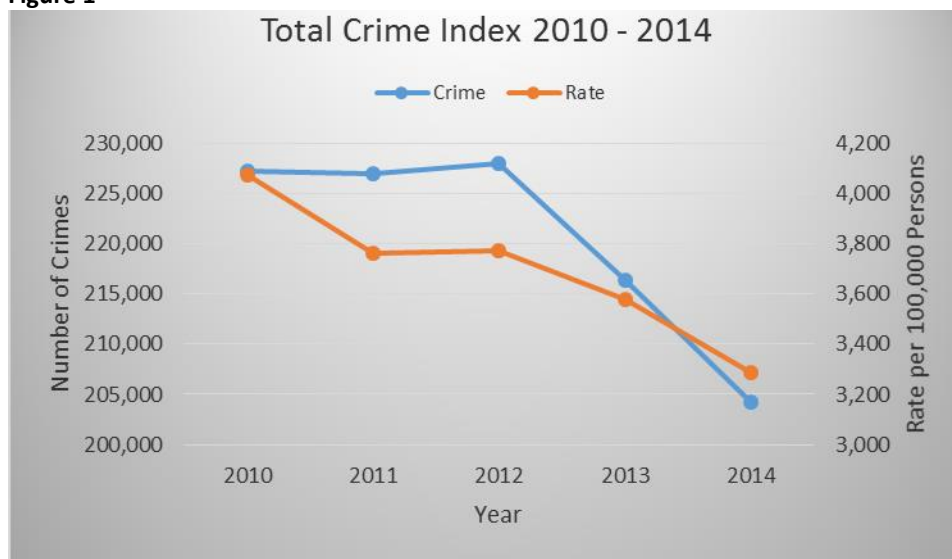
Finally, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics supports through grant funds, the Statistical Analysis Center's efforts to provide publications like *Crime in Missouri* and other information services to the Missouri criminal justice community. Their financial support and technical assistance are appreciated.

Mark L. Ritchey, Director
Missouri Statistical Analysis Center

Index Offenses

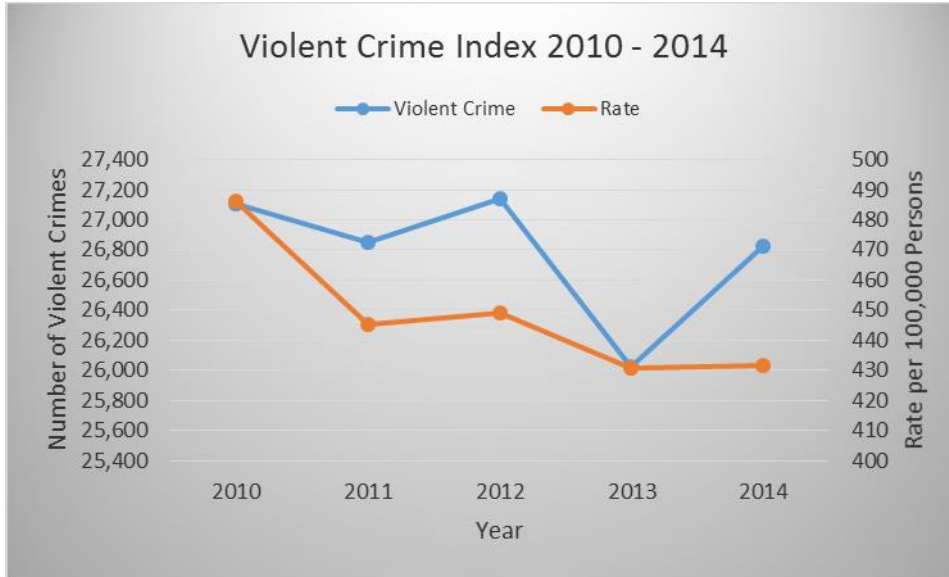
Index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and now human trafficking. These offenses break down into violent index offenses, consisting of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, and property index offenses, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Part I index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking. All other crimes are considered non-index or Part II offenses. In Missouri, a total of 204,253 index offenses were committed during 2014. By comparison, 216,341 index offenses were committed in Missouri during 2013. Missouri's index crime rate for 2014 was 3,284.97 crimes per 100,000 persons. This is a decrease of about 8% compared to 2013. Looking further back, crime has been decreasing since 2010. From 2010 to 2014 the total index offense rate dropped about 19.4%, despite remaining at a constant level between 2011 and 2012 as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Violent index offenses totaled 26,832 in 2014, which produced a rate of 431.54 per 100,000 persons. This rate increased slightly, 0.15%, compared to 2013. The violent crime rate increase is due, in part, to increases in murder and rape rates even though robbery and aggravated assault rates decreased. Additionally, violent index offenses now include human trafficking. However, law enforcement agencies only reported a total of 5 human trafficking offenses during 2014. Thus, human trafficking had at best a marginal effect on the violent index offense rate in 2014. Even though violent index offenses increased from 2013 to 2014, violent index offenses have been decreasing since 2010. As Figure 2 shows, the violent index offense rates have fluctuated over the past five years, but decreased 11.2% since 2010.

Figure 2



In contrast to violent index offenses, Missouri experienced a decrease in property index offenses from 2013 to 2014. Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 177,421 property index offenses in 2014 compared to 190,314 property index offenses in 2013. The property index offense rate of 2,853.44 per 100,000 persons in 2014 is approximately a 9% decrease compared to 2013. The rate for each property index offense, except for arson, decreased from 2013 to 2014. Burglary and larceny theft are the two most common property index offenses and both experienced significant decreases from 2013 to 2014. Because of these decreases, the increase in the arson rate had no discernable impact on property index offenses in Missouri during 2014. However, all of the property index offense rates have decreased since 2010 leading to a 20.5% overall decrease of the property index offense rate since 2010 as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3



Arrests

There were a total of 265,579 arrests reported by law enforcement agencies in 2014. This is approximately a 7.7% decrease compared to 2013 and a 29.2% decrease compared to 2010. Index offense arrests decreased from 2013 about 6.2% to 48,383 in 2014. Similarly, non-index offense arrests decreased approximately 8% compared to 2013 for a total of 217,196 in 2014. In 2014, the largest proportion of arrestees were male adults, accounting for 56.1% of index offense arrests followed by adult females with 30.5%. Male juveniles and female juveniles accounted for 8.9% and 4.5% of index offense arrests respectively. In terms of race, white adults were the largest group with 59% of index offense arrests followed by Black or African American adults with 27.1%. Other races include Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Native Alaskan, and Asian, but accounted for less than 1% of index offense arrests in 2014. Similarly, those with Hispanic ethnicity only accounted for 1.9% of index offense arrests.

Murder

Murder is the least occurring offense of all index offenses but resonates most with the public because of its violent nature. In 2014, 402 murders occurred in Missouri, producing a rate of 6.47 per 100,000 persons. The murder rate increased approximately 6% compared to 2013, but decreased about 17.1% compared to 2010. Additionally, the 402 murders in 2014 only made up 1.5% of violent index offenses and only 0.2% of all index offenses. Male adults made up the largest contingent of murder victims when grouped by gender and age whereas Black adults are the largest percentage of murder victims when grouped by race and age. Approximately 80% of the murder offenders in 2014 used a firearm, whereas only 76.6% of murder offenders used firearms in 2013.

Rape

The FBI's definition of rape changed last year to include male victims. In 2014, 2,379 rape offenses occurred in Missouri, which is an increase from the 2,138 rape offenses in 2013. The rape rate of 38.26 per 100,000 persons in 2014 is an increase of about 8% compared to 2013. Rape offenses made up about 8.9% of violent index offenses and approximately 1.2% of all index offenses. Because of the new rape definition, it is not unexpected for rape occurrences to increase as more offenders and victims are now included. However, the largest group of offenders arrested for rape in 2014 were still male adults, making up approximately 71% of the 524 rape arrests. The 524 arrests in 2014 is about a 2.1% increase compared to 2013 and constituted about 1% of all arrests in Missouri.

Robbery

Over the past five years, the robbery rate has steadily declined. In 2014, there were 5,590 robberies and a rate of 89.9 per 100,000 persons. Robberies made up about 20.8% of violent index offenses and 2.7% of all index offenses. The robbery rate only declined about 0.8% compared to 2013, but declined approximately 17.5% since 2010. Similar to murders, most robberies are committed using a firearm (48.9%). In Missouri 48% of robberies occurred on the highways. Robbery arrests totaled 1,765 in 2014, which is a reduction of 7% and 12.3% since 2013 and 2010 respectively.

Aggravated Assault

The highest violent index offense during 2014 was aggravated assault with 18,456 offenses. These offenses constituted 68.8% of violent index offenses and 9% of all index offenses. Likewise, aggravated assault has the highest rate of violent index offenses, with a rate of 296.8 per 100,000 persons. This rate is a 0.6% decrease compared to 2013. The aggravated assault rate has fluctuated over the past five years, but has decreased about 13.7% since 2010. While firearms again were most often used by aggravated assault offenders, the difference between other types of weapons is not as great as it is in murders and robberies. Firearms were used about 29.7% in aggravated assaults whereas hands, fists, feet and other dangerous weapons were each used in about 28% of all aggravated assaults. Adult males and white males represented the largest groups within the 7,039 aggravated assault arrests law enforcement agencies reported in 2014. Arrests for aggravated assaults declined about 2.6% and 14.7% since 2013 and 2010 respectively.

Burglary

Burglary was the second most common property index offense in 2014, with 35,207 offenses. These offenses translated into a rate of 566.2 burglaries per 100,000 persons. Burglaries accounted for nearly 20% of property index offenses and about 17% of all index offenses. Burglaries occurred most frequently between 6:00am and 6:00pm at residential buildings. Residential buildings are mostly vacated during this time period with people going to work and other activities, thus it is logical for most burglaries to occur during this time period. The burglary rate has steadily declined since 2010; about 11.4% between 2013 and 2014, and 27.5% since 2010. Law enforcement agencies reported 4,668 arrests for burglary in 2014 representing approximately a 14% decrease from 2013 and about a 27% decrease from 2010. Male adults make up the overwhelming percentage of burglary arrests; representing about 71% of all arrests.

Larceny Theft

The most common index offense, both violent and property, is larceny theft. The 124,470 larceny theft offenses accounted for 70.2% of property index offenses and nearly 61% of all index offenses. Twenty-three percent of larceny theft offenses were from shoplifting followed by larceny theft offenses from motor vehicles, representing approximately 20% of all larceny theft offenses. Over the past five years, the percentage of larceny theft offenses classified as shopliftings has gradually increased, while the percentage of larceny theft offenses from motor vehicles has gradually decreased. The larceny theft offense rate for 2014 was 2,001.8, which was a 9.9% decrease compared to 2013. Since 2010 the larceny theft offense rate has decreased 19.9% despite a slight increase from 2011 to 2012. Arrests for larceny theft offenses followed a similar pattern. The 32,057 arrests in 2014 was a 6.1% decrease compared to 2010 and a 4.9% decrease compared to 2010. In 2014, adult males made up the largest portion of larceny theft arrests, representing 48.6% of all arrests within this category. However, female adults also made up a large portion, represented in 37.3% of larceny theft arrests. This is the largest percentage of female adult arrests for any of the index offenses.

Motor Vehicle Theft

With 16,346 offenses, motor vehicle thefts constituted 9.2% of property index offenses and 8% of all index offenses in 2014. Of all motor vehicle thefts, 70% of the stolen vehicles were automobiles with 17.6% being trucks and buses. The motor vehicle theft rate in 2014 was 262.9 per 100,000 persons, which is a decrease of about 1.8% compared to 2013 and a decrease of about 7.4% compared to 2010. Even though the rate has dropped since 2010, the rate did increase significantly between 2011 and 2012 and slowly began to decrease since those years. The 1,855 arrests reported by law enforcement

agencies for motor vehicle thefts is an increase of 2.9% compared to 2013 and an increase of 20.2% compared to 2010.

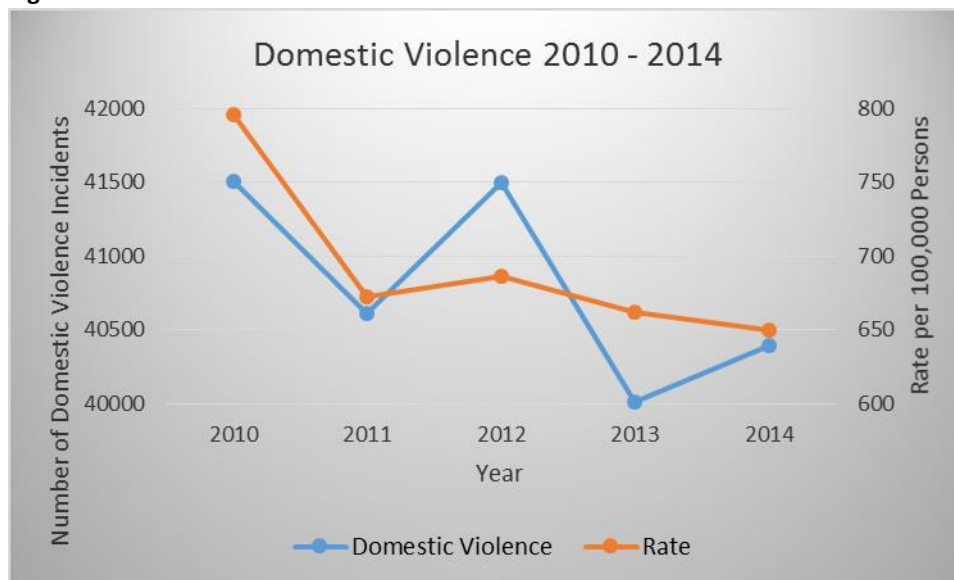
Arson

Arson was the least frequently occurring index offense with 1,398 offenses in 2014, excluding human trafficking. Single occupancy residential structures represented 42.4% of arsons with the next most frequent structure being motor vehicles with 22%. In 2013, the arson rate was 19.9 offenses per 100,000. This increased almost 13% to a rate of 22.5 per 100,000 persons in 2014. Despite this increase, the arson rate has still decreased nearly 18% since 2010. The number of arrests for arson was also the smallest of the index offenses, again excluding human trafficking, with 211 arrests. Adult males accounted for nearly 46% of arson arrests, while juvenile males accounted for 32.7% of arson arrests. Arson arrests decreased 0.9% since 2013 and nearly 38% since 2010.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence incidents totaled 40,340 in 2014, equivalent to a rate of 649.6 incidents per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased approximately 1.8% compared to 2013. Over the past five years, the domestic violence rate has steadily decreased, despite a marginal increase from 2011 to 2012. The domestic violence rate in 2010 was 796.2 per 100,000 persons, dropping approximately 20% as shown in Figure 4. One issue in domestic violence incidents arises when attempting to classify the relationship between the offender or offenders and victim or victims. There are several relationship classifications that law enforcement agencies use when defining domestic violence incidents. Incidents involving spouses, blood relatives, and social intimate relationships each accounted for approximately 20% of Missouri's 2014 domestic violence incidents. By contrast, incidents involving former spouses constituted the least amount of domestic violence incidents with approximately 2%.

Figure 4



Law Enforcement

Law enforcement employment data are drawn from annual reports on employment submitted by law enforcement agencies to Missouri's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Employment figures include full-time sworn officers with full arrest power and civilian employees an agency has on its payroll as of October 31. They do not include part-time or auxiliary officers, nor does the data include federal law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictional responsibilities encompass the state of Missouri.

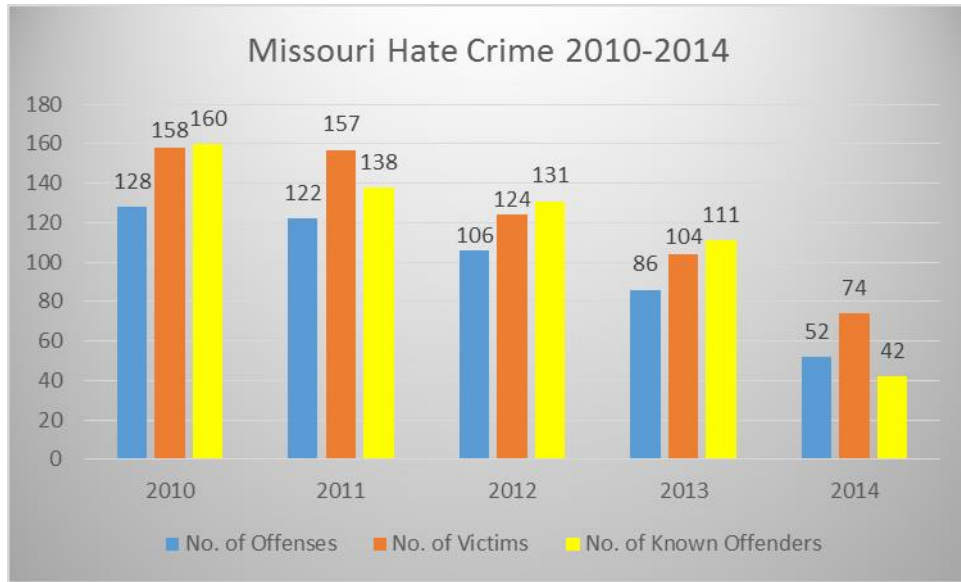
Law enforcement agencies employed 20,815 sworn officers and civilians in 2014. This number is up slightly from 20,204 in 2013. Sworn officers employed increased by approximately 2.6% to 14,859, and civilians employed numbered 5,956, representing a 4.1% increase from 2013. The number of law enforcement employees remained fairly constant over the last five years. Sworn officer and civilian employment increased 1.7% and 3.2% respectively compared to 2010, giving a total increase of about 2.1% for all law enforcement personnel employed.

Being employed by law enforcement encompasses unique and often hazardous situations, especially for sworn officers. Unfortunately, there was one law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in 2014. Additionally, there were 2,300 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2014. This number is slightly lower from the 2,328 recorded in 2013 and the 2,366 recorded in 2010. However, the number of assaults resulting in injury has increased. In 2010 there were 443 assaults that resulted in injury, compared to 506 assaults resulting in injury in 2014. Assaults resulting in injury accounted for approximately 22% of all law enforcement officer assaults in 2014, whereas this percentage was approximately 18.7% in 2010. Despite the increase in the number of law enforcement officers getting injured during assaults, the type of weapons used in these assaults have remained constant over time. Since 2010, firearm usage has been approximately 6%, knife or cutting instrument about 2%, physical force, by way of hands, fists, feet, or likewise about 80%, and other weapons ranging between 10% to 13%.

Hate Crime

In 2014 there were 52 hate crime offenses with 74 victims and 42 known offenders. This is a 39.5%, 28.8%, and 62.2% reduction compared to 2013 in the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders respectively. Figure 5 also shows that the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders declined since 2010 by 59.3%, 53.2%, and 73.8% respectively. Most offenses had a bias of anti-race/ethnicity/ancestry. Of the hate crime offenders, 34% were white, 18% Black or African American, and 48% with an unknown race. In 2014 hate crimes were evenly split between crimes against people and crimes against property, with 26 for each.

Figure 5



Conclusion

The tables presented on the Crime in Missouri website are the official crime statistics for 2014, which provide a plethora of statistical information. These tables provide in-depth statistics pertaining to the various *Crime in Missouri* topics. The new online format offers two output options, PDF and Excel, to enhance the public's use, availability, and access. The Missouri State Highway Patrol appreciates the public taking the time to view *Crime in Missouri*. Comments or suggestions about this publication should be sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center.