

# Missouri State Highway Patrol

## Statistical Analysis Center



### Crime in Missouri 2015

#### Executive Summary

August 2016

## **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's 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 Services 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.

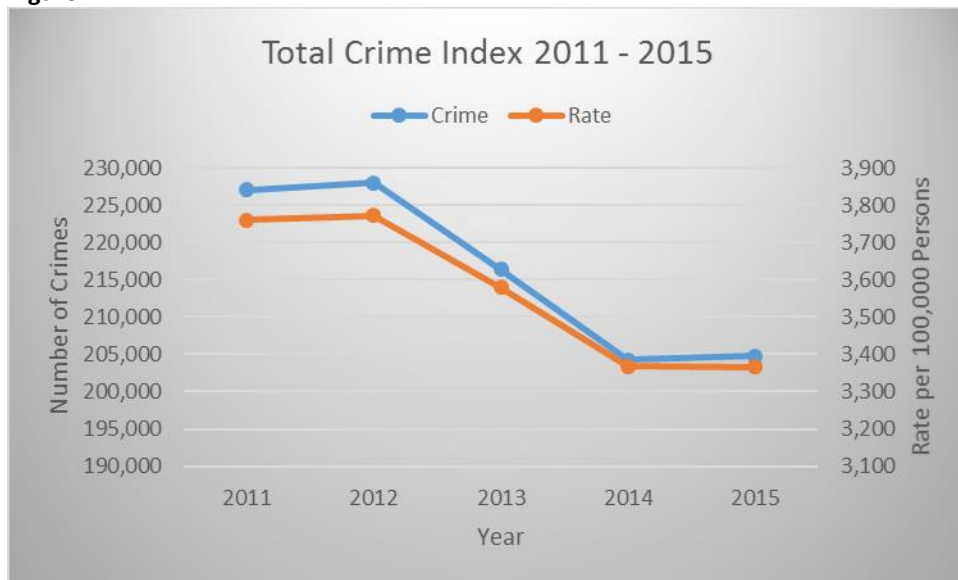
Finally, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics supports through grant funds, the Statistical Analysis Center's efforts to provide publications like *Crime in Missouri* and other information services to the Missouri criminal justice community. Their financial support and technical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

Dr. Mark L. Ritchey, Director  
Missouri Statistical Analysis Center

### Index Offenses

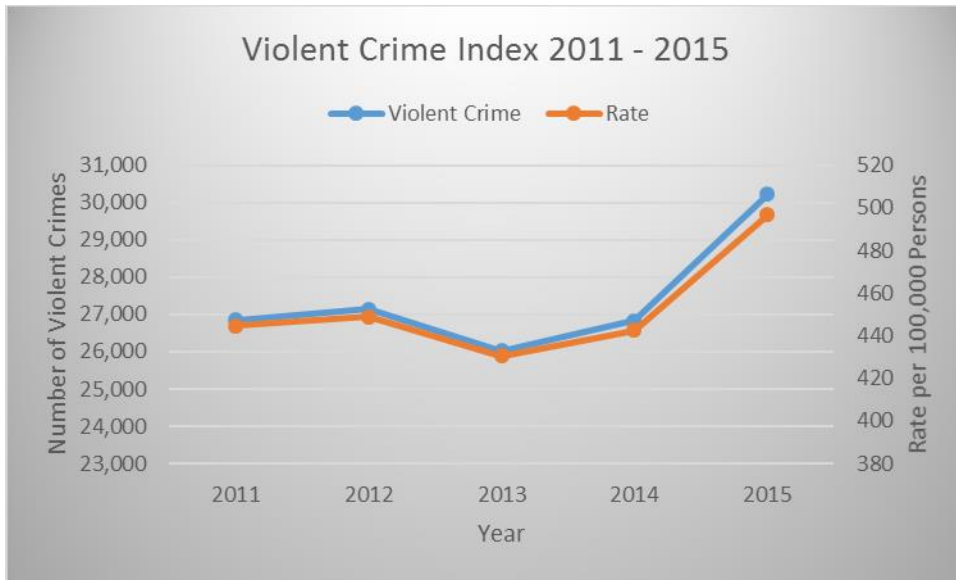
Index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking. These offenses break down into violent index offenses, consisting of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, and property index offenses, 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 204,786 index offenses were committed during 2015. By comparison, 204,253 index offenses were committed in Missouri during 2014. Missouri's index crime rate for 2015 was 3,366.2 crimes per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased about 0.1% compared to 2014; illustrating a continued downward trend since 2011. From 2011 to 2015 the total index offense rate dropped about 10.5%, despite remaining at a constant level between 2011 and 2012 as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Violent index offenses totaled 30,212 in 2015, which produced a rate of 496.6 per 100,000 persons. This rate increased 12.2% compared to 2014. The violent crime rate increase is due to increases in murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault rates. Additionally, violent index offenses now include human trafficking. Law enforcement agencies are improving their reporting of human trafficking incidents. In 2015 there were 13 reported human trafficking crimes compared to 5 reported in 2014. Human trafficking still only constituted 0.01% of all index crimes reported in 2015. Figure 2 shows that the violent crime rate decreased steadily between 2012 and 2014. However, with the increase between 2014 and 2015, the violent crime rate is now the highest it has been in the past five years.

**Figure 2**



In contrast to violent index offenses, Missouri experienced a decrease in property index offenses from 2014 to 2015. Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 174,574 property index offenses in 2015 compared to 177,421 property index offenses in 2014. Additionally, the property index offense rate of 2869.5 per 100,000 persons in 2015 is approximately a 1.9% decrease compared to 2014. The rates for burglary, larceny theft, and arson all decreased from 2014 to 2015, but the motor vehicle theft rate increased over the same time period. Between 2011 and 2015, burglary, larceny theft, and arson rates all decreased, which offset the increase in the motor vehicle theft rate during the same time period. This accounts for the 13.4% decrease since 2011 shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**



### **Arrests**

There were a total of 247,414 arrests reported by law enforcement agencies in 2015. This is approximately a 6.8% decrease compared to 2014, and a 34.3% decrease compared to 2011. Index offense arrests increased from 2014 by about 0.3% to 48,512 in 2015. Conversely, non-index offense arrests decreased approximately 8.4% compared to 2014 for a total of 198,902 in 2015. In 2015, the largest proportion of arrestees were male adults, accounting for 57.1% of index offense arrests followed by adult females with 29.9%. Male juveniles and female juveniles accounted for 8.6% and 4.3% of index offense arrests respectively. In terms of race, white adults were the largest group with 58.3% of index offense arrests followed by Black or African American adults with 28.3%. 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 2015. Similarly, those with Hispanic ethnicity only accounted for 1.8% 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 2015, 497 murders occurred in Missouri, producing a rate of 8.2 per 100,000 persons. The murder rate increased approximately 23.2% compared to 2014, and has also increased about 28.1% compared to 2011. Additionally, the 497 murders in 2015 only made up 1.7% 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 85.5% of the murder offenders in 2015 used a firearm, whereas only 80% of murder offenders used firearms in 2014.

### **Rape**

The FBI's definition of rape changed in 2013 to include male victims. In 2015, 2,552 rape offenses occurred in Missouri, which is an increase from the 2,379 rape offenses in 2014. The rape rate of 41.9 per 100,000 persons in 2015 is an increase of about 6.9% compared to 2014. Rape offenses made up about 8.5% of violent index offenses and approximately 1.3% of all index offenses. The largest group of offenders arrested for rape in 2015 were still male adults, making up approximately 74.5% of the 627 rape arrests. The 627 arrests in 2015 is about a 19.7% increase compared to 2014 and constituted about 1.3% of all arrests in Missouri.

### **Robbery**

From 2011 through 2014, the robbery rate steadily declined. However, in 2015, there were 6,363 robberies and a rate of 104.6 per 100,000 persons. This rate increased about 13.5% compared to 2014 and is very similar to the rate in 2011. Robberies made up about 21.1% of violent index offenses and approximately 3.1% of all index offenses. Similar to murders, most robberies are committed using a firearm (51.7%). In Missouri 46.7% of robberies occurred on the highways with the next most frequent location being residences (18.5%). Robbery arrests totaled 2,028 in 2015, which is an increase of 14.9% compared to 2014 but declined approximately 7.7% since 2011.

### **Aggravated Assault**

The most frequent violent index offense during 2015 was aggravated assault with 20,787 offenses. These offenses constituted 68.8% of violent index offenses and 10.2% of all index offenses. Likewise, aggravated assault has the highest rate of violent index offenses, with a rate of 341.7 per 100,000 persons. This rate is a 12.3% increase compared to 2014. The aggravated assault rate has fluctuated over the past five years and has increased about 10% since 2011. 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 33% of the time in aggravated assaults whereas hands, fists, feet, and other dangerous weapons were used in about 28.1% and 26.1% of all aggravated assaults respectively. Adult males and white males represented the largest groups within the 7,788 aggravated assault arrests law enforcement agencies reported in 2015. Arrests for aggravated assaults increased about 10.6% since 2014 but have decreased about 2.7% since 2011.

### ***Burglary***

Burglary was the second most common property index offense in 2015, with 33,925 offenses. These offenses translated into a rate of 557.6 burglaries per 100,000 persons. Burglaries accounted for nearly 19.4% of property index offenses and about 16.6% 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 2011; about 4% between 2014 and 2015, and 24.8% since 2011. Law enforcement agencies reported 4,696 arrests for burglary in 2015 representing approximately a 0.6% increase from 2014 and about a 30.2% decrease from 2011. Male adults make up the overwhelming percentage of burglary arrests; representing about 69.9% of all burglary arrests.

### ***Larceny Theft***

The most common index offense, both violent and property, is larceny theft. The 122,375 larceny theft offenses accounted for 70.1% of property index offenses and nearly 59.8% of all index offenses. Nearly 24.2% percent of larceny theft offenses were from shoplifting followed by larceny theft offenses from motor vehicles, representing approximately 21.6% 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 remained relatively constant. The larceny theft offense rate for 2015 was 2,011.5 per 100,000 persons, which was a 2% decrease compared to 2014. Since 2011, the larceny theft offense rate has decreased 12.4% despite a slight increase from 2011 to 2012 and from 2014 to 2015. Arrests for larceny theft offenses followed a similar pattern. The 30,769 arrests in 2015 was a 4% decrease compared to 2014, and a 9.2% decrease compared to 2011. In 2015, 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 16,972 offenses, motor vehicle thefts constituted 9.7% of property index offenses and 8.3% of all index offenses in 2015. Of all motor vehicle thefts, 71.1% of the stolen vehicles were automobiles and 17.1% were trucks and buses. The motor vehicle theft rate in 2015 was 279 per 100,000 persons, which is an increase of about 3.5% compared to 2014 and an increase of about 10.1% compared to 2011. The 2,112 arrests reported by law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle thefts is an increase of 13.9% compared to 2014, and an increase of 29.5% compared to 2011.

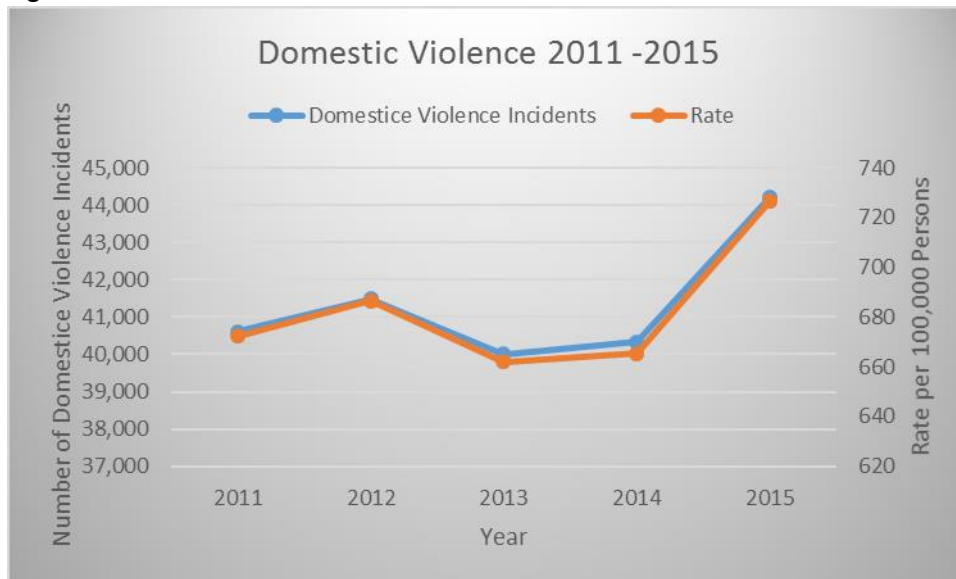
### Arson

Arson was the least frequently occurring property index offense with 1,302 offenses in 2015. Single occupancy residential structures represented 46.6% of arsons, with the next most frequent structure being motor vehicles with 22.9%. In 2014, the arson rate was 23.4 offenses per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased 7.2% to a rate of 21.4 per 100,000 persons in 2015. Along with this decrease, the arson rate has decreased nearly 14.2% since 2011. The number of arrests for arson was the smallest amount for any of the index offenses, excluding human trafficking, with 197 arrests. Adult males accounted for nearly 64.5% of arson arrests, while juvenile males accounted for 17.8% of arson arrests. Arson arrests decreased 6.6% from 2014 and nearly 34.3% since 2011.

### Domestic Violence

Domestic violence incidents totaled 44,212 in 2015, equivalent to a rate of 726.7 incidents per 100,000 persons. This rate increased approximately 9.2% compared to 2014. Shown in Figure 4, the domestic violence rate has fluctuated with an overall increase of 8.1% between 2011 and 2015. 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, social intimate relationships, and those residing together each accounted for approximately 20% of Missouri's 2015 domestic violence incidents. By contrast, incidents involving former spouses constituted the least amount of domestic violence incidents with approximately 1.9%.

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 20,506 sworn officers and civilians in 2015. This number is down slightly from 20,815 in 2014. Sworn officers employed decreased by approximately 1.3% to



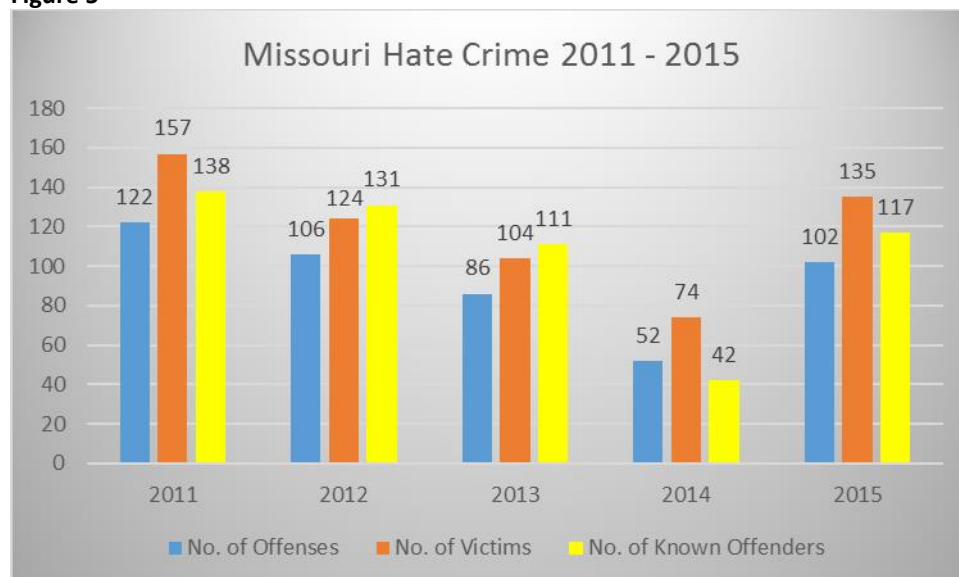
14,664, and civilians employed numbered 5,842, representing a 1.9% decrease from 2014. The number of law enforcement employees remained fairly constant over the last five years. Sworn officer and civilian employment increased 0.3% and 1.8% respectively compared to 2011, giving a total increase of about 0.7% for all law enforcement personnel employed.

Being employed by law enforcement encompasses unique and often hazardous situations, especially for sworn officers. Unfortunately, there were four law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in 2015. Additionally, there were 2,179 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2015. This number is slightly lower from the 2,300 recorded in 2014 and the 2,428 reported in 2011. The number of assaults resulting in injury has also decreased. In 2011 there were 507 assaults that resulted in injury, compared to 459 assaults resulting in injury in 2015. Assaults resulting in injury accounted for approximately 21.1% of all law enforcement officer assaults in 2015, whereas this percentage was approximately 20.9% in 2011. The type of weapons used against law enforcement officers that resulted in an assault show differing trends. The usage of a knife or cutting instrument in officer assaults has only changed from 1.4% in 2011 to 1.6% in 2015. Firearm and other dangerous weapons were used 5.4% and 12.3% in 2011 respectively, but were used 6.8% and 16.9% respectively in 2015. The usage of hands, fists, or feet has decreased from 80.8% in 2011 to 74.7% in 2015.

### Hate Crime

In 2015 there were 102 hate crime offenses with 135 victims and 117 known offenders. This is a 96.2%, 82.4%, and 178.6% increase compared to 2014 in the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders respectively. Figure 5 shows that the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders decreased between 2011 and 2014 but increased from 2014 to 2015. However, the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders decreased 16.4%, 14%, and 15.2% respectively between 2011 and 2015. Most offenses had a bias of anti-race/ancestry. Of the hate crime offenders, 47.9% were white, 18% Black or African American, and 48% with an unknown race. In 2015 there were 75 hate crimes against persons and 25 against properties.

Figure 5



**Conclusion**

The tables presented on the Crime in Missouri website are the official crime statistics for 2015, 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.