

# Missouri State Highway Patrol

## Statistical Analysis Center



### Crime in Missouri 2016

#### Executive Summary

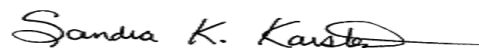
July 2017

## FOREWORD

This publication is produced by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Statistical Analysis Center and 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.



Sandra K. Karsten, 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 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.

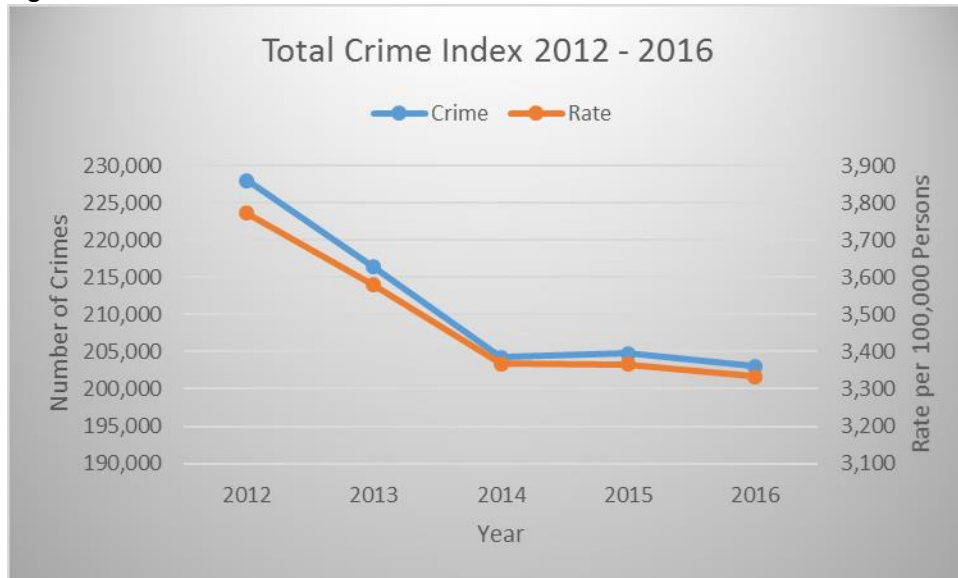


Dr. Mark L. Ritchey, Director  
Missouri Statistical Analysis Center

### Index Offenses

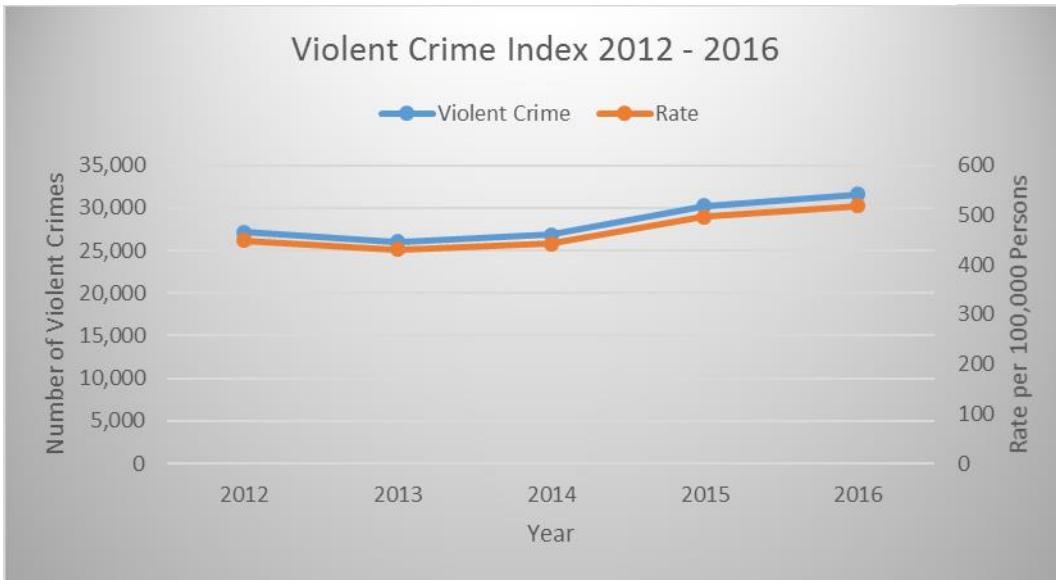
Part I index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking. These offenses break down into violent index offenses, consisting of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, and property index offenses, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. All other crimes are considered non-index or Part II offenses. In Missouri, a total of 203,084 index offenses were committed during 2016. By comparison, 204,786 index offenses were committed in Missouri during 2015. Missouri's index crime rate for 2016 was 3,333.1 crimes per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased about 1.0% compared to 2015. From 2012 to 2016 the total index offense rate dropped about 11.6% shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Violent index offenses totaled 31,571 in 2016, which produced a rate of 518.2 per 100,000 persons. This rate increased 4.3% compared to 2015. The violent crime rate increase is due to increases in murder, robbery, and aggravated assault rates. Additionally, law enforcement agencies are improving their reporting of human trafficking incidents. In 2016 there were 17 reported human trafficking crimes compared to 13 reported in 2015. Reported incidents of human trafficking still only constituted 0.01% of all index crimes reported in 2016. Figure 2 shows that the violent crime rate remained constant between 2012 and 2014. However, with the increase between 2014 and 2016, 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 2015 to 2016. Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 171,513 property index offenses in 2016 compared to 174,574 property index offenses in 2015. The property index offense rate of 2,814.9 per 100,000 persons in 2016 is approximately a 1.9% decrease compared to 2015. The burglary and larceny theft rate both decreased from 2015 to 2016, but the motor vehicle theft and arson rates each increased over the same timeframe. Between 2012 and 2016, 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 15.3% decrease since 2012 shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**



## **Arrests**

Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 249,082 arrests in 2016. This is approximately a 0.7% increase compared to 2015, and a 34.2% decrease compared to 2012. Index offense arrests decreased from 2015 by about 5.5% to 45,822 in 2016. Conversely, non-index offense arrests increased approximately 2.2% compared to 2015 for a total of 203,260 in 2016. In 2016, the largest proportion of arrestees were male adults, accounting for 57.4% of index offense arrests followed by adult females with 30.9%. Male juveniles and female juveniles accounted for 7.9% and 3.8% of index offense arrests respectively. In terms of race, white adults were the largest group with 58.6% of index offense arrests followed by Black or African American adults with 29.3%. Other races include Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Native Alaskan, and Asian, but accounted for less than 1.0% of index offense arrests in 2015. Similarly, those with Hispanic ethnicity only accounted for 1.5% 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 2016, 535 murders occurred in Missouri, producing a rate of 8.8 per 100,000 persons. The murder rate increased approximately 7.5% compared to 2015, and has also increased about 36.1% compared to 2012. Additionally, the 535 murders in 2016 only made up 1.7% of violent index offenses and 0.3% 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. In 2016, firearms made up approximately 81.0% of all weapons used in murders, compared to 85.5% in 2015.

## **Rape**

The FBI's definition of rape changed in 2013 to include male victims. In 2016, 2,543 rape offenses occurred in Missouri, which is a slight decrease from the 2,552 rape offenses in 2015. The rape rate of 41.7 per 100,000 persons in 2016 is a decrease of about 0.5% compared to 2015. Rape offenses made up about 8.0% of violent index offenses and approximately 1.3% of all index offenses. The largest group of offenders arrested for rape in 2016 were still male adults, making up approximately 79.1% of the 560 rape arrests. The 560 arrests in 2016 is about a 10.7% decrease compared to 2015 and constituted about 0.2% of all arrests in Missouri.

## **Robbery**

From 2014 through 2016, the robbery rate steadily increased. In 2016, there were 6,560 robberies and a rate of 107.7 per 100,000 persons. This rate increased about 2.9% compared to 2015. Robberies made up about 20.8% of violent index offenses and approximately 3.2% of all index offenses. Like murders, most robberies are committed using a firearm (54.2%). In Missouri 46.8% of robberies occurred on the highways with the next most frequent location being residences (18.2%). Robbery arrests totaled 1,975 in 2016, which is a decrease of 2.6% compared to 2015 and declined approximately 2.7% since 2012.

## **Aggravated Assault**

The most frequent violent index offense during 2016 was aggravated assault with 21,916 offenses. These offenses constituted 69.4% of violent index offenses and 10.8% of all index offenses. Likewise, aggravated assault has the highest rate of violent index offenses, with a rate of 359.7 per 100,000 persons. This rate is a 5.3% increase compared to 2015. The aggravated assault rate has increased about 11.7% since 2012. 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 36.4% of the time in aggravated assaults whereas hands, fists, feet, and other dangerous weapons were used in about 24.9% and 26.8% of all aggravated assaults respectively. Adult males and white adults represented the largest groups within the 7,681 aggravated assault arrests law enforcement agencies reported in 2016. Arrests for aggravated assaults decreased about 1.4% since 2015 but have increased about 0.6% since 2012.

### ***Burglary***

Burglary was the second most common property index offense in 2016, with 31,606 offenses. These offenses translated into a rate of 518.7 burglaries per 100,000 persons. Burglaries accounted for nearly 18.4% of property index offenses and about 15.6% 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 with people going to work and other activities, thus it is logical for most burglaries to occur during this timeframe. The burglary rate has declined since 2012; about 7.0% between 2015 and 2016, and 26.0% since 2012. Law enforcement agencies reported 4,350 arrests for burglary in 2016 representing approximately a 7.4% decrease from 2015 and about a 26.7% decrease from 2012. Male adults make up the overwhelming percentage of burglary arrests; representing about 69.5% of all burglary arrests.

### ***Larceny Theft***

The most common index offense, both violent and property, is larceny theft. The 120,316 larceny theft offenses accounted for 70.2% of property index offenses and nearly 59.2% of all index offenses. Nearly 23.7% percent of larceny theft offenses were from shoplifting followed by larceny theft offenses from motor vehicles, representing approximately 23.2% of all larceny theft offenses. The larceny theft offense rate for 2016 was 1,974.7 per 100,000 persons, which was a 1.8% decrease compared to 2015. Since 2012, the larceny theft offense rate has decreased 15.2%. The 28,233 arrests in 2016 was an 8.2% decrease compared to 2015, and a 22.7% decrease compared to 2012. In 2016, adult males made up the largest portion of larceny theft arrests, representing 49.3% of all arrests within this category. However, female adults also made up a large portion, represented in 38.3% of larceny theft arrests. This is the largest percentage of female adult arrests for any of the index offenses.

### ***Motor Vehicle Theft***

With 18,247 offenses, motor vehicle thefts constituted 10.6% of property index offenses and 9.0% of all index offenses in 2016. Of all motor vehicle thefts, 70.4% of the stolen vehicles were automobiles and 18.1% were trucks and buses. The motor vehicle theft rate in 2016 was 299.5 per 100,000 persons, which is an increase of about 7.3% compared to 2015 and an increase of about 11.2% compared to 2012. The 2,420 arrests reported by law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle thefts is an increase of 14.6% compared to 2015, and an increase of 36.2% compared to 2012.

### ***Arson***

Arson was the least frequently occurring property index offense with 1,344 offenses in 2016. Single occupancy residential structures represented 43.1% of arsons, with the next most frequent structure being motor vehicles with 24.6%. In 2015, the arson rate was 21.4 offenses per 100,000 persons. This rate increased 3.0% to 22.1 per 100,000 persons in 2016. Even with this increase, the arson rate has decreased nearly 13.5% since 2012. The number of arrests for arson was the smallest amount for any of the index offenses, excluding human trafficking, with 242 arrests. Adult males

accounted for nearly 57.9% of arson arrests, while juvenile males accounted for 26.0% of arson arrests. Arson arrests increased 22.8% from 2015. However, since 2012 arson arrests decreased by 26.9%.

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence incidents totaled 44,372 in 2016, equivalent to a rate of 728.2 incidents per 100,000 persons. This rate increased approximately 0.2% compared to 2015. Shown in Figure 4, the domestic violence rate has increased 6.1% between 2012 and 2016. 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 from social intimate relationships accounted for the most domestic violence incidents with approximately 24.2%. By contrast, incidents involving former spouses constituted the least amount of domestic violence incidents with approximately 2.0%.

**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 20,621 sworn officers and civilians in 2016. This number is up slightly from 20,506 in 2015. Sworn officers employed slightly increased by approximately 0.9% to 14,801, and civilians employed numbered 5,820, representing a 0.4% decrease from 2015. The number of law enforcement employees remained relatively constant over the last five years. Sworn officer and civilian employment increased 3.5% and 3.1% respectively compared to 2012, giving a total increase of about 3.4% for all law enforcement personnel employed.

Being employed by law enforcement encompasses unique and often hazardous situations, especially for sworn officers. Unfortunately, there were two law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2016. Additionally, there were 2,248 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2016. This number is slightly higher from the 2,179 assaults recorded in 2015. The number of assaults resulting in

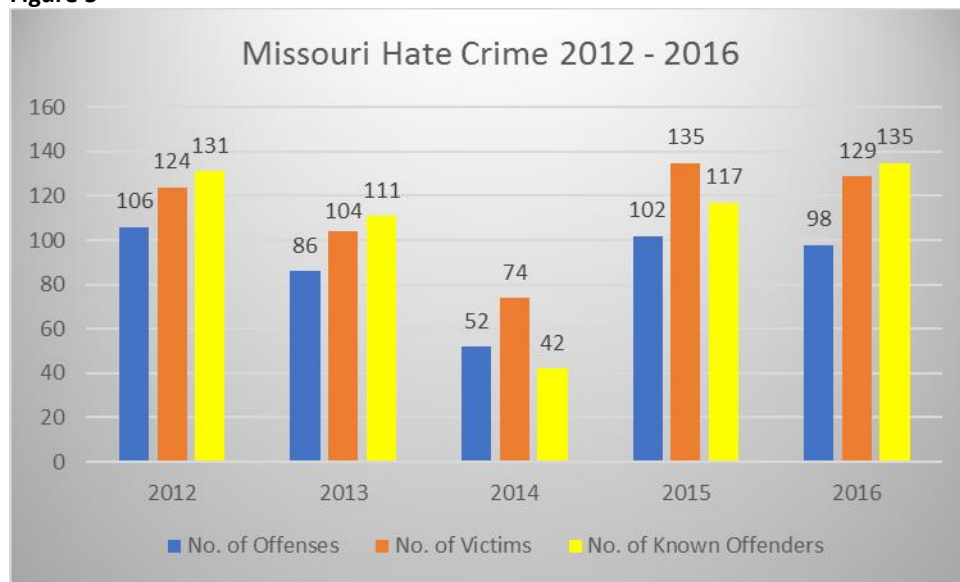


injury has also increased. In 2012 there were 448 assaults that resulted in injury, compared to 512 assaults resulting in injury in 2016. Assaults resulting in injury accounted for approximately 22.8% of all law enforcement officer assaults in 2016, whereas this percentage was approximately 19.3% in 2012. 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 was the same for both 2012 and 2016 at 1.5%. Firearm and other dangerous weapons were used 6.0% and 12.7% in 2012 respectively, but were used 7.8% and 13.3% respectively in 2016. The usage of hands, fists, or feet has decreased from 79.8% in 2012 to 77.5% in 2016.

**Hate Crime**

In 2016 there were 98 hate crime offenses with 129 victims and 135 known offenders. This is a 3.9% and 4.4% decrease in offenses and victims respectively. Known offenders increased by 15.3% compared to 2015. Figure 5 shows that the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders decreased between 2012 and 2014 but increased or remained stagnate from 2014 to 2016. However, the number of offenses decreased 7.5%, while the number of victims and offenders increased 4.0%, and 3.1% respectively between 2012 and 2016. Most offenses had a bias of anti-race/ancestry. Of the hate crime offenders, 40.7% were white, 38.5% Black or African American, and 20.7% with an unknown race. In 2016 there were 57 hate crimes against persons and 41 against properties.

**Figure 5**



**Conclusion**

The tables presented on the Crime in Missouri website are the official crime statistics for 2016, which provide a plethora of statistical information. These tables provide in-depth statistics pertaining to the various *Crime in Missouri* topics. The 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.