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# **Summary and Interpretation of Crime in the United States, 2003 Uniform Crime Report Federal Bureau of Investigation**

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**CRIME VOLUME<sup>1</sup>**

Violent crime decreased and property crime increased from 2002 to 2003. Violent crime experienced an overall decrease of 3%, and property crime decreased 0.2%. Violent crime, however, increased in the category of murder (+1.7%) and decreased in the other categories. The percentage changes from 2002 to 2003 are shown below.

**TABLE 1: VIOLENT CRIME VOLUME 2003**

<b>CRIME CATEGORY</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Violent Crime	-0.9%	-3%
Murder	+1%	+1.7%
Rape	+4.7%	-1.9%
Robbery	-0.7%	-1.8%
Agg. Assault	-1.6%	-3.8%

There were 16,503 murders in 2003, up from the 2002 number of 16,204, and the fourth year in a row to show an increase. There were 413,402 robberies reported in the United States in 2003. Rapes totaled 93,433, and 857,921 aggravated assaults were reported.

**CRIME RATE<sup>2</sup>**

The violent crime rate fell 3.9% from the 2002 rate. Property crime rates fell 1.2% from the previous year. The violent crime rate was down 3.1% over the five-year period. The violent crime rates were mixed in results from 2002 to 2003, as shown:

<sup>1</sup> *Volume* is the total number of offenses reported.

<sup>2</sup> *Rate* is the number of offenses per 100,000 inhabitants.



**TABLE 2: VIOLENT CRIME RATE 2003**

<b>CRIME CATEGORY</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Violent Crime	-2%	-3.9%
Murder	Unchanged	+0.7%
Rape	+3.6%	-2.8%
Robbery	-1.7%	-2.7%
Agg. Assault	-2.7%	-4.7%

Aggravated assault accounted for the largest share of violent crimes at 62.1%. Similar to previous years, of all robberies, 41.8% involved the use of firearms, whereas of murders, 66.9% resulted from firearms (down from 71.1% in 2002).

Of all murders, 7% were related to robberies, down from 8% the previous year. The murder rate per 100,000 people increased slightly from 2002. The number of murder victims who knew their assailants was 43%, down slightly from 43.2% in 2002. In recent years, over half of the murder victims knew their assailants. *[Authors' Note: Stranger to stranger murder creates more fear overall than acquaintance murder.]*

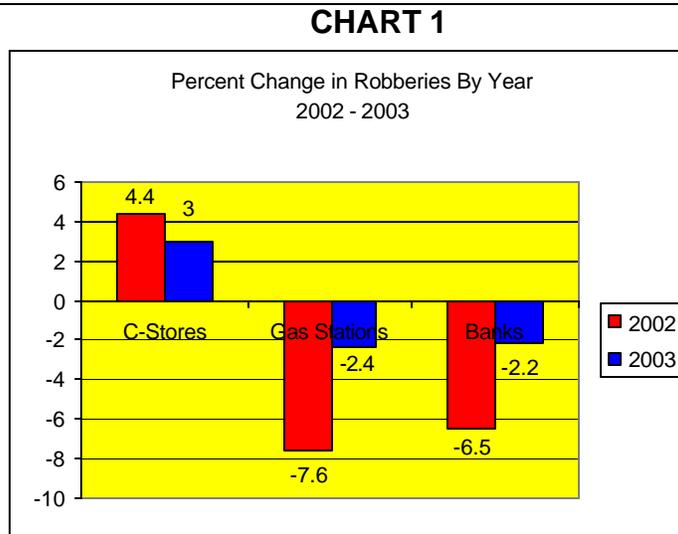
Breaking a three-year trend, the number of rapes decreased in the United States, from 95,235 in 2002 to 93,433 in 2003. The Midwest had the highest rate of rapes (70.4 per 100,000), and the Northeast had the lowest (45.3 per 100,000).

During 2003, 15.5% of arrestees for violent crimes were under the age of 18; 28.7% were under the age of 21, and 44.3% were under the age of 25. Juveniles under the age of 15 made up 5.1% of violent crime arrestees. Males accounted for 82.2% of all violent crimes arrests. Whites made up 60.5% and blacks 37.2% of arrests for violent crimes. The arrest data remained very consistent with the previous year.

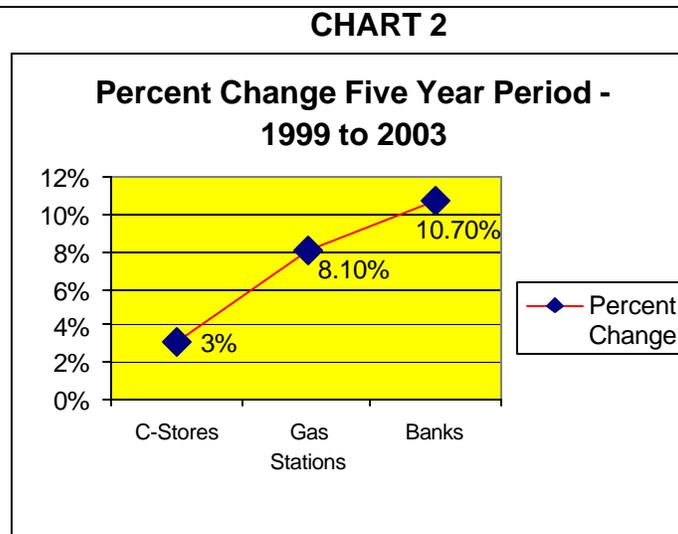


## CONVENIENCE STORES, GAS STATIONS AND BANKS

- Convenience store robbery was up 3% from 2002 to 2003.
- Gas station robbery was down 2.4% from 2002.
- Bank robbery was down 2.2% from 2002 to 2003, following a decrease of 6.5% the previous year.

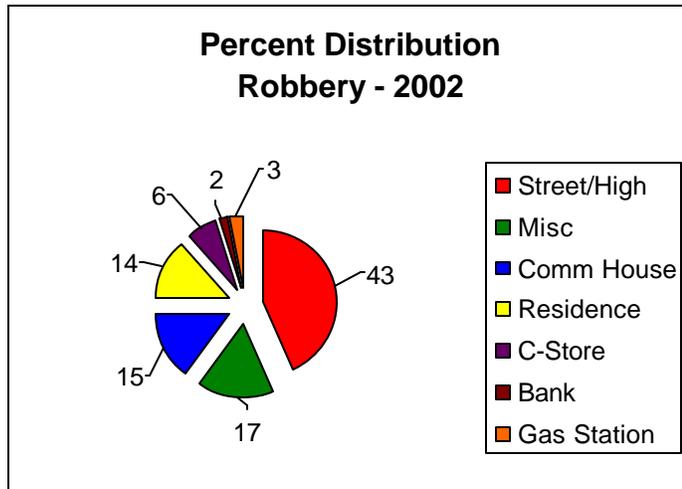


- ❖ Convenience store robbery was up 3.1% in the 5-year period since 1999.
- ❖ Gas station robbery was up 8.1% in the 5-year period since 1999.
- ❖ Bank robbery was up 10.7% in the same five-year period from 1999.



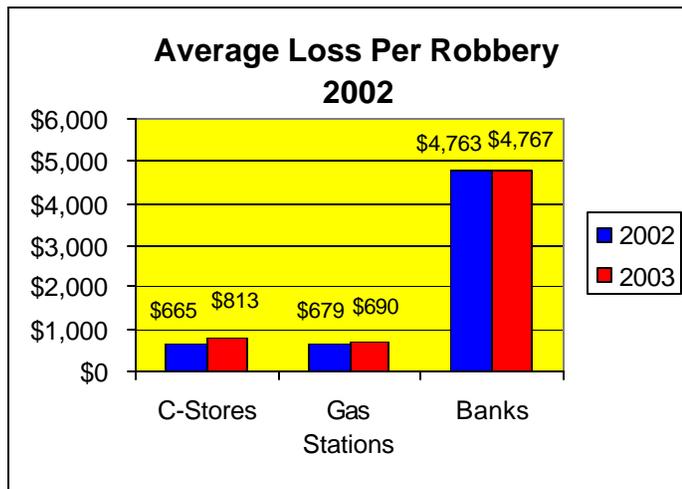
**CHART 3**

- Convenience store robbery made up 6.2% of the total robberies in 2003, down from 6.5% in 2002.
- Gas station robbery made up 2.7% of the total robberies in 2003, the same as the previous year.
- Bank robberies made up 2.3% of the total robberies in 2002, as they did the year before.



**CHART 4**

- ✓ In 2003, convenience stores had a large increase in average dollar loss, from \$665 in 2002 to \$813 in 2003.
- ✓ Gas station average dollar loss remained virtually the same, at \$690 in 2003 compared to \$679 in 2002, considerably lower than the convenience store dollar average.
- ✓ Banks had by far the highest average dollar loss at \$4767, up slightly from \$4,763 in 2002.



*Authors' Note: These are not just register losses, but include safe and merchandise losses, and cigarette losses have been on the increase.*



## ***AUTHORS' SUMMARY***

- Violent crime volume decreased 3%, but murder was up 1.7% in 2003.
- Violent crime rate decreased 3.9%, but the murder rate increased 0.7%.
- Convenience store robberies were up 3%, and their average dollar loss increased 22% to \$813.
- Gas station robberies were down 2.4%, and their average dollar loss decreased slightly to \$690.
- Bank robberies were down 2.2%, but their average dollar loss increased slightly to \$4767.

