



Athena Research Corporation
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Summary and Interpretation of the Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2005 Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2005
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Today, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released its preliminary report regarding crime in the United States in 2005.

Violent Crime

Violent crime increased across the country from 2004 to 2005. Overall, violent crime increased 2.5%, but murder was up more than 4.8%, robbery was up 4.5%, and aggravated assault was up 1.9%. An interesting story emerges when looking at crime categories by area and population. In cities with populations between a half million and a million, violent crime increased 8.3%. Murder increased 12.5% in cities with populations between 100,000 and 249,999. Murder increased 12.4% in cities with populations of 50,000 to 99,999. Robbery overall was up 4.5%, but was up 9.9% in cities with populations between 500,000 and 999,999. Aggravated assault was up 1.9% overall, but increased 8.5% in cities with populations between 500,000 and 999,999. The only violent crime category that decreased in 2005 was rape, down 1.9% from the previous year. However, rapes were up 1.5% in towns with less than 10,000 residents.

By region of the country, the Midwest saw the greatest increase in violent crime volume, up 5.7% from 2004. The West saw an increase of 1.9%, followed by the South at 1.8%, and the Northeast with 1.4%. Murder in the Midwest increased 5.8%, and robbery increased 8.5%. Robbery increased 4.8% in the South followed by 3.2% in the Northeast and 2.3% in the West.

Property Crime

Property crime decreased 1.6% overall in 2005 compared to 2004. Burglary was up 0.6%, Larceny/theft decreased 2.5%, motor vehicle theft was unchanged, and arson decreased 2.2%. Comparing regions, the Northeast experienced a 9.6% decrease in motor vehicle theft, while the West experienced a 4% increase. Burglary was up 3.8% in the Midwest, and arson increased 0.7% in the West.

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Selected Cities

An amazing increase occurred in the number of murders in some cities, with increases over 50%. Akron, Ohio was up 93%, Birmingham, Alabama up 76%, Jersey City, NJ up 65%, and Spokane, Washington up 62%, for example. Robbery was up 41% in Minneapolis, Minnesota and 65% in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, reflecting the change of greater increases in violence in the Midwest. An analysis of violent crime volume published for selected cities reveals the following:

CITY	VIOLENT CRIME	MURDER	ROBBERY
Akron, OH	+0.6%	+92.9%	+3.3%
Albuquerque, NM	-1.1%	+29.3%	-7.1%
Arlington, TX	+25.1%	+71.4%	+16%
Atlanta, GA	-8.9%	-18.9%	-8.2%
Baltimore, MD	-3.6%	-2.5%	-3.5%
Birmingham, AL	+5.8%	+76.3%	+4.4%
Boston, MA	+8.1%	+19.7%	+9.1%
Cincinnati, OH	+1.4%	+23.4%	-3.7%
Dallas, TX	-4.6%	-18.5%	-7.8%
Denver, CO*	Unchanged	-32.2%	-0.7%
Detroit, MI*	+31.6%	-6.8%	+23.4%
Houston, TX	+2.4%	+22.8%	+9.3%
Jersey City, NJ	+8.4%	+65.2%	+15.8%
Kansas City, MO	+1.3%	+41.6%	+4%
Las Vegas, NV	-2.6%	+9.9%	-6.3%
Memphis, TN	+25.1%	+27.1%	+18.3%
Miami, FL	-5.8%	-21.7%	-14.7%
Milwaukee, WI*	+32.5%	+40.2%	+16.9%
Minneapolis, MN	+35.5%	-11.3%	+40.8%
New York, NY	-1.9%	-5.4%	+1.4%
Oakland, CA	+10.5	+12%	+22%
Oklahoma City, OK	+5%	+38.5%	+1.7%
Orlando, FL	+4.3%	+29.4%	+25.2%
Philadelphia, PA	+3.4%	+14.2%	+3.2%



Portsmouth, VA	+0.9%	+175%	+6.4%
Rochester, NY	+10.8%	+47.2%	+9.9%
Sacramento, CA	+11.3%	+4%	+5.4%
San Diego, CA	-2.5%	-17.7%	+12.8%
San Francisco, CA	+4%	+9.1%	+1.2%
Sioux Falls, SD*	+13.4%	+33.3%	+65.1%
Spokane, WA	-7.2%	+62.5%	-7.7%
St. Louis, MO	+19.6%	+15.9%	+12.7%
Washington, DC	+5.2%	-1.5%	+14.6%

* The FBI notes "Because the agency changed its reporting practices, was annexed, and/or provided incomplete data, the agency's figures are not comparable to data it submitted in previous years."

Authors' Conclusion

While you will read reports that crime has been decreasing for a decade, it has been increasing in certain categories off and on ever since 2000, and this trend continues with this preliminary report for 2005. It is especially significant that the largest increases are in the more violent crimes of murder and robbery, each up almost 5%. The trend is largely due to the increasing numbers in the crime-committing age group of 18 to 25, and this increase had been anticipated by criminologists.

