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# Summary and Interpretation of the Preliminary Crime Statistics for January – June, 2007 Federal Bureau of Investigation

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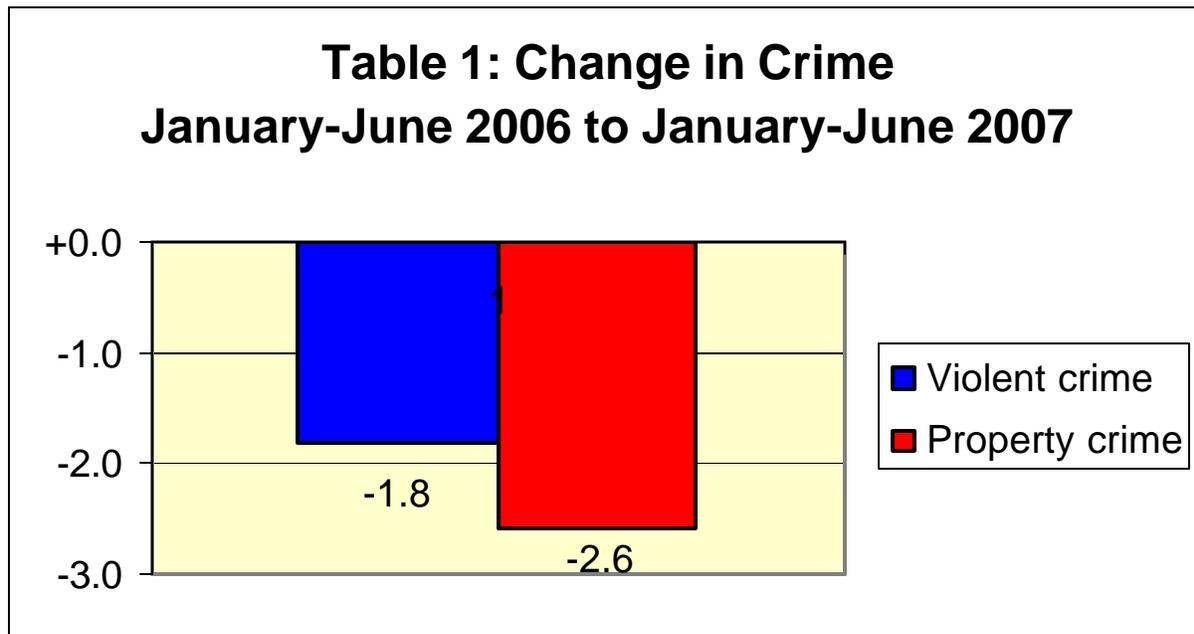
**Summary and Interpretation of the  
Preliminary Crime Statistics for January - June, 2007  
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Sandra J. Erickson, MFS<sup>1</sup> and Rosemary J. Erickson, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>  
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The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently released its preliminary report regarding crime in the United States in the first six months of 2007.

**Violent Crime**

Violent crime decreased 1.8% across the country in the first six months of 2007 compared to the first six months of 2006. Property crime decreased 2.6% for the same period.

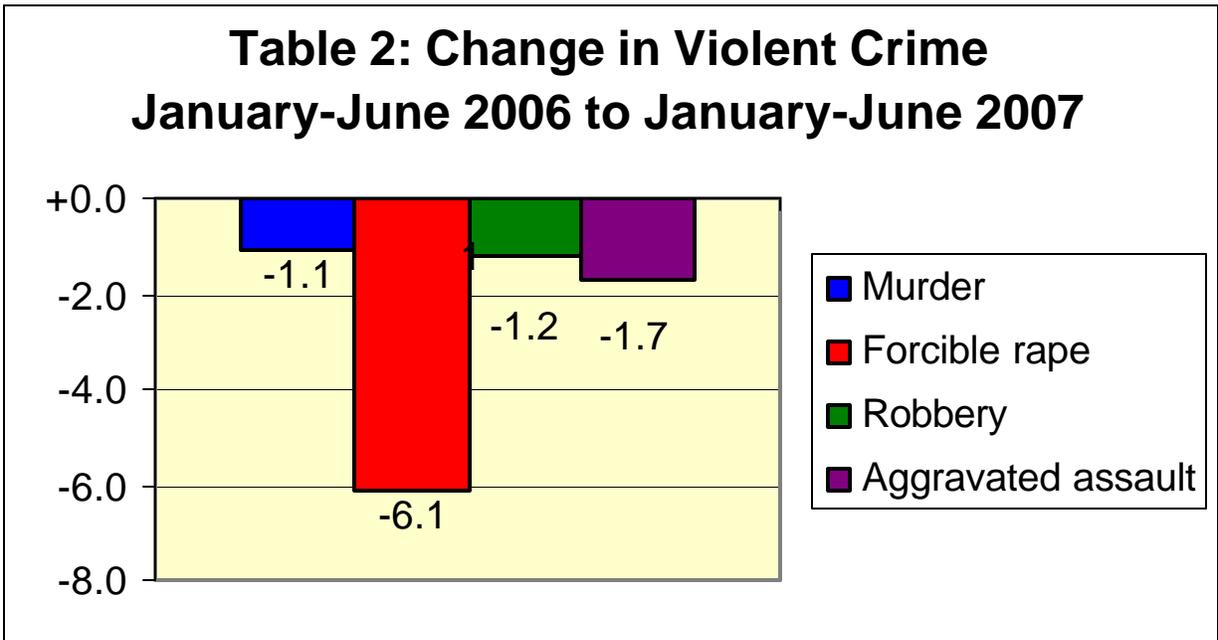


<sup>1</sup> Sandra J. Erickson holds a Master's in Forensic Science. She is a research associate at Athena Research Corporation.

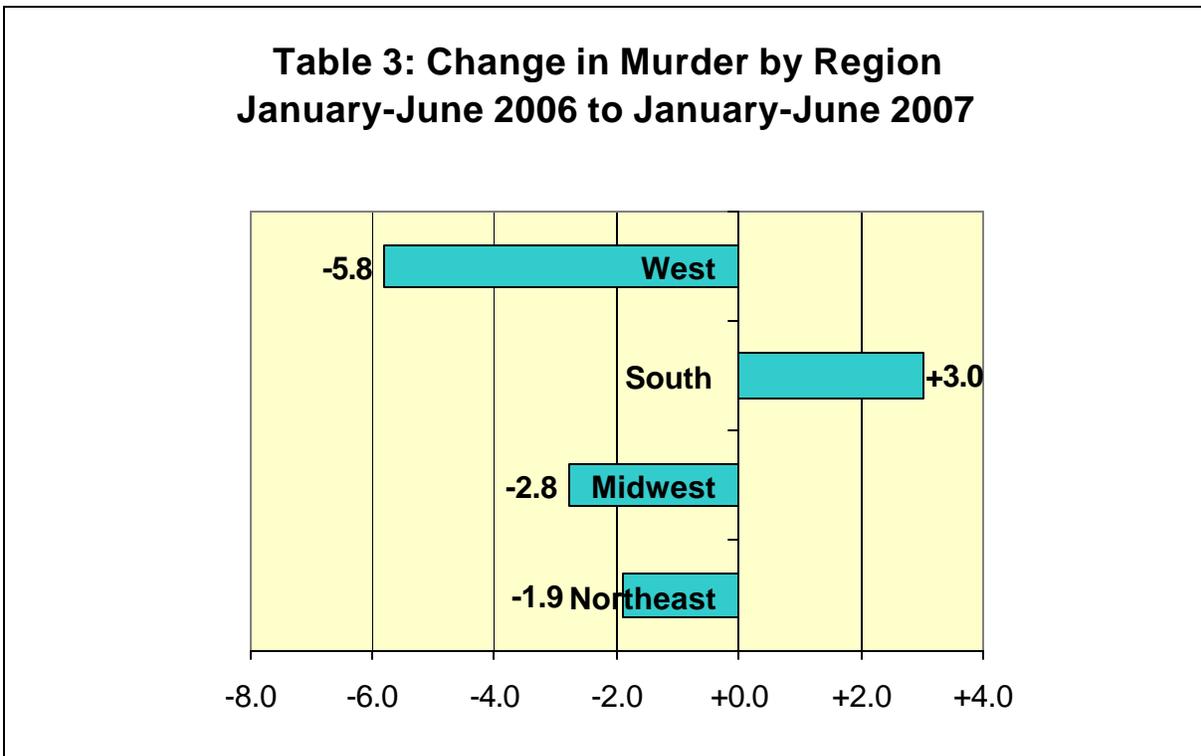
<sup>2</sup> Rosemary J. Erickson holds a Ph.D. in Sociology: Justice. She is president of Athena Research Corporation.



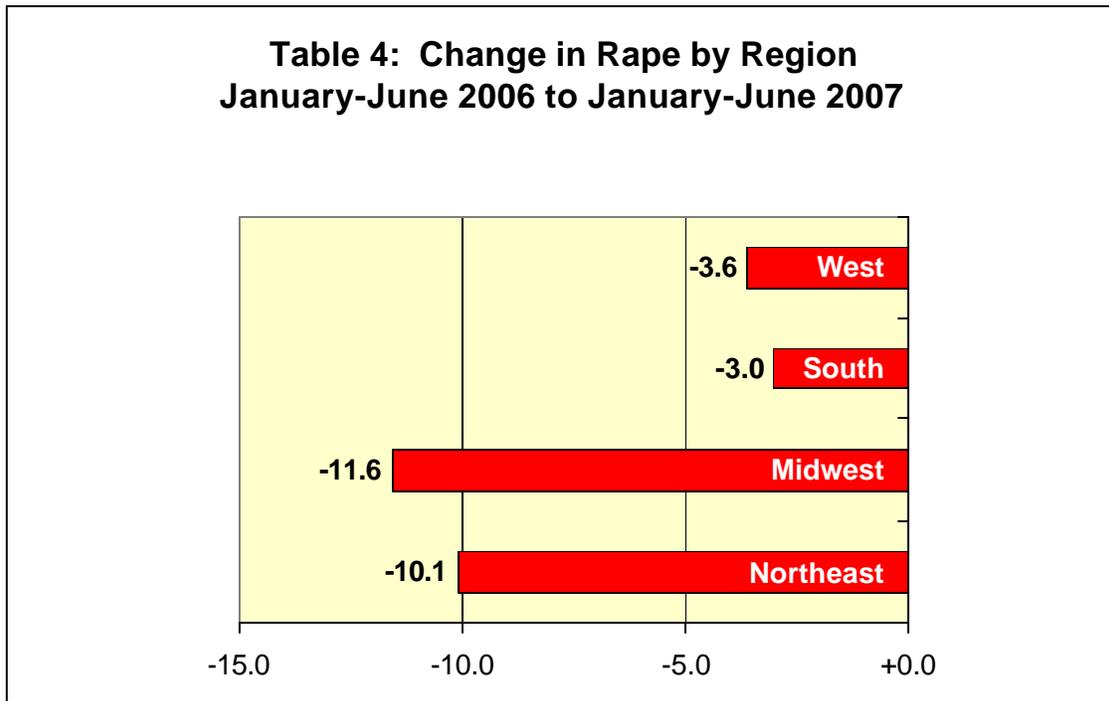
Murder was down 1.1%, rape was down 6.1%, robbery was down 1.2%, and aggravated assault was down 1.7%.



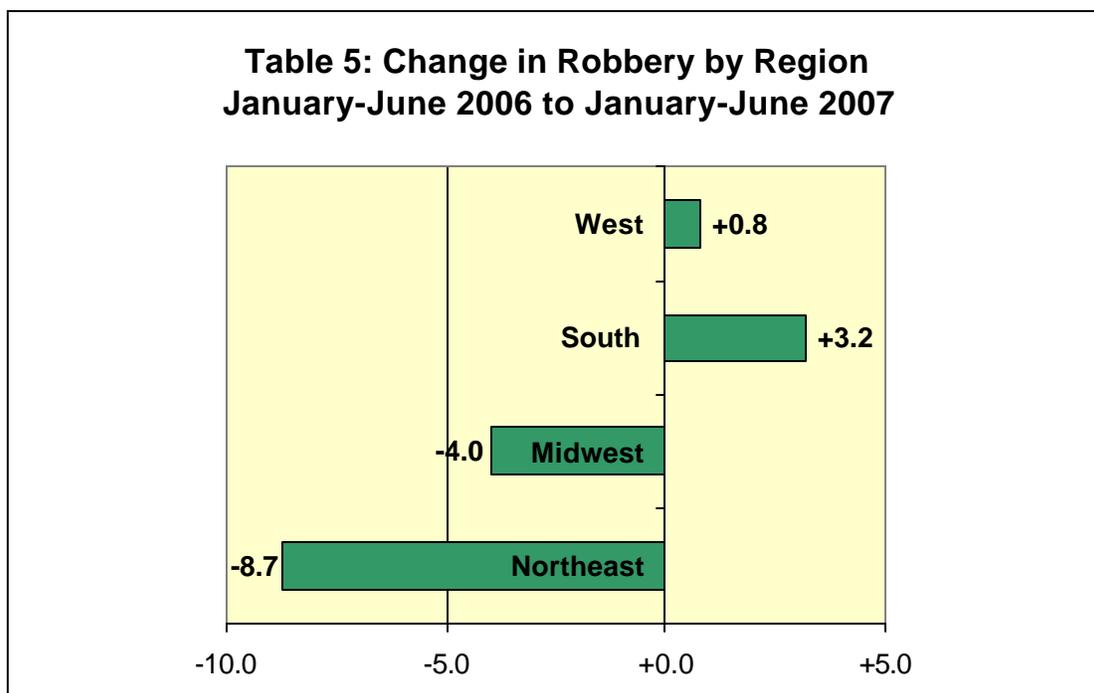
Geographically, the South reported the only increase in murder, up 3% from the same period in 2006.



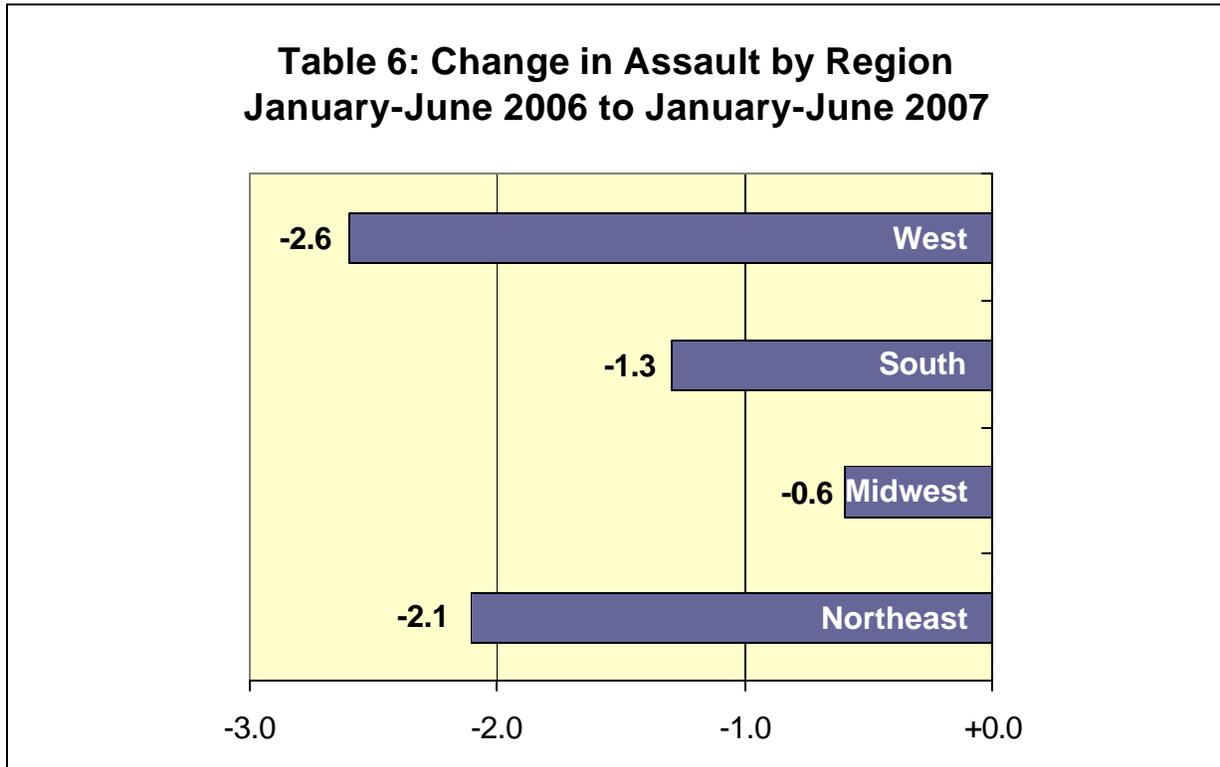
All regions of the country experienced a decrease in forcible rape over the first six months of 2007 as compared to the first six months of 2006. The Midwest had the largest reduction at 11.6% over the same period in 2006.



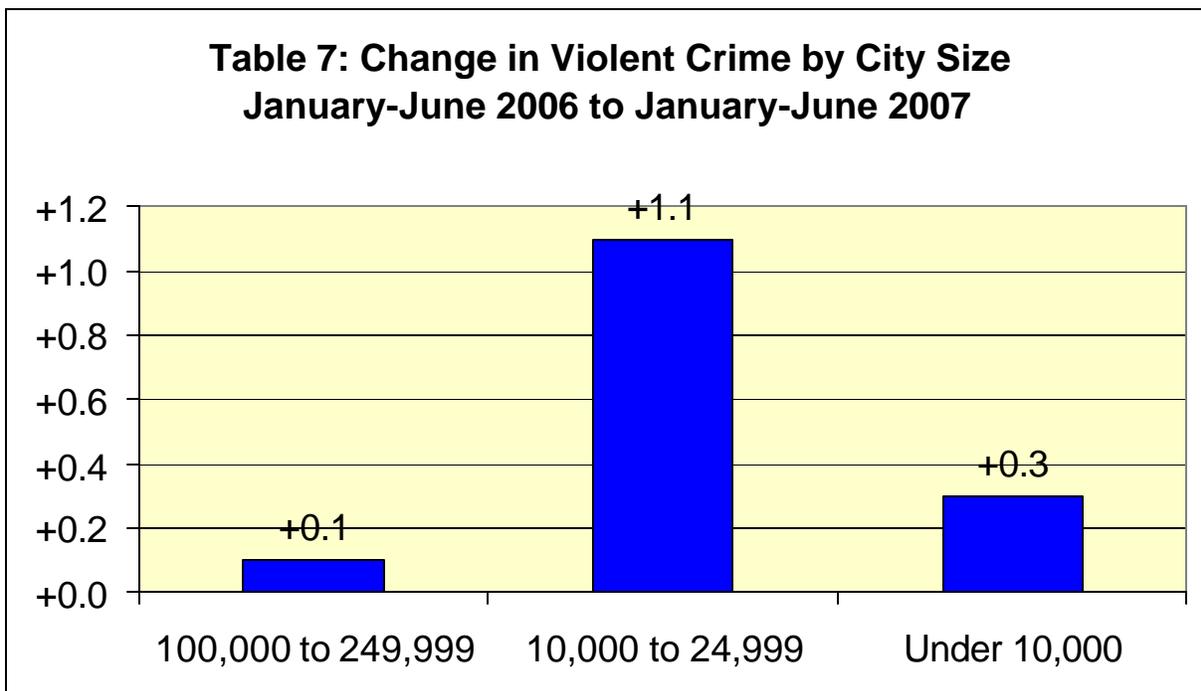
The South and West both reported an increase in robberies, up 3.2% from the same period in 2006 in the South and 0.8% in the West. The Northeast had the largest reduction at 8.7%.



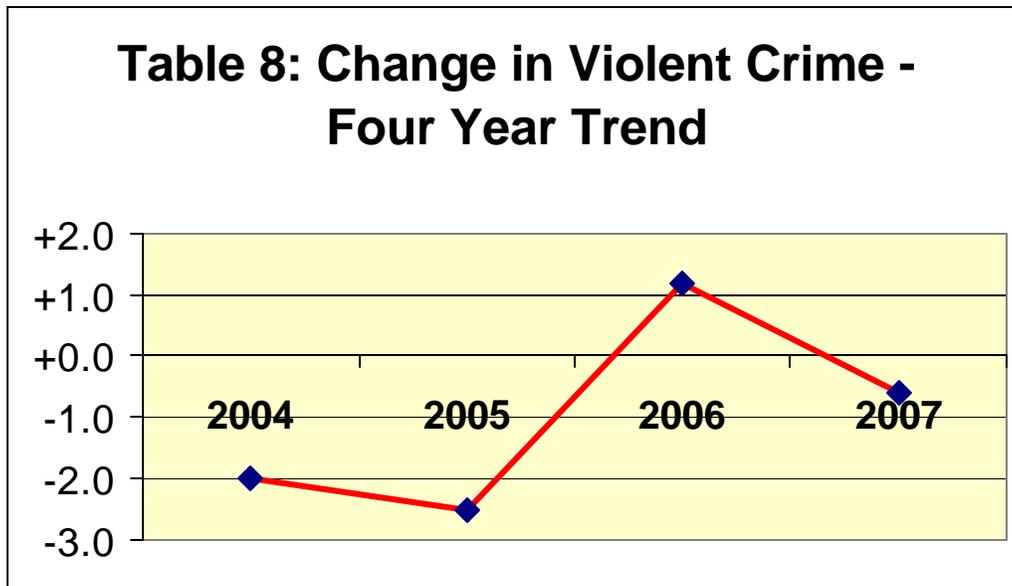
All regions of the country saw a decrease in aggravated assaults.



While violent crime dropped overall by 1.8% for the first six months of 2007 compared to the same period in 2006, certain city sizes saw increases.



Overall, violent crime decreased in the first six months of 2007 compared to the first six months of 2006. When looking at levels over the past four years, it shows that while crime decreased, it is still above the levels experienced in 2004 and 2005.



### Authors' Conclusions

It is good news that both violent and property crime decreased in the first half of 2007 overall. However, violent crime levels are unstable and vary from region to region, city to city, and even within the same city. Factors affecting this likely include funding and quality of policing, economic inequality of the inhabitants, economic conditions generally, and the size of the cohort of 18 to 24-year olds in the area. There is reason to be optimistic that crime levels are decreasing, but violent crime continues to be volatile. While violent crime decreased in the first six months of 2007 compared to the first six months of 2006, it is still above 2005 levels.

