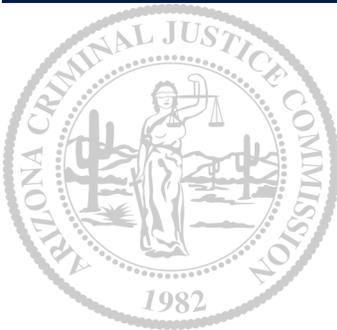


# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

## Arizona Violent Crime Trends, CY2000-2009 Fact Sheet



Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

February 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) *Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program* is a valuable tool for analyzing crime totals and rates by state and across the country. According to the FBI, the crime rate, as measured by the four violent and four property index offenses, has decreased from calendar years (CY) 2000 through 2009. This fact sheet specifically addresses crime rate trends for

the four violent index offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The data submitted to the FBI's UCR program comes from local police agencies across Arizona and the nation. The information in this brief comes from the UCR annual reports published by the FBI.

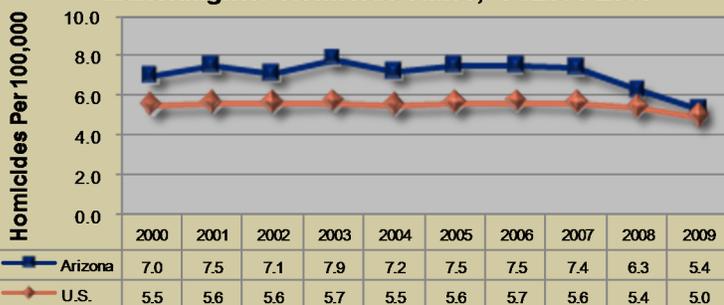
### Violent Crime Index Offenses Reported to Police

The violent index offense rates for both Arizona and the United States decreased from CY2000 to CY2009 (Chart 1). Arizona reached a high of 554.5 violent offenses reported per 100,000 residents in CY2002 before the violent crime rate decreased to a low of 408.3 violent offenses reported per 100,000 residents in CY2009. Similarly, the U.S. violent index offense rate peaked at 506.5 per 100,000 residents in CY2000 and fell to a 10-year low of 429.4 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2009. Although Arizona's violent index offense rates declined from CY2000 to CY2009, when compared to the U.S. rates, Arizona's violent index offense rates were consistently higher from CY2000 to CY2007. In CY2008 and CY2009, Arizona's violent index offense rate was lower than the U.S. violent crime rate.

**Chart 1. Reported Violent Index Offense Rates  
CY2000-2009**



**Chart 2. Reported Murder/Non-Negligent  
Manslaughter Homicide Rates, CY2000-2009**



### Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter Reporting Rates

The CY2000 to CY2007 rates for murder and non-negligent manslaughter experienced minimal change until CY2008 when both the U.S. and the Arizona homicide rates declined (Chart 2). Arizona's homicide rate increased from 7.0 reported incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2000 to 7.9 in CY2003, before dropping to a 10-year low of 5.4 in CY2009. The nation's homicide rate was more stable, ranging from 5.4 to 5.7 reported homicides per 100,000 residents until a decline to 5.0 incidents in CY2009. The rate of murder/non-negligent manslaughter was higher in Arizona than in the United States over the 10-year period.

### Forcible Rape Reporting Rates

The rate of forcible rapes reported to the police in Arizona fluctuated from CY2000 to CY2009 (Chart 3). In CY2000, the rate of forcible rape reported to the police in Arizona was 30.7 per 100,000 residents and fell to 28.6 in CY2001. From CY2001 to CY2005, the rate of forcible rapes reported to the police rose to a high of 33.8 per 100,000. After CY2005, the rate of forcible rapes reported to the police steadily decreased to a low of 25.7 by CY2008, but increased to 32.0 reported rapes per 100,000 Arizona residents in CY2009.

After a slight increase in the U.S. rate of forcible rape from 32.0 reported incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2000 to 33.1 in CY2002, the national rate fell to 28.7 incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2009. The Arizona rate rose above the national rate in CY2009.

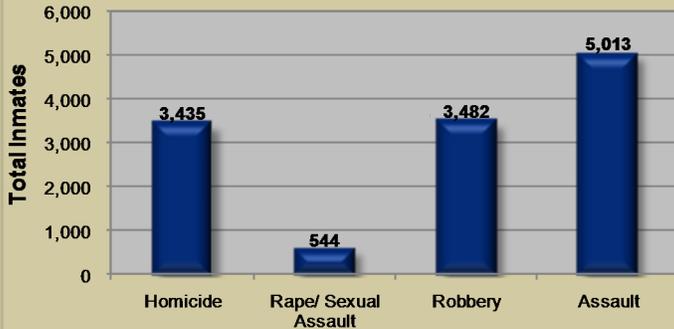
**Chart 3. Reported Forcible Rape Rates  
CY2000-2009**



## Offenders Convicted of Violent Crimes

According to the Arizona Department of Corrections, the total number of inmates imprisoned for murder (including manslaughter/negligent homicide), rape/sexual assault, robbery, and all assaults in Arizona as of December 31, 2009 was 12,474 (Chart 4). The number of inmates imprisoned for these violent crimes in Arizona constituted 30.8 percent of the total number of inmates in state prisons on this date. Of the 12,474 inmates, 27.5 percent (3,435) were incarcerated for murder (including manslaughter/negligent homicide) charges, 4.4 percent (544) were imprisoned on rape/sexual assault charges, 27.9 percent (3,482) were incarcerated for a robbery conviction, and 40.2 percent (5,013) were incarcerated after being convicted of assault.

**Chart 4. Total Number of Persons Convicted of Certain Violent Crimes Incarcerated, 2009**



The data in Chart 4 provide state-level numbers for violent inmates by offense type. These offense categories do not necessarily match the offense categories found in the UCR data. For example, the homicide offender population incarcerated in the Arizona prison system includes individuals convicted of negligent homicide, who are not included in the UCR homicide data. Additionally, rape and sexual assault data include cases involving male victims, which the UCR data excludes. Finally, imprisonments for assault include all forms of assault, not just aggravated assaults as reported by the UCR.

## Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm

The presence of a firearm during a crime can increase the severity of any violent incident and the likelihood of fatal results. Table 1 presents the percentage of violent crimes in which a firearm was involved within three violent crime offense categories. In CY2009, more than 60 percent of homicides in Arizona and 67 percent in the U.S. involved the use of a firearm. Over 45 percent of robberies in Arizona, a higher percentage than the 42.6 percent reported throughout the U.S., involved the use of a firearm. In Arizona, more than 25 percent of aggravated assaults involved a firearm in CY2009, in contrast to 20.9 percent nationally. Additionally, the percentage of robberies and aggravated assaults involving a firearm increased from CY2000 to CY2009. The percentage of homicides involving a firearm dropped below the CY2000 level to 60.1 percent in CY2009. Overall, Arizona

**Table 1. Percentage of Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm CY2000-2009**

	Murder		Robberies		Aggravated Assaults	
	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States
2000	71.5%	65.6%	42.1%	40.9%	25.0%	18.1%
2001	71.0%	63.4%	46.2%	42.0%	24.0%	18.3%
2002	75.9%	66.8%	47.5%	42.1%	24.4%	19.0%
2003	70.8%	66.8%	48.3%	41.8%	27.0%	19.1%
2004	72.1%	66.0%	50.5%	40.6%	26.6%	19.3%
2005	75.9%	67.9%	54.8%	42.1%	25.8%	21.0%
2006	74.2%	67.9%	49.3%	42.3%	29.5%	21.9%
2007	69.6%	68.0%	49.3%	42.7%	28.7%	21.3%
2008	71.6%	66.9%	51.7%	43.5%	28.5%	21.4%
2009	60.1%	67.1%	45.5%	42.6%	25.4%	20.9%

posted higher percentages of violent crime involving a firearm than the U.S. across all violent crime categories each year, with the lone exception being murder in CY2009.

This fact sheet was prepared by:

**Matt Bileski, Research Analyst and  
Kelly Snyder, Research Analyst  
Statistical Analysis Center  
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
1110 West Washington, Suite 230  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(P) 602.364.1374  
(F) 602.364.1175**

## Robberies and Aggravated Assaults Reported to Police

From CY2000 to CY2009, Arizona robbery rates followed the national rates closely with the exception of CY2001 (Chart 5). From CY2001 to CY2009, both the Arizona and national robbery rates fluctuated before ending at 10-year lows in CY2009 of 122.8 reported incidents per 100,000 residents and 133.0, respectively.

**Chart 5. Reported Robbery Rates CY2000-2009**



Both the Arizona and national aggravated assault rates decreased from CY2000 to CY2009 (Chart 6). Arizona's aggravated assault rate fell from 347.7 in CY2000 to 248.1 in CY2009 while the national rate dropped from 324.0 to 262.8 over the same period.

**Chart 6. Reported Aggravated Assault Rates CY2000-2009**

