

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief



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

Arizona Violent Crime Trends CY2003-2012

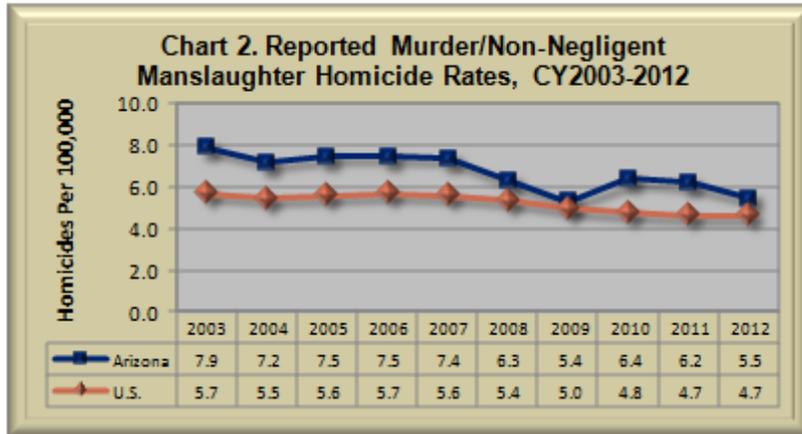
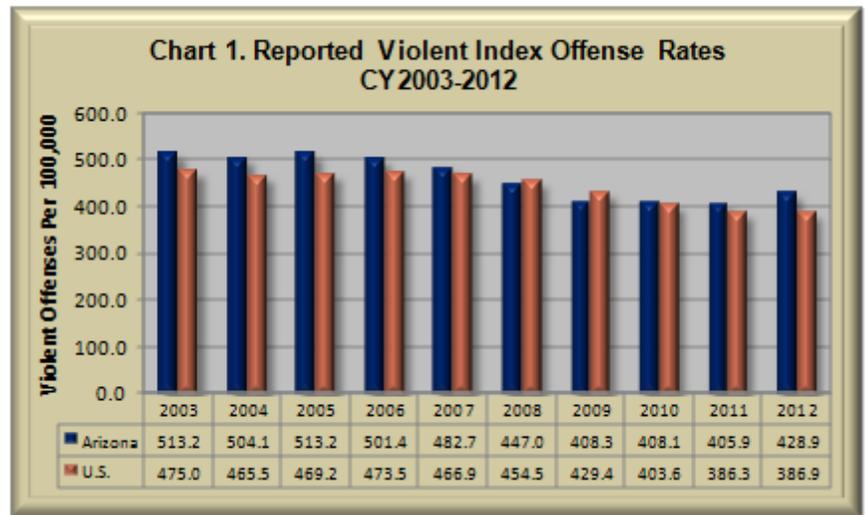
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The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a valuable tool for analyzing the frequency and rate of crime in Arizona and across the nation. According to the FBI, the U.S. violent crime rate, as measured by four violent index offenses (i.e., murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), increased in calendar year

(CY) 2012, as did the Arizona rate during the same time. This data brief looks more closely at the crime rate trends for the four violent index offenses in Arizona and the nation. The data used in this brief was submitted to the FBI's UCR program by local police agencies across Arizona and the nation and was published by the FBI in their annual UCR program reports.

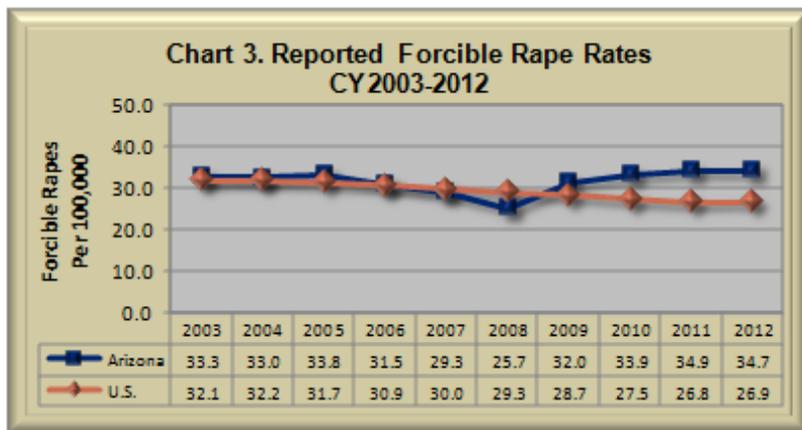
Violent Crimes Reported to Police

The violent crime rates for both Arizona and the United States (U.S.) decreased overall from CY2003 to CY2012 (Chart 1). During this time, Arizona's violent crime rate decreased by 16.4 percent from 513.2 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2003 to 428.9 violent offenses reported in CY2012. During the same time period, the U.S. violent crime rate fell 18.5 percent, from 475.0 per 100,000 residents in CY2003 to 386.9 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2012. More recently, despite these decreases over the entire ten-year period, both the Arizona and U.S. violent crime rates increased from CY2011 to CY2012. The Arizona violent crime rate remains higher than the nation's violent crime rate in CY2012.



Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter Reported to Police

From CY2007 to CY2012, Arizona and the U.S. experienced a decrease in the murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate. Arizona's rate decreased 25.7 percent from 7.4 reported incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2007 to 5.5 in CY2012. The nation's homicide rate decreased 16.1 percent from CY2007 to CY2012, from 5.6 per 100,000 residents to 4.7. Over the entire ten-year period, the rate of murder/non-negligent manslaughter was higher in Arizona than in the United States.



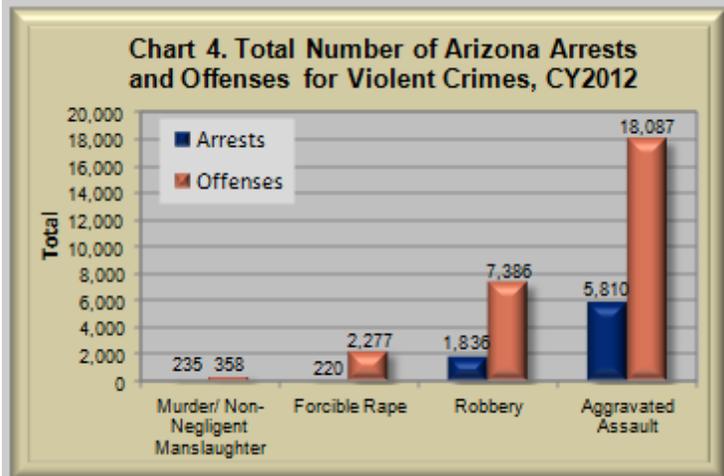
Forcible Rape Reported to Police

The rate of forcible rape reported to the police in Arizona was the only violent index offense rate that did not decrease from CY2003 to CY2012 (Chart 3). The forcible rape rate in Arizona fell from 33.3 incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2003 to a low of 25.7 in CY2008 before increasing to 34.7 in CY2012. The CY2012 forcible rape rate was 4.2 percent higher than the CY2003 rate.

The U.S. forcible rape rate steadily decreased over the ten-year period from 32.1 reported incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2003 to 26.9 in CY2012. Since CY2009, the U.S. forcible rape rate has been lower than the forcible rape rate reported for Arizona.

Arrests for Violent Crimes in Arizona

The FBI also collects arrest information from the same law enforcement agencies that submit reported offense data through the UCR program. According to arrest data reported by Arizona agencies, there were a total of 8,101 arrests in CY2012, across the four violent index crimes (Chart 4). A total of 235 arrests were made for murder and non-negligent manslaughter, 220 arrests were made for forcible rape, 1,836 arrests were made for robbery, and 5,810 arrests were made aggravated assault. The total number of violent index offenses reported in Arizona during CY2012 was 28,108.



It is important to note that the FBI collects arrest data for the highest level offense in a hierarchical structure. In other words, the most severe offense is reported while others that occurred during the event are not reported. Therefore, it is possible that a single arrest event reported to the FBI accounts for more than one reported offense. In addition, the crimes for which an individual was arrested in CY2012 may or may not be for an offense that occurred in CY2012.

Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm

The presence of a firearm during a crime can increase the severity of a violent incident and the likelihood of fatal consequences. In Arizona, the percentage of violent offenses committed with a firearm fell over the ten-year period across all three violent index offenses with available weapon data (Table 1). The percentage of Arizona murders and non-negligent homicides committed using a firearm ranged from 75.9 percent in CY2005 to a low of 60.1 percent in CY2009. Arizona's percentage of robberies involving the use of a firearm fell from 48.3 percent in CY2003 to 42.2 percent in CY2012 while aggravated assaults committed with a firearm decreased from 27.0 percent to 24.3 percent over the period.

Table 1. Percentage of Violent Crimes¹ Committed with a Firearm, CY2003-2012

	Murder / Non-Negligent Manslaughter		Robbery		Aggravated Assault	
	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States
2003	70.8%	66.9%	48.3%	41.8%	27.0%	19.1%
2004	72.1%	66.0%	50.5%	40.6%	26.6%	19.3%
2005	75.9%	68.0%	54.8%	42.1%	25.8%	21.0%
2006	74.2%	67.9%	49.3%	42.2%	29.5%	21.9%
2007	69.6%	68.0%	49.3%	42.8%	28.7%	21.4%
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%
2010	65.9%	67.5%	44.2%	41.4%	23.6%	20.6%
2011	65.5%	67.7%	44.7%	41.3%	23.6%	21.2%
2012	65.7%	69.3%	42.2%	41.0%	24.3%	21.8%

¹ Percentages were calculated using murders, robberies and aggravated assaults with weapon type provided to the FBI.

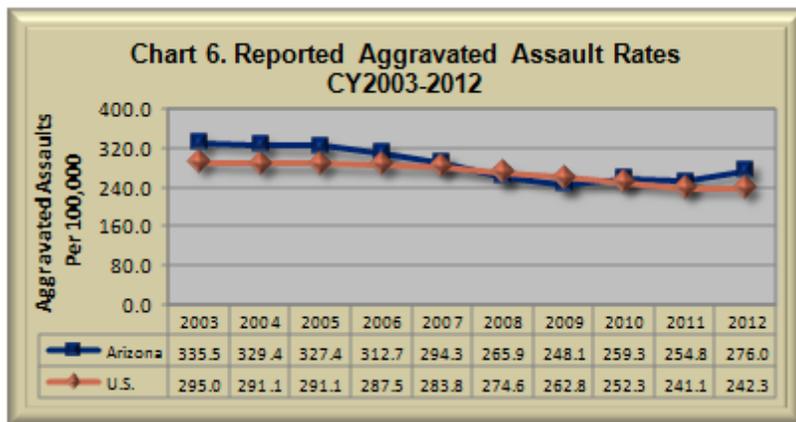
Robberies Reported to Police

From CY2003 to CY2012, Arizona's robbery rates were similar to the rates for the nation as a whole (Chart 5). From CY2003 to CY2012, the Arizona robbery rate fluctuated, but fell by 17.4 percent from 136.5 robberies per 100,000 residents in CY2003 to 112.7 in CY2012.



Aggravated Assaults Reported to Police

Both the Arizona and the U.S. aggravated assault rates increased from CY2011 to CY2012 (Chart 6). Although the state rate fell 17.7 percent during the time period examined, the Arizona aggravated assault rate rose from 254.8 in CY2011 to 276.0 in CY2012. Even though the U.S. rate also increased from CY2011 to CY2012, it decreased overall by 17.9 percent over the same ten-year period.



In contrast, from CY2003 to CY2012 the national data reflect an increase in firearm use during murders and non-negligent homicides as well as aggravated assaults (Table 1).

Conclusion

Despite noticeable decreases in overall violent index offense rates in Arizona and across the U.S. from CY2003 to CY2012, both rates increased from CY2011 to CY2012. When looking at the offenses that make up the overall violent index offense rate, murder/non-negligent manslaughter and forcible rape crime rates decreased from CY2011 to CY2012. Driving the increase in Arizona's violent index offense rate is Arizona's robbery rate, which rose 2.5 percent in CY2012, and the rate of aggravated assaults, which increased more sharply at 8.3 percent from CY2011 to CY2012.

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