

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief

Arizona Property Crime Trends, CY2006-2015 May 2017 Publication

Our mission is to continuously address, improve, sustain and enhance public safety in the State of Arizona through the coordination, cohesiveness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is one of a number of valuable tools for analyzing the frequency and rate of crime in Arizona and across the nation. In the annual *Crime in the United States* report, the UCR provides data for Part I index crimes, including the

property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Due to the unique nature of the arson reporting process, the UCR only provides national rates for arson and excludes arson from property index offense rates. For this reason, state arson data from the Arizona Department of Public Safety's annual *Crime in Arizona* report will be provided. For more information on the data sources used, the reports may be found through the following links: [Crime in the United States](#) and [Crime in Arizona](#).

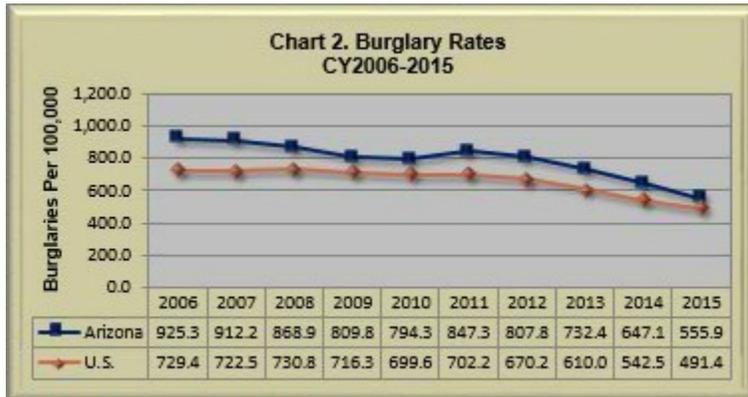
Property Crimes Reported to Police

Reported property index offense rates for both Arizona and the United States decreased from calendar years (CY) 2014 to CY2015 by 5.1 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively (see Chart 1). The Arizona property index offense rate decreased to a low of 3,033.2 offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2015. Similarly, the U.S. rate has decreased to a low of 2,487.0 in CY2015.

Over the past ten years, both the state and the national property index offense rates decreased (see Chart 1). While both rates dropped, Arizona's fell at a greater rate than throughout the U.S. Despite the noticeable decrease within the state, the Arizona property crime rate continued to be higher than the U.S. rate overall.



NOTE: Arson offenses are not included in the Chart 1 property index offense rates.



Burglary Reported to Police

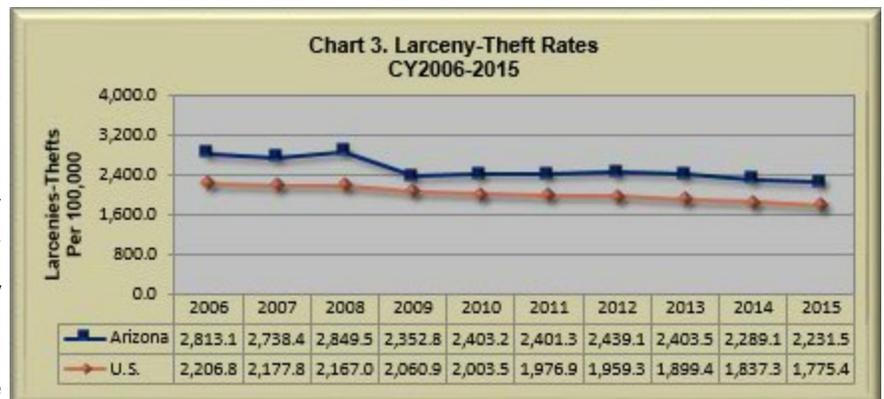
Reported burglary rates in Arizona and the U.S. experienced similar decreases over the past ten years (see Chart 2). With the exception of CY2011, Arizona's burglary rate decreased annually to a ten-year low of 555.9 in CY2015. The national rate also dropped to a ten-year low of 491.4 in CY2015.

When comparing the Arizona and the national burglary rates, the Arizona burglary rate has been higher over the past ten years (see Chart 2). Overall, the Arizona burglary rate fell 39.9 percent over the ten years compared to a 32.6 percent drop nationally.

Larceny-Theft Reported to Police

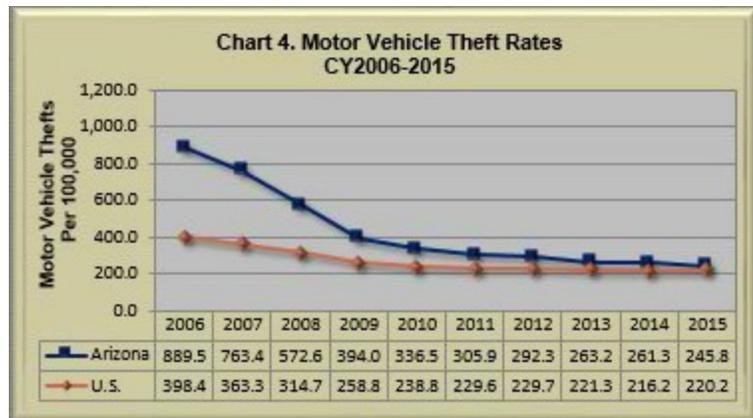
Reported larceny-theft rates for Arizona have fallen similar to the national rate. Over the ten year period, both the state and national rates decreased by 20.7 percent and 19.5 percent, respectively (see Chart 3). The Arizona larceny-theft rate increased in CY2008 and also fluctuated from CY2009 to CY2013. By CY2015, the Arizona larceny-theft rate decreased to a low of 2,231.5 offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2015. The national larceny-theft rate consistently declined across all ten years from 2,206.8 per 100,000 in CY2006 to 1,775.4 in CY2015.

The Arizona larceny-theft rate was higher than the U.S. rate over the entire ten-year period (see Chart 3).



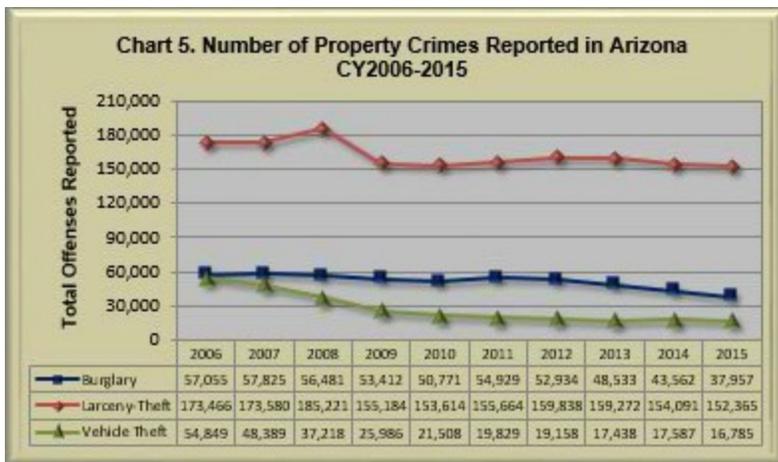
Motor Vehicle Theft Reported to Police

The rate of motor vehicle thefts noticeably decreased in Arizona from CY2006 to CY2015 (see Chart 4). A similar, though less dramatic, shift was seen nationally. The Arizona motor vehicle theft rate dropped to a ten-year low of 245.8 in CY2015 while the national rate slightly rose to 220.2 in CY2015 from the ten-year low of 216.2 in CY2014. Despite the marked decrease in the state rate, the Arizona motor vehicle theft rate was higher than the national rate across all ten years.



Total Arizona Property Crime Offenses Reported

In CY2015, the total number of reported offenses for burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft equaled 207,107 (see Chart 5). Individually, each of the three offense types decreased from CY2006 to CY2015. Over the ten-year period, the total number of reported property crimes has decreased by 27.4 percent.



Conclusion

In CY2015, both the Arizona and national property offense rates reached ten-year lows at 3,033.2 and 2,487.0 per 100,000 residents, respectively (see Chart 1). In Arizona, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft rates all reached ten year lows in CY2015. In comparison, the national burglary and larceny-theft rates reached ten-year lows as well in CY2015, while the U.S. motor vehicle theft rate increased from a low in CY2014. Arizona's reported property offense rate remained higher than the national rate across the entire ten-year period.

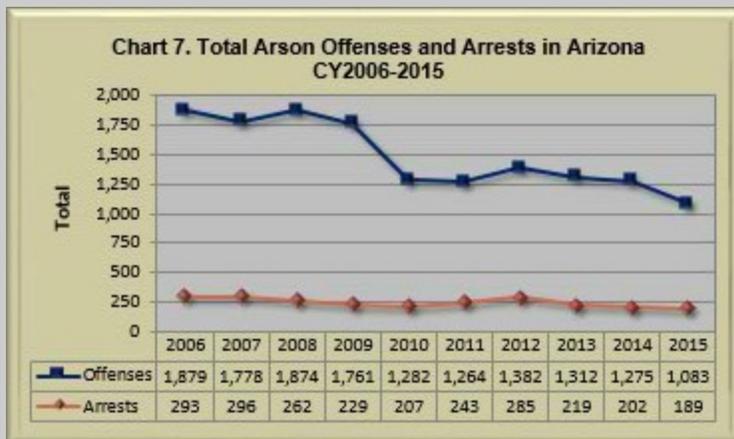
It should be noted that the information provided in the data brief represents only the totals and rates of offenses being reported to law enforcement, which exclude any crimes not reported by victims of property crimes. The property offense rate is one of a number of indicators that should be considered when determining the crime problem within a community or state. For this reason, property offense rate comparisons across states and local jurisdictions are not recommended due to each jurisdictions' unique demographics and approaches to criminal activity.

National and State Arson Offenses Reported to Police

The rate of arson in the United States has decreased overall since CY2006 (see Chart 6). With the exception of CY2012, the rates declined each year to a ten-year low of 13.6 arsons per 100,000 residents in CY2015. Since CY2006, the U.S. experienced a 49.3 percent decline in arson offense rates.



It should be noted that the *Crime in the United States* report includes data for arson offenses, but only at the national level. The FBI indicates that they exclude individual state data from the report due to inconsistency across agencies reporting measures for arson offenses. Therefore, Chart 7 is comprised of data from the Arizona Department of Public Safety's *Crime in Arizona* annual reports. Throughout the past ten years, the total number of arson offenses and arrests reported in Arizona fluctuated, but decreased (see Chart 7). From CY2006 to CY2015 arson offenses decreased by 42.4 percent to 1,083 total offenses reported in CY2015. The total number of arrests for arson in Arizona also fluctuated, but decreased, over the ten-year period. Despite increases across certain years, the total number of arrests fell from a high of 296 in CY2007 to a ten-year low of 189 in CY2015.



NOTE: State arson data comes from the 2015 *Crime in Arizona* report.

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