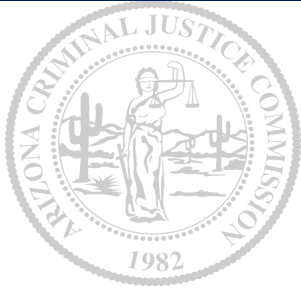


# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

## Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief

### Arizona Violent Crime Trends, CY2006-2015 May 2017 Publication

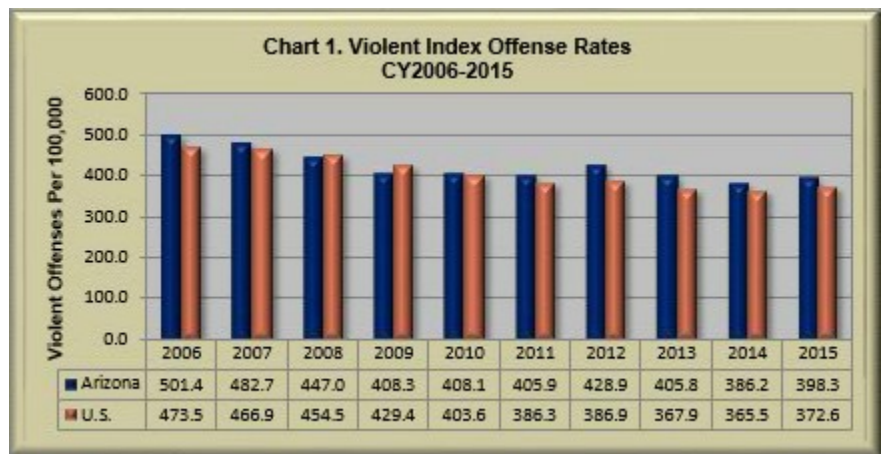
Our mission is to continuously address, improve, sustain and enhance public safety in the State of Arizona through the coordination, cohesiveness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System.



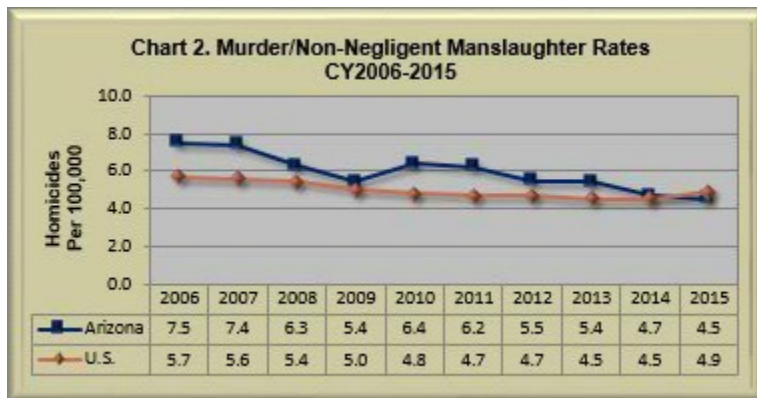
The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is one of a number of valuable tools for analyzing the frequency and rate of crime in Arizona and across the nation. According to the FBI, the U.S. violent crime rate, as measured by four violent index offenses (i.e., murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), increased from calendar year (CY) 2014 to CY2015, as did the Arizona rate during the same period. This data brief examines the crime rate trends for the four violent index offenses in Arizona and the nation. The data used in this brief were submitted to the UCR program by local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies and published by the FBI in the annual [Crime in the United States](#) report (September 2016).

#### Violent Crimes Reported to Police

The violent index offense rates for both Arizona and the United States decreased overall from CY2006 to 2015 (see Chart 1). During this time, Arizona's violent crime rate decreased by 20.6 percent from 501.4 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2006 to 398.3 in CY2015. During the same period, the U.S. violent crime rate fell 21.3 percent, from 473.5 per 100,000 residents in CY2006 to 372.6 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2015. Both the Arizona and U.S. violent crime rates increased from CY2014 to CY2015. With the exception of CY2008 and CY2009, the Arizona violent index offense rate was higher than the national rate.



NOTE: Rates in Chart 1 include the legacy definition of forcible rape for ten-year trend purposes.



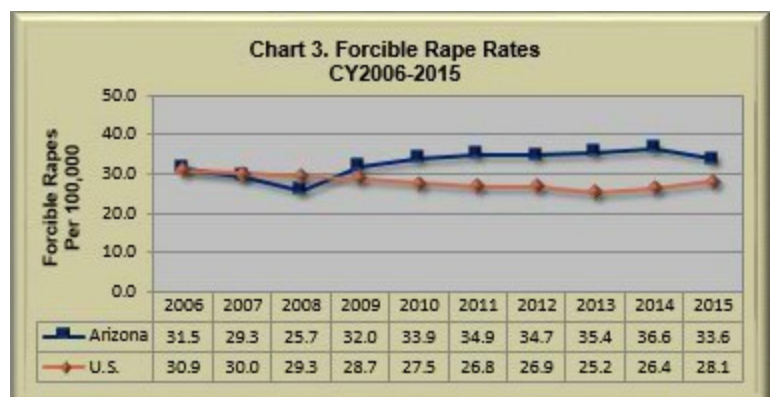
#### Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter Reported to Police

Since CY2006, Arizona and the U.S. experienced a decrease in the murder/non-negligent manslaughter rate (see Chart 2). Over the ten years, Arizona's rate decreased 40.0 percent from 7.5 reported incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2006 to 4.5 in CY2015. The nation's homicide rate decreased 14.0 percent from CY2006 to CY2015. Over the first nine years, the rate of murder/non-negligent manslaughter was higher in Arizona than across the nation, and in CY2015 the state rate fell below the national rate at 4.5 and 4.9 per 100,000 residents, respectively.

#### Forcible Rape (Legacy Definition) Reported to Police

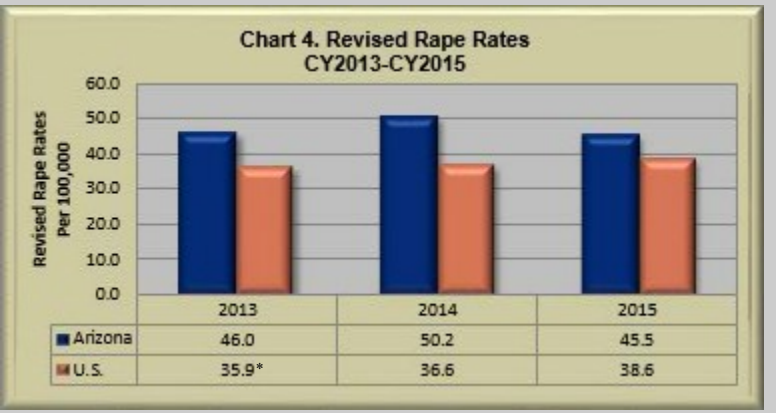
Over the ten year period, the rate of forcible rape for Arizona increased from 31.5 per 100,000 in CY2006 to 33.6 in CY2015 (see Chart 3). Through CY2008, the Arizona rate declined to a low of 25.7 before increasing to a ten-year high of 36.6 in CY2014. The U.S. forcible rape rate decreased overall by 9.1 percent from CY2006 to CY2015. The Arizona rate has been higher than the national rate since CY2009.

In CY2013, the FBI began collecting data on a revised definition of forcible rape, known as "rape." The FBI is currently collecting both rape and forcible rape data until sufficient data are available for trend analysis on the revised definition. Data and additional information for rape (revised definition) are available on page two of the data brief.



## Revised Definition of Rape Reported to Police

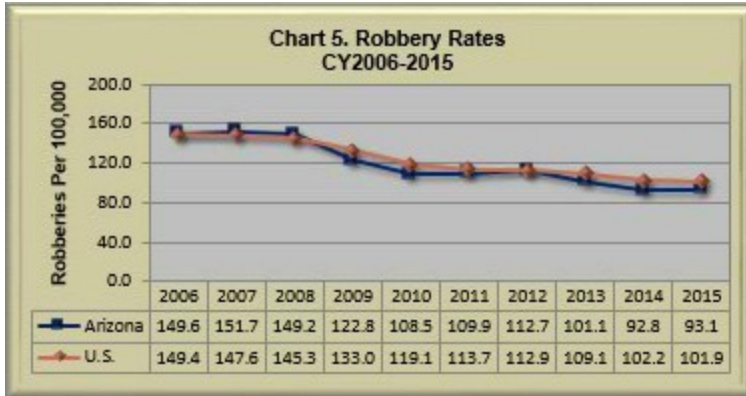
The FBI revised the definition of “forcible rape” in 2013. Now identified as “rape,” the new definition more closely aligns with the state’s statutory definition of sexual assault. According to the data, Arizona had a rate of 45.5 rapes per 100,000 residents in CY2015 compared to the national rate of 38.6 (see Chart 4). In Arizona, the rape rate decreased from 50.2 per 100,000 in CY2014. In comparison, the national rape rate increased from 36.6 per 100,000 residents in CY2014. As is seen with the forcible rape rate, the revised rape rate in Arizona was higher than the U.S. across all three years.



\* Revised rape rate captured from adjusted 2013 data in the 2014 Crime in the United States report.

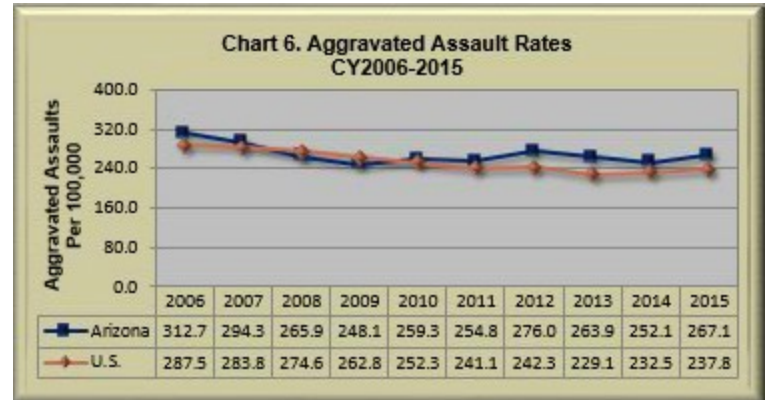
## Robberies Reported to Police

Over the ten-year period, Arizona and the U.S. had a similar fluctuation pattern for reported robbery rates (See Chart 5). Both Arizona and the U.S. experienced decreases of 37.8 percent and 31.8 percent, respectively. In CY2015, Arizona slightly increased from the ten year low of 92.8 in CY2014 by 0.3 percent. Alternately, the U.S. reached a new ten-year low in CY2015 at a rate of 101.9 robberies per 100,000 residents.



## Aggravated Assaults Reported to Police

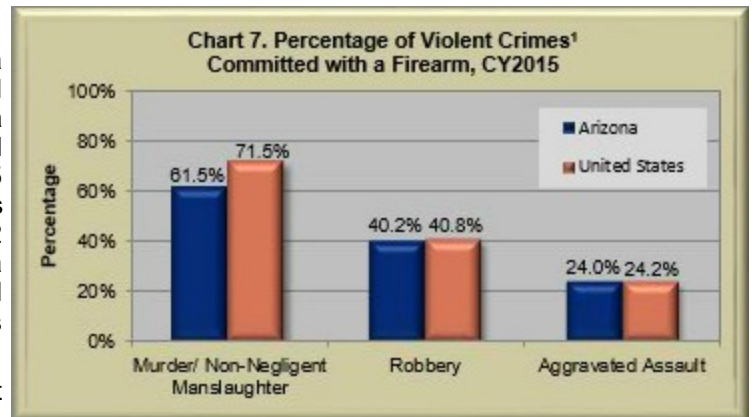
Overall, both Arizona and the U.S. aggravated assault rates decreased over the ten year period (see Chart 6). Despite increases in CY2010, 2012 and 2015, Arizona’s aggravated assault rate declined by 14.6 percent between CY2006 to CY2015 while the U.S. rate decreased by 17.3 percent in the same time period.



## Violent Crime Committed with a Firearm

In Arizona, the percentage of violent offenses committed with a firearm was lower compared to national percentages reported across all three violent index offenses with available weapons data in CY2015 (see Chart 7). The percentage of Arizona murders and non-negligent homicides committed using a firearm was at 61.5 percent in CY2015 compared to 71.5 percent nationally. Arizona’s percentage of robberies involving the use of a firearm was at 40.2 percent in CY2015, and aggravated assaults committed with a firearm was at 24.0 percent in the same year. The national percentages were within one percent of the Arizona percentages for both robbery and aggravated assault.

Arizona’s reporting of weapons data was at or above 90 percent across all three offense categories. Only national murder/non-negligent manslaughter fell below the 90 percent threshold at 85.7 percent reporting in CY2015.



<sup>1</sup> Percentages were calculated using murders, robberies and aggravated assaults with weapon type provided to the FBI. State and national-level weapons reporting reached 90 percent for each offense type with the exception of murder/non-negligent manslaughter at 85.7 percent reporting nationally.

## Conclusion

The violent index offense rates in Arizona and the entire U.S. decreased from CY2006 to 2015. When considering the change from the prior calendar year, the violent index offense rates increased from CY2014 to 2015. In Arizona, this one-year increase was driven by increases in the rates for robbery and aggravated assault. Both the murder/non-negligent manslaughter and robbery rates were below the national rate in CY2015. Also in 2015, the percentage of crimes involving a firearm in Arizona was 61.5 percent for murder/non-negligent manslaughter, which was lower than the national percentage at 71.5 percent.

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 violent crimes. The violent index 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, offense rate comparisons across states and local jurisdictions are not recommended due to each jurisdictions’ unique demographics and approaches to criminal activity.

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