

CRIME IN MAINE 1996 — HIGHLIGHTS



During 1996 the crime clock average in Maine reflected the following:

VIOLENT CRIMES: 1 every 5 hours, 40 minutes1 Murder every 14 days, 15 hours
 1 Rape every 33 hours, 1 minute
 1 Robbery every 30 hours, 30 minutes
 1 Aggravated Assault every 9 hours, 3 minutes

PROPERTY CRIMES: 1 every 13 minutes, 1 second1 Burglary every 57 minutes, 6 seconds
 1 Larceny every 18 minutes, 3 seconds
 1 Motor Vehicle Theft every 4 hours, 58 minutes
 1 Arson every 30 hours, 30 minutes

CRIME RATEThe Crime Rate is based on the occurrence of an Index Offense per 1,000 residents of the state. Local and county rates are based on their individual populations. The State Crime Rate for 1996 was 34.03 per 1,000. The comparable rate for 1995 was 33.47. The 1996 state population is estimated at 1,235,000 persons.

INDEX OFFENSESThere were 42,026 Index Offenses reported by police during 1996 — an increase of 692 offenses (1.7%) from the 41,334 similar offenses reported in 1995.

VIOLENT CRIMESMurder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault make up the Violent Crimes category. Violent crimes as a group decreased by 92 offenses from 1995 for a 5.6% decrease. During 1996 violent crimes totaled 1,549, compared to a 1995 total of 1,641. Violent crimes accounted for 3.7% of all reported index crimes (4.0% in 1995) and represent a crime rate of 1.25 per 1,000 population.

PROPERTY CRIMESProperty Crimes, consisting of Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson, rose in 1996 by 784 offenses (2.0%) from 1995. There were 40,477 offenses reported in 1996 with 39,693 being shown for 1995. Property crimes account for 96.3% of all index crimes with a crime rate of 32.77 offenses per 1,000 population.

MURDERThere were 25 murders committed in Maine during 1996 — up by 4 (19.0%) from the 21 murders reported in 1995. Law enforcement cleared 20 murders this year. Maine’s 10-year average is 28 homicides annually.

RAPE	Forcible Rapes decreased by 2 reported offenses during 1996. There were 268 offenses reported to police in 1995, compared to 266 in 1996. Of the total, 238 were actual rapes, while 28 were classified as attempts to commit forcible rape.
ROBBERY	Robberies decreased by 13.0% (43 offenses) during 1996, from 331 in 1995 to 288 in 1996.
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	Law enforcement reported 970 Aggravated Assaults during 1996, a decrease of 5.0% from the 1995 figure of 1,021. Simple assaults (a non-index crime) increased by 2.9% during 1996 with 10,676 offenses reported.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	All offenses of assault between family or household members are reported as Domestic Assault and account for 33.6% of all assaults. During 1996 police reported 3,914 offenses, a decrease of 498 (-11.3%) from the 4,412 offenses reported in 1995.
BURGLARY	The number of Burglaries during 1996 rose by 0.1% compared with those in 1995. There was an increase of 12 from the 1995 total of 9,218. The 9,230 burglaries reported statewide resulted in property loss totaling \$7,683,999. Burglaries represent 22.0% of all reported index offenses.
LARCENY-THEFT	The crime of Larceny increased during 1996 by 2.4% from the 28,504 larceny offenses reported in 1995. Police reported 29,193 larceny crimes during 1996. Shoplifting and thefts from motor vehicles increased 3.2% and 5.9% respectively for 37.6% of all larceny crimes reported.
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	Motor Vehicle Theft registered an increase of 46 offenses during 1996, from 1,720 in 1995 to 1,766. A high of 2,764 motor vehicles were reported stolen during 1978.
ARSON	The crime of Arson was added to the list of reportable index crimes in 1980. During 1996 there were 288 arsons reported, up 37 (14.7%) from the 251 arsons reported for 1995. Estimated property loss caused by arson totaled over \$5.2 million during 1996 — up 93.7%.
HATE CRIME	Beginning in 1992, Hate Crime was added as a new reporting requirement. During 1996, police reported 60 incidents involving 74 victims and resulting in a total of 84 offenses.
STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY	During 1996 law enforcement agencies recorded \$26,340,143 worth of property stolen during the commission of index crimes — an increase of 7.6% from the \$24,478,069 stolen during 1995. Police were able to recover 37.2% (\$9,803,105) of stolen property during 1996.

CLEARANCE RATE	Law enforcement agencies cleared 27.6% of all index crimes in 1996 — compared to 27.9% in 1995.
ARRESTS	The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police, including juveniles and adults, was 55,270 — an increase of 8.2% from the 51,084 persons recorded in 1995. Drug arrests increased 19.5% with 3,350 adults and 736 juveniles charged with drug offenses.
OFFICER ASSAULTS	There were 331 assaults on law enforcement officers in 1996, a 14.9% increase from the 1995 figure of 288.
POLICE EMPLOYMENT DATA	Statewide there were 2,042 full-time sworn law enforcement officers representing a ratio of 1.66 officers per 1,000 population. Nationally the average rate per 1,000 is 2.3.
TRENDS	The chart on the following pages shows the 10-year trend data for the index crimes recorded by Uniform Crime Reporting. Shown are the number of offenses, the crime rate per 1,000 residents of Maine, the percent cleared in Maine, the national crime rate per 1,000, and the percent change in the number of reported offenses in Maine.