

CRIME IN MAINE 2003 — HIGHLIGHTS



During 2003 the crime clock average in Maine reflected the following:

VIOLENT CRIMES: 1 every 6 hours, 12 minutes 1 Murder every 21 days, 11 hours, 18 minutes
 1 Rape every 24 hours, 57 minutes
 1 Robbery every 30 hours, 19 minutes
 1 Aggravated Assault every 11 hours, 36 minutes

PROPERTY CRIMES: 1 every 16 minutes, 17 seconds 1 Burglary every 79 minutes, 59 seconds
 1 Larceny every 21 minutes, 51 seconds
 1 Motor Vehicle Theft every 6 hours, 2 minutes
 1 Arson every 44 hours, 42 minutes

CRIME RATE The 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 2003 was 25.80 per 1,000. The comparable rate for 2002 was 26.60. The 2003 state population is estimated at 1,305,728 persons.

INDEX OFFENSES There were 33,693 Index Offenses reported by police during 2003 — a decrease of 741 offenses (2.2%) from the 34,434 similar offenses reported in 2002.

VIOLENT CRIMES Murder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault make up the Violent Crimes category. Violent crimes as a group increased by 10 offenses from 2002 for a 0.7% increase. During 2003 violent crimes totaled 1,412, compared to a 2002 total of 1,402. Violent crimes accounted for 4.2% of all reported index crimes (4.1% in 2002) and represent a crime rate of 1.08 per 1,000 population.

PROPERTY CRIMES Property Crimes, consisting of Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson, fell in 2003 by 751 offenses (2.3%) from 2002. There were 32,281 offenses reported in 2003 with 33,032 being shown for 2002. Property crimes account for 95.8% of all index crimes with a crime rate of 24.72 offenses per 1,000 population.

MURDER There were 17 murders committed in Maine during 2003 — up by 3 (21.4%) from the 14 murders reported in 2002. Law enforcement cleared 14 murders this year. Maine’s 10-year average is 21 homicides annually.

RAPE	Forcible Rapes decreased by 40 reported offenses during 2003. There were 391 offenses reported to police in 2002, compared to 351 in 2003. Of the total, 331 were actual rapes, while 20 were classified as attempts to commit forcible rape.
ROBBERY	Robberies increased by 7.4% (20 offenses) during 2003, from 269 in 2002 to 289 in 2003.
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	Law enforcement reported 755 Aggravated Assaults during 2003, an increase of 3.7% from the 2002 figure of 728. Simple assaults (a non-index crime) decreased by 0.3% during 2003 with 10,948 offenses reported.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	All offenses of assault between family or household members are reported as Domestic Assault and account for 45.8% of all assaults. During 2003 police reported 5,364 offenses, an increase of 551 (11.4%) from the 4,813 offenses reported in 2002.
BURGLARY	The number of Burglaries during 2003 fell by 5.4% compared with those in 2002. There was a decrease of 373 from the 2002 total of 6,944. The 6,571 burglaries reported statewide resulted in property loss totaling \$5,756,522. Burglaries represent 19.5% of all reported index offenses.
LARCENY-THEFT	The crime of Larceny decreased during 2003 by 1.8% from the 24,496 larceny offenses reported in 2002. Police reported 24,064 larceny crimes during 2003. Shoplifting increased 4.0% and thefts from motor vehicles decreased 7.0% for 34.1% of all larceny crimes reported.
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	Motor Vehicle Theft registered an increase of 32 offenses during 2003, from 1,418 in 2002 to 1,450. 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 2003 there were 196 arsons reported, up 22 (12.6%) from the 174 arsons reported for 2002. Estimated property loss caused by arson totaled over \$1 million during 2003 — down 43.8%.
HATE CRIME	Beginning in 1992, Hate Crime was added as a new reporting requirement. During 2003, police reported 79 incidents involving 100 victims and resulting in a total of 99 offenses.
STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY	During 2003 law enforcement agencies recorded \$23,829,298 worth of property stolen during the commission of index crimes — a decrease of 2.6% from the \$24,464,621 stolen during 2002. Police were able to recover 33.9% (\$8,088,993) of stolen property during 2003.

CLEARANCE RATE	Law enforcement agencies cleared 27.9% of all index crimes in 2003 — higher than the 27.7% rate in 2002.
ARRESTS	The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police, including juveniles and adults, was 55,714 — an increase of 1.2% from the 55,036 persons recorded in 2002. Drug arrests increased 4.6% with 4,271 adults and 828 juveniles charged with drug offenses.
OFFICER ASSAULTS	There were 262 assaults on law enforcement officers in 2003, the same as the 2002 figure of 262.
POLICE EMPLOYMENT DATA	Statewide there were 2,230 full-time sworn law enforcement officers representing a ratio of 1.71 officers per 1,000 population. Nationally (in 2002) the average rate per 1,000 was 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.