

CRIME IN MAINE 2004 — HIGHLIGHTS



During 2004 the crime clock average in Maine reflected the following:

VIOLENT CRIMES: 1 every 6 hours, 31 minutes1 Murder every 19 days, 6 hours, 19 minutes
 1 Rape every 28 hours, 4 minutes
 1 Robbery every 30 hours, 30 minutes
 1 Aggravated Assault every 12 hours, 4 minutes

PROPERTY CRIMES: 1 every 16 minutes, 30 seconds1 Burglary every 83 minutes, 5 seconds
 1 Larceny every 21 minutes, 53 seconds
 1 Motor Vehicle Theft every 6 hours, 44 minutes
 1 Arson every 45 hours, 45 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 2004 was 25.26 per 1,000. The comparable rate for 2003 was 25.80. The 2004 state population is estimated at 1,317,253 persons.

INDEX OFFENSESThere were 33,276 Index Offenses reported by police during 2004 — a decrease of 417 offenses (1.2%) from the 33,693 similar offenses reported in 2003.

VIOLENT CRIMESMurder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault make up the Violent Crimes category. Violent crimes as a group decreased by 64 offenses from 2003 for a 4.5% decrease. During 2004 violent crimes totaled 1,348, compared to a 2003 total of 1,412. Violent crimes accounted for 4.1% of all reported index crimes (4.2% in 2003) and represent a crime rate of 1.02 per 1,000 population.

PROPERTY CRIMESProperty Crimes, consisting of Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson, fell in 2004 by 353 offenses (1.1%) from 2003. There were 31,928 offenses reported in 2004 with 32,281 being shown for 2003. Property crimes account for 95.9% of all index crimes with a crime rate of 24.24 offenses per 1,000 population.

MURDERThere were 19 murders committed in Maine during 2004 — up by 2 (11.8%) from the 17 murders reported in 2003. Law enforcement cleared 18 murders this year. Maine’s 10-year average is 20 homicides annually.

RAPE	Forcible Rapes decreased by 38 reported offenses during 2004. There were 351 offenses reported to police in 2003, compared to 313 in 2004. Of the total, 286 were actual rapes, while 27 were classified as attempts to commit forcible rape.
ROBBERY	Robberies decreased by 0.3% (1 offense) during 2004, from 289 in 2003 to 288 in 2004.
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	Law enforcement reported 728 Aggravated Assaults during 2004, a decrease of 3.6% from the 2003 figure of 755. Simple assaults (a non-index crime) decreased by 5.7% during 2004 with 10,327 offenses reported.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	All offenses of assault between family or household members are reported as Domestic Assault and account for 46.9% of all assaults. During 2004 police reported 5,188 offenses, a decrease of 176 (3.3%) from the 5,364 offenses reported in 2003.
BURGLARY	The number of Burglaries during 2004 fell by 3.5% compared with those in 2003. There was a decrease of 227 from the 2003 total of 6,571. The 6,344 burglaries reported statewide resulted in property loss totaling \$5,432,520. Burglaries represent 19.1% of all reported index offenses.
LARCENY-THEFT	The crime of Larceny increased during 2004 by 0.1% from the 24,064 larceny offenses reported in 2003. Police reported 24,087 larceny crimes during 2004. Shoplifting decreased 6.3% and thefts from motor vehicles decreased 2.5% for 32.7% of all larceny crimes reported.
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	Motor Vehicle Theft registered a decrease of 145 offenses during 2004, from 1,450 in 2003 to 1,305. 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 2004 there were 192 arsons reported, down 4 (2.0%) from the 196 arsons reported for 2003. Estimated property loss caused by arson totaled over \$1.7 million during 2004 — up 55.3%.
HATE CRIME	Beginning in 1992, Hate Crime was added as a new reporting requirement. During 2004, police reported 67 incidents involving 79 victims and resulting in a total of 81 offenses.
STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY	During 2004 law enforcement agencies recorded \$23,857,543 worth of property stolen during the commission of index crimes — an increase of 0.1% from the \$23,829,298 stolen during 2003. Police were able to recover 30.2% (\$7,204,575) of stolen property during 2004.

CLEARANCE RATE	Law enforcement agencies cleared 28.3% of all index crimes in 2004 — higher than the 27.9% rate in 2003.
ARRESTS	The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police, including juveniles and adults, was 55,554 — a decrease of 0.3% from the 55,714 persons recorded in 2003. Drug arrests increased 10.3% with 4,819 adults and 806 juveniles charged with drug offenses.
OFFICER ASSAULTS	There were 315 assaults on law enforcement officers in 2004, an increase from the 2003 figure of 262.
POLICE EMPLOYMENT DATA	Statewide there were 2,214 full-time sworn law enforcement officers representing a ratio of 1.68 officers per 1,000 population. Nationally the average rate per 1,000 was 2.4.
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.