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Summary and Interpretation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crime in the United States, 2011

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**Summary and Interpretation of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crime in the United States, 2010**
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The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released its annual report regarding crime in the United States in 2011. The key findings, taken from there, are discussed and interpreted below.

CRIME VOLUME

This section is on crime volume, as compared to crime rate. Crime volume is based on the total number of crimes. Crime rate is the number of offenses per 100,000 persons. Violent crime decreased by 3.8% from 2010 to 2011. In fact, violent crime decreased in all categories. Comparing 2011 violent crime to 2010 violent crime, the category of murder decreased 0.75%; rape decreased 2.5%; robbery decreased 3.98%; and aggravated assault decreased by 3.9%. The percentage change from 2010 to 2011 is shown in Table 1 below. Property crime also decreased in the same period by 0.5%. Larceny/theft decreased 0.7% and motor vehicle theft went down by 3.3%. Burglary, on the other hand, increased by 0.9%.

TABLE 1: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME VOLUME

CRIME CATEGORY	2010-2011
Violent Crime	-3.8%
Murder	-0.75%
Rape	-2.5%
Robbery	-3.98%
Aggravated Assault	-3.9%

For the five year period from 2007 to 2011, violent crime overall was down 15.4%. Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault decreased over this five-year period. Murder decreased 14.7%, rape by 9.5%, aggravated assault by 13.3%, and robbery by 20.8%.

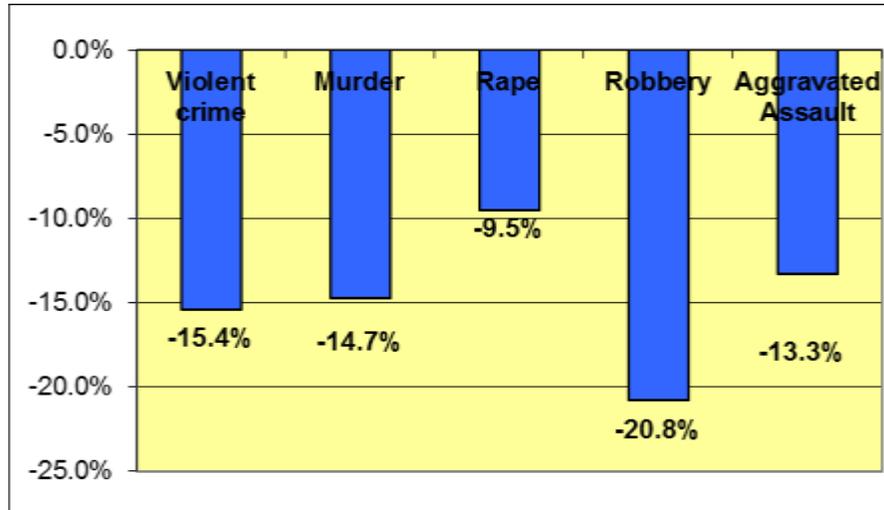
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CHART 1: VIOLENT CRIME VOLUME COMPARED TO FIVE YEARS AGO – 2007 TO 2011



In addition to percentage increases and decreases in crime, it is important to keep in mind the actual numbers. There were 1,203,564 violent crimes committed in the United States in 2011, down from 1,251,248 the previous year. Murders totaled 14,612 in 2011, down from 14,748 in 2010. There were 354,396 robberies reported in the United States in 2011, down from 367,832 in 2011. Rapes totaled 83,425 in 2011, down from 84,767 in 2010. In 2011, there were 751,131 aggravated assaults, down from 778,901 in 2010.

In the period of 2010-2011, all regions of the country experienced an overall decrease in violent crime volume. The Northeast saw a decrease of 1.4%, the Midwest a decrease of 4.0%, the South was down 4.1%, and the West was at a decrease of 4.8%. Murders decreased in both the Northeast and the South, but increased in the Midwest and West. The number of murders committed decreased by 6.2% in the Northeast, and by 0.9% in the South, while the number of murders committed went up by 2.7% in the Midwest, and by 0.4% in the West. Rape volume was down in all regions in 2011 as compared to 2010 except in the Midwest, where it increased by 0.2%. It decreased by 2.1% in the Northeast, 2.2% in the South, and 6.0% in the West. Robberies were down the most in the West with a 5.9% decrease, followed by the South by 5.6%, then the Midwest at a 2.1% decrease, and the Northeast at a 0.2% decrease. Firearms were used in 41.3% of all robberies in 2010 nationwide, a very slight decrease from 41.4% in 2010. During robberies in 2011, the South experienced the highest firearm usage at 48.1%, and the West experienced the lowest usage at 31.7%. During murders in 2011, the Midwest experienced the highest firearm usage at 71.6%, and the West experienced the lowest usage at 63.3%.

CRIME RATE

This section is on rate, not volume. Rate is the number of offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The violent crime rate decreased 4.5% from the 2010 rate. The property crime rate also decreased 1.3% in that same period. From 2010 to 2011, the murder rate decreased 2.1%, rape decreased 3.2%, robbery decreased 4.7%, and aggravated assault decreased 4.6%, as shown in Table 2 below.



TABLE 2: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME RATE

CRIME CATEGORY	2010-2011
Violent Crime	-4.5%
Murder	-2.1%
Rape	-3.2%
Robbery	-4.7%
Aggravated Assault	-4.6%

For the five year period from 2007 to 2011, the violent crime rate overall was down 18.1% as shown in Table 3 below, with all categories at a decrease. Murder was down 17.5%, rape was down 12.4%, robbery was down 23.3%, and aggravated assault was down 16.1%.

TABLE 3: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME RATE – FIVE YEAR PERIOD

CRIME CATEGORY	2007-2011
Violent Crime	-18.1%
Murder	-17.5%
Rape	-12.4%
Robbery	-23.3%
Aggravated Assault	-16.1%

CRIME DETAILS AND TRENDS

Aggravated assault accounted for 62.4% of the violent crimes in 2010. Robbery accounted for 29.4%, forcible rape accounted for 6.9%, and murder accounted for 1.2% of the violent crimes in 2010, as shown in Chart 2. These percentages are consistent with previous years.



CHART 2: VIOLENT CRIME BY OFFENSE

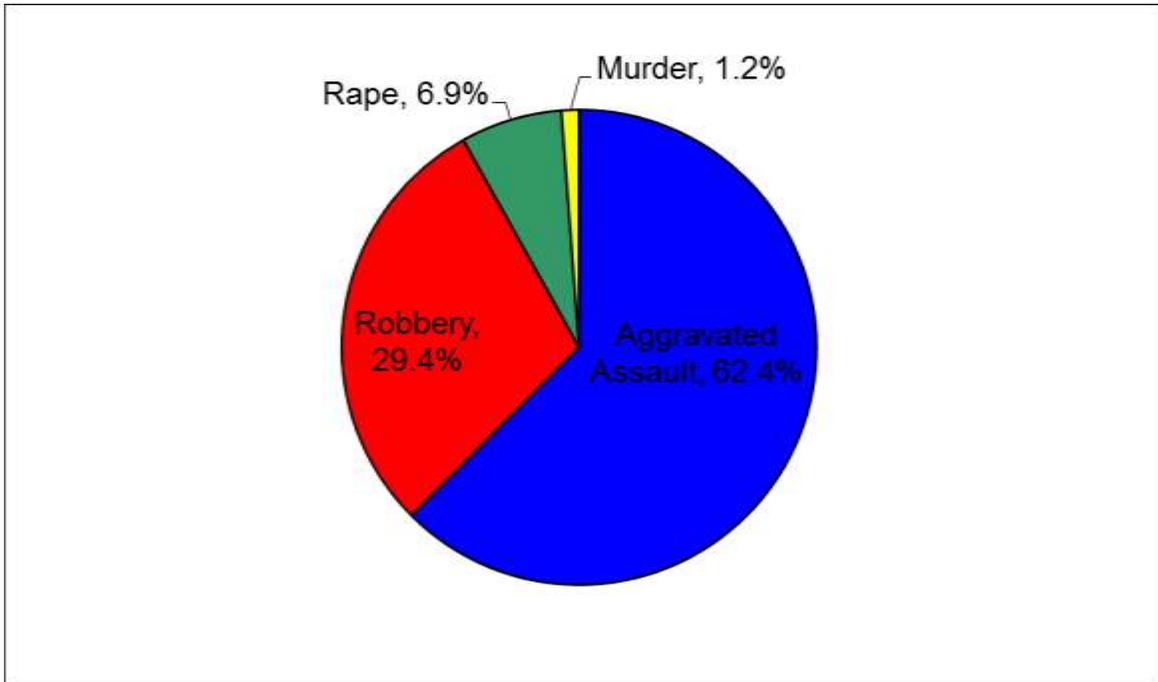
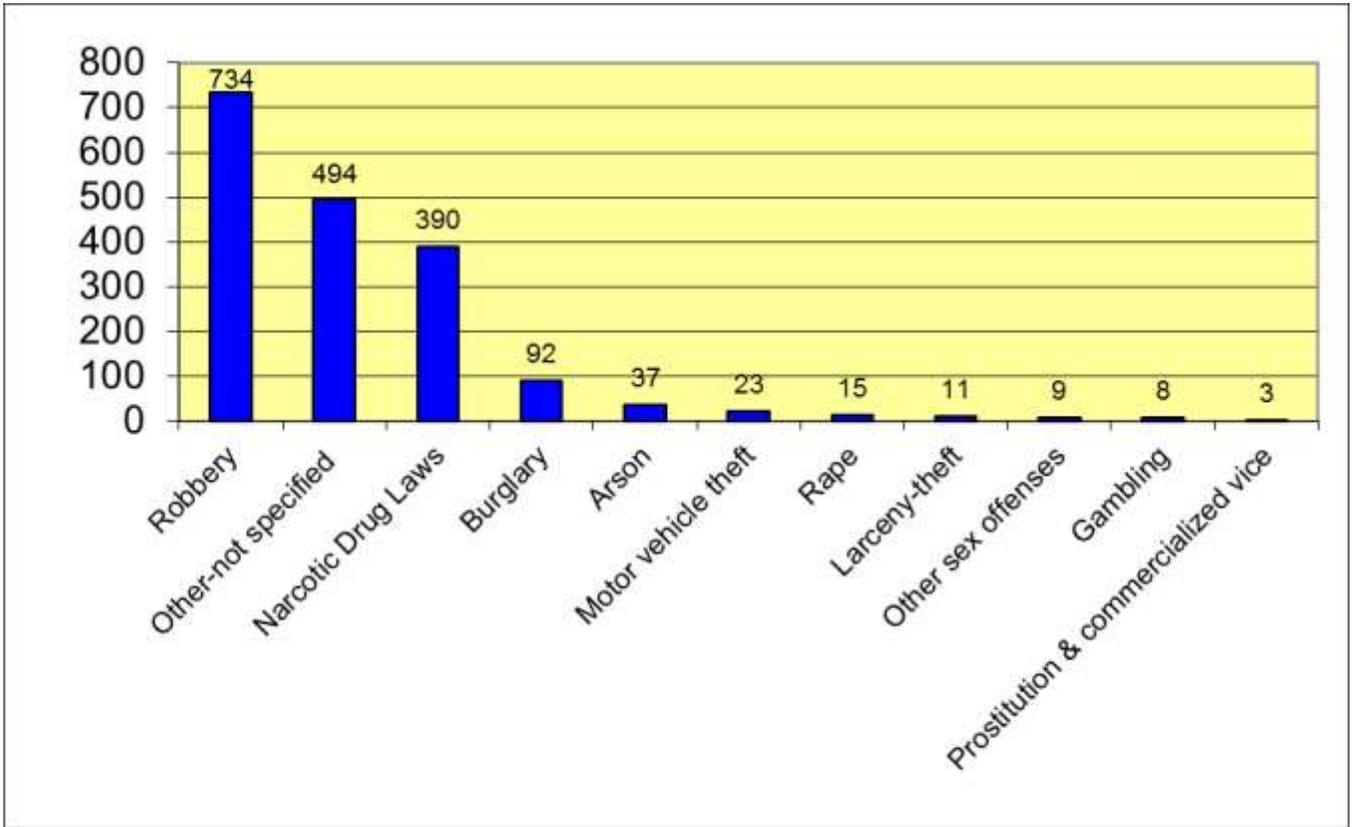


Chart 3 shows the breakdown of murders that occurred during the commission of other felonies. Of all felony murders, the most frequent (734) were robbery related. That number has been consistent over the years, but decreased slightly from 2010.

CHART 3: FELONY MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES

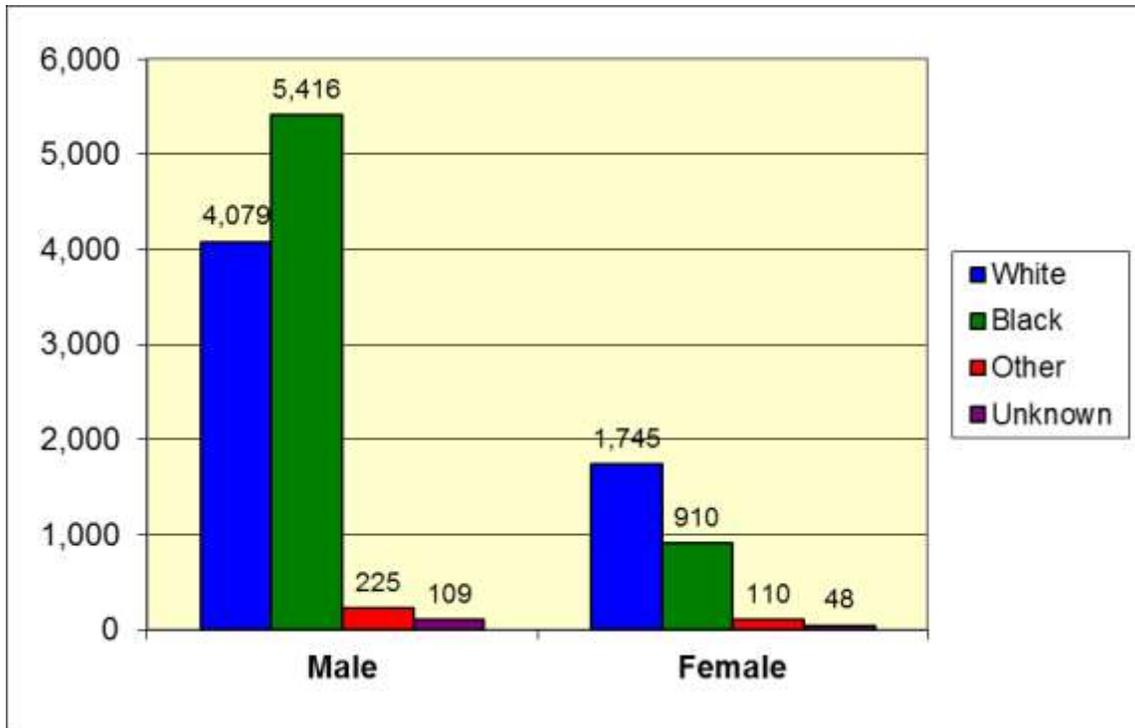




Murder victims were killed with firearms 67.7% of the time in 2011, a slight increase from 67.5% in 2010. Chart 4 shows murder victims by race and sex. In 2011, 77.6% of known murder victims were male. Murder victims, for whom race was known, were 46.0% white, 50.0% black, and the remaining victims were from other or unknown races.

CHART 4: MURDER VICTIMS BY RACE AND SEX





In 2011, 44.1% of the perpetrators were unknown, a slight increase from 44.0% in 2010. When the relationships of murder victims and offenders were known, 21.3% were killed by an acquaintance, 13.8% of victims were slain by family members, and 11.7% were murdered by strangers. These numbers are consistent with the previous year.

Chart 5 depicts the 5-year trend in the number of murders. In 2011, the number of reported murders was an estimated 14,612, down 14.8% from 2007.



CHART 5: NUMBER OF MURDERS 2007-2011

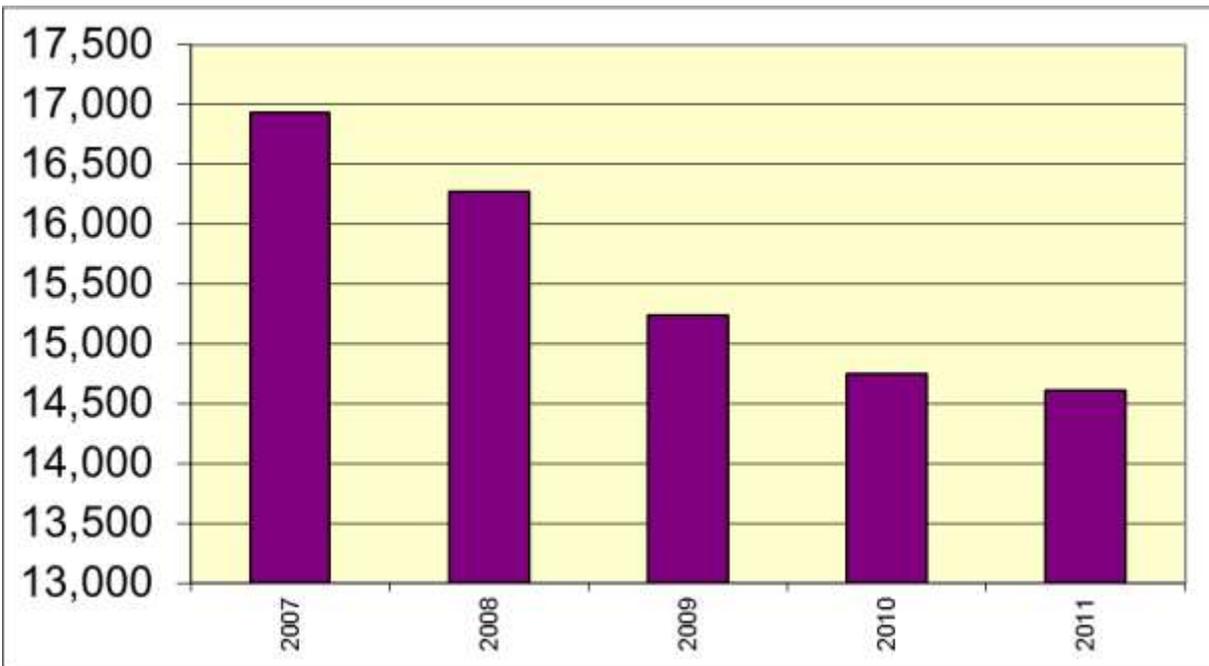
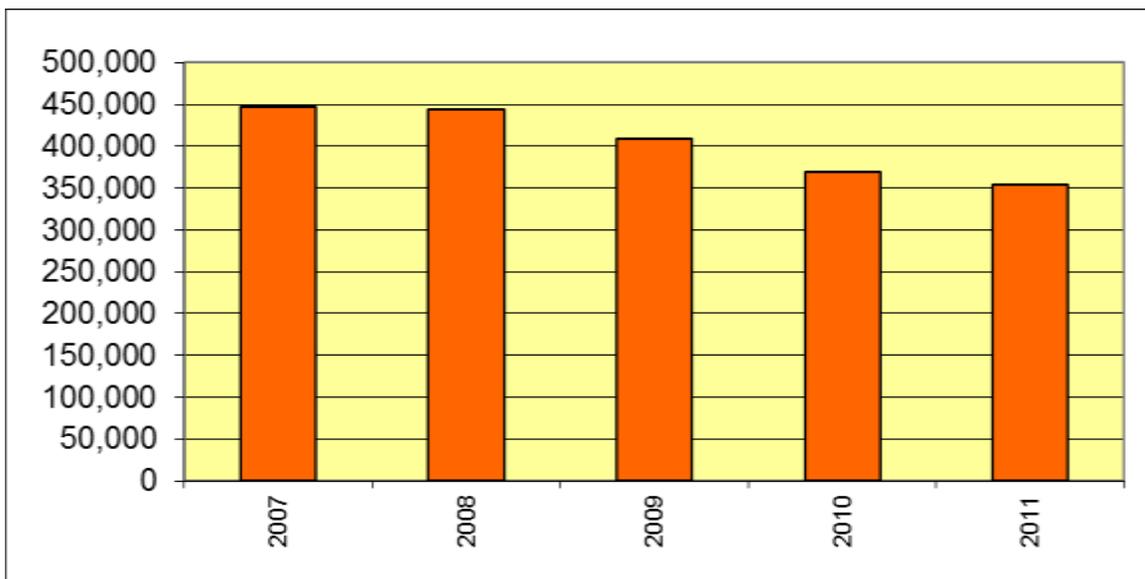


Chart 6 shows the 5-year trend for robbery. Robberies were 20.8% lower in 2011 than they were in 2007.

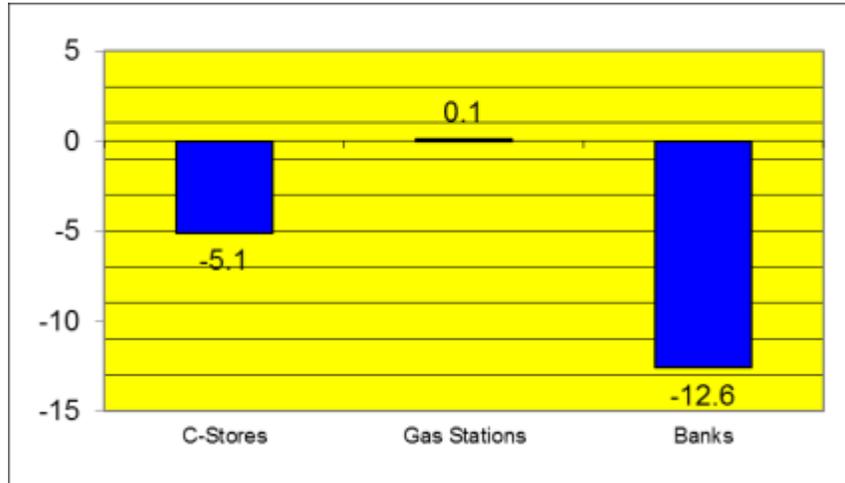
CHART 6: NUMBER OF ROBBERIES 2007-2011



Charts 7, 8 and 9 present the robbery data for convenience stores, gas stations and banks. In evaluating the results, note that the distinction between gas stations and convenience stores is not always clear, and it is based on the law enforcement designation at the scene.

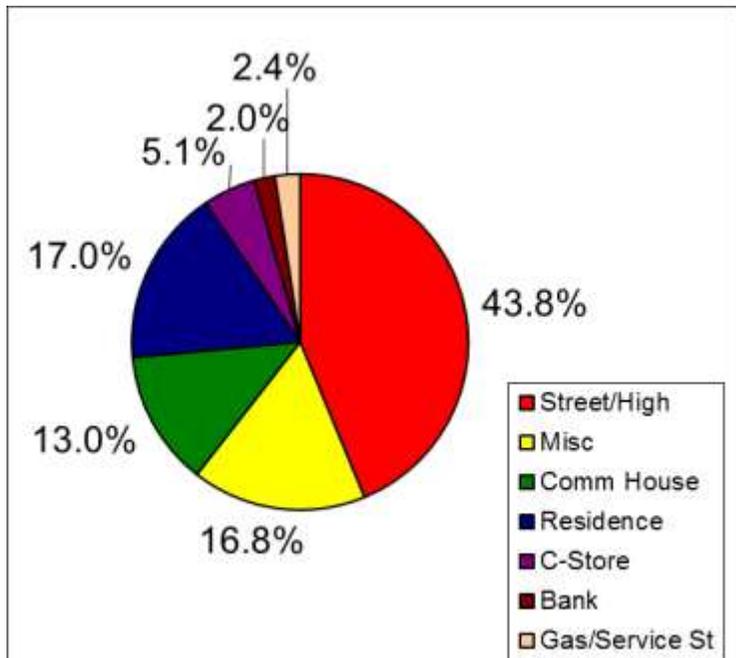
- Convenience store robbery volume was down 5.1% from 2010 to 2011.
- Gas station robbery volume was up 0.1% from 2010 to 2011.
- Bank robbery volume was down 12.6% from 2010 to 2011.

CHART 7: PERCENT CHANGE IN ROBBERY VOLUME FROM PREVIOUS YEAR – 2010-2011



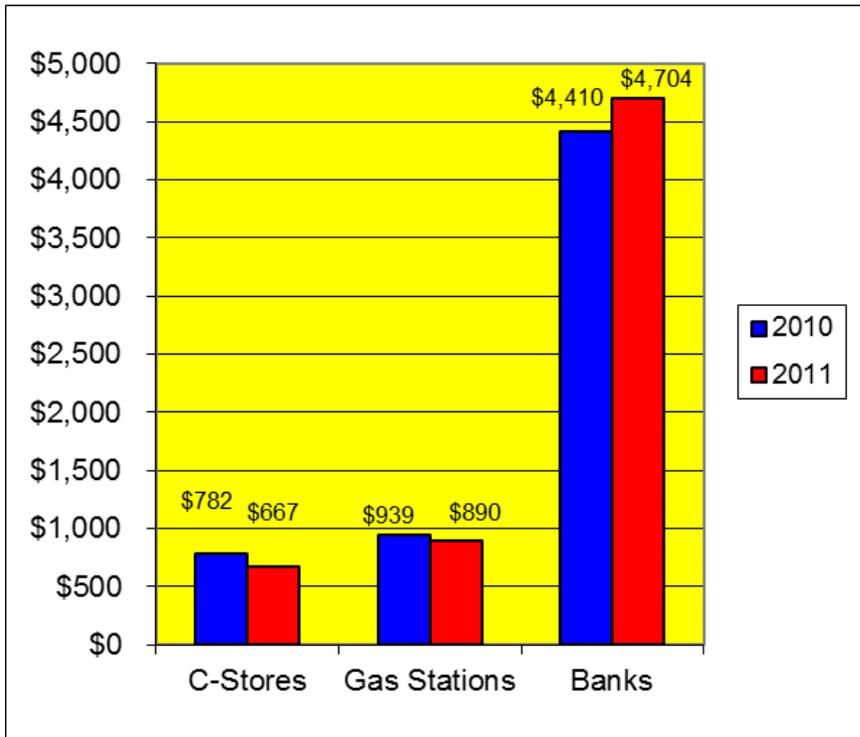
- Convenience store robbery made up 5.1% of the total robberies in 2011, 0.1% less than the previous year.
- Gas station robbery made up 2.4% of the total robberies in 2010, 0.1% more than the previous year.
- Bank robberies made up 2.0%, 0.2% less than the previous year.

CHART 8: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION ROBBERY VOLUME – 2011



- ❖ In 2011, convenience stores had an average dollar loss of \$667, down from \$782 in the previous year.
- ❖ Gas station average dollar loss in 2009 was \$890, down from \$939 the year before.
- ❖ Banks had by far the highest average dollar loss at \$4,704, an increase from \$4,410 in 2010.

CHART 9: AVERAGE LOSS PER ROBBERY



Authors' Note: These are not just register losses, but include safe and merchandise losses.

HISTORICAL CRIME DATA

According to Table 1 of the 2009 UCR report, the *violent crime rate* in this country peaked in 1991 and then began to decrease every year until 2005 and 2006 when it increased two years in a row. The 2011 data show it at its lowest point since 1991. The violent crime rate was 758.2 in 1991 and was 386.3 in 2011.

The *murder rate* in the US peaked in 1991 at 9.8. The murder rate was substantially lower in 2000, at 5.5. In 2011, it reached its lowest rate since 1991. The 4.7 rate in 2011 was the lowest murder rate since the peak of 9.8 in 1991, when it was over double what it is now.

The *rape rate* peaked a year later than murder or robbery. It peaked in 1992 at 42.8 and was at 26.8 in 2011, the lowest rape rate since 1992.⁴

The *robbery rate* peaked in 1991 and began decreasing each year until 2001, when it increased again. Then it reached a low again in 2004 at 136.7. It began increasing again for two years before beginning another decline. It was 113.7 in 2011.

The *aggravated assault rate* also peaked in 1992, (as rape did), at a rate of 441.9. In 2011, the aggravated assault rate was 241.1, the lowest of any year since 1992.

⁴ This is based on Table 16 of Violent Crime



AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS:

All categories of violent crime were down slightly in volume in 2011. We had predicted that crime would increase in the mid-2000s and decrease by 2010, based on the demographics of the number of young people (18-24) declining as a percentage of the total population. We also caution against complacency, however, and recommend that employers stay focused on the crime prevention strategy that has been in place for nearly three decades in certain retail settings, particularly convenience stores. It incorporates the validated crime-reducing measures of good cash control; limiting escape routes; maintaining good visibility throughout the store; adequate lighting inside and outside stores; and training employees in safety and anti-violence measures.

