

Summary and Interpretation of Crime in the United States, 2000
Uniform Crime Report
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Released October 22, 2001

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 October 22, 2001

CRIME VOLUME¹

From 1999 to 2000, Index (serious) crime in the U.S. dropped 0.2%, virtually unchanged from the previous year. Serious crime includes the violent crimes², as well as selected property crimes³. Although it was the ninth year in a row that serious crime was down, the 0.2% decrease is the smallest year-to-year decrease in volume since 1991.

Violent crime and property crime both dropped slightly from 1999 to 2000. Violent crime experienced a decrease of 0.1%, and property crime dropped 0.3%. Violent crime decreased in the categories of murder (less than 0.1%), robbery (-0.4) and aggravated assault (0.1%), but rape increased by 0.9%. For property crimes, burglary was down 2.4%, but larceny was up 0.2% and motor vehicle theft was up 1.2%. The decreases for 1999 to 2000 are shown, followed by the previous year decrease, from 1998-1999 and the five-year trend:

VIOLENT CRIME VOLUME

CRIME CATEGORY	1998-1999	1999-2000	FIVE YEAR PERIOD (1996-2000)
Violent Crime	-6.7%	-0.1%	-15.6%
Murder	-8.5%	>-0.1%	-21%
Rape	-4.3%	+0.9%	-6.3%
Robbery	-8.4%	-0.4%	-23.9%
Agg. Assault	-6.2%	-0.1%	-12.2%

There were 15,517 murders in 2000, nearly identical to the 1999 number of 15,522. 407,842 robberies were reported in the United States in 2000. Rapes totaled 90,186, and 910,744 aggravated assaults were reported.

¹ *Volume* is the total number of offenses reported.

² *Violent crime* combines murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

³ *Property crimes* include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.



The overall crime index volume was up in the Western region. Robbery volume was also up in all regions except the Northeast. Murder was up in cities, increasing by 0.7.

CRIME RATE⁴

The rate of serious crime, based on population, dropped 3.3% from 1999 to 2000. The violent crime rate fell 3.2% from the 1999 rate. Property crime rates fell 0.3% from the previous year. The violent crime rate was down 20.5% over the five-year period. The violent crime rates were down from 1999 to 2000, as shown, followed by the changes from 1998-1999, and the five-year trend:

VIOLENT CRIME RATE

CRIME CATEGORY	1998-1999	1999-2000	FIVE YEAR PERIOD (1996-2000)
Violent Crime	-7.5%	-3.2%	-20.5%
Murder	-9.3%	-3.1%	-25.6%
Rape	-5.2%	-2.3%	-11.7%
Robbery	-9.2%	-3.5%	-28.2%
Agg. Assault	-7.0%	-3.2%	-17.2%

As with the *volume* of crime, the *rate* of violent crime decreased in 1999, but the decrease was less than half of what it was the year before. The decreases in the rate of each category of violent crime were all smaller in 2000 than they had been in 1999. Similar to 1999, of all robberies, 41% involved the use of a firearm (40% in 1999), whereas of murders, 66% resulted from firearms (65% in 1999).

Of all murders, 8% were related to robberies, the same as the previous year. The murder rate per 100,000 people was down from 5.7 in 1999 to 5.5 in 2000, the lowest level since 1965. The number of murder victims who knew their assailants was 44% down from 48% the previous year. In recent years, over half of the murder victims knew their assailants. *[Authors' Note: Stranger to stranger murder creates more fear overall than acquaintance murder.]*

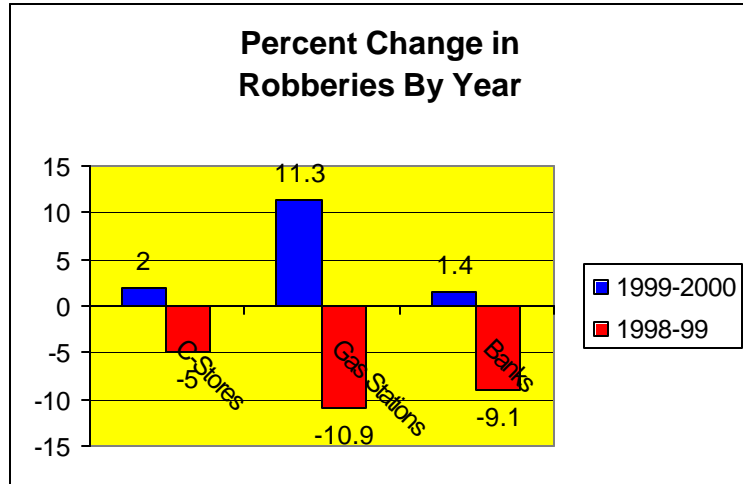
With its 3.5% decrease over the previous year, robbery had the greatest decrease of all the categories making up the Violent Crime Index, followed closely by aggravated assault with a 3.2% decrease.

⁴ Rate is the number of offenses per 100,000 inhabitants.

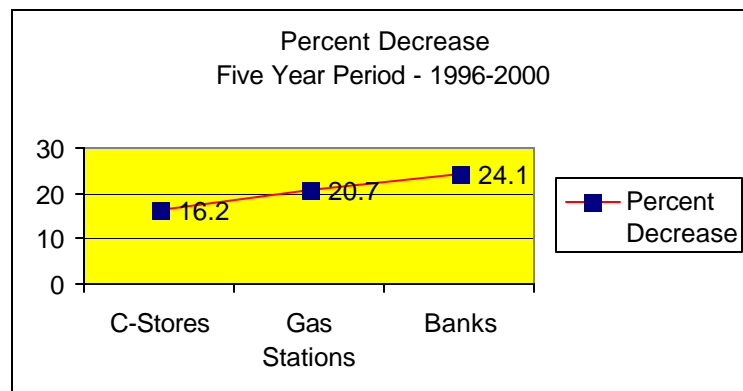


CONVENIENCE STORES, GAS STATIONS AND BANKS

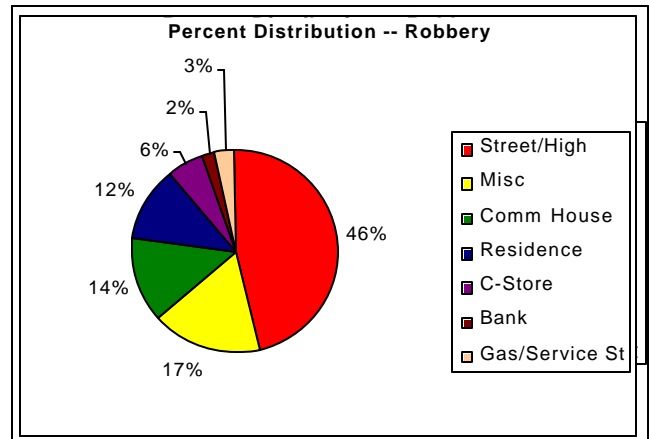
- Convenience store robbery was up 2% from 1999 to 2000, following years of decreases.
- Gas station robbery was up 11.3% from 1999 to 2000. It had decreased 10.9% the previous year.
- Bank robbery was up 1.4% from 1999-2000. It was down 9.1% in the previous year.
- In 2000, street robberies and commercial house robberies were both down. All other categories experienced increases.



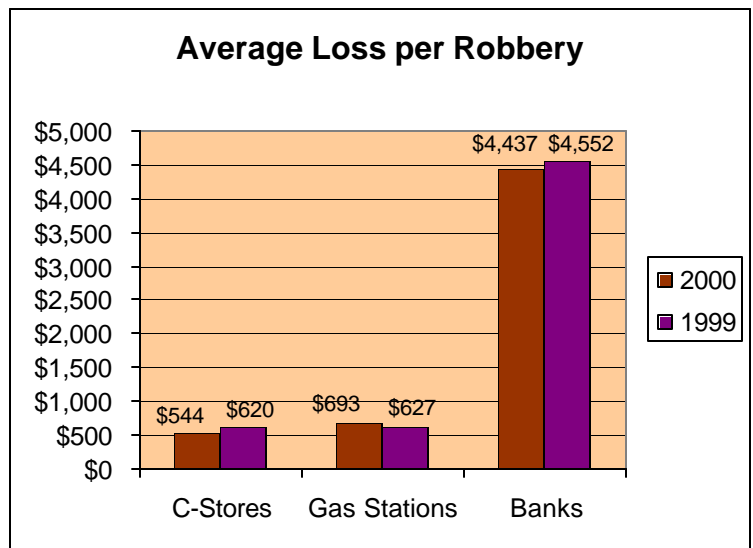
- ❖ Convenience store robbery was down 16.2% in the 5-year period since 1996.
- ❖ Gas station robbery was down 20.7% in the 5-year period since 1996.
- ❖ Bank robbery was down 24.1% in the same five-year period from 1996.



- Convenience store robbery made up 6.4% of the total robberies in 2000, up from 6.0% in 1999.
- Gas station robbery made up 2.9% of the total robberies in 2000, up from 2.2% in 1999.
- Bank robberies made up 2.1% of the total robberies in 2000, up from 2.0% the year before.



- ✓ In 2000, convenience stores had a decrease in average dollar loss, from \$620 in 1999 to \$544 in 2000.
- ✓ Gas station average dollar loss increased from \$627 in 1999 to \$693 in 2000, slightly higher than the convenience store dollar average.
- ✓ Banks had by far the highest average dollar loss at \$4,437, down from \$4,552 in 1999.



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



AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

We have predicted an increase in crime, beginning in 2000, based on the increase in the number of young people in the crime-committing age group of 18 to 24 years of age. FBI figures for 2000 show that this may be beginning to happen. Crime had the lowest decrease since 1991, when the crime decline for a decade began. Crime increases this year include the following:

- ◆ *The overall Crime Index volume was up in the Western region.*
- ◆ *Rape--one of the violent crime categories--was up this year, by 0.9%.*
- ◆ *Murder was up in cities by 0.7%.*
- ◆ *Robbery volume was up in all geographic regions, except the Northeast.*
- ◆ *All categories of robbery were up, except street and commercial house robbery.*
- ◆ *Robbery was up in convenience stores, gas stations, banks, residences, and other miscellaneous locations.*

Other indicators may combine to increase crime in 2001 and in the future in addition to the age cohort. They include:

- *A decline in the economy*
- *The impact of the terrorism events*
- *A proposed shift for the FBI away from crime fighting to counterterrorism efforts.*

