



Athena Research Corporation
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Summary and Interpretation of the Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2007 Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2007
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On June 9, 2008, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released its preliminary report regarding crime in the United States in 2007. The report shows decreases in the volume of both violent and property crime, reversing two of violent crime increases.³

Violent Crime

After increasing in 2006, violent crime decreased in 2007. Overall, violent crime decreased 1.4%, as did each category included in violent crime. The largest decrease was 4.3% for rape. Both robbery and aggravated assault had decreases of 1.2%, while murder decreased 2.7%. Table 1 shows these percentage changes, as well as the changes experienced in the previous year.

TABLE 1: PERCENT CHANGE 2005/2006 and 2006/2007

Crime	Percent Change 2006	Percent Change 2007
Violent crime total	+1.9%	-1.4%
Murder	+1.8%	-2.7%
Rape	-2.0%	-4.3%
Robbery	+7.2%	-1.2%
Aggravated Assault	-0.2%	-1.2%

When examining violent crime by city size, most population groupings experienced decreases. However, two groups had increases – 500,000 to 999,999 (0.3%) and 10,000 to 24,999 (1.9%), as shown below in Table 2.

TABLE 2: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME BY CITY SIZE 2006-2007

City Size	Percent Change
1,000,000 and over	-3.7
500,000 to 999,999	+0.3
250,000 to 499,999	-3.9
100,000 to 249,999	-0.4
50,000 to 99,999	-1.7
25,000 to 49,999	-1.2
10,000 to 24,999	+1.9
Under 10,000	-0.5

¹ Sandra J. Erickson holds a Master's in Forensic Science, and is a research associate at Athena Research.

² Rosemary J. Erickson holds a Ph.D. in Sociology: Justice, and is president of Athena Research.

³ Only the number of crimes (volume) is reported in the preliminary report. The rate (based on population size) will not be included until the final report to be issued in the fall of 2008.



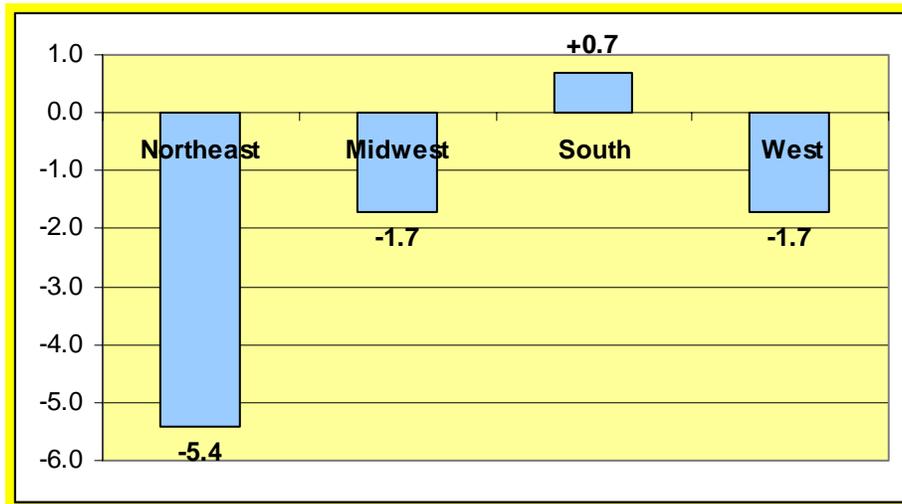
Violent crime is comprised of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Table 3 below shows the percent change for each of these crimes from the previous year.

TABLE 3: PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2006 TO 2007

Crime	Percent Change
Murder	-2.7%
Rape	-4.3%
Robbery	-1.2%
Aggravated Assault	-2.1%

By region of the country, the Northeast saw the greatest decrease in violent crime, down 5.4% from 2006. The South experienced an increase in violent crime, up 0.7%. Chart 1 below illustrates these changes.

CHART 1: PERCENT CHANGE VIOLENT CRIME BY REGION 2006-2007



Property Crime

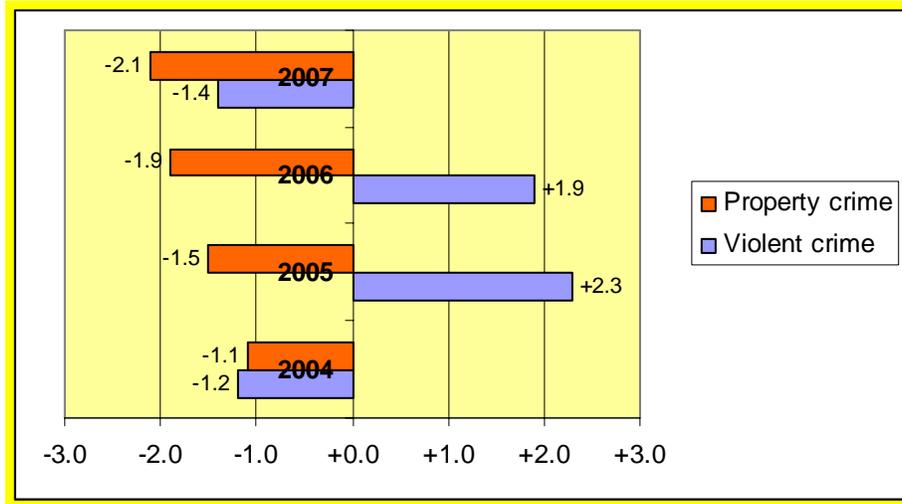
Property crime decreased 2.1% overall in 2007 compared to 2006. Burglary was down 0.8%, larceny/theft decreased 1.2%, motor vehicle theft decreased 8.9%, and arson decreased 7.0%. Comparing regions, the South was the only geographic area to experience an increase in property crime, up 1.1% over the previous year.

Four-Year Trend

Property crime has decreased in each of the last four years. Violent crime decreased in the years 2004 and 2007, but increased in the years 2005 and 2006, as shown in Chart 2 below.



CHART 2: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIME 2004-2007



Authors' Conclusion

Both violent crime and property crime decreased in 2007 compared to 2006. The South was the only region of the country that experienced an increase in violent crime. The trends vary by city size (large versus small cities) and by geographical region i.e., West, South. Some cities, for example, experienced increases, while others experienced decreases, and some cities experienced increases only in certain violent crime. In sum, the volatility of crime seen in recent years continues.

