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# Summary and Interpretation of the Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2008 Federal Bureau of Investigation

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**Summary and Interpretation of the  
Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, 2008  
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

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On June 1, 2009, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released its preliminary report regarding crime in the United States in 2008. The report shows decreases in the volume of both violent and property crime.<sup>3</sup>

**Violent Crime**

All violent crime decreased in 2008, as it did the previous year. Overall, violent crime decreased by 2.5%. The largest decrease was 4.4% for murder. Rape decreased 2.2%; robbery decreased 1.1%; and aggravated assaults decreased 3.2%. Table 1 shows these percentage changes, as well as the changes experienced in the previous year.

**TABLE 1: PERCENT CHANGE 2007 and 2008**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>Percent Change 2007</b>	<b>Percent Change 2008</b>
Violent crime total	-1.4%	-2.5%
Murder	-2.7%	-4.4%
Rape	-4.3%	-2.2%
Robbery	-1.2%	-1.1%
Aggravated Assault	-1.2%	-3.2%

When examining violent crime by city size, all population groupings experienced decreases, as shown below in Table 2.

**TABLE 2: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME BY CITY SIZE 2007-2008**

<b>City Size</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
1,000,000 and over	-1.6%
500,000 to 999,999	-2.5%
250,000 to 499,999	-4.0%
100,000 to 249,999	-3.9%
50,000 to 99,999	-2.1%
25,000 to 49,999	-0.6%
10,000 to 24,999	-1.2%
Under 10,000	-2.8%

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

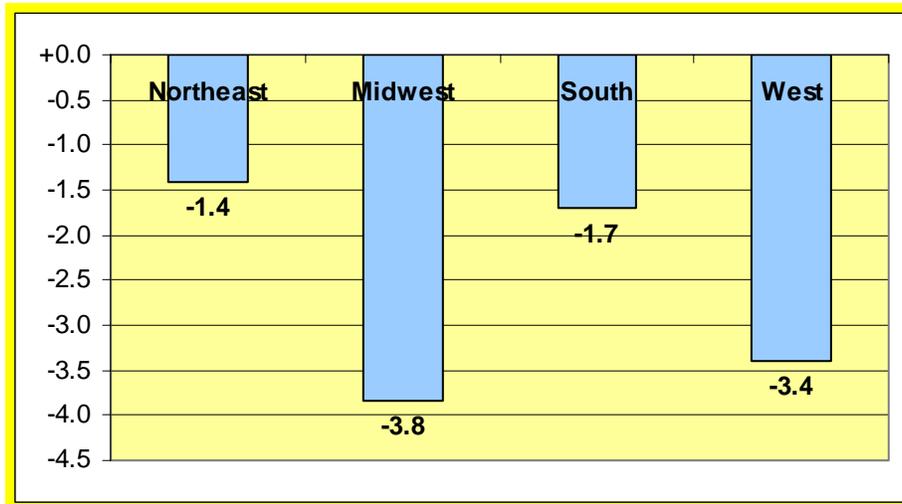
<sup>2</sup> Rosemary J. Erickson holds a Ph.D. in Sociology: Justice, and is president of Athena Research.

<sup>3</sup> 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 2009.



All regions of the country experienced decreases in violent crime. The Midwest saw the greatest decrease in violent crime, down 3.8% from 2007. Chart 1 below illustrates these changes.

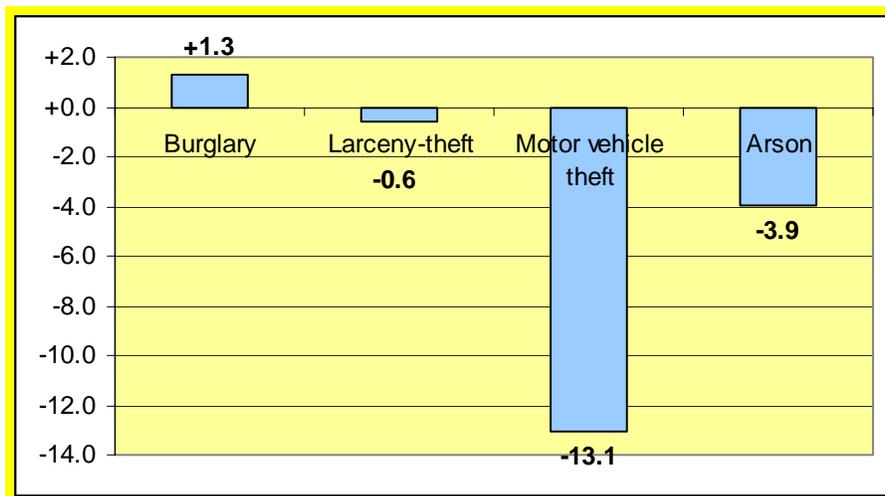
**CHART 1: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME BY REGION 2007-2008**



**Property Crime**

Property crime decreased 1.6% overall in 2008 compared to 2007. Burglaries increased 1.3%, larceny/theft decreased 0.6%, motor vehicle theft decreased 13.1%, and arson decreased 3.9%, as shown in Chart 2.

**CHART 2: PERCENT CHANGE IN PROPERTY CRIME 2007-2008**



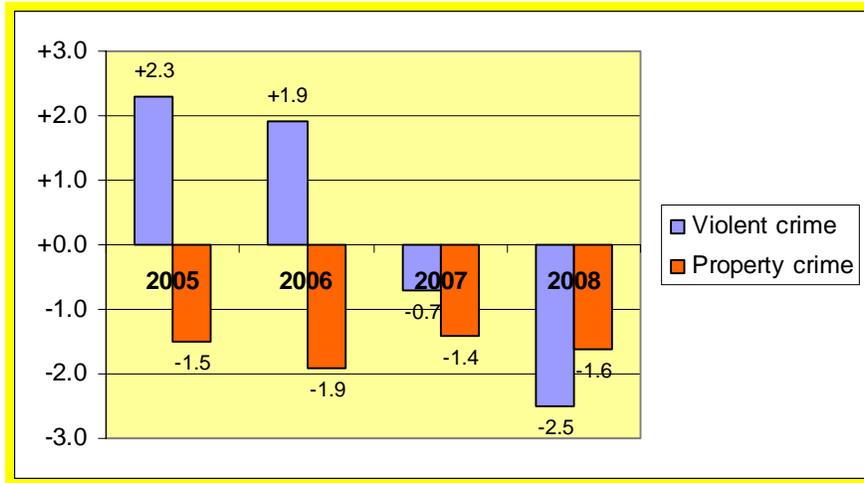
Comparing regions, the Northeast was the only geographic area to experience an increase in property crime, up 1.6% over the previous year.



## Four-Year Trend

Property crime has decreased in each of the last four years. Violent crime increased in the years 2005 and 2006, but decreased in the years 2007 and 2008, as shown in Chart 3 below.

**CHART 3: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIME 2005-2008**



## Authors' Conclusion

Both violent crime and property crime decreased in 2008 compared to 2007, and all regions of the country experienced a decrease in violent crime.

