

CRIME IN MAINE 1997 — HIGHLIGHTS



During 1997 the crime clock average in Maine reflected the following:

VIOLENT CRIMES: 1 every 5 hours, 52 minutes1 Murder every 19 days, 5 hours, 3 minutes
 1 Rape every 34 hours, 29 minutes
 1 Robbery every 33 hours, 57 minutes
 1 Aggravated Assault every 9 hours, 7 minutes

PROPERTY CRIMES: 1 every 14 minutes1 Burglary every 63 minutes, 57 seconds
 1 Larceny every 19 minutes, 9 seconds
 1 Motor Vehicle Theft every 5 hours, 20 minutes
 1 Arson every 34 hours, 37 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 1997 was 31.62 per 1,000. The comparable rate for 1996 was 34.03. The 1997 state population is estimated at 1,235,000 persons.

INDEX OFFENSESThere were 39,054 Index Offenses reported by police during 1997 — a decrease of 2,972 offenses (7.1%) from the 42,026 similar offenses reported in 1996.

VIOLENT CRIMESMurder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault make up the Violent Crimes category. Violent crimes as a group decreased by 57 offenses from 1996 for a 3.7% decrease. During 1997 violent crimes totaled 1,492, compared to a 1996 total of 1,549. Violent crimes accounted for 3.8% of all reported index crimes (3.7% in 1996) and represent a crime rate of 1.21 per 1,000 population.

PROPERTY CRIMESProperty Crimes, consisting of Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson, fell in 1997 by 2,915 offenses (7.2%) from 1996. There were 37,562 offenses reported in 1997 with 40,477 being shown for 1996. Property crimes account for 96.2% of all index crimes with a crime rate of 30.41 offenses per 1,000 population.

MURDERThere were 19 murders committed in Maine during 1997 — down by 6 (24.0%) from the 25 murders reported in 1996. Law enforcement cleared 15 murders this year. Maine’s 10-year average is 26 homicides annually.

RAPE	Forcible Rapes decreased by 12 reported offenses during 1997. There were 266 offenses reported to police in 1996, compared to 254 in 1997. Of the total, 234 were actual rapes, while 20 were classified as attempts to commit forcible rape.
ROBBERY	Robberies decreased by 10.4% (30 offenses) during 1997, from 288 in 1996 to 258 in 1997.
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	Law enforcement reported 961 Aggravated Assaults during 1997, a decrease of 0.9% from the 1996 figure of 970. Simple assaults (a non-index crime) decreased by 4.0% during 1997 with 10,251 offenses reported.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	All offenses of assault between family or household members are reported as Domestic Assault and account for 37.7% of all assaults. During 1997 police reported 4,222 offenses, an increase of 308 (7.9%) from the 3,914 offenses reported in 1996.
BURGLARY	The number of Burglaries during 1997 fell by 11.0% compared with those in 1996. There was a decrease of 1,012 from the 1996 total of 9,230. The 8,218 burglaries reported statewide resulted in property loss totaling \$6,443,662. Burglaries represent 21.0% of all reported index offenses.
LARCENY-THEFT	The crime of Larceny decreased during 1997 by 6.0% from the 29,193 larceny offenses reported in 1996. Police reported 27,449 larceny crimes during 1997. Shoplifting increased 1.9% and thefts from motor vehicles decreased 2.5% for 39.7% of all larceny crimes reported.
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	Motor Vehicle Theft registered a decrease of 124 offenses during 1997, from 1,766 in 1996 to 1,642. 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 1997 there were 253 arsons reported, down 35 (12.2%) from the 288 arsons reported for 1996. Estimated property loss caused by arson totaled over \$1.1 million during 1997 — down 79.7%.
HATE CRIME	Beginning in 1992, Hate Crime was added as a new reporting requirement. During 1997, police reported 58 incidents involving 67 victims and resulting in a total of 78 offenses.
STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY	During 1997 law enforcement agencies recorded \$25,476,219 worth of property stolen during the commission of index crimes — a decrease of 3.3% from the \$26,340,143 stolen during 1996. Police were able to recover 38.7% (\$9,869,862) of stolen property during 1997.

CLEARANCE RATE	Law enforcement agencies cleared 29.3% of all index crimes in 1997 — compared to 27.6% in 1996.
ARRESTS	The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police, including juveniles and adults, was 55,210 — a decrease of 0.1% from the 55,270 persons recorded in 1996. Drug arrests increased 2.7% with 3,496 adults and 700 juveniles charged with drug offenses.
OFFICER ASSAULTS	There were 283 assaults on law enforcement officers in 1997, a 14.5% decrease from the 1996 figure of 331.
POLICE EMPLOYMENT DATA	Statewide there were 2,095 full-time sworn law enforcement officers representing a ratio of 1.69 officers per 1,000 population. Nationally the average rate per 1,000 is 2.3.
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.