

WV Crime Statistics & Other Resources

Erica Turley
Research Specialist



National Perspective

- FBI recently released Crime in the U.S. 2010
 - Violent crime declined for the 4th consecutive year
 - Violent crime estimates down 6.0% from 2009
 - Property crimes declined for the 8th straight year
 - Property crime estimates down 2.7% compared to 2009
- National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) also reports declines in 2010
 - Violent crime victimizations down 12.1%
 - Property crime victimizations declined by 5.2%
 - Rates for both violent and property lowest since 1993

National Perspective

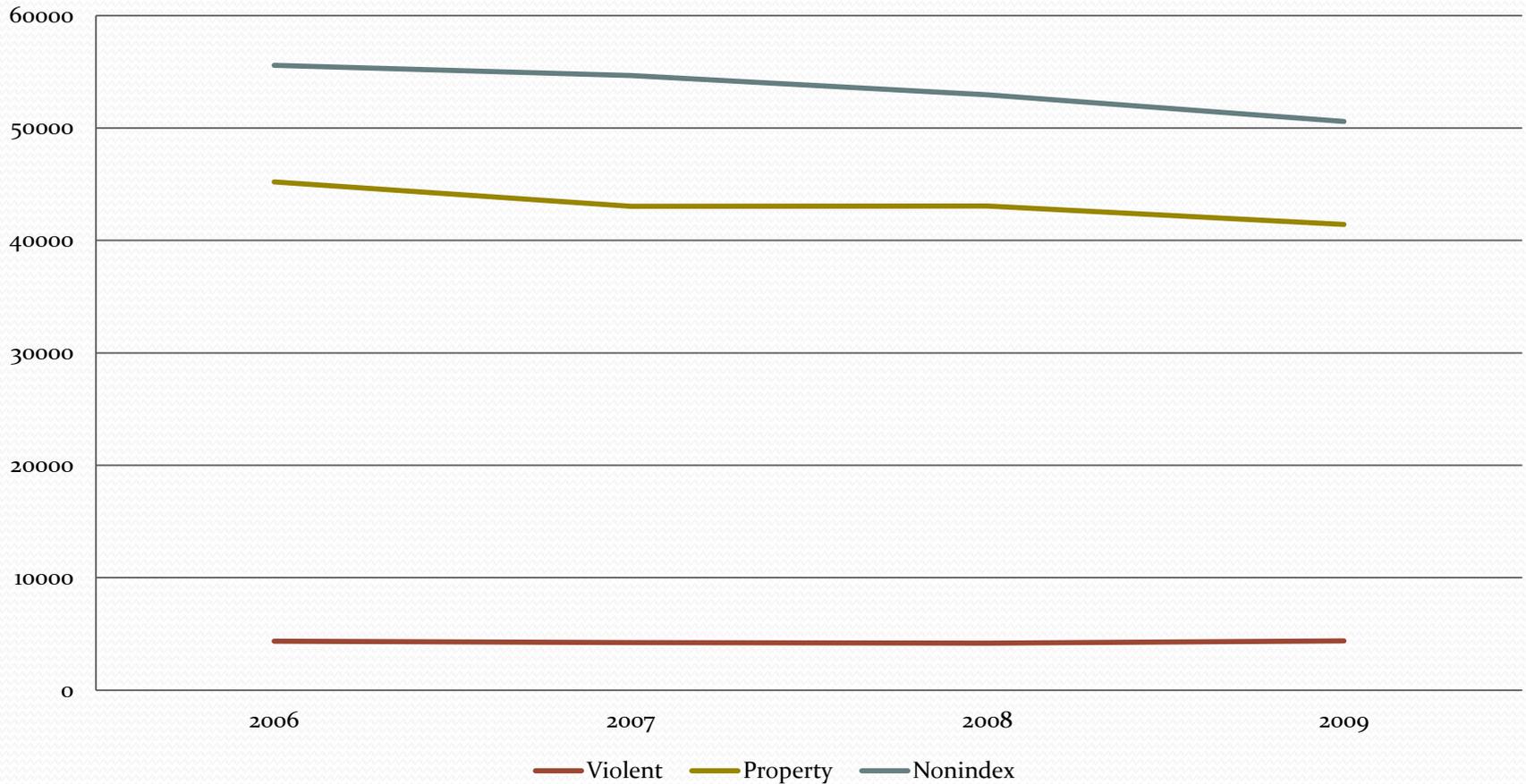
- WV generally follows overall national decreasing trend since 2006
 - Except for violent crime
 - Increased in 2009 and 2010
 - 2010 FBI report indicates 5.0% increase in violent crime estimates for WV
 - Specifically aggravated assaults in 2010 were 12.2% higher than in 2009
 - Decreases for murder, rape, and robbery
 - Decline in 2010 property crime estimates is much greater for WV than nationally
 - Down 10.2% compared to 2009

WV Crime Trend, 2006-2009

| | 2006 | % | 2007 | % | 2008 | % | 2009 | % |
|----------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| Violent Crime | 4,355 | 4.1 | 4,229 | 4.1 | 4,176 | 4.2 | 4,381 | 4.5 |
| Property Crime | 45,193 | 43.0 | 43,038 | 42.2 | 43,056 | 43.0 | 41,409 | 43.0 |
| Nonindex Crime | 55,576 | 52.9 | 54,659 | 53.6 | 52,953 | 52.9 | 50,570 | 52.5 |
| Total | 105,124 | 100.0 | 101,926 | 100.0 | 100,185 | 100.0 | 96,360 | 100.0 |

Source: Raw data files extracted from WV Incident-Based Reporting System maintained by WV State Police. Offense segment data presented.

WV Crime Trend, 2006-2009



Violent Crime

- Statewide, 4,381 violent crime offenses reported in 2009
 - 2.41 violent crime offenses per 1,000 residents
- By County, rates range from 0.18 in Taylor County to 4.65 in Kanawha County
 - Fewer counties in top interval of range
 - Majority below statewide level
- Kanawha, Ohio, and Raleigh Counties had highest violent crime offense rates in 2009
- WVSAC study - both illegal and legal guns related to county rates of violent crime

Drug Offenses

- Statewide, 9,708 drug offenses reported in 2009
 - Number of offenses steadily increasing
 - 5.33 drug offenses per 1,000 residents
- Rates by county vary widely
 - From 0.12 in Taylor County to 11.33 in Kanawha County
 - Only 14 counties higher than statewide level
- Kanawha, Logan, Berkeley, and Mercer Counties had highest drug offense rates in 2009
 - Roughly 10-11 drug offenses per 1,000 residents

Drug Abuse Headlines

- Current news headlines focus on drug abuse
 - DHHR Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities – forthcoming report on long term plan to combat substance abuse – new legislative subcommittee
 - WV Prevention Resource Center – report on the financial impact of drug and alcohol abuse on CJ system costs in WV – projected to rise to \$695 million by 2017
 - U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention preliminary figures indicate that drug deaths now exceed traffic deaths for the first time since tracking started in 1979

Sexual Assault Offenses

- Statewide, 1,169 sex offenses reported in 2009
 - Includes all forcible and nonforcible sex offenses defined by FBI (forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault w/ object, forcible fondling, incest, statutory rape)
 - 0.64 sex offenses per 1,000 residents
 - Reported rates low across all counties
- Top group of counties reported roughly 1 per 1,000 residents
 - Wood, Ohio, Raleigh, Doddridge, Kanawha, Pendleton, and Cabell

Domestic Violence

- Statewide, 12,601 victims domestically related to offender in 2009
 - 65% intimate partner and 35% other family
 - 6.92 domestic victimizations per 1,000 residents
- Majority of cases were simple assaults (72.6%)
 - 11.6% intimidation, 11.0% aggravated assault
- Rates by county vary widely
 - Range from 0.81 in Tyler County to 15.37 in Kanawha County

Offenses on School/College Property

- Of all reported offenses in 2009, location of incident was school/college for 2,268
 - Not necessarily students or during school hours
 - 1.25 offenses per 1,000 residents statewide
- County rates highest in Monongalia (WVU) and Cabell (MU)
 - About 4 offenses per 1,000 residents
 - Majority of counties, rate was less than 1 offense per 1,000 residents

Limitations & Considerations

- Limitations

- Only includes crimes known to law enforcement
- Subject to reporting inconsistencies or errors
- No statewide victimization numbers for comparison

- Considerations

- Prison population projected to grow on average 4.6% per year over next decade
 - In 2010, 72.6% of new admissions were for nonviolent offenses
 - 21.9% were drug offenders in 2010 (compared to 15.7% in 2004)

Limitations & Considerations

- Like substance abuse, mental health treatment capacity also addressed in 2009 Governor's Commission on Prison Overcrowding Report
 - Estimated 19.0% of prison population at time of report required psychotropic medication
- Improved diversionary efforts for special needs and felony offenders (property, drug, public order)
- Increased support for transitional services for offenders reentering communities
 - Transitional housing for offenders
 - Accessible and affordable drug treatment services in communities where prisoners are returning
 - Improved employment services
- Reducing firearm related violence

Other Data Resources

- Look to research conducted in other states or nationally
 - Involve researchers/evaluators early in grant process
 - Not only for data collection and performance measurement but identifying EBP
 - Websites that compile program research
- Collect specific data from grantees and utilize it to monitor performance and provide feedback
 - Define performance measures, work toward evaluation

Conclusions

- Project IDA: <https://apps.wv.gov/dcjs/sac/>
- What do these data tell us (or not tell us) about the programs historically funded by JAG?
 - What we know is limited due to current status of performance measurement and evaluation data

Contact Information

Erica Turley

Research Specialist

Office of Research & Strategic Planning

Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Justice Center for Evidence Based Practice

304-558-8814 extension 53319

Erica.E.Turley@wv.gov