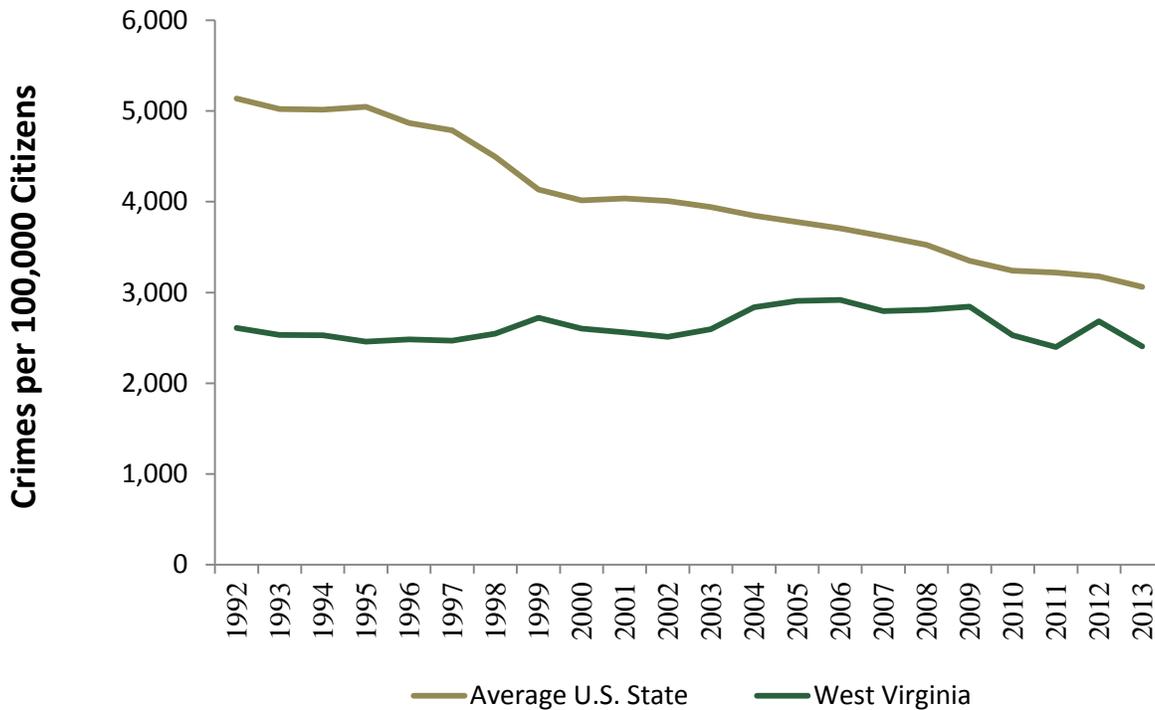


Report date: 9/4/15

The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program calculates an annual index crime rate for each state. This rate is based on the number of serious crimes that occur each year for every 100,000 citizens. Serious crimes include all crimes in the following categories: 1) murder and non-negligent manslaughter, 2) rape, 3) robbery, 4) aggravated assault, 5) burglary, 6) larceny-theft, 7) motor vehicle theft, and 8) arson.

Figure 2: Crime Rates in West Virginia and the Average U.S. State, 1992-2013



Sources: Annual FBI UCR Crime Report

Findings: West Virginia has a substantially lower crime rate than the average U.S. state. However, there has not been a significant change in West Virginia’s crime rate since 1992. In contrast, the crime rate in the average U.S. state has had a significant decline, with an average reduction of 103 crimes per year (about 2% per year) in the same period. If this trend continues, the average U.S. state will have a lower index crime rate than West Virginia in about five years.