

2015 Release of FBI Uniform Crime Reports for Oregon

September 26, 2016

On Monday September 26, 2016 the FBI released the 2015 Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) for Oregon and all other states in the US. This report, titled *Crime in the United States, 2015*, shows the number of property index and violent index crimes reported in all states. The Oregon data in this report should be interpreted cautiously because of missing data in several of Oregon's most populous cities. The FBI UCR program has estimated the missing data in these cities, and included the estimates in the statewide crime figures. Oregon's most populous cities that did not report a full 12 months of data include Portland, Gresham, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tigard, Lake Oswego, Oregon City, Tualatin, and West Linn.

The Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (OUCR) Program, housed within Oregon State Police, provides the FBI with UCR data from law enforcements agencies in the state. The OUCR Program recently released the 2015 Uniform Crime Report¹. This report includes all data as it was reported to the OUCR Program, and does not include estimates for missing information. The report includes information on the reporting format and months reported for each law enforcement agency.

Table 1 below shows the reported crime counts for agencies that reported the full 12 months in 2014 and 2015, and the estimated counts included for agencies that did not report the full 12 months. In 2014, the total violent index crime estimate includes 87% of data from agencies that reported for the full 12 months, and 13% of the data that are estimates to replace missing information. The total property index crime includes nearly 11% of the data that are estimates to replace missing information. In 2015 the percentage of data that is an estimate for missing data increases substantially, due to several of Oregon's most populous cities that did not report a full 12 months of data. In 2015 the total violent index crime estimate includes 57% of data that is included as an estimate for missing data. The total property crime estimate includes nearly 50% of data that is included as an estimate for missing data.

Violent index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Of these, aggravated assault is the most common violent index crime and usually has the most effect on the violent index crime rate.

Property index crimes include burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft. The most common property index crime is larceny-theft, of which approximately 75% are misdemeanors. Larceny theft is the crime that usually has the largest effect on the index property crime rate.

	2014				2015			
	Agencies Reporting Full 12 Months		Agencies Reporting Less than 12 Months (with missing data estimated)		Agencies Reporting Full 12 Months		Agencies Reporting Less than 12 Months (with missing data estimated)	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total Violent Index Crime	8956	87.0%	1338	13.0%	4483	42.8%	5985	57.2%
Total Property Index Crime	109966	89.3%	13176	10.7%	59587	50.2%	59132	49.8%

Table 1

¹ http://www.oregon.gov/osp/CJIS/Pages/annual_reports.aspx

Table 2 below shows the change in the violent index crime rate from 2014 to 2015. The Oregon estimate contains the values reported by the FBI, and includes estimates of missing reported crime data from many of Oregon's most populous cities. The estimates for the Western States and US Total are as reported by the FBI.

Change in Violent Index Crime Rates from 2014 to 2015	Oregon	Western States	US Total
Murder	16.2%	7.7%	10.0%
Rape (definition change)	-3.1%	5.4%	4.3%
Robbery	-6.8%	5.8%	0.6%
Aggravated Assault	3.4%	7.3%	3.7%
Index Violent Crime Total	0.2%	6.7%	3.0%

Table 2

The Oregon estimate shows that the total index violent crime rate increased 0.2% from 2014 to 2015. The aggravated assault rate increased 3.4%. The rate for robbery dropped 6.8% from 2014 to 2015, while the rate of reported rape dropped 3.1%. The murder rate increased 16.2%, and this is from an increase of 84 reported murders in 2014 to 99 reported murders in 2015. The total index violent crime rate increased 6.7% in the Western States from 2014 to 2015, and increased 3.0% nationwide.

Table 3 below shows the same definitions for the change in the property index rate from 2014 to 2015. The Oregon estimate contains the values reported by the FBI, and includes estimates of missing reported crime data from many of Oregon's most populous cities. From 2014 to 2015, the total property index crime rate dropped 5.0%. The larceny-theft rate drop 6.0% in the same time period, while the burglary rate dropped 3.3%. The motor vehicle theft rate increased 1.2% from 2014 to 2015. The total index property crime rate increased 2.7% in the Western States from 2014 to 2015, and dropped 3.4% nationwide.

Change in Property Index Crime Rates from 2014 to 2015	Oregon	Western States	US Total
Burglary	-3.3%	-5.0%	-8.5%
Larceny-Theft	-6.0%	4.1%	-2.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1.2%	8.2%	2.2%
Index Property Crime Total	-5.0%	2.7%	-3.4%

Table 3

The violent and property index crime rates for Oregon are available from 1960 to 2015. Figures 1 and 2 below show the violent and property index crime rates for Oregon and the US Total over this 55 year period. The 2015 Oregon estimates from the FBI are displayed, and include estimates of missing reported crime data from many of Oregon's most populous cities. Both the Oregon and US Total violent index crime rate has dropped substantially since the early 1990s, with Oregon's rate historically lower than the US Total. Oregon's violent index crime rate dropped 50.3% from 1995 to 2015, while the nationwide rate dropped 44%. The property index crime rate also dropped substantially since the early 1990s for Oregon and the US Total, with Oregon's rate historically higher than the US Total. From 1995 to 2015, Oregon's property index crime rate dropped 51.2%, while the nationwide rate dropped 45.8%.

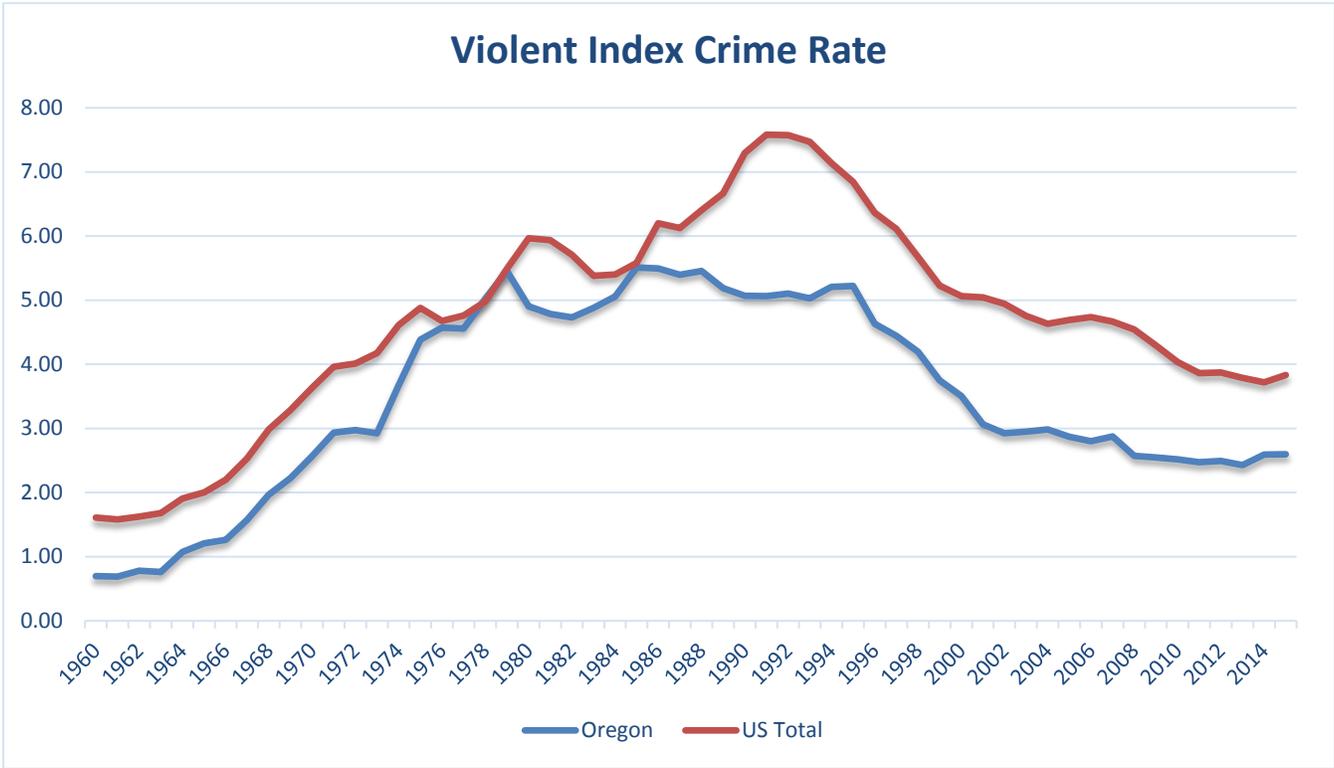


Figure 1: Violent Index Crime Rate

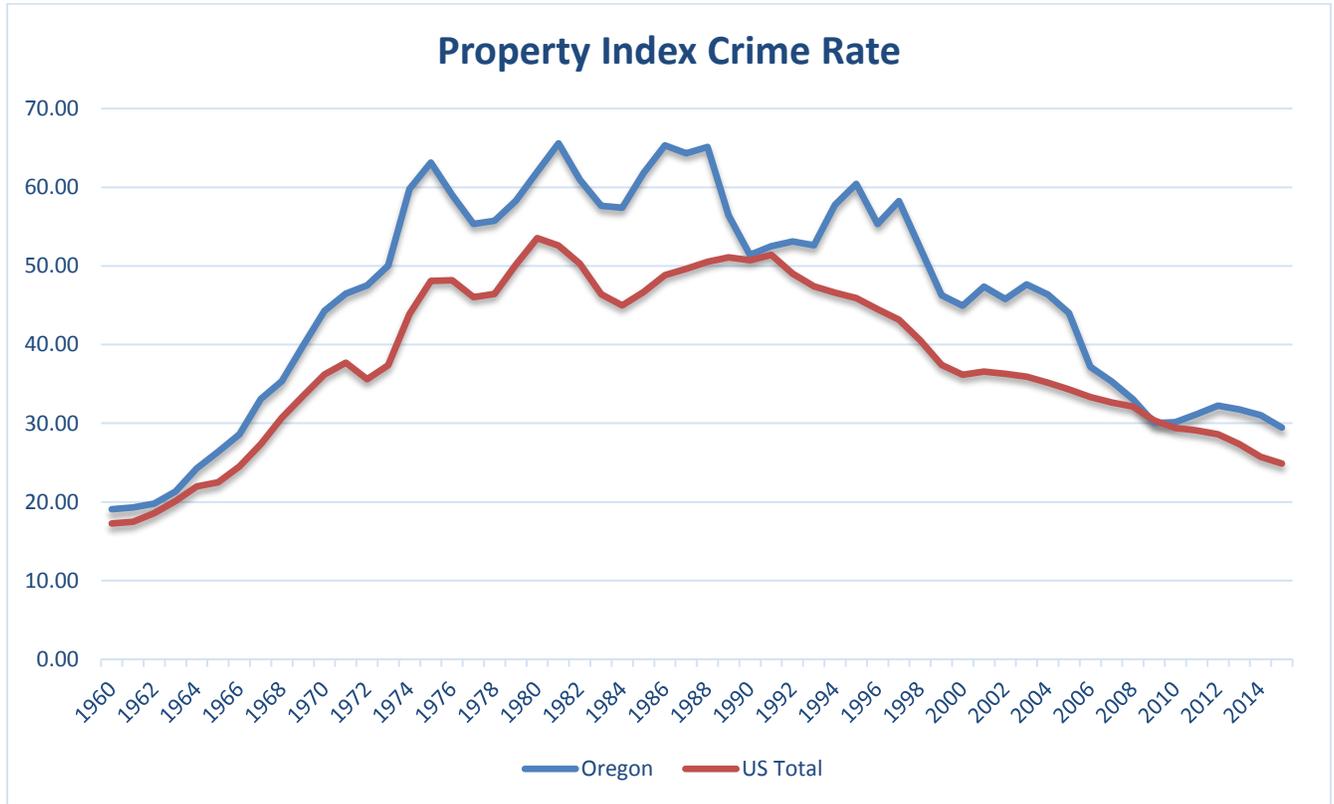


Figure 2: Property Index Crime Rate