

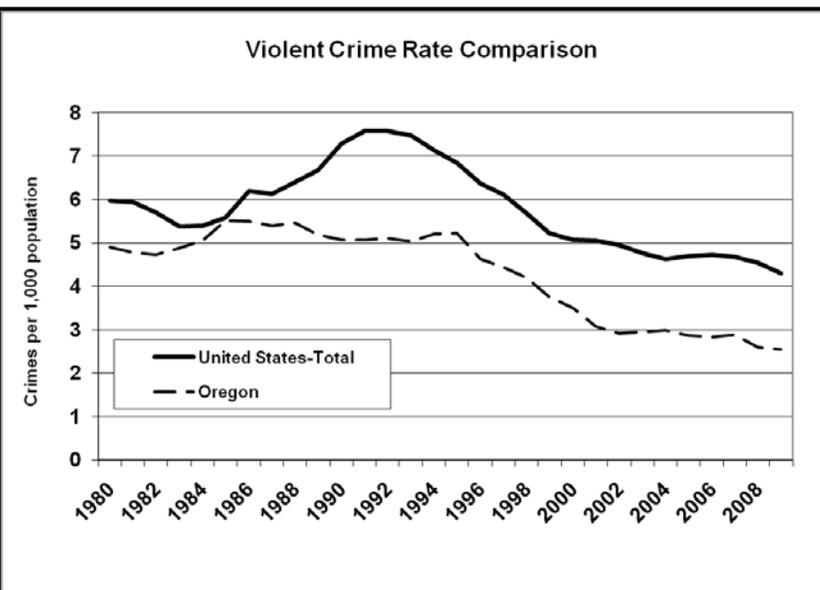


2011 Briefing Paper

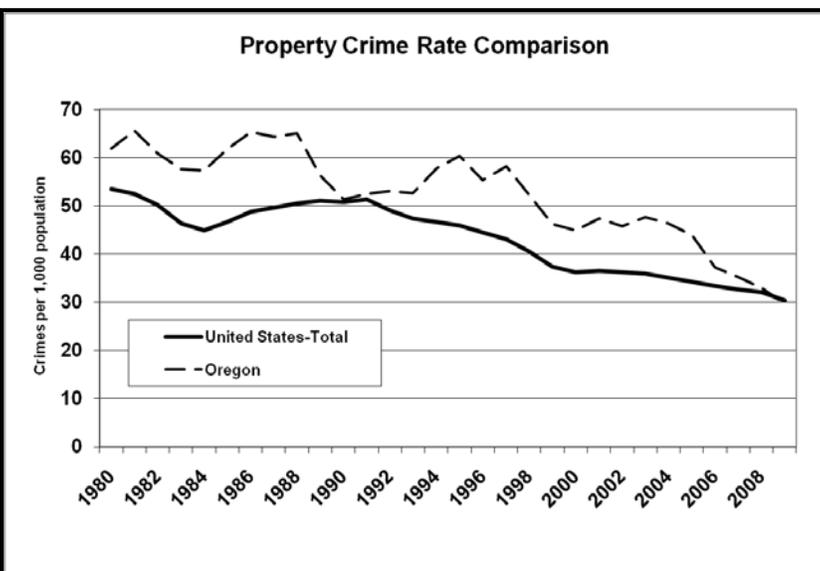
OREGON CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

2010 Release of FBI Uniform Crime Reports for Oregon's Four Largest Cities

On Monday May 23, 2011, the FBI released the 2010 Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) for Oregon's four largest cities: Portland, Gresham, Eugene, and Salem.^{1,2} This report shows the number of property and violent index crimes reported to law enforcement in 2010 in these four cities.³



Violent index crimes include murder, forcible 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, arson, and larceny-theft. The most common property index crime is larceny-theft, of which about 75 percent are misdemeanors, and this crime usually has the largest effect on the index property crime rate.



In 2009, Oregon ranked 23rd out of the 50 states for the property index crime rate and 38th out of the 50 states for the violent index crime rate. Violent and property crime have been dropping in Oregon since the mid-1990s.

The graphs to the left show the US and Oregon violent and property crime rates since 1980. Oregon's violent crime rate follows a similar trend to the rest of the nation, and has historically been lower than the national rate. Violent crime in Oregon dropped 51 percent from 1995 to 2009 and this was the second largest drop in the country behind New York.

¹ <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/preliminary-annual-ucr-jan-dec-2010>

² Oregon Uniform Crime Reports (OUCR) data can not be compared to FBI UCR data due to different data collection methodologies. One important difference is that OUCR data reports all crimes from a single incident, whereas UCR data only reports the most serious crime from a single incident.

³ Data for 2010 was processed through a new LEADS (Law Enforcement Data System) Repository. The impact of this change is expected to be insignificant.

Property crime in Oregon has historically been higher than the national rate. However, from 2004 to 2009 Oregon's property crime rate dropped 36 percent, and this was the largest drop in the country. As these two graphs show, both property and violent crime in Oregon have been steadily dropping for nearly two decades.

In 2009, Oregon's four largest cities accounted for 26 percent of Oregon's population and about 40 percent of Oregon's index crimes. These four cities account for a substantial amount of Oregon's population and index crimes, so this UCR report provides crime data for a substantial portion of the state. Typically this crime data is reported as a percentage change from the previous year, to get an idea of the direction and size of the crime changes.

Change in Index Crimes from 2009 to 2010 (Oregon's four largest cities)		
City	Violent Crime Change	Property Crime Change
Eugene	-11%	-19%
Gresham*	23%	2%
Portland	-2%	7%
Salem	-21%	-5%
4 City Total	-3%	0%

**Gresham changed it's crime reporting system in 2010*

The table to the left shows the percent change from 2009 to 2010 for violent and property index crimes. The four cities combined show a three percent drop in violent crime from 2009 to 2010 and no change in property crime. Eugene and Salem both experienced substantial drops in violent and property crime; while Gresham had a 23 percent increase in violent crime. Portland showed a two percent drop in violent crime, but a seven percent increase in property crime.

The percent changes for each of the crimes in the violent crime index are shown to the right. Forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault all show drops from 2009 to 2010 in Oregon's four largest cities. Murder shows a 20 percent increase and this is from 25 reported murders in 2009 and 30 reported murders in 2010.

Change in Violent Index Crimes from 2009 to 2010	
Oregon's 4 Largest Cities Total	
Murder	20%
Forcible Rape	-8%
Robbery	-4%
Aggravated Assault	-2%

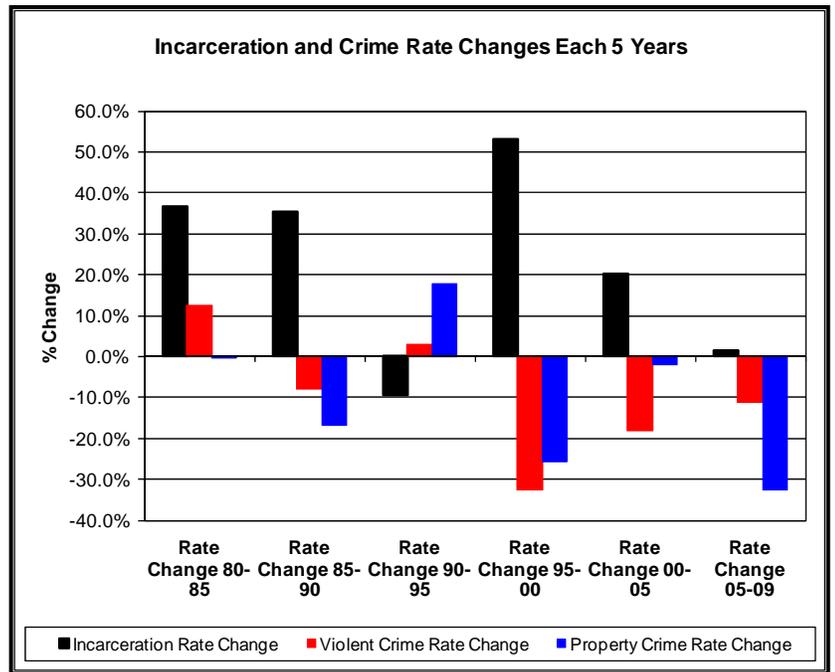
Change in Property Index Crimes from 2009 to 2010	
Oregon's 4 Largest Cities Total	
Burglary	-2%
Larceny-Theft	2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	-8%
Arson	-5%

The percent changes for the property crimes included in the property crime index are shown to the left. The more serious felony property crimes of burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson all show drops from 2009 to 2010 in Oregon's four largest cities. Larceny-theft shows a two percent increase from 2009 to 2010.

The tables above show crime trend changes from 2009 to 2010. However, Oregon has a long history of analyzing crime and incarceration trends and the consequent policy changes. One way Oregon has responded to crime in the last three decades is increased use of incarceration. The relationship between prison and crime has been studied across the country and in Oregon specifically.⁴

⁴ See the June 2010 Crime in Oregon Report: http://www.ocjc.state.or.us/CJC/docs/Crime_Report_2010.pdf and the January 2007 Criminal Justice Commission Report to the Legislature: <http://www.ocjc.state.or.us/CJC/CJC2007Reporttolegislature.pdf>

The graph to the right shows the percentage change in the violent crime rate, property crime rate, and incarceration rate over five year periods. From 1995 to 2000 Oregon’s incarceration rate increased over 50 percent, while the violent crime rate dropped over 30 percent and property crime rate dropped 20 percent. The rates from 2005 to 2009 show a different relationship however. During that time the incarceration rate was relatively flat, while the violent crime rate dropped over 10 percent and the property crime rate dropped over 30 percent. Oregon was able to experience substantial decreases in the violent and property crime rate without an increase in the incarceration rate.



If crime in the rest of the state follows a similar trend as Oregon’s four largest cities in 2010, Oregon’s violent crime will be at the lowest rate since 1969 and property crime will be at the lowest rate since 1966.

These low crime rates for 2010 are significant because they were achieved during an economic recession and without increased use of expensive prison resources. In addition, it is significant that felony motor vehicle theft and felony burglary rates have dropped during the time that Measure 57 was suspended by the legislature (for crimes sentenced after February 15, 2010 until the law would return on January 1, 2012) due to the inability to fund the increase of prison beds the measure would call for.

Permanent Suspension of RPO & Repeat Drug Portion of Measure 57			
Biennium	Estimated Savings (\$39/day)	Estimated Savings (\$84/day)	Bed Reduction (Midpoint of Biennium)
11-13	(\$2,199,990)	(\$4,737,664)	-17
13-15	(\$20,332,686)	(\$43,786,299)	-657
15-17	(\$30,076,259)	(\$64,769,017)	-886
17-19	(\$32,973,107)	(\$71,007,358)	-909
19-21	(\$35,469,176)	(\$76,382,625)	-924
Total Estimated Savings	(\$121,051,217)	(\$260,682,963)	N/A

The table above shows the estimated savings and bed reduction with a suspension of Measure 57.⁵ The 2010 crime numbers suggest that Oregon may maintain these historically low crime rates without needing to implement Measure 57, which is estimated to cost taxpayers more than \$2 million in the 2011-2013 biennium, more than \$20 million in the 2013-2015 biennium and well over \$100 million over the next decade.

⁵ See the Report of the Reset Subcommittee on Public Safety, pg. 50: http://cjinstitute.org/files/OR_pubsafe_subcomreport_final.pdf

