Criminal Justice Commission

Senate Bill 463 (2013) requires the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to prepare a racial and ethnic impact statement that describes the effects of proposed legislation on the racial and ethnic composition of crime victims. To obtain a racial and ethnic impact statement, one member of the Legislative Assembly from each major political party must sign a written request. This report does not attempt to explain why racial and ethnic disparity exists in crime victimization, but simply displays the extent of the disparity.

Victim Population

Oregon does not currently have reliable data on crime victims by race and ethnicity. Some Oregon jurisdictions participate in NIBRS, a national effort to keep detailed quality records on crimes which include data on the race and ethnicity of crime victims. However, since most of the agencies covering large urban areas do not participate in NIBRS, the data is not representative of the state and cannot be used for victim racial impact statements. The FBI will require that all jurisdictions report NIBRS data by 2017.

Violent victimization rates by race and crime. This is the number of victims of violent crime per 1000 members of the general population.¹ This includes serious violent victimization, rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and personal theft/larceny.

Native Americans and those reporting two or more races consistently report the highest levels of violent crime victimization. Asians consistently report the lowest levels of violent crime victimization. Overall, violent crime victimization rates have fallen over the last 20 years. For violent person crimes, victimization rates are highest for simple assault. They are lowest for personal theft/larceny.

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. Generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool at www.bjs.gov.
Property victimization rates by race and crime. This is the number of victims of property crime per 1000 members of the general population. This includes household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and other theft.

Two racial categories consistently report the highest victimization rates across crime types: Native Americans and those reporting two or more races. The only exception is the crime of motor vehicle theft, for which Hispanics have the highest victimization rate, followed by those reporting two or more races. The rate of property crimes is driven primarily by property theft.

Overall, the rate of victimization is higher for property crimes than for violent crimes. Rates for both violent and property crimes have decreased over the last 20 years.

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