



Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Comparative Analysis of Crime Rates: Connecticut, the United States and Adjacent Northeast States – 1960 to 2007

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Summary

This document provides a comparative analysis of crime rates for Connecticut, the United States and a cohort of other Northeast states – Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. This trend analysis is based upon the categories of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the years 1960 – 2007. (For a more thorough discussion of UCR data and disclaimers please see the Appendix).

Offenses that make up the Crime Index are Part I crimes—the violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. The UCR Program added arson in 1979 to the Crime Index. Although data on arson is reported, it is not included in the property crime subtotals.

Nationally, the 2007 Crime Index, with an estimated 11,251,818 offenses, declined by more than -1.3% when compared to the 2006 Index; for Connecticut with approximately 93,017 offenses, it declined by over -4.7%. The Crime Index for 2007 was comprised of 12% violent crime and 88% property crime; for Connecticut this was 10% violent crime and 90% property crime. The offense of larceny-theft accounted for the greatest part of the Crime Index, at 58% for the U.S. and 64% for Connecticut. Murder, the least often committed crime in the Index, contributed slightly more than two-tenths of a percent to the total for the U.S. and even less for Connecticut. Connecticut showed a significant decrease of -8.9 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention in 2007 compared to 2006 figures with the U.S. showing a slight decline of -0.7%. The number of property crimes during the same time period decreased for both the U.S. and Connecticut by -1.4% and -4.2%, respectively, when compared to 2006 figures. The Crime Index rate reflects the number of Index offenses per 100,000 inhabitants, for the Nation it was 3,730.4; for Connecticut it was much less at 2,655.9.

The purpose of this document is to provide a relative measurement of increasing or decreasing crime rates, by offense category for Connecticut, the United States and a cohort of other Northeast states – Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

- Overall, the total crime rate for Connecticut in 2007 (2,655.9 per 100,000 inhabitants) is the lowest it has been in 40 years, since prior to 1968. Across the U.S. the 2007 Crime Index reported an overall decline of -2.0 percent; Connecticut decreased by twice this rate by 4.6 percent.
- Property crimes are the most frequent, at 2,399.9 per 100,000 in Connecticut and at 3,263.5 per 100,000 for the U.S. in 2007. Overall, Connecticut's property crime trend is similar to that of the other adjacent Northeast states which has been steadily declining from 1990 to 2007.
- In 2007, Rhode Island and Connecticut had the highest larceny-theft rates in the Northeast, but overall these rates have continued to decline since the early eighties and are well below the national average.
- In 2007 New York, New Jersey and Connecticut had the lowest rates for burglary compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast.
- From 1991 to 2007, the trend lines for motor vehicle thefts in Connecticut have been steadily declining, as have other adjacent states in the Northeast.
- From 1995 to 2007, Rhode Island and Connecticut have the lowest violent crime when compared to other adjacent Northeast states. Of these states, Connecticut had the largest decrease of -8.8 percent for violent crime in 2007.
- New York has had the highest rate of robbery compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast for the past 46 years. Connecticut robbery rates are typically among the lowest second only to Rhode Island in 2007.
- In 2007, Rhode Island and Connecticut had the lowest rates of aggravated assault compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast with both being more than 50% lower than the national rate.
- Connecticut's rate of forcible rape has consistently been much lower than the national average. For 2007 the U.S. has declined to 30 per 100,000 with Connecticut at 18.8.
- Homicides are relatively infrequent in Connecticut at 3.0 per 100,000; compared to 5.6 for the U.S. in 2007.



Data Note: If towns are missing information for the FBI's Crime in the U.S. reports, the State totals will reflect estimated values for missing data by forecasting previous figures.

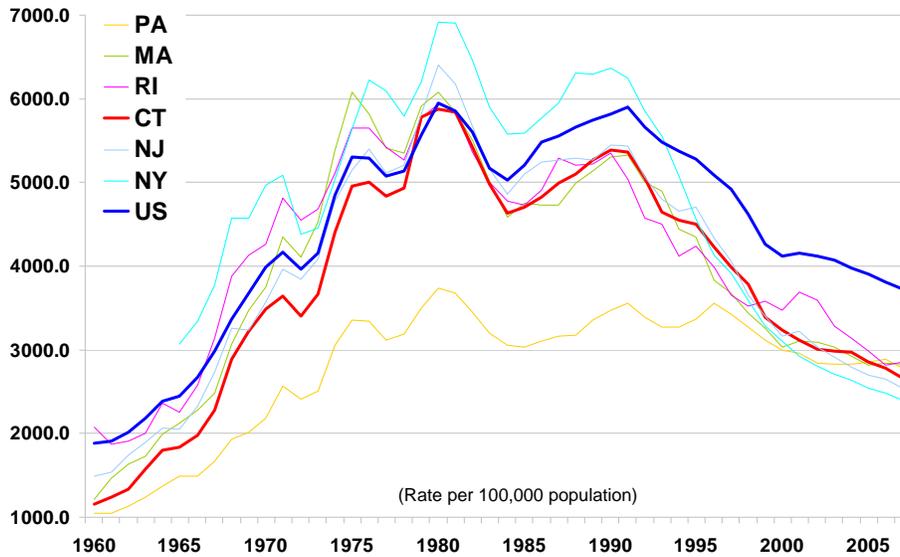
Total Crime Rate

Total Crime Rate

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines total crime rate as an index for gauging fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime. Also known as the Crime Index, these seven offenses included the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Connecticut's total crime rate follows the pattern of other adjacent Northeast States, but typically at a lower rate. Overall, the total crime rate for Connecticut in 2007 (2,655.9 per 100,000 inhabitants) is the lowest it has been in 40 years. As with most other adjacent States, the total crime rate peaked in 1980 and again in 1990 with a steady decline to 2007. In 2007, Rhode Island had the highest crime rate when compared to other adjacent Northeast States.

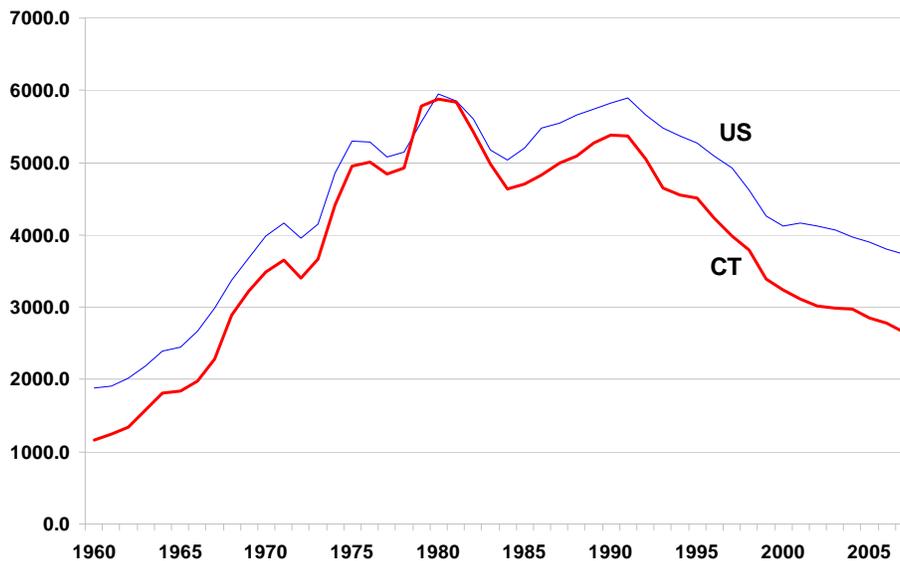
CHART 1a – Total Crime Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Across the U.S. the 2007 Crime Index reported an overall decline of -2.0 percent; Connecticut decreased by twice this rate by 4.6 percent. Connecticut's total crime rate has patterned similarly to that of the U.S. over the past 46 years, but at a lower rate with the exception of 1979 to 1980.

CHART 1b – Total Crime Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

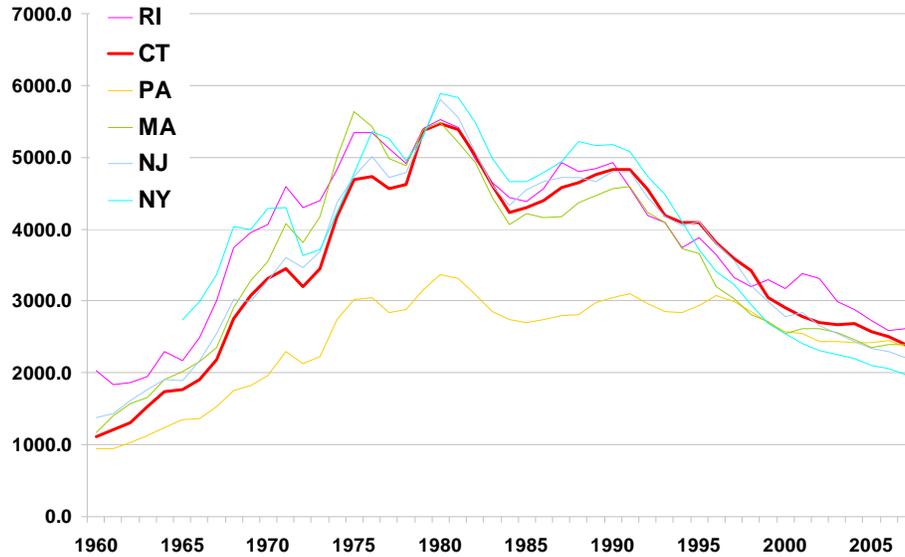
Property Crime Rate

Property Crime

Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. The property crime category includes arson because the offense involves the destruction of property; however, arson victims may be subjected to force.

Property crimes are the most frequent, at 3,263.5 per 100,000 inhabitants for the U.S. and at 2,399.9 per 100,000 in Connecticut in 2007. Overall, Connecticut's property crime trend is similar to that of the other adjacent Northeast states which has been steadily declining from 1990 to 2007. Connecticut property crime rates have returned to those seen in the late sixties.

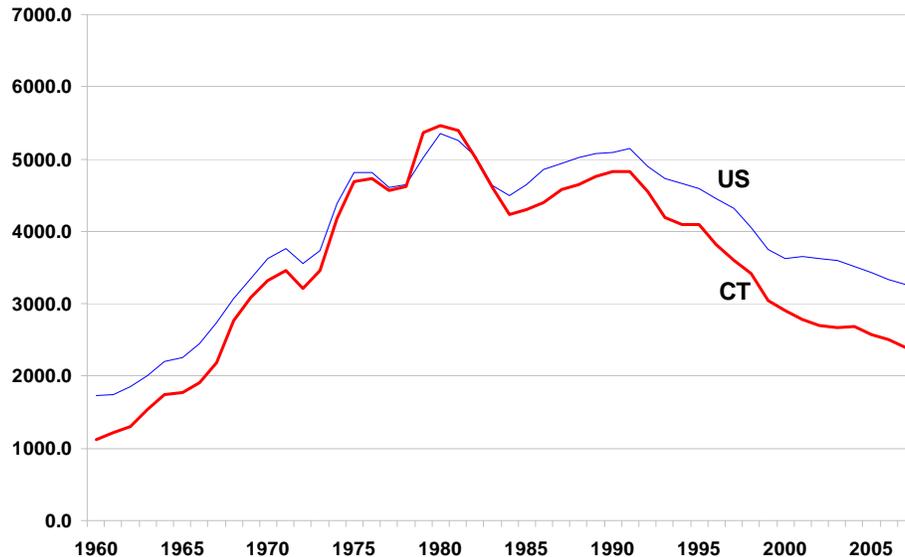
CHART 2a – Property Crime Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Connecticut's property crime rate has patterned similarly to that of the U.S. over the past 46 years, but at a lower rate with the exception of 1977 to 1983. The number of property crimes for the U.S. and Connecticut continued to decrease in 2007 by 1.4% and 4.2%, respectively, when compared to 2006 figures.

CHART 2b – Property Crime Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

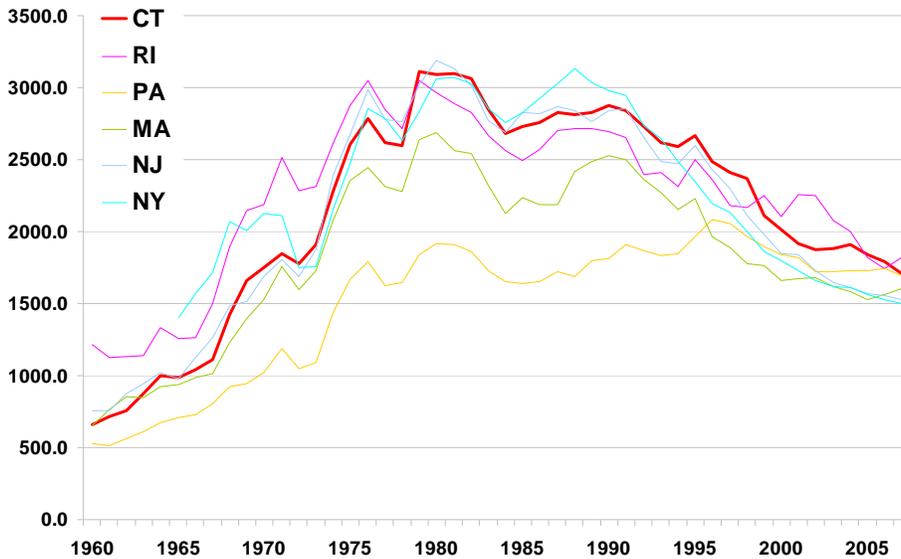
Larceny-Theft Rate

Larceny-Theft

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines larceny-theft as the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. It includes crimes such as pick-pocketing, shoplifting, purse snatching, thefts from motor vehicles (including vehicle parts and accessories), bicycle thefts, etc., in which no use of force, violence, or fraud occurs. Motor vehicle theft is not included here as it is a separate category.

The offense of larceny-theft accounted for the greatest part of the Crime Index, at 58% for the U.S. and 64% for Connecticut. In 2007, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Pennsylvania had the highest larceny-theft rates in the Northeast. Connecticut larceny-theft rates have continued to decline along with other adjacent states and returned to those rates seen in the early seventies.

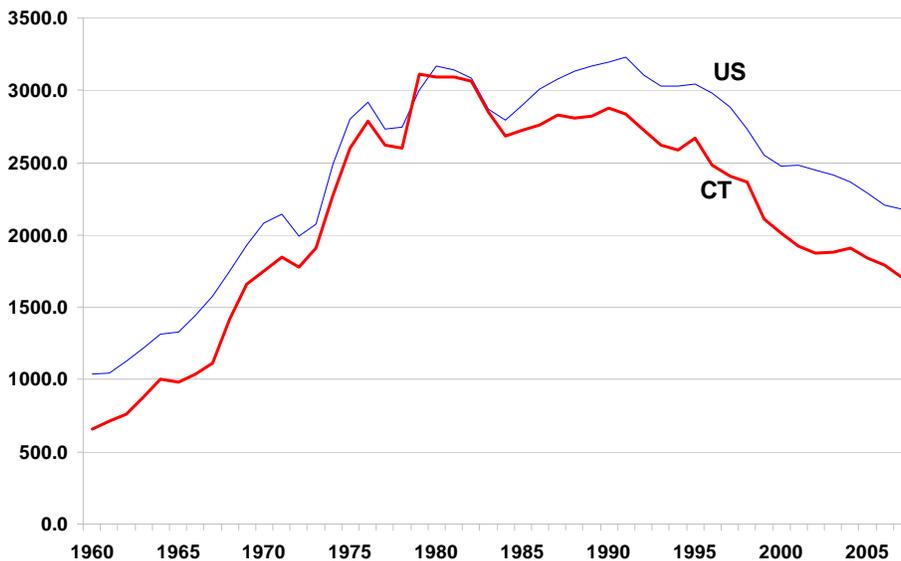
CHART 3a – Larceny-Theft Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Connecticut's larceny-theft rate has patterned similarly to that of the U.S. over the past 45 years, but at a lower rate with the exception of 1979.

CHART 3b – Larceny-Theft Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

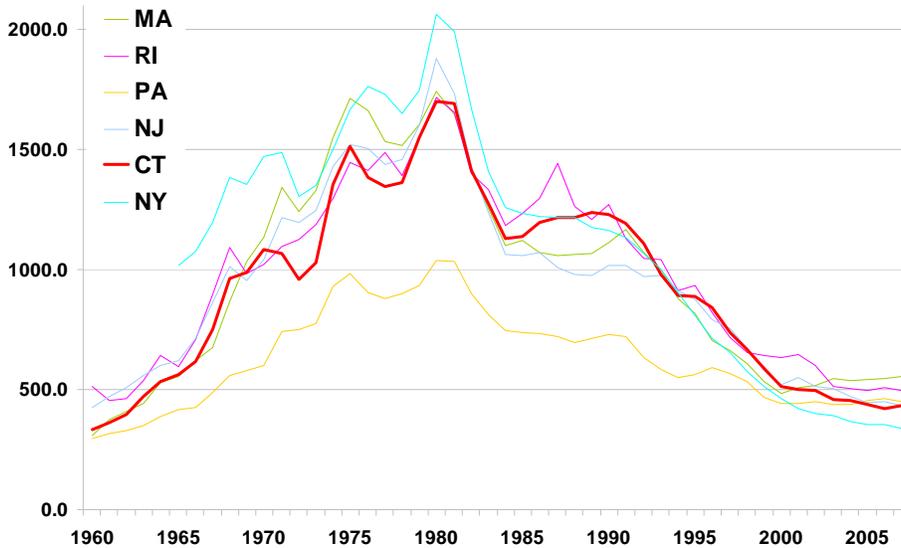
Burglary Rate

Burglary

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry (forceful or not) of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Beginning in 1980 and continuing from 1990 through 2007, Connecticut and other adjacent Northeast states experienced a significant decline in burglary rates. In 2007 New York, New Jersey and Connecticut had the lowest rates for burglary compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast.

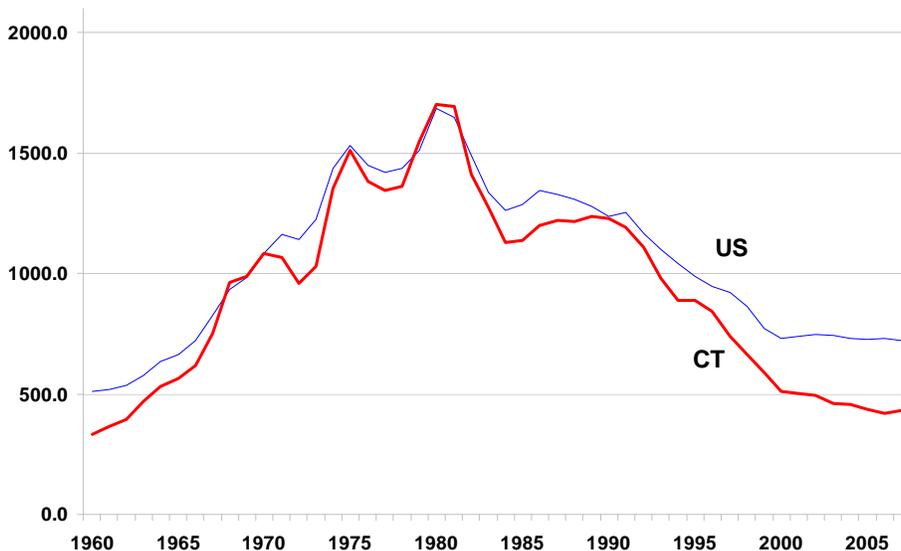
CHART 4a – Burglary Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

In 2007, Connecticut's burglary rate was at 432.9 per 100,000 and the U.S. rate was at 722.5. Rates for burglary in Connecticut have returned to those rates seen in the early sixties.

CHART 4b – Burglary Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

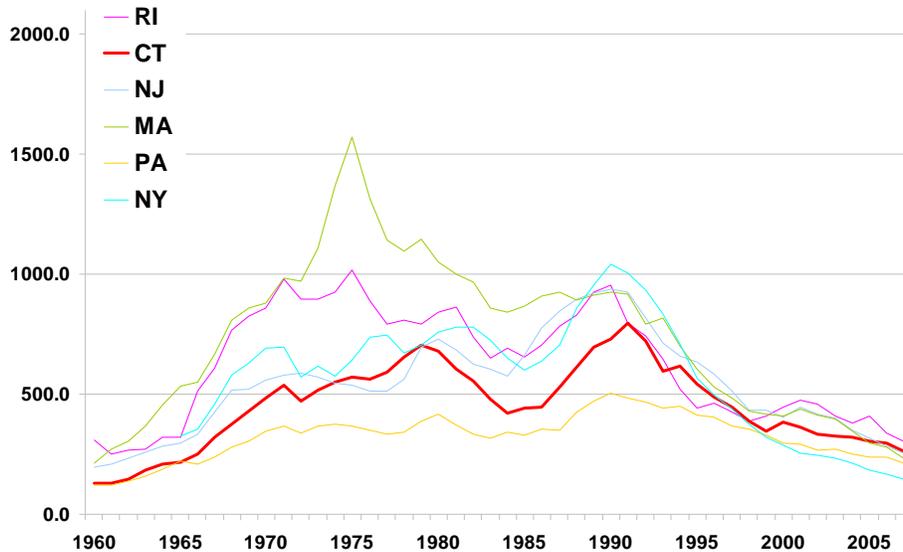
Motor Vehicle – Theft Rate

Motor Vehicle – Theft

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines motor vehicle theft as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle (including automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, snowmobiles, etc.). It excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by those persons having lawful access.

From 1991 to 2007, the trend lines for motor vehicle thefts in Connecticut have been steadily declining, as have other adjacent states in the Northeast. Motor vehicle thefts rates have returned to those seen in the mid sixties. Connecticut had the third largest decrease of motor vehicle theft rate, a decline of 11.7 percent in 2007.

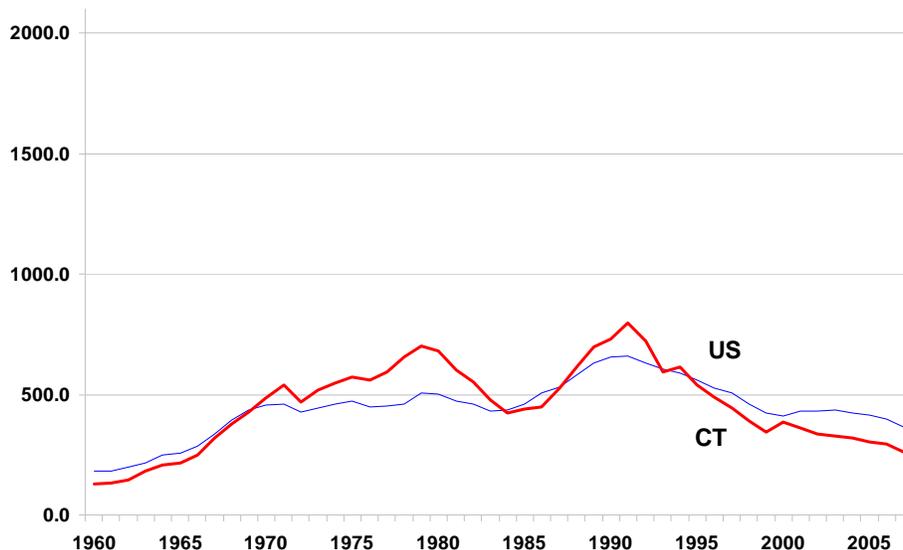
CHART 5a – Motor Vehicle – Theft Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Connecticut's motor vehicle theft rate has patterned similarly to that of the U.S. over the past 46 years and in certain time periods exceeded U.S. rates. Overall, Connecticut's motor vehicle theft rates have been declining from 1991 to 2007.

CHART 5b – Motor Vehicle – Theft Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

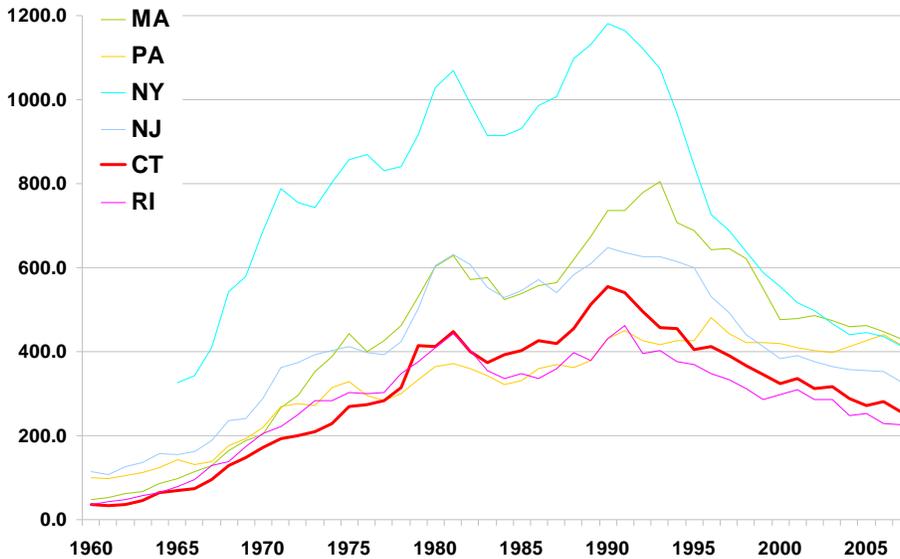
Violent Crime Rate

Violent Crime

Violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's definition, violent crimes involve force or threat of force.

The Crime Index for 2007 Connecticut this was 10% violent crime and 90% property crime. Overall, Connecticut's violent crime trend is similar to that of the other adjacent Northeast states—a peak in the late seventies/early eighties, another peak in the early nineties with a continued decline to 2007. From 1995 to 2007, Rhode Island and Connecticut have the lowest violent crime when compared to other adjacent Northeast states. Of these states, Connecticut had the largest decrease of -8.8 percent for violent crime in 2007.

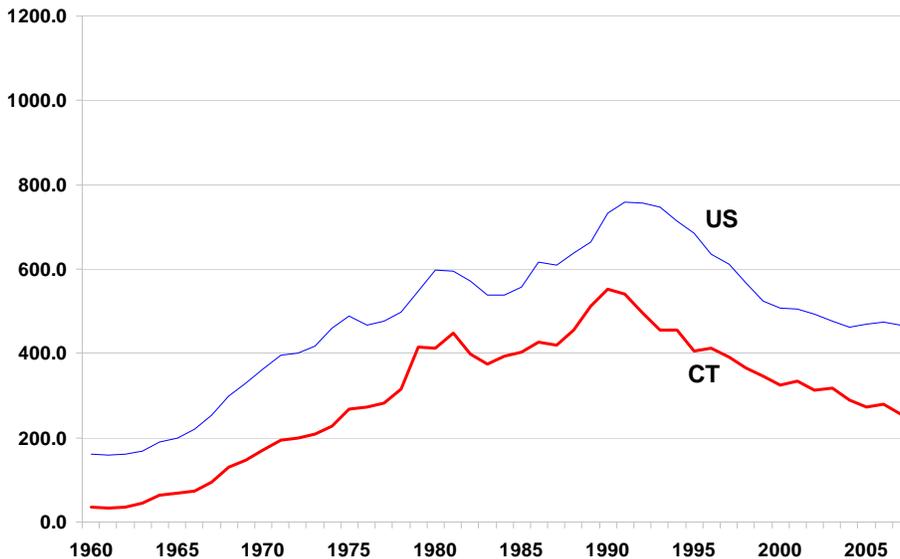
CHART 6a – Violent Crime Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Connecticut showed a significant decrease of 8.9 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention in 2007 compared to 2006 figures with the U.S. showing a slight decline of 0.7%.

CHART 6b – Violent Crime Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

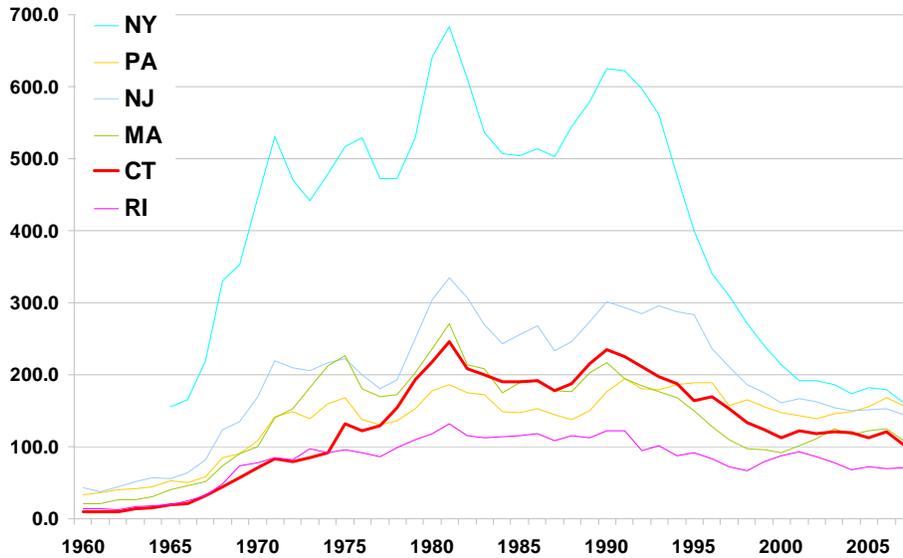
Robbery Rate

Robbery

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines robbery as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear.

New York has had the highest rate of robbery compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast for the past 46 years. Connecticut robbery rates are typically among the lowest second only to Rhode Island in 2007. Of these states, Connecticut had the largest decrease of 14.9 percent for robbery in 2007.

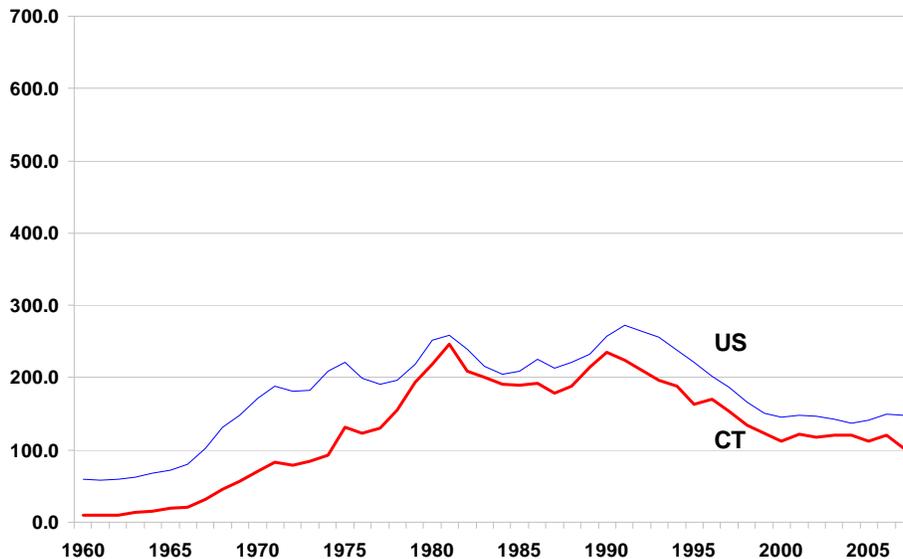
CHART 7a – Robbery Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Rates of robbery in the U.S. and Connecticut closely parallel each other from 1980 through 1990, with the U.S. consistently having a higher rate over the past 46 years.

CHART 7b – Robbery Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

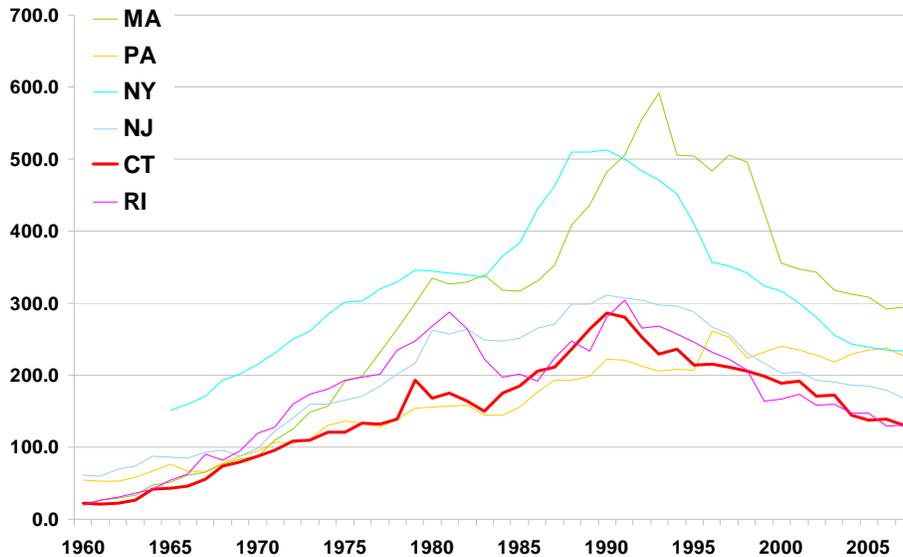
Aggravated Assault Rate

Aggravated Assault

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines aggravated assault as the unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. It is usually accompanied by use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are included in this categorization.

In 2007, Rhode Island and Connecticut had the lowest rates of aggravated assault compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast with both being more than 50% lower than the national rate. Massachusetts and New York have both shared the top two highest rates of aggravated assault compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast for the past 31 years.

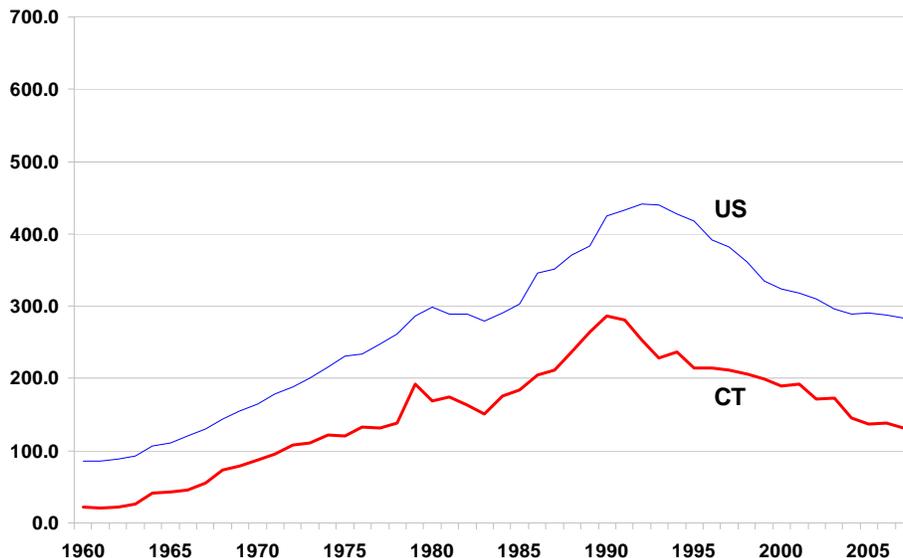
CHART 8a – Aggravated Assault Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Both the U.S. and Connecticut have witnessed a slow but steady decline in the rate of aggravated assault from 1990 through 2007. Connecticut's trend lines patterned similarly to that of the U.S. over the past 46 years, but at a much lower rate.

CHART 8b – Aggravated Assault Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

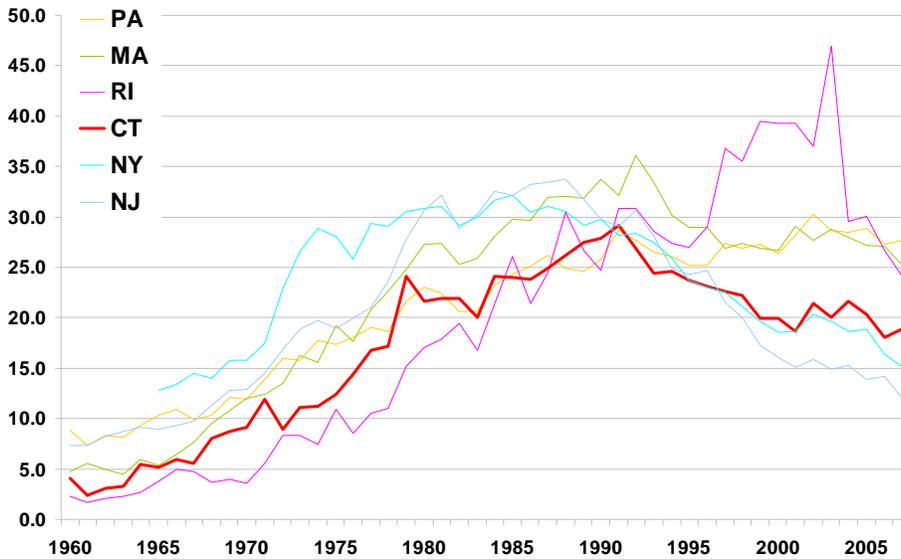
Forcible Rape Rate

Forcible Rape

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines forcible rape as the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. The FBI includes assaults or attempts to commit rape by force; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are not included.

Since 1996, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have had the highest rate of forcible rape compared to other adjacent states in the Northeast. In 2007, Connecticut's rate of forcible rape increased by 0.7 per 100,000 residents.

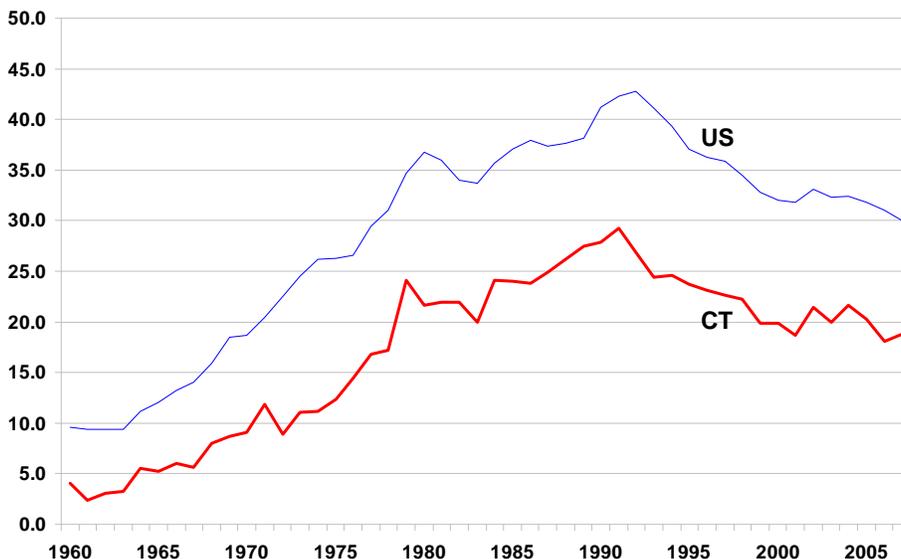
CHART 9a – Forcible Rape Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Connecticut's rate of forcible rape has consistently been much lower than the national average. For 2007 the U.S. has declined to 30 per 100,000 inhabitants and Connecticut at 18.8 or 40% below that of the national rate.

CHART 9b – Forcible Rape Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

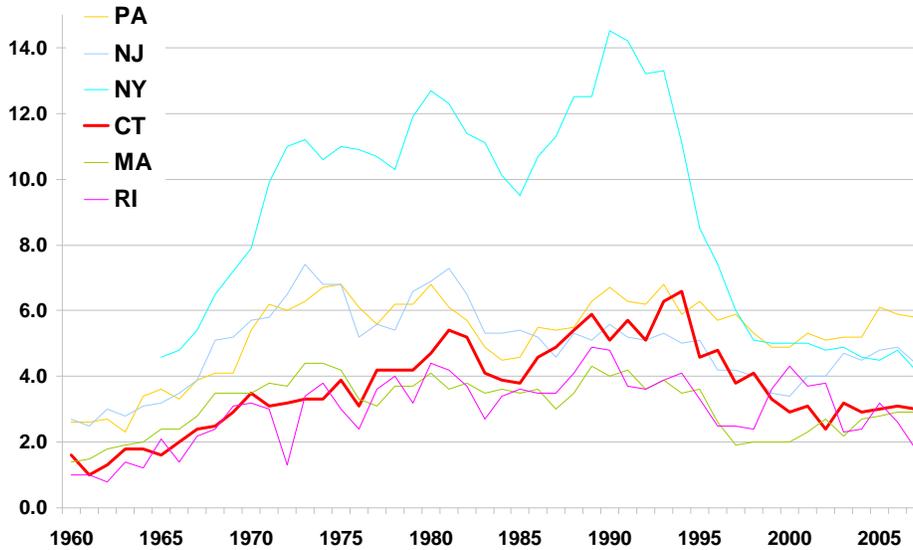
Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter Rate

Murder

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines murder as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another, as determined by police investigation. Not included are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts/assaults to murder, which are classified as aggravated assaults.

In Connecticut homicides are relatively infrequent at 3.0 per 100,000; compared to 5.6 for the U.S. in 2007. Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York had the highest homicide rates compared to other adjacent Northeast states in 2007. Since 2005, Pennsylvania has continued to exceed the national homicide rate.

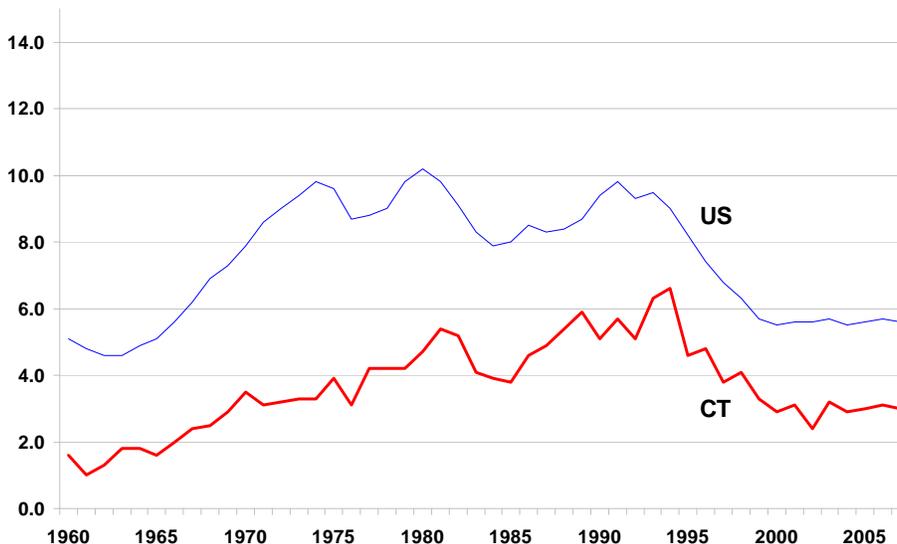
CHART 10a – Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter Rate in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Overall, Connecticut's homicide trend has patterned that of the U.S. but typically at a much lower rate. Murder, the least often committed crime in the Index, contributed slightly more than two-tenths of a percent to the total for the U.S. and even less for Connecticut.

CHART 10b – Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter Rate in Connecticut and the US, 1960-2007
(Rate per 100,000 population)



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1960-2007, <http://bisdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StateCrime.cfm>

Appendix

This report reflects crime in Connecticut as reported by local law enforcement agencies to the Connecticut Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of State Police, Crimes Analysis Unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

The UCR Program gathers offense data for violent and property crimes. Offenses that make up the Crime Index are Part I crimes—violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. In addition to reporting Part I offenses, law enforcement agencies provide monthly data to the UCR Program on persons arrested for all other crimes except traffic violations, police officers killed or assaulted and hate crimes (reported Quarterly).

In 2007, more than 17,700 city, county, college and university, state, tribal, and federal agencies voluntarily participated in the UCR Program.

Data Collection Methodology

Law enforcement agencies that participate, forward crime data through their State UCR Programs in 46 States and the District of Columbia. Local agencies without State UCR Programs submit crime statistics directly to the FBI. Many states have mandatory reporting requirements, and many State UCR Programs collect data beyond those typically called for by the national UCR Program to address crime problems specific to their particular jurisdictions.

Law enforcement agencies tabulate the number of Part I crimes brought to their attention based on records of all reports of crime received from victims, officers who discover infractions, or other sources, and submit them each month to the FBI either directly or through their State UCR Programs.

The *Crime in the United States* statistical compendium reports data regarding only those offenses made known to police.

Crime Rate Calculation

Crime rates are computed by dividing the offenses reported to police by the population and multiplying by 100,000. The result is an expression of the number of crimes occurring in a population of 100,000 people, allowing a comparison between jurisdictions of differing populations.

Crime Rate = (Number of Offenses x 100,000)/Population

Connecticut UCR Participation

Every month law enforcement agencies, and some colleges and universities throughout Connecticut submit UCR data to the DPS Crimes Analysis Unit. According to the Unit, there is 100% participation in the UCR Program over time.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is a second generation UCR system that went into effect in Connecticut in 1993. NIBRS collects and reports data on each incident, and allows reporting of one or more offenses for any one incident. Information in UCR is summary based, meaning that only the highest level offense in any one incident is reported. Consequently, NIBRS data provides considerable more detail about an incident, and yields richer and more meaningful information than those produced by the summary UCR system.

A total of 182 entities reported within Connecticut in 2007. This includes the Connecticut State Police reporting as a separate entity. With 169 municipalities in Connecticut, there are 92 separate local Police Departments (PD) which cover 85% of the State's population. Among the 92 local PD, 67 utilize NIBRS and 25 utilize UCR. The Connecticut State Police use the NIBRS system and provide police services for another 81 Connecticut towns and places (or 15% of the State's population). In addition, there are 7 campus police departments also reporting, 5 of which use NIBRS and 2 that use the summary UCR system. The State Capitol Police utilize the NIBRS system.

FBI Data Cautions

The FBI cautions data users of *Crime in the United States* against comparing statistical data of cities, counties, metropolitan areas, states, colleges or universities solely on the basis on their population coverage or student enrollment. In addition, the FBI cautions data users to exercise care in making any direct comparison between data in this publication and those in prior issues, because of differing levels of participation from year to year and reporting problems that require the FBI to estimate crime counts for certain contributors, the data may not be comparable from year to year.

Some factors that are known to affect the volume and type of crime occurring from place to place are:

- Population density and degree of urbanization.
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration.
- Stability of the population with respect to residents' mobility, commuting patterns, and transient factors.
- Modes of transportation and highway system.
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level, and job availability.
- Cultural factors and educational, recreational, and religious characteristics.
- Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness.
- Climate.
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies.
- Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement.
- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (e.g. prosecutorial, judicial, correctional, and probation).
- Citizens' attitudes toward crime.
- Crime reporting practices of the citizenry.