

CRIME IN MAINE 2008 — HIGHLIGHTS



During 2008 the crime clock average in Maine reflected the following:

VIOLENT CRIMES: 1 every 5 hours, 40 minutes1 Murder every 11 days, 19 hours, 21 minutes
 1 Rape every 23 hours, 33 minutes
 1 Robbery every 26 hours, 27 minutes
 1 Aggravated Assault every 10 hours, 48 minutes

PROPERTY CRIMES: 1 every 16 minutes, 14 seconds1 Burglary every 80 minutes, 53 seconds
 1 Larceny every 21 minutes, 26 seconds
 1 Motor Vehicle Theft every 7 hours, 29 minutes
 1 Arson every 46 hours, 43 minutes

CRIME RATEThe Crime Rate is based on the occurrence of an Index Offense per 1,000 residents of the state. Local and county rates are based on their individual populations. The State Crime Rate for 2008 was 25.83 per 1,000. The comparable rate for 2007 was 25.66. The 2008 state population is estimated at 1,316,456 persons.

INDEX OFFENSESThere were 34,008 Index Offenses reported by police during 2008 — an increase of 212 offenses (0.6%) from the 33,796 similar offenses reported in 2007.

VIOLENT CRIMESMurder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault make up the Violent Crimes category. Violent crimes as a group decreased by 7 offenses from 2007 for a 0.4% decrease. During 2008 violent crimes totaled 1,549, compared to a 2007 total of 1,556. Violent crimes accounted for 4.6% of all reported index crimes (4.6% in 2007) and represent a crime rate of 1.18 per 1,000 population.

PROPERTY CRIMESProperty Crimes, consisting of Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson, rose in 2008 by 219 offenses (0.7%) from 2007. There were 32,459 offenses reported in 2008 with 32,240 being shown for 2007. Property crimes account for 95.4% of all index crimes with a crime rate of 24.66 offenses per 1,000 population.

MURDERThere were 31 murders committed in Maine during 2008 — 47.6% higher than the 21 murders reported in 2007. Law enforcement cleared 25 murders this year. Maine’s 10-year average is 20 homicides annually.

RAPE	Forcible Rapes decreased by 20 reported offenses during 2008. There were 393 offenses reported to police in 2007, compared to 373 in 2008. Of the total, 367 were actual rapes, while 6 were classified as attempts to commit forcible rape.
ROBBERY	Robberies decreased by 4.9% (17 offenses) during 2008, from 349 in 2007 to 332 in 2008.
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	Law enforcement reported 813 Aggravated Assaults during 2008, an increase of 2.5% from the 2007 figure of 793. Simple assaults (a non-index crime) increased by 2.7% during 2008 with 11,570 offenses reported.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	All offenses of assault between family or household members are reported as Domestic Assault and account for 42.9% of all assaults. During 2008 police reported 5,311 offenses, a decrease of 460 (8.0%) from the 5,771 offenses reported in 2007.
BURGLARY	The number of Burglaries during 2008 fell by 2.4% compared with those in 2007. There was a decrease of 161 from the 2007 total of 6,677. The 6,516 burglaries reported statewide resulted in property loss totaling \$8,757,927. Burglaries represent 19.2% of all reported index offenses.
LARCENY-THEFT	The crime of Larceny increased during 2008 by 2.2% from the 24,060 larceny offenses reported in 2007. Police reported 24,582 larceny crimes during 2008. Shoplifting increased 15.5% and thefts from motor vehicles decreased 3.8% for 30.7% of all larceny crimes reported.
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	Motor Vehicle Theft registered a decrease of 87 offenses during 2008, from 1,260 in 2007 to 1,173. A high of 2,764 motor vehicles were reported stolen during 1978.
ARSON	The crime of Arson was added to the list of reportable index crimes in 1980. During 2008 there were 188 arsons reported, down 55 (22.6%) from the 243 arsons reported for 2007. Estimated property loss caused by arson totaled over \$3.1 million during 2008 — down 18.8%.
HATE CRIME	Beginning in 1992, Hate Crime was added as a new reporting requirement. During 2008, police reported 64 incidents involving 71 victims and resulting in a total of 65 offenses.
STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY	During 2008 law enforcement agencies recorded \$27,898,529 worth of property stolen during the commission of index crimes — an increase of 1.6% from the \$27,453,736 stolen during 2007. Police were able to recover 24.8% (\$6,931,815) of stolen property during 2008.
CLEARANCE RATE	Law enforcement agencies cleared 29.6% of all index crimes in 2008 — higher than the 29.4% rate in 2007.

ARRESTS	The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police, including juveniles and adults, was 56,857 — a decrease of 1.3% from the 57,623 persons recorded in 2007. Drug arrests increased 0.9% with 5,214 adults and 555 juveniles charged with drug offenses.
OFFICER ASSAULTS	There were 251 assaults on law enforcement officers in 2008, a decrease from the 2007 figure of 297.
POLICE EMPLOYMENT DATA	Statewide there were 2,270 full-time sworn law enforcement officers representing a ratio of 1.72 officers per 1,000 population. Nationally (in 2007) the average rate per 1,000 was 2.4.
TRENDS	The chart on the following pages shows the 10-year trend data for the index crimes recorded by Uniform Crime Reporting. Shown are the number of offenses, the crime rate per 1,000 residents of Maine, the percent cleared in Maine, the national crime rate per 1,000, and the percent change in the number of reported offenses in Maine.