

Purpose

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is pleased to present the third edition of the State of Crime in Ohio. Since the last edition was published in 1995, the face of crime in our nation has changed dramatically. Crime and public safety have become more serious areas of concern for the citizens of Ohio and our nation. The information presented in this report was compiled from a variety of sources, representing all phases of the criminal justice and social services systems. Its purpose is to serve as a reference point for state administration, the legislature, law enforcement, members of the criminal justice community, victims groups, and the citizens of Ohio as we work together to enhance public safety in Ohio both today and tomorrow.

Chapters

- **HISTORY:** Provides a comprehensive look at the foundation of the U.S. justice system including historical, social and legal precedents that have shaped our system.
- **CITIZEN ATTITUDES:** The Citizen Attitude Survey provides perceptions of crime and justice in our state, and throughout the nation.
- **CRIME:** Defines the FBI's classification system and the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Explores trends in violent crime in Ohio and the U.S.
- **OFFENDERS:** Compelling facts about people who commit crimes. In 2001, nearly 300,000 arrests were made in Ohio.
- **VICTIMS:** Statistics from the National Crime Victimization Survey give insight into the number of crimes actually reported, and victim/offender relationship.
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT:** The Ohio Peace Officer Task Analysis survey shows significant needs in the justice system from the law enforcement officer's view.
- **Courts:** Maps trends in cases filed in all courts over the last ten years.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Provides insight into residential and non-residential sentencing; explores local diversion programs, and Ohio jail statistics.
- **FUTURE:** Explores the future of Ohio's Criminal justice system through the thoughts of Ohio's leading criminal justice and social service professionals.

Fast Facts:

OFFENDER SNAPSHOT:

- Over 50% of all Ohio serious violent and property crime arrestees are under age 25.
- Almost 50% of Ohio's prisoners have not completed high school.

FAITH-BASED RESOURCES:

- A citizen survey conducted by OCJS in 2003 revealed family and faith-based resources are looked to as the best resources for dealing with juvenile crime.

MENTAL ILLNESS AND OHIO'S SPECIALTY

DOCKETS:

- A study conducted in Summit County, Ohio suggests that one in twelve individuals with a severe mental disorder had at least one incarceration in the Summit County jail in a one-year period.
- The judges traditionally well-defined role has evolved as the legal system has become increasingly involved in behavioral treatment for offenders. This new trend is exemplified in the development of drug, mental health, and reentry courts, or *specialty dockets*.

CRIME VICTIMIZATION:

- Young, unmarried, low-income males are the most frequent victims.
- While it appears that victims have become more willing to report crimes to law enforcement, studies show that less than half of serious crimes are being reported.

CRIME TRENDS:

- Identify theft has been on the rise in Ohio and in the U.S. From 2001 to 2002 alone, law enforcement saw a 78% increase in identity theft. Credit card fraud and phone/utilities fraud constitute over 60% of identity theft complaints for both years.

OCJS is a cabinet level agency dedicated to criminal justice planning and funding for the state of Ohio.