



Summer 2009

SAC Notes:

Information on Crime and Criminal Justice
A publication from the
Florida Statistical Analysis Center

Index Crime Trends in Florida, 1999 - 2006

This report is the second in a series presenting a summary of Index Crime offenses reported in Florida. Crime data presented in this publication were obtained from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program, Crime in Florida Report for 1999 – 2006. The report describes data of known offenses from voluntary submissions by Florida's law enforcement agencies. Approximately 98 percent of Florida law enforcement agencies submit data for the UCR Program. While the goal of Florida's UCR Program is to provide a barometer of the crime conditions within geographic jurisdictions, this report presents a statewide look at the eight years covered.

This report provides trends for each of the seven Index Crimes as well as Total Index Crime, Violent Crime, and Property Crime for the eight-year period. The seven Index Crimes include Murder, Forcible Sex Offenses (including Rape, Forcible Sodomy, and Forcible Fondling), Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft. Violent Crime is a summation of Murder, Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault, while Property Crime includes Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft.

This report includes trends for both the number of offenses reported in each of the crime categories and the rate per 100,000 population. While Florida's population increased by 19.8 percent during this eight-year period of time, Total Index Crime decreased by 9.0 percent in number of reported offenses and declined by 24.0 percent in rate.

The index offense information described in this report is from calendar years 1999 – 2006, and this report is part of a series of publications covering index crime trends in Florida. More detailed Florida UCR Program information may be obtained here: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC>. Copies of this report or information regarding this publication can be obtained by calling, writing, or sending electronic mail requests to the following:

Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Florida Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 1489
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489
FSAC@fdle.state.fl.us
(850) 410-7140

Florida Statistical Analysis Center, FDLE



Index Crime Trends 1999 – 2006

In 2006, Florida, like much of the Nation, experienced reductions in both the numbers and rates of reported criminal offenses.¹ This publication presents the numbers, rates, and multi-year trends of all Index offenses: Murder, Forcible Sex Offenses (including Rape, Forcible Sodomy, and Forcible Fondling), Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft. This report is offered as a guide to Index crime in Florida.

Each crime category in this report includes a description of how it has changed from 1999 – 2006 as well as charts depicting the frequency and rate of reported offenses.

In this report, rate is calculated on a per 100,000 population basis to provide a commonality for comparison across time. We used the formula:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Offenses}}{\text{Population}^2} \times 100,000$$

To calculate the change in rate or number of offenses for the time period, we used the following formula:

$$\text{Percent Change Over Time} = \frac{2006 \# - 1999 \#}{1999 \#} \times 100$$

The figures in this report depict both exact frequencies and trend lines for each of the Index crimes from 1999 through 2006. For the purposes of this report, the trend lines were calculated using a linear regression equation.

Varying slightly from the overall trends set from 1998 – 2005, this report's eight-year period experienced a decline in the rate for all of the Index crimes except Murder which was up from 5.6 per 100,000 population in 1999 to 6.2 in 2006. Total Index crime

¹ Data for this report was obtained from the annual Crime in Florida reports, 1999 - 2006, an annual publication of the Florida Uniform Crime Reports Program, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, Florida. The UCR Program collects offense and arrest crime data from Florida law enforcement agencies and provides a barometer of the number and type of crimes that occur across the state each year. The UCR Program was redesigned in 1996 to collect summary data rather than information on individual offenses. More information about Florida's Uniform Crime Reports Program may be obtained from the UCR Guide Manual available at www.fdle.state.fl.us/fsac. The data used for this report is included in Appendix A.

² The population figures used by the Florida Uniform Crime Reports Program are from the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research. Information about Florida population figures may be retrieved from <http://edr.state.fl.us/conferences/population/demographic.htm>.



Index Crime Trends in Florida 1999 - 2006

dropped by over 84,000 offenses³ from 1999 to 2006, and the rate declined by over 24 percent during the period — even while the population of the State grew by more than three million persons.

Murder

As defined by the UCR, *murder* is described as “the killing of one human being by another” and includes non-negligent manslaughter. The general rule is that any death due to a fight, argument, quarrel, assault or which occurs during the commission of a crime or by premeditated design is included in this category.⁴

After a drop in the number of reported offenses in 2005, Murder continued its trend of increasing in 2006 with 28.1 percent more reported murders than the previous year. The rate per 100,000 population also increased (26.5%) from 4.9 in 2005 to 6.2 in 2006. While Florida showed a significant increase in the number and rate of Murder for the year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) 2006 Crime in the United States UCR data showed only a slight increase of 1.8 percent in the number of murders in the nation from 2005.⁵

For the eight-year period, Murder in Florida increased by 31.9 percent in number from 856 in 1999 to 1,129 in 2006 (Figure 1) and 10.7 percent in rate from 5.6 in 1999 to 6.2 in 2006 (Figure 2). Nationally, the 2006 Murder rate was 5.7 per 100,000 population.

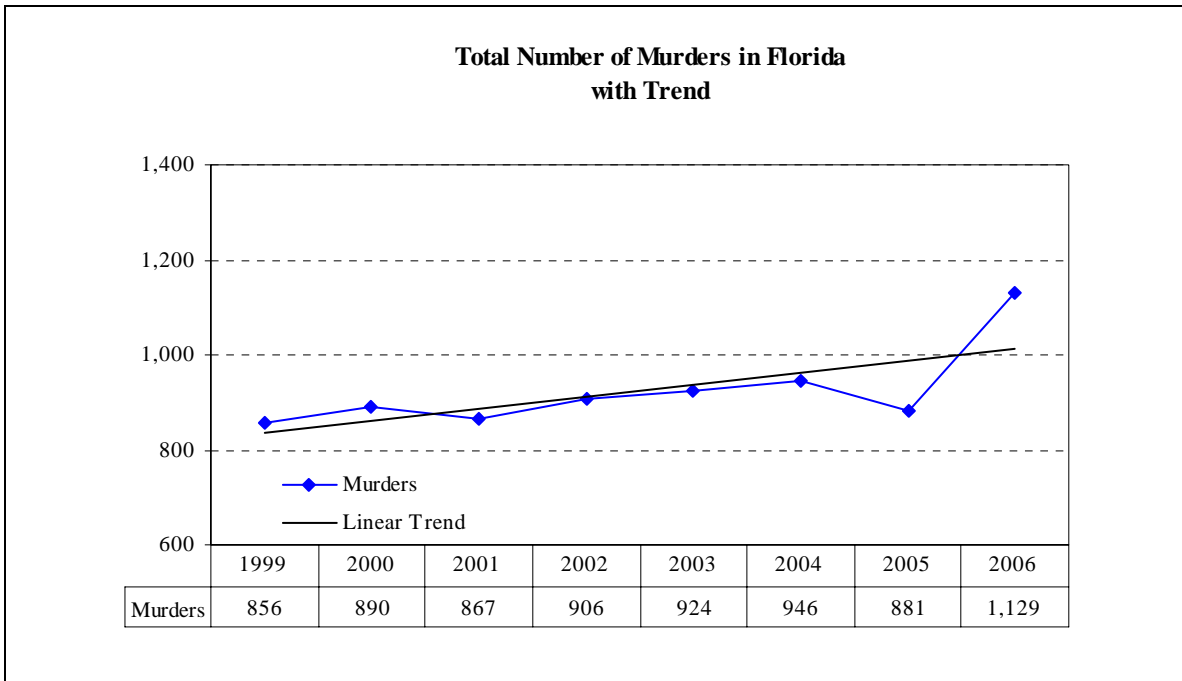
³ Violent crime increased slightly (0.5%) from 128,859 reported offenses in 1999 to 129,501 reported offenses in 2006 with increases in the number of murders (31.9%) and robberies (6.6%), while forcible sex offenses and aggravated assaults decreased by 8.1 percent and 0.9 percent respectively. Reported Property offenses declined by 10.6 percent for the eight-year period, including decreases in all Property crime categories.

⁴ Index Crime definitions are from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Uniform Crime Reports Guide Manual, revised June 2008.

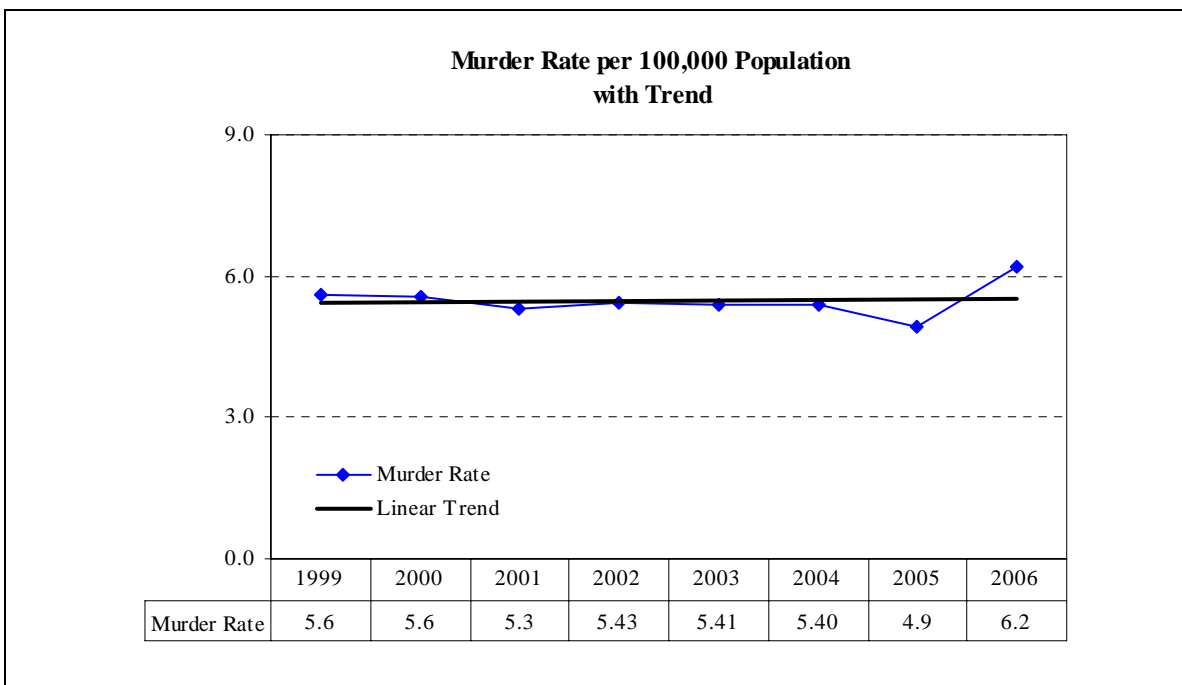
⁵ National numbers and rates of reported offenses in this publication are from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation’s *Crime in the United States*, 2006, available from <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/>.



**Figure 1: Total Number of Murders in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 2: Murder Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 - 2006**



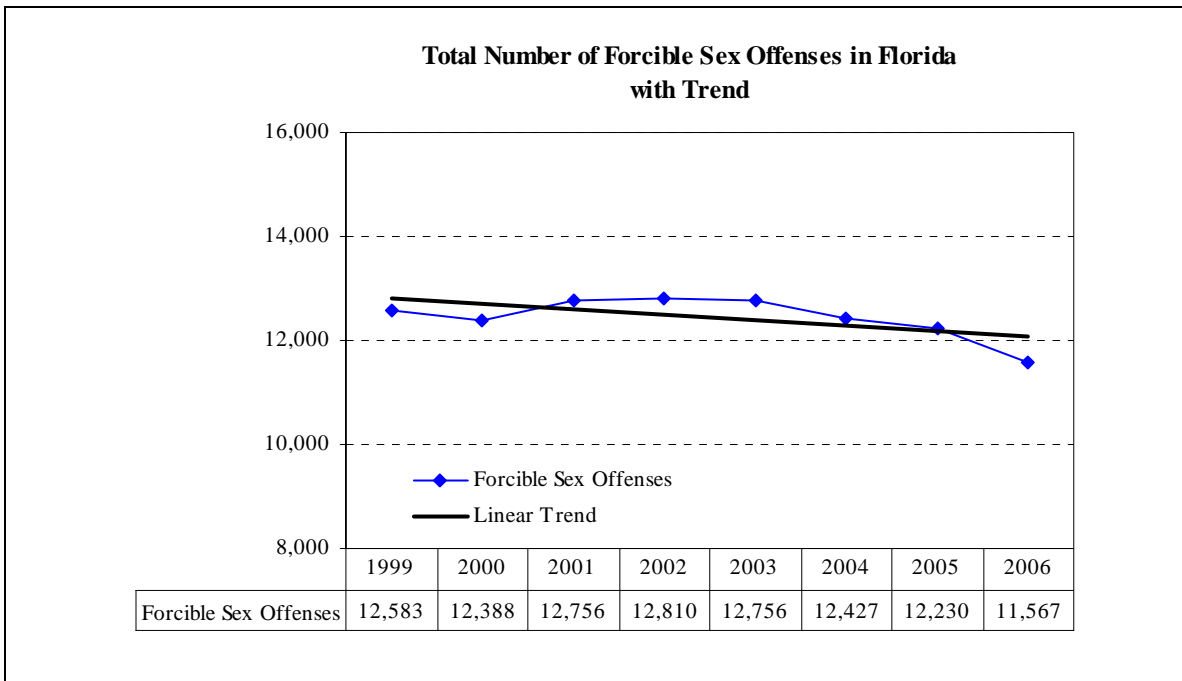


Forcible Sex Offenses

Forcible sex offenses are defined as “any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will or not forcibly or against the person’s will, where the victim is incapable of giving consent.” In Florida, Forcible Sex Offenses include three subcategories: Forcible Rape (committed and attempted), Forcible Sodomy, and Forcible Fondling, including indecent liberties and child molesting.⁶

Overall, Forcible Sex Offenses have declined in both number and rate during the period. This category showed a decline of 8.1 percent in number of offenses from 12,583 in 1999 to 11,567 in 2006 (Figure 3). Additionally, the Forcible Sex Offenses rate decreased from 82.1 in 1999 to 63.0 in 2006, reflecting a drop of 23.3 percent in rate for the eight-year period (Figure 4).

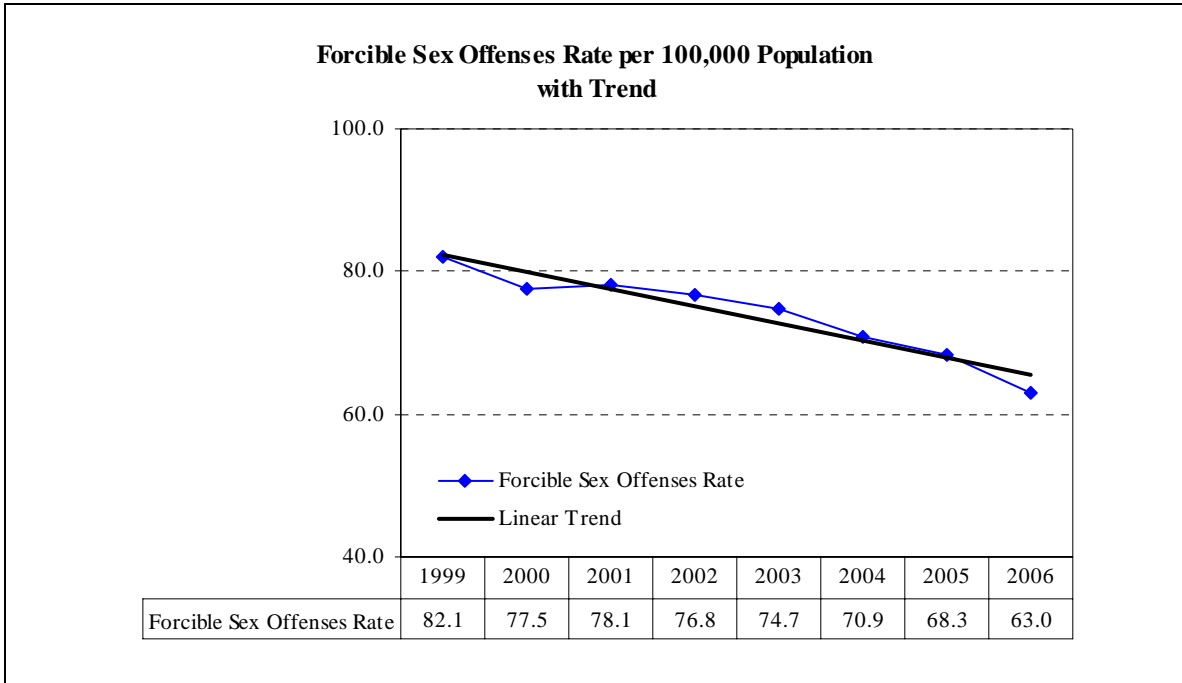
Figure 3: Total Number of Forcible Sex Offenses in Florida 1999 – 2006



⁶ The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects data for Forcible Rape (and attempted rape), but not forcible sodomy or fondling. The national program only includes female victims.



**Figure 4: Forcible Sex Offenses Rate in Florida, Per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



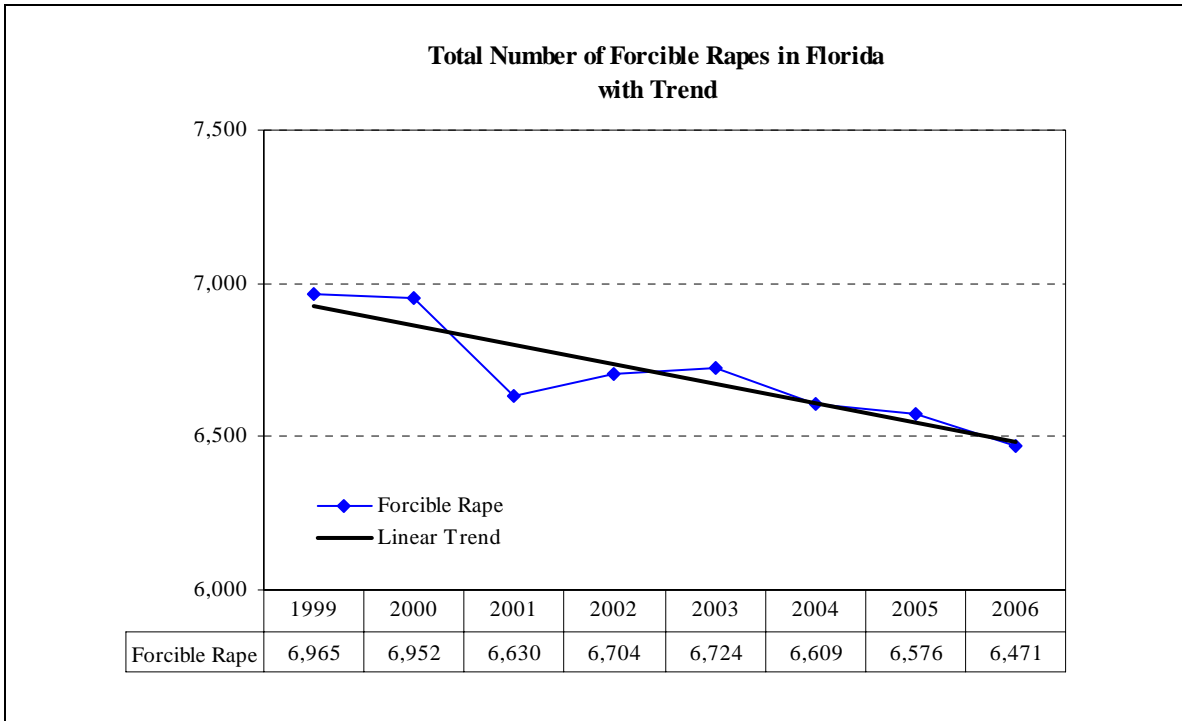
Forcible Rape

While the national UCR only reported on Forcible Rape, Florida includes Forcible Rape as a portion of the reported Forcible Sex Offenses. There were 1.6 percent fewer reported forcible rapes in Florida in 2006 (6,471) than in 2005 (6,576). The national UCR also estimates that fewer forcible rapes were reported, down by 2.0 percent from 2005 to 2006. Overall, the number of reported forcible rapes in Florida decreased by 7.1 percent since the eight-year period’s high of 6,965 in 1999 (Figure 5).

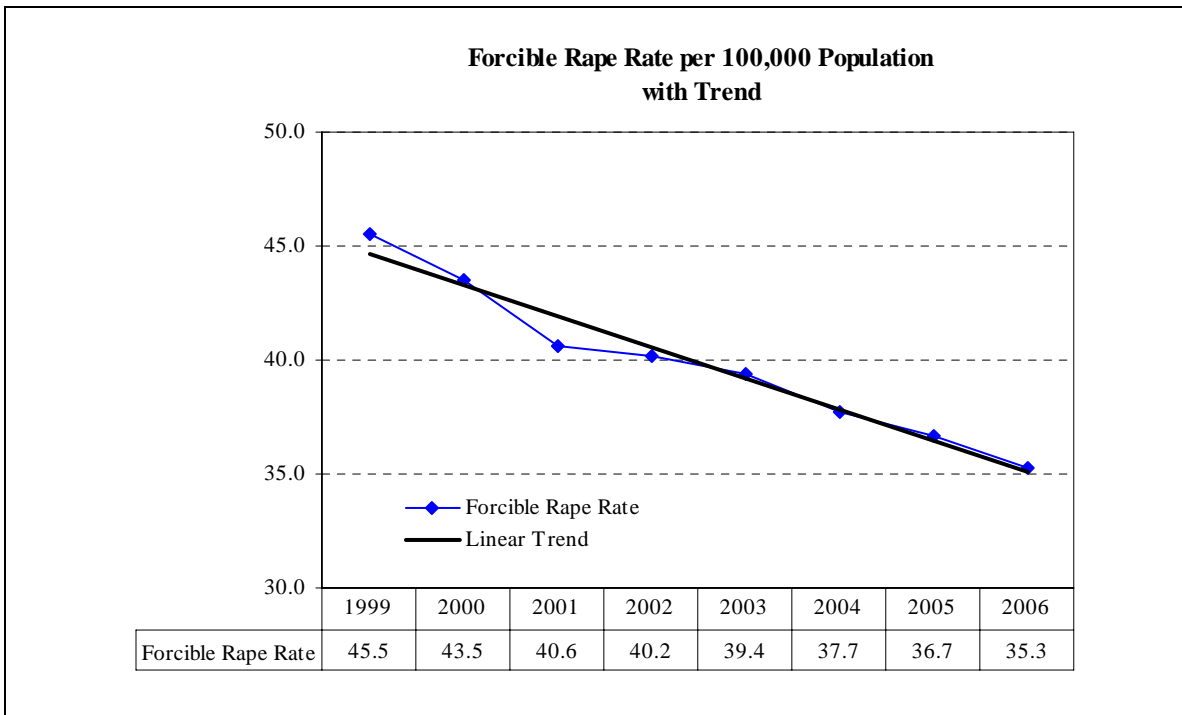
Florida’s Forcible Rape rate per 100,000 population declined annually for the eight-year period, from 45.5 in 1999 to 35.3 in 2006 (Figure 6) for a 22.4 percent drop in rate. The national UCR uses only female population for calculating rate for forcible rape, so one cannot accurately compare Florida’s Forcible Rape rate to national levels.



**Figure 5: Total Number of Forcible Rapes in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 6: Forcible Rape Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**

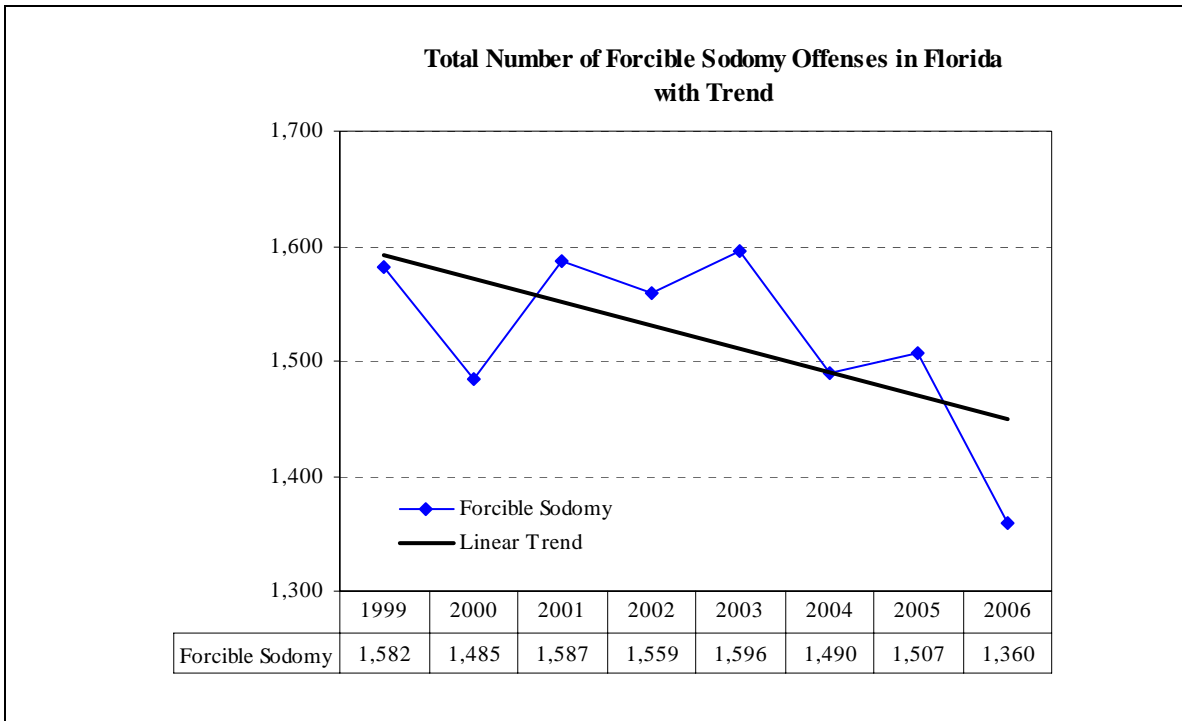




Forcible Sodomy

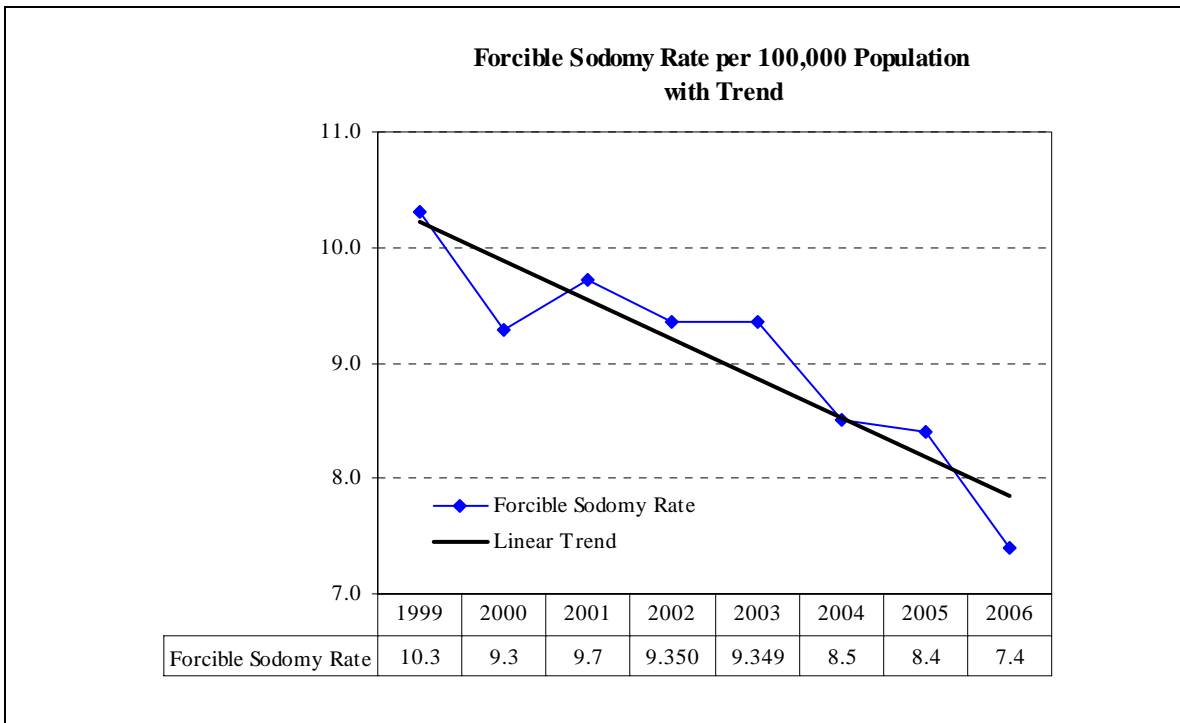
Florida began including Forcible Sodomy with Forcible Sex Offenses in 1989. While the number of reported forcible sodomy offenses from year to year has been up and down, the 9.8 percent drop from 2005 to 2006 brought the overall trend to a 14.0 percent decrease in number since 1999 (Figure 7). The rate per 100,000 population for Forcible Sodomy offenses has declined by 28.2 percent for the same time period, including a continual decrease since 2001 (Figure 8).

**Figure 7: Total Number of Forcible Sodomy Offenses in Florida
1999 – 2006**





**Figure 8: Forcible Sodomy Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



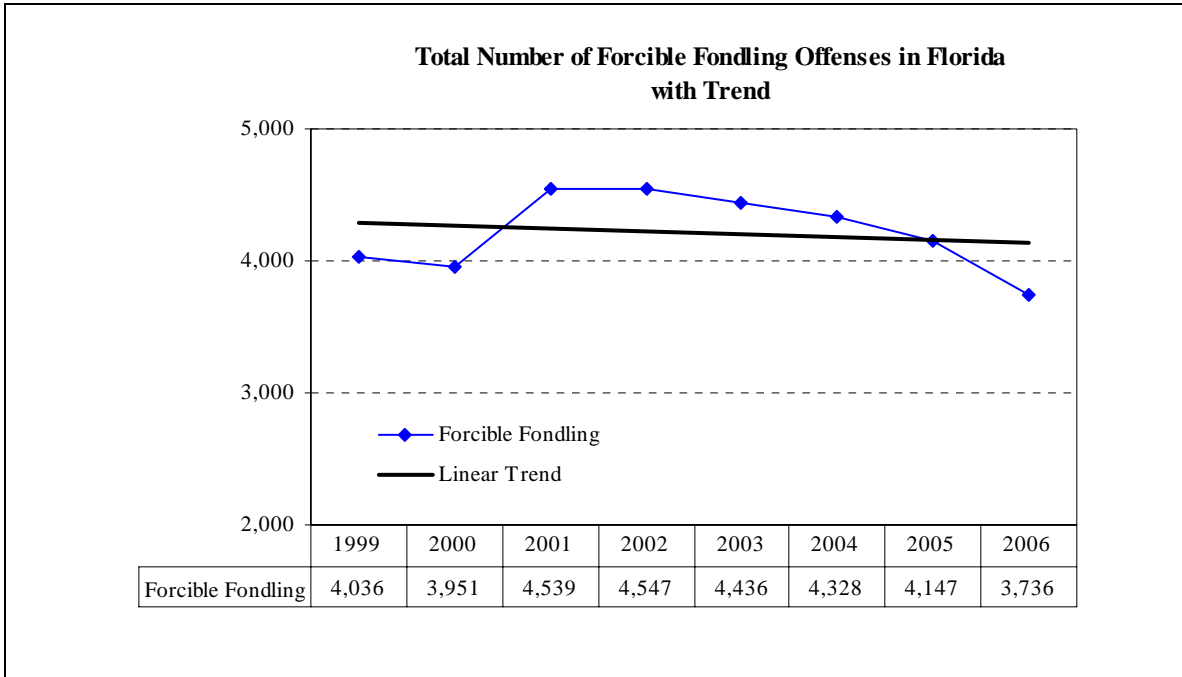
Forcible Fondling

In addition to Forcible Sodomy, Florida began documenting Forcible Fondling as a part of reported Forcible Sex Offenses in 1989. In 1999, 4,036 forcible fondling offenses were reported; in 2006, there were 3,736 – an overall decrease of 7.4 percent in number of reported offenses for the eight-year period (Figure 9). In addition to the decrease in the number of reported offenses, the rate per 100,000 population has declined by 22.4 percent since 1999 (Figure 10)⁷

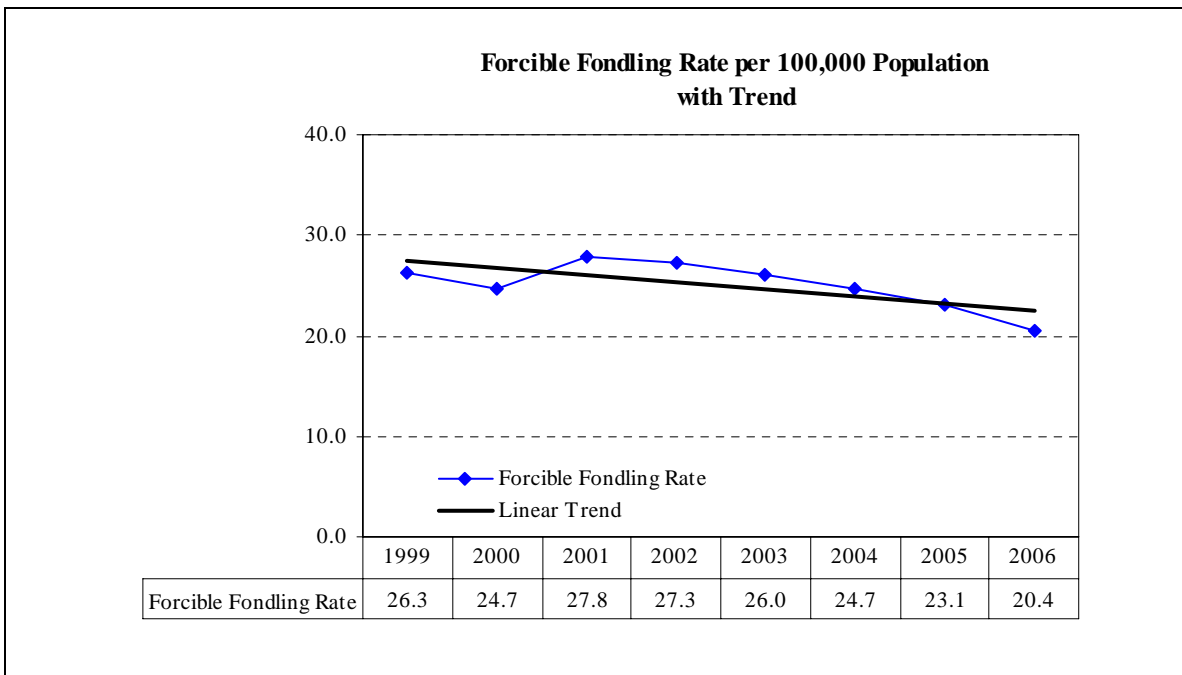
⁷ The rate per 100,000 population declined by 11.7 percent from 23.1 in 2005 to 20.4 in 2006. The peak for the period was in 2001 at 27.8 forcible fondling offenses per 100,000 population.



**Figure 9: Total Number of Forcible Fondling Offenses in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 10: Forcible Fondling Rate in Florida per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



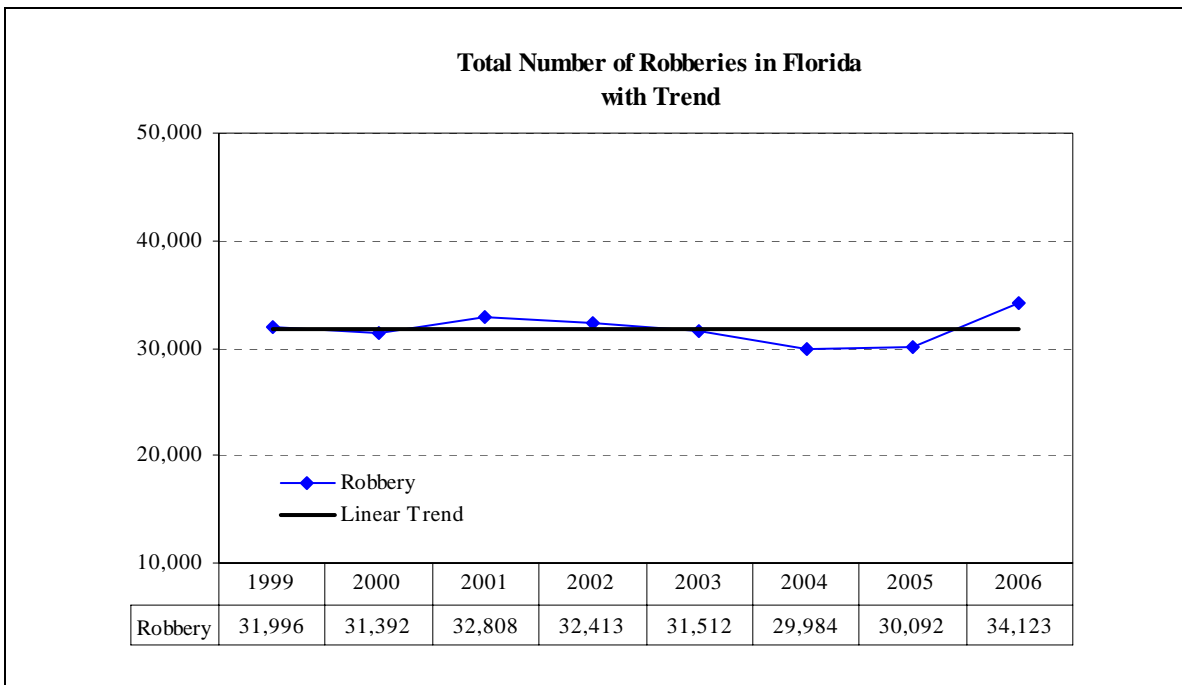


Robbery

The UCR Guide Manual defines *robbery* as “the taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody or care of another person by force, threat of force, violence, and/or by putting the property custodian in fear.”

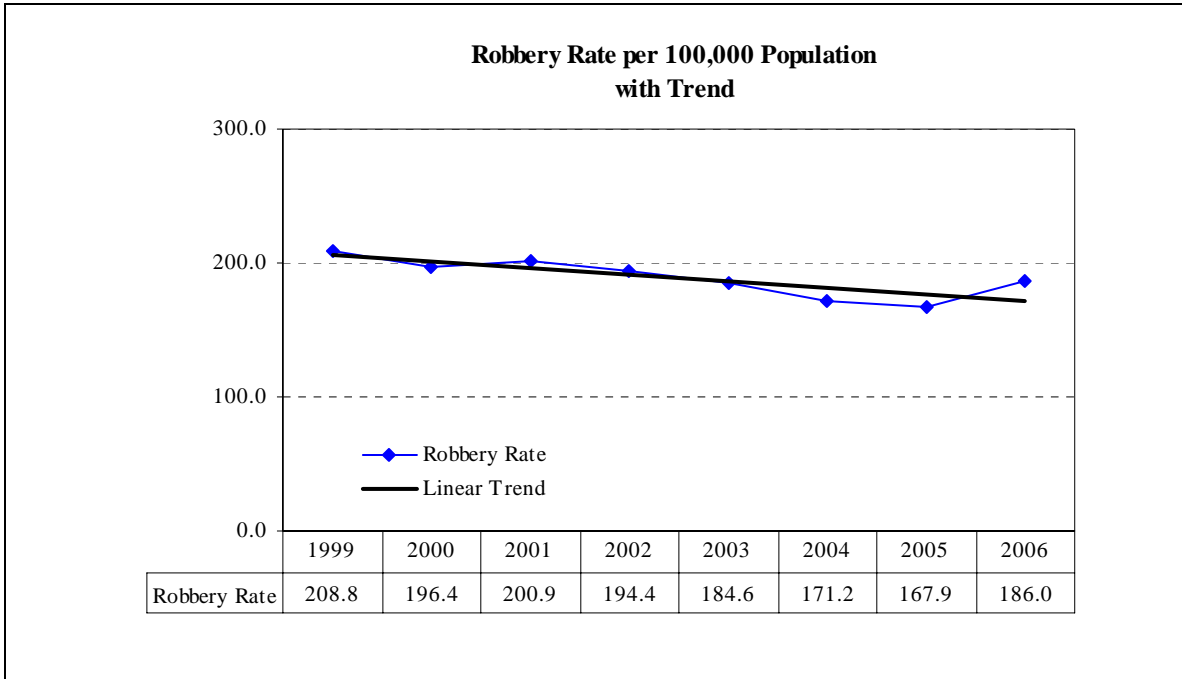
The number of reported robberies has held relatively steady for the eight-year period until experiencing a 13.4 percent increase from 2005 to 2006, netting an increase of 6.6 percent since 1999 (Figure 11). The growth in the number of reported robberies from 2005 to 2006 in Florida is nearly double the FBI’s reported increase of 7.2 percent nationally for the same year. The rate for robberies declined annually since 2001 until increasing by 10.8 percent from 167.9 in 2005 to 186.0 in 2006 (Figure 12). However, even with the increase for 2006, the Robbery rate per 100,000 population is down by 10.9 percent from its eight-year high of 208.8 in 1999. The national rate in 2006 was 149.4 per 100,000 population.

**Figure 11: Total Number of Robberies in Florida
1999 – 2006**





**Figure 12: Robbery Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999– 2006**



Aggravated Assault

Aggravated assault is the “unlawful attack by one person upon another where either the offender displays a weapon or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness.” For the purposes of this report, aggravated stalking is included with aggravated assault. Aggravated stalking is an aggravated assault with the added element of stalking.

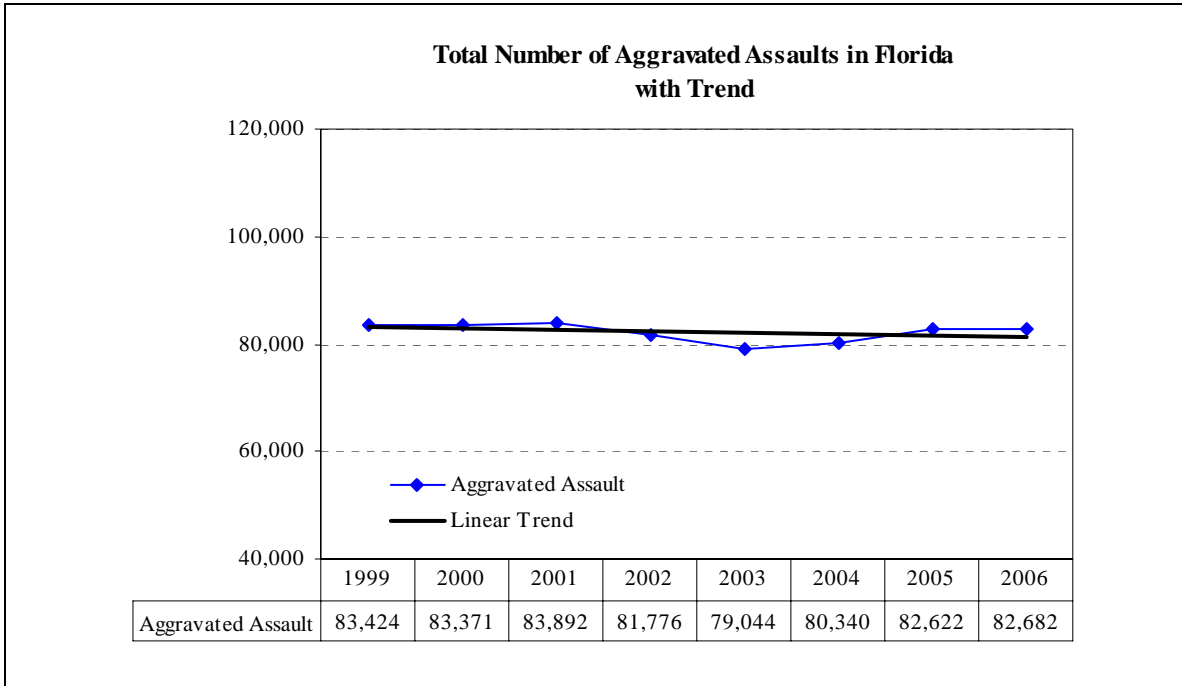
In 2006, the number of aggravated assaults increased slightly (by 60 reported offenses) from 2005, reflecting an eight-year period decline of 0.9 percent (Figure 13). However, it is important to note that the number of reported aggravated assaults has increased annually since the period’s low of 79,044 in 2003 (4.6% growth).

While the number of reported aggravated assaults has only a slight decline from 1999 to 2006, the rate per 100,000 population of aggravated assaults has decreased annually – with the exception of 2005 – creating a 17.2 percent decrease in rate for the eight-year period (Figure 14).⁸

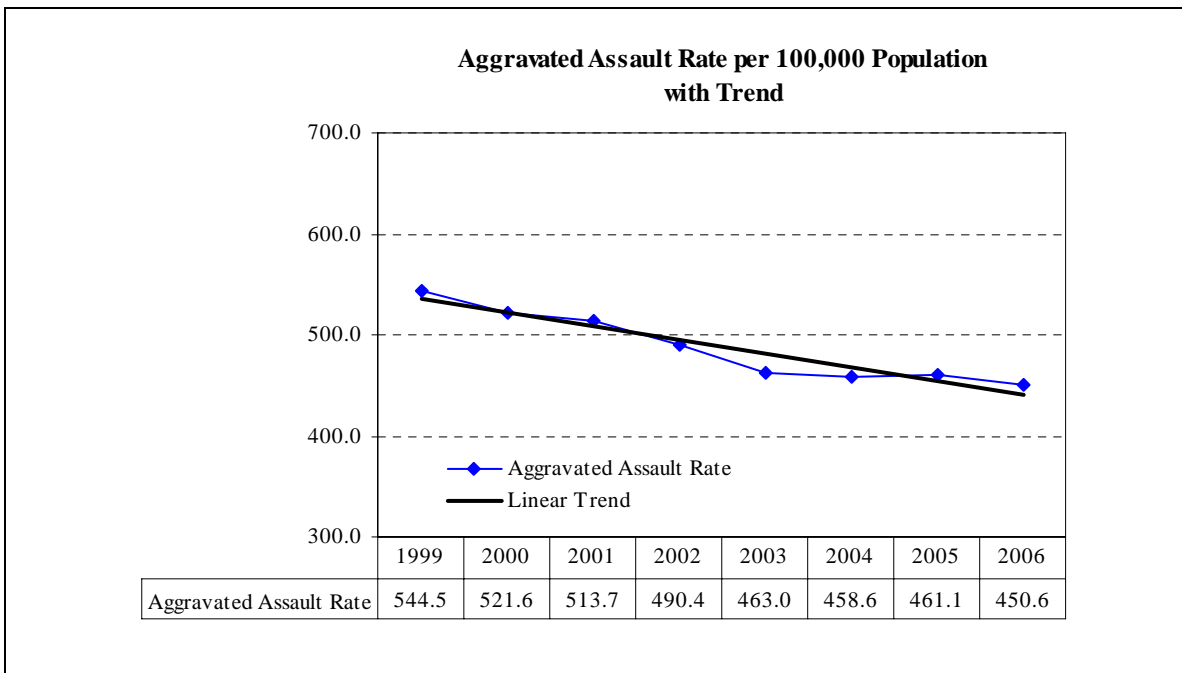
⁸ Nationally, the number of aggravated assaults decreased by 0.2 percent from 2005 to 2006, and the rate for 2006 was 287.5 per 100,000 population.



**Figure 13: Total Number of Aggravated Assaults in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 14: Aggravated Assault Rate in Florida per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**





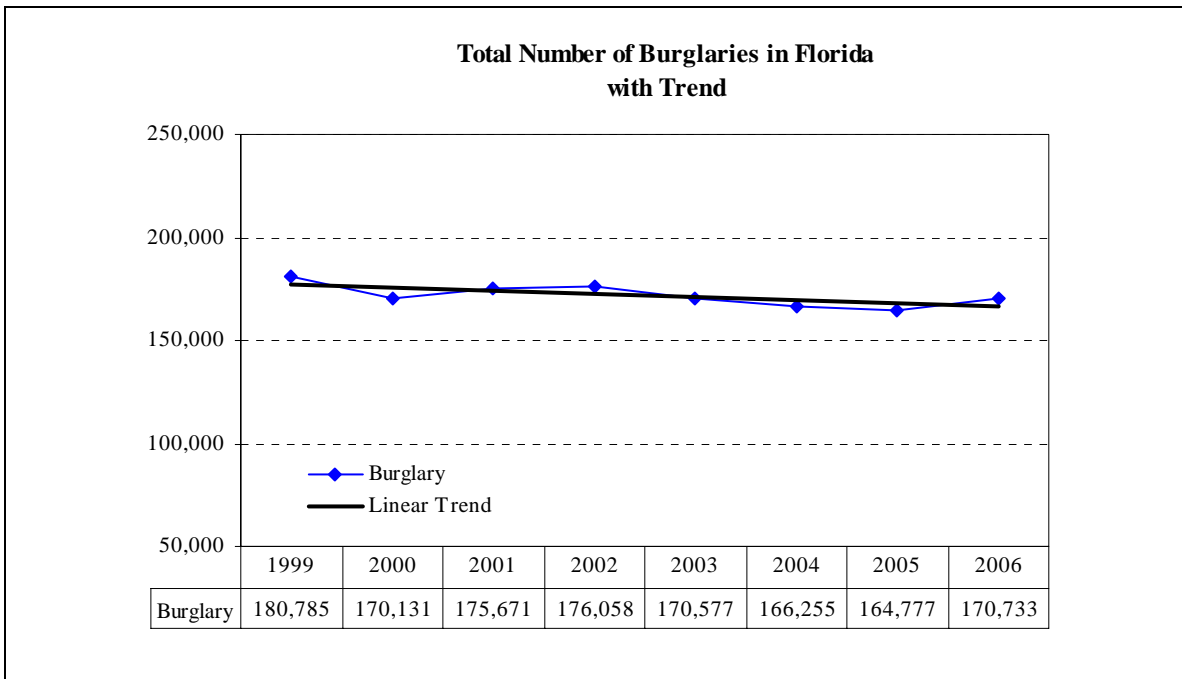
Burglary

Burglary is defined as “the unlawful entry into a building or other structure with intent to commit a felony or theft.”

The number of reported burglaries in Florida increased by 3.6 percent from 2005 to 2006, slightly more than the estimated national increase (1.3%) for the same year. While varying from the annual decreases experienced since 2003, the 170,733 reported burglaries in 2006 still allowed for a 5.6 percent decline in Burglaries since 1999 (Figure 15).

Similarly, the burglary rate per 100,000 population experienced a slight increase in 2006 (1.2% more than in 2005), yet continued its downward trend from the eight-year high of 1,179.9 in 1999, representing a decrease of 21.1 percent for the period (Figure 16).⁹

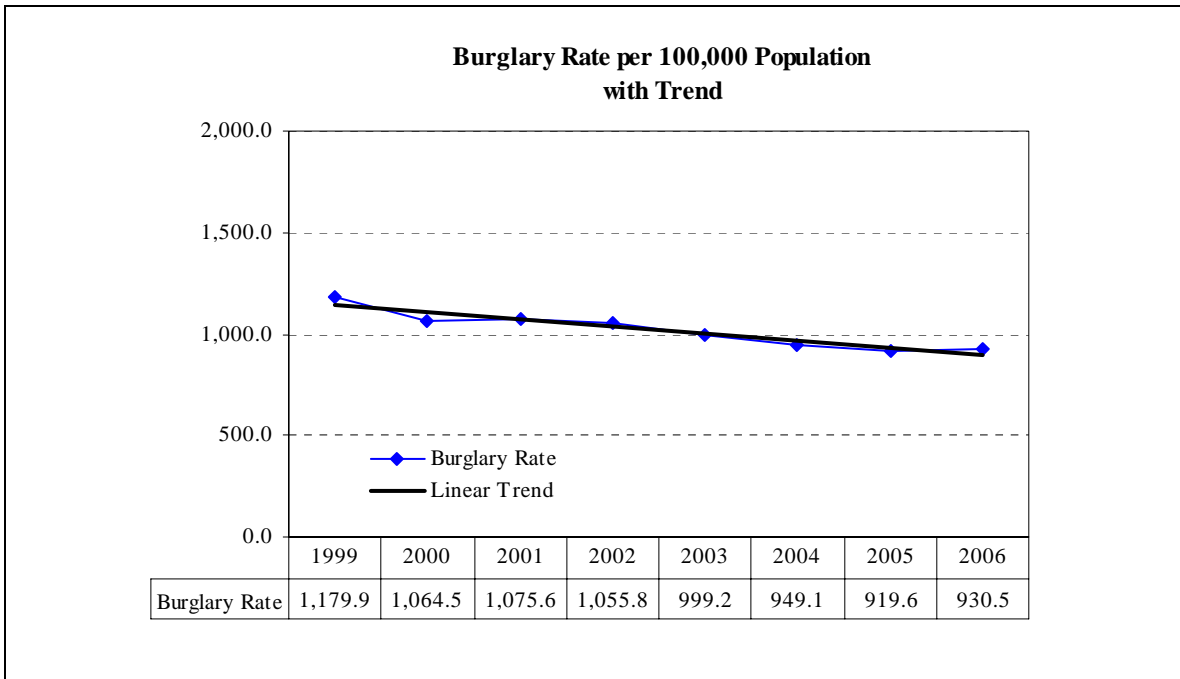
**Figure 15: Total Number of Burglaries in Florida
1999 – 2006**



⁹ Per the FBI’s *Crime in the United States*, the national burglary rate for 2006 was 729.4 burglaries per 100,000 population.



**Figure 16: Burglary Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



Larceny

Larceny is defined as “the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person.”

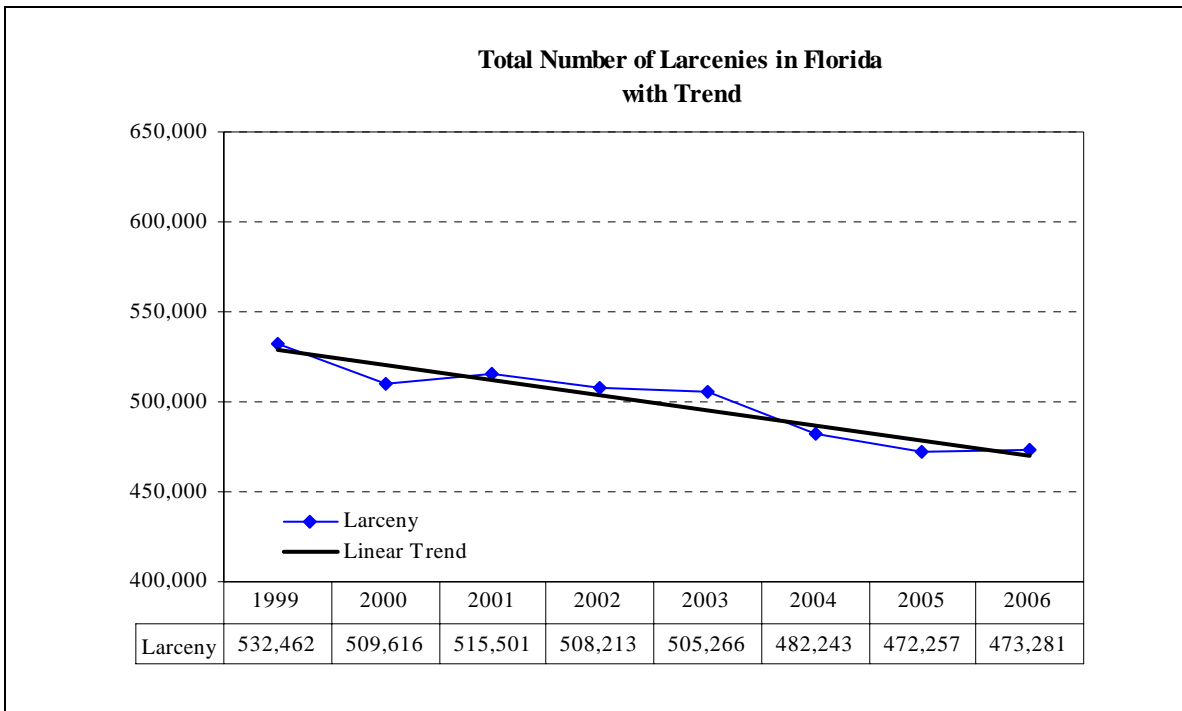
Figure 17 shows that, after four years of decline, the number of reported larcenies in 2006 was up slightly from 2005.¹⁰ While Florida experienced a 0.2 percent increase for the year, there were 11.1 percent fewer reported larcenies in 2006 than in 1999.

Florida’s 2006 rate per 100,000 population for reported larcenies has decreased annually and is at an eight-year low at 2,579.3, down 25.8 percent from the 1999 high of 3,475.1 (Figure 18). Florida’s 2006 rate for larcenies was slightly more than the national rate (2,206.8).

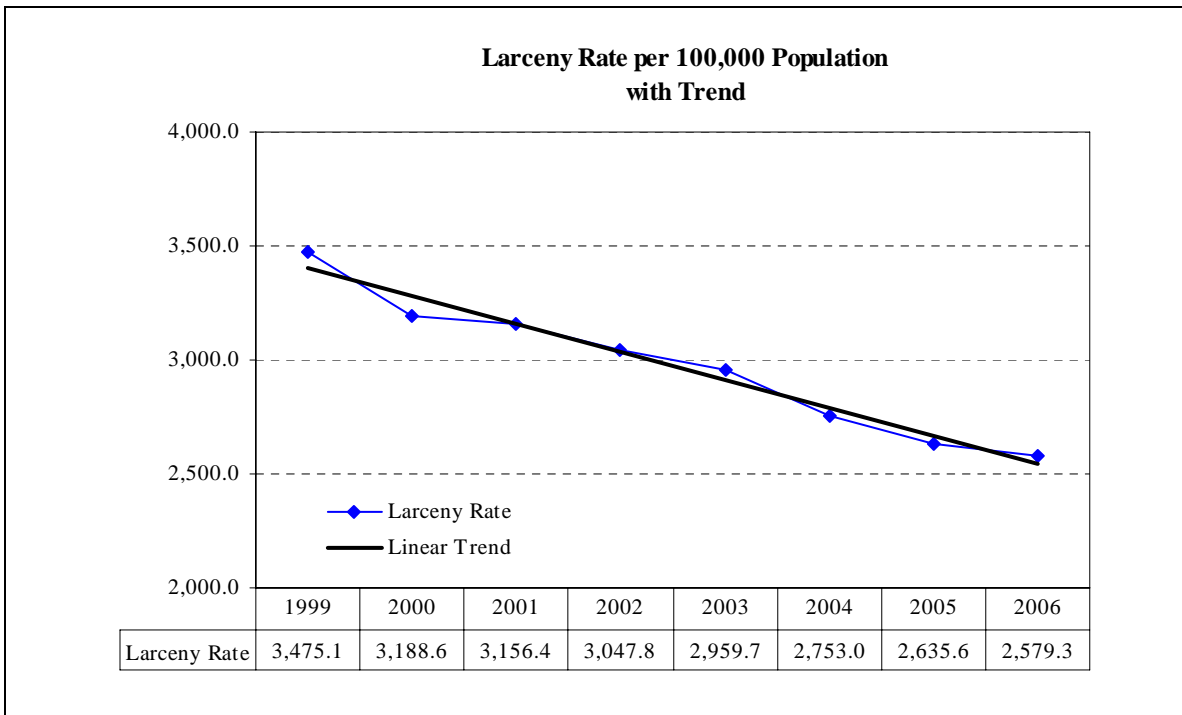
¹⁰ The number of reported larcenies decreased by 2.6 percent nationally from 2005 to 2006.



**Figure 17: Total Number of Larcenies in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 18: Larceny Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



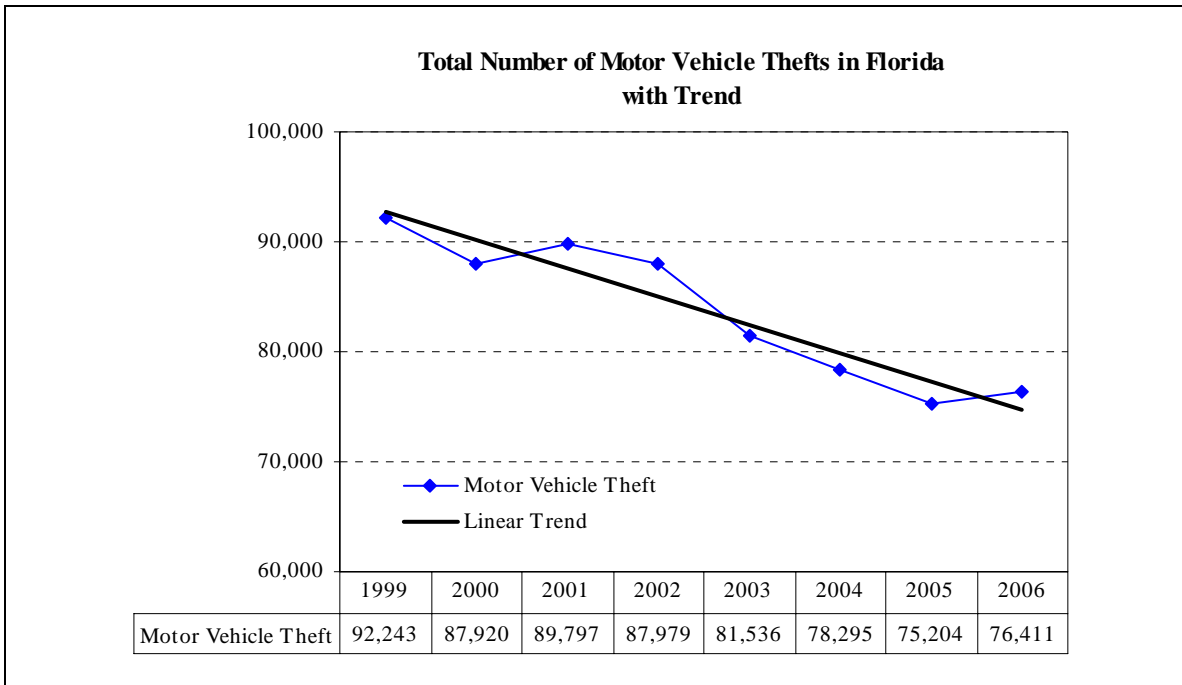


Motor Vehicle Theft

The UCR Guide Manual defines motor vehicle theft as just that: “theft of a motor vehicle” including automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, and other motor vehicles that are self-propelled and used for the purpose of transporting passengers or cargo on land.

While the number of reported motor vehicle thefts were slightly up in 2006 (1.6% - see Figure 19), the rate per 100,000 population continued declining for the eighth year in a row (Figure 20). For the eight-year period, the number of offenses is down by 17.2 percent since 1999, and the rate decreased from 602.0 in 1999 to 416.4 in 2006. This 30.8 percent decrease in rate earns Motor Vehicle Theft the designation of being the Index crime with the largest decrease in rate for the eight-year period.¹¹

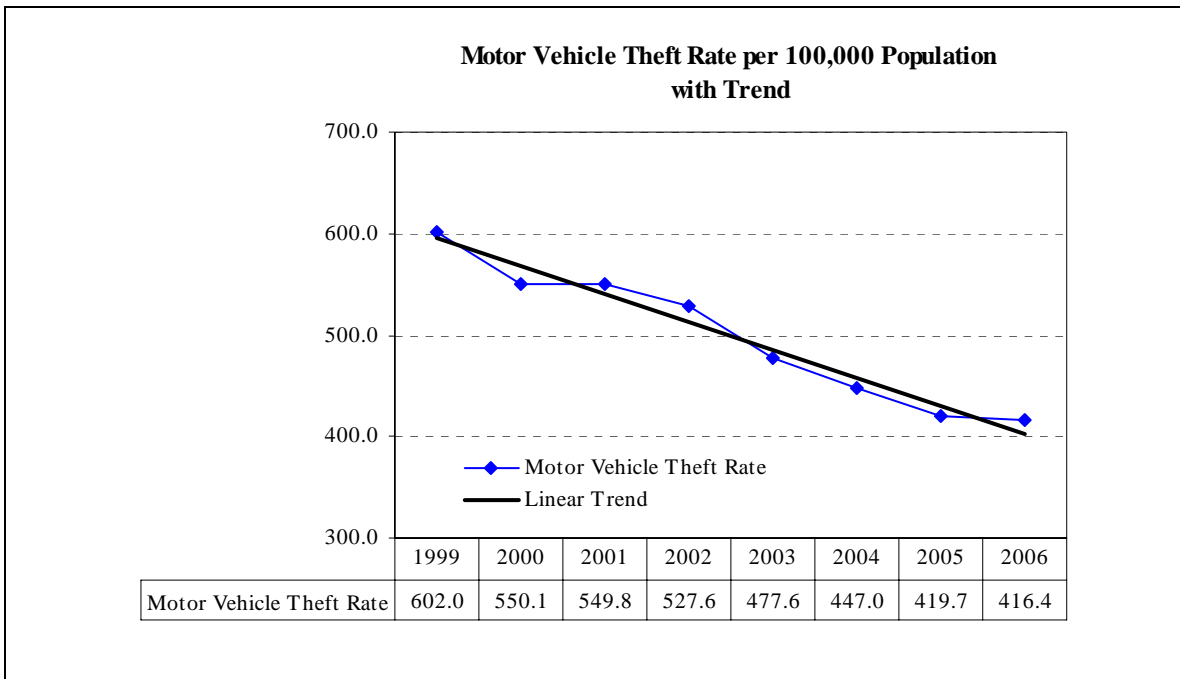
**Figure 19: Total Number of Motor Vehicle Thefts in Florida
1999 – 2006**



¹¹ The FBI’s *Crime in the United States* (2006) reports that motor vehicle thefts decreased by 11.9 percent in volume and 21.2 percent in rate between 1997 and 2006.



**Figure 20: Motor Vehicle Theft Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



Total Index Crime

Total Index Crime combines the seven Index Crime categories previously presented, including Murder, Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft to give an overall indication of serious crime in Florida.¹²

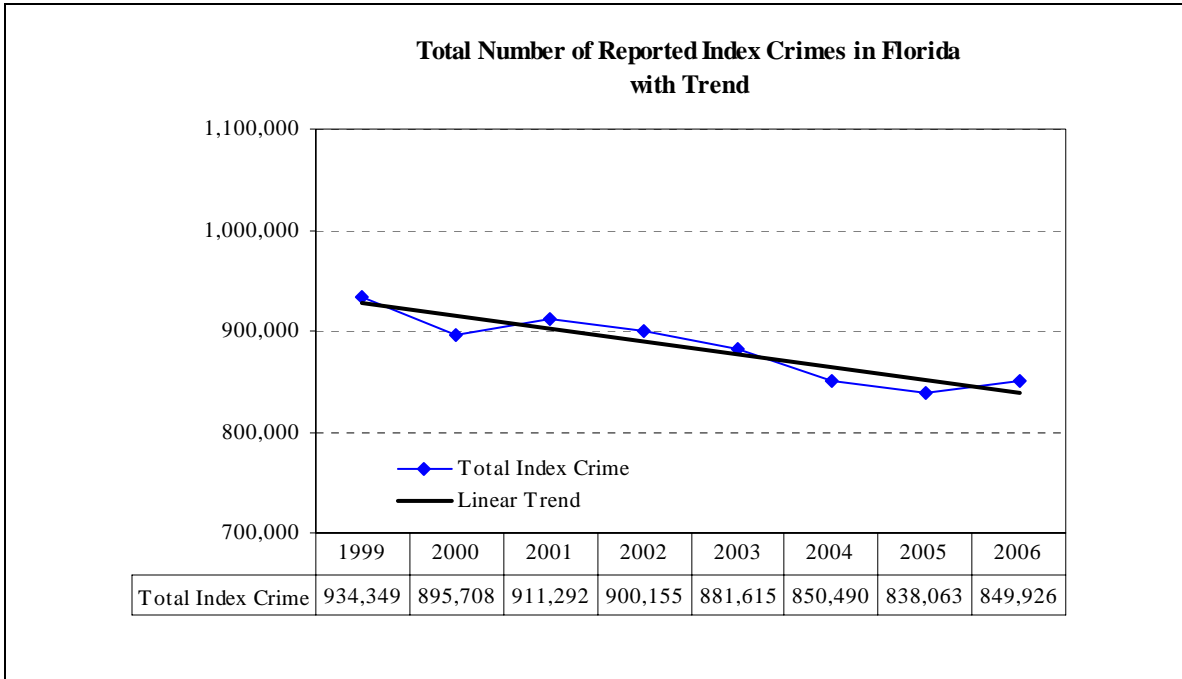
Figure 21 displays the change in number of reported index crimes for Florida from 1999 through 2006. The 849,926 reported index crimes in 2006, while up slightly from 2005 (by 1.4%), represent an eight-year decrease of 9.0 percent since 1999's high of 934,349 index crimes.

The rate per 100,000 population for Total Index Crime continued its annual decline, with a significant change (24.0%) from 6,098.1 in 1999 to 4,632.0 in 2006 (Figure 22).

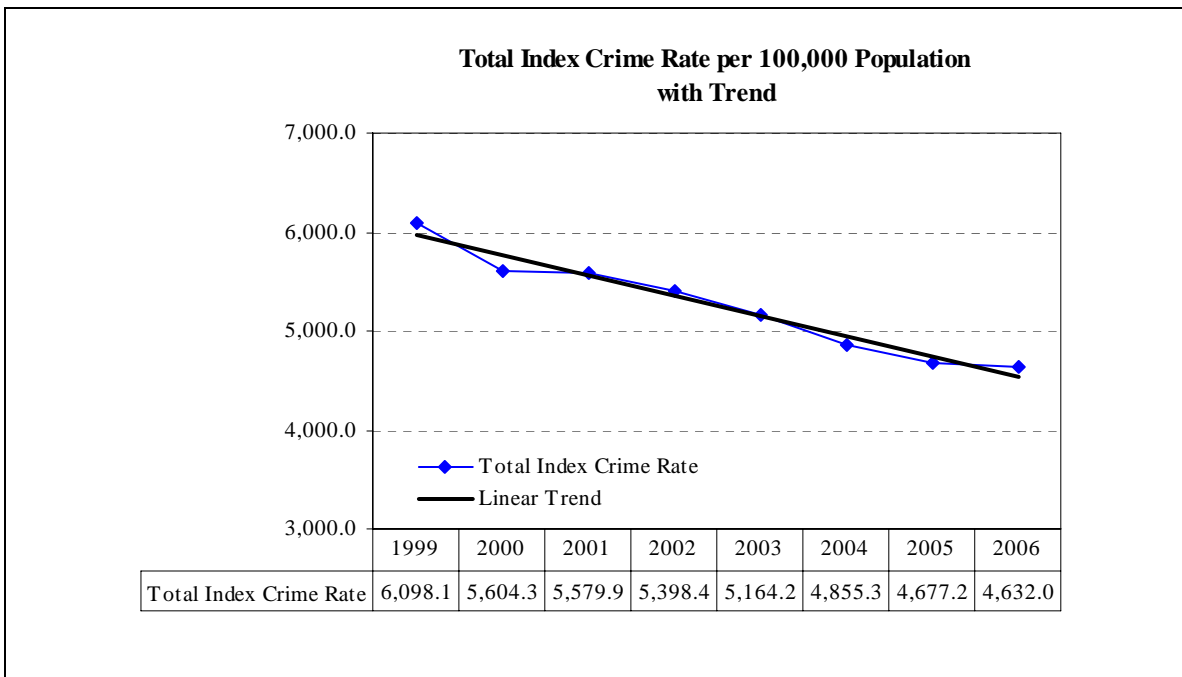
¹² The national Uniform Crime Reports does not combine violent and property crimes for an overall Index crime rate. The FBI suspended use of the Crime Index and Modified Crime Index in 2004. The FBI continues to publish a violent crime total and a property crime total until a more viable index is developed. The FBI determined that the Crime Index and the Modified Crime Index were not true indicators of the degrees of criminality because they were always driven upward by the offense with the highest number, typically larceny-theft. The sheer volume of those offenses overshadowed more serious but less frequently committed offenses, creating a bias against a jurisdiction with a high number of larceny-thefts but a low number of other serious crimes such as murder and forcible rape. Florida continues to publish a Crime Index but makes UCR data readily available for additional analysis.



**Figure 21: Total Number of Index Crime Offenses in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 22: Index Crime Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



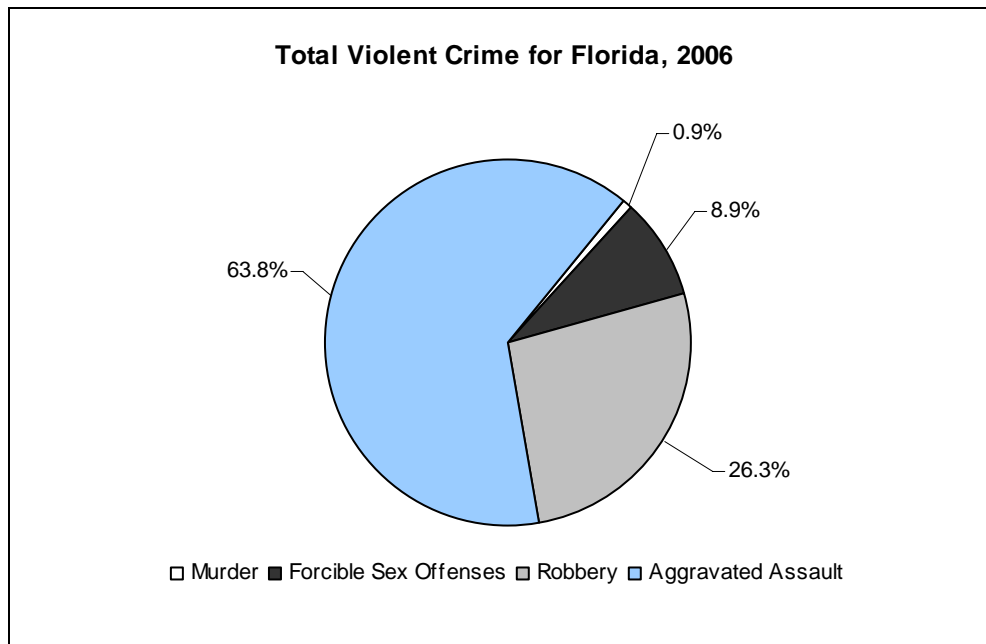


Total Violent Crime

In 2006, the 129,501 violent crime offenses reported in Florida were comprised of Murder (0.9%), Forcible Sex Offenses (8.9%), Robbery (26.3%), and Aggravated Assault (63.8%). (See Figure 23.) In 1999, the Violent Crime category had a similar makeup (Murder: 0.7%; Forcible Sex Offenses: 9.8%; Robbery: 24.8%; and Aggravated Assault: 64.7%). (See Figure 24.)

For the eight-year period, violent crime is up slightly (0.5%) in the number of reported offenses with a 4.7% increase in the last two years (Figure 25). The rate per 100,000 population decreased by 16.1 percent for the eight-year period, down from 841.0 in 1999 to 705.8 in 2006 (Figure 26).¹³ The trend lines from 1999 to 2006 for both number and rate are negatively sloped.

Figure 23: Violent Crime Offenses in Florida, 2006



¹³ Nationally, violent crime increased by 1.9 percent in number of reported offenses from 2005 to 2006. Because Florida includes forcible sodomy and forcible fondling, and the FBI includes only females when counting forcible rape offenses and calculating rate for this offense category, caution must be used in comparing Florida's violent crime rate with the national figure (473.5 per 100,000 population for 2006).



Figure 24: Violent Crime Offenses in Florida, 1999

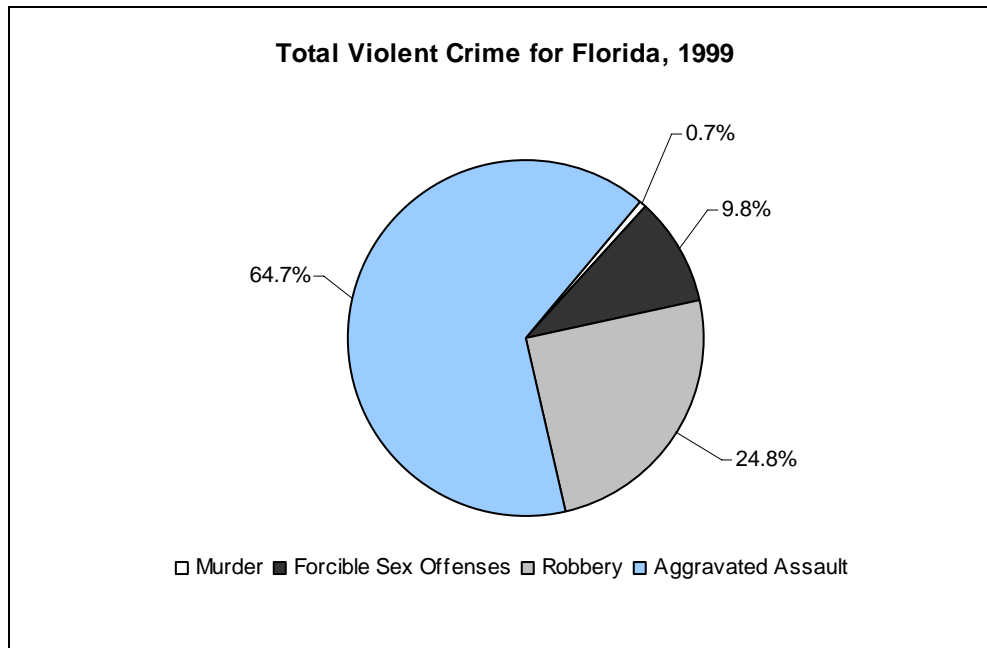
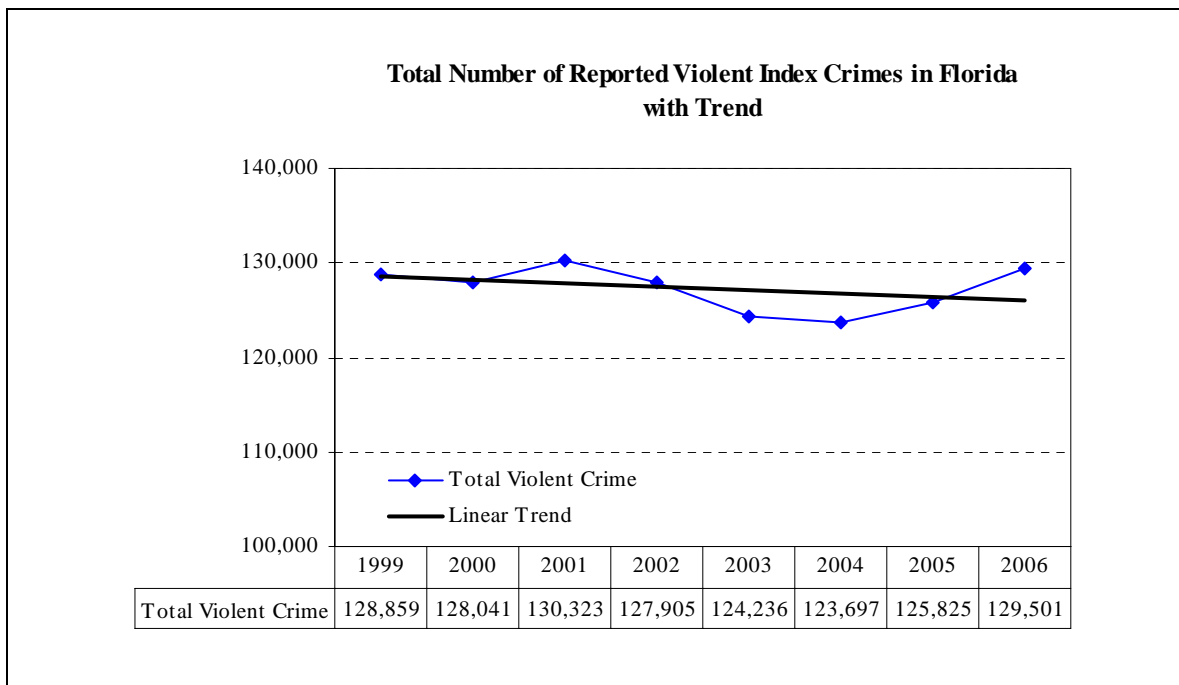
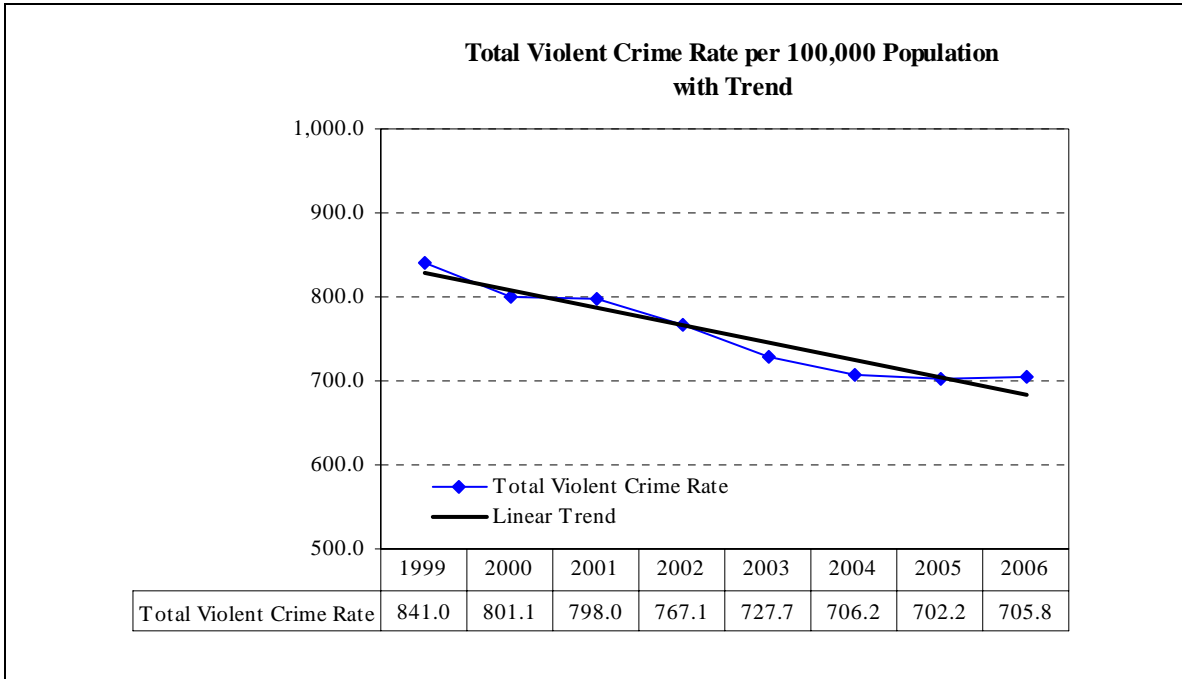


Figure 25: Total Number of Violent Crime Offenses in Florida 1999 – 2006





**Figure 26: Violent Crime Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**



Total Property Crime

While much emphasis is placed on violent crime, it is important to also focus on property crime. Property Crime comprises nearly 85 percent of all index crimes reported in Florida. In 2006, 720,425 property crime offenses were reported including Burglary (23.7%), Larceny (65.7%), and Motor Vehicle Theft (10.6%). (See Figure 27.) In 1999, Property Crime was much the same (Burglary: 22.4%; Larceny: 66.1%; and Motor Vehicle Theft: 11.5%). (See Figure 28.)

From 1999 to 2006, the number of property offenses declined by 10.6 percent (see Figure 29), while the rate, at a high in 1999 (5,257.1 per 100,000 population) declined to its lowest for the eight-year period in 2006 (3,926.2), a significant 25.3 percent decrease (see Figure 30).¹⁴

¹⁴ Property crime in Florida increased by 1.1 percent in number of reported offenses from 2005 to 2006, while the national numbers dropped by 1.9 percent. The national property crime rate in 2006 was 3,334.5 per 100,000 population.

Figure 27: Property Crime Offenses in Florida, 2006

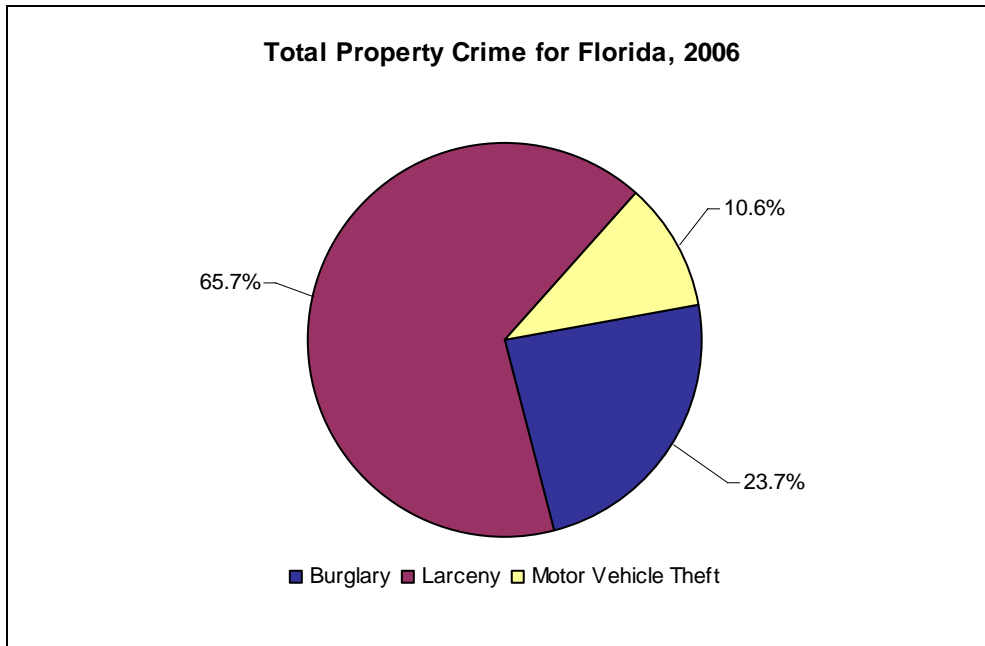
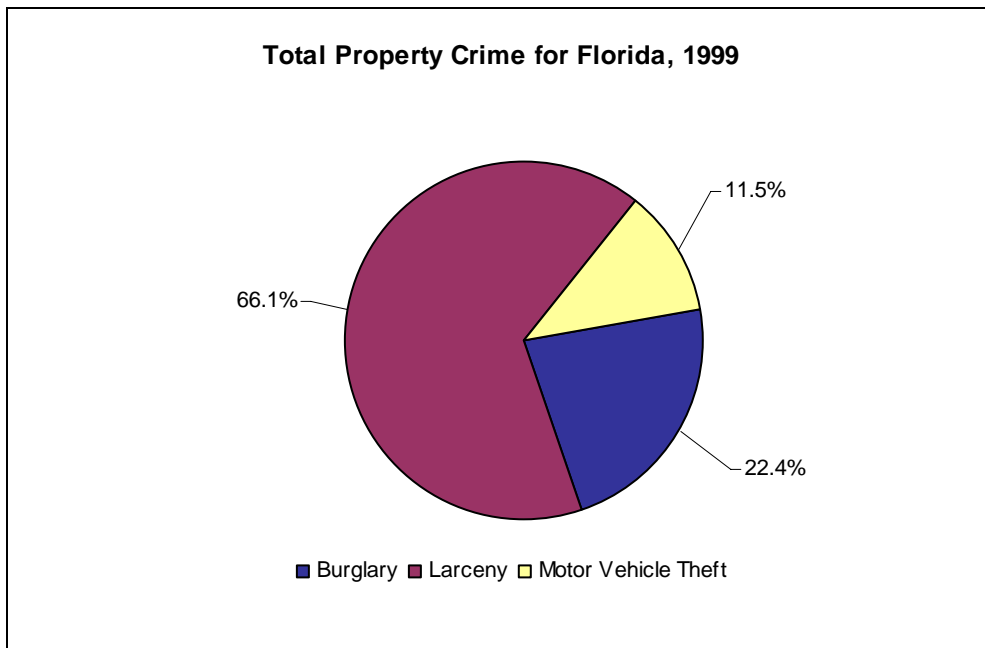
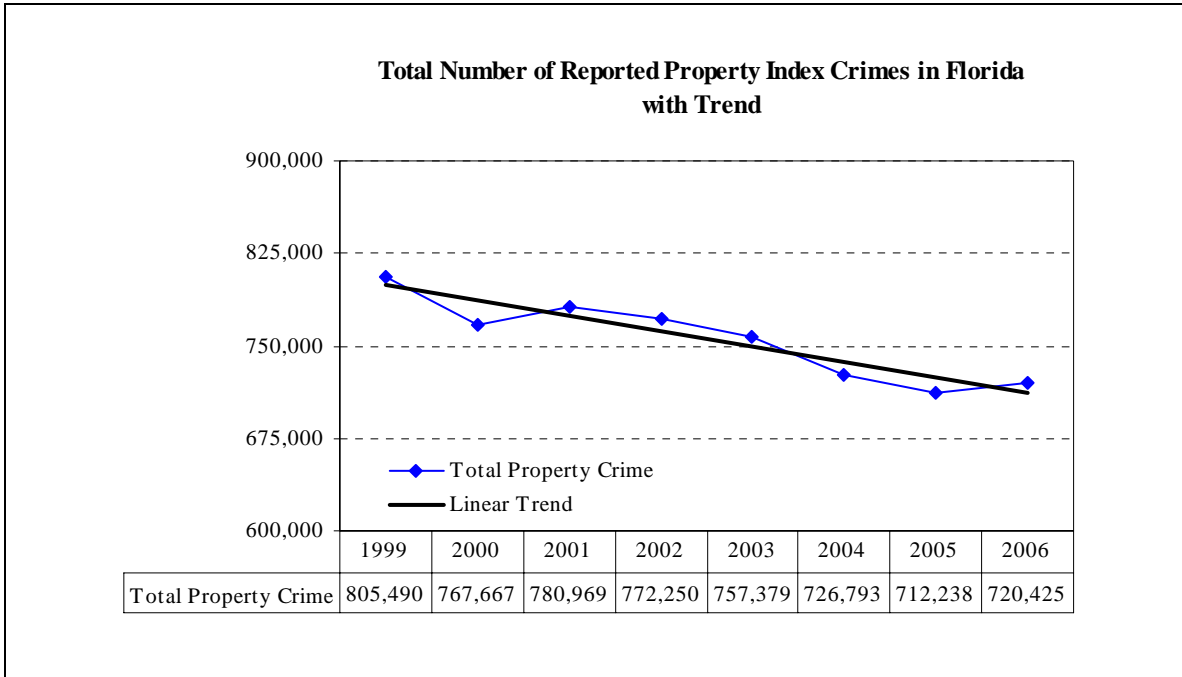


Figure 28: Property Crime Offenses in Florida, 1999

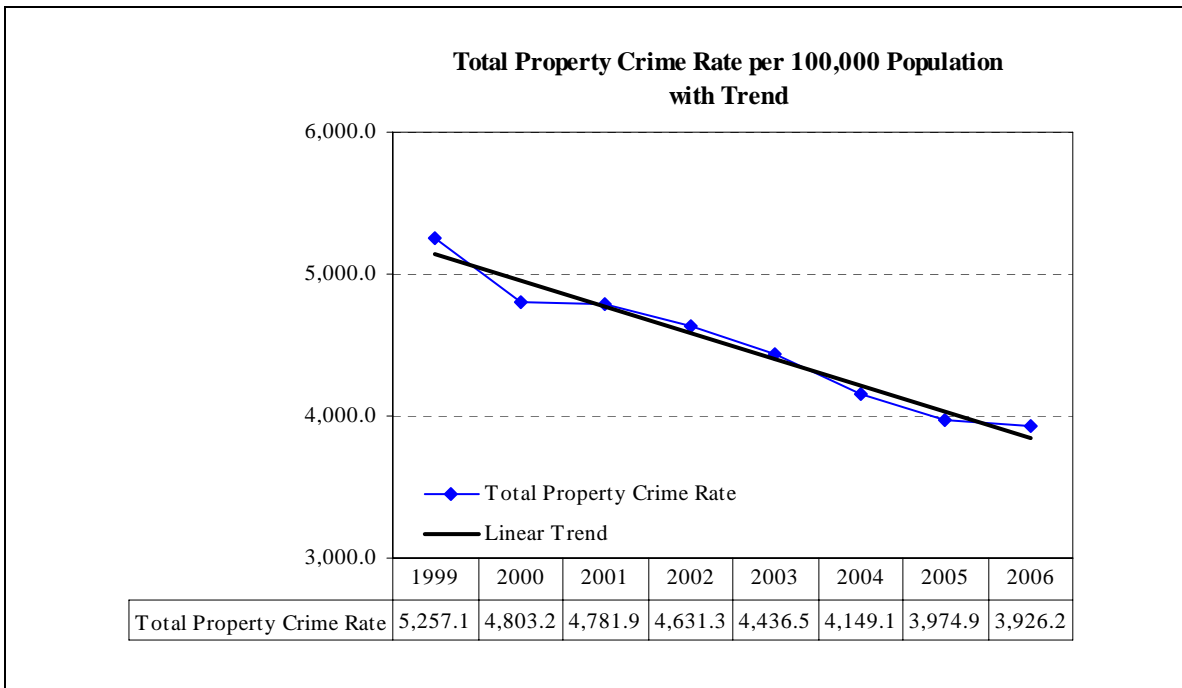




**Figure 29: Total Number of Property Crime Offenses in Florida
1999 – 2006**



**Figure 30: Property Crime Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population
1999 – 2006**





Summary

A review of reported Index Crime offenses compiled by the UCR Program for the state of Florida illustrates that overall, crime in Florida decreased in both number and rate over the eight years from 1999 – 2006. Even though the eight-year period experienced an overall decline in the number of reported offenses, each of the Index Crimes, except Forcible Sex Offenses, increased in number from 2005 to 2006 (Table 1). Murder, Robbery, and Burglary also increased in rate per 100,000 population from 2005 to 2006.

Table 2 summarizes the trend for both number and rate for each Index crime from 1999 to 2006. Overall, Motor Vehicle Theft showed the greatest drop in rate per 100,000 for the eight-year period with 30.8 percent decline, followed by Larceny (25.8%), Forcible Sex Offenses (23.3%), Burglary (21.1%), and Aggravated Assault (10.9%), while the rate for Murder increased by 10.7 percent since 1999. Murder and Robbery, both Violent Crimes, experienced an increase in the number of reported offenses for the eight-year period.

**Table 1: Change in Number and Rate of Reported Offenses in Florida
2005 - 2006**

Offenses	Number	Rate
Murder	+	+
Forcible Sex Offenses	-	-
Rape	-	-
Forcible Sodomy	-	-
Forcible Fondling	-	-
Robbery	+	+
Aggravated Assault	+	-
Burglary	+	+
Larceny	+	-
Motor Vehicle Theft	+	-
Total Index	+	-
Total Violent	+	+
Total Property	+	-
+=increase -= decrease		



**Table 2: Change in Number and Rate of Reported Offenses in Florida
1999 - 2006**

Offenses	Number	Rate
Murder	+	+
Forcible Sex Offenses	-	-
Rape	-	-
Forcible Sodomy	-	-
Forcible Fondling	-	-
Robbery	+	-
Aggravated Assault	-	-
Burglary	-	-
Larceny	-	-
Motor Vehicle Theft	-	-
Total Index	-	-
Total Violent	+	-
Total Property	-	-
+=increase - = decrease		

Index Crime for Florida, 1999 - 2006.

Year	Population	Total Murders	Forcible Rape	Forcible Sodomy	Forcible Fondling	Forcible Sex Offenses	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Index Crime	Total Violent Crime	Total Property Crime
1999	15,322,040	856	6,965	1,582	4,036	12,583	31,996	83,424	180,785	532,462	92,243	934,349	128,859	805,490
2000	15,982,378	890	6,952	1,485	3,951	12,388	31,392	83,371	170,131	509,616	87,920	895,708	128,041	767,667
2001	16,331,739	867	6,630	1,587	4,539	12,756	32,808	83,892	175,671	515,501	89,797	911,292	130,323	780,969
2002	16,674,608	906	6,704	1,559	4,547	12,810	32,413	81,776	176,058	508,213	87,979	900,155	127,905	772,250
2003	17,071,508	924	6,724	1,596	4,436	12,756	31,512	79,044	170,577	505,266	81,536	881,615	124,236	757,379
2004	17,516,732	946	6,609	1,490	4,328	12,427	29,984	80,340	166,255	482,243	78,295	850,490	123,697	726,793
2005	17,918,227	881	6,576	1,507	4,147	12,230	30,092	82,622	164,777	472,257	75,204	838,063	125,825	712,238
2006	18,349,132	1,129	6,471	1,360	3,736	11,567	34,123	82,682	170,733	473,281	76,411	849,926	129,501	720,425

SOURCE: Florida Statistical Analysis Center: FDLE (1999-2006). Crime in Florida, Florida uniform crime report [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL.