



Spring 2009

# SAC Notes:

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

## Index Crime Trends in Florida, 1998 - 2005

This report represents a summary of Index Crime offenses reported in Florida from 1998 – 2005. Data presented in this publication were obtained from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program, Crime in Florida Report for each year in the period. 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 19.5 percent during this eight-year period of time, Total Index Crime had an 18.2 percent decrease in number of reported offenses and a 31.6 percent decrease in rate.

The index offense information described in this report is from calendar years 1998 – 2005, 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](mailto:FSAC@fdle.state.fl.us)**  
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*Florida Statistical Analysis Center, FDLE*



**Index Crime Trends 1998-2005**

For more than a decade, Florida, like much of the Nation, experienced significant reductions in both the numbers and rates of crime.<sup>1</sup> In 2005, this pattern continued in Florida. 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 1998 – 2005 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:

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

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

$$Percent\ Change\ Over\ Time = \frac{2005\ \# - 1998\ \#}{1998\ \#} \times 100$$

The figures in this report depict both exact frequencies and trend lines for each of the Index crimes from 1998 through 2005. For the purposes of this report, the trend lines were calculated using a linear regression equation.

Perhaps of most significance is that the eight-year trends of the rates per 100,000 population for all index offenses declined. Total Index crime dropped by over 187,000 offenses<sup>2</sup> from 1998 to 2005, and the rate declined by over 31 percent during the period — even while the population of the State grew by more than 2.9 million.

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<sup>1</sup> Data for this report was obtained from the annual Crime in Florida reports, 1998 – 2005, a 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](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/fsac). The data used for this report is included in Appendix A.

<sup>2</sup> Violent crime decreased by 9.9 percent in number of reported offenses, while Property offenses declined by 19.6 percent for the eight year period.

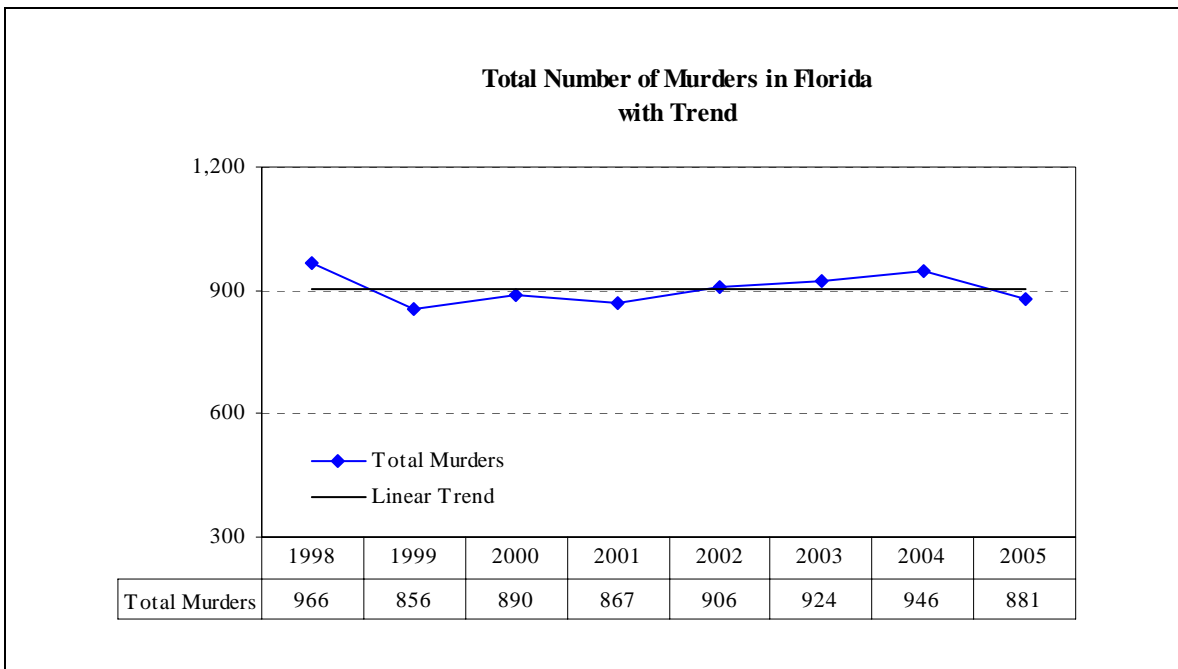


**Murder**

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.<sup>3</sup>

After three years of increases, the annual number of murders decreased by 6.9 percent from 2004 to 2005, and the rate per 100,000 population declined by 8.9 percent. While Florida showed a decline in the number and rate of Murder, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) 2005 Crime in the United States UCR data showed an increase of 3.4 percent in the number of murders in the nation from 2004.<sup>4</sup> For the eight-year period, Murder in Florida dropped 8.8 percent in number from 966 in 1998 to 881 in 2005 (Figure 1) and 23.7 percent in rate from 6.44 in 1998 to 4.92 in 2005 (Figure 2). Nationally, the 2005 Murder rate was 5.6 per 100,000 population.

**Figure 1: Total Number of Murders in Florida  
1998 – 2005**

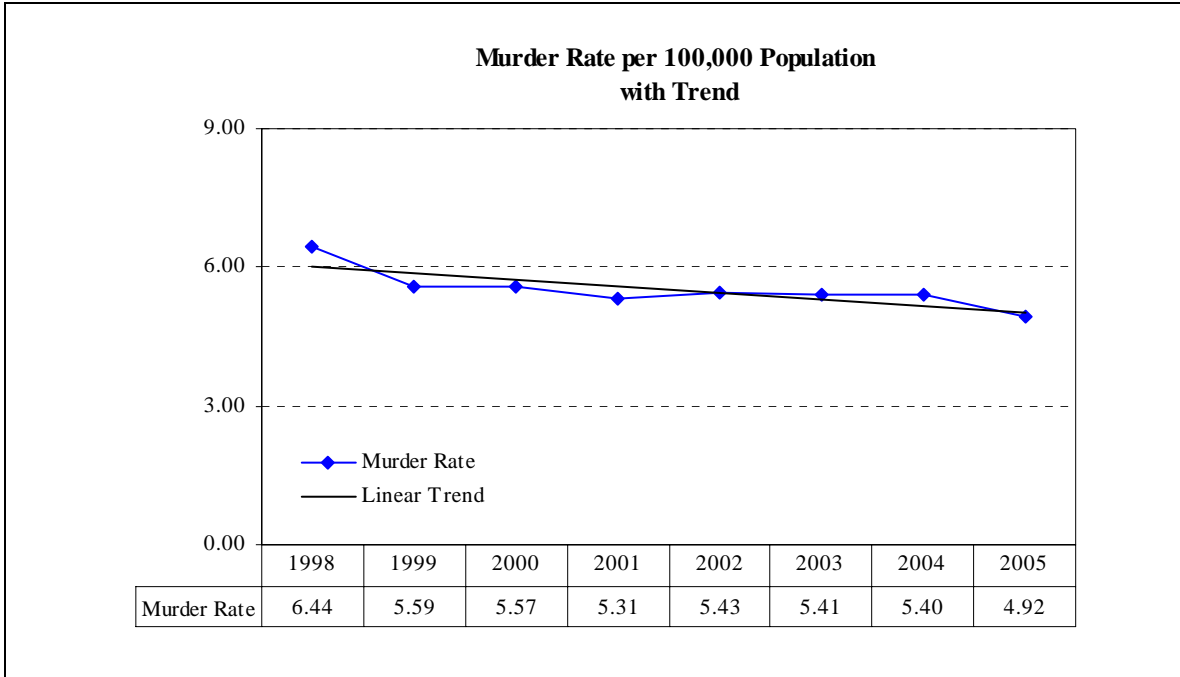


<sup>3</sup> Index Crime definitions are from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Uniform Crime Reports Guide Manual, revised June 2008.

<sup>4</sup> 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*, 2005, available from <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/index.html>.



**Figure 2: Murder Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



### **Forcible Sex Offenses**

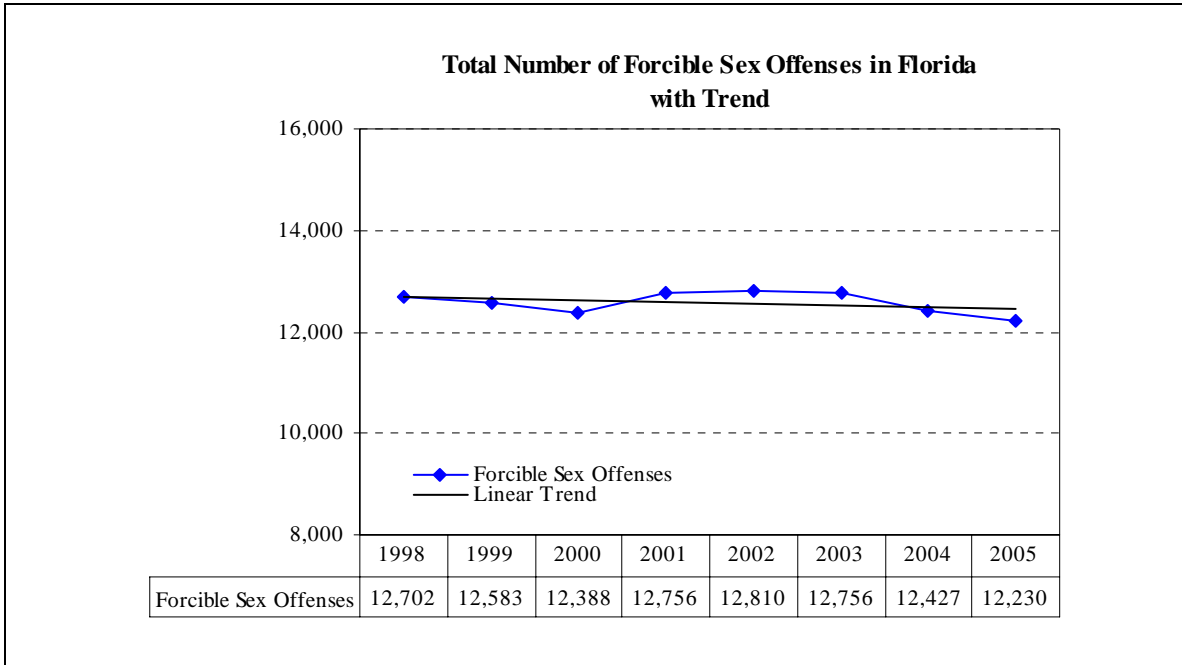
*Forcible sex offenses* are defined as “any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will or not forcibly or against the person’s will, where the victim is incapable of giving consent.” In Florida, Forcible Sex Offenses include three subcategories: Forcible Rape (committed and attempted), Forcible Sodomy, and Forcible Fondling, including indecent liberties and child molesting.<sup>5</sup>

Overall, Forcible Sex Offenses have declined in both number and rate during the period. This category showed a decline of 3.7 percent in number of offenses from 12,702 in 1998 to 12,230 in 2005 (Figure 3). Additionally, the Forcible Sex Offenses rate decreased from 84.7 in 1998 to 68.3 in 2005, reflecting a drop of 19.4 percent in rate for the eight-year period (Figure 4).

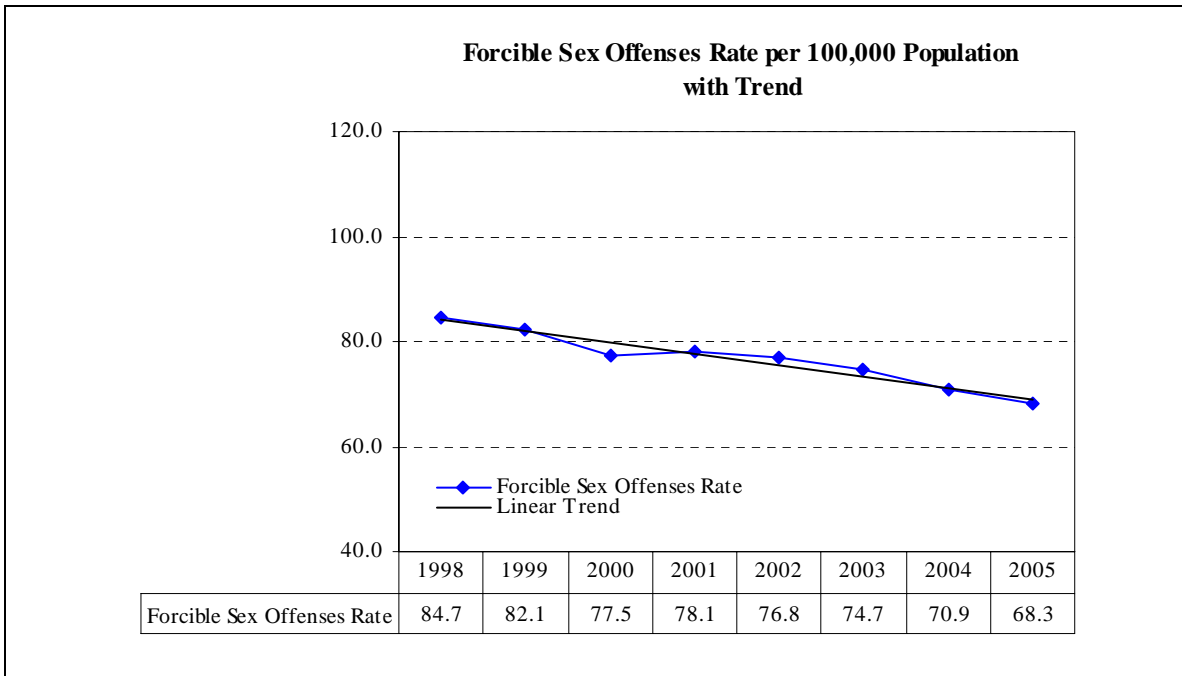
<sup>5</sup> The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects data for Forcible Rape (and attempted rape), but not forcible sodomy or fondling. The national program only includes female victims.



**Figure 3: Total Number of Forcible Sex Offenses in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



**Figure 4: Forcible Sex Offenses Rate in Florida, Per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



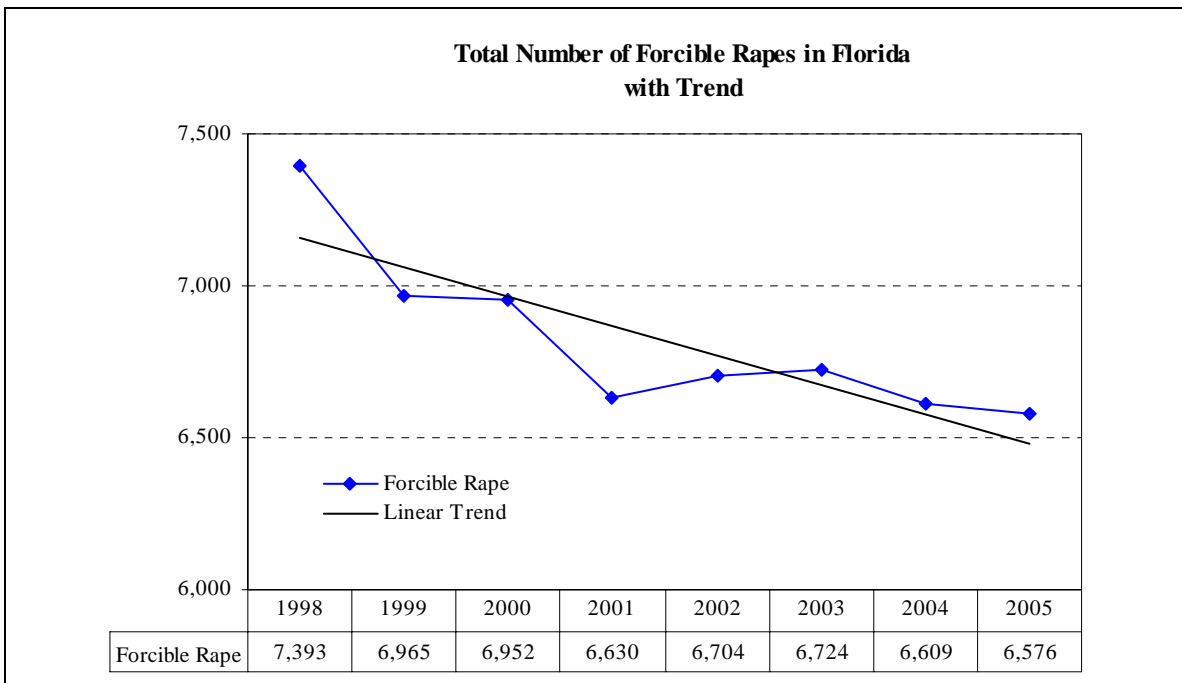


**Forcible Rape**

While Florida includes Forcible Rape as a portion of the reported Forcible Sex Offenses, the national UCR reports it separately. Florida’s reported forcible rapes were down 1.0 percent from 6,609 in 2004 to 6,576 in 2005. Comparatively, the national UCR estimates that fewer forcible rapes were reported, down by 1.2 percent from 2004 to 2005. Overall, the number of reported forcible rapes in Florida decreased by 11.1 percent since 1998 (Figure 5).

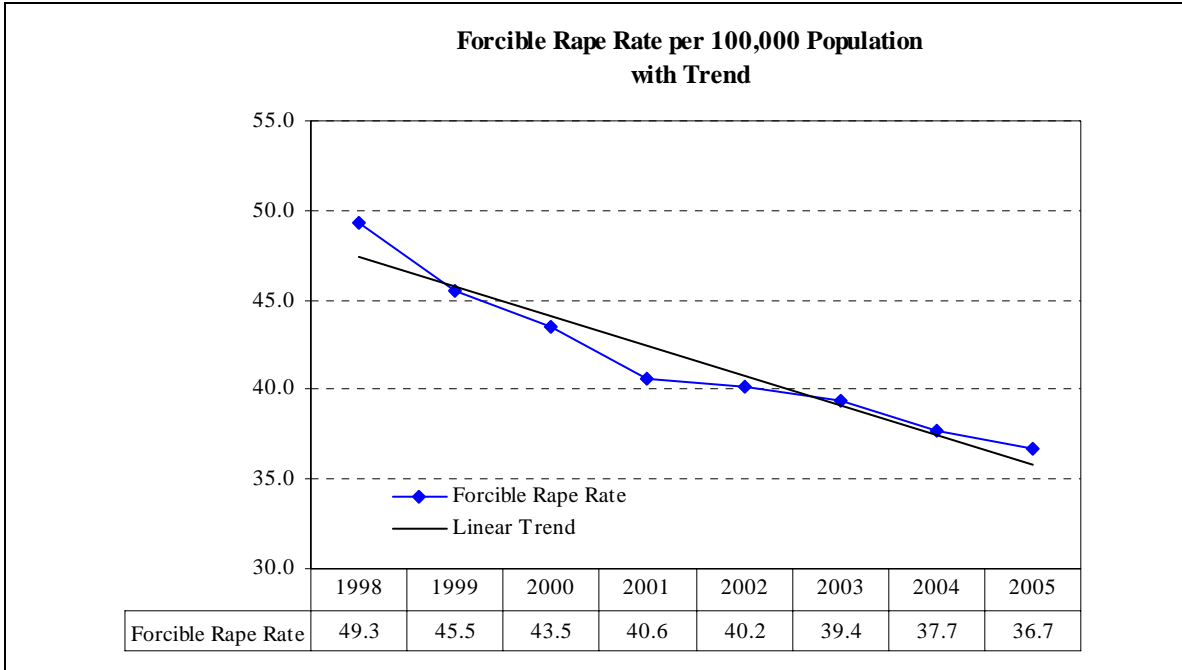
Florida’s Forcible Rape rate per 100,000 population declined annually for the eight-year period, from 49.3 in 1998 to 36.7 in 2005 (Figure 6) for a 25.6 percent drop in rate since 1998. The national UCR uses only female population for calculating rate for forcible rape, so one cannot accurately compare Florida’s Forcible Rape rate to national levels.

**Figure 5: Total Number of Forcible Rapes in Florida, 1998 – 2005**





**Figure 6: Forcible Rape Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**

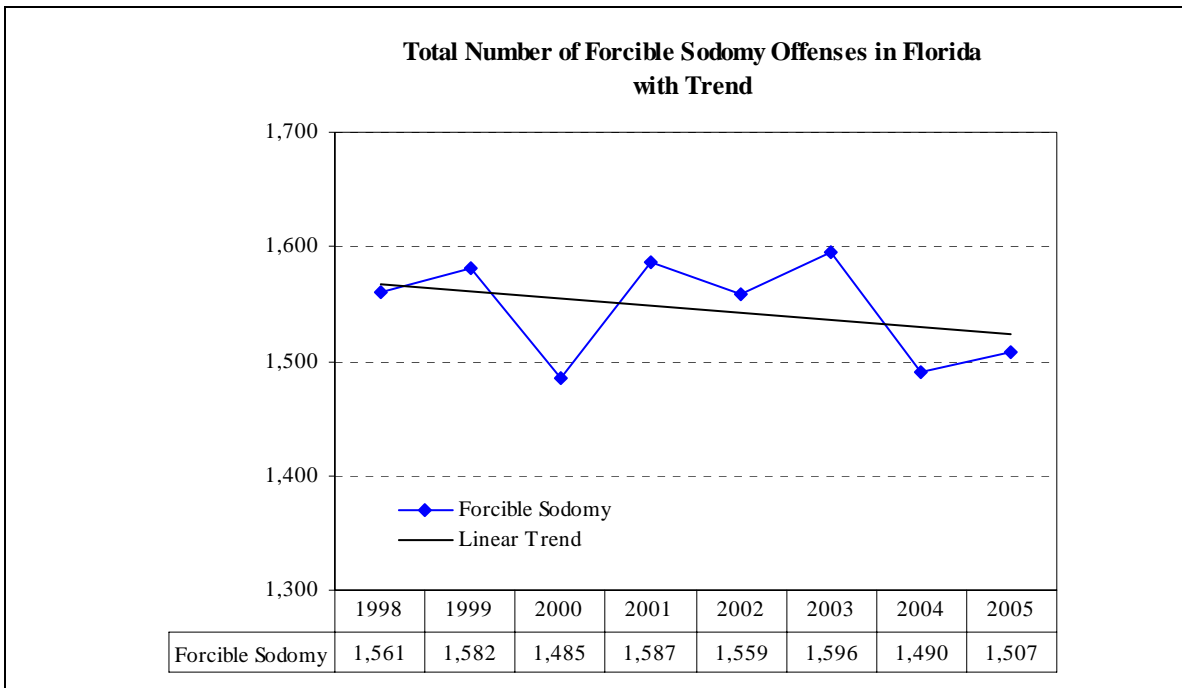


### Forcible Sodomy

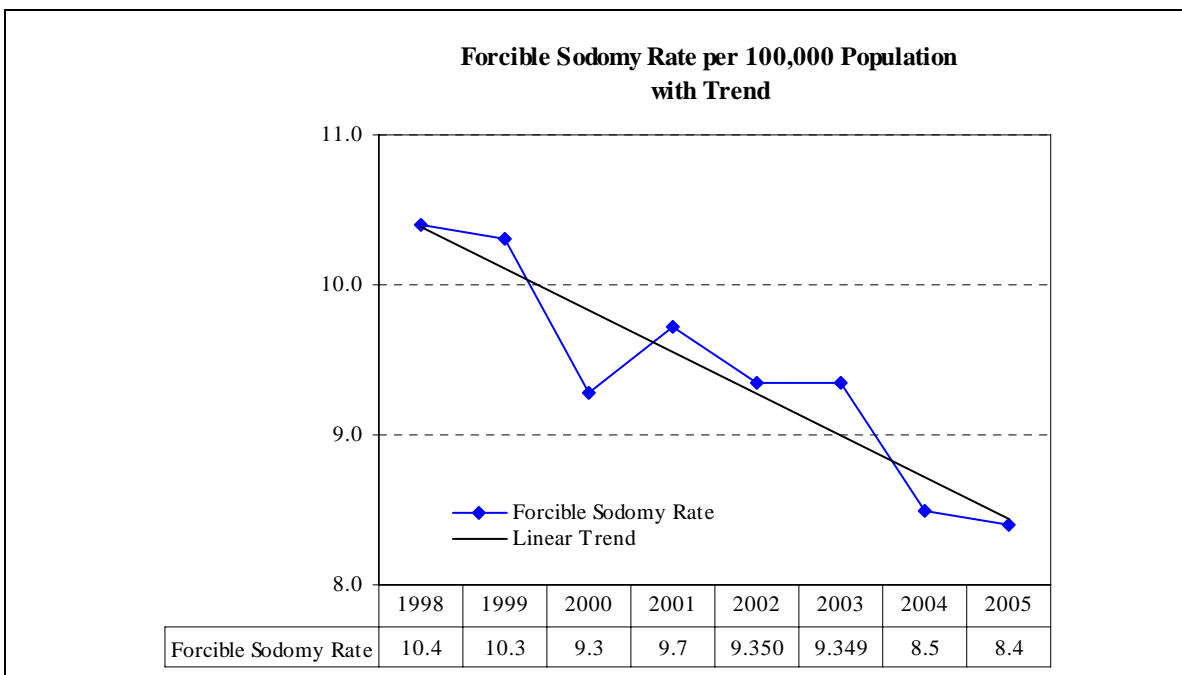
Florida began including Forcible Sodomy with Forcible Sex Offenses in 1989. While the number of reported forcible sodomy offenses from year to year has been up and down, including a 1.1 percent increase from 2004 to 2005, the overall trend has been a 3.5 percent decrease in number since 1998 (Figure 7). The rate per 100,000 population for Forcible Sodomy has declined by 19.2 percent for the same time period, including a slight decrease in rate from 8.5 in 2004 to 8.4 in 2005 in spite of the slight increase in the number of reported offenses (Figure 8).



**Figure 7: Total Number of Forcible Sodomy Offenses in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



**Figure 8: Forcible Sodomy Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**

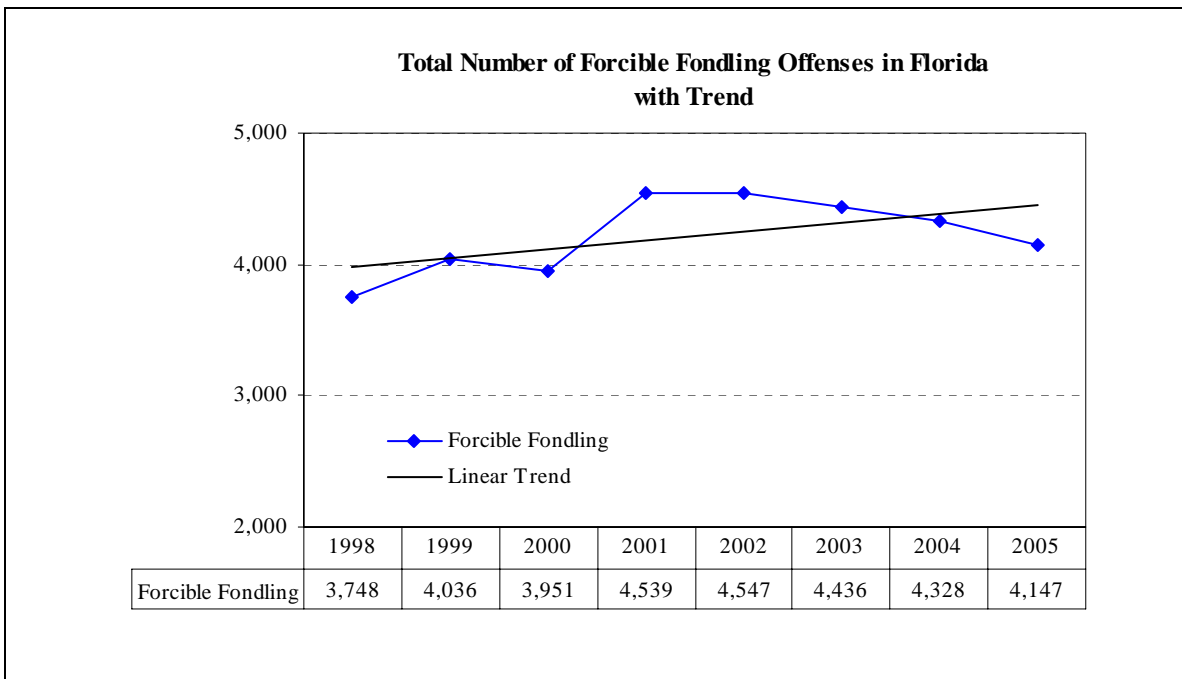




**Forcible Fondling**

In addition to Forcible Sodomy, Florida began documenting Forcible Fondling as a part of reported Forcible Sex Offenses in 1989. In 1998, 3,748 forcible fondling offenses were reported; in 2005, there were 4,147 – an overall increase of 10.6 percent in number of reported offenses for the eight-year period (Figure 9). However, it is important to note that since the 2002 peak of 4,547 reported forcible fondling offenses, the number has been on a steady decline.<sup>6</sup> While the overall number of reported offenses has increased, it is important to note that the overall rate decreased 7.6 percent from 25.0 in 1998 to 23.1 in 2005 after reaching a peak of 27.8 in 2001 (Figure 10).

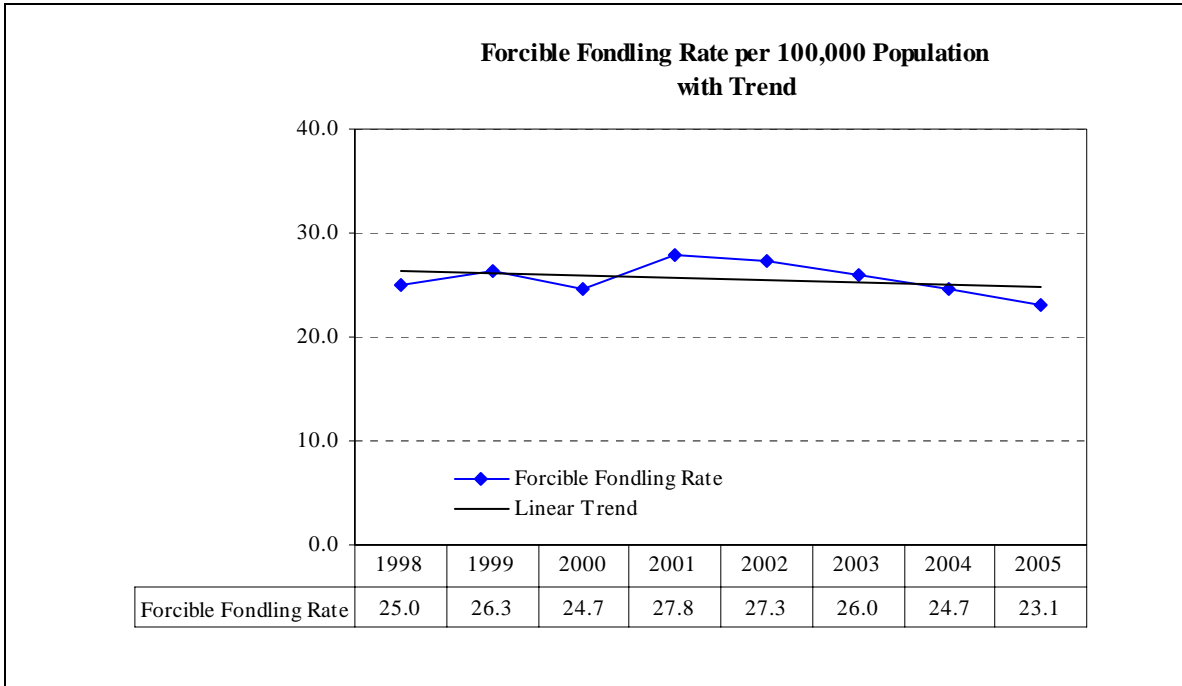
**Figure 9: Total Number of Forcible Fondling Offenses in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



<sup>6</sup> The number of reported forcible fondling offenses has declined 2.4 percent from 2002 to 2003; 2.4 percent from 2003 to 2004; and 4.2 percent from 2004 to 2005.



**Figure 10: Forcible Fondling Rate in Florida per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



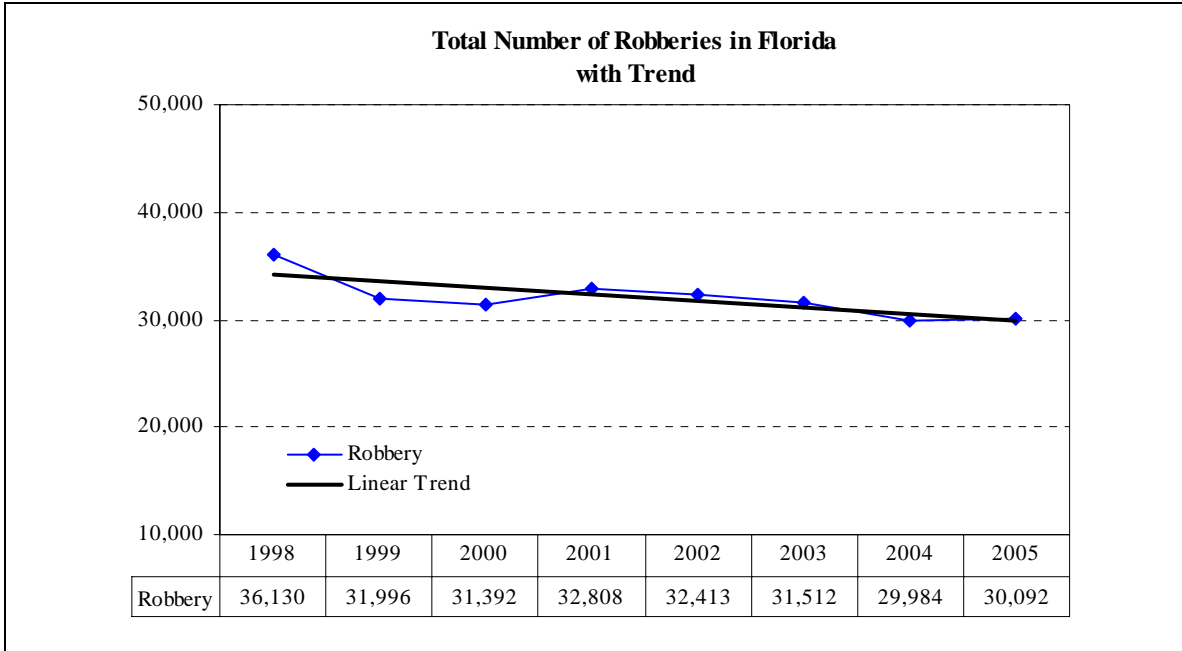
### **Robbery**

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.”

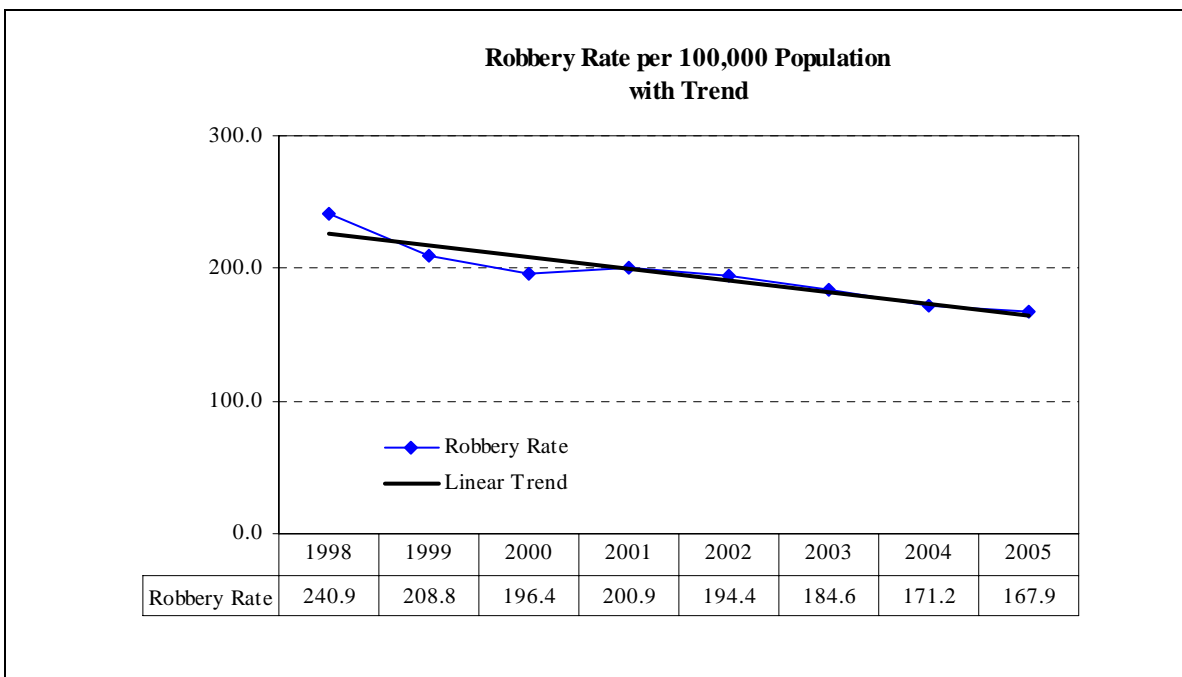
The number of reported robberies began the eight-year period at a high of 36,130 in 1998 and ends with a decrease of 16.7 percent with 30,092 in 2005 (Figure 11). While Florida had a slight increase (0.4%) in the number of reported robberies from 2004 to 2005, the FBI reports a national increase of 3.9 percent. The rate for robberies declined in seven of the eight years — the exception being 2001 — from a 1998 high of 240.9 per 100,000 population to 167.9 in 2005. This represents a 30.3 percent drop in the rate (Figure 12). The national rate in 2005 was 150.8 per 100,000 population.



**Figure 11: Total Number of Robberies in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



**Figure 12: Robbery Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



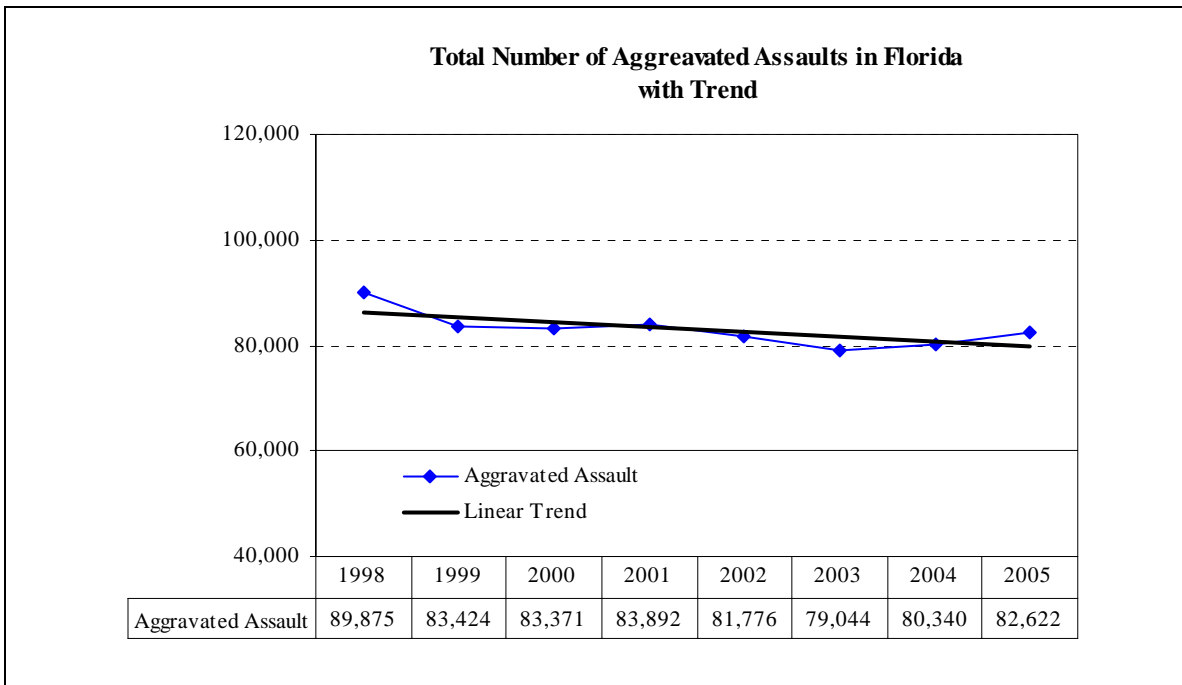


**Aggravated Assault**

*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 2005, both the number (82,622) and rate (461.1 per 100,000 population) of aggravated assaults increased from the previous year, but the trend line for each still indicated a slight decline.<sup>7</sup> Since 1998, aggravated assaults in Florida fell 8.1 percent in number (Figure 13) and 23.0 percent in rate (Figure 14).

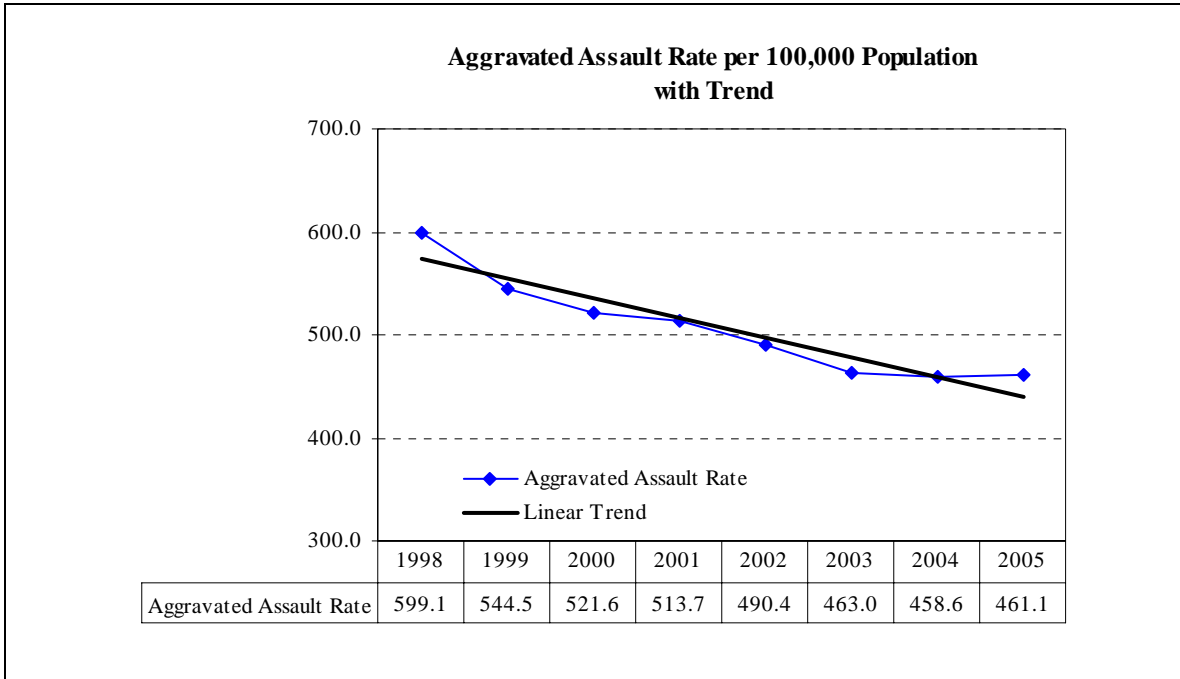
**Figure 13: Total Number of Aggravated Assaults in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



<sup>7</sup> Nationally, the number of aggravated assaults increased by 1.8 percent from 2004 to 2005, and the rate for 2005 was 301.6 per 100,000 population.



**Figure 14: Aggravated Assault Rate in Florida per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



### **Burglary**

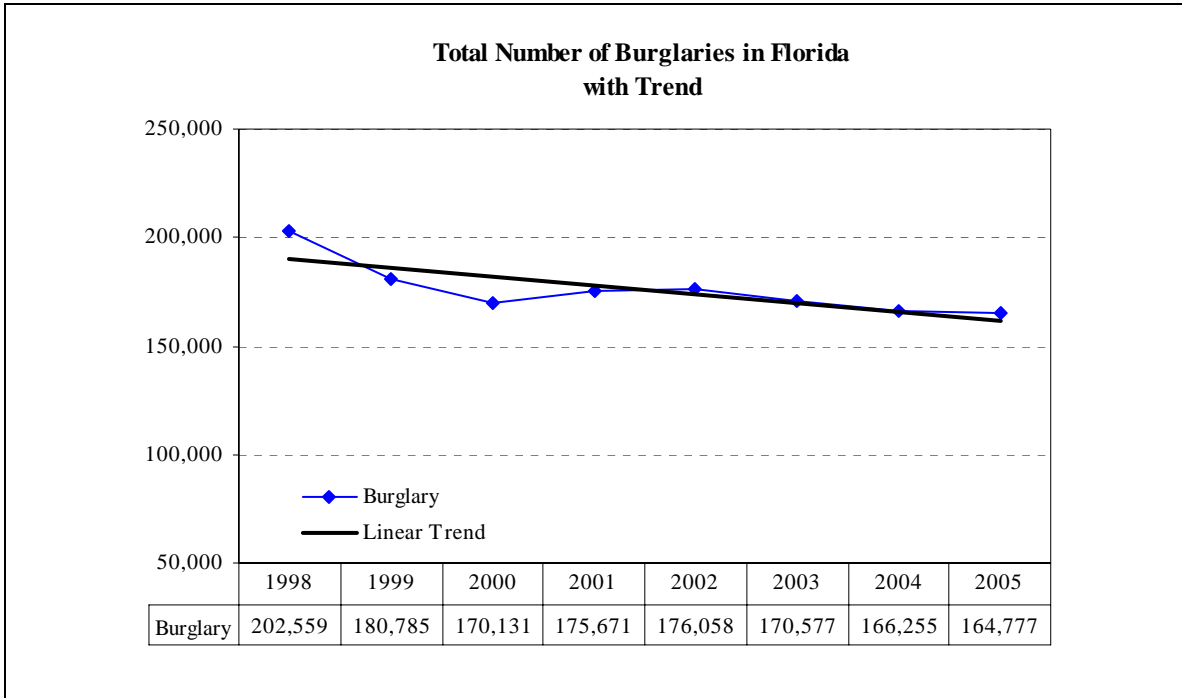
*Burglary* is defined as “the unlawful entry into a building or other structure with intent to commit a felony or theft.”

In 2005, burglary continued a steady decline for the third year in a row with an eight-year low of 164,777 reported offenses, representing a decrease of 18.7 percent since 1998 (Figure 15). Florida experienced a 0.9 percent decrease from 2004 to 2005, slightly more than the national decline (0.5%). Similarly, the burglary rate per 100,000 population continued its downward trend from 1,350.4 in 1998 to a low of 919.6 in 2005, representing a decrease of 31.9 percent for the eight-year period.<sup>8</sup>

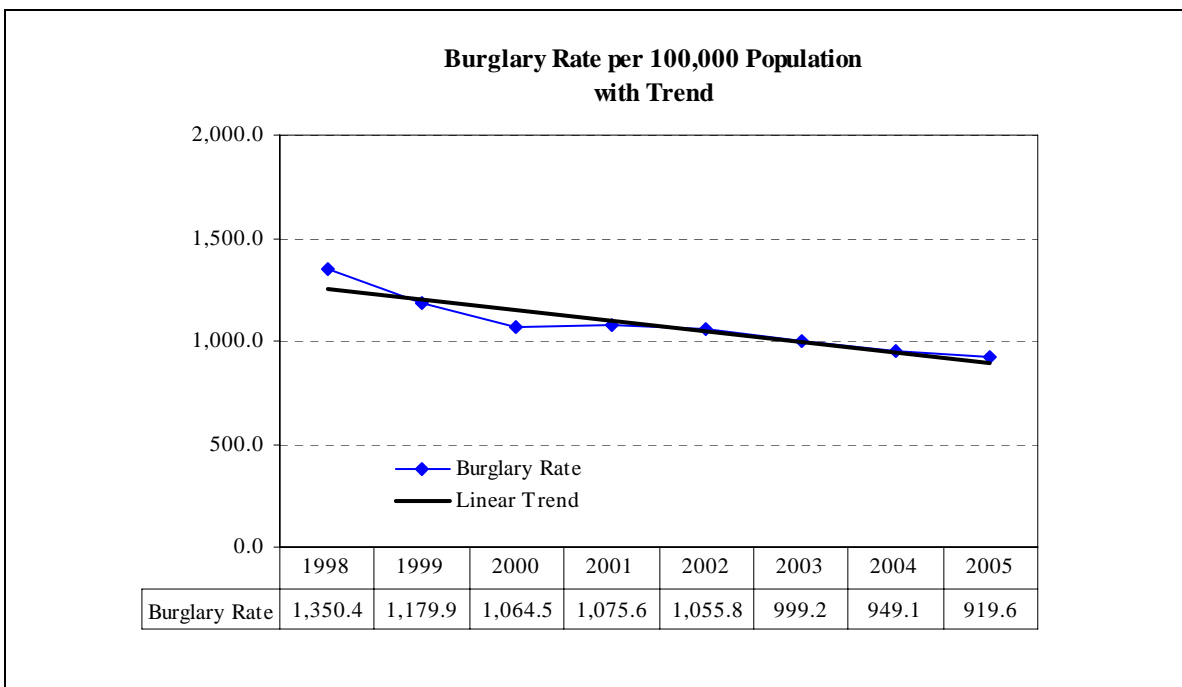
<sup>8</sup> Per the FBI’s *Crime in the United States*, the national burglary rate for 2005 was 750.2 burglaries per 100,000 population.



**Figure 15: Total Number of Burglaries in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



**Figure 16: Burglary Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population,  
1998 – 2005**



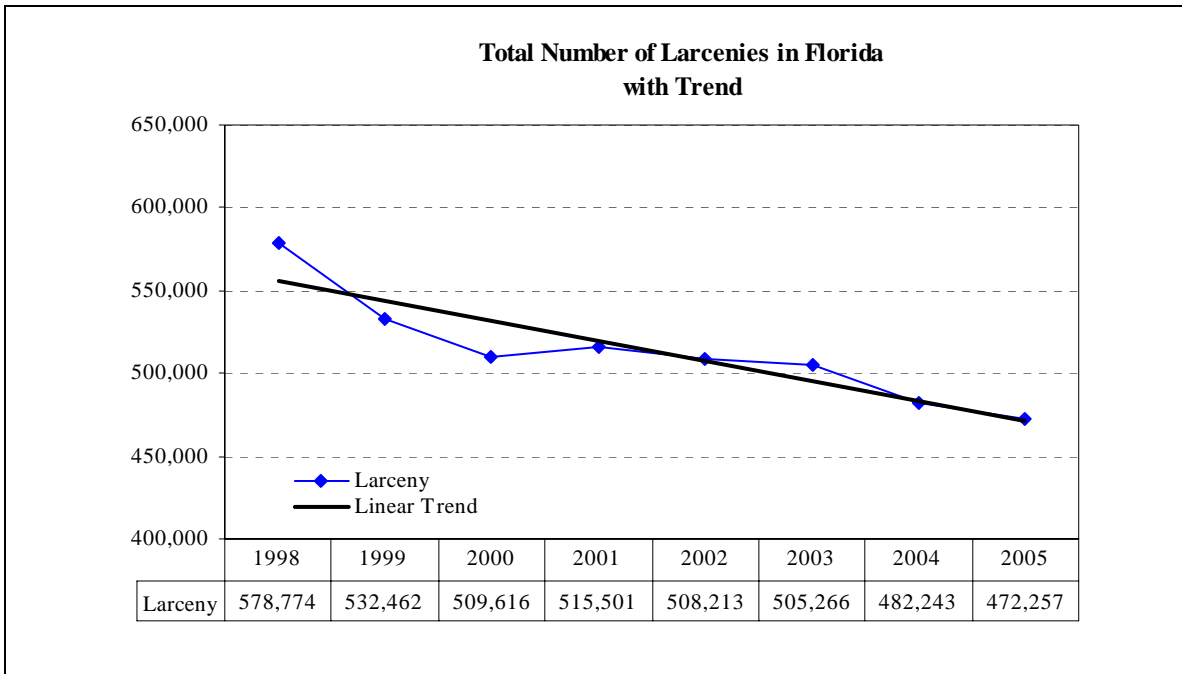


**Larceny**

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

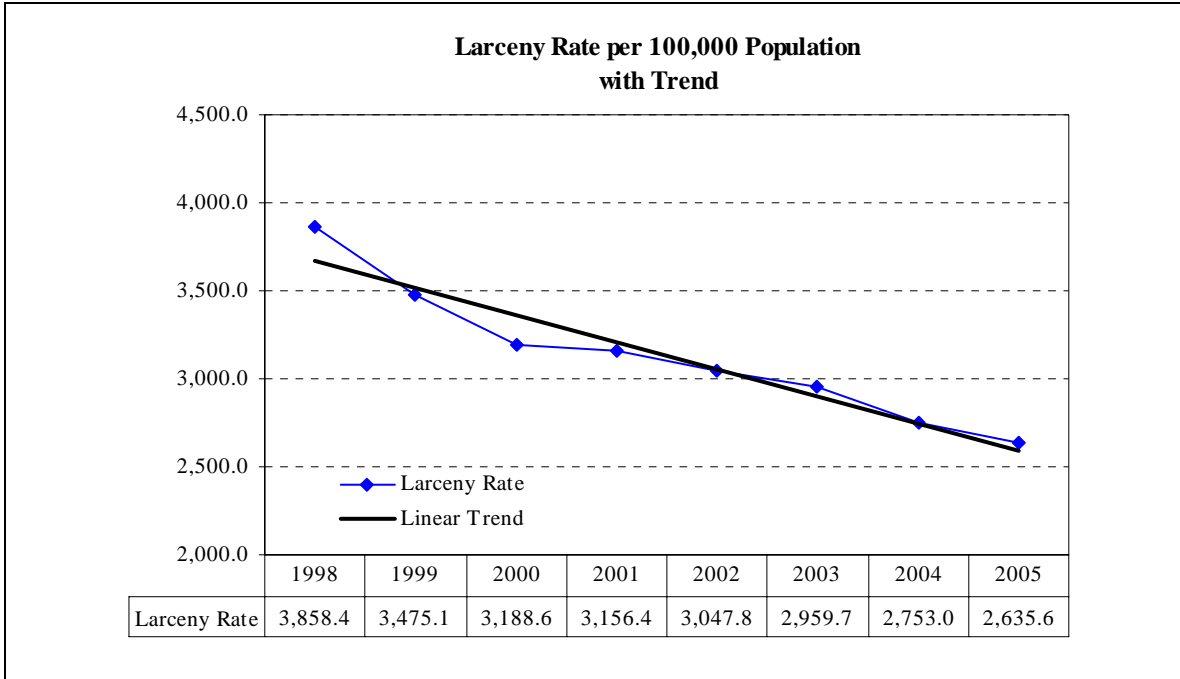
Figure 17 shows that larcenies in 2005 are down in number for the fourth year in a row. Since 1998, the number of offenses has dropped 18.4 percent. While Florida experienced a 2.1 percent drop from 2004 to 2005, the number of reported larcenies increased by 2.3 percent nationally. The rate for reported larcenies in Florida is at an eight-year low of 2,635.6 per 100,000 population, down 31.7 percent from the 1998 high of 3,858.4 (Figure 18). Florida’s 2005 rate for larcenies was slightly more than the national rate (2,342.6).

**Figure 17: Total Number of Larcenies in Florida  
1998 – 2005**





**Figure 18: Larceny Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



### **Motor Vehicle Theft**

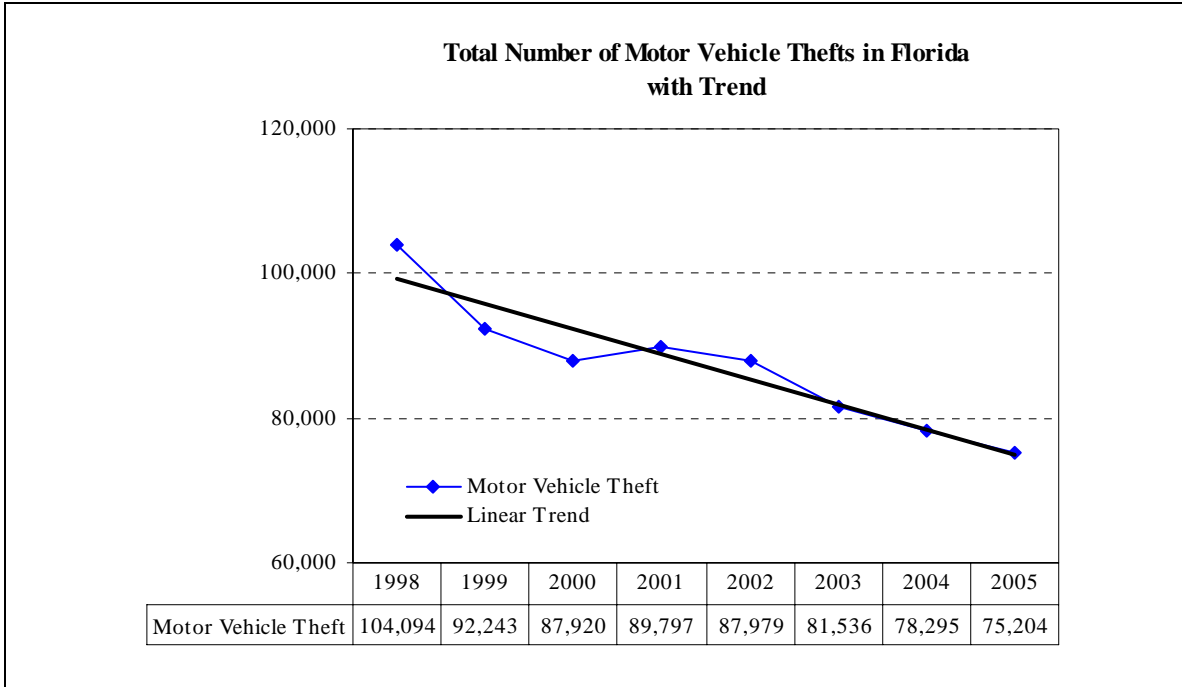
The UCR Guide Manual defines motor vehicle theft as just that: “theft of a motor vehicle” including automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, and other motor vehicles that are self-propelled and used for the purpose of transporting passengers or cargo on land.

Reported motor vehicle thefts were at an eight-year low in 2005 (75,204), continuing a steady decline since 2001, with a 27.8 percent decrease since 1998’s high of 104,094 reported offenses (Figure 19). The rate per 100,000 population for motor vehicle thefts has declined from 693.9 in 1998 to 419.7 in 2005 (see Figure 20). This 39.5 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.<sup>9</sup>

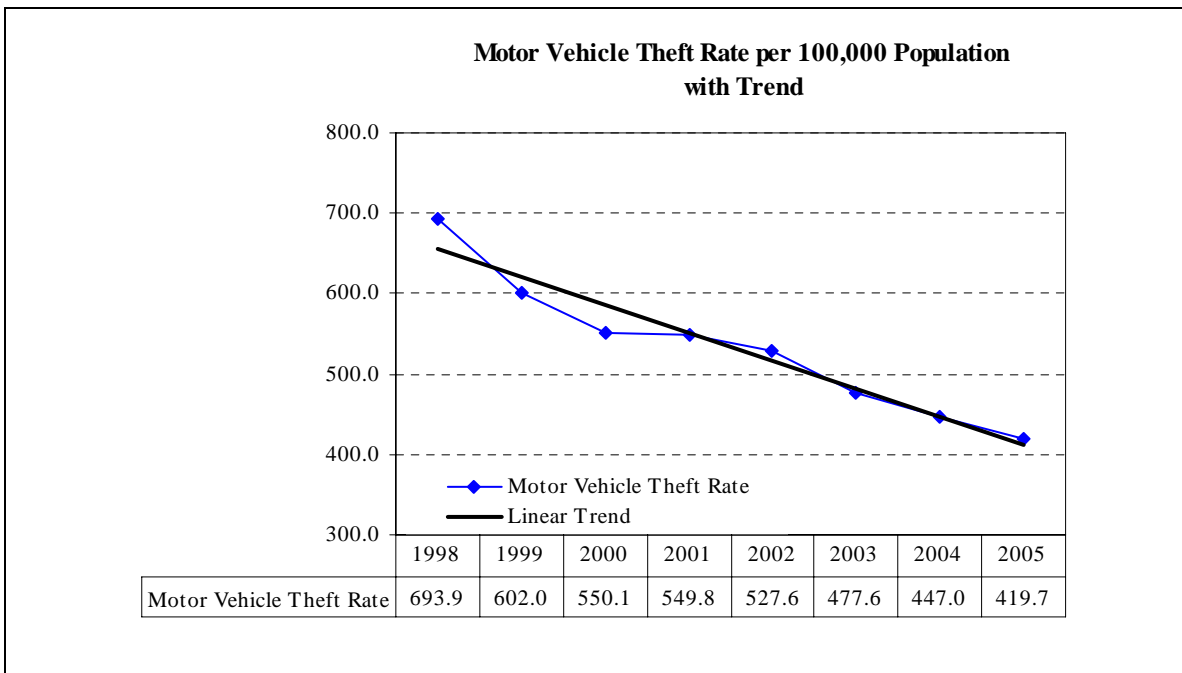
<sup>9</sup> The FBI’s *Crime in the United States* (2005) reports that motor vehicle thefts have decreased by 11.4 percent in volume and 20.7 percent in rate between 1996 and 2005.



**Figure 19: Total Number of Motor Vehicle Thefts in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



**Figure 20: Motor Vehicle Theft Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**





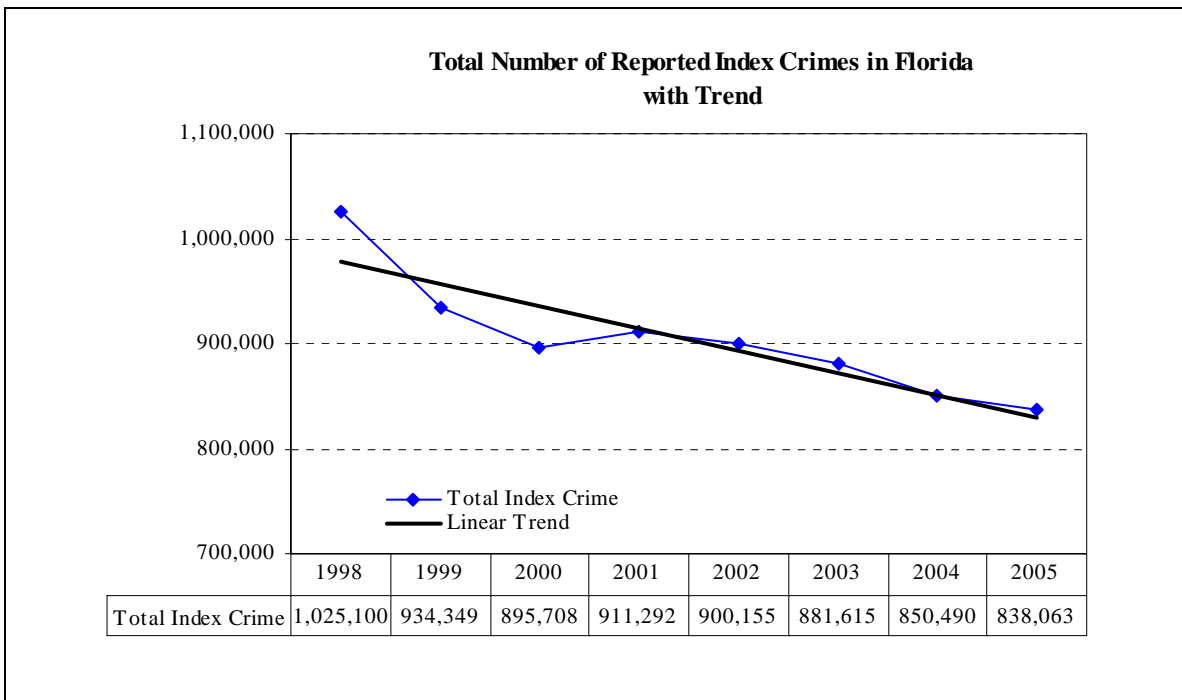
**Total Index Crime**

Total Index Crime combines Violent Crimes (Murder, Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) and Property Crimes (Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft) to give an overall indication of serious crime in Florida.<sup>10</sup>

Figure 21 displays the change in number of reported index crimes for Florida from 1998 through 2005. The 838,063 reported index crimes in 2005 represent an eight-year decrease of 18.2 percent since 1998's high of 1,025,100 index crimes.

The rate per 100,000 population for Total Index Crime also declined, with a significant change (31.6 percent) from 6,833.8 in 1998 to 4,677.2 in 2005 (Figure 22).

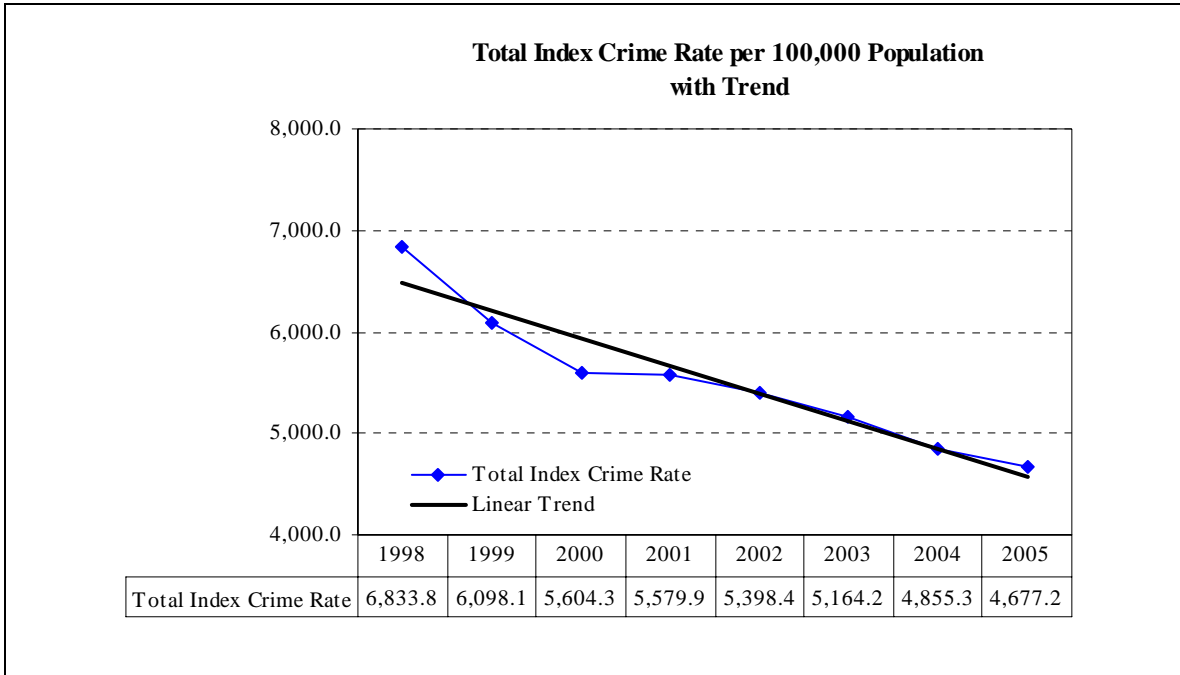
**Figure 21: Total Number of Index Crime Offenses in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



<sup>10</sup> The national Uniform Crime Reports does not combine violent and property crimes for an overall Index crime rate.



**Figure 22: Index Crime Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



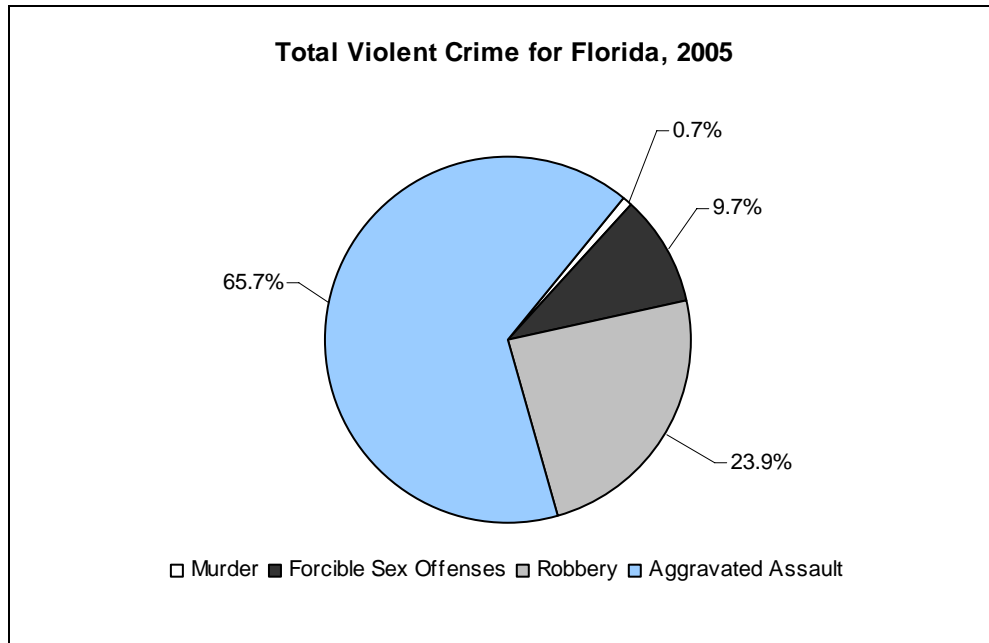
### Total Violent Crime

In 2005, the 125,825 violent crime offenses reported in Florida were comprised of Murder (0.7%), Forcible Sex Offenses (9.7%), Robbery (23.9%), and Aggravated Assault (65.7%). (See Figure 23.) In 1998, the Violent Crime category had a similar makeup (Murder: 0.7%; Forcible Sex Offenses: 9.1%; Robbery: 25.9%; and Aggravated Assault: 64.3%). (See Figure 24.)

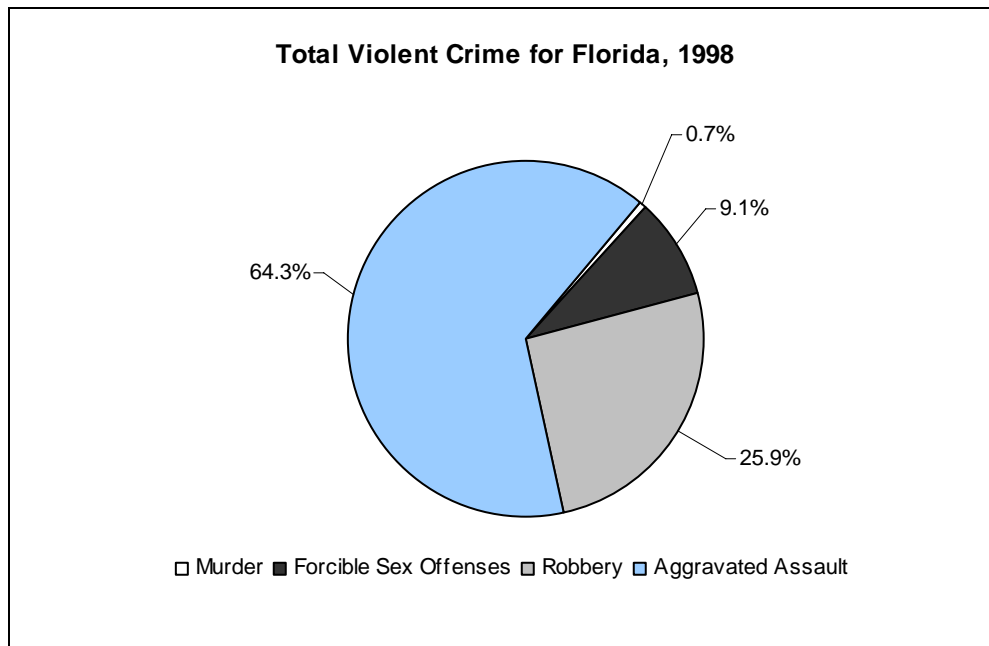
For the eight-year period, violent crime is down in both frequency of incidences (-9.9%) and rate per 100,000 population (-24.6%). (See Figures 25 and 26, respectively.) The number of offenses did increase 1.7 percent from 2004 to 2005 while the rate decreased by four offenses per 100,000 population.<sup>11</sup> The trend lines from 1998 to 2005 for both number and rate are negatively sloped.

<sup>11</sup> Nationally, violent crime increased by 2.3 percent in number of reported offenses from 2004 to 2005. 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 (469.2 per 100,000 population for 2005).

**Figure 23: Violent Crime Offenses in Florida, 2005**

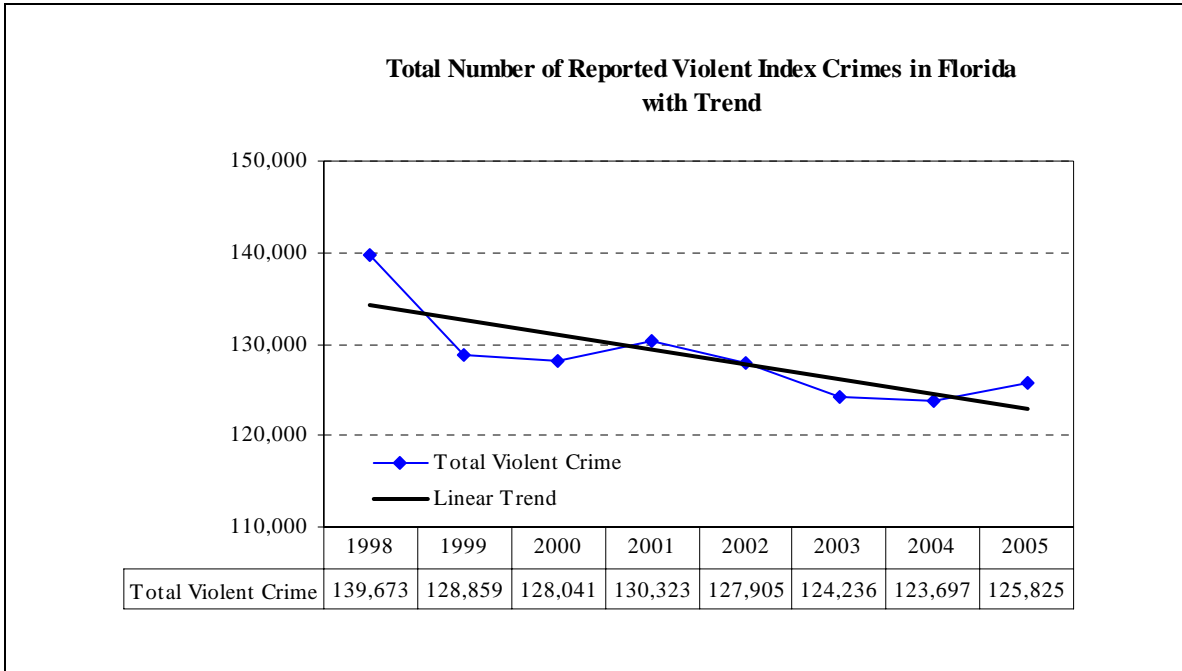


**Figure 24: Violent Crime Offenses in Florida, 1998**

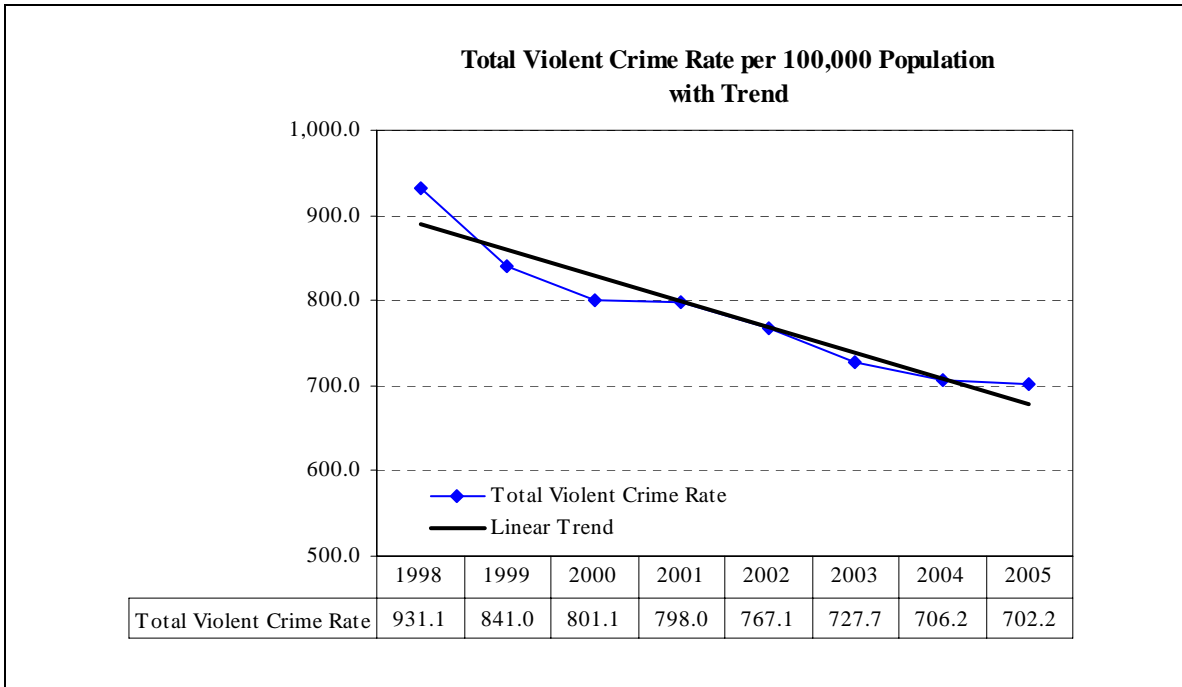




**Figure 25: Total Number of Violent Crime Offenses in Florida  
1998 – 2005**



**Figure 26: Violent Crime Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



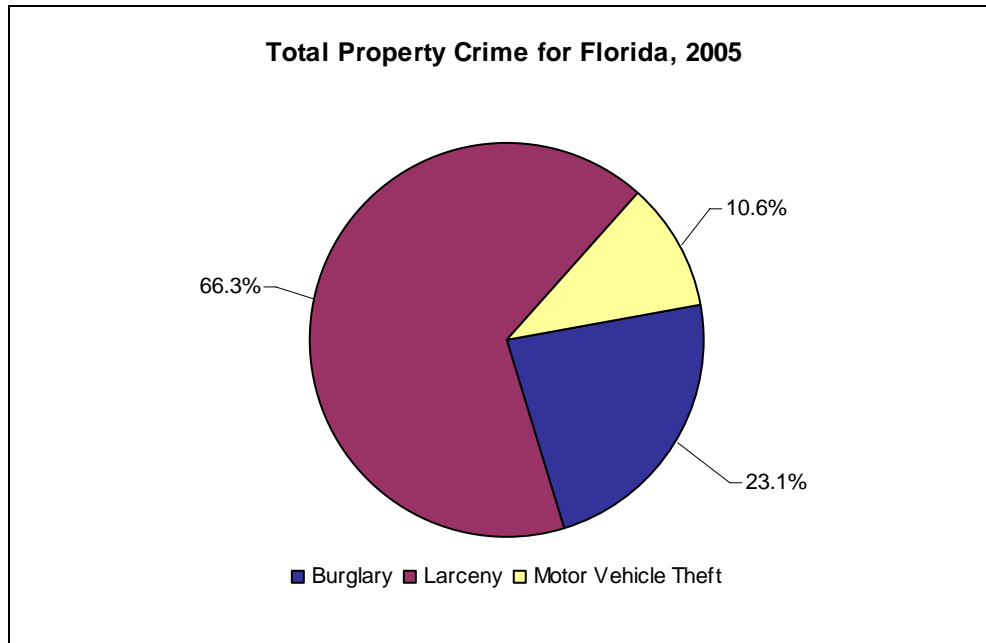


### Total Property Crime

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 2005, 712,238 property crime offenses were reported including Burglary (23.1%), Larceny (66.3%), and Motor Vehicle Theft (10.6%). (See Figure 27.) In 1998, Property Crime was much the same (Burglary: 22.9%; Larceny: 65.4%; and Motor Vehicle Theft: 11.8%). (See Figure 28.)

From 1998 to 2005, the number of property offenses declined by 19.6 percent (see Figure 29), while the rate, at a high in 1998 (5,902.7 per 100,000 population) declined to its low in 2005 (3,974.9), a significant 32.7 percent decrease (see Figure 30).<sup>12</sup>

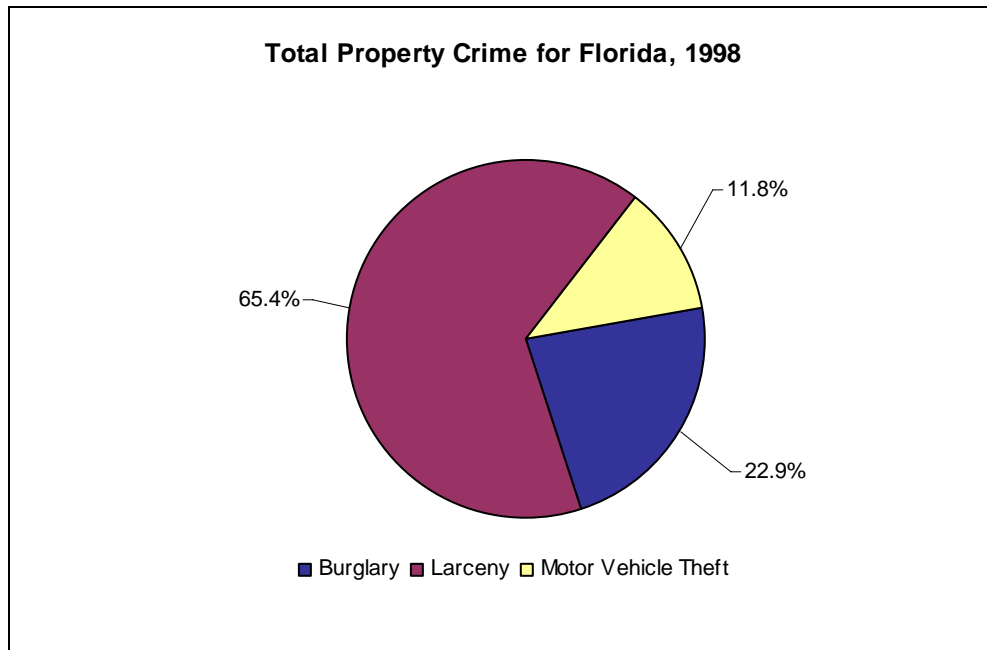
**Figure 27: Property Crime Offenses in Florida, 2005**



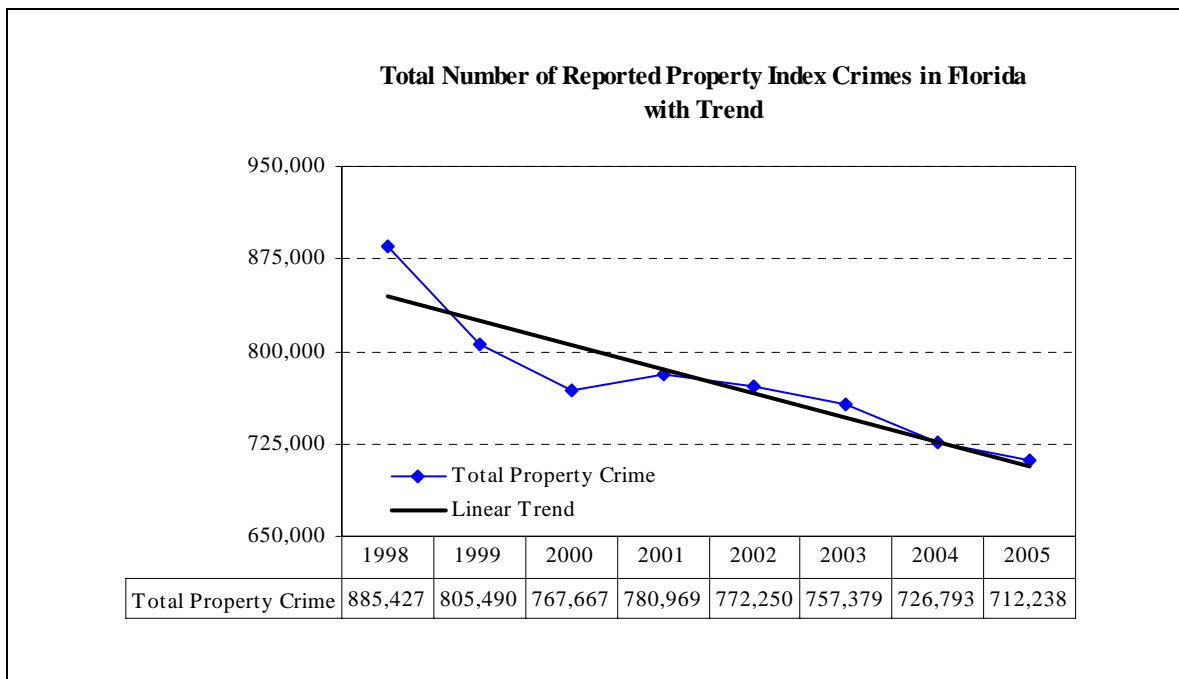
<sup>12</sup> Property crime in Florida decreased by 2.0 percent from 2004 to 2005, compared to the national drop of 1.5 percent. The national property crime rate in 2005 was 3,429.8 per 100,000 population.



**Figure 28: Property Crime Offenses in Florida, 1998**

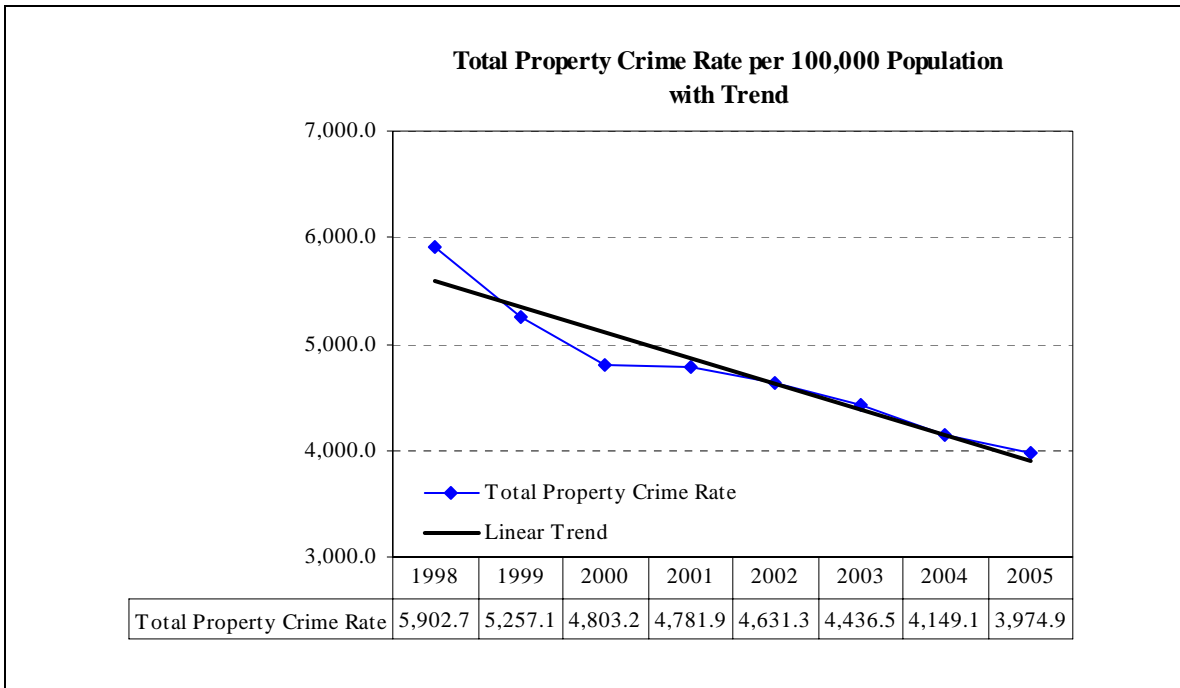


**Figure 29: Total Number of Property Crime Offenses in Florida 1998 – 2005**





**Figure 30: Property Crime Rate in Florida, per 100,000 Population  
1998 – 2005**



**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 1998 – 2005. There were slight increases in number from 2004 to 2005 for Forcible Sodomy, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault, and a slight increase in the trend for number of offenses reported for Forcible Fondling and Aggravated Assault for the eight-year period. Table 1 summarizes the change for each Index crime from 2004 to 2005; Table 2 shows the trend for both number and rate for each Index crime from 1998 to 2005.

Overall, Motor Vehicle Theft showed the greatest drop in rate per 100,000 for the eight-year period with 39.5 percent decline, followed by Burglary (31.9 %), Larceny (31.7 %), Robbery (30.3 %), Murder (23.7 %), Aggravated Assault (23.0 %), and Forcible Sex Offenses (19.4 %).



**Table 1: Change in Number and Rate of Reported Offenses in Florida  
2004 - 2005**

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  
1998 - 2005**

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, 1998 - 2005.

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
1998	15,000,475	966	7,393	1,561	3,748	12,702	36,130	89,875	202,559	578,774	104,094	1,025,100	139,673	885,427
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

SOURCE: Florida Statistical Analysis Center: FDLE (1998-2005). Crime in Florida, Florida uniform crime report [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL.