

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
Community Awareness Projects
April 19 - 25, 2015

"Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims."

CAP TIPS is a series of periodic messages to assist in the planning and implementation of NCVRW Community Awareness Projects. Please feel free to send your individual questions or requests for assistance to Anne Seymour at annesey@atlantech.net.

CAP TIP #9

To Improve Public Awareness

FBI Uniform Crime Report Statistics And Where to Find State and Local Crime Data

Introduction

Earlier this month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released its preliminary Semi-Annual Uniform Crime Report, which features the latest statistics on reported crime and victimization in the United States. These can be used to inform your outreach for 2015 NCVRW, including public education, victim awareness and traditional and social media relations.

In addition, it's always a good idea to be able to cite crime data and statistics that are specific to your jurisdiction – your state, counties and even neighborhoods. This CAP TIP provides 14 excellent websites that provide this information.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Preliminary Semi-Annual Uniform Crime Report January – June, 2014

The statistics cited below are a component of Crime in the U.S., the most comprehensive analysis of reported violent crime and property crime in the nation that is published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The annual publication compiles volume and rate of crime offenses for the nation, the states, and many cities and counties. It also includes arrest, clearance, and law enforcement employee data.

Statistics recently released in the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report reveal overall declines in both the number of violent crimes and the number of property crimes reported for the first six months of 2014 when compared with figures for the first six months of 2013. The report is based on information from 11,009 law enforcement agencies that submitted three to six months of comparable data to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program for the first six months of 2013 and 2014.

Violent Crime

All the offenses in the violent crime category—murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape (revised definition), aggravated assault, and robbery—showed decreases when data from the first six months of 2014 were compared with data from the first six months of 2013.

- The number of murders declined 6.0 percent.
- The number of rapes (revised definition) declined 10.1 percent.
- Aggravated assaults decreased 1.6 percent.
- Robbery offenses decreased 10.3 percent.
- Violent crime decreased in all city groupings. The largest decrease, 6.7 percent, was noted in cities with fewer than 10,000 in population.
- Violent crime decreased 7.6 percent in non-metropolitan counties and 4.4 percent in metropolitan counties.
- Violent crime declined in each of the nation's four regions. The largest decrease, 7.6 percent, was noted in the Midwest, followed by 6.6 percent in the Northeast, 3.0 percent in the South, and 2.7 percent in the West.

Property Crime

All three offenses in the property crime category—burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft—showed decreases in the number of offenses for January to June 2014 when compared with data for the same months of 2013.

- Burglary offenses dropped 14.0 percent.
- There was a 5.7 percent decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts.
- Larceny-theft offenses decreased by 5.6 percent.
- Each of the city population groups had decreases in the overall number of property crimes. Law enforcement agencies in cities with populations under 10,000 inhabitants reported the largest decrease, 8.9 percent.
- Property crime decreased 11.8 percent in non-metropolitan counties and 9.0 percent in metropolitan counties.
- All four of the nation's regions showed declines in the number of property crime:
 - 12.5 percent in the Midwest
 - 7.6 percent in the Northeast
 - 5.9 percent in the South
 - 5.8 percent in the West.

Arson

In the UCR Program, arson offenses are collected separately from other property crimes. The number of arson offenses decreased 6.5 percent in the first six months of 2014 when compared with figures for the first six months of 2013. All four regions reported decreases in the number of arsons

- 11.3 percent in the Midwest
- 9.4 percent in the Northeast
- 8.4 percent in the South
- 0.4 percent in the West.

Arson offenses decreased 13.0 percent in cities with populations of 500,000 to 999,999, the largest decrease within the city groupings. Arson offenses declined 9.9 percent in metropolitan counties but increased 0.4 percent in non-metropolitan counties.

Revised Definition of Rape

PLEASE NOTE THIS UPDATED AND IMPROVED DEFINITION OF "RAPE:" In 2013, the FBI's UCR Program initiated the collection of rape data under a revised definition within the Summary Based Reporting System. The term "forcible" was removed from the offense name, and the definition was changed to "penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." The number of rape incidents reported using the revised definition, as well as the number of rapes submitted using the legacy definition, are both included in this report in separate columns in each table. The rape figures for those agencies that changed from reporting rape under the legacy definition in 2013 to the revised definition in 2014 are not included to calculate the trends reported in Tables 1-3, but they are reported in Table 4. Please note that because rape data reported by all agencies for 2013 and 2014 cannot be aggregated, the percent changes from one year to the next are calculated with smaller numbers than in recent years. Offenses with fewer counts are often sensitive to minor differences when calculating trends. More information about this subject is presented in footnotes and data declarations for each table.

Caution against ranking: When the FBI publishes crime data via its UCR Program, some entities use the information to compile rankings of cities and counties. Such rankings, however, do not provide insight into the numerous variables that shape crime in a given town, city, county, state, tribal area, or region. These rankings lead to simplistic and/or incomplete analyses that can create misleading perceptions that adversely affect communities and their residents. Only through careful study and analyses into the range of unique conditions affecting each local law enforcement jurisdiction can data users create valid assessments of crime. The data user is, therefore, cautioned against comparing statistical data of individual reporting units from cities, metropolitan areas, states, or colleges or universities solely on the basis of their population or student enrollment.

For more information: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr>.

State, County and Neighborhood Crime Data

General Demographic Data

The U.S. Census Bureau "Quick Facts" features general demographic information for all states and counties and for cities and towns with more than 5,000 people, including data about overall population; gender; race; education level; and veterans. This can be accessed at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>.

Easy Access to Juvenile Populations provides national, state and county-level population data detailed by age, sex, race and ethnicity. This site features tools to create juvenile population profiles by state and county; and "comparison tabs" to compare juvenile population characteristics at the state and local levels. <http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>.

State and Local Statistics about Crime and Victimization

For state-level crime statistics, simply enter (state) crime statistics into any search engine. A range of websites – from state Attorneys General offices to state-level justice agencies – provide such data. For example, in New York, crime statistics are available from the Department of Criminal Justice Services at <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/stats.htm>.

All police departments are required to document local crime statistics; you can visit your local police departments' websites and type "crime statistics" into the search engine. For example, local crime

statistics in Syracuse, NY are available from the Syracuse Police Department in two formats: overall crime statistics at <http://www.syracusepolice.org/crimemaps.asp>; and crime statistics by neighborhood (including a map) at <http://www.syracusepolice.org/statistics.asp>.

The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) publishes a statistical briefing book that features statistics about state and county juvenile courts, arrests and crime. This website also includes the recently-published "Juvenile Offenders and Victims 2014 National Report at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/>.

State-level Statistics about Crime and Victimization

The Disaster Center (<http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/>) features extensive data about crime and victimization, including:

- Uniform Crime Reports (FBI) violent and non-violent crime statistics from local law enforcement agencies from 1980 to 2005 (these include crimes reported to local law enforcement that are included in the FBI's biannual UCR Reports)
- UCR state-level and state-specific statistics from 1960 to 2013.

Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts provides quick access to state and county juvenile court case information about delinquency, status offenses and dependency cases at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaco/>.

StateMaster.com (<http://www.statemaster.com/cat/crime&all=1>) features crime statistics by state, and provides state rankings and (in some cases) access to data by bar graph, pie charts and map, including but not limited to:

- Aggravated assault
- Burglary
- Gun violence
- Hate crimes
- Homicide
- Murder
- Property crime
- Forcible rape
- Overall violent crime

As part of its Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, MADD released its Eighth Annual Report to the Nation in 2015, which features an online state-by-state interactive map comparison of state efforts to combat drunk driving, along with a full report, which is available at <http://www.madd.org/drun-driving/campaign/campaign-report.html>.

The Century Council's website (<http://www.centurycouncil.org/state-facts>) features an interactive state map that provides state-specific data on drunk driving arrests, underage drinking, and alcohol-impaired fatalities (including those involving drivers with a BAC of .15 or above).

State Sex Offender Registries

First established in 2005 as the National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR), NSOPW was renamed by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 in honor of 22-year-old college student Dru Sjodin of Grand Forks, North Dakota, a young woman who was kidnapped and murdered by a sex offender who was registered in Minnesota. NSOPW is the only U.S. government Website that links public state,

territorial, and tribal sex offender registries from one national search site. Parents, employers, and other concerned residents can utilize the website's search tool to identify location information on sex offenders residing, working, and attending school not only in their own neighborhoods but in other nearby states and communities. In addition, the website provides visitors with information about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves and loved ones from potential victimization. This website can be accessed at <http://www.nsopw.gov/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>.

Violence Against Women and Children State Statistics

The Annual "Domestic Violence Counts" survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence provides a one day of adults and children seeking domestic violence services. The Survey Report features one page state-specific summaries. The 2013 survey results are available at <http://nnedv.org/resources/census.html> (where you can also review eight years of survey findings).

Easy Access to NIBRS: Victims of Domestic Violence (EZANIBRSDV) allows users to analyze state-level data on victims of domestic violence based on information collected by the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). With EZANIBRSDV, users can explore the characteristics of domestic violence victims, including demographic information of the victim (age, sex, and race), victim injury, and the victim-offender relationship. Data are based on incidents reported in 2010 from law enforcement agencies in 33 states. Users should be aware of the fact that the NIBRS data capture an unknown portion of the domestic violence victims known to law enforcement within a State (i.e., some agencies within a State do not report their information to the FBI). This database can be accessed at <http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezanibrsv/>.

Child Maltreatment 2013, published by the Children's Bureau of the HHS Administration for Children & Families, features state-specific data about child maltreatment and fatalities by age, gender, race and ethnicity. This publication is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2013>.

For More Information

Please contact National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project Consultant Anne Seymour via email at annesey@atlantech.net; or by telephone at 202.487.7329.