

VIOLENT CRIMES

Crimes of violence involve the element of personal confrontation between the perpetrator and victim and entail the use or threat of violence. By their very nature, violent crimes — murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault — are considered more serious than property crimes. The total number indicates only the number of incidents reported to police and does not reflect the number of criminals who committed them or the number of injuries inflicted.

During the year 1996, violent crimes showed a decrease from the previous year. There were 1,549 reported offenses during 1996 — compared with 1,641 for 1995. This decrease of 92 crimes reported represents a decrease of 5.6%.

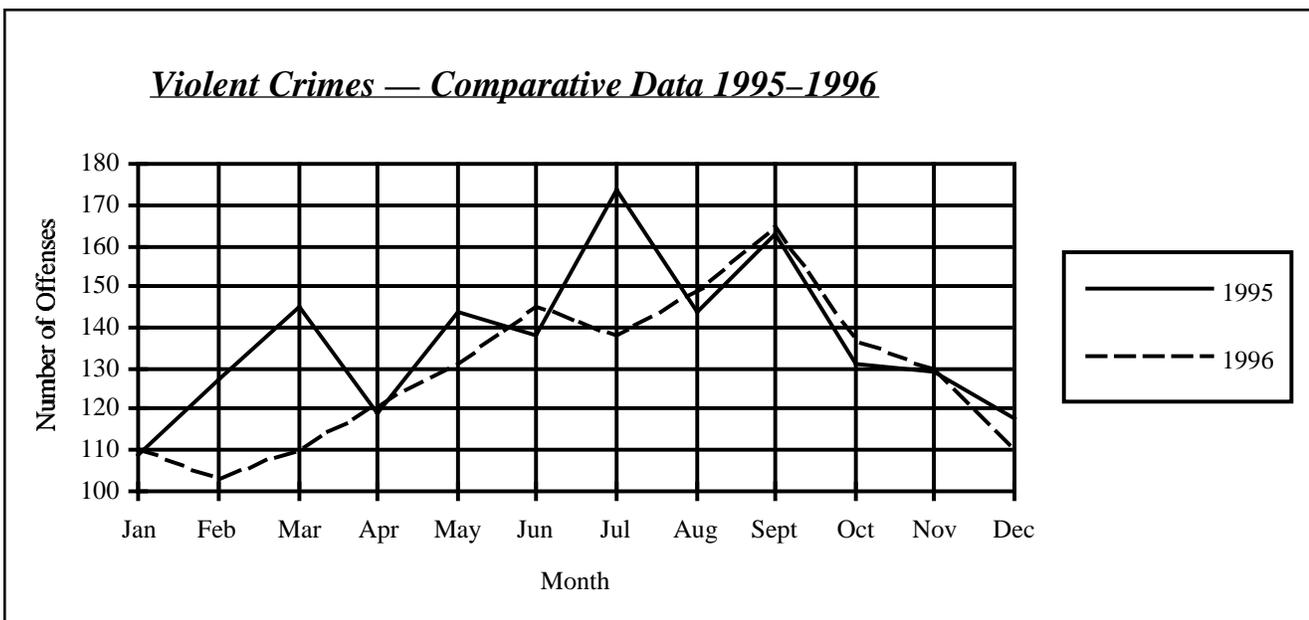
The 1996 crime rate for violent crime is 1.25 offenses per 1,000 population. Violent crimes represent 3.7% of all reported index crimes. Police cleared 979 violent crimes for a 63.2% clearance rate.



Number of Offenses — Comparative Data 1995–1996

	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Totals
1995	21	268	331	1,021	1,641
1996	25	266	288	970	1,549
Number Change	4	-2	-43	-51	-92
Percent Change	19.0%	-0.7%	-13.0%	-5.0%	-5.6%

Violent Crimes — Comparative Data 1995–1996



Violent Crime by County

(State Violent Crime Rate: 1.25)

