

Crime Trend Series

Department of the Attorney General — Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division — www.cjpa.ag.state.hi.us

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25 Years of Uniform Crime Reports in Hawaii 1975-1999

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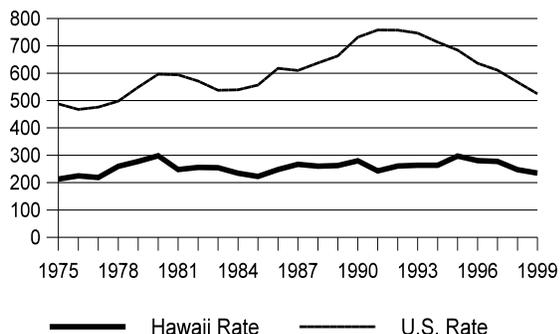
The term *Index Offenses* refers to eight serious crimes that are tracked nationally and in each of the states to provide crime data for the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Index Offenses include four violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), three property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft), and arson (which is reported separately, under somewhat different rules).

Hawaii and U.S. Trends

Statewide UCR reporting in Hawaii marked its 25th year in 1999, providing an excellent opportunity for a retrospective look at crime trends in our state. Table 1 shows the actual numbers of Index Offenses reported over this 25-year period. The first two charts show the trends in violent and property crime rates in comparison to the respective U.S. rates.

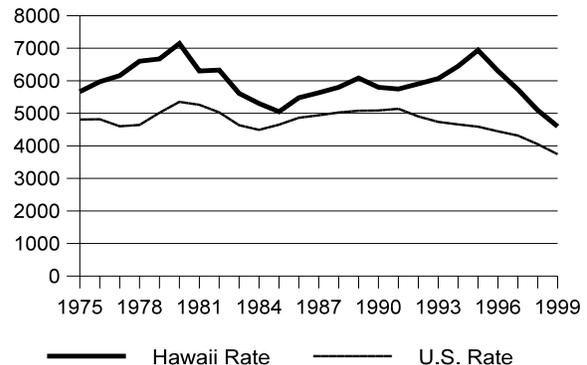
Hawaii's violent crime rate has usually been less than half the U.S. rate. The most recent peak in the Hawaii violent crime rate occurred in 1995, whereas the U.S. rate has been declining since 1991.

Chart 1 Hawaii & U.S. Violent Crime Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



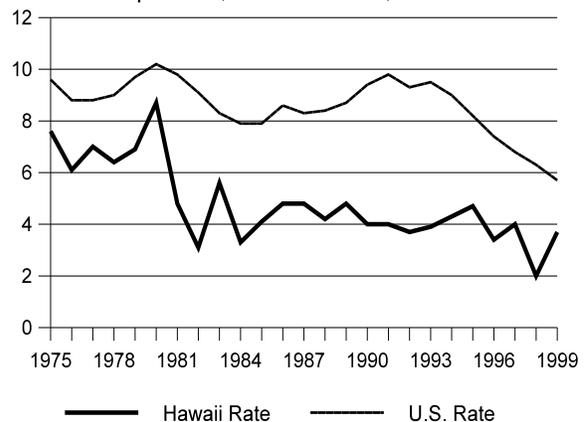
The Hawaii property crime rate has remained higher than the U.S. property crime rate throughout this period, and was 22.9% higher in 1999. As with the violent crime rate, the Hawaii property crime rate has been declining since 1995, and the U.S. property crime rate has been declining since 1991.

Chart 2 Hawaii & U.S. Property Crime Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



To examine violent crimes more closely, Charts 3-6 show the trends for the Hawaii and U.S. murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault rates, respectively.

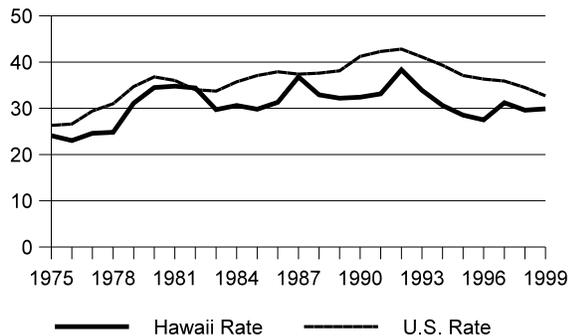
Chart 3 Hawaii & U.S. Murder Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



The Hawaii murder rate has remained near or below 60% of its 1975 value since 1984. In 1998, at the record low point, the murder rate was less than 30% of 1975's rate.

While continuing to change direction in almost every year, the Hawaii murder rate has remained well below the U.S. rate. The U.S. rate has been steadily declining since 1993.

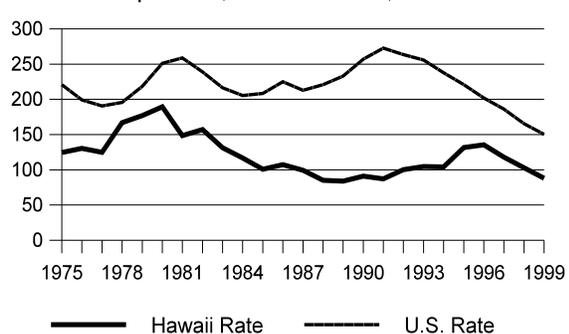
Chart 4 Hawaii & U.S. Forcible Rape Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



Since 1979, the Hawaii forcible rape rate has remained above the levels of the mid-1970's. By 1999, the forcible rape rate had declined to roughly 25% above its 1975 value, following peaks in 1981, 1987, and 1992.

The Hawaii forcible rape rate was below the U.S. rate in all years except 1982. While the national forcible rape rate has been steadily falling since 1992, Hawaii's rate has fluctuated in the past few years.

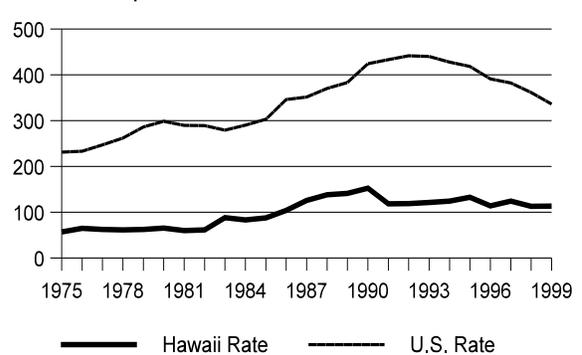
Chart 5 Hawaii & U.S. Robbery Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



The Hawaii robbery rate increased over 50% from 1975 to 1980's record high. The robbery rate then fell through the remainder of the 1980's, reaching a record low in 1989. In the 1990's the robbery rate increased through 1995 and 1996, only to reverse course and approach a record low in 1999.

Hawaii's robbery rate has remained well below the U.S. rate. Hawaii's rate has been falling since 1996, and the national rate has fallen steadily since 1991.

Chart 6 Hawaii & U.S. Aggravated Assault Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999

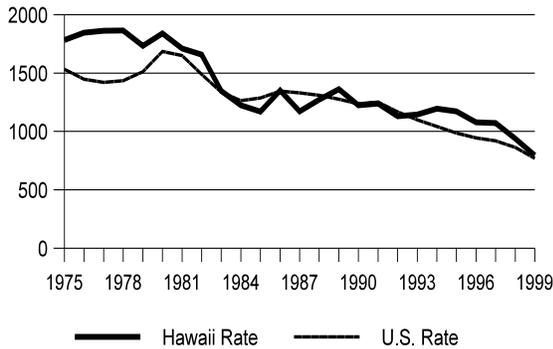


The Hawaii aggravated assault rate remained near its 1975 level through 1982, then increased rapidly to peak at 2.7 times the 1975 level in 1990. Thereafter in the 1990's, the aggravated assault rate remained at roughly twice the 1975 level.

The Hawaii aggravated assault rate has consistently measured less than half of the U.S. rate. In recent years, The Hawaii rate has fluctuated, while the U.S. rate has been decreasing since 1991.

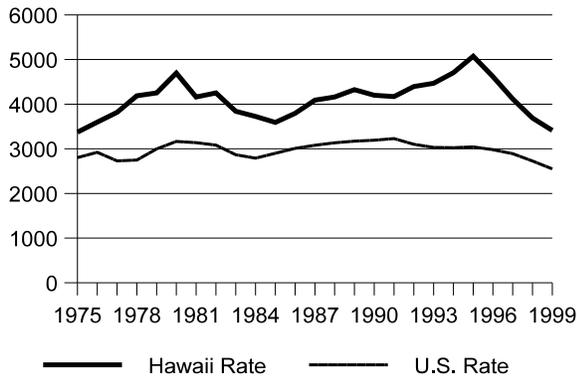
To consider the property offenses more closely, Charts 7-9 show the Hawaii and U.S. trends for burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft rates, respectively. Among Hawaii property crime rates, the burglary rate has decreased the most. The burglary rate posted a major decrease in 1983. From 1983-1997, the rate remained well below 1975's rate. In 1998 and 1999, the burglary rate further declined to less than half of 1975's rate.

Chart 7 Hawaii & U.S. Burglary Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



The Hawaii burglary rate was lower than the national rate in most of the 1984-1992 period. Prior to 1984 and from 1993-1999, Hawaii's rate was higher. The national rate has been falling since 1991, and Hawaii's rate has been declining since 1994.

Chart 8 Hawaii & U.S. Larceny-Theft Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999

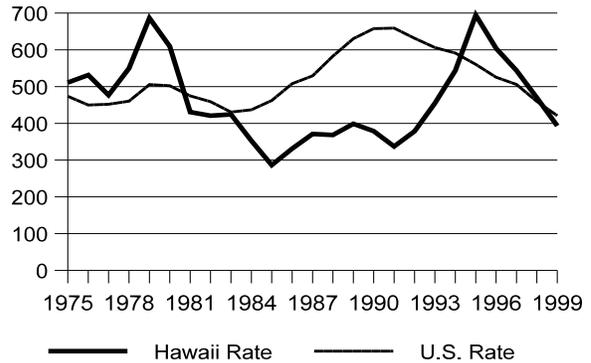


The larceny-theft rate, which accounts for about 70% of Hawaii's total Index Crime rate, had major peaks in 1980 and 1995. The 1995 peak was about 50% above the 1975 rate, but by 1999, the larceny theft rate had fallen almost back to 1975's level.

The Hawaii larceny-theft rate has been consistently higher than the U.S. rate. Both the Hawaii and national rates have been declining since 1995.

Hawaii's motor vehicle theft rate peaked in 1979 and 1995, both times at about 35% above the 1975 rate. By 1999 it had fallen to over 20% below the 1975 rate.

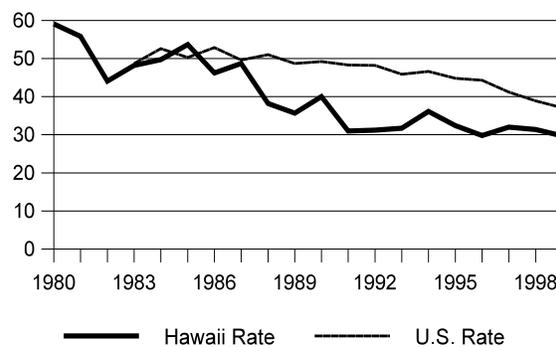
Chart 9 Hawaii & U.S. Motor Vehicle Theft Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1975-1999



Hawaii's motor vehicle theft rate was lower than the national rate in the period 1981-1994 and in 1999. The national rate has been declining since 1991, while Hawaii's rate has been falling since 1995.

Chart 10 shows the trend of the arson rate since the start of arson data collection in 1980.

Chart 10 Hawaii & U.S. Arson Rates per 100,000 Residents, 1980-1999



The Hawaii arson rate descended to about 52% of its 1980 value by 1991, and remained near this level for the remainder of the 1990's.

National arson rates are available only since 1983. In this period, Hawaii's arson rate exceeded the national rate only in 1985. The national arson rate has been declining since 1994, and the Hawaii rate since 1997.

Major decline in crime rates from 1995-1999

In 1995, both violent and property crime rates in Hawaii were at high levels, second only to the record maximums, recorded in 1980. By 1999, the property crime rate had declined 33.7% to set a record low. Violent crimes declined 21.0% in rate from 1995-1999. This placed the 1999 violent crime rate at 6th lowest in the 25 years of data available, above the rates in 1975-1977 and 1984-1985.

Among the individual violent crimes, the murder rate fell from 12th highest in 1995 to 20th highest in 1999, the forcible rape rate rose from 20th highest in 1995 to 16th highest in 1999, the robbery rate fell from 7th in 1995 to 22nd in 1999, and the aggravated assault rate moved down from 4th to 12th in the same period, among the 25-year rankings. For property crimes, the burglary rate fell from 18th to 25th, the larceny-theft rate declined from 1st to 24th, and the motor vehicle theft rate dropped from 1st to 17th. Among the 20 years of arson data that have been collected, 1995's rate placed 13th, and 1999's was 20th.

Summary

With one exception in one year, Hawaii's violent crime rates were below the respective national rates throughout the 25-year period that crime data have been collected statewide. Hawaii's burglary and motor vehicle theft rates have mixed histories in their relationships to the respective national rates, while the larceny-theft rate has consistently exceeded the national rate. Hawaii's arson rate has generally been lower than the U.S. arson rate.

While national crime rates have been steadily declining since as far back as 1991, Hawaii rates have shown more fluctuation. Also, and with marked variation among the types of offenses, Hawaii's crime rates have dramatically fallen since 1995's near record high violent and property rates.

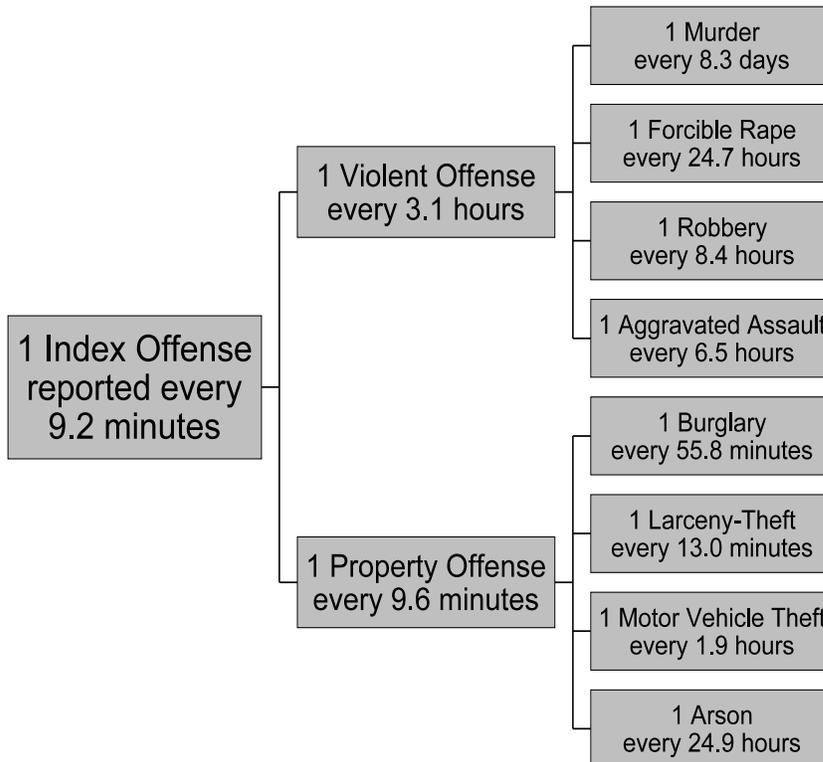
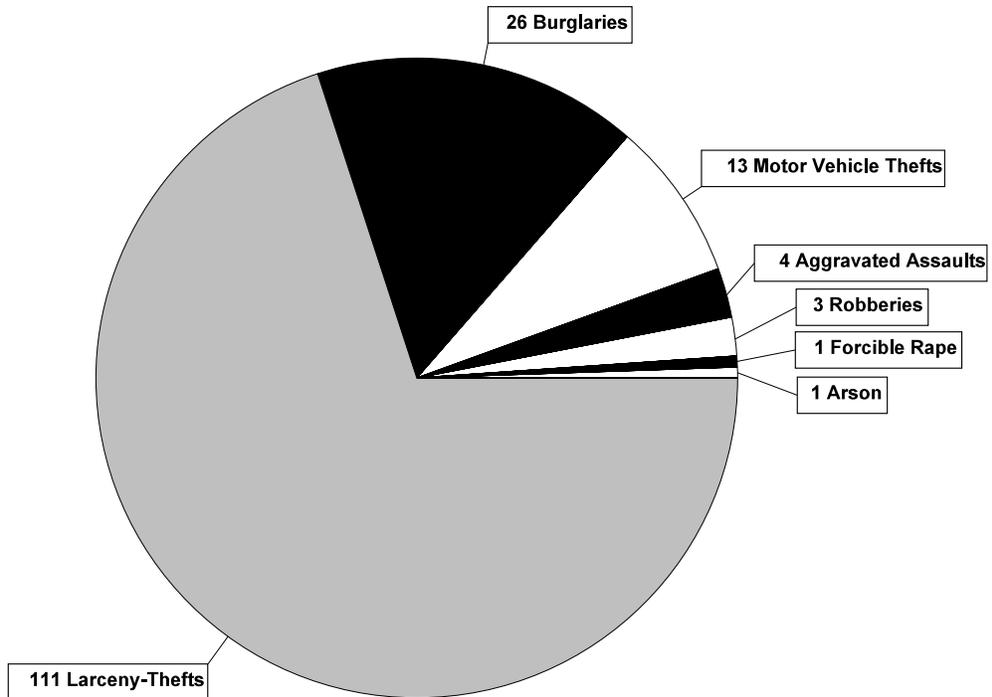
On the next page, a "Crime Clock" shows how frequently Index Offenses were

reported in Hawaii in 1999. Tables 1 and 2 on the following pages show the actual numbers of reported offenses in Hawaii and the U.S., respectively, for each crime category during the 1975-1999 period.

*This report can be downloaded from the
Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance
Division web site at
www.cpja.ag.state.hi.us*

Hawaii Crime Clock

Every 24 hours in Hawaii in 1999...



**Table 1: Reported Index Offenses
State of Hawaii, 1975-1999**

Year	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Population
1999	2,785	54,539	44	354	1,044	1,343	9,421	40,458	4,660	352	1,185,497
1998	2,946	60,677	24	352	1,225	1,345	11,169	43,914	5,594	374	1,190,472
1997	3,299	68,193	47	371	1,403	1,478	12,741	48,984	6,468	380	1,189,322
1996	3,322	74,639	40	326	1,606	1,350	12,781	54,701	7,157	353	1,184,434
1995	3,509	81,938	56	336	1,553	1,564	13,832	59,907	8,199	382	1,180,490
1994	3,091	75,672	50	359	1,221	1,461	14,029	55,260	6,383	424	1,173,903
1993	3,061	70,505	45	394	1,214	1,408	13,310	51,912	5,283	368	1,161,508
1992	2,998	67,901	42	440	1,151	1,365	13,006	50,544	4,351	359	1,149,926
1991	2,744	65,020	45	375	986	1,338	14,011	47,195	3,814	351	1,131,412
1990	3,113	64,563	44	360	1,013	1,696	13,611	46,735	4,217	445	1,112,703
1989	2,872	66,628	53	353	919	1,547	14,908	47,354	4,366	391	1,094,600
1988	2,811	62,650	45	355	919	1,492	13,726	44,946	3,978	413	1,079,800
1987	2,850	60,157	51	393	1,061	1,345	12,515	43,678	3,964	520	1,067,900
1986	2,604	57,626	51	329	1,129	1,095	14,218	39,922	3,486	486	1,051,800
1985	2,313	52,501	43	310	1,048	912	12,164	37,357	2,980	558	1,039,700
1984	2,408	54,505	34	315	1,202	857	12,588	38,292	3,625	511	1,027,900
1983	2,579	56,853	57	301	1,330	891	13,636	38,920	4,297	488	1,012,700
1982	2,542	62,906	31	342	1,560	609	16,477	42,248	4,181	438	993,800
1981	2,424	61,636	47	340	1,453	584	16,726	40,699	4,211	546	978,200
1980	2,887	69,215	84	334	1,835	634	17,811	45,501	5,903	572	968,500
1979	2,647	63,598	66	296	1,688	597	16,522	40,534	6,542	N/A	953,300
1978	2,419	61,515	60	231	1,556	572	17,369	39,027	5,119	N/A	931,600
1977	2,009	56,540	64	226	1,146	573	17,100	35,062	4,378	N/A	918,300
1976	2,031	54,008	55	208	1,180	588	16,682	32,521	4,805	N/A	904,200
1975	1,889	50,210	67	214	1,104	504	15,797	29,884	4,529	N/A	886,200

Notes: The Property Crime total excludes arson offenses.
N/A - not available.

**Table 2: Reported Index Offenses
United States, 1975-1999**

Year	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Population
1999	1,430,690	10,204,500	15,530	89,110	409,670	916,380	2,099,700	6,957,400	1,147,300	272,691,000
1998	1,533,890	10,951,800	16,970	93,140	447,190	976,580	2,332,700	7,376,300	1,242,800	270,296,000
1997	1,636,100	11,558,500	18,210	96,150	498,530	1,023,200	2,460,500	7,743,800	1,354,200	267,637,000
1996	1,688,540	11,805,300	19,650	96,250	535,590	1,037,050	2,506,400	7,904,700	1,394,200	265,284,000
1995	1,798,790	12,063,900	21,610	97,470	580,510	1,099,210	2,593,800	7,997,700	1,472,400	262,755,000
1994	1,857,670	12,131,900	23,330	102,220	618,950	1,113,180	2,712,800	7,879,800	1,539,300	260,341,000
1993	1,926,020	12,218,800	24,530	106,010	659,870	1,135,610	2,834,800	7,820,900	1,563,100	257,908,000
1992	1,932,270	12,505,900	23,760	109,060	672,480	1,126,970	2,979,900	7,915,200	1,610,800	255,082,000
1991	1,911,770	12,961,100	24,700	106,590	687,730	1,092,740	3,157,200	8,142,200	1,661,700	252,177,000
1990	1,820,130	12,655,500	23,440	102,560	639,270	1,054,860	3,073,900	7,945,700	1,635,900	248,709,873
1989	1,646,040	12,605,400	21,500	94,500	578,330	951,710	3,168,200	7,872,400	1,564,800	248,239,000
1988	1,566,220	12,356,900	20,680	92,490	542,970	910,090	3,218,100	7,705,900	1,432,900	245,807,000
1987	1,484,000	12,024,700	20,100	91,100	517,700	855,090	3,236,200	7,499,900	1,288,700	243,400,000
1986	1,489,170	11,722,700	20,610	91,460	542,780	834,320	3,241,400	7,257,200	1,224,100	241,077,000
1985	1,328,770	11,102,600	18,980	88,670	497,870	723,250	3,073,300	6,926,400	1,102,900	238,740,000
1984	1,273,280	10,608,500	18,690	84,230	485,010	685,350	2,984,400	6,591,900	1,032,200	236,158,000
1983	1,258,090	10,850,500	19,310	78,920	506,570	653,290	3,129,900	6,712,800	1,007,900	233,981,000
1982	1,322,390	11,652,000	21,010	78,770	553,130	669,480	3,447,100	7,142,500	1,062,400	231,534,000
1981	1,361,820	12,061,900	22,520	82,500	592,910	663,900	3,779,700	7,194,400	1,087,800	229,146,000
1980	1,344,520	12,063,700	23,040	82,990	565,840	672,650	3,795,200	7,136,900	1,131,700	225,349,264
1979	1,208,030	11,041,500	21,460	76,390	480,700	629,480	3,327,700	6,601,000	1,112,800	220,099,000
1978	1,085,550	10,123,400	19,560	67,610	426,930	571,460	3,128,300	5,991,000	1,004,100	218,059,000
1977	1,029,580	9,955,000	19,120	63,500	412,610	534,350	3,071,500	5,905,700	977,700	216,332,000
1976	1,004,210	10,345,500	18,780	57,080	427,810	500,530	3,108,700	6,270,800	966,000	214,659,000
1975	1,039,710	10,252,700	20,510	56,090	470,500	492,620	3,265,300	5,977,700	1,009,600	213,124,000

Note: sufficient U.S. arson data are not available to estimate totals.

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