Washington Association of
SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS

Crime in Washington 2021

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The report

-This is the 42nd annual publication of the Washington Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program report of criminal offenses, arrests, law enforcement officers killed or assaulted, and full-time law enforcement employees.

-Funding for the Washington State UCR Program is provided through contract with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) and administration of the program is the responsibility of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Criminal Justice Information Support (CJIS) Department.

-Details regarding the data are found on page 1.

What is in the report?

- Statewide crime information
- Crime data by agencies
- Staffing data for agencies
- All full reports dating back to 1980 are on the website
- This information goes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their “Crime in the U.S.” annual report published in the fall, and also into their searchable databases
- It is intended to provide information about what is going on in each community and for overall trends

Overall- 2021

Violent crime up 12.3%, with murders up 5.9%, robberies up 10%, and aggravated assault up 15.4%

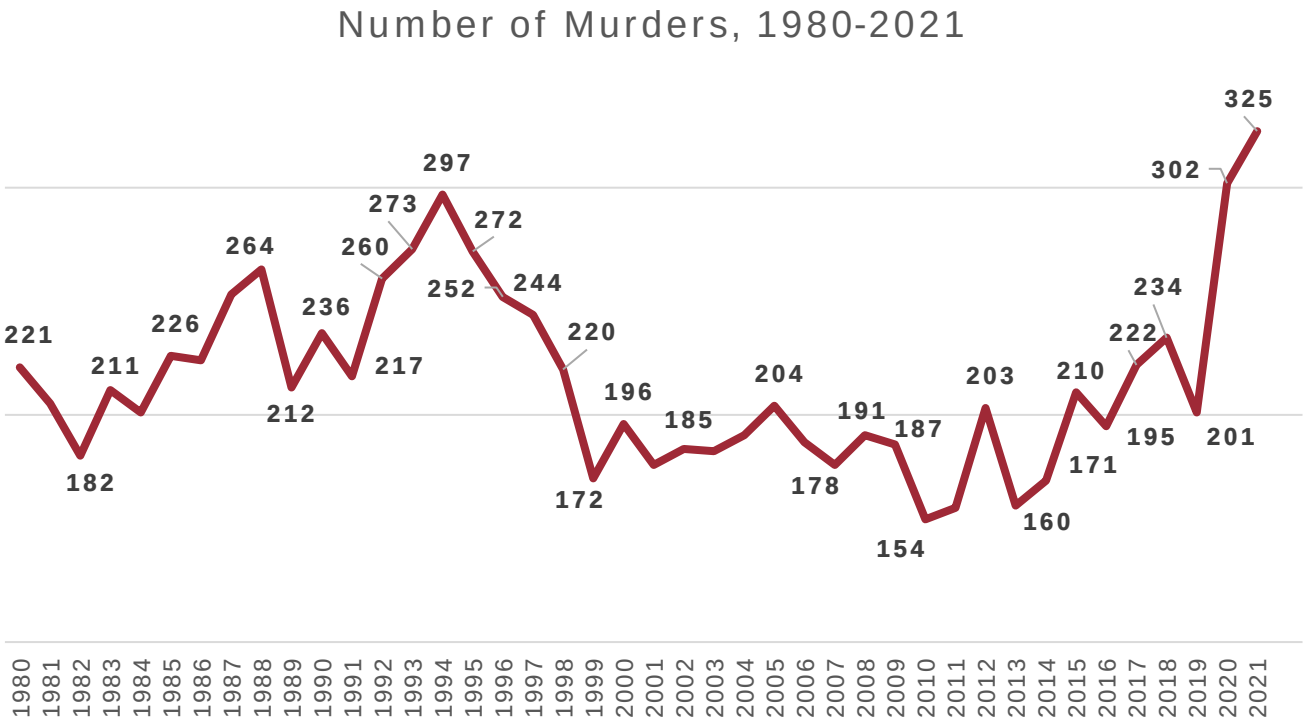
Total crime statistically down, due to 78.8% decreases in identity theft/fraud (unemployment cases from state unemployment pandemic claims in 2020), and 60.9% decreases in drug offenses (due to Blake decision changes), with a 73.6% drop in drug arrests.

Hate crimes up 26.5%, to 592 incidents

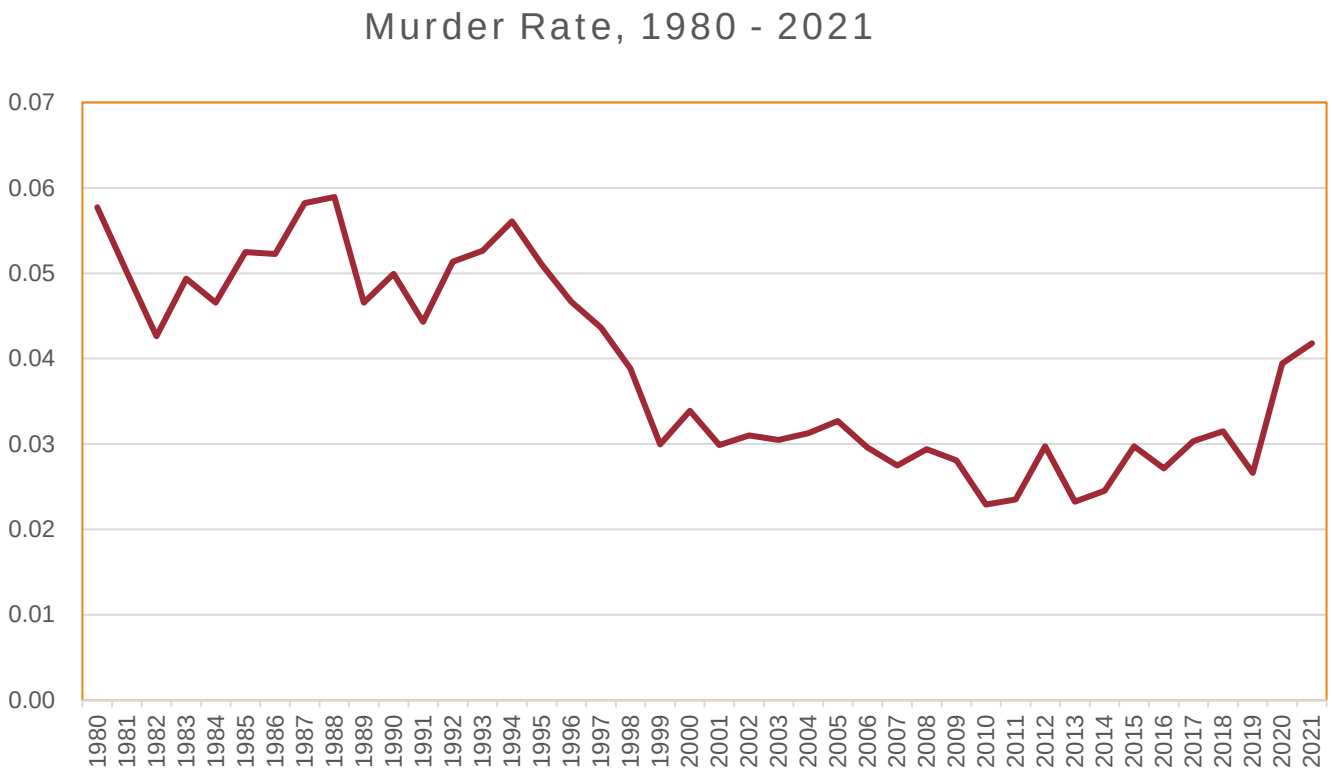
Vehicle theft up 27.3%, vehicle parts theft up 100.0%

Commissioned officer staffing down 4.4% (495 net loss statewide) and per capita staffing down to 1.38 per thousand, the lowest on record

Murders- 1980-2021



Murder Rate- incidents per thousand since 1980



Hate Crimes Pg. 71

- 592 incidents of Hate Crimes in 2021, a **26.5% increase**
- Definition: A *criminal offense* committed against a person or property which is motivated in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race/national origin, religion, sexual orientation, mental/physical/sensory disability, gender or ethnicity.
- Report has bias motivation info and incidents by jurisdiction.
- <u>Most frequent</u>:
  - Intimidation 273, Destruction of Property 164,

    Simple Assault 146, Aggravated Assault 91

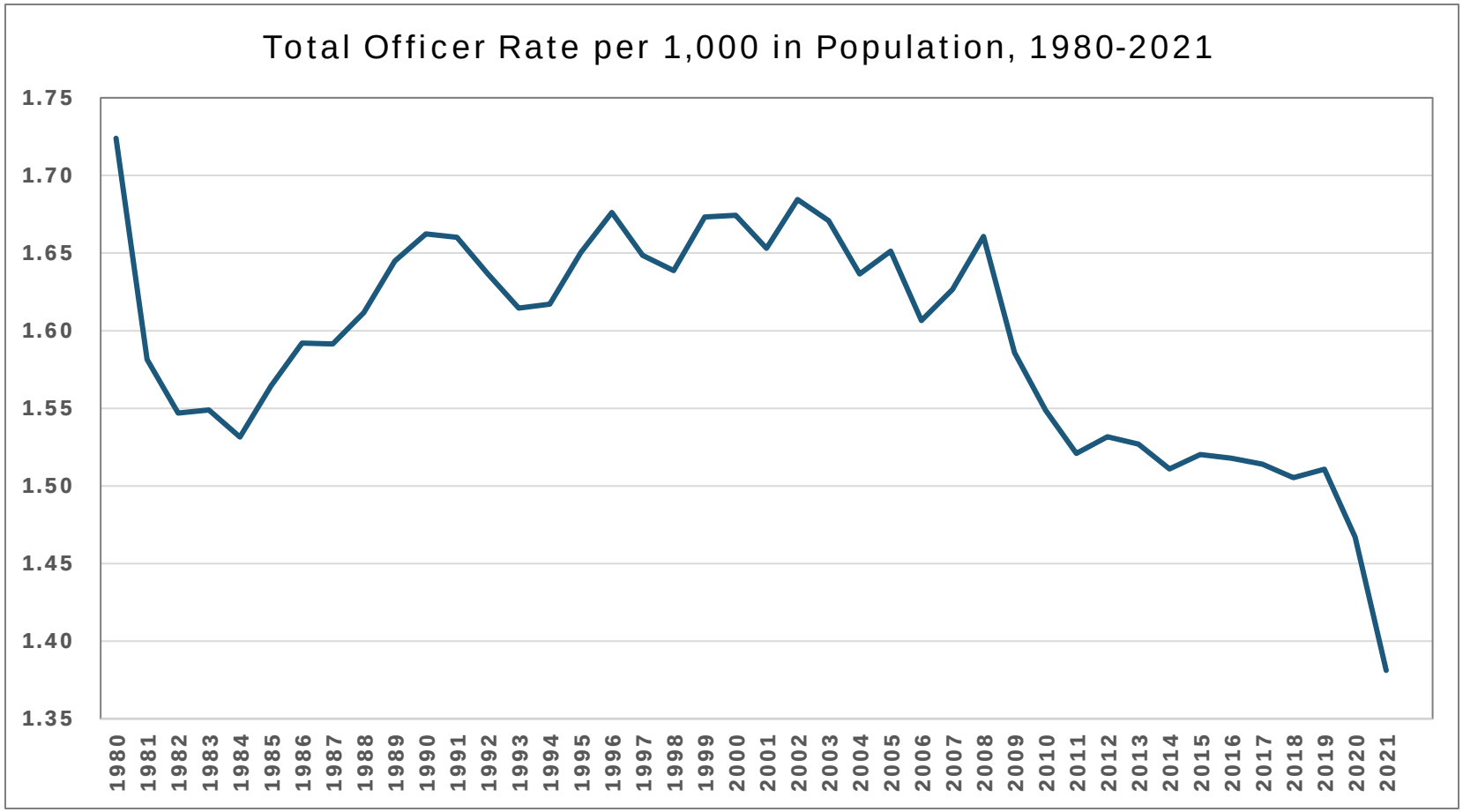
Identity Theft/Fraud and Drugs

- Identity Theft dropped from 36,358 in 2020 to 7,704 in 2021, a 78.8% reduction (CIW page 42)
- Drug and Narcotics Violations dropped from 15,917 in 2020 to 6,216 in 2021, a 60.9% reduction (CIW page 51)
- Reductions in crime data overall are significantly related to these two factors (2020 Pandemic fraud to state and Blake decision)

Population and Law Enforcement Staffing

- WA State population rose 116,440 residents from 2020, to 7,772,506 (WA Ofc of Financial Mgmt)
- The number of WA State law enforcement commissioned officers fell from 11,231 in 2020 to 10,736 in 2021, a decrease of 4.4% (page 551)
- The per capita rate of law enforcement officers fell to 1.38 per thousand statewide, with a 495 net loss
- Lowest per capita rate we have recorded
- FBI data: 2021 national average per capita rate of 2.33

Officers per capita 1980-2021(total sworn)



Violent Crime/Staffing

- Number of murders is at an all-time high (325)
- Rate of murders was higher in 1994 (with population increases)
- Officers per capita much lower than in 1994 (1.62 vs 1.38)
- In 1994 WA State had a per capita rate of 1.62. At that rate with current population there would be 12,591 sworn officers (1,855 more than current staffing)
- If WA State had the national average of 2.33 per capita, the state would have 18,109 sworn officers (7,373 more than current staffing)

Crime and Staffing

- Reduced staffing means:
  - **Less ability to provide justice for victims**
  - More “reactive” response, and less follow up and investigation
  - Fewer people to properly de-escalate when possible and ensure a scene is safe
  - Fewer resources to provide behavioral health assistance
  - Slower response times
  - Corrections and communications also impacted
  - Greater frustration and “burn out”; officers want to serve victims and provide justice = more officers leaving, making the problem worse
  - Many agencies “treading water”

Questions?

Thank you

WASPC.org

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