

## **ABSTRACT**

### **A SUMMARY OF CRIME STATISTICS IN OHIO 1960-1997**

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This report finds that the incidence of crime in Ohio increased dramatically between 1960 and 1970 (182%), and it continued to increase during the 1970s by an additional 131%.<sup>1</sup> Between 1980 and 1990, there was a 27% decline in crime; and since 1990, through 1997, there has been an additional 4% decrease. Ohio's neighboring states shared a similar pattern through the decades since 1960 through 1997.

Of the violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), the highest number of murders in the state was 952 in 1974, the highest number of forcible rapes was 5,748 in 1991, robbery was 24,082 in 1980, and the greatest incidence of aggravated assaults, 31,393, was in 1991.

Of the eight larger cities (first tier), all except Columbus experienced a decline in population, while at the same time crime was increasing. Columbus experienced an increase in crime during this time period (1960-1997), but their population continued to increase.

In the time period of 1987 through 1997, the eight larger cities (Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown) have shown a break-even pattern of crime, with declines in murder, forcible rape, burglary, and larceny-theft. The smaller cities, in that same time frame, have shown increase in all categories but one, murder, which remained the same.

There are many extenuating and interrelated factors that have influenced the rise in crime, including the decline of heavy industry and loss of jobs in the inner cities, the subsequent loss of tax base to support education and services, loss of the middle class to the suburbs, family instability, teen-age pregnancies, the rapid increase in the use of illegal drugs, and others.

The drop in crime in the 1990s that has occurred in Ohio's larger cities may partially be explained by a strong economy, more jail and prison capacity, and more police officers on the streets. However, the crime rate in Ohio is unacceptably high, and continues to drain public coffers, and results in personal suffering and community deterioration.

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<sup>1</sup> FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Index, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1997 for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and vehicle theft.