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Delaware Major Crimes, Unofficial Reporting, 2005 Thru 2010

This report presents a summary of unofficial major crime reporting from calendar year 2005 through the end of 2010. While this analysis might be helpful, it is not intended to supplant, nor should it be directly compared to, the state's official crime reporting. Official data are derived from the State Bureau of Identification's implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which naturally takes more time to yield results due to its comprehensive scope. This supplemental report was designed to focus on a limited set of crimes and provide emerging trends with a relatively quick turnaround. The major crimes listed below were selected for this analysis because of their significant risk to public safety and their potential impact on criminal justice system resources. With the exception of Homicide, counts in the listed groups include attempts.

Types of Reported Crimes Included in the Report

Homicide: Title 11, §§ 631 thru 636 (Criminally negligent homicide, Manslaughter, Murder by abuse or neglect 2nd and 1st, and Murder 2nd and 1st, res.), excluding unintentional vehicular homicide (Attempted murder is included in Felony Assault)

Felony Sex Crimes: Title 11, §§ 768 thru 773, 776 and 778 (Unlawful Sexual Contact 2nd and 1st, Rape 4th thru 1st, Sexual Extortion, and Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child, res.)

Robbery: Title 11, §§ 831, 832, 835 and 836 (Robbery 2nd and 1st, and Carjacking 2nd and 1st, res.)

Felony Assault: Title 11, §§ 612 and 613 (Assault 2nd and 1st, res.), and Attempted Murder

Burglary: Title 11, §§ 824 thru 826 (Burglary 3rd thru 1st, res.)

Drug Dealing: Title 16, §§ 4751, 4752, and 4752A (Possession with intent to deliver controlled and non-controlled substances) and 4753A (Drug trafficking)

Recent Major Crime Trends

Table 1 shows annual reported major crime counts (unofficial) for calendar years 2005 through 2010. Data are displayed for statewide totals and breakouts by county, with the city of Wilmington and the rest of New Castle County shown separately. Wilmington is shown separately due to its particularly high contribution to crimes overall. About 16% of New Castle County's population is in the City of Wilmington, but the city accounted for about 35% of the county's total reported major crimes in 2010. Wilmington's counts were higher than Kent County's in every year covered and higher than Sussex County's in three of the six years.

Table 1. Reported major crimes, 2005 to 2010, unofficial counts

Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change, 2005 to 2010
Statewide	11,945	13,030	13,039	13,431	13,104	13,721	+14.9%
NCC w/o Wilm.	5,224	5,250	5,113	5,455	5,022	5,341	+2.2%
Wilmington	2,646	3,040	3,037	2,721	2,510	2,928	+10.7%
Kent County	1,716	1,956	2,017	2,283	2,465	2,156	+25.6%
Sussex County	2,359	2,784	2,872	2,972	3,107	3,296	+39.7%

In Figure 1, regional major crime and population proportions are compared. Regional shares of statewide totals were calculated for each year from 2005 to 2010 and the yearly percentages were averaged for the comparison. Population proportions are averages of Delaware Population Consortium estimates (October, 2009) for the same years.

Figure 1. Unofficial major crime versus state population proportions, 2005 to 2010

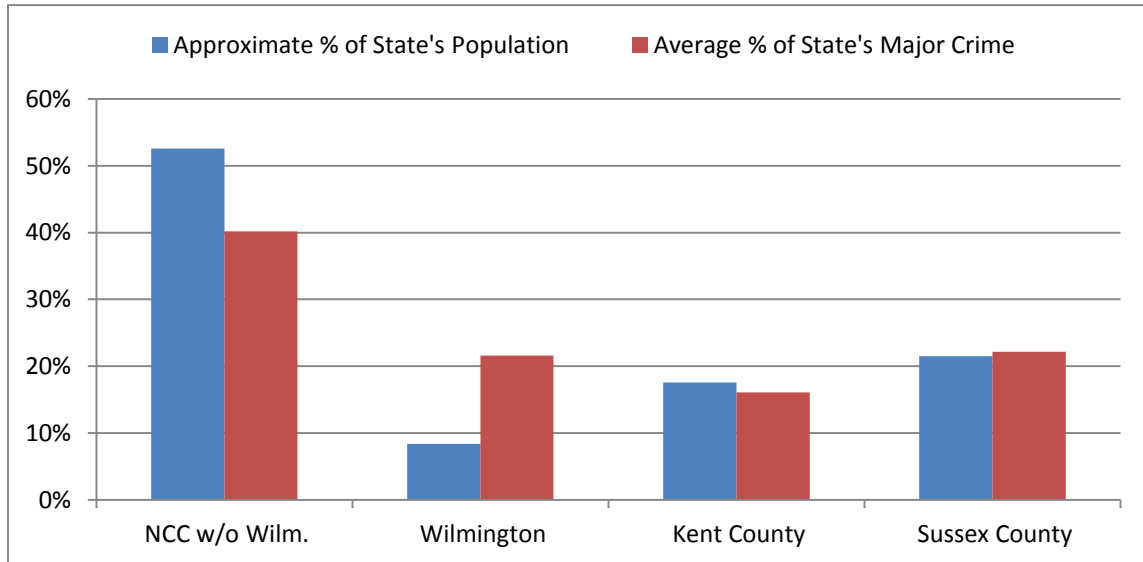
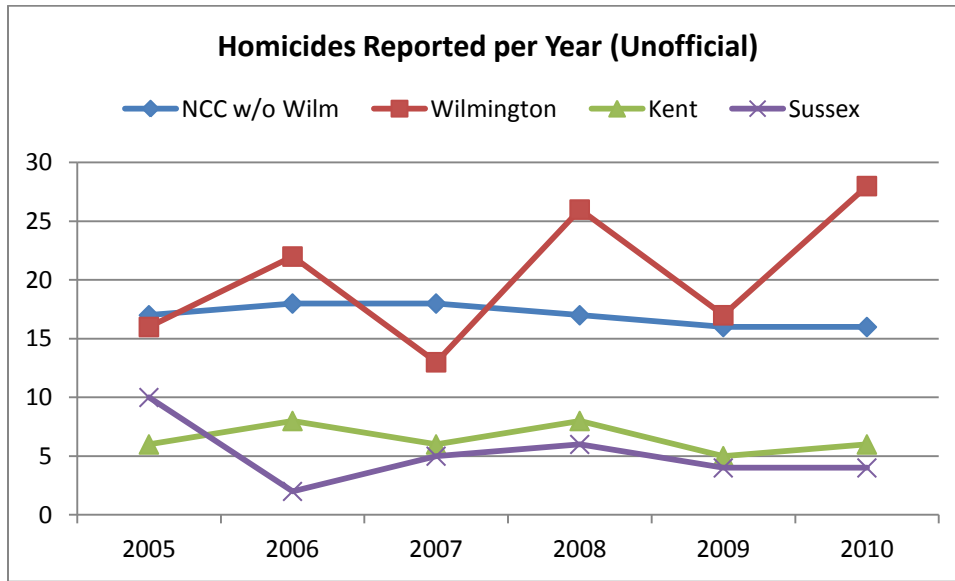
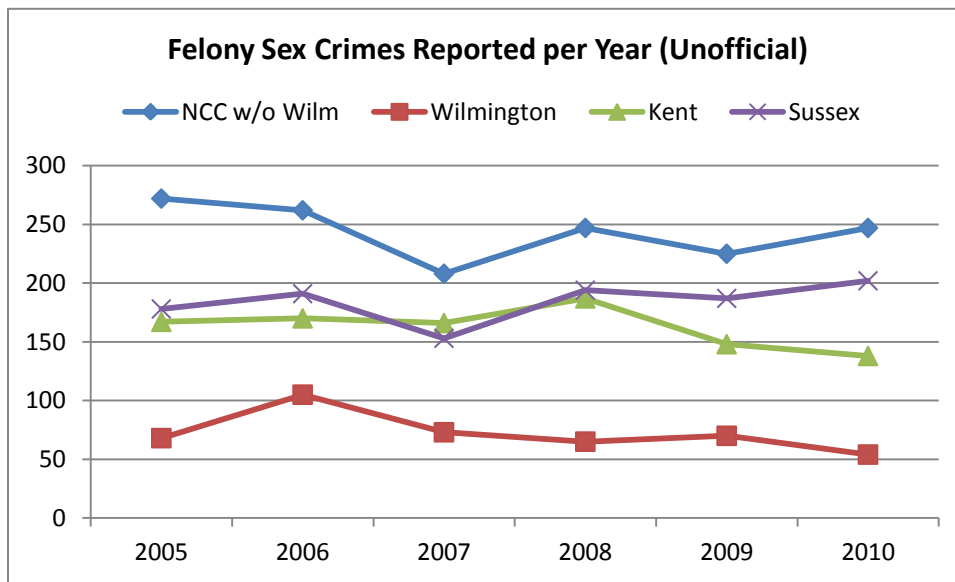


Figure 2, on the following pages, shows annual counts by region for each subgroup of major crimes tracked in this project. Close attention should be given to the different vertical axis scales in each chart, as there are large variations between crime types.

Figure 2. Yearly major crimes by type and region, 2005 to 2010

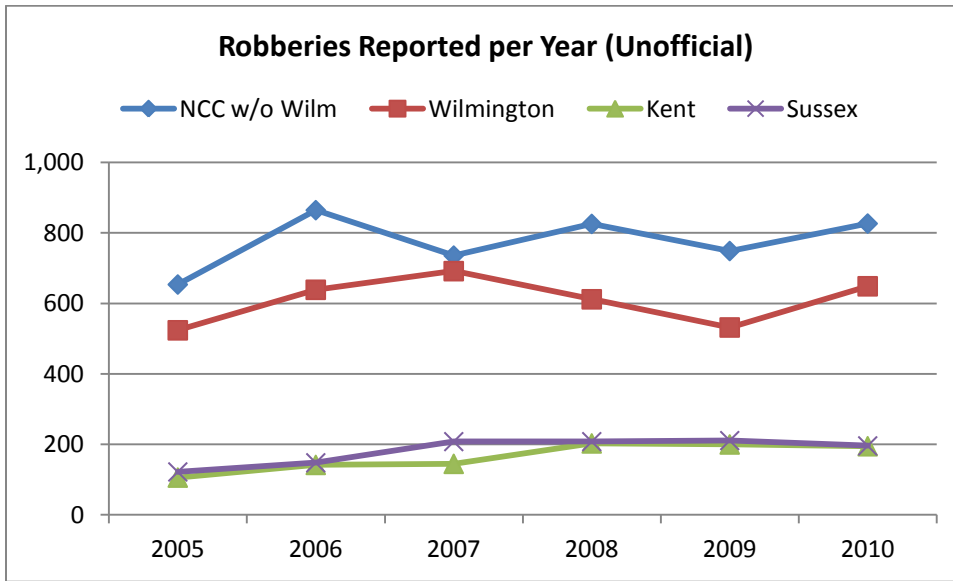


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Homicide						
NCC w/o Wilm	17	18	18	17	16	16
Wilmington	16	22	13	26	17	28
Kent	6	8	6	8	5	6
Sussex	10	2	5	6	4	4

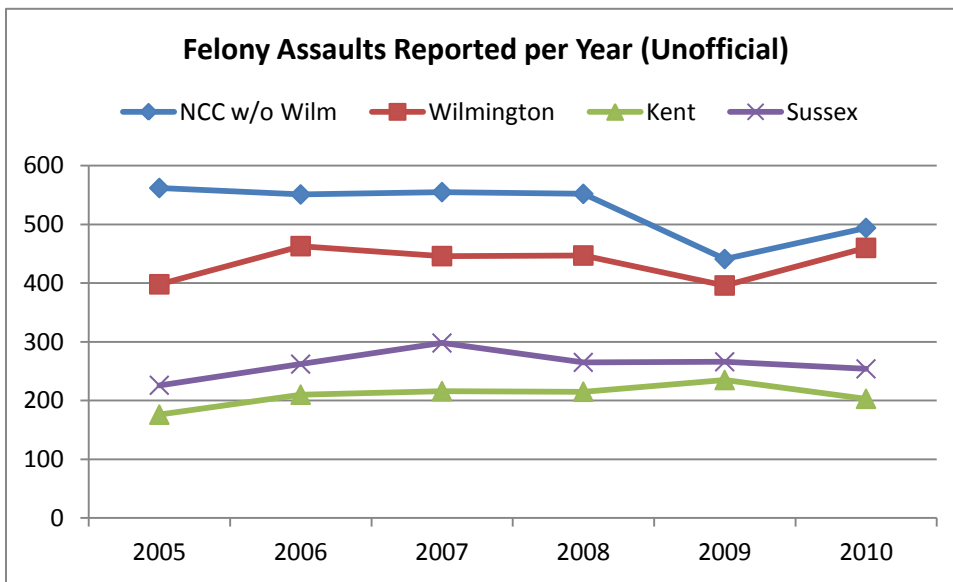


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Felony Sex						
NCC w/o Wilm	272	262	208	247	225	247
Wilmington	68	105	73	65	70	54
Kent	167	170	166	187	148	138
Sussex	178	191	153	194	187	202

Figure 2. Yearly major crimes by type and region, 2005 to 2010 (continued)

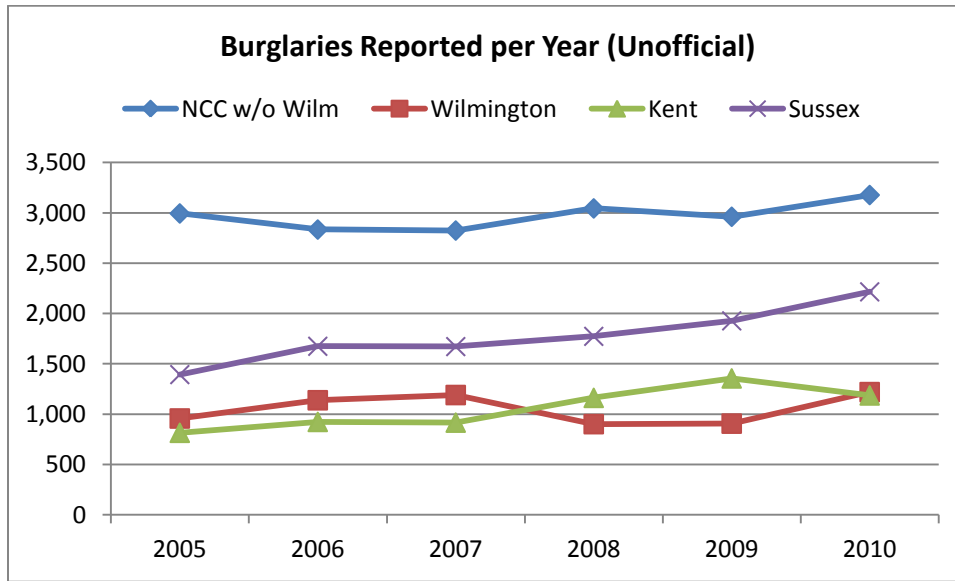


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Robbery						
NCC w/o Wilm	654	865	736	826	749	827
Wilmington	524	639	692	612	532	649
Kent	106	142	145	203	200	195
Sussex	122	148	208	208	211	196

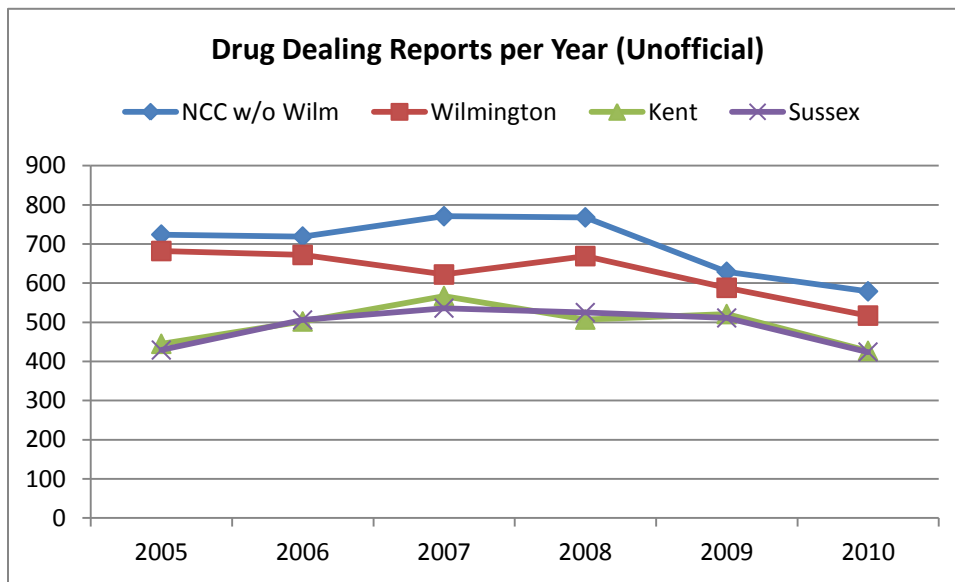


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Felony Assault						
NCC w/o Wilm	562	551	555	552	441	494
Wilmington	398	463	446	447	396	460
Kent	176	210	216	215	235	203
Sussex	226	262	298	265	266	254

Figure 2. Yearly major crimes by type and region, 2005 to 2010 (continued)



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Burglary						
NCC w/o Wilm	2,995	2,835	2,825	3,045	2,962	3,178
Wilmington	958	1,139	1,191	902	907	1,220
Kent	816	924	917	1,163	1,356	1,187
Sussex	1,394	1,675	1,672	1,774	1,928	2,216



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Drug Dealing						
NCC w/o Wilm	724	719	771	768	629	579
Wilmington	682	672	622	669	588	517
Kent	445	502	567	507	521	427
Sussex	429	506	536	525	511	424

Table 2 shows, by year and region, the percentage of total unofficial major crimes represented by each crime group. For example, in 2010 homicides were 0.4% of the statewide major crime total, while burglaries accounted for 56.9% of that total.

Table 2. Percentage of regional unofficial major crimes represented by each crime group

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Homicide	Statewide	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
	NCC w/o Wilm	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
	Wilmington	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%
	Kent	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%
	Sussex	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Felony Sex	Statewide	5.7%	5.6%	4.6%	5.2%	4.8%	4.7%
	NCC w/o Wilm	5.2%	5.0%	4.1%	4.5%	4.5%	4.6%
	Wilmington	2.6%	3.5%	2.4%	2.4%	2.8%	1.8%
	Kent	9.7%	8.7%	8.2%	8.2%	6.0%	6.4%
	Sussex	7.5%	6.9%	5.3%	6.5%	6.0%	6.1%
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Robbery	Statewide	11.8%	13.8%	13.7%	13.8%	12.9%	13.6%
	NCC w/o Wilm	12.5%	16.5%	14.4%	15.1%	14.9%	15.5%
	Wilmington	19.8%	21.0%	22.8%	22.5%	21.2%	22.2%
	Kent	6.2%	7.3%	7.2%	8.9%	8.1%	9.0%
	Sussex	5.2%	5.3%	7.2%	7.0%	6.8%	5.9%
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Felony Assault	Statewide	11.4%	11.4%	11.6%	11.0%	10.2%	10.3%
	NCC w/o Wilm	10.8%	10.5%	10.9%	10.1%	8.8%	9.2%
	Wilmington	15.0%	15.2%	14.7%	16.4%	15.8%	15.7%
	Kent	10.3%	10.7%	10.7%	9.4%	9.5%	9.4%
	Sussex	9.6%	9.4%	10.4%	8.9%	8.6%	7.7%
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Burglary	Statewide	51.6%	50.4%	50.7%	51.3%	54.6%	56.9%
	NCC w/o Wilm	57.3%	54.0%	55.3%	55.8%	59.0%	59.5%
	Wilmington	36.2%	37.5%	39.2%	33.1%	36.1%	41.7%
	Kent	47.6%	47.2%	45.5%	50.9%	55.0%	55.1%
	Sussex	59.1%	60.2%	58.2%	59.7%	62.1%	67.2%
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Drug Dealing	Statewide	19.1%	18.4%	19.1%	18.4%	17.2%	14.2%
	NCC w/o Wilm	13.9%	13.7%	15.1%	14.1%	12.5%	10.8%
	Wilmington	25.8%	22.1%	20.5%	24.6%	23.4%	17.7%
	Kent	25.9%	25.7%	28.1%	22.2%	21.1%	19.8%
	Sussex	18.2%	18.2%	18.7%	17.7%	16.4%	12.9%

As indicated above, burglary accounts for more than half of the crimes tracked in this series. Violent crimes against persons account for about 30% of the total.

Statewide Major Crime Group Trends

Figures and Tables 3 through 8 on the following pages show unofficial statewide report counts within each major crime group. Tabular data show monthly counts, but quarterly counts are shown graphically to smooth monthly fluctuations. Simple linear regression was used to include a trend line on the quarterly graphs. Caution is urged in using those trends for extrapolation, as some series are quite unstable. For example, repeating the 2009 data for 2011 in the Homicide series would change its trend slope from slightly positive to slightly negative.

Homicide

Figure 3. Quarterly statewide homicides, unofficial

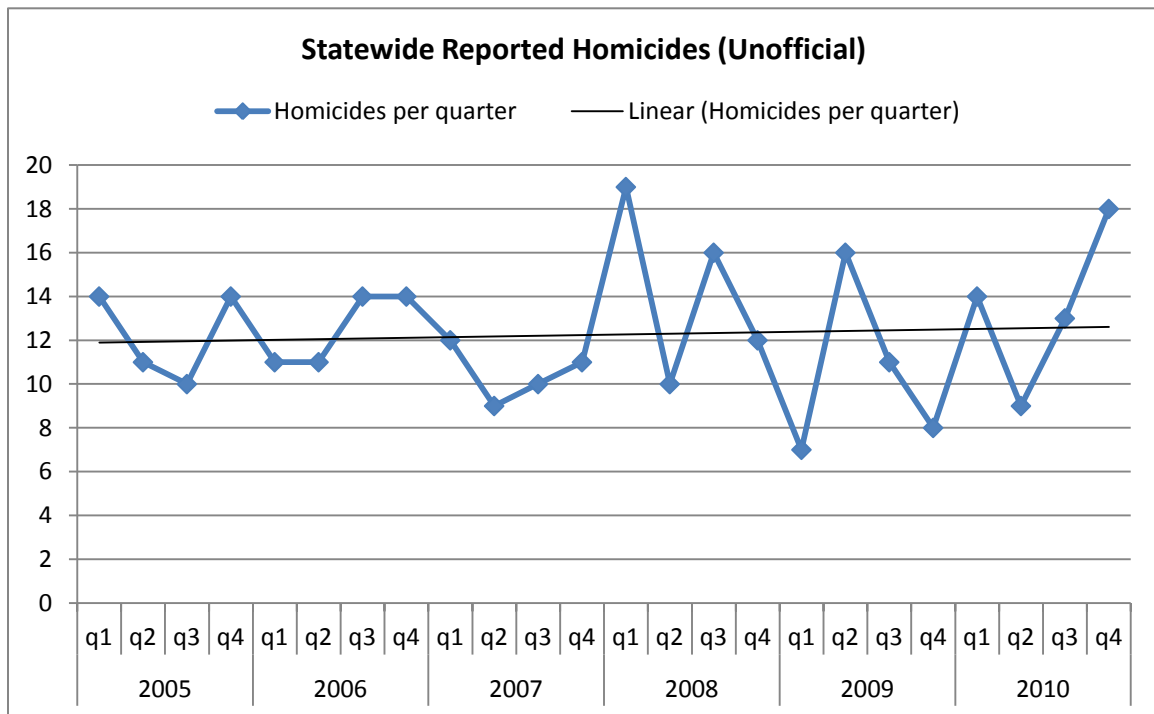


Table 3. Monthly statewide homicides, unofficial

	Statewide Reported Homicides (Unofficial)												Annual
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2005	2	6	6	4	6	1	2	5	3	3	7	4	49
2006	2	4	5	6	1	4	9	1	4	5	5	4	50
2007	4	5	3	4	1	4	2	3	5	5	2	4	42
2008	8	8	3	5	3	2	6	5	5	5	2	5	57
2009	4	1	2	3	5	8	4	4	3	3	3	2	42
2010	3	8	3	2	5	2	2	5	6	10	3	5	54

Felony Sex Crimes

Figure 4. Quarterly statewide felony sex crimes, unofficial

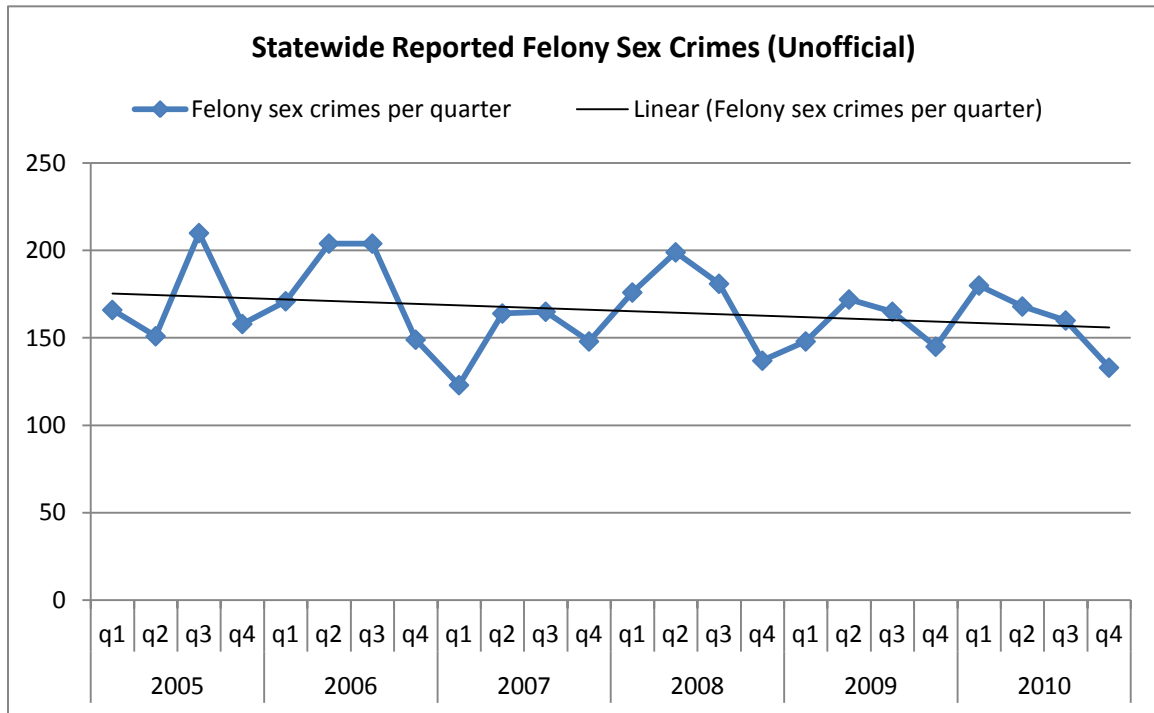


Table 4. Monthly statewide felony sex crimes, unofficial

	Statewide Reported Felony Sex Crimes (Unofficial)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2005	59	48	59	39	49	63	64	67	79	51	59	48	685
2006	56	52	63	77	61	66	65	72	67	59	50	40	728
2007	38	33	52	46	53	65	70	53	42	62	48	38	600
2008	62	48	66	64	69	66	51	74	56	56	40	41	693
2009	58	43	47	63	49	60	63	57	45	37	44	64	630
2010	76	46	58	58	59	51	57	53	50	48	47	38	641

Robbery

Figure 5. Quarterly statewide robbery reports, unofficial

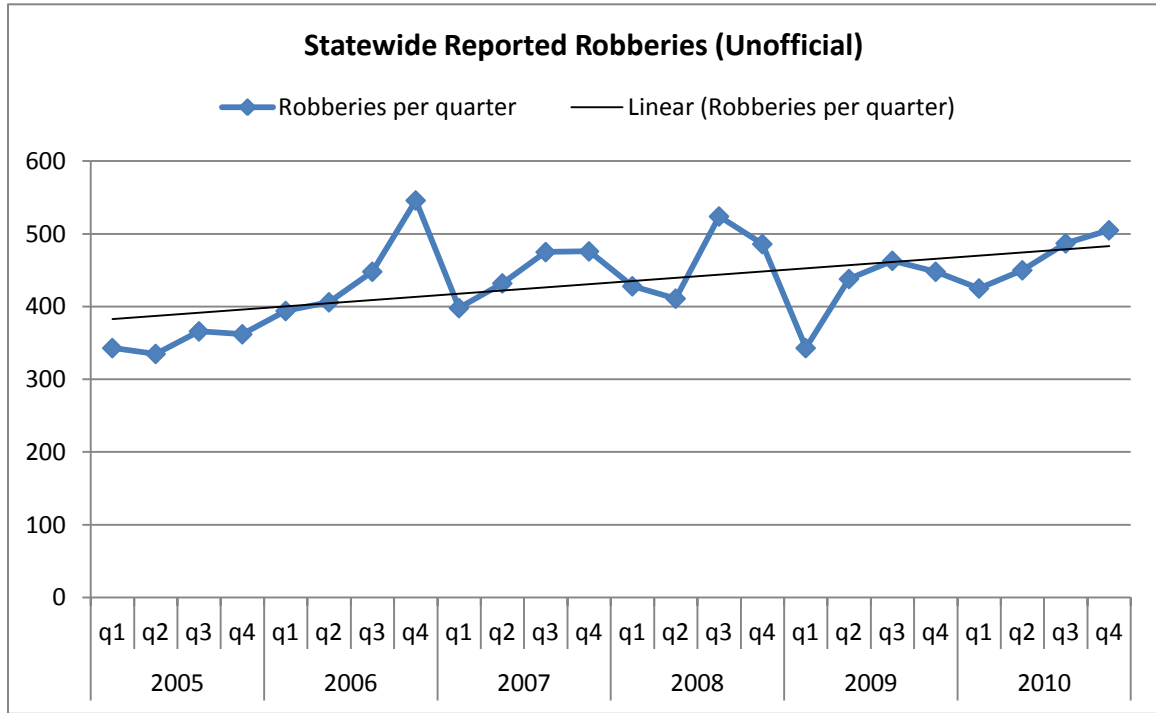


Table 5. Monthly statewide robbery reports, unofficial

	Statewide Reported Robberies (Unofficial)												Annual
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2005	138	102	103	101	107	127	133	112	121	136	113	113	1,406
2006	147	98	149	143	122	141	138	158	152	184	195	167	1,794
2007	152	113	133	147	129	156	145	175	155	183	157	136	1,781
2008	164	122	142	163	109	139	152	167	205	190	153	143	1,849
2009	145	89	109	143	138	157	178	158	127	170	160	118	1,692
2010	153	105	167	125	151	174	189	146	152	178	179	148	1,867

Felony Assault

Figure 6. Quarterly statewide felony assault reports, unofficial

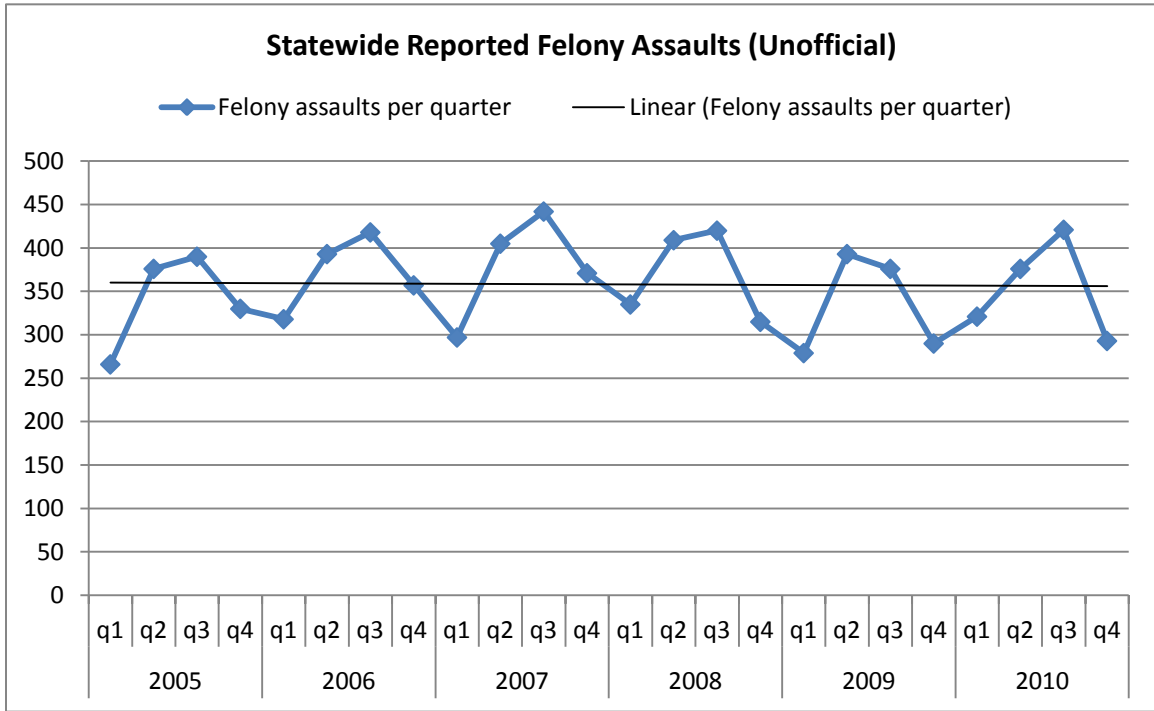


Table 6. Monthly statewide felony assault reports, unofficial

	Statewide Reported Felony Assaults (Unofficial)												<i>Annual</i>
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2005	85	89	92	109	128	139	131	117	142	106	127	97	1,362
2006	124	92	102	129	132	132	150	137	131	134	114	109	1,486
2007	102	74	121	113	145	147	148	153	141	129	119	123	1,515
2008	112	107	116	120	140	149	171	134	115	123	93	99	1,479
2009	86	88	105	117	155	121	138	138	100	95	112	83	1,338
2010	106	85	130	110	121	145	149	134	138	119	91	83	1,411

Burglary

Figure 7. Quarterly statewide burglary reports, unofficial

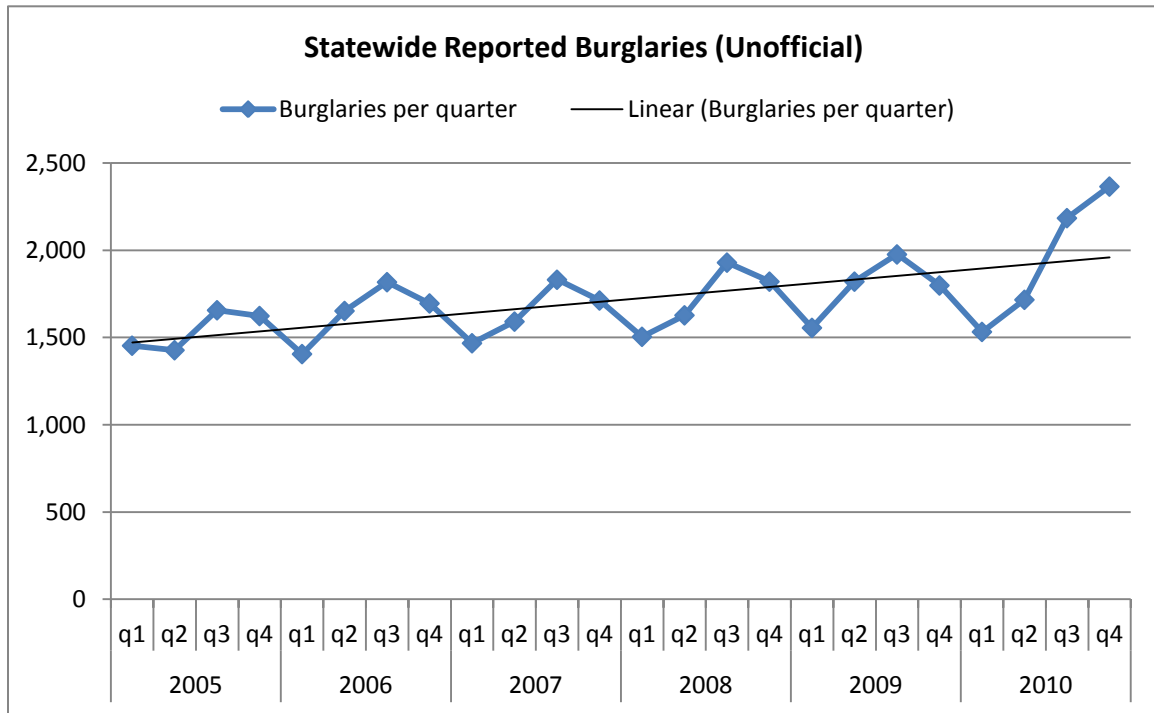


Table 7. Monthly statewide burglary reports, unofficial

	Statewide Reported Burglaries (Unofficial)												Annual
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2005	555	410	489	428	511	489	560	522	575	644	485	495	6,163
2006	508	411	487	494	613	546	596	626	596	642	552	502	6,573
2007	556	421	491	468	563	561	674	584	574	616	572	525	6,605
2008	585	431	489	493	555	580	569	723	638	642	587	592	6,884
2009	543	425	588	639	603	579	650	679	648	682	568	549	7,153
2010	594	360	579	510	583	624	683	741	761	863	810	693	7,801

Drug Dealing

Figure 8. Quarterly statewide drug dealing reports, unofficial

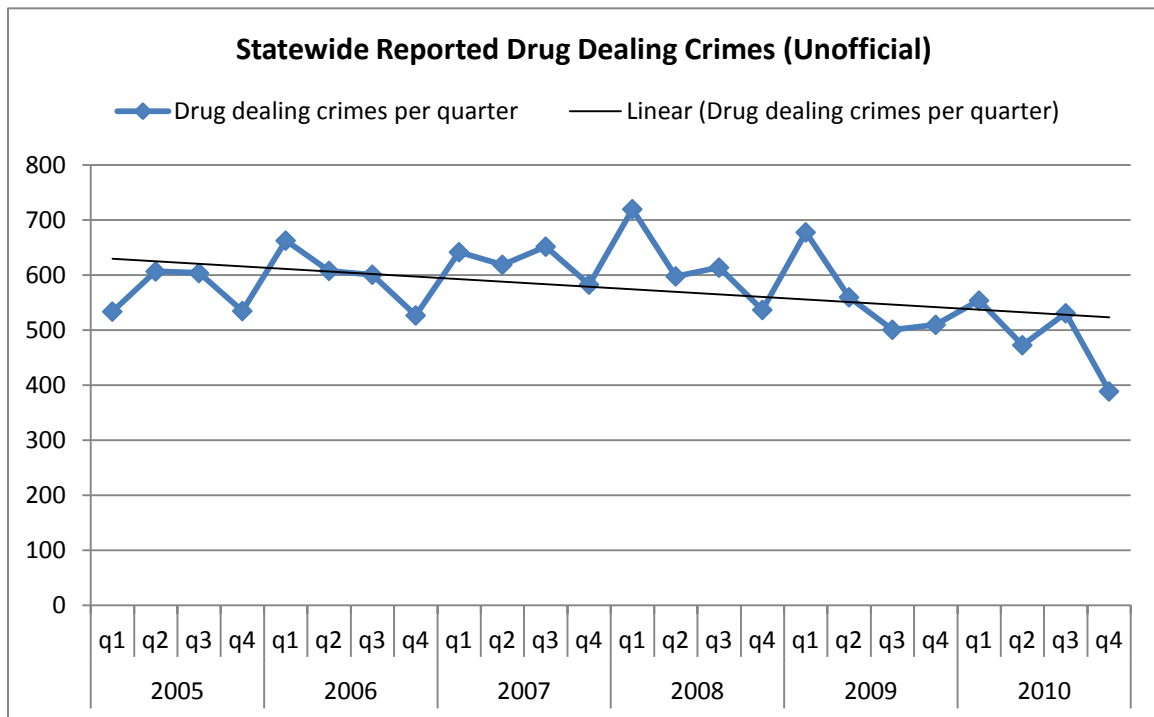


Table 8. Monthly statewide drug dealing reports, unofficial

	Statewide Reported Drug Dealing Crimes (Unofficial)												<i>Annual</i>
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2005	139	178	217	207	187	213	192	233	179	177	177	181	2,280
2006	203	224	236	171	223	214	210	205	186	156	172	199	2,399
2007	213	200	229	212	203	204	233	228	191	197	216	170	2,496
2008	253	225	242	225	173	200	237	210	167	169	188	180	2,469
2009	205	231	242	191	173	196	186	167	148	193	162	155	2,249
2010	184	154	216	192	144	137	147	211	173	120	128	141	1,947

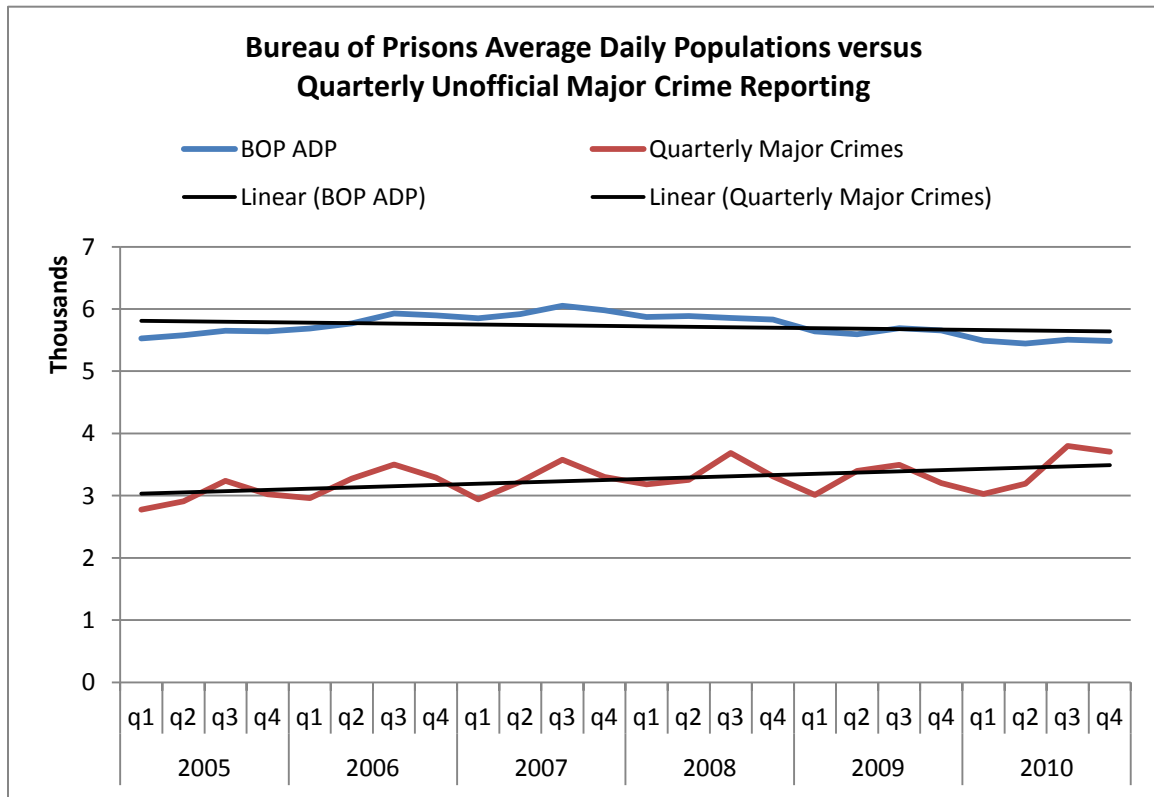
For the aggregate of major crimes tracked in this study, Table 1 showed a net increase of about 15% from 2005 to 2010. The additional tables and figures above show differing contributions to that increase among the crime types. Burglary, the largest group, had an increase of almost 27%. In drug dealing, the second largest group, there was almost a 15% decrease. Robbery is currently the third largest group, but its volume is nearing that of drug dealing. Robbery increased by almost 33% from 2005 to 2010.

Reported Major Crimes and Incarcerated Populations

A common subject of debate in criminal justice policy is the relationship between crime and incarceration. Assuming that we could incarcerate those with criminal inclinations in sufficient numbers, a logical consequence of increased incarceration is reduced crime, or at least a reduction in the potential growth of crime. While the relationship is far more complex than this, a broad comparison of crime and incarceration trends might serve as a starting point for further analysis.

Quarterly major crime and incarceration data are plotted for recent years in Figure 9. Average daily populations in Bureau of Prisons facilities, represented as “BOP ADP” in the graph, were calculated from DOC daily population counts. Quarterly statewide totals of major crimes counted for this report are represented as “Quarterly Major Crimes.” Simple linear regression was used to display trend lines for each set of data.

Figure 9. Incarcerated population versus major crime trends



As can be seen in Figure 9, the slope of the incarceration trend line is negative while that of the major crime trend line is positive. This observation might imply the converse of the relationship mentioned above; increased incarceration leads to decreased crime, and decreased incarceration leads to increased crime. To reiterate, this is an overly simplistic view, but these trends could be important considerations in policy discussions.

Crime Measures and Caveats

With the exception of homicide, crimes are counted as single events based on one or more occurrence within a complaint number. Homicide complaint counts are increased to the number of victims in complaints with multiple victims. This is a simpler method and is markedly different from official NIBRS reporting where all crimes against persons are counted by the number of victims. Multiple crimes in a single complaint may be counted in more than one of the selected crime groups (that is, there is no hierarchical filtering of crime counts). Statutes referenced in the most recent crime supplement for each incident report identifies the crimes. All groups include attempted crimes except for homicide; attempted homicide is included in the felony assault group.

This information is extracted from complaint data housed in the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System. The counting methodology for this report was developed for the Attorney General's Office. It is important to know that this is unofficial crime information based on the most recent and accurate interpretation of active files that are frequently updated. The official Delaware crime data is provided annually through SBI's implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System, which includes a process that meets national standards of measurement using scores of edits, verifications and corrections.