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Delaware Major Crimes, **Unofficial Reporting**, 2012 Quarter 1 Update

This report presents a summary of unofficial major crime reporting from January, 2005, through March, 2012. This analysis was designed to focus on a limited set of crimes and provide emerging trends with a relatively quick turnaround. It is not intended to replace, nor should it be directly compared to, the state's official crime reporting. Reports derived from the State Bureau of Identification's implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) continue to be the comprehensive and authoritative source of state crime data.

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.

Major 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 thru1st, Sexual Extortion, and Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child, res.)

Robbery: Title 11, §§ 831, 832, 835 and 836 (Robbery 2nd and1st, 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: *(Prior to 9/1/11)* Title 16, §§ 4751, 4752, and 4752A (Possession with intent to deliver controlled and non-controlled substances) and 4753A (Drug trafficking) *(9/1/11 and later)* Similar Title 16, Chapter 47 offenses of felony classes E thru B

The following figures and tables provide quarterly and monthly counts of statewide major crimes. Readers should note the different graph scales and relatively large fluctuations for different crime types. Simple linear regression was used for quarterly trend lines, but caution is urged in using those trends for extrapolation as some series are quite unstable.

Homicide

Over the past seven years, the statewide annual homicide average was about 49. The quarterly trend line is nearly flat, but there are large fluctuations. The last two quarters ranged from 19 to 5, which are quarterly maximum and minimum counts for the series. The quarterly graphs for each crime group use a separate series marker to highlight the first quarter of each year. It will be seen that most other groups tend to exhibit seasonal patterns, but seasonal associations are very weak for homicides.

Figure 1. Quarterly statewide homicides, unofficial

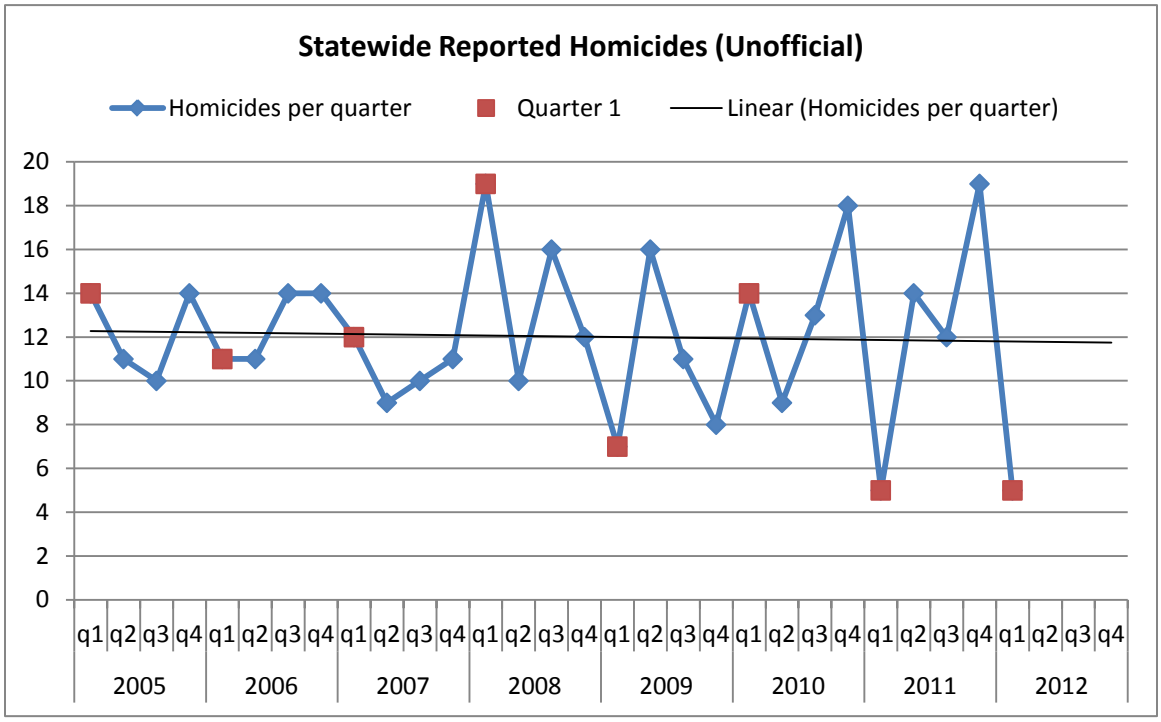


Table 1. Monthly statewide homicides, unofficial

Statewide Reported Homicides (Unofficial)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	*YTD*
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*
2011	2	1	2	3	4	7	3	4	5	7	4	8	*50*
2012	4	1	0										*5*

Homicide Offenses: 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

Felony Sex Crimes

Felony sex crime reports averaged about 670 per year over the past seven years. Some seasonality is evident but not strong in this series. First quarter counts tend to be close to the trend line, which is nearly flat over the tracking period. Early indications from the first quarter and previous patterns are that 2012 will total to about the annual average.

Figure 2. Quarterly statewide felony sex crimes, unofficial

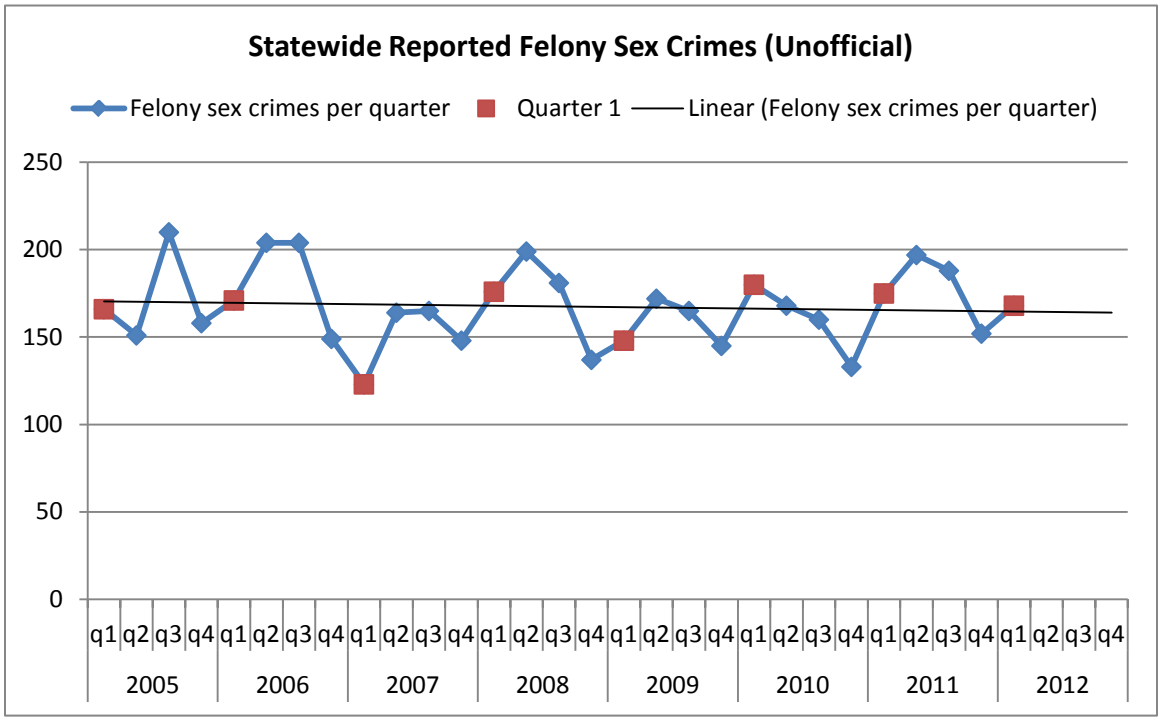


Table 2. Monthly statewide felony sex crimes, unofficial

Statewide Reported Felony Sex Crimes (Unofficial)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	*YTD*
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*
2011	59	45	71	66	66	65	66	63	59	45	54	53	*712*
2012	62	51	55										*168*

Felony Sex Crimes: Title 11, §§ 768 thru 773, 776 and 778 (Unlawful Sexual Contact 2nd and 1st, Rape 4th thru1st, Sexual Extortion, and Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child, res.)

Robbery

Annual robbery counts dropped considerably in 2011 compared to the five years prior. Seasonal trends indicate that we should anticipate increasing robberies in the coming quarters. Five consecutive quarters below the series trend line is an encouraging recent pattern, but large increases have occurred in summer months of some years. It is too early to predict that a downward trend will continue in 2012.

Figure 3. Quarterly statewide robbery reports, unofficial

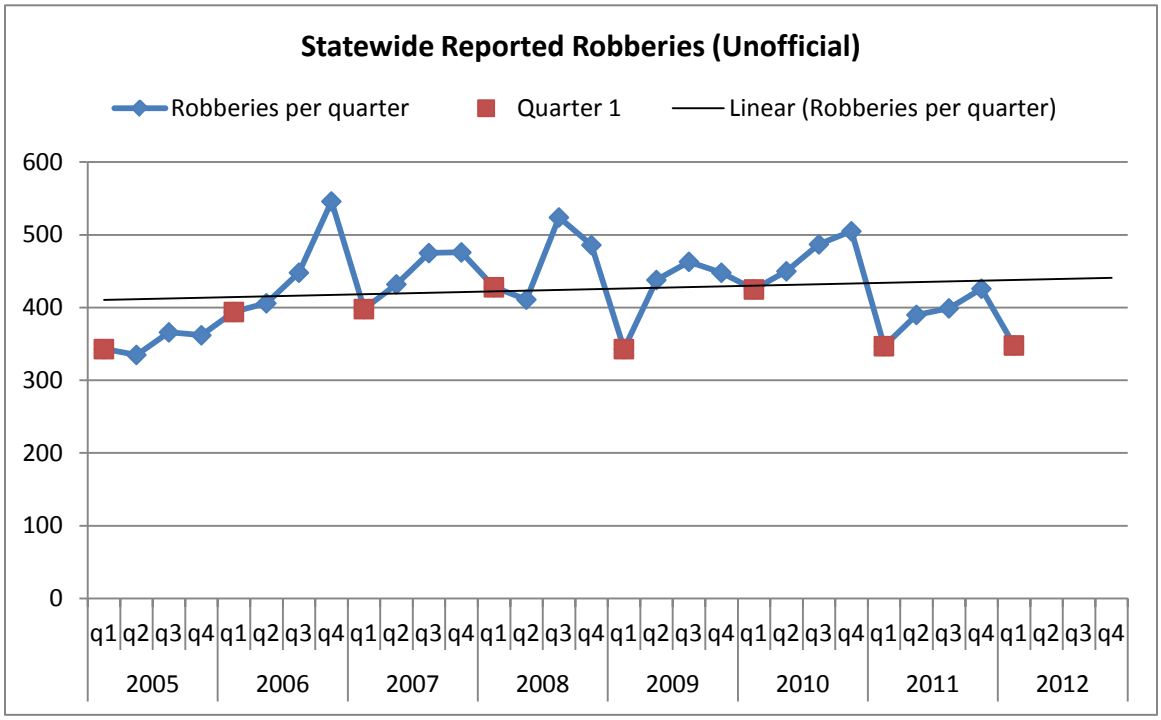


Table 3. Monthly statewide robbery reports, unofficial

Statewide Reported Robberies (Unofficial)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	*YTD*
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*
2011	132	89	126	126	138	126	138	106	155	155	140	131	*1,562*
2012	143	80	125										*348*

Robbery Offenses: Title 11, §§ 831, 832, 835 and 836 (Robbery 2nd and1st, and Carjacking 2nd and 1st, res.)

Felony Assault

Similar to robbery, felony assault reports decreased in 2011, and the summer increase was less dramatic than in prior years. Seasonality is strong, with minimums at the first quarter and maximums at the third quarter in all but one year for each.

Figure 4. Quarterly statewide felony assault reports, unofficial

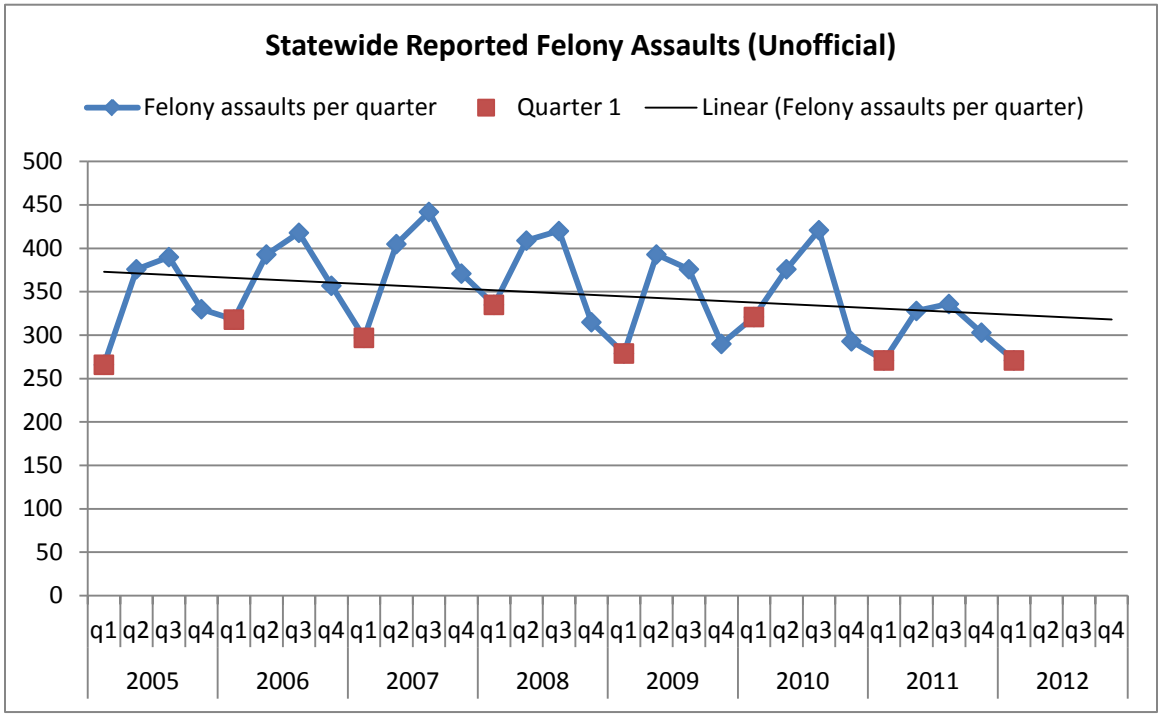


Table 4. Monthly statewide felony assault reports, unofficial

Statewide Reported Felony Assaults (Unofficial)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	*YTD*
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*
2011	89	77	105	103	115	110	121	103	112	120	94	89	*1,238*
2012	102	72	97										*271*

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

Burglary

Burglary shows very strong seasonality and steadily increasing annual counts over the reporting years. The third and fourth quarter counts in 2010 exceeded the peak quarter in 2011, but the annual total maximum was reached in 2011. Quarterly peaks occurred in the third quarter of each of the first five years, but shifted to the fourth quarter in the last two years. Despite the relatively slow start in 2012, seasonal patterns show that there is still the potential to reach another year-over-year increase.

Figure 5. Quarterly statewide burglary reports, unofficial

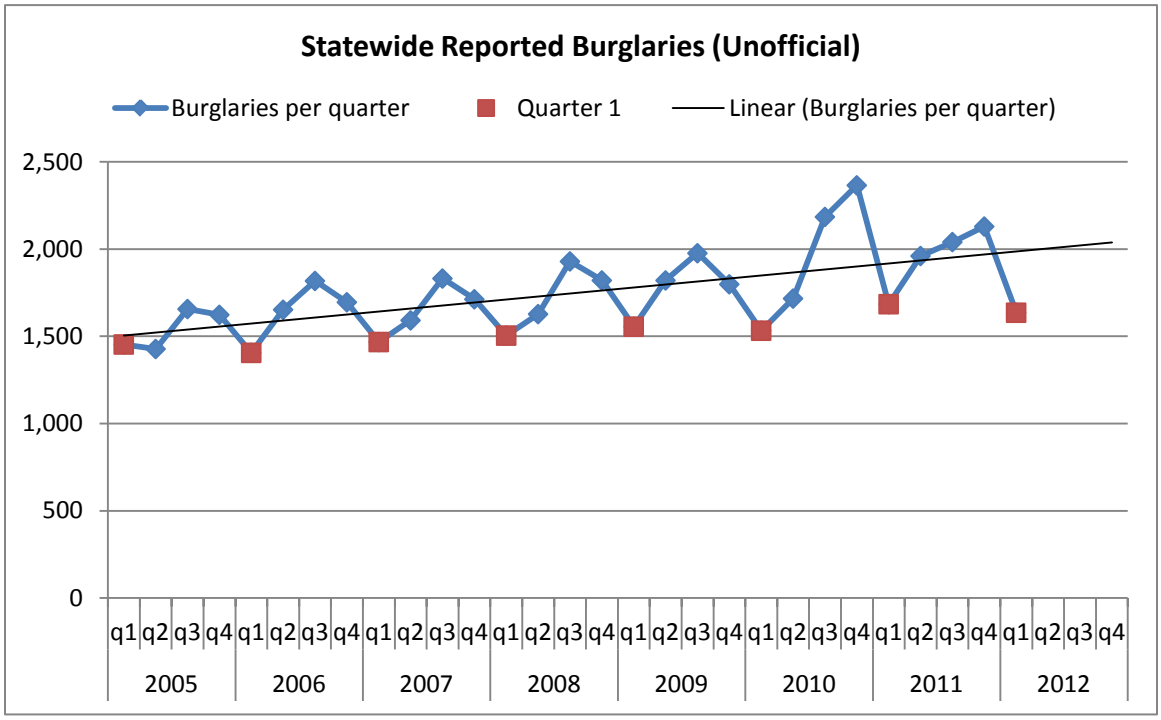


Table 5. Monthly statewide burglary reports, unofficial

Statewide Reported Burglaries (Unofficial)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	*YTD*
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*
2011	624	476	585	609	685	667	649	675	717	793	693	644	*7,817*
2012	591	500	545										*1,636*

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

Drug Dealing

After a fairly steady decline over four years, drug dealing crimes increased in 2011, and may be trending upward. Great effort was taken to keep measurement consistent despite the sweeping drug law changes that took effect on September 1, 2011, but we can't be sure that there isn't some influence on the recent trend from the new laws.

Figure 6. Quarterly statewide drug dealing reports, unofficial

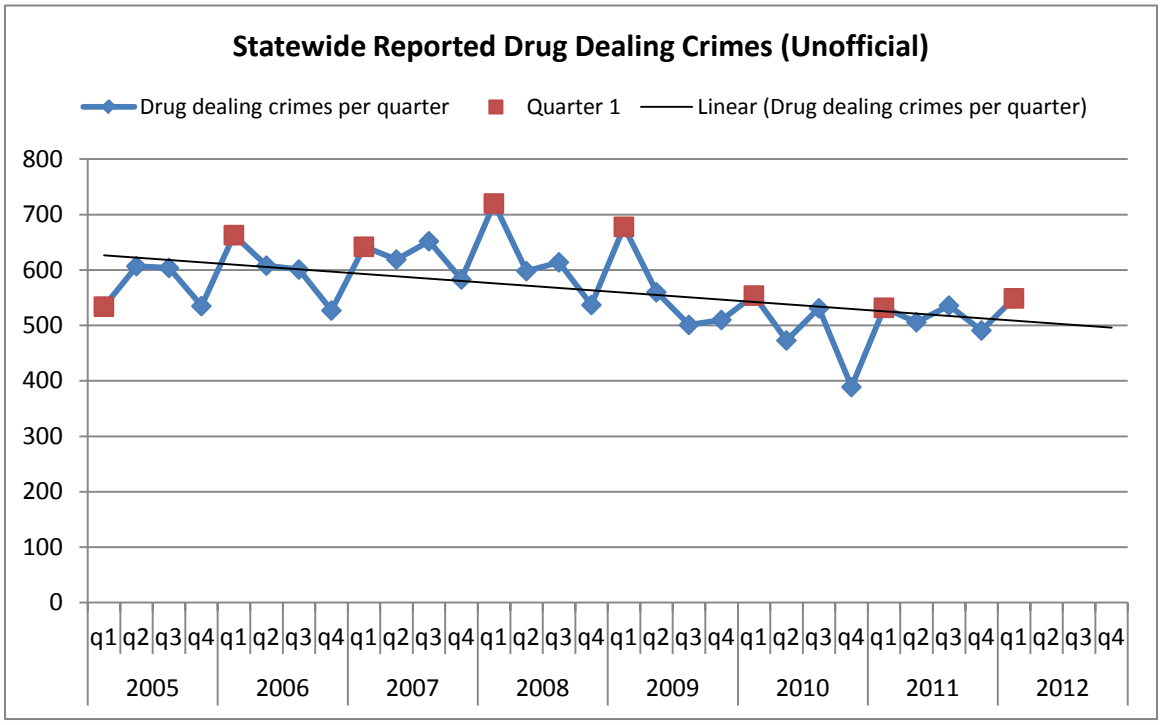


Table 6. Monthly statewide drug dealing reports, unofficial

Statewide Reported Drug Dealing Crimes (Unofficial)

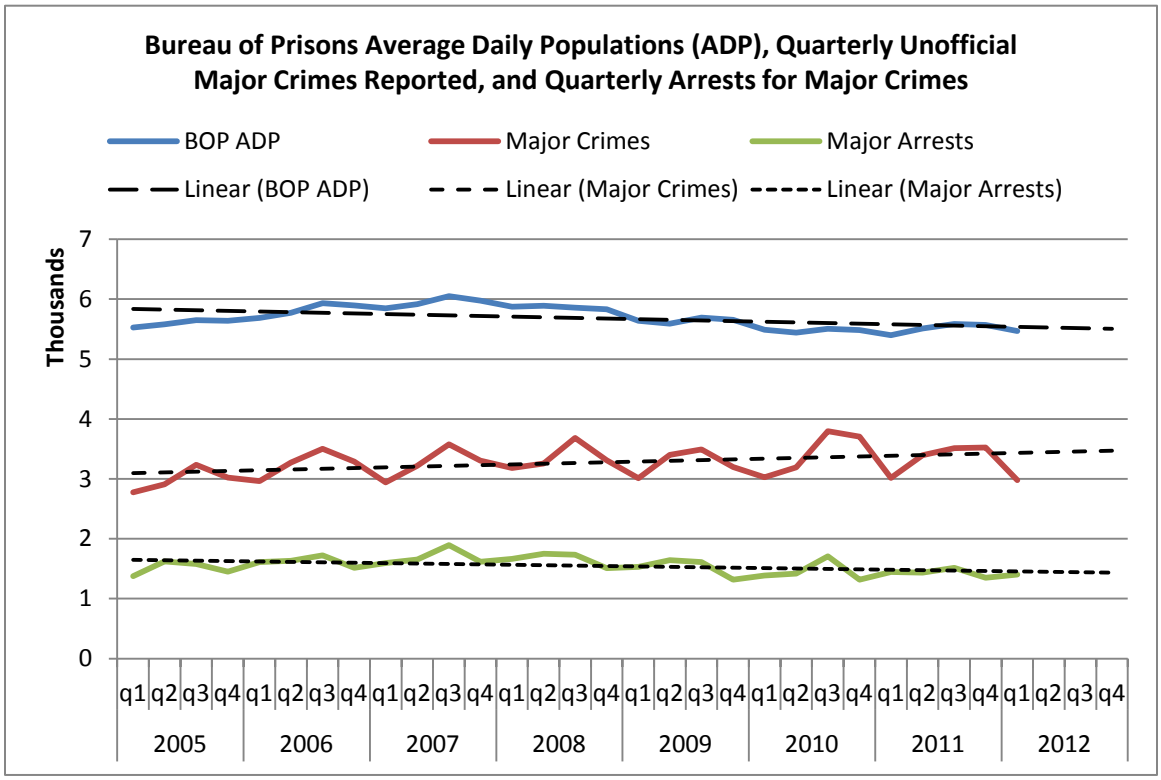
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	*YTD*
2005	139	178	217	207	187	213	192	233	179	177	177	181	*2,280*
2006	203	224	236	171	223	214	210	205	186	156	172	199	*2,399*
2007	213	200	229	212	203	204	233	228	191	197	216	170	*2,496*
2008	253	225	242	225	173	200	237	210	167	169	188	180	*2,469*
2009	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*
2011	168	172	192	198	151	157	185	193	158	182	169	140	*2,065*
2012	180	185	184										*549*

Drug Dealing Crimes: (Prior to 9/1/11) *Title 16, §§ 4751, 4752, and 4752A (Possession with intent to deliver controlled and non-controlled substances) and 4753A (Drug trafficking)* (9/1/11 and later) *Similar Title 16, Chapter 47 offenses of felony classes E thru B*

Reported Major Crimes, Major Arrests, and Incarcerated Populations

Quarterly crime, arrest, and incarceration data are plotted together in Figure 7. Average daily populations of 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." Arrests for crimes in the same categories as reported major crimes are also shown, but it should be noted that arrests are not necessarily for crimes that occurred in the same reporting periods.

Figure 7. Incarcerated population, major crime, and major arrest trends



Though many factors are not accounted for here, linear fits indicate slightly decreasing trends for BOP populations and major arrests, while the reported crime trend is increasing slightly. Seasonal trends indicate that in the next two quarters we should expect increases in reported major crimes and BOP populations.

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 National Incident-Based Reporting System (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 identify 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 interpretation of active files that are frequently updated. Official Delaware crime reporting is provided annually through SBI's NIBRS implementation, which involves a process that meets national standards of measurement using scores of edits and verifications.