

# COMMUNITY SAFETY

## INDICATOR: CRIME OFFENSES

### MEASURE

The number of index (violent & property) crime offenses per 10,000 population.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

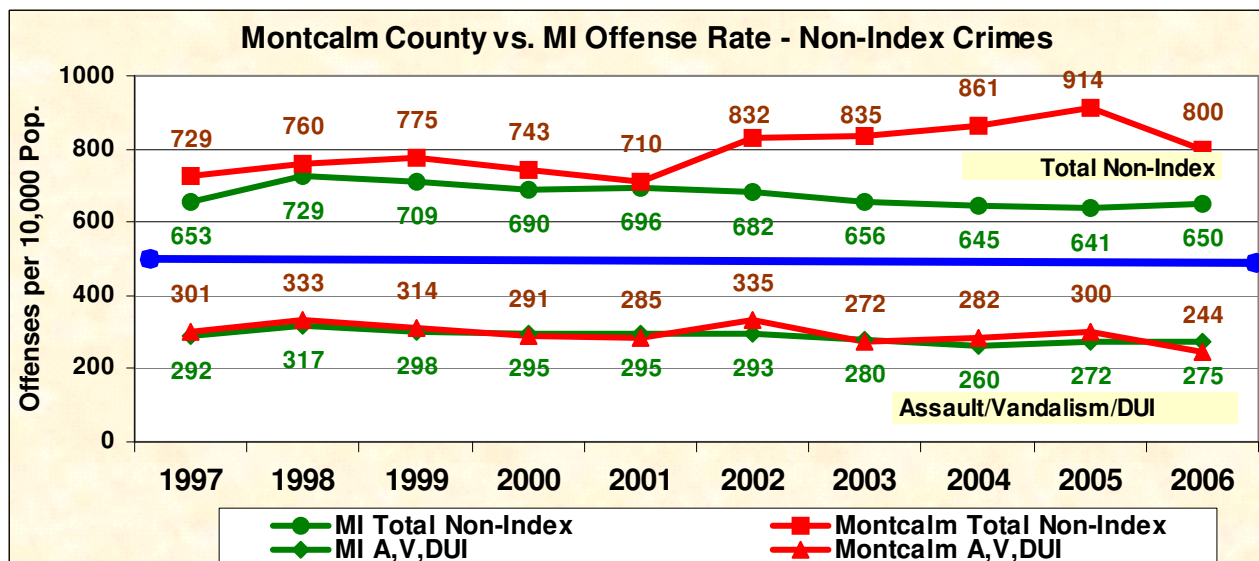
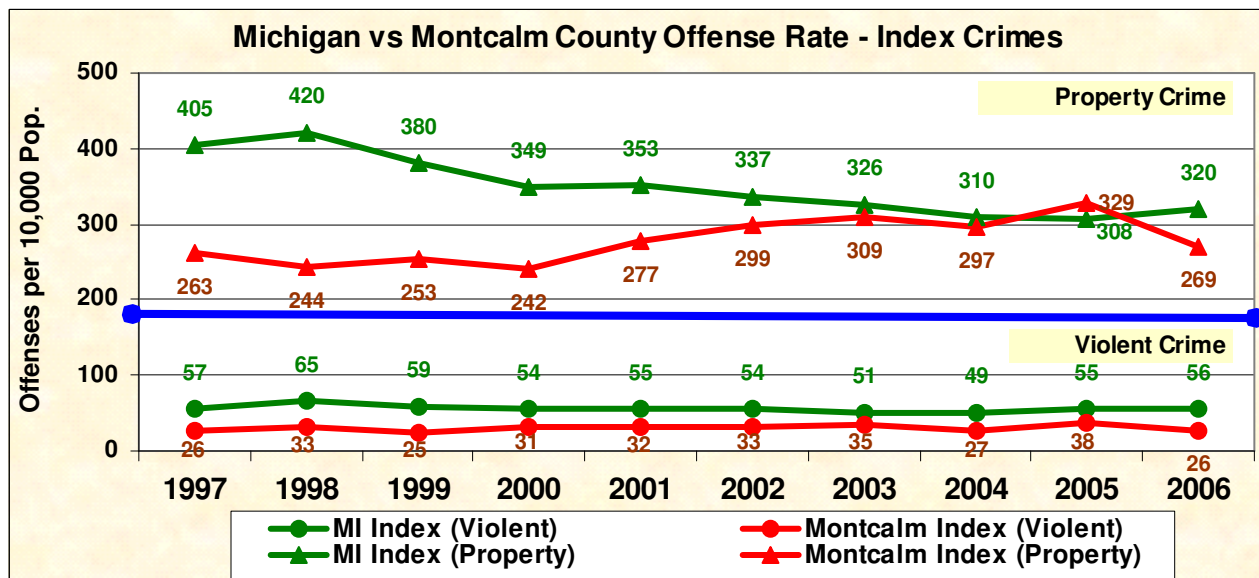
The Michigan State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) classify crimes as index or non-index. The eight index crimes can be sub-divided into those of a violent nature (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) and those affecting property (burglary, larceny, arson, and motor vehicle theft). Because of their serious nature, these index-crime offenses are considered a better indicator of the crime situation than is total crime, which includes many non-index offenses and minor infractions.

### HOW WELL IS THE MONTCALM COMMUNITY DOING?

While Michigan has witnessed a nearly 20% decrease in the rate of major (index) property crime offenses from 1997 to 2006, Montcalm County experienced a slight increase that peaked in 2005. The rate of major (index) violent crime offenses in Michigan have remained stable this decade, with Montcalm County experiencing a consistently lower rate than Michigan over the same period. Montcalm County continues to experience a higher non-index crime rate than MI that is not accounted for by assault, vandalism and DUI offenses, which have a nearly identical rate as MI.

### GOAL FOR MONTCALM COUNTY

Maintain Index Crime offense rate below that of the State of Michigan.



Note: in the bottom chart, assault, vandalism and DUI (A,V, DUI) make up 3 of the most frequently encountered non-index crimes and are grouped together as a comparison to total non-index offenses. Sixteen categories of non-index crimes are listed in the Uniform Crime Report.

Source: Michigan State Police Department, Uniform Crime Reports, 2007.