

NEWS RELEASE

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Statewide 2008 crime statistics and interactive online dashboard released by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center

(Montgomery, Ala.) - Alabama law enforcement agencies reported a 13 percent decrease in the number of homicides reported in Alabama in 2008, according to the newly-released *Crime in Alabama, 2008* annual report. This represents the largest overall percentage of change in any Part I crime category included in the 33rd edition of the report.

Published each year by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC), the annual *Crime in Alabama* publication features a compilation of offense and arrest data report by county, municipal, university and state law enforcement agencies throughout Alabama for the previous calendar year. ACJIC is the state agency responsible for gathering and providing critical information for Alabama's law enforcement and criminal justice community.

In addition to releasing the annual *Crime in Alabama* publication, ACJIC also unveiled its new, interactive *Crime in Alabama 2008* online dashboard. Available through ACJIC's website, <http://www.acjic.alabama.gov/crime.cfm>, the offense section of the interactive dashboard allows citizens to quickly locate statistics on the more serious Part I crimes reported to the state's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program by the reporting agency. Statistics on less serious Part II crime offenses also are included in the arrest section of the online dashboard.

The annual *Crime in Alabama* publication includes statistical information the violent Part I crimes of homicide, rape, robbery, and assault, and of property crimes including burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The report also includes an overview of certain Part II crime offenses, as well as statistics regarding arrests and recovered property.

According to the published report, the number of overall crimes reported by Alabama law enforcement agencies in 2008 rose at a rate of four percent over the previous year, while the overall number of violent crimes reported

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increased at a rate of three percent. The publication also reported increases in the violent crimes of rape, robbery and aggravated assault over the previous year.

The publication also noted that the number of property crimes reported in Alabama increased at a rate of four percent in 2008, with increases also being shown in the number of burglary and larceny crimes reported. The number of motor vehicle thefts, however, dropped by three percent from the previous year.

Other statistics provided in the *Crime in Alabama, 2008* publication include:

- In Alabama, there were 201,880 crimes reported, representing a four percent increase from 2007.
- On a daily average, there were 553 Part I offenses reported in Alabama in 2008.
- The total value of property stolen in Alabama in 2008 was \$250,195,952, and 15 percent of this stolen property was recovered in 2008 by Alabama law enforcement agencies.
- There were 11,206 sworn law enforcement officers and 5,778 civilian staff working in Alabama in 2008.
- In 2008, there were 265 Alabama law enforcement officers assaulted in the line of duty. This means than less than 1 officer was assaulted per day, on the average, in 2008. Of this number, 66 percent (or 175 officers) received serious injuries, while 34 percent (90 officers) received minimal or no injuries.

ACJIC's *Alabama Statistical Analysis Center (SAC)* collects, analyzes and disseminates justice data and statistics, and is responsible for reporting annual crime statistics data to the FBI's Statistical Analysis Center.

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A full report of Alabama's 2008 crime statistics may be viewed in the *Crime in Alabama, 2008* report, which is available online at <http://www.acjic.alabama.gov/crime.cfm>

The interactive *Crime in Alabama, 2008* dashboard, which features an agency-by-agency view of reported Part I crime statistics reported in 2008, is available at <http://www.acjic.alabama.gov/crime.cfm>

National preliminary 2008 crime statistics are included in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Crime in the United State 2008* report, which also is available online at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>

About ACJIC: The Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) is the state agency responsible for gathering and providing critical information for Alabama's law enforcement and the criminal justice community. Leading the nation in the development of ground-breaking technology, ACJIC connects local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and also provides access to law enforcement in all 50 states and internationally via Nlets, the International Justice and Public Safety Network.