



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA
POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Howard Kunik, City Manager
From: Albert A. Arenal, Chief of Police
Date: April 27, 2011
Subject: Florida Department of Law Enforcement 2010 Uniform Crime Report

The Punta Gorda Police Department is pleased to present an analysis of the 2010 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data for the State of Florida which was released on April 26, 2011, by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. As in past years, the intent of this report is to provide you with an overview of 2010 UCR data as it relates to the City of Punta Gorda.

About the Uniform Crime Report

The reliability of Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data is a constant issue in criminology and among criminal justice professionals. There are two principle instruments for measuring crime in the United States: the UCR and the National Crime Victimization Survey. The consensus in the field is that the "real" amount of criminal activity lies between these two measures.

UCR numbers reflect the crimes reported by the local agencies (primarily Sheriff Offices and Police Departments) to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The UCR does not include all offenses reported to the police, but is limited to a well-defined list of reportable offenses. These offenses provide an indicator over time of variations in crime trends. In addition, a number of factors influence the reporting of offense incidents to local agencies. For example, some communities are more likely to report a crime to the police than others are. Other factors may include local report-writing policy, manpower allocations, training received by officers on report writing, training received by police records personnel on UCR standards and the decisions and discretion exercised by individuals at every step of the process. As you can see, there are many reasons for variability in reporting between jurisdictions, counties and even states.

Since UCR is not reporting total crime, but rather a select list of crimes reported to the police, the *trend* data may possibly be more useful than the actual numbers themselves. It is generally thought that the UCR does a good job of reflecting whether crime is increasing or decreasing. Using the trend, one assumes that any problems in the reporting are consistent over the years even as the problems vary. Nationally, the victimization data (based on interviews of individuals) has mirrored the UCR data trend, which gives the Florida Department of Law Enforcement some confidence in its reliability. Simply put, UCR should be used as an indicator of criminal activity but not the ultimate measure.



The Federal Bureau of Investigation has warned against “simplistic and incomplete analyses” that merely compare crime index figures for one community with those of another. According to the FBI, unless cities are carefully matched or unless composite statistics take region and community size into consideration, too many other factors could explain the crime rate difference – even assuming equal diligence in reporting.¹ In our following comparisons of UCR data, we specifically take region and community size into account. That being said, there are certain numbers that are intrinsically of interest to us and are meaningful within themselves: Murder, Robbery, and Rape offenses are but a few.

Our View of UCR

Philosophically, the management of the Punta Gorda Police Department views statistical crime data critically. We understand that with a low crime rate in a City of approximately 17,000 people, small increases or decreases in specific crime numbers can result in dramatic percentage swings – in either direction. We are neither quick to assign blame for a negative trend nor are we quick to take credit for a positive trend. We feel that the best approach to evaluating this information is through a thorough analysis of the data, followed by strategic planning that results in the formulation of countermeasures to achieve our desired outcomes. Finally, we feel that our City’s growth management policies, urban design efforts, economic development strategies, and overall city services positively impact our low crime rate.

Index Crimes in the State of Florida

Index crimes consist of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Total index crimes in the State of Florida decreased by 6.6% in 2010 following a decrease by 6.7% in 2009, a 0.8% increase in 2008, a 3.2% increase in 2007, and a 1.4% increase in 2006 – all of which followed several years of decreasing crime rates.

It is important to note for the purpose of analysis that when assessing a percentage increase or decrease in index crimes, no one crime is given more emphasis than another by UCR. Part one crimes are simply added together and a deviation noted. Therefore, a significant reduction in murders and robberies could easily be offset by an increase in larcenies. This emphasizes the need to evaluate the composite figures for trends as opposed to attempting to interpret a meaning for the individual numerical figures. It is also a significant reason that index variation results are controversial by their very nature.

Crime in Florida

Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are classified as **violent crimes** within UCR. There was a 10.1% decrease in violent crime throughout the State of Florida in 2010 which follows a 10.0% reduction in violent crimes in 2009 and a 4.3% reduction in 2008.

With violent crime of particular concern, we note that murder decreased by 2.9% in 2010 with 987 murders recorded statewide. Firearm-related murders decreased by 3.7%, while murders involving

¹ Ammons, D.N. (2001). *Municipal Benchmarks: Assessing Local Performance and Establishing Community Standards* (2nd ed.). California: Sage Publications.

knives or cutting instruments decreased by 8.1%. Robberies decreased throughout the State of Florida with 26,074 robberies reported in 2010. This represents a 15.6% decrease from last year (30,881). The crime of robbery involving a firearm decreased by 18.7%. Forcible sex offenses (as defined by the State of Florida) decreased by 3.3% following a 5.5% reduction in 2009, a 3.5% drop in 2008, and a 3.1% drop in 2007.

The Index Crime Rate

A second key measure of overall jurisdictional criminal activity is the **index crime rate** which provides a measure of index crimes per 100,000 service population. The index crime rate is calculated by dividing the total index crimes by the service population of the community. Florida's index crime rate decreased by 6.7% this year after a decrease of 6.4% in 2009, and an increase of .1% in 2008.

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data **Florida's Index Crime Rate**

Year	Total Index Crimes	Population	% Change	Crime Rate	% Change
2003	881,615	17,071,508	2.4	5,164.2	-4.3
2004	850,490	17,516,732	2.6	4,855.3	-6.0
2005	838,063	17,918,227	2.3	4,677.2	-3.7
2006	849,926	18,349,132	2.4	4,632.0	-1.0
2007	876,981	18,680,367	1.8	4,694.7	1.4
2008	883,905	18,807,219	0.7	4,699.8	0.1
2009	824,559	18,750,483	-0.3	4,397.5	-6.4
2010	770,518	18,771,768	0.1	4,104.7	-6.7

Crime in Charlotte County

As the two principal providers of law enforcement services in Charlotte County, the Punta Gorda Police Department and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office crime trend comparisons are relevant simply due to our geographical connection and similar demographics. A summarized comparison of the two agencies and our respective populations follows:

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data **Charlotte County/Punta Gorda Comparison**

Categories	Charlotte County				City of Punta Gorda				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	09/10 Change
Population	147,140	148,130	148,466	149,667	17,444	17,651	16,989	17,079	.5%
Total Arrests	9,119	9,025	7,732	9,086	789	753	640	788	23.1%
Total Index Crimes	4,957	5,035	4,260	4,175	445	499	362	403	11.3%
Index Crime Rate	3,368.9	3,399.0	2,869.3	2,789.5	2,551.0	2,827.0	2,130.8	2,359.6	10.7%
% Crimes Cleared	23.4%	26.2%	28.9%	32.8%	29.7%	25.3% ²	28.5%	41.4%	45.2%

² The 2008 clearance rate was originally reported incorrectly to FDLE as 19.2% due to incorrect coding of cleared investigations in the police department's records management system. The error was uncovered in 2009 and corrected although the official published UCR data cannot be modified. The recalculated clearance rate was 25.3%.

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Charlotte County/Punta Gorda Index Crime Comparison
 (By UCR crime category)

	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Veh Theft
City of Punta Gorda	0	1	2	24	176	198	2
Charlotte County	1	22	45	285	977	2,735	110

Crime in Surrounding Jurisdictions

There are a number of law enforcement agencies in the surrounding jurisdictions of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Sarasota counties who are required to submit UCR data to the State. Several of these agencies do not have a specific service population per se (e.g. Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, etc.) with respect to regional UCR calculations. A breakdown of agencies by type within the surrounding counties follows:

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Number of Law Enforcement Agencies in the Surrounding Counties
 (Listed by Type)

SWF Law Enforcement Agencies	No.
Sheriff's Offices	7
Municipal Police Departments	11
Port Authority Police Agencies	2
University Police Agencies	2
Florida Dept of Law Enforcement Offices	1
Florida Div of Insurance Fraud Offices	1
Florida Game Commission Offices	7
Florida Highway Patrol Offices	7
Florida ABT Offices	7
DEP Div of Law Enforcement Offices	7
Total Reporting Agencies	52

Although each of the eleven municipal law enforcement agencies in the surrounding counties are impacted differently by crime due to various demographic and geographic factors, an analysis of municipal UCR crime data in our own region is worthwhile. The following surrounding municipal agencies are listed by crime rate.

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Surrounding Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies
 (Ranked by Index Crime Rate/100,000)

Agency	Pop.	Total Crime Index	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Crime Rate/ 100,000	% Cleared
Marco Island PD	16,442	179	0	3	1	14	21	135	5	1,088.7	34.1
Sanibel PD	6,211	111	0	0	1	2	18	89	1	1,787.2	18.9
Punta Gorda PD	17,079	403	0	1	2	24	176	198	2	2,359.6	41.4
Cape Coral PD	164,673	4,063	3	23	64	186	1,083	2,595	109	2,467.3	26.1
Venice PD	21,846	603	2	0	4	30	87	466	14	2,760.2	19.4
North Port PD	55,828	1,580	1	11	26	156	320	1,035	31	2,830.1	28.4
Naples PD	21,121	655	1	1	8	15	88	533	9	3,101.2	49.6

Clewiston PD	7,034	287	0	1	11	36	61	164	14	4,080.2	30.7
Fort Myers PD	68,190	3,397	7	29	152	510	628	1,877	194	4,981.7	32.4
Arcadia PD	6,816	343	0	7	21	68	86	147	14	5,032.3	31.5
Sarasota PD	52,866	3,698	6	16	165	323	825	2,229	134	6,995.0	21.2

As we have noted in prior years, our 3rd-place ranking in Southwest Florida by crime rate is encouraging when we consider that the only two agencies that ranked above us are island communities.

We are also encouraged by an analysis of Florida municipal law enforcement agencies with a service population between 15,000 and 20,000. In 2007, the Punta Gorda Police Department improved from 6th to 3rd lowest index crime rate among 18 municipal agencies with a similar service population. In 2008, the City of Punta Gorda maintained that high ranking and in 2009, the city improved to 2nd lowest crime index crime rate. Punta Gorda maintained this ranking in 2010. The ranking is once again based on the index crime rate.

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data

Florida Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies 15,000-20,000 Service Population
 (Ranked by Index Crime Rate/100,000)

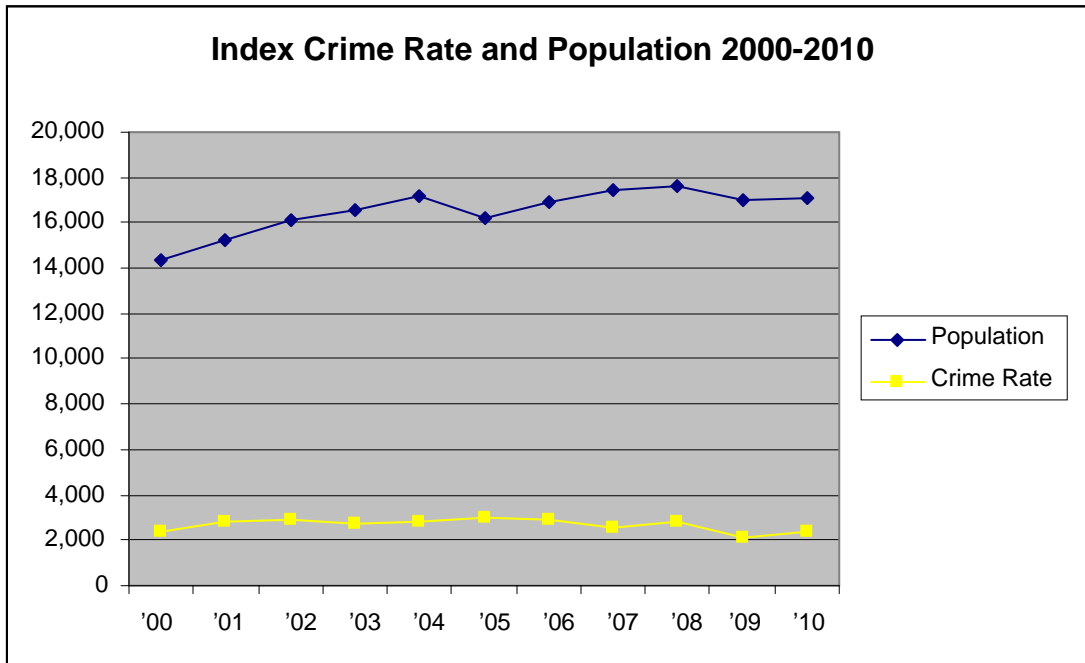
Agency	Pop.	Total Crime Index	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Crime Rate/ 100,000	% Cleared
Marco Island PD	16,442	179	0	3	1	14	21	135	5	1,088.7	34.1
Punta Gorda PD	17,079	403	0	1	2	24	176	198	2	2,359.6	41.4
Safety Harbor PD	17,638	435	0	3	4	22	80	319	7	2,466.3	20.5
Sunny Isles Beach PD	19,849	497	0	7	6	20	79	359	26	2,503.9	20.7
Maitland PD	16,786	491	0	1	12	22	136	293	27	2,925.1	29.3
Village of Pinecrest PD	19,411	596	0	5	7	10	81	474	19	3,070.4	8.4
Seminole PD	18,832	663	0	3	12	56	80	497	15	3,520.6	39.1
Eustis PD	18,210	683	1	5	12	23	138	476	28	3,750.7	22.5
Lynn Haven PD	16,861	650	0	1	9	48	67	512	13	3,855.1	41.7
Vero Beach PD	17,855	700	0	4	22	46	179	425	24	3,920.5	41.4
West Melbourne PD	16,867	695	1	2	11	33	268	360	20	4,120.5	30.6
Stuart PD	16,337	739	0	4	10	38	108	560	19	4,523.5	29.2
Haines City PD	18,762	959	0	5	40	82	239	560	33	5,111.4	20.0
Palm Springs PD	15,484	996	2	6	40	74	231	582	61	6,432.4	24.0
New Port Richey PD	16,244	1,057	0	10	42	114	353	501	37	6,507.0	35.0
Bartow PD	17,397	1,162	3	6	34	69	247	767	36	6,679.3	27.0
Belle Glade PD	16,848	1,582	4	11	71	267	400	769	60	9,389.8	17.4
Opa Locka PD	15,419	1,563	5	8	113	287	422	583	145	10,136.8	4.6
Cocoa PD	16,574	1,873	2	20	75	345	474	892	65	11,300.8	31.5

Crime in The City of Punta Gorda

The 2010 UCR report brings mostly positive news to the City of Punta Gorda with respect to crime and our community. The crime rate increased by 10.7% due to a rise in burglaries, but our violent crime rate decreased with fewer aggravated assaults and robberies. Though the crime rate increased this year, it is important to note that the City of Punta Gorda's 2010 crime rate remains among the lowest throughout the past decade.

2010 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Index Crime Rate for the City of Punta Gorda
 (2000-2010)

Year	Pop.	% Change	Crime Rate	% Change
2000	14,344	-	2,363.4	-
2001	15,236	6.2	2,789.5	18.03
2002	16,120	5.8	2,890.8	3.6
2003	16,591	2.9	2,706.3	-6.4
2004	17,168	3.5	2,836.7	4.8
2005	16,255	-5.3	2,996.0	5.6
2006	16,952	4.3	2,890.5	-3.5
2007	17,444	2.9	2,551.0	-11.7
2008	17,651	1.2	2,827.0	10.8
2009	16,989	-3.8	2,130.8	-24.6
2010	17,079	.5	2,359.6	10.7



Violent Crime in the City

Violent crime (as defined by UCR) includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In 2010, we saw a decrease of five index crimes in this category which resulted in an 18.2% decrease in violent crime. 2010 brought no murders, one rape, two robberies, and a 17.2 percent decrease in the number aggravated assaulted in the City of Punta Gorda. An analysis of the 24 reported aggravated assaults shows none involved a firearm, 5 involved a knife or cutting instrument, 16 involved hands/fists/feet, and 3 involved some other kind of weapon.

Non-Violent Crime in the City

Non-violent crime in the State of Florida decreased by 6% with 668,612 non-violent crimes reported. Last year, we reported a 30.1% decrease in non-violent crime in the City of Punta Gorda (burglaries and larcenies). This year, we experienced a 14.3% increase within the City, rising from 329 non-violent crimes in 2009 to 376 non-violent crimes in 2010.

In 2007 and in 2008, burglaries drove our non-violent crime rate up. That appears to be the case again this year. This year, there were 55 additional burglaries, or a 45.5% increase, from 121 in 2009 to 176 in 2010. A breakdown of the burglaries is as follows:

- Forced-entry burglaries: 26.9% increase
- Burglaries with no forced entry: 69.8% increase
- Attempted entry burglaries: 50% decrease.

Following a significant increase of 59 larcenies in 2008 (a 27.7% increase), we experienced a decrease of 69 larcenies in 2009 (a 25.4% decrease), and another slight decrease of 5 larcenies (2.5% decrease) in 2010.

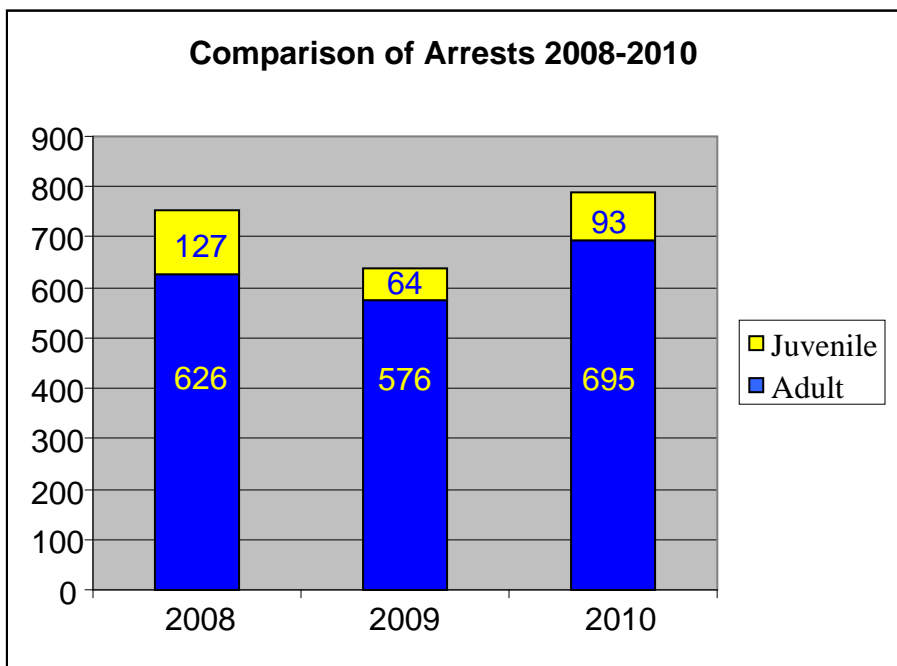
A final non-violent crime trend is a continued reduction in motor vehicle thefts. This is the third year in a row of reductions in this category. There were 2 reported motor vehicle thefts in 2010, as compared to 5 in 2009.

Clearance Rate

The clearance rate represents the percentage of index crimes we clear (close pursuant to UCR guidelines) in a given year. This particular figure is of key importance to management as we assess our effectiveness in solving or reclassifying index crimes within the City. The statewide clearance percentage for 2010 was 24.7%. Our 2010 clearance percentage of 41.4% is a significant improvement from 28.5% in 2009, and the highest crime clearance rate in Punta Gorda in recent recorded history.

Other Trends

The City saw a 23.1% increase in total **arrests** in 2010 from 640 total arrests in 2009 to 788 total arrests in 2010.



Notable arrest increases are as follows:

- DUI: 29.9%; (67 in 2009, 87 in 2010)
- Drug arrests: 11.5%; (244 arrests in 2009, 272 in 2010)
- Larceny: 113.8%; (29 arrests in 2009; 62 in 2010)
- Burglary: 21.4%; (42 in 2009; 51 in 2010)

There were more incidents of domestic violence in 2010, as compared to 2009. Officers responded to a reported 54 UCR-documented incidents of domestic violence in 2010, as compared to 33 in 2009. The largest increase involved simple assaults. There were 28 incidents of simple assaults in 2009, and 47 in 2010. There were additional arrests as well. Officers arrested a total of 45 people on domestic violence-related charges, as compared to 27 in 2009. There isn't UCR data available prior to 2009 that breaks it down into so many categories. Due to the increase this year, however, it's an area of concern to monitor in 2011.

Four (4) Florida Police Officers were feloniously killed in 2010. Three (3) Florida Police Officers were feloniously killed in 2009 which matches the number killed feloniously in 2008. Seven (7) officers were killed in 2007.

Captain Chad Reed – Dixie County Sheriff's Office

Captain Reed was shot and killed in a shootout with a man wanted for murdering two elderly women and shooting two other women. The suspect was being followed by deputies when he suddenly pulled into a gas station and opened fire. He was later apprehended. Captain Reed was 33 years old and had been with the Dixie County Sheriff's Office for 13 years. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Officer David Curtis – Tampa Police Department

Officer Curtis was killed when an occupant of a vehicle he had stopped for not having a visible tag opened fire at close range on him and another officer. The suspect surrendered four days later. Officer Curtis was 31 years old and had been with the Tampa Police Department for three years. He is survived by his wife and four sons.

Officer Jeffery Kocab – Tampa Police Department

Officer Kocab was killed after he was called to assist Officer Curtis in a vehicle stop. While attempting to arrest the suspect, he and Officer Curtis were killed at close range when the suspect drew a weapon and opened fire. Officer Kocab was 31 years old and had been with the Tampa Police Department for 1 year. He is survived by his expectant wife.

Deputy Brandon Coates – Orange County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Coates was shot and killed while making a traffic stop. During the search for the suspect, a man's body was found suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Deputy Coates was 27 years old and had been with the Sheriff's Office for 4 years. He is survived by his wife, mother and brother.

Summary

Upon reviewing the comprehensive 2010 UCR data for the City of Punta Gorda, we are pleased with the overall level of safety and security provided to the citizens of Punta Gorda. We do, however, want to stress to residents the need to secure personal property to prevent future burglaries and thefts. Highlights of the preceding report include:

- Punta Gorda's overall crime rate increased 10.7% in 2010. The crime rate, however, remains among the lowest as compared to previous years in Punta Gorda. This year and 2009 delivered the lowest crime rates in a decade.
- Among the eleven (11) municipal law enforcement agencies in the surrounding counties, Punta Gorda continues to rank 3rd in lowest crime rate yielding only to Marco Island and Sanibel Police Departments (two island communities);
- When compared to municipal police departments throughout Florida with a service population between 15,000 and 20,000, Punta Gorda maintained 2nd place (again, behind Marco Island) for lowest crime rate.
- There was a 45.3% increase in the department's index crime clearance rate;
- Punta Gorda experienced a decrease in violent crimes. There were 27 violent crimes in 2010, as compared to 33 total violent crimes in 2009 and 28 violent crimes in 2008;
- Non-violent crime increased 14.3% in 2010, rising to 376 non-violent crimes in 2010 as compared to 329 total non-violent crimes in 2009.
- Burglaries increased by 55 (45.5%) in 2010. Forced-entry burglaries increased by 26.9%, while burglaries with no forced entry increased by 69.8%. Attempted burglaries decreased from 12 to six in 2009, and from six to three in 2010;
- Larcenies (thefts) decreased by 2.5%; and
- Arrests increased by 23.1%.

Two (2) documents have been attached to this memorandum to provide you with a more comprehensive look at the state-wide UCR results for 2010. Please feel free to contact us for more information as required.

Attachments:

Crime in Florida, January – December 2010, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Crime in Florida, 2010 Annual Report – Media Briefing Notes, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

AAA/cea