

Violent Crimes in Alameda County

A Fact Sheet

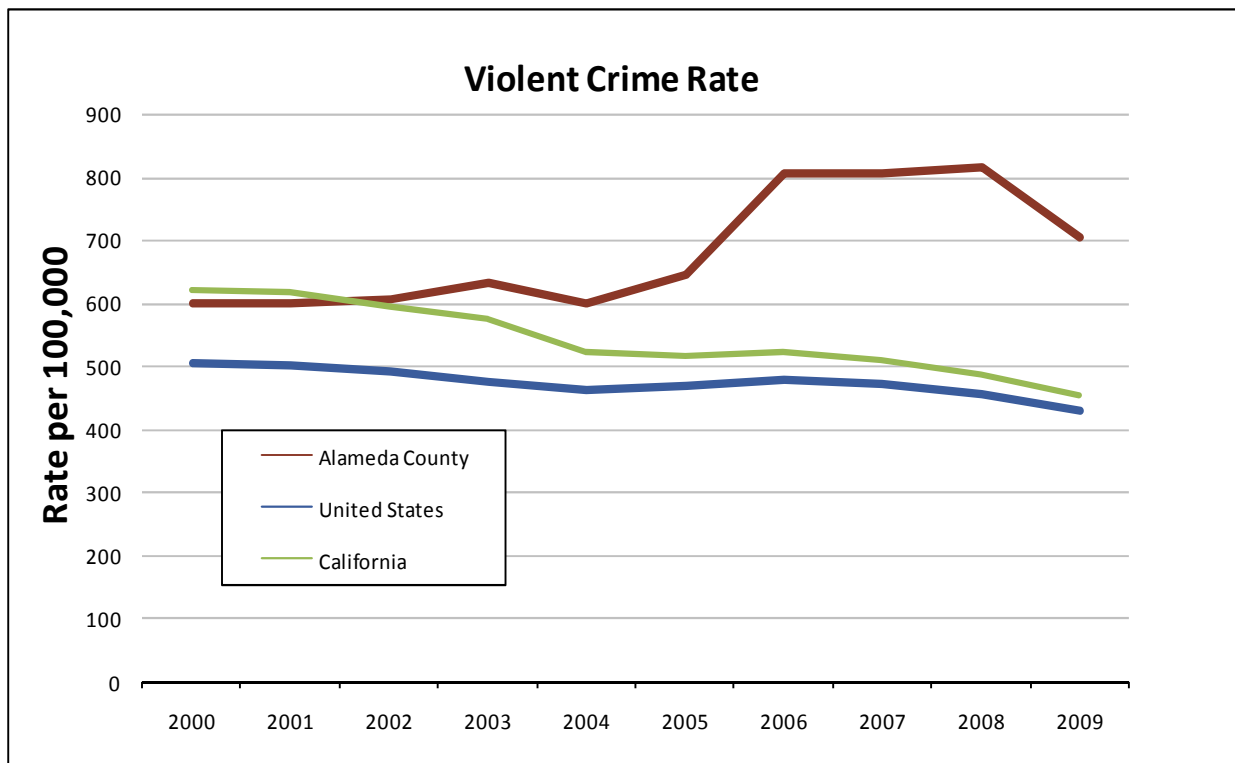
Violence
Alameda
Prevention
County
Initiative

This fact sheet presents an overview of violence in Alameda County, how it compares to the state and national violence, and how it has changed over the nine years for which we have records from 2000 to 2009.

Violent Crime

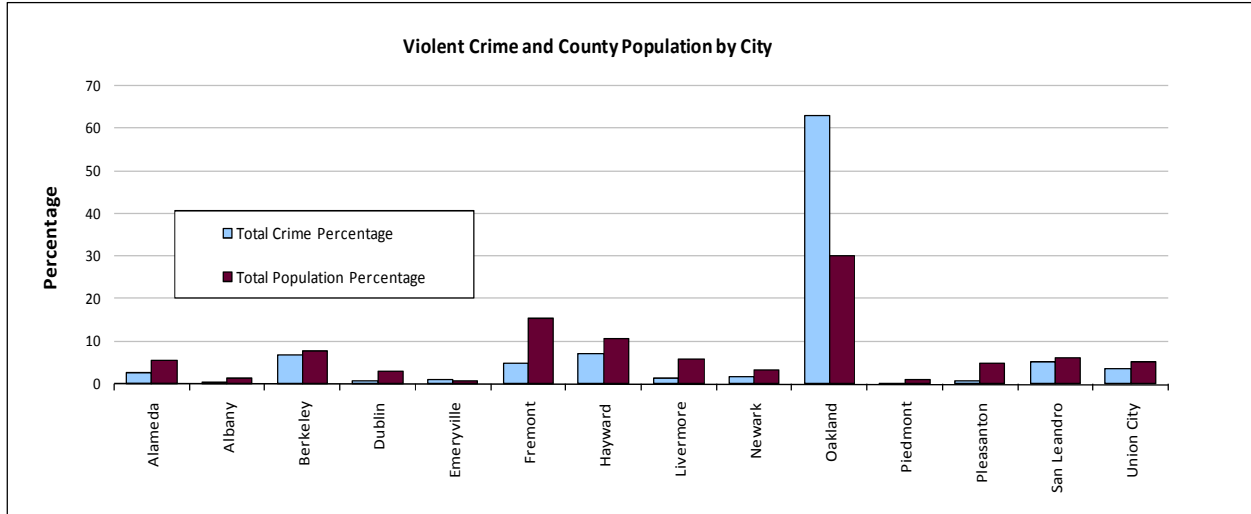
*Crimes involving threats or force, including **aggravated assault, homicide, robbery and rape.***

- Alameda County began the decade with rates that generally reflected the state's rates of violent crime.
- From 2004-2008, Alameda County's violent crime rates grew while state and national rates declined.
- In 2009, Alameda County's rate declined by 13%, roughly twice the decline in the state and national rates.
- However, in 2009 Alameda County's violent crime rate still far exceeded the statewide and national rates by roughly 60%.



“Violence is complex, and as such, requires a comprehensive solution. Toward a Lifetime Commitment to Violence Prevention: The Alameda County Blueprint, adopted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in July 2005, is a comprehensive violence prevention plan designed to reduce all forms of violence affecting county communities and families.” (1)

Oakland is the only city in the County where the city's share of violent crimes exceeds its percentage of the county population.



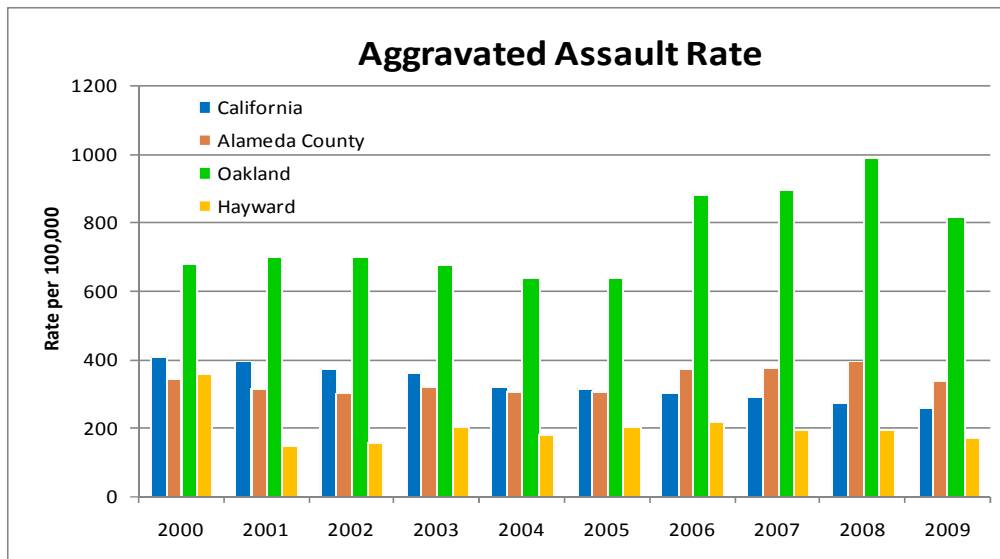
- Oakland has 30% of the county's population yet accounts for over 60% of the county's reported violent crimes. In fact, Oakland is the only city in the County that accounts for a greater percentage of violent crimes than its percentage of the county population.
- In contrast, while Fremont has around 15% of the County's population, it only accounts for just under 5% of the County's violent crimes.

Aggravated Assault

An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Simple assaults are excluded.

In 2006, the aggravated assault rate for Alameda County began to surpass that of the state.

- Incidents of aggravated assault in Alameda County decreased from 2000 to 2005. This rate then experienced a surge from 2005-2008, but abated in 2009 with the largest decrease over the 9-year period.
- Despite this decrease, Oakland continues to be the largest contributor to the county rate of aggravated assaults. Over the 9-year period Oakland contributed on average 61% of the county's aggravated assaults.

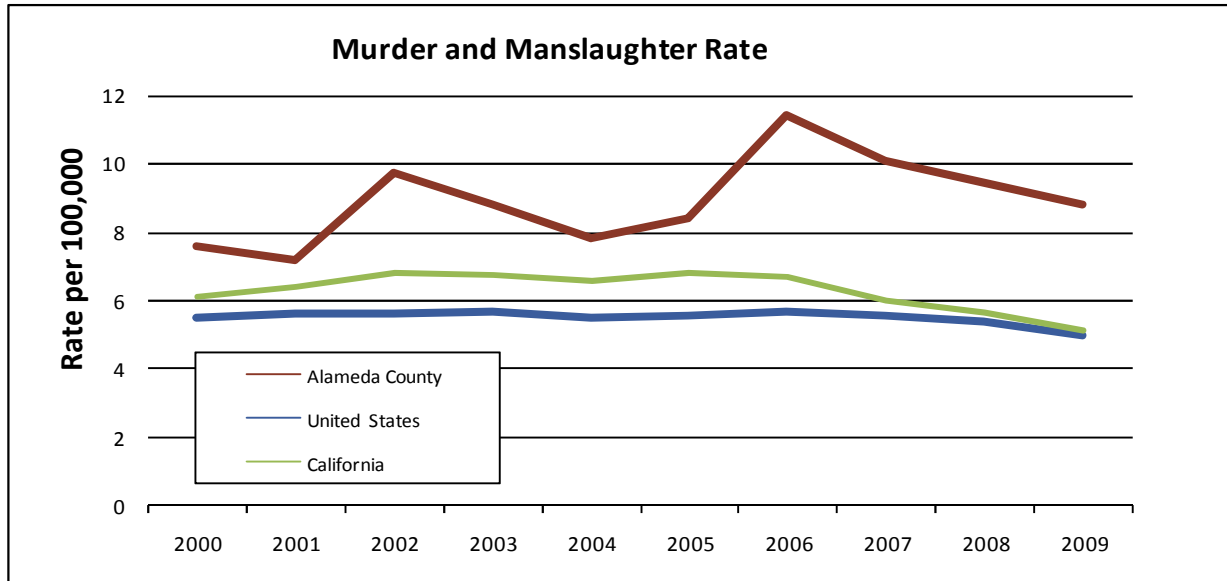


Murder and Manslaughter

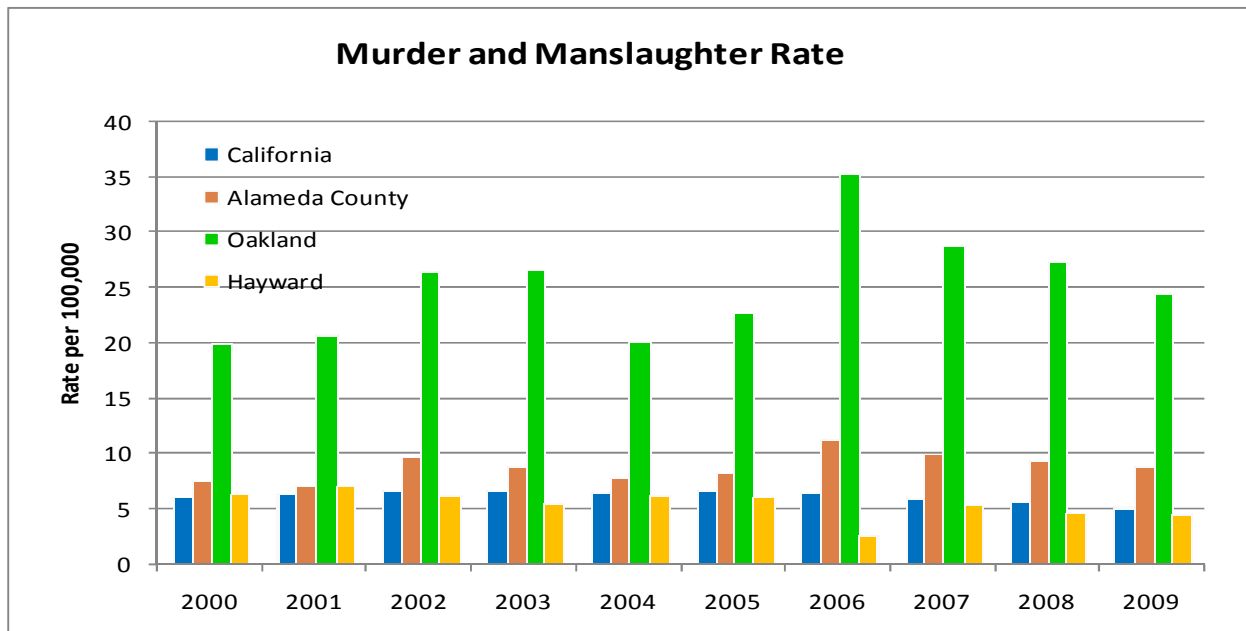
The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths are excluded. Traffic fatalities are excluded.

Alameda County had 1,422 homicides over the nine-year span; Oakland accounted for 1,101 of these.

- In the United States, the rate of murder and manslaughter has remained relatively constant with an average rate of 5.6 incidents per 100,000 people.
- California and Alameda County averaged 6.3 and 8.9 incidents per 100,000 people, respectively.
- In 2006 the murder and manslaughter rate for Alameda County reached a peak of 11.4 incidents per 100,000 people. By 2009 the rate decreased to 8.8.



- Oakland averaged 110 reported incidents of murder and manslaughter per year from 2000-2009, an average rate of 26.8 homicides per 100,000 people per year.
- Over the 9-year period Oakland contributed on average 84.7% of the murders in the County.
- Over the 9-year period Hayward was the second highest contributor with an average of 7.6% of the murders in the County from 2000-2009.

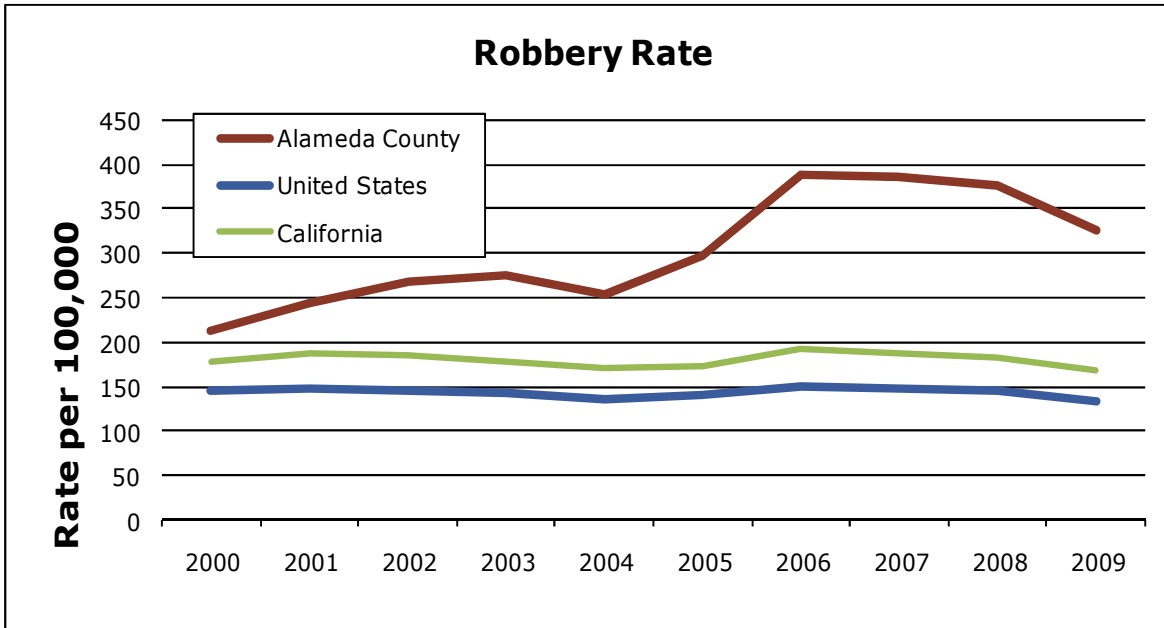


Robbery

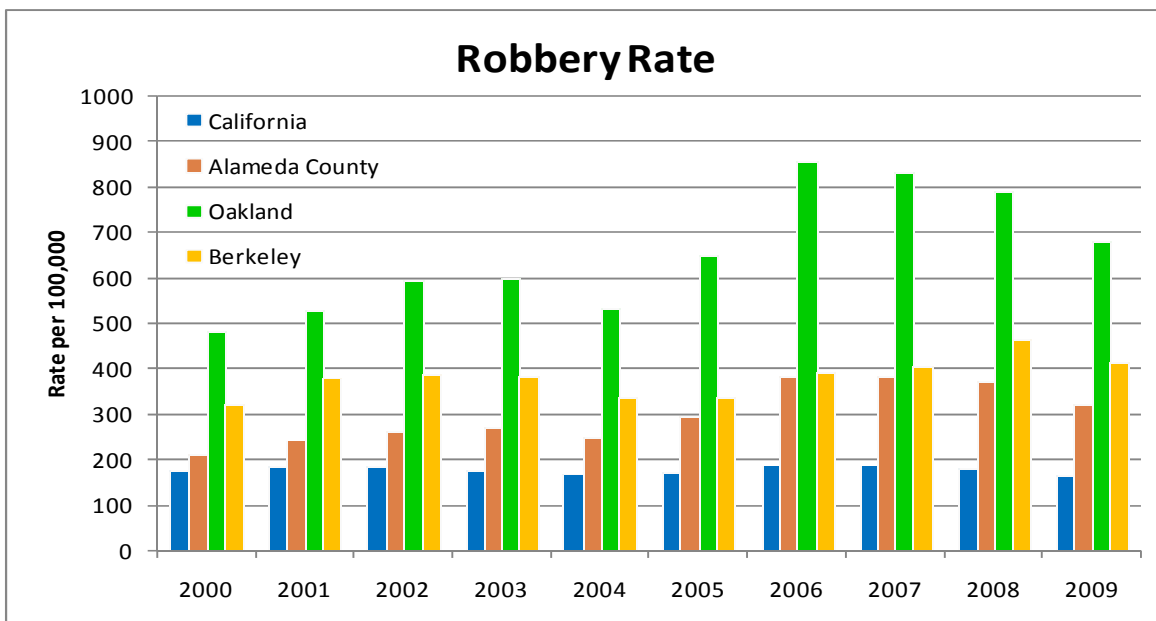
The taking or attempted taking of anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Over the 9-year period, Alameda County had an average rate of 300.2 robberies per 100,000 persons, compared to 144 for the Nation and 181 for the State.

- In 2009, there were 5,066 reported cases of robbery in the county, a rate of 325 per 100,000 people.
- The rate of robbery in California and the U.S. has remained fairly steady over the 9-year period at an average rate of 180 and 143 incidents per 100,000 people respectively.
- Alameda County's average rate of 328 more than doubles the nation's for the 9-year period.



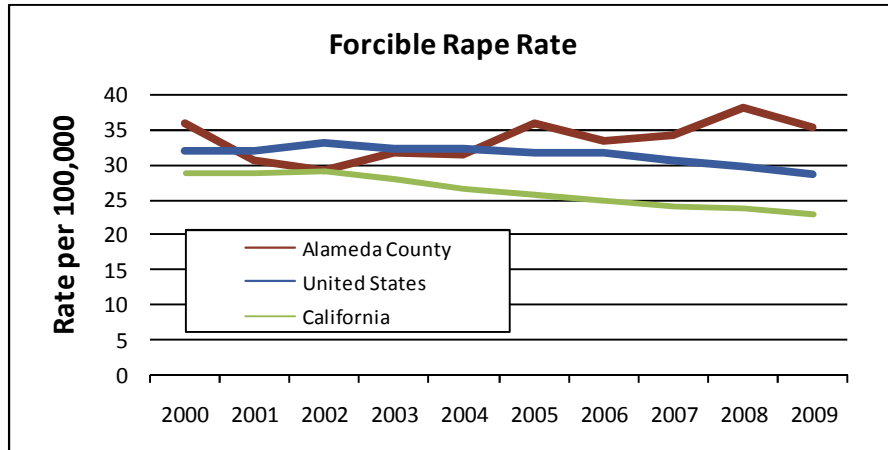
- Despite decreases since 2006, Oakland continues to lead the county with a rate of 681 incidents of robbery per 100,000 people in 2009.
- Over the 9-year period Oakland contributed on average 65.8 % of the robberies in the county. Berkeley was the second highest contributor with an average 9.1% of the robberies in the county.



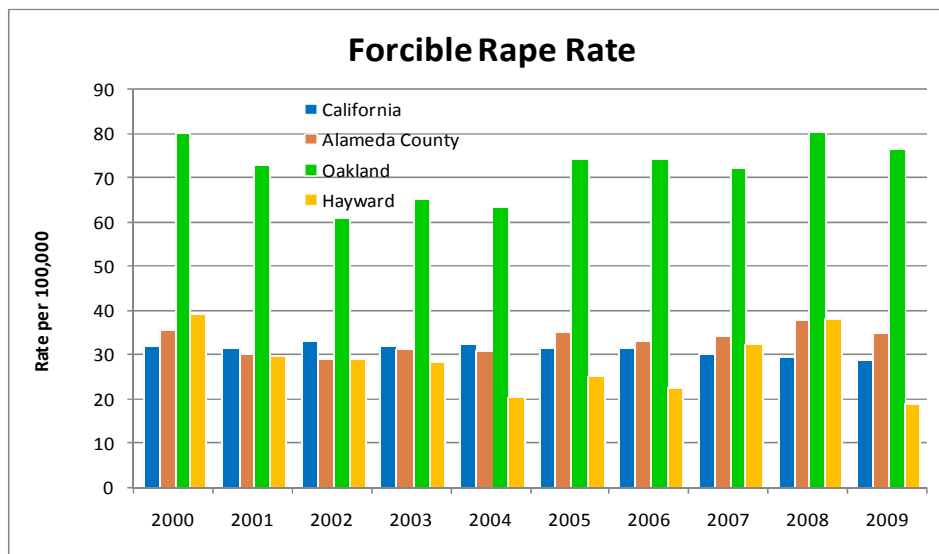
Forcible Rape

Carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Rapes by force and attempts or assaults to rape, regardless of the age of the victim, are included. Statutory offenses (no force used—victim under age of consent) are excluded.

Since 2002, Alameda County has had consistently higher rates of rape than the state.



- The county rate peaked in 2008 at 38 incidents per 100,000 persons, surpassing the 2000 peak of 35.9.
- Despite a 7% decrease in 2009, Oakland’s rate continues to lead the county at 76.6 incidents per 100,000 persons, accounting for 59.3% of the county’s rapes in 2009.
- Oakland far exceeded the second highest contributor, Hayward, where an average of 9.5% of the county’s rapes occurred over the 9-year period.



“[Violence] is not the problem of one neighborhood or group, and the response and solutions are not the responsibility of one sector of the community or of one agency, professional group, or business. Coming together and owning this problem and the solutions are central.”
 Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Harvard School of Public Health (2)

For more information, please contact
 Urban Strategies Council
www.urbanstrategies.org
 (510) 893-2404
 672 13th Street
 Oakland, CA 94612

Violence
 Alameda
Prevention
 County
Initiative

© March 2011

CITATIONS

- (1) Alameda County's Official Website, Alameda County Violence Prevention Blueprint
<http://www.acgov.org/acvpb.htm>
- (2) Alameda County *Violence Prevention Blueprint Overview*
http://www.acgov.org/pdf/AC_VP_Blueprint_7_06_05_Overview.pdf

SOURCES

US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Finance. Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Crime in the United States 2000-2007 [Computer Files]. 2008 & 2009 data compiled from media sources by Urban Strategies Council. California Department of Finance population data for state and county, US Census national population estimates.