



---

**Crime Data Collection on  
Northwest Tribal Lands:  
Evaluating BIA Crime Data**



# Contact Information

---

Jimmy Steyee

Montana SAC Director

Phone: 406-444-4298

Email: [jsteyee@mt.gov](mailto:jsteyee@mt.gov)

# History of the Project

---

- John Olivera, former BIA Special Agent in Charge of District V, approached BJS to do some analysis of the District's crime data
  - MT SAC was approached by BJS to assist with the analysis
  - Funded with SJS funds
  - Began data collection in 2005 (2004 and 2005 data)
  - BJS continued funding through 2009
- District V consists of:
    - Alaska
    - Idaho
    - Montana (District Office is located in Billings, MT)
    - Oregon
    - Washington
    - Wyoming

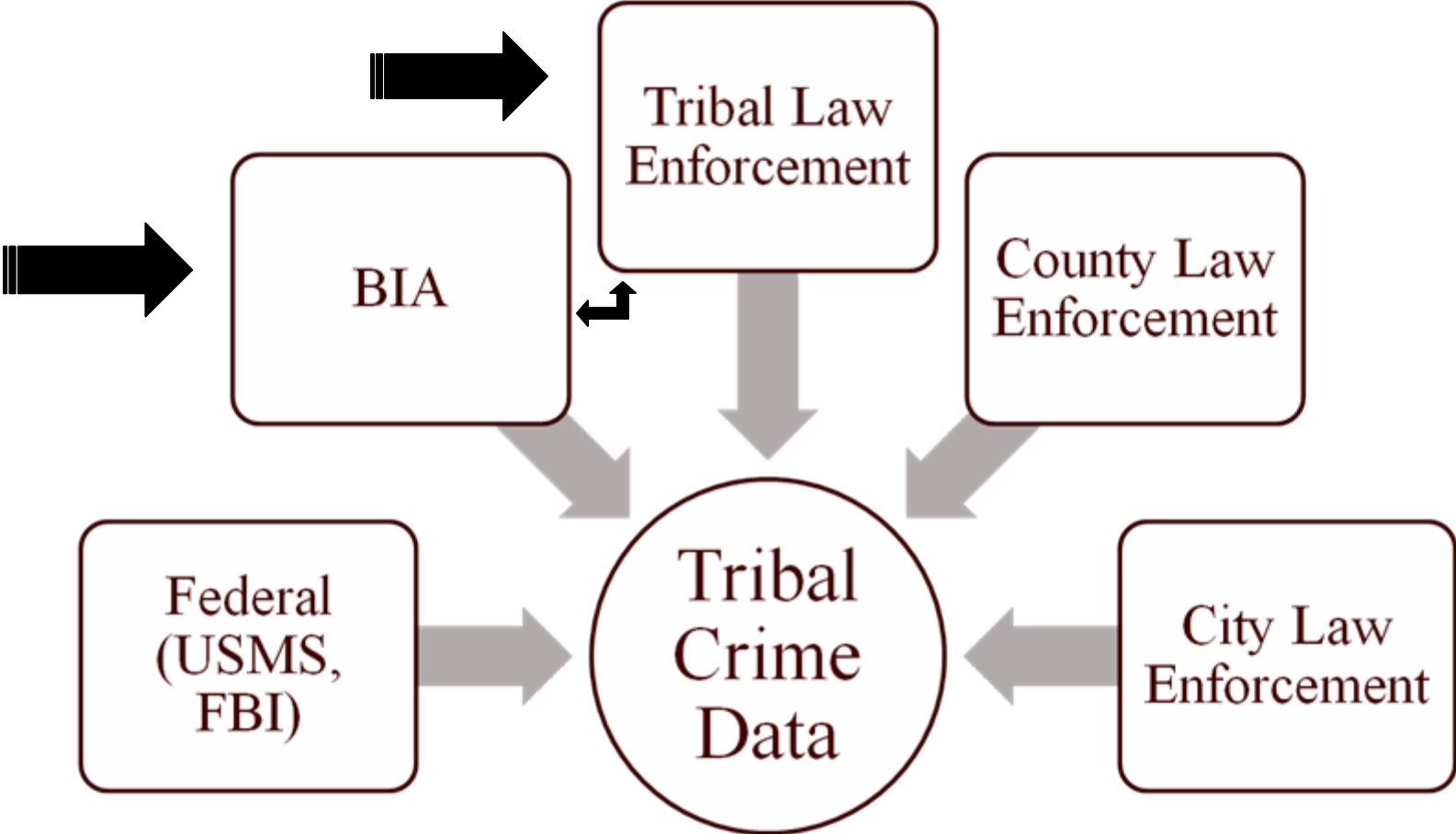


# History Continued...

---

- 2008 – Oregon and Wyoming SACs got involved by looking at their states tribal crime data
- 2009 – Most recent report completed:
  - *Native American Crime on the Northwest: 2004 – 2008 – BIA Information from Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington*

Tribal Crime Data Collection





# Methodology

---

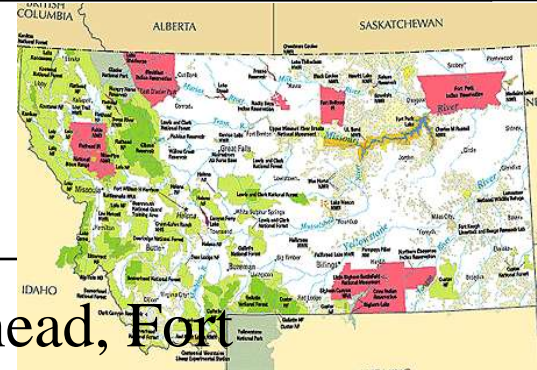
- Paper report forms were received by MT SAC
- Forms were manually entered into Microsoft Access Database
- Data Analyzed by Gary Leonardson, Ph.D., using SPSS software

# Analysis

---

- 43 of 47 tribal agencies reported some data
- 13 submitted 5 years of data
- 18 submitted 4 years of data
- 4 submitted 3 years of data
- 5 submitted 2 years of data
- 3 submitted 1 year of data
- In 2004 – 2005, SAC received some monthly **AND** some annual reports for each reporting jurisdiction
- 2006 – 2008 SAC received monthly reports for **all** jurisdictions

# Montana



- 7 reporting agencies: Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Rocky Boy's, and Northern Cheyenne

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Total Reported Offenses	18,081	26,231	64,243	51,974	32,999	193,528
Violent Crime	380	845	912	737	496	3,370
Property Crime	645	1,045	1,324	1,205	976	5,195
Substance Use/Abuse Crimes	5,168	6,760	1,4276	12,562	13,246	52,012

- The most commonly reported offense category is “All Other”
- Followed by: drunkenness, disorderly conduct, liquor law violation, DWI, loitering, and simple assault
- N.A. Population = 73,126 (U.S. Census Bureau. 2008 Pop. Estimates)



# Idaho

3 reporting agencies: Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, Fort Hall

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Total Reported Offenses	8,079	1,883	13,062	16,373	11,189	50,586
Violent Crime	44	56	65	205	206	576
Property Crime	160	158	312	255	159	1,044
Substance Use/Abuse Crimes	1,591	259	2,020	2,585	1,875	8,330

- The most commonly reported offense category is “All Other”
- Followed by: drunkenness, suspicious person, DWI, liquor law violation, and domestic violence
- N.A. Population = 34,707 (U.S. Census Bureau. 2008 Pop. Estimates)

# Alaska

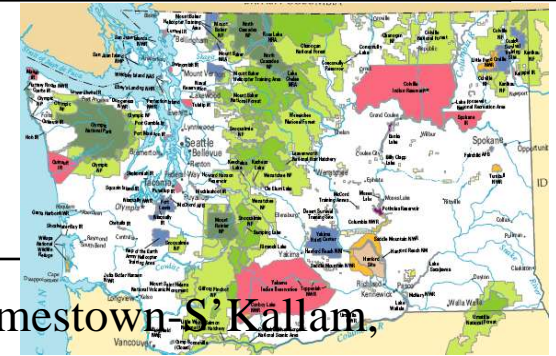


- 1 reporting agency: Metlakatla

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Total Reported Offenses	570	469	392	373	317	2,121
Violent Crime	9	3	0	0	0	12
Property Crime	10	6	1	6	3	26
Substance Use/Abuse Crimes	288	199	205	211	178	1,081

- The most commonly reported offenses are: liquor law violations, domestic violence, disorderly conduct, assault, DWI, and suspicious person.
- Metlakatla population: 1,375 (U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census)

# Washington



- 24 Reporting Agencies: Chehalis, Colville, Hoh River, Jamestown-S'Kallam, Kalispell, Quileute, Lummi, Makah, Nisqually, Nooksack, Olympic Peninsula, Pacific Northwest Columbia River, Port Gamble, Puget Sound, Puyallup, Quinault, Sauk Suiattle, Skokomish, Spokane, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, Upper Skagit, and Yakama

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Total Reported Offenses	16,819	11,268	11,559	12,552	16,132	68,330
Violent Crime	176	291	194	146	180	987
Property Crime	1,586	1,402	1,108	1,337	1,485	6,918
Substance Use/Abuse Crimes	1,838	1,529	1,197	1,345	1,691	7,600

- The most commonly reported offense category is “All Other”
- Followed by: larceny/theft, suspicious person, simple assault, domestic violence, drug violations, and disorderly conduct
- N.A. Population = 179,578 (U.S. Census Bureau. 2008 Pop. Estimates)

# Brochures

- Montana: 8 total brochures in 2007, using 2004 – 2006 data, and updated these brochures with 2007 data.
- Currently working on brochures for Washington (22), Idaho (4), and Alaska (1).

Montana Board of Crime Control

Helena, Montana  
406.444.3004  
Fax: 406.444.4722  
TTY 406.444.7099  
www.mbccmt.gov



## The Reservations of Montana: Fast Facts



Reservations are territories reserved by tribes as permanent homelands. Some were created through treaties, others by statutes or executive orders. There is great diversity among the Tribal Nations of Montana in terms of language, culture, history and government.

- **The Crow Reservation** is the fifth largest in the nation, encompassing the Wolf, Bighorn and Pryor mountains. The Crow (*Apsáalooke*) people arrived in Montana in the 1600s and are part of the Hidatsa people. *Apsáalooke* translates to *children of the large-beaked bird*, which was later misinterpreted by White men as *Crow*.
- **The Fort Peck Reservation** is home to two separate Indian nations, each comprised of numerous bands and divisions. Sioux divisions include Sisseton/Wahpetons, the Yanktonais and the Teton Hunkpapa. Assiniboine divisions include Canoe Paddler and Red Bottom bands. The Assiniboine are believed to be an offshoot of the Yanktonai Sioux, while the Sioux are from the middle band of the Sioux or the Nakotas.
- **The Blackfeet Reservation** is home to *Siksika* peoples, a loose confederacy of three independent tribes presently living in Montana and Alberta, Canada. The name originates from the distinctive black hue of moccasins that were historically either painted or darkened by fire.
- **The Flathead Reservation** is home to Salish, Pend d'Oreilles and the Kootenai bands that lived in western Montana, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington in the early 1800s. Artifacts indicate that these tribes have roots in the area that reach back more than 14,000 years. The Kootenai were divided into two main groups. One band lived to the northeast and had a lifestyle based on bison hunting. The other lived in the mountainous west and had a lifestyle focused on rivers and lakes. The Salish occupied territory in Washington, Idaho and Western Montana.
- **Fort Belknap Indian Reservation** is home to the Gros Ventre and the Assiniboine tribes. The Gros Ventre call themselves *AH-AH-NE-NIN*, meaning the *White Clay People*. Early French fur trappers and traders named this tribe *Gros Ventre* because other area tribes referred to them as the *Water Falls People*. The Assiniboine refer to themselves as *Nakota* meaning the *Generous Ones*. *Assiniboine* is a Chippewa word meaning one who cooks with stones.
- The people of the **Northern Cheyenne Reservation** originally lived in the upper Great Lakes region, later moving to the northern plains and the Dakotas. These tribes signed treaties with the United States in the 1800s, and Northern Cheyenne tribal lands were reduced to a reservation by Executive Order in 1884.
- **Rocky Boy's Reservation** is home to a diverse group of Cree, Chippewa, Metis and Assiniboine peoples, which has imparted rich cultural diversity. Many members still speak the Cree language.

Reservation	Size in Acres	Sworn Law Enforcement Officers	Average Acres per Officer	Crimes 2007	Average Crimes per Officer
Crow	2,200,000	20	110,000	6,981	349
Fort Peck	2,000,000	28	71,429	4,047	145
Blackfeet	1,500,000	11	136,364	31,051	2,823
Flathead	1,317,000	19	69,316	3,066	163
Fort Belknap*	651,648	12	54,304	1,420	118
Northern Cheyenne	444,000	9	49,333	4,403	489
Rocky Boy's	130,000	7	18,571	2,394	342
Totals	8,242,648	106	77,761	53,394	504

\*2006 data used; 2007 unavailable

# Brochures contain...

- Overview of each reservation
  - Crime data
  - Tribal government structure
  - Demographics
  - Population
  - Economic indicators
  - Tribal history, language, and other interesting facts
  - Comparisons to geographically significant areas (state and/or county)

## Flathead Reservation Crime Data

The Flathead Reservation submitted annual data for 2004 - 2007, cumulatively reporting 9,956 offenses for those years: 4,325 in 2004, 219 in 2005, 2,314 in 2006 and 3,098 in 2007. Index Crimes comprised 13.9 percent (1,386) of all reported offenses.

The *Index Crime Rate\** calculates the number of crimes per 100,000 population. The index crime rate for the Flathead Reservation is based on BIA population figures (2003) of 4,584 tribal members living on or near the Reservation. In 2004, the Index Crime Rate was 17,583 per 100,000 (or 176 crimes per 1,000 people); in 2005, it was 327 per 100,000 (3.3 per 1,000), in 2006 it was 6,086 per 100,000 (60.9 per 1,000), and in 2007, it was 6,239 per 100,000 (62.4/1,000). The four-year average crime rate was 7,559 per 100,000 (75.6 per 1,000). This is substantially higher than the national average, which was approximately 3,808 crimes per 100,000 population (or 38.1 per 1,000) in 2006.

\* Note: the national data is based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data, which includes Arson as an index crime.

The most frequently reported offenses among all 9,956 offenses reported between 2004 and 2007 on the Flathead Reservation were:

1. "All Other Offenses" (2,466 offenses): 24.8%
2. Liquor Laws (1,108 offenses): 11.1%
3. Domestic Violence (860 offenses): 8.6%
4. DWI (763 offenses): 7.7%
5. Disorderly Conduct (713 offenses): 7.2%
6. Runaways <18 (477 offenses): 4.8%
7. Larceny-Theft (471 offenses): 4.7%
8. Aggravated Assault (435 offenses): 4.4%
9. Assault (422 offenses): 4.2%
10. Drug Violations (347 offenses): 3.5%

• **Clearance Rates:** 49.3 (4,904) of all 9,956 offenses were reported as cleared.

• **Alcohol** was reported as a factor in 2,079 or 20.9 percent of all offenses.

• **Drugs** were reported as a factor in 139 offenses, which equates to 1.4 percent of all offenses.

• **Juveniles** were reported to be involved in 1,048 offenses, or 10.5 percent of all offenses, 2004 - 2007.

## Lake County Crime Data

Lake County Data*		
	2006	2007
Census Population	28,184	29,120
Crime Index	883	838
Crime Rate per 100,000	3,133	2,878
Crime Rate per 1,000	31.33	28.78
Homicide	1	2
Rape	15	18
Robbery	6	1
Aggravated Assault	127	123
Burglary	100	99
Larceny	566	499
Motor Vehicle Theft	68	96
Simple Assault	394	163
Domestic Abuse	230	248
Arson	6	7
Forgery	41	18
Fraud	70	40
Embezzlement	1	0
Stolen Property	2	3
Vandalism	339	327
Weapon Law Violations	10	9
Sex Offenses	30	33
Drug Offenses	205	222
Gambling Offenses	0	0
Family Offenses	73	27
DUI	242	280
Liquor Law Violations	192	177
Disorderly Conduct	432	420
Other	485	745
Curfew	31	9
Runaway	34	96

\* Data includes offenses reported by the Lake County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius police departments.

The Flathead Reservation covers parts of Lake, Sanders, Missoula and Flathead counties. All of these counties are growing in terms of population: between 2000 and 2007: Flathead County grew 16.6 percent, Missoula County 10.3 percent, Sanders County by 7.9 percent and Lake County by 7.3 percent. Lake County data is used for comparative purposes because it is home to the Tribal Headquarters in Pablo. Census estimates for 2007 put the Lake County population at 28,438 persons, of whom approximately 22.6 percent (6,439) were American Indian.

The Flathead Reservation collects its own crime data, distinct from that collected by the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and the Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius police departments. The Lake County data reflects only the crimes reported by these jurisdictions.

Historical crime data for 2007 revealed a total of 279 juvenile offenses, 76 (27%) of which were attributed to American Indian youth, and 195 of which were attributed to White youth. The most common juvenile offenses were Status Offenses.

• Source <http://mbccmt.gov/juvenilequery>

The *Crime Index* is the total of the 7 most serious crimes.

The *Crime Rate*, also based on the 7 most serious crimes, reflects the number of crimes per a specific number of people.

\**Index Crime Rate per 100,000* = Number of Index Crimes/Population\*100,000





# Brochures

---

- Have been sent to each reservation's tribal law enforcement and/or tribal leadership to *inform* them of the project
- Have been used during information sharing and grant writing trainings as a *data source*
- To bring *awareness* to the issue of tribal crime data collection

# Analysis

---

- The current reporting procedure lacks consistency
  - Some agencies reported large swings in the number of offenses reported from year-to-year
- The current reporting procedure is ill-equipped for analysis
  - No sub-categorization for “All Other” offenses
  - Time intensive and costly
  - Conducive to data entry errors
  - Does NOT meet UCR/NIBRS reporting guidelines...



# Future Planning

---

- Trying to build relationships with Montana's tribal agencies
- Develop a SUSTAINABLE crime data sharing model based on partnership
- With an emphasis accuracy
- Assist tribal governments with grant writing and management to help build law enforcement resources

# Summary

---

- MT SAC collected BIA District V tribal crime data on 43 of the regions reservations.
- Compiled and did some analysis of the data
- Creating culturally sensitive brochures for many of the reporting jurisdictions
- Developing relationships with MT Tribes
- Made recommendations for improvement to the BIA
- Looking at ways to develop a sustainable tribal crime reporting model



---

# Questions or Comments?

Jimmy Steyee  
[jsteyee@mt.gov](mailto:jsteyee@mt.gov)  
406-444-4298