

Recently one of our residents asked the question, “How safe are we compared to the surrounding communities?”. I have collected some statistical information that will compare the crime statistics as reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. I have used a drill down method of comparison from national crime statistics to our local area.

The first comparison will be the 7 major index crimes (Murder, Sexual Offenses, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Auto Theft). The Crime Index Rate is the rate per 100,000 population.

In the year 2006 the population of the United State was about 299,500,000 people and the reported Major Index I Crimes was 11,401,313, or an Index Rate of 3,671 Nation Wide. The 2006 population for the State of Florida was 18,090,000 and we reported 849,879 Major Index I Crimes, or a Crime Index Rate of 4,632.

I want to show a comparison of the Florida Crime Index to the other most populated states and ones that are familiar to most of us.

State	Population	Reported Index I Crimes	Index Rate
Florida	18,090,000	849,879	4,632
California	36,460,000	1,350,137	3,703
Texas	23,507,000	1,080,838	4,585
New York	19,306,000	480,270	2,487
Penn.	12,440,600	358,653	2,891

I next looked at the rates for the Counties within the State of Florida and compared Indian River County to some of the other surrounding counties.

County	Population	Reported Index I Crimes	Index Rate
Indian River	135,260	4,422	3,269
Brevard	543,050	21,904	4,033
St. Lucie	259,315	9,912	3,822
Martin	142,645	4,497	3,152
Palm Beach	1,287,990	63,798	4,953
Orange	1,079,520	68,520	6,347

I next looked at each municipality within Indian River County and compared their individual index rates.

Agency	Population	Reported Index I Crimes	Index Rate
Sheriff's Off	87,090	3,024	3,472
Fellsmere PD	4,628	74	1,599
Sebastian PD	21,666	563	2,598
Vero Beach PD	18,160	718	3,953
I.R. Shores PD	3,720	35	940
Orchid	1,000	2	200

Also we wanted to look at the calls for service and the criminal activity in the Orchid area compared to the surrounding areas North and South on A1A and North and South on the mainland along U.S. #1. Here is a sample of calls received at the 911 center for the period of Aug 1 to Sept 31, 2007.

Call Type	Orchid	North A1A	South A1A	South US1	NorthUS1
911	2	15	62	9	14
Alarms	29	54	84	23	18
Animal	1	3	6	8	4
Arrest	0	0	4	4	6
Auto Burg	1	4	2	0	5
Vandalism	0	4	2	7	1
Disturbance	0	9	6	23	35
Drugs	0	0	0	3	6
Medical	4	11	56	26	24
Burglary	2	3	0	0	4
Theft	0	3	8	4	5

Traffic	0	44	8	112	99
Trespass	1	7	0	4	1
Auto Theft	0	0	2	1	2
TOTALS	59	343	456	473	475

As you can see from all the crime stats and a two month sample of 911 calls, the residents that live in the Town of Orchid enjoy a safer place to live compared to the surrounding areas of Indian River County, the State of Florida, and the United States.