



**Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee
Public Hearing Examining Criminal Justice Statistics and Trends in Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**Written Testimony Submitted by Mike Pennington, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)**

Created by Act 274 of 1978, PCCD is an administrative commission of the Governor's Executive Offices. Our mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems; to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime; and to increase the safety of our communities.

PCCD is responsible for the administration of millions in federal and state dollars in grants to state and local justice agencies, victim service providers and children's advocacy centers, non-profit organizations, and school entities. The agency is also responsible for administering the state's victim's compensation program, as well as for the training and certification of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and constables. The Commission also has duties relative to the analysis of criminal justice statistics, which is performed by PCCD's Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPD) in partnership with an in-house research team contracted through the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

For the most part, PCCD is not the primary repository of the data elements that we analyze. ORESPD/IUP will pull down publicly available criminal justice or juvenile justice data from other state agencies or municipalities. We also submit data requests to the PA State Police (PSP), Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), PA Department of Corrections (DOC), PA Sentencing Commission (PSC), Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4), Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), and other relevant criminal justice entities to conduct trend analyses and recidivism research. Typically, we present these findings via reports, infographs, or interactive dashboards. A full listing of our research efforts to date can be found on our website at www.pccd.pa.gov.

In 2019, ORESPD/IUP staff utilized federal grant funding to develop and publish a comprehensive [Crime Trends Report](#), which analyzed Uniform Crime Report (UCR) offense, arrest, and victimization data from PSP; courts and sentencing data from AOPC and PCS; and information on state prisoners, parolees, and probationers from DOC and the PA Board of Parole (Parole). Ideally, PCCD would like to recreate this report in the future, and we are looking forward to the more robust analysis of crime data that will be available as more law enforcement agencies shift to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

In the meantime, IUP staff has recently prepared a 10-year (2013-2022) statewide-level criminal data offense trend report utilizing publicly available criminal offense data sourced from PSP's UCR system (see attachment).¹ Based on that data set, the total number of criminal offenses reported by law enforcement has declined 24.3% over the past decade, but we would note that Part 1 Offenses (e.g., violent offenses) have risen by 18% from 2020 to 2022. Most notably, the offenses of murder/manslaughter have seen a 76.9% increase from 2013 to 2022; motor vehicle thefts have increased 54.9%; and possession/carrying a weapon have increased 83%. Burglary, robberies, arson, drug sale and manufacturing, DUIs, vandalism, and drug possession have all decreased during this same time period.

If there are any questions regarding the report, or PCCD's research in general, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 717-265-8461 or mpenningto@pa.gov.

¹ Please note that this data is self-reported by law enforcement agencies and as such we would defer to PSP as to the accuracy of the information reported.