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BACKGROUND

- Violent crime has been at the forefront of public health concerns in Jacksonville, Florida, specifically with increases in murders in 2006.
- Numerous reports have been created by special studies groups and the media to highlight and address this issue.
- Emphasis has focused on the criminal nature of violence and secondary prevention strategies to combat the problem.
- Previous studies have focused mainly on increases in murder contributing to a limited view of violence in Jacksonville.
- The Duval County Health Department embarked on a comprehensive analysis of crime statistics and health related data in order to evaluate the problem more extensively and potentially assess overall crime, patterns of violence and factors that may contribute to violent acts.
- The analysis revealed a different pattern of violence, showing that Jacksonville is a relatively crime free city.
- These differences are largely due to inconsistencies in violence related data, specifically how data is classified, the extent to which it's analyzed and subjective interpretation of the data.



METHODS

Various data sources for violence, violent death, and violent injury were identified, abstracted and analyzed. Data for Jacksonville/Duval County were compared against other similar cities and counties. Rates and percents were calculated to adjust for population differences. Data were presented using line graphs for time series trends and bar graphs for group comparisons. Confidence intervals were also calculated to determine statistical differences between groups or years.

Data Sources:

- Census Bureau (population and socio-economic)
- Vital Statistics (death)
- Hospital Discharge (Injury)
- Emergency Room (injury)
- Uniform Crime Statistics (Violent Crime, Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and Forcible Sex Offenses)



"Homicide" and "Murder" are different measures. Homicide is the killing of another human while murder requires the intent to kill another person, also termed criminal homicide. Homicide rates will always be larger than murder rates.

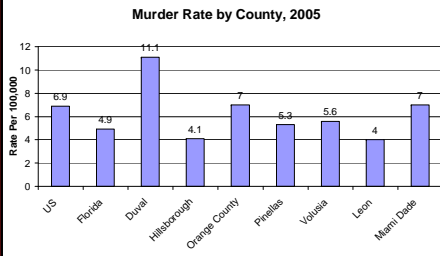
City populations are always smaller than county populations. Counties may include several cities. Rates for counties are most commonly larger than for cities.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

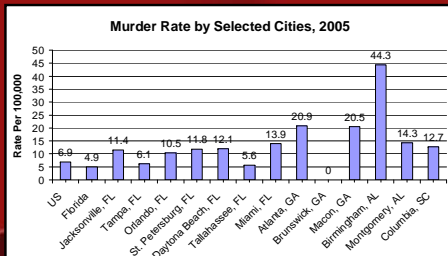
Violent Crime
 Murder
 Aggravated Assault
 Robbery
 Forcible Sex Offense

Confidence Intervals indicated that murder and homicide has increased but the increases over time or not statistically significant.

Violence is decreasing but death related to violence is increasing slightly compared to similar counties. However, injury data reveals violent injuries are 2-3 times higher in Duval County than the same comparison counties. This is possibly due to many more violent injuries occurring than are reported as offenses and/or injuries do not commonly end in death due to level of trauma center.

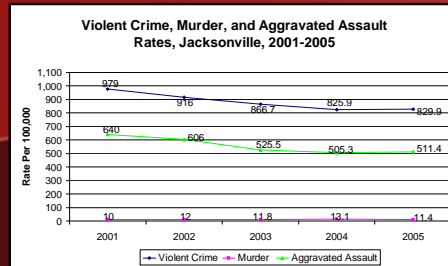


Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2005; Prepared by: Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation Research, February, 2007

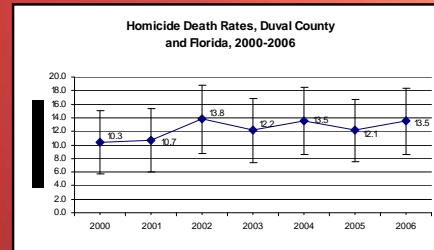


Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2005; Prepared by: Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation Research, February, 2007

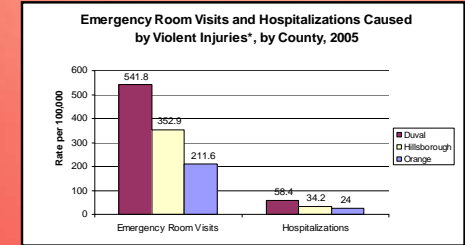
Murder has increased; however, Violent Crime overall, and individual crime categories Aggravated Assaults, Robbery, and Forcible Sex Offenses have decreased since 2001. Analyze violent crime separately instead of the entire violent crime index.



Source: Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States, 2001-2005; Prepared by: Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation Research, February, 2007



95% Confidence Intervals provide statistical markers to gauge real trends versus differences that are more likely to reflect insignificant variation of data from year to year. Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 2000-2006, *2006 data is preliminary. Prepared by: DCHD, Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation Research, February, 2007



Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, In-Patient Hospitalization, 2005; Prepared by: Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation Research, February, 2007

Violent Crime, Death and Injury should always be viewed in terms of rates instead of crude numbers. Jacksonville is the largest city in Florida, yielding the highest number of violent crimes. However, when observing rates, Jacksonville is a relatively crime free city.

"Jacksonville has a consistently high overall violent crime index ranking number one in Florida for 18 of the past 21 years" – Florida Times Union

"Jacksonville is the 10th-safest big city in the U.S., among 32 cities with a population of at least 500,000." – Jacksonville Business Journal

