



Criminal Justice System in Lane County, Oregon
JANUARY 2008

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ADULT REPORT CARD	
2006	2008
CRIME AND SAFETY	
B-	B-
RESOURCES AND CAPACITY	
F	F
EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS	
A	B
JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY	
F	D

CRIME AND SAFETY

GRADE B-

- Drug abuse arrests have continued to rise in Lane County and are still much higher than Oregon and the U.S.
- Addressing adult felony violent crime continues to be a high priority with violent crime contradicting the Oregon and U.S. trend and rising slightly
- Serious property crime is dropping but Lane County still ranks among the worst in the U.S.
- The high rate of adult drug abuse, with arrest rates far exceeding Oregon or the U.S., contributes to higher rates of property crime
- After extremely high rates of child abuse victimization, this indicator had dropped below Oregon and the U.S. and continues to move slowly downward

RESOURCES AND CAPACITY

GRADE F

- The system's capacity to address crime decreased while population increased
- The number of law enforcement officers per 1,000 population remains below Oregon and far below the U.S.
- 123 jail beds are closed due to lack of staffing
- Releases due to jail overcrowding have decreased
- DA felony intakes per prosecutor have gone down slightly due to fewer felony arrests
- The system is not able to adequately address many types of crime

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

GRADE B

- The grade dropped from an A to a B in part because Lane County's rate of arrests per officer is dropping while Oregon's rate of arrests per officer is rising in both property and violent crimes
- The rate of arrests to reported violent crime is moving rapidly upward
- At the same time, the rate of arrests to reported property crimes is going down
- The percent of both felony and misdemeanor cases brought to trial that are successfully prosecuted in a timely fashion is higher than Oregon and increasing

JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

GRADE D

- The grade improved from an F to a D in this category because in some areas Lane County is better than Oregon or the U.S. and continues improving
- The percent of felony offenders failing probation supervision is lower than the Oregon rate for the first time in six and a half years
- The percent of individuals failing to appear for court events remains very high
- Offenders still are often not held accountable; in 2006, over 3,000 adult inmates were released annually from jail due to overcrowding

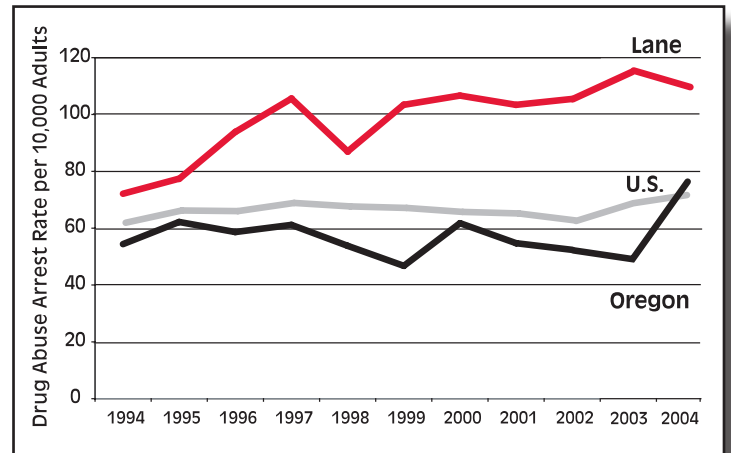
ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INDICATORS

CRIME AND SAFETY

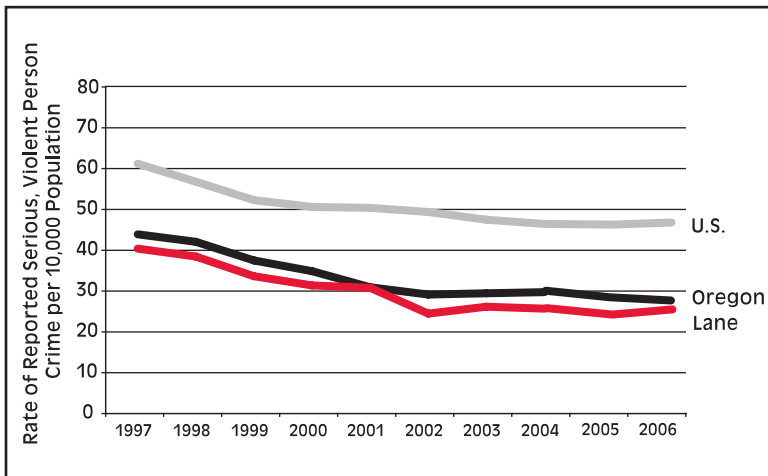
GRADE: B-

The system improved in the area of crime and safety with the exception of pervasive drug abuse and the continued high rate of serious property crime. The county's adult drug abuse arrest rate continues to exceed both Oregon and U.S. rates, though it is dropping slightly.

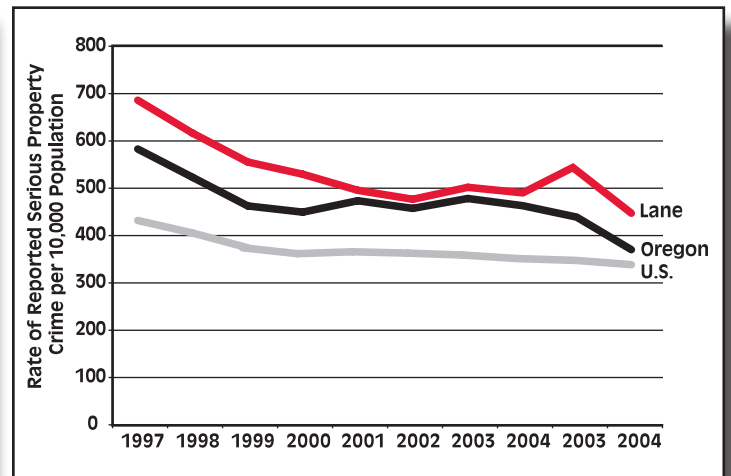
Drug Abuse Arrest Rate per 10,000 Adults



Rate of Reported Serious, Violent Crime per 10,000 Population

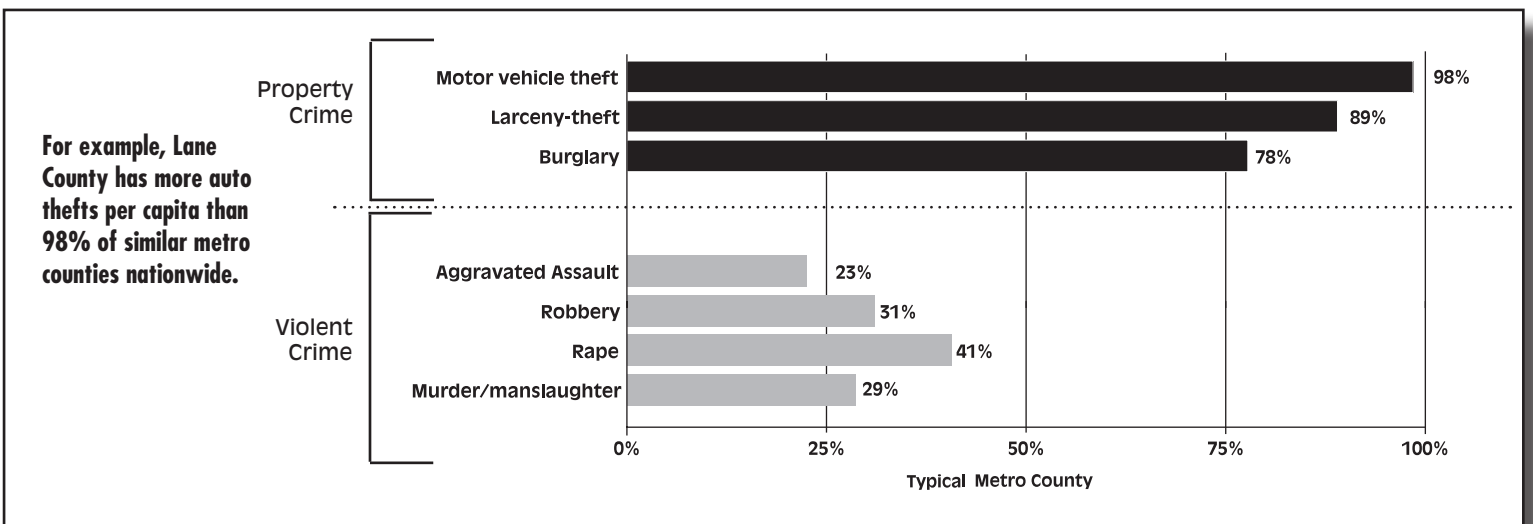


Rate of Reported Serious Property Crime per 10,000 Population



Serious Reported Crime in 2005 per 100,000 Population

Lane County's Rank Among U.S. Counties of 100,000 to 1 Million Population



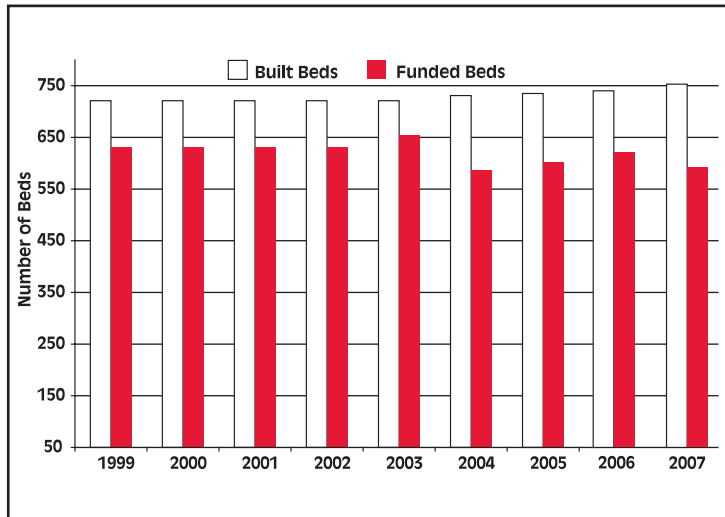
ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INDICATORS

RESOURCES AND CAPACITY

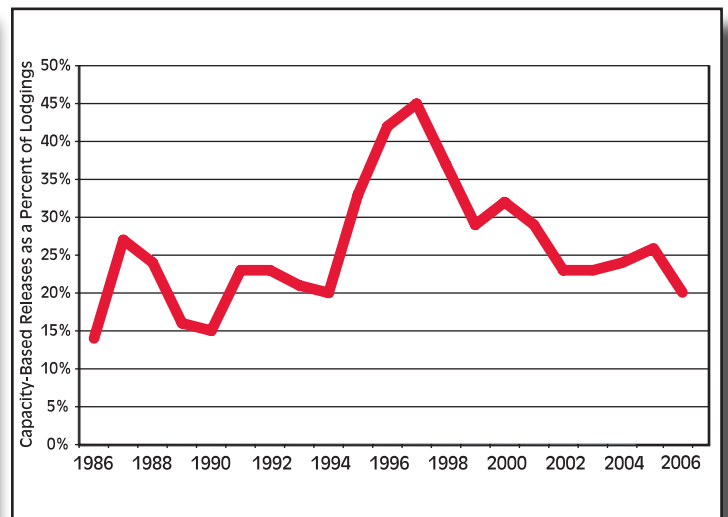
GRADE: F

The criminal justice system in Lane County has too few law enforcement officers and funded jail beds. The District Attorney is prosecuting fewer crimes due to the loss of prosecutors. The number of capacity based releases from jail are continuing to decrease.

Built vs. Funded Beds

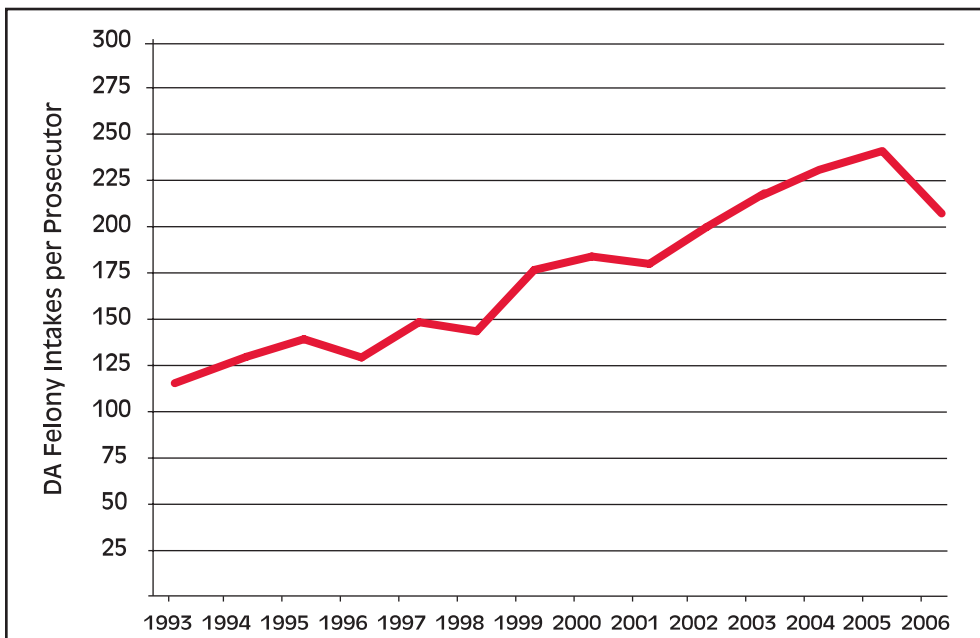


Releases Triggered By Overcrowding as Percent of Lodgings



"Percent of Lodgings" in the chart above is the number of Jail inmates released as a percent of all inmates housed at that time in the Lane County Jail.

District Attorney Felony Intakes per Prosecutor



Because of budget constraints, the District Attorney's Office stopped prosecuting most non-violent misdemeanors in April 2005. In August 2007 they started filing these cases again and offering offenders a speedy resolution if they successfully complete a correspondence course. The case load per attorney continues to be very large with the office still 9 or 10 attorneys short of what they need according to a 2004 American Prosecutors Research Institute study.

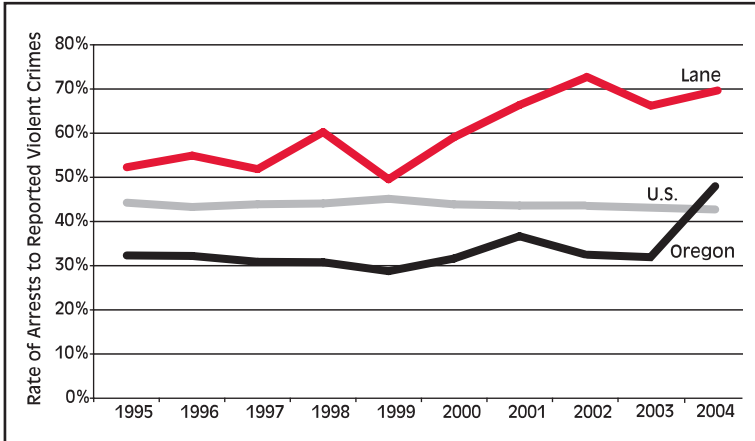
ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INDICATORS

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES

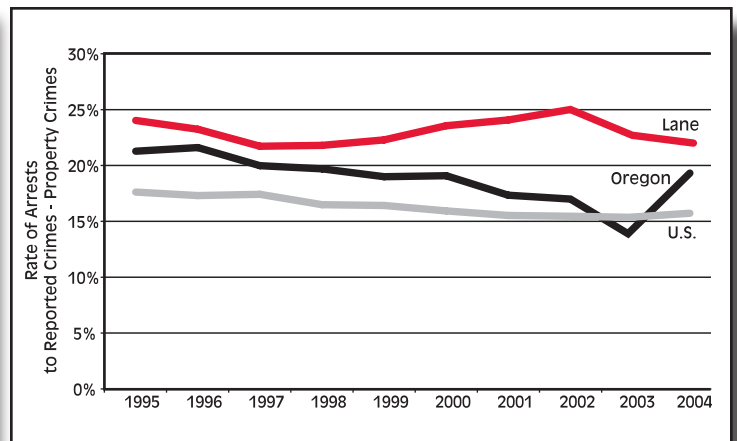
GRADE: B

The system is doing a good job with the available resources. Law enforcement's rate of arrests per reported crime remains higher than other areas of the U.S. At the same time, the number of law enforcement officers per 1,000 population is still lower than the Oregon rate and substantially below the U.S. rate. Lane County no longer has an Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team, SWAT, nor resident deputies in rural communities.

Rate of Arrests to Reports for VIOLENT Crimes



Rate of Arrests to Reports for PROPERTY Crimes

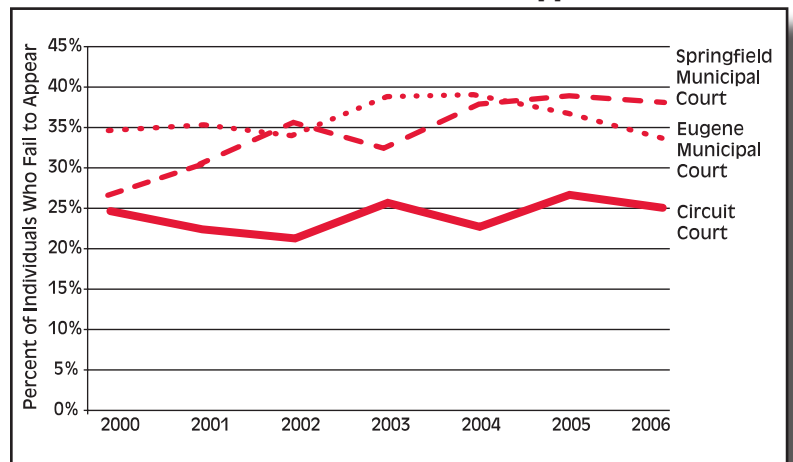


JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

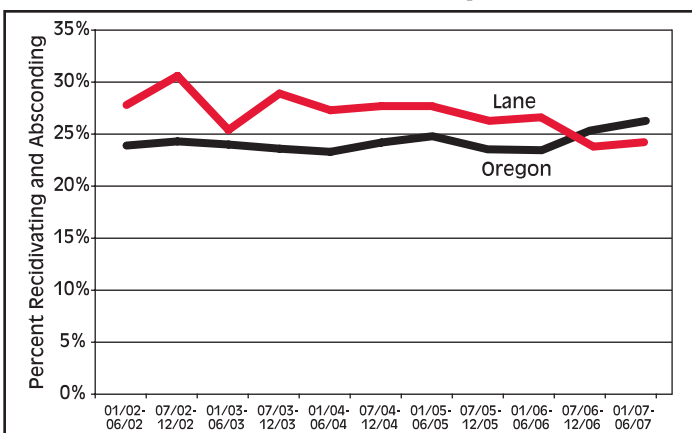
GRADE: D

A very high number of offenders fail to appear for court. Re-offense rates for offenders on supervision are improving and have dropped below the Oregon rate.

Percent of Individuals Who Fail to Appear for Court



3-Year Re-offense Rate for Felony Offenders on Probation Supervision

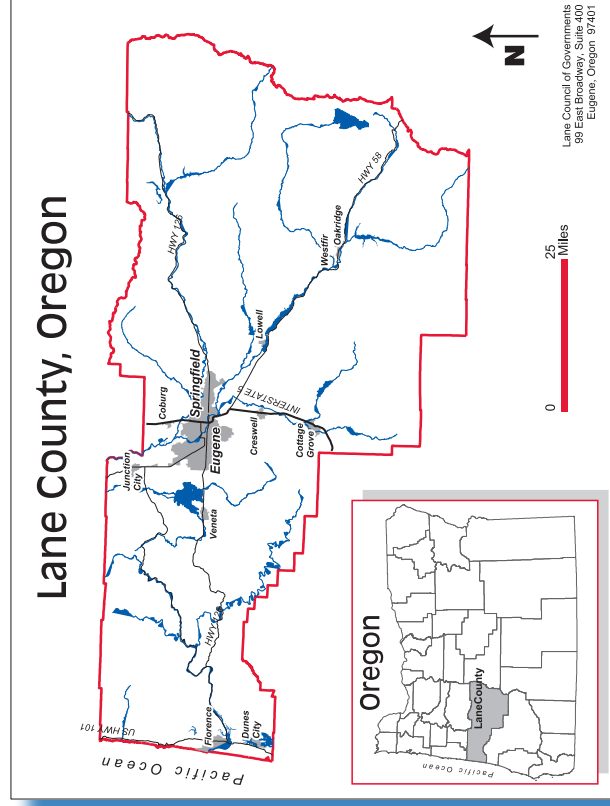


Average Jail Sentence in Months for All Felonies

	1998	2000	2002
Lane	1	3	1
Oregon	1	2	1
U.S.	6	6	7

This Report Card was prepared by the **Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC)** to inform the citizens on the status of their public safety system. Local public safety coordinating councils are charged by the Oregon Legislature with developing county-wide comprehensive plans for the safety and justice system, including use of local and state resources. The PSCC Public Information Task Force, staffed by Lane Council of Governments, prepared this Report Card. The Task Force determined measures and collected longitudinal and baseline data for comparison. The Report Card will be periodically updated so the community can track system progress.

The local **criminal justice system** in Lane County includes: nine law enforcement agencies; four primary public safety answering points (9-1-1 and dispatch centers); the county jail in Eugene; three small city jails; district attorney; public defender; probation and post-prison supervision; State Circuit Court and Eugene and Springfield municipal courts; treatment; juvenile services; juvenile court; shelter; juvenile educational and treatment services; and services to help offenders transition back into the community.



Grading System for the Report Card

The report card grades were calculated using an unbiased, consistent mathematical formula based solely on the data. Each category and the indicators included in each category were assigned grades. Grades were determined by comparing Lane County's trend and its current rate over the last seven years of available data to the trend and current rate of other geographic areas with comparable data.

- A** Trend and current rate substantially better than comparison geographic areas
- B** Trend and current rate better than comparison geographic areas
- C** Trend and current rate roughly equal to comparison geographic areas
- D** Trend and current rate worse than comparison geographic areas
- F** Trend and current rates substantially worse than comparison geographic areas

A plus (+) is added to the grade if the trend and current rate have improved over the last three years of available data compared to the last seven years. A minus (-) is added to the grade if the trend and current rate have worsened over the last three years of available data compared to the last seven years. Grades of "F" are not eligible for either a plus or a minus. The trend for each category is also noted as Getting Better, Getting Worse, or Stable.

For more information on the Report Card, please contact Lane Council of Governments at (541) 682-4283 or visit www.lcog.org/lgs/safety.html

Lane County has a population of 343,140 people living in a geographic area of 4,618 square miles — roughly the size of the state of Connecticut. The county stretches from the summit of the 10,000 foot Cascade Mountains, through the tree-covered Willamette Valley prairie and wetlands, over the 6,000 foot Coast Range to the Pacific Ocean. Lane is an urban/rural county with more than half the residents (60%) living in Eugene and Springfield, the second largest urban area in the state. Approximately 10% live in small cities and the remaining 30% live in unincorporated areas scattered around the county. A total of 1,433 miles of county roads, 918 miles of city roads, and 484 miles of state maintained roads wind along rivers, lakes, and the two mountain ranges connecting widely separated small cities and the urban core.