

Summary

Information contained in this chapter is derived from Monthly Returns of Arson Offenses. Variations may occur between this chapter and the remainder of the report due to reporting adjustments made by contributing agencies.

There were 2,157 arson offenses reported to Pennsylvania police agencies in 2009, an average of 6 each day, or one every 4 hours and 3 minutes. This is a decrease of 9.3 percent from the 2,378 offenses reported the previous year. Arson comprised .7 percent of the Crime Index and .8 percent of the Property Crime Index. The arson rate was 17.3 per 100,000 population.

In 2009, 26.2 percent or 566 arsons were cleared, compared to 25.4 percent or 604 clearances the previous year. This is an increase in percentage cleared and a decrease in the number of clearances from the previous year.