

FBI issues violent crime stats

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Violent crime in the United States increased 1.3 percent from 2005 to 2006, with every region but the Northeast reporting an increase, the FBI reported Monday.

Violent crime rates remained virtually unchanged in the Northeast, the FBI reported in its Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report for 2006, which is based on data from more than 11,000 law enforcement agencies.

Property crime decreased 2.9 percent from 2005 to 2006, the FBI said.

The FBI said the largest increase in murder offenses -- 6.7 percent -- occurred in cities with populations of 1 million or more. Murders decreased 11.9 percent in non-metropolitan counties.

Robbery offense increased 6 percent nationally, while forcible rapes decrease 1.9 percent. Aggravated assaults decreased 0.7 percent.

Motor vehicle thefts dropped 4.7 percent nationally, the FBI said.

Arson increased 1.8 percent from 2005 to 2006, the report said.

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