

Serious Crime Trends 2018-2022





Overview

This report describes trends in the arrest and prosecution of felony “index” crimes in the Bronx between 2018 and 2022. Index crimes refer to seven categories of offenses originally developed by the FBI to standardize reporting and allow for a measure—or index—of crime across jurisdictions and over time. For this report, the analysis focuses only on felony level crimes within each of the seven categories of offenses.

The seven felony index crime categories are split into two broad types: murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are classified as **violent** index crimes; burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft are classified as **property** index crimes.

This first section of this report discusses index crime **arrests** submitted by NYPD to the Bronx District Attorney’s Office (Bronx DA) between 2018 and 2022. Arrests are defined as all charges submitted by NYPD on the same day for the same person. If an individual is arrested on more than one unique date, each of those arrests is counted separately. If multiple charges or arrests are filed on the same day for the same person, that counts as one arrest.

Subsequent sections of this report discuss **cases** disposed between 2018 and 2022. Cases are defined as arrests that were arraigned in criminal or supreme court. Arrests that were declined for prosecution are not included. An individual person may have more than one case counted in the analysis if they were arrested and arraigned multiple times in the time period.

The timeframe for the arrests and cases analyses also varies. The first section of the report discussing arrests includes arrests that occurred between 2018 and 2022. The subsequent sections include cases that were disposed between 2018 and 2022. Therefore, the number of arrests in a given year that were prosecuted by the Bronx DA will not match the number of cases disposed of in the same year. This choice was made in an effort to provide the most complete information about trends. Analyzing the disposition of cases with an arrest date in 2022 would, by design, include only cases that have been disposed of by the current date. As discussed on page 5 of this report, many violent index crimes—especially those that are not dismissed—take over a year to proceed from arrest to disposition. Therefore, many cases initiated in 2022 would still be pending.

Data sources: Arrest information is based on information provided in NYPD arrest documents submitted to the Bronx DA through an electronic portal. Criminal case and court measures are based on data from the Office of Court Administration transmitted to the Bronx DA.



Trends in Prosecutor Charging Decisions Among Index Crime Arrests

Figure 1, below, shows the percentage of arrests that were prosecuted by the Bronx DA between 2018 and 2022, in total and by index crime type. Table 1 also lists the number of arrests by index crime type.

- Nearly all arrests for murder charges submitted by NYPD between 2018 and 2022 were charged by the Bronx DA's Office.

Figure 1: Charging Rates for Index Crime Arrests 2018-2022

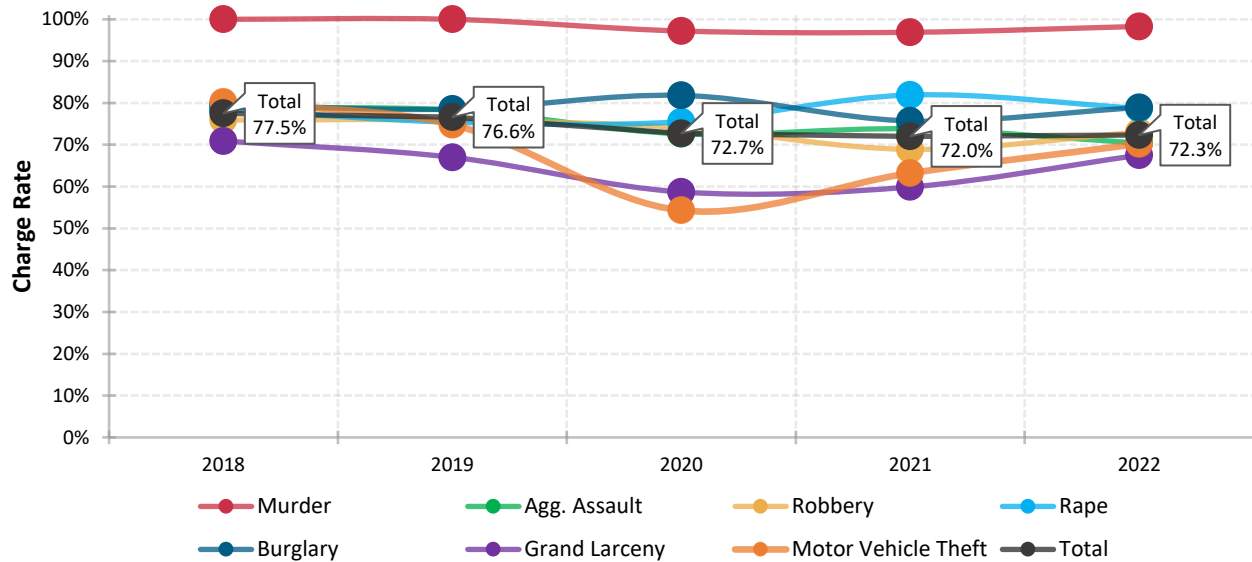


Table 1: Charging Rates for Index Crime Arrests, 2018-2022

Index Crime Type	Arrest Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Murder	Number of Arrests	97	86	107	129	181	600
	Charge Rate	100.0%	100.0%	97.2%	96.9%	98.3%	98.3%
Assault	Number of Arrests	3,527	3,630	3,213	3,513	4,575	18,458
	Charge Rate	78.7%	78.3%	72.6%	73.8%	70.4%	74.6%
Robbery	Number of Arrests	1,602	1,779	1,516	1,465	1,799	8,161
	Charge Rate	75.9%	75.9%	74.1%	68.9%	73.0%	73.7%
Rape	Number of Arrests	209	285	188	188	249	1,119
	Charge Rate	78.5%	75.4%	75.5%	81.9%	78.7%	77.8%
Burglary	Number of Arrests	594	594	648	456	736	3,028
	Charge Rate	79.6%	78.5%	81.8%	75.7%	78.9%	79.1%
Grand Larceny	Number of Arrests	831	742	593	556	702	3,424
	Charge Rate	70.9%	67.0%	58.7%	59.9%	67.5%	65.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	Number of Arrests	121	147	138	171	181	758
	Charge Rate	80.2%	74.8%	54.3%	63.2%	70.2%	68.2%
All Index Crime Arrests	Number of Arrests	6,981	7,263	6,403	6,478	8,423	35,548
	Charge Rate	77.5%	76.6%	72.7%	72.0%	72.3%	74.2%



Trends in Case Dispositions Among Index Crime Cases

Figure 2 shows the percentage of index crime cases disposed between 2018 and 2022 that resulted in a conviction or a dismissal/ACD or acquittal for both violent index crimes and property index crimes. Table 2 provides the number of disposed cases in each category, as well as the dismissal and conviction rates.

Figure 2: Case Dispositions Among Index Crime Cases Disposed in 2018-2022

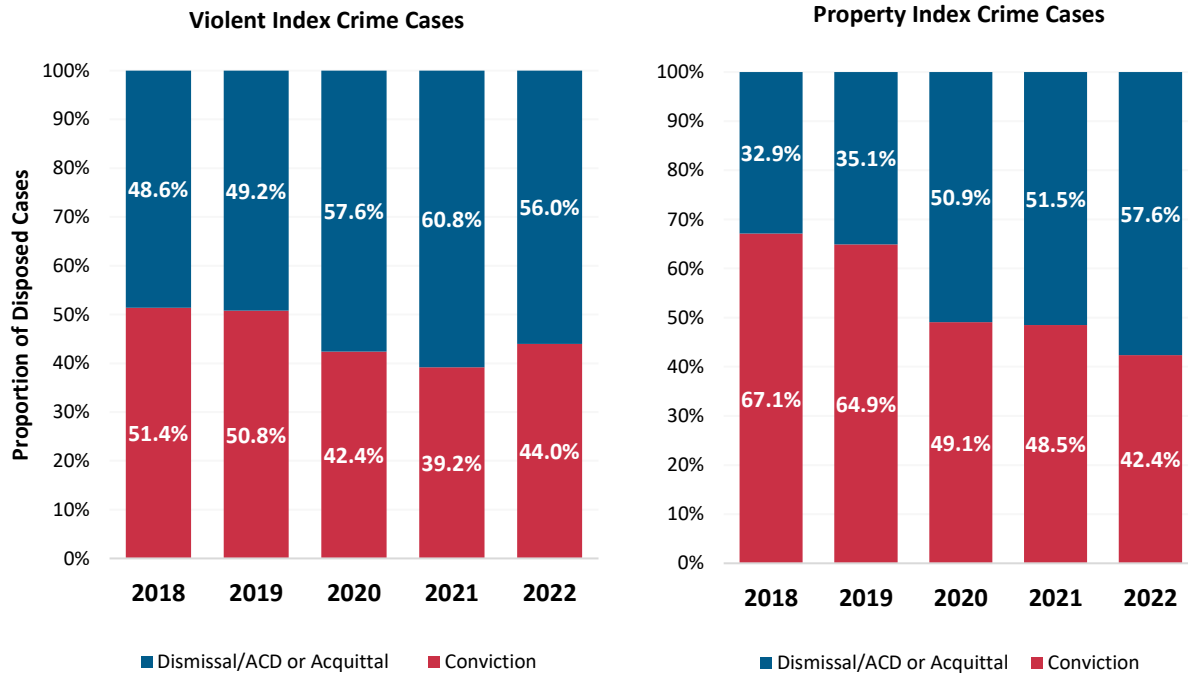


Table 2: Case Dispositions Among Index Crime Cases Disposed in 2018-2022

Index Crime Type	Disposition Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Violent Index Crime Cases	Number of Disposed Cases	1,554	1,698	767	1,262	1,736	7,017
	Conviction Rate	51.4%	50.8%	42.4%	39.2%	44.0%	46.2%
	Dismissal Rate	48.6%	49.2%	57.6%	60.8%	56.0%	53.8%
Property Index Crime Cases	Number of Disposed Cases	419	479	167	431	502	1,998
	Conviction Rate	67.1%	64.9%	49.1%	48.5%	42.4%	54.9%
	Dismissal Rate	32.9%	35.1%	50.9%	51.5%	57.6%	45.1%
All Index Crime Cases	Number of Disposed Cases	1,973	2,177	934	1,693	2,238	9,015
	Conviction Rate	54.7%	53.9%	43.6%	41.6%	43.6%	48.1%
	Dismissal Rate	45.3%	46.1%	56.4%	58.4%	56.4%	51.9%



Days from Arrest to Disposition Among Index Crime Cases

Figure 3 shows the median number of days from arrest to disposition for cases disposed in 2018 to 2022, categorized by whether they resulted in a conviction or dismissal/ACD or acquittal and by the type of index crime (violent vs. property). Table 3 provides the same information for all index crime cases.

Figure 3: Median Days from Arrest to Disposition Among Index Crime Cases

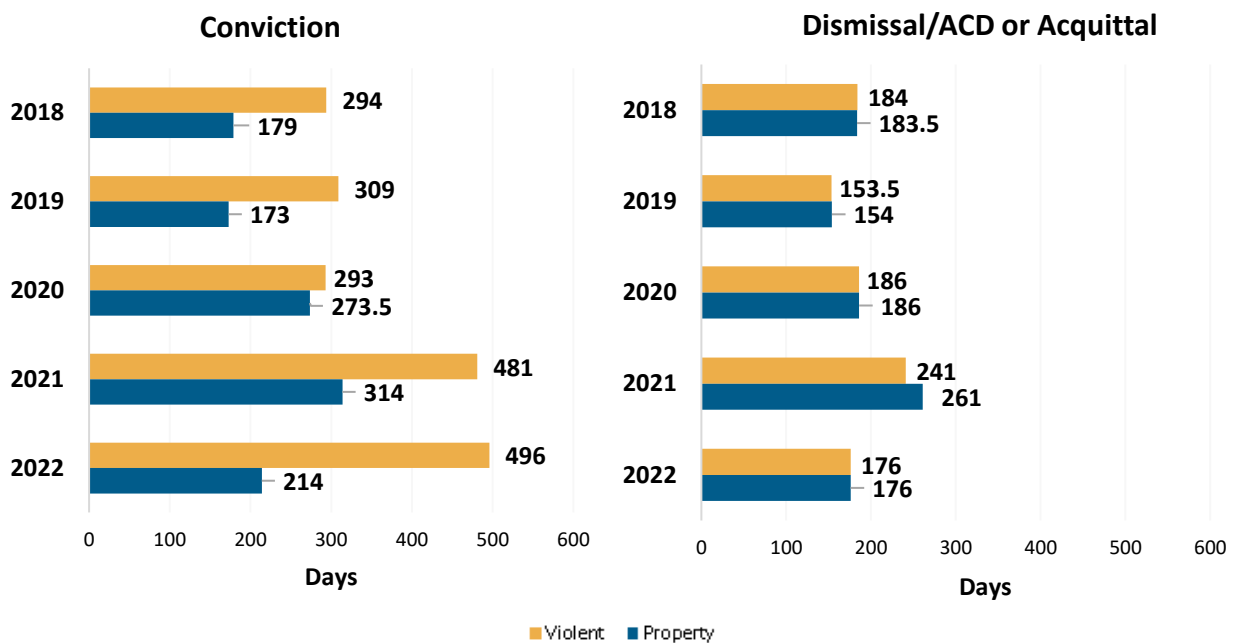


Table 3: Median Days from Arrest to Disposition Among Index Crime Cases

Index Crime Type	Median Days from Arrest to Disposition	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Violent Index Crime Cases	Conviction	294	309	293	481	496	360.5
	Dismissal	184	153.5	186	241	176	183
Property Index Crime Cases	Conviction	179	173	273.5	314	214	219
	Dismissal	183.5	154	186	261	176	187
All Index Crime Cases	Conviction	259.5	266	290	411	446.5	319
	Dismissal	184	153.5	186	245	176	183



Trends in Sentences Among Index Crime Cases

Figure 4 shows the percentage of sentence types for violent and property index crime cases disposed from 2018 to 2022. Table 4 provides the number of cases in each category, as well as for all index crimes combined.

- Defendants in violent index crime cases were more likely to be sentenced to jail or prison than defendants in property index crime cases.

Figure 4: Trends in Index Crime Sentences 2018-2022

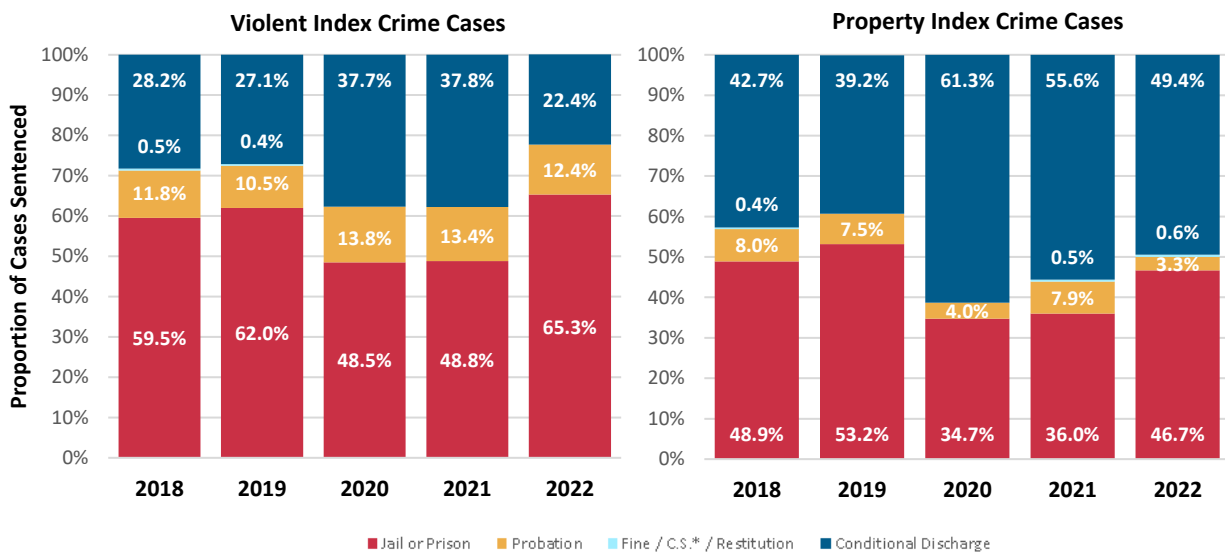


Table 4: Trends in Index Crime Sentences 2018-2022

Index Crime Type	Sentence Outcome	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Violent Index Crime Cases	Conditional Discharge	213	208	98	164	152	835
	Fine / C.S. ^a / Restitution	4	3	0	0	0	7
	Jail or Prison	450	476	126	212	444	1,708
	Probation	89	81	36	58	84	348
Property Index Crime Cases	Conditional Discharge	112	104	46	105	89	456
	Fine / C.S. ^a / Restitution	1	0	0	1	1	3
	Jail or Prison	128	141	26	68	84	447
	Probation	21	20	3	15	6	65
All Index Crime Cases ^b	Conditional Discharge	325	312	144	269	241	1,291
	Fine / C.S. ^a / Restitution	5	3	0	1	1	10
	Jail or Prison	578	617	152	280	528	2,155
	Probation	110	101	39	73	90	413

^a Community service

^b There were 471 cases where the sentence type was unknown.



Glossary

Accusatory Instrument: A written accusation filed with the court by the Bronx DA that charges the defendant with one or more offenses.

Acquittal: The defendant is found not guilty at trial.

Arraignment: The first time the defendant appears before a judge and hears the charges against them. The defendant will then enter a plea of guilty, not guilty, or no contest.

Arrestee: An individual arrested for an offense(s) by NYPD.

Arrest Event: An individual is taken into custody by NYPD.

Bail: A cash or bond set by the court to ensure the defendant will return for future court appearances. Bail will be forfeited if the defendant does not return.

Charge Category: Felony, misdemeanor, or violation/infracton categorization. See the Office of Court Administration (OCA) for [more information](#) on charge severity definitions.

In some instances, felonies are further classified as violent felony offenses (VFOs) or non-violent felony offenses per the [definition](#) used by the Division for Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The exact charges can be found in the [Listing of NYS Laws](#). Note that this definition classifies a charge as a VFO if it is defined as such in NYS Penal Law section 70.02 or if it is considered “like” a violent felony. Second-degree murder, for example, is not listed in section 70.02 but is categorized as a VFO because it is like a violent felony.

Charged: When NYPD submits an arrest to the Bronx DA, a prosecutor reviews the circumstances of the arrest, interviews witnesses and/or victims, and decides whether to prosecute the defendant on the arrest and, if so, for what charges. A case is considered “charged” or “prosecuted” if the prosecutor files an affidavit, or accusatory instrument, associated with the arrest.

The prosecution charging rates shown in this document are based on legal documentation filed with the court, such as an accusatory instrument or declined to prosecute forms.

Conviction: The defendant is found guilty, either through a guilty plea or at trial.

Conditional Discharge: A type of sentence that allows the defendant to be released from prison under certain conditions that do not include supervision. The judge may order a defendant to attend a treatment or substance abuse program, maintain legal employment, or meet other obligations.

Declined to Prosecute: If the prosecutor files a decline to prosecute form with the court for all charges on an arrest, the arrest is considered “declined.”

Defendant: A person charged with committing a crime.



Defendant Race: Race is based on information from the complaint that NYPD files with the Bronx DA at the time of arrest. In this analysis, “race” combines race and ethnicity such that any defendant of Hispanic origin is categorized as Hispanic, and defendants identified as non-Hispanic are categorized as White, African American/Black, Asian, or Another Race.

Defendant Age: Age is based on NYPD reports of the defendant’s date of birth at the time of the arrest.

Defendant Gender: Gender is based on NYPD reports of the defendant’s gender at the time of the arrest.

Dismissal: The prosecutor dismisses the charges on the case after the defendant has been charged.

Disposition: Resolution of the criminal case. A case can be disposed with an outcome of conviction, dismissal, or acquittal.

Felony: A crime punishable by a term of imprisonment greater than one year.

Fine: A type of sentence that requires a defendant to pay a specific amount of money.

Index Crimes: The FBI tracks the incidence of seven main or “index” crime types for the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. These include murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, grand larceny, and motor vehicle theft. See Appendix A for a complete list of the NYS penal law codes included in each index crime category.

Law Article: The Law article typically refers to a grouping of charges in the New York State Penal Law that includes different versions of an offense. For example, all charges related to Larceny are grouped into Penal Law Article 155. In these Data Stories, criminal cases are categorized based on the Charge Category and Penal Law Article.

Misdemeanor: A crime punishable by probation, a fine, or up to one year in jail.

Probation: A type of sentence that releases a defendant into the community under supervision.

Top Charge: The most serious charge at a given point in the case flow (for example, there will be a top charge at arrest, a top charge at arraignment, top charge at disposition, top charge at sentencing, etc.). The top charge can change from one point to another for a variety of reasons. For example, the Bronx DA may decide to prosecute for a different charge than the one submitted by NYPD after reviewing the evidence and speaking with witnesses. The charge could change again after arraignment if the defendant agrees to a plea deal.

Charges are ranked based on category (felony, misdemeanor, violation, infraction, unknown), then by class (‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’, ‘D’, ‘E’, ‘U’). If there is a tie, preference is given to (1) murder charges, per Article 125.25, 125.26, and 125.27, and then (2) ‘Violent Felony’ offenses. In situations where charges are still tied, the tie is broken by the lowest Law Article number.

Violation: An offense punishable by a fine or up to 15 days in jail.



Index crime definitions

Murder: The willful killing of one human being by another. Excluded from this category are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident, justifiable homicides, and attempts to murder, which are classified as assault.

Rape: Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Robbery: The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault: The unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm, and also includes attempts to commit murder.

Burglary: The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary.

Larceny: The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, purse snatching, bicycle thefts, etc., in which no use of force, violence, or fraud occurs. This offense category does not include offenses such as embezzlement, forgery, or bad checks.

Motor Vehicle Theft: The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, including automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, and snowmobiles.

Note: In this report, only felony charges are included in all of the index crime categories.



Index Crime Type Definition by Charge

Category	Index Crime Type	Title	Section	Subsection
Violent	Murder	PL	125.27	All
		PL	125.25	All
		PL	125.26	All
	Rape	PL	130.35	All
		PL	130.30	All
		PL	130.25	All
		PL	130.40	All
		PL	130.45	All
		PL	130.50	All
		PL	130.66	All
		PL	130.67	All
		PL	130.70	All
		PL	130.75	All
		PL	130.80	All
		PL	130.90	All
		PL	130.95	All
		PL	130.96	All
		PL	120.60	02
		PL	255.26	All
		PL	255.27	All
		PL	130.65-A	All
	Robbery	PL	160.15	All
		PL	160.10	All
		PL	160.05	All
	Assault	PL	120.10	All
		PL	120.07	All
				00, 00X, 00T, 00H, 01, 01X, 01T, 01H, 02, 02X, 02T, 02H, 04, 04X, 04T, 04H, 05, 05X, 05T, 05H, 06, 06X, 06T, 06H, 07, 07X, 07T, 07H, 08, 08X, 08T, 08H, 09, 09X, 09T, 09H, 11, 11T, 11BH, 11BX, 11B, 11H, 11X, 11BT, 3BH, 3BT, 3BX, 4-AH, 4-A, 4-AT, 4-AX
		PL	120.05	
		PL	120.06	All
		PL	120.01	All
		PL	120.02	All
		PL	120.08	All



		PL	120.09	All
		PL	120.11	All
		PL	120.12	All
		PL	120.55	01, 01H
		PL	121.12	All
		PL	121.13	All
		PL	130.85	All
		PL	195.08	All
		PL	215.13	All
		PL	215.17	All
		PL	215.51	B1
		PL	240.73	All
		PL	260.32	03
		PL	260.34	All
		PL	121.13-a	All
Property	Burglary	PL	140.30	All
		PL	140.25	All
		PL	140.20	All
	Larceny	PL	155.42	All
		PL	155.40	00, 00H, 00Z
				01, 01H
		PL	155.35	All
		PL	155.30	00, 00H, 00Z, 01, 01H, 02, 02H, 03, 03H, 04, 04H, 05, 05H, 07, 07H, 09, 09H, 10, 10H, 11, 11H
		PL	165.10	All
		PL	165.11	All
		PL	155.43	All
	Motor Vehicle Theft	PL	155.30	08, 08H
		PL	165.06	All
		PL	165.08	All