

Presentation title:

A State-wide Analysis of All Crime Offenses During COVID

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This study seeks to determine whether crime patterns in Tennessee (USA) changed due to COVID and which types of crime changed. Data were obtained from the state of Tennessee and included all crimes recorded by police between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2020 (n=1,522,184) across 24 crime categories. These data were assessed using an ARIMA forecast by comparing the observed incidence of crime during the first 12 weeks of COVID with that expected based on the pre-pandemic trends. Findings indicate that during the first 12 weeks of COVID in 2020, fifteen of the twenty-four crime categories experienced a decline while nine crime categories increased. Moreover, six categories (non-consensual sex, assault, larceny, fraud, drug, and forgery) experienced statistically significant declines. Further, 16,695 fewer crimes were committed than would have been absent COVID. This study adds to the growing examination of crime rates during COVID, provides insight into how crime shifted, and is the first known study of crime and COVID using all crimes recorded of an entire state.