

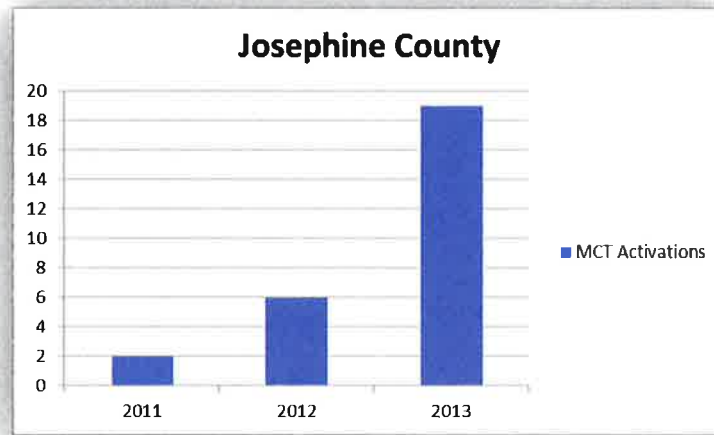
# FACT SHEET

## on the Public Safety Crisis in Josephine County

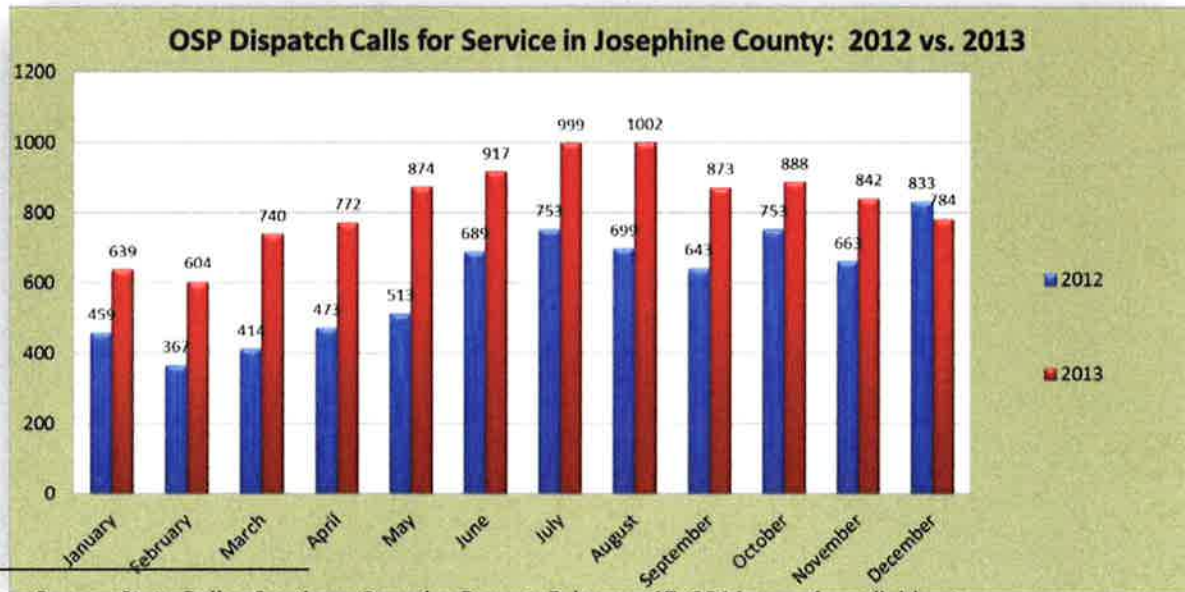
### April 23, 2015

1. Crime is significantly high in Josephine County as evident in the 2012 Uniform Crime Report Data collected by the FBI in 2012. It has also further evident by the Oregon State Police data in 2013 with their attempts to help pick up some of the slack since funding for public safety collapsed. FOR EXAMPLE:

a. **Total 2013 Oregon State Police (OSP) Major Crime Team (MCT) activations** (homicides, major assaults) in Josephine County increased by **850 percent** between 2011 and 2013, the year before federal O&C funds were eliminated.<sup>1</sup>



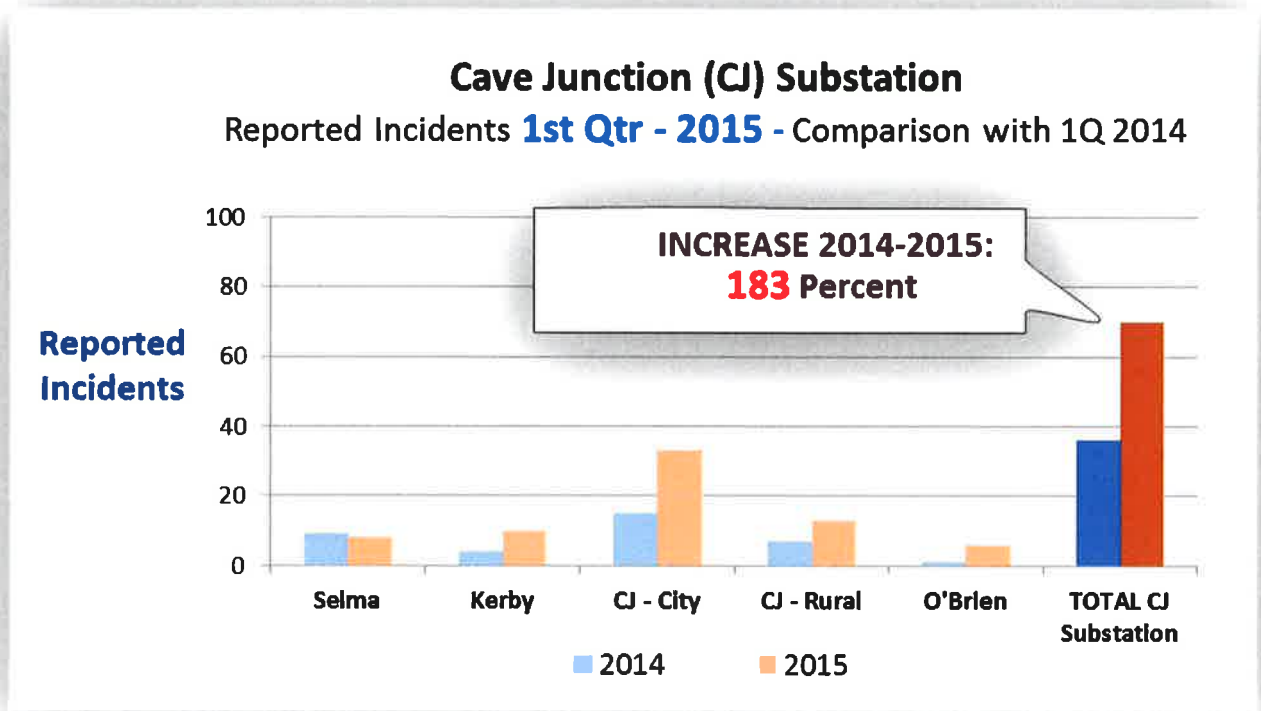
b. **2013 OSP dispatch calls** in Josephine County were **37 percent** higher than in 2012, a direct result of the reduction in Josephine County sheriff's patrol capacity that occurred in 2012.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: Oregon State Police Southern Counties Report, February 17, 2014 page 4; available at: <http://media.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/other/OSP-LegSummary2Feb2014.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Source: OSP Southern Counties Report (see above)

2. In the Cave Junction area, **crime incidents reported this year** increased by **183 percent** over the same period in 2014.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Source: Josephine County Sheriff's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter EIS report for the Cave Junction substation.

# MYTHS AND FACTS

## About Public Safety in Josephine County

1. MYTH: Crime in Josephine County is decreasing.

FACT: PROPERTY crime has increased significantly in Josephine County. For example:

- In the four years between 2009 and 2012, Josephine rose in property crime rank from #13 to **#7** among Oregon's **36 counties** – see below.<sup>4</sup>

**Property Crimes by County - 2012**  
Rates Ranked Highest to Lowest

Rank	County	Population	Crimes	Rate/10,000
1	Multnomah	748,445	49,989	667.9
2	Jackson	204,630	12,848	627.9
3	Malheur	31,395	1,871	596.0
4	Lincoln	46,295	2,522	544.8
5	Lane	354,200	19,050	537.8
6	Umatilla	77,120	4,028	522.3
<b>7</b>	<b>Josephine</b>	<b>82,775</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>518.5</b>
8	Deschutes	160,140	8,261	515.9
9	Marion	320,495	16,257	507.2
10	Wasco	25,485	1,178	462.2
11	Clatsop	37,190	1,714	460.9
12	Linn	118,035	5,403	457.7
13	Douglas	108,195	4,913	454.1
14	Coos	62,890	2,811	447.0
15	Polk	76,625	3,386	441.9
16	Union	26,175	1,091	416.8
17	Morrow	11,300	433	383.2
18	Benton	86,785	3,235	372.8
19	Clackamas	381,680	13,615	356.7
20	Yamhill	100,550	3,497	347.8
21	Tillamook	25,305	867	342.6
22	Jefferson	21,940	743	338.7
23	Sherman	1,765	59	334.3
24	Crook	20,650	685	331.7
25	Harney	7,315	238	325.4
26	Curry	22,295	723	324.3
27	Washington	542,845	17,229	317.4
28	Klamath	66,740	1,901	284.8
29	Columbia	49,680	1,283	258.3
30	Gilliam	1,900	34	178.9
31	Hood River	22,875	389.0	170.1
32	Grant	7,450	85	114.1
33	Lake	7,920	89	112.4
34	Wallowa	7,015	54	77.0
35	Baker	16,210	112	69.1
36	Wheeler	1,425	3	21.1
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>3,883,735</b>	<b>184,888</b>	<b>476.1</b>

JoCo:  
**518.5**

**State Median:**  
**364.8**

<sup>4</sup> Source: State of Oregon, Reports of Criminal Offenses and Arrests, 2012 and 2009, page 3-9.

- The assertion that “crime is decreasing” applies ONLY to VIOLENT crimes, which have been decreasing statewide and nationally for the past two decades, for reasons that are not fully understood.
- These numbers **under-state** the real situation in Josephine County, since citizens have largely given up reporting crimes since 2012, knowing that there are no deputies available to respond.<sup>5</sup> Nor has the Sheriff’s Office had the resources to process Uniform Crime Reporting System (UCRS) reports to state and national law enforcement agencies.<sup>6</sup>

**MYTH: Most of the crime occurs in Grants Pass, not the county, therefore, there’s not as much need for law enforcement in the rural areas of the county.**

**FACT: Criminals do not observe boundaries** when deciding where to commit crimes. The lack of sheriff’s patrols in in the county means people who commit crimes in the county can escape to Grants Pass without their crimes being known by law enforcement in the city, and vice-versa. For law enforcement to work there needs to be patrol officers in both city and rural parts of the county.

**2. MYTH: Josephine County has more jail capacity than comparable counties elsewhere in the state.**

**FACT: Josephine’s jail capacity has been far short of the need since 2012** when funds were cut.

- Due to lack of funding, there is jail capacity sufficient only to lock up people who commit the most serious crimes. Since 2012, thousands of people who have committed crimes have been merely ticketed and released back onto the streets who previously would have spent time in jail.
- Comparisons with other counties on the basis of jail beds per capita population do not take into account differences in crime rates or other factors that drive the need for jail capacity. Sheriff Corey Falls of Jackson County reported that a ten year old study showed they needed 600 beds and only have 294 beds currently available.
- Some of these comparisons by public safety opponents have been flawed. For example, a recent comparison with Lane County took into account only the COUNTY jail’s capacity and ignored the city jails in Eugene and Springfield, which effectively DOUBLE the total jail capacity available to law enforcement in Lane County.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Josephine County Sheriff.

<sup>6</sup> Josephine County reporting to UCRS agencies has been hampered by lack of funding and staffing; for example, at the end of 2014 there were 300 reports by citizens that had not been processed, according to the Sheriff.