EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP – The Atlantic County crime rate decreased by 7 percent in 2011 from 2010, according to the annual State Police Uniform Crime Report released Friday, Dec. 14.

The 233-page report analyzes crime across the state and compares year-to-year rates in several categories including age, sex, municipality and level of violence.

The report provides a crime snapshot of each of the state's counties and municipalities and indicates trends that help law enforcement determine where it needs to deploy its resources.

There were 10,801 Crime Index offenses committed in Atlantic County in 2011, according to the report.

Violent crimes decreased 11 percent, giving the county an average crime rate of 39.3 victims for every 1,000 permanent residents.

There were 22 murders in Atlantic County in 2011, the same as 2010.

Rape increased from 54 in 2010 to 57 in 2011, and burglaries also increased, from 2,099 in 2010 to 2,144 in 2011, the report said.

However, robbery decreased from 716 in 2010 to 603 in 2011 and aggravated assault dropped from 767 in 2010 to 712 in 2011.

There were 15,022 arrests, or 41 per day, in 2011 in Atlantic County, a slight decrease from a year earlier.

Males were far more likely to be arrested than females, with 10,620 vs. 4,402 in arrests.

The number of arrests for the sale or manufacture of drugs rose nearly 70 percent from 237 in 2010 to 402 in 2011. However, user arrests only increased slightly from 1,557 to 1,591.

Atlantic City continues to be the county municipality with the highest crime rate and greatest number of crimes. There were 4,239 crimes committed in Atlantic City in 2011 resulting in a crime rate of 107.2 or about 2.75 times more than the county average.

There were 13 murders committed in Atlantic City in 2011, more than the rest of the county combined.

Estell Manor was the safest place to live in 2011 in Atlantic County. The municipality posted a crime rate of 7.5 crimes per 1,000 residents. Estell Manor was the only county community with a crime rate of less than 10.

The overall crime rates for other communities in The Current coverage area ranked from highest to lowest are:

Pleasantville, 44.8

Somers Point, 40.1

Hamilton Township, 40.1

Egg Harbor City, 39.6

Ventnor, 35.1

Margate, 29.1

Absecon, 28.3

Brigantine, 26

Egg Harbor Township, 26

Galloway, 23.8

Longport, 14.5

Northfield, 13

Linwood, 12.7

Port Republic, 15.2

For a copy of Uniform Crime Reports dating back to 1990, see www.njsp.org/info/stats.html .