

PS COMMITTEE #2
March 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

March 17, 2009

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Update - 2008 Crime Statistics**

Montgomery County Police Chief Manger will be present at this session to provide the Committee with an update on the 2008 crime statistics for the Montgomery County. Chief Manger has provided a report attached at © 1-21 which includes a report on Gang Activity (© 16) and a report from the Crime Analysis Section (© 18-21).

Some highlights from the report:

- Overall crime increased 1.4% from 2007 to 2008 with Part 1 crime increasing 5.3% and Part 2 crime decreasing (0.8%).
- The number of homicides, while relatively small for a jurisdiction the size of Montgomery County, increased from 19 to 21, or 10.5%. Information at © 18 indicates that 11 victims knew or were related to their killer(s) and 7 died as the result of a robbery.
- Rapes increased by 1.6%. Information provided at © 19 indicates that almost 78% of victims previously knew or were related to the offender and in 36% of incidents drugs and/or alcohol were used beforehand.
- Robbery was basically unchanged from 2007 to 2008 (increasing by only 0.4%) after an increasing trend that goes back to 1999 (© 4). Information at © 19 indicates that about 1/3 of these robberies were “pack” robberies.

- Burglary increased by 1.5%. Residential burglaries increased by just under 3%. About ¼ of these burglaries were to an unsecured home (unlocked or open door or window). The report notes (© 19) that one defendant is suspected in as many as 100 residential burglaries. This is less than the entire increase for the year.
- Commercial burglaries decreased by 1.1%.
- Auto theft decreased by (9.1%). This accomplishment, which is a result of the ongoing work of the Auto Theft Unit, is highlighted in the overview at © 2.
- Larcenies increased by 8.5%. The report notes (© 21) that in 2007 there were 960 GPS units stolen and that this increased to 2,438 GPS units stolen in 2008, a 154% increase.
- The report highlights the work of the Police Community Action Teams (PCAT) at © 14-15.
- A report on gang activity in the county is included at © 16. The report shows that the overall number of gang incidents declined from 2007 to 2008 after increasing from 2005 to 2006 and 2006 to 2007. Within these overall numbers it should be noted that there were substantial increases in the numbers of robberies and burglaries.
- The Chief's report discusses the varying trends throughout the county (© 9). The following table provides a summary of the percentage increase/decrease in incidents from 2007 to 2008 by district.

	Part 1 Crime	Part 2 Crime	Total Crime
1 st District	3.9%	(0.9%)	0.7%
2 nd District	2.2%	(1.6%)	0.2%
3 rd District	2.3%	0.9%	1.4%
4 th District	8.6%	(1.4%)	1.9%
5 th District	10.1%	0.02%	3.0%
6 th District	6.8%	(1.8%)	1.2%

Crime in Montgomery County, Maryland

2008

Montgomery County Department of Police

**J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police**



March 19, 2009

Overview

Overall, crime went up 1.4% last year (when compared to 2007.) During each year, my staff and I do an in-depth analysis on our crime numbers in an effort to quickly identify trends and react to them. It is a never ending process. Our analysis of the 2008 crime stats reveals some good news and some areas for improvement. Our largest increase came in the Larceny category. This includes shopliftings, thefts from vehicles, etc. Larcenies were up 8.5% in 2008. On a more positive note, Robberies stayed relatively steady in 2008, up less than 1%. With the steady increase of robberies between 1999 and 2006, I am encouraged that the numbers have stayed flat over the past two years. One of the bright spots in our crime statistics is a 9.1% reduction in stolen cars. The detectives in our Auto Theft Section are doing a great job at making arrests and reducing the number of vehicle thefts. Locking your car doors and not keeping an ignition key in an unattended vehicle are still the best theft prevention. By any measure, Montgomery County continues to enjoy a very low crime rate. A complete look at our 2008 crime numbers is included in this report.

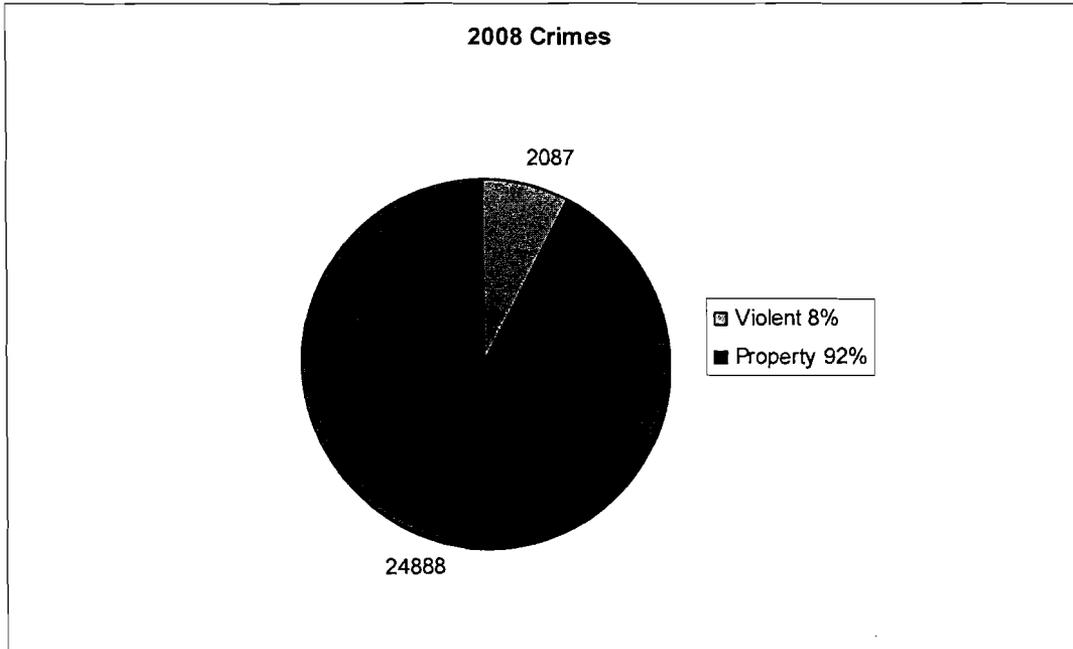
Crime	2007	2008	% difference
Murder	19	21	10.5
Rape	129	131	1.6
Robbery	1096	1100	0.4
Aggravated Assault	815	835	2.5
Burglary	3551	3603	1.5
Larceny	17536	19027	8.5
Auto Theft	2483	2258	-9.1

Reported Crime

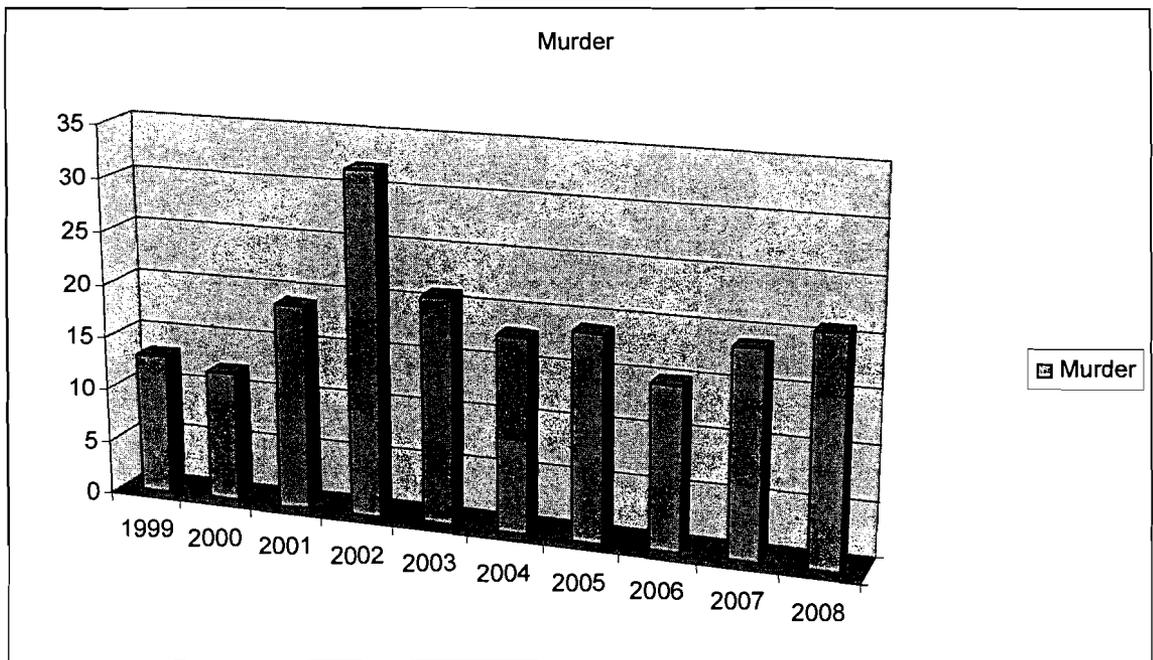
Larceny continues to be the largest percentage of crime, with auto theft and burglary the next two largest categories. The crimes, although non-violent, do have an impact on the perception of safety within the community. Although we did experience a 1.4% increase in crime, this could be attributed to the current difficult economic circumstances and a projected population growth of 1.1% per year. We are, however, constantly working on prevention education to thwart these crimes of opportunity.

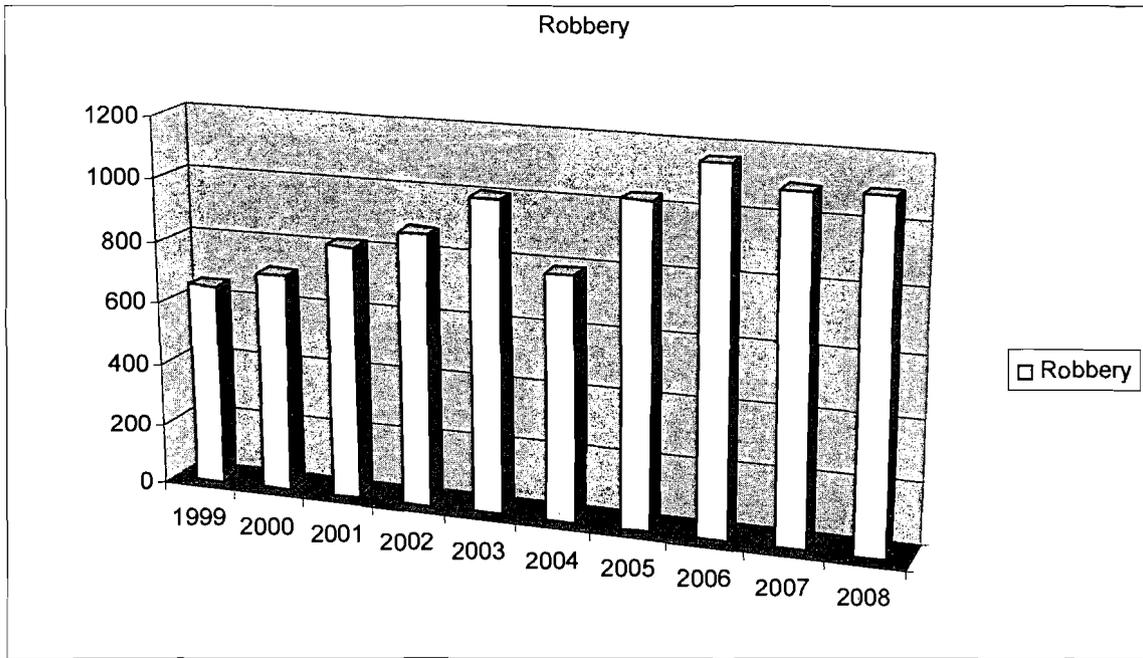
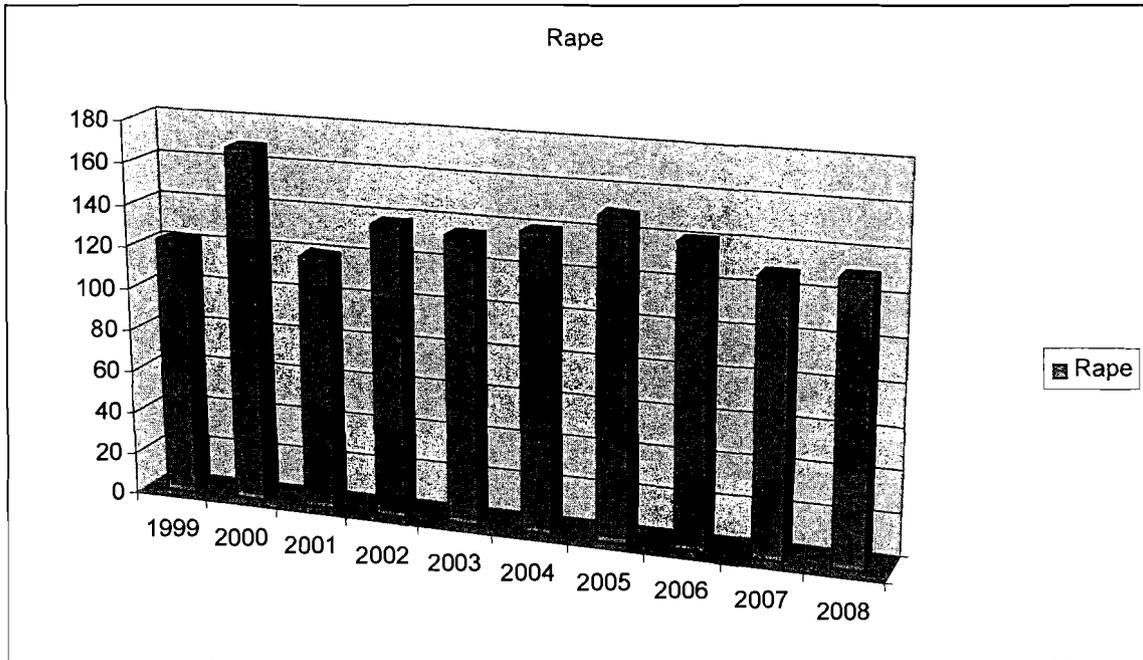
Crime Charts

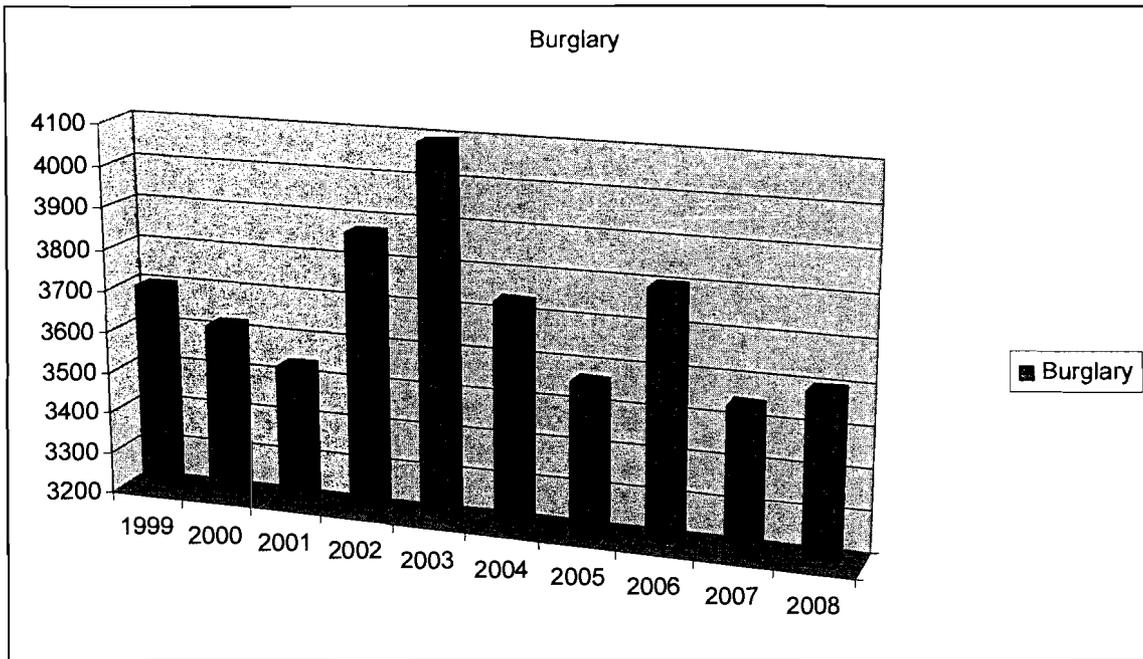
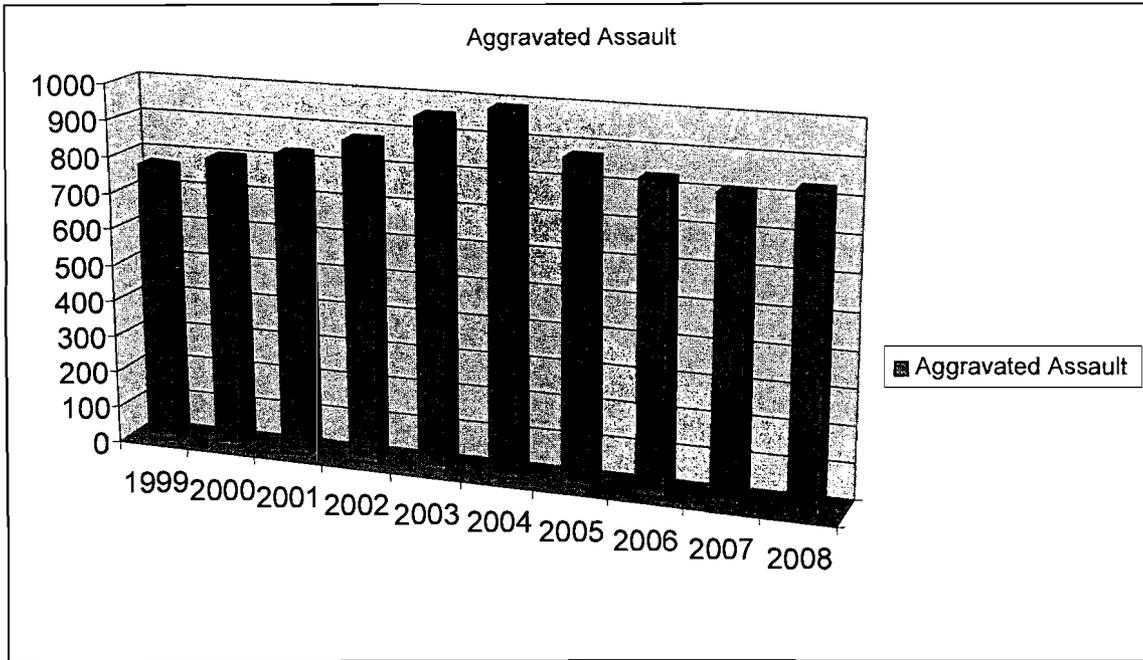
The following chart compares the total of violent versus property crime for 2008 reinforcing the relative safety of our community.

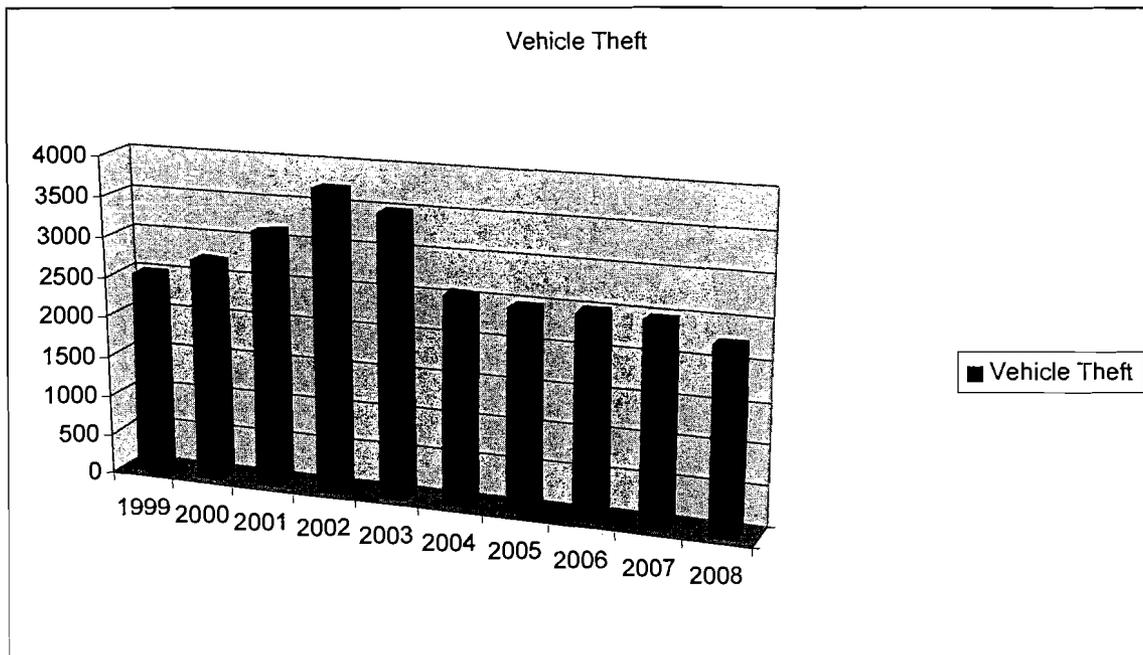
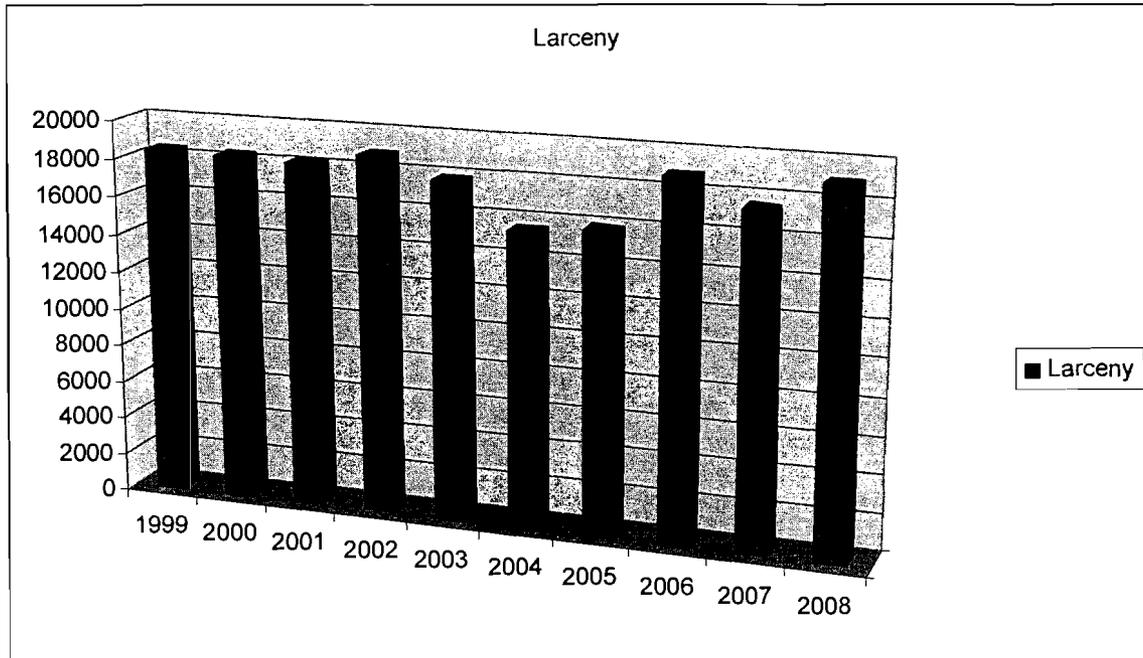


To help illustrate trends in Part I offenses we have included the following charts.









Clearance Rates

Although reported crime is an important statistic for any community, the closure of these crimes can have an even bigger impact on how safe the members of the community feel. Employees from every assignment are constantly working on arresting individuals for criminal activity. Often these arrests take place at the time of the crime and other incidents require tireless hours of investigation. These statistics illustrate the effectiveness of our efforts. Without the assistance from the community and our outreach efforts, many of these closures could not have been made.

Clearance Rates

	2007 Cases Cleared	2008 Cases Cleared	2007 % Cleared	2008 % Cleared
Murder	16	15	84.4%	71.4%
Rape	53	58	55.0%	48.9%
Robbery	451	507	33.0%	30.3%
Aggravated Assault	392	368	56.9%	52.0%
Burglary	604	604	23.8%	20.1%
Larceny	1736	1983	16.6%	15.7%
Auto Theft	304	267	11.2%	15.4%

Police District Information

Our six police districts have been working closely with community organizations in an effort to prevent criminal activity and many of these efforts have been productive. Larceny continues to be our highest reported crime in all districts. Many of these larcenies have been theft from autos. Our crime prevention officers along with our media services division have been working to educate the community not to leave valuables in their car and to lock their car. The 3rd and 4th districts had the largest increase in robberies; more than a third were “street robberies” involving three or more suspects. To give a better “snapshot” of crime in the districts, these statistics include part II crimes.

Part II crimes are;

- Minor Assaults
- Arson
- Vandalism
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Family Offenses
- Juvenile Offenses
- Disorderly Conduct

Crime Statistics by District

2008 -2007

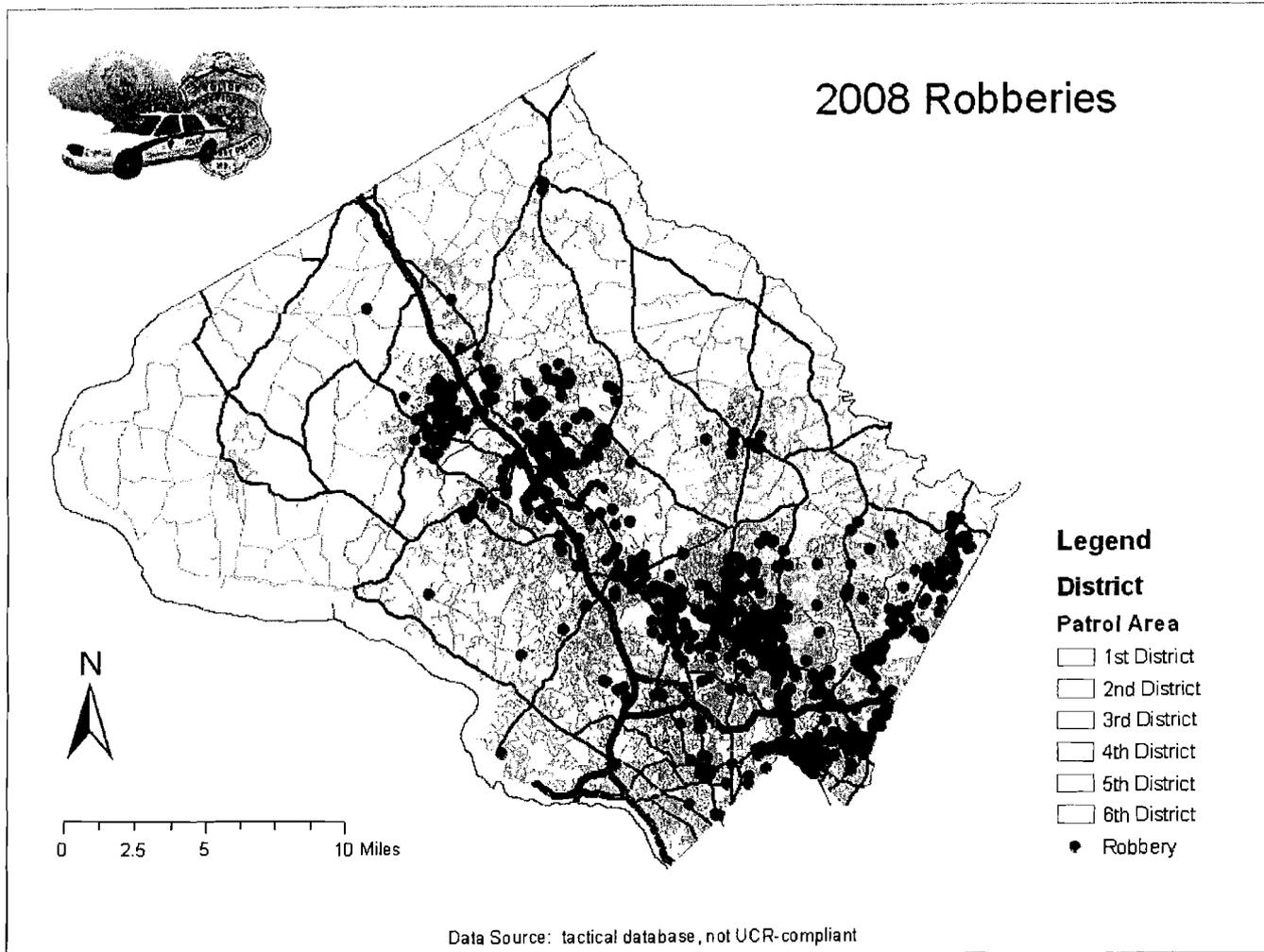
	1st District			2nd District			3rd District			4th District			5th District			6th District		
	2008	2007	%	2008	2007	%	2008	2007	%	2008	2007	%	2008	2007	%	2008	2007	%
Murder	2	2	0.0%	1	1	0.0%	5	3	66.7%	6	5	20.0%	3	7	-57.1%	4	1	300.0%
Rape	14	20	-30.0%	16	9	77.8%	30	30	0.0%	25	22	13.6%	15	19	-21.1%	31	29	6.9%
Robbery	101	132	-23.5%	72	72	0.0%	377	345	9.3%	286	243	17.7%	89	110	-19.1%	175	194	-9.8%
Agg. Assault	80	95	-15.8%	59	57	3.5%	219	214	2.3%	192	195	-1.5%	91	71	28.2%	194	183	6.0%
Burglary	575	525	9.5%	485	449	8.0%	867	913	-5.0%	741	730	1.5%	392	339	15.6%	543	595	-8.7%
Larceny	2,741	2,549	7.5%	3,343	3,267	2.3%	3,887	3,568	8.9%	3,435	3,080	11.5%	2,027	1,826	11.0%	3,594	3,246	10.7%
Auto Theft	179	229	-21.8%	235	267	12.0%	774	949	18.4%	511	511	0.0%	193	181	6.6%	366	346	5.8%
Part I	3,692	3,552	3.9%	4,211	4,122	2.2%	6,159	6,022	2.3%	5,196	4,786	8.6%	2,810	2,553	10.1%	4,907	4,594	6.8%
Part II	7,309	7,374	-0.9%	4,498	4,573	-1.6%	9,879	9,795	0.9%	9,446	9,583	-1.4%	6,109	6,108	0.02%	8,277	8,429	-1.8%
Total Crime	11,001	10,926	0.7%	8,709	8,695	0.2%	16,038	15,817	1.4%	14,642	14,369	1.9%	8,919	8,661	3.0%	13,184	13,023	1.2%

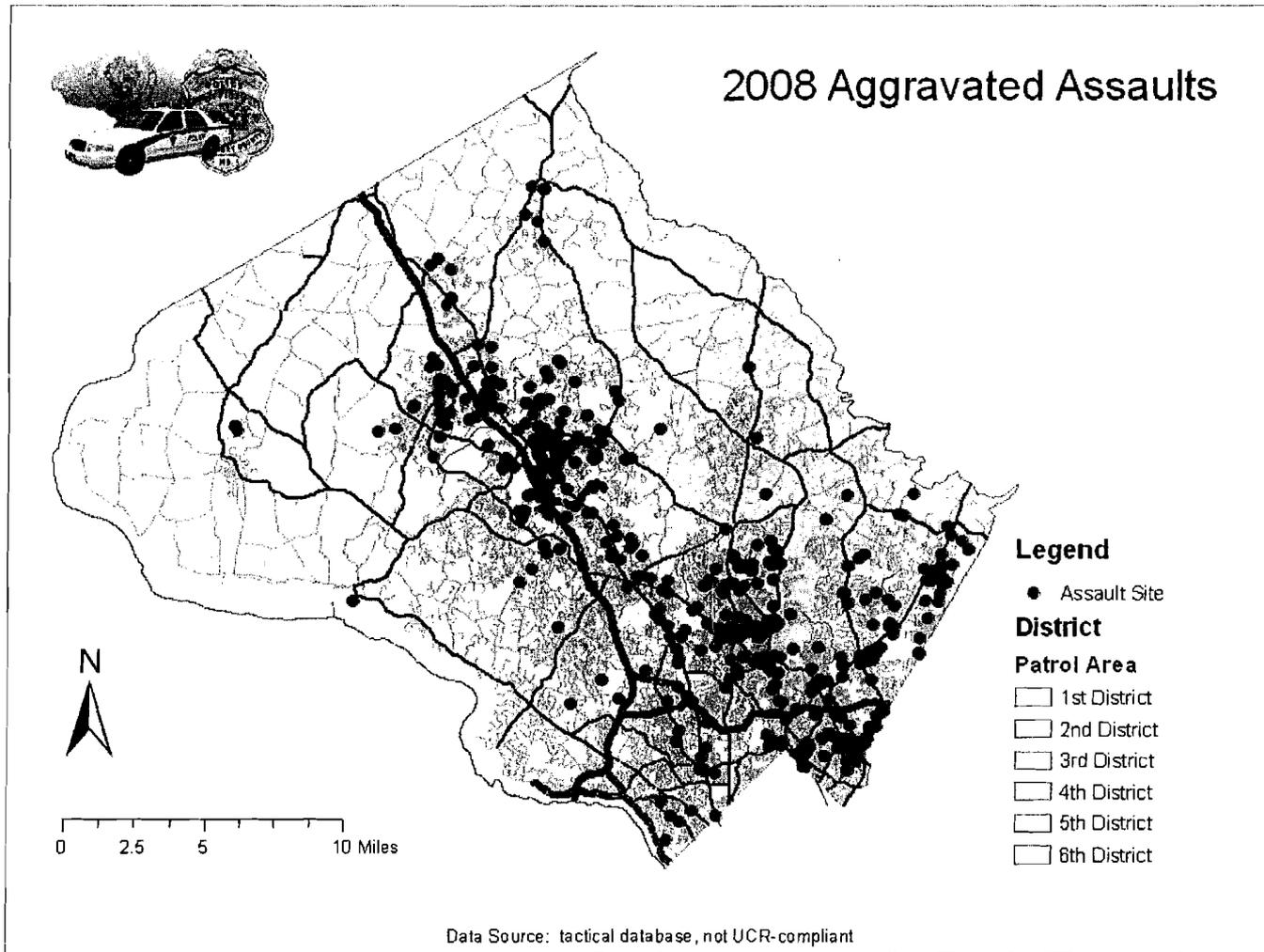
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Crime Patterns

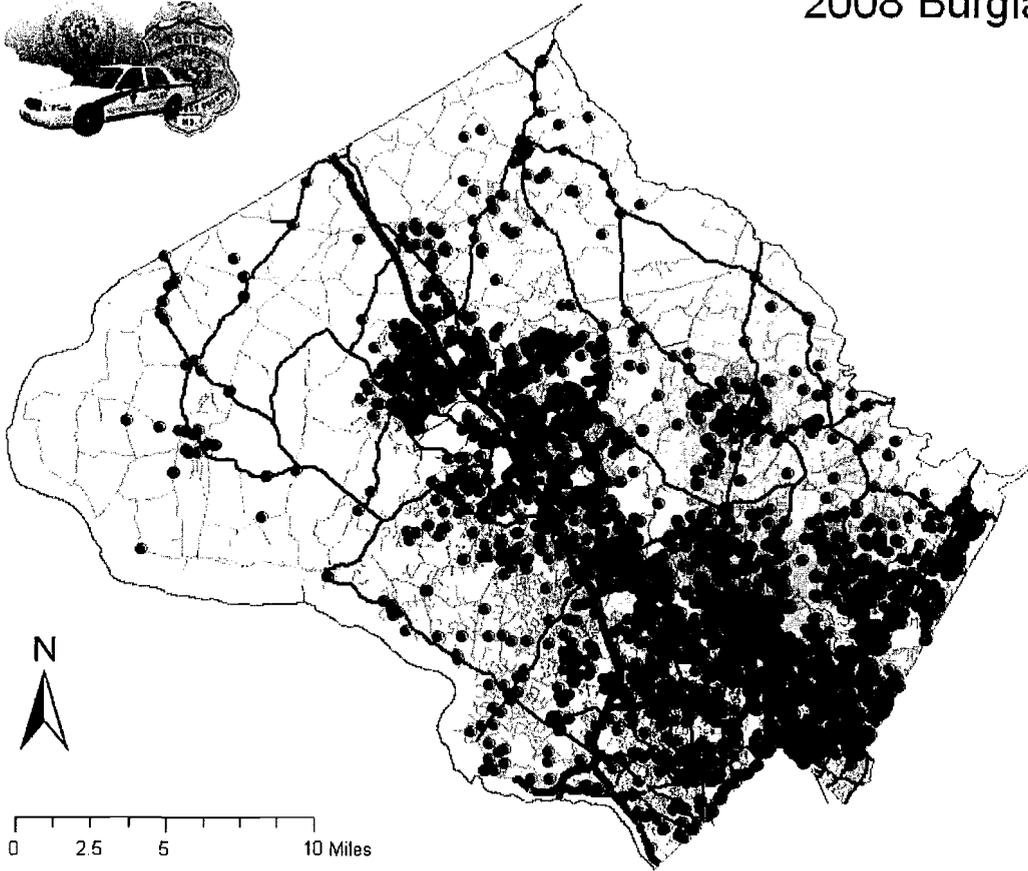
Some crimes show a clear geographic pattern. The Central Business Districts of Silver Spring and Wheaton have a disproportionate number of robberies and aggravated assaults. Consequently, the Route 29 corridor in Silver Spring is another area of concern. The District Commanders have all developed plans to reduce criminal activity in their respective districts. The CBD's and the Rt. 29 corridor all receive a planned multi-faceted response. With extensive crime analysis in hand, shift/beat teams are briefed on the time of day most crimes occur as well as day of week and location. The PCAT team is deployed during high crime periods and SAT Teams work in a covert capacity to make arrests in targeted areas. Our Crime Analysis Section prepares crime alerts daily to inform officers of specific trends in their area of assignment. Daily briefings and bi-weekly MCP Stat meetings allow every member of the department to be aware of trends and to give them a voice in developing a structured response to the trend. These briefings also help identify seasonal trends before they occur and a response can be prepared in advance. Prevention is an important factor in our response and our Community Services Officers work with patrol and PCAT to distribute educational materials to assist with their prevention efforts. Community prosecution is another facet in our response to crime patterns. MCP officers also work closely with the municipal police departments in Montgomery County. When county-wide task forces are created to prevent specific crimes, all local jurisdictions are encouraged to participate. The State's Attorney's Office has assigned community prosecutors to assist with removing identified "career" criminals from the communities they prey on.

The crimes of Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, and Thefts from Autos, are illustrated in plot maps. These maps help give our Commanders a clear picture of where crime is occurring. They also help identify homeowner's associations or community groups that have a stake what occurs in their neighborhood.





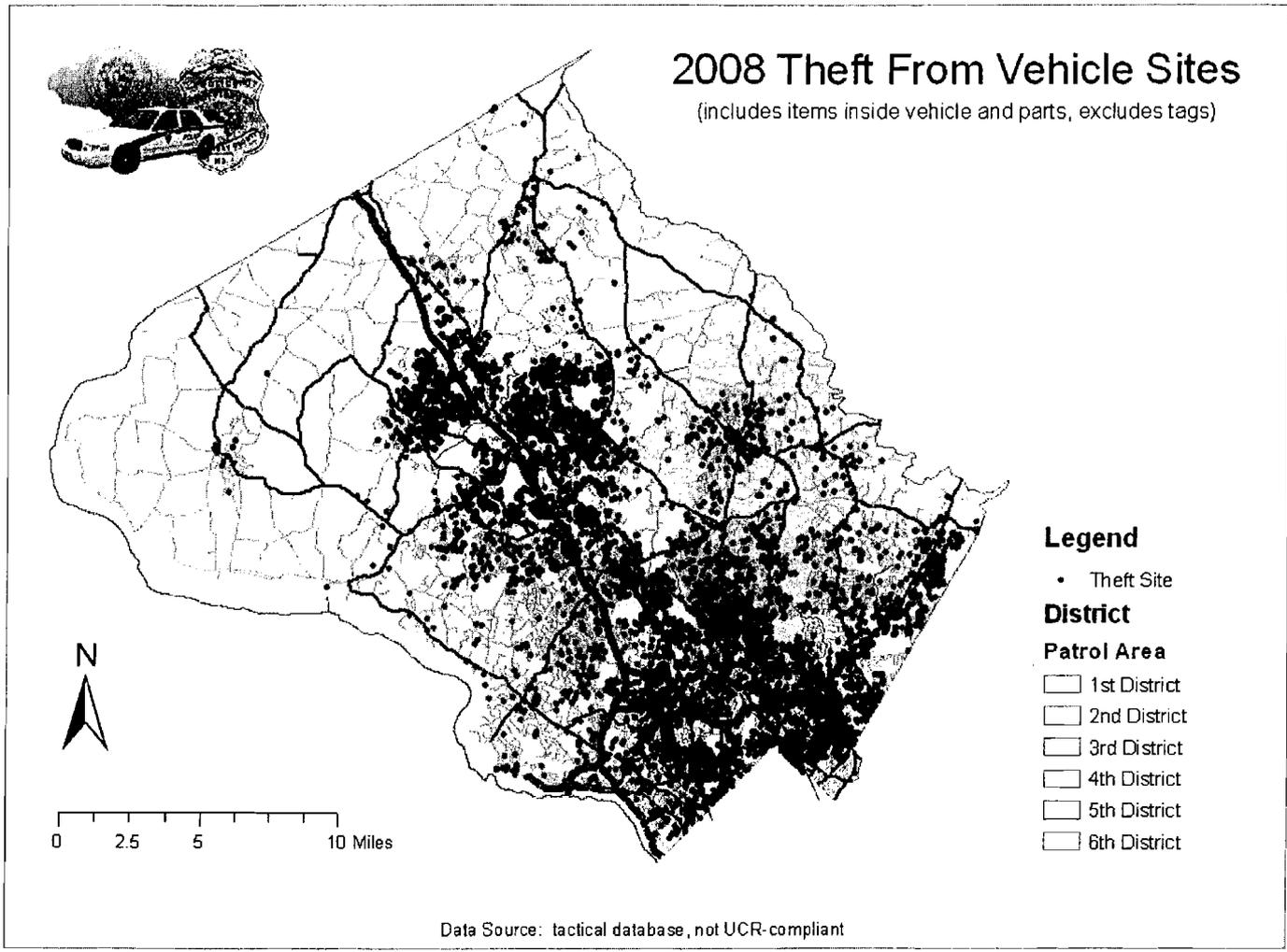
2008 Burglary Sites



- Legend**
- Commercial / School
 - Residential
- District**
- Patrol Area**
- 1st District
 - 2nd District
 - 3rd District
 - 4th District
 - 5th District
 - 6th District

Data Source: tactical database, not UCR-compliant

Crime Analyst, Section



Police Community Action Team

PCAT was deployed in each of the six police districts in 2008. They worked on issues as varied as street robberies to traffic complaints. Their attendance at community meetings gives them a first hand look at what is important to the people living in specific neighborhoods. PCAT can then tailor their response to the priorities established by the community. As a result of these deployments they were able to make an impact of crime in those neighborhoods. Here a few examples of their work for 2008.

- 1st District street robbery initiative in April, made ten arrests in three day period for various offenses, including possession of hereon and another for distribution of marijuana
- 2nd District marijuana growing operation uncovered. In October PCAT officers made a traffic stop and several packaged drugs and a pellet gun in the vehicle. A search warrant of the driver's residence revealed a large marijuana growing operation and evidence of an extensive illegal drug business.
- Firearms were recovered on six traffic stops in 2008. One of those arrested also had an outstanding warrant for armed robbery in Prince Georges County.
- 3rd District CBD disorderly conduct and drug arrests. Citizen complaints were investigated and multiple arrests were made after criminal conduct was observed.
- While assigned to the MC Fair the team observed known gang members in the parking lot outside of the fair. Several arrests for violations such as drugs, open alcohol, stolen license plates, and open warrants were made
- The 5th District was experiencing numerous vandalisms to property. PCAT was able to work with patrol officers and identify the offenders. Arrests were made and 27 vandalism reports were closed with \$33,000.00 in property damaged.

In 2008 PCAT deployments yielded:

- 413 arrests
- 13 weapons arrests
- 5 gun arrests
- 8 other dangerous deadly weapon arrests including- Nunchuks, a machete, and pellet guns.
- 407 Field Interview and photos

PCAT is continuing to make community contacts in the neighborhoods in which they were deployed. Each PCAT officer is assigned 1-2 beats throughout the county and maintains constant contact with community leaders. PCAT has received several neighborhood complaints in reference to drug houses, disorderly conduct and nuisance concerns. PCAT has addressed them promptly, professionally and with much success - most have resulted in arrests for CDS.

PCAT was assigned to several locations for specific problems or events, they include:

- July 2008 Gang shooting/stabbing in Gaithersburg near Lake Forest Mall.
- July 4th fireworks detail
- August 2008 MC Fair
- October 2008 Elderly victim residential robbery/homicide detail.
- November 2008 3D robbery detail
- December 2008 Holiday Shopping Detail

This chart displays an average three months of statistics for PCAT.

2008

	July	August	September	Total
CITATIONS	25	40	125	190
WARNINGS	36	43	117	196
EROS	1	5	16	22
DUI ARRESTS	1	0	5	6
VEHICLE STOPS	215	212	255	682
FIELD INTERVIEWS (FI)	32	33	50	115
CALLS HANDLED	16	19	53	88
GUNS/Weapons RECOVERED	1	1 BUTTERFLY KNIFE 1 HAND GUN IN VEH	1	4
ALCOHOL CITATIONS	2	8	7	17
CRIMINAL CITATIONS	7	10	15	32
WARRANTS SERVED	2	11	4	17
ARRESTS (CPU & JUV)	11	12	36	59
MONEY SEIZED	\$5,843.00		\$2,282.00	\$8,125.00
TOTAL ARRESTS	22 + 1 DUI	43	63 + 5 DUIs	134

Gang Activity

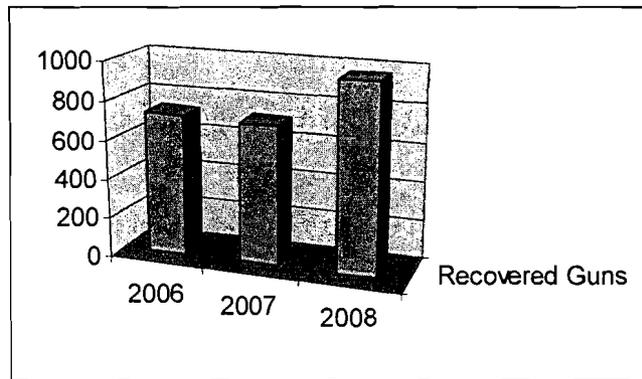
Our Gang investigators were very busy in 2008. Although overall gang related crime was down for 2008, burglaries and robberies were up significantly. Drug offenses and disorderly conduct also saw increases. Gang related graffiti incidents are down after a peak in 2007. One significant example of the effectiveness of our gang officers was the aggravated assault at Westfield Wheaton Plaza in December. Officers were able to identify the suspects in the shooting quickly as a result of their gang member data base. Without the gang officers and their vast intelligence base this case may not have been closed so quickly.

Reported Crime Type Gang Intel Database	2008 Gang Incidents	2007 Gang Incidents	2006 Gang Incidents	2005 Gang Incidents
Alcohol/DWI	6	7	5	4
Arson	2	0	1	2
Assault	60	107	49	65
Auto Theft	15	12	9	9
Burglary	22	7	26	11
CDS Offense	61	56	32	34
Disorderly Conduct	19	13	18	9
False Statement	2	2	1	0
Harassment	1	1	0	1
Homicide	3*	0	4	2
Kidnapping	1	0	0	0
Larceny	17	18	11	20
Rape	2	5	2	3
Robbery	50	31	32	21
Robbery/Carjacking	1	3	1	1
Sex Assault	1	3	0	0
Threats	8	6	8	9
Trespassing	10	9	10	6
Vandalism	41	53	23	17
Vandalism/Graffiti	81	130	99	79
Weapons Offense	37	44	32	36
Witness Intimidation	2	2	0	1
<i>Total</i>	442	507	363	330

* Incident listed as a homicide in 3rd quarter 2008 was an attempt.

Firearms Section

The Montgomery County Police Firearms Task Force works cooperatively with the ATF and all regional task forces in the metropolitan area, to include Prince Georges County Maryland State Police and MPD. These investigators are extremely well trained in the laws relative to firearms and employ innovative strategies to identify individuals illegally in possession of firearms. They review Circuit Court findings to identify newly convicted felons and cross check that against our database of people who had previously legally registered guns. They check ammunition logs at the area gun shops to see who has purchased ammunition and check the criminal history of any purchasers to ensure they are not prohibited. They respond directly to any call in which a gun is used or displayed, to ensure a successful investigation.



Alcohol Enforcement Section

The Alcohol Enforcement Section has been working with the Department of Liquor Control to reduce underage alcohol consumption at all liquor dispensary locations. Along with DLC personnel, AES has been able to inspect every alcohol licensed establishment over the past few years. Their efforts in “Drawing the Line” have been directed towards reducing the senseless deaths of our youth and driving under the influence. Working with MCFRS and School staff AES has completed several “Every 15 Minutes” programs at county high schools. AES has seasonal enforcement campaigns throughout the year. The Prom Initiative in late spring and the Holiday Task Force in December/January are their two largest efforts to reduce DWI’s.

Citations	2007	2008
Juvenile Alcohol	476	413
Adult Alcohol	741	717
Furnishing Alcohol	80	98
Fake ID	18	12
DUI	336	422

2008 END OF YEAR COMMENTS REGARDING REPORTED CRIME

Prepared by: Angie Lindsay, 3/04/08, CAS # 09-197

Data Source: UCR figures. Note that detailed anecdotal data is from the tactical database (which is not UCR-compliant), percentages are rounded to the tenth.

Homicide: 21 in 2007 vs. 19 in 2008, + 10.5%

- 21 victims were killed at a total of 20 scenes
- 2 homicides were recorded in 2008, but the deaths likely occurred in 2007 (Bowman children found in Charles County)
- 7 victims died the result of a robbery

District	CR#	Name	Date
W	08-070522	MEIZELL, LILA AGRESS	11/26/2008
B	08-052507	HAVENSTEIN, MARY FRANCIS	9/4/2008
M	08-021097	HARVEY, LINDSAY MARIE	4/15/2008
W	08-004677	FATO, GENNARO	1/23/2008
M	08-032825	WANG, LONGYUAN	5/6/2008
S	08-030644	VILLATORE, JORGE	5/27/2008
W	08-009575	LACAYO, GERALD	2/16/2008

- 11 victims knew or were related to their killer(s) – 52.4% this includes:
 - 7 victims killed by an acquaintance
 - 2 victims killed by a parent (mother)
 - 2 victims killed by an ex-boyfriend

 - 8 victims were killed by strangers (to include 5 the result of robberies)

 - 2 victims' killers remain unknown

- 8 victims were killed by a firearm (38.1%); 5 by cutting/stabbing (23.8%)

Rape: 131 in 2007 vs. 129 in 2007, +1.6%

Note: during calendar year 2008 five reports from previous years were ruled as “unfounded” and these cases were subtracted from our running count for the year. Since it is not possible to arbitrarily exclude five actual cases from year-end analysis, the below information reflects a total of 136 cases still open or closed by arrest or exception at year’s end, and not the 131 published per UCR recording guidelines. Therefore, percentages only are used.

- 82.4% were completed rapes, 17.6% were attempts
- 12.5% of recorded cases actually occurred prior to 2008
- 36.0% of incidents were known to have involved drug and/or alcohol use beforehand
- 77.9% of victims previously knew or were related to the offender; 22.1% report a stranger as offender (to include 5.9% of the overall total where victims had just met the suspect and willingly accompanied him elsewhere, such as accepted a ride or went home with).

Suspect relationship table:

Acquaintance/otherwise known	51.5%
Stranger	22.1%
Boyfriend	11.0%
Ex-Boyfriend	5.9%
Husband	5.1%
Other Relative	3.7%
Brother/Step-Brother	0.7%
<i>Total:</i>	<i>100%</i>

Robbery: 1,100 in 2008 vs.1,096 in 2007, +0.4%

- Commercial robberies were down 16.1%
- Non-commercial robberies showed an increase from 947 in 2007 to 975 in 2008 (+ 3.0%).
 - Just more than one-third of “street robberies” were “pack” robberies, involving three or more suspects (290 incidents out of 825 cleared 03x1, 03x7 or 03x8 from a tactical database, which is not UCR-compliant).

Aggravated Assault: 835 in 2008 vs. 815 in 2007, +2.5%

Note: assault *victims* are counted, not incidents; so any aggravated assault with a cross-complaint made will be counted more than once.

Victims:

- 39.0% of these assaults were domestic in nature (326)
- 3.5% of these assaults had police officers as victims (29)

Means:

- 72.0% involved the display or use of a weapon (601 total)
 - gun – 11.5% (96)
 - knife – 39.0% (325)
 - other weapon – 21.6% (180)
 - strong-arm – 234 (28.0%)

Burglary: 3,603 in 2008 vs. 3,551 in 2007, +1.5%

Residential: 2,623 in 2008 vs. 2,550 in 2007, +2.87%

- 25.4% were to unsecured homes (unlocked or open window/door)
- 9.1% were of a shed or garage only
- 4.7% were to a vacant home

Of note: one defendant, Shane Green, is suspected of as many as 100 residential burglaries in the 3rd and 4th per WIS – which exceeds the increase in 73 events noted all year in the county.

Commercial: 904 in 2008 vs. 914 in 2007, -1.1%

- Approximately half were general retail establishments, to include beer & wine stores, convenience stores, service stations, dry cleaners, etc.
- office buildings were the second most popular targets, followed closely by restaurants

Larceny: 19,207 in 2008 vs. 17,536 in 2007, +8.5%

- Shoplifting, thefts from buildings and 'all other' showed minimal change.
- Thefts from vehicle or of vehicle parts showed a significant increase, up to 10,602 in 2008 vs. 9,047 in 2007 (+17.2%)
 - In our tactical database we do not capture tag thefts and the data source is usually cited as "preliminary info". For 2008 we entered 8459 non-tag thefts from vehicles, of which 1817 were known to have been left unlocked or with an open window; this equates to

21.2% of these non-tag thefts captured in the database. If we add in ones where the method of entry is not known or apparent (another 597 – which often means likely unlocked but can't really verify that), we go to 28.5% of the non-tag thefts being no force likely.

- Thefts from vehicles are driven by available technology; years ago it was stereos being taken, then CD players & big speakers, assorted vehicle parts, misc. items inside (clothes, gym equipment, etc.). With the increase in availability of personal technology, we saw numbers rise when more and more people had cell phones, laptops, and now the popular GPS units *being left in cars for convenience*. Our tactical database “preliminarily” shows 960 GPS units taken in 2007, but 2438 in 2008 - + 154.0 % !
- There are many ways now to convert stolen items to cash than typical, regulated, pawn shops, with Craig's list, E-bay, etc.
- Detectives have had burglars tell them that they are also now stealing from cars as the risk is not as great for apprehension or for sentence if caught, and the haul pretty profitable.

Auto Theft: 2,258 in 2008 vs. 2,483 in 2007, -9.1%

- The percentage of cases closed is up from 2007 to 2008, but the total arrests are down.

All Part 1: 26,975 in 2008 vs. 25,629 in 2007, +5.3%

All Part 2: 45,518 in 2008 vs. 45,862 in 2007, -0.8%

Total Crime: 72,493 in 2008 vs. 71,491 in 2007, +1.4%