

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2006 YEAR END REPORT

“To Protect and Serve”

Submitted by the Executive Board:

**Chief William Martin
Deputy Chief Curt Beverage
Captain Robert Jarrard
Captain Jim Worton
Captain Ron Hoskins**

Honorable Fred Armstrong
Mayor
City of Columbus, Indiana

Dear Sir:

The Columbus Police Department submits our 2006 Year End Report. The accomplishments of our Department would not have been possible without the hard work of the men and women, both sworn and civilian, of the Columbus Police Department.

Each year we submit statistics in our year-end report to support our belief that Columbus is a very safe city. This year the research/publishing company of Morgan Quitno Press agreed with us again. They ranked Columbus the 11th safest city in the United States. The citizens of Columbus deserve a lot of credit for this great honor, as do the men and women of the Columbus Police Department who certainly played a significant role in keeping Columbus safe.

The list of our Department's accomplishments for 2006 is outstanding. The following is a short list of our accomplishments:

- We were able to establish a Physical Fitness Policy and have begun testing our Officers twice a year.
- We have established a Drug Screening Policy for all Columbus Police Department employees. After the first of the year we will start testing our employees.
- In January of 2007 we will receive 55 new laptop computers that will be wireless capable. These computers will allow us to implement our new wireless network for our Records Management System.
- Two of our Detectives received training in undercover on-line investigation from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

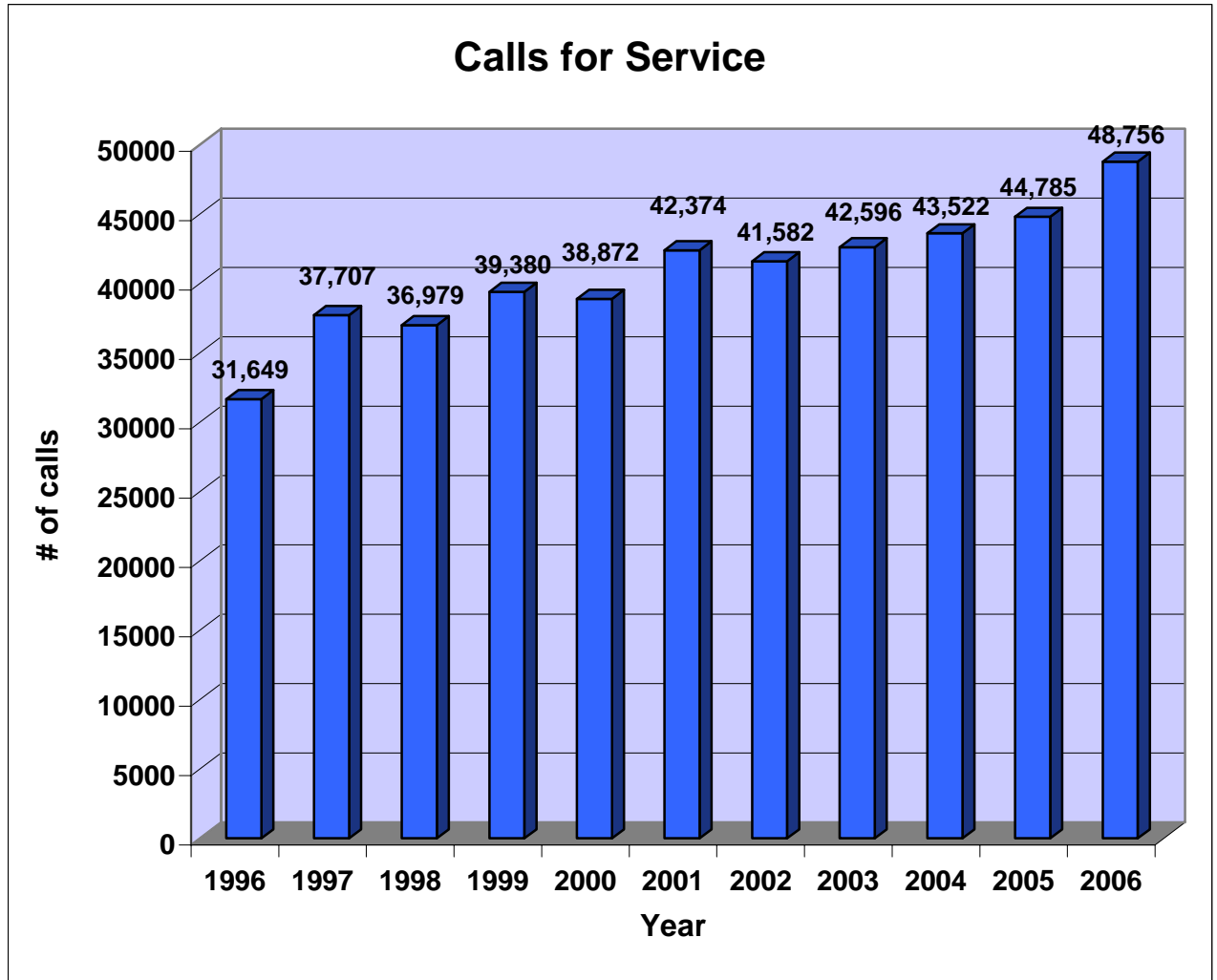
With the continued support of your office, the City Council, the Board of Works and other city departments, we will make 2007 a great and safe year for the citizens of Columbus.

Sincerely,

William Martin
Chief of Police

ACTIVITY

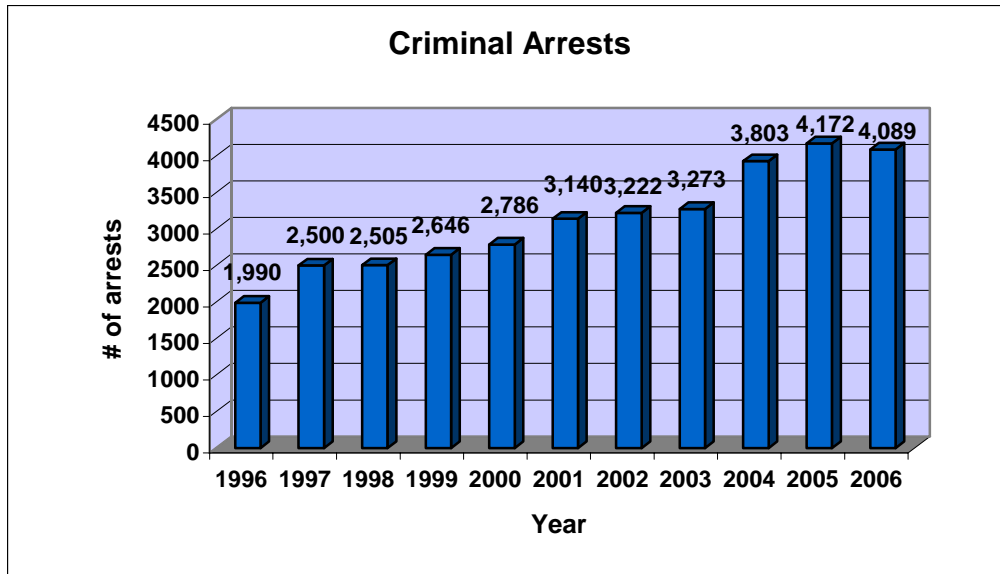
The following details some of the hard work of the officers of the Columbus Police Department.



Calls for service represent calls to the Police Department where our officers took some action. Also included in calls for service is the self-initiated activity of our officers. As you can see our calls for service went up by 3,971, which is the largest single increase in 9 years. When you take into consideration that at times this year we were as many as 10 Officers below our allotted manpower, you can appreciate just how busy our Officers were.

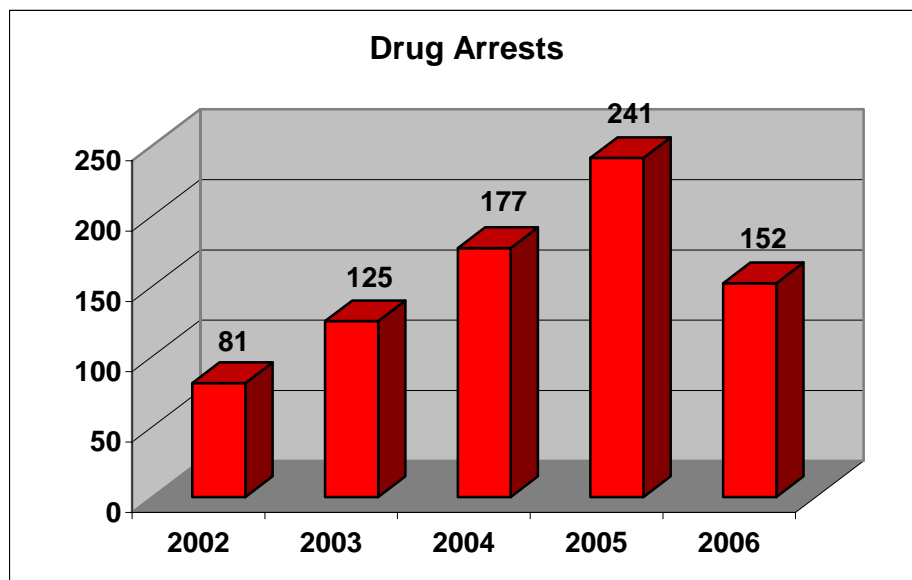
Since 1995 (22,704) our calls for service have more than doubled.

There are several factors that have contributed to the increase in calls for service over the last 10 years. The city of Columbus has increased in size, our theft numbers are at an all time high and the Department is doing a better job tracking the self-initiated activity of our officers.



Criminal arrests include both adult and juvenile apprehensions for crimes that are misdemeanors or felonies. For the first time in 11 years we had a decrease in number of Criminal Arrests. As you will read later in this report, our Drug Arrests are also down this year. I believe that the drop in Criminal and Drug arrests can be in part tied to the drop in Meth related cases. Even though we have experienced our first drop in 11 years we have still more than doubled our Criminal Arrests since 1996.

When we break down the number of criminal arrests the following are the types of arrests which increased significantly over the previous year: Battery, aggravated battery, illegal consumption, theft, driving while suspended and drug related arrests. The following graph details drug related arrests for the Uniform Division. Crimes included in this graph include arrests made for the offenses of possession of precursors, possession of cocaine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of controlled substances and possession with intent to distribute.



Drug arrests have gone down for the first time in 6 years. As previously stated, I believe this is due in part to the drop in Meth related cases, and the drop in experienced Officers working our streets.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Detective Division investigated over 1,995 (an 8% decrease) criminal cases resulting in numerous criminal charges. The following details some of the fine work by our Detective Division:

- A man beats his wife to death with a skillet – In January of 2006 Albert Boyd was arrested for the death of his wife Ruth Boyd. In August 2006 Albert Boyd was convicted and sentenced to 62 years for the Murder.
- A joint investigation between our Detective Division and our Narcotics Division was conducted this year, which lead to six people being charged with several different crimes ranging from Theft, manufacturing Methamphetamine to Child Neglect.
- In October of this year a major fraudulent payroll check ring was broken up by our Detective Division. The lengthy investigation continues with four suspects being charged and one suspect currently being sought by the Anderson Police Department, U.S. Marshals and the Columbus Police Department.
- In November of this year the body of Faith VanArsdale was located in her Columbus home. After a short investigation Dana Roberts was arrested and charged with Faith's murder. Mr. Roberts is currently awaiting trial in the Bartholomew County Jail.

The Detective Division, with the assistance of the county-wide Death Investigation Team, worked two murders in the city this year for the first time in three years. Our Detectives did great work in bringing both of the Suspects involved in those murders to justice.

UNIFORM DIVISION

The Uniform Division saw more activity than ever before. Since 1995 our calls for service have more than doubled. At times this year due to retirements, we were as many as 10 Officers below our allotted 78. This means we did more calls for service with fewer Officers than last year.

As a department we have seen a growing demand in calls for service over the past year. We have witnessed not only a steady increase in the number of calls, but also an increase in high priority and high-risk calls. Over the past year uniformed officers found themselves running continuously from incident to incident and still having calls backlogged.

- Early in 2006 one of our newer female Officers, through good Police work, played a major roll in solving a multitude of home burglaries both in the City and the County. Through the use of e-mail roll call information that we share with the Bartholomew County Sheriffs Department, our Officer was able to identify a vehicle that was used in a string of burglaries and provide an address of a suspect. That information lead to the closure of many serious felonies and the recovery of numerous pieces of stolen property.
- In August of this year we had a random shooting of an innocent man while he was riding as a passenger in a pickup truck on 25th street. The driver of the pickup was able to give us a description of the suspect's vehicle. The driver could not, however, provide any information as to the suspect vehicle's license plate. Because of the time of day we had no other witnesses to the shooting and essentially had no other investigative leads to this random act of violence. One of our Officers on duty the night of the shooting recalled an incident from days past involving a car of similar description. Our Officer remembered that the incident involved someone pointing a gun at a passing motorist. The information that the Officer provided that night enabled other Officers to locate the suspect vehicle and bring three dangerous criminals to justice.
- In January of 2006 the Police Department had it first murder since 2004. This was a domestic violence related homicide. This crime was also solved by good street level Police work. One of our Officers saw a woman and a man walking downtown several nights before the homicide. It was late and very cold that night so the Officer stopped and gave the couple a ride home. This seemingly unrelated event would soon prove essential to the investigation. After attempts by our Investigators to interview the suspect, he said that he would only talk to the Officer that had given him and his wife a ride home several nights before. That random act of kindness shown by our Officer enabled us to solve a very violent crime.

It is that kind of Police work that the citizens of Columbus have come to expect from their Police Force. The men and women that serve this City do so everyday with the utmost professionalism and dedication to their Community and to each other. We are all truly fortunate to live in a City that has one of, if not the best, Police Forces in the Country.

As the preceding portions of this report show, Columbus Police Officers encountered violent and dangerous criminals in a myriad of situations throughout 2006. The continuous stream of calls for service, the long overtime hours, and the often "less than ideal" conditions were stressful to say the least. From beginning to end, our officers responded with professionalism and exhibited the highest standards of character and conduct.

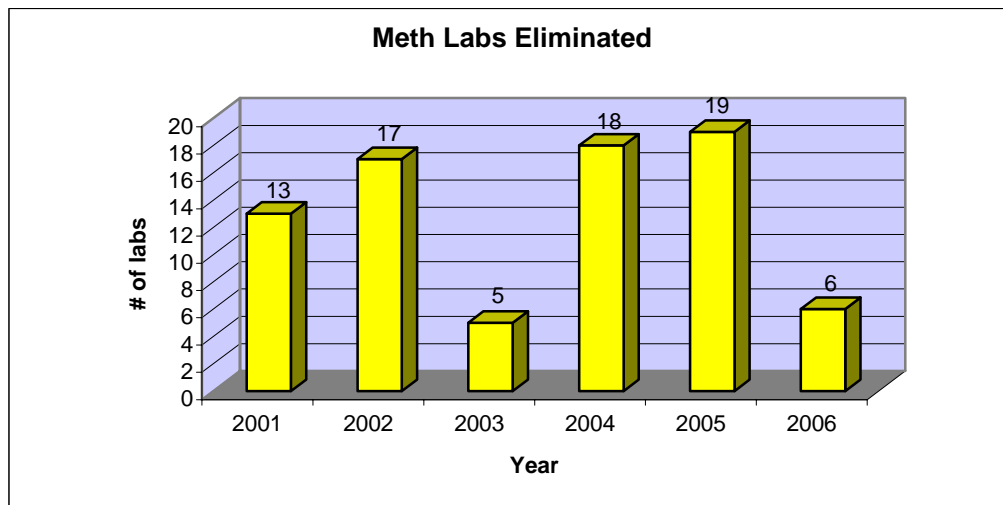
NARCOTICS DIVISION

The Narcotics Division this year saw decreases in the number of methamphetamine labs for the first time since 2003. We believe this is due in part to the first full year of the new pseudoephedrine law that requires the drugs to be behind the counter. The other part of this picture is our increase in proactive enforcement of methamphetamine manufacturing and sales. This in turn is allowing us more time to deal with the other major drugs.

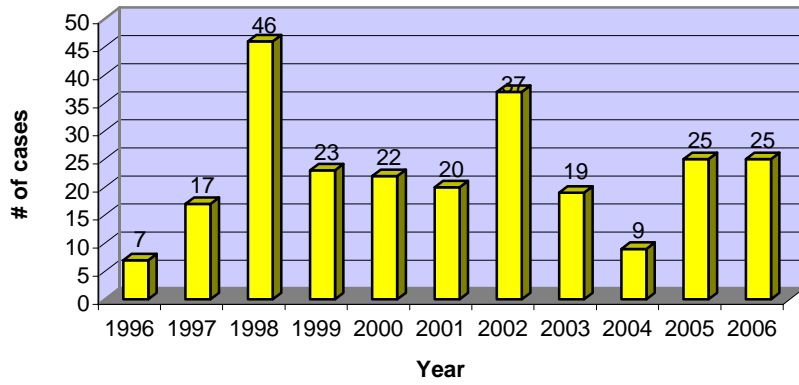
Our Narcotics Division reported 6 actual meth labs this year with 8 precursor cases being filed as well. It could be argued that we actually had 14 meth lab related cases. However, we believe that with the help of the new law and aggressive enforcement we are starting to get a handle on the local meth lab problem.

One of the more interesting trends we saw this year was the marked increase in cocaine cases. In 2005 we worked 20 cocaine cases. Last year we worked 67 cocaine cases. This increase can be contributed to several factors. The first is the decrease of availability of meth. As the supply of meth goes down, the demand for similar drugs goes up. The other aspect of this increase is the direction in which our investigations lead us. Often times our cases are direct reflections of the local drug subculture.

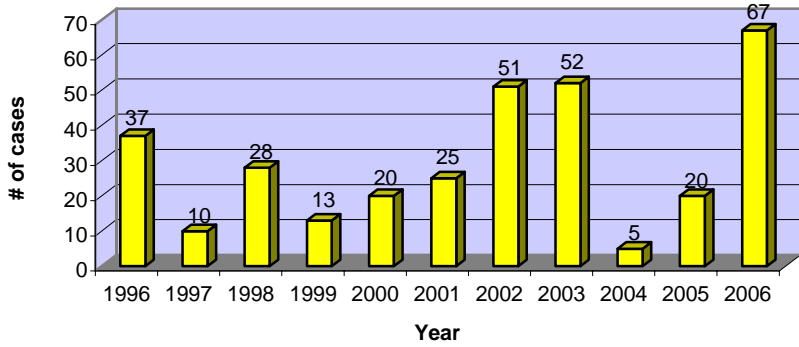
One of the more high profile investigations that we worked this year was the investigation into the sale and distribution of cocaine and methamphetamine. This investigation lasted several months and will result in over 60 cases involving 22 suspects being filed.



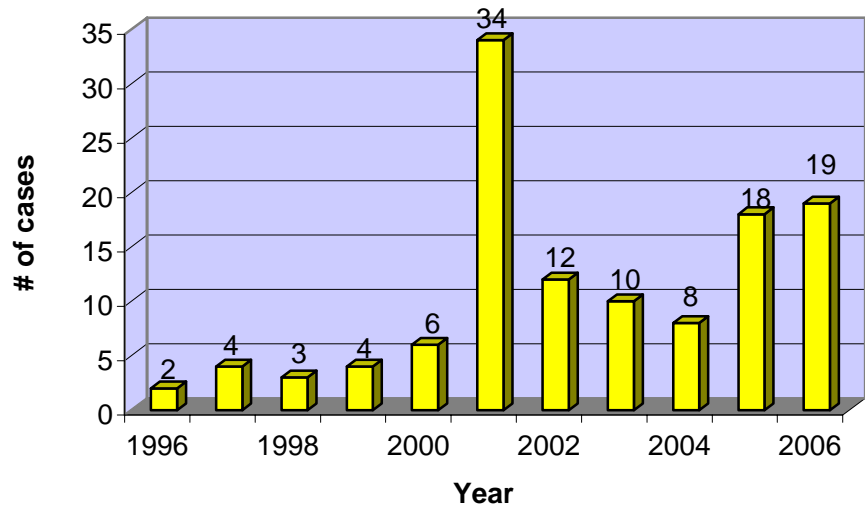
Methamphetamine



Cocaine



Controlled Substances



PUBLIC RELATIONS

At one time, the Public Relations area of the Police Department focused solely on answering questions from the media. Today, Public Relations is much more. Not only coordinating community events for the Department, but also making sure our citizens are educated as to the quality of service we provide.

This year we held a Community night at Donner Park. It was our kick off to our new crime prevention program CPD & ME. It was well attended with over 1,200 community members taking part in everything from free hamburgers to free swimming. We had great support for this event from several community businesses. Even the Mayor got into the act by raffling off 6 children's bicycles and helping us give away 200 bicycle helmets.

The following are a few of the services Public Relations provided this year:

- First ever combined Police and Fire youth academy that served 32 local youths ranging in age from 9 to 15
- Conducted our first Citizen's Police Academy in two years. This event was attended by 24 community members, raising our over all alumni to 600 graduates.
- Passed out over 3,000 new child fingerprint/DNA kits at various functions. These items are so popular that we continue to run out at the end of the year and have ordered more.
- Launched our new mascot program, Safety Pup. This program is geared to our Pre-school aged children. This is an attempt build a better relationship with the Pre-school children.
- 73 tours of the Police Department
- Passed out over 1,000 trigger locks
- Conducted 8 Precision Driving for Teens courses, training approximately 60 teen drivers. This course continues to be one of our most popular services we provide the community.
- Assisted in security and crowd assistance at the Vice-Presidential visit, First Lady visit, 4-H Fair, United Way Festival, Softball World Series, Philharmonic Veterans Concert, American Heart Walk, Hospice Concert, Ethnic Expo, Festival of Lights (to name a few)...all with very little overtime...primarily on-duty officers, cadets, and exempt personnel.

DARE

The CPD DARE program continues its mission of educating local kids about the dangers of drugs and violence. In 2006, DARE reached over 900 sixth-graders in the Columbus area, and over 800 seventh-graders. This is the first full year that the middle school DARE program has been delivered in addition to the elementary program.

Both the elementary and middle school DARE programs consist of ten lessons. They incorporate interactive learning methods to teach kids about friendships, peer pressure, ways to be in charge, and how to make good decisions. This is in addition to basic health information about tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, and other drugs. Essays authored by elementary DARE graduates each semester reflect the positive impact the program has on our local kids as they prepare for the transition to middle school.

Both Central and Northside middle schools have welcomed DARE to all 7th-graders, and the middle school program has been very popular with students and officers. DARE officers from the Columbus Police Department and the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department deliver this much-needed follow-up to the 6th-grade program.

DARE hosted two graduation programs for elementary students – one in May and one in December. Essay winners read their work, and prizes were awarded to all graduates.

The DARE web site has been a successful way to parents and kids access to games and learning tools, as well as information about drugs of abuse and DARE news. This year, the DARE Council began to advertise the site in *The Republic* and online, and promote it through the schools and to community groups.

DARE fundraising efforts were successful in 2006. The golf tournament was held in August, and yielded over \$11,000 in profit. This is the largest profit to-date for the annual event. As the DARE program continues, fundraising will become more critical, and may rely on the generosity of local grants.

The School Resource Office, in cooperation with the DARE program, has also delivered a number of drug talks to other students, including those in 8th grade health classes and in health classes at both high schools. This year, over 1,300 students had presentations in the classroom about meth and prescription drug abuse. In addition, several youth groups received similar presentation, including Cub Scouts and Young Marines.

Drug awareness and prevention is also delivered by means of presentations to adult groups, including teachers and community service organizations.

CULTURAL LIAISON OFFICER

The purpose of this support position is to address training issues with the Police Department, act as a liaison to various community groups and to assist the growing Hispanic community with obtaining information about the Police Department and the criminal justice system

Assistance was also provided to Franklin Police, Seymour Police, Bartholomew County Sheriffs Office, Indiana State Police, F.B.I., D.E.A., I.C.E., and in criminal investigations. Our liaison officer also serves on several committees including NAACP, Gay/Straight Alliance, Multi-Cultural Awareness, Immigration Issues Leadership Group, and the Mayor's Cultural Awareness Committee. The liaison officer supervises our civilian translators who assist our officers on a regular basis.

This year we teamed up with our Human Rights Department and facilitated a focus group discussion with the Gay/Straight Alliance. Our Liaison Officer also participates in a mentoring program for students at Central Middle School, Northside Middle School, East High School as well as North High School.

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

The Columbus Police Department's Police Athletic League believes that children, if reached early enough, can develop a strong, positive attitude towards police. The Columbus P.A.A.L. program brings youngsters under the supervision and constructive influence of a responsible law enforcement agency while expanding public awareness about the role of a police officer. That role is positive reinforcement and support of responsible values and attitudes that are instilled in young people by their parents.

PAAL would not be possible without the help and support of the over 250 volunteers which help us utilize community-wide resources ranging from law enforcement officers to educators, physicians, attorneys, and numerous other vocations.

Over 1,300 young people participated in PAL functions this year in activities such as: basketball, golf, tackle football, flag football, cheerleading and volleyball.

This year we were able to bring back Punt, Pass, and Kick to the youth of Columbus. We held the event at our football complex south of town. The event saw 58 boys and girls participate. The local winners went on to compete in the regional tournament in Shelbyville, Indiana.

HAZARDOUS DEVICES UNIT (HDU)

In the spring of 2004, the Columbus Police Department was selected by “NABSCAB” (North America Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board) to have a certified “bomb squad”. After the graduation of our two officers from the five-week school at the Redstone Arsenal in May of 2004, our Hazardous Devices Unit was officially started.

The mission of the Columbus Police Department’s HDU is to:

- Maintain the safety of the public and officers
- Render safe any suspected device
- Provide for safe transportation, disposal or storage of said device
- Collect and preserve evidence
- Educate community members as to potential threats

The unit was called out fourteen times this year. Using specialized training and equipment, each situation has been handled with no damage to property. In one of the instances, the Hazardous Device Unit was called into service to perform a large scale clean up of live military ordnances. They were able to perform this operation with out serious threat to the Officers and to the Community.

The Hazardous Device Unit was also used by the Secret Service this year two times. The first was on the visit of the Vice President to Camp Atterbury. The second was on the First Lady’s visit to Columbus.

The current unit is comprised of two certified technicians, one evidence technician and two explosive ordnance recognition personnel. The unit trains once a month and has provided training to local businesses and governmental units. Our unit also trained the Columbus Fire Department personnel in explosive safety.

CRIME TRENDS

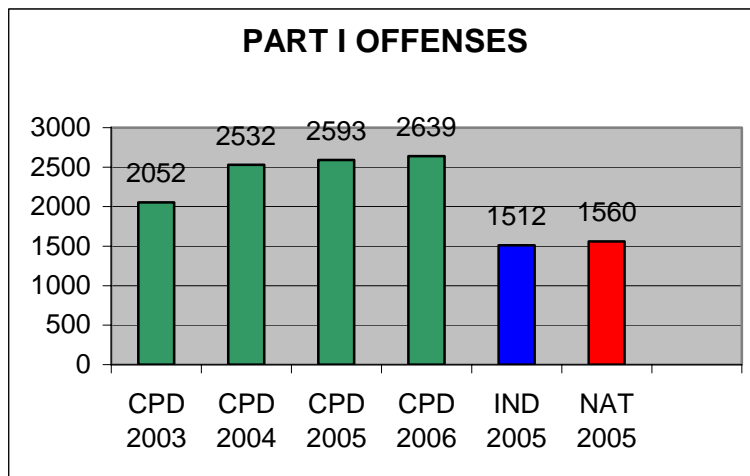
The following page provides vital information pertaining to the Columbus Police Department's Part I crime statistics. The Part I crimes are known as the Index Offenses, since they serve as a measurement of criminal activity. In past reports, we have published a section comparing our Part I offenses to State and National figures. In the format listed below, we will show trends that may be of interest to the citizens of Columbus.

Part I Crimes are an indicator of reported criminal activity within a designated area. These crimes consist of two categories: **Crimes Against Persons** and **Crimes Against Property**. Violent Crime is composed of the offenses of Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault. Property Crime is composed of the offenses: Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft.

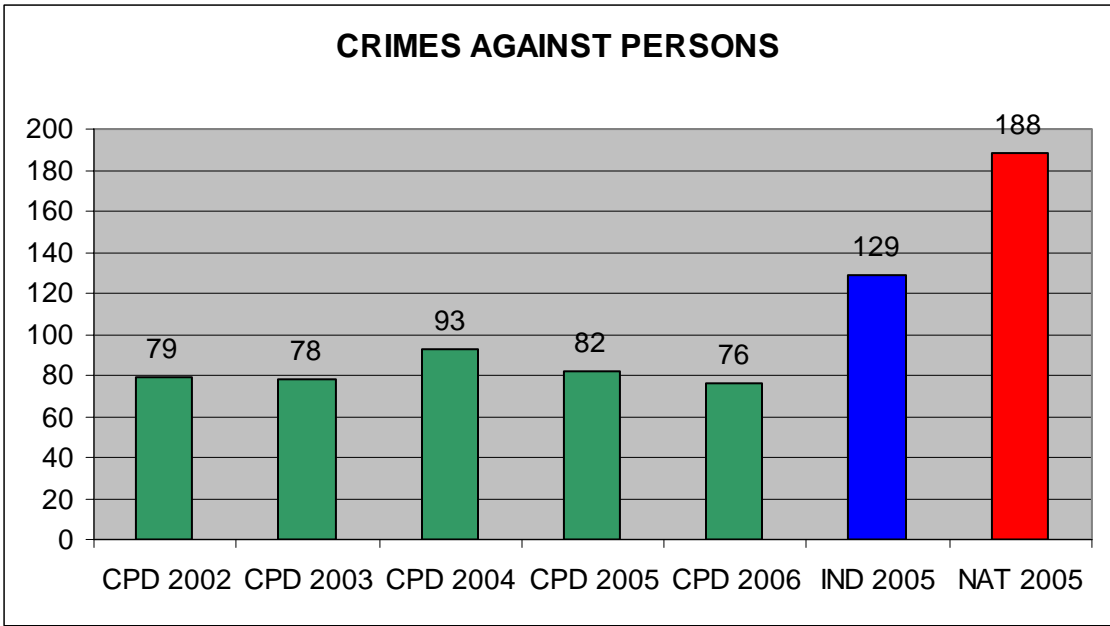
The charts shown on the next few pages show several things. The bars in green show data based on crime statistics here in Columbus. Each chart shows four years of data to reflect current crime trends in Columbus. The blue bar shows the latest data from cities our population (39,000) in Indiana. The red bar shows what cities of our size, across the country, are reporting for their Part I offenses.

The statistics reflected in this report are based on data gathered from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. Each incident reflects crimes **reported** to police which follow strict guidelines established by the FBI. If a crime is determined to be unfounded then the figures are amended. These figures do not reflect the final disposition of the reported crime (charges filed, not filed, convictions etc.)

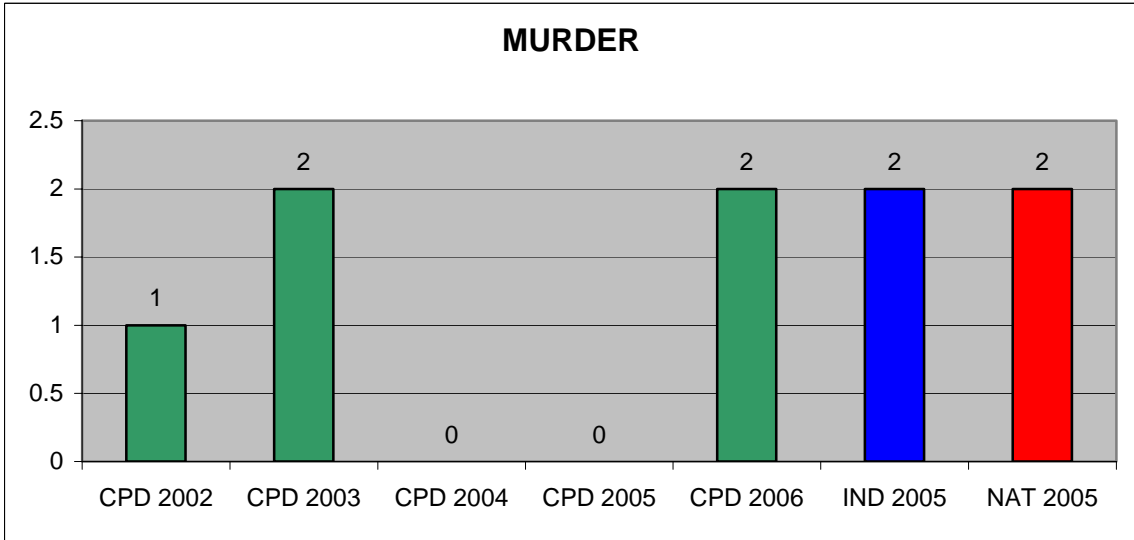
This graph shows all seven Part I offenses. While we are still higher than the State and National levels, this can be attributed to our higher rate of Theft, which will be described later in this report.



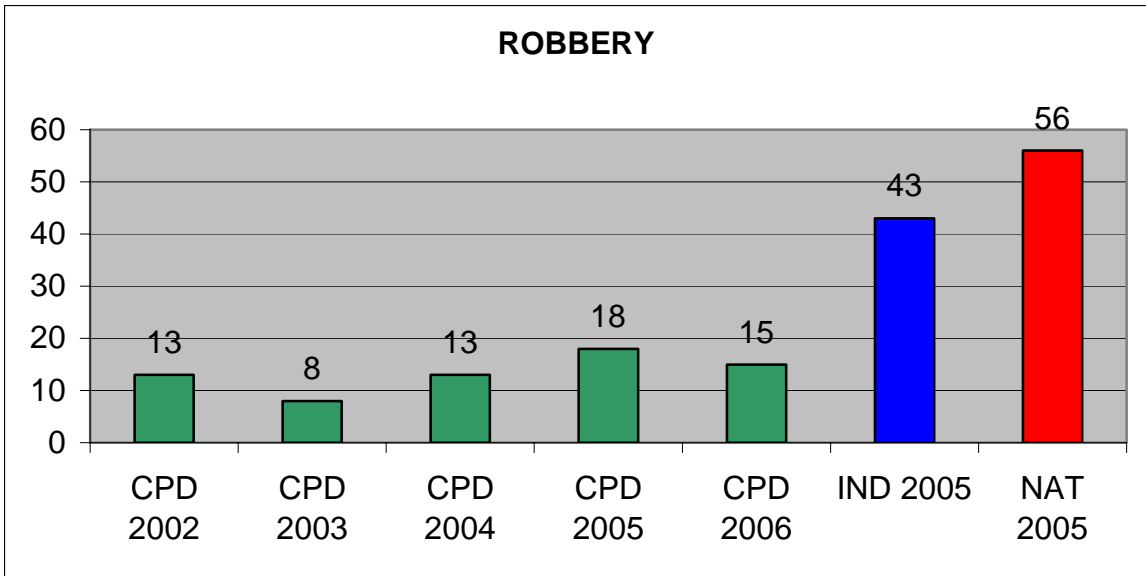
The four-year trend in Columbus for all Part I offenses shows little change between '03 and '06. We are still considerably higher than the State or National figures due to our Theft totals. The increase between '03 and '06 is based primarily on increases in Thefts.



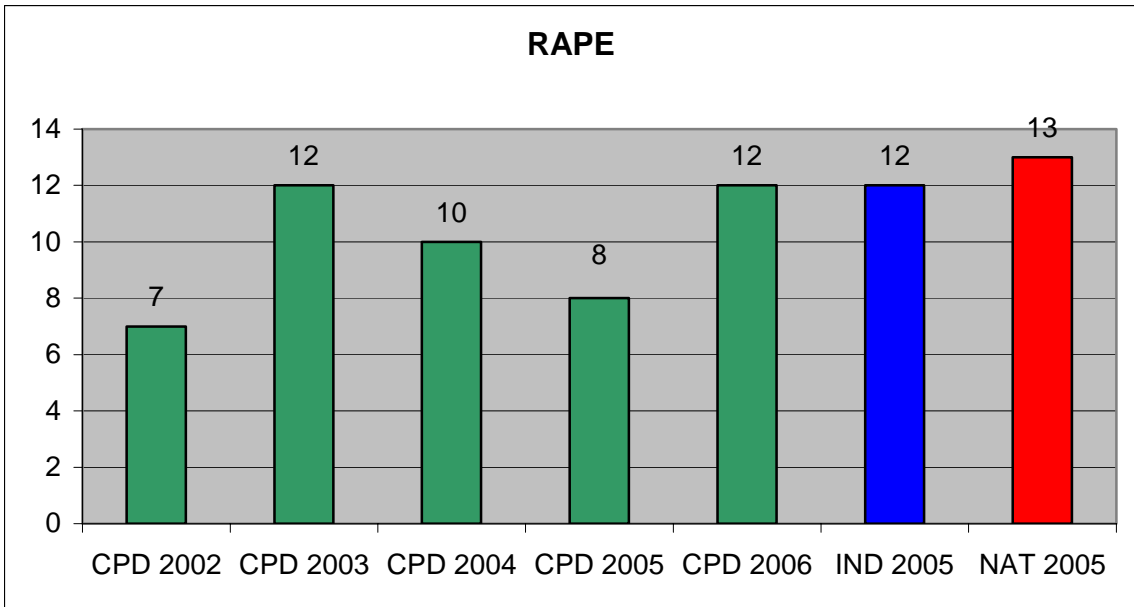
This graph shows the combined data of the four Crimes Against Persons (Murder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault). These crimes, plus Burglary and Motor Vehicle Theft, were the basis of the “safest city” study. Columbus fairs very well as compared to similar size cities in the State (41% less) and nationally (60% less).



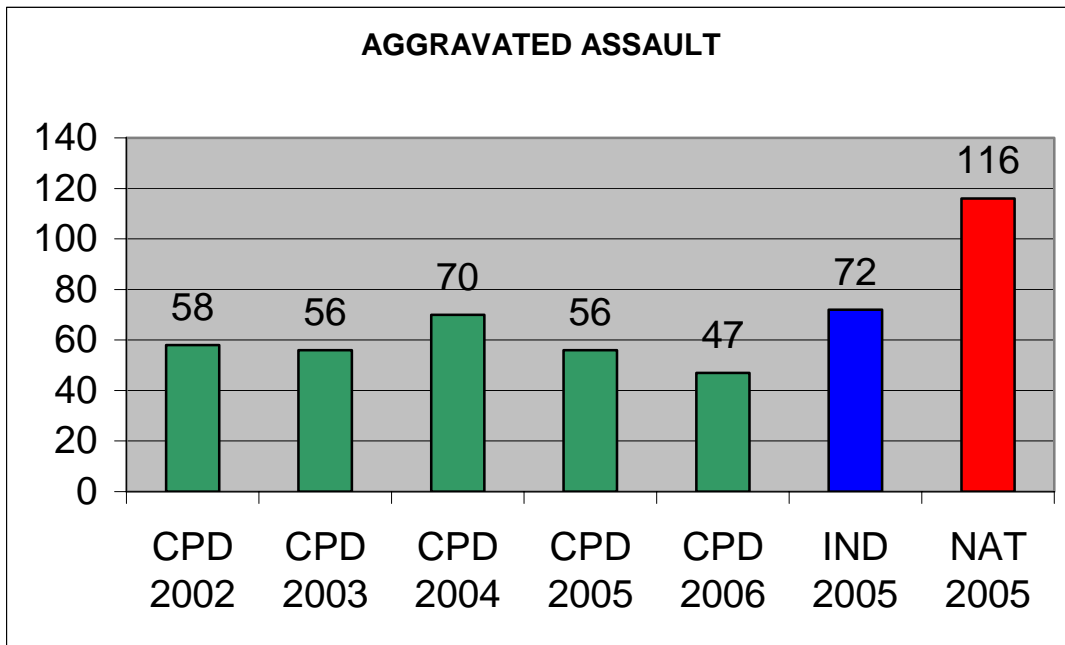
The Murder rate in Columbus has not exceeded State or National trends and has been at or less over the past several years. Columbus did experience two homicides in 2006 but managed to stay at the State and National average.



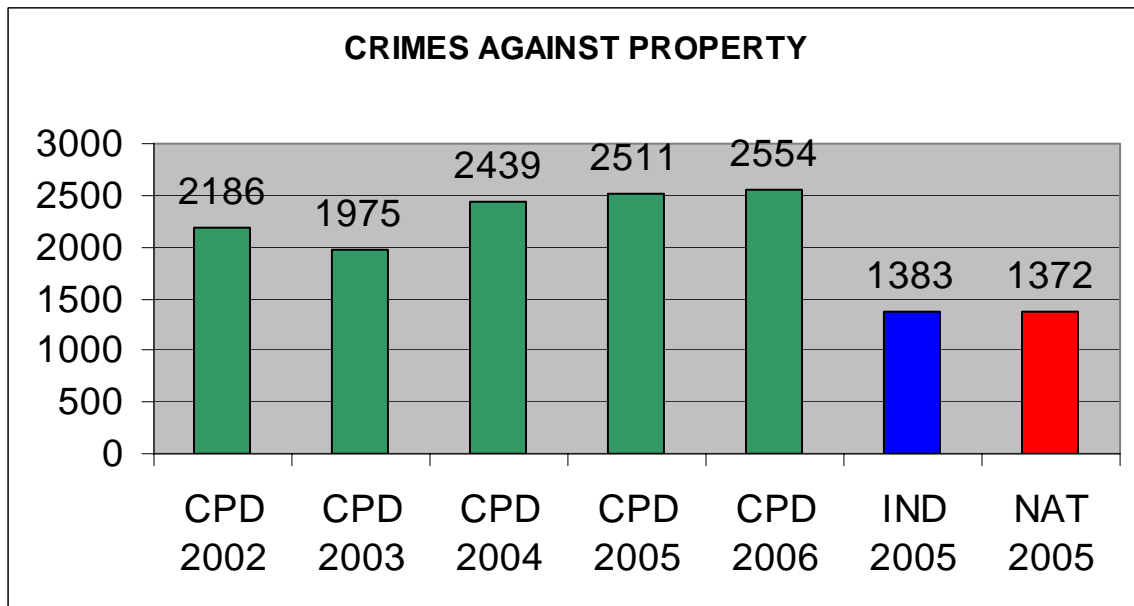
When comparing the number of Robberies in Columbus to State (65% less) and National (73% less) it is clear that Columbus is a much safer place to live. Robbery is defined as the taking of property from someone through force or the threat of force.



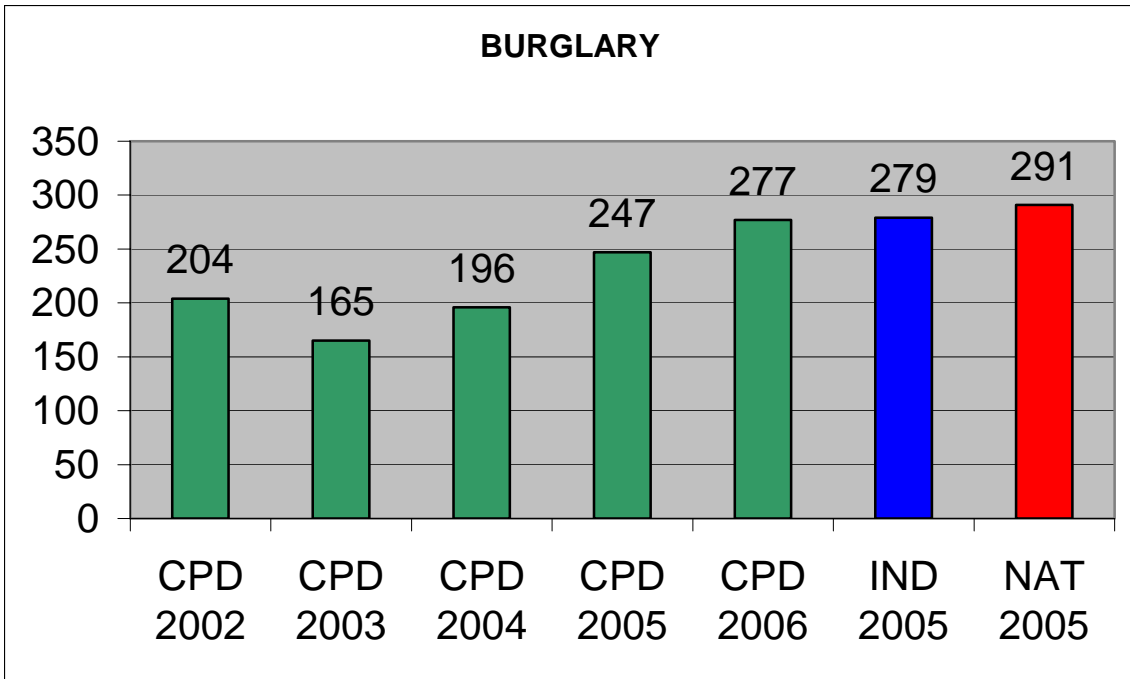
There were 4 more Rapes in 2006 than in 2005. Columbus is at the State average and only marginally better than other cities our size nationwide.



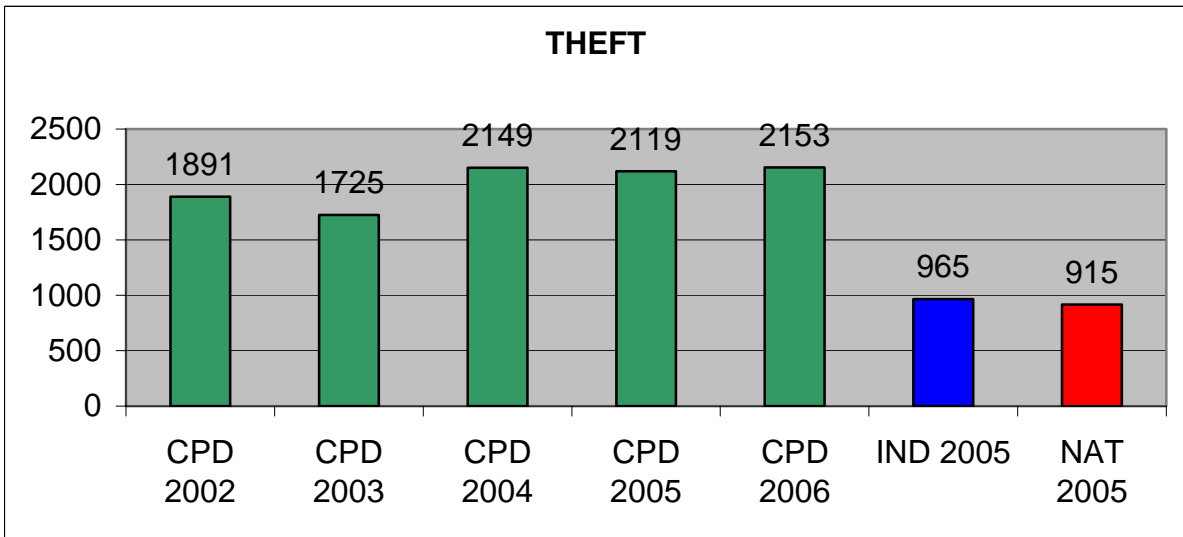
The four-year trend for Aggravated Assaults in Columbus shows an 8% drop in the last year, and a 4 year low overall. We are still considerably safer than other cities in the State (34% less) or National (59% less).



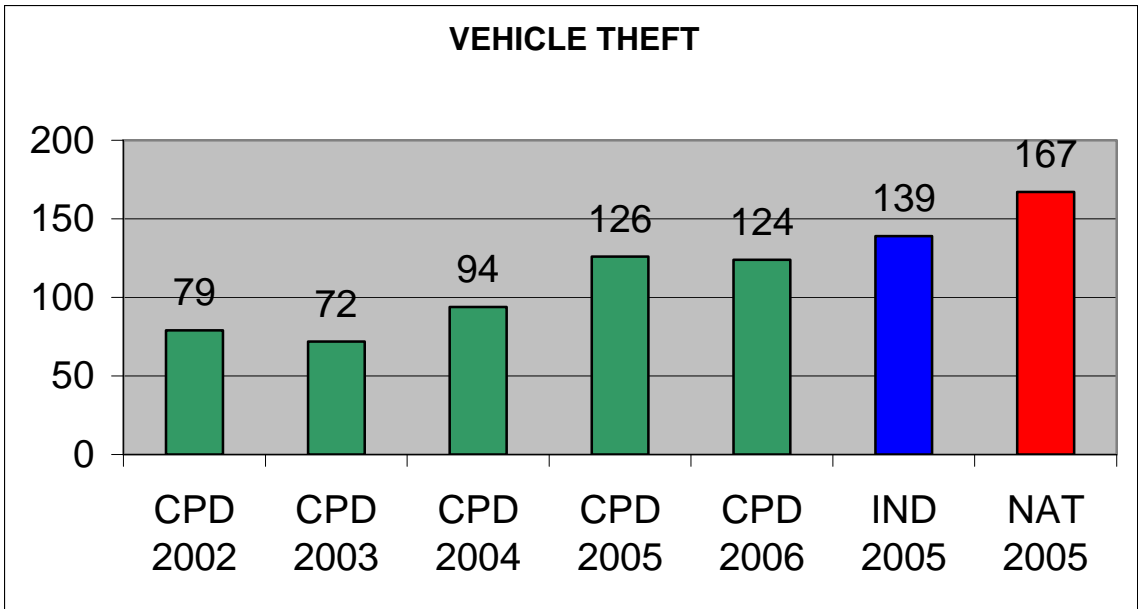
There are three crimes that make up Crimes Against Property: Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft. As described in the Part I Crimes section, our numbers here are much higher due to Theft. This number also includes 9 arsons.



The rates reported by the State and by us are up from last year. We were slightly better than the National average (less .05%).



Our numbers are still much higher than State (55% higher) or National (58%). As you can see we are up slightly from last year.



The rate of auto theft is much less than other areas of the State (11% less) or National (26% less).

CLOSING

The beginning of this report detailed the goals and accomplishments for 2006. Positive changes within the Department will ensure that the quality of the service that we provide will never go stale.

Our Steering Committees assist the Department in setting both short and long term goals. The officers who volunteered for these groups offer some great ideas on improving our Department. These Steering Committees continue to provide the leadership of the Department with new ideas. Here are a few of their ideas and the status of those projects:

1. Drug Screening: Mandatory drug screening was a goal for our Department in 2006 and will be implemented in January of 2007
2. Digital Cameras: In December of 2006 we sent out a notice to bidders for on-board digital video cameras for our police vehicles. We will be reviewing the bids at the first meeting of the Board of Works in 2007. It is our hope to have all 55 units installed by early spring.
3. In Car Computers: In 2006 we looked to up-grade the computers that we use in our patrol vehicles. The computers currently in our police cars are 6 years old. We are looking to begin replacing them in 2007 with wireless capable Laptop Computers that will utilize on board docking stations. These computers will allow us to maximize our new wireless network, which will be installed in 2007.
4. As a Department we will be looking at installing WiFi Communication Zones in 2007. These zones will allow our Officers to download the digital video from their vehicles wirelessly. The zones will also be utilized to push out upgrades to software and allow our officers to access our Records Management System wirelessly.
5. In 2006 we started getting two of our Officers trained in undercover Online Child Protection Investigations. This is a growing area of concern among law enforcement agencies. With the growth of the Internet and online talk groups, our children are more at risk than ever before. We will be working with prosecutors and other local law enforcement agencies as well as becoming members of Internet Crimes Against Children task force.

The Columbus Police Department would once again like to thank all the citizens of Columbus who supported our Department in 2006. While we are extremely proud of our accomplishments this year, our eyes are on the future. The Columbus Police Department will continue our partnership with the citizens of Columbus in an effort to better serve and protect the community.

