

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2008 YEAR END REPORT

“To Protect and Serve”

Submitted by the Executive Board:

**Chief James D. Worton
Deputy Chief Alan Hayes
Deputy Chief Matthew Myers
Captain Christopher Lane
Captain Steven Norman
Captain Kevin Tompkins**

Honorable Fred Armstrong
Mayor
City of Columbus, Indiana

Dear Sir:

The Columbus Police Department submits our 2008 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.

In 2008 the members of the Columbus Police Department demonstrated that personal dedication and quality training result in a safe community. As you are well aware, Columbus faced the most catastrophic disaster in her history during the June flood. I have never been more proud to be a Columbus Police Officer. Our Officers came together to face this challenge and dedicated themselves to doing whatever it took to keep our city safe and help those in need. Many of these officers did so while facing the destruction of their personal homes. Our Officers rose to the occasion and performed magnificently. During the flood and the clean up period, our Officers worked a total of 9,297 hours of which 3,697 were overtime hours. Every Officer stepped up to the levels of leadership needed for each situation that arose during this tragedy. It is truly an honor to serve with such admirable people.

The statistics detailed in this report show that our community continues to be a safe place to live. This was made possible through the strong contributions of all divisions of the Police Department. Uniform, Detectives, Narcotics, and support divisions all played a very important role in this year's efforts.

The list of our Department's accomplishments for 2008 is outstanding. The following details some of those accomplishments:

- Officers were equipped and trained with less lethal Tasers in order to keep them more safe from injuries;
- The County-Wide OSSI Software system installation and training began which will enhance officer safety and agency communication;
- The Columbus Police Department Bomb Squad was awarded a state-of-the-art robot which will keep our officers and civilians safer when faced with hazardous devices or when handling certain SWAT operations;
- Our SWAT Team completed extensive training conducted free of charge by the Federal Bureau of Investigations in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps at Camp Lejune Marine Base in North Carolina;
- Our department was awarded a grant by the State of Indiana to be used for the purchase of 15 digital mobile radios;
- Selected Officers completed Drug Interdiction training and the Columbus Police Department has implemented Interdiction patrols to further eradicate illegal narcotics from our community.

With the continued support of your office, the City Council, the Board of Works and other city departments, we look forward to making 2009 another great year for the citizens of Columbus.

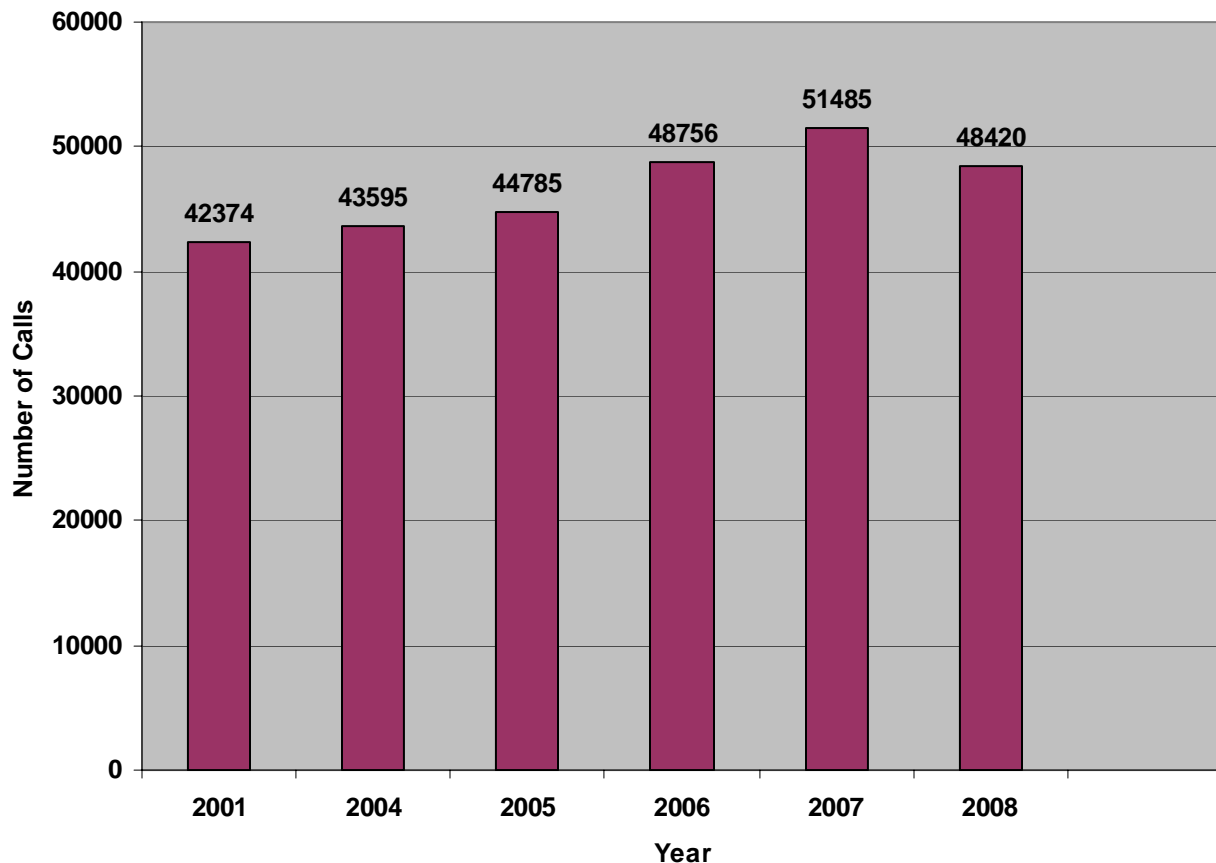
Sincerely,

James D. Worton
Chief of Police

ACTIVITY

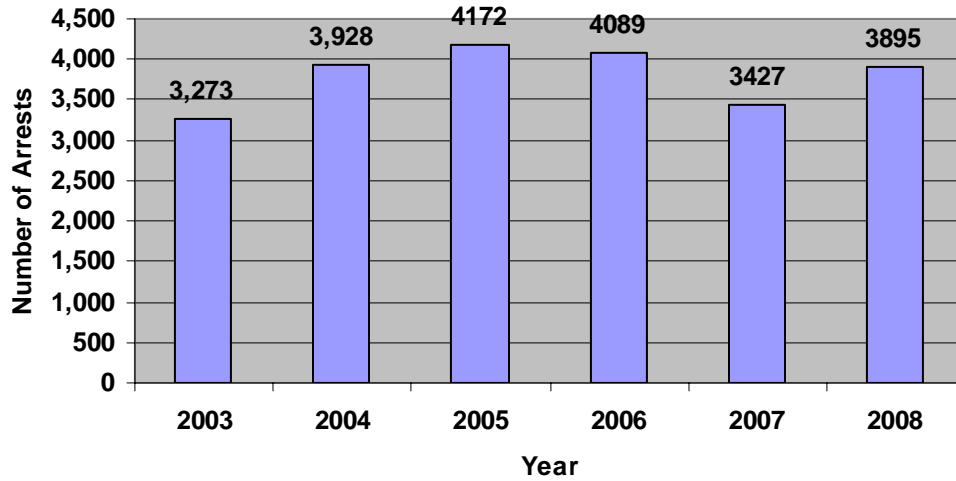
The following details some of the hard work of the officers of the Columbus Police Department.

Calls for Service



Calls for service represent calls to the Police Department or to the Emergency Operations Center to which officers responded. Also included in calls for service is the self-initiated activity of our officers. As you can see our calls for service declined in 2008 by 3,065. This reduction is due in part to our decision to restrict our response to vehicle lockouts to an emergency basis thus freeing up officers to focus on more serious incidents.

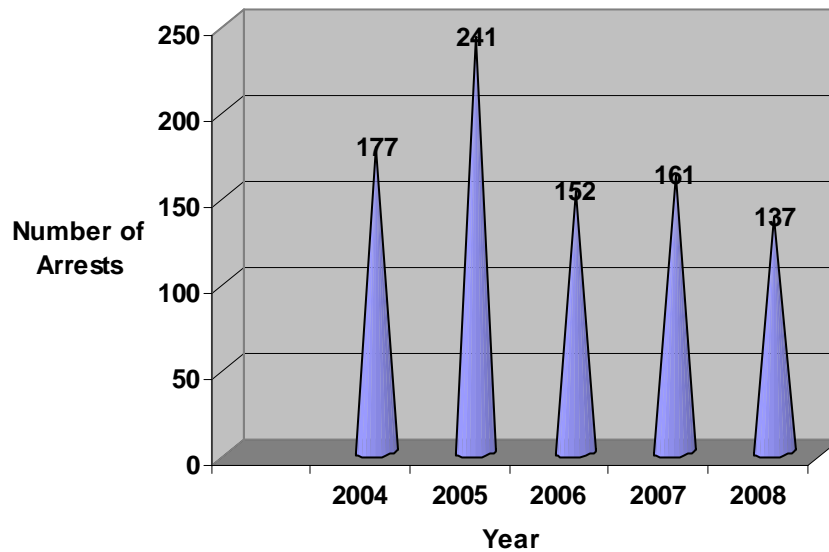
Criminal Arrests



Criminal arrests include both adult and juvenile apprehensions for crimes that are misdemeanors or felonies. 2008 saw an increase in criminal arrests. We believe that this increase is due in part to our officer’s being able to focus on more serious incidents.

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 methamphetamine precursors, possession of cocaine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of controlled substances and possession with intent to distribute.

Drug Arrests



INVESTIGATIONS

The Detective Division investigated over 1,470 criminal cases resulting in numerous criminal charges. The following details some of the fine work by our Detective Division:

- In November of 2008, Columbus had its first and only Homicide of the year. Four victims were injured in a drive by shooting at a Columbus bar. Tragically, one of those victims was killed. Columbus Police Detectives worked tirelessly with other area law enforcement agencies, Columbus citizens and Investigators from the Amarillo, Texas Police Department in order to solve this horrific crime. Fortunately, those responsible were caught, arrested and brought back to Indiana to face charges for their crimes.
- Detectives were able to bust a ring of catalytic converter thefts and successfully brought a criminal case against a local man who was part of a nationwide organized crime ring that was engaged in stealing the items. Since the conviction, we have seen a steady decline in catalytic converter thefts in our area.
- In 2008 the Detective Division revamped their methods when dealing with the crime of Identity Theft. Investigators implemented the process of providing victims and suspected victims of Identity Theft with packets to assist them in securing their information and helping them ensure that their correct information is restored.
- The Fraud Network Liaison with the Detective's Division stepped up efforts to promote public awareness about fraud victimization.
- In 2008, The Columbus Police Department increased Crime Scene Technical abilities and now assists other state agencies with certifying their officers in proper crime scene management.

UNIFORM DIVISION

The Columbus Police Uniform Division once again had an outstanding year. During 2008 we took action to reduce the amount of low priority calls, such as car lockouts, and increased the officers ability to focus on more proactive enforcement, and utilize their time on more serious incidents. This action contributed to an overall reduction in the number of calls, while providing for an increase in the number of criminal arrests. Among the many calls handled by our Uniform Division Officers were:

- Officers responded to a suspicious person call at Brand's Lumber. Upon arrival, officers caught a person and through their investigation, were able to determine that he had attempted to steal many items from the lumberyard. Business owners were able to verify that the items, if stolen would have cost the victims a great deal of money.
- In September of 2008, Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in which an estranged husband held his wife hostage while yielding a knife. SWAT was called out and the suspect was apprehended. The victim fortunately was unharmed.
- Again, in September officers were able to interrupt a burglary in progress from which the

suspect fled in a vehicle. Our officers gave chase and with the assistance of the Indiana State Police helicopter support, they were able to capture another dangerous criminal.

- Night shift officers were able to catch a man attempting to steal a car from a local car lot after hearing an audible car alarm in the area. Upon their arrival, officers caught the suspect as he tried to get the vehicle started.

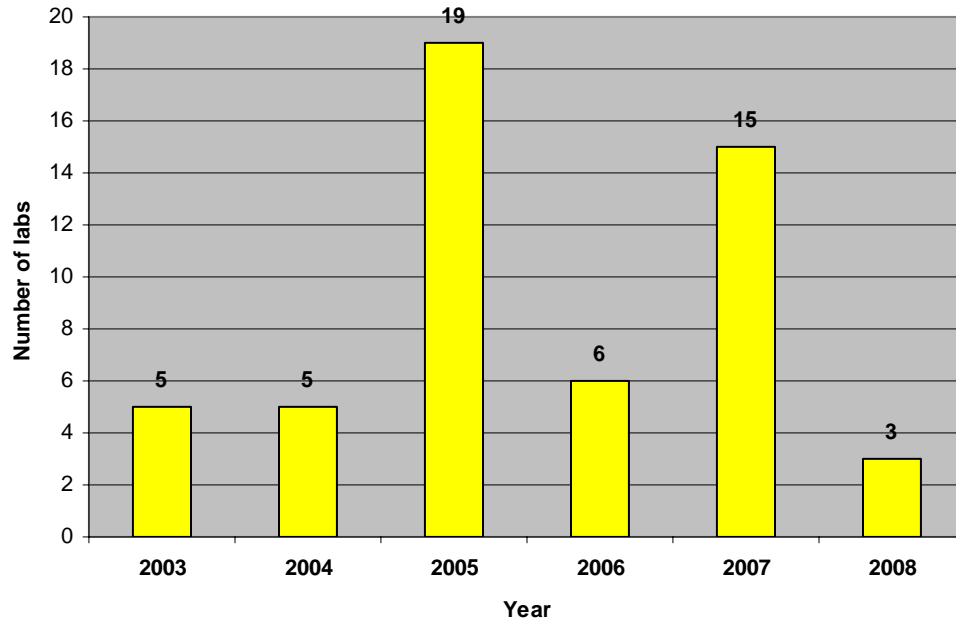
It is that kind of Police work that the citizens of Columbus have come to expect from their Police Force. The men and women that serve this City do so everyday with the utmost professionalism and dedication to their Community and to each other. We are all truly fortunate to live in a City that has one 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 2008. The continuous stream of calls for service, the long 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.

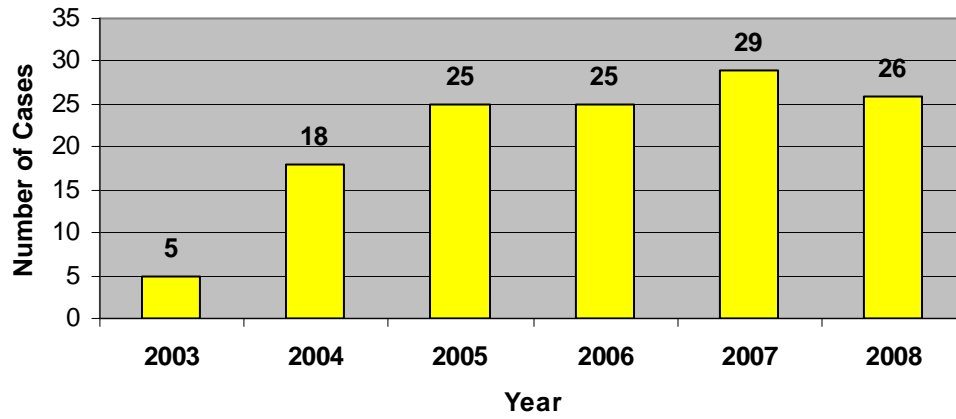
NARCOTICS DIVISION

The Columbus Police Narcotics Division had another busy year. While we have seen a reduction in the manufacturing of methamphetamine, we saw an increase in cocaine related investigations. Our Narcotics Agents worked diligently throughout 2008 to make the citizens of Columbus safer.

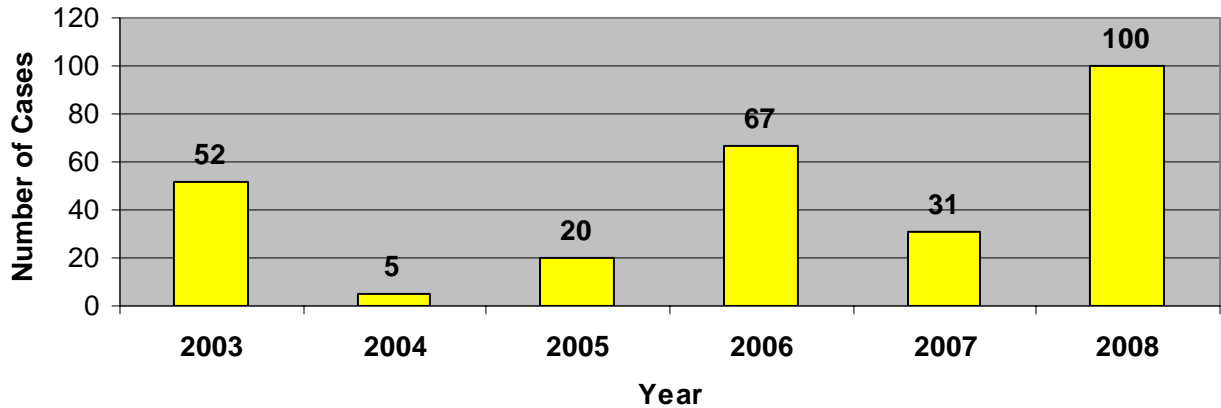
Meth Labs Eliminated



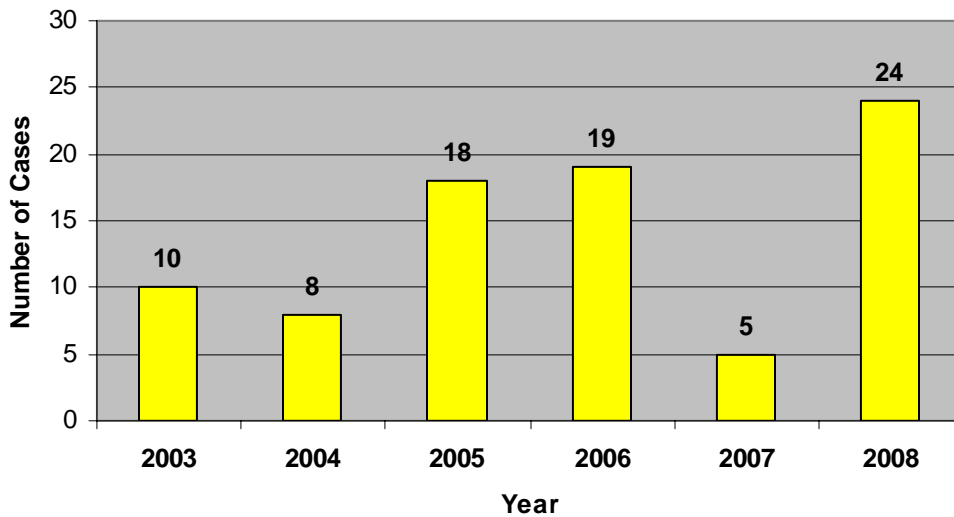
Methamphetamine Cases



Cocaine



Controlled Substances



The Columbus Police Department Narcotics Division will remain vigilant again in 2009 to continue to strive to keep Columbus among the safest cities in which to live.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

At one time, the Public Relations area of the Police Department focused solely on answering questions from the media. Today, Public Relations are much more. Not only coordinating community events for the Department, but also making sure that our citizens are educated about the quality and kinds of services we provide. Our Public Relations Division did another outstanding job in 2009 of providing information to the public, and keeping our citizens informed throughout the year.

Though recent budget cuts have forced us to restructure some of our community programs, our Public Relations Division provided safety lectures for various community groups, tours of the

department for many of our youths, and provided support for the other various divisions of the Columbus Police Department. We look forward to providing the City of Columbus with quality community based programs throughout 2009.

SWAT

The Columbus Police SWAT Team had another great year as well. They were able to participate in a rare training opportunity with the FBI and the United States Marine Corps in Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Officers on the SWAT Team spent a full week undergoing rigorous training to enhance their ability to provide the citizens of Columbus with one of the finest SWAT Teams in the State of Indiana.

Our SWAT team responded to several call-outs this year, which included suicidal persons, high risk warrants, and barricaded suspects. The Team trained each month often combining their training sessions with Crisis Negotiators and the CPD Bomb Squad.

TRAINING DIVISION

The Columbus Police Department is committed to providing our officers with the best training available. This was no different in 2008. The State of Indiana requires that all Police Officers complete 16 hours of in-service training in various areas each year. Once again, the Columbus Police Department more than met this requirement. In 2009, our training requirement will increase through the state. With the average officer at CPD completing more than 80 hours of annual training, this new requirement will not be a problem for the Columbus Police Department.

Additionally, CPD provided training for many other Indiana law enforcement agencies and other organizations such as, The Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, The Bartholomew County Probation Department, Columbus Regional Hospital, The Hartsville Town Marshall, and the Westport Police Department.

The Columbus Police Department also provided training to our citizens as well. We held 6 Precision Driving for Teens courses, training approximately 50 teen drivers. Self-defense classes were also held for the public.

CULTURAL LIAISON OFFICER

The purpose of this support position is to aid in cultural diversity training within the police department, act as a liaison to various community groups and to educate the growing culturally diverse groups about the police and local laws.

Our liaison officer serves on several committees including: NAACP, Gay / Straight Alliance, Multi-Cultural Awareness Committee, and Immigration Issues Leadership Group. The Cultural Liaison Officer also supervises our civilian translators who assist CPD officers and detectives on a regular basis.

POLICE ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

Columbus PAAL provides sporting leagues for children in grades 1 through 12. Offering four sports; Basketball, Golf, Volleyball, and Football, the leagues are designed as crime prevention programs as children interact with police officers and other community leaders in a positive atmosphere using sports as a common bond. PAAL is a not-for-profit entity funded by registration fees and donations from the community.

2008 was another successful year for PAAL as the programs continue to grow. In 2008, the Columbus Police Department was forced to cease PAAL funding due to budget cuts. Luckily, our department did not give up. We were able to garner support from the community and thankfully, the Columbus Foundation for Youth and Columbus PAAL merged to keep the program going. The PAAL Director's position was transferred to the FFY and the games will continue with the same participation level from our Police Officers.

PAAL could not function without the countless volunteers from the community. Parents play many roles in our program; coaches, concession stand workers, fund-raising coordinators, registration workers as well as assisting with equipment distribution. The Columbus community also plays a vital role in the success of PAAL, from corporate sponsorships, to the local high schools, and the media for all of their positive coverage.

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 Columbus Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit or Bomb Squad strives to take an active roll in community education as well as safe disposal of hazardous and explosive materials. In 2008 the Bomb Squad was awarded a grant, which was used to purchase a robot for the unit. They were also awarded a grant that will purchase a new vehicle for the team in 2009.

Members of this unit continue to study trends in domestic and international terrorism and establish and nurture ties with emergency response assets at the state and federal level. Our goal for 2009 is to continue to provide a level of service that enhances the safety of the community through education while maintaining a readiness to respond to emergency situations.

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.

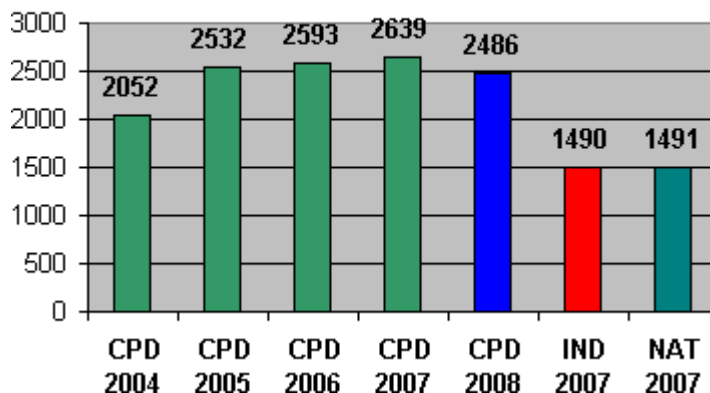
Part I Crimes are an indicator of reported criminal activity within a designated area. These crimes consist of two categories: **Crimes Against Persons** and **Crimes Against Property**. Violent Crime is composed of the offenses of Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault. Property Crime is composed 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 (Approximately 40,000) 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.)

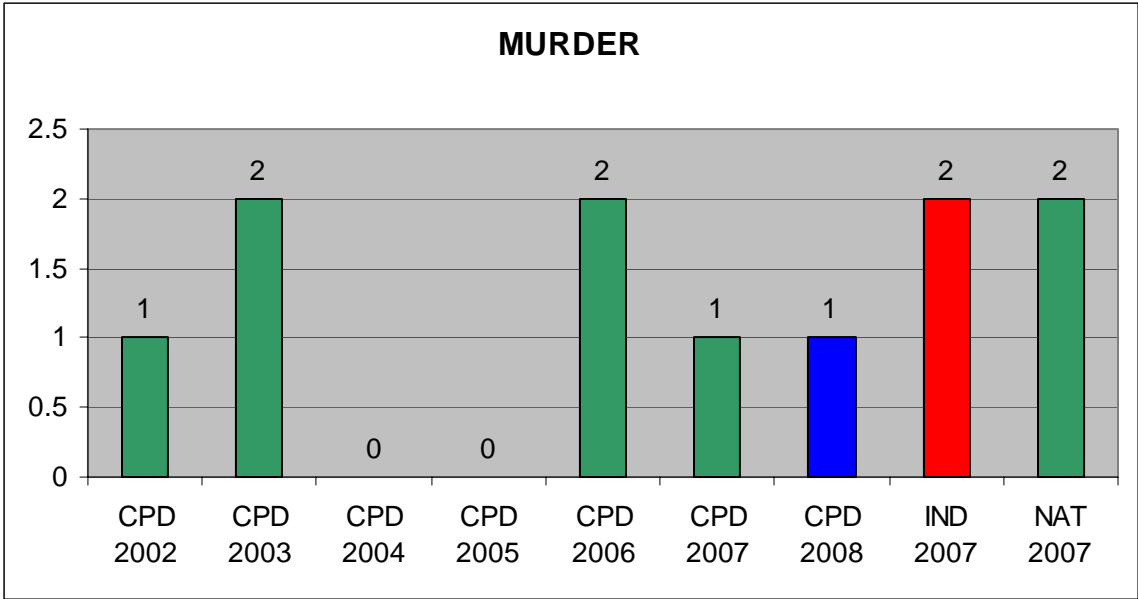
This graph shows all seven Part I offenses. While we are still higher than the State and National levels, this can be attributed to our higher rate of Theft, which will be described later in this report.

Part One Offenses

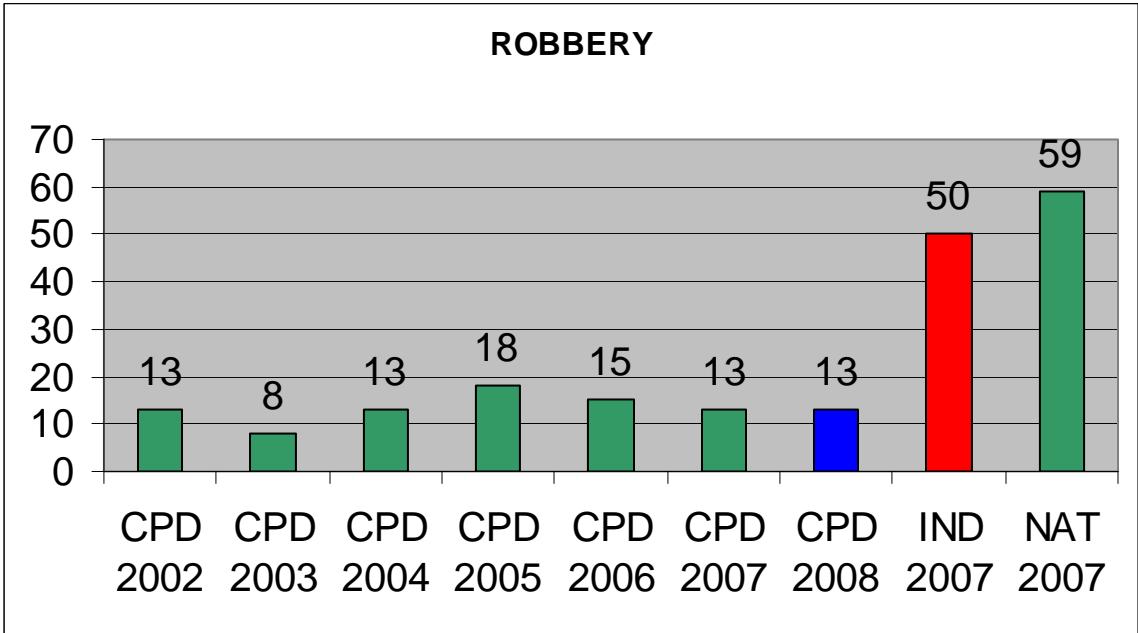


The five-year trend in Columbus for all Part I offenses shows little change between '07 and '08, however, '08 shows some improvement.

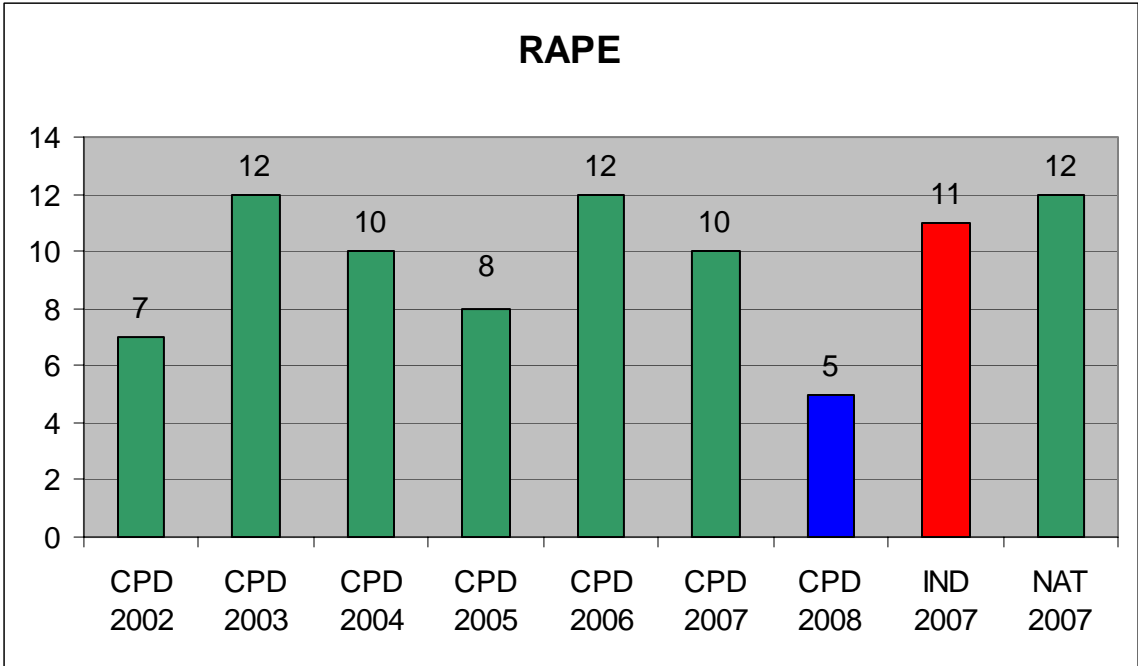
The graphs below show the data of the four Crimes Against Persons (Murder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault). Columbus fairs very well as compared to similar size cities in the State and nationally.



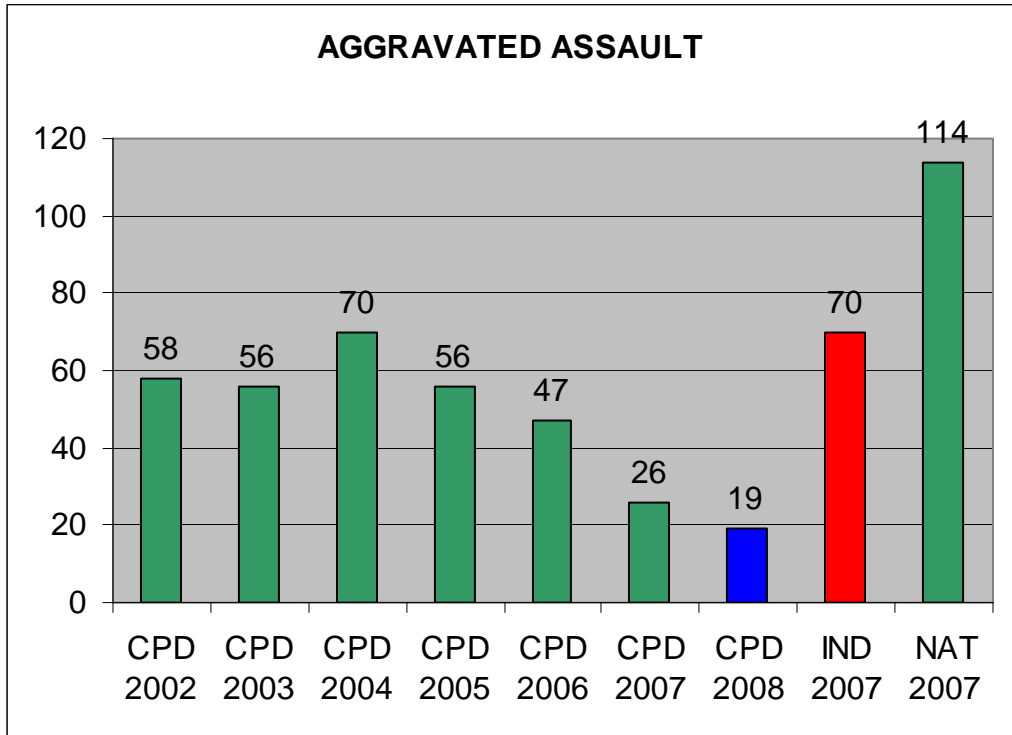
The Murder rate in Columbus has not exceeded State or National trends and has been at or less over the past several years. Columbus experienced one homicide in 2008 and stayed below the State and National average.



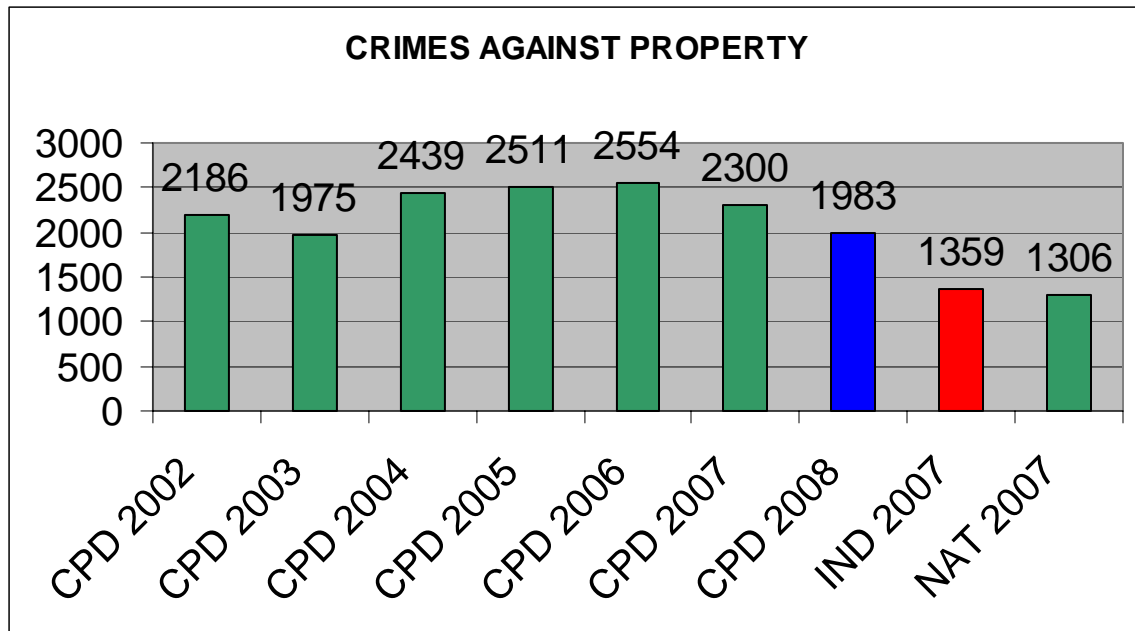
When comparing the number of Robberies in Columbus to State and National it is clear that Columbus is a much safer place to live. Robbery is defined as the taking of property from someone through force or the threat of force.



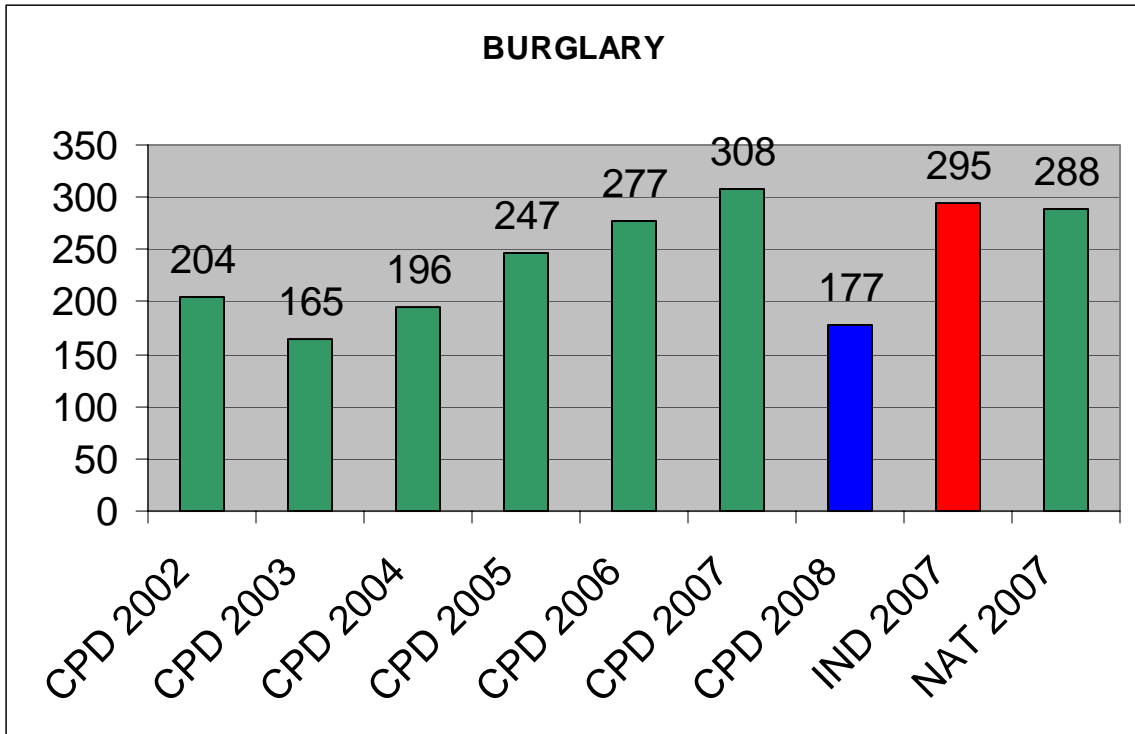
There were 5 fewer Rapes in 2008 than in 2007. Columbus is below both the State and National average.



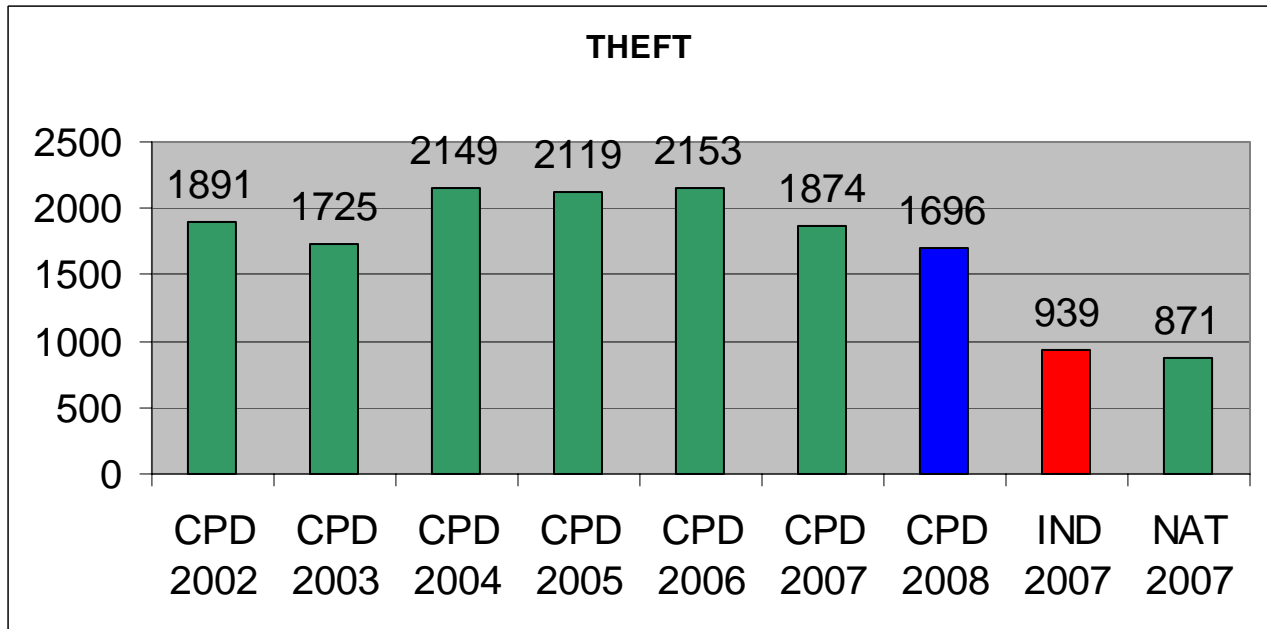
The six-year trend for Aggravated Assaults in Columbus shows another significant drop in the last year, and the lowest overall. We are still considerably safer than other cities in the State or National.



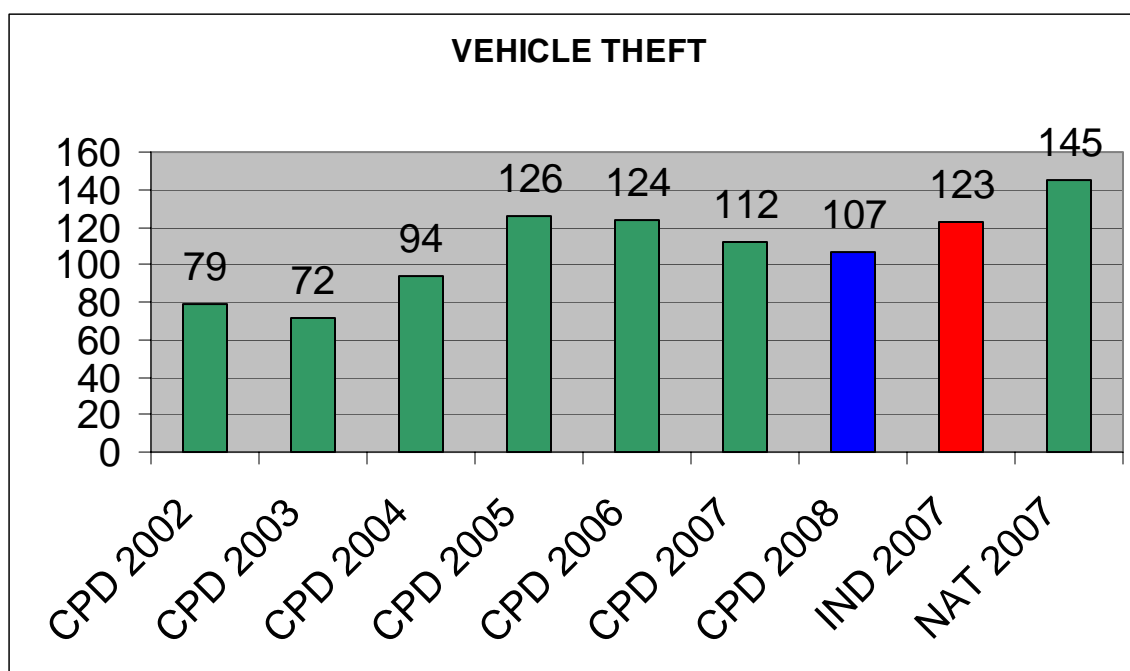
There are three crimes that make up Crimes Against Property: Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft. As described in the Part I Crimes section, our numbers here are much higher due to Theft. The CPD number also includes 3 Arsons in 2008. We are pleased to see a reduction for the second straight year.



The Burglary rates reported drastically fell in 2008. Our rates are also well below the State and National averages as well.



Though our Theft numbers are still higher than the State or National averages, the City of Columbus saw a reduction in thefts for the second straight year.



The rate of auto theft is also less than the State or National averages.

In addition to the information outlined above, the Columbus Police Department projections show that in 2008, our department made 241 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests, 299 Public Intoxication arrests, and 148 Marijuana related arrests (down from 218 in 2007!). These numbers reflect that though our department has made strides towards an overall crime reduction in Columbus, substance abuse remains a serious concern as it does throughout the Nation.

CLOSING

The beginning of this report detailed the goals and accomplishments for 2008. Positive changes within the Department will ensure that the citizens of Columbus will continue to receive the high level of service that they deserve.

Our department is committed to providing the best law enforcement service available to our community through technological advances, training, state of the art equipment for our officers, recruitment of the best talent our State has to offer, and retention of the talent that our department already has.

The Columbus Police Department would once again like to thank all the citizens of Columbus who supported our Department in 2008. 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.