

# **COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**2007 YEAR END REPORT**

*“To Protect and Serve”*

**Submitted by the Executive Board:**

**Chief William Martin  
Deputy Chief Curt Beverage  
Captain Jim Worton  
Captain Chris Lane  
Captain Matt Myers  
Captain Alan Hayes**

Honorable Fred Armstrong  
Mayor  
City of Columbus, Indiana

Dear Sir:

The Columbus Police Department submits our 2007 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 2007 the members of the Columbus Police Department demonstrated that personal dedication and quality training result in a safe community. 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 2007 is outstanding. The following details some of those accomplishments:

- Each patrol unit now has the capability of conducting daily business via wireless Internet technology;
- All marked cars have been equipped with cutting edge wireless digital video systems;
- Our department became part of a statewide information sharing law enforcement network operated by the State of Indiana known as the Fusion Center;
- The Federal Bureau of Investigations swore in our Narcotics Division as Agents of the Federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force;
- Our department was awarded a grant by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to purchase covert surveillance equipment to assist further in our efforts to thwart the continuous increase in thefts in recent years. This new addition further added to our existing anti-theft campaign, which includes the Retail Theft Coordinator, Bank/ Fraud Liaison, and increased saturation patrols.

With the continued support of your office, the City Council, the Board of Works and other city departments, we will make 2008 another great year for the citizens of Columbus.

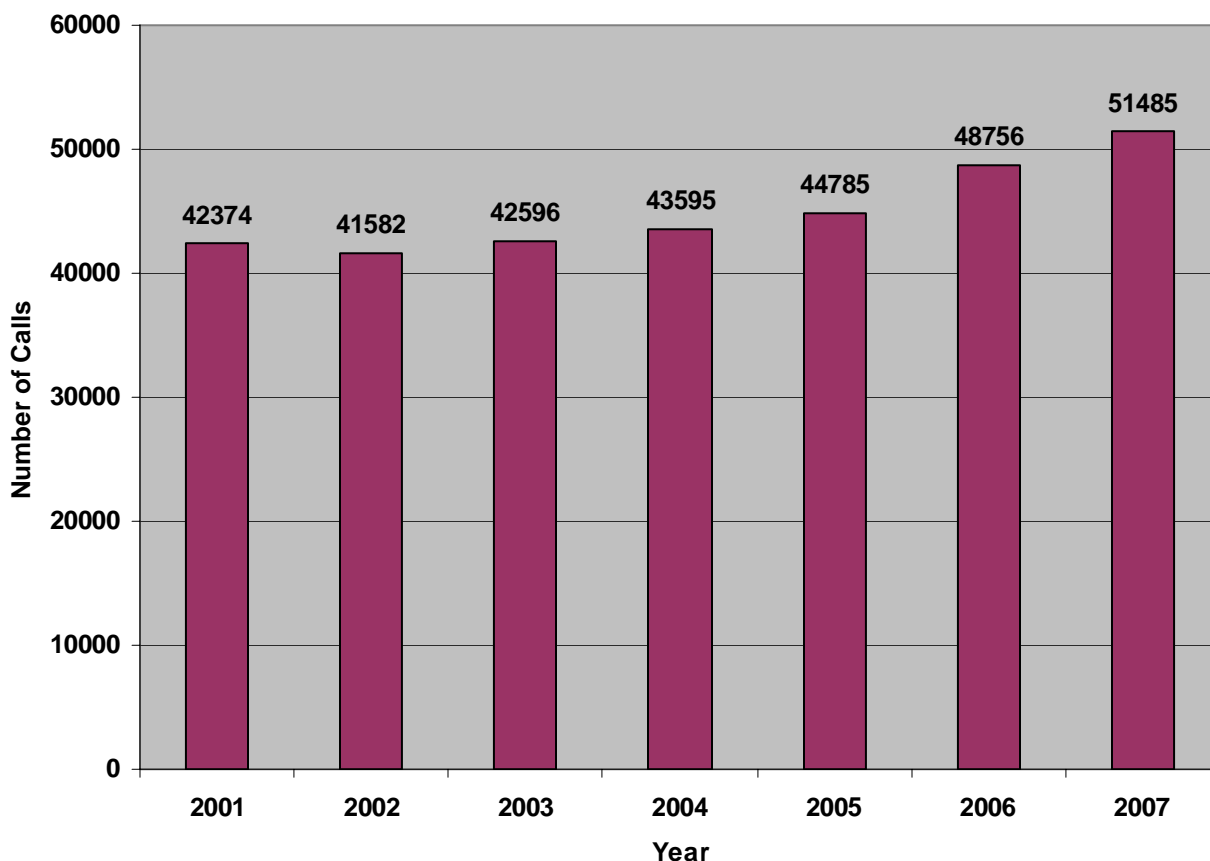
Sincerely,

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

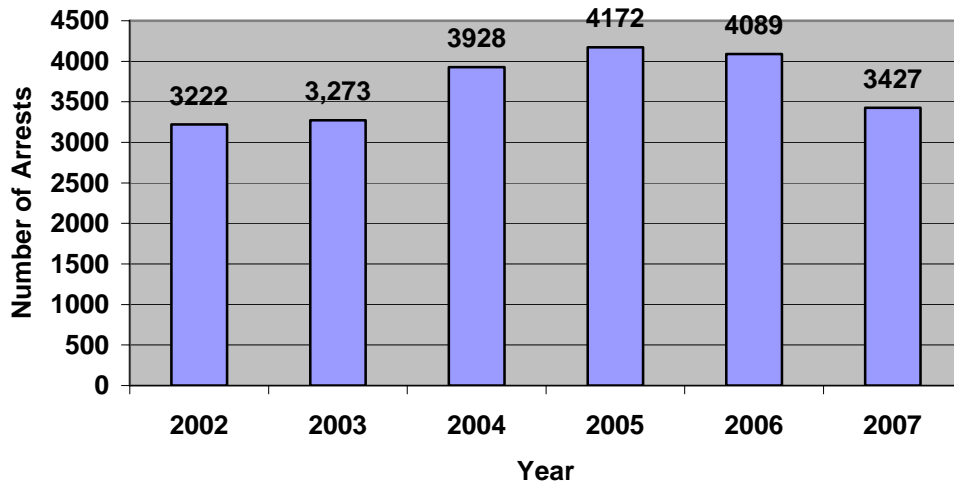


Calls for service represent calls to the Police Department or to the Emergency Operations Center to which officers responded. Also included in calls for service is the self-initiated activity of our officers. As you can see our calls for service went up by 2,729, which represents another significant increase over the previous year.

**This year, the Columbus Police Department is projected to respond to more than 50,000 calls for the first time in department history.**

There are several factors that have contributed to the increase in calls for service over the years. The city of Columbus continues to increase in size, our theft numbers continue to be high (however, we are encouraged that they are lower this year), and the Department is doing a better job tracking the self-initiated activity of our officers.

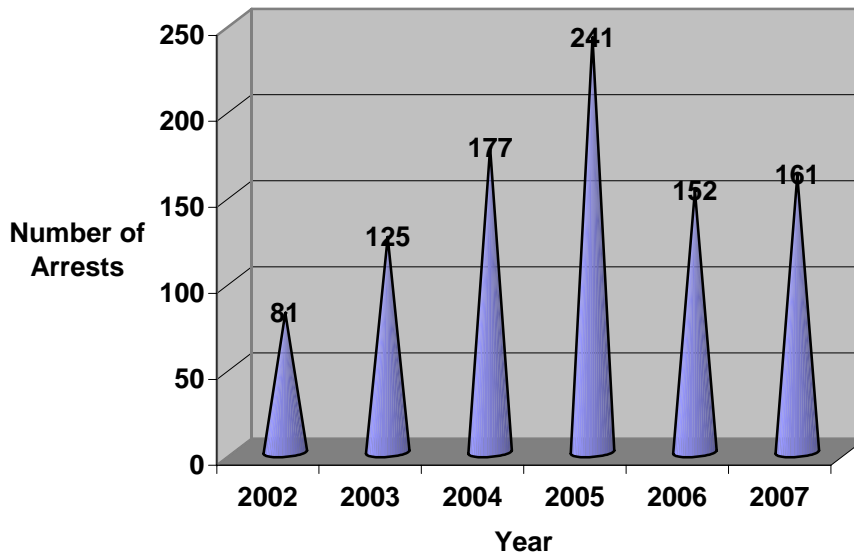
### Criminal Arrests



Criminal arrests include both adult and juvenile apprehensions for crimes that are misdemeanors or felonies. For the second straight year we had a decrease in number of Criminal Arrests. As you will read later in this report, drug arrests made by our officers slightly rose this year. We believe that the drop in criminal arrests can be partially attributed to high police presence created through aggressive saturation patrols, and our continued anti-theft related initiatives. The rise in drug arrests can be in part attributed to proactive enforcement of our State’s drug laws.

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 1,620 criminal cases resulting in numerous criminal charges. The following details some of the fine work by our Detective Division:

- In June of 2007 a 14-year-old child was tragically murdered in our city. Our investigators worked tirelessly around the clock for more than 48 hours until the killer was arrested. Due to the diligent work of our investigators, along with the assistance of the Bartholomew County Death Investigation Team, the perpetrator was successfully prosecuted and convicted for his unspeakable actions.
  
- In 2007, the Columbus Police Department joined in a partnership with the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center. The focus of the center is to collect, evaluate, analyze and disseminate information and intelligence data regarding criminal and terrorist activity in the State of Indiana. This partnership involves the dedication of a police department liaison officer who is tasked with the review and dissemination of this information as it is deemed appropriate. All information collected by the center is disseminated electronically through a secure web-base, which is accessed by the officers in-house. This exchange of information assists the department in monitoring trends in the central Indiana area and improves communication between jurisdictions.
  
- In 2007 the Columbus Police Department continued the development of specialists in Cyber-Crimes investigations. Our department is working towards the mandated training and equipment required to adequately conduct such investigations. This year our department signed a letter of understanding as part of the Indiana Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. This task force is comprised of numerous state and federal agencies that work together to investigate such crimes.

# **UNIFORM DIVISION**

The Uniform Division, for the second straight year, saw more activity than ever before. Since 1995 our calls for service have more than doubled. At times this year due to retirements and career changes, Officers often worked below our allotted 78 officers. This means we did more calls for service with fewer Officers.

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. Among the many calls handled by our Uniform Division Officers were:

- Officers responded to an accident with injuries. When officers arrived, they confirmed that one of the vehicles was on fire and the occupants were trapped inside. With the help of a bystander, the officers were able to get three of the four occupants out of the vehicle. Officers struggled to free the driver, the fourth occupant of the vehicle, whose legs were pinned inside the burning car. After minutes, officers and firefighters were able to free the driver from the burning car. Some of the officers involved in this incident received injuries in the course of their life saving efforts. These officers were later honored and decorated by the City of Columbus and the State of Indiana for their heroic actions.
- Officers responded to an armed robbery in which an elderly man was severely beaten inside of his home by an attacker who tried to steal a recently purchased television set from him. The attacker followed the man home from a Columbus department store. With hard work by both the Uniform and Detective Divisions, the suspect was located and arrested.
- In late November, several homes were burglarized by a perpetrator that entered the residences while they were occupied with sleeping families. Our Uniform Officers were able to apprehend the perpetrator during one of his crimes and once again, took a dangerous felon off of the streets of Columbus.

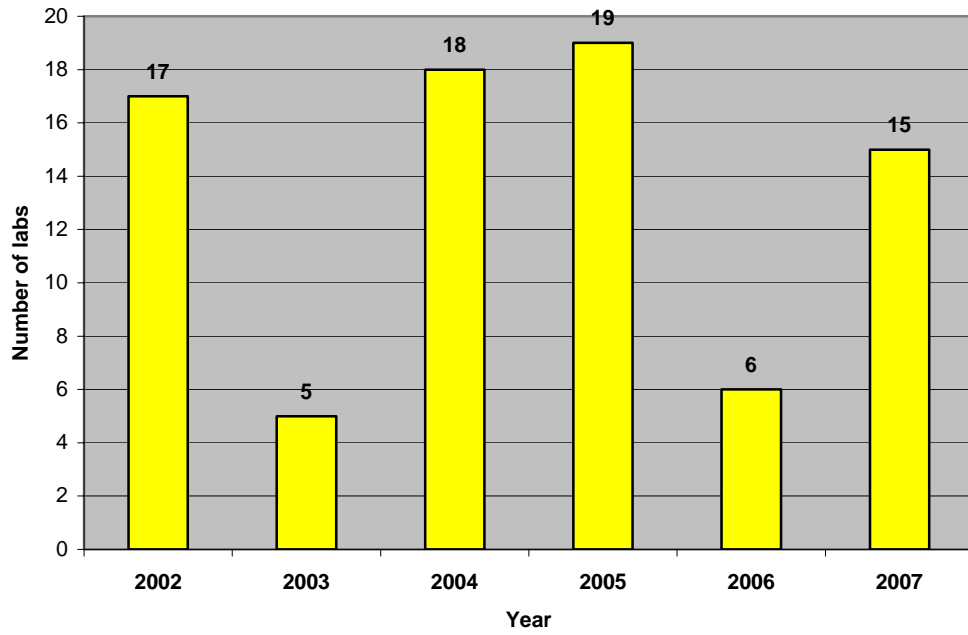
It is that kind of Police work that the citizens of Columbus have come to expect from their Police Force. The men and women that serve this City do so everyday with the utmost professionalism and dedication to their Community and to each other. We are all truly fortunate to live in a City that has one 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 2007. 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.

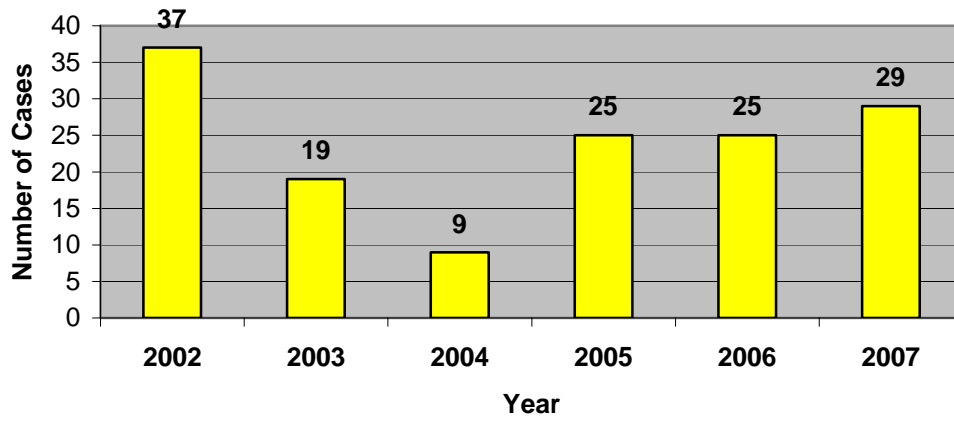
## **NARCOTICS DIVISION**

The Columbus Police Narcotics Division had another busy year. Our department is encouraged that, though substance abuse is still a serious concern in our city, some of the narcotics offenses decreased for the second year in a row. We believe that this is an indicator that our proactive enforcement and investigative tactics are beginning to make a difference in our community. However, cases involving Methamphetamine increased this year. Our Narcotics Agents worked diligently throughout 2007 to make the citizens of Columbus safer by removing more meth labs from our community.

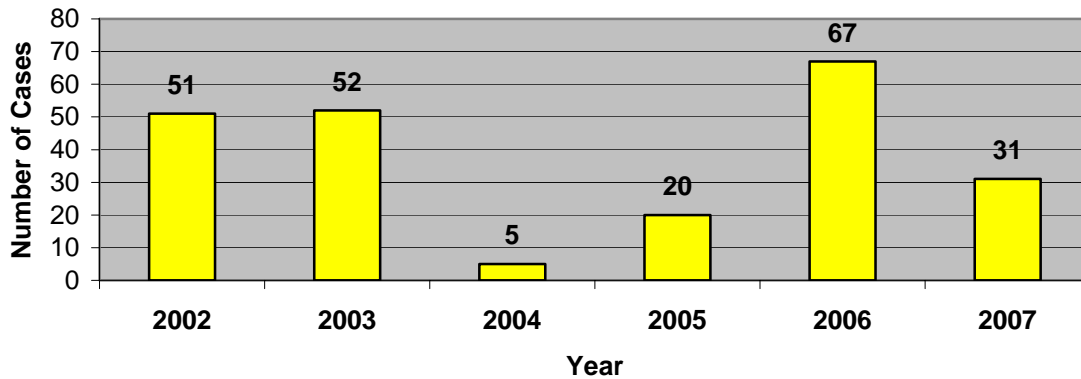
### Meth Labs Eliminated



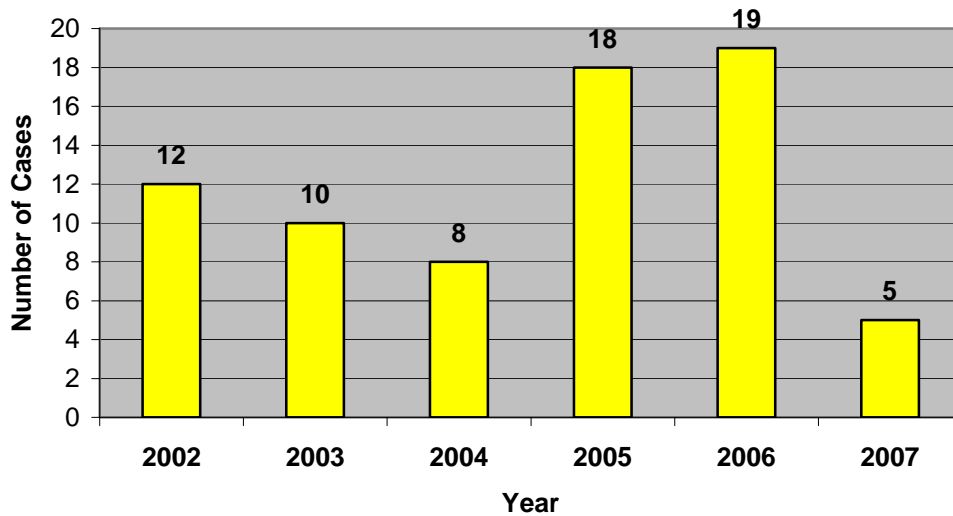
### Methamphetamine Cases



## Cocaine



## Controlled Substances



The Columbus Police Department Narcotics Division will remain vigilant again in 2008 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. The outline contained below highlights some of the community relations accomplishments for 2007.

### **Citizen's firearms class**

\*40 community members participated.

\*The program was very well received; we had more applicants than spaces available.

### **Police & Fire Youth Academy**

\*32 youth from the community participated.

\* Other area Police Departments came and observed the academy with hopes of having their own in 2008.

### **Teamed with FFY**

\*Provided a weeklong youth day camp and a Meth awareness youth program.

### **Women's self defense classes**

\*Over 50 women attended the 7-hour training provided by department instructors.

### **College career days**

\*Attended numerous career days at various colleges such as Indiana University, Indiana State University, and Vincennes University in order to recruit new officers. In 2008 we hope to expand our recruitment efforts to surrounding state universities as well.

### **CPD & ME Community Night**

\*Over 1200 community members attended this event. It was held at Donner Park this year.

\*Biggest Public Relations event we had this year.

\*Many local businesses supported the program

\*The Mayor and City Council raffled off 5 children's bicycles and handed out 100 free bicycle helmets to children during this year's event.

\*A children's wooden play set was also given away.

\*CPD & Me - A Crime Prevention Program will be even bigger in 2008.

### **Bartholomew County 4-H Fair**

\*CPD worked out of Bartholomew County Sheriff's Tent

\*Passed out trigger locks, suckers, sticker badges and handouts on drugs and senior safety.

### **Tours of the Police Department**

\*Officers gave tours to over 500 people this year: Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Youth Groups, Pre-Schools, High Schools, along with others, were among the tours.

### **Trigger Locks**

\*CPD officers passed over 1000 trigger locks this year, making our community safer for our children.

### **DNA Kits**

\*CPD officers passed out over 3000 Childs DNA kits during the year.

### **Honor Guard**

\*The Columbus Police Department Honor Guard participated in ten details this year. We also represented the Department by attending the funerals of four fallen officers from across the State of Indiana.

### **Community Information**

\*CPD officers gave out numerous handouts on illegal drugs and personal safety during talks to community members.

\*Examples of groups that were given presentations are: Professional Ladies group, Church youth groups, parents of troubled teens, Kiwanis Club and many others.

\*CPD gave talks regarding the Neighborhood Watch Program, Meth Labs, Stranger Danger Safety, Police K-9 unit, Firearms Safety, identity theft, Senior Safety, Home Safety and much more.

### **Community Events**

\*CPD participated in numerous community events during the year. Listed below are a few of these events:

- § Martin Luther King Day Celebration (Honor Guard)
- § Mayors Prayer Breakfast (Honor Guard)
- § Parks & Rec Softball World Series (Honor Guard)
- § PopFest (Honor Guard & Security)
- § March of Dimes (Traffic Control)
- § Right to Life (Traffic Control)
- § M.S. Walk (Traffic Control)
- § Country in the Park (Traffic Control)
- § Q-Mix Firework shows (Traffic Control)
- § Q-Mix Easter egg Hunt (Security)
- § WKKG Easter egg Hunt (Security)
- § Uncommon Cause (Security)

\*Other events CPD was involved with are:

Juneteenth, Bartholomew County Literacy Fair, Hospice Concert, Ethnic Expo, Festival of Lights Parade, Veterans Parade, North & East After Prom, Family Services at Mill Race Park.

### **News Releases**

\*Public Information put out over one hundred news releases during the year. The Public Information Officer also participated in talk shows on Q-Mix Radio and WCSI on a regular basis. Indianapolis and Louisville news stations interviewed CPD officers on a monthly basis throughout 2007 on top stories in Columbus.

The Public Relations and Information Unit of CPD has definitely been busy in 2007. CPD expects 2008 to be even busier with new programs being designed around personal safety.

## **SWAT**

The Columbus Police Department was able to increase the SWAT Team from 9 members at the beginning of 2007, to its current 13 members. This increase enabled the team to utilize their resources more effectively during call-out operations. A group of seven Paramedics from the Columbus Regional Hospital Ambulance Service was also added to the team as Tactical Medics. This addition insures that SWAT officer and/or any citizen injuries that may occur during operations can receive quick medical attention.

Our team also competed against other SWAT teams from around the world in the 2007 Original SWAT World Challenge in Little Rock Arkansas. The team placed well enough to be invited to compete again in 2008. The team also earned invitations to the 2008 U.S. National SWAT Championship in Colorado and the 2008 Tactical World Cup in Texas.

Our SWAT team responded to several call-outs this year, which included suicidal persons, high risk warrants, and a barricaded suspect wanted on warrant who engaged in a standoff with Officers for several hours. The suspect's girlfriend and two small children were in the residence with him at the time. Due to the patience of our SWAT team, along with Crisis Negotiators, the man surrendered and was arrested without incident.

## **TRAINING DIVISION**

The Columbus Police Department is committed to providing our officers with the best training available. This was no different in 2007. 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. The average Columbus Police Officer had 80 hours of training in 2007.

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 hosted several training schools in 2007 such as the Indiana SWAT Officer's Fall Conference, and Bank Fraud Investigations.

The Columbus Police Department also provided training to our citizens as well. We held eight Precision Driving for Teens courses, training approximately 60 teen drivers. Self-defense classes were also held for the public.

## **DARE/ SCHOOL LIAISON**

The DARE program continues its mission of educating local kids about the dangers of drugs and violence. DARE reached over 900 sixth-graders in 2007, and over 800 seventh-graders. At each level, officers spent an entire semester making weekly visits to classrooms to deliver DARE's ten-lesson curriculum.

DARE lessons 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.

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.

DARE officers did more community outreach in 2007, with drug presentations to civic groups such as Kiwanis and Masons, youth groups such as Boy Scouts and Young Marines, and parent and teacher organizations.

The School Liaison office, in cooperation with the DARE program, has also delivered a number of drug talks to other students, including those in 8<sup>th</sup> grade health classes and in health classes at both high schools. This year, over 1300 students had presentations in the classroom about meth and prescription drug abuse.

## **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. Two presentations are currently being given to the different ethnic groups; Police Interaction 101 and Police Interaction 102.

This position is also responsible for recruitment. We worked with the local chapter of the NAACP, who aided us in recruitment at the Indiana Black Expo.

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

The liaison officer is also a mentor at Northside Middle School. A focus group was conducted in early 2007 with the Gay / Straight Alliance.

An initiative with the African American community and CPD was started during the summer of 2007 to increase the relationship between the groups.

## **POLICE ATHLETIC 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.

**Basketball** – This year there were 463 children involved on 48 teams. Basketball offers teams for both boys and girls in grades 1 through 9. The league is comprised of a 6 game schedule, with a year-end tournament for all participants. Each child was given a participation medal and champions and runners-up were awarded individual trophies in each of the six age divisions. The season kicked off with the annual Jamboree, this year being held at Columbus North High School. Team and individual pictures were taken that day as a fundraising opportunity for the organization.

**Golf** – Hook a Kid on Golf was another huge success this past year as 70 children between the ages of 8 and 11 participated in this four-day event. All participants were given a set of golf clubs and daily instruction on the aspects of golf. This program is lead in its entirety by officers of the Columbus Police Department, of which we had 14 volunteer their time this year. Prizes were awarded each day along with snacks and drinks. A scramble tournament was held on the last day with awards given to the top six teams.

**Volleyball** – A six-week volleyball league was conducted in September and October. There were 50 participants on 6 teams involving both boys and girls from grades 1 through 8. T-shirts were given to each participant and individual awards were given to the champions and runners-up of the season ending tournament.

**Football** – Our flagship program had 587 participants this year, with 10 teams of flag football and 28 teams of contact football. Punt, Pass and Kick was brought back to Columbus under the PAAL program and saw 133 boys and girls participate. Local winners went on to compete in the regional tournament in Shelbyville in October with one Columbus youth placing second in his division. Four All-Star teams were selected for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6, with each enjoying success. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade team placed first in the annual Center Grove Tournament, which is the number one tournament each year.

**Volunteers** – 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 2007 the unit was able to conduct five educational seminars, which included the training of forty emergency response personnel at two local businesses, twenty military personnel from the US Army’s 329<sup>th</sup> and approximately two hundred police officers attending the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy basic class. These classes provided numerous members of the community with a basic awareness of

the dangers associated with hazardous devices and explosive materials as well as recognition capabilities and search procedures where applicable.

In addition to conducting these blocks of instruction, the unit responded to and rendered safe, one improvised explosive device. Analyzed and disassembled one hoax-device which had maliciously been placed in a public setting and recovered one piece of military ordnance which was secured for disposal.

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 2008 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.

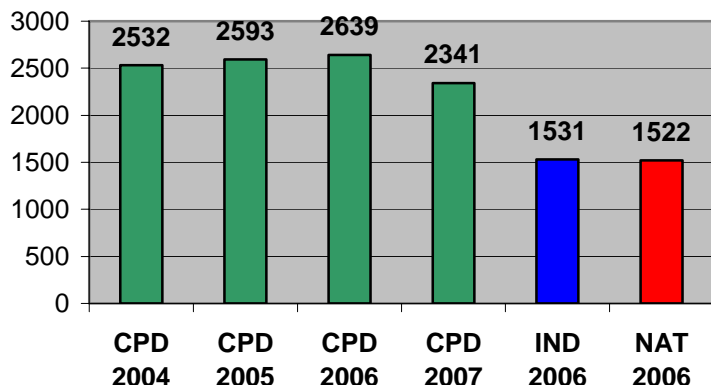
Part I Crimes are an indicator of reported criminal activity within a designated area. These crimes consist of two categories: **Crimes Against Persons** and **Crimes Against Property**. Violent Crime is composed of the offenses of Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault. Property Crime is composed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

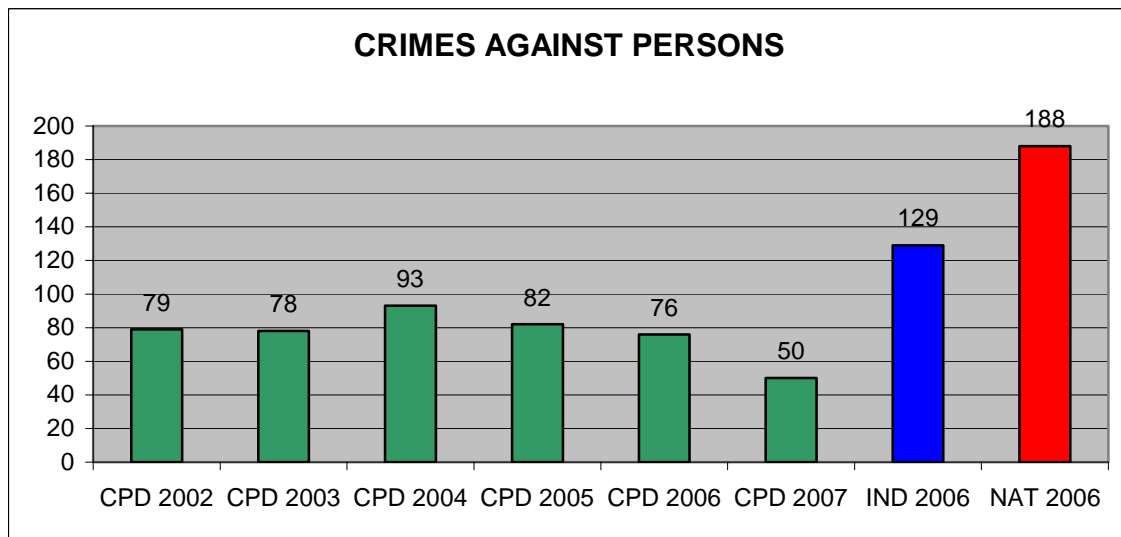
### Part One Offenses

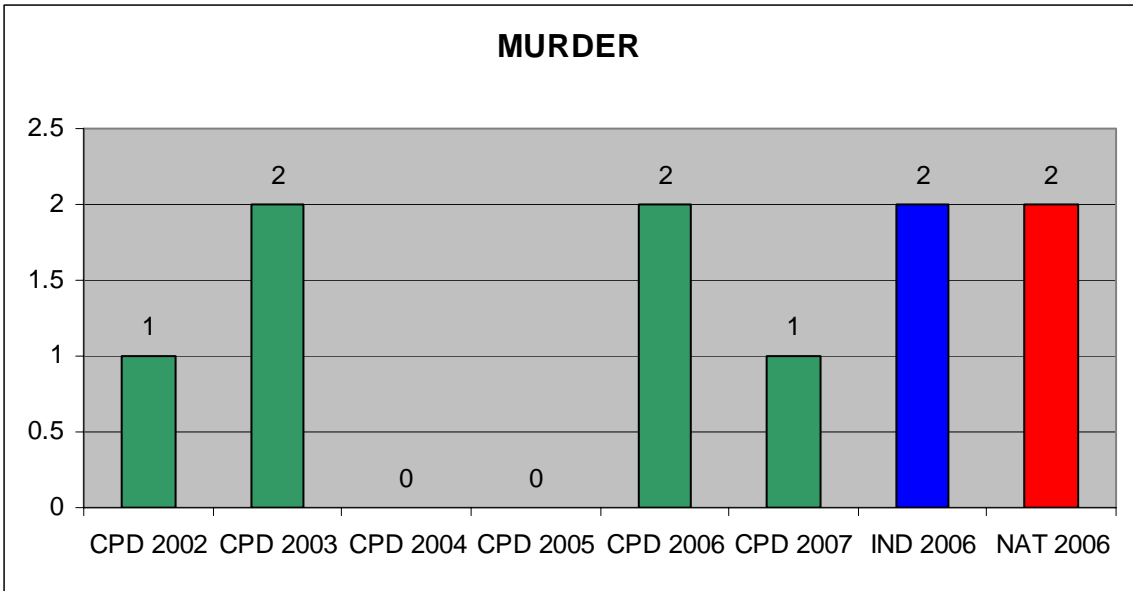


The four-year trend in Columbus for all Part I offenses shows little change between '04 and '07, however, '07 shows some improvement. We are still considerably higher than the State or National figures due to our theft totals.

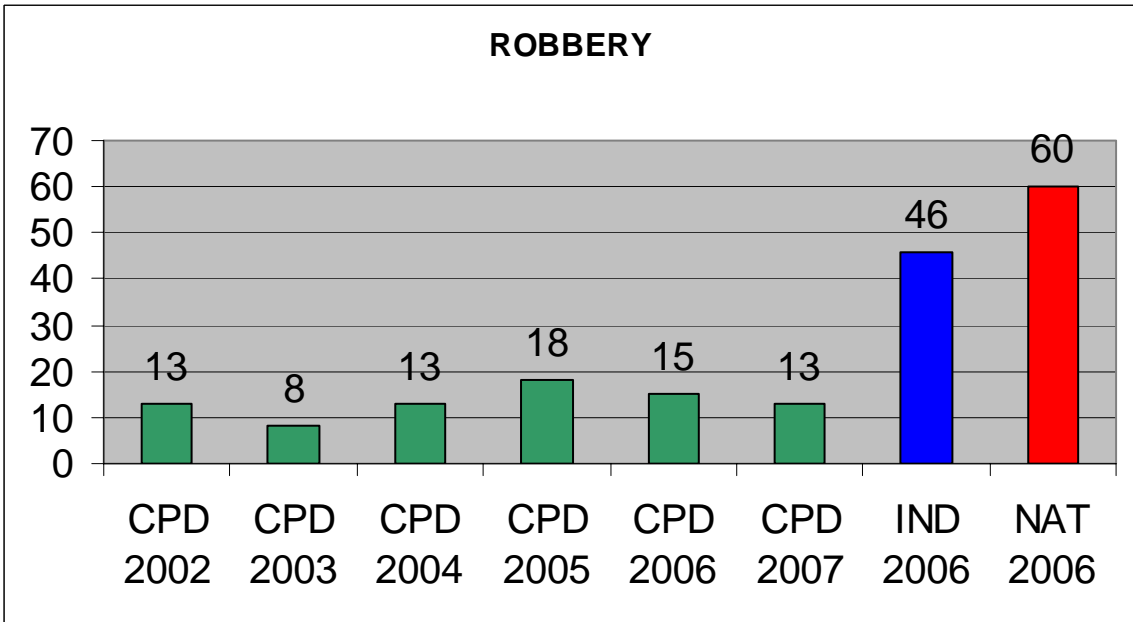
The graph below shows the combined data of the four

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 (61% less) and nationally (73% less).

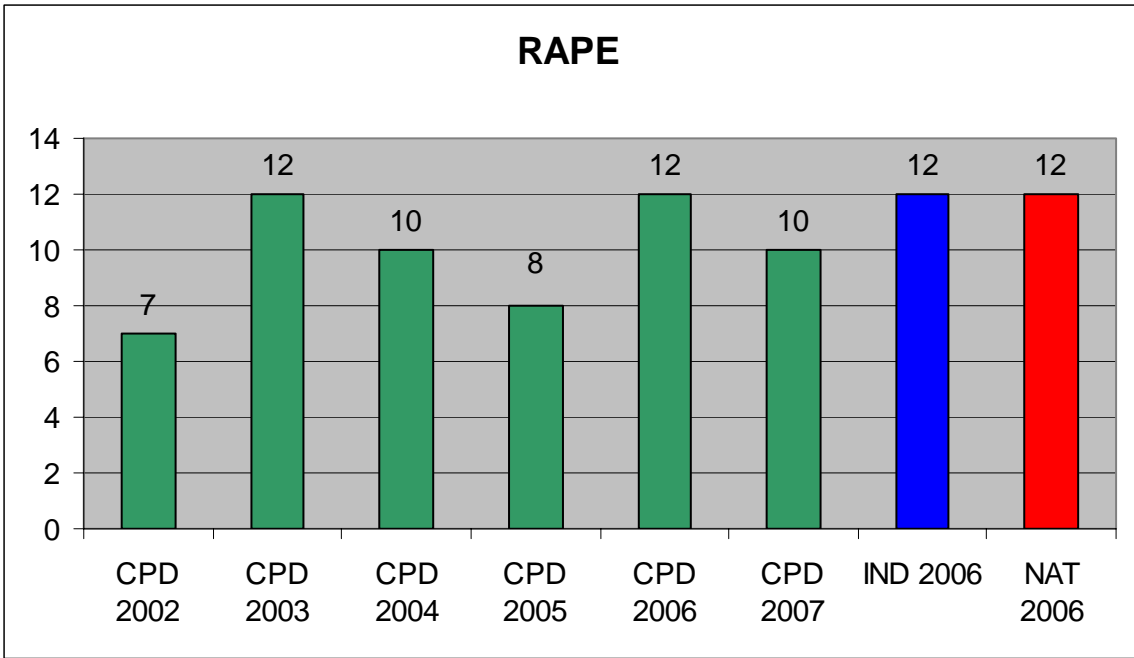




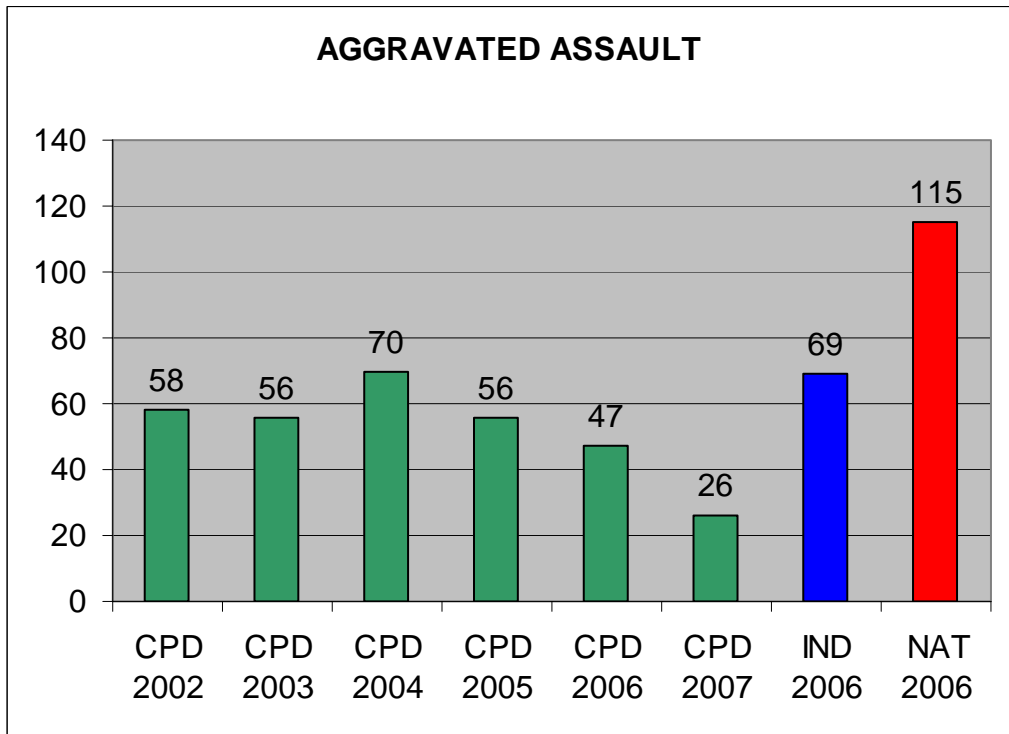
The Murder rate in Columbus has not exceeded State or National trends and has been at or less over the past several years. Columbus experienced one homicide in 2007 and stayed below the State and National average.



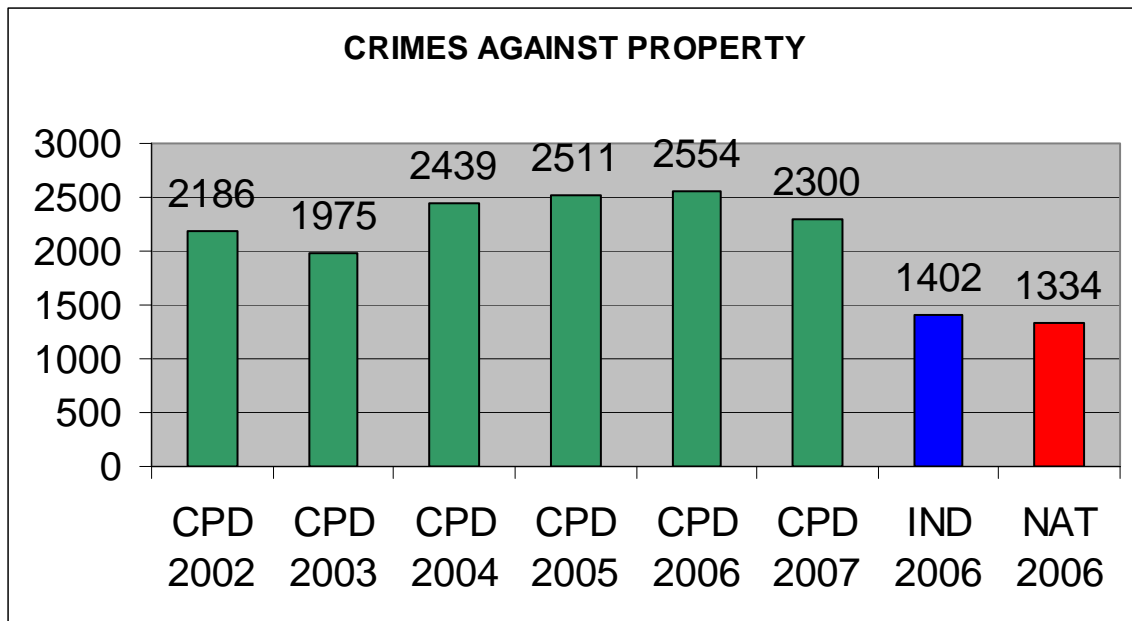
When comparing the number of Robberies in Columbus to State (71% less) and National (78% less) it is clear that Columbus is a much safer place to live. Robbery is defined as the taking of property from someone through force or the threat of force.



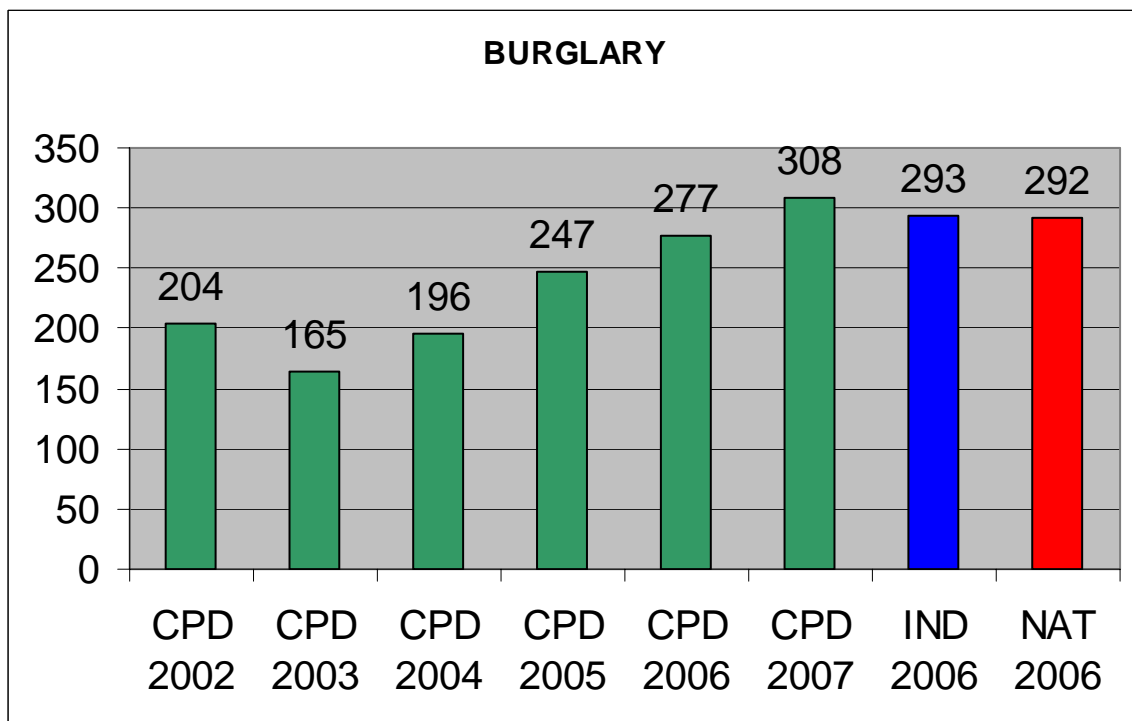
There were 2 fewer Rapes in 2007 than in 2006. Columbus is below both the State and National average.



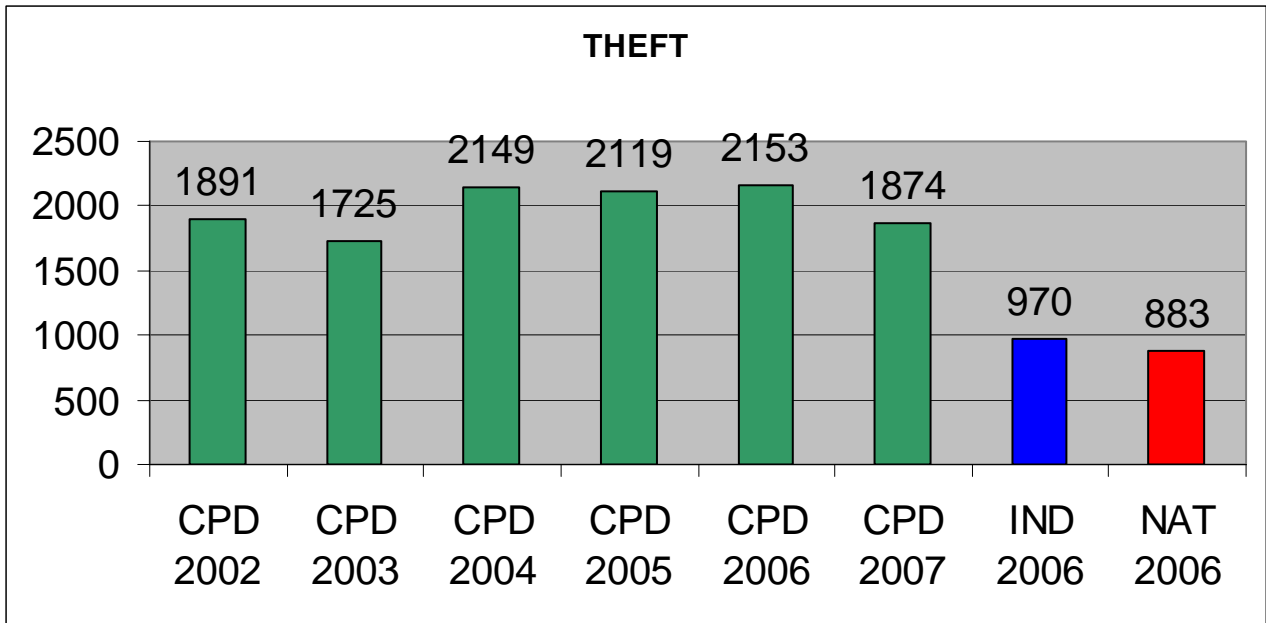
The six-year trend for Aggravated Assaults in Columbus shows a significant 44% drop in the last year, and a 5 year low overall. We are still considerably safer than other cities in the State (62% less) or National (77% less).



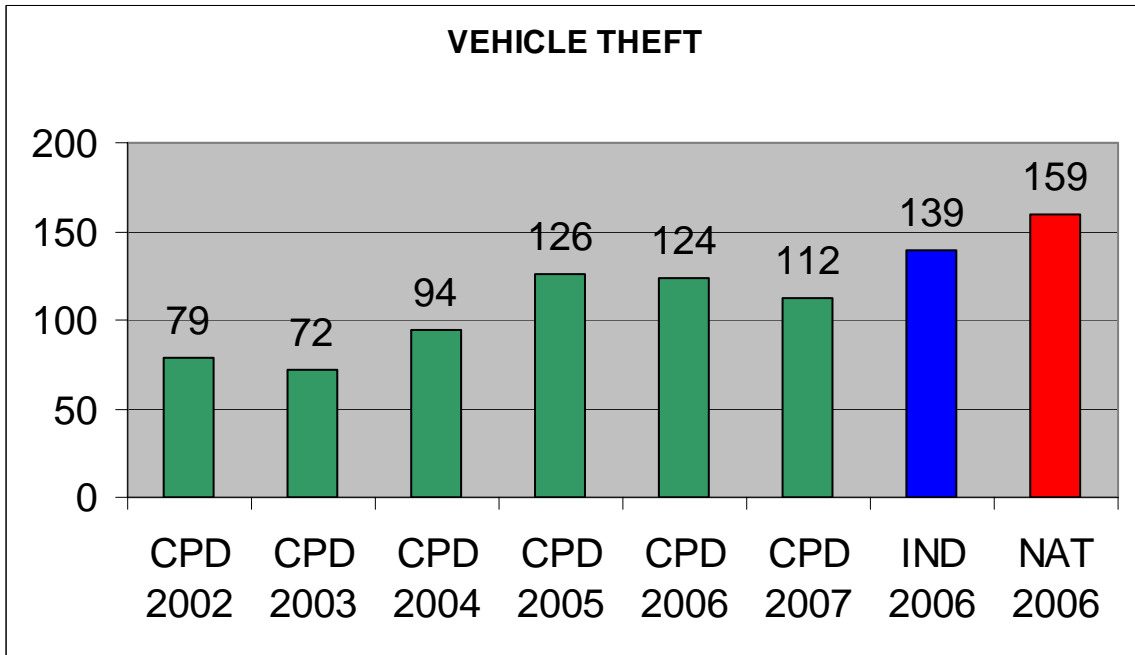
There are three crimes that make up Crimes Against Property: Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft. As described in the Part I Crimes section, our numbers here are much higher due to Theft. The CPD number also includes 6 Arsons in 2007.



The Burglary rates reported to our department increased by 10% in 2007. Our rates were slightly above the State and National averages as well.



Though our Theft numbers are still higher than the State (48% higher) or National (53%) averages, the City of Columbus saw a 13% reduction in thefts between 2006 and 2007. This was the first reduction since 2003.



The rate of auto theft is much less than other areas of the State (19% less) or National (29% less).

In addition to the information outlined above, the Columbus Police Department projections show that in 2007, our department made 260 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests, 247 Illegal Consumption arrests, 362 Public Intoxication arrests, and 218 Marijuana related arrests. 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 2007. 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.

In 2008 we plan to implement a new countywide computer software system that will enhance the communication of all of the law enforcement and court service agencies in our community. We also look forward to continuing a high level of proactive policing and to working with our community towards making 2008 and even better year than 2007.

The Columbus Police Department would once again like to thank all the citizens of Columbus who supported our Department in 2007. 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.