



# **2007 Crime Statistics**

**Prince William County Police**

## AT-A-GLANCE

The crime rate, which is a percentage of the total number of crimes per population, in Prince William County has been consistently decreasing over the past several years. Violent crime represents a small portion of the total crime in the County, with crimes against property accounting for 92% of the total crime.

Crime statistics in Prince William County are tracked in accordance with the national standards administered by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The program's main objective is to generate a reliable set of criminal statistics for use in law enforcement and has become one of the country's leading social indicators.

**Part I offenses** include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. **Part II offenses** encompass nineteen additional types of crime ranging from simple assault to fraud, and disorderly conduct.

Highlights of the 2007 crime statistics include:

- **Reduced Robberies**  
The number of robberies decreased 22.5% from the previous year, due to the efforts of the *Robbery Suppression Initiative* and targeted efforts of patrol officers.
- **Reduced Crime Rate**  
The crime rate has been consistently declining. At 19.8%, it's the lowest rate in a 5-year period.

At-a-Glance	2006	2007
Department budget <i>Source: Fiscal Plan (Adopted)</i>	\$57,207,148	\$63,747,183
County population	371,178	381,221
Calls for service	222,818	228,785
Total Part I crimes	8,026	7,565
Crime rate	21.6%	19.8%
Criminal arrests (adult & juvenile)	13,734	13,979
Criminal adult arrests	12,129	12,364
Criminal juvenile arrests	1,605	1,615
Domestic violence reports	1,256	1,358
Traffic accident investigations	5,668	4,684
Total fatal traffic victims	35	24

Closure Rates	PWC 2006	National 2006	PWC 2007	National 2007*
Violent Crime	54.9%	44.3%	58.3%	N/A
Property Crime	18.3%	15.8%	21.6%	N/A

\*Source: *Crime in the United States 2006* Department of Justice. National figures for 2007 have not been released.

## PART I CRIME

As defined by the FBI's UCR program, Part I crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

It should be noted that raw crime statistics must be viewed in context with environmental influences. Factors such as changes in reporting rates, demographics, the economy, the

law, and changes in police policies and resources, can all have an influence on the number of reported crimes. It is also important to consider crime trends over multiple years.

The total number of crimes in Prince William County decreased from 8,026 in 2006, to 7,565 in 2007. The greatest reduction occurred in the number of robberies and burglaries.

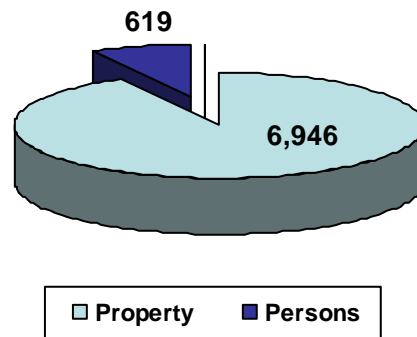
Crimes Against Persons	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Murder	16	9*	-7	-43.8%
Rape	21	28	+7	33.3%
Robbery	351	272	-79	-22.5%
Aggravated Assault	379	310	-69	-18.2%
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>-148</b>	<b>-19.3%</b>
Crimes Against Property	2006	2007	Change	% Change
Burglary	1,389	996	-393	-28.3%
Larceny	5,219	5,338	+119	2.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	651	612	-39	-6.0%
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>7,259</b>	<b>6,946</b>	<b>-313</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	<b>8,026</b>	<b>7,565</b>	<b>-461</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>

\*Figure does not include the 1969 murder. See page 5 for more details.

## PERSON VS. PROPERTY CRIME

Part I offenses can be further classified into crimes against persons (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), and crimes against property (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft).

Property crimes make up 92% of all reported index crimes in Prince William County. Violent crimes constitute only 8% of index crimes.



## CLOSURE RATES

Within the UCR program, law enforcement can clear, or “close” offenses either by arrest or by exceptional means. When a case is cleared by arrest, or solved for crime reporting purposes, all three of the following conditions must be met for at least one person: arrested, Charged with the offense, and turned over to the court for prosecution.

When a case is cleared by exceptional means, there are elements beyond law enforcement’s

control that prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. When this occurs, the agency can close the offense when certain conditions are met.

It is important to note that the number of offenses cleared is different than the number of arrestees. For example, the arrest of one person may clear several crimes, yet the arrest of many persons may clear only one offense. Also, some clearances that are recorded in a certain calendar year may pertain to offenses that occurred in previous years.

### 2007 Closure Rates (January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007)

Crimes Against Persons	Actual	Cleared	Closure Rate
Murder	9*	8	90.0%
Rape	28	21	75.0%
Robbery	272	84	30.9%
Aggravated Assault	310	248	80.0%
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>58.3%</b>
Crimes Against Property	Actual	Cleared	Closure Rate
Burglary	996	278	27.9%
Larceny	5,338	1,109	20.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	612	111	18.1%
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>6,946</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>21.6%</b>

\*Figure does not include the 1969 murder. See page 5 for more details.

### 2006 Closure Rates (January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006)

Crimes Against Persons	Actual	Cleared	Closure Rate
Murder	16	13	81.3%
Rape	21	21	100.0%
Robbery	351	101	28.8%
Aggravated Assault	379	284	74.9%
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>54.6%</b>
Crimes Against Property	Actual	Cleared	Closure Rate
Burglary	1,389	268	19.3%
Larceny	5,219	876	16.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	651	182	28.0%
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>7,259</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>18.3%</b>

## Crimes Against Persons

# HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### MURDERS

Murders are the highest profile of the violent crimes. The UCR program defines murder as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, or jury. This classification does not include deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

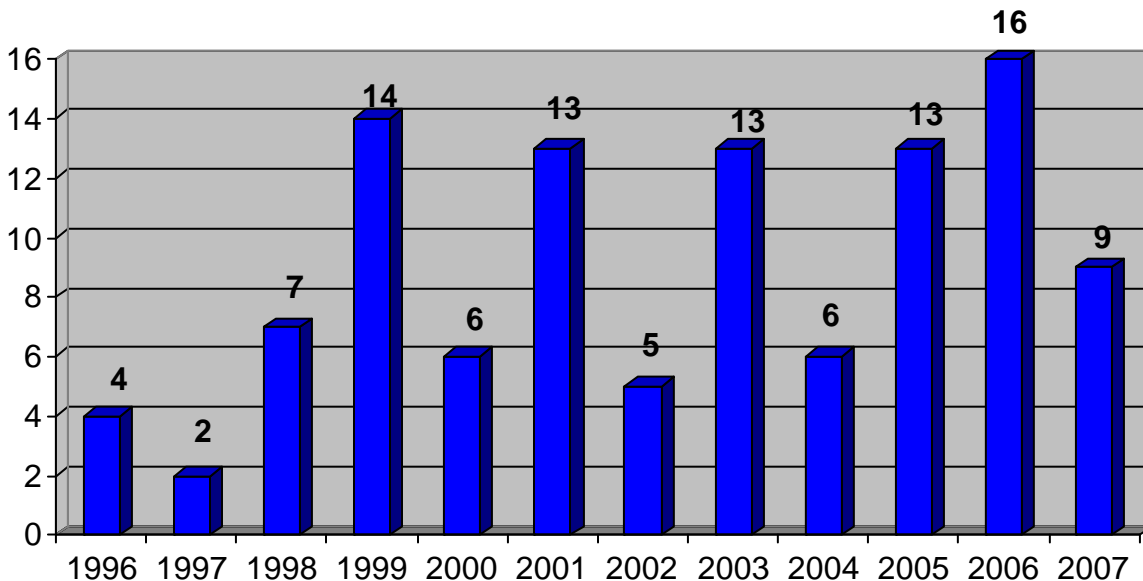
As illustrated by the chart below, the number of murders in Prince William County has varied significantly from year to year, and has not followed a predictable pattern. The analysis of individual cases also does not reveal any Indicators that can be directly correlated to the number of murders, or their causes.

In 2007, there were a total of nine murders that occurred in Prince William County. This figure does not include a tenth incident that actually occurred in 1969. On January 22, 2007, an individual confessed to a murder he committed in 1969. Under UCR guidelines, this incident had to be counted in the official UCR statistics for 2007, since the charge was placed in that year.

In 2007, there were five murder incidents that resulted in a total of nine deaths.

- Five deaths occurred during domestic-related incidents.
- One occurred during a robbery at a home.
- One involved a gang member.
- One death was the result of fight involving alcohol.
- One remains unsolved.

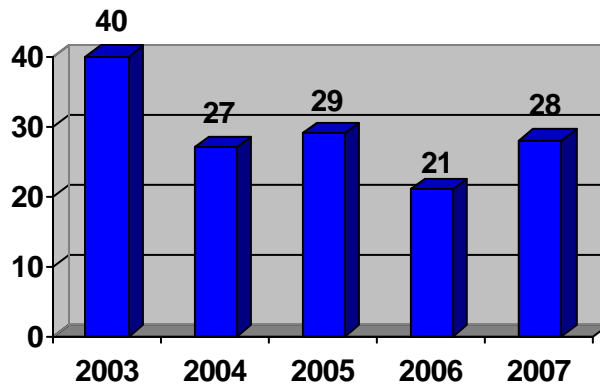
Murders 1996—2007



*Crimes Against Persons*  
**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

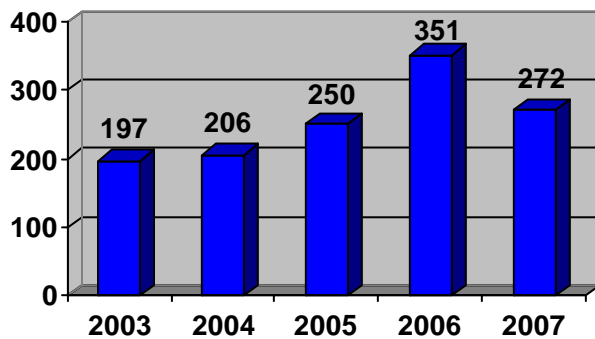
**RAPE**

The number of rapes reported in 2007 increased from 2006, but remains below the five-year average for rapes. In all but one of the cases, the victims were acquainted with suspects.



**ROBBERY**

Of the 272 reported robberies in 2007, the majority (88%), were non-business or “street robberies.” More than 48% of these street robberies were situationally-based crimes, in which the victims were primarily Hispanic immigrants targeted because they were perceived to be alone and carrying cash.

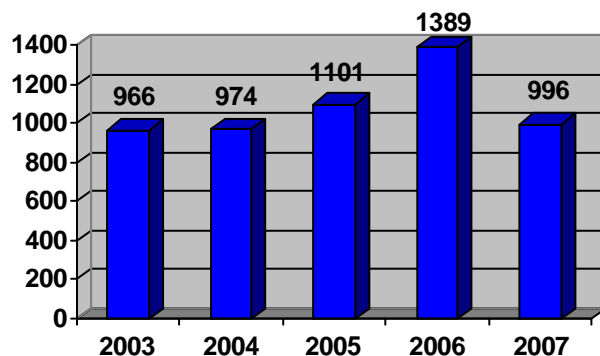


To combat this issue, the Police Department began its *Robbery Suppression Initiative* in 2006, which involved targeting “hot spots” where robberies and other crimes frequently occurred. Surveillance and aggressive policing in these areas resulted in arrests for a variety of weapons and drug charges, as well as arrests of suspects for stalking and/or attacking victims. County-wide, increased efforts in surveillance and patrol activity resulted in more than 1,300 suspects being charged with illegal drug sales or possession, and 177 individuals charged with weapon violations.

In 2007, the number of robberies decreased 22.5% from the previous year. It is clear that this reduction is due, in large part, to the continued efforts of the *Robbery Suppression Initiative*. In addition, the incarceration of suspects apprehended as a result of this Initiative prevented these individuals from committing further crimes.

**BURGLARY**

One of the greatest decreases occurred in the number of burglaries, which fell 28.3% from 2006. This reduction is believed to have been due to a high number of arrests and coordinated prevention efforts between the Police Department and construction industry representatives. Incidents at construction sites also decreased due to the downturn in the construction and housing market.



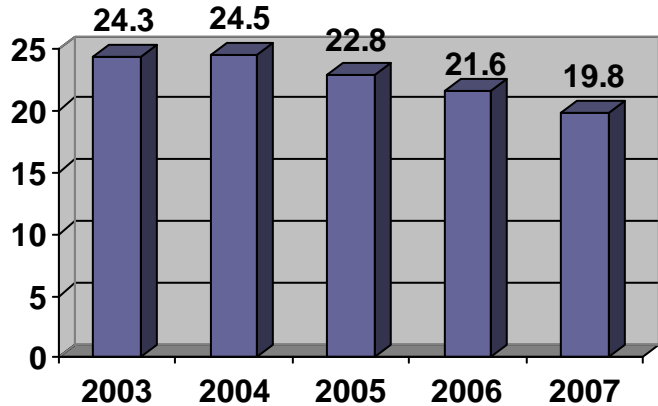
## CRIME RATE

During 2007, the overall crime rate decreased in Prince William County to 19.8 crimes per 1,000 residents. This shows a consistent downward trend from 2003, when the crime rate was 24.3.

The overall crime rate is comprised of all Index Crimes which includes murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The crime rate is a percentage of the total number of crimes per population.

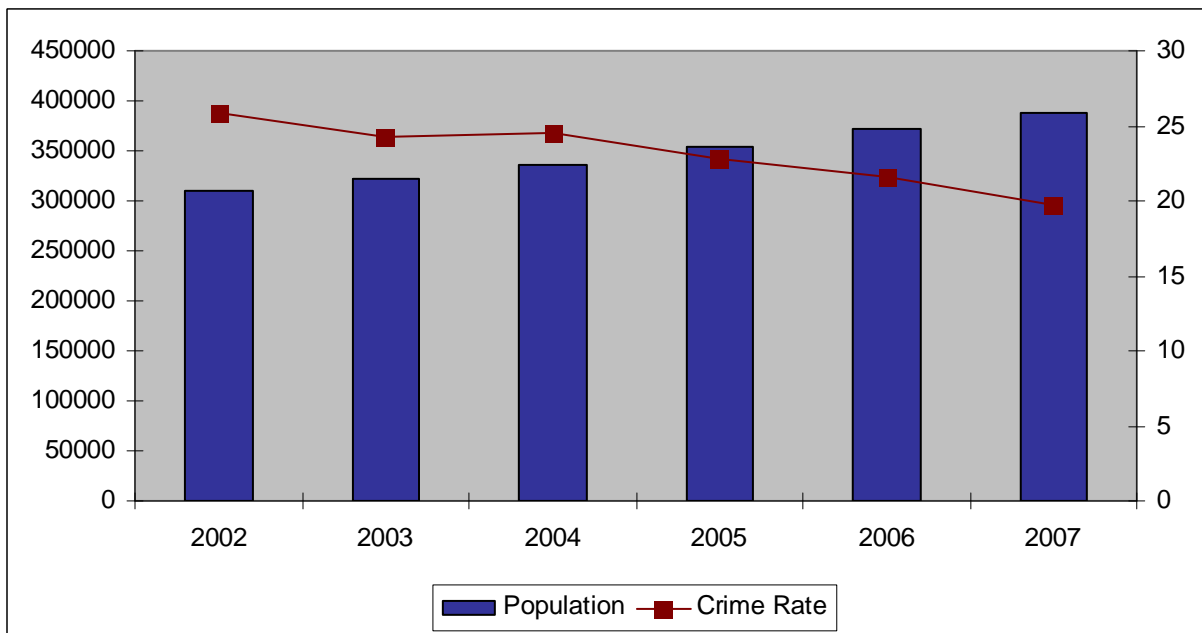
While crime rate is a commonly accepted community measure, it is only intended to be a snap shot of certain reported crimes and a basic indicator of overall crime trends.

5-Year Crime Rate



It should be noted that the crime rate is not a comprehensive tracking of all crime since it is based on Index Crimes only. A broader perspective is presented in the arrest data listed on page 9 which provides a more extensive list of crimes.

## CRIME RATE AND POPULATION



## ARRESTS — *Part I Crimes*

The UCR program counts one arrest for each separate instance in which a person is cited, arrested, or summoned for an offense.

Because a person may be arrested multiple times during the year, the UCR arrest figures do not reflect the number of individual people who have been arrested. Rather, the data shows the number of times that arrests have been made for a particular offense.

Overall arrests increased slightly last year, up 1.8% from 13,734 in 2006, to 13,979 in 2007. For Part I offenses, adult arrests rose by 10.2%, up from 1,389 in 2006, to 1,531 in 2007.

The table below lists arrest data for Part I crimes for both adults and juveniles. Arrest data for other crimes can be found on page 9.

Arrests (Part I Crimes)	Adult			Juvenile		
	2007	2006	Change	2007	2006	Change
Murder	15	20	-5	2	3	-1
Rape	13	15	-2	1	2	-1
Robbery	91	140	-49	37	41	-4
Aggravated Assault	202	229	-27	41	46	-5
Burglary	181	163	+18	52	99	-47
Larceny	993	767	+226	173	145	+28
Motor Vehicle Theft	36	55	-19	29	14	+15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>+142</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>-15</b>

Arrests (All Crime Offenses)	2007	% of 2007 Total	2006	% of 2006 Total
Adult Only	12,364	88.4%	12,129	88.3%
Juvenile Only	1,615	11.6%	1,605	11.7%
<b>Total Adult and Juvenile (all crimes)</b>	<b>13,979</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>13,734</b>	<b>—</b>

## ARRESTS — *Other Crimes*

Arrests	Adult			Juvenile			Total (Adult+Juvenile)	
	2007	2006	Change	2007	2006	Change	2007	2006
Assaults (Other than Aggravated)	1,396	1,380	+16	232	208	+24	1,628	1,588
Forgery & Counterfeiting	145	156	-11	6	5	+1	151	161
Fraud	288	348	-60	10	9	+1	298	357
Embezzlement	198	168	+30	16	9	+7	214	177
Vandalism	142	152	-10	97	63	+34	239	215
Weapons	177	191	-14	38	48	-10	215	239
Prostitution/Common Vice	44	18	+26	0	0	0	44	18
Sex Offenses (Other)	66	74	-8	19	17	+2	85	91
Sale/Manufacture Opium/Cocaine	82	124	-42	0	1	-1	82	125
Sale/Manufacture Marijuana	136	127	+9	12	9	+3	148	136
Sale/Manufacture (Other)	54	38	+16	4	7	-3	58	45
Possession Opium/Cocaine	243	233	+10	2	3	-1	245	236
Possession Marijuana	897	825	+72	115	105	+10	1,012	930
Possession (Other)	29	18	+11	1	3	-2	30	21
Gambling (All offenses)	7	0	+7	2	0	+2	9	0
Liquor Laws	112	197	-85	61	77	-16	173	274
Public Drunkenness	1,754	1,610	+144	56	66	-10	1,810	1,676
Disorderly Conduct	270	270	0	80	74	+6	350	344

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

The crash rate decreased 24.5% from 2006 to 2007, with the number of crashes reduced from 5,668 to 4,684.

In 2007, 24 people were killed in 24 separate motor vehicle traffic crashes that occurred on the roadways of Prince William County.

There was a 23% decrease in the number of fatal crashes and a 31% decrease in the number of victims compared to 2006.

There were 12 alcohol-related fatal crashes. In 10 out of the 12 of these crashes, at least one driver or pedestrian had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over the legal limit of .08 g/dL.<sup>3</sup>

In 2007, 14 of the fatal crashes were attributed to speeding. This is an 18% decrease from the previous year.

24 individuals died as a result of reportable traffic crashes in 2007.

Of the 24 fatal victims, five were pedestrians. Of the pedestrian fatalities, 4 out of the 5 were determined to be at fault.

Eight of the fatal victims were on motorcycles.

There were no fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles.

The Department continues to take aggressive measures to help increase the safety of the roadways. During 2007, special emphasis was placed on selective enforcement programs to combat the issues of speeding, driving under the influence (DUI), and commercial motor vehicle violations.

Crash Data	2007	2006	% Change
Total traffic crashes	4,684	5,668	-17.4%
Total fatal crashes	24	31	-22.6%
Total alcohol-related fatal crashes	12	16	-25.0%
Total fatal victims	24	35	-31.4%

Traffic Enforcement Data	2007	2006	% Change
Traffic citations	35,008	38,474	-9.0%
DUI arrests	1,935	1,794	+7.9%
Speeding citations	11,825	13,143	-10.0%
Speeding in a School Zone	1,145	456	+151.1%
Seatbelt violations	1,145	1,558	-26.5%
No child restraint	348	386	-9.8%
Parking citations	15,930	22,815	-30.2%
Commercial motor vehicle inspections	460 hours	338 hours	+36.1%
Selective enforcement programs	10,450 hours	8,605 hours	+21.4%