

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Hammond, Sheriff



2016 Annual Crime Report

A CALEA Accredited Agency

Support Services Division – January 2017

Annual Crime Analysis Introduction

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office's 2016 Annual Crime Report is to provide detailed information so that citizens can make informed decisions about crime and safety in their neighborhoods. The more information made available to the public, the better the input will be in aiding the Sheriff's Offices response to crime.

The Annual Report offers a comprehensive analysis of the crimes reported by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office to the Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program has been collecting national crime statistics from law enforcement agencies since 1930. Based on the seriousness and frequency, agencies are required to report statistics on seven crimes which comprise the UCR Crime Index: murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, and larceny and auto theft. In 1988, the Sheriff's Office initiated the submission of crimes into the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).



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The general concepts, such as jurisdictional rules, of collecting and reporting UCR data are the same in NIBRS. The difference in the programs is that NIBRS captures much greater detail on each crime than the summary-based UCR program. Another difference in the programs is that agencies submit UCR data in written documents, where NIBRS data are submitted electronically.

The problem for the public, as well as for the police, is that UCR statistics alone are of little use to patrol deployment and offer little to citizens interested in reducing their risks. The true picture of crime and disorder in a jurisdiction is seldom conveyed to the public through simple statistics. Crimes are complex events, and those complexities encompass many dimensions. It is our endeavor in this report is to display a more realistic picture of crime in our community.

Conventions Used in this Report



**Allen Branum,
Chief Deputy**

This report uses several common crime analysis conventions for the reporting of statistical information. These conventions are consistent with general crime analysis practice, standards issued by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

The FBI UCR program standardizes the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics. The program classifies crimes as "Part I" and "Part II." The "Part I" crimes are a list of eight common crimes that together form an "index" of criminal activity, much like the Dow Jones Industrial Average provides a general assessment of the stock market based on an index of 30 stocks. These seven crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. All other crimes—including fraud

and forgery, vandalism, drug offenses, and other sex offenses—are “Part II Crimes.” Definitions of each of these crimes are included at the beginnings of their respective sections.

The Hierarchy Rule

The Hierarchy Rule states that if multiple offenses are committed in the same incident, it is classified (and reported) as the most serious of the offenses. Thus, although almost all robberies involve both an assault and a theft, such incidents are included only under the “robbery” category. Similarly, the statistics for “larceny” only include incidents in which larceny is the primary crime; thefts from houses and businesses that involve illegal entry are “burglaries” and are reported there.

Using the hierarchy rule helps both police and community members understand crime. If you see that larcenies have increased 10% in your area, you don’t have to worry that those thefts involve threats or violence. If they did, they would be reported as robberies instead of larcenies.

Best Data at the Time

All statistics, including yearly totals and weighted averages, are calculated using the best available data at the time. Occasionally, after our reports are published, factors determined during investigation will cause us to reclassify a crime to a higher or lower category, and thus you may see slight discrepancies between current and past reports. In all cases, the more recent data is the more correct data.

Jurisdictional Data Issues Regarding Crime Reporting and Service area of Sheriff’s Offices

While deputies of the Sheriff’s Office have complete jurisdiction within all of Hamilton County the primary service area for calls of service will be the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County as well as the contract cities of Lakesite and Walden. Deputies also have staff many Hamilton County schools within municipalities where school resource officers are assigned as well as Hamilton county facilities and parks which may be located within a municipal city limits.

Specialized divisions and partnerships which provide service to all of Hamilton County include;

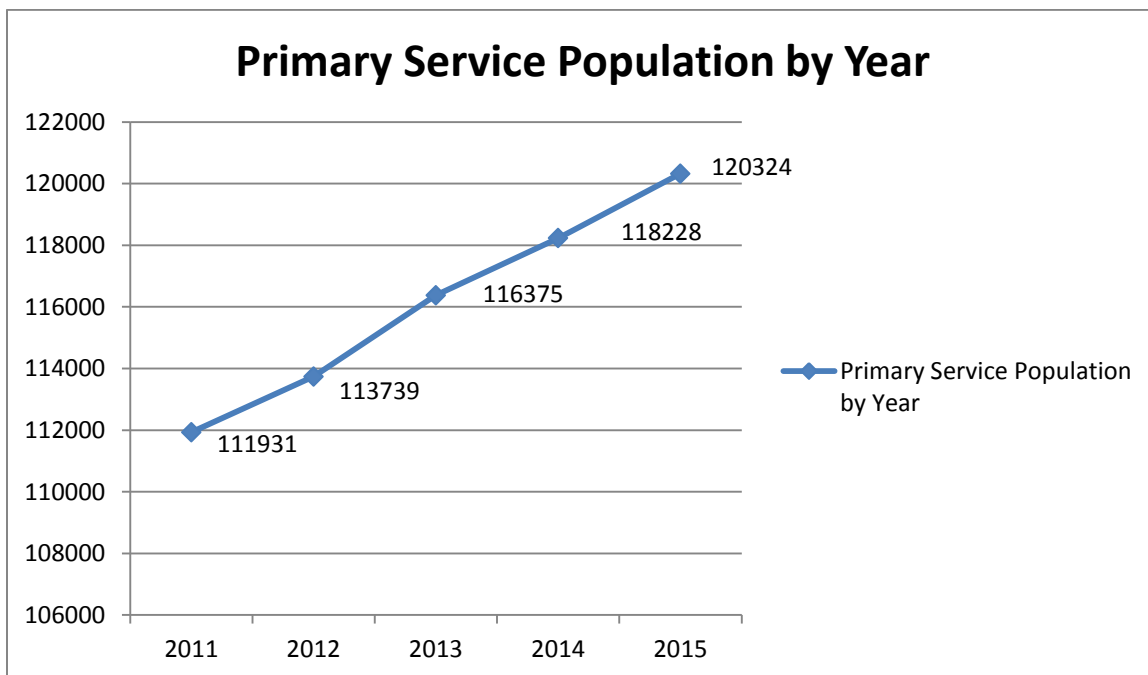
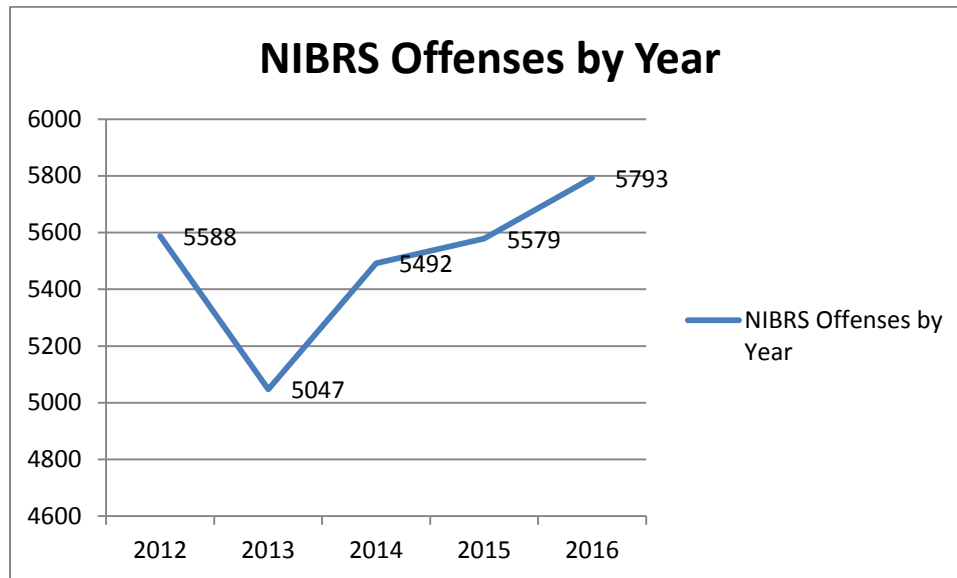
- Narcotics Division
- Fugitive Division
- Civil Process Division
- Sex Offender Registry Unit
- City/County Gang Task Force
- FBI Safe Streets Task Force
- DEA Task Force

Note: Crime Data in this report reflects crime which the Sheriff’s Office Reports to the FBI from the primary service area which is the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County as well as the

contract cities of Lakesite and Walden. Other municipalities within Hamilton County such as the City of Chattanooga have the primary responsibility to address crime within their city as well as the crime reporting duties all law enforcement agencies are responsible for.

Total Reportable Criminal Offenses by Year (National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS))

*Note: This graph is reported or detected criminal offenses by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. This does not include all service calls or investigations of incidents which are determined not to be a crime. Example: Natural Deaths, Suicides, fire investigation determined not to be arson.



* Primary Service Population is the Unincorporated Areas of Hamilton County as well as the contract cities of Walden and Lakesite

2016 Crime Index

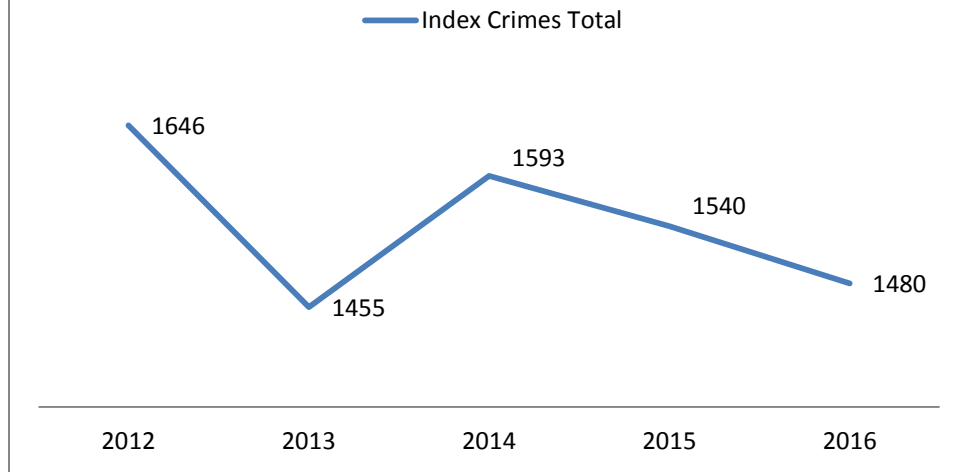
The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to law enforcement. The offenses included are the violent crimes of Arson, murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and auto theft. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics.

*Note: This graph is reported or detected criminal offenses by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. These are reported offenses prior to complete investigation with some cases possibly being unfounded. This is reported crime by year for investigation.

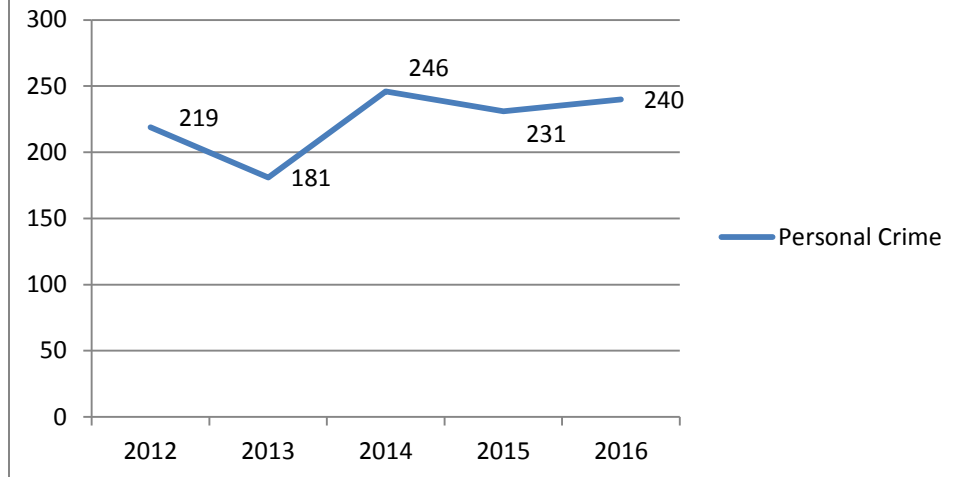
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, 2012-2016

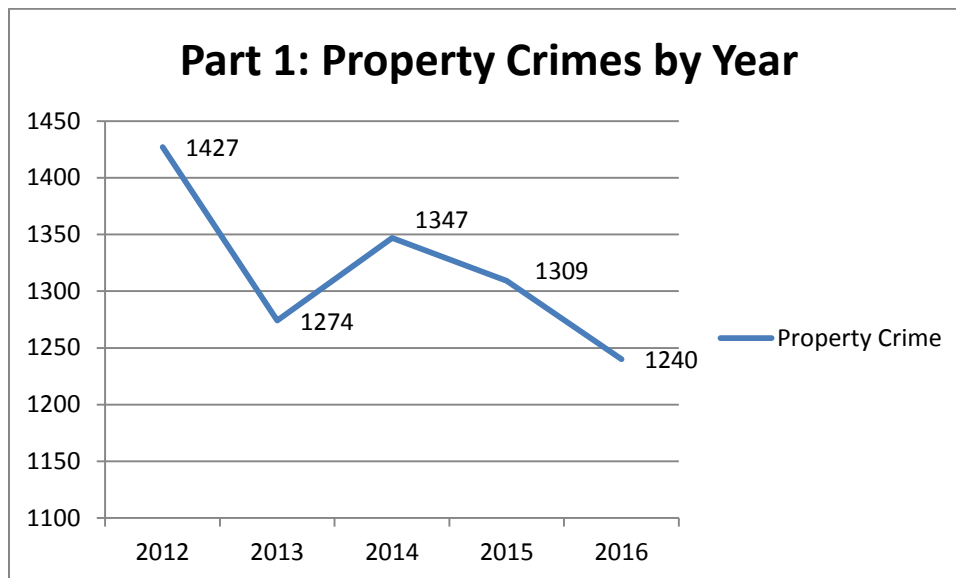
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Murder 09A/B	3	1	1	1	3
Rape 11A	25	15	33	29	35
Robbery 120	20	9	16	14	17
Aggravated Assault 13A	164	152	188	174	175
Arson 200	7	4	8	13	10
Total Violent	219	181	246	231	240
Burglary 220	629	530	563	480	429
Auto Theft 240	116	127	154	156	179
Larceny 23H/D	682	617	630	673	632
Total Property	1427	1274	1347	1309	1240
Total Index	1646	1455	1593	1540	1480

Part 1: Index Crimes by Year



Part 1: Personal Crimes by Year

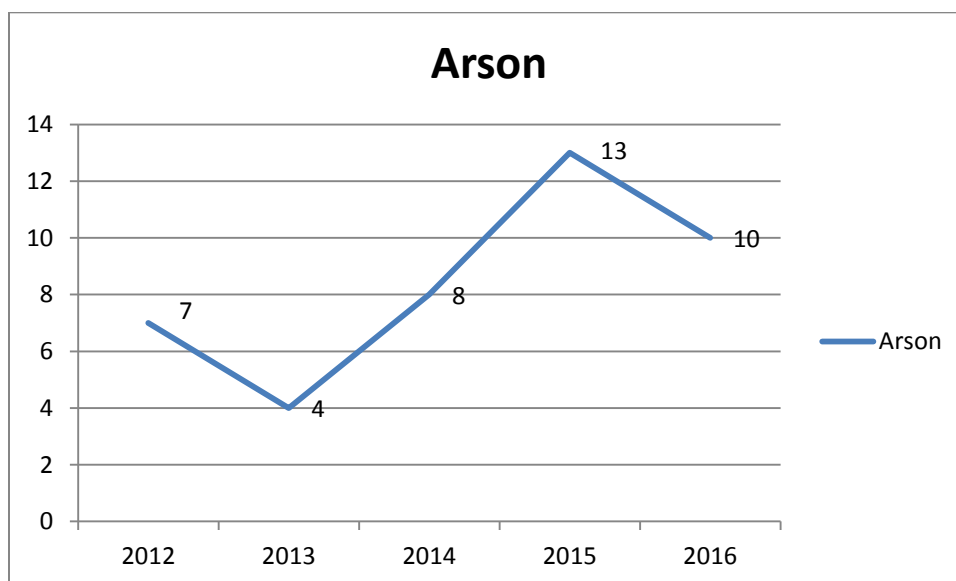




Violent Crimes and Definition:

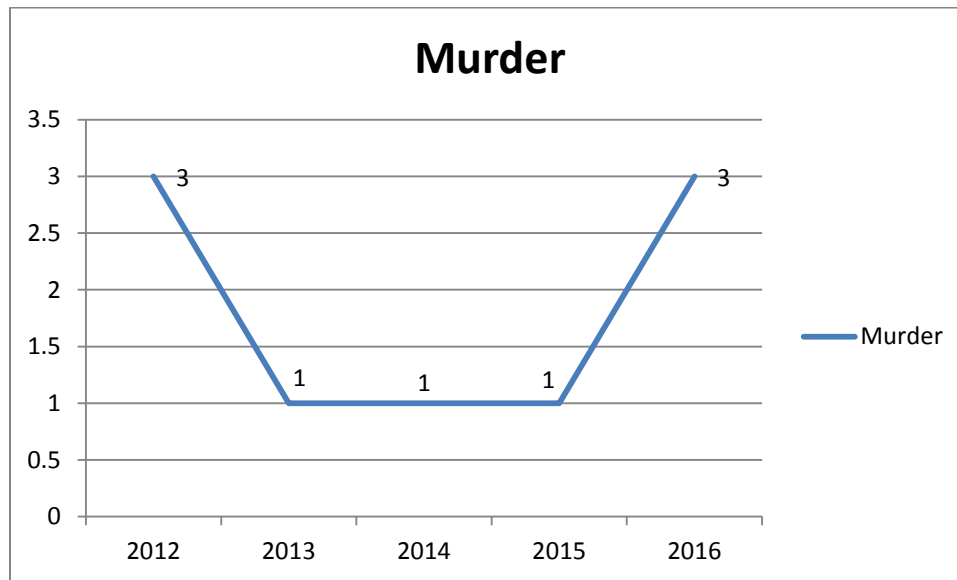
Arson

Definition: Arson is any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.



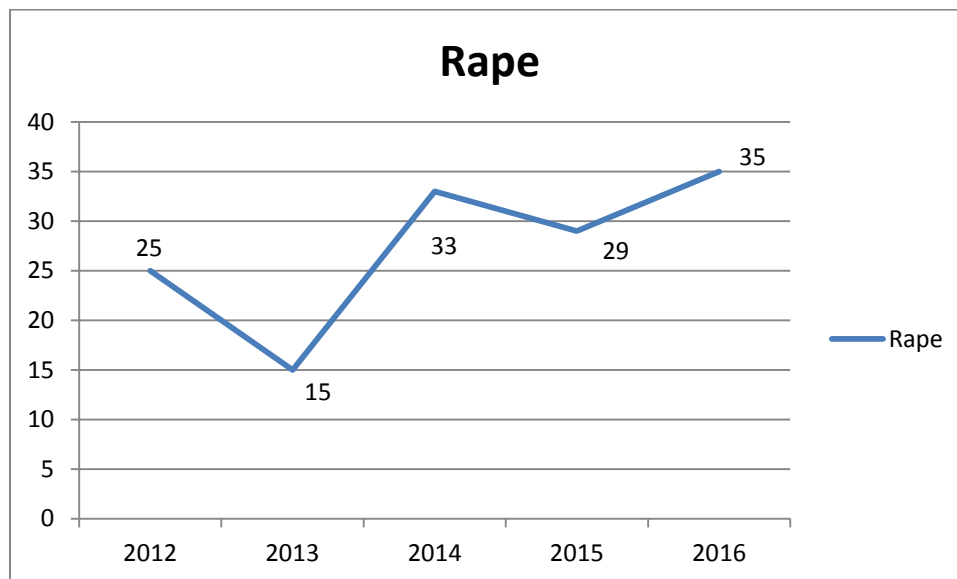
Murder

Definition: Murder and non-negligent manslaughter encompasses the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index Offenses, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults with the intent to murder, which are counted as aggravated assaults.



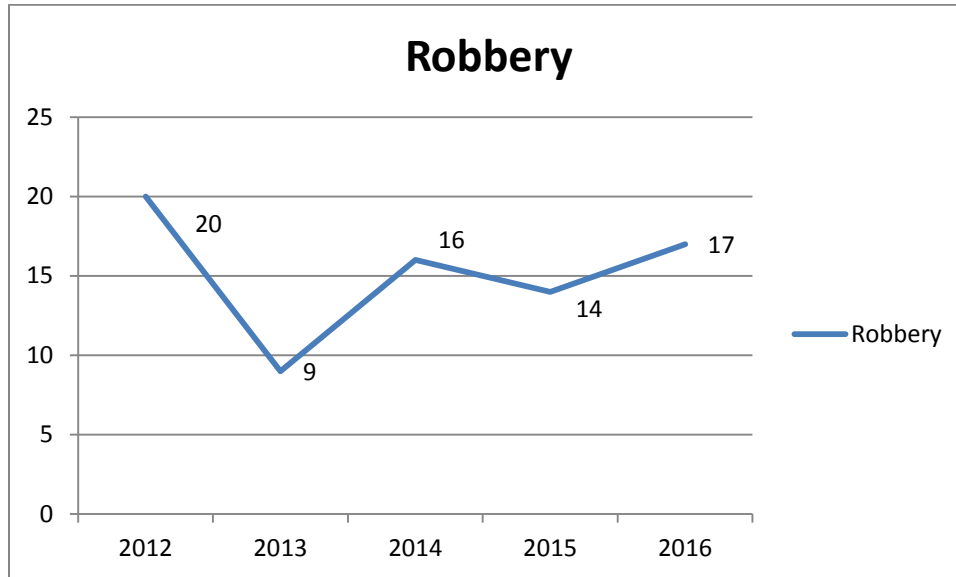
Rape

Definition: Sexual intercourse with a male or female, both forcibly and against that person's will, or non-forcibly but when the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary mental or physical incapacity, or because of youth. Assaults with intent to commit rape are included. Statutory rape (without force), incest, molestation, and other sex offenses are excluded.



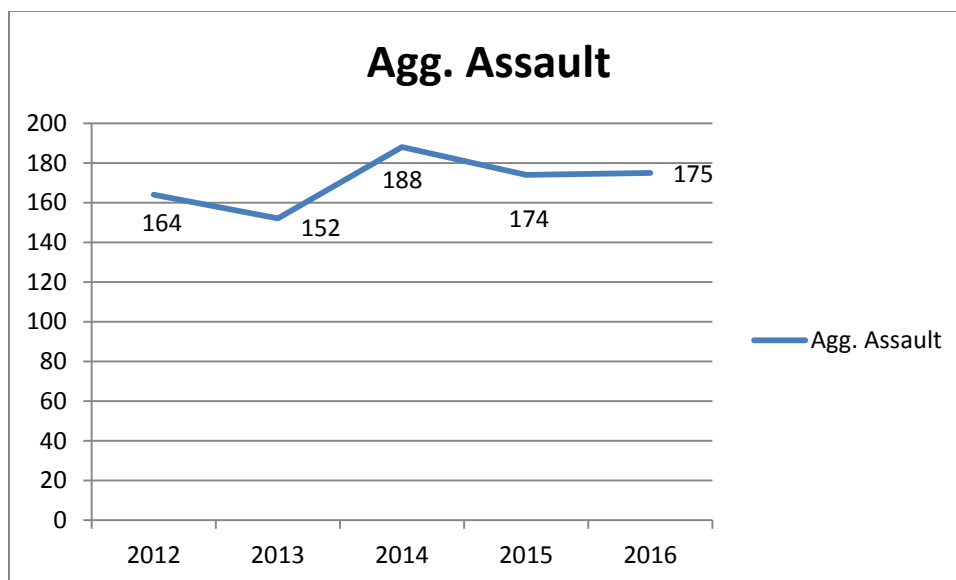
Robbery

Definition: Robbery is the taking or attempted taking of anything of value from another person by violence, threat of violence, or putting the victim in fear. Unlike larceny or theft, it involves a direct confrontation between the offender and victim. Incidents described as “muggings,” “purse snatchings,” and “hold-ups” are usually robberies.



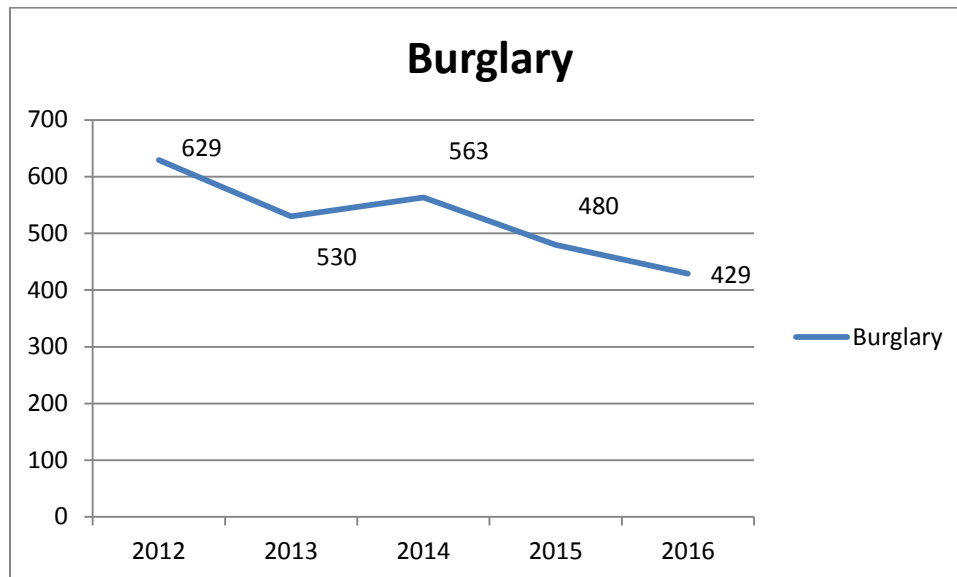
Aggravated Assault

Definition: An attack by one person on another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. To be an “aggravated assault” as opposed to a “simple assault,” the crime must involve one of the following: 1) a weapon capable of causing death or severe injury (e.g., a gun, knife, or blunt object); 2) a method of assault capable of causing death or severe injury (e.g., pushing someone down the stairs); or 3) actual severe bodily injury (e.g., a punch that fractures the victim’s nose).



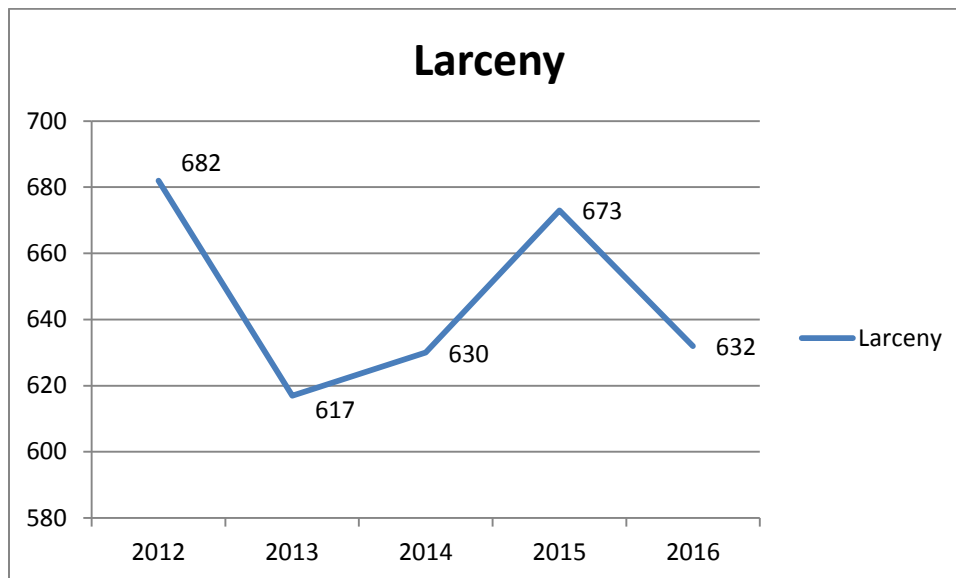
Burglary

Definition: Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure (residence, business, or other building) to commit a theft or another crime. Force (e.g., prying a door, breaking a window) is not required, but the entry itself must be illegal. (Lawful entry to commit a theft would be coded as a larceny.) Automobile “burglaries” are also excluded (this crime has a larceny category). Attempts are included in the total.



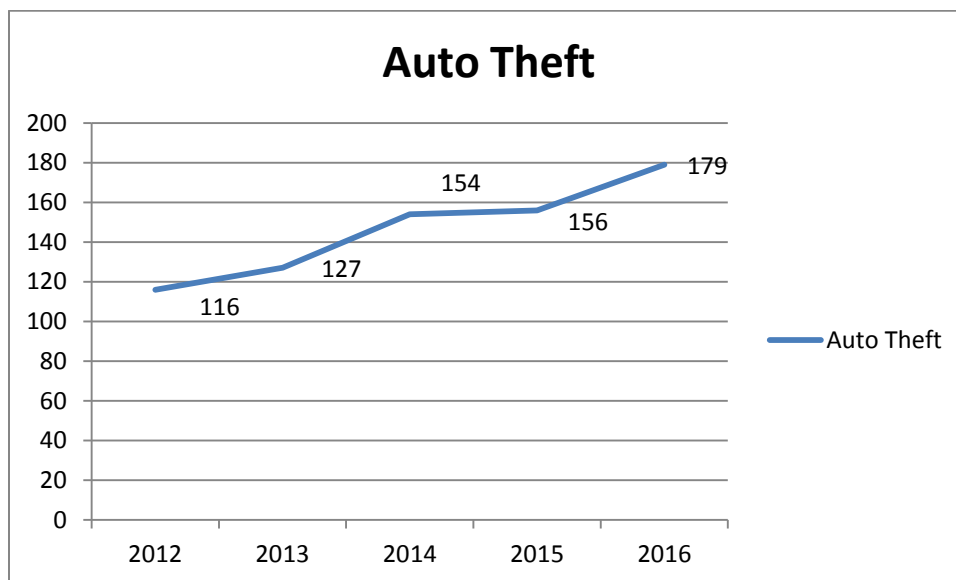
Larceny

Definition: Larceny is the illegal taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of someone else's property. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pick-pocketing, thefts from vehicles, thefts of auto parts and accessories, bicycle thefts, and all other thefts in which no force, violence, fraud, or burglary occurs. The crime does not include embezzlement, “con” games, forgery, or bad checks, nor does it include auto theft, which is a separate offense.



Auto Theft

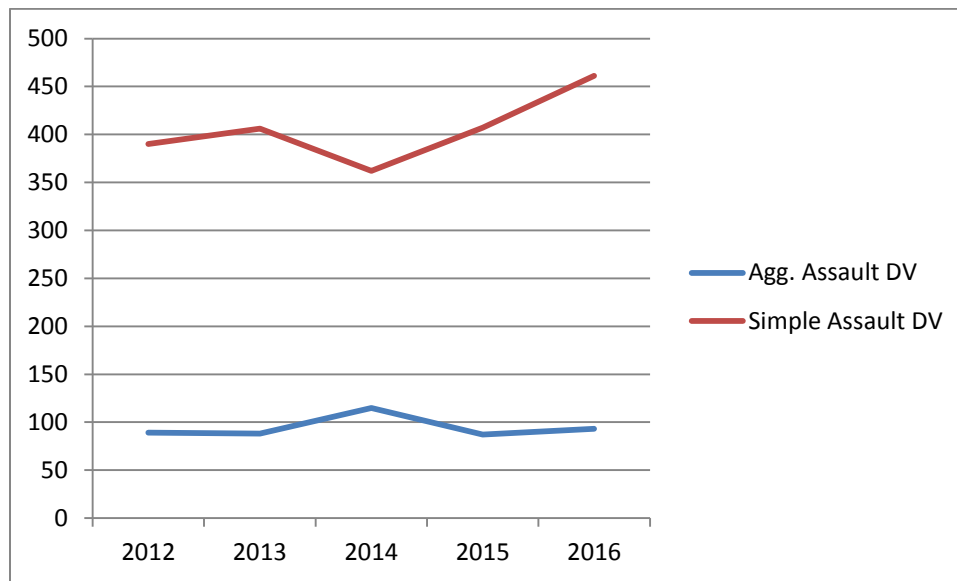
Definition: Auto theft is the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. The offense category includes theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles. The definition excludes the taking of a vehicle for temporary use by individuals with lawful access (e.g., a son taking his mother's car for the night).



Domestic Violence Assaults

(FBI) *National Incident-Based Reporting System* (NIBRS) contains detailed information on crimes reported to law enforcement, including the nature and types of specific offenses in the incident, characteristics of the victim(s) and offender(s), and characteristics of persons arrested in connection with the crime incident. Fortunately, NIBRS unlike the crime index not only reports crime but also provides further details about the crime allowing the tracking and reporting of domestic violence. Out of

the total cases of aggravated assault and simple assault reported to the Sheriff's Office the following totals are those cases of assault which were domestic in nature.



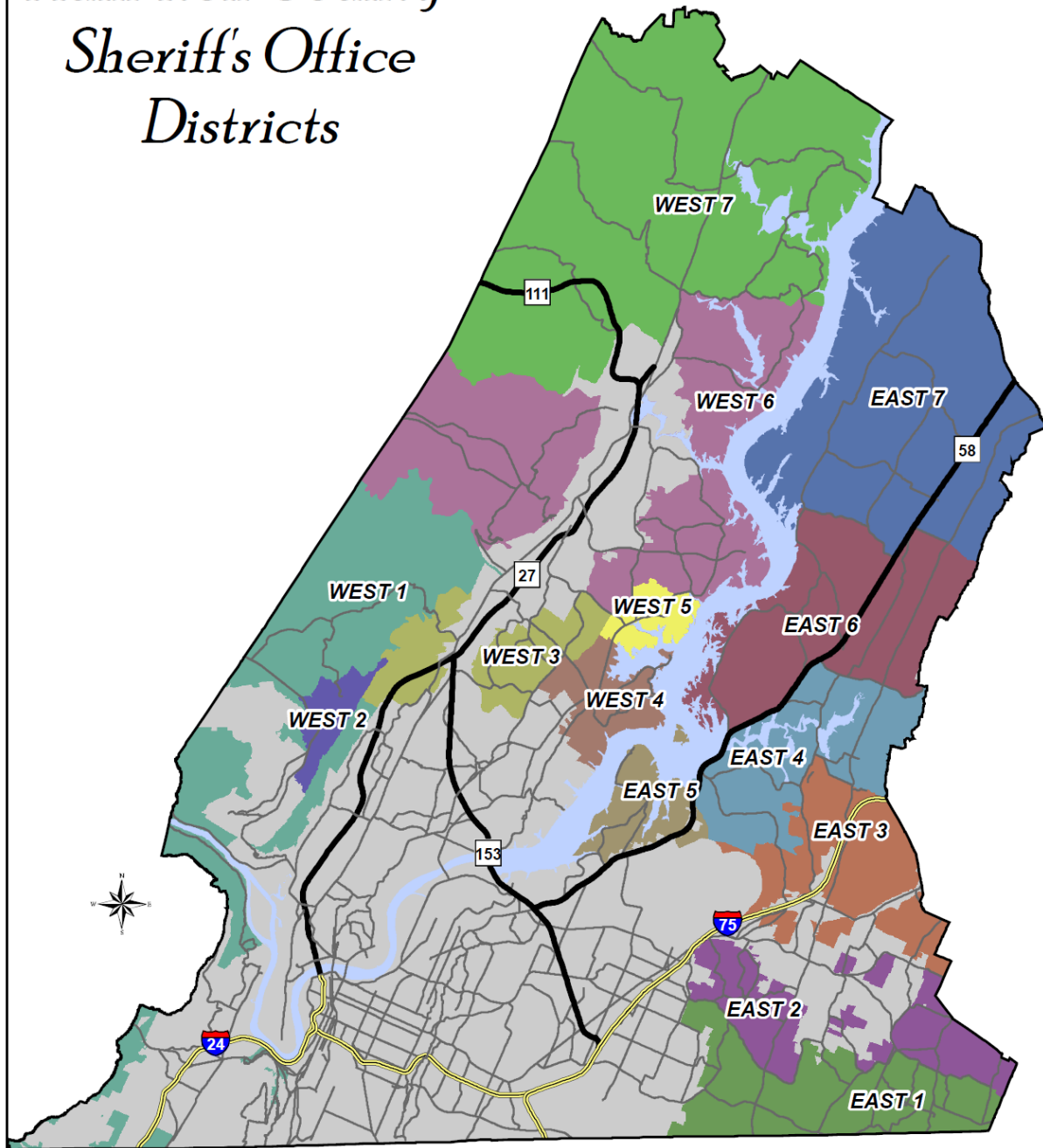
Crime by Jurisdictional Area

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office primary service areas are divided up into 14 unique districts and divided by the Tennessee River as illustrated in district map below. The following is a statistical breakdown of specific crimes by District. The (14) districts are as follows;

District	Description	District	Description
East-1	East Brainerd/Apison	West-1	Unc. Signal Mt./Tiftonia
East-2	Ooltewah/Apison	West-2	City of Walden
East-3	N. Harrison/Ooltewah	West-3	West Middle Valley
East-4	Harrison/Ooltewah	West-4	East Middle Valley
East-5	S. Harrison	West-5	City of Lakesite
East-6	Harrison Birchwood	West-6	Mowbray/Bakewell
East-7	Birchwood	West-7	Sale Creek

Uniformed Services - Patrol

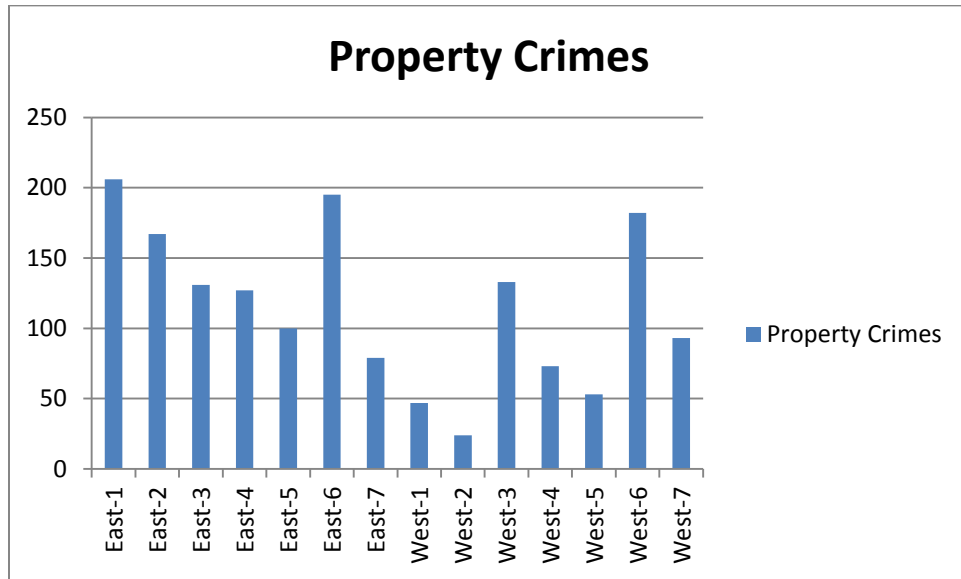
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Districts



12/8/2015

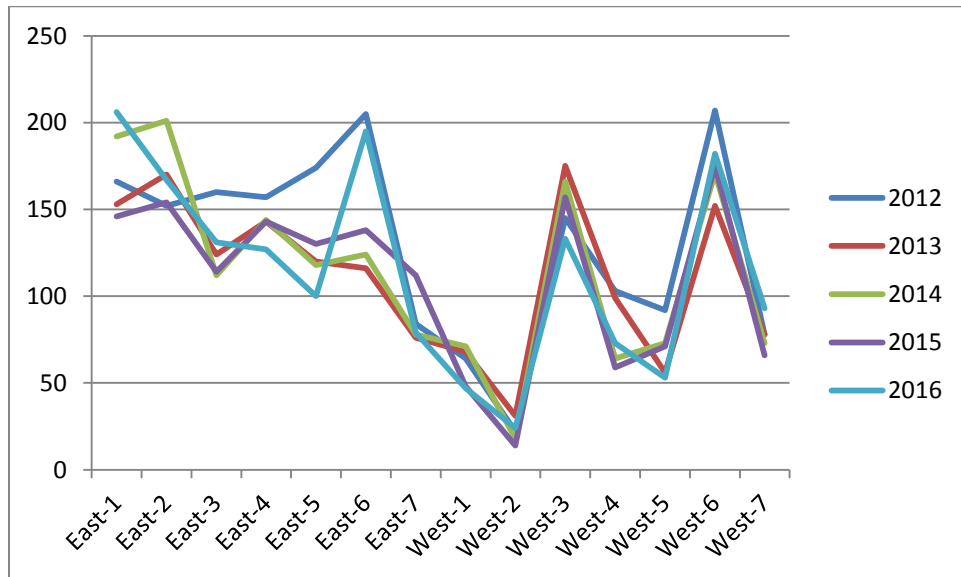
HCGIS

2016 Property Crimes by District



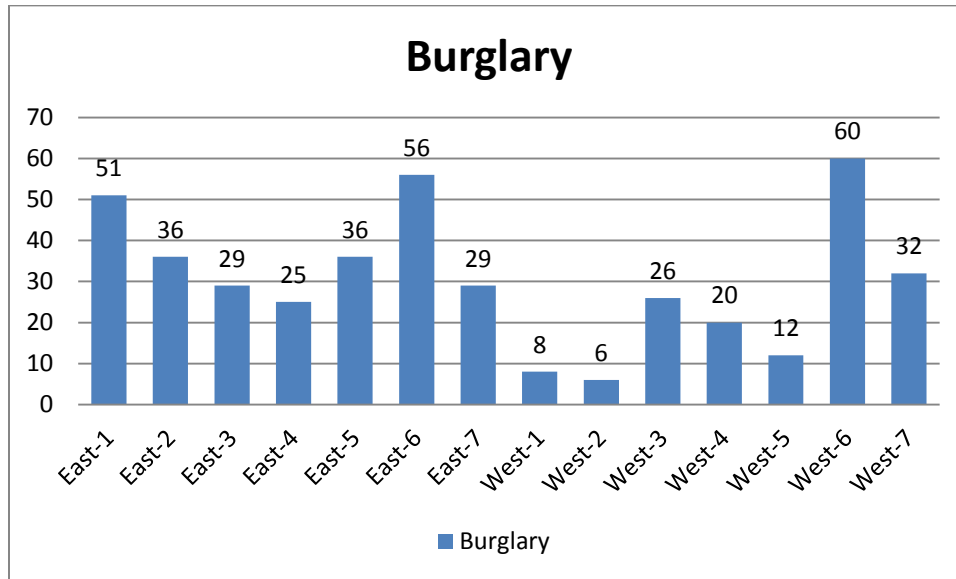
*Does not include Fraud

Property Crimes (5 year Analysis by District)



*Does not include Fraud

2016 Burglaries by District



Fraud

Fraud Offenses—(Except Counterfeiting/Forgery and Bad Checks) the intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person, or other entity, in reliance upon it to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.

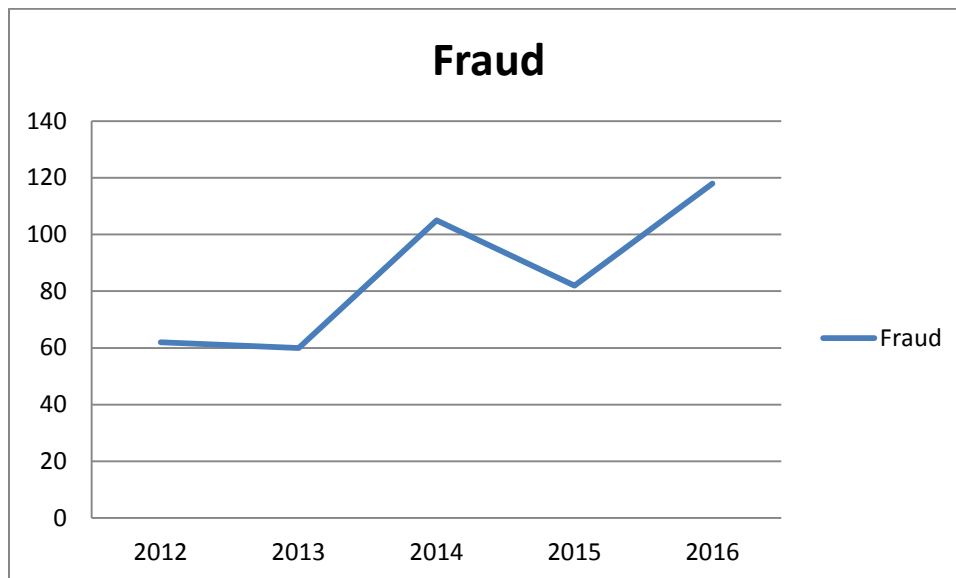
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game—the intentional misrepresentation of existing fact or condition, or the use of some other deceptive scheme or device, to obtain money, goods, or other things of value.

Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud—the unlawful use of a credit (or debit) card or automated teller machine for fraudulent purposes.

Impersonation—Falsely representing one's identity or position, and acting in the character or position thus unlawfully assumed, to deceive others and thereby gain a profit or advantage, enjoy some right or privilege, or subject another person or entity to an expense, charge, or liability which would not have otherwise been incurred.

Welfare Fraud—the use of deceitful statements, practices, or devices to unlawfully obtain welfare benefits.

Wire Fraud—the use of an electric or electronic communications facility to intentionally transmit a false and/or deceptive message in furtherance of a fraudulent activity.



Protect Yourself Against Crime

Be aware of your surroundings. Try to avoid walking alone after dark. If you must walk alone at night, use well-lit roads with as much car traffic as possible. Keep an arm's length away from strangers and make eye contact with everyone you pass. If you think someone suspicious is approaching or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place. Avoid walking with headphones on, as you may not be able to hear someone approach. Know which stores and other public places are open along your route and try to

vary your route frequently. When parking at night, try to park in well-lit spots. When returning to your car, have your keys ready, and keep your doors locked when driving. At night, avoid public parks, vacant lots, and areas with excessive trees and bushes. Try to avoid using ATMs late at night. Don't carry your purse loosely around your shoulder. Clutch it tightly under your arm or avoid carrying a purse and keep a wallet in your pocket instead. If you are robbed, obey the robber's demands. Keeping your cash in a separate money clip or pouch will allow you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards,



identification, and personal papers. Try to memorize your robber's physical features, clothing, motor vehicle, and direction of flight. Call the police from the nearest available telephone.

Know the full name of each person you date, his/her occupation, and where she/he lives. Never invite a person whom you have met online, on the street, in a bar, or in another public place to be alone with you, if have been abused by, or are in fear of, your partner or spouse, get help. The problem usually

becomes worse if it is not addressed. Report assault when it happens, even if you do not believe it to be "serious." Assaults that are not reported cannot be considered by police administrators when they make decisions about how to allocate manpower and funds. If there is a problem with a bar, a household, a school, or any other place where assaults are likely to happen, the police need to know about it. Do not allow yourself to be drawn into arguments about traffic or parking incidents. If another driver commits a violation or threatens you, take down his registration and report it to the police.

Preventing Auto Theft and Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

Always take your keys and lock your car. Park in well-lit areas or in attended lots. If you park in an attended lot, leave only the ignition/door key. Never leave your car running, even if you will only be gone for a minute. Take valuables with you when leaving your vehicle unattended. If you cannot, at least move them to the trunk or under the seat where they will not be seen. Leaving expensive items out in the open creates an easy target, attracting thieves that may be casing the area. This is particularly important with GPS units, laptops, iPods, and cell phones. Always remove detachable GPS systems and their bases from dashboards and windshields.



Preventing Residential Burglary

Try "casing" your own home. Attempt to gain access when the doors and windows are locked and "secure." Have identification on you in case your neighbors call the police. Doors should be made from strong wood or metal and should be locked with a deadbolt. Install guards on windows that prevent them from being raised more than a few inches. If you live in an apartment building, make sure that security is enforced at the main door. Never prop open the door or let someone in behind you. When you go away, even for the evening, leave a light or two on (perhaps on a timer). Install motion sensor lights outside your home.

Preventing Larcenies from Buildings or Persons

Employees should be encouraged to question suspicious/unfamiliar people in office buildings, or to report them to the security department. Don't leave expensive personal property in health club lockers. Retail establishments should provide individual lockers, with locks, for employee property. Leaving it

behind the counter or in a “back room” is an invitation for theft. Take care of your personal property while shopping and dining. Never leave it unattended. Do not hang purses on the back of your chair, as you will not be able to see someone lift it off. Report all thefts, no matter how minor, to the Sheriff’s Office. Reporting will allow us to identify and attack patterns and series of crime.

Preventing Package Thefts

Request the delivery of package(s) via a signature to ensure the package will not be left on the front steps or foyer. Track your packages online, so you have a better idea of when they are scheduled to arrive. When the Postal Service delivers packages seven days a week during the holidays, request that your packages arrive on a weekend day, if you plan on being home. Have your packages delivered to your work address or to a neighbor or family member who is home, in the event that you are not.

Preventing Fraud

Keep your credit card numbers and the telephone numbers of your credit card companies at home and work. If your cards are stolen, call these numbers immediately and report the theft.



Never write your ATM card PIN number on the card or on a slip of paper in your wallet or purse. Do not give personal information over the phone, and be cautious when sending personal identifying information over the internet. When someone comes to your door claiming to work for a utility company, always ask for official identification and call the company to make sure it is valid. Do not let “utility impostors” into your home. Learn to recognize potential fraud scenarios. Any of the following activities could

involve a scam: Someone approaches you on the street claiming to have found money. Any circumstance in which you have to pay money in order to get money or a prize. You receive an unsolicited telephone call from someone offering a great deal on a piece of merchandise.