



# LAKELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Neighborhood Services Bureau

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TO: CHIEF OF POLICE ROGER BOATNER

FROM: ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE BILL LEPERE, CO/NSB

DATE: JANUARY 30, 2009

SUBJ: 2008 UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

I am pleased to provide you with the Lakeland Police Department's 2008 Uniform Crime Report (UCR). This report has undergone a stringent audit by Sgt. Terri Smith, SUPV/Crime Analysis, before its submission to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

A careful and objective analysis of the report's data is vital to understand crime trends in our community. The intent of this memo is to provide you with that analysis and highlight key points for specific crime categories.

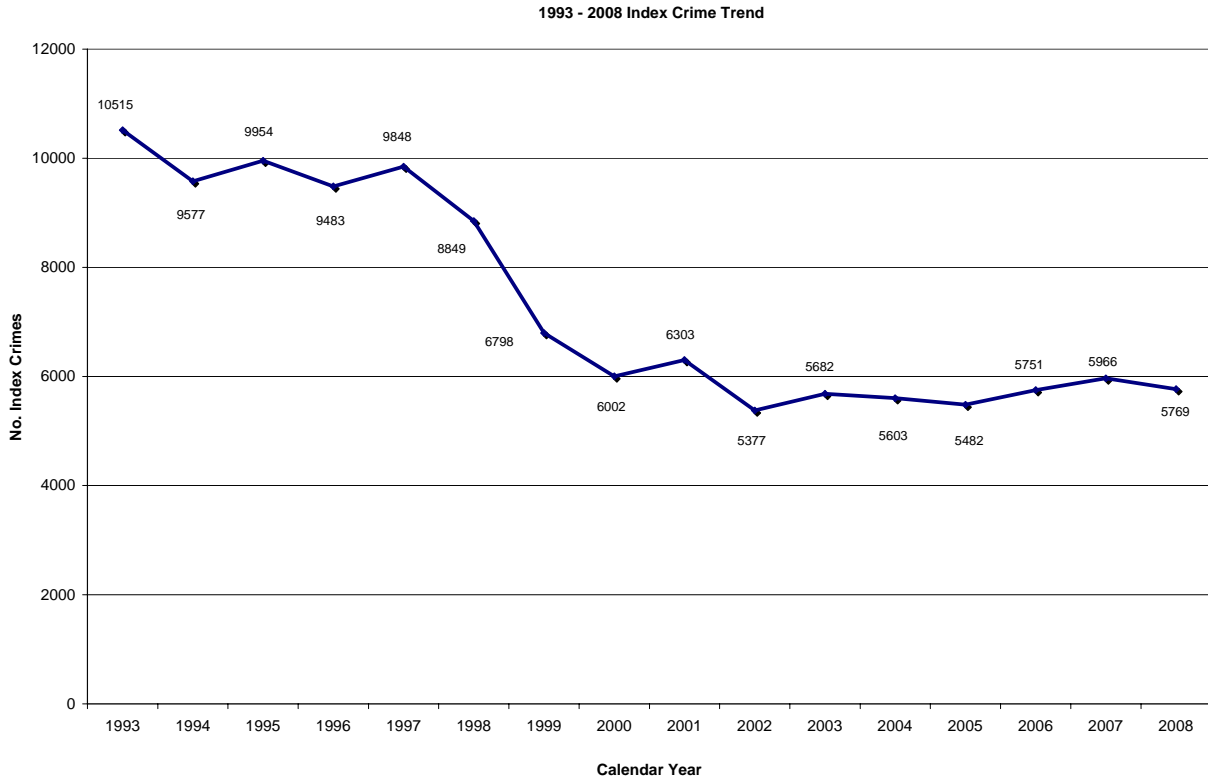
It is important to note two phrases that are often used interchangeably when discussing UCR, but they do not measure the same thing. "Crime index" refers to an actual count of Part I crimes. "Crime rate" refers to a rate or ratio of Part I crimes to a given population count. Using a crime rate in theory allows a reader to compare various jurisdictions on a more equal basis because the performance metric is based on population.

Larger communities tend to have a higher crime index than smaller communities, so comparing index figures is meaningless. What does have value is the crime rate where crime figures are balanced to a standard population count. The FBI calculates crime rates as the number of crimes per 100,000 population. This produces a very high number for the actual rate. It is perhaps more easily understood when the rate is calculated per 100 population. For instance, people can grasp the concept of 5 victims per 100 residents easier than 5000 victims per 100,000 residents. We calculate our crime rate in four manners to give a broad picture of crime in our community; per 100,000, per 10,000, per 1,000, and per 100.

The following points are summaries from the analysis of the 2008 UCR:

- The overall crime index for all Part I crimes fell by 3.3% in 2008. Total index crime went from 5966 in 2007 to 5769 last year (197 fewer crimes reported).

- The long-term trend shows total Part I crime decreased 45% since 1993 as illustrated in the chart below.



- The overall crime rate for 2008 was 6.17 offenses per 100 residents compared to 6.39 in 2007 and 6.27 in 2006.

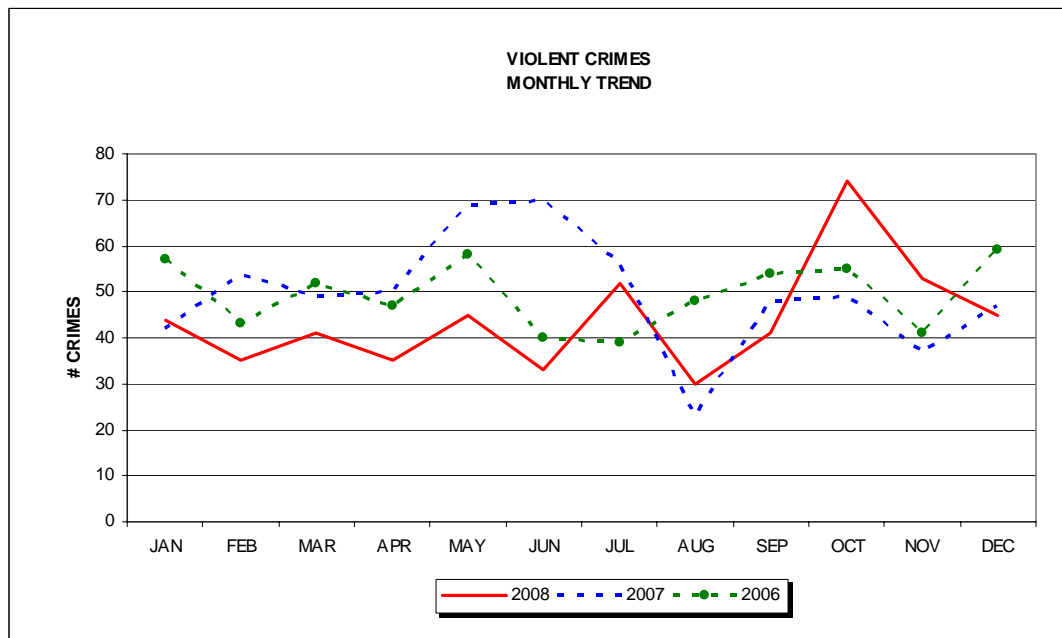
***Crime Rate as Ratio Adjusted for Population Increase***

	2006	2007	2008
Population	91,623	93,428	93,508
Per 100	6.27	6.39	6.17
Per 1,000	62.71	63.86	61.70
Per 10,000	627.14	638.57	616.95
Per 100,000	6271.35	6385.67	6169.53
Pct Change from prev year		1.8%	-3.4%

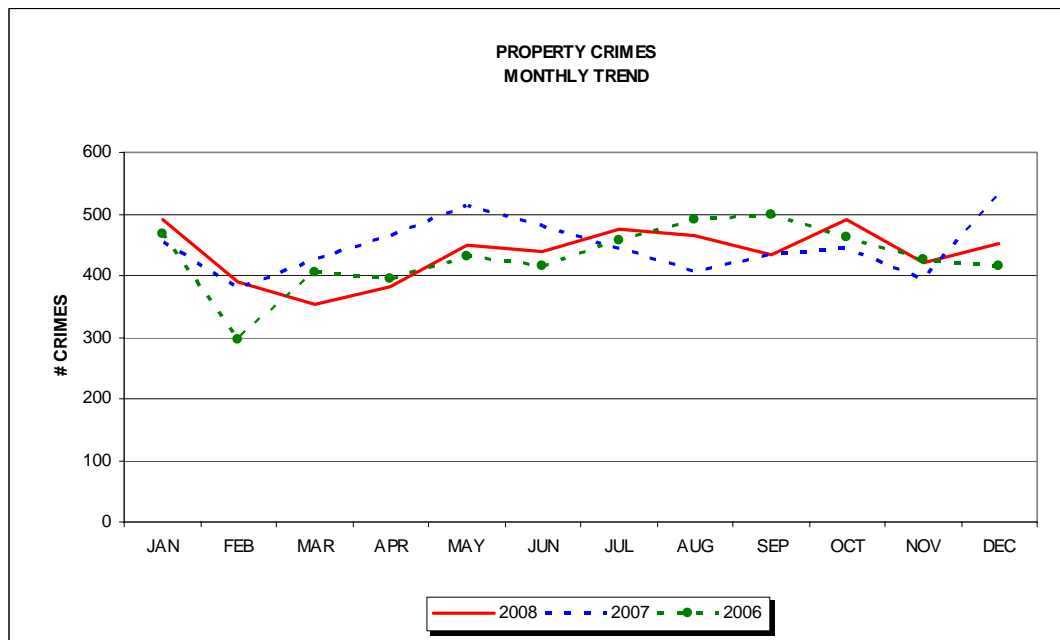
- The crime rate in 2008 for violent crime was .56 offenses per 100 residents while the property crime rate was 5.61 per 100 residents. These rates were .64 and 5.75 respectively in 2007.

VIOLENT CRIMES			PROPERTY CRIMES		
2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
91,623	93,428	93,508	91,623	93,428	93,508
0.65	0.64	0.56	5.63	5.75	5.61
6.47	6.36	5.65	56.30	57.50	56.10
64.72	63.58	56.47	562.96	574.99	561.02
647.22	635.78	564.66	5629.59	5749.88	5610.22
	-1.8%	-11.2%		2.1%	-2.4%

- Lakeland's population figure used to calculate crime rates was 93,508 according to the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR).
- Total violent crime index decreased by 11.1% in 2008.
  - Homicides increased to 10 in 2008 compared to 6 in 2007.
  - Aggravated assaults had the biggest decline of any crime category with a 21.9% reduction.
  - Robberies declined by 1% and Forcible Sex offenses fell by 1.2%
  - Monthly analysis shows increased activity in the fall during 2008.



- Total property crime fell by 2.3% in 2008, from 5372 cases to 5246 (126 fewer crimes). This is an interesting fact due to the economic challenges we face today and the common linkage between higher crime rates and economic downturns.
  - o Burglaries to homes and businesses fell by 5.9%.
  - o Larcenies, including burglaries to motor vehicles, fell by 2%.
    - Burglaries to motor vehicles remained relatively unchanged (910 in 2007 and 914 in 2008).
  - o Auto theft increased by 5.6%.



- Crime clearances count how many offenses are "cleared" either by the arrest of an offender or by an exceptional clearance wherein an offender could be arrested based on the evidence but cannot for whatever reason, such as filing complaint affidavits when the offender cannot be located, death of a suspect, inability to extradite, etc.
  - o Total violent crime clearances were 33.7%, meaning we cleared approximately 1 in 3 violent crimes. The national average for jurisdictions our size was 44.3%.
  - o The previously noted increase in homicides was also accompanied by an 80% clearance rate compared to the national average of 60%.
  - o Total property crime clearances were 14.7%. The national average for jurisdictions our size was 18.1%

- While total violent crime had an overall decrease last year, we saw a higher incidence of some gun-related crimes in the community.
  - o There were a total of 180 violent crime offenses with a firearm in 2008 compared to 165 in 2007 for a 9% rise in the gun violence index. Youthful offenders now appear to be more prone to engage in gunfire than in previous years.
    - In 2007, 28.3% of aggravated assaults involved a firearm. That figure increased to 33% in 2008.
  - o Street robberies decreased from 138 in 2007 to 129 in 2008 (down 6.52%); however, the use of a firearm in these offenses increased from 43 to 51 (up 18.6%).
    - Explained in another way, guns were used in 31% of street robberies in 2007 and in 39.5% in 2008.
- We experienced a problem earlier in the year with thefts of metal (copper wiring and pipes, catalytic converters, etc.) due in large part to the high scrap value of these metals. These thefts decreased when the price of scrap metal fell later in the year.