

Walterboro Public Safety

Crime and Police Activity Report

2011

About the Report

Each year, law enforcement agencies are required to report criminal offenses to the FBI within their jurisdiction, according to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines. Within these there are two sections:

- (1) Violent Crime, which consists of Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault, and
- (2) Property Crime, which consists of Burglary, Larceny Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft (FBI list arson but not does include it in the totals for property crime).

The following report consists of a brief description of current and historic trends followed by programs and activities undertaken by law enforcement in addressing the problems. Raw data is available at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr>.

All projected data is based upon total reported crimes in 2011, however these numbers may vary somewhat from the FBI reports as their criteria for reportable crimes may vary from the City's. When the FBI releases its 2011 data this report will be updated to reflect their published data.

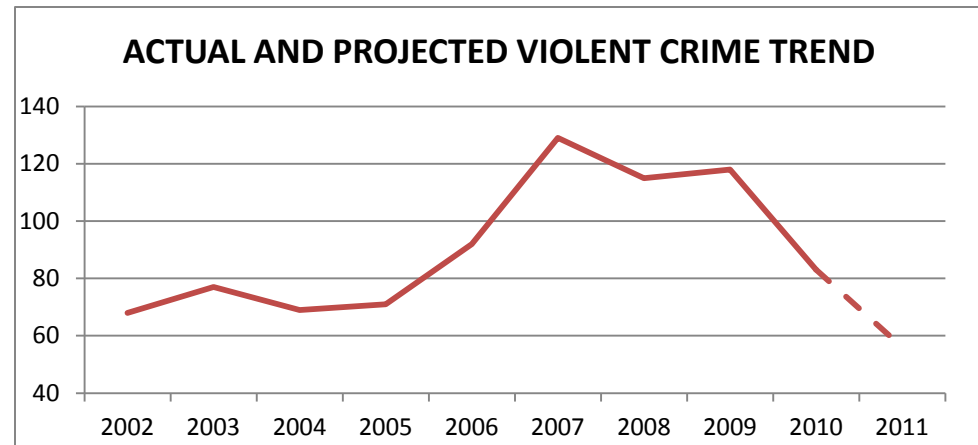
Executive Summary

Trend Analysis

Violent crime was relatively stable in the city for the first few years of the last decade with the number of reported incidents hovering between 68 and 77 for years 2002-2005. While violent crime began to climb in 2006 (30% increase over 2005), Walterboro actually reached its peak in violent crime in 2007 (another 40% increase over 2006).

Recognizing the significant increase from the prior years, the Public Safety Department began a community policing initiative in 2008. Community policing has officers engage the community at multiple levels to establish relationships and gain trust. This fosters the willingness of citizens to provided information both before and after a crime occurs.

The impact of this initiative was immediately but temporarily felt. By the end of 2008, violent crime dropped

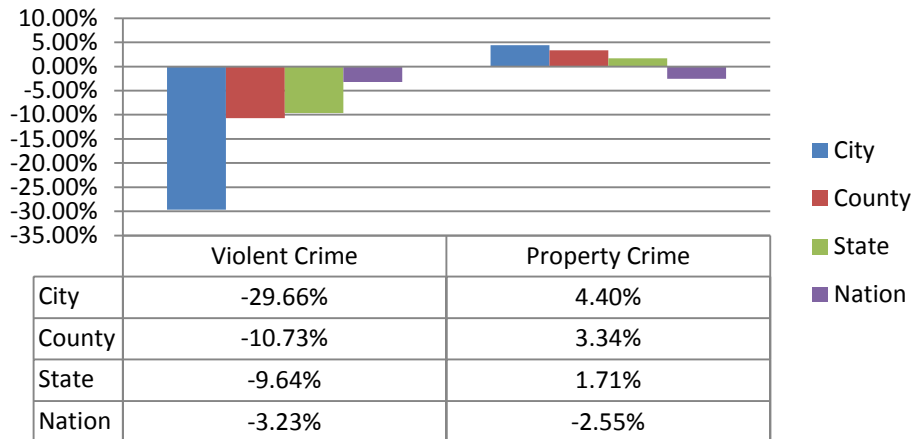


nearly 11% but rebounded 2.6% in 2009. In 2009 a wave of retaliatory violence occurred that was capped by the triple homicide late that year.

In response, City Council initiated several programs which came to be known as the “10 Point Plan”, a plan that built upon the community policing philosophy, engaged other agencies, and partnered with other levels of government. Violent crime dropped 30% (83 reported incidents) last year as a result of these efforts and it is projected to drop another 30% again this year as there have been 56 through the end of the year. During this same time there have been less significant reductions at the county, state, and national level.

**“Violent crime dropped 30% ...
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Percent Change 2009 to 2010



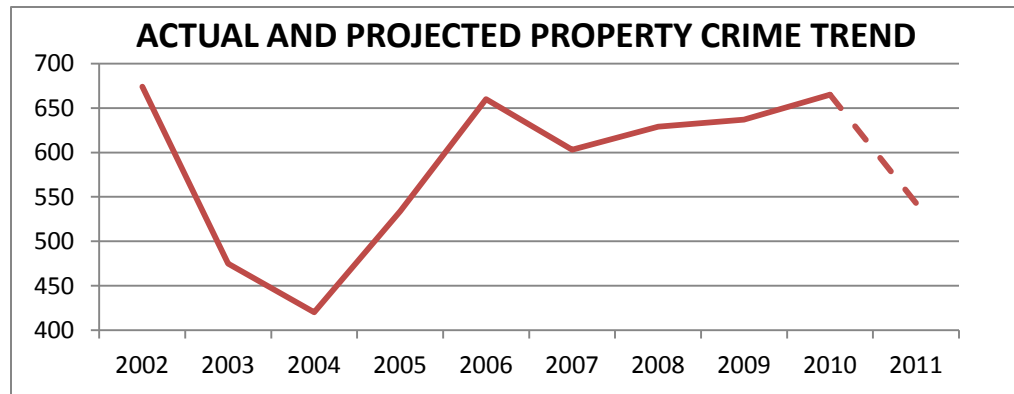
Property crime has seen a similar but slower and less significant response most likely due to the focus given to violent crimes. While property crimes remain fairly constant from 2006-2010 (between 603 and 665) there are signs of improvement within the city with 543 reported in 2011, but it appears to continue to be on the rise regionally.

New programs like predictive patrolling, which uses data analysis to shift patrol resources to have the best coverage where a crime is most likely to occur, and the creation of a Street Crimes Unit, which serves as both a strategic reserve and an

investigatory unit, appear to have had a positive impact on property crimes. In addition, successes in drug enforcement have had an ancillary benefit because many larcenies and burglaries are committed to sustain a drug habit.

Larcenies continue to be the most common thus most predictive measure of the property crime trends and while there was a measurable decrease in 2010 (10%) there was an increase in reported burglaries which resulted in 4% increase in property crime. In 2011 the city

has not experienced the same level of burglaries as 2010 and larcenies continue to fall. The combination of these two measures could lead the city to the lowest property crime rate since 2005.



AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

Trend Analysis

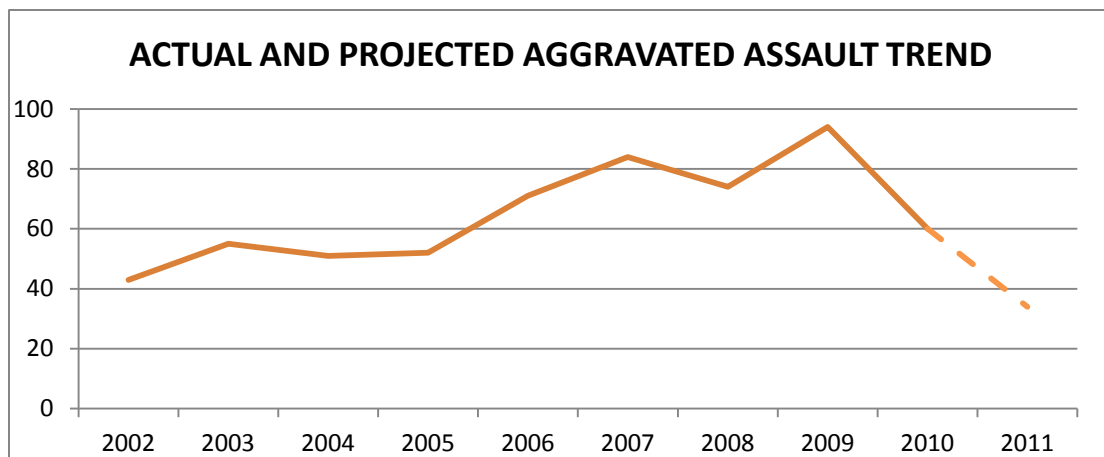
In 2009, 94 assaults occurred. This was during the time when the triple homicide occurred and we were dealing with reciprocal violence. Sixty (60) assaults occurred in 2010, a 36% reduction primarily due to aggressive enforcement, community involvement and several key arrests. In 2011, 34 aggravated assaults have occurred which indicates a better than 40% reduction is possible for 2011.

“36% reduction [of Aggravated Assaults] in 2010 ... primarily due to aggressive enforcement, community involvement and several key arrests”

Current Activities

We consulted with other agencies and started using problem-solving kits. For example, if an area is very dark, we install and/or repair street lights (e.g., Gerideau Street). In addition, Gang members are identified and recorded through the state (Gang.net) which enhances penalties for being in a gang. We are also performing club checks and standing by until the clubs are closed and everyone has left the property and we have met with property owners and businesses to stop allowing loitering.

Effective communication with the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office, as well as assisting when they are dealing with investigative support issues; meeting with the judge during bond hearings to insure that the bond for suspects are set appropriately; meetings with the Solicitor’s Office to insure that the cases are complete and ready to be



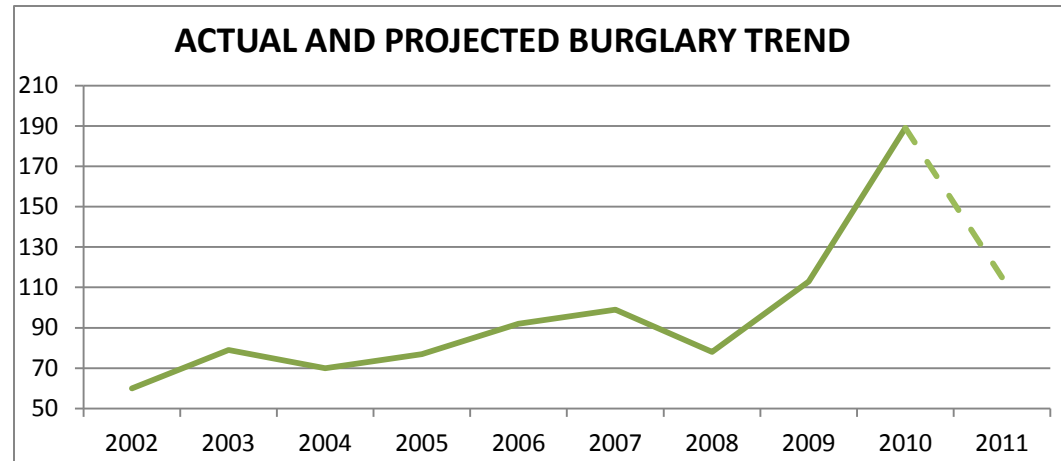
prosecuted in a timely manner, have been successful strategies. Also, we follow up with victims and suspects to diffuse any situations that may lead to revenge by identifying and monitoring known criminal suspects and the areas which they frequent through patrols and other investigative techniques.

BURGLARY

Trend Analysis

In 2009, 113 burglaries occurred. In 2010, there were 189 burglaries. In 2011, 115 burglaries have occurred, which indicates to a 39% reduction. The burglaries in the first few months of 2010 were due to a juvenile offender who was responsible for many of the burglaries that occurred around the Hampton Street area. He was caught in the act and is now serving a three-year prison term. Even with this significant reduction, the rate of burglaries remains above seven of the past nine years.

“... 115 burglaries have occurred [in 2011], which indicates a 39% reduction.”



Current Activities

Neighborhood watch groups were started in several areas. We created a Street Crimes Unit where patterns are recognized and the unit has the flexibility to react appropriately. There may be certain locations, times or other factors which appear to indicate the need for increased presence or surveillance. We also advise homeowners that when they are away from home for any period of time, they should utilize security checks wherein they provide headquarters the dates and times when they are going to be away and officers will periodically check the home. We have been advertising these services by using print and radio

media and through individual contact. Further, we have been doing field interviews, which helps deter someone from breaking into a home or business because they have been identified.

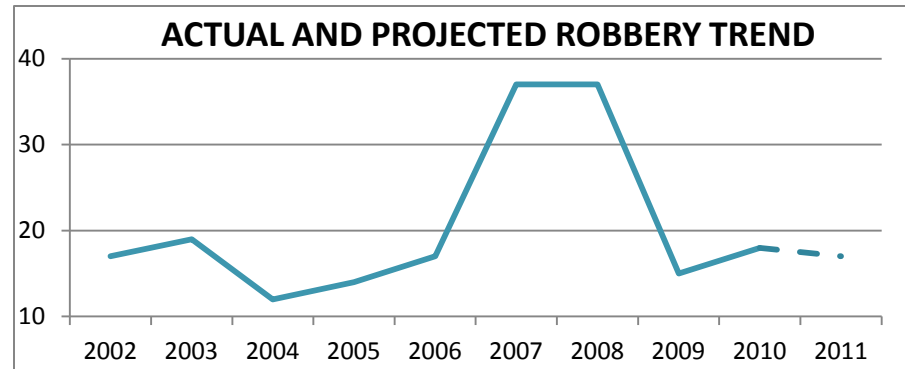
ROBBERY

Trend Analysis

In 2009, 15 robberies occurred. In 2010, there was a slight increase to 18 robberies and in 2011, we had 17 robberies. In 2007 and 2008, robberies were as high as 37 incidents. Many of these robberies occurred at the hotels near the interstate where the night clerks were not using the night window, leaving doors unsecured, or were sleeping.

Current Activities

Officers met with hotel managers and asked them to start using the night windows and officers started checking doors and making sure it was being done. This had an immediate and identifiable effect on hotel robberies. Staff will continue to evaluate and educate businesses and persons on how to not become a victim, through the community policing officer, community contacts and utilizing the Street Crimes

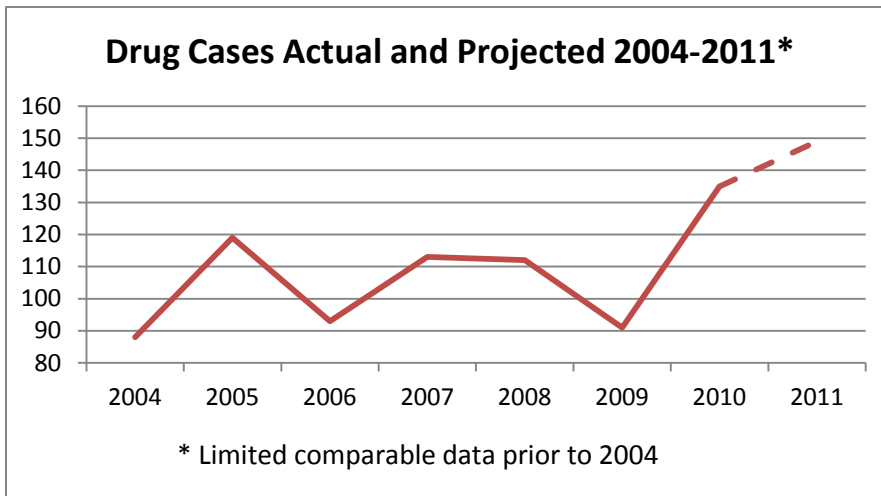


Unit when a trend is recognized. Investigators review locations (businesses) and identify things that can be done to prevent robberies when one occurs, helping the business owners understand that officers need to be able to see through the windows so they may recognize potential problems. Officers are also available to do bank and vehicle escorts, day and night.

DRUGS

Trend Analysis

In 2009, there were 91 drug cases made. In 2010, there were 135 drug cases were made; an increase of 44 cases. This increase is primarily due to the focus on drug crimes as, unlike other crimes, drug cases tend to be initiated by the agency due to proactive investigations. In 2011, 149 drug cases have been made to date, demonstrating the increasing effort.



Current Activities

In April 2010, a Drug Suppression Team was established, made up of two officers. This team was made possible by a JAG grant which outfitted the team with vehicles, equipment, and salaries for two years. In the past, officers would make a traffic stop or arrest and the suspect would go to jail and any intelligence gathered may have only been used for that specific charge.

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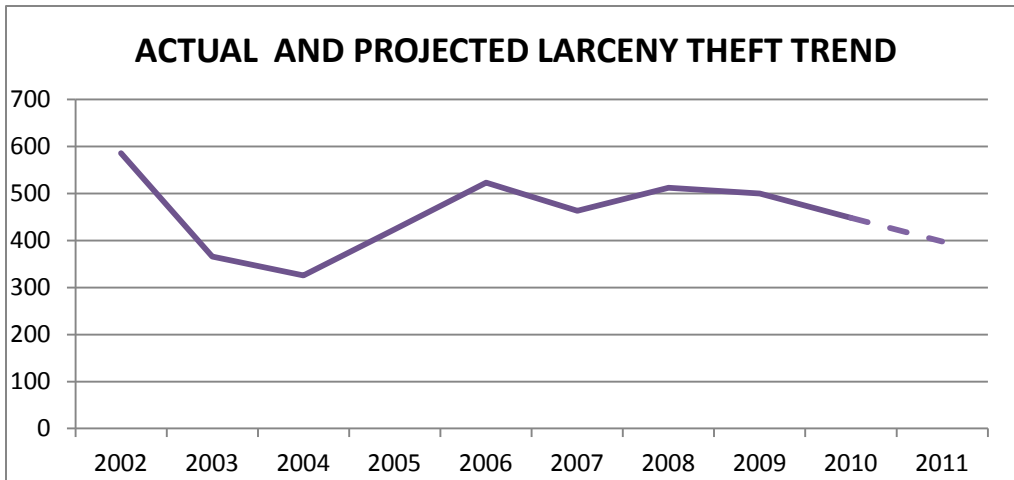
Now, officers are able to pass that information on to the team. In some cases, meth labs were found, search warrants were executed, numerous stolen guns were recovered, and several corrupt employees at drug stores were identified and arrested. We believe that 85% of the crime we deal with leads back to the use of drugs and the sale of drugs. If we identify and apprehend both users and dealers, the quality of life will improve.

LARCENIES

Trend Analysis

In 2009, there were 500 thefts. In 2010, it dropped by about 10% to 448 thefts. Through 2011, there were 398 thefts. At this rate we may see another 10% or better decrease. The increase from 2005 to 2009 shows how with the economy being down, thefts are expected to increase. The decrease over the past two years appears to buck that trend.

Another contributing factor may be inflated metal costs. First, it was the catalytic converters and copper wire; then it turned to anything metal, old cars, scrap metal and even man-hole covers.



Current Activities

Due to the Community Contacts and Community Policing approach, Officers have educated the community on how not to become a victim and reduced the potential for crimes, which is why we believe that thefts have not risen as dramatically here as they have elsewhere. Re-instituting the field interview program, where officers stop individuals walking the streets and identify them, has also played a key role in reducing crime. This tactic prevents an immeasurable amount of thefts and burglaries. New laws that restrict the sale of non-ferrous metals may also help.

PROGRAMS THAT WALTERBORO PUBLIC SAFETY USES TO HELP FIGHT CRIME

DMV ONLINE: DMV ONLINE is helpful in many ways. When the road patrol is out on traffic stops and a suspect gives them a name and date of birth, officers can then refer to DMV ONLINE from their in car computer to confirm the suspect is/is not who they say they are. From an investigation standpoint, while investigating a case, officers may get the name of a possible suspect. They can then pull up his/her picture for recognition in order to verify who they are looking for when they go out into the field. This is a very helpful tool in identifying suspects or even victims and most of the time provides an accurate address for the subjects.

BUSINESS CHECKS: Officers check businesses at night. With more patrols at night coming and going, this gives night clerks a sense of security due to more officer presence. Officers also escort individuals to the bank and their vehicles.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS: This was started in late 2008. This is a program wherein officers contact citizens at their residence, introduce themselves, and ask if there are any problems in the community or if there is any way we can better serve. If there are concerns, it is followed up on through the

proper channels. Each officer makes at least one contact per day. This is also an opportunity for the officer to learn more about the community and its citizens.

FIELD INTERVIEWS: Field interviews were initiated in 2009 to identify people walking or riding bicycles in high crime areas or areas where problems have been identified. This program gives officers the opportunity to interact with citizens. Officers have made several arrests, such as unlawful possession of a firearm and drug arrests and also deter crime.

MENTORING PROGRAM: The Mentoring Program was started by the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2009. At present, Walterboro Public Safety has three officers who are certified. Each officer is assigned a juvenile whom they are currently mentoring. Additionally, officers have been reading to kids at Black Street Elementary, Hendersonville Elementary, Northside Elementary, Campus A, Edgewood Baptist, Colleton County High School, along with participating in various activities at local churches.

GANGNET: Gangnet is a computer based program initiated and maintained by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Gangnet allows officers to gather intelligence on gang members, so the information can be shared statewide. By being able to share this information, officers are able to achieve stiffer punishments for career criminals when they commit crimes in other jurisdictions. This program was successfully used in the apprehension of several members of the group that was directly responsible for the murders of three citizens of Walterboro. With the continued support of the State Law Enforcement Division, much success from this program should be seen in local law enforcement.