



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Annual Report on Crime and
Crime Control in the COG Region
2002-2003**



2002-2003 Crime Report Contents

- Complete Report Consists of:
 - Police Chief Committee Member List
 - Police Subcommittee Chairs
 - Impact of Incident Based Reporting
 - Executive Summary
 - Part I Offenses 2002-2003 in Review
 - Data Tables

Impact of Incident Based Reporting

- Law enforcement agencies use one of two methods to collect their data:
 - Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
 - National Incident Bases Reporting System

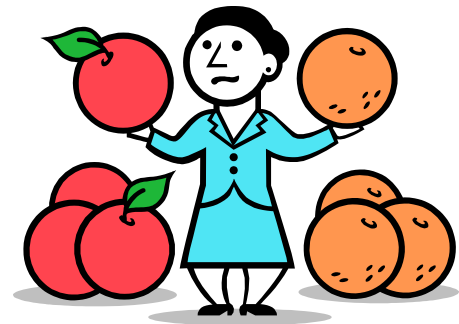
Impact of Incident Based Reporting

Utilization of two different reporting systems is similar to comparing...

Apples

to

Oranges



COG Member Jurisdictions Using UCR or NIBRS*

UCR

- Bowie
- College Park
- DC
- Fairfax County
- Falls Church
- FrederickCounty
- Gaithersburg
- Greenbelt
- Montgomery County
- Prince Georges County
- Prince William County
- Rockville
- Takoma Park

NIBRS

- Alexandria
- Arlington
- City of Fairfax
- Fauquier County
- Loudoun County
- City of Manassas

Impact of Incident Based Reporting

- In summary, the crime statistics reported in this document have value to law enforcement agencies, government officials, and members of the public within the parameters that they are presented.
- Comparisons of data reported by agencies utilizing UCR with similar data reported by agencies utilizing NIBRS should be viewed in the proper context.

Executive Summary: Where We Stand-Crime in the Region

- Part I crime in the Metropolitan Washington region *increased* by 1.6% from 2001 to 2002 and *decreased* in 2003 by 5.6%.
- Nationally, Part I offenses were virtually unchanged during both years; increasing less than 0.1% from 2001 to 2002 and decreasing 0.5% in 2003.

Part I Offenses 2002-2003 in Review

Violent Crime

- Violent Crime consists of Homicide, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. These “Crimes Against People” were up 1.4% in the Metropolitan Washington area in 2002.
- Nationally, Violent Crime increased only slightly, by .85%. In 2003 violent crime decreased by 3.6% in the Metropolitan region and decreased similarly by 3.2% in the nation.

Part I Offenses 2002-2003 in Review

- Crimes Against Property (Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft), were up 1.7% in 2002 with 157,342 reported offenses. In 2003 property crimes were down 5.9%.
- Nationally, property crimes remained relatively steady over 2002 and 2003, with an increase of only 0.1% in 2002 to followed by a decreased of the same percentage in 2003.

Part I Offenses 2002-2003 in Review

Motor Vehicle Theft:

- Motor Vehicle Thefts increased by 16.1% in the COG region in 2002, following a 24.1% increase in 2001.
- There appeared to be a leveling off in 2003, with Motor Vehicle Thefts rising only 1.5% across the region.
- Nationally, Motor Vehicle Thefts increased by 1.4% in both 2002 and 2003

Conclusion

While reading the 2002-2003 Crime Report, it is recommended that comparisons not be made from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. There may indeed be legitimate patterns of certain types of crimes in our region. Our hope is that this report may spark the beginning of true dialogue and thorough analysis in how to reduce crime throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Current Activities/Issues Under Direction of or Identified by the COG Police Chiefs

- **RESF 13 UASI Funding (Homeland Security)**
- **Regional Data Sharing Initiative Assessment**
- **Plain Language & Standardized Codes Resolution**
- **Vehicle Theft Initiative (Follow Up to Executive Summit)**
- **Teen Driving Initiative (To Be Developed)**
- **Gangs (Follow Up to Regional Gang Summit)**
- **Red Light and Speed Camera Enforcement**