

NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

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FROM WWW.PUBDEF.NET

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Department Releases 2005 Crime Statistics

Overall Crime Down 21.7 Percent Since 1995

The Metropolitan Police Department released crime statistics for 2005, and the City continues its 10 year decrease in overall crime with crime down by 21.7 percent since 1995. The City recorded 60,505 crimes in 1995 and 47,706 crimes in 2005.

The City continued to see a decrease in vehicle theft, dropping more than eight percent from 2004, which was already down 25.5 percent from 2003. The steady decrease signals that the Department and the community are making significant strides in reducing auto theft. "I believe with the help of the Circuit Attorney's Office and the Juvenile Courts the message has become crystal clear to auto thieves, that you will be caught and you will be prosecuted," said Chief Joseph Mokwa.

However, the City did see a 1.7 percent increase in overall crime compared to 2004 crime statistics, including 131 homicides verses 114 in 2004. While the increase appears high, Chief Mokwa cautions that the numbers need to be viewed in context. "While there was an increase of 15 percent from 2004, the City's homicide rate is still at one of its lowest rates for the past 10 years," added Mokwa. In 1995, the City recorded 204 homicides, and the City has averaged 106 homicides for the last three years.

In 2005, the Department recorded 276 Part I Rapes verses 171 in 2004. "The increase is twofold. First, it is a direct result of the implementation of new technology and a modification of the way we code and report rapes," said Mokwa. In previous years, some rapes had been classified as other sex offenses even though the punishment for these crimes was the same. "Secondly, this year we received 60 reports from women who reported being raped in years prior to 2005. This could be a direct result of the increased media attention on this important issue as well as women's confidence in our commitment to investigate these crimes." The combined number of rapes and sexual assaults reported in 2005 was down 22 percent.

<<< Not clear where this statistic comes from.

The City also saw increases in the categories of Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Burglary, while Larceny and Arson were both down slightly.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS
PART ONE CRIME COMPARISON BASED ON UCR REPORTING
2004 VS. 2005

	2004	2005	Percentage Change
Homicide	114	131	14.9 %
Rape	171	276	61.4%
Robbery	2632	2965	12.7%
Aggravated Assault	4041	4,949	22.5%
Total Person Crime	6958	8321	19.6%
Burglary	6300	7213	14.5%
Larceny	23569	22857	-3.0%
Vehicle Theft	8913	8146	-8.6%
Arson	493	490	-0.6%
Total Property Crime	39,275	38706	-1.4%
Total Crime	46, 233	47,027	1.7%

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From PUBDEF.net: According to statistics released today by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, violent crime in the city increased nearly 20% since last year. Coincidentally, that nearly matches the proposed raise in pay for the city's top cop.

Reports of rape shot up an astounding 61.4% since 2004 (though department officials claim that number is misleading). The numbers of murders were up 14.9%, robbery up 12.7%, and aggravated assault up 22.5%.

It was reported two weeks ago that the St. Louis Police board (whose members are appointed by the governor) had proposed a change in how officers are paid. The change would give Chief Joe Mokwa a 21% raise.