

CITY OF HENDERSON

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Preliminary 2004 Annual Report

Credit for gathering and posting this data goes to Capt. C.R. Crumpler and Lt. P.L. Twisdale of the Henderson PD Administrative Services Division, and to the members of the Police Department's Records Division. Although this data accurately reflects all categories, an exact analysis and report cannot be issued until UCR statistics are verified by the State and subsequently are released in its annual summary report, which is not scheduled until mid-year 2005. Therefore, this report is termed "preliminary". This Preliminary 2004 Annual Report will be published on the Henderson Police Department's Internet web site and made available to the public.

Glen B. Allen, Chief of Police

February 21, 2005

Henderson Police Department

Synopsis

The following is the Henderson Police Department's preliminary annual report on Part I (Index) Crimes. The data analyzed for this summary covers the period from January 1 through December 31, 2004.

During the year 2004, the Henderson Police Department received 1,776 reports of Part I (Index*) Offenses, a **decrease of 23.2 %** from the 2,312 offenses in 2003.

The number of **Property Index Offenses in 2004 decreased by 22.8%** from the number reported in 2003. **Violent Crime decreased by 26.3%**, due primarily to the 42.9% reduction in the number of victims of Aggravated Assaults. Henderson Police investigated four (4) homicides in 2004, and arrests have been made in **each** of these cases.

The overall decrease in Property Index offenses was realized due to a 27.9 % decrease in all larceny offenses. **Shoplifting-related thefts from retail merchants, however, increased over 27%** compared to the number of offenses in 2003, and the number of Burglary offenses reported in 2004 increased by 1.7 % (408 Burglaries reported, overall).

For an explanation of how Summary-based Uniform Crime Reporting is scored and tabulated for statistical analysis, see **Appendix A**.

Part I (Index) Crimes Henderson 2002-2004				
Crime	2002	2003	2004	'03 – '04 Change*
Murder	0	1	4	+ 3
Rape (Forcible)	9	4	3	- 1
Robbery	71	83	79	- 4.8%
Aggravated Assault	117	128	73	- 42.9 %
Violent Crime Total	197	216	159	26.3 %
Burglary	381	401	408	+ 1.7 %
Larceny	1,229	1,601	1,154	- 27.9 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	74	94	55	- 41.5%
Property Crime Total	1,684	2,096	1,617	- 22.8 %
TOTAL INDEX CRIMES	1,881	2,312	1,776	- 23.2 %

*Change shown by number of incidents (not by percentage if total is less than 100).

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Conditions that Contribute to Crime

Our community is very diverse, and Henderson's crime problems can best be understood by examining contributing factors that are unique to our area. The following facts are troublesome, but significant from an analytical perspective:

1. Our local double-digit unemployment rate consistently leads the state. Jobs are disappearing as manufacturing and textile facilities have closed down.
2. Compared to the country, the south, and NC, our community has a high poverty rate, higher even than other rural NC areas. The poverty rate is especially high for children under 17 and for single female heads of households. We have a higher percentage of single-parents (or grandparents) raising children than other parts of NC.
3. Henderson has a much larger percentage of rental properties and fewer owner-occupied homes than other areas of NC.
4. Median household income in Henderson is nearly \$8,000 per year less than the state median.
5. Teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease rates are much higher than the state average.
6. Our adult population (over age 25) has a low educational attainment level. Only 17% have college degrees and 32% are without a high school diploma or GED.
7. Henderson PD remains understaffed. Low pay and rigors of the job suppress officer recruitment. Four the past four years, the department has been authorized fewer police officer positions than were authorized over a decade ago, while our calls and demands for police services have increased every year over that span.

An assessment of our City's crime problem must begin with the understanding that different people will look at the same facts and reach very different conclusions. One can surely surmise that the crime rate is but a symptom of these and other serious social maladies.

Social, economic, and cultural problems in our city can be addressed with a comprehensive approach involving law enforcement and various community disciplines and diverse groups or organizations. Efforts to close the "achievement gap" in our schools, the emerging Vance County Coalition Against Violence, and Vance Granville Community College's outreach efforts (to name a few) offer hope for the future. These and other efforts, in coordination with local, state and federal resources, can have a positive impact upon our community and can help reduce crime in the long term.

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2004 Summary of Arrest Charges (by Offense)

Uniform Classification of Offenses	Number of Offenses Charged		
	Juveniles	Age 16 or Above	Total
MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSALUGHTER		4	4
FORCIBLE RAPE		2	2
ROBBERY	9	10	19
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1	58	59
BURGLARY	8	76	84
LARCENY-THEFT	28	316	343
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT		3	3
ARSON			
TOTAL PART I CLASSES	46	469	515
OTHER (SIMPLE) ASSAULTS	16	412	428
FORGERY & COUNTERFEITING		23	23
FRAUD	1	223	224
EMBEZZLEMENT		13	13
STOLEN PROPERTY (BUYING;RECEIVING;POSSESSING)	10	48	61
VANDALISM	6	108	114
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	14	49	63
PROSTITUTION AND COMMERCIALIZED VICE		1	1
ALL OTHER SEX OFFENSES	1	8	9
DRUG VIOLATIONS	14	290	304
GAMBLING			
OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY		10	10
DWI		126	126
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		16	16
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	16	58	106
OBSCENE MATERIAL/PORNOGRAPHY			
ALL OTHER UCR OFFENSES	34	723	757
TOTAL PART II CLASSES	112	2,108	2,220
TOTAL UCR OFFENSES	158	2,577	2,735

Arrest information is collected for all Part I and Part II offenses. However, no attempt should be made to relate arrest figures to the number of crimes cleared, because arrest totals count all the offenders who have been arrested and all offenses charged - even if several offenders were involved in the commission of a singular offense. Therefore, arrest and clearance totals will be equal only by coincidence. A reduction in number of arrests may not necessarily reflect a commensurate reduction in crimes committed.

It should be kept in mind that arrest totals are indicative of the number of persons charged with the offense. A total of three arrests may represent the arrest of different people or the arrest of the same person on three different occasions.

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JUVENILE CUSTODY/CONTACT

The Police Department documents the handling of all persons less than 16 years of age who have committed an offense and have been identified (with probable cause) as the offender. Officers complete a "Juvenile Contact Report" when the circumstances are such that if a juvenile were age 16 or older, an arrest would be reported. For example, if a person less than 16 years of age is "handled" for committing an offense of Larceny (theft), the charge is reported a Larceny even though the offense committed is actually Juvenile Delinquency. Officers sometimes take a juvenile into custody for their own protection when the juvenile has committed no crime. Such occasions are not included in this report. The purpose of this report is to highlight the juvenile crime activity and not juvenile court activity (although it does relate to law enforcement referral activity, e.g. referral to juvenile court authorities or other community programs).

In 2004 41% of all Juvenile Custody/Contacts were filed by the two (2) officers assigned as the School Resource Officers at the county's Middle Schools, Eaton-Johnson Middle School and Henderson Middle School.

CHARGE TOTALS BY TYPE OF OFFENSE			
Juveniles (Age Less Than 16)			
(Three Year Report)			
	2002	2003	2004
Murder	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	10	2	9
Aggravated Assault	7	6	1
Burglary	13	8	8
Larceny	13	35	28
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Simple Assault	16	17	16
Arson	0	0	0
Forgery/Counterfeiting	0	0	0
Fraud	3	0	1
Embezzlement	0	0	0
Stolen Property	4	4	13
Vandalism (Criminal Damage to Property)	2	6	6
Weapons Violations	2	8	14
Prostitution	0	0	0
All Other Sex Offenses	0	0	1
Drug Violations	4	11	14
Gambling	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family	0	0	0
DWI	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	3	7	16
Obscene Material / Pornography	0	0	0
All Other Offenses	23	30	34
Total	100	135	158

Two out of every five Juvenile Custody/Contacts were filed by the School Resource Officers assigned to Middle Schools in the City. Juvenile contacts show a significant increase over the past three years.

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CITATIONS

Citations differ from arrests in law enforcement reporting. Citations are primarily issued to offenders charged with infractions or minor misdemeanors that do not require the signing or the posting of a bond (waiveable offenses). Citations are written for traffic violations, violations of ABC Laws (such as public consumption of an alcoholic beverage), trespassing under the Henderson City Code, and other minor violations that are not included in the UCR totals for a given year.

In 2004, Henderson Police Department officers issued **1,697** citations.

TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Investigation and reporting of traffic accidents consumes countless manpower hours. In 2004, Henderson Police investigated **1106** traffic collisions, several involving personal injury and one fatality.

Internal Review and Investigation of Complaints

Total Number of Internal Reviews

Defensive Actions Reports:	52
Vehicle Pursuit Reports:	20

Citizen Complaints (From All Sources)

Supervisory Investigations:	21
Internal Affairs investigations:	5

Categories of Citizen Complaints

Use of force	4
Warrantless Search/Entry/Seizure	2
Officer Demeanor	9
Vehicle Towing/Storage Disputes	2
Other Alleged (Minor) rules/Policy infractions	10

ALL complaints from **ALL** sources are documented in writing and investigated. Of the 28,000 plus calls for service, including 5,184 traffic stops, 2,220 arrests, and 1,697 citations, the Henderson Police Department received **ONLY 26 complaints** in 2004. Five of those complaints (nearly 20%) were either filed, prompted or supported by one single individual.

Officers reported **52** encounters requiring Defensive Actions in 2004. Officers are required by departmental policy to complete an internal report for every occasion during which they have to use defensive actions, physical force or use their weapon to defend themselves, effect an arrest, respond to aggression or resistance, or perform some other lawful action.

Other statistical data of note for 2004 includes

Henderson Police officers conducted **5,184** traffic stops (20 vehicle pursuits).

The Department received **2,240** criminal process papers from the Clerks of Court (955 Orders for Arrest, 657 Warrants for Arrest, and 628 Criminal Summonses). Officers served 1,429 papers (529 Orders for Arrest, 464 Warrants for Arrest, and 436 Criminal Summonses). As of the time this report was prepared, 601 active criminal process papers are on file and remain to be served.

Henderson Police officers handled **28,380** individual calls for police services, compared to 28,326 in 2003. **2,577** adults were arrested in 2004.

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Appendix A

Crime Reporting

The Henderson Police Department voluntarily participates in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program (UCR) by submitting monthly reports to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations. Through this voluntary program, and with the cooperation of participating agencies such as our own, the UCR program strives to ensure the production of a reliable and uniform set of crime statistics, from which a nationwide and statewide view of crime is possible. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations' (SBI) Division of Criminal Information (DCI) gathers data from participating law enforcement agencies throughout the state and forwards the UCR statistics to the FBI in UCR format.

Because of their seriousness and frequency, seven offenses comprise a **Crime Index**, which is used by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation to serve as indicators of crime experience within jurisdictions. These figures are intended to represent the volume of crime in Henderson, NC. Volume indicators do not represent the actual number of crimes committed; rather, they represent the number of offenses reported to law enforcement for each category. The Uniform Crime Reporting program (UCR) collects data on offenses known to law enforcement, and on persons arrested, to depict total crime and to provide data for administrative and operational use in addressing community problems. With respect to Murder, Rape and Aggravated Assault, the volume represents the number of actual victims known to law enforcement, while for Robbery, Burglary, Larceny – Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft, the number of known offenses is represented.

When analyzing UCR statistics, the user of this information should guard against superficial agency-to-agency comparisons. Such direct comparisons, without taking into account the demographic differences between law enforcement jurisdictions, are misleading.

The underlying causes of crime are complex, and they resist simplistic "quick-fix" solutions. Crime is a community problem that requires law enforcement, citizens of the community, and other social institutions in the community to cooperatively form crime-specific strategies for resisting crime. We continue to bring the resources that are available to us to bear on specific criminal activities, within our operating and resource limitations.

To accept crime as a fact of life is an admission of defeat. Only through the establishment of short and long-term strategies and the assistance of the citizens can the community successfully resist crime problems in our neighborhoods. The identification of our community's crime patterns, through an examination of local crime experience, is a starting point. Thus, these crime statistics are a way of revealing to all of the people in our community just what we're up against.

Social and economic factors have an enormous impact on the nature and levels of crime in any particular community. The FBI, as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting system (UCR), lists a number of factors that affect the volume and type of crime:

- *the size of the community and its population*
- *the density of its population*
- *how the population is composed*
- *stability of the population with respect to mobility and transience*
- *the prevailing economic conditions*
- *cultural conditions, such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics*
- *climate*
- *effective strength of law enforcement agencies*
- *what law enforcement emphasizes in its administrative and investigative roles*
- *the policies of other components of the criminal justice system (prosecutors, courts, corrections, and probation)*
- *citizen attitudes towards crime*
- *how citizens report crime (how often, how quickly)*

The majority of these factors are somewhat beyond the control of the police. However, the Police Department can play a major role in controlling "street crimes" - those that occur in public places (e.g., purse snatching, assaults/muggings). Crimes of passion committed among relatives or friends and other crimes committed indoors,

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such as shoplifting, are crimes for which law enforcement agencies' typically have little to no control over any increases and decreases in frequency. Police agencies collect information about these crimes and make arrests, as an order maintenance measure, whenever possible.

The rate at which citizens report crime varies from community to community. We strive to be responsive to our citizens' reports of criminal activity – the public's confidence in our ability to effectively respond to specific events is crucial if we, as a community, want to formulate an effective community-wide strategy to resist increases in the frequency with which crimes occur. Therefore, increases in the frequency of crimes reported may be viewed favorably provided that we, as a community, use the statistics to identify our specific problems and formulate reasonable short and long-term responses.

In addition to arresting suspects after a crime has been committed, crime prevention and deterrence activities are methods by which Law Enforcement agencies and the citizens of the community can collaboratively resist increases in the volume of crimes.

All offenses are classified on the basis of law-enforcement officer investigation and in accordance with UCR offense definitions (which will not necessarily coincide with N.C. Statute definitions.) Because UCR identifies a Police problem, offense classifications are not based on the findings of a court, coroner, jury or decision of a prosecutor.

SCORING OF UCR OFFENSES

The method of scoring in the Uniform Crime Reporting program varies with the type of crime committed, and it is important to remember that the number of offenders does not determine the number of offenses.

For murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, and aggravated assaults, one offense is scored for each victim regardless of the number of offenders involved. For example, three offenders could be involved in the murder of one victim, and in this case one murder would be scored.

For robbery and larceny, one offense is counted for each distinct operation - that is, separate in time and place. The number of victims in any one operation does not determine the number of offenses. For example, if ten (10) people are robbed in a bar at the same time, only one offense is counted. However, if that robber then leaves the bar and holds up a passerby, a second offense has occurred and would be scored.

For burglary, one offense is counted for each "structure" which is illegally entered. For UCR purposes, a structure is generally defined as an enclosed, permanently occupied area. The illegal entries for the purpose of committing a felony or theft of such structures as a dwelling houses, garages, offices, barns and the like are considered burglaries, and one burglary is scored for each separate unit entered. The illegal entry of several structures used to hold transients, such as hotel rooms, is scored as one burglary if there was one distinct criminal operation, regardless of the number of rooms or structures that have been entered. For motor vehicle theft, one offense is counted for each theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. For UCR purposes, a motor vehicle is defined as any self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface and not on rails or a body of water. Thefts of farm and construction equipment are excluded from this definition and are scored as larcenies. All cases where persons not having lawful access take automobiles are classified as motor vehicle theft, even though the vehicles may later be found abandoned. This includes "joyriding." One offense is scored for each vehicle stolen or for each attempt to steal a motor vehicle.

Attempts to commit any of the above offenses are counted with the exception of attempts or assaults to kill, which are classified and scored under aggravated assaults.

For multiple offenses that occur in one incident (at the same "time and place"), only the most serious offense is counted.

Part I crimes are ranked according to UCR's definition of seriousness, and appear in order from the most serious to least serious. For example, a robber may seize a man's wallet and then beat him causing serious injury. Both a robbery and an aggravated assault have occurred, but because robbery is considered by UCR to be more serious, only the robbery is scored. From one perspective this method of counting seriously understates the crime problem, but from another, it prevents undue inflation of crime statistics.