

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



## Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Submitted by:  
Ronald J. Frantz  
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2007 **felony caseload** increased by 1% from the 2006 level (1382 case in 2007, compared to 1366 cases in 2006). This slight increase follows a steady decline over the five preceding years. The 2007 number is still well below the ten year high point of 1536 cases in 2002. Crime categories showing significant increases were felony drunk driving (up 54%, 119 cases), property crimes (up 23%, 278 cases), and weapons offenses (up 55%, 67 cases). Categories showing significant declines were criminal sexual conduct (down 34%, 82 cases), breaking and entering (down 46%, 79 cases), and drug offenses (down 4%, 799 cases).

Total **misdemeanor caseload** fell 10% in 2007 (7827 cases). **Juvenile crime**, as represented by petitions filed by our office, also declined by less than 1% to 1819 delinquency petitions filed. **Total criminal caseload** (combined felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile statistics) indicates a 7% decline in office activity (11,028 cases in 2007).

However, 2007 was a busy year for high-visibility **homicides**. We co-prosecuted with the attorney general six defendants for the 1979 murder of Hope College student Janet Chandler. We also have begun the prosecution of Santiago Leos and Alfredo Luna for the 1988 murders of Michael Osborn and Michael VanEenaam. Finally, Antonio Liceaga was convicted of the murder of a 14-year-old Holland Township youth.

In addition, **gang violence** has resurfaced in the greater Holland area. The prosecutor has joined with the Holland Police Department, the Ottawa and Allegan County Sheriffs' Departments, WEMET, and federal agencies in forming a Gang Task Force. We are aggressively investigating and prosecuting gang-related criminal behavior and expect to dramatically reduce gang violence like we were able to do in the late 1990's.

Our **domestic violence caseload** continued its downward trend in 2007 (3% decrease, 403 cases). During 2007 we implemented a domestic violence offender treatment initiative designed to reduce recidivism and better serve victims. This initiative is a combined effort of the District Court, the Center for Women in Transition, treatment providers, and the prosecutor. In support of this initiative one of our Violence Intervention Officer positions has been transferred to District Court Probation to serve as a Domestic Violence Case Manager.

Our District and Circuit **Drug/Sobriety Courts** continue to accept drug and/or alcohol dependent offenders using a treatment court model. The State Court Administrative Office recently released a study finding that our Sobriety Courts were well-designed and effective in reducing recidivism. The prosecutor is an integral part of the team that selects offenders for the program and monitors their success.

The **Children's Advocacy Center** has been providing age-appropriate services for sexually abused children for almost ten years. This highly regarded center conducted 343 interviews of children suspected of being sexual assault victims in 2007 (as compare with 272 interviews in 2006). Our office continues to work directly with investigators and center staff to assist young sexual assault victims in seeking justice in the criminal justice system and restoration of their lives.

Overall, 2007 saw the continuation of relatively low crime levels and positive trends in our criminal justice system. Our office is proud to contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Ottawa County.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald J. Frantz, Prosecuting Attorney

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office is to preserve and improve the quality of life for Ottawa County residents by promoting lawful conduct and enhancing safety and security through diligent efforts to detect, investigate, and prosecute criminal offenses in Ottawa County.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROSECUTOR

The prosecuting attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for Ottawa County. The Office was created by the Michigan Constitution. The responsibilities and authority of the Prosecutor are established by common law, statute, court rule, and appellate case law. In recent years changing attitudes in the courts and state legislature have significantly altered the traditional role of the Prosecutor. While adult and juvenile criminal matters still represent the major portion of the prosecution effort, a growing list of additional responsibilities has placed larger demands on prosecution resources. Nevertheless, we provide all mandated services, maximizing our efficiency by offering specialty services to crime victims and law enforcement. These specialties include the Family Court Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Victims' Rights Unit, an Appellate Specialist, and a Law Enforcement Training Assistant.

Additional duties of the Prosecutor include serving as the chairman of the Concealed Weapons Licensing Board and Community Corrections Advisory Board. The Prosecutor also serves on the boards or oversight committees of the Children's Advocacy Center, Wrap Around Community Team, West Michigan Enforcement Team, Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Ottawa Area Law Enforcement Leadership Committee, C.H.O.O.S.E. underage alcohol initiative, Human Services Council of Ottawa County, U. S. Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, Child Death Review Team, and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Ronald J. Frantz . . . . .Prosecuting Attorney**  
Douglas L. Mesman. . . . .Chief Assistant Prosecutor  
Gregory J. Babbitt. . . . . Chief of Appeals Division  
Craig E. Bunce . . . . . Chief of Holland Division  
Lee F. Fisher. . . . .Chief of Family Court Division  
Kent D. Engle . . . . . Senior Attorney  
David J. Knoll . . . . . Senior Attorney  
Deanna M. Sears. . . . . Office Administrator

## ATTORNEY STAFF

**GREGORY J. BABBITT**, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 27 years of prosecution experience.

**CRAIG E. BUNCE**, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Valparaiso University School of Law, J.D.; 17 years of prosecution experience.

**KENT D. ENGLE**, Taylor University, B.A.; University of Detroit School of Law, J.D.; 20 years of prosecution experience.

**LEE F. FISHER**, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 19 years of prosecution experience.

**RONALD J. FRANTZ**, Kalamazoo College, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.; 31 years of prosecution experience.

**JOELLEN HAAS**, Indiana University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 5 years of prosecution experience.

**DAVID J. KNOLL**, Michigan State University, B.A.; University of Texas Law School, J.D.; 10 years of State prosecution experience, plus 29 years of previous legal experience, including ordinance prosecution.

**JENNIFER N. KUIPER**, University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; 4 years of prosecution experience.

**SARAH F. MATWIEJCZYK**, Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.; Michigan State University – Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 7 years of prosecution experience.

**DOUGLAS L. MESMAN**, Calvin College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, J.D.; 29 years of prosecution experience.

**KAREN J. MIEDEMA**, Ferris State University, B.S.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D.; 19 years of prosecution experience.

**JUDITH K. MULDER**, DePauw University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 19 years of prosecution experience.

**JOHN R. SCHEUERLE**, Michigan State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 9 years of prosecution experience.

**EDUARDO VELAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ**, Carleton College, B.A.; Notre Dame College of Law, J.D.; 9 years of prosecution experience.

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**CRIMINAL DIVISION**

Amanda Arismendez . . . . .	Legal Assistant II
Belinda Coronado-DeValle. . . . .	Legal Assistant II
Mary Dykstra. . . . .	Legal Assistant II
Cathy Eidson. . . . .	Legal Assistant III
Brad Gamby. . . . .	Records Processing Clerk II
Jane Gardner. . . . .	Legal Assistant II
Soonja Hixon . . . . .	Legal Assistant I
Angie Rogers . . . . .	Legal Assistant II
Dawn Slater. . . . .	Legal Assistant III
Stephanie Stoddard. . . . .	Legal Assistant II

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

**Juvenile & Probate Court**

Jennifer Bastien . . . . .	Legal Assistant II
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**Child Support Unit**

Toni Sleutel. . . . .	Child Support Investigator
Becky Visser . . . . .	Child Support Investigator

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT**

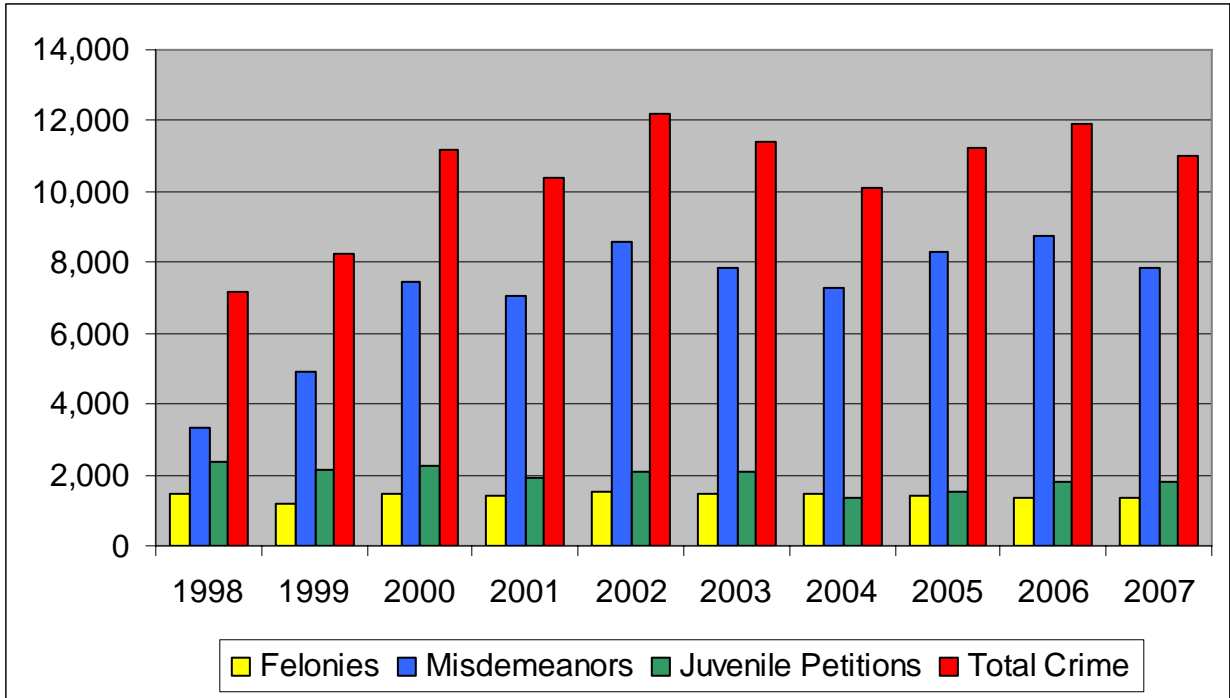
Joan Grillo . . . . .	Victims' Rights Coordinator
Jennifer Bytwerk . . . . .	Victim Advocate
Lesley Morano . . . . .	Victim Advocate

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT UNIT**

Jennifer Bouwens . . . . .	Violence Intervention Officer
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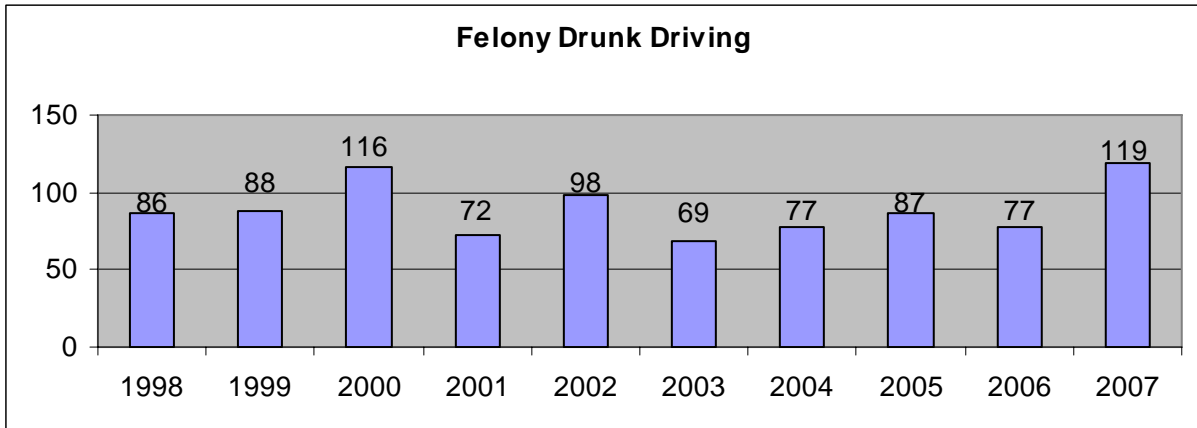
# TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS



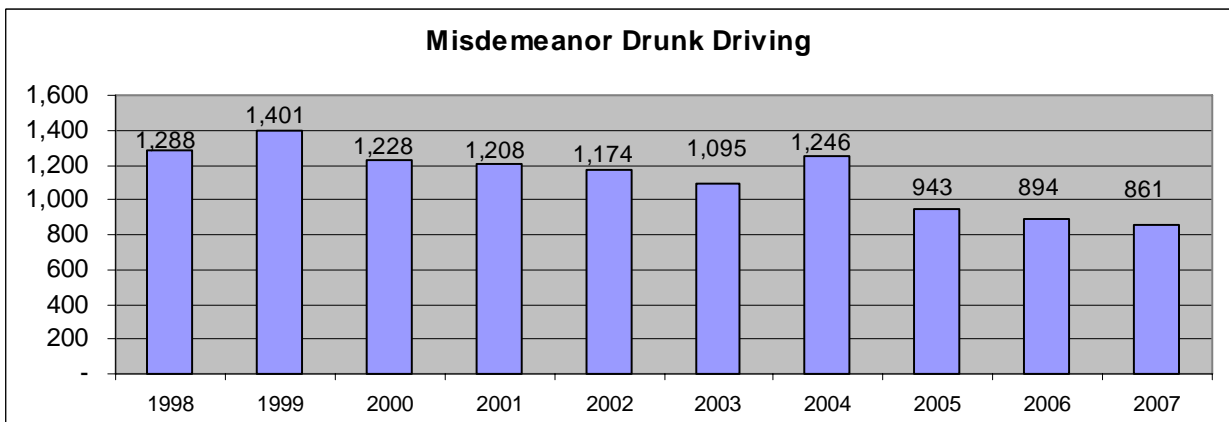
**Total Crime (combined):                    2006: 11,939                    2007: 11,028                    7 % decrease**

## CRIME CATEGORIES

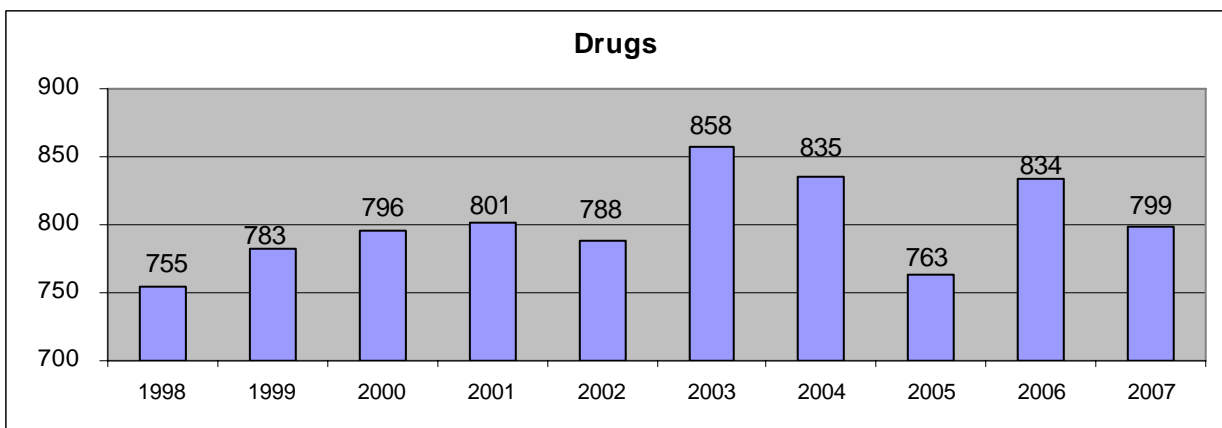
All categories reported for adult crime data only.



**Felony Drunk Driving:**            2006: 77            2007: 119            54% increase

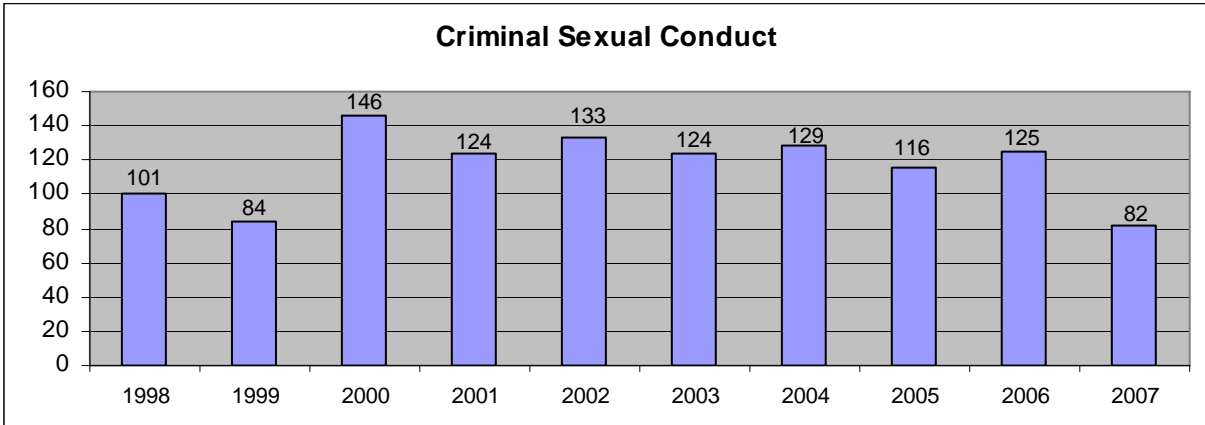


**Misdemeanor Drunk Driving:**    2006: 894            2007: 861            3 % decrease

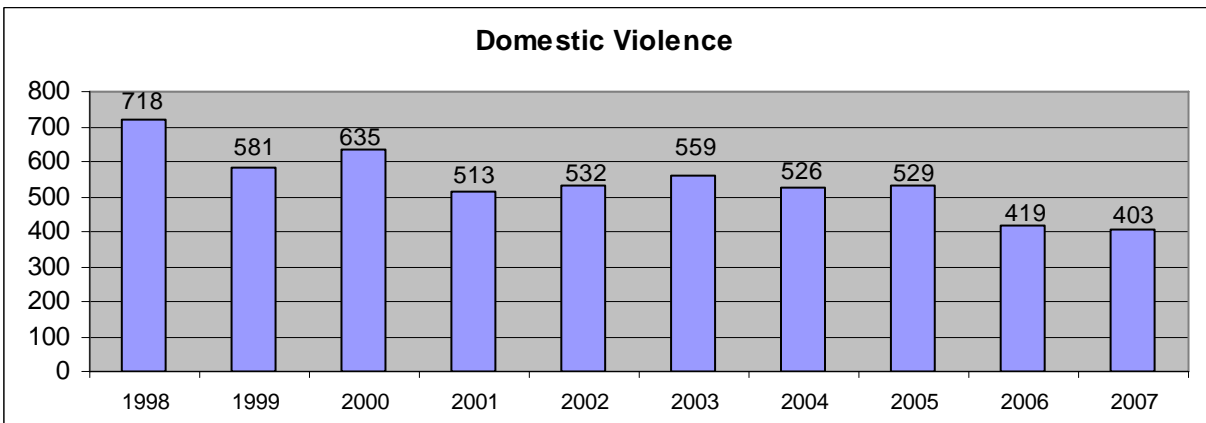


**Drug Cases:**                            2006: 834            2007: 799            4% decrease

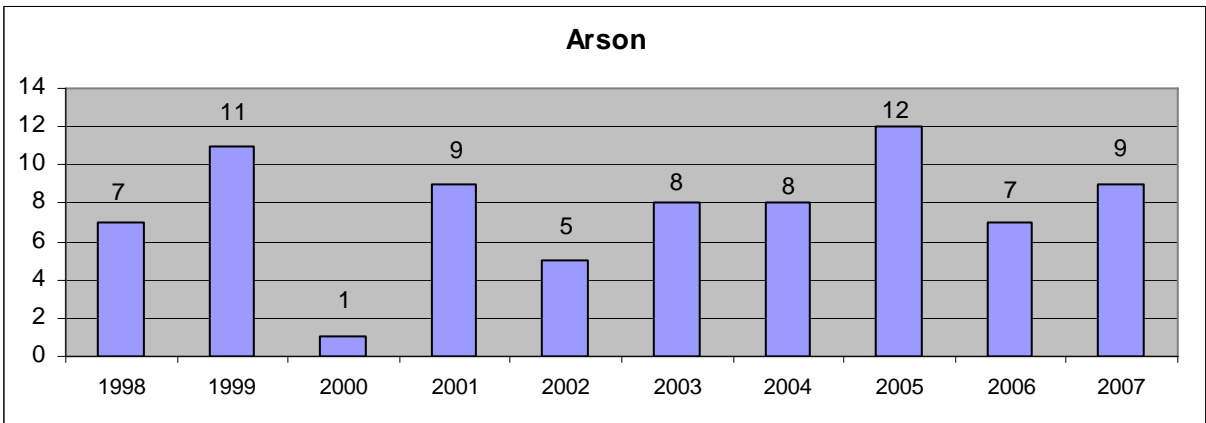
## **CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED**



**Criminal Sexual Conduct:**      **2006:** 125      **2007:** 82      34% decrease

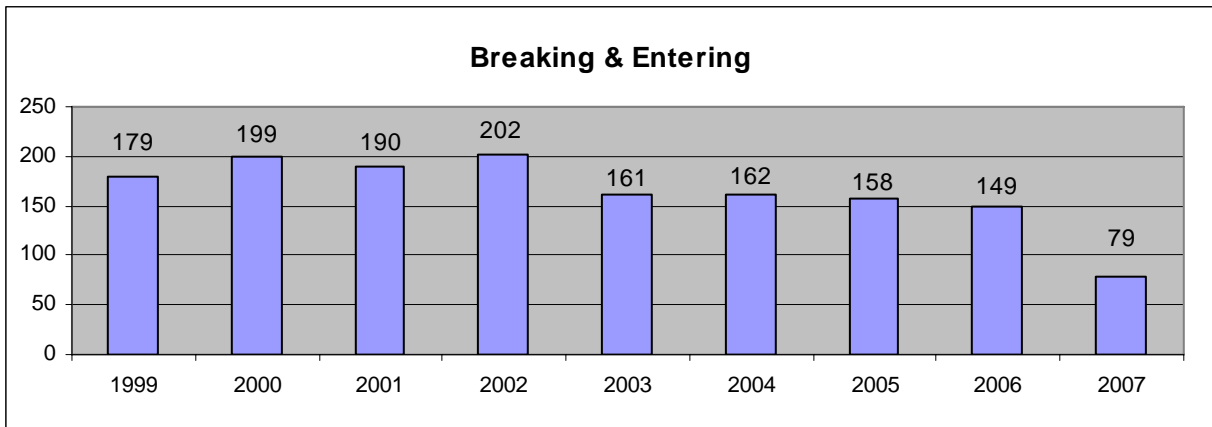


**Domestic Violence:**      **2006:** 419      **2007:** 403      3% decrease

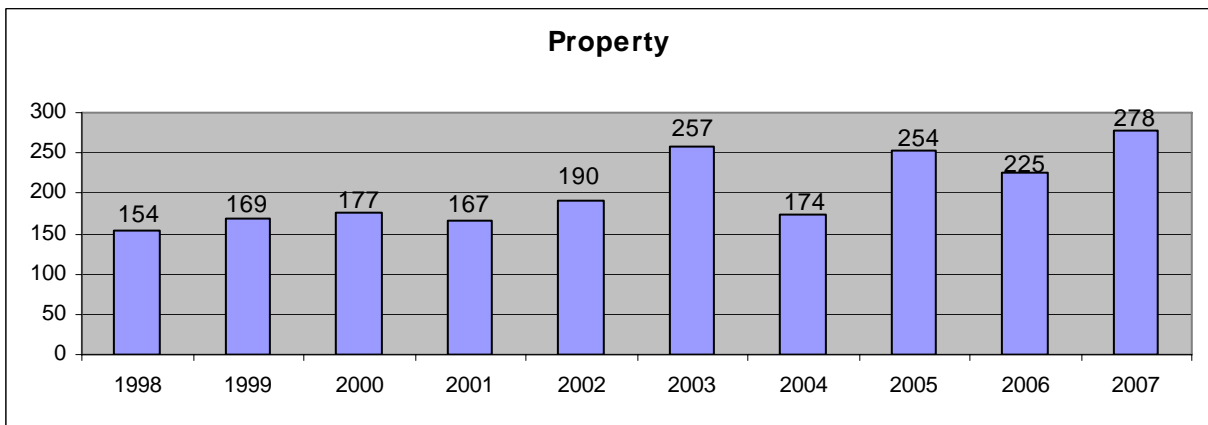


**Arson:**      **2006:** 7      **2007:** 9      28% increase

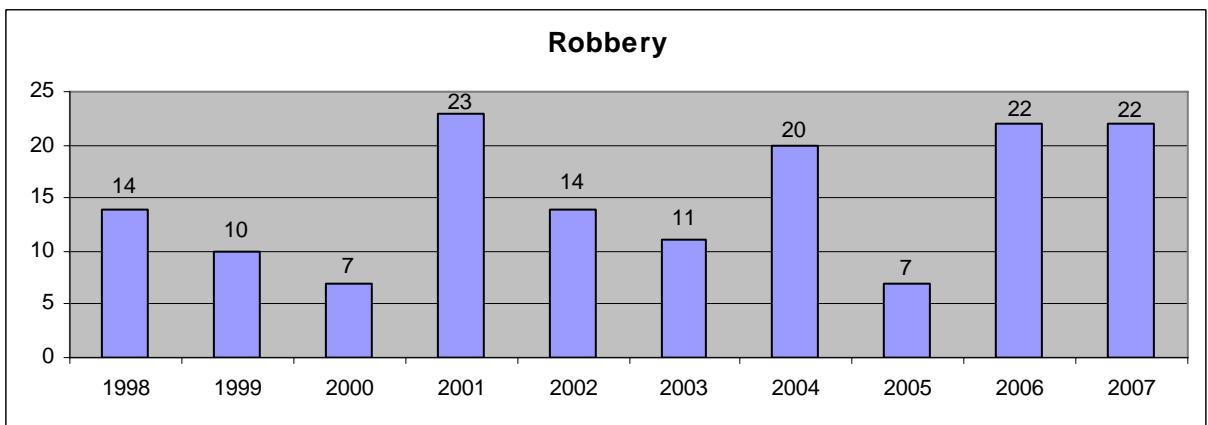
## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Breaking & Entering:**                      **2006:** 149            **2007:** 79            46% decrease

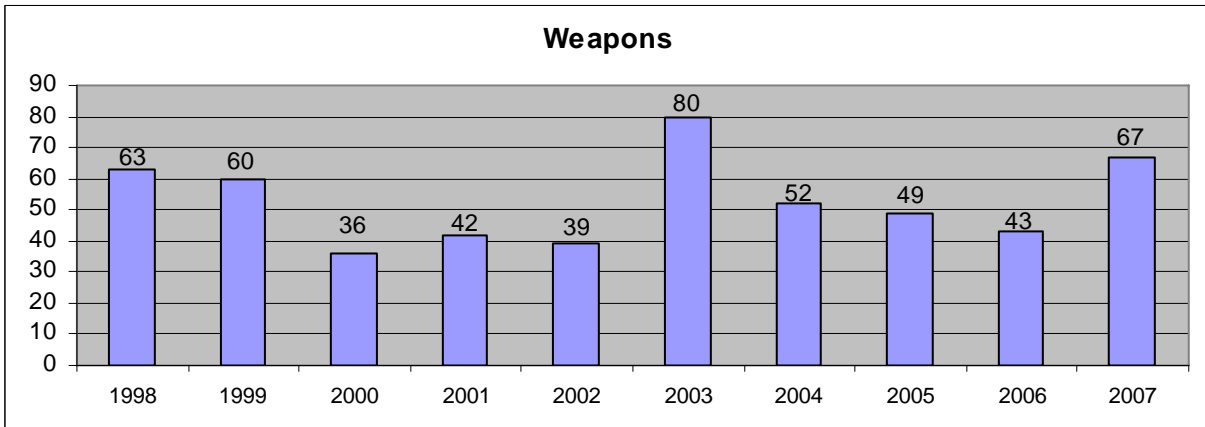


**Property:**                                      **2006:** 2225            **2007:** 278            23% increase



**Robbery:**                                      **2006:** 22            **2007:** 22            no change

## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Weapons:**

**2006:** 43

**2007:** 67

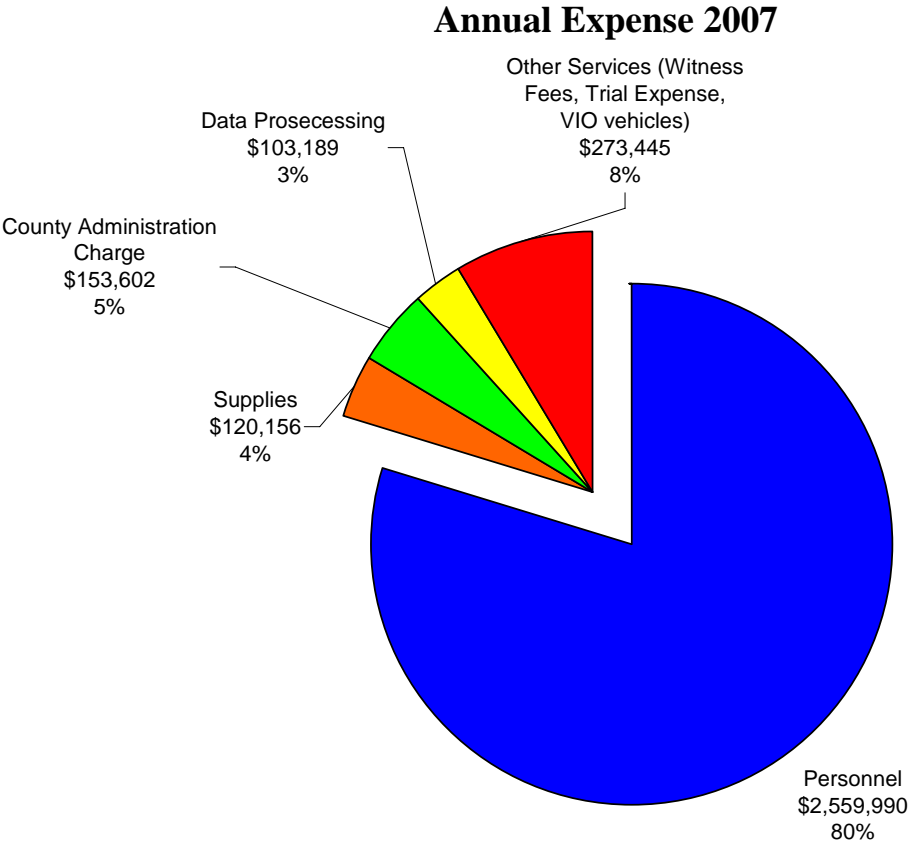
55% increase

## ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Category	2006	2007	% Change
<b>Felony Trials:</b>			
Jury	30	31	3 %
Non-Jury	7	3	(57%)
<b>Misdemeanor Trials</b>			
Jury	26	22	(15 %)
Non-Jury	51	26	(49 %)
<b>Civil Infraction Bench Trials</b>	1,092	921	(16 %)
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Appeals Filed	31	10	(68 %)
Application for Leave to Appeal	15	22	47 %
Appeals Pending Decision	10	3	(70 %)
Parole Reviews	98	101	3 %
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Child Abuse & Neglect Cases	109	74	(32 %)
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<b>Child Support Cases</b>			
Paternity	188	208	11 %
Non-Support	364	412	13 %
URESAs: Incoming	15	17	13 %
Outgoing	34	41	21 %
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<b>Concealed Weapons Board:</b>			
Applicant Interviews	256	282	10 %
Reviews (without applicant)	218	53	(76 %)
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<b>Crime Victims Rights:</b>			
Felony	1,168	902	(23 %)
Misdemeanor	846	670	(21 %)
Juvenile	633	545	(16 %)
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Extraditions (Governor's Warrants)	7	4	(43%)
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Contested Mental Hearings & Guardianship Hearings	35	37	6 %
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Statutory Civil Infractions	18,387	17,028	(7 %)
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Violation of Personal Protection Order Hearings	67	46	(31 %)
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Requests for Warrant Authorization (Returned for more investigation or denied)	1,572	1,382	(12 %)

**FINANCIAL DATA**

**TOTAL BUDGET:**

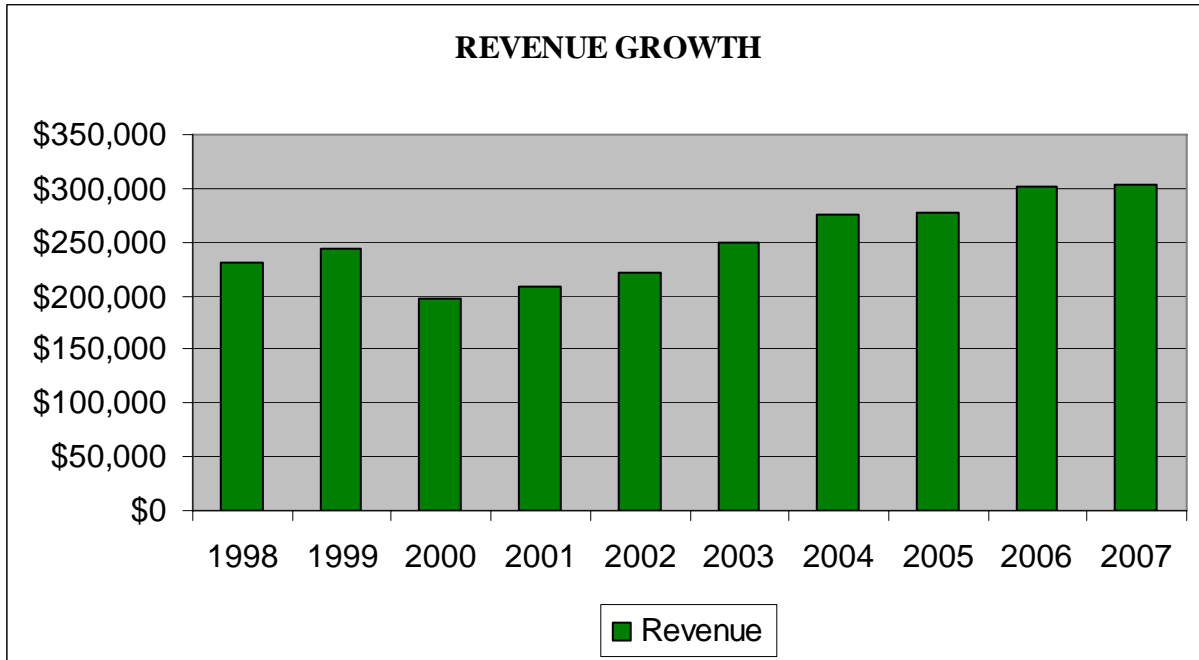


<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% change</b>
Annual total:	\$3,069,034	\$3,210,382	5 %

The Prosecutor’s office expenditures include \$68,391 reimbursement for investigative services provided by the Children’s Advocacy Center.

## Revenue

The Prosecutor's office revenue consists of state funding via grants, contracts and cost reimbursement. Services include Crime Victim's Rights, legal services provided to the Department of Human Service in child abuse and neglect matters, establishment of child support and paternity orders, food stamp fraud prosecution, drivers license hearings for the Secretary of State, and legal services for Allegan County cases pending in the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court in Holland (venue: Holland City, Allegan County). The County also bills offenders convicted of Operating While Intoxicated and other specified offenses, for reimbursement of prosecution costs pursuant to local ordinance.



31% Increase over ten year period

<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% change</b>
Annual total:	\$301,732	\$302,987	> 1 %

### 2007 Prosecutor Revenue:

Crime Victim's Rights	\$140,760
F.I.A. Contract	11,280
Cooperative Reimbursement	110,105
OWI Reimbursement	21,800
Allegan Reimbursement	8,173
Driver License Hearings	1,404
Food Stamp Fraud	<u>9,465</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$302,987</b>