

CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Edward A. Flynn, Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: JULY 8, 2009

CONTACT: ANNE E. SCHWARTZ
414-935-7209

FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2009 MARK DROPS IN CRIME

FACT SHEET

- In the first six months of 2009, we have seen nearly 3,200 fewer crime victims in the city than a year ago at this time
- The data show a **sustainable change** in the crime numbers from 2007 to the present
- Violent crime is down 15.5% from a year ago, and 27% since 2007
- Aggravated assault declined 23.6% in the first six months of this year and dropped by a third since 2007. Decreases in aggravated assaults offer the promise of continued progress; these are crimes that could have been homicides. The decrease shows that Milwaukee Police Officers are where they are supposed to be and are disrupting behavior that is a precursor to homicide.
- Robberies are down 7.1% since a year ago and are down 19.5% over a two-year period
- Car thefts are down nearly 32% compared to last year and are down 38% since 2007. At the end of 2008, car theft was down 15.7%. We doubled the rate of decrease just in the first six months of the year. In Milwaukee, a car means a job and car theft most definitely has an adverse impact on those who need to go to work to stay out of poverty. In this case, crime causes poverty.
- Burglaries, which were up but were trending down are now reduced by 14.4% - a stunning 20% turnaround in two years.
- Burglaries and car thefts are the two crimes that make people feel their neighborhood is unsafe; these crimes occur with frequency and people move
- We recognize the slight spike in homicide while also recognizing we are still at the second-lowest number of violent deaths we have had in 25 years. The lowest in the past 25 years was in 2008.
- We saw a 67% increase in homicides due to child abuse and domestic violence in the first six months of the year.
- In the 15.6% increase in rape, the victims often knew the perpetrators. In fact, of the 104 incidents reported to police, 18 involved strangers.

#