

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Submitted by:
Ronald J. Frantz
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2011 felony caseload decreased 3% over the 2010 level (1,378* cases in 2011, compared to 1,420 cases in 2010). Our most serious offenses have been declining since reaching a high point of 1598 cases in 2006. All major felony crime categories showed decreases during 2011 except arson (up 40%, 7 cases) and robbery (up 15%, 8 cases). The most significant decreases were criminal sexual conduct (down 31%, 49 cases) and property crimes (down 16%, 193 cases). [* Please note that a more accurate method of reporting felony statistics has been implemented beginning with this report.]

The total misdemeanor caseload fell 11% in 2011 (5,944 cases). Juvenile crime, as represented by petitions filed by our office, also fell by 7% to 1,191 delinquency petitions filed. Total criminal caseload (combined felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile statistics) dropped by 9% (8,513 cases in 2011). This is consistent with a generally downward trend in reported crime across West Michigan.

One 1st degree murder occurred in 2011. An 18-year-old Zeeland area teen was charged and convicted of 1st degree murder in the bludgeoning death and burial of a 19- year-old Zeeland youth. As we begin 2012, a Holland township man awaits trial for the murder of his landlord by dousing her with a flammable liquid.

Gang violence, which had been declining over the last several years (including 2011), is experiencing a resurgence in 2012. Several instances of violent gang confrontations and non-lethal stabbings are currently being investigated. Our Gang Task Force, which includes the Holland Police Department, the Ottawa and Allegan County Sheriffs' Departments, WEMET, federal agencies, and the Ottawa County Prosecutor, is actively investigating and preparing to prosecute gang offenders. Aggressive law enforcement has been effective in reducing gang violence.

Our domestic violence caseload saw a 5% rise in 2011 (541 cases). This followed a 4% increase in 2010. The Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence continues to actively promote prevention efforts and improvements in serving domestic violence victims and offenders. Our court-based domestic violence offender treatment initiative also seeks to reduce recidivism and better serve victims through the court process.

Our District and Circuit Drug/Sobriety Courts continue to accept drug and/or alcohol dependent offenders using a treatment court model. The prosecutor is an integral part of an award-winning 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 over twelve years. This nationally accredited center conducted 368 interviews of children suspected of being sexual assault victims in 2011 (as compare to 356 interviews in 2010). 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.

Our continuing decline in crime levels is contributing significantly to the positive national and regional perception our community enjoys. The Prosecutor's Office is proud to an integral part of our well-functioning criminal justice system.

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 West Olive Division
Karen J. Miedema Senior Attorney/Training Div.
Judy K. Mulder Chief of Family Court Division
Deanna M. Sears. Office Administrator

ATTORNEY STAFF

GREGORY J. BABBITT, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 31 years of prosecution experience.

JUANITA F. BOCANEGRA, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 1 year of prosecution experience, and 3 years civil experience.

CRAIG E. BUNCE, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Valparaiso University School of Law, J.D.; 21 years of prosecution experience.

LEE F. FISHER, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 23 years of prosecution experience.

RONALD J. FRANTZ, Kalamazoo College, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.; 35 years of prosecution experience.

JOELLEN HAAS, Indiana University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 9 years of prosecution experience.

JENNIFER N. KUIPER, University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; 8 years of prosecution experience.

SARAH F. MATWIEJCZYK, Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.; Michigan State University - Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 11 years of prosecution experience.

DOUGLAS L. MESMAN, Calvin College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, J.D.; 33 years of prosecution experience.

KAREN J. MIEDEMA, Ferris State University, B.S.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D.; 23 years of prosecution experience.

JUDITH K. MULDER, DePauw University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 23 years of prosecution experience.

JOHN R. SCHEUERLE, Michigan State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 13 years of prosecution experience.

EDUARDO VELAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ, Carleton College, B.A.; Notre Dame College of Law, J.D.; 13 years of prosecution experience.

SUPPORT STAFF

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Amanda Arismendez Legal Assistant II
Jennifer Bastien. Legal Assistant II
Mallory Beil Legal Clerk
Belinda Coronado. Legal Assistant II
Mary Dykstra. Legal Assistant II
Cathy Eidson. Legal Assistant III
Soonja Hixon Legal Assistant I
Angie Rogers Legal Assistant II
Dawn Slater. Legal Assistant III

FAMILY COURT DIVISION

Juvenile & Probate Court

Jane Gardner Legal Assistant II

Child Support Unit

Toni Sleutel. Child Support Investigator
Becky Visser Child Support Investigator

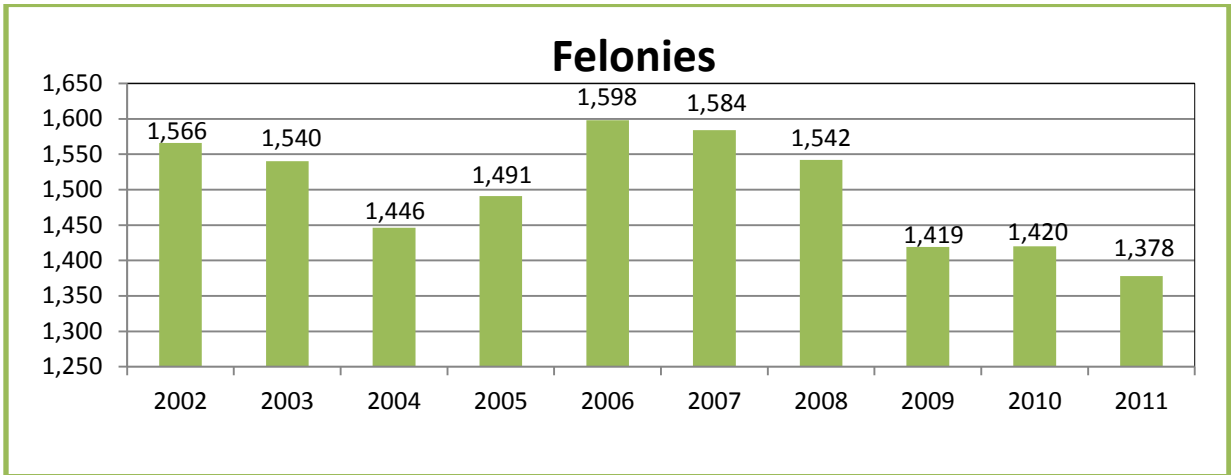
VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT

Joan Grillo Victims' Rights Coordinator
Lesley Morano Victim Advocate
Stephanie Stoddard. Victim Advocate

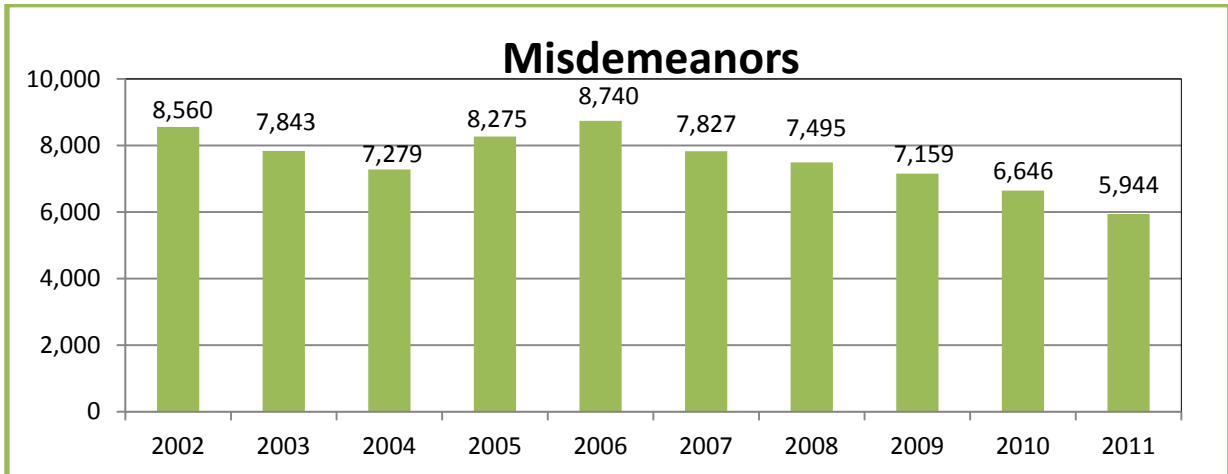
DOMESTIC ASSAULT UNIT

Jennifer Bouwens Violence Intervention Officer

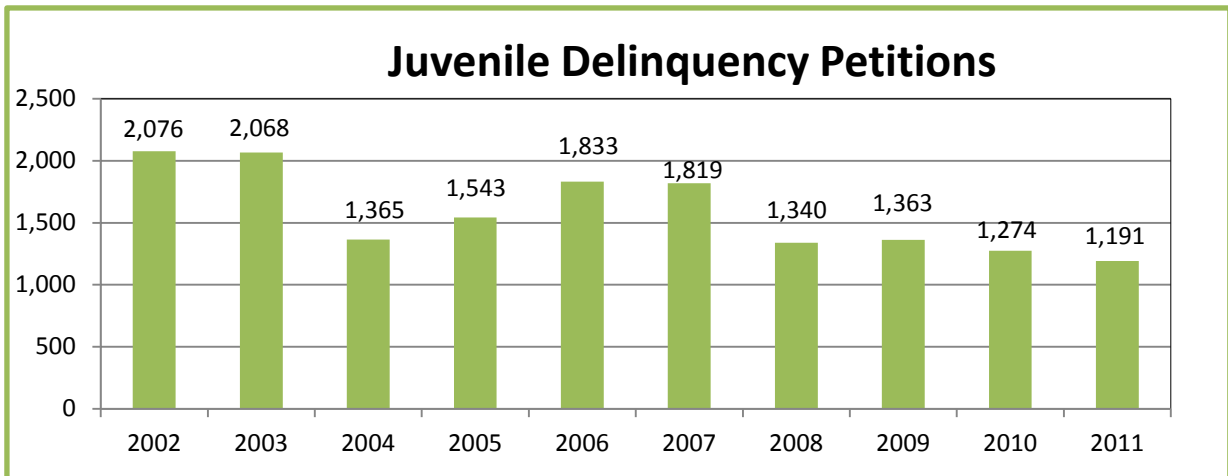
CRIMINAL CASELOAD



Adult Felony Cases: 2010: 1,420 2011: 1,378 3% decrease



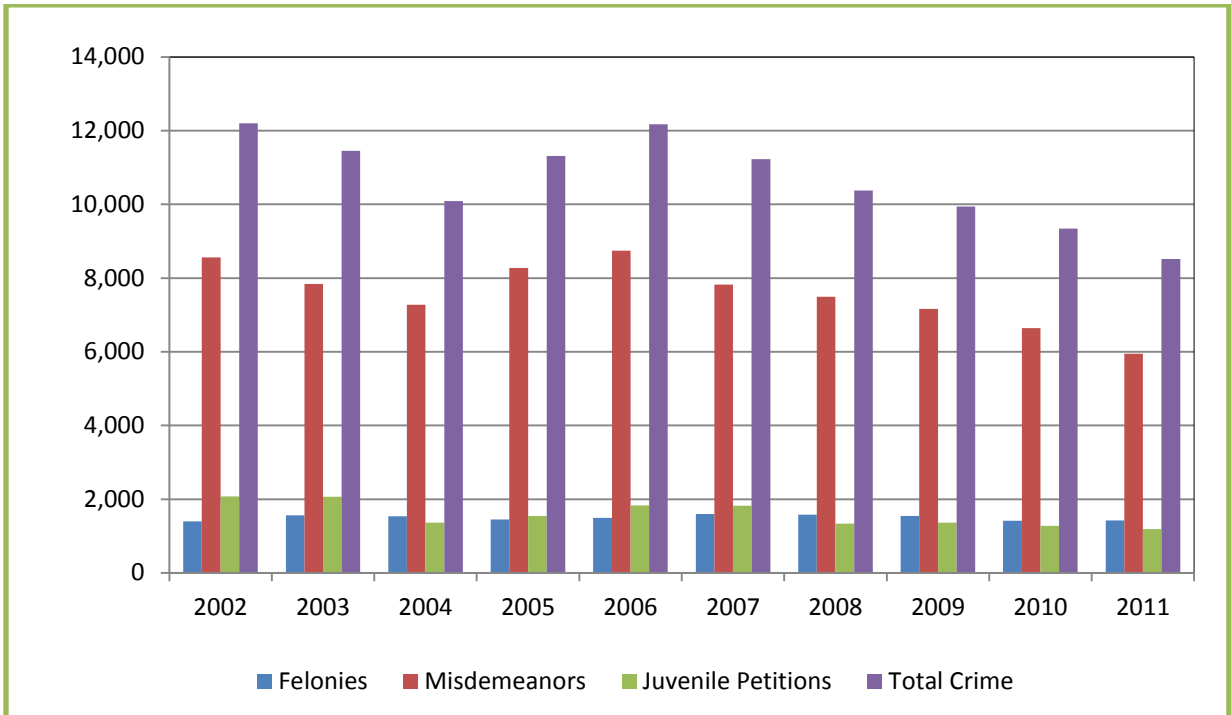
Adult Misdemeanors: 2010: 6,646 2011: 5,944 11% decrease



Juvenile Delinquency: 2010: 1,274 2011: 1,191 7% decrease

Note: 33% reduction from 2003 to 2004 due in part to a change in data collection methodology

TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS



Total Crime (combined):

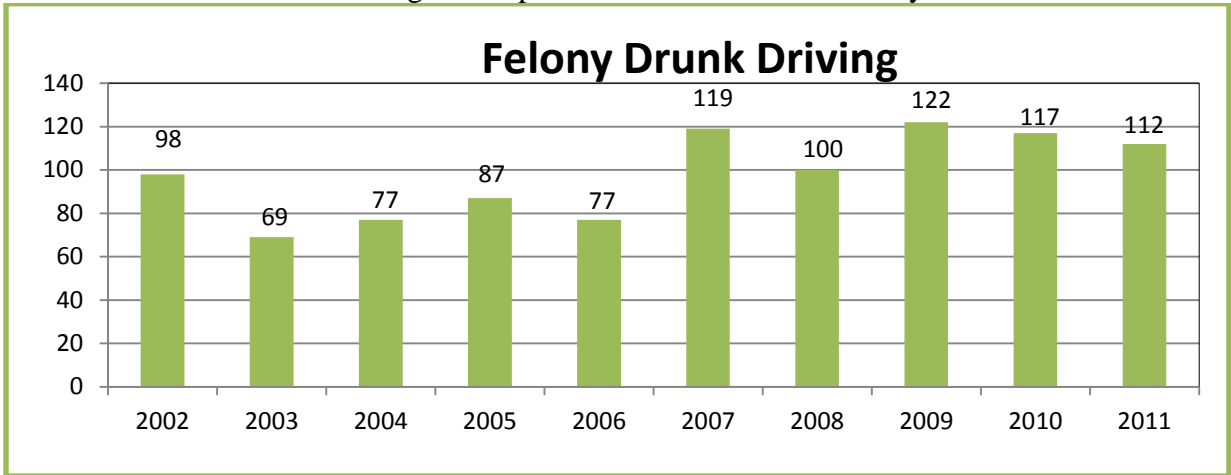
2010: 9,340

2011: 8,513

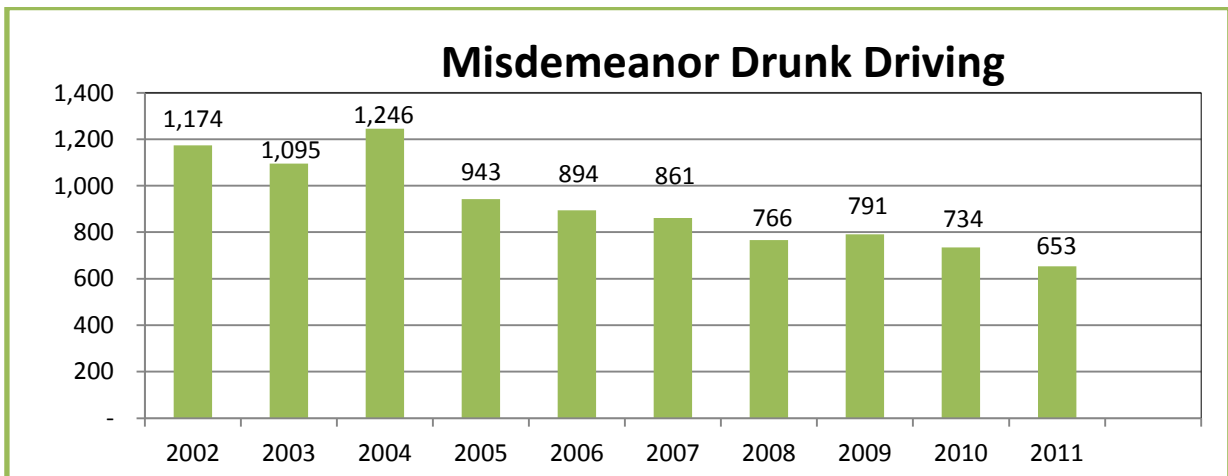
9 % decrease

CRIME CATEGORIES

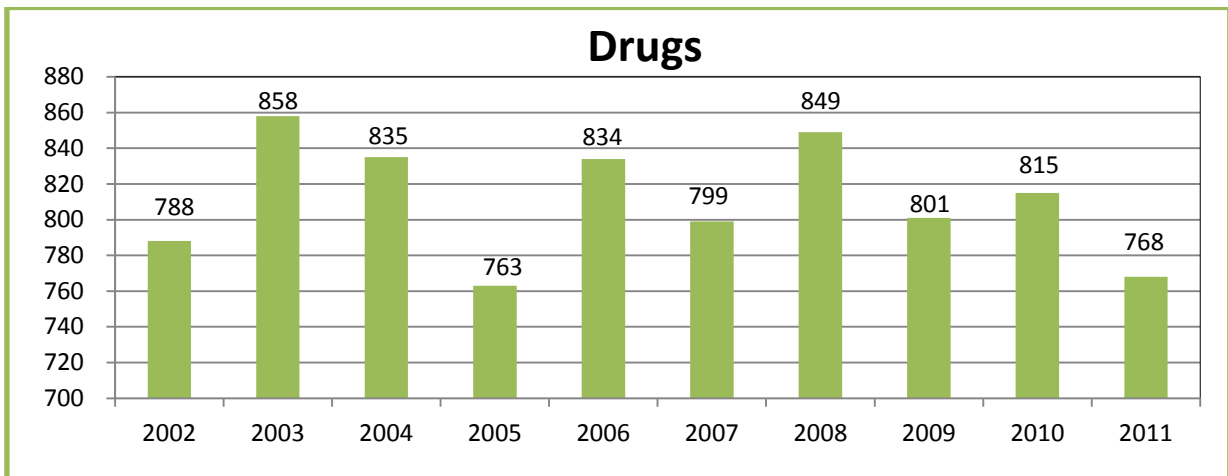
All categories reported for adult crime data only.



Felony Drunk Driving: 2010: 117 2011: 112 .08% decrease

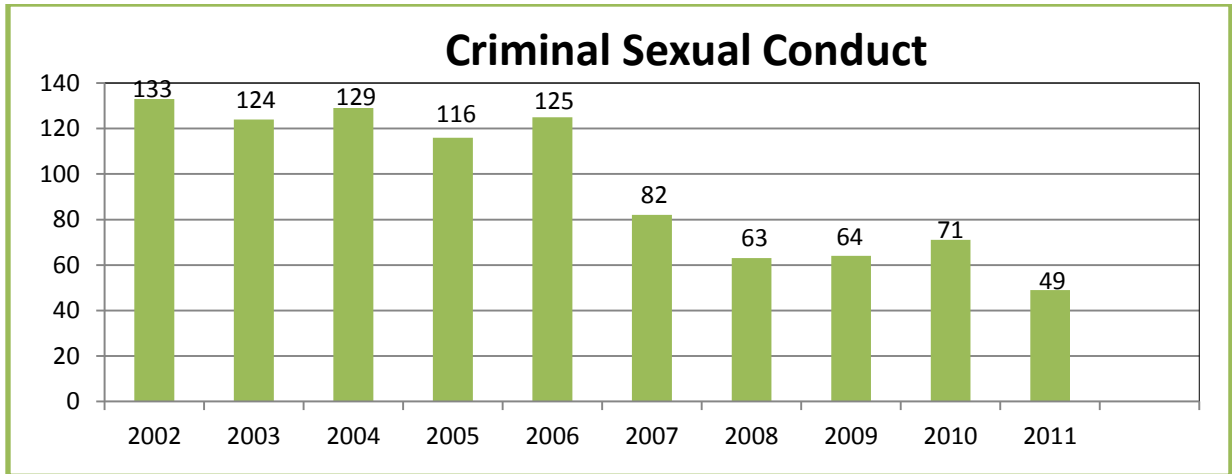


Misdemeanor Drunk Driving: 2010: 734 2011: 653 13% decrease

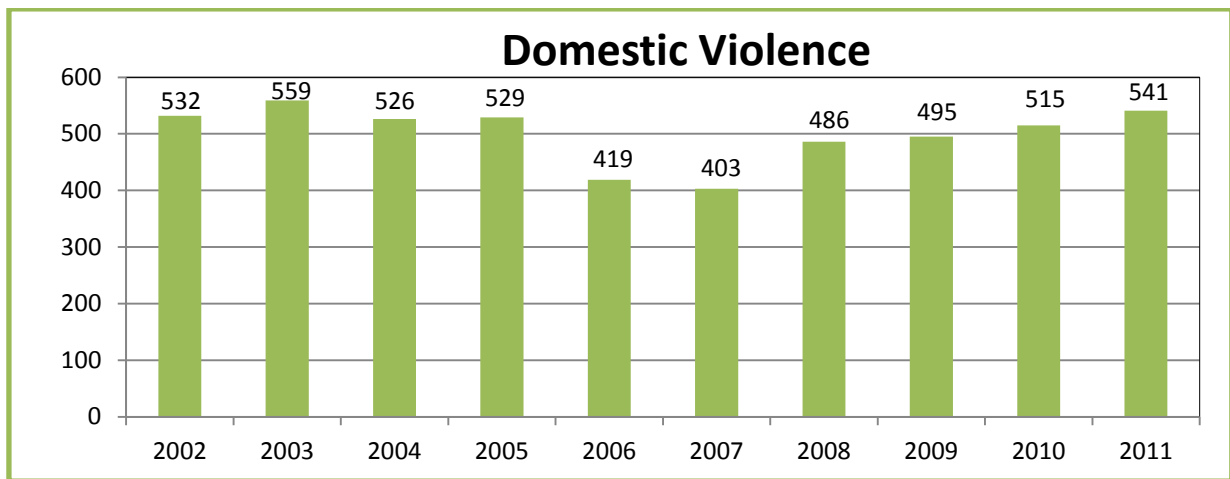


Drug Cases: 2010: 815 2011: 768 6% decrease

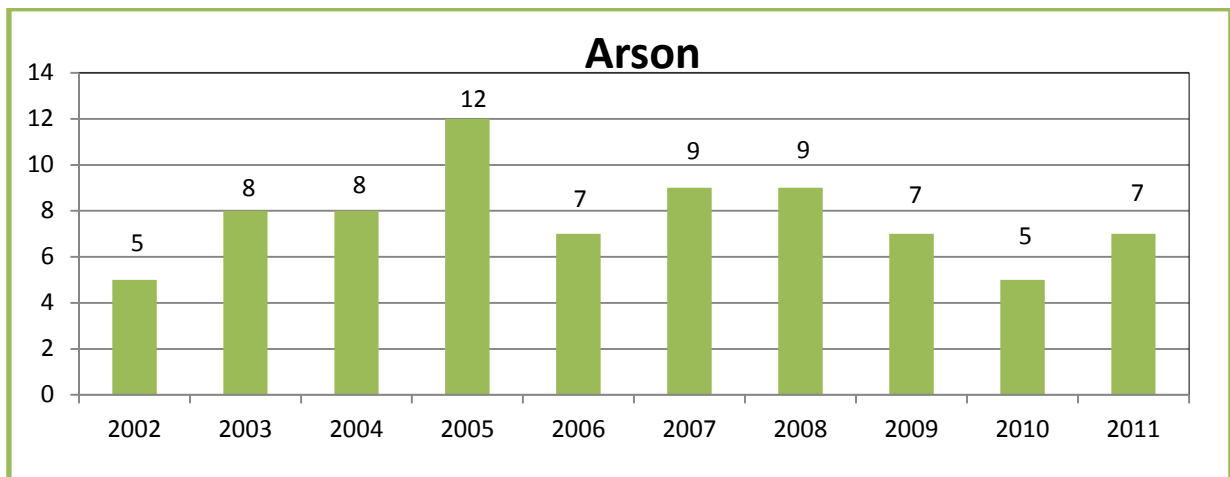
CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Criminal Sexual Conduct: 2010: 71 2011: 49 31% decrease

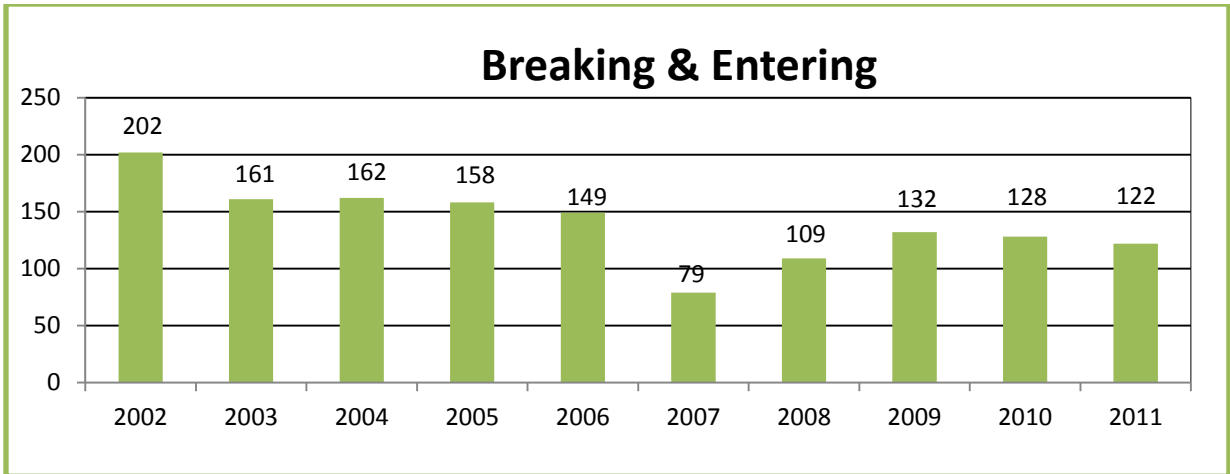


Domestic Violence: 2010: 515 2011: 541 5% increase

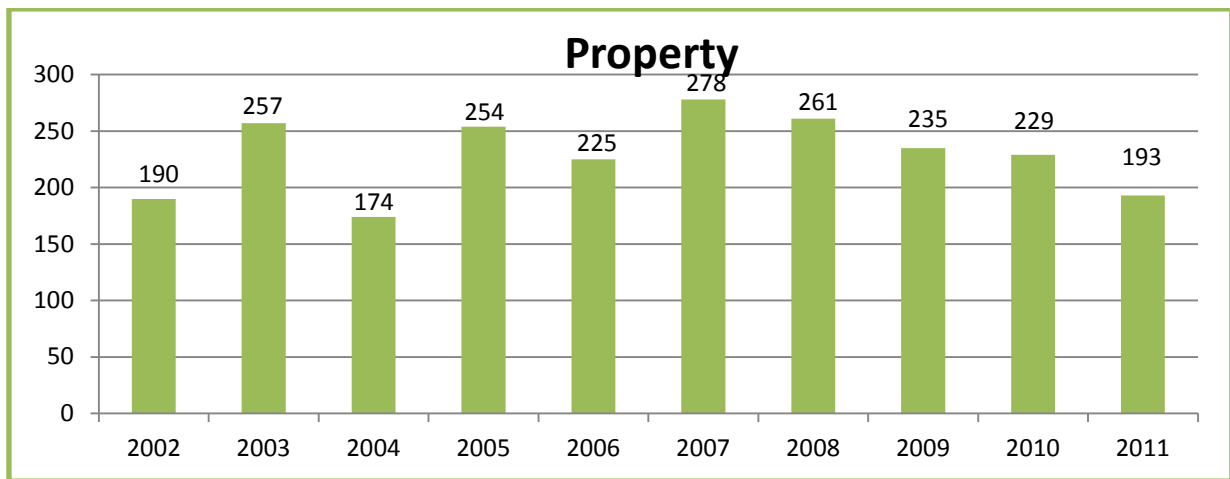


Arson: 2010: 5 2011: 7 40% increase

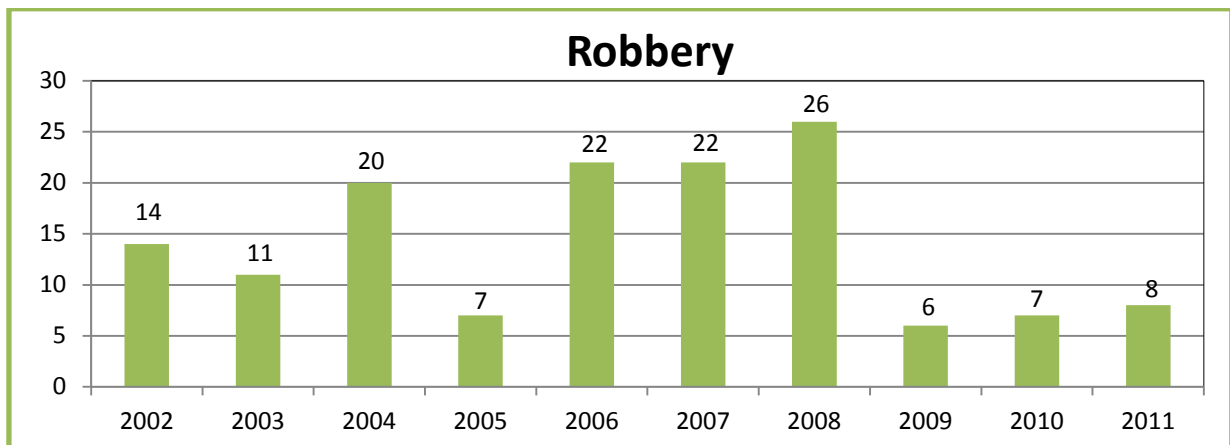
CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Breaking & Entering: 2010: 128 2011: 122 5% decrease

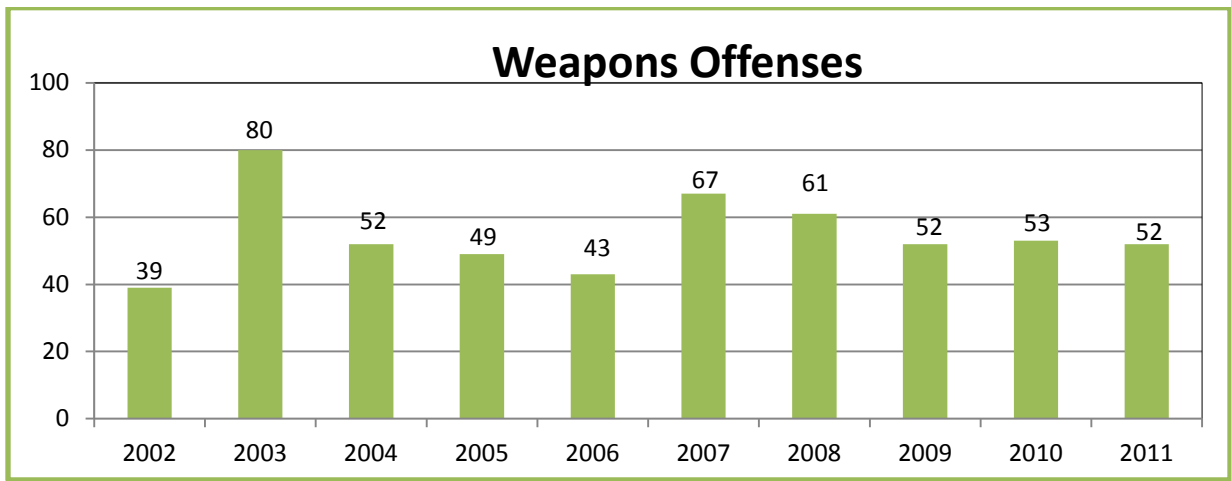


Property: 2010: 229 2011: 193 16% decrease



Robbery: 2010: 7 2011: 8 15% increase

CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Weapons Offenses:

2010: 53

2011: 52

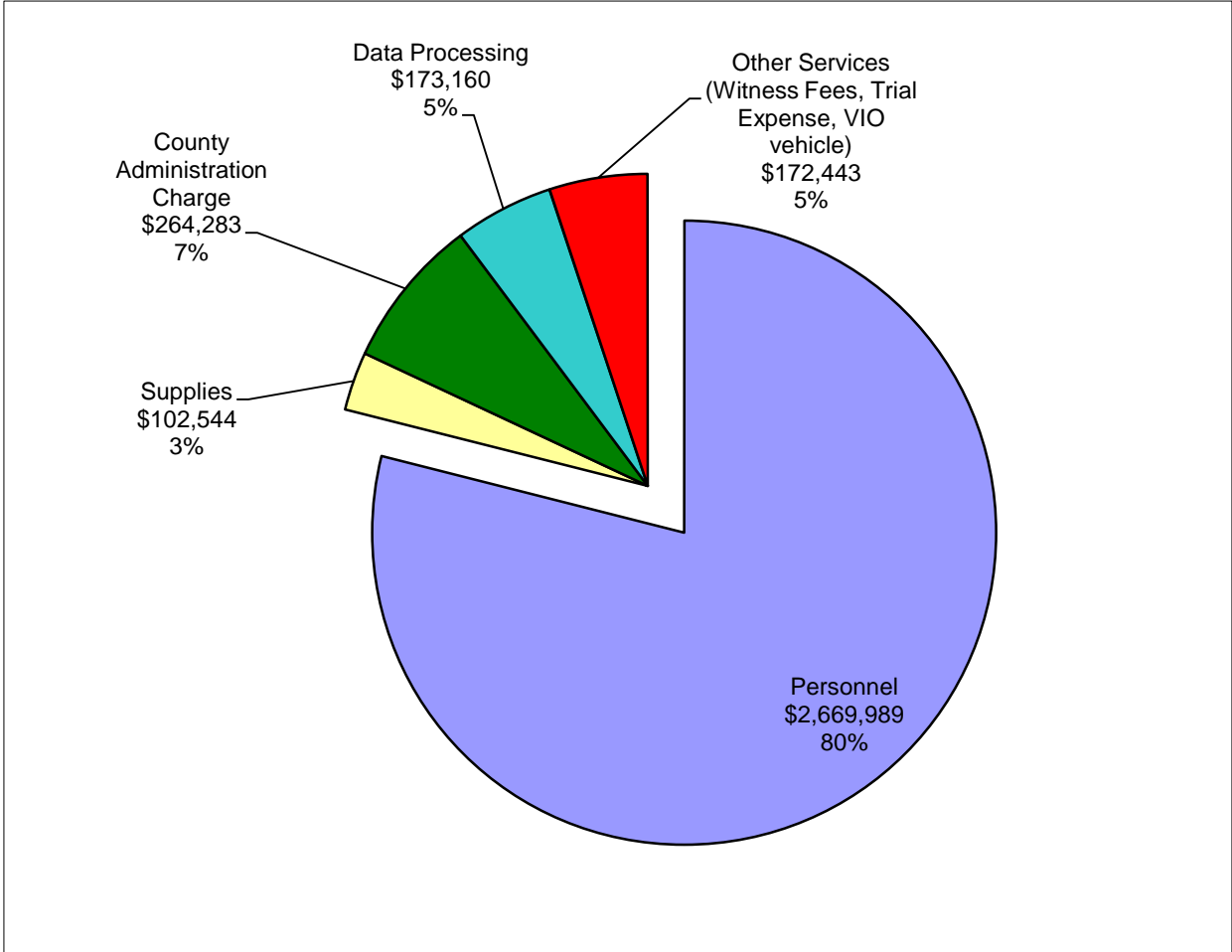
2% decrease

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Category	2010	2011	% Change
Felony Trials:			
Jury	31	20	(36%)
Non-Jury	1	1	0
Misdemeanor Trials			
Jury	11	8	(28%)
Non-Jury	45	32	(29%)
Civil Infraction Non-Jury Trials	1,019	800	(22 %)
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Appeals Filed	13	10	(23%)
Applications for Leave to Appeal	34	33	(.02 %)
Appeals Pending Decision	18	16	(11%)
Parole Reviews	132	98	(26 %)
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Child Abuse & Neglect Cases	93	83	(11%)
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Child Support Cases			
Paternity	183	133	(28 %)
Non-Support	341	314	(8%)
URESAs: Incoming	13	18	39%
Outgoing	38	41	8%
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Concealed Weapons Board:			
Applicant Interviews	832	1,038	25 %
Reviews (without applicant present)	702	514	(27 %)
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Crime Victims Rights:			
Felony	807	729	(10 %)
Misdemeanor	496	524	6 %
Juvenile	490	504	3 %
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Extraditions (Governor's Warrants)	0	0	0
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Contested Mental Hearings & Guardianship Hearings	65	56	(14 %)
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Civil Infractions	15,110	13,455	(11%)
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Violation of Personal Protection Order Hearings	75	59	(22%)
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Requests for Warrant Authorization (Returned for more investigation or denied)	2,272	2,160	(5%)

BUDGET

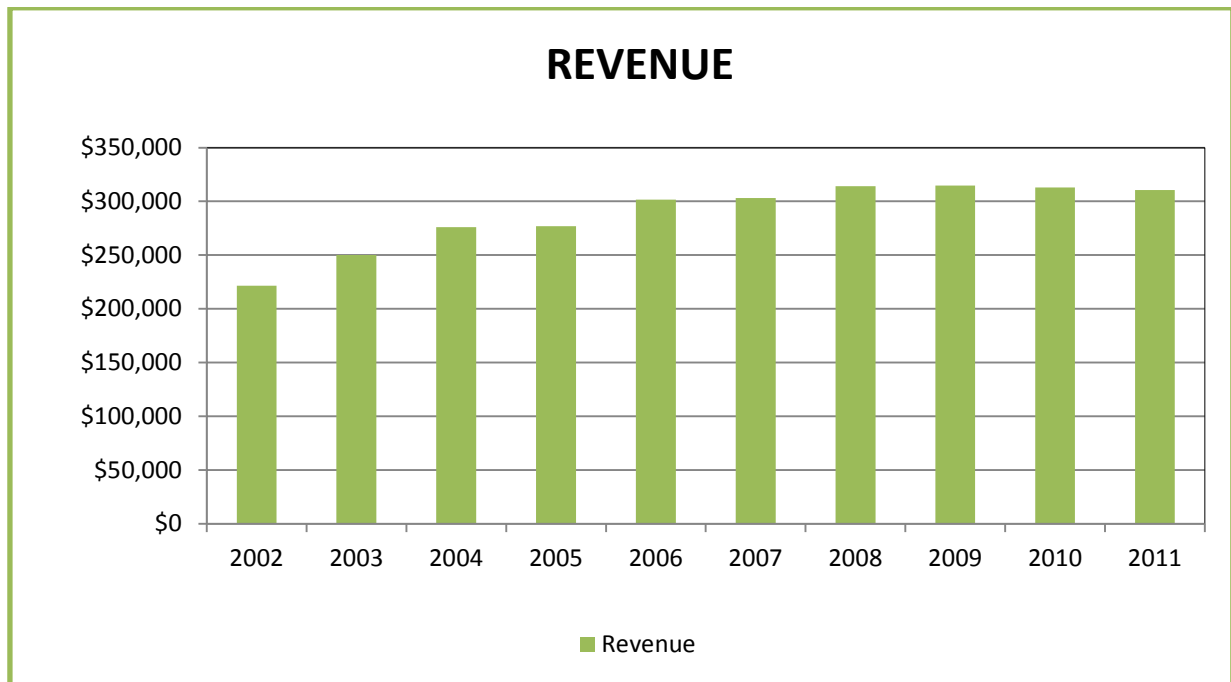
Annual Expenses 2011



Total Budget:	2010	2011	% change
Annual total:	\$3,461,144	\$3,402,157	(2%)

REVENUE

The Prosecutor's office revenue consists of state funding via grants, contracts and cost reimbursement. Services include Crime Victims' 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 58th 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.



41% Increase over ten year period

Revenue:	2010	2011	% change
Annual total:	\$313,054	\$310,521	(.01 %)

2010 Prosecutor Revenue:

Crime Victim's Rights	\$140,988
F.I.A. Contract	14,651
Cooperative Reimbursement	115,229
OWI Reimbursement	24,528
Allegan Reimbursement	9,406
Driver License Hearings	2,288
Food Stamp Fraud	<u>3,431</u>
Total Revenue	\$310,521

**The activities and programs of this department are brought to you by
the members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners.**

District 1	Stu P. Visser
District 2	Phillip D. Kuyers
District 3	Dennis W. Swartout
District 4	Jane M. Ruiter
District 5	Greg J. DeJong
District 6	Roger G. Rycenga
District 7	Joseph S. Baumann
District 8	Donald G. Disselkoen
District 9	Robert Karsten
District 10	James C. Holtrop
District 11	James Holtvluwer