

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



## Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Submitted by:  
Ronald J. Frantz  
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2013 **felony caseload** decreased 10% over the 2012 level (1,281 cases in 2013, compared to 1,411 cases in 2012). Our most serious offenses have remained relatively low since reaching a high point of 1598 cases in 2006. Major felony crime categories showing significant increases during 2013 were Weapons Offenses (up 32%, 54 cases) and Arson (up 50%, 6 cases). The most significant decreases were Criminal Sexual Conduct (down 45%, 33 cases) and Breaking and Entering (down 26%, 93 cases). Drug Offenses, felonies and misdemeanors combined, spiked in 2013 (up 16%, 890 cases).

The total **misdemeanor caseload** declined 4% in 2013 (6,110 cases). **Juvenile crime**, as represented by petitions filed by our office, fell significantly (14%) to 1,027 delinquency petitions filed. **Total criminal caseload** (combined felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile statistics) decreased by 6% (8,418 cases in 2013). This total represents a continuation of the generally downward trend seen over the previous six years and is significantly lower than when crime totals peaked in 2006.

During 2013 a Holland township man was convicted of **1<sup>st</sup> degree murder** for the killing of his landlord by dousing her with a flammable liquid. Also, court proceedings have begun in the 1987 cold case murders of Rick and Gale Brink. Thus far in 2014 there have been two homicides in the greater Holland area.

**Gang violence and organized gang activity** have markedly decreased following the federal prosecutions of several dozen members of the Latin King gang leadership. These prosecutions are the product of our Gang Task Force, which includes the Holland Police Department, the Ottawa and Allegan County Sheriffs' Departments, WEMET, federal agencies, the United States Attorney, and the Ottawa County Prosecutor.

Our **Domestic Violence caseload** saw an 18% decline in 2013 (428 cases). This reduction follows high levels of Domestic Violence prosecutions over most of the last decade. 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. Grand Haven has added a Sobriety Court docket making this treatment court concept more widely available. The prosecutor is a part of each team, selecting offenders for the program and monitoring their success.

The **Children's Advocacy Center** has been providing age-appropriate services for sexually abused children for over fourteen years. This nationally accredited center conducted 325 interviews of children suspected of being sexual assault victims in 2013 (as compare to 358 interviews in 2012). 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 relatively low crime rate contributes significantly to the positive national and regional reputation our community enjoys. The Prosecutor's Office is proud to be 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, Victim's 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

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

- Ronald J. Frantz. . . . . Prosecuting Attorney
- Douglas L. Mesman. . . . . Chief Assistant Prosecutor
- Gregory J. Babbitt. . . . . Chief of Appeals Division
- Lee F. Fisher. . . . . Chief of Holland Division
- Karen J. Miedema . . . . . Senior Attorney/Training Div.
- Judy K. Mulder . . . . . Chief of West Olive Division
- Deanna M. Sears. . . . . Office Administrator

## ATTORNEY STAFF

**GREGORY J. BABBITT**, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 33 years of prosecution experience.

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

**LEE F. FISHER**, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 25 years of prosecution experience.

**RONALD J. FRANTZ**, Kalamazoo College, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.; 37 years of prosecution experience.

**JOELLEN HAAS**, Indiana University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 11 years of prosecution experience.

**JENNIFER N. KUIPER**, University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; 10 years of prosecution experience.

**SARAH F. MATWIEJCZYK**, Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.; Michigan State University – Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 13 years of prosecution experience.

**DOUGLAS L. MESMAN**, Calvin College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, J.D.; 35 years of prosecution experience.

**KAREN J. MIEDEMA**, Ferris State University, B.S.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D.; 28 years of prosecution experience.

**JUDITH K. MULDER**, DePauw University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 25 years of prosecution experience.

**JOHN R. SCHEUERLE**, Michigan State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 15 years of prosecution experience.

**JAY TUBERGEN**, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Michigan State University – College of Law, J.D.; 3 years of prosecution experience.

**EDUARDO VELAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ**, Carleton College, B.A.; Notre Dame College of Law, J.D.; 15 years of prosecution experience.

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**CRIMINAL DIVISION**

Teresa Brolick. . . . . 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  
Jennifer Vandenberg. . . . . Legal Assistant II  
Sarah VanderPloeg . . . . . Legal Assistant II

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

**Juvenile & Probate Court**

Mallory Jewell . . . . . Legal Assistant II

**Child Support Unit**

Toni Sleutel. . . . . Child Support Investigator

Becky Visser . . . . . Child Support Investigator

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT**

Joan Grillo . . . . . Victims' Rights Coordinator

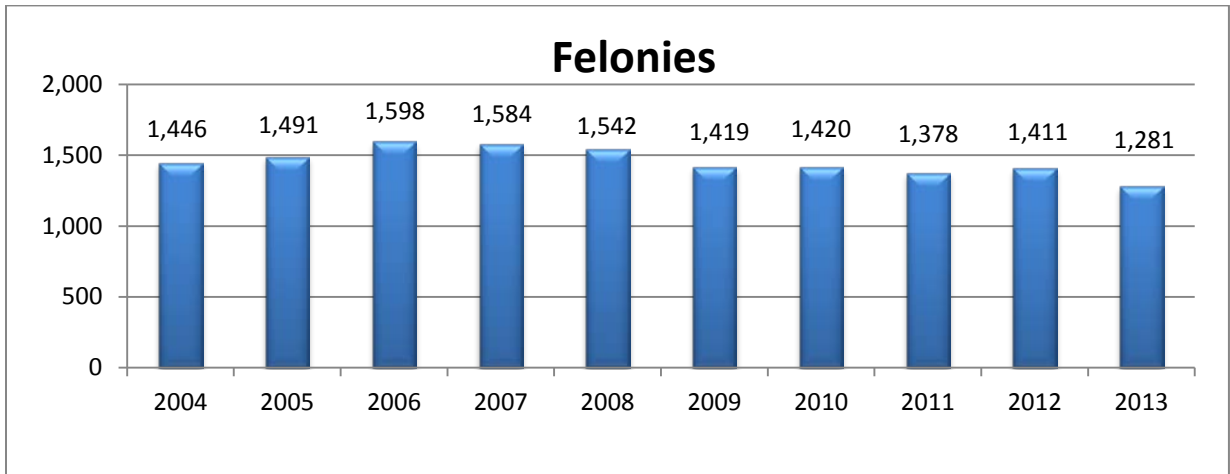
Lesley Morano . . . . . Victim Advocate

Stephanie Stoddard. . . . . Victim Advocate

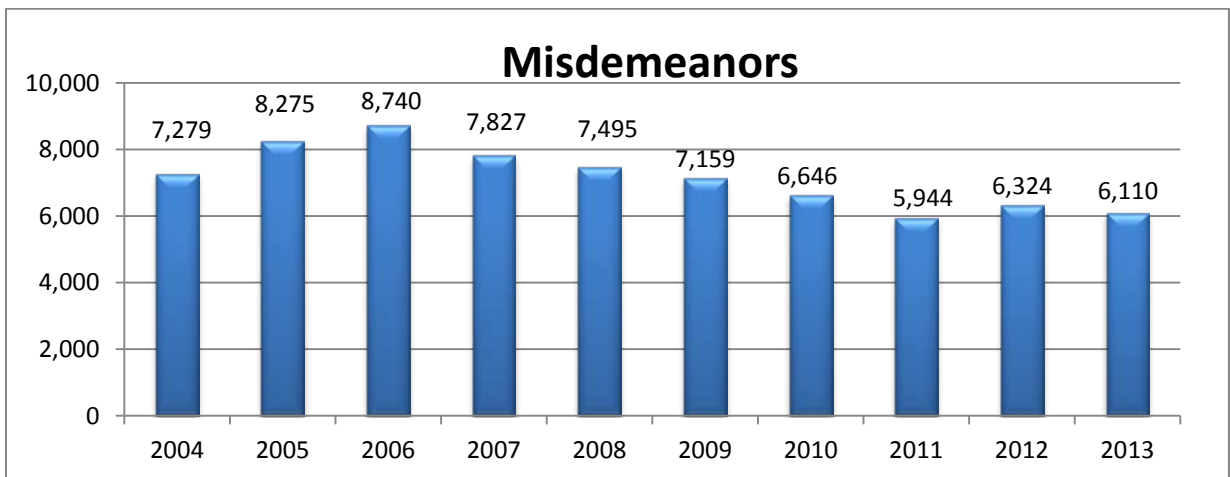
**DOMESTIC ASSAULT UNIT**

Jane Gardner . . . . . Violence Intervention Officer

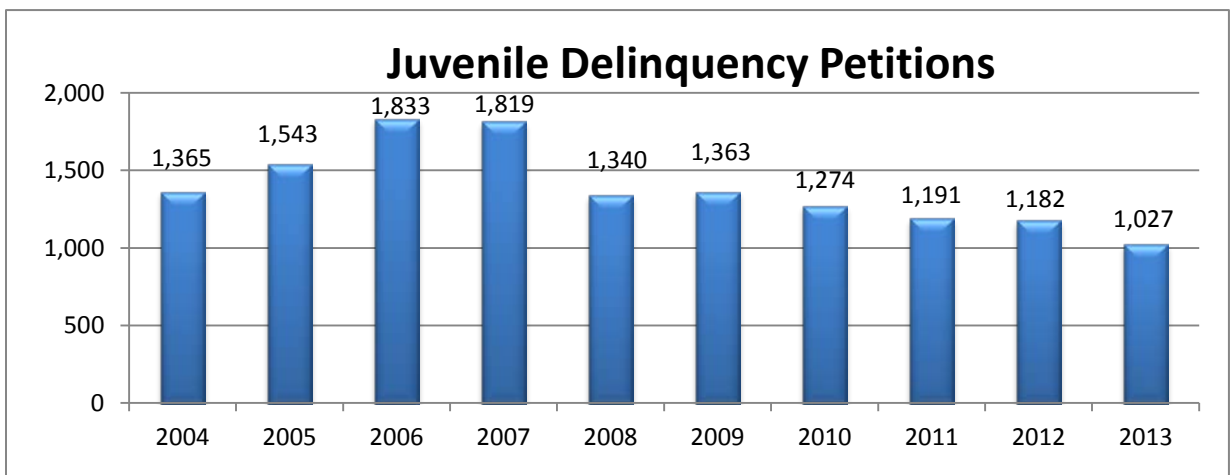
# CRIMINAL CASELOAD



**Adult Felony Cases:** 2012: 1,411 2013: 1,281 10% decrease



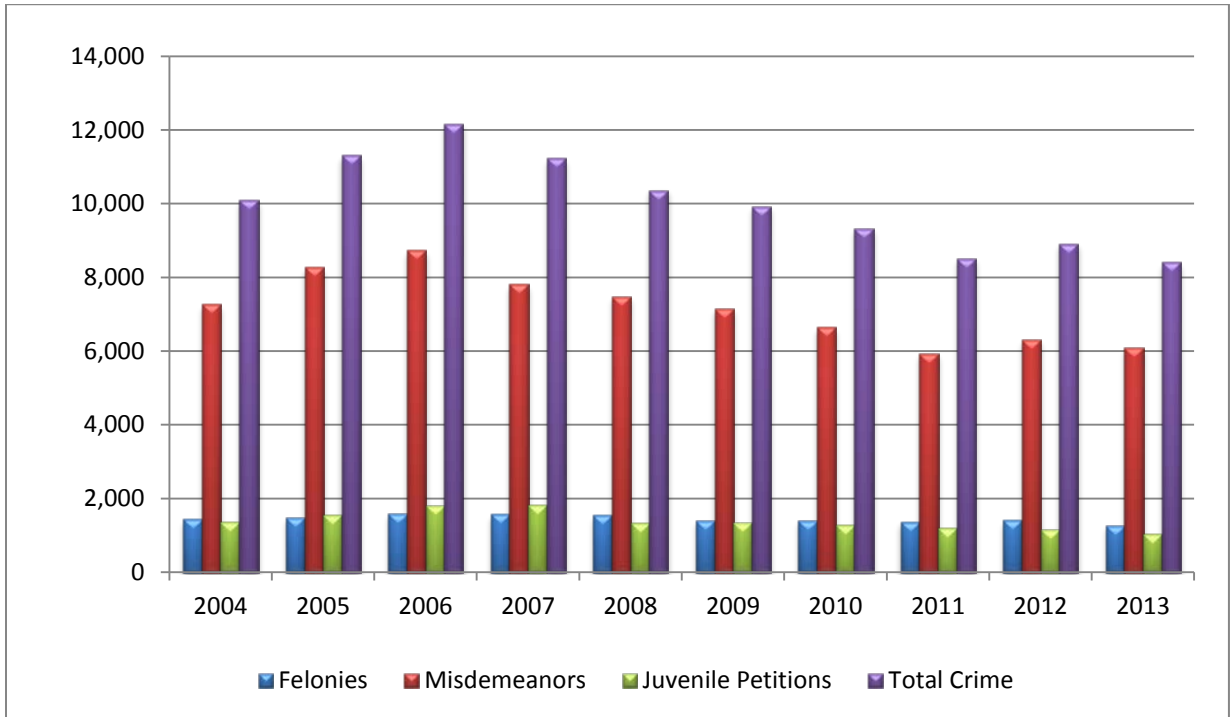
**Adult Misdemeanors:** 2012: 6,324 2013: 6,110 4% decrease



**Juvenile Delinquency:** 2012: 1,182 2013: 1,027 14% decrease

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

## TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS



**Total Crime (combined):**

**2012:** 8,917

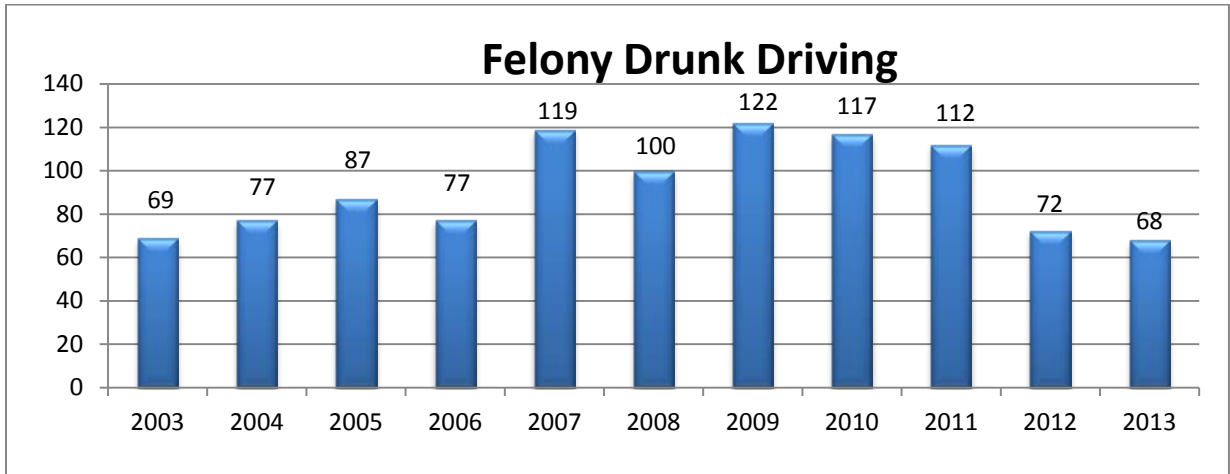
**2013:** 8,418

6% decrease

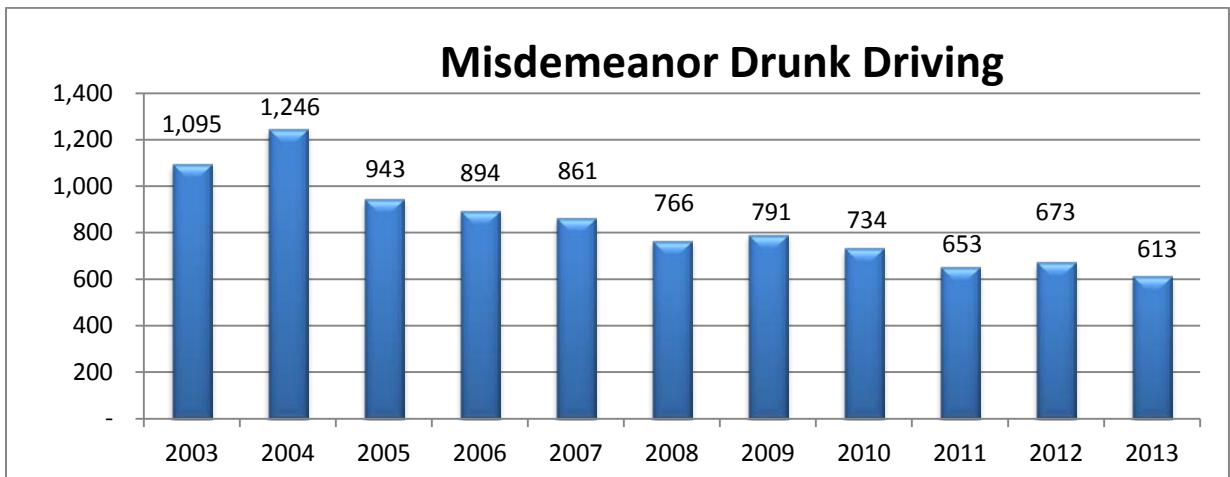


## CRIME CATEGORIES

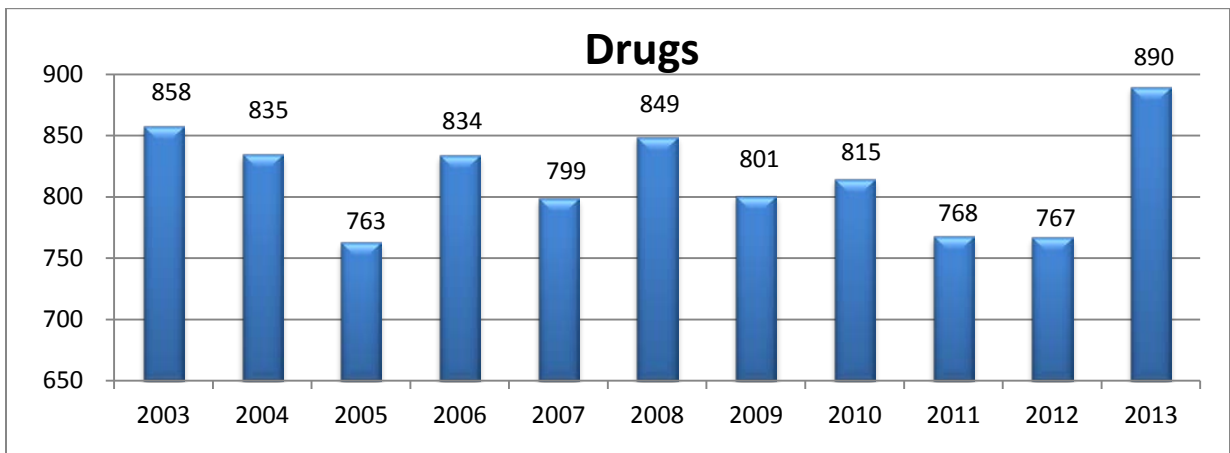
All categories reported for adult crime data only.



**Felony Drunk Driving:** 2012: 72 2013: 68 6% decrease

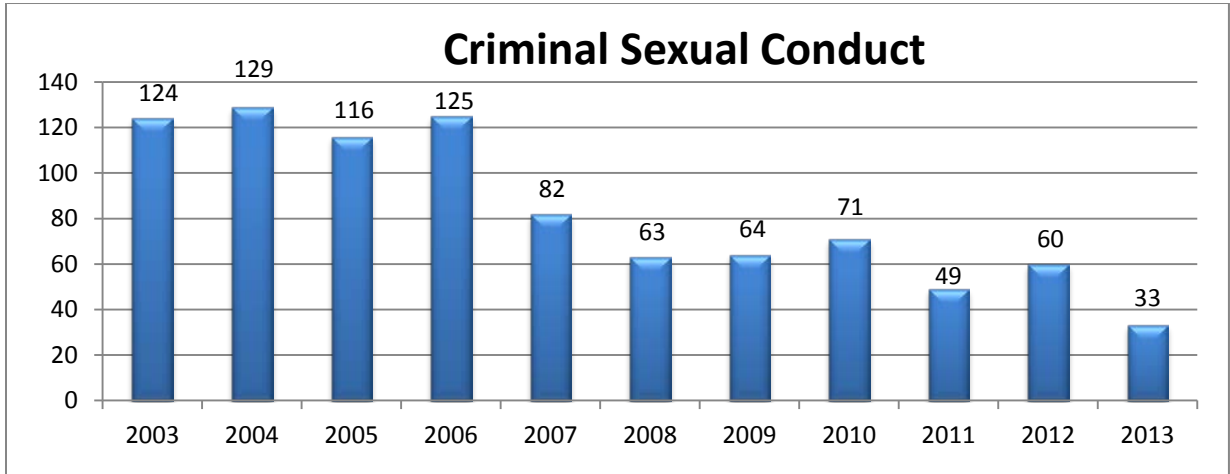


**Misdemeanor Drunk Driving:** 2012: 673 2013: 613 9% decrease

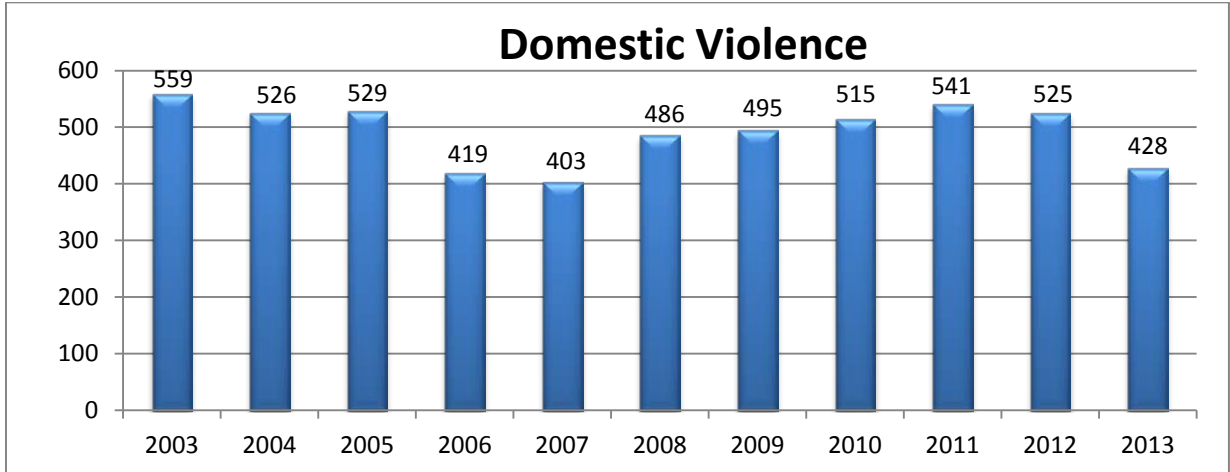


**Drug Cases:** 2012: 767 2013: 890 16% increase

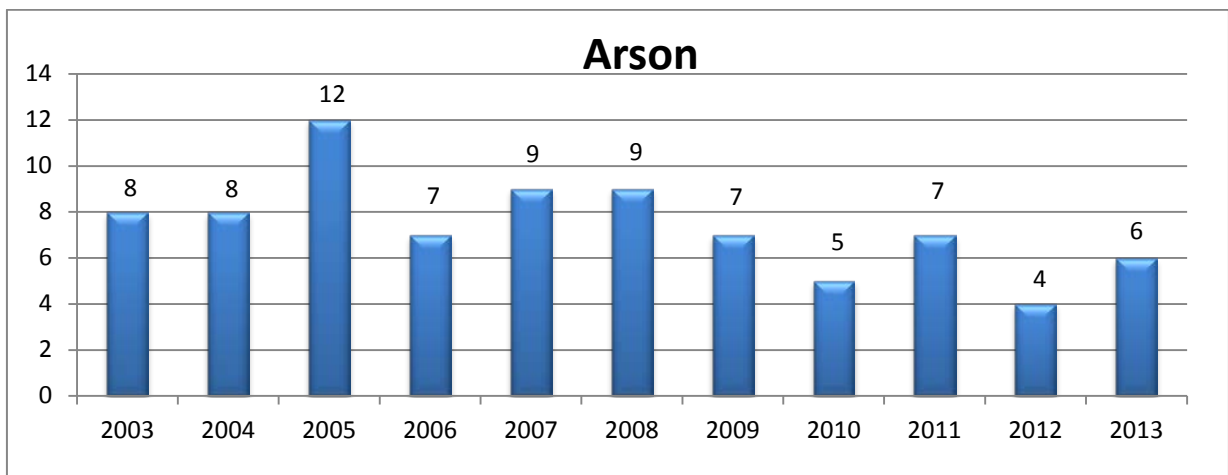
## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** 2012: 60 2013: 33 45% decrease

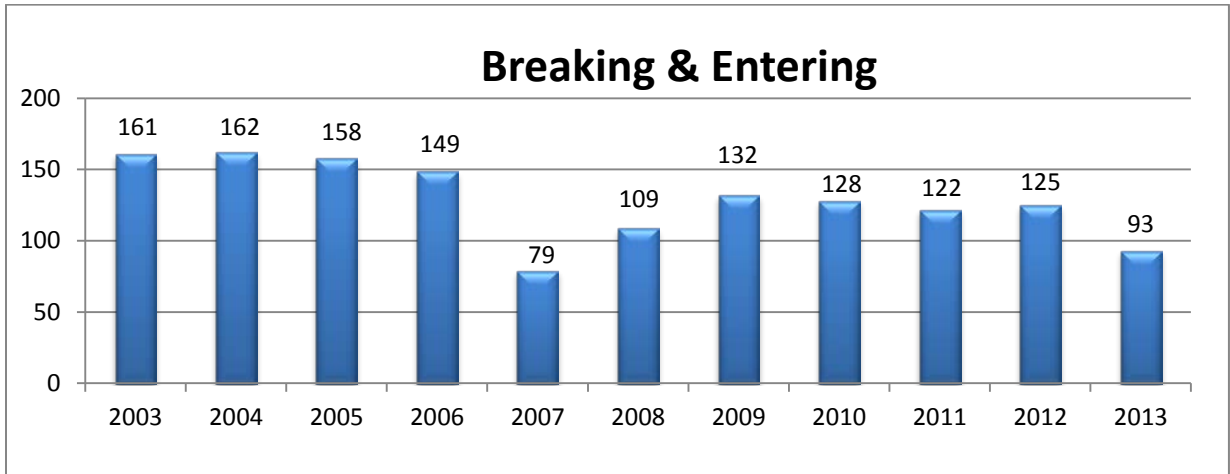


**Domestic Violence:** 2012: 525 2013: 428 18% decrease

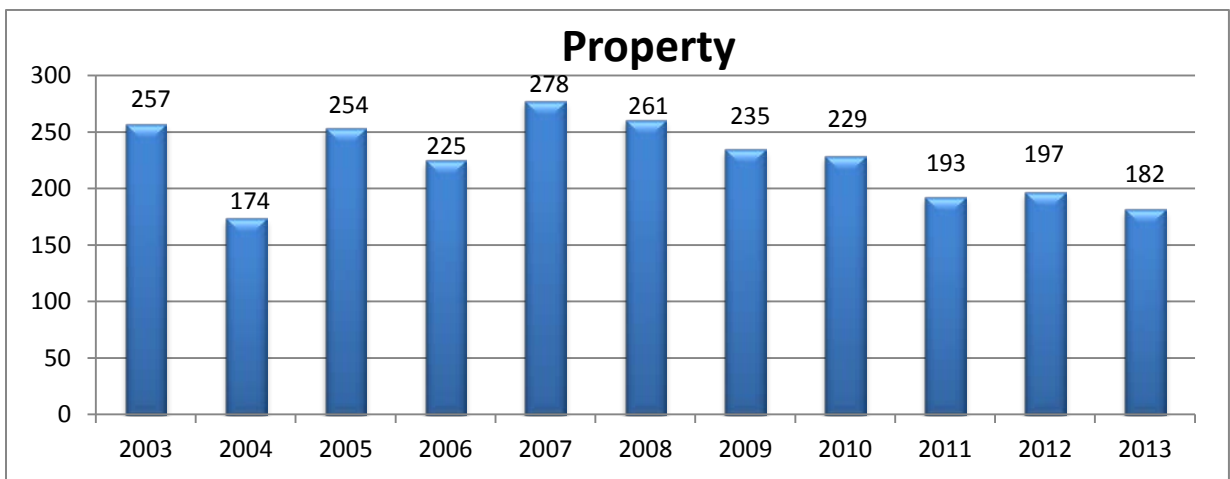


**Arson:** 2012: 4 2013: 6 50% increase

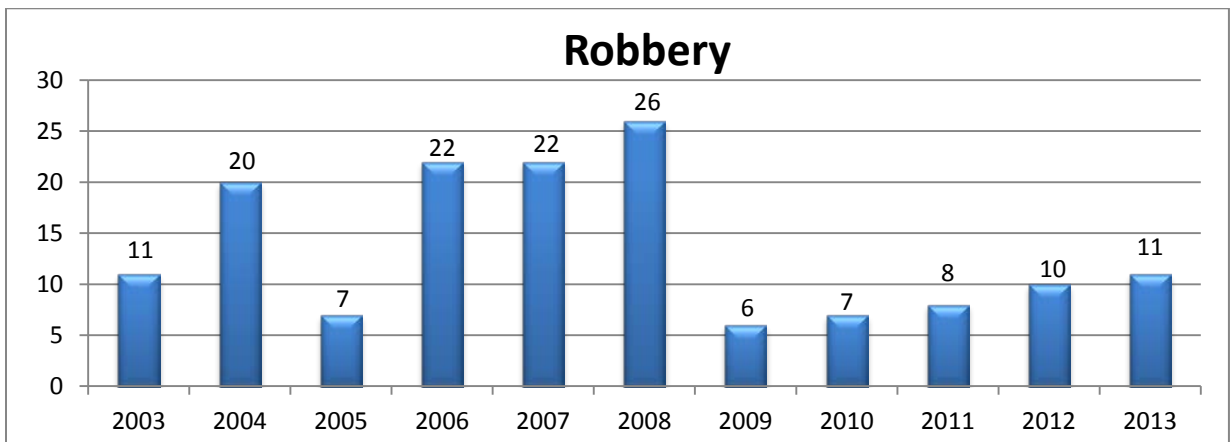
## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Breaking & Entering:** 2012: 125 2013: 93 26% decrease

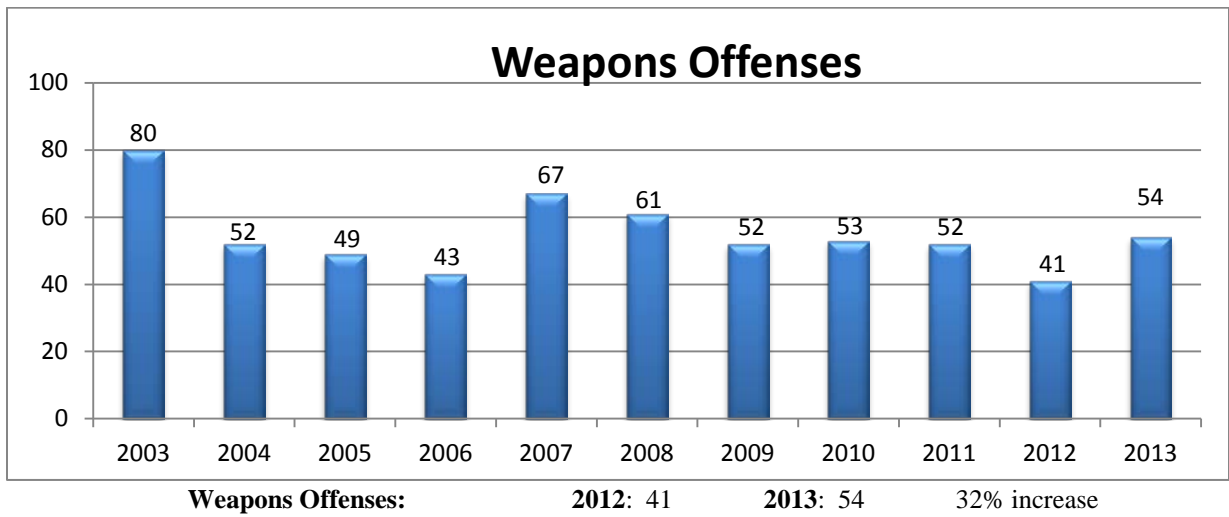


**Property:** 2012: 197 2013: 182 8% decrease



**Robbery:** 2012: 10 2013: 11 10% increase

## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED

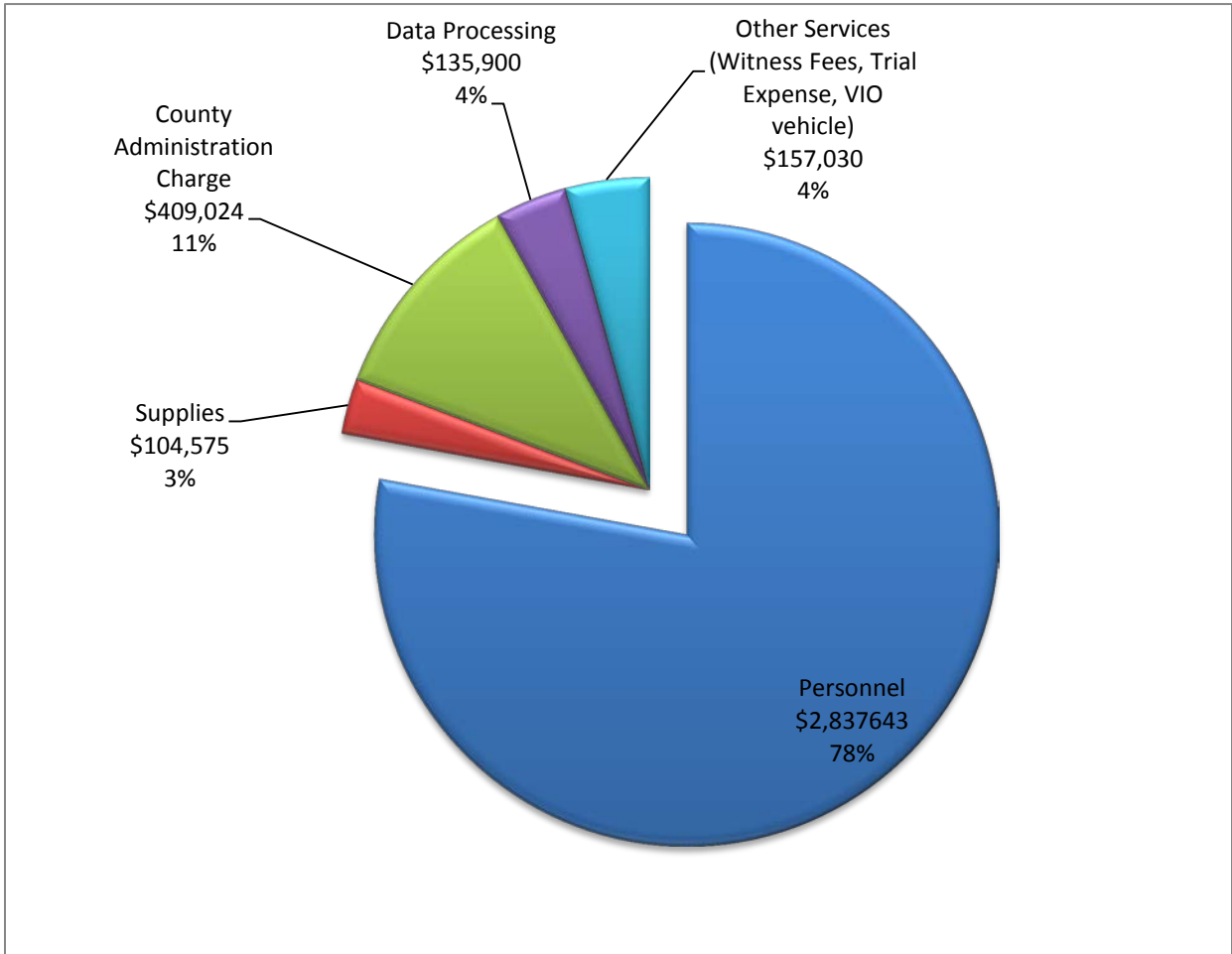


## ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Category	2012	2013	% Change
<b>Felony Trials:</b>			
Jury	14	24	72%
Non-Jury	2	3	50%
<b>Misdemeanor Trials</b>			
Jury	6	16	167%
Non-Jury	28	37	33%
<b>Civil Infraction Non-Jury Trials</b>	730	731	<1%
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Appeals Filed	18	10	(45%)
Applications for Leave to Appeal	32	31	(4%)
Appeals Pending Decision	18	6	(67%)
Parole Reviews	102	91	(11%)
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Child Abuse & Neglect Cases	78	95	22%
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<b>Child Support Cases</b>			
Paternity	161	181	13%
Non-Support	347	427	23%
URESA: Incoming	22	22	0%
Outgoing	46	48	5%
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<b>Concealed Weapons Board:</b>			
Applicant Interviews	1,221	2,013	64%
Reviews (without applicant present)	270	1,168	333%
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<b>Crime Victim's Rights:</b>			
Felony	836	785	(7%)
Misdemeanor	904	769	(15%)
Juvenile	498	424	(15%)
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Extraditions (Governor's Warrants)	1	3	200%
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Contested Mental Hearings & Guardianship Hearings	51	66	30%
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Civil Infractions	11,386	11,691	3%
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Violation of Personal Protection Order Hearings	55	57	4%
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Requests for Warrant Authorization (Returned for more investigation or denied)	2,258	2,347	4%

# BUDGET

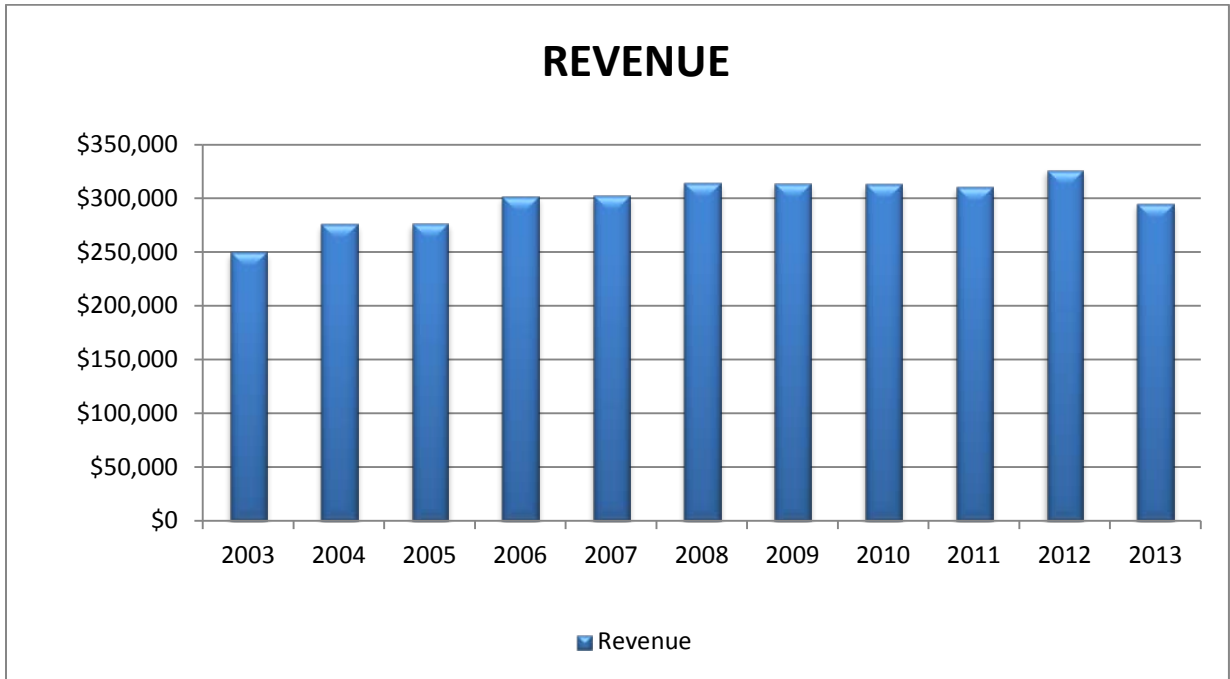
## Annual Expenses 2013



<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>% change</b>
Annual total:	\$3,606,155	\$3,644,172	2%

## 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, driver's 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.



47 % Increase over ten year period

<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>% change</b>
Annual total:	\$326,729	\$295,322	(10%)

<u>Prosecutor Revenue:</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Crime Victim's Rights	\$141,022.00	\$145,925.00
DHS Contract	20,334.25	21,777.05
Cooperative Reimbursement	129,703.12	84,594.38
OWI Reimbursement	21,842.00	17,550.00
Allegan Reimbursement	8,219.00	9,747.75
Driver License Hearings	1,976.00	3,432.00
Food Stamp Fraud	3,510.00	12,296.25
Miscellaneous	<u>122.10</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$326,728.72</b>	<b>\$295,322.43</b>

**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	Joe Baumann
District 3	Donald G. Disselkoen
District 4	Allen Dannenberg
District 5	James C. Holtrop
District 6	Dennis Van Dam
District 7	James Holtvluwer
District 8	Greg J. DeJong
District 9	Philip D. Kuyers
District 10	Roger A. Bergman
District 11	Matthew Fenske