

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Submitted by:
Ronald J. Frantz
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2016 **felony caseload** decreased by 5.5% over the 2015 level (1,309 cases in 2016, compared to 1,385 cases in 2015). Major felony crime categories showing significant increases during 2016 were Robbery (up 400%, 16 cases), Criminal Sexual Conduct (up 22%, 67 cases), and Drug Cases (up 18%, 1,095 cases). The most significant decreases were in Breaking and Entering (down 16%, 72 cases) and Felony Child Support (down 70%, 53 cases). Our **Felony Child Support Enforcement Program** activity, in conjunction with the Friend of the Court and Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, peaked in 2014 and has been rapidly declining as referrals from the Friend of the Court diminish.

The total **misdemeanor caseload** increased by 11% in 2016 (6,274 cases). **Juvenile crime**, as represented by petitions filed by our office, fell by almost 15% to a ten year low of 734 delinquency petitions filed. **Total criminal caseload** (combined felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile statistics) increased by 5.4% (8,317 cases in 2016). This total represents a deviation from the generally downward trend seen over the previous nine years, yet is still significantly lower than when crime totals peaked in 2006.

In 2016 three **homicides** occurred in Holland Township. All three suspects have been charged with **Murder**, and other related charges, and await trial in Circuit Court. Despite the above-mentioned homicides **gang violence and organized gang activity** remains markedly decreased since the successful federal prosecutions of several dozen members of the Latin King gang leadership in 2013 and 2014.

Our **Domestic Violence caseload** increased by 3.2% in 2016 (448 cases). Despite this increase, Domestic Violence levels have generally been declining since 2011, due in part to the efforts of the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and other groups which actively promote prevention and offer 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. Holland has added a **Mental Health Court**, using the treatment court concept to address the needs of offenders suffering from mental disorders. Additional Drug and Sobriety Courts are in the planning stages. The prosecutor is a part of each team, selecting offenders for the programs and monitoring their success.

The **Children's Advocacy Center** has been providing age-appropriate services for sexually abused children for over sixteen years. This nationally accredited center conducted 356 forensic interviews of children suspected of being sexual assault victims in 2016 (as compare to 302 interviews in 2015).

Our relatively low crime rate continues as an outgrowth of our collective community conscience and 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 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**
Lee Fisher Chief Assistant Prosecutor
Gregory J. Babbitt Senior Attorney, Appeals Division
Sarah Matwiejczyk Senior Attorney/Training Division
Jennifer Kuiper-Weise Senior Trial Attorney
Angie E. Rogers Office Administrator

ATTORNEY STAFF

GREGORY J. BABBITT, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 36 years of prosecution experience.

JUANITA F. BOCANEGRA, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 6 years of prosecution experience, and 3 years civil experience.

DEREK DALMAN, Michigan State University, B.A.; WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 1 year of prosecution experience.

LEE F. FISHER, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 28 years of prosecution experience.

RONALD J. FRANTZ, Kalamazoo College, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.; 40 years of prosecution experience.

JOELLEN HAAS, Indiana University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 14 years of prosecution experience.

JACOB JENISON, Central Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 4 years of prosecution experience.

PAUL KRAUS, Drake University, B.A. & B.S.E.; The University of Iowa, J.D.; 12 years of prosecution experience.

JENNIFER N. KUIPER-WEISE, University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; 13 years of prosecution experience.

SARAH F. MATWIEJCZYK, Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.; Michigan State University - Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 16 years of prosecution experience.

JOHN R. SCHEUERLE, Michigan State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 18 years of prosecution experience.

JAY TUBERGEN, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Michigan State University - College of Law, J.D.; 6 years of prosecution experience.

EDUARDO VELAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ, Carleton College, B.A.; Notre Dame College of Law, J.D.; 18 years of prosecution experience.

SUPPORT STAFF

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Ashlie Boerma Legal Assistant II
Brittany Brabo Legal Assistant III
Teresa Brolick Legal Clerk
Jacquelyn Hilgeman Legal Assistant II
Soonja Hixon Legal Assistant II
Mallory Jewell Legal Assistant III
Elizabeth Kuechenmeister Legal Assistant Specialist
Amy McSpadden Legal Assistant I
Sarah VanderPloeg Legal Assistant II

FAMILY COURT DIVISION

Juvenile & Probate Court

Jennifer Rasch Legal Assistant II

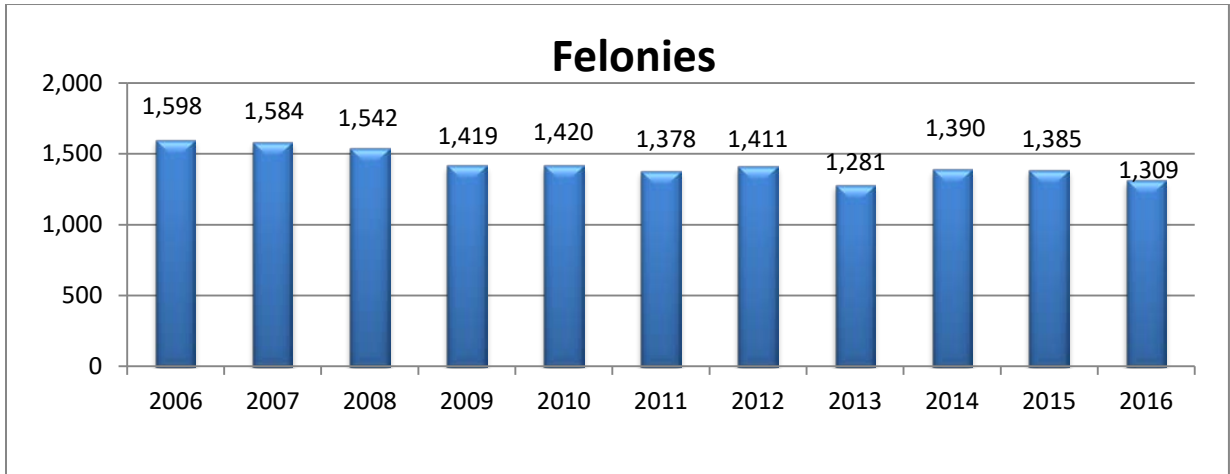
VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT

Joan Grillo.....Victim’s Rights Coordinator
Emily ElyVictim Advocate
Emma KramerVictim Advocate

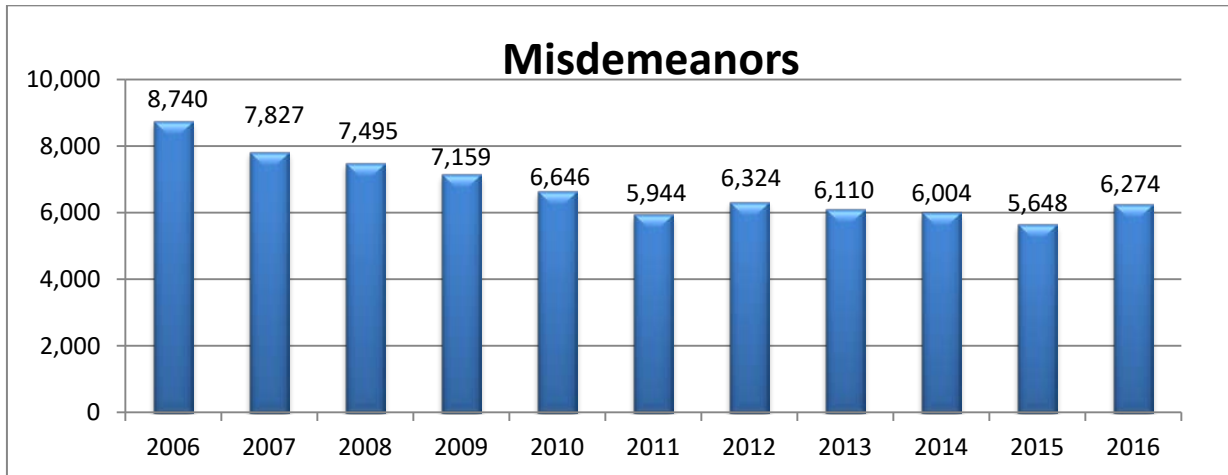
DOMESTIC ASSAULT UNIT

Jennifer Gustafson.....Violence Intervention Officer

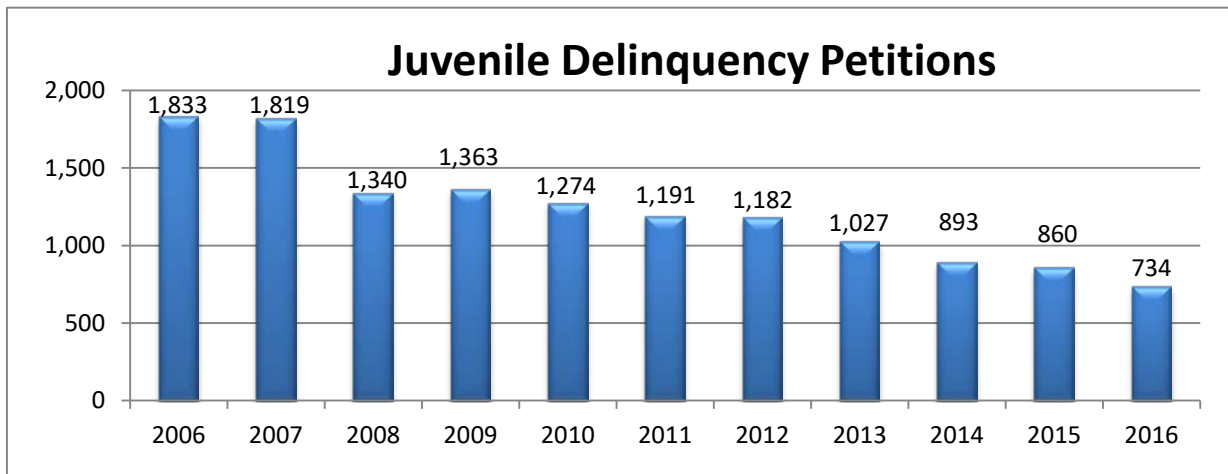
CRIMINAL CASELOAD



Adult Felony Cases: 2015: 1,385 2016: 1,309 5.5% decrease

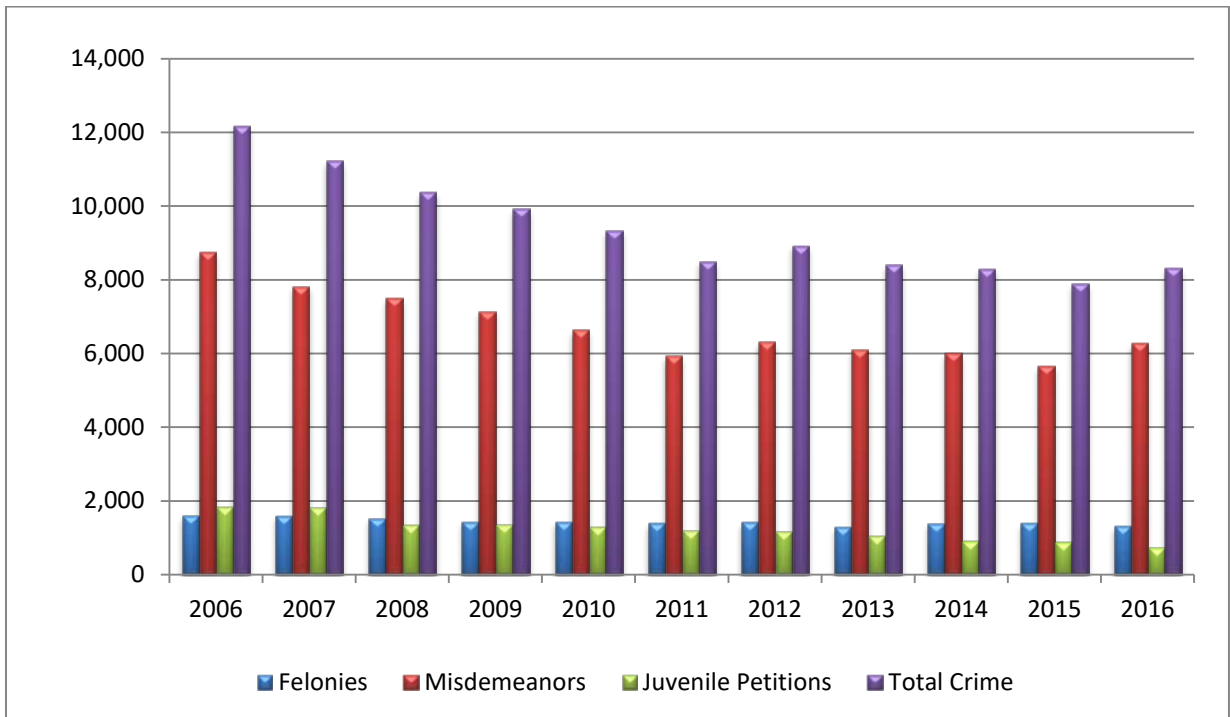


Adult Misdemeanors: 2015: 5,648 2016: 6,274 11% increase



Juvenile Delinquency: 2015: 860 2016: 734 14.7% decrease

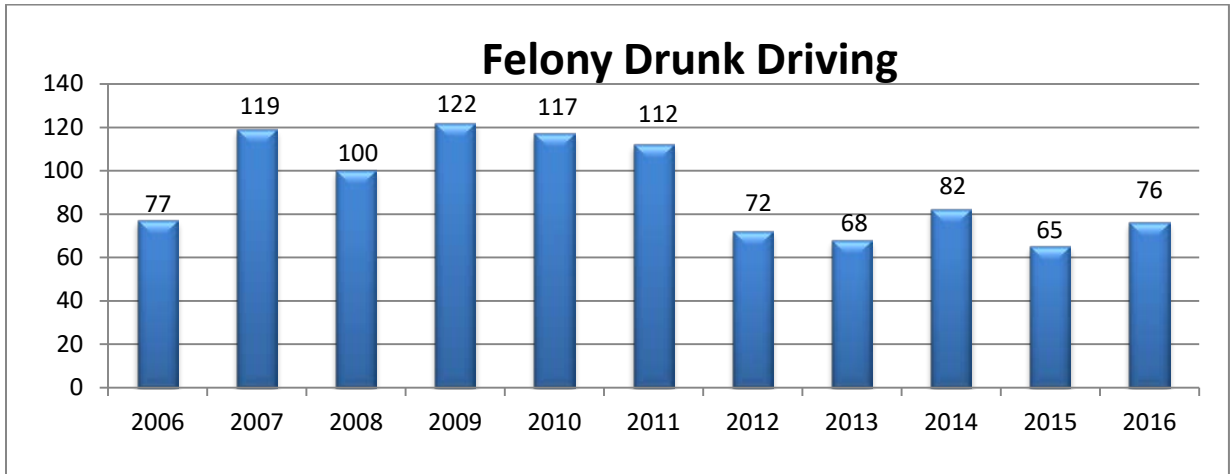
TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS



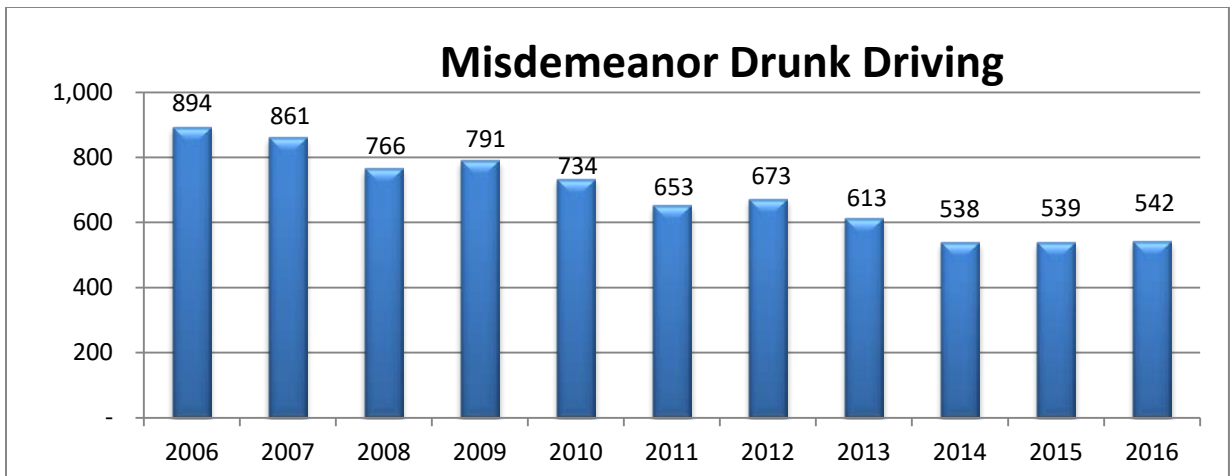
Total Crime (combined): 2015: 7,893 2016: 8,317 5.4% Increase

CRIME CATEGORIES

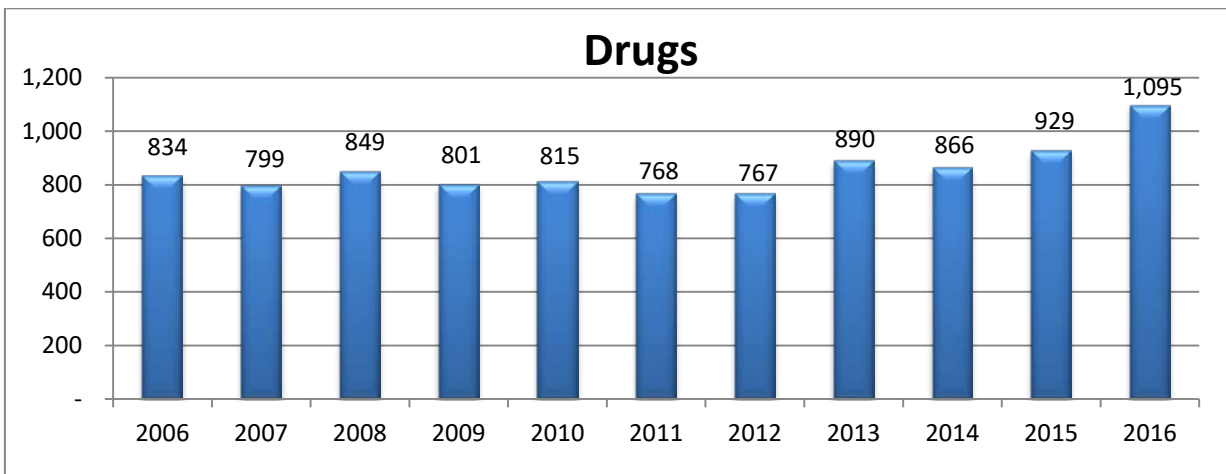
All categories reported for adult crime data only.



Felony Drunk Driving: 2015: 65 2016: 76 17% increase

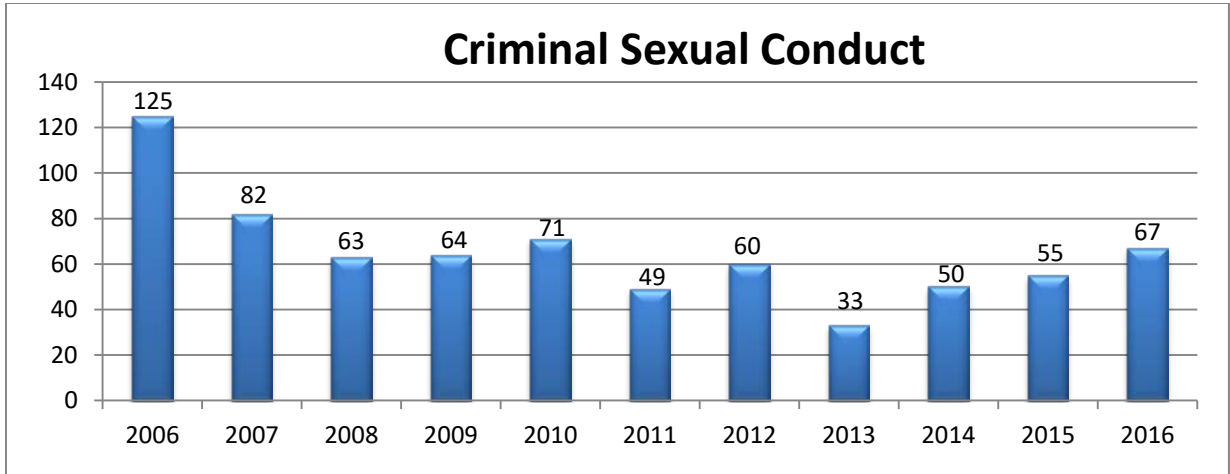


Misdemeanor Drunk Driving: 2015: 539 2016: 542 <1% increase

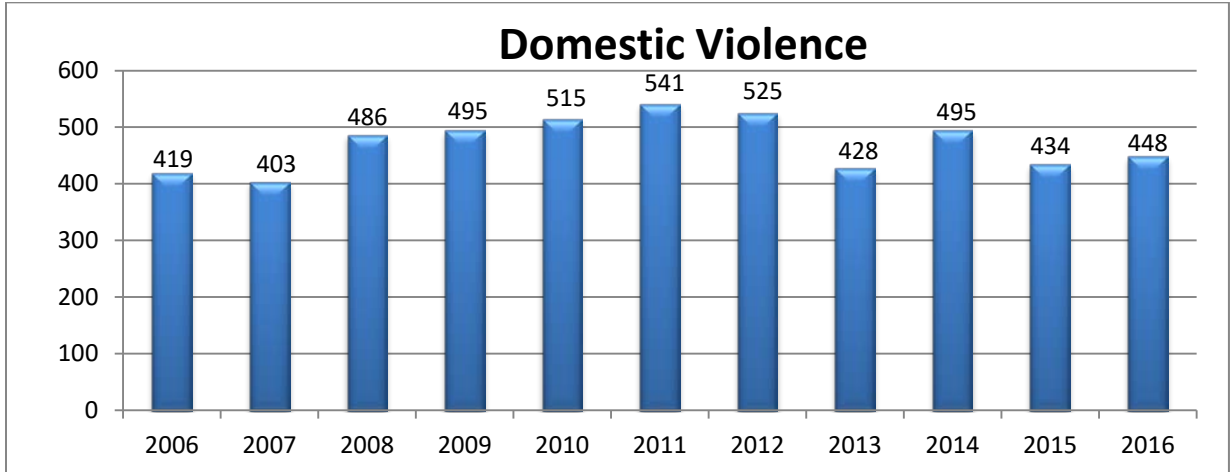


Drug Cases: 2015: 929 2016: 1,095 18% increase

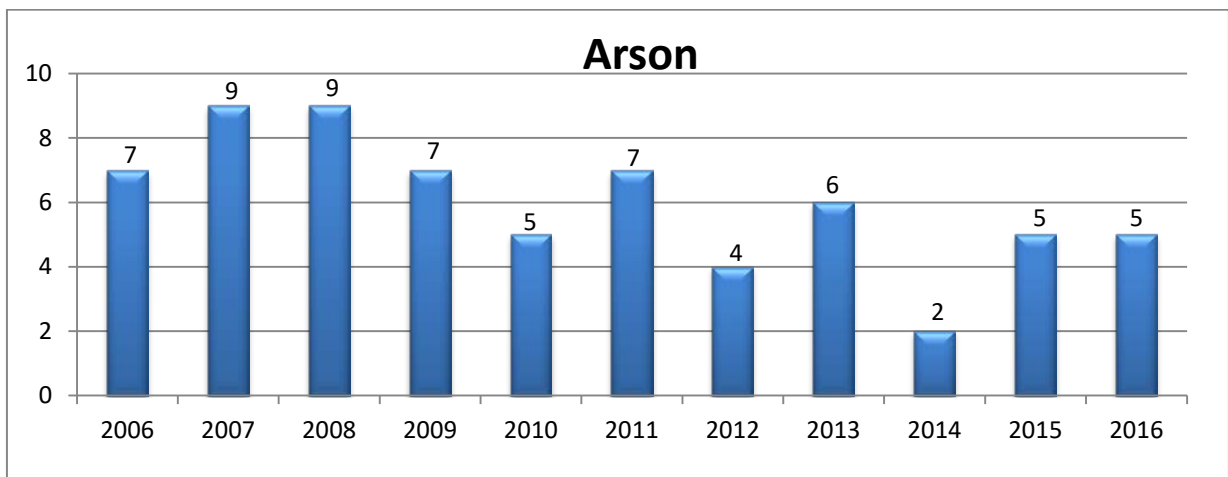
CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Criminal Sexual Conduct: 2015: 55 2016: 67 21.8% increase

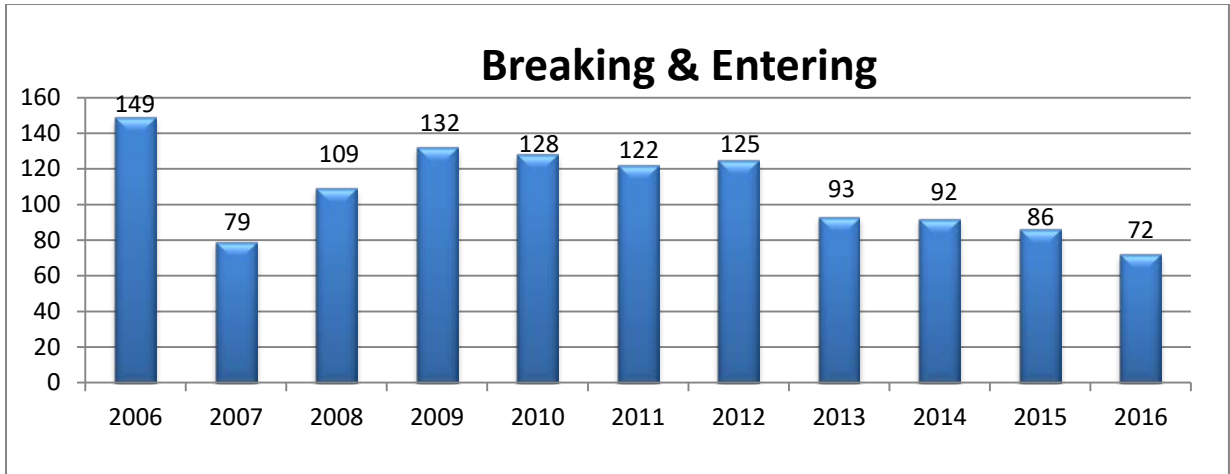


Domestic Violence: 2015: 434 2016: 448 3.2% increase

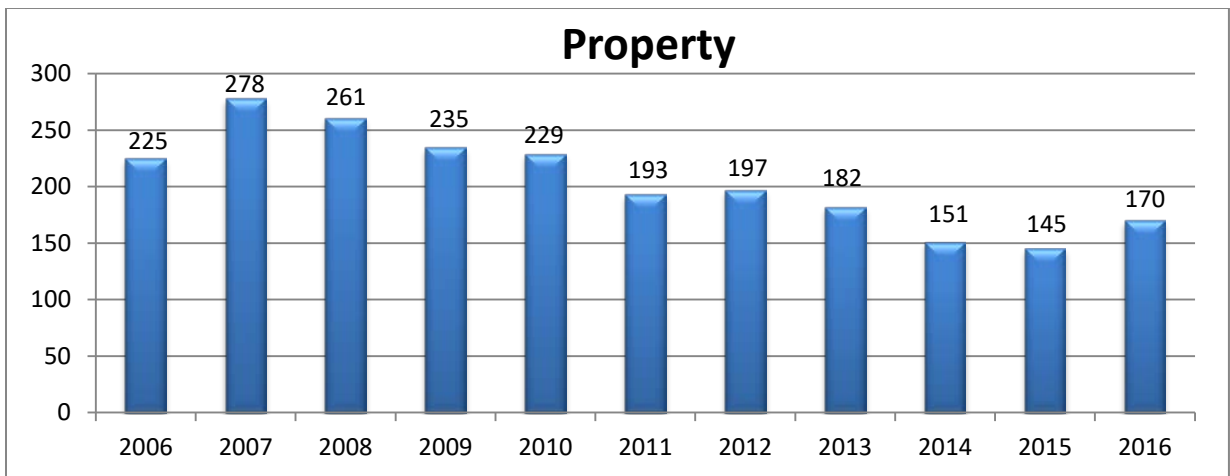


Arson: 2015: 5 2016: 5 No change

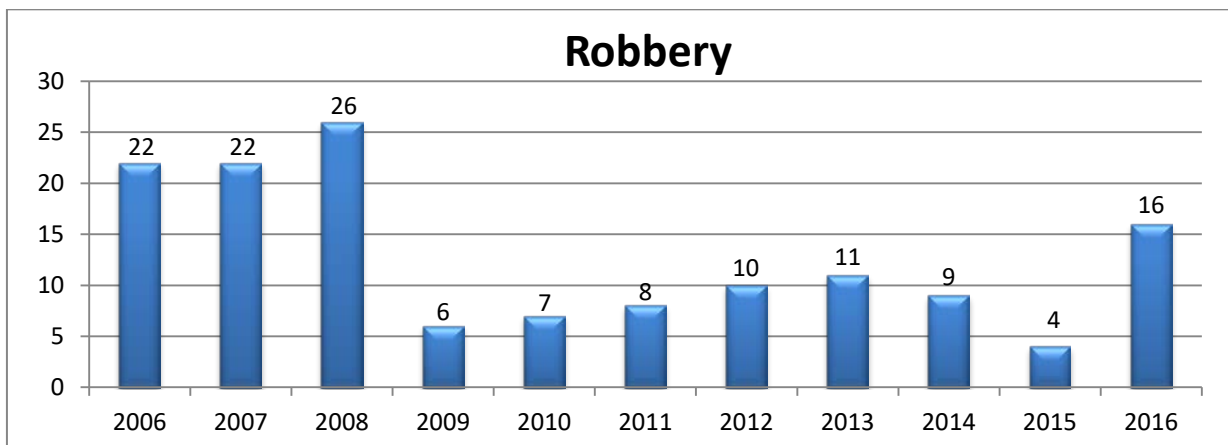
CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Breaking & Entering: 2015: 86 2016: 72 16.3% decrease

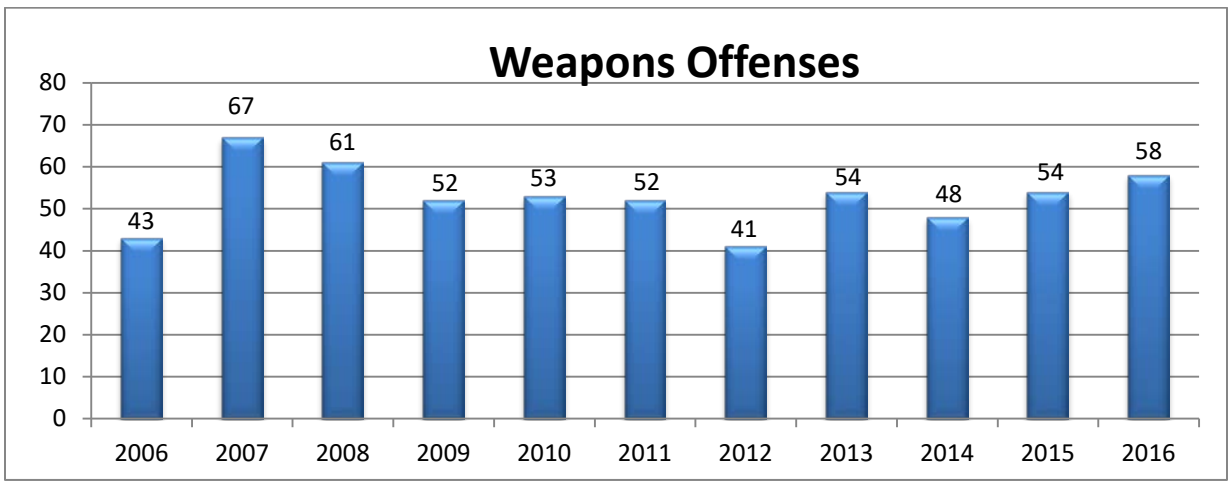


Property: 2015: 145 2016: 170 17.2% increase

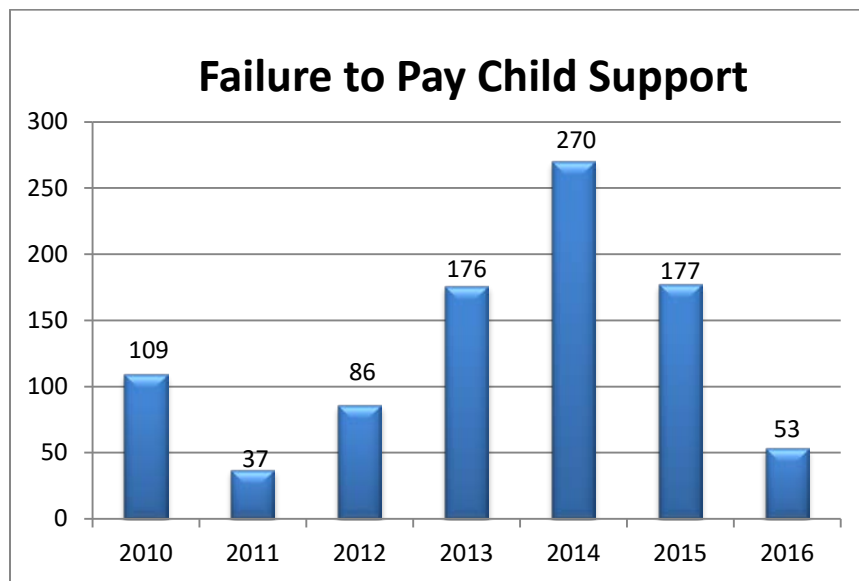


Robbery: 2015: 4 2016: 16 400% increase

CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Weapons Offenses: 2015: 54 2016: 58 7.4% increase



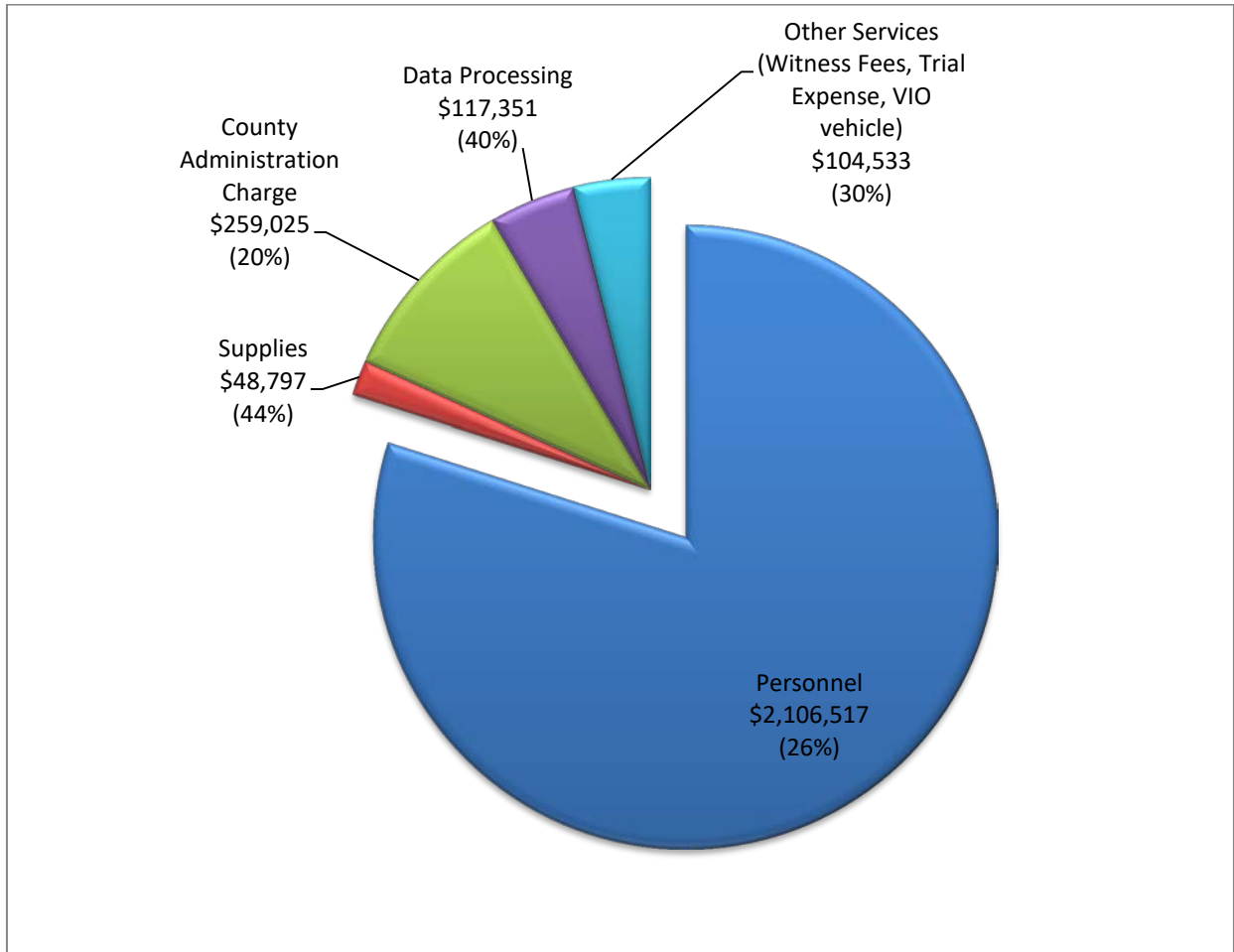
Failure to Pay Child Support: 2015: 177 2016: 53 70% decrease

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Category	2015	2016	% Change:
Criminal Division:			
Felony Trials			
Jury:	10	7	(30%)
Non-Jury:	2	5	150%
Misdemeanor Trials			
Jury:	7	7	No change
Non-Jury:	20	18	(10%)
Civil Infraction Non-Jury Trials	558	608	9%
Family Division:			
Abuse/Neglect			
Jury:	0	0	No change
Non-Jury:	24	29	20.8%
Appeals Filed:	15	10	(33.3%)
Applications for Leave to Appeal:	29	27	(6.9%)
Appeals Pending Decision:	10	13	30%
Parole Reviews:	100	121	21%
Child Abuse & Neglect Cases:	100	83	(17%)
Crime Victim's Rights			
Felony	870	793	(8.9%)
Misdemeanor	779	810	4%
Juvenile	408	376	(7.8%)
Extraditions (Governor's Warrants):	4	1	(75%)
Contested Mental Hearings & Guardianship Hearings:	80	39	(51%)
Civil Infractions:	8,866	9,647	9%
Violation of Personal Protection Order Hearings:	28	14	(50%)
Requests for Warrant Authorization (Returned for more investigation or denied):	2,107	2,235	6%

BUDGET

Annual Expenses 2016*

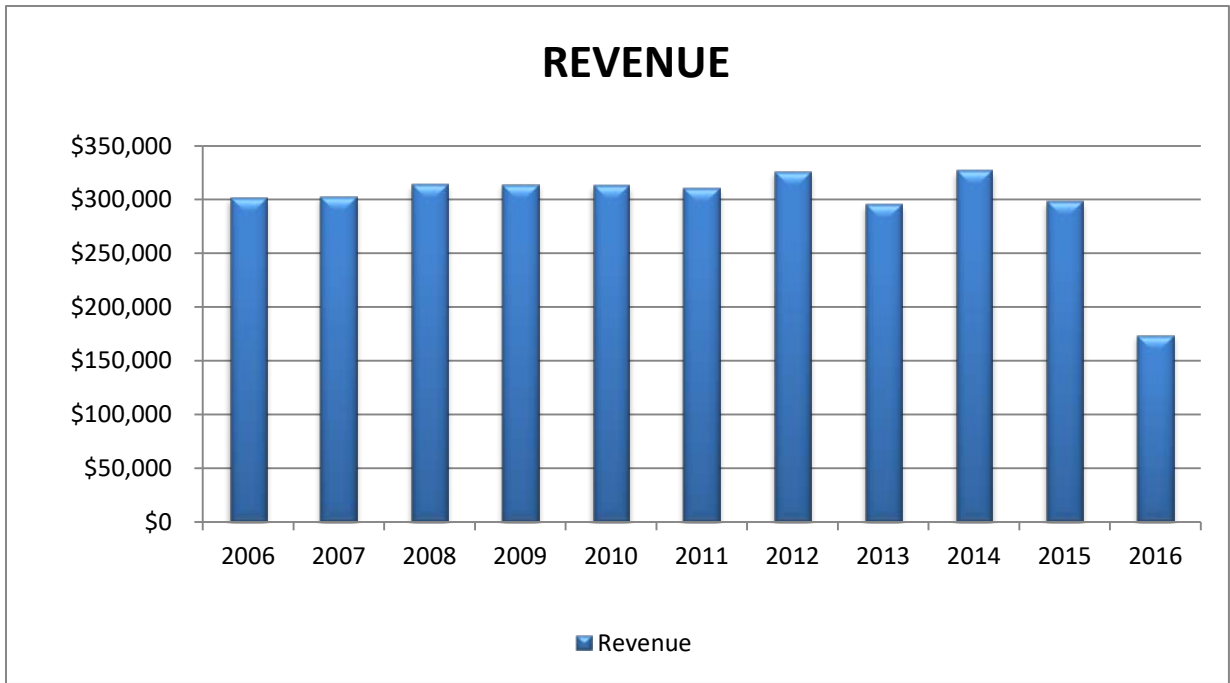


Total Budget:	2015	2016	% change
Annual total:	\$3,598,625	\$2,636,223	(27%)

*Please note that the 2016 Annual Expenses reflected in the pie chart are for January – September 2016 due to the transition to a new fiscal year and the resulting short year budget.

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, food stamp fraud prosecution, driver's 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.



Revenue:	2015	2016	% change
Annual total:	\$298,586.00	\$174,188.18	(42%)

<u>Prosecutor Revenue:</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Crime Victim's Rights	\$166,844.00	\$102,164.03
DHS Contract	19,175.00	33,715.37
Cooperative Reimbursement	101,924.00	*see note
OWI Reimbursement	13,475.00	30,076.28
Allegan Reimbursement	3,268.00	4,237.50
Driver License Hearings	2,392.00	2,600.00
Food Stamp Fraud	1,508.00 ^c	1,395.00
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total Revenue	\$298,586.00	\$174,188.18

* Reporting of revenues for IV-D is now merged with the Friend of the Court revenue reporting due to a combined contract

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

District 1	Francisco C. Garcia
District 2	Joe Baumann
District 3	Donald G. Disselkoen
District 4	Allen Dannenberg
District 5	Mike P. Haverdink
District 6	Kelly Kuiper
District 7	James Holtvluwer
District 8	Greg J. DeJong
District 9	Philip D. Kuyers
District 10	Roger A. Bergman
District 11	Matthew Fenske