

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Submitted by:
Ronald J. Frantz
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2014 **felony caseload** increased by 8.5% over the 2013 level (1,390 cases in 2014, compared to 1,281 cases in 2013). This increase is largely due to the expansion of our Felony Child Support prosecution program, in conjunction with the Friend of the Court and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department. Felony Child Support charges rose 53% from 176 in 2013 to 270 in 2014. Major felony crime categories showing significant increases during 2014 were Felony Drunk Driving (up 21%, 82 cases) and Criminal Sexual Conduct (up 52%, 50 cases). Both categories remain significantly lower than their ten year high levels. The most significant decrease was in Property Crimes (down 17%, 151 cases).

The total **misdemeanor caseload** declined slightly by 1.8% in 2014 (6,004 cases). **Juvenile crime**, as represented by petitions filed by our office, fell significantly (13%) to a ten year low of 893 delinquency petitions filed. **Total criminal caseload** (combined felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile statistics) decreased by 1.6% (8,287 cases in 2014). This total represents a continuation of the generally downward trend seen over the previous seven years and is significantly lower than when crime totals peaked in 2006.

2014 was an unusually active year for homicide cases, our office handling five such cases at various times throughout the year. The highlight was securing the two-count **1st degree murder** conviction of Ryan Wyngarden for the 1987 murders of Rick and Gale Brink. Also, Maryann Castorena and Anthony Delagarza were convicted for their involvement in the life insurance motivated killing of Park Township resident Jose Hernandez. Thus far in 2015, two homicides remain pending in our courts.

Gang violence and organized gang activity remain 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 16% in 2014 (495 cases). Domestic Violence levels remain high despite the efforts of the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and other groups to 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. 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 fifteen years. This nationally accredited center conducted 354 interviews of children suspected of being sexual assault victims in 2014 (as compare to 325 interviews in 2013), an increase consistent with 2014 Criminal Sexual Conduct statistics.

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 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

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.; 34 years of prosecution experience.

JUANITA F. BOCANEGRA, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 4 years of prosecution experience, and 3 years civil experience.

LEE F. FISHER, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 26 years of prosecution experience.

RONALD J. FRANTZ, Kalamazoo College, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.; 38 years of prosecution experience.

JOELLEN HAAS, Indiana University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 12 years of prosecution experience.

JENNIFER N. KUIPER, University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; 11 years of prosecution experience.

SARAH F. MATWIEJCZYK, Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.; Michigan State University – Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 14 years of prosecution experience.

DOUGLAS L. MESMAN, Calvin College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, J.D.; 36 years of prosecution experience.

KAREN J. MIEDEMA, Ferris State University, B.S.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D.; 29 years of prosecution experience.

JUDITH K. MULDER, DePauw University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 26 years of prosecution experience.

JOHN R. SCHEUERLE, Michigan State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 16 years of prosecution experience.

JAY TUBERGEN, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Michigan State University – College of Law, J.D.; 4 years of prosecution experience.

EDUARDO VELAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ, Carleton College, B.A.; Notre Dame College of Law, J.D.; 16 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
Amanda Westendorp Child Support Investigator

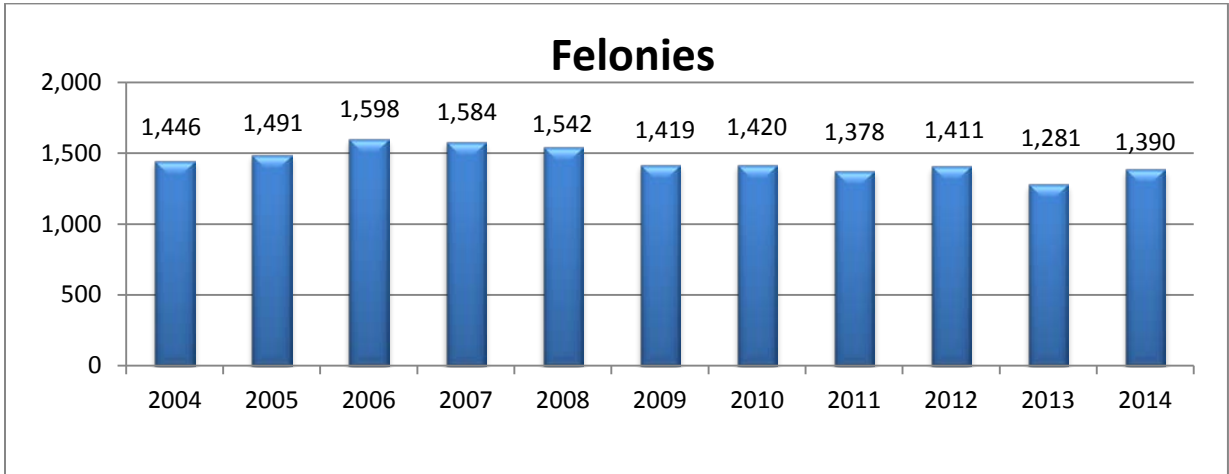
VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT

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

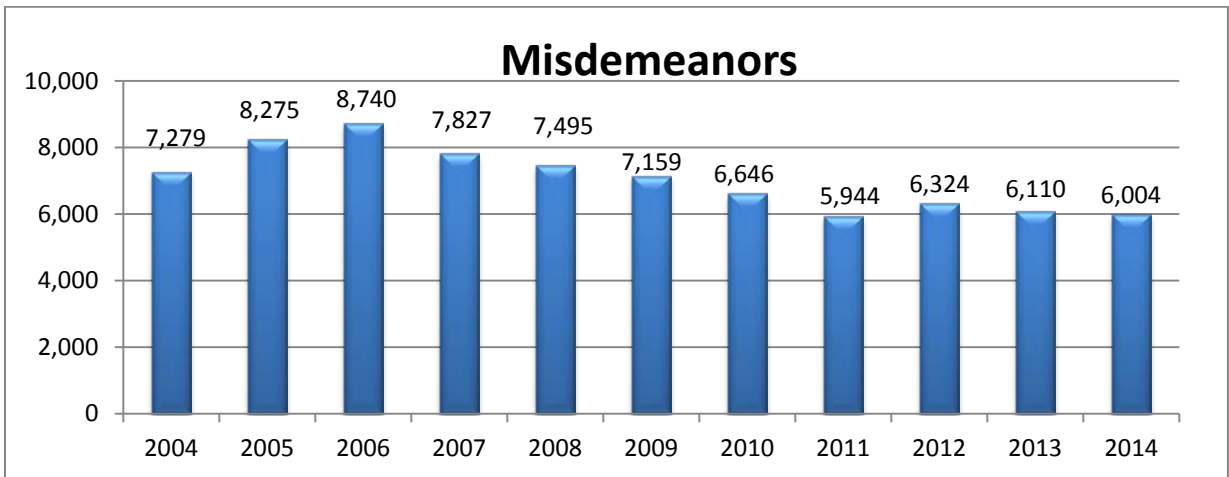
DOMESTIC ASSAULT UNIT

Jennifer Gustafson Violence Intervention Officer

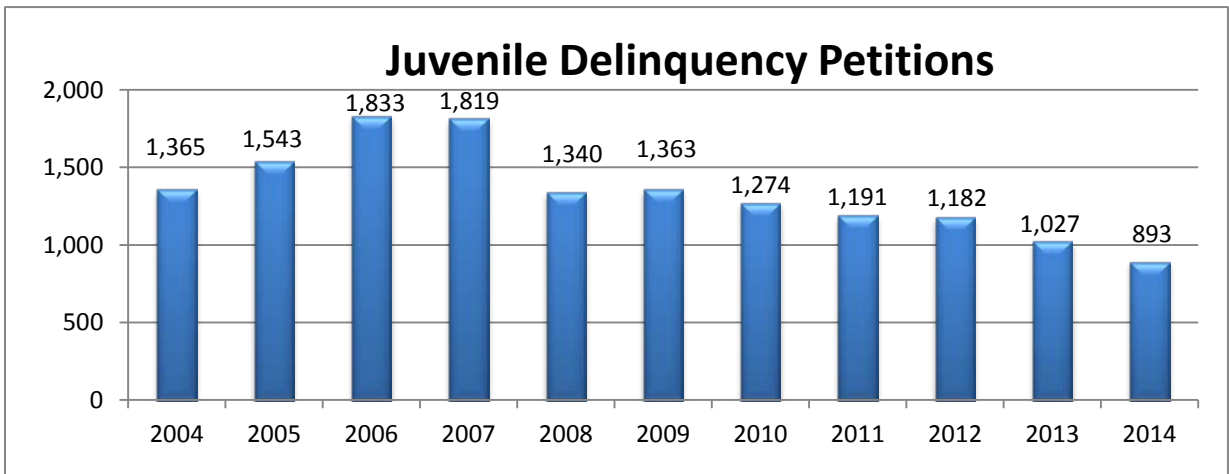
CRIMINAL CASELOAD



Adult Felony Cases: 2013: 1,281 2014: 1,390 8.5% increase

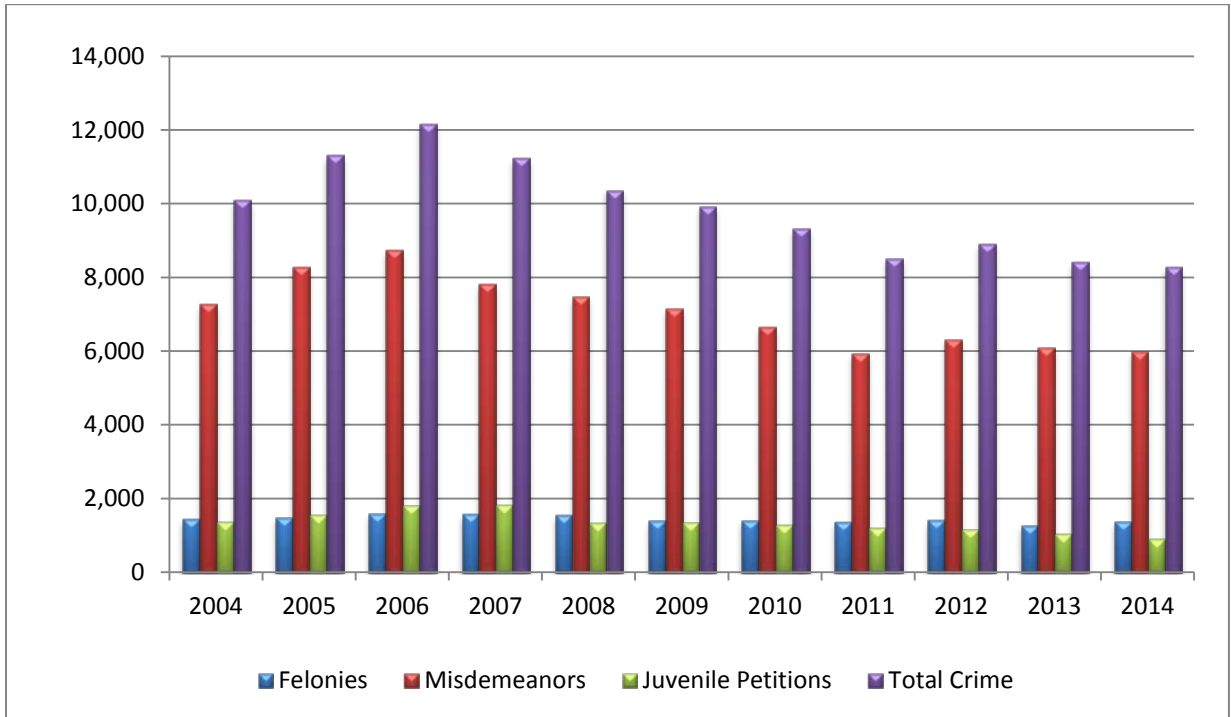


Adult Misdemeanors: 2013: 6,110 2014: 6,004 1.8% decrease



Juvenile Delinquency: 2013: 1,027 2014: 893 13% decrease

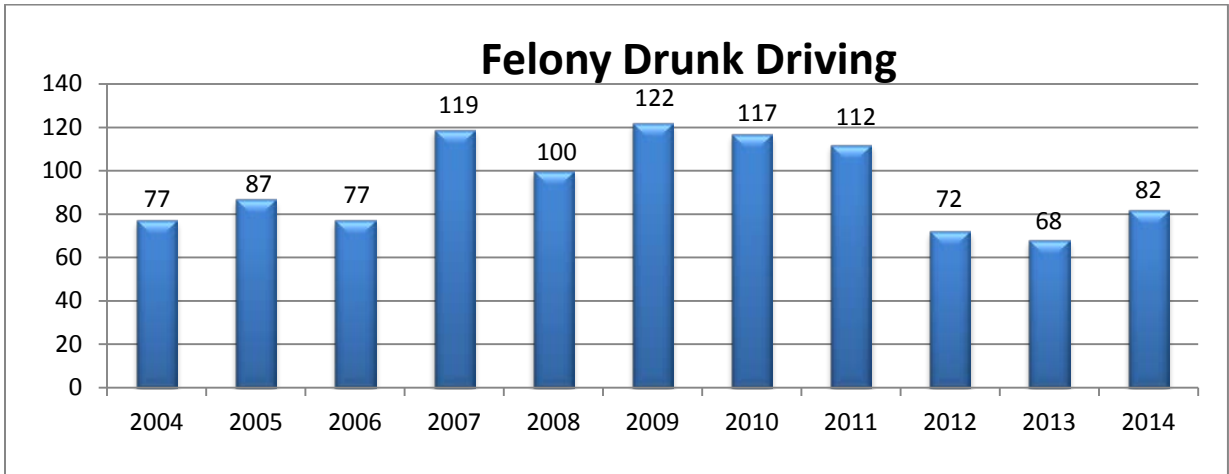
TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS



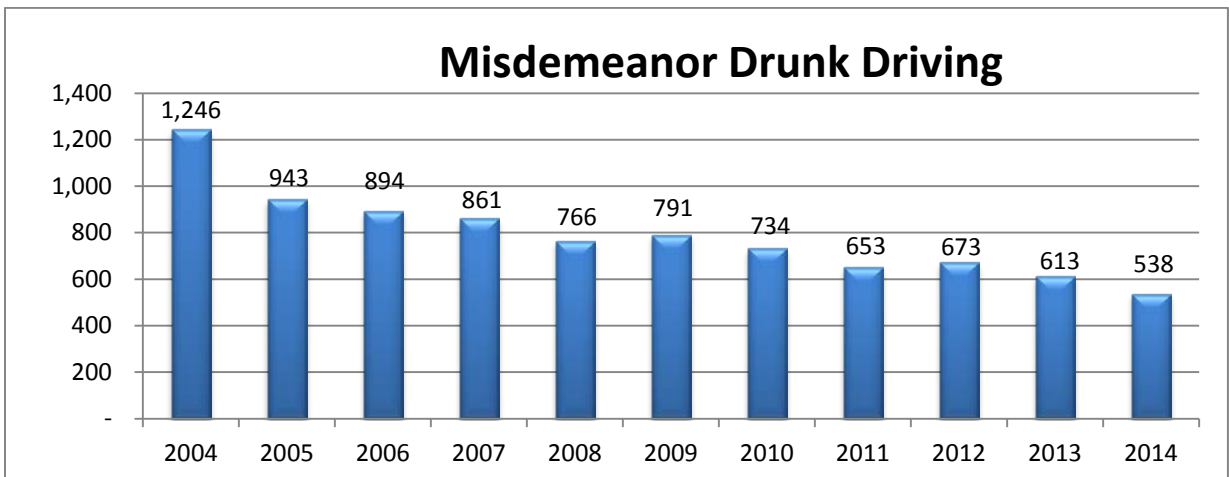
Total Crime (combined): 2013: 8,418 2014: 8,287 1.6% decrease

CRIME CATEGORIES

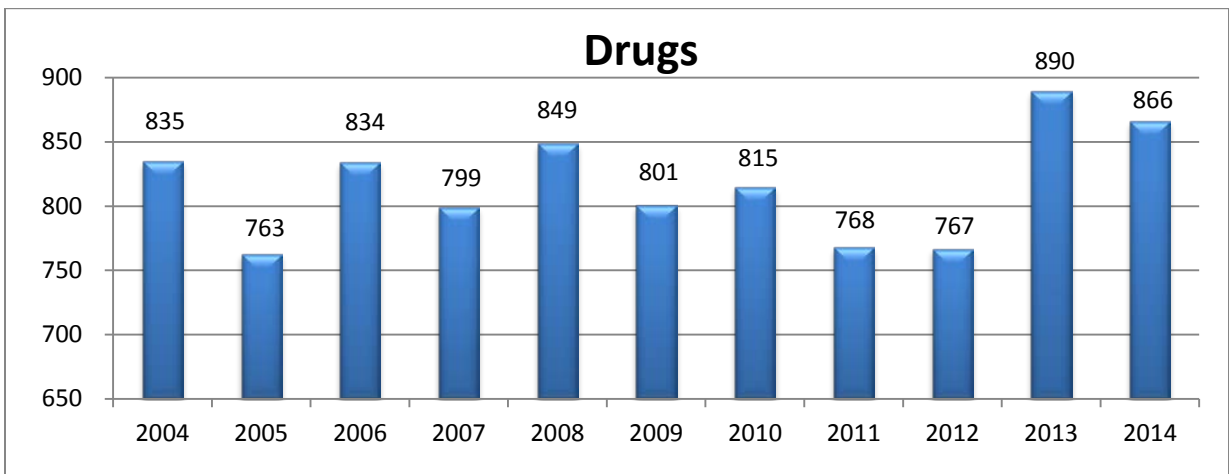
All categories reported for adult crime data only.



Felony Drunk Driving: 2013: 68 2014: 82 21% increase

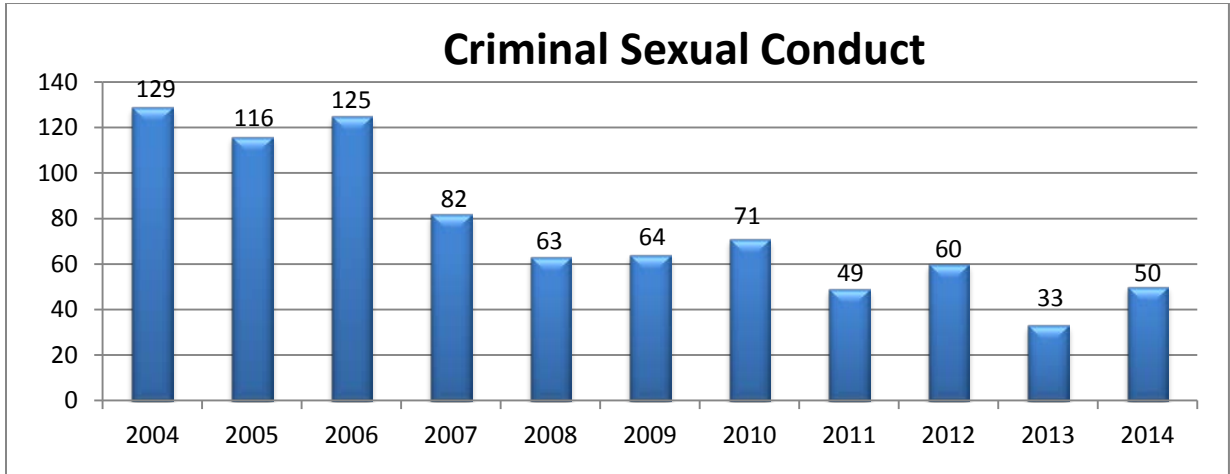


Misdemeanor Drunk Driving: 2013: 613 2014: 538 12% decrease

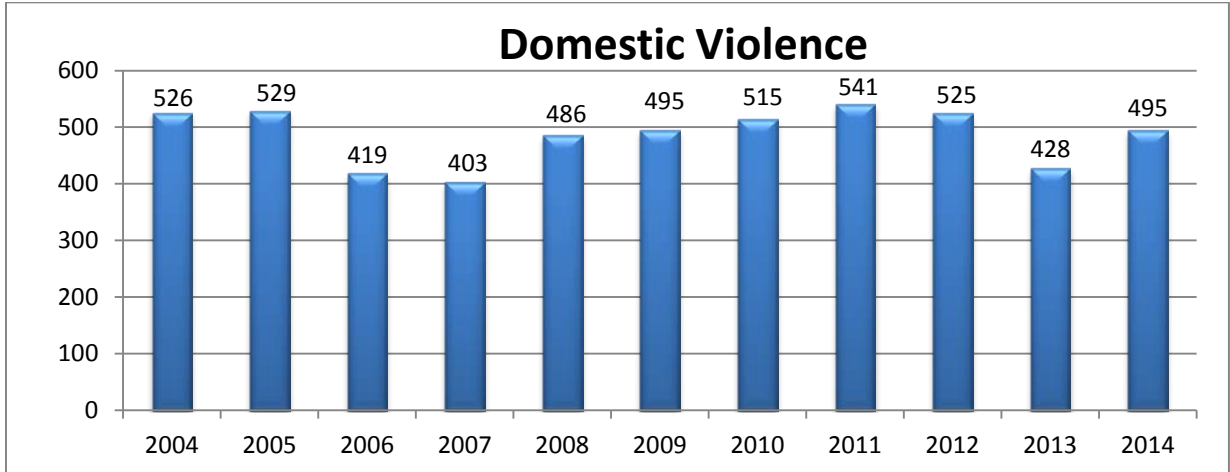


Drug Cases: 2013: 890 2014: 866 3% decrease

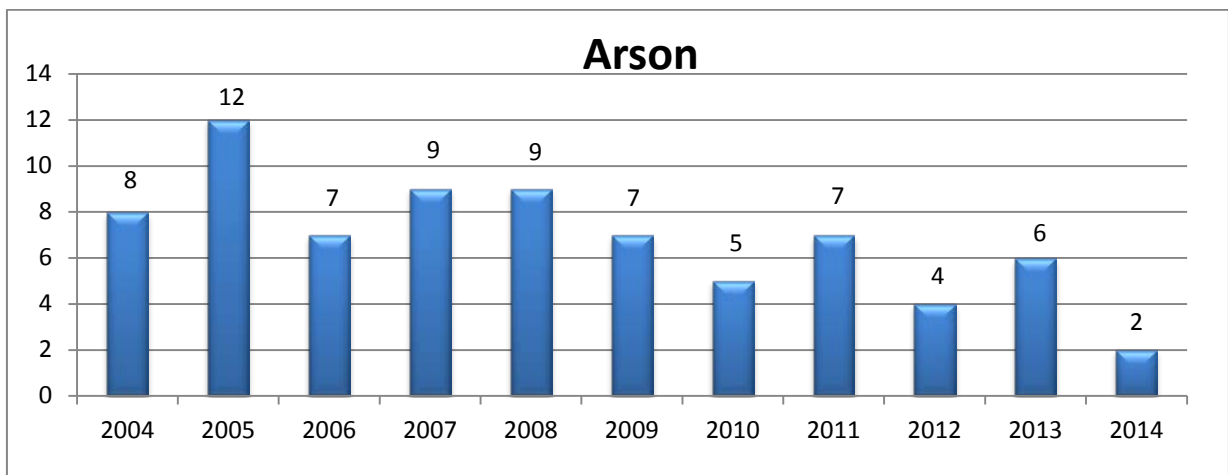
CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Criminal Sexual Conduct: 2013: 33 2014: 50 52% increase

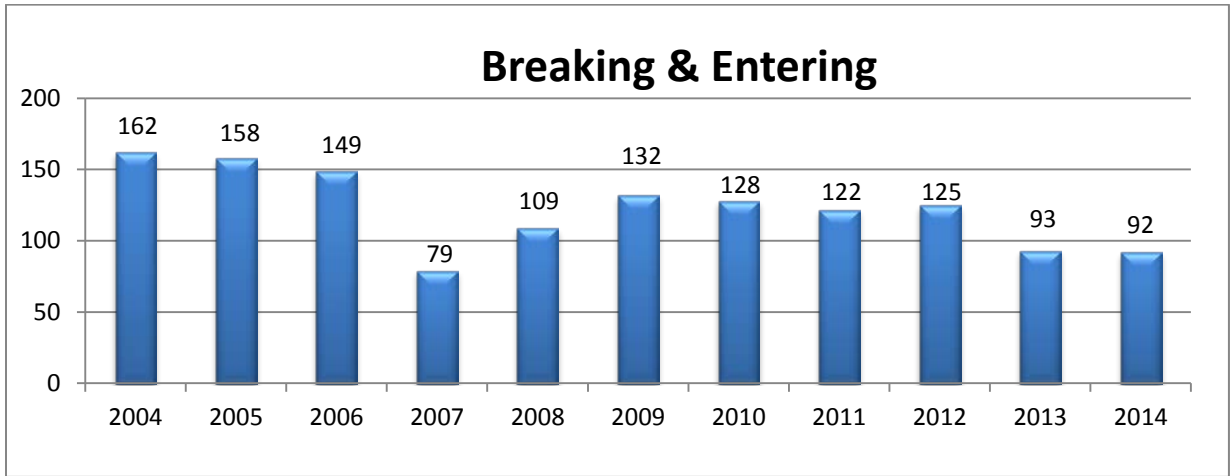


Domestic Violence: 2013: 428 2014: 495 16% increase

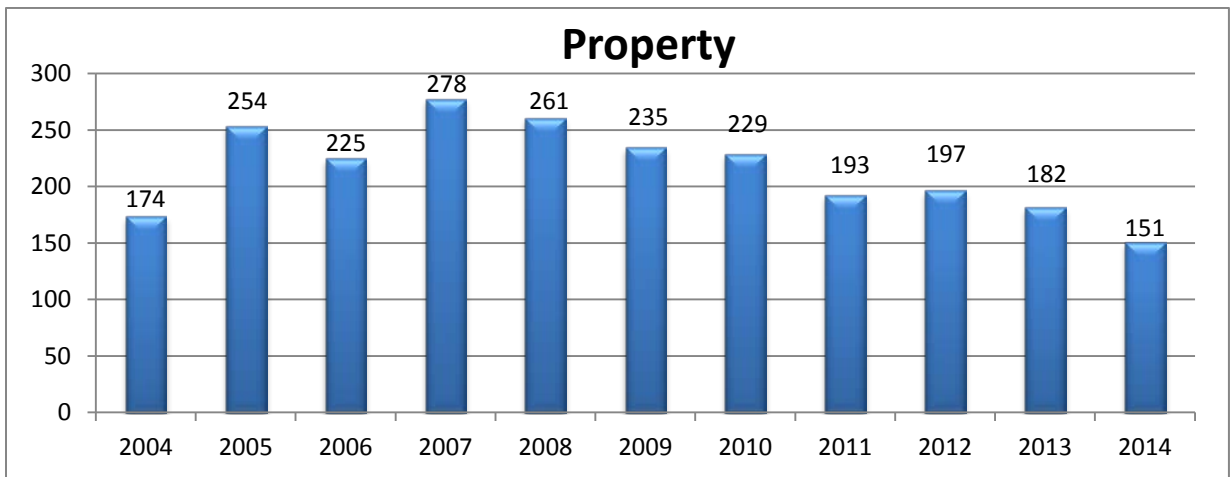


Arson: 2013: 6 2014: 2 67% decrease

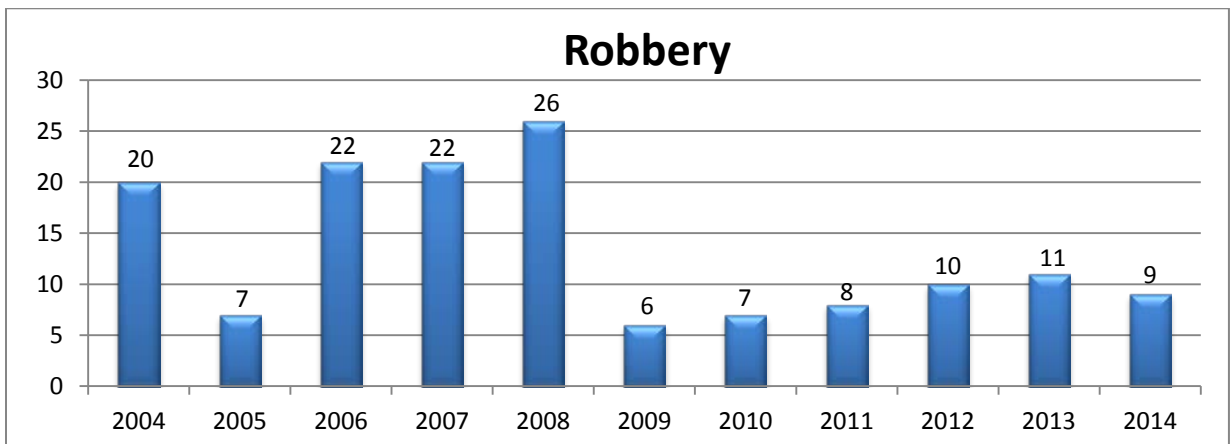
CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Breaking & Entering: 2013: 93 2014: 92 1% decrease

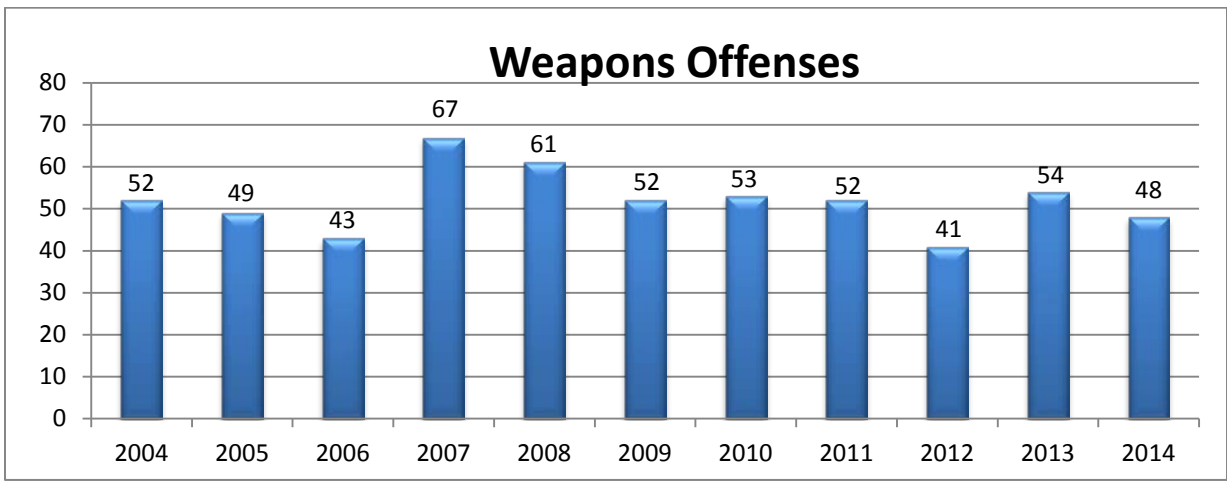


Property: 2013: 182 2014: 151 17% decrease

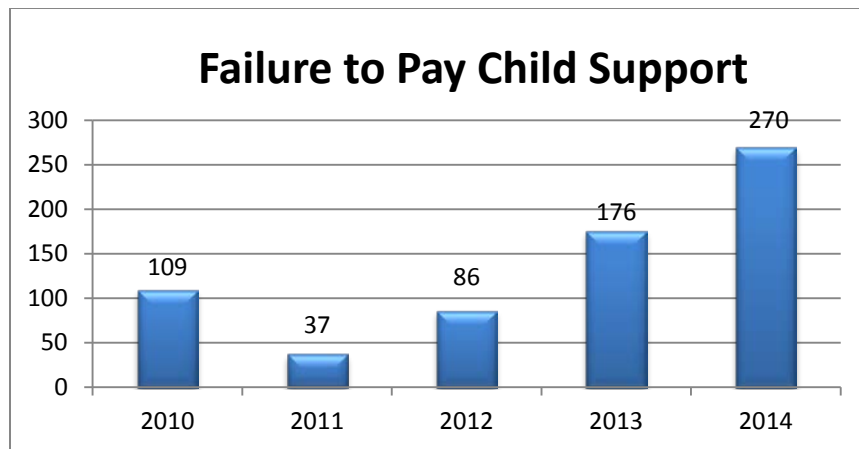


Robbery: 2013: 11 2014: 9 18% decrease

CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



Weapons Offenses: 2013: 54 2014: 48 11% decrease



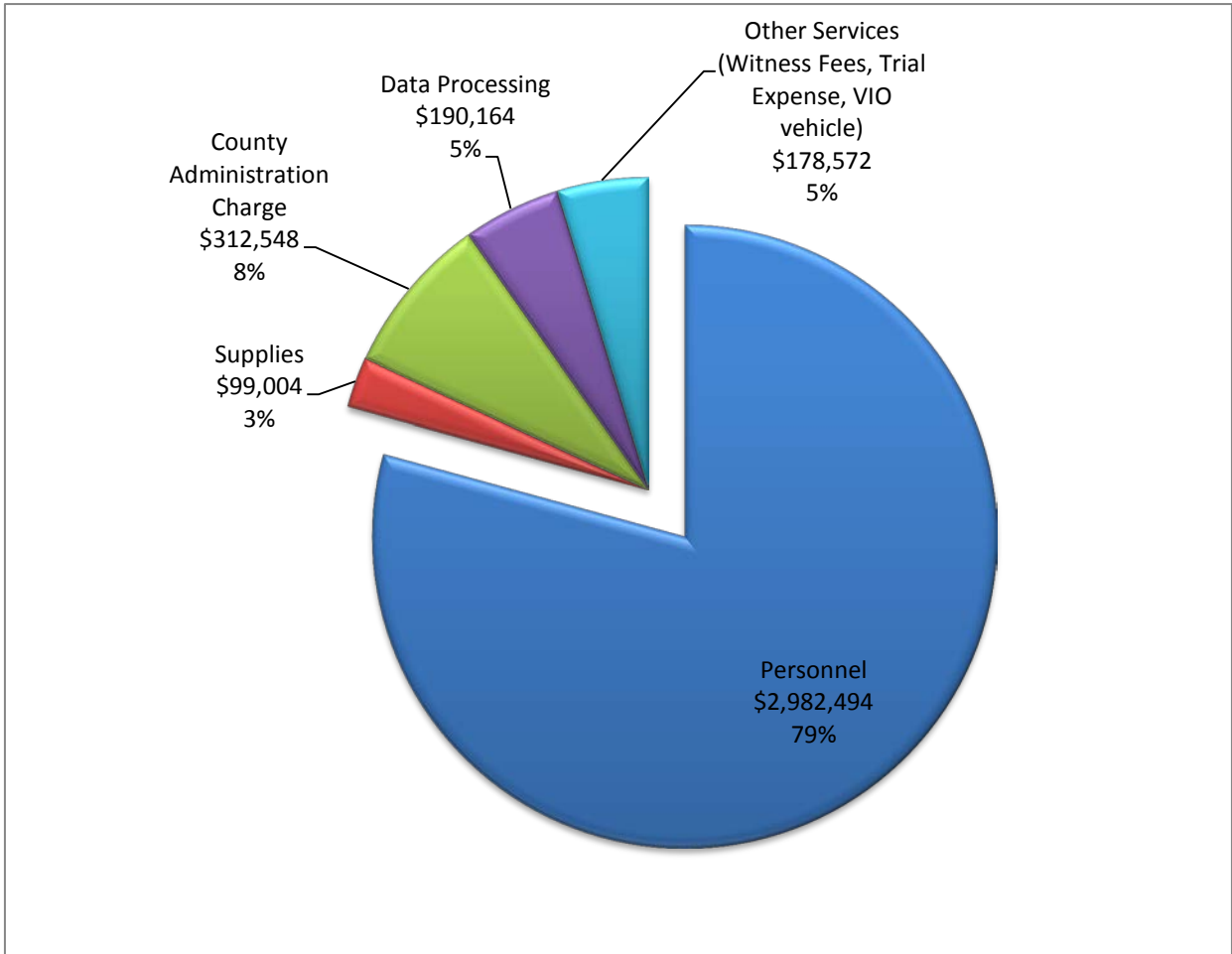
Failure to Pay Child Support: 2013: 176 2014: 270 53% increase

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Category	2013	2014	% Change:
Criminal Division:			
Felony Trials			
Jury:	24	11	(54%)
Non-Jury:	3	4	33%
Misdemeanor Trials			
Jury:	16	5	(69%)
Non-Jury:	37	32	(14%)
Civil Infraction Non-Jury Trials	731	671	(8%)
Family Division:			
Abuse/Neglect			
Jury:	1	1	0%
Non-Jury:	25	19	(2%)
Appeals Filed:	10	8	(20%)
Applications for Leave to Appeal:	31	24	(22%)
Appeals Pending Decision:	6	10	66%
Parole Reviews:	91	85	(6%)
Child Abuse & Neglect Cases:	95	110	16%
Child Support Cases:			
Paternity	181	130*	(28%)
Non-Support	427	254*	(40%)
URESAs: Incoming	22	11*	(50%)
Outgoing	48	17*	(65%)
*new staff training slowed opening of new cases. 2014 does not reflect case referral back log.			
Concealed Weapons Board:			
New Applications & Renewals	3,181	2,605	(18%)
Crime Victim's Rights:			
Felony	785	931	19%
Misdemeanor	769	792	3%
Juvenile	424	363	(14%)
Extraditions (Governor's Warrants):	3	6	100%
Contested Mental Hearings & Guardianship Hearings:	66	72	9%
Civil Infractions:	11,691	10,040	(14%)
Violation of Personal Protection Order Hearings:	57	55	(3%)
Requests for Warrant Authorization (Returned for more investigation or denied):	2,347	2,125	(10%)

BUDGET

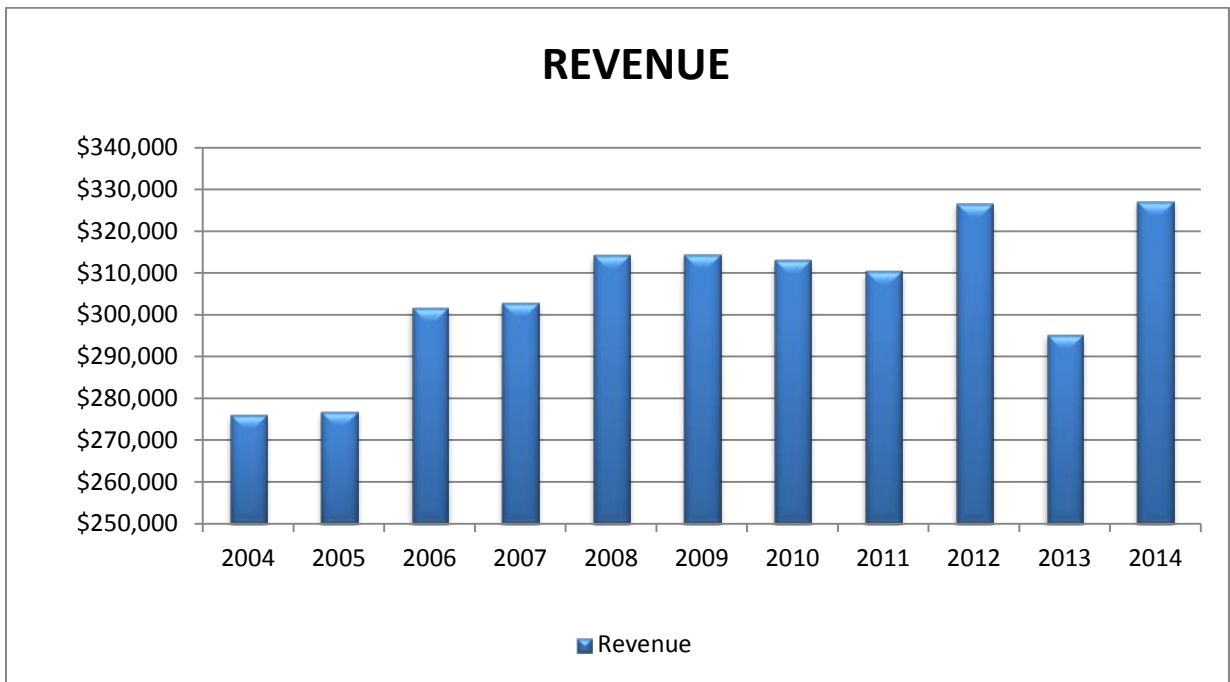
Annual Expenses 2014



Total Budget:	2013	2014	% change
Annual total:	\$3,644,172	\$3,762,818	3%

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 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.



18 % Increase over ten year period

Revenue:	2013	2014	% change
Annual total:	\$295,322	\$327,339	11%

<u>Prosecutor Revenue:</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Crime Victim's Rights	\$145,925.00	\$152,366.00
DHS Contract	21,777.05	11,232.00
Cooperative Reimbursement	84,594.38	125,707.00
OWI Reimbursement	17,550.00	17,617.00
Allegan Reimbursement	9,747.75	9,495.00
Driver License Hearings	3,432.00	3,328.00
Food Stamp Fraud	12,296.25	7,594.00
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total Revenue	\$295,322.43	\$327,339.00

**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	Mike P. Haverdink
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