



Requested by:	Chief James W. Baker	Vermont Center for Justice Research	
Agency:	Rutland City Police Department	Report prepared by:	David Harrington
Date of request:	06/19/14	Results reported on:	06/30/14
Nature of request:	1) A two year examination of crime in the City of Rutland (by department and patrol sector) and, 2) Property specific analysis of criminal activity, causation factors, and response strategies		
Disclaimer:	<i>Unless otherwise noted, the information reported here is based on data retrieved from the Vermont Crime Analysis Mapping Portal (VCAMP) and Command Central Analytic – Crime Reports. Incomplete or inaccurate geocoding or other software interface issues may result in VCAMP data and/or mapping inconsistencies when compared to CrimeReports or Spillman. Every attempt has been made to cross-reference the reported data and discrepancies, if any, will be noted.</i>		
Brief Summary:	<p>The Rutland City Police Department currently has an authorized strength of 40 sworn officers and 12 civilian employees. The 2014 operating budget of \$4,943,915 is up 3.3% over the previous year.¹ Table 1 and Table 2 reflect the number of police officers per 1,000 population and the total number of employees (sworn and civilian) per 1,000 population, respectively. The data source, the Federal Bureau of Investigation 2012 Crime Report (Police Employee Data), is included here for general comparison purposes only. Of the 51 municipal police departments listed, the Rutland City Police Department ranks #9 (LE/1,000) and #8 (Total Employees/1,000).²</p> <p>The police department is currently implementing an “Intelligence Led/Data Led” policing model to address the law enforcement needs of the city and the significant drug abuse problem, which is often the underlying factor in criminal activity. In addition to the internal police strategies utilized by the department, Chief James Baker has also considered socio-economic causation factors and enlisted cooperation from a broad range of community service providers and advocates for this initiative.</p> <p>The inclusion of community stakeholders in bi-weekly crime analysis/mapping meetings enhances public trust of the police department, promotes transparency, demystifies police procedure, and provides a broader range of response options to crime related problems.</p> <p>Utilizing 2012/2013 as a baseline, the following report examines the progress of the “Intelligence Led/Data Led” policing model in the first six months of 2014.</p>		

¹ Rutland City Police Department, 2014 data updated in Tables 1 & 2. All other department data is based on the 2012 Crime Report which could affect the RPD ranking. .

² “These rankings are merely a quick choice made by the data user; they provide no insight into the many variables that mold the crime in a particular town, city, county, state, region, or other jurisdiction”. – Excerpt from FBI caution against ranking.



Table 1: Law Enforcement Officers per 1,000 population

RANK	Town/City	2012 Population	Total Employees	Sworn Officers	Civilian Employees	Sworn Officers per 1,000 population
1	Winhall	764	6	5	1	6.54
2	Dover	1,116	5	4	1	3.58
3	Bellows Falls	3,129	15	11	4	3.52
4	Wilmington	1,864	7	6	1	3.22
5	Stowe	4,353	13	13	0	2.99
6	Ludlow	1,962	9	5	4	2.55
7	Windsor	3,551	10	9	1	2.53
8	Lyndonville	1,204	3	3	0	2.49
9	Rutland (2014 data)	16,388	52	40	12	2.44
10	St. Albans	6,966	27	17	10	2.44
11	Berlin	2,884	8	7	1	2.43
12	Newport	4,576	13	11	2	2.40
13	Hardwick	3,001	8	7	1	2.33
14	Vergennes	2,580	6	6	0	2.33
15	Hartford	9,945	33	23	10	2.31
16	Winooski	7,307	23	16	7	2.19
17	Montpelier	7,863	24	17	7	2.16
18	Burlington	42,616	126	91	35	2.14
19	South Burlington	18,005	44	38	6	2.11
20	Morristown	5,273	11	11	0	2.09
21	Brandon	3,940	9	8	1	2.03
22	Brattleboro	11,970	36	24	12	2.01
23	Barre	9,060	27	18	9	1.99
24	Woodstock	3,045	6	6	0	1.97
25	Williston	8,749	20	17	3	1.94
26	Manchester	4,368	12	8	4	1.83
27	Shelburne	7,183	20	12	8	1.67
28	Middlebury	8,477	16	14	2	1.65
29	Colchester	17,153	36	28	8	1.63
30	Springfield	9,367	20	15	5	1.60
31	Milton	10,411	17	16	1	1.54
32	Fair Haven	2,716	4	4	0	1.47
33	Bennington	15,691	30	23	7	1.47
34	St. Johnsbury	7,589	16	10	6	1.32
35	Chester	3,151	5	4	1	1.27
36	Randolph	4,785	6	6	0	1.25
37	Essex	19,700	30	24	6	1.22
38	Norwich	3,412	5	4	1	1.17
39	Thetford	2,592	3	3	0	1.16
40	Northfield	6,217	8	7	1	1.13
41	Richmond	4,105	4	4	0	
42	Swanton	6,473	7	6	1	
43	Vernon	2,191	5	2	3	
44	Hinesburg	4,422	4	4	0	
45	Bristol	3,882	3	3	0	
46	Barre Town	7,932	7	6	1	
47	Castleton	4,692	3	3	0	
48	Waterbury	5,068	2	2	0	
49	Bradford	2,802	1	1	0	
50	Weathersfield	2,822	1	1	0	
51	Rutland Town	4,029	1	1	0	
	Total	186,479	553	421	132	2.26



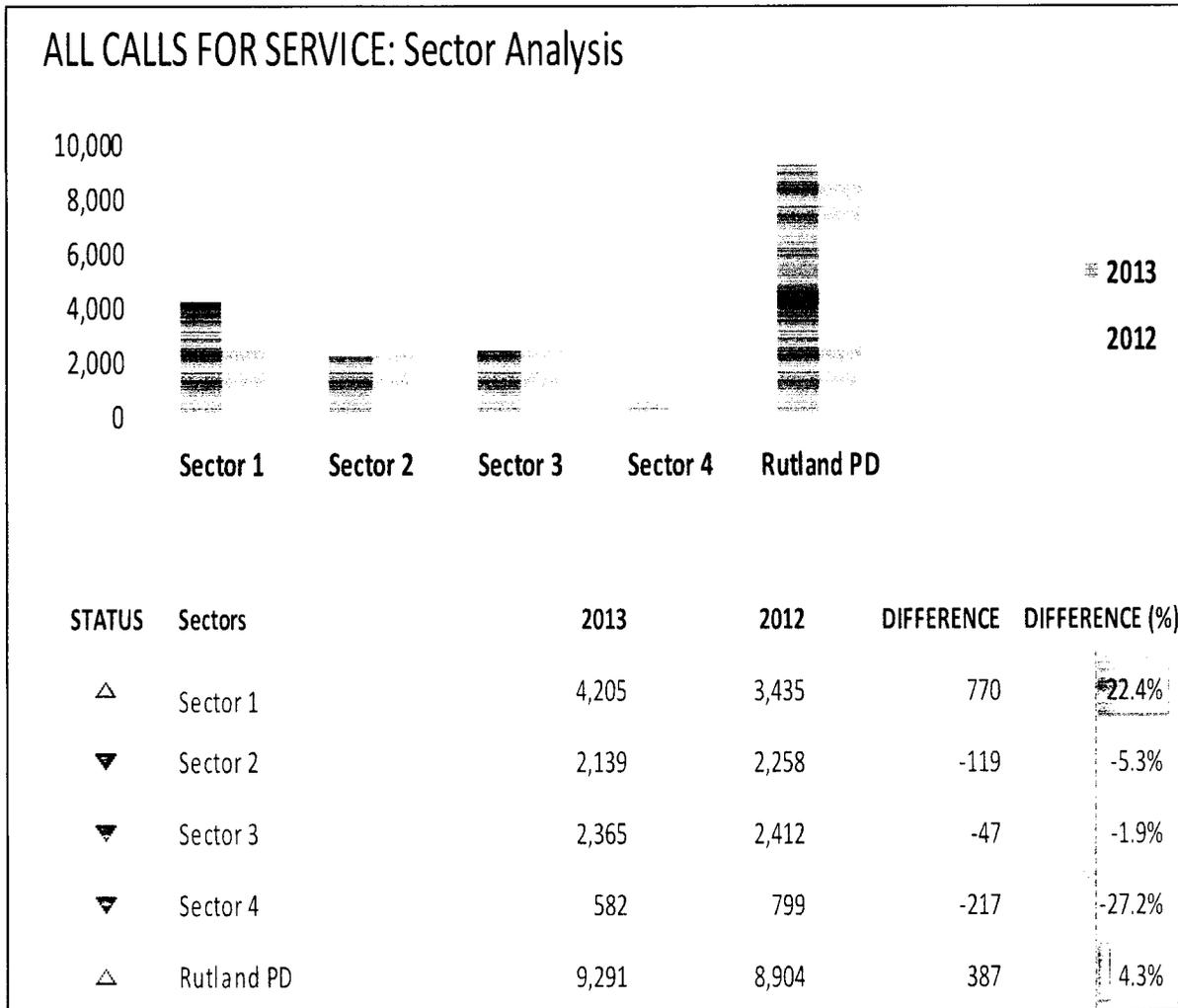
Table 2: Total Law Enforcement Employees (sworn/civilian) per 1,000 Population

Rank	Town/City	2012 Population	Total Employees	Sworn Officers	Civilian Employees	Total Employees per 1,000 population
1	Winhall	764	6	5	1	7.85
2	Bellows Falls	3,129	15	11	4	4.79
3	Ludlow	1,962	9	5	4	4.59
4	Dover	1,116	5	4	1	4.48
5	St. Albans	6,966	27	17	10	3.88
6	Wilmington	1,864	7	6	1	3.76
7	Hartford	9,945	33	23	10	3.32
8	Rutland (2014 data)	16,388	52	40	12	3.17
9	Winooski	7,307	23	16	7	3.15
10	Montpelier	7,863	24	17	7	3.05
11	Brattleboro	11,970	36	24	12	3.01
12	Stowe	4,353	13	13	0	2.99
13	Barre	9,060	27	18	9	2.98
14	Burlington	42,616	126	91	35	2.96
15	Newport	4,576	13	11	2	2.84
16	Windsor	3,551	10	9	1	2.82
17	Shelburne	7,183	20	12	8	2.78
18	Berlin	2,884	8	7	1	2.77
19	Manchester	4,368	12	8	4	2.75
20	Hardwick	3,001	8	7	1	2.67
21	Lyndonville	1,204	3	3	0	2.49
22	South Burlington	18,005	44	38	6	2.44
23	Vergennes	2,580	6	6	0	2.33
24	Williston	8,749	20	17	3	2.29
25	Brandon	3,940	9	8	1	2.28
26	Vernon	2,191	5	2	3	2.28
27	Springfield	9,367	20	15	5	2.14
28	St. Johnsbury	7,589	16	10	6	2.11
29	Colchester	17,153	36	28	8	2.10
30	Morristown	5,273	11	11	0	2.09
31	Woodstock	3,045	6	6	0	1.97
32	Bennington	15,691	30	23	7	1.91
33	Middlebury	8,477	16	14	2	1.89
34	Milton	10,411	17	16	1	1.63
35	Chester	3,151	5	4	1	1.59
36	Essex	19,700	30	24	6	1.52
37	Fair Haven	2,716	4	4	0	1.47
38	Norwich	3,412	5	4	1	1.47
39	Northfield	6,217	8	7	1	1.29
40	Randolph	4,785	6	6	0	1.25
41	Thetford	2,592	3	3	0	1.16
42	Swanton	6,473	7	6	1	1.10
43	Richmond	4,105	4	4	0	1.00
44	Hinesburg	4,422	4	4	0	0.90
45	Barre Town	7,932	7	6	1	0.88
46	Bristol	3,882	3	3	0	0.77
47	Castleton	4,692	3	3	0	0.64
48	Waterbury	5,068	2	2	0	0.39
49	Bradford	2,802	1	1	0	0.36
50	Weathersfield	2,822	1	1	0	0.36
51	Rutland Town	4,029	1	1	0	0.25
	Total	353341	807	624	183	2.28



ANALYSIS: CALLS FOR SERVICE – In 2013, the Rutland City Police Department calls for service increased a modest 4.3% over the previous year. Sector 1 patrol, which encompasses the **central downtown district of the city**, was the busiest of the four sectors, handling 45% of the nearly 9,300 calls in 2013 – up 22.4% from the prior year. Sectors 2 and 3 saw slight decreases from the previous year with Sector 4 having the largest decrease in calls for service: down 27% from 2012 to 2013 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Calls for Service by Sector



Calls for service include both criminal and non-criminal requests for police services. A frantic 9-1-1 call reporting a prowler at the back door in the middle of the night (criminal) necessitates an urgent police response to investigate. Upon arrival, it may turn out to be nothing more than raccoons rummaging in the garbage cans (non-criminal) but a police response is required nonetheless.

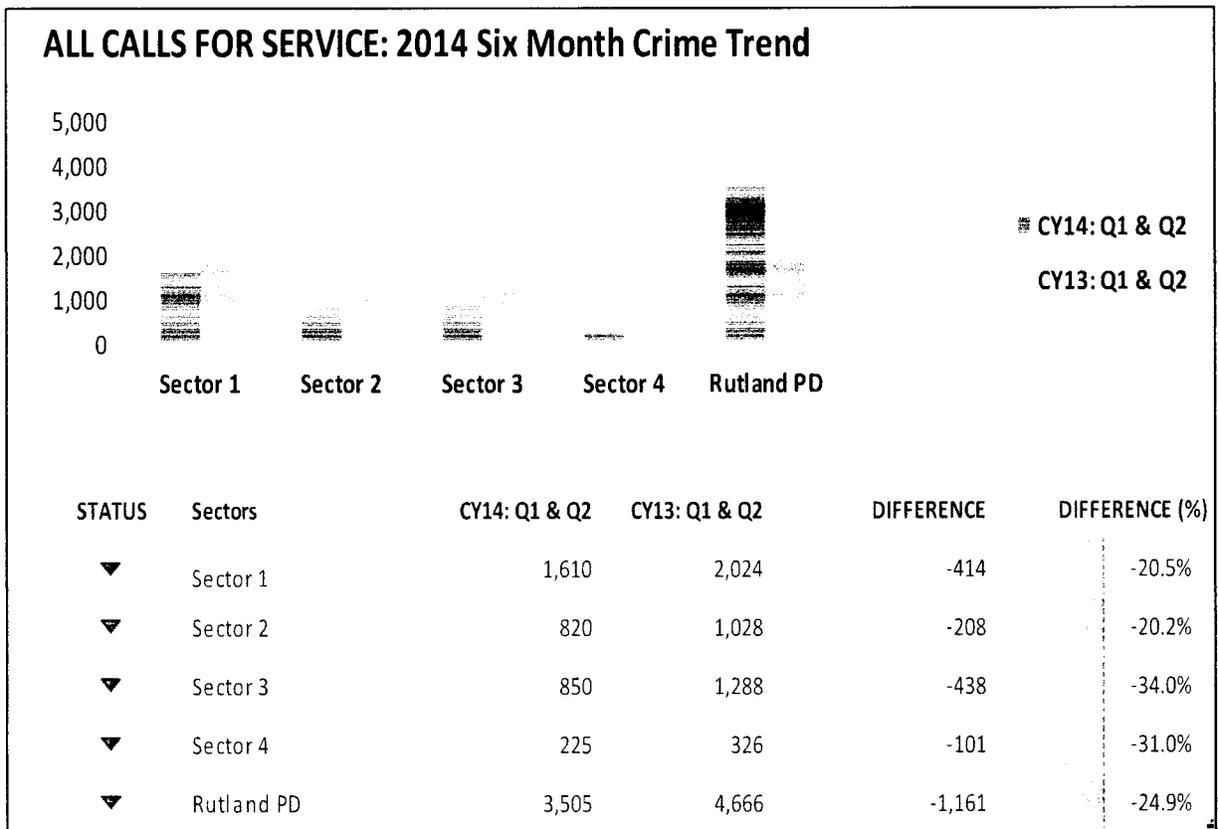
Of the 91 listed calls for service categories examined bi-weekly for repeat address analysis, 40 categories are specific criminal titles and represent 45% of the total calls for service categories. Of the 18,000 calls for service responded to from 2012-2013 by the Rutland City police:



- 38.7% were criminal incident types
- 61.3% were non-criminal incident types

All sectors reported significant decreases in calls for service, down overall by 24.9% in the first 6 months of 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013³. It should be noted that Sector 1 calls for service are down by 20.5% - a significant point given that this sector includes the high frequency addresses on Shopping Plaza Road, such as Wal-Mart and Price Chopper (Figure 2). This shopping area, particularly these two locations, are consistently in the top tier of repeat addresses.

Figure 2: 2014 Six Month Trend Comparison



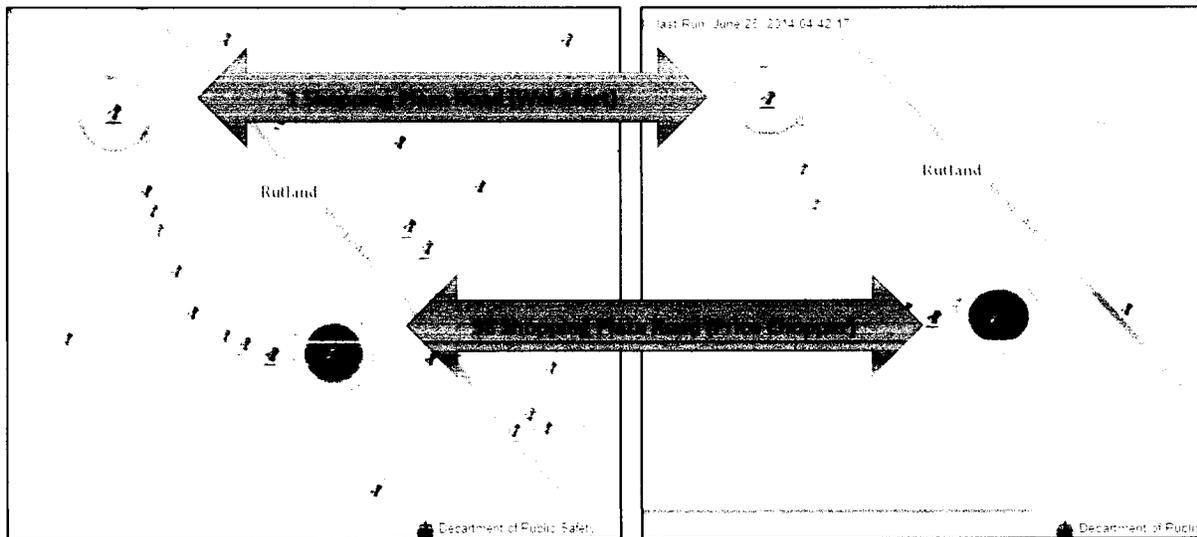
Theft is the most prevalent call for service in the crime category and for this reason, the specific crime of larceny was examined. In the two-year period from 2012 – 2013, there were over 1,606 larceny incidents in Rutland, representing 6.4% of all calls for service. Specifically, shoplifting accounted for 22% (354) of all the larceny incidents.⁴

³ 2014 Q1 and Q2 data: 01/01/14 to 06/24/14

⁴ Command Central reports 1,626 larceny incidents and 361 shoplifting incidents



Larceny crimes are often motivated by people looking to trade or sell the stolen property for drugs. This is especially true with shoplifting incidents, particularly at locations where the risk of being apprehended is low. The “hot spot” map on the left shows the concentrated frequency of the 1,606 larceny complaints (all categories) in Rutland. Clearly, the Price Chopper at 38 Shopping Plaza Road and Wal-Mart at 1 Shopping Plaza Road are specific and frequent targets. The same two locations are highlighted in the diagram of the right when the single category of shoplifting (354) is applied.



The following graphics summarize the analysis of all larceny categories and the single larceny category of shoplifting from 2012 – 2013. The percentage of the totals are shown by month and day of week. The totals are shown in the time of day graphic.⁵

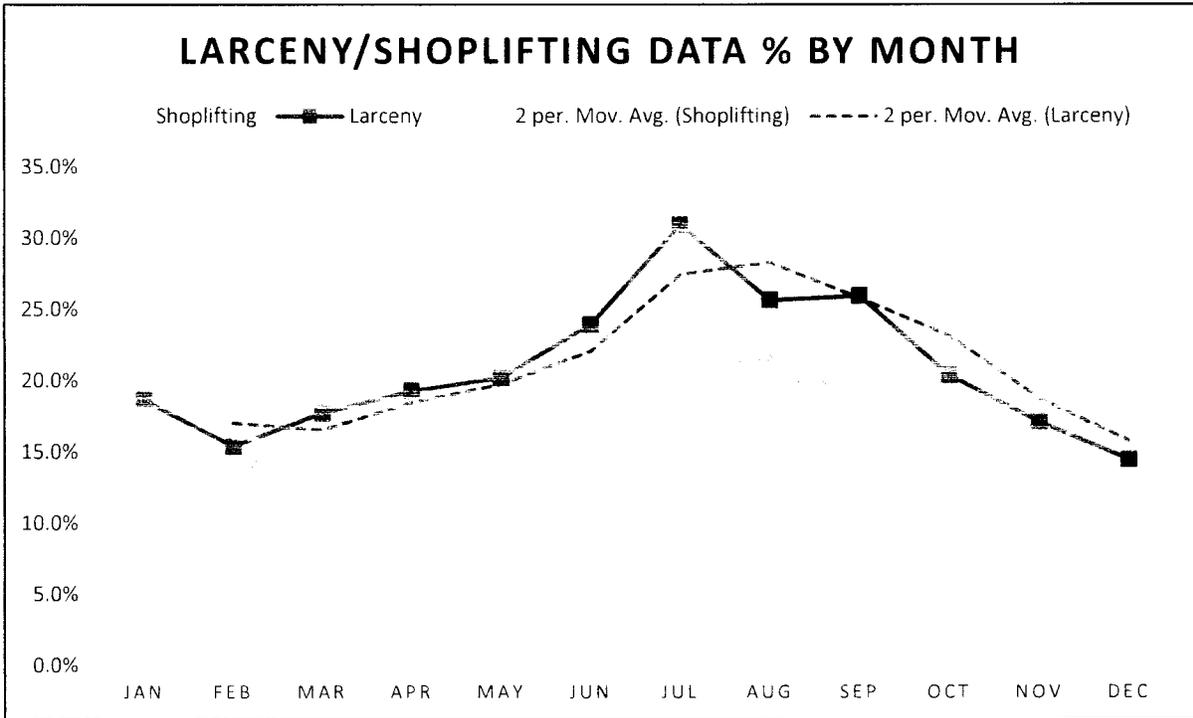
A moving average trendline is included with each data set.

GRAPHICS FOLLOW

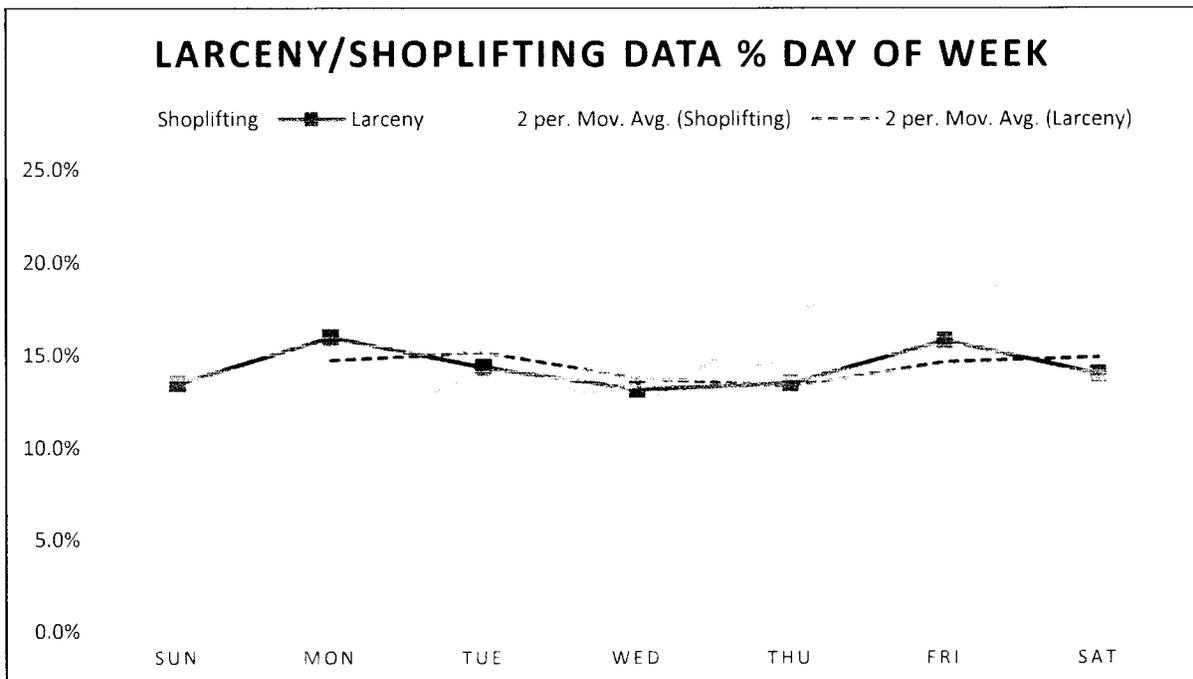
⁵ Source: VCAMP



- July and August are peak months for larceny and/or shoplifting incidents

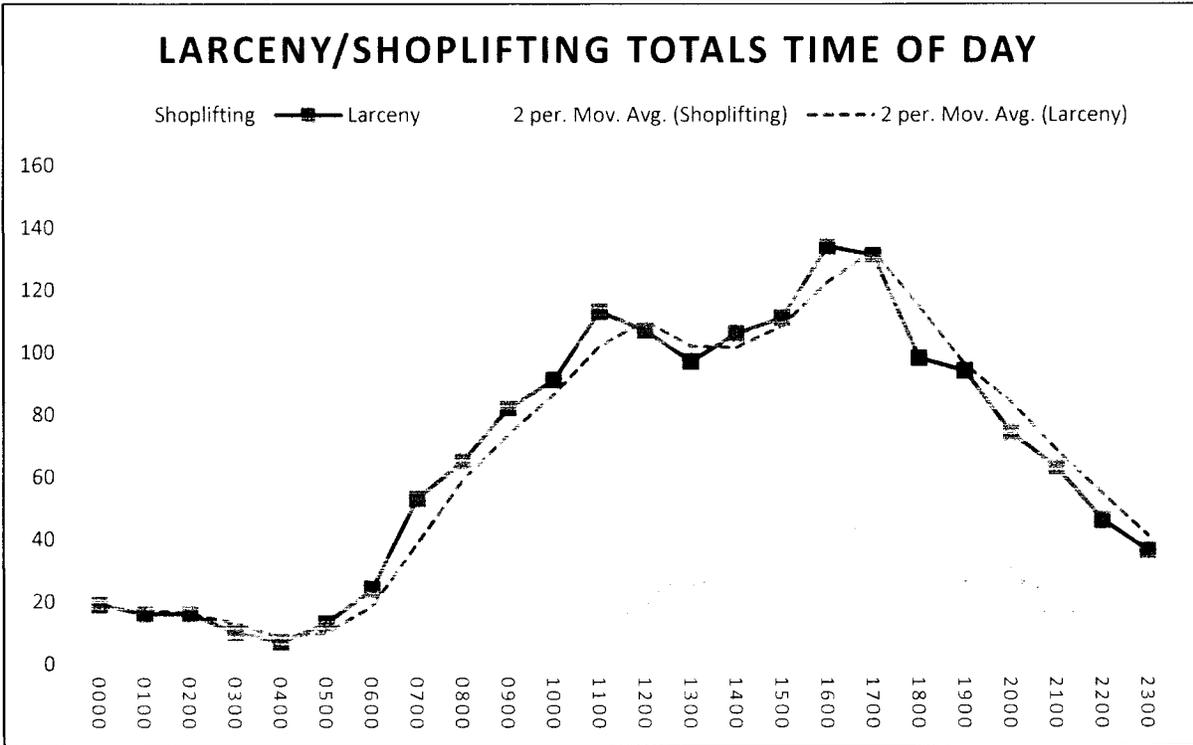


- Friday is the peak day of week for larceny and/or shoplifting incidents

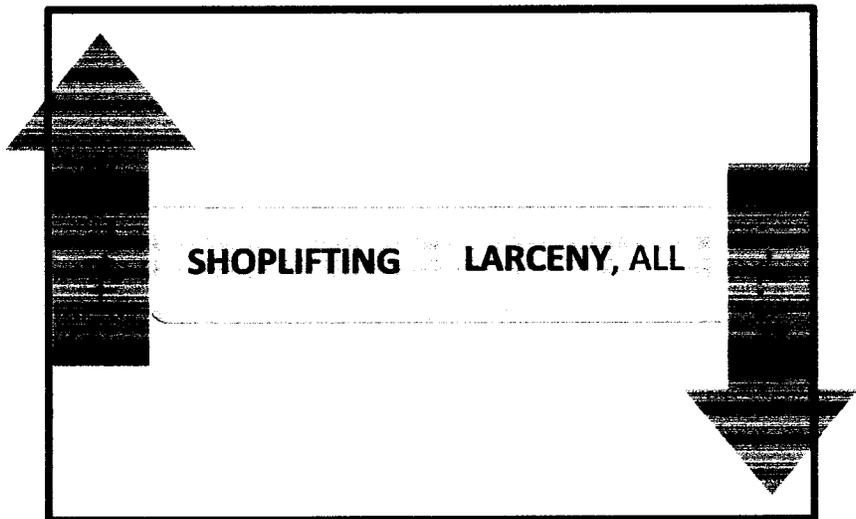




- Peak timeframe for larceny and/or shoplifting incidents: 1600-1800 hours



From 2012 to 2013, larceny crimes **decreased by 2.1%** but **shoplifting crimes increased by 42.3%**. Based on the analysis above, the strategic recommendation that follows may reduce the number of shoplifting incidents over the course of the next two months, which have been the two most active months of the year for this particular crime. Moreover, it will enhance current strategies for this property and decrease shoplifting incidents.





STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION #1: Based on the larceny/shoplifting analysis, consider contacting the management at Price Chopper and suggest a crime prevention strategy. On a temporary basis, hire a professional uniformed security guard service:¹



- highly visible and proactive individual(s)
- for the months of July and August
- a work week of no less than Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- an eight (8) hour shift beginning at 1100 hours and ending at 1900 hours
- carefully record data for analysis and evaluation at the close of the two-month period

REPORTED INCIDENT	2012	2013	Difference	Difference(%)
Accident - FATAL	4	1	-3	75.0%
Accident - Injury DMV	43	64	21	48.8%
Accident - Damage DMV	382	306	-76	19.9%
Agency Assist	620	692	72	11.6%
Animal Problem	488	577	89	18.2%
Assaults, All	152	211	59	38.8%
Burglary	187	183	-4	-2.1%
Citizen Assist	1,418	1,831	413	29.1%
Citizen Dispute	1,141	872	-269	23.6%
Disorderly Conduct, Other	318	295	-23	-7.2%
Drugs	74	95	21	28.4%
Family Disturbance	540	616	76	14.1%
Intoxicated Person	281	291	10	3.6%
Juvenile Problem	318	324	6	1.9%
Larceny, All categories	819	802	-17	-2.1%
Larceny, Shoplifting	149	212	63	42.3%
Noise Disturbance	282	383	101	35.8%
Robbery	8	6	-2	-25.0%
Suspicious Person/Circ	1,607	1,610	3	0.19%
Total Reports	8,831	9,371	540	6.1%

This table looks provides a snapshot of select reported incidents as opposed to calls for service.⁶

Five categories were selected randomly and compared with VCAMP data. On average, there was a **discrepancy of about 4%** in the total numbers reported in each of the selected categories.

In large part, the problem is related to the manner in which search parameters are entered in either Crime Reports or VCAMP by the user. The latter is more difficult to navigate in this regard.

⁶ Data Source: CommandCentral Analytics Crime Reports



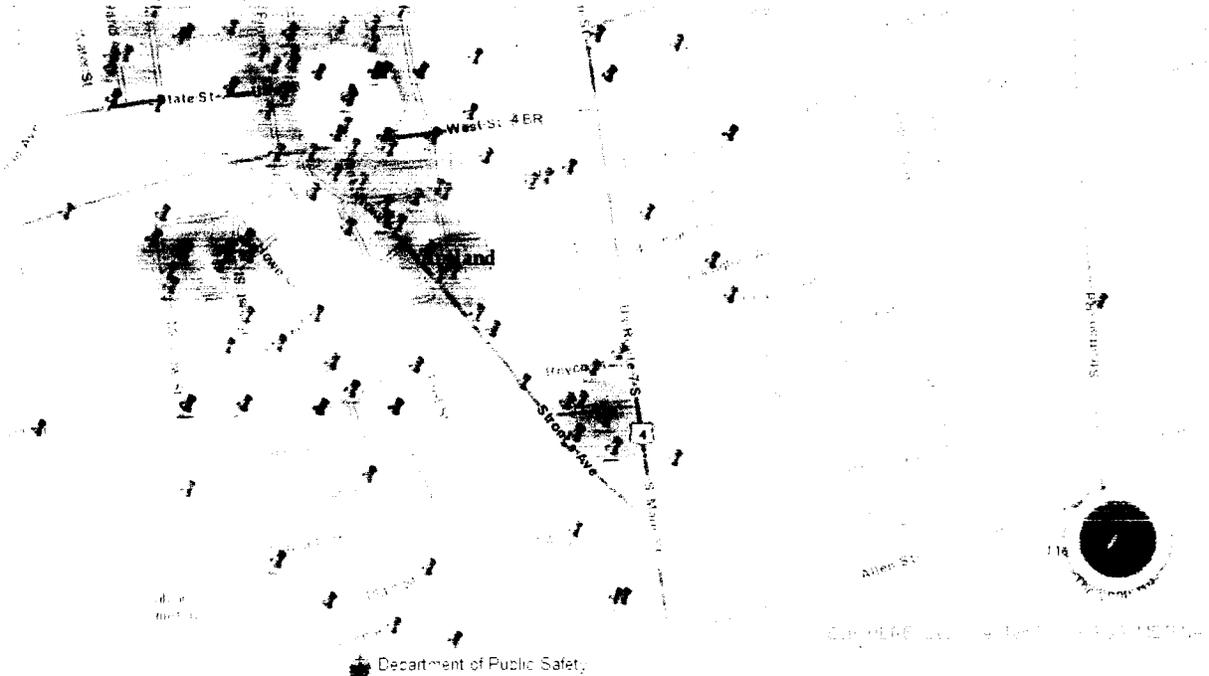
Assaults of all types totaled 363 in 2012-2013⁷ and 303 for the same period in VCAMP (coding issue reported to the Department of Public Safety). The hotspot map below was generated from VCAMP but it does follow the same data pattern evident in Crime Reports.

Total Address Sites	274	Percent of Total	2012-2013 Assault Incidents
Street Address Locations	210	76.6%	
Locations Not Geocoded	64	23.4%	

Total Assault Incidents	300 ⁸	% of Total	% of Addresses	Combined %
160 Allen Street	19	6.3%	0.5%	18.1%
Shopping Plaza Road	11	3.7%	0.5%	
24 Merchant Row	8	2.7%	0.5%	

Strategic Recommendation #2: Shopping Plaza Road is not color coded correctly due to the lack of proper geocoding at the department level. Internally, examine ways to improve data entry in Spillman.

Assault Hotspot Map



⁷ Data Source: Crime Reports

⁸ The total number of assaults reported at 210 locations



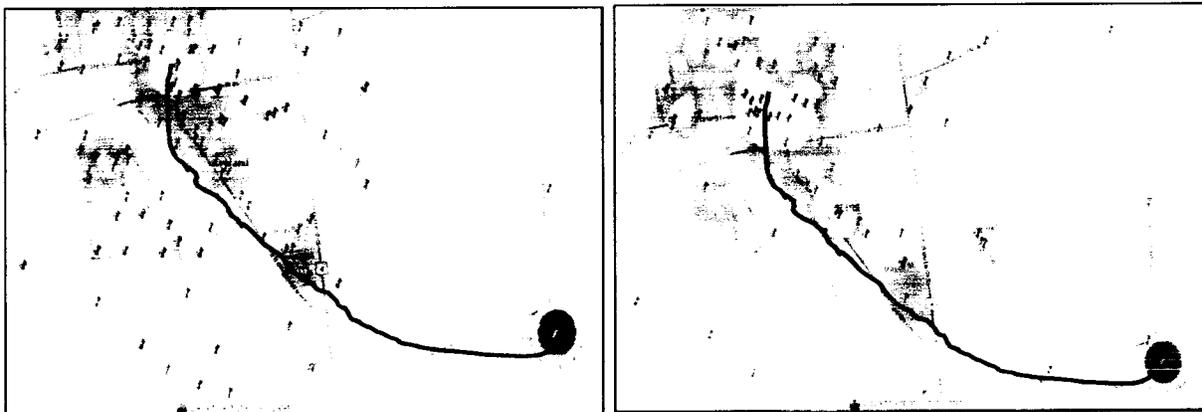
Drug related activity during the period 2012-2013 totaled 179 incidents and as illustrated in the hotspot map below, the hubs for this activity center on the following locations:

- 24 Merchants Row
- Shopping Plaza Road
- 160 Allen Street (likely due to treatment of overdose incidents)

Drug Hotspot Map

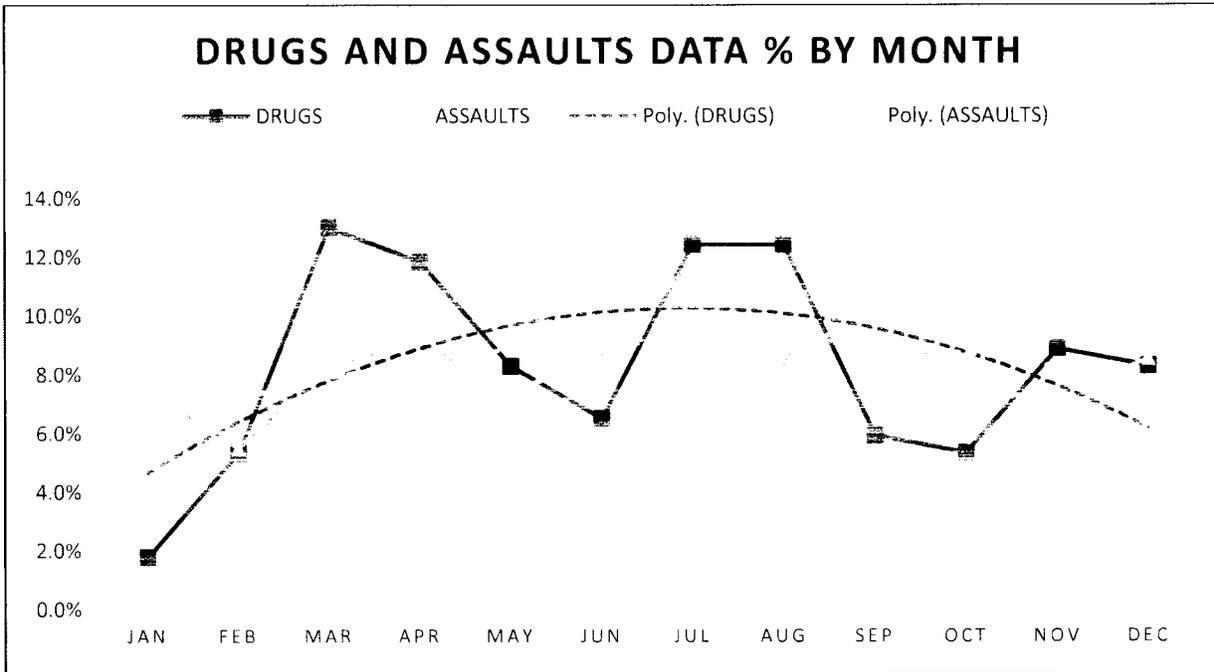


A similar area pattern emerges when comparing assault incidents (left) with drug incidents (right)

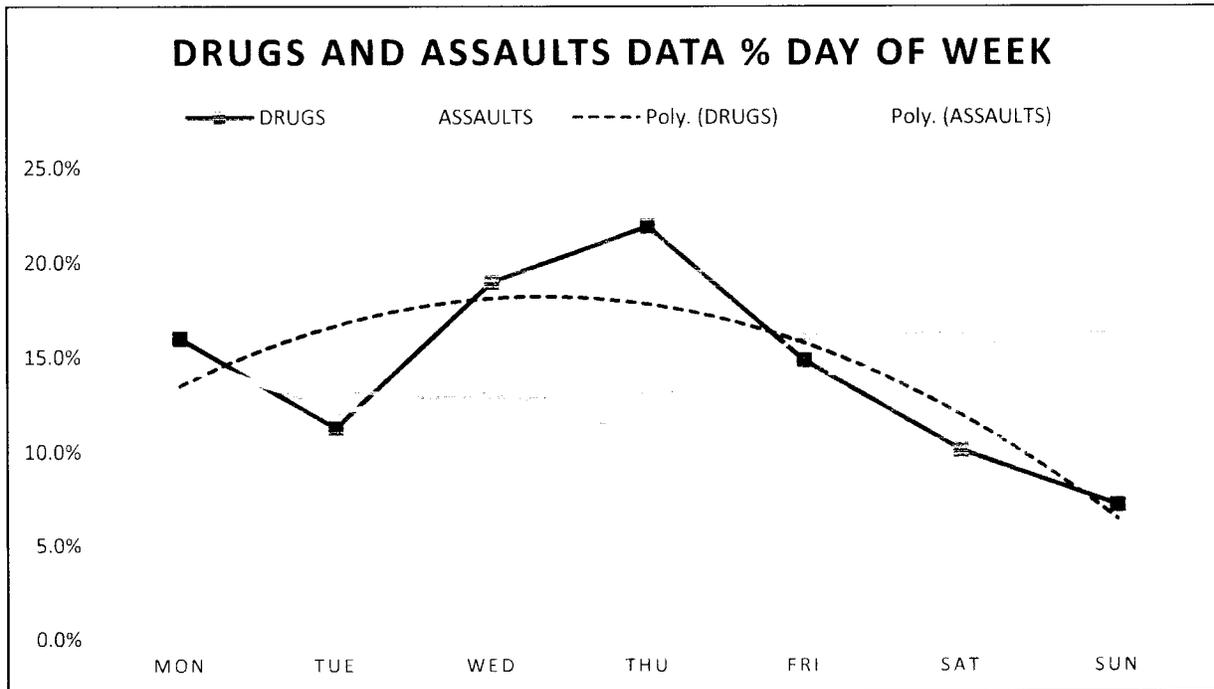




- Drug incidents peak in March/April and July/August
- Assault incidents peak in July

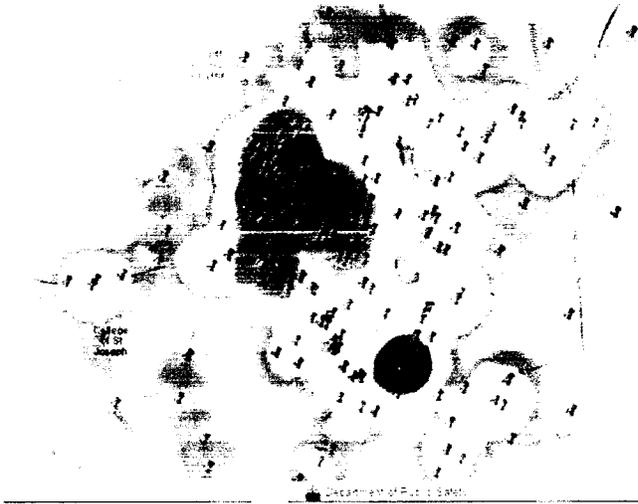


- Wed/Thurs are peak days for drug incidents
- The weekend is the peak time for assault incidents





Burglaries are property crimes that victimize people not only by the tangible loss or damage of property, they victimize people personally by invading one's home and privacy, causing anxiety and fear.



From 2012 – 2013, there were 376 burglary incidents in Rutland. The months of July, August and September are the peak months for burglary activity with 30% occurring during these months. Burglaries are more likely to be reported on Wednesdays (18%) and between the peak hours of 1000-1200 (18.6%) and again at 1500-1700 (15.4%).

One particular location remains "hot" as the view draws closer and was the only visible hotspot on the map during the stated period: **1 Scale Avenue**

This section provides a detailed view of the incident location. On the left, a zoomed-in map shows the street layout around 1 Scale Avenue, with a red circle indicating the exact spot. On the right, a photograph shows a residential street with a white car parked on the side, a house in the background, and a flagpole. Below the map and photo is a text box with incident details.

Incident Details
 Address: 1 SCALE AVE
 Rutland Ct. 05701
 Offense Code: 0521
 Crc Code: 1103
 Incident #: 139110819
 Agency: 17011020
 Officer: Tuttle, T
[Detailed Report](#)



An example of “warm” areas of burglary activity: **Maple Street**



STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION #3: Consider the consistent use of social media as a neighborhood communication and integrated crime fighting tool:

- Facebook (currently in use)
 - Consider development of a comprehensive community needs survey (i.e. SurveyMonkey) and link to Facebook page. Discuss findings with Vision group.
 - Consider adding Patrol Sector pages to communicate area specific issues.

Summary: As with any analysis, there are any number of factors to consider for a comprehensive understanding of crime issues and how best to respond to them. The City of Rutland is a dynamic community with crime issues and problems that are not unlike any other city in Vermont or the United States. It is also a city with a unique history, culture, and people. Strategies that work well in one community may not have the same impact in another. This report is intended to provide interested parties with information – using data to assist in the development and/or continuation of strategies that will support crime reduction efforts. **Contained within the report are three types of strategic recommendations:**

- The first is a **targeted** recommendation that in all likelihood would have an immediate result.
- The second is a **data quality** recommendation that will improve the overall accuracy of any future analysis.
- The third recommendation is a **communication tool** designed to proactively involve those directly affected by crime – the people living and working in the city.



This analysis indicates that current crime reduction initiatives implemented by the police department are showing early signs of success:

- Calls for service were up a modest 4.3% from 2012 to 2013 but decreases were evident in three of the four patrol sectors
- The total **calls for service** in the first six months of 2014 are down by 25% as compared to the same period in 2013
 - Calls for service decreased in all four patrol sectors during this time
- Burglary and larceny crimes both decreased by 2.1% from 2012 to 2013. More analysis would be required but these crimes are often motivated by drug use, suggesting that an increase in burglary and larceny supports the reason behind increases in drug activity.
 - Drug crimes increased by 28.4% as property crime decreased which indicates a proactive drug enforcement effort
- Disorderly conduct was down by 7.2% and citizen disputes were down by 23.6% from year to year

Lastly, **Vision crime reports** as opposed to calls for service were down two consecutive periods. The last half of 2013 as compared to the last half of 2012 **decreased 5.12%**. The first half of 2014 as compared to the first half of 2013 realized a **decrease of 8.34%**.⁹

At the completion of this report, the statistically busiest month of the year begins. I would recommend a **weekly internal review** of the data between July 1 and Labor Day to keep abreast of any tactical strategies that could be implemented in response to specific issues or problem areas.

This report was prepared by David Harrington. Questions or comments can be directed to:
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⁹ Crime Reports data