




Office of the City Manager

WORKSESSION

March 10, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police

Subject: Crime Report

INTRODUCTION

At the request of City Council, the City Manager provides regular reports on crime statistics in Berkeley. This report provides information on reported Part I crime in 2014 and compares those statistics with crime rates from the previous four years (2010 through 2014). This report provides Council crime statistics with the intent to inform discussion on efforts to reduce crime and victimization in the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2014, Part One Violent Crime in Berkeley decreased 24.6%, and Part One Property Crime decreased 5.1%, resulting in an overall decrease of Total Part One Crime of 7.0% for the year.

Decreases in Part One crimes were seen in Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Residential Burglary, Grand Theft, Petty Theft, and Auto Thefts. Increases were seen in Aggravated Assault and Commercial Burglaries. Arson remained even with last year.

Homicides

Three homicides were committed in Berkeley during 2014, as compared to four in 2013. Two cases have been closed with the arrests of suspects, and prosecution is underway. The investigation is continuing on the third case, which occurred on December 29th. (An additional homicide occurred in McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, near University Ave. and West Frontage Road, in the jurisdiction of the East Bay Regional Parks Police, who continue to investigate this case.)

Rape

Reported rapes dropped 13.8% in 2014, with 25 reports as compared to 29 in 2013. There were no unusual series to report. Nearly all reported rapes and attempted rapes involved an acquaintance of some type, either recently introduced or previously known to the victim. Alcohol use was an element in many of the cases. It should be noted that with this report, the Department begins its transition to use of the revised Uniform Crime

Report rape definition. This pending change in reporting is discussed later in this document.

Robberies

Overall robberies for the year decreased 35.2%, as a downward trend seen from the latter half of 2013 continued through 2014. The greatest decline was seen in a 36.0% decline in pedestrian robberies, with 122 fewer robberies reported. The significant decrease in pedestrian robberies helped drive the overall Part One Violent Crimes down 24.6% in 2014.

Aggravated Assaults

Aggravated assaults increased 8.2% in 2014, with 132 reports, compared to 122 in 2013. Aggravated assaults frequently involved alcohol or drug abuse by victim and/or suspect, and frequently involved acquaintances,

Burglary

Burglaries decreased by 11.7% as compared to 2013, with a 25.3% decrease seen in residential burglaries, which offset an increase in commercial burglaries of 27.7%. In 2014, several commercial burglary series contributed to an increase in commercial burglaries for the year.

Larcenies

Larcenies (which include auto burglary, petty theft, and grand theft) declined slightly in 2014, with an overall 1.1% drop. Petty thefts were down 2.3%, grand thefts were down 2.4%, while a 1% increase in auto burglaries was seen. A marked increase in bike thefts kept theft categories from falling further. More information regarding bicycle theft is below.

Auto Theft

Auto Theft reports decreased 16.8% in 2014. Approximately 86% (over 600) of the vehicles stolen in 2014 have been recovered either locally or in other jurisdictions.

BPD Crime Prevention and Response Strategies

The Berkeley Police Department continued its focus on reducing the level of crime throughout 2014, including implementing several strategies toward that end, including:

- Rapid and robust response to crimes in progress.
- Frequent internal communication regarding crime trends, series, and wanted offenders.
- Weekly Crime Analysis and Response Strategy meetings and coordination of focus and resources.
- Focusing robbery suppression teams in areas and at times when data suggested the highest likelihood of robberies will occur.
- Regularly distributed a periodic Newsletter to provide crime prevention information to residents and businesses.
- Implemented Nixle alert and notification service to keep the community informed about events, crime prevention measures, and occasionally to seek help in finding lost individuals, or identifying suspects in crimes.

- Focusing bike patrols in the downtown area, as staffing allowed, and partnered with UCPD on bike patrols on and around Telegraph Avenue.
- Continuing focus on identifying and apprehending chronic offenders.
- Continuing expansion of the Crisis Intervention Team. Seven additional officers underwent CIT training in 2014; About 20% of officers and 29% of sergeants assigned to Patrol teams are now CIT trained, and the Department's CIT coverage currently extends to all patrol teams.
- Completed the Beat Realignment Project, which was implemented on January 19, 2015.

Bicycle Theft Reduction Project

The Berkeley Police Department, in partnership with the University of California Police Department, has begun a comprehensive bike theft reduction project. This project incorporates community partnerships and focuses on bike registration, bike theft education, and bike theft enforcement, with the goal of reducing bike theft in Berkeley. These efforts will require a coordinated effort from Berkeley PD, UCPD, local bike merchants, bike advocacy groups, and the community.

The Department is working with Bike East Bay (www.bikeeastbay.org) and local bike merchants to increase the number of registered bikes by Berkeley residents and local merchants' customers. BPD has posted a Bike Theft resource webpage on the BPD website. This page includes bike theft prevention measures and a link to Bike Index (www.bikeindex.org), a website that provides free online bike registration service and additional bike theft prevention information.

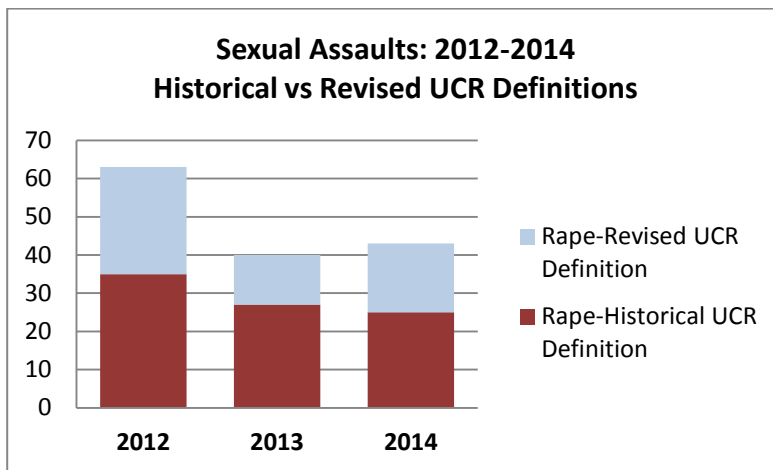
BPD and UCPD officers are working together to apprehend bike thieves. Officers have been successful in identifying and arresting several bike thieves who have been operating in the City. BPD and UCPD are working to secure grant funding which, if awarded, will be used to fund bike theft education and enforcement efforts. The departments will use statistical analysis to identify crime patterns and deploy resources where they will be most effective.

Change in Uniform Crime Report Definition of Rape

In its Crime Reports, the Berkeley Police Department has reported Rape cases according to the 1927 Uniform Crime Report historical definition: "The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will." This definition excluded several sexual assault offenses, and further excluded reporting where victims were male. The United States Department of Justice has revised and expanded the Federal Bureau of Investigation's UCR definition of rape to include other sexual assault offenses, regardless of victim gender.

Accordingly, BPD is transitioning to reporting sexual assaults according to the revised UCR definition in this and future Council Crime Reports. This means BPD will be reporting larger numbers of crimes under the revised UCR rape classification.

While we are using the historical definition in the charts in this report, we are presenting data for 2012-2014 below, in order to show how the reporting will be impacted by the revised definition. It should be noted that the Berkeley Police Department thoroughly investigates *all* sexual assault crimes, regardless of UCR classification.



	2012	2013	2014
Rape-Historical UCR Definition	35	27	25
Rape-Revised UCR Definition	28	13	18
Totals	63	40	43

Data

Data on serious crime is collected annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from over 17,000 law enforcement agencies representing over 90% of the U. S. population. The FBI's primary objective in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is to generate a reliable set of crime statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management in the United States. The UCR tracks the following crimes:

Violent Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault

Property Crimes

Burglary
Larceny (petty and grand theft, auto burglary)
Auto Theft
Arson*

**Arson is a UCR crime tracked separately from violent and property crime. It is included in the accompanying graphs.*

The UCR data provides the Berkeley Police Department the ability to analyze national and local crime trends, determine the effectiveness of response to crime, and conduct future planning and potential resource allocation. The FBI UCR handbook discourages using UCR statistics to compare crime rates of one jurisdiction to another because of the complex variables affecting crime and crime reporting practices.

The attached graphs show annual totals of UCR data for Part One Violent and Property Crimes for 2013 and 2014 in Berkeley, as well as five-year comparisons in Part One Violent Crimes and Part One Property Crimes.

Graphs include:

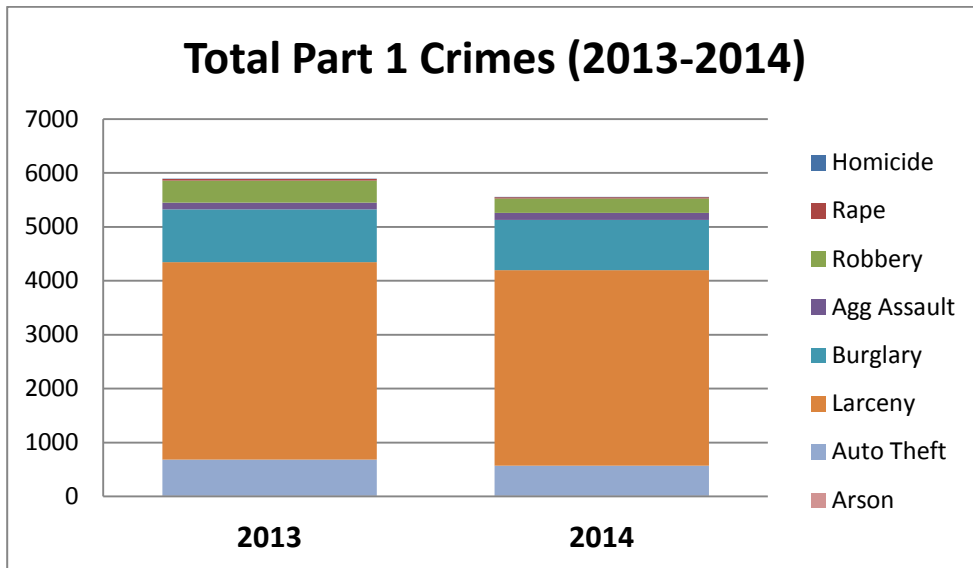
- Total Part One Violent and Property Crime, two year comparison
- Total Part One Violent and Property Crime, five year comparison

- Total Part One Violent Crime, five year comparison
- Total Part One Property Crime, five year comparison

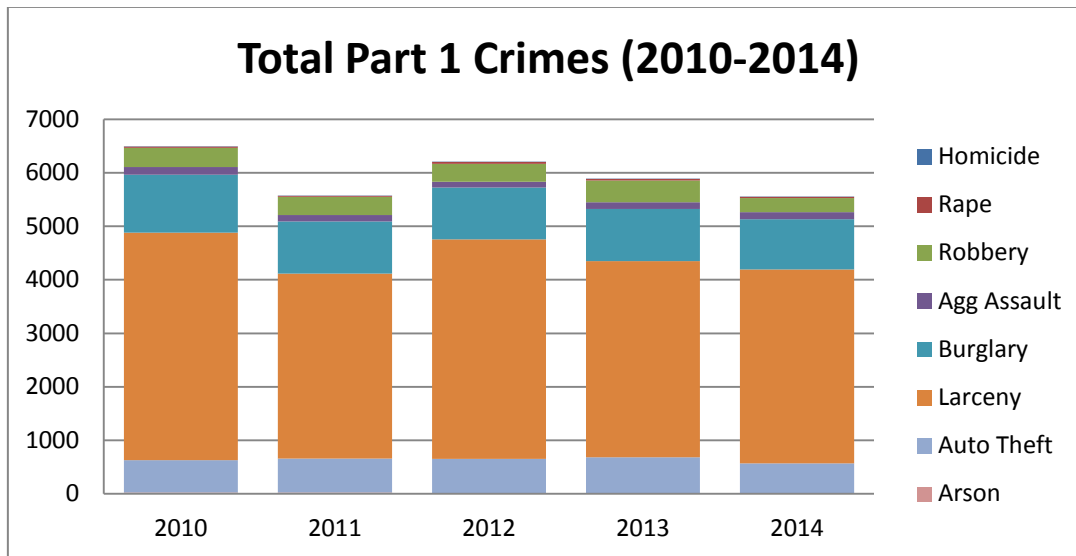
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

cc: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police

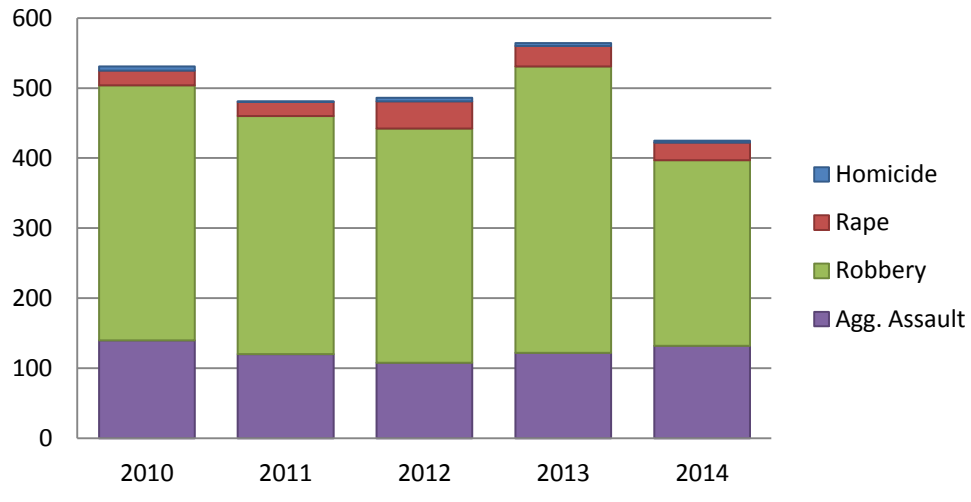


	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2013	4	29	409	122	978	3664	668	16
2014	3	25	265	132	934	3624	556	16



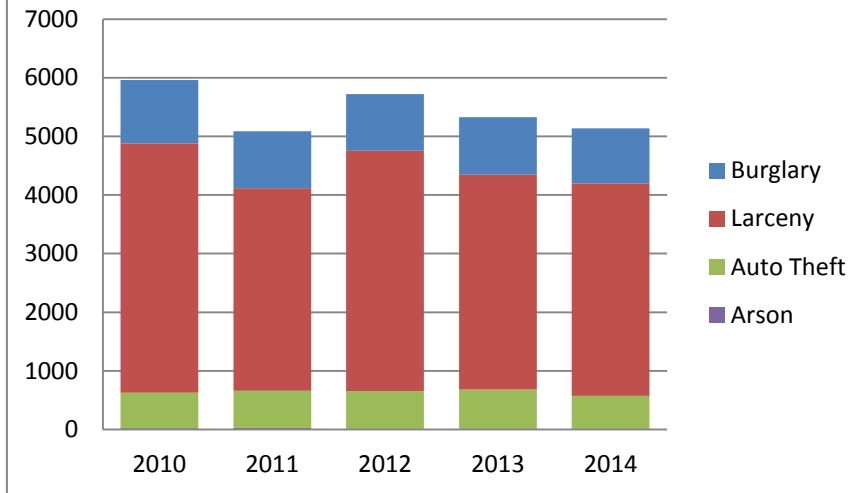
	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2010	6	21	364	140	1085	4252	604	23
2011	1	20	340	120	974	3458	634	25
2012	5	39	334	108	967	4102	639	15
2013	4	29	409	122	978	3664	668	16
2014	3	25	265	132	934	3624	556	16

Total Part 1 Violent Crimes (2010-2014)



	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Agg. Assault
2010	6	21	364	140
2011	1	20	340	120
2012	5	39	334	108
2013	4	29	409	122
2014	3	25	265	132

Total Part 1 Property Crimes (2010-2014)



	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2010	1085	4252	604	23
2011	974	3458	634	25
2012	967	4102	639	15
2013	978	3664	668	16
2014	940	3622	559	16

*Rapes reported according to historic UCR Definition

