



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: Sept. 6, 2006

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Police Release Crime Report for First Half of 2006

The Howard County Police Department released crime statistics today for the first half of 2006, January through June. The report compares data from the first half of this year to the same time period last year and shows small fluctuations in numbers.

Overall, crime is down in Howard County. Total offenses dropped from 9,292 to 9,142 in the first half of this year, compared to last. Calls for police service, which measure the demand placed upon police resources, increased from 56,782 to 60,817.

While the county saw a small increase in the number of violent crime reports, the crime rate for the category remains one-third of the rate for the entire state. Howard County's violent crime rate, which is measured against population, is 116 crimes per 100,000 citizens for the first half of the year. The state's most recent data showed a violent crime rate of 351 in the first half of 2005.

Property crimes were down in the first half of the year, from 3,450 to 3,377. This decrease is attributed primarily to a drop in theft cases, where the number of crimes has dropped below the five-year average.

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Editor's Note: For a complete copy of the HCPD Six-Month Crime Report, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (410) 313-2236.