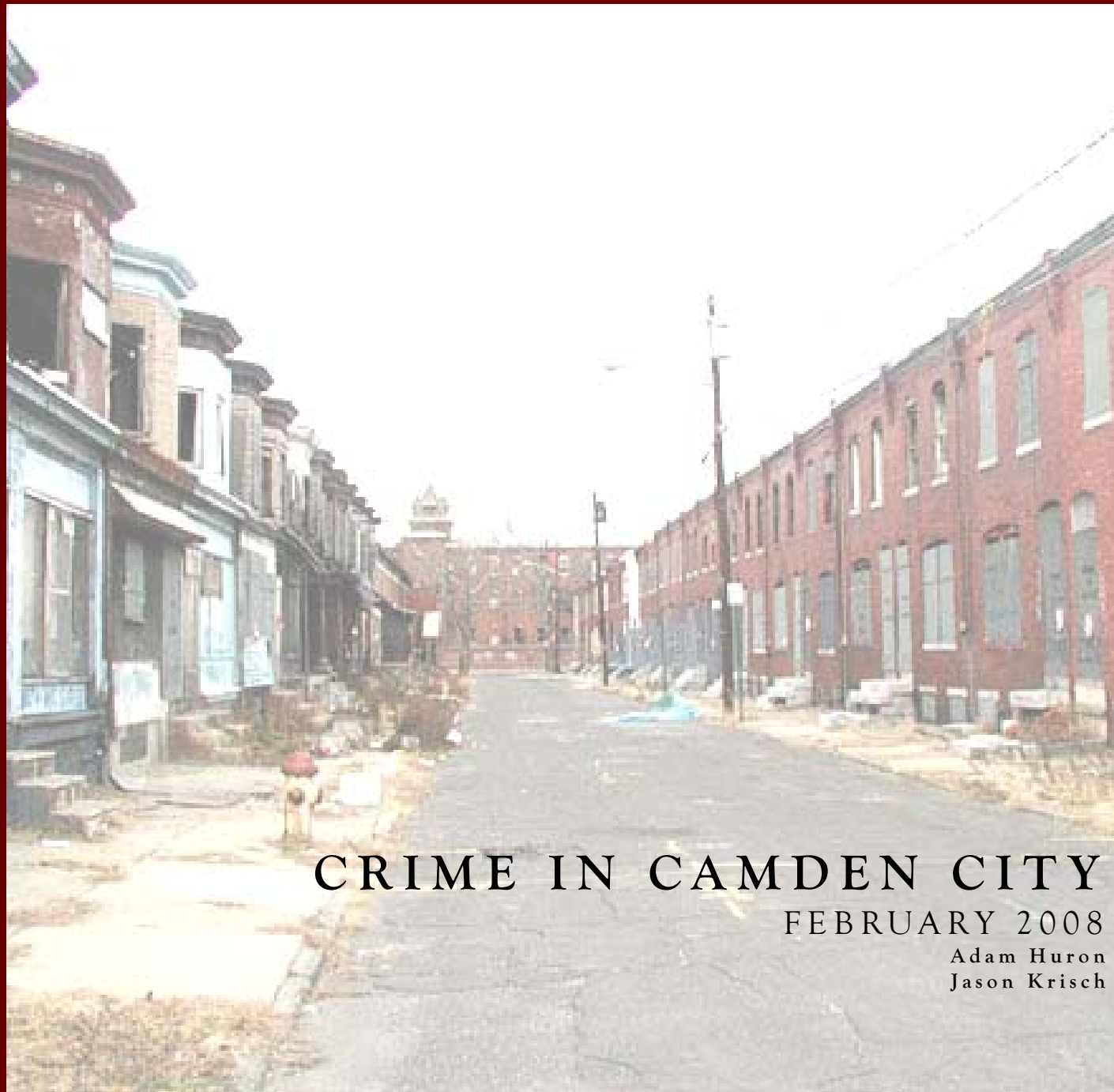


THE SENATOR WALTER RAND
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AT
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY



CRIME IN CAMDEN CITY

FEBRUARY 2008

Adam Huron
Jason Krisch

PSN 8-04-C
Project Safe Neighborhoods
New Jersey State Office of the Attorney General
Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
VIOLENT CRIME.....	2
Homicide	3
Rape.....	4
Robbery.....	5
Aggravated Assault.....	6
PROPERTY CRIME	7
Burglary.....	8
Larceny	9
Motor Vehicle Theft.....	10
Arson.....	11



Visit: wrand.rutgers.edu

INTRODUCTION

Project Safe Neighborhoods funding, awarded by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General has made it possible for the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs to contribute analysis of Camden City Crime data to the Camden Safer Cities Initiative (CSCI). Updates on city crime trends are given each month at regular meetings of the CSCI Steering Committee.

METHODOLOGY

The data used in this report are taken from the Unified Crime Report Month End sheets supplied by the Camden City Police Department. The Camden PD provides this information to the State Police in the same format that it is passed on to the Institute. This reporting is required by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and numbers for each municipality in the nation are collected by the federal government. The monthly totals, which are received in paper copy, represent the coding of incident reports filed by police personnel. The Federal Bureau of Investigations sets the definitions of the crimes that fall under the purview of Unified Crime Reporting. The events which are reported include Part I crimes, which are composed of incidents fitting the definitions for the following eight crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The definition used by the Federal Bureau of Investigations for each of these crime categories is given in the body of the report under the heading for each section.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report looks at each of the eight Part I crimes individually; each one of these sections provides a separate analysis of data, designed to highlight a particular policy and quality of life concern in the realm of public safety.

Long-Term Trends

Total crime in Camden City has decreased dramatically from the 1980 levels. Property crime, which has made up approximately 78% of reported crime in Camden City, has been uniformly decreasing in the previous 28 years. Violent crime, however, has not decreased in all categories. The homicide rate in Camden City has increased since 1980.

Short-Term Trends

Each crime category is analyzed alone, showing comparisons from 2002 to 2007. The information in this section is intended to highlight recent trends in the individual categories to shed light on the overall trends in Part I Crime. This section uses monthly totals of reported crime to demonstrate the effects of particular seasons on crime.

Comparison to the Previous Year

The analysis that follows represents a comparison of reported crime in Camden from 2006 to 2007. Unified Crime Reporting sheets for the end of each month, supplied by the Camden City Police Department, were entered into a database at the Senator Walter Rand Institute. The 2006 and 2007 monthly figures are portrayed next to each other to emphasize similarities and disparities in recent events.

VIOLENT CRIME

The combined total of reported homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault

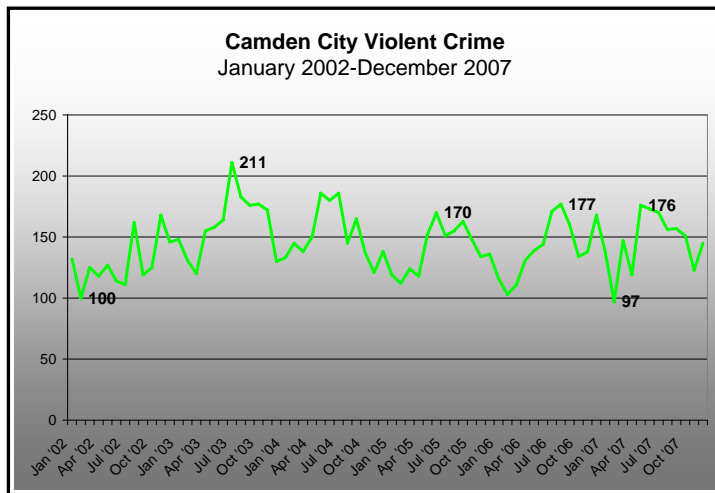
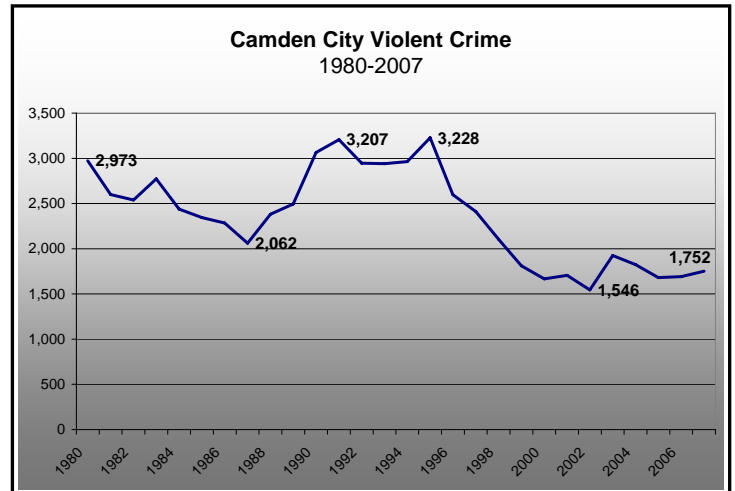
1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual): 2,356

Avg. % of Total Crime: 22%

General Trend:

Camden City violent crime experienced a sizable decline during the second half of the 1990's. From 1995 through 2002, violent crime decreased 52%. Overall, reported violent crime is down 41% from 1980 to 2007.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 144.8

Avg. % of Total Crime: 25.8%

General Trend:

Violent crime in Camden City has been steadily increasing since 2004. Unlike property crime, violent crime has not substantially decreased in recent years. The monthly variance is indicative of the increase in crime experienced during summer months.

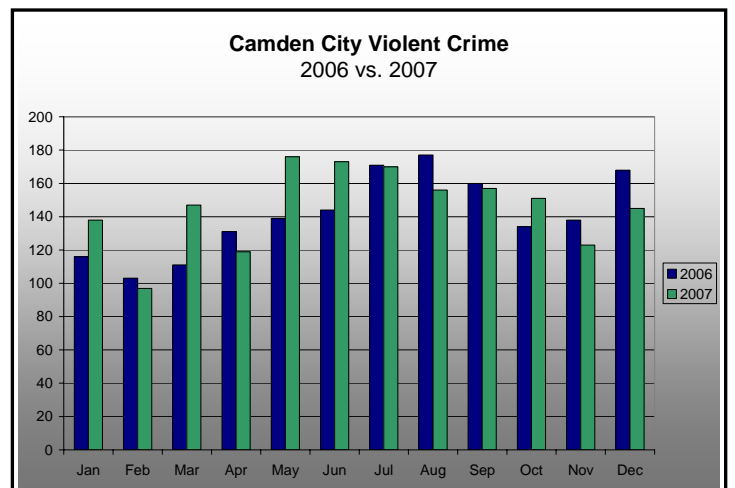
2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 143.5

Avg. % of Total Crime: 26.3%

General Trend:

Violent crime increased from 2006 to 2007. The first half of 2007 demonstrated a 14.2% increase over 2006. In the second half of 2007, the disparity decreased, but violent crime still rose 3.5% overall in 2007 when compared to the prior year.



HOMICIDE

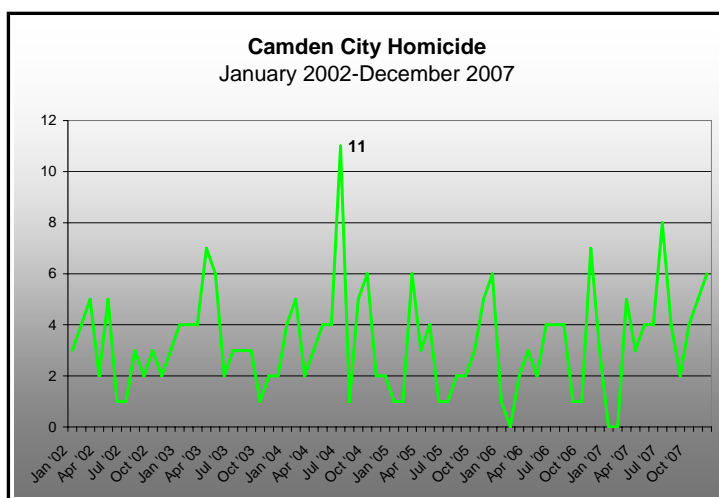
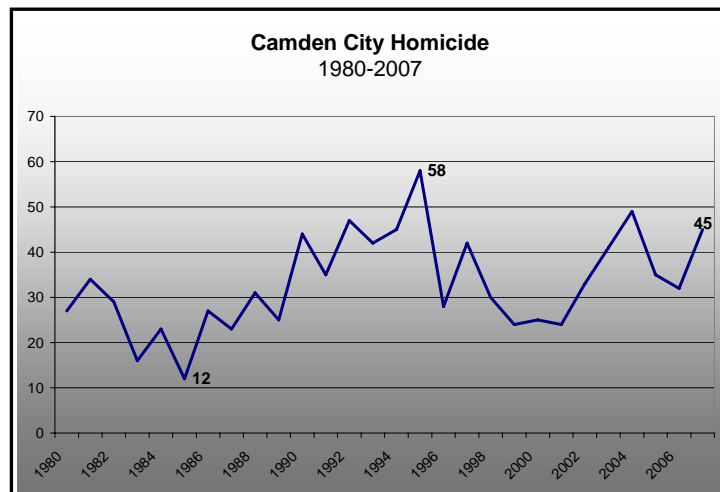
The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another

1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual):	33.1
Avg. % of Total Crime:	0.3%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	1.4%

General Trend:

From 1985 to 1995, the total incidents of homicide per year rose 483% from 12 to 58. 1996 to 2000 experienced a 59% decrease in homicide incidents. In the 2000's, homicide has climbed 87% from the 2000 level to the present high of 45 homicide incidents in 2007.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly):	3.3
Avg. % of Total Crime:	0.6%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	2.3%

General Trend:

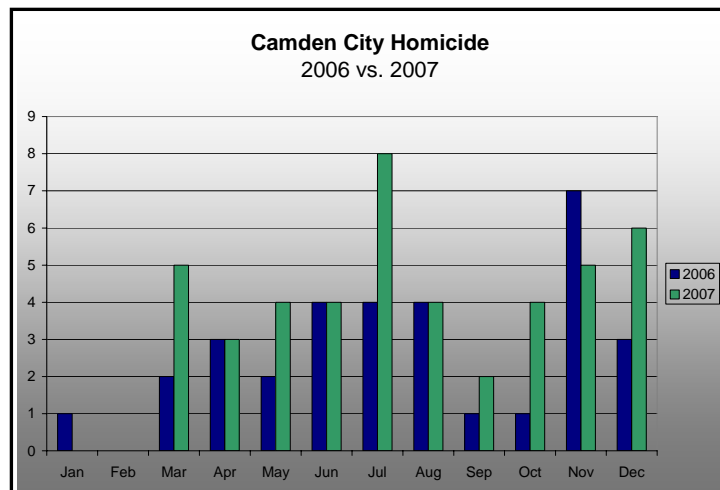
The number of Camden City homicides declined slowly from 2003 through 2005. In the past year, the number of homicide incidents sharply increased from the 2005 and 2006 levels.

2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly):	3.2
Avg. % of Total Crime:	0.6%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	2.2%

General Trend:

Overall, Camden City homicide incidents rose 40.6% from 2006 to 2007. The number of homicides was higher in 2006 only during the months of January and November. The 2007 increase was the result of higher numbers in March, May, July, September, October, and December.



RAPE

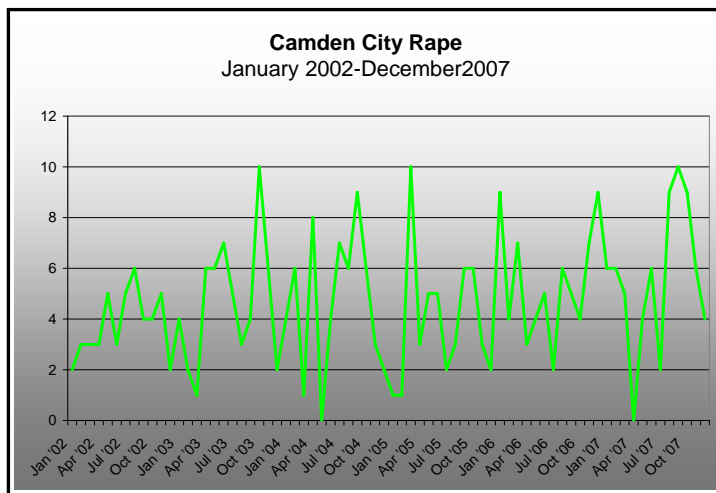
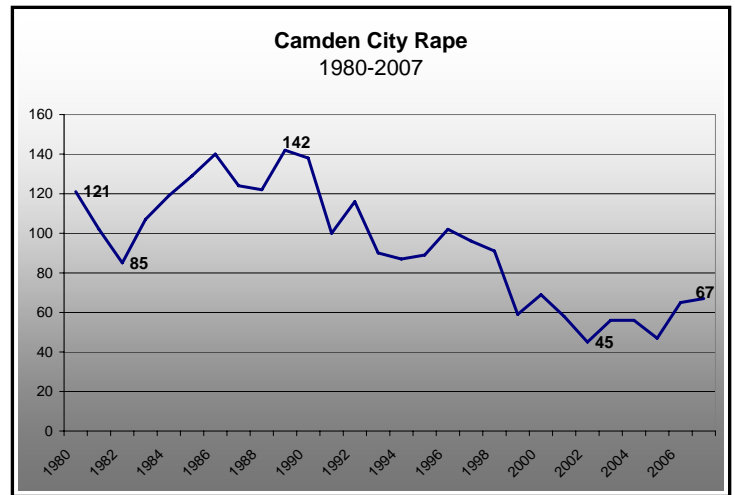
The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will

1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual):	93.6
Avg. % of Total Crime:	0.9%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	4.0%

General Trend:

Overall, reported rapes have declined 45% from 1980 to 2007. The incidents of reported rape have declined consistently since 1989. Since reaching a low in 2005, however, reported incident levels have ceased to decline and are showing a slight increase.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly):	4.7
Avg. % of Total Crime:	0.8%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	3.2%

General Trend:

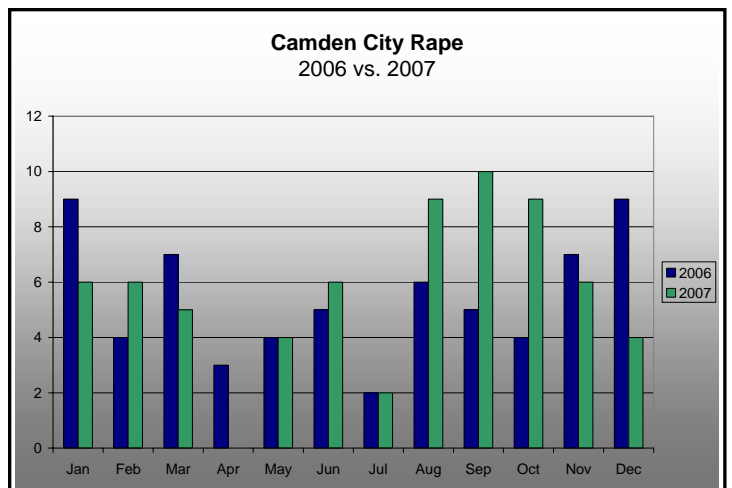
In 2006 and 2007 15 of the 24 months have been above the six year average. This graph illustrates the dramatic fluctuations and unpredictability in the number of incidents of rape reported each month.

2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly):	5.5
Avg. % of Total Crime:	1.0%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	3.8%

General Trend:

There was a 3% increase in rape incidents from 2006 to 2007. August, September, and October of 2007 showed a 73% increase in the number of reported rape incidents over the same time period in 2006. In April 2007 there were no documented cases of rape in Camden City.



ROBBERY

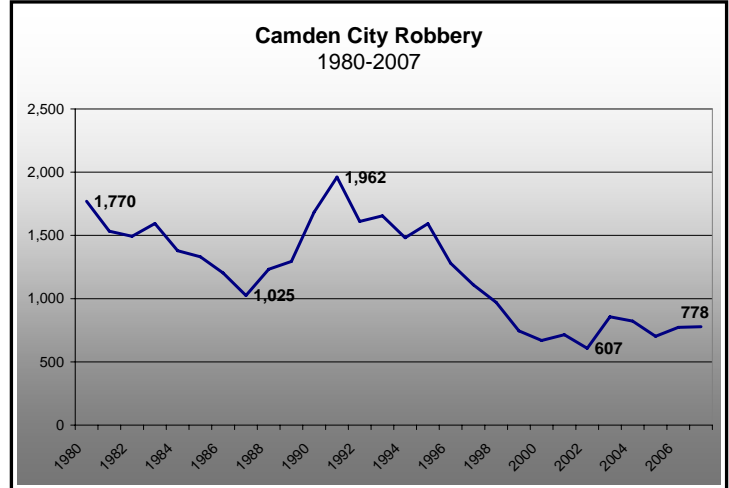
The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear

1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual): 1,209.7
Avg. % of Total Crime: 11.4%
Avg. % of Violent Crime: 51.3%

General Trend:

Robberies peaked in 1991 and began a downward trend, reaching its lowest in 2002. The number rose in 2003 and has remained relatively steady since.

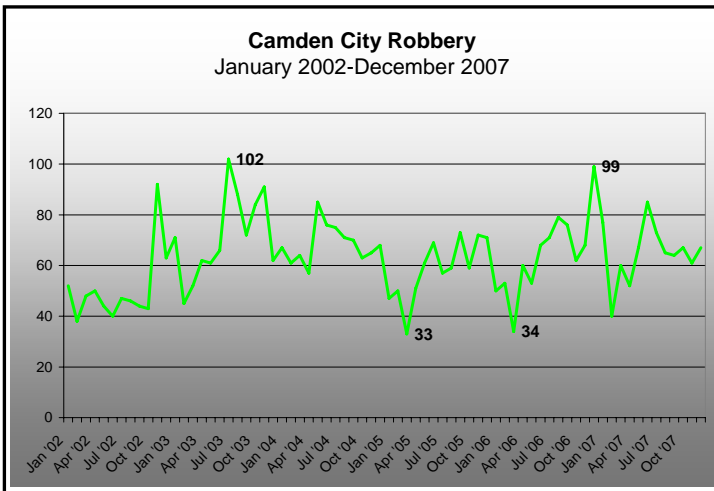


2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 73.8
Avg. % of Total Crime: 13.1%
Avg. % of Violent Crime: 51.0%

General Trend:

The number of robberies tends to bottom out in February and March as apparent in the graph. When compared with all violent crimes, robbery shows the least seasonal fluctuation.

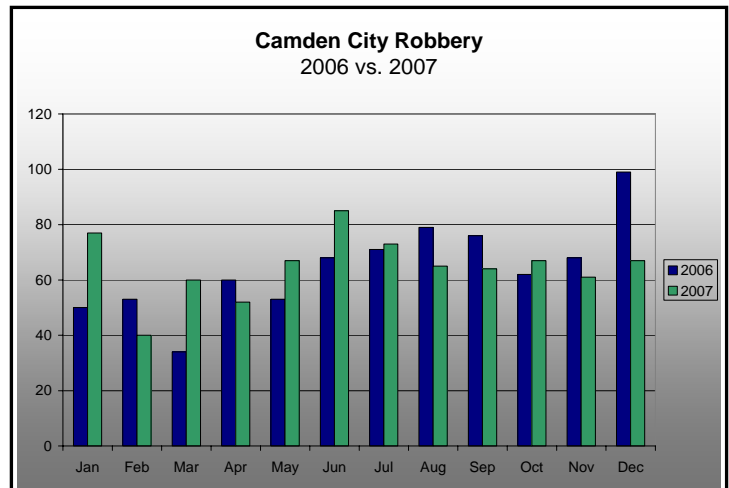


2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 64.6
Avg. % of Total Crime: 11.9%
Avg. % of Violent Crime: 45.0%

General Trend:

Robbery increased by 0.5% from 2006 to 2007. In the first half of 2007, robbery increased, while the last six months posted a decline from the same time period in 2006.



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

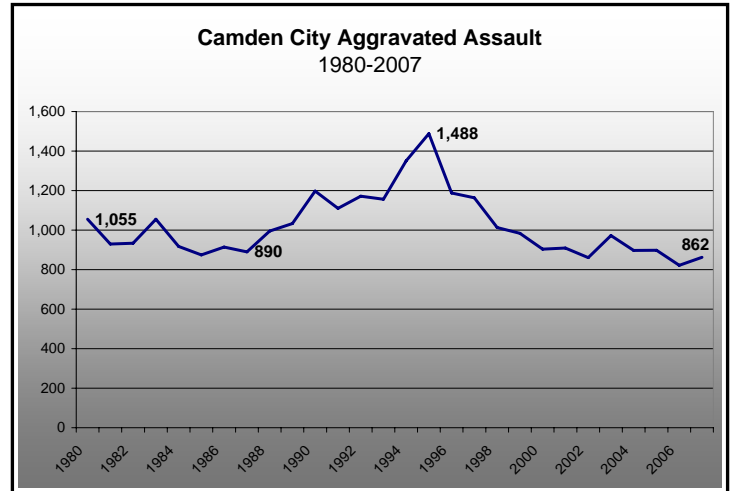
An unlawful attack by one person upon another

1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual): 1,058
Avg. % of Total Crime: 9.6%
Avg. % of Violent Crime: 43.3%

General Trend:

Aggravated assaults remained stable through most of the 1980s, followed by a 70% increase beginning in 1987, which peaked in 1995 at 1,488 incidents. The levels have decreased from the 1995 peak by 42% through 2007.

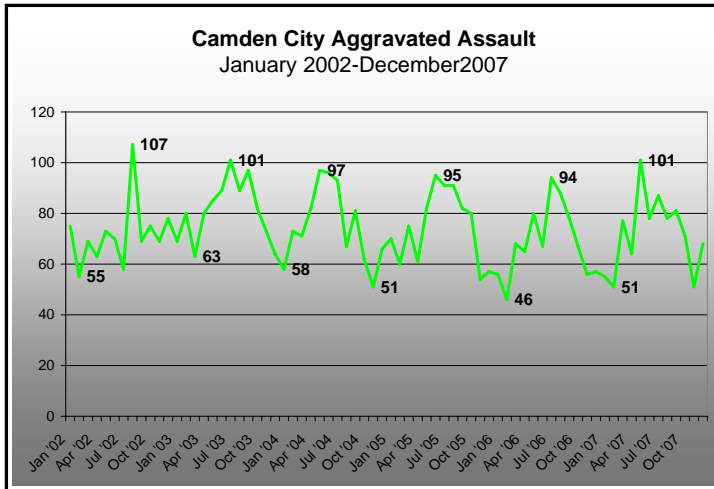


2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 75
Avg. % of Total Crime: 13.4%
Avg. % of Violent Crime: 51.7%

General Trend:

Aggravated assaults have peaked during the summer months throughout the previous six years. The average fluctuation between the seasonal peaks and valleys has increased from the 2002-2004 3 year average of 85% to the 2005-2007 3 year average of 115%, indicating more drastic seasonal trends.

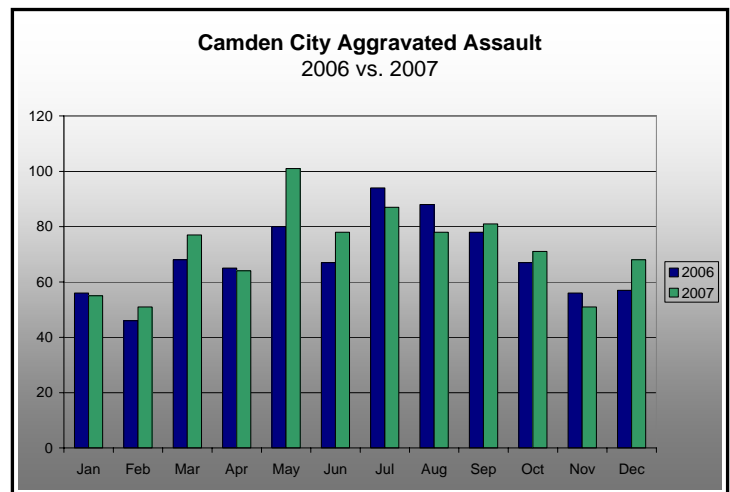


2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 73
Avg. % of Total Crime: 12.9%
Avg. % of Violent Crime: 48.9%

General Trend:

In the first half of 2007 Camden experienced 10.3% rise in the number of aggravated assault incidents over the same time period in 2006. In the second half of 2007, aggravated assaults decreased by 1% from 2006.



PROPERTY CRIME

The combined total of reported burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson

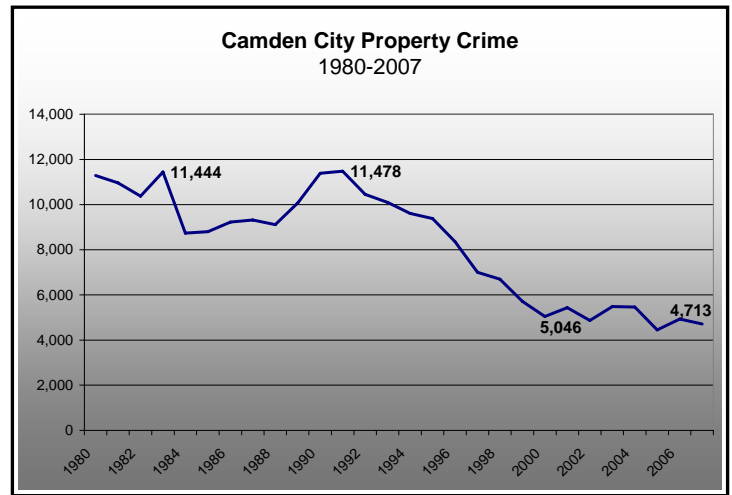
1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual): 8,210

Avg. % of Total Crime: 78%

General Trend:

Camden City property crime fell 56% from the in the 1990's. In the 2000's, property crime has continued to decline, but at a much slower rate. Reported property crime has decreased 58% in the past 28 years.



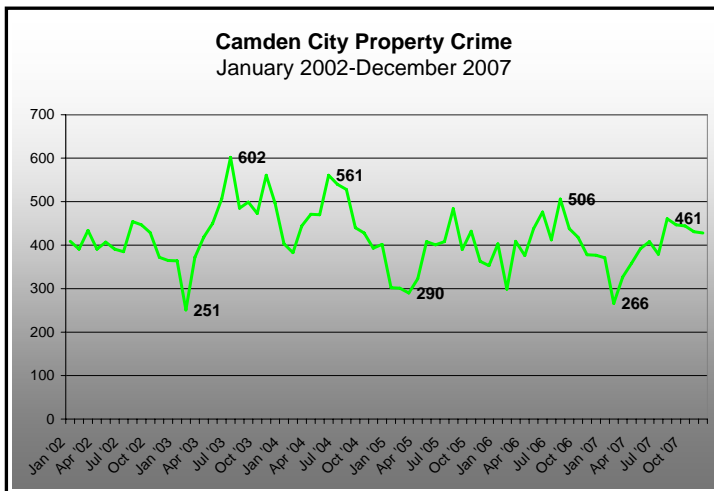
2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 415

Avg. % of Total Crime: 74.2%

General Trend:

Camden City property crime has gradually decreased since 2004. Property crime is down 13.7% from 2004 to 2007. Property crime follows seasonal trends with February as a consistently low month each year.



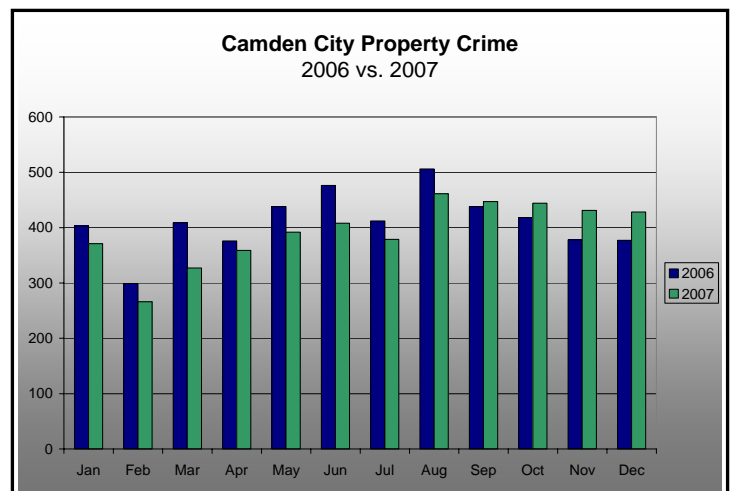
2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 402

Avg. % of Total Crime: 73.7%

General Trend:

In the first half of 2007, property crime declined by 11%. However, the amount of November and December property crime was unusually high. As a result crime was up 5% in the second half of 2007. Overall, Camden City property crime was down 2.4% in 2007.



BURGLARY

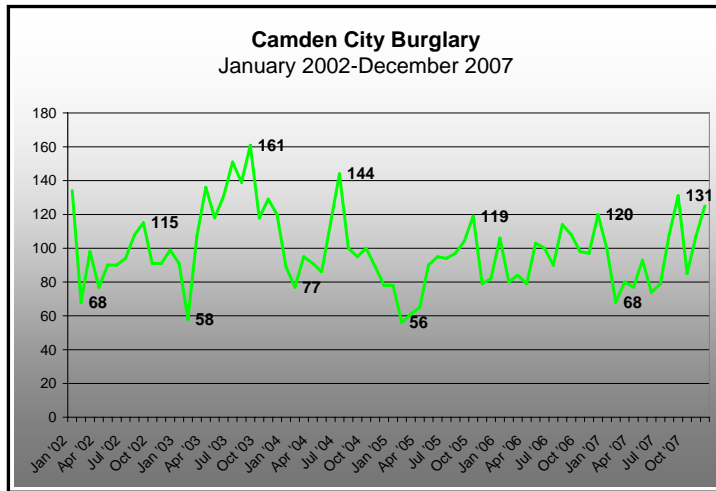
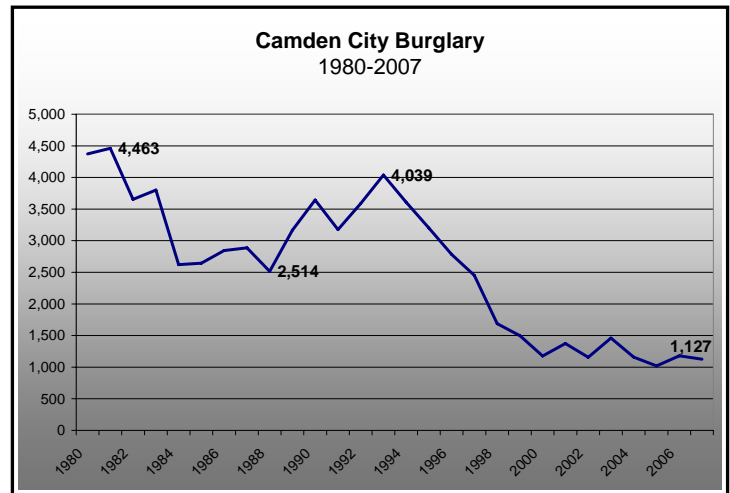
The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft

1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual):	1,183
Avg. % of Total Crime:	24.4%
Avg. % of Property Crime:	31.4%

General Trend:

In the past 27 years, burglary has decreased by 77%; 75% of this decrease occurred from 1993 to 2005. In the past 28 years, 2007 had the second lowest incidents of burglary in Camden City.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly):	99
Avg. % of Total Crime:	17.6%
Avg. % of Property Crime:	23.7%

General Trend:

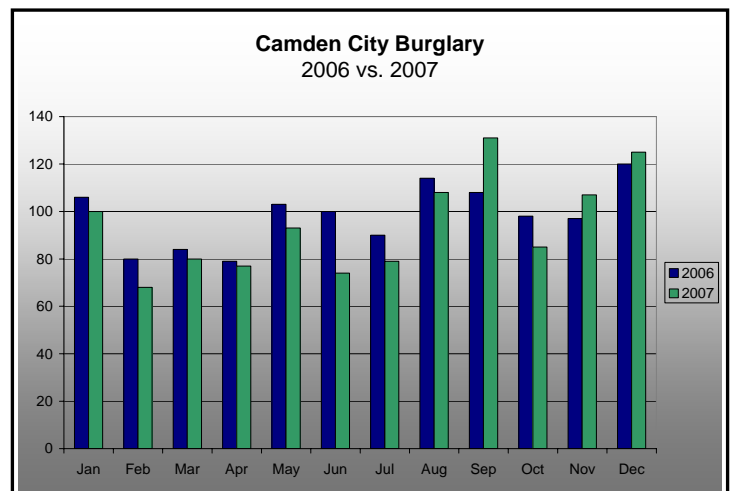
After a 26% increase from 2002 and 2003, there was brief decline in the number of incidents of burglary. This was followed by a plateau in the total reports of Camden City burglary.

2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly):	99
Avg. % of Total Crime:	17.6%
Avg. % of Violent Crime:	23.9%

General Trend:

Incidents of burglary declined 4% in 2007. The first eight months of 2007 were below the numbers reported for 2006 burglary. Reported incidents of burglary were uncharacteristically high in September 2007.



LARCENY

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another

1980-2007

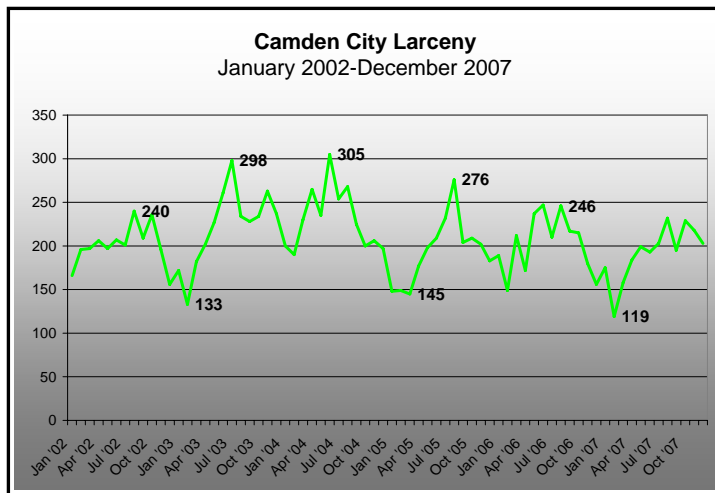
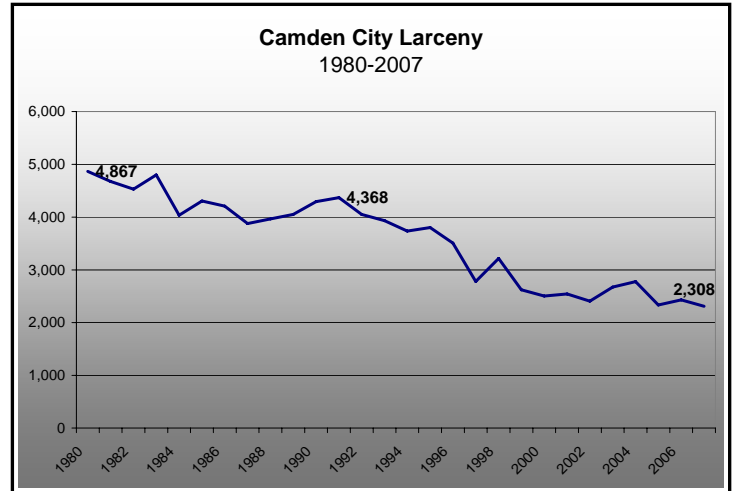
Avg. # of incidents (annual): 3,556

Avg. % of Total Crime: 33.7%

Avg. % of Property Crime: 43.3%

General Trend:

Similar to all property crime, larceny declined steadily from 1980 through 2007. From its peak in 1980, larceny in the city decreased 50% before reaching a plateau in the 2000's.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 207

Avg. % of Total Crime: 37.0%

Avg. % of Property Crime: 49.9%

General Trend:

Camden City larceny has remained relatively level from 2002-2007. Since 2003, when larceny incidents peaked, there has been a steady decline.

2006-2007

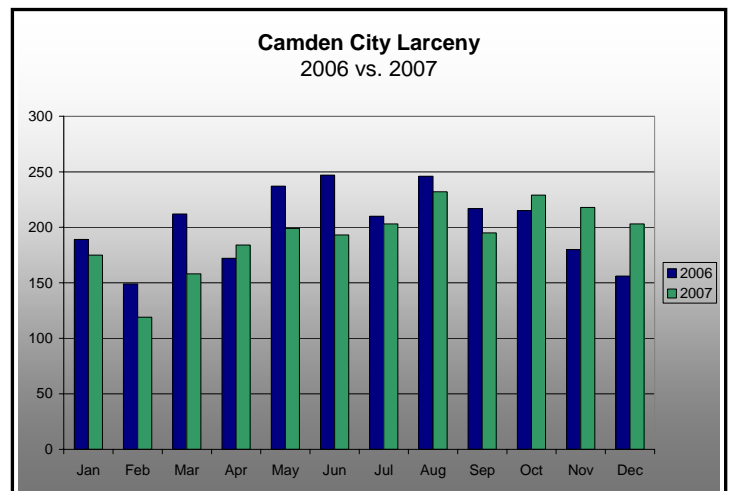
Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 197

Avg. % of Total Crime: 36.2%

Avg. % of Property Crime: 49.1%

General Trend:

There was a 5% decrease in the amount of larceny incidents between 2006 and 2007. The decrease in larceny incidents was consistent from January through September.



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

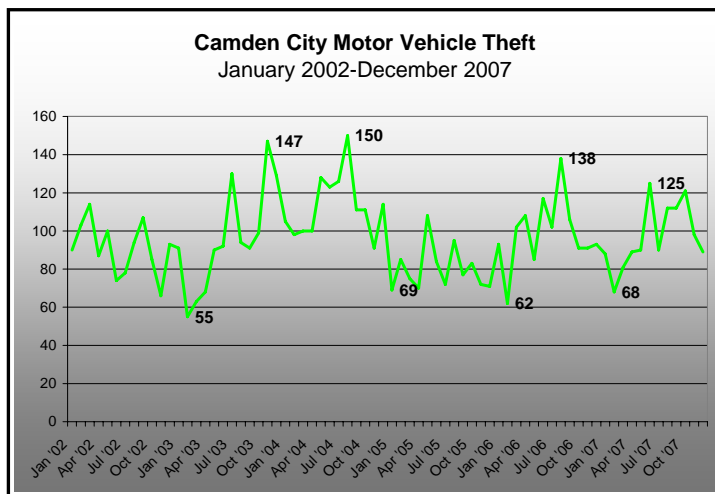
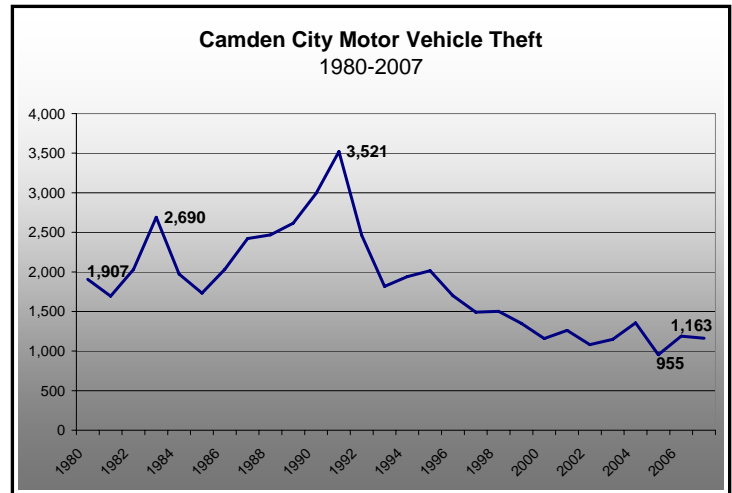
The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle

1980-2007

Avg. # of incidents (annual): 1,846
Avg. % of Total Crime: 17.5%
Avg. % of Property Crime: 22.5%

General Trend:

From 1980 to 2007 Camden City experienced a 39% decline in the annual number of motor vehicle thefts. From the peak year of 1991 through 2005, there was a 78% decrease in the total amount of reported motor vehicle theft.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 96
Avg. % of Total Crime: 17.1%
Avg. % of Property Crime: 23.1%

General Trend:

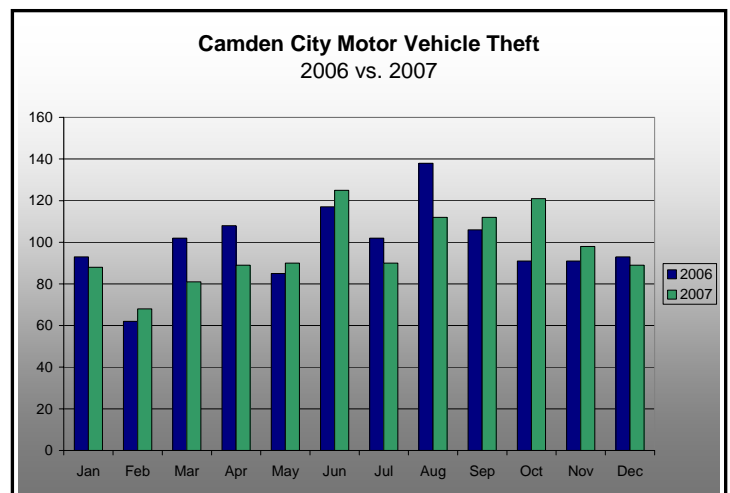
From 2002 to 2007 Camden City experienced an 8% decline in the amount of motor vehicle theft. In 2004, there was a brief period of increased motor vehicle theft. In 2005 and 2007, the peak and valley months of motor vehicle theft have become more consistent.

2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 98
Avg. % of Total Crime: 18.0%
Avg. % of Property Crime: 24.4%

General Trend:

Motor vehicle theft declined by 2% from 2006 to 2007. The decline in motor vehicle thefts was partially the result of a decrease during the summer months. The overall decrease occurred in spite of a 12% jump from October through December.



ARSON

Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

1980-2007

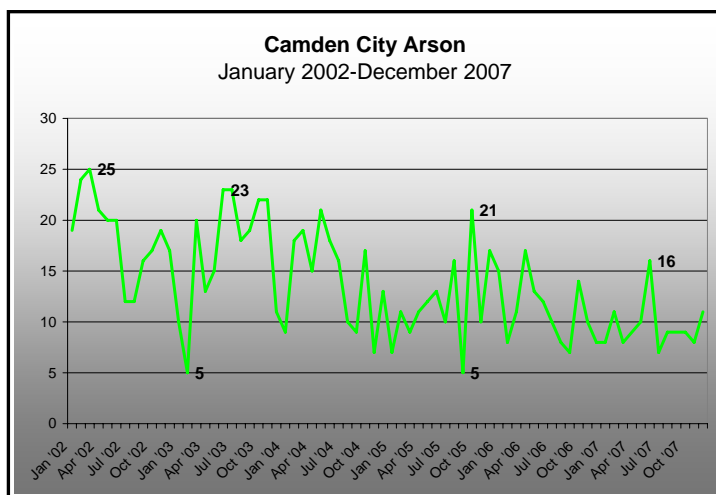
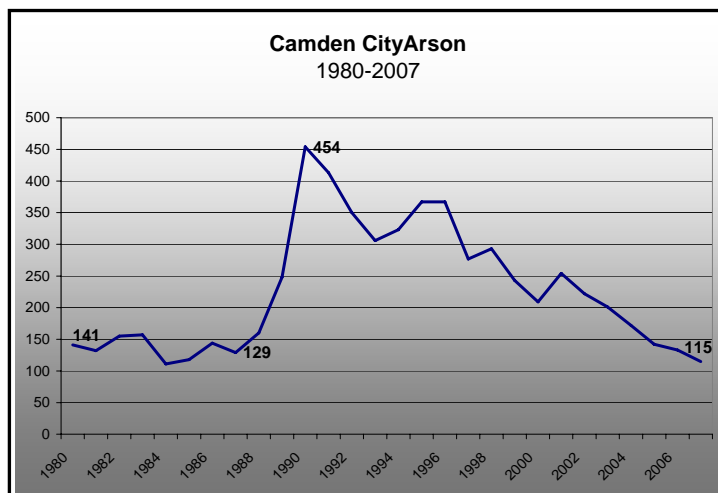
Avg. # of incidents (annual): 226

Avg. % of Total Crime: 2.1%

Avg. % of Property Crime: 2.8%

General Trend:

From 1987 to 1990, Camden City arson increased 252%. Arson gradually declined during the 1990's and has declined in the 2000's. Overall arson is down 18% from its 1980 level.



2002-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 14

Avg. % of Total Crime: 2.4%

Avg. % of Property Crime: 3.3%

General Trend:

From 2002-2007, the decline of Camden City arson has accelerated. Arson has declined 45% from its 2002 level. In 2007, there was the smallest amount of arson incidents in 23 years.

2006-2007

Avg. # of incidents (monthly): 10

Avg. % of Total Crime: 1.9%

Avg. % of Property Crime: 2.6%

General Trend:

Camden City arson declined 14% in 2007 from its 2006 level. In the months of February, June, August and September, arson was higher in 2007 than 2006.

