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Summary and Interpretation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report, 2006

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**Summary and Interpretation of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report, 2005
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The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released its annual report regarding crime in the United States in 2006. The key findings are discussed and interpreted below.

CRIME VOLUME

This section is on crime volume, as compared to crime rate, which is the number of offenses per 100,000 persons. Crime volume is based on the total number of crimes only. Violent crime increased 1.9% from 2005 to 2006. Property crime volume decreased the same amount – 1.9% for the same period. Violent crime increased in the categories of murder (+1.8%) and robbery (+7.2%) while rape (-2%) and aggravated assault (-0.2%) decreased. For property crimes, burglary was up 1.3%, larceny/theft was down 2.6%, and motor vehicle theft was down 3.5%. The percentage change from 2005 to 2006 is shown in Table 1.

For the five year period from 2002 to 2006, violent crime overall was down 0.4%. Both murder and robbery increased during that five-year period with murders up 5% and robberies up 6.3%. Aggravated assault decreased the most at 3.4%, followed by rape with a decrease of 2.9%.

TABLE 1: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME VOLUME

CRIME CATEGORY	2005-2006
Violent Crime	+1.9%
Murder	+1.8%
Rape	-2.0%
Robbery	+7.2%
Aggravated Assault	-0.2%

In addition to percentage increases and decreases in crime, it is important to keep in mind the actual volume of the numbers. There were 17,034 murders in 2006, up from 16,740 murders in 2005. There were 447,403 robberies reported in the United States in 2006, up from 417,438 in 2005. Rapes totaled 92,445 in 2006, down from 94,347 in 2005. In 2006, there were 860,853 aggravated assaults, down slightly from 862,220 in 2005.

With the exception of the Northeast (-0.4%), all regions of the country experienced an increase in violent crime volume. The Midwest saw an increase of 1.8%, the South an

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increase of 2.3%, and the West an increase of 3%. Murders were up 3.6% in the South, up 1.9% in the Northeast, up 0.7% in the Midwest, and down 0.8% in the West in 2006. Rape volume was down in every region. Robberies were up in all regions as follows: 2.3% in the Northeast, 5.7% in the Midwest, 7.4% in the South, and 12.3% in the West.

Firearms were used in 42.2% of all robberies in 2006, up slightly from 42.1% in 2005. The South experiencing the highest percentage of firearm usage (48.5%) and the Northeast the lowest (35.1%).

CRIME RATE

This section is on rate, not volume. Rate is the number of offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The violent crime rate increased 1% from the 2005 rate. The property crime rate decreased 2.8%. From 2005 to 2006, the murder rate increased 0.8%. With its 6.1% increase over the previous year, robbery had the greatest increase of all the categories. The rape rate was down 2.8% and aggravated assault was down 1.1%.

For the five year period from 2002 to 2006, the violent crime rate overall was down 4.2%. Both murder and robbery increased during that five-year period with murders up 1% and robberies up 6.6%. Aggravated assault decreased the most at 7.1%, followed by rape with a decrease of 6.6%.

TABLE 2: PERCENT CHANGE IN VIOLENT CRIME RATE

CRIME CATEGORY	2005-2006
Violent Crime	+1%
Murder	+0.8%
Rape	-2.8%
Robbery	+6.1%
Aggravated Assault	-1.1%

CRIME DETAILS AND TRENDS

Aggravated assault accounted for 60.7% of the violent crimes in 2006. Robbery accounted for 33.7%, forcible rape accounted for 6.5%, and murder accounted for 1.2% of the violent crimes in 2006, as shown in Chart 1.



CHART 1: VIOLENT CRIME BY OFFENSE

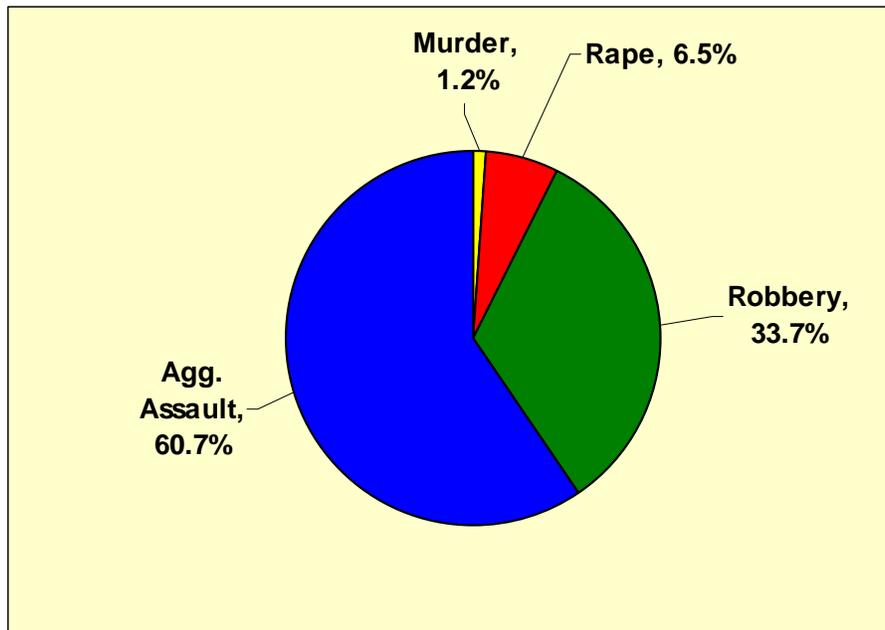


Chart 2 shows the breakdown of murders that occurred during the commission of other felonies. Of all felony murders, the most frequent (1,041) was robbery related. That number increased 13% over 2005, when the number was 921.

CHART 2: FELONY MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES

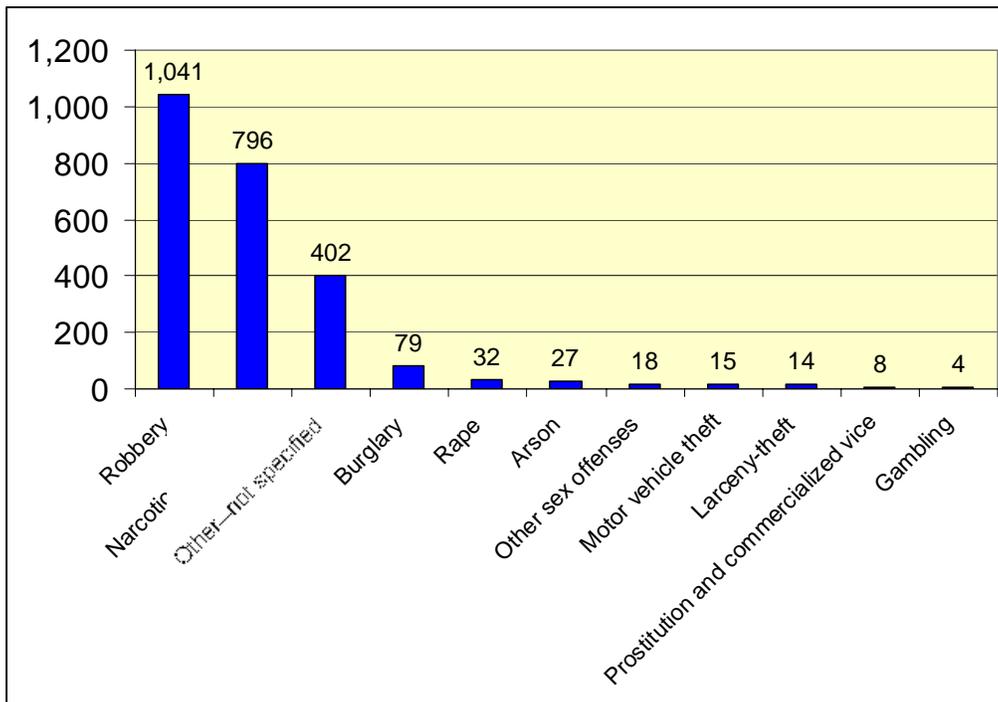
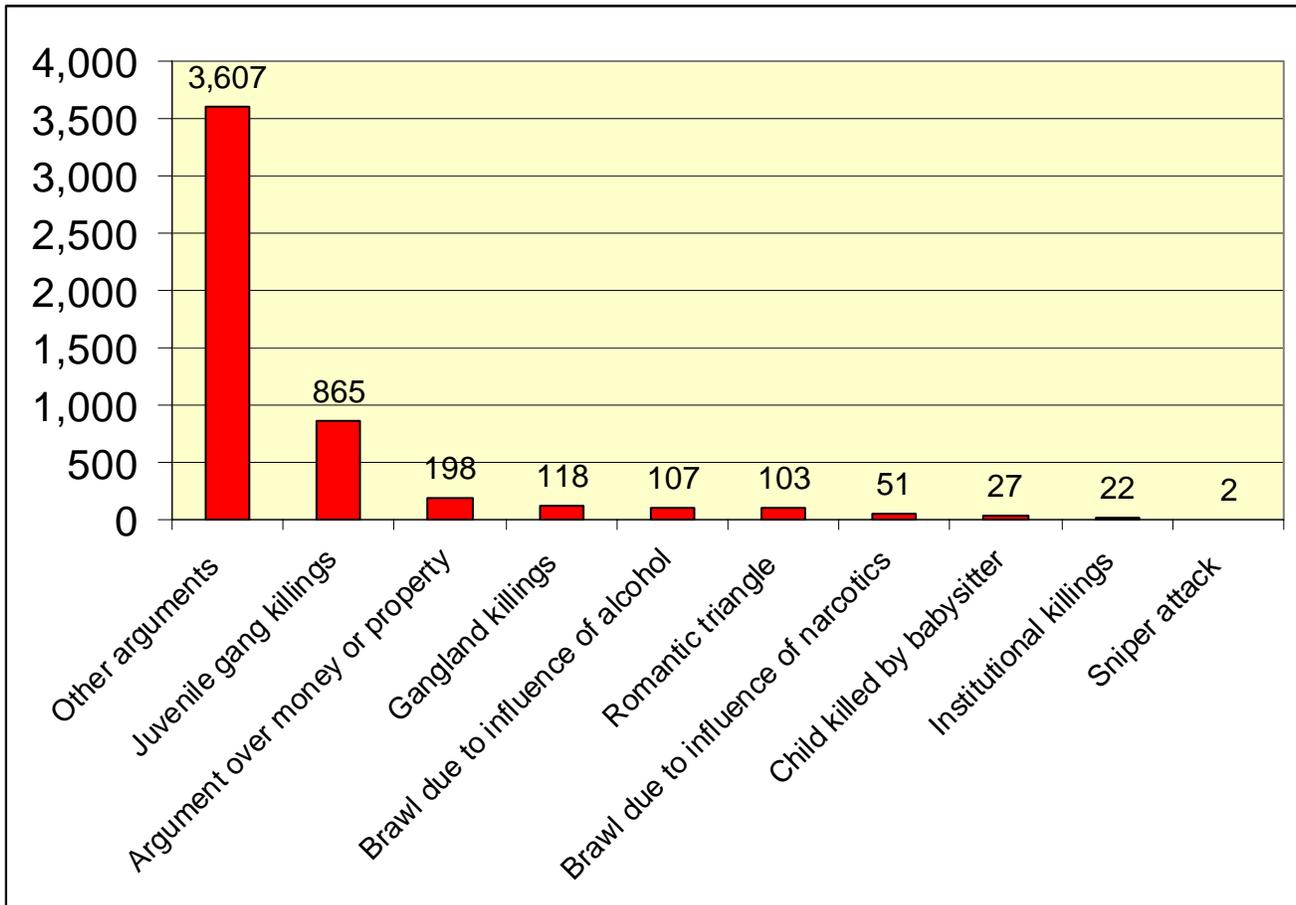


Chart 3 illustrates murders occurring for reasons other than felonies. By far, the most common circumstance is arguments – related to alcohol, narcotics, money, property, and other arguments. Juvenile gang killing was the second most frequent for which circumstances are known.

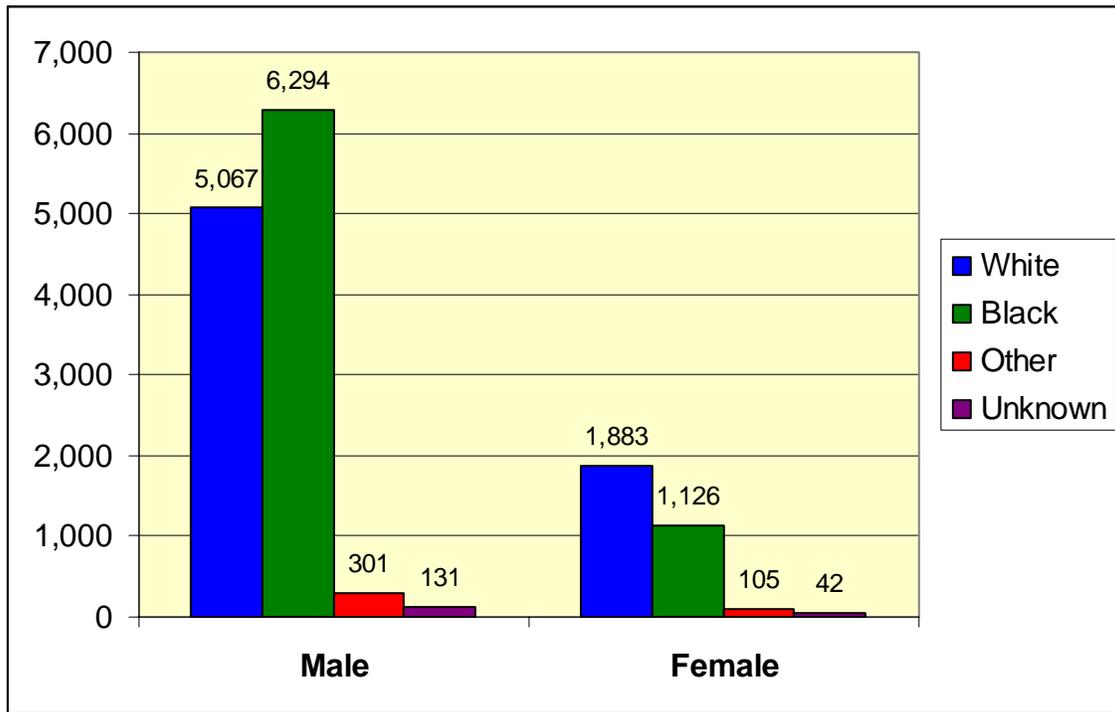
CHART 3: MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES OTHER THAN FELONY



Murder victims were killed with firearms 73.4% of the time in 2006. Chart 4 shows murder victims by race and sex. In 2006, 78.9% of known murder victims were male. Murder victims, for whom race was known, were 47.1% white, 50.2% black, and the remaining victims were from other or unknown races.



CHART 4: MURDER VICTIMS BY RACE AND SEX



In 2006, 45% of the perpetrators were unknown, the same as the previous year. When the relationships of murder victims and offenders were known, 55.3% were killed by an acquaintance, 21.6% of victims were slain by family members, and 23.1% were murdered by strangers.

Chart 5 depicts the 20-year trend in number of murders. Although the number of murders in 2006 is below that of twenty years ago, there has been a trend upward in recent years.



CHART 5: NUMBER OF MURDERS 1987 – 2006

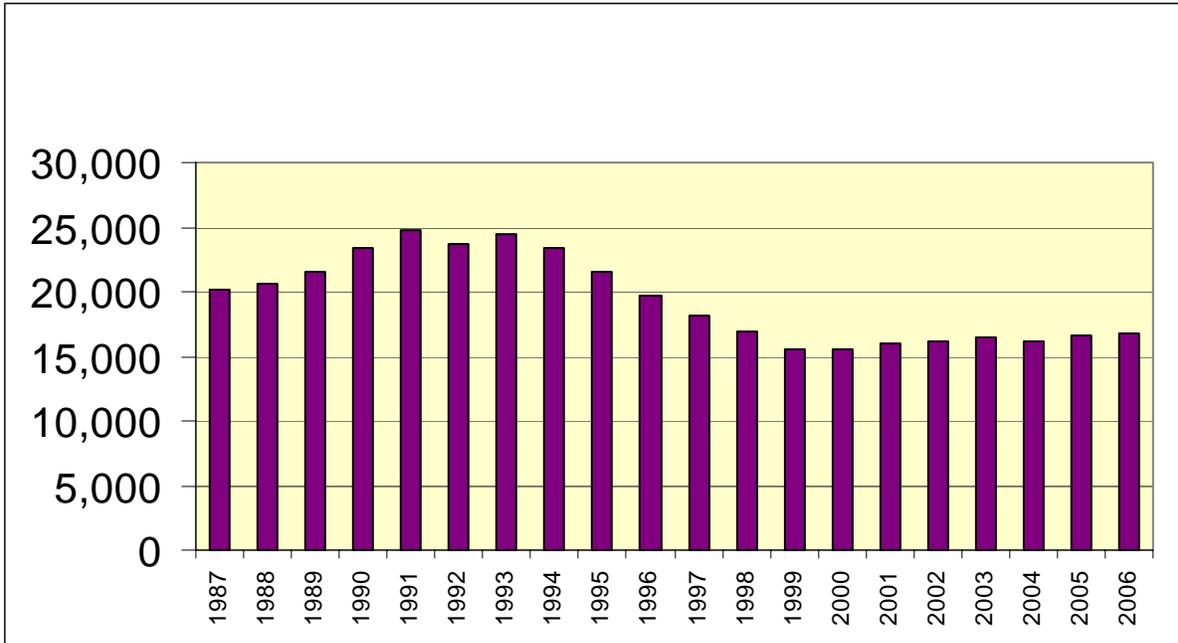
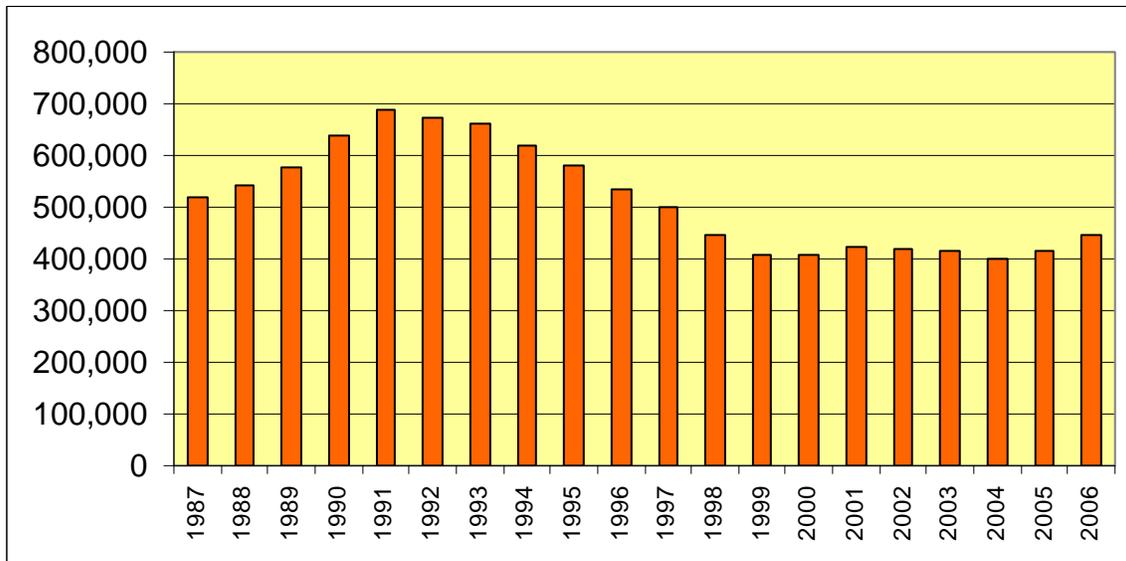


Chart 6 shows the 20-year trend for robbery. As with the number of murders, robbery volume for 2006 is below that of twenty years ago. However, the number of robberies increased from 2005 to 2006.

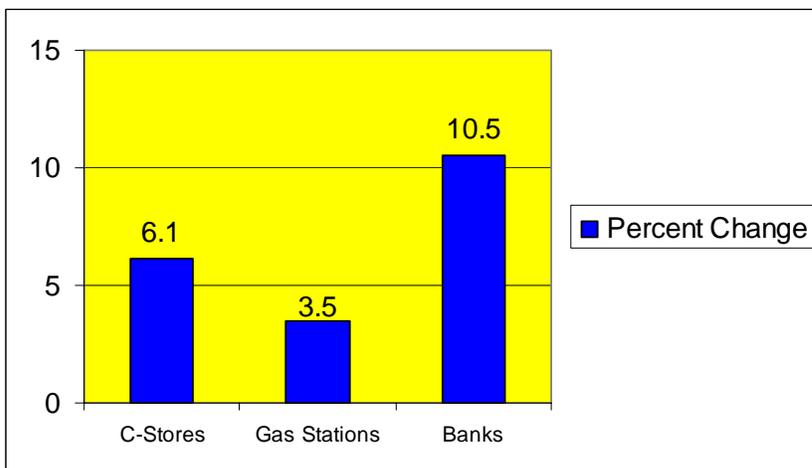
CHART 6: NUMBER OF ROBBERIES 1987 – 2006



CONVENIENCE STORES, GAS STATIONS AND BANKS

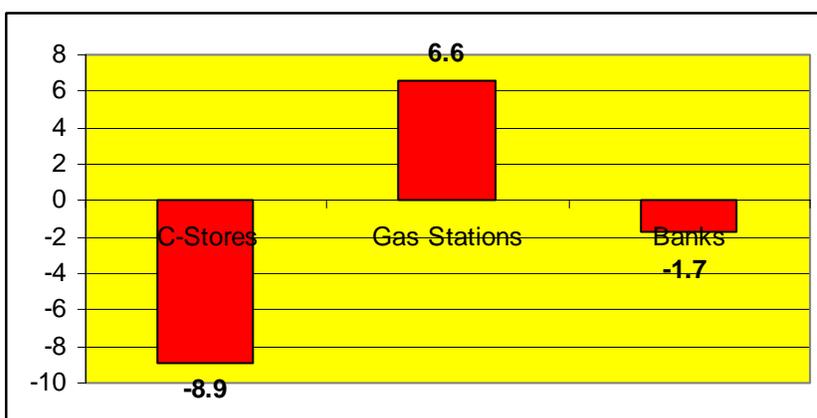
- Convenience store robbery volume was up 6.1% from 2005 to 2006.
- Gas station robbery volume was up 3.5% from 2005 to 2006.
- Bank robbery volume was up 10.5% from 2005 to 2006.
- In 2006, commercial house robberies, street/highway robberies, and residential robberies were all up.

CHART 7: PERCENT CHANGE IN ROBBERY VOLUME FROM PREVIOUS YEAR – 2005-2006



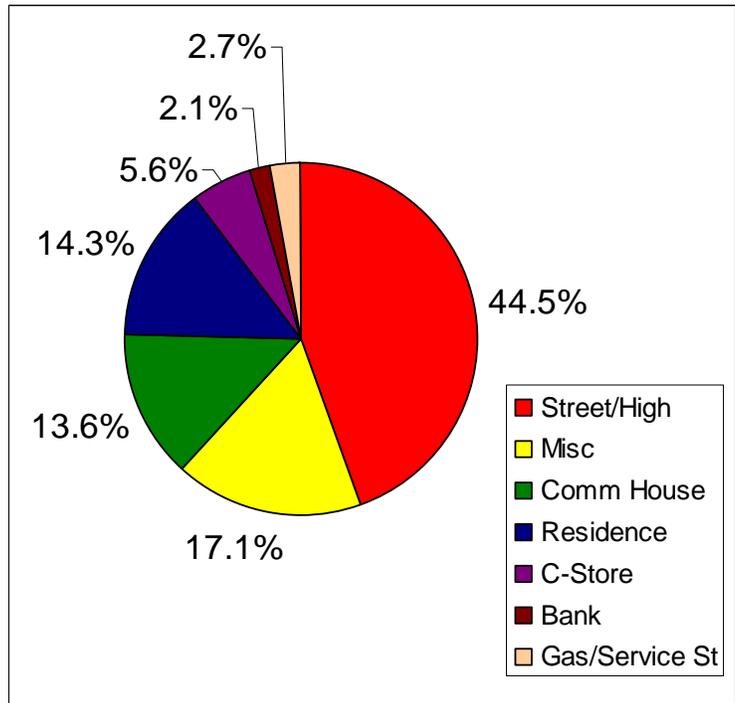
- ❖ Convenience store robbery volume was down 8.9% in the 5-year period since 2002.
- ❖ Gas station robbery volume was up 6.6% in the 5-year period since 2002.
- ❖ Bank robbery volume was down 1.7% in the same five-year period from 2002.

CHART 8: PERCENT CHANGE IN ROBBERY VOLUME 2002 – 2006



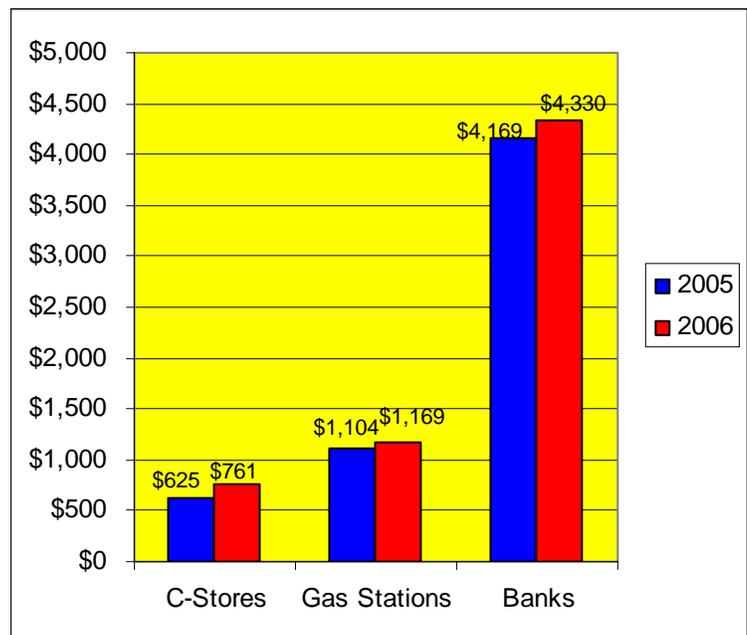
- Convenience store robbery made up 5.6% of the total robberies in 2006, down from 5.7% the prior year.
- Gas station robbery made up 2.7% of the total robberies in 2006, down from 2.8% in 2005.
- Bank robberies made up 2.1% of the total robberies in 2006, the same as the prior year.

CHART 9: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION ROBBERY VOLUME – 2006



- ❖ In 2006, convenience stores had an average dollar loss of \$721, up from \$625 the previous year.
- ❖ Gas station average dollar loss in 2006 was \$1,169, up from \$1,104 the year before.
- ❖ Banks had by far the highest average dollar loss at \$4,330, up from \$4,169 in 2005.

CHART 10: AVERAGE LOSS PER ROBBERY



Authors' Note: These are not just register losses, but include safe and merchandise losses.



AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS:

In 2006, violent crime, including murder and robbery, varied greatly again overall and by city size and geography. Violent crime was up, with murder and robberies contributing to that increase, while rape and aggravated assaults were down.

The data from 2006 support the premise that juvenile gang homicide is increasing. Juvenile gangs were responsible for 754 murders in 2005 and 865 in 2006, an increase of 15%.

There has been a less aggressive approach to weapons in recent years, which can lead to the increased use of firearms. The 2006 data appear to support that idea, with 68% of murders in 2005 involving firearms, and 73.4% in 2006. Robbery data shows a slight increase in the use of firearms, from 42.1% in 2005 to 42.2% in 2006.

Robberies had the largest increase of all violent crimes. They were up 7.2% by volume and 6.1% by rate in 2006. When looking at robberies by location, all seven categories experienced increases.

