




City of Phoenix

TO: David Cavazos
City Manager

DATE: August 25, 2010

THRU: Ed Zuercher 
Assistant City Manager

FROM: Jack F. Harris
Public Safety Manager

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING AND HOME INVASION INFORMATION

Concerns have been raised regarding kidnapping and home invasion statistics provided by the Phoenix Police Department, with accusations that the numbers have been intentionally inflated. This is untrue, as supported by the following information.

The Phoenix Police Department tracks the number of home invasion and kidnapping incidents based on the Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) code assigned to the case. The attached reports demonstrate kidnapping and home invasion numbers by calendar year for 2005 through July 2010. These numbers reflect incidents reported according to ARS criteria as indicated on the attached reports.

The reported numbers include only finalized incidents and exclude those reports where the crime was later determined to be unfounded. The reports also break out incidents marked as "information only," which are classified as such for a variety of reasons. For example, in some cases the Phoenix Police Department was involved in the investigation, but the incident was handled and reported by another agency. In other cases, there was not sufficient information on the incident to determine whether a crime actually occurred, so the incident is marked as "information only" unless additional evidence is obtained to verify the incident. Due to the investigative process, case status and classifications are dynamic and therefore counts are subject to change.

For home invasions, the counts in the attached report are based on citywide reported incidents for home invasion robberies, regardless of the assigned work unit. For example, in 2008 a total of 376 home invasion robbery reports were recorded by the Phoenix Police Department, compared to a total of 398 recorded for 2009.

Kidnapping counts are limited to those incidents assigned to the Violent Crimes Bureau - Robbery Detail (VCBR); Drug Enforcement Bureau - Home Invasion and Kidnapping Enforcement (HIKE) Detail; or the Drug Enforcement Bureau - Illegal Immigration Prevention and Apprehension Co-Op Team (IIMPACT), since these incidents are more likely to involve drugs, extortion, human smuggling, property theft, and related crimes. For example, in 2008 a total of 358 kidnapping reports were recorded as assigned to VCBR, HIKE, or IIMPACT, compared to a total of 315 recorded for 2009.

Kidnappings assigned to other work units which include a variety of motives such as domestic violence and sexually motivated incidents are reported separately. In 2008 and 2009 respectively, there were an additional 137 and 125 reported kidnapping incidents assigned to other work units.

Attachments

cc: Mayor & City Council