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Oak Park 2011 crime rate at 39-year low

Oak Park's overall 2011 crime rate was the lowest in the last 39 years, according to data compiled under the state's Uniform Crime Reporting Index and released this week.

Police investigated 1,757 crimes in 2011, down 8 percent from 2010 and far below the crime rates in the 1980s and 1990s when Oak Park's crime rates often were nearly double the rate last year.

"The 2011 crime statistics attest not only to the training, skill and dedication of the hard working men and women of our Police Department, but also to the community's support and active involvement," said Village Manager Tom Barwin. "Oak Park's focus on policing at the neighborhood level has created an effective crime-fighting partnership that is reflected in the data."

Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley credited citizen involvement in crime fighting initiatives as playing a critical role in helping keep crime low. He also cited the dedicated work done day in and day out by the men and women of the Police Department to make the community safe and the professional manner in which they carry out that work.

"Our 2011 statistics demonstrate what a safe community we have, especially given our proximity to the nation's third largest city," he said. "A majority of the criminal activity in Oak Park consists of property crimes, such thefts and burglaries."

The 376 burglaries and 1,176 thefts investigated in 2011 represented about 88 percent of all crimes, with garages as burglars' most frequent targets, Police say.

Arrests also were down in 2011, likely reflecting the overall decline in crime. Police made 205 arrests, down from 300 in 2010, or about 32 percent. Nearly three quarters of the arrests were for burglaries and thefts.

Juvenile crime was down in 2011 as well, with arrests declining 37 percent from 2010, according to the statistics compiled by the Police Department. And like the Village-wide statistics, theft and burglary were the largest categories, representing nearly 65 percent of the 111 juvenile arrests that year.

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2011 Crime Rate at Record Low
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Violent crimes were not absent from the 2011 crime report, a fact that Tanksley says always is top of the mind for officers on patrol. Police investigated 106 robberies – down from 133 in 2010 – and 25 assaults, down from 44 the prior year. No homicides were committed in 2011.

While the overall decline in the numbers at the bottom line of the crime statistics is significant, officials say perception of safety always is a concern in the community – especially in those few incidents that generate significant media attention. In these high-profile cases, Tanksley said Police work to disseminate accurate information in a timely fashion and then do all they can to quickly arrest offenders.

"Statistics are valuable as a resource management tool, but they are more than just numbers to the Police Department," he said. "Each number represents a person who has encountered a criminal or criminal activity and may carry that encounter with them for the rest of their lives.

"Whether the overall rate is at a 39-year low doesn't necessarily mean a lot to a victim of a crime. That's why my officers, command staff and I continually strive to help residents feel safe by providing them the information they need to play an important role in our crime-fighting initiatives."

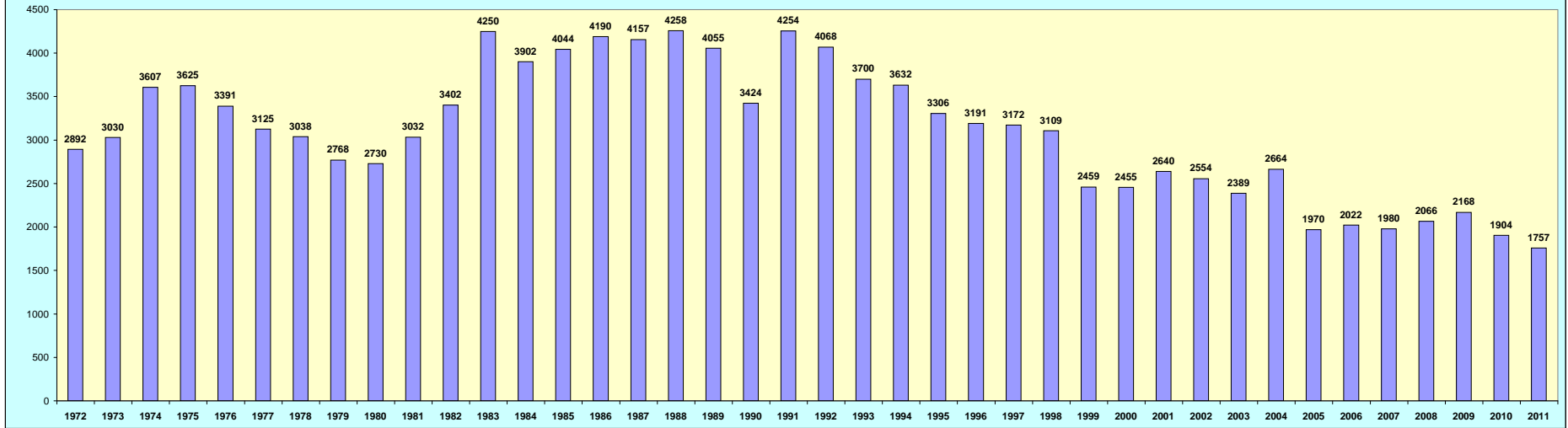
For more information on Oak Park's community policing programs, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

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Part 1 Crimes Index, 1970-2011

Crimes	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	2892	3030	3607	3625	3391	3125	3038	2768	2730	3032	3402	4250	3902	4044	4190	4157	4258	4055	3424	4254	4068	3700	3632	3306	3191	3172	3109	2459	2455	2640	2554	2389	2664	1970	2022	1980	2066	2168	1904	1757

Part 1 Crimes Index 1972 - 2011



Oak Park Police Department

Year to Date: January - December 2011 * Part 1 Offense / Arrest / Traffic / Drug Arrest

All Data are preliminary and subject to change

PART ONE OFFENSES	2008	2009	2010	YTD 2011	2010 vs 2011 % Change
MURDER	1	1	1	0	-100%
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT	2	2	6	4	-33%
ROBBERY	167	142	133	106	-20%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/BATTERY	46	35	44	25	-43%
BURGLARY	432	576	380	376	-1%
THEFT	1313	1332	1268	1176	-7%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	102	74	70	68	-3%
ARSON	3	6	2	2	N/C
TOTALS	2066	2168	1904	1757	-8%
PART ONE OFFENSE ARRESTS	2008	2009	2010	YTD 2011	2010 vs 2011 % Change
MURDER	0	0	0	0	N/C
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT	0	0	1	0	-100%
ROBBERY	48	52	44	29	-34%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/BATTERY	34	23	27	15	-44%
BURGLARY	46	60	52	33	-37%
THEFT	155	225	175	125	-29%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	4	1	3	200%
ARSON	0	1	0	0	N/C
TOTALS	283	365	300	205	-32%
Traffic	2008	2009	2010	YTD 2011	2010 vs 2011 % Change
Accidents	2110	2001	1958	1853	-5%
Traffic Citations	7171	7008	6061	4761	-21%
DUI Arrests	106	106	132	111	-16%
Suspended Arrests	80	87	193	226	17%
TOTALS	9467	9202	8344	6951	-17%
DRUG ARRESTS	2008	2009	2010	YTD 2011	2010 vs 2011 % Change
VIOL. OF THE CANNABIS ACT	43	59	53	36	-32%
VIOL. OF CONTROLLED SUBST.	46	80	44	32	-27%
VIOL. OF THE DRUG PARA. ACT	26	38	30	16	-47%
TOTALS	115	177	127	84	-34%
CALL FOR SERVICE	2008	2009	2010	YTD 2011	2010 vs 2011 % Change
CALL FOR SERVICE	38565	37822	37086	35431	-4%

The report is comparing the last three years to year 2011; one year is not standard for a comparison.

N/A - any number when multiplied by 0, equals 0. As such, a % cannot be calculated for this problem

N/C - no change in numbers when compared