

Crime

**EXISTING SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY DATA**

**CRIME**

**Police, Prisoners, and Prisons**

187 full-time law enforcement employees - 173 officers and 99 local officers – serve Schuylkill County. The rate of local officers per 1,000 residents is .67%. Source: PA State Police, 2006 Annual Uniform Crime Report

Schuylkill County is host to a total of 5 prisons, which include one medium security federal prison, one minimum security federal satellite prison camp, two state prisons, and one county jail. Most recent reports indicate that on average, the total number of persons incarcerated in a prison in Schuylkill County is over 5,000. State correctional facility and county jail reports show that **overcrowding in those prisons is a problem.**

Prison	Number of Prisoners	Percent of Capacity
Federal Correctional Institution Schuylkill, located in Minersville (medium security prison)	1,287 (as of 1/31/08)	NA
Federal Correction Institution Schuylkill, located in Minersville – Camp (minimum security satellite prison)	302 (as of 1/31/08)	NA
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections – State Correctional Institution Frackville	1,106 (as of 12/31/2007)	122.9%
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections – State Correctional Institution Mahanoy	2,290 (as of 12/31/2007)	120.5
Schuylkill County Jail	271 (average daily population as of 2006)	NA (265 beds available daily)

Source: Federal Bureau of Prisons, and Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

**Crime Rates**

Offenses	2005	2006	2007
Criminal Homicide	3	1	6
Sex related Offenses	100	68	84
Robbery	19	17	18
Assaults	1,112	1,066	1,060
Property Offenses	3,677	3,816	3,418
Arson	38	48	57
Drug Violations	317	352	344
Other Alcohol Crimes	805	909	787

Source: Pennsylvania State Police, Uniform Crime Report Data, Are You Aware? FOCUS Report

Between 2000 and 2005 there was a decrease in the number of total and serious crimes. 8,944 total crimes and 2,172 serious crimes were reported in 2005. The rate of total crimes per 100,000 residents is 6,066; the rate of serious crimes per 100,000 residents is 1,473. Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County Profile, PA State Police, Uniform Crime Reports

However, prior to June 1, 2005, the reporting of UCR (Uniform Crime Report) Data by Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies was not mandatory. Therefore, the most accurate crime data originates from the years 2005, 2006, and 2007.



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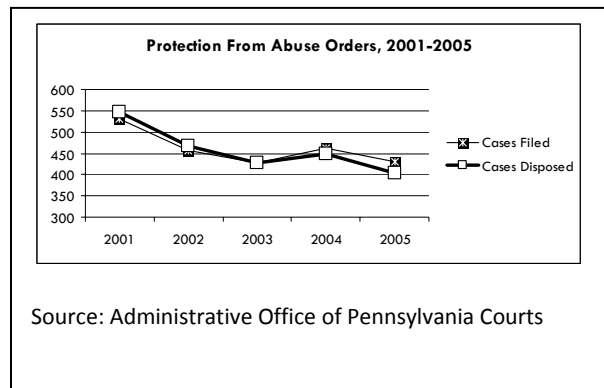
During the period 2005-2007, the most prevalent type of crime is **property offenses**. The rate of property offenses per 100,000 in 2007 is 2,370.9. **The number of criminal homicides, arsons, and drug violations increased during this timeframe.** In relation to drug violations, the presence of methamphetamine production laboratories may be viewed as a relevant issue. In December 2007, October 2007, May 2006, and November of 2004 The REPUBLICAN & Herald newspaper reported on methamphetamine lab investigations.

***Methamphetamine Labs***

A 2001 report titled Pennsylvania: Drug Threat Assessment, produced by the National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice, states that “An increase in the availability of suspected d-methamphetamine in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton (all located in eastern Pennsylvania) was reported. Methamphetamine is readily available in ounce to pound quantities in parts of Schuylkill County, corresponding with high abuse in that area. In central Pennsylvania, wholesale quantities of methamphetamine are limited, but ounce quantities are usually available.” An update to the report was produced in 2003, and reveals “Methamphetamine laboratories in Pennsylvania typically are located at private residences and hunting cabins.”

Heroin availability was relatively stable in the other areas, as it remained easy for users to obtain it in most cities and towns within Pennsylvania. Some of these cities and towns, especially Allentown, Bethlehem, Reading, and Easton, have become lower-level distribution points for users and distributors operating in surrounding communities.  
 Source: Pennsylvania 2008 Fact Sheet , U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

The 2008 National Drug Threat Assessment reports “Secondary drug markets in the MAR (the Mid Atlantic Region) include Richmond, Roanoke, and the Tidewater area of Virginia; Charleston and Wheeling (WV); Harrisburg, Scranton, and Allentown (PA); and Dover and Wilmington (DE).”, “The threat posed to the MAR by methamphetamine is relatively low-- however, methamphetamine availability and abuse are increasing in a number of areas in the region, including the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the northwestern counties of Pennsylvania, and the Pocono Mountains area of Pennsylvania.”



**Domestic Violence – Protection from Abuse (PFA) Orders**

A PFA is a civil order that protects person (s) from their abuser. A person files the order on their own behalf against the abuse (a family or household member). During the period 2001 – 2005, the number of cases filed and cases disposed declined.

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**Criminal Cases**

Between 2000 and 2004, **the number of new criminal cases received increased** from 1,643 to 1,841. During that same time period, the number of cases disposed remained somewhat consistent, from 1,896 in 2000 to 1,887 in 2004. Source: Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

**Alcohol Related Deaths**

A five year trend analysis shows that alcohol related deaths in Schuylkill County have declined. In 2002, 14 deaths were attributed to alcohol related crashes, while in 2006, 8 deaths were alcohol related. Source: 2006 Crash Facts and Statistics, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering

**School Violence and Weapons/Tobacco Possession**

The number of incidents remained unchanged over the period of the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years. However, while the number of offenders decreased by 55, there is an increase the number of incidents involving law enforcement and assignments of offenders to alternative education.

