

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Elgin Police Department News Release

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For Immediate Release:

2008 YEAR END STATISTICS

Elgin - The City of Elgin experienced a 5.34% decrease in the number of Part I crimes, according to the final analysis of 2008 crime data. "We are pleased to report a reduction in Part I crime throughout 2008. This is particularly good news given the state of the economy and its impact throughout our community" said Chief Lisa Womack. Of the ten Part I crimes reported through the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), seven areas saw a decrease. The only Part I crime with a notable increase was burglary to motor vehicle. The number of burglaries to motor vehicles rose from 637 in 2007 to 734 in 2008, an increase of 15%. Elgin Police will continue trying to reduce these types of crimes through pro-active patrols, quality investigations and community education.

Part II crimes showed an increase of less than 1% in 2008. As seen in past years, many of these crimes are driven by officer initiated activity and arrests. Reports of criminal damage to property, specifically graffiti, had resulted in significant increases in prior years. However, the number of reported graffiti incidents leveled off in 2008. Although criminal damage incidents did rise slightly in 2008, the increases were much lower than in past years. Preventing these public displays of disorder, and then quick removal when they do occur, continue to be a top priority for the Elgin Police Department.

Another sign of increased officer self-initiated activity is in the area of gang-related arrests. In 2008 the number of gang members arrested increased 128% over a high that was set in 2007. "These numbers illustrate that there continues to be no tolerance for gang activity in Elgin" said Chief Womack

Overall, the 2008 crime statistics for the City of Elgin ended on a positive note, with over a 5% reduction in Part I crime and a considerable increase in gang-related arrests. In the past few years the Elgin Police Department has begun using crime data to identify trends earlier and take steps to prevent crime when possible. It is the quick identification and pro-active steps that hold the key for continuing this positive trend into 2009.

Elgin Police Department 2008 Annual Report



January 30, 2008

Elgin Police Department

2008 Annual Report

The City of Elgin experienced a 5.34% decrease in the number of Part I crimes that occurred in 2008. In 2007 Elgin had 2,845 Part I crimes and in 2008, the number fell to 2,693. Seven of the ten Part I crime categories showed a reduction. Subsequently, the decrease in violent and serious crime also translated into a 5% reduction in the number of overall arrests. The only Part I crime with a notable increase was burglary to motor vehicle. The number of burglaries to motor vehicles rose from 632 in 2007 to 734 in 2008, an increase of 15%. This classification of crime has been closely-monitored and analyzed by the Elgin Police throughout the year. This increase in the number of vehicle burglaries may be attributable to the thefts of global positioning satellite (GPS) devices. These items are typically left in plain view in the victim's vehicle and law enforcement agencies all across the country are experiencing similar increases due to the device's popularity among thieves.

Part II crimes showed a slight increase of .90% in 2008. Many of the Part II crimes are driven by officer initiated enforcement. Elgin Police worked throughout 2008 on responding to crime and quality of life issues that have been elevated in prior years. A specific crime type that was addressed in 2008 was criminal damage incidents. Reports of criminal damage to property, specifically graffiti, had resulted in significant increases in prior years. The number of graffiti incidents leveled off in 2008. These incidents had been a contributing factor to increases seen in Part II crime over the past several years. Although criminal damage incidents did rise slightly in 2008, the increases were much lower than in past years. The Elgin Police will continue to monitor all crimes to determine if and when trends in criminal activity change.

Gang-related misdemeanors were down 6% after peaking in 2006. Elgin experienced a nearly 20% decrease in gang-related graffiti reports. Although gang-related felonies were elevated in 2008, the Elgin Police Department's quick response and effective enforcement led to a 128% increase in gang-related arrests over the one-time high that was set in 2007.

Overall, the 2008 crime statistics for the City of Elgin ended on a positive note, with a decrease in seven of the ten Part I crime categories, resulting in a 5% reduction in total Part I crime, a 5% decrease in overall arrests, a more than a 2% decrease in calls for service, and a considerable increase in gang-related arrests. The Elgin Police Department continues to provide high quality professional service to both its residents and visitors to Elgin. Throughout 2009 the Elgin Police Department will continue to adapt to the ever-changing environment and utilize the talent of the staff and the support of the community to continue making Elgin a safe city.

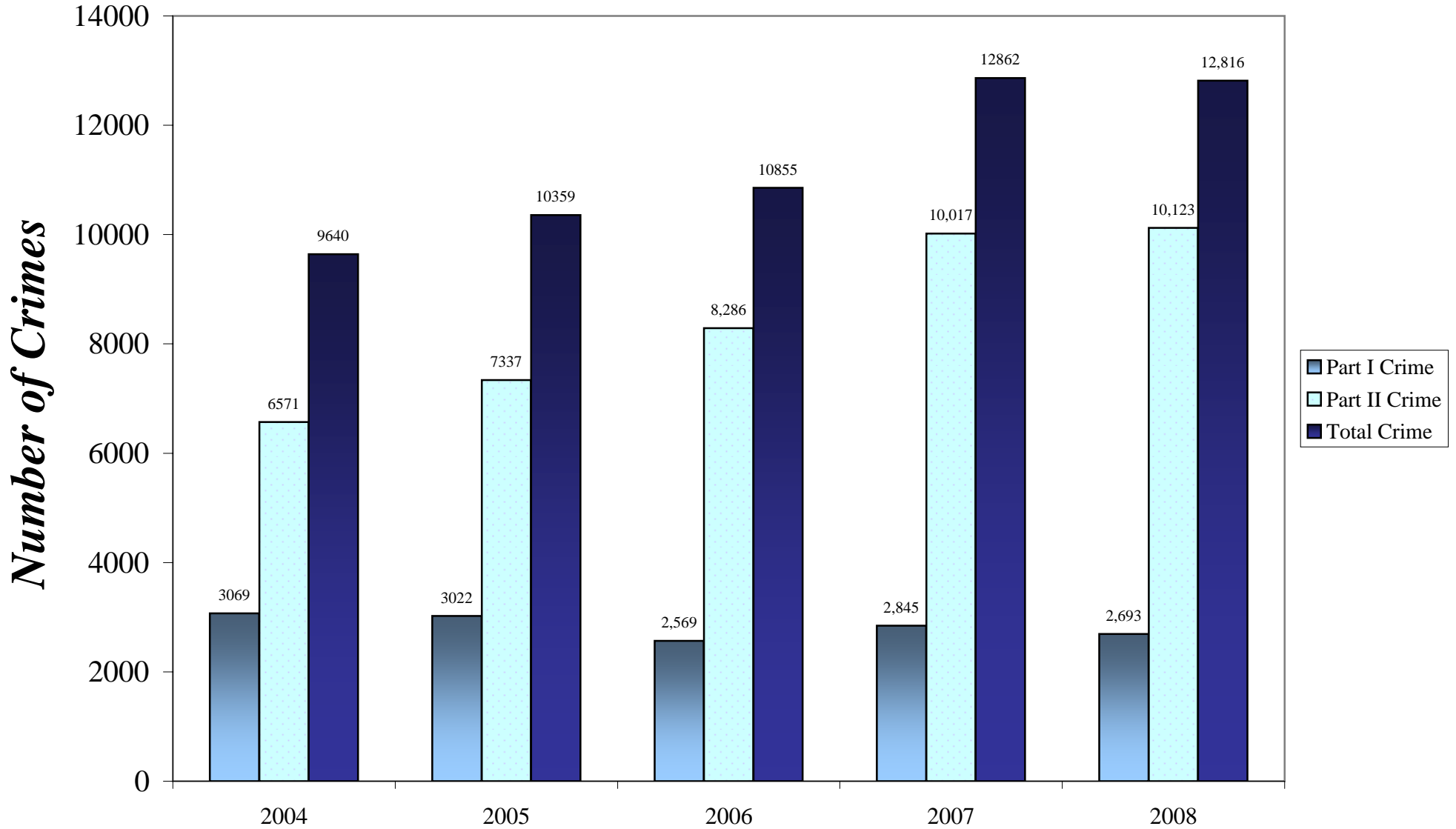
Part I and II Crimes

Month and Year to Date Comparison

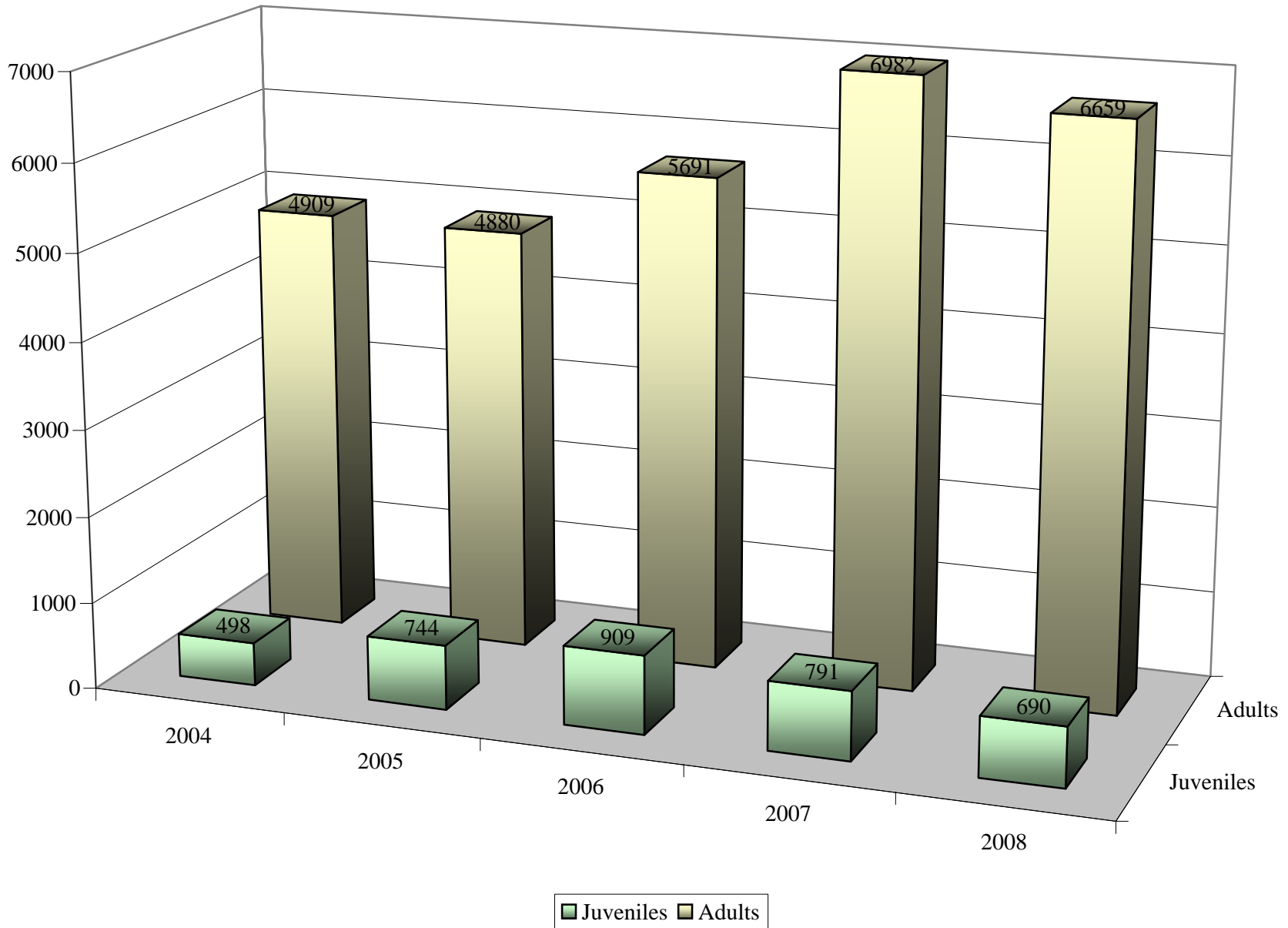
Part I Crimes	December			Year-To-Date		
	2007 Incidents	2008 Incidents	% of Change	Jan-Dec 2007 Incidents	Jan-Dec 2008 Incidents	% of Change
Homicide	0	0	0	2	3	50
Robbery	10	2	-80	95	84	-12
Forcible Rape/ Criminal Sexual Assault	2	2	0	89	87	-2
*Battery	6	6	0	99	104	5
*Assault	6	2	-67	59	58	-2
Burglary	32	40	25	489	474	-3
Burglary to Motor Vehicle	61	41	-33	637	734	15
Theft	86	60	-30	1,157	982	-15
Motor Vehicle Theft	19	12	-37	212	162	-24
*Arson	1	0	-100	6	5	-17
Total Part I Crimes	223	165	-26.01%	2,845	2,693	-5.34%
<small>*Incidents are categorized as Part I & Part II depending on the severity of the crime</small>						
<small>NC - Not Calculable / Att. - Attempt</small>						
Part II Crimes						
*Battery	110	99	-10	1,478	1,307	-12
*Assault	6	1	-83	81	75	-7
Deception	38	42	11	482	492	2
Criminal Damage & Trespass	155	96	-38	2,415	2,522	4
Deadly Weapons	7	4	-43	76	78	3
Sex Offenses	9	5	-44	77	77	0
Gambling	0	0	0	1	2	100
Offenses Involving Children	86	47	-45	764	1,118	46
Cannabis Control Act	25	11	-56	330	293	-11
Controlled Substance Act	17	6	-65	197	166	-16
Hypodermic Needle/ Syringe Act	1	0	-100	2	1	-50
Drug Paraphernalia Act	6	1	-83	80	87	9
Liquor Control Act	5	2	-60	86	60	-30
Motor Vehicle Offenses	214	183	-14	3,004	2,897	-4
Disorderly Conduct	47	32	-32	723	608	-16
Interference w/ Public Officers	7	4	-43	103	83	-19
Intimidation	1	1	0	8	10	25
Kidnapping	1	0	-100	14	11	-21
Total Other Offenses	17	24	41	112	236	111
Total Part II Crimes	752	558	-25.80%	10,033	10,123	0.90%
Total Crimes	975	723	-25.85%	12,878	12,816	-0.48%

Part I & II Crimes January - December

2004 - 2008

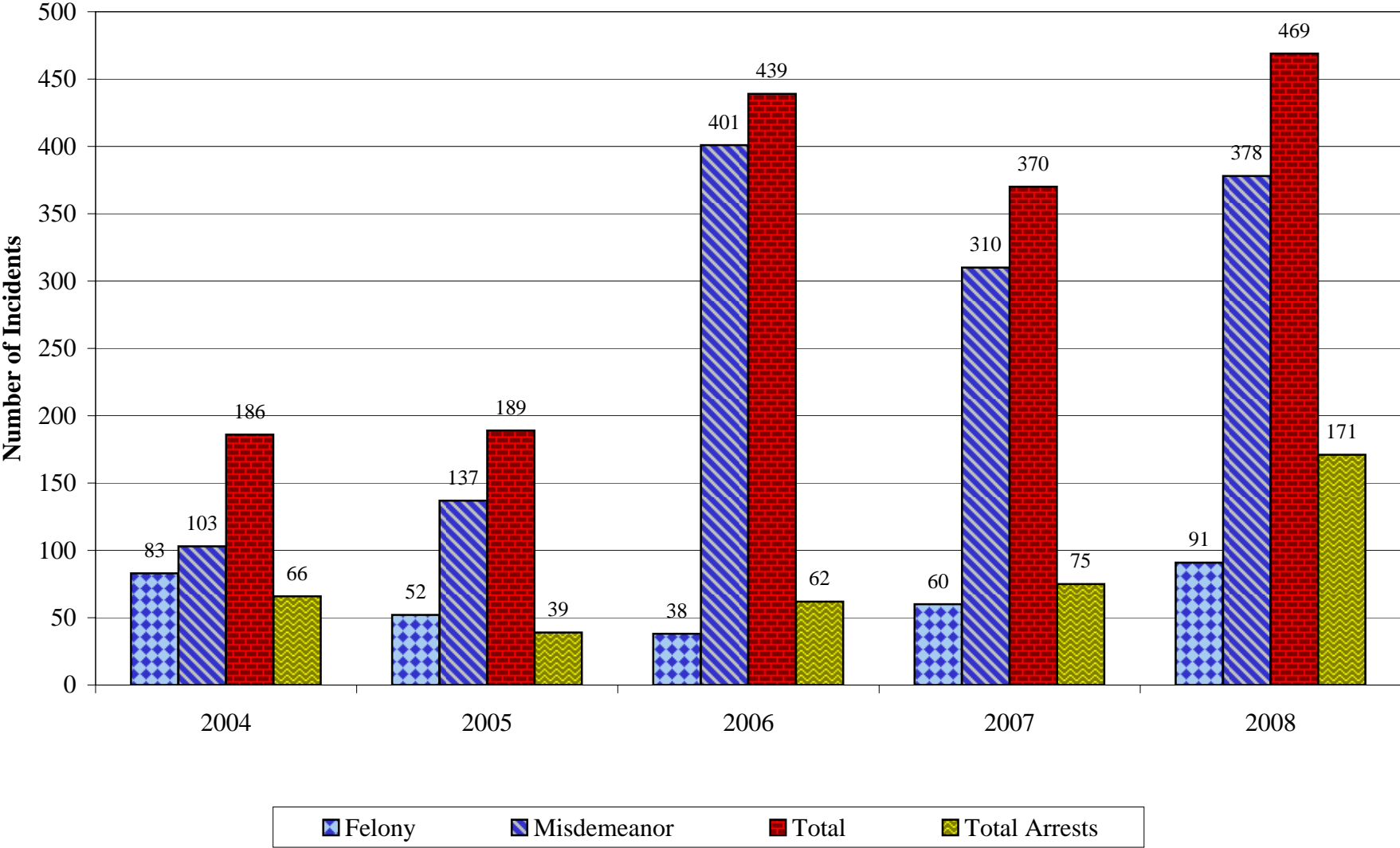


Elgin Arrests 2004 - 2008



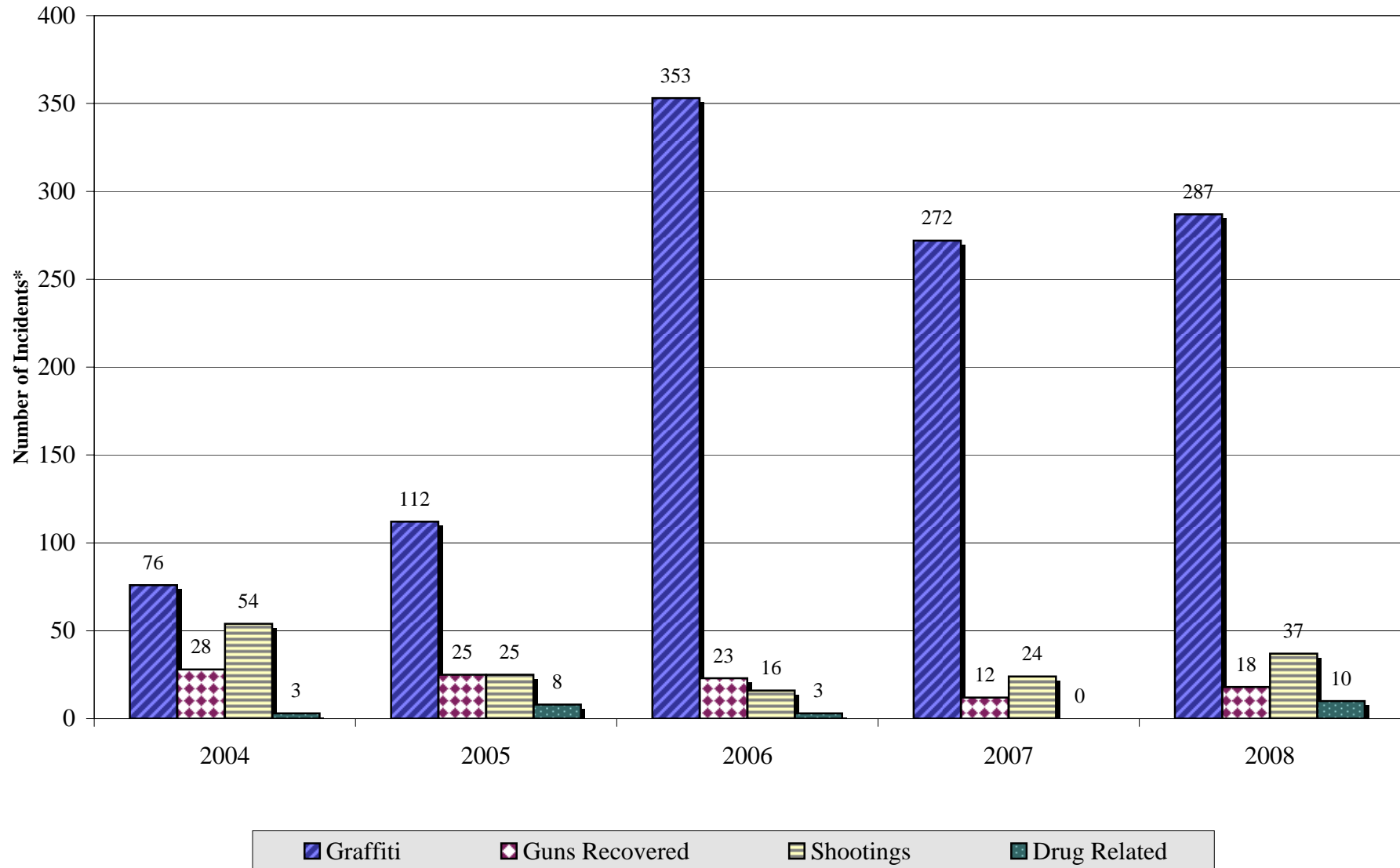
Gang Related Crime and Arrests

Year-End Comparison



Gang Related Crime by Incident Type

Year-End Comparison



Elgin Police Calls for Service 1990 - 2008

