

Cumberland Crime Patterns

Neighborhood Advisory Commission
 Neighborhood Summit
 May 21, 2005
<http://www.AdventureGovernment.com>

Outline of Presentation

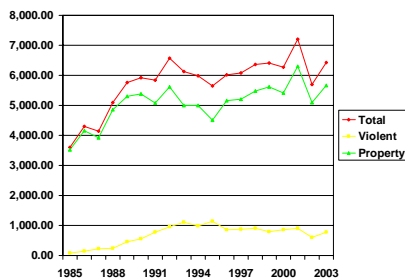
- Neighborhood Advisory Commission Discussions
- Trends over time in crime
- Repeat offenders and “problem properties”
- Relationship between building tenure/type and crime
- Relationship between problem properties and property maintenance
- Geographical patterns of crime in Cumberland and crime “hotspots”
- Crime and Public Policy (What we can do)

Neighborhood Advisory Commission Discussions

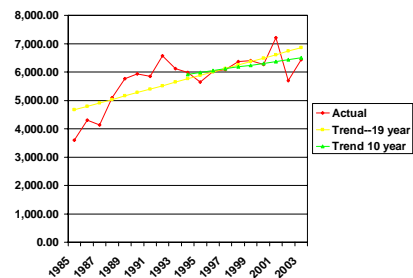
- Discussions have centered on crime and code enforcement issues
- Crime issues
 - Juvenile curfew laws
 - Anti-Loitering laws
 - Gang activity
 - Ways to conduct a crime watch
 - Procedures for enforcing property maintenance/nuisance codes
 - Multiple offense/“problem properties”
 - Use of municipal infraction laws for crime properties
 - Excessive noise and foul language
 - Guest speakers have included Police Chief and Lieutenants, City Solicitor, State’s Attorney, Community Development Staff

Trends in Crime

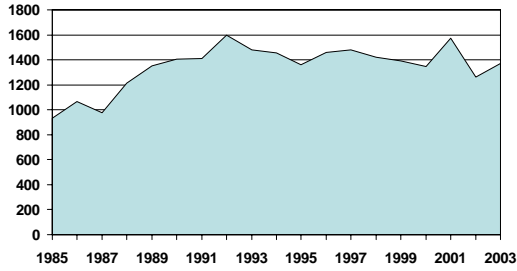
Uniform Crime Reports, Cumberland 1985-2003



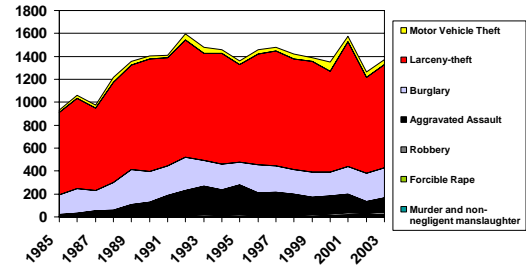
Cumberland Crime Trend



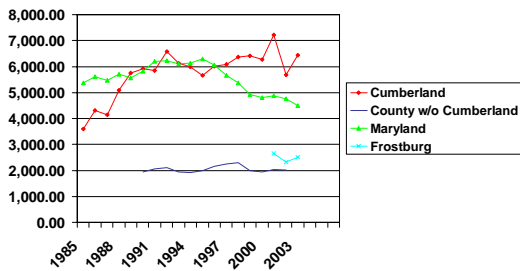
Uniform Crime Reports, Total Offenses



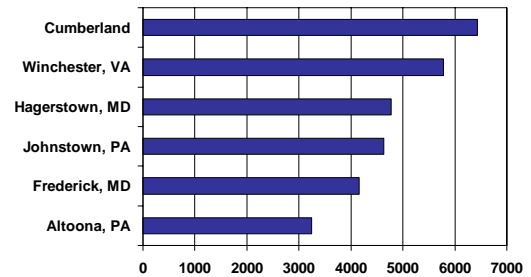
Uniform Crime Reports, Crime Composition



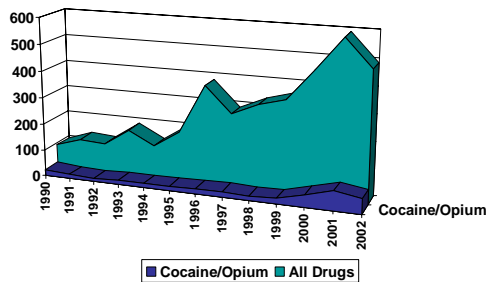
Local Crime Rate Comparisons



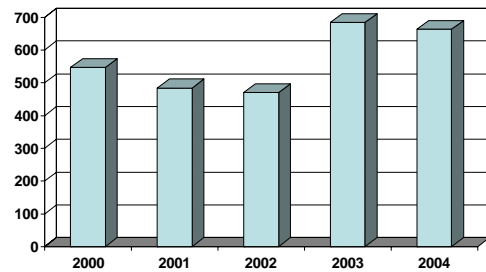
Regional Crime Rate Comparisons, 2003



CDS Arrests, Allegany County



Juvenile Arrests



Repeat Offenders and “Problem Properties”

Crime Concentration Stats

- “National studies indicate that more than 50% of violent crime occurs at about 3% of addresses.”
City of Cumberland Police Department website
- <1% of Cumberland addresses account for 12% of serious reports and 23% of CDS reports.



Repeated Incident Properties

ADDRESS	#	DESCRIPTION
730 Park St	127	Morris Supermarket
616 Sedgwick St	81	Allegany High School
500 Greenway Ave	74	Fort Hill High School
3 Penning St	73	District Court House
200 Massachusetts Ave	68	Washington Middle School
400 Maryland Ave	62	RGs
808 Holland St	56	Bradock Middle School
314 Frederick St	50	Benjamin Bancker
1415 River Ave	49	Brewskis
527 Henderson Ave	48	L.V's Pub
500 Memorial Ave	34	Memorial Hospital
825 N. Centre St	34	RGs
800 Memorial Ave	33	Memorial Hospital
110 Pennsylvania Ave	29	RENTAL
900 Seton Dr	28	Sacred Heart
1 Frederick St	27	Department of Social Services
1050 Industrial Blvd	27	Sheetz
210 Greene St	25	Sheetz
127 Bedford St	23	RENTAL
205 Baltimore Ave	21	YMCA Gilchrist Center
50 Queen City Dr	21	Value City
214 Cecelia St	20	OWNER OCCUPIED
300 Arch St	20	RENTAL
823 Shawnee Ave	20	RENTAL
429 Greene St	19	RENTAL
215 Park St	18	U.S. Postal Service
301 Baltimore Ave	17	RENTAL
820 Columbia Ave	17	Christy's Pub
124 Virginia Ave	16	RENTAL

Repeated Incident Properties

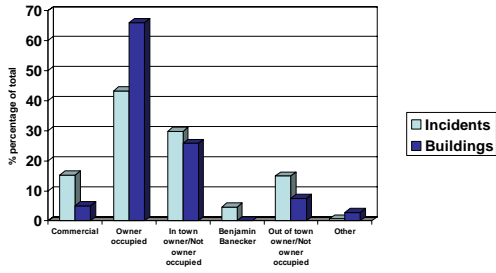
- One property owner who resides in Northern Virginia owns two properties in “Top 30”
- The two properties generated 39 serious calls and 47 total calls
- Both properties have registered rental units. One of the residents has a section 8 voucher
- The property owner has 9 additional properties in town. These other properties generated 29 police calls.
- None of the properties are registered as rental units

Building Tenure and Crime

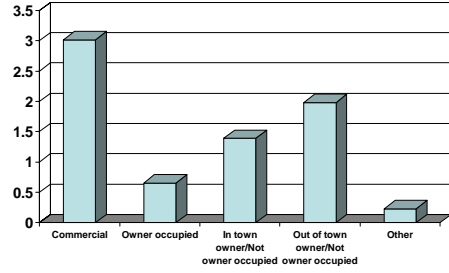
Tenure and Crime

- Use Police Department Incident Report Data and Fire Department Call data
 - Provides information on incident, nature of incident, location of incident, status of incident (e.g., closed, arrest, open, suspended)
- Property View (Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Data)
 - Provides information about property characteristics/owner characteristics
 - Owner occupied not owner occupied
 - Commercial use, residential use
 - Address of Owner
 - Use information to distinguish ownership
 - Commercial unit, owner-occupied home, rental home (local owner), rental home (non-local owner), subsidized housing
- Match records in Property View (Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Data)
- Coverage is only partial (20%) for police and fire (35%).
 - Many records could not be matched because addresses in departmental databases are incomplete (75%)
 - The remaining records could not be matched because addresses were not in the same format

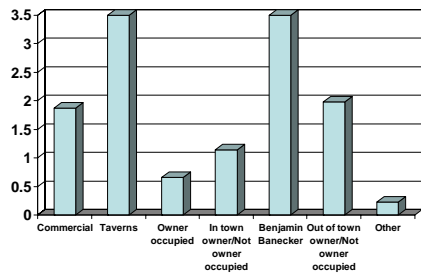
Tenure and Crime



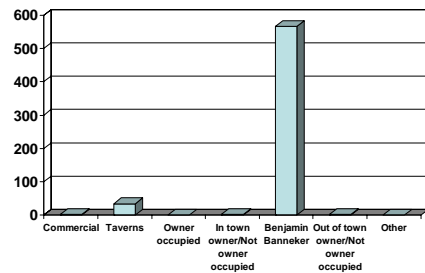
Incidents Concentration by Tenure



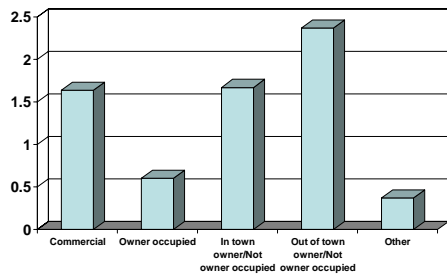
Incidents Concentration by Tenure II



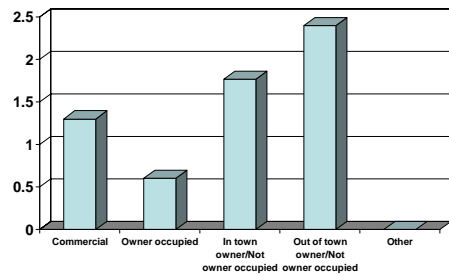
Incidents Concentration by Tenure III



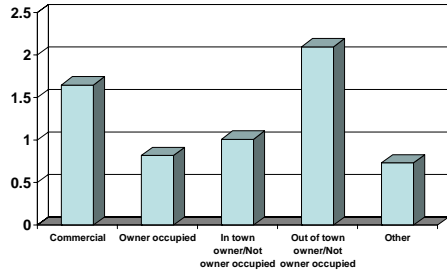
Arrests Concentration by Tenure



CDS Arrests by Tenure



Fire Calls by Tenure

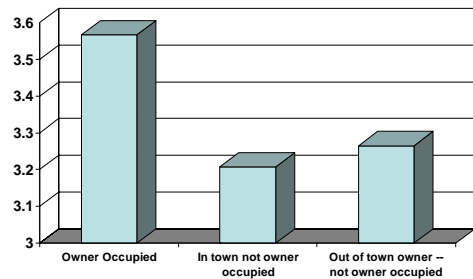


Problem Properties and Property Maintenance

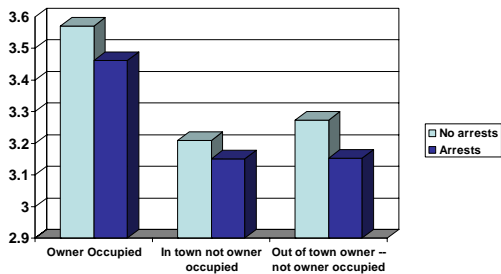
Building Conditions

- Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Quality of construction code
 - 1 Low cost
 - 2 Economy
 - 3 Fair
 - 4 Average
 - 5 Good
 - 6 Very Good
 - 7 Excellent

Building Conditions by Tenure



Building Conditions by Tenure



Geographical Patterns of Crime

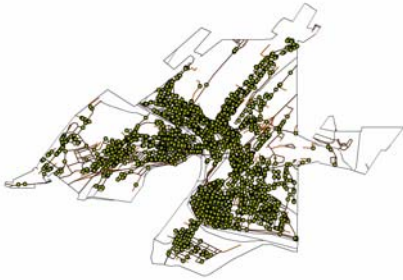
Geo-coded Crime Data

- Obtained addresses from police incident report database
- Over 40,000 incident reports filed
- 3,413 total "arrests"
 - 1,486 had specific addresses
 - 712 addresses were "assigned" based on physical description or business name
 - Remaining were street only or
- 2,444 (72%) addresses were geo-coded by ARCGIS (ESRI software)
- Coordinates were projected onto map
- Coordinates were input into Crime Statistical Analysis Software called CrimeStat II to identify crime "hotspots"

Neighborhood Association Boundaries



Geography of Incidents Reports



Geography of Arrests



Geography of Arrests II



Geography of Arrests III



Arrest Hotspots



Arrest Hotspots II



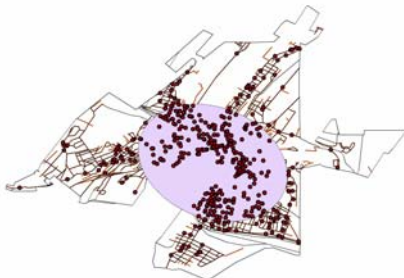
CDS Hotspots



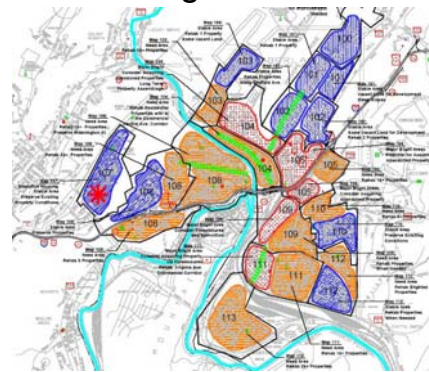
Disturbance Hotspots



Fire Calls



Housing Conditions



Registered Sex Offenders



Conclusions

Conclusions

- Crime and crime rate has increased over the last 20 years; the trend in crime rate is upward. The opposite is true of the State of Maryland.
- The Crime rate in Cumberland is higher than all regional cities of our size.
- Crime has increased over 20 year period because of increased assaults (domestic), larcenies, and other crime categories
- Violent crime has stabilized in last decade and decreased.
- Drug problem is increasing; this includes cocaine and opiates
- Certain "problem properties" generate a disproportionate percentage of police calls and arrests
- Out of town owned properties generate a disproportionate percentage of police calls and arrests
- There seems to be a problem with rental registration compliance; may be a problem with section 8 contract compliance.
- Problem residences are not as "nice" as other residential properties
- Arrests are disproportionately occurring in certain areas of town ("hotspots")
 - 4 of 5 neighborhood associations host these 5-6 hotspots. The others are in City Center/North End

Policy Options

Policies

- Need comprehensive strategy—not just law enforcement
 - Prevention
 - Detection
 - Information
 - Penalties



Prevention

- Prevention
 - Enhancing existing code enforcement*
 - Verifying apartment registrations and compliance with codes*
 - HUD Section 8 voucher contract enforcement*
 - Promoting homeownership*
 - Examining/preventing the conversion of single-family residences to rental use
 - Adding drug/crime addendums to lease agreements



Detection

- Adding Surveillance Cameras*
- Neighborhood Watch (increase coverage and effectiveness)



Information

- Information
 - Media campaign*
 - Neighborhood Association/Crime Watch Notification*
 - Landlord Notification
 - Mortgager Notification
 - Landlord Property Management Education



Penalties

- Penalties
 - Create city ordinance requiring owners to address conditions that foster crime/drug markets on private property
 - Asset forfeiture for properties used by drug dealers
 - Landlord licensure
 - Stronger penalties for repeated municipal infractions
 - Neighborhood Civil Action
 - Crack down on problem taverns

