

## Cumberland Crime Patterns

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

## Outline of Presentation

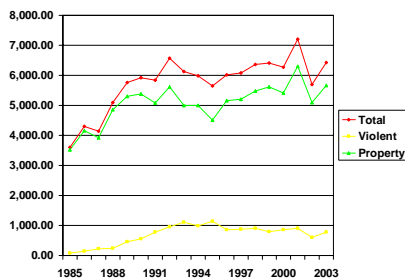
- Neighborhood Advisory Commission Discussions
- Trends over time in crime
- Repeat offenders and “problem properties”
- Relationship between building tenure/type and crime
- Relationship between problem properties and property maintenance
- Geographical patterns of crime in Cumberland and crime “hotspots”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

## Neighborhood Advisory Commission Discussions

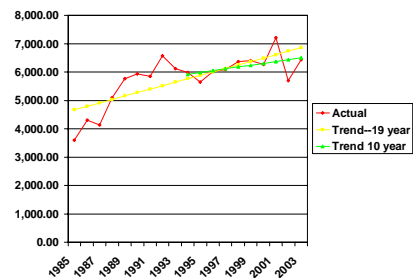
- Discussions have centered on crime and code enforcement issues
- Crime issues
  - Juvenile curfew laws
  - Anti-Loitering laws
  - Gang activity
  - Ways to conduct a crime watch
  - Procedures for enforcing property maintenance/nuisance codes
  - Multiple offense/“problem properties”
  - Use of municipal 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

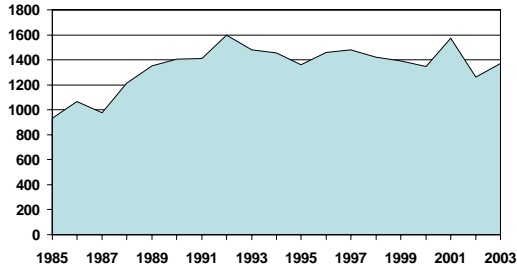
### Uniform Crime Reports, Cumberland 1985-2003



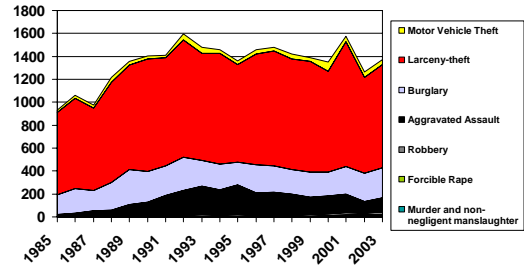
### Cumberland Crime Trend



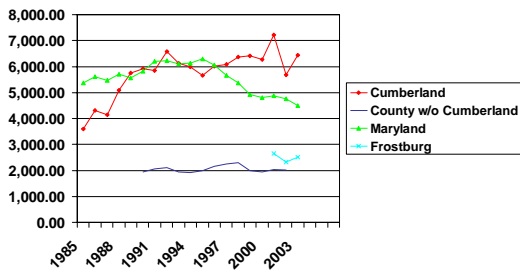
### Uniform Crime Reports, Total Offenses



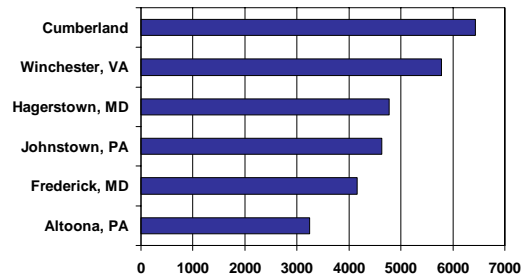
### Uniform Crime Reports, Crime Composition



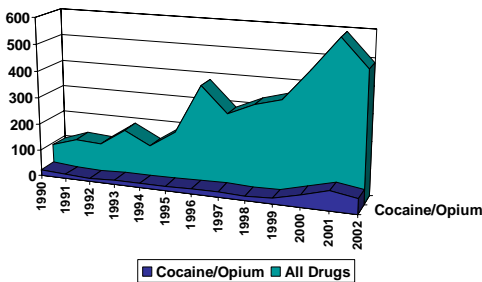
### Local Crime Rate Comparisons



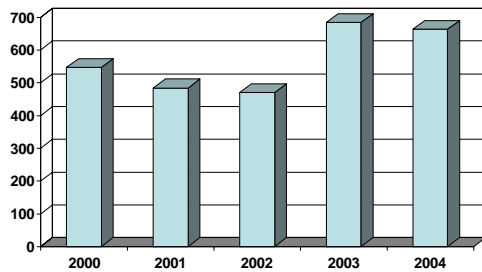
### Regional Crime Rate Comparisons, 2003



### 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 | Martins 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          | 29  | 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

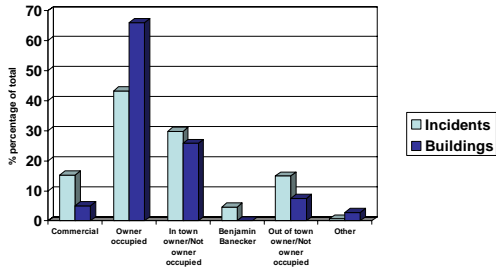
- One property owner who resides in Northern Virginia owns two properties in “Top 30”
- The two properties generated 39 serious calls and 47 total calls
- Both properties have registered rental units. One of the residents has a section 8 voucher
- The property owner has 9 additional properties in town.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

## Building Tenure and Crime

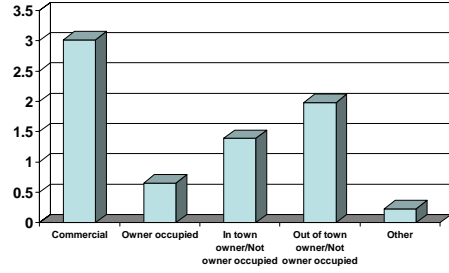
## Tenure and Crime

- 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

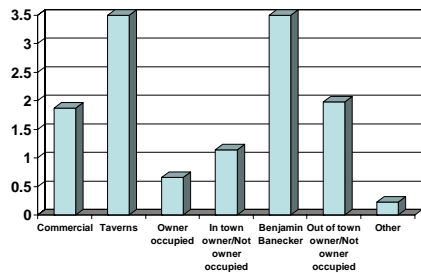
### Tenure and Crime



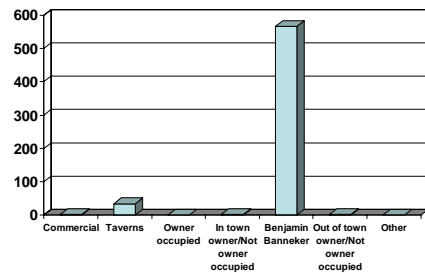
### Incidents Concentration by Tenure



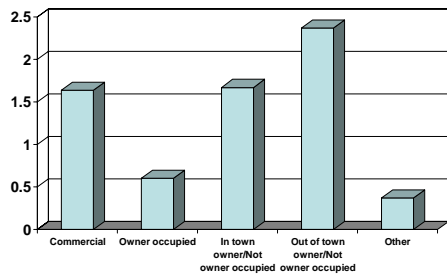
### Incidents Concentration by Tenure II



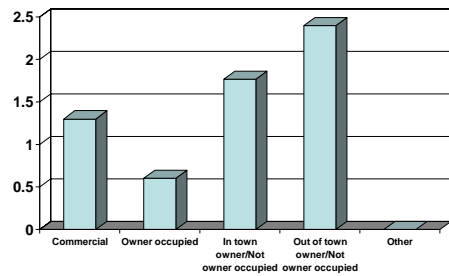
### Incidents Concentration by Tenure III



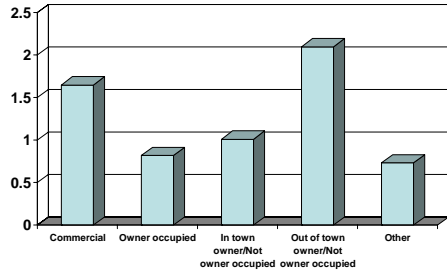
### Arrests Concentration by Tenure



### CDS Arrests by Tenure



### Fire Calls by Tenure

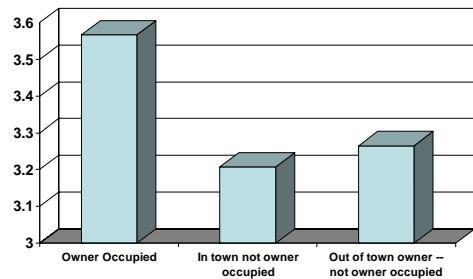


### Problem Properties and Property Maintenance

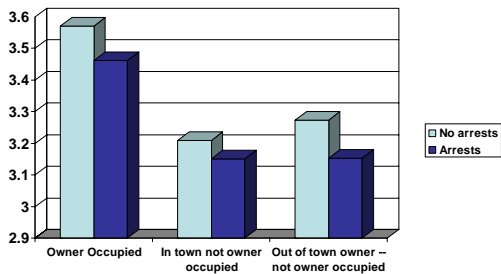
### Building Conditions

- 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

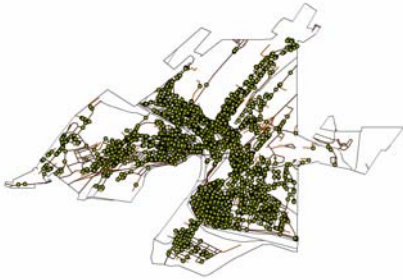
## Geo-coded Crime Data

- 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



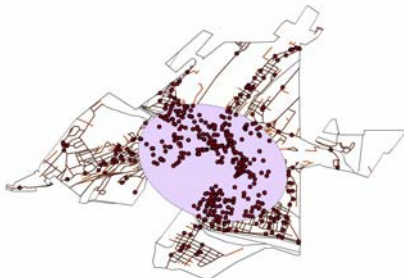
CDS Hotspots



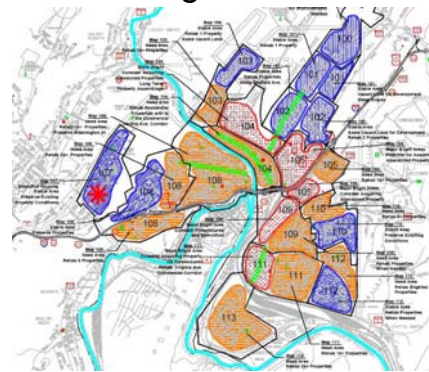
Disturbance Hotspots



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

