

The Status of Safety in Spartanburg County

An Evaluation of Goal 8 of 10

spartanburg 
community indicators
 project

Inspiring dialogue, strategy and change.

The Status of Safety in Spartanburg County

An Evaluation of Goal 8 of 10

Spartanburg Community Indicators Project

A collaboration of:

**The Spartanburg County Foundation
United Way of the Piedmont
Spartanburg County Government
The University of South Carolina Upstate**

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Metropolitan Studies Institute at The University of South Carolina Upstate, © 2009**

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A Letter to the Community

As collaborators in the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project; The Spartanburg County Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg County Government, and the University of South Carolina Upstate are pleased to provide you an in-depth assessment of another Indicator Goal. Produced by the Metropolitan Studies Institute of USC Upstate, this document builds upon previous Community Indicator reports by providing a quantitative, comprehensive examination of Indicator Goal 8: "Our communities will be increasingly safe."

The information contained in this report is informed by the many subject matter experts in our community who influence the achievement of this goal. Please take the opportunity to review this information and consider its observations relative to safety in our County. In the coming months, community discussions focused on the findings of this report will be initiated. At these meetings you will be asked to not only contribute your commentary but also to help engage the appropriate action in response to the data and discussion.

This report could not have been accomplished without support from all of the community partners, funders, and experts in our community who commit the time and effort to advance understanding of the issues that affect our County. We would also like to thank Dr. Kathleen Brady at the Metropolitan Studies Institute of USC Upstate for her work to produce this report. This document represents more than just data. It represents a fundamental advancement in our Community Indicator effort. Valid, objective data underpinning discussion of issues in our community profits us all. A report for each Indicator goal will be produced by the MSI so that our community remains fully informed of the measures that reflect upon our progress. These reports are our gift to the community and represent the inspiration for dialogue, strategy, and change.

Sincerely,



John Dargan
President/CEO
The Spartanburg County Foundation



Katherine A. Dunleavy
President/CEO
United Way of the Piedmont



D. Glenn Breed
County Administrator
Spartanburg County



John C. Stockwell, Ph.D.
Chancellor
The University of South Carolina Upstate

Strategic Spartanburg Goals

- Goal 1:** Our children will excel academically through the provision of quality education.
- Goal 2:** Our citizens will obtain the degrees and training to equip them to compete in a knowledge-based workforce.
- Goal 3:** Our senior population will be able to live independently in so far as possible with necessary support from their communities.
- Goal 4:** Our families will be stable and nurturing.
- Goal 5:** Our citizens will be healthy.
- Goal 6:** Our citizens will have access to living wage jobs.
- Goal 7:** Our communities will be viable.
- Goal 8:** Our communities will be increasingly safe.
- Goal 9:** Our citizens will have opportunities for civic engagement that promotes well-being and higher quality of life.
- Goal 10:** Our citizens will manage our natural resources in a way that will support current and future generations.

The University of South Carolina Upstate

The University of South Carolina Upstate defines itself as a “metropolitan university.” It is a member of the international Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities; and, similar to the missions of its fellow members, USC Upstate regards its relationship to Spartanburg and Greenville and to the Upstate’s I-85 corridor communities as of fundamental importance to its purposes and future.

Our recent establishment of “The Metropolitan Studies Institute” as a regional research enterprise is a direct expression of that relationship.

As one of the fastest growing universities in South Carolina over the past 10 years reflecting the growth of the Upstate, and enrolling the second largest number of South Carolina students among the State’s 10 comprehensive universities, USC Upstate aims to be regarded as one of the leading metropolitan universities in the Southeast.

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The Metropolitan Studies Institute at The University of South Carolina Upstate

The mission of The University of South Carolina Upstate’s Metropolitan Studies Institute (MSI) is to support research efforts between The University of South Carolina Upstate and the community, enhancing relationships, promoting the reciprocal flow of information and ideas, assisting community and economic development, and increasing the strategic use of The University’s scholarship and outreach capabilities. The MSI engages in selected community-based research and assessment projects, notable among them the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project, and partners with community agencies to undertake program evaluations, needs assessments, feasibility studies, and data management projects.

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Content

Executive Summary	5
Strengths and Challenges	6
Crime	7
Violent Crime.....	12
Juvenile Crime	13
Drug Crime.....	17
Gang Crime	19
Corrections	20
Probation and Parole	23
Courts	25
Highway Safety	26
Mileage Death Rate.....	26
Alcohol Involvement in Collisions	26
Speed Involvement in Collisions	26
Fire Safety	27
Sources and References	30
Lists of Tables and Figures	31
Appendix I: Goal 8 Indicators	32
Appendix II: The Alternatives to Detention Program	33

Executive Summary

In 2005, the Spartanburg County Foundation and United Way of the Piedmont released *Community Indicators VI: Strategic Spartanburg*. The sixth edition was a culmination of many hours of discussion and research, which has resulted in a community-wide project focused on the quality of life for all citizens in our community. Transitioning the data collection and assessment component of the Community Indicators Project to the Metropolitan Studies Institute has allowed for a more comprehensive assessment of the status of each goal, via examination of a wider variety of indicators.

Originally, the Community Indicators Project identified four indicators relative to Goal 8, "Our communities will be increasingly safe." In the current iteration, indicators for Goal 8 have been added and broadened to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of the status of safety in Spartanburg County and now include six indicators and seven sub-indicators. Indicators have been included or excluded based on their assessed strength, accessibility, or validity of the information they provide. Each of these indicators is thought by subject matter experts, local professionals representing public safety agencies whose missions are driven by these indicators, to be a useful and valid reflection of Goal 8, providing assessment of safety in Spartanburg County in as comprehensive fashion as possible. This report is the fourth in the Health and Wellness cluster of the Community Indicators goals for 2008.

For comparison purposes, data from communities with similar population demographics are supplied as appropriate. Data were obtained from Greenville County, Richland County, and Charleston County in South Carolina. National, state and regional data are provided where possible and as appropriate.

Results of indicator analyses demonstrate that there are a wide number of initiatives in place throughout the county to improve public safety through crime prevention, youth leadership development, leveraging resources, involvement of citizens and business owners, neighborhood improvement, and enhancement of technical and support services. In South Carolina, systems have been in place for some time to track and report crime and safety-related data in a reliable and valid manner. These systems report county level data with accuracy.

Although, Spartanburg's aggregate crime rate is above the state average for "index crimes", safety and crime data range significantly by particular crime and other variables. Much of the information relative to state-level crime and safety can be extrapolated for Spartanburg County.

Strengths And Challenges

Upon examination of the data for each indicator and other data relevant to the status of safety in Spartanburg County, there are a number of positive findings. Primary among these are:

- South Carolina has an accurate and efficient crime reporting system.
- Even though county population has increased consistently over the same period of time, aggregate crime has not shown the same consistent increase.
- The City of Spartanburg Public Safety Department has a number of ongoing initiatives in place to prevent or reduce crime.
- The City of Spartanburg Public Safety Department was reaccredited in 2008 by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.
- In the city, Index crimes have declined 22.5% since 1999 and continue to remain 8.3% below the ten year average.
- Generally, there has been a decreasing trend in civilian fire deaths in the state and in the county since 1989.
- Partnerships fire departments throughout Spartanburg County make optimal use of equipment and personnel.

Assessment of the indicators also results in a number of negative findings. These are:

- Of Upstate counties, Spartanburg County has the highest rates of robbery and breaking and entering.
- Of the 11 Upstate counties, Spartanburg County ranks third for crime rate.
- For the three year period 2005 to 2007, the number of violent crimes statewide increased annually.
- Numbers of violent crimes in Spartanburg County have also increased annually in the same period of time.
- A statewide survey (exclusive of Spartanburg County) demonstrates that students in both middle and high school are exposed to violence and drugs.
- Although the state as a whole saw a four % decrease in juvenile cases, Spartanburg County was one of the 22 counties between 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 that saw an increase.
- In Spartanburg County in 2007, there were 1,459 arrests for drug violations and 427 arrests for drug equipment violations.
- Although there is no readily available data regarding gang activity in Spartanburg County, news accounts reflect a connection between local crimes and gangs.
- As of June 2008, the greatest proportion of SCDC inmates committed crimes in Greenville County, Richland County, and Spartanburg County.
- Spartanburg County ranks sixth of S.C. counties for fatal and severe injury collisions.

Crime

South Carolina has devoted great time and effort to developing an accurate and efficient crime reporting system. The state was a pioneer in crime reporting, having implemented a state-wide incident based reporting system in 1976. In 1991 South Carolina became one of the first states to implement the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which was developed by the FBI and for several years thereafter was the only state to have virtually 100 % participation in NIBRS reporting among law enforcement agencies. Although there is speculation that this effective crime reporting system might contribute toward the state's high crime rates relative to other states, it almost certainly provides a highly accurate and reliable basis for internal comparisons within the state over time.

Uniform crime reporting allows law enforcement agencies to report data that are consistent from agency to agency, classified according to standard definitions that are used throughout the nation. The information enables agencies to make decisions in budgeting, manpower allocations and the identification of high crime areas. This information is also forwarded by SLED to the FBI on a monthly basis for inclusion in the FBI's annual UCR publication. The seven offenses comprising the crime index, "index crimes", are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, breaking or entering, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. It is noted that there is no way of determining total numbers of crimes committed as only the instances of crime which come to the attention of law enforcement agencies are counted.

In 2006, there was one arrest in South Carolina every 2 minutes, 23 seconds. The 2006 crime rate (number of crimes per 10,000 population) by upstate county is reported in Table 1. Of note is that Spartanburg County has the highest rates of robbery and breaking and entering but the second lowest rate for rape. Overall, of the 11 Upstate counties, Spartanburg County ranks third for crime rate.

Table 1. 2006 Upstate County Index Crime Rates Per 10,000 Population

County	Population Base used for Index Calculation	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Breaking and Entering	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Index Total
Abbeville	25,900	1.2	2.7	3.1	68.0	66.0	181.9	16.2	339.1
Anderson	178,000	1.0	5.1	9.1	50.0	104.5	304.8	43.1	517.6
Cherokee	53,900	0.2	6.1	12.8	49.7	111.1	354.0	40.6	574.5
Greenville	417,200	0.6	3.5	15.2	56.8	108.5	263.9	41.5	490.0
Greenwood	68,200	0.7	5.6	11.1	95.5	111.3	371.3	24.6	620.1
Laurens	70,400	1.1	4.7	8.7	60.1	109.4	243.2	29.8	457.0
Oconee	70,600	0.4	4.4	4.0	44.6	67.8	166.3	16.4	303.9
Pickens	114,400	0.5	3.1	2.9	24.5	67.5	209.9	26.8	335.2
Spartanburg	271,100	0.7	3.0	15.8	47.4	117.5	319.6	35.2	539.2
Union	28,300	0.0	4.6	7.1	85.9	84.8	232.2	19.4	434.0
State	4,321,000	0.8	4.2	13.7	58.2	97.9	287.6	38.1	500.5

Source: Crime in South Carolina - 2006 Annual Report, Uniform Crime Reports Department, State Law Enforcement Division.

Because many factors are known to affect the volume and type of crime occurring from place to place, comparisons of crime data by county should be made with caution. Some covariates of crime include:

- Population density and degree of urbanization
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration
- Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility, commuting patterns, and transience
- Modes of transportation and highway system
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level, and job availability
- Cultural factors such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics
- Family conditions, especially family cohesiveness
- Climate
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies
- Administrative, investigative, and reporting emphases of law enforcement
- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, corrections, and probation)
- Citizens' attitudes toward crime and crime reporting practices

In examining crime trends within the county by jurisdiction (Table 2), it becomes clear that crime by offense category has increased in some jurisdictions and has decreased in others. Trends for the City of Spartanburg and for all other municipalities / unincorporated areas are illustrated in Figure 1.

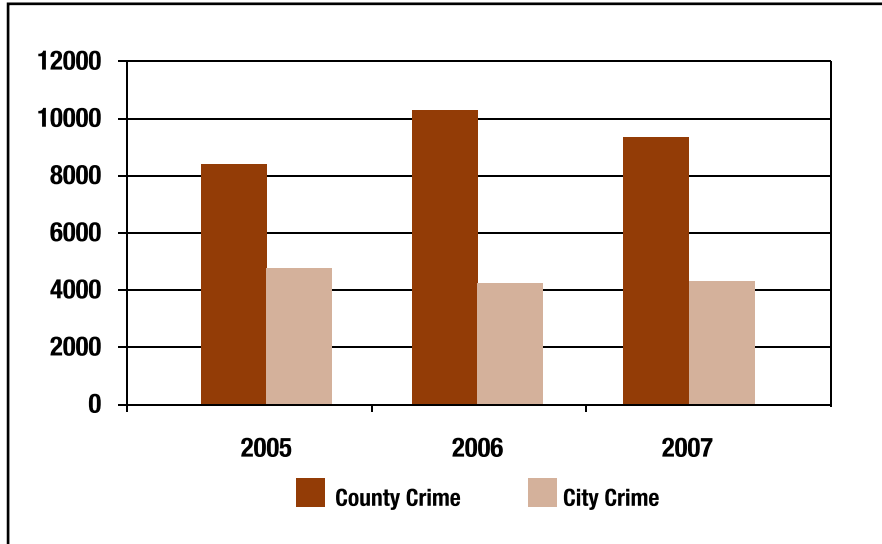
Crime (Cont.)

Table 2. Index Crimes by Jurisdiction, Spartanburg County 2005 - 2007

	Murder			Rape			Robbery			Aggravated Assault			Burglary			Larceny			Motor Vehicle Theft		
	05'	06'	07'	05'	06'	07'	05'	06'	07'	05'	06'	07'	05'	06'	07'	05'	06'	07'	05'	06'	07'
Sheriff's Office	11	16	18	47	51	52	126	208	208	701	707	647	1584	2163	1905	4453	5416	4563	563	633	654
City Police	10	5	6	26	20	21	147	193	220	502	500	583	933	877	919	2872	2498	2422	295	265	273
Woodruff Police				1	4	6	3	11	3	32	27	33	46	37	46	140	185	168	11	13	6
Duncan Police				2	1	3	6	3	1	6	6	16	19	13	32	81	77	90	7	12	10
Campobello Police							1						2			3			1		
Chesnee Police						1	1	2	4	6	11	16	11	9	9	36	45	61	8	3	4
Cowpens Police				1			1	1	3	7	7	9	36	43	37	133	104	69	1	6	8
Inman Police				1	2	1	1	1	3	11	7	9	15	15	19	39	74	76	4	6	10
Landrum Police							1		1	7	4	3	21	11	12	75	65	52	8	2	4
Lyman Police				1	1	1	3	1	2	1	5	7	25	19	16	69	77	101	10	2	7
Pacolet Police						1		1	4	5	9	6	11	24	12	60	63	54	4	5	3
Welford Police					1	3	1	5	3	3	6	8	26	11	12	40	41	66	9	8	6
USC Upstate Police						1				2	1	2		3	6	26	33	32			1
Spartanburg Methodist College Police								1	1						9	7	6	11			1
Airport Police															8	7	5	7	5	7	
School for Deaf and Blind Police											1					1	1				
Spartanburg Patrol Police																1	1				
County Total	21	21	24	79	80	90	291	427	453	1283	1291	1339	2729	3225	3034	8042	8693	7772	928	960	994

Source: Index Crime by County and Agency, SC Law Enforcement Division

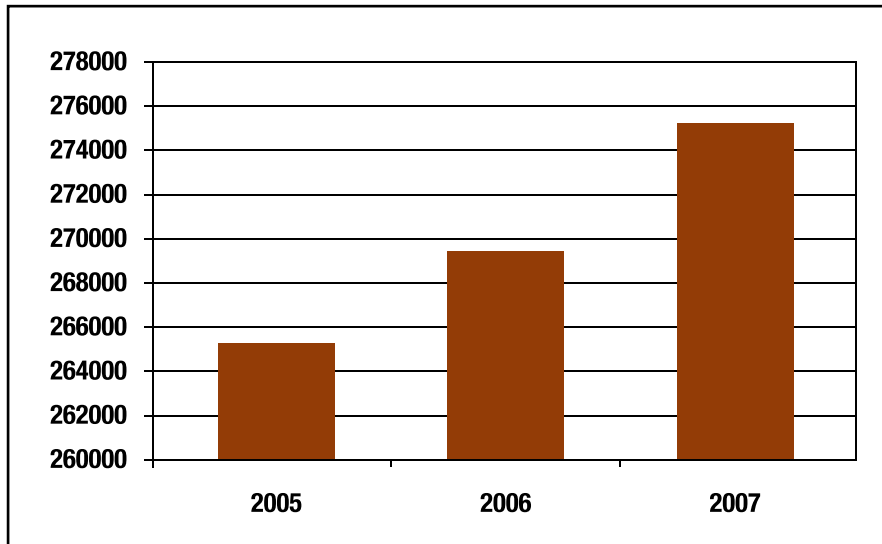
Figure 1. City* and County** Crime



* City of Spartanburg only ** All other municipalities and unincorporated areas

Even though county population has increased consistently over the same period of time, as illustrated in Figure 2, aggregate crime has not shown the same consistent increase.

Figure 2. County Population Growth



Crime (Cont.)

Data reported in the early part of 2009 (Associated Press, 2009) show that crime declined nationally in the first half of 2008 with a 3.5% decrease in violent crime and a 2.5% decrease in property crime. These figures differ by region and by size of city.

The City of Spartanburg Public Safety Department has a number of ongoing initiatives in place to prevent or reduce crime through partnerships, technical support, neighborhood improvement, and leadership development. The Department was reaccredited in 2008 by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The Department also received \$868,637 in grant awards in 2008, with a local match of \$436,232 (Spartanburg Public Safety Department, 2008).

In the City of Spartanburg, numbers of index crimes decreased by 1 in 2008 as compared to 2007. Index crimes have declined 22.5% since 1999 and continue to remain 8.3% below the ten year average. Table 3 provides data relative to the numbers of index crimes and crimes by category for the city.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Index Crimes	4399	4770	4333	4403	4402
Crimes against persons	1535	1462	1515	1853	1700
Crimes against Property	3730	4186	3716	3677	3700
Homicide	7	12	5	6	6
Forcible Rape	35	28	23	23	26
Robbery	148	148	197	219	204
Aggravated Assault	475	398	395	478	466
Burglary	802	964	878	945	948
Larceny	2561	2899	2533	2439	2441
Motor Vehicle Theft	339	289	266	266	273
Arson	28	34	38	27	38

Source: Spartanburg Public Safety Department

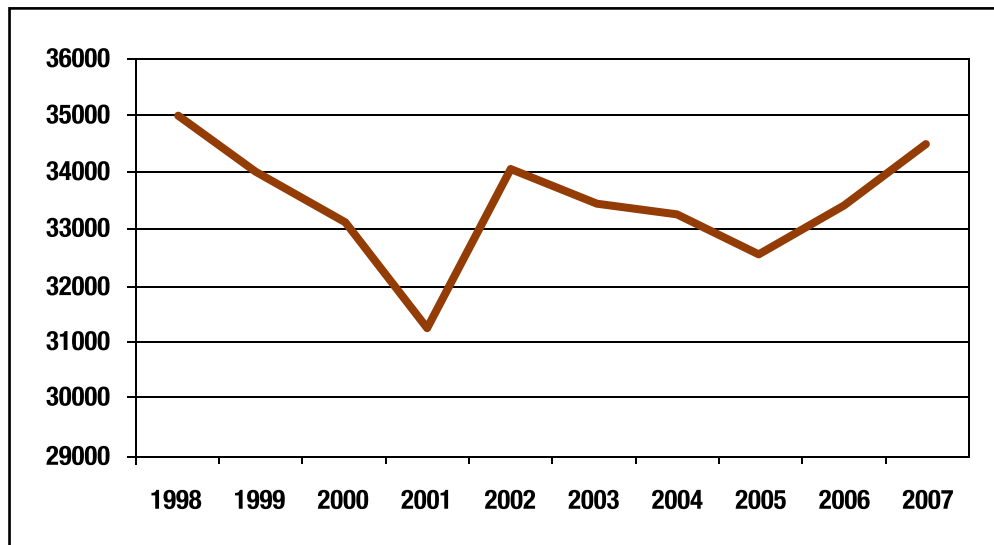
Violent Crime

South Carolina has consistently ranked among the states with the highest annual violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) rate. In fact, the state ranked first in the nation in 2006, for the fifth consecutive year. The state's violent crime rate has been higher than the national rate every year since 1975. Compared to the national rate of 47.4 in 2006, South Carolina's violent crime rate was 76.9, a .04% increase from 2005-2006. Of note is that:

- South Carolina's murder rate ranked fourth nationally and it increased 13.5% from 2005 to 2006.
- South Carolina's rape rate decreased 5.0% from 2005-2006. This decrease resulted in the state ranking 12th nationally. South Carolina's rape rate has exceeded the national rate since 1982.
- South Carolina's robbery rate ranked 16th nationally in 2006.
- The state's aggravated assault rate has been higher than the national rate every year since 1975, and South Carolina ranked first among the states since 2002.
- In 2006 there was one violent crime arrest in South Carolina every 43 minutes, 54 seconds.

The statewide trend in violent crimes is illustrated in Figure 3. For the three year period 2005-2007, the number of violent crimes statewide increased annually.

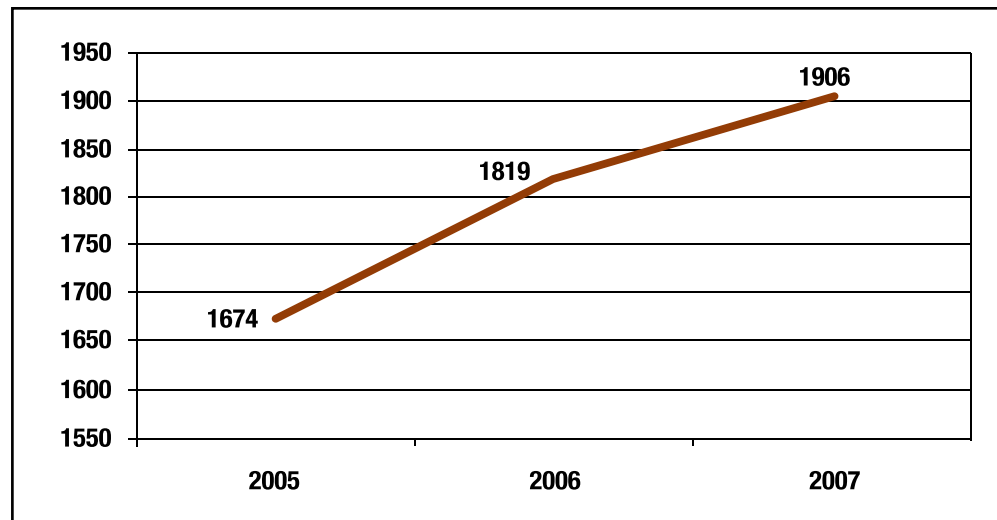
Figure 3. S.C. Violent Crimes



Crime (Cont.)

The data demonstrate that numbers of violent crimes in Spartanburg County have also increased annually in the same period of time (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Spartanburg County Violent Crimes



Juvenile Crime

The South Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2005 showed that in 2004-2005 students in both middle and high school reported exposure to violence and drugs. Results from middle school students showed that 38.6% reported that they had carried a weapon. Of those, 58.4% were males. Additionally, 11% reported that they had missed school in the last thirty days due to fear of violence. The survey revealed that 8.2% of middle school students had been offered, sold, or given illicit drugs at school and 12.8% had used marijuana. For high school students, 20.5% had carried a weapon (32.7% of those were males) and 7.5% had carried a gun. Survey results reported that 12.8% of the high school students considered themselves gang members and 10.1% had been threatened with a weapon at school in the past 12 months. Additionally, 38% reported using marijuana, with 19% having used marijuana in the past 12 months.

Because Spartanburg County schools have consistently refused to participate in the YRBS, the above reported data do not necessarily reflect risk behaviors for Spartanburg County youth.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) serves as the state's designated juvenile justice agency. The Family Court is the arm of the state's judicial system that disposes of most juvenile cases. DJJ supports the Family Court system by providing intake services, diversion programs, and aftercare supervision for juveniles. DJJ also operates the reception and evaluation centers that hold juveniles prior to Family Court disposition, providing diagnostics and treatment recommendations, as well as long-term correctional facilities for juvenile detainees. It is the mission of DJJ to "protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment." In regard to statewide juvenile crime, trend data show that the violent crime rate has increased 151.2% since 1976.

In fiscal year 2005-2006:

- South Carolina's juvenile violent crime rate decreased 11.6% to 11.4% from 2004-2005.
- A total of 25,820 juvenile cases were referred to South Carolina solicitors, representing a 1.5% decrease from 2005 but a 135.8% increase since 1983.
- Disturbing schools was the most frequently reported offense among juvenile cases referred to solicitors.
- Probation was the most common disposition in South Carolina's Family Courts with 59 % of all dispositions resulting in a sentence of probation supervision.
- 2,090 children were admitted to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Reception & Evaluation Center, representing a 4.7% decrease from 2005.
- A total of 1,952 children were committed to DJJ long term institutions, representing a 4.6% increase over 2004-2005. (Long term commitments to DJJ have remained fairly constant since 1998, after they nearly doubled from 1996-1998.)

County level data indicate that Charleston County, ranking second, was the only peer county that ranked in the top ten South Carolina counties with the highest delinquency rates for fiscal year 2006 (Table 4).

Table 4. Juvenile Delinquency Rates by County, Fiscal Year 2006

	Number	Rate
Spartanburg	1,020	41.4
Greenville	1,621	44.8
Richland	1,256	40.7
Charleston	3,369	115.0

Source: SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Crime *(Cont.)*

In fiscal year 2007-2008:

- DJJ processed 23,826 new juvenile cases, reflecting a 4% decrease from 2006-2007 and a 13% decrease from the five-year baseline of 2003-2004.
- The number of juvenile cases classified as violent and serious remained stable between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008. The stable trend is substantially below the peak years of the mid-1990's.
- The top offenses associated with juvenile delinquents at referral to the Family Court included disturbing schools, ranked first with 2,888 cases, simple assault and battery, second with 1,911 cases, and public disorderly conduct third with 1,421 cases. Shoplifting and simple possession of marijuana, respectively, rounded out the top five.
- 43% of cases moved forward to the Family Court, and 34% of cases were diverted from court to programs such as juvenile arbitration. Solicitors dismissed or did not prosecute 23% of cases.
- 61% of juveniles whose cases were heard in Family Court received dispositions of probation. 24% of cases resulted in commitment to DJJ custody, and 6% in school attendance orders. The balance were dismissed, acquitted, or disposed in some other manner.
- Juveniles were ordered to pay monetary restitution to victims that totaled \$678,800. This was an increase of 36% over 2006-2007.
- Juveniles were ordered to perform 59,761 hours of community service restitution.
- DJJ received 1,778 court commitments into its regional centers for evaluation purposes, reflecting a significant decrease (19%) from the baseline year of 2003-2004.
- DJJ received 2,024 juveniles into custody for placement in its long-term facility or alternative programs, reflecting a slight increase (2%) from the 2003-2004 baseline.

Although the state as a whole saw a 4% decrease in juvenile cases, Spartanburg County was one of the 22 counties in South Carolina that saw an increase in juvenile cases between 2006-2007 (1,053) and 2007-2008 (1,122). This constituted a 7% increase. Table 5 provides statistical information relative to juvenile cases in Spartanburg with aggregated South Carolina statistics for comparison.

Table 5. Juvenile Cases Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Number and Types of Juvenile Cases	Spartanburg	S.C.
Total number of juvenile cases	1,122	23,826
% increase / decrease from previous year	7%	-4%
Juvenile cases classified as violent or serious	142	2,229
% increase / decrease from previous year	-3%	-6%
Number of status offense cases	69	2,216
% increase / decrease from previous year	130%	-3%
Spartanburg Top Five Referral Offenses		
	Spartanburg	S.C.
Disturbing School	132	2,888
Shoplifting (up to \$1,000)	112	1,416
Simple assault and battery	73	1,911
Probation violation category V offense	65	
Truancy	53	
Social Characteristics of Juvenile Referrals		
	Spartanburg	S.C.
Black	56%	58%
White	40%	39%
Hispanic	3%	2%
Other	2%	1%
Male	70%	70%
Female	30%	30%
Age 13 years and younger	18%	20%
Age 14 and 15 years	48%	46%
Age 16 years and older	34%	34%

Source: SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Crime (Cont.)

Drug Crime

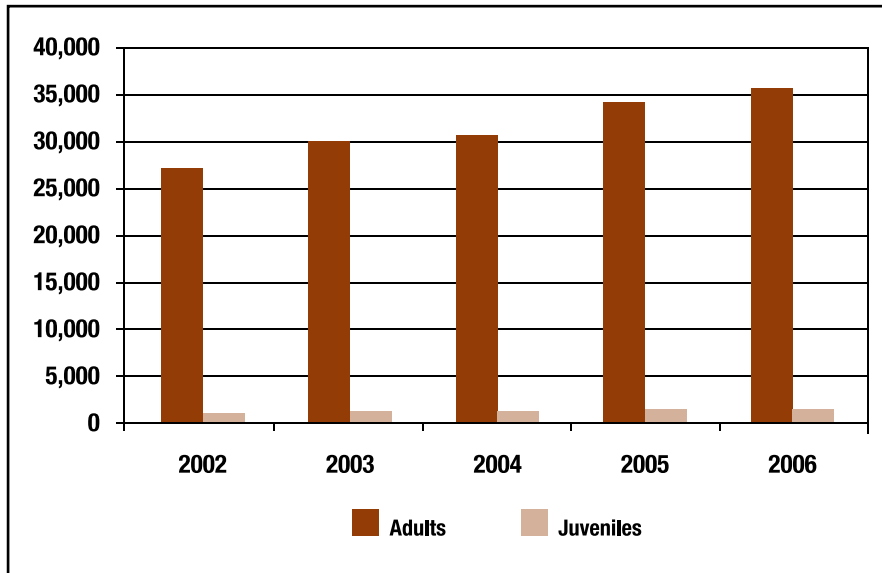
The South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) defines illegal drug activity as an arrest for either drug law violations or drug equipment violations with up to three offenses captured per arrest. Any arrest which includes a drug offense is defined as drug related, regardless of which offense was the most serious. There are sixteen reportable illegal drug categories.

South Carolina's drug arrests rate increased 1.9% from 2005-2006 but increased 235.7% since 1976. Information provided by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) indicates that there were 36,222 reported drugs arrests in South Carolina in 2006. These rates include arrests for crimes related to the possession, distribution or manufacture of illegal narcotic substances. South Carolina is an importation base and transit area for illicit drugs bound for the eastern seaboard of the United States. With its extensive coastline, numerous rural airstrips and matrix of interstate highways, South Carolina represents an attractive transshipment point. Although crack cocaine is the most trafficked drug in the state, more people continue to be arrested for using marijuana in South Carolina. More inmates in the South Carolina Department of Corrections are serving time for drug offenses than any other offense category - 20.6% of the 23,390 inmates in FY 2006.

Other state-wide data (McManus, 2008 and McManus, 2008) indicate that in 2006:

- Two drugs, marijuana and cocaine dominated illegal drug use. While 2.2% of the state population over age 12 used cocaine in the past year, 8.8% had used marijuana in the past year. Further, 7.3% had used some kind of illegal drug in the previous month.
- The drug arrest rate increased 46.8% between 1996 and 2006 with the highest annual drug arrest rate (88.4 per 10,000) in 2006.
- Personal use offenses accounted for 76.8% of the illegal activities associated with drug arrests.
- In terms of substance, cannabis was reported most often, accounting for 64.3% of drug arrests.
- The highest drug arrest rate was among young adults from 17 to 24 years old. The median age of people arrested for drug offenses was 25 years.
- Males accounted for 83.8% of drug arrests. The drug arrest rate for males was 447.5% higher than the drug arrest rate for females.
- Blacks accounted for 53.1% of drug arrests, while whites accounted for 46.6%. The drug arrest rate for non-whites was 147.3% higher than the drug arrest rate for whites.
- Charleston County had both the highest number (4,869) of drug arrests and the highest rate (146.7) of drug arrests than any other county. Spartanburg County was not in the top 10 counties for drug arrest rate.

Figure 5. Drug Arrest Trends, S.C.
(all drugs combined, including drug equipment)



Data for 2007 show that cases filed in General Sessions Court for drug offenses increased 25% from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2007. In Spartanburg County in 2007, there were 1,459 arrests for drug violations and 427 arrests for drug equipment violations. Table 6 provides comparison data by peer county

Table 6. Drug Violations by County, 2007

County	Drug Violations	Rate*	Drug Equipment Violations	Rate*
Spartanburg	1,459	52.99	427	15.51
Greenville	2,754	64.43	816	19.09
Richland	3,085	86.16	14	0.39
Charleston	4,275	124.44	1,036	30.15

*per 10,000 county population as of July 2007

Crime *(Cont.)*

Gang Crime

South Carolina has a rapidly-growing gang problem (South Carolina Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs, n.d.). Aging gang members continue their affiliation beyond school age, and their criminal involvement escalates as they mature. The majority of the gang-related crime that has been observed in the state thus far relates to drug trafficking and violent crimes associated with drug trafficking. According to the South Carolina Gang Survey, conducted by the University of South Carolina in 2005, law enforcement agencies identified 500 separate gangs in the state. Of these 500 gangs, law enforcement officials identified 157 gangs that included in their name the name of gangs from Los Angeles and Chicago.

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, using data provided from the South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS), identified a total of 778 gang related criminal incidents in South Carolina for 2006 and 685 gang related criminal incidents in 2005. That represents a 13.5% increase from 2005-2006. Further findings include:

- In 2006, there were five homicides that were reported to SCIBRS as gang-related.
- There were 296 gang-related aggravated assaults, 145 of which were committed by juveniles.
- There were four incidents of rape that involved juvenile gang activity.
- 52% of local law enforcement agencies in South Carolina reported the presence of gangs.
- The Upstate region shows the smallest %age of agencies (38%) reporting the presence of gangs.
- In the Upstate, Greenville, Spartanburg, and York counties each reported the existence of more than 20 gangs.

Research (University of South Carolina, 2006) has consistently revealed that gang members are disproportionately responsible for criminal activity in their communities, particularly with respect to acts of violence. Gangs account for as similar a proportion of violent crime in suburban communities as they do in urban communities.

Although there is no readily available data regarding gang activity in Spartanburg County, news accounts (Peters, 2009) reflect a connection between local crimes and gangs.

Corrections

South Carolina's incarceration rate is high, compared to the national average. In 2007, South Carolina ranked ninth among the states, incarcerating 524 inmates per 100,000 residents. The national incarceration rate was 506 inmates per 100,000 residents. Incarceration numbers are increasing and, among the state's criminal justice agencies, the Department of Corrections (SCDC) had the largest budget appropriation in 2009.

When examined by national region, (Table 7), the south has a consistently higher number of inmates per population and S.C. has a higher number of inmates than the average for the southern region.

Table 7. Correctional Facilities and Inmates, 2000 and 2005

	# Facilities		# Inmates		Pop Change	Inmates per 100,000 U.S. Residents	
	2000	2005	2000	2005		2000	2005
U.S.	1,668	1,821	1,305,253	1,430,208	9.6%	464	480
NE	236	268	171,999	171,465	-0.3%	321	314
Midwest	301	342	233,993	255,134	9%	363	386
South	743	779	518,912	561,927	8.3%	518	519
S.C.	34	33	21,277	22,537	5.9	530	526
West	304	330	269,375	295,902	9.8%	426	430

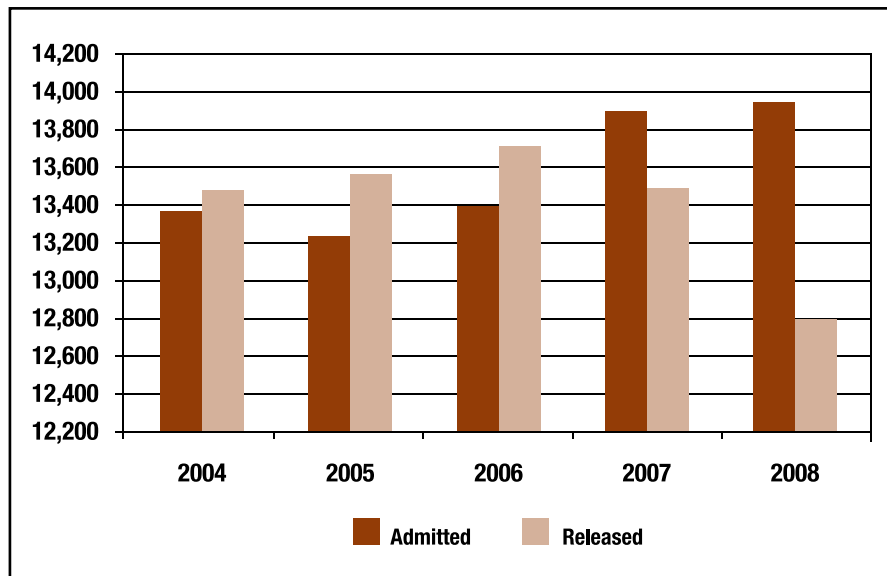
Source: Stephan, 2008

Corrections *(Cont.)*

Locally, the average daily population of South Carolina's jails increased 317.6% from 1985-2006, and increased 4.1% from 2005-2006. The state's average daily jail population in 2006 was 13,137, constituting 120.9% of capacity.

At year end 2006, federal and state correctional facilities held over 1,507,800 inmates, an increase of 2.8% since the previous year and the highest increase in five years. The vast majority of these inmates (87.7%) were held in state facilities. South Carolina's inmate population increased 2.0% from 2005-2006 and 1.9% from 2006-2007. The average total cost per SCDC inmate for 2008 was \$16,462, or \$44.98 per day. Although the number of adult offenders admitted to the South Carolina Department of Corrections facilities has increased for four of the last five consecutive years, releases have decreased for the last two years (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Admissions to and Releases from SCDC



It is clear that there was a net increase in the SCDC inmate population in 2007 and 2008. Other data from 2007 (McManus, 2008) indicate that:

- Admissions of inmates with drug offenses increased 45.1% from fiscal year 2000 to fiscal year 2007. Possession of crack cocaine was the most frequently reported drug offense among inmates admitted to SCDC.
- Drug offenses constituted the most serious offense for 65% of the inmate drug admissions. Among inmates without drug offenses, burglary was the most serious offense reported most frequently.
- Of the prison inmates released, 57.5% served one year or less.
- The average sentence of South Carolina's inmates was 11.92 years in fiscal year 2007.
- Of the inmates released from South Carolina's prisons in fiscal year 2003, 32.7% returned within three years.
- Union County committed 49.5 inmates per 10,000 population, the highest rate among South Carolina counties.
- There were 980 inmates admitted from Spartanburg, constituting a rate of 36.1 per 10,000 population.

As of June 2008, the greatest proportion of SCDC inmates committed crimes in Greenville County (9.6%), followed by Richland County (9.4%) and Spartanburg County (7.8%). Spartanburg County is home to two SCDC facilities:

- Livesay Correctional Institution in Spartanburg, a minimum security level institution for males which, as of May 2009, has an operating capacity of 526 and a utilization rate of 98.7%.
- Tyger River Correctional Institution in Enoree, a medium security level institution for males which, as of May 2009, has an operating capacity of 1,160 and a utilization rate of 111.9%.

Probation and Parole

The South Carolina Board of Parole and Pardons consists of seven members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The mission of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) is to “prepare offenders to become productive members of the community; to provide assistance to the victims of crime, the courts, and the parole board and to protect public trust and safety.” The Board is responsible for granting paroles and pardons, and the SCDPPPS is responsible for providing community corrections services to offenders who have been granted parole or probation.

In fiscal year 2007, South Carolina had 74.9 offenders per 10,000 population under community corrections supervision. Union County had the highest rate with 140.3 offenders under supervision per 10,000. Of the peer counties, Greenville was the only county ranked in the top 10 counties with the highest community corrections offender rates for FY 2007 (see Table 8).

Table 8. Offenders Supervised Under Community Correction, FY 07		
	# Offenders	Rate
Spartanburg	2,146	79.2
Greenville	3,407	81.7
Richland	2,729	78.4
Charleston	2,649	79.8

Source: SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

South Carolina data for 2007 (McManus, 2008) indicate that:

- SCDPPPS clientele increased less than 1% from fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2007.
- Drug offenses accounted for 59.6% of probation admissions, more than any other offense category.
- 40% of inmates paroled had been incarcerated for drug violations, compared to 11.7% of inmates paroled in fiscal year 1978.
- 26.6% of probation admissions were 40 years of age or older, compared to 16.1% in fiscal year 1985.
- South Carolina's parole approval %age dropped to 17.8%.
- The %age of parolees failing under supervision in South Carolina was 7.1%, decreased from 10% in fiscal year 1997.

Table 9 provides comparative data by peer county for 2008.

Table 9. Select SCDPPPS Statistics, Fiscal Year 2008				
	Spartanburg	Greenville	Richland	Charleston
Total Admissions	1,154	1,778	1,409	1,712
Active Offenders:	1,913	3,440	2,710	2,605
<i>Standard supervision</i>	70%	68%	77%	61%
<i>High supervision</i>	23%	26%	16%	32%
<i>Intensive Supervision</i>	5%	3%	4%	4%
<i>Sex offender</i>	3%	3%	3%	2%
Total Violent Offense	8%	5%	9%	4%
Total Successful Closures	48%	69%	64%	63%
Revocations	236	238	155	425

Source: SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

Courts

The court system in South Carolina consists of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Municipal Court and Magistrate Court. The Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office represents the state of South Carolina in criminal cases filed by law enforcement in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit ranked second among the state's 16 prosecutors' offices for trial success in 2006. Overall conviction rate for the Seventh Circuit was among the state leaders. Solicitor's offices in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties receive 150 to 200 new criminal cases each week (Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office, 2007). In Fiscal Year 2006:

- Thirty women completed a treatment protocol introduced in 2005 for mothers who gave birth to babies with illegal drugs in their systems. Dozens more were enrolled in the treatment program and others faced criminal charges for refusing to participate.
- 96% of drug tests given to persons sentenced to intervention by Drug Court revealed no further use of illegal substances. Treatment costs were significantly less than incarceration costs would have been.
- Over 660 adults and juveniles successfully completed the Pre-trial Intervention program. This program collected nearly \$270,000 in restitution and managed in excess of 27,000 hours of community service.
- A federal grant that funded two prosecutors and a criminal investigator who focus on domestic violence. Resulting prosecutions reduced the annual General Sessions case dismissal rate from 48% to 36%. Over 500 first and second offense Magistrate Court cases were prosecuted, with 60% resulting in a guilty verdict or guilty plea.
- Another federal grant funds a prosecutor and a paralegal for felony DUI cases. The Solicitor's Office concludes that this aggressive enforcement and prosecution of DUI cases is resulting in increased conviction and guilty pleas.
- A crackdown on prosecution of worthless checks has generated more than \$1.5 million for local merchants and local government. In its first 30 months, the initiative has collected \$945,000 in restitution and service fees for Spartanburg County victims and \$431,000 for the county's operating fund.

Highway Safety

According to a 2008 study (TRIP), South Carolina's traffic fatality rate is the sixth highest in the nation, and the state's rural traffic fatality rate is more than four times higher than the fatality rate on all other roads in the state.

The S.C. Department of Public Safety (2009) reports that, in 2007, South Carolina had 3,146,979 licensed drivers who operated 3,829,448 registered motor vehicles on a roadway system of 66,248 miles of streets and highways. South Carolina has the fifth largest state-maintained highway system in the nation.

During 2008, there were 110,647 traffic collisions reported on South Carolina's roads and highways. This constitutes a 1.3% decrease from 2007 when 112,067 collisions were reported. Collisions in 2008 resulted in an estimated 933 fatalities and 49,300 injuries. Again, fatalities were 13% lower than in 2007. The estimated economic loss to the state from traffic crashes in 2007 was \$2,840,000,000, and is estimated to be \$2.80 billion for 2008.

In South Carolina in 2008:

- One traffic collision was reported every 4.8 minutes.
- One traffic death was reported every 9.4 hours.
- One non-fatal traffic injury was reported every 10.7 minutes.
- One Property-Damage-Only Collision was reported every 6.8 minutes.

Mileage Death Rate

The state's mileage death rate (MDR), traffic fatalities per 100 million miles of travel, was 2.1 in 2007. The national mileage death rate in 2007 was 1.4. Based on these figures, South Carolina's mileage death rate was 50% higher than the national average in 2007. The South Carolina mileage death rate for 2008, based on preliminary statistics, decreased to an historic low of 1.9, a 9.5% decrease from 2007.

Alcohol Involvement in Collisions

According to the SC Department of Public Safety's preliminary statistics for 2008, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs was a contributing factor in over 390 fatal collisions state-wide, resulting in the deaths of more than 430 persons. In addition, preliminary statistics for 2008 indicate that more than 5,200 alcohol-related collisions were reported with more than 3,700 persons injured. Of the more than 4,800 total DUI collisions, 7% were fatal collisions, 47% were injury collisions, and 46% were property-damage-only collisions. In 2008, the state experienced about the same number of alcohol-related collisions as compared to the previous year.

Speed Involvement in Collisions

According to the SC Department of Public Safety's preliminary statistics for 2008, speed was a contributing factor in over 100 fatal collisions, resulting in more than 150 deaths. Preliminary statistics for 2008 indicate that more than 1,400 speed-related collisions were reported, with more than 900 persons injured. Of the more than 1,400 total speed-related collisions, 8.2% were fatal, 47.9% were injury collisions, and 43.9% were property-damage-only collisions. In 2008, the state experienced an 18% decrease in speed-related collisions.

Highway Safety *(Cont.)*

For the three years, 2005 through 2007, Spartanburg County ranked sixth among South Carolina's 46 counties for number of fatal and severe injury collisions (see Table 10).

Table 10. Fatal and Severe Injury Collisions, S.C. by County*									
County	# Collisions 2005	Rank	# Collisions 2006	Rank	# Collisions 2007	Rank	Three Year Total	Rank	Average Rank
Aiken	108	11	134	10	126	10	368	11	10.5
Anderson	154	8	181	8	168	7	503	8	7.8
Beaufort	131	10	129	12	109	12	369	10	11.0
Berkeley	161	7	190	6	175	6	526	7	6.5
Charleston	349	1	345	2	388	1	1082	1	1.3
Dorchester	102	13	104	14	102	14	308	14	13.8
Florence	108	11	134	10	115	11	357	12	11.0
Greenville	252	4	265	3	287	3	804	3	3.3
Horry	299	2	353	1	345	2	997	2	1.8
Lexington	208	5	198	5	165	8	571	5	5.8
Orangeburg	99	14	110	13	106	13	315	13	13.3
Richland	271	3	246	4	270	4	787	4	3.8
Spartanburg	167	6	188	7	205	5	560	6	6.0
York	152	9	164	9	163	9	479	9	9.0
S.C.	3993		4111		4124		12,228		

*counties ranked in the top 15 three or more times Source: SC Department of Public Safety

Highway safety studies (TRIP, 2008) conclude that improving safety features on South Carolina's roads and highways would likely result in a decrease in traffic fatalities in the state, as roadway design is an important factor in approximately one-third of all fatal and serious traffic accidents. Suggested improvements include removing or shielding obstacles, adding or improving medians, adding rumble strips, widening lanes, widening and paving shoulders, upgrading roads from two to four lanes, and improving road markings and traffic signals where appropriate.

Priority emphasis areas eligible for the S.C. Department of Public Safety 2010 Highway Safety grants include:

- **Impaired Driving Countermeasures:** The enforcement, adjudication, education, and systematic improvements necessary to impact impaired driving. This includes programs focusing on youth alcohol traffic safety issues.
- **Occupant Protection:** The development and implementation of programs designed to increase usage of safety belts among all age groups and proper usage of child restraints.
- **Police Traffic Services:** The development or enhancement of traffic enforcement programs necessary to directly impact traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries.
- **Traffic Records:** The continued development and implementation of a statewide program (the South Carolina Collision and Ticket Tracking System, or SCCATTS) designed to enhance the collection, analysis, and dissemination of collision data, increasing the capability for identifying and alleviating highway safety problems.
- **Other Potential Funding Areas:** Other program areas, including motorcycle and pedestrian safety

Fire Safety

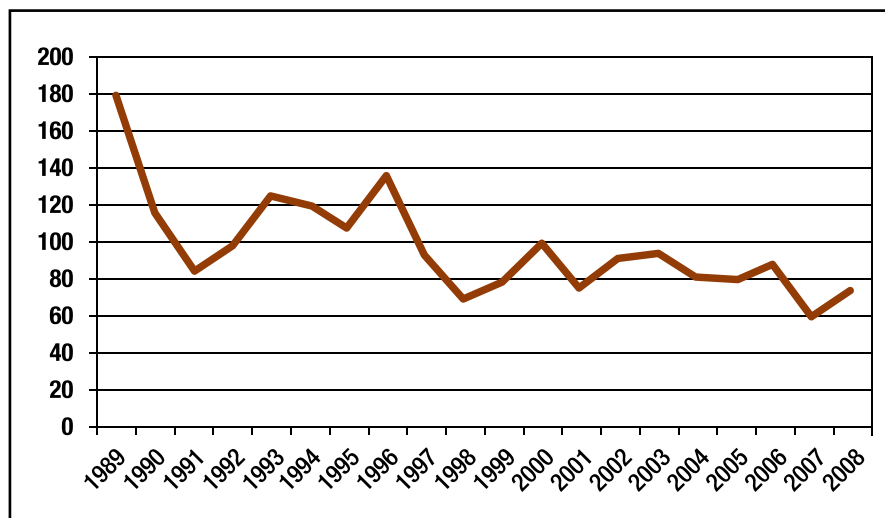
Fire death rates vary from region to region in the United States. This often is a result of climate, poverty, education, demographics, and other factors. The national fire death rate in 2005 was 12.3 deaths per million population. The highest fire death rate in 2005 was in the District of Columbia (36.3), and the state with the lowest rate was Hawaii (4.7). South Carolina ranked fourteenth, and above the national average, with a fire death rate of 16.2.

The South Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshall, Division of Fire and Life Safety has the statutory authority to collect, analyze and disseminate fire data provided by fire departments in South Carolina. In 1983 South Carolina adopted the National Fire Incident Reporting System (SCFIRS) to collect consistent data on emergency responses by local fire departments. In 2007, South Carolina fire departments participating in the SCFIRS responded to a total of 166,279 incidents. These incidents include:

- 22,819 fires
- 83,924 rescue / medical incidents
- 8,168 hazardous condition calls
- 10,229 services calls
- 15,334 good intent calls
- 24,271 false calls
- 1,534 other calls

The number of civilian deaths from fire in South Carolina ranged from a high of 179 in 1989 to a low of 60 in 2007. Generally, there has been a decreasing trend in civilian fire deaths since 1989 (Figure 7).

Figure 7. SC Civilian Fire Deaths



Source: SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of the State Fire Marshall

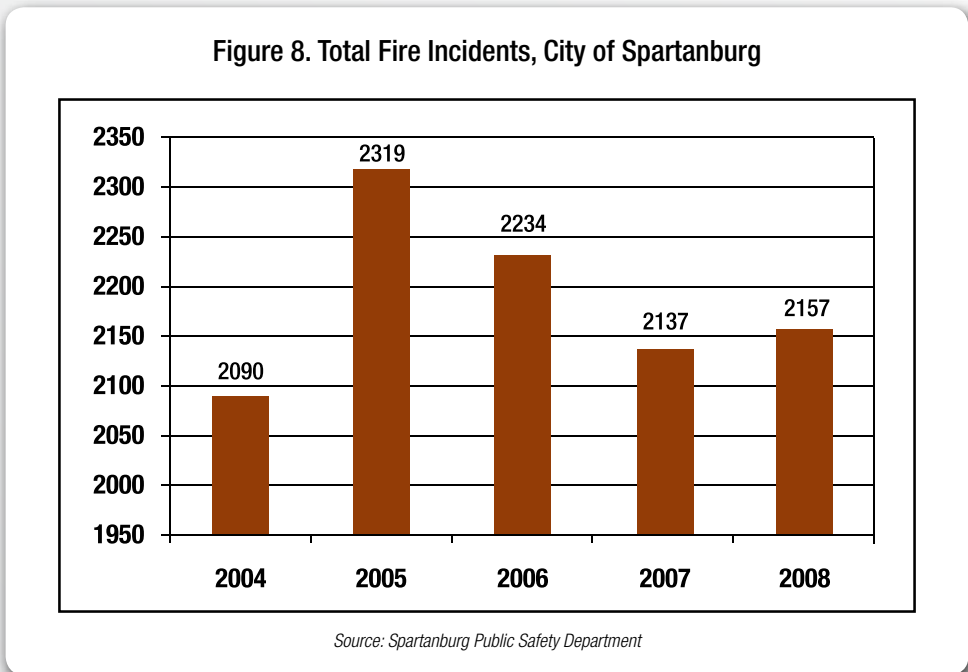
Comparative fire fatality data by peer county is reported in Table 11.

Table 11. S.C. Civilian Fire Fatalities by County									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Spartanburg	5	0	13	6	6	17	1	1	10
Greenville	10	7	0	4	8	4	4	7	3
Richland	10	6	2	4	7	5	8	6	2
Charleston	3	4	2	5	3	10	9	8	2

Source: SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of the State Fire Marshall

The Fire Division of the City of Spartanburg Department of Public Safety provides service to city residents and businesses via five strategically located stations, manned by a total of 75 personnel. Partnerships with departments throughout the county (Arkwright, Converse, Cowpens, Croft, Drayton, Glendale, Hilltop, Roebuck, Una and Westview-Fairforest) make optimal use of equipment and personnel. The Fire Division achieved reaccreditation status by the Commission on fire Accreditation International in 2008.

Total fire incidents in the city over the past five years are illustrated in Figure 8.



Fire Safety (Cont.)

Table 12 provides data relative to property lost to fire and saved through city fire intervention services.

Table 12. Spartanburg City Fire Property Loss			
	Pre-Incident Property Value	Fire Property Loss	Total Property Saved
2004	\$20,602,594	\$623,397	\$19,979,197
2005	\$31,414,179	\$2,002,234	\$29,411,945
2006	\$33,604,538	\$1,373,013	\$32,231,525
2007	\$87,625,039	\$1,300,245	\$86,329,594
2008	\$137,159,647	\$1,153,993	\$136,005,654

Source: Spartanburg Public Safety Department

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Tables and Figures

List of Tables

Table 1. 2006 Upstate County Index Crime Rates Per 10,000 Population.....	7
Table 2. Index Crimes by Jurisdiction, Spartanburg County 2005-2007.....	9
Table 3. Five Year Crime Trends, City of Spartanburg.....	11
Table 4. Juvenile Delinquency Rates by County, Fiscal Year 2006.....	14
Table 5. Juvenile Cases Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....	16
Table 6. Drug Violations by County, 2007.....	18
Table 7. Correctional Facilities and Inmates, 2000 and 2005.....	20
Table 8. Offenders Supervised Under Community Correction, FY 07.....	23
Table 9. Select SCDPPPS Statistics, Fiscal Year 2008.....	24
Table 10. Fatal and Severe Injury Collisions, S.C. by County.....	25
Table 11. S.C. Civilian Fire Fatalities by County.....	28
Table 12. Spartanburg City Fire Property Loss.....	29

List of Figures

Figure 1. City and County Crime.....	10
Figure 2. County Population Growth.....	10
Figure 3. S.C. Violent Crimes.....	12
Figure 4. Spartanburg County Violent Crimes.....	13
Figure 5. Drug Arrest Trends, S.C.....	18
Figure 6. Admissions To and Releases From SCDC.....	21
Figure 7. S.C. Civilian Fire Deaths.....	27
Figure 8. Total Fire Incidents, City of Spartanburg.....	28

Appendix I

Goal 8 Indicators

Because Spartanburg is a dynamic community, the issues that impact the growth, health and quality of life for its citizens are in flux. Since the 2005 iteration of the Community Indicators VI report was presented to the community, it has become necessary or beneficial to change a number of the indicators for various goals. The subject matter experts who have advised on these changes were professionals who work in various areas of public safety driven by these indicators. The revised indicators for Goal 8 are provided below. A number of indicators were expanded to provide a more comprehensive picture of the status of public safety in Spartanburg County. In the current iteration, state, national, city and peer county data were provided for comparison for indicators where appropriate.

Indicators for Goal 8	
Community Indicators VI	Current Iteration
Adult Crime Index	Crime
Juvenile Cases and Commitments	Violent Crime
Commitments to S.C. Department of Corrections	Juvenile Crime
Traffic Incidents	Drug Crime
	Gang Crime
	Corrections
	Probation and Parole
	Courts
	Highway Safety
	Mileage Death Rate
	Alcohol Involvement in Collisions
	Speed Involvement in Collisions
	Fire Safety

Appendix II:

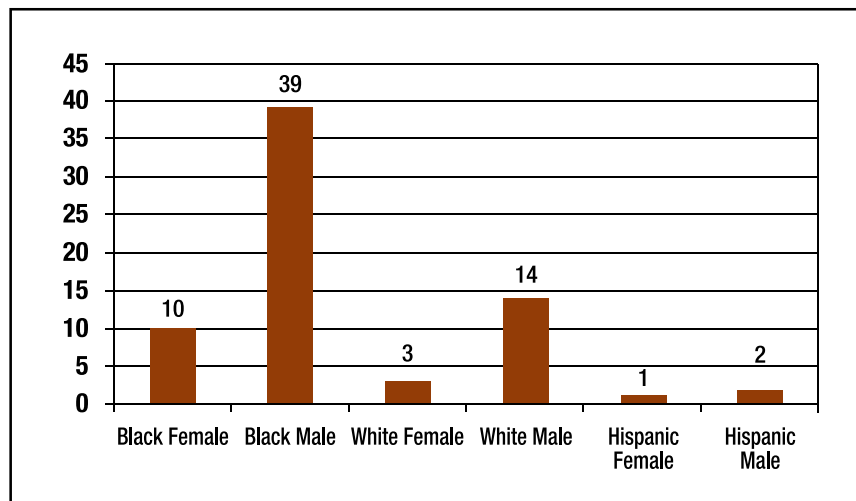
The Alternative to Detention Program

Spartanburg County has a high detention rate for juveniles. The Spartanburg Alternatives to Detention project began on October 1, 2006 to reduce this high detention rate. The project is funded through a Juvenile Justice Formula Grant from the S.C. Department of Public Safety and administered by the Spartanburg Department of Public Safety. The goal of the project is "To reduce and/or eliminate the inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention for juveniles to decrease detention population, community costs, and juvenile recidivism and to provide for an appropriate environment and services for qualifying juveniles whenever possible while protecting public safety." The Spartanburg Family Court, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the City of Spartanburg Department of Public Safety, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department, the Youth Council and others all agree that alternatives to detention are important and necessary for the juvenile justice system in the Spartanburg community.

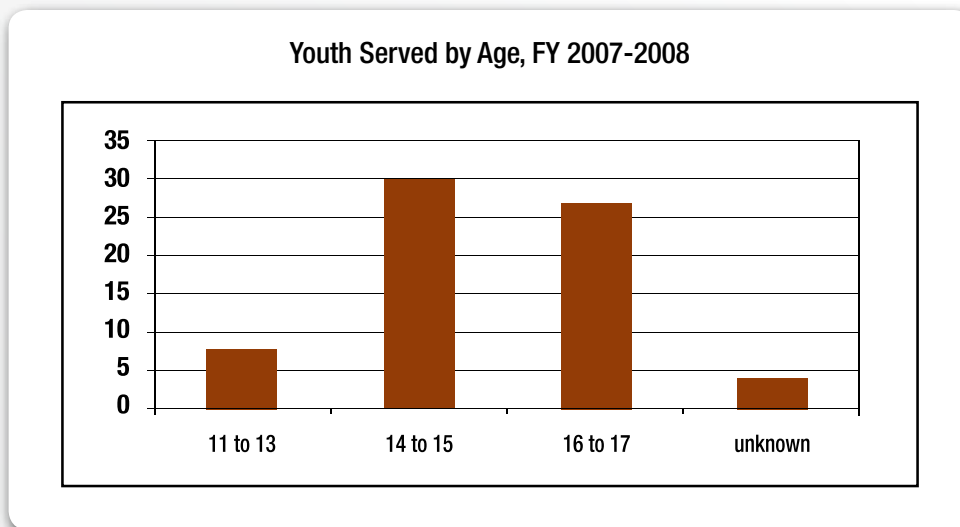
The target population of the project is juveniles 13 to 16 years old in Spartanburg County charged with a crime who are appropriate to remain in the community rather than being detained at DJJ facilities in Columbia. The project provides alternative services to allow these youths to stay in the Spartanburg community and to reside in their homes or with relatives. A case manager provides frequent checks on the identified youth, as well as arranging for alternative services. Police officers also do unannounced house checks and the project provides wrap around services for youth who are not Medicaid eligible. Spartanburg County has a number of other resources that lend themselves to the success of this project. For example, the Spartanburg Youth Council provides a strong opportunity to develop responses to the problem of high detention rates. In addition, the Targeted Community Action Planning (TCAP) program is identifying the more serious juvenile offenders and providing services for them.

A 2007-2008 evaluation of the Alternatives to Detention Program (SWS, Inc., 2008) indicated that the project served 69 youth during the grant period (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008). The following graph illustrates youth served by sex and race for this time period.

Youth Served by Sex and Race, FY 2007-2008



The following graph illustrates youth served by age for this time period.



Assault, Burglary and related offenses comprised almost 77 percent of the offenses committed by youth who entered the Alternatives to Detention Program. Disturbing schools accounted for another 20 percent of offenses. These and other offenses resulting in entry to the program are listed in the table below.

Offenses Prior to Project Entry		
	Number	Percentage
Assault / Assault and Battery / Lynching	28	40.6%
Burglary / Larceny/ Theft	25	36.2%
Disturbing Schools	14	20.3%
Drug or Narcotic Violations	4	5.8%
Status Offenses	5	7.2%
Malicious Injury to Personal or Real Property	5	7.2%
Public Disorderly Conduct	4	5.8%
Resisting an Officer / Resisting Arrest	4	5.8%
Weapons Violations	5	7.2%
Probation Violation	3	4.3%
Other Violations	11	15.9%

Source: Spartanburg Public Safety Department

Program evaluation also indicated that the project has assisted in reducing the number of youth detained for these offenses by 5.7%. Of the 69 youth served during the grant period, 39 (65%) successfully completed the program.

Acknowledgments

The collaborators of Spartanburg Community Indicators Project would like to thank the following subject matter experts for their invaluable suggestions, feedback, and help in the collection of data included in this report.

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Michael Smith, Department of Juvenile Justice

Sincerely,



John Dargan
President/CEO
The Spartanburg County Foundation




Katherine A. Dunleavy
President/CEO
United Way of the Piedmont



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County Administrator
Spartanburg County



John C. Stockwell, Ph.D.
Chancellor
The University of South Carolina Upstate



Spartanburg Community Indicators Project is a collaboration of The Spartanburg County Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg County Government, and The University of South Carolina Upstate. It reports on progress of key issues that are the clearest indicators of quality of life in the County of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Its goal is to report on data and community initiatives to inspire dialogue and strategy that leads to change within the community.

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