# Reality v. Perceptions: Analysis of 2007 Crime and Safety in Downtown Detroit



Prepared by Wayne State University for the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau

Jason C. Booza, Demographer July 23, 2008

> Contact Information: phone (313) 577-3889 email: j.booza@med.wayne.edu

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Reality vs. Perceptions: An Analysis of 2007 Crime and Safety in Downtown Detroit

#### **Background**

Detroit, like many other major American cities, struggles with high levels of crime in certain areas of the city. Unlike other cities, however, there is a perception about Detroit that even its central business district is unsafe. The TEDC built a partnership with the Detroit Police Department, Wayne State University and SEMCOG to develop credible statistics that represent the true level of crime in downtown Detroit. These statistics, based on actual incident reports of every serious crime committed in Detroit between 2001 and 2004, were originally released on June 14, 2005 in a study. Each year since 2005, the TEDC has worked with Wayne State and the other partners to update the Downtown crime study. Below is a summary of the 2008 edition of the study.

#### **Study Findings**

#### 1. CRIME IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT IS BELOW NATIONAL AND STATE AVERAGES

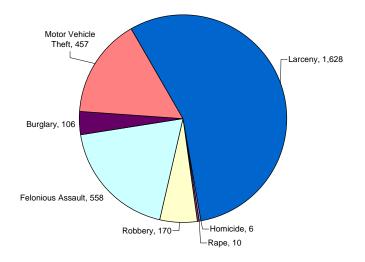
Area	Crime Rate (per 100,000 pop.)	
United States-2006	3,808	
State of Michigan-2006	3,775	
Downtown Visitor Area (DVA)-2007	3,757	

#### 2. WHEN MAJOR EVENTS ARE FACTORED IN, DOWNTOWN'S CRIME RATE IS VERY LOW

To understand the risk of crime for someone attending a major downtown Detroit event, it is necessary to include in the downtown population count the 21 million visitors who come to the Auto Show, major league sports and numerous other events each year. Doing so lowers downtown Detroit's crime rate to a miniscule 13.8 crimes per 100,000 people.

	Crime	Population	Employment	Visitor	Crime
	Total	Total	Total	Population	Rate
DVA	2,935	5,328	72,795	21,246,656	13.8

#### 3. MOST DOWNTOWN CRIMES ARE PROPERTY-RELATED



# <u>Introduction</u>

Crime is a serious issue faced by all communities in the United States. effects of criminal incidents not only enact a toll on victims but also on society in general. In the case of tourist destinations including Detroit and other major cities, crime creates a social stigma that hampers economic development efforts and the tourism industry. This is evident in an August 2007 Detroit Free Press survey in which 69% of metropolitan Detroit residents stated that they would visit downtown Detroit more often if more security were provided. Fear of crime in individuals is real, but many times the perceptions that cause these fears are not. These fears are exacerbated by misleading national reports that provide cursory glimpses of crime in major cities. In most cases, rankings and conclusions are NOT based on actual crime rates but on propriety statistical formulas for calculating risk of victimization. The problem with such reports is that they do not take into account the fluidity of modern cities. It is no longer the case that individual live, work and play in the same place. With the abundance of transportation options, cross-border commuting for work and entertainment is now the norm. However, methods for assessing crime rates and victimization do not take these factors into account. Thus, the purpose of this report is to assess the actual crime risk in Downtown Detroit using actual crime, population, employment and visitor totals in order to provide a factual portrait of crime.

# **Background**

In 2005, the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau convened Wayne State University, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and Detroit Police Department in order to examine the actual risked of victimization faced by visitors, residents and workers in Downtown Detroit. A major impetus behind the collaborative was a July 26, 2004 article in USA Today¹ entitled "Conventions come to risky areas?" The article stated, "Nearly all the nation's major convention centers are in neighborhoods where the crime risk is much higher than the national average, a new study by a crime forecasting company reveals. Of the 25 largest convention centers and exhibit halls, 22 are in neighborhoods where the crime likelihood is at least double the national average, finds the study, which was conducted for USA TODAY by CAP Index² of Exton, Pa." Ranking the area surrounding the Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center as the second most

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.usatoday.com/money/biztravel/2004-07-26-convention\_x.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The company's website describes the CAP Index as follows: By employing sophisticated computer modeling techniques similar to those used to forecast the economic trends of the nation and to forecast the weather, CAP Index is able to forecast where criminal activity is likely to occur. It is an accepted criminological and policing theory that the amount of social disorganization and decline in a neighborhood has a direct correlation to the amount of crime that can be predicted to occur there. CAP Index has created a statistical forecasting model that correlates the demographic data described above with survey information and other databases with known indicators of crime. This model provides a forecast of criminal activity for any location in the United States and Canada with a high degree of accuracy.

dangerous, the article goes on to say, "The risk in areas outside convention centers in Detroit and Washington is 10 times greater than the national norm."

The result of the collaborative was a report released by Wayne State University detailing the actual rate of victimization in Downtown Detroit rather than estimates offered by CAP and other such companies. Over the years, we have found that risk of victimization in Downtown Detroit was **NOT** higher than the national average. In fact, it was lower than the national, state and regional averages leading us to conclude that the CAP index provides a very inaccurate assessment of actual victimization faced by residents, workers and visitors in Downtown Detroit. Downtown Detroit is as safe if not safer than many other places in the state and country. However, the propagation of these inaccurate assessments are a severe constraint on the economic vitality to the downtown area. For this reason, the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau finds it essential that the report be updated with 2007 data and safety concerns remain a top priority for the Safety and Security Tourism Action Group (TAG).

## **Overview of Visitors and Crime**

Downtowns are multipurpose venues that play host to visitors, workers and residents alike. The level of crime within a downtown is thus dependent on the spatial and temporal patterns of these individuals and the activities in which they engage. A common criminological theory used to explain how these activities and the fluctuations in population are related to criminal victimization is the routine activities theory. 3 which states that the risk of criminal victimization is the result of the convergence of suitable targets, motivated offenders and capable guardians. Changes in any of these components can lead to increases or decreases in the risk of victimization. As it relates to tourism, risk of criminal victimization increases for two reasons. First, population increases bring about more suitable targets for offenders but also more offenders. Secondly, the characteristics of the population decrease the risk to offenders because potential victims are likely to be carrying forms of portable wealth (e.g. cash) and the presence of capable quardians decline.4 Crowds are anonymous groups of individuals which makes it easier for criminals to victimize individuals without fear of retribution from passerbys. Routine activities theory and the notion that increased visitor populations are associated with increase criminal victimization has been supported in numerous studies of tourist destinations.<sup>5</sup> Overall, there is plausible explanation of why

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Cohen & Felson (1979). "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach" *American Sociological Review* 44(4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Chesney-Lind & Lind (1986) "Visitors as Victims: Crimes Against Tourists in Hawaii" Annals of Tourism Research 13(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Chesney-Lind & Lind (1986) "Visitors as Victims: Crimes Against Tourists in Hawaii" *Annals of Tourism Research* 13(2).

Fuji & Mak (1979). "Tourism and Crime: Implications for Regional Development Policy" *Regional Studies* 14(1).

Jud (1975). "Tourism and Crime in Mexico" Social Science Quarterly 48(2)

increases in population, especially visitors, are associated with higher crime rates in tourist destinations.

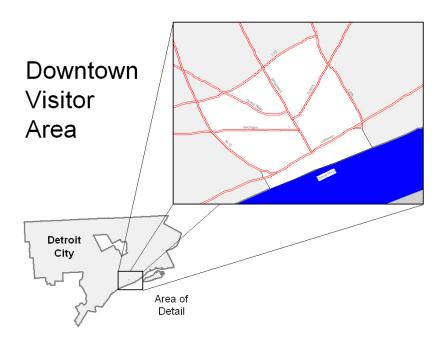
## <u>Methodology</u>

#### **Data Sources**

Data for this study were collected from various sources. Except where noted, tables and figures cover the 2007 calendar year. Much of this study would not be possible if it were not for the collaboration of the Detroit Police Department, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau (DMCVB).

The primary unit of analysis in this study is the downtown Detroit area, hereafter referred to as the Downtown Visitor Area (DVA). The boundaries of the DVA are the Detroit River to the south; Lodge Freeway to the west; I-375 to the east; and, I-75 to the north (See figure 1). This area was chosen as the downtown area because it represents the main area of downtown Detroit that visitors frequent. The area includes Comerica Park, Ford Field, the Theater District, including the Fox, Fillmore, Gem and Century theaters, Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center, Joe Louis Arena, numerous restaurants and several major employers, including General Motors and Compuware.

Figure 1



McPheters & Stronge (1974). "Crime as an Environmental Externality to Tourism: Miami, Florida" *Land Economics* 50(2).

Pizam & Mansfeld (1996). Tourism, Crime and International Security.

The data used in this study include crime incidents, residential population, employment and visitor totals. Crime data were provided by the Detroit Police Department (DPD) and are based on DPD's incident-based reporting system. Population and employment data were provided by SEMCOG and are aggregated by Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ's). The study incorporates additional non-Detroit data that include crime totals for select downtowns of major U.S. cities. These data were collected by contacting the appropriate police departments with the request to define their downtown visitor areas and provide corresponding crime totals.

In prior versions of this report, crime trends in the DVA were compared across years; however because of changes in crime reporting in Detroit and across the nation, 2007 crime totals will only be compared to 2006 and 2005 crimes. Since 1929, the traditional method for collecting local, state and national crime statistics has been the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR). In 1985, the FBI introduced the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which is a more comprehensive method of collecting and disseminating crime statistics. Many law enforcement agencies, including Detroit, are moving towards incident based reporting. In 2005, the State of Michigan made it mandatory for agencies within the state to start reporting crime statistics using the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) system, which is then sent to the FBI for inclusion in the NIBRS. As a result, NIBRS and UCR data are not directly comparable. Major differences between the two systems include the UCR's use of the hierarchy rule, offense definitions and categorization of serious crimes. As a result, this study only compares crimes collected under the NIBRS system (2005 to 2007). Prior data (2001 to 2004) is used in this report but only for overall trend analysis and total numbers should not be compared across time periods.

# **Downtown Crime**

#### Overall Crime (2007)

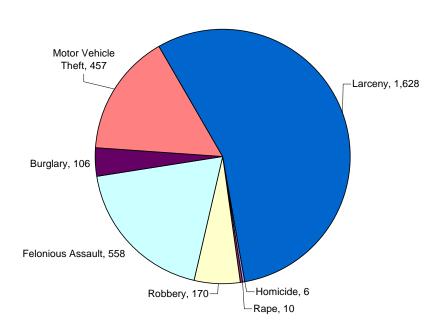
In 2007, 2,935 major criminal acts were committed in the DVA.<sup>6</sup> Nearly three quarters of these crimes were property crimes (larceny, burglary and motor vehicle theft). Of the property crimes, larceny was by far the most common. In fact, larcenies account for 55% of all crimes in the DVA (See Figure 2). The second most common property crime was motor vehicle theft with 457 incidents followed by burglary with 106 incidents. Overall, 2,191 property crimes were committed in the DVA during 2007.

Violent crimes are not only less common than property crimes, but are shown to be quite infrequent when the number of people in the DVA is taken into account. Only 6 homicides occurred in the DVA during 2007. When compared to national

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Major criminal acts are defined as Detroit Police Department Part I crimes with the exception of arson.

statistics on mortality, visitors to downtown Detroit have a greater risk of dying in an automobile accident or by other non-intentional means. Other violent crimes in the DVA include 10 rapes (0.3%), 170 robberies (5.8%) and 558 felonious assaults (19.0%). Altogether, violent crimes comprise 25.3% of all major crimes in the DVA during 2007.





Based upon incident totals, we are able to calculate the crime rate for the DVA in 2007. The standard method is to determine the number of incidents per 100,000 persons, and is usually calculated using the residential population of an area. However, downtowns are unique geographies in that they do not lend themselves to crime standardization using residential populations because of their mix of residential, businesses, governmental institutions and visitor attractions. Using the residential population to determine the rates would give a false sense of crime risk considering the population that visits a downtown on any given day is many times much larger than the residential population. Detroit is no exception to this phenomenon. In fact the lack of a downtown residential population is more pronounced when compared to other major cities including Chicago and New York. The residential population of the DVA is only 5,328 persons. While Detroit is dissimilar to other cities in terms of its downtown residential population but is similar to other cities in that it has a large

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Crime Rate = (Total Incidents/Population)\*100,000

employment base. With major employers such as General Motors and Compuware, the Detroit DVA has an employment population of 72,795. We use both the residential and employment populations to calculate the crime rate for the DVA. Table 1 shows that in 2007 3,757 incidents occurred for every 100,000 persons based upon the combined residential / employment population.

Table 1: Major Crime Rate for Downtown Visitor Area (DVA), 2007

	Crime	Population	Employment	Crime	
	Total	Total*	Total*	Rate**	
DVA	2,935	5,328	72,795	3,757	

<sup>\* 2007</sup> Estimated Data

Over the 2007 calendar year, over 21 million people visited Downtown Detroit. This total includes attendees to major sporting events including the Tigers, Lions and Redwings, theater attendance to venues including the Fox and Fillmore and special events including the Thanksgiving Day parade. Combined with the residential and employment populations in the DVA, Detroit's crime rate drops to only 13.8 incidents per 100,000 persons (See Table 2).

Table 2: Major Crime Rate for Downtown Visitor Area (DVA), 2007

	Crime	Population	Employment	Visitor	Crime
	Total	Total*	Total*	Population**	Rate***
DVA	2,935	5,328	72,795	21,246,656	13.8

<sup>\* 2007</sup> Estimated Data

#### **Detail of Downtown Crime (2007)**

Criminal acts by nature do not remain constant over time. Rather, crime incidents vary by month, day of week and time of day. The following tables contain a detailed analysis of criminal incidents by month, day of the week, time and incident type.

On a monthly basis, most crimes occurred during warmer months including May, July, August and September. This is consistent with local and national crime patterns. The exception to this pattern in the DVA is that there is less variation between months when compared to other localities. Much of this has to do with the presence of entertainment venues and consecutive sports seasons, which supply a constant visitor base to the DVA.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Total Crimes per 100,000 persons

<sup>\*\* 2007</sup> Estimated Data

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Total Crimes per 100,000 persons

Table 3: Incidents by Type and Month for Downtown Visitor Area, 2007
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Type of Crime	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Homicide	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Rape	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	10
Robbery	8	8	21	9	18	13	23	12	14	11	18	15	170
Felonious Assault	32	39	48	47	76	54	52	55	30	45	37	43	558
Burglary	4	8	8	6	11	12	6	8	14	9	9	11	106
Larceny	118	92	111	147	139	119	126	165	155	146	140	170	1628
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	20	44	46	38	41	46	45	53	31	39	33	457
Total	189	167	232	257	284	240	255	286	267	243	243	272	2,935

The aggregate monthly crime patterns observed in the DVA are sensitive to fluctuations by crime type. Spikes in crime in the DVA are mostly driven by the number of larcenies committed. This includes peaks in August, December and April. However, the month with the second highest total crimes committed, May, was driven by a surge in felonious assaults.

In terms of weekly crime patterns, most crimes in the DVA occur over the weekend. This pattern is consistent with both previous DVA crime patterns and national patterns. Table 4 details the findings further by showing that criminal incidents are most likely to happen Friday through Saturday. This reflects the increasing number of visitors to the DVA, from out-of-town, elsewhere in the city and near-in suburbs, who come for a variety of entertainment events. An increasing number of potential victims tend to also increase the number of likely offenders.

Table 4: Incidents by Type and Day of Week for Downtown Visitor Area, 2007

Type of Crime	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
Homicide	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	6
Rape	3	2	1	0	1	1	2	10
Robbery	24	12	13	18	31	43	29	170
Felonious Assault	60	51	61	55	74	116	141	558
Burglary	12	13	11	12	14	16	28	106
Larceny	190	178	209	213	253	291	294	1628
Motor Vehicle Theft	39	42	53	60	90	96	77	457
Total	328	300	350	358	464	563	572	2,935

#### **Crime Trends (2006-2007)**

Crime in the DVA increased by 4.8% (n=134) between 2006 and 2007 (See Table 5). While it is still an increase in the number of criminal incidents committed in the DVA over previous years, it is much less than the 21.6% (n=497) increase between 2005 and 2006. In terms of changes in crime categories, violent crimes including homicide, rape and robbery remained stable or declined and property crimes with the exception of burglaries increased. The following are a few of the major highlights:

- Homicides declined by 4 incidents (-40.0%).
- Rapes remained stable at 10.
- Robberies declined by 10 incidents (-5.6%).
- Felonious assaults increased by 23 incidents (4.3%).
- Burglary declined by 54 incidents (-33.8%).
- Larceny, the largest category, increased by 169 incidents (11.6%).
- Motor vehicle thefts increased by 10 incidents (2.2%).

Table 5: Incidents by Type and Day of Week for Downtown Visitor Area, 2007

Type of Crime	2006	2007	# Change (06-07)	% Change (06-07)
Homicide	10	6	-4	-40.0
Rape	10	10	0	0.0
Robbery	180	170	-10	-5.6
Felonious Assault	535	558	23	4.3
Burglary	160	106	-54	-33.8
Larceny	1,459	1,628	169	11.6
Motor Vehicle Theft	447	457	10	2.2
Total	2,801	2,935	134	4.8

As a result of the increasing number of crimes in the DVA and a stable residential and employment population, crime rates also increased. Table 6 shows that the number of incidents per 100,000 persons in the DVA increased from 3,540 in 2006 to 3,757 in 2007. Much of this increase is attributable to increase in property crimes, specifically larcenies.

Table 6: Crime Rate by Incident Type and Year for Downtown Visitor Area\*

Type of Crime	2006	2007
Homicide	13	8
Rape	13	13
Robbery	227	218
Felonious Assault	676	714
Burglary	202	136
Larceny	1,844	2,084
Motor Vehicle Theft	565	585
Total	3,540	3,757

#### **Detailed Crime Trends (2006-2007)**

The brief overview presented above gloss over many intricacies of crime trends that occurred between 2006 and 2007. The following analysis provides an indepth assessment of crime trends by examining detailed incident data. A complete overview of this data is also provided in Appendix 1.

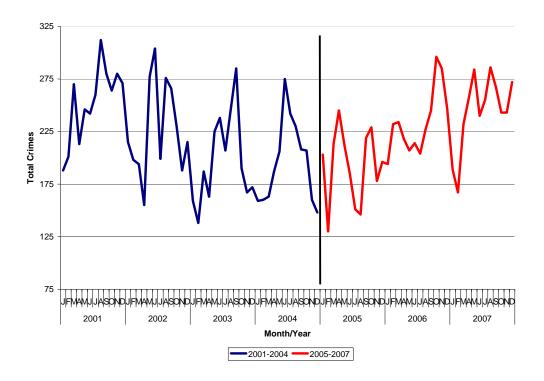
The least prevalent yet most serious crimes, homicide and rape, account for a very small portion of criminal incidents in the DVA in both 2006 and 2007. In terms of other violent crimes, robberies, the forth least prevalent crime,

decreased slightly between 2006 and 2007. Assaults increased by 23 incidents which equates to a 4.3% increase. Much of this increase was due to an increase in the number of assault and batteries while most other types remained stable or declined. Burglary, the third least prevalent crime in the DVA due in part to the small number of housing units, declined. Most of this declined was due to fewer burglary/other incidents over the same time period in 2006. Larceny, the most prevalent crime, consists mainly of thefts from vehicles followed by thefts from buildings. Given the large number of parking garages and the dependence on automobile transportation in the metro area, this statistic is not surprising. Finally, automobile thefts constitute a moderate number of crimes in the DVA. There were an additional 10 motor vehicle thefts in 2007 compared to 2006.

#### Crime Trends (2001-2007)

As stated earlier, crime totals and rates from previous years cannot be compared directly to 2005-2007 totals and rates because of changes in reporting. However, general trends and patterns can sill be observed between these two periods. Figure 3 provides a snapshot of monthly crime trends between 2001 and 2007 in the DVA.

Figure 3: Total Incidents in Downtown Visitor Area by Month/Year



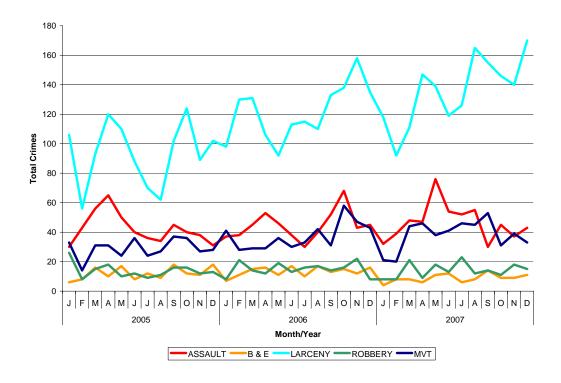
Evident from the graph is that from 2001 to 2004 crime was declining and reached its lowest level in February of 2003. From 2005 through December of

2006, crimes in the DVA were on the increase, specifically in the fall and winter months, which is probably associated with Major League Baseball (MLB) playoffs. Of interest in Figure 3 is the fact that the first two months of 2007 show a decline in crime, which is normal for that time of year, and January and February 2007 crime levels lower than any month in 2006 thus demonstrating that while crime rose in 2006 in the DVA, it began to fall again in 2007. However, crimes once again peaked in May and later summer of 2007 and continued to increase through the winter months.

#### **Analysis of Crime Trends (2005-2007)**

By examining the crime trends from the 2005 to 2007 period alone, it is evident that crime trends in the DVA is largely determined by changes in the number of larcenies especially in 2007 (See Figure 4). For the most part, the number of assaults, robberies, motor vehicle thefts and burglaries has remained stable between January 2005 and December 2007. While there have been highs and lows between these time periods, overall the crime totals for these categories have not increased over the three years.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Figure 4 contains a trend analysis of crimes by type with the exception of homicide and rape because of their small numbers.

# **Downtown Detroit in Comparison**

#### **Downtown Comparison**

In order to put Detroit's downtown in perspective, Table 7 provides 2007 major crime totals for comparable cities. Detroit is slightly higher than most downtown areas with a crime rate of 3,757 in 2007. While Detroit has a crime rate lower than that of Atlanta, its crime rate remains higher than cities like Indianapolis and Cincinnati.

Table 7: Crime Totals in Select Downtown Areas, 2007

Downtown	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	M Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Population	Crime Rate**
Atlanta	13	20	644	563	812	6,409	1,154	200,000	4,808
Chicago	5	53	843	569	879	13,098	747	751,000	2,156
Cincinnati	1	10	114	27	93	1,109	51	93,189	1,508
Detroit	6	10	170	558	106	1,628	457	78,123	3,757
Indianapolis	2	10	110	183	171	1,526	218	135,311	1,641
Minneapolis	1	36	151	161	104	1,854	104	160,000	1,507

<sup>\*\*</sup> Number of Incidents per 100,000 persons

Note: Population is residential and employment only

Detroit = DVA

Chicago = Districts 1 and 18 Indianapolis = Downtown District

Minneapolis = Downtown East/West

Atlanta = Zone 5

Cincinnati = CBD/Riverfront

Despite the fact that larcenies comprise a majority of the total criminal incidents in Detroit's DVA (55.5%), comparatively this is percentage is much lower when compared to other downtowns (See Table 8). Property crimes as a percentage of total crimes are a much larger problem in other downtowns than Detroit. However, Detroit has a higher percentage of assaults and motor vehicle thefts in the DVA. This is most likely due to the abundance of parking garages/lots and liquor establishments in Detroit' DVA. Thus, despite the fact that crime trends in the DVA are largely determined by larcenies, these types of crimes are less common in Detroit when compared to the downtowns of other cities.

Table 8: Crime Category Percentages in Select Downtown Areas, 2007

				Aggravated		Motor Vehicle			
Downtown	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Theft	Total	
Atlanta	0.1	0.2	6.7	5.9	8.4	66.7	12.0	100%	
Chicago	0.0	0.3	5.2	3.5	5.4	80.9	4.6	100%	
Cincinnati	0.1	0.7	8.1	1.9	6.6	78.9	3.6	100%	
Detroit	0.2	0.3	5.8	19.0	3.6	55.5	15.6	100%	
Indianapolis	0.1	0.5	5.0	8.2	7.7	68.7	9.8	100%	
Minneapolis	0.0	1.5	6.3	6.7	4.3	76.9	4.3	100%	

#### **Local Comparison**

When the proportion of crimes by category in Detroit's DVA is compared to other geographic areas, the unique relationship between downtown areas and crime patterns becomes more evident. According to Table 9, homicides, rapes, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts are underrepresented as a portion of all crimes when compared to the City of Detroit and Metropolitan Detroit proportions. However, crimes including larcenies and assaults are overrepresented as a percentage of total crimes.

Table 9: Crime Category Percentages in Select Geographic Areas

			Aggravated Motor Vehicle					
Downtown	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Theft	Total
DVA, 2007	0.2	0.3	5.8	19.0	3.6	55.5	15	5.6 100%
Detroit, 2007	0.5	0.5	8.1	15.9	21.3	28.2	25	5.4 100%
Metro Detroit, 2006	0.3	0.9	5.2	11.0	18.7	44.1	19	9.8 100%
National, 2006	0.1	0.8	3.9	7.6	19.2	57.9	10	0.5 100%

#### **National Comparison**

In addition to comparing the DVA to other downtowns, it is important to understand its crime rate in relation to the nation as a whole. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), there were 3,808 crimes committed for every 100,000 persons in the United States (See Table 10). This is higher than the rate in Detroit's DVA. Further, crime rates for the State of Michigan are slightly higher than the DVA leading us to conclude that while other downtowns in the United States are safer than Detroit's DVA, downtowns are safe places to visit when compared to national and state crime rates.

Table 10: Crime Rate Comparison

	Total	Violent	Property
	Crime	Crime	Crime
Area	Rate	Rate	Rate
United States-2006	3,808	474	3,335
State of Michigan-2006	3,775	562	3,213
Downtown Visitor Area (DVA)-2006	3,540	929	2,611
Downtown Visitor Area (DVA)-2007	3,757	952	2,805

# Conclusion

The perception of Downtown Detroit as unsafe is false. The above statistics show that Detroit is as safe if not safer than many other areas. While Downtown Detroit is not immune from crime, the actual risk faced by residents, workers and visitors is quite low. In fact, the DVA's crime rate is lower than that of the United States and State of Michigan. Further, a vast majority of the crimes that do occur are property crimes that do not involve direct contact between the victim and offender.

The safety of the DVA is supported by the vigilance of national, state, county and local law enforcement agencies who maintain a constant presence downtown. Their presence is further augmented by private security of downtown businesses. Together, these groups number at least 2,000 on any given day in the downtown. Further, special events including the National Hockey League Finals (NHL) and Major League Baseball (MLB) playoffs, North American International Auto Show and other special events involve the collaborative presence of law enforcement from throughout the region. Overall, this report, like 2006's report, show that Downtown Detroit is safe.

# Reality vs. Perception - 2008

Appendix 1: Detailed Analysis of Incidents by Type for Downtown Visitor Area, 2006-2007

Type of Incident	Detailed Type of Incident	Total Incidents (2006)	Total Incidents (2007)	Total Incidents (Change)
Homicide	MANSLAUGHTER	(2000)	3	-1
Homiciae	MURDER	4	2	-1 -2
	MURDER, 1ST DEGREE	2	1	- <u>-</u> -1
	JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE	0	0	0
	TOTAL	10	6	-4
Rape	RAPE	10	10	0
. tapo	TOTAL	10	10	0
Robbery	ROBBERY ARMED	76	77	1
	ROBBERY ARMED / UDAA	9	9	0
	ROBBERY NOT ARMED	95	84	-11
	TOTAL	180	170	-10
Felonious Assault	ASSAULT AND BATTERY	371	408	37
	ASSAULT AND BATTERY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	4	5	1
	ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER	5	2	-3
	ASSAULT, FELONIOUS	123	119	-4
	ASSAULT, FELONIOUS - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	9	13	4
	MAYHEM	2	2	0
	RESISTING, OBSTRUCTING, ETC. AN OFFICER	21	9	-12
	TOTAL	535	558	23
Burglary	BURGLARY BUSINESS	0	0	0
	BURGLARY OTHER	118	76	-42
	ENTER WITHOUT BREAKING, OTHERS	13	12	-1
	ENTERING WITHOUT BREAKING, DWELLING	14	11	-3
	HOME INVASION I	0	0	0
	HOME INVASION II	15	7	-8
	TOTAL	160	106	-54
Larceny	LARCENY FROM BUILDING, \$50 TO \$200	262	246	-16
	LARCENY FROM PERSON UNDER \$50	123	104	-19
	LARCENY FROM VEHICLE - STEAL CERTAIN ACCESS U		1072	227
	LARCENY FROM VEHICLE TO STEAL CERTAIN ACCESS		0	0
	LARCENY, GRAND, OVER \$200	3	1	-2
	SIMPLE LARCENY \$50 TO \$200	4 222	10	6 -27
	SIMPLE LARCENY UNDER \$50 TOTAL		195	
Motor Vehicle Theft	UDAA	<b>1,459</b>	<b>1,628</b> 457	<b>169</b>
wood veriicie i nett	TOTAL	447	457 <b>457</b>	10 10
	IOIAL	447	437	10