

St. Marys Police Department



563 Point Peter Road
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
912-882-4488



Timothy P. Hatch
Chief of Police

2014 Year-End Report

This report is intended to highlight some of the activities of the St. Marys Police Department during 2014. Attached to this report is a supplemental comparison that graphically shows some of the Department's activities in 2014 in comparison to the previous 10 years.

Staffing:

The Department finished off 2014 with an allocated staffing level of 32 sworn full-time positions and three full-time support positions. Additionally, the department employed five part-time certified positions and one part-time support position. Of the 32 sworn personnel that are allocated to the department, we finished off the year with nine vacant positions. The department is in the process of recovering from a staffing level where we had 12 vacant positions in 2014, and we are still accepting Police Officer applications.

Recruiting, Hiring and Training:

The Department processed 75 new-hire applications in 2014, and a total of six people were hired. Of the remaining applications, 54 have been dropped from consideration and 15 are still in various stages of processing. Additionally, the department offered 4,401 man hours of training to 36 total personnel, for an average of 122.22 hours of training per Officer. Also, the Training function of the department performed 1,152 random reviews of the 22,670 recordings generated by our departmental in-car video systems for policy compliance.

Administration and Records:

Office personnel processed 1,528 Incident Reports, and 448 accident reports, and the associated documents and supplemental reports that can be included with them. Additionally, we responded to 43 requests for Open Records information. The administrative support personnel also processed 50 warrant entries, 523 Criminal Histories and performed data entry for 4,008 traffic tickets and warning citations.

Uniformed Patrol:

Patrol Division is composed of officers working in the field in a uniformed capacity. This Division also includes the School Resource Officer and the two Canine Officers, as well as the two volunteer units; the Reserve Unit and the Police Auxiliary. In spite of low staffing levels, Personnel in the Patrol Division have performed at a level that is consistent with past years where staffing was full or close to it. Personnel remain in high spirits, and their self-initiated activity meets or exceeds department levels from past years. 2014 marks the creation of our Part-Time officer program. Most part-time officers work full-time for the Camden County Sheriff's Department. This program has been instrumental in strengthening our rapport with the Sheriff's Department, and in helping to keep a high service level within the City of St. Marys.

Ensuring the Safety and Security of Our Community With Honor, Integrity, Respect and Courage.

Criminal Investigations:

The Criminal Investigations Division is tasked with performing detailed investigations of crimes that occur in St. Marys in order to identify the offenders and build a successful prosecution in court. Detectives in St. Marys received 261 cases for investigation, averaging 87 cases each. Of these 261 cases, 208 were solved for a 79.7% clearance rate. During the IACP review of our agency that concluded in December of 2012, our CID personnel received strong compliments for the processes that are used in case assignment and management, and those practices are still in use within the department. Much of the impact that has resulted in lessened crime rates in St. Marys is due to the effectiveness of this Division in locating and apprehending criminal offenders. During 2014, the CID personnel have become highly involved in the GBI's Internet Crimes Against Children program and have received multiple training classes in this field as well as participated in several sex offender investigations as a result.

Community Outreach:

Our department is continually seeking ways to become engaged and involved in community outreach functions to all elements of the community. Many of our efforts are small and unobserved, such as keeping stickers in our vehicles to give to kids as we are patrolling. Additionally, we have been responsive to requests to speak to Homeowner's Association meetings or business meetings at various locations to include Rotary and multiple Realty companies. We have also been involved in presentations to kids in the Middle School, and we have supported the Chick-fil-A Family Night in Kingsland. Initiatives that the department has presented include a block party, the Cops and Robbers 5k run, the Cops and Bobbers fishing event, and numerous fund raising efforts in support of the Camden House. One of the biggest community outreach efforts that we make is through our departmental Facebook page, which is updated regularly. Numerous other community outreach efforts have been made over the course of the year, but cannot be easily addressed in this brief format.

State Certification:

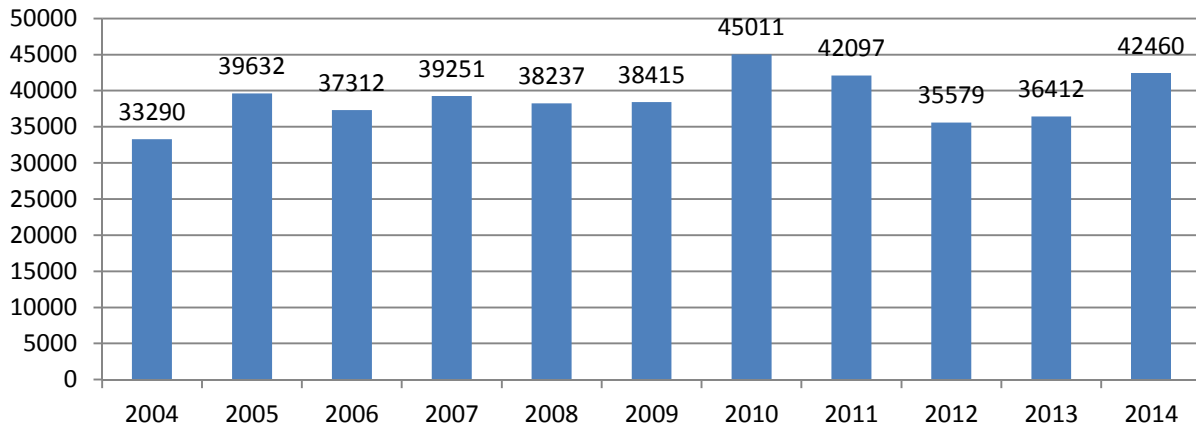
In 2014, the department made a commitment to seek State Certification. This is a process of growth and development within the department that will cause us to function at a higher and more professional level. The certification process involves the creation of policies and procedures that will ensure we are in compliance with 120 standards. Through a process of re-certification, the department will be required to show proof of compliance each year with each of the Certification standards. As a result, the level of professionalism within the department and among our officers will increase, and the insurance rate for the City will decrease.

Conclusion:

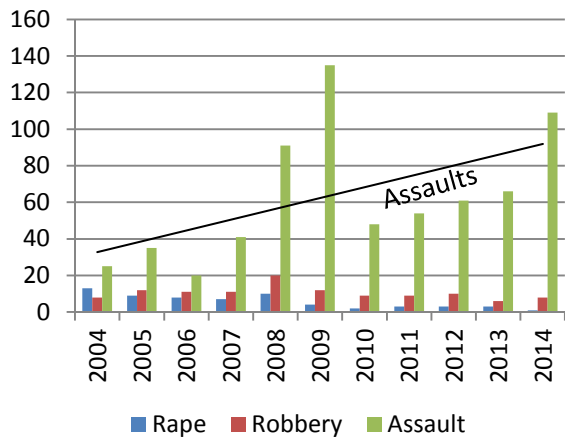
The men and women of the St. Marys Police Department have accomplished a lot over the past year. They have performed at a level that is equal or better than previous years in many regards, and have done so with as much as a 38% shortage in full-time staffing levels. The department has maintained a high service level, and generated 42,460 service actions during the year. This is the second-highest yearly total over the last eleven years. The morale of our officers remains high, and their dedication to service is significant.

St. Marys Police Department
Crime Trend Report

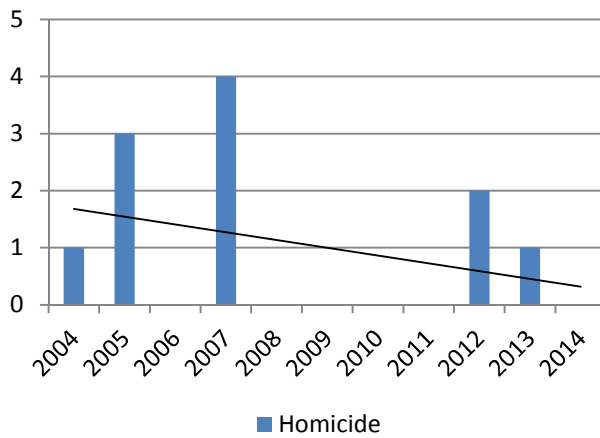
Total Service Actions



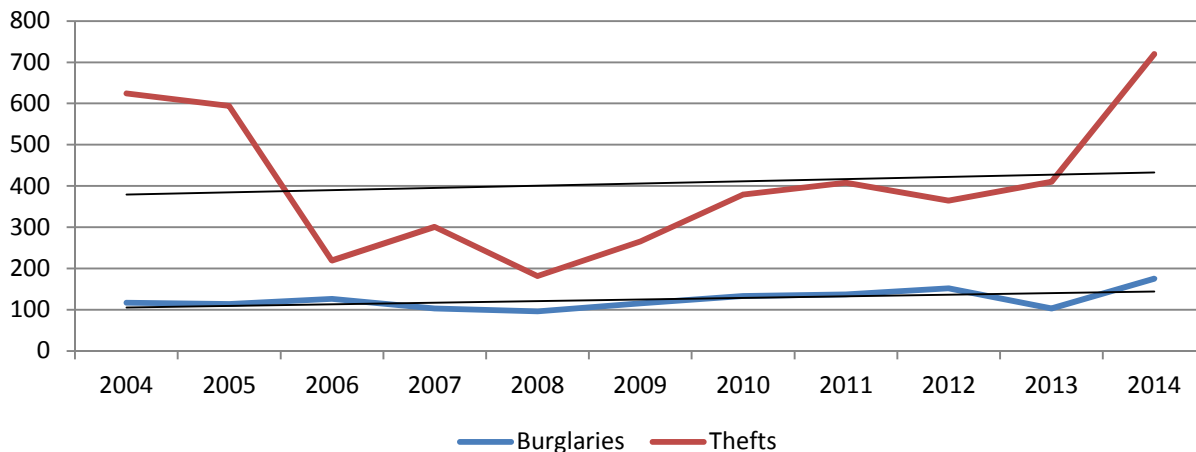
Violent Felonies



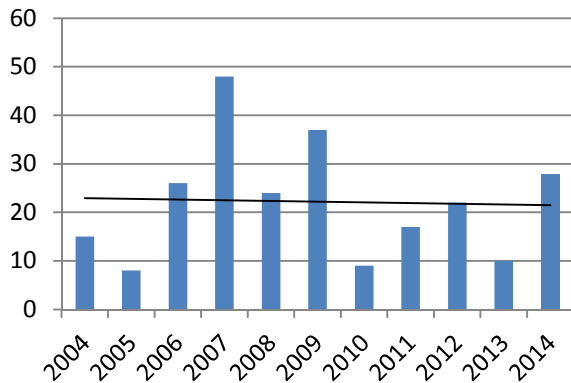
Trends in Homicide



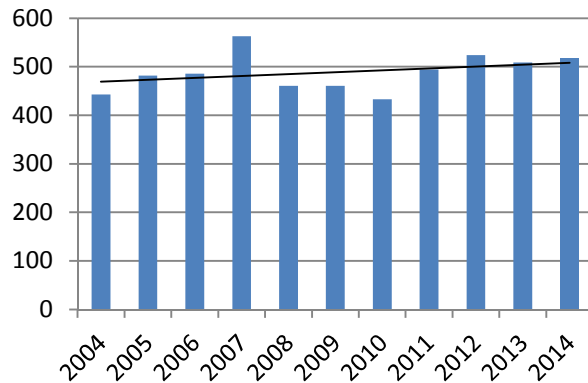
Felony Property Crimes



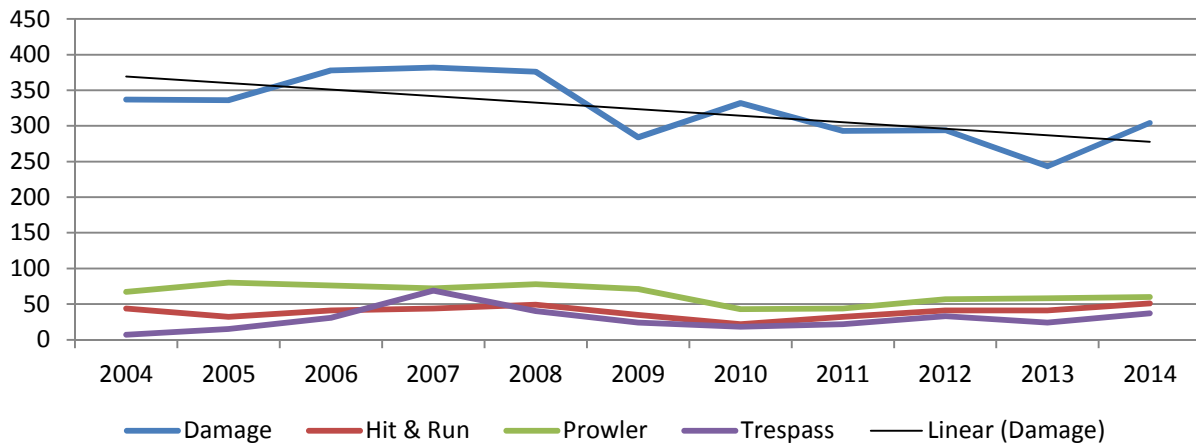
Incidents of Stolen Automobiles



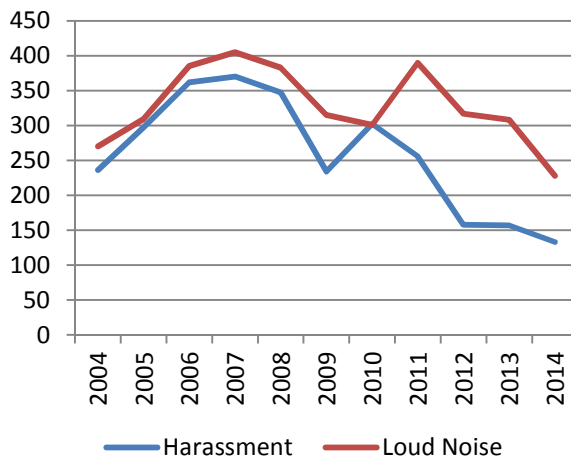
Incidents of Domestic Violence (Dispatched)



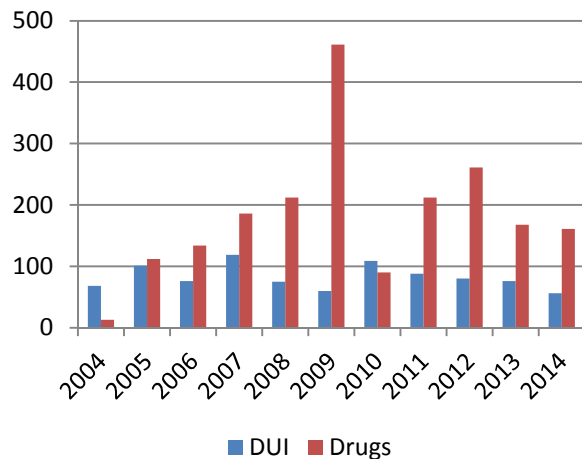
Comparison of Minor Property Crimes



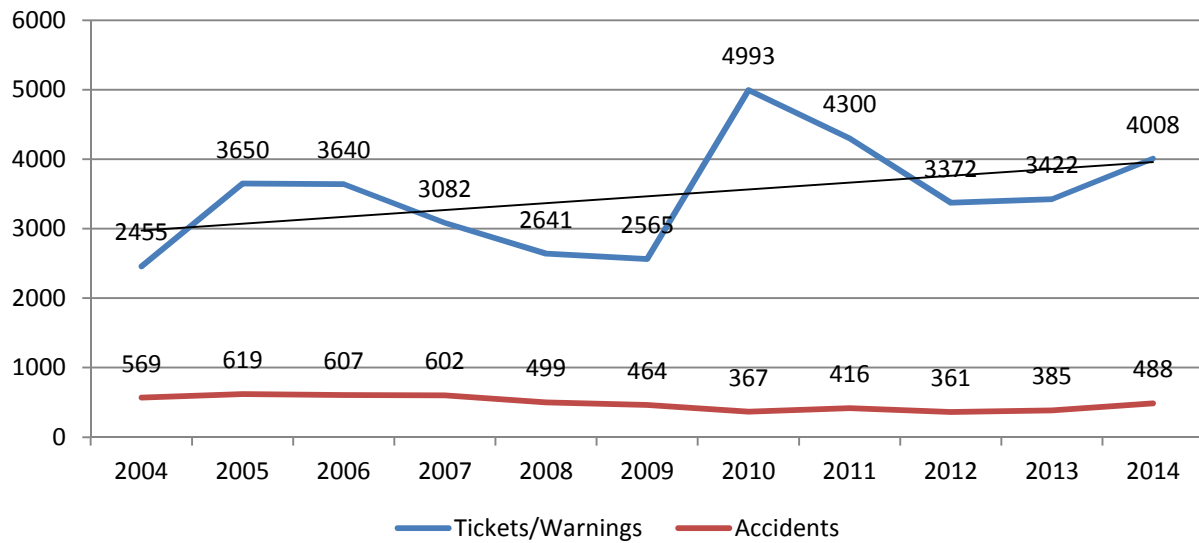
Nuisance Behavior



Substance Abuse Cases



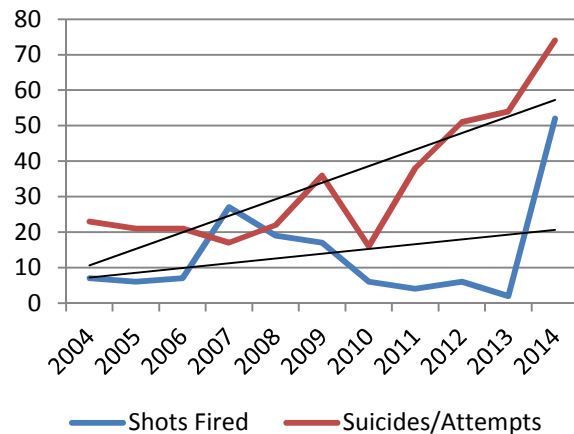
Trends in Traffic Enforcement and Accidents



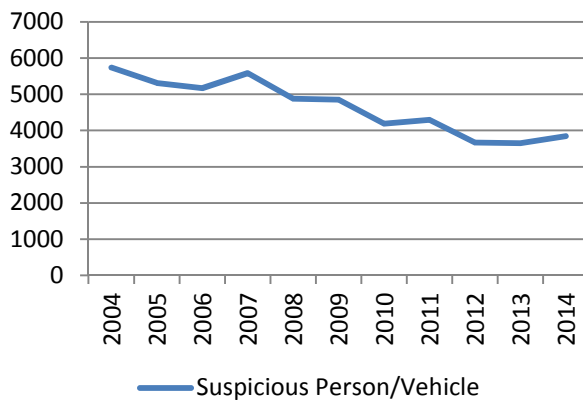
Comparison of Security Checks



Other Safety Calls



Response to Suspicious Activity



Response to Fight Calls

