

# Public Order *and* Safety

The people of Springfield and Greene County are fortunate to enjoy the services of dedicated law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency service personnel. The city government has placed public safety as its top priority, and the funding and training programs reflect this dedication. Personal safety is a key element in a community's quality of life.

The Springfield MSA Violent Crime Index and murder rate are below the national average and lower than the rates of many urban areas. Unfortunately, incidences of aggravated assaults, property crimes, burglary, larceny, and theft exceed the national average.

An area of concern is that drug arrests for people under 18 years of age are on the rise. Springfield Chief of Police Lynn Rowe attributes the drug arrests and property crime to increases in the area's growing methamphetamine problem. Chief Rowe notes, "The drug destroys lives, tears families apart, and places a financial and criminal burden upon us all. Property crimes appear to be on the rise, which can be linked directly to the meth problem."

Another alarming statistic for Greene County is the number of offenses against family and children, often an indicator of domestic instability. The domestic violence rate for Greene County is nearly double the rate statewide (Source: Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2004).



## COMPARISON DATA

Crime Rates Comparison (crimes per 100,000 people)

	Springfield	MSA National Average
Crime Index	4,893.6	4,118.8
Violent Crime Index	467.0	494.6
Murder	1.8	5.6
Forcible Rape	35.7	33.0
Robbery	72.4	145.9
Aggravated Assault	357.0	310.1
Property Crimes	4,426.7	3,624.1
Burglary	831.9	746.2
Larceny-Theft	3,280.5	2,445.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	314.3	432.1

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report, 2002

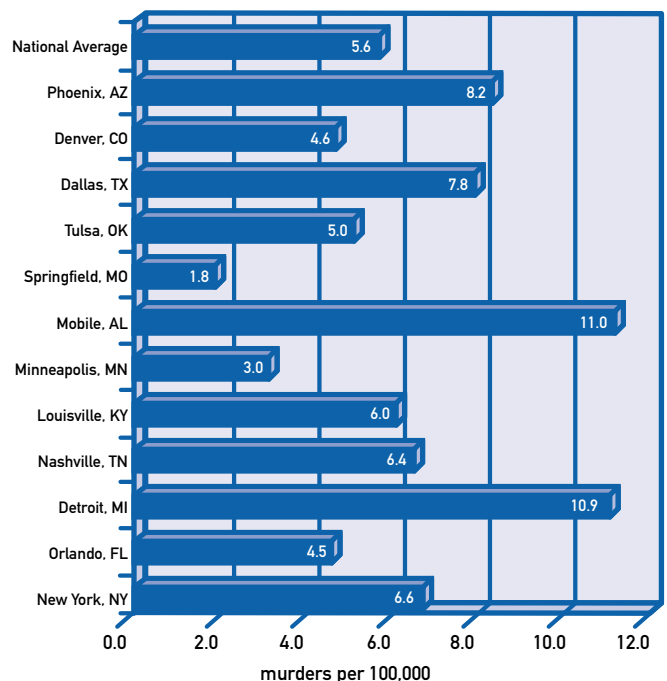
## GREENE COUNTY JUVENILE OFFICE

	2002	5-yr avg.
Intakes	4,513	4,807
% JV cases filed	15.84%	14.15%
Delinquency cases as % of total cases filed	23.22%	26.10%

**LOCAL TREND** Decrease in the number of intakes although the percent of cases filed had slight increase.

Source: Every Kid Counts 2003 Annual Children's Scorecard

## MURDER RATE COMPARISON



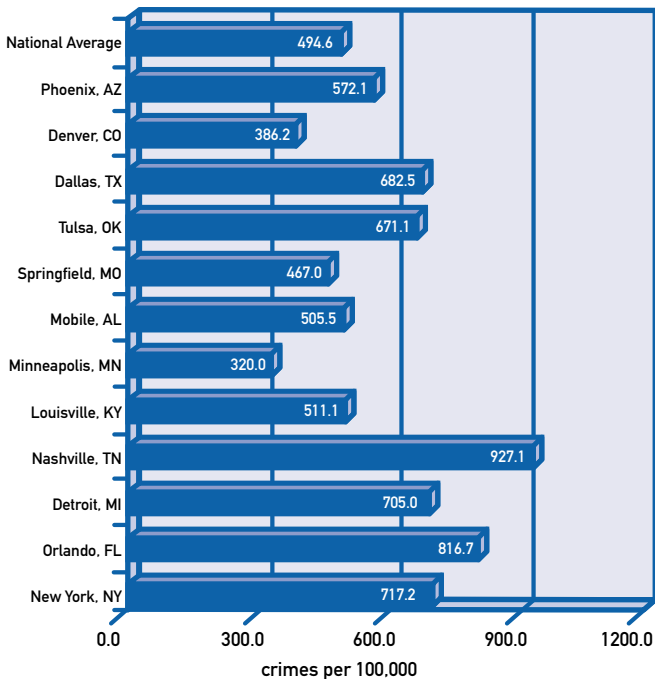
## TOTAL CRIMES FOR SPRINGFIELD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	5-year	Trend
<b>Total Crimes</b>	11313	11523	13351	14141	12066	12478.8	Down
<b>Murder</b>	7	4	4	10	4	5.8	Down
<b>Forcible Rape</b>	56	65	65	60	102	69.6	Up
<b>Robbery</b>	152	124	285	262	222	209	Up
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	521	359	488	657	733	551.6	Up
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons</b>	735	552	842	989	1061	836	Up
<b>Burglary</b>	1930	1832	2279	2182	1882	2021	Down
<b>Larceny/Theft</b>	7981	8402	9367	10066	8352	8833.6	Down
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	666	737	863	904	771	788.2	Down
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	10577	10947	12509	13152	11005	11638	Down

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports 2002–1998

Note: Greene County total crime reporting comes under the Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting Program, restructured in 2001; comparative data not available.

### VIOLENT CRIME RATE COMPARISON



### A STATEMENT FROM CHIEF ROWE

*There are lingering challenges associated with methamphetamine manufacture and use. The drug destroys lives, tears families apart, and places a financial and criminal burden upon us all. Property crimes appear to be on the rise which can be linked directly to the meth problem. The chemicals used to “cook” meth contaminate houses and other places where manufacturing takes place. Far worse, however, is that the cooking of meth sometimes takes place in the presence of children whose health is placed in serious jeopardy through contamination.*



Springfield Police Chief  
Lynn Rowe