

# Public Order and Safety

*“The recent meth bill will significantly impact the ability for local meth cooks to obtain the products they need to do their cooking. With cooperation from local drug stores, police will be able to investigate individuals who purchase more than the amount allowed by the new law.”*

Lynn Rowe, Chief of Police, Springfield

The people of Springfield and Greene County are fortunate to enjoy the services of dedicated law enforcement, firefighters and emergency services personnel.

The number of DWIs and crimes against persons decreased significantly in 2004, the murder rate in the City is below that of many comparable urban areas, and our Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating of 2 is excellent.

According to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Police Department Citizen Survey (2004), 88% of respondents believe police are serving the community’s needs and 74% said police officers respond quickly to emergency situations. Citizens’ top request was for increased visibility in the neighborhoods, and top priorities identified were drugs, especially methamphetamine (57%) and running red lights (68%).

*“We are so fortunate in Greene County to have a tremendous cooperative spirit in the law enforcement community. This certainly contributes to many successful operations and sharing of resources.”*

Jack Merritt, Sheriff, Greene County

## PUBLIC SAFETY SNAPSHOT

	2002	2003	2004
DWIs (Springfield Police)	1,812	1,388	1,133
DWIs (Greene County Sheriff)	730	789	719
Number meth labs found (Springfield Police)	60	76	89
Number meth labs found (Greene County Sheriff)	15	14	34
Number red light violations, Springfield	1,480	1,432	1,431

The City of Springfield is recognized by the state as having one of the most aggressive DWI enforcement efforts. The number of meth labs found has significantly increased, partly due to a multi-media campaign urging citizens to report these labs and to increased enforcement efforts.

Meth production contaminates the area where it is “cooked” and jeopardizes the health of children and adults living there; it also contributes to the crime rate.

A new law requires cold and allergy medications containing pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient in meth, to be moved behind the pharmacy counter, with pharmacists maintaining a log of purchasers. Springfield Police Chief Lynn Rowe notes that, with surrounding states enacting similar laws, the number of active meth labs in the state should decrease, as should property crimes. Chief Rowe credits agencies such as the Community Partnership and its coalition, Ozarks Fighting Back, with raising local awareness about meth and with formation of the Drug Endangered Child Team.

Greene County’s domestic violence rate is nearly double the state average; in part, this domestic instability is attributable to the area’s methamphetamine traffic. Greene County law enforcement officials aggressively prosecute all incidents of domestic violence.

## TOTAL NUMBER DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE CALLS IN SPRINGFIELD

2002 – 4,877  
 2003 – 3,612 (Jan. – Sep. only due to computer glitch)  
 2004 – 4,432

## ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENTS REPORTED BY SPRINGFIELD POLICE

2003 – 244  
 2004 – 259

## CRIME TOTALS IN SPRINGFIELD

	2002	2003	2004
Manslaughter		0	2
Robbery	222	171	184
Murder	4	6	8
Forcible Rape	102	73	85
Aggravated Assault	733	787	578
Total Crime Against Persons	1,061	1,037	857
Burglary	1,882	1,833	1,857
Motor Vehicle Theft	771	764	808
Larceny/Theft	8,352	9,754	9,590
Total Crime Against Property	11,005	12,351	12,255

## CRIME RATES IN GREENE COUNTY

	2003	2004
Larceny/Theft	992	836
Murder	1	2
Forcible Rape	3	2
Assault	790	725
Burglary	353	298
Motor Vehicle Theft	99	82

## GREENE COUNTY JUVENILE

Referral Type	Total Referrals
Abuse/Neglect	
2002	972
2003	727
2004	887
Delinquency/Status Offenses	
2002	3,420
2003	2,980
2004	2,968

Source: Greene County Juvenile Office

\*note – not all referrals result in formal court proceedings

## Fire And Emergency Services

### INSURANCE SERVICES ORGANIZATION

#### (ISO) RATING

ISO is a company that rates cities according to fire loss risks based on factors such as the capabilities of the fire department and the water system. Cities are rated from one to ten, with one as the top rating. This information is used by insurance companies to set fire insurance rates. In general, the better the ISO rating a city has, the lower the property insurance rates will be. There has been no significant change since 2002.

City	ISO Class 2004	Response Time 2004
Springfield, MO	2	4:29
Peoria, IL	2	4:20
Chattanooga, TN	3	5:08
Little Rock, AR	2	6:12
Phoenix, AZ	2	4:56

### AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

In sudden cardiac death, the use of a defibrillator is the only known successful treatment. Recognizing the importance of immediate access, the AED Center for Excellence was developed, and has facilitated the installation and oversight of more than 200 AEDs throughout Greene County in public places such as golf courses and retail stores.



## MURDER & VIOLENT CRIMES 2003

City/State	Population	Number of Murders	Murder Rate Per 100,000	Number of Violent Crime Cases	Violent Crime Rate Per 100,000
Springfield, MO	151,859	6	4.0	1,038	683.5
Peoria, IL	113,143	7	6.2	Not Provided	Not Provided
Chattanooga, TN	156,596	19	12.1	1,973	1,259.1
Little Rock, AR	185,117	44	23.8	2,858	1,543.9
Lexington, KY	265,224	18	6.8	1,242	468.3
Wichita, KS	356,123	18	5.1	2,227	625.3
Phoenix, AZ	1,403,228	241	17.2	9,722	692.8