

There were a total of 4,147 combined assaults (simple and aggravated) reported in 2003, down 6.3% from 2002. Aggravated assaults (use of a weapon, or use of hands, feet or fists to inflict serious injury sufficient to require medical attention) *decreased* 8.3% over 2002 figures. Of the 4,147 combined assaults reported, there were 951 *spousal assaults*, representing a 13.5% *decrease* over the previous year's 1,100 reported spousal assaults. The continued decline may be directly attributed to the continued efforts of the Department's domestic violence initiatives and coordinated efforts with the YWCA of Anne Arundel County. The installation of Domestic Violence Officers (DVO) in each district, coupled with the continued education of patrol personnel on the appropriate processing of domestic violence calls for service, has enabled the Department to become more effective and efficient in handling domestic assaults. While we will continue to do everything we can to reduce the incidents of all forms of assault, they remain a difficult crime to impact because they can occur at anytime and at any place for a myriad of reasons. It should be noted, however, that domestic assaults are not usually random acts of violence, but rather, they occur between individuals who are involved in some type of dating, sibling, parental, or marital relationship.

Incidents of burglary have *decreased* in 2003 by 2.4% compared to 2002 figures. There were 2,711 incidents reported in 2003, down from 2,779 the previous year. Juvenile arrests increased by 19.7% in 2003, while adult arrests increased 18.4%. There were 432 adult arrests and 261 juvenile arrests for burglary in 2003.

Thefts, in general, are typically the most widespread property crime reported in the county. There were 11,649 total theft incidents reported in 2003, representing a *decrease* of 2.7% or 327 fewer than the prior year. The clearance of theft offenses by arrest is directly affected by the nature of the crime. As with other property crimes, opportunity and stealth work in favor of the perpetrator and against detection by the police. Similarly, the existence or lack of suspects, the nature and ability to trace the property stolen, and the probability of arrest through investigation, represents a few of the considerations which impact the clearance of thefts by arrest. Subsequently, there were 2,154 adult arrests and 1,040 juvenile arrests for theft in 2003. Adult arrests increased by 214 or 11.0%, while juvenile arrests *decreased* by 43, or 4.0% lower than the previous year.

There were 123 fewer vehicle thefts reported in 2003 compared to 2002, representing a 9.1% *decrease* in reported vehicle thefts. The Auto Theft Unit cites several reasons for the high volume of vehicle thefts. The most prominent reason includes vehicles stolen to provide transportation to and within the county to commit other crimes. Often, vehicles stolen outside of the county are driven to business parking lots and apartment complexes where they are often abandoned and subsequently replaced by the theft of another vehicle. This provides the thief transportation back to an out-of-county location to avoid arrest and detection. Other serious contributing factors giving rise to vehicle thefts include vehicle owners leaving the motor running, failing to remove keys from the ignition, and leaving keys in plain sight on car seats or dashboards while leaving vehicles unattended. There were 103 adult arrests for vehicle theft in 2003, an increase of 1.9% over 2002. There were 33 juvenile arrests in 2003, a 55.4% *decrease* compared to 2002. The Department entered into its eighth year in a row for implementing the Vehicle Investigation Prevention Education and Recovery (VIPER) Program, a vehicle theft prevention grant program funded by the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (VTPC) of Maryland.

SOURCE: Anne Arundel County Police 2003 Uniform Crime Statistics, Productivity Report, prepared jointly by the Crime Analysis Unit and Central Records Section, and the 2002 Crime in Maryland Uniform Crime Reports (National and State 10-Year Averages).