

Public Safety

Community Strengths:

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

Collaboration and communication exists between government agencies, social service organizations, and schools.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

There is a strong public support and the community places a high value on safety.

RESOURCES

There are a wide variety of organizations working toward common goals and providing quality services.

SAFE COMMUNITY

Compared to other communities, our crime rate is low and people generally feel safe.

Community Challenges:

EXPANDED COOPERATION, COMMUNICATION, AND EDUCATION

Increased consolidation, cooperation, and collaboration would make better use of limited resources. Improved communication between schools, law enforcement, and social services is desired. Expertise needs to be continually expanded to deal with more sophisticated criminals and new issues such as cyber crimes, gangs, and terrorism.

FOCUS ON PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

There is a need to provide more effective prevention programming and educational services in schools and the community. Jail populations and juvenile offenders also need effective preventive programming.

EQUITABLE SERVICES TO ALL POPULATIONS

Disparities exist in services to minorities and a need exists for increased trust, communication, and representation of minorities. The needs of the rural population are not met.

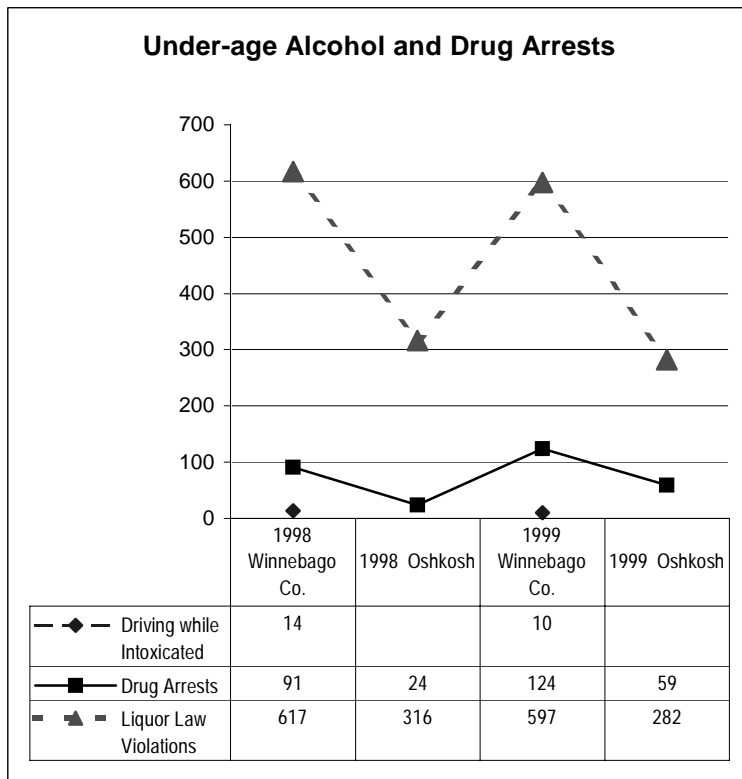
FUNDING

There is a challenge to maintain or improve services when finances are tight. Keeping a top-notch staff with low pay scales may be difficult.

Alcohol and Drug Arrests in Oshkosh and Winnebago County

Number of drug and alcohol arrests in the city of Oshkosh and Winnebago County

- Total drug arrests in Winnebago County decreased by 7.2 percent during 2000, compared to a 0.5 percent decrease in 1999 and 9.4 percent increase in 1998.
- In 2000 drug arrests involving opium/cocaine decreased by 7.9 percent and marijuana arrests increased by 9.2 percent.
- Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 5.8 percent in 2000.
- There were 38,324 driving while intoxicated arrests in Wisconsin during 2000.



Oshkosh data for driving while intoxicated was not available.

Adult Alcohol and Drug Arrests				
	1998 Winnebago Co.	1998 Oshkosh	1999 Winnebago Co.	1999 Oshkosh
Driving while Intoxicated	1,204	507	1,118	439
Drug Arrests	291	92	434	187
Liquor Law Violations	1,503	865	1,812	982

Why Are We Concerned?

Drug and alcohol abuse has dangerous long-term effects on individuals, families and an entire community. Drug and alcohol abuse are serious problems that reduce the quality of life by negatively impacting several health, socio-economic, and safety-related issues.

Alcohol and Drug Arrests

Driving while intoxicated (DWI/OWI), drug violations, and liquor law offenses are classified as alcohol and drug-related

arrests. When an individual operating a vehicle registers .08 or above on a breathalyzer test, he or she may be arrested for DWI. Within the drug arrest category, people are arrested for either possession or intent to sell the type of illegal narcotic found upon arrest.

Liquor law violations include drinking or possession of alcohol for persons less than 21 years of

age. People of all ages can be cited for a liquor law violation for having open intoxicants in a vehicle, supplying to minors and public intoxication, among others.

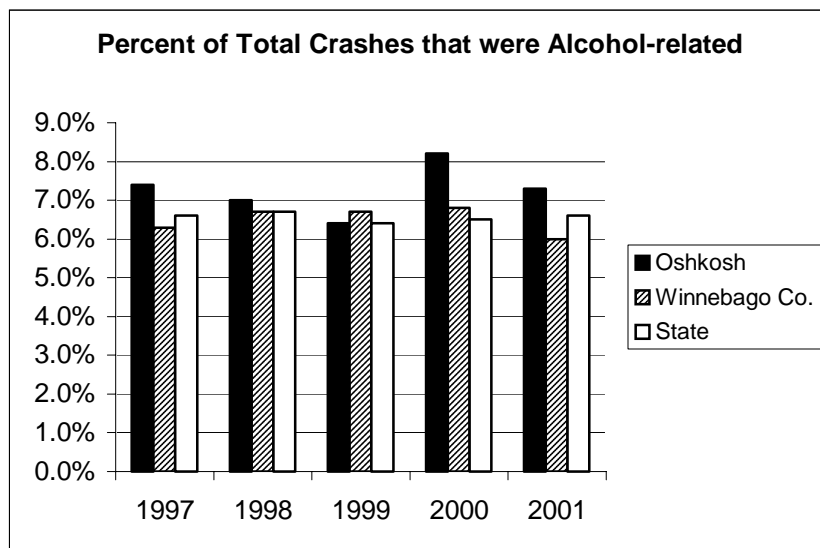
Source: Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (Crime and Arrests via Internet oja.state.wi.us)

Traffic crashes in Oshkosh and Winnebago County

Number of Winnebago County Crashes in 2001 involved:

Deer	626
Speed	421
Hit & Run	256
Alcohol	229
Bicycles	57
Pedestrians	41
School Bus	21

- Except for 1999, Oshkosh statistics show a higher percent of alcohol-related crashes than Winnebago County or the state the last five years.



Why Are We Concerned?

Crashes in Winnebago County for 2001 resulted in 9 deaths and 154 persons injured. The economic loss due to all of the crashes in Winnebago County for 2001 was \$60,897,000 and for the state was \$2,471,400,000.

Alcohol-Related Crashes

Using and abusing alcoholic beverages increases the likelihood for nearly all types of injury. Consequences are most serious when a motor vehicle is involved. An alcohol-related crash is one in which a driver, bicyclist, or pedestrian is listed on a police or

medical examiner's report as having alcohol in their system at the time of the crash.

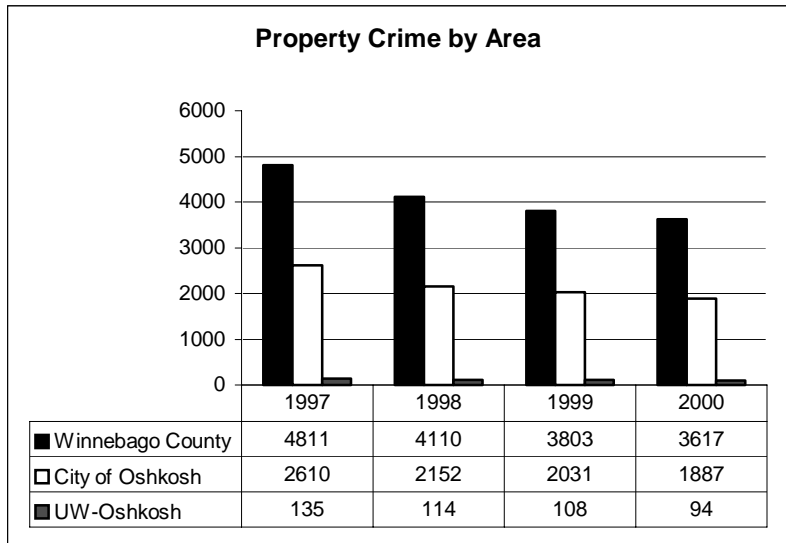
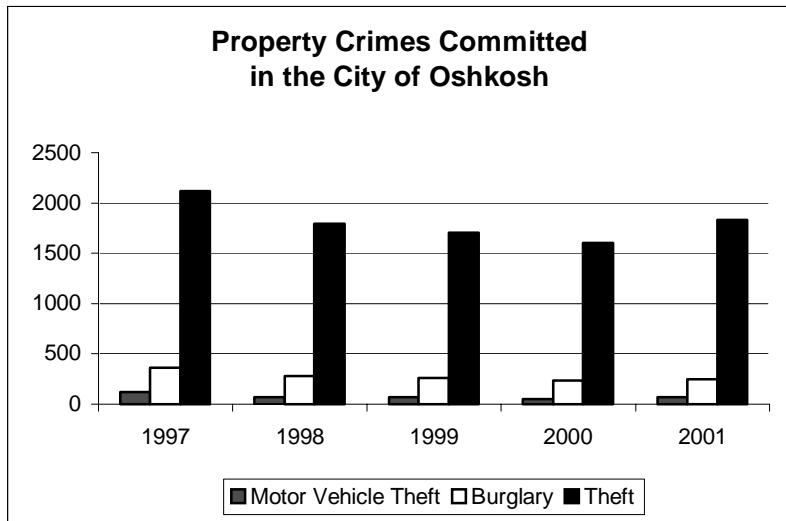
Over the past five years, with the exception of 1999, Oshkosh statistics demonstrate a higher percent of alcohol related accidents than Winnebago County or the state.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
www.dot.state.wi.us/dtim/bts/safety-facts.htm

Property Crime

Property crime in city of Oshkosh and Winnebago County

- Winnebago County and Oshkosh property crimes have decreased since 1997
- The number of thefts in Oshkosh increased by 15 percent from 1600 in 2000 to 1830 in 2001 but remain below those reported in 1997.
- The statewide odds of being a victim of property crime declined dramatically from 1 in 24 during 1990 to 1 in 34 in 2000.



Why Are We Concerned?

When our money, clothing, jewelry, car, or other valuables are taken from us we feel violated. A high property crime rate reduces the quality of life for residents, as it makes us feel uneasy in our neighborhoods.

Property Crimes

A gauge of the relative extent of criminal activity against property is the number of

reported property index crimes related to a community's population, or the property crime rate. There are eight categories of crimes, called crime indexes, for which information is regularly collected. Four index crime offenses—burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson – do not involve face-to-face confrontation between the victim and perpetrator and are referred to as property offenses.

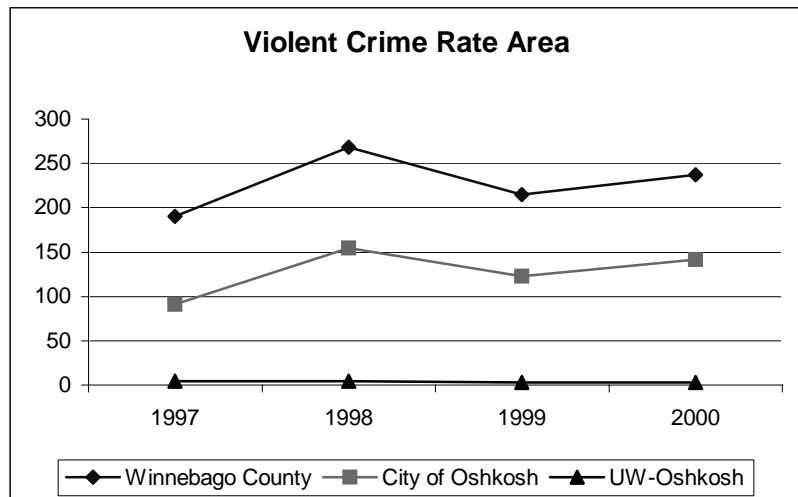
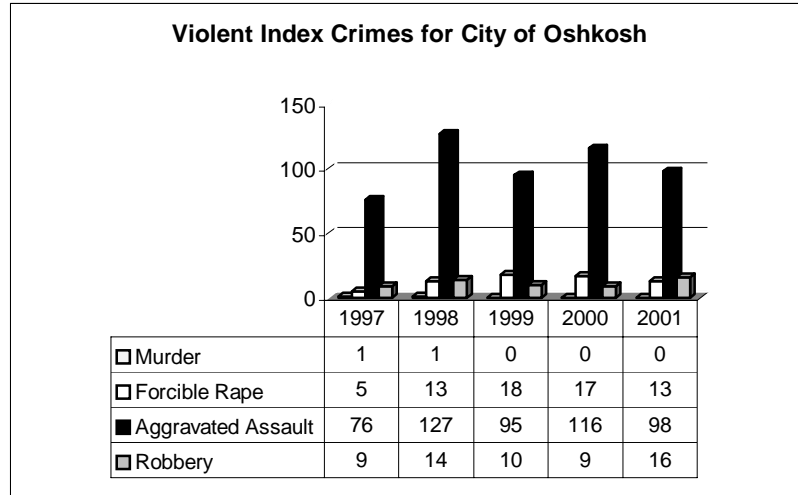
Across the state of Wisconsin, there were an estimated 157,595 property offenses in 2000. Total property index crime throughout Wisconsin declined by 22.5 percent during the last decade.

Crime rates depend heavily upon the willingness of victims to report crimes.

Source: Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Violent crime rate in Oshkosh and Winnebago County

- The number of robberies in the city of Oshkosh increased by 62 percent since 1999.
- In the state of Wisconsin the level of violent crime declined by 3.0 percent from 1990 to 2000.
- In terms of victimization over the last decade, the number of violent crimes per 100,000 Wisconsin residents decreased by about 11 percent, from 265 in 1990 to 236 during 2000.



Why Are We Concerned?

For most of us, nothing seems as frightening as being the victim of a violent crime. Living in a community where the violent crime rate is relatively low enhances the quality of life.

Violent Crime Rate

A gauge of the relative extent of violent criminal activity

is the number of reported violent index crimes related to a community's population or the violent crime rate.

There are eight categories of crimes, called index crimes, for which information is regularly collected. Four crime index offenses--murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated

assault--involve face-to-face confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator. These are referred to as violent offenses.

Crime rates depend heavily upon the willingness of victims to report crimes.

Source: Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Solved Crime

Proportion of solved violent and property crimes in Oshkosh and Winnebago County

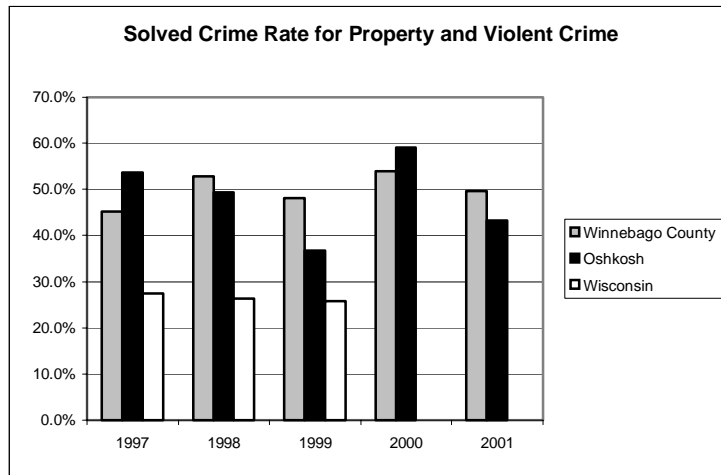
- Out of the 3,938 property crimes reported in Winnebago County during 2001, 886 (32.2 percent) were solved.
- In 2001 there were 251 burglaries reported in the city of Oshkosh, and 30 cases (12.8 percent) were solved.
- In 2001, 71% of violent crimes were solved in Oshkosh and 67% were solved in Winnebago County.

Why Are We Concerned?

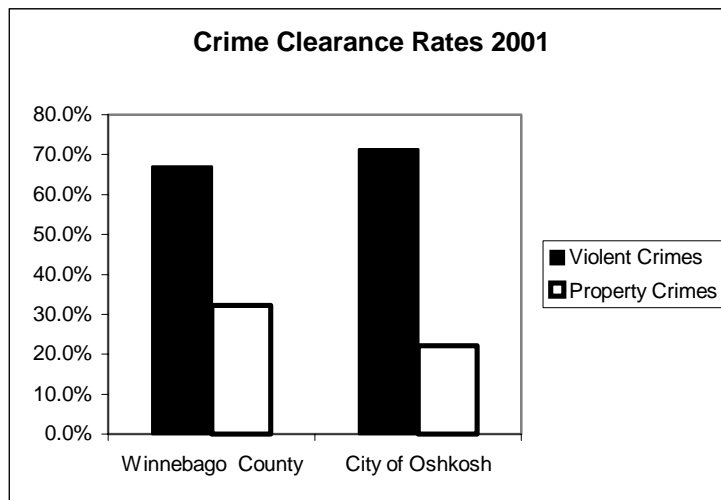
After you or someone in your neighborhood has been victim of a crime, an overwhelming sense of relief prevails once the crime has been solved. We feel better knowing that a perpetrator has been arrested and is no longer on the loose to potentially victimize others. Our sense of personal safety increases when crime is solved and arrests are made. Hence, our quality of life improves.

Index Crime Solved Crimes Rates

A crime is considered solved



Wisconsin crime rates were not available for 2000 and 2001.



or cleared when at least one person is arrested, charged with commission of the offense, and turned over to the court for prosecution. The percent of solved crimes is expressed as a clearance rate.

An overall clearance (solved crimes) rate is calculated for the eight index crimes that fall under the violent and property crime categories.

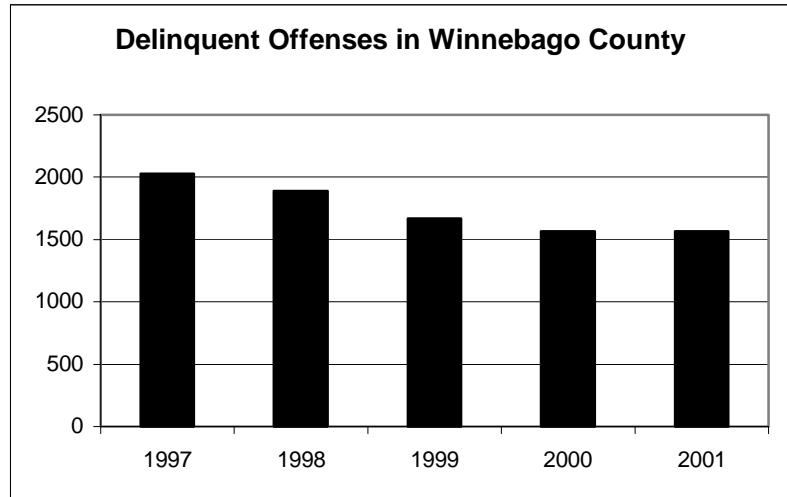
The violent crimes include murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Separate clearance rates are calculated for violent crimes and property crimes.

Source: Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Delinquent Offenses

Number of delinquent offenses referred to Winnebago County Department of Human Services

- Since 1997 there has been a decrease in the number of delinquent offenses in Winnebago County.
- In 2001, 141 (9 percent) of Winnebago County delinquent referrals came from area schools. The remaining 91 percent came from law enforcement agencies, other social service agencies across the state and parents.
- The profile of the typical delinquent offender referred to Winnebago County Department of Human Services is that of a 15-year-old male, repeat offender, charged with a delinquent act. This profile has remained constant for the past several years.



Why are we concerned?

Criminal activity is of great concern to any community. When youth commit serious crimes, the concern becomes even greater, as unlawful activity patterns develop and increase into adulthood.

Delinquent Offenses

A delinquent offense is an act committed by a juvenile age 10 or older who violates any state or federal criminal law, except for traffic, boating, snowmobile, and ATV violations, civil law or ordinance violations. Delinquent offenses often include disorderly conduct, theft, burglary, battery, arson, forgery, and criminal damage to property,

operating a vehicle without owner's consent and others. Through the Winnebago County Department of Human Services, social workers provide supervision to the delinquent offenders to ensure compliance with court orders. This entails assessing juvenile and family risk and need, arranging for and monitoring services, and imposing sanctions for non-compliance of court orders.

Poverty, lack of educational and job training opportunities, family violence or instability, lack of supervision and chronic AODA issues are all contributing factors to the likelihood that a juvenile will commit delinquent offenses.

Source: Winnebago County Department of Human Services

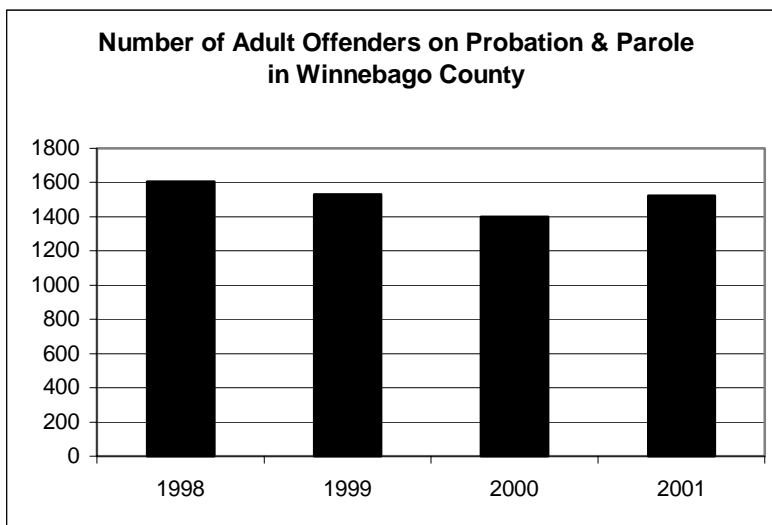
Probation and Parole

Number of adult offenders on probation and parole in Winnebago County

- As of 2/2/02 there were 66,534 adults on probation and parole in the State of Wisconsin.
- Winnebago County is supervising 11 adults from out of state who are on probation and 4 parolees as of April 2002.
- Probation and parole cases that other states are supervising for our region equals 200.

Definitions

Probation is a kind of punishment given out as part of a sentence which means that instead of jailing a person convicted of a crime, a judge will order that the person reports to a probation officer regularly and according to a set schedule. It is a criminal offence not to obey a probation order and is cause for being immediately jailed.



Parole is an early release from incarceration in which the prisoner promises to heed certain conditions (usually set by a parole board) and under the supervision of a parole officer. Any violation of those conditions would result in the return of the person to prison.

Why Are We Concerned?

The number of offenders who are on probation and parole influences the perception of public safety. Community residents often feel uneasy and threatened knowing that offenders are being integrated back into the community. When the public feels safe, there is an increased quality of life. Such perceptions are common when the number of offenders on probation and parole is low.

Probation and Parole

Community-based supervision protects the public from persons who are released on parole or sentenced to probation. Through supervision, offenders are given

opportunities to live, work and receive treatment and training that helps them become productive citizens. When such opportunities are offered, the likelihood of future criminal behavior is reduced and self-esteem and the strength of the family unit are increased. While the public often feels threatened by probationers and parolees, the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Corrections reported the bulk of threats to public safety do not come from offenders on probation or parole.

Across the state, the adult offender population at the end of February 2002 was 87,697. Of these, 75 percent were on probation or parole. The remaining 25 percent are in state-operated prisons or housed in out-of-state contracted facilities.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Corrections, *Duhaime's Law Dictionary*
<http://www.duhaime.org/dictionary/dict-p.htm>