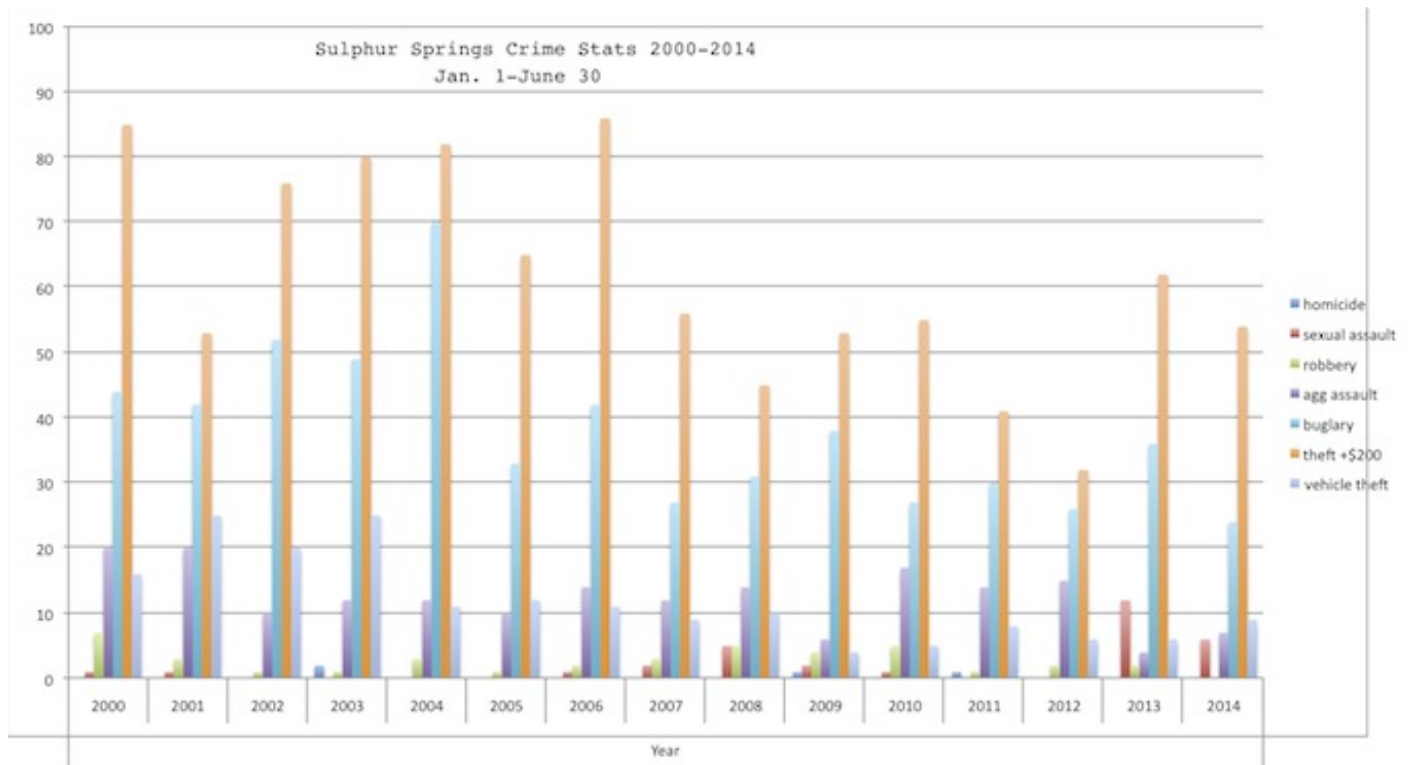


Sulphur Springs: Crime down in first half of year

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
Friday, 11 July 2014 15:42



Crime in Sulphur Springs was down during the first half of 2014 compared to the same time period in 2013, according to Uniform Crime Reports data provided by Sulphur Springs Police Department.

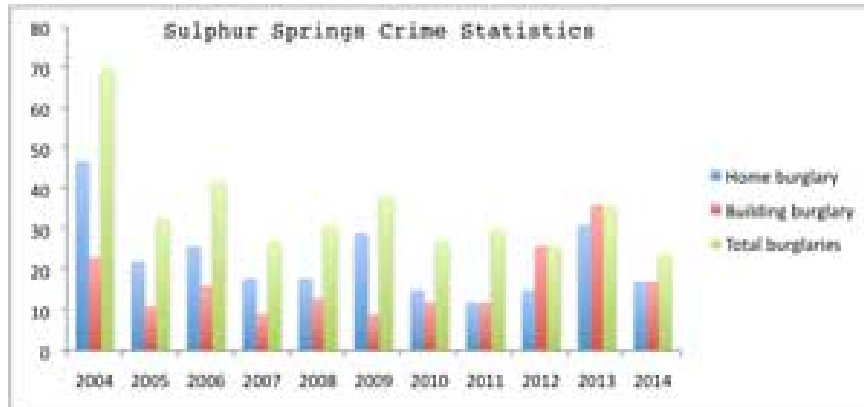
Overall, there were 100 crimes committed Jan. 1 through June 30, 2014, in the city, 22 fewer reported to Sulphur Springs Police Department than in the first six months of 2013. That's only five more than in 2011 and 19 more than in 2012, when the 15-year record low was set at 81. The record first six months high for the last 15 years was set at 181 in 2004.

Crime in Sulphur Springs was down in four of the seven major crime reporting categories but rose in two others from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2014, compared to the same time period a year ago.

The number of sexual assaults recorded in the first six months of 2014 was half the amount recorded during the same period one year ago when the 15-year record was set at 12 sexual assaults. While the six sexual assaults recorded in 2014 was considerably lower than 2013, it's still the second highest rate posted in at least 15 years. The next closest was five in 2008. In three of the last 15 years there were no sexual assaults recorded from January through June.

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For the first time in 15 years, there were no robberies recorded in Sulphur Springs during the first six months of the year. There were two in 2013, the same as in 2012 and 2006. The record high of seven robberies was posted in 2000, a year in which 173 crimes were reported during the first half of the year in Sulphur Springs.

Also, the first half of 2014 saw a dozen less burglaries than the 36 recorded in 2013, setting a new 15-year record low for the category at 24. Previously, the record low was set at 26 in 2012. The most burglaries recorded in the first six months of the year since 2000 was 70 in 2004, when the 15-year high crime rate was set at 181.

However, while there were fewer burglaries overall this year, the numbers vary when broken down into home and building burglaries.

This year through the end of June, 17 home burglaries were recorded by SSPD, 14 fewer than in 2013 — the second lowest since SSPD began tracking building and home burglaries separately 11 years ago. The record low for home burglaries since 2004 was set at 15 in 2010 and repeated in 2012. The most home burglaries recorded in a year was 47 in 2004.

There were only seven building burglaries recorded by SSPD in 2014, but that's still a couple more than in 2013 when the record low was set at five. The most building burglaries recorded during the first half of the year over the 11-year tracking period was 23 in 2004.

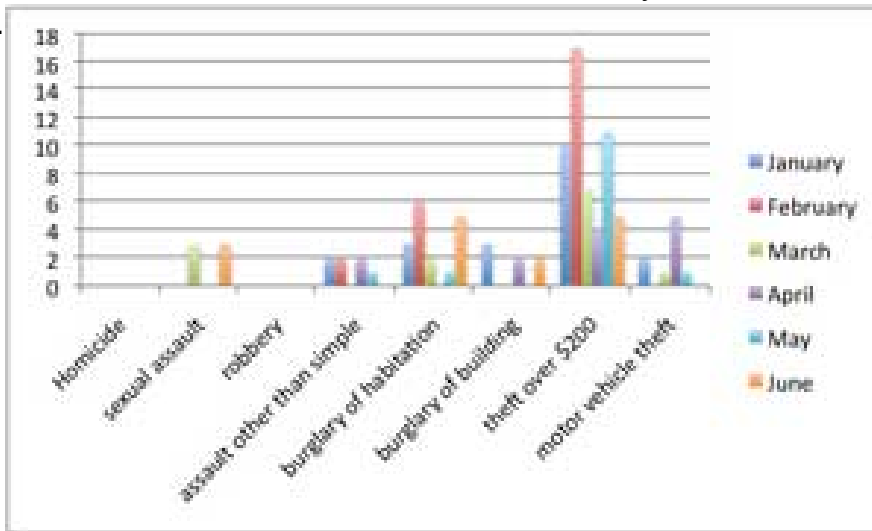
The first half of 2014 also showed eight fewer thefts of items valued at more than \$200 (excluding vehicles) than the 62 recorded in 2013, but still 22 more than in 2012, when the

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15-year low was posted at 32 thefts. The most thefts of items valued at more than \$200 was 86 in the first half of 2006.

Vehicle thefts, however, rose from six in 2013 to nine in 2014, the same as in 2007. The fewest number of vehicles reported to SSPD as stolen during the first half of the year since 2000 was four in 2009. The most vehicle thefts in the last 15-years was 25 in 2001, a rate repeated in 2003.



Nearly twice as many aggravated assaults were recorded in the first six months of 2014 than in 2013. Overall, there were seven aggravated assaults this year, three more than in 2013. In only one other of the last 15 years has this category been a single digit: six in 2009. That's still 13 fewer than the record 20 aggravated assaults recorded in 2000 and 2001.

The final category continues to cancel itself out as there have been no criminal homicides reported during the first six months of the year since 2011, and like 2009 there was only one that year. The only other year any homicides were reported between Jan. 1 and June 30 in the last 15 years was in 2003, when two homicides were reported during the first half of the year.