

July 31, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

2013 Mid-year Uniform Crime Report released

Springfield's [Uniform Crime Report \(UCR\) for the first half of 2013](#) (pdf) has been completed. The mid-year report shows an overall rise in reported crime in Springfield of 3.21% compared to the same period in 2012.

The report shows a 20.69% increase in stolen vehicles, an 18.13% increase in robberies, a 10.25% increase in burglaries and a 2.11% increase in aggravated assaults. Larceny/theft has remained relatively flat (0.86% decrease).

The increase in robberies appears to be the result of an abnormal number of home invasions-related to narcotics activity, as well as an increase in robberies of commercial establishments. SPD is actively working to identify suspects in these cases and has successfully arrested and charged offenders recently in an effort to combat this problem.

The rate of increase in the number of aggravated assaults has slowed considerably compared to 2012, as a result of the collaborative efforts of the SPD, prosecutors, and local service agencies working together to prevent domestic violence assaults.

The increase in burglaries is driven by a spike in those occurring while residents are away for a longer period of time. The SPD encourages citizens to communicate with friends and neighbors and work together with the SPD to keep your property safe and secure when you are away.

While larcenies from vehicles have increased, reversing a steady downward trend, other types of thefts have greatly decreased.

Stolen vehicles continue to increase drastically. SPD encourages the community to always remove keys from the ignition and lock the doors. Many car thefts occur when cars are left open or even running while unattended.

As a reminder, effective January 1, 2013, the Department of Justice changed the definition of rape with the goal of a more comprehensive statistical reporting of rape nationwide. They reported the change in a news release:

The new definition is more inclusive, better reflects state criminal codes and focuses on the various forms of sexual penetration understood to be rape. The new definition of rape is: "The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim."

Due to the definition change, many more cases are now classified as rape, causing the increase between 2012 and 2013 to be vast. The numbers of reported rape cases between 2013 and 2014 will provide a more relevant comparison.

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Release authorized by: Chief Paul Williams