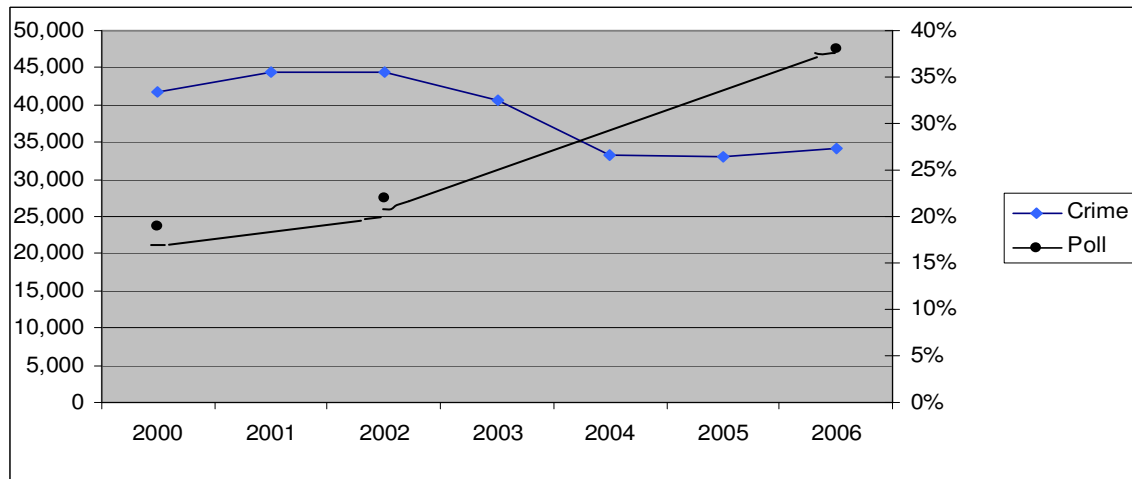


## Washington, D.C.: Safer than you think



Source: Citywide Crime Statistics, Annual Totals, 1993-2005, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.; 2006 estimated year-end number of crimes projected from the current 3.7 percent increase from 2005; Polling conducted for The Washington Post by TNS of Horsham, PA., conducted by telephone July 13-18, 2006 among 1,350 randomly selected DC adults, 1,030 of whom reported they were currently registered to vote. With the exception of questions 9-10 and 32-35, the survey is based on voters only. The margin of sampling error for results based on all voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For registered Democrats (N=743) it is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, and plus or minus 4.5 points for likely Democratic voters (N=495).

**Background:** As of June, 2006, reported crime in Washington, D.C. has risen 3.7 percent, with a rise in reported robberies driving most of the increase. Even including the series of homicides that occurred in early July, there were fewer homicides recorded at this time than there were at this time in 2005. While the overall crime picture in Washington D.C. has not changed dramatically, the proportion of registered voters concerned about crime has surged, according to polling conducted by *The Washington Post*.

**D.C. registered voters more concerned about crime trends:** According to polling conducted for *The Washington Post* by TNS of Horsham, PA, the proportion of Washington D.C. registered voters who cited “crime and violence” as “the biggest problem facing the District today, the one you want the next mayor to work the hardest to solve” has risen recently. In 2000, 19 percent of registered voters cited crime as the biggest issue, and rose to 22 percent in 2002. In July, 2006, that figure surged to 38 percent of registered voters—a 73 percent increase.

**Data shows no surge in D.C. crime:** Between 2000, and 2005, the last full-year period in which reported crime was tabulated, reported index crime<sup>1</sup> in Washington D.C. declined 21 percent. Between 2001 and 2002, reported crime rose by 6.6 percent, but fell in the next year, and declined since 2001. Between 2004 and 2005, violent crime also fell, despite an increase of about 400 more reported robberies over 2004. As of June, 2006, reported crime was up 3.7 percent over this time last year, with fewer homicides and fewer aggravated assaults than this time last year. As of June 2006, there were 11 more reported sexual assaults, and 251 more reported robberies.

<sup>1</sup>Index crimes include: Homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, stolen auto and arson. Violent crime is defined by the FBI to only include homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.