Olympia Police Department

# Block Watch Quarterly

**Jan-March 2007**

*With increasing amounts of vehicles on the road, driving complaints are becoming more common. This issue features definitions of aggressive driving and road rage, along with some tips to stay safe.*
*-Contributed by intern Tim Gorzynski*

**Aggressive Driving** - A progression of unlawful driving actions.
*__Traffic Offense__*

Aggressive driving that may lead to road rage

- Overly excessive speeding
- Tailgating
- Abrupt, un-signaled changing of lanes
- Running red lights or stop signs
- Unnecessary use of high beams
- Driving in the passing lane for long periods of time at or under the speed limit

Reasons for Aggressive driving

- Traffic congestion has been getting worse, and will continue to get worse until alternate routes are found.

- People are becoming more involved with electronic devices and other distractions that they don't pay attention to the road.

- The fact that our lives are becoming so fast paced that more and more people that are in a hurry are willing to risk their own lives as well as others just to reach their destination a minute or two earlier.

**Road Rage** - Assault with a motor vehicle or other weapon by a vehicle's operator upon another person with the willful disregard for the safety of others.
*__Criminal Offense__*

Avoiding Road Rage

- Don't cut other drivers off
- Don't tailgate
- Avoid blocking intersections
- Stop at stop signs and don't run the yellow turning to red lights
- Try not to drive in the passing lane when it is not necessary

Tips for road rage incidents

- Report any road rage to the police immediately
- If someone follows you after an incident, stop in a highly populated area or the nearest police station
- Avoid engaging in road rage yourself
- Put as much distance between you and the other driver as possible
- Never pull off the roadway to confront another driver

**Tips for Inclement Weather Driving**

- **Leave plenty of room between your car and the one in front of you**
- **Stay off your cell phone and concentrate on your driving**
- **Adjust your speeds accordingly, you can still be cited for speeding if you are going below the speed limit but too fast for the conditions.**
- **Apply brakes gradually to avoid locking them up and going into an uncontrolled slide.**
- **Don't pull out in front of vehicles, they will have trouble stopping**
- **Keep your gas tank full**
- **As always, BUCKLE UP**

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# Officer Profile

Gabriel Crumpton is a Corrections Officer and Field Training Officer with the City of Olympia Jail. He has been employed with the City of Olympia for 11 years. He attended the University of Maryland, St. Leo University and American InterContinental University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He also obtained his Master Degree in Education (M.Ed) from AIU with concentration in Instructional Technology.

Officer Crumpton was pleased with the opportunity to share this article regarding statistics in Criminal Justice.

## 2006 OPD Statistics

Property crimes are down significantly in 2006! Great job keeping those homes and vehicles secure.

Total calls for service in 2006: 65,326

Total Case Reports for 2006: 11,341

Burglaries:
282(2006)/467 (2005)

Auto Theft:
206 (2006)/233 (2005)

Vehicle Prowls:
445(2006)/583(2005)

A daily summary of cases is now available on-line!! Please visit www.olympiawa.gov/city services/police/new.

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*The Significance of Quantitative Data in Criminal Justice Statistics*

Gabriel Crumpton, M.Ed

Have you ever browsed through a crime statistical report and wondered about the meaning of the quite vast array of charts, graphs, and formulas contained on the report? Or, wondered how the crime stats are actual arrived at and the importance of each component? The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the differences between the different types of statistics and how that significance applies to criminal justice reporting.

Descriptive statistical data is used to describe the basic features of the data sought in a study or crime statistical report. They provide summative reports pertaining to the data samples used and the measures imposed to arrive at the results. In other words, descriptive statistics measures relationship between two variables through regression and correlation analysis. Suppose the Chief of Police assigned you the task of determining statistical data on the number of burglaries occurring in a particular area over a 10 year period. First, you would want to present the quantitative data in a manageable form and at the same time in a sensible manner. You will conduct a Univariate analysis which involves the examination across three variables of (1) distribution, (2) the central tendency, and (3) the dispersion. The distribution of the statistics involving the burglary stats would be focused on each person who was victimized and list the characteristics of each in order to determine if there are any commonalities. Next, the central tendency would be geared towards determining the **mean** (the average of an array of separate numerical data over the ten year period), **median** (the numerical data found exactly in the middle of the set of values), and **mode** (the most frequently occurring value in the set of numerical values) of each burglary over the 10 year period. The dispersion is used to determine the spread of the values around the central tendency using the range (the highest numerical value minus the lowest value). There are numerous limitations to the dispersion, therefore, the **standard deviation** (which shows the relation that the set of numerical values has to the mean of the sample by subtracting the numerical value of each year from the mean)

Inferential statistics, in contrast, are used in experimental and quasi-experimental research design or in program outcome evaluation to determine the actual significance or importance of the descriptive data sets. To do this, you may use the t-test, Chi-Square, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Analysis of Covariance (ANACOVA), regression analysis, and many other multivariate methods like factor analysis, multidimensional scaling, cluster analysis, discriminate functions, and others which are beyond the scope of this article.

In a naturalistic paradigm, because criminal justice statistics are more relegated to scrutiny than other types, providing data which is easily understood by the general public and even criminal justice practitioners, ensures reliability and creditability of the data sets, and erases the impression that such statistical data creates over- or- under representations of facts.