



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

North Bergen Police Department

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North Bergen, NJ 07047

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NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Values, Mission & Motto

VALUE STATEMENT

The North Bergen Police Department will serve our community with respect, fairness and sensitivity. We will be compassionate and considerate in our dealings with the community and the victims of crime.

We are committed to the protection of life and property, the prevention of crime and the safeguarding of our citizens to ensure that their Constitutional guarantees are preserved.

Empowered by the community, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life and fostering a sense of security to enable our residents to live, work and prosper in the Township of North Bergen.

We will nurture the public's trust by holding ourselves to the highest standards of performance and integrity. We will strive for personal and professional excellence, dedication to duty and the delivery of quality service to the public.

The men and women of the North Bergen Police Department, pledge that through our efforts, we will establish a new standard of excellence in law enforcement and service to our community.



MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the North Bergen Police Department is to provide safe and stable neighborhoods for the residents and visitors of the Township of North Bergen through various department programs and community policing efforts. This goal can only be accomplished through a mutually cooperative relationship between the North Bergen Police Department and the resident and business community which it serves. By working together, we can maintain peace, provide safety and security for our citizens, and reduce crime. We are part of a team dedicated to the safety and protection of our community.

MOTTO

Duty ▪ Honor ▪ Courage

Duty to the citizenry to uphold the Constitution, preserve the general welfare of the community and maintain public safety.

Honor in that we shall never betray our badge, integrity or the public trust.

Courage to master fear in the presence of danger or uncertainty.



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Message from the Mayor



It is with great honor and pleasure that we present this Annual Report on the North Bergen Police Department to the residents of the township. Our North Bergen Police Department is working exceptionally hard every day to keep us all safe. From the new hires working neighborhood patrols, to the leadership of the department under Public Safety Commissioner Theresa Ferraro, Police Chief Robert Dowd and his senior staff, every one of our officers has the same goal – to make sure North Bergen remains a safe place to live, work, shop and raise a family.

The North Bergen Police Department has undergone several important changes during my tenure as Mayor, but its commitment to public safety has never wavered. The department is now one of the most diverse policing units in the area, with a higher than average percentage of female officers and nearly 60% of officers being of Hispanic heritage. The latter is due in large part to our *Resident Only Hiring Policy*, and it has made the North Bergen Police Department more effective by making it truly representative of our North Bergen community. In addition, our officers make it a point to engage with the community by participating in public programs like *National Night Out Against Crime* and *Winterfest*. These initiatives give officers the opportunity to engage with the community in a fun, informal setting and to build the strong relationships with residents that lead to effective policing.

In addition to the department's effectiveness, I also take great pride in its numbers. The North Bergen Police Department is at its full Table of Organization of officers. Thanks to the efforts of our Township Administrator and Revenue and Finance Department, we have been able to dedicate the funds to invest in public safety by hiring over 30 new officers in the past few years, all while keeping property taxes stable. This comes at a time when many other municipalities have been forced to lay off police officers, jeopardizing public safety due to financial problems. The opposite has happened here in North Bergen, with a fully staffed department using modern technology and tools to proactively fight crime and keep our neighborhoods safe.

I would like to thank Chief Robert Dowd, his command staff and every single officer in the North Bergen Police Department for their unshakable commitment to North Bergen and its residents. These brave men and women are the reason why our community is a safe place and why it will remain successful, vibrant and dynamic in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas J. Sacco".

Nicholas J. Sacco

Mayor, Township of North Bergen



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Message from the Chief



On behalf of the 120 men and women of the North Bergen Police Department, it is my pleasure to share the Department's 2014 Annual Report. The annual report is intended to feature the men and women of the Department, who protect our township 24 hours a day, as well as to focus on our collective accomplishments as a professional law enforcement agency.

In 2014, our officers responded to over 100,000 calls for police service. The North Bergen Police Department focuses on improvements in the quality of life that affect our residents, businesses and visitors. Our department has many specialized units created to focus on both general and forensic investigation of crime as well as other issues that affect the peaceful enjoyment of life within our township.

The dedicated men and women of the North Bergen Police Department work tirelessly in an effort to reduce crime in our township and are encouraged to cultivate a partnership with the community we serve. The number one priority of the North Bergen Police Department is to foster a collective efficacy in our neighborhoods for the purpose of promoting the safety and stability of our community.

The Department is committed to utilizing the latest technology, coupled with a philosophy of community and problem solving policing, in an effort to provide the most efficient, effective and professional delivery of police services. In an effort to utilize technology, we have employed the use of over 110 state of the art video surveillance cameras that are monitored in real-time, 24 hours a day. These cameras function as a force-multiplier and enable our officers to respond to incidents with a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness.

Recently, the North Bergen Police Department has made a decision to seek accreditation from the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Association. We are currently in the accreditation process which will ultimately recognize our agency for the high standards of professionalism that we exemplify.

It is with the full support of Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco, Public Safety Commissioner Theresa V. Ferraro, and the entire Board of Commissioners that the North Bergen Police Department is properly equipped, trained, and fully committed to ensuring that the Township of North Bergen is a great place to live, work and visit.

I thank you for taking the time to read the 2014 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert J. Dowd".

Robert J. Dowd
Chief of Police



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Table of Organization





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Demographics & Police Data



Township of North Bergen

Statistics

Population 2010	60,773
Population 2013 (est.)	62,341
Area	5.575 sq. mi.
Population Density	11,838 / sq. mi.
Households	22,062
Median Age	36

Demographics

White	66.98%
Asian	6.55%
Black	4.04%
Native American	0.88%
Pacific Islander	0.08%
Other	16.63%
Hispanic/Latino of any race:	68.40%

North Bergen Police Department

Sworn Police Officers

Chief	1
Deputy Chief	1
Captain	3
Lieutenant	11
Sergeant	15
Detective	10
Patrol Officer	73
Special Class II (P/T)	3
Total Sworn	117

Civilians

Clerks	4
Dispatchers	10
CCTV Monitors	30
Interns	3
Other P/T	1
Total Civilian	48

Total Employees 165





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Initiatives



CORR-STAT

In 2014 the North Bergen Police Department became an operational member of the **Corr-Stat** initiative. Corr-Stat is a collaborative effort among state and local government officials, law enforcement, scholars, community stakeholders and business partners to reduce violence and property crimes in the Corr-Stat region of New Jersey which encompasses over 80 municipalities along the State's Route 21 corridor. Corr-Stat is part of a broader law enforcement information sharing initiative and it provides the region with expeditious analytic and intelligence data to fight crime. Corr-Stat grants its partners access to innovative technology and intelligence resources with the ultimate goal of reducing crime and improving the quality of life for the region's communities.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM

The North Bergen Police Department **SRO Program** was established to increase the safety within our school district. By providing ongoing positive contact between officers and students, the SRO program seeks to bridge the gap between police officers and our youth. SRO officers handle various tasks such as school security, conflict resolution, education, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, and other related issues. The strong collaborative partnership between schools and law enforcement work synergistically to provide students a safe and stable environment conducive to the educational process.



TRAFFIC UNIT

The North Bergen Police **Traffic Unit** is a community oriented, problem solving unit, which provides traffic safety enforcement to the citizens of North Bergen. The Traffic Unit's philosophy is to promote awareness and increase traffic safety through education and enforcement. The Unit focuses on providing traffic-specific enforcement throughout the Township, responding to citizen complaints, as well as working those areas reported or known to have high occurrences of traffic accidents or speeding. The Unit also conducts traffic studies which it applies toward grants for funding to supplement initiatives such as DWI and Click-it-or-ticket.

MAJOR CASE UNIT

In 2014, the North Bergen Police Department created the **Major Case Unit** to expedite the investigation of our more violent crimes. Investigators assigned to the Major Case Unit are highly motivated and have been extensively trained in various criminological investigative methods. They are dedicated to maximizing conviction rates by utilizing forensics, the latest technology and traditional investigative methods to solve crimes and apprehend suspects. In 2014 the Department partnered with Thomson Reuters and now has access to one of the largest privately owned databases in the world increasing our ability to track fugitives and other wanted individuals. The Major Case Unit's working philosophy is to respond to crime scenes expeditiously, gather evidence, and work tirelessly to exhaust all efforts in solving their cases.





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Technological Edge



COMPSTAT is a multifaceted approach being utilized by the North Bergen Police Department to reduce crime, improve the quality of life and manage police personnel and resources. COMPSTAT is a management philosophy that utilizes various elements such as law enforcement databases, video surveillance, and special software, as well as police information and citizen tips to gather intelligence in a timely manner. Command personnel utilize these computer and human-driven statistics to develop tactics and rapidly deploy police resources to areas where police intervention is required. Command personnel follow up by assessing their intervention strategies and adjusting them when necessary. COMPSTAT has enabled the Department to fight crime more efficiently and effectively improving the quality of life within the Township.

The North Bergen Police Department **CCTV** system utilizes a township-wide network of over 100 video surveillance cameras linked to a real-time monitoring center. This system allows us to rapidly deploy resources more efficiently and effectively. The system has become a cost-effective and scalable force-multiplier and has been instrumental in our fight to keep crime and disorder at historically low levels despite the increase in population and commercial traffic. In addition, the CCTV system has assisted officers in investigations leading to the apprehension of offenders and has also increased the safety of both the public and police officers.



Info-Cop™ is a secure wireless communications software system that provides our police officers in the field with direct and immediate access to local, state, and federal crime databases, as well as motor vehicle records. Using a central server, the system allows officers to query various law enforcement databases in seconds providing them with information that used to take minutes or even hours to collect in the past. Info-Cop allows our officers to access these computer networks from their mobile computers increasing both officer safety and efficiency.

The North Bergen Police Department recently expanded its **Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR)** program and has appropriated several new systems through federal grants. The system works by scanning vehicle license plates and compares the data against local and federal law enforcement databases. Each ALPR can handle over 60 license plates per second under optimal conditions. The system is a valuable asset to our officers, which can alert them to hazards such as stolen vehicles, wanted persons, or terrorists. Our ALPR system can also help locate missing individuals sought after in AMBER and Silver alerts.





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Affairs



National Night Out

National Night Out is an event that was created to promote community involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, and to organize our residents in fighting back against crime. This year, the North Bergen Department volunteered in record numbers to celebrate National Night Out. The event was hosted concurrently at three separate locations throughout the township in order to provide all residents an opportunity to participate. Officers handled various assignments such as traffic control, security, and most importantly, developing partnerships with our residents. Residents were also educated as to how to start their own Neighborhood Crime Watch programs.

Project Medicine Drop

The North Police Bergen Police Department launched a full-time prescription drug disposal program to encourage residents to properly dispose of unwanted medications. Project medicine drop helps ensure that unwanted pharmaceuticals are kept away from children and individuals at risk of abusing them while simultaneously saving the environment from unwanted disposal methods. To date, nearly a hundred pounds of medication have been collected at the drop box located at police headquarters.



Winterfest

Winterfest is the Township of North Bergen's largest annual community event which draws in thousands of residents and guests who are treated to a wide variety of holiday festivities. This year, nearly 90 North Bergen Police Officers volunteered their time and services for the Township's Winterfest celebration. The event drew in record crowds surpassing the previous year's attendance. Our officers patrolled the streets, visited the various vendors, venues and attractions, and interacted with residents helping to ensure that Winterfest was safe and enjoyable for everyone in attendance.





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Affairs



Police Intern Jamal John
of Berkley College

Police Internship Program

The North Bergen Police Department is committed to developing partnerships within our community. Our Police Internship Program has partnered with several area colleges and universities to provide the opportunity for qualified students to gain law enforcement experience while simultaneously earning college credits. The objective of the Student Internship Program is to educate students in police operations and introduce them to the possibility of a career in law enforcement. The program also fosters a mutual understanding between the student population and the police department to provide a positive learning environment. Interns, while performing operational, administrative, and support functions, will be placed in an atmosphere conducive to learning where both the student and the department will benefit from shared experiences. Many the interns successfully pursued law enforcement careers upon graduation from their respective educational institutes.



Junior Police Academy

The North Bergen Police Department continually seeks to provide innovative programs to establish a positive relationship between our youth and law enforcement. The Junior Police Academy Program introduces qualified 7th and 8th grade students to various facets of law enforcement. The program is modeled after a police academy class, and participants are challenged both physically and mentally during the course of their training. Students are exposed to a daily physical training regimen and are then educated in the police field. Junior Police Academy students also participate in various simulated police scenarios such as crime scene investigations and K9 searches. The Junior Police Academy has created a vital link between youth and the Police Department and promotes responsible citizenship and community involvement. This year 28 student applicants were accepted and successfully completed the North Bergen Police Junior Academy Class.





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Affairs

L.E.A.D. and National D.A.R.E. Day

Law Enforcement Against Drugs or L.E.A.D. provides law enforcement and community coalitions with a comprehensive solution that helps parents keep their children drug free utilizing a variety of resources and programs. L.E.A.D. combines elements of the highly acclaimed Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program and provides youth with the education and skills necessary for them to avoid becoming involved in drugs, gangs, and other related activities. L.E.A.D. consists of a series of classroom lessons provided by specially trained police officers that teaches students how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives. Retired North Bergen Police Officer Joseph Sitty who led D.A.R.E. for over a decade now runs the Department's new L.E.A.D program. The curriculum consists of 10 lessons taught over the course of 20 classes. Topics include goal setting, decision making, handling emotions, and peer pressure, in addition to specific classes on alcohol and drugs.



In addition, the North Bergen Police Department also participates in National D.A.R.E. Day. D.A.R.E. Day is nationally recognized by presidential proclamations. North Bergen D.A.R.E. Day is filled with programs, events, and activities designed to bring our youth together and encourage positive character development. It also provides an opportunity for students, educators, police officers, and township officials alike to celebrate their contributions and accomplishments towards resistance against drug abuse. D.A.R.E. Day also publically recognizes students who have graduated from the North Bergen D.A.R.E. program. In 2014, D.A.R.E. instruction was provided to over 600 students within our school district most of whom proudly attended D.A.R.E. Day.



Child Safety Seat Program

Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of death of children over the age of six months in the United States. Child safety seats are one of the simplest and most effective methods available for protecting the lives of young children in the event of a motor vehicle accident. The correct use of child safety seats will offer the best protection possible for your child. In an effort to promote the proper use of child seats, the North Bergen Police Department has instituted the Child Safety Seat Program for Township residents. Our specially trained officers can inspect and install safety seats from major manufacturers.



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Internal Affairs Summary Report

The Internal Affairs Unit exists to ensure the highest level of professionalism among the employees of the North Bergen Police Department. Its major function is to investigate complaints of misconduct against employees in an impartial and objective manner to ensure fairness and protect the rights of both citizens and our officers. Each investigation is handled in a thorough and timely fashion. Prompt and fair dispositions of complaints are essential to good discipline and morale, and are also vital to maintaining the respect and confidence of the community.

The following table is a summary of Internal Affairs complaints and dispositions for 2014:

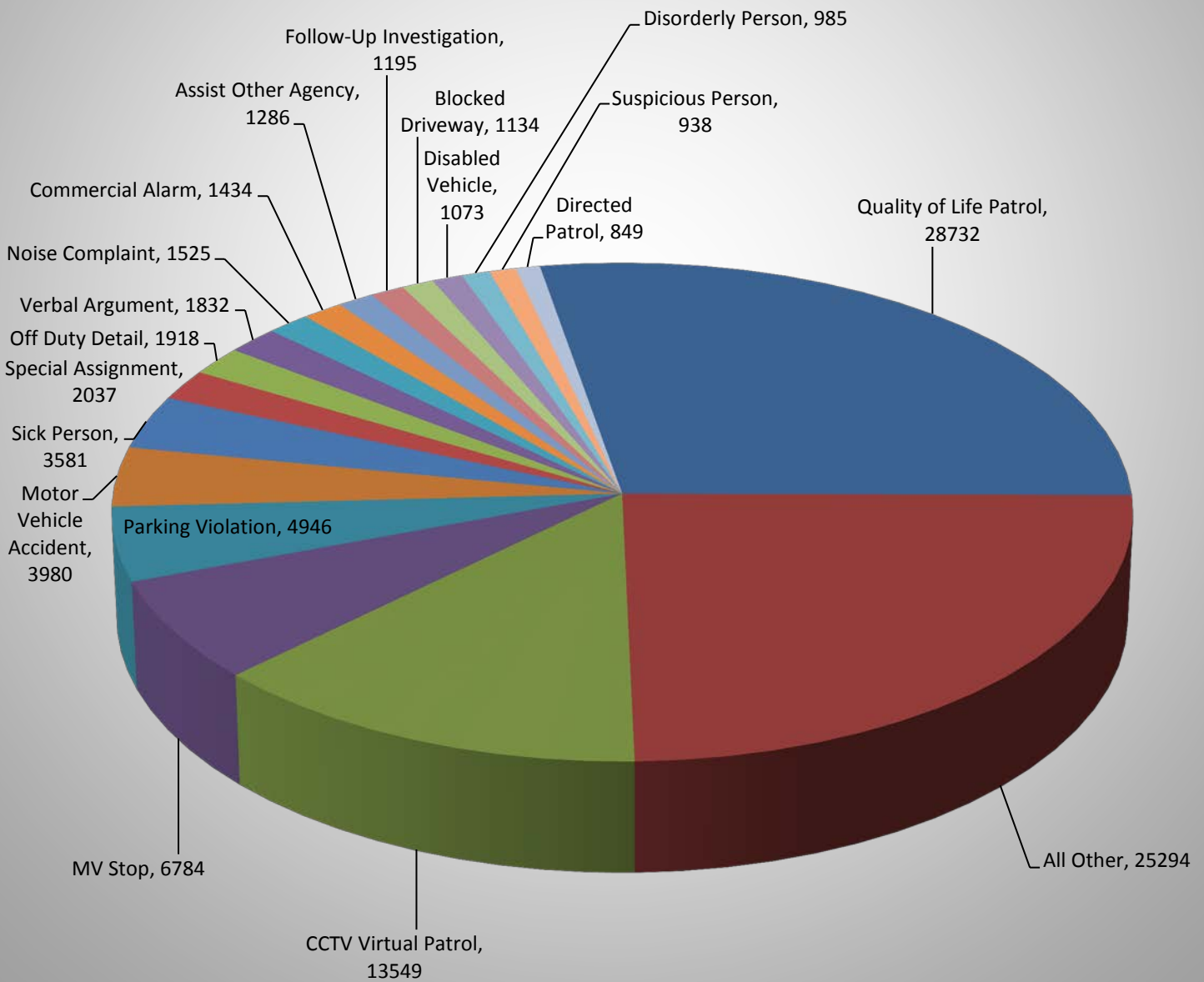
Type of Complaint	Cases Pending From Prior Years	Cases Received	Total Cases	Number of Dispositions					Administratively Cleared	Cases Pending End of Year
				Sustained		Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded		
				Criminal Charge	Internal Discipline Action					
Excessive Force	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Improper Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Differential Treatment	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Demeanor	0	15	15	0	4	1	7	0	2	1
Other Rule Violation	1	35	35	0	16	0	16	0	2	1
Other Criminal	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total	1	57	57	0	20	1	26	0	6	4



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service

2014 Total Calls for Service: 103,072

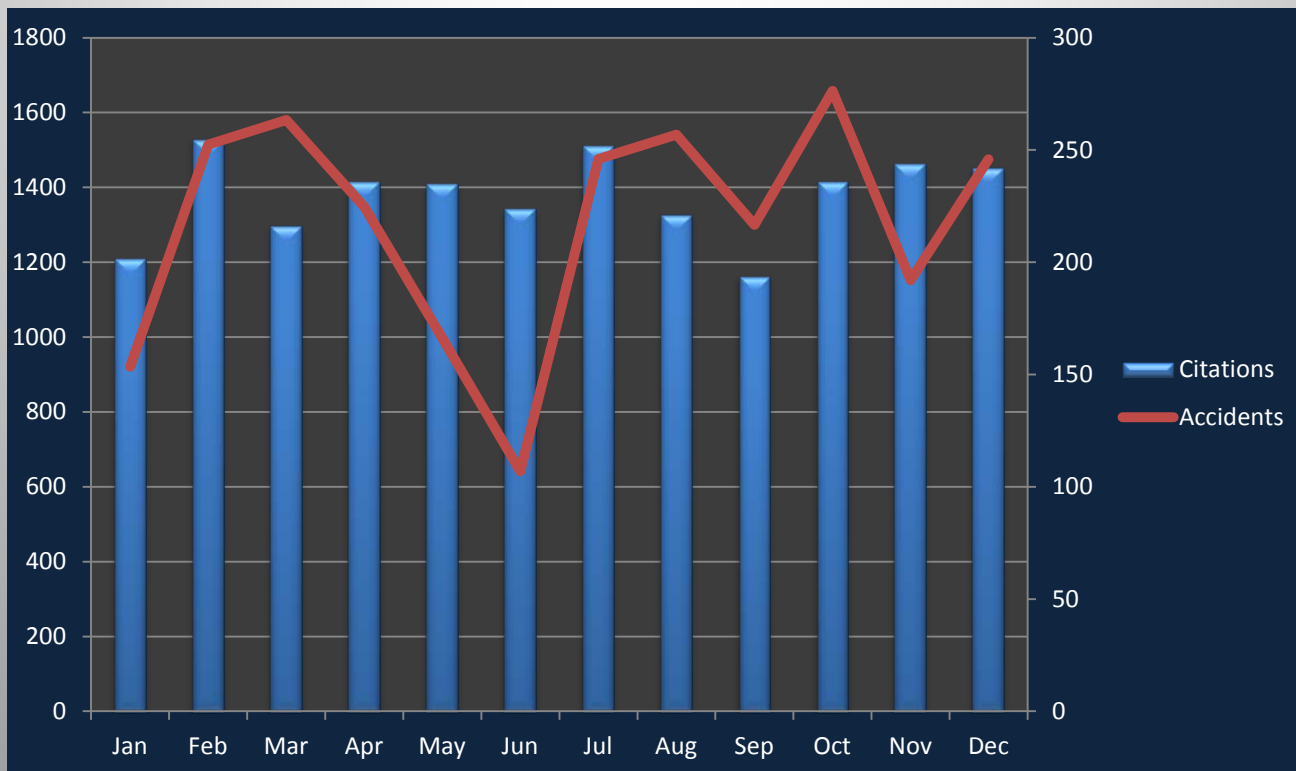




NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Traffic Statistics

Month	Traffic Accidents	Tows	Citations	DUI
January	202	210	921	4
February	255	220	1514	4
March	216	242	1580	8
April	236	165	1348	6
May	235	180	998	4
June	224	136	641	1
July	252	210	1476	2
August	221	184	1541	9
September	194	174	1300	4
October	236	213	1658	4
November	244	195	1152	9
December	242	193	1475	10
TOTALS	2757	2322	15604	65





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Uniform Crime Report

OFFENSE TYPE (Part 1 Index Crime)	2014		2013		% Change From 2013	5-Year (2009) Comparison		% Change From 2009
	Offense Count	Crime Rate*	Offense Count	Crime Rate*		Offense Count	Crime Rate*	
Murder	0	0.00	0	0.00	0%	0	0	0%
Rape	9	0.14	6	0.10	+50%	5	0.08	+80.0%
Robbery	42	0.67	43	0.69	-2.3%	45	0.74	-6.7%
Aggravated Assault	62	0.99	51	0.82	+21.6%	57	0.94	+8.8%
Burglary	116	1.86	136	2.18	-14.7%	155	2.55	-25.2%
Larceny (Theft)	479	6.68	428	6.87	+11.9%	582	9.85	-17.7%
Automobile Theft	90	1.44	78	1.25	+15.4%	129	2.12	-30.2%
Arson**	3	0.05	2	0.03	+50%	5	0.08	-40.0%
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	798	12.8	742	11.90	+7.5%	973	16.01	-18.0%
Crimes Against People	113	1.81	100	1.60	+13.0%	107	1.76	+5.6%
Crimes Against Property	685	10.99	642	10.30	+6.7%	866	14.25	-20.9%
Overall Crime (Part 1 & Part 2)	2614	41.93	2596	41.64	+0.7%	3241	53.33	-19.3%

* Crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants

**The UCR Program does not include arson statistics when tabulating Index Crime totals.



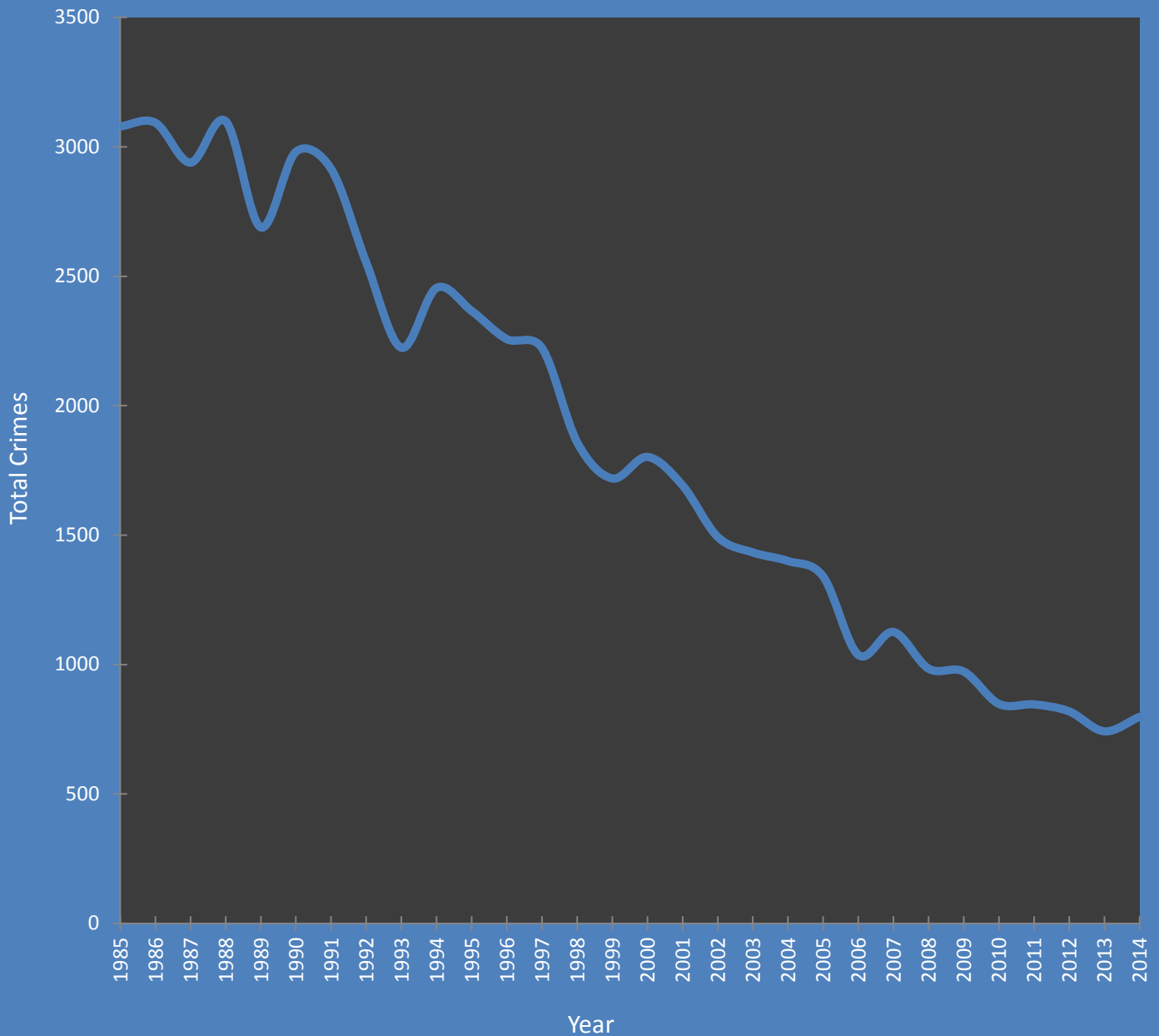
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Crime Trend Analysis – Overall Crime

Township of North Bergen

Crime Trend Analysis: Overall Crime

Index Crimes from 1985 to 2014

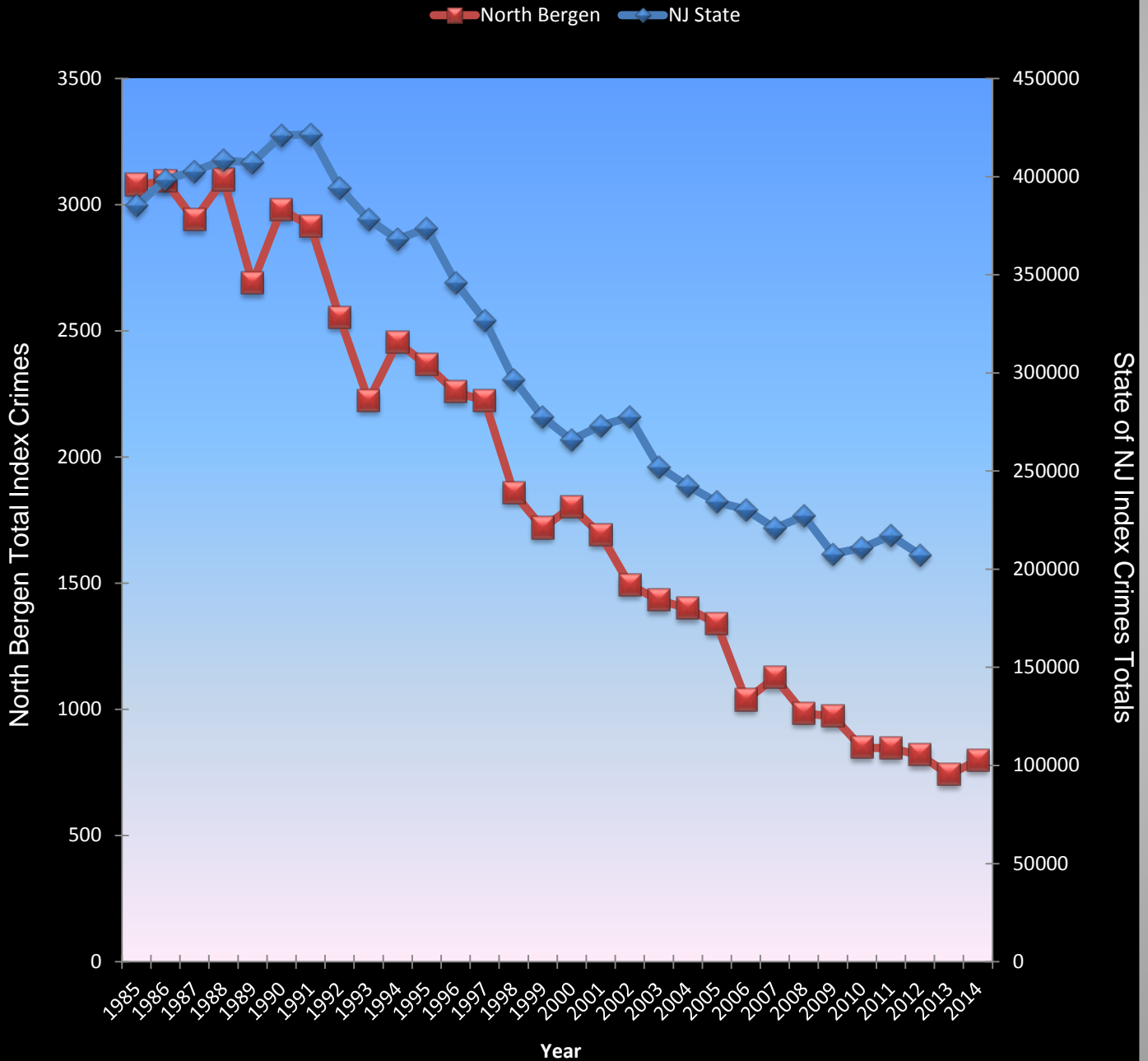




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Crime Trend Analysis – State

North Bergen Township vs. NJ State Comparative Index Crime Trend Analysis 1985 through 2014



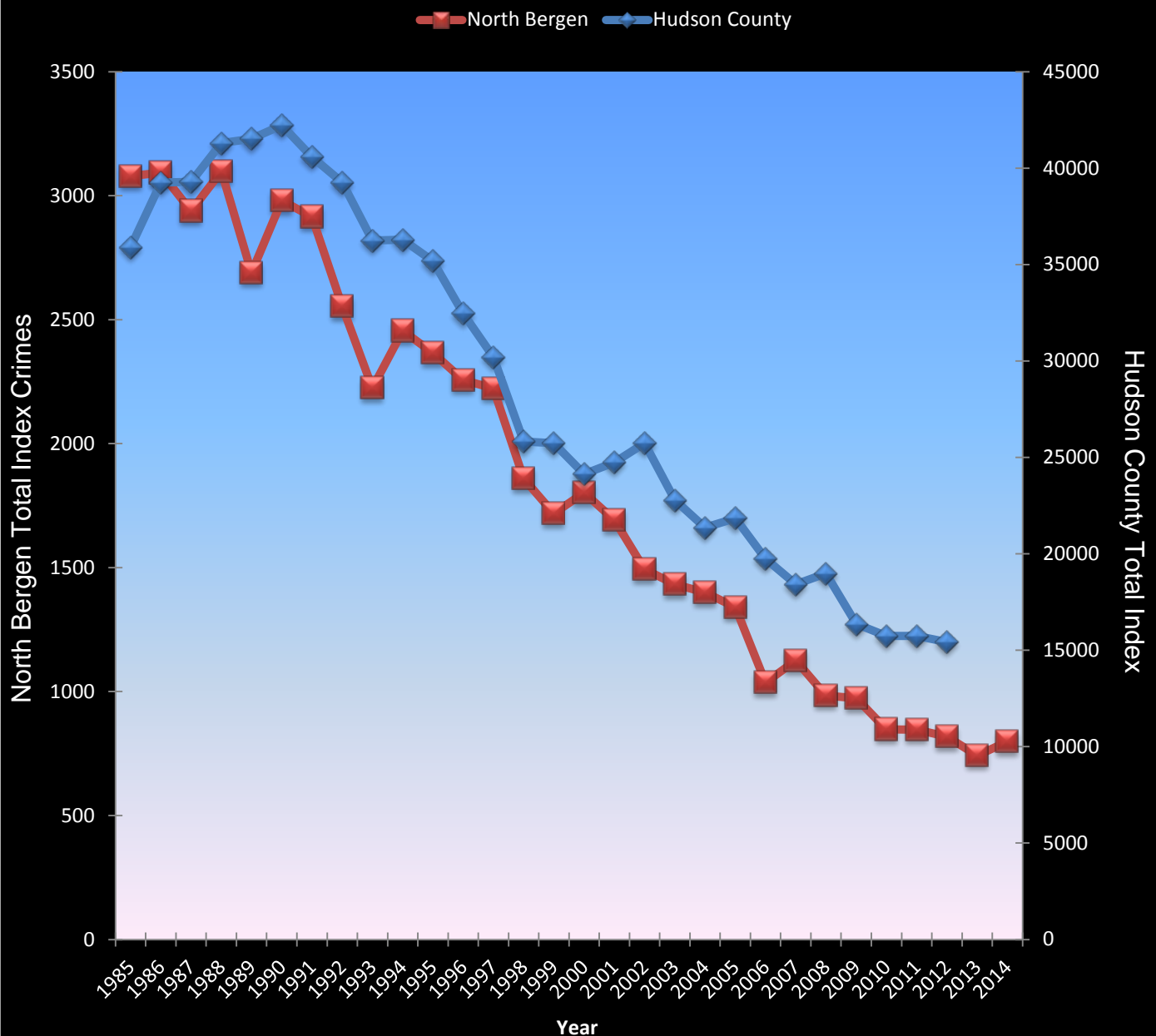
Note: 2013-2014 NJ State figures not available.



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crime Trend Analysis – County

North Bergen Township vs. Hudson County Comparative Index Crime Trend Analysis 1985 through 2014

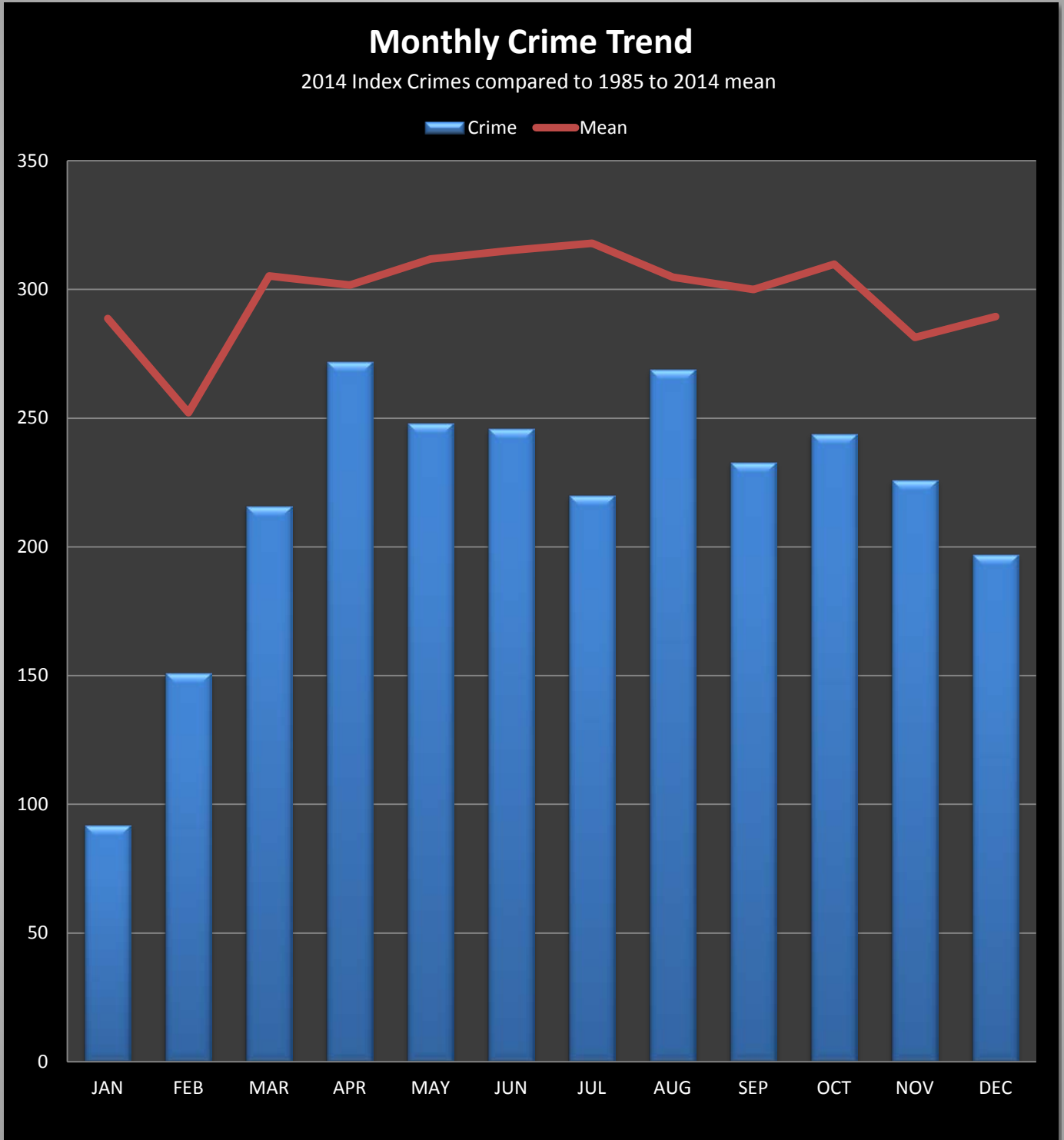


Note: 2013-2014 Hudson County figures not available.



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Monthly Crime Trend



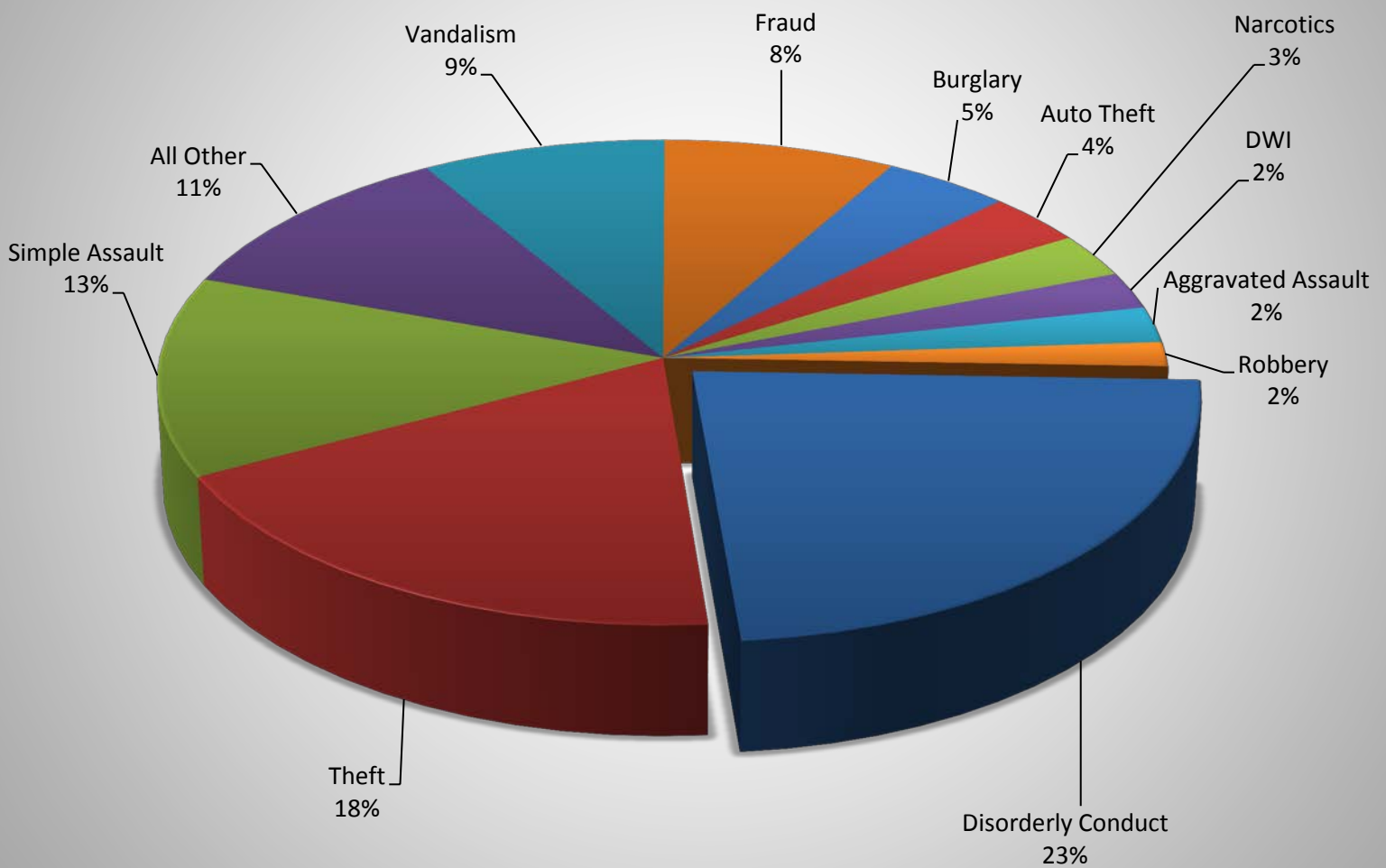
2014



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Offense by Type

2014 Offense Breakdown Statistics





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Arrest Statistics

PART I ARRESTS

	2014	2013
Juveniles	11	47
Adults	373	356
Part I Totals	384	403

PART II ARRESTS

Juveniles	58	59
Adults	491	498
Part II Totals	549	557

TOTAL ARRESTS

Juveniles	69	106
Adults	864	854
Arrest Totals	933	960



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prominent Cases

- Members of the North Bergen Police Department were able to identify two robbery suspects that committed several strong armed robberies within a two month period. Based on a thorough investigation, a proactive anticrime measure was created to conduct surveillance on the suspects. The suspects were subsequently apprehended in the act of an armed robbery and arrested. The Investigative Division eventually obtained confessions from the suspects regarding all of the robberies they committed.
- Members of the Department aggressively investigated a home invasion where the victims were bound by two suspects. When the victims attempted to escape, the suspects fired several gunshots at their fleeing vehicle. An intense investigation led to the recovery of a latent fingerprint and an analysis of the shell casings resulted in the discovery of two possible suspects. During the investigation it was learned that several days later the same gun was used in a double homicide. The Department worked closely with the Hudson County Prosecutors Office Homicide Division to secure various search and arrest warrants. Following the execution of the warrants and subsequent arrests, the suspect for the homicide was convicted based on the evidence obtained during the joint investigation.
- A string of burglary and thefts to motor vehicles led to an intensive search for the suspect. A thorough investigation, collaboration with surrounding police agencies, and the creation of a task force led to the apprehension of the actor wanted in conjunction with a spree of car burglaries, stolen vehicles and credit card fraud throughout Hudson and Bergen Counties.
- In conjunction with the New Jersey State Police and several Federal Agencies, the North Bergen Police Department participated in the 2014 Super Bowl 48 Security Operation. Members of the North Bergen Police Department were assigned to various locations in northern New Jersey on a High Alert security status. Additionally, officers worked numerous undercover operations in conjunction with County Prosecutors and the State Attorney General's Office to confront the increased amount of prostitution and Human Trafficking during the event. The operation resulted in multiple prostitution arrests from various hotels as well as the closure of a massage parlor within the township.
-  On November 11, 2014 a car was stolen with an unlikely victim in tow. The car thief stole this vehicle with a Chihuahua named Rambo still on board. Shortly thereafter the vehicle was recovered and during the investigation which ensued, the suspect's identity was ascertained. After some media coverage the actor contacted the Department to arrange for his surrender as well as the return of Rambo. While the actor never surrendered, Rambo was eventually recovered in Newark by our investigators. Subsequently, members of our investigative unit were able to locate and arrest the suspect who was charged with several counts of theft. The owner was reunited with her companion shortly thereafter.
Courtesy of the Tariq Zehawi, Bergen Record



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prominent Cases

- Members of the North Bergen Police Department, working in conjunction with the West New Police Department and Port Authority Police Department, were able to infiltrate a narcotics distribution network operating within Hudson County. The operation included the use of criminal informants providing detailed information from the purchases of narcotics directly from the suspects. After the execution of two search warrants at separate locations, two suspects were arrested. Thousands of dollars in cash and cocaine were seized as a result.
- After a brutal attack at a house party where the victim suffered life threatening injuries as a result of multiple stab wounds, the Department began a comprehensive investigation to ascertain the identity of the assailants and witnesses. The investigation led to six arrests in which two actors went into hiding from law enforcement. With the assistance of New Jersey State Police Parole Officers the suspects were recovered in Passaic County.

- On Friday, November 14, 2014 two teenaged brothers were critically injured in a hit-and-run accident after a vehicle jumped the curb and struck them. One of the brothers suffered severe head trauma after being impaled on an iron fence while the other brother succumbed to his injuries shortly after his right leg was amputated.



An intense investigation ensued led by members of the Hudson County Sheriff's Office and the North Bergen Police Department Major Case Unit. The driver of the vehicle was quickly identified as 38-year old Rogelio Chavix-Tacen. The suspect vehicle was also located and secured for processing by crime scene investigators.

To aid in his apprehension, investigators recruited the aid of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Municipal Task Force (MTF), and the United States Marshall's Service. It was discovered that Chavix-Tacen had purchased a plane ticket to his home country of Guatemala but had not managed to board the flight. Several leads emerged and Chavix-Tacen's location was detected using the latest cell phone tracking technology. Chavix-Tacen was eventually found in Maryland ending the manhunt. Chavix-Tacen was charged with aggravated vehicular manslaughter as well as several other related charges.

"I'm proud of the way the North Bergen police major case detectives worked tirelessly in cooperation with the Hudson County Sheriff's Office, the prosecutor's office, US Marshals and ICE in a true team effort to capture this criminal."

- Chief Robert Dowd (NJ.com, December 5, 2014)



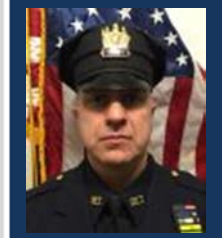
NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2014 Officers of the Month

JANUARY

Detective Miguel Vento

Detective Vento was recognized for his due diligence in the construction and rapid completion of the North Bergen Police Department Training Center as well as the new Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI). Detective Vento volunteered and expended personal time to ensure that these facilities were completed ahead of schedule.



FEBRUARY

Officer Antonio Tataranni

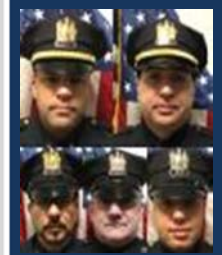
While on routine patrol, Officer Tataranni observed smoke emanating from an unidentifiable location within his sector. He quickly located the source of the smoke which happened to be a residential home. Officer Tataranni bravely entered the structure and evacuated the residents prior to the arrival of the fire department.



MARCH

Safe Street Task Force

Lieutenant Arthur Del, Sergeant David Dowd, Detective Steven Schubert and Detective Robert Maldonado, and Investigator Botello were honored for their efforts in quickly apprehending a couple who were involved in an armed robbery spree. The actors had been targeting residents at gunpoint for several weeks. The Safe Street Task Force rapidly apprehended the duo upon their deployment.



APRIL

Officers Shannon Cullen, Wilbert Negron & William Brown

A keen eye and rapid response brought a quick resolution to a robbery in progress. Officer Negron observed several individuals during their robbery attempt. Officer Negron apprehended one actor while Officers Cullen and Brown gave chase to his accomplices who were apprehended shortly thereafter.



MAY

Detective Edgar Mendez and Investigator Michele Bartoli

Detective Mendez and Investigator Bartoli were honored for being the first members of the North Bergen Police Department to participate in and complete the Police Unity Tour. The Tour is a 300-mile bicycle run from Trenton to Washington D.C. and officers ride in an effort to increase awareness regarding police officer line-of-duty deaths as well as to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum.



JUNE

Detective Peter Insetta


While investigating a carjacking, Detective Insetta was able to locate and salvage several inconspicuous fingerprints on the recovered vehicle as well as bullets used in the incident. These pieces of forensic evidence were later used to tie the actors and weapons to the incident leading to the arrest of three individuals involved in the crime.





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2014 Officers of the Month

JULY	<p>Detective Frank Mena and Officer Thomas Yfantis</p> <p>Traffic investigators Detective Mena and Officer Yfantis were summoned to the scene of a horrific motor vehicle accident that resulted in multiple fatalities. These officers were able to expeditiously investigate the scene while preserving the dignity of the victims. They were honored for their professionalism and their ability to bring order to an otherwise chaotic scene.</p>	
AUGUST	<p>Officer Wilbert Negrón</p> <p>Officer Negrón was dispatched to the scene of an unconscious person where he found the victim in a lifeless condition. Officer Negrón immediately began applying life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation which ultimately saved the victim's life.</p>	
SEPTEMBER	<p>Officers Brian Himsel, Hector Rosa & Santos Benitez</p> <p>Officers Himsel, Rosa and Benitez were dispatched to a call of a drowning where they discovered a 2-year old child in a lifeless condition. The officers, who were coincidentally trained by Officer Benitez in life-saving techniques, worked in unison to provide the child with urgent medical support. The child was eventually resuscitated and miraculously suffered no permanent injury.</p>	
OCTOBER	<p>Detective Roberto Maldonado and Officer Patrick Corless</p> <p>Through diligent canvassing and thorough investigation Detective Maldonado developed a solid lead on an individual suspected of a robbery spree within the Township. While on patrol, Officer Corless spotted the individual in question and brought him in for questioning. Detective Maldonado was able to subsequently obtain a confession from the suspect ending the crime spree.</p>	
NOVEMBER	<p>Investigator David Botwin</p> <p>While investigating a series of burglaries, Investigator Botwin was able to create a profile of the individual in question which led to the canvassing of several area motels. Upon further investigation, Investigator Botwin was able to locate the suspect as well as the proceeds of several of the burglaries eventually leading to a confession and arrest of the individual.</p>	
DECEMBER	<p>Patrol Squad #3</p> <p>Patrol Squad 3 was recognized for their outstanding unit performance and commitment to advancing the Department's mission and values. Squad #3 includes Lt. James Gaughran, Sgt. Otoniel Cruz, Officers Joseph Gorrin, Marina Anderson, Saray Durango, Brandon Vilchez, Jason Solan, Placido Hernandez, Alberto Berovides, Eric Crafton, Jonathan Sinchi, and Investigator Botwin.</p>	



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pride



OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Detective Roberto Maldonado

2014





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Training

In a time where realistic police training is advocated by educators, police practitioners, and the courts, the North Bergen Police Department has taken the initiative to introduce training which produces stressors replicating real-world encounters - particularly those which may necessitate a lethal force response. In order to develop real-world skills, our training is being designed to provide our officers with realistic problems under realistic circumstances. Force-on-force training has now become a critical component of our in-service education. We have realized that basic skills learned by shooting holes in a paper target do not translate well in a world where the targets move and can shoot back. In addition to real-world training, the Department also utilizes the New Jersey Learn virtual Police Academy as well as its own Power Document Server for in-service training and continuing education.



The Township's unwavering commitment to advancing the professionalism of the Department was apparent in 2014 where the North Bergen Police Department was allocated an unprecedented amount of funding for training. This investment in training increases officer and public safety, reduces liability, and develops effective and efficient officers, supervisors, and administrators. The North Bergen Police Department's training facilities, equipment, and instructor base are continually being expanded to meet the demands of a modern police department.

Our officers have attended numerous courses, education seminars and professional conferences held throughout the New York metropolitan area. An example of just some of the training members of the North Bergen Police Department attended include: Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capability (MACTAC) response, hazardous materials awareness, response to mass casualty incidents, autism awareness, domestic violence education, numerous leadership and supervision courses, narcotics interdiction and recognition, defensive tactics, criminal investigations, child abduction response training, arson investigation and prosecution, document fraud, Americans with disabilities training, Ebola training, first aid and CPR, self-aid and buddy aid, cellular analysis and geo-locating, emergency railroad response, vehicle criminal interdiction, as well as hundreds of other courses and blocks of instruction.

The North Bergen Police Department recognizes that training and continuing education is a career-long endeavor that benefits our officers and the community we serve. Training is an instrumental venture that empowers our officers to think creatively, act confidently, and solve problems within our community. Enhanced training and education pays benefits which includes citizen and officer safety, and enable enables us to focus on improving the Oversall quality of life in our township

Photos courtesy of the Jersey Journal



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Goals for 2015

Emergency Operations Center

The North Bergen Police Department plans on renovating and repurposing the old courtroom which is located at police headquarters, into a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Superstorm Sandy Disaster revealed several deficiencies with the Township's existing EOC. The EOC is a vital component of public safety since it functions as the command and control facility responsible for carrying out the principle functions of emergency and disaster management at a strategic level. In an emergency situation, the EOC also helps ensure the continuity of local government operations. After Superstorm Sandy, the relocation of the EOC became an urgent priority. After an infusion of grant funding, narcotics-related seizure funds, and local capital, the new EOC will come to fruition in the 2015 calendar year.

Renovation of Police Headquarters

North Bergen's Police Headquarters was built at the turn of the 20th century and has well exceeded the design life of a public safety facility. The building has had several minor renovations over the course of a century in order to meet the ever changing demands of policing as well as to meet modern building code requirements. While a total reconstruction of police headquarters would be unfeasible in today's fiscal atmosphere, a partial renovation to the existing structure would help the Department meet current Accreditation standards and further extend the building's service life.

The vast majority of funding for this project has been secured through grants and criminal asset forfeitures requiring minimal fiscal assistance.

The primary goal of the renovation is to provide a safe environment for the public, police officers, arrestees and any other visitors, as well as to increase the overall efficiency and delivery of police services.



Police Headquarters circa 1908

Conducted Energy Devices

Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) are used by law enforcement throughout the United States and have been credited with leading to lower rates of injuries and deaths both among police officers and suspects in incidents where police use of force is involved. Odds of injury to civilians and officers are significantly lower when police use CED weapons and it is estimated that over 100,000 lives have been saved by these devices by giving officers another level of force in opportunities where firearms would have otherwise been necessary. The North Bergen Police Department plans to implement CEDs from TASER International by the third quarter of 2015.





NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. I am proud to lead the North Bergen Police Department as we strive to meet our Township's public safety needs. The men and women of this department should be recognized and applauded for their commitment to duty.

- Chief Robert J. Dowd