

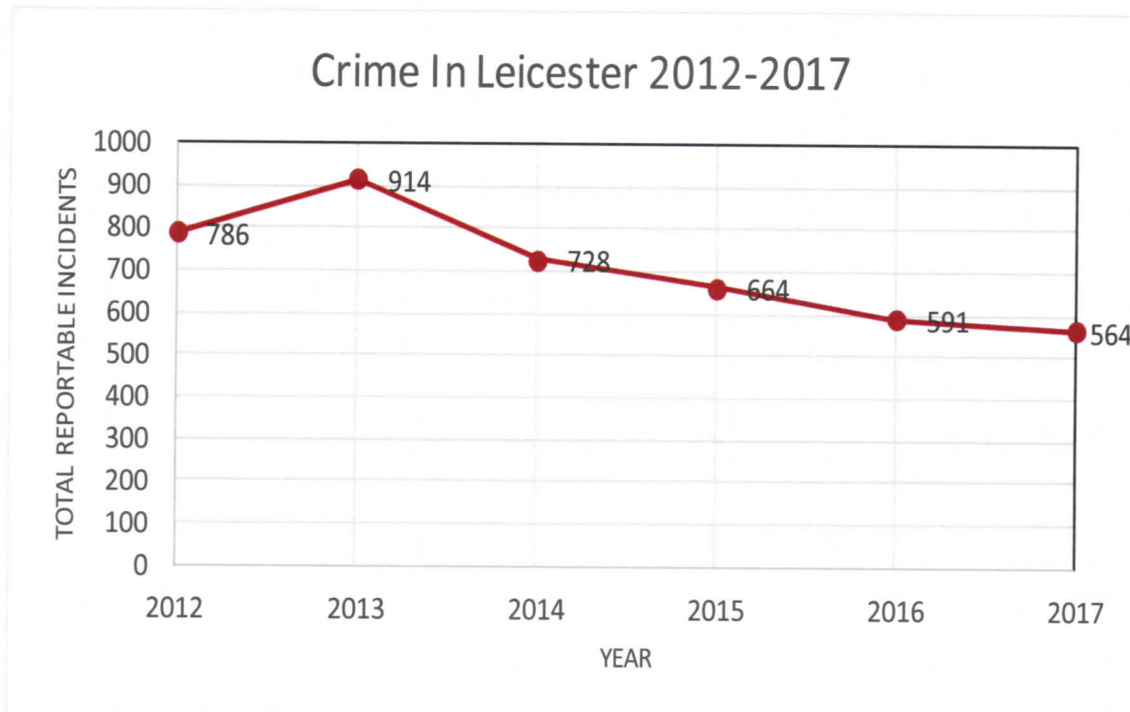


Leicester Police Department

2017 Crime Statistics Report



Good News - Crime in Leicester was Down 4.5% in 2017



Introduction

As the Chief of Police for the Town of Leicester, I believe that two of the most important fundamental responsibilities of the police department are:

1. **Transparency** – the public has the right to know how their police department is being run and what is occurring within their police department.
2. **Effectiveness** – the public has the right to know how effective their police department is in suppressing, interdicting, and solving crime.

In order to meet these two objectives, the Leicester Police Department is releasing its 2017 crime statistic report. This report includes a six year comparison of several categories of crime and other police activity in our community.

Manpower

The Leicester Police Department was comprised of 19 full time officers, including the Chief of Police, a full time administrative assistant, two part time department assistants, and 10 “on call” jail monitors during 2017. The department operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year and provides all primary law enforcement services for the Town of Leicester.

What Affects Crime in Leicester?

Leicester borders the second largest city in New England, namely Worcester. Just by its geographical location, the Town of Leicester will incur its share of displaced urban crime, meaning criminals that leave the city to come to Leicester to commit criminal acts.

This is not unique to Leicester. The police department of every community that borders a large urban area must deal with this type of crime.

There are several major roadways that cross through Leicester, specifically Rt. 9 and Stafford Street. Both roadways connect Worcester with the communities to its west. These routes are used by drug dealers making deliveries, housebreakers looking for homes to victimize, and shoplifters looking for retail outlets. Leicester is not immune from the crimes these criminals perpetrate.

The Crime Control Strategy in Leicester

There are a number of activities and strategies that the Leicester Police Department uses to control criminal activity in our community.

1. **Traffic Enforcement** - In order to engage in most criminal activity, the criminals need to be mobile. Having police officers out on the roadways of our communities, where they are visible and actively enforcing the traffic laws, is very important. Most criminals know which communities actively enforce traffic law, which increases their chances of being apprehended. They will actively try to avoid these communities.
2. **Community Partnership and Support** - The LPD relies heavily on the residents and business owners of the community to provide us with information. The 19 officers of the LPD will never be able to see as much as the 10,000 + residents of our community. When we work together, the flow of information drives crime down in our community. Knowledge is Power!! Keep the information coming.
3. **Automated License Plate Reader (ALRP) and Mobile Computers** – This technology plays an important role in combating crime in our community. These two devices provide officers with the real time information, including, but not limited to:
 - If the owner of the motor vehicle is wanted by law enforcement.
 - If the owner of the motor vehicle has an active driver's license.
 - If the motor vehicle is properly registered.
 - If the motor vehicle is properly insured.
 - If the motor vehicle is stolen.
4. **Crime Scene Processing** – The department continues to send officers to basic and advanced training courses to enhance its ability to process crime scenes. Members of the Leicester Police Department are processing more and more crime scenes every year. The department's crime scene processing includes:
 - Documenting the crime scene;
 - Collection of physical evidence (includes shoe impressions, etc.);
 - Fingerprint processing;
 - DNA processing;
 - Along with numerous other forensic and investigative techniques.

All of the aforementioned are now accepted as the industry standard for crime scene processing and most juries, who see so much crime scene processing on

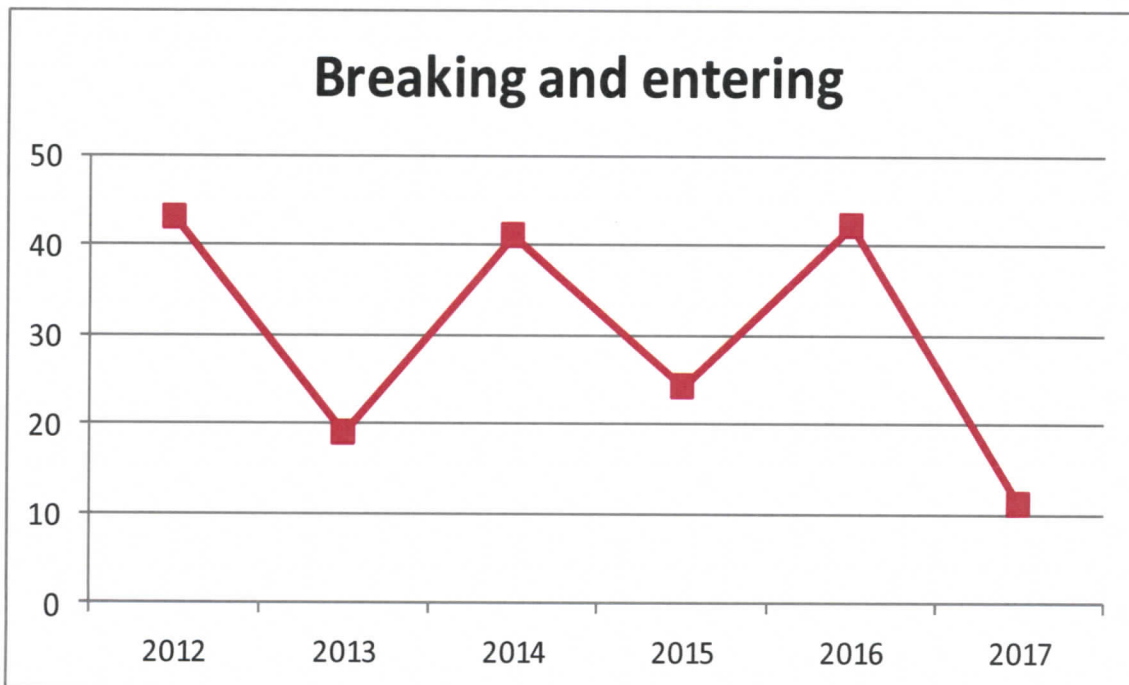
television, expect that police will undertake these crime scene processing activities.

5. **Criminal Investigations** - No matter how hard we try or how much equipment we utilize, the Leicester Police Department will not stop crimes from occurring in our community. Those that do occur require a professional and complete follow up investigation. This year the police department added a second criminal investigator to enhance the department's ability to conduct follow up investigations. The new night shift detective works on criminal cases reported during the evening shift (3 PM to 11 PM) and will be used to provide extra support on illegal narcotic investigations.
6. **Other Crime Deterrent Initiatives/Technology** -There are a number of other initiatives and pieces of technology that the department utilizes to control crime.
 - Information from the Worcester County Breaking and Entering Task Force is released on a daily basis to update officers on who may be committing crimes in the Leicester area.
 - Live scan finger printing is conducted on every individual arrested for a criminal offense in Leicester. Every year a handful of individuals are identified after they are fingerprinted (but before their release) as having provided the police with a false name. These individuals are usually wanted on outstanding warrants.

These both have had a significant impact on the department's ability to deal with criminal activity in Leicester.

Crime Statistics for 2017 Compared to Previous Years (A Snapshot)

The number of breaking and entering incidents was sharply reduced in 2017 through a great deal of effort on the part of the patrol officers and the investigative division. There were a total of 11 house/business breaks combined in Leicester in 2017. That is a six year low.



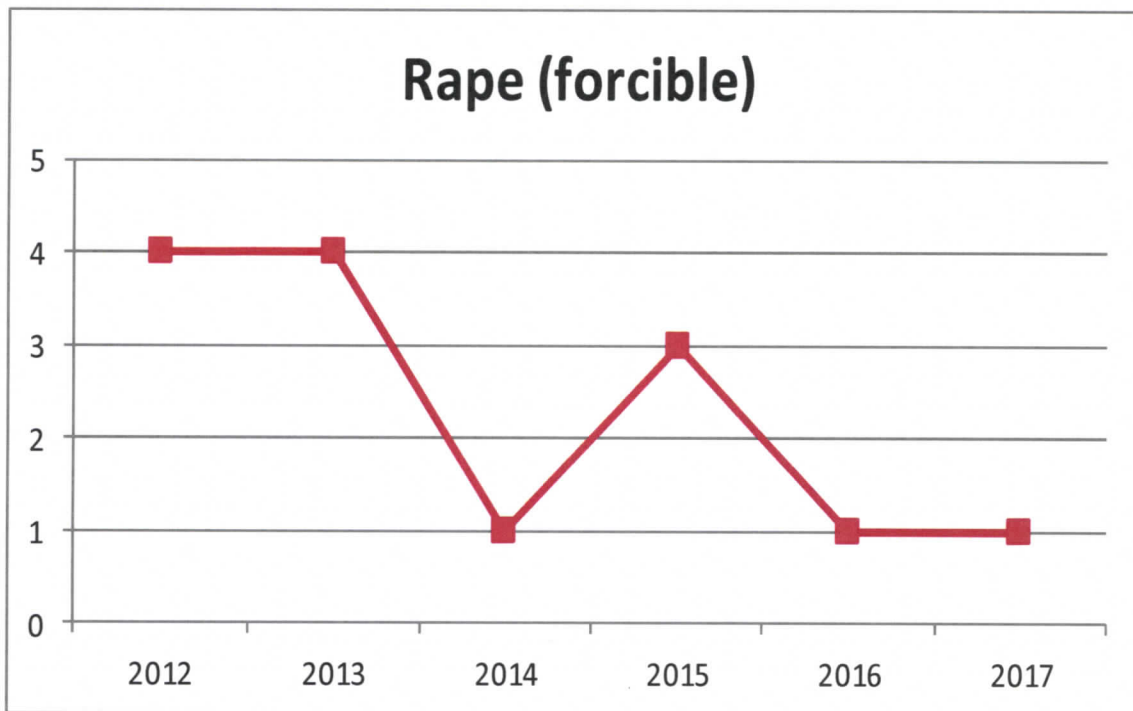
The LPD's success in reducing breaking and entering activity is a combined effort of the patrol division, who are actively conducting traffic enforcement in our community, which:

1. Makes the police highly visible to those coming into Leicester;
2. Interdicts crimes before they happen (i.e. individuals arrested on warrants and for other traffic offenses before they commit a crime).

The efforts of the patrol division are supported by the work of the investigative division. Every house and/or business break is assigned to a detective for crime scene processing and/or a follow up investigation. These investigations usually include:

1. Processing the scene for fingerprints, DNA, and other physical evidence.
2. Photographing the crime scene.
3. Interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects.

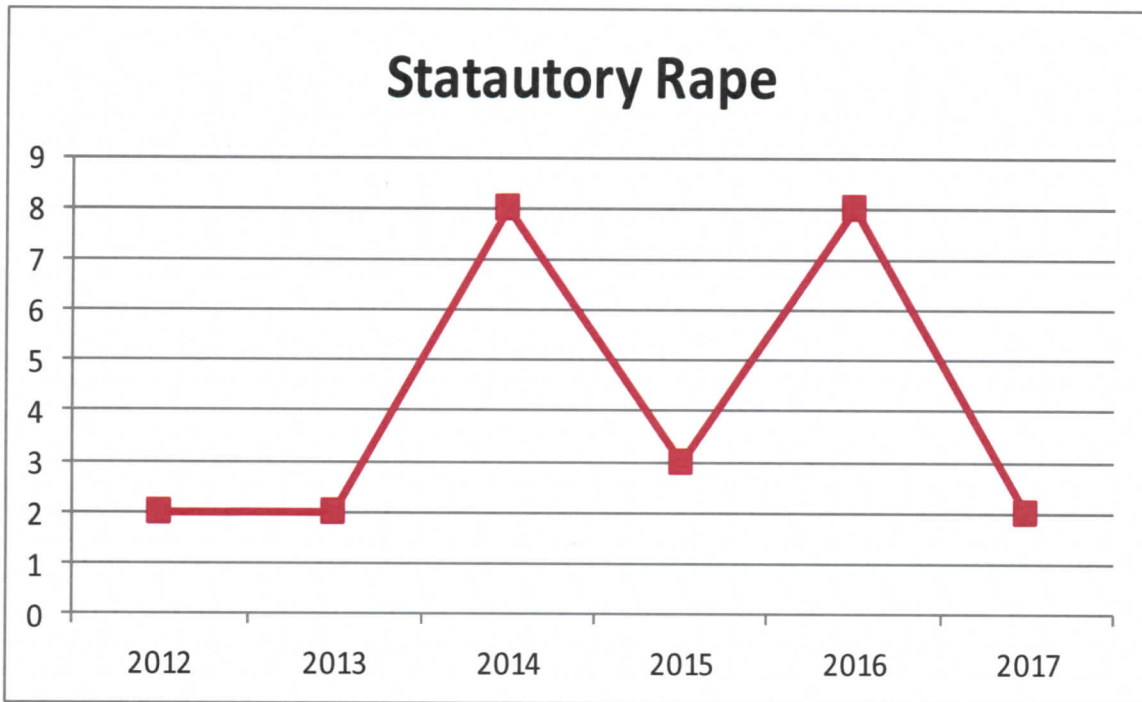
As Socrates said, "He who is not pursued, escapes" and the LPD does not want to see any criminals escape.



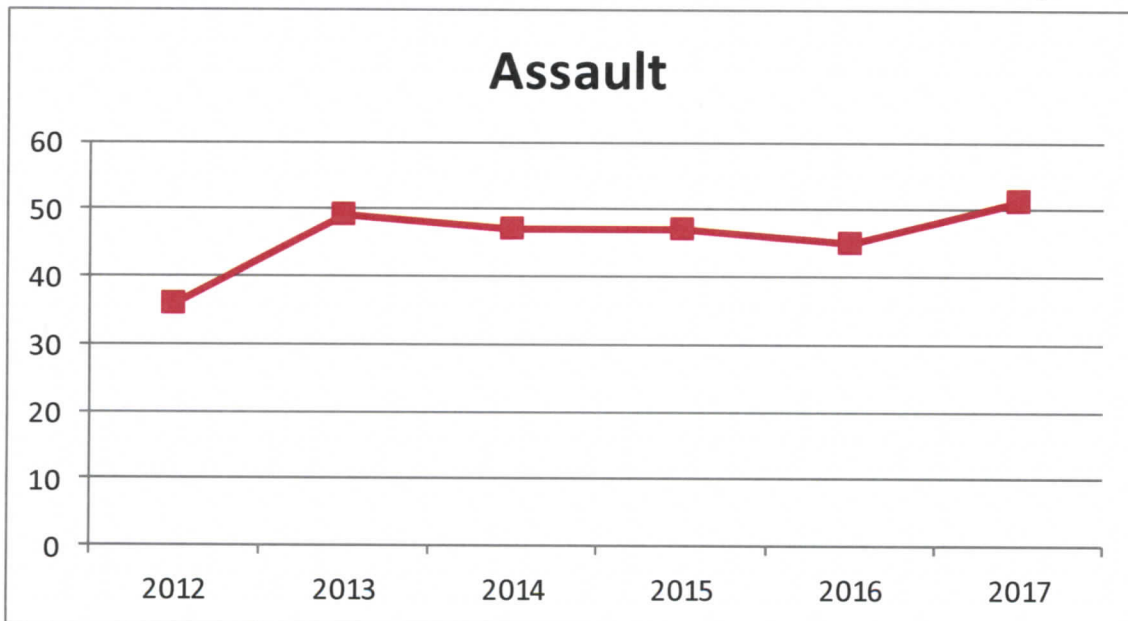
Sexual assaults by force remain rare in the Town of Leicester with only one offense reported in 2017. The LPD is committed to keeping this number as low as possible through:

1. Conducting professional criminal investigations that focus on the collection of physical evidence;
2. Partnering with prosecutors to ensure that the best criminal case possible is presented in court;

3. Public awareness as to who the registered sex offenders are residing in our community.
4. Partnerships with support organizations that focus on stopping sexual assaults and providing assistance to the victims of sexual assault.



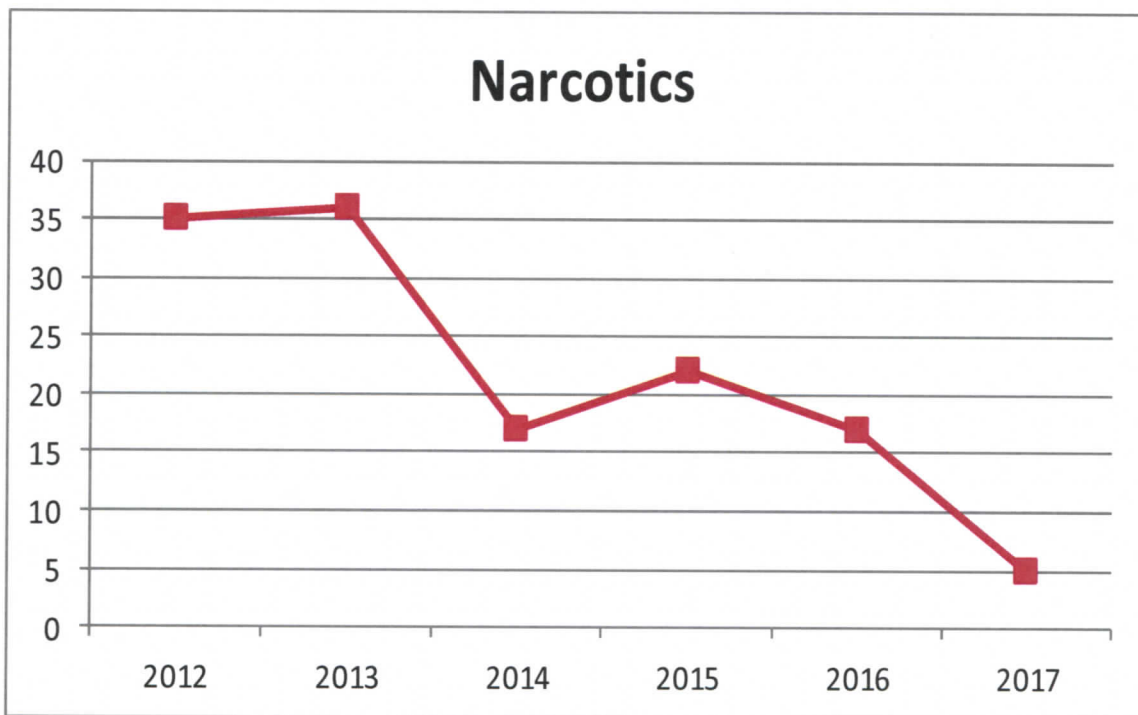
Unfortunately many statutory rapes, and other sexual assault crimes involve drugs and/or alcohol. The use of drugs or alcohol (including involuntary use such as a date rape drug) lead to the impairment of one party who is unable to consent and/or resist and is then sexually assaulted. The LPD has been actively promoting to the younger members of our community that abstaining from the use/abuse of drugs and alcohol is the best option for them at this point in their lives. The reduction of drugs and or alcohol use/abuse by minors directly affects the number of statutory rapes that occur in this community.



The LPD saw a slight increase in assaults last year. Assaults have also increased slightly over the five previous years. There are a number of factors that this increase can be tied to, including:

1. Better understanding and awareness of domestic violence incidents which has resulted in increased reporting.
2. Increases in road rage incidents that escalate to physical assaults.
3. A societal change where assault are more often seen as a way to settle disputes.

Identifying the cause of the increase is easy. Finding a solution to the problem is far more difficult. Assaults during road rage or shoplifting incidents often do not involve Leicester residents. While educating the public as to the dangers of engaging in assaultive behavior has merit, as does de-escalation training, it is difficult for the LPD to address, when a significant percentage of the individuals in need of the education are not from the community.



Narcotics violations have seen a significant drop over the last several years. The decline over the past two years is directly tied to the Regional Drug Task Force Grant. For the last two years, the LPD served as the lead agency in a 14 community regional narcotics enforcement task force. The task force received approximately \$95,000 to combat illegal narcotics in all 14 communities and funded educational initiatives to deter the use of narcotics. The grant ended several months ago and the federal government (Department of Justice) has not released any supplemental funding or announced any new grant initiatives.

The task force continues to operate and share resources; however, every agency has limited financial resources which continually play a role in what can or cannot be accomplished.

Calls for Service / Patrol Initiated Activity

The graph below is a five year comparison of the number of calls for service and patrol initiated activity by the Leicester Police Department. This is the area which requires the most police resources and manpower.

- **Call for Service (CFS)** – A call requesting service from the police department, which requires the assignment of resources and/or personnel to provide the service requested. Examples would be responding to an alarm, medical call, a retailer reporting a shoplifting, or a resident reporting a suspicious motor vehicle.
- **Patrol Initiated Activity (PIA)** – Activity undertaken by an officer while on patrol but not requested by someone calling for service. Examples of patrol initiated activity are motor vehicle stops for traffic violations, officers stopping and checking on disabled motor vehicles that they observe while on patrol, or an officer making an arrest for a narcotics violation that was observed while on patrol.

When viewing the information below, it is also important to know that the significant increase in CFS/PIA is heavily based upon a change in the department's documentation strategy, which focused on accurately documenting the activity of all LPD officers.

Additionally, in 2017 you will see a significant increase in the volume of "offense numbers or OF #'s" that are assigned to officers. This is also related to the LPD's documentation strategy which focuses on reducing the number of paper files maintained by the LPD through increased use of digital storage.

1. Calls for Service (CFS)/Patrol Initiated Activity (PIA) = 24,608 (+ 1,886)
2. Accident Investigations = 251 (- 37)
3. Arrest/Criminal Summonses = 480 (+ 23)
4. Investigative/Offense Reports = 1315 (+ 382)
5. Alarms (All Types) = 243 (+ 1)
6. Motor Vehicle Stops = 2136 (- 120)

The National Incident Based Reporting System

In addition to compiling the statistics shown above, the Leicester Police Department submits its crime data to the FBI for inclusion in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

What is the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)?

The NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system in which agencies collect data on every single crime occurrence. NIBRS data comes from local, state, and federal automated records systems. An agency can build a system to suit its own needs, including any collection/storage of information required for administration and operations, as well as to report data required by the NIBRS to the UCR Program.

The NIBRS collects data on each single incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes called Group A offenses. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, specified types of facts about each crime are reported. In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 11 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported.

What are the benefits of participating in the NIBRS?

The benefits of participating in the NIBRS are:

1. The NIBRS can furnish information on nearly every major criminal justice issue facing law enforcement today, including terrorism, white collar crime, weapons offenses, missing children where criminality is involved, drug/narcotics offenses, drug involvement in all offenses, hate crimes, spousal abuse, abuse of the elderly, child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile crime/gangs, parental abduction, organized crime, pornography/child pornography, driving under the influence, and alcohol-related offenses.
2. Using the NIBRS, legislators, municipal planners/administrators, academicians, sociologists, and the public will have access to more comprehensive crime information than the summary reporting can provide.
3. The NIBRS produces more detailed, accurate, and meaningful data than the traditional summary reporting. Armed with such information, law enforcement can better make a case to acquire the resources needed to fight crime.
4. The NIBRS enables agencies to find similarities in crime-fighting problems so that agencies can work together to develop solutions or discover strategies for addressing the issues.
5. Full participation in the NIBRS provides statistics to enable a law enforcement agency to provide a full accounting of the status of public safety within the jurisdiction to the police commissioner, police chief, sheriff, or director.

The Overall NIBRS Crime Rate in Leicester For 2017 By Category

1. Crimes Against Persons – 81
2. Crimes Against Property – 270
3. Crimes Against Society -14
4. Group B Crimes – 199

Total Crimes	564
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Conclusion

The crime statistics shown above indicate that the Town of Leicester is a good and decent place to live, work, and raise a family. Crime and disorder remain under control in our community and there is no indication that this will change at any point in the foreseeable future.

On behalf of all the men and women of the Leicester Police Department, I would like to thank everyone in the community for their continued support of the police department. Our success is your success, as a police department is only as effective as the community allows it to be.

Chief Jim Hurley
Leicester Police Department