

CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY



This tip sheet highlights basic facts about crime and public safety in the District of Columbia, information about some of the efforts the Fenty Administration is taking to reduce violent crime, as well as tools you can use to help make Washington a safer city.

Overall Crime Statistics¹: Violent crime in the District of Columbia has decreased by 4.7% in 2008². In the three Wards³ with the highest percentage of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) residents, there has been a 4.7% decrease in violent crime.⁴ In patrol service areas near GLBT owned bars and restaurants⁵ there has been a 13.3% decrease in violent crime⁶ and an 8.2% decrease in robberies. For more detailed information about crime statistics in your area please visit <http://crimemap.dc.gov>.

Hate Crime Statistics: In 2007, 38 hate crimes⁷ were reported in the District. 26 of these crimes were based on sexual orientation. In 2008, 19 hate crimes have been reported, 14 of these crimes are based on sexual orientation. For additional information about hate crimes visit <http://gllu.org/violence/index.htm#hate>.

Crime Prevention Strategies: The Metropolitan Police Department uses community policing and targeted law enforcement to reduce crime. Operation Full Stride is an example of the many programs and tactics used by MPD. Operation Full Stride increases community-police interaction, crime prevention, and visibility in all of the city's neighborhoods. The Department utilizes crime prediction modeling, which looks at crime trends by neighborhood, to help direct the strategies and deploy resources accordingly.

Additionally, Mayor Fenty has launched two significant multi-agency public safety efforts: Focused Improvement Areas and GunStat.

The **Focused Improvement Areas** initiative combines an increased law enforcement presence with support from human service agencies and community-based organizations to address deeper societal issues facing at-risk communities. FIAs involve several District agencies in cooperation with non-governmental community-based organizations to address the root causes of crime by increasing employment services, engaging youth in meaningful activities, promoting individual health, well being and family strengthening, and improving neighborhood appearance.

GunStat is a collaborative information sharing process among local criminal justice agencies, including police, prosecutors, Superior Court, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), and DC Pretrial Services Agency. GunStat tracks gun cases from arrest to prosecution, allowing criminal justice partners to identify repeat offenders, follow trends, and create law enforcement strategies to prevent gun-related crimes.

¹ All statistics presented here are based on preliminary DC Index crime data. The data do not represent official statistics submitted to the FBI under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. All preliminary offenses are classified based on DC criminal code and not the FBI offense classifications. Because the data is preliminary, all statistics are subject to change.

² From January 1 –September 30, 2007 there were 5,936 reported violent crimes. (homicide, arson, sexual assault, robbery with gun, robbery without gun, Assault with Deadly Weapon (gun), ADW without gun) From January 1 – September 30, 2008 there were 5,660 reported violent crimes.

³ Based on analysis of census tract data about same sex couples and two surveys by the office of GLBT Affairs, the top three wards are Ward 1, 2 and 6.

⁴ From January 1 –September 30, 2007 there were 2,384 reported violent crimes and from January 1 – September 30, 2008 there were 2,277 reported violent crimes.

⁵ (Patrol Service Area (PSA) 106 (Capitol Hill), PSA 208 (Dupont Circle, PSA 307&308(Logan/Shaw and PSA 502 (Delta Elite) and a 1500 square foot radius to Town and Nellie's.)

⁶ From January 1 –September 30, 2007 there were 565 reported violent crimes and from January 1 – September 30, 2008 there were 476 reported violent crimes.

⁷ A hate crime is any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against a person based on the victim's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU): The GLLU has been in existence since June 2000. The unit is staffed by openly gay and lesbian members of the department and their allies. The GLLU is dedicated to serving the GLBT communities in the Washington Metropolitan Area and the Metropolitan Police Department. For more information about the GLLU visit www.gllu.org.

Reducing Violence in the Public Schools:

The Mayor's Office of GLBT Affairs has been working with a multi-agency work group to develop an improved centralized response to bullying and harassment in DC Public Schools. The centralized system will ensure students have specific information on who to contact to report being bullied and harassed. This system is one part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce violence in the schools.

Public Safety Resources in your Community:

The Metropolitan Police Department has several resources available if you are interested in finding out more about crime and public safety in your neighborhood.

The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is an advisory panel in each police district that provides the district commander with information and recommendations from the community on the public's safety problems and police service needs. For more information about CAC visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp view,a,1238,q,542195,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp

Each police district has a listserv. To find out which listserv you should subscribe to visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp view,a,1242,q,565764,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

To find detailed information about crime statistics in your area visit www.crimemap.dc.gov or sign up at www.crimereports.com.

Actions You Can Take to Help Reduce Violent Crime
GLLU has published a comprehensive fact sheet on how to improve your safety. Here are several highlights.

Report any suspicious activity or person immediately to the Metropolitan Police Department by dialing 911.

- If possible, don't walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups whenever you can—there is always safety in numbers.
- Wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway—stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas, and other short-cuts or secluded areas. They are usually not well-lit or heavily traveled.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises.
- If Someone Tries to Rob You Don't resist. Give up your property—don't give up your life.

Visit http://www.gllu.org/PDFs/facts_safety.pdf for full sheet.



Government of the District of Columbia

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This document was produced by the Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs

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