



# Auto Theft Briefing

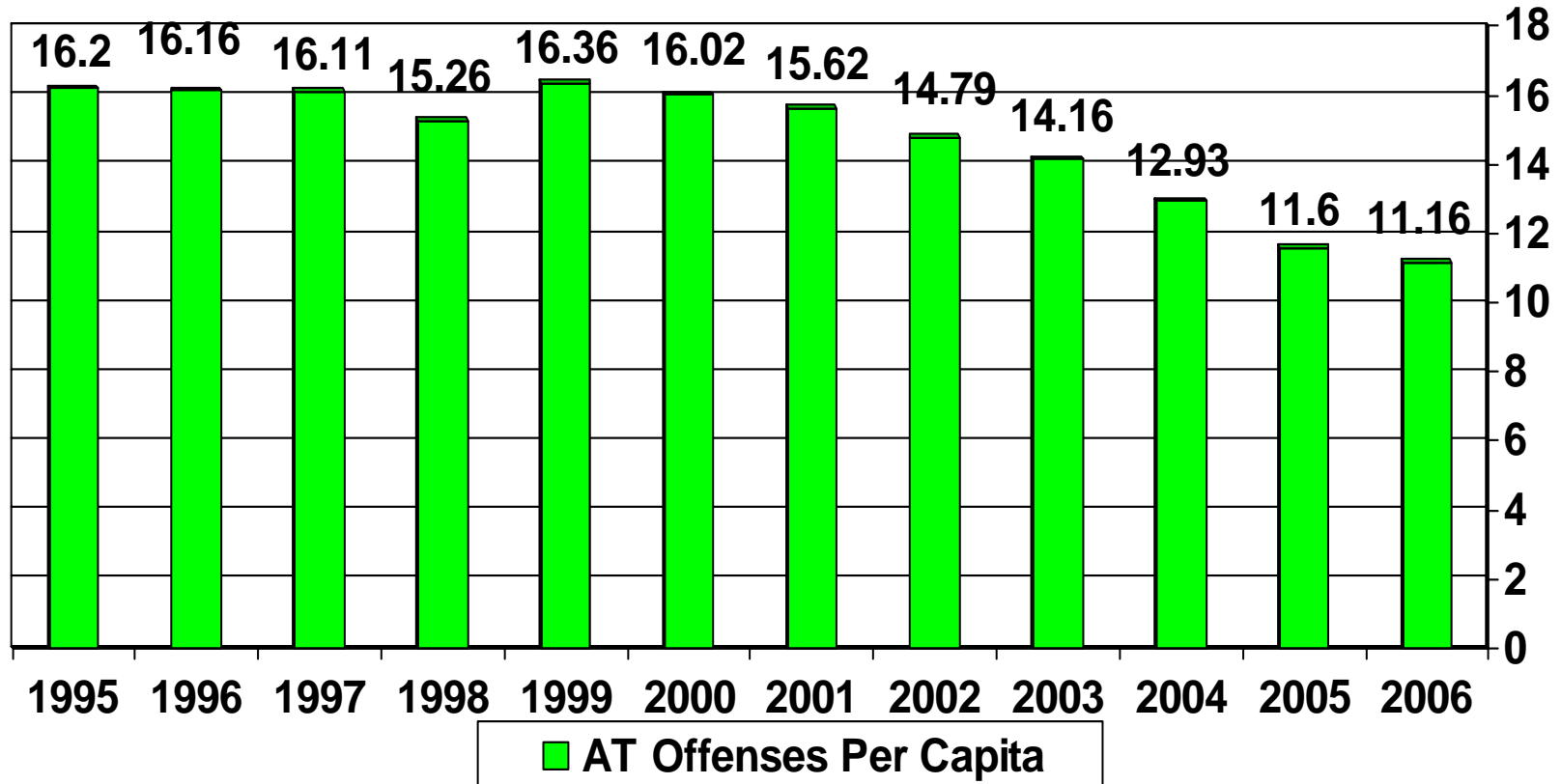


September 18, 2007

# Background

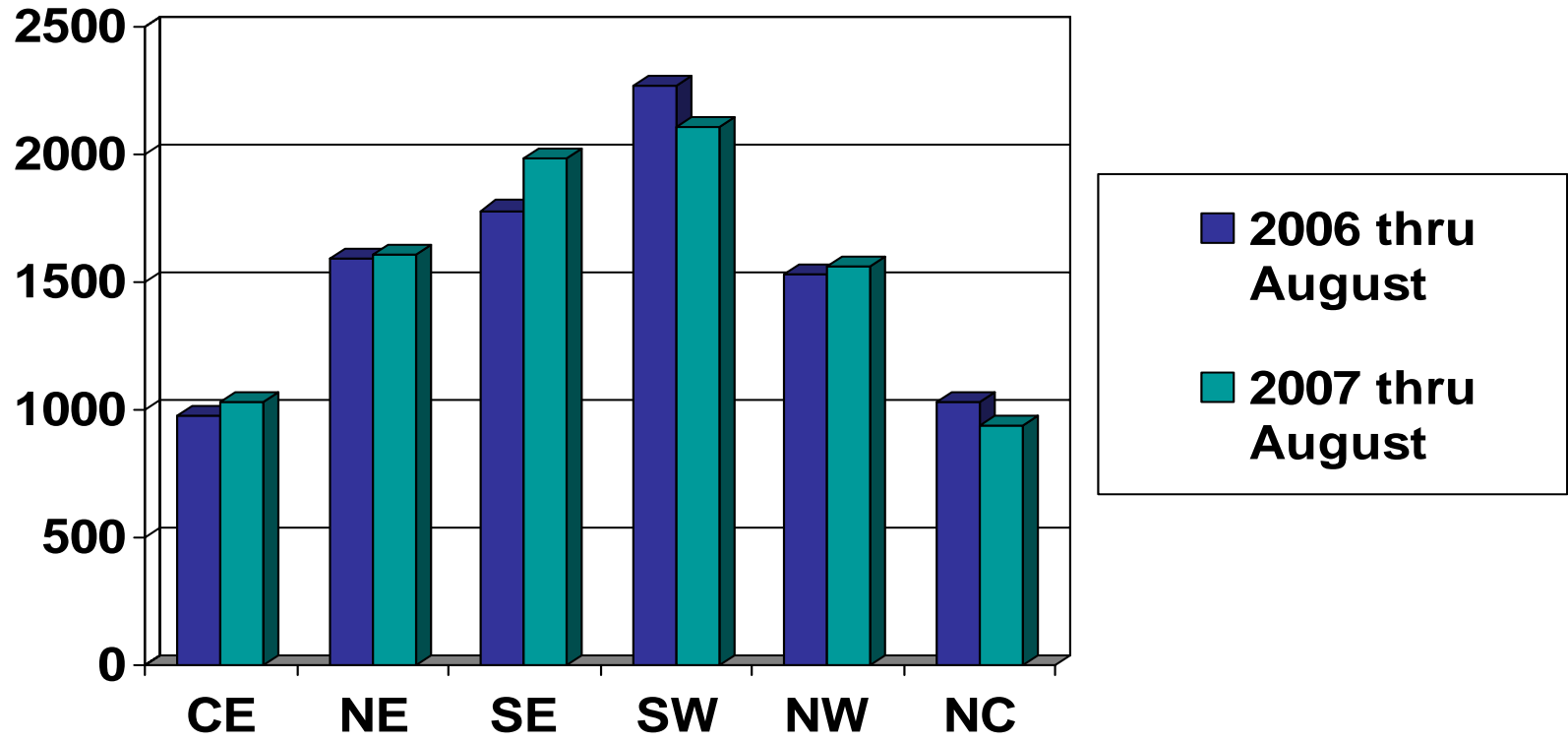
- Beginning September 1, 1994, the penalty for Auto Thefts (UUV) was decreased from a Third Degree Felony (2-10 years in prison) to a State Jail Felony(180 days- 2 years in a State jail).
- In 1995 there were 16,882 auto thefts reported to the Dallas Police Department; this accounted for 17% of all index crime.
- In 2001 these numbers had increased to 18,984 offenses also 17% of all index crimes.
- By 2006, after a steady decline, auto thefts had decreased to 13,930 offenses which was 14% of all index crime.
- Through August 2007 there have been 9178 auto theft offenses which represent a 1% increase from 2006.

# AUTO THEFT OFFENSES Per Capita 1995-2006



31% decrease in per capita AT offenses  
1995-2006

# UUV's per Patrol Division '06 vs. '07

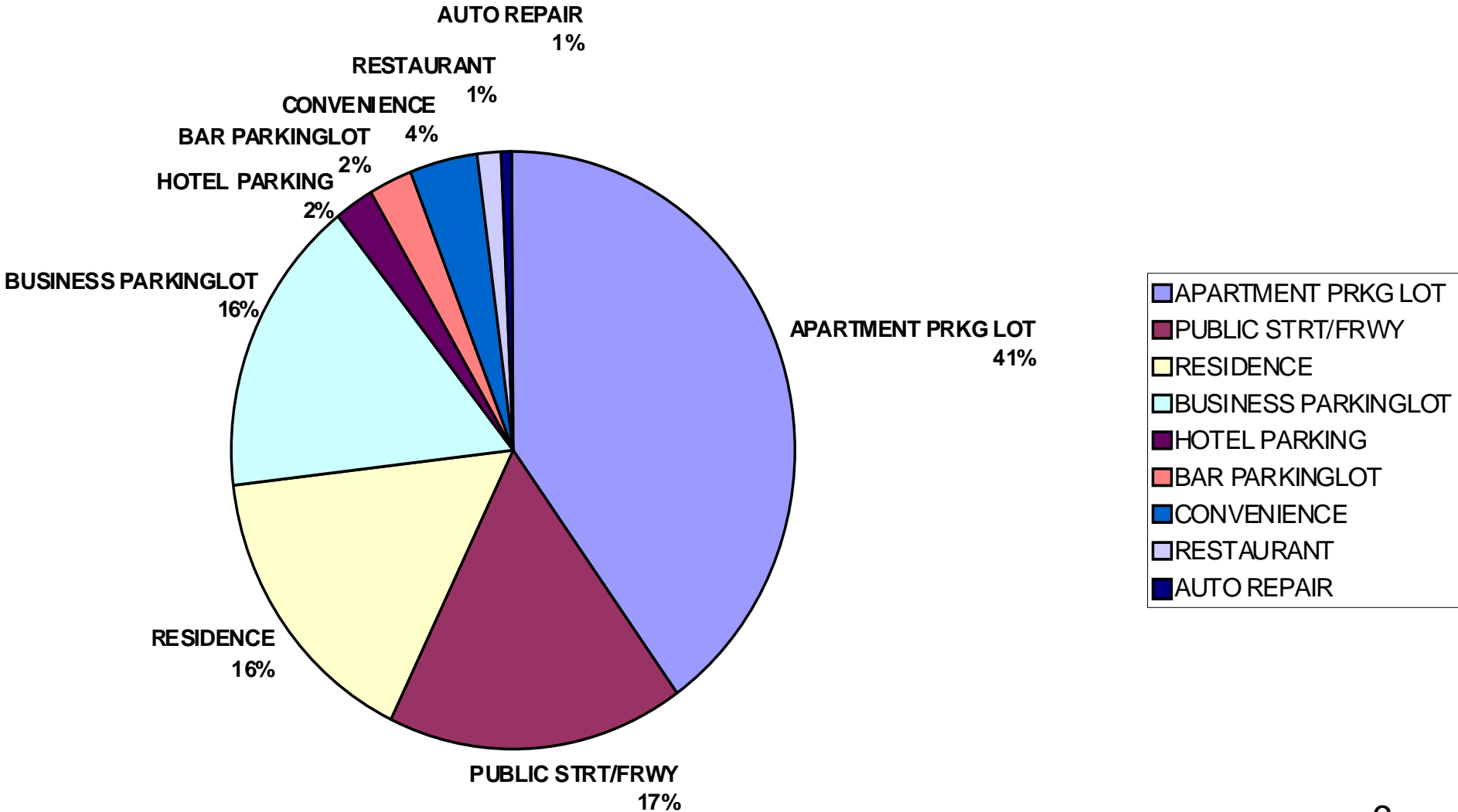


# Auto Thefts Per Capita

## Cities with +1 Million Population

CITY	Auto Theft Rate Per 1000 Population	# of Auto Thefts	Population
<b>Phoenix</b>	15.87	24,096	1,517,443
<b>Las Vegas</b>	14.96	19,677	1,315,625
<b>DALLAS</b>	<b>11.16</b>	<b>13,930</b>	<b>1,248,223</b>
<b>San Diego</b>	10.53	13,338	1,266,847
<b>Houston</b>	10.18	21,093	2,073,729
<b>Philadelphia</b>	7.96	11,657	1,464,576
<b>Chicago</b>	7.64	21,828	2,857,796
<b>Los Angeles</b>	6.54	25,389	3,879,455
<b>San Antonio</b>	5.12	6,615	1,292,116
<b>New York</b>	1.95	15,936	8,165,001

# AUTO THEFT OFFENSE LOCATIONS

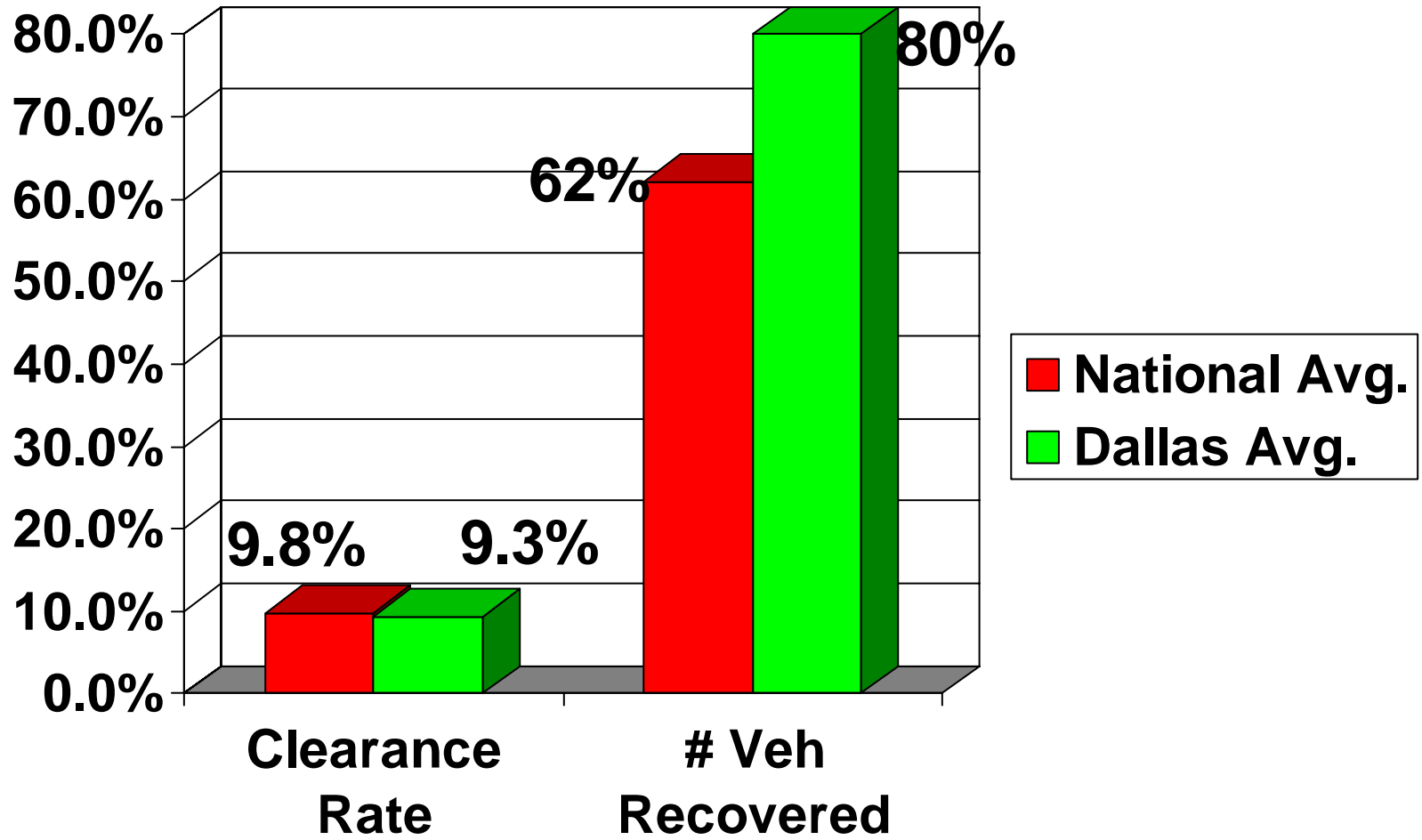


# Current Year Trends

	2006 Jan- Aug	2007 Jan-Aug	% Change
CASES ASSIGNED	9088	9178	+0.9%
CASES UNFOUNDED	802	816	+1.7%
CASES CLEARED	674	851	+26%
CLEARANCE RATE	7.4%	9.3%	+25%

# CLEARANCE AND RECOVERY RATES

Jan 1 - August 31, 2007





# Facts

## Dallas County adjudication information:

- Bond amount ranges from PR bond to \$15,000.
- The “Bait Car” program began in 2004. There have been 182 arrests.
- For “Bait Car” arrests this year, sentences range from 30 days to 365 days in jail.
- Since the programs inception in 2004, 74 of the 145 individuals adjudicated (51%) have received probation.
- The average age of a bait car arrestee is 30 years of age with 12 previous arrests.
- Dallas county will not prosecute offenses where the keys are in the vehicle and the vehicle has been stolen more than a day or two, unless the driver makes a statement or indicates that he knew the vehicle was stolen. For cases filed in Collin County, they will not accept cases based solely on the operation of the vehicle when the actor is first seen driving the vehicle more than five days after the offense.

# Sentencing Examples

NAME	Offense	Bond	Sentence	Time Served
T.G 21 total arrests	Theft 1500 2 previous felony, 9 Misdemeanor convictions	\$15,000	180 Days	71 days total
L.M *Arrested 5/29 for UUV, case not filed due to keys being in vehicle. Has since been arrested for Cap. Murder by Grand Prarie PD. 8 total arrests	UUV 2 previous felony, 7 misdemeanor convictions	\$15,000	180 Days	180 Days (never bonded out, sentenced and released on same day on time served)
C.J. 2 total arrests	UUVx2 1 previous misdemeanor conviction	\$1,500	5 years Deferred	N/A

# Conclusions

- Vehicle property crimes (UUV/BMV) account for approximately 39% of Index crime in the City of Dallas.
- The vast majority of vehicle related crimes (UUV/BMV) occur on apartment/business parking lots.
- A significant portion(10%) of vehicles are stolen while the keys are left in the vehicle.
- The criminal justice adjudication system is at or over capacity resulting in lighter, if any, jail sentences for property crime offenders.
- If these offenders do receive jail time, they usually only serve 1/3 of the original sentence.
- The majority of these offenders receive probation.

# Strategies

- Ensure accurate reporting
- There are identifiable motivations to falsely report vehicles as stolen.
  - Cars are loaned but not returned, traded for drugs, and disposed of to facilitate insurance fraud.
  - False reports pose risk to those in lawful possession of the vehicles as well as to our officers.
  - Implementation of a process requiring a signed affidavit was instituted in 2007.
- Establish partnerships
  - We participate with the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) in a grant project that provides funds to address burglary of motor vehicle and auto thefts. We are currently in our fifteenth year of the grant. For FY2007-2008, the Auto Theft Unit will receive \$511,834 to be used for salaries, equipment, travel and training. These funds are used to aggressively inspect businesses that profit from re-sale of parts and to do specialized investigations on known offenders.
- Deploy useful technology
  - We are in the third year of a “Bait Car” Program. Specially equipped vehicles are placed in high offense areas and monitored for theft. These vehicles have resulted in 182 arrests.
  - We are currently involved in a purchase of Automatic License Plate Recognition Systems. These high tech devices will be deployed in high traffic areas to identify stolen vehicles that are being driven on public streets.
  - 4 new Skywatch towers in FY2007-2008 budget to assist in offense deterrence in high crime areas.

We continue to seek and use new, innovative strategies in an effort to reduce the auto theft rate in Dallas.

# QUESTIONS?

