

# FOR THE RECORD

BUILDING SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS  
IN CHICAGO



Ecstasy:  
Anything But What the Name Implies

**2**2000

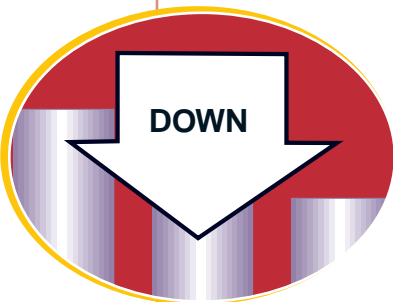
QUARTERLY UPDATE

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Ecstasy.** An illegal drug combined with late night dances held at unsafe dance clubs is a recipe for danger for Chicago area youths. With your help we can repel its advance. Get the facts. Page 2.

**Incidents.** Crime continues to decline. This edition of "For The Record" focuses on the location of these incidents. Page 8.



**Arrests.** Arrests are down Citywide. Details begin on page 12.

## TOGETHER WE MUST FIGHT THE RETURN OF ECSTASY

A drug that has been around for a long time is poised for a comeback in Chicago. The drug is Ecstasy, also known as XTC, X, Clarity and Essence. We are going to make sure this doesn't happen. The Organized Crime Division has established an interdisciplinary team to target the users and organizers who have enabled the spread of this drug. These units will work in conjunction with the Strategic Inspections Task Force to shut down the locations where Ecstasy is used and sold. Our approach is already starting to work and the message is getting out—**Ecstasy use will not be tolerated in the City of Chicago.** The task force recently concluded a successful operation against Club Excel, an Ecstasy club on Chicago's near West Side. We were able to aggressively go after the operators of this club thanks to a new provision of the Municipal Code of Chicago that makes arrests and prosecution more effective. However, we can not solve this problem alone.

The Chicago Police Department has teamed up with different city agencies to pass laws and institute a plan of action that will address the growing problems associated with the drug Ecstasy. **Now we need your help.**

Let your children know about the dangers of this drug. If they are already using it, and you find out where, report that information to us so we can move against the dealers and operators.

**Communication and partnership between the police and the community is needed now more than ever to prevent tragedies such as the recent death of three young people in the suburbs who died as a result of ecstasy.**

In this issue of For the Record we have outlined many of the telltale signs associated with the use and sale of Ecstasy. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the effects of this drug, so that if it reaches your neighborhood, you will be prepared to help us stop the spread of ecstasy.



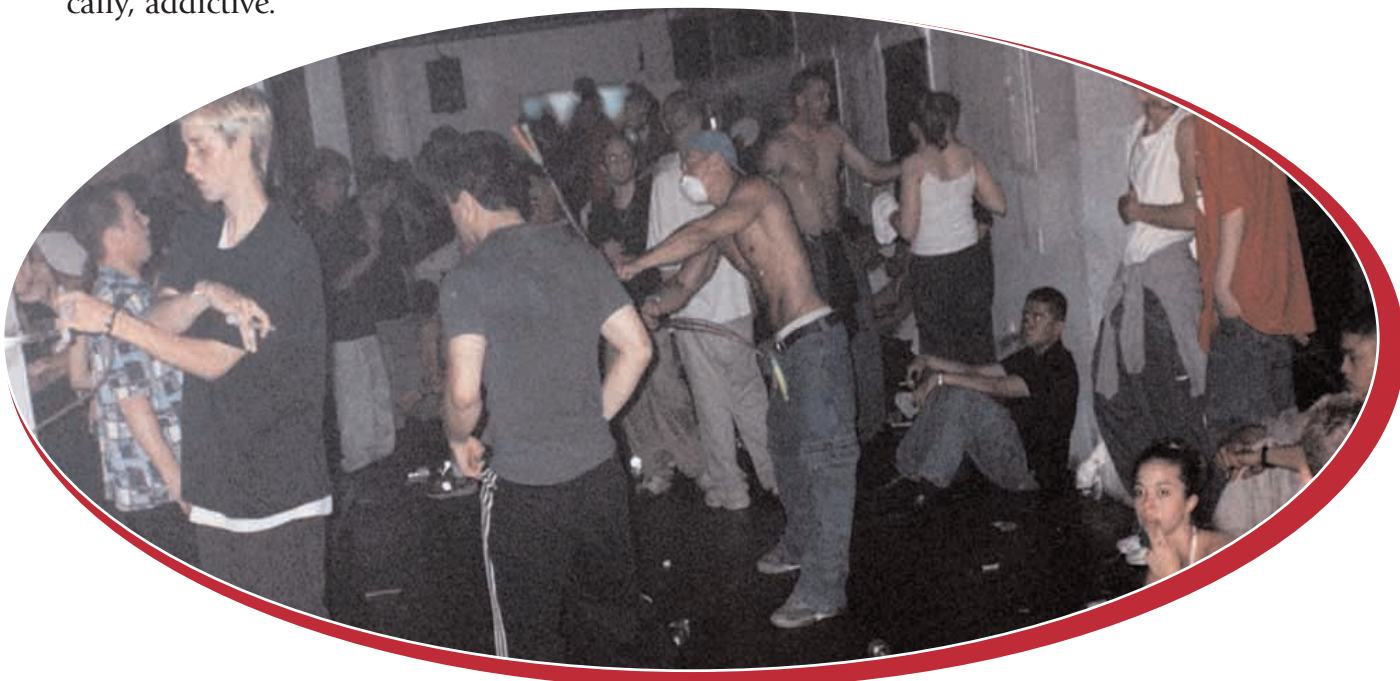
*Terry J. Walker*

# Ecstasy: Anything But What the Name Implies



## What is Ecstasy?

- Scientific name: Methylenedioxy-N-Methamphetamine (MDMA)
- Street names: Ecstasy, XTC, X, Adam, Clarity, Lover's Speed, Essence
- A synthetic, psychoactive (mind-altering) drug with hallucinogenic and amphetamine-like properties.
- Called the "hug drug" because users experience feelings of serenity and calm, emotional closeness with those around, and heightened senses of touch and hearing.
- Can be psychologically, but not physically, addictive.
- Produced in the Netherlands, distribution controlled by Israeli organized crime.
- Costs \$0.50 per tablet to manufacture, sells for \$25.00-\$30.00 per tablet in Chicago.
- Called a "club drug" because it is mostly found at rave parties/after-hours dance clubs. Users tend to be white, upper-income, suburban teenagers and young adults.
- A "designer drug" which often has a high-end brand name, such as Mercedes-Benz, IBM, or Volkswagen, stamped upon it.





# Together We Must Fight the Return of Ecstasy

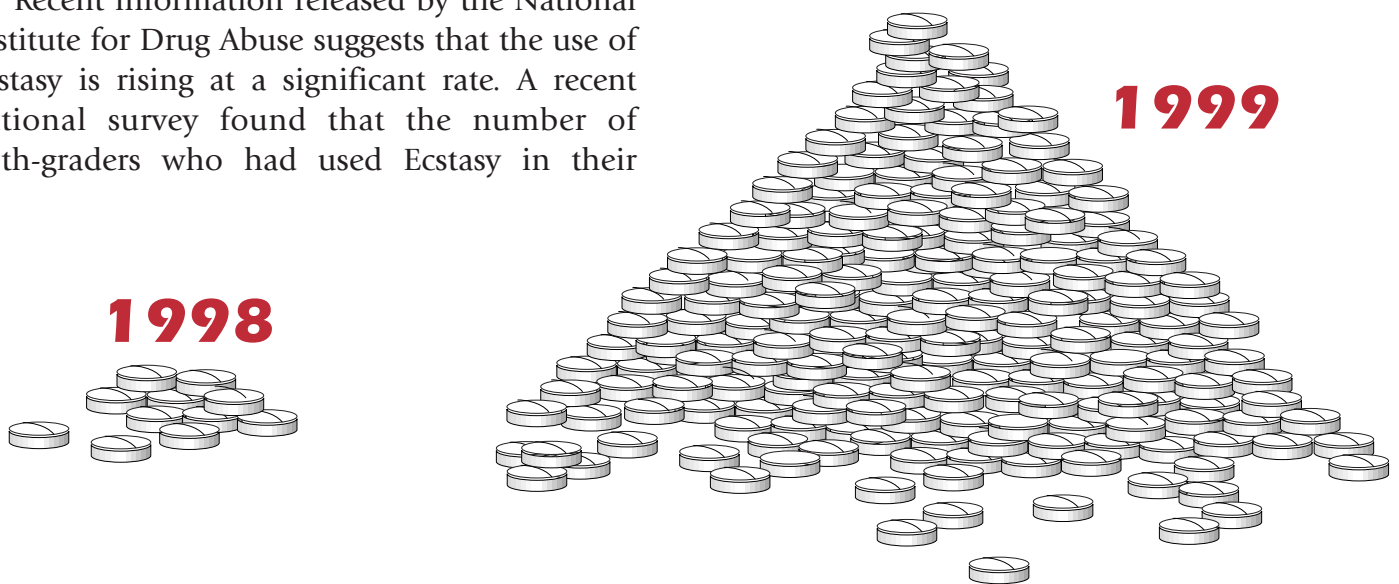
## Ecstasy: Gaining in Popularity

Ecstasy is an illegal synthetic drug that was invented in 1912. Ecstasy, which acts both as a stimulant and a hallucinogen was first patented in Germany as an appetite suppressant. It was never legally manufactured for that or any other medical purpose. However, starting in the 1970s through the mid-1980s, Ecstasy was popular with some American psychotherapists as a drug to induce patients to confront difficult feelings. Despite the medical community's rejection of ecstasy as a legitimate drug, it became a popular "designer drug" among recreational drug users. Due to the dangers of Ecstasy, the Federal Government enacted legislation in 1985 that made the sale, possession, or use of ecstasy illegal. Consequently, those still using ecstasy now use and purchase the drug through underground channels that are often difficult for the police to track.

Recent information released by the National Institute for Drug Abuse suggests that the use of Ecstasy is rising at a significant rate. A recent national survey found that the number of 12th-graders who had used Ecstasy in their

lifetime increased from 5.8 percent in 1998 to 8.0 percent in 1999. Local findings mirror this trend. According to the Illinois Youth Survey, Ecstasy use remained relatively stable in the early and mid-1990s, with approximately 2.5 percent lifetime use among high school students. Starting in 1997 the lifetime use among high school students rose to 4.2 percent. An ominous sign of things to come may be found in drug seizures. In 1998, the Chicago Police Department Narcotics Section seized 11 Ecstasy tablets. In 1999, the figure was 72,237.

Ecstasy is a dangerous drug which is often used in dangerous circumstances. Because adolescents and young adults are the primary users, it is especially important for parents to be familiar with this drug and its effects.



*In 1998, the Chicago Police Department Narcotics Section seized 11 Ecstasy tablets. In 1999, the figure was 72,237.*

# Ecstasy: Anything But What the Name Implies



## Ecstasy at Clubs and Raves

Ecstasy is often sold and used at clubs and raves (large, all-night dance parties). Wicker Park and Bucktown are frequent locales for rave parties in Chicago. Clubs where Ecstasy is used are sometimes called "dry cabarets," "juice bars," or "teenage cabarets." Ecstasy use should be suspected at a club if the club:

- is open at very late, unusual hours (e.g. 5 A.M.-11 A.M.).
- sells no food or drink except for very expensive bottled water, often in the neighborhood of \$7 per bottle.
- is very crowded, well beyond what appears normal and safe for an establishment of its size.
- has a separate room designated for cooling off, often requiring a fee to enter.

The premises themselves may add to the risk of taking Ecstasy. To accommodate the large crowds associated with rave parties, the operators of venues may overload the electrical system with fans and other devices. This increases the chance of a fire, made all the more deadly by the crush of people inside.

Patrons who overdose may encounter another premises-related risk. Instead of receiving medical attention, they are often removed from the immediate area of the party and placed in an alley. The operators of the clubs are reluctant to call for medical assistance, fearing police involvement.

### Hazardous Wiring



### Structural Defects



# Together We Must Fight the Return of Ecstasy

## Ecstasy and PMA

PMA (Paramethoxymethamphetamine) is a look-alike drug which is often sold as, or mistaken for, Ecstasy. Tablets from recent Chicago Police Department seizures have had the Mitsubishi corporate logo stamped on them. Like Ecstasy, PMA is a stimulant with hallucinogenic properties. However, PMA is a potentially lethal drug because a single tablet can increase the heart rate to dangerous levels, and drive up body temperature to the point that organs shut down. The danger is compounded by the fact that PMA takes two to three times as long to "kick in" as Ecstasy. Unsuspecting users who think they are taking Ecstasy when they are in fact taking PMA may take an additional dose when the drug does not "kick in" as soon as they expect.

Three young people in the Chicago suburbs have recently died from taking PMA. They ranged from 17-20 years of age. In one case, the victim had taken a single PMA tablet. In another, the victim ingested five to seven tablets she believed to be Ecstasy. The body temperature of one of the victims was found to be 108 degrees Fahrenheit an hour after death.

*In addition to the dangers of illegal drug use, clubs where Ecstasy is used are oftentimes equally dangerous due to serious building and health code violations.*

# Ecstasy: Anything But What the Name Implies



## Ecstasy's Physical Side Effects

- Muscle tension
- Involuntary teeth clenching
- Nausea
- Blurred vision
- Rapid eye movement
- Chills/sweating
- Vomiting
- Increased heart rate
- High blood pressure
- Marked increase in body temperature
- Dehydration
- Stroke
- Damage to those parts of the brain which control thought and memory (with long-term use).

## Ecstasy's Psychological Side Effects

- Confusion
- Depression
- Sleep disturbance
- Drug craving
- Severe anxiety
- Paranoia

These effects can occur weeks after taking the drug.

## Ecstasy Use Clues

There is also behavior of the guests which is typical of Ecstasy use. This includes:

- conversation about "rolling," which means using Ecstasy.
- substantial, mutual touching, resulting from the heightened sensory awareness Ecstasy produces.
- use of "glow sticks," which heighten the hallucinogenic effects of the drug.
- inhalation of Vicks Vapo-Rub, or application of Vicks Vapo-Rub around the nose area. This enhances the effects of the drug.
- use of pacifiers, to combat the effects of involuntary teeth clenching.
- profuse sweating.
- excessive water consumption.







# Together We Must Fight the Return of Ecstasy

## The Chicago Police Response

The Organized Crime Division has established an interdisciplinary team of officers from the Narcotics Section and the License Unit of the Vice Control Section. The Licensing Unit officers often complete a preliminary investigation where they look for many of the telltale signs associated with “Rave Clubs.” The licensing unit then turns over any useful information it obtains to the Narcotics Unit. It may also provide information to the Strategic Inspections Task Force, which can take direct action against the premises. Based on Licensing Unit information, officers from the Narcotics Unit will go undercover to infiltrate the club. “Our strategy is to go in and just become part of the crowd,” says Officer L. A. Nieves. “We take a low-key approach, and people start talking to us. After a while we know who the dealers are, and we make buys inside the club. That leads to arrests.” The interdisciplinary team recently concluded a successful operation against Club Excel, an Ecstasy club on Chicago’s Near West Side. This winning formula is now being replicated and other clubs that host rave parties are being targeted.

## Partnership With City Government

Recent amendments to Section 4-156-300 of the Municipal Code of Chicago expands the liability for conducting a public amusement without a license—such as a rave party—to persons not previously specified in the ordinance. Liability now extends to the owner of the property, the lessee of the property, the manager of the property, the producer of the amusement, the presenter of the amusement, and the person conducting the amusement. Each person in violation of the subsection is subject to a fine of up to \$10,000. This tool in the hands of the interdisciplinary team established by Superintendent Hillard is extremely effective. The owners of clubs hosting rave parties must now think twice before allowing illegal behavior to occur in their establishments.

A further amendment creates a special class of public place of amusement license for premises to be used primarily by minors, where the amusement primarily involves music, music videos, and dancing. Premises so licensed may not operate between 2 A.M. and 11 A.M. which are primary hours for Ecstasy use. Violators of this law are subject to revocation of all city licenses pertaining to that establishment.

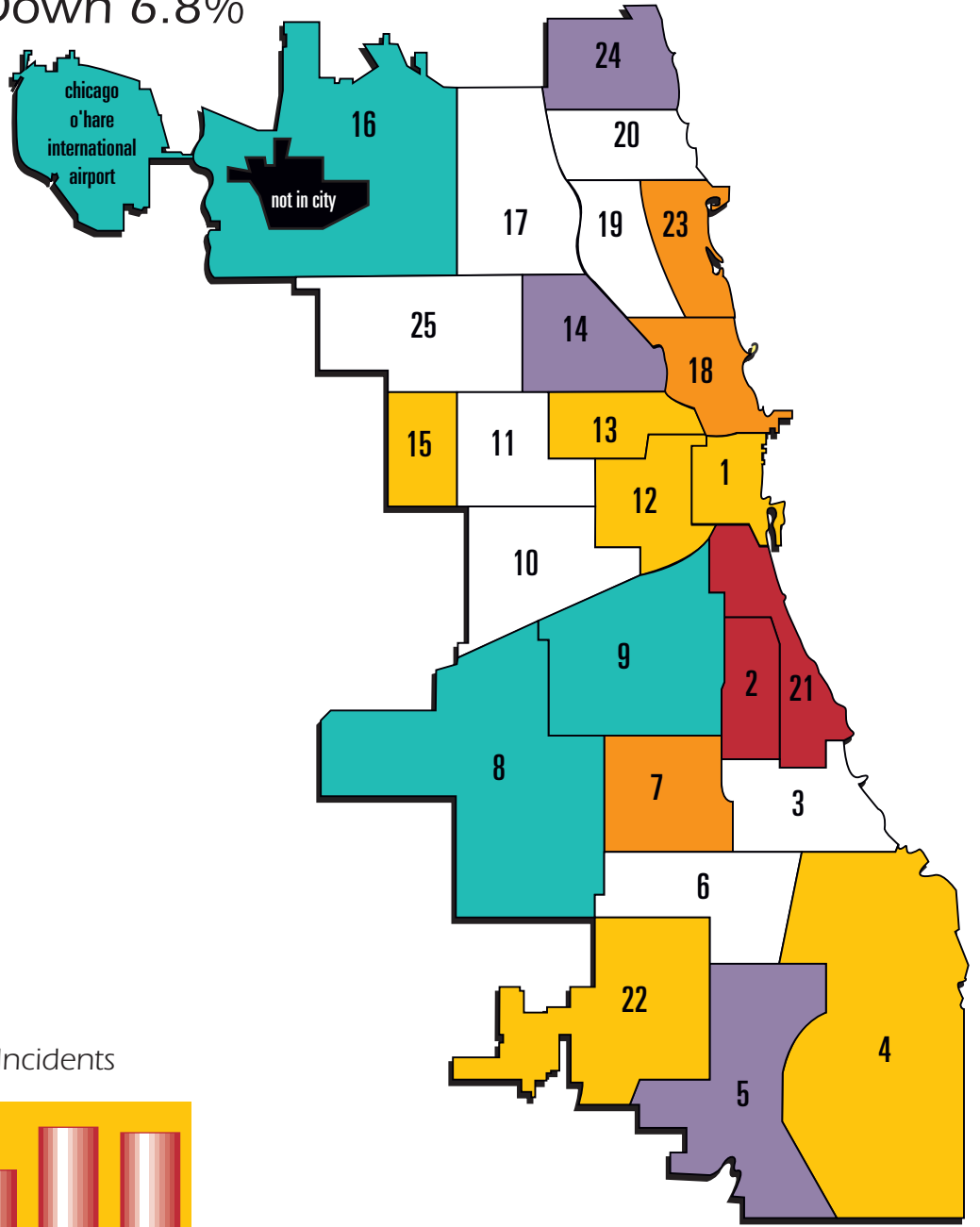
## Partnership With The Community

The alarming rise in Ecstasy use is being addressed head on by the Chicago Police and City Government. While an effective interdisciplinary task force and stricter laws will help to reduce the incidence of ecstasy use, the Chicago Police still needs help from the community to stop this dangerous drug.

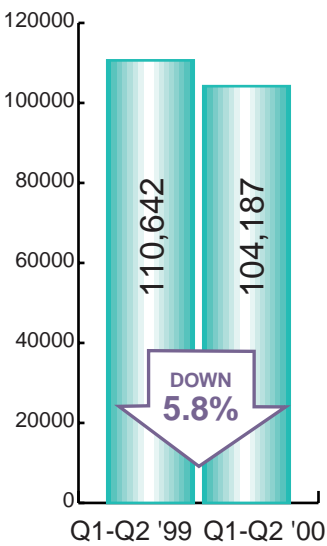
If you have observed any of the behaviors outlined above, please contact the Narcotics Section of the Chicago Police Department at 1-800-CRACK44. Furthermore, if you believe rave parties exist in your neighborhood, share this information with your local beat officers and neighbors at your CAPS beat meeting. Through the CAPS problem-solving process, you can work with us to rid our community of the dangers of ecstasy. For information about your police beat and CAPS, please call 3-1-1.

# Index Crimes — Q1-Q2 2000

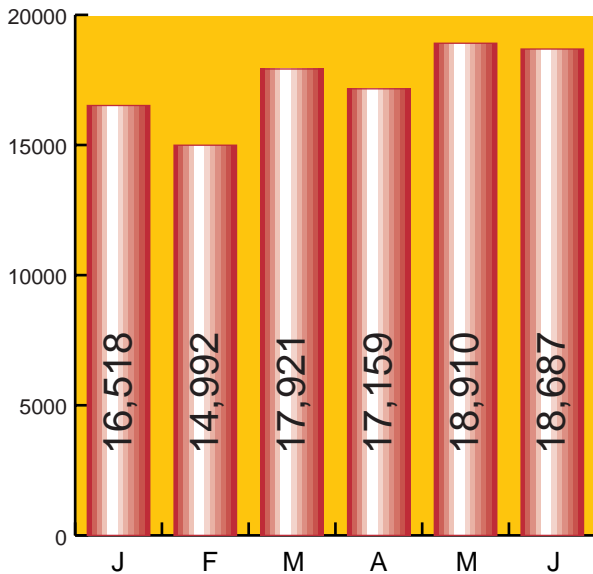
Citywide Total: Down 6.8%



Incidents



Q1-Q2 Index Crime Incidents



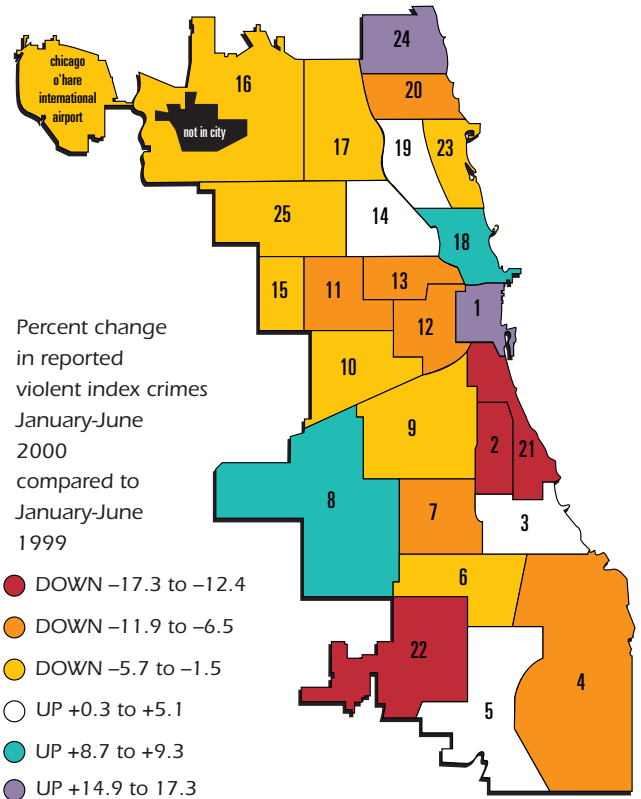
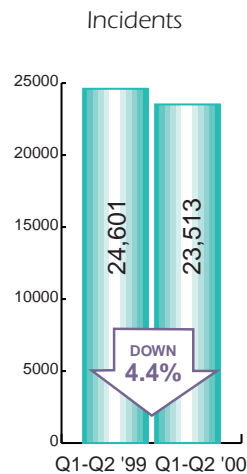
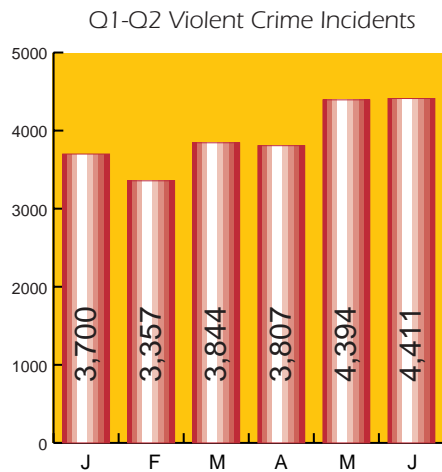
Percent change in reported total index crimes January-June 2000 compared to January-June 1999

- DOWN -17.7 to -16.4
- DOWN -13.2 to -10.6
- DOWN -9.8 to -7.3
- DOWN -5.6 to -2.5
- UP +0.6 to +1.9
- UP +2.8 to +5.9

# Violent Index Crimes

Citywide: Down 4.4%

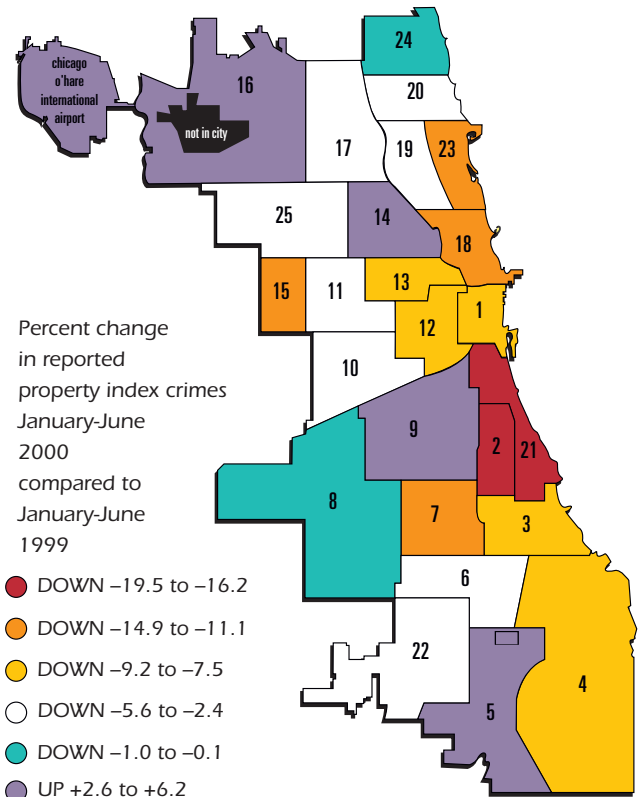
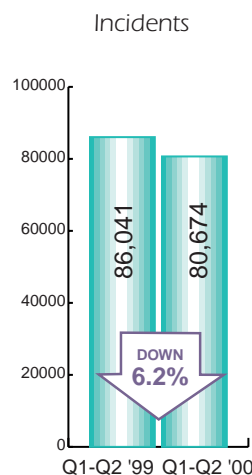
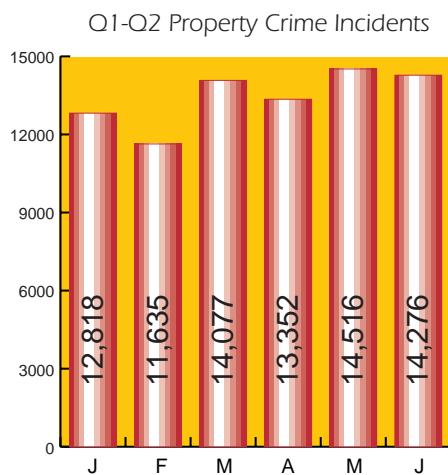
NOTE: Violent Index Crime for this report includes Homicide, Agg. Assault/Battery, Robbery, and Criminal Sexual Assault.



# Property Index Crimes

Citywide: Down 6.2%

NOTE: Property Index Crime for this report includes Burglary, Theft, Vehicular Theft, and Arson.

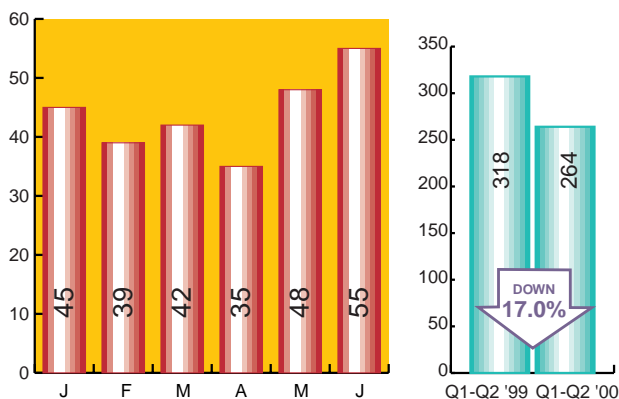


# Focus On Location:

## Homicides

Citywide: Down 17.0%

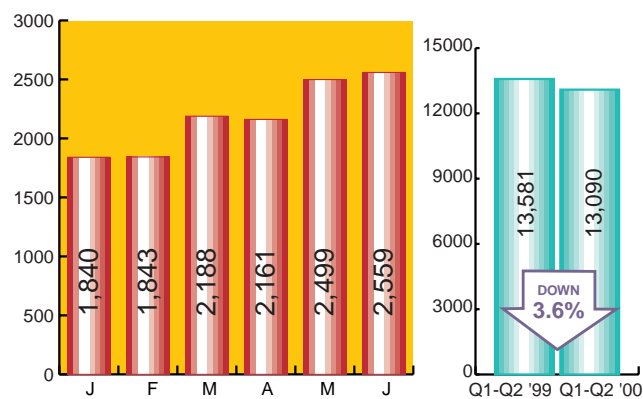
- 34.5% on street
- 17.8% in automobile
- 11.7% in apartment
- 5.7% in alley



## Agg. Assaults/Batteries

Citywide: Down 3.6%

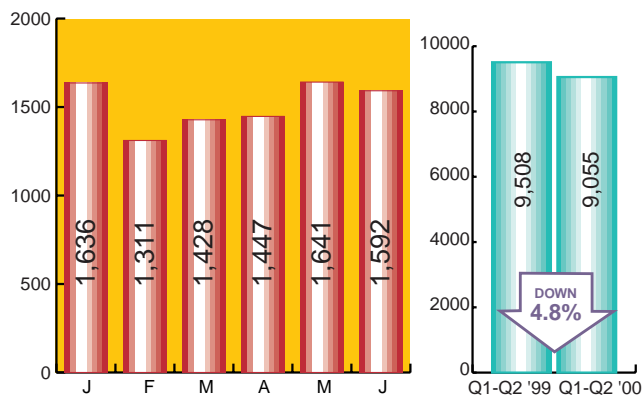
- 44.3% on street/sidewalk
- 28.8% residential



## Robbery Incidents

Citywide: Down 4.8%

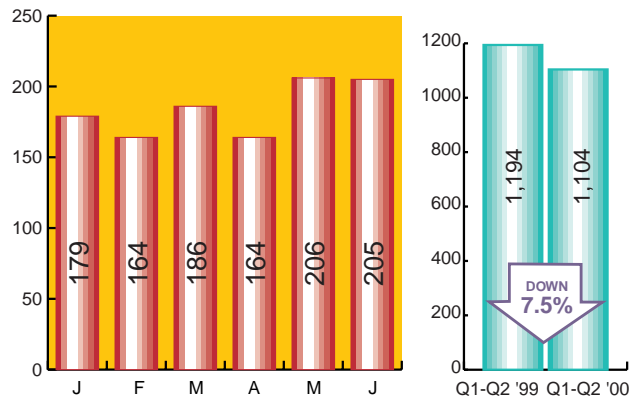
- 61% on street/sidewalk
- 9.3% alley or parking lot
- 6.7% residential



## Criminal Sexual Assaults

Citywide: Down 7.5%

- 54.1% residential
- 13.9% alley or street
- 6% non-commercial vehicle

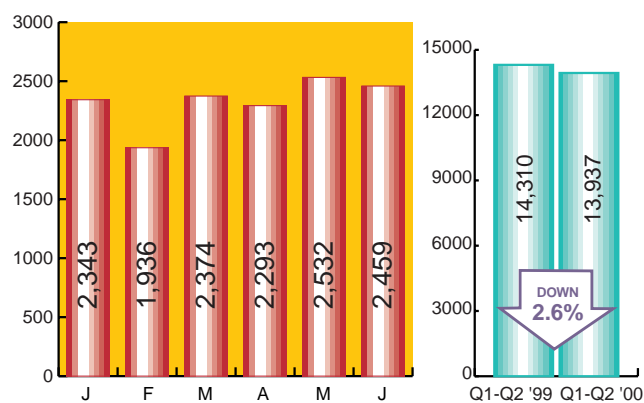


The second quarter for the record takes a specific look at where the index crimes are occurring, in addition to quarterly totals and trends.

## Burglary Incidents

Citywide: Down 2.6%

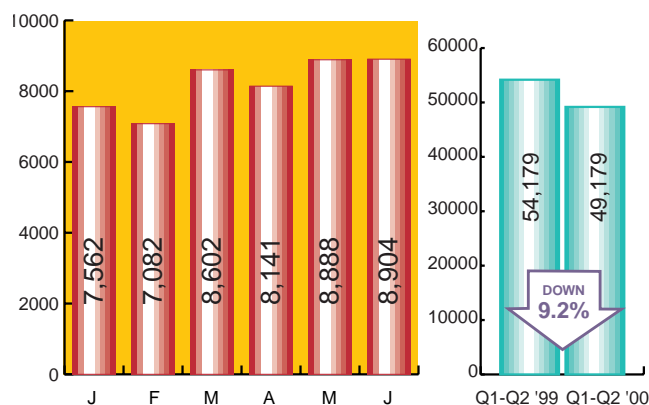
- 76.5% residential
- 2.4% small retail stores
- 2% restaurants



## Theft Incidents

Citywide: Down 9.2%

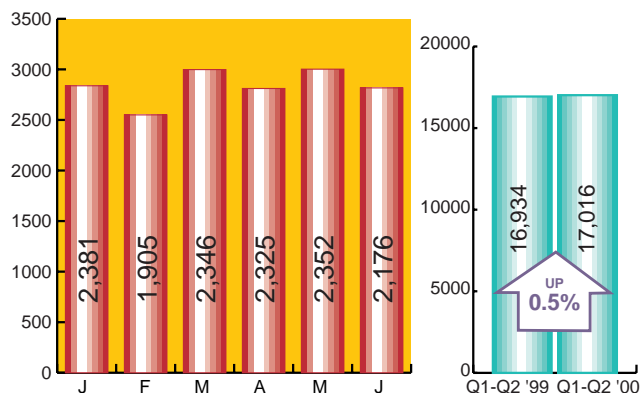
- 28% on street
- 12.4% residential
- 6.4% department stores
- 6.3% parking lots



## Vehicular Theft Incidents

Citywide: Up 0.5%

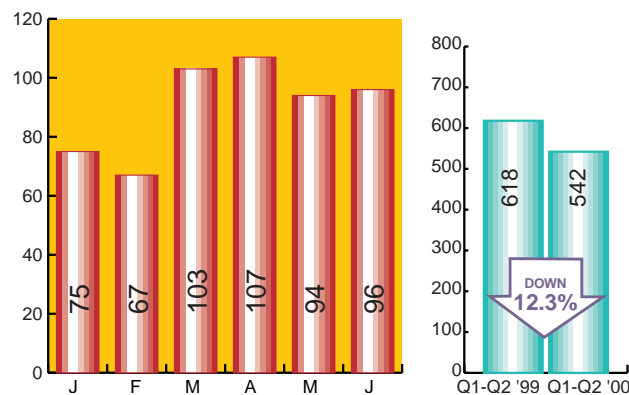
- 76.6% street
- 11.3% parking lot
- 2.2% alley
- 1.6% residence



## Arson Incidents

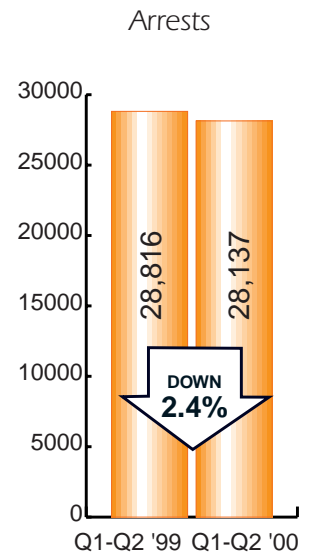
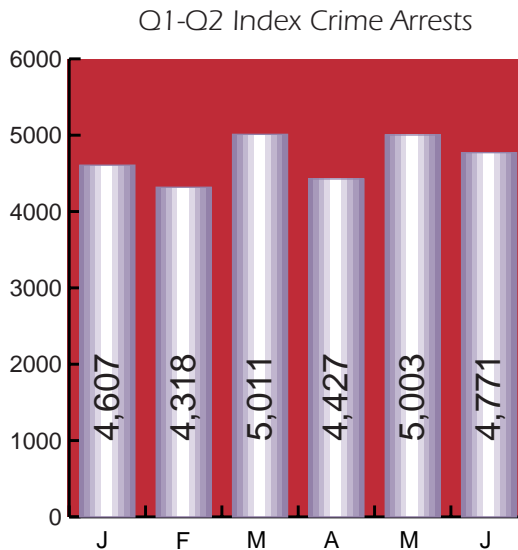
Citywide: Down 12.3%

- 36% residential
- 10.4% alleys
- 3.8% abandoned buildings



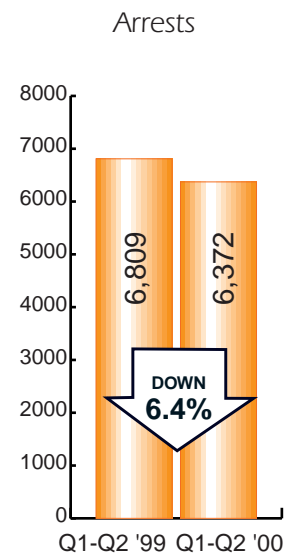
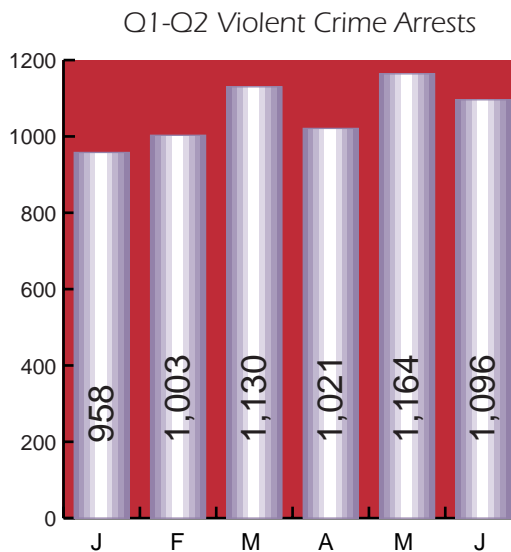
# Total Index Crime Arrests

Citywide: Down 2.4%



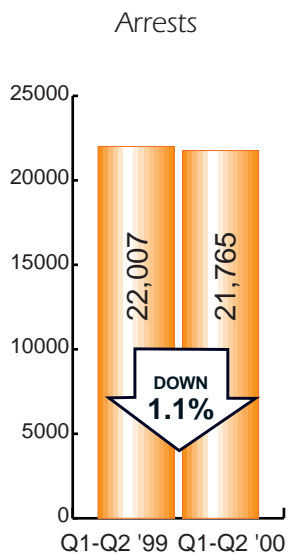
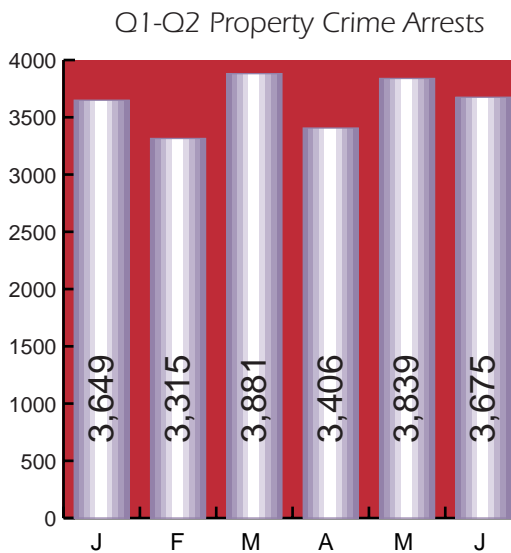
# Violent Index Crime Arrests

Citywide: Down 6.4%



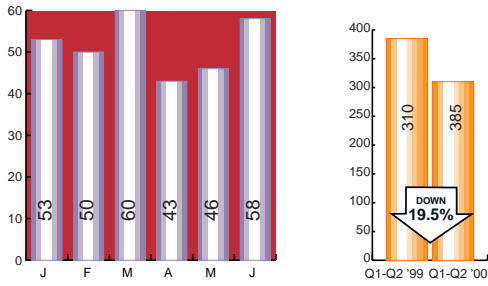
# Property Index Crime Arrests

Citywide: Down 1.1%



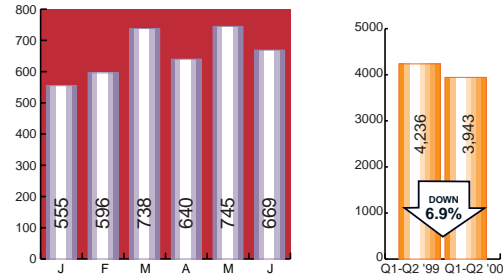
# Homicide Arrests

Citywide: Down 19.5%



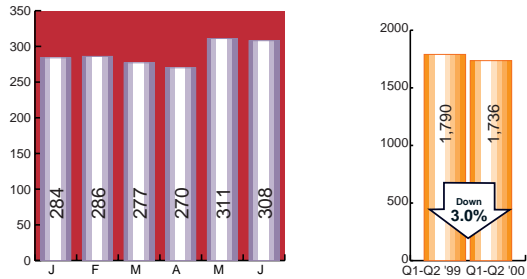
# Agg. Assault/Battery Arrests

Citywide: Down 6.9%



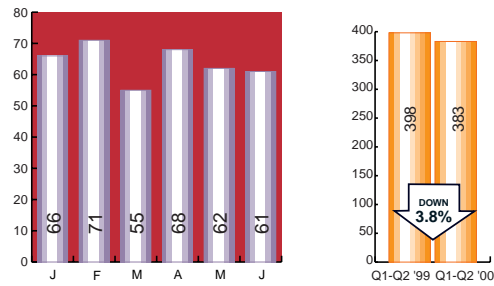
# Robbery Arrests

Citywide: Down 3.0%



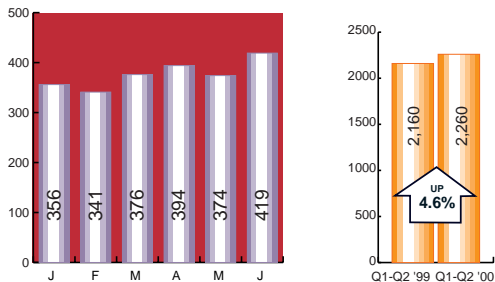
# Sexual Assault Arrests

Citywide: Down 3.8%



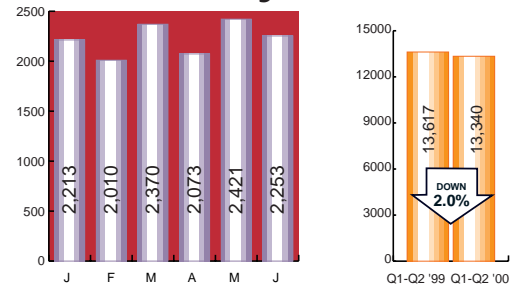
# Burglary Arrests

Citywide: Up 4.6%



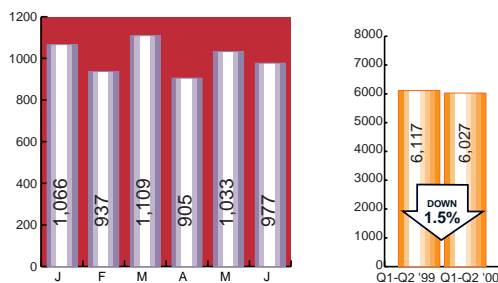
# Theft Arrests

Citywide: Down 2.0%



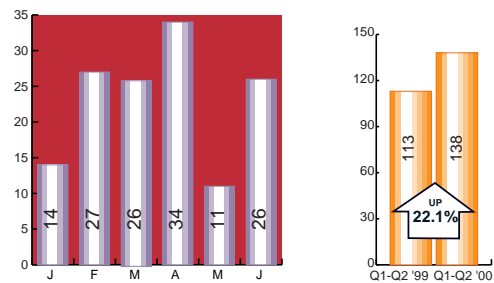
# Vehicular Theft Arrests

Citywide: Down 1.5%



# Arson Arrests

Citywide: Up 22.1%





For The Record: Building Safe Neighborhoods  
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