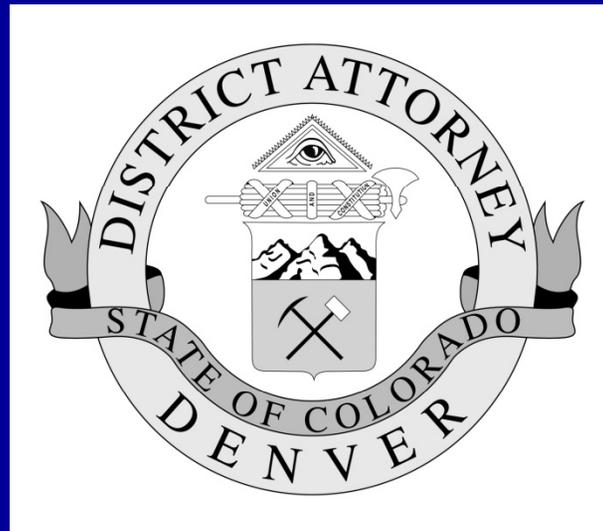
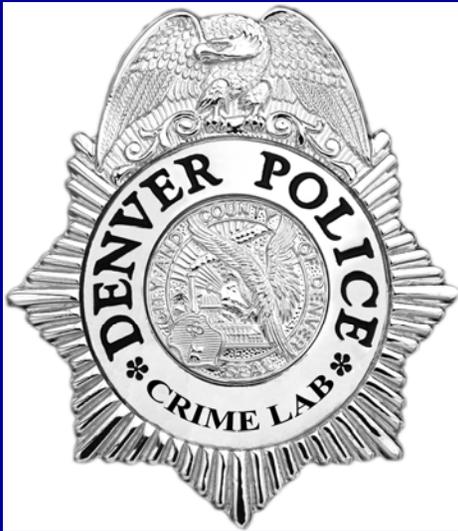


The Denver Model: Elements for Success



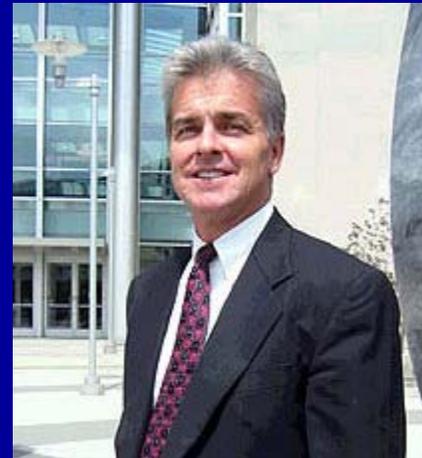
Greggory S. LaBerge, Director
Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory

Background

- DPD Crime Lab and Investigators immediately (1999) realized power of STR technology and CODIS for solving current and cold cases
- What other forensic tools or pieces of equipment will re-open investigations and solve violent crimes like DNA testing?
- Began discussions with command staff of Crimes Against Persons Bureau and Denver DA about using technology on unsolved cases



- Key buy-in by DPD command
- Commitment of Denver DA
- Case screening protocol created
- Detectives trained
- Administrative screening begins
- Pilot data generated on cost of review, cost of analysis & estimated number of cases



Investigators



Prosecutors

Forensic
Scientists

Funding

- Phase I – 2004-2006.
 - Funded 2 Forensic Scientists (Forensic Biology/DNA); Detective overtime for case review
- Phase II – 2006-2008.
 - Funded 1 Forensic Scientist (Forensic Biology)
- Phase III – 2008-2010.
 - Funded 3 Forensic Scientists (Forensic Biology/DNA); 3 Cold Case Detectives; 1 Cold Case Victim Advocate; 1 Denver DA Cold Case Team (2 DA's, 1 Investigator, 1 Victim Advocate)
- Phase IV – Started March 2010.
 - Funds 3 Forensic Scientists (Forensic Biology/DNA)
 - Cold Case Detectives and DA Team continue working under other funding sources

Cold Case Program to Date

- 5,280 cases have been reviewed
- 1,111 lab requests have been submitted
- 649 Cold Case Sex Assaults Completed
- 86 Cold Case Homicides Completed
- 386 lab requests are pending
- 1,300+ DNA samples analyzed
- 380 DNA profiles submitted to CODIS
- 194 CODIS hits (51 % hit rate)
- 81 cases have been filed – sexual assault and homicide cases
- 77 cases have been adjudicated
- 147 'John/Jane Doe' filings, 46 converted to name identified (not all are cold cases)



Post-hit investigation

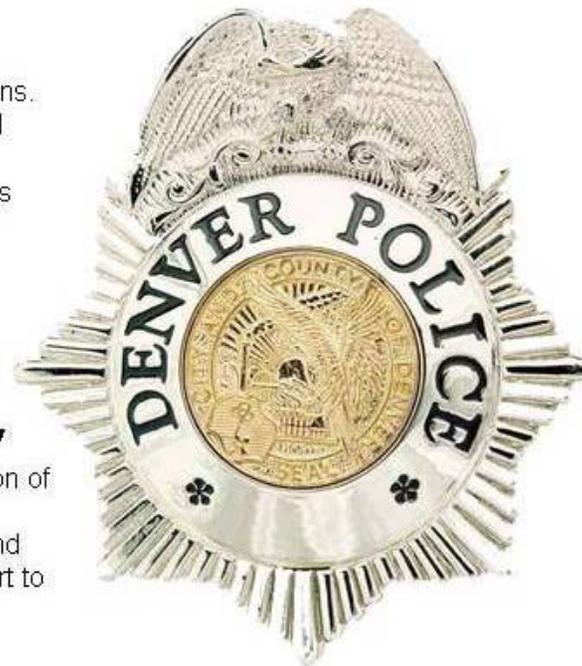
- Top priority cases are those that involve offenders who are on the street.
- Most CODIS hits (85%) are obtained within the state of Colorado and CBI confirms most offender matches in <36 hours
- Release of offender information occurs immediately if offender is out
- CODIS hits sent via email with read receipt
- Sent to command staff (for reassignment as needed)



Lesson 1-Define the Team

- Rise and fall as a team-include lab personnel on the team. At Denver the DPDCL started the project and wrote the grants to fund both DPD officers (regular and OT) and scientists, later expanded to Denver DA.
- Integrate Detectives into laboratory training and scientists into Detective training and continually conduct training about 3-4 times per year.
- Feedback successes to patrol officers, District Command and Detective Units to reinforce team concept. Philosophy is from Crime Scene to Courtroom and include DA to ensure that they are on the team and engaged-dedicated units to cold case.

CODIS Workflow



Friday: Denver Police Department (DPD) Crime Lab notifies the Cold Case Sergeant what cases will be uploaded to CODIS on Monday of the following week so that the Cold Case Unit can locate their case records in archives

Thursday: DPD Crime Lab prepares and reviews our CODIS match notification reports and sends them via email to the appropriate chain of command: the Cold Case Sergeant, Major Crime Lieutenant, and Division Chief of Criminal Investigations. This ensures that the cases are prioritized and assigned for follow-up investigation immediately. Arrests are made of suspects who are not currently incarcerated

Monday: DPD crime lab uploads New profiles to the Colorado Bureau Of Investigation (CBI) state CODIS database

Wednesday Afternoon / Thursday

Morning: CBI completes the confirmation of the convicted offender sample (through offender's DNA sample and fingerprint) and emails a written CODIS confirmation report to the DPD Crime Lab

Tuesday Morning:

CODIS hits obtained; DPD Crime Lab requests offender confirmations and incarceration status of offenders within the state of Colorado from CBI

Tuesday Afternoon: Crime Lab receives identifying information (name, DOB, DOC#) for any offenders who are not incarcerated and immediately forward this information to the Cold Case Unit. The Cold Case Unit will begin to prepare an arrest warrant and will attempt to locate the suspect with the help of the Fugitive Unit

Lesson 2-Share successes across the team and work problems in same way.

- Successes include identifying perpetrators with database, post-hit investigations, filing of charges, convictions.
- Engage Police Command to ensure trial strategies and sentencing recommendations. Including Laboratory who has an investment in each case, often significant.
- Lab works with Detectives/DA for post-hit analysis, sometimes extensive.

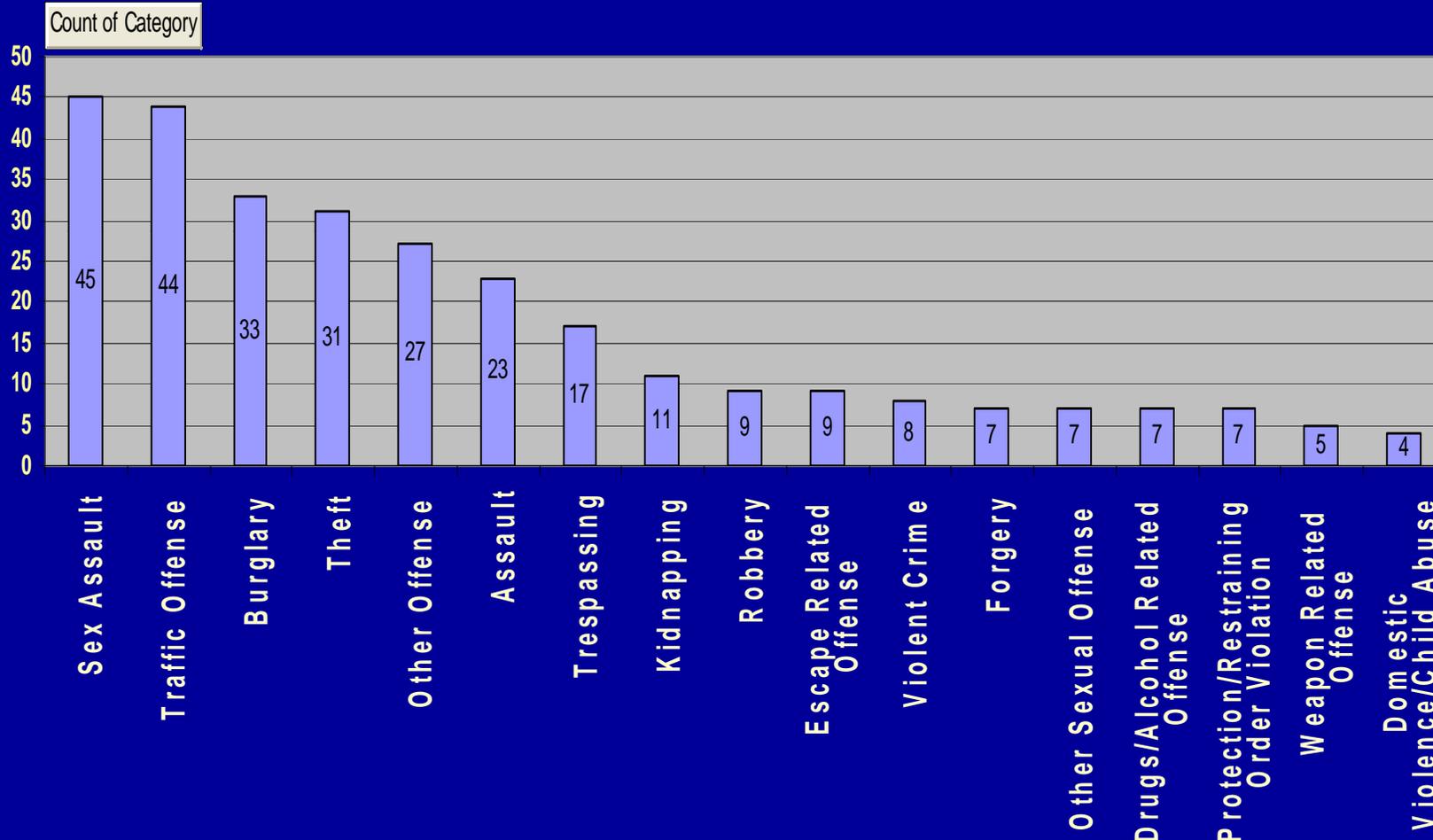
17 Offenders Identified through Project have had Criminal Charges Filed

- Total arrests is 500
- Total offenses is 294 (15% sexual offenses)
- 107 total offenses occurred after date of cold case offense
- Average age of offender at time of cold case – 27 years old (min 19, max 41)
- Average length of criminal career – 13 years
- Total sentencing of 8 offenders – combined 433 years (avg= 57 years)

Average Arrests	29
Average Felony Indictments	11
Average Misdemeanor Indictments	1
Average Convictions	5

Type Indictment

Offense types committed by 17 offenders

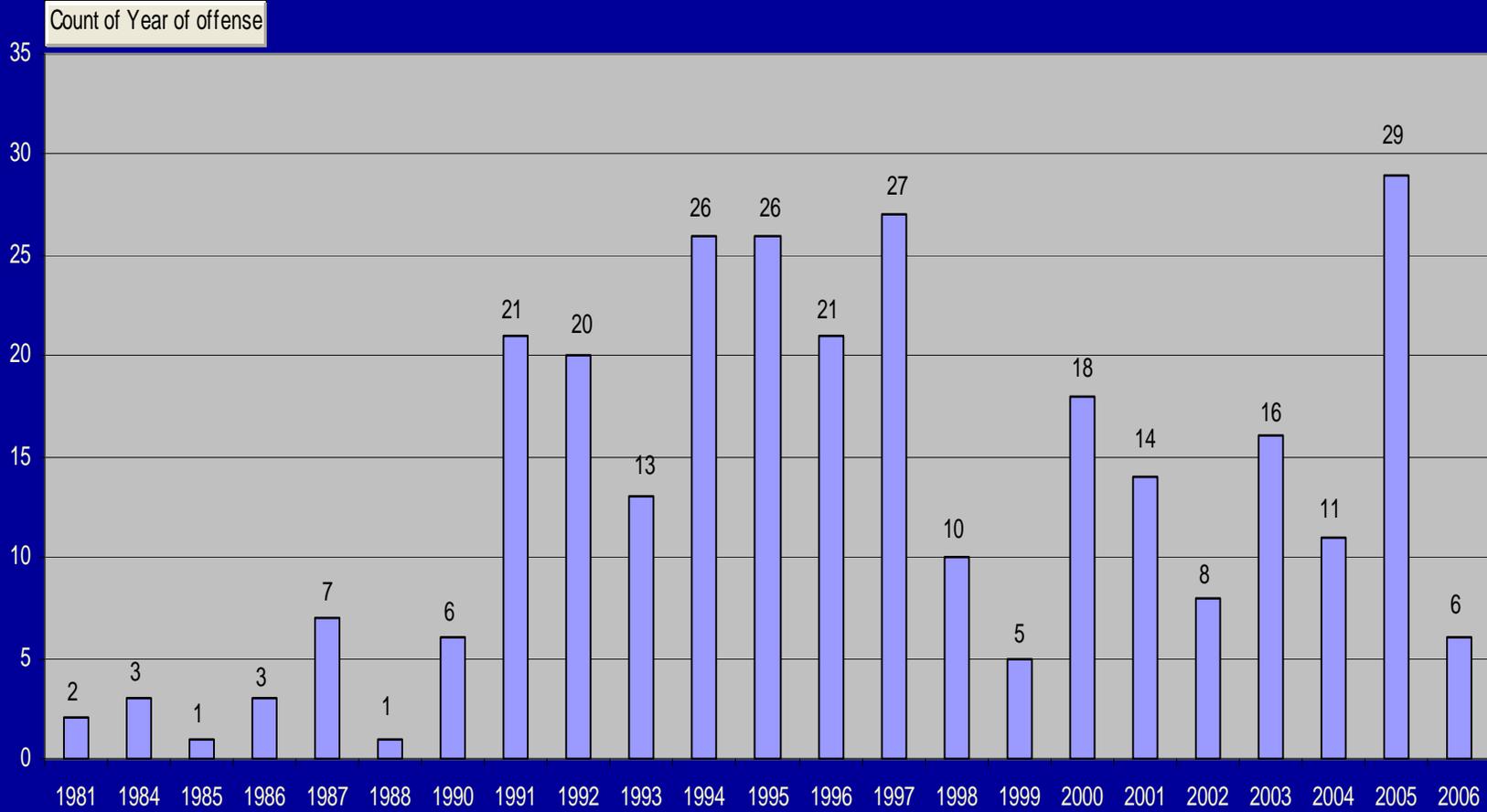


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Category

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Number of offenses per year



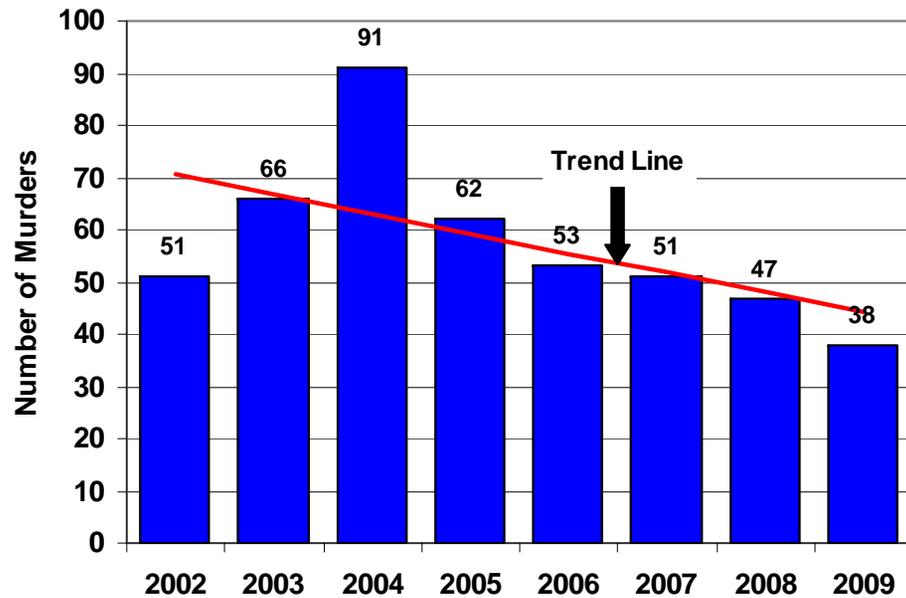
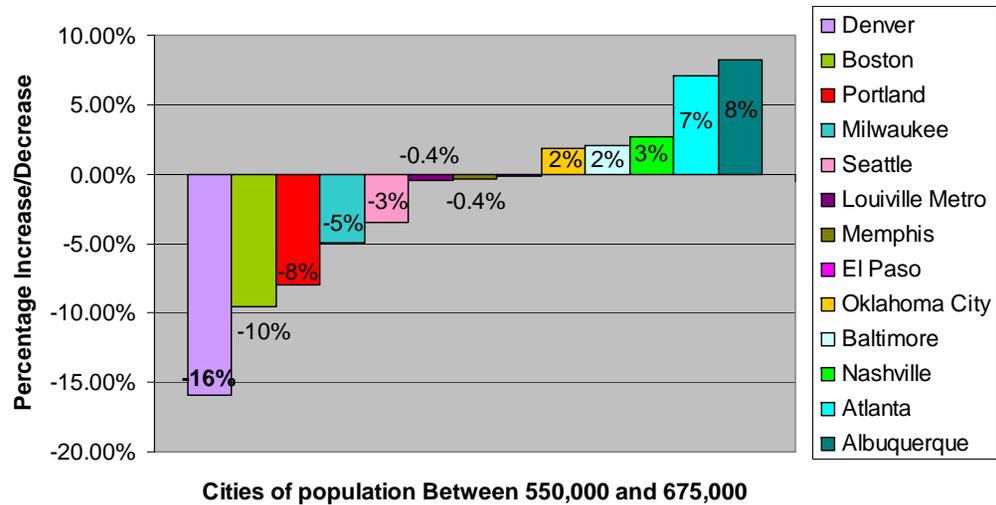
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Year of offense ▼

Lesson 3-Construct Policing Strategies from lessons learned-continuous improvement

- Denver took lessons from cold case and applied to volume (property crimes) resulting in a new policing strategy that worked. Close to 48% reduction in property crimes from 2005-2009 with parallel reduction in crimes against persons significantly correlated (78%).

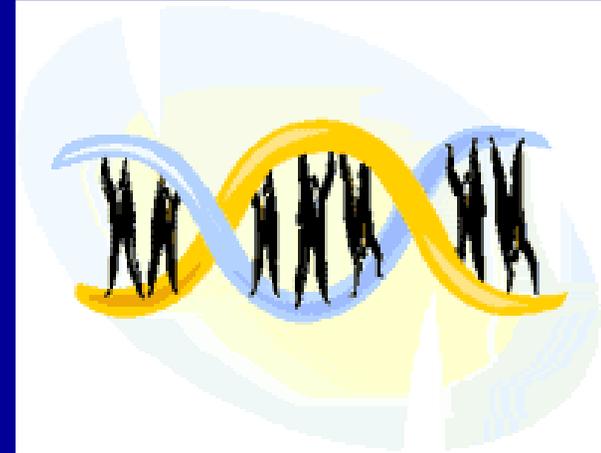
2007 to 2008 Property Crimes Rate Trends



Lesson 4-Understand the perspective of others

- Defer to the judgment and expertise of others.
- Try to understand other team members perspective- for example case filing decisions.
- Work together to move obstacles either technical or legal to realize the goal of case filing or conviction.
- Agree on the philosophical direction and be skeptical and conservative.

Team Members



- DPD Command Staff
 - Chief Gerald Whitman
 - Chief of Investigations, David A. Fisher
 - Crimes Against Persons-Capt. Ron Saunier, Captain Dave Abrams (ret.),
 - Lt. Jon Priest (ret.), Homicide Unit
 - Sgt. Tony Parisi, Cold Case Unit
- Denver District Attorney's Office
 - Hon. Mitchell R Morrissey
 - DDA Dawn Weber
 - DDA
- Crime Laboratory
 - Gregory LaBerge, Director
 - Mark Olin
 - Susan Berdine
 - Jeanne Kilmer
 - Shawn O'Toole
 - Sylvia Thurmond
 - Eric Duvall
 - Mary Murphy