

METRO-IOWA

Crime goes up in '88 in Iowa, down in C.R.

By Lisa Ann Williamson
Gazette staff writer

If Iowa looks good in comparative statistics on 1988 crime, Cedar Rapids looks even better.

The Uniform Crime Statistics Report for 1988 indicates that Cedar Rapids experienced decreases from 1987 in six of seven crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary and larceny.

The entire state, on the other hand, had declines in only three categories: murder, burglary and larceny.

The only category in which Cedar Rapids experienced an increase was in motor vehicle thefts, which went up from 370 to 379. Still, at 2.4 percent, the increase was well below the statewide increase of 8 percent.

In 1987, Cedar Rapids recorded three murders. In 1988, two murders were reported: the shooting deaths of Donald Cope in August and Matt Pusateri in November. Evan Paul was acquitted of murder in the Cope case, and no arrest has been made in the Pusateri murder.

The two murders in 1988 put Cedar Rapids, population 107,731, very close to the statewide murder rate of 1.7 per 100,000, which was the lowest in the nation.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT low rate is not carrying into 1989. Five deaths have been listed as homicides by Cedar Rapids police so far this year: Larry Waller, Leah Wara, Herman Baer, Brian Schappert and Arthur Snyder. Arrests have been made in all but the Schappert death.

Other crime reductions reported in Cedar Rapids from 1987 to 1988 were: rapes, from

nine to six (33 percent); robberies, from 108 to 85 (21 percent); simple and aggravated assaults, from 1,394 to 1,293 (7 percent); burglaries, from 1,812 to 1,445 (20 percent); and larcenies, from 6,829 to 5,766 (15.5 percent).

In that same period, rapes across the state went up 38 percent and robberies and aggravated assaults went up 10 percent.

MARION, POPULATION 20,449, had no murders in either 1987 or 1988, but in 1988 did show increases in rapes, from two to four, and aggravated assaults, from five to 11.

Hiawatha, population 5,110, reported decreases in all areas except robbery, which went from zero to one, and thefts, which increased from 164 to 212.

IOWA CITY had the highest total crime rate in the state in 1988 and Iowa County had the lowest crime rate, figures released Thursday show.

However, Mike Coveyou of the Iowa Department of Public Safety cautioned Thursday about making comparisons.

Because state universities are treated as separate reporting jurisdictions, students are counted as living on campus even when most student offenses are committed off campus, Coveyou said.

Iowa City's overall crime rate in 1988 was 14,652 crimes per 100,000 population, while Des Moines was next highest in the state with 10,054 crimes per 100,000 people.

Linn County ranks sixth in overall crime rates with 5,450 crimes per 100,000 population, the report states.

Can we help young people? Town meeting takes step in solving problems

By Roland Krekeler
Gazette staff writer

Several dozen Linn County residents concerned with youth problems met last night to outline a plan for working together to deal more effectively with the problems.

The town meeting at the Cedar Rapids YWCA was called to address problems the National Collaboration for Youth in Washington, D.C., has outlined: functional illiteracy, juvenile crime, school dropouts, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and youth unemployment.

The meeting concluded by drawing up a list of recommendations for a plan that will be refined by a committee and presented to the community.

AMONG THE recommendations are:

- Agencies dealing with young people, and the rest of the

community, including businesses, churches and schools, work together to face the problems.

- Efforts be made to improve community understanding of youth in crisis and create a consensus so a broad commitment can be built for personal and financial involvement.
- Role model and mentor programs be established.
- Specific community objectives be developed.

Participants received a fact sheet that included the following points:

Eighty-five percent to 90 percent of the 5,500 dropouts in Iowa in 1988 were substance abusers.

About 10 percent (290,000 people) of Iowa's population are substance abusers. Of these more than 27,000 are juveniles.

Kirkwood Community College generally uses 17 percent as the state's illiteracy rate and 18 percent as the Cedar Rapids rate.

Participants in the meeting heard presentations from a number of people before breaking into three groups for discussion and then reconvening to draw up the recommendations.

One of the presentations was made by Tom Pardonek, a counselor at McKinley Middle School. He said students at risk very often come from a home in which an adult has a substance abuse problem.

RANDY McCRIGHT, an SCI Financial Group employee, said employers report that many youth do not have a good work ethic, often have no ethics at all and have a higher expectation from their employers than their production warrants.

Most solutions to the problems, he said, must come from parents, teachers, religious organizations and agencies that deal with youth problems.



ENTERTAINMENT
Entertainment events in Weekend Magazine.

MEETINGS
9 a.m. — Linn County Department of Human Resources MH/MR/DD Advisory Board, second floor conference room, Witwer Building.

CITYLINE Calendar
Call CITYLINE'S Calendar of Events (Category 8000) for more information: Cedar Rapids, 363-7000; Iowa City, 337-7000.

Complete sports daily

THE LOG

BURGLARY

BT Hobbies, 804 34th St. NE, remote control cars, car batteries, motors, remote control transmitters and tires, value \$7,000, taken between 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and 8:30 a.m. Thursday; entry gained by kicking in a door and breaking through a plaster wall. \$300 damage to wall and door.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Each of the following people charged with drunken driving is listed with time and place of arrest. Addresses are taken from court records.

David Voelkel, 32, of 1330 A Ave. NW, 11:46 p.m. Wednesday in the 3800 block of First Avenue SE.

Douglas McGrew, 24, of Newhall, 2:27 a.m. Thursday at Johnson Ave. and 24th St. NW (third offense).

FIRE CALLS

Wednesday — 1:03 p.m., needless call, 1243 20th St. SW; 1:55 p.m., alarm malfunction, 320 11th Ave. SE; 5:23 p.m., burned food on stove, 3103 E Ave. NE; 6:59 p.m., medical emer-

gency, 1025 35th St. NE.

Thursday — 12:43 p.m., medical emergency, 417 12th St. SE; 1:44 p.m., medical emergency, 3000 block of Mount Vernon Road SE; 3:04 p.m., medical emergency, 5230 Harbet Ave. NW; 5:13 p.m., medical emergency, 1808 Washington Ave. SE.

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