SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT – Major Crimes a 25 Year Review
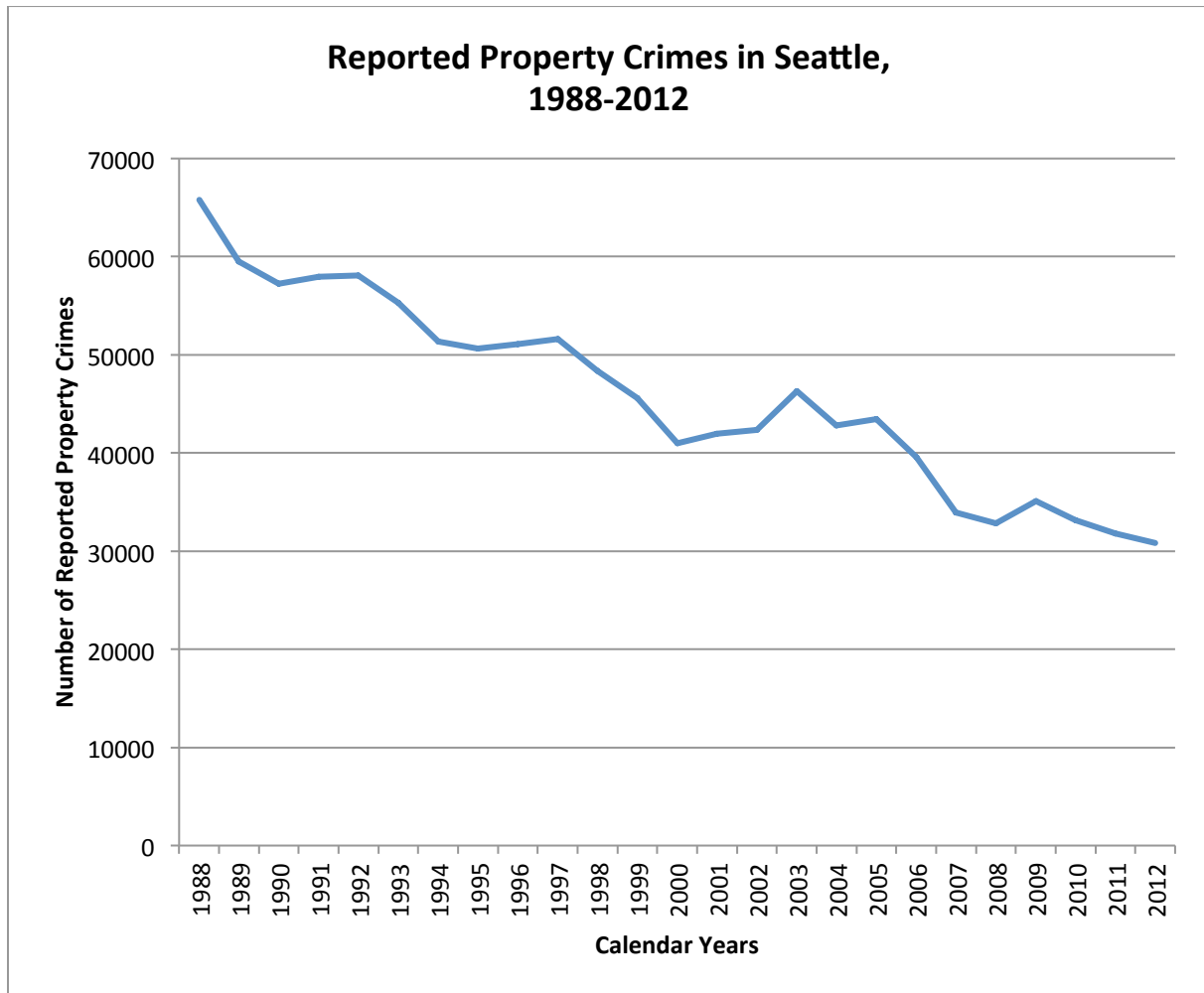
Reported Major Crimes in Seattle, 1988-2012

- Major Crimes consist of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft.

- Over the last twenty-five years, reported Major Crimes in Seattle have shown a steady downward trend. The decline was continuous from 1988 to 2000. For a few years early in the new millennium, reported Major Crimes increased, only to begin falling again.

- The highest year in the period 1988-2012 for reported Major Crimes in Seattle was 1988 when 72,694 such crimes were tallied. The lowest year for reported Major Crimes was 2012 when 34,607 such crimes were recorded in the City.

- The number of reported Major Crimes in Seattle in 2012 was 52% lower than the number reported in 1988 and 31% lower than the more recent peak year of 2003.

Reported Violent Crimes in Seattle, 1988-2012

- Among Major Crimes the Violent Crimes category consists of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

- Over the past twenty-five years, reported Violent Crimes have shown a downward trend in Seattle. The trend was quite pronounced in the 1990s and has leveled off, but continued downward, since the beginning of the new millennium.

- The peak year for reported Violent Crimes in the period 1988-2012 was 1990 when 7,780 such crimes were reported in the City.

- The lowest year for reported Violent Crimes in Seattle since 1988 was in 2008 when 3,447 such crimes were reported.

- Reported Violent Crimes reported in Seattle in 2012 were down 45% from the number reported in 1988 and down 51% from the peak year of 1990.

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT – Major Crimes a 25 Year Review

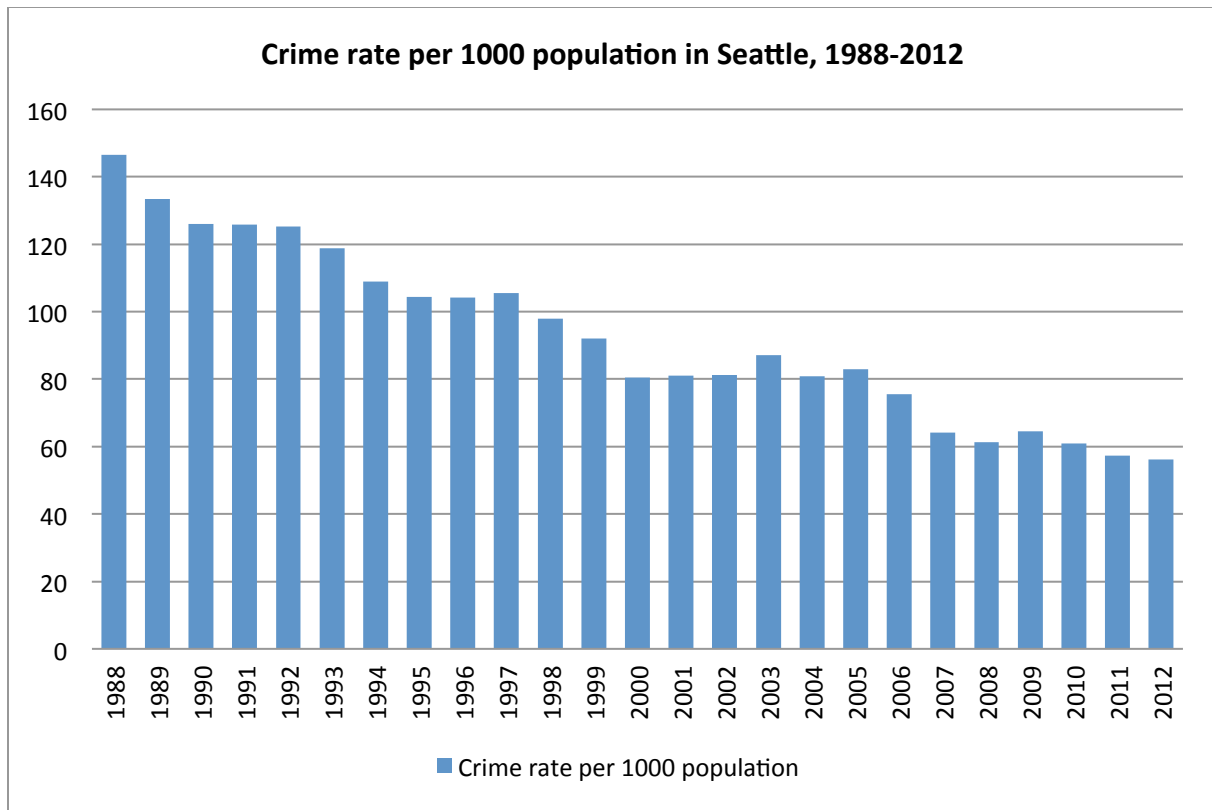### Reported Property Crimes in Seattle, 1988-2012

- Among Major Crimes, the Property Crimes category consists of burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft.

- Over the last twenty-five years, reported Property Crimes in Seattle have shown a nearly continuous downward trend. Beginning at a high level in 1988, these crimes fell steadily until 2000. Early in the new millennium they rose for several years, only to begin falling again starting in 2006.

- The highest year for reported Property Crimes in the 1988-2012 period was in 1988 when 65,815 such crimes were reported in the City.

- The lowest year for reported Property Crimes in Seattle was 2012 when 30,830 such crimes were reported. The level in 2012 was down over half (53%) from the level in 1988 and down by one-third from the more recent peak in 2003.

Reported Violent and Property Crime in Seattle, 1988-2012

■ Reported Violent Crime   ■ Reported Property Crime

- Among Major Crimes, the reported Violent Crime category consists of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The reported Property Crime category consists of burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft.

- In Seattle, reported Violent Crimes are relatively infrequent when compared with reported Property Crimes, with Property Crimes, on average, outnumbering Violent Crimes by 8 or 9 to 1. Both reported Violent Crimes and Property Crimes in Seattle have shown a steady decline over the period 1988-2012 depicted in the chart.

- Over the last twenty-five years, the year with the highest number of reported Violent Crimes was 1990, when 7,780 were recorded. The year with the highest number of reported Property Crimes was 1988, when 65,815 were tallied.

- Since 1988, the year with the lowest number of reported Violent Crimes was 2008, when 3,447 were reported. The low year for Property Crimes over the last twenty-five years was 2012, when 30,830 were recorded.

- Violent Crimes reported in Seattle in 2012 were down 45% from the number reported in 1988 and down 51% from the peak year of 1990. Property Crimes recorded in 2012 in Seattle were down 53% from the level in 1988, their peak year.

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Crime rate per 1000 population in Seattle, 1988-2012

- It is useful to look at crime statistics adjusted for population. This chart depicts the rate of Major Crimes in Seattle per 1000 population, or, in other words, the number of Major Crimes that were reported for every 1000 people resident in the City, for the period 1988-2012.

- Major Crimes consist of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft.

- In the last twenty-five years not only have the number of major crimes decreased in Seattle, but also the crime rate. In 1988, for example, there were 147 Major Crimes reported for every 1000 people in the City. In 2012 the major crime rate per 1000 was just over 56 – a 62% decrease.

- Crime rates are based on resident populations, so the rates in major cities like Seattle are likely lower than calculated. This is because such cities draw additional population both in the daytime and at night for education, work, tourism and recreation.