COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community Vision – Ensure that all families are safe, valued, and strengthened. When families need help they can access programs and services, be treated with respect, and have their opinions honored.

A safe community involves many components, including personal safety, individual behaviors and community infrastructure. Indicators selected to give a snapshot of our community safety are Adult Protection; Child Abuse; Criminal Offenses; Sex Offenders; Sexual Assault and Rape; Domestic Violence and Safe Roads. We also take a look at methamphetamine use as as an emerging issue in our region.

Adult Protection

Adult Protection Services support primarily elderly citizens in preserving their health and safety, and in identifying and accessing the resources and services within the community for maintaining self-sufficiency. Similar to child abuse numbers below, if a concern for an adult's well-being and safety is documented with area Human Services office, a caseworker will be called to access the situation that led to the concern. Though adult protection statistics primarily involve seniors, these numbers also include persons with disabilities and the general population. Due to the state's computer system, the type of investigation and age of adult is not included. The trend shows that while the numbers of referrals are increasing, the number of investigations is down.

Adult Protection						
	2002		2003		2004	
	Referrals	Investigations	Referrals	Investigations	Referrals	Investigations
Archuleta	71	12	98	15	122	32
Dolores/Montezuma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	86
La Plata/San Juan	168	117	177	128	195	135
Totals	**239**	**129**	**275**	**143**	**317**	**253**
	2005		2006		2007	
Archuleta	18	5	144	10	180	12
Dolores/Montezuma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
La Plata/San Juan	218	65	174	76	239	73
Totals	**236**	**70**	**318**	**86**	**419**	**85**

La Plata County Department of Human Services

Child Abuse

Total Number of Cases/Investigations					
Year	Archuleta	Dolores	La Plata	Montezuma	San Juan
2003	152 / 92	*	609 / 272	*	10 / 5
2004	121 / 75	28 / 8	671 / 261	448 / 217	7 / 3
2005	174 / 93	16 / 10	778 / 210	460 / 238	3 / 3
2006	146 / 76	28 / 18	731 / 211	447 / 262	8 / 3
2007	93 / 64	17 / 10	829 / 263	395 / 244	7 / 3

* Data not available

Sources: County Human Service offices

The State of Colorado also tracks the total number child abuse calls / cases plus those that lead to investigations, which are pursued when there are indications of current child abuse or neglect as defined by Colorado state law. Not all investigated cases are founded. In the region, the numbers are down in all but La Plata County.

Criminal Offenses

Crime statistics provide insight into the safety of a community. Previous Index data looked at total criminal offense rate per 1000 people. Since Colorado Bureau of Investigation data can be broken down by law enforcement agency, this data now reflects **actual numbers** recorded by individual law enforcement departments. Some of the smaller department's data are not yet included.

Criminal Offenses												
Jurisdiction	**Murder/ Manslaughter**			**Burglary/Robbery & Auto Theft**			**Larceny**			**All Offenses**		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Archuleta												
Sheriff	0	0	0	1	67	41	89	77	75	221	227	192
Pagosa PD	0	0	0	28	18	16	99	78	79	156	117	127
Dolores												
Sheriff	0	0	0	9	11	10	14	11	21	31	32	41
La Plata												
Sheriff	0	0	0	130	138	100	186	207	186	454	485	399
Bayfield	0	0	0	6	10	13	50	53	24	68	71	46
Durango	1	2	1	139	232	151	690	1,189	800	1,106	1,757	1,200
Ignacio	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	3	2	21	26	8
Montezuma												
Sheriff	1	0	0	126	96	73	128	157	121	362	368	326
Cortez	2	1	0	51	61	45	378	320	269	533	489	409
San Juan												
Sheriff/	0	0	0	3	5	4	12	10	18	25	27	28
Silverton	No Data Available											

Source: www.cbi.state.co.us

Registered Sex offenders

Convicted sex offenders must register with the law enforcement agency under which they reside, every 6 months or as determined by court order. The Registered Sex Offender list may be requested by any citizen from their local law enforcement agency. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation can also be contacted to obtain lists. The County numbers in the table to the right include registered offenders that reside outside of the municipal areas unless stated differently in the table. Law enforcement provides current numbers but does not track the totals from year to year in a consistent manner. Not all sex offenders have committed crimes in the region, but have relocated. Law enforcement encourages residents and schools to request a list at least annually.

Sex Offenders		
	2004	2007
Archuleta County/Pagosa Springs	22	24
Dolores County	1	3
Dove Creek	1	~
Rico	*	~
La Plata County	60	80
Durango	18	28
Bayfield	0	~
Ignacio	0	0
Montezuma	34	42
Cortez	19	18
Dolores	8	~
Mancos	3	*
San Juan County/Silverton	2	3

~ Combined with County data

Sexual Assault/Rape

The number of sexual assault calls to crisis hotlines; the number of cases filed and reported; as well as the number of registered sex offenders all provide insight into this issue. Nationwide, sexual assault crimes are underreported and those that reach a courtroom are even less. These trends are true for our region as well. The Sexual Assault Services Organization (SASO), Renew, and the Archuleta County Victim's Assistance Program provide advocacy to sexual assault victims and their families, regardless of whether an incident is reported to law enforcement. Please note, in the 6th Judicial District, the collection of sexual assault statistics have changed and thus years after 2004 may not be comparable to previous years.

Sexual Assault / Rape						
	Year	Archuleta	La Plata	Dolores	Montezuma	San Juan
Number of Court Cases Filed	2002	*	53	0	20	0
	2003	*	37	0	12	0
	2004	5	17	0	16	0
	2005	8	42	0	4	1
	2006	11	25	0	1	1
	2007	10	30			0
Total Number of Hotline Calls	2002	20	248	*	*	*
	2003	27	223	*	*	*
	2004	'04-06 Included in La Plata numbers	224	*[2]	11	*
	2005		384	1	13	*
	2006	11[1]	460	1	11	*
	2007		383	3	24	*
Number of Sexual Assault Victims Served	2002	59	123	*	*	*
	2003	72	119	*	*	*
	2004	75	100	*[5]	35	*
	2005	44[3]	124	1	13	*
	2006	2	141	1	11	*
	2007	16[4]	109	3	24	*

*No data available
[1] 1st six months of 2007 only
[2] Included in Montezuma numbers
[3] Includes 7 reporting in La Plata that resided in Archuleta
[4] 1st six months of 2007 only
[5] Included in County numbers

Domestic Violence

State law enforcement officers have a mandatory arrest policy and zero tolerance of domestic violence. This policy, as well as population growth, contributes to the growing numbers in the charts below. However, the two judicial districts in our region have different approaches to reporting domestic violence incidents. The 22nd Judicial District tabulates the number of cases filed, while the 6th Judicial District considers number of incidents and arrests.

Domestic Violence Indicators			
	Year	**6th Judicial District (Archuleta/La Plata & San Juan)**	**22nd Judicial District (Montezuma/ Dolores)**
Number of persons served by DV organizations	2000	679	420
	2002	467	397
	2004	624	230 / 475
	2006	395 / 952 [1]	468 / 9
	2007	448 / 1,210	459 / 19
Number of Calls to DV Hotlines	2000	1,871	466
	2002	1,273	*
	2004	2,023	698
	2006	2,728 / 2,138	2,657
	2007	2,511 / 2,430	2,843
Number of DV Cases	2000	230	8
	2002	348	8
	2004	318	115 / 91*
	2005	424	92 / 1
	2006	362	105 / 3
	2007	256 [2]	110 / 1
Number of DV Arrests	2000	295	*
	2002	347	*
	2004	303	91
	2005	412	*[4]
	2006	350	*[5]
	2007	203 [3]	110
Number of Repeat DV offenders	2000	87	*
	2002	14	*
	2004	15	15
	2005	44	*
	2006	24	*
	2007	*	*

Sources: Violence Prevention Coalition, Alternative Horizons, Renew

*No data available

[1] Began receiving hard data from Archuleta Victim Services in 2005 which affects the total numbers.

[2] Reflects 1st 6 months of '07

[3] Reflects 1st 6 months of '07

[4] Data includes all arrests, not just DV.

[5] Data includes all arrests, not just DV.

Safe Roads

Number of Accidents on Highways						
Year	Archuleta	Dolores	La Plata	Montezuma	San Juan	Total
1993	123	51	924	*	25	1,123
1995	139	51	989	*	33	1,212
1997	240	46	763	*	15	1,064
1999	177	38	560	315	25	1,115
2001	301	58	942	488	18	1,807
2003	306	58	882	453	23	1,722
2005	219	38	795	362	26	1,440
2007	240	34	633	360	17	1,284

Another indicator of safety is the number of traffic accidents. While the number of accidents in a region reflects population growth and the increasing number of vehicles sharing the roads, accidents are also a function of weather, driver experience, road infrastructure, lanes and signage.

Number of Drug / Alcohol Related Accidents							
	Year	Archuleta	Dolores	La Plata	Montezuma	San Juan	Total
Alcohol related	1999	7	6	28	23	4	68
	2001	23	0	51	32	2	108
	2003	23	4	47	32	3	109
	2005	19	2	48	29	0	98
	2007	12	2	51	16	1	82
Drug related	2005	1	0	2	1	0	4
	2007	0	0	6	4 (1 fatality)	0	10
DUI fatalities	1993	1	1	2	*	0	4
	1995	0	2	13	*	0	15
	1997	1	1	3	*	0	5
	1999	1	1	0	0	0	2
	2001	1	0	5	0	1	7
	2003	1	3	0	2	1	7
	2005	1	0	0	1	0	2
	2007	0	1	5	2	0	8

A number of accidents are related to alcohol and drug consumption (newly measured) with a number of deaths attributed to DUI (driving under the influence) drivers.

Reason for Accident			
	Year	Top cause	2nd Leading Cause
Archuleta	2003	Animals	Exceeds safe speeds
	2005	Animals	Exceed safe speeds
	2007	Exceeded safe speed	Animals
Dolores	2003	Animals	Inattentive driving
	2005	Exceeded safe speeds	Inattentive driving
	2007	Animals	Lane violations
La Plata	2003	Animals	Lane violations
	2005	Animals	Lane violations
	2007	Animals	Exceeded safe speeds
Montezuma	2003	Animals	Inattentive driving
	2005	Animals	Lane violations
	2007	Animals	Lane violations
San Juan	2003	Lane violations	Inattentive driving
	2005	Lane violations	Exceeded safe speeds
	2007	Exceeded safe speeds	Animals

Wildlife collisions continue to be one of the top 2 causes of highway accidents in all five counties. As the population grows, and more drivers are on the road, these numbers are expected to increase.

All of these statistics have been provided by the Colorado State Patrol. Some data is not available *.

Emerging Issue – Methamphetamines

Southwest Colorado's rural nature and other complex factors have made the region susceptible to the production and sale of methamphetamines (meth). Meth is one of this document's Emerging Issues because though data on the exact number of users is not yet available, entities such as Mercy Regional Medical Center, San Juan Basin Health Department, law enforcement agencies, pediatricians, and the county Departments of Human Services document meth in their dealings with citizens. Probation officers in the 6th Judicial District estimate that 28% of their caseload (Nov. 2007) involves current or previous meth users. Archuleta, La Plata and Montezuma county organizations have been concerned enough to form meth task forces to more effectively respond to the problem.

In June of 2007, the District Attorney in the 6th Judicial District hired a consultant to look at the feasibility for an Inpatient Residential Treatment (IRT) for offenders in the criminal justice system. The goal of IRT programs is to help offenders develop skills to avoid relapse and recidivism. About 20 people a year are referred to IRT treatment, and the study shows that numbers need to be closer to 90 for a regional IRT program to be feasible.

Future editions of the ***Index*** will develop meth indicators as health and law enforcement agencies refine their reporting processes. Potential indicators could include the number of children removed from homes by Human Services due to meth involvement by family members, and the number of meth crimes committed in both the 22nd and 6th Judicial Districts.