



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF

MEDIA RELEASE

BOB BROOKS, Sheriff

web site: www.vcsd.org

Nature of Incident: Sheriff's 2004 Crime Statistics Now Available

Unit Responsible: VCSD Crime Analysis Unit

Description: The Ventura County Sheriff's Department's 2004 Part I crime statistics are now available online at www.vcsd.org. Highlights of this last year:

- The total Part I crime rate per 1,000 population for the entire Sheriff's jurisdiction increased slightly from 2003 to 2004 (3%).
- The total 2004 Part I violent crime rate per 1,000 is at its lowest level in over 20 years. The violent crime rate dropped 16% between 2003 and 2004. All categories of violent crime dropped, most significantly homicides, rapes, and aggravated assaults.
- The total Part I property crime rates increased 5% over this time period, most notably in the burglary and auto theft categories. These types of crime can be mitigated by crime prevention programs, specialized units and adequately staff patrol beats. Increases in these crime rates may be attributable to cuts in such services due to budget limitations and the unintended consequences of Prop 36.

Breakouts for the Sheriff's contract cities and unincorporated areas are also available at www.vcsd.org.

Follow-up Contact: Eric Nishimoto, Public Information Officer, (805) 654-2382

Date of Release: 3/23/05

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Approved by: _____