



Boise Police Department

**Alcohol Fueled Problems in
a Downtown: Cheers?**

Summary

- Idaho's capital
- Population 213,000
- Combined population of 450,000
- Recreation Center

Summary

- "Old Boise" is in the Downtown Core
- Home to a high concentration of shopping, bars, taverns and restaurants (50-60 alcohol establishments in a 12 block area)
- Weekend cruise
- 6th and Main is party central on weekends

Project Development

- The Scope of the Project
- What we learned and how we could have improved data collection

Downtown Crime 2003 to 2004

- Crime Decreasing in the City
- Crime up in the Downtown
- Central 4 reporting districts had significant increase
- Three homicides in early 2005 caused added concern

	2003	2004	03-'04% change
Murder	1	0	-100%
Rape	10	16	60.0%
Sexual Assault,	10	11	10.0%
Robbery	8	15	87.5%
Agg. Assault	62	81	30.6%
Assault	229	287	25.3%
Arson	2	6	200.0%
Weapons	31	35	12.9%
Total	353	451	27.8%

Problem Description- Scanning

- Increase in crime leads the Police Department and Mayor to form the Mayor's Taskforce on Downtown
- Members include the Police Department, other city agencies, the Downtown Boise Association, Boise State University, street vendors, bar and restaurant owners and other interested parties

What We Were Asked To Do

- Determine the cause in the crime increase
- Develop strategies to address it more effectively
- Address violent crime specifically

Problems Identified

- Over-consumption of alcohol
- Underage service
- Sidewalk and street congestion
- Poor infrastructure- especially lighting

How We Would Determine Success

- Did overall crime decrease?
- Did violent crime decrease?
- Was crime displaced to surrounding districts?
- Did citizens feel safe?

Major Initiatives

The major initiatives fell into the following categories:

Education

Engineering

Enforcement



Education

- Address over service
- Address underage drinking
- Address pre-staging
- Address citizen awareness

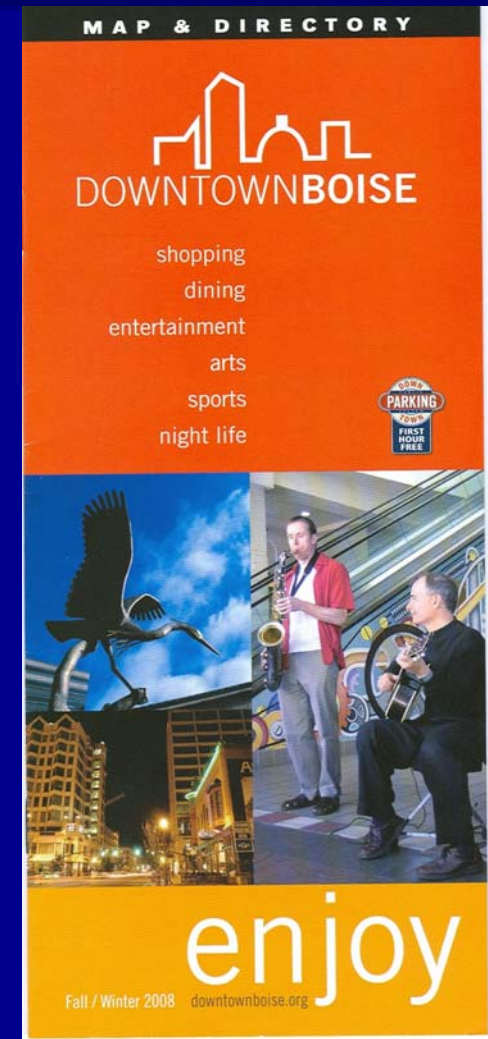
1. Server training

- Training programs developed
- Sponsored by BPD and DBA
- Used national programs (TIPS, ServeSafe)



2. Making people aware

- Pamphlet Developed
- Distributed to bars, restaurants and hotels
- Included map and rules



3. Boise State University Outreach

- Taught class at orientation
- Developed video for freshman orientation
- Athlete outreach



4. Pre-staging strategies

- Qwest Arena
- BSU
- Adjusted serving times – last call made earlier



5. All-You-Can-Drink Specials

- Bar owners in the area voluntarily discontinued “all you can drink” for one price specials.
- No “bottomless” beer buckets
- No heavy discounts

6. Shift Meetings

- The BPD allows officers has shift change in January, May and September, officers meet and greet bar owners and employees, so they know who they are



7. Mobile Substation/Intoximeter

- In an effort to educate patrons of the downtown, the BPD periodically deploys a mobile substation with an operational intoximeter.

- 300-400 patrons per deployment ask to be tested



ENGINEERING

- Congestion on sidewalks contributed to fights
- Taxi stands reduced traffic congestion from taxis cruising for fares
- Poor lighting contributed to criminal activity

1. Sidewalk Cafe' Ordinance

- The sidewalk café ordinance was revised so after midnight only plastic containers could be served
- Prohibit establishments from allowing tables to go un-served for longer than fifteen minutes
- Describe the types of barrier fences, signage and capacities that would be allowed

3. Vendor Ordinance Modifications

- Vendors were required to vacate several locations that were directly in front of bar entrances.
- Allowed the sidewalks to become less congested in areas directly next to or in front of the popular venue entrances.
- Cleared the view of the street for the officers on foot patrol
- Crowds to become more geographically dispersed when patronizing those vendors

2. Taxi Ordinance Modifications

- City ordinance was modified to prohibit drop off and pick ups in the streets intersecting the Old Boise district on Friday and Saturday nights
- Taxi stands, with taxi only designated parking, were established in two areas in close proximity to the district.



4. Lighting Grant

- Installation of lighting in the area
- DBA with Boise Police Department support, applied for and received a neighborhood reinvestment grant.



Enforcement

- Educational and engineering changes would not be as effective without enforcement practices that complemented those efforts
- Task Force looked at ways that enforcement could complement the changes



1. Designation of Directed Patrol

- Officers to be assigned to the area
- Familiar with problem locations
- Develop relationships with business owners
- Create consistency in enforcement.
- Nurture long standing relationships which improves communication.

2. Foot and Bicycle Patrol

- More effective means of early intervention in the congested area
- More access to interact with businesses and citizens in non-enforcement situations
- Greater ability to target crime



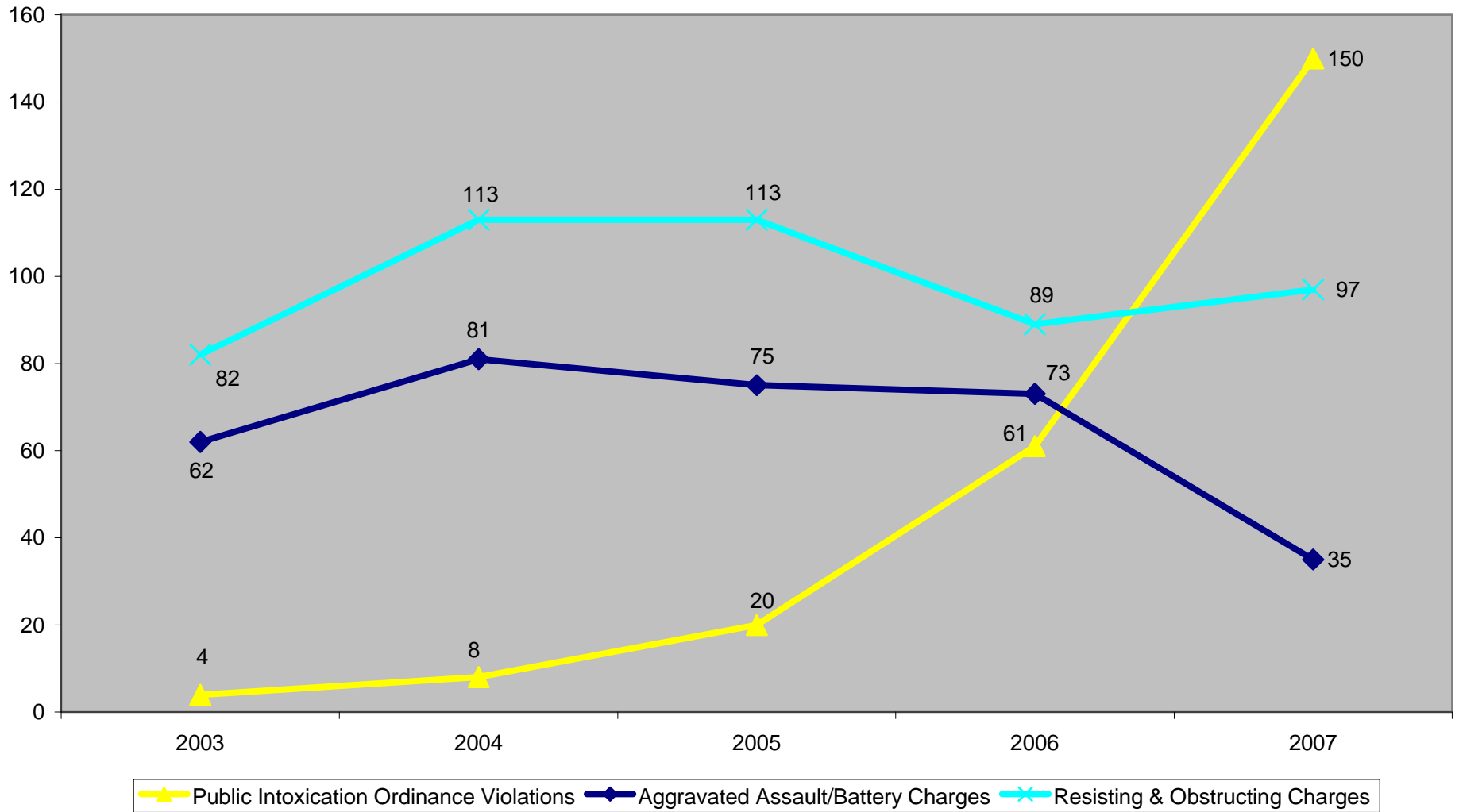
3. Compliance Checks

- Partnership with State Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC)
- Alcohol compliance checks were instituted to curtail over service and underage service.
- Checks included both overt uniformed officer presence, as well as covert checks

4. New Ordinances

- “Public Intoxication” ordinance – need something to address unruly behavior before it progressed to fights/assaults
- Taxi Ordinance
- Sidewalk Café Ordinance

City of Boise Entertainment District Public Intoxication Ordinance Violations vs. Aggravated Assault/Battery and Resisting/Obstructing Charges



5. Saturation Patrols

- Saturation patrols designed to limit aggressive driving, driving under the influence and other traffic issues
- Patrols were set on weekend local high schools finished classes, then repeated monthly during the warmer months
- Successful for setting the tone of the downtown
- August patrol cancelled because downtown so calm



6. Code Enforcement Checks

- Routine compliance checks began looking for signage, capacity compliance and fire statute compliance.
- Conducted with Fire and Code Enforcement



Lessons Learned

Know the Beginning From the End

- We did not recognize the importance data collection would have early on in the project
- We did not think about what the final package would look like

Understand Your Data Collection Processes

- Calls for Service
- Assaults on Officers
- Officer Complaints
- Fire/paramedic Calls

Downtown Crime 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	06-'07 % change
Murder	1	0	3	0	0	na
Rape	10	16	13	12	14	16.7%
Sexual Assault, other	10	11	9	9	5	-44.4%
Robbery	8	15	8	13	9	-30.8%
Aggravated Assault	62	81	75	73	35	-52.1%
Simple Assault	229	287	269	253	244	-3.6%
Burglary: Commercial	31	25	37	49	31	-36.7%
Burglary: Residential	35	13	25	19	22	15.8%
Theft from Vehicle	126	117	119	106	82	-22.6%
Theft	421	351	430	428	366	-14.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	37	38	31	34	22	-35.3%
Arson	2	6	4	1	7	600.0%
Counterfeit / Forgery	42	35	39	31	15	-51.6%
Fraud	45	54	73	69	72	4.3%
Vandalism	283	257	267	311	337	8.4%
Weapon Violations	31	35	46	45	22	-51.1%
Total	1373	1341	1448	1,453	1,283	-11.7%

Reported Crime for Downtown RD's: 12,15,16,19:

January 1 to March 31

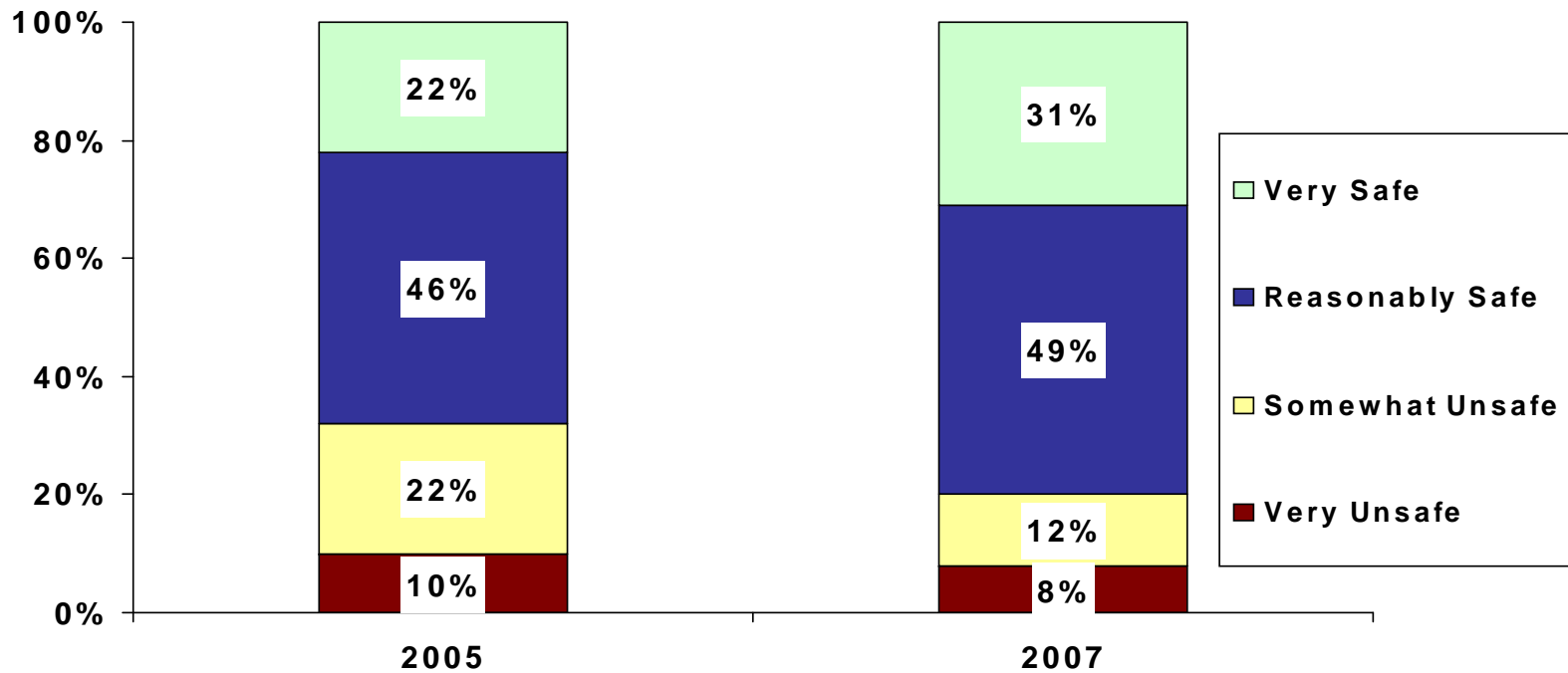
	1st Qtr 2006	1st Qtr 2007	1st Qtr 2008	2007 to 2008 % difference	2006 to 2008 % difference
Murder	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Rape	4	3	1	-66.7%	-75.0%
Sexual Assault, other	4	3	1	-66.7%	-75.0%
Robbery	0	3	0	-100.0%	0.0%
Aggravated Assault	19	11	14	27.3%	-26.3%
Simple Assault	58	61	43	-29.5%	-25.9%
Burglary: Commercial	10	18	3	-83.3%	-70.0%
Burglary: Residential	5	3	6	100.0%	20.0%
Theft from Vehicle	32	29	6	-79.3%	-81.3%
Theft	112	101	97	-4.0%	-13.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	8	5	-37.5%	-44.4%
Arson	0	7	2	-71.4%	100.0%
Counterfeit / Forgery	9	3	2	-33.3%	-77.8%
Fraud	16	18	16	-11.1%	0.0%
Vandalism	90	68	62	-8.8%	-31.1%
Weapon Violations	12	7	5	-28.6%	-58.3%
	380	343	263	-23.3%	-30.8%

Conclusion

- 2007 citizen survey found 90% Boise population visits the downtown
- 83% felt that a vital and vibrant downtown was either extremely important (35%) or important (48 %)
- Walking downtown at night, 80% reported feeling very safe or reasonably safe.

Safety Downtown After Dark

People feel that downtown Boise has become safer after dark.



Contact Information

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