

**BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**2008**

**Berks  
County  
Detectives**

**Annual Report**

**JOHN T. ADAMS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
MICHAEL J. GOMBAR, CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE  
LEON DOMSIC, NARCOTICS SECTION LIEUTENANT  
TODD TRUPP, CRIME SECTION LIEUTENANT**





## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

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BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit is to investigate crimes, enforce the law, assist local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and support quality public safety by delivering respectful, professional and dependable investigative services.



## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

#### Message from the Chief

It is my extreme honor to present to you the 2008 Annual Report for the Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit. I trust that you will find it filled with useful information.

District Attorney John T. Adams and I are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Detectives and the successes achieved during the inaugural year of our administration. This unit has notably worked closely with police officers from thirty-nine local Berks County police departments and state and federal law enforcement agencies. The working relationship with these agencies and departments has built new bridges and repaired the broken ones of the past. The Detectives have solidified their reputation as experienced and well respected members of the law enforcement community.



District Attorney John T. Adams has established a core of priorities for the Detectives. Specifically, he has directed the unit to concentrate our efforts towards five investigative disciplines of investigations: (1.) Narcotics Investigations, (2.) Child Abuse Investigations, (3.) Financial Investigations, (4.) Crimes against the Elderly and (5.) Forensic Services. Our unit has fully supported these priorities and much of the work that was done in 2008 resulted in significant achievements in these areas.

Additionally, our office has implemented several new projects to accomplish the goals of the District Attorney. For example, we established the Bad Check Program, the Precious Metals Enforcement, conducted training seminars to local and state police departments, and created a countywide Drug Task Force.

In furtherance of the countywide Drug Task Force, the District Attorney has cross-designated over one hundred Berks County Police Officers as Special Berks County Detectives to work as a team and shed the jurisdictional boundaries that restricted them in the past. This concept has been embraced and praised by many law enforcement officials throughout the community. In addition, the District Attorney has pledged his financial support to those departments by providing them with drug forfeiture monies to purchase better equipment and training resources for the police officers of Berks County.

To conclude, the most important and visible achievement of the Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit is the dedication and strength of its Detectives. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the men and women of this organization, who strive everyday, often under difficult and stressful circumstances, to serve and protect the people of our community. I am truly proud to be the Chief Detective of this unit, which I consider one of the finest in our Commonwealth.



## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

## 2008 New Programs

### **Bad Check Restitution Program**

The District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program was initiated in the spring of 2008, to combat the negative impact of bad checks passed to local businesses. Millions



of dollars are lost every year by merchants as a result of this ongoing problem. Bad checks affect everyone. Specifically, bad checks result in higher consumer costs that must be passed on to offset losses and increased taxes to cover the additional costs for law enforcement and prosecution.

In an effort to alleviate this problem, the Bad Check Restitution Program has been organized to assist local merchants with bad check losses. The primary goal of the program is to obtain full restitution for the victim without adding to the financial burden of the criminal justice system.

Accordingly, first time bad check offenders are given the opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by attending a mandatory intervention class, in addition to paying restitution. All of this is accomplished without any cost to the taxpayers.

### **Megan's Law Compliance Unit**

District Attorney John T. Adams created the Megan's Law Compliance Unit to assist local law enforcement departments and the Pennsylvania State Police in their efforts to enforce compliance mandates on sexual offenders, who reside in Berks County.

County Detectives assigned to this unit actively investigate incidents of alleged non-compliance and prosecute these offenders, when it is determined that the offender failed to follow the provisions of the law.



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#### **Precious Metals Unit**

The Berks County District Attorney's Office formed the Precious Metals Unit to assist law enforcement efforts to curb the sale of stolen jewelry and other items that contain gold, silver and platinum. The unit enforces Pennsylvania Code, Title 17, Chapter 501, pertaining to the purchase and sale of precious metals. For example, all precious metals dealers in Berks County are required to be licensed and report all transactions to the District Attorney's Office within 24 hours. Accordingly, this unit monitors compliances with this requirement.





## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

## 2008 Special Events

Detectives from the Berks County District Attorney's Office participated in several special events that directly benefit the residents of Berks County. The special events are listed below:

- Kids' Safety Awareness Day 2008, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boyertown, PA, held on April 26, 2008 at the Boyertown Junior High West;
- Western Berks Association Annual Safe Kids Day, Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, Sinking Spring, PA, held on May 10, 2008;
- Penn State Berks Campus Forensic Services Camp, held from July 7 thru July 11, 2008;
- National Night Out, Spring Township Police Department, August 5, 2008;
- National Night Out, Muhlenberg Township Police Department, August 5, 2008;
- CONCERN, Computer Safety Program, St. Paul's UCC Church, Fleetwood, PA, held October 29, 2008;
- City of Reading Holiday Parade, Reading, PA, November 2008; and
- Identity Theft, presentations provided on numerous occasions at assorted locations throughout Berks County by the detective staff.



## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

## 2008 District Attorney Sponsored Training

### **Bloodstain Pattern Analysis**

This course was sponsored by the Berks County District Attorney's Office and the University of Tennessee, in conjunction with the National Forensic Science Institute. Notably, the course explored the development, history and advancement of bloodstain pattern interpretation.

Participants were taught to recognize, document, collect, preserve and examine bloodstain pattern evidence. Successful graduates of this course are now eligible for admission into the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA).







## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

#### *Evidence Technician*

The District Attorney's Office with assistance from the Wyomissing Police Department and in conjunction with the Berks County Chiefs of Police Association sponsors a 40 hour evidence technician course. The course is offered free of charge to police officers in Berks County. The course is held annually at the Berks County Fire Training Center. All officers are trained in all aspects of evidence collection and preservation. The course concludes with the investigation of a mock homicide crime scene.





## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

#### **Evidence Technician Refresher**

In 2008, Detective Robert Johnson taught a 16 hour evidence technician refresher course for county law enforcement officers, who had previously completed the initial 40 hour course. The course also taught officers how to manage a shooting scene by instructing officers to track the trajectory of a bullet. The course was taught at the Berks County Fire Training Center.



#### **Mobile Phone Seizure Certification Course**

The Mobile Phone Seizure Certification is a free law enforcement course providing instruction on seizing mobile phones and seizing hardware mobile phone evidence. The course goal is to ensure that all data and evidence on the mobile phone is preserved until a forensic examination is conducted. The course was taught at the Berks County Fire Training Center.



#### **Digital Evidence Collection Training Course**

The National Institute of Justice Program established the Digital Evidence Collection Training Course for first responders to ensure the proper identification and seizure of digital evidence. The course was taught at the Berks County Fire Training Center.



## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

#### Crime Section

In general, the police departments in Berks County are staffed by twenty-five or fewer sworn officers. The majority of these officers are assigned to patrol duties and have limited specialized training. These departments must balance their resources, manpower and finances with the concerns and demands of the community. Often it becomes difficult to stretch their available resources and address community issues.



In recent years, Berks County has experienced a population growth in its rural and small town areas, which growth is expected to continue in the future. Much of this growth can be attributed to the population migration out of big cities and into the rural communities. Rising crime rates are a common correlation to this migration into our suburban and rural communities, which places a great strain on the smaller police departments.

The Berks County Detectives work closely with police officers from over forty local Berks County police departments and state and federal law enforcement agencies. The majority of the Berks County Detectives are seasoned veterans with a vast amount of police experience and expertise, which they acquired from specialized schools and training. The Berks County Detectives offer their specialized services to those departments that do not have the expertise and or resources to successfully investigate a specific crime. The Crime Section is led by Lieutenant Todd Trupp. The specialized units are:

- Child Abuse
- Forensic Services Unit / AFIS
- Computer Forensics
- Crash Reconstruction
- Megan's Law Enforcement
- Elder Abuse, Physical and Financial
- Financial Crimes
- Homeland Security
- Auto Theft Task Force
- Precious Metals
- Bingo Enforcement
- Berks County DUI Center
- Bad Check Restitution Program

District Attorney John T. Adams is committed to supplement the needs of the local law enforcement community with trained and experienced detectives from the Berks County Detective Bureau. Also, the District Attorney has pledged financial support from the drug forfeiture account to provide those departments with the equipment and training needed to combat the war on crime, which plagues our community.



BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

2007 - 2008 Forensic Services Section Incident Comparisons

<u>INCIDENT TYPE</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
Accident Reconstruction	16	18	13%
AFIS	363	393	8%
Computer Forensics	14	35	150%
DUI Booking	572	575	1%
DUI Checkpoint Arrests	32	34	6%
Forensic Process	91	138	52%
Forfeiture	101	200	98%
Total Station Calculations	2	5	150%
<b><u>Totals</u></b>	<b><u>1,190</u></b>	<b><u>1,398</u></b>	<b><u>17%</u></b>

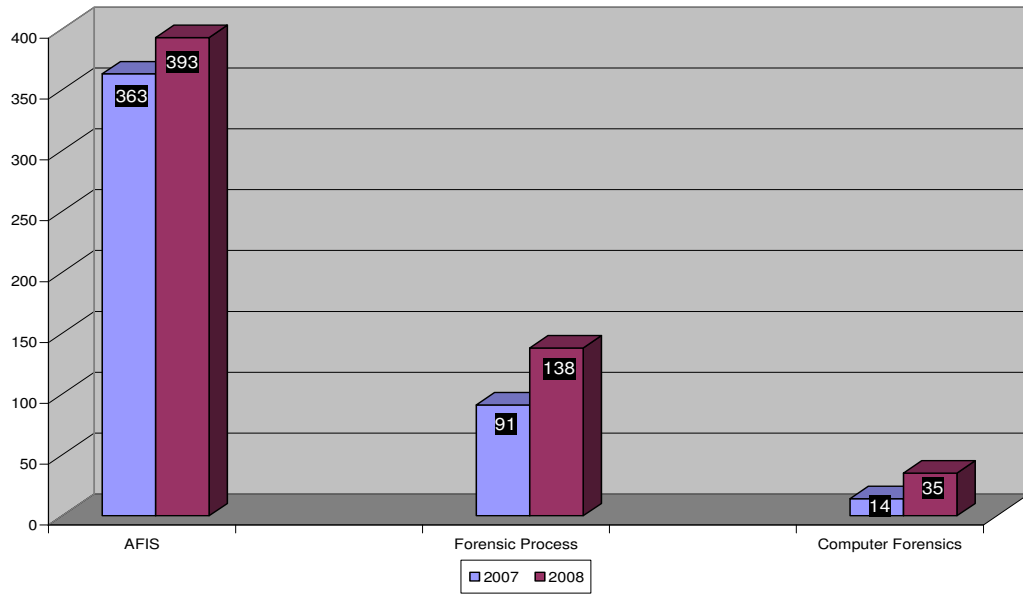
The above listed numbers are only the most common incident types investigated by the Berks County Detectives. In 2007, a total of 1,960 assignments were entered into the CODY Records Management System. In 2008, 2,031 assignments were entered resulting in a 4% increase.



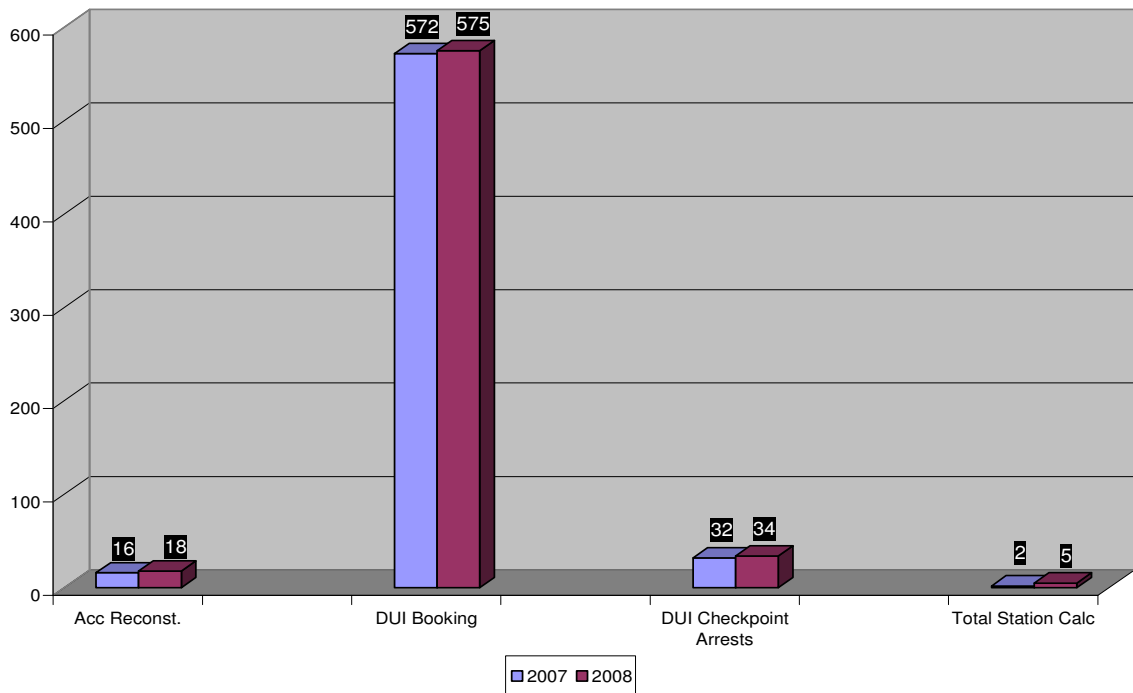
# BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

2007- 2008 Comparison



2007 - 2008 Comparisons





BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

2007 - 2008 Crime Section Incident Comparisons

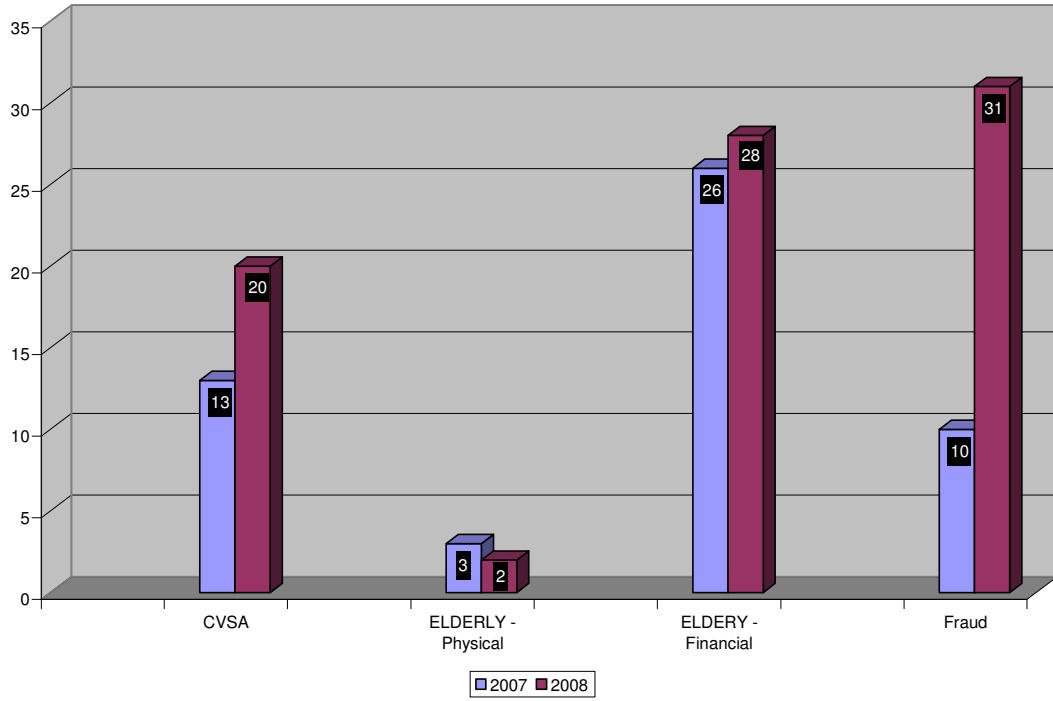
<u>INCIDENT TYPE</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>PCT CHANGE</u>
Assist Other PD	33	55	67%
Bad Check Program	0	1004	NA
Child Abuse DA Cases	126	191	52%
Child Abuse Other PD	190	307	62%
CVSA	13	20	54%
ELDY - Physical	3	2	-33%
ELDY - Financial	26	28	8%
Fraud	10	31	210%
<u>Total (Excluding Bad Check Program)</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>623</u>	<u>58%</u>
<u>Total (Including Bad Check Program)</u>		<u>1,627</u>	



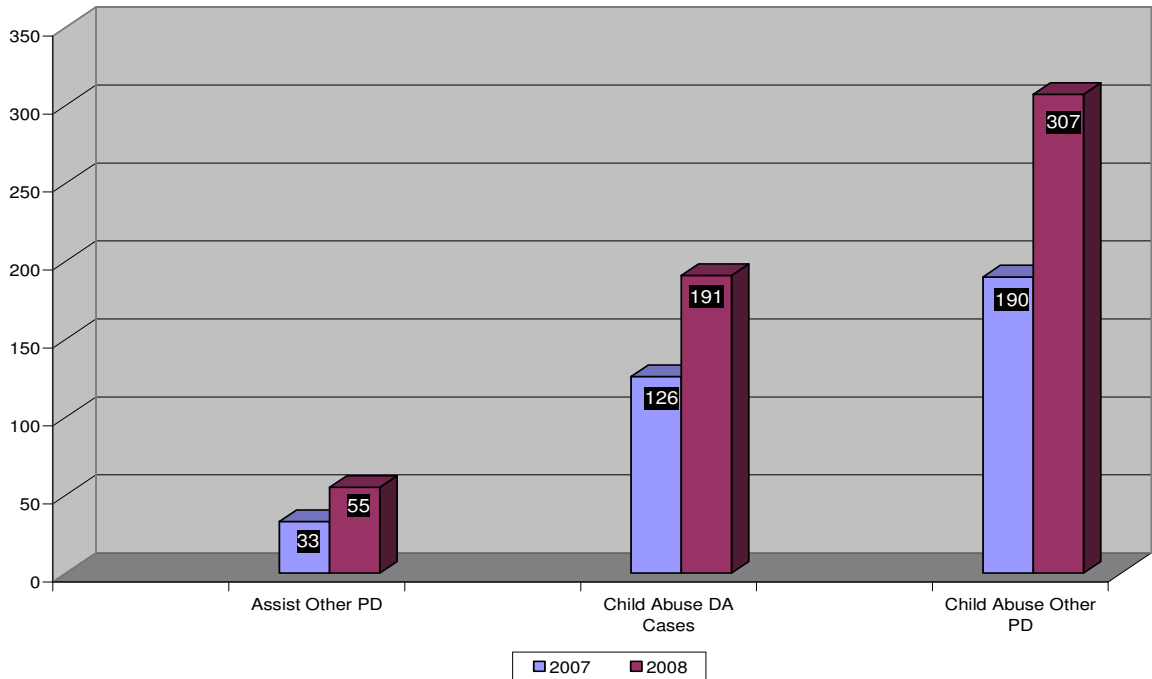
# BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

2007 - 2008 Comparison



2007 - 2008 Comparison





## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

#### Narcotics Section

The narcotics unit is committed to investigating and enforcing local, state and federal laws as they apply to individuals and corrupt organizations that may be responsible for possession, possession with the intent to deliver, delivery and the manufacturing of illegal controlled substances and illicit or unlawfully possessed firearms within Berks County. This unit is led by Lieutenant Leon Domsic.

During the year 2008, the Narcotics Unit was involved in many fruitful investigations with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

In February, Detectives executed a search warrant at a residence within one block from the Reading Police Department and several feet from a local Magisterial District Judge's Office. Detectives seized over sixty grams of cocaine, two handguns and over \$29,000, which was believed to be proceeds from illegal cocaine sales.



One defendant was arrested in this investigation. Subsequently, this case has been adopted by the F.B.I. for Federal Prosecution.

In May and September, Lieutenant Domsic coordinated two countywide drug round-ups. As a result, Forty-eighty drug dealers throughout Berks County were apprehended for distributing a variety of controlled substances which included cocaine, heroin, marijuana and prescription medicine.

Also throughout the year, Detectives, along with local, state and federal law enforcement officers, investigated sophisticated indoor marijuana farms in homes



across Berks County. Inside of these homes, thousands of high-grade marijuana plants with estimated street values worth millions of dollars were seized. Also, equipment used to grow the plants, including lights, fans, exhaust pipes and fertilizers were seized. Many defendants were arrested and some having ties to an Asian organized crime ring.





## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

Finally, District Attorney John T. Adams established a Municipal Drug Task Force Program in Berks County to address the narcotic and dangerous drug trafficking activity, which has plagued Berks County. It is the goal of the Task Force to eliminate narcotic and dangerous drug trafficking in Berks County through the cooperative efforts and joint participation of all police departments in Berks County along with the Berks County Narcotic Detectives. As a corollary, the Task Force will assist the often-understaffed police departments of Berks County in balancing their resources, manpower and finances in all law enforcement activities.



From a procedural perspective, the operation of the Task Force will be governed by the District Attorney. It will operate through joint investigations coordinated between members of the Berks County Detectives Narcotics Unit and the cross designated Berks County Detectives of the municipal/regional police departments of Berks County.

The projected start date of operation for the Task Force is January 5, 2009.

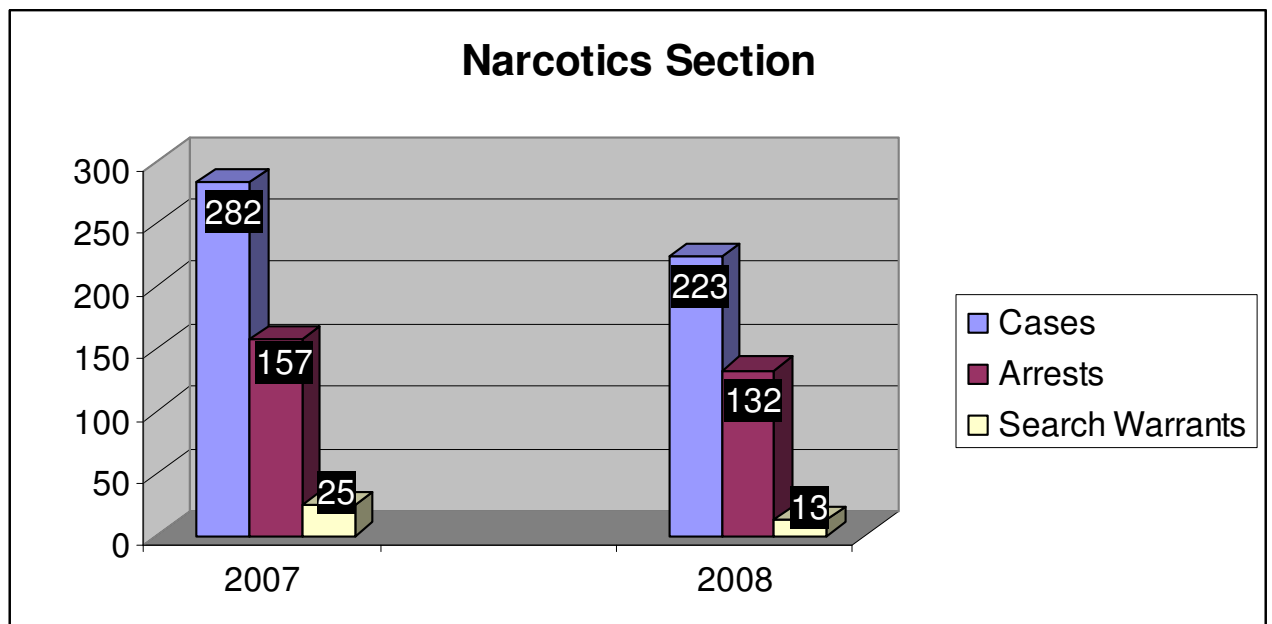


BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

**2007-2008 Narcotics Section Statistics**

Statistics for the year	2007	2008
Number of open cases:	111	135
Number of closed cases:	125	43
Number of PWI cases:	13	15
Number of assists:	33	21
Number of assists closed:	31	9
Total number of cases:	282	223
Number of arrests:	157	132
Number of search warrants served:	25	13
Number of vehicles seized:	11	8
Total value:	\$71,900.00	\$40,000.00
Number of cash seizures:	13	17
Total value:	\$32,815	\$150,549.56
Total number of weapons seized:	10	8





**BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION**

**DRUG PURCHASES:**

	<u>Number of buys</u>		<u>total expense</u>		<u>quantity</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Marijuana	25	40	\$10,215.00	\$2,630.00	2,887.6 grams	729.9 grams
Phencyclidine	0	1	0	\$40.00	0	4.9 grams
Heroin	26	6	\$3,530.00	\$520.00	23.7 grams	16.3 grams
Other Narcotic	0	1	0	\$35.00	0	28 grams
Cocaine	74	75	\$16,020.00	\$12,980.00	430.1 grams	395.5 grams
Crack	49	29	\$3,470.00	\$3,665.00	52.6 grams	63.8 grams
Meth	4	2	\$1,180.00	\$1,950.00	4.6 grams	31.0 grams
Look-alike	0	1	0	\$30.00	0	0.6 grams
Morphine	0	2	0	\$250.00	0	16 DU
Prescription	0	3	0	\$130.00	0	30 DU

	<u>DELIVERY</u>		<u>PWI</u>		<u>POSS</u>		<u>MANUFACTURE</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Marijuana	17	21	4	3	3	3	1	15	0	0
Heroin	14	4	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Cocaine	56	54	8	1	15	1	0	0	0	0
Crack	31	11	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0
Meth	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Look-alike	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proprietary	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morphine	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2



## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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### **Operation Nightlight**

Operation nightlight is a joint operation with the Berks County Adult Probation Office, Juvenile Probation Office, Reading Police Department and the Berks County Sheriff's Office in conducting routine home visits during non-traditional hours with individuals currently on probation in the City of Reading and Berks County. The responsibility of the Operation Nightlight scheduling, stats and budget is with the Berks County Detectives Narcotics Lieutenant. Patrols are scheduled at least twice a week throughout the year varying in shifts of 5pm-11pm and 9pm to 3am.

### **2007-2008 REPORT ON PROBATION ACTIVITIES FOR OPERATION NIGHTLIGHT PATROLS.**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
NUMBER OF PATROLS	61	54
CONTACTS UNDER SUPERVISION	1,121	1,159
CONTACTS NOT UNDER SUPERVISION	697	867
NUMBER OF HOME VISITS	1,033	1,119
DETAINED ON PAROLE VIOLATIONS	34	20
DETAINED ON BENCH WARRANT	19	10
NEW CHARGES	42	22
REFERRAL TO OTHER AGENCIES	48	38



## BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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### **Saturation Patrols**

Saturation Patrols are conducted in conjunction with the Operation Nightlight Patrols. These patrols consists mainly of Reading Police Officers who investigate quality of life crimes, assist the Operation Nightlight Patrols and assist the Reading Police Officers working on their daily shift in the City of Reading. The responsibility of scheduling, stats and budget is also with the Berks County Detectives Narcotics Lieutenant. Patrols are conducted during the same time as Operation Nightlight Patrols.

### **2007-2008 REPORT ON POLICE ACTIVITES FOR OPERATION NIGHTLIGHT PATROLS.**

	2007	2008
TOTAL PATROLS	61	59
SUMMARY ARREST	16	35
MISDEMEANOR ARREST	14	19
FELONY ARREST	4	5
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	189	163
PARKING TICKETS	66	47
CONTACT CARDS	51	43
PAROLE/BENCH WARRANTS SERVED	18	11
RECOVERED FIREARMS	1	2
RECOVERED STOLEN CARS	2	3
ABANDONED VEHICLES	0	0



BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

**In Memoriam**



**Thomas G. Yeich**

**December 29, 1946 – August 3, 2008**

In 2008, we suffered the loss of one of the most professional and dedicated members of the Detective Unit, Detective Thomas G. Yeich. His thirty-four year career in law enforcement was decorated with numerous accolades and accomplishments. He was highly regarded by his colleagues and the law abiding citizens of Berks County. His expertise and passion to investigate crimes against children will be greatly missed.

May Detective Yeich forever rest, in truth, in pride, in peace and in honor. We will not forget.