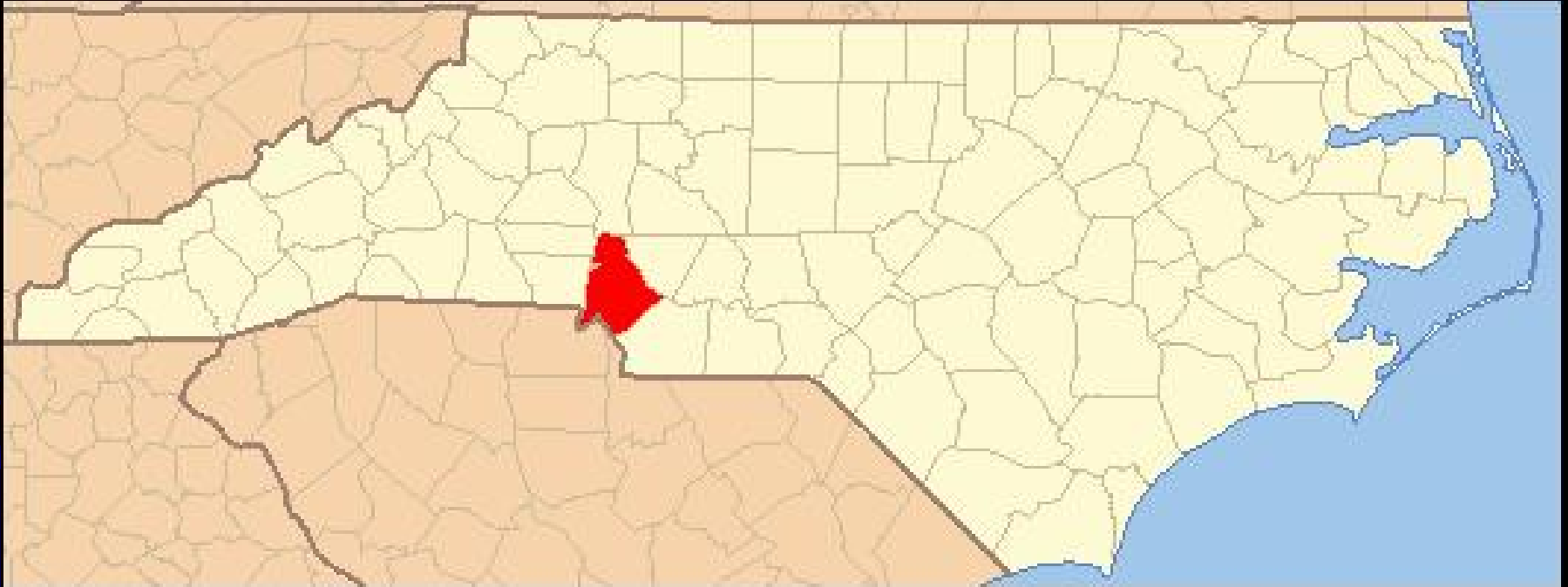


# Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Presents Operation Safe Storage



**Sgt. Jim Wilson**  
**Det. Dan Cunius**  
**Det. Eric Rost**

# Mecklenburg County



# Mecklenburg County

- County Seat: Charlotte
- Population: 827,445 (2006)
- Households: 357,016 (2005)
- Land Area: 526 Square Miles

# Local Economy

- Diverse Economy

- Banking

- Healthcare

- Transportation



- Headquarters of 8 Fortune 500

- 328 of Fortune 500

# Growth Since 2000

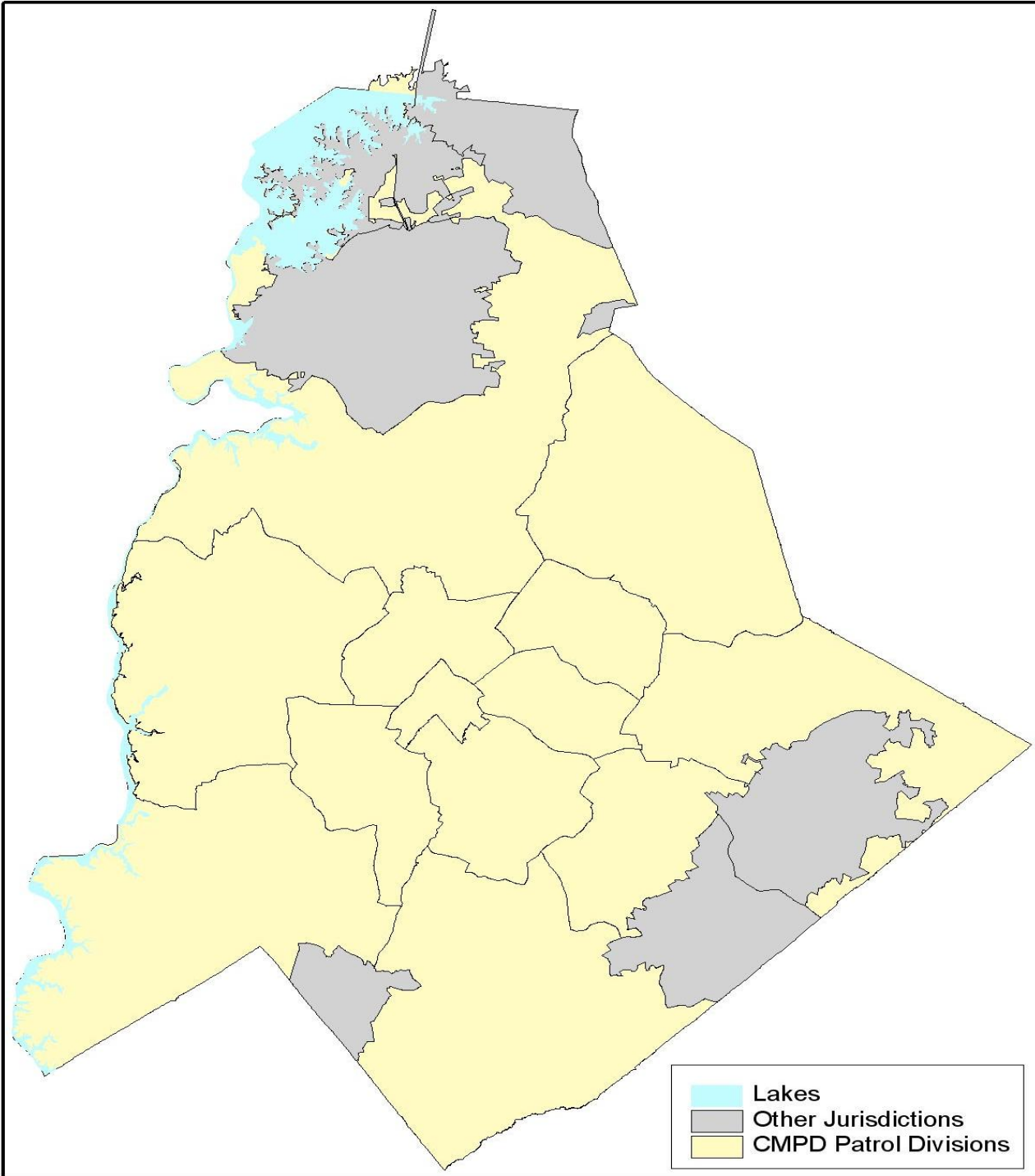
- Population +19%
- Households +35%
- 45,401 new jobs



# Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

- Departments merged in 1993
- Protect 438 square miles
- 1640 sworn officers
- 13 patrol divisions





# Property Crimes

- Decrease in violent crimes
- Increase in property crimes
- Reduce burglaries



# Birth of a Project

- Reviewed burglary reports
- Mini storage units
  - 1 report= # of storage unit B&E
  - Increase in commercial B&E
  - Initial scan 99 reports= 330 storage units B&E
  - Represented 7% of commercial B&E

# Team Formed

- July 2005

Sgt and 3 detectives

# What Do We Know?

- Who is doing it?
- What are they taking?
- Where is it happening?
- How are they doing it?
- More questions than answers

# Similar Projects

- One department project
- One Pop Center project
- Each addressed single location
- No global project

# Cleaned up Data

- Reviewed police reports
- Revised: 71 reports= 291 storage units B&E
- 28 different locations
- Including 65 & 34 storage units B&E
- 4.1 storage units B&E per report
- 28 reports B&E office or misclassified

# Continuing Analysis

- July - December 2005
- 39 reports = 247 storage units B&E
- 21 locations
- Incidents of 36, 26, 26 & 20 units B&E
- 6.3 units B&E per reports

# Pieces Coming Together

- No risk of apprehension
- Solvability : little to none
- Padlocks cut
- Items stolen:
  - Electronics
  - Tools
  - Lawn equipment



Scan **Analysis** Response Assessment

# Coming in to Focus

- Accurate # of incidents
- Some locations had problems
- Others....no incidents
- Visit all mini storage locations



# Mini Storage Locations

- Searched Yellow Pages/ Internet
- 75 locations
- 58 in Charlotte city limits
- 17 in unincorporated county



# Site Surveys

- CPTED-Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Business practices
- Security cameras
- Limited access
- Locks
- Areas surrounding locations

Scan **Analysis** Response Assessment



# Scan Analysis Response Assessment



# Scan Analysis Response Assessment



# Scan *Analysis* Response Assessment

# Secondary Info

- Learned the business
- Gathered other crime prevention ideas
- Started building partnerships

# Reasons for Renting

- Short term:
  - Moving in or out of area
  - Moving to a new house
  - Divorce
- Long term:
  - Businesses
  - Extra storage
  - Miscellaneous uses



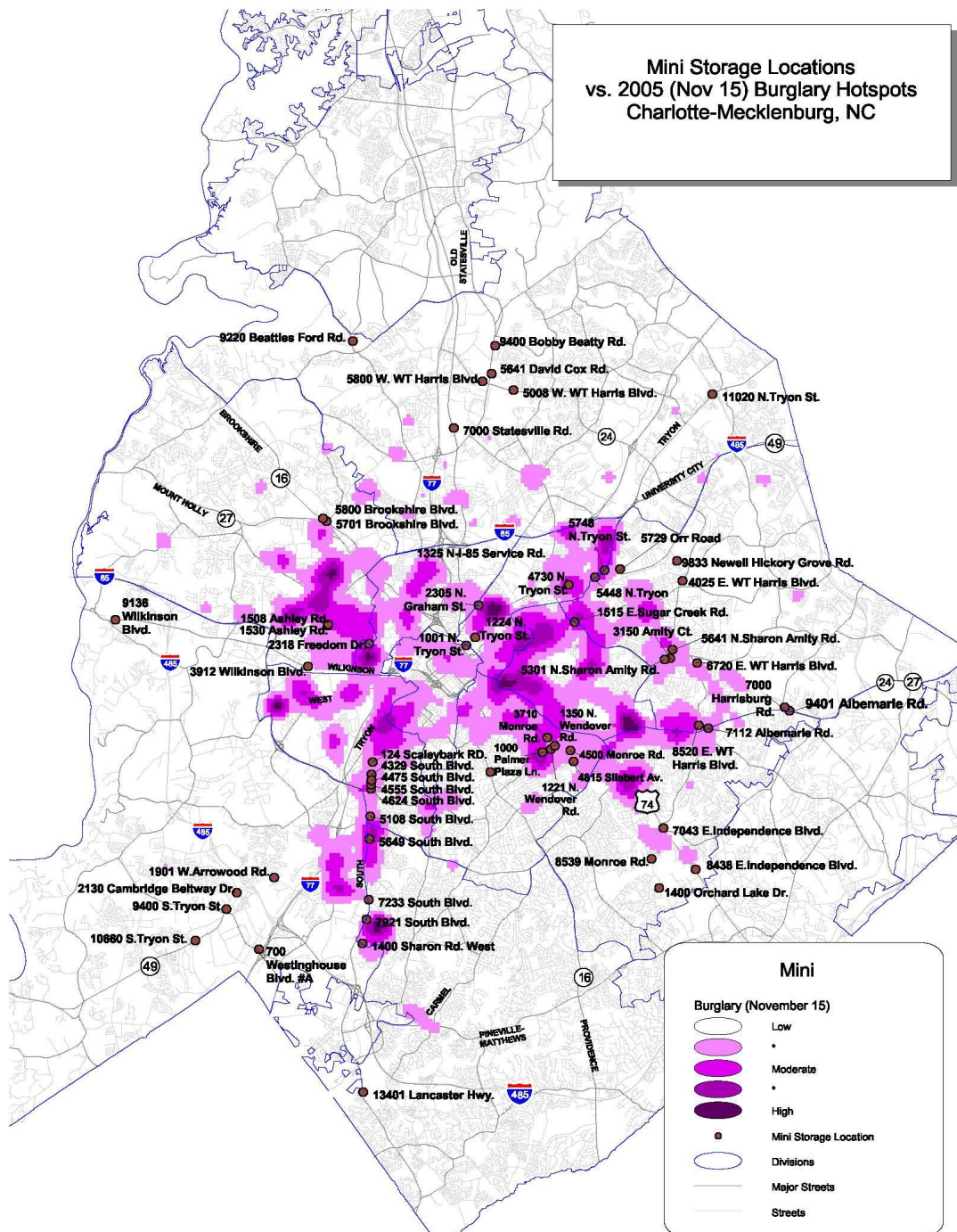
# Reasons Criminals Rent

- Meth lab
- Store stolen property
- Access property to B&E storage units
- Prostitution

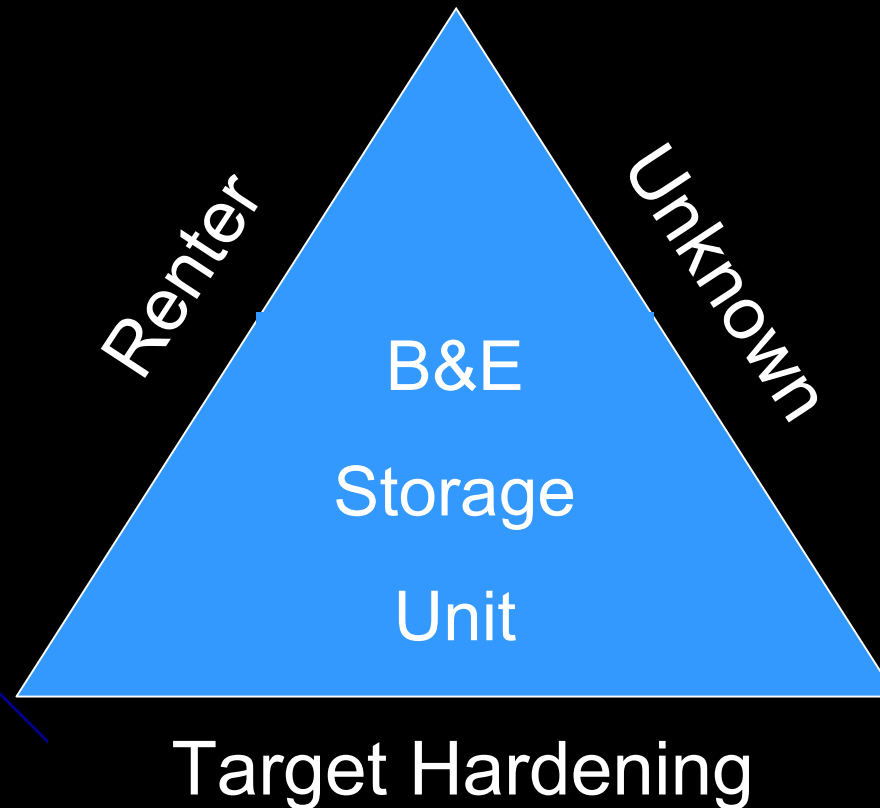
# Locations

- Plotted all storage locations
- Burglary hotspots
- Some correlation

Mini Storage Locations  
vs. 2005 (Nov 15) Burglary Hotspots  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC



# Crime Triangle



Scan **Analysis** Response Assessment

# Response Realizations

- Police presence not practical
- Apprehension not practical
- Alter opportunity
- Look to reduce incidents/harm

# Understanding

- Problem is 2-fold
- Business: perimeter security
- Renter: storage unit security
- Response 2-fold

# Business

- Physical security/CPTED
- Enhance employee inspections
- Limit access hours
- Criminal background checks on renters
- Recommend disc locks
- Solicit renters to be guardians
- Educate renters
- Access codes for police

Scan Analysis **Response** Assessment

# Renters

- Disc locks
- Brochure
- Tips to better secure property
- Record serial numbers
- Engraver



# Controlled Response

- Showed results to Chief
- CMPD provide disc locks
- Three locations:
  - Mini Storage Center 1515 E Sugar Creek Rd
  - Mini Storage Center 4500 Monroe Rd
  - Depot Self Storage 9400 Bob Beatty Rd
- Study period July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



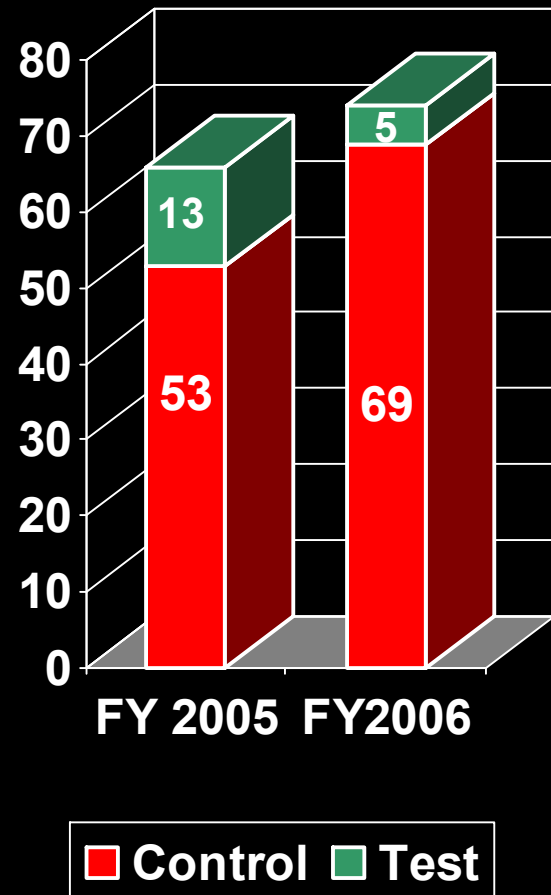
# Measured Effectiveness

- Test sites and control sites
- Number of incidents
- Total net result (# of units B&E)

Location	FY 2005	FY 2006
Mini Storage Center 1515 E Sugar Creek Rd	10 Reports 57 Units	1 Reports 4 Units
Mini Storage Center 4500 Monroe Rd	3 Reports 73 Units	4 Reports 33 Units
● Depot Self Storage 9400 Bob Beatty Rd	No Incidents	No Incidents

# Number of B&E Reports

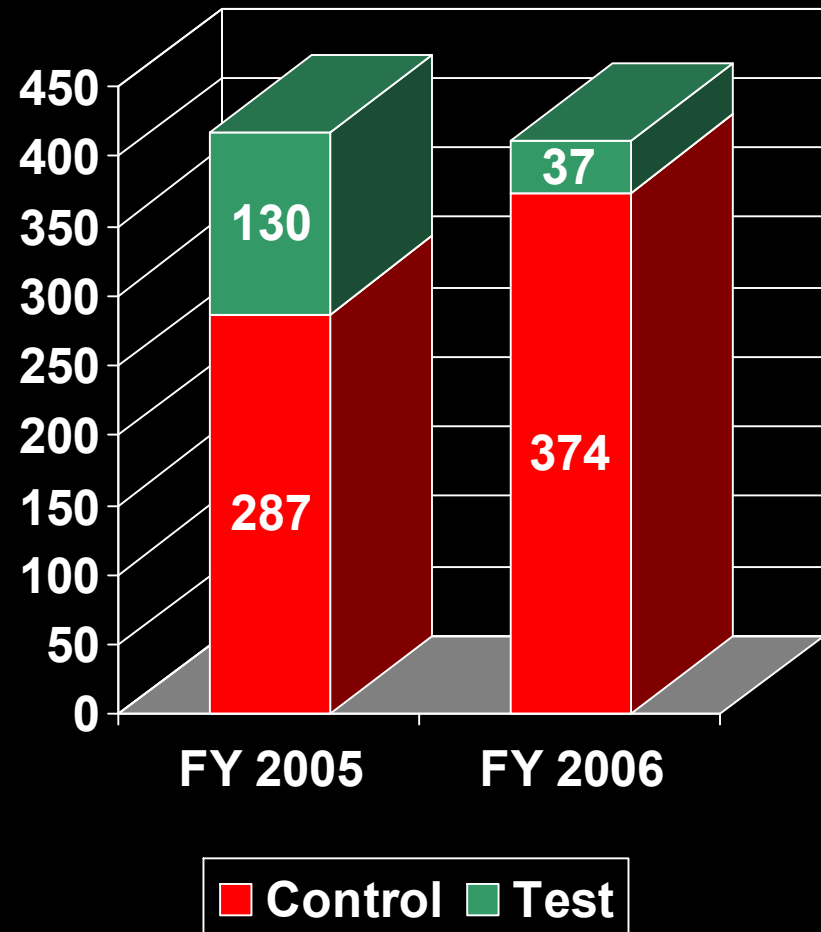
- FY 2005: 66 reports
- Test = 20%
- FY 2006: 74 reports
- Test = 7%
- Test -62% reduction
- Control +30% increase



Scan Analysis Response **Assessment**

# Number of Units B&E

- FY 2005: 417 units B&E
- Test = 31%
- FY 2006: 411 units B&E
- Test = 9%
- Test -72% reduction
- Control +30% increase



Scan Analysis Response **Assessment**

# Assessment

- Only difference?
  - Disc locks

# Devil's Advocate

- We can't make them use disc locks
- Suspects will damage our doors
- Hard for us to cut off (delinquent)

# Counter Points

- Sell disc locks at cost
- Happy customers = Repeat customer
- Word of mouth



# Lessons Learned

- Understand the problem
- Multifaceted response
- Measure the problem and the harm
- Realized reductions
- Response – bought/ distributed locks

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Benjamin Franklin

# What Next?

- Target larger business
- Best practice guide
- Certification process
- NC Self Storage Association (NCSSA)

# Cylinder Lock



Sgt. Jim Wilson

(704) 398-6710

[jwilson1@cmpd.org](mailto:jwilson1@cmpd.org)

Det. Eric Rost

(704) 432-3979

[grost@cmpd.org](mailto:grost@cmpd.org)

Det. Dan Cunius

(704) 398-6715

[dcunius@cmpd.org](mailto:dcunius@cmpd.org)

Det. Wes Caldwell

(704) 336-4100

[wcaldwell1@cmpd.org](mailto:wcaldwell1@cmpd.org)