

	2004	2005	% chg.
Homicide	0	0	0.0
Rape	16	9	-43.8
Robbery	63	68	7.9
Assault	103	101	-1.9
Burglary	356	319	-10.4
Auto theft	218	199	-8.7
Totals	756	696	-7.9

REDONDO BEACH

Teenager-on-teenager crime contributed to a slight rise in robberies in 2005, but otherwise Redondo Beach's overall crime numbers dropped 7.9 percent. Each of the six categories decreased or remained consistent with years past. Robberies, however, increased by five last year.

"We've had quite a number of cell phone robberies where juveniles are taking cell phones by force," said Redondo Beach police Capt. Joe Leonardi. "We see that a lot, each time a new cell phone comes out like the Razr. I think that is what causes some of the robberies."

Vehicle burglaries also remain a problem in Redondo beach. Thieves break into cars because people leave belongings such as laptop computers, purses, bags and cameras on the seats.

"Generally, they come in on a particular night ... and will hit an area," he said. In one instance, police arrested eight people in two stolen cars. They were parking and breaking into cars.

Residential burglaries are down, Leonardi said, and most rape cases involve people who knew each other.

Redondo Beach detectives also work intensively on identity theft. In 2005, detectives investigated two women suspected of stealing information from files at Kaiser South Bay Medical Center in Harbor City after Redondo Beach residents learned that someone was using their names to sign up for credit cards.

The women were arrested in early January.

By the summer, police arrested a suspect in a string of burglaries at Quiznos sandwich shops. Thieves broke in and took expensive meat slicers, worth thousands of dollars. A suspect was located trying to sell the merchandise, ending a problem that had plagued shops across Southern California.

SOURCE: DAILY BREEZE

3/17/06