




Conclusion: The Kansas City Police Department needs help and more support

There are three concerns, including:

**Performance**  Community conditions related to violent crime are chronically below expectations when compared to other cities. Citizen satisfaction with overall safety declines. (See pages 3-9.)

**Systems**  The criminal justice system is dysfunctional and not structured for rationality. Too many criminals are free. (See pages 10-15.)

**Accountability**  Who is responsible for the criminal justice system's poor results?

## Security matters

Security is the most important function of government

**People who live in fear cannot have trust. The legitimacy of a government depends on trust. In Kansas City, the homicide rate soars. Citizen's overall perception of safety is at an all time low. Violence appears to be escalating. Killing occurs without reason as demonstrated by the murder of Robert Osborn who was shot "for fun" while riding his bicycle home from work. Kansas City is not safe, diminishing the public trust and undermining the ability of public officials to create positive change.**

Any analysis of law enforcement starts by comparing the mission and community conditions

The Kansas City Police Department's mission emphasizes constitutional-level values, security, safety and community livability

**Protect life and property.**

**Preserve the public peace.**

**Prevent crime.**

**Reduce fear and disorder.**

# Kansas City is not safe (relative to other cities)

## Recent rankings tell the story

- 5th highest homicide rate in the nation<sup>1</sup> (2005)
- 2nd highest violent crime rate among ICMA cities of similar size<sup>2</sup> (2003)
- 46th in security among fifty largest cities<sup>3</sup> (2003)

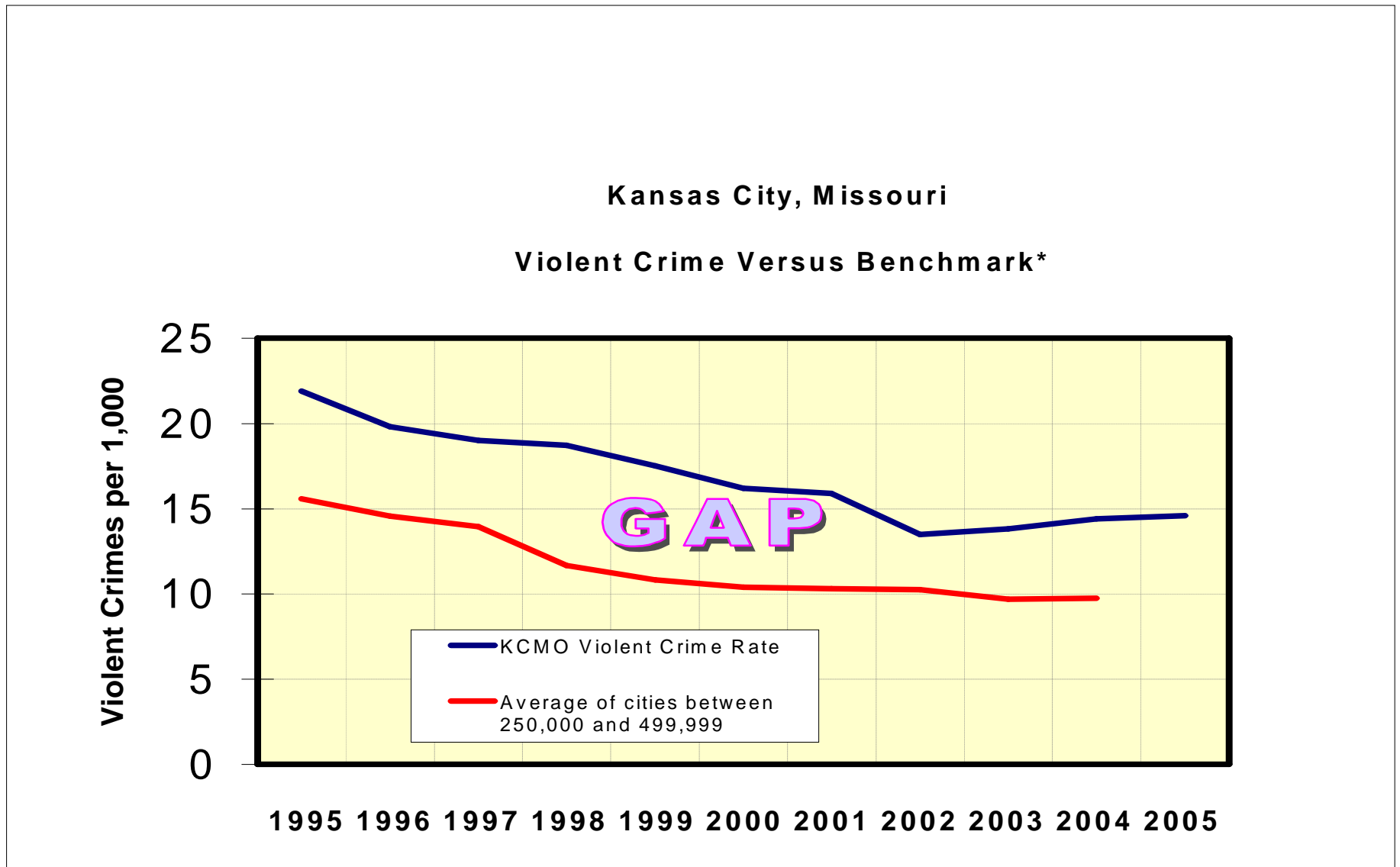
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<sup>1</sup> Based on police department reports from the nation's fifty most populous cities. Does not include New Orleans. See [http://72.14.207.104/search?q=cache:uGJ7yI88zHkJ:seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/261753\\_seattlecrime04.html+%22Oklahoma+City%22+%22number+of+homicides%22+homicide+2006+police+departme nt+crime+statistics&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=1&ie=UTF-8](http://72.14.207.104/search?q=cache:uGJ7yI88zHkJ:seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/261753_seattlecrime04.html+%22Oklahoma+City%22+%22number+of+homicides%22+homicide+2006+police+departme nt+crime+statistics&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=1&ie=UTF-8)

<sup>2</sup> City Auditor's Office, City of Kansas City, Missouri, *City Services Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2004*, May 2005, page 31.

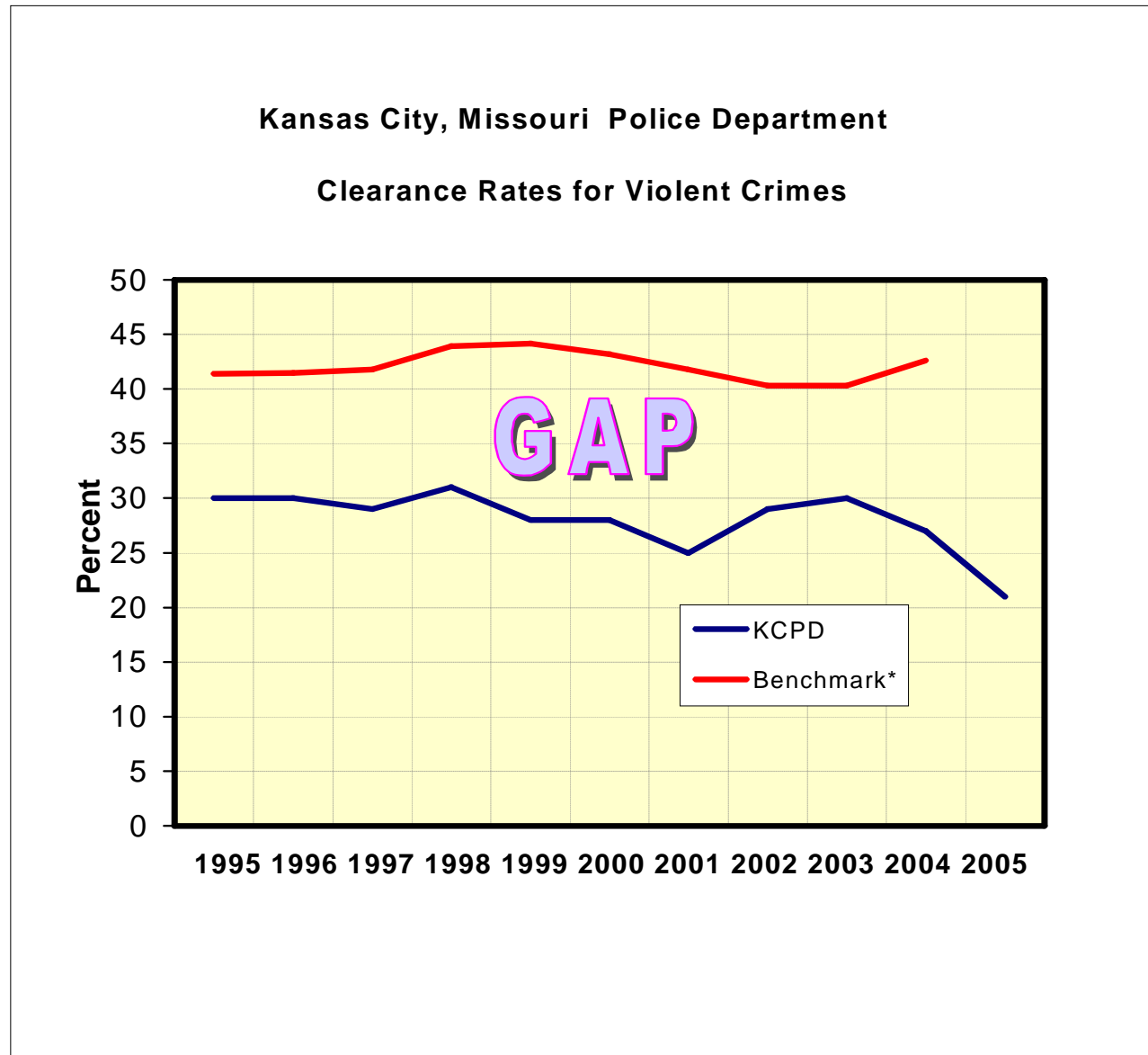
<sup>3</sup> Beacon Hill Institute. *Metro Area and State Competitiveness Report 2003*, page 3. See <http://www.beaconhill.org/BHISudies/Compete2003%20Data/ForMediaOverviewCompete1230.pdf>

# Progress against violent crime is stagnating



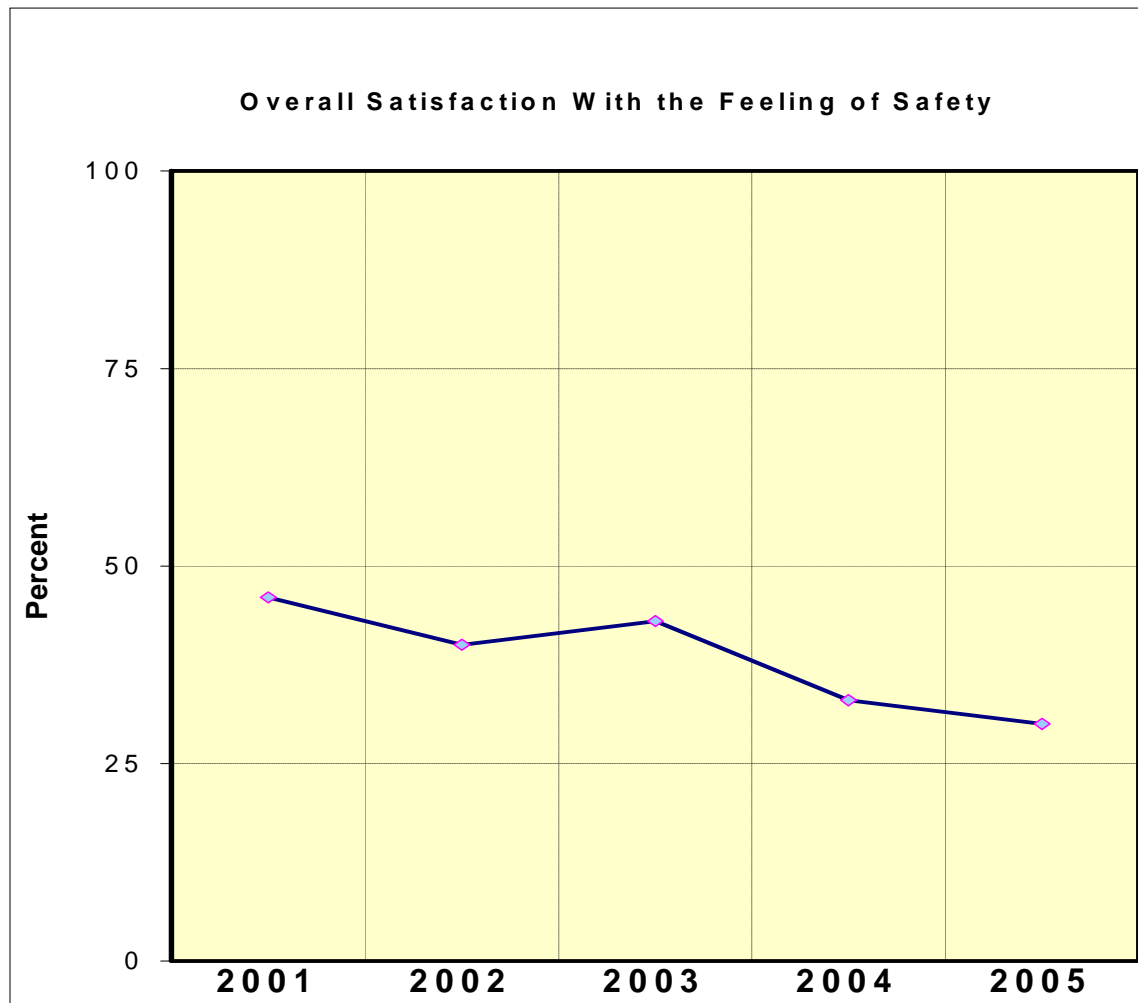
\* Benchmark is based on FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) violent crime rates for approximately 37 cities with populations between 250,000 and 499,999.

# Clearance rates deteriorate



\* Benchmark is based on FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) violent crime clearance rates for approximately 35 cities with populations between 250,000 and 499,999.

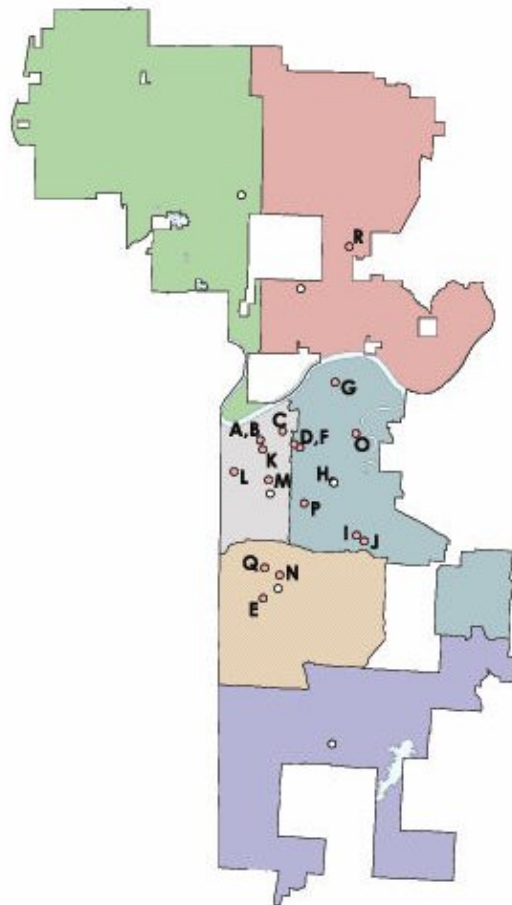
# Citizen's overall satisfaction with the feeling of safety declines to a five-year low<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> City Auditor's Office, City of Kansas City, Missouri, *City Services Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2004*, May 2005, page ii.

# Kansas City is a tale of two cities

Safety varies according to location, making consensus difficult



## North of the River

**5.1** homicides per capita

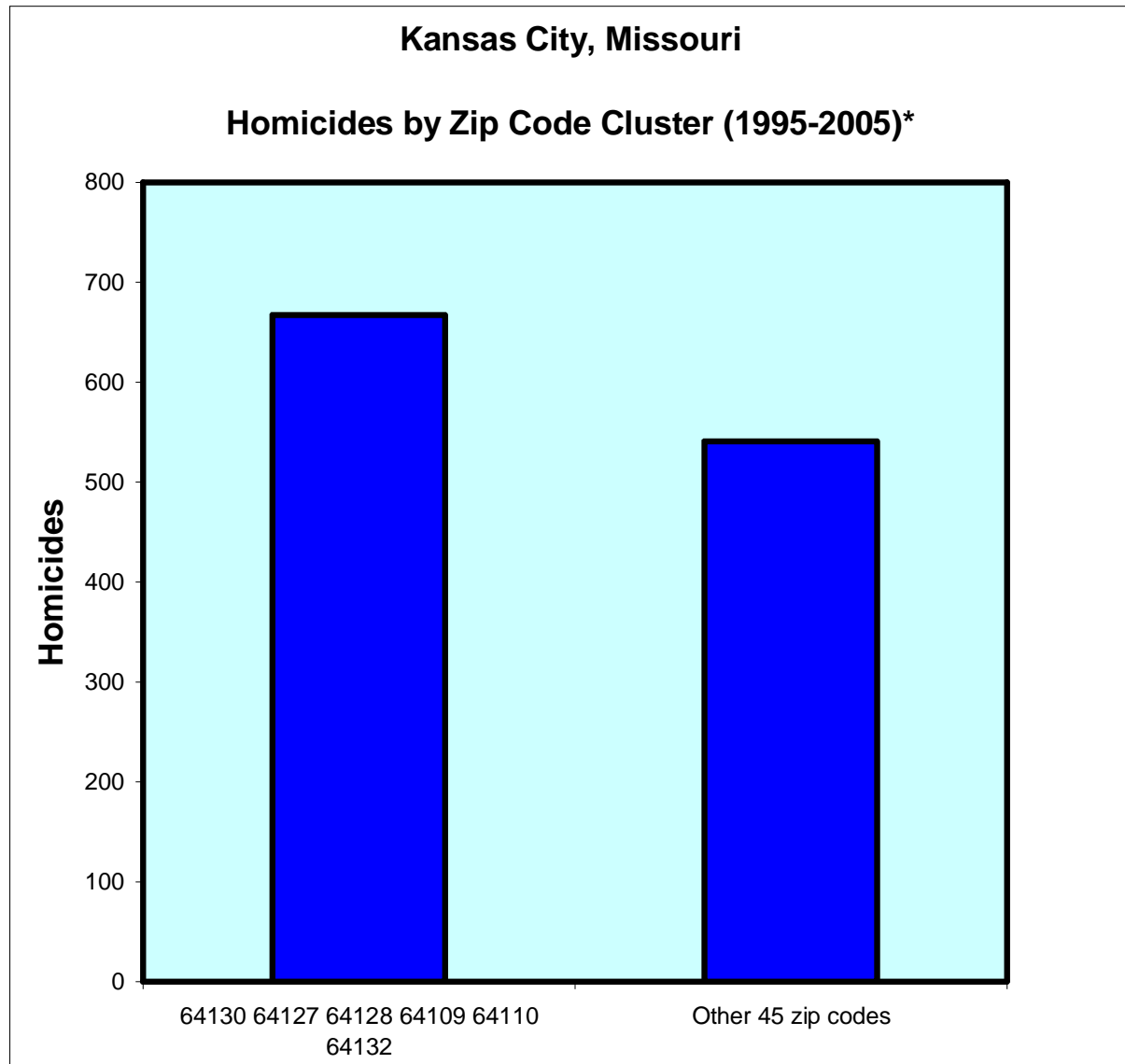
## South of the River

**37.5** homicides per capita

Note: Homicides per capita is based on 2005 data from KCPD's *Homicide Analysis*.



# Crime patterns suggest chronic problems (See Appendix A.)



\* Based on monthly police blotters. Mapped into zip code by Brett Rickman per E-mail, May 9, 2006.