

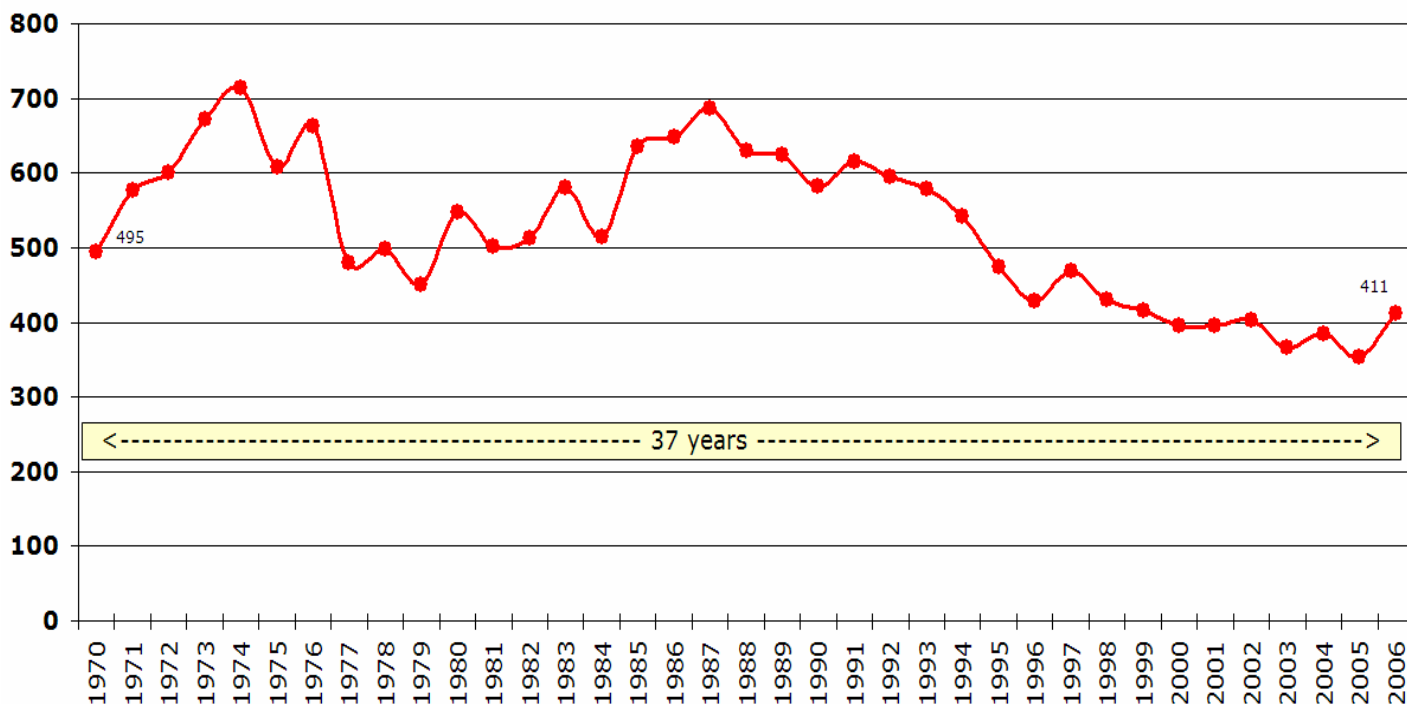
Detroit Crime Barometer

May 2007 Edition

Homicide Trends

Since 1988, the annual number of homicides in Detroit has trended downward. For 2006, however, the 411 homicides represent a 16 percent increase over the previous year (354 in 2005). Given the population decline occurring in the city of Detroit -- from 951,270 in 2000 to an estimated 846,923 in 2007 -- this also represents a sharp increase in the homicide rate between 2005 and 2006, from 40 to 48 murders per 100,000 residents. Detroit's current homicide rate is 7 to 8 times higher than the State of Michigan and U.S. averages.

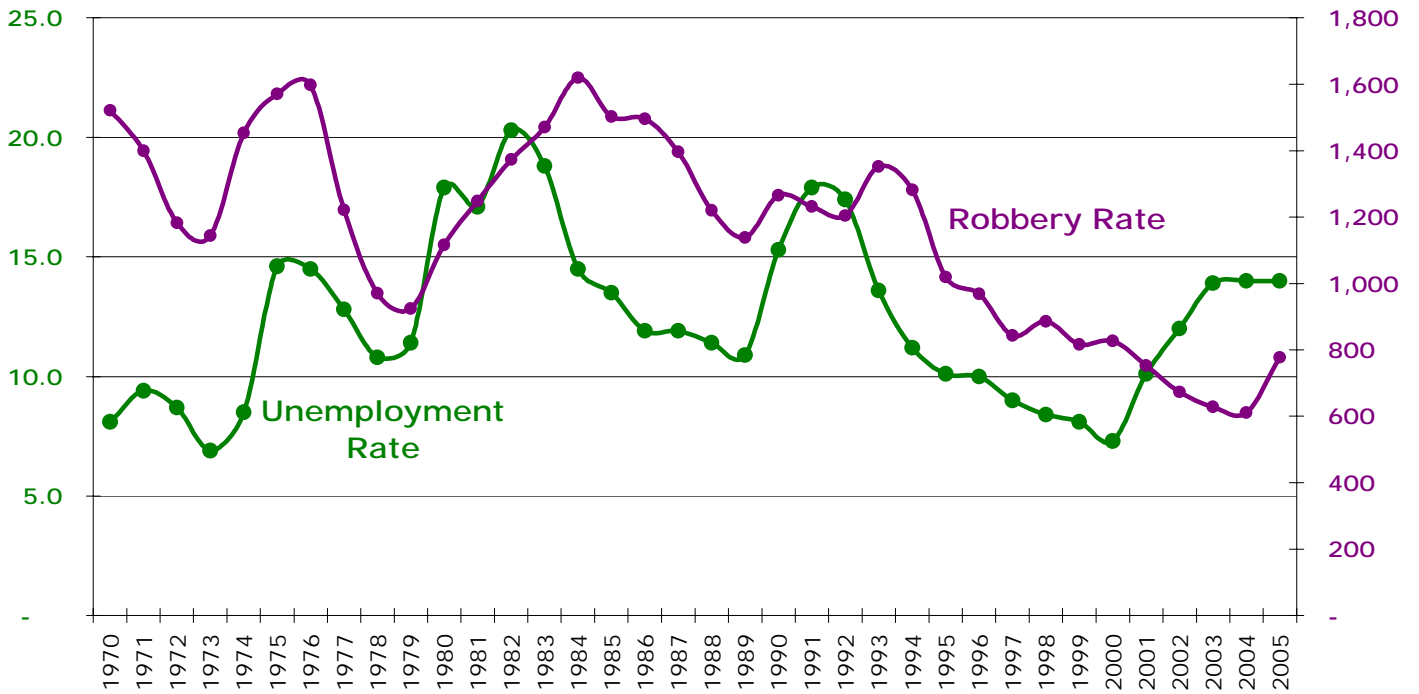
Murders, 1970 to 2006



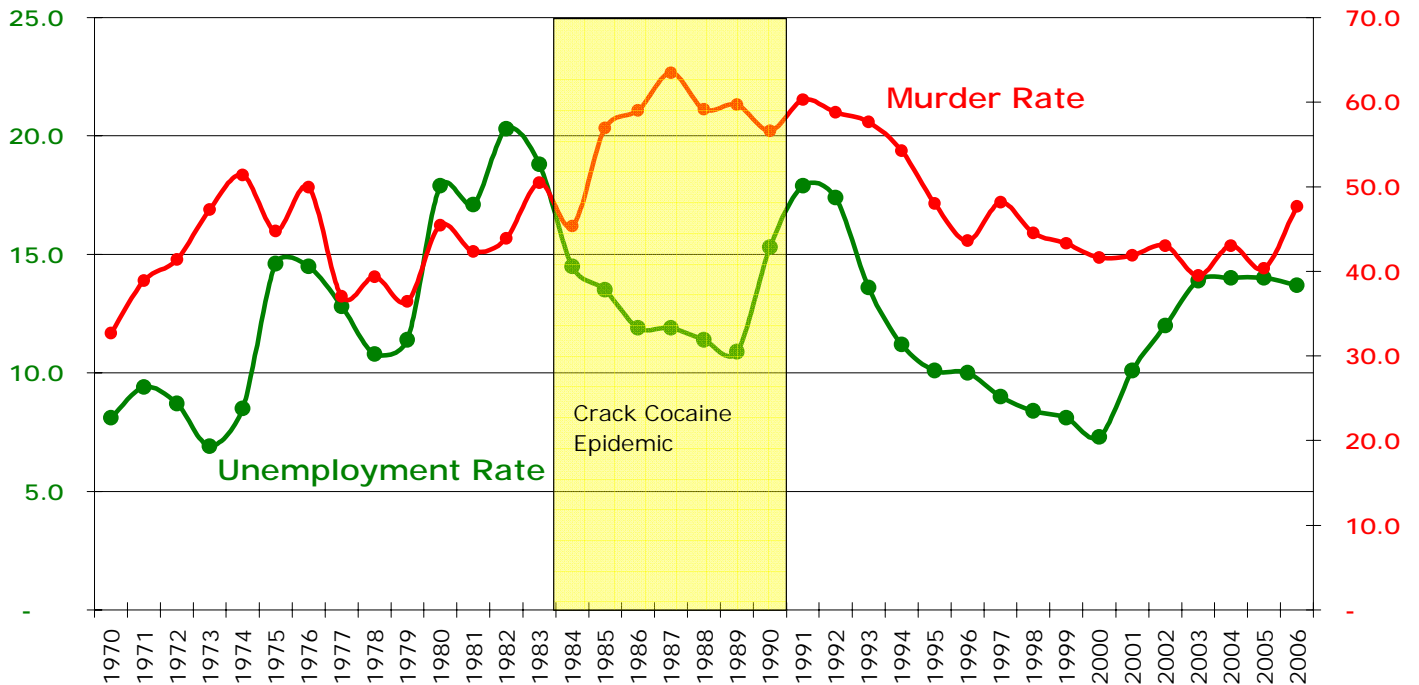
Crime and The Economy

In Detroit, the crime rate tends to track closely with the unemployment rate. This can be seen when analyzing robbery and homicide rates over time. *One exception, however, is the homicide rate during the crack cocaine epidemic years, 1984-1990. The robbery rate shows a strong correspondence to the unemployment rate. The robbery rate usually increases the year following an increase in unemployment. The murder rate also trends with unemployment, but not as closely.

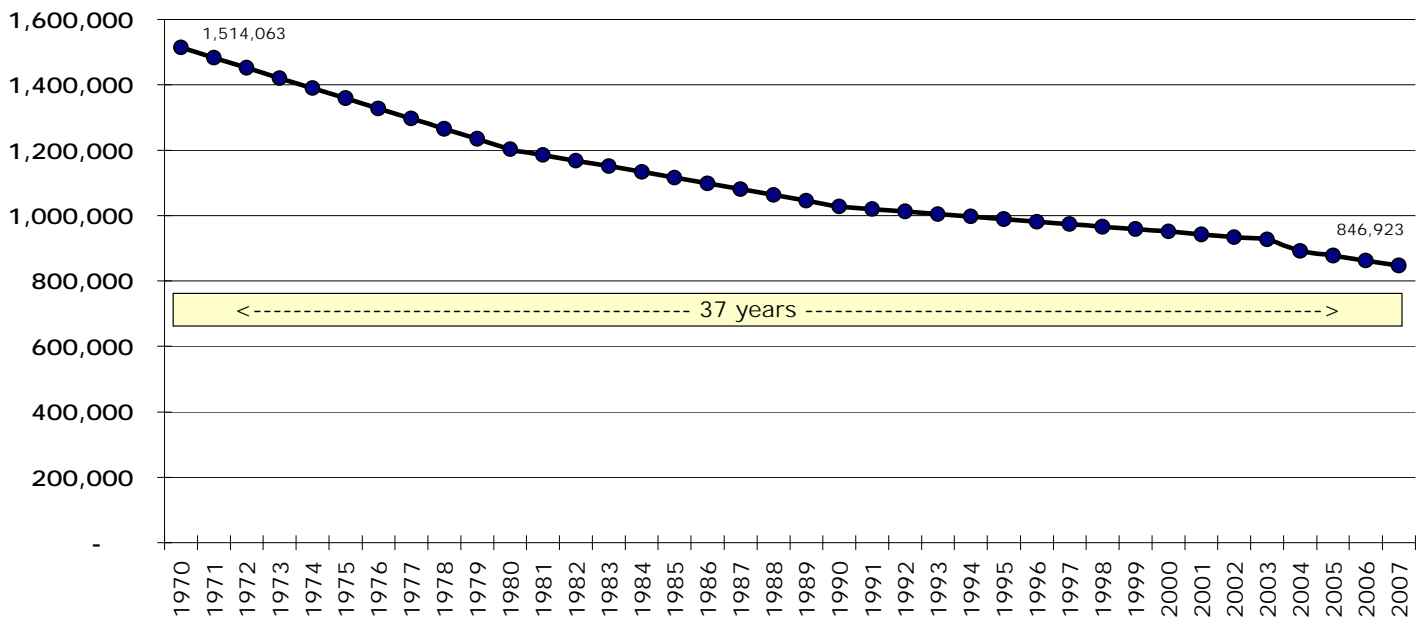
Robbery Rate and Unemployment



Murder Rate and Unemployment



City of Detroit Population, 1970 to 2007



Crime, Neighborhood Conditions and Community Organizations

Crime is not evenly distributed across Detroit neighborhoods. The highest crime neighborhoods are geographically concentrated and are economically and social disadvantaged areas, in terms of income levels, family structure, and residential stability. Crime problems, however, often spillover and affect surrounding areas.

The population decline occurring in many neighborhoods makes it extremely difficult to stabilize or revitalize these areas. The map below illustrates the percentage of vacant addresses by neighborhood (census tract area).

Purple areas on the map are neighborhoods where 20 to 30 percent of all homes and businesses are vacant (as of March 2007).

These trends signal the importance of managing neighborhoods -- solving problems before they force residents to move out -- and greater roles for community-organizations as neighborhood problem-solvers, advocates, and service providers.

