

Crime and Wal-Mart — “Is Wal-Mart Safe?”
An Analysis of Official Police Incidents at Wal-Mart Stores

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WakeUpWalMart.com
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“Crime in our parking lots was on a rapid increase in many areas of region ten, Florida, and it was evident from customer count and sales in the evening hours, that people were becoming afraid to visit our stores during those hours.”

Tom Rinehart, Wal-Mart, 1996

Summary

One of the most important issues raised by citizen groups and local communities in the growing public debate about Wal-Mart is whether or not a relationship exists between Wal-Mart stores and crime.¹ In the last few years, anecdotal news accounts of crimes at Wal-Mart stores or parking lots, coupled with statements made by law enforcement, have raised a public concern that Wal-Mart stores may be, as one court has described it, a “magnet for crime” (See Appendix B).

The following study, titled “Is Wal-Mart Safe?,” is the first nationally available study to evaluate this important issue. The first phase of this study analyzes police incident reports (calls for service) associated with 551 Wal-Mart stores and provides an estimate of both the average rate of reported total incidents per store and reported “serious or violent” incidents per store (See Appendix A). This study is also the first available report that compares and contrasts the average rate of reported police incidents at “high incident” Wal-Mart stores with the average rate of reported police incidents at nearby Target stores.

The study further estimates the cost to taxpayers and local communities associated with policing Wal-Mart stores. Finally, our estimate of what it would cost for Wal-Mart to adopt roving security patrols at all stores is provided.

Among the critical findings of the “Is Wal-Mart Safe?” study:

- Wal-Mart stores experience a significant number of police incidents. In 2004, police received 148,331 calls for service for the 551 Wal-Mart stores analyzed;
- The average number of reported incidents per store for the 551 stores analyzed was 269;
- The Wal-Mart stores in our sample that reported the most incidents in 2004 experienced higher average rates of reported police incidents than nearby Target stores;
- Based on the average rate of reported incidents for the 551 Wal-Mart stores analyzed in this study, we estimate that in 2004 police may have received almost 1 million calls for service at Wal-Mart stores or parking lots – or 2 reported police incidents per minute in 2004;
- Nationally, Wal-Mart stores cost local taxpayers an estimated \$77 million in increased policing costs in 2004;
- Wal-Mart could implement roving security patrols at all stores nationwide at an estimated cost of 4 cents per monthly customer visit.

Each of the 551 police reports used in the “Is Wal-Mart Safe?” study is available for download and review at WalMartCrimeReport.com.²

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, a reference to incidents at a Wal-Mart means incidents at a Wal-Mart property, including a Wal-Mart parking lot.

² The police incident reports used for this study are official records of the number of times police were called to respond to an incident (calls for service) at a Wal-Mart property. The reported incidents run the gamut from calls to assist a motorist locked out of a car to calls to investigate a homicide. The police reports did not reflect the outcome of these calls for service or the precise location of the incident. Thus, for example, a police report indicating a call for

Introduction: Wal-Mart Stores and Public Safety

At the end of 2005, Wal-Mart ranked #2 on the Fortune 500 with sales of over \$312 billion and net profits of \$11.2 billion. Wal-Mart is also the nation's largest retailer with over 3,857 stores and a customer base estimated by the company at 151 million visits per week - with women consumers representing 70 percent of all Wal-Mart customers. Wal-Mart has also announced plans to open 1,500 new stores over the next five years or roughly 300 new stores each year between 2006 and 2010. At the end of 2005, Wal-Mart's 3,857 stores were located in 2,183 cities and/or towns across all 50 states.³ In sum, Wal-Mart is a significant and powerful social and economic force both nationwide and in the very fabric of thousands of American communities.

Wal-Mart's ambitious plans for growth, however, have faced an increasing degree of public opposition from citizen groups who oppose plans to expand or open new Wal-Mart stores in their communities. Based on news articles, in the last two years, community groups in over 204 cities and towns have organized to oppose new Wal-Mart openings or the expansion of current Wal-Mart stores.

In opposing Wal-Mart expansion or growth, so-called "site fight" groups point to various concerns, including increased traffic, congestion, sprawl, as well as crime. In particular, the questions about the relationship between incidents of crime and Wal-Mart stores raises concerns among site fight groups about the adverse impact a new or current Wal-Mart store could have on a community's quality of life, overall public safety, and local policing.⁴

The following research study, titled "Is Wal-Mart Safe?" is the first national study to examine the average rate of reported calls for service at or near Wal-Mart stores. The "Is Wal-Mart Safe?" study is based on a detailed analysis of local police incident reports (calls for service) covering 551 Wal-Mart stores in 434 cities and 30 states.⁵ The stores were chosen randomly based on a sample of 1,004 Wal-Mart stores that were open for all of 2004.⁶ The primary findings of this study are based only on the police reports associated with these 551 stores.

service at a Wal-Mart address could reflect an incident in a store or in the parking lot. In some instances, however, the nature of the crime, such as auto theft, provides insight into the location of the incident (see Appendix A).

³ Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., SEC Filing, Form 10-K, Fiscal Year 2006; Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., presentation, January 2005; Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., "United States Operations Data Sheet March 2006," at www.walmartfacts.com March 2, 2006; Parija Bhatnagar, "Wal-Mart mea culpa: 'We're human beings'," CNNMoney.com, June 3, 2005; Wal-Mart Store Listings 2005, Trade Dimensions Data.

⁴ For example see Sprawl-Busters "Home Town America Fights Back": <http://www.sprawl-busters.com/search.php?SRCHrecent=1>

⁵ In 2005, we requested from police departments lists of all incidents reported (calls for service) at Wal-Mart addresses over the last two years, organized by date and type of incident to which police responded. In total, we received information for 582 stores in 30 states. Because we analyzed only those Wal-Mart stores that were open for all of 2004, and because we received some of the reports after we began our analysis, 31 stores were ultimately excluded from the sample. Wal-Mart reported that it had 3,551 stores (3,013 Wal-Mart stores and 538 Sam's Clubs) open in the US in January 2004.

⁶This initial analysis focuses only on 2004 police incident report data associated with Wal-Mart addresses. The considerable time needed to request, organize, and analyze over 10,000 pages of data took up much of 2005. Future research will analyze all stores open as of 2005, as well as to compare 2004 and 2005 incident reports.

The “Is Wal-Mart Safe?” study is divided into the following sections:

- (a) Public statements made by police officials and communities concerning the perceived relationship between Wal-Mart stores and crime;
- (b) The average rate of reported police incidents among Wal-Mart stores, both on a per store basis and estimated nationwide;
- (c) The average rate of reported “serious or violent” police incidents per Wal-Mart store
- (d) A comparison of reported police incidents at a cross-section of Wal-Mart and Target stores;
- (e) The estimated cost to taxpayers for police work associated with responding to calls for service at or near Wal-Mart stores, both per store and nationwide;
- (f) A comparison of the estimated cost to taxpayers for reported police incidents at or near Wal-Marts versus nearby Target stores;
- (g) The estimated cost to Wal-Mart for providing security patrols at all Wal-Mart stores, both for Wal-Mart and on a per customer basis.

A. Wal-Mart and Crime: Public Statements by Local Officials

In 2001, Justice Larry Starcher of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals stated that “a quick search of reported cases reveals that Wal-Mart parking lots are a virtual magnet for crime.”⁷ In addition, many police officials have discussed the impact of having to respond to calls for service at Walmart properties.

For example, police chiefs and police officials from cities as diverse as Epping, NH; Moraine, OH; and Harrisville, UT, have described the relationship between Wal-Mart stores and crime.

- **South Strabane, PA:** Police Chief Don Zofchak met with Wal-Mart officials in 2004 trying to reduce their calls to the police. “Frankly, it was unbearable.... I’ve got 26 square miles and God knows how many other businesses to deal with. Their requests or demands for service, proportionally, were overwhelming.” [Pittsburgh Post Gazette, March 27, 2005]
- **North Lebanon, PA:** Police Chief Kim Wolfe said that, “If we had known the number of calls [from Wal-Mart], we probably would have considered an increase in officers.... We just had no idea what it would be like. It doesn’t matter what time of the day or night; we get calls there.” [The Lebanon Daily News, January 27, 2005]
- **West Sadsbury, PA:** Police Chief John F. Slauch said that Wal-Mart “has completely changed the way we do business. It has overwhelmed us at times.” [Philadelphia Inquirer, April 12, 2004]
- **Tappahannock, VA:** Police Chief James Barrett, said Wal-Mart “is a strain on services. If they moved out tomorrow, it wouldn’t upset me.” [St. Petersburg Times, May 20, 2002]
- **Harrisville, UT:** Since Wal-Mart opened in Harrisville, UT in early 2001, calls to the police department have jumped by a third. The number of officers has increased from four to six. The store’s parking lot, where more than half the city’s DUIs originate, is now patrolled overnight. “Our DUIs skyrocketed,” said Harrisville Police Officer Nate Thompson, cruising the parking lot one recent Friday night. “It just went through the roof.” [Associated Press, May 7, 2004]
- **Moraine, OH:** Police calls almost tripled after a Wal-Mart opened in Moraine, Ohio in 2003. Moraine public information officer Paul Guess said “We had anticipated, because the store is open 24 hours, that we would have an increase.” [Dayton Daily News (Ohio), August 11, 2005]

⁷ Justice Larry Starcher, writing in the Concurring Opinion in *Jane Doe v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, No. 20612, December 13, 2001.

- **Epping, NH:** Police Lieutenant Mike Wallace said, “Because there’s a lot of time spent at Wal-Mart, the rest of the town is affected by that.... There’s not as much time for direct patrols... There has to be some kind of relief if they want us to cover them 24 hours a day. [Union Leader (Manchester, NH), November 16, 2005]

The increased demands of policing Wal-Mart stores have posed serious challenges for communities. Some of the concerns cited by local communities include increased pressure on community policing, budgetary pressures, as well as increased concerns over public safety. Again, examples of such concerns were raised in cities as diverse as Hermantown, MN, Beech Grove, IN, Orlando, FL, Tega Cay, SC, Vista, CA, and Dallas, TX.

- **Epping, NH:** Town officials in Epping, NH turned down Wal-Mart’s request to have its store open 24-hours during the holidays, saying that police calls from the store were already overburdening the police force. Calls to the police, arrests, and complaints filed at the store in its first four months of operation led to a 7.5 percent increase in the town’s crime rate. [Union Leader (Manchester NH), May 23, 2004 and Union Leader (Manchester, NH), November 16, 2005]
- **Hermantown, MN:** Wal-Mart’s plan to expand in Hermantown, MN would increase police calls for the already understaffed police department. [Duluth News-Tribune, February 20, 2005]
- **Tega Cay, SC:** In 2004, three Tega Cay Planning Commission members completed a study that said a proposed Wal-Mart would bring more crime and traffic than previously thought. Commission member Don Colangelo said two more Tega Cay police officers would need to be hired to handle the additional police calls. [The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.), November 26, 2004.]
- **Beech Grove, IN:** Beech Grove, Indiana estimated in 2004 that increased calls from a new Wal-Mart would necessitate the hiring of an extra police officer budgeted at \$75,000. **Fishers, IN:** Fishers, Indiana police responded to 292 calls from Wal-Mart in just the first 8 months of 2003. **Greenwood, IN:** In 2004, planners in Greenwood, Indiana projected that a new Wal-Mart would net the city an additional \$27,933 a year but had only estimated \$5,000 in additional police costs to come up with that figure. Those projections were off given that Marion County police had to respond to 511 calls in 2003 at their Wal-Mart. [Indianapolis Star, March 17, 2004]
- **Port Richey, FL:** In 2002, Port Richey’s Wal-Mart was projected to pay \$75,000 in property taxes for the year. To handle increased police calls, the police department spent \$72,275 in overtime in just the first seven months of its fiscal year. Because of the small size of Port Richey’s police department, sending two officers to Wal-Mart takes up the entire force working on a given shift. As the number of calls to Wal-Mart rose, police response times increased on other non-emergency calls. [Tampa Tribune, July 23, 2003]
- **Pineville, NC:** In March 2003, town leaders in Pineville, NC turned down a proposed Wal-Mart. City Planners in Pineville determined that the town would have to hire two additional police officers to monitor the store and respond to calls there. They estimated the new officers would cost the town \$120,000. An attorney for Wal-Mart stated that the proposed Wal-Mart would have likely brought the town \$100,000 in sales, property, and other taxes. [Charlotte Observer, May 26, 2003]
- **Ephrata, PA:** Brad Ortenzi, police detective in Ephrata, PA said in 2003 that Wal-Mart led to a “drastic increase” in his workload. “Bad checks, use of stolen credit cards. ... During a busy week, we’ll have three to five retail theft arrests, and with each arrest, that ties up an officer who has to go down, take a person into custody” and follow up with paperwork and possibly a court appearance. [Sunday News (Lancaster, PA) June 8, 2003]
- **Vista, CA:** Mayor Morris Vance cited increased crime at Wal-Mart as taxing local budgets and policing efforts. “This is a difficult time for this to happen,” Mayor Vance said, referring to the

city's strapped budget. "We definitely cannot afford more police officers right now. With the budget, it's hard to keep what we have." [The San Diego Union-Tribune, June 5, 2003]

- **Orlando, FL:** In Orlando, the local police blotter indicates that the crime rate in a 5-square-mile area of MetroWest jumped more than 70 percent in the first year after Wal-Mart's arrival in August 2001. Traffic accidents rose 31 percent, property crimes 110 percent, robberies 231 percent and car thefts 56 percent, according to the Orlando Police Department. [Orlando Sentinel, January 27, 2003]
- **Dallas, TX:** A 2002 internal Dallas Police Department memo warned that a proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter would lead to longer response times. [Dallas Morning News, Jun 5, 2002]
- **North Versailles, PA:** Calls to Wal-Mart and the development that came with it caused the police department to have to more than double its size, growing from 10 to 26 officers between 1998 and 2002. [St. Petersburg Times, May 20, 2002]
- **Ankeny, IA:** Ankeny police saw a substantial increase in crime once Wal-Mart supersized to a 207,000-square-foot store in September 1999. Police records show that crimes such as shoplifting, theft, forgery and counterfeiting increased 74 percent in 2000 at the Wal-Mart Supercenter compared with the smaller Wal-Mart that operated in town in 1999. Police Chief Paul Scranton requested two new officers to deal with increased workloads in 2000 and the city hired a consultant to study in 2001 whether to hire officers and/or take officers off other duties. [Des Moines Register, July 22, 2000 and Des Moines Register, November 7, 2001]

B. Analysis of Reported Police Incidents and Wal-Mart Stores

We gathered and analyzed 2004 police incident reports (i.e. calls for service for violent crimes, nonviolent crimes, and other matters) for 551 Wal-Mart stores that were open for all of 2004. The sample of Wal-Mart stores analyzed represented 15.5 percent of all U.S. Wal-Marts as of January 2004.⁸ Police incident reports were requested, collected, and analyzed from 404 police departments from 434 cities and towns.

According to the police reports analyzed, in 2004, police received a total of 148,331 calls for service at these 551 Wal-Mart stores.⁹ The average number of reported police incidents per Wal-Mart store was 269.¹⁰

Table 1: Wal-Mart Stores: Average Rate of Reported Police Incidents

Wal-Mart Stores Sampled	Number of Reported Calls for Service in 2004	Average Rate of Reported Police Incidents Per Wal-Mart Store in 2004
551	148, 331	269

⁸ Wal-Mart Stores, Inc, SEC Filing Form 10-K for Fiscal Year 2005

⁹ We were able to count the total number of incidents reported for 551 of the 582 Wal-Mart stores about which we received data. We were unable to analyze the other 31 reports because (i) we received them too late for inclusion in the study, or (ii) the relevant stores were not open for all of 2004.

¹⁰ If you removed the five states with the highest number of total police incidents reported, the average rate of police incidents reported for the remaining 261 Wal-Mart stores in 25 states would be 220 per Wal-Mart store.

In terms of geographic distribution, Wal-Mart stores from 30 states were included in the analysis (see Table 2). The five states with the highest number of Wal-Mart's stores analyzed were: California (91), Texas (69), Florida (68), Illinois (39), and Arizona (34). The five states with the highest number of reported police incidents, however, were: North Carolina, Arizona, Florida, California and Texas. The 290 stores from these five "high incident" states accounted for 90,798 of the calls for service at all Wal-Mart stores analyzed. In 2004, the average rate of reported police incidents at these 290 Wal-Mart stores was 313 per Wal-Mart store.

Table 2: Reported Police Incidents at Wal-Mart Stores: State by State Breakdown

State	Total Number of Reported police incidents	# of Wal-Mart Stores
Alabama	155	1
Arizona	10,149	34
California	24,682	91
Colorado	619	3
Connecticut	5,689	25
Florida	23,069	68
Iowa	2,379	8
Illinois	9,294	39
Indiana	306	2
Kansas	2,207	7
Massachusetts	4,676	22
Maryland	2,222	14
Michigan	1,707	10
Minnesota	433	4
Missouri	1,027	3
North Carolina	11,157	28
New Hampshire	743	6
New Jersey	2,367	11
New Mexico	3,468	6
Nevada	672	2
New York	5,660	28
Ohio	6,220	33
Oregon	1,139	6
Pennsylvania	311	3
Rhode Island	1,044	4
Tennessee	1,442	5
Texas	21,741	69
Virginia	148	1
Washington	2,471	11
Wisconsin	1,134	7
Totals	148,331	551

Based on all police reports analyzed, the top ten Wal-Mart stores of the stores we examined with the highest number of total calls for service were located in ten different cities and from six states - four in Florida, two in Texas, one in California, one in Ohio, one in Massachusetts, and one in North Carolina (See Table 3).

Table 3: Top Ten Wal-Mart Stores: Total # of 2004 Reported Police Incidents

Address	City	State	Reported Police Incidents in 2004
9300 N.W. 77 th Avenue	Hialeah Gardens	FL	1875
5100 Okeechobee Road	Fort Pierce	FL	1593
1505 N. Dale Mabry Hwy	Tampa	FL	1582
2793 Taylor Road S.W.	Reynoldsburg	OH	1199
5226 Sigmon Road	Wilmington	NC	1186
7401 Samuell Blvd	Dallas	TX	1173
2727 Dunvale Road	Houston	TX	1123
1950 Auto Center Drive	Glendora	CA	1001
100 Charlton Road	Sturbridge	MA	999
19910 Bruce B. Downs Road	Tampa	FL	996

C. Wal-Mart Stores: Rates of Reported “Violent & Serious Crime” Police Incidents

460 of the 551 reports we analyzed provided a more detailed explanation of the specific types of police incidents reported at each store.¹¹ These 460 official police reports were collected from 364 cities and 29 states. This sample of Wal-Mart stores represented 13 percent of all Wal-Mart stores opened as of January 2004.

Based on this detailed sample of official police reports, local police departments responded to a total number of 122,751 calls for service at the 460 Wal-Mart stores. Again, the police reports did not provide information on whether or not the reported incident allegedly took place inside the store or in the parking lot, but the nature of the incidents (e.g., shoplifting) might suggest the location of the incident. While the detailed data provided by these police reports indicates that a majority of reported police incidents were of a non-violent or non-serious nature (e.g., shoplifting), a significant number of reported police incidents involved more “serious or violent crimes.”¹²

Reported “serious or violent” incidents such as rape, attempted rape, murder, and kidnapping, were defined based on the definitional criteria established by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (see Appendix A).¹³ Based on the FBI’s definitional criteria, in 2004, police were called to respond to a total of 2,909 reports of “serious or violent crimes” at the 460 Wal-Mart stores we analyzed.¹⁴ The most “serious or violent crimes”

¹¹ We were unable to analyze the other 91 reports because (i) we received them too late for this report, (ii) the law enforcement department did not provide the information necessary to categorize the reported incidents, or (iii) the departments only provided the sum total of reported incidents.

¹² Under the Uniform Crime Reporting codes the FBI says that some crimes “are serious crimes by their nature and/or volume.” In these offenses the FBI includes murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. When analyzing serious crimes the FBI also includes simple assault, and we did as well. [FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary Reporting <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucrquest.htm>]

¹³ See Appendix A for definitions of the categories analyzed.

¹⁴ Some municipalities include more crimes under the heading of “serious” crime than does the FBI. They include, for example, weapons law violations and drug/narcotic violations. We also analyzed the data from 460 Wal-Mart stores for these two categories. Police reported 694 incidents involving drug/narcotics violations at the 460 Wal-Mart stores.

that police responded to at this sample of Wal-Mart stores include: four homicides, nine rapes or attempted rapes, 23 kidnappings or attempted kidnappings, 154 sex crimes, 1,024 auto thefts, and 550 robberies or attempted robberies (See Table 4). Based on the total number of “serious or violent criminal incidents” reported, an average of six “serious or violent incidents” were reported per Wal-Mart store in 2004.¹⁵

Table 4: Total Number of Reported “Serious or Violent” Incidents at 460 Wal-Mart Stores in 2004

Reported “Serious or Violent Crime” Incident Category	Number of Reported Incidents
Assault with a deadly weapon, assault, and battery:	1,145
Auto theft:	1,024
Robbery and attempted robbery:	550
Sex crimes:	154
Kidnapping and attempted kidnapping:	23
Rape and attempted rape:	9
Homicide and attempted homicide ¹⁶ :	4

Among these 460 Wal-Mart stores analyzed, the top ten stores with highest number of “serious or violent” incidents reported were in Arizona (3), California (4), New Mexico (1), Florida (1), and Texas (1) – (see Table 5).

Table 5: Top Ten Wal-Marts in 2004 with Reported “Serious or Violent” Police Incidents

Address	City	State	Total Reported Incidents	Total Number of “Serious” Incidents Reported
2020 North 75Th Ave.	Phoenix	AZ	372	50
3721 East Thomas Road	Phoenix	AZ	632	47
3661 Truxel Road	Sacramento	CA	576	40
710 Dennery Road	San Diego	CA	397	38
2300 White Lane	Bakersfield	CA	922	35
1607 West Bethany Home Rd	Phoenix	AZ	513	32
15272 Bear Valley Road	Victorville	CA	731	32
1107 South Shaver Street	Pasadena	TX	481	32
1505 N. Dale Mabry Hwy	Tampa	FL	1582	31
301 San Mateo Blvd SE	Albuquerque	NM	598	30

Police reported 170 incidents involving weapons law violations at the 460 Wal-Mart stores. Adding these categories to our analysis would boost the number of “serious” incidents reported to 3,773 at the 460 Wal-Mart stores. See the following website for a description of all the categories considered “serious” under one state’s crime reporting: www.bci.utah.gov/UCRIBR/PartOne_GroupA.pdf

¹⁵ Adding reported police incidents involving drug/narcotics violations and weapons law violations to our analysis would boost the total number of “serious” incidents reported to 3,773 at the 460 Wal-Mart stores. That would bring the average number of “serious” incidents per store to 8.

¹⁶ As of March 7, 2006, we had not received sufficient information to clarify 19 incidents at Wal-Mart stores in Houston reported as “Homicide Investigations.” These incidents were being investigated by the Houston Homicide Division, which investigates homicides but also other violent crimes. Information in response to two FOIA requests of the incident reports was insufficient to determine what type of crime the police were investigating.

D. National Estimates of Reported Police Incidents at All Wal-Mart Stores

At the end of 2004, Wal-Mart had a total of 3,702 stores in the United States. Based on this study's finding of an average of 269 calls for service per Wal-Mart store, we estimate that as many as 995,838 police incidents may have been reported at U.S. Wal-Mart stores nationwide in 2004. Using this same 2004 estimate, police were called an average of 2,728 times every day, 114 times every hour, and two times every minute, to Wal-Mart stores in the United States (See Table 6).

Table 6: Nationwide Estimates of Reported Police Incidents at Wal-Mart Stores in 2004

2004 Average Rate of Reported Incidents Per Wal-Mart Store	# of Wal-Mart Stores, 2004	Nationwide Estimate of Reported Police Incidents at Wal-Mart Stores	Reported Incidents per Day	Reported Incidents Per Hour	Reported Incidents Per Minute
269	3,702	995,838	2,728	114	2

E. Reported Police Incidents: A Comparison of Wal-Mart & Target Stores

A critical question explored by the "Is Wal-Mart Safe?" study is whether Wal-Mart stores are unique in experiencing a significant average rate of reported police incidents or do other nearby "big box stores" experience similar rates of reported police incidents. In theory, both Wal-Mart and nearby Target stores should be expected to experience roughly similar rates of reported police incidents. In order to address this question, a second phase of the "Is Wal-Mart Safe?" safe study compared and contrasted the rates of police incidents reported between select Wal-Mart stores and nearby Target stores.

This phase of the study focused on the 50 Wal-Mart stores out of the 460 analyzed stores that experienced the "highest rate" of reported police incidents in 2004.¹⁷ Target stores chosen for the comparative analysis were within a 10-mile radius of the 50 "high incident" Wal-Mart stores. Of these 50 "high incident" Wal-Mart stores, three stores did not have a Target within 10 miles, leaving a sample of 47 Wal-Mart stores for further analysis. Because of further data restrictions, the sample for comparison was limited to 32 Wal-Mart stores and 30 nearby Target stores.¹⁸

¹⁷ Methodological constraints prevented us from being able to request and analyze police reports for every Target store within 10 miles of the 551 Wal-Mart stores for which we received police reports. We chose instead the 50 Wal-Mart stores from the 551 in this study that had the highest total number of police incidents reported. For each of these 50 Wal-Mart stores, Yahoo Yellow Pages and Driving Directions were used to locate the nearest Target store within 10 miles of the Wal-Mart store.

¹⁸ As of February 13, 2006, we received incident reports for 37 Target stores. Of these 37 incident reports, seven of them could not be used for our analysis because (i) three of the Target stores were not open for all of 2004, (ii) two Target stores had police reports for 2005 but not for 2004, (iii) one police department only reported 911 emergency calls and not other incidents for the Target store for which we requested information, and (iv) one police department only sent information on arrests instead of information on all incidents. Therefore, in the end we analyzed incident reports for 32 Wal-Mart stores and 30 Target stores.

Based on a detailed analysis of official reports, a total of 24,645 police incidents were reported at the 32 “high incident” Wal-Mart stores in 2004. The average number of police incidents reported for these Wal-Mart stores was 770 per store in 2004. Interestingly, when comparing official data for Wal-Mart and Target stores, a significant difference did exist between the average rate of reported police incidents at Wal-Mart stores versus the average rate of reported police incidents at nearby Target stores.¹⁹

With respect to Target, a total of 5,100 police incidents were reported at the 30 Target stores located within 10 miles of the 32 “high incident” Wal-Mart stores in 2004. Based on the data, the average number of police incidents reported among nearby Target stores was 170 in 2004. In comparison, the average rate for the Wal-Mart stores was 770 in 2004. In addition, two of the 30 Target stores (Coral Springs, FL and Albuquerque, NM) were each within 10 miles of two Wal-Mart stores. In order to equalize the sample at 32 Wal-Mart stores and 32 Target stores, we recalculated the total by counting the reported police incidents from these two Target stores twice. Counting these two Target stores twice raises the total number of reported police incidents for Target to 5,590 and increases the police incident average to 175 per Target Store versus 770 per Wal-Mart store.

Table 7: Averages for Wal-Mart Stores and Target Stores Analyzed

Average Number of Reported Police Incidents at the 32 Wal-Mart Stores in 2004:	Average Number of Reported Police Incidents at the 30 Target Stores in 2004:	Average Number of Reported Police Incidents at the 32 Target Police Reports (30 stores with 2 counted twice) in 2004:
770	170	175

Based on the total number of reported police incidents for Wal-Mart (24,645) and Target (5,590), the daily rate of calls for service also varies considerably between these two retailers. Target stores experience a reported police incident rate of 0.47 a day or less than one call for service every two days. In contrast, Wal-Mart stores experience a reported police incident rate of 2.10 a day or over four calls for service every two days. Essentially, the average rate of reported police incidents at Wal-Mart stores is over 400 percent higher than the average rate of incidents at nearby Target stores.

Interestingly, Wal-Mart stores continued to experience higher rates of reported police incidents per store even when each Wal-Mart store in the sample is compared individually to the nearest Target. In fact, in every case, the total number of reported police incidents at the Wal-Mart store analyzed exceeded the total number of calls for service at its closest Target store. The largest difference between any of these Wal-Mart and Target stores was in Dallas, Texas, where a Wal-Mart store had 987 more reported incidents than the nearest Target store (4 miles away). The smallest difference was in Ocoee, Florida where a Wal-Mart store had 194 more calls for service than the nearest Target store (3 miles away) (See Table 8).

¹⁹ The police reports and other data available to us at present do not fully explain why these Wal-Mart stores have a higher average rate of incidents than the nearby Target stores. This study does not attempt to analyze the factors that might account for the difference in these rates.

Table 8: Store-by-Store Comparison of Wal-Mart and Target Stores reported police incidents in 2004

Wal-Mart Store City, St	Wal-Mart Store Address	Wal-Mart Reported Incidents by Store in 2004	Target Store City, St	Target Store Address	Target Reported Incidents by Store in 2004	Distance Between Wal-Mart and Target Store (in Miles)	Difference Between # of WMT Incidents and # of TGT Incidents in 2004
Dallas, TX	7401 Samuell Blvd	1,173	Mesquite, TX	1629 N Town East Blvd	186	4	987
Houston, TX	2727 Dunvale Road	1,123	Houston, TX	7051 Southwest Fwy	197	2	926
Merritt Island, FL	1500 E Merritt Island Cswy	984	Merritt Island, FL	250 Crockett Blvd	170	3	814
Albuquerque, NM	2550 Coors Blvd. Nw	975	Albuquerque, NM	9371 Coors Blvd NW	169	5.5	806
Houston, TX	2700 South Kirkwood Drive	941	Houston, TX	10801 Westheimer Rd	95	1.3	846
Bakersfield, CA	2300 White Lane	922	Bakersfield, CA	1300 Wible Rd	151	1.7	771
N Richland Hills, TX	6401 Ne Loop 820	915	Watauga, TX	8000 Denton Hwy	54	3.2	861
Coral Springs, FL	3801 Turtle Creek Dr	862	Coral Springs, FL*	6200 W Sample Rd	242	0.2	620
Dekalb, IL	2300 Sycamore Road	844	De Kalb, IL	2555 Sycamore Rd	108	0.4	736
Mesa, AZ	1955 So. Stapley Drive	828	Mesa, AZ	1135 S Gilbert Rd	165	1.5	663
Bakersfield, CA	2601 Fashion Place	805	Bakersfield, CA	3401 Mall View Rd	103	0.3	702
Coral Springs, FL	6001 Coral Ridge	796	Coral Springs, FL*	6200 W Sample Rd	242	4.9	554
Hickory, NC	2525 Hwy 70 Se	785	Hickory, NC	1910 Catawba Valley Blvd SE	275	3.6	510
Dallas, TX	1521 North Cockrell Hill Road	782	Dallas, TX	2417 N Haskell Ave	500	6.8	282
Arlington, TX	4801 South Cooper Street	779	Arlington, TX	1600 W Arbrook Blvd	248	1	531
Garland, TX	3159 Garland Avenue	761	Garland, TX	5301 N Garland Ave	149	1.1	612
Houston, TX	13484 Northwest Freeway	753	Houston, TX	13250 Northwest Fwy	148	0.4	605
Victorville, CA	15272 Bear Valley Road	731	Victorville, CA	15321 Palmdale Rd	56	2.4	675
Yuma, AZ	2900 S Pacific Ave	722	Yuma, AZ	725 W 32nd St	131	1.7	591
Albuquerque, NM	400 Eubank Blvd NE	708	Albuquerque, NM*	11120 Lomas Blvd NE	248	0.6	460
Hamden, CT	2300 Dixwell Avenue	685	North Haven, CT	200 Universal Dr N	105	2.6	570

Wal-Mart Store City, St	Wal-Mart Store Address	Wal-Mart Reported Incidents by Store in 2004	Target Store City, St	Target Store Address	Target Reported Incidents by Store in 2004	Distance Between Wal-Mart and Target Store (in Miles)	Difference Between # of WMT Incidents and # of TGT Incidents in 2004
Greenville, NC	210 Greenville Blvd	664	Greenville, NC	3040 S Evans St	159	0.1	505
National City, CA	1200 Highland Avenue	641	Chula Vista, CA	40 N 4th Ave	229	1.6	412
Phoenix, AZ	3721 East Thomas Road	632	Phoenix, AZ	4515 E Thomas Rd	209	0.9	423
Amarillo, TX	3700 I-40 East	618	Amarillo, TX	8201 W Interstate 40	51	7.7	567
Wichita, KS	501 East Pawnee	607	Wichita, KS	404 S Tracy St	100	3.8	507
Beaumont, TX	4145 North Dowlen Road	606	Beaumont, TX	5850 Eastex Fwy	58	0.7	548
Ocoee, FL	10500 West Colonial Drive	606	Orlando, FL	7501 West Colonial Drive	412	3	194
Phoenix, AZ	6145 North 35Th Avenue	603	Phoenix, AZ	740 W Camelback Rd	197	3.1	406
Brandon, FL	11110 Causeway Blvd	601	Brandon, FL	187 Brandon Town Center Dr	81	1	520
Albuquerque, NM	301 San Mateo Blvd Se	598	Albuquerque, NM*	11120 Lomas Blvd NE	248	3.4	350
Independence, MO	4000 South Bolger Dr	595	Independence, MO	17810 E 39th St S	104	0.2	491

Total Wal-Mart Store Reported Incidents in 2004:	24,645
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Total Target Store Reported Incidents in 2004:	5,590	Difference in Reported Incidents	19,045
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*Note: Data gathered for Target stores in Coral Springs, FL and Albuquerque, NM are counted twice because they are each within ten miles of more than one Wal-Mart store.

F. Wal-Mart versus Target Stores: Average Rate of Reported Violent & Serious Crime Incidents

We also analyzed whether any difference existed between Wal-Mart and Target in the number of reported police incidents defined as “serious or violent crimes.” (See definitions set forth in Section C.) Again, based on the sample of 32 high incident Wal-Mart stores and 30 Target stores, with the data for two Target stores counted twice, a striking difference existed between the rates of “serious or violent crime” incidents at Wal-Mart stores versus nearby Target stores.

In total, 648 “serious or violent” incidents were reported at the Wal-Mart stores versus 100 at nearby Target stores. On average, 20.25 “serious or violent” criminal incidents were reported per Wal-Mart store versus 3.13 per Target store. Based on this analysis, Wal-Mart stores experienced 6 times the number of reported criminal incidents defined as “serious or violent” than nearby Target stores in 2004.²⁰

Table 9: Comparison of Reported “Serious or Violent” Incidents at Wal-Mart versus Target in 2004

Reported Incident Category	Number of Reported Incidents by Category at 32 Wal-Mart Stores	Number of Reported Incidents by Category at 30 Target Stores (with Coral Springs and Albuquerque stores counted twice)
Assault with a deadly weapon, assault, and battery:	198	33
Auto theft:	303	34
Robbery and attempted robbery:	109	18
Sex crimes:	31	14
Kidnapping and attempted kidnapping:	3	0
Rape and attempted rape:	2	1
Homicide and attempted homicide:	2 ²¹	0
TOTAL	648	100

²⁰ Some municipalities include more crimes under the heading of “serious” crime than does the FBI. They include, for example, weapons law violations and drug/narcotic violations. We also analyzed the data from 32 Wal-Mart stores and 30 Target stores for these two categories. Police reported 144 incidents involving drug/narcotics violations at the 32 Wal-Mart stores. Police reported 26 incidents involving drug/narcotics violations at the 30 Target stores (with data for 2 of those stores counted twice). Police reported 32 incidents involving weapons law violations at the 32 Wal-Mart stores. Police reported 8 incidents involving weapons law violations at the 30 Target stores (with data for 2 of those stores counted twice).

Putting these two categories into the totals would boost to 824 the number of “serious” incidents reported at the 32 Wal-Mart stores and boost to 134 the number of “serious” incidents reported at the 30 Target stores (with 2 repeated). See the following website for a description of all the categories considered “serious” under one state’s crime reporting: www.bci.utah.gov/UCRIBR/PartOne_GroupA.pdf

Adding police incidents involving drug/narcotics violations and weapons law violations would boost the average number of such incidents per store. On average, 25.75 “serious” criminal incidents were reported per Wal-Mart store versus 4.18 per Target store. Even with this broader categorization of “serious” crimes, Wal-Mart stores continue to experience 6 times the number of reported criminal incidents defined as “serious or violent” than nearby Target stores in 2004.

²¹ This figure does not include 8 incidents which are characterized as “Homicide Investigations” by the Houston Homicide Department, which investigates many serious crimes involving weapons and assaults. As of March 7, 2006, information received from the Houston Homicide Department based on two separate FOIA requests for incident reports failed to provide sufficient details to determine if these were investigations of homicides or calls about weapons. None of the three Targets in Houston had “Homicide Investigations.”

G. Policing Wal-Mart Stores: Estimating the Cost to Taxpayers

Various police officials, as cited in section A of this report, have discussed the negative effects that high rates of reported police incidents at Wal-Mart stores have on local policing efforts. Each police incident at a Wal-Mart store is not only costly in terms of taxing local police response and adding additional administrative duties, but is a direct expense paid by local taxpayers. This section of the “Is Wal-Mart Safe?” study estimates the cost to taxpayers for policing Wal-Mart stores.²²

According to public and government reports, for each incident, a police officer will spend an average of one hour responding to each call for service, which includes interviewing witnesses, apprehending suspects, and/or assisting citizens, and another one hour on related administrative duties, such as writing reports.²³ Nationally, the average police department spends \$80,600 in operating costs per police officer each year – resulting in a \$38.75 average hourly rate for police officers.²⁴ At this hourly rate, we estimate the average cost of a police response is \$77.50 per incident. By multiplying this average hourly police cost per incident by the total number of incidents at Wal-Mart stores, it is possible to estimate the total taxpayer cost of police responding to Wal-Mart incidents.

Essentially, given the average of two hours of police time spent per police incident, the taxpayer cost per incident at Wal-Mart store is estimated at \$77.50. Since 148,331 police incidents were reported at 551 Wal-Mart stores, the estimated total cost to taxpayers for these 551 stores was \$11,495,653 in 2004. The average cost to taxpayers per Wal-Mart store, based on the sample of 551 stores analyzed, was \$20,848 per store in 2004.

Extrapolating these figures on a nationwide basis, and based on an average of 269 incidents per Wal-Mart store and a total number of 3,702 Wal-Mart stores at the end of 2004, taxpayers would have paid an estimated \$77,177,445 to respond to 995,838 reported police incidents at Wal-Mart stores (See Table 10).²⁵

²² Estimating the taxpayer cost of responding to reported police incidents at Wal-Mart stores depends on three factors: (a) the average time spent by police officials per call; (b) the average time spent by police officials conducting administrative duties related to the call, such as filling out reports; (c) the average hourly expense per police officer. For the purposes of estimation, we assume that the police respond to every call for service.

²³ We based our hours per call estimate on data gleaned from several news articles and official testimony. See “FY 2003 APPROPRIATIONS, Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony,” April 10, 2002, “Better Coordination Needed Among Participating Agencies,” GAO Reports, March 30, 2001, “No slowdown in fighting speeders,” *The Union Leader* (Manchester NH) August 23, 2005, “St. Petersburg Police Department uses new recruitment video to weed out cadets,” *CBS News Transcripts* June 13, 2005, “DUI Crash Shatters The Lives Of 2 Lawmen,” *The Arizona Republic* (Phoenix) December 20, 2004, “FP Detectives Overworked, Report Finds,” *The Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News* (Stuart, FL) October 31, 1998, “A Shock to the System,” *Denver Westword* (Colorado) June 11, 1998, “DA stops prosecuting some misdemeanors,” *Albuquerque Tribune* (New Mexico) January 07, 1998, “City considers mandatory permits for burglar alarms,” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Texas) December 16, 1998, “Annapolis police want pay raise, but that's not all,” *The Capital* (Annapolis, MD.) April 23, 1998, “Booking: Change helping officers,” *Ventura County Star* (California) December 14, 1997

²⁴ The U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics reported in 2000 that the average police department spent \$80,600 per officer. The amount spent per police officer includes operating costs such as salary, benefits, equipment costs, and other operating expenses. The hourly cost for policing is based on dividing the average yearly cost of an officer by a 40-hour week spread over 52 weeks.

²⁵ Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., SEC Filing, Form 10-K, Fiscal Year 2005

Table 10: Estimating Cost to Taxpayers of Policing U.S. Wal-Mart Stores, 2004

2004 Average Incident Rate Per Wal-Mart store	# of Wal-Mart Stores, 2004	Nationwide Estimate of Reported Police Incidents at Wal-Mart	Estimated Cost per Reported Incident	Estimated Nationwide Cost to Taxpayers	Average Cost of Reported Incidents Per Wal-Mart Store
269	3,702	995,838	\$77.50	\$77,177,445	\$20,848

H. Policing Wal-Mart versus Target Stores: Estimates of Taxpayer Cost

Based on 24,645 calls for service at 32 “high incident” Wal-Mart stores, we estimate that taxpayers paid \$1,909,988 to police these 32 Wal-Mart stores in 2004. The average cost to taxpayers was \$59,675 per “high incident” Wal-Mart store.

In contrast, we estimate that taxpayers paid \$433,225 to police Target stores in 2004, based on a total of 5,590 calls for service.²⁶ The estimated average taxpayer cost per Target stores is \$13,563. This comparative sample of “high incident” Wal-Mart stores and nearby Target stores suggests that policing efforts at Wal-Mart stores cost taxpayers nearly 4.4 times more per store than nearby Target stores.

I. Policing Wal-Mart Stores: Estimated Taxpayer Costs, 2006-2010

In 2006, Wal-Mart announced plans to open 1,500 new U.S. Wal-Mart stores over the next five years.²⁷ Based on a growth rate of 300 new stores per year, and assuming the average number of 269 reported police incidents per Wal-Mart store remains constant, we project the cost to taxpayers will rise substantially over the next five years consistent with Wal-Mart’s growth.

Extrapolating our cost estimates on a national basis, we further estimate that local police departments will respond to 6,398,165 police incidents at Wal-Mart stores over the next five years. We estimate that in 2010 police will respond to 1,441,033 calls for service at over 5,357 U.S. Wal-Mart stores. Thus, we estimate the total cost to local taxpayers for policing U.S. Wal-Mart stores over the next five years (2006-2010) will be \$495,857,788 – or nearly half a billion dollars. (See Table 11 and Appendix A)²⁸

²⁶ Since two Target stores (Coral Springs, FL and Albuquerque, NM) are located within 10 miles of more than one of the 32 Wal-Mart stores, the police incident data from these specific Target stores were counted twice to equalize the sample at 32 Wal-Mart stores and 32 Target stores

²⁷ "Wal-Mart sees room for over 1,500 new stores," www.msnbc.com, 02/08/06

²⁸ This figure assumes that operating costs per police officer holds constant at \$80,600 a year. This figure is from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for 2000 and is likely to yield a conservative estimate for the costs in 2010. We use that figure because it is the latest available figure.

Table 11: Estimating Cost to Taxpayers, 2006-2010

Year ending	Projected # of Wal-Mart stores	Estimated Number of Police Incidents (All U.S. Wal-Mart Stores)	Projected Taxpayer Cost²⁹
31-Dec-06	4,157	1,118,233	\$86,663,058
31-Dec-07	4,457	1,198,933	\$92,917,308
31-Dec-08	4,757	1,279,633	\$99,171,558
31-Dec-09	5,057	1,360,333	\$105,425,808
31-Dec-10	5,357	1,441,033	\$111,680,058
		Total 5 year cost	\$495,857,788

J. Improving Security at Wal-Mart Stores: Wal-Mart's Cost

In 1996, Dave Gorman, then vice president of Loss Prevention for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., publicly acknowledged that a 1994 test project of "roving security patrols" effectively reduced incidents of crime at high crime Wal-Mart stores to near zero.³⁰ According to Mr. Gorman, a 1994 internal Wal-Mart survey determined that 80 percent of Wal-Mart crime occurred in store parking lots. Since 1996, Wal-Mart has yet to publicly adopt a national Wal-Mart crime deterrent policy that would include security measures, such as manned security cameras and roving security patrols at all stores.

The most recent public statements by Wal-Mart in 2000 state that only 17 percent of its stores have roving security patrols.³¹ Given the large number and type of police incidents that were reported at just a sample of Wal-Mart stores in 2004, it would appear that Wal-Mart could, as it determined in its own study in 1994, significantly reduce police incidents, as well as deter future incidents, through more active security measures at each store. More importantly, since Wal-Mart estimates that 151 million consumers - 70 percent of them women - shop at Wal-Mart stores each week, and given that its own internal reviews in 1996 show that crime is a factor in store performance, it is fair to state that improvements to Wal-Mart security would provide a safer shopping experience for consumers while also helping minimize taxpayer costs.

This part of the "Is Wal-Mart Safe?" study estimates the total cost to Wal-Mart if it adopted a company-wide program of 24-hour roving "security patrols" for all its stores.

The basis for calculating Wal-Mart's cost of providing "roving security patrols" at all stores in 2005 is as follows:

- Average price for a golf cart in the United States was \$4,000 in 2005.³²
- Average hourly wage of a security guard in the U.S. is \$9.87.³³

²⁹ This figure assumes that operating costs per police officer holds constant at \$80,600 a year. This figure is from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for 2000

³⁰ David Gorman, "Loss Prevention Racks Up Success," Security Management, March, 1996

³¹ Good Morning America, August 11, 2000

³² Average of figures in news articles and prices from one dealer. See Golf Carts Buyer's Guide, "Utility vehicle and golf car pricing," http://www.buyerzone.com/industrial/golf_carts/buyers_guide6.html, "Sun City future: Puttin' along," The Charlotte Observer (North Carolina) January 29, 2006, "Little wheels, big jobs," Valley Morning Star, October 22, 2005, "Golf cart business rolls into the green," St. Petersburg Times (Florida) June 23, 2003

³³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Surveys (BLS), Occupational Employment Survey, November 2004, www.bls.gov/oes

- Wal-Mart's wage cost for 24-hour security patrols per Wal-Mart store is \$1,658 a week, or \$86,224 a year.
- Total cost of "24-hour roving security patrol" is \$90,224 a year per Wal-Mart store³⁴

Based on these figures, it is estimated that providing a 24-hour "roving security patrol" at all 3,857 Wal-Mart stores in 2005 would cost Wal-Mart \$348 million or one-tenth of one percent of its total revenue.³⁵ The estimated cost of security patrols running dusk-to-dawn would be just \$181 million in 2005.

Based on Wal-Mart's stated customer base of 151 million consumers a week, it is estimated that 24-hour security patrols would cost Wal-Mart an average of 4 cents per weekly visit by a customer. In contrast, "Dusk-to-Dawn" security patrols could be provided at all Wal-Mart stores at the cost of 2 cents per weekly visit by a customer.

Table 12: Estimating Cost of Security Patrols Per Weekly Customer

Total yearly cost for all U.S. stores	\$347,995,202
Cost per week	\$6,692,215
Number of Customers per week	151,158,049
Cost per customer	\$0.04

³⁴ This figure is calculated by including the price of a new golf cart and paying a security guard to operate it 24 hours a day in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart store.

³⁵ Wal-Mart Stores Inc., just released its net sales figures for the year ending January 31, 2006. It posted \$312.4 billion in revenue. The cost of providing round the clock roving security guard patrols in every one of its U.S. parking lots would be 0.11 percent of this sales figure. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., SEC Filing, Form 10-K, Fiscal Year 2006

Conclusion

The “Is Wal-Mart Safe?” report is the first-ever national survey examining reports of police incidents at Wal-Mart stores and parking lots. The report shows, based on the stores sampled, Wal-Mart has a significant number of police incidents, and Wal-Mart has a higher average rate of police incidents than one of its closest competitors, Target.

This study finds some disturbing facts about Wal-Mart and crime in 2004, including:

- 1) In 2004, Wal-Mart had a total of 2,909 calls for service for alleged “serious or violent crimes” at just 460 of its stores. For this sample, the most “serious or violent crimes” that police reported responding to, included: 4 homicides, 9 rapes or attempted rapes, 23 kidnappings or attempted kidnappings, 154 sex crimes, 1,024 auto thefts, and 550 robberies or attempted robberies. Based on the total number of “serious or violent criminal incidents” reported, an average of six “serious or violent incidents” were reported per Wal-Mart store in 2004 (see Section C).
- 2) The Wal-Mart stores sampled had an average reported police incident rate of 269 incidents per store in 2004 (see Section B).
- 3) Based on the number of incidents in the sample, we estimate that for all Wal-Mart stores nationwide, police may have responded to 995,838 police incidents at Wal-Mart stores in 2004, two incidents per minute (see Section D).
- 4) Wal-Mart stores had more calls for service than nearby Target stores. For the sample, the average rate of reported police incidents at Wal-Mart stores was 400% higher than the average rate of incidents at nearby Target stores and 6 times higher for the number of reported criminal incidents defined as “serious or violent” (see Section E & F).
- 5) Based on the number of incidents in the sample, we estimate that in 2004 the nationwide cost to American taxpayers for police to respond to 995,838 calls for service at Wal-Mart stores or parking lots was \$77 million (see Section G).
- 6) Over the next five years (2006-2011), it is estimated police will have to respond to 6,398,165 police incidents at Wal-Mart stores at a cost of nearly half a billion dollars, \$495, 857,788 (see Section I).
- 7) The cost to Wal-Mart to provide a 24-hour “roving security patrol,” which internal Wal-Mart studies say can lower crime to near zero levels, would only be \$348 million or one-tenth of one percent of its total revenue. The \$348 million figure means Wal-Mart could institute security measures for only 4 cents per weekly customer visit (see Section J).

In conclusion, it is evident the problem of Wal-Mart and crime has not gone away since Wal-Mart’s own internal study in 1994. In fact, as early as 1995, Wal-Mart officials warned the company about a high number of police incidents at some of its stores and developed an effective solution for deterring or lowering crime. Yet, it appears that Wal-Mart officials chose not to adopt a national program to address the problem of crime at its stores and only implemented the “roving security patrol” solution at 17 percent of its stores.

Appendix A: Methodology for the Study: “Is Wal-Mart Safe?”

The following provides a detailed explanation of the study’s methodology.

An Analysis of Incident Reports at Wal-Mart Stores

- In 2005, we requested from certain police departments lists of all incidents reported (calls for service) at Wal-Mart stores over the last two years, organized by date, and the type of incident that police responded to. The departments were chosen randomly among a sample of 1,004 Wal-Mart stores. These 1,004 stores were selected based on concentrations of Wal-Mart stores and geographic diversity. We received documents back from police departments covering 582 stores in 483 cities in 30 states. The documents that we received are available online at WalMartCrimeReport.com.
- In order to have a standardized and comparable time period for the study, we limited our analysis to those Wal-Mart stores that were open for all of 2004. The considerable time needed to request, organize, and analyze over 10,000 pages of data occurred during much of 2005. Future research will be conducted to analyze all stores open as of 2005, as well as to compare 2004 and 2005 incident reports. In January 2004, Wal-Mart reported that it had 3,551 stores (3,013 Wal-Mart stores and 538 Sam’s Clubs) in the US.
- We received police reports for 582 Wal-Mart stores. Of these 582 stores, we were able to count the total number of incidents reported for 551 Wal-Mart stores. We were unable to analyze the other 31 reports because (i) we received them too late for this report, or (ii) the relevant stores were not open for all of 2004.
 - According to these police reports, in 2004, the police responded to 148,331 incidents at these 551 Wal-Mart stores. This is an average of 269 calls for service per store in 2004. Wal-Mart had 3,857 stores at the end of 2005. Based on the average calls for service per store, we estimate that 1,037,533 incidents were reported to local police departments from all U.S. Wal-Mart stores in 2005.

Estimating the Rates of Reported “Violent and Serious Crime” Police Incidents:

- We further analyzed the reports by categorizing the incidents by type of incident investigated. Of the 551 reports, we were able to further analyze 460 Wal-Mart stores in 29 states. We were unable to analyze the other 91 reports because (i) we received them too late for this report, (ii) the law enforcement department did not provide the information necessary to categorize the incidents, or (iii) the departments only provided the sum total of incidents. A list of these store locations is attached to this report. For these 460 Wal-Mart stores, in 2004, police departments responded to a total number of 122,751 incidents.
- We used the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) codes in order to categorize the reports of “serious and violent crimes” at Wal-Mart stores. Police departments may list standard UCR crimes under slightly different names on the reports that we received. The following is how we categorized “Serious or Violent Crimes.”
 - Assault with a deadly weapon, assault, and battery: Includes any incident that contained the words “assault” or “battery.” Does not include incidents indicating domestic violence, threats, or harassment.
 - Auto theft: Includes auto theft. Does not include incidents indicating theft of items from an auto, recovery of stolen autos, or shoplifting.

- Drug “related”: Includes incidents such as drug or controlled substance possession, distribution, or possession of drug paraphernalia. Does not include incidents indicating prescription forgery or intoxication.
 - Robbery and Attempted Robbery: Includes any incident mentioning robbery, armed robbery, or attempted robbery
 - Sex Crimes: Includes incidents such as molestation, lewd behavior, lascivious behavior, and prostitution. Does not include rape incidents.
 - Kidnapping and Attempted Kidnapping: Includes any incident indicating kidnapping or abductions.
 - Rape and Attempted Rape: Includes any incident that contained the word rape.
 - Homicide and Attempted Homicide: Includes any incident indicating homicide or attempted homicide.
- We also categorized the following incidents:
 - Drug “related”: Includes incidents such as drug or controlled substance possession, distribution, or possession of drug paraphernalia. Does not include incidents indicating prescription forgery or intoxication.
 - Weapons: Includes incidents such as brandishing or possessing a weapon.

Comparing Wal-Mart Stores to Nearby Target Stores:

- Methodological constraints prevented us from being able to request and analyze police reports for every Target store within 10 miles of the 551 Wal-Mart stores for which we received police reports. We chose instead the 50 Wal-Mart stores from the 551 which had the highest total number of police incidents reported. For each of these 50 Wal-Mart stores, Yahoo Yellow Pages and Driving Directions were used to locate the nearest Target store within 10 miles of the Wal-Mart store.
- As of February 13, 2006, we received incident reports for 37 Target stores. Of these 37 incident reports, 7 of them could not be used for our analysis because (i) 3 of the Target stores were not open for all of 2004, (ii) 2 Target stores had police reports for 2005 but not for 2004, (iii) 1 police department only reported 911 emergency calls and not other incidents for the Target store for which we requested information, and (iv) 1 police department only sent information on arrests instead of information on all incidents. Therefore in the end we analyzed incident reports for 32 Wal-Mart stores and 30 Target stores, with incident reports for two Target stores counted twice to equalize the Wal-Mart and Target sample.

Estimating the Taxpayer Cost of Policing Wal-Mart Stores:

- In order to estimate the taxpayer cost of policing Wal-Mart stores we estimated the average cost of policing an incident per hour and the average amount of time spent per incident at Wal-Mart.
- We used the Bureau of Justice Statistics figure for the average local police department’s operating costs per police officer from 2000. This figure for 2000 was the most recent available figure. (Note that the BJS reported higher operating costs per officer for sheriff’s departments and other police forces.) Operating costs include such things as salaries, benefits, and equipment. From this figure, we were able to estimate what the average local police department spends on police work per hour per police officer by dividing it by 40 hours a week for 52 weeks. Because our figure is from 2000 and policing costs have likely risen we believe that our estimate is conservative.
- Based on newspaper accounts and official testimony from police officials, we estimated that for the average incident, officers spend one hour in the field and one hour on other related duties. An officer likely has to spend much more time on a call if an arrest is made, if an officer later has to testify in court, or if the officer has to collect detailed evidence. An officer may spend less time

per incident on police incidents where citizens and businesses do not press charges or where other citizens provide most of the aid to the citizen or company making the call for police service.

- Therefore, our figure for policing Wal-Mart stores assumes that one police officer responds to each incident and spends two hours responding to the incident.

Projecting Total Taxpayer Cost to Police Wal-Marts from 2006-2011

- We took Wal-Mart's statement that it will open 1,500 stores between 2006 and 2011 and projected that the company would open up 300 stores each year between 2006 and 2011.
- Based on our finding in this study that the average Wal-Mart store of the 551 stores we analyzed had 269 calls for service in 2004, we applied this average to the projected number of stores open for 2006 through 2011. We similarly multiplied the figure for the average cost of responding to a police incident with the projected number of police incidents at all U.S. Wal-Mart stores from 2006 to 2011.
- We continued to hold constant the operating costs per officer from 2000. We believe that police costs have increased from 2000 to present and will continue to increase through 2011. Therefore, we believe that our estimate for police costs is conservative.

Estimating the Cost of Security Patrols at Wal-Mart

- In order to estimate the cost of roving security patrols at Wal-Mart, we determined the average cost of a new golf cart and the average hourly wage of a security guard. The average price for a golf cart, which was \$4,000, was determined by news articles and prices reported from an online golf cart dealer. The average hourly wage of a security guard was determined using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) government industry data, which was \$9.87. To calculate the annual cost of round the clock security for one store, we multiplied this hourly wage rate by 24 hours and 365 days a year. We then added in the cost of the golf cart. Therefore, the estimated annual cost of providing roving 24-hour security to one store is \$90,224.
- To determine a company-wide cost of security we multiplied this out by the total Wal-Mart stores in 2005. This estimated cost is \$348 million a year. The weekly cost is determined by dividing this figure by 52 which equals \$6.7 million a week.
- Wal-Mart states that it has 151 million customers a week. Therefore to determine the estimated cost of round-the-clock security per weekly store visit, we divide \$6.7 million by 151 million customers to come up with 4 cents per weekly store visit.

Appendix B: Summary of Reports of Alleged Crimes at Wal-Marts Between 2003 and 2006

Murderⁱ

The press reported 16 alleged murders between 2003 and 2006 in Wal-Mart parking lots and stores. In addition, according to press reports, two women were allegedly abducted from Wal-Mart parking lots between 2003 and 2006 and killed elsewhere.

Reported Alleged Murders at Wal-Mart Stores and Parking Lots

Glendale, AZ	August 2005	The Associated Press, August 25, 2005 ⁱⁱ
Glendale, AZ	August 2005	The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, August 24, 2005 ⁱⁱⁱ
Riverside, CA	April 2004	Press Enterprise (Riverside, CA), April 16, 2004 ^{iv}
Colorado Springs, CO	June 2005	The Gazette (Colorado Springs), September 14, 2005 ^v
Rocky Hill, CT	February 2004	Hartford Courant (Connecticut), February 25, 2004 ^{vi}
Macon, GA	February 2006	Macon Telegraph (Georgia), February 9, 2006 ^{vii}
Baton Rouge, LA	May 2004	The Reveille via University Wire, June 25, 2004 ^{viii}
Las Vegas, NV	June 2004	Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada), October 20, 2004 ^{ix}
Las Vegas, NV	December 2004	Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada), 12/18/2004 ^x
East Stroudsburg, PA	December 2004	Morning Call (Allentown, Pennsylvania), December 18, 2004 ^{xi}
Garden City, SC	June 2005	The Myrtle Beach Sun-News, June 5, 2005 ^{xii}
Grand Prairie, TX	June 2004	Associated Press, June 20, 2004 ^{xiii}
Katy, TX	June 2005	Houston Chronicle, June 16, 2005 ^{xiv}
Spring, TX	February 2006	KTRK Channel 13 Houston, TX, February 5, 2006 ^{xv}
Fairlawn, VA	February 2006	The Roanoke Times, February 26, 2006 ^{xvi}
Spokane, WA	June 2005	Spokeman Review (Spokane WA), June 14, 2005 ^{xvii}

Reported Alleged Abductions from Wal-Mart Parking Lots Where Victims Were Murdered Elsewhere

West Memphis, AR	April 2003	Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, April 12, 2003 ^{xviii}
Tyler, TX	January 2005	NBC News Transcripts January 22, 2005 ^{xix}

Attempted Murders

The press reported 19 alleged attempted murders between 2003 and 2006 in Wal-Mart parking lots and stores.

Reported Alleged Attempted Murders at Wal-Mart Stores and Parking

Lots

Monterey County, CA	July 2003	Monterey County Herald, July 31, 2003 ^{xx}
Ukiah, CA	March 2003	UPI, November 16, 2004 ^{xxi}
Colorado Springs, CO	May 2005	The Gazette (Colorado Springs), May. 23, 2005 ^{xxii}
Greeley, CO	November 2005	Durango Herald (Colorado), November 10, 2005 ^{xxiii}
Palm Beach County, FL	May 2003	Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) May 21, 2003 ^{xxiv}
Fort Myers, FL	June 2005	The News-Press (Fort Myers, Florida), June 29, 2005 ^{xxv}
Manatee County, FL	January 2003	The Bradenton Herald (Florida), January 22, 2003 ^{xxvi}
Fort Oglethorpe, GA	December 2005	WDEF-TV Channel 12, Chattanooga TN, Dec 27, 2005 ^{xxvii}
Galesburg, IL	December 2004	The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Illinois), January 3, 2005 ^{xxviii}
Cumberland, IN	September 2004	The Indianapolis Star, September 23, 2004 ^{xxix}
Boutte, LA	March 2003	Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA), March 18, 2003 ^{xxx}
Albuquerque, NM	August 2005	KASA, Channel 2 News, Albuquerque, August 25, 2005 ^{xxxi}
Glenville, NY	September 2003	The Times Union (Albany, NY), September 10, 2003 ^{xxxii}
Oneonta, NY	April 2003	Press & Sun-Bulletin (Binghamton, NY), April 1, 2003 ^{xxxiii}
Surfside Beach, SC	June 2005	The Myrtle Beach Sun-News, June 3, 2005 ^{xxxiv}
Sioux Falls, SD	January 2005	Argus Leader (Sioux Falls, South Dakota), July 13, 2005 ^{xxxv}
Memphis, TN	November 2005	Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, LA), August 19, 2003 ^{xxxvi}
Grand Prairie, TX	June 2004	Associated Press, June 20, 2004 ^{xxxvii}
West Valley City, UT	January 2004	The Salt Lake Tribune, February 1, 2004 ^{xxxviii}

Rape, Sexual Assault, and Molestation:

The press reported that 16 women and children were allegedly raped or sexually assaulted in Wal-Mart stores and parking lots between 2003 and 2006. The press reported that 10 of these rapes and/or assaults allegedly took place in the stores themselves. In addition, according to press reports, 4 women were

allegedly abducted from Wal-Mart parking lots and raped elsewhere between 2003 and 2006. Of these 20 reports, 11 involved alleged sexual assaults of children (9 of the alleged assaults on children allegedly took place in the stores).

Alleged Rapes and Sexual Assaults Reported at Wal-Mart Stores and Parking Lots

Scottsdale, AZ	2004-2005	The Arizona Republic. Jul. 27, 2005 ^{xxxix}
Scottsdale, AZ	2004-2005	The Arizona Republic. Jul. 27, 2005 ^{xl}
Scottsdale, AZ	June 2005	The Arizona Republic. Jul. 27, 2005 ^{xli}
Greeley, CO	January 2006	Greeley Tribune (Colorado), January 28, 2006 ^{xlii}
Greeley, CO	January 2006	Greeley Tribune (Colorado), January 28, 2006 ^{xliii}
Avon, IN	February 2006	Indianapolis Star, February 8, 2006 ^{xliv}
Lunenburg, MA	January 2006	Sentinel & Enterprise (Fitchburg, MA), January 24, 2006 ^{xlv}
Stafford, NJ	July 2005	Asbury Park Press (New Jersey), July 29, 2005 ^{xlvi}
East Stroudsburg, PA	February 2005	Morning Call (Allentown, Pennsylvania) March 9, 2005 ^{xlvii}
Orangeburg, SC	July 2004	The Charlotte Observer (North Carolina), December 19, 2004 ^{xlviii}
Aberdeen, SD	August 2004	Aberdeen American News (South Dakota), August 30, 2004 ^{xlix}
Hunter's Crossing, TN	February 2004	Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee), February 17, 2004 ^l
Oak Ridge, TN	July 2005	Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee), July 6, 2005 ^{li}
Houston, TX	August 2005	The Houston Chronicle, August 06, 2005 ^{lii}
Cedar City, UT	January 2003	The Salt Lake Tribune, 2/24/2004 ^{liii}
Grand Chute, WI	August 2003	The Post-Crescent (Appleton, WI), January 24, 2004 ^{liv}

Reports of Women Allegedly Abducted from Wal-Mart Parking Lots and Raped Elsewhere

West Melbourne, FL	February 2004	Florida Today (Brevard County, FL), February 9, 2004 ^{lv}
Mountain Home, ID	June 2003	The Idaho Statesman, July 3, 2003 ^{lvi}
Framingham, MA	December 2005	Boston Herald, December 21, 2005 ^{lvii}
Tyler, TX	January 2005	NBC News Transcripts, January 22, 2005 ^{lviii}

Reported Alleged Sex Crimes Against Children at Wal-Mart Stores and Parking Lots

Scottsdale, AZ	2004- 2005	The Arizona Republic, Jul. 27, 2005 ^{lix}
Scottsdale, AZ	2004- 2005	The Arizona Republic, Jul. 27, 2005 ^{lx}
Scottsdale, AZ	June 2005	The Arizona Republic, Jul. 27, 2005 ^{lxi}
Avon, IN	February 2006	Indianapolis Star, February 8, 2006 ^{lxii}
Lunenburg, MA	January 2006	Sentinel & Enterprise (Fitchburg, MA), January 24, 2006 ^{lxiii}
Stafford, NJ	July 2005	Asbury Park Press (New Jersey), July 29, 2005 ^{lxiv}
Orangeburg, SC	July 2004	The Charlotte Observer (North Carolina), December 19, 2004 ^{lxv}
Aberdeen, SD	August 2004	Aberdeen American News (South Dakota), August 30, 2004 ^{lxvi}
Hunter's Crossing, TN	February 2004	Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee), February 17, 2004 ^{lxvii}
Houston, TX	August 2005	The Houston Chronicle, August 06, 2005 ^{lxviii}
Grand Chute, WI	August 2003	The Post-Crescent (Appleton, WI), January 24, 2004 ^{lxix}

Attempted Rapes, Sexual Assaults:

The press reported that assailants allegedly tried to rape or sexually assault 3 women and children in Wal-Mart parking lots and stores between 2003 and 2006.

Reported Alleged Attempted Rapes/Sexual Assaults at Wal-Mart Stores and Parking Lots

Ashland, KY	July 2003	The Associated Press, July 26, 2003 ^{lxx}
Breaux Bridge, LA	June 2005	State-Times/Morning Advocate (Baton Rouge, Louisiana), May 24, 2003 ^{lxxi}
Charlotte, NC	April 2003	Charlotte Observer (North Carolina), April 24, 2003 ^{lxxii}

ⁱ The statistics above only include alleged crimes reported in Wal-Mart stores, their parking lots, or right behind the stores. The statistics above excluded murders allegedly committed at Wal-Mart construction sites, hit and run accidents in which the perpetrator was charged with homicide, Wal-Mart employees who were alleged to have committed crimes off of store grounds, criminals who were apprehended at Wal-Mart for crimes committed elsewhere, and crimes in which bodies or victims were found in Wal-Mart parking lots but which the police suspect the crime was committed elsewhere.

- ⁱⁱ Joy Hepp And Michelle Roberts, "Family, Friends Mourn Wal-Mart Workers Killed In Parking Lot," The Associated Press, August 25, 2005
- ⁱⁱⁱ "Suspect Arrested After Fatal Wal-Mart Shootings," The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, August 24, 2005
- ^{iv} John Welsh, "Search For Assailant Goes Through Busy Aisles; Man Killed Outside Store; Attack: Police Seek The Assailant. The Incident Did Not Disrupt Shopping At A Riverside Wal-Mart." Press Enterprise (Riverside, Ca) April 16, 2004
- ^v Bill Hethcock, "Man Guilty Of Murder In Wal-Mart Shooting," The Gazette (Colorado Springs), September 14, 2005
- ^{vi} Katie Melone, "Dad Charged With Murder In Baby's Death," Hartford Courant (Connecticut), February 25, 2004
- ^{vii} Liz Fabian, "Man shoots woman, then turns gun on himself at Zebulon Road Wal-Mart," Macon Telegraph, 2/9/06
- ^{viii} Natalie Naquin, "Businesses Receive Push To Increase Security," The Reveille Via University Wire, June 25, 2004
- ^{ix} "In Brief: Murder Charge Trial Ordered In Death Of Air Force Major," Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada), October 20, 2004
- ^x In Brief, Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada), 12/18/2004
- ^{xi} "Tobyhanna man charged in shootings; East Stroudsburg incident left one dead and another injured," Morning Call (Allentown, Pennsylvania), December 18, 2004
- ^{xii} "Man Charged With Murder In Woman's Death At Wal-Mart Parking Lot," The Associated Press, June 3, 2005 and "CASA boosts services to area Hispanics," The Myrtle Beach Sun-News, June 5, 2005
- ^{xiii} "Officer shot by gunman in van upgraded to fair condition," Associated Press, June 20, 2004 and "GP officer's killer had terminal cancer Relatives shocked Navy vet would take life of another public servant," The Dallas Morning News, June 20, 2004
- ^{xiv} "Two robbery deaths cause stir in Katy: Police hold town hall meetings on crime issues," Houston Chronicle, June 16, 2005
- ^{xv} "Couple die in apparent murder-suicide in Spring," KTRK Channel 13 Houston, TX, February 5, 2006
- ^{xvi} Tonia Moxley and Christina Rogers, "Man charged in killing at Wal-Mart," The Roanoke Times, February 26, 2006 <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/wb/xp-54496>
- ^{xvii} Thomas Clouse And Rob McDonald, "Man Killed In Store Parking Lot; Suspected Killer, 6 Others Arrested In Probe Of Shooting," Spokesman Review (Spokane, Wa), June 14, 2005
- ^{xviii} Michael Frazier, "Parolee Caught On Camera With Kidnap Victim," Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, April 12, 2003
- ^{xix} "Suspect Caught In Connection With Murder Of Texas Wal-Mart Clerk," NBC News Transcripts, January 22, 2005
- ^{xx} Virginia Hennessey, "Teen May Be Tried As Adult," Monterey County Herald, July 31, 2003
- ^{xxi} Hil Anderson, "Notebook: Police chiefs convention in L.A.," UPI, November 16, 2004
- ^{xxii} "Manager Shot After Purse Snatching At Platte Wal-Mart," The Gazette (Colorado Springs), May. 23, 2005, <http://www.Gazette.Com/>
- ^{xxiii} Dale Rodebaugh, "Ex-Durango Wal-Mart manager arrested," Durango Herald, November 10, 2005
- ^{xxiv} Nancy L. Othon, "Driver Jailed In Dragging, Shoplifting; Clerk Hurt Intervening In Theft At Wal-Mart Store," Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fl) May 21, 2003
- ^{xxv} "Briefs," The News-Press (Fort Myers, Florida), June 29, 2005
- ^{xxvi} Aaron Quinn, "Shooting, Shopping Land Man In Jail," The Bradenton Herald, January 22, 2003
- ^{xxvii} "Witnesses Describe Terrifying Wal-Mart Shooting," WDEF-TV Channel 12 CBS, Chattanooga TN, Dec 27, 2005
- ^{xxviii} "Daily Digest," The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Illinois), January 3, 2005
- ^{xxix} Vic Ryckaert, "Theft Suspect Charged With Attempted Murder; Woman Wounded By Cumberland Policewoman Was Dragging Second Officer With Her Car, Police Say." The Indianapolis Star, September 23, 2004
- ^{xxx} Mary Swerczek, "Police; 2 try to run over man; Chase drama reported outside store in Boutte," Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA), March 18, 2003
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- ^{xxxii} Bruce A. Scruton, "Stabbing Suspect Arrested After Possible Poisoning," The Times Union (Albany, NY) September 10, 2003

- ^{xxxiii} Greg Erbstoesser, "Trio Arrested In Wal-Mart Stabbing," Press & Sun-Bulletin, (Binghamton, NY) April 1, 2003
- ^{xxxiv} Jessica Foster, "Man charged in fatal attack," The Myrtle Beach Sun-News, June 3, 2005
- ^{xxxv} Craig Henry, "Wal-Mart Worker Gets 40 Years For Attempted Murder," Argus Leader (Sioux Falls, South Dakota), July 13, 2005
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- ^{xxxvii} "Officer shot by gunman in van upgraded to fair condition," Associated Press, June 20, 2004 and Gretel C. Kovach, "GP officer's killer had terminal cancer Relatives shocked Navy vet would take life of another public servant," The Dallas Morning News, June 20, 2004
- ^{xxxviii} "For the Record; Public safety news; Man stabbed in head and torso in stable condition," The Salt Lake Tribune, February 1, 2004
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<http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20060208/NEWS/102080086>, "Wal-Mart assault suspect arrested," Greeley Tribune (Colorado), January 28, 2006
<http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20060128/NEWS/101280068> and "Man Charged With Sexual Assaults At Grocery Stores; Eric Gentry Charged In Three Incidents," ABC Channel 7 News, Denver, February, 1, 2006 <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/6651163/detail.html>
- ^{xliv} "Indy man is charged after teen says he groped her," Indianapolis Star, February 8, 2006, "Man Accused Of Molesting Girl At Wal-Mart," WRTV Channel 6 News Indianapolis, February 8, 2006
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- ^{xlviii} Rick Brundrett, "Lawyer Wants Sex Offender Numbers Known; Motion Seeks To Find Out How Many Work At Wal-Marts In S.C." The Charlotte Observer (North Carolina), December 19, 2004
- ^{xlix} "Sexual Assault Reported In Aberdeen," Aberdeen American News (South Dakota), August 30, 2004
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- ^{lii} "Wal-Mart Employee Charged With Sex Assault; Boy Reported He Was Attacked In A Store Restroom," The Houston Chronicle, August 06, 2005
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