

What does crime cost?

Incidents that involve police action are not like widgets, but they do have a cost. In this chart, estimated police budgets for 2005 – salaries and wages, pension contributions and some operating costs – were compared to the number of police actions recorded in state police and Supreme Court annual reports. The result is cost-per-incident for each Morris County municipality.

Town	'05 Police budget*	'05 Index crimes	'05 Traffic violations	Total	Cost per incident
Boonton	\$2,091,289	97	512	609	\$3,434
Boonton Twp.	1,116,821	32	89	121	9,230
Butler	1,865,619	105	241	346	5,392
Chatham	2,601,551	75	284	359	7,247
Chatham Twp.	2,388,501	40	117	157	15,213
Chester	691,917	21	120	141	4,907
Chester Twp.	1,525,214	49	126	175	8,716
Denville	3,327,456	205	689	894	3,722
Dover	3,624,318	504	1,105	1,609	2,253
E. Hanover	4,023,173	241	417	658	6,114
Florham Park	3,318,040	115	326	441	7,524
Hanover	3,352,844	183	654	837	4,006
Harding	1,515,698	28	189	217	6,985
Jefferson	4,071,383	285	551	836	4,870
Kinnelon	1,481,161	75	153	228	6,496
Lincoln Park	2,986,479	130	131	261	11,443
Long Hill	3,122,197	65	185	250	12,489
Madison	3,578,512	186	835	1,021	3,505
Mendham	1,180,118	43	120	163	7,240
Mendham Twp.	1,392,563	47	250	297	4,689
Mine Hill**	1,046,720	55	197	252	4,153
Montville	4,412,122	237	677	914	4,827
Morris Plains	2,041,076	93	287	380	5,371
Morris Twp.	4,536,326	173	621	794	5,713
Morristown	6,044,224	971	2,059	3,030	1,994
Mt. Arlington	1,000,681	61	133	194	5,158
Mt. Olive	4,988,252	318	811	1,129	4,419
Mountain Lakes	1,535,731	70	86	156	9,844
Netcong	719,875	92	92	184	3,912
Parsippany	13,404,211	747	1,176	1,923	6,970
Pequannock	2,449,629	183	538	721	3,398
Randolph	3,594,860	214	645	859	4,185
Riverdale	1,489,786	81	511	592	2,516
Rockaway	1,489,127	79	100	179	8,319
Rockaway Twp.	5,360,157	435	534	969	5,532
Roxbury	4,221,353	341	679	1,020	4,139
V. Gardens***	0	14	21	35	N/A
Washington Twp.	2,982,359	159	424	583	5,116
Wharton	945,051	104	320	424	2,229

Notes: *The estimated town budget figures used here include salary and wages, operating expenses and police pension contributions made in 2005. Index crimes include violent crimes like rape and murder and such non-violent crimes as burglary, larceny or motor vehicle theft. Traffic violations includes vehicle stops, parking tickets and summons for driving while intoxicated. The cost per incident was derived by dividing the total budget number by the total number of incidents.

Sources: 2005 municipal budgets; 2006 Uniform Crime Reports, issued by the state police for 2005 crimes; Municipal Court Reports, July 2006, from the N.J. Supreme Court; N.J. Treasury Department.

**Mine Hill's budget total includes a \$1,012,922 payment to Wharton under its police contract.

***Victory Gardens gets its primary police service from the New Jersey State Police and does not include funding in its annual budget for the service.