

Crime on Metro Bus, Metro Rail Lines Down Dramatically, Sheriff's Dept. Says

(November 24) Violent crime was down 47.4 percent and misdemeanor offenses declined 41.4 percent during the first nine months of 1999 on Metro Bus and Metro Rail lines patrolled by the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau.

"As impressive as these percentages are," says Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman, "they don't tell the whole story. Crime on the MTA's transit systems was very low to begin with." The statistics compared the first nine months of 1999 against the same period in 1998.

The sharp drop in crimes reported by the Transit Services Bureau can be highlighted against a recent FBI survey that showed a 10 percent decline in serious crimes nationwide and a 9 percent decrease in Los Angeles, where incidents of robbery, assault and burglary were down from previous years.

With millions of transit riders during in the first nine months of 1999, the Transit Services Bureau reported fewer than half the number of assaults - 60 - than the 128 that were reported during the same period in 1998.

The Sheriff's Department reported that during the first nine months of 1999, field activity grew to 91,000 calls and observations from the 80,000 reported during the same period of 1998. Field activity encompasses all varieties of law enforcement activity deputies are involved in.

In the January to September period, Bureau statistics show that misdemeanors dropped from 656 in 1998 to 350 in 1999. There were five burglaries and 51 stolen cars this year, up from 45 in the same 1998 period. There were 47 robberies, compared with 57 last year. Arrests jumped from 2,165 during that period in 1998 to 3,052 in 1999.

"As percentages of the millions of passengers served by the MTA, the crime statistics are exceptionally low," Klugman says. "The system is very safe."

[Back to MTA Report](#)