

PADUCAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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The Paducah Police Department is pleased to report that statistics compiled for the year 2014 show the number of burglaries and assaults reported was at a 25-year low.

The number of burglaries in 2014 was less than one-third of the number reported in 1990. Assaults also saw a huge decline over the past quarter-century, with only 33 reported in 2014.

Reported larcenies and robberies pushed our numbers up overall for 2014, while the other major crime categories – murder, rape, assault, burglary, auto theft and arson – were a jumble of ups and downs. The high number of larceny reports is due, in large part, to more than 570 reported shoplifting incidents – accounting for more than 50 percent of the total.

Total reported violent offenses – murder, rape, robbery and assault – rose by nine, or 10 percent; and property crimes, which encompass burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson, rose overall by 106 reported offenses, or nine percent.

“Although crime fluctuates from year to year, we are very pleased to see 25-year lows in two significant categories, combined with the fact the department has seen significant transition and lower staffing levels in 2014,” said Police Chief Brandon Barnhill.

The police department lost four seasoned officers to retirement in 2014 – three captains and the department’s training officer. As promotions were made and roles shifted, the department found itself shorter on manpower than it had been in several years. With that in mind, the department is particularly pleased that its officers were able to devote as much time as they did to pro-active policing. Twelve new officers have been hired since Jan. 1, 2014. The majority of those still are attending the state Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy, but will be back and serving the public in Paducah in a few months.

Part I Crimes		
Crime	2014	2013
Murder (Attempted)	2 (1)	0
Rape	16	11
Robbery	40	26
Assault	33	46
Burglary	130	136
Larceny	1,110	994
Auto Theft	51	54
Arson	3	4
Totals	1,386	1,271

In 2014, there were 1,386 major offenses, classified by the FBI as “Part I Crimes,” reported to the Paducah Police Department. That is an increase of 115 from 2013, and puts us back almost exactly where we were in 2012, when there were a total of 1,376 reported major offenses. The 2014 figure includes: two reported homicides (one attempted homicide); 16 reported rapes; 40 reported robberies; 33 reported assaults; 130 reported burglaries; 1,110 reported larcenies (thefts); 51 reported auto thefts; and three reported arsons.

Paducah was fortunate to have no homicides during 2013, but there were two in 2014.

Gerald Stafford of Paducah died after he was stabbed May 17, 2014, during an argument at a home in the 700 block of South 28th Street. Robert Newell was arrested in connection with the stabbing.

And on Sept. 24, 2014, Nathaniel Cody was found shot, lying in the roadway in the 1300 block of Burnett Street. Mauricus Haynes was charged with his death.

A third incident, in which a 19-year-old Paducah resident fired a rifle at his girlfriend through a closed door, was classified as an attempted murder.

Other crimes, classified by the FBI as “Part II Crimes” remained fairly steady in 2013.

Part II Crimes – simple assaults, forgery, fraud, criminal mischief, sex offenses (other than rape), drug violations, offenses against family and children and “all others” – continued a promising downward trend in 2014. There were 2,522 of these offenses reported in 2014, compared to 2,781 in 2013 and 2,802 in 2012.

Part II Crimes		
Crime	2014	2013
Simple Assaults	563	554
Forgery	54	70
Fraud	216	189
Criminal Mischief	290	340
Sex Offenses (other than rape)	37	36
Drug Violations	733	939
Offenses Against Family & Children	67	69
All Other	562	584
Totals	2,522	2,781

Paducah police officers received 42,120 calls for service (including officer-initiated calls) in 2014. 2,416 of those resulted in the arrest of an adult. Those adults were charged with 3,897 total criminal charges. Additionally, 219 juveniles were charged with 263 offenses. Only 45 of those juveniles were taken into custody; the remainder were released to a parent or guardian.

There was about a 10 percent drop in the number of adult arrests in 2014 compared to 2013, and a 24 percent drop in the number of juveniles charged.

Paducah police officers served 1,104 warrants in 2014, which was a seven percent drop from 2013. There were 206 criminal summonses served, up from 193 in 2013.

The law allows law enforcement officers to intervene and take mentally ill people into custody when they represent a danger to themselves or others, and they are unwilling to take action themselves. In 2014, the Paducah Police Department took 55 people into emergency custody, compared to 53 in 2013 and 34 in 2012.

On Paducah's roadways, officers investigated 1,545 vehicle collisions in 2014. In total, 312 of the collisions resulted in injuries to 513 people. There was one fatality. Officers issued 6,167 citations, ranging from speeding and red light violations to having no insurance and texting while driving.

In the Support Services Division on the other side of the house, detectives in the General Investigations Unit cleared 70 percent of the cases they investigated in 2014, slightly lower than the unit's clearance rate in 2013. The detectives were assigned 295 cases. Detectives were called out on investigations 80 times, and were tasked with one applicant background investigation.

The department's Digital Forensics Unit conducts forensic investigations on computers, cell phones and other digital media for the Paducah Police Department and for other law enforcement agencies in western Kentucky.

In 2014, detectives Justin Crowell and Justin Hodges examined 304 computer hard drives, cell phones and other digital media, which includes SIM cards, flash drives and GPS units, compared to 235 in 2013. These examinations were conducted in connection with cases ranging from homicide and robbery to sex and drug offenses and thefts. The two officers opened 88 cases for investigation.

The Drug and Vice Enforcement Unit opened 138 cases in 2014. The unit had a clearance rate of 92 percent.

Prescription drug investigator Det. John Tolliver continued to highlight the problem with prescription drug abuse, as he made 40 arrests. The Paducah Police Department's semi-annual Drug Take-Back days resulted in the disposal of 360 pounds of prescription medications turned in by the public, up from 217 pounds in 2013.

Also under the Support Services Division is the department's Records Unit. As the name implies, it is responsible for maintaining all the department's records.

In 2014, the unit brought more than \$12,000 in miscellaneous income (including payments for copies of reports) and more than \$15,000 in parking ticket revenue and false alarm payments.

There were 838 parking tickets written; 511 were paid for a 61 percent payment rate. Thirty-five tickets were voided.

Officers logged in 2,967 pieces of evidence. Evidence personnel, with approval from the court, disposed of 3,582 old items of evidence. The Evidence unit maintains more than 12,000 items of evidence and conducts random quarterly audits to maintain the integrity of the system.

The police department's "Flex" team is a small unit of uniformed officers that is utilized by the department to supplement Operations and investigative functions. The three-man unit served 185 warrants in 2014, issued 1060 traffic citations and arrested individuals on 176 criminal charges. Additionally, they provide police services to community events such as BBQ on the River, the Riverfront Concert Series, Downtown on the River, Halloween on Jefferson Street and the AQS Quilt Show.

"The Paducah Police Department continues to be the region leader in law enforcement," Chief Barnhill said. "Our personnel are second to none. They are given the best equipment and training, and, in return, they continue to provide the most professional and highest level of service back to the community they serve."