

PADUCAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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The Paducah Police Department is pleased to report that major crimes dropped 7.6 percent in the city in 2013.

Violent offenses - murder, rape, robbery and assault - dropped 12.6 percent from 2012 and property crimes, which encompass burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson, dropped 7.2 percent.

"We are very pleased to see the positive results in 2013," said Chief of Police Brandon Barnhill. "Although these numbers often fluctuate from year to year, we think that our continued partnerships within our community are continuing to make a difference."

In 2013, there were 1,271 major offenses, classified by the FBI as "Part I Crimes," reported to the Paducah Police Department. That is a drop of 105 from the 2012 total of 1,376. The 2013 figure includes: 11 reported rapes; 26 reported robberies; 46 reported assaults; 136 reported burglaries; 994 reported larcenies (thefts); 54 reported auto thefts; and four reported arsons. The Paducah Police Department investigated no homicides in 2013.

Part I Crimes		
Crime	2013	2012
Murder	0	2
Rape	11	12
Robbery	26	41
Assault	46	40
Burglary	136	139
Larceny	994	1088
Auto Theft	54	48
Arson	4	6
Totals	1,271	1,376

"Our officers are vigilant and are encouraged to be pro-active in their policing efforts," Barnhill said.

Thefts remain high, but statistics show that 40 percent of thefts reported to the Paducah Police Department involve shoplifting. We have instituted partnerships with

some of our retail stores to help combat shoplifting, and last year saw a promising 8.6 percent drop in offenses.

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

In 2013, there were 2,781 Part II Crimes reported to the Paducah Police Department, compared to 2802 in 2012.

Part II Crimes		
Crime	2013	2012
Simple Assaults	554	567
Forgery	70	67
Fraud	189	204
Criminal Mischief	340	353
Sex Offenses (other than rape)	36	32
Drug Violations	939	672
Offenses Against Family & Children	69	90
All Other	584	817
Totals	2781	2802

Paducah police officers received 51,774 calls for service (including officer-initiated calls) in 2013. 2,670 of those resulted in the arrest of an adult. Those adults were charged with 4,434 total criminal charges. Additionally, 198 juveniles were charged with 263 offenses. Only 59 of those juveniles were taken into custody; the remainder were released to a parent or guardian.

There was a six percent increase in the number of adult arrests in 2013 compared to 2012, and a 23 percent drop in the number of juveniles charged.

Paducah police officers served 1,185 warrants for 1,565 charges in 2013, which was a 10 percent increase over 2012. There were 193 criminal summonses served, down from 220 in 2012.

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 2013, the Paducah Police Department took 53 people into emergency custody, compared to 34 in 2012 and 51 in 2011.

On Paducah’s roadways, officers investigated 1,330 vehicle collisions in 2013. In addition, they completed reports on 264 collisions on private parking lots. In total, 277 of the collisions resulted in injuries to 468 people. There were four fatalities. 1,313 of the collisions caused damage to property.

The police department’s Traffic Enforcement Unit concentrated its efforts in large part in 2013 in the areas of Hinkleville Road near Kentucky Oaks Mall; Lone Oak Road;

Jackson Street; and North 3rd Street, reducing collisions involving injuries by 19 percent and the number of people injured by 10 percent. Three of those areas saw decreases in the number of collisions in 2013:

Collisions		
Area	2013	2012
Hinkleville Road (KOM)	148 Total	180 Total
• Injury Collisions	23	40
Lone Oak Road	74 Total	73 Total
• Injury Collisions	20	14
Jackson Street	24 Total	41 Total
• Injury Collisions	6	7
North 3rd Street	7 Total	8 Total
• Injury Collisions	2	2

Officers issued 9,373 citations.

Citations	
	2013
Seat Belt	3716
Speeding	1995
Red Light	495
No Insurance	624
Cell Phone (Texting)	58
Other	2,485

In the Support Services Division on the other side of the house, detectives in the General Investigations Unit cleared 78 percent of the cases they investigated in 2013. Of those, 72 were cleared by exception; 70 were cleared by arrest; 50 were determined to be unfounded; and 55 are inactive. Detectives were called out on investigations 64 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 2013, they examined 235 computer hard drives, cell phones and other digital media, which includes SIM cards, flash drives and GPS units. These examinations were conducted in connection with cases ranging from homicide and robbery to sex and drug offenses and thefts. Thirty-five of the cases opened by the Digital Forensics Unit were for the Paducah Police Department and 39 were for other law enforcement agencies.

The Drug and Vice Enforcement Unit conducted 389 investigations and opened 153 cases in 2013. The unit had a clearance rate of 92.1 percent.

The position of prescription drug diversion investigator was established as part of the DAVE Unit on Feb. 1, 2013, to address the ever-growing problem of prescription drug abuse.

In 2012, prescription painkillers (i.e. hydrocodone and oxycodone) remained the primary cause of overdose deaths in the Commonwealth. Anti-anxiety medications like Xanax and Valium were the main drugs involved in emergency room visits and hospitalizations in the state.

Det. John Tolliver was assigned to the DAVE Unit's new position. In his first year, Tolliver opened 145 cases and arrested 40 people, several of whom faced multiple charges. He also developed and implemented a "pharmacy alert system" to share information between local druggists.

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 2013, the unit brought in \$13,840.63 in miscellaneous income (including payments for copies of reports); \$7,705 in parking ticket revenue; and \$12,110 in false alarm payments.

There were 551 parking tickets written; 443 were paid for a 76.8 payment rate. Fifty-eight tickets were voided.

Officers logged in 3,033 pieces of evidence. Evidence personnel, with approval from the court, disposed of 3113 old items of evidence and responded to 562 requests to view or obtain copies of in-car video.

In a survey of Paducah's citizens, 40 percent of the people polled said they had contact with an employee of the Paducah Police Department during the previous 12 months. Of those people, 83 percent reported an overall impression that was fair, good or excellent.

"The City of Paducah has one of the best police departments in this region of the country," Barnhill said. "Our mission of prevention of crime, the protection of lives and improving the quality of life for all members of our community will continue to be priority number one."