

LAREDO  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

2012 ANNUAL SAFETY REPORT





# LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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### Safety of the Border

**2**012 presented a special goal for every officer and detective in the Laredo Police Department. In 2011 the level of crime dropped to new lows and it was going to be up to every officer to make sure that crime rate reduction was no accident. Could the officers and detectives of the Laredo PD maintain that level of safety and crime reduction in 2012? That answer is yes. The proof is in this very report that Laredo has in fact maintained a steady decline in crime and has consistently maintained a low crime rate for the last few years. Auto Theft, which at one point was deemed the highest in the country, has once again been reduced by 22 percent. There are people, who live outside of our city and state, who believe and fear that Laredo, Texas is an unsafe border city. The geographic location next to Mexico must mean that we here in Laredo, Texas mirror the amount of crime as in our neighboring country. This report shows with uniform crime report statistics, which are recorded annually by the F.B.I., that Laredo, Texas is not only a safe border city but a safer city than most other cities around the country. In the Part 1 violent crime category, which consists of Murder, Rape, Robbery and Assault, the city of Laredo has decreased violent crime by 8 percent. The citizens of this border community can be assured that their police department is doing everything it can to ensure that crime does not spiral out of control and that Laredo is a safe city to live in.

*(Cover Photo Courtesy of LPD Investigator Romy Mutuc and Officer James Boyd)*



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### Message from the Chief

The year 2012, a transitional period for the Laredo Police Department, saw the retirement of Chief Carlos Maldonado and thereafter began operating under an Interim Chief. The Laredo Police Department, as a whole, remains steadfast in its commitment “To Protect and Serve” the Laredo community and its visitors. The Department’s commitment to safeguarding our community matches that of the Mayor, City Council and City Manager in prioritizing public safety as exemplified through their continuing support in providing adequate operational budgets, police equipment and increasing the number of police personnel.

In 2012, the Laredo Police Department hired a total of twenty (20) police officers. Twelve of these officers were hired through a COPS grant. The new officers received their training through a police academy in January 2012 and a second academy held in August 2012. All of these new officers are proudly serving you today.

Our Department’s enforcement efforts in 2012 generated an 8% reduction in violent crime. Violent crimes are more commonly referred to as “crimes against persons”. This reduction in violent crime can be directly attributed to a 9% decrease in Homicides, 19% decrease in Robberies and a 6% decrease in Aggravated Assaults. The significance of any reduction to violent crime is that it reflects a safer community. In respect to property crime or “crimes against property” there was no overall significant statistical change. However, there was a specific and significant impact once more to the crime of Auto Theft. Statistics indicate a 22% decrease in the number of auto theft cases and an increase of 2% in the number of auto theft related arrests. Because of Laredo’s geographic location (border community) the majority of locally stolen vehicles end up in Mexico. Auto theft is a crime that usually facilitates the commission of a secondary crime (to commit robberies, burglaries, etc). In our border area, the Mexican crime element utilizes stolen vehicles to further the illegal activities that threaten homeland and border security by way of drug and/or human smuggling. The significance of reducing auto theft in our jurisdiction is that it directly reduces property loss for our citizens and reduces the opportunity for furtherance of other crimes that impact

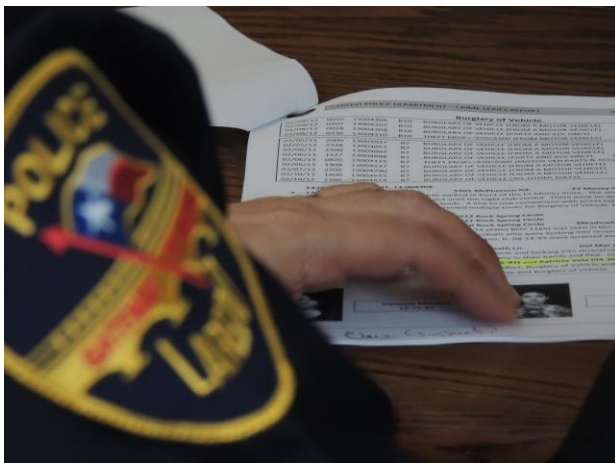


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our city, state and nation. Summarily, Laredo experienced an overall crime reduction of 1.1% in the year 2012.

Crime control does not happen by accident. The Laredo Police Department continues to enhance traditional patrol and investigative tactics with internally generated "Intelligence-led" crime-fighting strategies that have proven successful. Some of the strategies utilized include: COMPSTAT, Hot Spot identification, and a variety of crime analysis software applications that prompt the directed utilization of such activities as saturation patrols, undercover operations, application of Problem Oriented Policing or POPS units, and use of high profile surveillance "watch towers", etc.



The Laredo Police Department also does not work in a vacuum. The department avails itself to other local, state and federal resources to include law enforcement grants, task forces, intelligence sharing initiatives, as well as coordinating with prosecuting, probation and parole agencies. Similarly, the Department realizes that working in partnership with the community for problem identification, crime reporting and developing of crime solving strategies is key to addressing crime and have an impact towards crime reduction. The police alone cannot have an effective control

over crime without involving and partnering with the public. The reciprocal effect of sharing resources is a force multiplier that the Laredo Police Department leverages in order to make Laredo a safer place.



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Training is an integral part of modern policing. Training of personnel is a cyclical endeavor. In 2012, the department invested 1,504 hours in training cadets, 949 hours in training officers, 24 hours in training supervisors. Civilian staff received 480 hours of training.

In 2012, the Laredo Police Department experienced continued momentum in crime reduction and saw continued exploration and application of strategic crime fighting approaches. The resolve of this Department's men and women in blue to "Protect and Serve", along with continued coordination with other law enforcement agencies as well as increased community involvement combines for a successful formula towards a better and safer Laredo. I welcome your interest in reading through our department's facts and figures to better acquaint yourself with your Laredo Police Department. I also encourage the community to communicate with us through the Suspicious Activity Reporting, Contact Us, and Commend an Officer, features on our web site.

Sincerely,

Gilberto Navarro  
Interim Chief of Police



**LPD**

**Website Enhancements**





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**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING**  
LAREDO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Laredo, Texas  
(956) 795-2800

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

What did you see? (Please be as detailed as possible)

I saw (Please describe it) \*

When did it happen?

Date/Day of week \*

Time of Day 01:00 \* AM PM

Is this a recurring event? Yes No

Where did it Occur? (Please be as detailed as possible)

Location \* Enter a location  
Eg. Laredo Police Department, Maher Avenue, Laredo, TX

Map Submit



We've have had tremendous success and usage of our [www.laredopd.com](http://www.laredopd.com) website. This year we've added new features that allow even better accessibility to our department and information about services we offer. There is now a way for the public to contact us with criminal information through the **Suspicious Activities Reporting** tab. The page allows the person to report crime or possible criminal activity, while all the time remaining anonymous. The section offers the user to type intricate details and helps by giving locating maps so that the person who's reporting it can give accurate and precise information. There is also now a **Contact Us** tab which allows a user to ask questions or make inquiries in case they may not know who they can ask. In addition we've recently added a way to commend an officer. Our officers take great pride in their work and we want to promote good, professional standards by motivating them with positive feedback. The **Commend an Officer** tab is a way to positively reinforce our officers through positive feedback directly from the community. The commendations are verified and then forwarded to the officers so that they too know that their hard work and efforts are recognized by the community they serve.

### New Assets





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In 2012 the Laredo Police Department continued to improve and modernize the Property and Evidence Section. The latest of these efforts was a project focused on the need for making additional space for storage and to better organize the high volume of firearms and other weapons that are seized and recovered by Laredo PD officers. In order to work with the existing space and include additional storage capacity the department opted to purchase a “**Spacesaver**” high density storage shelving system from South West Solutions Inc. This storage system concept is based on converting aisles into storage space with the use of movable storage units. Storage space was maximized to store and organize long rifles, handguns and knives in evidence boxes. Additional space was also reserved to store seized large sized weaponry, ammunition and other evidence which needed specialized handling.

In addition to the storage units the section was further improved by adding secure areas to provide a second level of security in the storage room. The additional secure store adds an added layer of security to the firearms section, currency/jewelry storage vault, and drugs storage section.

The work was started on February 2012 and completed by late March 2012 at a cost of \$53,561.54.





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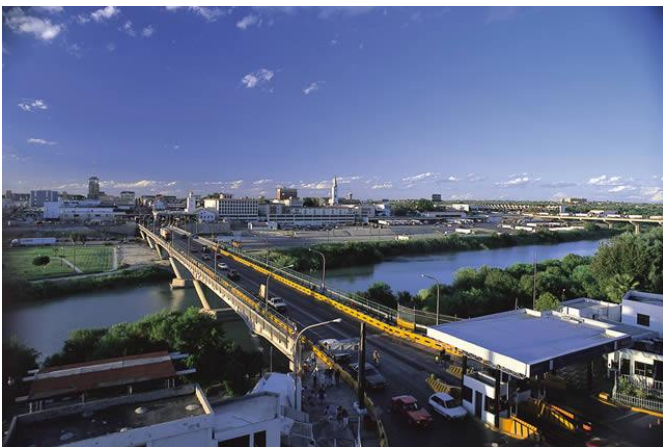
### “Border Wars”

The successful run of reality show “Border Town Laredo” ran its course and just when you thought television was over for the officers of the Laredo Police Department National Geographic gave us a call. The producers of the Nat Geo’s Border Wars were big fans of the Border Town Laredo show on A&E and wanted to expand on the idea of including the local police departments and their contribution to the war on drugs.

The majority of the officers participating in this project, already seasoned pros on camera, found it easy to incorporate a new series into their daily drug raids and seizures of narcotics along the Texas / Mexican Border.



The show featured police departments along the Rio Grande Valley through Laredo and out



towards El Paso, Texas. The program revealed a seamless tapestry of law enforcement doing what it does best to maintain law and order on our border communities. The show additionally featured members from the patrol and pipeline interdiction unit complimenting the efforts of the renowned LPD Narcotics and Vice Squad.



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### Community Relations Unit Activities

<u>Community Relations Unit</u>		2010	2011	2012
Presentations/Events	(Blue Santa, Career Days, etc.)	480	239	226

The CRU reached over 32,000 people during their community events in 2012.

### Crime Victims Unit Activities

<u>Crime Victims Compensation Unit</u>		2010	2011	2012
LPD Case Reports Submitted		607	240	270
Victim Contacts		2,091	525	1,360
CVC Application Activity		271	150	167
Misc. Activity		55	78	96
<b>Total CVC Unit Activities</b>		<b>3,102</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1893</b>



The Community Relations Unit gave out gifts to over 2,200 children who may have otherwise gone without opening a gift this Christmas. Several local businesses and private donations were made to the annual toy drive ensuring the only blue Christmas the children experienced was an LPD Blue Santa Christmas!





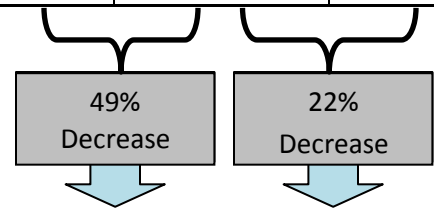
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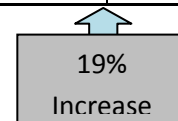


### Auto Theft Task Force Statistics

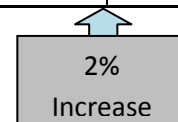
Citywide	Offenses		
	2010	2011	2012
<b><u>Auto Thefts</u></b>			
Number of Stolen Vehicles	951	486	381



Auto Theft Recoveries	2010	2011	2012
Stolen Car Recoveries	328	193	234



Auto Theft Arrests	2010	2011	2012
Criminal Arrests (made by Task Force only)	107	97	99



*LPD Auto Theft Task Force has been proactively educating the public about safe guarding anti theft practices, took down two major auto theft rings, and were also successful in working grants for enforcement which have resulted in significant increases in auto theft arrests.*



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### Crimes Against Persons (CAPERS)

Investigation Index Totals	2010	2011	2012
Cases Assigned	2546	2313	2436
Murders	9	11	10
Robberies	114	140	164
Cleared Cases	1651	1266	1388
Unfounded	377	281	343
Arrests	140	137	198

*CAPERS is directly responsible with specific part 1 offenses which include; Homicide, Robbery, Death Investigations, and Assaults.*

### Crimes Against Property (CAPROS)

Case Index Totals	2010	2011	2012
Cases Assigned	5183	4450	4883
Exceptionally Cleared Cases	856	903	814
Recovered Property	\$4,296,915	\$1,704,904	2,285,360
Arrests	274	225	433

*The CAPROS Division is directly responsible for specific property & white collar offenses which include; Burglaries, Thefts, Identity Theft, Fraud, and Animal Cruelty cases.*



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### Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET)

Case Index Totals	2010	2011	2012
Cases Assigned	1313	1343	1136
Felonies	191	206	117
Misdemeanors	583	596	501
Status Offender	378	393	367
Missing Persons	157	148	151
Arrests	123	181	259

*JET is directly responsible with various Juvenile offenses which include; Gang identification, Graffiti, Criminal Mischief, and Missing Persons.*

### Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

Case Index Totals	2010	2011	2012
Cases Assigned	3045	2814	3005
Felonies	1177	1336	1383
Misdemeanors	1732	1478	1410
Warrants	226	265	223
Arrests	143	199	202
Sex Offender Registrations	395	375	562

*SIU is the investigative section responsible for criminal cases involving; Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Sex Crimes, Sex Offender registration and Probation compliance monitoring, and domestic violence cases.*





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### Narcotics and Vice Division

Case Index Totals	2010	2011	2012
Cases Assigned	129	101	214
Marijuana (lbs)	6,974	3,356	2299
Cocaine (grams)	59550 gr.	37561.9 gr.	4,672 gr.
Heroin (grams)	9.05g	18298 gr.	69 gr.
Weapons Seized	24	11	10
Currency Seized	\$885,676	\$95,373	\$103,603
Arrests	107	93	150

*The Narcotics and Vice section directly operates the surveillance, arrest and seizure of “street level narcotics” and its participants. The section also is responsible for “vice crime” such as prostitution, promotion of prostitution and the gathering of intelligence for the purposes of advancing narcotics investigations through the development of confidential informants and undercover work. This investigative section works closely alongside other LPD divisions and also partners alongside other law enforcement agencies in order to more effectively combat criminal elements in the Laredo Community.*



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### Patrol Division (Uniformed Police Services)

<u>Patrol Activities</u>	2010	2011	2012
Arrests	6,362	6,130	8,089
Case Reports	32,107	31,423	32,393
Accident Investigations	9,297	9,887	10,030
Self Initiated Field Contacts	28,483	28,603	31,999
Parking Citations	5,079	5,124	3,906
<b>Total Patrol Activities</b>	<b>81,328</b>	<b>81,167</b>	<b>86,417</b>

*The patrol division exists to “protect and serve”. The primary mission of the patrol division is public safety and crime deterrence of assigned beats within certain geographic locations and adjacent areas. The patrol division officers are generally first on the scene for most emergency calls and undergo continuous advanced training in order to enhance and improve first response services for the Laredo Community.*



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### Problem Oriented Policing Strategy (POPS)

<u>Patrol Activities</u>	2011	2012
Arrests	192	246
Special Details	126	63
Citations	1,424	1,275

*POPS is a policing strategy that involves the identification and analysis of specific crime and disorder problems, in order to develop effective response strategies in conjunction with ongoing assessments. The goals of Problem Oriented Policing Strategy include increasing lines of communication with the public in order to assess priorities within a certain community and enhance more proactive versus reactive police practices. The activities of the group netted several arrests and led to the recovery of several stolen items. The unit conducted bike and foot patrols in problem areas with high crimes especially in those neighborhoods with high incidents of burglaries and thefts. The unit was also used to saturate traffic problems and blitz the area with patrol presence thus rendering several traffic violations.*





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### Traffic Enforcement

Laredo Police Officers, in addition to enforcing all criminal laws, also concentrate daily on enforcement of all traffic laws. Their duties also include accident reports and Commercial Motor Vehicle traffic enforcement. The traffic section, who solely address traffic enforcement and accident investigations, have acquired state of the art equipment to help reconstruct precisely how an accident occurred. The officers are constantly enhancing their skills with up to date training and modern accident reconstruction techniques.



<u>Citations issued by all LPD officers</u>	2011	2012
<i>Total Citations Issued</i>	28,991	31,894

↑  
10%  
Increase

#### 2012 LPD Traffic Division Stats

47 CRASH Fatality Investigations  
 172 Department of Transportation Inspections  
 14,495 citations issued



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## U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Task Force

Both the warrants task force section and the patrol division collaborate with the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Task Force. The United States Marshals Service currently leads 85 local fugitive task forces. The majority of the task forces are full-time efforts; however, additional task forces are formed on an ad-hoc basis, in response to specific cases. Funding for these task forces is often granted through initiatives such as the High Density Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) task forces. The arrests made are that of fugitive criminals that pose a significant threat to the safety of the Laredo citizenry.

<u>Warrants Served</u>		2010	2011	2012
Warrants	(# of served warrants by LPD)	1,474	1,663	1490
<b>Total Warrants Served (Arrests)</b>		<b>1,474/ (381LPD Warrants)</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,490 (282 LPD Warrants)</b>



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### Crime Scene Investigations

The Laredo Police Department processes thousands of crime scenes and collects thousands of pieces of evidence. This process is crucial to increasing crime solvability and maintaining evidentiary value for prosecutions.

<u>Crime Scene Requests</u>	2010	2011	2012
<i>Crime Scenes Processed</i>	6,915	7,494	9,456

↑  
23%  
Increase





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### Laredo Police Department Sworn Strength

<u>Personnel</u>		2010	2011	2012
Sworn Personnel	(Authorized Strength)	460	482	482
Sworn Personnel	(# of filled positions)	411	425	428
<i>Total Sworn Personnel</i>		411	425	428

*The Bureau of Justice Statistics publishes a national average of all local municipal police departments in the United States. The national average ratio of police officers to citizens for populations of 250,000 residents is listed at approximately 2.5 officers per 1,000 residents. Laredo is at a 1.8 officers per 1000 residents. Laredo has a listed Metropolitan Statistical population of approximately \* 236,000 residents.*

*\*Population based on Laredo Development Foundation 2010 stats*



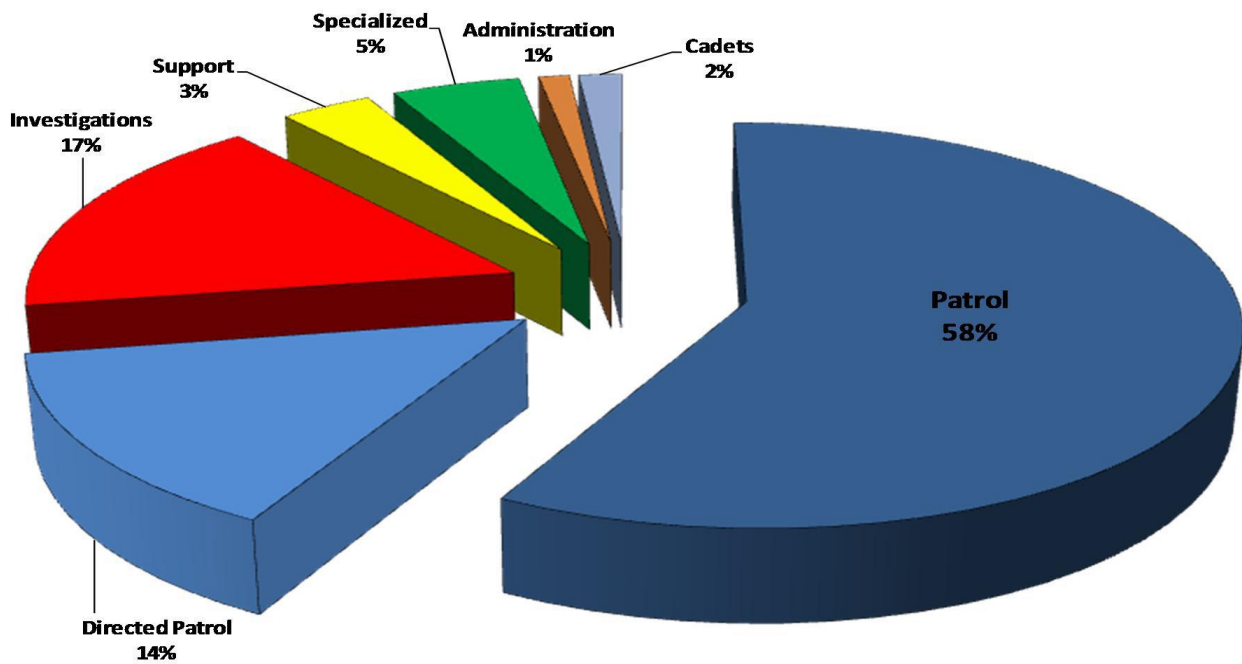
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### Personnel Deployment

*“How we serve you”*





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## Laredo Police Civilian Personnel Strength

<u>Civilian Personnel</u>		2010	2011	2012
Civilian Personnel	(# of budgeted positions)	84	89	89



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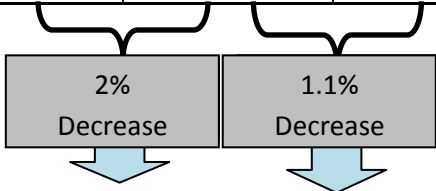
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### Overall Crime Statistics

Citywide		Offenses		
<b>Part I Index Offenses</b> UCR Rules Reported Date of Offense		2010	2011	2012
Murder	(# of victims)	9	11	*9
Rape	(# of victims)	78	76	81
Robbery	(# of offenses)	184	225	182
Aggravated Assault	(# of victims)	892	817	764
<b>Total Violent Index Crimes</b>		<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,037</b> <i>(8% Decrease)</i>
Burglary	(# of premises entered)	2,488	1,790	1,718
Theft	(# of offenses)	7,153	8,104	8,246
Auto Theft	(# of vehicles)	951	486	381
<b>Total Property Index Crimes</b>		<b>10,592</b>	<b>10,380</b>	<b>10,345</b>
<b>Part I Index Crimes Overall Totals</b>		<b>11,755</b>	<b>11,509</b>	<b>11,382</b>

*Part 1 Index Crimes are considered to be the most prevalent priority crimes reported in the F.B.I. Uniform Crime Report recorded annually.*



\*Under Uniform Crime Report state criteria there are only 9 murders listed.

There are 10 murders listed with LPD records for 2012.





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### Arrest Stats

<u>Persons Arrested</u>	2010	2011	2012
Adults	5,531	5,930	7,775
Juveniles	952	705	854
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>6,483</b>	<b>6,635</b>	<b>8,629</b>

**2011 to 2012**

**31% increase in Adult Arrests**

**21% increase in Juvenile Arrests**



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Criminal Reports

<u>LPD Criminal Reports</u>	2010	2011	2012
Criminal Reports forwarded to Prosecution	5,082	4,503	5,771
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>5,608</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>6,283</b>



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### Clearances Rates (UCR)

<u>Clearance Rates</u>	2010	2011	2012
<b>Murder</b>	50%	92%	*78%
<b>Rape</b>	87%	76%	65%
<b>Robbery</b>	58%	48%	58%
<b>Assaults</b>	84%	88%	88%
<b>Burglary</b>	8%	14%	17%
<b>Thefts</b>	21%	21%	25%

\*There are 10 murders listed with LPD records for 2012.

*A clearance rate refers to the number of cases that are solved by a particular law enforcement agency. It is one measure of an agency's skill and efficiency in solving crimes. The clearance rate may be divided up in a number of different ways, including the type of crime being committed, or the seriousness of the crime. Clearance rates are not linked to convictions.*



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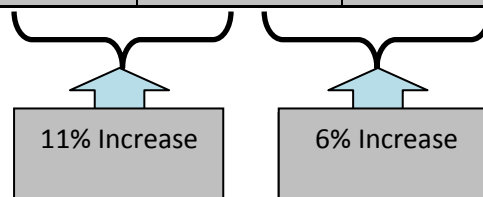


### Emergency Dispatch

The Laredo Police Department 911 Communication Center is responsible for the call taking and dispatching of all emergency responses and calls for service for both Police and Fire Departments. The 911 Communication Center continues to modernize and add additional personnel to meet the growing needs of the city. In 2009 the Communication Center remodeled and expanded its facility adding more 911 lines and modern electronic GPS tracking systems to map where an emergency call is coming from and better locate and direct emergency services to the caller.

### Emergency Dispatch Call Totals

<u>Call Volume</u>	2010	2011	2012
E-911 Calls	155,586	170,625	196,802
Non 911 Calls	235,207	264,959	264,904
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>390,793</b>	<b>435,584</b>	<b>461,706</b>







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### Laredo Police Records Division

The Laredo Police Records Division is comprised of civilian and sworn personnel tasked with managing, storing, and record authenticating of all official LPD documents and reports. The division has undergone significant software and equipment modernization which in turn increases productivity and electronic availability of police records.

<u>Records Management</u>		2010	2011	2012
Reports	(# of reports handled)	18,269	18,629	17,886
Online Reports	(# of reports requested on-line)	28,754	20,717	16,574
Revenues		\$219,680.33	\$208,881.65	\$185,891.84
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$219,680.33</b>	<b>\$208,881.65</b>	<b>\$185,891.84</b>



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### Specialized Police Trainings

One of the main courses hosted by the LPD Training Division is the Department of Homeland Security Office of Bombing Prevention’s Multi Jurisdiction IED Security Plan. This course has three main modules which comprises an action plan with other jurisdictions for response to an Improvised Explosive Device attack in our city. The immense mobilization between agencies is crucial to the success of saving lives.

The training division has also worked with the Department of Homeland Security in providing training for the TRIPWire program which is a DHS website based database in which law enforcement can be provided with Improvised Explosive Device trends around the world. The website also provides intelligence on suspected Improvised Explosive Device terrorists as well as providing a link in which law enforcement officers can submit any intelligence information on the topic. The LPD has also hosted the 13th Annual Child Abuse prevention conference and provided a specialized training called Autism training for Law Enforcement which highlights indicators to identify individuals with Autism and how to deal with such encounters on while on patrol. We also provided an Intoxilyzer Operator Certification Course as well as our annual Mexican Cartel Border Violence Update.

<u>Specialized Police Trainings</u>	2010	2011	2012
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>43</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>72</b>

**2012 Training breakdown**

Cadet Academy Training: **1,504 hours** (2 academy classes)

Cadet In-service training: **448 hours**

Officer In-service: **949 hours**

Telecommunicator (including field training): **480 hours**

DHS training: **48 hours**

FEMA/supervisory: **24 hours**



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### Bomb Squad Activities

<b>Bomb Threats</b>	<b>2012</b>
Bomb Threat Calls	<b>18</b>
Bomb Squad Call Outs	<b>17</b>
Trainings & Certifications	<b>104</b>

### Alcohol Tobacco Firearms Task Force

The Laredo Police Department undertook a new initiative in 2011 that carried over its impact through 2012. The initiative involved partnering with a Federal Agency, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This endeavor entailed the creation of a task force that partnered the Laredo area ATF and four members of the Laredo PD Bomb Squad. The initiative involved each agency supporting the other in incidents and investigations involving explosives. Furthermore, the task force conducted proactive as well as follow-up investigations involving weapon violations; especially those cases with ties to prison gangs, felons or Mexican drug cartels. One of the partnership's strengths is its flexibility to leverage state and/or federal resources and prosecutions.



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### ATF CONTINUED...

The initiative has proven productive through prosecutions and convictions that make an impact on the local crime scene. The task force handles those cases that involve weapons, are high profile, involve felons, involve violence and involve prison gangs. Below is a summary of the cases handled by the ATF task force:

2011	2012
<b>20 Cases</b>	<b>25 Cases</b>
<b>6 Convictions (Fed-5, State- 1)</b>	<b>6 Convictions (Fed-6)</b>
<b>4 cases were Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos (HPL)</b>	<b>3 cases were Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos (HPL)</b>
<b>2 Cases were Mexican Mafia (MM), Mexican Cartel</b>	<b>2 Mexican Mafia (MM)</b>
<b>(4 Pending Indictment)</b>	<b>1 No known affiliation</b>

The positive impact is derived from the conviction and therefore reduction of the number of repeat offenders in our community who have historically shown a propensity for committing crimes through violence and use of deadly weapons.