

Fairfax County Benchmarking Charts

Public Safety Program Area Benchmarking Charts

In order to obtain a wide range of comparative performance data, Fairfax County has participated in the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) benchmarking effort since 2000. Over 150 cities and counties provided comparable data in a number of service areas for the last reporting cycle. Not all jurisdictions provide data for every service area, however. Police and Fire/EMS are two of the benchmarked service areas for which Fairfax County provides data. Participating local governments (cities, counties and towns) provide data on standard templates provided by ICMA in order to ensure consistency. ICMA then performs extensive data cleaning to ensure the greatest possible accuracy and comparability of data. As a result of the time for data collection and ICMA's rigorous data cleaning processes, information is always available with a one-year delay. FY 2005 data represent the latest available information. The jurisdictions presented in the graphs below generally show how Fairfax County compares to other large jurisdictions (population over 500,000). In cases where other Virginia localities provided data, they are shown as well.

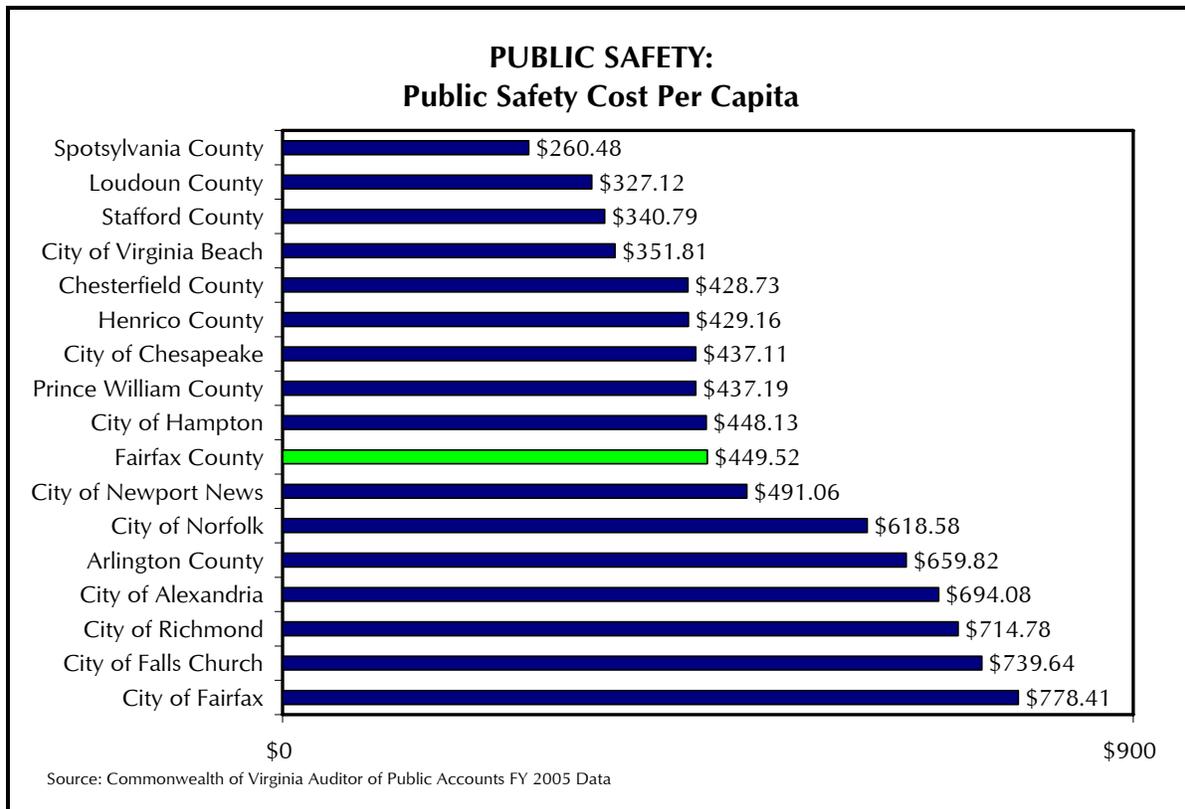
An important point to note in an effort such as this is that since participation is voluntary, the jurisdictions that provide data have shown they are committed to becoming/remaining high performance organizations. Therefore, comparisons made through this program should be considered in the context that the participants have self-selected and are inclined to be among the higher performers than a random sample among local governments nationwide. Not all jurisdictions respond to all questions. In some cases, the question or process is not applicable to a particular locality or data are not available. For those reasons, the universe of jurisdictions with which Fairfax County is compared is not always the same for each benchmark. However, whenever a jurisdiction of over 500,000 residents or another Virginia locality responded to a particular question for which Fairfax County also provided data, those comparisons have been included. It is also important to note that performance is also affected by a number of variables including funding levels, weather, the economy, local preferences, cuts in federal and state aid, unionization and demographic characteristics such as income, age and ethnicity.

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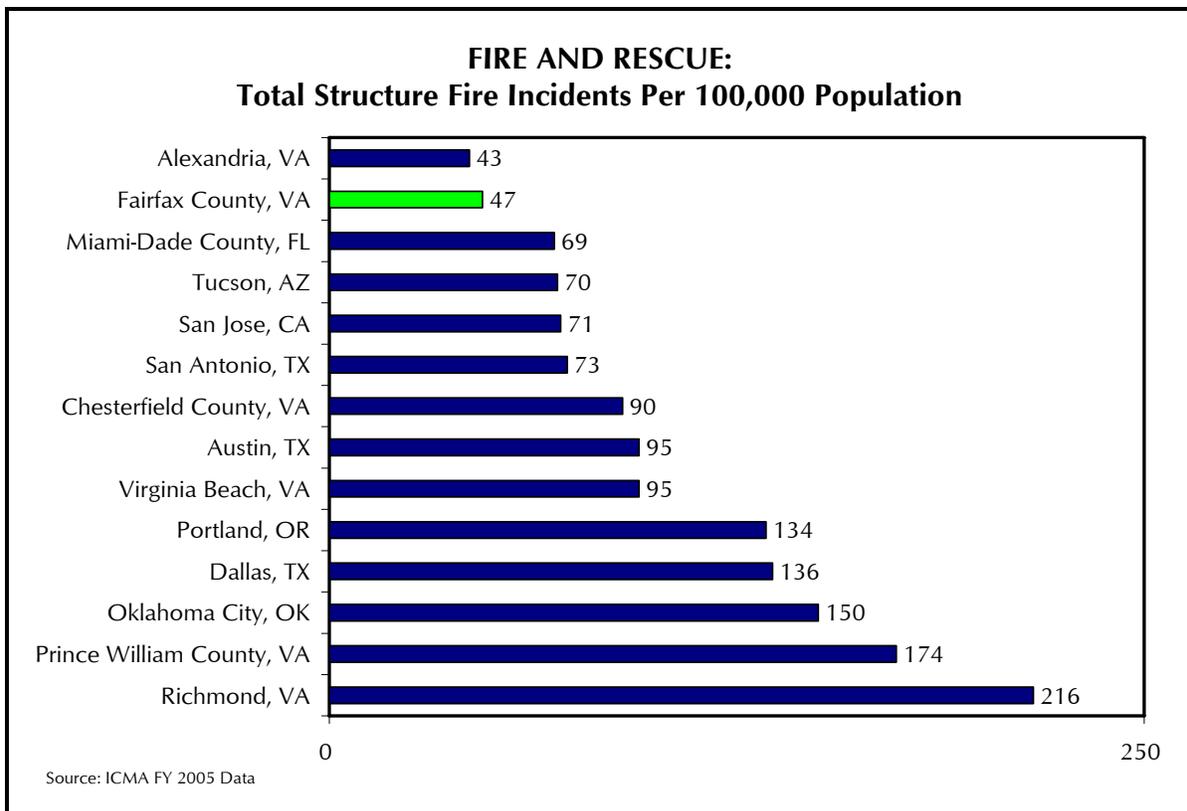
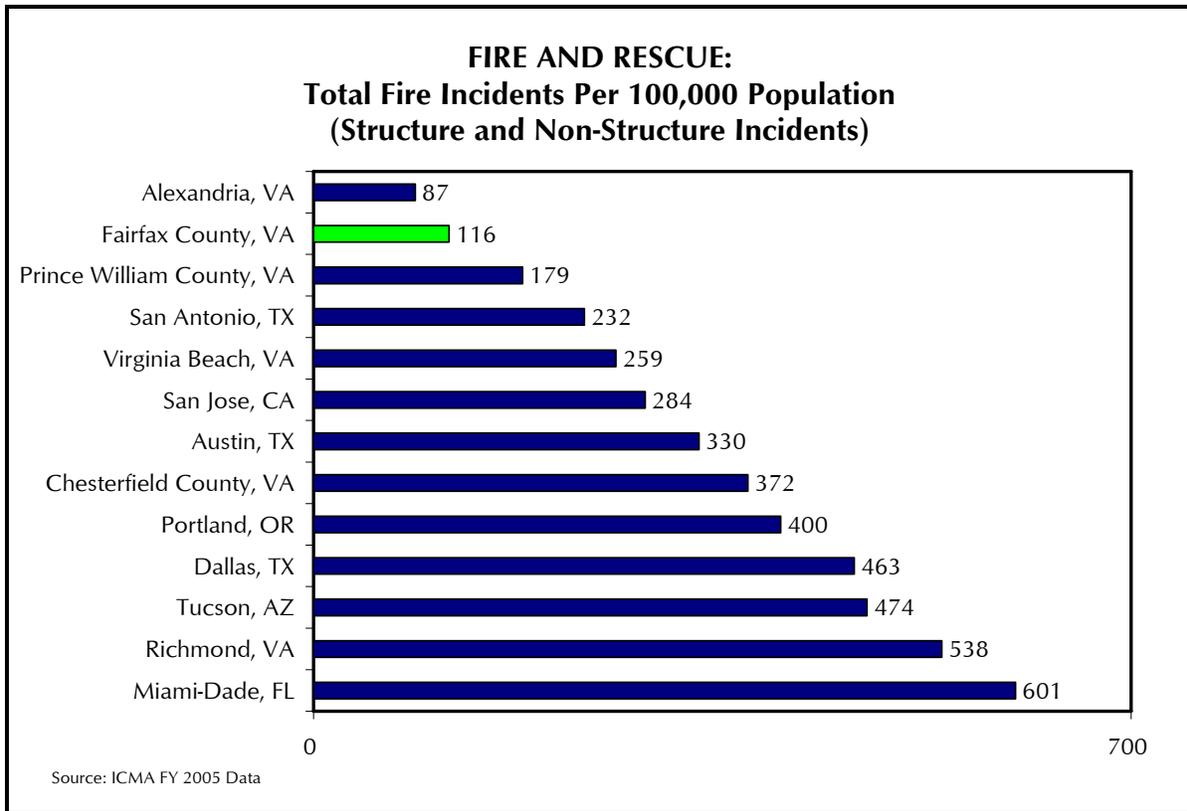
As can be seen from the graphs on the following pages, Fairfax County ranks favorably compared to other large jurisdictions and other Virginia localities with regard to performance in the public safety area. Compared to other large cities and counties within the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as the other Northern Virginia localities, Fairfax County's cost per capita for public safety expenditures is in the mid-range. This is probably to be expected as taxpayers and the Board of Supervisors would likely not want to be the cheapest nor the most expensive in this critical program area. For the investment that Fairfax County makes, there is a very high return in terms of public safety.

With only 116 Total Fire Incidents per 100,000 Population Served (structure and non-structure incidents) the County had the second lowest rate in comparison to other large and Virginia jurisdictions responding. In addition, Fairfax County had the second lowest rate of Total Structure Fires per 100,000 Population at 47. This attests to a highly effective fire prevention program that places emphasis on avoidance rather than the more costly and dangerous requirements associated with extinguishment. An area where improvement continues to be indicated is the Percent of Emergency Fire Calls with a Response Time of Five Minutes and Under from Dispatch to Arrival on the Scene. Fairfax County's rate of 57.1 percent is below the 60-77 percent rates achieved by Las Vegas, Miami-Dade, Austin, Richmond and Dallas. It is anticipated that the addition of the Crosspointe and Wolf Trap Fire Stations in the coming years will result in improved response times.

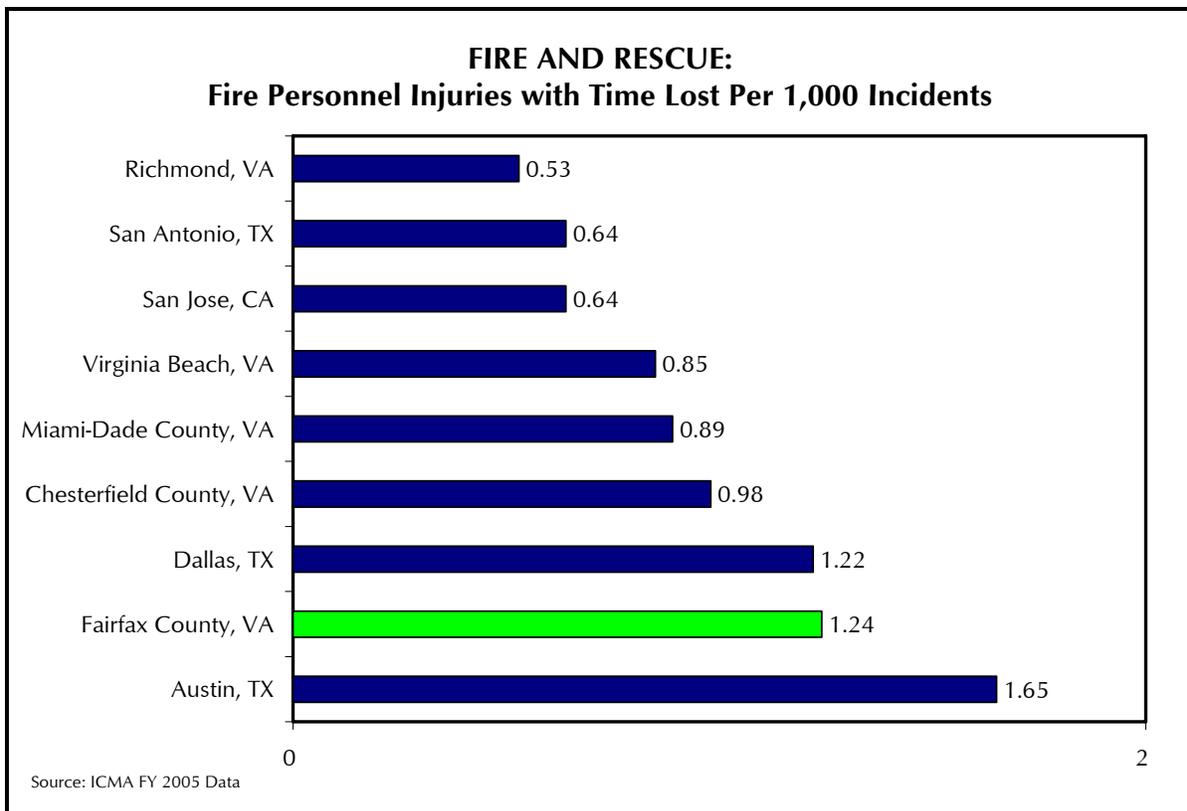
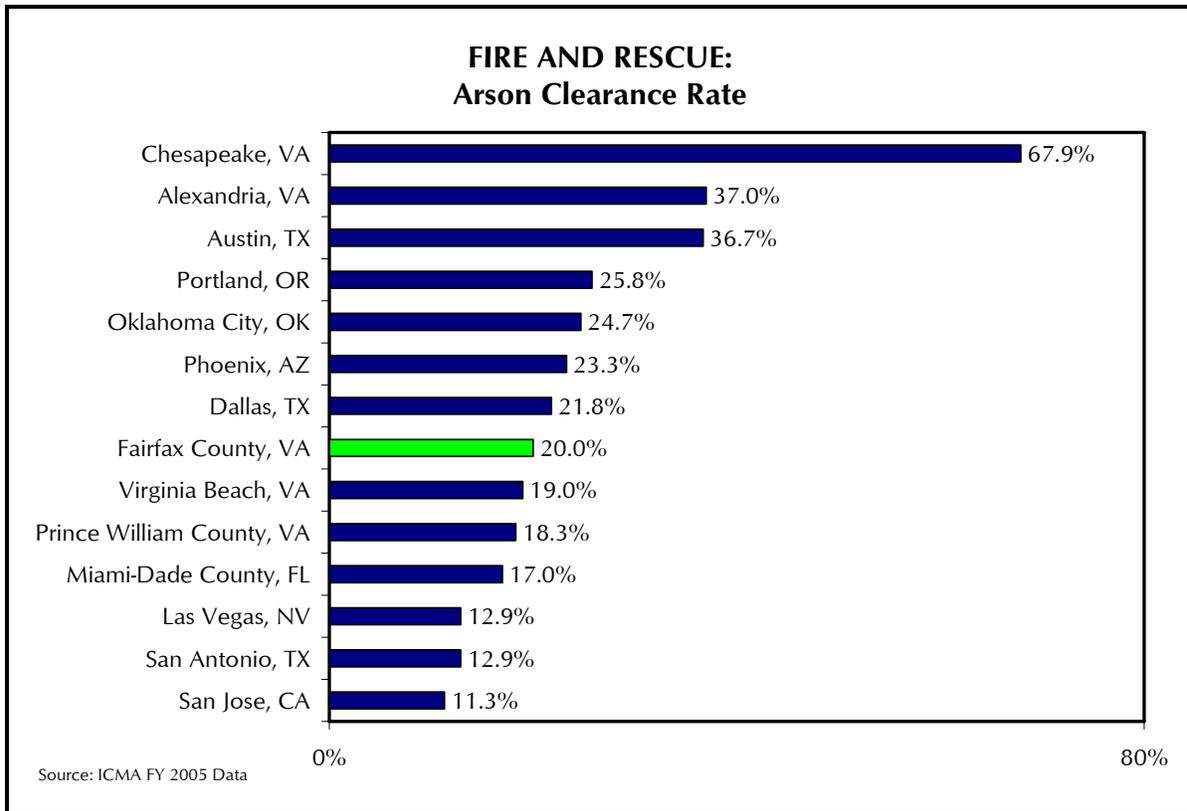
With regard to the crime rate, Fairfax County continued to experience an extremely low rate of Violent Crimes per 1,000 Population, further validating the County's reputation as a safe place to live and work. The County's rate was again 1.0 UCR Part I Violent Crime Reported per 1,000 Population. The UCR Part 1 Property Crimes Reported per 1,000 is the third lowest among responding participants, while the clearance rate was the third highest among the comparison jurisdictions. Fairfax County had the fourth lowest rate of Injury-producing Traffic Accidents per 1,000 Population at 5.2, while Traffic Fatalities per 1,000 was sixth lowest among the 17 jurisdictions responding. A number of other police and fire benchmarks are shown on the following pages.



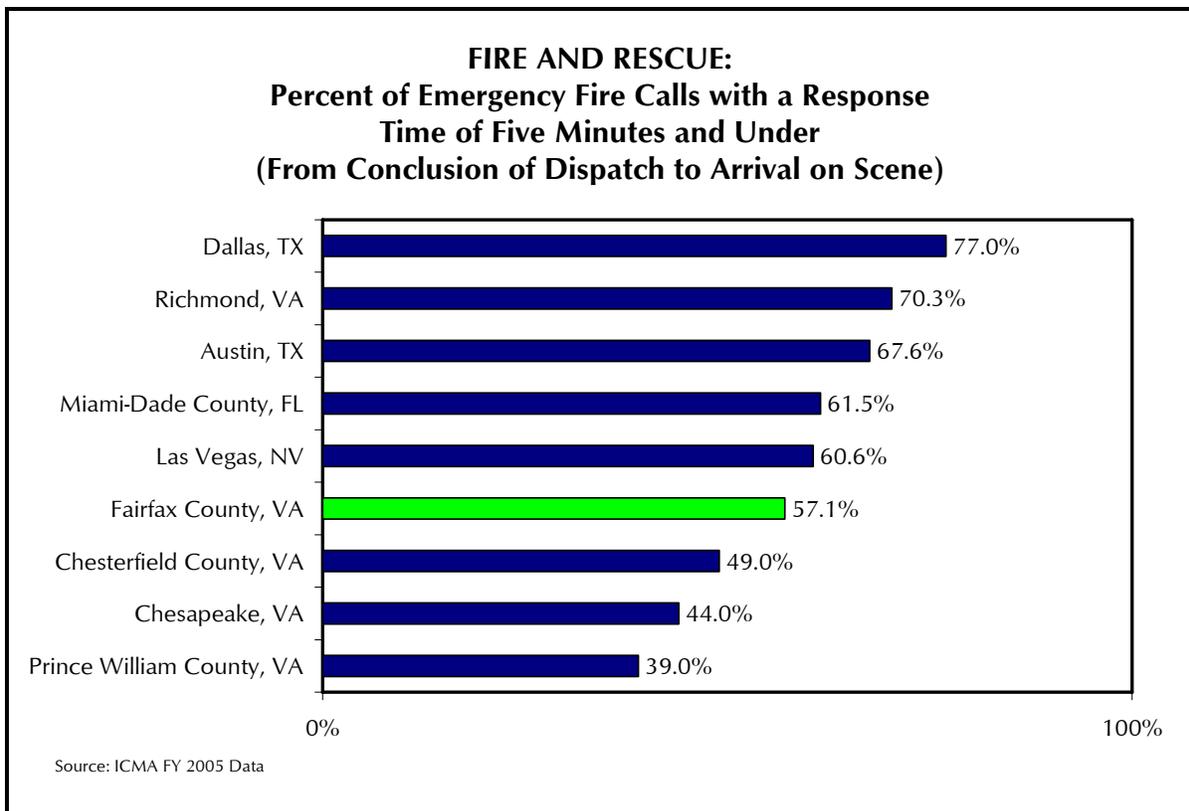
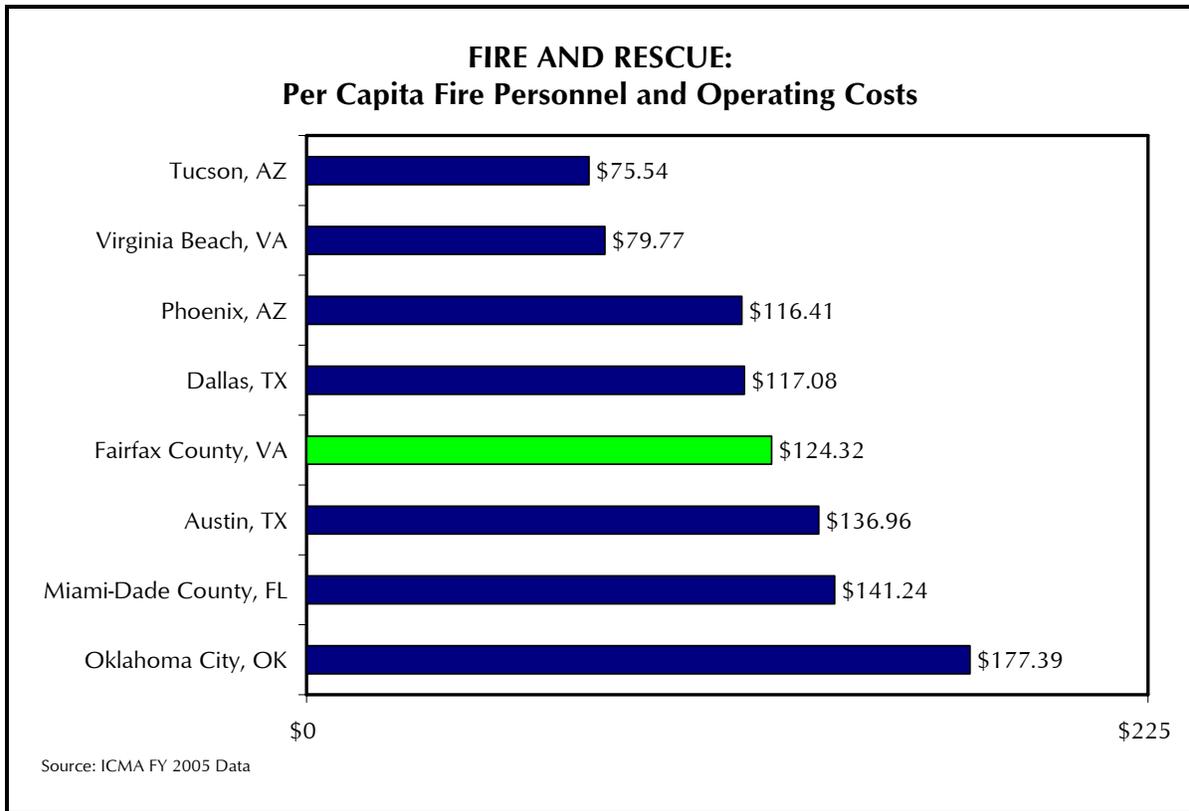
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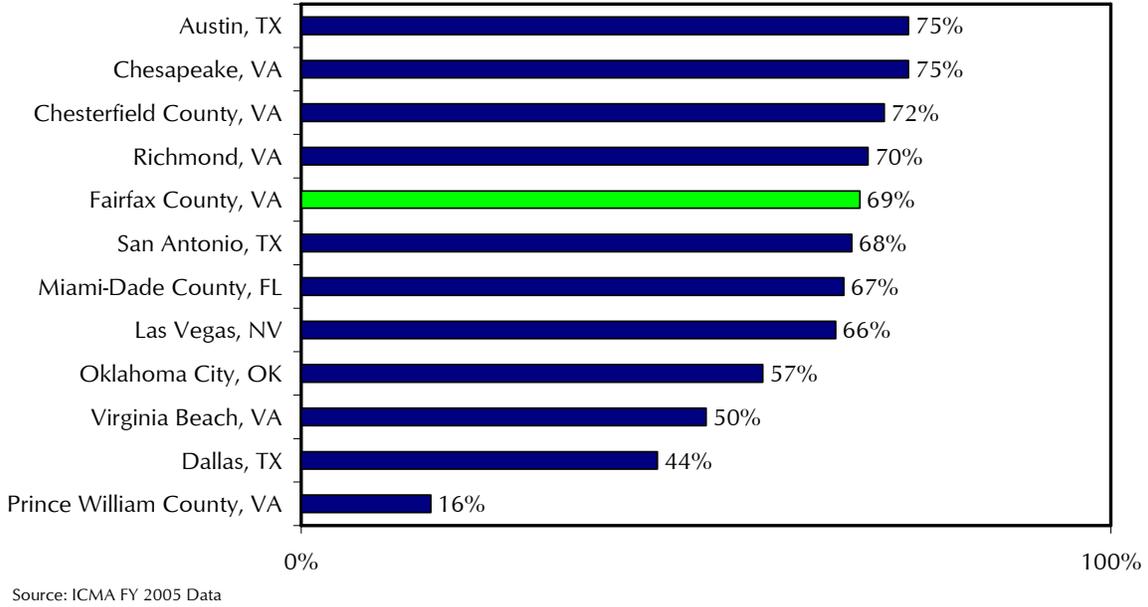


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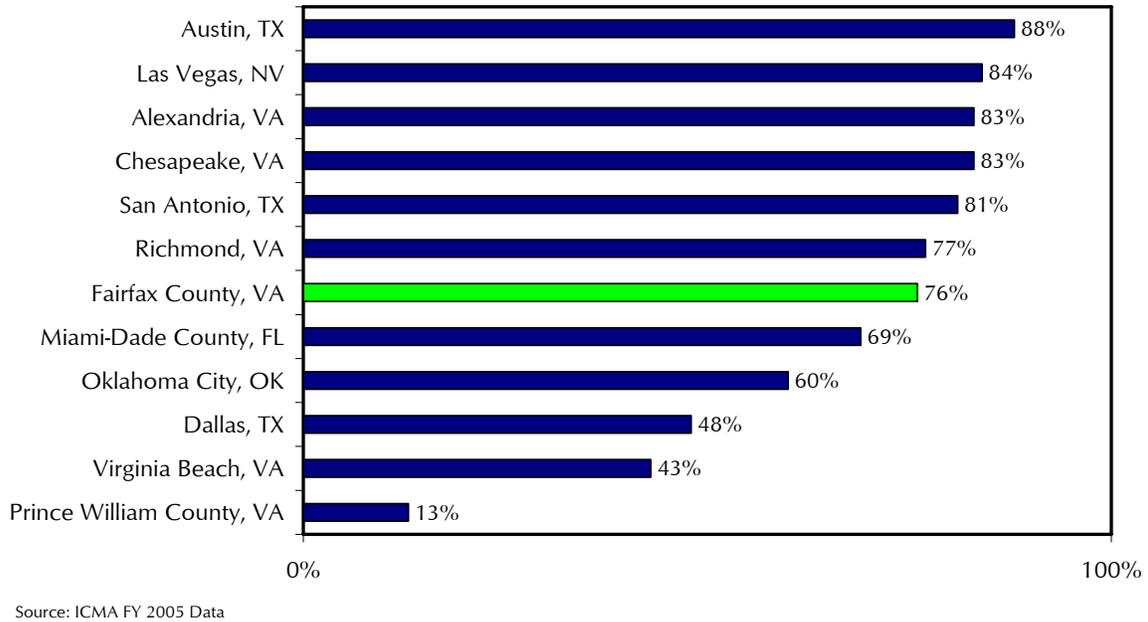


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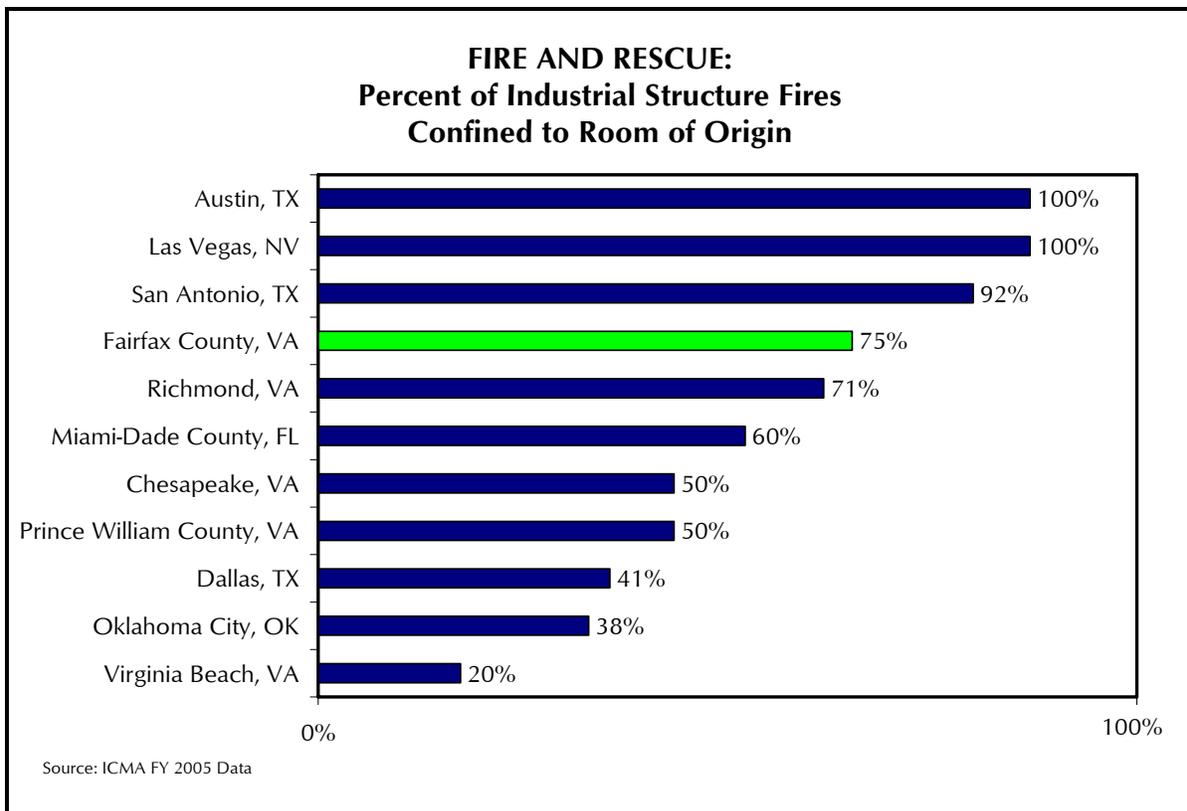
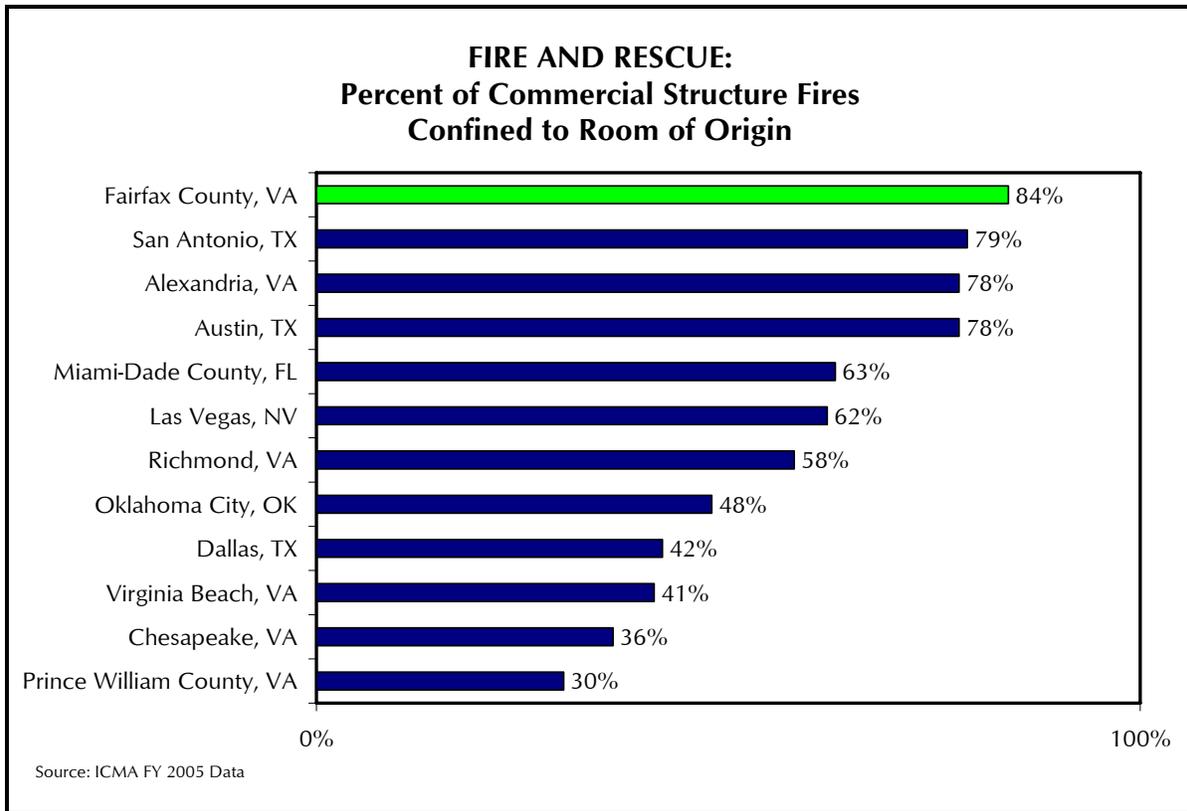
FIRE AND RESCUE: Percent of Residential Structure Fires Confined to Room of Origin: One- and Two-Family Structures



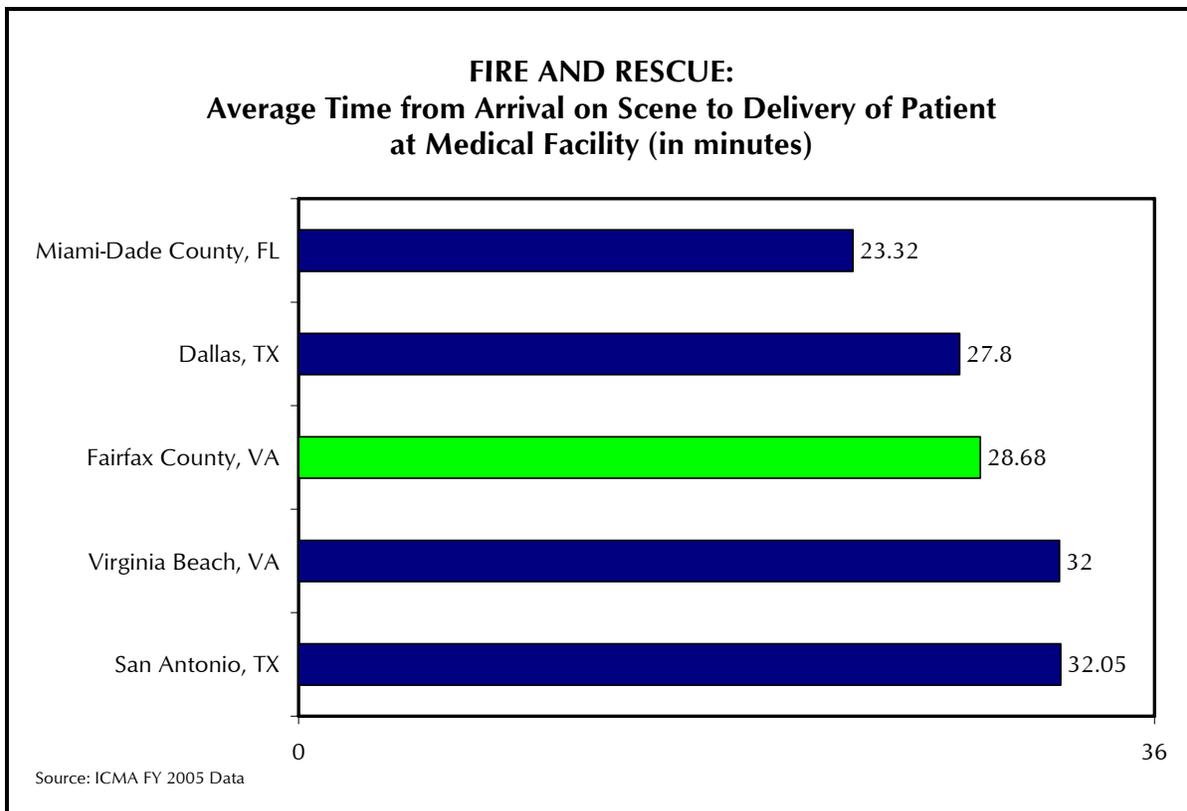
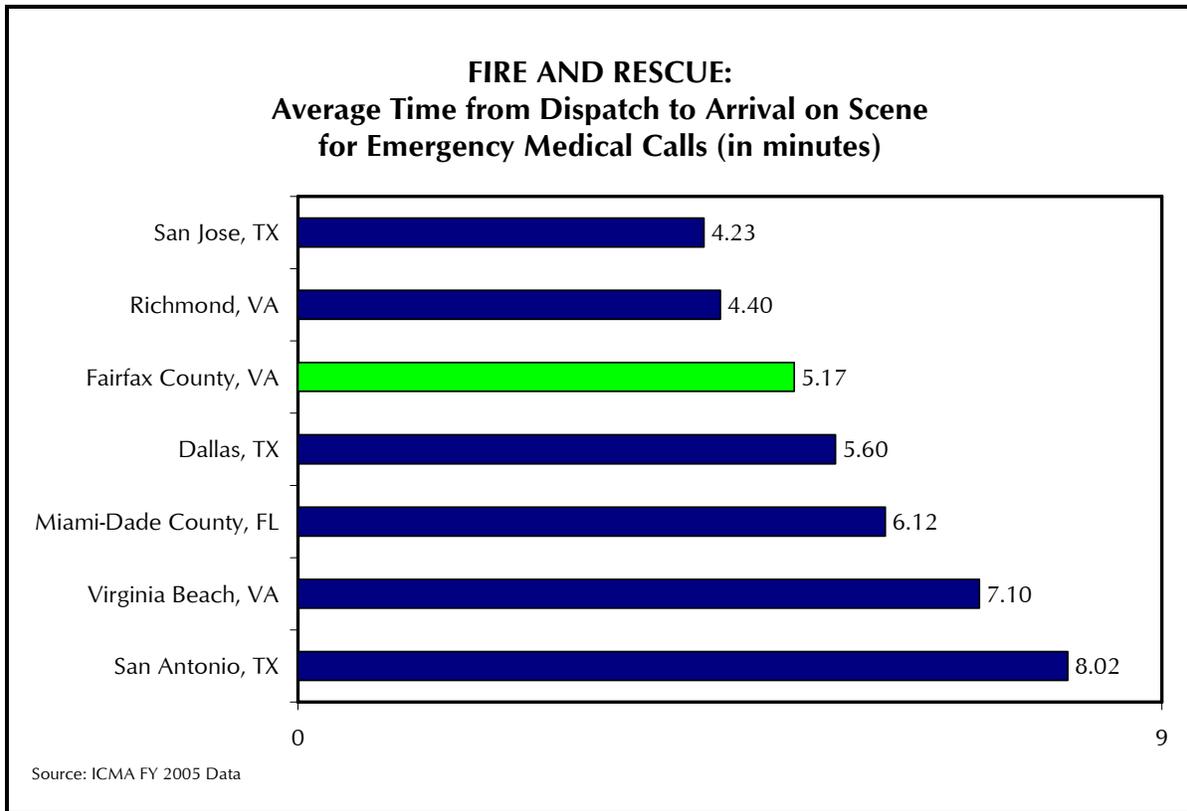
FIRE AND RESCUE: Percent of Residential Structure Fires Confined to Room of Origin: Multi-Family Structures



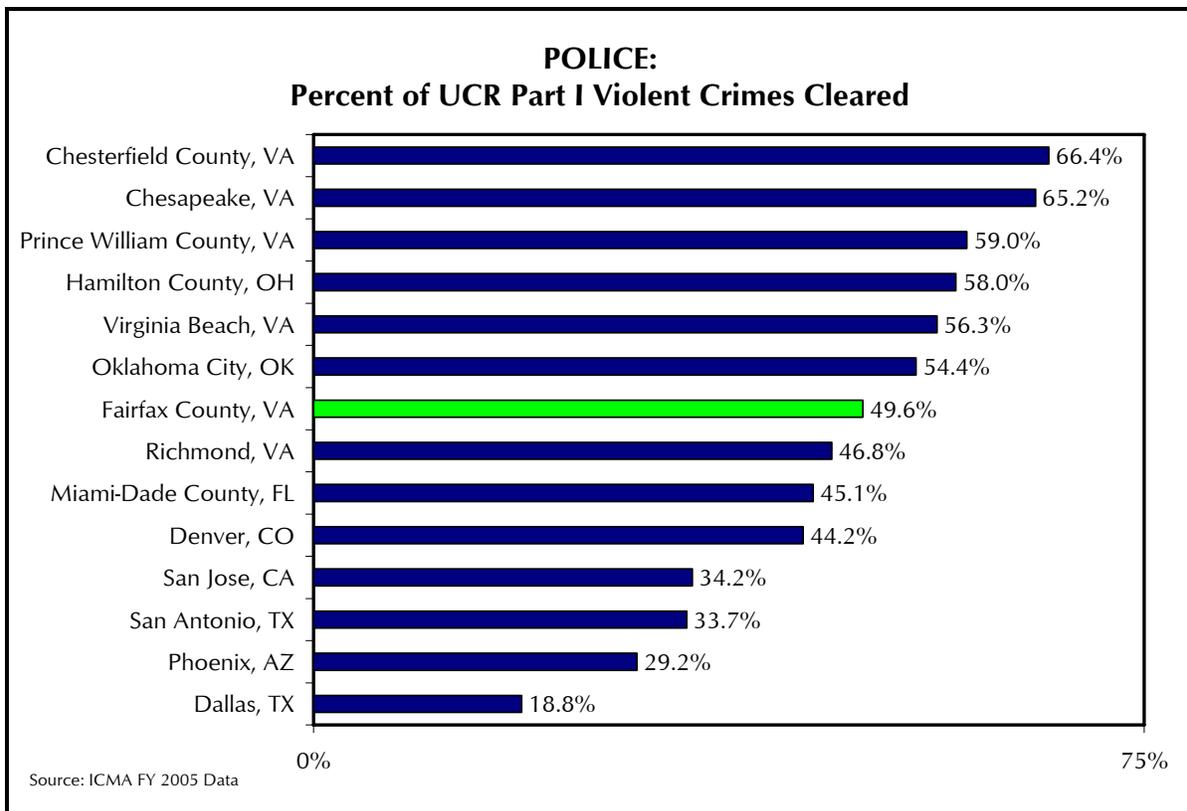
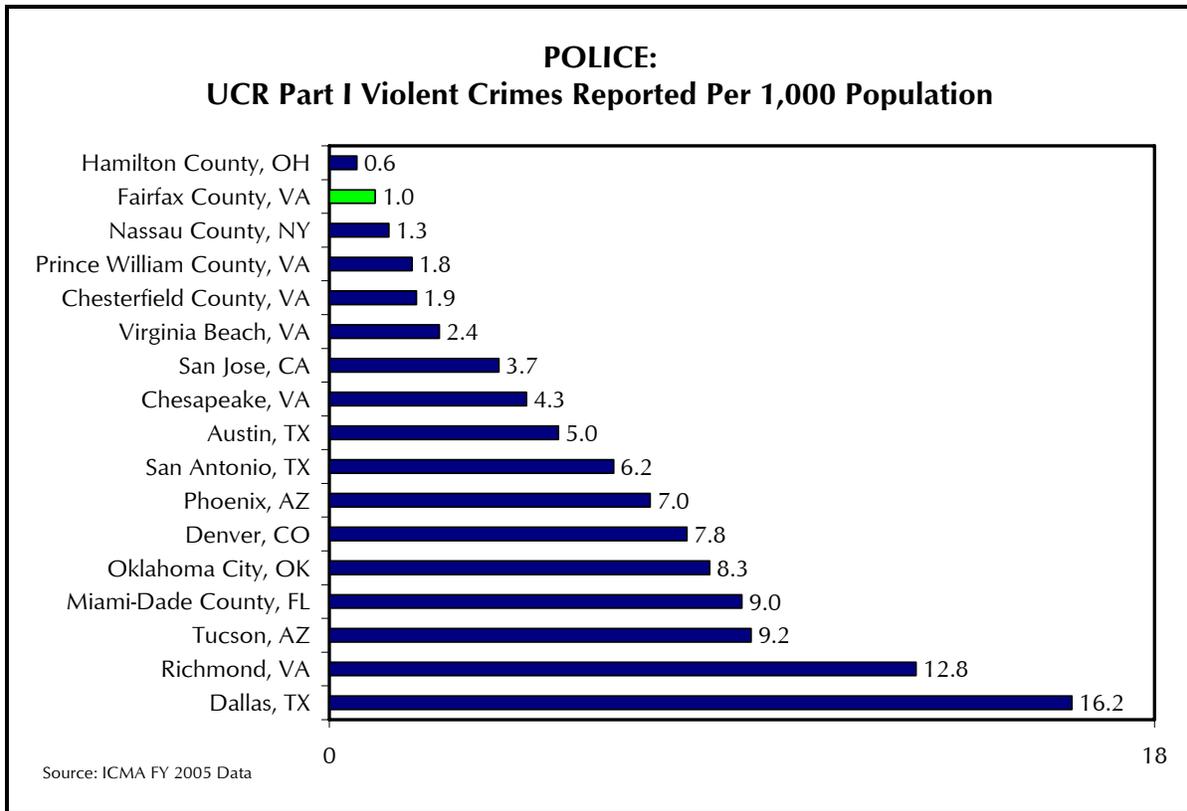
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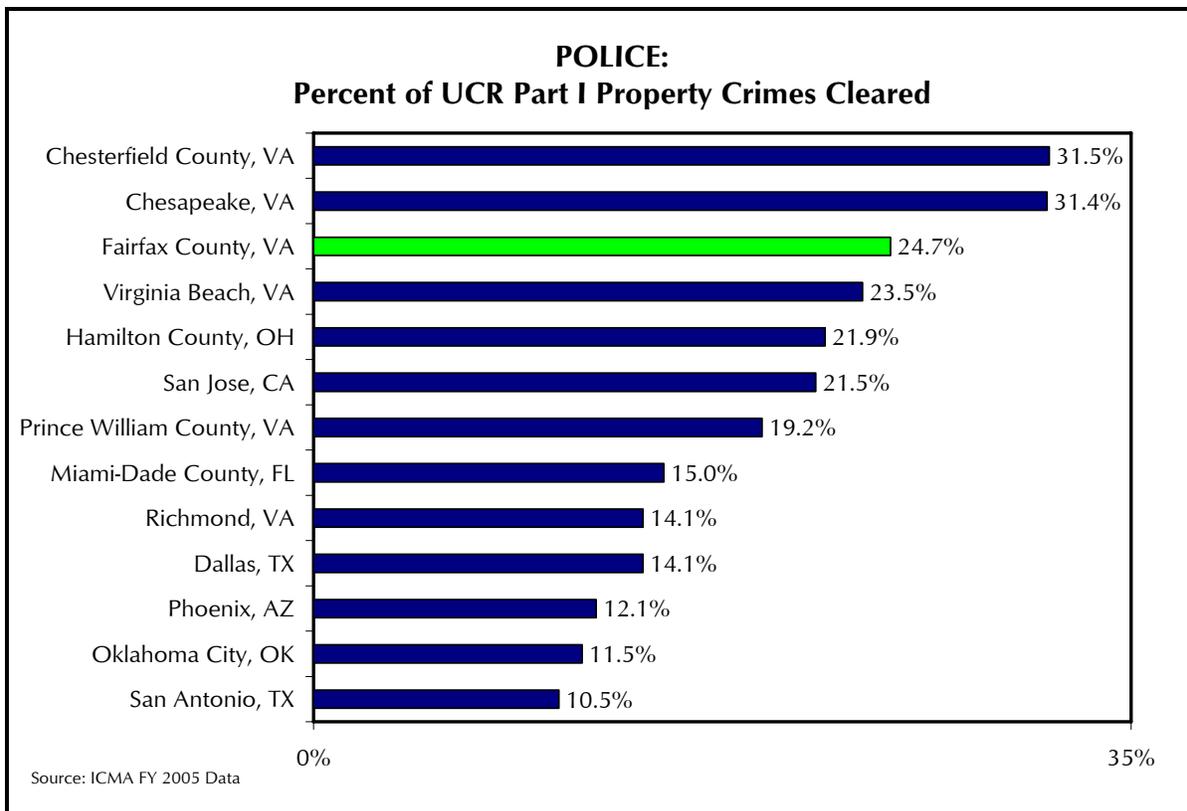
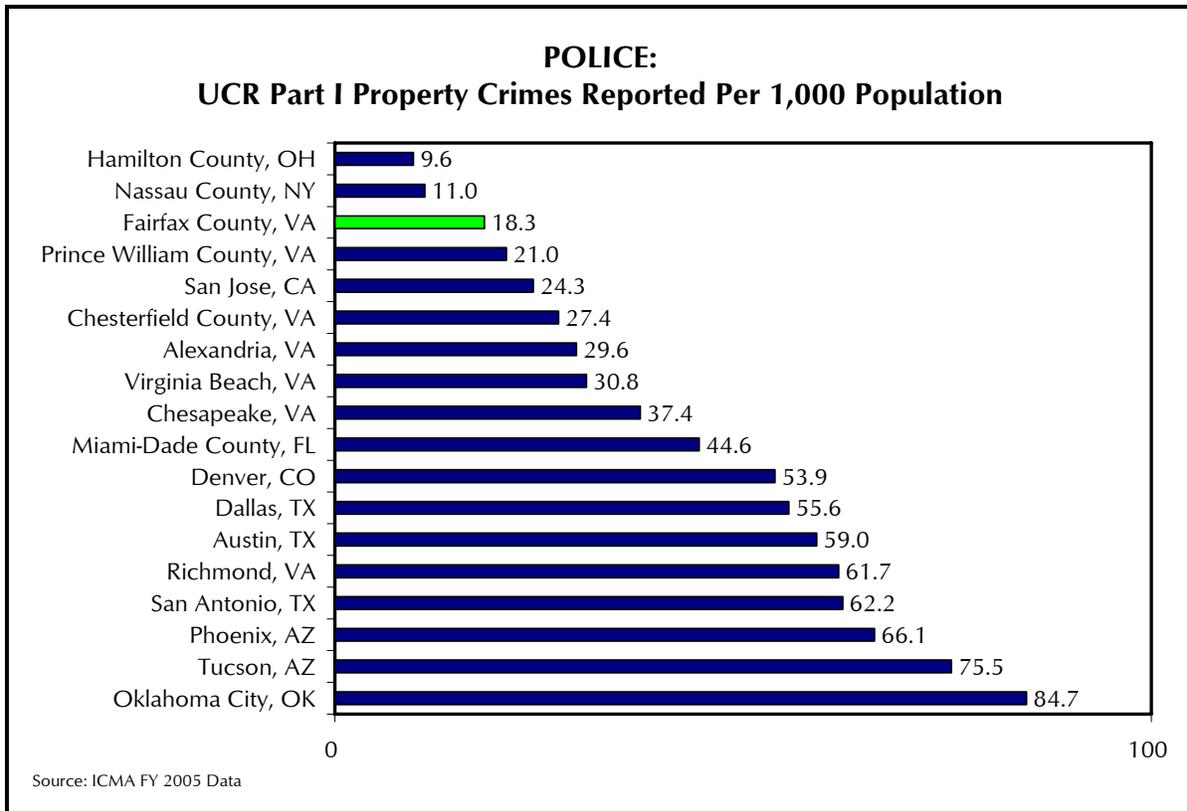
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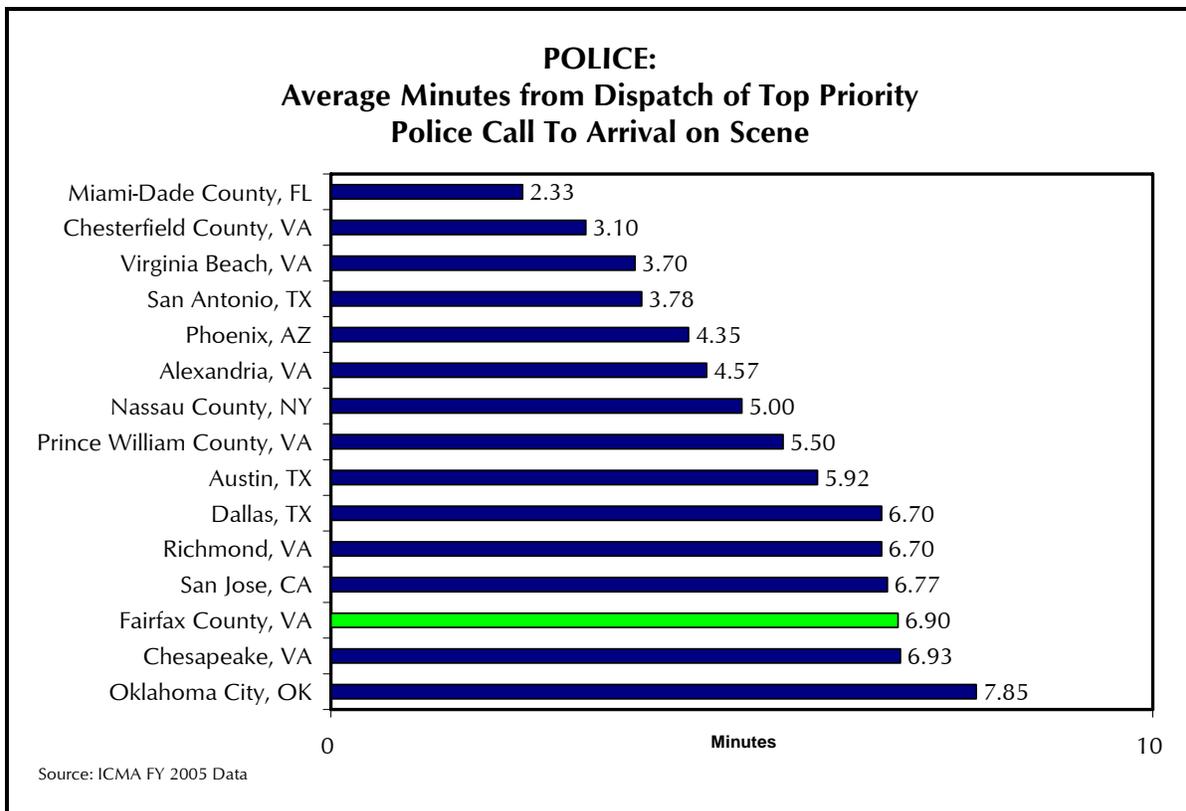
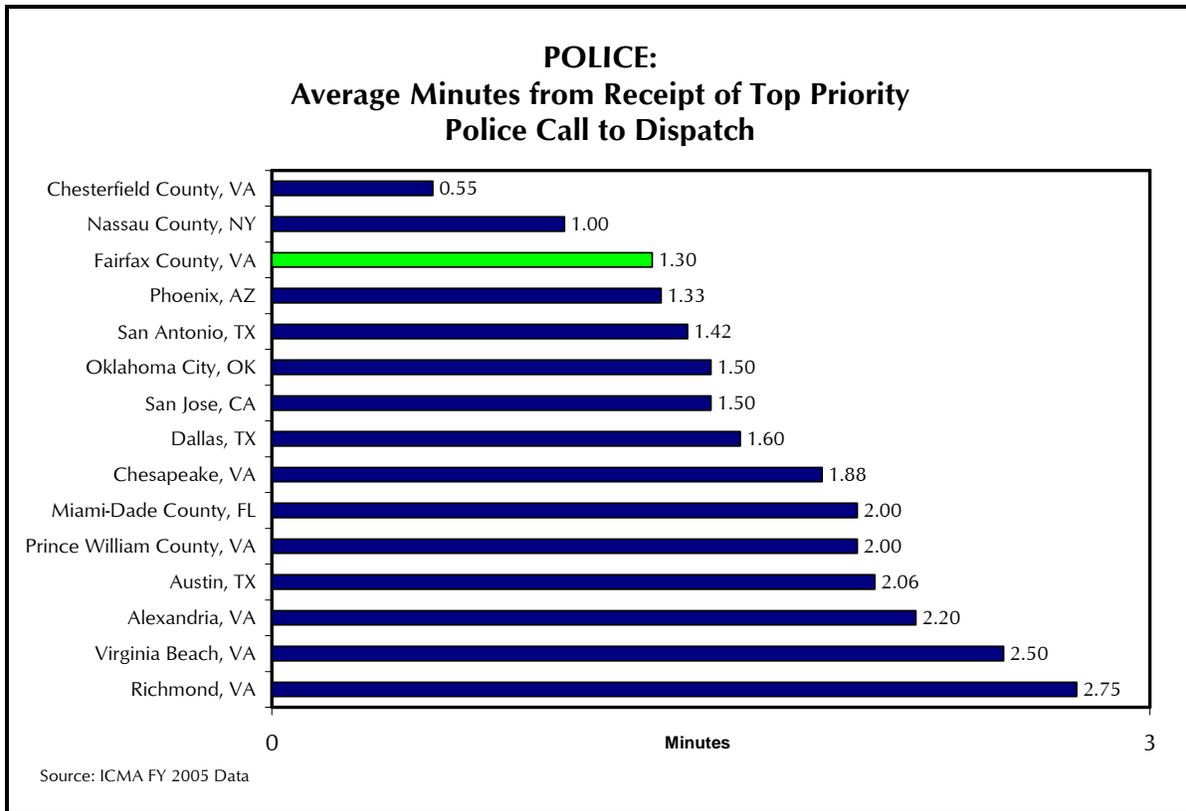
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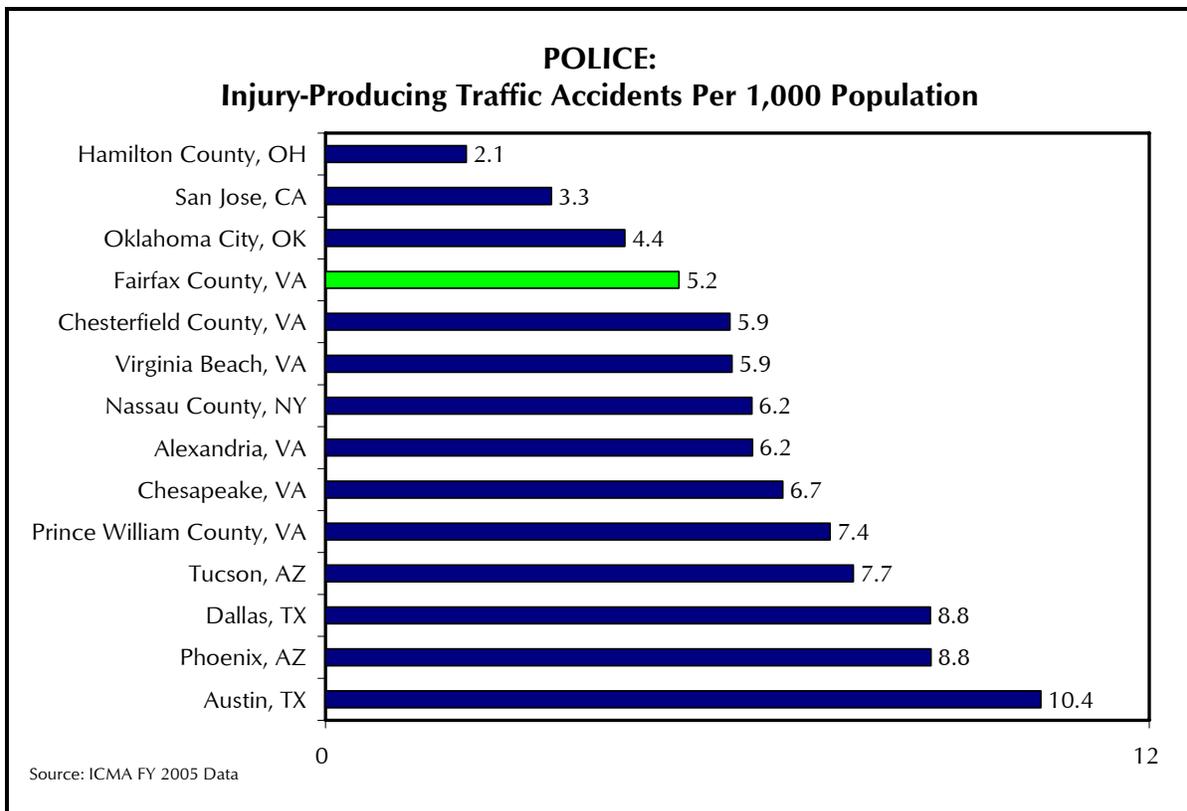
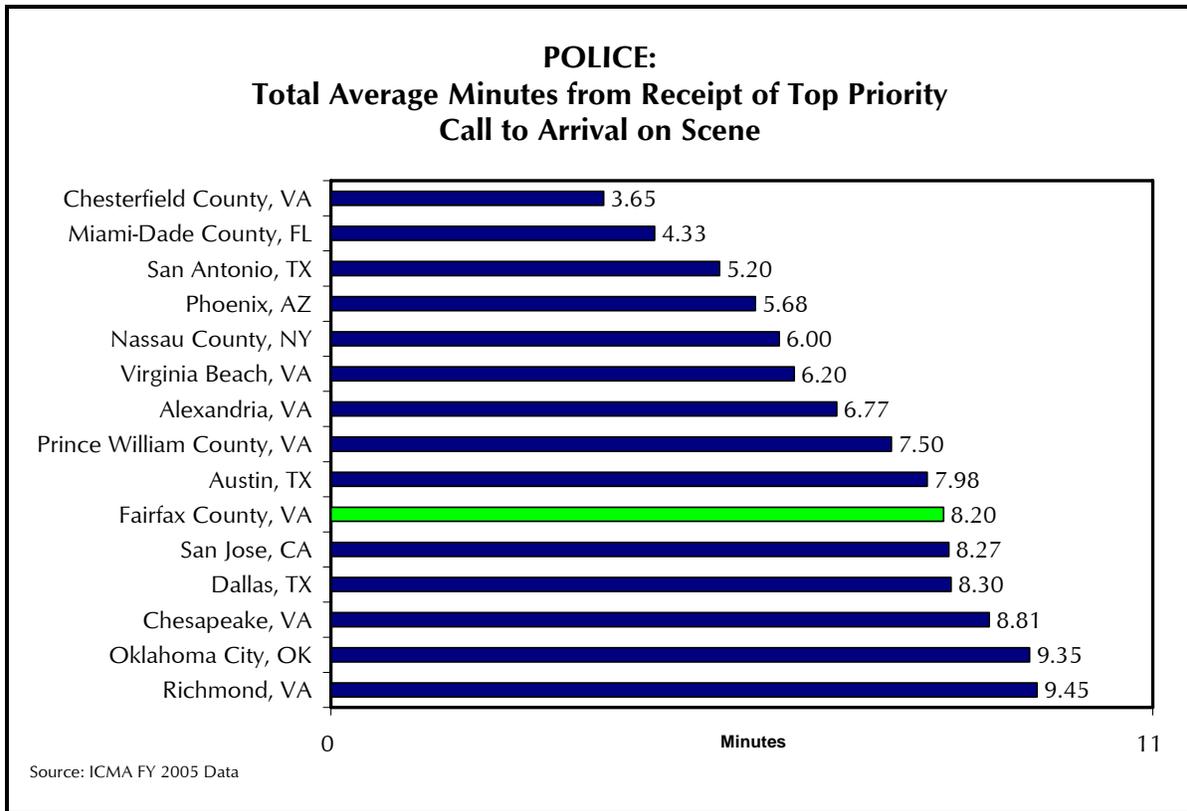
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