Public Safety Program Area Summary

Overview

Residents of Fairfax County benefit from a high level of public safety that enhances the quality of life and makes the County a desirable place in which to live and work. The agencies that comprise this program area include: the Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Office of the Sheriff, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Cable and Consumer Services, Land Development Services and the Department of Code Compliance. Public safety is enhanced by the active and timely response of the agencies in this area, as well as, their development of a strong capacity to respond using agency assets, volunteers, and in collaboration with other local and regional responders. In addition, though not part of the Public Safety Program Area, the positions in Fund 120, E-911 Fund, serve an integral role in the public safety system as they provide and maintain highly professional and responsive 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency communication services. In FY 2010, the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), a state-of-the-art, high-security facility that utilizes coordinated technology and integrated data systems opened, allowing for the provision of even more efficient and effective public safety and transportation services.

In large part due to the Police Department's performance, the County's crime rate is among the lowest in the country for urban areas. One main reason for this is the establishment of focused and collaborative partnerships between the police and the community. During a time of economic decline, the department is focused on, and committed to, aligning available resources to maintain operational capacity in performance of the core mission, which is to protect people and property. The most basic service provided by the department is to respond to calls for service. A priority is placed on assuring that patrol areas have adequate coverage to manage the number of calls for service at all times. In addition, the department maintains a number of highly-specialized units, such as SWAT, Motors, Helicopter, K9, and Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD), which are critical to respond quickly and mitigate serious threats to public safety.

Likewise, the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) is dedicated to ensuring a safe and secure environment for County residents. FRD currently operates 37 fire stations, which are staffed full time by County personnel with supplemental services provided by volunteers. The department operates from an "all-hazards" platform and serves Fairfax County and its residents by suppressing fires; providing advanced life support; pre-hospital emergency medical care; rescue operations (i.e. searching for and rescuing persons who become trapped in fires, and extrication from vehicle accidents); and special operations, including the release or spill of hazardous materials, technical rescue (i.e. swift water rescue, building or trench collapse, high angle or rope rescue), marine operations (i.e. water rescue, boat fires, fuel spills), and performing emergency planning. FRD has one of the few urban search and rescue teams in the country that partner with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. State Department to provide emergency response support in national and international disasters. The County is fully reimbursed for such activations and its residents benefit from a highly trained and experienced team whose capital equipment needs are supplemented by the federal government.

The Office of the Sheriff is responsible for managing the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center (ADC) and Pre-Release Center, providing security in all courthouses and in the judicial complex, and serving civil process and executions. For two decades, the ADC has earned accreditation by both the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. Both accreditations play a vital role in protecting the County's assets by minimizing potential lawsuits, as well as ensuring accountability to the public. The ACA accreditation marks the longest-running certification for adult jails in the United States.

The Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRC) is responsible for adjudicating juvenile matters, offenses committed by adults against juveniles, and family matters except divorce. The Court offers comprehensive probation and residential services for delinquent youth under the legal age of 18 who live in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax and the towns of Herndon, Vienna and Clifton. In addition, the Court provides services to adults in these jurisdictions who are experiencing domestic and/or familial difficulties that are amenable to unofficial arbitration, counseling or legal intervention. The Court also provides probation services required in addressing adult criminal complaints for offenses committed against juveniles unrelated to them.

Public Safety Program Area Summary

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides emergency management services with major areas of focus including: emergency management planning and policy; the countywide emergency training and exercise program; public preparedness and education; and enhancement of response and recovery capabilities. OEM is committed to preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating new and challenging threats, particularly from identified hazards which could have an adverse impact to Fairfax County and the surrounding areas. OEM coordinates the emergency management activities of all Fairfax County agencies, as well as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, private organizations, and other local, state and federal agencies. OEM provides vision, direction and subject matter expertise in the field of emergency management in order to heighten the County's state of emergency readiness.

Land Development Services (LDS) provides regulatory services to protect the health, safety, welfare, and the environment for those who live, work, and visit Fairfax County. This is accomplished through effectively regulating land development and building construction. LDS enforces environmental protection standards set forth in applicable codes for land development and building construction such as the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the International Code Council's family of construction codes, state laws and regulations, Fairfax County ordinances, and the Public Facilities Manual. LDS is comprised of three cost centers: Building Code Services (BCS), included in the County's Public Safety Program Area, Site Development Services (SDS) and Business Support Services, included in the County's Community Development Program Area. The Public Safety Program Area is responsible for the plan review, permitting and inspection of new and existing structures.

The Department of Code Compliance (DCC) was created as part of FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan by combining the functions of the Code Enforcement Strike Team, the majority of the Zoning Enforcement function in the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), and a small portion of the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department. The vision of the consolidation was to create an adaptable, accountable, multi-code enforcement organization within a unified leadership/management structure that responds effectively and efficiently toward building and sustaining neighborhoods and communities. One of the main drivers of creating a single code compliance agency was to allow the County to take coordinated action on new or emerging code enforcement problems instead of having multiple agencies enforce the various codes, making it difficult to coordinate a countywide response. DCC is able to enforce multiple codes, including Zoning, Property Maintenance, Building, Fire and Health and more effectively resolve complaints.

Strategic Direction

As part of the countywide focus on developing strategic plans, each of the agencies in this program area developed mission, vision and values statements; performed environmental scans; and defined strategies for achieving their missions. These strategic plans are linked to the overall County Core Purpose and Vision Elements. Common themes in the agencies in the Public Safety program area include:

- Language and cultural diversity
- Recruitment and retention of quality staff
- Capacity to address growth
- Public education and outreach
- Leveraging technology
- Partnerships and community involvement
- Stewardship of resources

COUNTY CORE PURPOSE

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County by:

- Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities
- Building Livable Spaces
- Practicing Environmental Stewardship
- Connecting People and Places
- Creating a Culture of Engagement
- Maintaining Healthy Economies
- Exercising Corporate Stewardship

In recent years, new kinds of public safety priorities such as regional homeland security efforts, inmate population growth, increased criminal gang activity, increases in identity theft and other nontraditional crimes, and the need for new facilities, have required the attention of public safety agencies. Addressing these types of threats presents a significant challenge to these agencies. Changing demographics further complicate the situation. Population increases result in higher workloads, which the Board of Supervisors seeks to address through allocating resources to this priority area. However, recent fiscal pressures have made it necessary for these agencies to continue to find ways to provide high quality services with reduced budgets.

Public Safety Program Area Summary

Program Area Summary by Character

Category	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2011 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2012 Advertised Budget Plan
Authorized Positions/Staff Years				
Regular	4103/4101	4054/4052	4145/4143	4132/4130
State	43/ 43	43/ 43	43/ 43	43/ 43
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	$347,278,624	$340,193,683	$343,289,520	$339,326,921
Operating Expenses	54,944,958	58,022,614	69,493,613	58,524,897
Capital Equipment	233,909	0	197,796	0
Subtotal	**$402,457,491**	**$398,216,297**	**$412,980,929**	**$397,851,818**
Less:				
Recovered Costs	($697,406)	($697,406)	($697,406)	($697,406)
Total Expenditures	**$401,760,085**	**$397,518,891**	**$412,283,523**	**$397,154,412**
Income	**$84,233,206**	**$80,194,641**	**$80,965,383**	**$78,623,857**
Net Cost to the County	**$317,526,879**	**$317,324,250**	**$331,318,140**	**$318,530,555**

Program Area Summary by Agency

Category	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2011 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2012 Advertised Budget Plan
Department of Cable and Consumer Services	$928,660	$790,919	$790,962	$788,456
Land Development Services	8,569,181	9,193,297	9,364,671	8,356,264
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court	20,313,862	20,343,367	20,928,500	20,163,367
Police Department	164,661,587	161,513,847	165,058,926	160,613,847
Office of the Sheriff	41,470,229	43,517,287	43,771,011	42,451,721
Fire and Rescue Department	164,278,014	160,510,430	166,166,947	159,510,430
Office of Emergency Management	1,538,552	1,649,744	2,302,254	1,759,744
Department of Code Compliance	0	0	3,900,252	3,510,583
Total Expenditures	**$401,760,085**	**$397,518,891**	**$412,283,523**	**$397,154,412**

Budget Trends

For FY 2012, the funding level of $397,154,412 for the Public Safety program area comprises 32.1 percent of the total General Fund direct expenditures of $1,236,754,914. This total reflects a decrease of $364,479, or 0.1 percent, from the FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan total of $397,518,891. The Public Safety program area includes 4,132 positions (not including state positions), a decrease of 13/13.0 SYE positions. It should be noted, that the total of 4,132 positions does not include 205/205.0 SYE positions in Fund 120, E-911 Fund. Though not part of the Public Safety Program Area, the positions in Fund 120 serve an integral role in the public safety system as they provide and maintain highly professional and responsive 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency communication services. The funding adjustments are summarized below.

In order to meet the projected FY 2012 budget shortfall, funding reductions of $3.2 million are included in this program area. Reductions were made with sensitivity to maintaining the County's high level of public safety that enhances the quality of life and makes the County a desirable place in which to live and work. Of the total reductions necessary to balance the FY 2012 budget, $3.0 million will be met by reducing overtime funding: $1.0 million is in the Police Department which may impact the department's ability to meet minimum staffing levels which can result in less flexibility to respond to unforeseen major incidents; $1.0 million is in the Fire Department which will limit the department's ability to callback personnel to meet minimum staffing requirements and impact ongoing training needs; and $1.0 million is in the Office of the Sheriff which will be managed through the implementation of service efficiencies. An additional reduction of $0.2 million is in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court which has already implemented a managed hiring freeze in

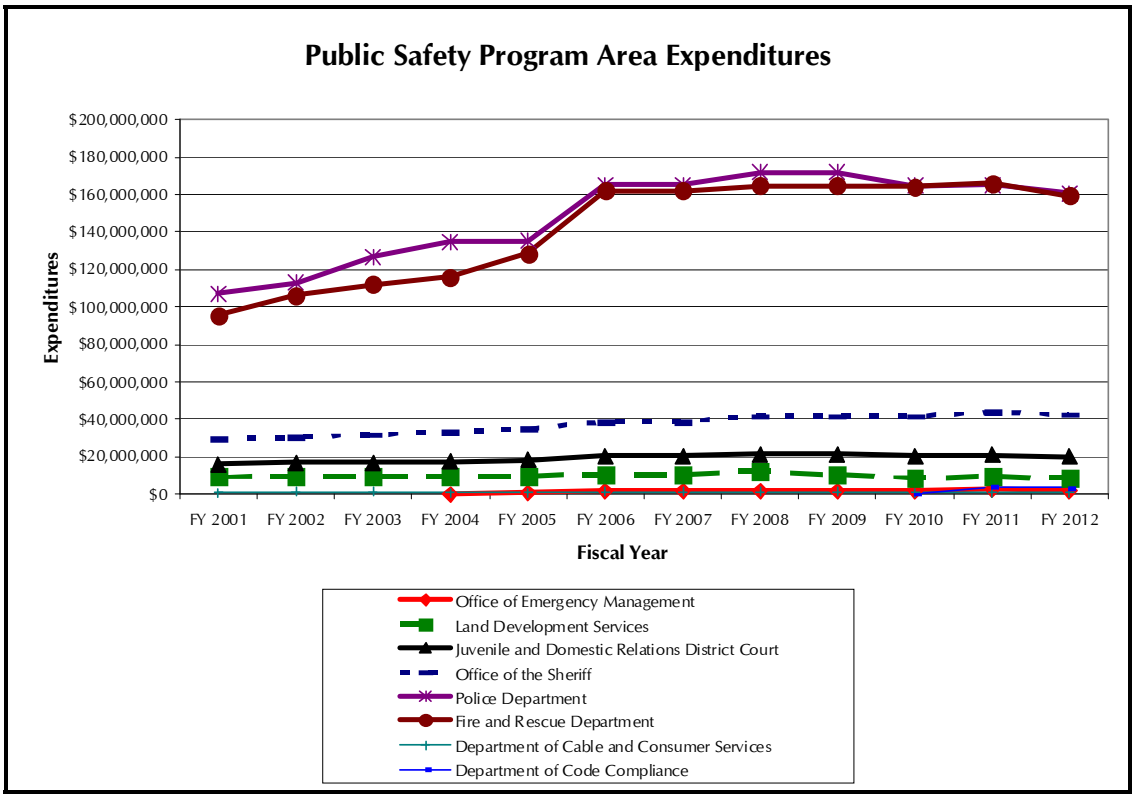
order to accommodate budget reductions. The Court will continue to manage vacancies to achieve the FY 2012 reduction.

Also, it should be noted that in FY 2012, due to an internal reorganization of Land Development Services (LDS), which spans two program areas, 13/13.0 SYE positions and $0.8 million in Personnel Services has been moved from the LDS branches in the Public Safety program area to the LDS branches in the Community Development program area. These movements result in a net zero change to the overall agency personnel costs and position count.

These reductions are largely offset by increases totaling $3.6 million, of which $3.5 million is associated with the creation of the Department of Code Compliance. This agency became operational on July 1, 2010 but was not funded until after the FY 2011 Adopted Budget Plan was approved.

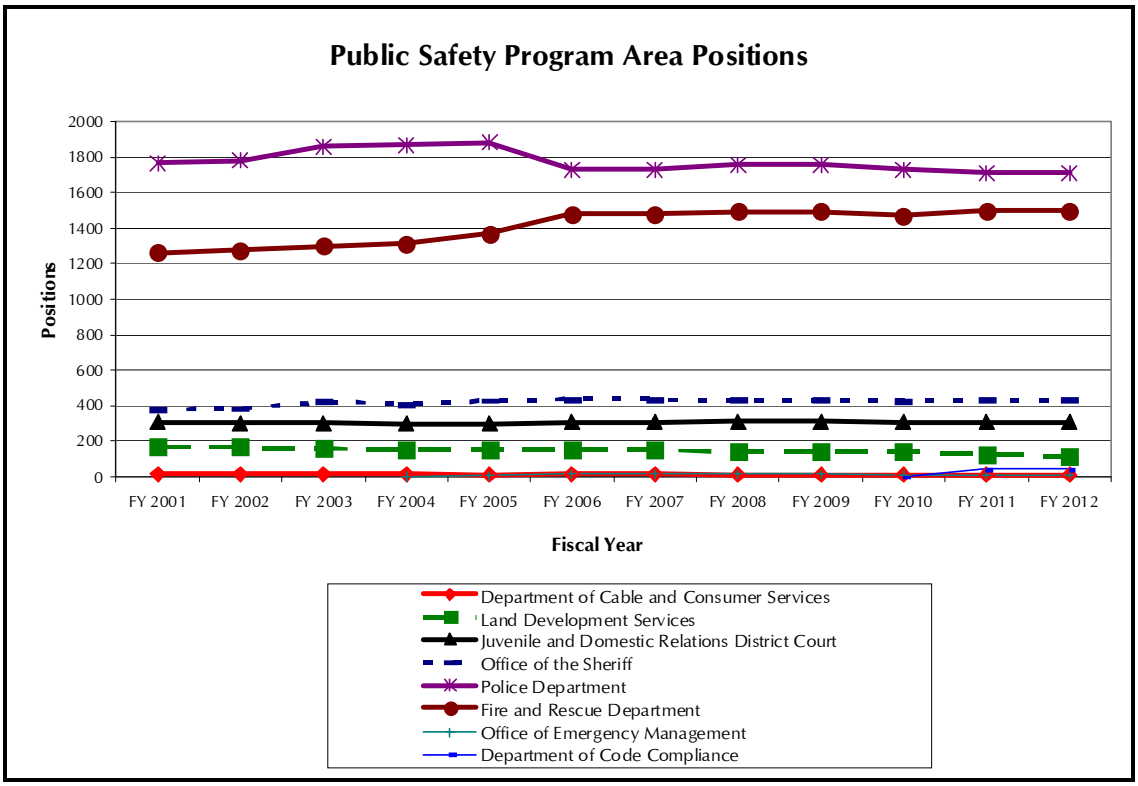
The graphs on the following pages illustrate funding and position trends for the eight agencies in this program area.

Trends in Expenditures and Positions

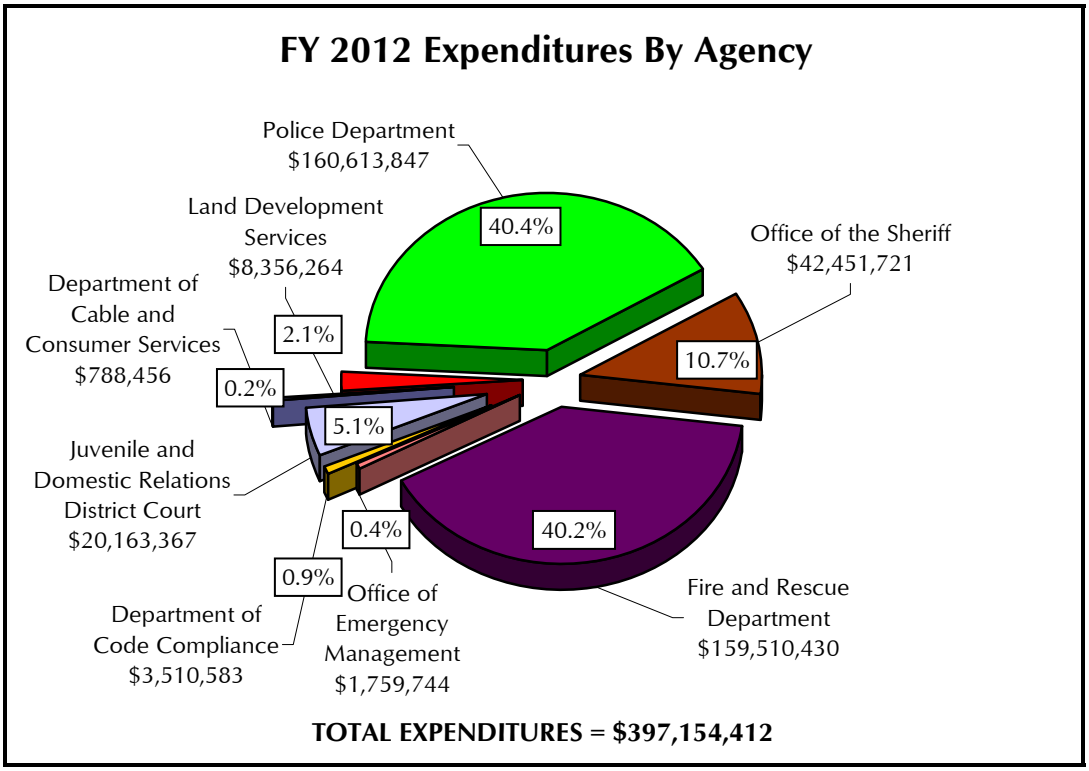


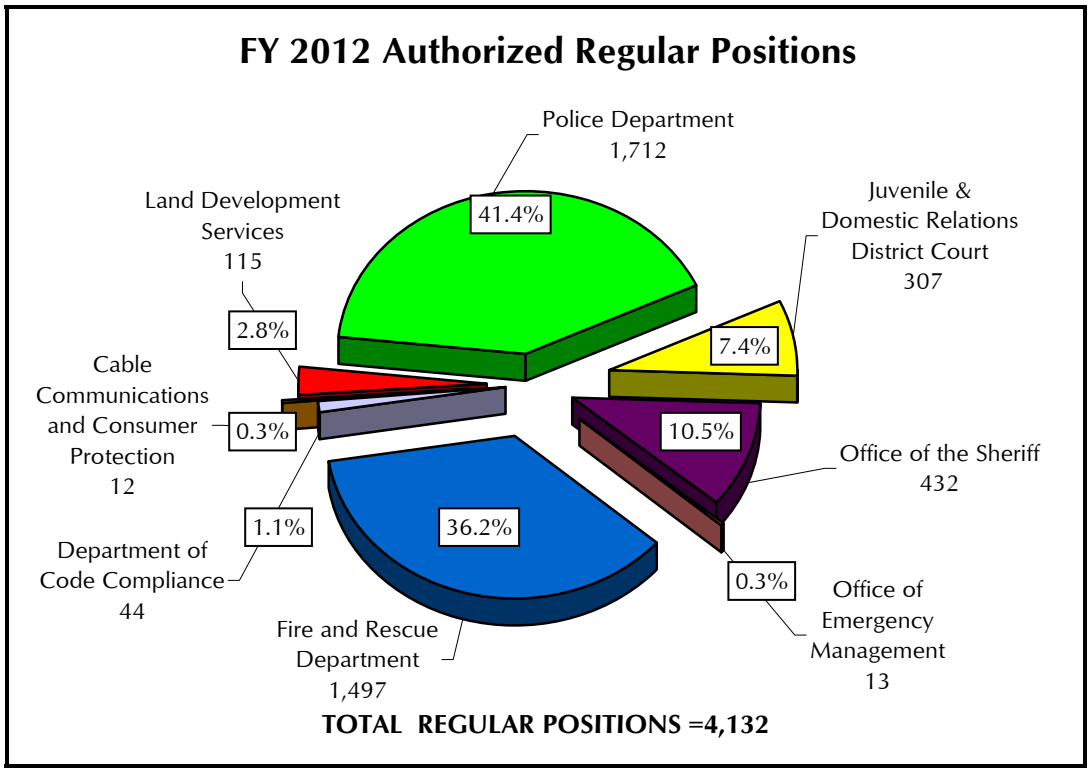
Prior to FY 2005, the Office of Emergency Management was part of the Police Department. It is a separate agency beginning in FY 2005.

Public Safety Program Area Summary



FY 2012 Expenditures and Positions by Agency





Benchmarking

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 220 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 2009 data represent the latest available information. The jurisdictions presented in the graphs on the next few pages 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.

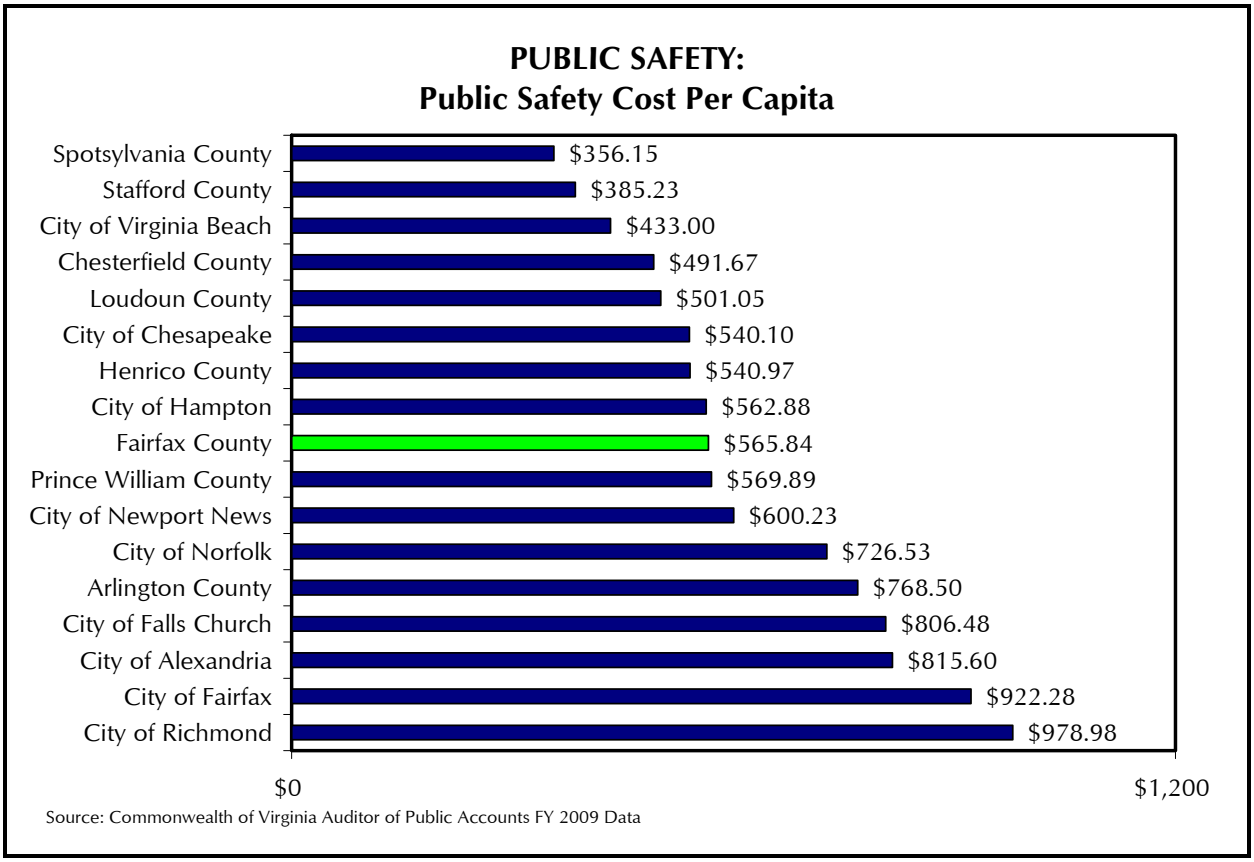
An important point to note in an effort such as this is that since participation is voluntary, the jurisdictions that provide data have shown they are committed to becoming/remaining high performance organizations. Therefore, comparisons made through this program should be considered in the context that the participants have self-selected and are inclined to be among the higher performers rather 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.

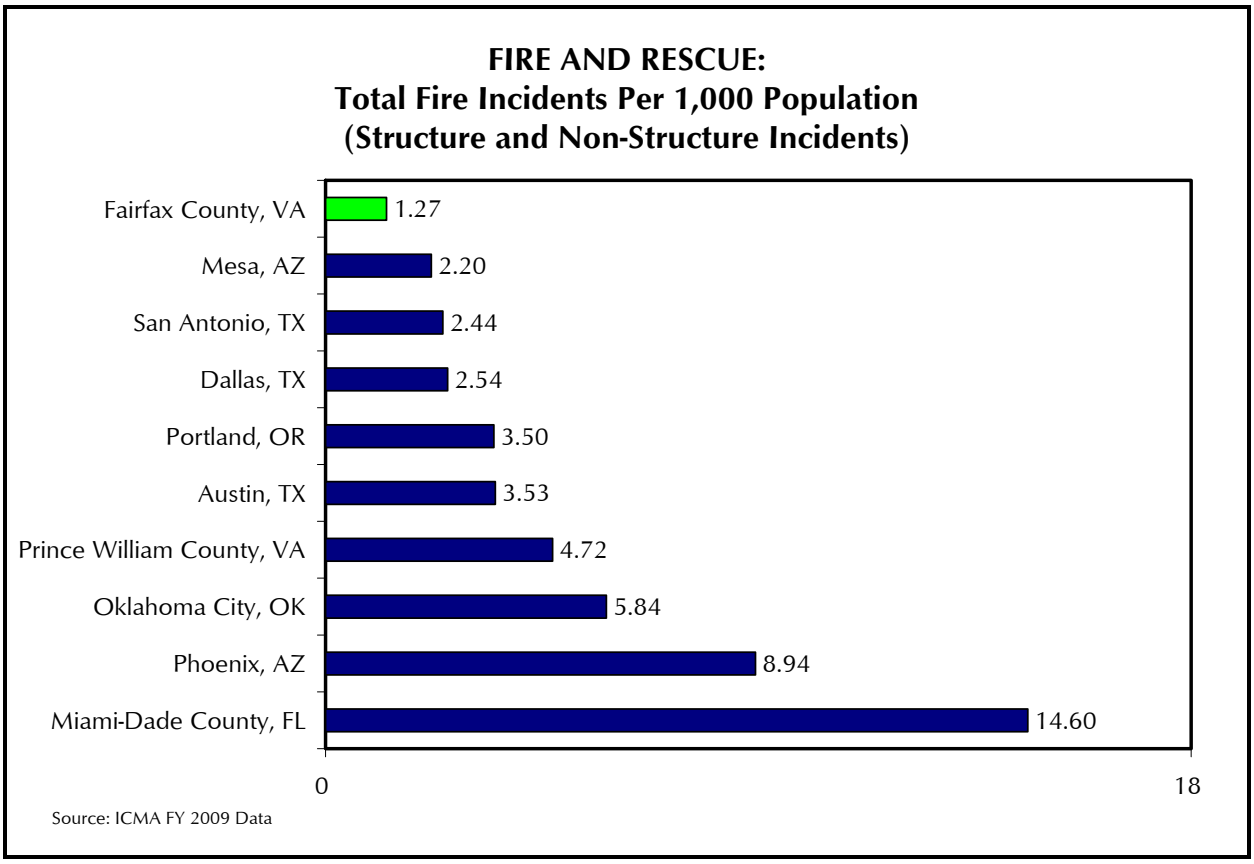
Public Safety Program Area Summary

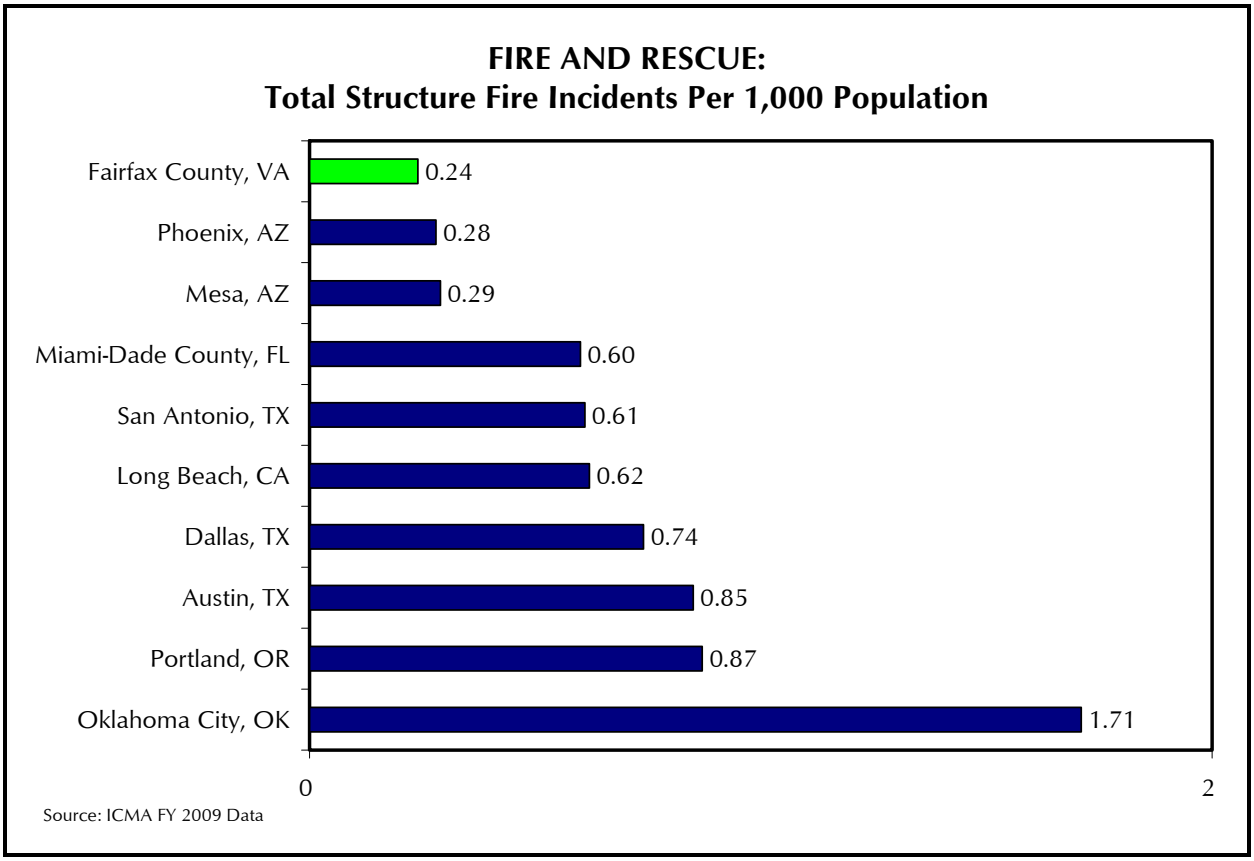
As can be seen from the graphs on the following pages, Fairfax County ranks favorably compared to other large jurisdictions and other Virginia localities with regard to performance in the public safety area. Compared to other large cities and counties within the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as the 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.

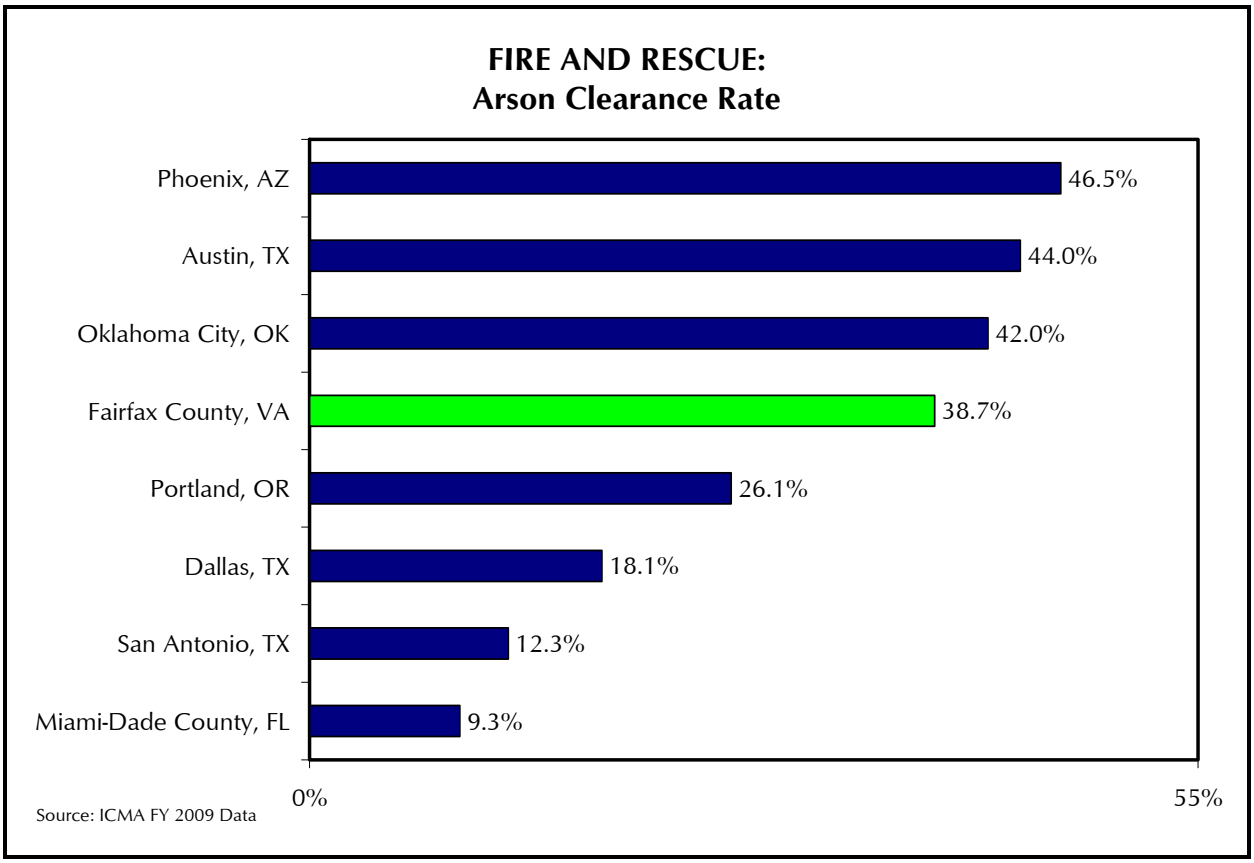
With only 1.27 Total Fire Incidents per 1,000 Population Served (structure and non-structure incidents), Fairfax County had the lowest rate in comparison to other large and Virginia jurisdictions responding. In addition, Fairfax County also had the lowest rate of Total Structure Fires per 1,000 Population at 0.24. These results attest to a highly effective fire prevention program that places emphasis on avoidance rather than the more costly and dangerous requirements associated with extinguishment.

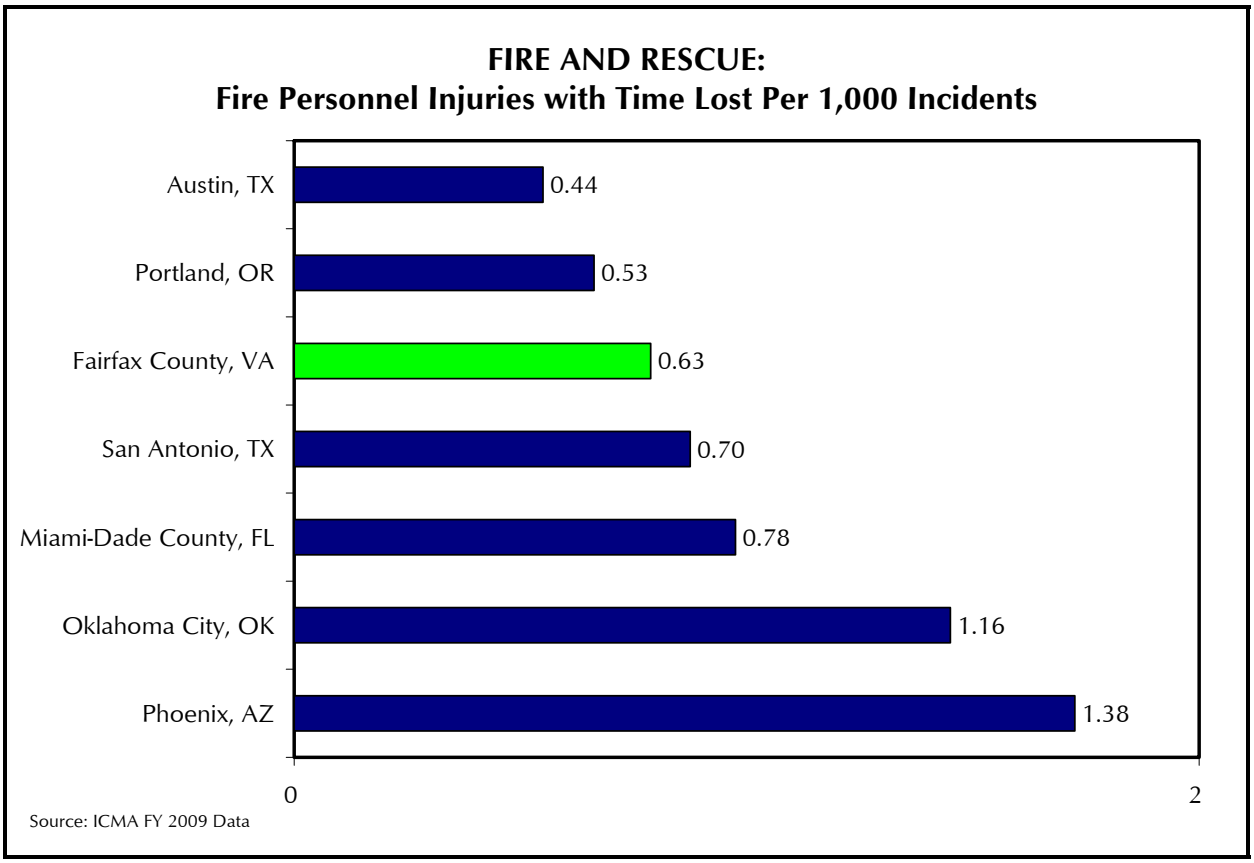
With regard to the crime rate, Fairfax County continued to experience an extremely low rate of Violent Crimes per 1,000 Population, further validating the County's reputation as a safe place to live and work. The County's rate was 0.9 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part I Violent Crimes Reported per 1,000 Population. The UCR Part 1 Property Crimes Reported per 1,000 is the lowest among responding participants. Fairfax County had the second lowest rate of Injury-producing Traffic Accidents per 1,000 Population at 4.1, while the Traffic Fatalities per 1,000 Population was extremely low at 0.030. A number of other police and fire benchmarks are shown on the following pages.

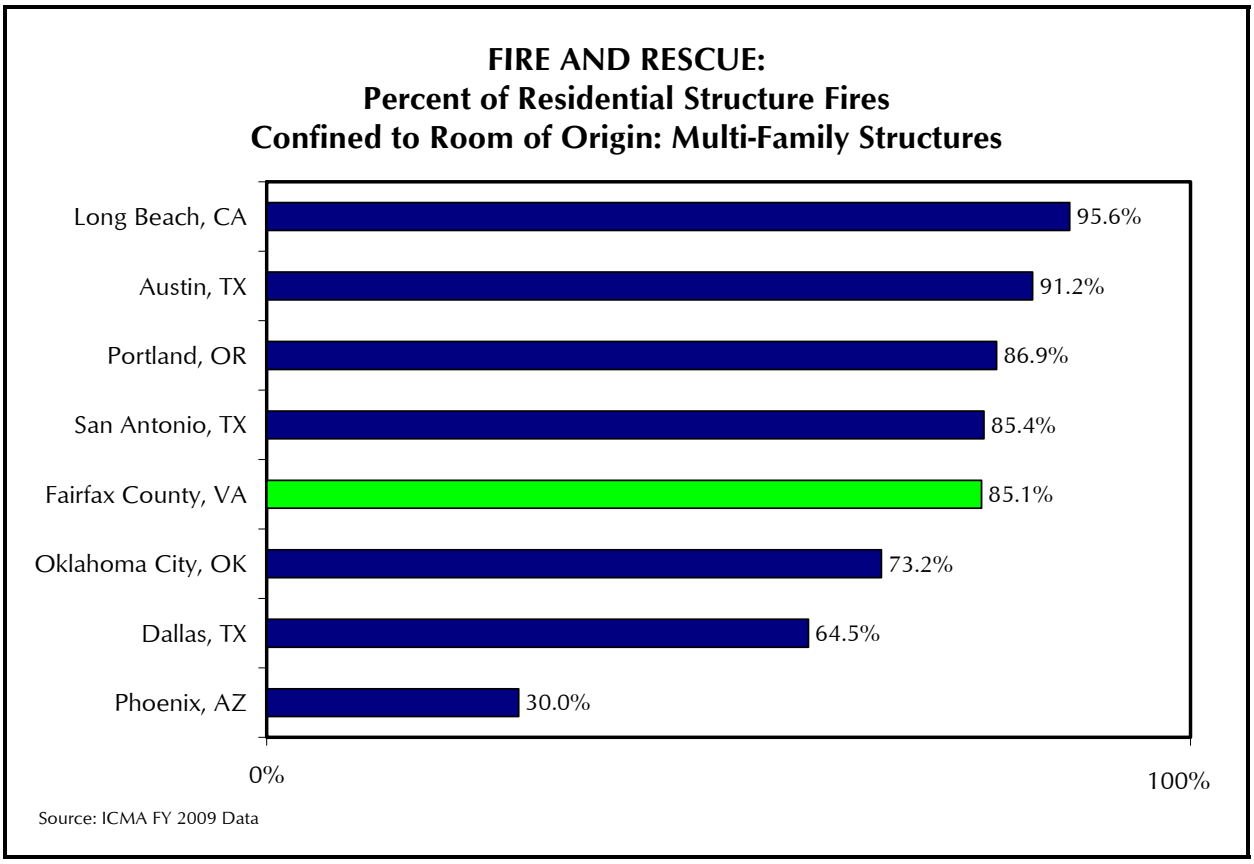


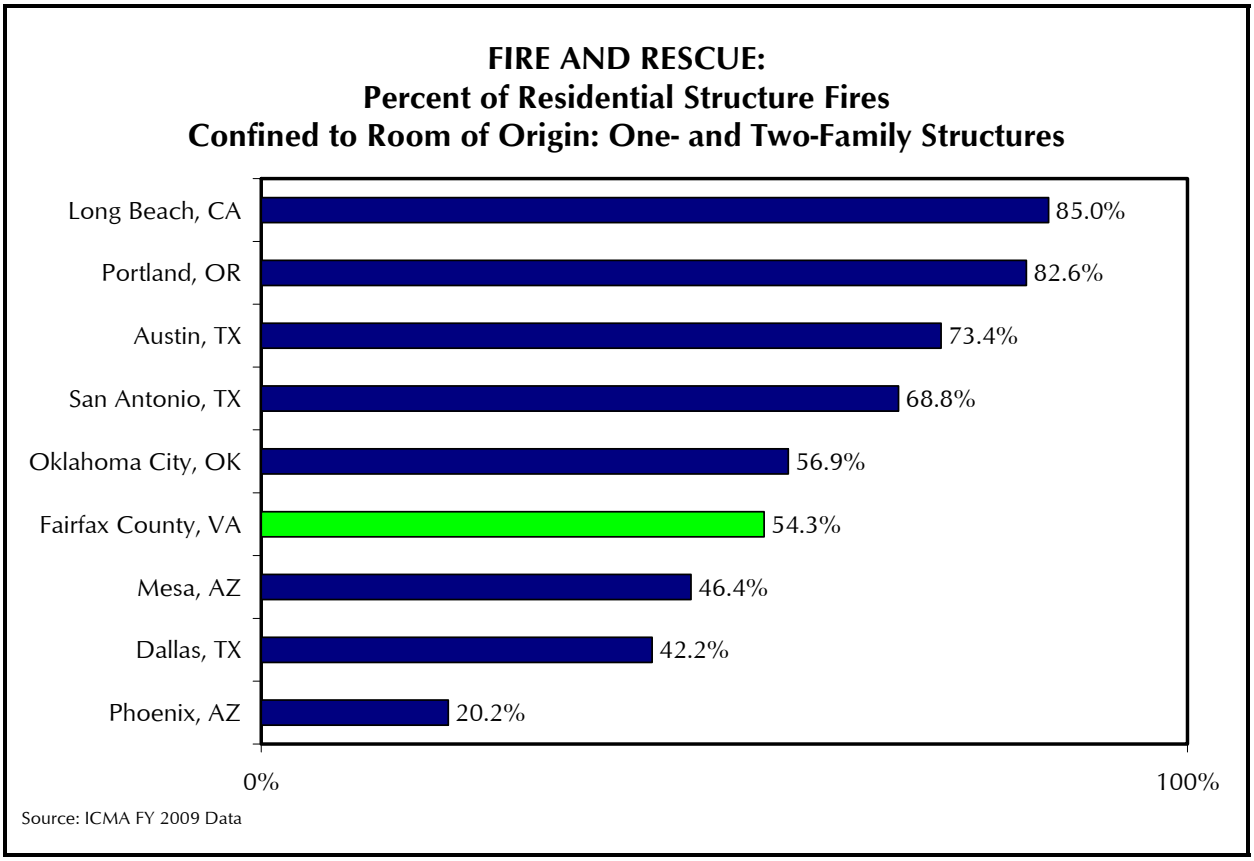

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Total Fire Incidents Per 1,000 Population
(Structure and Non-Structure Incidents)
Fairfax County, VA
1.27
Mesa, AZ
2.20
San Antonio, TX
2.44
Dallas, TX
2.54
Portland, OR
3.50
Austin, TX
3.53
Prince William County, VA
4.72
Oklahoma City, OK
5.84
Phoenix, AZ
8.94
Miami-Dade County, FL
14.60
0
18
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

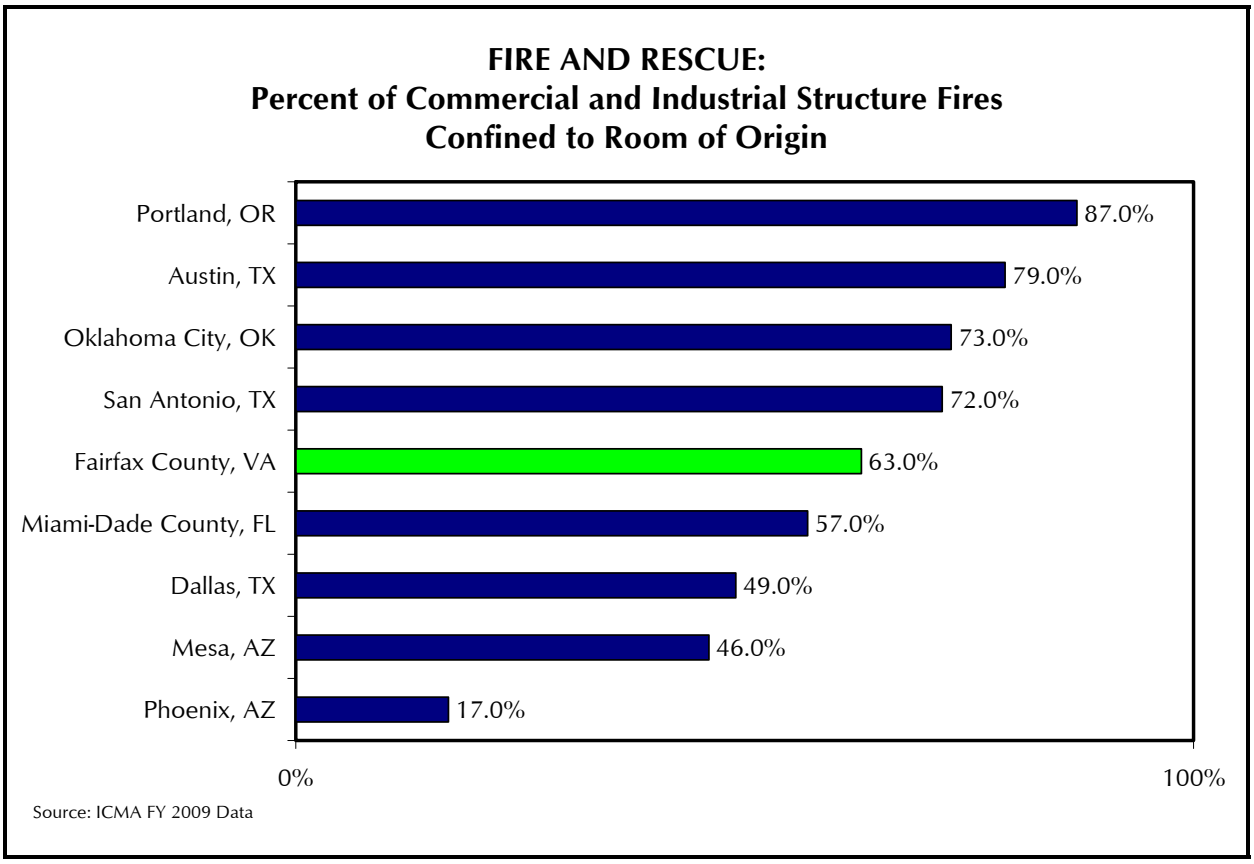

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Total Structure Fire Incidents Per 1,000 Population
Fairfax County, VA
0.24
Phoenix, AZ
0.28
Mesa, AZ
0.29
Miami-Dade County, FL
0.60
San Antonio, TX
0.61
Long Beach, CA
0.62
Dallas, TX
0.74
Austin, TX
0.85
Portland, OR
0.87
Oklahoma City, OK
1.71
0
2
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

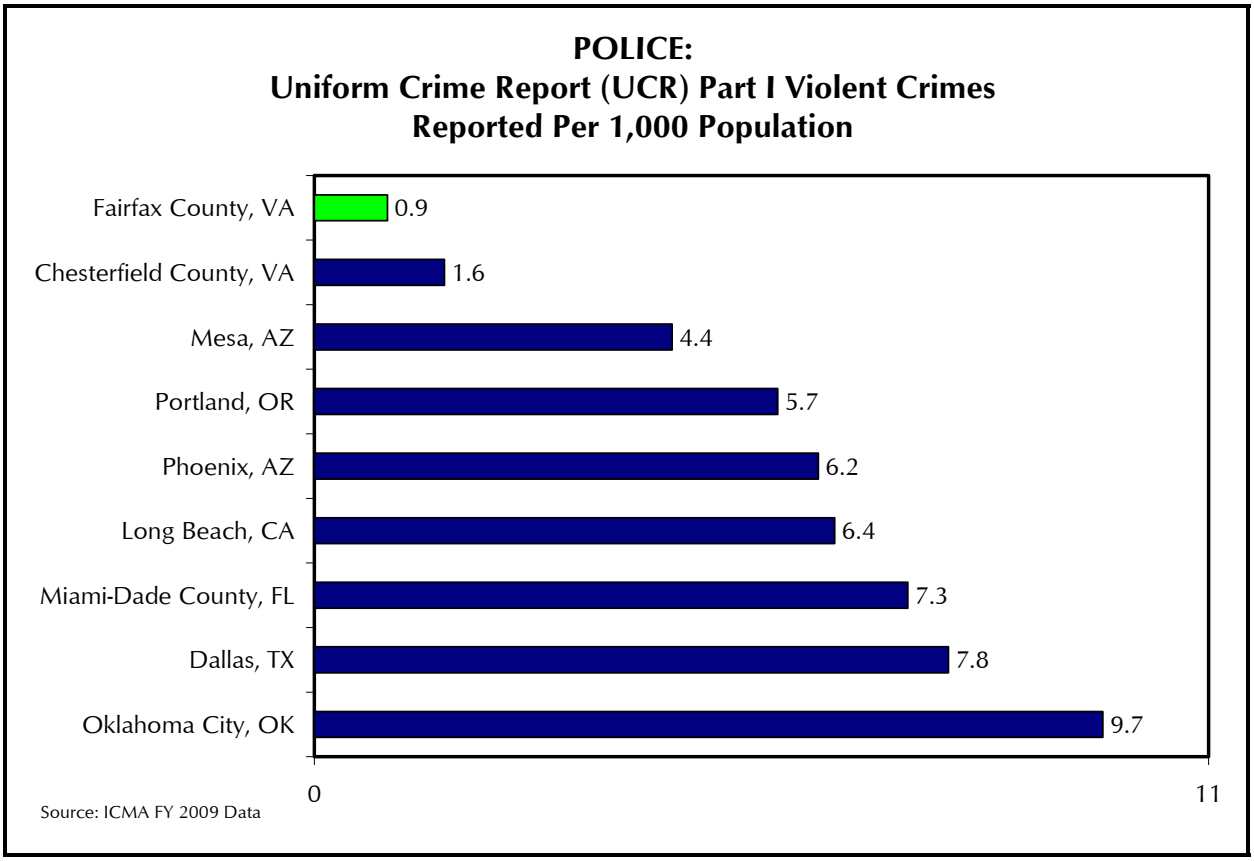

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Arson Clearance Rate
Phoenix, AZ
46.5%
Austin, TX
44.0%
Oklahoma City, OK
42.0%
Fairfax County, VA
38.7%
Portland, OR
26.1%
Dallas, TX
18.1%
San Antonio, TX
12.3%
Miami-Dade County, FL
9.3%
0%
55%
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

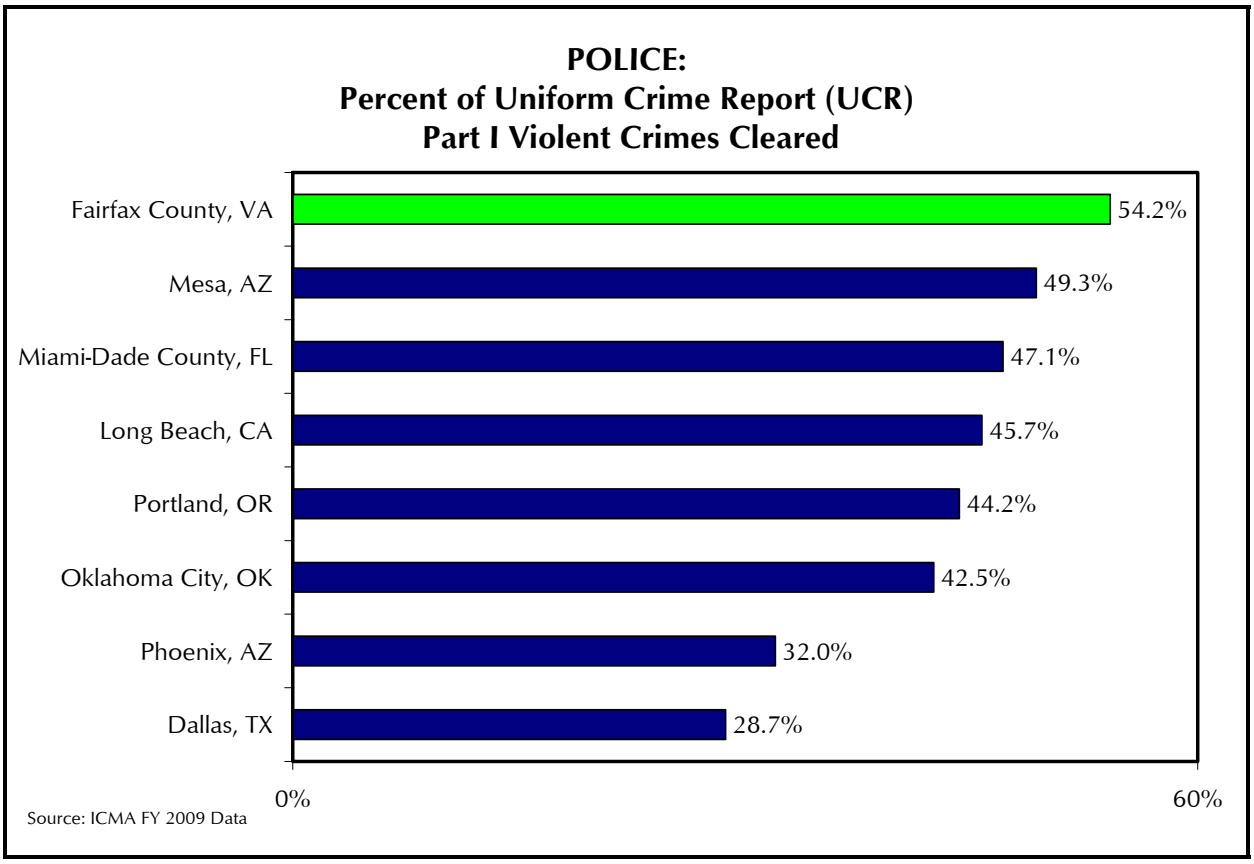

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Fire Personnel Injuries with Time Lost Per 1,000 Incidents
Austin, TX
0.44
Portland, OR
0.53
Fairfax County, VA
0.63
San Antonio, TX
0.70
Miami-Dade County, FL
0.78
Oklahoma City, OK
1.16
Phoenix, AZ
1.38
0
2
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

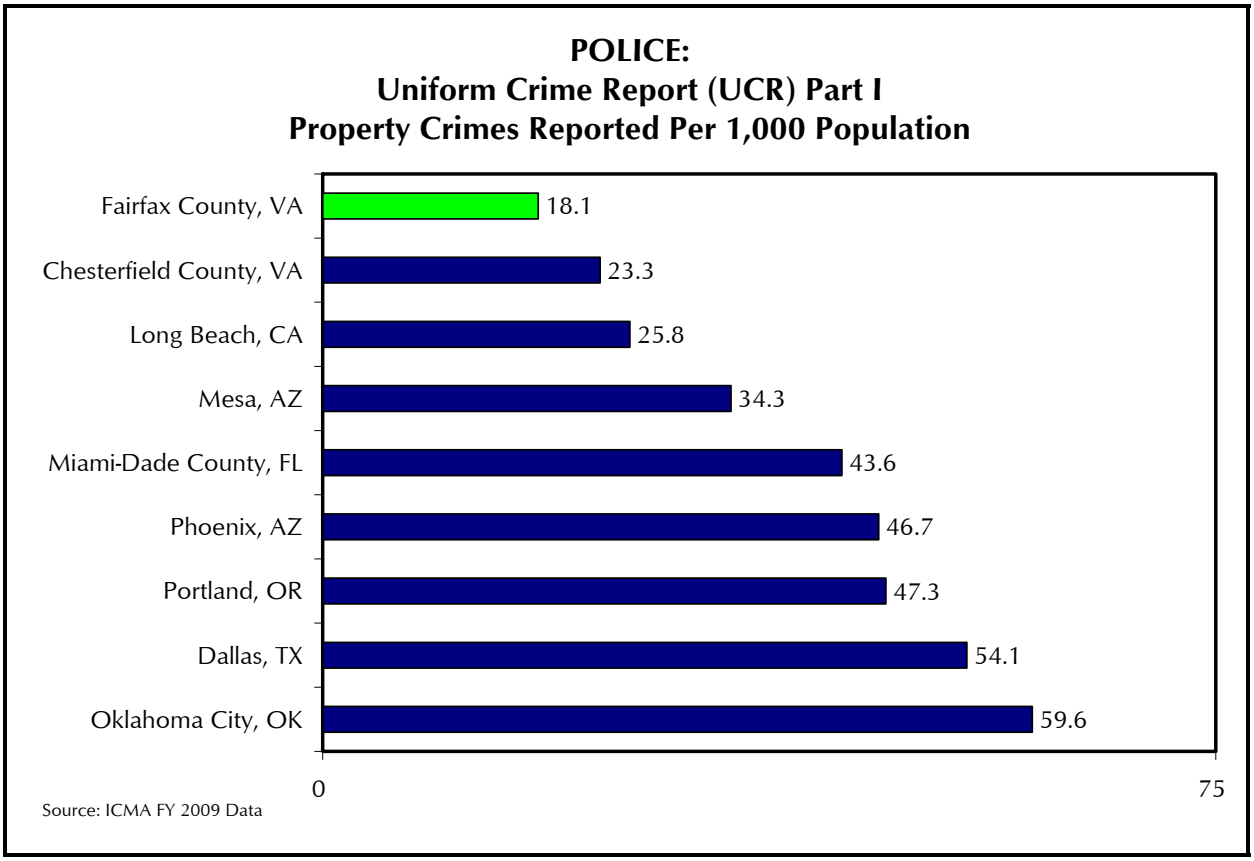

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Percent of Residential Structure Fires
Confined to Room of Origin: Multi-Family Structures
Long Beach, CA
95.6%
Austin, TX
91.2%
Portland, OR
86.9%
San Antonio, TX
85.4%
Fairfax County, VA
85.1%
Oklahoma City, OK
73.2%
Dallas, TX
64.5%
Phoenix, AZ
30.0%
0%
100%
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

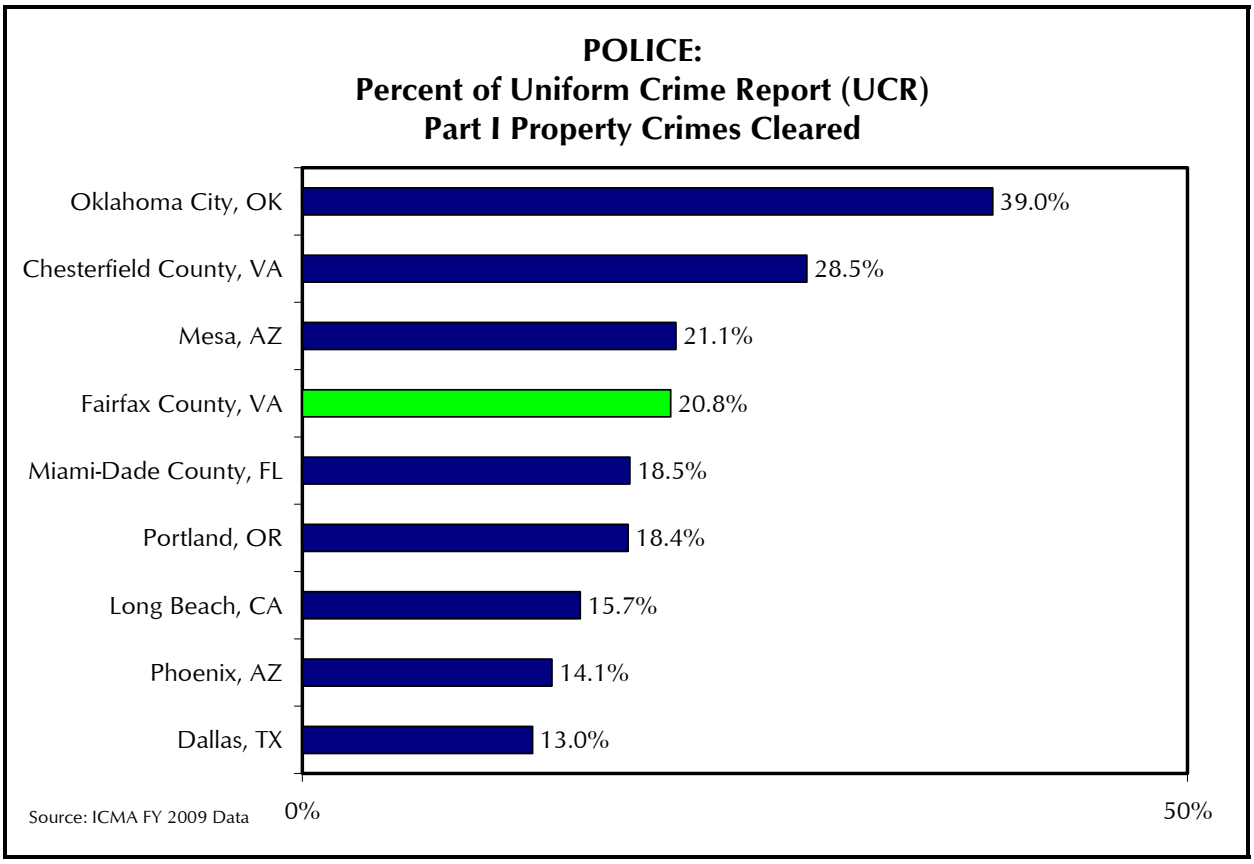

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Percent of Residential Structure Fires
Confined to Room of Origin: One- and Two-Family Structures
Long Beach, CA
85.0%
Portland, OR
82.6%
Austin, TX
73.4%
San Antonio, TX
68.8%
Oklahoma City, OK
56.9%
Fairfax County, VA
54.3%
Mesa, AZ
46.4%
Dallas, TX
42.2%
Phoenix, AZ
20.2%
0%
100%
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

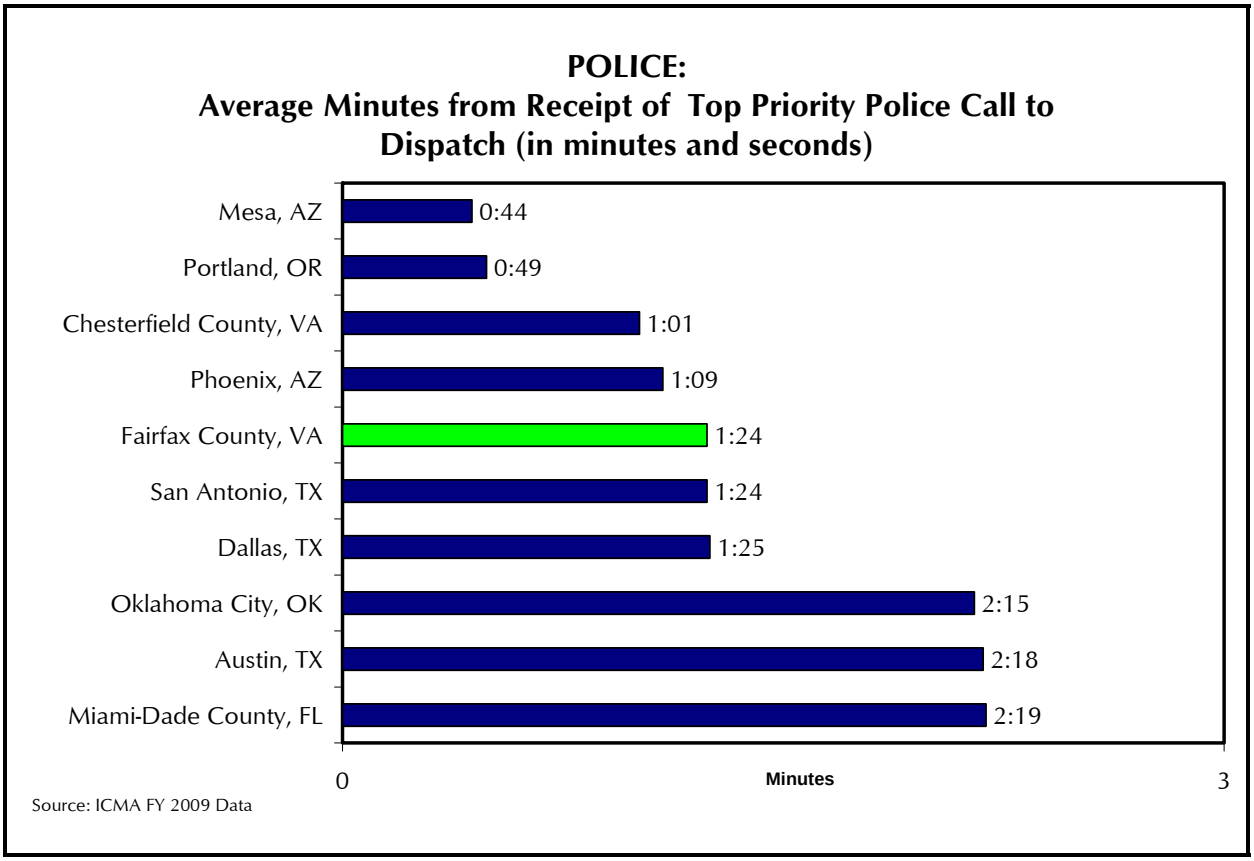

FIRE AND RESCUE:
Percent of Commercial and Industrial Structure Fires
Confined to Room of Origin
Portland, OR
87.0%
Austin, TX
79.0%
Oklahoma City, OK
73.0%
San Antonio, TX
72.0%
Fairfax County, VA
63.0%
Miami-Dade County, FL
57.0%
Dallas, TX
49.0%
Mesa, AZ
46.0%
Phoenix, AZ
17.0%
0%
100%
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

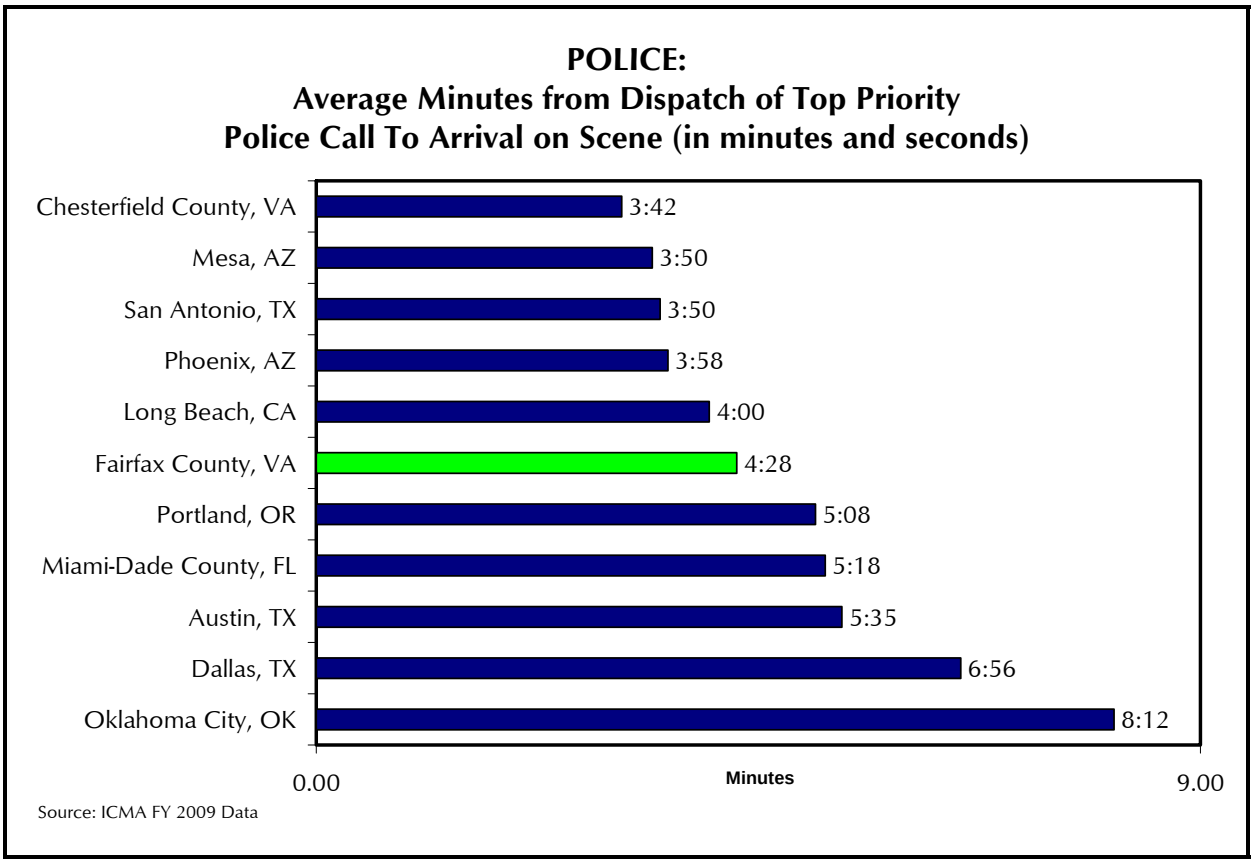

POLICE:
Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part I Violent Crimes
Reported Per 1,000 Population
Fairfax County, VA
0.9
Chesterfield County, VA
1.6
Mesa, AZ
4.4
Portland, OR
5.7
Phoenix, AZ
6.2
Long Beach, CA
6.4
Miami-Dade County, FL
7.3
Dallas, TX
7.8
Oklahoma City, OK
9.7
0
11
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

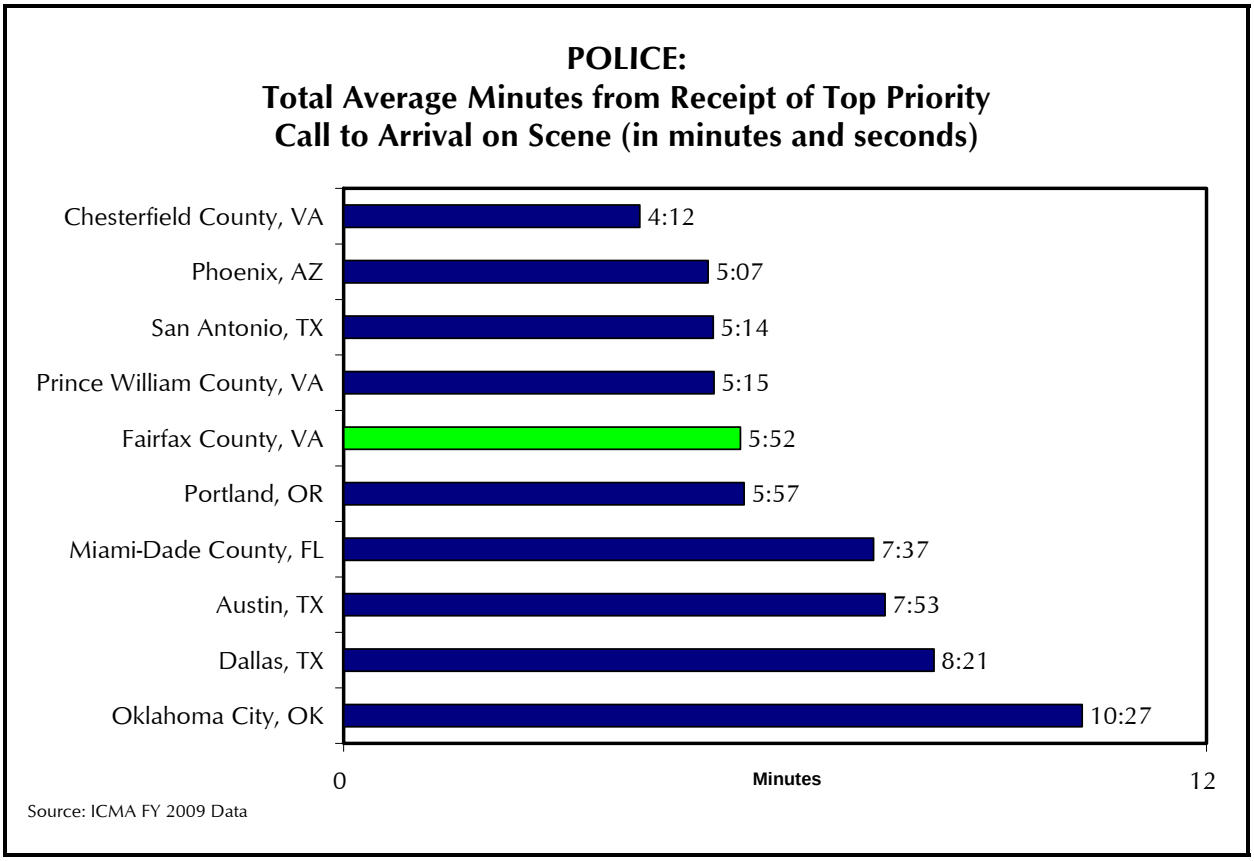

POLICE:
Percent of Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
Part I Violent Crimes Cleared
Fairfax County, VA
54.2%
Mesa, AZ
49.3%
Miami-Dade County, FL
47.1%
Long Beach, CA
45.7%
Portland, OR
44.2%
Oklahoma City, OK
42.5%
Phoenix, AZ
32.0%
Dallas, TX
28.7%
0%
60%
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

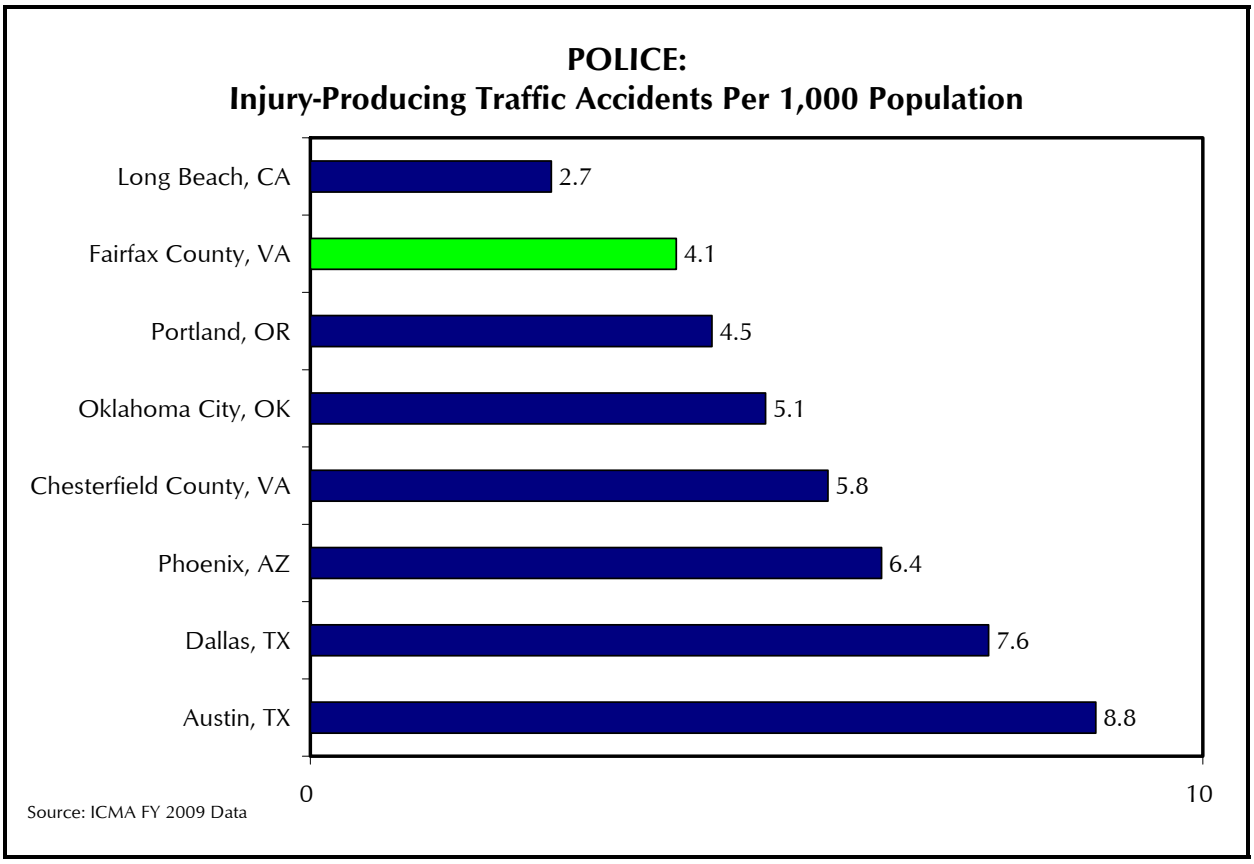

POLICE:
Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part I
Property Crimes Reported Per 1,000 Population
Fairfax County, VA
18.1
Chesterfield County, VA
23.3
Long Beach, CA
25.8
Mesa, AZ
34.3
Miami-Dade County, FL
43.6
Phoenix, AZ
46.7
Portland, OR
47.3
Dallas, TX
54.1
Oklahoma City, OK
59.6
0
75
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

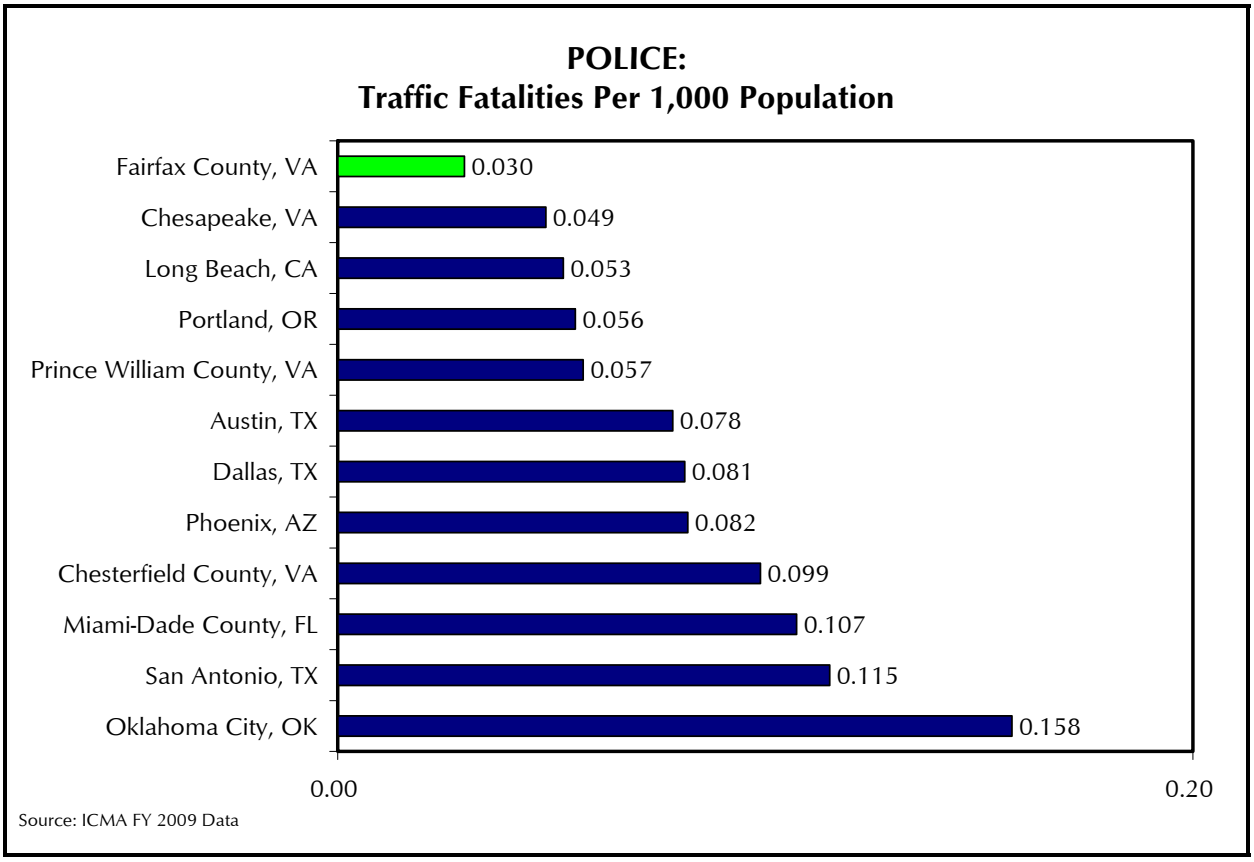

POLICE:
Percent of Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
Part I Property Crimes Cleared
Oklahoma City, OK
39.0%
Chesterfield County, VA
28.5%
Mesa, AZ
21.1%
Fairfax County, VA
20.8%
Miami-Dade County, FL
18.5%
Portland, OR
18.4%
Long Beach, CA
15.7%
Phoenix, AZ
14.1%
Dallas, TX
13.0%
0%
50%
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data

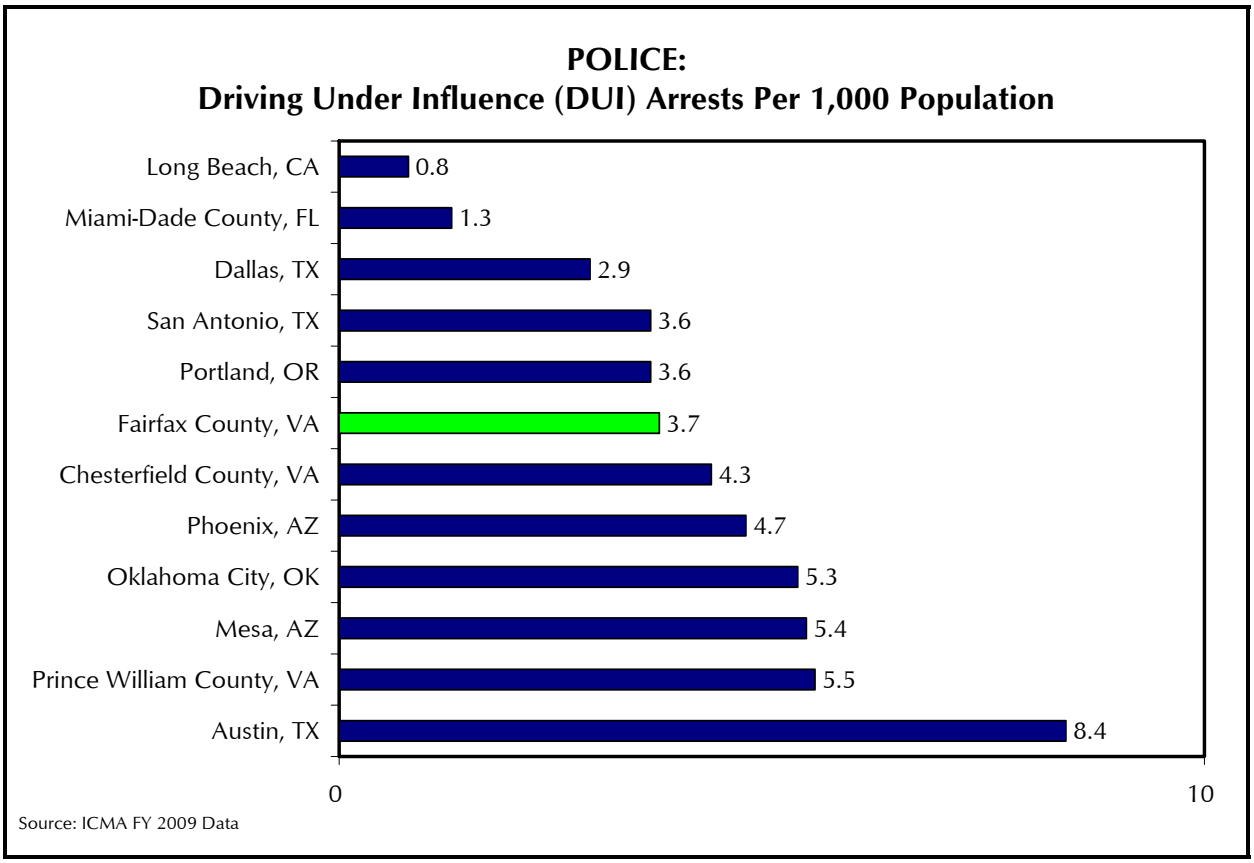

POLICE:
Average Minutes from Receipt of Top Priority Police Call to
Dispatch (in minutes and seconds)
Mesa, AZ
0:44
Portland, OR
0:49
Chesterfield County, VA
1:01
Phoenix, AZ
1:09
Fairfax County, VA
1:24
San Antonio, TX
1:24
Dallas, TX
1:25
Oklahoma City, OK
2:15
Austin, TX
2:18
Miami-Dade County, FL
2:19
0
Minutes
3
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data


POLICE:
Average Minutes from Dispatch of Top Priority
Police Call To Arrival on Scene (in minutes and seconds)
Chesterfield County, VA
3:42
Mesa, AZ
3:50
San Antonio, TX
3:50
Phoenix, AZ
3:58
Long Beach, CA
4:00
Fairfax County, VA
4:28
Portland, OR
5:08
Miami-Dade County, FL
5:18
Austin, TX
5:35
Dallas, TX
6:56
Oklahoma City, OK
8:12
0.00
Minutes
9.00
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data


POLICE:
Total Average Minutes from Receipt of Top Priority
Call to Arrival on Scene (in minutes and seconds)
Chesterfield County, VA
4:12
Phoenix, AZ
5:07
San Antonio, TX
5:14
Prince William County, VA
5:15
Fairfax County, VA
5:52
Portland, OR
5:57
Miami-Dade County, FL
7:37
Austin, TX
7:53
Dallas, TX
8:21
Oklahoma City, OK
10:27
0
Minutes
12
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data


POLICE:
Injury-Producing Traffic Accidents Per 1,000 Population
Long Beach, CA
2.7
Fairfax County, VA
4.1
Portland, OR
4.5
Oklahoma City, OK
5.1
Chesterfield County, VA
5.8
Phoenix, AZ
6.4
Dallas, TX
7.6
Austin, TX
8.8
0
10
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data


POLICE:
Traffic Fatalities Per 1,000 Population
Fairfax County, VA
0.030
Chesapeake, VA
0.049
Long Beach, CA
0.053
Portland, OR
0.056
Prince William County, VA
0.057
Austin, TX
0.078
Dallas, TX
0.081
Phoenix, AZ
0.082
Chesterfield County, VA
0.099
Miami-Dade County, FL
0.107
San Antonio, TX
0.115
Oklahoma City, OK
0.158
0.00
0.20
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data


POLICE:
Driving Under Influence (DUI) Arrests Per 1,000 Population
Long Beach, CA
0.8
Miami-Dade County, FL
1.3
Dallas, TX
2.9
San Antonio, TX
3.6
Portland, OR
3.6
Fairfax County, VA
3.7
Chesterfield County, VA
4.3
Phoenix, AZ
4.7
Oklahoma City, OK
5.3
Mesa, AZ
5.4
Prince William County, VA
5.5
Austin, TX
8.4
0
10
Source: ICMA FY 2009 Data