Index Crime Analysis 3

Murder

Definition

Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, as defined in the UCR program, is the willful killing of one human being by another.

This offense category includes any death resulting from a fight, argument, quarrel, assault or commission of a crime. Attempted murder and assaults with the intent to kill are not counted as murder, but are included in UCR as aggravated assaults. Suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are also excluded from the murder classification.

The classification of this offense, as well as for all Index Crimes, is based solely on police investigation and not upon determinations by courts, medical examiners, coroners, juries, or other judicial bodies.

Analysis

Volume

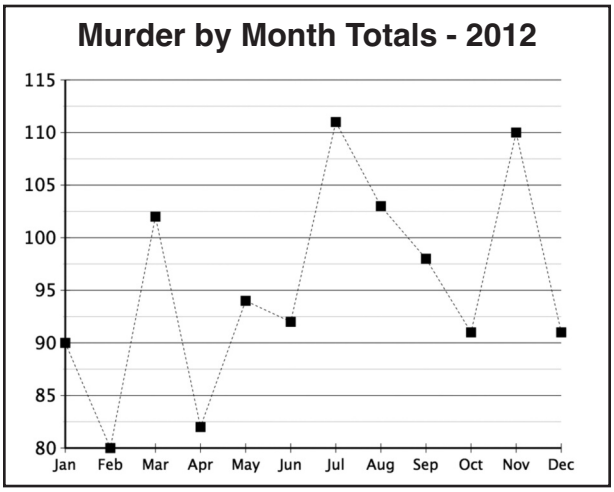
The reported number of murders committed in Texas in 2012 was 1,144. This represented a 5.1 percent increase in the number of murders when compared to 2011. More persons were murdered in Texas in May, while the fewest were killed during January. Property loss during the commission of the crime of murder amounted to $330,897.

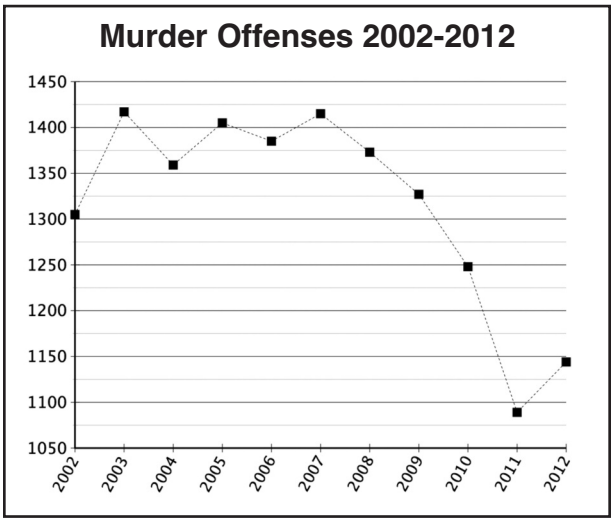
Rate

The murder rate for Texas in 2012 was 4.4 murders for every 100,000 persons, a increase of 4.8 percent from 2011.

Clearance Rate

Texas law enforcement agencies continue to be successful in solving a greater percentage of murders than any other Index Crime. In 2012, 76 percent of all murders were cleared by arrest or exceptional means.



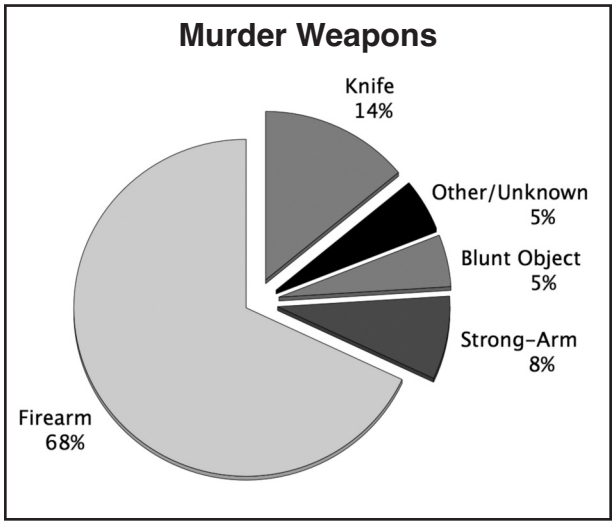


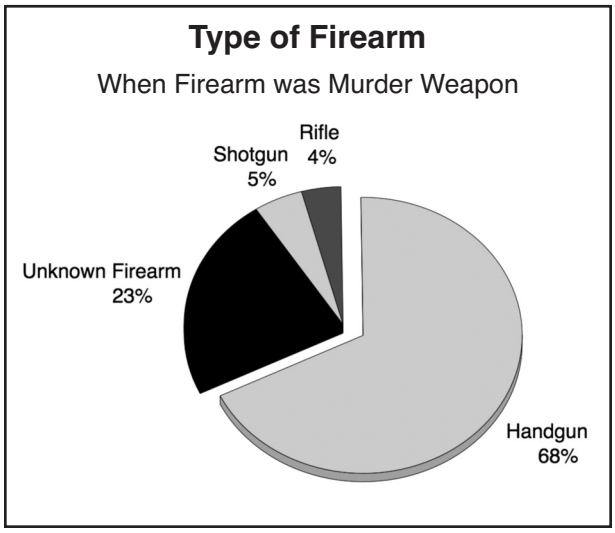
Nature

Of the 1,144 murders in 2012, 68 percent were committed by the use of firearms. Knives or cutting instruments were the weapons of choice in 14 percent of the reported cases. The use of strong-arm weapons (hands, feet and fists) accounted for 8 percent of the murders. Blunt objects were utilized

in 5 percent of the murders and in the remaining 5 percent, the murder weapon of choice was listed as unknown or other, which includes poison, fire, drugs, drowning, strangulation and asphyxiation.

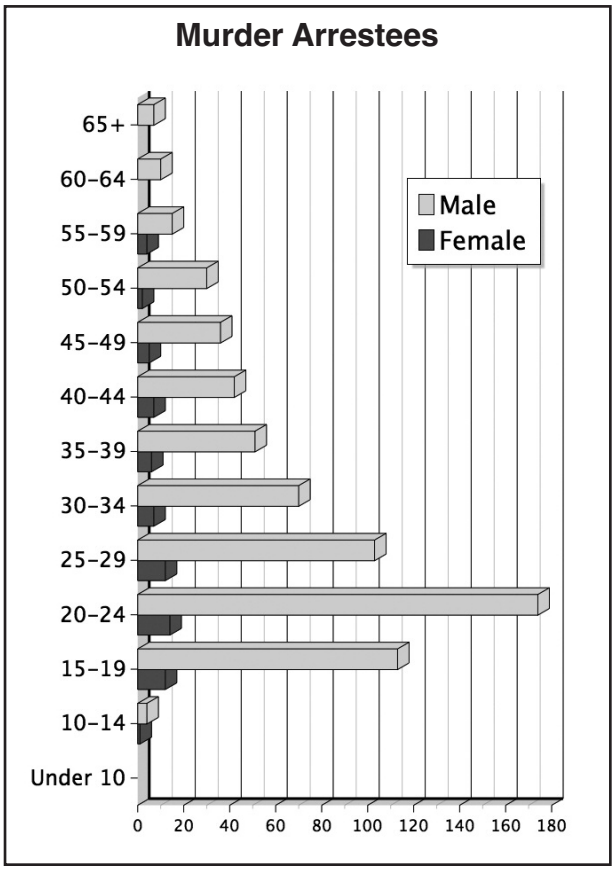
Of the murders in which firearms were the instrument, handguns accounted for 68 percent of the weapons (or 46 percent of all murders). Shotguns were employed in 5 percent of the firearm murders, rifles were used in 4 percent and firearms whose type was not stated accounted for the remaining 23 percent.





Persons Arrested

When compared to 2011 statistics, the number of persons arrested for the crime of murder in Texas increased 8.6 percent. Of the persons arrested for murder, 90 percent were male; 4 percent were age 16 and under, 67 percent were White and 32 percent were Black; and .8 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander; 60 percent were not Hispanic; and 40 percent were Hispanic.



Justifiable Homicide

Statistics on murder circumstances, victims, and victim/offender relationships on the next page include justifiable homicides. Justifiable homicide is the killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty or the killing (during the commission of a felony) of a felon by a private citizen. In 2012, there were 103 justifiable homicides, of which, 53 were felons killed by private citizens, and 50 were felons killed by police.

Murder Circumstances

Supplementary homicide information on murder circumstances is collected in two broad categories: felony type and non-felony type. While, in Texas, all murders are felonies, felony type circumstances refer to murders which occur in conjunction with the commission of another crime.

Murder Circumstances			
Circumstance Type	Group %	Circumstance	Number
Felony Type	11%	Rape	1
		Robbery	102
		Burglary	15
		Larceny	0
		Arson	1
		Prostitution & Commercialized Vice	0
		Motor Vehicle Theft	1
		Other Sex Offenses	0
		Narcotic Drug Laws	8
		Gambling	0
		Other Felony Type	4
		All Suspected Felony Type	6
Non Felony Type	58%	Lover's Triangle	13
		Child Killed by Baby Sitter	5
		Brawl Due to Influence of Alcohol	7
		Brawl Due to Influence of Narcotics	4
		Argument Over Money or Property	15
		Other Arguments	233
		Juvenile Gang Killings	0
		Gangland Killings	15
		Institutional Killings	0
		Sniper Attack	0
		Other Circumstances	431
Justifiable	8%	Felon Killed by Private Citizen	53
		Felon Killed by Police	50
Unknown	23%	Unknown Circumstances	285

MURDER VICTIMS

Law enforcement agencies participating in UCR provide additional homicide information so that an in-depth analysis of murder is possible. Through the Supplemental Homicide Reporting system, information is provided that identifies the age, sex, race and ethnic origin of both victims and offenders; the relationship of the victim to the offender; the murder weapon; and the circumstances of the offense.

Based on the information relating to murder victims it can be determined that 77 percent of murder victims, in 2012, were male and 23 percent were female. The age group with the greatest number of murder victims for males is the 20 to 24 age group. The age group with the greatest number of murder victims for females is the 30 to 34 age group.

Of the victims whose race was known, 57 percent were White, 35 percent were Black and the remaining 8% were Asian/Pacific Islander. For White victims, the most common age group was the 20 to 24 age bracket. For Black victims, the most common age group was the 20-24 age bracket. Of the murder victims whose ethnicity was known, 69 percent were not Hispanic and 31 percent were Hispanic.

Relationship of Victim to Offender			
Relationship Type	Group %	Victim's Relationship	Number
Family	15%	Husband	11
		Wife	48
		Common-Law Husband	3
		Common-Law Wife	6
		Mother	9
		Father	11
		Son	20
		Daughter	20
		Brother	8
		Sister	4
		In-Law	16
		Stepfather	2
		Stepmother	1
		Stepson	9
		Stepdaughter	1
		Other Family	21
Not Family, but Known to Victim	32%	Neighbor	18
		Acquaintance	246
		Boyfriend	17
		Girlfriend	48
		Ex-Husband	0
		Ex-Wife	9
		Employee	0
		Employer	0
		Friend	30
		Homosexual Relationship	5
		Other--Known to Victim	20
Other	53%	Stranger	338
		Unknown Relationship	328

Murder Victims by Age and Sex
65+
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
18-19
15-17
10-14
5-9
Under 5
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180
200
Male
Female

Murder Offenders by Age and Sex
65+
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
17-19
15-16
10-14
5-9
Under 5
0
50
100
150
200
250
Male
Female

RAPE

DEFINITION

Rape, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Statistics reported in this crime category include assaults to commit forcible rape, however, statutory rape (rape against a female under the age of consent) and sexual assaults on males are excluded.

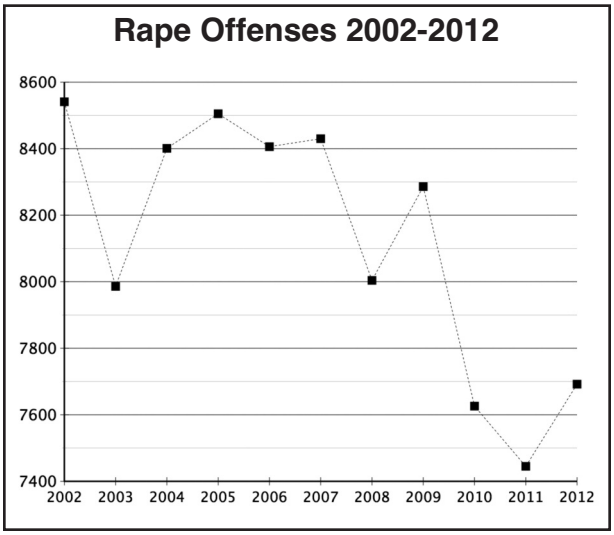
ANALYSIS

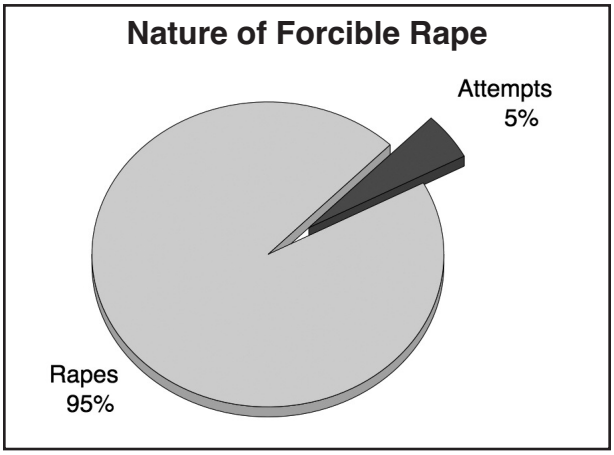
Volume

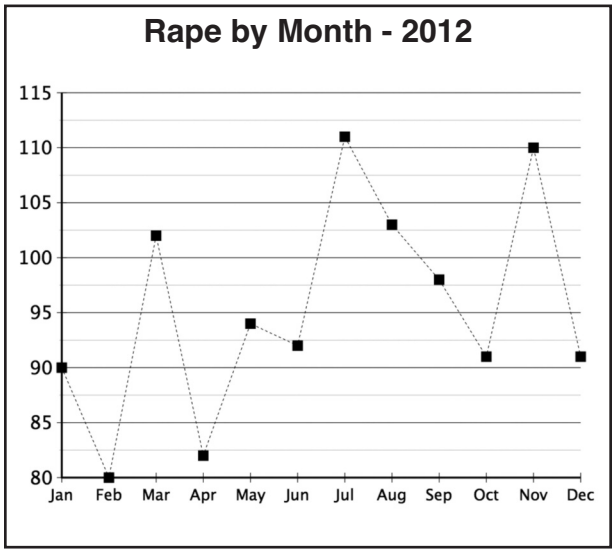
The reported number of rapes committed in Texas in 2012 was 7,692. This represented an increase of 3.3 percent in the number of rapes when compared with 2011. More rapes were committed in Texas in July than in any other month, while the fewest rapes were committed during December. Property loss during the commission of rape amounted to $145,615.

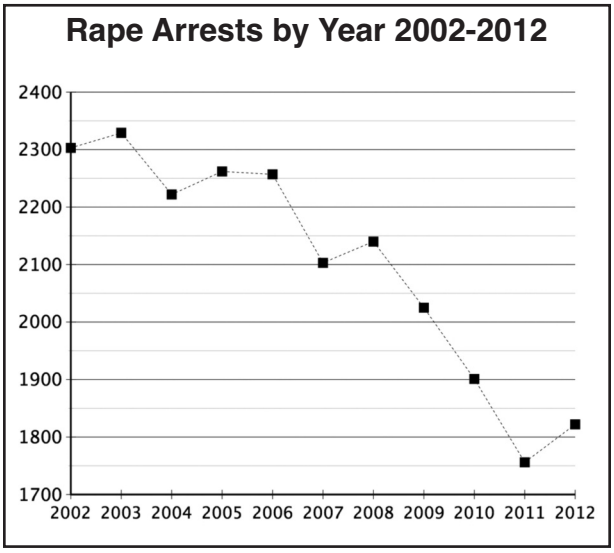
Rate

The rape rate for Texas in 2012 was 29.5 rapes for every 100,000 persons. This is an increase of 3.3 percent from 2011.









Clearance Rate

Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies continue to be successful in clearing 44 percent of all rapes that were reported. With the attempts to commit forcible rape, 44 percent were cleared.

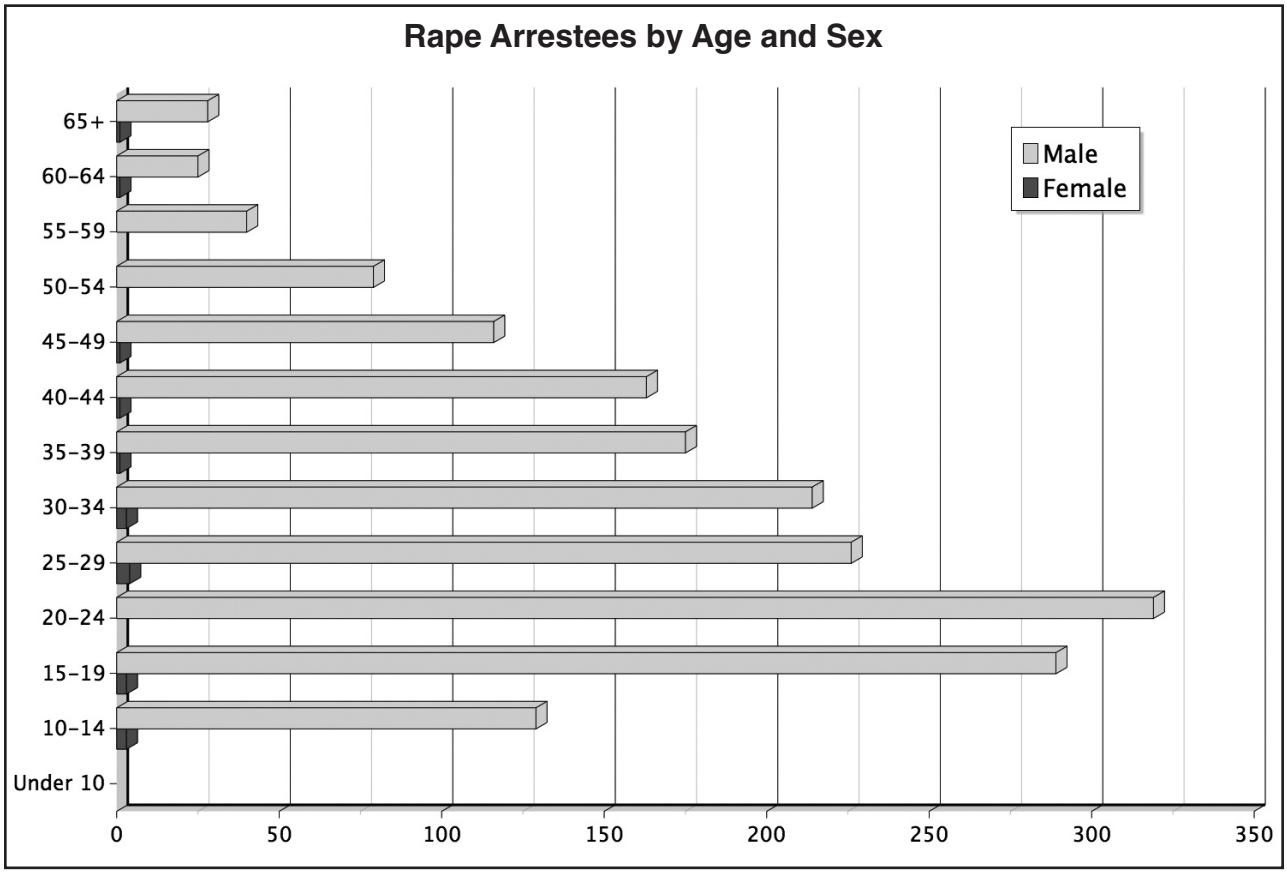
Nature

Forcible rape differs from other violent crimes because, in many cases, the victim is hesitant to report the offense to police. The rigors of court procedures, embarrassment and fear of any accompanying stigma exert a deterrent effect upon the victim's willingness to contact the police. The presence of prior relationship between the victim and offender may make the determination of force difficult to establish, while the usual clandestine nature of this crime presents a problem in verification. As attitudes towards the reporting of rape change, trends in the number of reported offenses can be expected to change accordingly.

Of all reported forcible rapes during 2012, 7 percent were attempts to commit forcible rape and 93 percent were rapes by force.

Persons Arrested

When compared with 2011, the number of persons arrested for forcible rape increased 3.6 percent to 1,822. Of the forcible rape arrestees in 2012, 13 percent were juveniles (16 and under) and the remainder were adults; 99 percent were male; 73 percent were White, and 26 percent were Black; 60 percent were not Hispanic and 40 percent were Hispanic. The 20 to 24 age group had the highest number of arrests. Because, by definition, the crime of rape is limited to the carnal knowledge of a female by a male, the overwhelming majority of persons arrested for this crime are male. The small number of females arrested for rape, 19 persons in 2012, are generally arrested as accomplices.

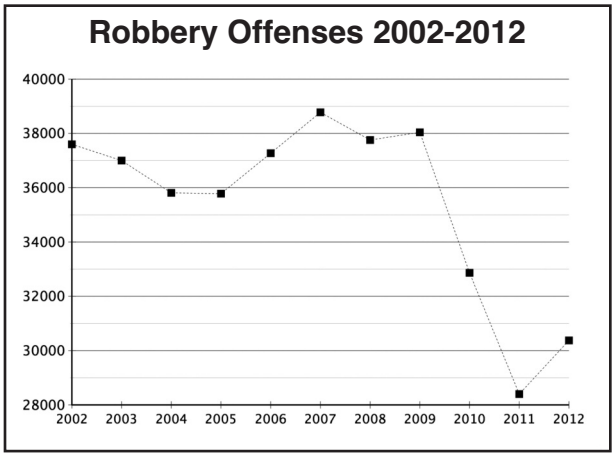


ROBBERY

DEFINITION

Robbery, in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force, threat of force or violence, or by putting the victim in fear.

Robbery is a violent crime that frequently results in injury to the victim. Included in this category are assaults to commit robbery and attempted robberies.



ANALYSIS

Volume

The reported number of robberies committed in Texas in 2012 was 30,375. This represented a 7 percent increase in the number of robberies when compared with 2011. More robberies were committed in Texas in December than in any other month, while the fewest robberies were committed during the month of February.

Rate

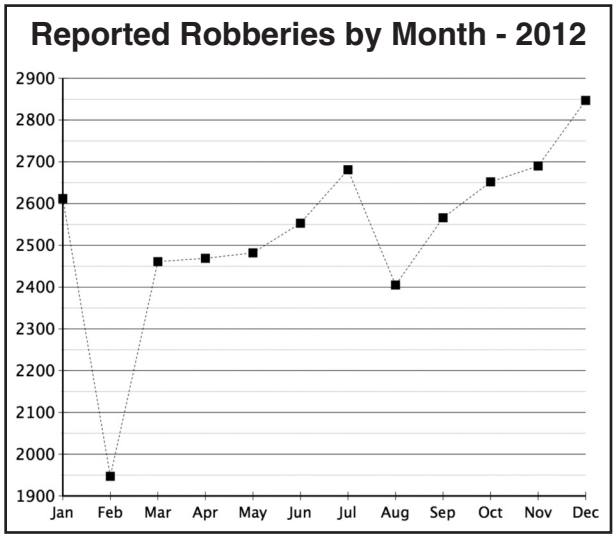
The robbery rate for Texas in 2012 was 116.6 robberies for every 100,000 persons. The change in the rate of robbery from 2011 was an increase of 5.4 percent.

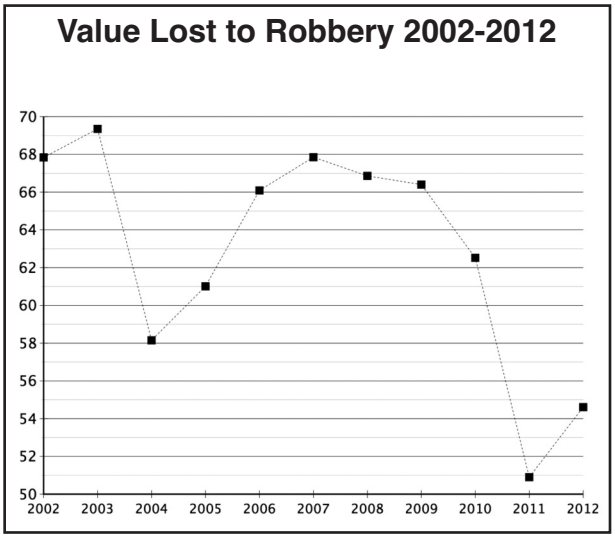
Clearance Rate

Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing or solving by arrest 25 percent of all robberies that were reported. Of the robberies by type of weapon used, the highest clearance rate was strong-arm at 42.5 percent, next highest was firearm at 38.7 percent, other dangerous weapons had a clearance rate of 9.7 percent, and the lowest clearance rate was the classification of knife or cutting instrument at 9.0 percent.

Nature

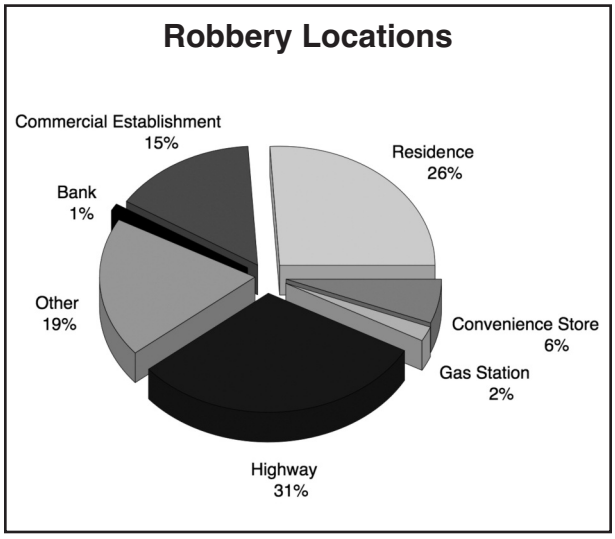
In 2012, property loss during the commission of robberies amounted to $54,614,258. The state total was a 7.2 percent increase from the property loss experienced in 2011. The value of property stolen

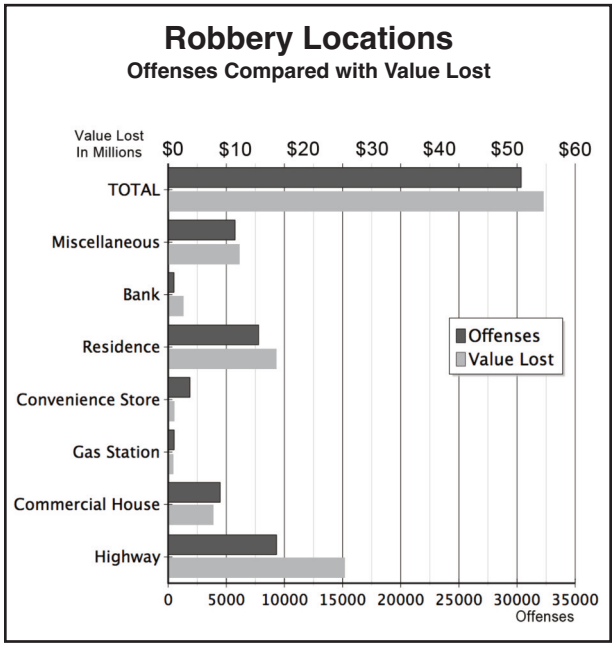




during robberies averaged $1,798 per incident. Average dollar losses ranged from $753 taken during robberies of convenience stores to $4,680 per bank robbery. The impact of this violent crime cannot be measured in terms of monetary loss alone. While the object of robbery is money or property, the crime involves force or threat of force and many victims suffer serious personal injury.

Robberies on streets or highways accounted for 31 percent of the offenses in this category. Robberies of commercial and financial establishments accounted for 16 percent of the total, and robberies occurring at residences, 26 percent. The remainder were convenience stores and gas stations (8 percent) and miscellaneous types (19 percent).

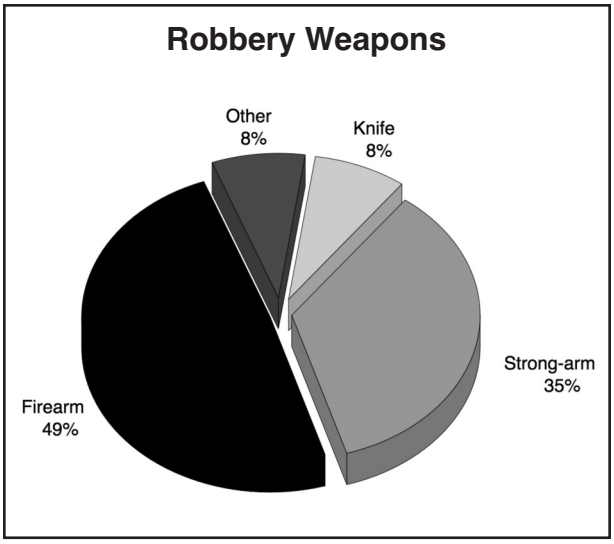


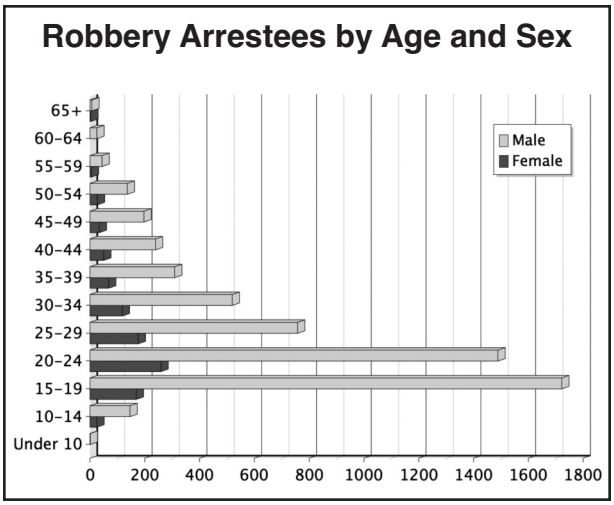


Of all reported robberies in 2012, 49 percent were committed with the use of firearms. Strong-arm tactics accounted for 35 percent, knives or cutting instruments were used in 8 percent and other dangerous weapons made up the remainder.

Persons Arrested

Statewide arrests for robbery in 2012 amounted to 6,517 persons. When compared with 2011, the number of persons arrested for robbery decreased 2.7 percent. Of the robbery arrestees in 2012, 10 percent were juveniles with the remainder being adults; 86 percent were male; 55 percent were White; 44 percent were Black; 67 percent were not Hispanic and 33 percent were Hispanic. The age group reflecting the largest number of robbery arrestees was the 15-to-19-year-old bracket.





Aggravated Assault

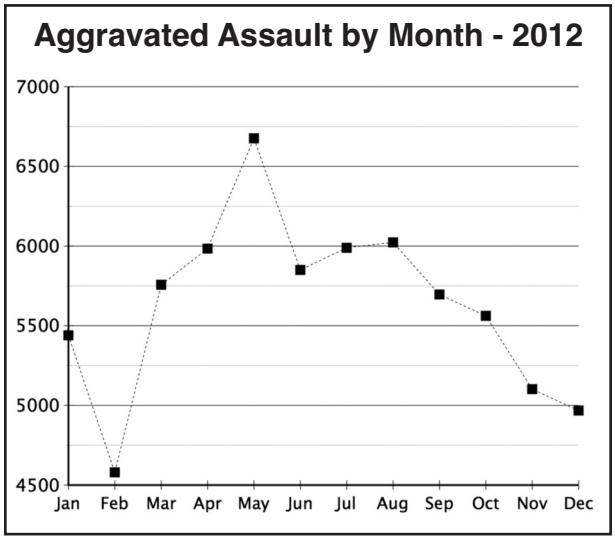
Definition

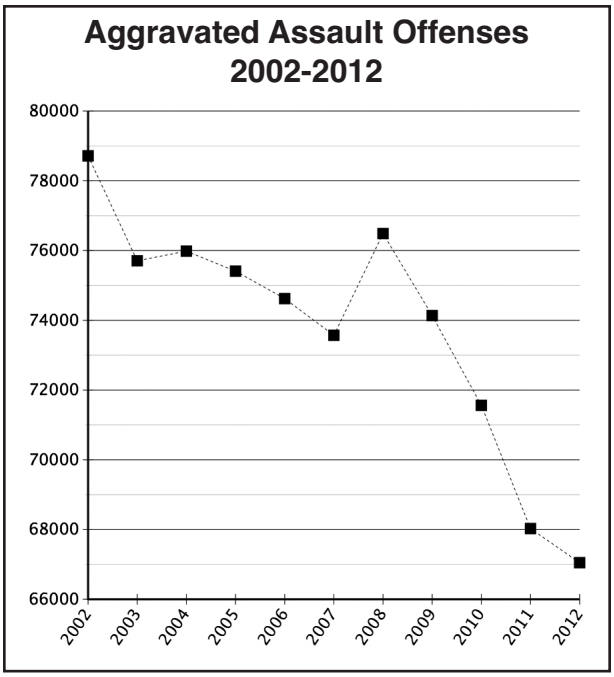
Aggravated Assault is defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Statistics for aggravated assault include attempts to commit aggravated assault.

Analysis

Volume

The reported number of aggravated assaults committed in Texas, in 2012, was 67,050. This represented a decrease of 1.4 percent when compared to 2011. More aggravated assaults were committed in Texas in May than in any other month, while the fewest aggravated assaults were committed during February.





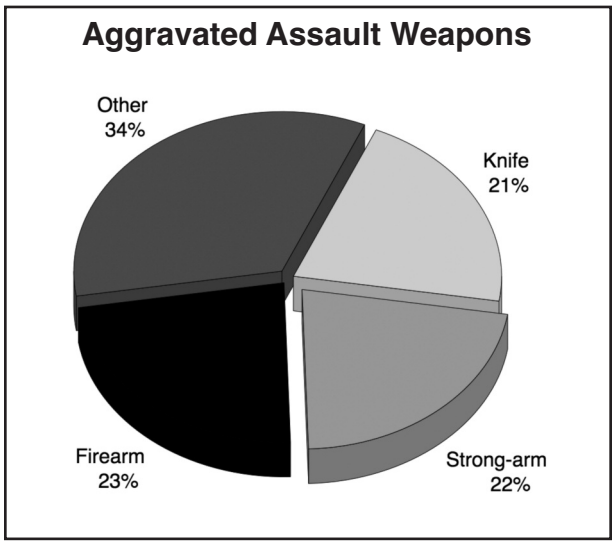
Rate

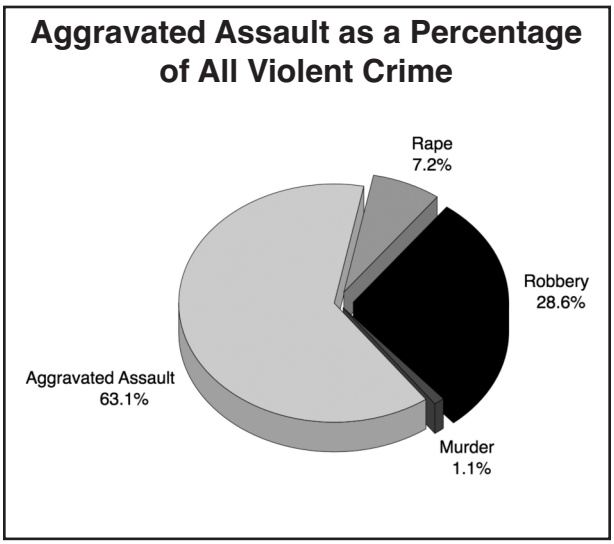
The aggravated assault rate for Texas in 2012 was 257 aggravated assaults for every 100,000 persons. The change in the rate of aggravated assault from 2011 was a decrease of 3.1 percent.

Nature

Of all reported aggravated assaults in 2012, 23 percent were committed with the use of firearms. Other dangerous weapons accounted for 34 percent of the aggravated assaults. Strong-arm weapons (hands, feet, fist, etc.) accounted for another 21 percent and knives or cutting instruments made up the remaining 22 percent.

The use or attempted use of a dangerous weapon in an assault or the serious injury inflicted by hands, fists or feet is what separates this index offense from assaults categorized as “simple assaults”. Texans reported 308,853 simple assaults in 2012.



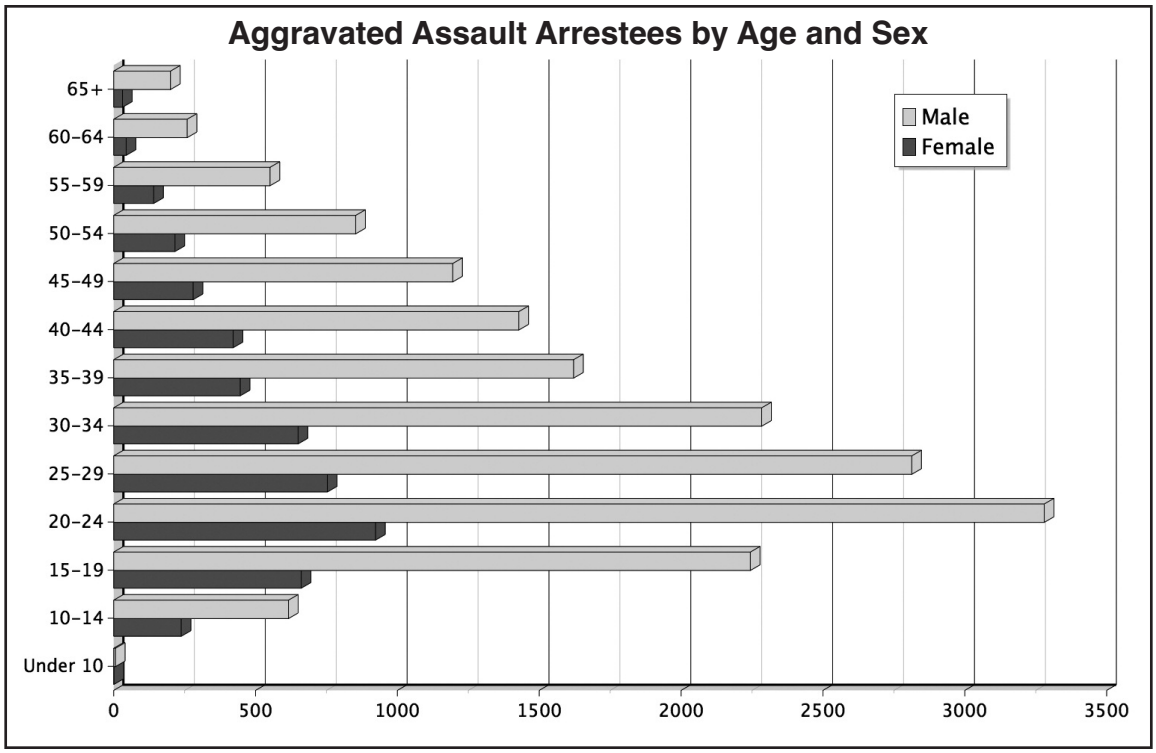


Clearance Rate

Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing 54 percent of all aggravated assaults that were reported. Of the aggravated assaults by type of weapon used, knife or cutting instrument assaults experienced the highest rate of clearance (64 percent), while aggravated assault by firearm showed the lowest rate of clearance (42 percent).

Persons Arrested

Texas law enforcement agencies arrested 22,155 persons for aggravated assault in 2012. When compared with 2011, the number of aggravated assault arrests increased 0.2 percent. Of the aggravated assault arrestees in 2012, 8.2 percent were juveniles (16 and under); 78 percent were male; 69 percent were White; 30 percent were Black and the remainder were other races; 37 percent were Hispanic and 64 percent were not Hispanic. The age group with the highest number of aggravated assault arrestees was the 20-to-24-year-old bracket.



BURGLARY

DEFINITION

Burglary, for Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, is the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. While the use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary, attempted forcible entries to commit burglary are counted in this crime's statistics.

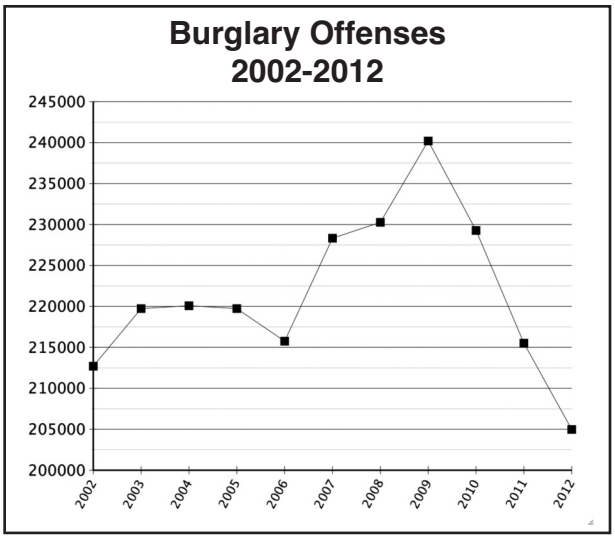
ANALYSIS

Volume

The reported number of burglaries committed in Texas in 2012 was 204,976. This number represents a 5 percent decrease when compared with the number of burglaries in 2011. More burglaries were committed in January than in any other month. The month with the fewest burglaries was February.

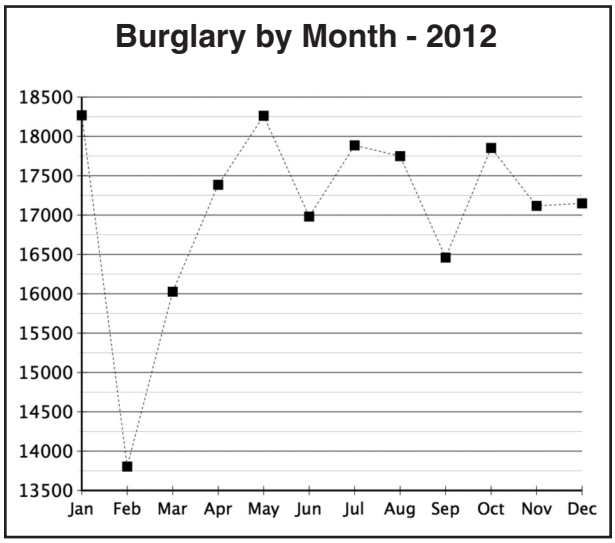
Rate

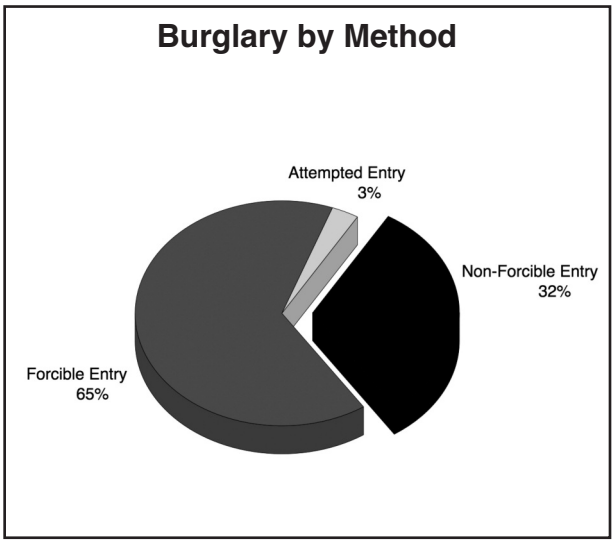
The 2012 burglary rate for Texas was 786.6 for every 100,000 persons. The change in the burglary rate from 2011 was a decrease of 6.3 percent.

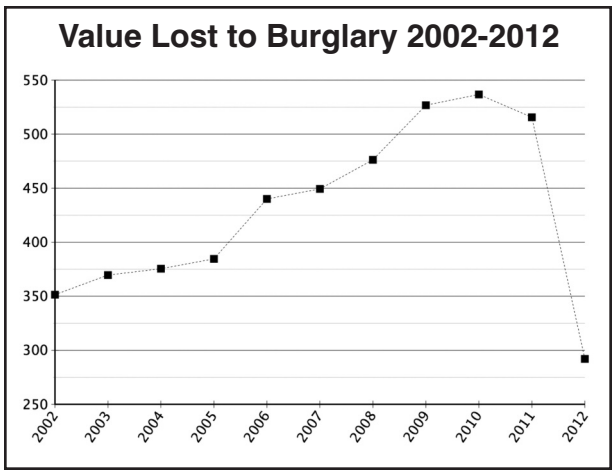


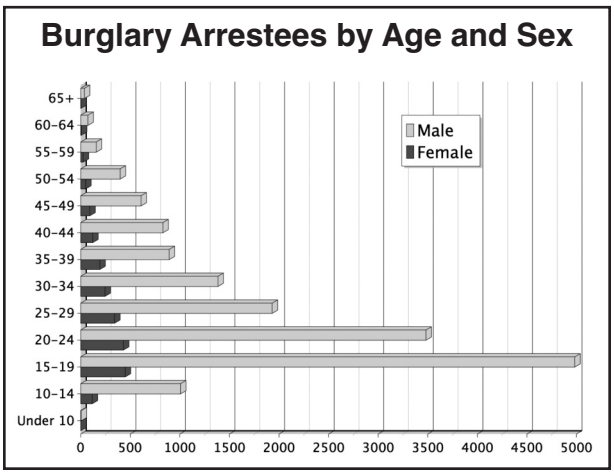
Nature

Of all reported burglaries in 2012, 73 percent occurred at residences. Forcible entry accounted for 65 percent of all burglaries, while 32 percent were unlawful entries without force and the remainder were forcible entry attempts. Of the offenses for which the time of occurrence was known, 45 percent were during the day with 27 percent during the night, and the value lost was greater during the day (46 percent) than at night (22 percent).









Value

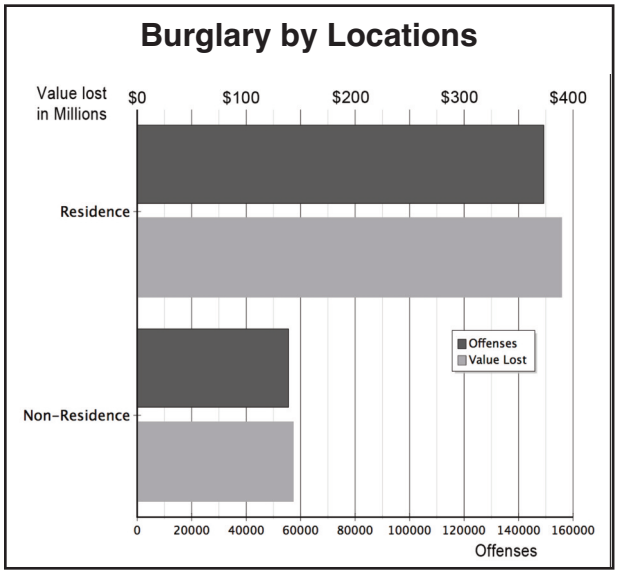
In 2012, Texas burglary victims suffered losses totaling $516,173,705. This total represented an increase of .1 percent when compared to 2011 total burglary losses. The average dollar loss per burglary was $2,518. The average loss for residential offenses was $2,528, while for non-residential property, it was $2,492.

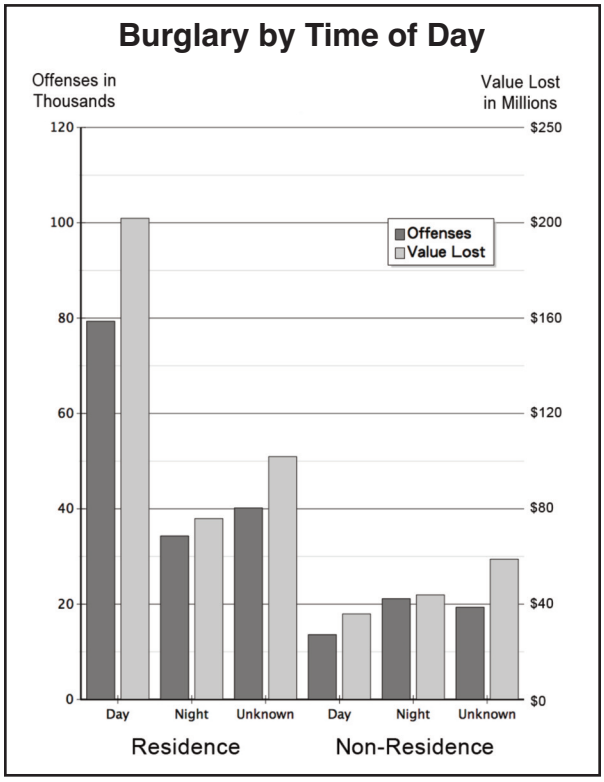
Clearance Rate

Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing or solving by arrest 10 percent of all burglaries reported. Burglaries classified as unlawful entry had the highest rate of clearance (12 percent). Attempted forcible entry and forcible entry both had (10 percent) clearance rate.

Persons Arrested

In 2012, 17,857 arrests for burglary were made by Texas law enforcement agencies. When compared to 2011, the number of persons arrested for burglary decreased 4 percent. Of the burglary arrestees, 16 percent were juveniles (16 and under) with the remainder being adults; 88 percent were male; 72 percent were White; 28 percent were Black; 63 percent were not Hispanic and 37 percent were Hispanic. The age group with the largest number of burglary arrestees was the 15-to-19 year-old group.



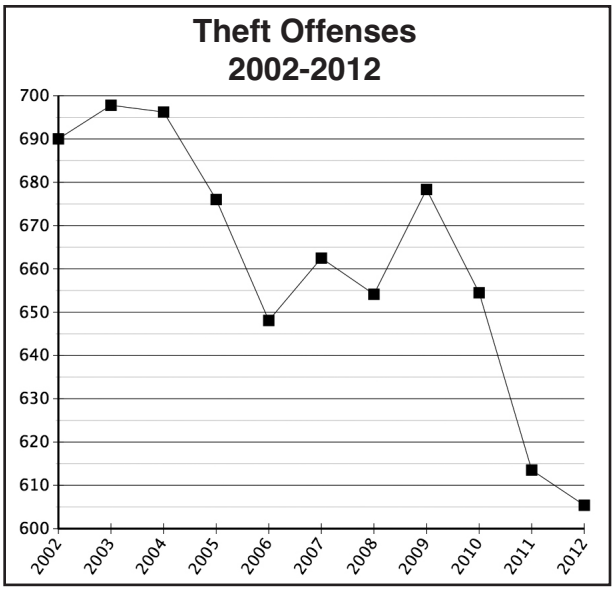


Larceny-Theft

Definition

Larceny-Theft, in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Larceny-Theft includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories, bicycle thefts, and other things of value in which no use of force, violence or fraud occurs.

This crime classification does not include embezzlement, 'con' games, forgery, and the passing of worthless checks. Motor vehicle theft is not included in this category as it is a separate index crime offense.



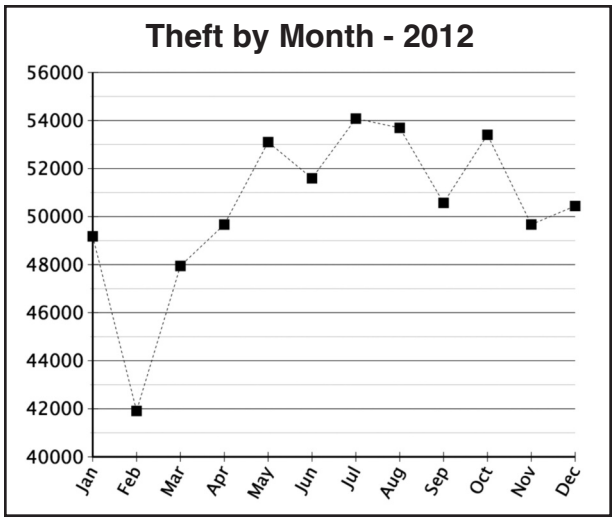
Analysis

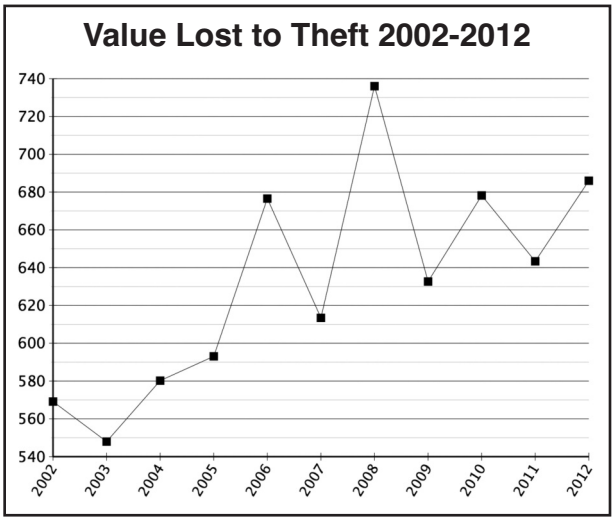
Volume

The reported number of thefts committed in Texas in 2012 was 605,362, making this the largest crime category of the Index Crimes. The volume of theft in 2012 decreased 1.3 percent from 2011. More thefts were committed in Texas in July than in any other month, while the fewest thefts were committed during February. It is reasonable to expect that many offenses in this category, particularly where the value of goods stolen is small, are never reported to police agencies.

Rate

The 2012 theft rate for Texas was 2,323 thefts for every 100,000 persons. The change in the theft rate from 2011 was a decrease of 2.7 percent.





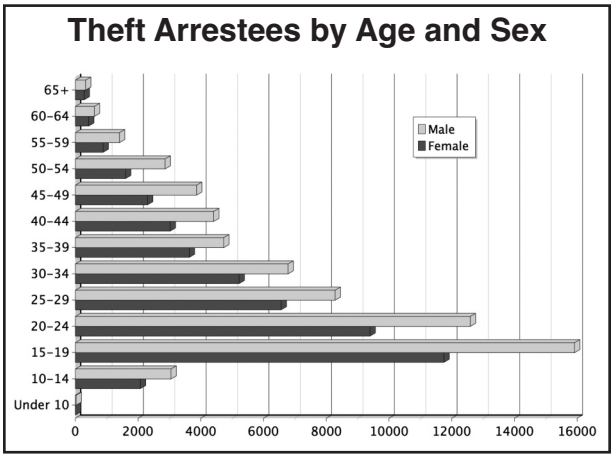
Nature

In 2012, theft victims suffered losses totaling $686,004,702. This total represents an increase of 6.6 percent when compared with 2011 total theft losses. The average dollar loss per theft was $1,133, up from $1,079 in 2011. Thefts in the 'under $50' category accounted for 27 percent of all reported thefts (but only .4 percent of the value lost), while thefts of values greater than $200 accounted for 52 percent of the total (and 97 percent of the total value lost). The remainder of the thefts were between $50 and $200--these thefts accounted for 21 percent of the volume (and 2 percent of the value lost).

For data collection, larceny-theft is divided into nine categories: pocket-picking, purse-snatching, shoplifting, thefts from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts, theft of bicycles, theft from buildings, theft from coin-operated machines, and all other thefts (except motor vehicles). Of the nine theft categories, the highest average theft was all other thefts, which yielded an average $1,846 per reported occurrence. Thefts from motor vehicles averaged $910 per report, while the average purse-snatching resulted in a $2,080 loss and the average loss to victims of pocket-picking was $932. The lowest average value lost to theft was shoplifting with an average of $198.

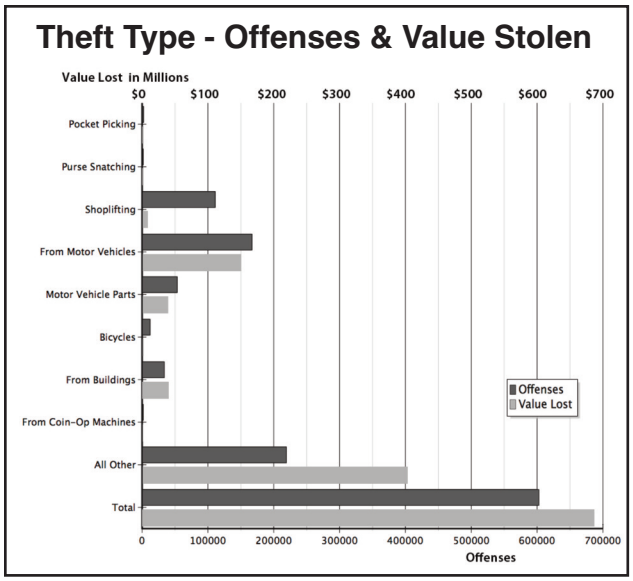
Clearance Rate

Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing or solving by arrest 19 percent of all reported thefts. As with other non-violent property crimes, theft is primarily a crime of opportunity. The factors of opportunity and stealth work in the favor of perpetrators and against police detection, thereby reducing available solutions for this offense.



Persons Arrested

Texas law enforcement agencies made 112,002 larceny-theft arrests in 2012. When compared with 2011, the number of persons arrested for theft increased 2.2 percent. Of the theft arrestees, 12 percent were juveniles (16 and under); 58 percent were male; 72 percent were White; 27 percent were Black and the remainder were other races; 66 percent were not Hispanic and 34 percent were Hispanic. The age group with the largest number of theft arrestees was the 15-to-19 year-old group.



Value of Property Stolen in Theft

Type of Theft	# of Offenses	Property Amount	Average Loss
Pocket-Picking	2,665	$2,485,813	$933
Purse-Snatching	2,017	$4,196,966	$2,081
Shoplifting	111,450	$22,069,838	$198
Theft from Motor Vehicles	167,276	$152,245,606	$910
Motor Vehicle Parts	53,747	$47,081,594	$876
Bicycles	12,487	$4,314,737	$346
Theft from Buildings	34,091	$47,533,912	$1,394
Theft from Coin-Operated Machines	2,031	$676,420	$333
All Other	219,598	$405,399,816	$1,846
TOTAL	**605,362**	**$686,004,702**	**$8,917**

Motor Vehicle Theft

Definition

Motor Vehicle Theft, for UCR purposes, is the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is defined as a self-propelled vehicle that travels on the surface but not on rails. Specifically excluded from this category are motor boats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment.

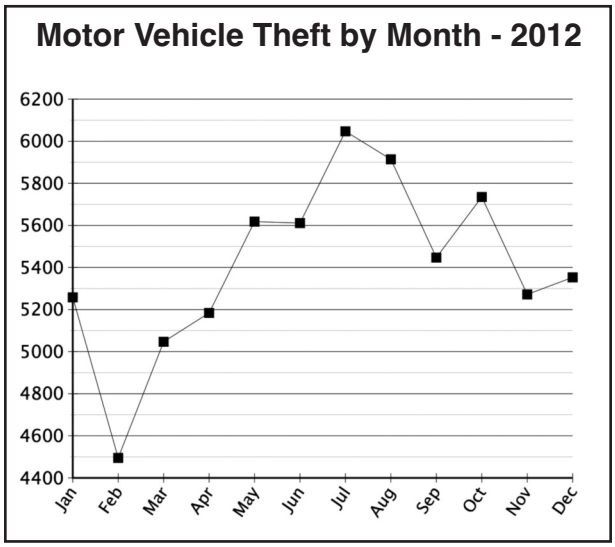
Analysis

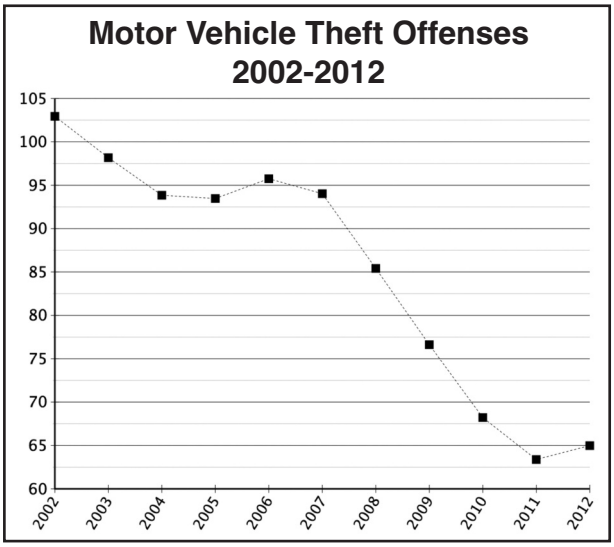
Volume

The estimated number of motor vehicle thefts committed in Texas in 2012 was 64,982. The volume of motor vehicle theft increased 2.5 percent when compared with 2011. More motor vehicle thefts were committed in May than in any other month, while the fewest motor vehicle thefts were committed during February.

Rate

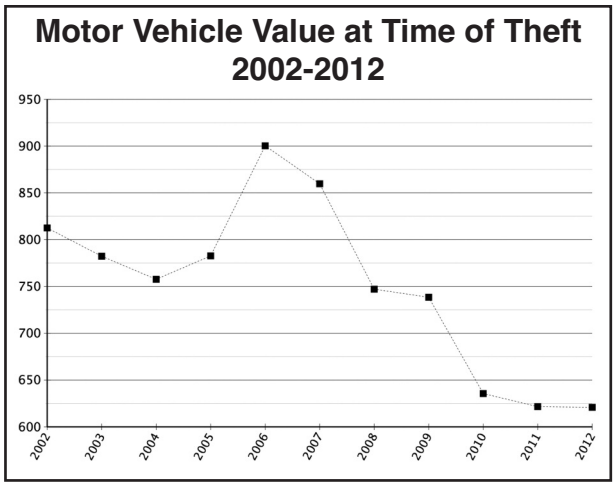
The 2012 motor vehicle theft rate for Texas was 249.3 motor vehicle thefts for every 100,000 persons. The change in the motor vehicle theft rate from 2011 was an increase of 0.9 percent.

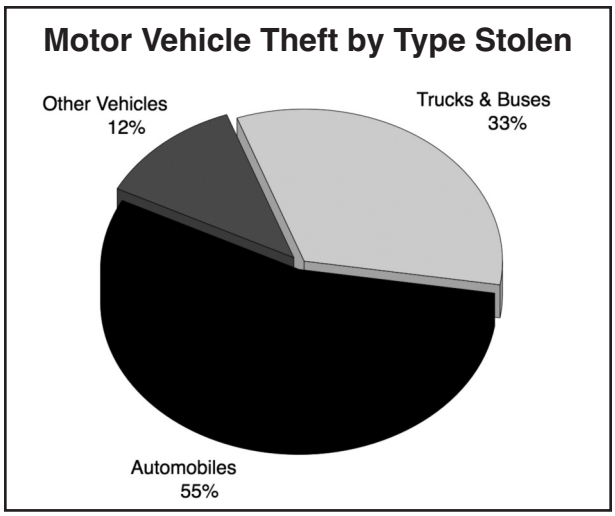




Nature

In 2012, motor vehicle theft victims suffered losses totaling $620,004,702. This total value loss represents a decrease of 0.2 percent when compared to 2011 total motor vehicle theft losses. The average dollar loss per motor vehicle theft was $9,554, down from $10,209 in 2011. Of the types of motor vehicles that are reported to be stolen, 55 percent are automobiles, 33 percent are trucks and buses, and the remainder are classed as 'other vehicles.' The 'other vehicles' classification includes all other motor vehicles, such as snowmobiles, motorcycles, motor scooters, trail bikes, mopeds, golf carts and the like.





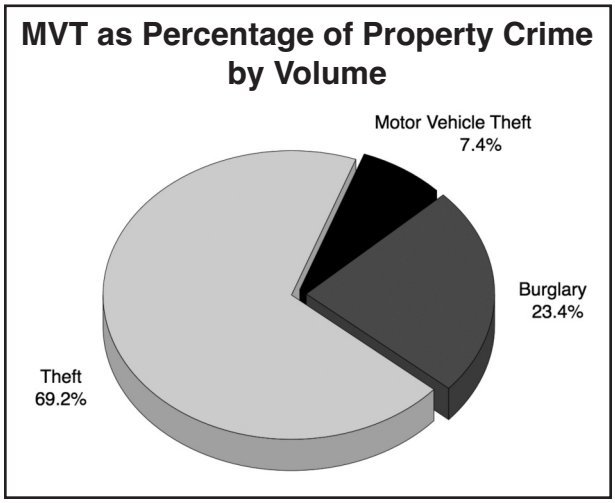
Clearance Rate

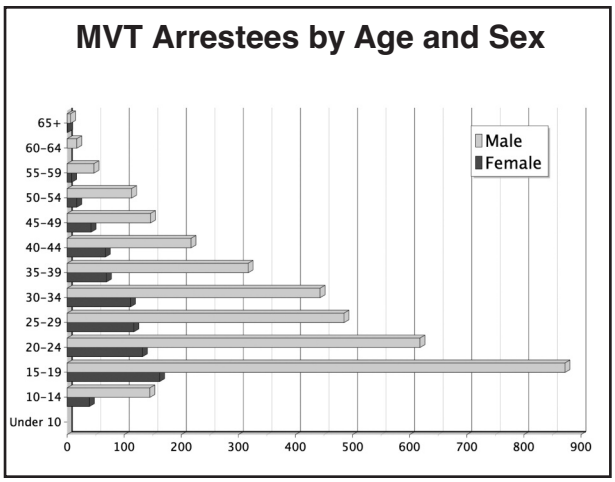
Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing or solving by arrest 12 percent of all motor vehicle thefts that were reported. Persons under 18 years of age accounted for 10 percent of the motor vehicle thefts that were cleared.

Of the three vehicle types for which information is collected, automobiles show the highest rate of clearance at 14 percent. Thefts of trucks and buses were cleared at a 9 percent rate, and the 'other vehicle' classification shows a 10 percent clearance rate.

Recoveries

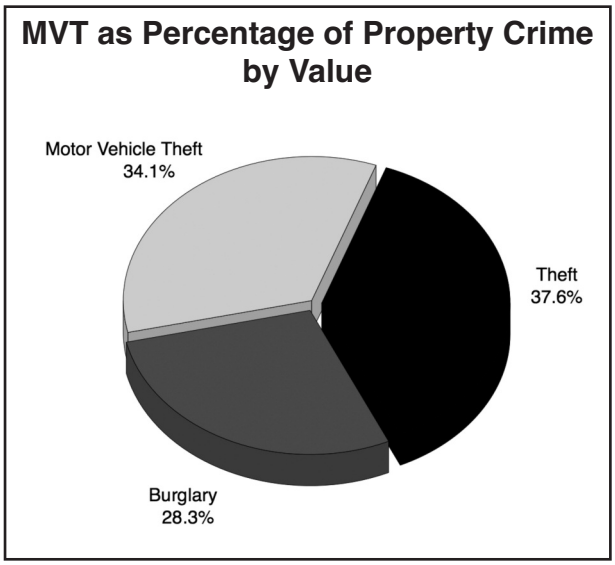
In 2012, 98 percent of the motor vehicles reported stolen were recovered. Out of the recovered vehicles, 84 percent were stolen locally and recovered locally. The remaining 16 percent were stolen locally and recovered by another jurisdiction.





Persons Arrested

In 2012, Texas law enforcement agencies arrested 4,191 persons for motor vehicle theft. When compared with 2011, the number of motor vehicle theft arrests increased 5.3 percent. Of the motor vehicle theft arrestees in 2012, 13.3 percent were juveniles (16 and under); 82 percent were male; 78 percent were White and 22 percent were Black; 67 percent were not Hispanic and 33 percent were Hispanic. The age group with the largest number of motor vehicle theft arrests was the 15-to-19 year-old group.



Arson

Definition

For Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, arson is defined as any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Only fires determined through investigation to have been willfully or maliciously set are classified as arsons. Fires of suspicious or unknown origins are excluded from data collection.

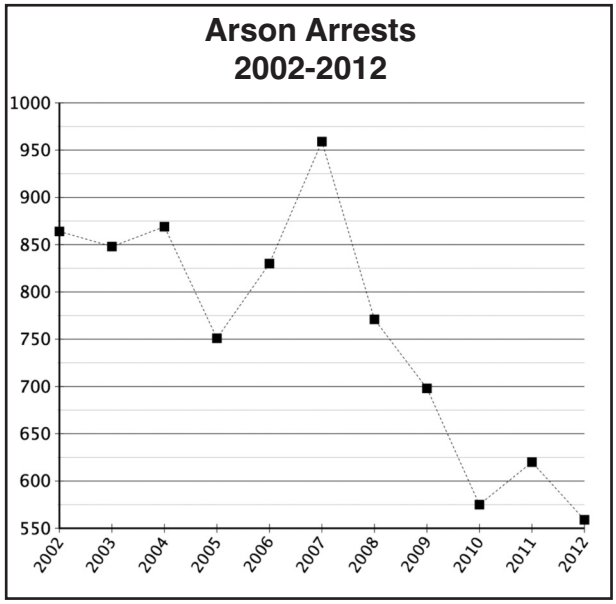
Analysis

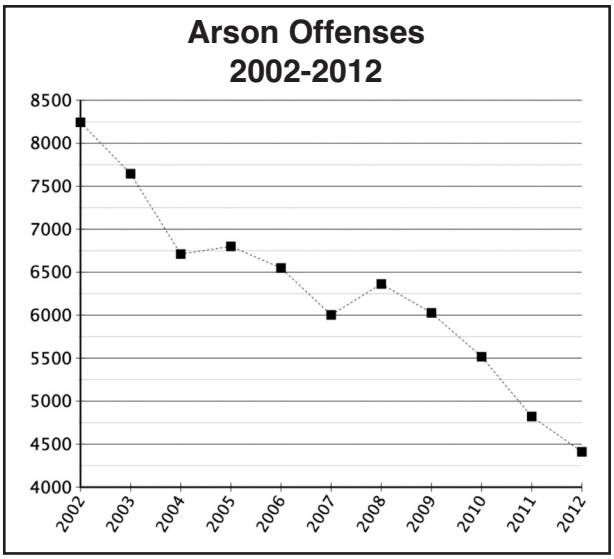
Volume

The reported number of arsons committed in Texas in 2012 was 4,411. The volume of arson offenses decreased 8.5 percent in comparison with 2011. Because the U.S. Congress did not mandate arson to be an Index Crime until 1979, information on offenses before that year is incomplete.

Rate

The 2012 arson rate for Texas was 16.9 arsons for every 100,000 persons. The change in the arson rate from 2011 was a decrease of 10 percent.

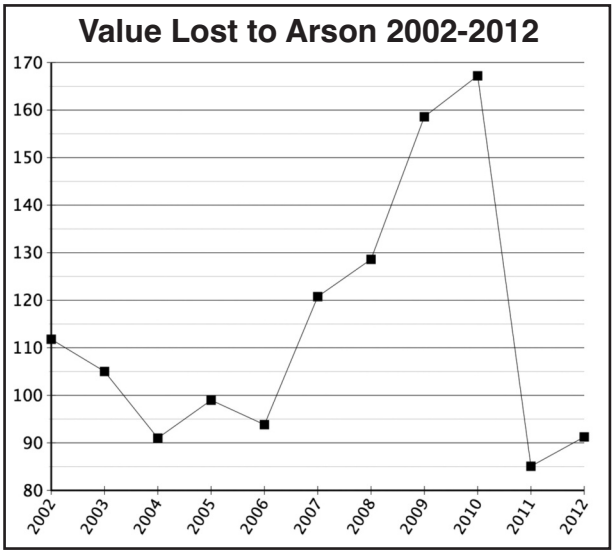




Nature

Structures comprised some 49 percent of the reported incidents and 79 percent of the property value lost to arson. Mobile property constituted 31 percent of the reported arsons, but only 18 percent of the value lost. The 'other' category (crops, timber, fences, signs, etc.) formed the remaining 20 percent of the arsons and 2 percent of the value lost.

Residential property was involved in 36 percent of the structural arsons in 2012, with 78 percent of such arsons directed at single occupancy dwellings. Of all targeted structural property, 27



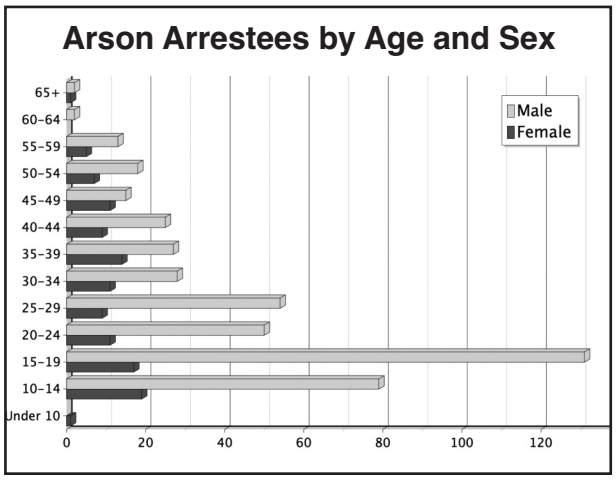
percent of the properties were uninhabited at the time the arson occurred. Motor vehicles composed 96 percent of all mobile property at which arsons were directed.

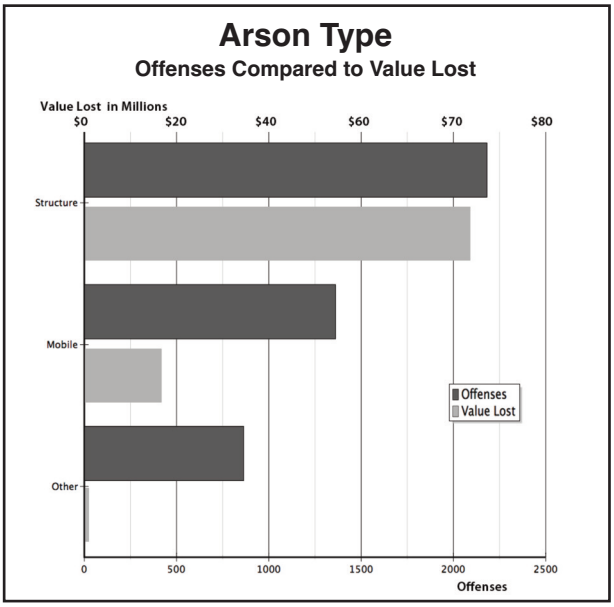
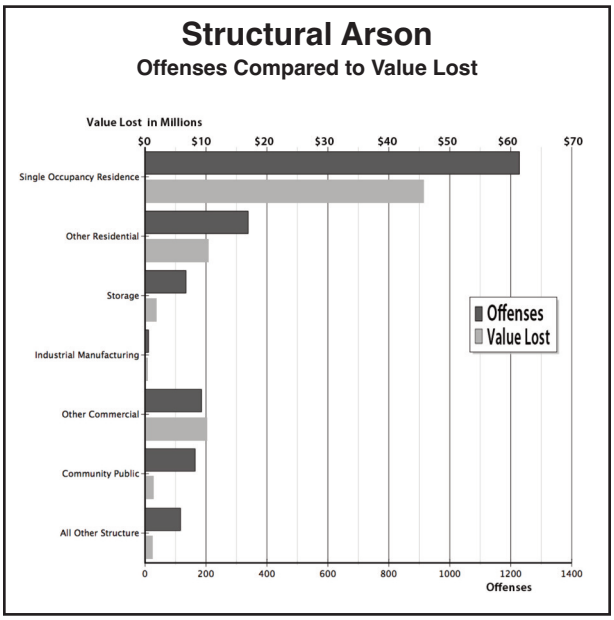
In 2012, arson victims suffered losses totaling $91,250,095. This total value loss represents a 7.2 percent increase when compared with 2011 total arson losses. The average dollar loss per arson was $20,686 - up from $17,643 in 2011. Structure/other commercial was the classification with the highest average loss per offense, $54,439. Community/public structures showed an average loss of $13,255, motor vehicle arsons averaged a loss of $12,219 and the "other" group (crops, timber, fences, signs, etc.) had the lowest average loss of $2,600.

Clearance Rate

Statewide, Texas law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing or solving by arrest 20 percent of all arsons that were reported. Of the various property classifications, Community/Public had the highest clearance rates (38 percent). Mobile-Automobiles showed the lowest clearance rate (12 percent) of any property class.

Of all arson clearances, 35 percent involved persons under the age of eighteen. Persons in this age group accounted for 77 percent of the Community/Public structure arson clearances, 32 percent of all other structure category clearances and 46 percent of the "other" arson clearances.



Persons Arrested

Texas law enforcement agencies arrested 559 persons for the crime of arson in 2012. When compared with the previous year, the number of persons arrested for arson decreased 9.8 percent. Of the persons arrested for arson in 2012, 28 percent were juveniles (16 and under); 79 percent were male; 80 percent were White; 19 percent were Black; the remaining 1% were Asian/Pacific Islander. 64 percent were not Hispanic and 36 percent were Hispanic. The age group that contained the highest number of arson arrestees was the 15-to-19 year old group.