

# Lexington Police Department Annual Report 2009



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# 2009 Annual Report

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# Mission Statement



The men and women of the Police Department are dedicated to building a strong Lexington.

Through the delivery of exemplary service with a focus on problem solving, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhoods by building a partnership with the community we serve.

## A Message from Chief Green



The men and women of the Lexington Police Department are committed to the provision of the highest possible quality of service to the Lexington community. As public servants, we are accountable for the service which we provide. The Annual Report for the 2009 calendar year is one result of our dedication to the spirit of accountability to the citizens of Lexington in that it represents the Department's efforts and achievements during the past year. Through the provision of exemplary service with a focus on community oriented policing and problem solving, it is the goal of this Department to build and maintain a working partnership with the citizens of Lexington.

# LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will maintain courageous and calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

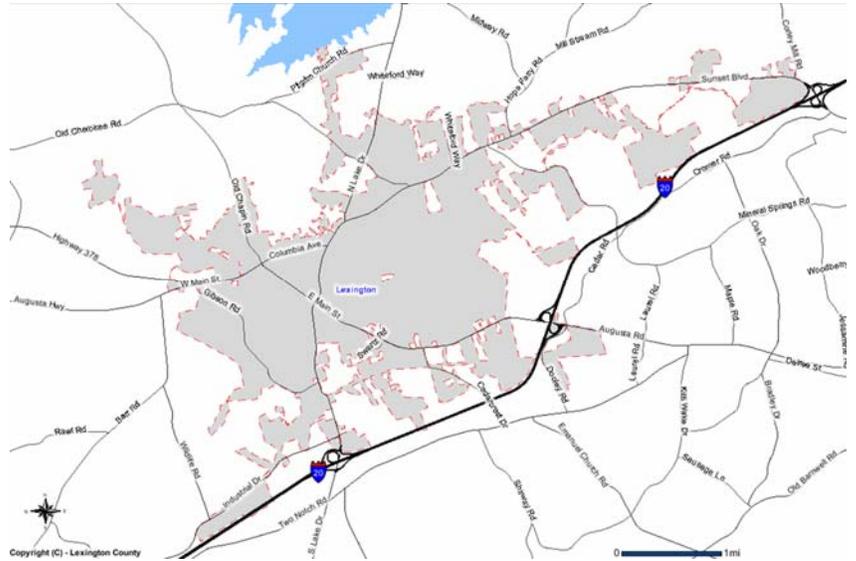
I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession, law enforcement.

# The Town of Lexington

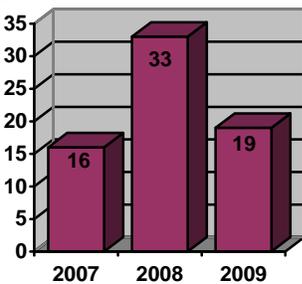


The town of Lexington was incorporated in 1861. When it was incorporated as a town Lexington boasted a diverse population of lawyers, physicians, trades people, artisans and farmers. There were then 2 churches, several schools, a carriage factory, a saw and gristmill, a tannery, livestock yard, tin and blacksmiths, and a weekly newspaper.

If anything characterizes the Town of Lexington, it is the fast growth rate. After the 2000 census showed the population had increased 92% (9,783 residents vs. 5,097) from the 1990 census levels, the Town decided to undertake a special census in February of 2006. Based on this special census, the Town's population was revised to stand at 14,547, an increase of 49% in just six years. In just two years since this special census was conducted, the Town of Lexington continues to grow. With additional



apartment complexes and new single family houses being built at various locations throughout the town, it is not unreasonable to assume that the town expects Census 2010 data to show a population in excess of 20,000. The Town's area has grown as well, from approximately 5.8 square miles in 2000 to approximately 14.5 square miles in 2009, a 150% increase in size in just a decade.



■ Parcel Growth

Meanwhile, growth has not been limited to just that of the Town of Lexington. The County of Lexington has also grown and 2000 census figures indicated that approximately 65,000 people live within a 5 mile radius of the Town. Traffic counts reveal that 130,000 vehicle travel through the town on the three (3) major highways that pass through town (US #378, US #1 and SC #6).

Data from the 2006 special census show Lexington to be approximately 84% white, 10.7% African American, and 2.6% Asian. Approximately 2.9% of the Town's residents are of Hispanic origin. Gender results of the special census show the Town having a population that is 48.5% male and 51.5% female.

# Department Overview



The Lexington Police Department is comprised of a total of 48 personnel, including 43 sworn officers and 5 civilian positions. The Department is broken down into four divisions: the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Special Operations Division and Administration which includes the Office of Professional Standards.

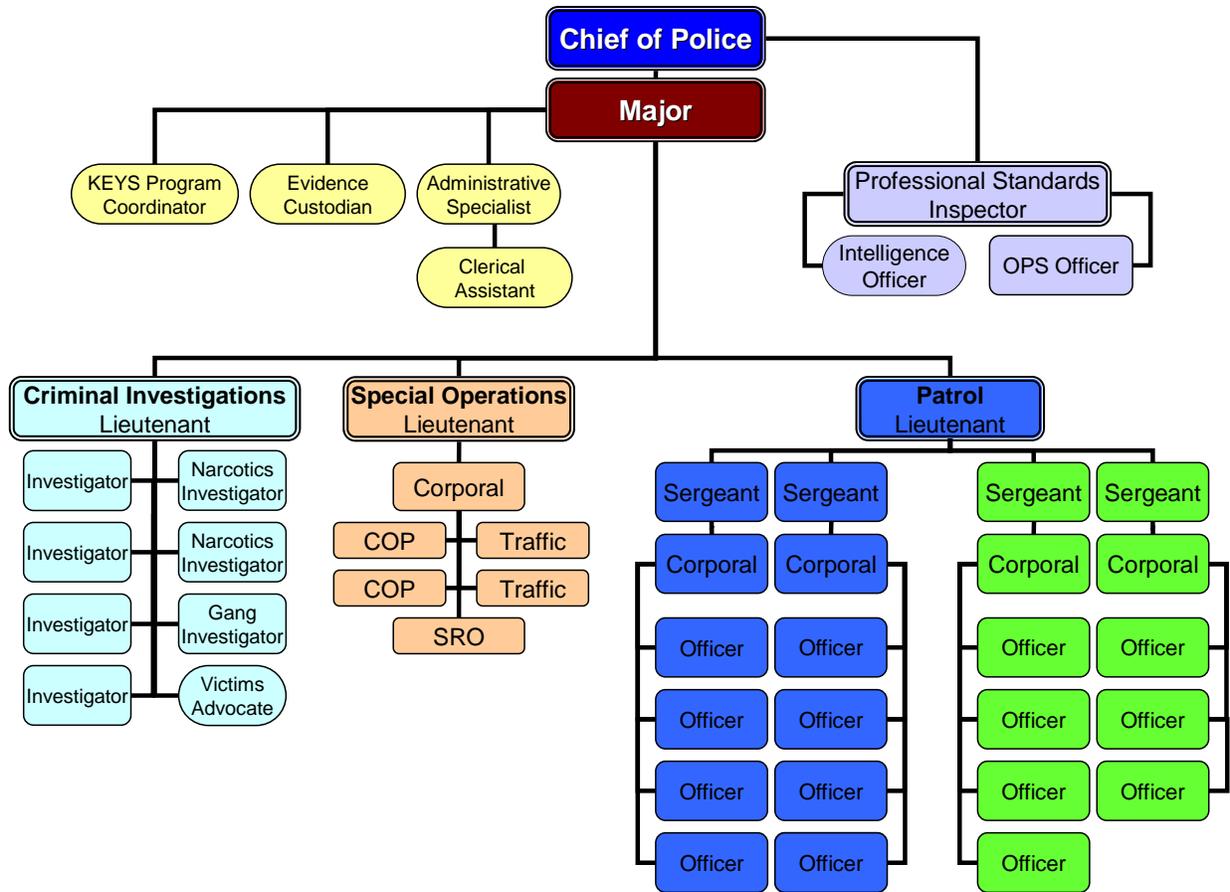
The Patrol Division is responsible for providing general police protection and service to the community including the enforcement of criminal and traffic laws, patrol of the Town, response to calls for service and the protection of property. The division consists of 24 personnel and is the “backbone” of the agency. Patrol officers are the ones any member of the public is most likely to encounter on a day to day basis in any given situation.

The Criminal Investigations Division consists of 8 detectives and is responsible for the investigation of reported crimes and special investigations such as those related to narcotics and gang activity. One civilian employee serves as the department’s Victims Advocate and provides initial and follow-up services to victims of crime.

The Special Operations Division’s 7 personnel makeup several subdivisions which coordinates and administers community programs, training and special events. This division houses the community action team, school resource officer, canine officer and the department’s traffic division.

The Administration division includes the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, Administrative Specialist, Information/Records Management, the Keeping Every Youth Safe (KEYS) Coordinator and Evidence Custodian. The 2 employees assigned to the Office of Professional Standards are responsible for the Internal Affairs function, Accreditation, Crime Analysis and NCIC operation.

# Lexington Police Department Organizational Chart



# Accomplishments for 2009

- 1) After under going the exhaustive yet successful on-site assessment as part of international accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the department received its award in March at the CALEA conference in Raleigh, NC.
- 2) The Department was awarded a \$6300 grant for courtroom security upgrades to include a new state of the art walk-through metal detector.
- 3) The mobile computer system (laptops) and data terminals utilized by officers in the field were upgraded.
- 4) The department again collected a SWAT van of toys for the 2009 annual Toys for Tots campaign.
- 5) The Department continued participation in the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council's (LRADAC) Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET). This group of officers from Lexington and Richland Counties implements programs designed to combat underage drinking in the greater Midlands area.
- 6) The Department continued to participate in the Lexington County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET), a multi-agency task force which targets the manufacture, transportation, distribution and sale of illegal narcotics.
- 7) The Department held its fifth annual Fall Festival in late October at the Municipal Complex. Despite inclement weather forcing a last minute date change, approximately 900 people attended the event which is held annually to raise money for its innovative Adopt-A-Cop program.
- 8) Two officers (Corporal Simmons and Officer Aldrich) were presented Life Saving awards for their actions during a July incident.
- 9) Four officers (Sergeant Pickle, Corporal Hefner, Officer Meyers and Officer Beza) received a Chief's Letter of Commendation for their performance and assistance during the Park North fire incident in April.
- 10) Officer Michael Lawler was recognized as the Officer of the Year in December. A three year member of the Department, Officer Lawler currently serves as a traffic officer after starting in the Patrol Division.

# General Statistics

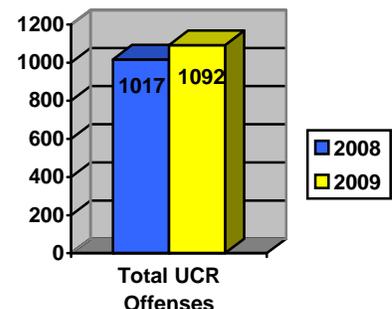
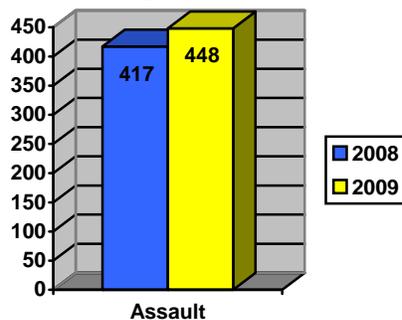
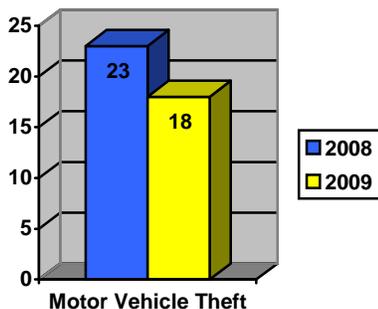
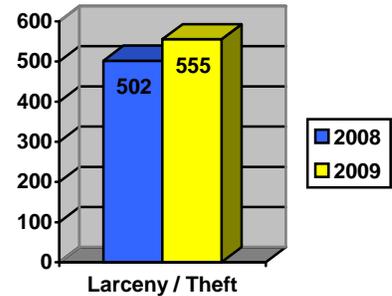
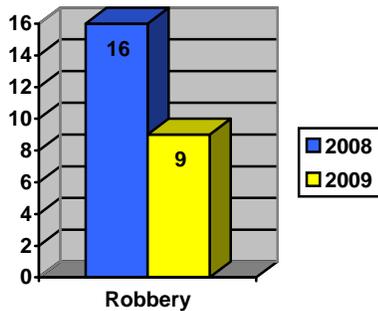
The below listed information contains general statistical calculations for the 2009 calendar year. In some tables, additional statistics from the previous year have been included. These statistics encompass the general functions of the Department. Specialized functions, such as those specific to a particular Division or Unit, are included in later portions of this report.

## Summary of Reported Offenses UCR Index Crimes 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009

(Note: This data is retrieved from Department Records and may differ from official FBI/SLED UCR statistics)

Incident Type	2008	2009	% Change
Murder	0	0	n/c
Forcible Rape Offenses	3	7	133%
Robbery*	16	9	-44%
Assault	417	448	7%
Burglary	56	55	-2%
Larceny (All larceny and theft reported)	502	555	11%
Motor Vehicle Theft	23	18	-22%
<b>Total UCR Offenses</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>7%</b>

A change in reporting requirements caused shoplifting where force was utilized to be coded as “robbery” in 2008. This was rectified in 2009 thus causing the decrease as shown which more accurately reflects robbery numbers from previous years. The large percentage increase in forcible rape offenses is attributed to their small numbers which constitute a fractional percentage of the overall offenses for either year. The increase in assaults is solely the result of a 56% (35) increase in the number of “harassing telephone calls” over 2008. Larceny crimes were greatly influenced by a 47% increase in the number of shopliftings which indicates retailers are more aggressively pursuing these offenders. There were also minor increases in those crimes classified as “white collar” as well.



## Summary of Reported Offenses By Offense Category 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009

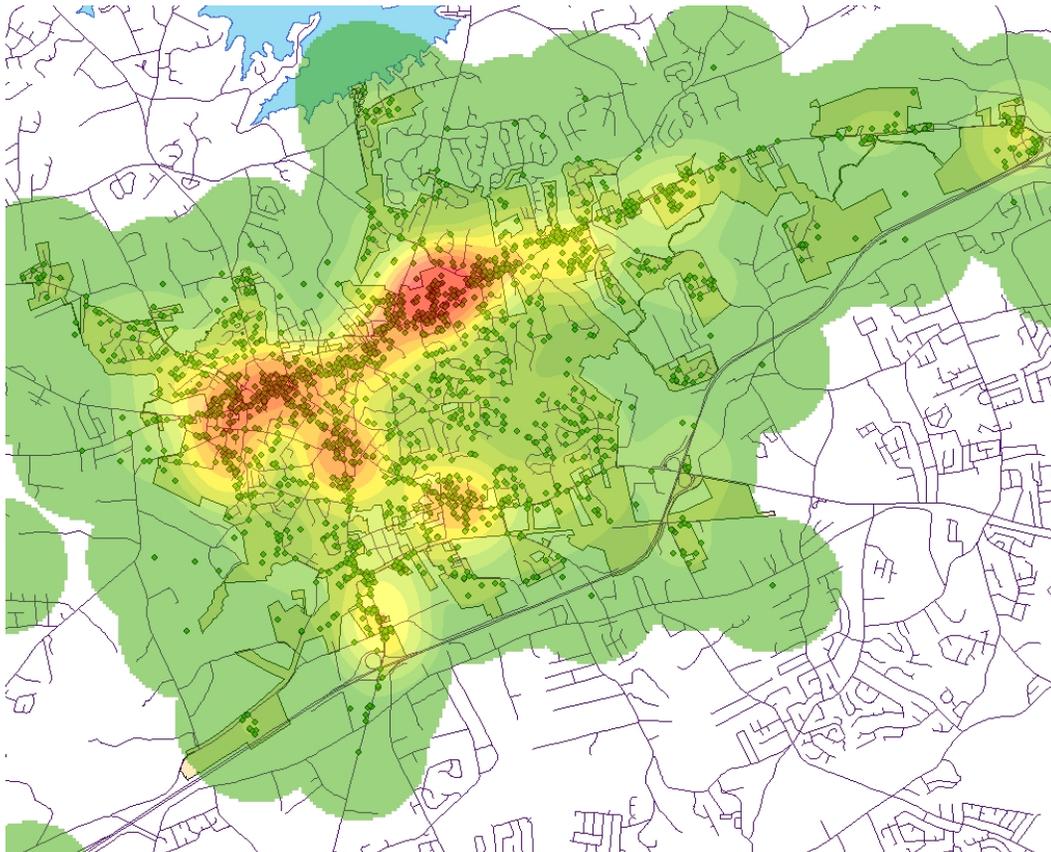
(Note: This is overall data retrieved from Department Records and may differ from SLED UCR statistics)

Incident Category	2008	2009	% Change
Alcohol Crimes	227	241	6%
Arson/Suspicious Fire	3	2	-33%
Assaults	417	448	7%
Drug Crimes	308	339	10%
Homicide	0	0	n/c
Information Only Reports (Alarms, Lost Property, etc)	2379	2509	5%
Larceny Offenses	804	869	8%
Other Crimes	197	257	30%
Prostitution	4	0	n/c
Vandalism/Damage to Property	165	137	-17%
<b>Total Offenses</b>	<b>4504</b>	<b>4802</b>	<b>7%</b>

The overall 7% increase in reportable offenses is not unexpected with the continued growth in population through new residents moving into town and annexation. Officer initiated activity for alcohol and narcotics violations saw increases that can be attributed to decreased turnover and more experienced officers.

### 2009 Calls for Service Locations

The following map is a density analysis of all calls for service for 2009. Because of the commercial growth and high traffic volume, the US #378 corridor which includes Sunset Blvd, Columbia Ave and West Main Street represent a far greater share of incidents than any other location within the town.

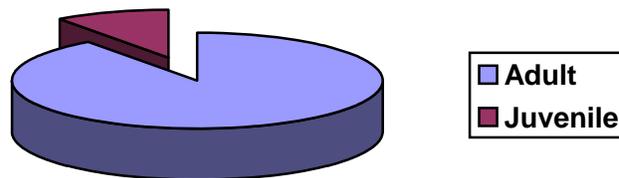


# Arrest Data



The arrest data below shows that a total of 1362 persons were arrested in 2009. This is an 11% increase over 2008. For statistical purposes, the custodial seizure of a juvenile is counted as an arrest in the overall total. Arrests of adults accounted for 90% of the total while custodial seizures of juveniles accounted for the remaining 10%.

## Summary of Arrests 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009 (Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)



Type	Total
Adult	1227
Juvenile	135
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1362</b>

The majority of persons arrested by the Lexington Police Department reside outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the town therefore demographic data from Lexington County is used for comparison purposes.

## Adult Arrests Percentages by Race 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009 (Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)

Race	2009 Arrests	% of Total Arrests	Lexington County 2008 Racial Estimates**
Caucasian*	1018	74.7%	82.3%
African American	337	24.7%	14.8%
Other/Unknown	7	00.6%	2.9%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Hispanic persons are counted as Caucasian for race tracking purposes.

\*\*US Census Bureau <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45/45063.html>

# Warrants

Statistics regarding outstanding warrants and served warrants during the period from January to December 2009 are listed below.

A statistical summary of outstanding warrants held by the Lexington Police Department is presented below. Bench warrants are issued by the Municipal Judge in response to the failure of a convicted defendant to satisfy the terms of a sentence imposed by the Court. Arrest warrants are issued by a judge pursuant to the sworn affidavit of a victim, witness or officer and constitute the original charging document for the offense for which the defendant is charged. Service of outstanding warrants is a responsibility shared by all officers and no specific officer or Division of the Department is specifically charged with this duty.

## Summary of Outstanding Warrants

(Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)

Warrant Type	Total Number Outstanding
Bench Warrant	592
Arrest Warrant	263
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>855</b>

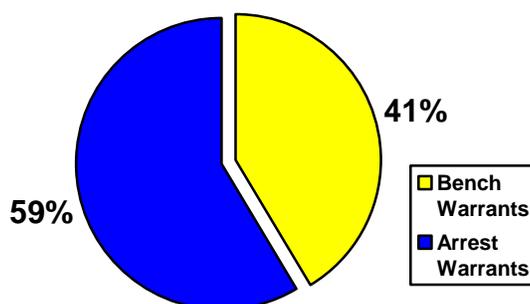
Note: These totals pertain to all outstanding warrants on file at the time of this report.

A combined total of 635 warrants were served by officers in 2009. This represents a 7% increase over 2008. The totals for each type of warrant are represented in the chart below.

## Summary of Warrants Served

01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009

(Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)

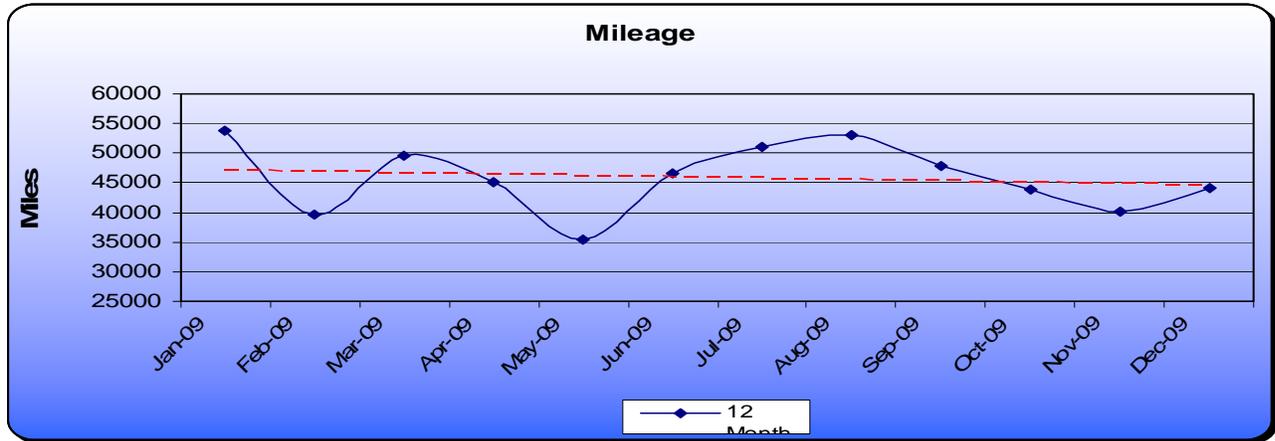


Warrant Type	Total Number Served
Bench Warrant	263
Arrest Warrant	372
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>635</b>

# FLEET MANAGEMENT



The Lexington Police Department operates a fleet composed of **51** vehicles. Department vehicles were driven 550,063 miles and used 43,540 gallons of fuel during 2009. Mileage by month is depicted below.



**Fleet Mileage and Fuel Usage  
01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009**

Department Totals			
	2008 Totals	2009	% Change
<b>Mileage (Fleet)</b>	502,479	550,063	9%
<b>Fuel Consumed</b>	40,011	43,540	9%
<b>Miles Per Gallon</b>	12.57	12.60	.2%

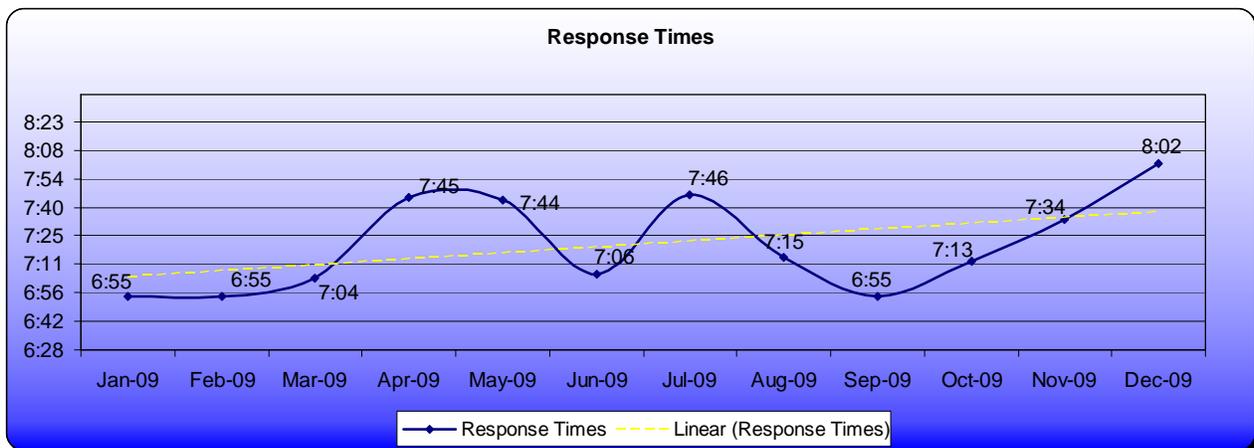
# PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division is lead by a Lieutenant and is divided into four operational shifts that each are comprised of a Sergeant, Corporal and patrol officers. The Patrol Division performs the most essential function of the Department. Patrol officers are tasked with responding to calls for service/assistance, completing incident reports, investigating and reporting traffic collisions, performing traffic enforcement, recognizing and investigating suspicious/criminal activity, enforcement of South Carolina laws and ordinances of the Town, performing traffic direction and a vast array of other duties which maintain the safety and security of residents and visitors to the Town of Lexington. Patrol officers are also usually the first, if not only, contact a citizen or visitor has with the Lexington Police Department; thus, they serve a vital role as ambassadors of the Town and its government.

A statistical summary of Patrol Division activities is provided in the following pages. It is important to note that incident, collision and traffic enforcement statistics are addressed in separate sections of this report. These are the main response activities of the Patrol Division.

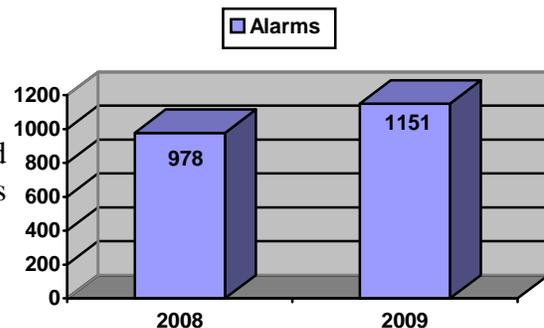
## Average Call Response Time 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009



The average response time for 2009 was 7:14. As noted in the chart above the response time for 2009 did increase throughout the year. With no additional officers appropriated for the year, this is an expected by-product of the growth experienced and mentioned previously which also resulted in increased calls for service. The truest way of addressing this is through manpower additions which match the growth of the town.

## Alarm Response

Officers responded to 1151 alarms at residences and businesses within the Town during 2009. This represented a 26% increase over 2008.





# TRAFFIC



Traffic enforcement activities and collision reports are referenced in the following tables.

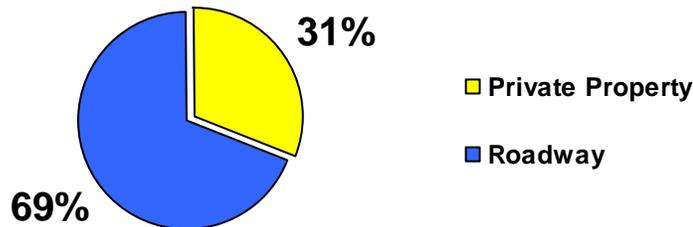
## Traffic Collision Reports 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009

General Collision Information	
Total Traffic Collisions Reported	1068
Average Collisions Per Day	2.92

Of all reported traffic collisions that occurred in the Town of Lexington during 2009, most (69%) occurred on public roadways.

## Totals for Traffic Collisions Roadways and Private Property 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009

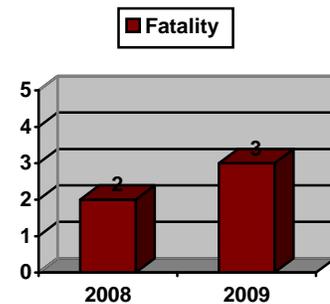
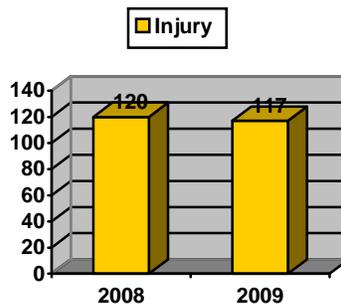
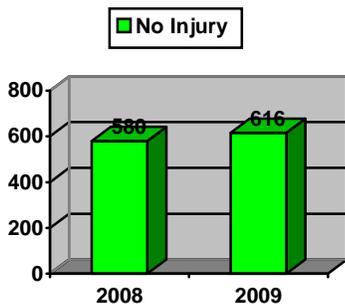
Private Property	Roadway
332	736



The table and chart below show that 16% of traffic collisions which occurred on public roadways resulted in injury or possible injury to at least one person. Tragically three (3) people were killed as the result of a traffic collision in the Town of Lexington during 2009.

## Total Reported Injuries Related to Traffic Collisions (Public Roadways Only) 01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009

Collision Type	2008	2009	% Change
No Reported Injury	580	616	6%
Injury	120	117	-3%
Fatality	2	3	50%



In addition to investigating traffic collisions, all uniformed officers are charged with enforcing traffic laws within the Town of Lexington. 9209 traffic stops were conducted in 2009 with 7474 tickets and 3206 warnings issued. The Department is highly conscious of its enforcement practices. In light of nationwide concerns regarding racial profiling, statistics are maintained regarding the race and sex of violators cited or warned by officers during traffic stops. As demonstrated in the following tables, the statistics show that officers of the Department do not show any tendency toward discriminatory enforcement practices.

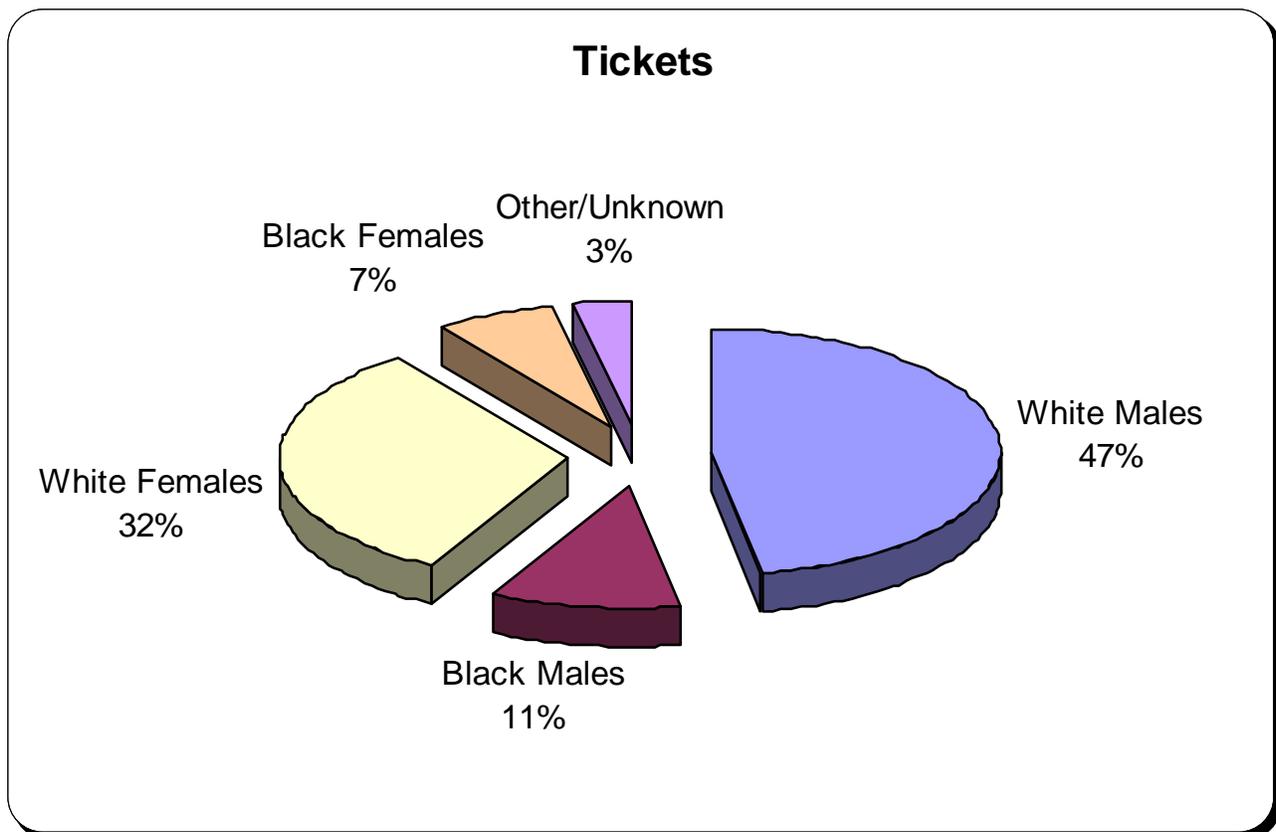
**Traffic Enforcement -- Uniform Traffic Tickets Issued  
(Traffic Offenses Only)  
Totals by Race and Sex  
01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009**  
(Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)

Race	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	Lexington County 2008 Race Estimates*
Caucasian	3508	2398	<b>5906</b>	79%	82.3%
African American	790	492	<b>1282</b>	17%	14.8%
Other/Unknown	253		<b>286</b>	4%	2.9%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>7474</b>	100%	100%

\*Hispanic persons are counted as Caucasian for race tracking purposes.

\*\*US Census Bureau <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45/45063.html>

The chart below breaks the numbers down further by race and sex.



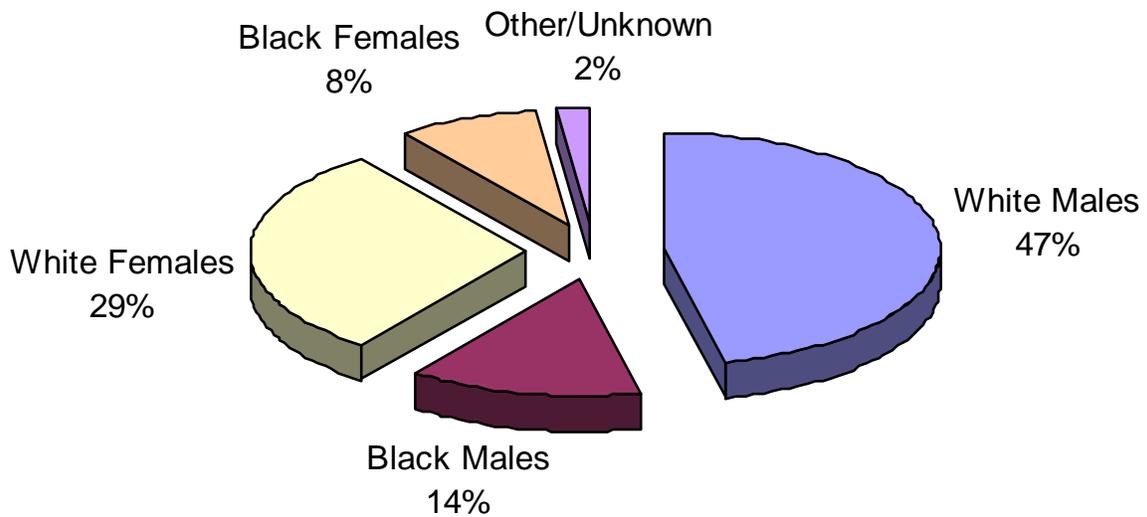
**Traffic Enforcement - Warning Tickets Issued**  
**Totals by Race and Sex**  
**01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009**  
(Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)

Race	Male	Female	Total	% of Total	Lexington County 2008 Race Estimates*
Caucasian	1483	943	<b>2426</b>	76%	82.3%
African American	452	268	<b>720</b>	22%	14.8%
Other/Unknown	60		<b>60</b>	2%	2.9%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>3206</b>	100%	100%

\*Hispanic persons are counted as Caucasian for race tracking purposes.

\*\*US Census Bureau <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45/45063.html>

**Warnings**



**Uniform Traffic Ticket Counts**  
**Totals by Offense Description**  
**01/01/2009 thru 12/31/2009**

(Data Compiled by LAWTRAK)

<b>OFFENSE DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Operating Uninsured Vehicle	71	59	<b>-17%</b>
Speeding or Too Fast for Conditions 10 mph above or Less	1870	2115	13%
Speeding or Too Fast for Conditions 11 to 24 mph above	86	73	<b>-15%</b>
Speeding or Too Fast for Conditions 25 mph and above	0	0	--
Shifting Lanes Improperly	8	6	<b>-25%</b>
Parking Improperly	1	0	-
Lights Improper	837	794	<b>-5%</b>
Improper Backing	2	1	<b>-50%</b>
Vehicle in Unsafe Condition	2	2	0%
Disregarding Sign or Signal	151	192	27%
No Right of Way	125	115	<b>-8%</b>
Wrong Side of Road	25	37	48%
Passing Unlawfully	15	2	<b>-87%</b>
Turning Unlawfully	30	27	<b>-10%</b>
Following too Closely	84	108	29%
Reckless Driving	29	22	<b>-24%</b>
Hit & Run Property Damage	9	18	100%
Failure to Stop for Police Vehicle	7	4	<b>-43%</b>
Other Moving Violation	35	35	0%
Drivers License Violation	353	350	<b>-0.8%</b>
Vehicle License Violation	812	857	6%
Vehicle License Improper	101	90	<b>-11%</b>
Faulty Equipment	33	45	36%
Other Violations	2176	1592	<b>-27%</b>
Driving Under Suspension	281	278	<b>-1%</b>
Driving Under the Influence	66	86	30%
Non-Traffic Offenses	107	467	336%
Racing on Highway	1	0	-
Failure to Dim Lights	1	0	-
Defective Brakes	1	0	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7278</b>	<b>7375</b>	<b>1%</b>
<p>Note: Percentage changes have been left blank for offenses which reported 0 incidents in one of the two years cited. Also, aberrant differences in counts for offenses from one year to the next may be due to changes in recording procedures or the recording of an offense under a category where it may be counted as an included offense. An example of this could include an offense such as Disorderly Conduct being recorded under the count for Non-Traffic Offenses.</p>			

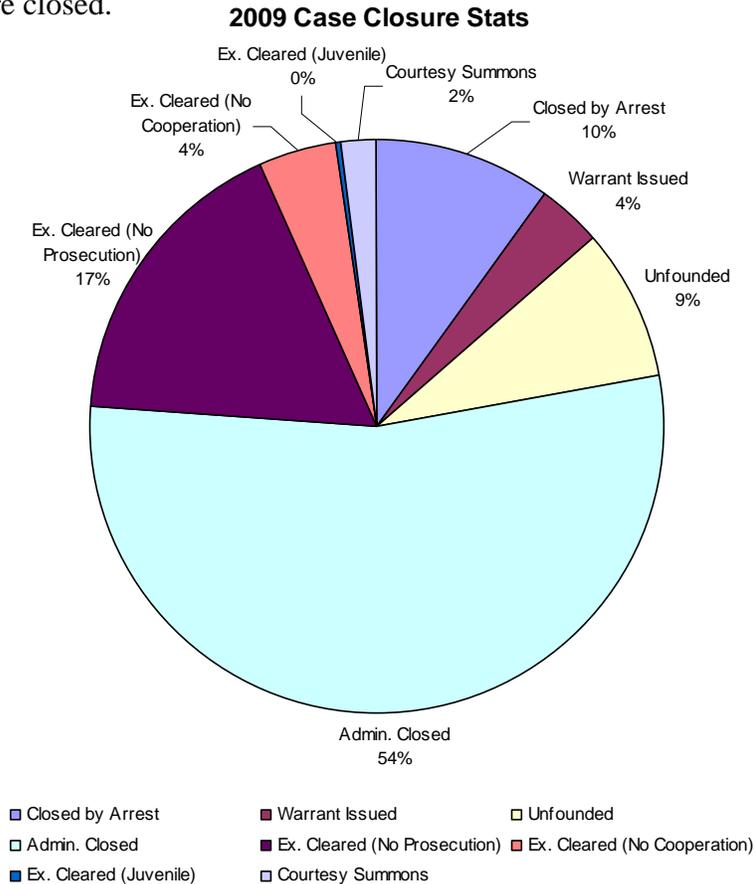
# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



The Criminal Investigations Division is managed by a Lieutenant who supervises four Detectives, two Narcotics Agents and one Gang Intervention Officer. The Criminal Investigations Division (CID.) is tasked with following leads in criminal cases. The Criminal Investigations Division is available to respond at anytime, day or night, to the needs of crime victims, or to the scene of any incident.

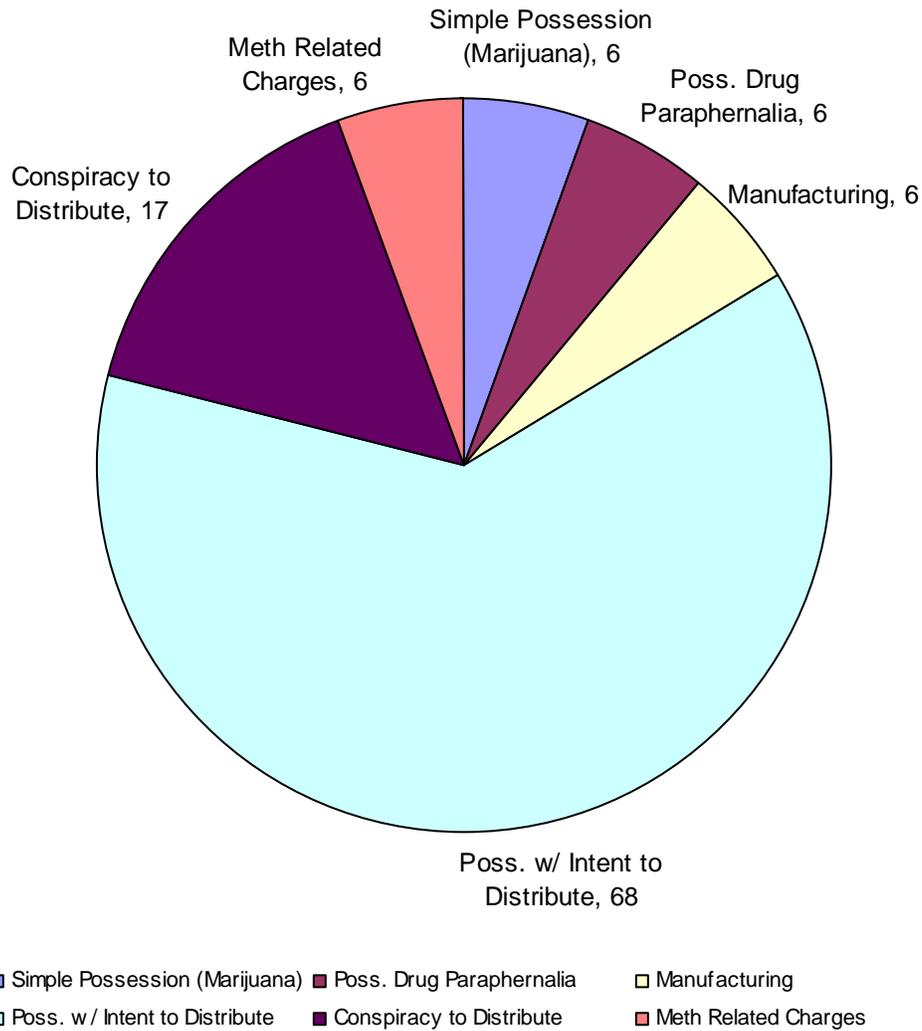
CID works to follow up on reports of criminal activity initially reported to our uniformed patrol officers. The Detectives then establish the elements of the crime as defined by state law, identify and apprehend the person responsible for the criminal act. The Investigations Division is also responsible for forensic examination of crime scenes along with the evaluation, collection of evidence, and the transport of fugitives from other jurisdictions. The Criminal Investigations Division also plays an integral part in assisting the Solicitor's Office in the prosecution of cases.

During the year of 2009 the Criminal Investigations division investigated 1301 cases. 1284 of those were closed for a clearance rate of 98.69%. The chart below breaks down the dispositions of how those cases were closed.



The narcotics section of the CID division conducted numerous operations that resulted in various charges being brought.

### 2009 Narcotics Charges



Additionally the Narcotics/Vice Detectives conducted the following:

Warrants Served	102
Search Warrants	18
Electronic Investigations (Hours)	206
Surveillance (Hours)	129
Buys	54
Presentations	13

## GANG ACTIVITY

While the topic of gang violence and the infiltration of schools by gang members has received significant attention in the local press and news media, the Department has been monitoring gang activity in the Town for several years.

While the percentage of gang-related incidents is low (less than 1% of the total in any given year), the propensity of gang members to commit violent crimes and the difficulty of eliminating gangs which have the opportunity to become entrenched in a community has led the Department to assign a detective in the criminal investigations division the task of identifying, monitoring, and suppressing gang activity. This detective has received additional training related to gangs and how to identify and decode gang graffiti and symbols.

Through information sharing with other local law enforcement agencies this detective provides any necessary updates on gang activity as part of each bi-weekly COMPSTAT meeting. This information then helps guide the development of division action plans that are in response to specific crime trends and patterns. To date, the Department has been able to confirm the presence within the Town of several gangs and continues to closely monitor any suspected activity. The gang related crime statistics for 2009 are currently being recovered. The reporting system used is not geared toward keeping these types of statistics so alternate methods of tracking and adjustments to the current system are being researched.

The dramatic increase from 2006 to 2007 is largely due to an increase in graffiti, but it is important to note the change from intimidation (seen in 2006) to physical assault (seen in 2007) and robbery. The reduction in the number of gang-related incidents from 2007-2008 was due partly to several individuals who moved out of our jurisdiction or became incarcerated. It was also partly attributed to errors in reporting this type of activity. These reporting errors were corrected in 2009. There was an increase in gang contacts in 2008 which accompanied the decrease in reportable offenses which is not typical. National trends show that an increase in contacts is usually accompanied by reportable offenses. This phenomenon may be a precursor to a greater number of reportable incidents in the coming year.

In 2009 gang contacts amongst our Hispanic community were consistent with national trends. Numerous individuals were contacted on traffic stops that were found to be documented as gang members in the VGTOF portion of NCIC. A list of names has been prepared by the Town's gang detective for entry into the NCIC VGTO file. Further advanced training in gang identification has been received by the town's gang detective and training was also provided to the uniformed patrol division in the form of annual training sessions and roll call training.

Solid relations with gang detectives from other agencies were further solidified this year which have opened the flow of information sharing between agencies within the area. Gang intelligence and information sharing meetings hosted by SLED have been attended on a monthly basis which has provided a great deal of knowledge and information to be shared. From discussions with other law enforcement agencies which must deal with a larger gang problem, the Department is well aware that gang members will typically move from "small" crimes to "big" crimes as they get older and that the transition can occur quite suddenly. It is for this reason the Lexington Police Department is devoting the resources it can spare to gathering intelligence on gang members, who they associate with, and what patterns of behavior they engage in.

The presence of local gang members has been observed to have increased through investigation and intelligence into the activities, trends and identification of gang members and potential gang members in the Lexington area. The gang detective provides any necessary updates on gang activity as part of each bi-weekly COMPSTAT meeting. This information then helps guide the development of division action plans that are in response to specific crime trends and patterns. Through these efforts the Department has been able to confirm the presence of several gangs within the Town and continues to closely monitor any suspected activity.

# VICTIM ADVOCATE



The Department's Victim's Advocate continues to provide a variety of services to those who are victims of crime. The Victim's Advocate responds to critical incidents and assists victims through the criminal justice process. The Victim's Advocate also provides follow up contacts to victims and witnesses, counsels victims and provides appropriate referrals to professionals in the area, including the State Victim's Compensation Fund which helps victims of crime with medical payments. The below listed table provides a summary of the number of victims served and the number of services provided. There was a 31% increase in the number of victims served in 2009 and an 18% increase in the number of services provided. This is a clear indicator of the need to continue this invaluable program in full.

## Summary of Activities for Victim Advocate for Calendar Years 2007-2009

ACTIVITY	2007	2008	2009
Victims Served	760	871	1142
Services Provided	1899	1955	2309

# TRAINING DIVISION



One of the most important ways the Department strives to insure that officers' actions are within the law and departmental policy is through rigorous training. Training falls under the Special Operations Division, which works closely with all the other divisions of the Department to identify what type of training officers need before implementing changes to the Department's training program. The training officer's receive is categorized as advanced, in-house, and specialty. Advanced training is training approved by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and taught by SCCJA instructors or instructors from outside sources. Examples of these would be Speed Measurement Device certification, Legal/CDV update, Leadership courses, Supervisor courses, Instructor courses, etc... In-house training is training required by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy that is taught by department instructors and training that is required by the department for accreditation or areas the department feels necessary for officers. Examples of these would be firearms, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, sexual harassment awareness, gang updates, court room testimony etc... Specialized training is not required by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and is often taught by outside training organizations and is available at a cost for the Department. Examples of these would be CPR/First Aid, Narcotics Detector Dog certification, IED recognition, etc... The Department sends officers to training as outlined in the Table below. The Department's dedication to professionalism meant that officers underwent an average of 147 hours of training per officer and a total of 6309 hours of training during 2009. This increase in total training can be accounted to the increase of advanced training within the state and hosting advanced classes at Lexington Police Department which allows free or extra slots. The in-house training hours decreased by almost 8% due to streamlining of block training and increasing quality rather than quantity of training.

## Summary of Training Statistics for Calendar Years 2007-2009

	2007	2008	2009	% Change from Previous
Total Training Hours	5941	5790	6309	8.2%
In-House Training Hours	2640	2998	2763	-7.8%
Avg. Training Hours per Officer	152	145	147	1%



# EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM



For operational purposes, the EST is considered a component of the Special Operations Division. EST is composed of two components, including a tactical unit and a crisis negotiations unit. Tactical unit officers receive advanced specialized training in tactical deployment, building entry, chemical munitions and high risk response. Team members are on call at all times and can assist in a variety of potentially hazardous situations such as those involving barricaded suspects, hostage situations, high risk warrant service/vehicle takedowns, search and rescue and fugitive recovery. The crisis negotiations unit functions independently of the tactical team and is staffed by three officers with specialized training in crisis/hostage negotiations. All officers who participate in the EST serve on a voluntary basis as an additional responsibility to their assigned duties. Activities of the EST in 2009 are represented in the table below.

Emergency Services Team Stats	2008	2009	Change
Training Hours 2008	142.5	160	+12%
Training Hours 2008 (Monthly Average)	12	13.3	+11%
Total Training Days 2008	19	20	+5%
Call Outs 2008	1	4	+300%

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



The School Resource Officer (SRO) is assigned under the Special Operations Division and serves at the Lexington Middle School. All school resource officers must attend specialized training for the position and conduct a variety of activities in their assigned school. Activities of the SRO in 2009 are represented in the table below.

School Resource Officer Activities for 2009		
Activity	Annual Total	Monthly Average (10 Months)
Total Classes Instructed	14	1.4
Total Students Instructed	920	92
Total Counseling Sessions	196	19.6
Total Incident Reports Taken	45	4.5
Total Arrests/Petitions	8	0.8
Total Special Events	21	2.1
Total Training Hours Completed	48	4.8

# COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

The position of Community Oriented Policing Officer (COP) was created in August 2004 to insure that neighborhood organizations, businesses, and civic groups would have a single, direct line of communication to the Department. In October 2006 the COP function was re-cast with the addition of a second officer and the designation of Community Action Team (CAT). A third officer was assigned to the team. The CAT officers are designated as the “go to” team assisting the patrol division in addressing crime trends and issues identified in the COMPSTAT meetings or by the community. As part of this responsibility, the CAT officers are the Department’s front line of defense in identifying and dealing with gang activity. Community Action Team officers still handle the annual Citizen’s Academy and also work with the Lexington KEYS after-school program. A detailed listing of the Community Action Team activities is found in Table 2. A decrease is observed due to the third team member being on light duty since March 2009. The Community Action Team also operates the department’s prisoner transports for all court days which averages to sixteen hours a month and assists with prisoner transports from other jurisdictions which can range from one a month to as many as five a month.

Activity	2008	2009
Bike Patrol	93 hours / 143 miles	53 hours / 91 miles
Community Meetings	22 meetings / 633 attendees	20 meetings / 347 attendees
Informal Community & Business Visits	1335 visits	1211 visits
Fingerprinting	9 people	30 people
Child Safety Seat	82 seats	57 seats
Code Enforcement	26.5 hours	21.5 hours
KEYS Program	360.5 hours	346 hours



# **KEYS Program**

## **"KEEPING EVERY YOUTH SAFE"**

The KEYS program continues to be active in improving the quality of life for Lexington youth. In 2009 the program moved from the Community Center at 104 Allen Street to 209 South Lake Drive beside Town Hall and Virginia Hilton Park. The program also expanded operation to Monday - Thursday and continues to focus on improving the academic and life skills of its participants. There was also a four (4) week summer program operated Monday – Thursday from 7am-6pm limited to 55 children.

Each youth receives individual tutoring and mentoring, based on their needs, provided by program staff and a cadre of volunteers from local churches, colleges and high schools. Additionally, assistance from Community Action Team (CAT) officers provides life skills training and the opportunity to positively react with law enforcement officials.

Averaging 28 youth per day in 2009, the program was successful in multiple areas of its mission. Most importantly, KEYS exceeded a majority of objectives and outcomes, number of youth served, number of hours per day served during the summer, improvement in school attendance and grades, parent and student satisfaction with KEYS and successful completion of students from the program. Finally, 50% of the involved youth demonstrated an increase in at least one life skill area (time and money management, character education, ect).

Community Sponsors and/or contributors to the program in 2009 included:

The Town of Lexington  
Lexington Police Department  
Lexington Improvement League  
Lexington Rotary Club  
South East Regional Rotary Club  
Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church  
Grace EMC  
St. Paul Baptist Church  
Spring Hill AME  
Wal-Mart  
Select Health of South Carolina  
Kohl's  
Harvest Hope Food Bank and  
Personal donations



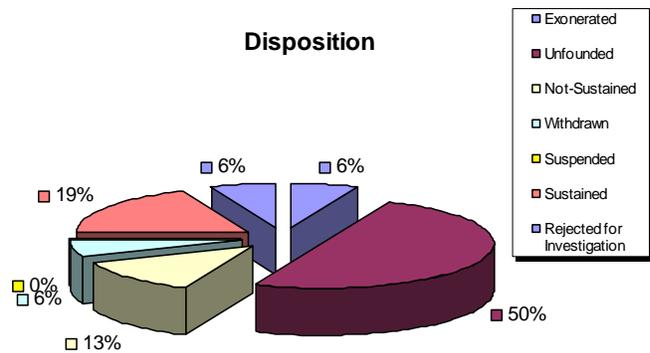
# OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) is staffed by two officers', one of whom retains the title of Inspector and reports directly to the Chief of Police. The OPS is responsible for the Department's Internal Affairs functions and handles all internal and external complaint investigations; reviews/investigates all Response to Resistance incidents and Pursuits; and administers the Departmental Early Warning System. Additionally, OPS maintains accreditation (through CALEA and SCLEA), is responsible for the Department's NCIC compliance and provides management of the Department's policies and procedures.

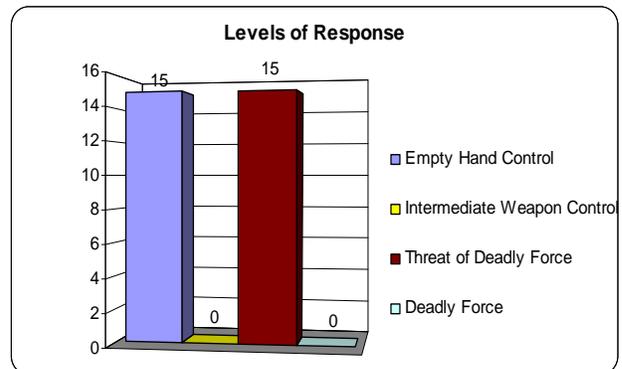
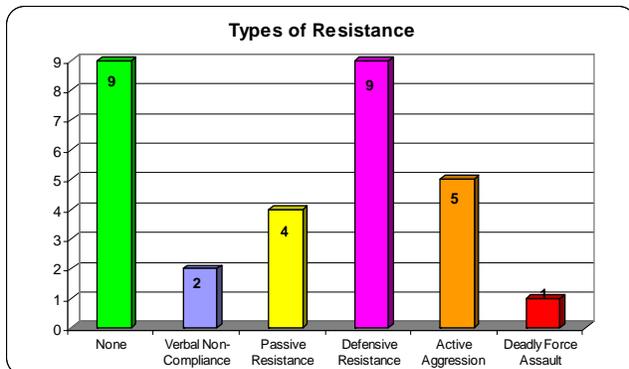
## Complaints

The most significant statistic from the OPS in 2009 is the second consecutive year with a 27% decrease in complaints lodged against officers of the Department. The sixteen (16) complaints were the lowest number seen since 2003. Officers were cleared in 56% (9) of the cases. Only three (3) complaints were sustained for the year, a 50% decrease. These decreases most likely reflect the maturity of the officers as turnover among patrol level employees is at its lowest in many years. It is certainly commendable and a testament of the professionalism exhibited by our officers. Trending does continue upward and this is expected due to the increases in department size, jurisdiction and calls for service/citizen contacts.

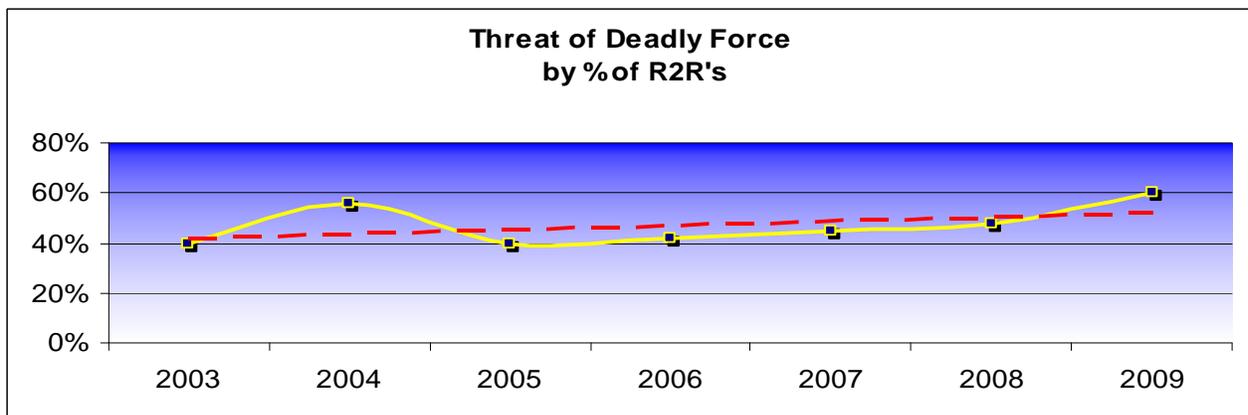
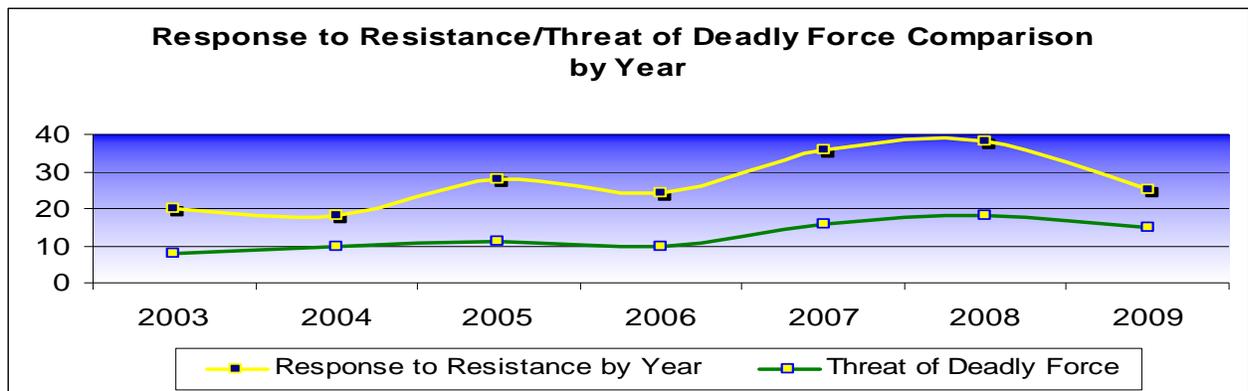


## Response to Resistance

There were only 25 reportable Responses to Resistance in 2009. This represents a 34% decrease from 2008 despite an 11% increase in custodial arrests. This equates to an incident in 1 out of every 54.5 arrests versus 32.18 arrests last year. All Responses to Resistance in 2009 were classified as "authorized".

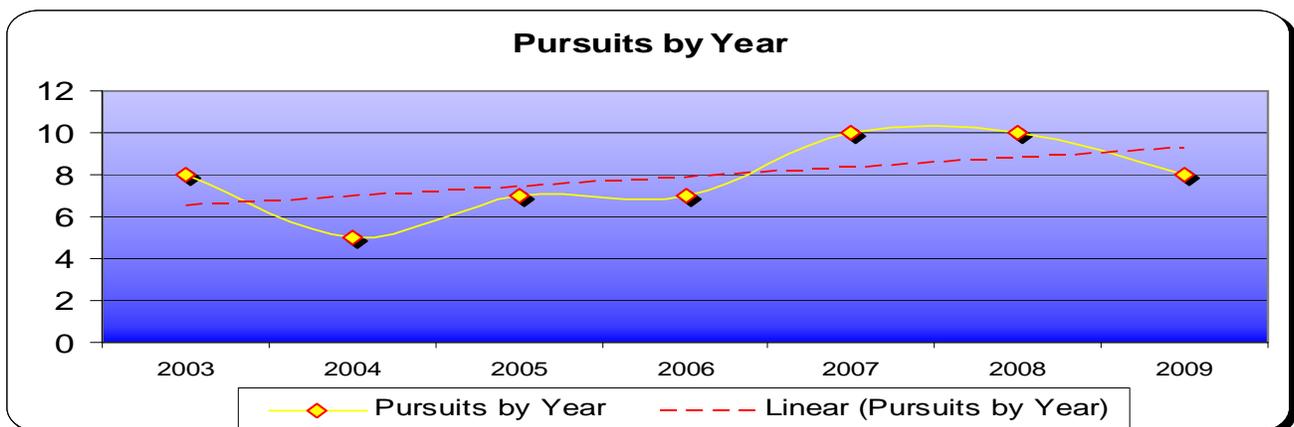


The 15 incidents in which a threat of deadly force was made due to subject actions was a decrease to the lowest level in 3 years which is attributable to the overall decrease in Response to Resistance incidents. The concern however, still lies in that the threat of deadly force continues to trend upward and most telling is the percentage of incidents requiring the threat of deadly force as shown in the following charts.

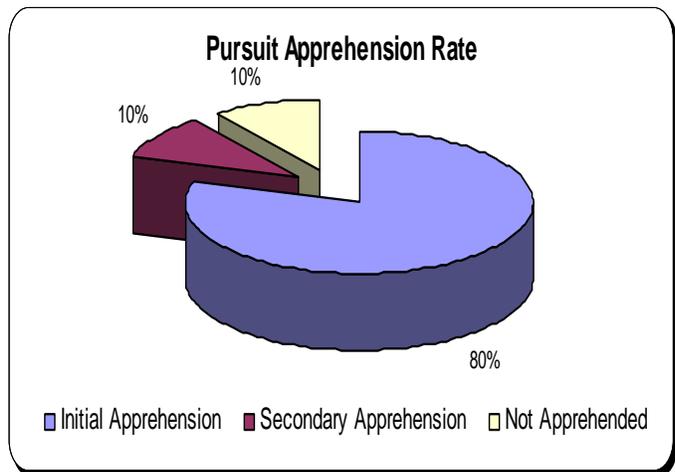


### Pursuits

The department was involved in 8 pursuits in 2009. This was a 20% decrease over 2008 totals however it does continue an upward trend that began in 2005. All pursuits for 2009 were classified as “authorized”. The number of traffic stops (8974) was down for the year, so the decrease in pursuits also greatly affected the ratio of traffic stops to pursuits. The number of pursuits occurring per traffic stop decreased dramatically to 1:1106 versus 1:764 last year. The average pursuit lasted 7.5 minutes and covered a distance of 3.8 miles.

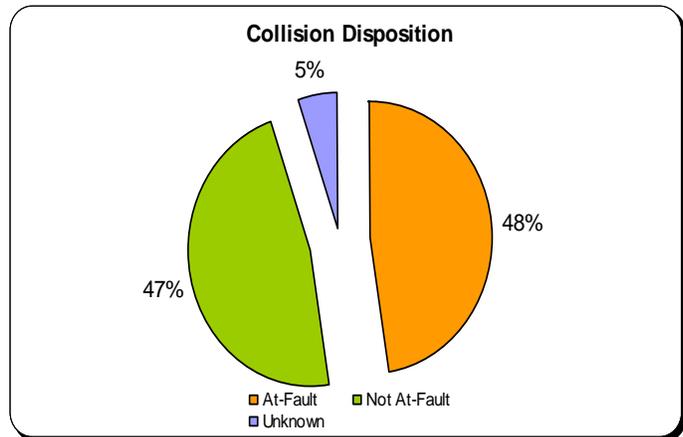


Most impressively in the pursuit statistics is that the department had an overall apprehension rate of 87% which continues to better the current five year apprehension rate of 85%. Of the seven pursuit suspects apprehended, only four were immediately after the pursuit and the remainder were brought to justice after the fact. For the previous 6 years the department has initially captured just fewer than 65% of all pursuit suspects. 59% of the remaining suspects were arrested as a result of follow-up investigation. This translates into the 85% overall apprehension rate mentioned above.



### Fleet Damage

Nineteen (19) reports of Fleet Damage were recorded in 2009 of which half were “at-fault”, which is defined as being caused by department employees. There were no obvious trends noticed in regards to causes. Only one incident involved an officer utilizing lights and sirens and the officer was found to be not at-fault.



### Early Warning System

The Department’s Early Warning System (EWS) is designed to detect out of the ordinary patterns of behavior and provide appropriate intervention to problems that have the potential to undermine the mission of this agency. The essential ingredient in this system is non-punitive but to create methods to resolve performance or other issues at the earliest stages to benefit the employee, the agency, and the community. The Office of Professional Standards maintains the necessary files to run this system. In 2009, the department command staff reviewed 78 files as a result of red flags initiated on 11 officers. 66 files were “cleared” and 12 were “maintained” for their requisite durations by EWS policy. The average triggering officer did so with 7 active files for review of which 6 were cleared and 1 maintained.

## Accreditation

The Office of Professional Standards Inspector also serves as the Accreditation Manager for the Department's ongoing accreditation efforts. The department was awarded its first ever international accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in March of 2009. Additionally the department received its 4<sup>th</sup> state accreditation award through the South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Inc. The OPS office continues to be active in the accreditation process by attending annual CALEA conferences and the OPS Inspector being elected as the treasurer of the SC Police Accreditation Coalition and attending quarterly meetings of such. Currently this office is maintaining and building files for the next accreditation on-site in December 2011.



A complete analysis of all OPS activities is available in the OPS' annual report available upon request.

### Summary of Key Activities from the Office of Professional Standards for Calendar Year

<b>Incidents</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Previous Year % Change</b>
Complaints	20	30	22	<b>16</b>	-27%
Response to Resistance	35	36	38	<b>25</b>	-34%
Pursuits	7	10	10	<b>8</b>	-20%
Fleet Damage	10	13	16	<b>19</b>	+19%