

# Byram Police Department



## 2014 Annual Report

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# BYRAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

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P.O. BOX 720222 ~ BYRAM, MS 39272

~ Accredited by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission 2012 ~

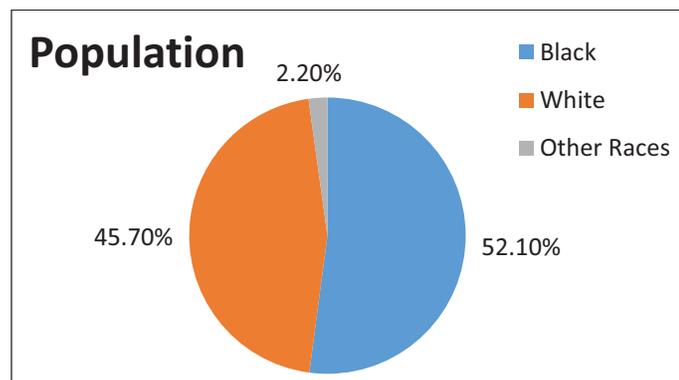


## Byram Police Department Annual Report ~ 2014 ~

### 1. Executive Summary

The MISSION of the Byram Police Department is to work in partnership with our community to enforce laws to preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment; and do so with integrity, dedication and honor, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

The Census Bureau reports a 2013 estimated population for the City of Byram of 11,603 people (a slight decrease from the 2012 estimated of 11,721)<sup>i</sup>. Prior to October 1, 2014, the Byram Police Department was authorized to employ 29 sworn officers (2.6 per 1,000). The most recent data provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates an average of 2.2 officers per 1,000 residents among agencies that report crime information throughout the United States; and, more specifically 2.6 officers per 1,000 residents in southern states<sup>ii</sup>. In the anticipation of an increase in daily service population due to the opening of Walmart in late summer of 2015, two (2) additional police officers positions were created for the current fiscal year. The police department is authorized an additional civilian support staff of twelve (12) paid personnel and four (4) volunteer personnel. Throughout this report, enforcement activities will be illustrated as they reflect our community. This serves as an indicator within the agency, as required by the accreditation commission, to identify the potential for bias-based enforcement. Enforcement activities that reflect the makeup of the community reassure the community that Byram Police Officers serve the whole community fairly and without prejudice.



Byram Police Officers responded to 6,230 calls for service (down from 6,570 in 2013) during 2014. Of these calls, officers documented 1,234 incident reports (down from 1,475 in 2013). Incidents of all types are reported including criminal complaints, vehicle crashes, and other miscellaneous reports. Vehicle crashes continue to account for the greatest number of incident reports taken in 2014. There were 372 total crash reports

(30%) taken in 2014, including 269 Mississippi Uniform Crash Reports and 103 private property crash reports.

## 2. Crime Report Introduction

### a. Data Source

On a national level, statistical information about crime is collected and reported in two ways. The first way is through the **Uniform Crime Report (UCR)**. The UCR program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 municipal, university, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. This voluntary reporting program collects data on crimes brought to the attention of law enforcement. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the UCR program and continues to assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation. The program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management; however, its data has over the years become one of the country's leading social indicators. Criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice use the data for varied research and planning purposes.

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an electronic submission crime report system implemented by the FBI to capture greater detailed information on each crime occurrence. The Byram Police Department has been certified by the FBI since March, 2012 to submit crime data via NIBRS. This allows for a more timely reporting method that is software driven and reported directly to the FBI. The crime numbers represented in this report have been sent monthly to the FBI. These numbers represent all of 2014 and, as investigations develop new information, are subject to change. More information on NIBRS reporting can be found on the FBI's website at <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/faqs.htm>.

While we recognize that many crimes go unreported to law enforcement authorities, on a local level, we do not have the resources to collect that data. As a result, the information in this report is solely on crimes that were reported to the Byram Police Department and the NIBRS program.

### b. Criminal Incidents

This report reflects Violent and Property Crimes as defined by the FBI to include:

- Murder
- Robbery
- Assaults
- Burglary/breaking and entering
- Larceny / Theft
- Auto Theft

c. Factors Affecting Crime

It is generally assumed the reader of this report understands that many factors affect crime in the community. Factors include familial, social, and economic conditions that not only influence criminal behavior, but also crime reporting practices of the citizenry. With regard to the effective strength of law enforcement, the reader should consider that an agency that significantly increases its enforcement efforts might see an increase in reported crime instead of a decrease.

As a result of numerous factors that affect reported crime, this report is limited to presenting only the numbers of specific crimes reported. We will not try to draw a correlation between the volume of crimes reported and any other social factor. Furthermore, the reader should use great caution against comparing crime trends presented in this report and those of other jurisdictions. Finally, the differences in methodology for gathering data make it unwise to compare the Uniform Crime Report to the National Crime Victimization Survey.

d. Intended Use

The purpose of this report is to present a larger picture of crime as it is reported within the corporate limits of the City of Byram.

3. Violent Crime

Violent Crimes are defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. In the City of Byram, no (0) murders, four (4) robberies, and five (5) aggravated assaults were reported in 2014.

a. Murder

2014	2013	2012
0	1	0

The Byram Police Department had no incidents of murder and/or homicide in 2014.

b. Robbery

2014	2013	2012
4	5	4

Four (4) robberies were reported in 2014. Two (2) armed robberies occurred at one convenience store. In one incident, a single suspect robbed the clerk with a knife. In the other incident, two suspects robbed the clerk at gunpoint.

One robbery was reported at a local hotel where a male subject approached a female brandishing a gun also attempting to get her into his car. The suspect was identified and arrested days later in the Metro Atlanta, Georgia area after a three-state crime spree.

One robbery was reported by a parent whose child was being bullied by known juvenile suspects.

c. Assaults

	2014	2013	2012
Aggravated Assaults	2	5	3
Simple Assaults	62	70	89

Two (2) instances of Aggravated Assault were reported in 2014; one (1) of which was domestic violence related. Sixty-two (62) additional simple assaults were reported compared to 70 in 2013 (a decrease of 11%); of which 46 were domestic violence related compared to 51 in 2013. Twenty-four (24) additional reports were taken for threats of assault, but no physical assault actually took place.

4. Property Crime

Property crimes include offenses of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. In Mississippi, burglary offenses are classified three different ways: 1) Residential Burglary; 2) Auto Burglary; and, 3) Burglary Other. Burglary Other includes all structures other than an occupied residence (meaning that the residence is owned and lived in and not necessarily that it is physically occupied by a person at the time of the burglary). This includes commercial locations such as businesses and also structures on personal property that are not attached to a residence, such as a storage-shed.

The object of these offenses is simply the taking of money or property without force or threat of force against the victim(s).

a. Burglary

	2014	2013	2012
Residential	27	29	31
Other	11	12	12
Auto	44	84	41

Burglary is the breaking and entering of a structure or vehicle with the intent to steal or commit another crime once inside. The Byram Police Department reported eighty-

two (82) total burglaries throughout the city during the 2014; down from 125 (a reduction of 52%) in 2013 calendar year. These include twenty-seven (27) residential burglaries, forty-four (44) vehicle burglaries, and eleven (11) burglaries of other structures. Ten (10) individuals were arrested in connection with burglaries in the City of Byram.

- i. Residential ~ Twenty-seven (27) residential burglaries were reported to the Byram Police Department; down from twenty-nine (29) the previous year.
- ii. Vehicle ~ Forty-four (44) vehicle burglaries were reported; compared to forty-one (84) the previous year.
- iii. Other ~ Twelve (11) other burglaries were reported and included:
  - 1. Four (4) houses either vacant or under construction
  - 2. One (1) school was burglarized by several juveniles that were arrested by responding officers
  - 3. Two (2) storage shed/shop structures
  - 4. One (1) burglary occurred in the kitchen area of a hotel
  - 5. One (1) burglary of an outdoor freezer occurred at a quick-service restaurant
  - 6. Two (2) commercial businesses had enclosed open-air storage lots burglarized and tools taken

a. Larceny – Thefts

	2014	2013	2012
Petit Larceny	66	44	79
Grand Larceny	22	27	40
Shoplifting	26	23	29

Mississippi Statute classifies larcenies by the value of the items taken. Prior to July 1, 2014 petit larceny was the theft an item with the value of less than \$500; whereas grand larceny the theft of an item with a value of greater than \$500. During the 2014 legislative session, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 585 that changes monetary limits on misdemeanor property crimes to \$1,000. The number shown here reflect petit larceny and grand larceny violations as defined by the statute both before and after July 1, 2014.

The Byram Police Department reported twenty-two (22) grand larceny incidents in 2014; down from twenty-seven (27) in 2013 (-18%). Sixty-six (66) petit larceny reports were taken in 2014 compared to seventy-nine (44) in 2013 (+50%).

Shoplifting is, generally speaking, larceny of goods for retail sale. There are additional elements to shoplifting as compared to general petit or grand larceny. In 2014, twenty-six (26) incidents of shoplifting were reported as compared to twenty-three (23) incidents in 2013 (+13%).

b. Auto Thefts

2014	2013	2012
14	17	18

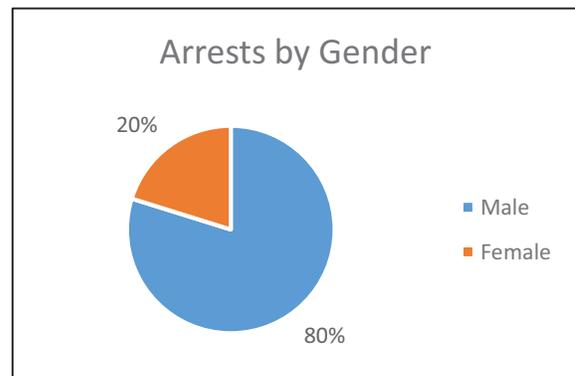
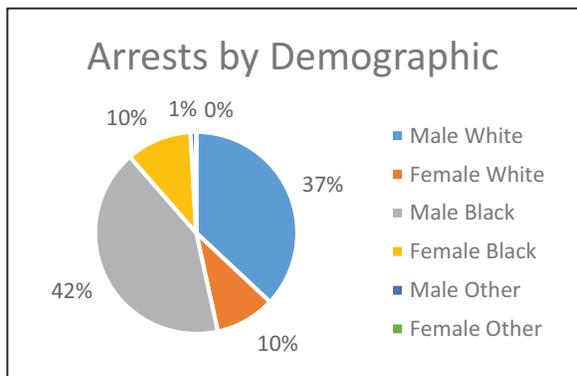
Fourteen (14) vehicles were reported stolen in the City of Byram in 2014, compared to 17 in 2013. Six (6) of the reported stolen vehicles were recovered as compared to ten (10) in 2013. Three additional reports were taken but later deemed to be unfounded.

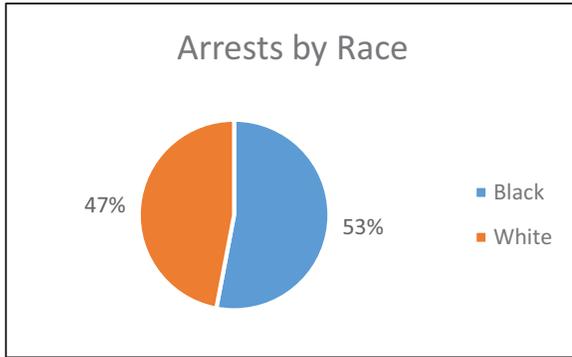
5. Calls for Service (*comparisons to 2013 displayed in parenthesis*)

Byram Police Officers responded to 5,361 (-7%) calls for service in 2014. Officers responded to more traffic related calls than any other type of call at 1,240 or 23% of (+67%) calls. The increase in traffic related calls is directly attributed to the Mississippi Department of Transportation’s reconstruction of Interstate 55 and its effect on traffic in and around the Siwell Road and I-55 interchange. Calls for burglar alarms accounted for 1,193 calls (+38%) or 23% of total call responses. Officers initiated an additional 1,937 (-24%) calls/contacts in the community and 5,031 (-24%) traffic stops. The average response time to all calls in 2014 was five minutes and thirty-six seconds (00:05:36). The Average response time to calls defined as “High Priority” which includes in-progress calls where there is a high probability of capturing a criminal suspect was five minutes (00:05:01).

6. Arrests

The Byram Police Department made 263 arrests in 2014 for 438 arrestable offenses that occurred in the city limits of the City of Byram, including 102 traffic related arrests. Twenty-one arrests were made of individuals that were wanted by other agencies or for outstanding warrants in the City of Byram in which arrests had already previously occurred. Seven (7) individuals were identified as being arrested multiple times.





Average Age	34
Median Age	32
Youngest	14
Oldest	66
<b>Juvenile Arrests (Age Under 18)</b>	
	11

7. Traffic

- a. Enforcement (Citations) ~ The Byram Police Department issued a total of 4,110 written citations in 2014, as compared to 5,386 in 2013. Thirty-two (32) arrests were made for driving under the influence (DUI); down from forty-one (41) in 2013.

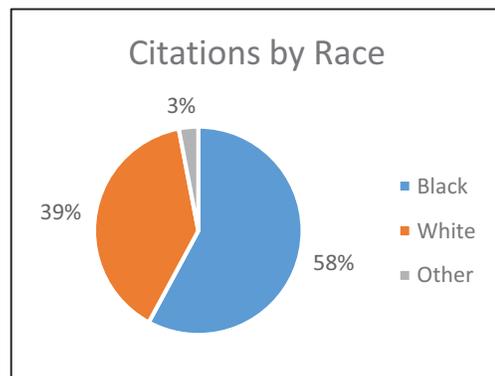
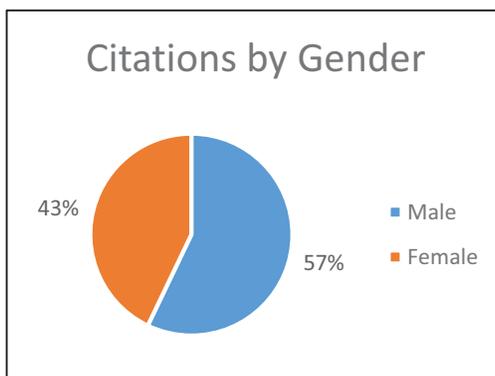
Total Citations Issued	4,110
Written Warnings	981
Enforcement Actions	3,129
<i>Speeding</i>	997

Speeding violations related to speed limits	
Average over	15 mph
Lowest issued*	6 mph
Highest over issued	50 mph

\*Six (less than 1%) Speeding citations were issued for less than 10 mph over the posted speed limit

Citations issued by demographic breakdown are as follows:

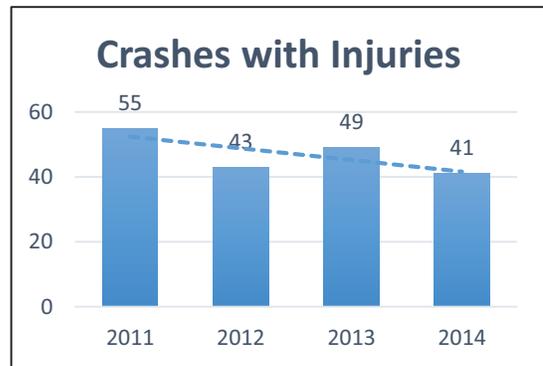
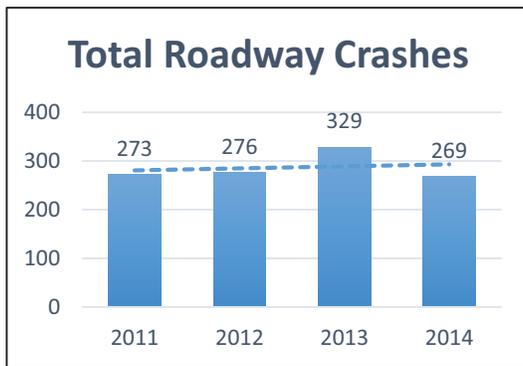
Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	% of Total
B - Black	1,279	1,082	58%
W - White	977	617	39%
Other	73	50	3%
Total Citations	4,110		



b. Crashes

c. Traffic Crashes ~ The Byram Police Department recorded 372 crash reports (30% of total reports taken) in 2014. Of those, 269 were Mississippi Uniform Crash Reports, indicating that they occurred on the roadways and included property damage greater than \$500.00 and/or personal injury. Forty-one (41) (15%) of the reported roadway crashes included injuries. Siwell Road accounted for 159 (59%) crashes in 2014.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
Crashes	273	276	329	269
Crashes w/Injuries	55	43	49	41



8. Animal Control

The Byram Police Animal Control Unit responded to 489 calls for service of which resulted in 82 incidents of animal control ordinance violations being reported. Most of these reports were complaint driven quality of life issues for our citizens.

9. Strategic Plan Overview

In October, 2014 the Byram Police Department implemented a Strategic Plan for FY 2015 once the fiscal year's budget was effective. A number of strategic goals, along with specific action steps to achieve said goals, have been developed with the intention of directing efforts of various functions of the police department. Some of those goals include:

- a. An employee wellness program has been developed for all sworn officers that includes officers taking advantage of specific benefits provided by the department's health insurance provider and requiring all officers to participate in quarterly physical fitness testing similar to that of law enforcement academy graduates.

- b. The Byram Police Department continues to strive to offer the best possible police services to the citizens and visitors of the City of Byram. Services provided are inspected regularly to ensure compliance with Law Enforcement Accreditation Standards. The Byram Police Department works towards evaluation by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation later in 2015 in an effort to achieve Re-Accreditation by the end of the year.
  
- c. A recruitment and retention plan has been implemented to work with area community colleges and other state institutions of higher learning to reach the staffing level the department is budgeted for. The intended opening of Walmart in late 2015 creates a new dynamic for staffing and new challenges for recruitment.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/28/2810140.html> (retrieved 1/6/2015)

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-71/table\\_71\\_full\\_time\\_law\\_enforcement\\_officers\\_by\\_region\\_and\\_geographic\\_division\\_by\\_rate\\_2013.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-71/table_71_full_time_law_enforcement_officers_by_region_and_geographic_division_by_rate_2013.xls) (retrieved 1/6/2015)