

OVERVIEW 2012 CRIME & TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Police Life

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ON THE COVER

Singapore's streets were safer in 2012, both in terms of fewer crime cases and fewer fatal traffic accidents. *Police Life* delves into some of the details of the statistics, including a never-before look at the crime situation for each land division in Singapore.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Whenever I read newspaper articles about crimes that happen overseas, I feel thankful for living in Singapore. Sure there still are crimes happening in our country, but the cases are seldom extremely threatening to the public's safety.

In fact, the figures speak for themselves. 2012 marked the lowest crime rate (crime cases per hundred thousand population) in twenty-nine years, with theft and related crimes forming the bulk of the cases.

The cheer doesn't stop there. Violent property crimes, which involve taking of money or property by force or threat of force against the victims, registered a 20 year low of 391 cases last year. I could go on about the good crime situation in Singapore, but I would rather let you read about it in the following pages. We have highlighted issues that will probably interest you, including an unprecedented review of Singapore's crime situation by geographical area.

Road safety is just as important, and we have also dedicated part of this issue to reviewing the road traffic situation and the plans for enhancing road safety in 2013.

As we rejoice at the good work done by our men in blue, let's also remember to play our part in preventing crimes and traffic accidents. Together, we can make Singapore the safest place in the world.

Tham Yee Lin

Editor

Police Life



I won \$1 Million

**SCAM
ALERT!**



Or so I thought...

Over \$7 million was lost to Lottery and Lucky Draw scams last year. Don't be taken in.

- Do not pay any kind of tax or administration fees to claim your prize
- Ignore any notifications of winnings, especially from draws you have not participated in
- Call the Police immediately at '999' to report the case

PENALTIES FOR CHEATING

JAIL TERM OF UP TO 10 YEARS AND LIABLE TO A FINE



Kudos to police, CNB, for crime prevention efforts

This is a letter of commendation to the Singapore Police Force and the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) for their efficiency and effective actions in making Marine Terrace estate a peaceful and safe place to live in.

A few years ago, our estate was infested with crime and was a drug abusers' haven.

Now, we Marine Terrace residents wish to say a big thank you to the police and the CNB for successfully tackling these issues. Keep it up!

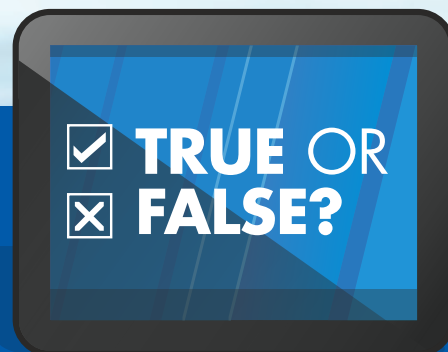
MARINE TERRACE RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS' WATCH GROUP

(with signatures from numerous residents)

18 March 2013
The New Paper



Did you know that you can also read the *Police Life* magazine on-the-go with the free "PoliceLife@SG" application for iPad and iPhone?



Ten lucky winners with the correct answers to these questions about the apps will each win an exclusive *Police Life* iPhone 4/4S cover and phone pouch:



- 1) The earliest *Police Life* issue available on the apps is the January 2012 issue. ☒ / ☐
- 2) The "PoliceLife@SG" for iPhone and iPad apps contain bonus *Police Life* content such as video clips and photo galleries not found in the e-book. ☒ / ☐
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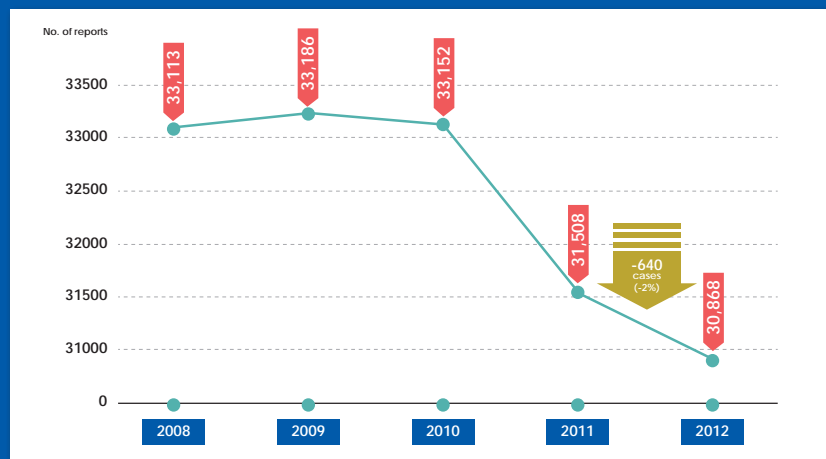
Some of the answers can only be found if you download the apps.
Submit your answers with your full name and contact number to spf_plm@spf.gov.sg by 31 May 2013.
This contest is open only to readers based in Singapore.



CRIME RATE LOWEST IN 29 YEARS

By SC Muhammad Idaffi Othman

Compared to 2011, 2012 saw a decrease in Singapore's overall crime cases by 2% to 30,868. In fact, 2012 registered the lowest crime rate (crime cases per hundred thousand population) in 29 years.



Five crime classes saw a dip in cases in 2012. Only one crime class – theft and related crimes – saw an increase of 0.6% or 107 cases. It is noteworthy that housebreaking and related crimes, and violent property crimes registered 20-year lows of 596 and 391 cases respectively. Furthermore, robbery and murder cases were the lowest in 20 years, with 175 days free of robbery cases and only 11 murder cases in 2012.

	Crime Classes	No. of cases in 2011	No. of cases in 2012	% change
	Housebreaking and Related Crimes	706	596	-15.6%
	Violent Property Crimes	443	391	-11.7%
	Commercial Crimes	3,880	3,483	-10.2%
	Crimes Against Persons	3,969	3,811	-4.0%
	Miscellaneous Crimes	4,196	4,166	-0.7%
	Theft and Related Crimes	18,314	18,421	+0.6%
	OVERALL CRIME	31,508	30,868	-2.0%

The good results show that the Singapore Police Force (SPF) is making good inroads into its vision of making Singapore the safest place in the world. As Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Ng Guat Ting, Director of Public Affairs Department, said, "In 2011, we have done well and in 2012, we have done even better. We managed to improve the crime situation with the support of the community."

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Unlicensed Money-Lending

Through collaborative efforts with stakeholders and the community, Police saw a decline of 2788 cases or approximately 24% decrease in harassment cases in 2012 compared to the previous year.

The SPF and the National Crime Prevention Council jointly organised the inaugural nationwide Anti-Unlicensed Moneylending (AUML) campaign on 30 November 2012 which is aimed to reduce the number of UML cases by increasing awareness of the public on the harm brought upon by UML on borrowers, family members and the community and the heavy punishments for UML offenders. More importantly, it is to serve as a call for action and mobilise the community in the fight against UML.

Youth Offenders

Singapore also saw a 5% decrease in the number of youths aged 7-19 years old arrested in 2012, from 3477 arrests to 3320 arrests.

Director of Operations, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC) Lim Kok Thai, said "Youths are the pillar of our future... Police will continue to work closely with our counterparts in the Ministry Of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development for a holistic approach to deal with youth crime."

SAC Hoong Wee Teck, Director of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also added, "We urge youths not to get involved in UML activities in any way...Parents are also advised to keep a close watch on their children's activities outside school."

KEY CRIME CONCERNS IN 2013

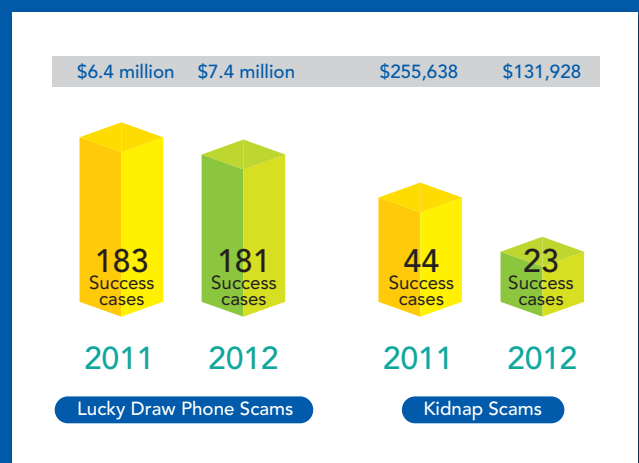
One area of concern is phone scam cases. Despite the drop in successful phone scam cases, the amount lost in the scams is still significant.

AC Ng highlighted. "We noted that the amount cheated/lost is still high. We need the community to know that if the prize won is "too good to be true", it is likely to be a scam. You may call the Police to check the information given to you."

Police are also reminding members of the public to adopt preventive measures to avoid falling prey to Outrage of Modesty, especially on buses and trains as 2012 saw a rise in such cases by 34% from 114 cases to 153.

LOOKING FORWARD

Continuous enforcement efforts, crime prevention, community engagement, and tougher measures against criminals will remain key focuses of SPF. Police look forward to the continued support of Singapore residents to achieve more crime free days. 🇸🇬





INSIGHT - CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION

By Central Police Division

OVERALL CRIME IN THE CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION FELL BY 8%, FROM 5,700 CASES IN 2011 TO 5,244 CASES IN 2012. THIS IS THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR THAT OVERALL CRIME HAS DECLINED.



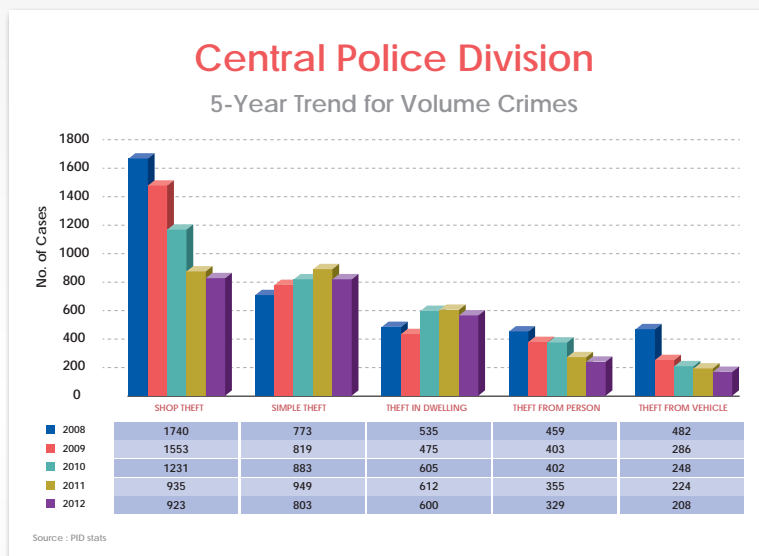
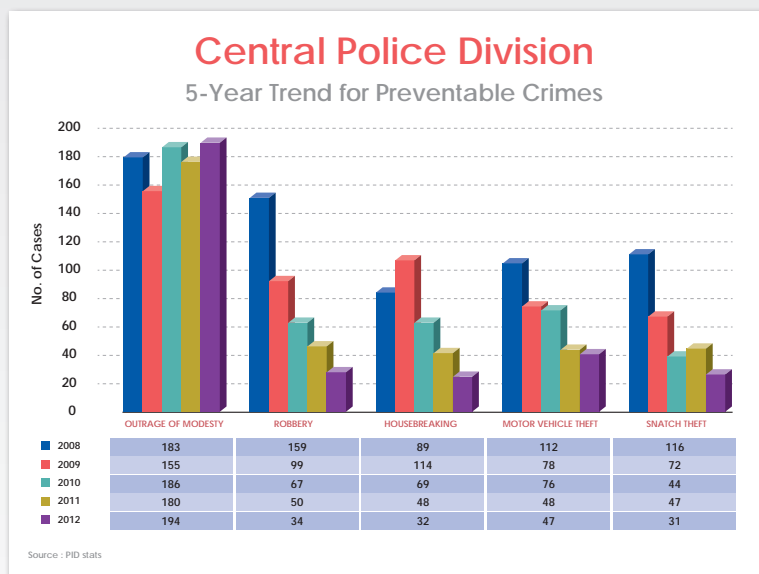
Of the five major crimes, only outrage of modesty registered an increase, from 180 cases in 2011 to 194 cases in 2012 (+14 cases or +8%).

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Three notable improvements were robbery cases, which decreased by 16 cases (or -32%), housebreaking, which decreased by

16 cases (or -33%), and snatch theft, which decreased by 16 cases (or -34%).

Volume crimes registered decreases as well. Shop theft decreased by 12 cases (or -1%), simple theft decreased by 46 cases (or -5%), theft in dwelling decreased by 12 cases (or -2%), theft from person decreased by 26 cases (or -7%) and theft from vehicle decreased by 16 cases (or -7%).



OUR SUCCESS STRATEGY

The commendable drop in crime figures is attributed to Joint Operations, Intelligence and Investigation (JOII) efforts between our frontline policing units, Division Intelligence Branch and Investigation Branch. Crime information was shared promptly between all crime-fighting units and special JOII forums were convened to strategise crime-fighting efforts for serial cases. We also implemented a number of successful campaigns such as the "Safe Shopping" and "Safe Clubbing" campaigns with various stakeholders.

TACKLING FUTURE CHALLENGES

In 2013, we will continue our crime-fighting strategies and enhance our engagement with the community. While we will still focus on the five major crimes, our crime-fighting efforts will also be tweaked to target the five volume crimes, unlicensed money-lending cases and youth crime.

We will also be looking at enriching our crime databases and tightening the planning of shift-work plans to coincide with crime-prone timings and locations. Lastly, collaborative initiatives with various community stakeholders will be increased and more targeted. 📊



INSIGHT - CLEMENTI POLICE DIVISION

By Clementi Police Division

THE OVERALL CRIME FOR THE CLEMENTI POLICE DIVISION INCREASED MARGINALLY BY 0.3% FROM 3786 CASES IN 2011 TO 3799 CASES IN 2012. THEFT AND RELATED CRIMES FORMED THE MAJORITY OF THE CASES, COMPRISING ABOUT 60% OF THE OVERALL CRIME FIGURE.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Among the various crime categories, violent property crimes and commercial crimes registered the most significant decreases. The former decreased by 15.1% in 2012 while the latter decreased by 8.1 % as compared to 2011.

Notably, the Division's targeted efforts in fighting unlicensed money lending (UML) harassment reaped positive results last year. The number of UML harassment cases dropped significantly by 18.1%.

OUR SUCCESS STRATEGY

Sustainable Crime Fighting Initiatives

Intensified anti-crime operations were conducted to enhance Police presence in crime prone areas. These operations were sustained by the contributions of all the Division's officers working as a closely-knit team to multiply the crime-fighting efforts exponentially. The Joint Operations, Investigation and Intelligence approach in tackling crime has led to many swift arrests of culprits and the solving of cases, preventing these from escalating into series cases.

In addition, the frequent joint operations with various Home Team agencies have also allowed the Division to reap team synergy and leverage on the expertise of the different agencies involved.

Deep-Rooted Community Engagement

Deep-rooted community engagement has enabled the Division to optimise its crime fighting resources.

Many of the ongoing community engagement projects have significantly expanded our pool of crime prevention ambassadors. These include the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC)

Sentosa Outreach Programme where NPCC cadets promote crime prevention awareness at the Sentosa Beachfronts, the **Workers-In-actionN** project which taps on the extensive ground knowledge and network of the conservancy workers to be our “eyes and ears” against UML activities, and Project **CAPTAINS** – a joint Community Safety and Security Programme with the management of the dormitories to train selected foreign nationals as ambassadors of social responsibility and active partnership.


The **Delta Citizenry** – a community policing project covering residential blocks in the Clementi constituency - has seen more than 1,300 residents stepping forward to take ownership of the safety and security issues in their neighbourhoods since its inception in 2010. With the formation of Bukit Timah United and West Coast Protectors, the Delta Citizenry project has since expanded its base beyond Clementi constituency. This has generated greater ownership of crime issues by the community.

Moving Upstream to Address Crime

The Division strives to prevent crime through various community programmes. An example is the **Delta League**, which has completed four successful sessions and attracted more than 3,000 youth participants since its inception in 2011. Through competitive football matches and community projects under the programme, the youths learned about values and teamwork. With more than 2,600 “friends” on its Facebook page, the increased interactions have promoted a greater level of bonding and trust between the youths and the Police.

TACKLING FUTURE CHALLENGES

The growing population will bring with it changes in the population profile and also new infrastructural developments. This, coupled with the current competitive labour market, means that the Division has to creatively develop strategies that will effectively achieve crime results with limited resources. It is thus imperative that the Division continues to leverage on good teamwork and expand its inter-department/agency collaboration platforms to optimise its resources.

In addition, the Division will explore new community engagement projects to increase our “armies of eyes and ears” on the ground to fight crime. The launch of the Community Policing System for Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) on 6 January 2013 represents another significant development in our community engagement structure. The NPC’s Crime Strike Force and Community Policing Unit will bring our crime-fighting capabilities closer to the community and further deepen the latter’s involvement in our community partnership projects. This will in turn enable our officers to develop deeper familiarity with the local terrain and be more effective in crime fighting. 





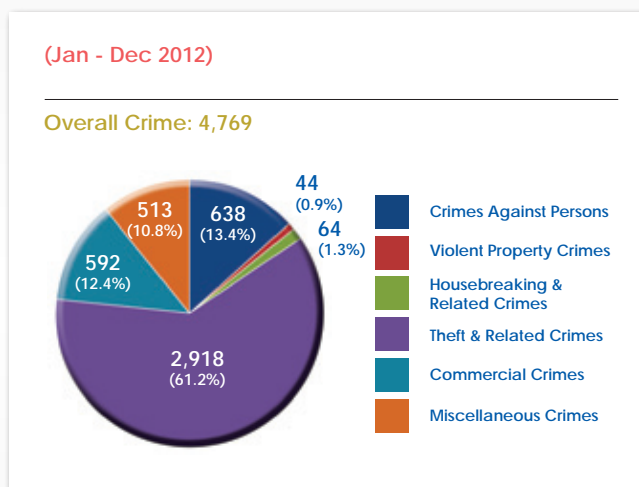
INSIGHT - TANGLIN POLICE DIVISION

By Tanglin Police Division

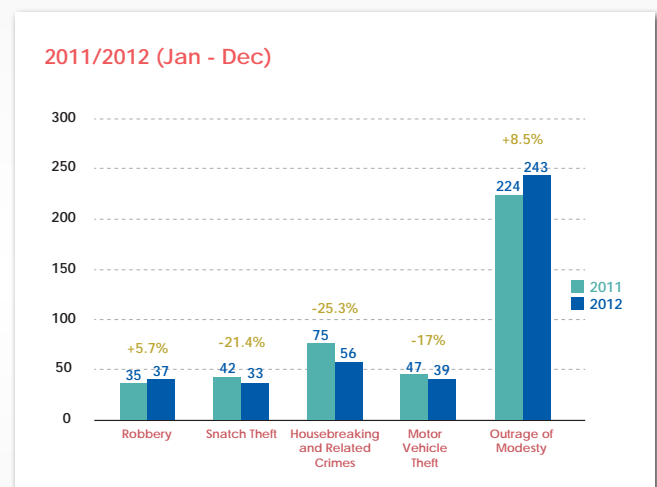
IN 2012, TANGLIN POLICE DIVISION REGISTERED AN INCREASE IN OVERALL CRIME BY 6.3% COMPARED TO 2011.

Theft and related crimes continued to form the bulk of the Division's overall crime cases in 2012 (61.2%), followed by crimes against persons (13.4%), and commercial crimes (12.4%).

Comparison among Crime Categories



Comparison of five Major Crimes



NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

The number of five major crimes dipped by 3.5%, with housebreaking registering the most significant decrease of 26%. This was followed by snatch theft and motor vehicle theft which fell by 21.4% and 17% respectively. However, outrage of modesty cases increased by 8.5% and continues to be a key concern.

There was also a significant decrease in Unlicensed Moneylending (UML) harassment cases, to a tune of 47.6%.

OUR SUCCESS STRATEGY

Our improvements can be attributed to the following three key strategies:

- Enhanced responsiveness to urgent calls
- Use of crime hotspots analysis for effective resource deployment; and
- Leveraging community partnerships

Enhanced responsiveness

We implemented a two-pronged approach to improve police responsiveness to urgent calls. Firstly, we put in place a cross-Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) patrol plan for Fast Response Cars (FRCs) during peak call loads. Secondly, we maintained a 'reserve' FRC in each NPC for response to urgent cases only. This meant that there would always be officers available to respond to emergencies such as a crime in progress or situations where life or property may be threatened. This enhanced response proved crucial in early intervention to prevent the escalation of incidents, apprehending suspects, and aiding victims of crime.

Crime hotspots analysis

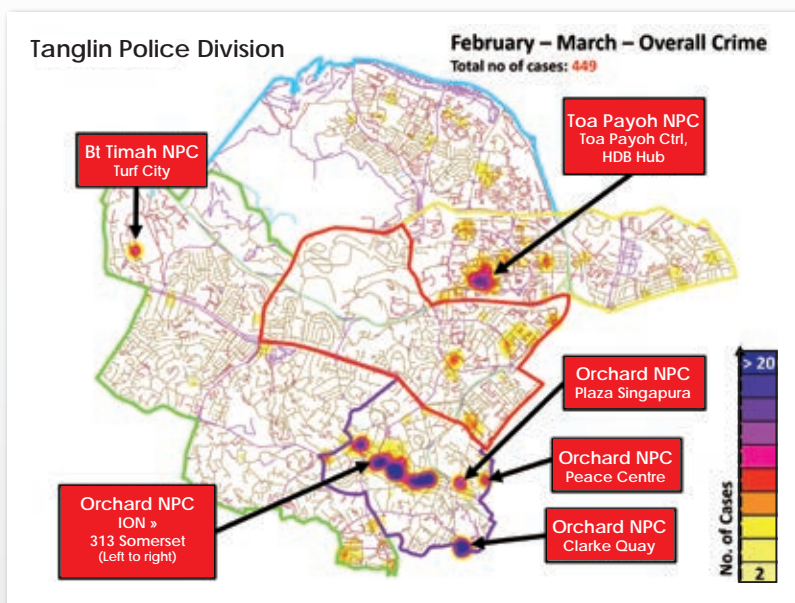
In 2012, we began a series of trials using Geographical Information System (GIS) crime pattern analytics to better identify crime hotspots for resource deployment in terms of proactive patrols and crime prevention activities. This is to ensure that resources are used optimally based on ground realities to effectively address crime trends. Where additional resources are needed, we pooled together the Force's strategic resources with divisional ones to deter crime at problematic spots according to crime-prone timings. For example, cross-NPC support was implemented during peak periods at problematic spots under Orchard NPC to better handle incidents. This was complemented with the Special Operations Command's Anti-crime Patrols to deter crime and public order incidents at such locations.

Leveraging on community partnerships

In 2012, Toa Payoh NPC launched a community outreach programme including the distribution of an Anti-UML kit to educate the public on UML. The programme provided residents with information on alternative avenues for financial assistance and highlighted adverse consequences of victims aiding UML syndicates to commit offences under the Moneylenders' Act. The programme also mobilised the community to be the "eyes and ears" to detect loanshark activities.

TACKLING FUTURE CHALLENGES

Fighting crime through enhanced operational effectiveness remains the top priority in our 2013 plans. We intend to roll out three initiatives more aggressively. Firstly, GIS crime pattern analysis for hotspots policing will be used more holistically to design anti-crime measures and devise longer-term solutions to crime hotspots. Secondly, co-operation with other Home Team Departments will be strengthened with more regular dialogues, intelligence sharing and joint-operations. Lastly, more intensive publicity of emerging crime trends will be conducted to encourage greater self-responsibility among the public in crime prevention. In addition, we will develop more innovative crime alert messaging approaches to better engage the target audience. 📺



Sample of ArcGIS map displaying crime hotspots in the division



INSIGHT - ANG MO KIO POLICE DIVISION

By Ang Mo Kio Police Division

OVERALL CRIME RECORDED A DECREASE OF 1.8% (-103 CASES) IN 2012, FROM 5,623 CASES IN 2011 TO 5,520 CASES IN 2012.

CRIME CLASSIFICATION	2011	2012	+/-	%
OVERALL CRIME	5,623	5,520	103	-1.8%
Crimes Against Persons	828	754	-74	-8.9%
Violent Property Crimes	77	89	12	15.6%
Housebreaking & Related Crimes	135	139	4	3.0%
Theft & Related Crimes	3,186	3,269	83	2.6%
Commercial Crimes	656	557	-99	-15.1%
Miscellaneous Crimes	741	712	-29	-3.9%

Number of cases reported

The increase in violent property crimes can be mainly attributed to two serial web-based extortion cases. In the first series, the victims were threatened into making payments under the fear of having their naked photos released. In the other series, male victims who had responded to a forum post offering sexual services were subsequently threatened into making payments by the alleged "father" of the female subject.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS AND OUR SUCCESS STRATEGY

Unlicensed moneylending offences saw a significant decrease of 30.3% in 2012. This was a result of various concerted

measures. Ops Platinum, an operation initiated in 2009, targets individuals who open bank accounts to facilitate loanshark operations. In 2012, 195 suspects were arrested through this series of operations. On the tactical front, hotspot locations were identified through crime trend analysis. Ambush operations were then mounted at selected locations. This was complemented by the deployment of CCTV cameras at other locations, which perform a dual role of deterring and detecting offenders. Public education was also a key tenet of our strategy against loansharks. We constantly emphasized the dangers of borrowing from unlicensed moneylenders during our Community Safety and Security Programme (CSSP) activities. Crime prevention posters and advisories were issued promptly whenever



there is a trend in the neighbourhood. We also encouraged residents to form Neighbourhood Watch Groups and participate in Citizens-On-Patrol, so that they can look out for one another.

Confrontational property crime (i.e. robbery and snatch theft) saw a decrease of 37.5%. The significant improvement can be attributed mainly to our successful efforts in community outreach. In 2012, we began a pilot project to display crime prevention advisories in an acrylic holder mounted on a wall next to the lift. The more conspicuous positioning of the advisory is a more effective means of alerting residents to the latest crimes in their neighbourhood.

Sengkang and Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centres also launched their respective Facebook pages, which serve as additional platforms for hosting crime prevention advisories. We continue to maintain friendly relationships with pawnshop and handphone shop owners, while adding pressure on shady business owners. This enabled us to detect offenders trying to dispose their loot at the earliest possible opportunity.

Due to the spike in bicycle theft in the first half of 2012, we introduced a number of measures to curb the trend. The SAFE rack, an innovation of ours, has since been used by several town councils. We worked with relevant stakeholders such as the Land Transport Authority, NParks and town councils to create proper parking bays for bicycles. CCTV cameras were installed at crime prone locations such as the parking bays outside MRT stations. We also embarked on a labeling exercise to register the ownership of bicycles. This was then complemented by regular enforcement

checks to detect stolen bicycles. As a result, we managed to reverse the trend in the second half of 2012.

TACKLING FUTURE CHALLENGES

In 2013, we will be focusing our efforts on preventing crime against the elderly. The elderly are a vulnerable group of victims due to their reduced physical agility and susceptibility to be taken in by scammers and fraudsters. We will identify the group of elderly residents that most require our protection, then devise the most effective measure to educate this group of residents. This might mean reaching out to them through their next of kin, or through community resources such as grassroots organisations, senior activity centres, and volunteer groups that champion aging causes.

Given the large number of construction works in newer estates such as Punggol, there is likely to be an increase in the foreign worker population in these estates. Project FORWARD is a CSSP targeting foreign workers to prevent, deter and detect crime in dormitories as well as to inculcate safety awareness in workers. Following its successful launch in two dormitories located in Sembawang, this CSSP will now be replicated at other dormitories housed within the division.

We will continue to leverage on community resources and technology to create a safer and more secure environment for the more than 1.4 million population that reside within our jurisdiction. 📺



INSIGHT - BEDOK POLICE DIVISION

By Bedok Police Division

IN 2012, CRIME IN THE BEDOK POLICE DIVISION DROPPED BY 2.9 % WHEN COMPARED WITH 2011. THIS ACHIEVEMENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SOME TWEAKING OF POLICING STRATEGIES AND TACTICS.

OUR SUCCESS STRATEGY

Stepping Up Presence On The Frontline

Increasing police presence on the frontline not only deters criminals, but also provides assurance to the public. Every single police officer in Bedok Police Division, including office hour staff, contributes to the stepped up presence on the frontline. In addition, officers are also recalled to perform Anti-Crime Rounds (ACR) in crime hotspots, especially when a crime trend is identified. These are extra efforts made by our officers, and their hardwork has definitely borne fruit for the Division.

Contributions of Our PNSmen & VSC officers

In addition to our regular and Police National Service Force (PNSF) officers, the efforts of our PNSmen and Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) partners also contributed to the reduction of the crime rate in our Division. Ops Blue Mesh (OBM) which targeted the crime hotspots in Geylang were mostly staffed by our PNSmen. VSC officers also played an important role, supporting our regular counterparts in a variety of roles, from patrol duties at the Neighbourhood Police Centres (NPCs) to enforcement operations against vice activities.

Joint Ops With Home Team partners & other agencies

We also leveraged the capabilities of our Home Team partners and other agencies to fight crime. Joint operations with Home Team partners such as the the Central Narcotics Bureau Supervision 'G' unit at the Division allowed us to maintain a high operation tempo and keep the criminals at bay.

18 arrested in Geylang in multi-agency raid

Eighteen people were arrested by the police in Geylang in an overnight multi-agency joint operation that ended in the wee hours of yesterday morning.

Those arrested, aged between 18 and 47, were hauled up for drug offences and the selling of illegal sexual enhancement products, among others.

Several entertainment outlets were also found to be breaching licensing conditions.

The operation, which was led by Bedok Police Division, covered entertainment outlets, hotels and back lanes in Geylang.

Enforcement officers from the Singapore Customs, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority and the Health Sciences Authority were also roped in.

Investigations are ongoing.

Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.

JOINT OPERATIONS INVESTIGATION AND INTELLIGENCE (JOII)

Within the Division, the culture of JOII is embedded across different units and branches. This has led to the solving of cases as timely sharing of information across different units and branches allowed us to apprehend the culprit swiftly.

MAXIMISING RESOURCES


We exercised flexibility in varying the patrol forces so as to optimise the use of police resources. The '6-to-6' and '10-to-10' initiatives with a Fast Response Car (FRC) from each NPC deployed from 6pm to 6am (night shift) and 10am to 10pm (morning shift) instead of the normal 8-to-8 shifts were started to maximise deploying our resources when they are needed most. Focusing the Lock-Up Van in Geylang also allowed our patrol forces to spend more time on the ground.

HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY

Beyond human resources, technology was also harnessed to supplement our manpower resources and our outreach to the community. For example, Pasir Ris NPC used a wireless system to conduct surveillance on several locations simultaneously via CCTV. SMS Crime Alerts helped to spread crime awareness amongst our community partners.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Support from the community is essential in fighting crime. Projects such as Youth Mentoring Scheme 2.0 enabled us to engage youths at risk alongside other Home Team agencies.

There is no single strategy to fight crime. Fighting crime is complex and requires a multi-pronged approach which our Division has adopted. 



INSIGHT - JURONG POLICE DIVISION

By Jurong Police Division

THE JURONG POLICE DIVISION ACHIEVED A REDUCTION IN OVERALL CRIME BY 3.5% IN 2012 AS COMPARED TO 2011.



NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

The five preventable (5P) crimes were reduced by 16.6% in 2012. Except for snatch theft, the highest drop was in housebreaking & theft and robbery, with a 37.6% and 34.5% reduction respectively as compared to 2011.

Unlicensed moneylending (UML) harassment cases within our Division dropped by 15%. Conversely, our relentless enforcement efforts have increased UML arrests by a whopping 46%.

OUR SUCCESS STRATEGY

These successes are due to our officers' unity, dedication and commitment.

We strengthened our commitment in our fight against crime with the set up of a new Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC). Woodlands West NPC commenced operations on 30 December 2012, serving the residents in Marsiling and Woodgrove constituencies.

Woodlands East NPC, previously known as Woodlands



NPC, serves the residents in Sembawang, Woodlands and Admiralty constituencies.

With a tighter area to police, each NPC can better serve its residents and will be more responsive to crime-fighting.

Both these NPCs also implemented the Community Policing System (COPS). Under COPS, the Crime Strike Force tackles local crime concerns more effectively and the Community Policing Unit deepens community engagement by interacting more intensively with them.

We have also been rolling out our Foreign Worker Masterplan. Recognising the large numbers of foreign workers in the western part of Singapore, the Division has been developing a framework to ensure safety and security. Broadly, the Masterplan comprises five key thrusts:

- **Information** – By maintaining a comprehensive database of dormitories, we can respond swiftly to any crime or security-related incident at the dormitories.
- **Engagement** – All worker dormitories are roped in as members of the Safety & Security Watch Group. Officers also visit these communities regularly to engage residents, together with various stakeholders such as grassroots and Government agencies.
- **Education** – We leverage on our appointed Crime Prevention Ambassadors to spread crime prevention messages amongst worker communities. We also hold roadshows to educate workers on social norms and Singapore's laws.


- **Enforcement** – The Division works closely with other Government agencies to take regular enforcement action at dormitories. This safeguards worker communities and ensures that no criminal activity takes root at these dormitories.
- **Exercises** – Finally, to prepare worker communities for contingencies, tabletop and ground deployment exercises are carried out regularly.

It's early days yet for some of the initiatives, but the outcomes have been encouraging. There has been a reduction in crime involving foreign workers. Complaints related to disamenities have also fallen with better understanding between different communities. We will look into introducing more action plans under our blueprint to sustain progress on the ground.

TACKLING FUTURE CHALLENGES

We intend to enhance our crime deterrence and detection focus at the two Land Checkpoints in 2013. With a throughput of more than 120,000 vehicles per day (arrival and departure), our land checkpoints can inevitably be a conduit for illegal elements to seep into Singapore.

We will work to refine operational concepts so that these can be adapted for maximum results. At the same time, we will leverage the aggregated force of more than 1,000 Home Team officers at the two land checkpoints to mount joint operations. These efforts will bolster border security and send a strong deterrent signal to criminals and terrorists alike.

In executing our mission to prevent, deter and detect crime, we will constantly rethink, review and innovate to ensure our strategies remain robust and on track. 

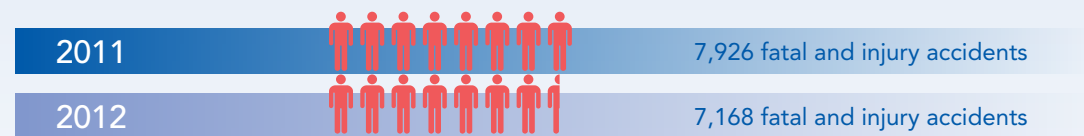


TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS DECREASE, VIOLATIONS INCREASE

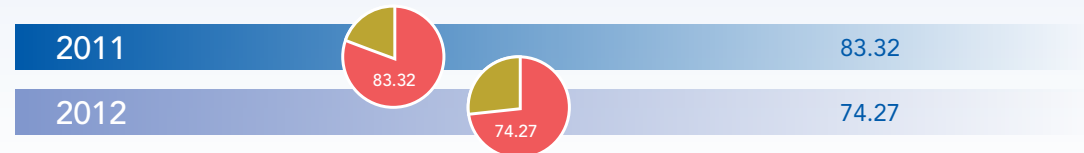
By SC Muhammad Alif Bin Sapuan
Photos by SSgt Edwin Lim Jia Zhong

Here's an overview of Singapore's road traffic situation in 2012.

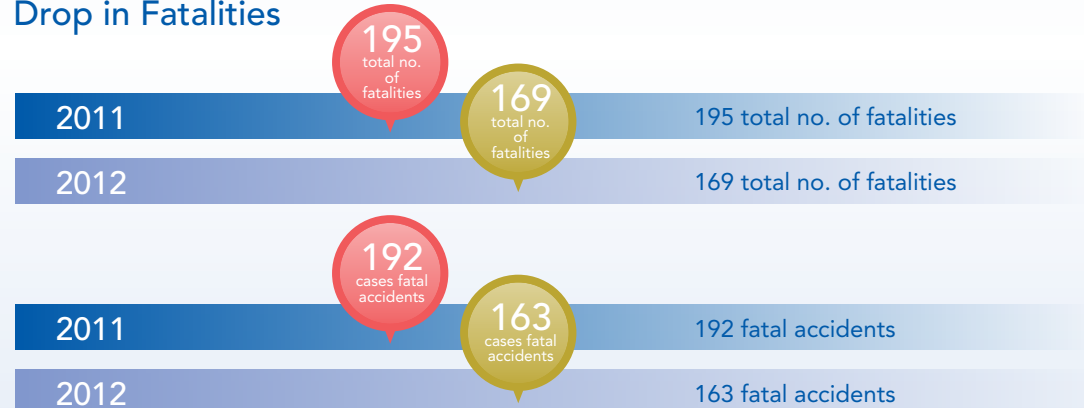
Decrease in Accidents and Accident Rate






Drop in fatal and injury accident rate (normalised against 10, 000 vehicle population)



Drop in Fatalities



Fatalities according to user groups


	2011	2012	% DIFF
 Motorcyclist & Pillion Riders	99	76	-23.2%
 Pedestrian Fatalities	49	44	-10.2%
 Elderly	26	23	-11.5%





Increase in Traffic Violations

Worryingly, the number of traffic violations by motorists are on the rise. Of particular concern is the continued increase in the number of speeding and red-running violations from 2010 to 2012. 🚦

Total Traffic Violations Detected

	2010	2011	2012
 Traffic Violations	304,472	316,214	327,503

Speeding and Red-Running Violations Detected

	2010	2011	2012
 Speeding Violations	205,623	225,550	244,806
 Red-Running	17,185	17,492	17,705



SAFER ROADS SINGAPORE: EVERY LIFE MATTERS

By SC Muhammad Alif Bin Sapuan
Photos by SSgt Edwin Lim Jia Zhong

WHILE THE TRAFFIC POLICE CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS IN ENSURING SAFETY ON OUR ROADS, ROAD USERS HAVE A HUGE ROLE TO PLAY IN ABIDING WITH ROAD SAFETY RULES AT ALL TIMES. ONE CARELESS MOVE OR MISJUDGEMENT MAY CAUSE UNNECESSARY DEATHS. ONE LIFE LOST, IS ONE TOO MANY.

The Police have stepped up measures to prevent fatal and injury accidents from occurring. Here's a look at some of the initiatives and measures that the Traffic Police undertook last year and new ones that will be introduced this year.

In 2012

Strategic Enforcement Team

A group of dedicated patrol officers was formed to conduct motorcycle operations and increase interaction with motorcyclists. This includes dispensing road safety advice or taking enforcement action to correct dangerous riding behaviour where necessary.

Singapore Ride Safe 2012

In helping motorcyclists hone existing skills, the Singapore Ride Safe 2012 campaign introduced "Skilled Knowledge Training" to enable motorcyclists to acquire new defensive riding skills via experiential segment real-life demonstration and media articles featuring the experiences of seasoned riders.

Continuous Outreach and Collaborations

Raising the public's awareness of road safety is vital. Therefore, outreach efforts and collaborations such as Pedestrians Blitzes, road safety segments in Crimewatch, People's Association Road Safety Ambassadors Training, engagement of stakeholders and road safety events, exhibitions and talks were undertaken.

Pedestrians Safety Features

The 'Green Man' Plus Scheme was extended to 244 pedestrian crossings island-wide. More dividers were constructed for pedestrian refuge and more railings were installed to deter jaywalking.



Source: Lianhe Zaobao © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.

In 2013

This year, the Traffic Police's three-pronged strategy of Enforcement, Engagement and Education will be intensified via the Safer Roads Singapore initiative. The importance of deterring and detecting traffic violators cannot be undermined.

Here are some upcoming initiatives announced by the Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr S Iswaran, during the Committee of Supply Debate 2013:

Basic Education

The Expressway Familiarisation Ride Course (EFR) will be mandatory for all new Class 2B learner-drivers from June this year. EFR allows riders to familiarise themselves with riding so as to reduce road accidents.

Corrective Education

The newly introduced voluntary Safe Driving Course for motorists who have accumulated half or more

of their maximum demerit points allows for earlier intervention to correct dangerous road habits. This will be implemented by the end of this year.

As for motorists facing their first or second driving suspensions, they will go for a more comprehensive retraining course with stricter passing standards.

School Education

Traffic Police will continue extending its outreach and collaborations with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and schools.

In addition to road safety talks and training, Traffic Police will work with MOE to incorporate road safety messages into the school curriculum for students of all levels, especially for young children such as pre-schoolers and lower primary students.

Engagement

Traffic Police is working with the Singapore Road Safety Council to develop a common platform to share best practices in road safety.

Enforcement

Motorists who flout traffic rules in school zones will face harsher penalties with them earning an additional demerit point. New riders may get their licenses revoked if they beat the traffic lights within these areas.

Auxiliary Police Officers and 70 more Police Officers will be deployed by the end of this year and this adds up to 210 officers (including Traffic Police Officers) on patrol.

There are currently 240 cameras installed at traffic junctions island-wide. By end 2014, there will be a network of almost 300 digital speed and red-light cameras, allowing police officers to download images efficiently.

When interviewed, an Auxiliary Police Officer said, "We want our presence to be felt in order to deter irresponsible drivers causing unnecessary road accidents." The officer, who was on patrol at Simpong Bedok, added that the area has a high incidence of illegal parking.



Playing our part

A taxi driver who has been driving for ten years opined, "Young drivers nowadays are totally different from drivers in the past. People who have been driving for years are aware of the dangers on the road and that they have to obey road safety rules. Unlike

seasoned drivers, they are eager to reach (their) destination and safety comes last."

We have to remember that each of us plays an important role in ensuring the safety of our roads and that we are responsible for our lives and that of others. While the Traffic Police encourages




road users to have personal responsibility and practice road safety as a habit, road users must acknowledge their mistakes on roads and correct themselves.

As the Commander of the Traffic Police department, Assistant Commissioner of Police Cheang Keng Keong, said, "Road users still want to take a chance when

they do not see us around and try to commit traffic violations. That's why we need to increase our presence on the road itself, whether through the use of technology or through deploying either Traffic Police Officers or Auxiliary Police Officers to help us enforce all these traffic rules."

More information on the 2013

initiatives can be found on the revamped Traffic Police website at www.driving-in-singapore.spf.gov.sg. 



MEET THE OFFICERS KEEPING SINGAPORE'S ROADS SAFE

By Charissa Tan, Home Team News

It was no game.

Within a split second, sharp-eyed Corporal (Cpl) Lee Guang Hui confirmed his suspicions regarding what was 'missing' in the dark grey Mazda car beside his vehicle.

He depressed the bull horn, which emitted two low 'bap' tones, and waved for the driver to stop his vehicle along the road shoulder of the Tampines Expressway.

While this was happening, his partner Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Mohamad Rizal brought the Traffic Police (TP) vehicle to a halt behind the grey Mazda.

"Initially, the gentleman denied that he was not wearing a seat-belt, but after I queried him again, he relented and admitted to it," said Cpl Lee, 28.

The gentleman immediately incurred a \$120 fine and three demerit points for failing to belt up while driving.

Within an hour of cruising along the different expressways in Singapore, the tag team from Patrol Unit Team 2 had caught at least four offenders.

They ranged from drivers using a mobile phone while driving—which incurred an immediate confiscation of the phone—to not belting up while driving.

Such offences not only endanger the safety of the drivers themselves, but can also potentially cause fatal accidents.

Contrary to rumours, the Patrol officers do not have a quota of offences to fulfil.

"It's our basic role to take enforcement action against errant drivers, as it concerns life and the safety of all on the road," said SSgt Rizal, who has been serving in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for 11 years and counting.

"For errant drivers, we will inform them of the offence, take down their particulars, and advise them accordingly on safe driving... ultimately, it's for the safety of the driver himself."

Every time a vehicle is stopped, a screening will be done on the spot to ensure that the vehicle, driver and driver's license are all valid.

The TP officers patrol the various roads and expressways in Singapore for at least four hours during their shift to ensure safe driving is practised on the roads.

A part of their duties involves managing the situation onsite when road accidents occur.

Upon arrival at the scene of an accident, the TP Patrol officers will lodge an incident report and

facilitate traffic away from the scene.

The task of verifying the cause of the accident and deciding on the outcome, however, goes to the Investigation and Reports Branch of the TP.

The Investigation and Reports Branch carries out investigation on road accidents resulting in death and injury, as well as serious violations.

For 20-year-veteran TP Senior Investigation officer, Station Inspector (SI) Arman Md Ali, he has had eight years of experience on the road with the Patrol unit, and is currently with the Investigation branch for four years and counting.

In one incident, a motorcyclist had skidded along the minor roads of Jalan Lokam.

"Our initial observations were that the motorcyclist had self-skidded and sustained abrasions along his right foot along with a suspected fracture on his arm," said SI Arman, 37.

Within 30 minutes of being notified, SI Arman was at the scene of the accident.

Part of the Investigation officer's job is not only to



interview the individuals involved in the accident to note the details, but also to photograph and sketch the scene of accident for documentation.

Details such as the conditions of the vehicles involved and distance of the affected vehicles from the road were also taken down.

"We have to be meticulous and note all details, so as to logically establish the cause of the accident. In this case, the motorcyclist had self-skidded, and we have to deduce if it is due to negligent driving, or a hazard on the road," said SI Arman.

Should it be determined that the accident was caused by a road hazard, action will be quickly taken to ensure that the road is made safe for road users.

The investigation routine also includes making a trip to the hospital to ensure any injuries sustained during the accident are being seen to and the next-of-kin are informed.

The focus on the safety of all road users in all TP practices exemplifies the vision of the TP: being Protectors of lives on the roads.

SI Arman, a father of two, recalls one case that was close to his heart.

In 2010, there was a serious accident due to dangerous driving, which left two young boys badly injured.

The older child had sustained major head injuries, and the younger boy had a fractured limb.

"Over three months, I personally followed up on them. As a father, I felt for the two boys and was really glad that they recovered fully, and that the driver's license was confiscated to prevent further dangerous driving on the road," shared SI Arman.

Patrol officer SSgt Rizal shares the same ambitions in protecting the lives of all road users.

"Since young, I always remember seeing the TP officers on their escort duties, and I really envied them for championing road safety," said SSgt Rizal.

"This really inspired me to join the TP in keeping Singapore's roads safe." 🇸🇬





A FORCE FOR THE NATION