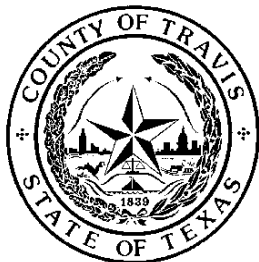


TRAVIS COUNTY

COMPARISON OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS OF THE SIX LARGEST URBAN COUNTIES IN TEXAS



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Comparison of Criminal Justice Statistics of the Six Largest Urban Counties in Texas

This summary highlights differences between gauges of the Travis County Justice System and those of the five other largest urban counties in Texas: Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, and Tarrant. All statistics collected are from calendar year 2007 (January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007), unless otherwise noted, and include information on crime, jails, district courts, and county courts.

1. Crime

Local crime is reported through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program, enacted in the 1930s, is the national law enforcement crime reporting system managed by the FBI. The UCR Program tallies various categories of offenses reported by law enforcement agencies. UCR uses standard definitions of offenses to count crime regardless of variations in crime laws from state to state. In Texas, UCR crime data is collected from local law enforcement agencies and reported by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

The statistics found in Table 1.1 and reflected in Table 1.2 were gathered by the Texas DPS for calendar year 2007. Only the Index Crimes (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault, and Burglary) have been included.

Table 1.1 demonstrates the total number of Index Crimes committed in each county in calendar year 2007. For each category, Harris County demonstrated the most crimes committed. The fewest crimes were committed in each category by the citizens of El Paso County.

Table 1.1: Number of Index Crimes – 2007

Index Crimes	Bexar	Dallas	El Paso	Harris	Tarrant	Travis
Murder	132	242	20	430	82	35
Rape	727	810	291	1,243	673	372
Robbery	2,629	8,890	540	14,032	2,764	1,520
Assault	4,645	7,880	2,104	17,405	5,358	2,324
Burglary	19,901	34,160	2,806	45,717	17,813	9,455
Total	28,034	51,982	5,761	78,827	26,690	13,706

Source: Prepared by the DPS Crime Reporting Bureau

Note: 2007 Index Crimes by Agency and County as of 12/31/2007

Table 1.2: 2007 Index Crime Rates

Index Crimes	Bexar	Dallas	El Paso	Harris	Tarrant	Travis	Average	Travis County Comparison
<i>County Population</i>	<i>1,594,493</i>	<i>2,366,511</i>	<i>734,669</i>	<i>3,886,207</i>	<i>1,717,435</i>	<i>974,365</i>	<i>1,887,221</i>	<i>Below Avg.</i>
Murder	8	10	3	11	5	4	7	Below Avg.
Rape	46	34	40	32	39	38	38	Avg.
Robbery	165	376	74	361	161	156	215	Below Avg.
Assault	291	333	286	448	312	239	318	Below Avg.
Burglary	1,248	1,443	382	1,176	1,037	970	1,043	Below Avg.

The number of offenses was taken from UCR data; population was kept consistent with the rest of the report (using 2007 Census Prediction Data).

The Crime Rate is **not** calculated by DPS in this chart.

Table 1.2 presents the Index Crime Rate of the six largest urban counties in Texas. Harris County has the largest county population; El Paso has the lowest. Travis County has a lower than average county population as compared to the five other large urban counties in Texas. As demonstrated in the table, Travis County is below average in all categories, with the exception of Rape. In 2007, Dallas County had the highest rate of Robbery and Burglary. Harris County had the highest rate of Murder and Assault.

2. Jail Statistics

Average Daily Population

The Average Daily Jail Population (ADP) has been calculated as a rate of the number of individuals incarcerated in each county per 100,000 citizens; Table 2.1 demonstrates the rate for each county (page 3). The average number of individuals in jail per 100,000 is 263. Dallas County has the highest ADP rate (303); Tarrant County has the lowest rate (204). Travis County has a higher than average rate, 271, which is also the third highest ADP rate of the six counties.

Table 2.1: Average Daily Jail Population

	County Population**	Average Daily Jail Population	ADP Rate Per 100,000
Bexar	1,594,493	4,163	261
Dallas	2,366,511	7,180	303
El Paso	734,669	2,221	302
Harris*	3,935,855	9,430	239
Tarrant*	1,717,435	3,500	204
Travis	974,365	2,641	271
Average	1,887,221	4,779	263

* Indicates the county did not contribute to this report; thus the Average Daily Jail Population is based on a US Bureau of Justice Statistics Report: *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2007*. Those counties which did contribute provided their ADP as of December 31, 2007.

** Based on 2007 US Census Population Estimates

Average Daily Population by Type of Inmate

Table 2.2: Average Daily Population by Type of Inmate (# and %) demonstrates the jail configuration on a given day (page 4). Data for the chart were retrieved from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, a state agency responsible for implementing state policy which requires all county jail facilities conform to minimum standards of construction, maintenance, and operation, as well as providing consultation and technical assistance when needed. A snapshot from January 1, 2008, was used for this report (note: numbers of inmates by type will not match ADP in Table 2.1 due to sources of data).

Collectively, Pretrial Defendants make up the majority of all county’s populations. Dallas County had the largest proportion of this group, consisting of 68% of the jail population. Travis County has the second largest Pretrial group; 65% of the jail. In all counties, including Travis, Pretrial Felons make up 30% or more of the jail population. Dallas County had the largest proportion of this type of offender; at the time of this snapshot, 53% of their inmates were Pretrial Felons. Breakdowns of other types of inmates vary by county.

Bexar County had the largest percentage of Pretrial Misdemeanants, accounting for 14% of their jail population. Their jail incarcerated slightly more Convicted State Jail Felons Sentenced to County Time, Convicted State Jail Felons Awaiting Transfer, and Technical Parole Violators than other counties.

El Paso County demonstrated the largest proportion of Federal Detainees compared to other counties. In El Paso County, this type of inmate was second only to the proportion of Pretrial Felons incarcerated (30%). Of all six counties, Harris County’s jail population had the largest proportion of Convicted State Jail Felons Sentenced to County Time, Convicted Misdemeanants, and “Other” types of inmates, at the time of the snapshot.

Table 2.2: Average Daily Population by Inmate Type (# and %) (Source: Texas Office of Court Administration)

Inmates by Type	Bexar		Dallas		El Paso		Harris		Tarrant		Travis	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Pretrial Felons	1,450	36%	3,134	53%	623	30%	4,297	42%	1,363	43%	892	37%
Pretrial State Jail Felons	301	7%	453	8%	82	4%	833	8%	282	9%	355	15%
Pretrial Misdemeanants	557	14%	418	7%	244	12%	338	3%	275	9%	318	13%
Convicted Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time	172	4%	217	4%	41	2%	112	1%	0	0%	83	3%
Convicted State Jail Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time	14	<1%	242	4%	8	<1%	829	8%	0	0%	19	1%
Convicted Felons Awaiting Transfer	288	7%	507	9%	199	9%	1,046	10%	365	12%	169	7%
Convicted State Jail Felons Awaiting Transfer	160	4%	169	3%	44	2%	101	1%	51	2%	55	2%
Convicted Misdemeanants	260	6%	249	4%	76	4%	860	8%	162	5%	117	5%
Parole Violators with New Charge	273	7%	153	3%	55	3%	375	4%	245	8%	211	9%
Technical Parole Violators	222	6%	136	2%	101	5%	482	5%	153	5%	93	4%
Bench Warrant Inmates	69	2%	60	1%	10	<1%	105	1%	55	2%	19	1%
Federal Detainees	2	<1%	1	<1%	586	28%	51	<1%	2	<1%	0	0%
Other	252	6%	193	3%	40	2%	825	8%	207	7%	63	3%
Total	4,020	100%	5,932	100%	2,109	100%	10,254	100%	3,160	100%	2,394	100%

Table 2.2 demonstrates Tarrant County Jail has the largest proportions of Convicted Felons Awaiting Transfer and Bench Warrant Inmates (tied with Bexar at 2% for the latter) out of the six largest urban counties in Texas. At the time of the snapshot, one quarter of the Travis County Jail consisted of Pretrial State Jail Felons and Parole Violators with a New Charge; fifteen percent and nine percent, respectively. This was the largest proportion of the jail population for both categories of the six counties.

Incarceration Rate by Type

Table 2.3 (page 6) includes the incarceration rate (per 100,000 individuals) in the county by type of inmate.

Bexar County demonstrated the highest rates of Pretrial Misdemeanants, Convicted Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time, Convicted State Jail Felons Awaiting Transfer, Technical Parole Violators, and Bench Warrant Inmates. Dallas County demonstrated the highest rate of Pretrial Felons (134 per 100,000 residents). Rates of Convicted State Jail Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time, Convicted Felons Awaiting Transfer, Convicted Misdemeanants, and “Other” Inmates were the highest in Harris County. El Paso County had the highest rates of Convicted Felons Awaiting Transfer (shared with Harris County), Technical Parole Violators (shared with Bexar County), and Federal Detainees. The highest rates of Pretrial State Jail Felons and Parole Violators with a New Charge were demonstrated in Travis County.

Tarrant County demonstrated the lowest rate of Pretrial Felons, Convicted State Jail Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time, Convicted State Jail Felons Awaiting Transfer, and Convicted Misdemeanants. Dallas County had the lowest rates of both types of Parole Violators (technical and law violator).

Table 2.3: Incarceration Rate by Type (Source: Texas Office of Court Administration)

Inmates by Type	Bexar	Dallas	El Paso	Harris	Tarrant	Travis	Average	Travis County Comparison
County Population	1,555,592	2,345,815	736,310	3,886,207	1,671,295	921,006	1,852,704	-
Pretrial Felons	93	134	85	111	82	97	100	Below Avg.
Pretrial State Jail Felons	19	19	11	21	17	39	21	Above Avg.
Pretrial Misdemeanants	36	18	33	9	16	35	24	Above Avg.
Convicted Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time	11	9	6	3	0	9	6	Above Avg.
Convicted State Jail Felons Sentenced to County Jail Time	1	10	1	21	0	2	6	Below Avg.
Convicted Felons Awaiting Transfer	19	22	27	27	22	18	22	Below Avg.
Convicted State Jail Felons Awaiting Transfer	10	7	6	3	3	6	6	Avg.
Convicted Misdemeanants	17	11	10	22	10	13	14	Below Avg.
Parole Violators with New Charge	18	7	7	10	15	23	13	Above Avg.
Technical Parole Violators	14	6	14	12	9	10	11	Below Avg.
Bench Warrant Inmates	4	3	1	3	3	2	3	Below Avg.
Federal Detainees	0	0	80	1	0	0	14	Below Avg.
Other	16	8	5	21	12	7	12	Below Avg.
Total	258	253	286	264	189	260	252	Above Avg.

3. District Court Statistics

New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions by Type

The following statistics are based on reports from the Texas Office of Court Administration's website. The values in the charts are based on those statistics submitted between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. Table 3.1 (page 8) demonstrates the types of new cases and total dispositions for this period of time, in raw numbers as well as percentages.

While the majority of offenses had similar proportions of new cases filed in each county, there were some which stood out as being a much larger percent than others. Of the six largest urban counties in Texas, the highest percentage of new Murder cases and new Indecency with a Child cases were filed in Bexar County. In Dallas County, the largest percent of both new Robbery and New Drug Sale/Manufacture cases were filed; combined, the two types of cases accounted for nearly 40% of all cases filed.

El Paso County had a larger percentage of new Assault/Attempted Murder, Burglary, Felony DWI, and "Other Felonies" cases filed in 2007 than the rest of the large urban counties in Texas. Over a quarter of the cases filed are categorized under "Other Felonies" and another nearly 20% were filed under Assault/Attempted Murder. Harris County had the highest percent of new Drug Possession cases filed (34.9% of all cases in the county). The largest percentage of new cases in Tarrant County was for Theft. Travis County's new cases filed were fairly evenly spread throughout all offenses; however, one quarter of all new cases filed were for Drug Possession.

The most utilized types of dispositions in 2007 were Convictions, Deferred Adjudications, and Dismissals. Sixty percent of Harris County's and 50% of Travis County's dispositions were Convictions. Thirty percent of Dallas County's dispositions were Deferred Adjudication; Travis County utilized Deferred Adjudication for only 10% of its felony dispositions. In El Paso County, 23% of the dispositions for the year were Dismissals; in Travis County, 12% of new dispositions were dismissals.

Table 3.1: New Cases and Total Dispositions by Court (# and %) (Source: Texas Office of Court Administration)

New Cases Filed by Type	Bexar		Dallas		El Paso		Harris		Tarrant		Travis	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Capital Murder	15	<1%	88	<1%	13	<1%	96	<1%	39	<1%	12	<1%
Murder	103	<1%	126	<1%	24	<1%	284	<1%	49	<1%	35	<1%
Assault/Attempted Murder	965	8%	2,498	9%	911	19%	3,820	9%	1,527	10%	1,725	16%
Sexual Assault/Adult	93	<1%	117	<1%	44	<1%	171	<1%	98	<1%	76	<1%
Indecency w/ a Child	413	3%	101	<1%	159	3%	1,167	3%	351	2%	216	2%
Robbery	542	5%	1,444	5%	246	5%	2,210	5%	664	4%	371	4%
Burglary	728	6%	1,916	7%	486	10%	2,304	5%	1,203	8%	728	7%
Theft	1,166	10%	3,110	11%	474	10%	4,015	9%	2,085	14%	922	9%
Auto Theft	28	<1%	563	2%	133	3%	1,182	3%	287	2%	367	4%
Arson	109	<1%	70	<1%	12	<1%	144	<1%	37	<1%	24	<1%
Drug Sale/Manufacture	1,642	14%	8,759	32%	61	1%	2,956	7%	1,163	8%	521	5%
Drug Possession	3,101	26%	616	2%	662	14%	15,227	35%	3,755	25%	2,664	25%
Felony DWI	728	6%	610	2%	334	7%	1,005	2%	496	3%	640	6%
Other Felonies	1,673	14%	7,206	27%	1,353	28%	9,092	21%	3,313	22%	2,206	21%
All Misdemeanors	715	6%	14	<1%	1	<1%	0	0%	277	2%	0	0%
Total New Cases Filed	12,021	100%	27,238	100%	4,913	100%	43,673	100%	15,344	100%	10,507	100%
New Dispositions												
Convictions	5,503	37%	14,606	44%	1,581	33%	29,803	61%	8,205	46%	7,047	50%
Deferred Adjudications	2,877	20%	9,856	30%	975	20%	7,720	16%	3,963	22%	1,372	10%
Acquittals	48	<1%	151	0%	15	0%	103	<1%	31	<1%	33	<1%
Dismissals (Cases)	2,338	16%	2,649	8%	1,134	23%	4,460	9%	1,527	9%	1,739	12%
Transfers	1	<1%	172	1%	0	0%	12	<1%	265	1%	0	0%
Other Cases	3,983	27%	5,867	18%	1,129	23%	6,809	14%	3,753	21%	3,780	27%
Dispositions	14,750	100%	33,301	100%	4,834	100%	48,907	100%	17,744	100%	13,971	100%

New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions – Rate per 100,000 Residents

Table 3.2 (page 10) demonstrates the New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions by Type as a rate per 100,000 residents. Overall, Dallas County had the most new cases filed per 100,000 residents; El Paso had the lowest. Travis County boasts the largest disposition rate of all six counties.

The rate of Murder cases filed per 100,000 residents was the highest in Harris County for 2007. Travis County had a below average rate of Murder cases filed; however, the county had the highest rate of Assault/Attempted Murder cases filed, 177 new cases per 100,000 residents.

The highest rate of Indecency with a Child cases filed (30 per 100,000 residents) was demonstrated in Harris County. Travis County also had an above average rate of case filings for this offense; 22 offenses per 100,000 residents.

Dallas County had the highest rate of Robbery and Burglary cases filed, with 61 and 81 per 100,000 residents, respectively. Travis County had a below average rate of Robbery cases filed in 2007, but a higher than average number of Burglary cases filed, by nine cases per 100,000 residents.

By far, Dallas County had the highest rate of new Drug Sale/Manufacture cases filed in 2007. The county rate was 370 new cases filed per 100,000 residents for this offense, 200 cases more than Bexar County, which had the second highest rate. Travis County was below average for this type of case filed; only El Paso had a lower rate.

For dispositions, again, Conviction, Deferred Adjudication, and Dismissals were the most utilized. Harris County had the highest rate of Conviction, with 757 per 100,000 residents; Travis County was a close second, with a rate of 723. El Paso County had the lowest rate of Convictions, 215, less than half of all except Bexar County.

Dallas County had the highest disposition rate in the Deferred Adjudication category. Deferred Adjudications were lower than average in Travis County; the county did, however have the highest rate of Dismissals, with 178 cases dismissed per 100,000 residents.

Table 3.2: Rate of New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions (Source: Texas Office of Court Administration)

New Cases Filed by Type	Bexar	Dallas	El Paso	Harris	Tarrant	Travis	Average	Travis County Comparison
County Population	1,594,493	2,366,511	734,669	3,886,207	1,717,435	974,365	1,887,221	-
Capital Murder	1	4	2	2	2	1	2	Below Avg.
Murder	6	5	3	7	3	4	5	Below Avg.
Assault/Attempted Murder	61	106	124	97	90	177	109	Above Avg.
Sexual Assault/Adult	6	5	6	4	6	8	6	Above Avg.
Indecency w/ a Child	26	4	22	30	20	22	21	Above Avg.
Robbery	34	61	33	56	39	38	44	Below Avg.
Burglary	46	81	66	59	70	75	66	Above Avg.
Theft	73	131	65	102	121	95	98	Below Avg.
Auto Theft	2	24	18	30	17	38	22	Above Avg.
Arson	7	3	2	4	2	2	3	Below Avg.
Drug Sale/Manufacture	103	370	8	75	67	53	113	Below Avg.
Drug Possession	194	26	90	389	219	273	199	Above Avg.
Felony DWI	46	26	45	26	29	66	40	Above Avg.
Other Felonies	105	304	184	231	192	227	207	Above Avg.
All Misdemeanors	45	<1	<1	0	16	0	15	Below Avg.
Total New Cases Filed	753	1,151	669	1,109	893	1,078	942	Above Avg.
Dispositions								
Convictions	345	617	215	757	478	723	523	Above Avg.
Deferred Adjudication	180	416	132	196	231	141	216	Below Avg.
Acquittals	3	6	2	3	2	3	3	Avg.
Dismissals(Cases)	147	112	154	113	89	178	132	Above Avg.
Transfers	<1	7	0	<1	15	0	6	Below Avg.
Other Cases	250	248	153	173	219	388	239	Above Avg.
Total Dispositions	925	1,407	657	1,243	1,033	1,434	1,117	Above Avg.

4. County Court at Law Statistics

County Court at Law statistics were retrieved from the Texas Office of Court Administration website. Table 4.1 (page 12) demonstrates the Number of New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions by Type, including the number as well as percent of the total.

In 2007, Travis County had the highest percentage of DWI or Traffic cases filed at the County Court level; the two types of cases combined consisted of 40% of all cases filed for the county in that year. El Paso's new cases filed consisted of mostly Theft/Bad Check and Assault; again, these two types making up nearly 40%. The same types of cases made up 23% of those cases filed in Travis County in 2007. Harris County's County Court cases had the largest percent of Drug Offenses (18%); Travis County had the lowest percentage of Drug Offense cases (10%).

Approximately 64% of all dispositions in Harris County in 2007 were Convictions; for all other counties, this type of disposition composed less than half the total. Deferred Adjudication was utilized at a higher percentage in Dallas County than the other five counties, with Travis County using it the least of all types of disposition. Dismissals were used more than half the time in El Paso County; 52% of all dispositions were Dismissals. Travis County used Dismissals a little more than a quarter of the time.

Table 4.2 (page 13) presents the Rate of New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions by Type. With the exception of Drug Offenses and Theft/Bad Check cases filed, Travis County had the highest rate of New Cases Filed in all categories for 2007.

Travis County had a higher rate of Convictions than any other county; the conviction rate was 1,127 per 100,000. For other types of dispositions, Dallas County placed people on Deferred Adjudication at a higher rate than did the other six counties in 2007. Bexar County had the highest rate of Dismissals for the year.

Table 4.1: New Cases Filed and New Dispositions by Type (# and %) (Source: Texas Office of Court Administration)

New Cases Filed by Type	Bexar		Dallas		El Paso		Harris		Tarrant		Travis	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
DWI	5,217	13%	6,096	13%	2,877	17%	9,886	14%	5,676	17%	7,452	21%
Theft/Bad Check	6,881	17%	8,631	18%	3,481	21%	11,822	16%	5,645	17%	3,434	10%
Drug Offenses	6,746	16%	6,596	14%	2,041	12%	12,745	17%	4,013	12%	3,452	10%
Assault	5,351	13%	4,540	10%	3,069	18%	6,654	9%	3,845	12%	4,451	13%
Traffic	5,534	13%	6,681	14%	185	1%	194	>1%	3,149	10%	6,231	18%
Other Cases	11,573	28%	14,941	31%	5,094	30%	31,831	44%	10,185	31%	9,824	28%
Total New Cases Filed	41,302	100%	47,488	100%	16,747	100%	73,132	100%	32,513	100%	34,844	100%
Dispositions												
Convictions	17,083	32%	27,012	39%	5,541	33%	49,699	64%	15,823	44%	15,566	46%
Deferred Adjudications	11,258	21%	19,351	28%	857	5%	6,850	9%	3,744	10%	1,488	4%
Acquittals	87	>1%	736	1%	42	>1%	257	>1%	138	>1%	72	>1%
Dismissals (Cases)	20,767	39%	15,135	22%	8,899	52%	16,890	22%	13,515	38%	9,492	28%
Other Cases	3,946	7%	6,530	9%	1,628	10%	3,452	4%	2,680	7%	7,441	22%
Total Dispositions	53,141	100%	68,764	100%	16,967	100%	77,148	100%	35,900	100%	34,059	100%

Table 4.2: Rate of New Cases Filed and Total Dispositions by Type (Source: Texas Office of Court Administration)

New Cases Filed by Type	Bexar	Dallas	El Paso	Harris	Tarrant	Travis	Average	Travis County Comparison
<i>County Population</i>	<i>1,594,493</i>	<i>2,366,511</i>	<i>734,669</i>	<i>3,886,207</i>	<i>1,717,435</i>	<i>974,365</i>	<i>1,887,221</i>	-
DWI	327	258	392	254	330	765	388	Above Avg.
Theft/Bad Check	432	365	474	304	329	352	376	Below Avg.
Drug Offenses	423	279	278	328	234	354	316	Above Avg.
Assault	336	192	418	171	224	457	300	Above Avg.
Traffic	347	282	25	5	183	639	247	Above Avg.
Other Cases	726	631	693	819	593	1,008	745	Above Avg.
Total New Cases Filed	2,590	2,007	2,280	1,882	1,893	3,576	2,371	Above Avg.
Dispositions								
Convictions	1,071	1,141	754	1,279	921	1,598	1,127	Above Avg.
Deferred Adjudication	706	818	117	176	218	153	365	Below Avg.
Acquittals	5	31	6	7	8	7	11	Below Avg.
Dismissals (Cases)	1,302	640	1,211	435	787	974	891	Above Avg.
Other Cases	247	276	222	89	156	764	292	Above Avg.
Total Dispositions	3,333	2,906	2,309	1,985	2,090	3,496	2,686	Above Avg.