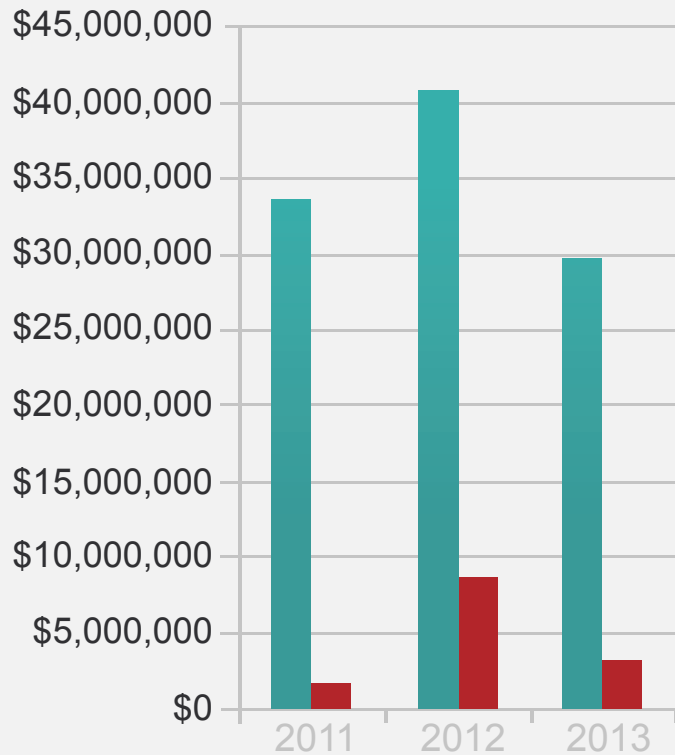


ASSET FORFEITURE NEW DATA FROM 11 TEXAS COUNTIES¹

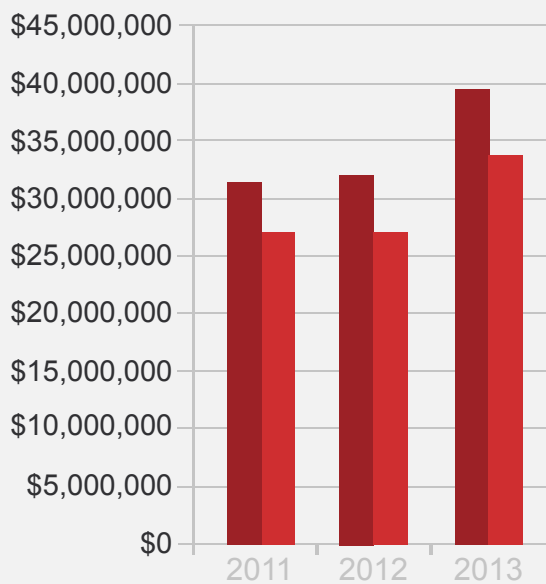


From 2011 to 2013
 law enforcement seized more than **\$104 MILLION** in assets and less than **\$14 MILLION** was returned to defendants

Amount Seized by Law Enforcement
 Amount Returned to Defendants

Law enforcement in Texas can retain up to 90% of asset forfeiture funds.²

From 2011 to 2013 Texas law enforcement agencies spent more than **\$87.5 MILLION** of forfeited funds.



Amount Forfeited and Received by Agency
 Total Expenditures of Forfeited Funds

WHAT IS LAW ENFORCEMENT BUYING WITH FORFEITURE FUNDS? (2011 TO 2013)



Law enforcement agencies should not have an incentive to fill budget gaps with forfeiture funds. Many law enforcement uses for forfeiture funds should be accounted for through regular budgeting processes and fund sources, not based on the assumption that forfeiture funds will account for shortfalls.

COUNTY DATA (2013)

COUNTY	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT RETURNED	EXPENDITURES + RETURN
Bexar	\$1,558,407.85	\$0.00	\$1,558,407.85
Brazoria	\$618,863.82	\$106,604.00	\$725,467.82
Brazos	\$95,884.00	\$0.00	\$95,884.00
Cameron	\$1,234,307.00	\$42,948.00	\$1,286,255.00
Dallas	\$2,418,139.00	\$266,840.00	\$2,684,979.00
Harris	\$6,552,631.00	\$0.00	\$6,552,631.00
Hidalgo	\$515,772.00	\$0.00	\$515,772.00
Kleberg	\$1,342,784.00	\$0.00	\$1,342,784.00
Lubbock	\$246,850.00	\$179,959.00	\$426,809.00
Tarrant	\$1,107,791.00	\$1,017.00	\$1,108,808.00
Travis	\$7,620,300.00	\$1,992,256.00	\$9,612,556.00
TOTALS	\$23,320,729.67	\$2,589,624.00	\$25,910,353.67

SALARIES & OVERTIME: A CLOSER LOOK (2013)

Cameron County: 97 employees are paid using forfeiture funds & **\$643,501** of forfeiture funds are spent on increase of salary, expense or allowance for employees

Dallas County: \$499,950 of forfeiture funds spent on **overtime for employees budgeted by governing body**

Harris County: 1,844 employees are paid using forfeiture funds & **\$3,317,744** of forfeiture funds are spent on overtime for employees budgeted by governing body

The laws that allow for asset forfeiture should ensure that forfeited property is clearly associated with the crime for which the property is purportedly forfeited.

ACCOUNTABILITY
THERE ARE NO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING:

Whether charges were brought in connection with the offense providing a basis for the forfeiture and the disposition of those charges.

Whether the forfeiture resulted from a legal stop/arrest or by some other means.

What types of crimes most often provide the basis for a civil forfeiture?

¹ The eleven counties include: Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Cameron, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo, Kleberg, Lubbock, Tarrant and Travis counties. Data is based on reports submitted between 2011 - 2013 to the Texas Office of the Attorney General, and does not include forfeiture funds from federal programs.

² Journal of Criminal Justice 39 (2011), p. 277

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