



CITY OF LONG BEACH

POLICE DEPARTMENT

400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA 90802

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Chief of Police

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Long Beach Police Department Statement in Response to E-SCARS Statistics

In April 2014, the Long Beach Police Department received information from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office regarding comparative statistics on reports received from the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E-SCARS). E-SCAR was established in 2009 by the District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the Department and Children and Family Services (DCFS) as an information-sharing system designed to protect victims of child abuse and neglect. Every municipal police agency in Los Angeles County participates in E-SCARS and Long Beach Police Department participated on the Steering Committee to assist in developing this important system.

In E-SCARS, based on reporting definitions provided by the Department of Children and Family Services, a law enforcement agency has three options on how to disposition a SCAR report:

- 1) **NO INVESTIGATION** – the officer determines that the SCAR has no elements of a crime indicated in the SCAR
- 2) **CRIME SUSPECTED** – for the purpose of the E-SCAR System, any crime report written in association with the SCAR shall be recorded as "Crime Suspected"
- 3) **NO CRIME SUSPECTED** – after investigating the SCAR, an officer determines that no crime occurred whether or not a report was written.

In 2013, the Long Beach Police Department received 2,773 SCAR reports and generated 422 SCAR reports for a total of 3,195 reports. **All 3,195 E-SCAR reports received by the Long Beach Police Department have been thoroughly reviewed by the Department's Child Abuse Detail.** This review may include contacting DCFS, LB Unified School District, involved parties, therapists, or other law enforcement agencies. Internal computer systems are also utilized to determine if there has been past contact with any of the involved parties. If additional information is needed and/or a crime is suspected, a police officer is dispatched to conduct an investigation and based on the results of that investigation is categorized as "Crime Suspected" or "No Crime Suspected." If, after the initial review of the SCAR information, no additional action is required, the report is closed as "No Investigation." This has been the Long Beach Police Department's protocol since the inception of E-SCARS.

According to the 2013 E-SCAR statistics, the Long Beach Police Department closed 46% (1,456) of the SCAR reports as "No Investigation" in accordance with the above definitions. It should be noted that the definitions referenced in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office letter regarding comparative statistics differ from the above DCFS definitions that were provided to the members of the E-SCARS steering committee.

The Long Beach Police Department understands the importance of taking appropriate action on each and every report of suspected child abuse regardless of the source. We are confident that 100 percent of our E-SCARS reports are thoroughly reviewed and we are in compliance with the DCFS reporting definitions.

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