

BILLINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



The Billings Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life through a customer service, problem solving partnership with the community.

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On the Cover

Lt. Krivitz with his patrol vehicle.

The department moved to SUVs because manufacturers quit building passenger cars equipped for law enforcement. BPD updates a portion of our about 80-vehicle fleet every year. Worldwide supply issues and manufacturer delays have slowed the arrival of new vehicles for the last two years. Most vehicles are shared by officers and are in operation at least 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. The average patrol vehicle is driven 110,000 to 120,000 miles





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Mayor, City Council, and Billings residents:

On behalf of the men and women of the Billings Police Department, it is my honor and privilege to present to you the 2021 Annual Report of the Billings Police Department. The report summarizes the incredible work the men and women of the Billings Police Department have accomplished this past year. I cannot express how proud I am of our officers and civilian staff who worked tirelessly in persistent pursuit of overall improvement and public safety for the citizens of Billings.

We have accomplished much this past year and within the pages of this report you will find statistics, charts, graphs, and other information that documents and measures the challenges we faced in 2021. But, there is much work to do. While homicides decreased, the City of Billings continued to see increases in aggravated assaults and drug offenses. Methamphetamine remains ever present and is the common denominator of most of our crime. Exacerbating the problem is the increased presence of Fentanyl.

Addressing these issues is not the sole responsibility of the police department and we continue collaboration with our local, state, and federal partners. Together, we have been addressing violent crime, drug dealing, and illegal possession of firearms. We will continue those efforts in order to keep our city safe.

Meeting these challenges and fostering an atmosphere of transparency and work that collaboratively meets the needs of the community would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our exceptional staff. None of our accomplishments would have been accomplished without their dedicated service. We also realize that there are many variables to our success to include support from our Mayor and Council, City Administration, and the public. We continue to emphasize community engagement to help strengthen trust and respect in order to provide effective police services.

Despite all that happened in 2021, one point was absolutely clear to members of the department. Our community supports our efforts. Aside from passing the second of two Public Safety Levy's, on occasions too numerous to count, business, community organizations, and community members donated food, gift cards, equipment, and other items to lift the spirits of our officers. In addition, we received hundreds of cards, letters, and emails expressing support from authors of all ages. For that support, we are eternally grateful.

It has been my honor to serve as the Chief of Police for Billings. Thank you for the trust and support you have given the department. Your support goes neither unnoticed nor unappreciated. As you review this report, I hope it provides you with an understanding of the challenges we face and the determined effort to provide exceptional service to the community.

I welcome you to visit our website www.Billingsmt.gov and become a follower of the Billings Police Department Facebook page.

Sincerely

Rich St. John
Chief of Police

Mission Statement

The Billings Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life through a customer service, problem solving partnership with the community.

Organizational Values

We are committed to delivering professional police service to Billings under the philosophy of community oriented policing through:

COMMITMENT – Being responsive to the need for increased community livability

SERVICE – Employing a customer service approach ~ Recognizing that our customers are the community, other personnel within the Department and other City employees

PARTNERSHIP – Utilizing a strong police-community partnership for problem solving

INTEGRITY – Applying moral, ethical and professional standards

2021 Strategic Goal Highlights

Reduce levels of violent crime

- Aggressively targeted violent criminal and drug activity through collaboration with Project Safe Neighborhood partners
- Continued to disrupt and dismantle international and multi-state drug trafficking organizations
- Added officers to the Street Crimes Unit

Strengthen traffic enforcement

- Fully staffed the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program and augmented with K9 officers
- Expanded electronic citation software in additional patrol cars to reduce citizen time and increase officer efficiency during traffic stops
- Added additional speed trailers for neighborhood monitoring

More efficient service delivery

- Through research and refinement, updated service delivery model to improve coverage and response times
- Following the operations review by the Center for Public Safety Management, changed the way officers' administrative time is recorded to better reflect time on work that has to be completed in the office
- Implemented on-line records requests and reporting cold crimes and concerns for citizen convenience

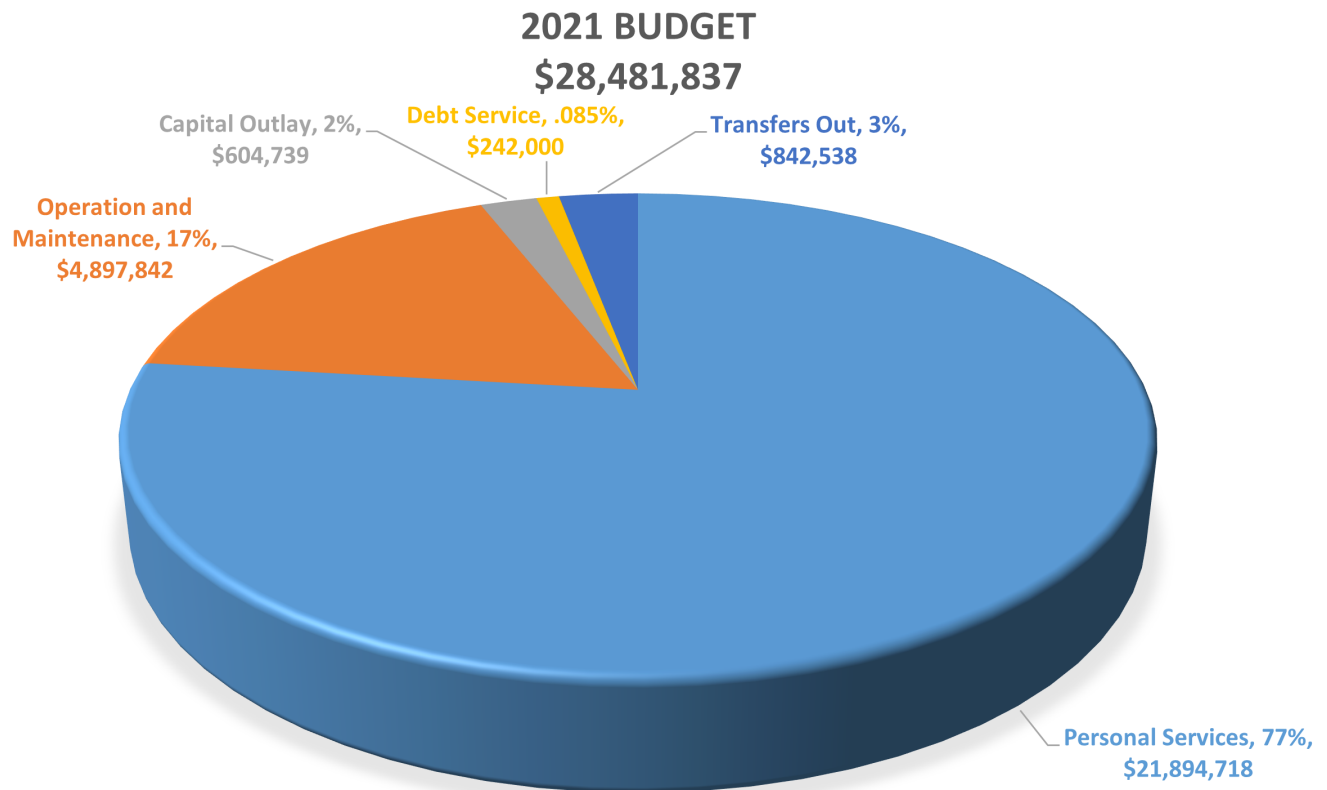
Improve sense of safety in our community

- Continued to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Built upon the success of the Park Officer program
- Worked with stakeholders to identify and address neighborhood and business concerns
- Worked with Scheels to establish a Community Meetup Spot for safe exchange of online marketplace sales and trades

Develop and strengthen partnerships

- Partnered with Yellowstone Substance Abuse Connect Coalition to divert those in need to social services
- Continued active participation in the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and with Downtown Billings Association, Billings Clinic and Billings Public Schools

Billings Police Department 2021 Budget

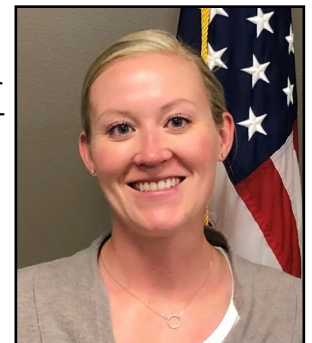


Did you know?

Billings citizens approved a November 2021 ballot issue to fund much-needed staff additions. The levy provides \$2.5 million to BPD which will make it possible to add 28 employees, split between sworn and civilian personnel. The levy also provided for hiring additional prosecutors, a judge and court staff, which is an important addition to hold people responsible for crimes investigated by Billings Police Department. The fire department also received funding. And, part of the levy will be used for mental health and substance abuse services.

BPD was already planning ways to leverage the funding to not only maintain levels of service but improve delivery.

The department added a Sergeant who is responsible for training, so our officers meet state and department requirements for annual training. Training is offered locally whenever possible which saves on travel expenses. Sergeant Puckett, pictured here, was selected for the position. She also oversees hiring and recruitment and other administrative projects for the department. For information about applying with BPD visit www.billingspolice.com.



Commanders are building a program for Community Service Officers. These non-sworn employees will be trained internally to do tasks that are part of BPD's work — such as obtaining retail video after thefts or taking non-injury accident reports—but don't require an officer to complete. Their efforts will free up officers to respond more quickly to property crimes and quality of life calls.

We will also hire additional civilian clerical and evidence staff who are needed to keep pace with officers' paperwork and case evidence, as well as requests for information from prosecutors.

Billings Police Department Chain of Command



Chief St. John

Chief of Police

Rich St. John

Administrative Coordinator

Jamie Wegner

Assistant Chief

Jeremy House



Assistant Chief House

Animal Control Supervisor

Tom Stinchfield

Captain Operations (Patrol)

Brian Korell

Captain Professional Standards

Neil Lawrence

Captain Investigations

R.D. Harper



Capt. Neil Lawrence

Captain Professional Standards

Neil Lawrence

Administrative Lieutenant

Brandon Wooley

Sergeant Special Events

Sgt. West

Admin Secretary/ Training Coord

Taylor Bernhardt

Volunteer Coordinator

Kallie Parsons

Public Relations Officer

2 DBA Officers

5 STEP Officers

8 SRO Officers

Parks & Rec Officer

Administration

Professional Standards

Billings Police Department Chain of Command

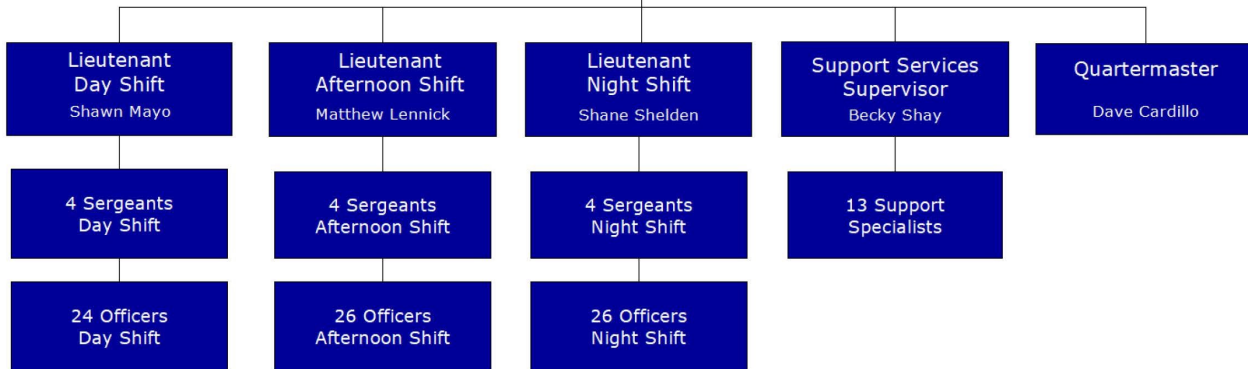
Operations



Capt. Brian Korell

Captain Operations (Patrol)

Brian Korell



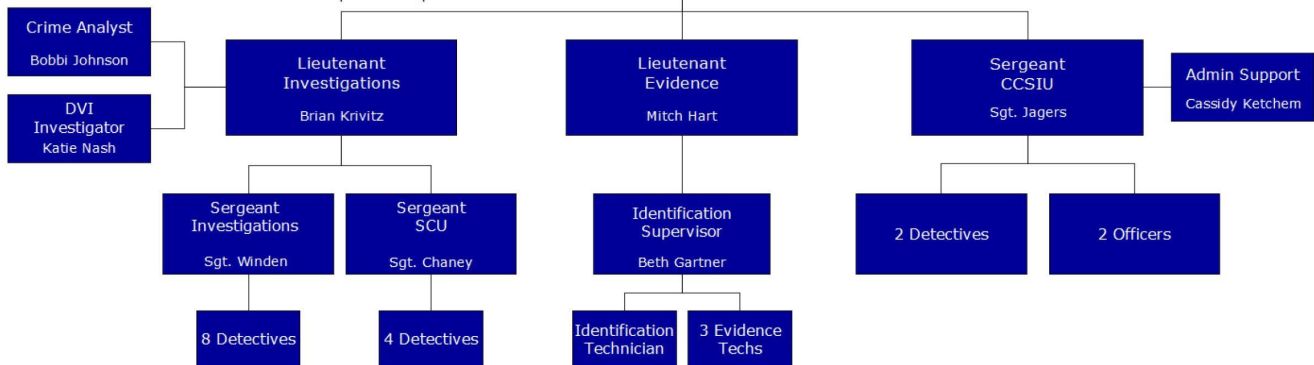
Investigations



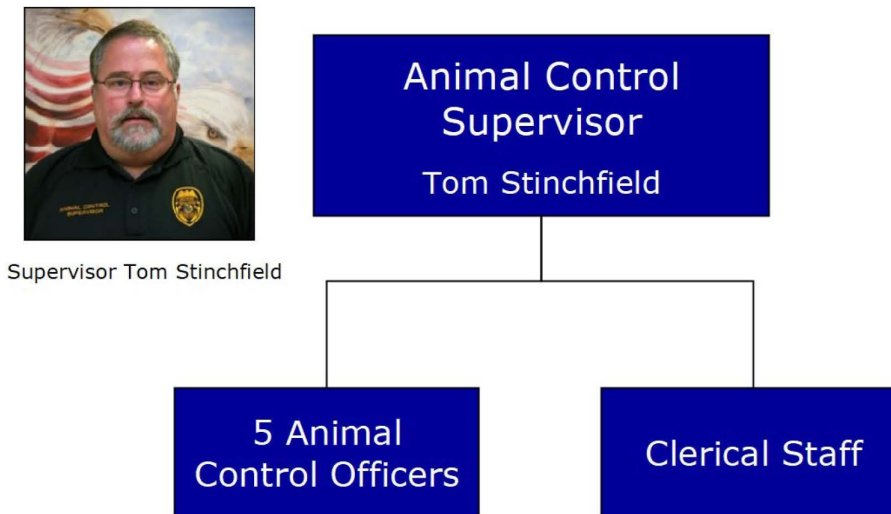
Capt. R.D. Harper

Captain Investigations

R.D. Harper



Billings Police Department Chain of Command



Animal Control

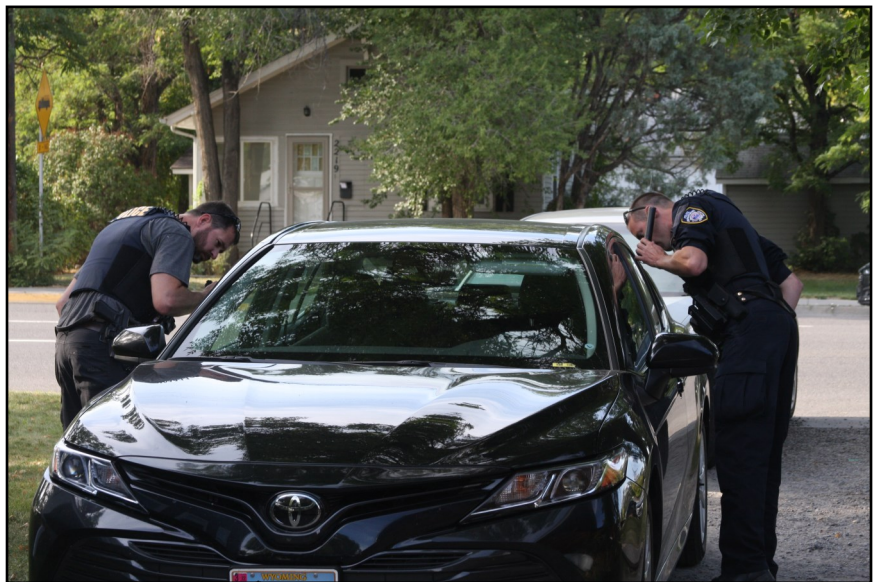
Did you know?

Billings Police Department took reports of 1,091 stolen vehicles during 2021. Of those, 1,067 were recovered, that is 98 percent.

When a vehicle is reported as stolen, it is listed on the Department's daily briefing so officers know to look for it while on patrol.

Stolen vehicles can be recovered many ways, including when citizens report suspicious vehicles parked in their neighborhoods.

At right: Officers Beechie and Ihde look in a vehicle during an investigation.



Calls For Service

Where We Work

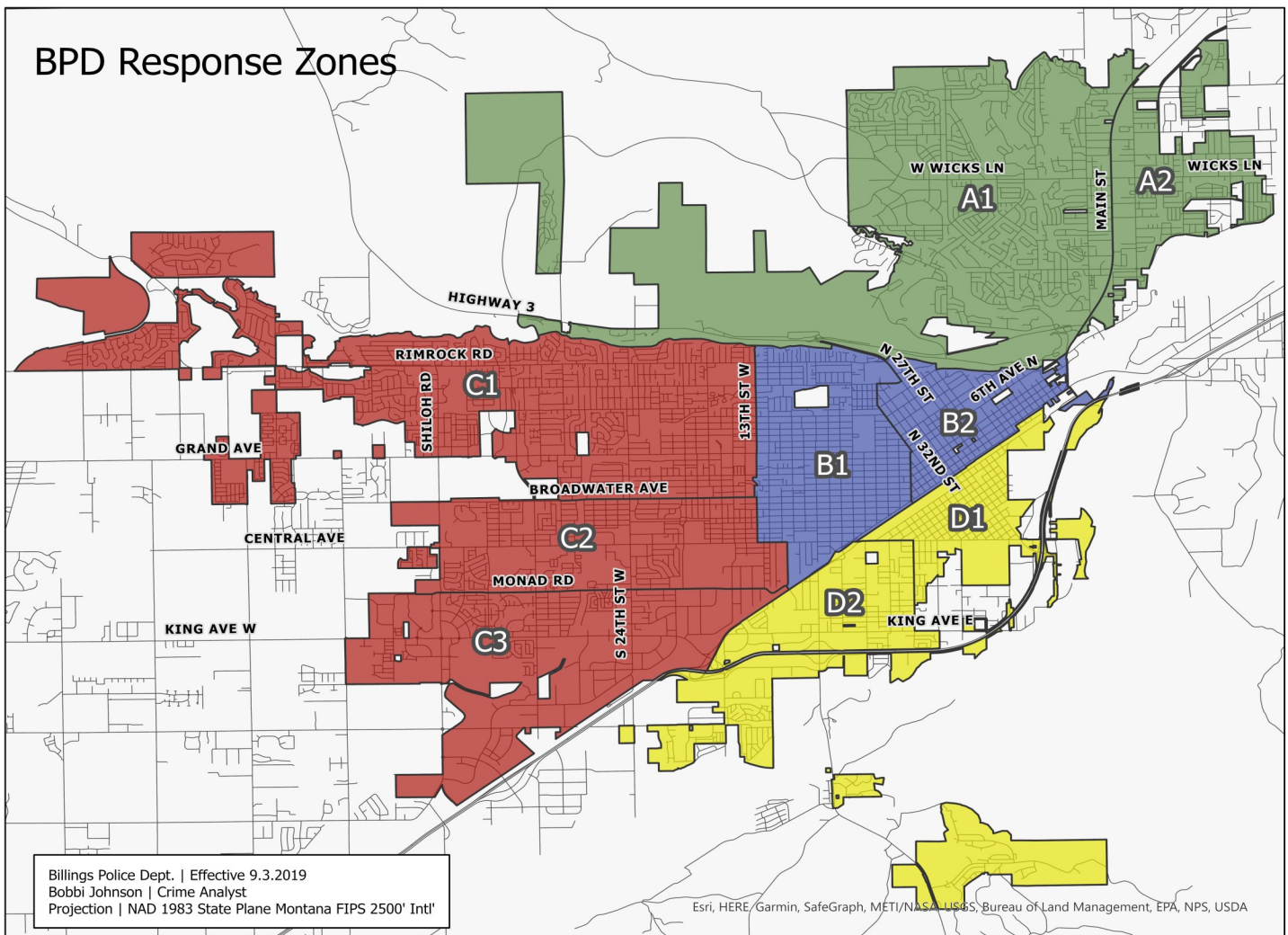
There are an average of 16 patrol officers and commanders on each of the three shifts Billings Police Department operates every day. At the beginning of each shift, commanders determine which part of Billings each officer will patrol that day. There are never less than 9 officers on duty.

Based on several workload studies, the department placed a few more officers on the afternoon shift to better meet citizen requests for service.

Billings Police Department has divided the city into Zones. The boundaries are based on natural borders, such as the Rimrocks, obvious boundaries, such as arterial roads and the railroad tracks, and some boundaries are unique to the Department's call load.

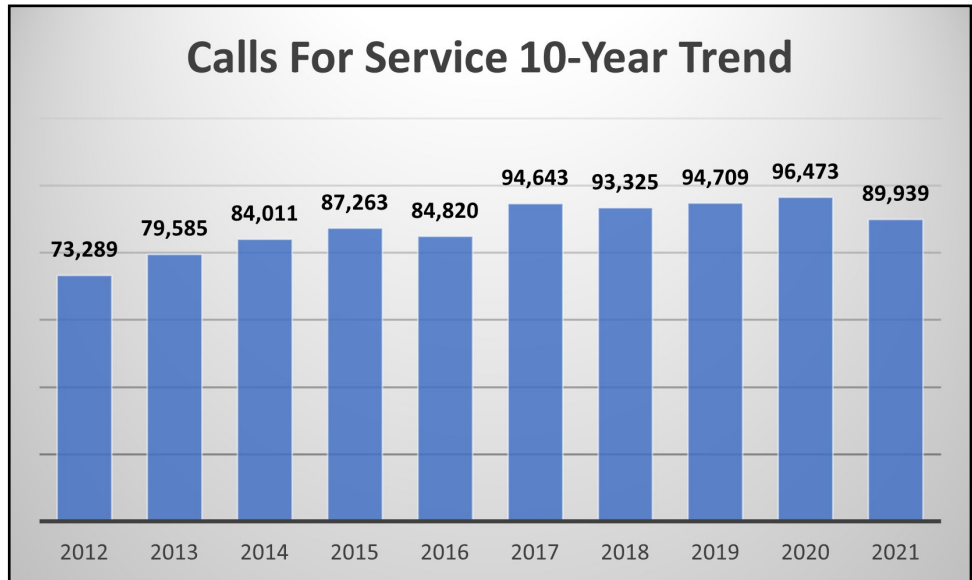
Officers work predominately in their assigned Zones, however they may need to leave their zones for a variety of tasks, including transport a person to jail, deliver seized items to the Evidence Facility or go to a hospital to speak with a victim. When officers must leave their zones, Commanders and the Dispatch Center staff work to ensure citizens receive a Police response by sending officers from other zones.

There are always enough officers to have one in each zone and if there are additional officers on duty, they work the busier zones. They also assist across the City as citizen requests increase during a shift or critical incidents pull officers into service outside of their assigned zones.



Calls For Service by Zone

ZONE	2021
A1	8,911
A2	5,530
B1	10,409
B2	19,853
C1	9,468
C2	7,748
C3	9,024
D1	8,241
D2	7,728
Initial call mapped outside of Billings	1,250
Unknown offense location	1,777
TOTAL	89,939



Billings Police Department put an emphasis on the Downtown areas during 2020. The effort was a response to citizen concerns about quality of life issues as well as crime. The focus result in about 3,400 fewer calls in the area which contributed to an overall reduction in Calls For Service.

Did you know?



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is one of the Department's strategic goals to improve a sense of safety in our community.

The Downtown Billings Alliance and Downtown Resource Officers recently worked with building owners to improve conditions in an alley behind the Park 1 garage off of North 29th Street. Downtown Officer Mansur stated the changes reduced problems in the area "literally by 100 percent." The Chamber of Commerce is also a program partner.

The site is also on the Light Bike Trail, a walkable installation of neon-light bicycles that, along with overhead lights, deter crime and quality of life violations. Also, the murals have

made the alley a popular spot for engagement and graduation photos.

Below, Officer Carney leaves the area after a suspicious call nearby.



Billings Police Department has officers who are trained to help citizens analyze property and suggest CPTED solutions. For more information, call the Crime Prevention Center at 247-8590.

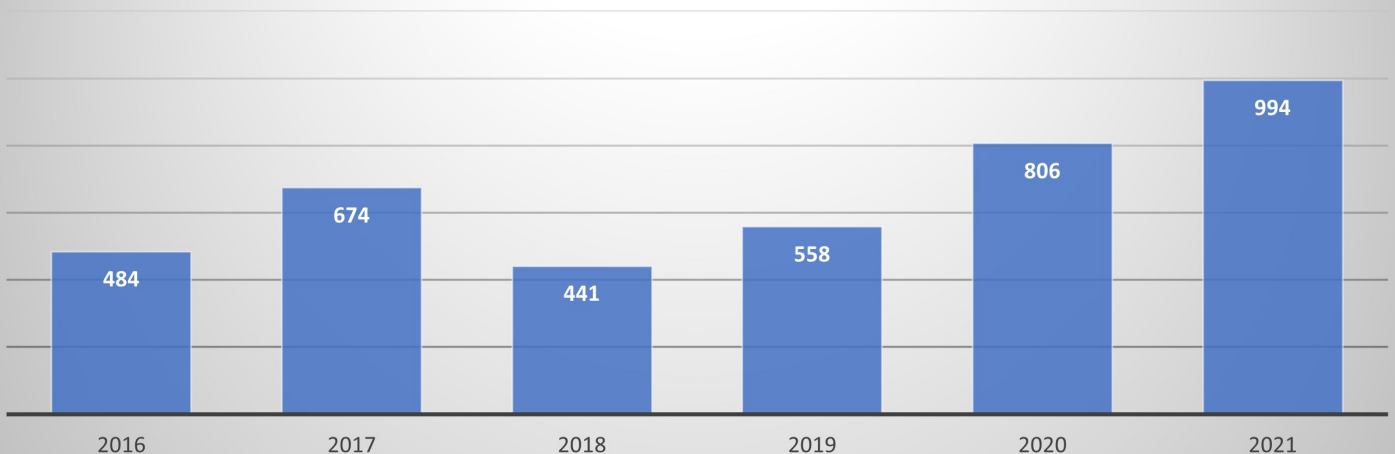
Incidents

Policing starts with an incident

When citizens request a police officer, the information provided is used to create a Call For Service (CFS) which is labeled with an incident type. The type of incident determines if 1 or 2 officers are dispatched. Depending on the circumstances or events, more officers may be called to assist. These are the most frequent incident types reported by citizens and initiated by officers. Not all incidents require that officers create a case, but if they do the offense listed in the case is what is used for state and federal crime reporting.

20 Most Frequent Incident Types	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Suspicious Activity	10,910	11,955	12,916	13,086	15,018	14,402
Traffic Stop	10,135	14,224	11,035	12,442	10,898	8,872
Disturbance	8,114	8,912	9,323	8,830	8,844	8,250
Welfare Check	3,713	3,892	4,562	5,211	6,245	6,084
Trespass	1,678	2,015	2,813	3,512	5,590	5,402
Alarm	4,740	5,239	5,234	5,066	4,372	4,411
Traffic Complaint/Investigation	3,073	3,207	3,405	3,811	3,693	3,843
Theft	5,298	5,856	5,032	4,529	4,728	3,628
Area Check	2,982	5,567	5,210	3,512	3,402	2,440
Accident Property Damage	2,250	2,274	2,321	2,301	1,993	2,297
Threats/Harassment	1,336	1,465	1,346	1,484	1,444	1,683
Suicide Attempts/Threats	1,162	1,321	1,463	1,490	1,478	1,574
Follow Up	1,374	2,206	2,491	2,034	1,620	1,466
DUI	1,515	1,308	1,417	1,459	1,370	1,361
Service Assist Law Enforcement	1,184	1,202	1,009	1,098	1,432	1,307
Accident Hit and Run	984	1,026	987	1,069	931	1,192
Vehicle Theft	928	1,099	991	818	1,046	1,146
PFMA	79	62	634	772	1,080	1,074
Sick/Injured Person	537	608	707	856	1,073	1,010
Weapons	484	674	441	558	806	994

Weapons Calls For Service 6-year Trend



Violent Crime Statistics

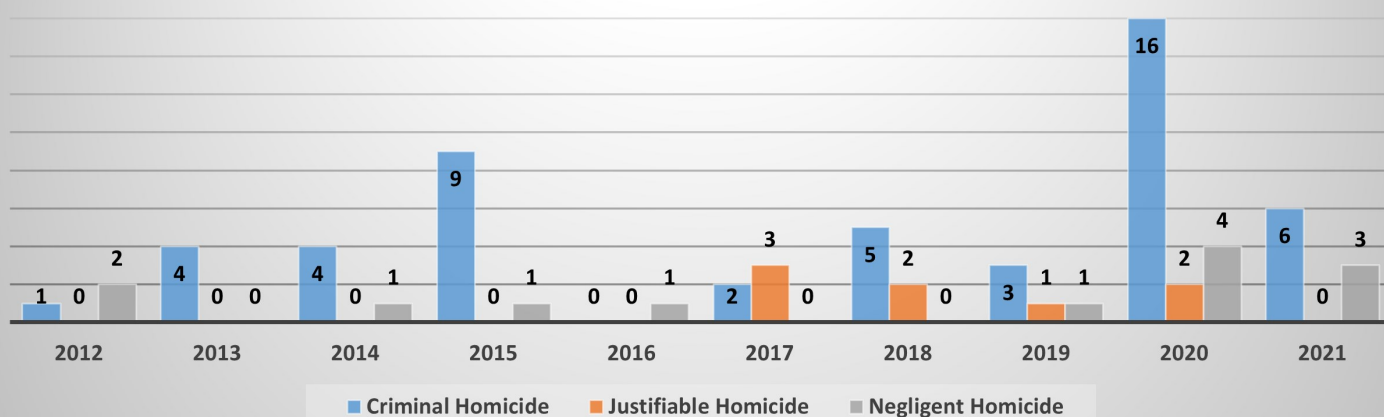
The FBI defines crimes that are reported through its National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRs) program. These are the NIBRs definitions for homicide:

Negligent Homicide (Manslaughter) - the killing of another person through negligence

Justifiable Homicide - the killing of a perpetrator of a serious criminal offense by a peace officer in the line of duty, or the killing, during the commission of serious criminal offense, of the perpetrator by a private individual

Criminal Homicide - the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

Homicide Offenses 10-year Trend



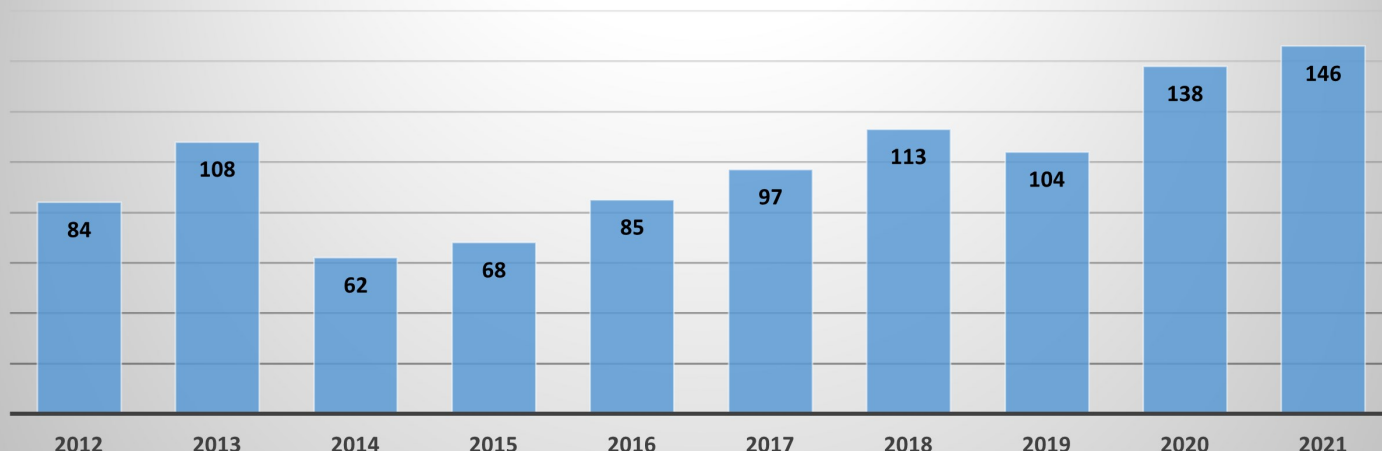
All homicide investigations during 2021 have been closed. Arrests were made in three cases; four cases are being reviewed for criminal charges at year's end and two were closed due to the death of the offenders.

"Although each homicide reflects a tragic loss, the diligent and tenacious work of Department personnel resulted in a 100% case clearance and closure for families. And that is important to us," Chief Rich St. John

All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the database. Due to continuous data entry after reports are compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.

Violent Crime Statistics

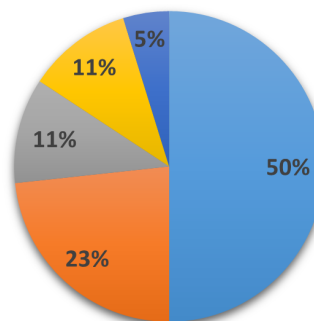
Robbery Offenses 10-year Trend



Federal and state crime reporting standards define robbery as taking, or attempting to take, something of value by use of force or threat of force.

Robberies range from someone being threatened by the suspect's words and/or demeanor to a suspect using a gun to a shoplifter fighting with a store employee while trying to get away with stolen items.

Weapons Used in 2021 Robberies



■ Robbery Strong Arm, 73
 ■ Robbery Firearm, 34
 ■ Robbery Other Weapon, 16
 ■ Robbery Cutting Instrument, 16
 ■ Robbery Unknown, 7

Did you know?

In September 2021, the Billings City Council created a Citizen Police Advisory Board. The 7-member board of citizen volunteers is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. There also may be 2 ex-officio representatives of city departments who are appointed by the City Administrator. The board acts in an advisory role. The board's key objectives are recruitment, retention and workplace diversity; crime prevention and diversion; community support and engagement and data collection and analysis.

Citizen Police Advisory Board Members

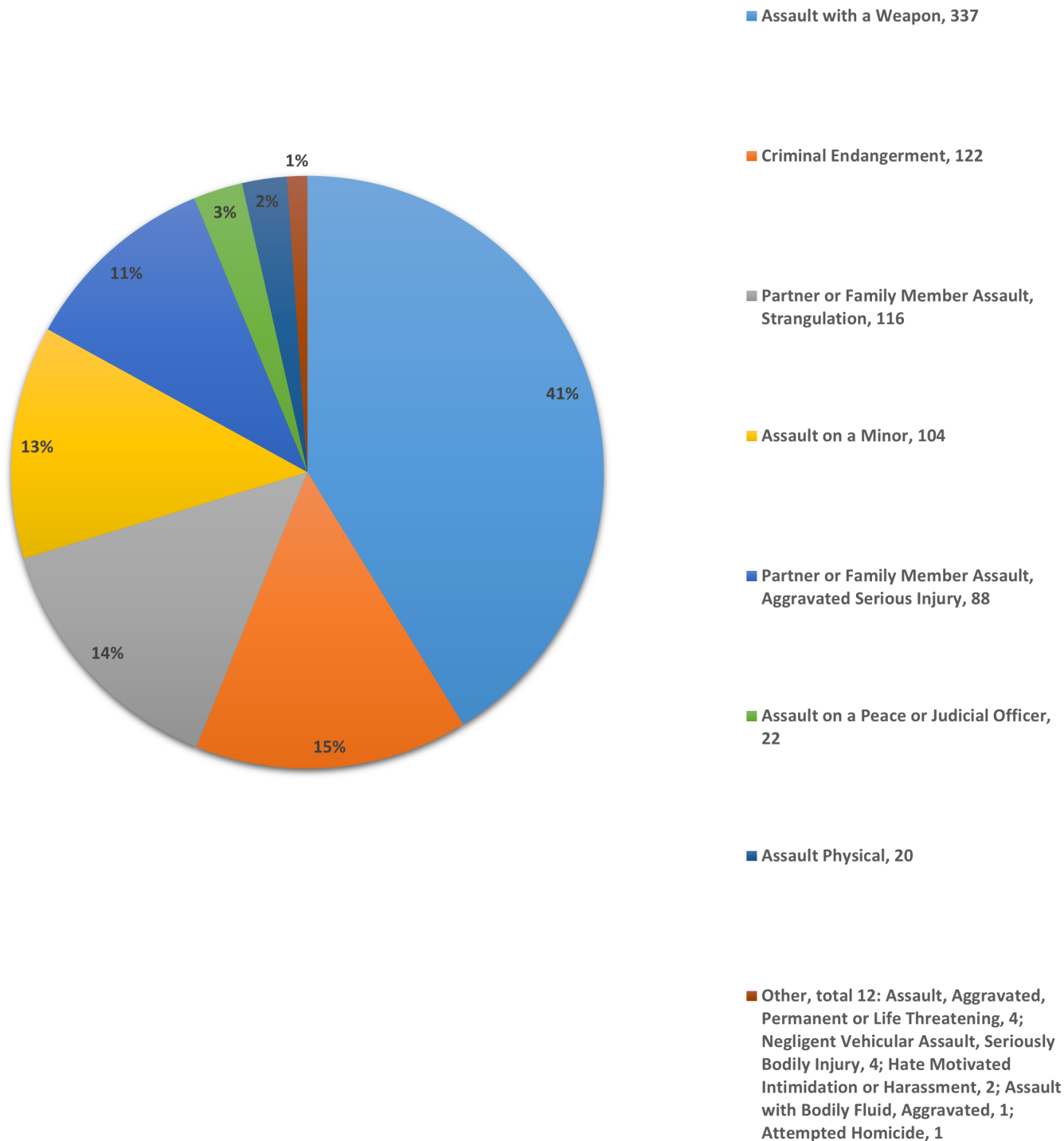
Denise Boggio
 Dennis Bear Don't Walk
 April Veach
 Joseph Stout
 Christopher Simpson

Coalition Representatives

Kristin Lundgren, Substance Abuse Connect
 Erin Lambert, Continuum of Care

Violent Crime Statistics

Aggravated Assault Offenses

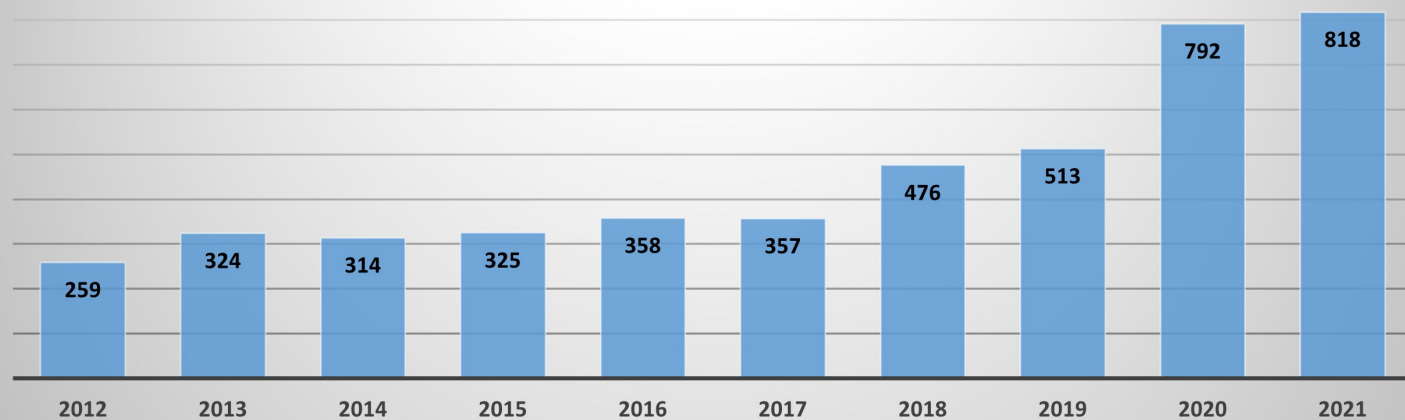


Did you know?

2021, the BPD fully implemented a body camera program to all patrol personnel. This was made possible by utilizing budgeted funds along with community donations. Local radio personalities Paul Mushaben and Mark Wilson generated \$50,000 in donated funds to implement the program. The department's body camera program is designed to enhance officer safety, increase and improve evidence quality, improve transparency and accountability, reduce civilian complaints, and enhance professionalism.

Violent Crime Statistics

Total Aggravated Assault Offenses 10-Year Trend



Due to the nature of violence, and the potential for devastating impacts on victims, investigating violent crime requires extra steps and documentation.

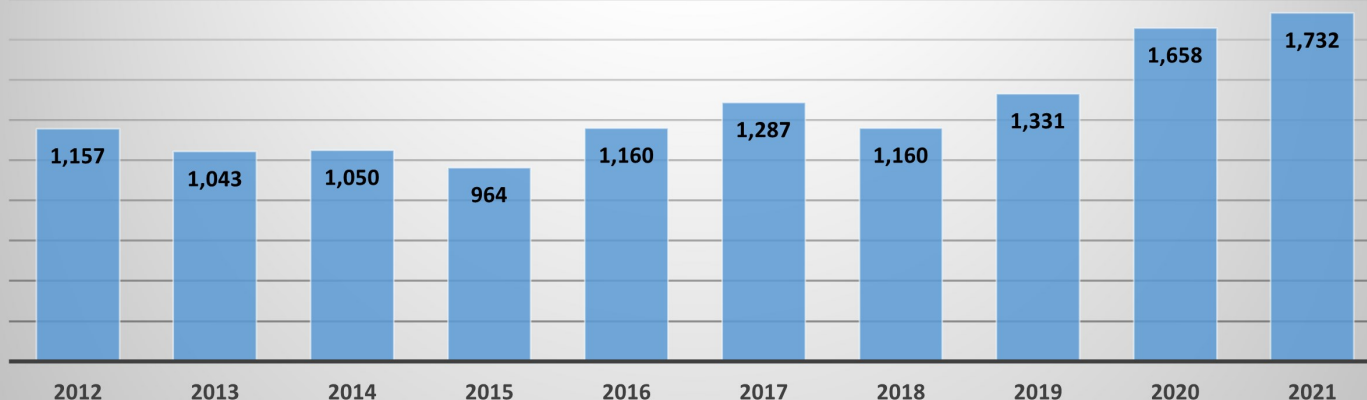
Some of the necessities include waiting for victims to be checked by medical personnel, either on



scene or at a hospital; taking additional statements and photos and uploading them onto Billings Police Department servers; logging evidence into the secure facility, with wet or bloody items requiring extra steps, and writing additional paperwork so victims are aware of their rights and prosecutors are provided thorough information. All of this work delays responses to other, less critical crimes and reports of quality of life issues.

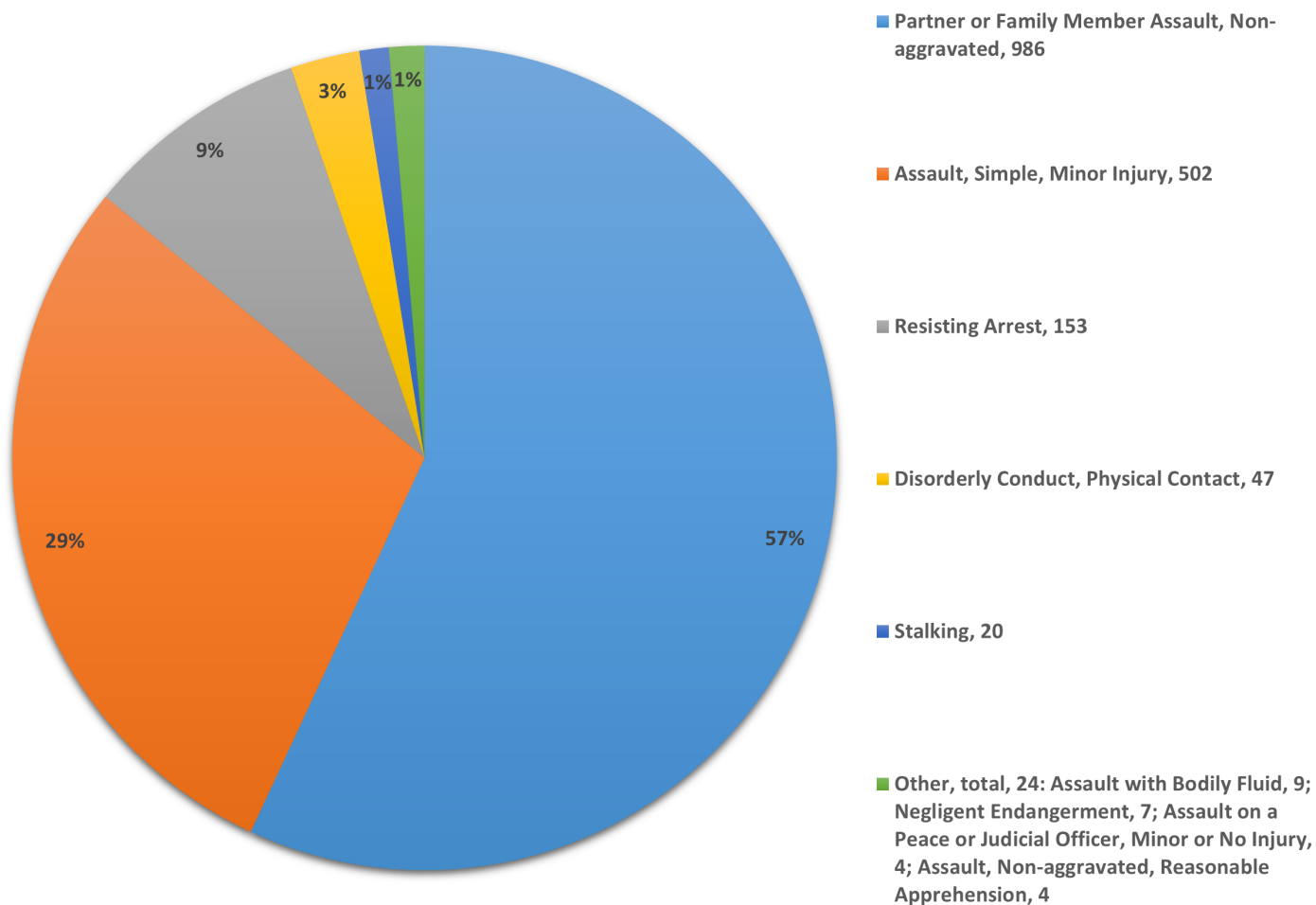
These charts show increases in violent crimes over most of the last decade. The only additional reporting started in 2018 when strangulation was added to domestic crimes.

Total Non-Aggravated Assault Offenses 10-Year Trend

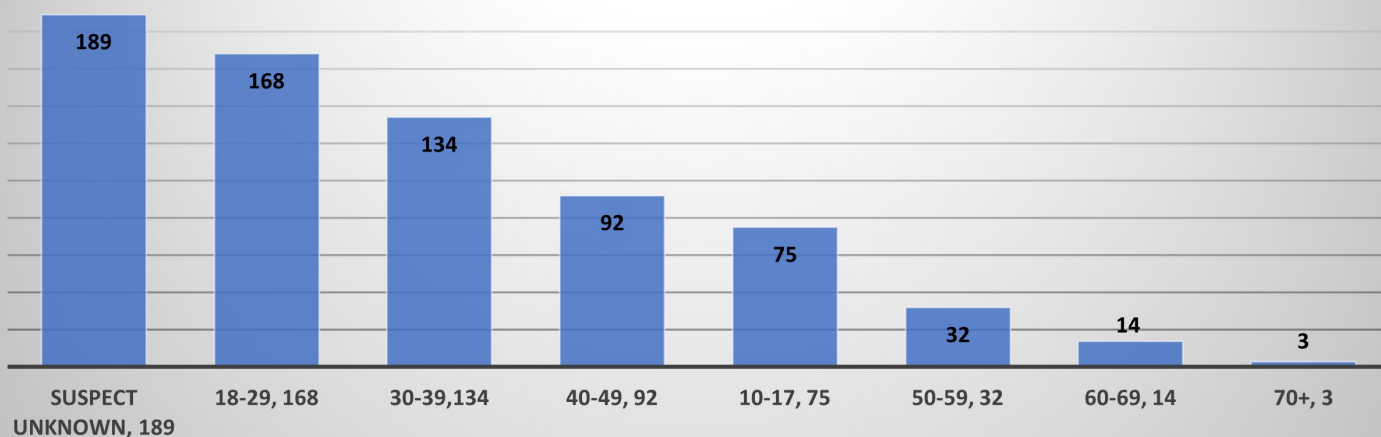


Violent Crime Statistics

Non-Aggravated Assault Offenses

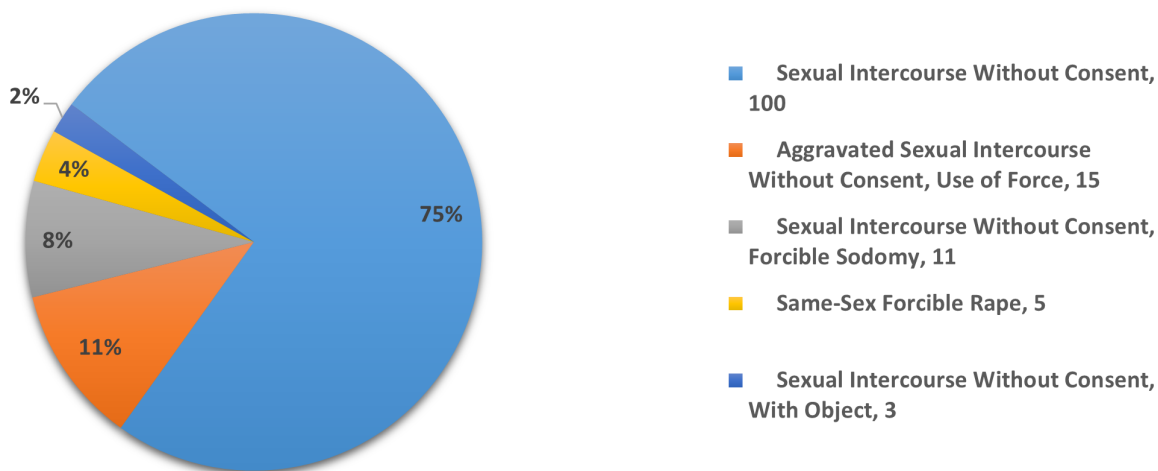


Ages of Suspects in Simple Assaults

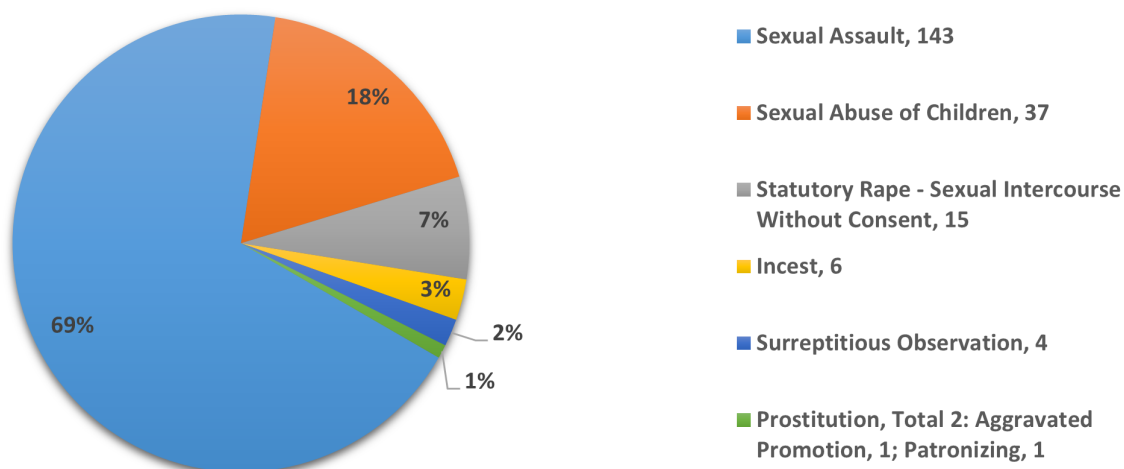


Violent Crime Statistics

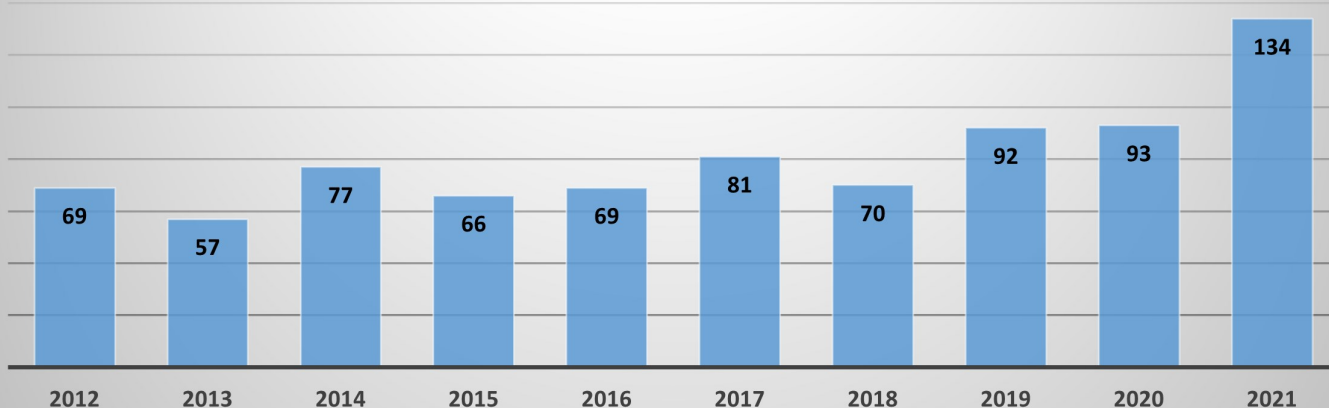
Sexual Assault Offenses



Other Sexual Offenses



Sexual Assault Offenses 10-Year Trend



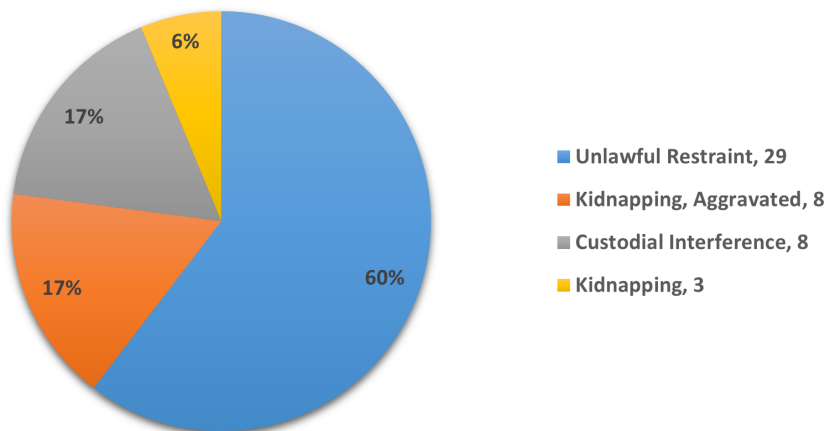
Violent Crime Statistics

The FBI definition of kidnapping is the unlawful seizure, transportation and/or detention of persons against their will or of minors without the consent of their custodial parents or legal guardians.

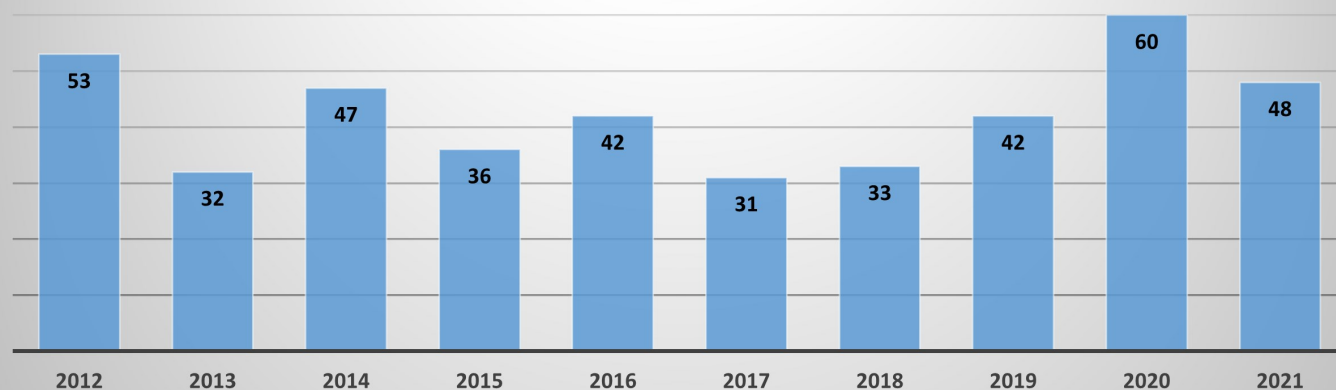
Most of the kidnapping offenses investigated by Billings Police are unlawful restraint that occur during Partner or Family Member Assaults.

Officers investigated 175 allegations of custodial interference in 2020, but only 8 rose to the level of a crime.

Kidnapping Offenses

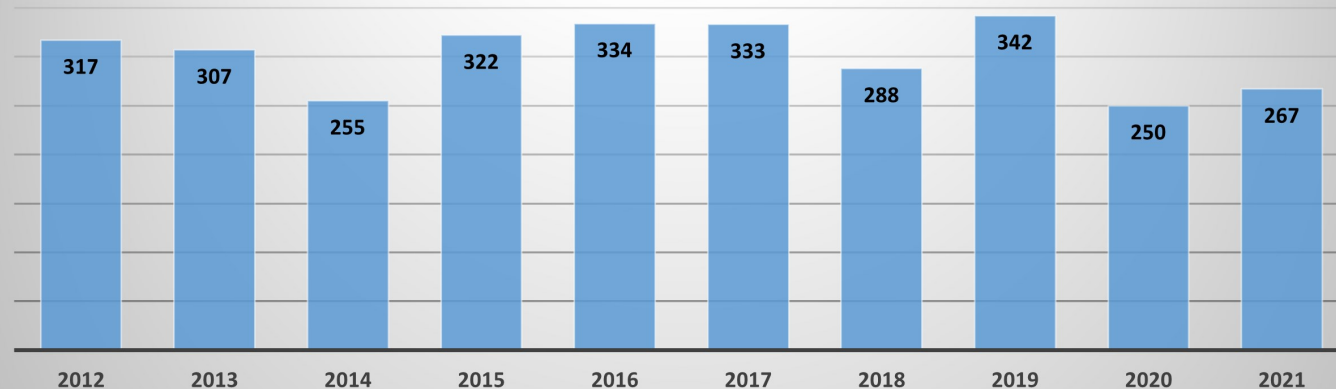


Kidnapping Offenses 10-year Trend



Running away is not a crime, but it is included in crime reporting. Children who are reported as runaways are considered missing persons and listed in a national law enforcement data base until they are found.

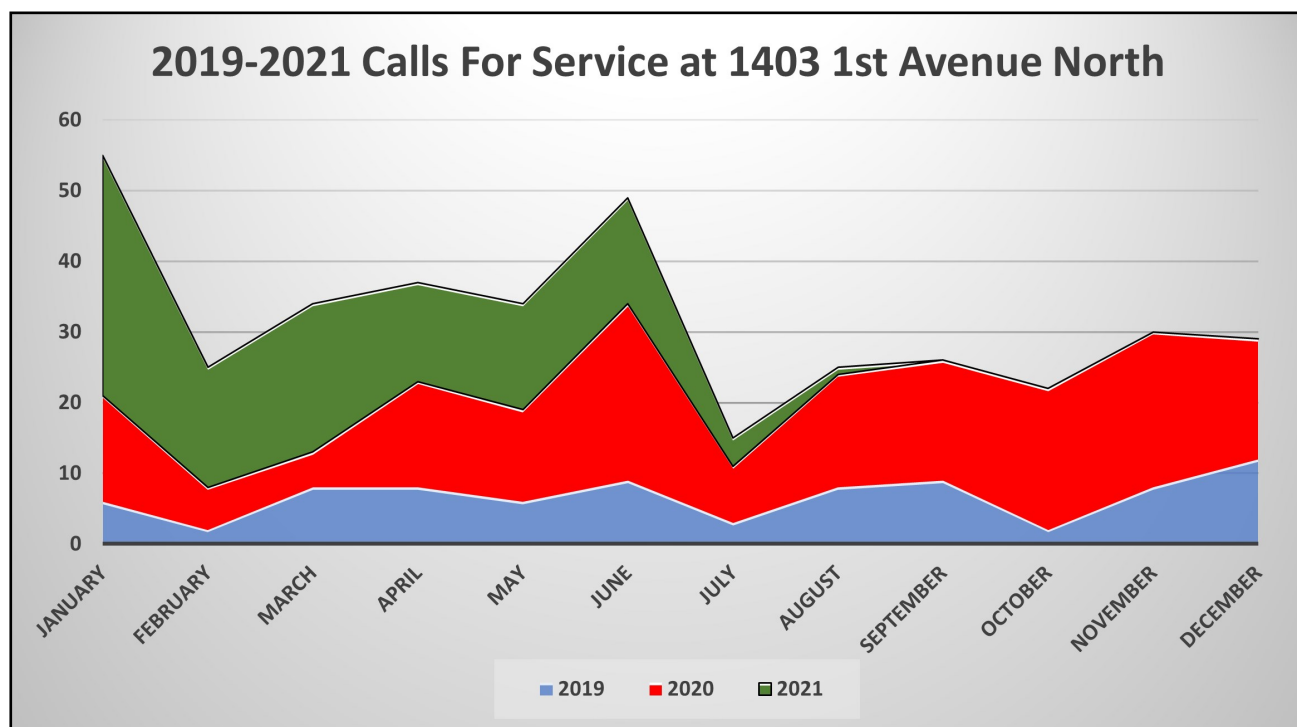
Runaway Offenses 10-year Trend



Community Action



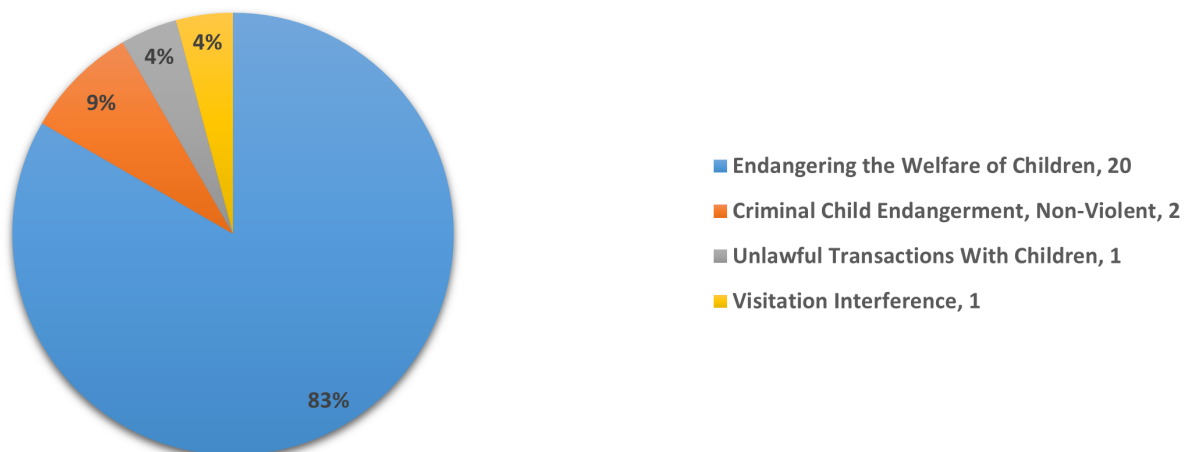
For the last few years, Officers were more frequently called to the Lazy KT for quality of life issues and violent crimes. During 2021, the Billings Industrial Revitalization District worked with a group of community partners, incorporated as the Empire Entrepreneurs, to purchase the property. City Council supported the effort which, in part, used tax increment finance funds from the East Billings Urban Renewal District. The project ultimately included funding for asbestos abatement, permits, dump fees and demolition.



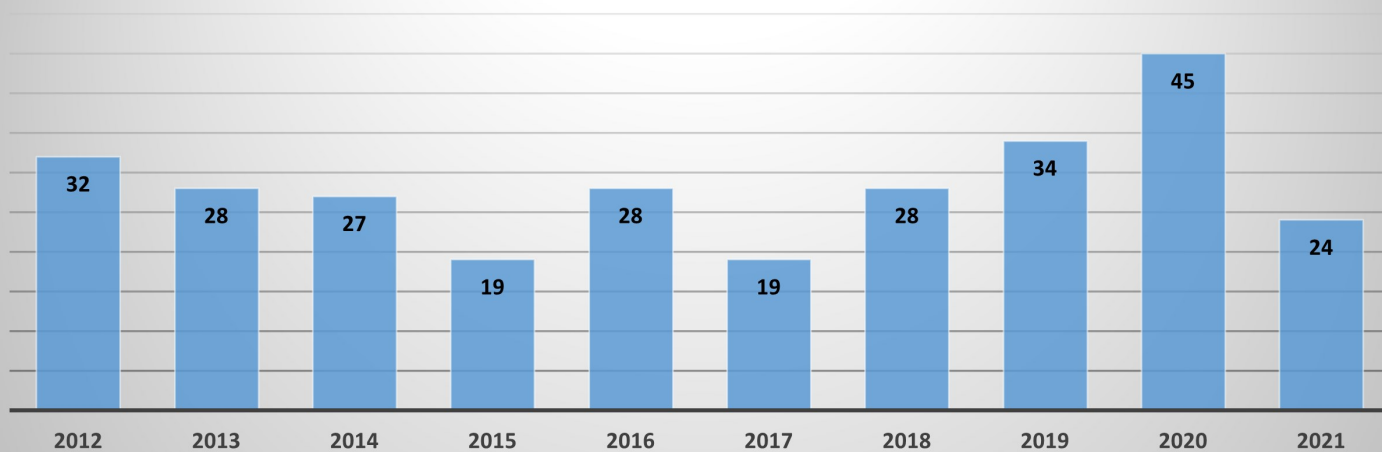
Family Offenses

The FBI defines family offenses as “unlawful, nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) that threaten the physical, mental or economic well-being or morals of another family member that are not classifiable as other offenses such as assault, incest or statutory rape.”

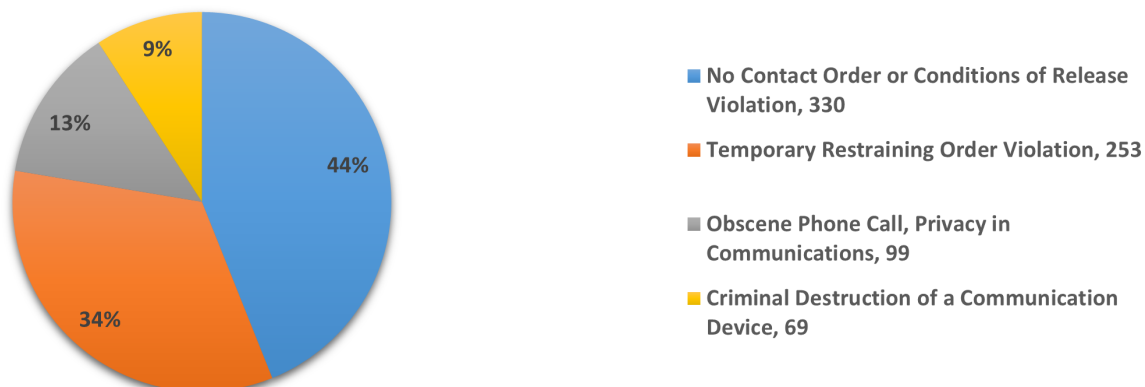
Offenses Against the Family



Family Offenses 10-Year Trend

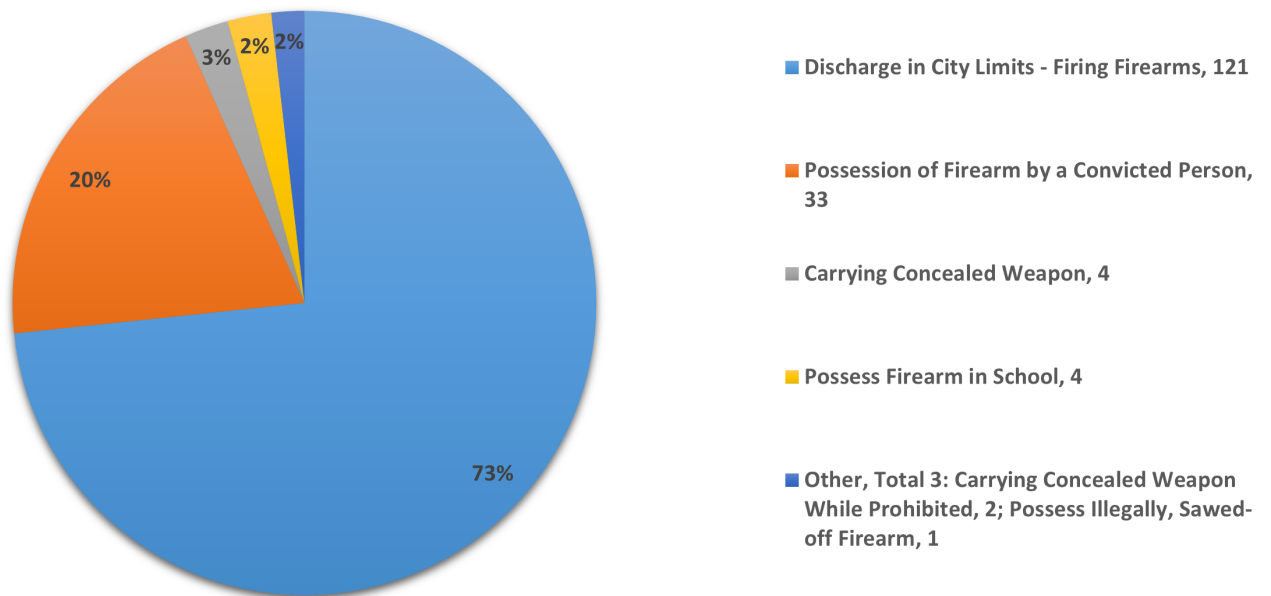


Other Domestic Violations

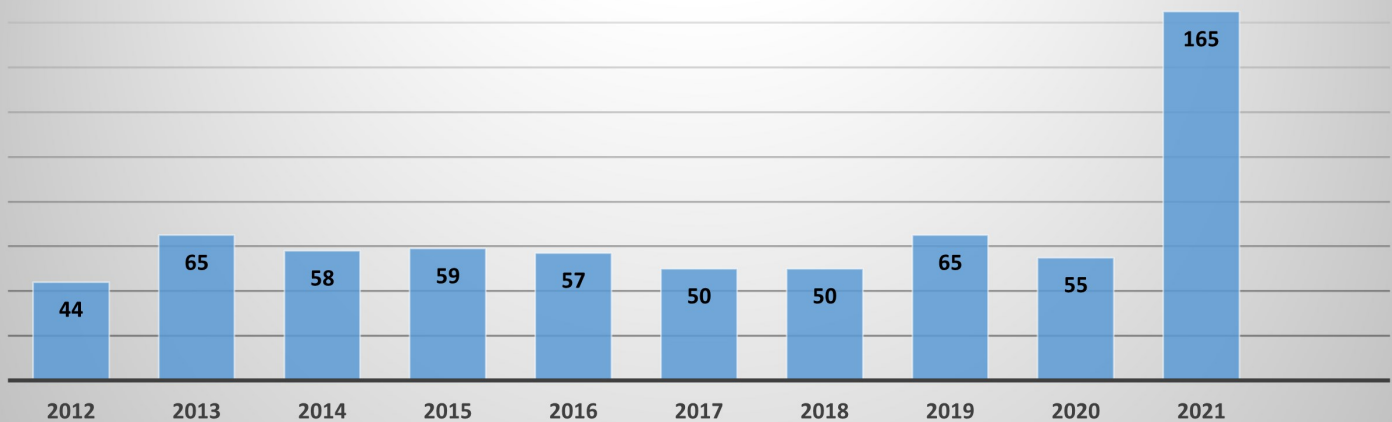


Weapons Offenses

Weapons Offenses



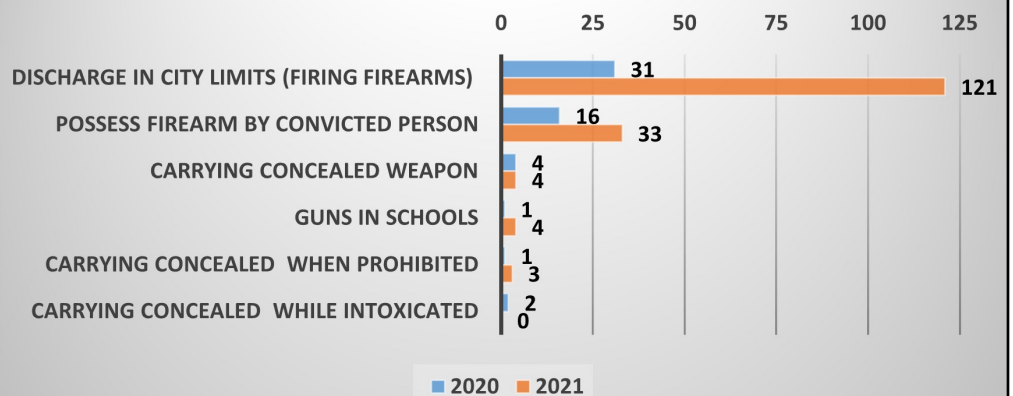
Weapons Offenses 10-Year Trend



There were 233 reports of weapons discharged during 2021, compared to 114 in 2020.

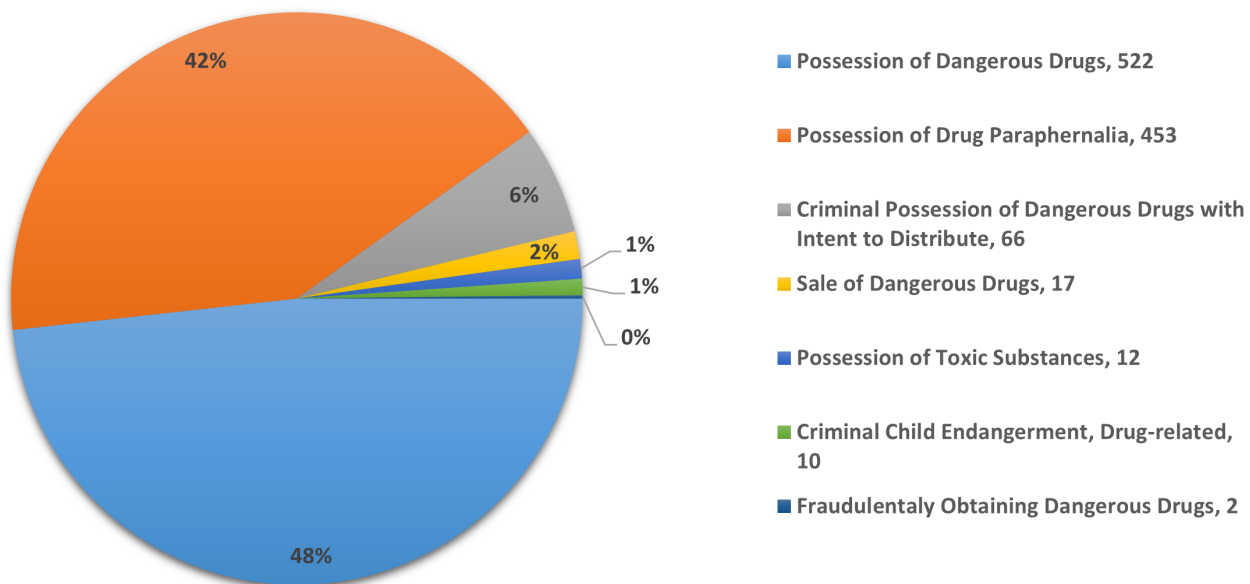
Officers were able to find proof of a discharge in 121 incidents during 2021, compared to 31 in 2020. Also in 2021, there were 43 reports of shootings and 26 reports of people displaying weapons.

Weapons Offenses 2020 vs 2021

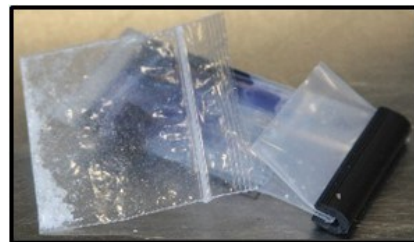
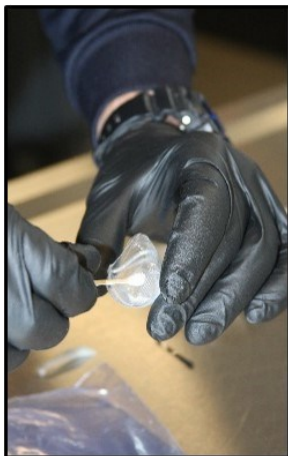
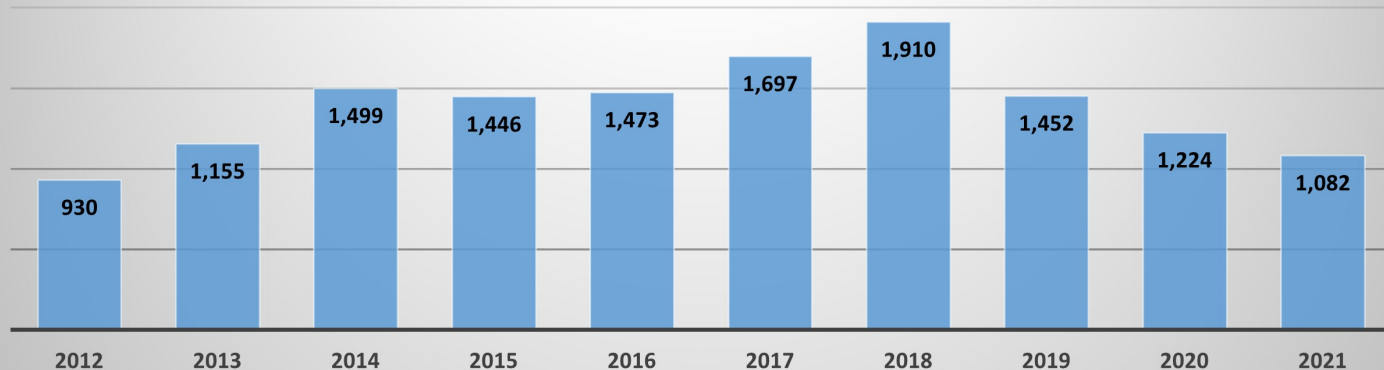


Drug Offenses

Drug Offenses



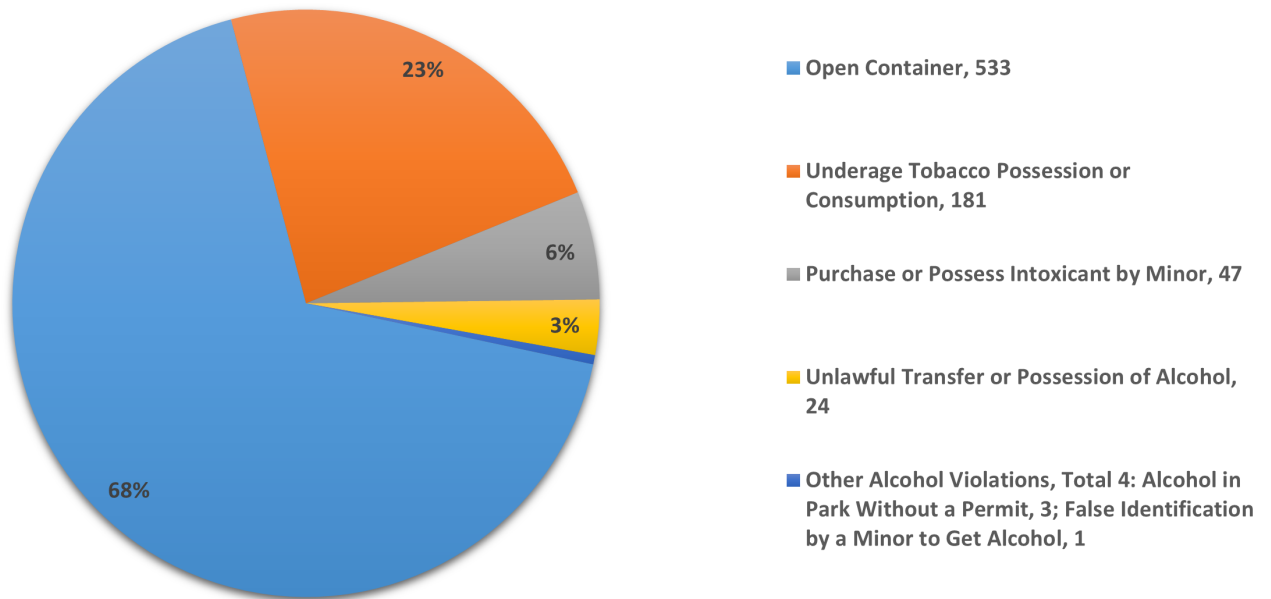
Drug Offenses 10-Year Trend



A presumptive test is done to confirm seized items are drugs. Officer Catlin goes through the steps of putting a sample of the suspected drug into a test kit, then seals and shakes it to mix the crystalline substance with the reagent in the test. The mixture turned a dark blue, confirming the presence of methamphetamine. Items may be sent to the state crime lab for further testing.

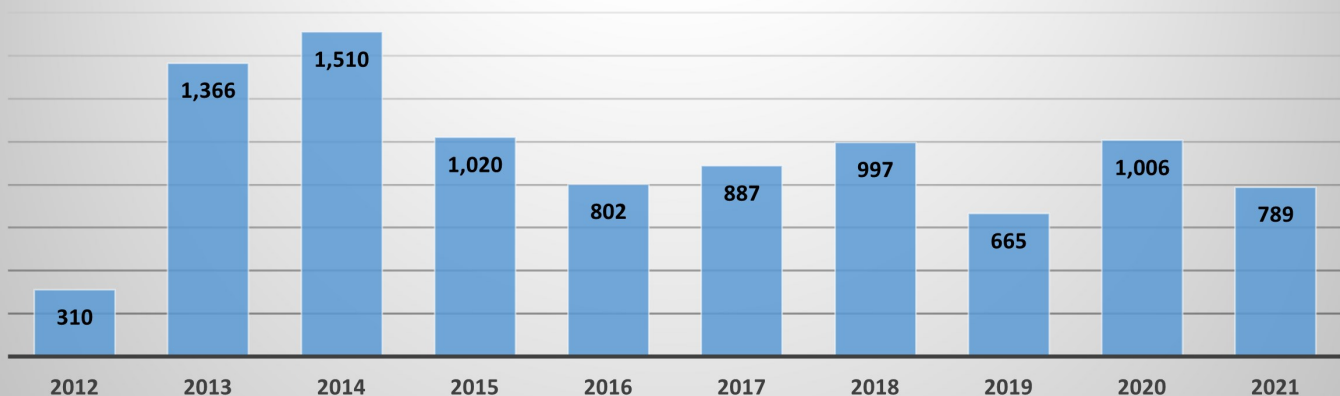
Liquor Law Violations

Liquor Law and Underage Tobacco Violations



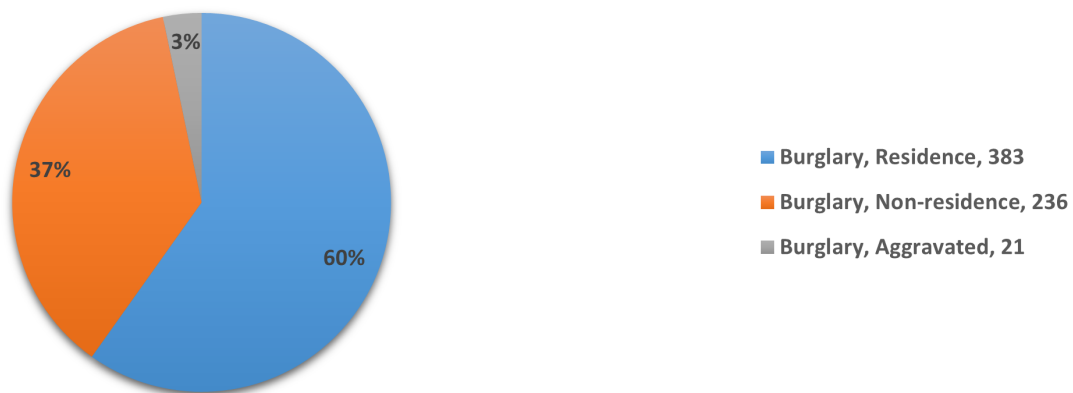
In 2021, our Downtown Resource Officers changed their focus from a zero-tolerance style of enforcement on Open Container violations. In 2020 with most legal, social, and mental health services closed or limited on operation hours, Downtown Officers focused on issuing citations as the only recourse for violations. By the end of 2020, 64 individuals accounted for a significant increase in citations issued. In 2021 there was a renewed effort in all forms of treatment. Two Peer Support Personnel were assigned to the Downtown Resource Program through the Rimrock Foundation. They formed a Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). The primary focus of HOT was consistent outreach to those experiencing homelessness. This caused a shift in enforcement action. Best practice is to pour out the alcohol causing the violation of city ordinance and then work to connect the individual with treatment in that moment. During 2021, 65 individuals were engaged by the HOT team. Services included inpatient and intensive outpatient treatment, daily sobriety groups, helping breaking barriers to housing, employment, and mental and physical health treatment.

Liquor and Tobacco Violations 10-Year Trend

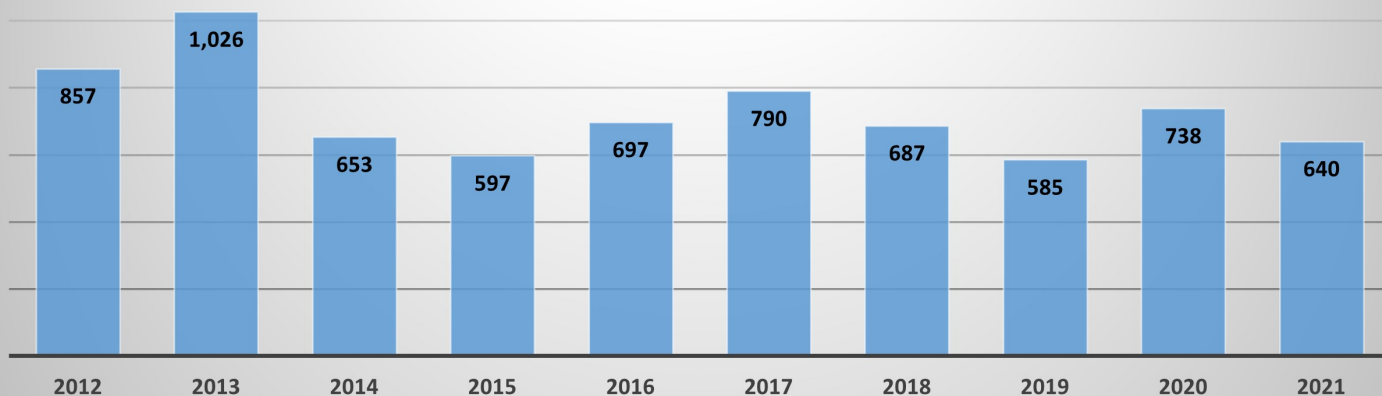


Property Crime Statistics

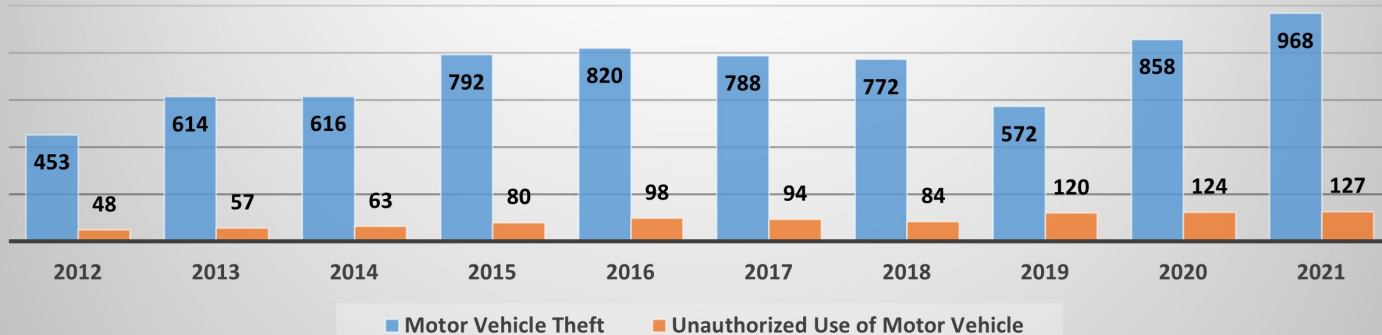
Burglary Offenses



Burglaries 10-Year Trend

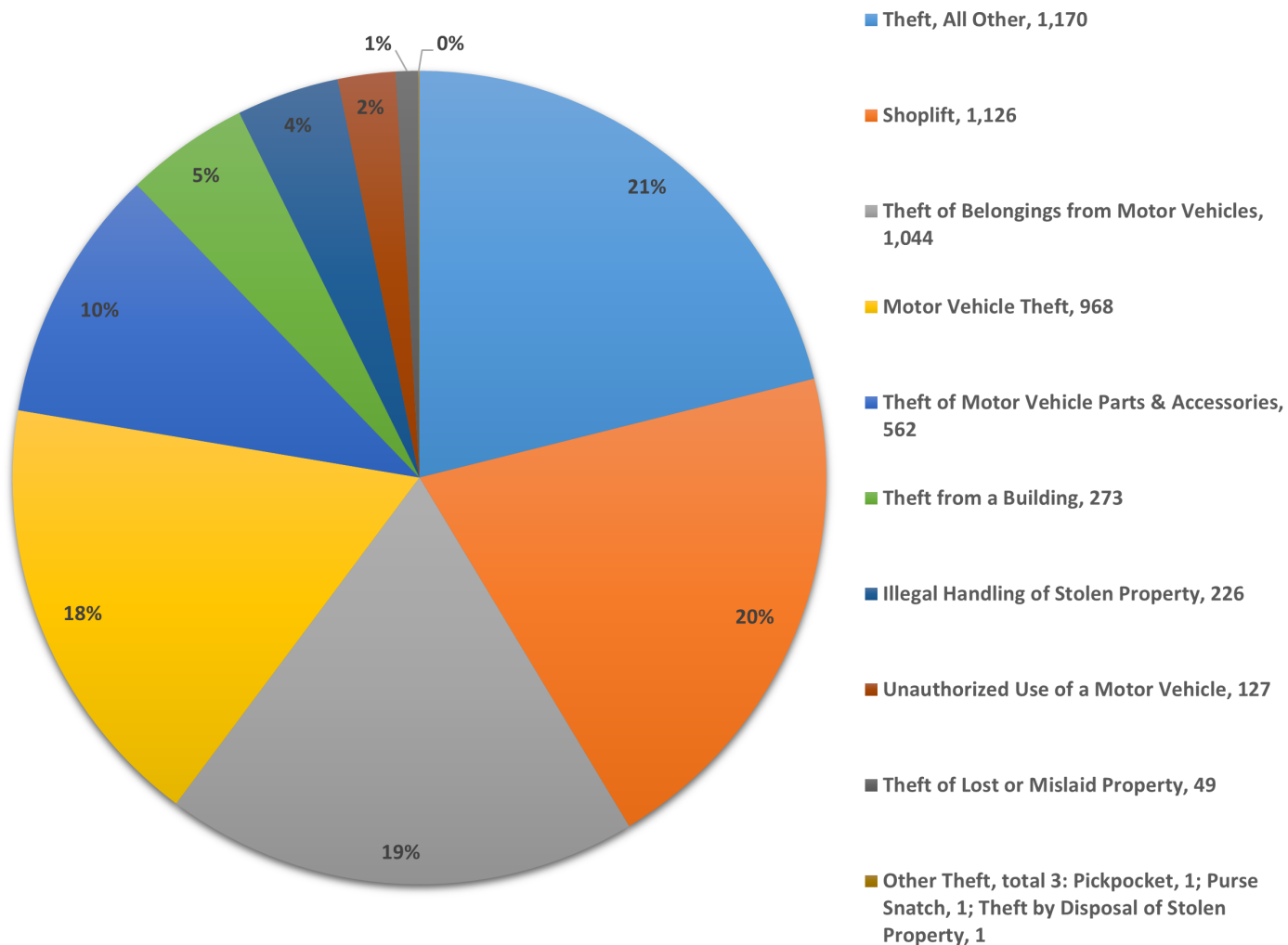


Motor Vehicle Theft & Unauthorized Use of Vehicles 10-Year Trend

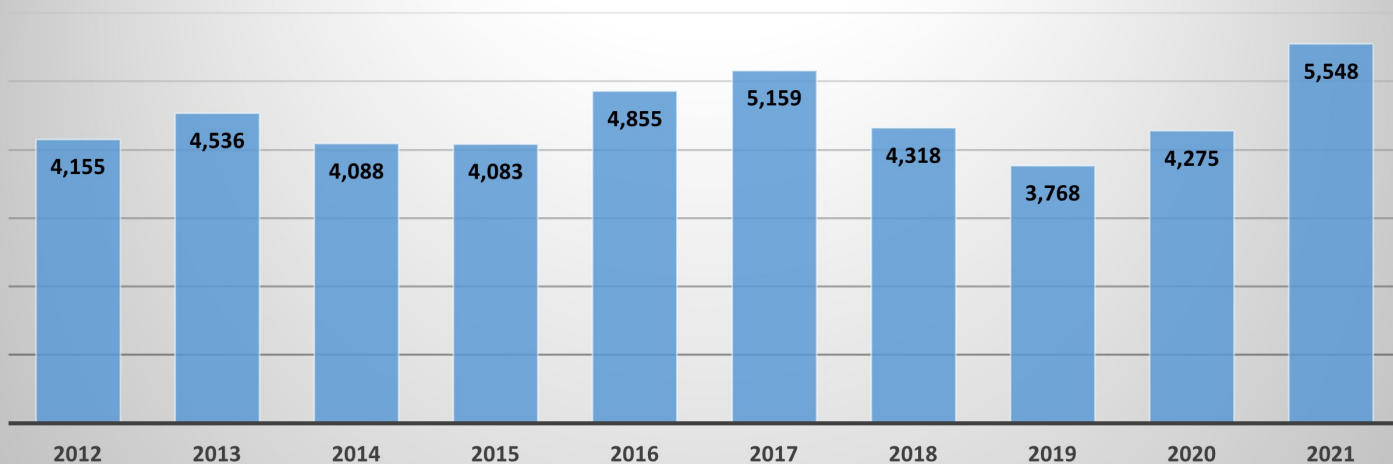


Property Crime Statistics

Theft Offenses

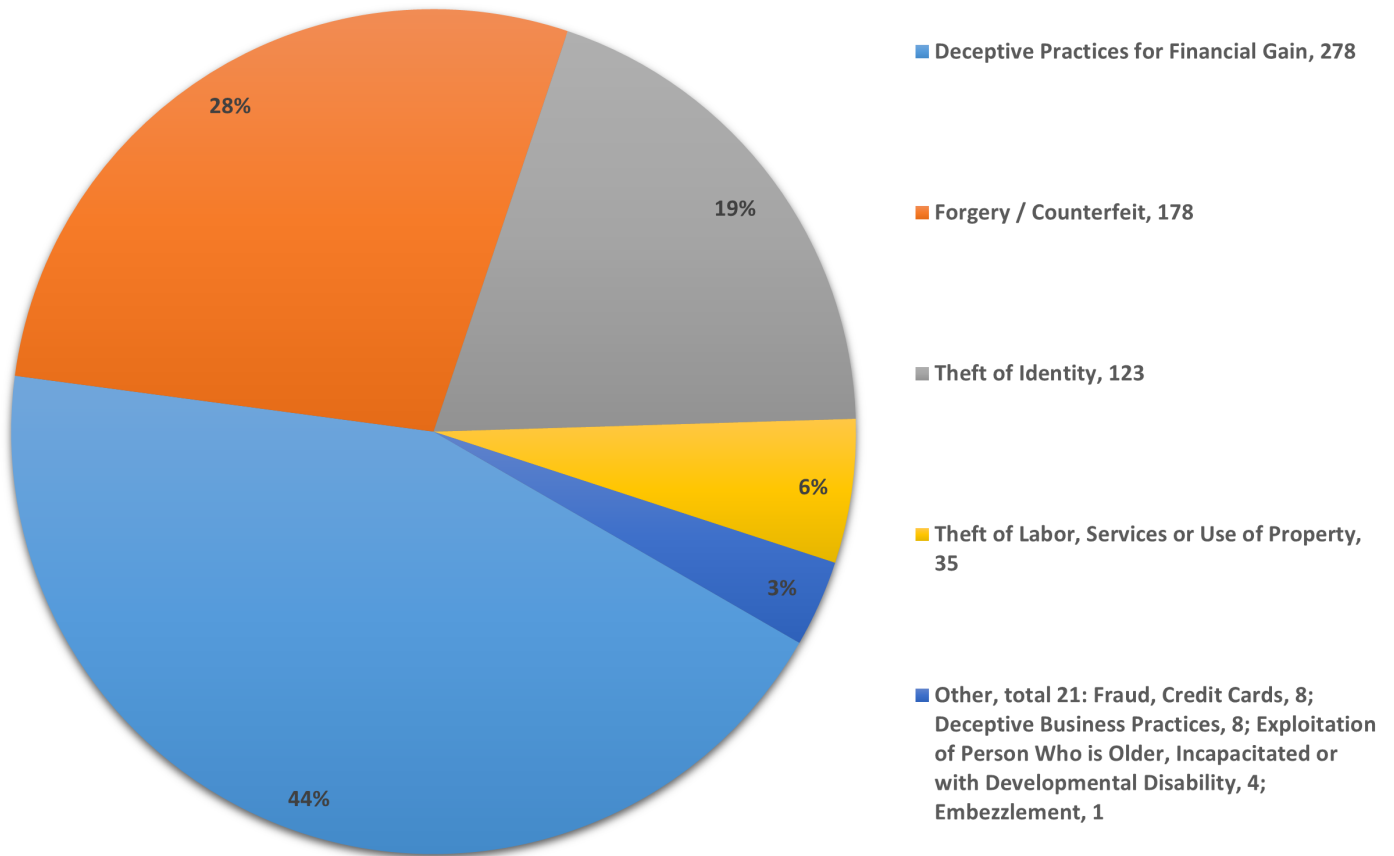


Theft Offenses 10-Year Trend

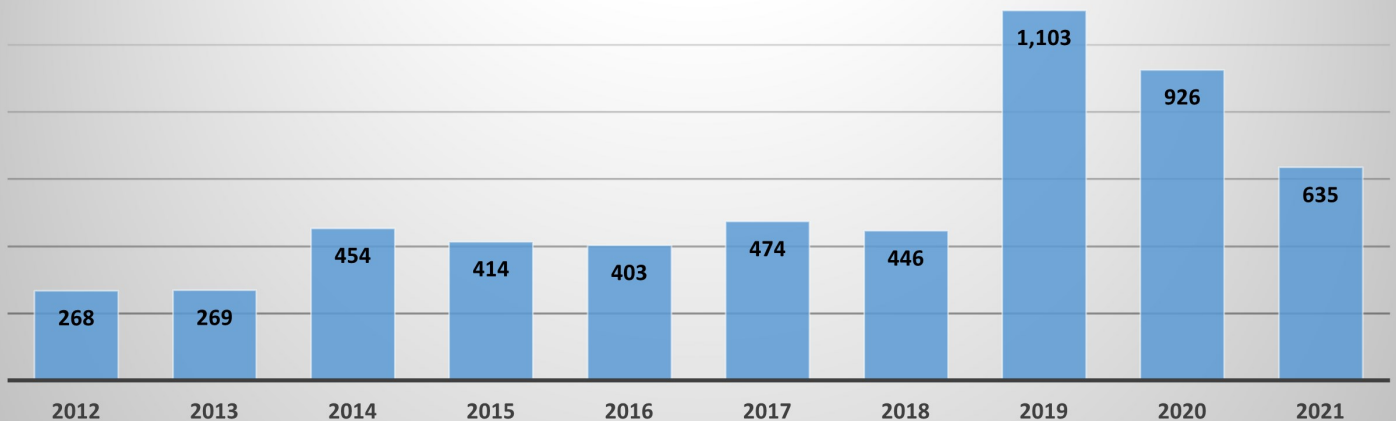


Fraud Offenses

Fraud Offenses



Fraud Offenses 10-Year Trend

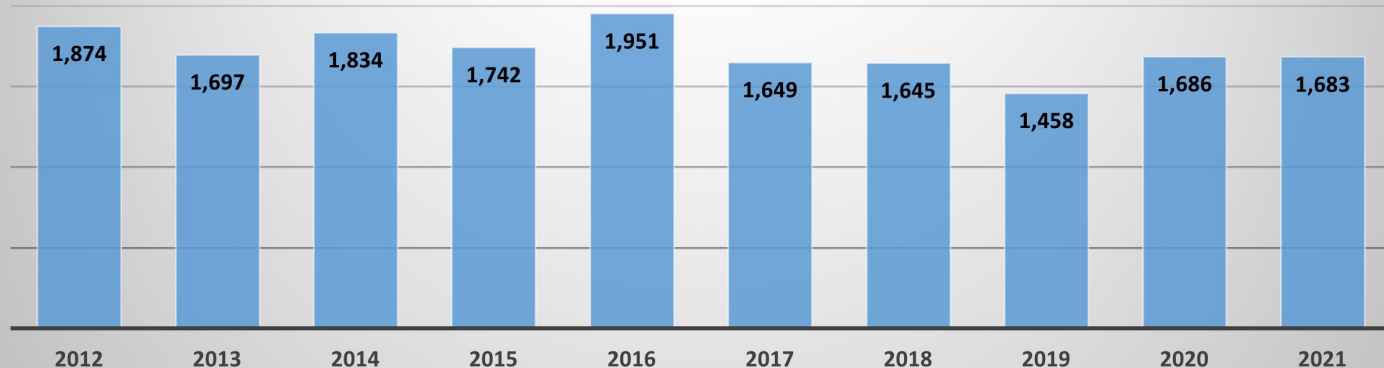


By the numbers ...

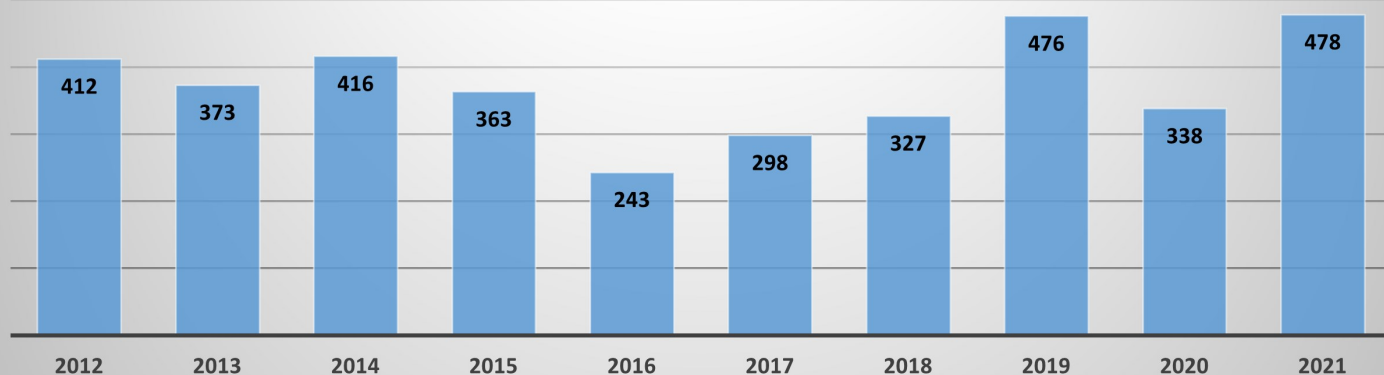
The most frequent types of property forged during 2021 were: Personal or business documents, 101; money, 98; endorsed checks & financial documents, 69; identity documents, 11; blank checks & financial documents, 11; identity (to create accounts), 6; and credit cards, 5.

Crimes Against Public Order

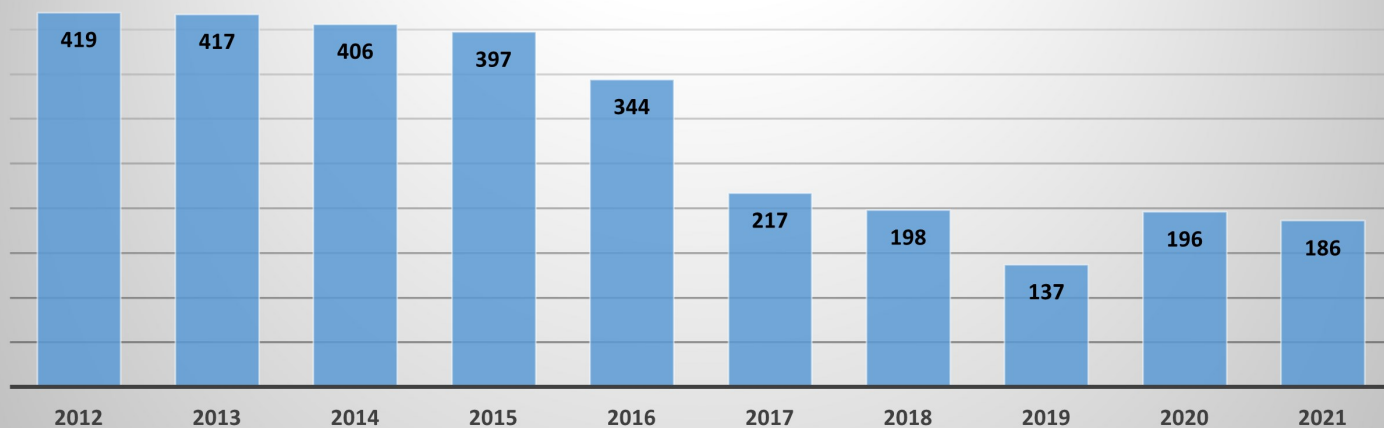
Criminal Mischief Offenses 10-Year Trend



Trespass Offenses 10-Year Trend

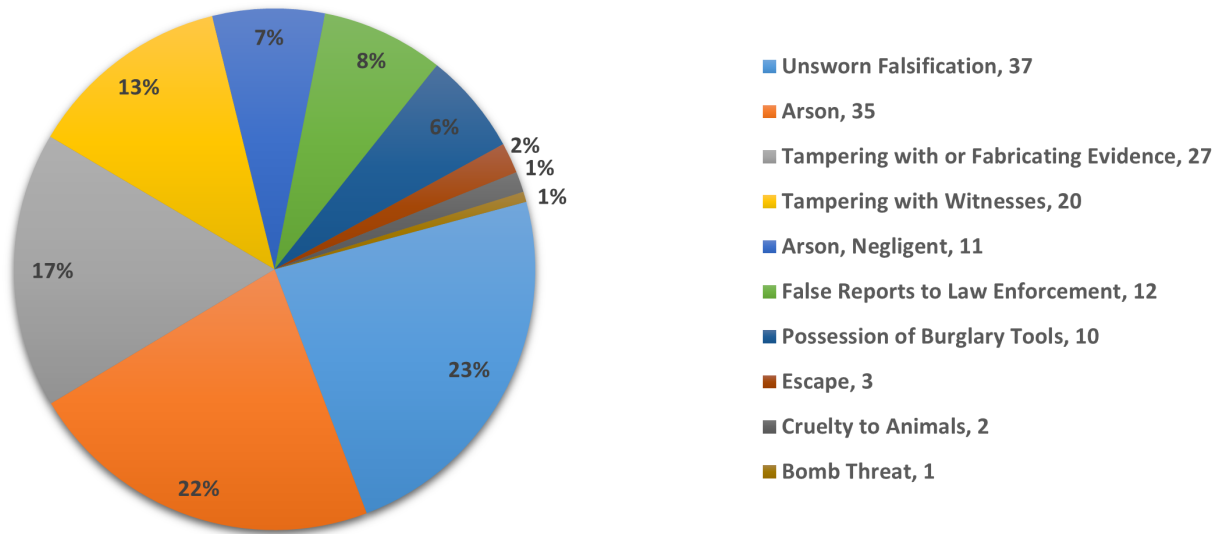


Disorderly Conduct Offenses 10-Year Trend

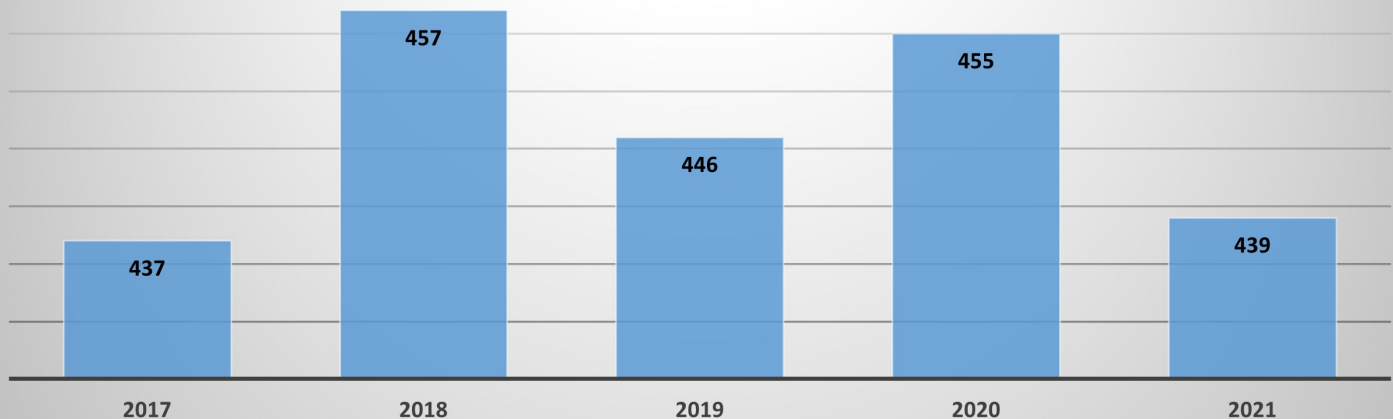


Other Offense Statistics

Other Offenses

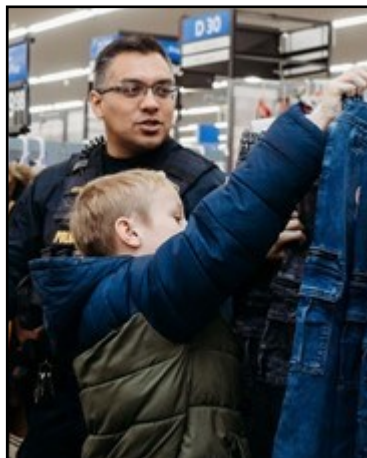


Obstructing Justice or a Peace Officer 5-Year Trend



Did you know?

Billings Police Officers participate in the Shop with a Cop program. The kids' spending money is from community and business donations. From left, Officer Contreraz helps shop for jeans and Officer Lange, Sgt. Stovall and Officer Romero pose with their shopping companions.



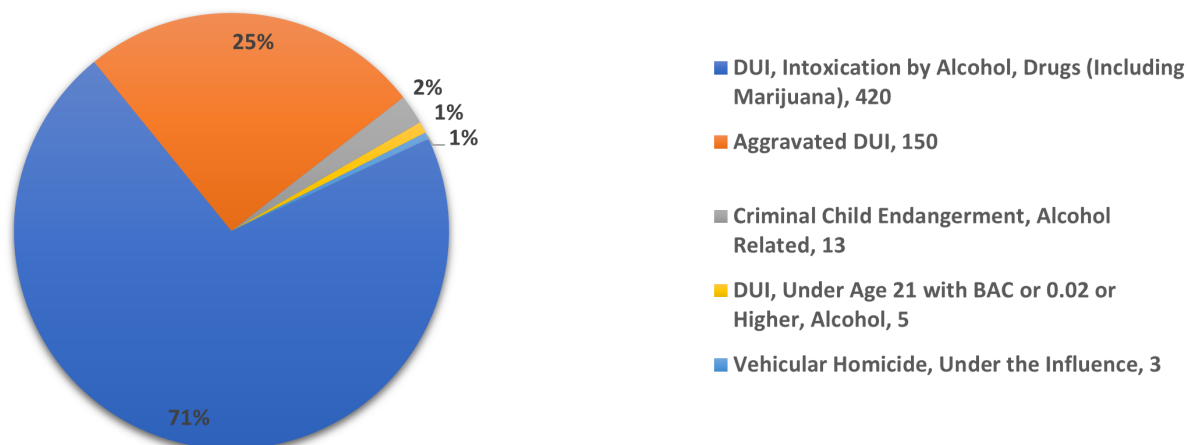
Defensive Tactics

A group of commanders and officers took intensive courses and became defensive tactics trainers in 2021. All officers now take annual training and can take an optional refresher course each quarter. BPD officers are trained to de-escalate situations numerous ways, including verbal techniques. However, to protect themselves and others they may need to use physical tactics. The goal of this training is to integrate basic martial arts techniques to reduce injuries to suspects and officers and to minimize the need to escalate the use of force.

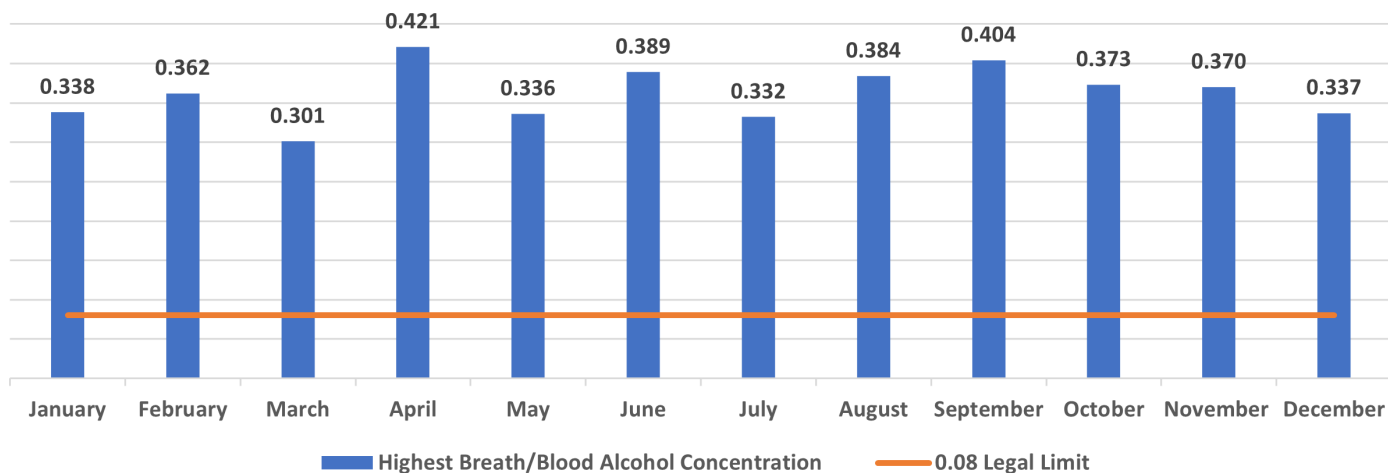


Driving Under the Influence

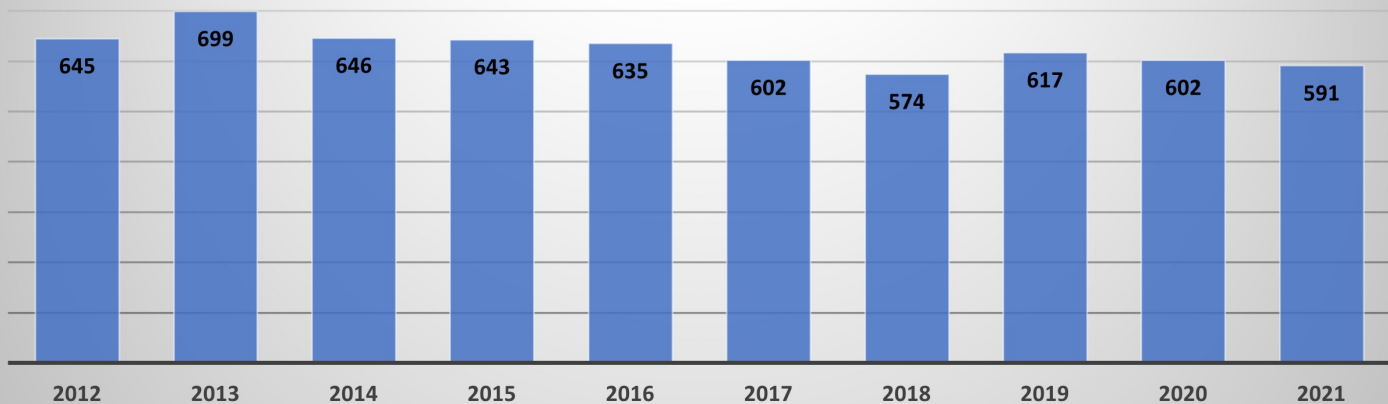
Driving Under the Influence



Highest Breath and Blood Concentration Readings by Month



DUI Offenses 10-Year Trend



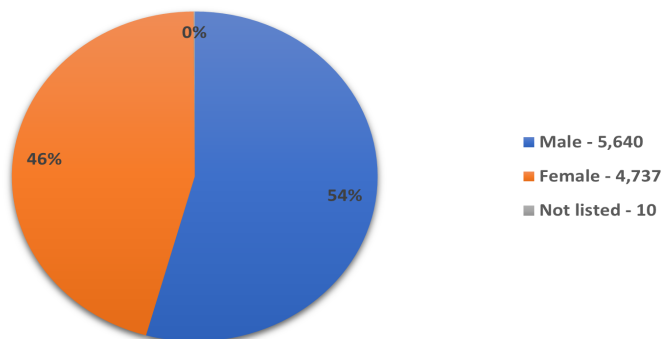
Traffic Statistics

Officers wrote 15,521 citations and warnings to 10,387 individuals.

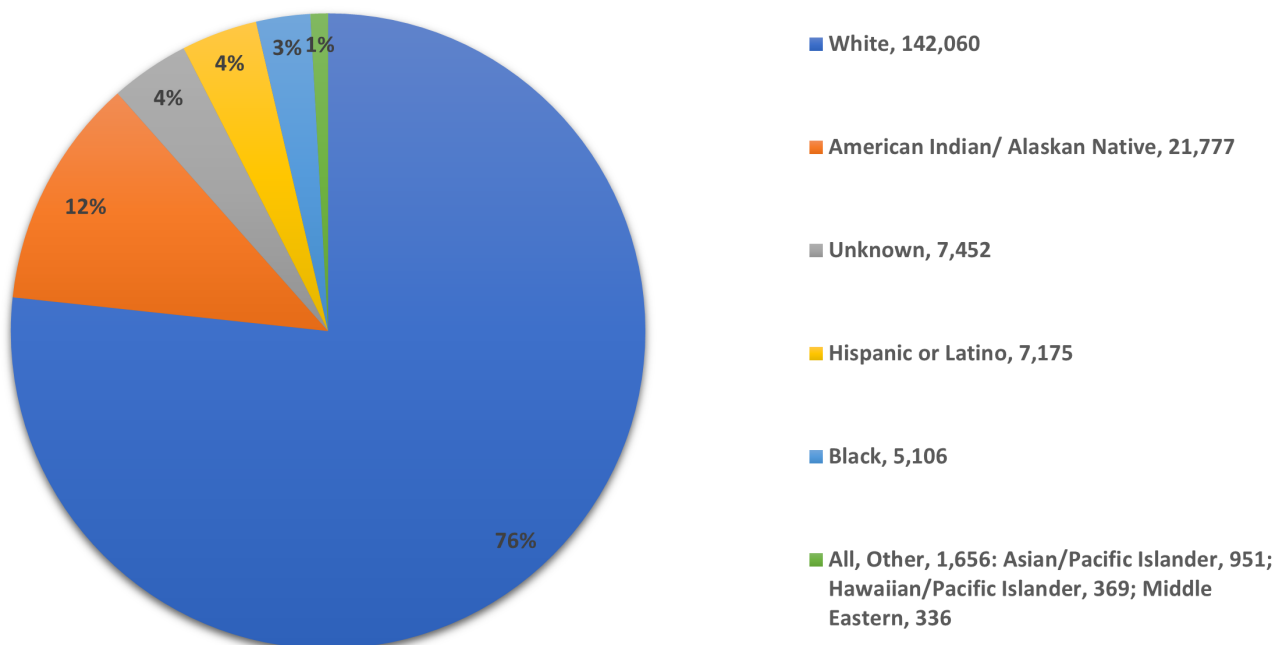
Drivers may receive multiple citations plus a warning on a single stop, due to court requirements.

State law requires law enforcement to track race and ethnicity which is based on observations by officers, not self-reporting.

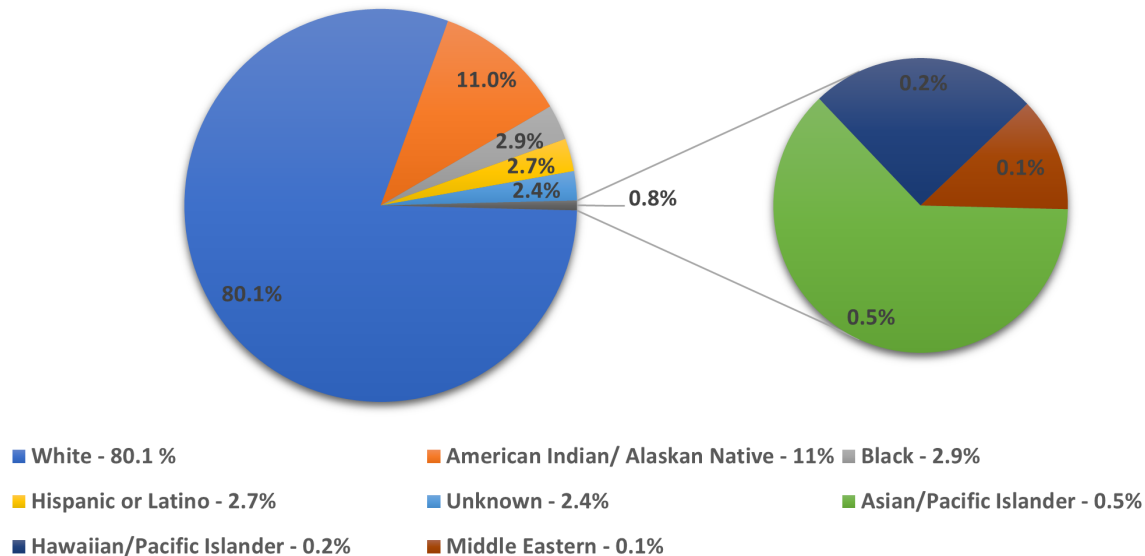
Individuals Cited by Gender



10-Year Percentage of Citations Issued by Race

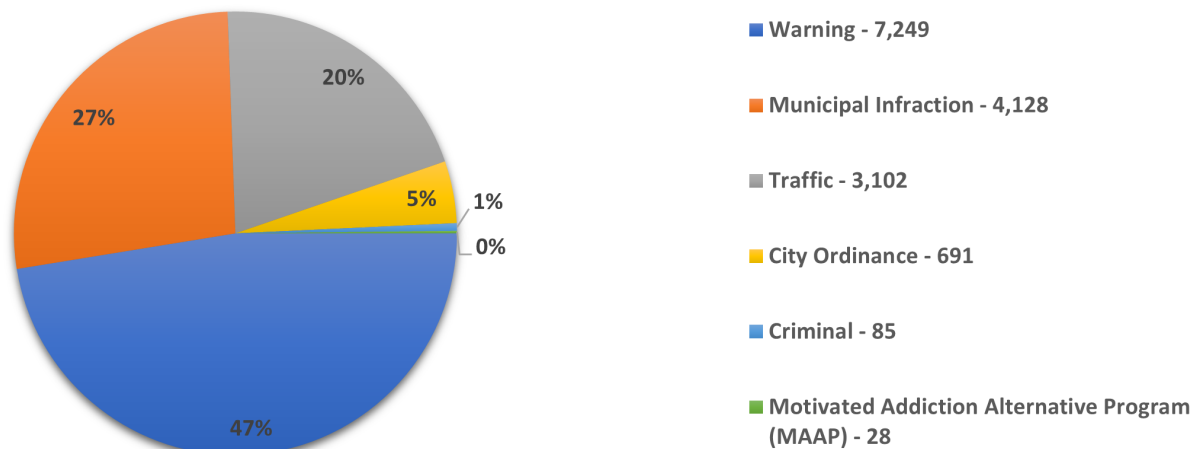


2021 Percentage of Citations Issued by Race

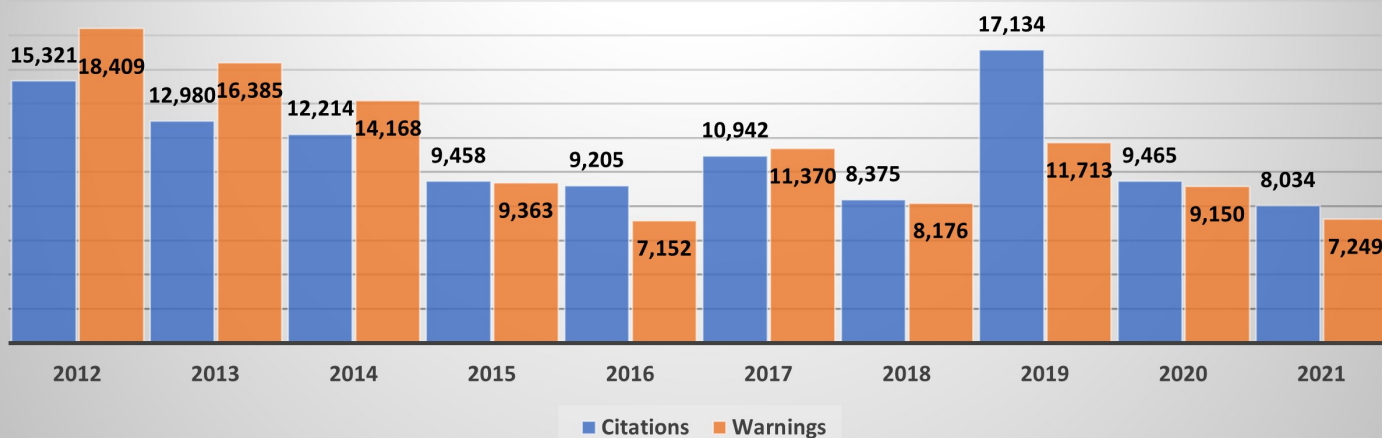


Traffic Statistics

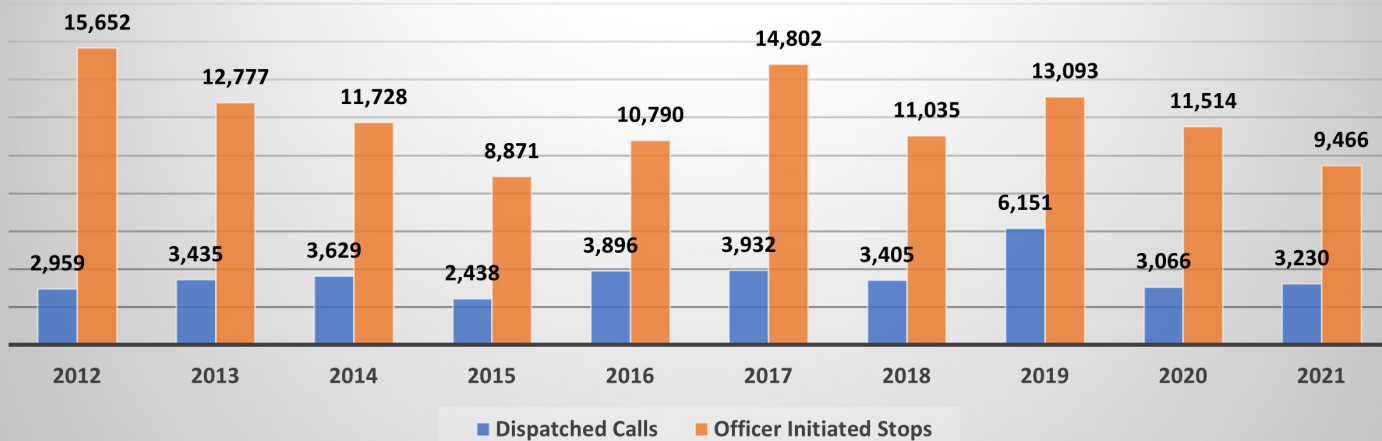
Citations by Type



Traffic Citations vs. Warnings 10-year Trend



Dispatched Calls vs. Officer Initiated Stops 10-Year Trend



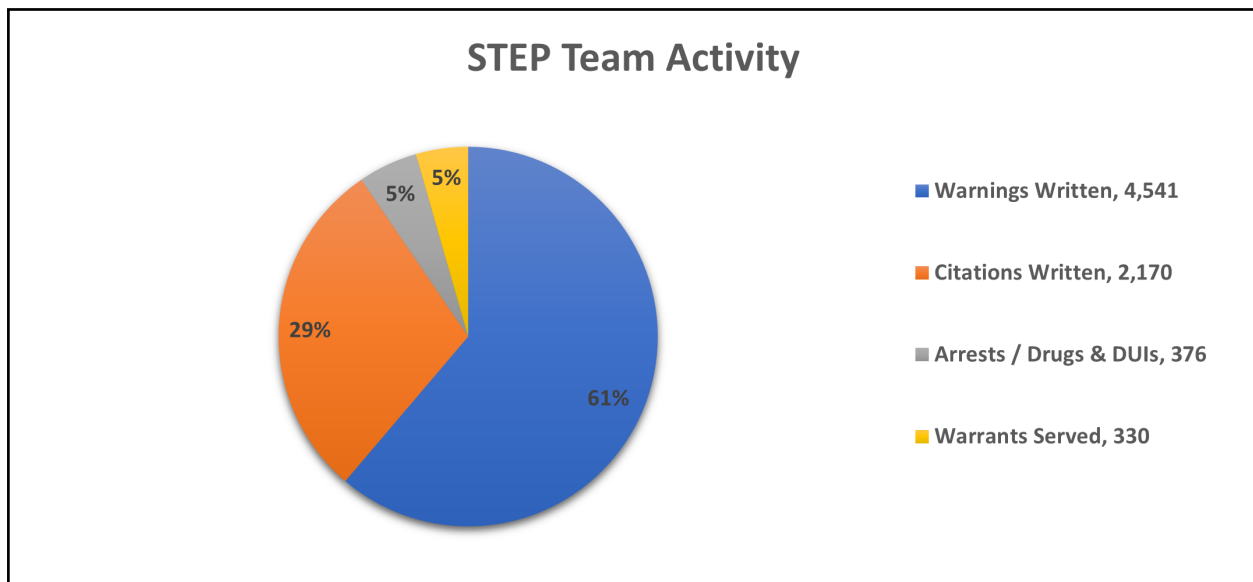
Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

There are 5 officers and 1 Sergeant who work the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. Part of the STEP team are K9 officers. The 6,711 citations and warnings they wrote were about 43% of the BPD total in 2021.

The team works adjusted shifts so they are available during busier traffic times. They conduct special details in high-volume accident areas and locations where there are known traffic problems, such as speeding or cell phone use in school zones.

They also can be assigned to areas where citizens have traffic complaints. To suggest an area that needs additional patrol, use the “report a crime” link at www.billingspolice.com and the information will be sent to the STEP sergeant.

STEP officers were the first in the department to use electronic citation software and in-car printers. In addition to printing tickets, officers use the printers to serve warrants at the road-side when the wanted person isn’t required to go to jail.

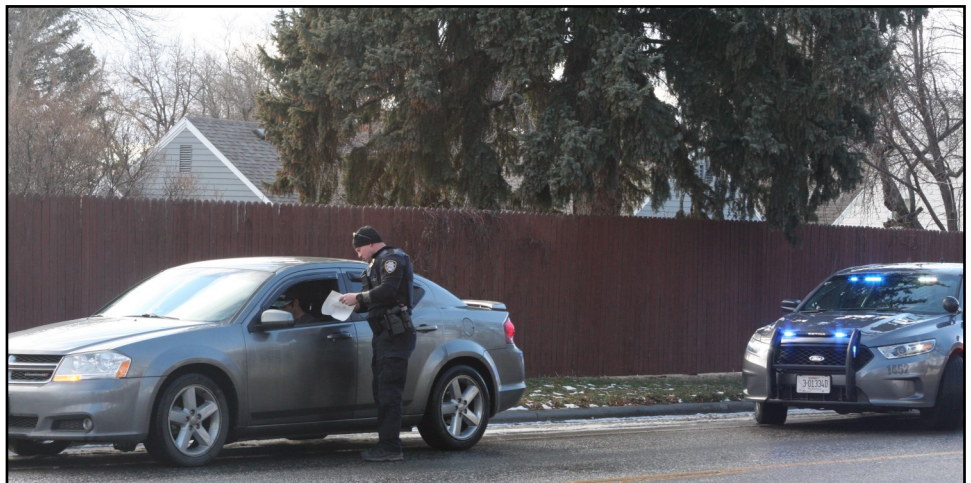


Did you know?

Law enforcement officers park a specific way on traffic stops to protect themselves and the stopped vehicle from traffic.

All Billings Police Officers are required to pass a Patrol Vehicle Operations Course. They must attend the course at least every two years, as set out in Department policy. The course teaches various safety skills ranging from vehicle dynamics to evasive braking and skid avoidance.

Several Billings Officers are trainers and teach the course both locally and to new officers attending the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. Above, STEP Officer Z. Wallis issues a warning to a driver.

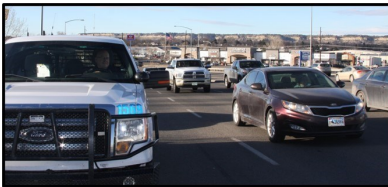


Accident Statistics

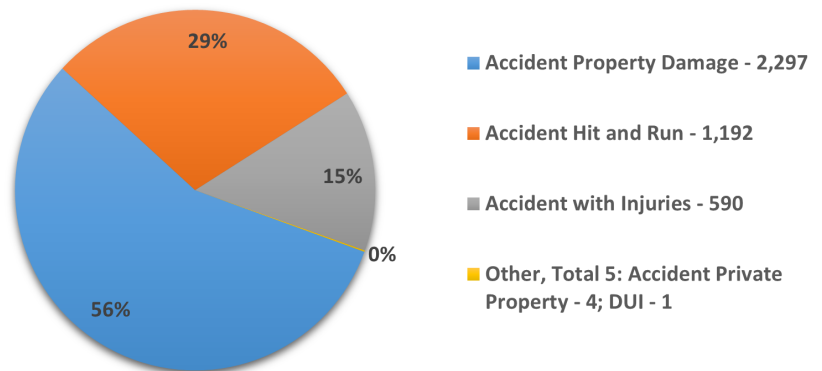
Not all crashes require an officer to investigate, including private property or minor damage accidents like fender-benders.

During some storms, there are not enough officers to investigate every minor damage accident. During these times, the Department implements the “slick streets” or accident diversion policy. Under this protocol, only accidents with injuries, impaired drivers and disabled vehicles are investigated. Commanders went to this status 53 times during 2021.

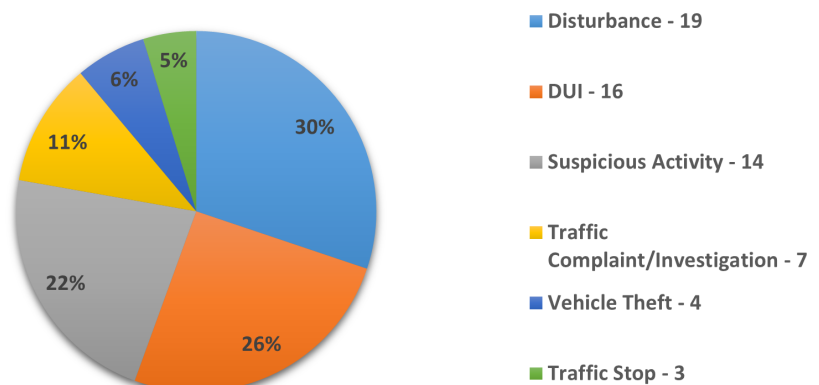
Of the 4,084 accidents reported, officers completed crash forms 3,081 times.



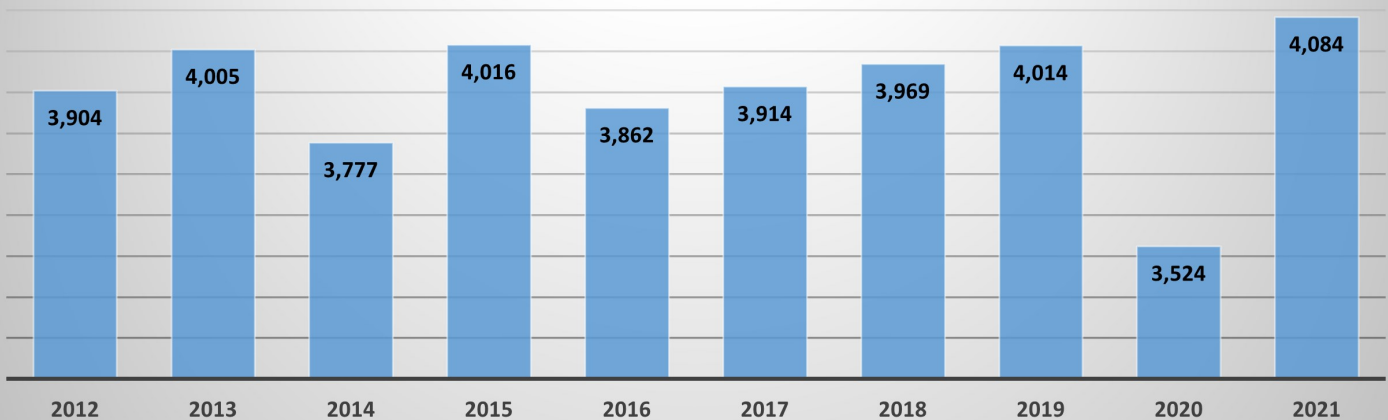
Accident Reports by Type



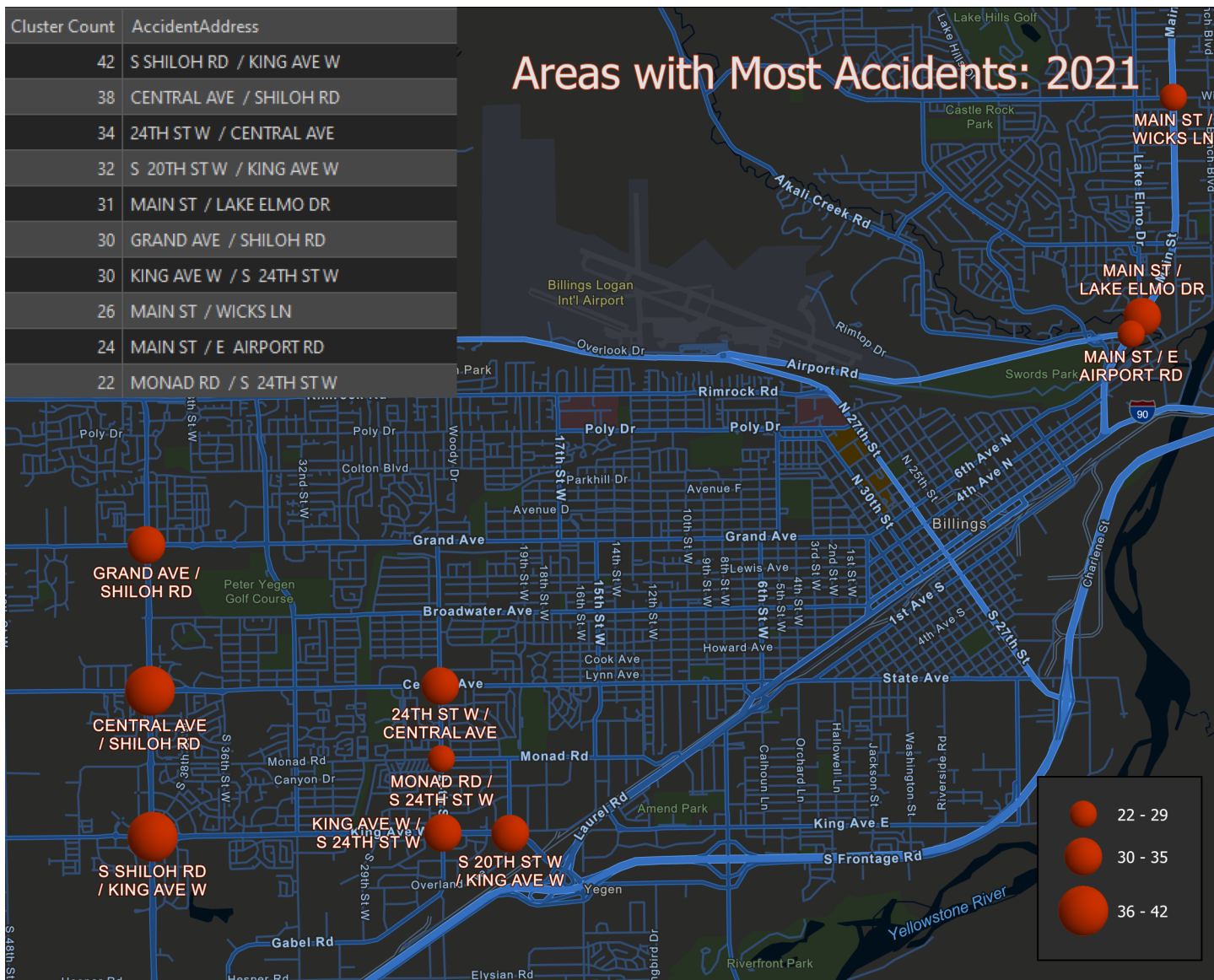
Other Report Types that Included Accidents



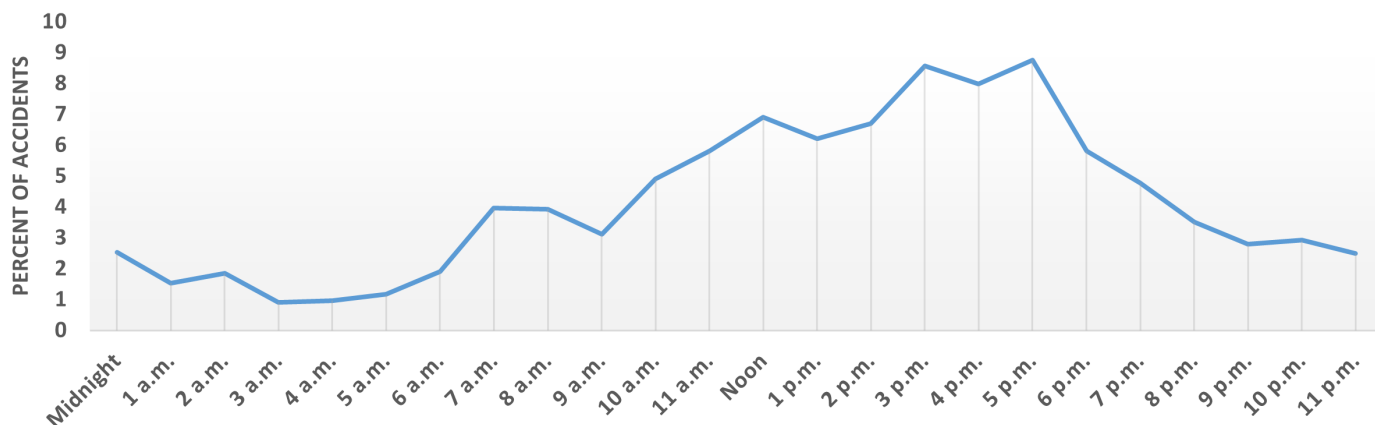
Reported Traffic Accidents 10-Year Trend



Accident Statistics



Accidents by Time of Day



Arrests

<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Most Frequent Adult Arrest Charges</u>
3,474	Warrant - Municipal/Misdemeanor
1,115	Warrant - Contempt, Municipal/Justice
737	Criminal Contempt
575	Partner or Family Member Assault, Non-Aggravated
514	Shoplifting
425	Revocation of Suspended/Deferred Sentence
410	Obstructing a Peace Officer
378	Possession of Dangerous Drugs
371	Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol or Marijuana
316	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
279	Probation Violation
262	Trespass, Criminal, to Property
221	Violation of Conditions of Release
205	Violation of No Contact Order
192	Criminal Mischief
163	Illegal Handling of Stolen Property
154	Theft All Other - Warrant, Municipal/Misdemeanor
150	Assault, Minor Injuries
148	Aggravated Driving Under the Influence
143	Assault with a Weapon

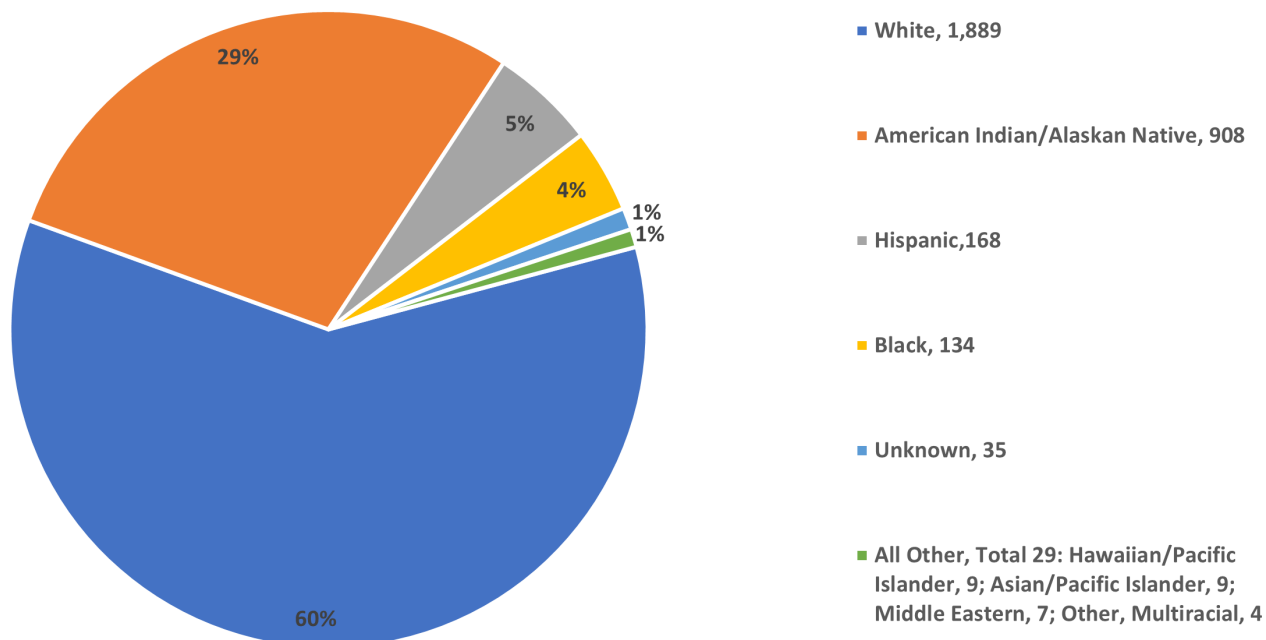
<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Most Frequent Juvenile Arrest Charges</u>
218	Under Age Tobacco Possession of Consumption
71	Shoplift
47	Partner or Family Member Assault, Non-Aggravated
44	Possession of Dangerous Drugs
35	Assault, Minor Injuries
34	Purchase or Possess Intoxicant by a Minor
34	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
34	Disorderly Conduct
24	Criminal Contempt
23	Warrant - Municipal/Misdemeanor
23	Criminal Mischief
19	Obstructing a Peace Officer
14	Assault with a Weapon
10	Contempt of Court, Justice Court
9	Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol or Marijuana
9	Obscene Phone Call - Privacy in Communications
8	Criminal Endangerment
8	Robbery
7	Burglary, Residence
7	Theft All Other - Warrant, Municipal/Misdemeanor

Arrest Statistics

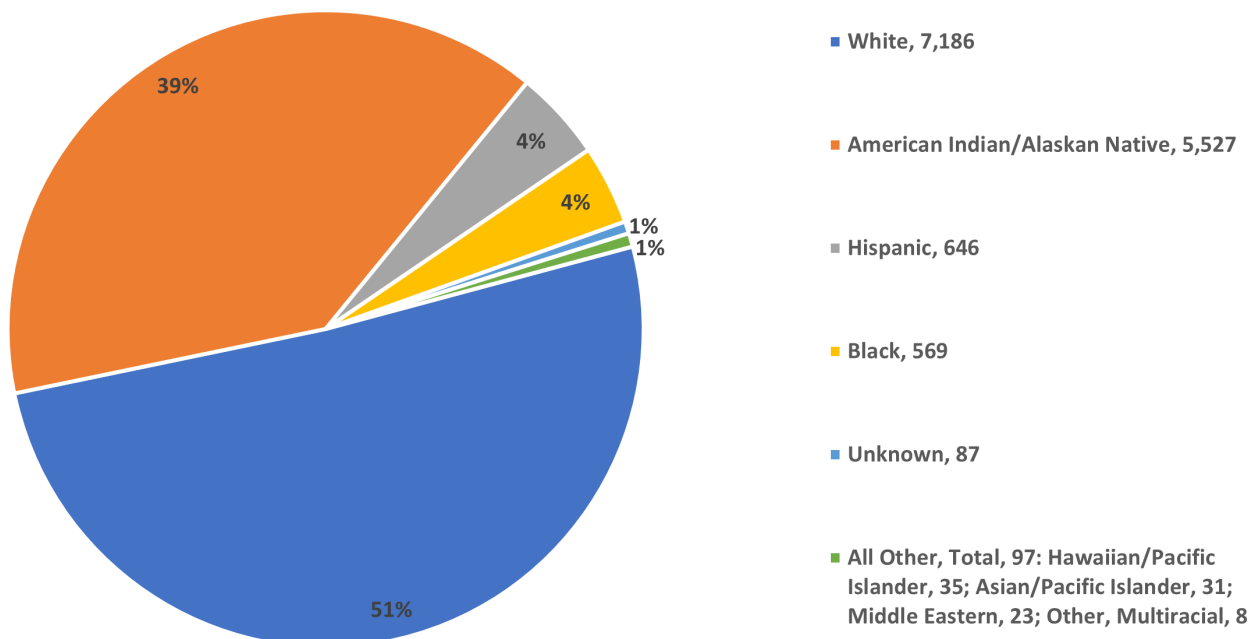
Officers made 3,163 physical arrests that resulted in 14,112 separate charges. One physical arrest can result in multiple charges. This illustrates why there are more charges than physical arrests.

Race/Ethnicity is based on observations by officers, not on self-reporting.

Percentage of Physical Arrests (3,163) by Race



Percent of Charges (14,112) by Race

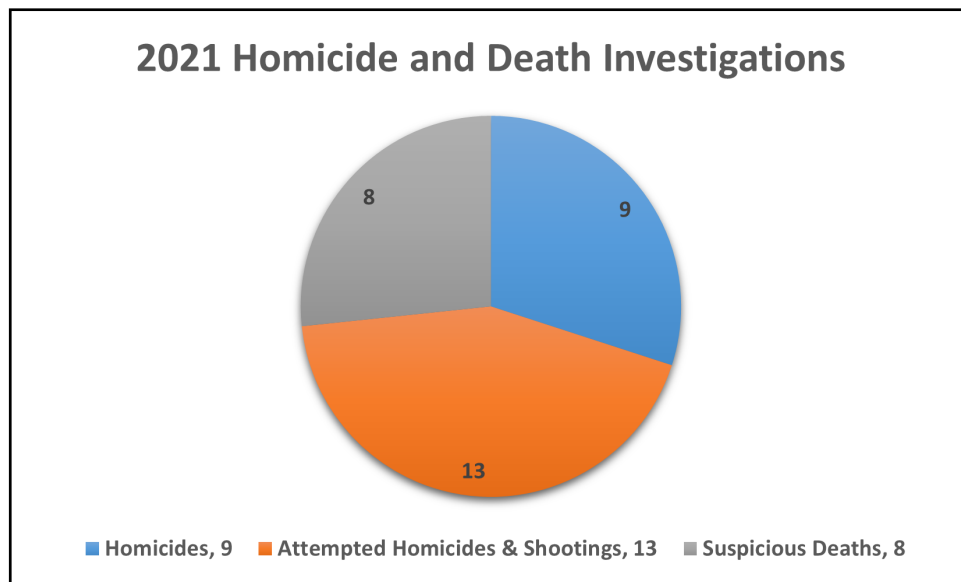


Investigations Division

There are 14 Detectives, a Lieutenant and two Sergeants assigned to the BPD Investigations Division.

The following is a break down of Investigations tasks during 2021:

- There were 531 cases assigned to Detectives that involved crimes against persons and property.
- That's an average case load of 31.2 cases per investigator.
- They closed 358 cases. That gave the division a 48% clearance rate with a 40% rate of arrest or warrant request.
- The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services reported 544 cases to the division. These cases include sexual and other abuse against children and crimes reported by Adult Protective Services.
- Three Detectives with additional training completed 102 forensic interviews.
- There were 4,931 photo cards downloaded from patrol officers' and detectives' investigations totaling 556 gigabytes of data.
- The division completed 418 requests for information from the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office.
- Detectives extracted data from 72 cell phones.
- Detectives were called out 54 times for suspicious, criminal and suicide deaths as well as to arsons, child sexual abuse, robberies and assaults.



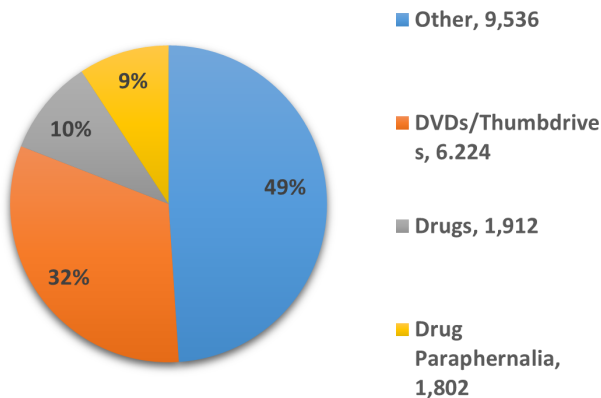
Billings experienced an increase in gun violence during 2021 that required Detectives being called out to investigate more shootings. Assault with a weapon, which is not always but frequently is a firearm, made up 41 percent of aggravated assaults in Billings during 2021. The number of these crimes increased to 337 from 225 in 2020.



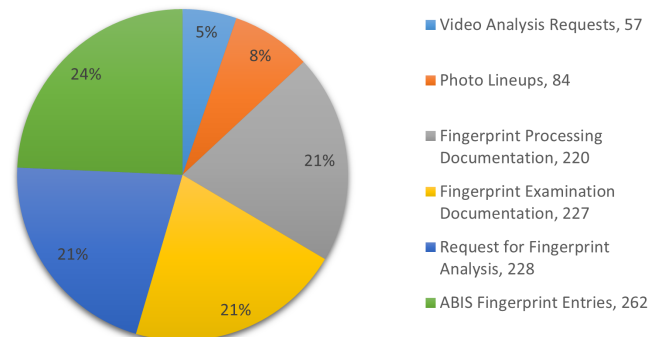
Investigations Division

Evidence and identification are a section of the Investigations Division. Staffed by a sworn Lieutenant and 5 civilians, this section processes all evidence gathered by Billings Police Department. Among the identification skills are video and fingerprint analysis and creating photo lineups for criminal cases. Evidence technicians see that items are properly stored and, when appropriate, destroyed or returned to their owners. They also work with prosecutors when they require information.

Evidence by Type



Identifications Activity



2021 Number of Items Processed

Items of Evidence Received: 19,484

Evidence Items Disposed Of: 11,270



By the numbers ...

These photos show dozens of kilos of methamphetamine seized in Billings. Meth continues to be a problem in our community but, following national trends, Fentanyl and heroin sales and use have increased significantly. The City-County Special Investigations Unit seized 3.41 pounds of Fentanyl in 2021, up from 0.12 pounds in 2020. The BPD K9 team more than doubled the amount of heroin seized to 418 grams in 2021 compared to about 200 in 2020.



Specialized Units

Domestic Violence Program

BPD has had a Domestic Violence Investigator since 2006. Officer Nash has been the sole DVI during this time. She investigates domestic violent assaults, both felony and misdemeanor, and related crimes including court order violations and stalking in the context of domestic violence relationships.

All BPD officers investigate domestic violence, the DVI does additional follow up and documentation to strengthen the cases. During 2021 the program completed more than 450 investigations. These resulted in 90 new cases documenting additional offenses including stalking, court order violations and additional partner-family member assaults.

As well as investigating domestic violence and related crimes, officers are trained on a risk assessment procedure to that helps victims understand the potential for lethality in domestic violence. Using cell phones purchased with grant funding, officers are able to put victims in immediate contact with the YWCA so they can receive program assistance at critical times.

During 2021, additional BPD officers were available to assist in follow-up investigations, mainly by helping monitor and report on jail calls from suspects to victims. And, plans were completed to put a second investigator in place as well as building upon the team approach started in 2021.

Internet Crimes Against Children

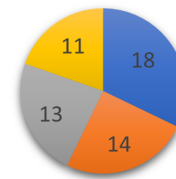
The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is a national initiative under the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. The program encourages partnerships between local law enforcement and federal agencies. These partnerships ensure proper prosecution of those responsible, in addition to victim identification and assistance when applicable.

In January 2022, the Billings police officer assigned to this effort transitioned to be a member of the FBI's Montana Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force.

During 2021, task force members:

- Conducted 97 investigations including 22 cases of enticement, 19 on distribution of child pornography and 28 on possession of child pornography.
- Performed forensic exams on 5,286 gigabytes for data.
- Made 11 presentations that reached more than 400 community members.

ICAC Forensic Examinations



- Other Items (Thumb drives, SD cards)
- CDs/DVDs
- Cell Phones
- Hard Drives



Among the new employees hired in 2021 was Officer Ratzlaff, center at left, who posed with family after the swearing in ceremony. BPD commanders watched as families congratulated the new officers. These commanders are, from left, Lt. Krivitz, Lt. Wooley and Chief St. John.



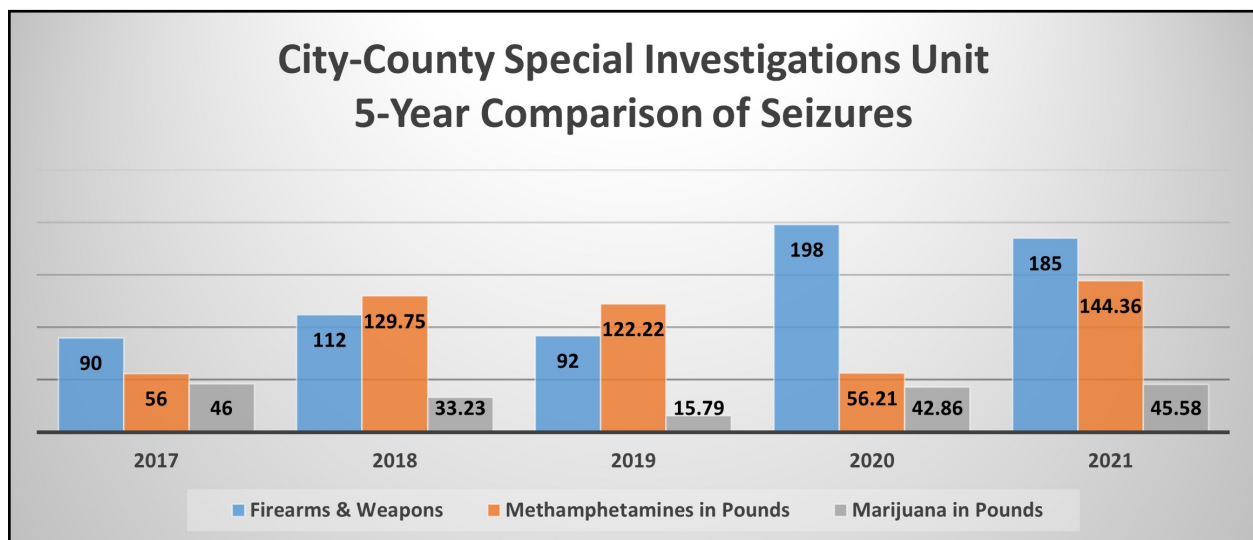
Specialized Units



City-County Special Investigations Unit

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA) is a component of the President's National Drug Control Strategy which provides additional federal resources to help eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences. Law enforcement organizations within HIDTAs assess drug trafficking problems and design specific initiatives to reduce or eliminate the production, manufacture, transportation, distribution and chronic use of illegal drugs and money laundering and to reduce drug trafficking and related crime and violence. Among its goals is to reduce drug availability by eliminating or disrupting drug trafficking organizations. The Eastern Montana HIDTA Drug Task Force was created in 1996 and is part of Rocky Mountain Region which covers Colorado, Montana, Utah, & Wyoming.

Items Seized		Arrests	
Methamphetamine	144.36 Pounds	Misdemeanor	1
Heroin	2.65 Pounds	Felony	27
Cocaine	8.14 Pounds	Federal Indictments	37
Marijuana	45.58 Pounds		
Fentanyl	3.41 Pounds		
Fentanyl Pills	31,822 Pills		
Hallucinogens	25 Doses		
Pharmaceuticals	636 Doses		
Assets Seized	\$408,475		
Firearms	185		
Drug Loads Intercepted	58		
Methamphetamine Lab	1		
		Drug Trafficking Organizations	
		Local Targeted	3
		Local Disrupted/Dismantled	1
		Multi-State Targeted	7
		Multi-State Disrupted/Dismantled	7



Specialized Units

K9 Program

The Billings Police K9 team deployed their dogs 1,334 times. The dogs sniffed 329 vehicles, the officers made 531 arrests and seized \$343,184 in cash. They also responded to 75 requests to assist other agencies. The 2021 team, led by Sgt. Becker, included: Officer Anderson with Sam; Officer Best with Evan; Officer Contreras with Tabasco; Officer Ihde with Mira; and Officer Firebaugh with Dutch.

In addition to intensive initial training, K9s and their handlers must re-certify annually.



Grams of Drugs Seized

Heroin	418
Cocaine	277
Other Drugs/Pills	6,000
Methamphetamine	19,368
Marijuana	24,585

Other Activities

Parcel Sniffs for Shipping Organizations/ Agencies	52
Firearms Seized	47
Search Warrants Written by Handlers	34
Agency Assistance Requests	75
Arrests	531



Billings K9 dogs live with their handlers and train regularly as a team.

From left: Officer Ihde with Mira; Officer Contreras with Tabasco and Officer Anderson with Sam (photo courtesy of the Billings Gazette).

Hostage Negotiators

The negotiators are called out to situations with hostages, barricaded people and other situations where de-escalation is needed, including with suicidal subjects. The SWAT team, negotiators and bomb squad work in conjunction on critical incidents, however negotiators may be called to work with people in any tumultuous situation. While negotiators are speaking to the subjects involved, they are evaluating the stability of the situation, and relaying crucial information to other on-scene officers. The information they gather and provide influences the decisions and actions of command personnel on the scene. Ultimately, the dialogue they enter into can potentially save the lives of not only any hostages, but also those of responding officers and the subjects involved in the incident.

Bomb Squad



BPD has 1 of the 2 FBI accredited bomb squads in Montana. The squad's 6 bomb technicians and the Department's specialized equipment may be called on to respond to critical incidents in Eastern Montana but can deploy anywhere in the state if needed. They examine and safely dispose of suspicious packages and devices, collect and dispose of fireworks, ammunition and commercial and military explosives.

Specialized Units



Montana District Violent Offenders Task Force

One Billings Police Department officer serves on the Billings District Violent Offenders Task Force. This group makes high-risk arrests, predominately on warrants. There are also Task Forces in Missoula and Great Falls. Since 2005, these task forces have closed 18,235 warrants. The 2021 total was 1,447 with 463 of those occurring in the Billings District.

Weapons Seized					Warrant Closures			
					2018	2019	2020	2021
Hand Guns	24	39	9	15				
Long Guns	12	77	1	3	660	659	461	463

SWAT

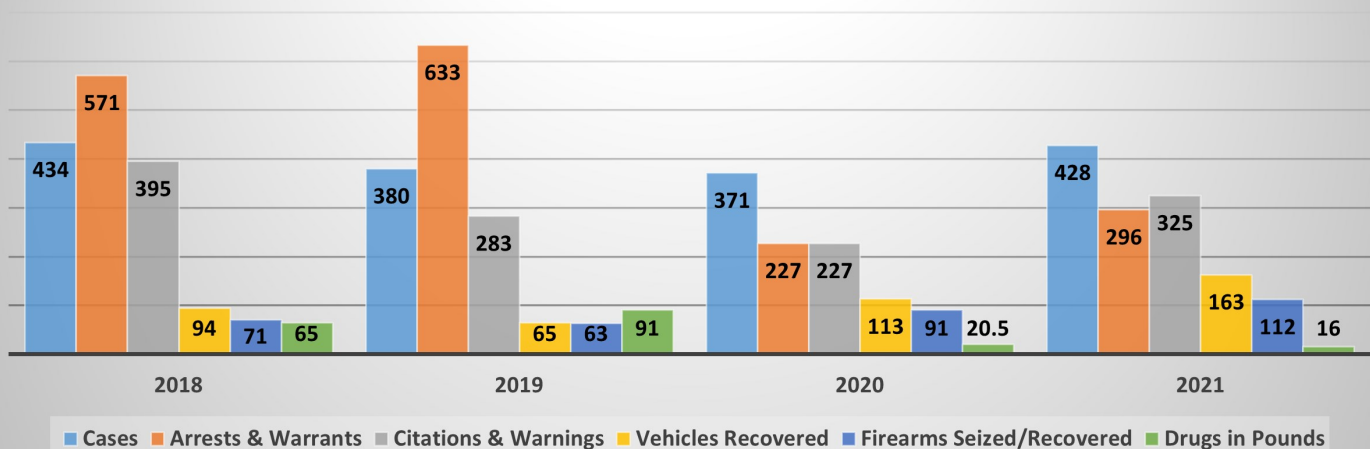
This a group of 15 highly trained officers specialize in high-risk warrant service, fugitive apprehension, hostage rescue, barricaded gunman, response to active shooters, dignitary protection and sniper/observer support of these activities. The SWAT team is activated when a situation requires advanced training or tools that are not commonly available to the patrol division. During 2021 they had 15 activations.

Street Crimes Unit

The Billings Street Crimes Unit was established in 2018. Initially, one Detective Sergeant, a detective and 2 patrol officers were assigned to the unit. Due to successes in disrupting crime, the unit was expanded in 2020 to include 4 patrol officers. The members must apply and interview for these positions. The patrol officer slots are on a two-year rotation. The detective assigned to pawn shop duties works closely with the Street Crimes Unit.



Street Crimes Unit Comparison of Activity & Seizures



Specialized Units

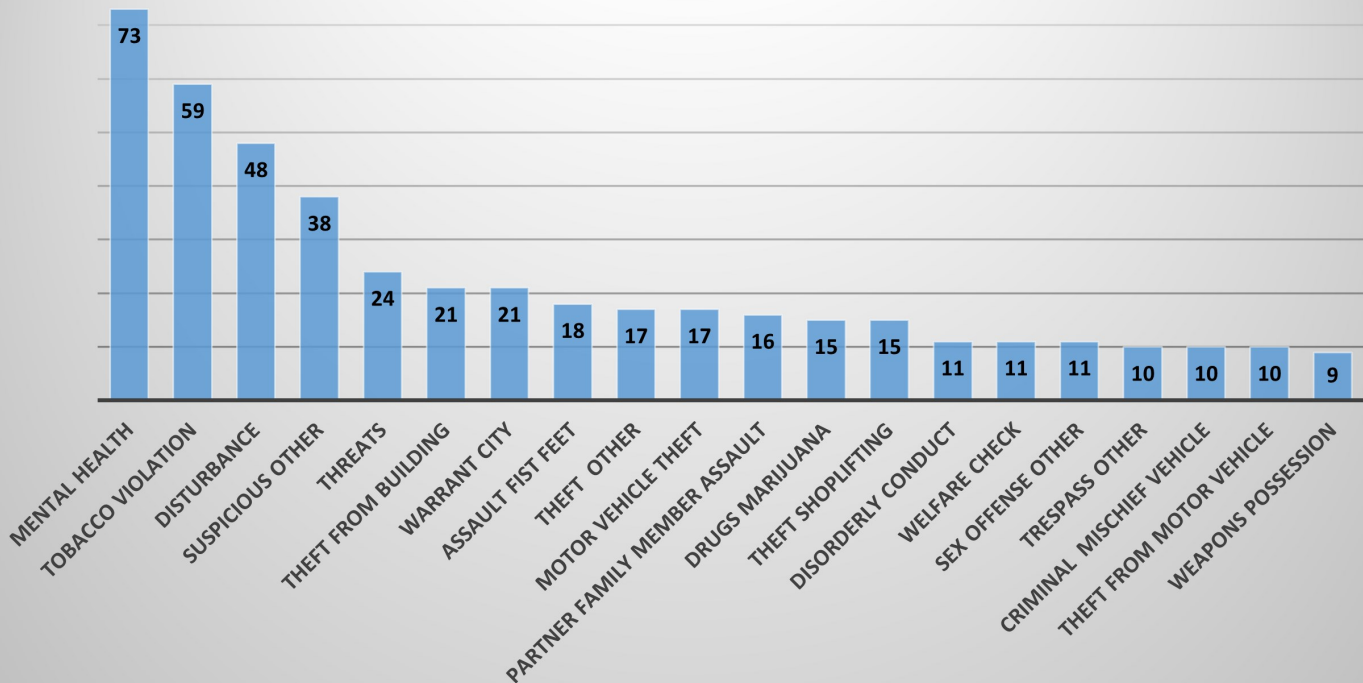
School Resource Officers

Billings School Resource officers are funded in cooperation with School District 2. There are 8 SROs and during 2021 the Department added a Sergeant who also works in the schools.

The officers are assigned to individual high schools or middle schools and visit several elementary schools as part of their duties.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the officers wrote 633 cases, a significant decrease from previous years due to distance learning. More than 400 of those investigations resulted in an arrest, including 95 related to alcohol, drugs and underage tobacco use.

Most Frequent Cases and Offenses Investigated by SROs



Downtown Officers

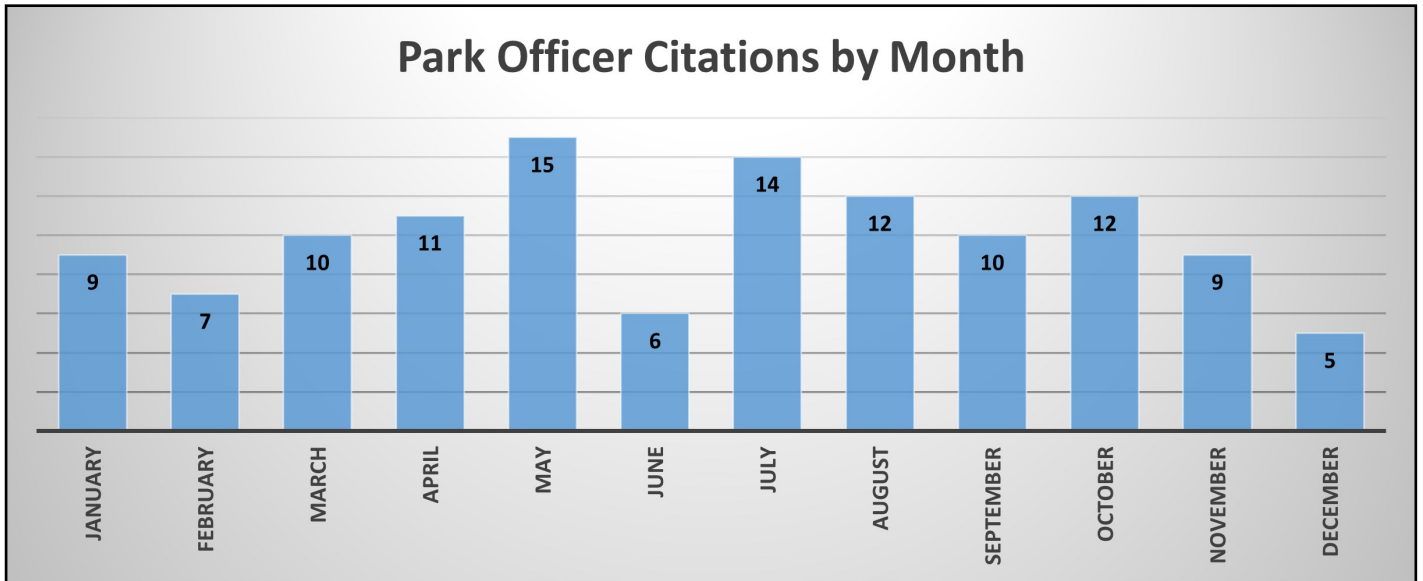
The Billings Police Department and the Downtown Billings Alliance have a contract which provides two Downtown Resource Officers dedicated to the downtown area. During 2021, Officer Mansur and Officer Tanis rejuvenated the Motivated Addiction Alternative Program (MAAP). Through this program they worked in partnership with Rimrock Foundation, the City Attorney's Office, the Public Defenders Office, the Yellowstone County Detention Facility, and many other community partners. The Downtown Billings Alliance hosted a 3 person Peer Support Specialist team and with the Resource Officers, they formed the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). Using a combination of enforcement and voluntary treatment options, the HOT team was able to resource 65 homeless individuals into treatment through the use of the courts, jail, and voluntary treatment. (from left) Officers Tanis, Flam-mang and Mansur working during Farmers Market.



Specialized Units

Parks Officer

Officer Schara works with the Parks and Rec Department to patrol trails, assist parks employees and work toward keeping the public safe while enjoying Billings' parks. During 2021, he focused on public relations with community members around the parks. He also worked special events. While patrolling in parks, he wrote 120 citations including violations of alcohol in parks with permits and camping parks.



Did you know?

There are a group of Chaplains who serve Billings Police Department and the law enforcement community. The Chaplains rotate being on call and are available to assist whenever called upon. The Department provides a used patrol vehicle so they are easily recognized when responding to crime scene. During 2021 they spent more than 70 hours on call outs, working with people in times of crisis. The Chaplains also logged more than 90 hours at officers' daily briefing meetings. They also spent 14 hours working with people at Yellowstone County Detention Facility. The Chaplains meet each month.



Left: Officer Foltz receives his badge from Chief St. John after being sworn in. Center: Officer Malcom made the most of receiving his commendation by giving the Chief a kiss. Officer Hilde, holding his son, continued the 'giving' spirit. Right: New commanders Sergeants Stovall and Puckett and Lieutenant Lennick pose with their certificates of promotion. (Center and right photos courtesy of Amber Renee Photography)

Specialized Units

Billings Police Bicycle Patrol

During warm weather bicycle officer ride from Downtown to the Heights and West End. They often provide police presence at community events. Officers who pass specialized training and maintain that training can patrol on bicycle. Sixteen officers successfully completed the training during 2021. The course, taught by Billings officers who are certified as instructors, was held at Amend Park and included classroom and riding sections. The bike portions included obstacle courses, timed over-land and obstacle events that included stair climbing and curb jumping. They also completed day and night road rides throughout Billings.



At left, Officers Larkin leads as Officers Fonte, Pearson and Prindle wind through a serpentine drill. Above Officer Fonte practices a cross-over dismount.



Above at left, Officer Prindle weaves through a course. At right, Officer Korb moves through the S-turn course as Sgt. Shelden (blue shirt) counts the required three revolutions and times the trial.

Crime Prevention Center

Billings Police Department services are enhanced by our volunteers.

Volunteers work with citizens who are reporting certain types of crimes and write reports for the Department. During 2021, the volunteers started using the same software used by Officers to submit reports.

Some volunteers are trained to take fingerprints. This service is \$20 per card and is provided by appointed.

The CPC is staffed by a Public Relations Sergeant and officer as well as the Volunteer Coordinator, who are all BPD employees. The staff is available for community presentations.

During 2021 they developed the several crime prevention programs. These included:

A holiday season pickup service to prevent theft of packages from porches. Residents could have their packages delivered to the CPC building where they were held until the owners could pick them up.

Providing stencils to local auto shops so vehicle catalytic converters can be marked "stolen call 911" which deters thieves and makes resale difficult.

The CPC continues to provide pill disposal so citizens can properly dispose of unused and expired prescription medications.

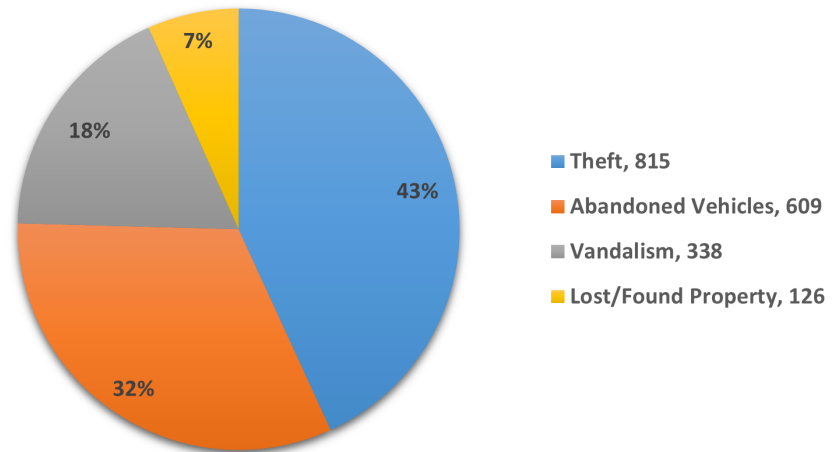
The Crime Prevention Center is located at 2910 3rd Avenue North.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

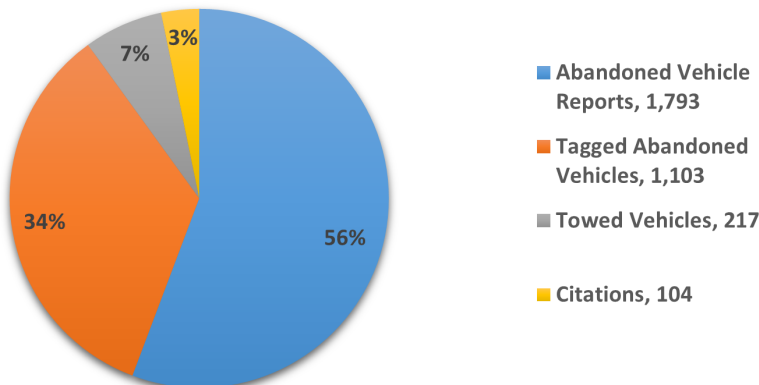
Volunteers serve as Report Writers in the CPC office completing reports for citizens. They also serve with the Volunteer Patrol Unit who tag abandoned vehicles and issue non-moving violations.

For information, visit the CPC page at www.billingspolice.com.

Volunteer Report Writing Activity



Volunteer Patrol Unit Activity



Did you know?

The inaugural Firefighters vs Police Charity Softball Game was held in August.

Firefighters raised money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and police officers for the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools.

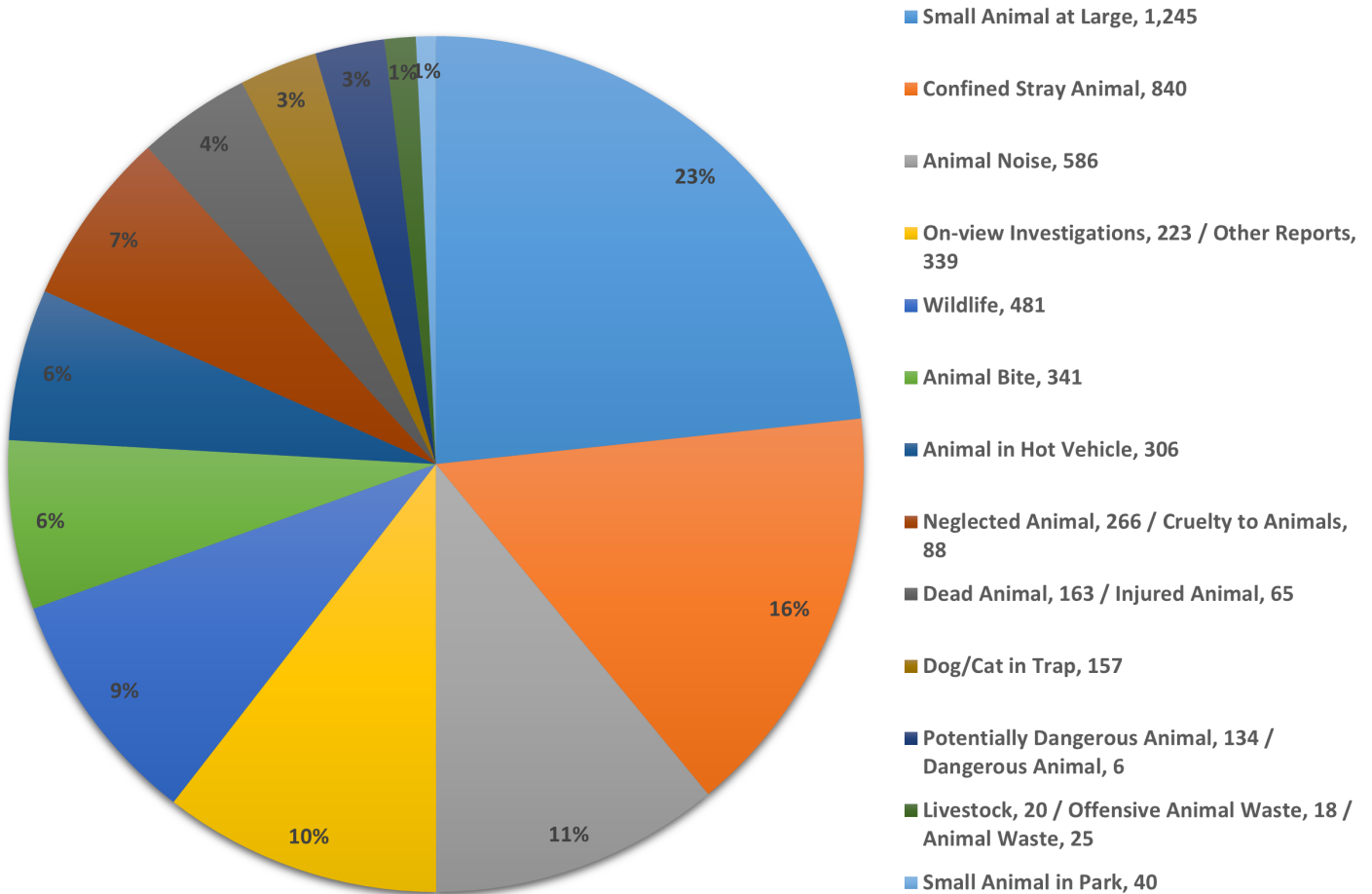
A 6-4 victory brought the Chief's Cup to BPD.



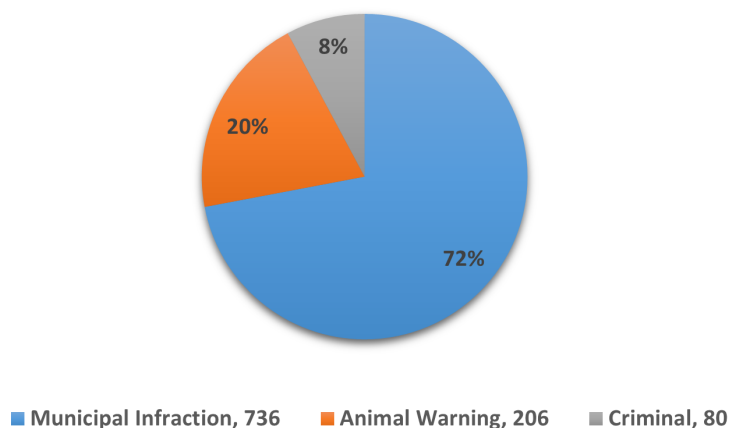
Animal Control Division

Animal Control Supervisor Tom Stinchfield has a staff of 5 Animal Control Officers and an Office Assistant. The officers respond to citizen complaints and are dispatched through the Billings Communications Center. They are authorized to cite animal owners and write criminal cases to submit to Billings Municipal Court.

Animal Control Calls For Service By Type



Animal Control Officer Citations by Type

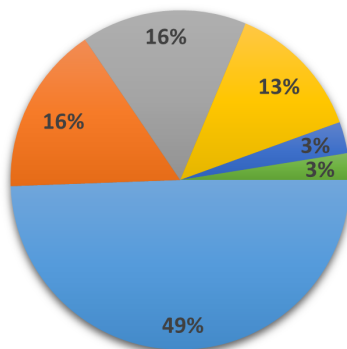


K9 Evan in his Police vest.

Animal Control Division

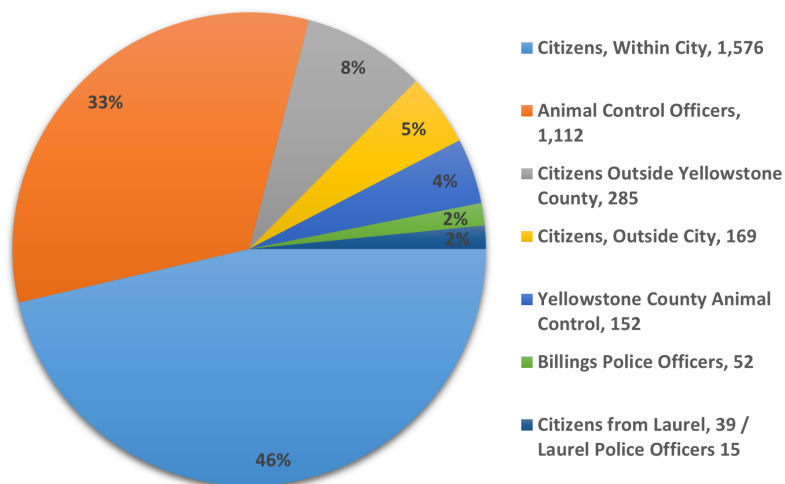
The Billings Police Department Animal Control Division shares a location with the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter at 1735 Monad Road. YVAS and the City have a contract for the shelter to care of Billings' lost and stray animals. Because of this partnership, shelter statistics are included in this report. During 2021, the shelter sold licenses for 3,304 dogs and 1,001 cats. There are 9,587 active cat and dog licenses in Billings.

Animal Activity at Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter



■ Dogs & Cats Adopted, 3,431 ■ Stray Dogs Handled, 1,118 ■ Stray Cats Handled, 1,09
 ■ Stray Dogs Claimed, 914 ■ Dogs & Cats Euthanized, 208 ■ Stray Cats Claimed, 176

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter Animals Received by Source



At left: BPD employees sometimes bring their dogs in for a short visit. Here Police Support Specialist Amy gives attention to both of Lt. Hart's family dogs. The department's K9 Officers' dogs also come in with their handlers.

Welcomes & Farewells

New Officers

Billings Police Department welcomed 9 new officers during 2021. Two officers had already completed Police Officer Standard Training. The others spent 12 weeks at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy for the training. All officers begin their Billings Police career going through field training with seasoned officers.

Dane Yeager	Matthew Bistline	Kristie Funk
Richard Cofield	Tyler Geiger	Karlie Heisterman
David Woody	Sutton Foltz	Aariad Ream

Retirements

Six officers and commanders bid farewell to Billings Police Department during 2021. Officers Adams and Bickford retired medically. Lt. Cardillo returned to BPD as our Quartermaster. Here is the full list of retirees and the year they started.

Jeremiah Adams — 2017	Dan Brown — 1993	Lt. David Cardillo—2007
Justin Bickford — 2018	Sgt. Tina Hoeger—2002	Lt. Riley Finnegan—2006

Promotions

New Commanders

The following officers were promoted to Sergeant and two Sergeants were promoted to Lieutenant. The changes were prompted by retirements and a new Sergeant position created by passage of the Public Safety Mill Levy.

Sergeant	Lieutenant
Samantha Puckett	Matthew Lennick
Ryan Kramer	Shane Shelden
Kodi Kaiser	
Jeff Stovall	
Benjamin Beck	

Commendations

Officer of the Year

Detective Rob Miller

Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Jeff Stovall

Commendations

Life Saving Medal

Officer Brett Hilde ~ Officer Dustin Stroble ~ Officer Trey Malcom

On June 24th, 2021, at approximately 11:45 p.m., Night Shift officers were dispatched to 2701 1st Ave N (near Jakes Restaurant) for a report of shooting incident. During this call, officers were advised that multiple shots had been fired at this location and further that one victim was laying on the ground with a gun near him. Officer Hilde was first on scene and located the first victim in the alley behind the business. Officer Hilde discovered the victim had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the abdomen and armpit area. While attending to the first victim, Officer Hilde located a second gunshot victim laying on the ground, underneath a nearby car. The second victim, later discovered to be the suspect in the shooting, was also found to have sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his lower extremities. After radioing for additional resources, Officer Hilde was joined by Officer Stroble and Officer Malcom. After retrieving his personal medical bag, Officer Hilde and Officer Stroble began emergency medical care on Victim 1 while Officer Malcom was instructed to begin treatment on Victim 2. Officer Hilde and Officer Stroble, utilizing their training, assessed the victim's condition and injuries, locating two gunshot wounds. Chest seals were applied, and the victim was transported to the hospital for further medical attention. Officer Malcom provided medical attention to the second victim, applying a chest seal to the victim's back and further controlling the additional bleeding due to a bone pultruding from the victim's leg. Victim 2 was also transported to the hospital for further medical attention. Victim 1 later succumbed to his injuries, despite the efforts of Officer Hilde and Officer Stroble, and was pronounced dead. The medical attention provided by the officers, however, prolonged the victim's life and gave him a fighting chance of survival at the hospital. Victim 2 survived as a result of Officer Malcom's medical care and has been charged with deliberate homicide.

Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Justin Jagers

In October 22, 2021, the Billings Police Department joined forces with the FBI, Homeland Security, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, Yellowstone County Attorney's Office, and the United States Attorney's Office, to conduct "*Operation Dream Crusher*," an undercover operation to arrest those seeking to sexually exploit children. Although championed by the FBI, it relied heavily upon local resources. Originally, the City County Special Investigations Unit under the direction of Sgt. Jagers was only tasked with assisting in the arrest of suspected predators. However, Sgt. Jagers quickly realized the scope of the operation was rapidly expanding and needed more resources to be successful. Sgt. Jagers energized the City and County tactical units to affect the numerous high-risk arrests. He worked directly with the investigation units of the FBI, HSI, YCSO and BPD to equalize the high volume of caseloads generated for Federal Prosecution. Simultaneously, he supervised the target surveillance conducted by CCSIU, at the take down locations. For two days during late October 2021, Sgt. Jagers was the centerpiece for the efficient functioning of this entire operation. When a serious rift occurred in the operational command center, Sgt. Jagers took control and called for an operational pause, allowing him time to work with the parties to resolve the issues and get the operation up and running again, resulting in another five arrests. Without the high drive, leadership, determination of Sgt. Jagers this critical joint operation would have failed or been marginally effective at best. Instead, Operation Dream Crusher resulted in 8 child predator arrests in less than 48 hours.



Sgt. Jagers receives his commendation from Chief St. John.
(Photo courtesy Amber Renee Photography)

Commendations

Life Saving Award

Officer Seth Foster

On November 2, 2021, Officer Foster was contacted by Child Protective Services (CPS) workers requesting his assistance in locating a 6-week-old child who was reportedly born in a bathtub by her drug-addicted mother and was having serious health risks. The baby was premature, sick, and had not been taken to the doctor. CPS workers had attempted to locate the child and had received physical threats from the family. CPS was told the mother was on the run and in hiding knowing CPS and the police were looking for her and were going to take the child. Officer Foster requested help from other agencies as the female resided in the county but received no assistance. Taking it upon himself he began an intensive search with little assistance. Officer Foster checked dozens of homes, local hotels and interviewed several associates of the mother. Finally, after two days of searching, Officer Foster located the mother who was hiding in a Billings motel with child. Officer Foster immediately detained the mother and called for medical help. The child was horribly malnourished, dehydrated, and had mold growing on her genitals. At 6-weeks-old the child weighed only 6 pounds, had a heart murmur and had been significantly neglected by the mother. The child was near death. Officer Foster investigative prowess, dedication and determination most certainly saved this baby's life.

Life Saving Award

Officer Casey Bigelow ~ Officer Tim Doll ~ Officer Daniel Shreeve ~ Officer Zach Wallis ~ Sgt. Glenn Gunther

On March 14, 2021, Officers Shreeve and Bigelow were dispatched to a suicidal subject they eventually located on the top of the Rimrocks. A friend of the victim stated the victim had depression and relationship issues and they were concerned that she may commit suicide by jumping off the Rims. The victim was located by officers, curled up in a ball on a small ledge just down from the edge of the Rims. Officers Bigelow and Shreeve tried to approach her from a different direction while she was distracted by Sgt. Gunther who was trying to establish rapport with the victim. As the officers were maneuvering down to her position and Sgt. Gunther was talking with her she quickly became uncooperative and it was determined unsafe to attempt to grab the victim. Officer Wallis arrived on scene and contacted the victim's hysterical mother, also on scene. Officer Wallis was able to calm her down enough to talk with the victim and buy additional time for Officer Doll to take up a position with Officer Bigelow and Officer Shreeve on the ledge. While the mother was speaking with the victim, the four officers climbed and maneuvered around the victim, and while she was distracted snatched her to safely from the ledge and secured her at the serious risk of falling for all the officers. These officers prolonged the stand-off with the victim for more than 30 minutes buying valuable time to position themselves for life saving intervention should she attempt to step or jump off the 100-foot ledge. The quick thinking and decisive actions by Officers Shreeve, Bigelow, Wallis, and Doll prevented the victim from executing her plan to commit suicide and resulted in the safe return of a daughter to her mother.

Did you know ...

The commendations and awards highlighted on these pages are outlined in Billings Police Department policy. They are meant to properly honor officers who perform meritorious service or acts of bravery. Earning these honors gives the recipients the right to add ribbons to their dress uniforms. Additionally, their names are added to plaques at BPD so the honors are memorialized in Department history.

In 2021, the Billings Police Protective Association (BPPA) formed a committee to plan and host an awards banquet for the Department where the honors were presented. Sgt. Winden, shown here, worked extensively on fundraising and organizing the event. BPPA is comprised of a group of officers who volunteer their time to promote the law enforcement profession, educate the public and build camaraderie within the department. BPPA is part of a state association. Its largest local fundraiser is a community concert.



Commendations

American Legion Law Enforcement Award

Detective Mike Robinson

Throughout his 19-year career, Detective Robinson has become known for his stubborn qualities, commitment to this profession and desire to make his community better. He has worked incredibly hard throughout his career and will always do what is right, no matter how long it might take him. He's spent several years as a detective, worked within the drug task force, investigated homicides, crimes against children and currently spends most of his time investigating financial crimes. This past year, Det. Robinson took it upon himself to begin presenting financial cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution. No matter what assignment he serves in, Det. Robinson will proactively search through other officers' reports, connecting them with other cases and identifying suspects, which ultimately lead to arrests. Often, he asks for cases that were already inactivated by other officers, to be opened again and assigned to him for further investigation. While doing all of this, for several years, he has volunteered his time to coach Little League baseball which will without a doubt have a long-lasting impact on the kids that he's coached. He also helped volunteer as a coach during the police vs. firefighters softball game which helped raise money for School District 2 and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Life Saving Award

Officer Tyler Bishop ~ Officer Jonathan Simpson

On Dec. 11, officers responded to a stabbing at the Colonial Apartments. Upon arrival, officers discovered a male with a stab wound to his abdomen. While Officer Simpson was cutting clothing and doing a wound sweep, he discovered a small stab wound that was bleeding profusely from the victim's lower left abdomen. Officer Simpson took out a chest seal from his vest and instructed Officer Messerschmidt to place it over the wound. Officer Bishop observed that the wound was bleeding out of the chest seal, and the area around the chest seal was bloating with blood. Once the chest seal was removed, the wound was identified as an arterial bleed. Due to the training, experience and clarity of thought the officers on scene knew that without immediate treatment, the victim would bleed out and die within minutes. Officer Bishop retrieved wound-packing gauze from his personal medical kit, and packed the stab wound. He continued to pack the wound until he was unable to force any more gauze into the wound and AMR arrived on scene. The victim was transported to Billings Clinic where he was in surgery for hours. An Emergency Department Technician at Billings Clinic advised Officers the ER "ran out of blood" because they used so much on the victim and that it was clear that without the initial wound-packing done by BPD officers, the victim would have most likely succumbed to his injuries and died.



These are some of the BPD retirees who attended the 2021 Awards Banquet. They are, from left, Mark Cady, Archie Botts, Gary Hatfield, Chief Rich St. John, Gary Wichman, Gordon "Short" Hirschi, Tom Hanel, Scott Forschee, John Gibson, Rich Millard, Mark Kirkpatrick, Jesse Johnson and Paul Roberts. Archie Bott, has been retired the longest and Jesse Johnson,, travelled from Arkansas to attend the event.



Office of Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards is directed by a police Captain who reports directly to the Chief of Police and Assistant Chief.

The primary function of this office is to receive, assign and investigate complaints on employees' actions received from citizens or initiated by the department. This office monitors all investigations for timely completion and reports the findings to the complaining parties and subject employees.

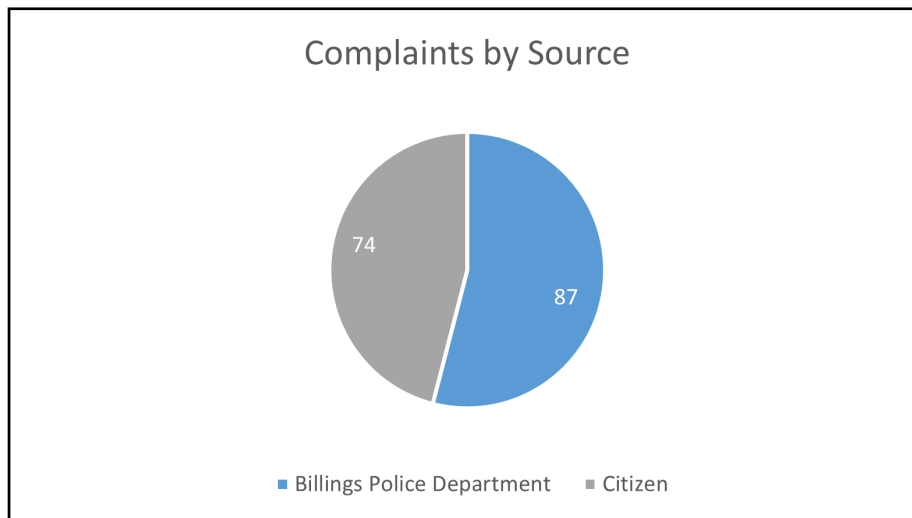
The office records and evaluates all incidents of Response to Resistance.

2021 Annual Report

Complaints

A complaint is an incident which gives rise to one or more allegations of misconduct. A single complaint may allege misconduct by multiple employees and/or multiple violations of departmental policies. The number of complaints filed may not equal the number of allegations and findings resulting from the investigation.

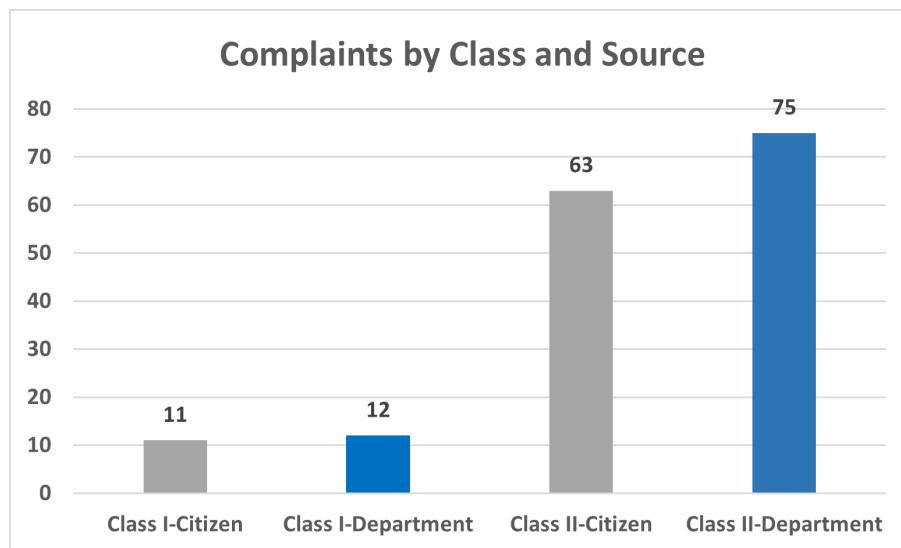
Complaints may be *external* which are entered by citizens or *internal* which are from Billings Police Department supervisors.



Class I complaints are more serious and include allegations such as excessive force, violations of criminal law, breach of civil rights, bias policing and other, more serious, allegations. A pattern of Class II complaints is elevated to a Class I level.

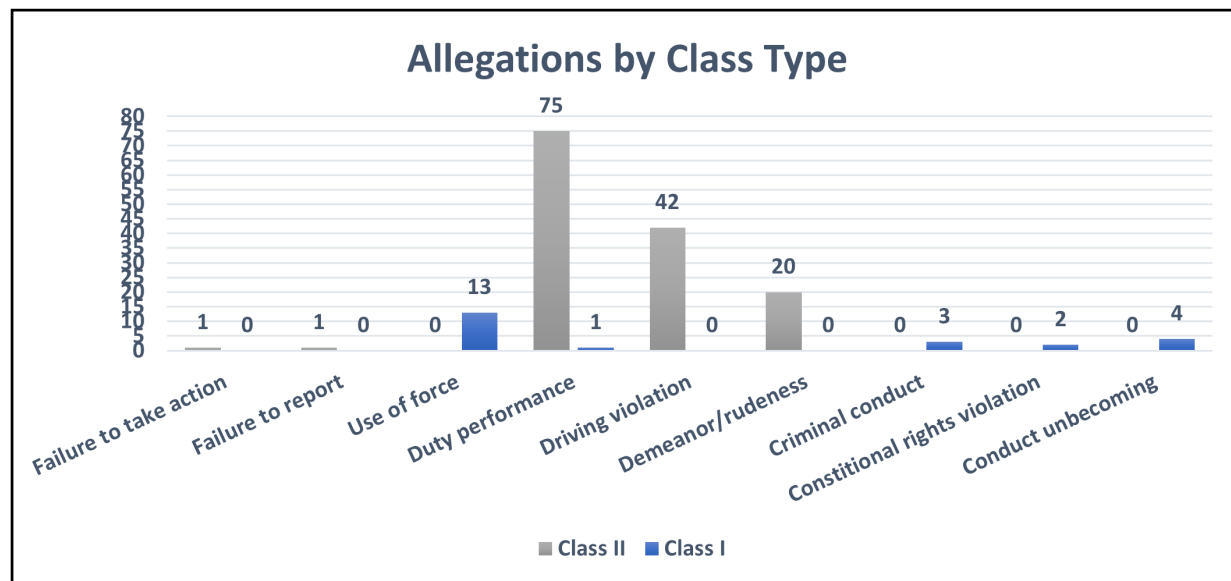
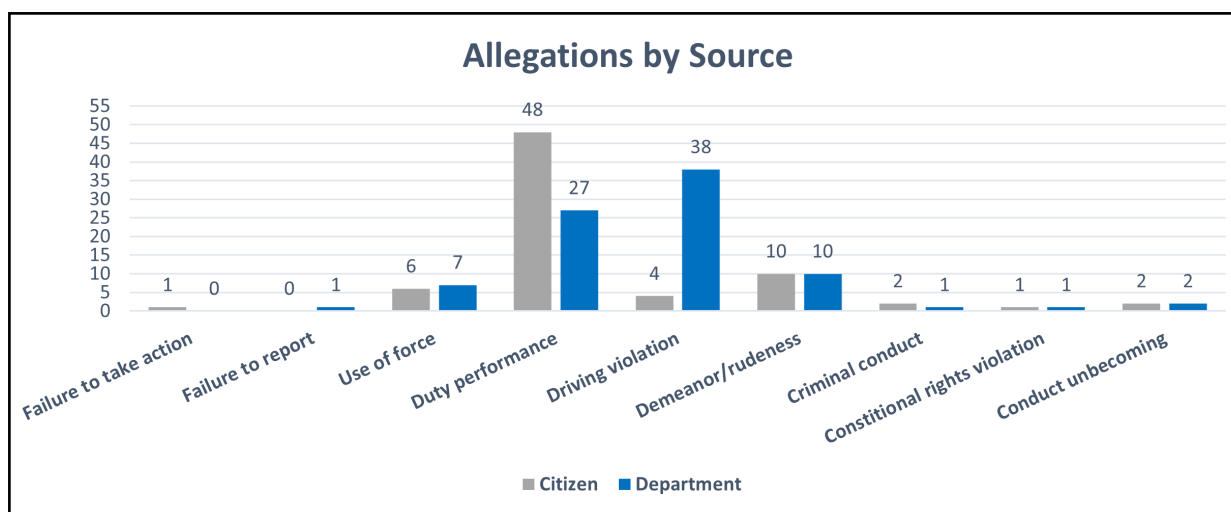
Class II complaints include allegations of inadequate service, discourtesy, minor performance issues, improper procedure and other less serious and non-criminal conduct.

Billings Police Department tracks the findings for each allegation, rather than a single overall finding for individual complaints. This approach helps gain a more accurate understanding of areas of concern to citizens and the department.



Allegations — This is a distinctly different category than complaints. They are assertions of an employee's behavior that, if proven, would amount to a violation of department policy. A single complaint may result in multiple allegations of misconduct against one employee, single allegations against multiple employees or a combination of these.

Findings — A finding is issued for each allegation in an investigation, including those made by the complainant and those discovered during the investigation. Findings also are issued when policy violations are discovered during a review of employee performance following an incident such as a pursuit, response to resistance, or employee vehicle accident. For these reasons, the number of findings issued will exceed the number of complaints reported.



Billings Police Department uses these definitions for complaint findings:

Exonerated — Findings of proper conduct, training deficiency and policy failure. Overall, the acts which were the basis for the complaint or allegation occurred but were justified, lawful and proper or the acts were not proper or justified but resulted from a lack of training or policy.

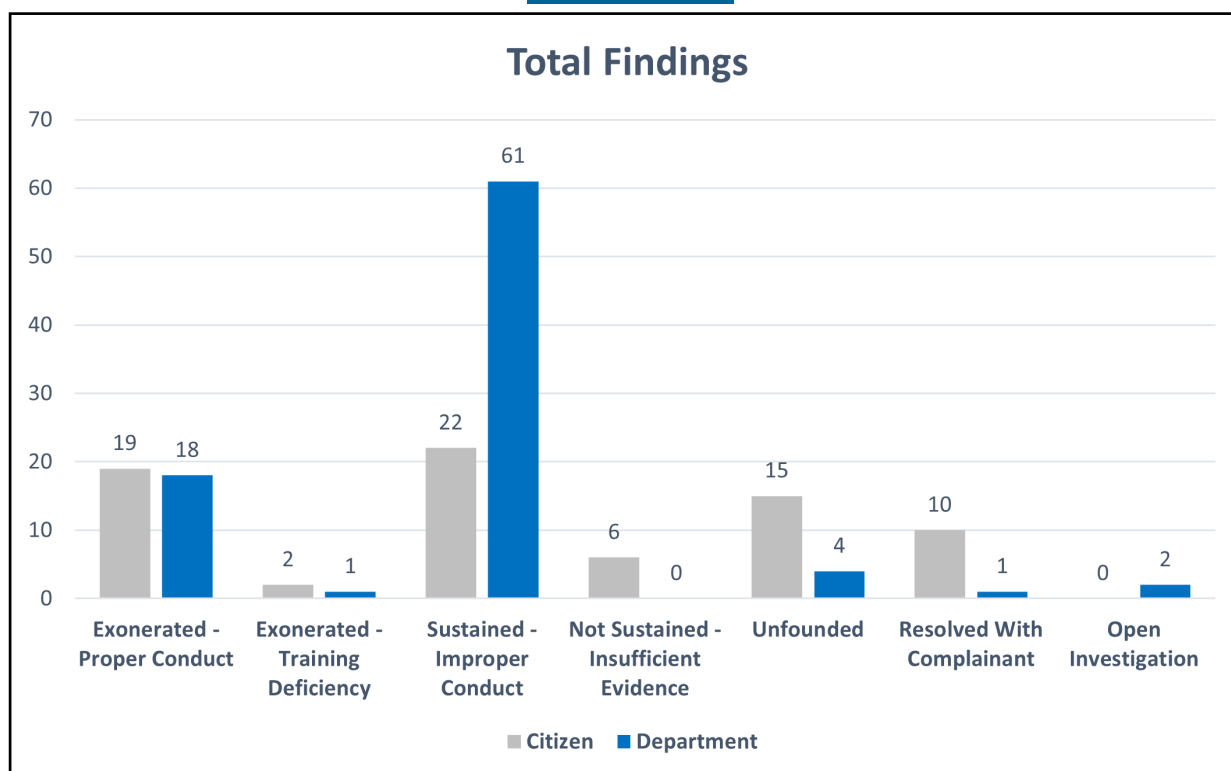
Sustained — Improper conduct. The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made.

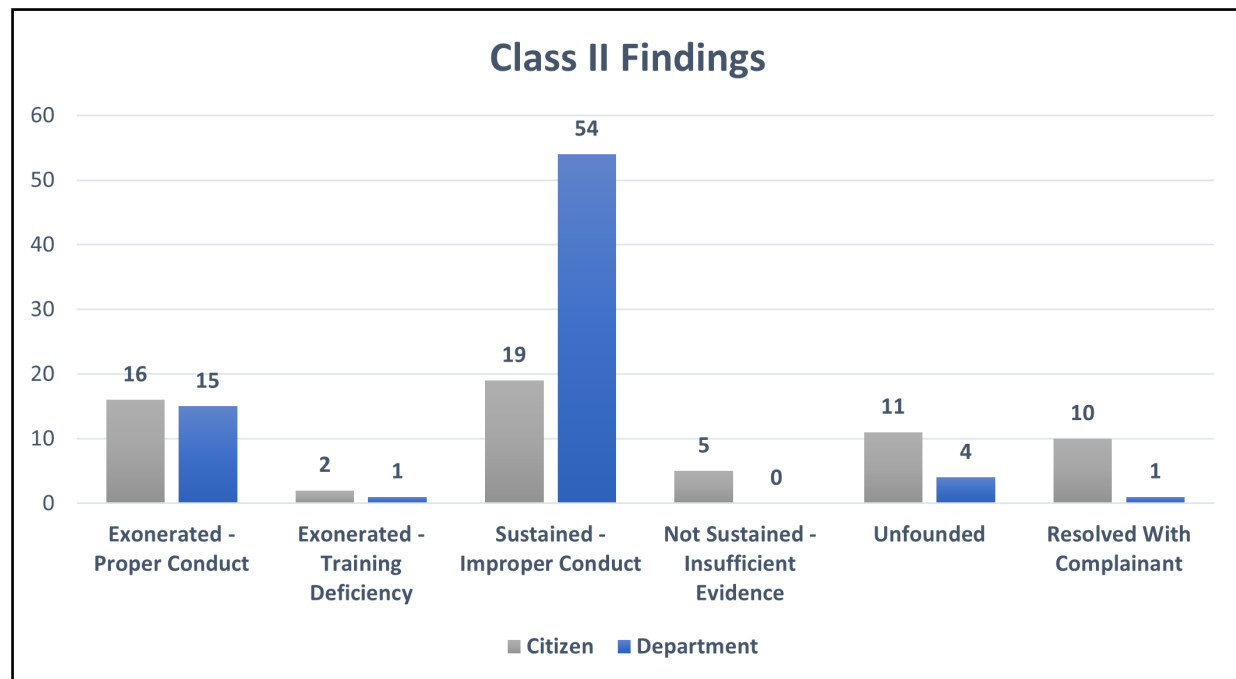
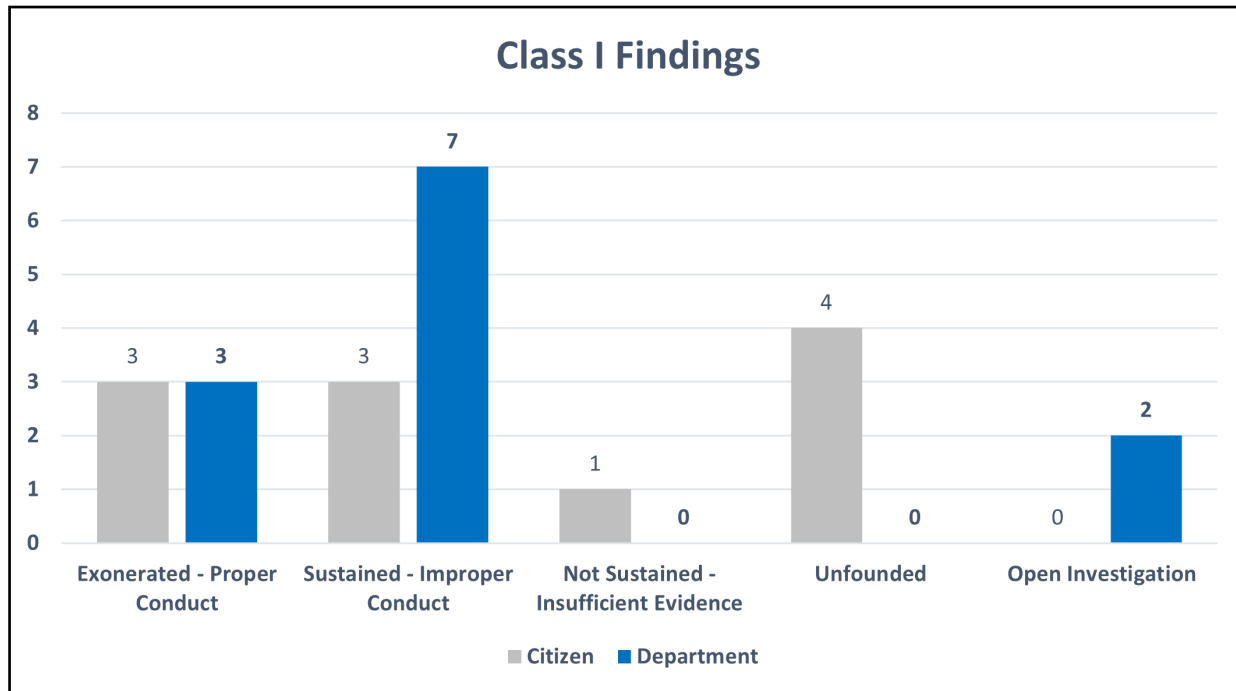
Not Sustained — Insufficient evidence. The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations.

Unfounded — The investigation conclusively proved the act(s) in the complaint did not occur. This also applies when individual officers or employees were not involved in acts which may have occurred.

Resolved with Complainant — This applies only to Class II complaints. The determination of guilt may or may not be sustained but the complainant is satisfied with the results of the investigation.

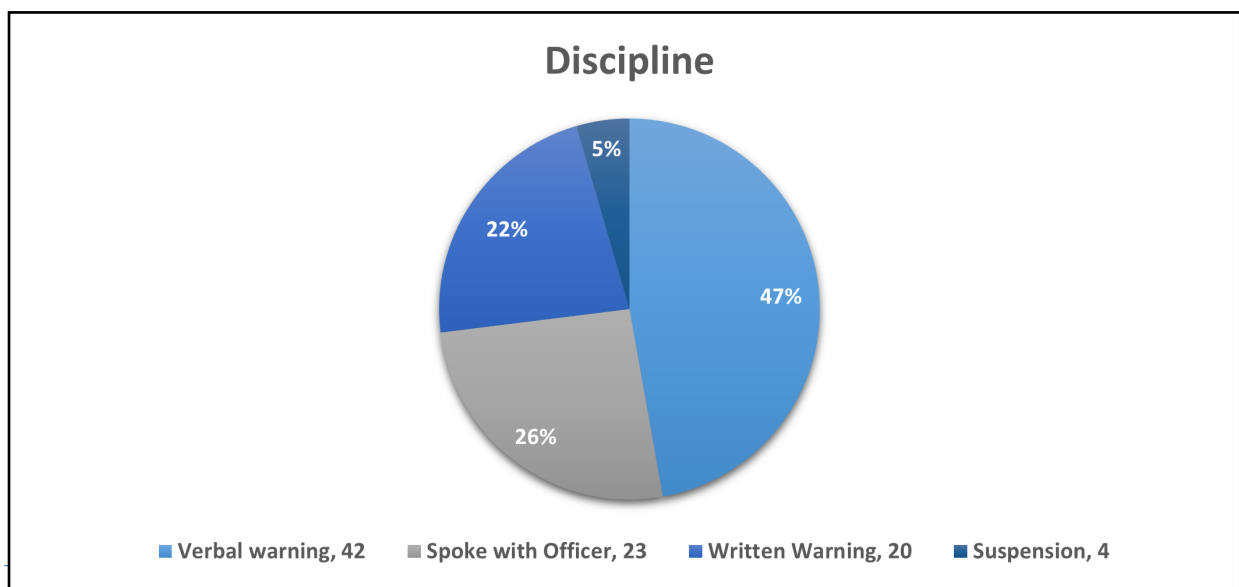
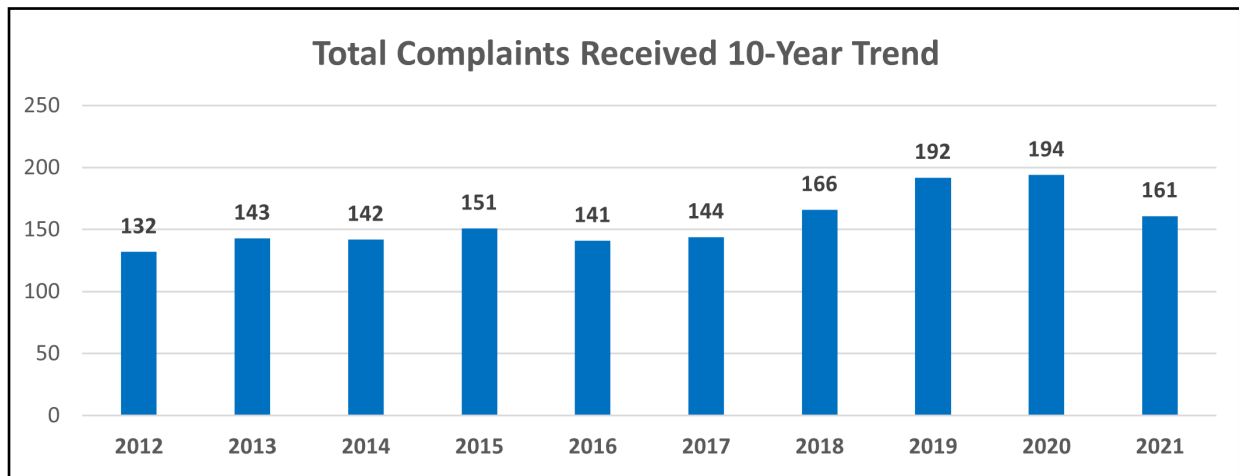
There were no complaint findings issued in 2021 in the following categories: Exonerated—Training Deficiency, Class I; Exonerated—Policy Failure, Class I and Class II.





Citizens may submit complaints and commendations by completing an on-line form found on the Office of Professional Standards page at www.billingspolice.com.

The BPD Policy Manual is also posted on this page.



Citizens frequently contact the Department to thank or commend employees for acts of service or their response to a particular incident. These commendations are received in letters, e-mails, phone calls and numerous face-to-face comments. Written feedback is tracked, but some phone calls and personal contact go undocumented. The written feedback is tracked by the Office of Professional Standards. These numbers exclude commendations by our Command staff.

	Officer Commendations	Employees Recognized
2012	50	152
2013	65	116
2014	46	123
2015	47	99
2016	47	75
2017	55	68
2018	49	88
2019	73	70
2020	92	64
2021	50	20

Response to Resistance Report

At the end of 2020, Billings Police Department updated its procedures for gathering Response to Resistance data. This increased the number of Response to Resistance reports to 184 during 2021. With this change, the Office of Professional Standards captures additional information so the department can more clearly analyze these incidents.

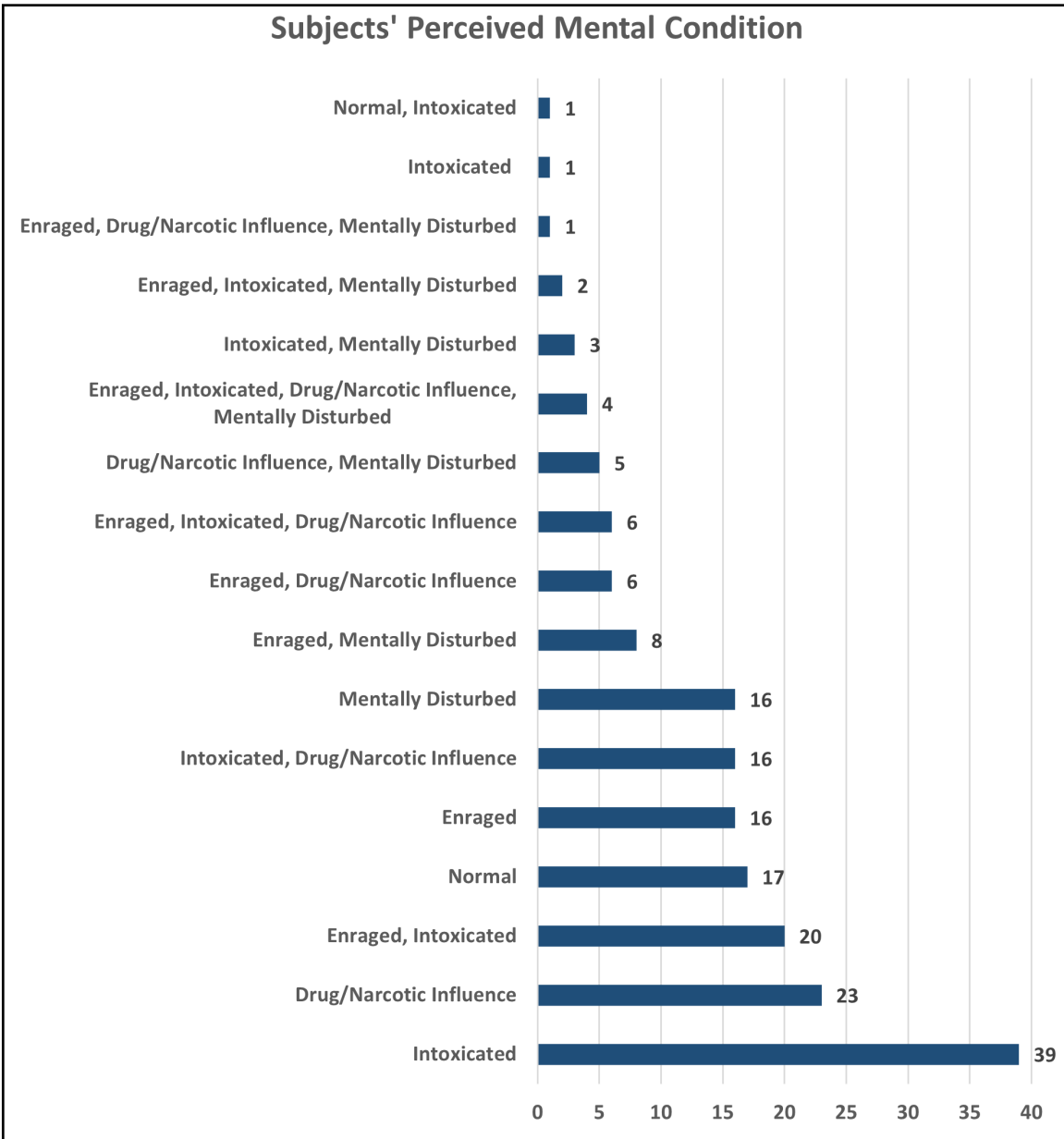
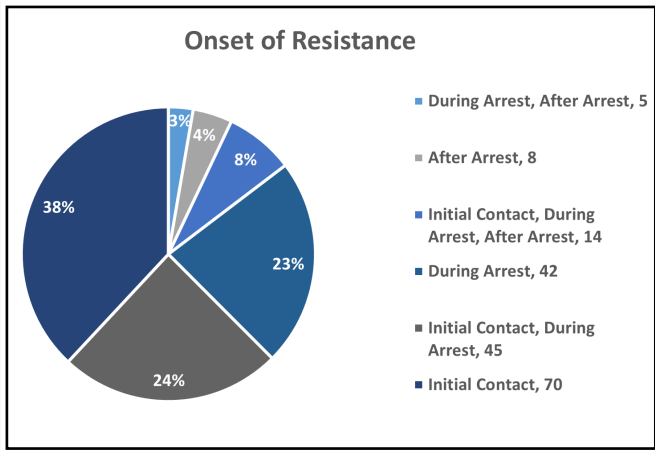
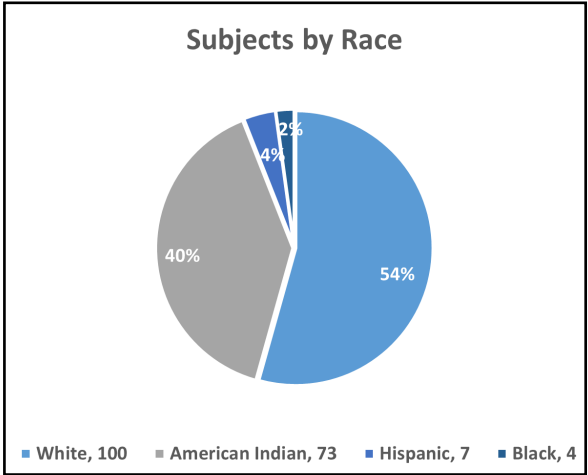
Officers record the details of the incidents for their commanders to assess. The Office of Professional Standards evaluates the incidents throughout the year. Officers are trained on numerous techniques to de-escalate situations so the public, themselves and the subjects involved remain as safe as possible. Officers may use any of these techniques, at any time, to meet the circumstances of the situation.

The decision to use force requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others, and whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

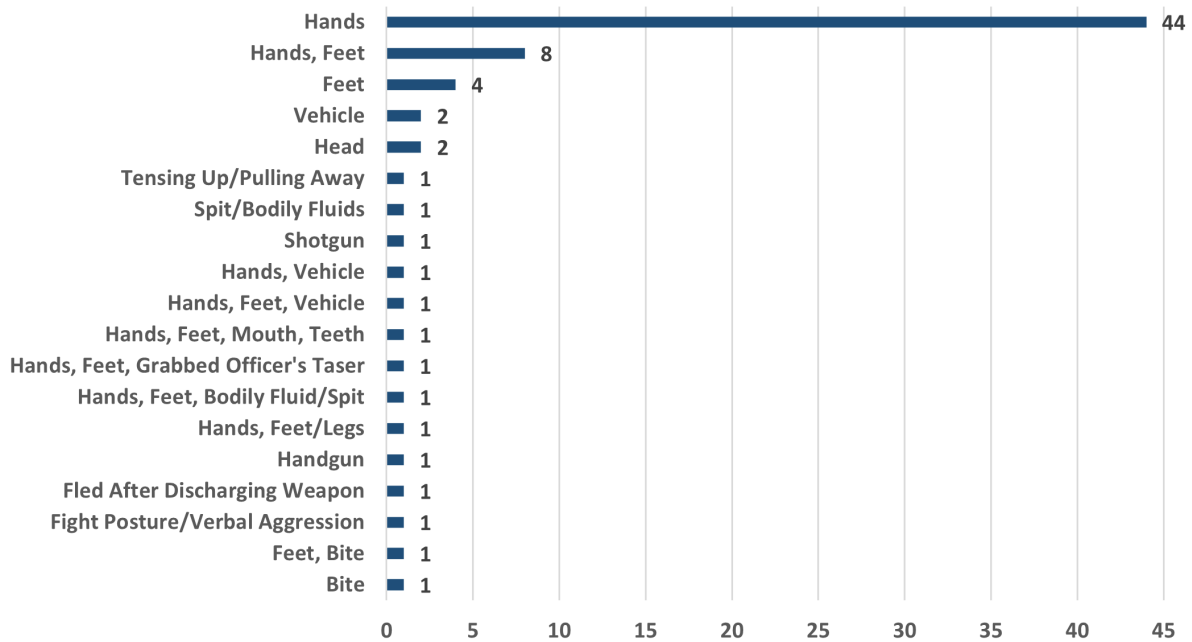
The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The question is whether the officers' actions are 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them in the moment.

This diagram, which is in BPD policy, shows the tools officers might pivot to during responses.



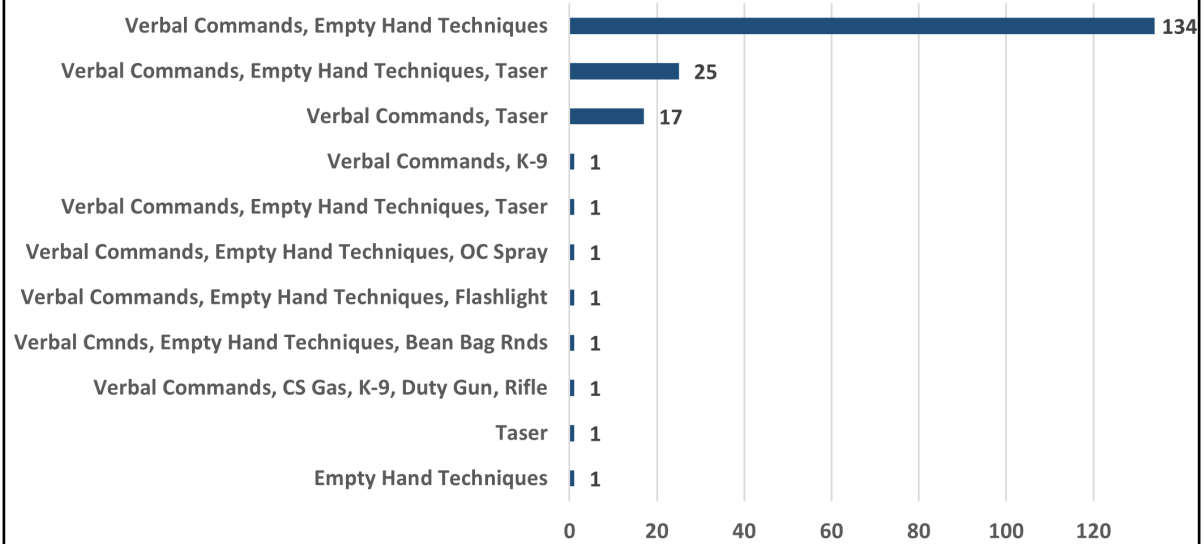


Weapons Used by Non-Compliant Suspects

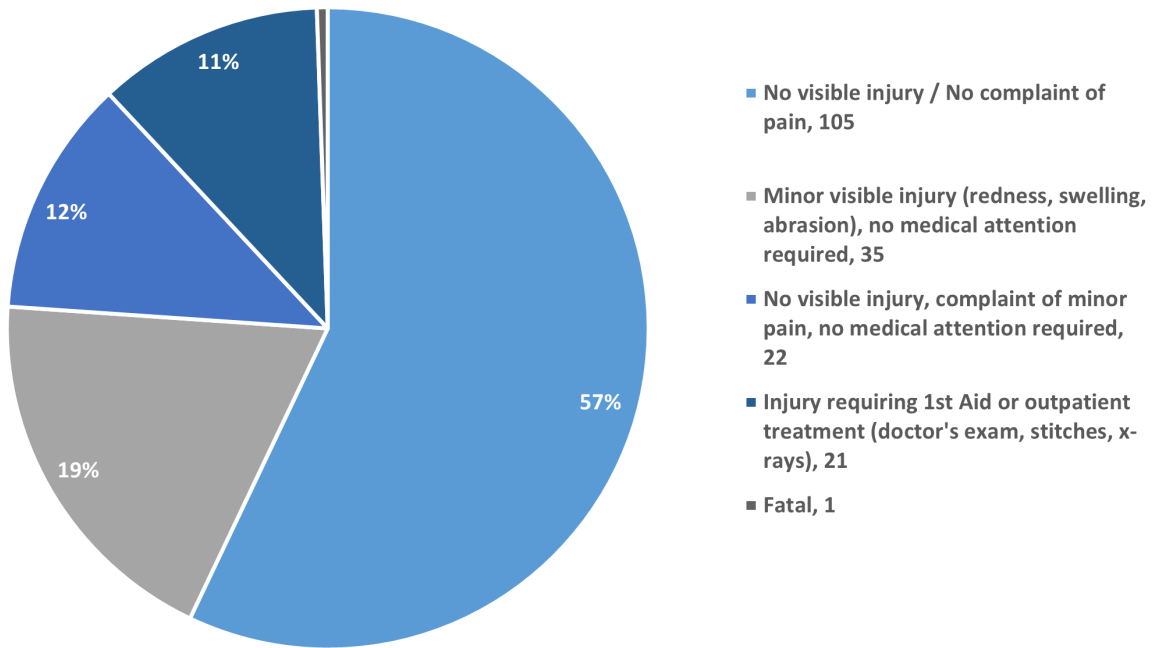


The changes to Response to Resistance reporting in 2021 yielded a spike in instances in which non-compliant suspects are listed as using no weapon. This “none” category was documented 100 times. When commanders reviewed the reports and videos of the incidents, they found several commonalities. Frequently officers were able to contain the situation before suspects started to resist. In 127 of the 184 reports (69 percent) suspects were perceived to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs which can inhibit their ability to engage physically.

Tools Used by Officers



Suspect Level of Injury



Officer Level of Injury

