



2022
Annual
Report

Commitment

To our community

Service

Our approach to policing

Partnership

Solving problems

Integrity

Professional standards

Billing Police Department 2022 Annual Report

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BILLINGS PD IS HIRING

**TEXT “JOINBPD” to
[406] 905-0833**

to apply OR text/chat with a recruiter.

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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 2022 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.

Despite the many challenges of the last few years, we have accomplished much this past year. Within the pages of this report you will find statistics, charts, graphs, and other information that documents and measures how the department performed in the face of complex challenges, both in the community and throughout the criminal justice system. Despite our accomplishments, there is much work to do. While we saw decreases in assaults and property crimes, criminal homicides doubled compared to 2021. The City of Billings continued to see increases in robberies and the community increasingly struggles with tragedies caused by methamphetamine and 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, human trafficking, 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 achieved 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. The many challenges we faced reinforced how important it is to stay connected to the community. We continue to emphasize community engagement and it is a priority in everything we do. Enhancing community relationships helps strengthen trust and respect, both necessary to provide effective police services.

Despite all that happened in 2022, one point was absolutely clear to members of the department: Our community supports our efforts. On occasions too numerous to count, businesses, 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

2022 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
- Appointed a Sergeant to the STEP team to direct resource deployment
- 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

- Completed additional refinement and updates to our service delivery model to improve coverage and response times
- Following the operations review by the Center for Public Safety Management, added Community Service Officers who bolster response to citizen requests for service
- Increased citizen convenience through additional use of an on-line records requests and reporting system for cold crimes and citizen concerns

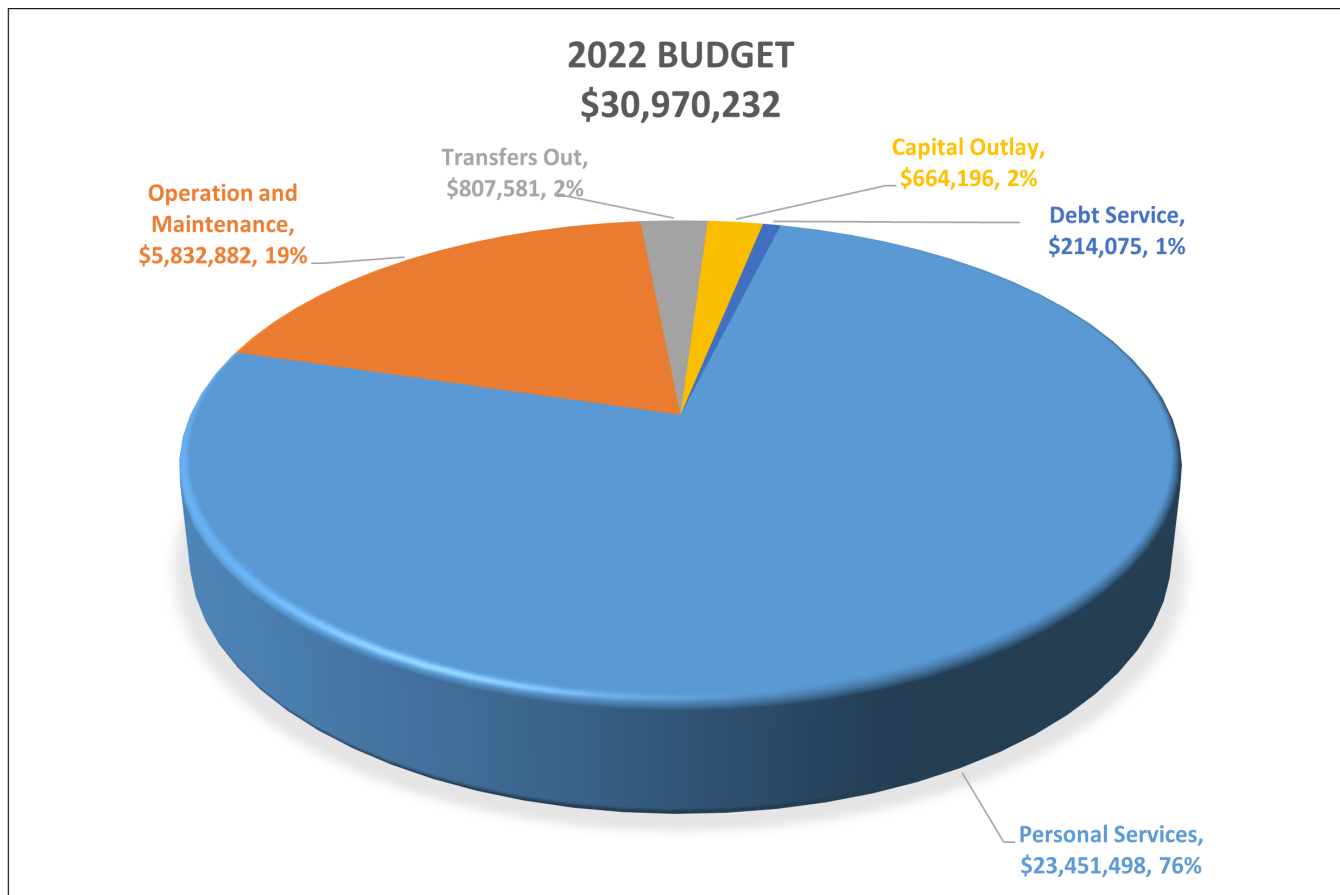
Improve sense of safety in our community

- Continued to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Added a Downtown officer and changed the design on Downtown Officers' patrol vehicles for higher visibility
- Worked with stakeholders to identify and address neighborhood and business concerns

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

Funding at a glance



Grant	Uses	Amount
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)	Implement Billings Peer Support Program	\$ 900,000
2021 Domestic Violence Grant (DVI)	Domestic Violence Investigator overtime, training, supplies	\$ 70,137
2022 Domestic Violence Grant (DVI)	Domestic Violence Investigator overtime, training, supplies	\$ 73,924
Railroad Trespassing Enforcement Activities Program	Pays overtime for railroad trespass enforcement	\$ 120,000
2022 HIDTA Grant	Aids drug investigations with clerical staff overtime and equipment	\$ 270,254
2019 HIDTA Connect Coalition Grant	Funds 5-state multi-jurisdictional training	\$ 200,000
2021 Homeland Security Grant	Bomb Squad training and equipment	\$ 95,971
2022 Homeland Security Grant	Bomb Squad training and equipment	\$ 80,000
2022 Homeland Security Grant	Explosive Ordinance Disposal transport vehicle	\$ 365,000
2022 HTS Step Enforcement Grant	Overtime for traffic enforcement	\$ 10,000
2020 JAG Grant	Purchases equipment for BPD and YCSO	\$ 84,237
2021 JAG Grant	Purchases equipment for BPD and YCSO	\$ 88,394
2022 JAG Grant	Purchases equipment for BPD and YCSO	\$ 123,669
Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant	Funds interns to analyze violent crime data	\$ 30,000
Total Grants 2021-2022		\$ 2,511,586

Billings Police Department Chain of Command



Chief St. John

Chief of Police
Rich St. John

Administrative Coordinator
Jamie Wegner



Assistant Chief Lawrence

Assistant Chief
Neil Lawrence

Animal Control Supervisor
Tom Stinchfield

Captain Operations (Patrol)
Shawn Mayo

Captain Professional Standards
R.D. Harper

Captain Investigations
Brian Korell



Capt. R.D. Harper

Captain Professional Standards
R.D. Harper

Administrative Lieutenant
Matthew Lennick

Sergeant Special Events
Sgt. West

Administrative Sergeant
Sgt. Puckett

Admin Secretary/ Training Coord
Taylor Bernhardt

Volunteer Coordinator
Kallie Parsons

Public Relations Officer

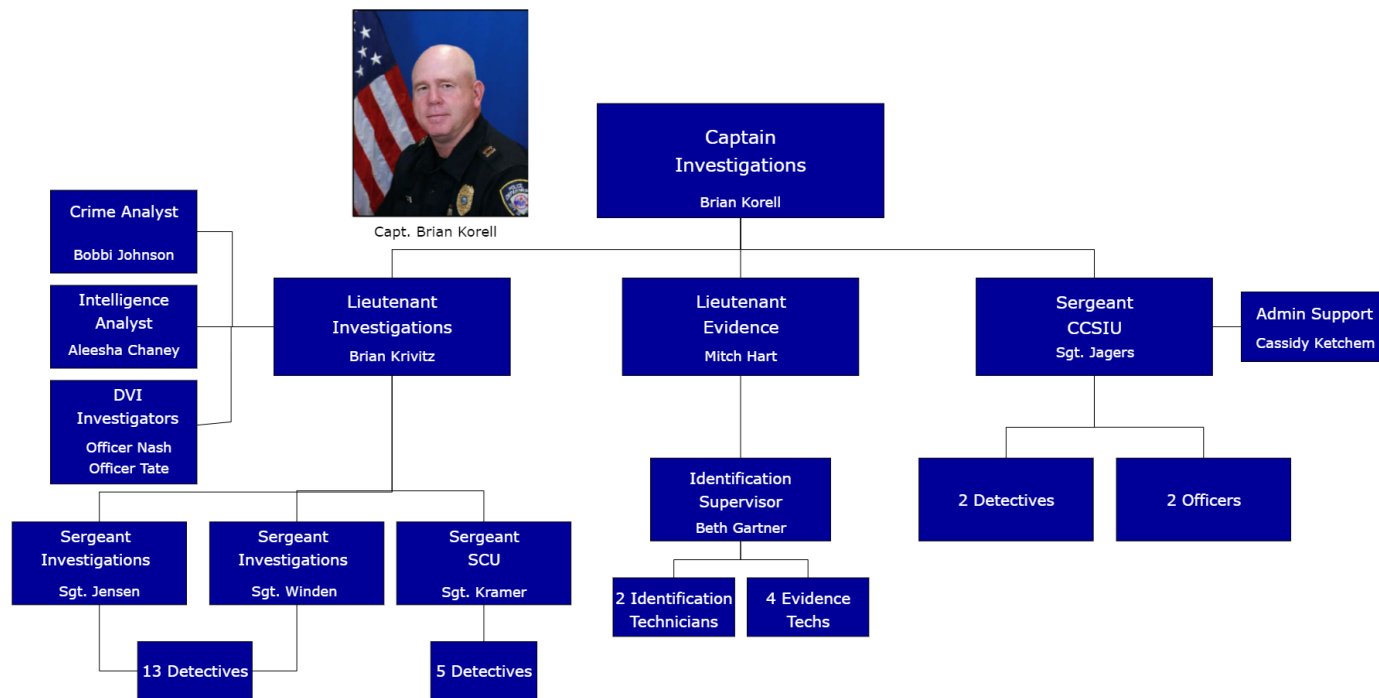
3 DBA Officers

4 STEP Officers

8 SRO Officers

Parks & Rec Officer

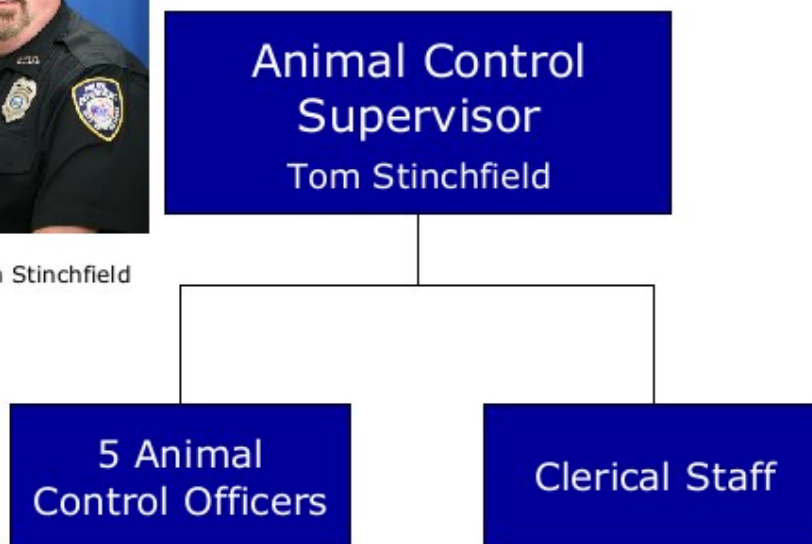
Billings Police Department Chain of Command



Billings Police Department Chain of Command



Supervisor Tom Stinchfield



Did you know?

The Public Safety Mill Levy provided \$2,450,000 to increase Billings Police Department staff.

The funding provides for the following employees as well as the equipment and training required to prepare them to serve the City of Billings.

- 12 sworn officers
- 7 Community Services Officers
- 5 Identifications and Evidence Staff
- 1.5 Support Services clerical staff

BPD took a methodical approach to adding personnel and was staffed at 162 of 167 authorized sworn officers and 30 of 39.5 civilian staff.

Our employees are given great public trust and are carefully selected and put through background investigations.

Adding staff requires not only preparing new employees to work, but making sure they have work space — be that in a patrol vehicle or in an office. There are also practical necessities that must be addressed, ranging from uniforms to computers with required software.

Creating the Community Services Officer program also required writing policies, creating a training program and re-assigning some work responsibilities within the department. Further, BPD works closely with other agencies and city divisions, including the Dispatch Center, and considers their needs and requirements when making changes.

Calls For Service

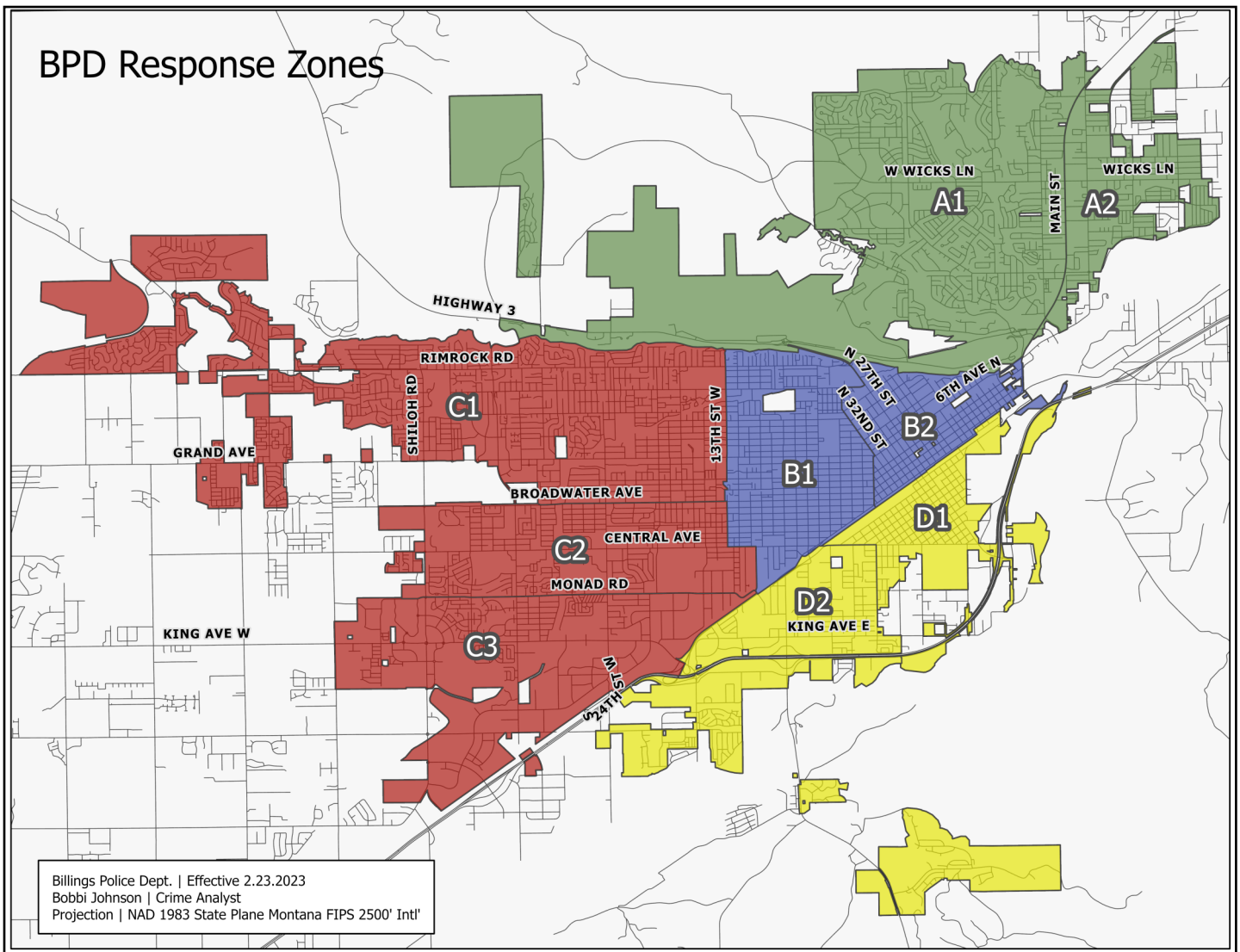
Where We Work

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.

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.

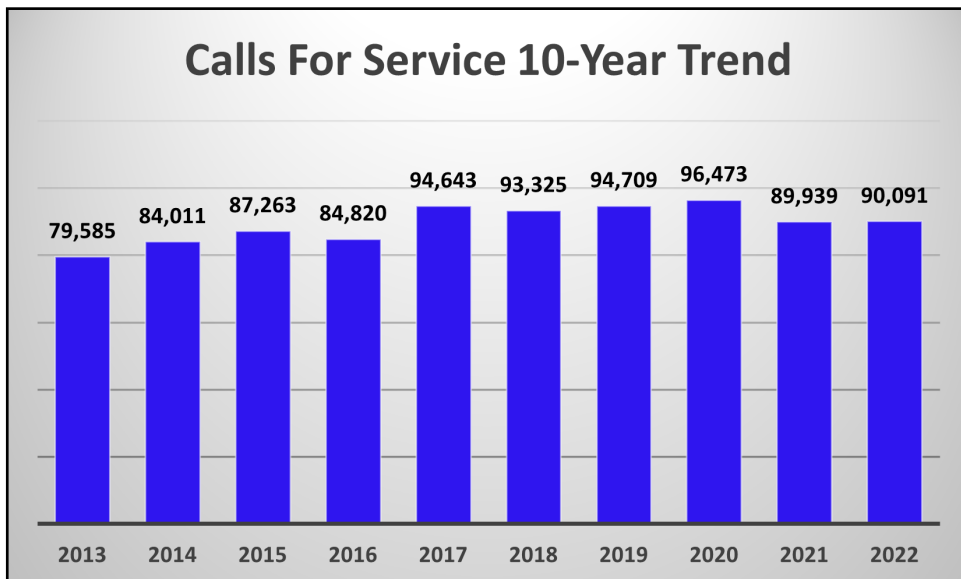
Officers work predominately in their assigned Zones, however they may need to leave their zones for a variety of tasks, including transport a person to jail, deliver seized items to the Evidence Facility or go to a hospital to speak with a victim. When officers must leave their zones, Commanders and 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

ZONE	2022
A1	9,045
A2	5,962
B1	10,043
B2	18,074
C1	9,518
C2	8,190
C3	9,006
D1	7,746
D2	8,414
Unknown offense location	1,682
Initial call mapped outside of Billings	<u>2,411</u> 90,091



Billings Police Department had a slight increase in Calls For Service from 2021 to 2022. The reduction was spread across most zones, however the Downtown area had an increase of about 9 percent. This is due to continued efforts by the Downtown Officers to address citizen concerns about quality of life issues.

Did you know?

With the passage of the Public Safety Mill Levy it was possible for Billings Police Department to create a new employee classification to increase our service to residents.

The first Community Service Officers were hired in 2022. The CSOs are civilian employees, who have gone through several months of training within Billings Police Department.



They take calls without suspect information, which are not in progress, such as criminal mischief and some burglaries.

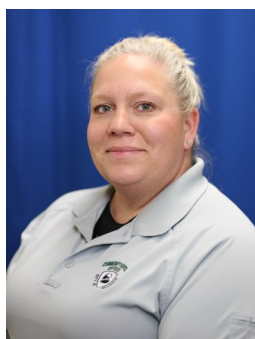
They complete vehicle inspections and take parking complaints. They also help officers with a myriad of tasks including providing traffic control at accidents, taking photos and picking up surveillance video and other property crime evidence.

The inaugural class of Community Service Officers are:

Officer Rockwell



Officer Newell



Officer Santiago



Officer Wevley.



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 one of two 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	2022
Suspicious Activity	10,910	11,955	12,916	13,086	15,018	14,402	13,686
Traffic Stop	10,135	14,224	11,035	12,442	10,898	8,872	10,232
Disturbance	8,114	8,912	9,323	8,830	8,844	8,250	6,983
Welfare Check	3,713	3,892	4,562	5,211	6,245	6,084	6,624
Trespass	1,678	2,015	2,813	3,512	5,590	5,402	5,357
Alarm	4,740	5,239	5,234	5,066	4,372	4,411	4,110
Traffic Complaint/Investigation	3,073	3,207	3,405	3,811	3,693	3,843	3,638
Theft	5,298	5,856	5,032	4,529	4,728	3,628	4,556
Area Check	2,982	5,567	5,210	3,512	3,402	2,440	3,163
Accident Property Damage	2,250	2,274	2,321	2,301	1,993	2,297	2,252
Threats/Harassment	1,336	1,465	1,346	1,484	1,444	1,683	1,654
Suicide Attempts/Threats	1,162	1,321	1,463	1,490	1,478	1,574	1,538
Follow Up	1,374	2,206	2,491	2,034	1,620	1,466	1,442
DUI	1,515	1,308	1,417	1,459	1,370	1,361	1,133
Service Assist Law Enforcement	1,184	1,202	1,009	1,098	1,432	1,307	1,439
Accident Hit and Run	984	1,026	987	1,069	931	1,192	987
Vehicle Theft	928	1,099	991	818	1,046	1,146	895
PFMA	79	62	634	772	1,080	1,074	996
Sick/Injured Person	537	608	707	856	1,073	1,010	966
Weapons	484	674	441	558	806	994	706

Did you know?

Building owners can enter an agreement with Billings Police Department to enforce trespass crimes after business hours.

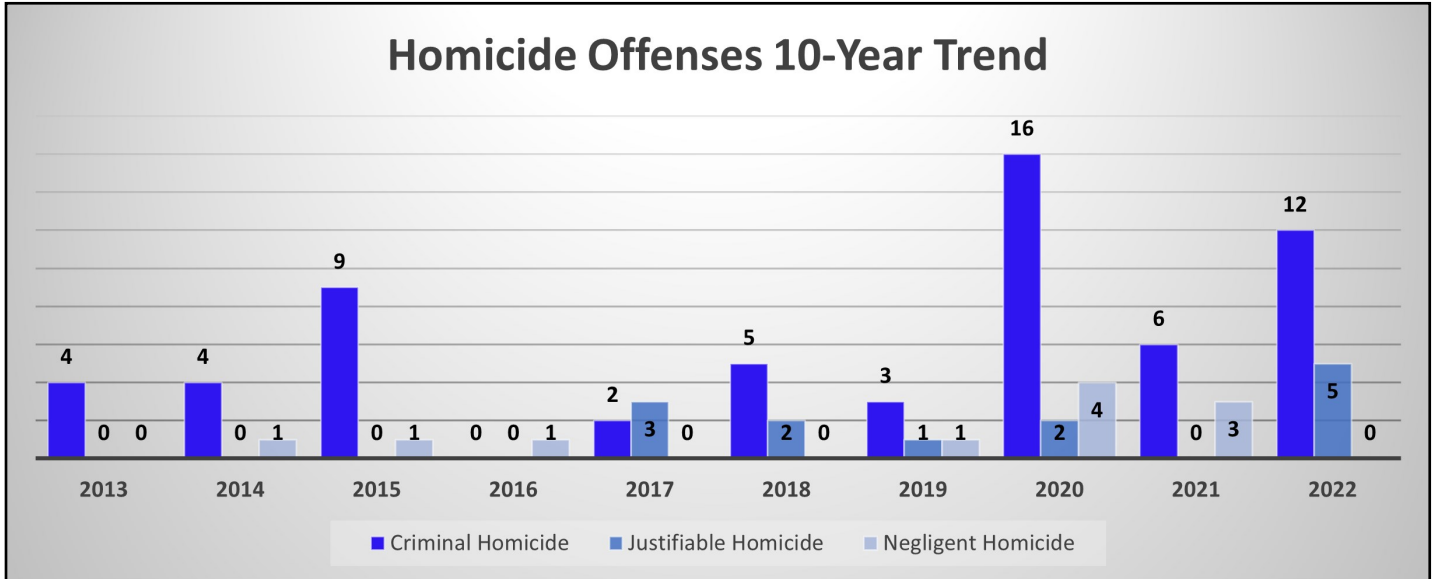
The program is in cooperation with the Downtown Billings Alliance (DBA).

Business owners complete a form and submit it to Billings Police Department's Downtown Officers. The form allows police to enforce trespassing and loitering at the location for one year.

If officers are called to the location and find a person violating city or state laws, they can write a no trespass warning or make an arrest without having the building owner on location.

Learn more and download forms at: <https://www.billingsmt.gov/2960/DBA-Trespass-Enforcement-Program>

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.



Billings Detectives investigated 17 homicides during 2022.

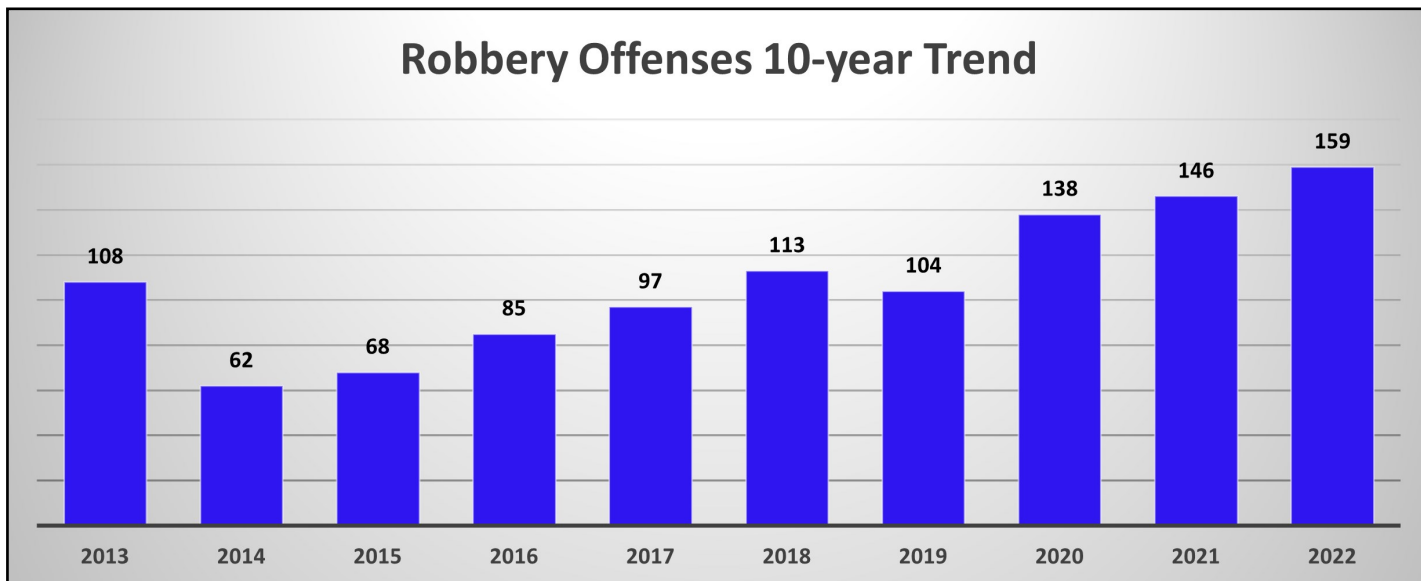
Of these, one was a double homicide-suicide; another was a double homicide that is listed a justifiable homicide due to the circumstances involving injuries to the suspect, and three were officer involved shootings.

The remaining homicides were all closed by either an arrest or warrant request.

At left: A bullet hole in a wall is marked by evidence markers and an adhesive photo scale.

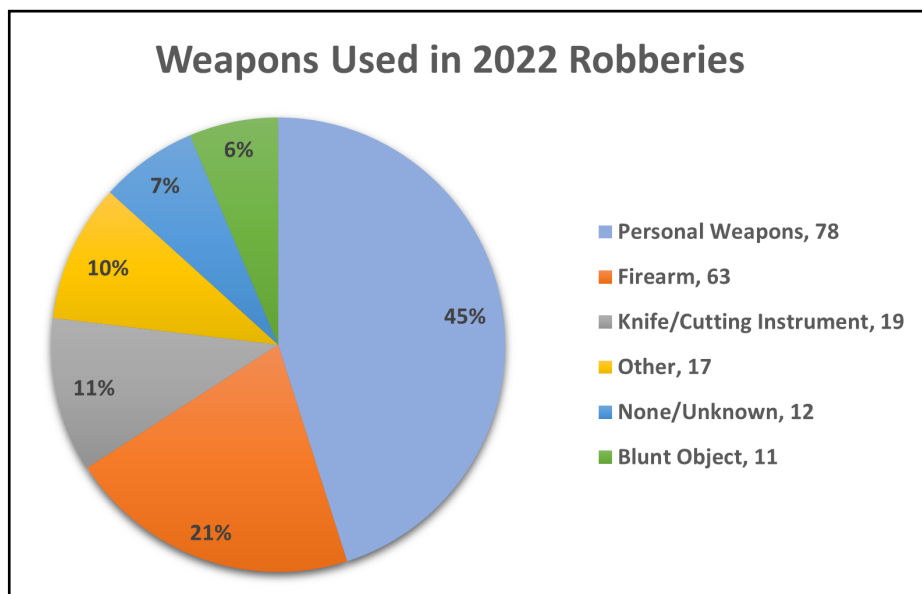
All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the database. Due to continuous data entry after reports are compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent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

Violent Crime Statistics



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.

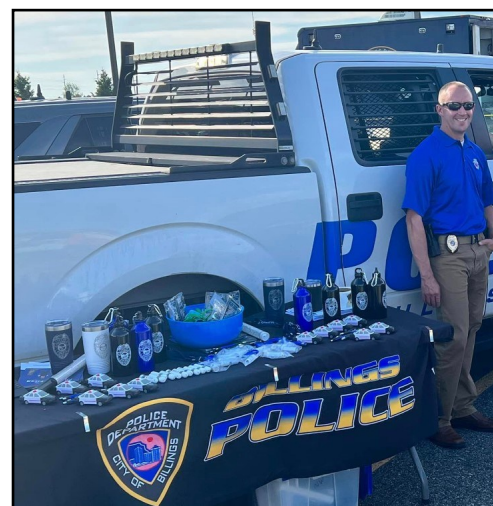
Robberies range from someone being threatened by the suspect's words and/or demeanor to a suspect using a gun to a shoplifter fighting with a store employee while trying to get away with stolen items



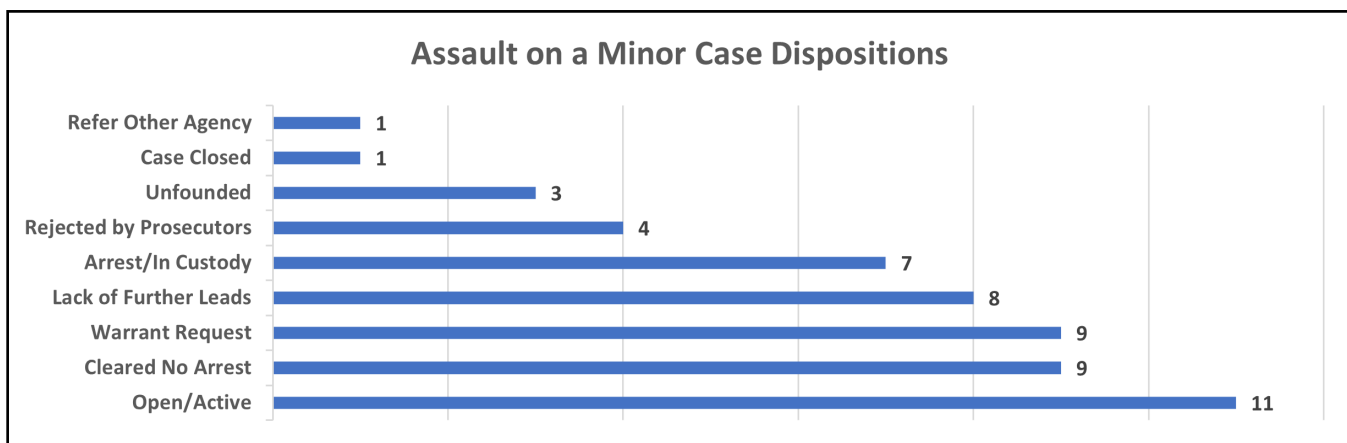
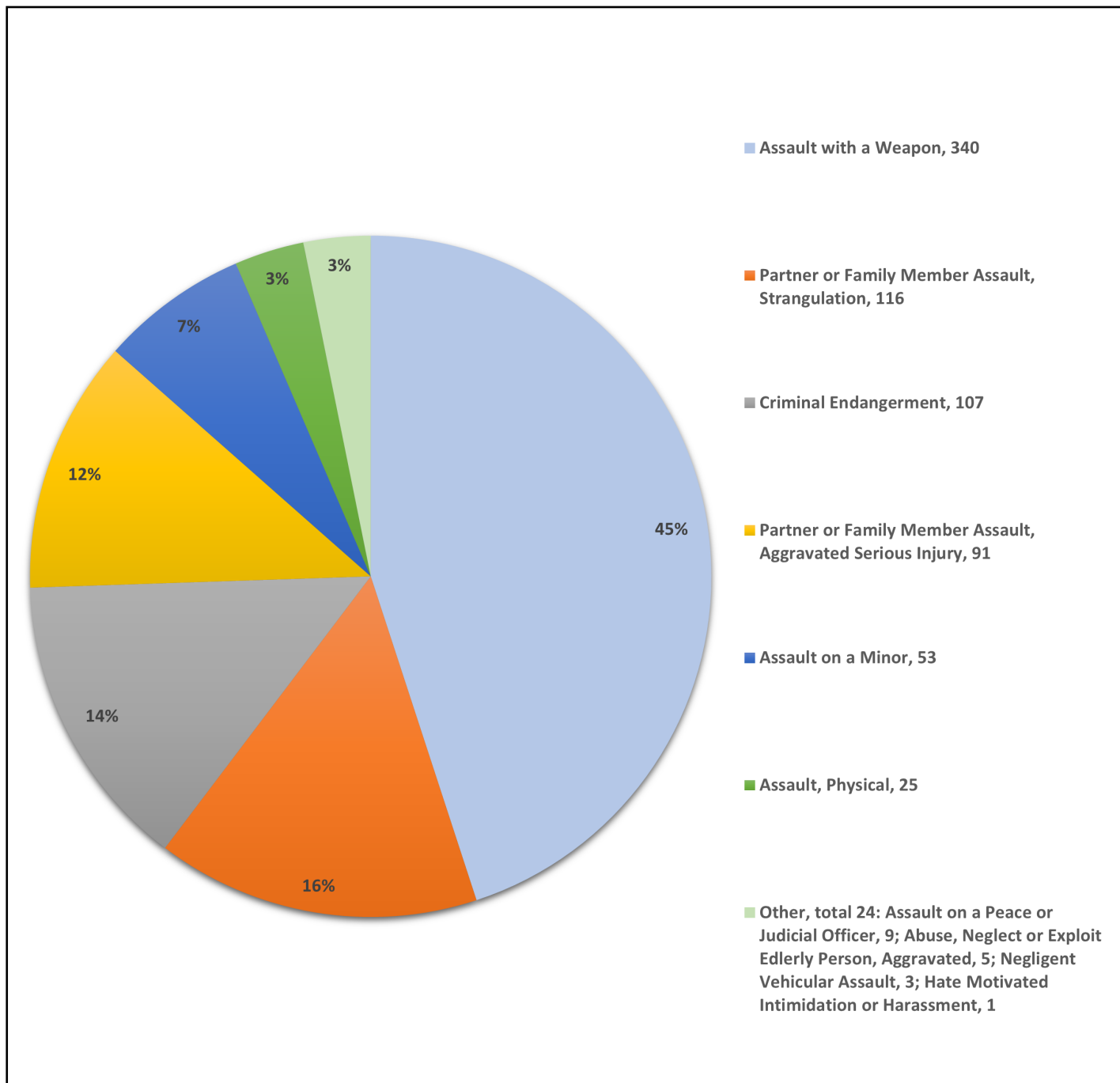
Did you know?

Billings Police Department has officers who are available to provide presentations on the Department and crime prevention. We also join community events so residents can visit with officers. At right, Lt. Lennick participated at National Night Out. Below, Sgt. Stovall and Ofc. McKnight (right) had a good time at Coffee With a Cop at City Brew.

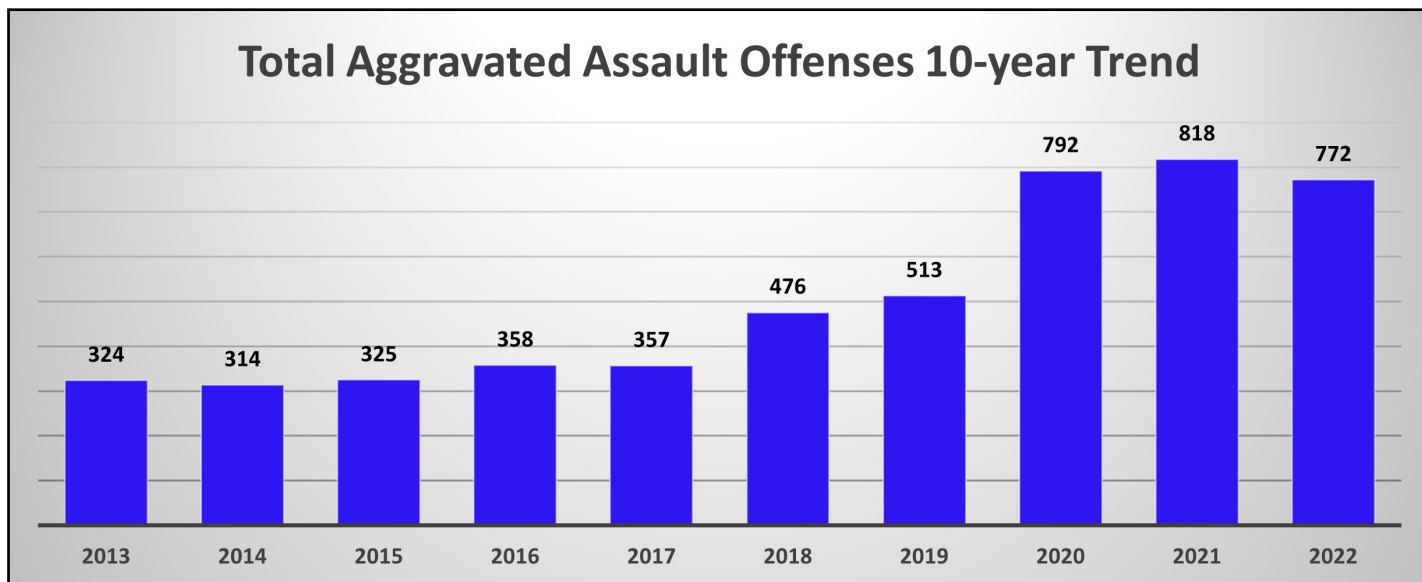
To learn more or request a presentation, call the Crime Prevention Center at 247-8590.



Violent Crime Statistics



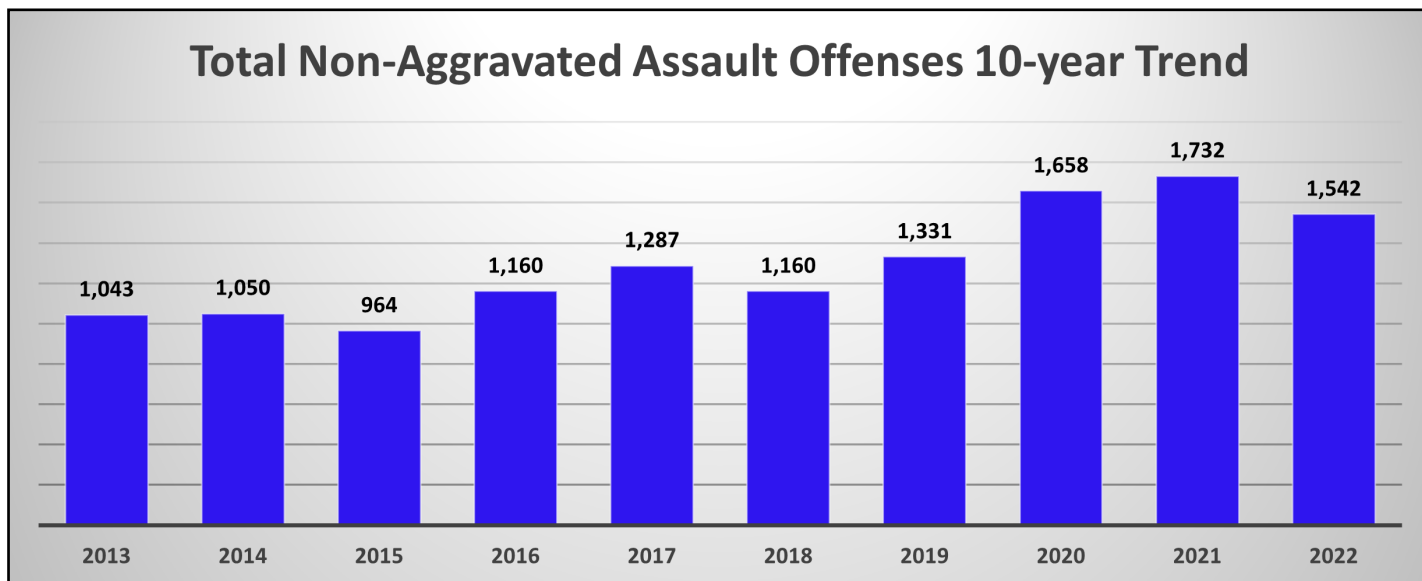
Violent Crime Statistics



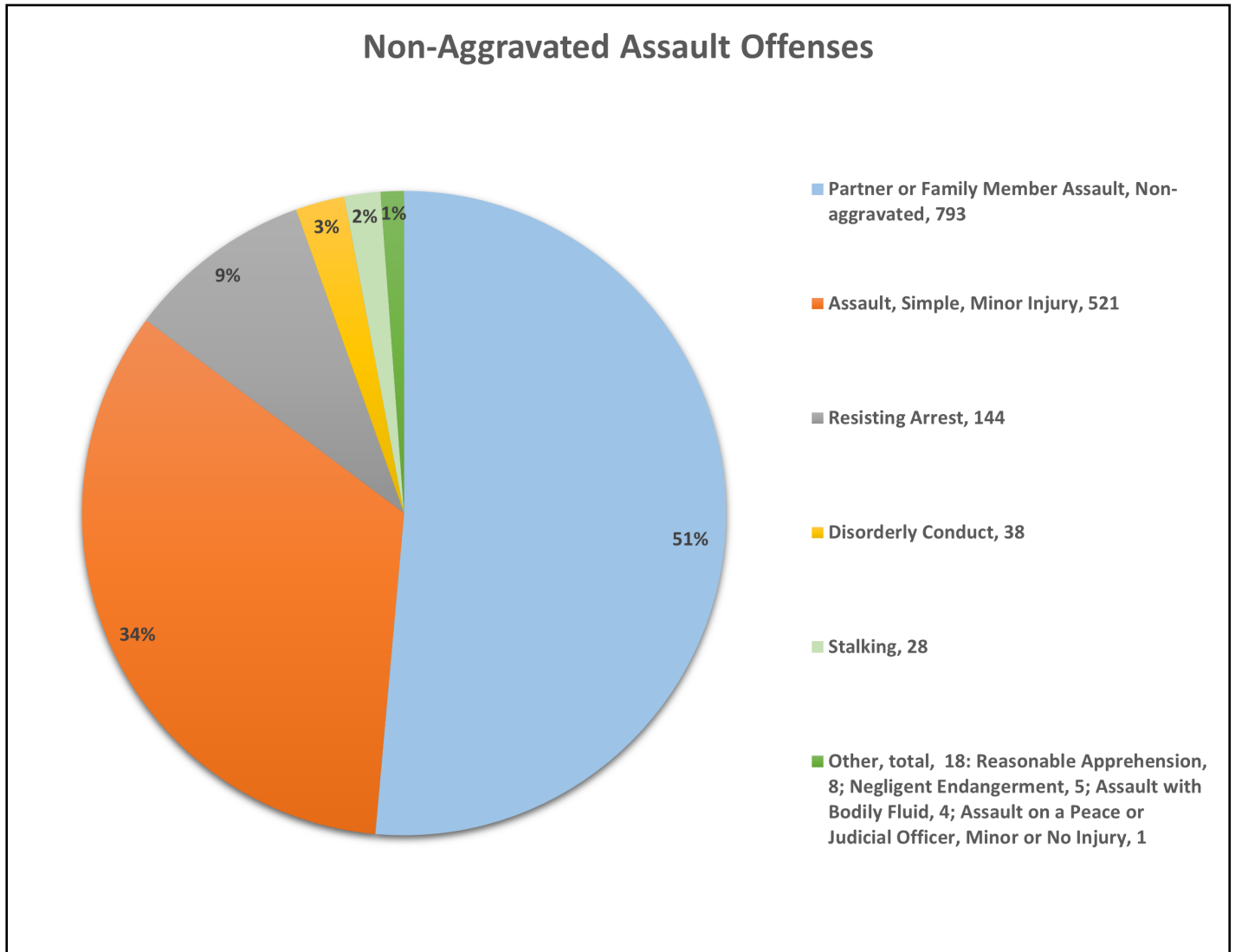
Did you know?

Assault with a weapon offenses investigated by Billings Police officers stayed nearly the same the last two years, with 337 in 2021 and 340 in 2022.

FBI crime reporting defines weapons as items that can be used to injure a person. Weapons include: Firearms, knives or cutting objects such as broken glass, rocks, wood, furniture and shoes. Personal weapons — hands, fists and feet — are also considered a weapon in crime reporting. Further, Montana law includes the definition of reasonable apprehension that injury could be caused.



Violent Crime Statistics

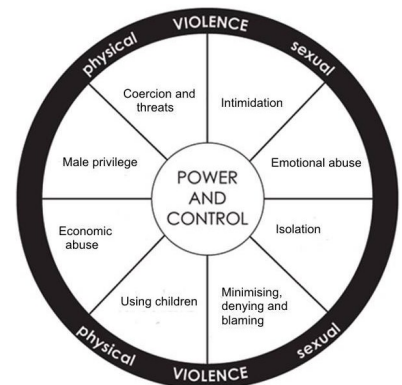


Did you know?

Billings Police Officers work with victims of domestic violence to assess the risk of continued intimate partner violence. The assessment starts with 7 yes or no questions to determine if risk factors exist. If there are risk factors present, more questions are asked. Officers receive training on the assessment.

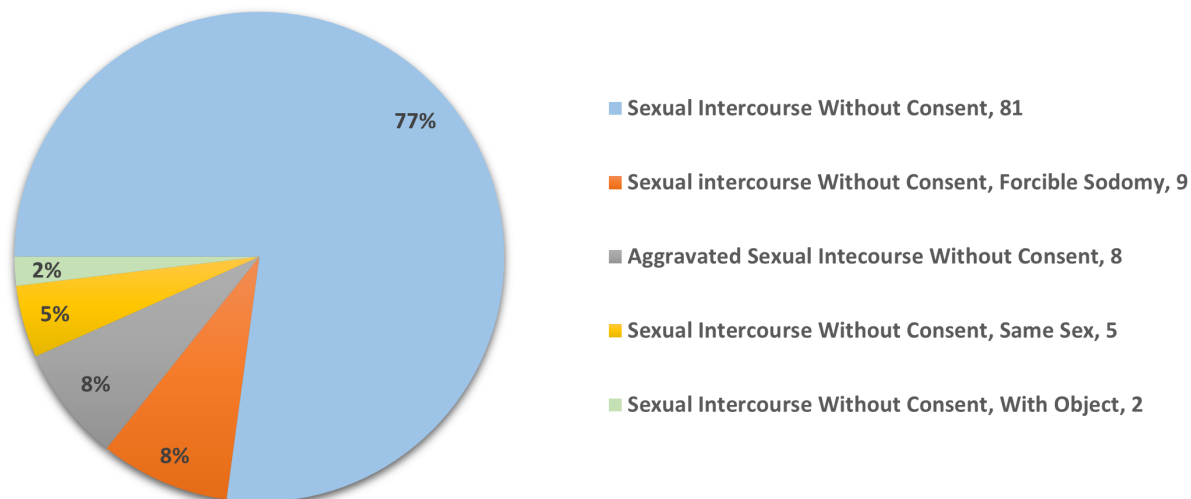
For those at elevated risk, there is a 6 times higher risk of severe re-assault or near lethal violence within 7 months when compared to those with fewer risk factors present. It is estimated that 15 percent of victims at high risk will experience severe re-assault within 7 months versus 1.6 percent of victims who report fewer risk factors.

Thanks to grants, some patrol vehicles have cell phones that victims can use to immediately call for safety planning and other victim services offered by the YWCA domestic violence program. All victims of violent crimes are provided handouts with victims rights and contact information for local courts and victim advocates. Victims of domestic violence are provided information on the importance of medical attention after a strangulation and how to develop a personalized safety plan.

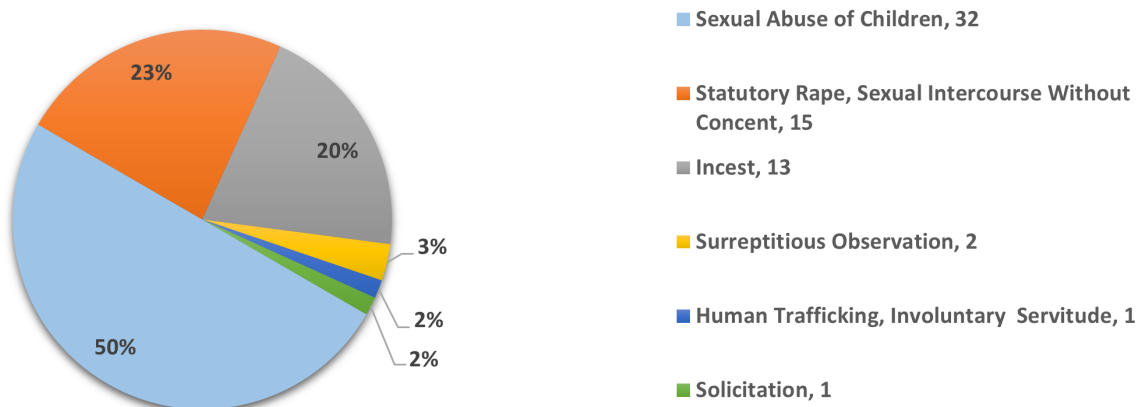


Violent Crime Statistics

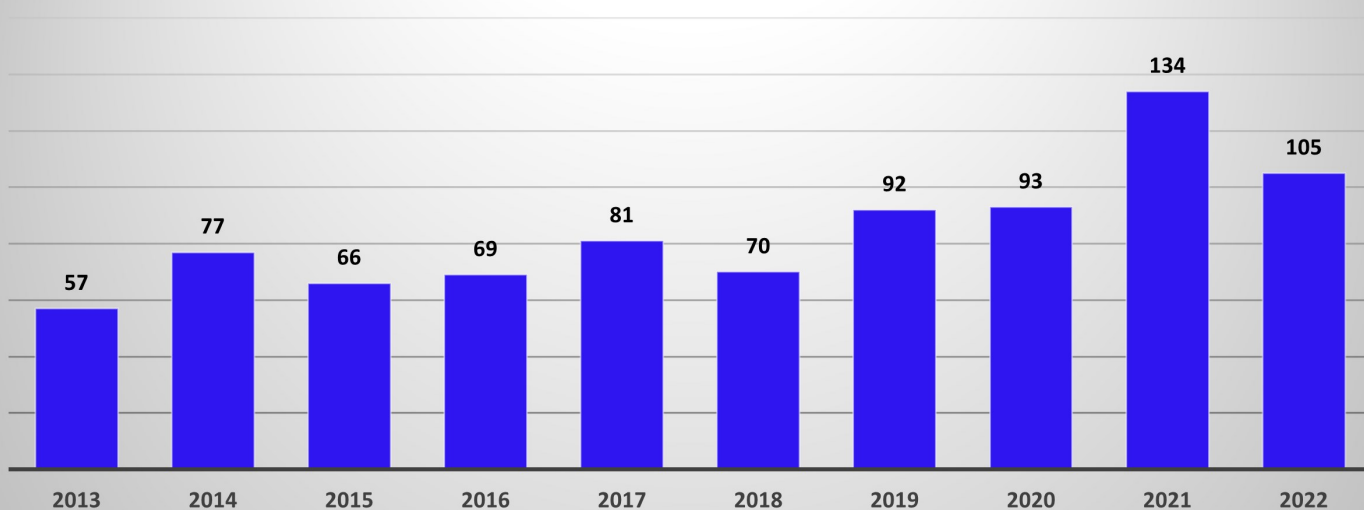
Sexual Assault Offenses



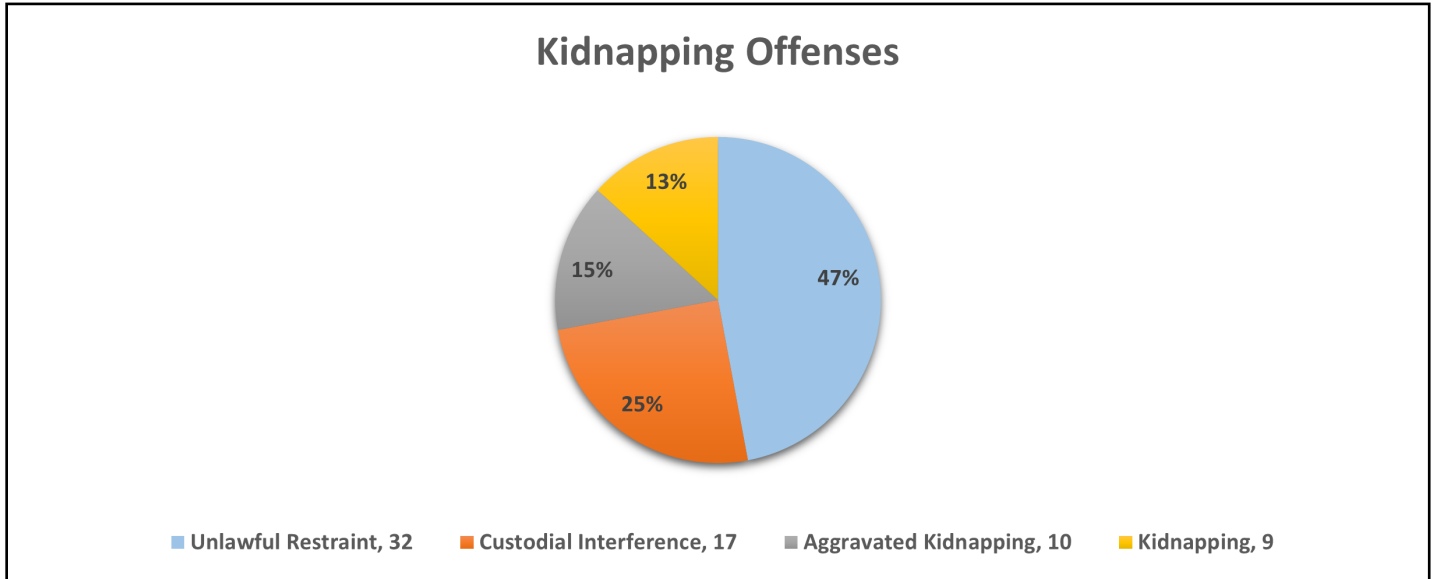
Other Sexual Offenses



Sexual Assault Offenses 10-year Trend



Violent Crime Statistics



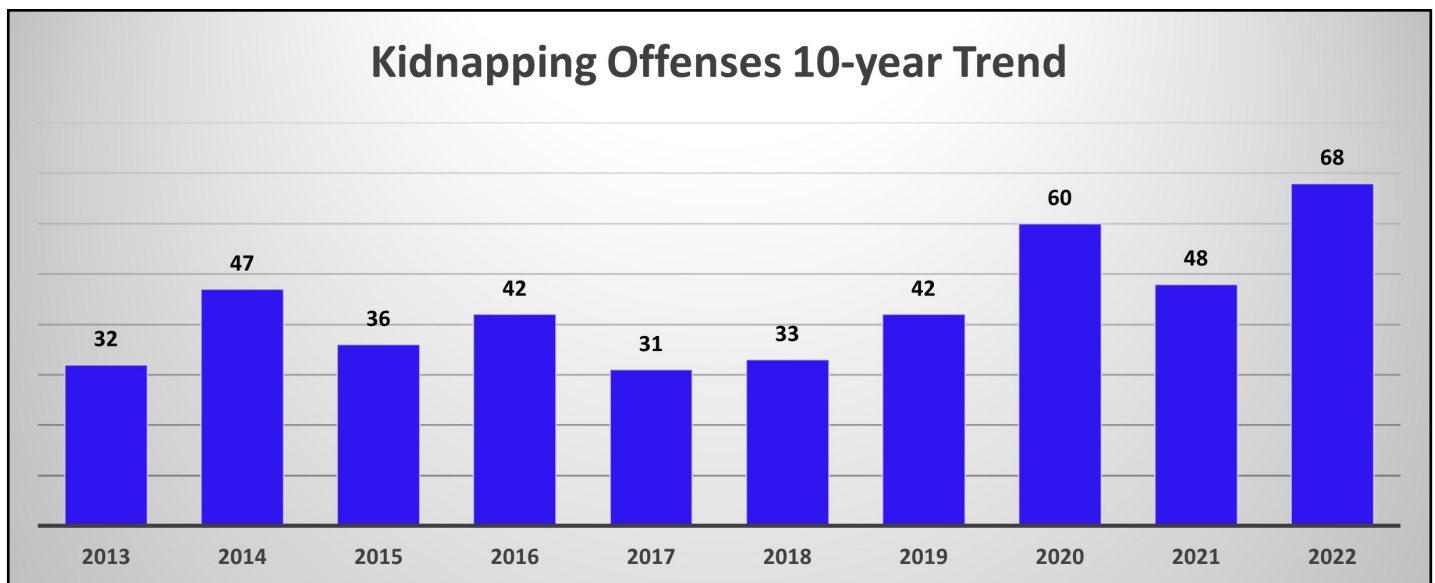
The FBI definition of kidnapping is the unlawful seizure, transportation and/or detention of persons against their will or of minors without the consent of their custodial parents or legal guardians.

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

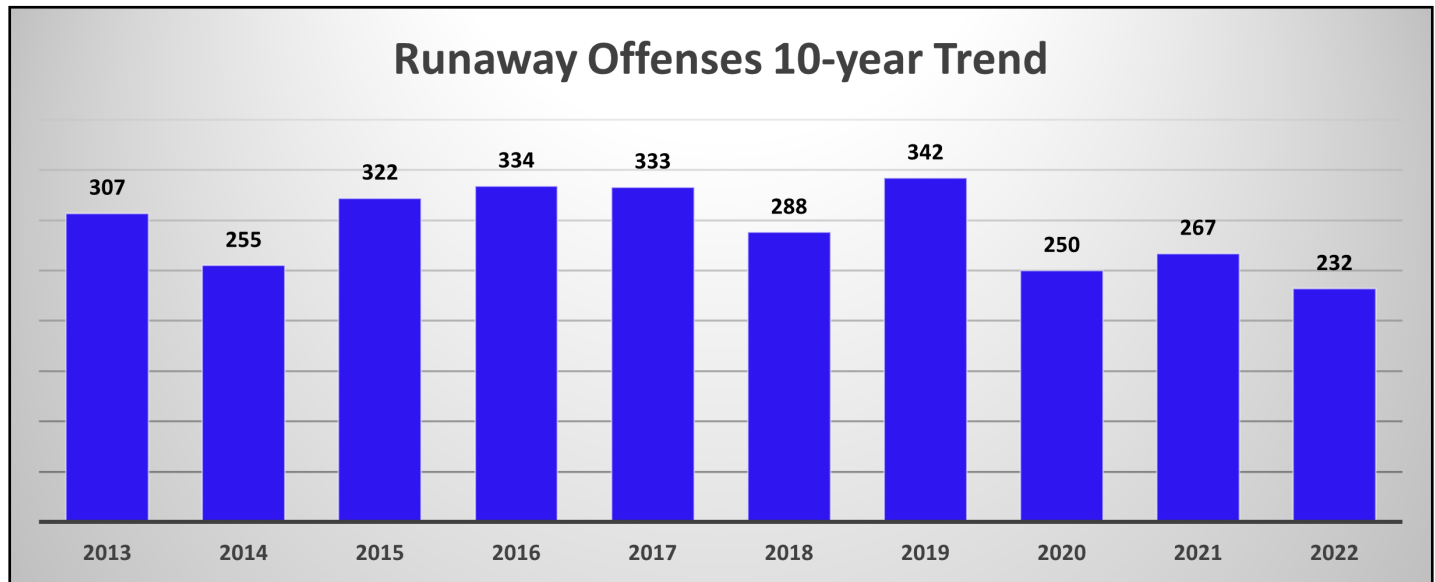
Kidnapping offenses increased in all categories from 2021 to 2022.

The largest increase was in custodial interference which increased from 8 to 17. The entire increase was tied to one family who reported violations of a parenting plan 15 times in five weeks.

Kidnapping increased from 3 to 9, primarily due to one incident with multiple victims.



Violent Crime Statistics

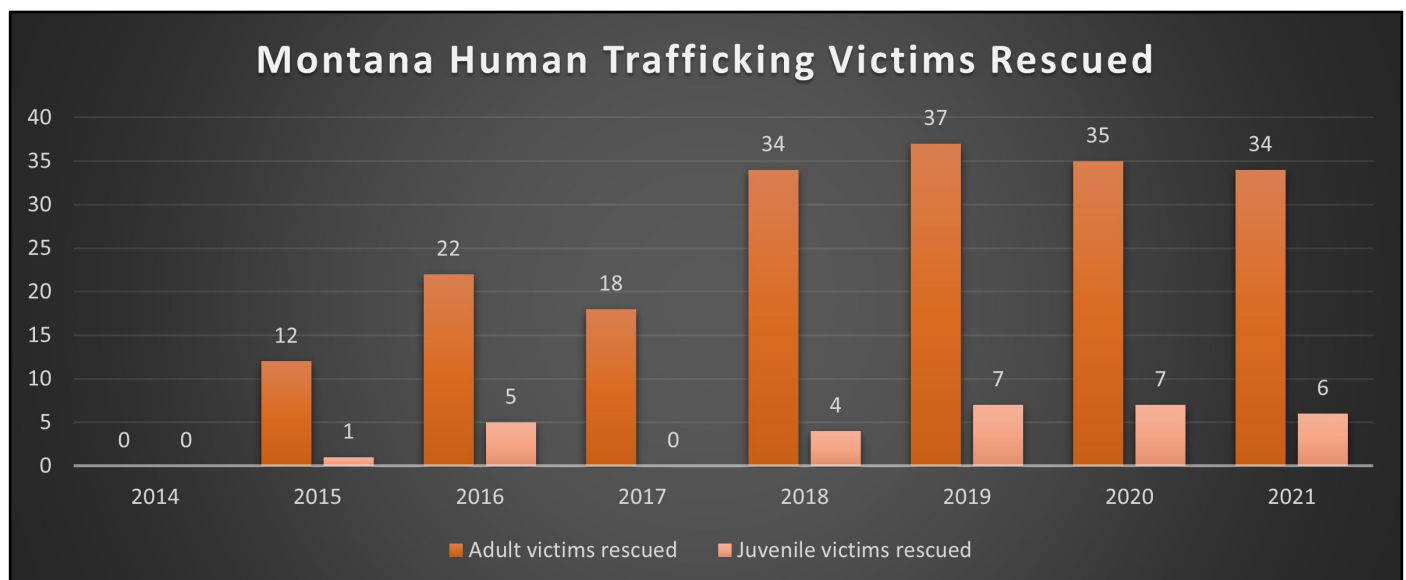


Running away is not a crime, but it is included in crime reporting. Children who are reported as runaways are considered missing persons and listed in a national law enforcement database until they are found.

Billings Police Department works with the Montana Department of Justice Missing Persons Clearinghouse and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) to list local missing and runaway children on their web sites.

Runaways can quickly fall into danger, including human trafficking. Montana has a Human Trafficking Unit that is run by the Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation. The Unit provided the numbers below. Statistics from 2022 were not available at the time this report was published.

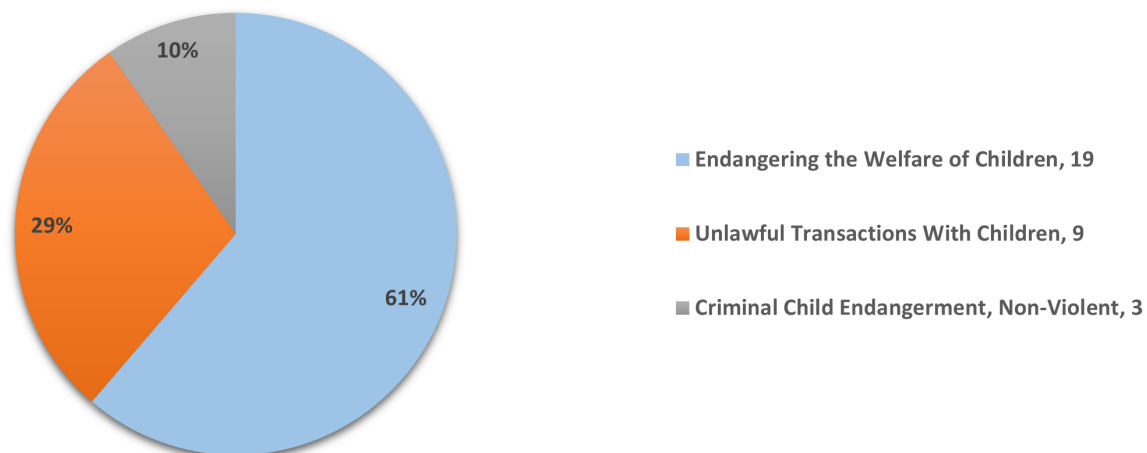
Supervisory Agent Andrew Yedinak said that kids who runaway three times or more are 70% more likely to enter into trafficking. Research shows, he said, that three-fourths of victims are introduced to trafficking as minors. And, one-quarter of kids on the streets will be approached about trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home.



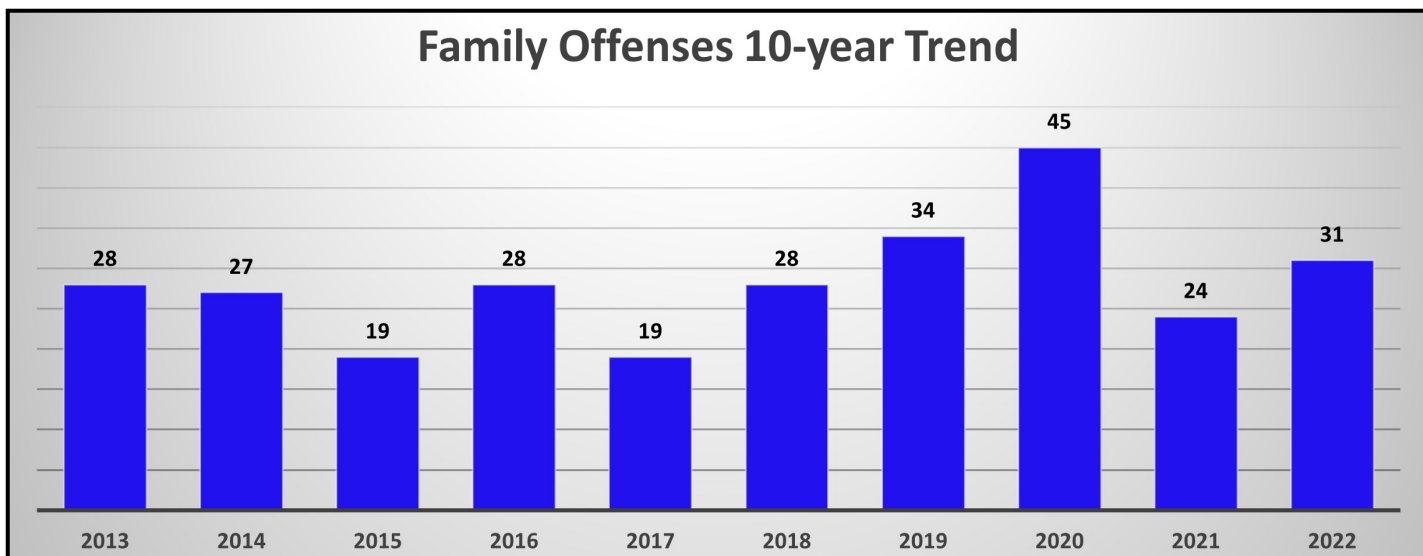
Family Offenses

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.”

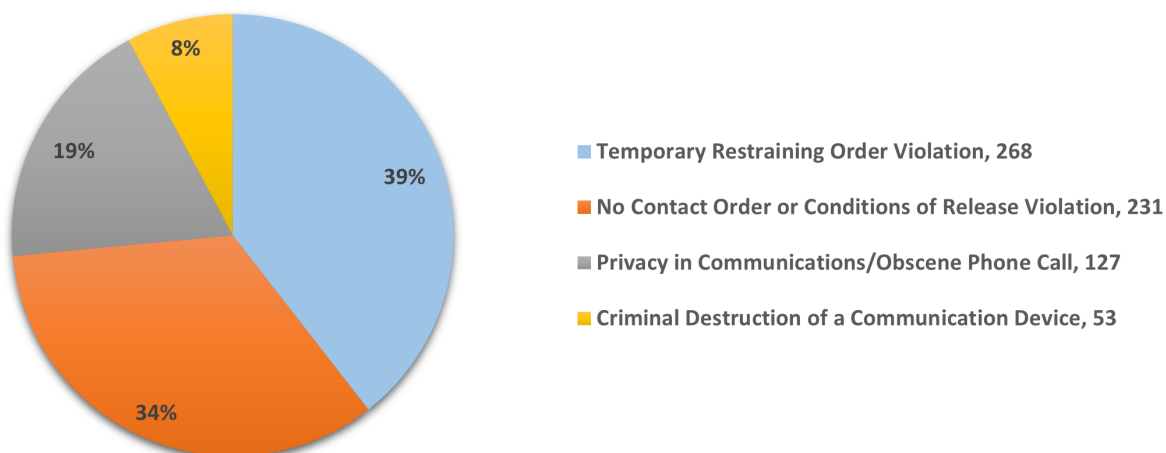
Offenses Against the Family



Family Offenses 10-year Trend

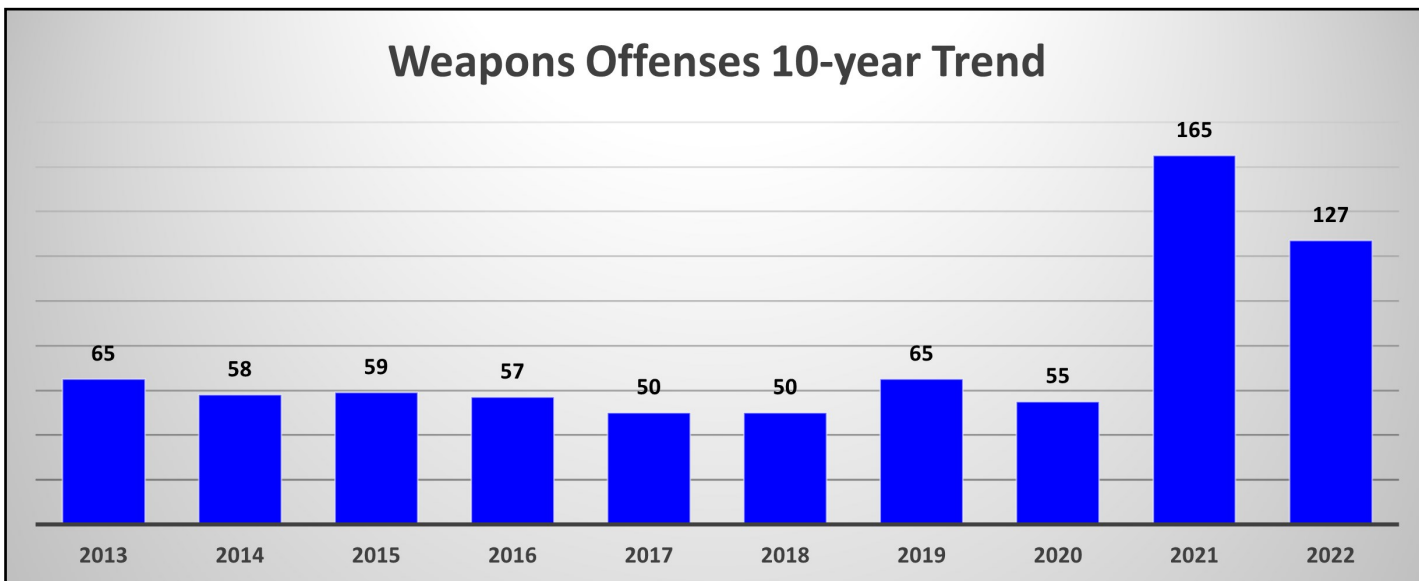


Other Domestic Violations



Weapons Offenses

Weapons Offenses 10-year Trend



These weapons were located when residences and a vehicle were damaged by BB and airsoft pellets.

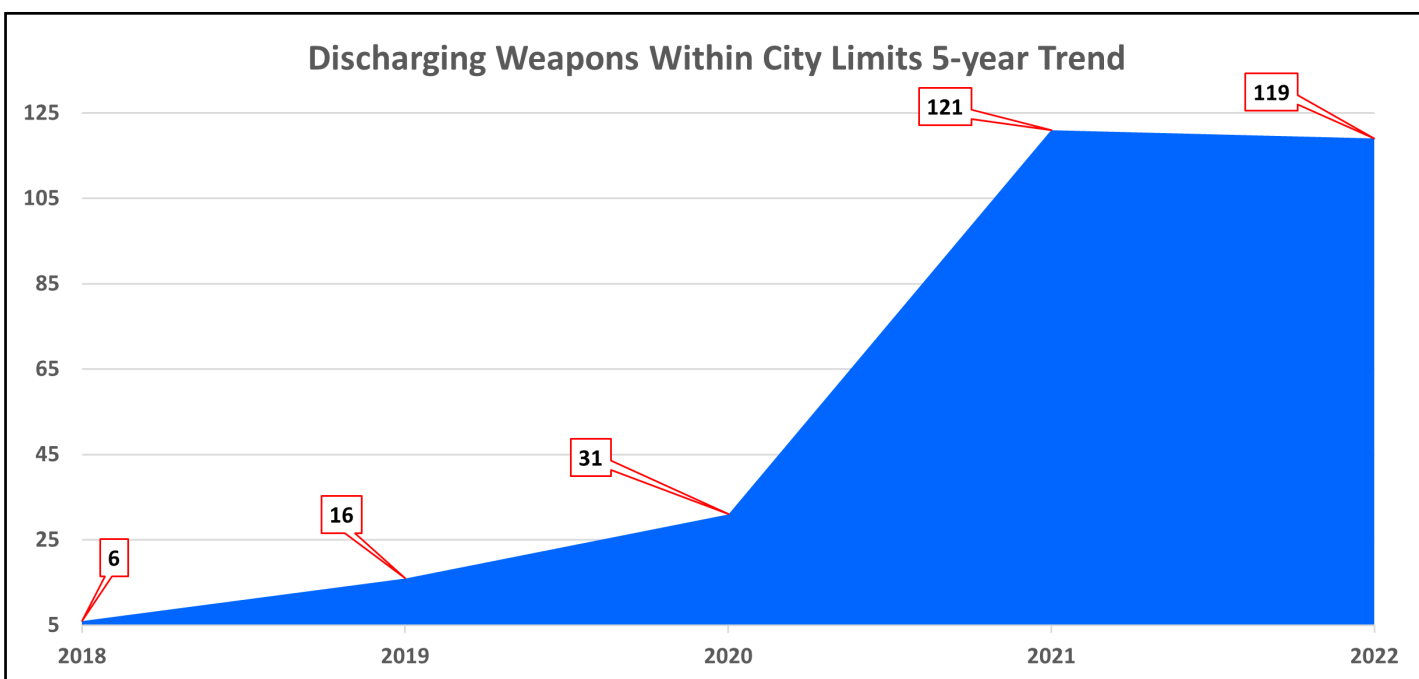
Billings Police investigated the following weapons crimes in 2022:

- Weapons in Schools, 3
- Reckless or Malicious Use of Explosives, 2
- Possession of Explosives, 1
- Carrying a Concealed Weapon While Intoxicated, 1
- Carrying a Concealed Weapon While Prohibited, 1

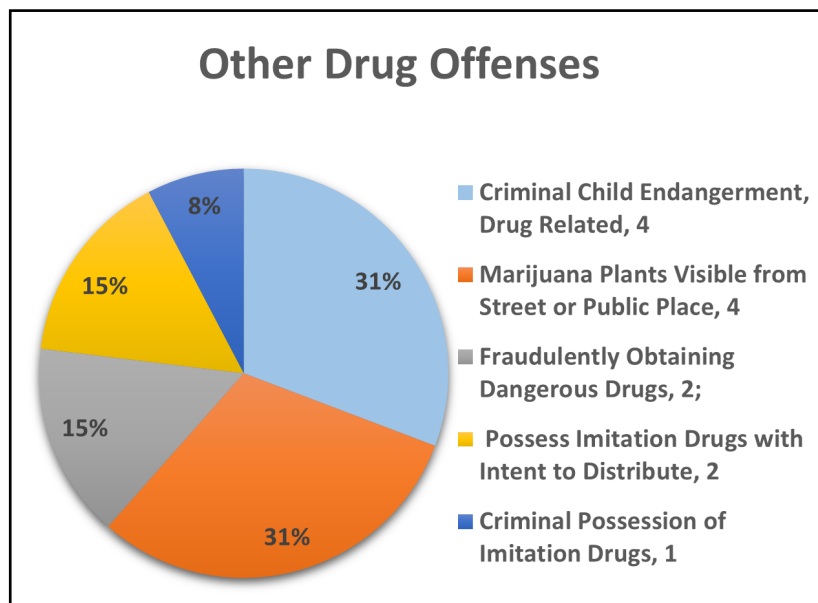
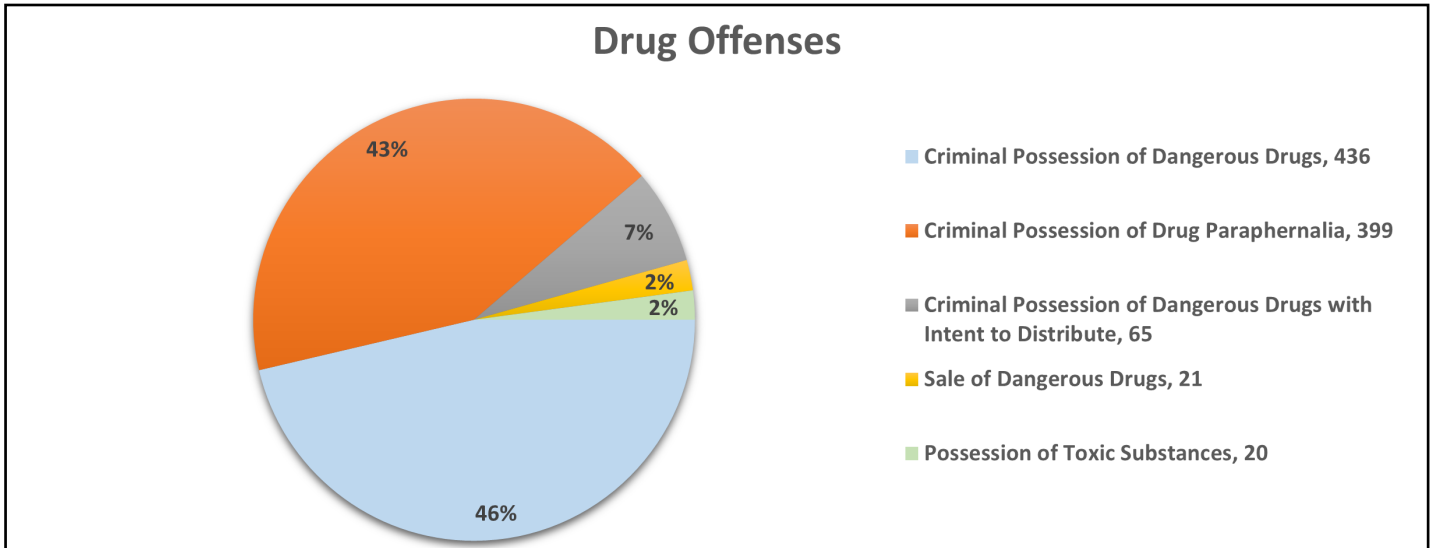
Discharging weapons within City limits offenses remained stable in 2022 after a spike in 2021. City ordinance prohibits possession and discharge of air guns, BB guns, and similar types of weapons outside of a person's own domicile.

Changes in state law have reduced concealed weapon violations, however unpermitted concealed carry is still a crime in any building owned or leased by local government.

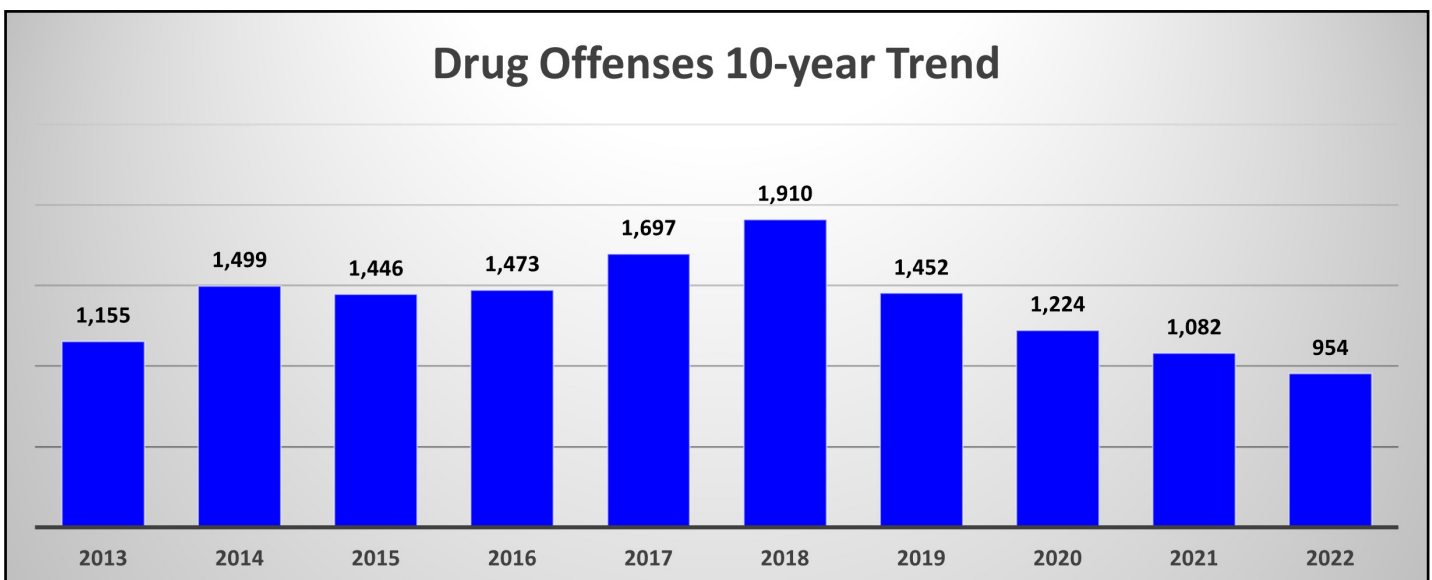
Discharging Weapons Within City Limits 5-year Trend



Drug Offenses

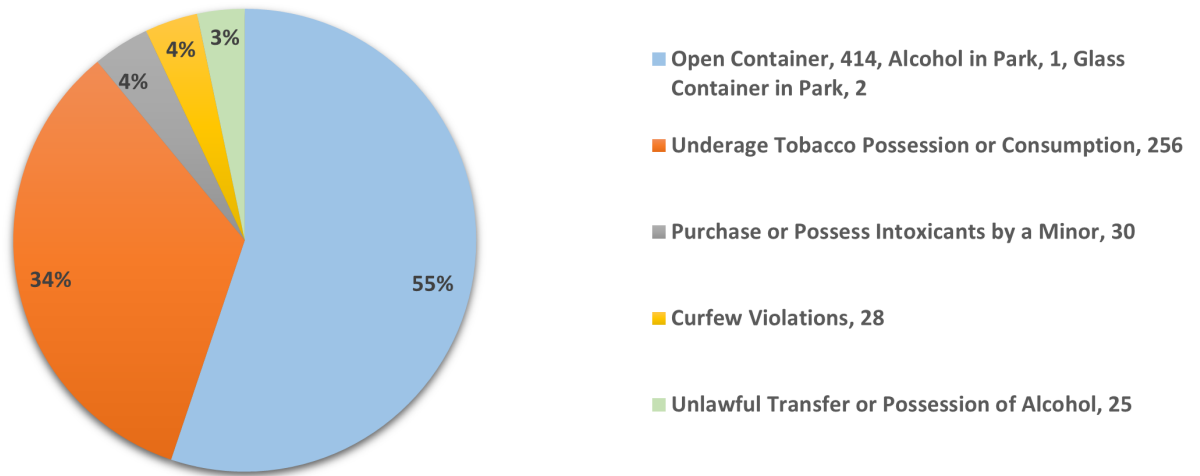


Drug pipes located during a search warrant.

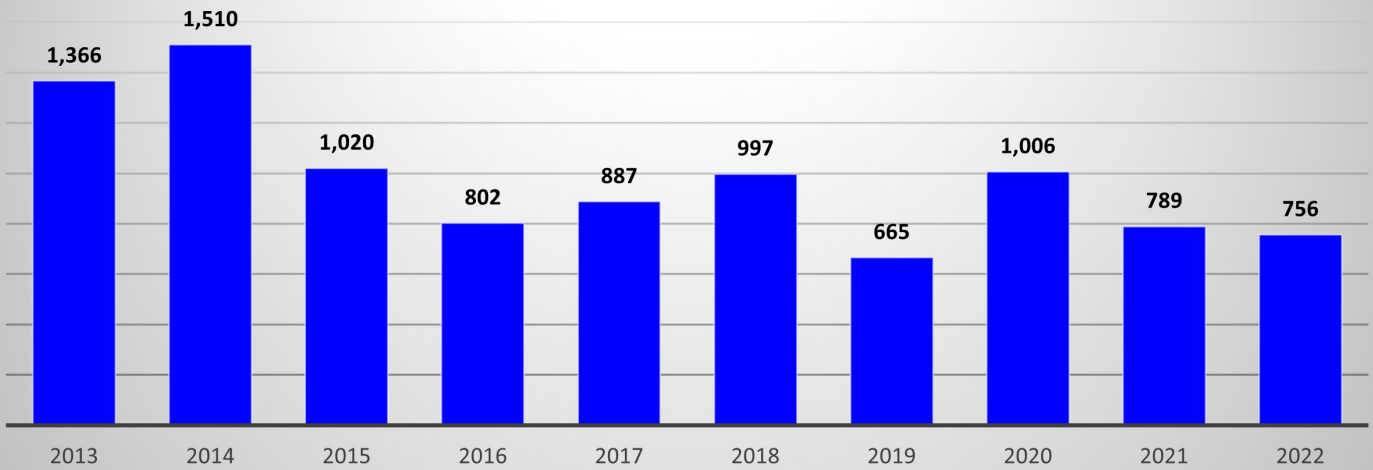


Liquor Law Violations

Liquor Law and Underage Tobacco Violations



Liquor and Tobacco Violations 10-year Trend



Did you know?

It is illegal in Montana for people younger than 18 to purchase, possess or consume tobacco products, alternative nicotine products and vapor products. Youths in Billings were charged 228 times during 2022 for possession vapor products.

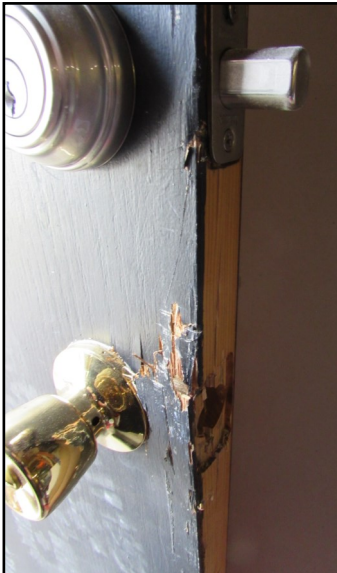
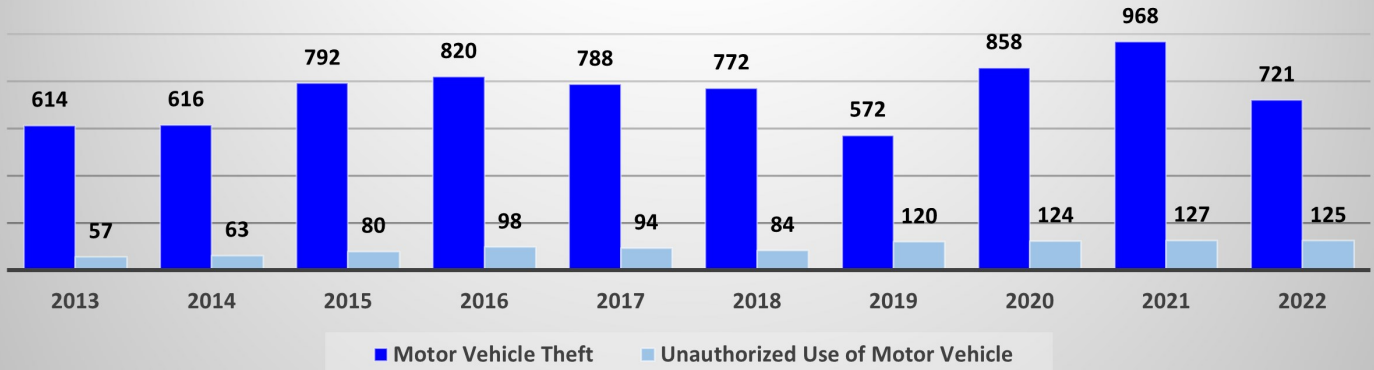
Billings Police Department participates in a Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team which conducted 255 inspections during 2022. Retailers were overwhelmingly in compliance at 231 of the 255, resulting in a violation rate of 9.4%.

At right are photos of vapor products seized from students in Billings Schools. The youths were cited and the items were seized and destroyed.



Property Crime Statistics

Motor Vehicle Theft and Unauthorized Use of Vehicles 10-year Trend

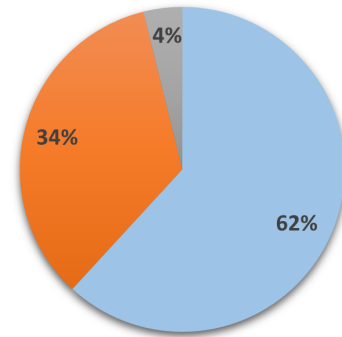


Out of 337 residential burglaries in 2022, about 62 percent of victims reported no forced entry into their homes.

Of the 127 victims who reported forced entry, the most frequent locations were:

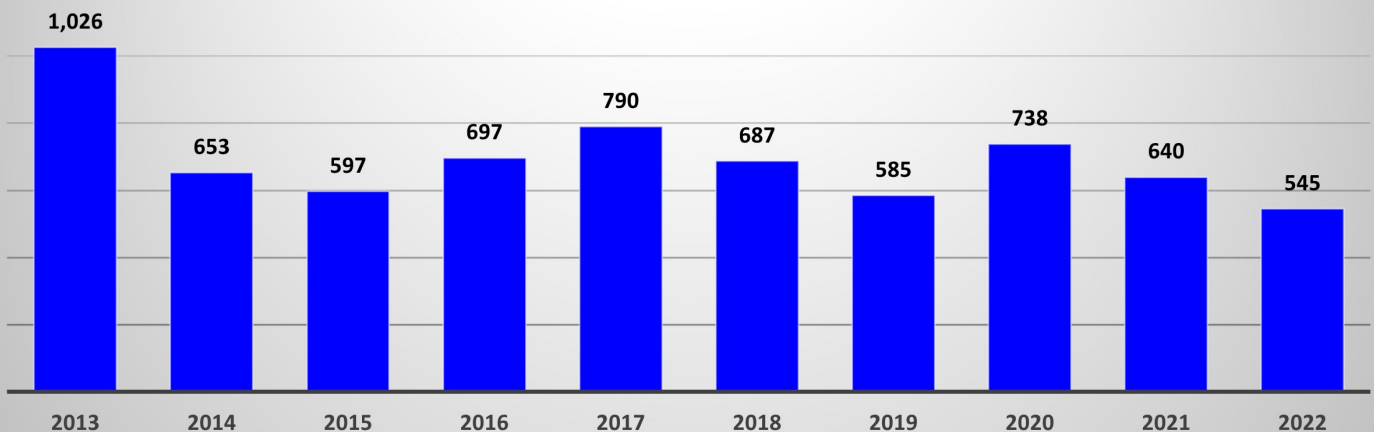
- Doors, 69
- Windows, 31
- Garage doors, 21

Burglary Offenses



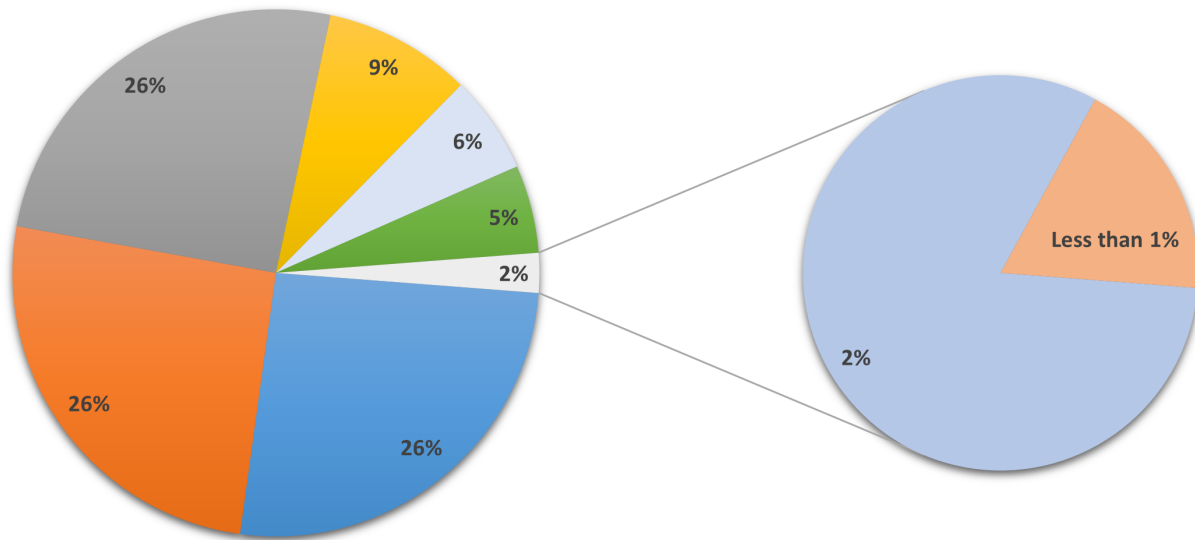
Residential, 337 Non-residence, 187 Aggravated, 21

Burglaries 10-year Trend



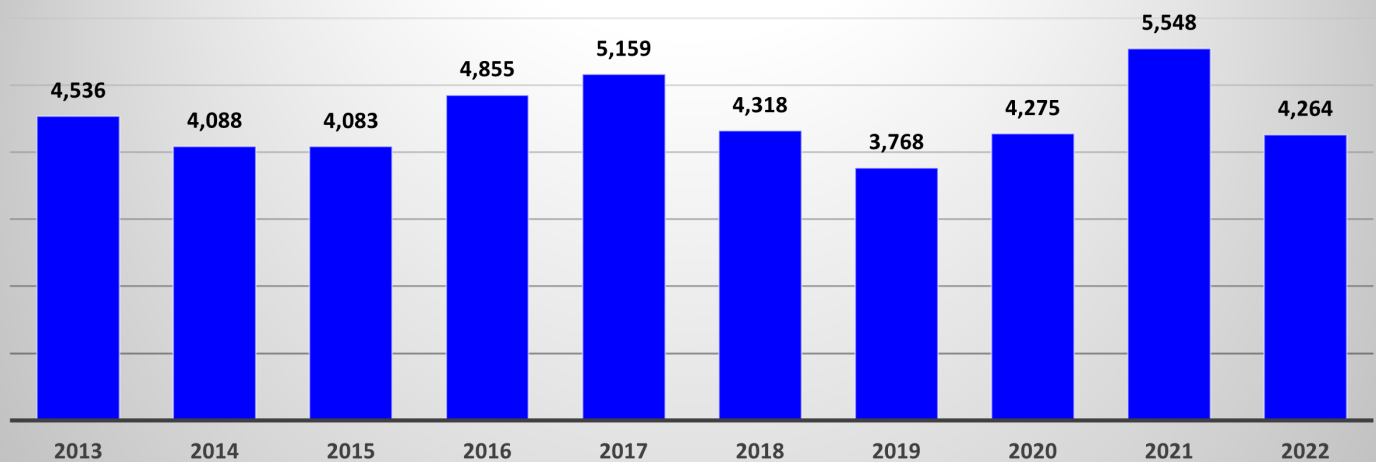
Property Crime Statistics

Theft Offenses

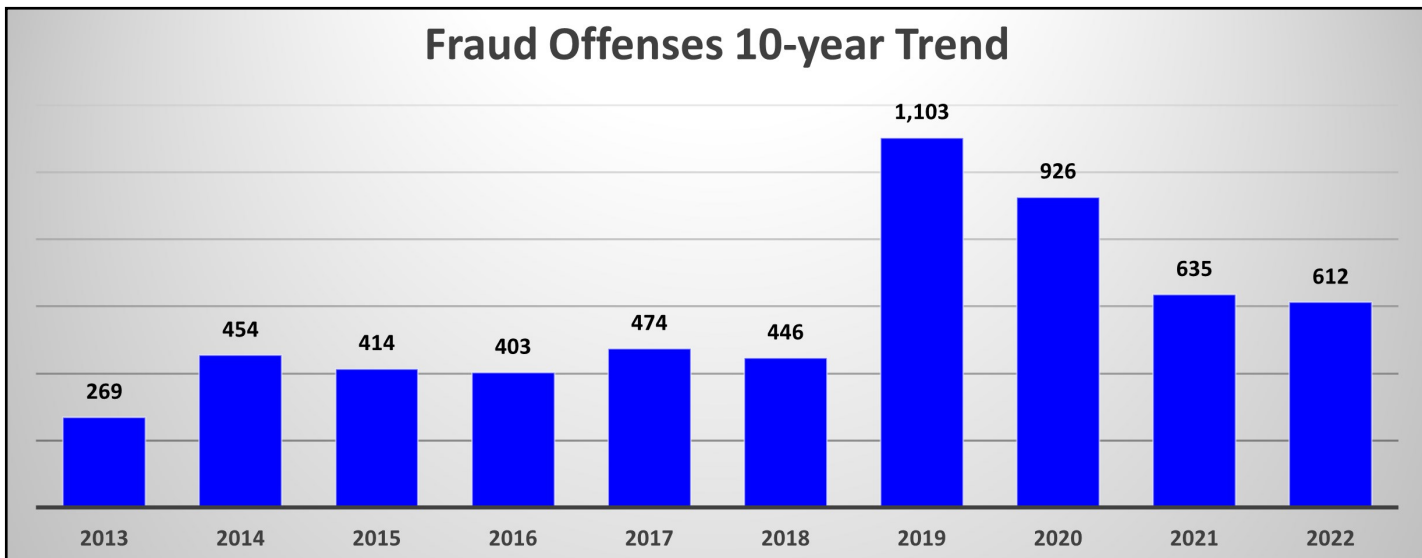
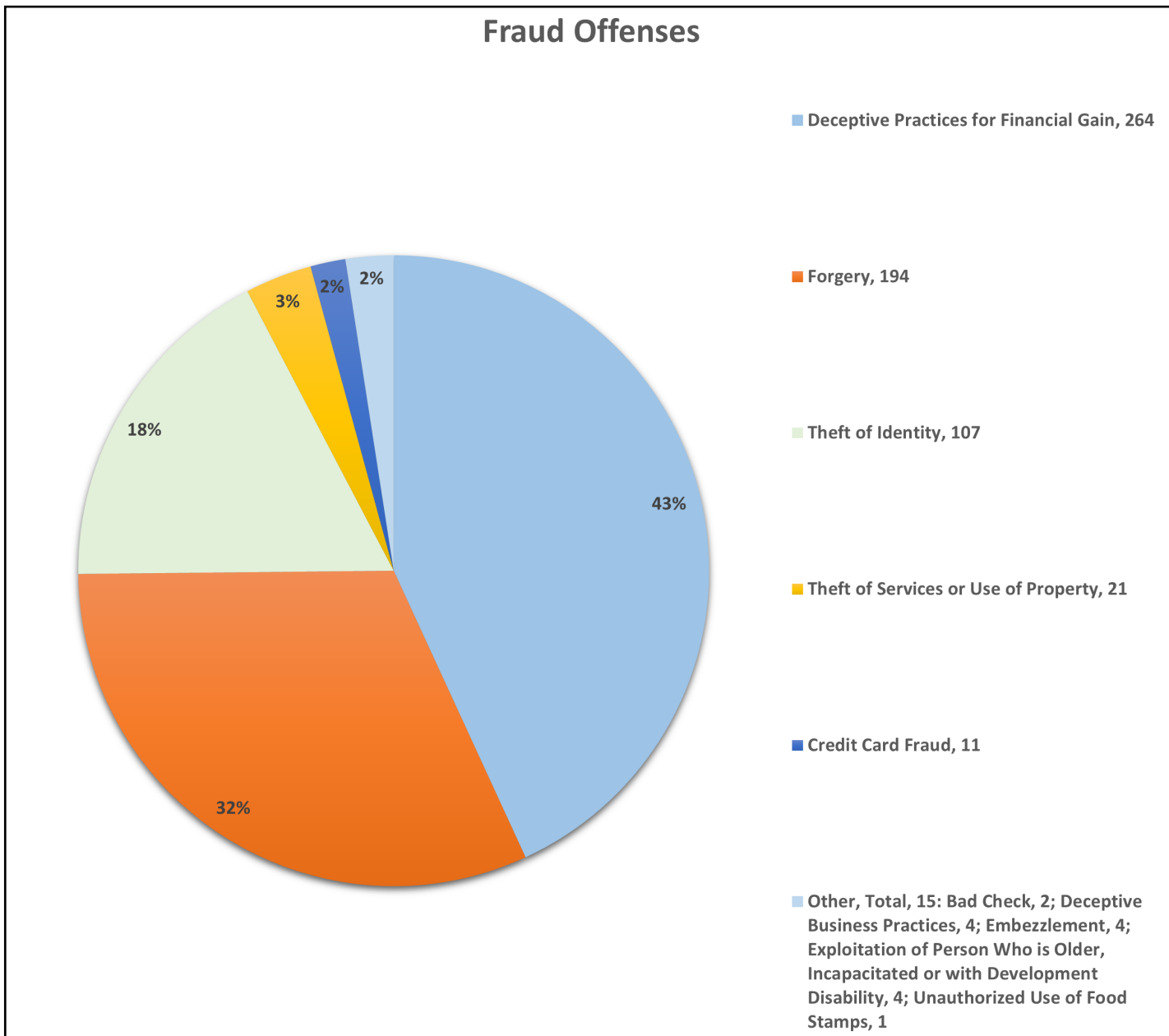


- Theft, All Other, 1,107
- Theft of Belongings from Motor Vehicle, 1,094
- Shoplifting, 1,087
- Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories, 386
- Theft from a Building, 256
- Illegal Handling of Stolen Property, 230
- Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property, 85
- Other, Total, 19: Pickpocket, 1 ; Purse Snatch, 6; Theft from a Coin-operated Machine, 12

Theft Offenses 10-year Trend

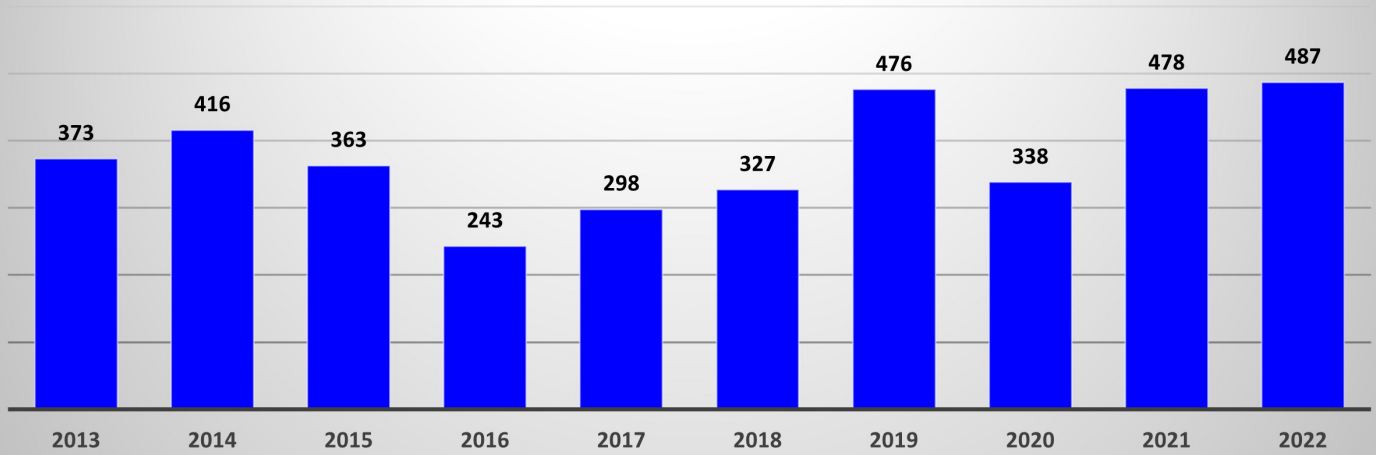


Fraud Offenses

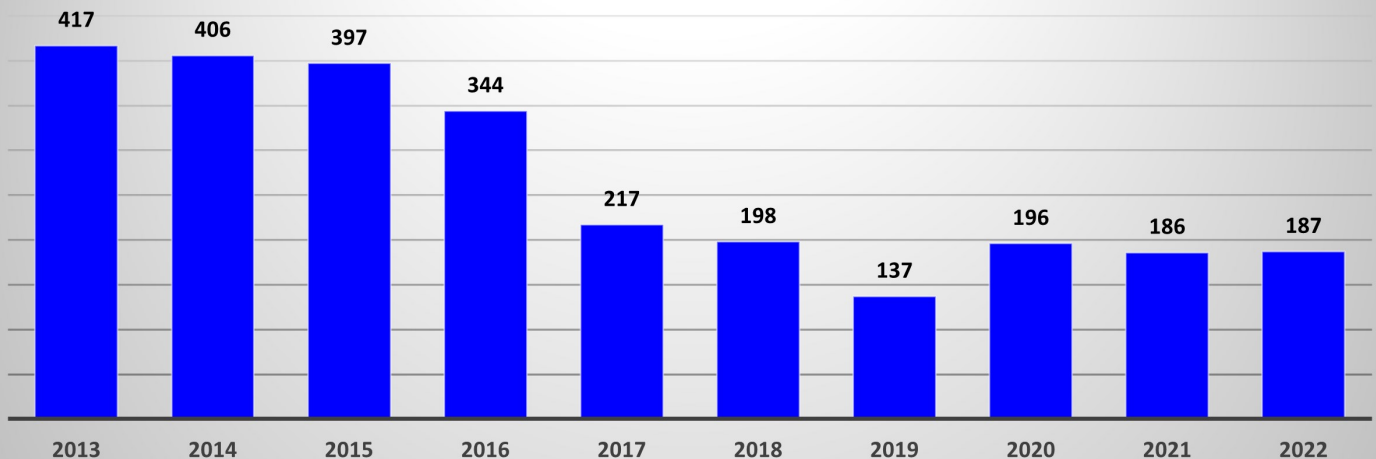


Crimes Against Public Order

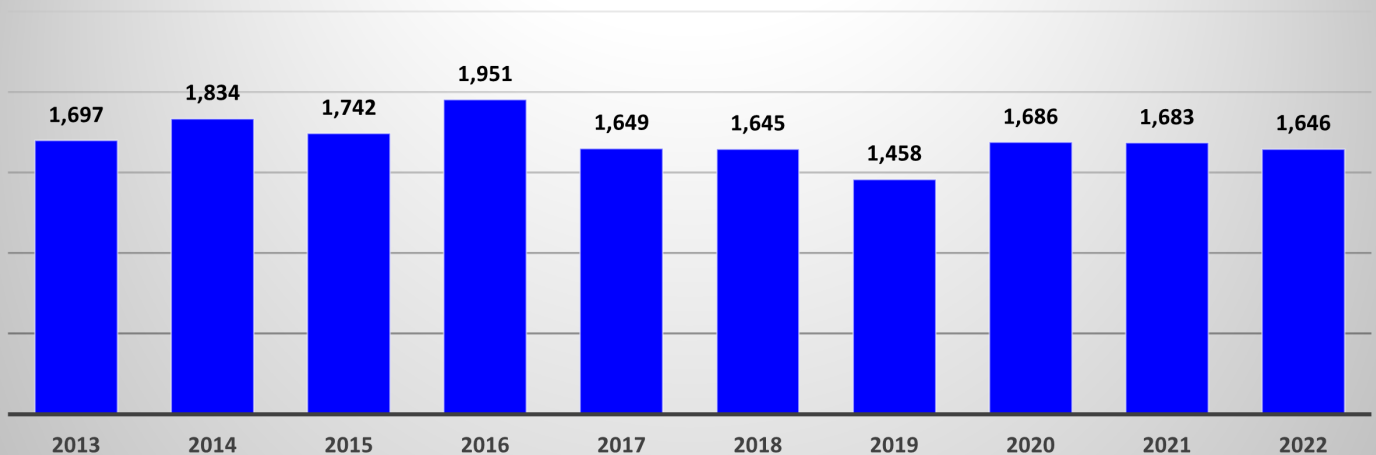
Trespass Offenses 10-year Trend



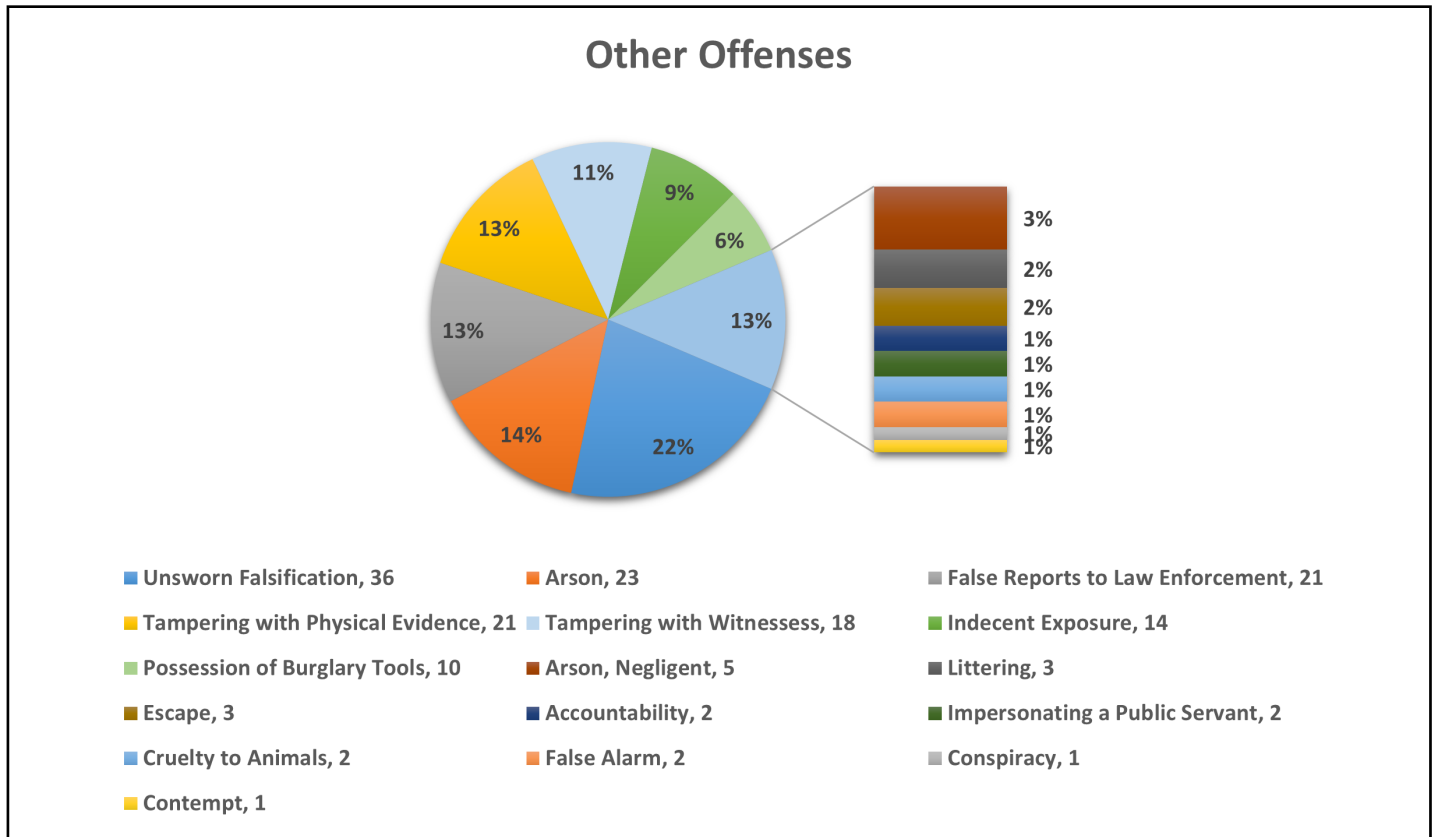
Disorderly Conduct Offenses 10-year Trend



Criminal Mischief Offenses 10-year Trend



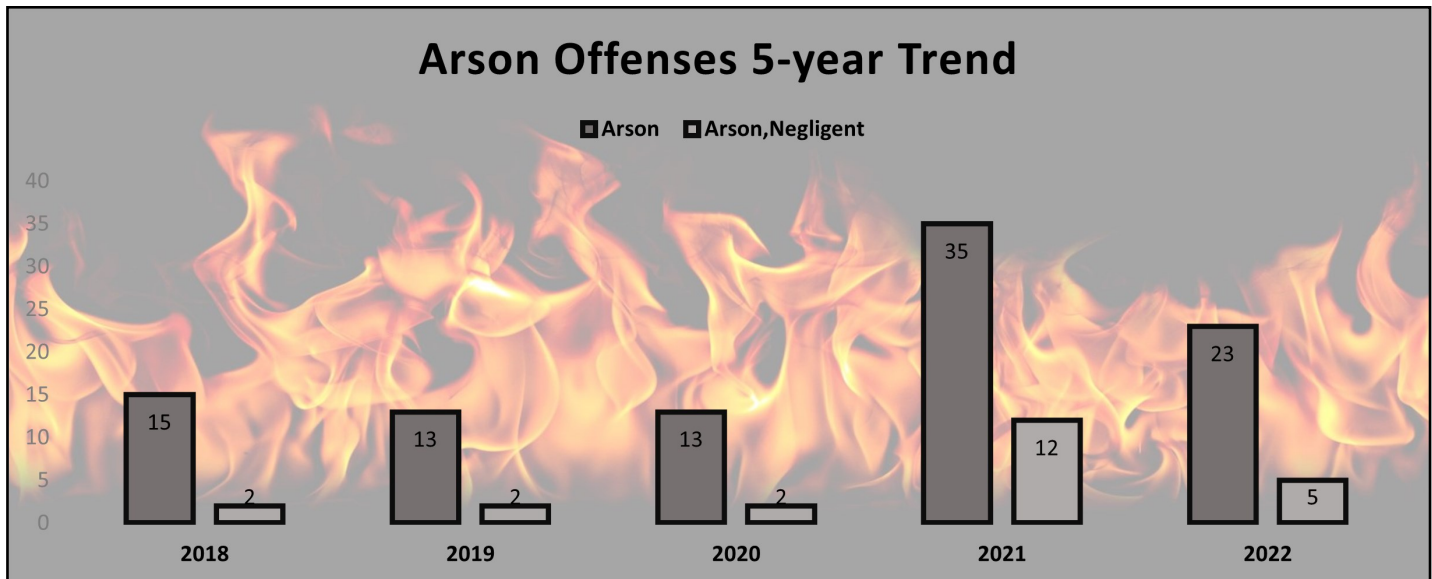
Other Offense Statistics



Did you know?

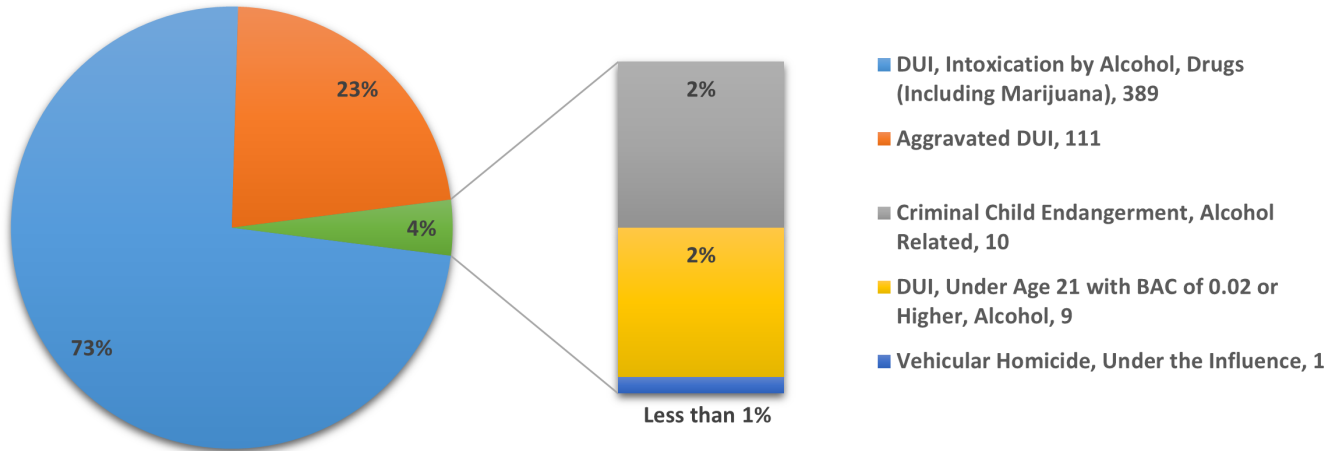
Billings Police Department has fire investigators. There are two detectives who have been trained at the National Fire Academy. This intensive training prepared them to work in conjunction with Billings Fire Department. BPD fire investigations are initiated when there are signs that fires that may have been intentionally set. After determining cause and origin, BPD fire investigators may pursue criminal charges.

Arson cases were down from 2021 to 2022. The 2021 spike was due to a rash of fires attributed to a few people. The continued higher trend in 2022 is due to an overall uptick in incendiary fires, according to BPD fire investigator Det. Dennler.

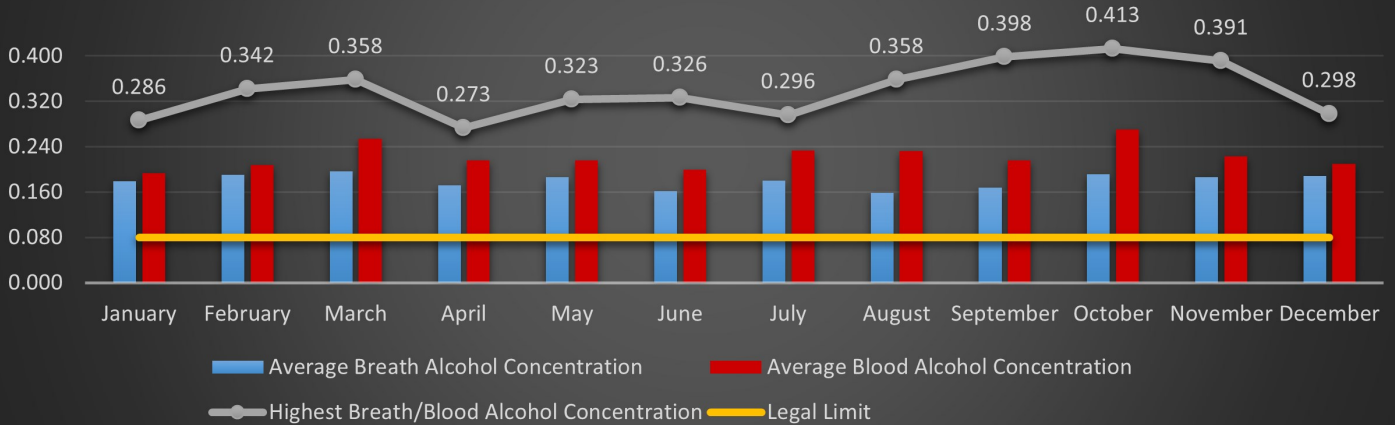


Driving Under the Influence

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs

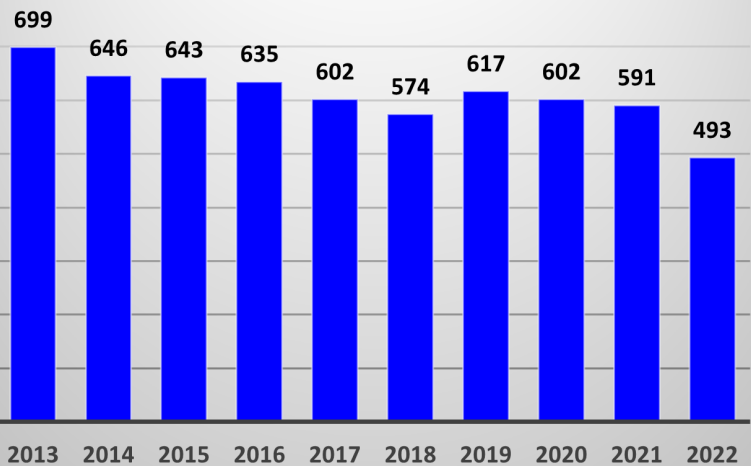


Average and Highest Breath and Blood Concentration Readings by Month



Capt. Mayo (left) presented Sgt. Schnelbach with the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Award of Merit at the 2022 Angel Tree Ceremony.

DUI Offenses 10-year Trend



Traffic Statistics

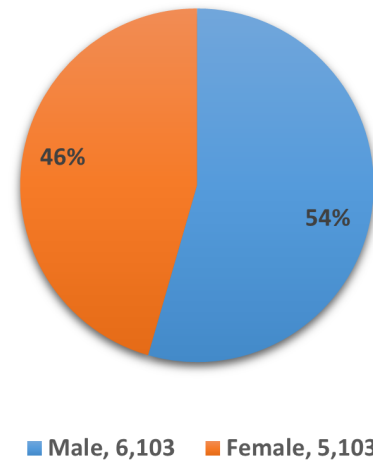
Officers wrote 16,553 citations and warnings to 11,206 individuals. Drivers may receive multiple citations plus a warning on a single traffic stop, due to court requirements.

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

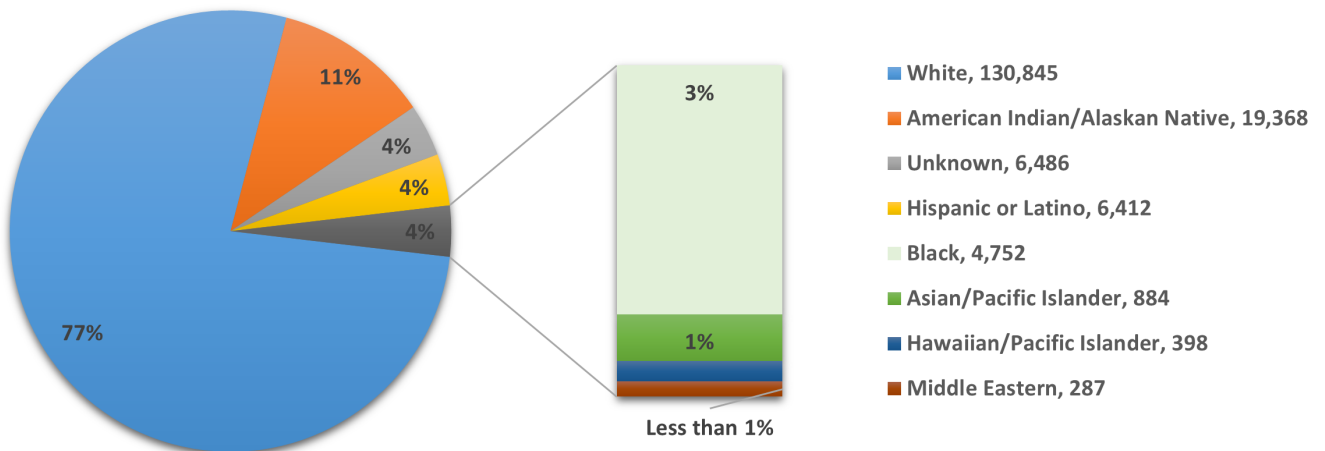
Billings Police Department continues to add citation writing software to patrol cars to reduce citizen and officer time on traffic stops.



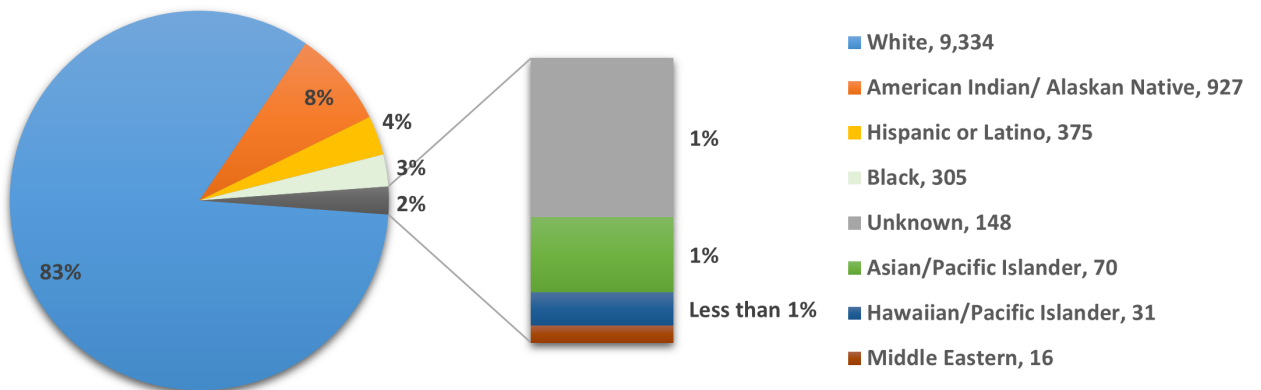
Individuals Cited by Gender



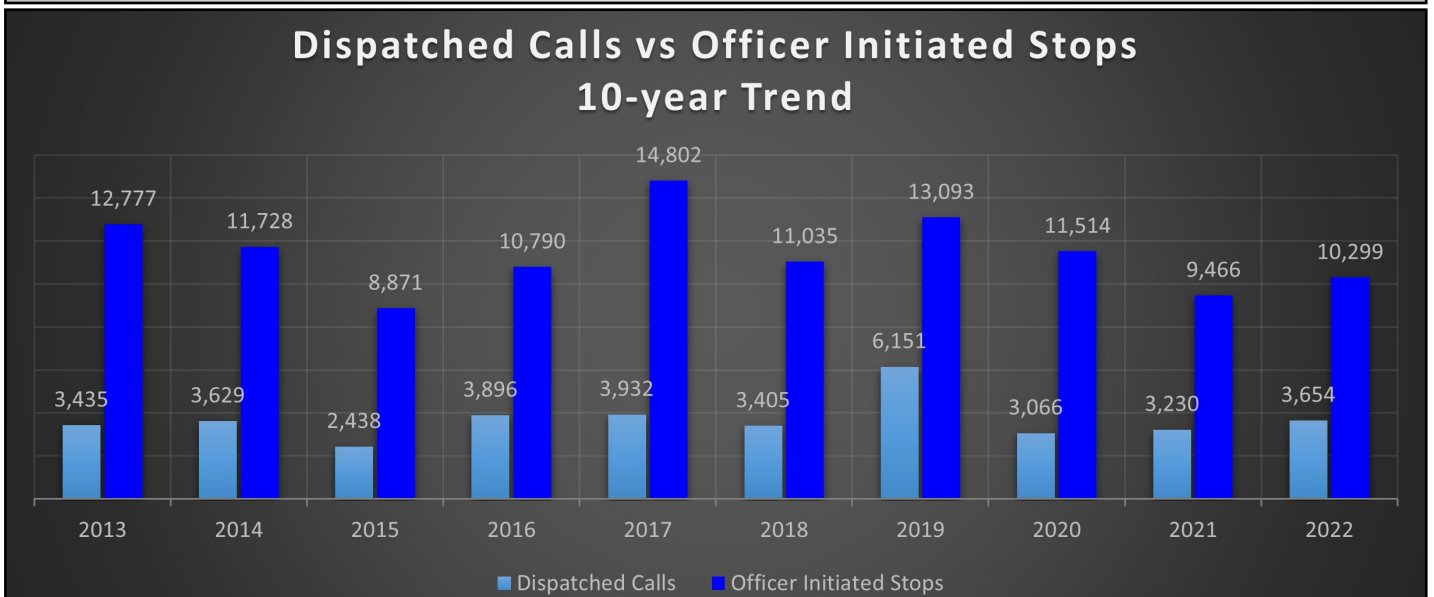
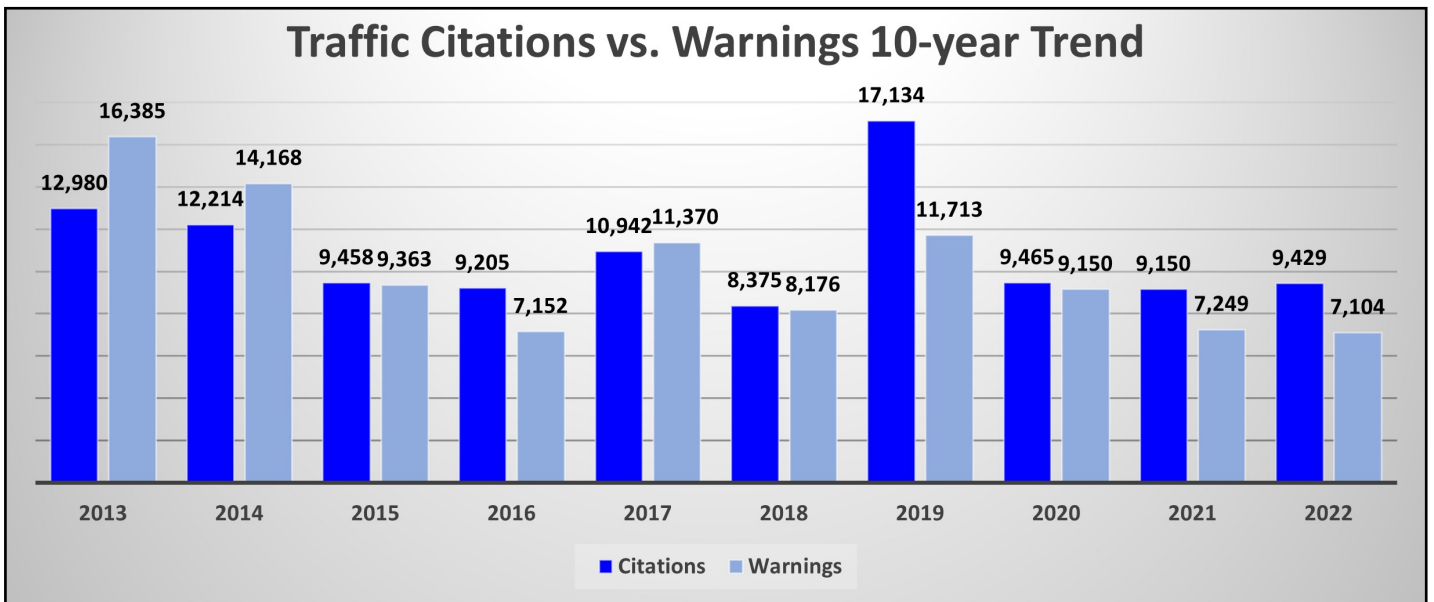
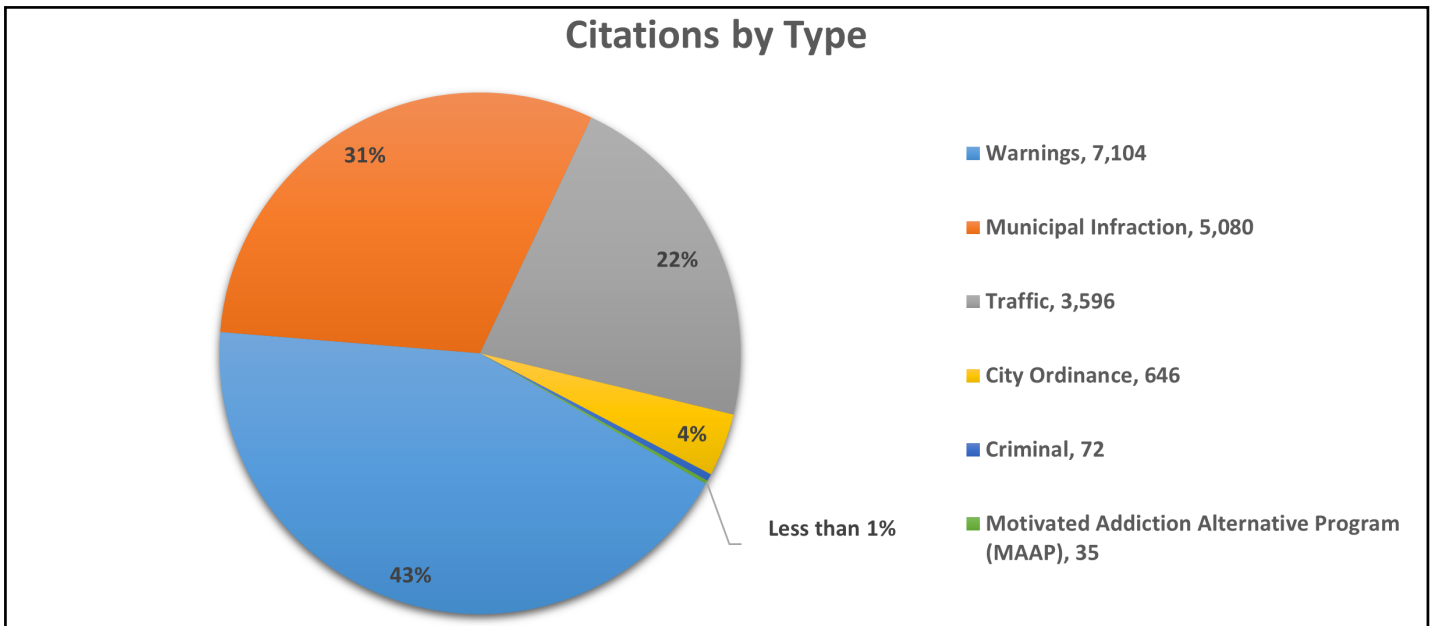
10-year Percentage of Citations Issued by Race



2022 Percentage of Citations Issued by Race



Traffic Statistics



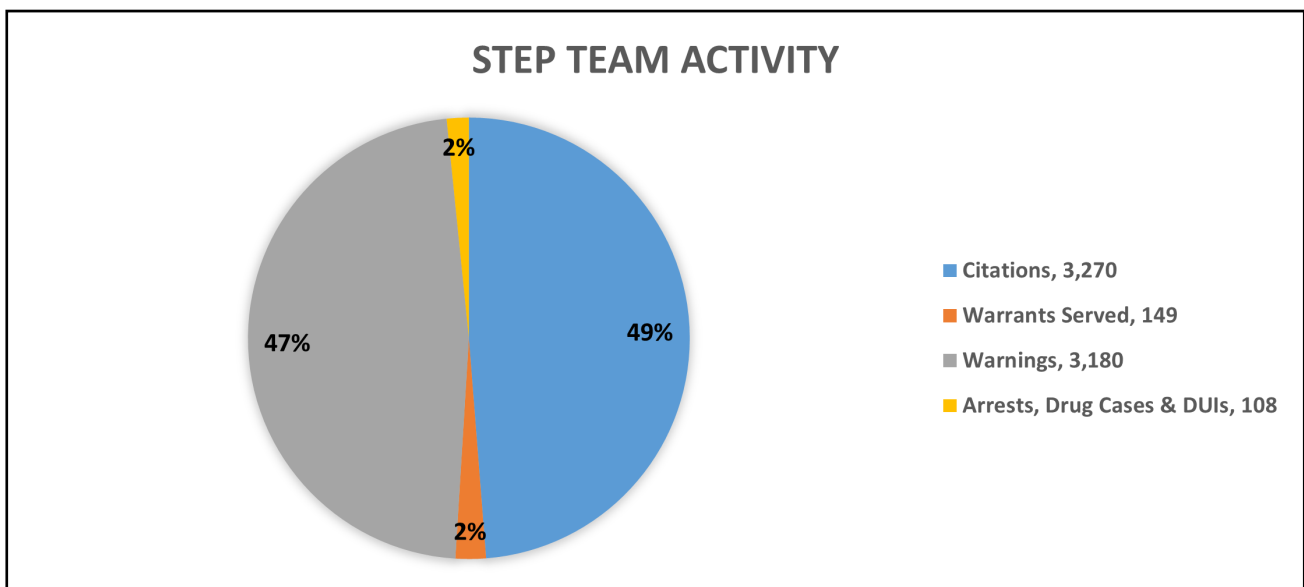
Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

Officers assigned to the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, known as STEP, wrote 3,270 citations and 3,180 warnings during 2022. There are up to 5 officers on the team as well as one sergeant.

The 6,450 citations and warning they wrote during 2022 made up nearly 40% of BPD's traffic activity.

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 they are known traffic problems such as cell phone use in school zones. When needed, STEP officers work regular patrol and provide backup to other officers for increased safety.

Officers must have three years experience at BPD before they can apply for a STEP position. Applicants go through an interview process to be chosen for the team. STEP officer is a 3-year assignment.



Did you know?

Billings Police Department has three radar speed trailers that can be deployed throughout the community. To request a speed trailer, call the Crime Prevention Center at 247-8590.

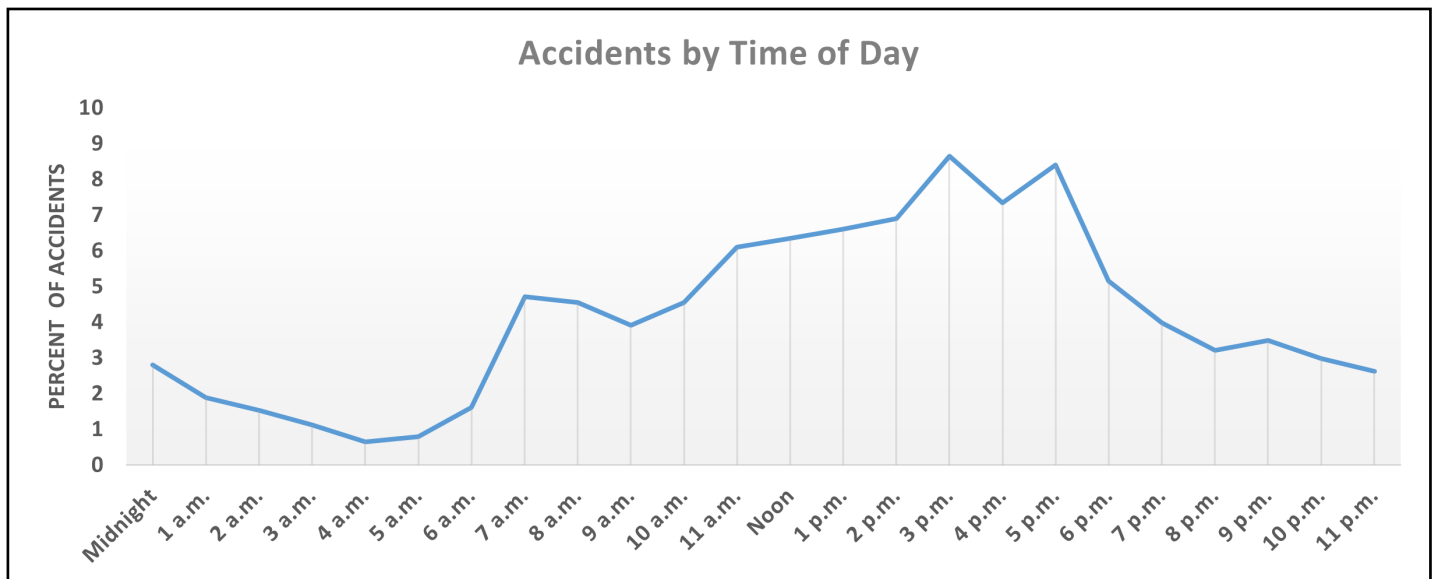
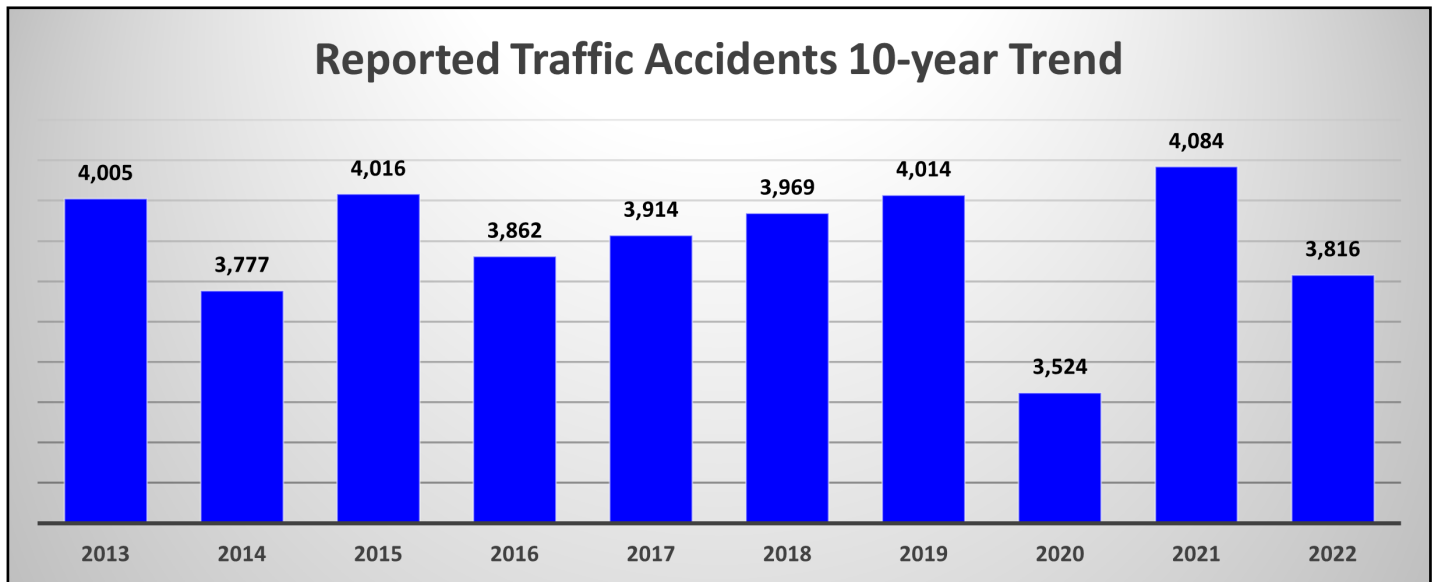
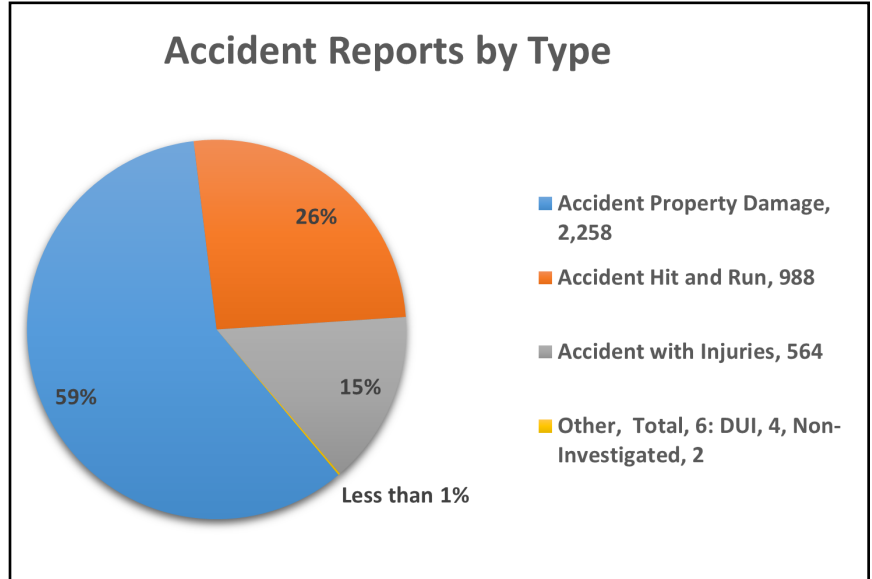
The STEP team can be assigned to areas where citizens report traffic complaints. To suggest an area that needs additional traffic patrol, visit the STEP page at www.billingspolice.com and email the team.



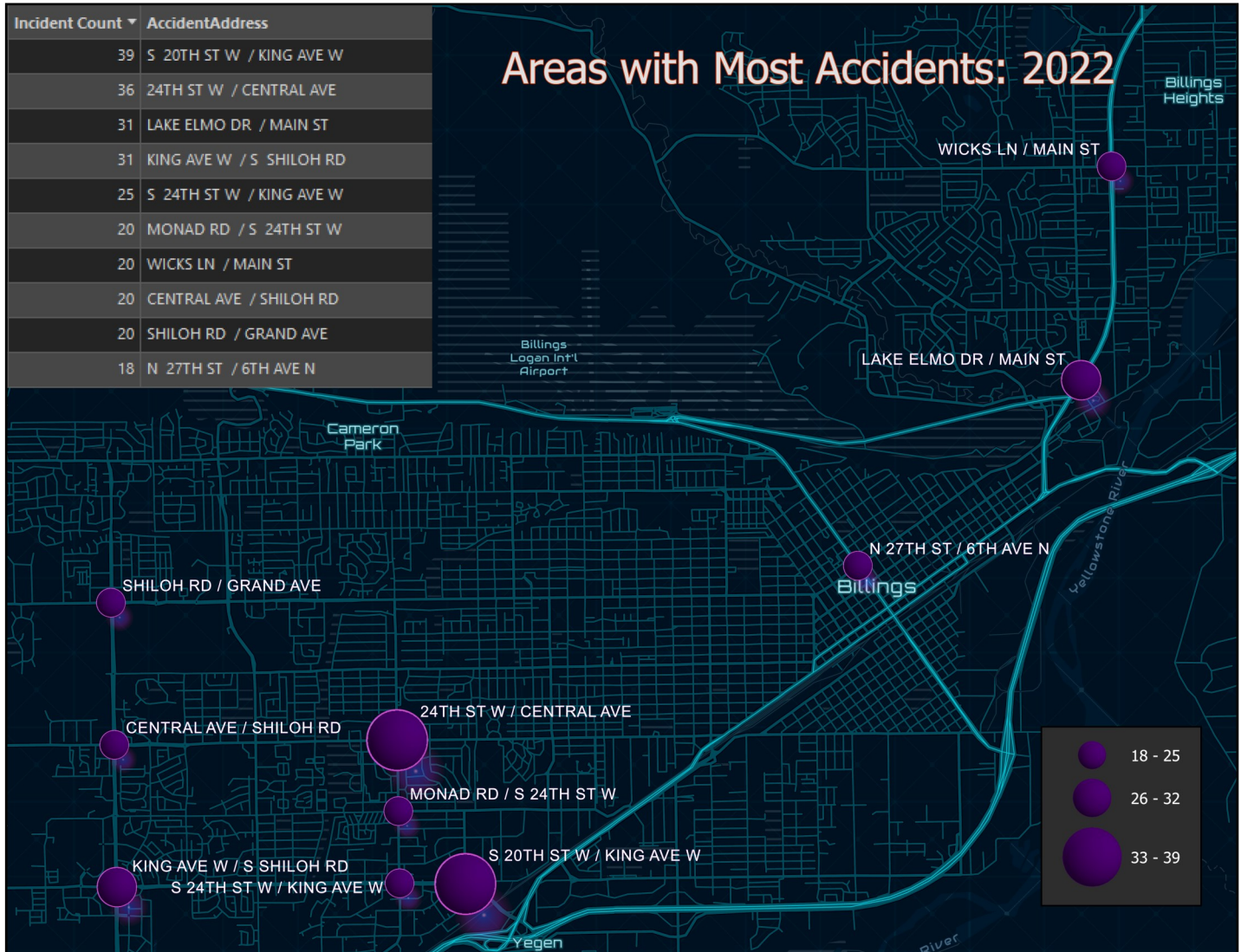
Accident Statistics

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 82 times during 2022.

Of the 3,816 accidents reported, officers completed reports 2,739 times.



Accident Statistics



Did you know?

Billings Police Department has a Crash Investigation Team made up of 10 officers.

They are called out on every fatality accident and most serious injury accidents. They responded to 27 crashes during 2022.

Officers must apply and interview to join the team. They go through weeks of training and work with other BPD reconstructionists before taking crash assignments.

Accident reconstruction is exacting and an officer may spend between 50 and 150 hours working on an incident.

The tasks they complete include taking laser and hand measurements at the scene, securing and searching vehicles and cell phones, and obtaining blood samples for toxicology. They use several types of analysis to configure vehicle speeds based on time and distance, vehicle weight including passengers and angles of impact. They gather as much documentation from the crash as possible, including video from nearby residences and businesses and victims' medical records.

Yellowstone County Attorney's Office reviews their work to determine if drivers should be criminally charged.

Officers in the Community



Being community oriented is a BPD value so we find many ways for officers to engage with residents. Above, Ofc. Best and Lt. Becker work with Evan during a K9 demonstration. Upper right: Ofc. Snider and Ofc. Bishop (kneeling) give out Halloween treats at the office. At right, Officer Ream didn't master whipped cream drinks at Coffee with a Cop but he had fun. Below, Officers Schara, Contreraz, Sgt. Gunther Sgt. Stovall and Officer Ihde gave out turkeys instead of tickets to 30 drivers during Thanksgiving week. The turkeys were purchased through an anonymous donation.



Arrest Statistics

<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Most Frequent Adult Arrest Charges</u>
2,821	Warrant - Municipal Court/Misdemeanor
1,050	Warrant - Contempt, Municipal/Justice
797	Criminal Contempt
591	Revocation of Suspended/Deferred Sentence
483	Shoplifting
462	Partner or Family Member Assault, Non-aggravated
442	Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol or Marijuana
412	Obstructing a Peace Officer
306	Probation Violation
296	Trespass, Criminal, to Property
295	Possession of Dangerous Drugs
264	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
228	Violation of Conditions of Release
181	Criminal Mischief
166	Illegal Handling of Stolen Property
160	Assault with a Weapon
156	Assault, Minor Injuries
138	Violation of No Contact Order
133	Resisting Arrest
129	Theft All Other
119	Disorderly Conduct

<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Most Frequent Juvenile Arrest Charges</u>
228	Minor in Possession of Vapor Products
74	Shoplifting
63	Assault, Minor Injury
54	Partner or Family Member Assault, 1st Offense
50	Marijuana Possession
50	Tobacco Possession or Consumption
39	Assault with a Weapon
38	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
35	Criminal Mischief - Felony
29	Disorderly Conduct - Fight
29	Contempt of Court, Felony
29	Obstructing a Peace Officer
20	Possession of Intoxicants, Under Age 18
19	Robbery
19	Warrant - Municipal/Misdemeanor
18	Criminal Endangerment - Felony
13	Disorderly Conduct - Threats/Profanity
10	Resisting Arrest
9	Criminal Mischief - Misdemeanor

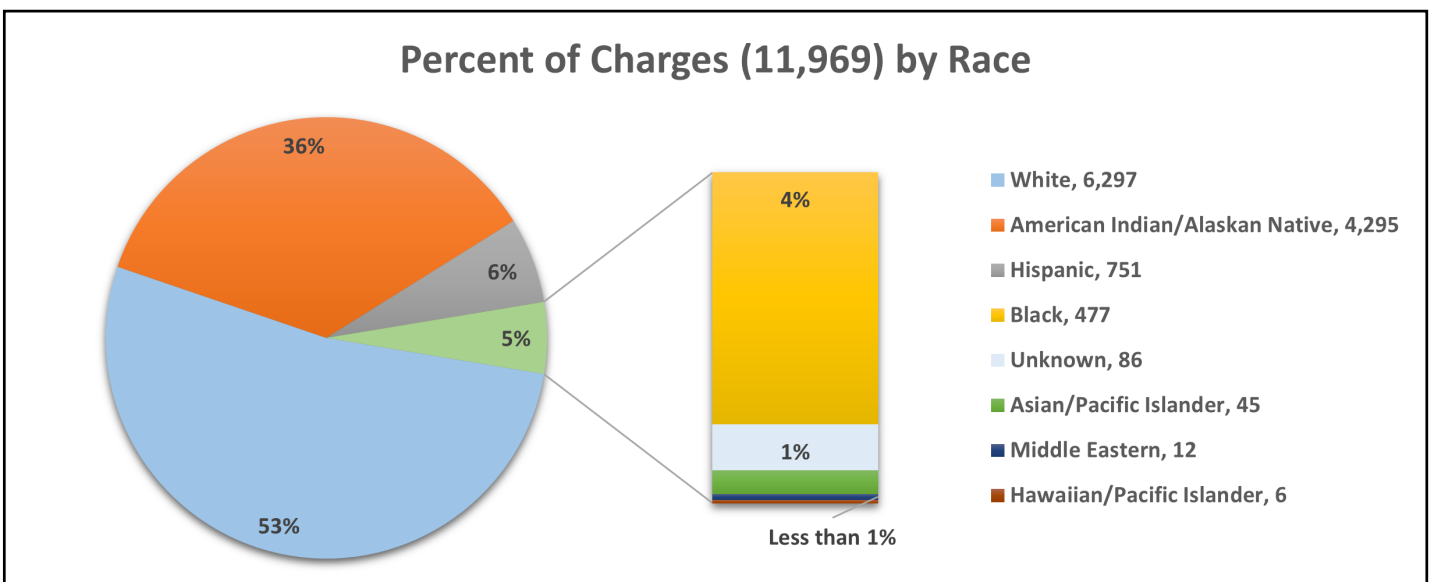
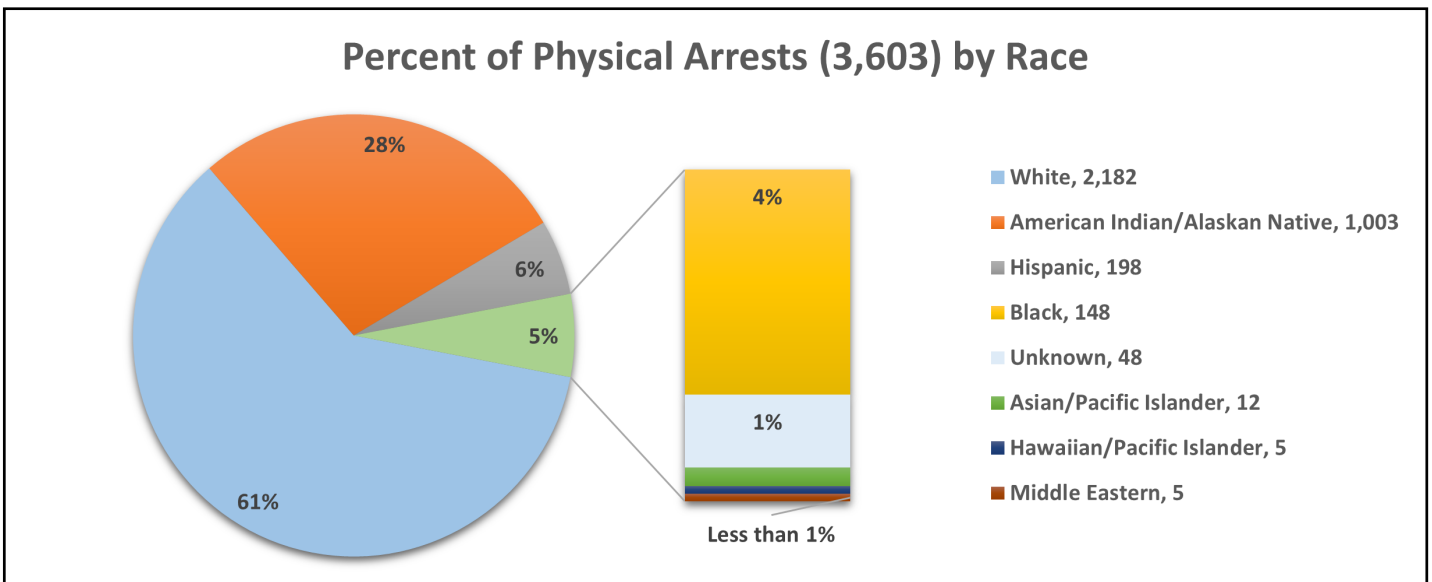
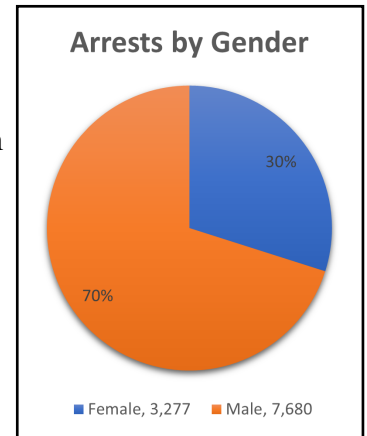
Arrest Statistics

Officers made 3,603 physical arrests that resulted in 11,969 separate charges. One physical arrest can result in multiple charges. This illustrates why there are more charges than physical arrests. The physical arrests involved 3,001 adults and 602 juveniles.

Arrests do not always result in a person going to jail. On some crimes, the person may be given a notice to appear in Court. They also maybe taken to jail, have pictures and fingerprints taken, and then be released with a Court date.

Also, officers may not always arrest on warrants. When this occurs, the person is notified of the warrant and told to take care of it with the court. Billings Police Department tracks this activity. During 2022 officers used the notification 1,826 times. In late September officers started tracking when someone is taken to jail but upon arrival could not be remanded into custody. This occurred 139 times.

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



Investigations Division

The Investigations Division staff is a mix of 16 detectives and 10 patrol officers, many of whom are assigned to special details.

The Division command staff is made up of a Captain, Lieutenant and two sergeants. There are two additional sergeants who supervise the City-County Special Investigations Unit and the Street Crimes Unit.

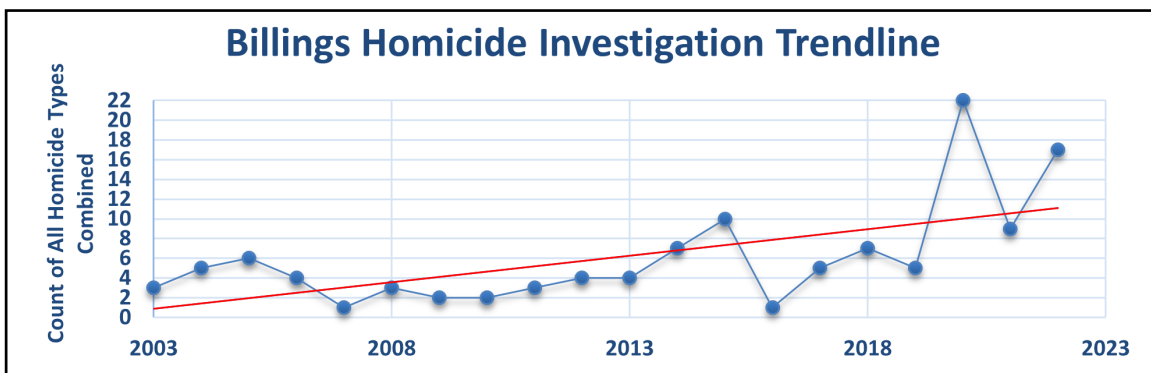
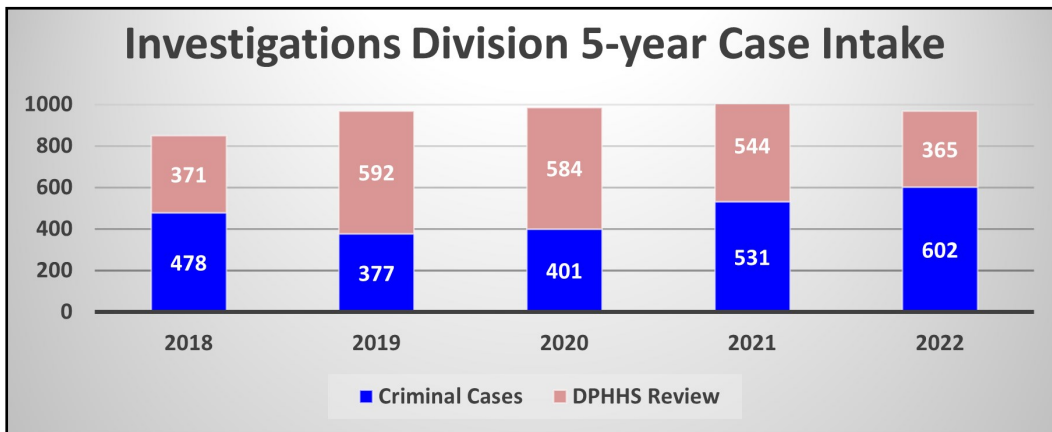
The civilian staff includes two clerical employees and an analyst position which was added in 2022 with Public Safety Mill Levy funding. The Evidence and Identifications section is also part of Investigations.

“Our detectives carry a considerable workload. The community knows we investigate homicides, but our detectives investigate all types of crimes—sex offenses to financial crimes to missing persons to assaults. And we work as a team helping each other processing cases and crime scenes that are often very complex and time consuming.”

*Brian Korell,
Investigations Captain*

There are 12 detectives assigned specifically to Investigations. They shared a case load of 602 investigations during 2022 and were called out during off-duty hours 55 times. These responses include homicides, shootings and stabbings, officer-involved incidents, sexual assaults, crimes against children and suspicious deaths.

- The Investigations Division received 602 cases during 2022.
- Detectives cleared 441 cases, with 164 of those referred for prosecution.
- Detectives achieved a 73 percent case clearance rate and a 37% arrest rate.
- Cleared 272 cases without arrests. These include missing persons investigations and cases referred to other agencies.
- Received and reviewed 365 Department of Health and Human Services reports. The reports that are criminal in nature, including sexual and other abuse of children, are assigned for investigation and, if appropriate, prosecuted.
- Conducted 68 forensic interviews. These interviews are conducted by detectives who are certified in forensic interview. They specialize in talking with children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse.
- Downloaded 178 cell phone. The Division uses two types of software to download phone data. It is common practice to use this investigative tool and almost every major investigation requires cell phone data download and analysis.



Investigations Division

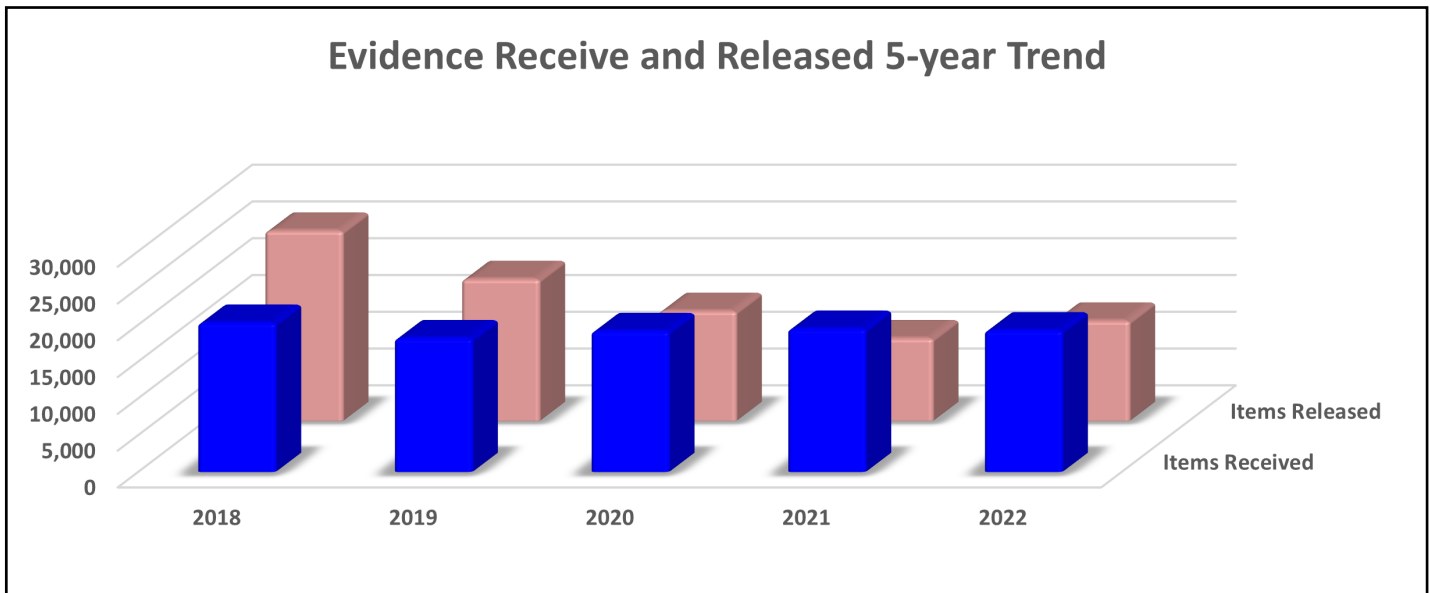
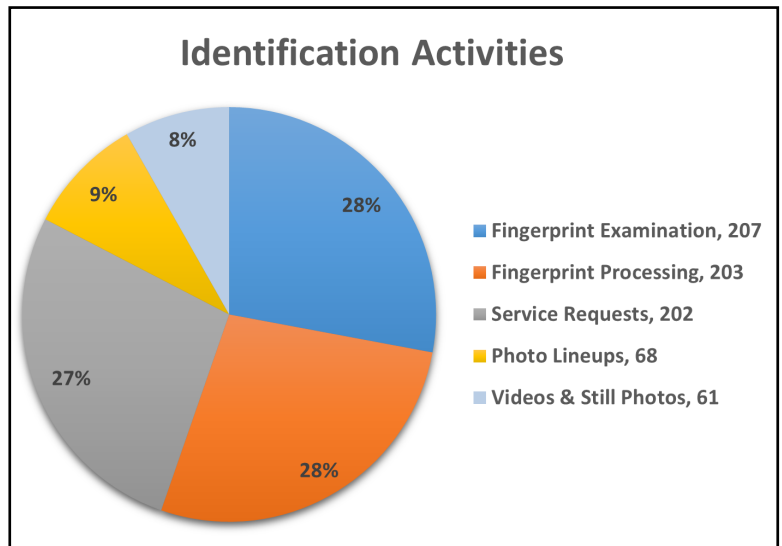
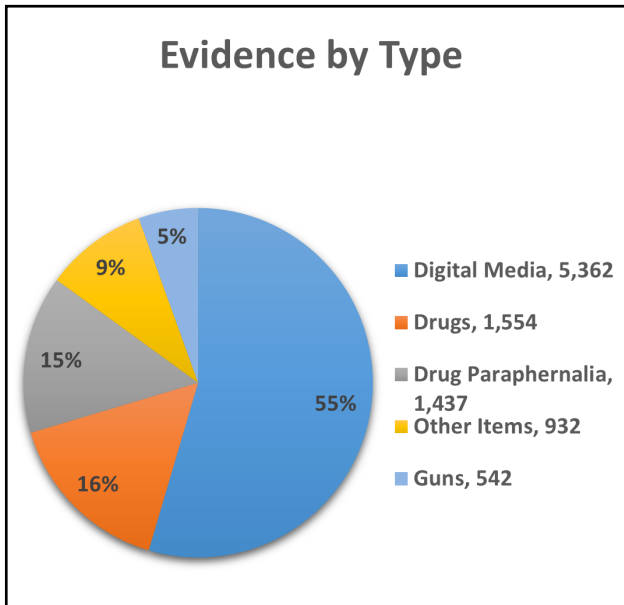
Evidence and identification are a section of the Investigations Division. Staffed by a sworn Lieutenant and 7 civilians, this section processes all evidence gathered by Billings Police Department.



Among the identification skills are video, still photo 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 and the public defenders' office when they require information.

The staff launched a large-scale software project in 2022 which updates the way the Billings Police Department is able to upload, store and distribute digital evidence including officers' car and body camera footage.



Specialized Units



Did you know?

According to the DEA, 2 milligrams of Fentanyl can be a lethal dose, depending on a person's body size.

CCSIU seized 648,637 milligrams of Fentanyl during 2022.

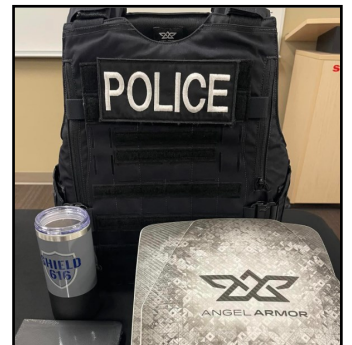
That amounts to potentially 324,318 lethal doses.

City-County Specialized 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. 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		Drug Trafficking Organizations	
Methamphetamine	48.84 pounds	Local Targeted	3
Heroin	.85 pounds	Local Disrupted/ Dismantled	1
Cocaine	1.44 pounds	Multi-state Targeted	8
Marijuana	19.87 pounds	Multi-state Disrupted/ Dismantled	10
Fentanyl Pills	48,870 pills		
Fentanyl Powder	1.43 pounds		
Hallucinogens	1,021 doses		
Pharmaceuticals	290 doses		
Assets seized	\$103,016		
Firearms	129		
Drug Loads Intercepted	118		
		Arrests	
		Felony arrests	101
		Federal Indictments	41

Scheels and Shield616 donated 10 new vests to Billings Police. Among the officers at the donation were, from left: Sgt. Kaiser, and officers Malcom, Nichols, Nyquist, Z. Wallis, Richardson and Ross.



Specialized Units

K9 Program

The Billings Police K9 team deployed their dogs 795 times during 2022. The dogs regularly sniff vehicles suspected of transporting drugs. Handlers also worked with various shipping organizations where the dogs sniffed parcels for contraband 185 times. The 2022 team, led by Lt. Becker, included: Officer Best with Evan, Officer Anderson with Sam and Officer Schultz with Chevy. After changes in Montana law that legalized marijuana, which they were trained to detect, Officer Ihde and Mira and Officer Contreras and Tabasco left the team as of March 1, 2022. Mira continues to work in private service. Tabasco passed away after a sudden medical incident later in the year.

Grams of Drugs Seized		Other Activities	
Heroin	68.8	Arrests	280
Cocaine	549.6	Cash Seized	\$69,387
Methamphetamine	21,670	Stolen Firearms Recovered	28
Illegal Marijuana	8,126	Search Warrants Written	13
Fenyanyl and Other Pills	6,182	Tracked Violent Suspects	10

The Billings Police canines are, from left, Chevy, Sam and Evan. They are intensely trained and, with direction from their handlers, can interact with children, track criminals and find drugs “hidden” in all kinds of places and packages.



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 they are speaking with.



Police Officers complete scenario training before starting their Billings Police careers and later as refresher courses. Here, from left, Officers Wolf, Summers and Doll, practiced entering a room where they were told there was a subject wanted by police. The blue on the “guns” they are holding indicates to others in the area that these are training weapons using simulated rounds similar to a paint ball. BPD trainers oversee the scenarios and correct officers on safety and maneuvering correctly for the best results.

Specialized Units

Bomb Squad

Billings Police Department has one of the two FBI accredited bomb squads in Montana. The squad's six bomb technicians, all of whom work as officers, 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 and ammunition as well as commercial and military explosives.

Below at left, Officer Beechie watches as a child operates the Bomb Squad's robot while being held by his dad at a community event. At right, SWAT team and bomb squad members work together getting ready to deploy the robot at a crime scene. The Bomb Squad has two response vehicles, another robot, bomb suits, X-ray equipment and a total containment vessel to safely dispose of items.



Street Crimes Units

The Billings Street Crimes Unit was established in 2018. Due to successes in disrupting crime, the unit was expanded in 2020 and again in 2022 and now includes a sergeant, one detective and four patrol officers. A second detective, who is assigned to pawn shops, works closely with the unit. The members must apply and interview for these positions. The patrol officer slots are on a two-year rotation.

Street Crimes Unit Activities

Cases Worked	398	Vehicles Recovered or Seized	78
Arrests from Case Work	113	Guns Recovered or Seized	153
Warrants Served	557	Fentanyl Powder	14.3 pounds
Citations & Warnings Issued	248	Fentanyl Pills	4,975
Search Warrants Written	138	Money Seized	\$107,773

Honor Guard

The Police Department Honor Guard provides ceremonial duties. They will conduct flag presentations at local events and accompany the caskets of retired Billings officers and line-of-duty deaths of officers through the state. The Honor Guard members are trained in protocols and exacting precision.

Did you know?

Billings Police Department has the service of a corps of Chaplains who donate their time to support officers and community members who are touched by crime and death.

The Chaplains are on call every day. All together, the put in more than 700 hours of service during 2022. That includes more than 80 hours when they were called to scenes to support officers and residents.



Specialized Units

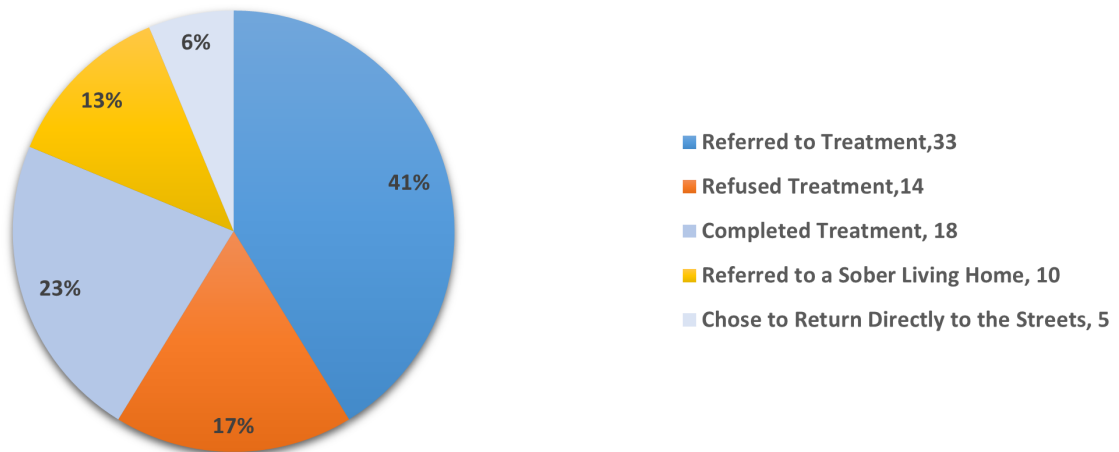
Downtown Officers

The Downtown Billings Alliance and Billings Police Department partnership grew in 2022 with the addition of a third Downtown Resource Officer. The increased staffing extends the officers' time into the evening and provides additional coverage. They are focused on downtown safety. To be more visible the officers bike and walk as much as possible. Their shared patrol vehicle was changed for higher visibility as well.

All three officers are in their first year with the detail. They brought a fresh approach to providing training to downtown business owners and staffs. Their first training class is on de-escalation and helps citizens learn how to handle the time period between when police are called and when they arrive. Topics include how to talk to someone in crisis and the benefit of following one's instincts.

The Resource officers work closely with the Homeless Outreach Team, or HOT, in diversion programs to help those suffering from addiction and frequent downtown. Officers referred 47 people to HOT during 2022.

Outcomes of People Referred to HOT by Downtown Officers



Parks Officer

Officer Schara works with the Parks and Recreation Department to patrol trails, assist parks employees and work toward keeping the public safe while they enjoy time in Billings' parks. During 2022 he responded to more than 700 Calls for Service, the vast majority of which were in parks.

Officer Schara is also a Crisis Intervention instructor, Bicycle Officer and works with the South Side Task Force.

Billings Police Bicycle Patrol

About 30 police officers participated in bicycle patrol during 2022. They put in a combined 408 hours cycling through Billings doing law enforcement duties and providing a police presence. They issued 201 citations and 32 warnings and effected 32 arrests. Bicycle patrol requires more than just hopping on a bike and going to work. The officers must pass intensive specialized training with classroom and riding sections. The officers ride heavy-duty bicycles that are marked as Police.

The 2022 hours are more than double the time officers were available the year before. Part of the increase is due to BPD officers becoming certified as instructors and leading a large corps of new officers through training to become certified as bicycle officers. Officers who participate in the program must ride a minimum number of hours each year.

Specialized Units

SWAT

BPD has a group of 15 highly trained officers who specialize in high-risk warrant service, fugitive apprehension, hostage rescue, response to people barricaded with guns as well as 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.

They work with other specialized units to complete their duties and share resources, including the robot in this photo.



Montana District Violent Offenders Task Force

One Billings Police Department officer serves with the Billings District Violent Offenders Task Force of the U. S. Marshals Service. This groups makes high-risk arrests, predominately on warrants. There are also task forces in Missoula and Great Falls, Since 2005, these task forces have closed 19,487 warrants.

Statewide in 2022, they groups closed 1,252 warrants with 501 of those completed in the Billings Division.

Montana Violent Offenders Task Force 2022 Seizures

Handguns	30	Methamphetamine	8,480 grams
Long Guns	16	Heroin	821 grams
Vehicles	4	Fentanyl	720 grams
Currency	\$45,262	Fentanyl Pills	7,033
		Cocaine	8.2 grams

Child Exploitation & Human Trafficking Task Force

In 2022, BPD shifted membership from the Internet Crimes Against Children task force to the FBI's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force. The members of this group, including a BPD detective, conduct child sexual exploitation investigations, many of them undercover. The ultimate goal of these task forces it to recover victims and investigate traffickers at the state and federal levels.

Domestic Violence Investigations

Using Public Safety Mill Levy funding, Billings Police Department added a second officer to the Domestic Violence Investigator program. BPD also welcomed a state Department of Criminal Investigation agent who assists with felony cases. All BPD officers investigate domestic violence, but these officers are tasked with completing additional follow up and documentation to strengthen the cases. They also build new cases documenting additional offenses including stalking, court order violations and additional partner-family member assault.

Billings Police had more than 1,000 domestic violence investigations during 2022. Frequently, crimes occur after suspects are put in jail so additional BPD officers assist with tasks such as listening to jail calls and writing supplemental reports about their content.

Did you know?

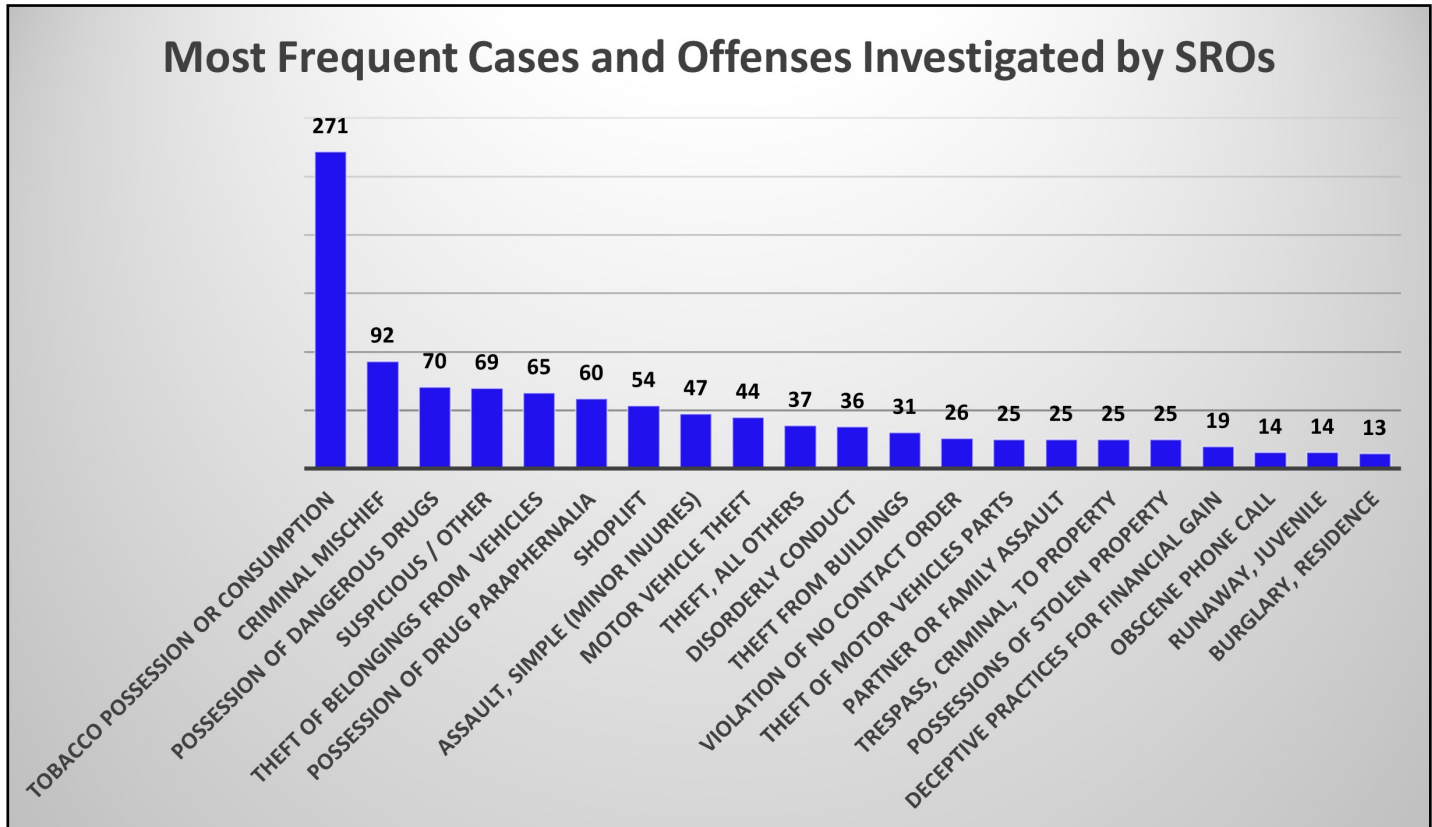
Billings Police Department's Crime Analyst has crime data hub posted on the Department's web site. Access the hub by taking BPD Crime Stats link on the Community Services page of www.billingspolice.com

Specialized Units

School Resource Officers

School Resources Officers are funded in cooperation with School District 2. There are 8 SROs and a Sergeant who work in schools. The officers are assigned to individual high schools or middle schools and visit several elementary schools as part of their duties.

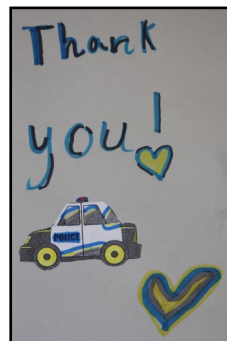
During the 2021-2022 school year, the officers wrote 1,102 cases.



At left: Sgt. Chaney is the first BPD commander assigned to both serve as a School Resource Officer and oversee the eight officers who work in Billings schools.

Center: BPD bulletin boards are frequently decorated with notes from kids.

At right: Officer Combs marks off a child's list during Shop With A Cop. The program has such generous community support that local Law Enforcement agencies expanded shopping include Back to School in addition to holiday shopping.



Specialized Units

Drone Program

The Billings Police Department has created a Drone Program to support operations on patrol and investigations crime scenes. These small unmanned aircrafts will potentially help with officer safety and scene preservation. The drones will be used to provide information to officers from a bird's eye view that will allow for tactical considerations, crime scene photos, search and rescue, mutual aid, and special events. Officers flying the drones are required to possess a flight certificate through the Federal Aviation Administration, and keep their skills current by operating the drones on a regular basis.



Billings Police Department Support Services Division

More commonly known as “records,” the BPD Support Services Division is made up of 12 civilian clerks and one supervisor. The division is staffed 24/7 to provide records support to police officers and to meet an FBI requirement that Billings has an around the clock, staffed connection to criminal justice databases.

The clerks process all of officers’ paperwork. They are trained on documentation required by the department, state and federal governments and ensure it is completed. Among their tasks are to gather documentation and provide it to the correct prosecutors’ offices and other criminal justice system agencies. They maintain paper and digital databases including taking on responsibilities for records quality and retention.

They are certified by the Montana Department of Justice and the FBI to use criminal justice databases. The access allows them to query, enter and remove stolen vehicles and other items, missing persons and wanted persons into local, state and federal databases. They also use these databases to assist officers by querying and communicating information about subjects’ criminal histories and other information.

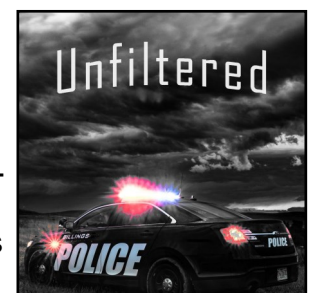
The clerical staff works with the public when they come to the Police Department office as well as on the telephone when they call with questions. They assist with liquor and catering permits and may even be called upon to take reports that do not have suspect information.

Two of the clerks are assigned to the Investigations Division and do similar work for detectives. Their main tasks is to transcribe audio statements taken by officers and detectives.

Clerks become experts on the criminal justice system and the City of Billings as they serve as a resource to officers and citizens. Clerical staff goes through a background process before being hired and are trained for up to four months to learn all of the details involved in the position. Two more clerks are being hired with funding from the Public Safety Mill Level and will start work in 2023.

Did you know?

Billings Police Department has a podcast named “Billings Police Unfiltered.” These 20-30 minute conversations delve into a variety of law enforcement related topics. As the name suggests, the goal of the podcast is to give the public an unfiltered look into law enforcement issues in the community. Episodes are available from our webhost at <https://billingspdunfiltered.podbean.com/> as well as from Apple Podcast, Spotify and Google.



Crime Prevention Center

Billings Police Department services are enhanced by our volunteers.

Volunteers serve as report writers in the CPC office working with citizens and officers. They also serve with the Volunteer Patrol Unit who tag abandoned vehicles and issue non-moving violations.

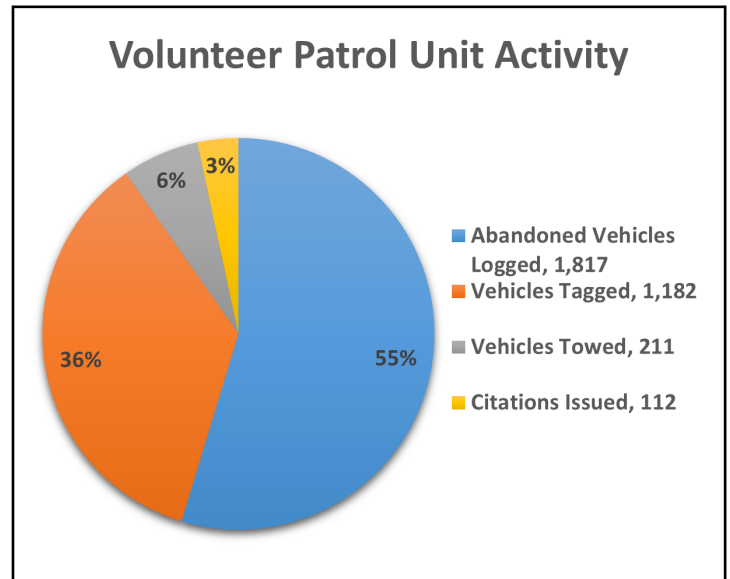
The CPC is staffed by a Public Relations Sergeant and Officer as well as the Volunteer Coordinator, who are all BPD employees. The staff is available for community presentations.

Among the CPC's signature programs are:

- A holiday season pickup service to prevent theft of packages from porches. Residents have their packages delivered to the CPC where they were held until the owners 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.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design evaluations. This program helps residents protect their property by providing information on how to use physical design to deter criminals and increase safety.
- Provide pill disposal so citizens can properly dispose of unused and expired prescription medications.
- Project Eyes on the Block was developed in 2022. The program informs officers of residential and business property owners who would like to share their surveillance footage when a crime or incident occurs in their area. Interested citizens can sign up on the CPC page of the Billings Police Department web site.
- During 2022 volunteers enter Trespass Agreement Alerts into the records system. The volunteers use the same software used by officers to put reports entered online by citizens into the BPD records database.
- Some volunteers are trained to take fingerprints. This service is \$20 per card and is provided by appointment.

More information on these programs and volunteering is available on the Crime Prevention Center page at www.billingspolice.com or by emailing BPCPC@billingsmt.gov

The Crime Prevention Center is located at 2910 3rd Avenue North. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Did you know?

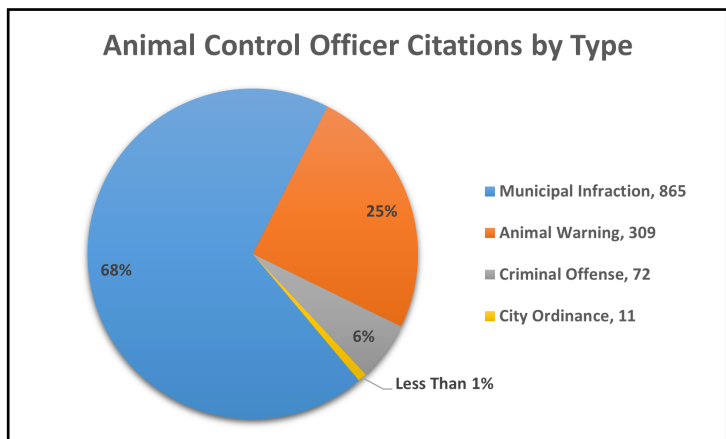
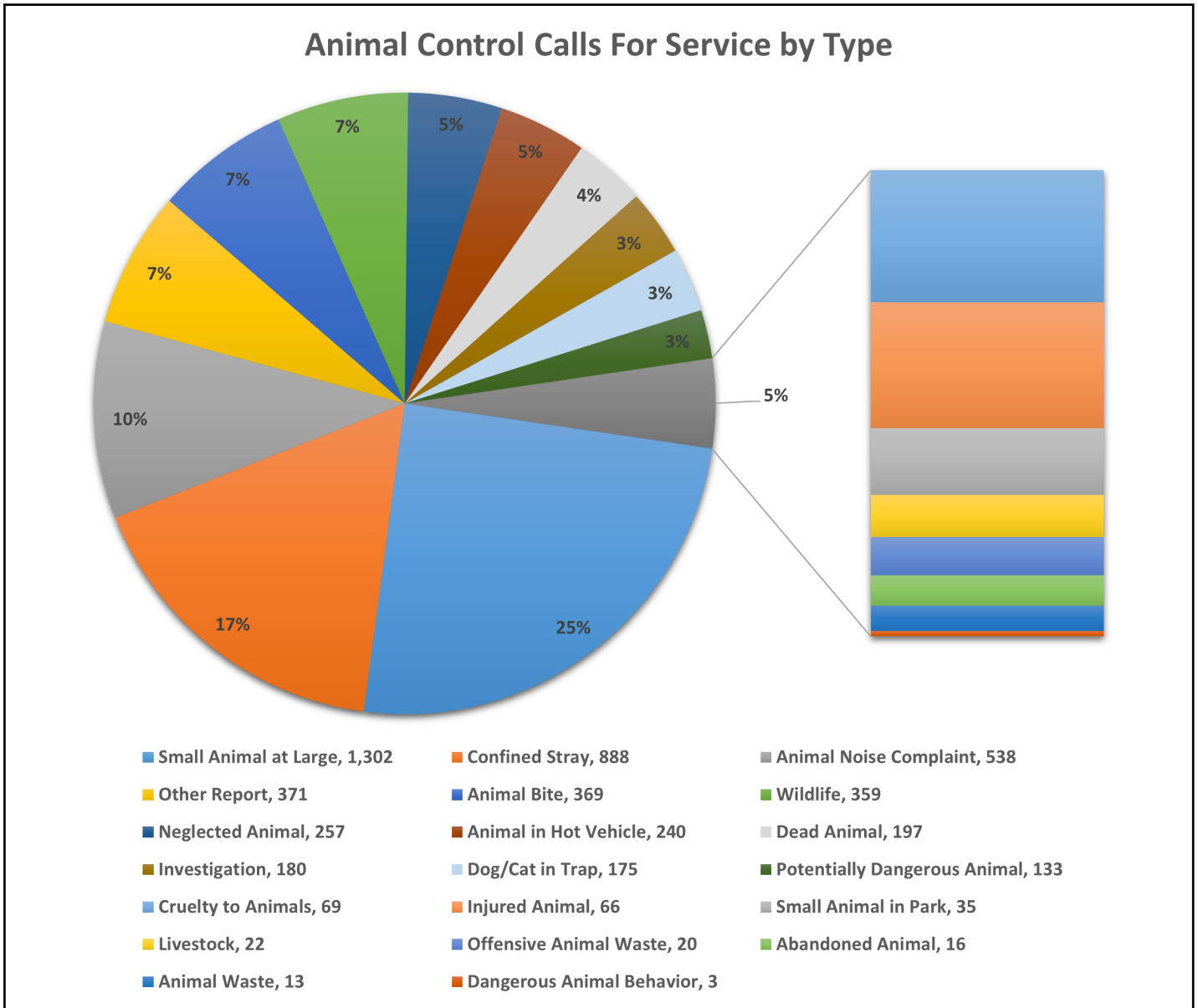
During 2022 the City of Billings started charging commercial property owners who reported three or more false alarms.

In response, Billings Police Department created new reporting options in our records system so officers can code what type of alarm occurred. Staff and volunteers at the Crime Prevention Center tracked the alarms

They identified a total of 593 false alarms, and sent letters to the involved businesses. Of those, 83 were fined by the City of Billings.

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



Did you know?

Animal Control Officers are on-call around the clock to respond to emergency animal-related calls.

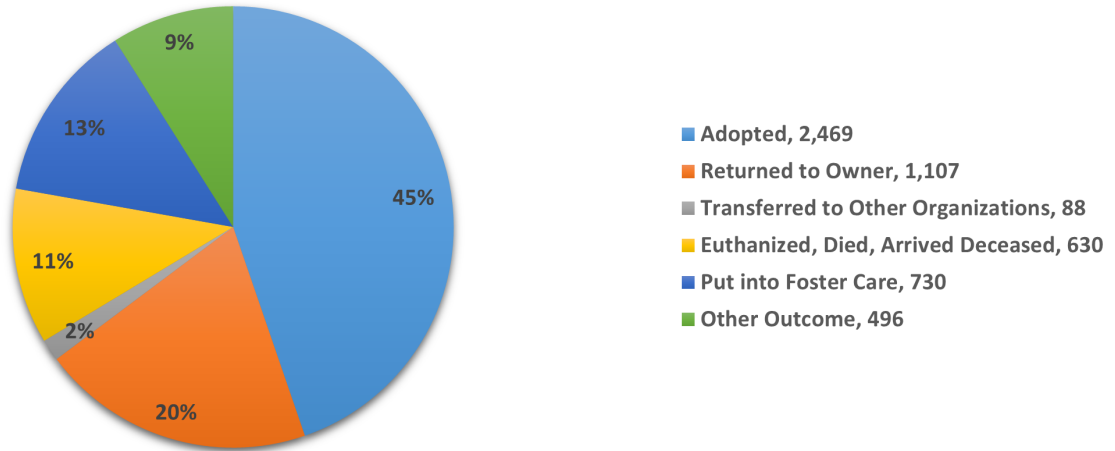
The Animal Control Office is located at 1735 Monad Road, adjacent to the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Animal Control Division

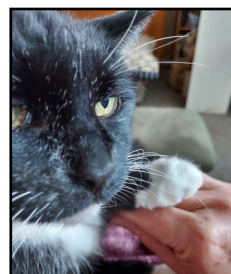
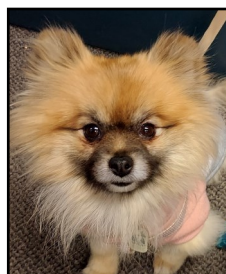
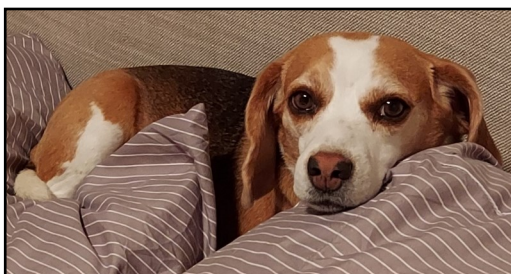
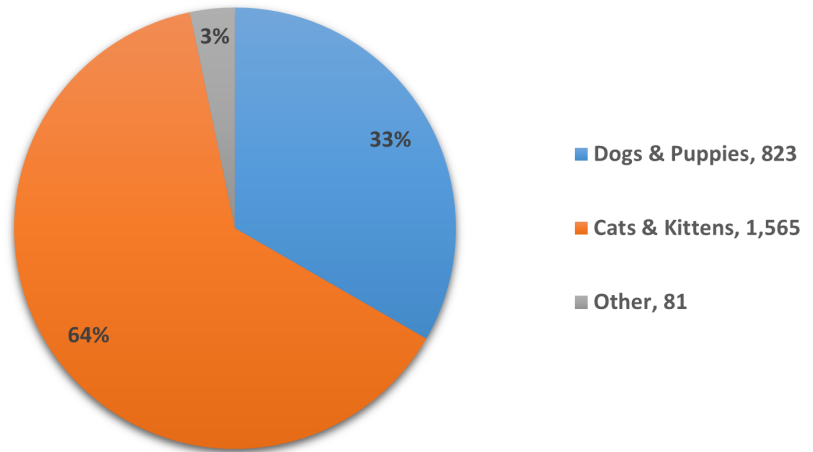
The Billings Police Department Animal Control Division shares a location with the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter at 1735 Monard Road. YVAS and the City have a contract for the shelter to care of Billings' lost and stray animals. Because of this partnership, shelter statistics are included in this report. During 2022, the shelter sold licenses for 4,427 animals. Staff and volunteers processed 1,450 animals.



Animal Activity at Yellowstone County Animal Shelter



Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter Adoptions



Welcome ~ Congratulations ~ Farewell

New Officers

Shane Shaffer
Andrew Ratzlaff
Zachary Zevotek
Shane Hernandez

Carissa Summers
Brianna Wolf
Jacob Hood
Justin Hanes

Madison Larchick
Devin Proudfit
Cale Gullett
Erick Hunger



Officer Stephen Summers (right) from Centralia, Wash., attended his sister Carissa's swearing in as a BPD officer.

Community Services Officers

Kevin Rockwell
Francisco Santiago

Coltin Wevley
Amanda Newell

Civilian Employees

Aleesha Chaney - Investigations
Erika Hosa - Evidence
Kristen Beechie - Evidence
Kristin Grantham - Evidence

Shea Reynolds – Support Services
Kelsey Benner – Support Services
Jacob Marquez – Support Services
Cassandra Roberge – Animal Control

Retirees

Pat Curry - 1996 Earl Campbell - 2000
Bob Ellison - 1997 Kelly Compton - 2001
Jerry Smidt - 2000 Suzette Phillips - 2011



From left, above: Kelly Compton and Jerry Smidt retired as School Resource Officers, and Pat Curry as a patrol sergeant. At left: Suzette Phillips shown here with Chief St. John worked in many capacities at BPD during two careers with the City of Billings and retired as an Identification Technician and Earl Campbell retired as a patrol officer assigned to Crimes Against Children.

Welcome ~ Congratulations ~ Farewell

Promotions

Neil Lawrence - Assistant Chief	Bethany Schwartz - Sergeant
Shawn Mayo - Captain	Eric Schnellbach - Sergeant
Brett Becker - Lieutenant	Brad Mansur - Sergeant

Commendations

Annual award recipients are nominated by their peers and supervisors at the end of each year. Command staff receives nominations and votes to determine recipients.

Officer of the Year - Seth Foster

Officer Foster is a 14 year veteran with the Billings Police Department. He is a Field Training Officer as well as a Montana Physical Abilities Test proctor and he most recently returned to day shift patrol after a 3 year stint in the Street Crimes Unit. As of November 30th, 2022, Officer Foster produced 51 felony drug cases, recovered 18 stolen vehicles and 9 stolen firearms, wrote seven search warrants, and developed two human trafficking cases, both of which have been forwarded to the FBI. He is an officer who can always be counted on and he never complains when given assignments. He is relentless in his pursuit to solve cases regardless of the circumstances and how little suspect information he may start with. Officer Foster has one of the highest case clearance rates in the department. His work ethic and willingness to help others has made a huge impact on department productivity and improved safety in the City as a whole.

Supervisor of the Year - Sgt. Ryan Kramer

Detective Sergeant Ryan Kramer is an 8 year veteran with the Billings Police Department. He is also an active commander of the BPD SWAT team. From a command standpoint, he is every supervisor's vision of the exemplary employee. Not long after his promotion to sergeant, he took over the Street Crimes Unit (SCU). Under Sgt. Kramer's direction, the SCU has made a significant impact on local crime. They worked 259 cases which ranged from burglaries and robberies to drugs and numerous other crimes. They made 92 arrests and served 362 search warrants. The SCU seized more than 10.5 lbs. of powder drugs and over 4,000 fentanyl pills as well as nearly \$90,000 in cash. On top of all of that, he is still a detective on-call supervisor, responding to many after-hour callouts including homicides. The numbers are significant and the effect is felt within the community which is why he has been awarded Supervisor of the Year.

Alex Mavity Memorial Respect for the Law Award - Sgt. Jeff Stovall

Two years ago, Sgt. Stovall took over the Shop with a Cop program, which was originally dedicated to Christmas shopping for underprivileged kids. From day one, he hit the ground running and saw multiple opportunities for fundraising, developing community partnerships and expanding the program to include not only a Christmas event but also an annual back to school shopping event, where each child receives an allowance to spend on new clothes, shoes and supplies as well as partnering with local salons and barbers to provide fresh haircuts and styles. He cares about the kids and the community and hopes to build positive relationships between law enforcement and the youth community. Very few programs are as successful as the Shop with a Cop program. This is evident by the significant on-going donations from the community, local businesses competing to partner with the program and the abundant number of officers willing to participate event after event. This all has occurred as a result of his leadership and his passion for kids and the community. This award is presented in honor of the late Detective Alex Mavity.

Welcome ~ Congratulations ~ Farewell

Deb Unruh Memorial Employee of the Year Award - Zack O'Dell

Zack O'Dell is an evidence technician for the Billings Police Department and his strong suit is his work ethic and attention to detail. He is a problem solver and strict to follow policies and procedures. Zack is a phenomenal multi-tasker and will stop everything he is doing to assist officers in their tasks or retrieve supplies they may need and takes pride in his work. Zack has taken it upon himself to be the point of contact and lead employee in the area of discovery and has developed a rapport with numerous agencies including the City and County Attorney's Offices, public defenders and private attorneys never-ending requests for discovery. This procurement is a tedious and cumbersome process but Zack does each task on his own without complaint. He continues to strive to be the best that he can be every moment of the day, actively finding work to do. This award is being given in honor of the late Support Service Specialist Deb Unruh.

Shawn Finnegan Memorial Dedicated Service Award - Detective Steve Hallam

Detective Steve Hallam is a 17 year veteran with the Billings Police Department. He achieved the rank of Detective and was assigned to the Investigations Division in July of 2013. He has been a member of the Hostage Negotiators for 12 years and counting and for the last 5 years, Detective Hallam has been assigned to the BPD Street Crimes Unit (SCU). During his time in SCU he has proven himself time and time again to be one of the most highly proactive and effective investigators in the department, handling some of our city's most complex and high profile cases. As of November 2022, he had voluntarily taken lead on 71 felony cases, which only demonstrates his relentless commitment to public safety and service. Detective Hallam regularly leads by example and has volunteered his assistance on numerous occasions, without being asked, for callouts and critical incidents to include homicides, officer involved shootings, arson investigations, and the escape of two inmates from the Yellowstone County Detention Facility. His drive and commitment to service is second to none and he continues to impress on a daily basis. This award is being given in honor of the late Sergeant Shawn Finnegan.

Did you know?

The Citizen Police Advisory Board completed it's first full year of service in 2022.

The board acts in an advisory role for BPD. Their key objectives are recruitment, retention and workplace diversity; crime prevention and diversion; community support and engagement and data collection and analysis. The volunteer members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. They serve four-year terms. There also maybe two ex-officio representatives from community coalitions who are nominated by their organizations and approved by the Mayor and City Council

City Police Advisory Board Members

Kari Boiter
Denice Boggio
Charles Loveridge
Joseph Stout
Zack Terakedis
April Veach

Coalition Representatives Representing Continuum of Care

Kody Christensen
Erin Lambert



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

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.

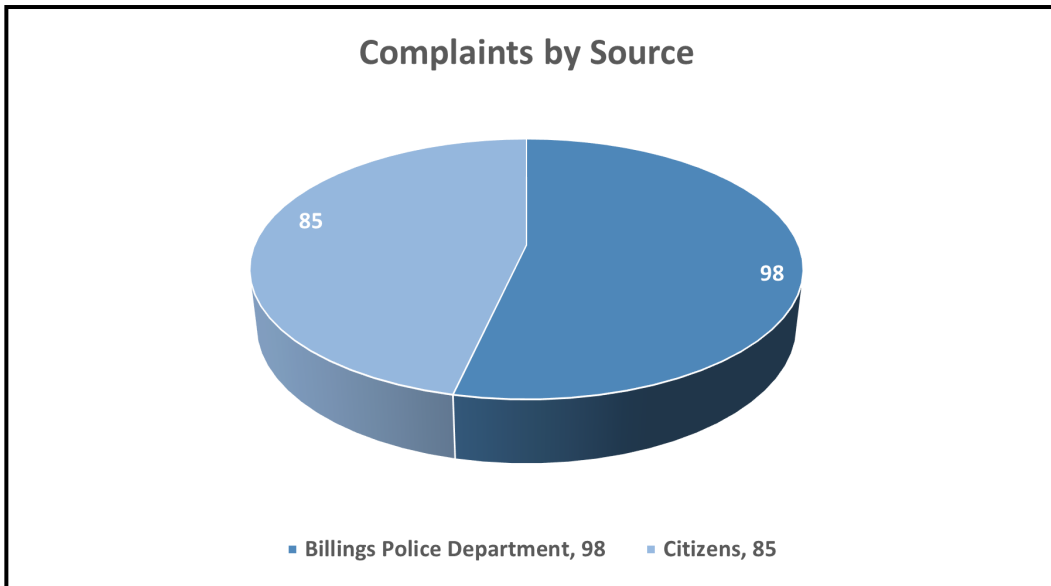
The office records and evaluates all incidents of Response to Resistance.

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.

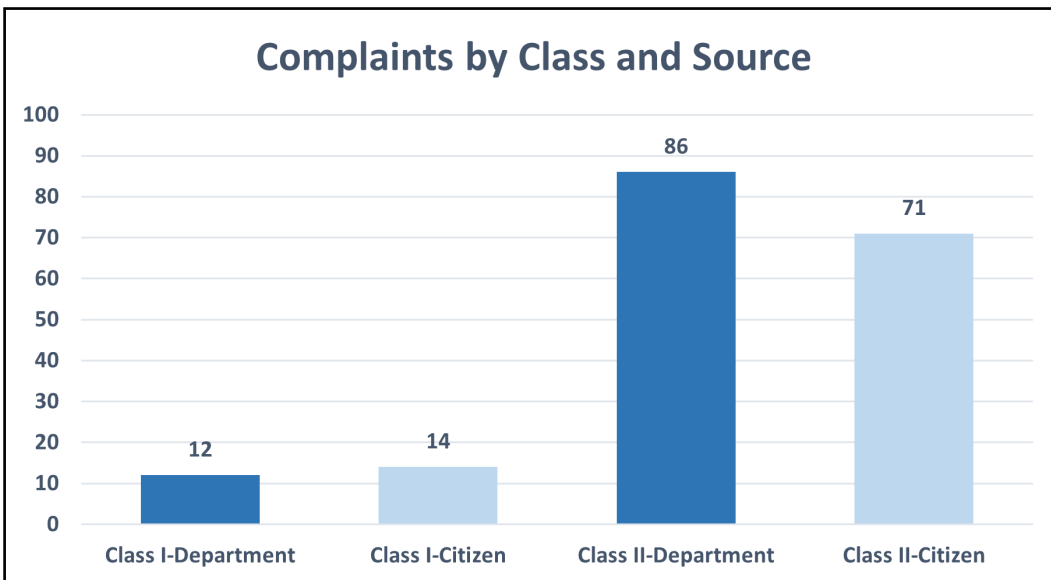
Complaints may be *external* which are entered by citizens or *internal* which are from Billings Police Department supervisors.



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.

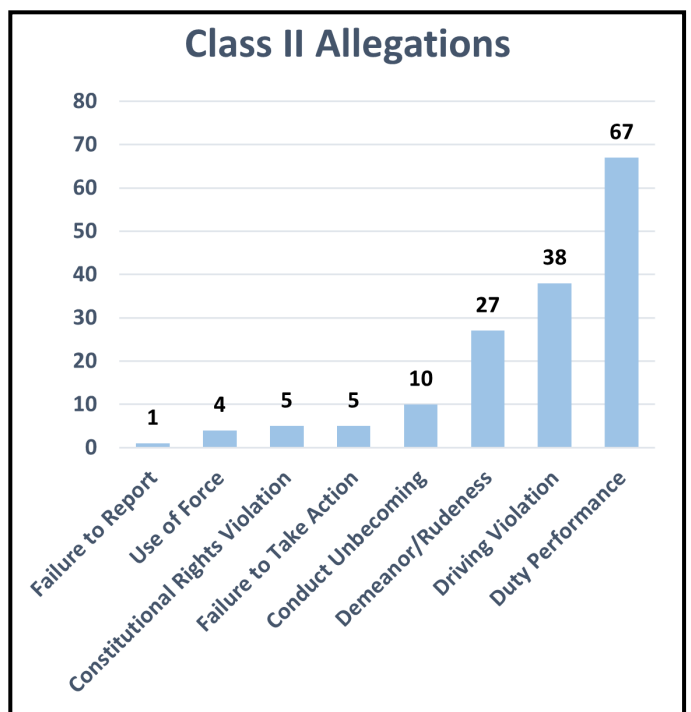
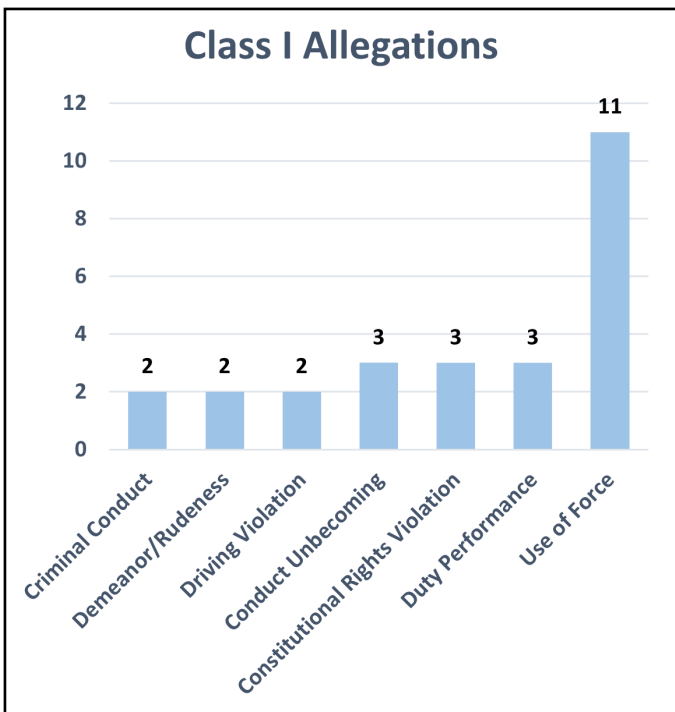
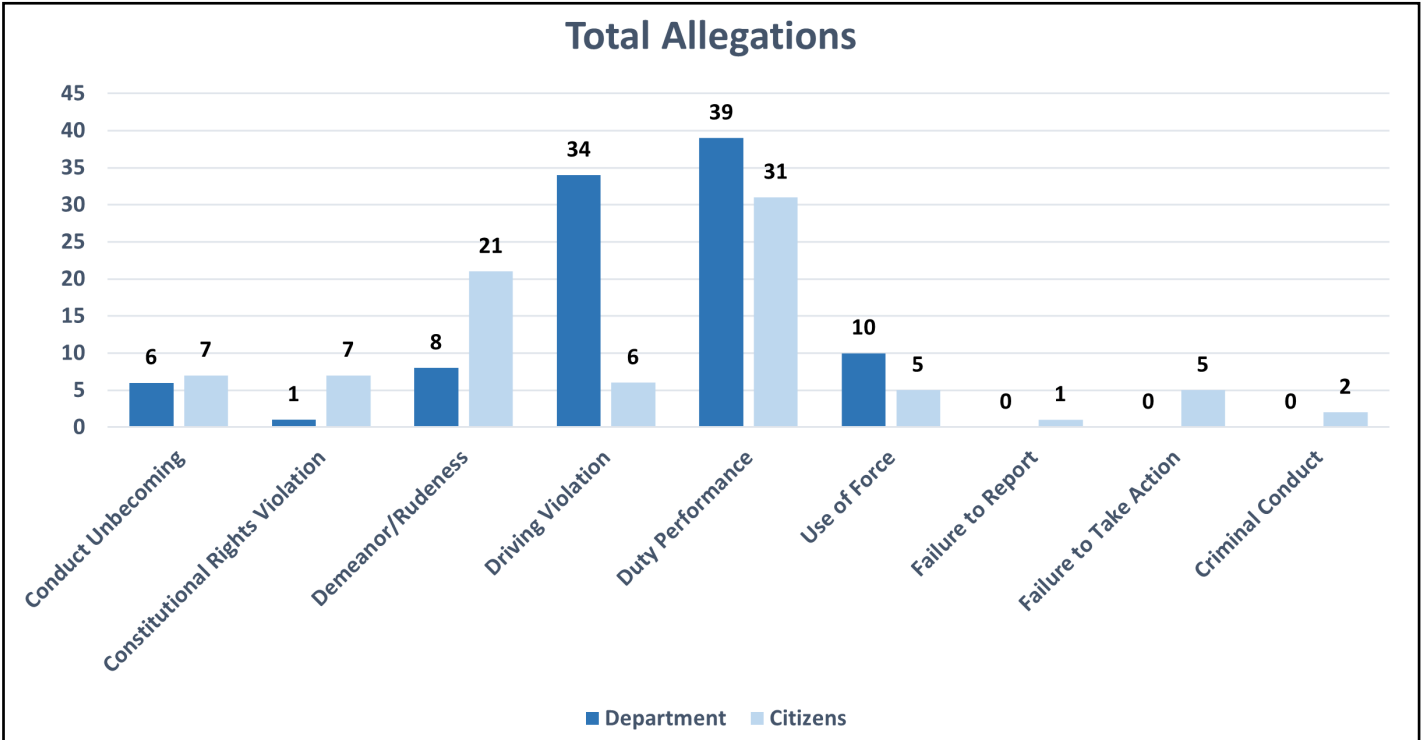
Class II complaints include allegations of inadequate service, discourtesy, minor performance issues, improper procedure and other less serious and non-criminal conduct.

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.

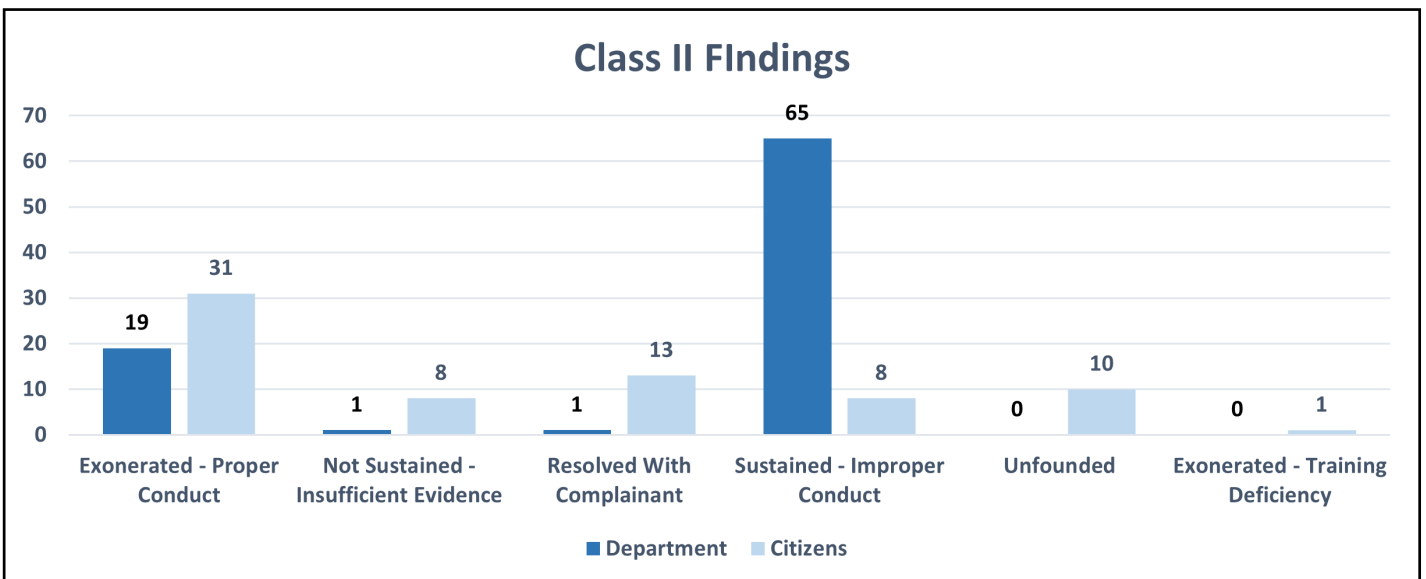
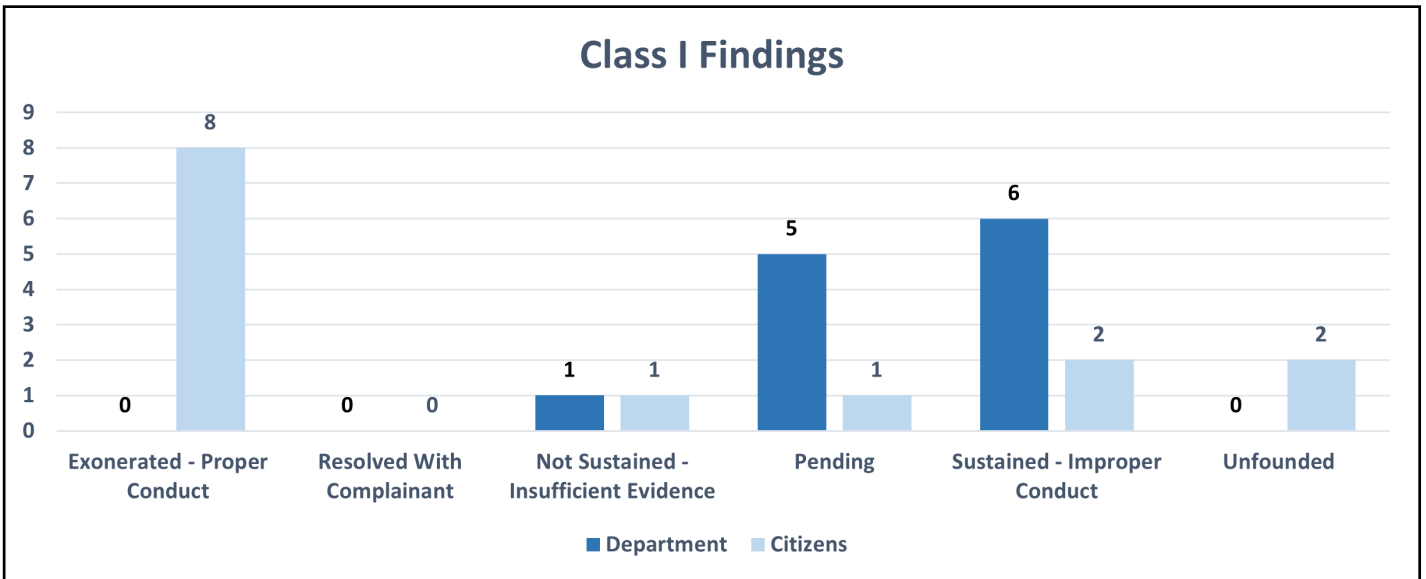
Not Sustained — Insufficient evidence. The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations.

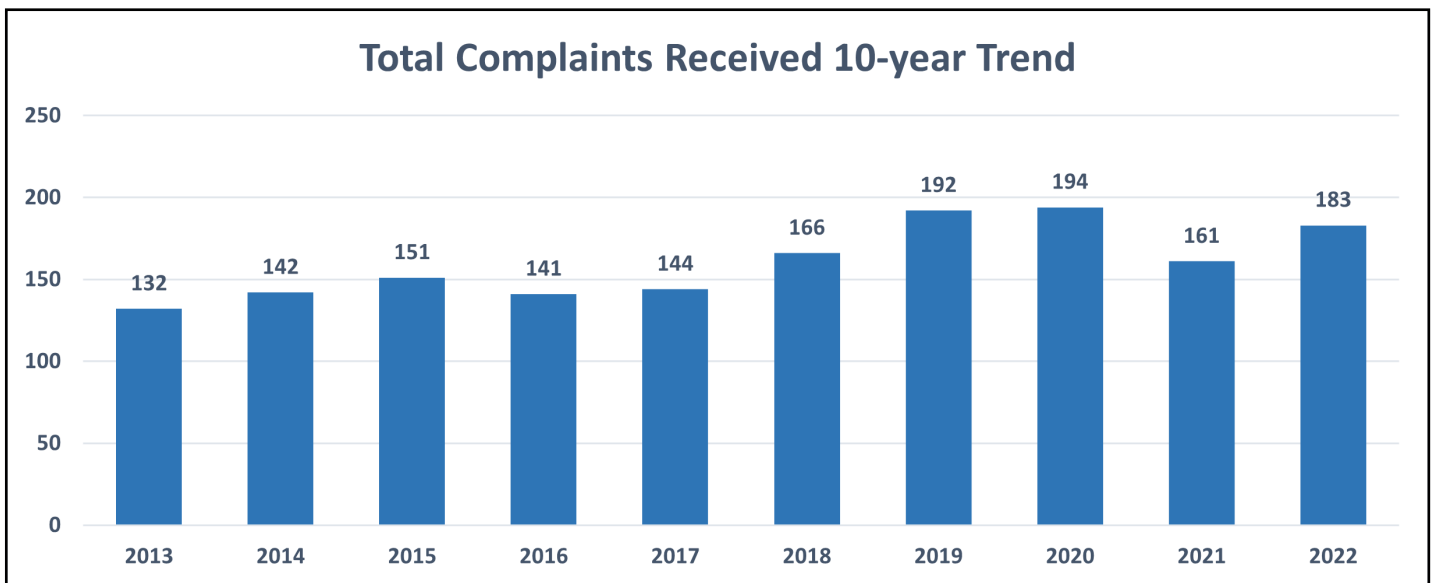
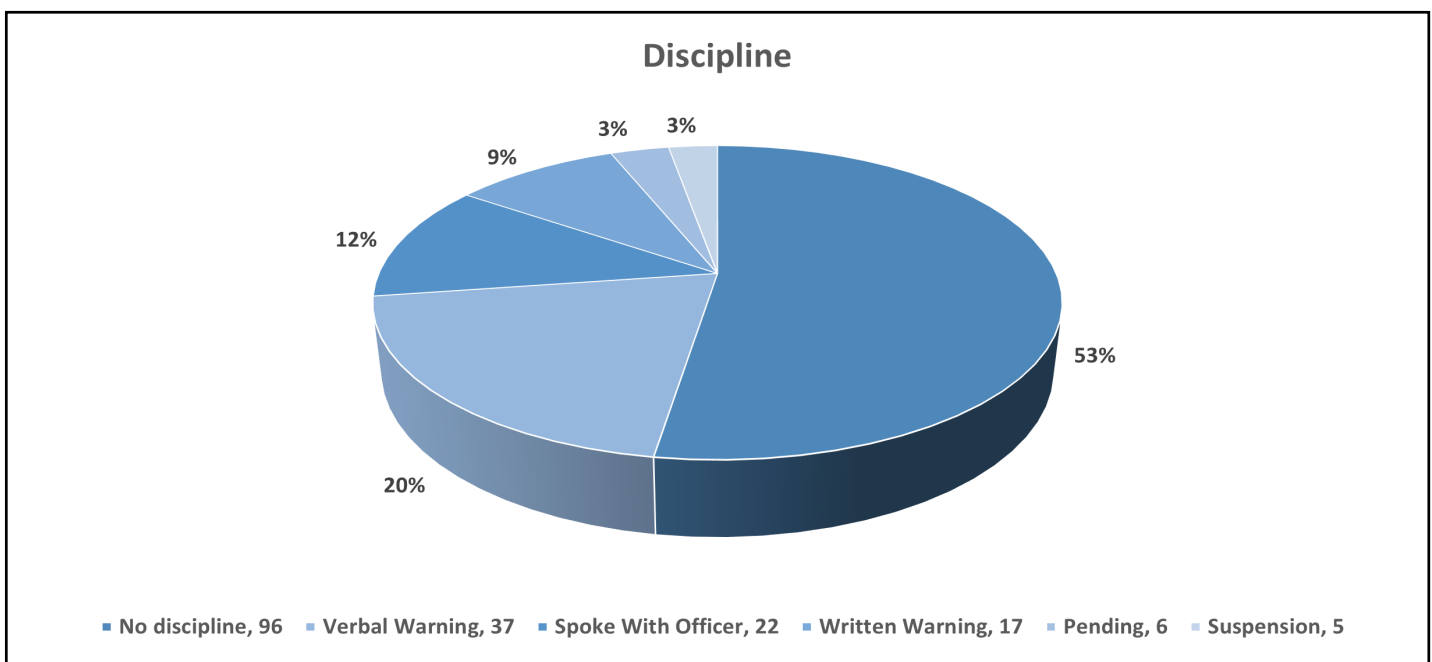
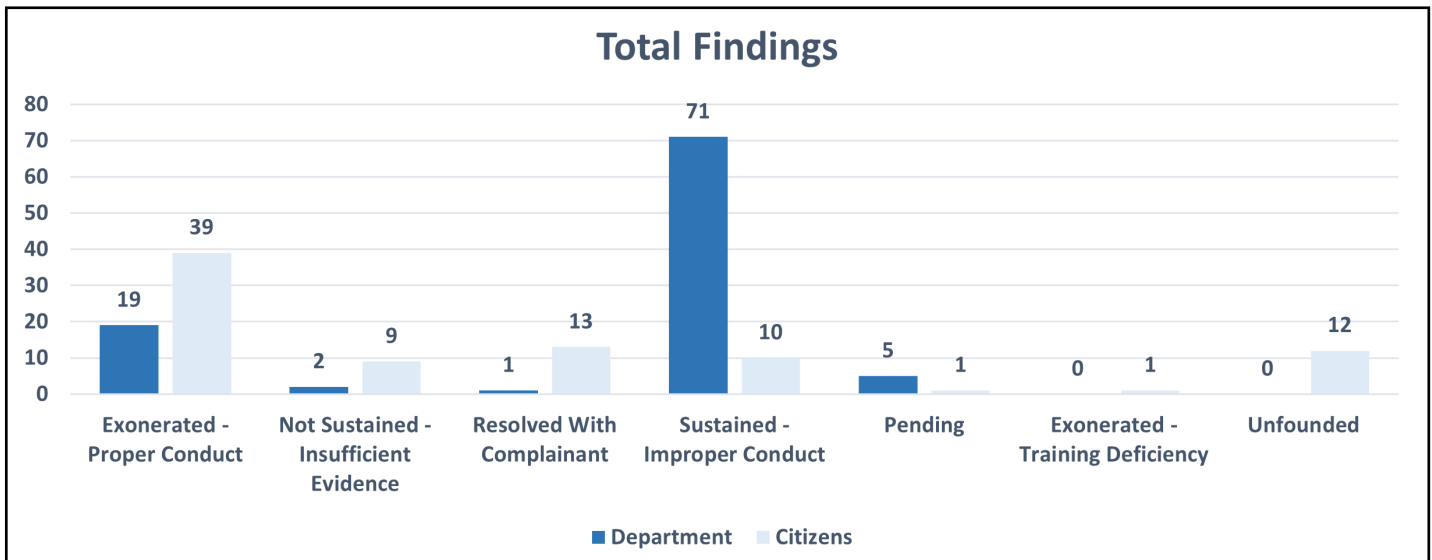
Unfounded — The investigation conclusively proved the act(s) in the complaint did not occur. This also applies when individual officers or employees were not involved in acts which may have occurred.

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.

Pending — These investigations were not completed before the 2022 report was published.

There were no complaint findings of Exonerated — Policy Failure, Class I or Class II, issued in 2022.





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 162 during 2022. 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.

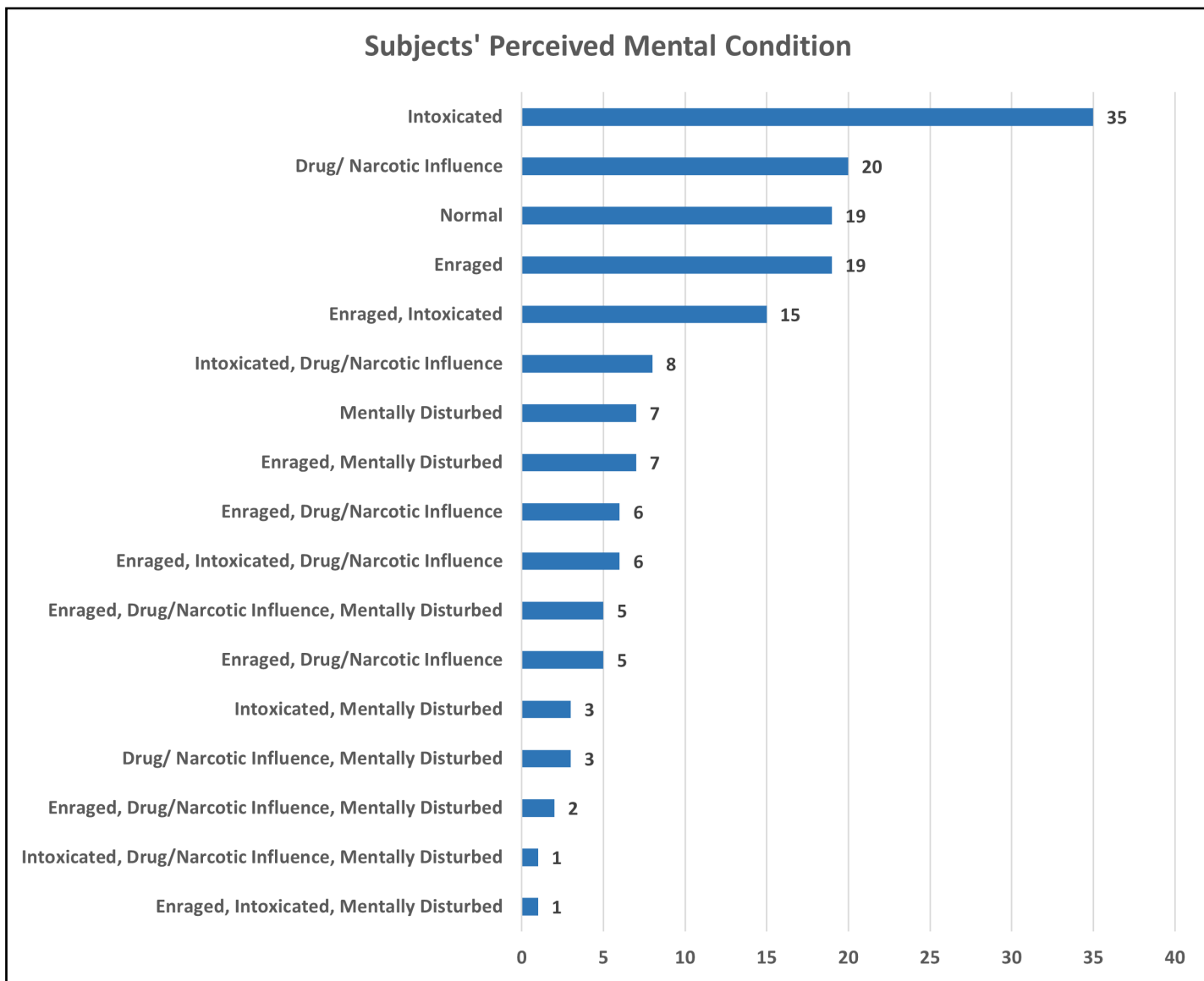
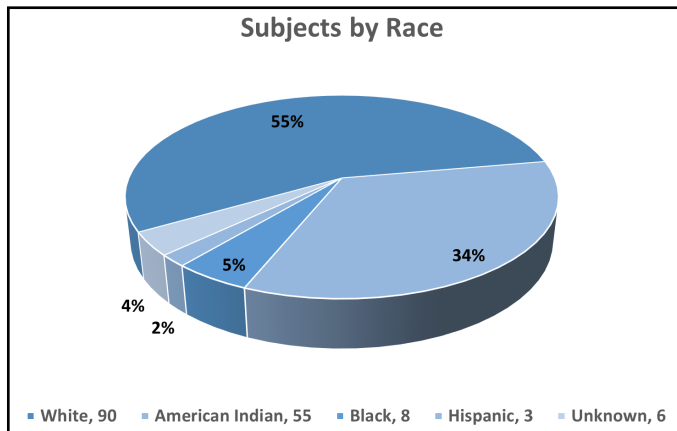
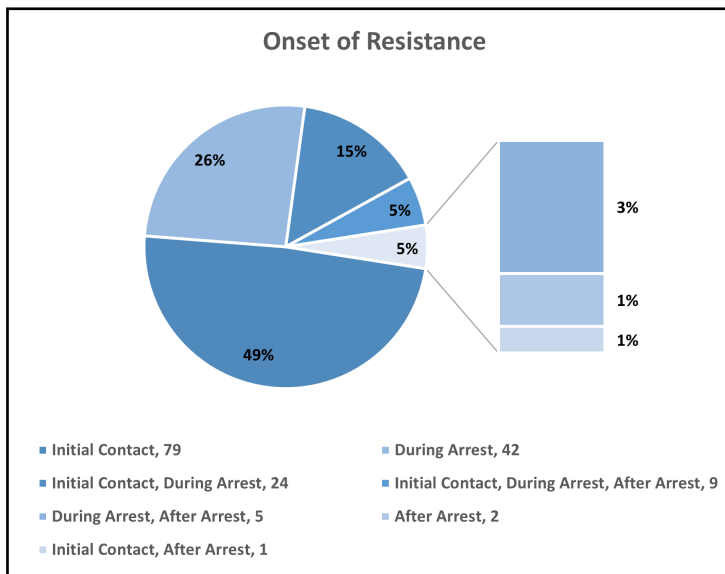
The decision to use force requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others, and whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting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

THREAT RESPONSE DIAGRAM

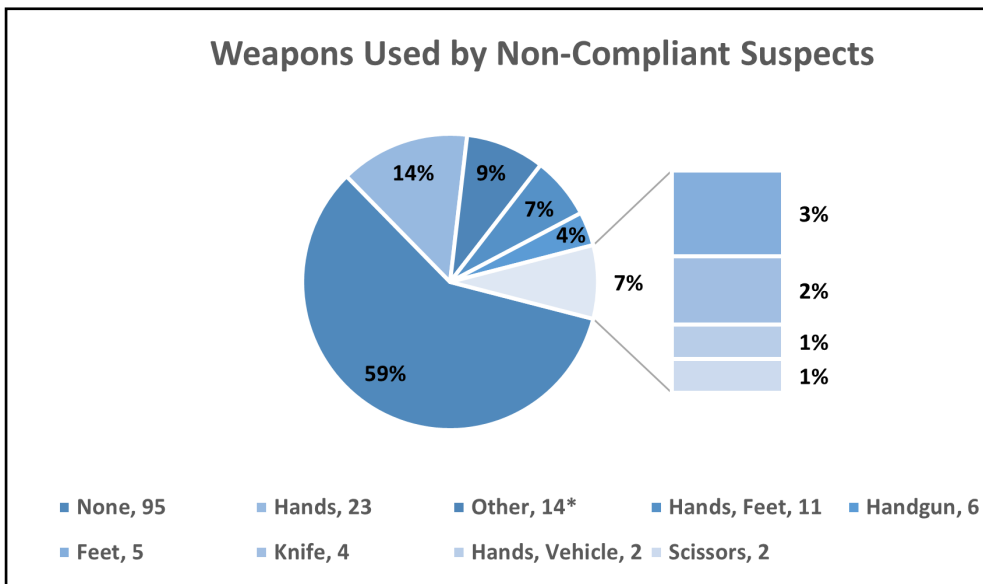




Response to Resistance reporting includes a category to document when non-compliant suspects use no weapons.

This was added to reporting in 2021 in response to commonalities commanders found when reviewing reports and videos of incidents. They found that officers were able to contain the situation before suspects in a fight posture or using verbal aggression were able to become physical.

Further, in the vast majority of incidents, resisting suspects are perceived to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs which can inhibit their ability to engage physically.



The following 14 weapons were each listed once as used by suspects in 2022 Response to Resistance reporting:

- Brass Knuckles
- Feet, Biting
- Feet, Leg, Knee
- Gun, Vehicle
- Handgun, Rifle
- Hands, Feet, Head
- Hands, Feet, Mouth, Teeth
- Hands, Head
- Hands, Threat of Firearm
- Head
- Knife, Baseball Bat
- Metal Object

List of Other Tools Used by Officers

Each Listed Twice

Empty Hand Techniques

Verbal Commands

Verbal Commands, Bean Bag

Verbal Commands, Empty Hand Techniques, OC Spray

Each Listed Once

Bean Bag Shotgun

Duty Gun

Duty Gun, Rifle, Shotgun, Bean Bag Shotgun

Verbal Commands, CS Gas, Bean Bag Shotgun

Verbal Commands, Duty Gun

Verbal Commands, Duty Gun, Rifle, Shotgun, Vehicle

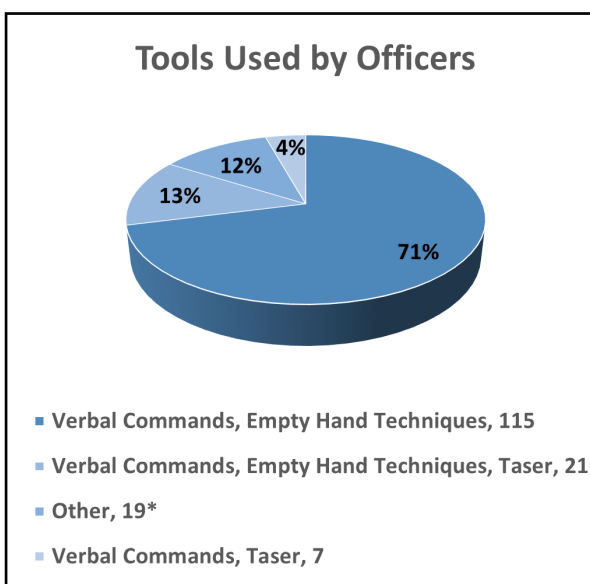
Verbal Commands, Empty Hand Techniques, Baton

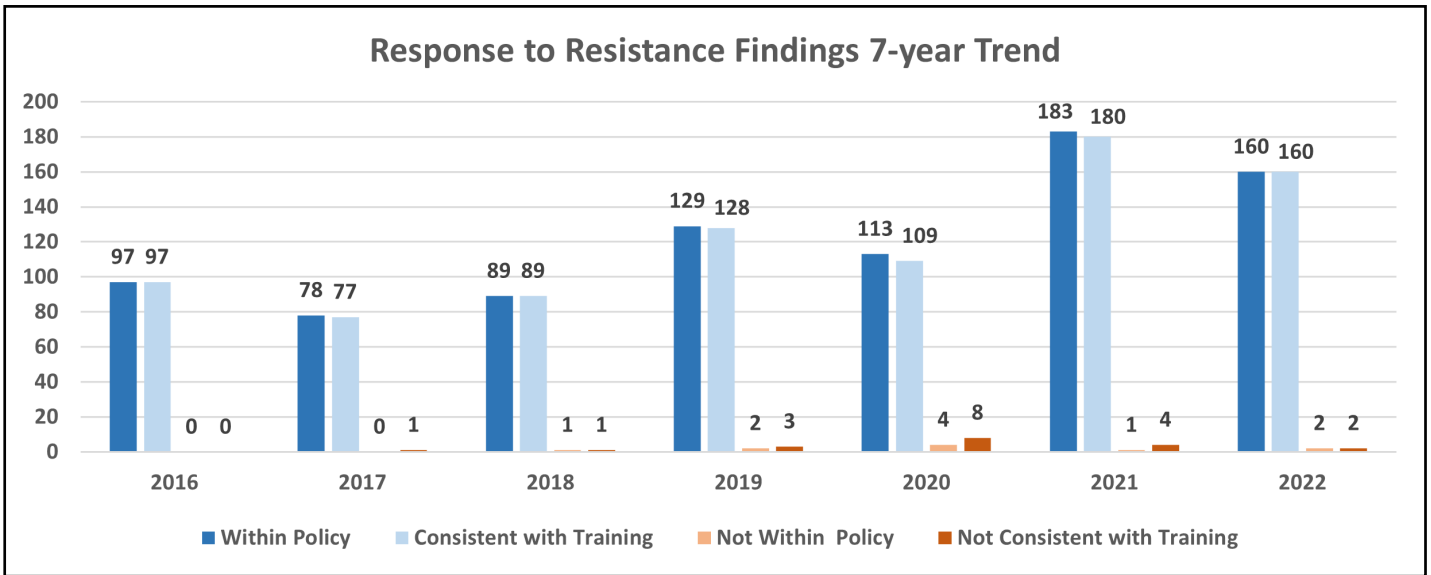
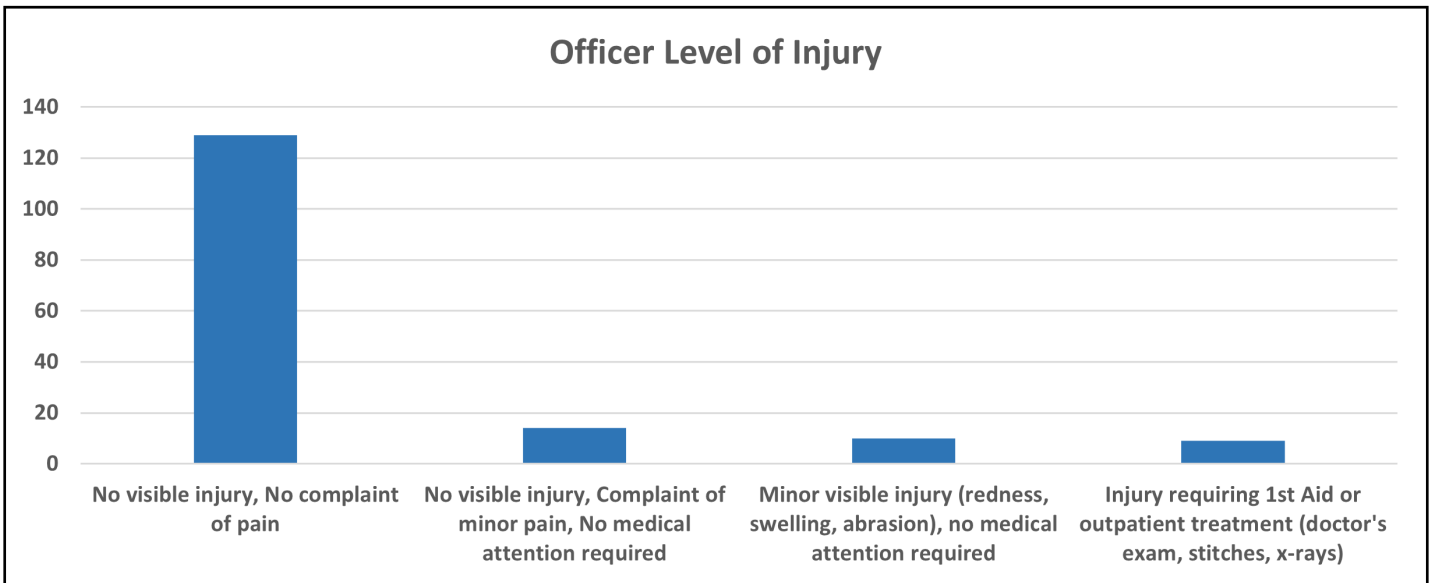
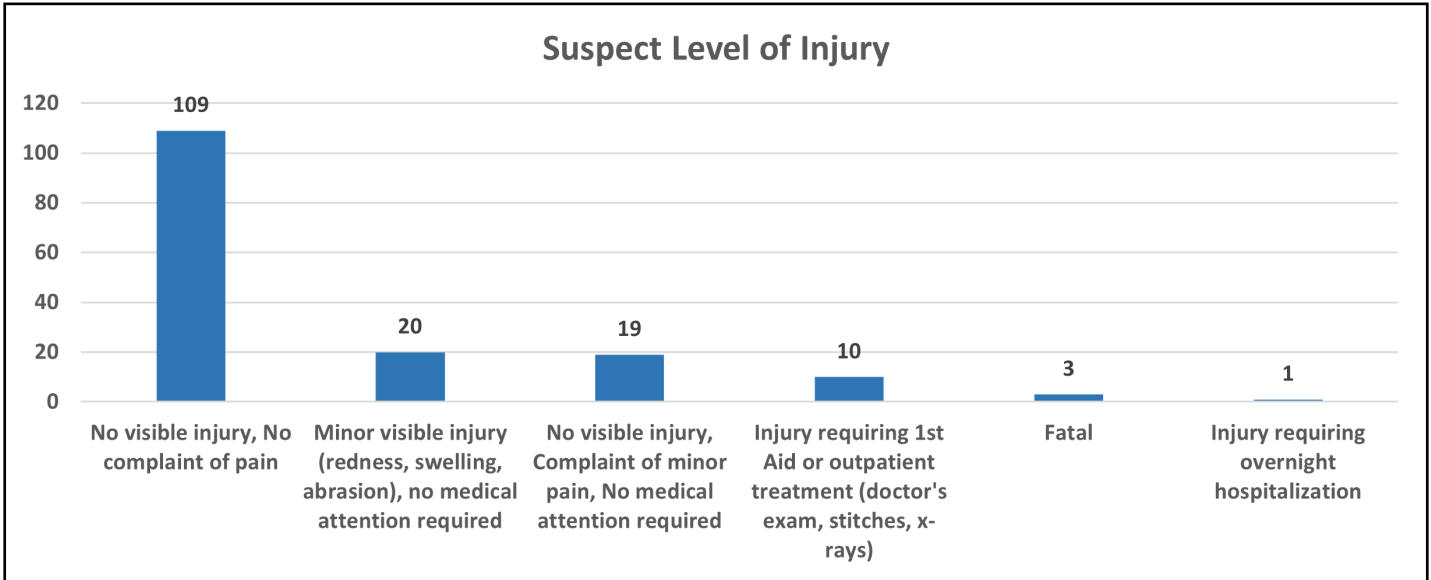
Verbal Commands, Empty Hand Techniques, Taser, K9

Verbal Commands, Flashlight, Beanbag Shotgun

Verbal Commands, K9

Verbal Commands, Pepperball





Billings Police Department Patrol Shifts 2022

