



# Billings Police Department 2020 Annual Report

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# 2020 Annual Report

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 2020 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, a year where COVID-19 affected so many in our community. I cannot express how proud I am of our officers and civilian staff who worked tirelessly every day knowing that in addition to the normal risks of this profession, there was a high likelihood they would be exposed to the virus.

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 2020. But, there is much work to do. The City of Billings saw increases in homicides, robberies, motor vehicle thefts, burglaries and larceny. These results were directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic and our ever present methamphetamine problem.

Meeting these challenges and maintaining a high-level of public trust would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our exceptional staff. They continually rose to the occasion when faced with adversity and answered the bell. 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.

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 faced and how we navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we will continue to provide exceptional service to the community.

I welcome you to visit our website [www.Billingsmt.gov](http://www.Billingsmt.gov) and become a follower of the Billings Police Department Facebook page.

Sincerely,

Rich St. John  
Chief of Police



**Chief St. John and Mayor Bill Cole cut the tape at the grand opening of the Billings Police Department's evidence facility. Read more about the facility improvements on page 39.**

## 2020 in Review

Personnel .....	3
Violent Crime .....	11
Property Crime .....	22
DUIs.....	27
Traffic & Accidents .....	28
Arrests .....	34
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Special Units .....	41
Animal Control.....	47

## Special Points of Interest

- Crime Prevention Center, see page 45
- BPD Officers awarded, see page 50
- Office of Professional Standards Report, addendum 1

# 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

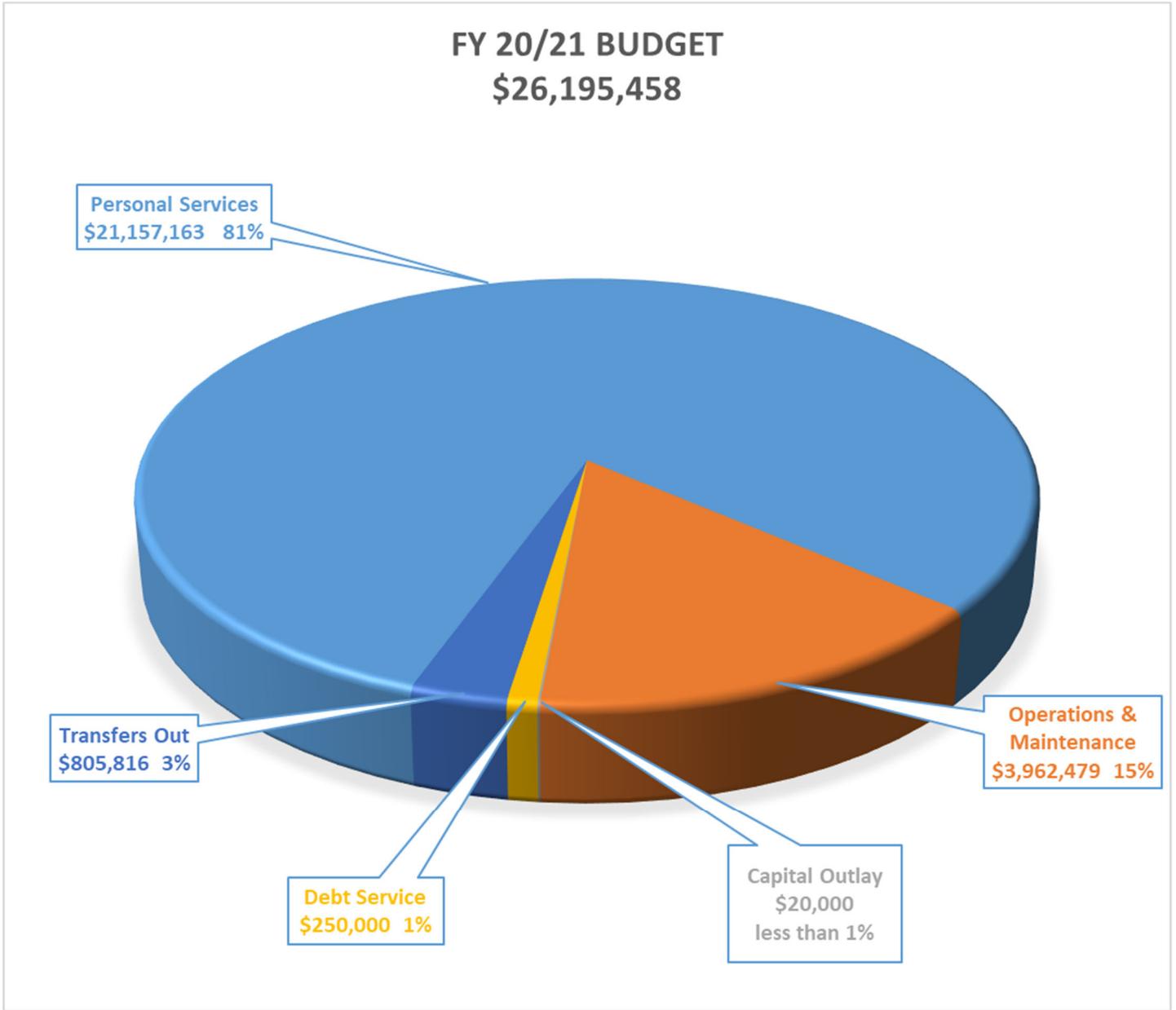
We are committed to delivering professional police service to Billings under the philosophy of community oriented policing through:

**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



***By the numbers ...***

- Population — 110,000
- City Square Miles — 42
- Street Miles — 500
- Sworn Personnel — 154
- Civilian Personnel — 31

**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
- Installed electronic citation software in STEP and 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
- Fully implemented on-line reporting as an additional avenue for citizens to report cold crimes and concerns
- Implemented on-line records requests 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
- Added a second Billings Clinic officer

**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



Chief of Police Rich St. John joined Billings Police Department in 1981. During his tenure, Chief St. John rose through the ranks of patrol and investigations to Sergeant in 1989. He served as a Lieutenant in Patrol, Investigations and Operations between 1991 and 2004. He was Captain of Operations until being promoted to Deputy Chief in 2005 and Chief in 2006. Chief St. John has led the Bomb Squat, SWAT Team and was a Hostage Negotiator. He is a 1994 graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Assistant Chief of Police Jeremy House joined the Billings Police Department in 1992. He began his career as a patrol officer and was a Community Police Officer, Bike Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer and worked in the Street Crimes Unit. In 2000 he was assigned as a Task Force Officer with the FBI's Safe Streets Task Force. In 2001 he was promoted to Sergeant and supervised night shift patrol officers. In 2005 ACOP House became the supervisor of Eastern Montana HIDTA and the City-County Special Investigations Unit. In 2008 ACOP House was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the night shift patrol. In 2012 ACOP House transferred to the BPD Investigations Division and in 2015 was promoted to Captain in the Investigations Division. In 2018 ACOP House was promoted to his current rank. As ACOP he represents the BPD on numerous boards and committees and has general oversight of all divisions. ACOP House and his wife Shawna are members of the Fuego Fire Service Company where he is a volunteer firefighter and Chairman of the Board. Together the couple has 5 children



Capt. Neil Lawrence joined Billings Police Department in 1994. He was a patrol officer and as a Sergeant led the City-County Special Investigations Unit. When promoted to Lieutenant, he returned to Operations as a shift commander. During his career, Capt. Lawrence was a member of the SWAT team. He was promoted to Captain in 2018 and took over the Office of Professional Standards where he receives complaints and conducts all internal investigations in addition to supervising the Administrative Lieutenant.



Captain RD Harper joined Billings Police Department in 1994. He came to Billings from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington DC. He became Captain of Operations in 2012 and Captain of Investigations in 2019. The Investigations Division includes 19 detectives, 9 patrol officers on special details, two Lieutenants and two Sergeants. The division includes the BPD Evidence staff and facility, the Crime Analyst, the City-County Special Investigations Unit and the Street Crimes Unit. He is thankful that he and his wife have been able to raise their children in such a wonderful community and is happy to call Billings and Montana home.



Captain Brian Korell joined Billings Police Department in 1994. As a patrol officer, Capt. Korell joined the BPD K9 Unit and handled two different dogs for nearly 10 years. After retiring his second dog, he took over command of the City-County Special Investigations Unit as a Sergeant in 2008. In 2015, he was promoted to Lieutenant and moved back to patrol. In 2018 he became Captain of the Operations Division. The Division is comprised of the majority of the Department's 156 sworn officers, including three Lieutenants and 12 Sergeants. The Operations Division also includes the civilian Support Services Division which is managed by a Records Supervisor and is comprised of 13 staff members.

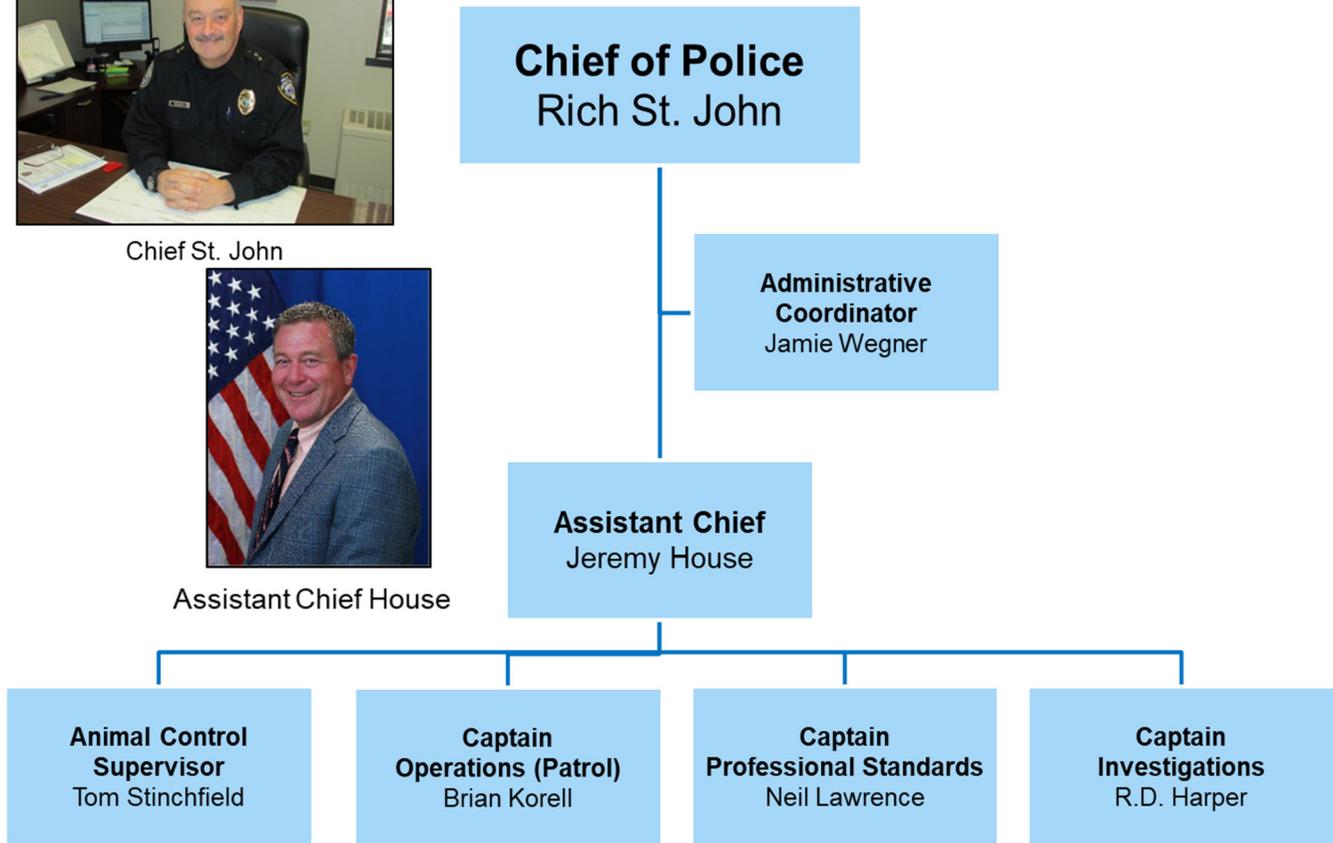
## Billings Police Department Command 2020



Chief St. John



Assistant Chief House



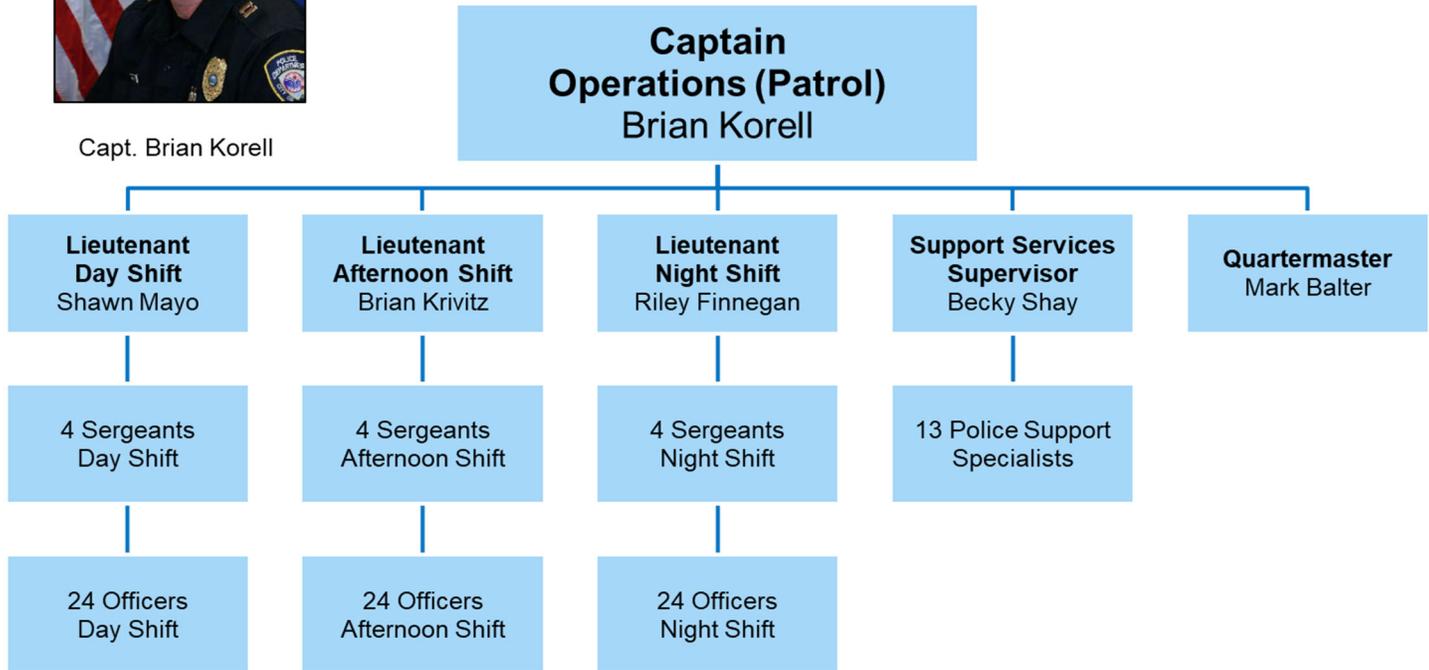
### *By the numbers ...*

Upper Command total years of service	<b>145</b>
Lieutenants total years of service	<b>111</b>
Sergeants total years of service	<b>262</b>
Overall command total years of service	<b>518</b>



Capt. Brian Korell

## Billings Police Department Operations Division 2020



### *Did you know?*

Billings Police Lieutenants and Sergeants take on collateral duties each year.

Their duties range from patrol vehicle inventory, so each officer has a vehicle for every shift, to attending Neighborhood Task Force meetings. These tasks are considered not only among their duties but part of leadership's commitment to Billings and its Police Department.

Several of them also oversee the Department's specialized units. Officers must meet minimum requirements, apply and be selected to serve with these units and then maintain high standards in training throughout their tenures.

#### **Specialized Unit Commanders:**

Bicycle Patrol - Sgt. Cagle

K9 - Sgt. Becker

Hostage Negotiators - Sgt. Reid

Bomb Squad - Sgt. Gartner

SWAT - Lt. Mayo

Street Crimes Unit - Sgt. Chaney

Field Training Officers - Sgt. Lennick

Honor Guard - Sgt. Winden

Firearm Instructors - Sgt. Milam & Sgt. Becker

Drone Program - Sgt. Shelden & Sgt. Winden

Drug Recognition Experts - Sgt. Gunther

Crash Reconstruction - Sgt. Jensen

Civil Disobedience Team - Sgt. Becker

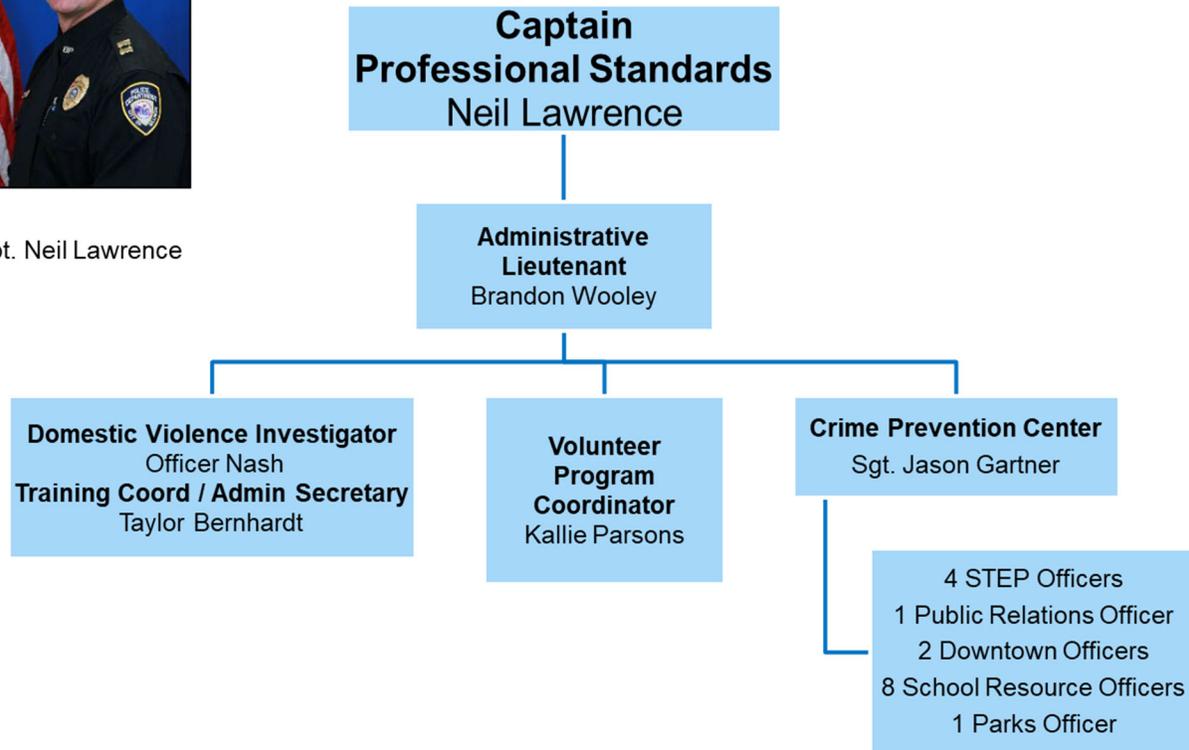
Crisis Intervention Training - Sgt. Reid

DUI/Intoxalizer - Sgt. Jensen

# Billings Police Department Office of Professional Standards 2020



Capt. Neil Lawrence

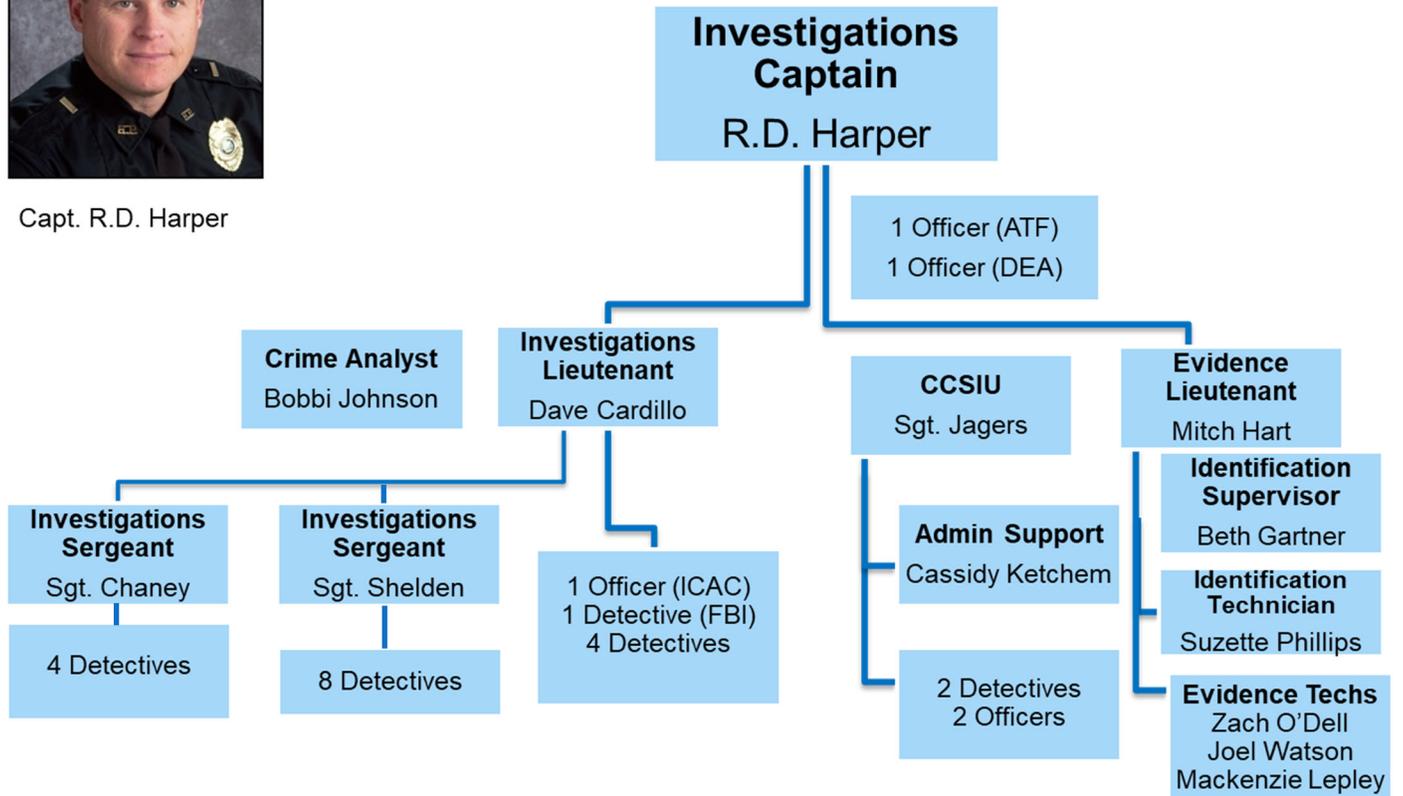


**BPD Officers were among the Honor Guard that served when Master Sgt. William Burrows' body was returned to Montana. The Bronze Star recipient was killed in a traffic accident in Colorado.**

## Billings Police Department Investigations Division 2020



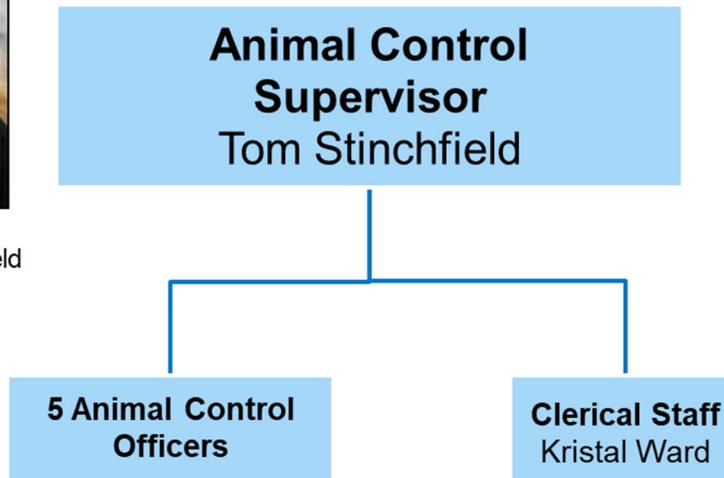
Capt. R.D. Harper



## Billings Police Department Animal Control Division 2020



Supervisor Tom Stinchfield



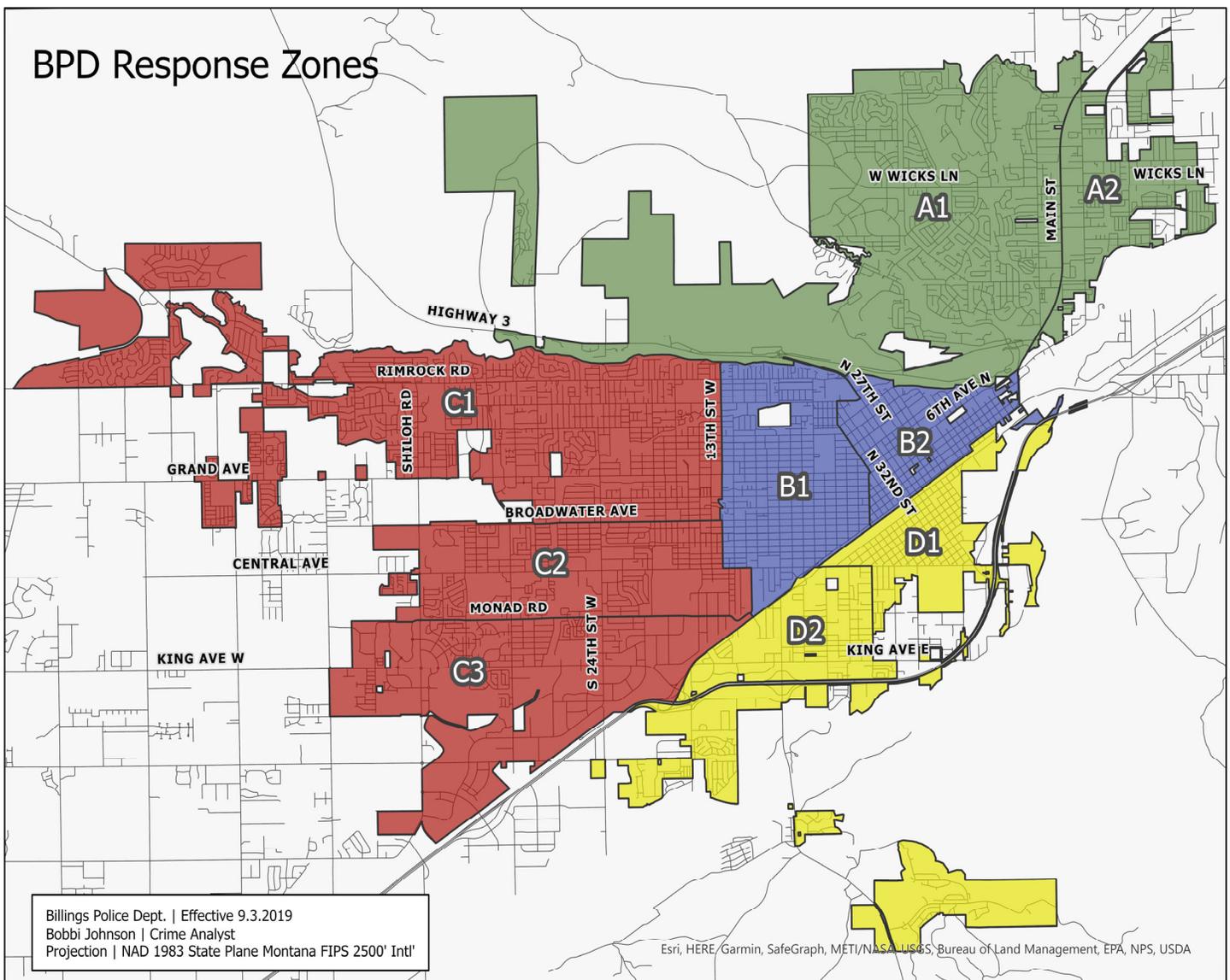
## Where We Work

There are an average of 16 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.

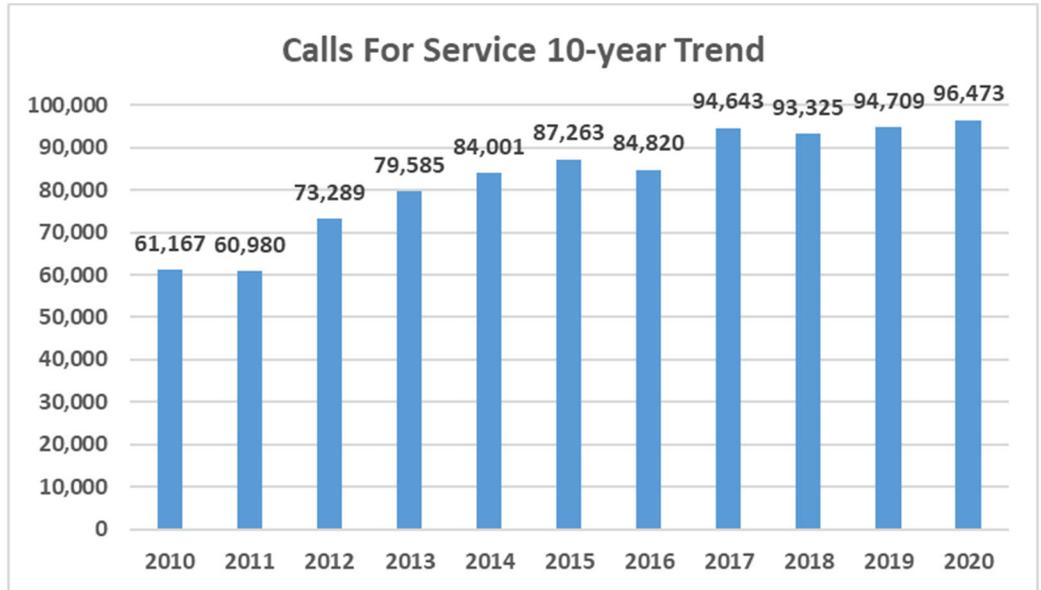
Billings Police Department has divided the city into Zones. The boundaries are based on natural borders, such as the Rimrocks, obvious boundaries, such as arterial roads and the railroad tracks, and some boundaries are unique to the Department’s call load.

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.



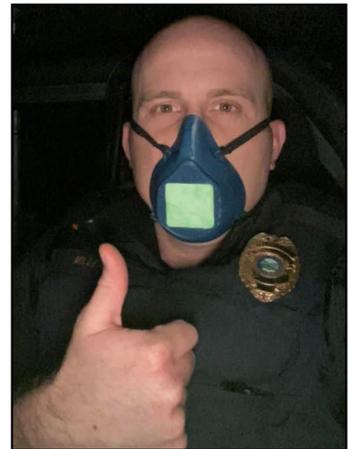
ZONE	2020
A1	9,321
A2	6,385
B1	11,989
B2	21,690
C1	9,986
C2	8,355
C3	9,048
D1	8,083
D2	8,237
<b>Initial call mapped outside Billings</b>	1,466
<b>Unknown offense location</b>	1,913
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96,473</b>



***Did you know?***

Like the rest of the world, Billings Police Department entered 2020 facing great unknowns.

The Department quickly developed protocols to keep essential workers healthy and maintain continuity of staffing and operations. We adapted daily operations to maintain social distancing and ensured officers had tools to remain healthy while still working closely with the public, like the protective mask School Resource Officer Miller is wearing in this photo.



Throughout the year, there were 45 confirmed cases of COVID in the department, including sworn and civilian employees. There were 53 high-risk work related exposures.

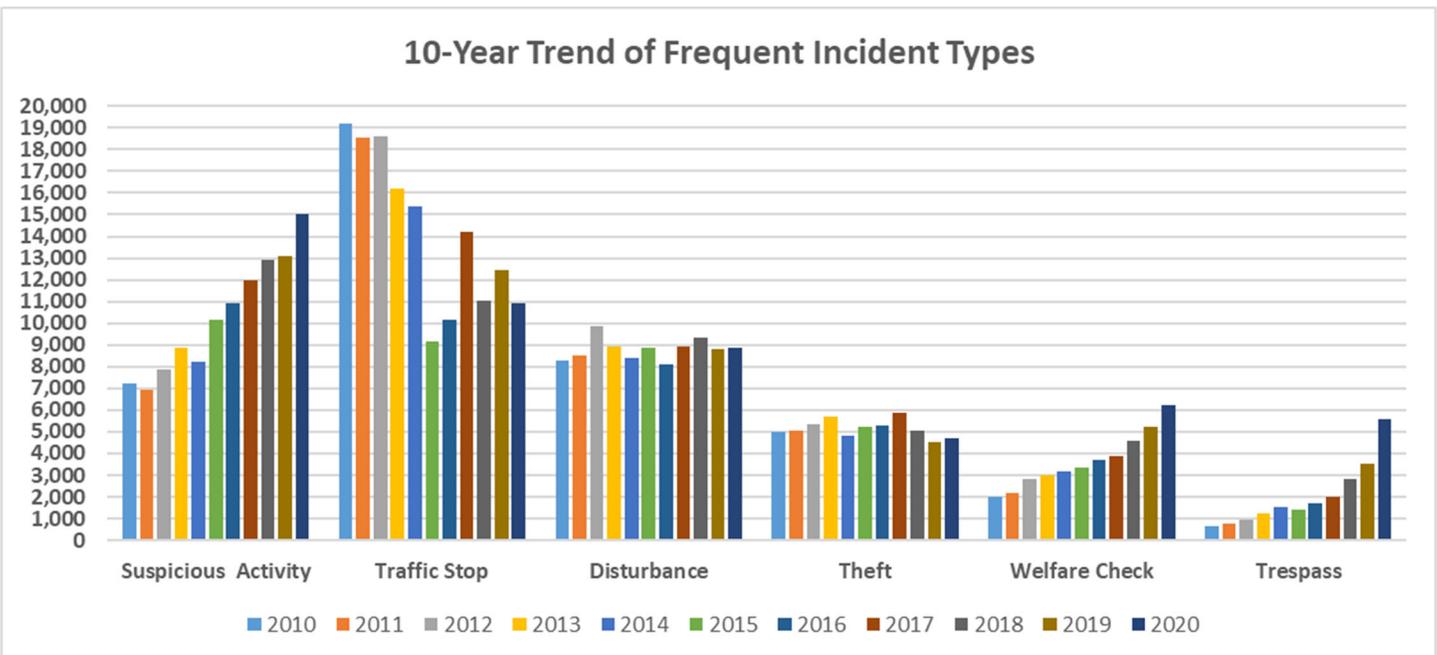
Of the positive cases, only a few were confirmed to be work-related. There were no disruptions in the Department’s ability to respond to Calls For Service as a result of internal COVID infections.



### 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
Suspicious Activity	10,910	11,955	12,916	13,086	15,018
Traffic Stop	10,135	14,224	11,035	12,442	10,898
Disturbance	8,114	8,912	9,323	8,830	8,844
Welfare Check	3,713	3,892	4,562	5,211	6,245
Trespass	1,678	2,015	2,813	3,512	5,590
Theft	5,298	5,856	5,032	4,529	4,728
Alarm	4,740	5,239	5,234	5,066	4,372
Traffic Complaint/Investigation	3,073	3,207	3,405	3,811	3,693
Area Check	2,982	5,567	5,210	3,512	3,402
Accident Property Damage	2,250	2,274	2,321	2,301	1,993
Abandoned Vehicle	2,232	2,400	2,572	2,546	1,782
Follow Up	1,374	2,206	2,491	2,034	1,620
Suicide Attempts/Threats	1,162	1,321	1,463	1,490	1,478
Threats/Harassment	1,336	1,465	1,346	1,484	1,444
Service Assist Law Enforcement	1,184	1,202	1,009	1,098	1,432
DUI	1,515	1,308	1,417	1,459	1,370
Drug Investigation	1,380	1,004	1,489	1,298	1,182
Noise Complaint	894	727	770	894	1,142
Vandalism	1,859	1,482	1,322	1,079	1,121
PFMA	79	62	634	772	1,080

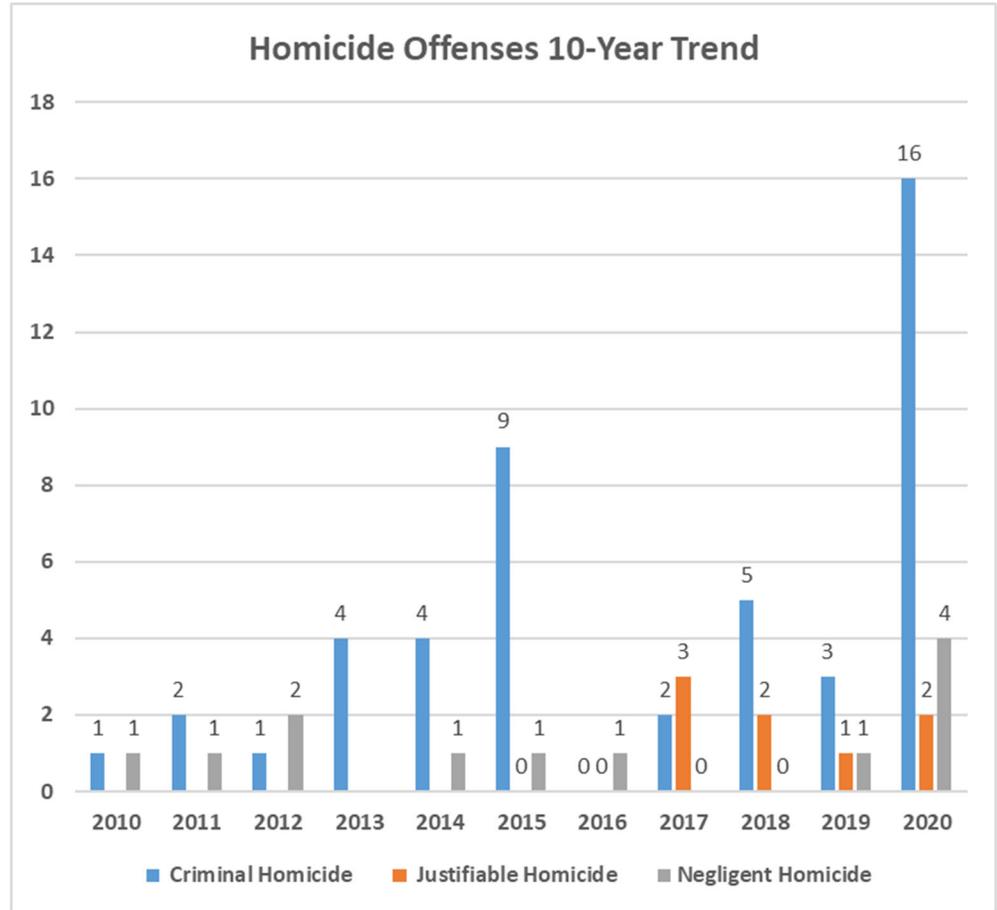


The FBI defines crimes that are reported through its National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRs) program. The NIBRs definitions for homicide are:

**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 Police Officers and Detectives meticulously work through death investigations.

Homicide investigations take hundreds of staff hours to complete as detectives strive to make sense of the ultimate crime. Each homicide is assigned to a primary detective, however every case has several members of the Investigations Division involved. The patrol officers on duty when a homicide is discovered also contribute as they secure the scene and take immediate steps to identify suspects. Sometimes the initial response takes so many officers out of regular patrol that off-duty officers are called in to respond to citizen calls. Anyone involved must document their activity for the case file.

Detectives and officers work from the largest scale to the smallest. This can involve securing an entire city block down to a single strand of hair or fiber.

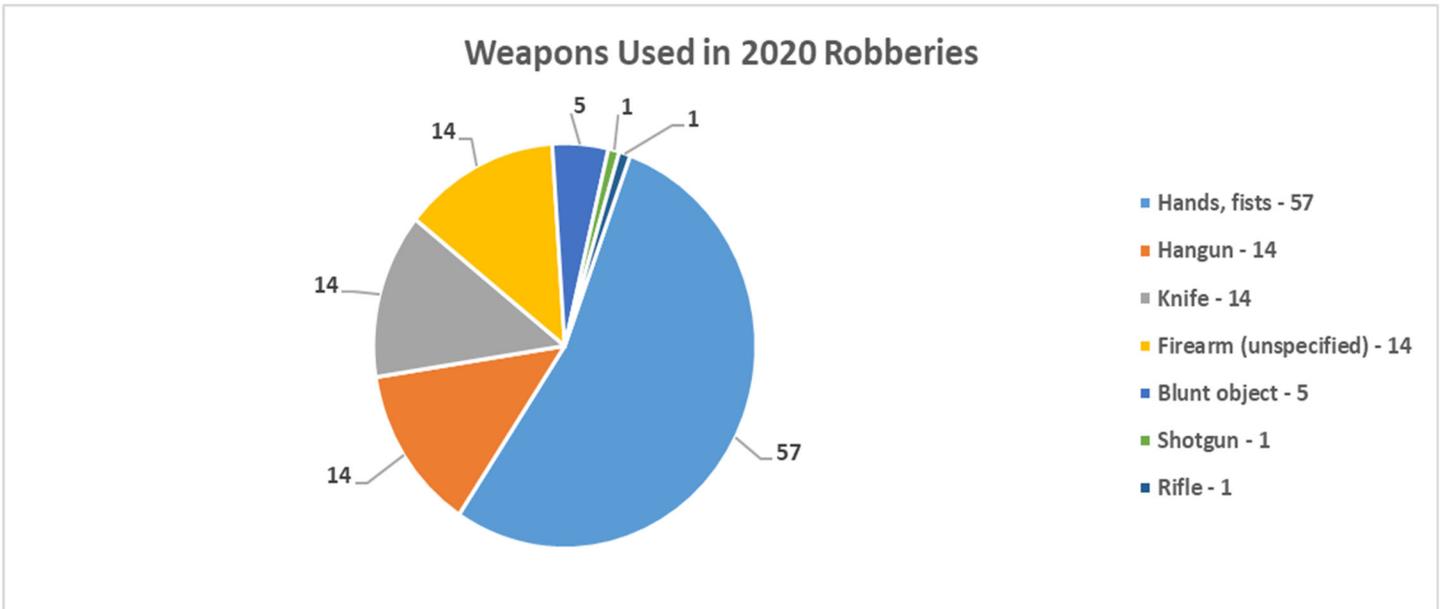
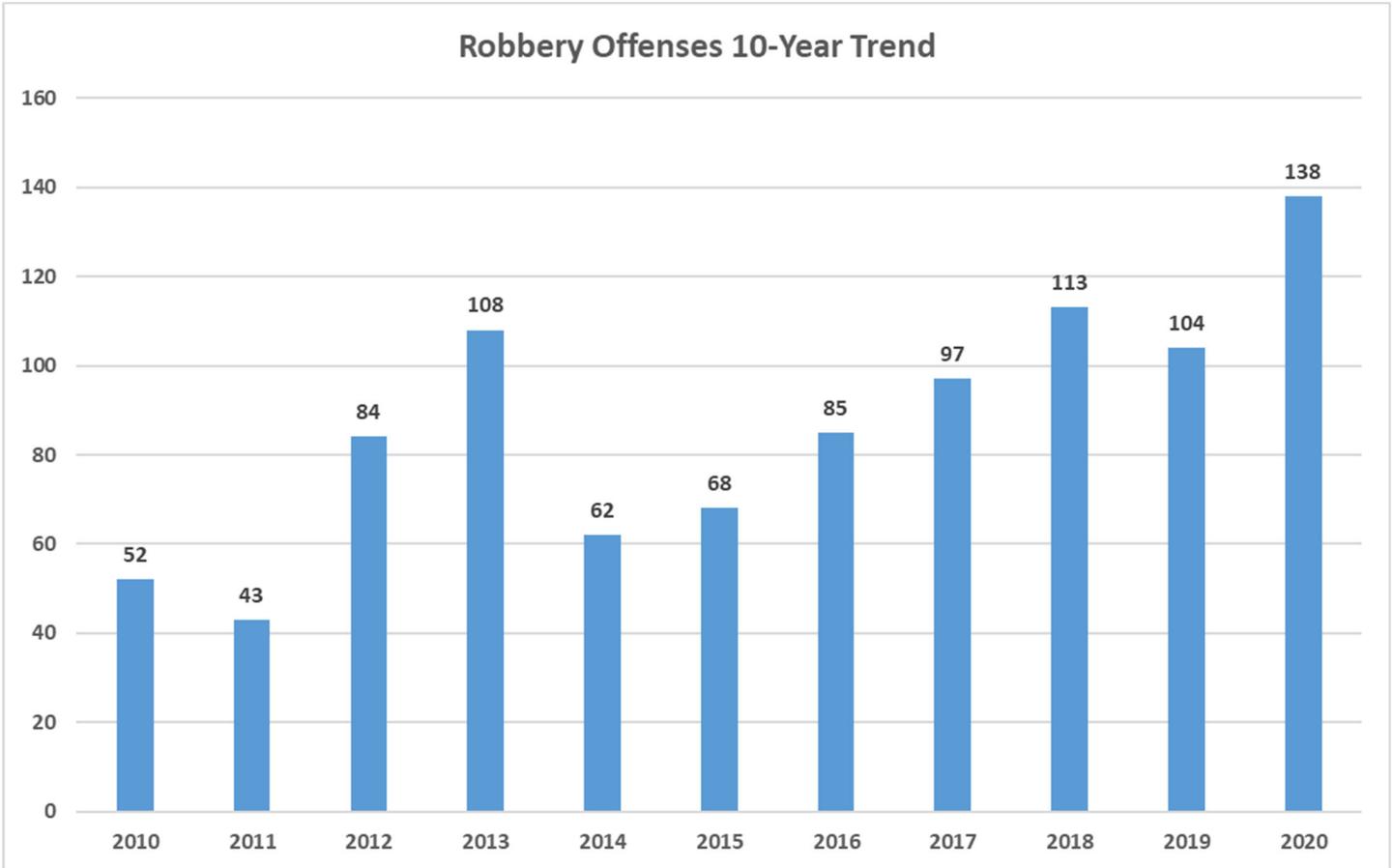
Their job is to document anything that can be used for investigative purposes, so they photograph each item they find multiple ways and write detailed reports of every action they take during investigations. They process the victim looking for clues. They talk to and console family members. They apply logic to incomprehensible brutality and explain seemingly meaningless acts of violence.

Their diligence pays dividends.

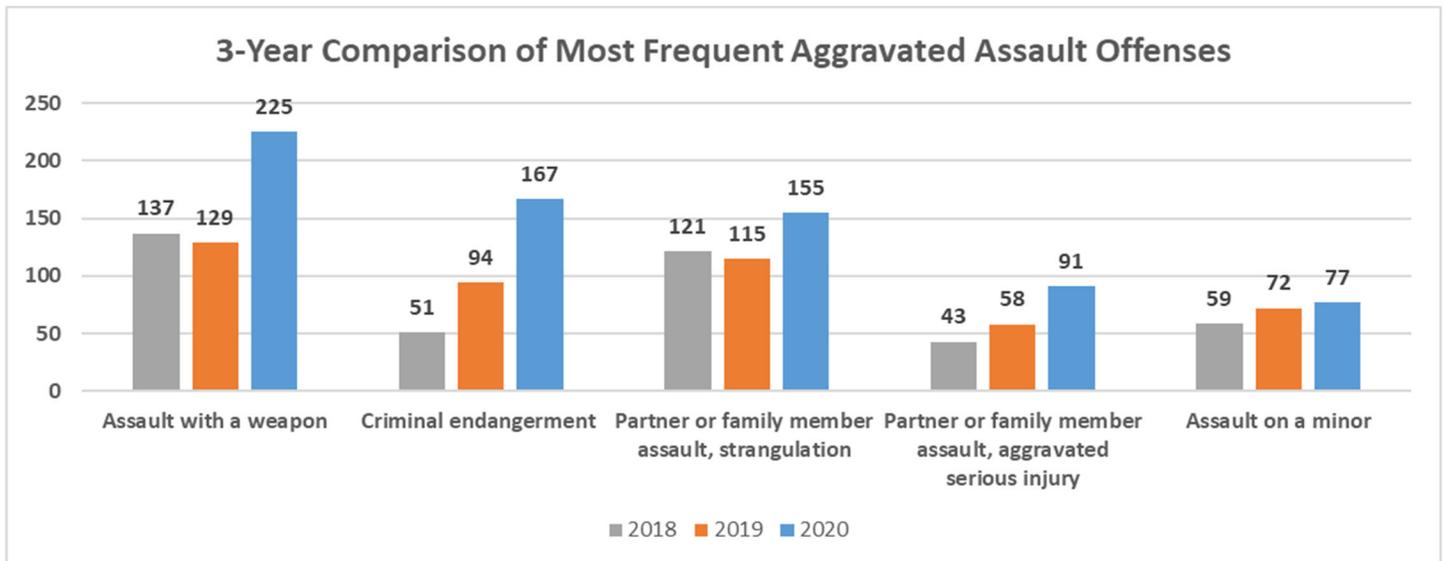
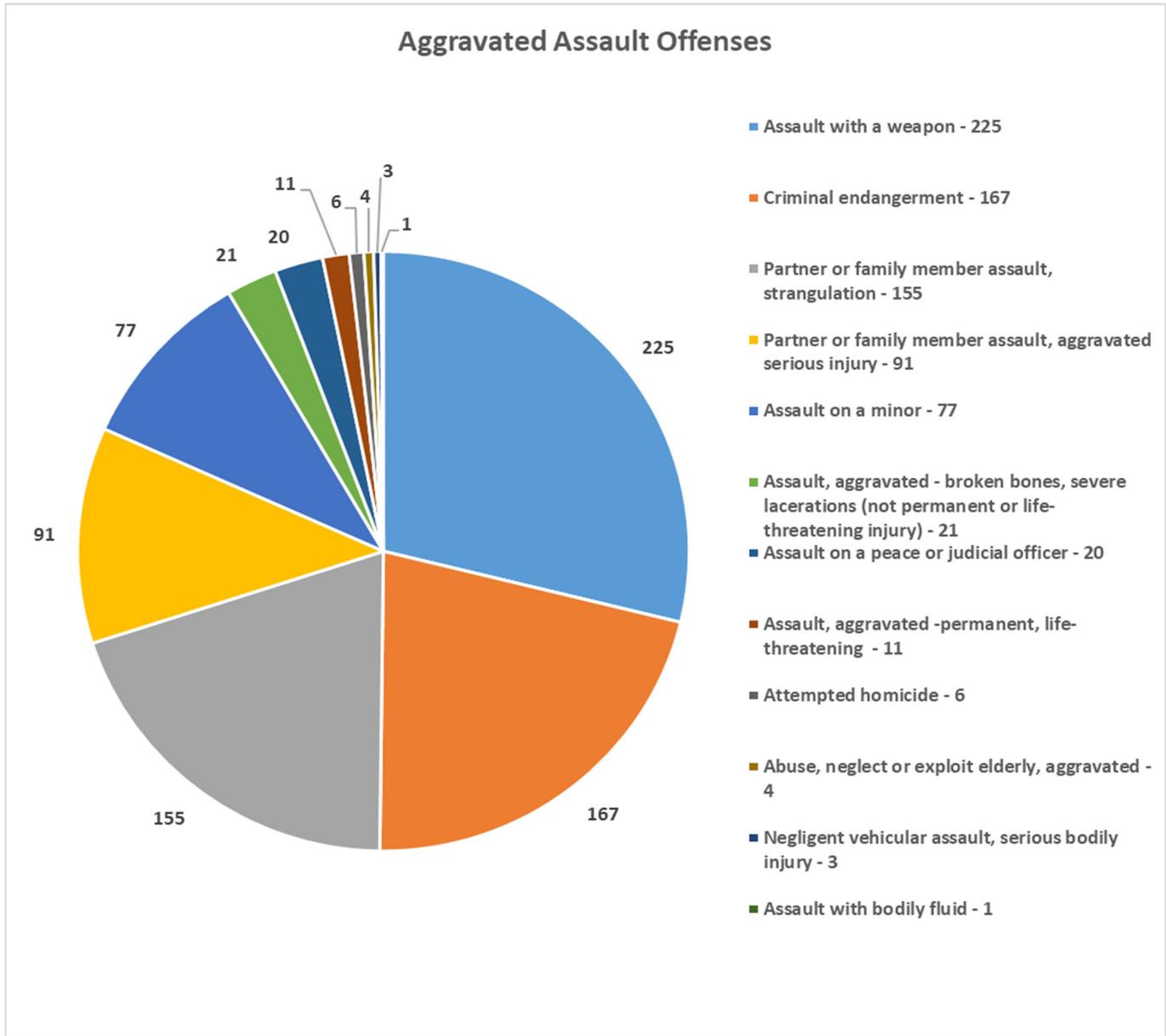
By year's end, 15 of 22 homicides, 68 percent, were cleared by arrest, warrant or the suspect was deceased. The other 7 cases, 31 percent, are open or are under prosecutorial review for charges.

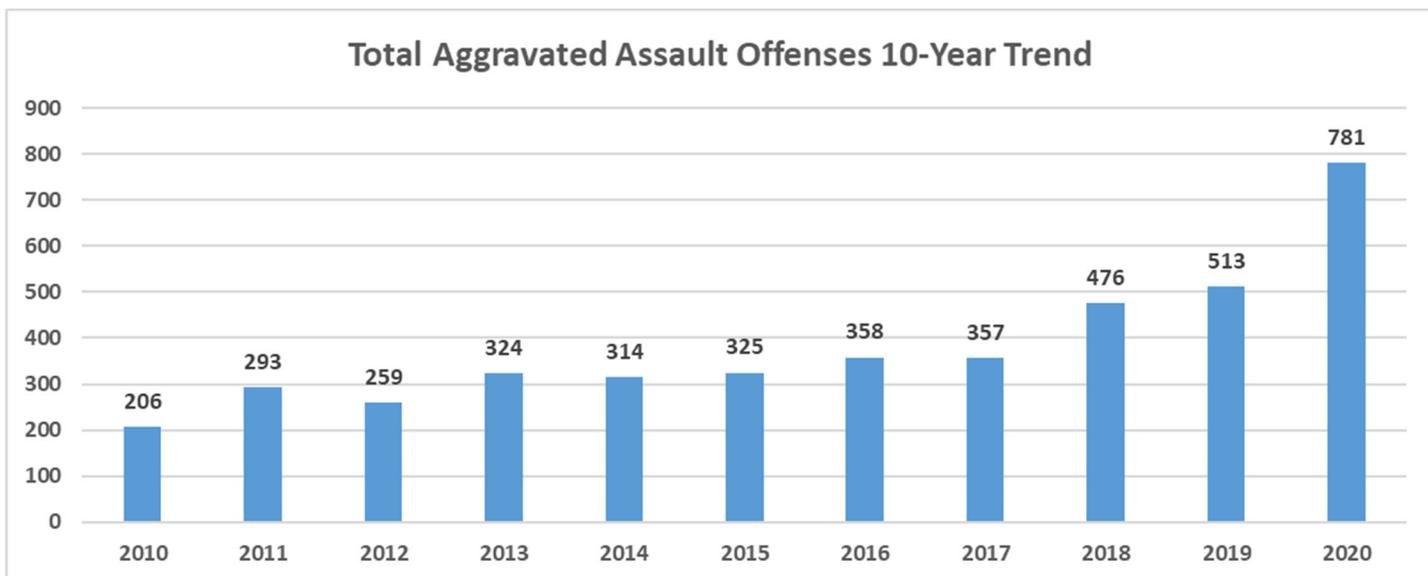
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**All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the database. Due to continuous data entry after reports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

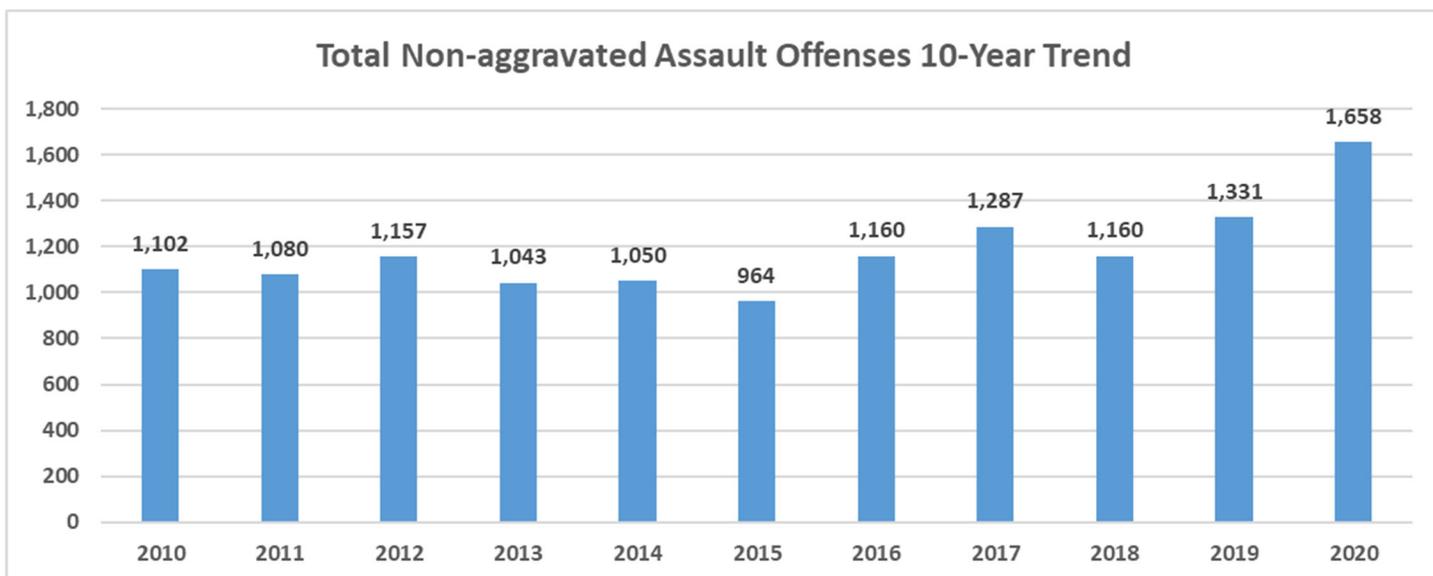


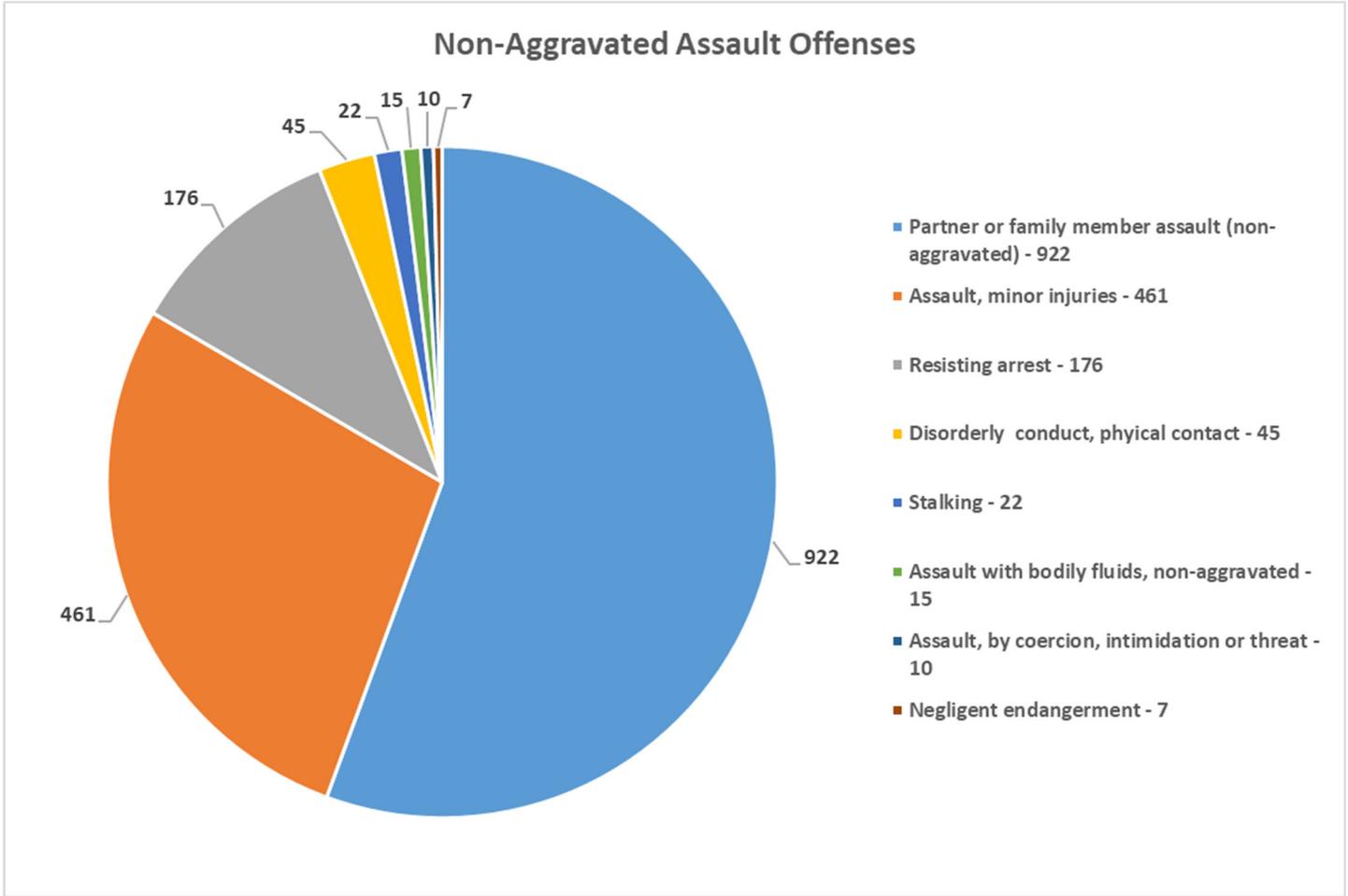


Every crime investigation is unique and has its own challenges, but investigating and documenting violence requires extra time and effort.

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.

The chart above shows increases in violent crimes over most of the last decade. The only additional reporting started in 2018 when strangulation was added as a domestic crime.





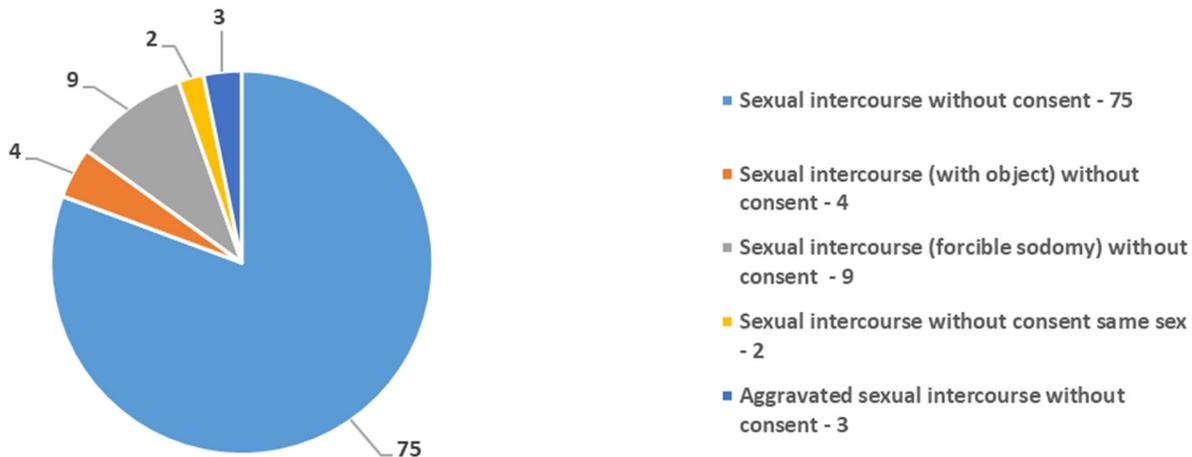
### Domestic Violence Investigator

Officer Nash is the Billings Police Department Domestic Violent Investigator. She has been the Department’s only DVI since the program’s inception in 2006. She investigates domestic violence assaults, both felony and misdemeanor, and related crimes including court order violations and stalking in the context of domestic violence relationships. In her on-going efforts to improve how BPD responds to domestic violence cases, she implemented an on-scene risk assessment that patrol officers administer to victims on DV calls. Using the assessment, officers can put victims in immediate contact with the YWCA Gateway House where they can receive additional services such as emergency shelter and on-going safety planning.

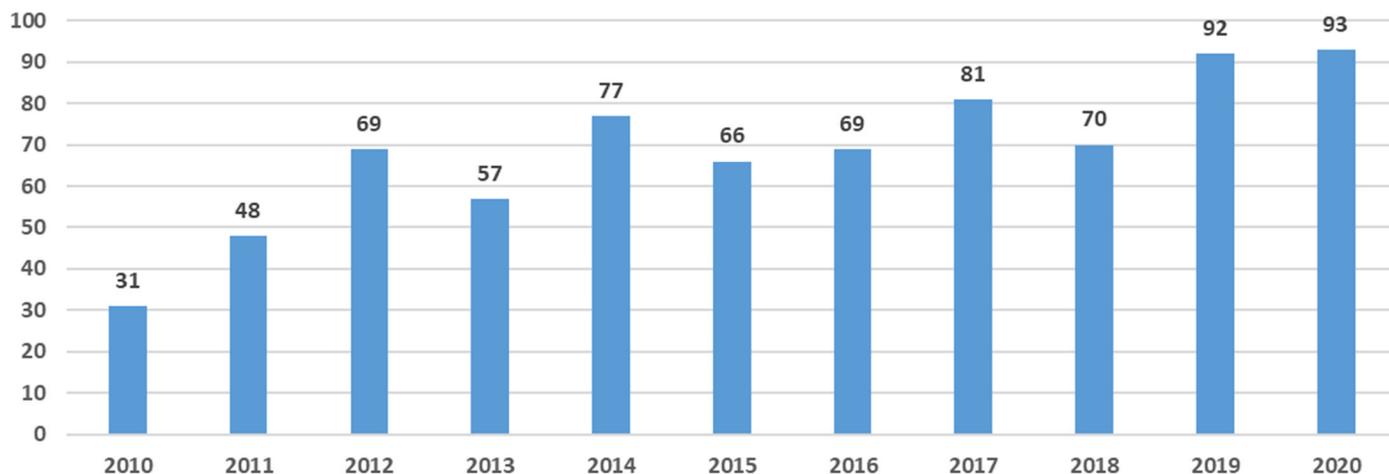
### Investigations

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Partner or Family Member Assaults - misdemeanor and felony, serious bodily injury crimes	754	642	724	971
Strangulation (Montana law since 2017)		121	113	155
Stalking	8	6	12	25
Sexual assault	169	95	175	247
No Contact Order and Protective Order Violations (not tracked in 2018)	336	0	378	514

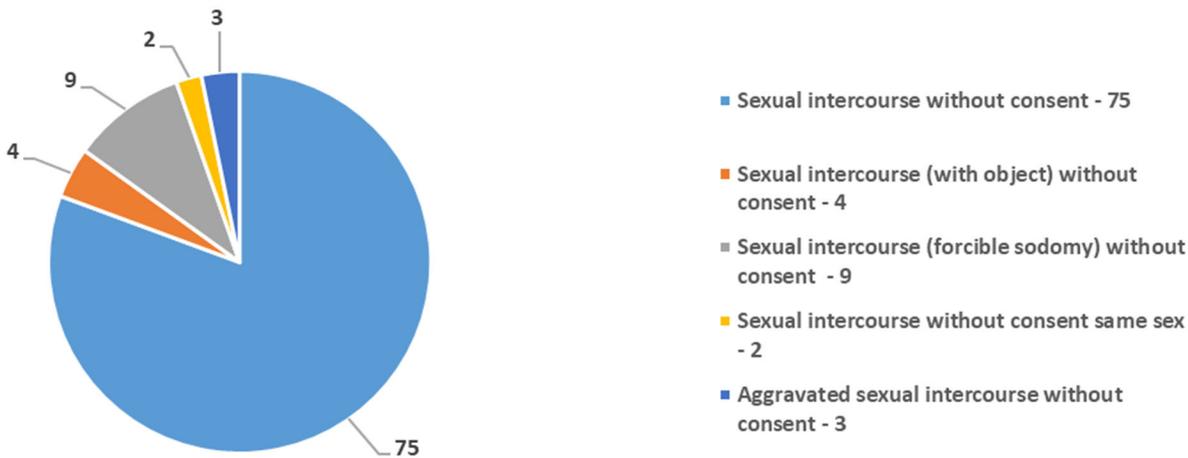
### Sexual Assault Offenses



### Sexual Assault Offenses 10-Year Trend



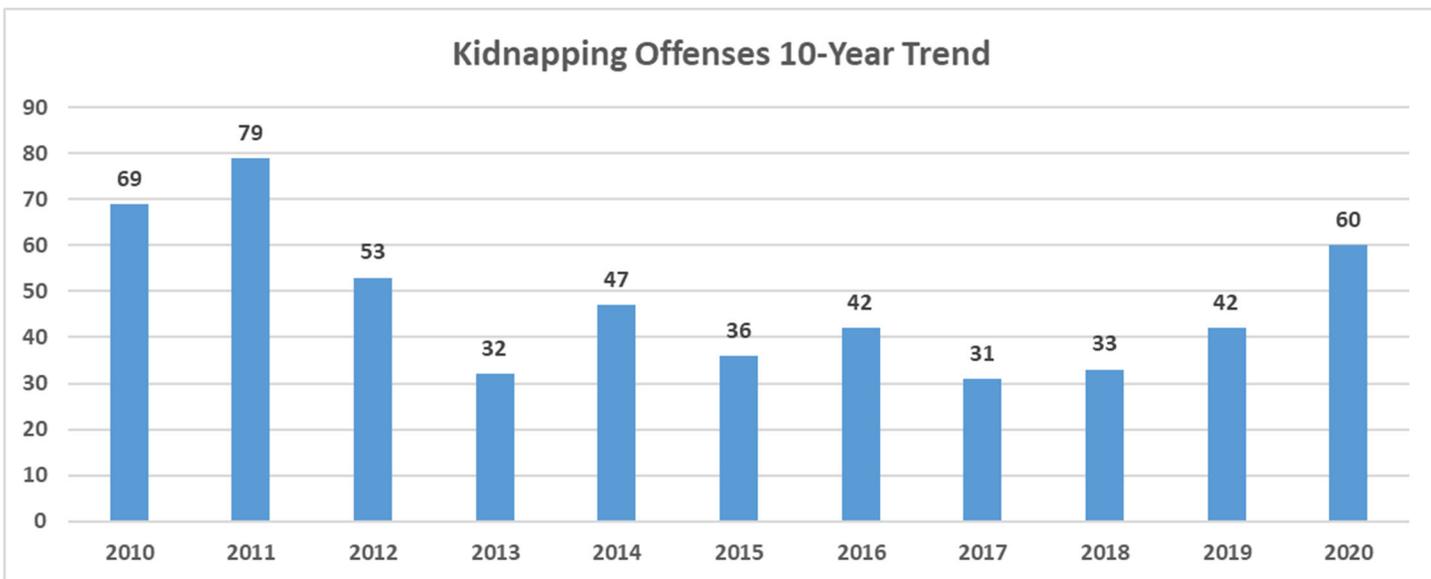
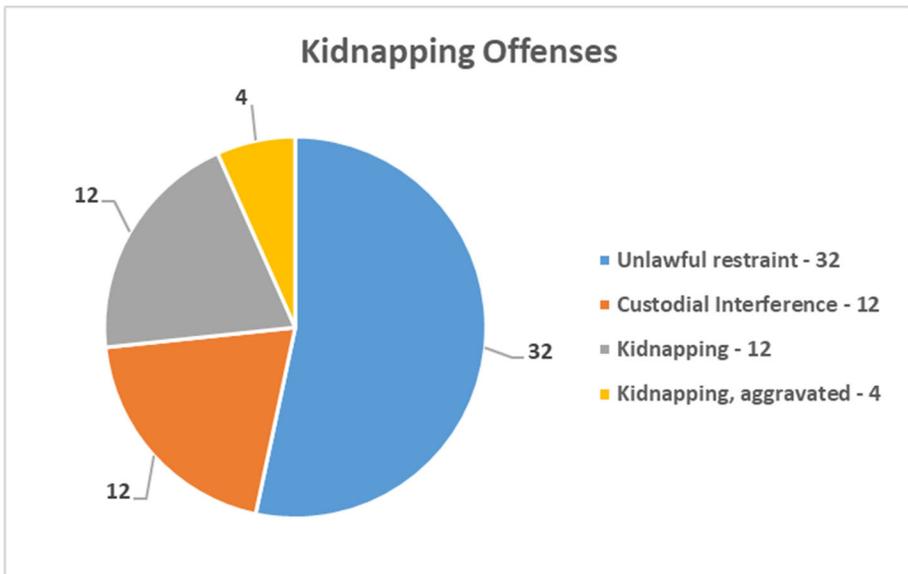
### Sexual Assault Offenses



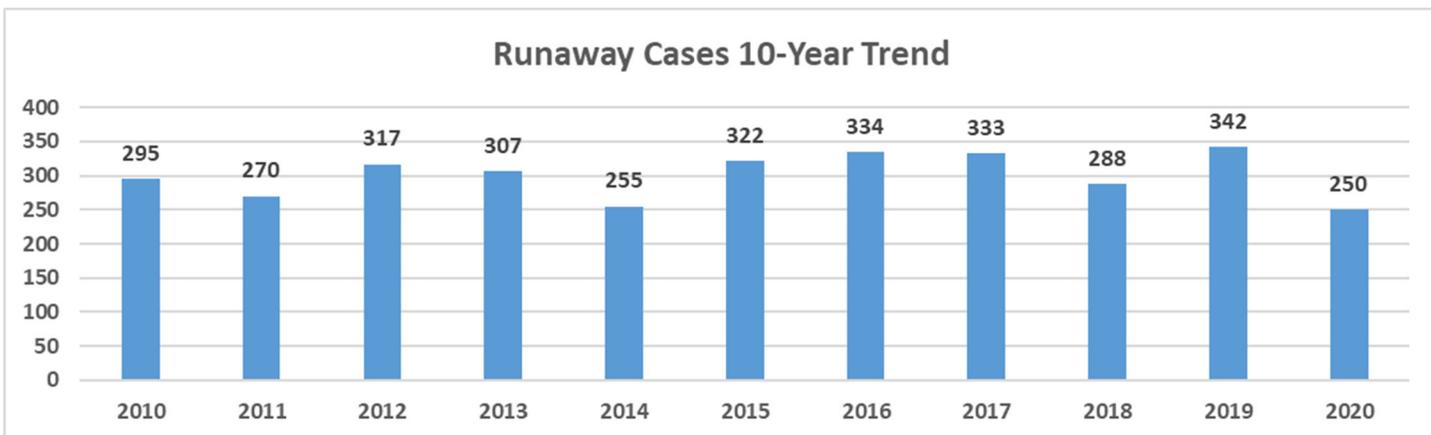
The FBI definition of kidnapping is the unlawful seizure, transportation and/or detention of persons against their will or of minors without the consent of their custodial parents or legal guardians.

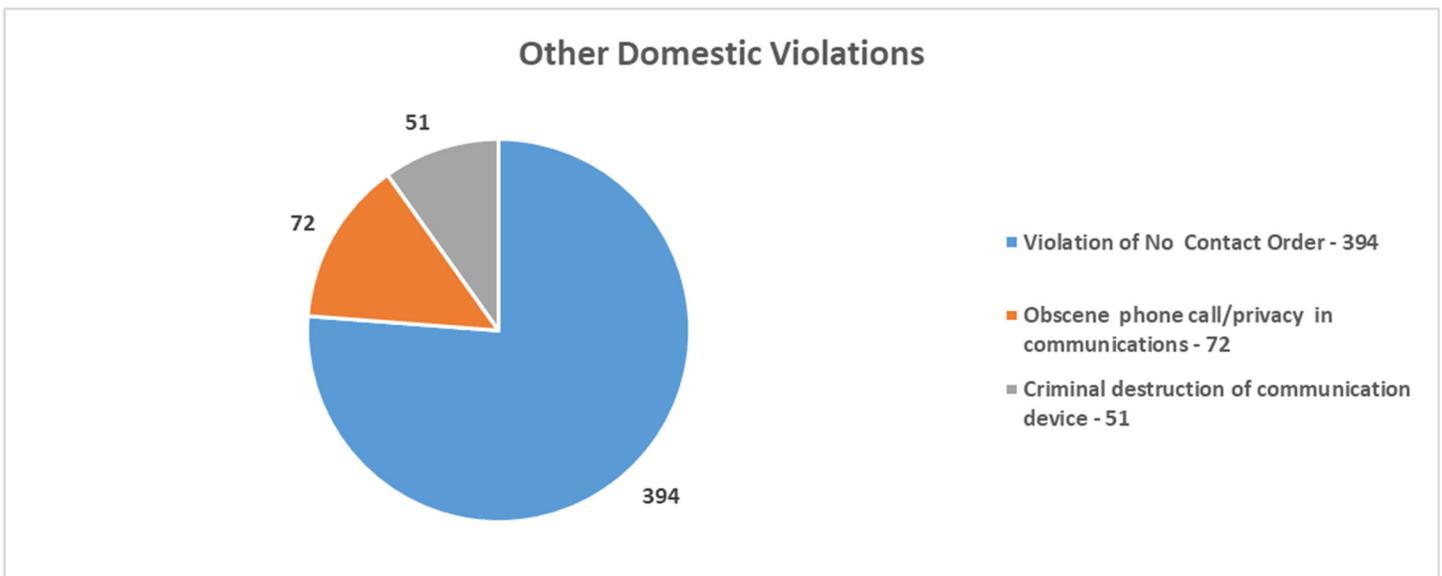
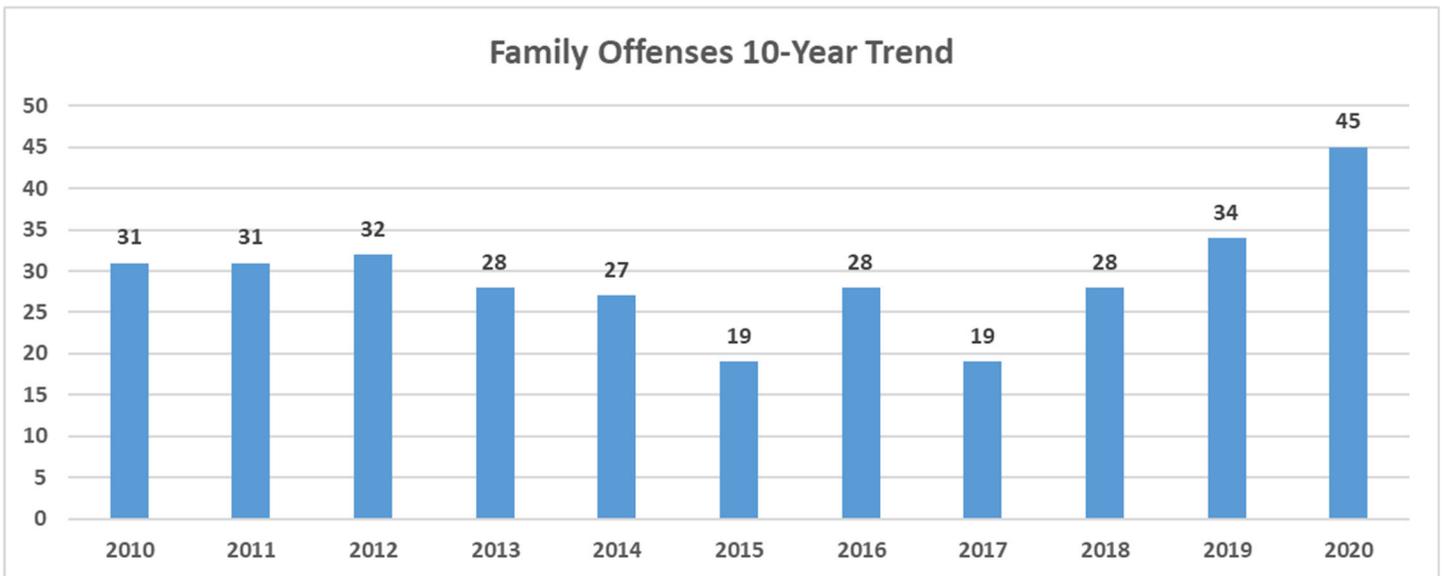
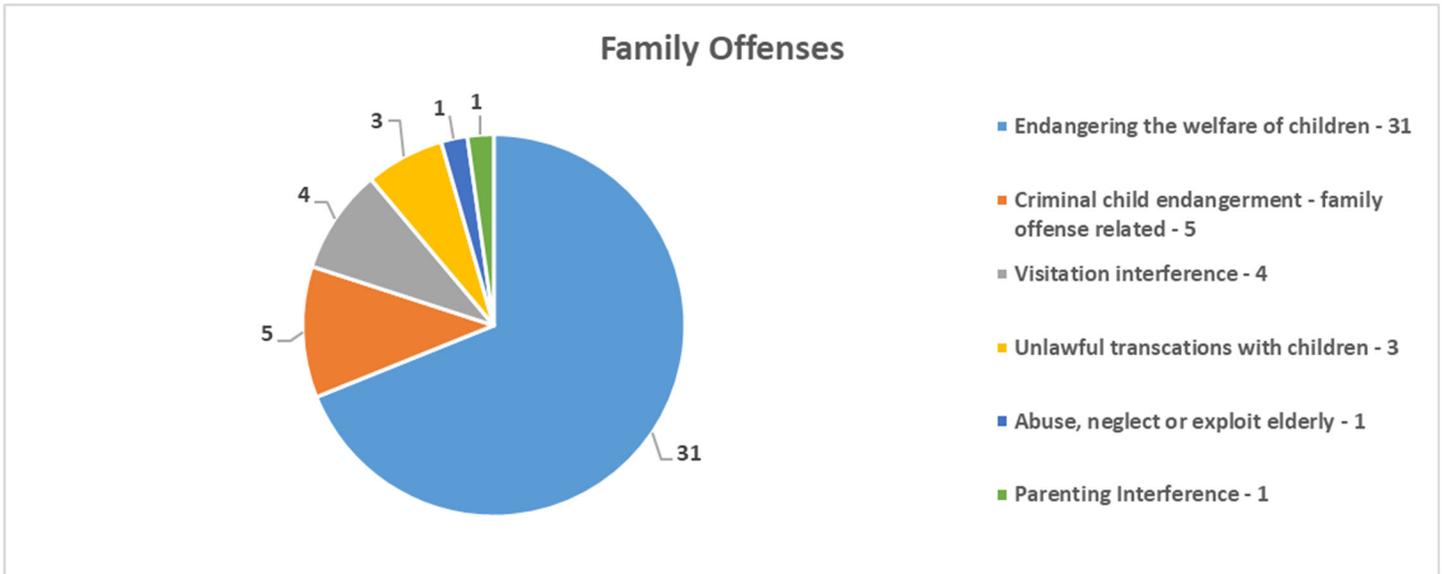
Most of the kidnapping offenses investigated by Billings Police are unlawful restraint that occur during Partner or Family Member Assaults.

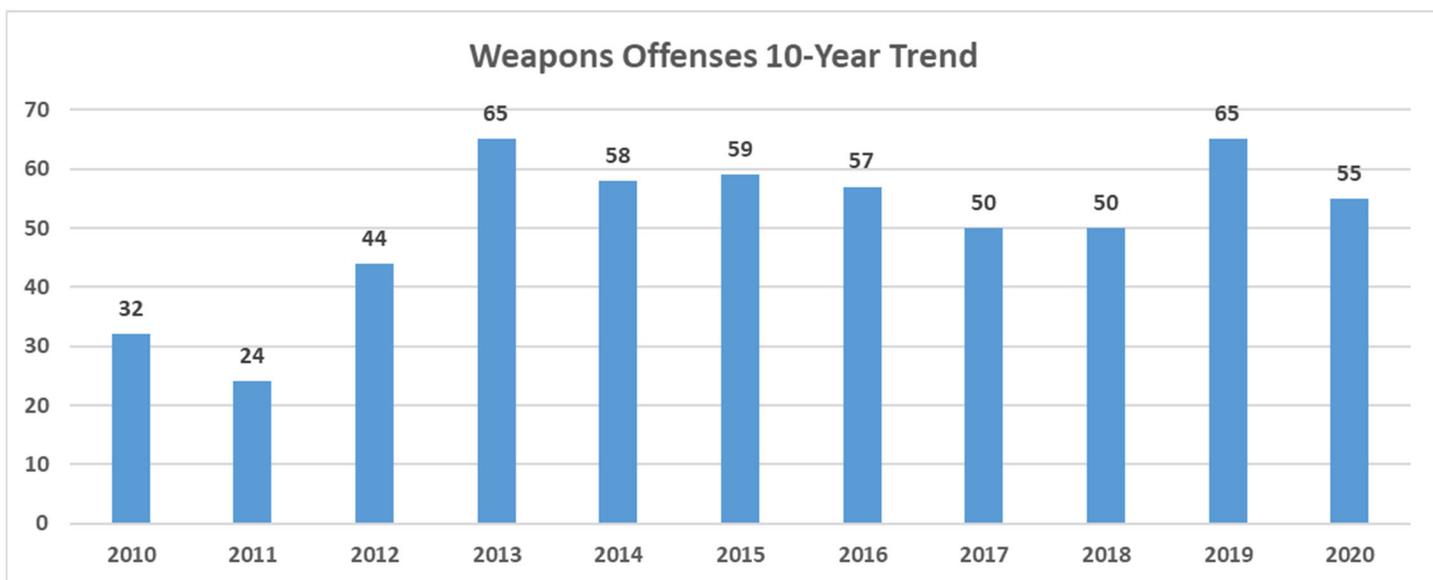
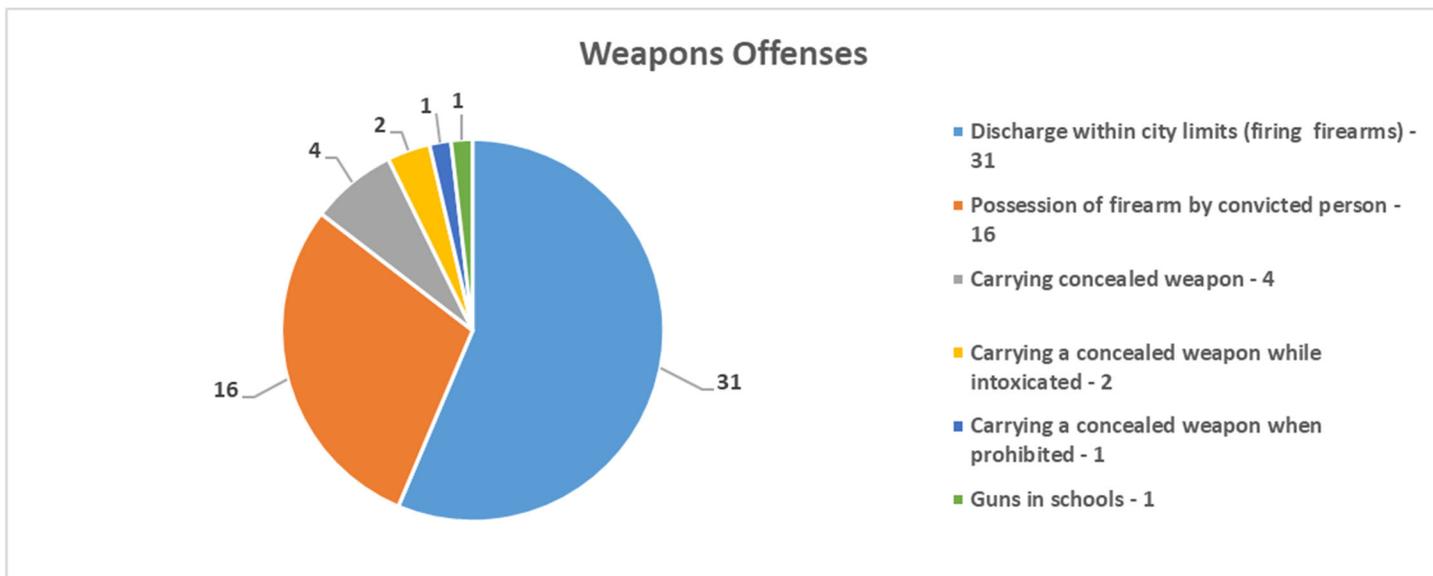
Officers investigated 155 allegations of custodial interference in 2020, but only 12 rose to the level of a crime.



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 located.







***Did you know?***

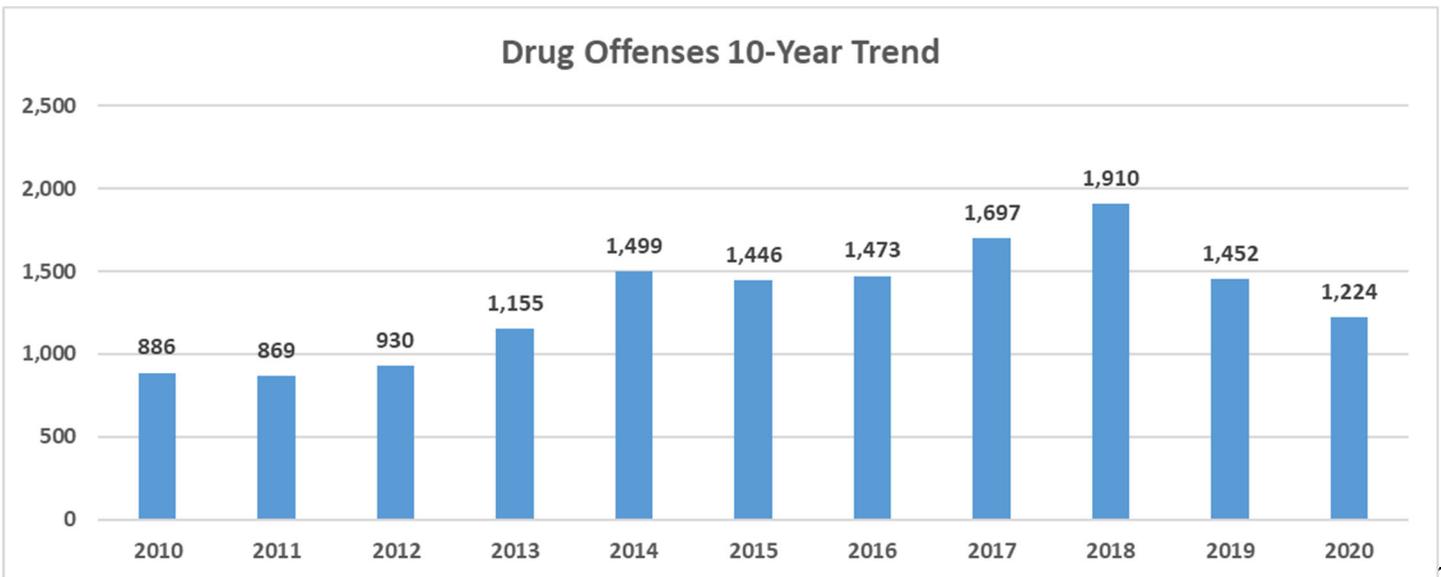
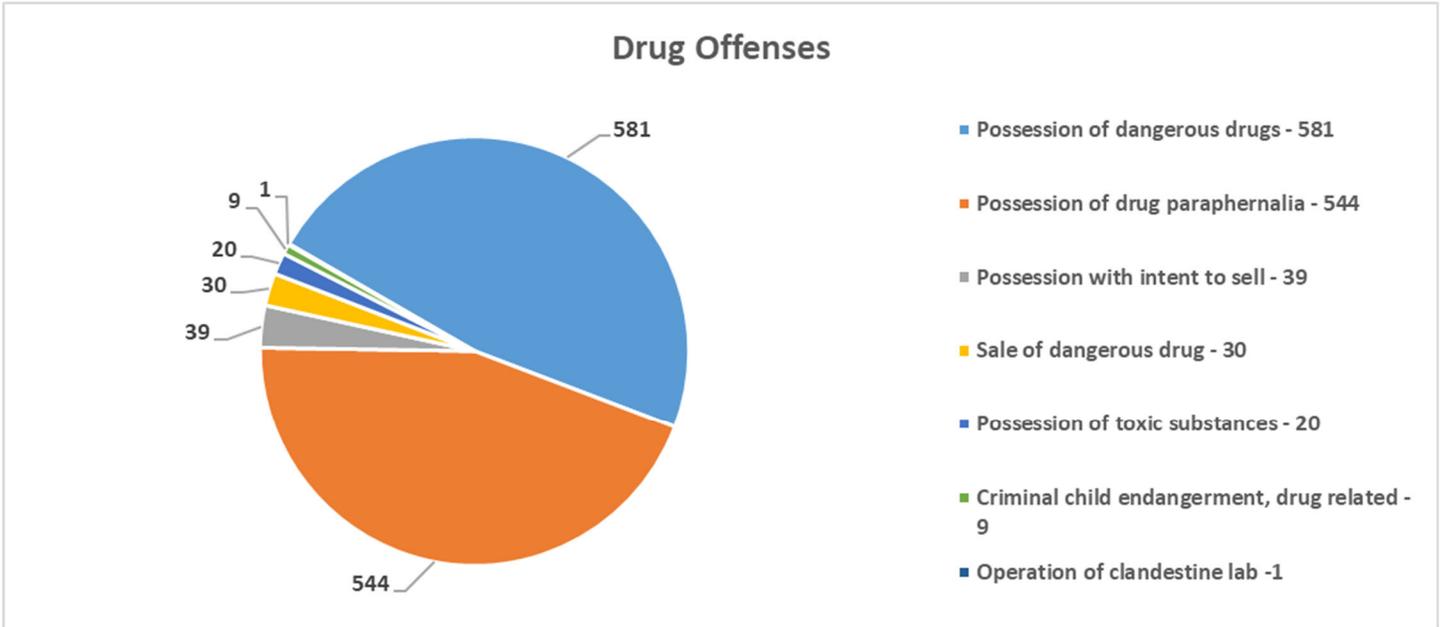
Billings Police Officers are trained to work as part of a Crisis Intervention Team. At some point every shift, officers use aspects of crisis intervention.

The goal of crisis intervention is to maintain citizen and officer safety, not escalate already tense situations and, as appropriate, divert people in crisis from the criminal justice system and into proper care.

In this photo, CIT Instructor Officer Tanis (on the ladder), is acting out a scenario with Officers Corneliusen and Laase during their first week of training as new officers. The training goal was for the officers to calm an angry Tanis, get him to drop the hammer in his hand which could be used as a weapon, and to have him come down from the ladder and be transported for help.

Veteran BPD Officers evaluate the rookies on the every aspect of the training. They cover items from the officers' threat evaluation when they entered the room to the way they listened to the person and interacted with him leading up to the final steps of determining where the subject would be taken and how that was explained to him.





**This photo is of drug items found behind a dumpster in downtown Billings. When officers investigate drug crimes, they must prove that the items seized are illegal drugs. This requires presumptive testing in the field and laboratory testing by the State of Montana. Drugs must be weighed before and after the testing and each step must be documented. During 2020, Officers seized as evidence 1,745 packages of drugs and 2,028 pieces of drug paraphernalia.**



**Did you know?**

Billings School Resources Officers are funded in cooperation with School District 2. There are 8 SROs.

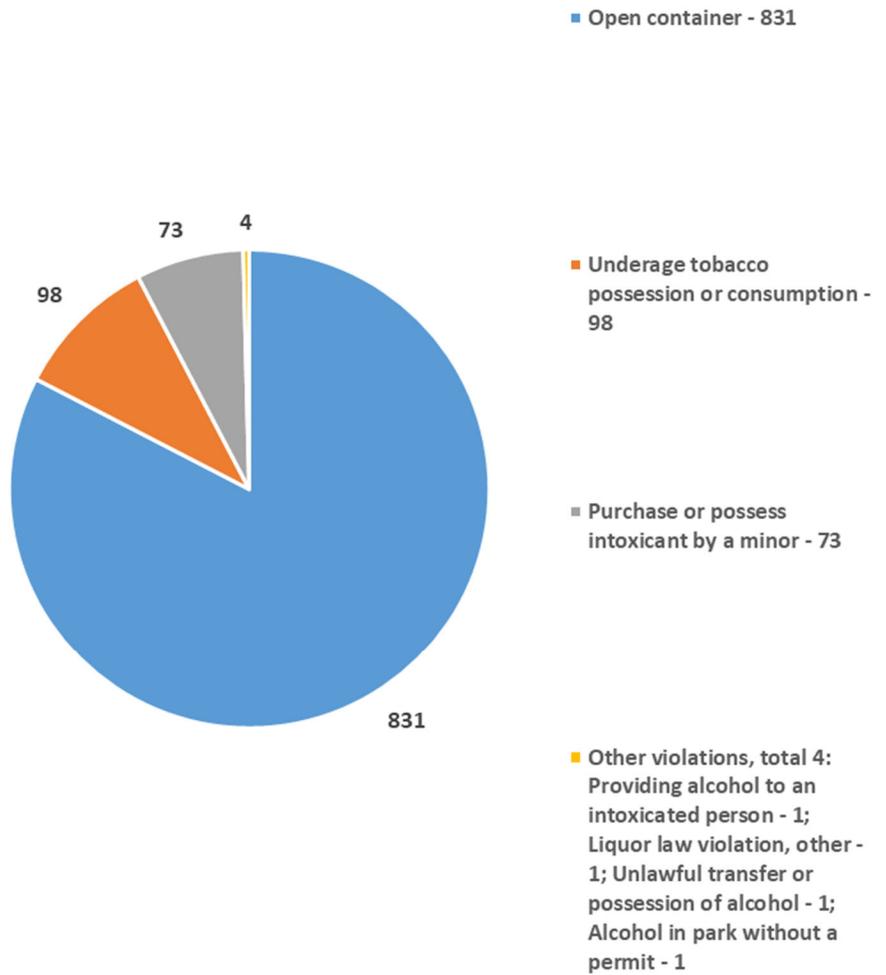
The officers are assigned to individual high schools or middle schools and visit several elementary schools as part of their duties.

During the 2019-2020 school year the officers wrote 920 cases, compared to 829 during the previous school year. More than 330 cases were closed with arrests during 2019-2020 compared to almost 400 the previous year.

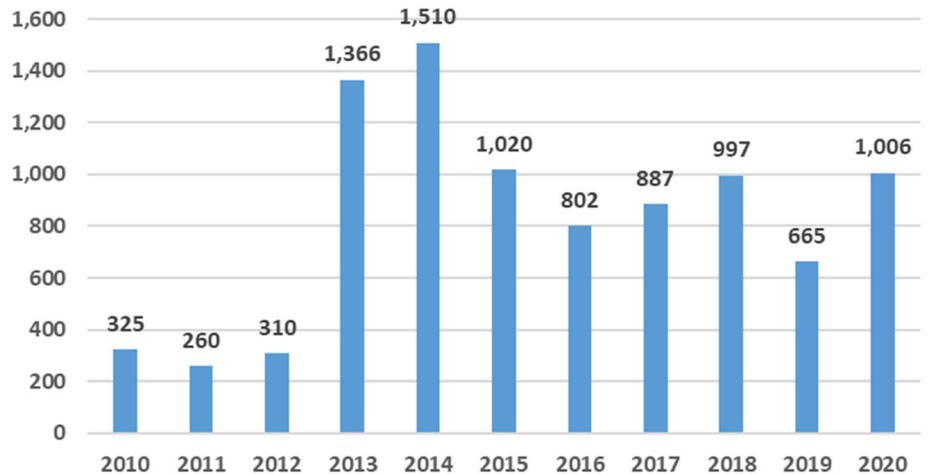
Here are the most frequent offenses SROs investigated:

<b>Tobacco possession or use</b>	87
<b>Disorderly conduct</b>	87
<b>Drug paraphernalia</b>	27
<b>Shoplifting</b>	19
<b>Drug possession</b>	16
<b>Possess of intoxicants</b>	14
<b>Assault</b>	14
<b>Trespass</b>	13
<b>Partner or family member assault</b>	13
<b>Obstructing a peace officer</b>	9
<b>Criminal mischief</b>	7
<b>DUI</b>	6
<b>Theft from building</b>	5
<b>Theft, all other</b>	5
<b>Violate no contact order</b>	3
<b>Illegal handling of stolen property</b>	3

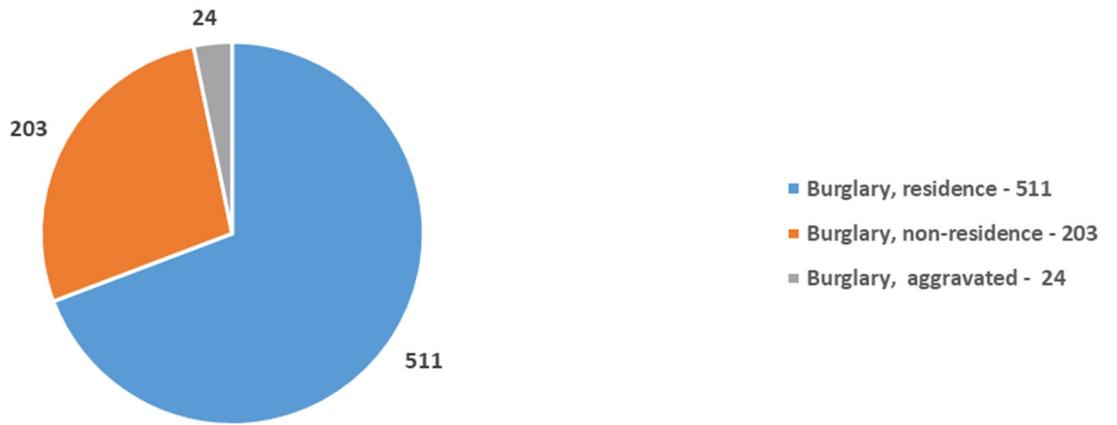
**Liquor Law and Underage Tobacco Violations**



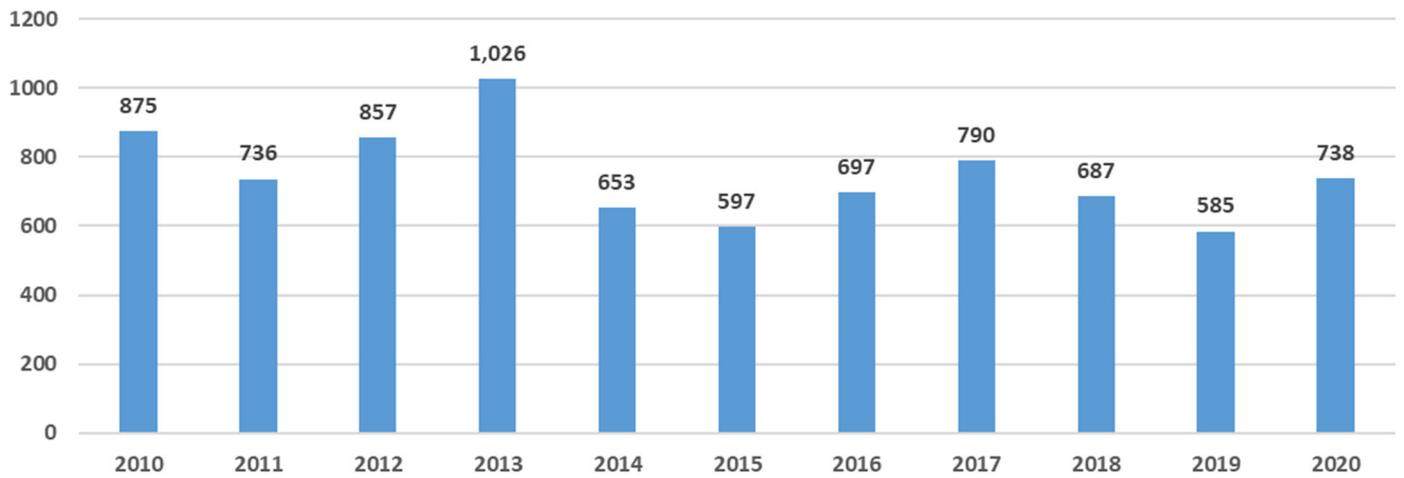
**Liquor and Tobacco Violations 10-Year Trend**



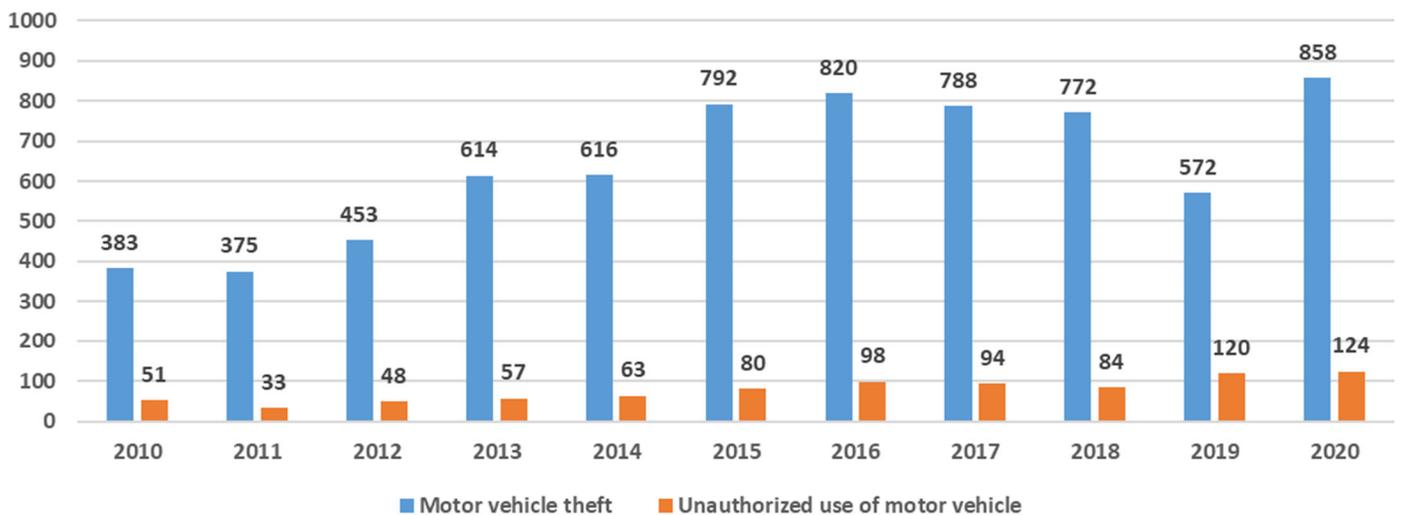
### Burglary Offenses

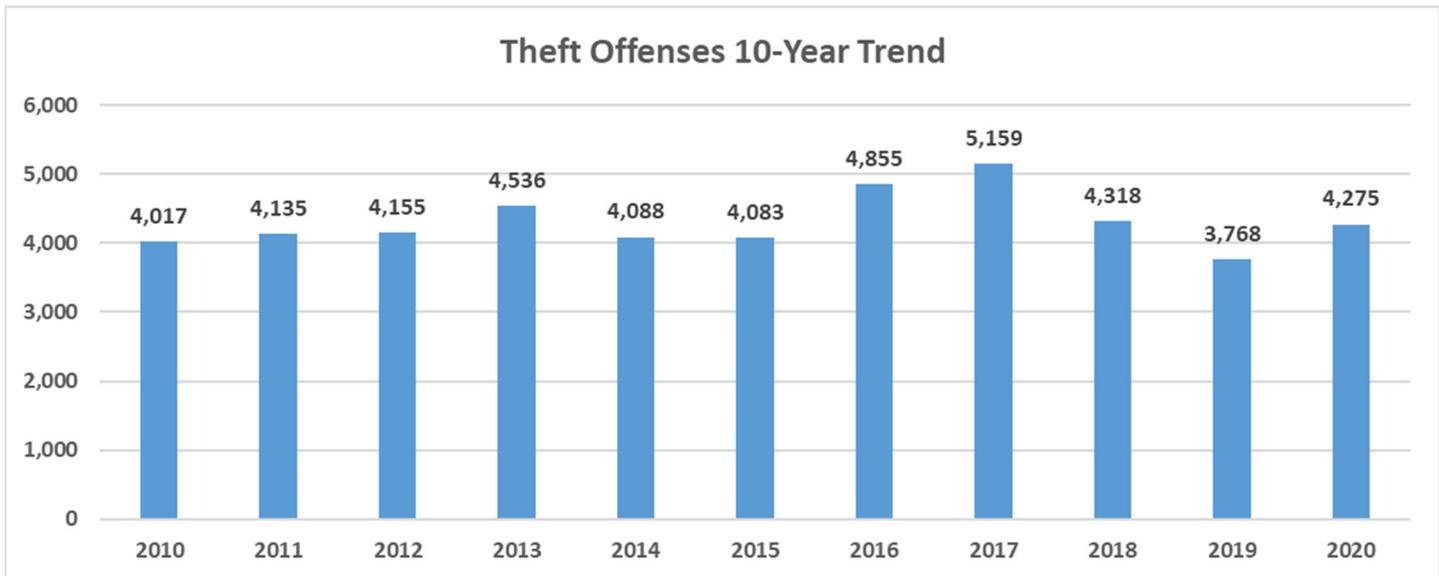
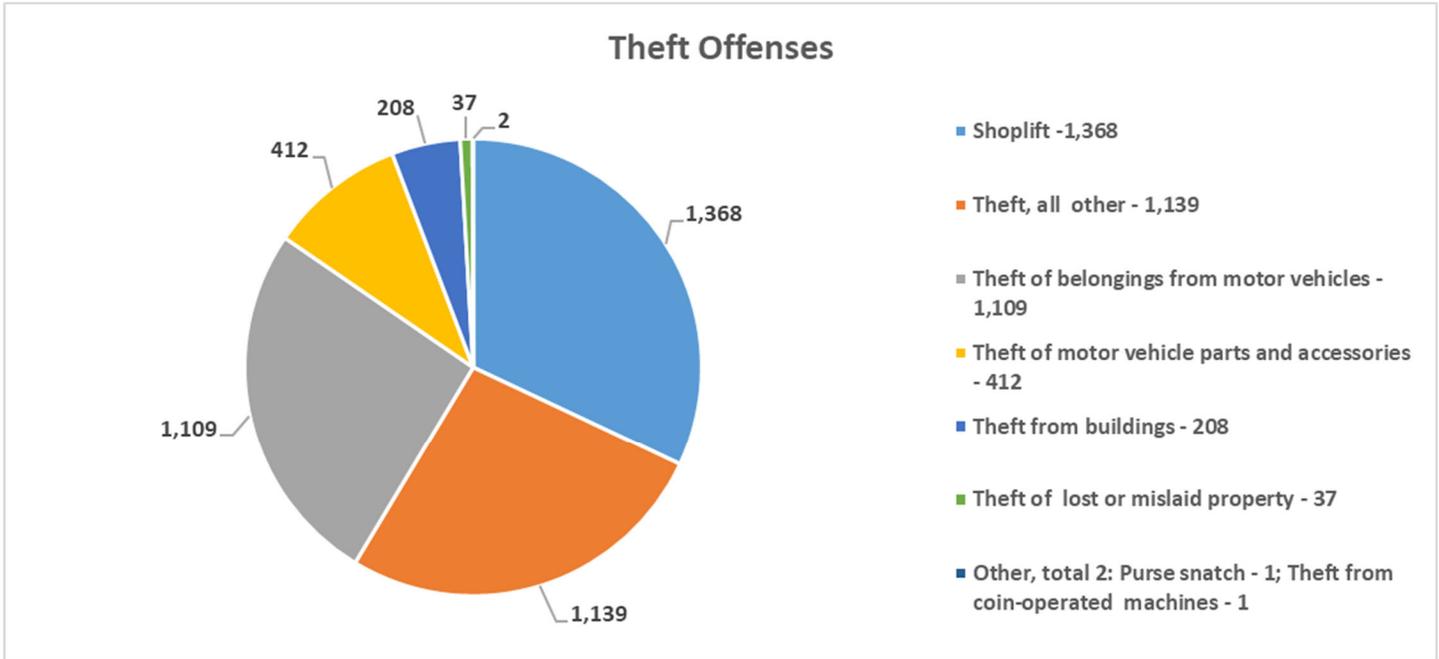


### Burglary Offenses 10-Year Trend



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





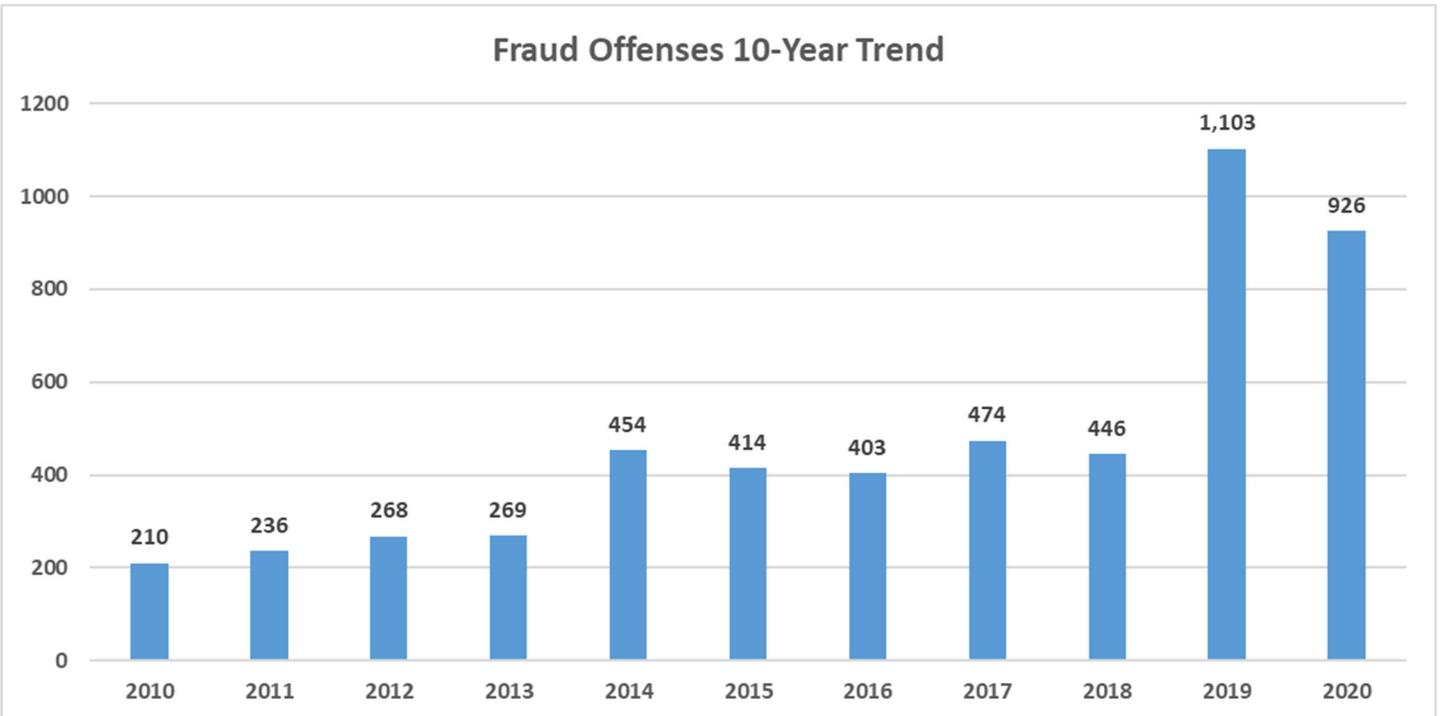
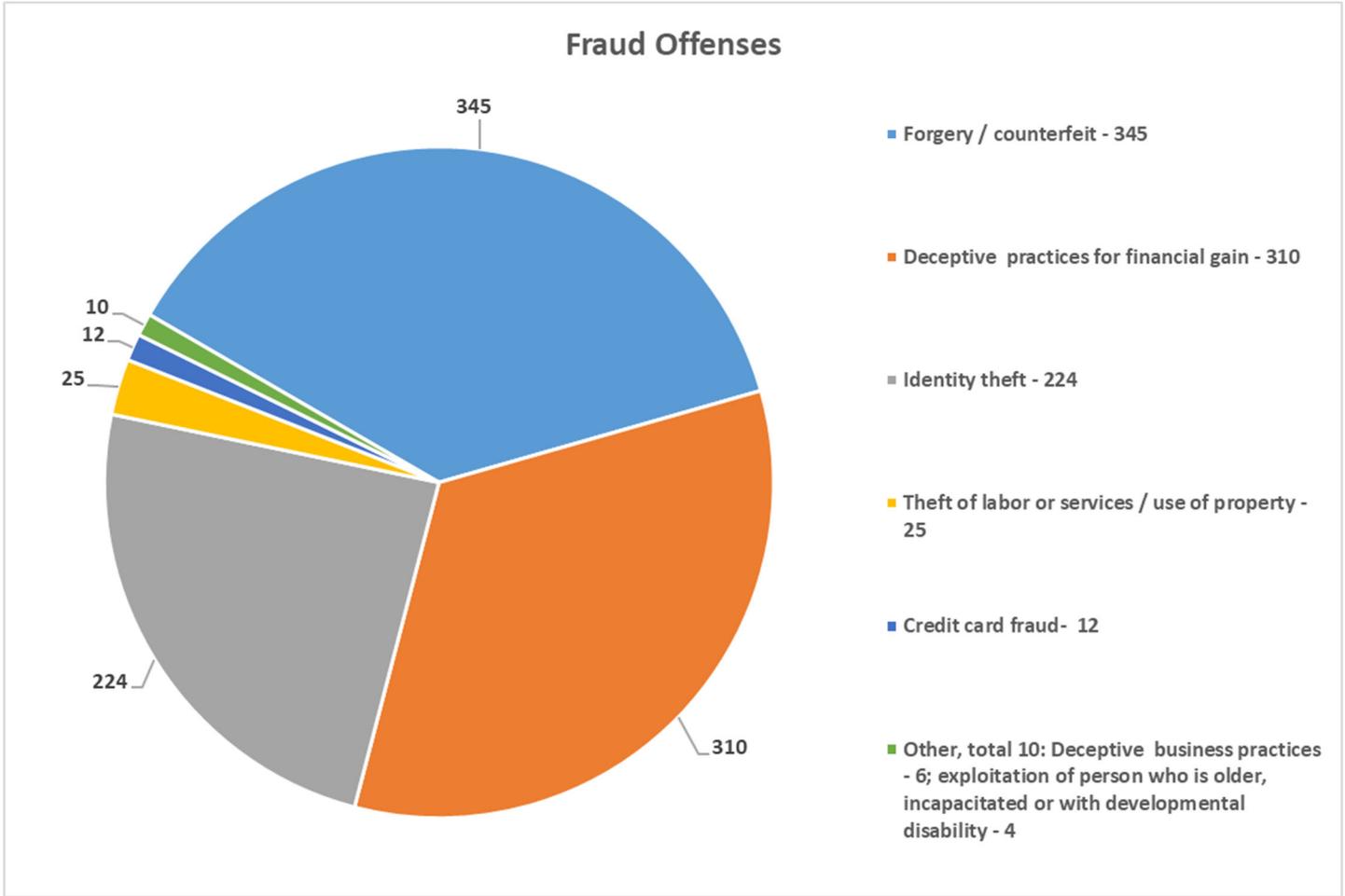
***Did you know?***

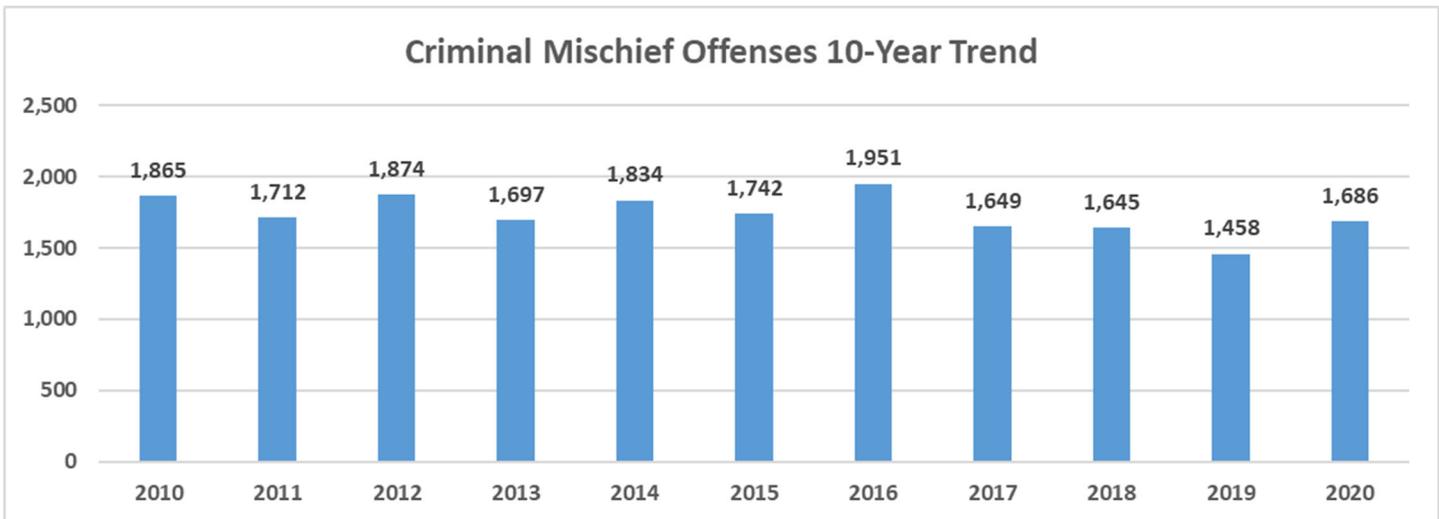
Billings Police Department updated its Web site during 2020. The changes are intended to create a one-stop information hub for citizens.

The Web site offers links for citizens to report crimes, learn about specialized police units, schedule an appointment for fingerprints and much more.

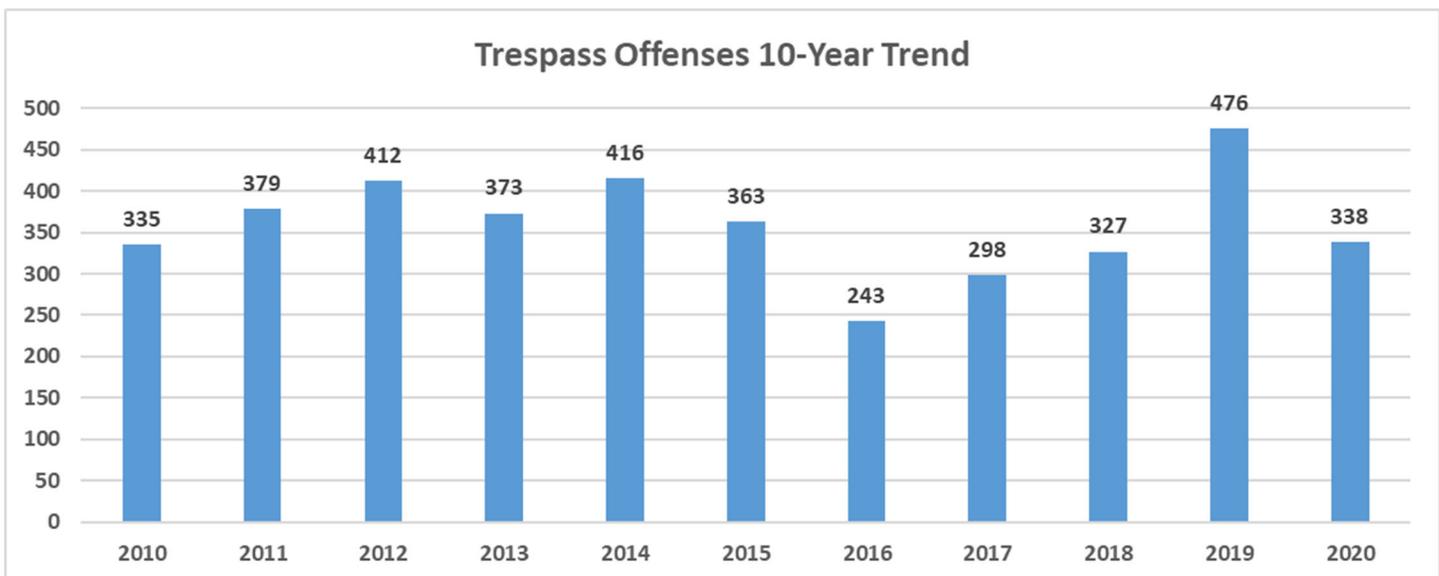
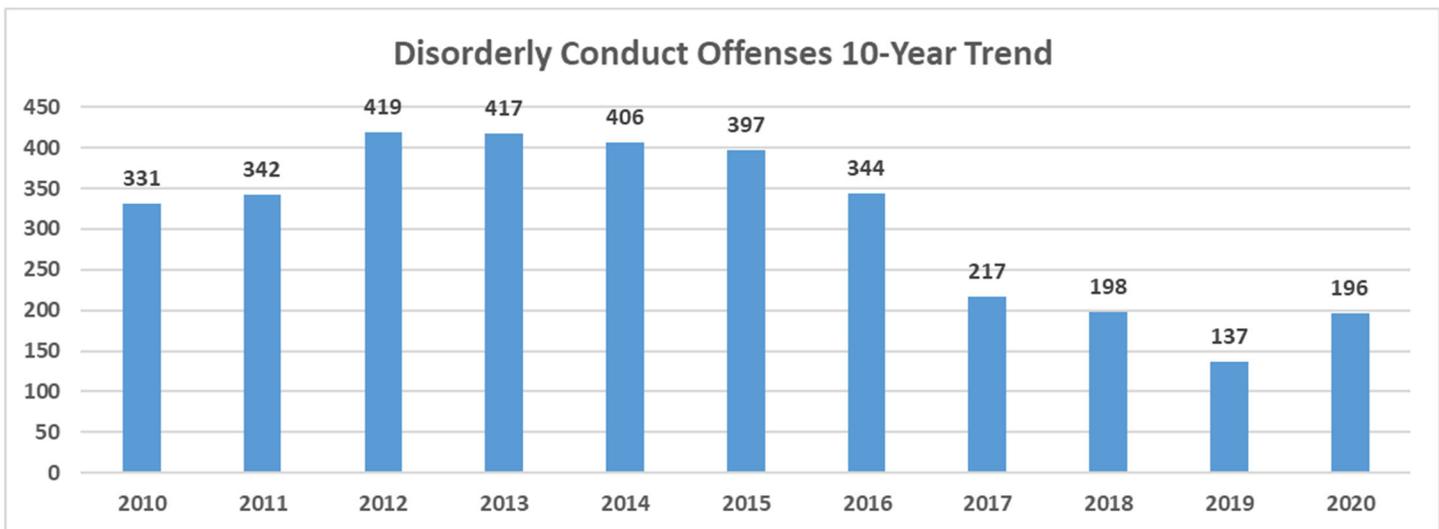
Learn more at  
[www.BillingsPolice.com](http://www.BillingsPolice.com)

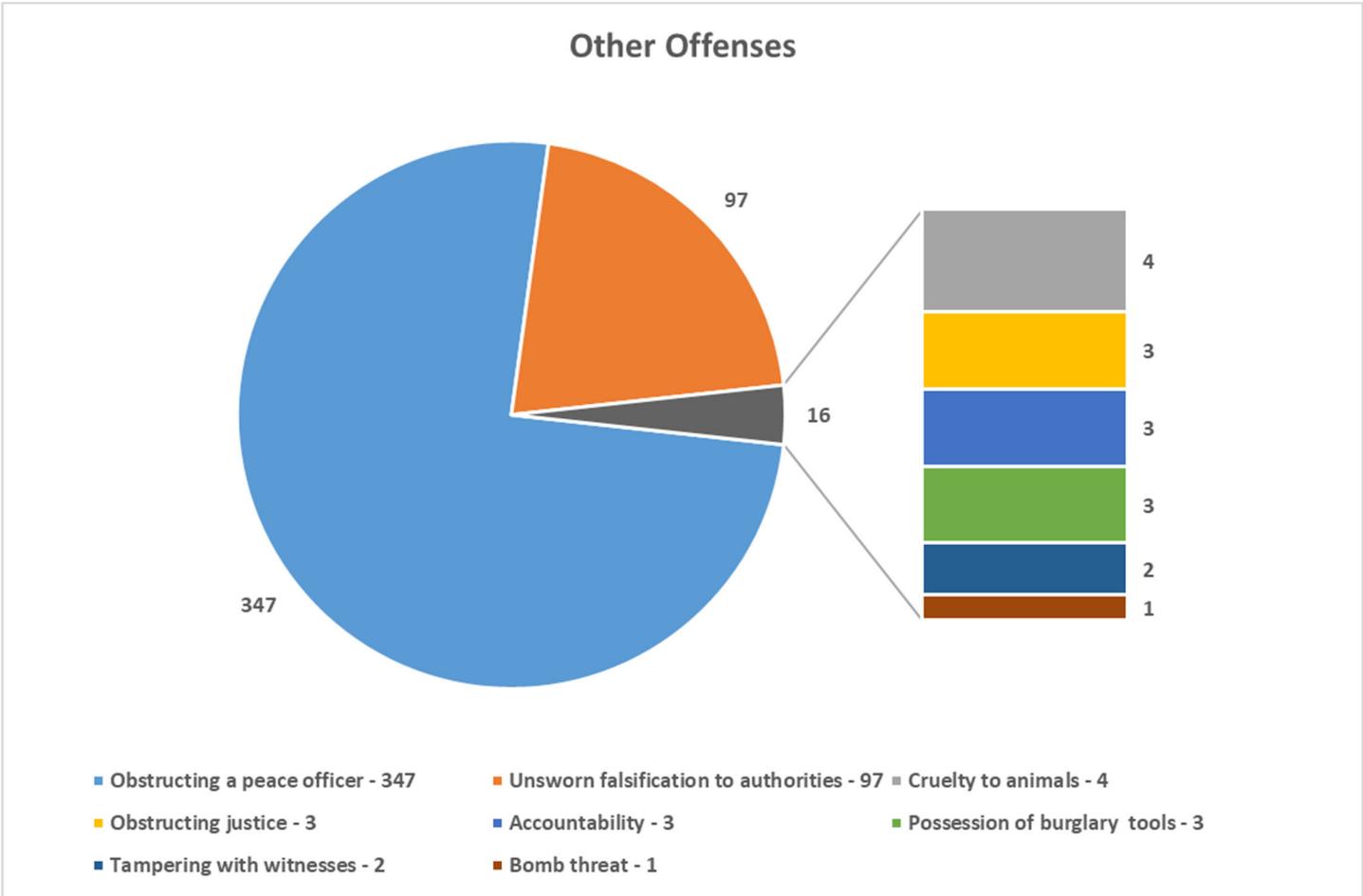
The site also provides easy access to the pod casts “Billings Police Unfiltered” which debuted during 2020. Visitors will find police data on Neighborhood Task Force areas and a searchable map of city-wide Calls for Service.





Criminal mischief in Billings is frequently graffiti which damages personal, business and public properties and causes an eyesore. BPD tracks graffiti but unless someone is caught in the act, it is difficult to prosecute the crime—even when the person who writes the ‘tag’ is known to police.

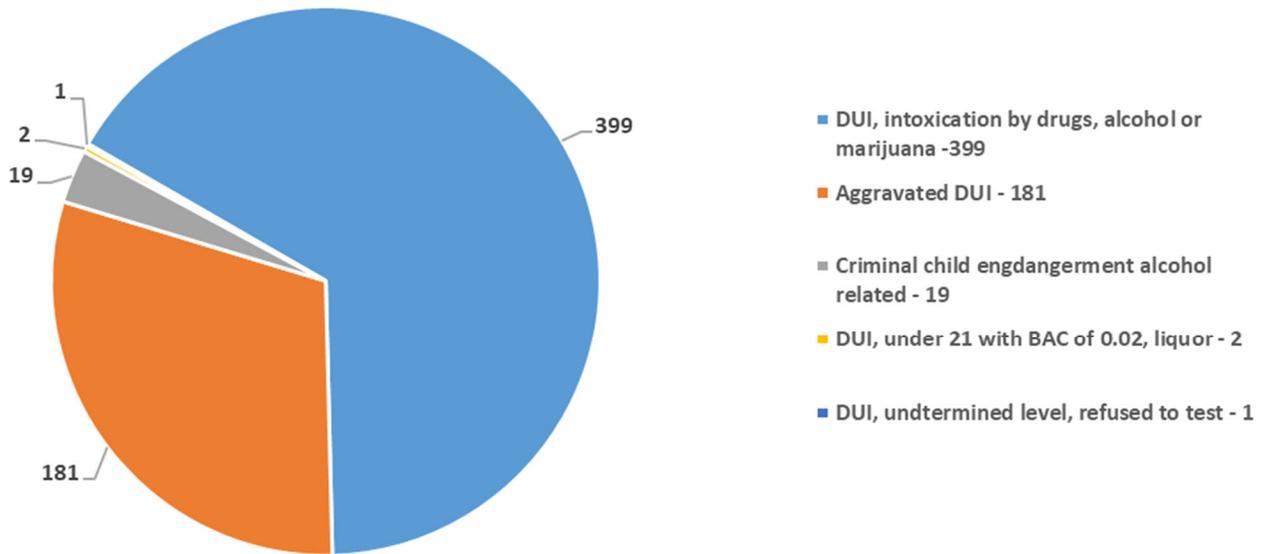




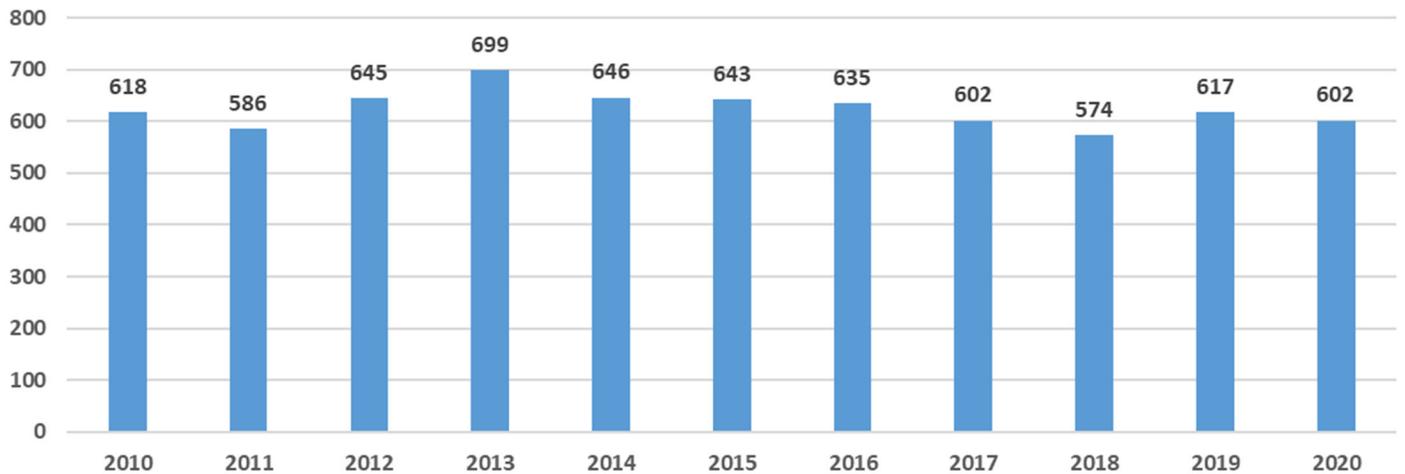
Savannah Solis visited Billings on July 13, 2020, and met (from left) Sgt. Conrad, Capt. Korell and Assistant Chief House. The Texas teenager started the Savannah Challenge to show appreciation to law enforcement. This is part of Savannah’s travel log after leaving Billings: “When we left, I was thinking back to the real gratefulness they had when I was speaking to them. It is I who is grateful because I realize the amount of weight on their shoulders and yet they keep going.”



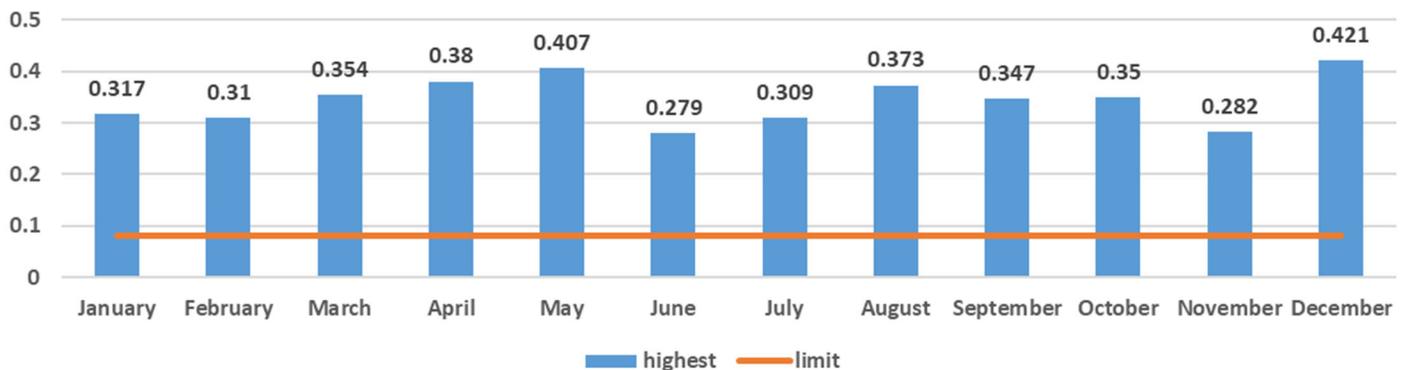
### Driving Under the Influence



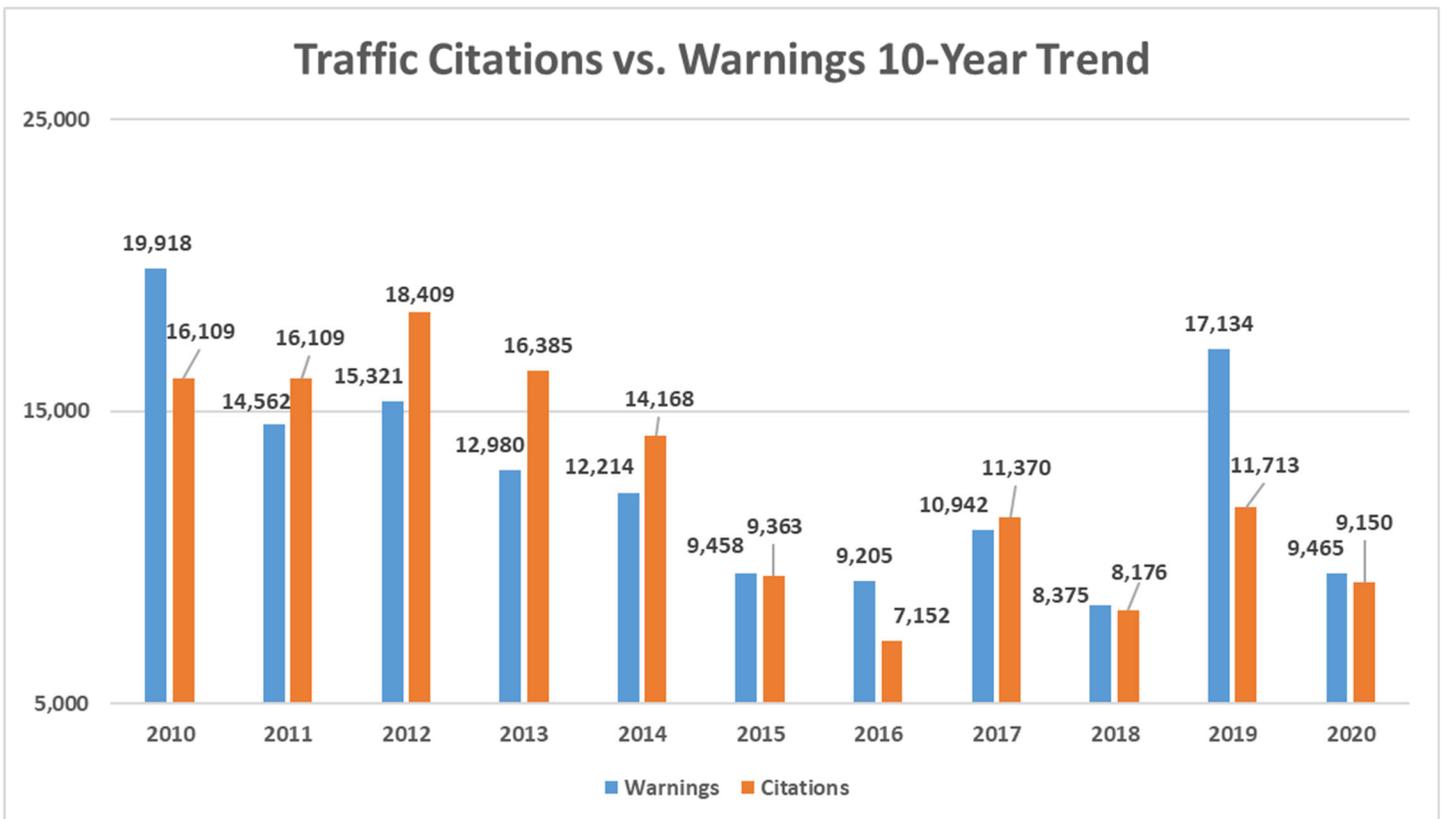
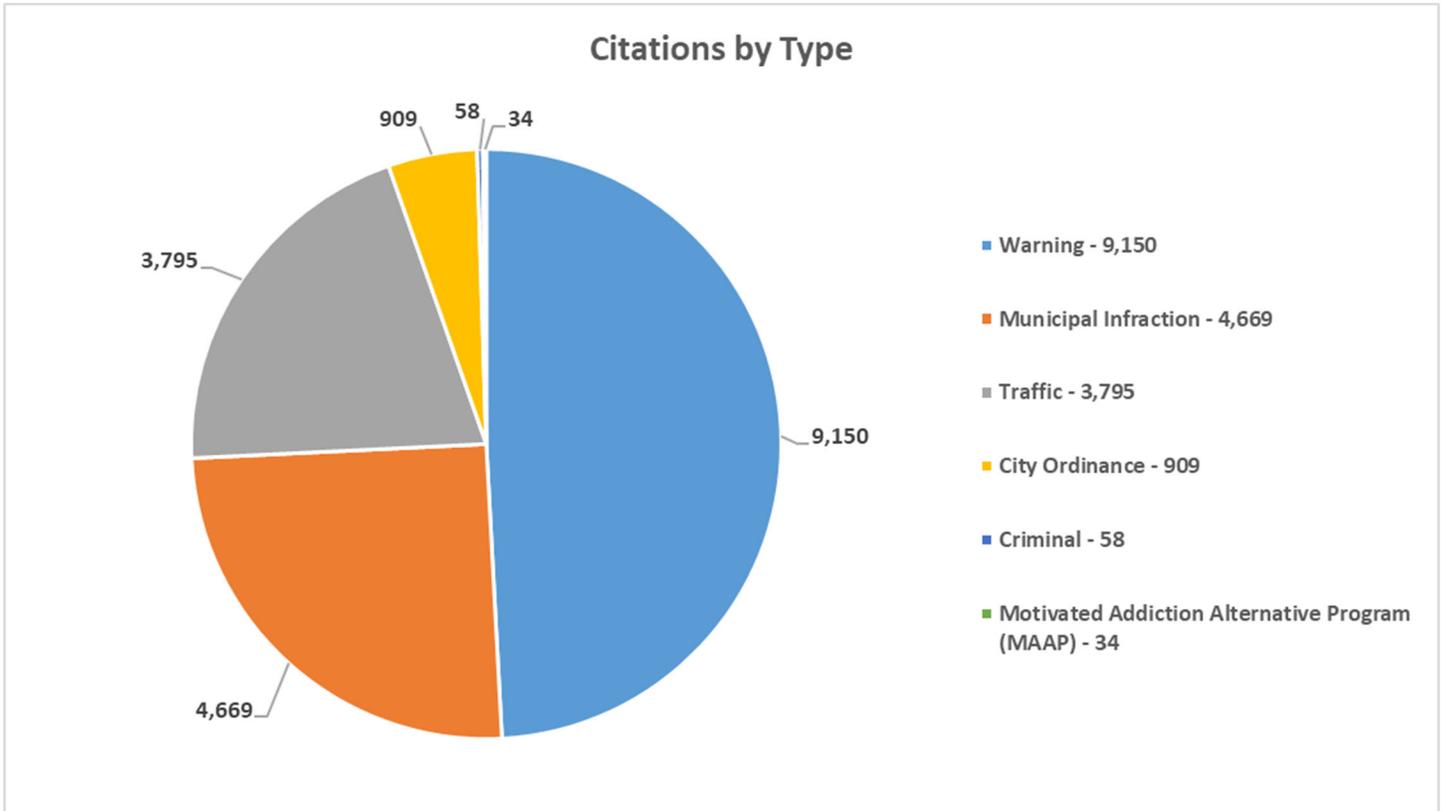
### DUI Offenses 10-Year Trend



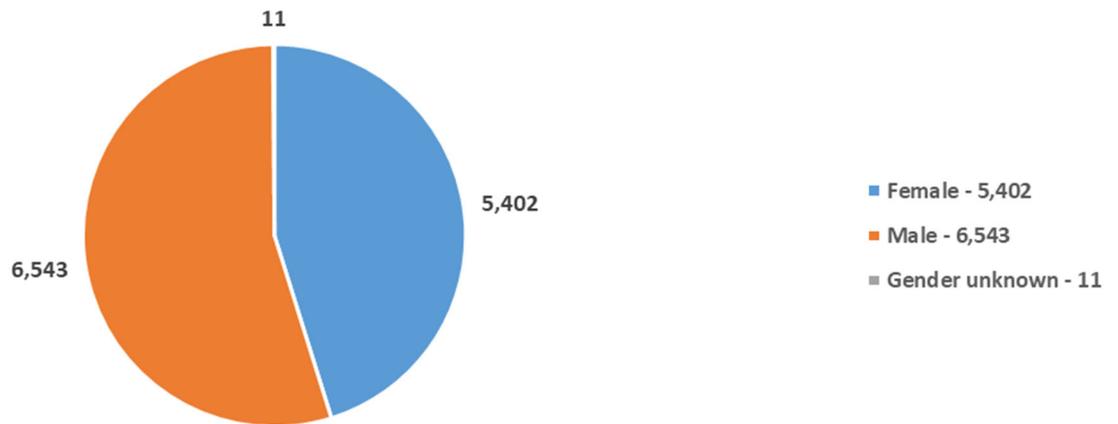
### Highest Blood and Breath Concentrations by Month



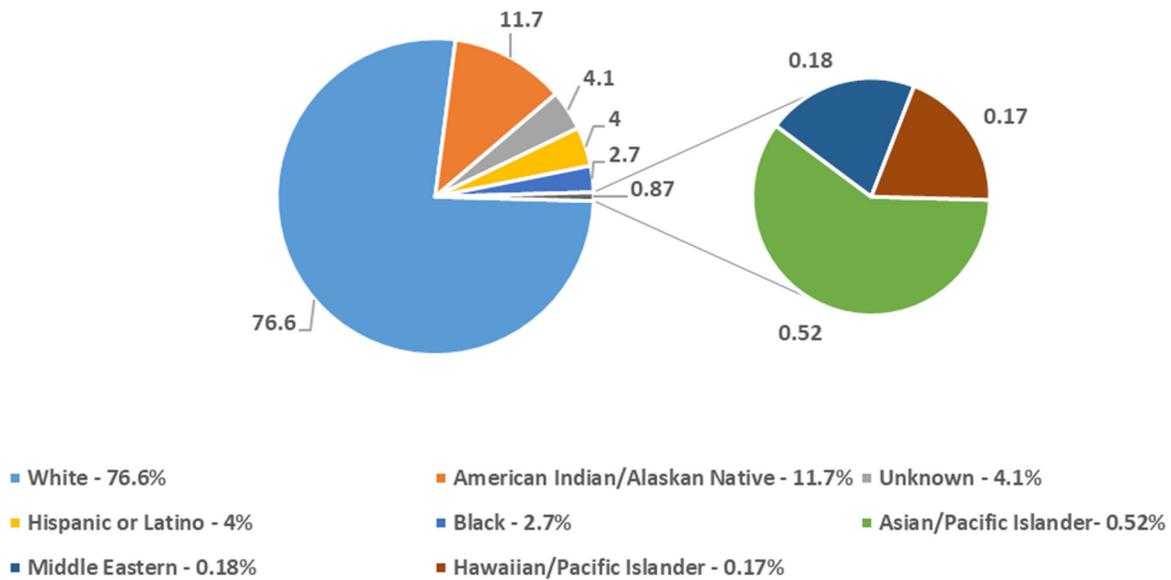
During 2020 officers wrote 18,615 citations and warnings to 11,956 individuals.



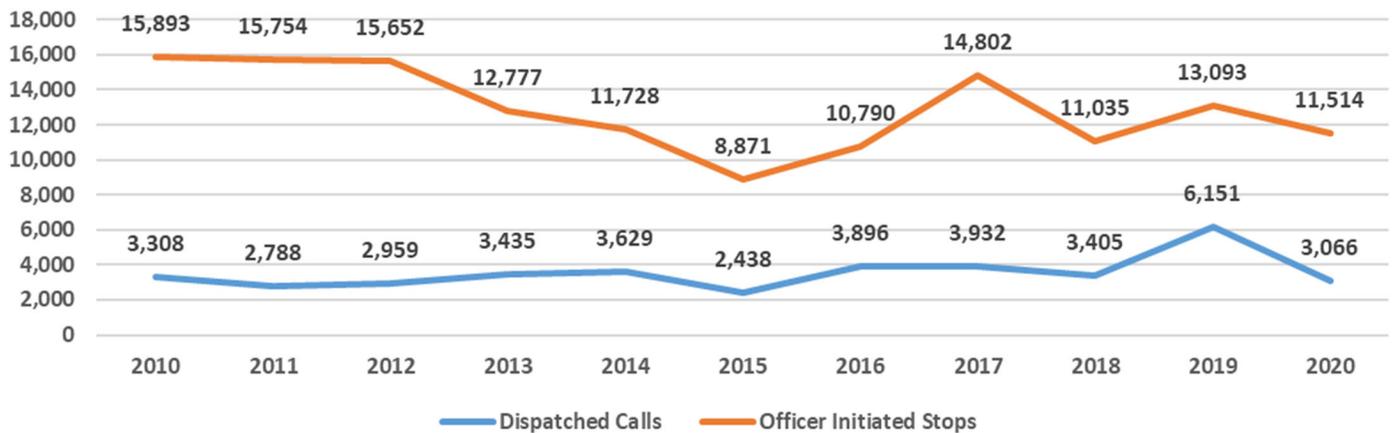
### Individuals Cited by Gender



### 10-Year Percentage of Citations Issued by Ethnicity



### 10-Year Trend Dispatched Calls vs. Officer Initiated Stops

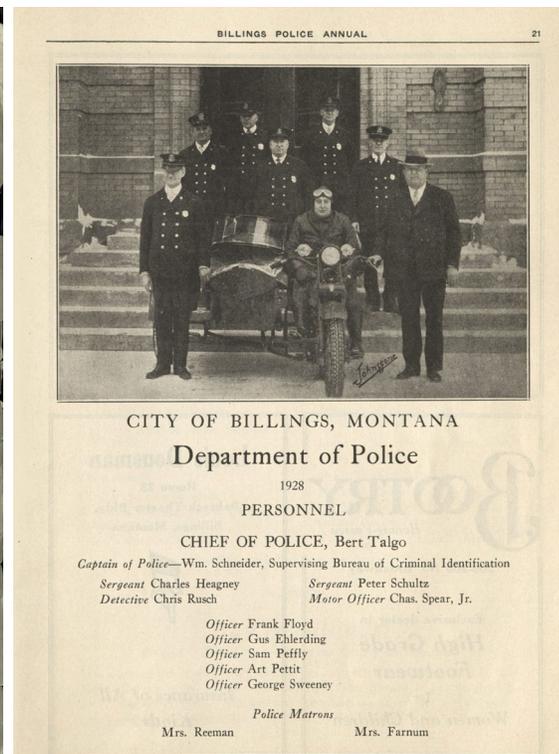
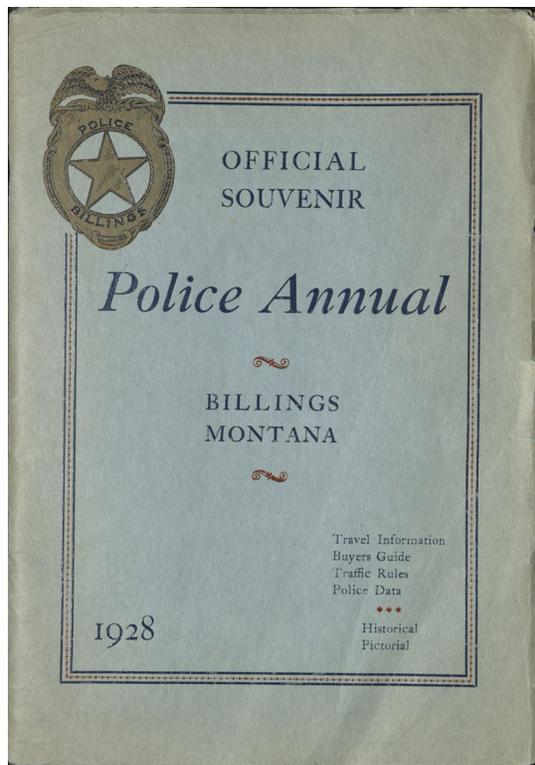


	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Unknown	500	461	627	487	353	265	372	321	29	46
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1,594	1,164	1,893	1,443	1,622	1,142	1,803	1,200	766	621
Asian/ Pacific Islander	88	54	75	62	53	38	58	36	49	24
Black	498	122	534	125	414	130	405	103	245	70
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3	28	31
Hispanic or Latino	758	397	708	430	635	326	580	335	376	189
Middle Eastern	29	3	62	3	45	3	38	6	0	0
White	11,574	8,434	12,383	8,386	9,650	7,000	8,691	6,297	5,404	3,886
	15,041	10,636	16,284	10,936	12,774	8,907	11,947	8,301	6,897	4,867

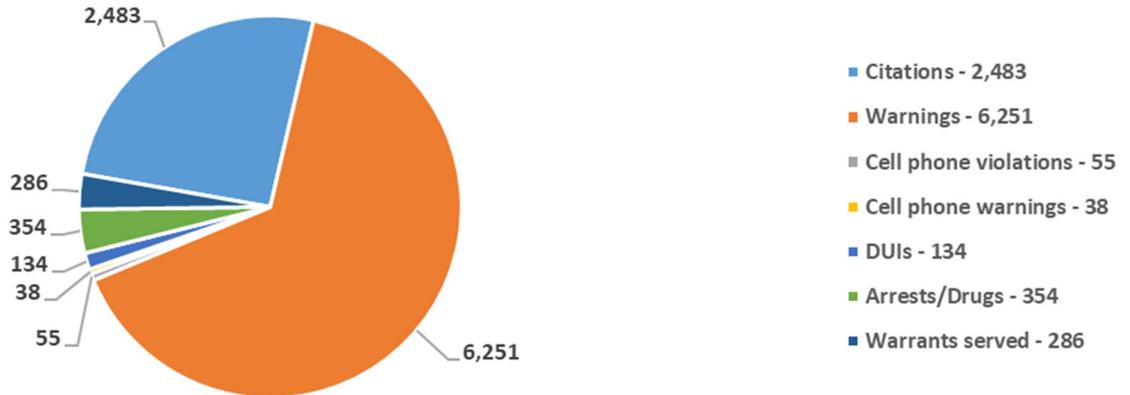
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Unknown	543	435	548	468	487	462	385	331	524	391
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	729	735	873	896	1,070	924	992	1,059	1,289	1,011
Asian/ Pacific Islander	60	49	41	42	49	40	63	53	43	39
Black	338	109	319	137	406	130	416	182	441	155
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	22	23	26	30	27	39	30	16	28	23
Hispanic or Latino	495	231	525	214	440	244	336	225	307	162
Middle Eastern	50	10	25	3	19	5	12	4	25	3
White	7,047	5,450	6,981	5,465	7,309	5,893	8,370	7,129	8,195	6,337
	9,284	7,042	9,338	7,255	9,807	7,737	10,604	8,999	10,852	8,121

**Did you know?**

The Billings Police Department has a Museum with an electronic library fondly called the Historical Center and Antiquities. Thanks to donations from former officers and their families, the collection is growing and includes more memorabilia, like this 1928 Police Annual. Former BPD Detective Joel Watson, who now works at the Evidence Facility, gives his time and talent to preserve these important items.



### Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Activity



***By the numbers ...***

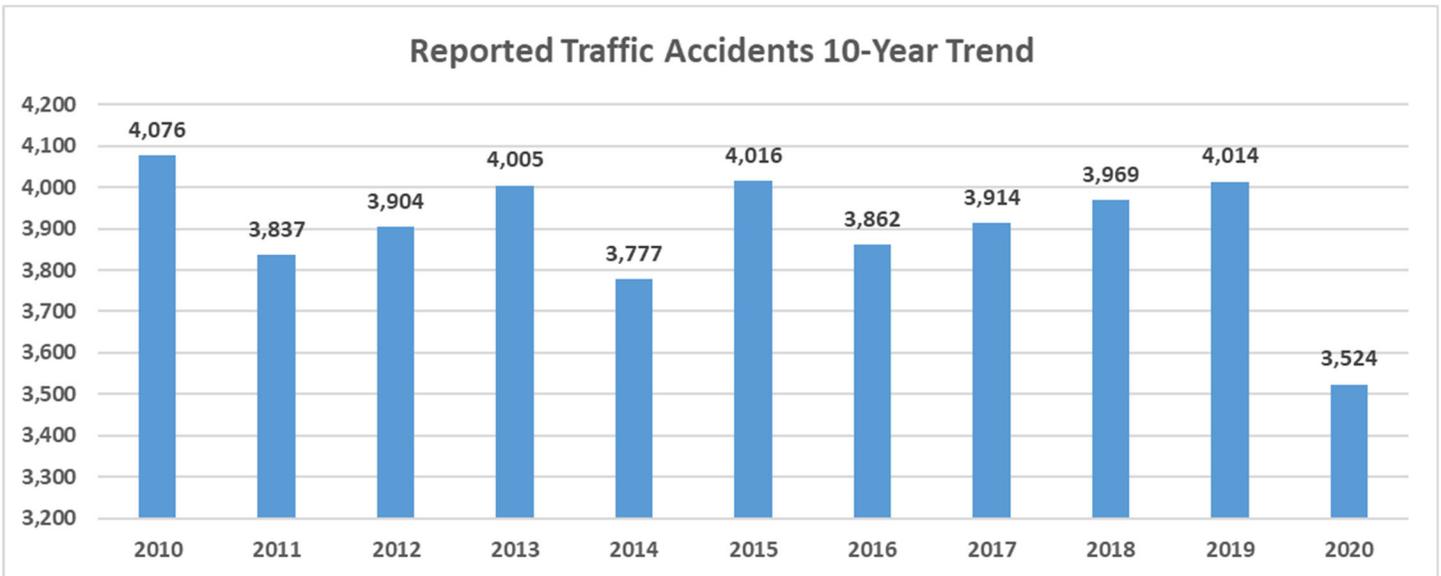
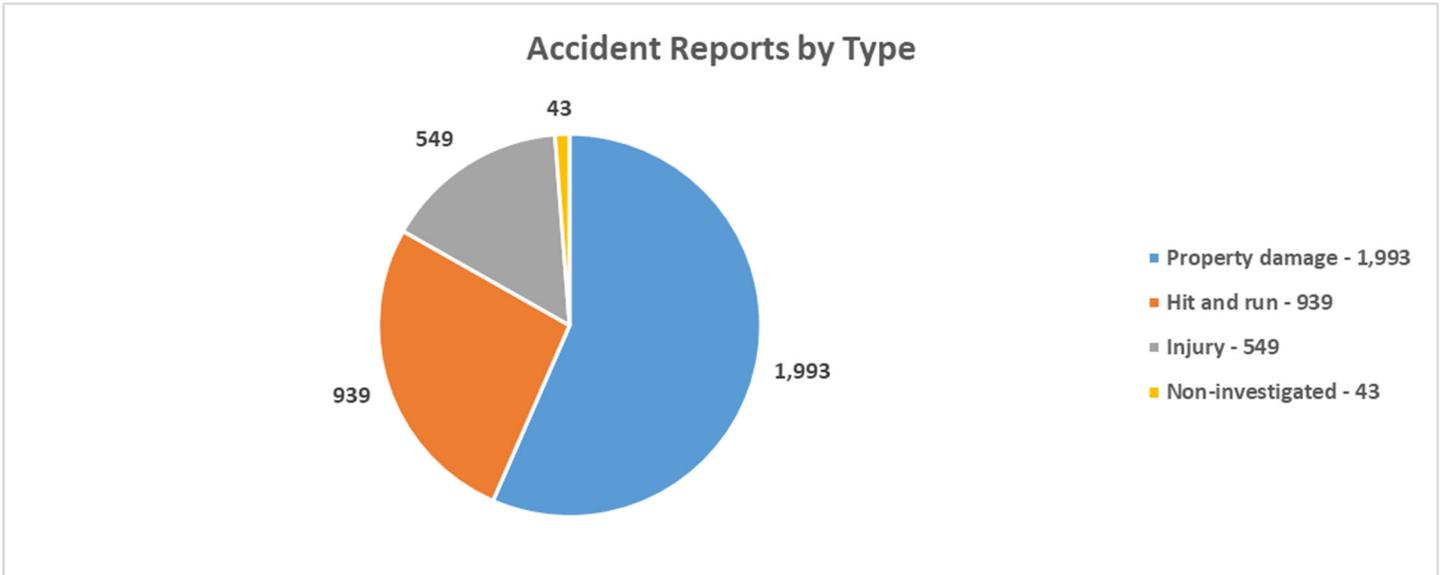
There are 5 officers in the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, including 3 who are K9 handlers. The team patrols throughout Billings and also conduct special details in high-volume accident areas and around schools. They respond to citizen complaints about traffic problems.

STEP officers issue electronic citation software and use in-car printers to provide drivers their copies of paperwork. The printers also make it possible for them to serve warrants on-the-spot when the wanted person isn't required to go to jail.

The 8,827 citations and warnings written by STEP officers made up 47 percent of the Department total in 2020.

Below, STEP Officer Ihde and his K9 Mira dressed the part when they participated in Shop With a Cop. Below right, The team works details near schools specifically to enforce cell phone use and speeding through school zones.





***Did you know?***

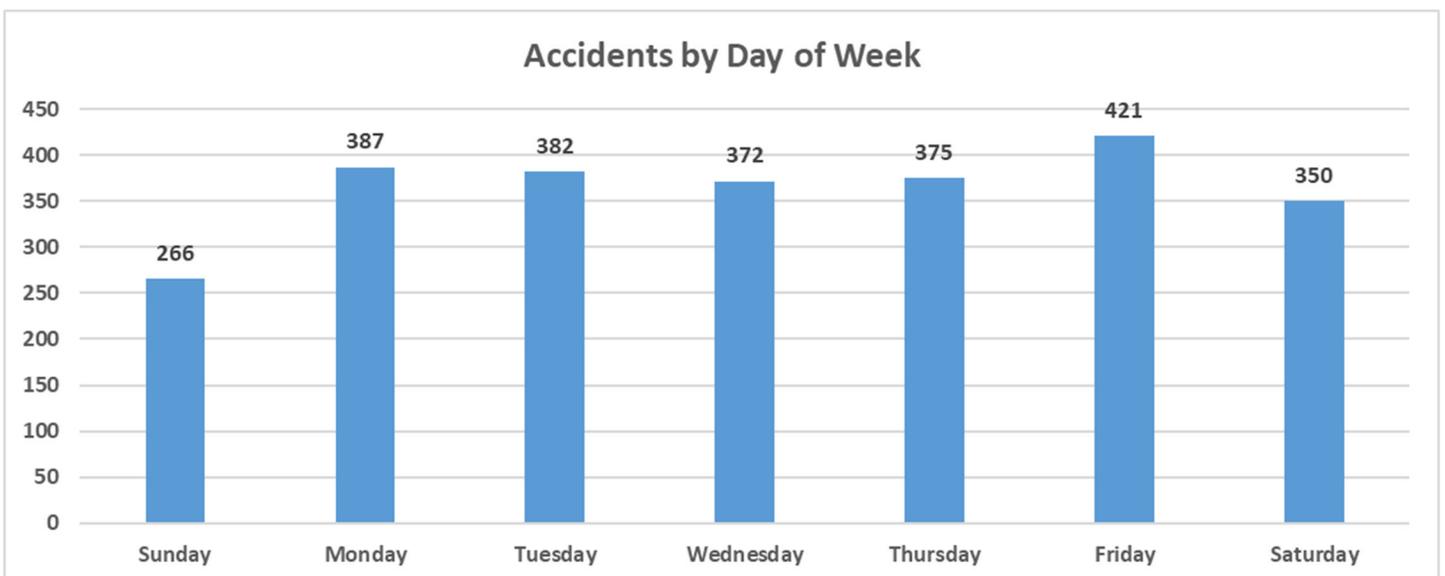
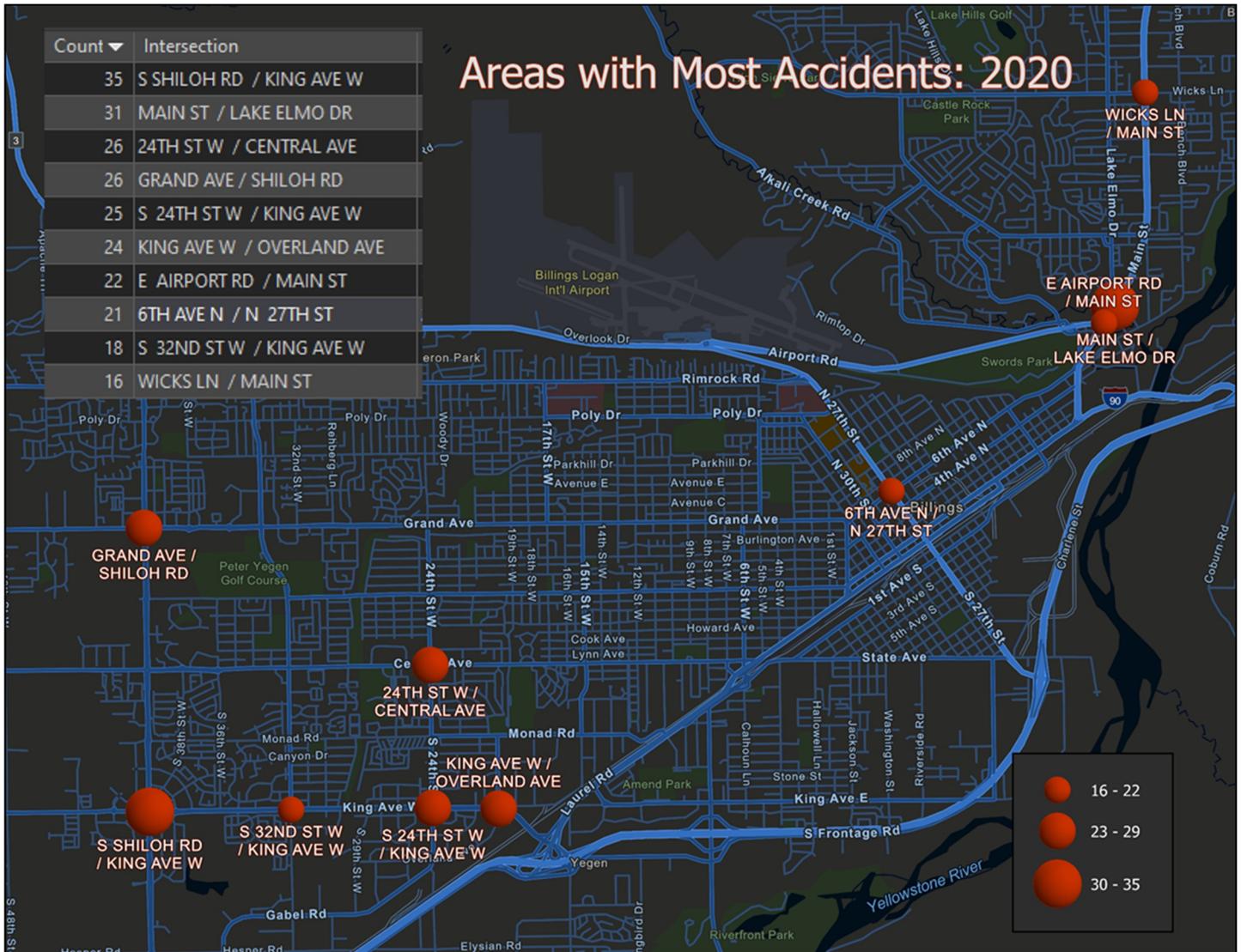
Not all crashes require an officer to investigate, including private property or minor damage accidents like fender-benders.

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 30 times during 2020.



Of the 3,524 accidents reported, officers completed crash forms 2,553 times.

This photo is from a serious-injury accident in 1956. (credit, Billings Police Department Museum)



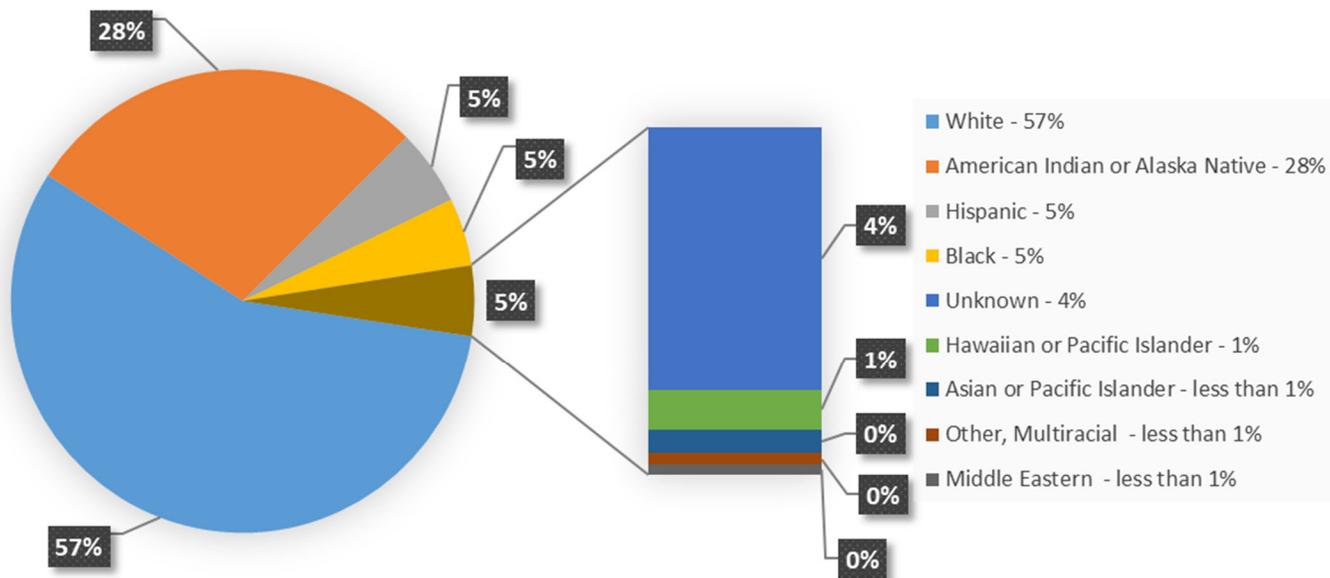
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>Most Frequent Juvenile Arrests Charges</b>
117	Theft - shoplifting 1st offense
109	Minor in possession of vapor products
58	Possession of intoxicants, under age 18
41	Partner or family member assault, 1st offense
32	Possession of drug paraphernalia
28	Obstructing a peace officer
27	Disorderly conduct, fighting
26	Criminal possession of dangerous drugs, marijuana
22	Assault
19	Contempt of court, felony
19	Contempt of court, misdemeanor
15	Criminal mischief, loss less than \$1,500
13	Robbery
13	Tobacco possession or consumption
12	Assault with a weapon, felony
11	Theft, all other, 1st offense
8	Warrant, traffic, misdemeanor
8	Resisting arrest
8	Disorderly conduct, threats, profanity
7	Driving under the influence of alcohol

<b>Arrests</b>	<b>Most Frequent Adult Arrest Charges</b>
2,908	Warrants, municipal, misdemeanor
1,035	Warrants, traffic municipal, misdemeanor
540	Theft shoplift, 1st offense
464	Possession of drug paraphernalia
440	Contempt of court, felony
433	Revocation of suspended or deferred sentence
409	Obstructing a peace officer
390	Partner or family member assault, 1st offense
330	Warrant, justice court, all-states, felony
327	Criminal trespass
286	Probation violation, felony
202	Criminal possession of dangerous drugs, methamphetamine
194	Violation of conditions of release
165	Resisting arrest
157	Criminal mischief, loss less than \$1,500
156	Driving under the influence of alcohol, 1st offense
147	Criminal possession of dangerous drugs, felony
145	Violation of no contact order
139	Aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol
120	Criminal endangerment, felony

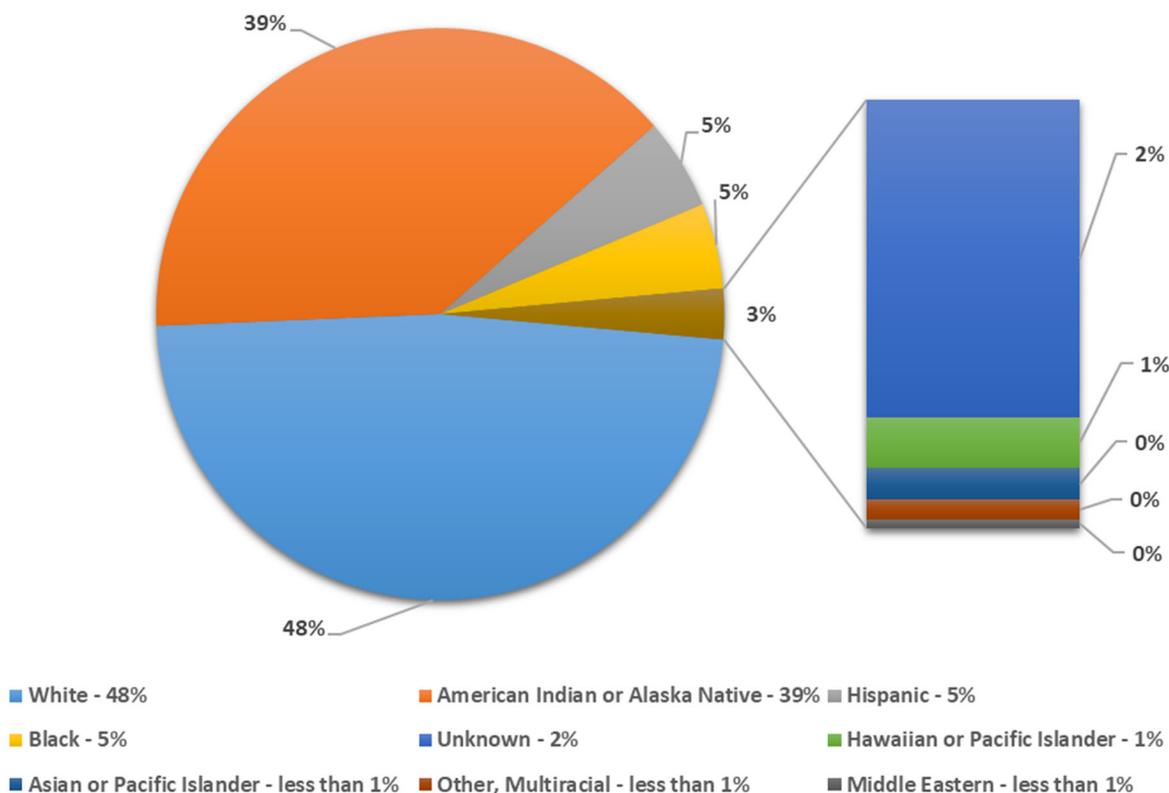
Officers made 3,695 physical arrests that resulted in 12,178 separate charges. One physical arrest can result in multiple charges. This illustrates why there are more charges than physical arrests.

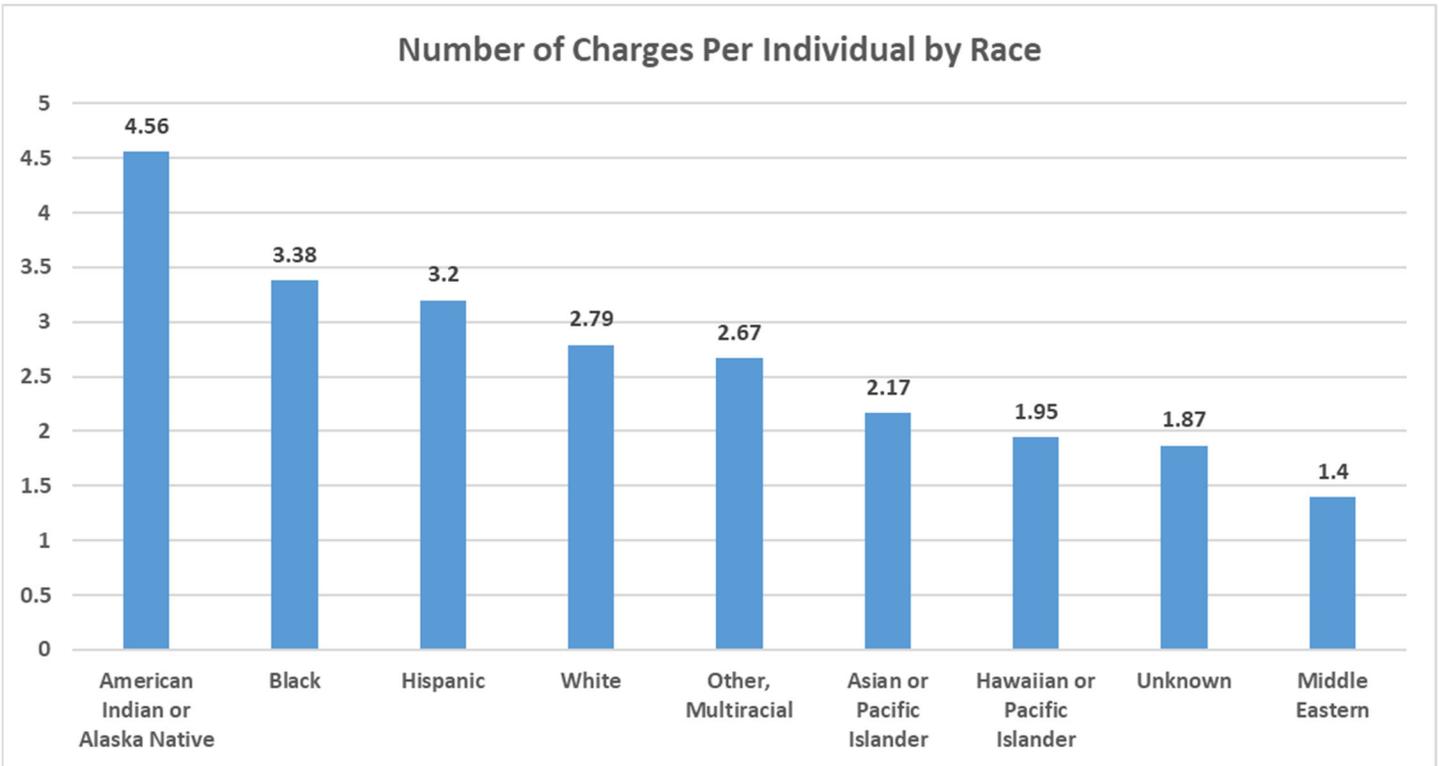
*Race/Ethnicity is based on observations by officers, not on self-reporting.*

### Percentage of Physical Arrests (3,695) by Race



### Percentage of Charges (12,178) by Race





The chart above shows the average number of charges individuals had by race and illustrates the reason there are more arrests than persons.

***Did you know?***

On every offense reported to the FBI, officers must list if the crime had a bias motivation. Information is collected on more than 20 types of hate crimes .

Billings reported 9 hate crimes during 2020.

Of these, 5 were related to anti-religion flyers that were left in neighborhoods, 3 involved suspects using threatening speech against citizens and 1 was racial graffiti.

Billings residents, organizations and businesses spoiled the Police Department during 2020. Some donations came with individualized thank you notes (middle) that decorate the office break room.

Frequently it came in the form of heaps of goodies (left). Coffee trucks set up in the Department parking lot and food truck owners and restaurants sent food.

Billings Backs the Blue sent year-end mugs (far right) for all of the BPD staff. They were purchased and filled with gifts donations from businesses throughout the community.



**By the numbers ...**

Billings judges issued 11,486 warrants during 2020.

4,897 remained active in 2021 ~ 4,479 were served ~ 2,052 were cancelled ~ 58 expired

There are many steps leading up to a warrant, starting when an officer documents the initial violation and issues a citation or other paperwork with a date to appear in court.

A police clerk enters that violation into the BPD database and forwards it to Court.

A court staff member in the ensures it is in the court system.

If the person appears for court and follows court orders, no warrant is issued.

If the person doesn't appear or breaks the court's rules, prosecutors and a judge issue a warrant.

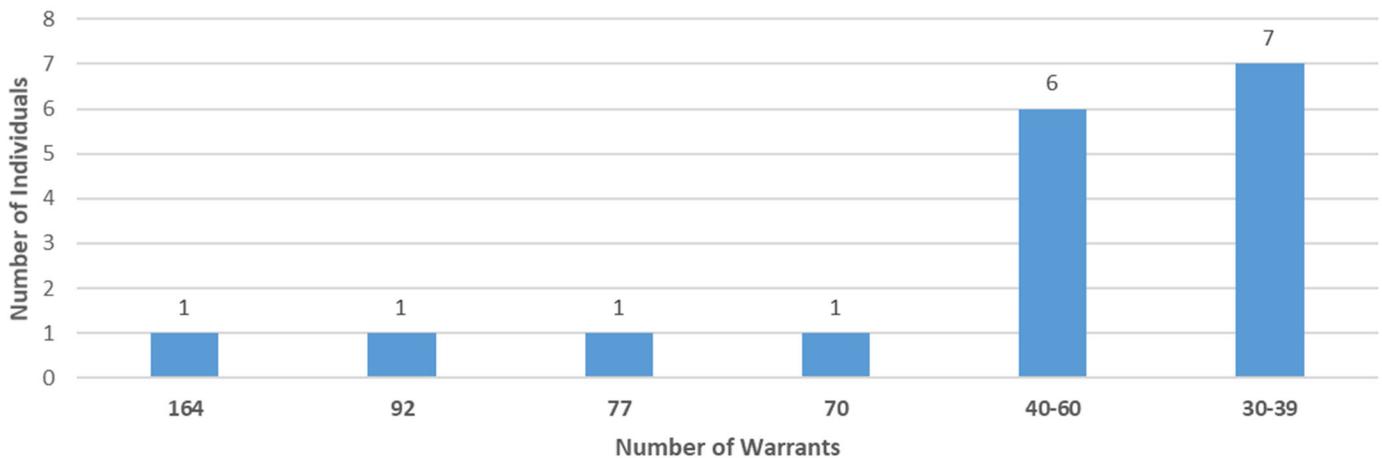
Court staff then put the data in the system and forward it to BPD clerks, who ensure it is in the Police system.

Then, when an officer encounters a person with a warrant, a dispatcher checks for warrants, a clerk confirms the warrant can be served and the officer issues another set of paperwork with a new court date.

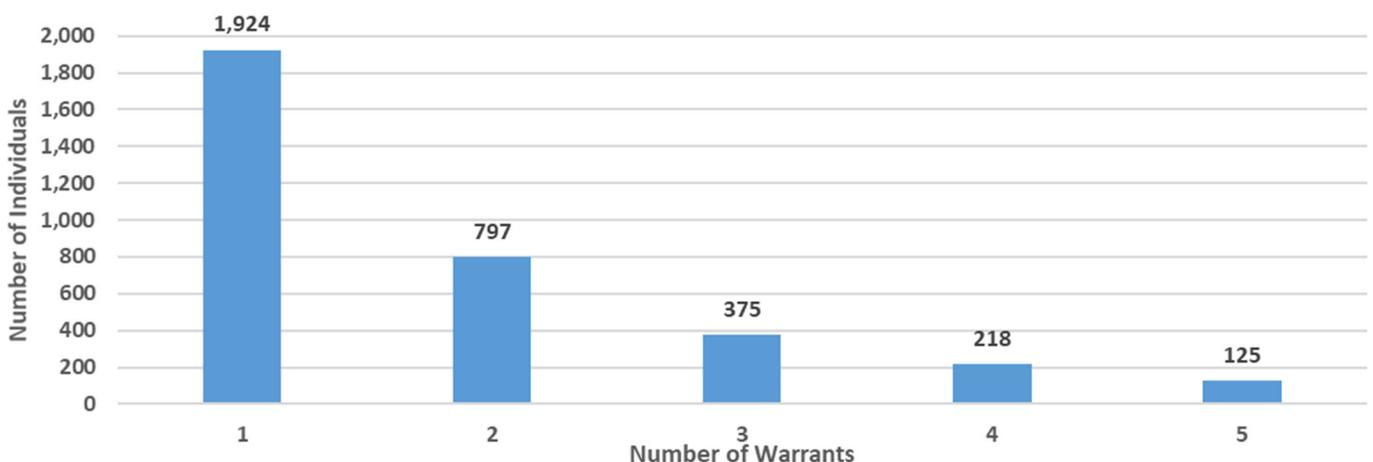
The clerk processes that paperwork and sends it to court staff to do the same.

Conservatively assuming these steps average about 15 minutes each and applying that to estimated staff, equipment and software costs, issuing one warrant costs at least \$1,500. When the warrant is served the cost increases to at least \$2,500. Using this math, if the 1,033 warrants in the top chart were served, it would cost the City about \$2.5 million. These calculations do not include staff time while the person is in court, jail costs or when medical care is required.

**Number Of Individuals With More Than 30 Warrants During 2020**



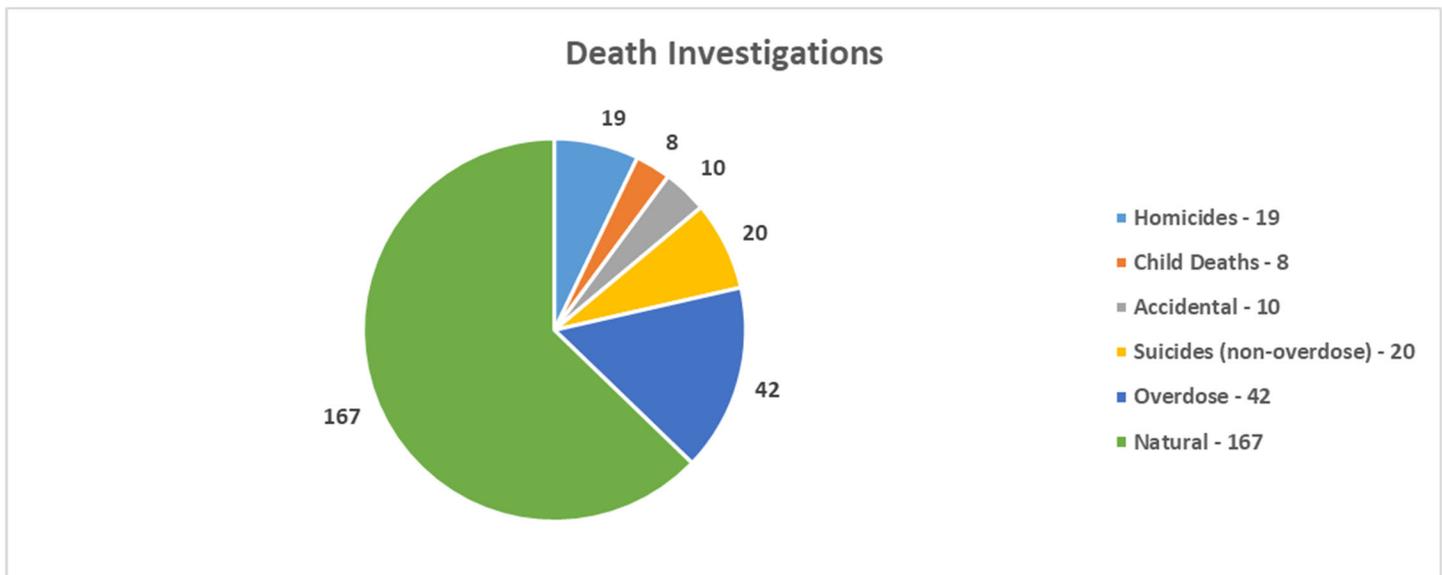
**Number of Individuals with Fewer than 5 Warrants During 2020**



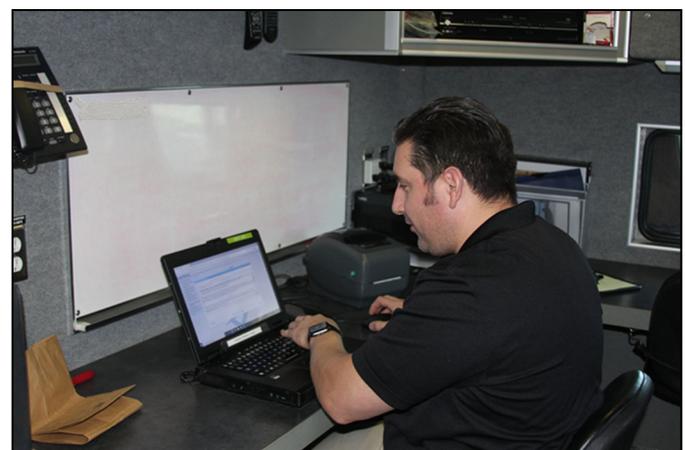
There are 12 detectives, one sergeant and 1 lieutenant who carry the case load for the Billings Police Department Investigations Division.

Following is a breakdown of Investigations tasks during 2020:

- There were 401 cases assigned to Investigators that involved crimes against persons. That's an average case load of 28.6 per detective.
- They cleared 247 cases - about 59 percent - through arrests or warrants.
- Detectives were called out 46 times for death investigations. These incidents involved more than 2 detectives on each initial response.
- The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services reported 584 cases to the Division during 2020. These included 570 sexual or other child abuse and 14 were from Adult Protective Services.
- Billings Police Department submitted 430 samples to the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. These samples are tested against national databases to search for suspects. Detectives received back 51 "hits" on the samples resulting in 4 cases being re-opened.
- Downloaded 5,288 photo cards from patrol officer and detective investigations
- Completed 720 requests from the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office
- Conducted 122 cell phone data extractions
- Two civilian police support specialists work in the Investigations Division. In addition to general clerical support, they archive and transcribe statements taken by officers and detectives. During 2020 they transcribed 105 telephone search warrants related to DUI cases and 265 statements from crime victims, witnesses and suspects.

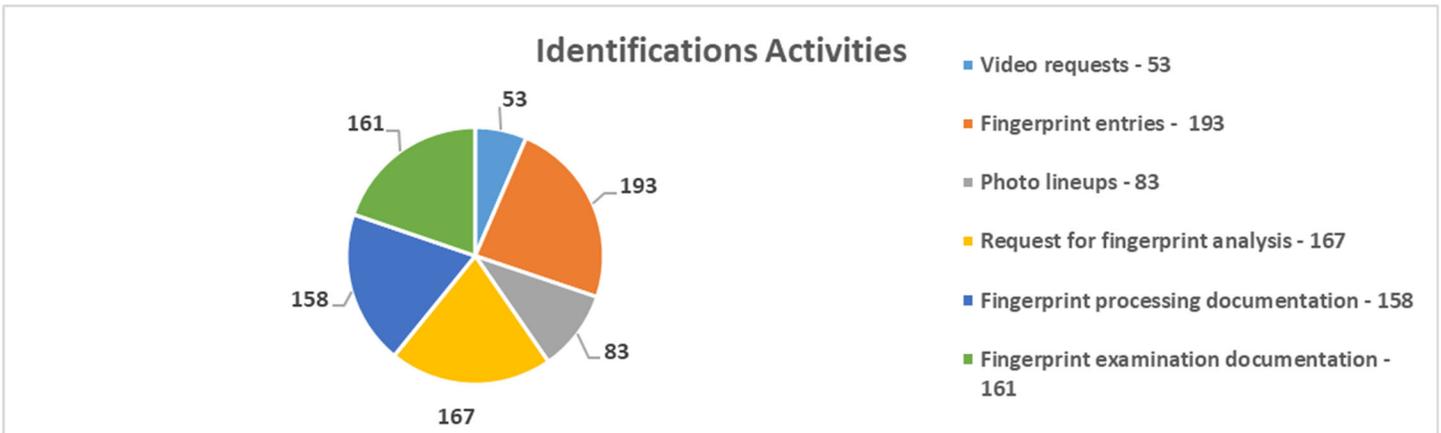


These photos show detectives working in the crime scene van at the scene of a homicide. Detective Kaiser (far right) is writing the search warrant required so detectives could investigate inside the residence where the crime took place. Detective Miller (right) took photos in public areas outside of the building while waiting for the warrant. The crime scene van is taken to major crime scenes. It is equipped with items that are frequently required during investigations and is self-contained.

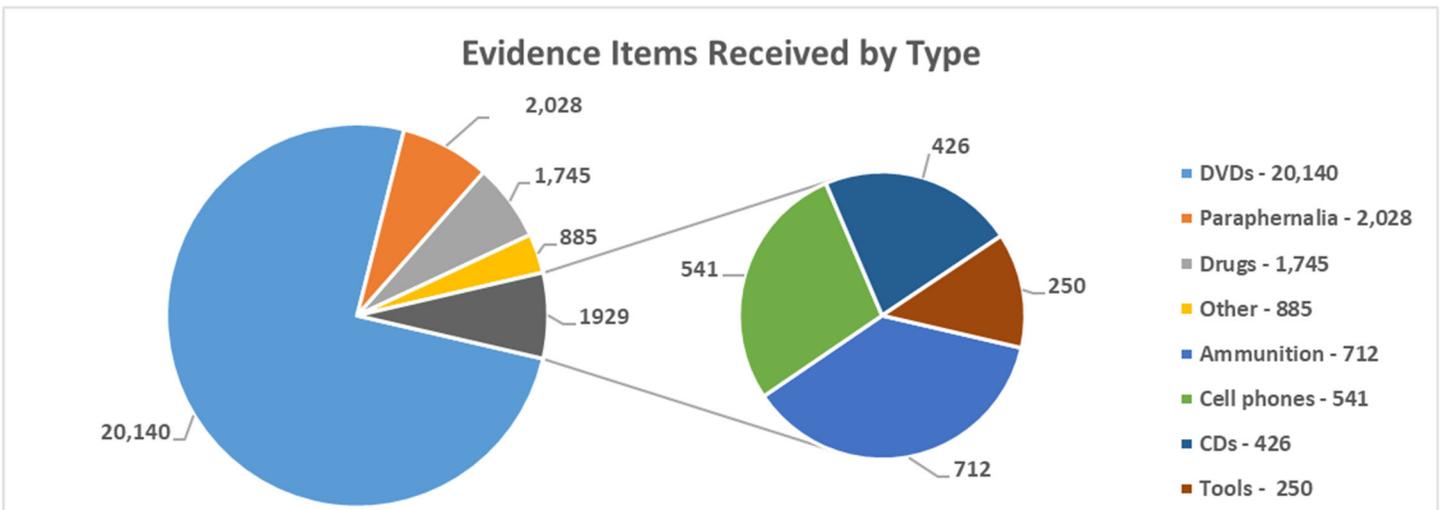




The 2020 expansion to the Evidence Facility added 16,000 square-feet, enhanced security and added operational and administrative work areas. Evidence received 19,168 items in 2020 and released 14,976.



The chart below shows individual types of evidence collected at crime scenes. For example, the ammunition entry represents 712 packages that could contain one bullet or several that were collected in one place. DVDs and CDs hold audio and video collected during investigations.



### ***Evidence Facility Enlarged and Improved During 2020***

The expansion of the original evidence facility was completed in 2020. The original facility was built in 2004, it was a 6,000 square foot metal building designed for storage not as an operational space. The expansion added an additional 16,000 square feet of operational and administrative work areas.

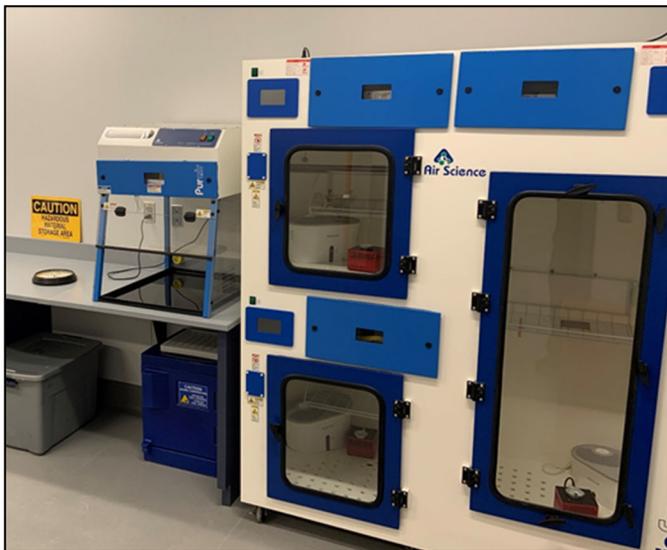


The interior improvements include:

- Administrative offices separate from the evidence storage as well as a new processing areas for officers.
- Separated officer and citizen entrances for security.
- A conference room for use with evidence discovery requests for prosecution and defense attorneys.
- A vault designed to store guns, money and drugs with dual access requirements for entry.
- Separate air control systems for administrative and storage areas.
- Walk in cooler/freezer for storage of biological evidence with alarms replaced refrigerators/freezers.
- Five additional vehicle storage/processing bays with both heat and air conditioning.
- An on-site backup generator which will service complete work load in the event of a power outage.

Exterior improvements include:

- Designated officer parking and secure entry.
- Expansion of the exterior lot to hold 103 angled parking storage spaces with a motorcycle storage area.
- Bulk item and hazardous materials storage area.
- Snow gate to allow snow removal.
- Secured double gated vehicle and larger item evidence pick up point. This allows minimized contact with citizens and increased employee safety.
- Additional lot lighting to include upgrades and additional 24/7 video surveillance.



At left are chambers used for processing evidence to reveal fingerprints. Below is the expanded work area. Along the wall are camera stands and the chambers. The hose from the ceiling works like an exhaust fan to remove fumes and dust while processing evidence too large to put in the chambers.



At left, the secure parking area holds impounded vehicles. Below, additional shelving was added to store evidence.



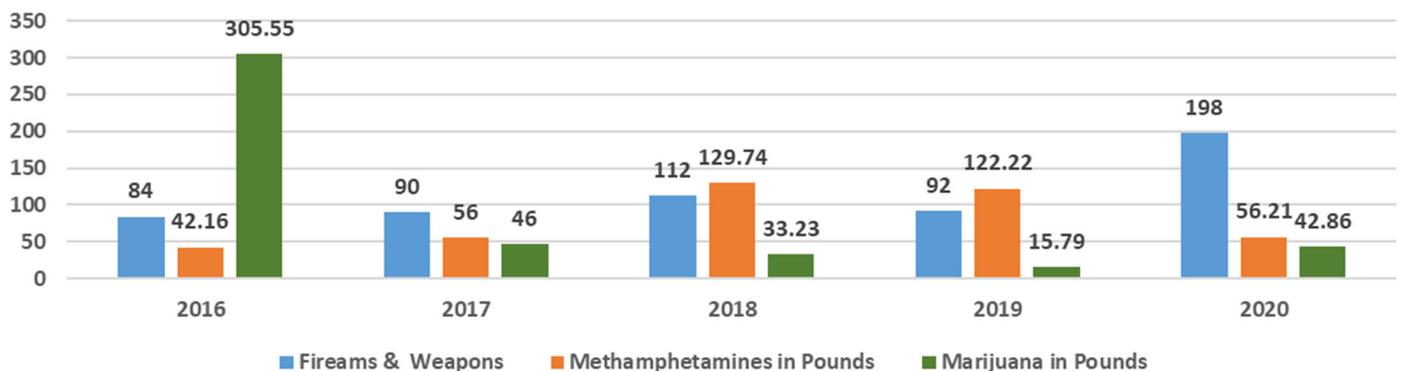


### City-County Special Investigations Unit

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. BPD Chief St. John is an Executive Board Member for Rocky Mountain HIDTA.

<b>Items Seized</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Arrests</b>	
Methamphetamine	56.21 pounds	Misdemeanor	2
Heroin	2.12 pounds	Felony	57
Cocaine	2.36 pounds	Federal indictments	35
Marijuana	42.86 pounds		
Fentanyl	0.12 pounds		
Hallucinogens	561 doses	<b>Drug Trafficking Organizations</b>	
Pharmaceuticals	3,476 doses	Local targeted	6
Assets seized	\$498,631	Local disrupted/dismantled	6
Firearms	198	Multi-state targeted	3
Drug loads intercepted	26	Multi-state disrupted/dismantled	3
Methamphetamine lab	1		

City-County Special Investigations Unit 5-Year Comparison of Seizures





### 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 collaborates with the Street Crimes Unit.

Activity	2018	2019	2020
Cases	434	380	371
Arrests & Warrants	571	633	227
Citations & Warnings	395	283	227
<b>Items Recovered or Seized</b>			
Vehicles	94	65	113
Firearms	71	63	91
Drugs in pounds	65	91	20.5
Cash	\$82,000	\$111,658	\$47,482



### Montana 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, they have closed 16,788 warrants. The 2020 state-wide total was 1,435.

Activity	2018	2019	2020
Warrant closures	660	659	461
<b>Weapons Seized</b>			
Hand guns	24	39	9
Long guns	12	77	1
<b>Narcotics Seized</b>			
Marijuana	6,908.09 grams	5,657.1 grams	29.4 grams
Methamphetamine	6,411.82 grams	8,550.93 grams	4,800 grams
Heroin	487.5 grams	563.3 grams	1,632.19 grams
Cocaine	17.7 grams	78.1 grams	
<b>Assets Seized</b>			
Vehicles recovered	21	20	8
Currency	\$36,819	\$118,000	\$48,371

### K9 Program

The Billing Police K9 team is led by Sgt. Becker. The 2020 team included Officer Firebaugh with Dutch, Officer Adams with Susan, Officer Contreraz with Tabasco, Officer Anderson with Sam and first-year members Officer Ihde with Mira and Officer Best with Evan. Police officers must go through extensive training to become and remain certified as handlers. The dogs are trained just as extensively to become working dogs and then keep their skills honed. BPD teams typically train as a group but that was prohibited by COVID restrictions from January through May 2020. The handler-dog teams apprehended 108 suspects during 2020, 98 of them without bites.



### Drug Seizures

Drug Type	Value	Street Value	Cash Seized	
Marijuana	\$2,801	\$56,016	2014	\$30,834
Cocaine	\$1,047	\$104,670	2015	\$122,230
Methamphetamine	\$2,347	\$234,660	2016	\$243,217
Heroin	\$201	\$20,120	2017	\$312,443
Pills/Other	\$331	\$3,110	2018	\$543,072

K9 Activity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020
Deployments	1,020	690	946	1,163	948	\$37,052	\$186,975
Agency assist requests	108	74	123	133	127		
Arrests	232	206	349	472	441		
Search warrants	95	92	44	31	21		

Officer Best and Evan (at left) trained and started working together in 2020. During her first team training after coming to Billings, K9 Mira (middle) and Officer Ihde searched for drugs hidden in cars. K9 Dutch (right) was recognized for apprehending a burglary suspect. Sgt. Becker and Dutch’s handler Officer Firebaugh joined him. Billings businesses and individuals have generously donated to the Billings Police K9 Association to help BPD purchase dogs and equipment for the program. Learn more about Billings police dogs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BillingsPDK9](http://www.facebook.com/BillingsPDK9)





### SWAT Team

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 2020 they had 16 activations.



### Downtown Officers

Billings Police Department and the Downtown Billings Alliance have a contract which provides two officers dedicated to the downtown area. During 2020, Officer Mansur created an on-line Trespass Enforcement Agreement for after-hours use so officers can enforce trespassing and other misdemeanor crimes when property owners or managers are not on scene.

Learn more at [downtownbillings.com/resources/cops/](https://downtownbillings.com/resources/cops/)

### Billings Police Bicycle Patrol

Officers who attend and pass specialized training are eligible to ride bicycle patrols. Bike officers ride during warm weather and have expanded their patrol area from Downtown to the West End and Heights.



### Bomb Squad

BPD has 1 of the 2 FBI accredited bomb squads in Montana. The Bomb Squad has 6 part-time Bomb Technicians. Each member is required to attend an intensive six-week school at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. This is the only FBI accredited school in the United States. The Bomb Squad is equipped to respond to numerous types of critical incidents. Their area of responsibility includes the entire Eastern half of Montana, but the team can deploy anywhere in the state if needed. Team members respond to calls of suspicious items, old or decaying explosives or improvised explosive devices. They examine and safely dispose of suspicious packages and devices, collect and dispose of fireworks and ammunition as well as commercial and military explosives.

### Hostage and Crisis Negotiators

The negotiators are called out to incidents with hostages, barricaded people and other situations where de-escalation is needed, including with suicidal subjects and people experiencing mental health crisis. The team includes a sergeant and 8 officers. 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 the command personnel. Ultimately, the dialogue they enter into can potentially save the lives of not only any hostages, but also those of responding officers, and even the suspects.

### 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.

Some volunteers are trained to take fingerprints. This service is \$20 per card and is offered by appointment only.

The Volunteer Patrol Unit are citizens who are specially trained. They are authorized to document abandoned vehicle reports and write parking tickets.

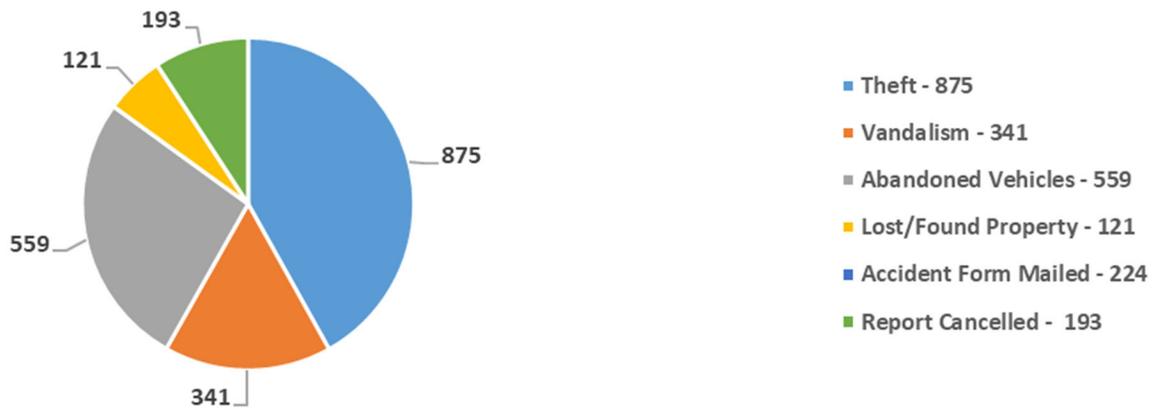
A Sergeant, Public Relations Officer and the Volunteer Coordinator are stationed at the Crime Prevention Center. The Parks Officer and Domestic Violence Investigator also work out of the Crime Prevention Center.

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

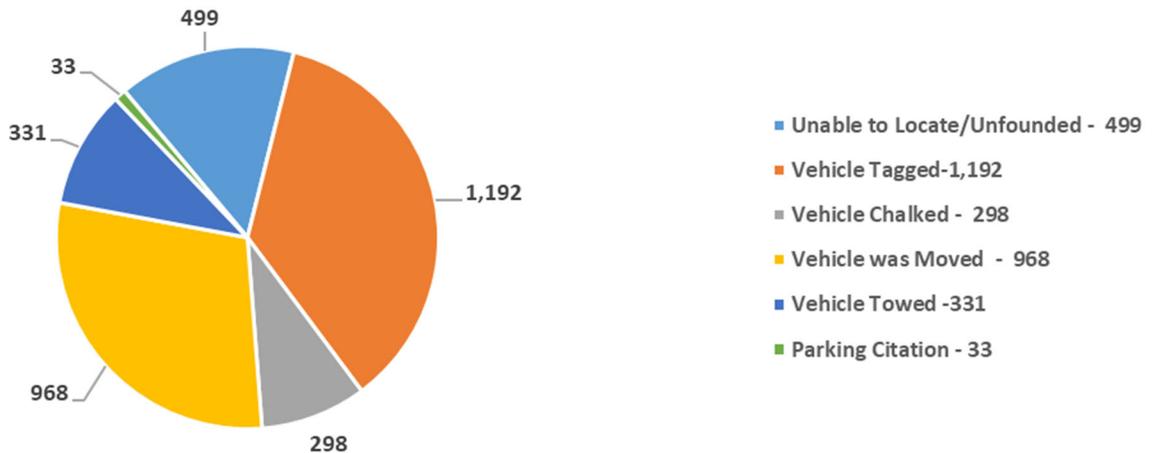
Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For information about volunteering or getting fingerprinted, visit the CPC page at [BillingsPolice.com](http://BillingsPolice.com) or call 247-8592.

**Volunteer Report Writing Activity**



**Volunteer Patrol Unit Activity**



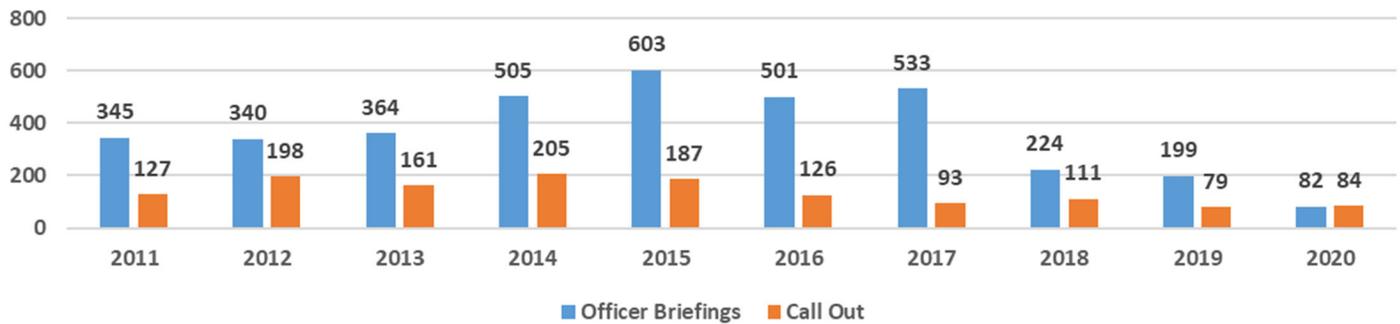


Billings Police Chaplains are a dedicated group of religious leaders who volunteer with the Department. They serve a rotating schedule of on-call duties to be available whenever Officers and citizens require their support. Due to the Pandemic, the Chaplains were off for about 10 weeks during 2020. Yet they increased their donated time by about 7 percent to 1,224.25 hours.

**Chaplain Activity by Type**

Chaplain Activity by Type	Hours
On-call hours	282
Monthly meetings	68.5
Executive Committee and Public Relations	68
Car maintenance	10.75
Attend officers' briefings	82
Ride along with officers	3
Callout	83.75
Followup	4.5
Personnel and Crime Prevention Center	10
Special	10
Detention	21

**Chaplains' Time Given to BPD and Citizens 10-Year Trend of Hours**



**Did you know?**

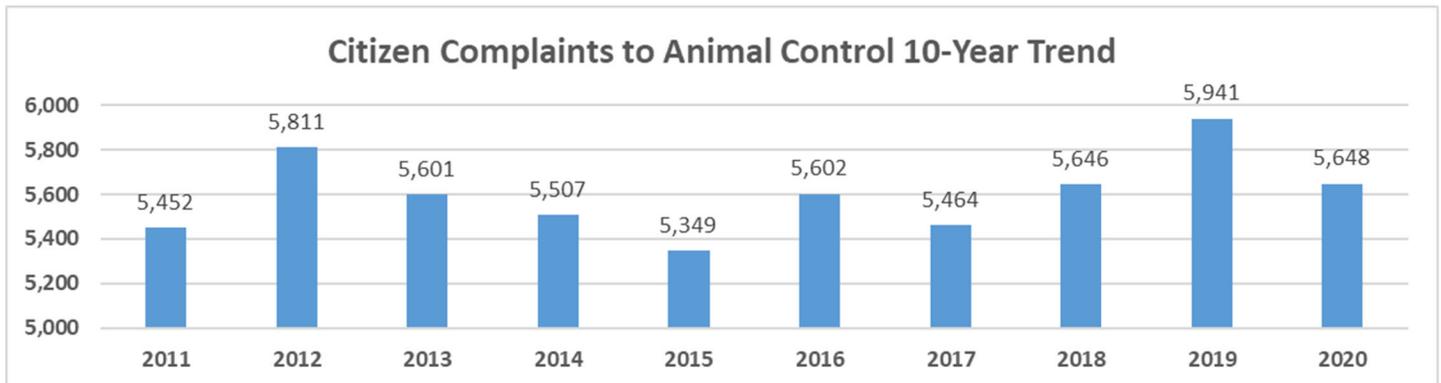
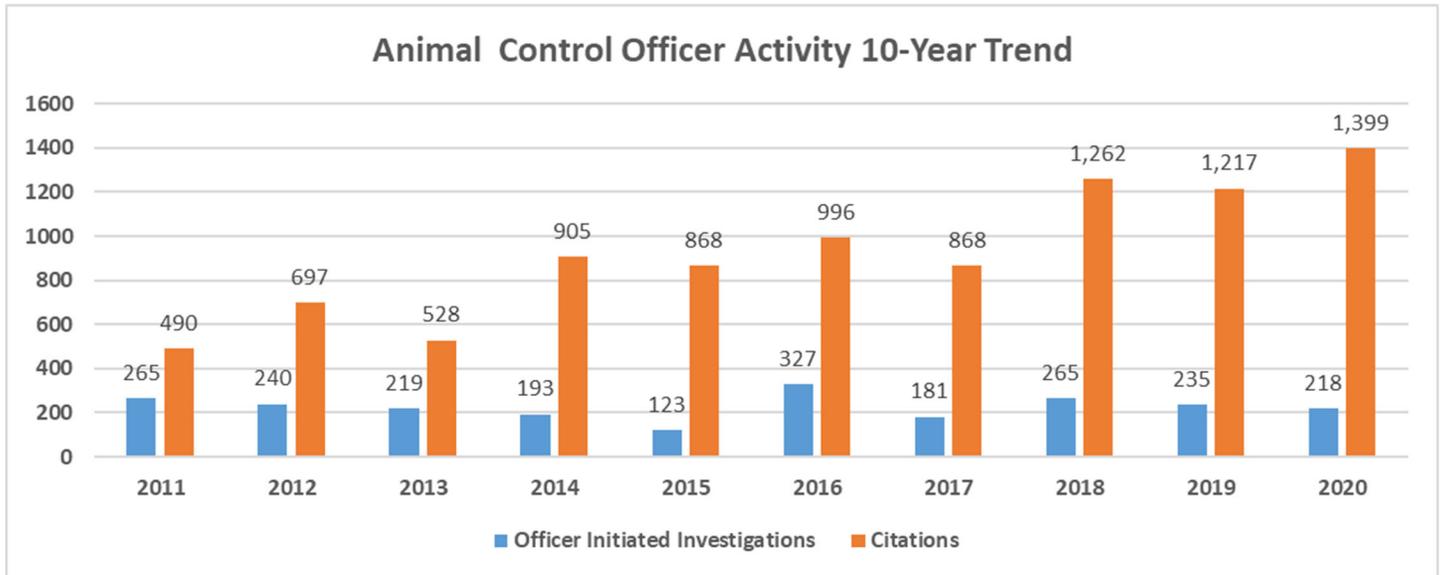
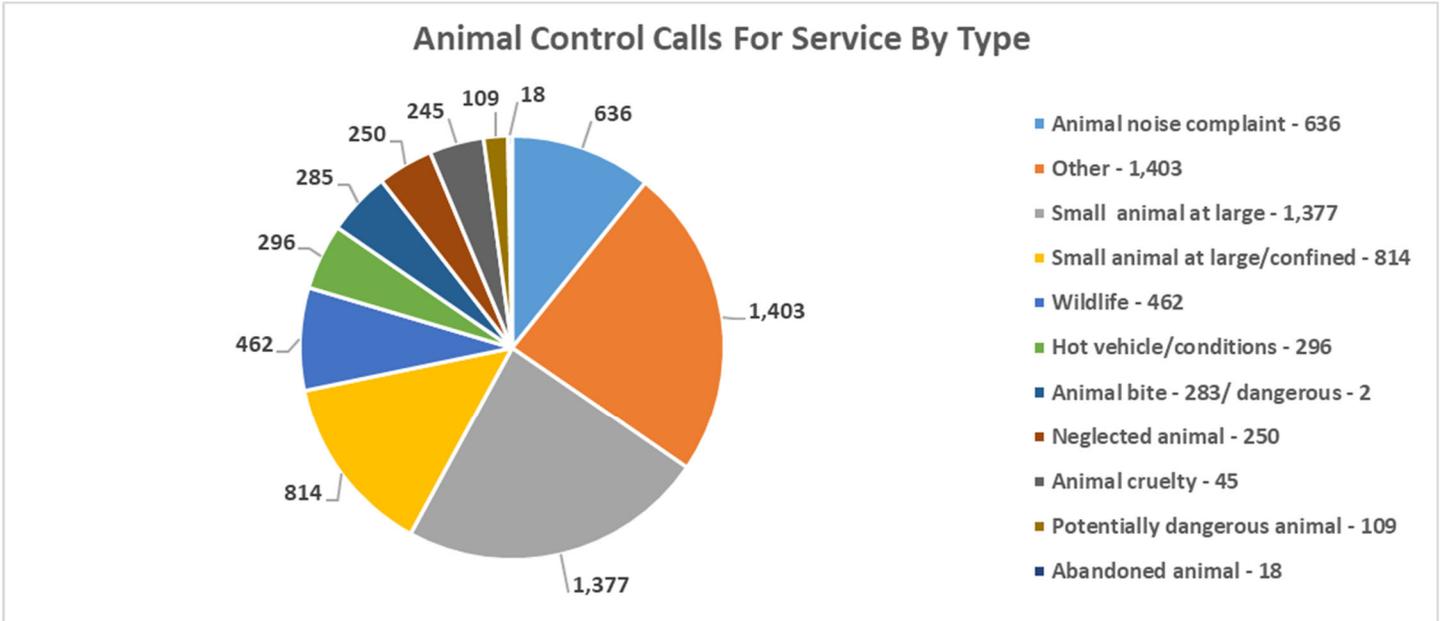
The Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) is a group residents who have graduated from the BPD community program the Citizen's Police Academy. Due to COVID, no Citizens Police Academy was held during 2020 and the Alumni Association didn't get to meet very often either. However, they continued to provide support to BPD Officers and other local responders.

Each quarter the CPAAA recognizes officers with a plaque and generous gift card. At right, Officer Puckett was among the 2020 recipients. During 2020 the CPAAA sponsored a child in the Shop-with-a-Cop event.

The CPAAA elects leadership from its membership, who pay annual dues. For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Center at 247-8590.



Tom Stinchfield is Supervisor of the BPD Animal Control Division. The officers respond to citizen complaints and are dispatched through the Billings communications center, just as police officers are. They are authorized to cite animal owners and write criminal cases to submit to Billings Municipal Court.





### Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter

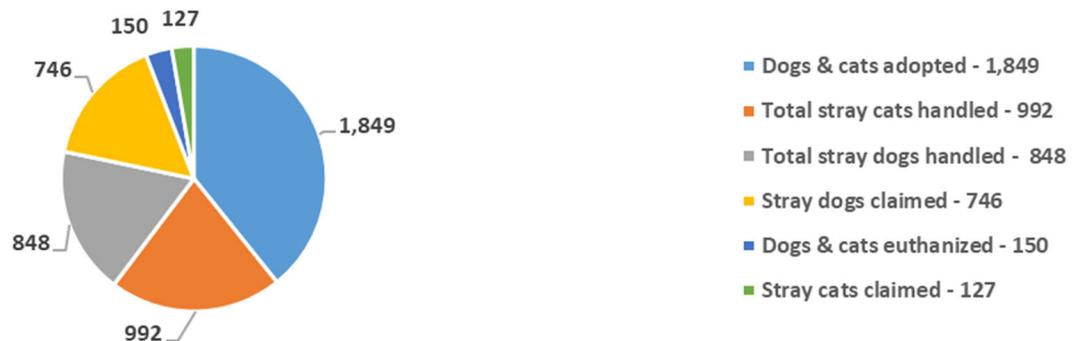
Billings Police Department Animal Control Division shares a location with the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter at 1735 Monad Road. YVAS and the City have a contract with the shelter to care for Billings' lost and stray animals. Because of this partnership, shelter statistics are included in the report. Wrangler (left) and Beans were available for adoption at the shelter. (Photos courtesy Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter) Shelter staff provided the information for this page.



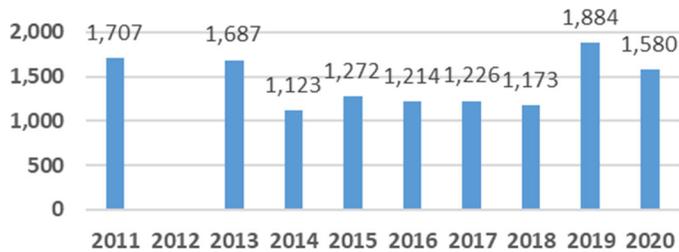
### Animal Received at Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter by Source



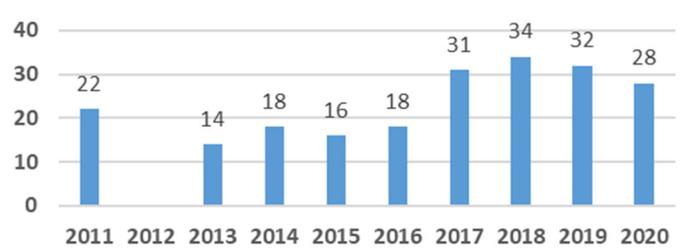
### Animal Activity at Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter



### Animals From Animal Control Officers 10-Year Trend



### Animals From Billings Police Officers 10-Year Trend



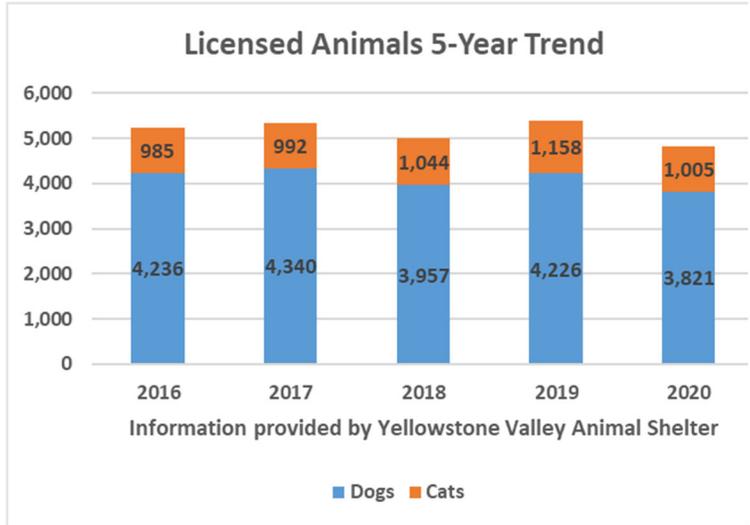
\* A major computer software issue resulted in the loss of all 2012 animal shelter records.

**By the numbers ...**

The Animal Control division includes a supervisor, 5 Animal Control Officers and an office assistant.

During 2020 Animal Control Officers:

- Wrote 1,399 citations and 955 warnings.
- 508 citations were voided because the cited animal owners provided proof of an animal license and/or rabies vaccine within the 7-day grace period.
- Drove 57,128 miles in Billings enforcing animal control ordinances.



Several Billings Police Officers donate their time to Special Olympics Montana.

At far right, a champion athlete is joined by Officers Kammerzell, Jones, Sparrow and other law enforcement professions after receiving a gold medal.

BPD Sgt. Hoeger, at right, started volunteering with SOMT 18 years ago and serves as the state Law Enforcement Torch Run director.

Below, Officer Sparrow accepted the challenge to run a basketball drill during Billings Area Games.



## Commendations

### **Officer of the Year – Samantha Puckett**

Officer Puckett has worked for the Billings Police Department since September of 2009. She has had a strong work ethic since day one. Officer Puckett became a Field Training Officer in 2014 and has trained numerous police officers in all phases of training. She is also an active crash investigator. These scenes are usually chaotic and filled full of emotion but she never ceases to lose focus and takes control of the investigation. She has been commended by numerous commanders and prosecutors for her attention to detail in the cases she submits. This helps ensure a clean, prosecutable case. Officer Puckett exemplifies dedication and loyalty to the Billings Police Department.

### **Supervisor of the Year – Sergeant Shane Shelden**

Sgt. Shelden joined the Billings Police Department in September of 2006. Bringing both experience and a solid law enforcement foundation, he has distinguished himself as a leader and role model amongst his peers. As a commander of the Investigations Division, Sgt. Shelden leads by example in terms of work ethic, taking on countless felony cases, often involving crimes against children, all while supervising the case loads of 14 detectives. The year 2020 brought numerous challenges and proved to be one of the busiest for the department in violent crimes. Sgt. Shelden is always the first to be notified of any major incident and always answers his phone day or night. He responds with a positive attitude, ready to lead his team.

### **Employee of the Year – Mackenzie Lepley**

Mackenzie is an evidence technician at the Billings Police Department Evidence Facility. She brings a positive work ethic and demeanor to work every day no matter the obstacles she faces. Mackenzie was instrumental in the completion of the evidence facility. She helped inventory, repackage and move all items to the new secure area and helped develop a storage system which will aid in the flow of operation in the new facility. She is very motivated, wants to cross train into the fingerprint tech position and has expressed willingness to assist at crime scenes when needed.

### **Respect for Law – Chad Wildin**

Officer Wildin has been employed with the Billings Police Department for 5 years. He is known for his quality of work and attention to detail. This last year he assisted an individual with a stolen identity case that he had been a victim of since 1993. Due to Officer Wildin's determination and detailed casework, he had enough evidence to convince Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the FBI to pick up the case. In addition to his patrol duties, Officer Wildin is a background investigator, certified bike patrol officer, field training officer and a member of the department's honor guard. He is active in the community as a coach for the Yellowstone Little League Baseball and Yellowstone Youth football.

### **American Legion National Law Enforcement Award – Detective Kodi Kaiser**

In Detective Kaiser's first year as a detective, he immediately rose to the top amongst all investigators. He was assigned primary investigator to four homicides in one year and his meticulous work led to arrests in all four cases. He was also assigned to 24 other major cases to include infant deaths, child sex offenses and child abuse cases. Detective Kaiser always responds when needed regardless of the time of day or day of week and is quick to volunteer as primary investigator. He maintains a great attitude even when working with difficult situations. He is actively pursuing his Master's in Public Administration and is a Patrol Vehicle Operations Course and Bike Instructor as well as a member of the BPD Bomb Squad.

## Promotions

Garrett Peterson ~ Sergeant

## New Officers

Billings Police Department welcomed 15 New officers during 2020. Three officers had already completed the 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. These new officers replace 5 officers who retired and 2 who resigned during 2020.

Patrick Korb  
Blaine Lane  
Cody Carriger  
Ian Busta  
Evan Corneliusen  
Hope Crowe  
Eric Laase

Jonathan Simpson  
Robert Dahlberg  
James Catlin  
Adam Combs  
Steven Huskins  
Jon Gallagher  
Jordan Woodvine



Among the changes instituted by BPD during the COVID pandemic was limiting attendance at new officers' swearing in ceremonies. Each of the officers may invite a few guests, including at top, retired Officer Simpson who presented his son, the new Officer Simpson, his badge after the younger was sworn in by Judge Todd.

At right, Officer Gallagher's son shows off his dad's new badge. At far right, officers Carriger, Crowe, Corneliusen, Busta and Laase take the oath of office.



### *By the numbers ...*

Officers wear about 40 pounds of gear as part of their work uniform. To assist them in being physically fit, officers have free, around-the-clock access to fitness equipment at the Department training facility.

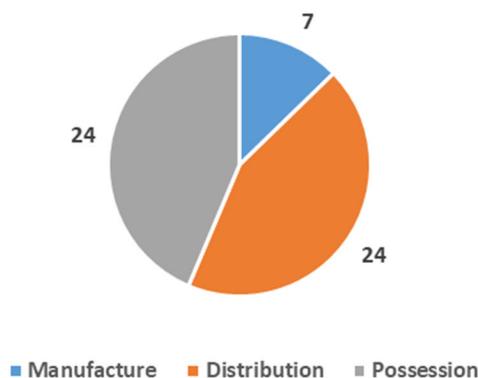
The Department provides incentives for officers who voluntarily take the Montana Physical Abilities Test (MPAT) twice a year. Also required before applying for a police officer position, the MPAT is a hybrid physical ability and job samples ability assessment. Participants walk and run on a balance beam, go up and down stairs, jump, vault over a 3-foot bar, crawl, fall, drag a 165-pound test dummy and move a push-pull machine. Officers may also opt to take the Cooper test which similarly evaluates fitness and includes sit-ups, push-ups and a 1.5-mile run.

During 2020, 97 officers volunteered for the Spring assessment and 89 for the Fall assessment.

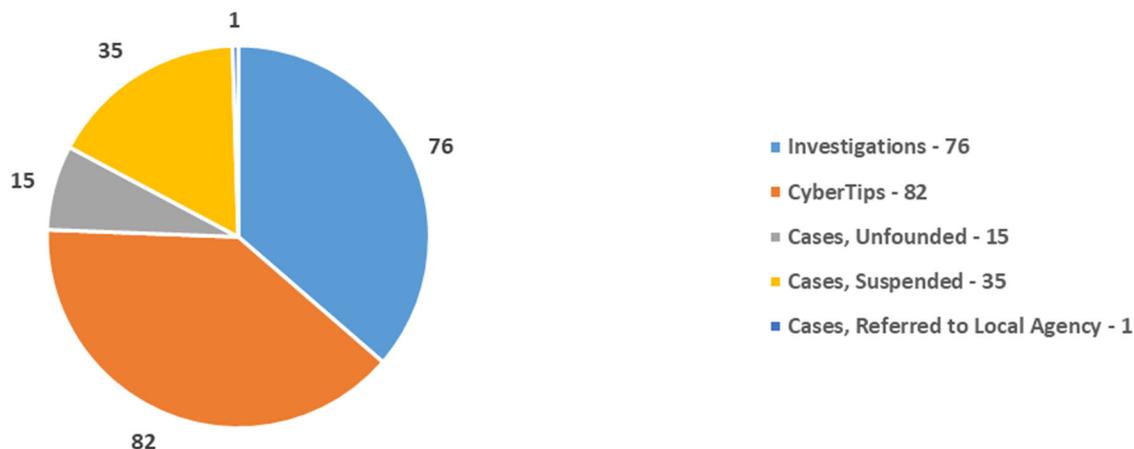
The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force program is a national initiative under the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. The program encourages partnerships between local law enforcement and federal agencies. These partnerships ensure proper prosecution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



Billings Area Child Pornography Cases



Billings ICAC Case Information



***By the numbers ...***

- 6,608 — Number of gigabytes of data examined
- 35 — Hard drives, cell phones, thumb drives and SD cards examined,
- 580 — Number of citizens who attended four public presentations ICAC agents made during 2020
- 20 — Federal Court Orders and Subpoenas
- 20 — Complaints received about enticement
- 2 — Cases involving obscenity directed to minors
- 0 — Child sex trafficking cases, victims or suspects

# Office of Professional Standards

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## *2020 Annual Report*

The Office of Professional Standards is directed by a police Captain who reports directly to the Chief of Police and Assistance 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 also records and evaluates all incidents of Response to Resistance.

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Captain Neil Lawrence

Email: [LawrenceN@billingsmt.gov](mailto:LawrenceN@billingsmt.gov)

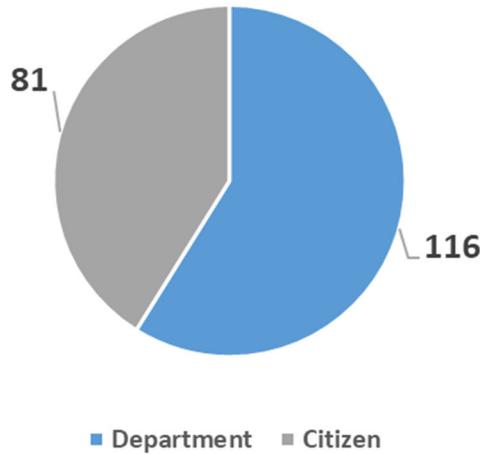


# COMPLAINTS

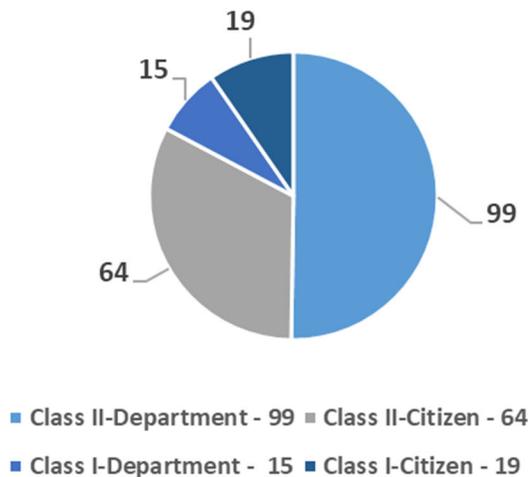
A complaint is an incident which gives rise to one or more allegations of misconduct. A single complaint may allege misconduct by multiple employees and/or multiple violations of departmental policies. The number of complaints filed may not equal the number of allegations and findings resulting from the investigation. Complaints may be *external* which are entered by citizens or *internal* which are from BPD supervisors.

During 2020, the average time it took to complete a complaint investigation was just less than 12 days.

### Complaints by Source



### Complaints by Class & Source

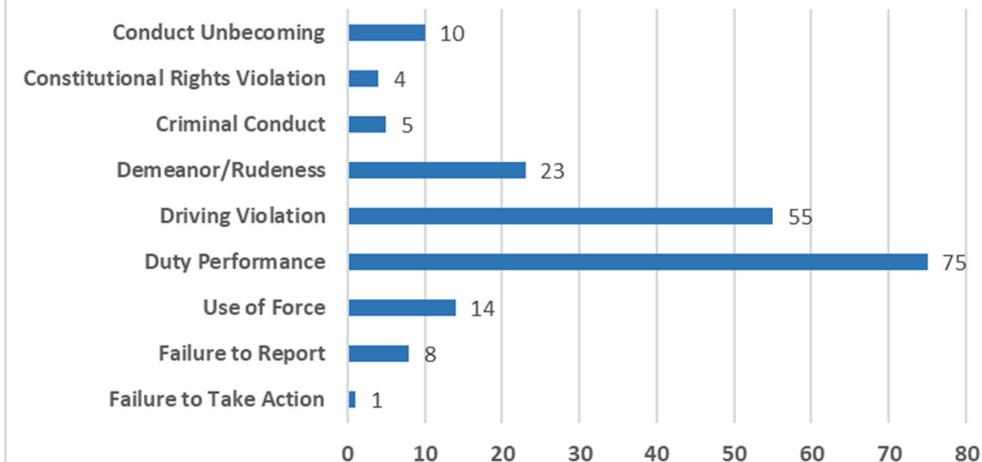


**Class I** complaints are more serious and include allegations such as excessive force, violations of criminal law, breach of civil rights, bias policing and other, more serious, allegations. A pattern of Class II complaints is elevated to a Class I level.

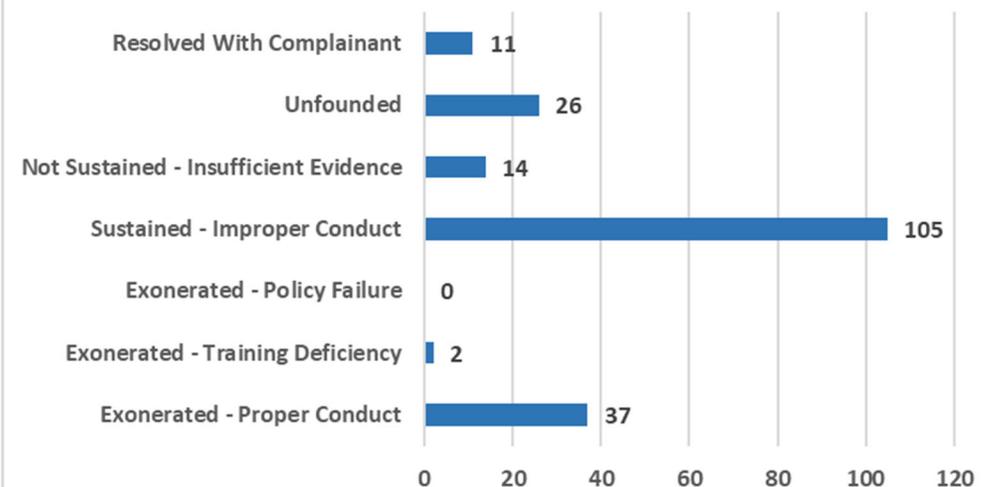
**Class II** complaints include allegations of inadequate service, discourtesy, minor performance issues, improper procedure and other less serious and non-criminal conduct.

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.

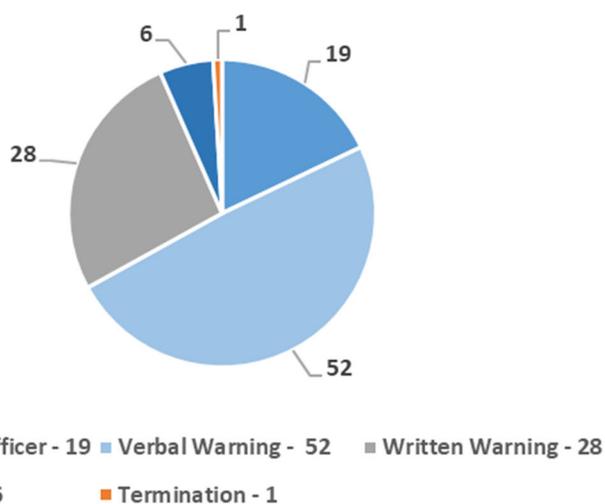
### Total Complaints by Type



### Total Complaint Findings



### Discipline



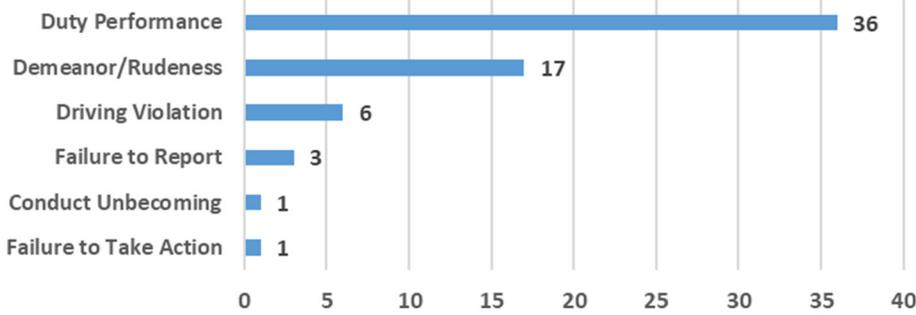
**Allegations** — This is a distinctly different category than complaints. They are assertions of an employee’s behavior that, if proven, would amount to a violation of department policy. A single complaint may result in multiple allegations of misconduct against one employee, single allegations against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

**2020 Totals** — The Office of Professional Standards received 197 complaints. These resulted in 195 findings. Discipline was issued 106 times.

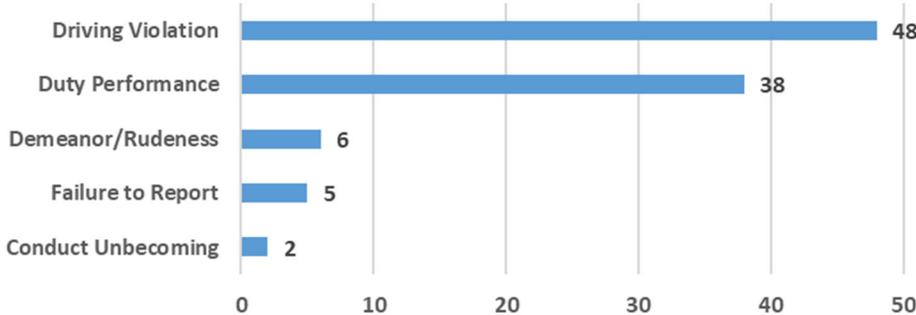
### Class II Citizen Complaints



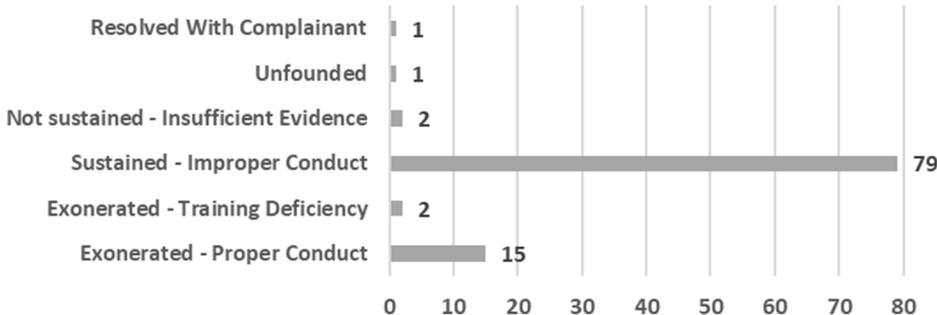
### Class II Citizen Complaint Findings



### Class II Department Complaints



### Class II Department Complaint Findings



## Definitions

**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.

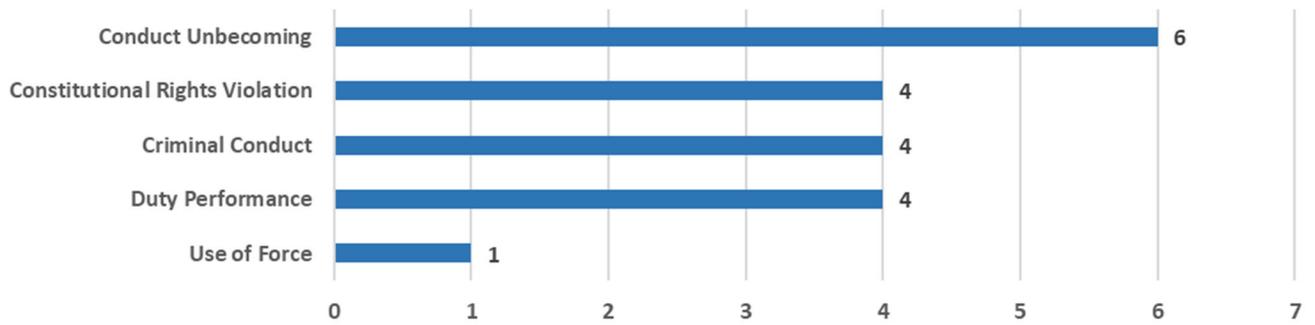
**Sustained** — Improper conduct. The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made.

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

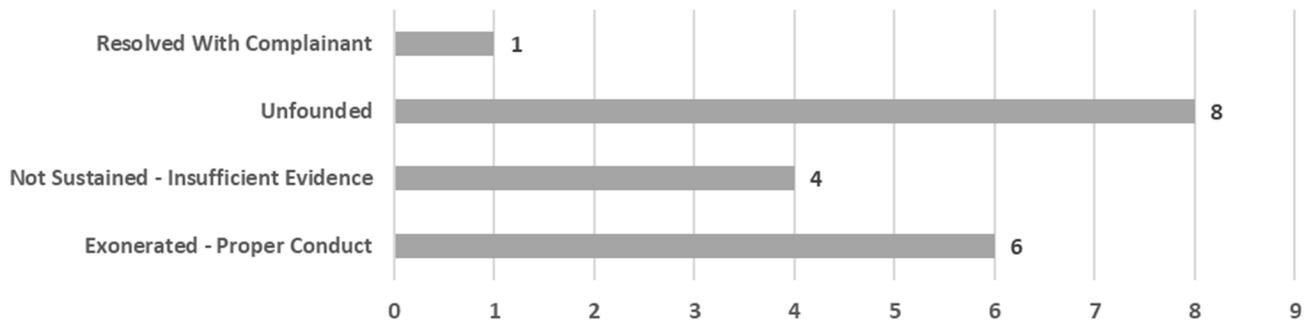
**Unfounded** — The investigation conclusively proved the act(s) in the complaint did not occur. This also applies when individual officers or employees were not involved in acts which may have occurred.

**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.

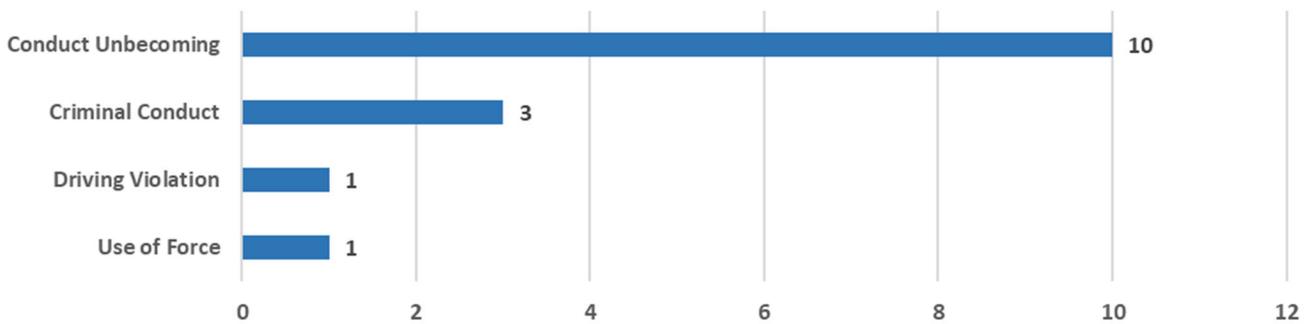
### Class I Citizen Complaints



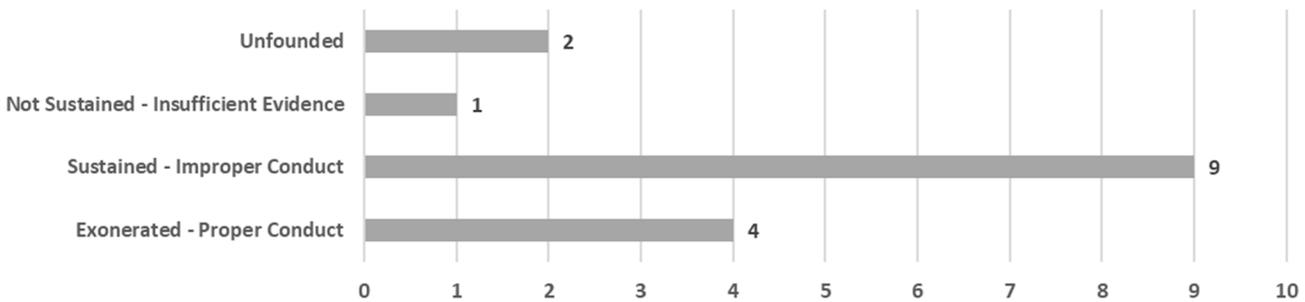
### Class I Citizen Complaint Findings



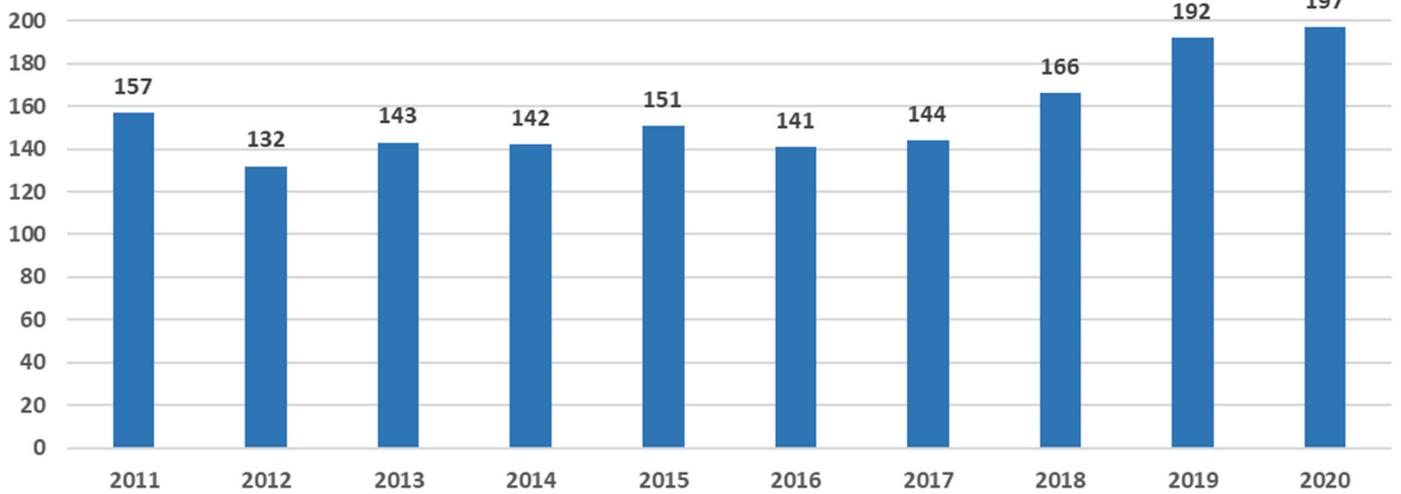
### Class I Department Complaints



### Class I Department Complaint Findings



### Total Complaints Received 10-Year Trend



### CITIZEN COMENDATIONS

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.

	<b>Officer Commendations</b>	<b>Employees Recognized</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>64</b>

## RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE REPORT

Billings Police Officers had 117 Incidents of Response to Resistance during 2020.

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.

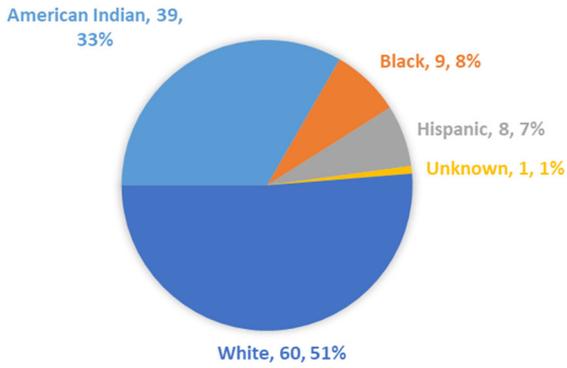
In addition, the reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The question is whether the officers' actions are 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting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

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

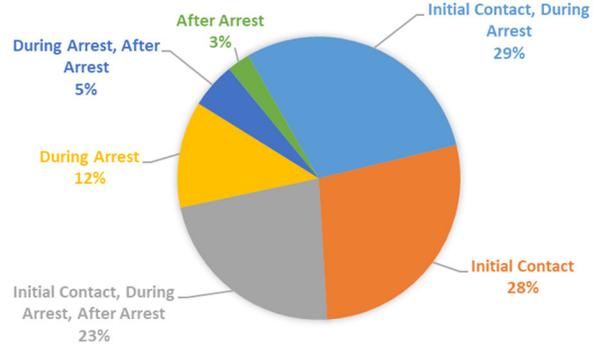
THREAT RESPONSE DIAGRAM



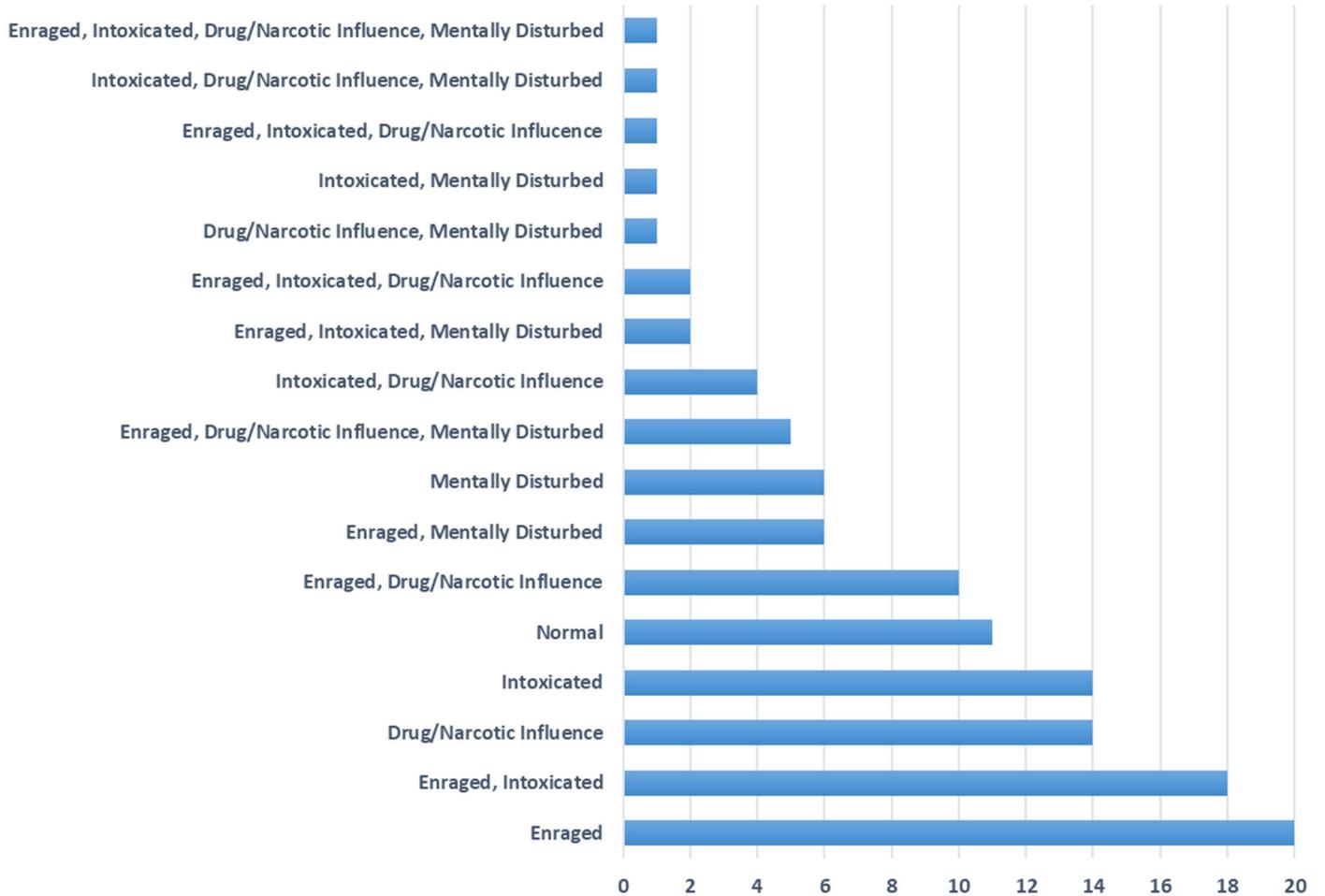
### Incidents of Resistance



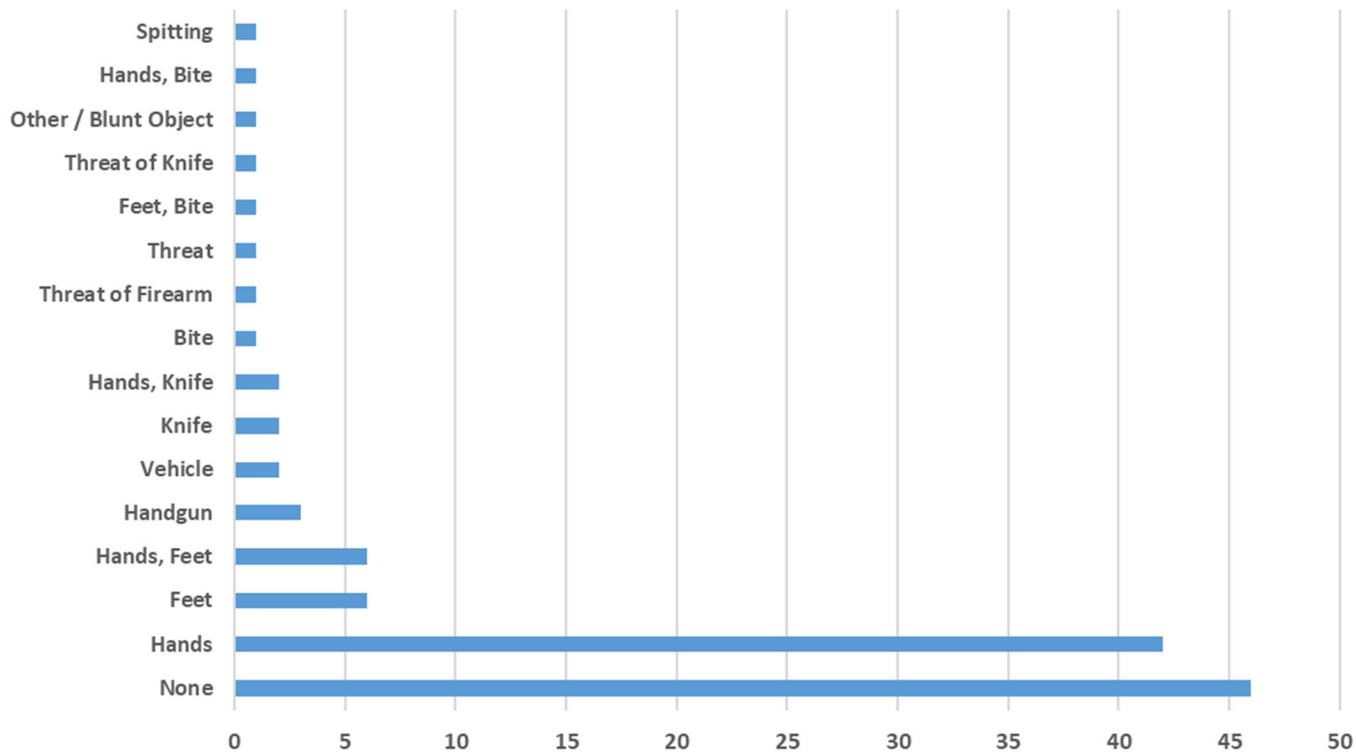
### Onset of Resistance



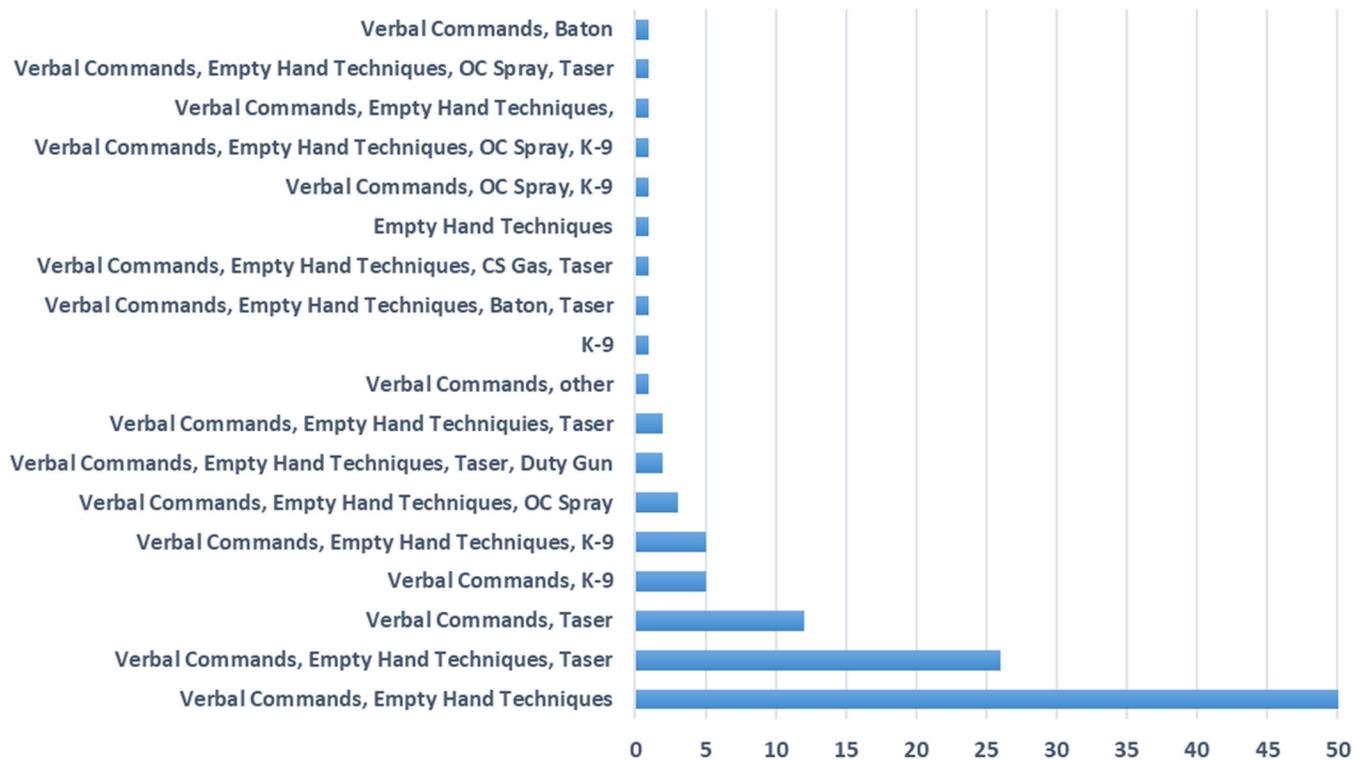
### Subjects' Perceived Mental Condition



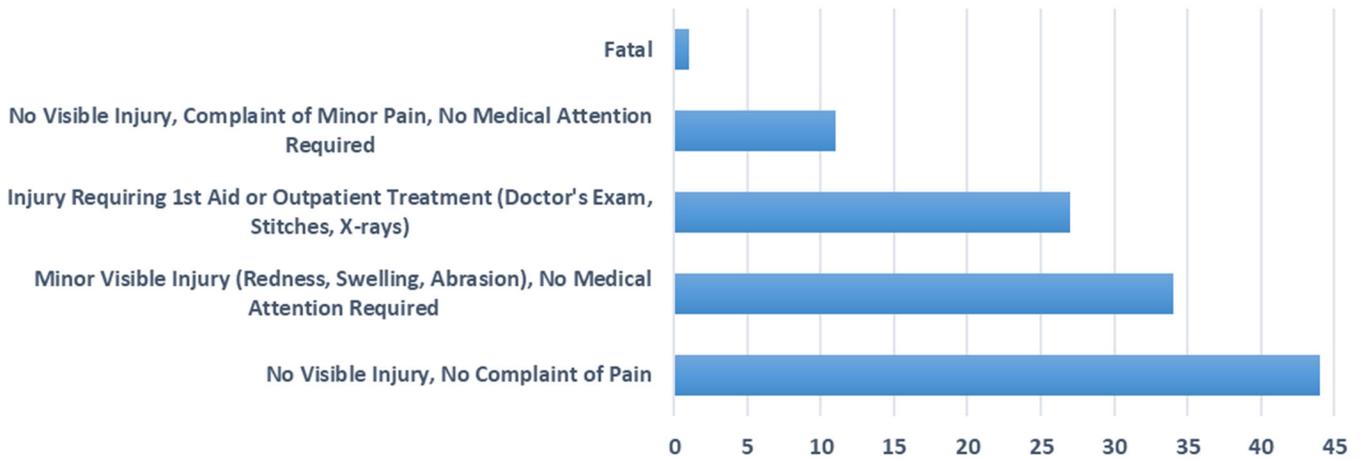
### Weapons Used by Non-Compliant Suspects



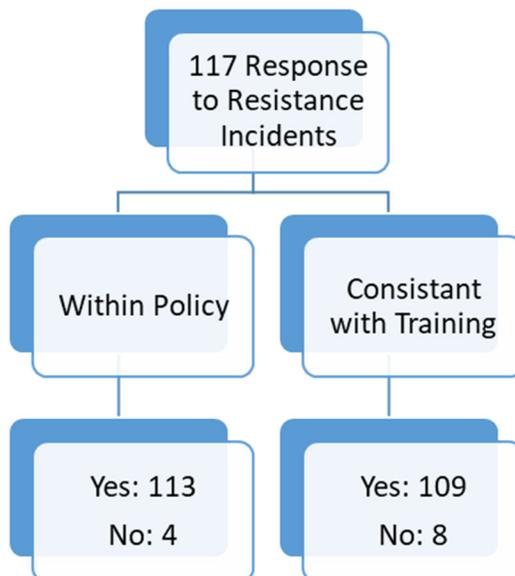
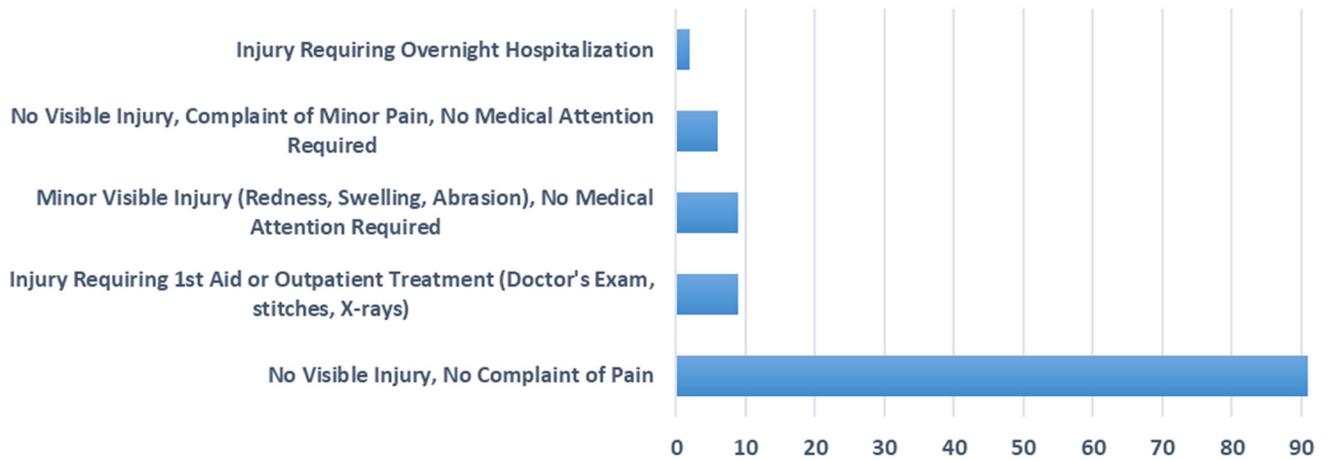
### Tools Used by Officers



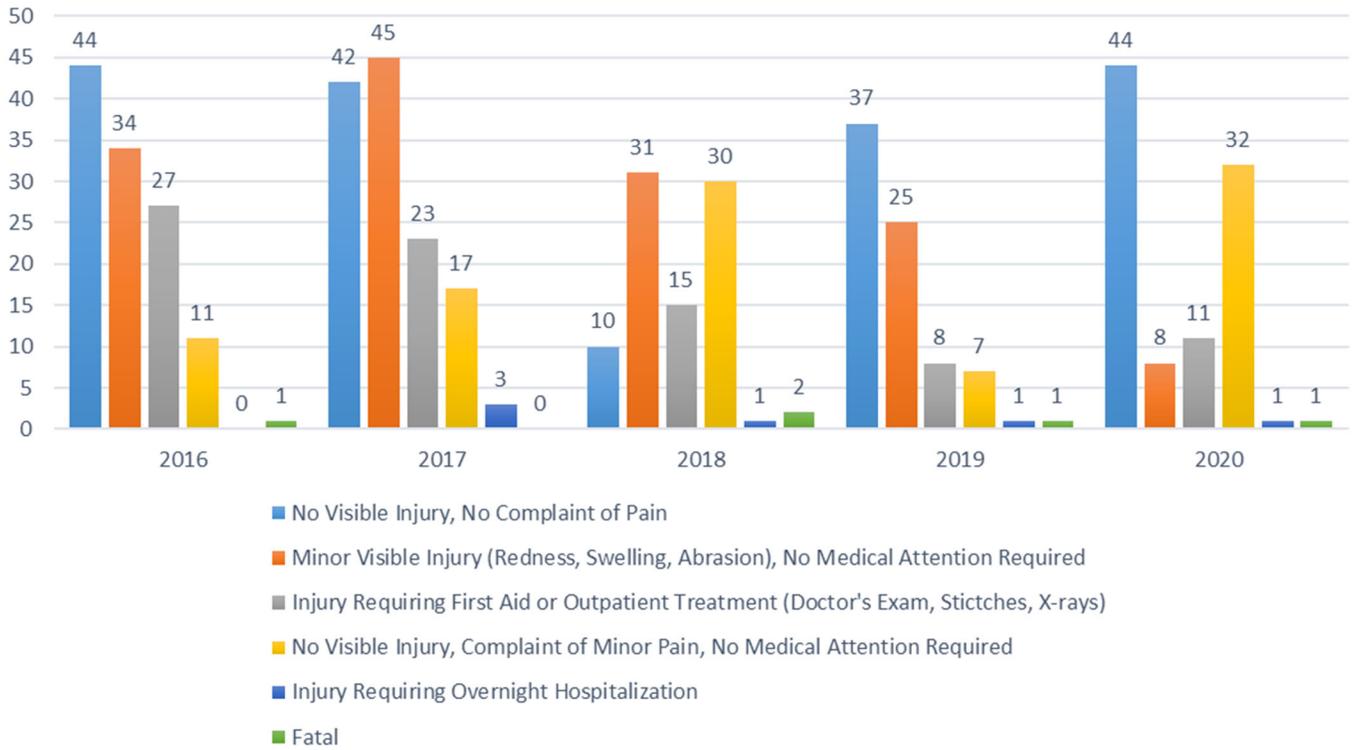
### Suspect Level of Injury



### Officer Level of Injury



### Suspect Level of Injury 5-Year Trend



### Response to Resistance Findings 5-Year Trend

