FITCHBURG POLICE WISCONSIN EST. 1847

2019
ANNUAL REPORT

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Chief Chad Brecklin

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of the Fitchburg Police Department, our mission is to provide a professional community-oriented police service. We are committed to creating and maintaining an active community partnership and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of lives in our neighborhoods. We are dedicated to protecting life, property, and maintaining order, while assuring fair and equal treatment to everyone.

VALUES

In achieving this mission, the men and women of the Fitchburg Police Department value the diversity of our community and are dedicated to the professional and ethical standards we are sworn to uphold.

We promote and advocate:

Fairness: We treat all people impartially with consideration and compassion. We are equally responsive to our community and employees.
Integrity: We recognize that our behavior must reflect honesty, sincerity, and accountability through ethical and moral standards. We do not tolerate the abuse of our police authority.
Tolerance: We uphold goodwill, understanding, and equal treatment for everyone.
Commitment: We are proactive members of our organization and community. We are self-directed and self-motivated. We identify problems and develop and implement solutions to improve our quality of life.
Honor: We honor the principles of the United States Constitution and the laws of Wisconsin. If the law is to be honored, those who enforce it must first honor it.
Betterment: We support training, career development and modern equipment and methods to continuously and objectively evaluate our own performance and be receptive to new ideas and constructive changes.
Unity: Our organizational existence is to unite our department with our community. We believe our community and problem-oriented policing is an ongoing process and not a program with a beginning and an end.
Respect: We respect human life. We hold the preservation of life as our sacred duty. Our value of human life sets our priorities.
Goodwill: We build and enhance relationships with our community and other law enforcement agencies through communications, compromise, kindness and understanding.

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF BRECKLIN

Fitchburg Community, Mayor, and Council,
I am pleased to present the 2019 Fitchburg Police Department Annual Report. On the following pages, you will find a snapshot of the work the dedicated members of this department undertook in 2019. The cornerstone of our department's work, the community we serve, is reflected in this report, in particular as it relates to community engagement and partnership.

Continued transition and growth within the department fostered an eye for growth and refinement throughout the year, especially as it relates to community engagement. Most notably, we reformulated our Crime Day Picnic to a Community Night Out. While maintaining a focus on celebrating our partnership with the community, we moved the event to the evening hours and in to a neighborhood at Huegel Jamestown Park. The event's attendance grew significantly over past picnics and it received very positive feedback from attendees.

Additionally, the department built on the success of the county-wide "Shop with a Cop" program, to develop a "Back to School With a Cop" event. The event focused on families within the Fitchburg community and partnered officers with deserving students. Beyond outreach events, the department utilized community members in a revamped promotional process panel. Command staff applicants developed a white paper which was then shared with a group of community members via a formal presentation. This process instilled the role of the community in our work at a high level and also sought valued feedback from community representatives.

In the community, we continued to experience the trend of juvenile involved motor vehicle theft. A more concerning aspect of this trend was an increase in burglaries to garages and homes in which car keys were targets. Department members continued outreach efforts to educate community members on simple crime prevention measures to help curb this trend. In August, we experienced the second firearm related homicide in two years, and in September, we responded to an incident with three shooting victims. Each of these cases necessitated a significant amount of investigative and patrol related resources.

Internally, we continued a period of transition, most visibly at the supervisory and command level, following the retirement of Sergeant Tom Schmit and Deputy Chief Don Bates. We were also fortunate enough to add a fifth member to our detective bureau. Adding capacity to our detective bureau was necessary to handle the ever-increasing depths of many investigations from financial crimes to sexual assaults and homicides.

Perhaps one of our most important accomplishments of 2019 was the implementation of a "Wellness Day" program. The primary focus of the "Wellness Day" assignment is for department personnel to participate in a mental-health "check-in" with a mental health provider versed in working with first responders. Working in a challenging environment and often dealing with difficult circumstances, we firmly believe that in order for our department members to best take care of the community, we must first take care of ourselves.

In closing, I would like to thank the Fitchburg community, Mayor and City Council for the support you provide to the Fitchburg Police Department. It truly is an honor and a privilege to be in the community on a daily basis, doing our best to serve and make the community a safe place for all. Our department is looking forward to continued growth, new accomplishments, and new partnerships in 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of the Fitchburg Police Department for their unwavering commitment and service to the community. Our service is only possible through your hard work and dedication and it is appreciated.

Chief Chad Brecklin

2019 AT A GLANCE

52 AUTHORIZED SWORN PERSONNEL

**23,521** CALLS FOR SERVICE

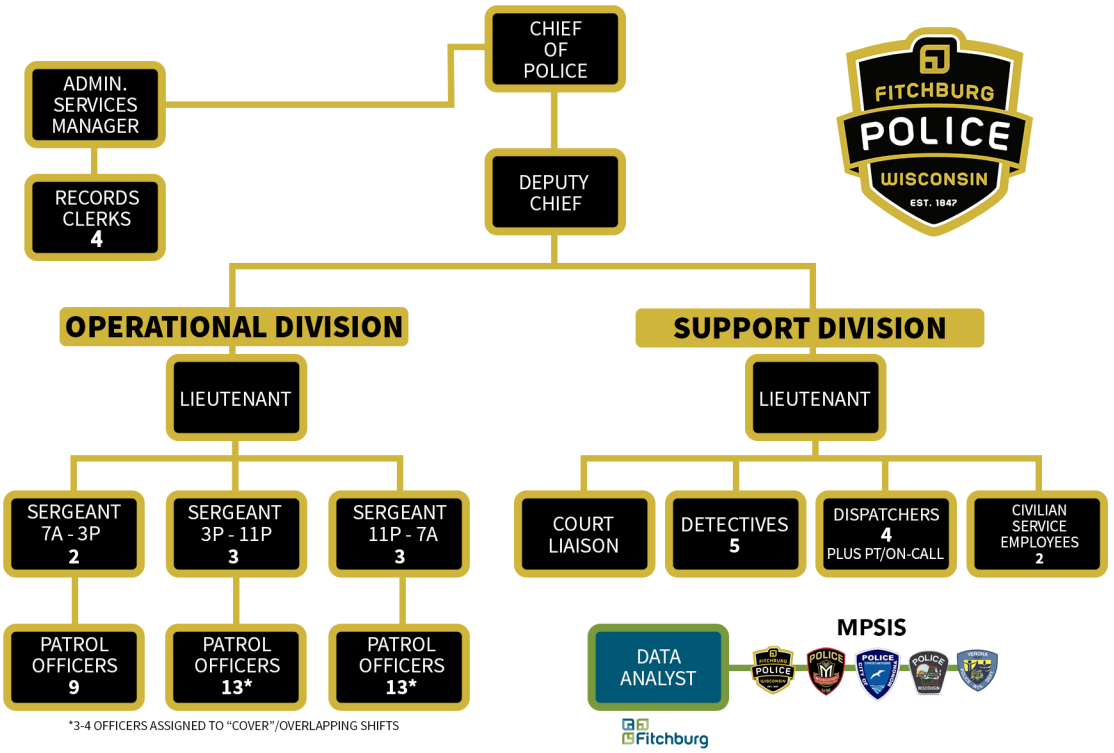
12 AUTHORIZED CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
5 P.T./ON-CALL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
1 SHARED DATA ANALYST

785 ARRESTS

$7,921,565 OPERATING BUDGET

1,724 CITATIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COMMUNITY POLICING

The men and women of the Fitchburg Police Department have the honor of serving a community that is diverse in every regard from demographics to geography. Keeping the city safe for all to enjoy is a challenge we cannot accomplish on our own. We rely on our partnerships with the community to exchange information, guide our efforts, and solve problems.

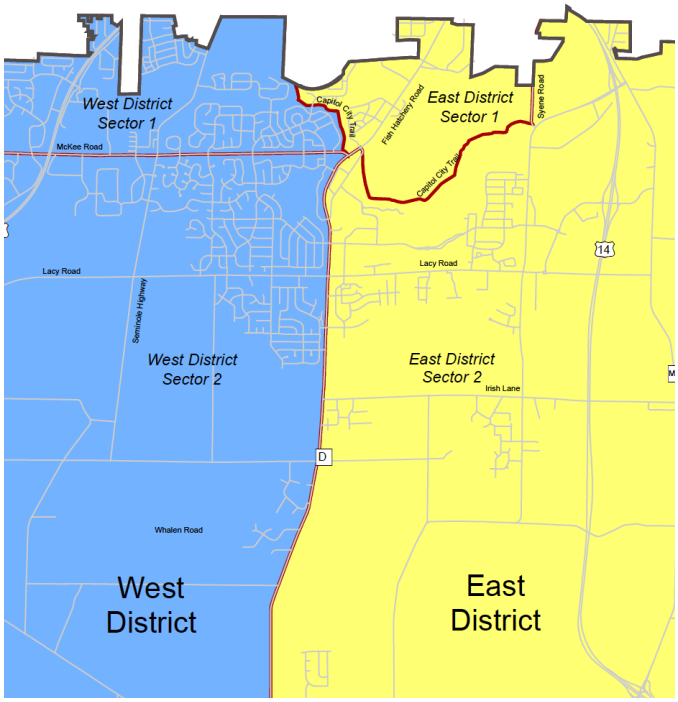
In order to most effectively serve our community, all patrol officers act as community policing officers. Each officer works a two-year assignment to a specific area of the city to foster community policing.

To us, community policing means we actively engage the neighborhoods we serve, partnering with individuals, groups, businesses, and apartment complexes. This engagement comes in the form of face to face meetings, foot patrol and involvement in community events. It is through this engagement we strive to learn what neighborhoods and their challenges look like through the lens of their residents.

We also hope to learn how to most effectively address concerns and solve problems, which is almost always through teamwork. This approach often involves our city departments, community service providers and citizens working together to improve a neighborhood and our community.

Whether it's at special events like Coffee with a Cop or our Community Night Out, or while we are walking through your neighborhood, we relish opportunities to meet and get to know those we serve.

Addressing the challenges facing our community and our society can best be accomplished with a mutual respect and understanding that is sometimes only attainable through a face to face conversation. We encourage our officers and our community members to seek out these positive interactions so we can make our community the best it can be.



IN THE COMMUNITY

1

2

3

4

1) In August the Department hosted its first "Community Night Out" in Huegel-Jamestown Park to celebrate our partnership with the community. **2)** Also in August, we held our first "Back to School with a Cop" event to help deserving students prepare for the school year. **3)** In December officers partnered with deserving students to purchase holiday gifts for their families as part of "Shop with a Cop". **4)** Also in December the Department led a food drive to gather over 3,000 pounds of food to support the Allied Food Pantry.

LATINO YOUTH ACADEMY

The Department once again had the pleasure of partnering with the City of Madison Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to host the annual Latino Youth Academy

The goal of the Academy is to build meaningful relationships with Latino youth in Dane County. Youth spend time at the academy learning about various topics in law enforcement as well as leadership, fitness, interviewing, and other life-long skills.

In addition to exposure to law enforcement careers, students spent time with the Fitchburg Fire Department.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizen's Academy is an educational outreach program designed to provide citizens a greater understanding of the Fitchburg Police Department, its organization, operations, and role in the community. Participants gain an understanding of police department responsibilities and the laws that govern it. One of the main goals of the academy is to develop a partnership between citizens and their local law enforcement agency that serves their community.

In 2019, the department hosted its ninth Citizen's Academy class. Students met once a week for eight weeks and received hands-on training on topics such as investigations, defensive and arrest tactics, emergency vehicle operations, firearms, drug enforcement, and other basic police procedures.

K9 UNIT

In 2019, Officer Parker and K9 Drago focused on building their "pack", the affectionate term they use for the community they serve and receive support from. One of the most important members of their pack was eight-year-old Emma Mertens who made world headlines when she asked for pictures of dogs after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. Officer Parker and K9 Drago developed a special relationship with Emma and among several visits to her Drago climbed into her hospital bed following a surgery to remove a tumor.

Drago's success continued on the street as well with numerous successful narcotics detection deployments and several major arrests. Drago's detection skills led to the location and seizure of over 250 grams of heroin which translates to a street value of nearly $40,000, and more importantly, potentially several lives saved.

K9 STATS 2019

- **91** TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS
- **34** PATROL DEPLOYMENTS[1]
- **57** DRUG DETECTION DEPLOYMENTS[2]
- **21** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS & EVENTS
- **13** AGENCIES ASSISTED
- **4** ILLEGAL FIREARMS SEIZED[3]
- **47** ARRESTS[4]

1-INCLUDES TRACKING PEOPLE (LOST/CRIMINAL SUSPECT), BUILDING SEARCH, ARTICLE SEARCH
2-DRAGO CAN DETECT ODORS OF MARIJUANA, COCAINE, HEROIN & METHAMPHETAMINE
3-WHILE NOT ABLE TO DETECT FIREARMS, DRAGO'S ALERTS FOR NARCOTICS MAY LEAD TO DISCOVERY OF FIREARMS
4-INCLUDES ARRESTS BASED ON DRUG DETECTION DEPLOYMENTS AND LOCATING CRIMINAL SUSPECTS

AWARDS CEREMONY & BADGE PINNING

In May, the Department held its annual awards and badge pinning ceremony. Eight new department members were formally welcomed to the team with an oath of honor and badge pinning.

The following awards were presented to department personnel based on their work in 2018.

•**Life Saving:** Officers Claire Aschenbrenner, Morgan Matz & Matthew Ranallo for their life saving efforts providing CCR to a male who had collapsed at home.
•**Meritorious Conduct:** Detective Jordan Trundle for his work on two special assignments in 2018, including extensive work investigating vehicle thefts, leading to several arrests, and his work completing nine background investigations.
•**Meritorious Conduct:** Detectives Sean Coffey, Jordan Trundle Jeff Wissink and Matthew Wiza for their dedicated investigative work related to the 2018 homicide on Anton Drive.
•**Outstanding Service:** Sergeant Matthew Laha and Detective Jeff Wissink for their leadership roles and work related to the formation of our department's peer support team and the Fitchburg Public Safety Wellness Team. The team is a joint effort with Fitchburg Fire Rescue and Fitchrona EMS to address the wellbeing of our community's first responders.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS, PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

New Officers and Date of Hire

Officer Ryan Bigalk - 1/7/19
Officer Logan Brown - 1/7/19
Officer Louis Baltazar - 5/3/19
Officer Logan Enke - 5/3/19
Officer Megan Paskey - 5/3/19
Officer Brett Hammermeister - 8/15/19
Officer Matt Overstreet - 8/15/19

Promotions and Date of Promotion

Lieutenant Edward Hartwick - 6/17/19
Detective Jordan Trundle - 6/17/19
Deputy Chief Matthew Laha - 8/26/19
Sergeant Cesar Lopez - 9/9/19
Sergeant Michael Buri - 10/21/19

SERGEANT THOMAS SCHMIT
December 9, 1983 - April 3, 2019
Sergeant Schmit served as an officer until his promotion to sergeant in 1992. He spent time with the Suburban Drug Unit and served as a field training officer and supervisor. Thank you for your 35 years of dedicated service, Tom.

DEPUTY CHIEF DON BATES
July 11, 1986 - October 1, 2019
Deputy Chief Bates served as an officer until his promotion to detective in 1993. Don was promoted to deputy chief in 2000 and served as interim chief in 2017. Thank you, Don, for your 33 years of dedicated service.

2019 OVERVIEW

23,521
CALLS FOR SERVICE

2,556
TRAFFIC STOPS

785
ARRESTS

1,724
CITATIONS
INCLUDES TRAFFIC & ORDINANCE

547
REFERRALS TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1,660
TRAFFIC WARNINGS

895
VEHICLE CRASHES
INCLUDES NON-REPORTABLE & PRIVATE PROPERTY

85
O.W.I. ARRESTS

77*
STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES
*INCLUDES 12 VEHICLES TAKEN DURING A BURGLARY. THESE VEHICLES ARE NOT REFLECTED IN THE UCR NUMBER OF AUTOMOBILE THEFTS. ONLY THE MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE (BURGLARY) IS COUNTED.

108
THEFTS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

413
HOURS OF FOOT PATROL

7
OFFICERS FELONIOUSLY ASSAULTED
INCLUDES BATTERY TO AN OFFICER, RESISTING CAUSING INJURY AND THREATS TO AN OFFICER.

10
NARCAN DEPLOYMENTS

1,500
GLOW STICKS HANDED OUT ON HALLOWEEN

UCR STATISTICS

10-YEAR UCR CRIME COMPARISON

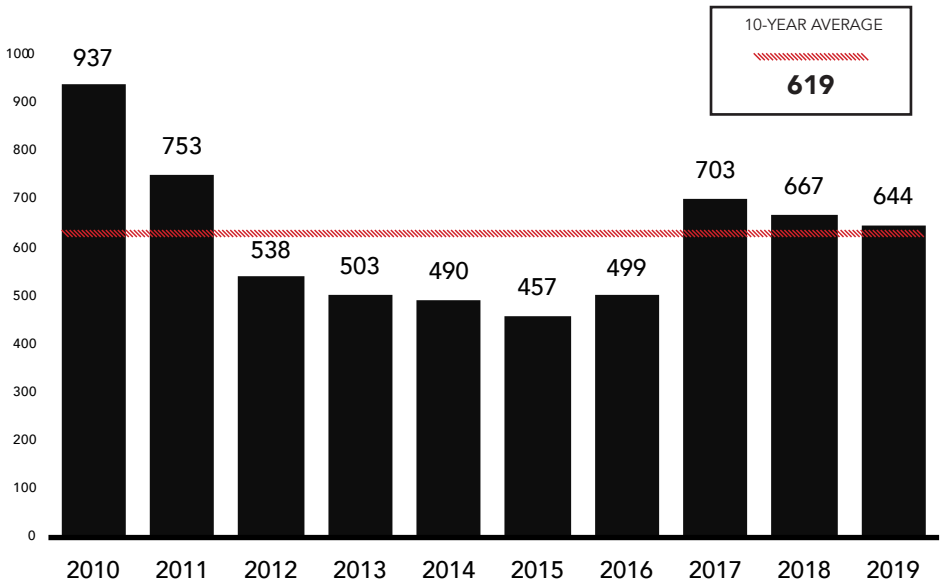
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) is a nationwide effort to collect and report crime statistics.

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for submitting statistics to the FBI. Statistics are limited to reported crime.

UCR is divided into two parts. Part 1 covers the violent and property crimes.

Part 2 covers a wider array of less serious offenses.



PART 1 UCR 5-YEAR COMPARISON

DEFINITIONS

Aggravated Assault: An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Homicide: Murder and non-negligent manslaughter: the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

Rape: Penetration, no matter how slight, without the consent of the victim.

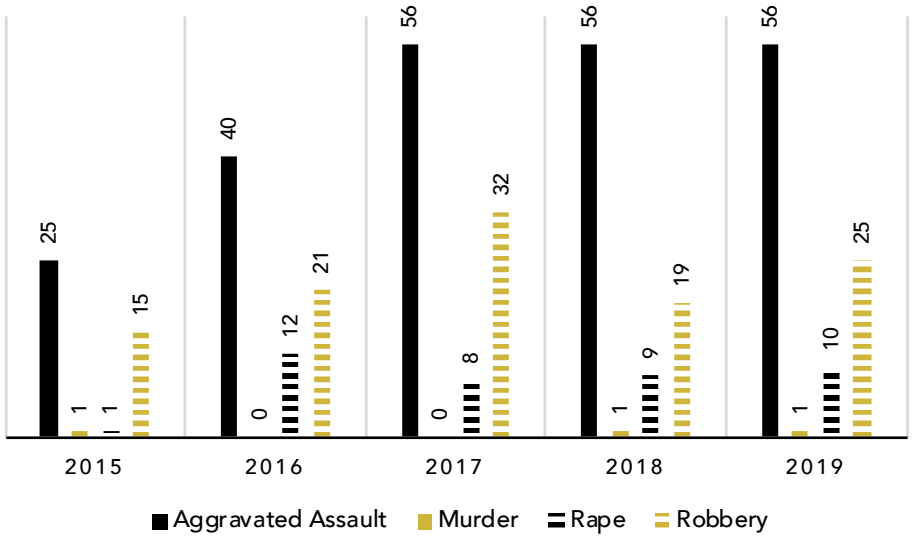
Robbery: The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

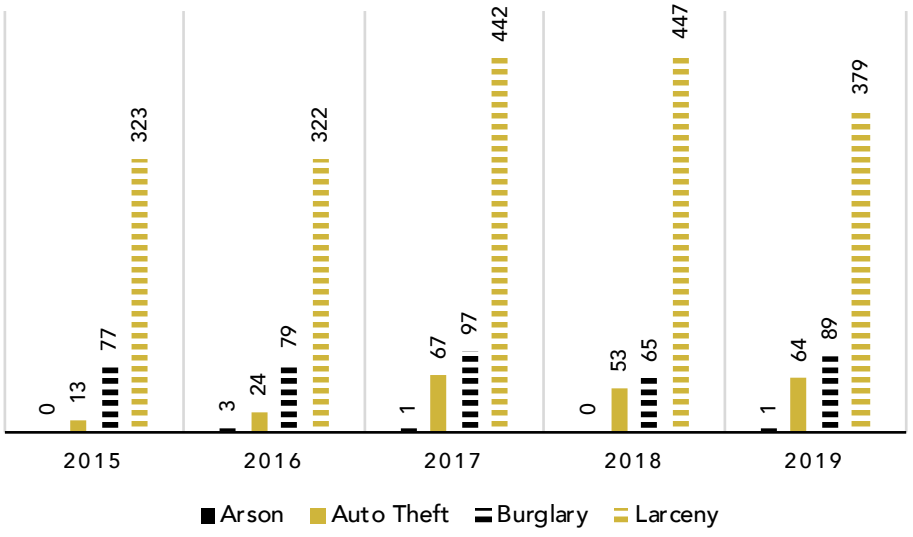
Arson: Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Auto Theft: The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is self-propelled and runs on land surface and not on rails.

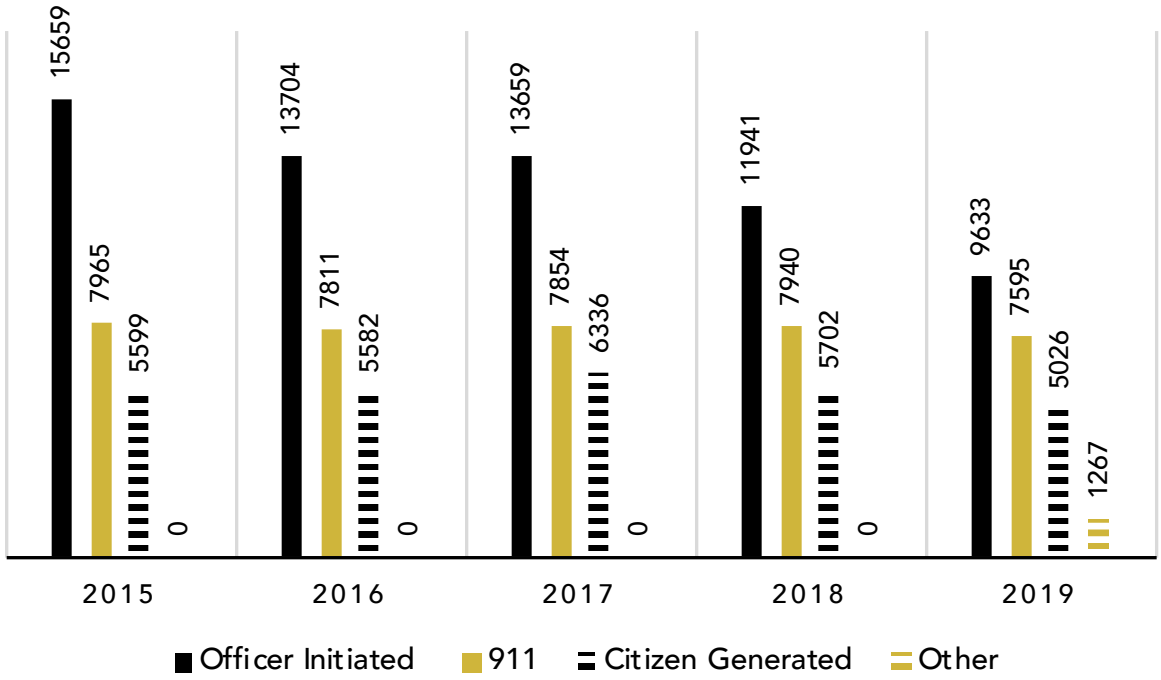
Burglary: The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.

Larceny: Theft (except motor vehicle theft)- The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.



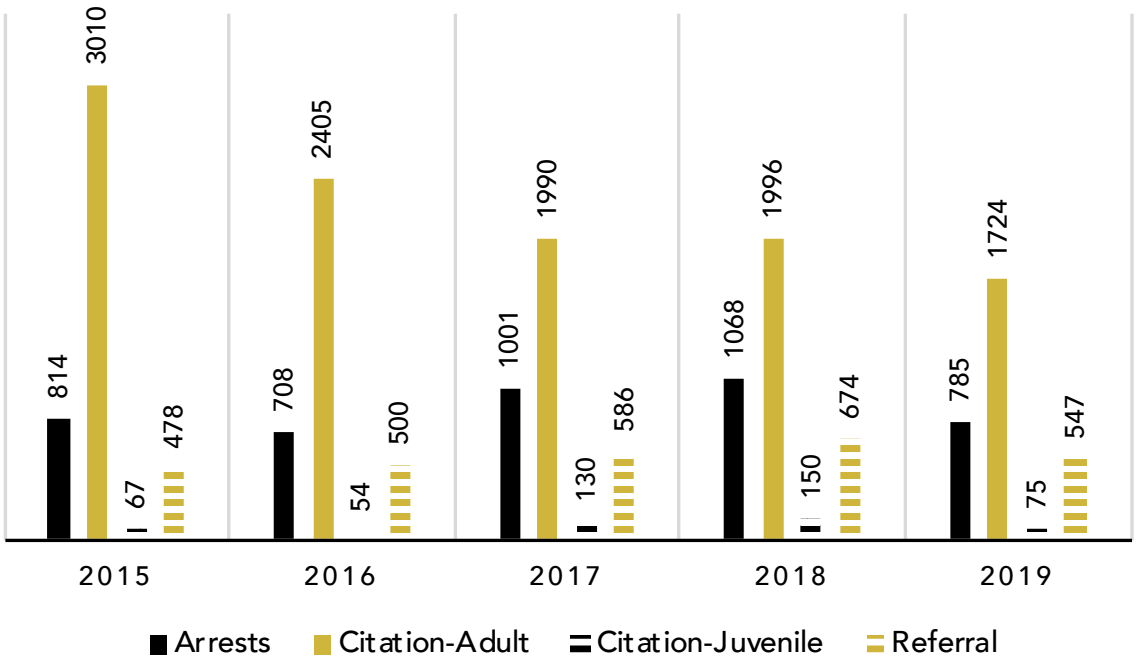


CALLS FOR SERVICE



Officer Initiated: Officer generated activity including traffic stops, foot patrol, directed patrol, traffic assignments and follow-up.
911: Calls from citizens to 911 typically requiring immediate attention from at least one, and often from multiple officers.
Citizen Generated: Non-emergency calls from citizens requiring response from at least one officer.
Other: In 2019 our department switched to a new computer aided-dispatch system. During this transition new sources were added and some errors were generated.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS & REFERRALS



Arrests: A physical arrest of an individual for a criminal offense. The number includes associated charges with each arrest.
Citations: Municipal citations include traffic offenses as well as ordinance violations such as disorderly conduct and theft.
Referrals: Referrals to the District Attorney include cases where a physical arrest is not made but criminal charges are requested.

USE OF FORCE

In February of 2016, the Dane County United Way Law Enforcement and Leaders of Color Collaboration published a report titled "Recommendations Regarding Police Use of Force." The general themes of the report focused on building relationships and trust in the community, increasing training, and analyzing data to build trust through transparency and ultimately reduce use of force by police.

Following the release of the report, the Department has worked to assess and implement many of the recommendations that were not already in place. One of the recommendations of the report related to the tracking, analysis, and publication of use of force data. Use of force data allows us to identify trends and any needs for policy enhancement or additional training. Sharing this data assists us in having informed conversations with the community.

While we have collected this data for some time now, we are continuing to improve our collection, tracking, and analysis of the data. Each time an officer uses force above the threshold of a compliance hold, which involves the application of pressure while grasping a subject, they are required to complete a report to be entered into our data collection and to be assessed by a supervisor and an instructor.

The use of force by police is dictated by many factors including law, department policy, and statewide standard law enforcement training curriculum. Within these "guides" are numerous factors that impact the ability of officers to use force to control a subject or effect an arrest. Depending on these factors and primarily upon the behaviors of the subject, officers may need to use a variety of trained techniques or devices to control a subject, stop a subject's actions, or prevent serious injury or the loss of life.

Officers are required to train in firearms, less-lethal force devices and defensive and arrest tactics on a regular basis. Over the last five years a significant emphasis has been placed on communication, de-escalation, and consideration of alternatives, including creating time and distance to either disengage or reassess the situation.

2019 USE OF FORCE DATA

In 2019, there were **19 incidents** in which physical force, above the level of a compliance hold, was used. **Six** of these 19 incidents involved the use of **multiple types of force, resulting in 24 uses of force.**

19
USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

785
ARRESTS (DEFINIED ON PAGE 11)

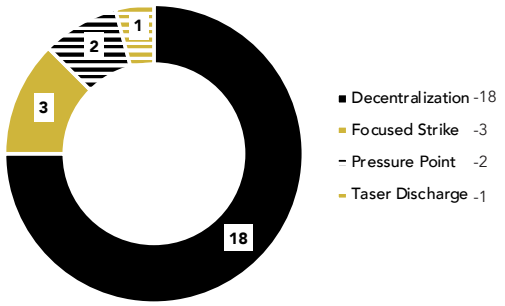
23,521
CALLS FOR SERVICE

2.4%
PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS WHERE FORCE WAS POTENTIALLY USED

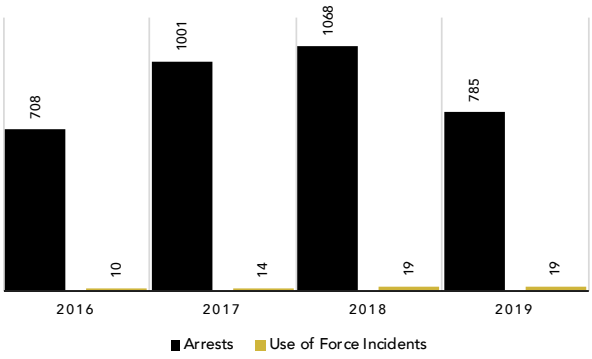
.08%
PERCENTAGE OF CFS WHERE FORCE WAS POTENTIALLY USED

NOT ALL USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS MAY RESULT IN ARREST. THIS COMPARISON IS USED FOR PERSPECTIVE.

TYPES OF FORCE USED



COMPARISON 2016-2019



DEFINITIONS

DECENTRALIZATION - A trained or dynamically applied technique used to overcome active or passive resistance or the threat of either. Decentralization techniques allow an officer to guide a subject to the ground in a controlled manner. These techniques are often used if a subject is running from an officer or resisting an officer's attempts to gain control.

TASER DISCHARGE - The use of an electronic control device to create neuromuscular incapacitation to overcome active resistance or the threat of active resistance.

FOCUSED STRIKE - A trained technique to deliver a focused strike using bodily force with a specific body part (knee, hand, elbow) to a specific target area on another person.

PRESSURE POINT - Pressure applied to a specific area to cause momentary pain compliance.

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