

Billings Police Department 2019 Annual Report



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On the cover: Billings Police Department has a fleet of 77 patrol vehicles. Most vehicles are shared by officers and are in operation at least 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fleet averages a total of about 97,500 miles a month, using around 7,600 gallons of gasoline. Patrol vehicles are driven until they have between 110,000 and 120,000 miles and, because they operate about 10 hours a day, the equivalent of 300,000 miles of idle time. A new patrol car outfitted with Police equipment costs about \$70,880.





CITY OF BILLINGS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 1554 • Billings, MT 59103
220 N. 27th St. • Billings, MT 59101
(406) 657-8460 • Fax (406) 657-8417 • Email bpd@ci.billings.mt.us



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 2019 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. The results are made possible by the hard work and dedication of our exceptional employees who work tirelessly to provide the highest quality of policing.

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 department's activity. The City of Billings saw decreases in homicides, robberies, motor vehicle thefts, burglaries, larceny, and drug offenses. These results were made possible by not only hard work of our employees, but partnerships with other agencies and city departments.

As you review this report, keep in mind that it also represents the dedication of the police department employees. These professionals work weekends, holidays, and at night while most people are sleeping. They are unique in that they do not hesitate to run to danger when others are running away. They will risk their lives for strangers and people they may never know. They are truly service minded and committed to this community. I am very proud of the passion and honor our employees bring to the job and hope you are too. I look forward to their potential for the future.

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 or unappreciated. We will continue to provide exceptional service and the best of contemporary policing. And we will do so with a professional and dedicated staff.

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

Sincerely

Rich St. John
Chief of Police

Mission Statement

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

Organizational Values

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

COMMITMENT – Being responsive to the need for increased community livability

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

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

INTEGRITY – Applying moral, ethical and professional standards

2019 Strategic Goal Highlights

Reduce levels of violent crime

- Aggressively targeted violent criminal and drug activity through collaboration with Project Safe Neighborhood partners
- Continue to disrupt and dismantle international and multi-state drug trafficking organizations

Strengthen traffic enforcement

- Fully staffed the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program and augmented with K9 officers
- Installed electronic citation software in STEP vehicles to reduce citizen time and increase officer efficiency during traffic stops

More efficient service delivery

- Through research and refinement, changed service delivery model to improve coverage and response times
- Implemented on-line reporting as an additional avenue for citizens to report cold crimes and concerns

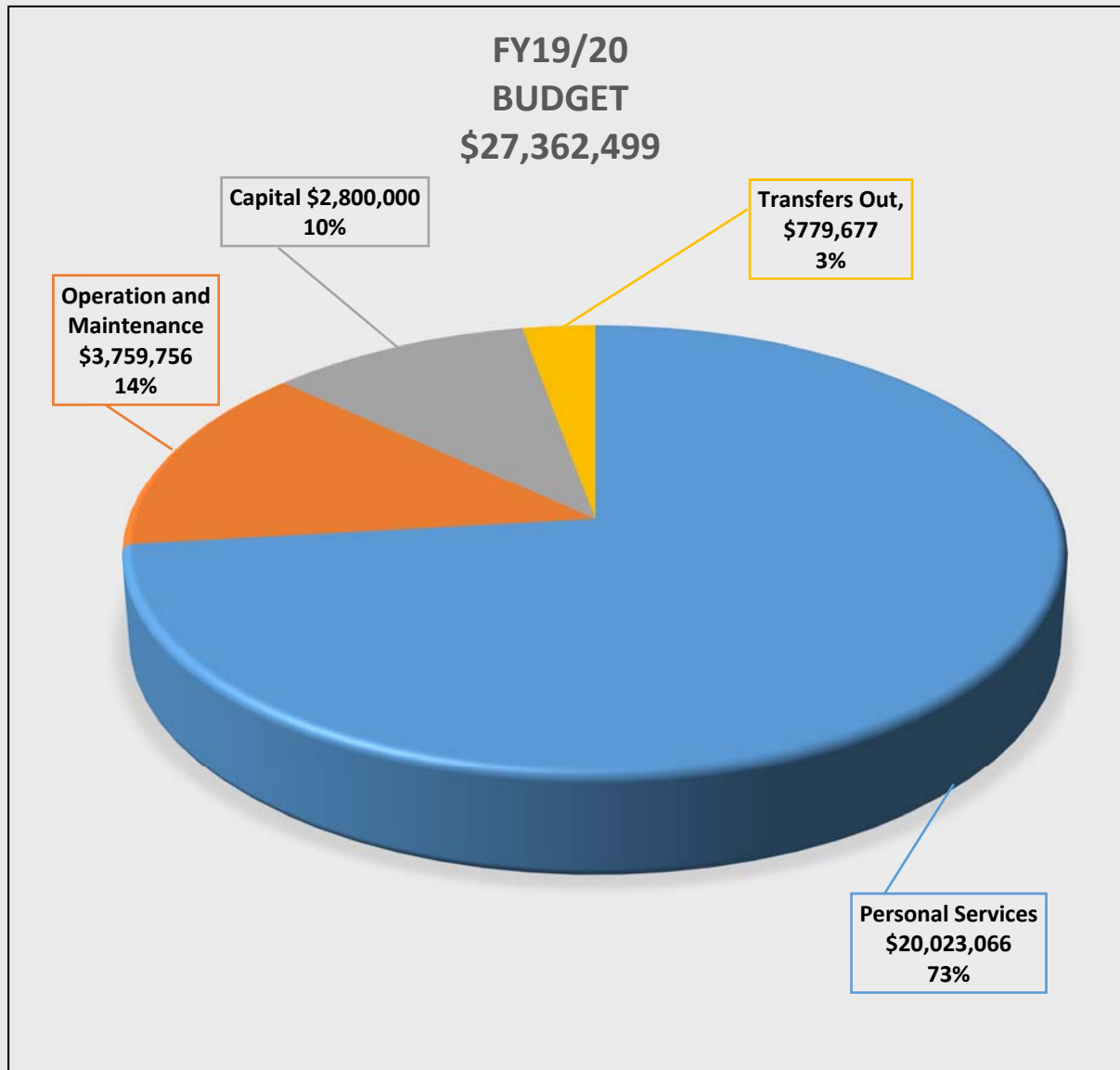
Improve sense of safety in our community

- Continue to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Built upon the success of the Parks Officer program
- Working with stakeholders to identify and address neighborhood and business concerns

Develop and strengthen partnerships

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

Billings Police Department Budget



Billings Police Department Command 2019



Chief St. John

Chief of Police
Rich St. John

**Administrative
Coordinator**
Jamie Wegner



Assistant Chief House

Assistant Chief
Jeremy House

**Animal Control
Supervisor**
Tom Stinchfield

**Captain
Operations (Patrol)**
Brian Korell

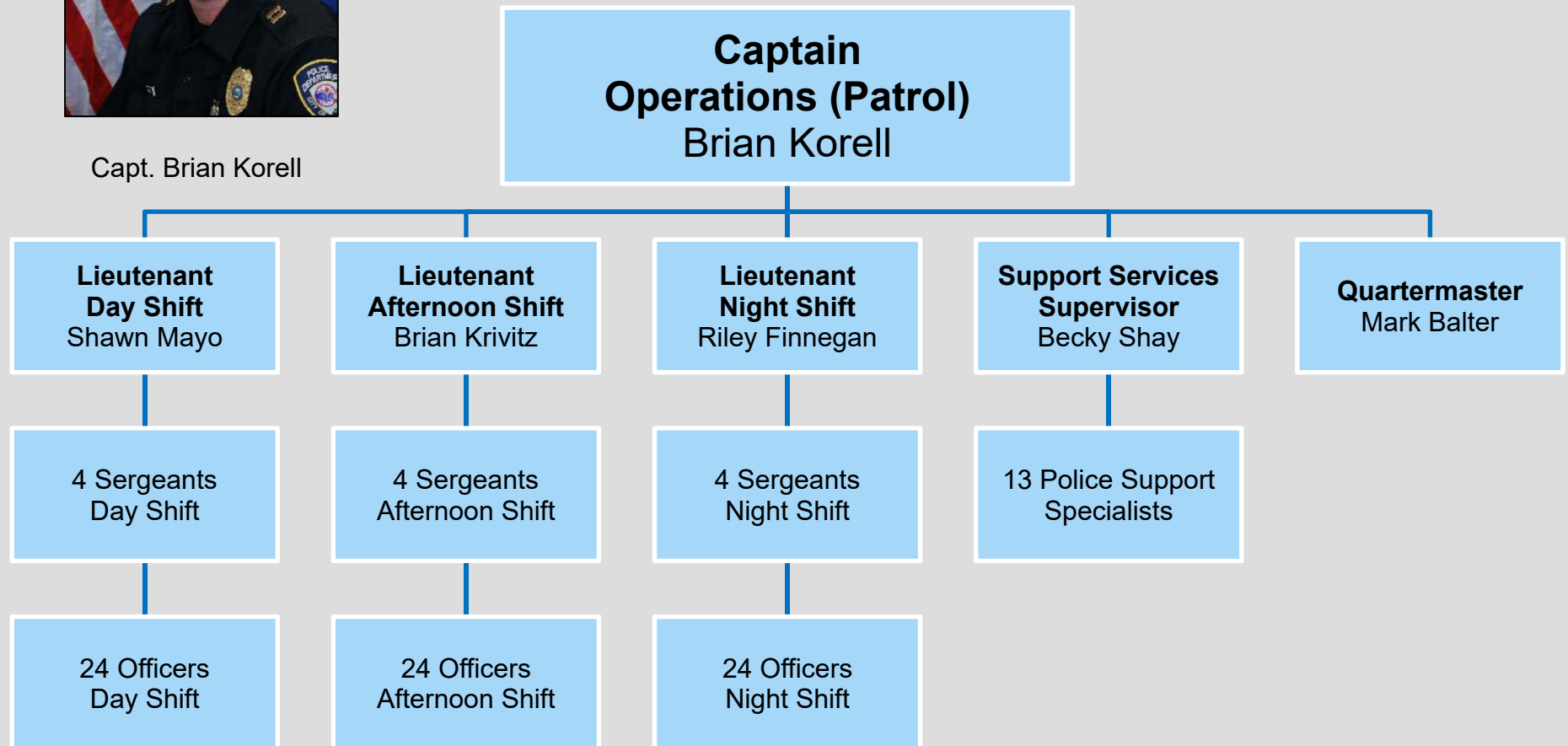
**Captain
Professional Standards**
Neil Lawrence

**Captain
Investigations**
R.D. Harper



Capt. Brian Korell

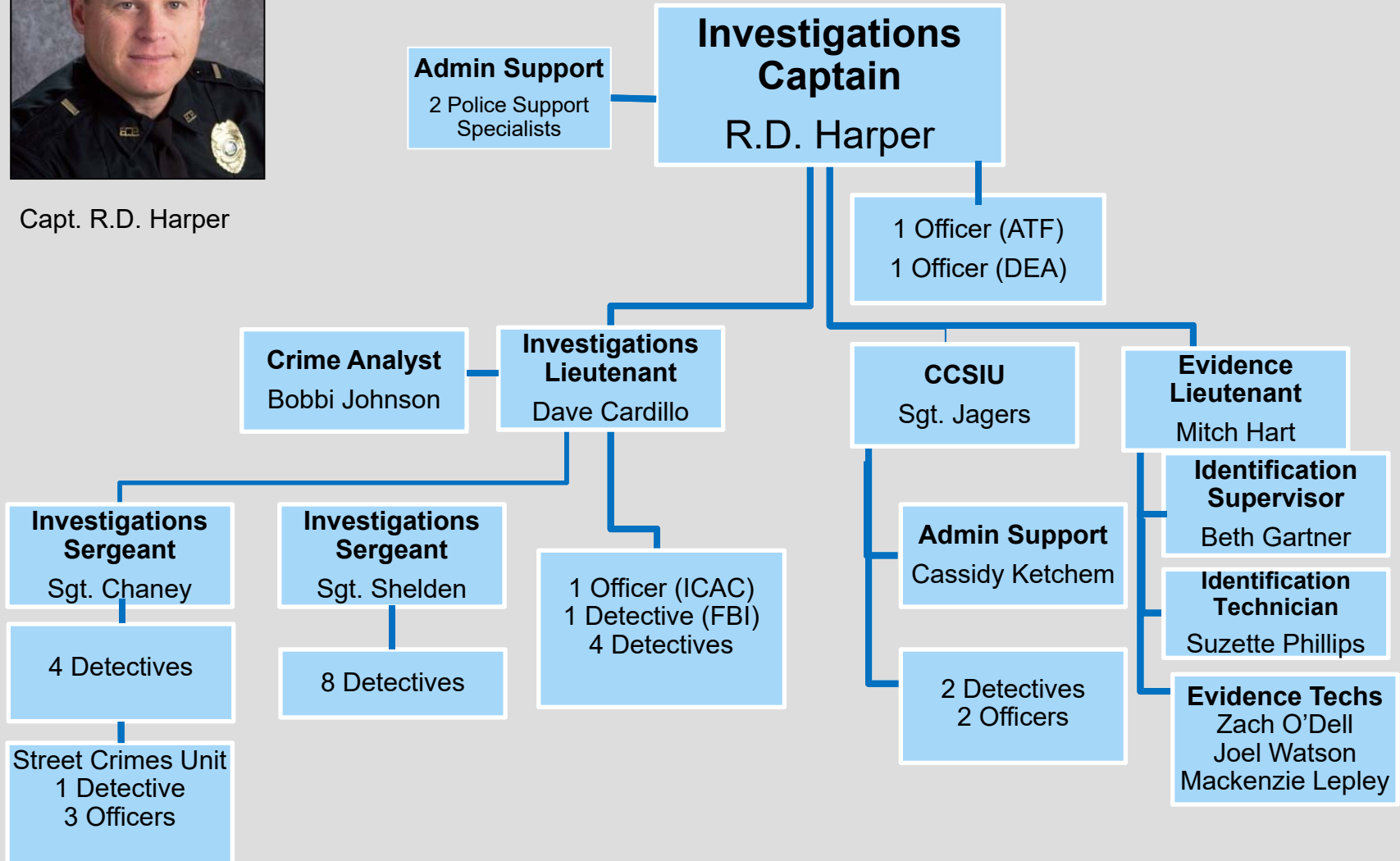
Billings Police Department Operations Division 2019



Billings Police Department Investigations Division 2019



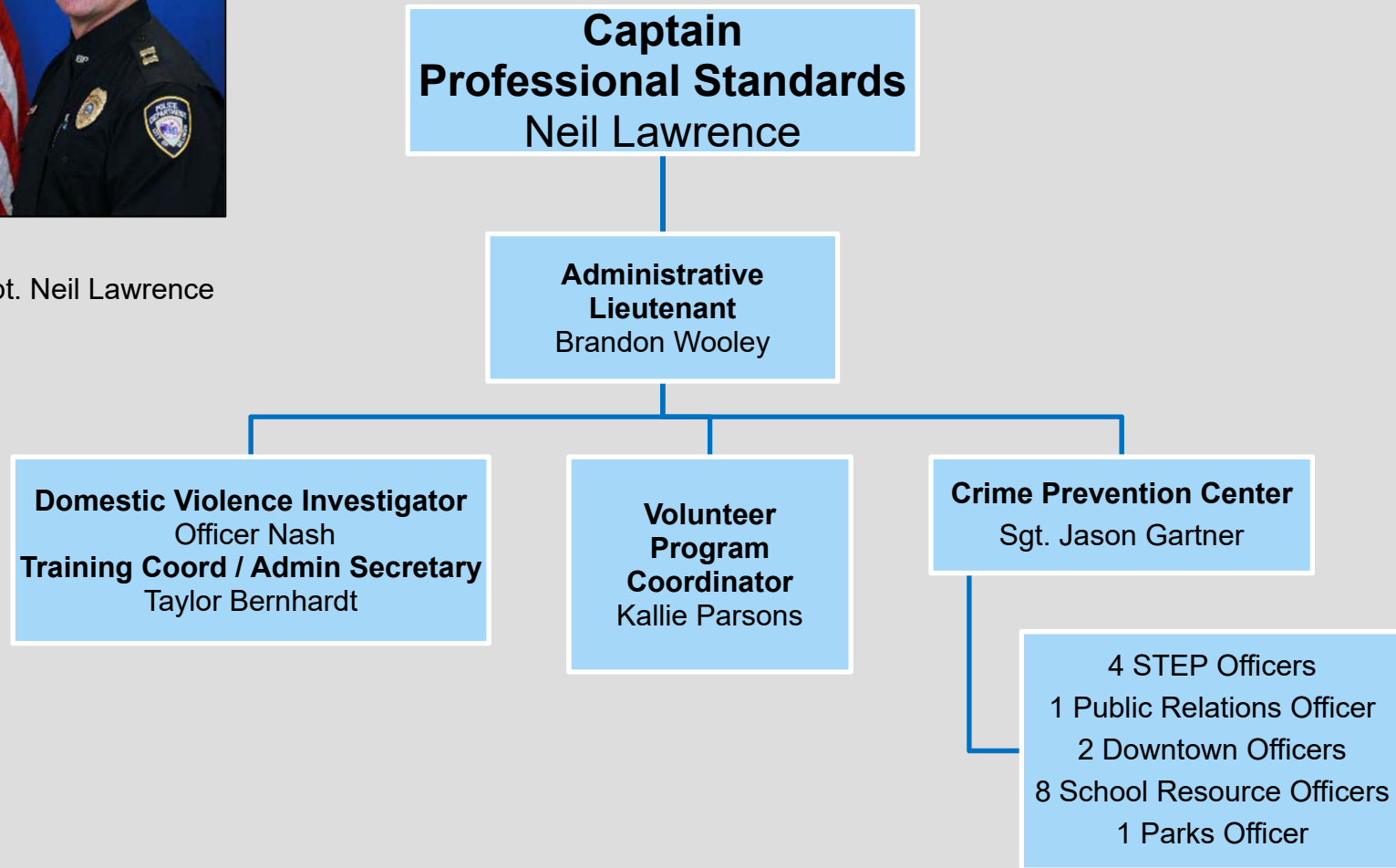
Capt. R.D. Harper



Billings Police Department Office of Professional Standards 2019



Capt. Neil Lawrence



Billings Police Department Animal Control Division 2019



Supervisor Tom Stinchfield

**Animal Control
Supervisor**
Tom Stinchfield

**5 Animal Control
Officers**

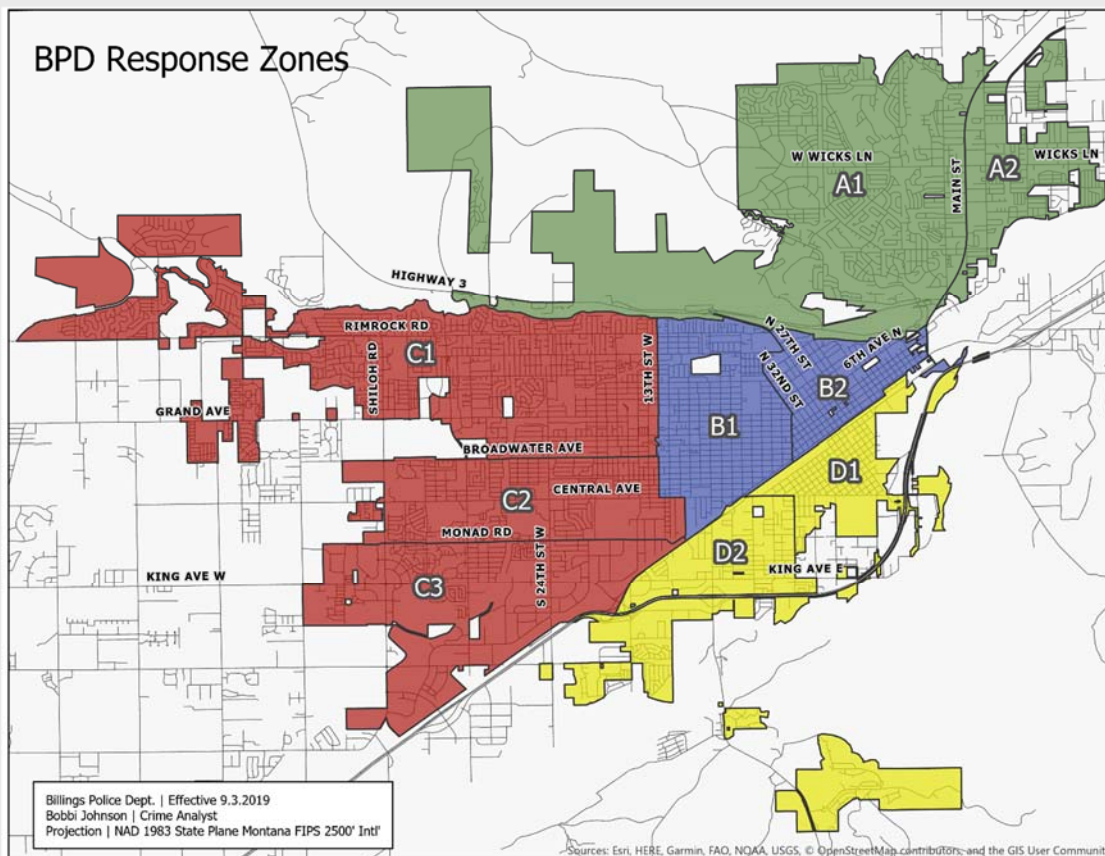
Clerical Staff
Kristal Ward

Calls For Service

In 2019, The Billings Police Department transitioned how officers are deployed from 9 Beats to 4 Zones. The change provides more efficient and timely service to the community. A group of commanders and officers along with the Crime Analyst used call data and functional boundaries to define these 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 that are unique to the department's call load. Through a combination of research and officers' empirical knowledge, the boundaries were refined and divided into subzones.

This continuing call load analysis includes average numbers of calls in an area and considers types of calls, how many officers are required to respond to such calls and the amount of time officers normally spend on those calls.



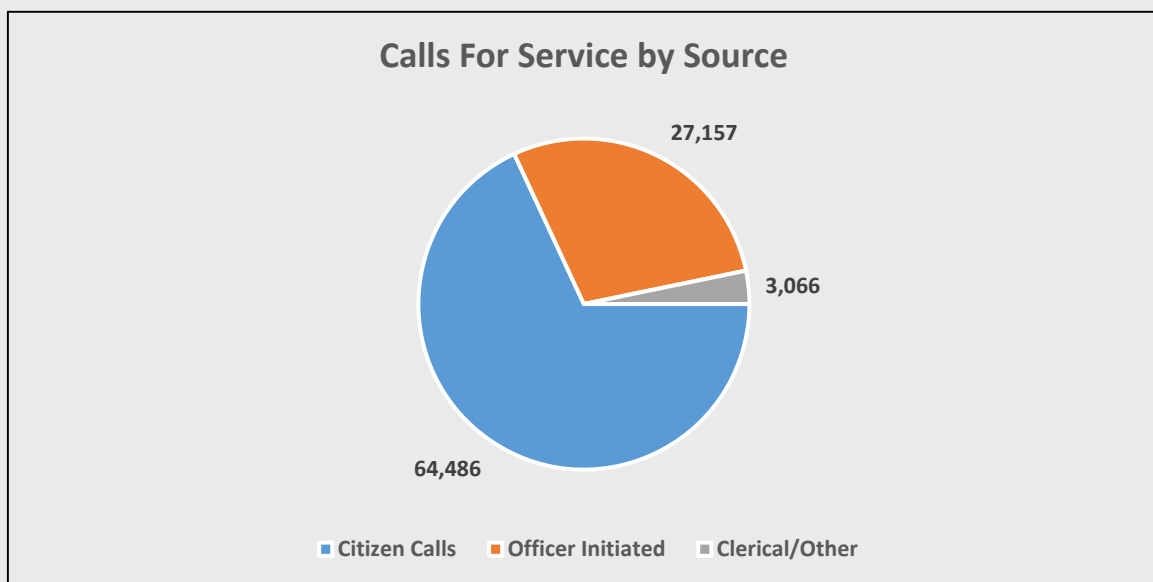
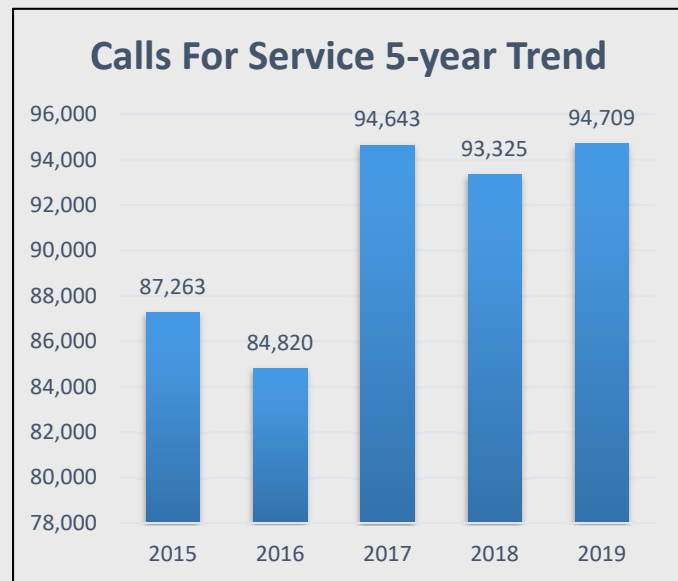
Calls For Service: The first steps in police work

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.

Incident Type	2017	2018	2019
Suspicious Activity	11,955	12,916	13,086
Traffic Stop	14,224	11,035	12,442
Disturbance	8,912	9,323	8,830
Welfare Check	3,982	4,562	5,211
Alarm	5,239	5,234	5,066
Theft	5,856	5,032	4,529
Area Check	5,567	5,210	3,892
Traffic Complaint/Investigation	3,207	3,405	3,811
Trespass	2,015	2,813	3,512
Abandoned Vehicle	2,400	2,572	2,546
Accident Property Damage	2,274	2,321	2,301
Follow Up	2,206	2,492	2,034
Suicide Attempts/Threats	1,321	1,463	1,490
Threats/Harassment	1,465	1,346	1,484
DUI	1,308	1,417	1,459
Drug Investigation	1,004	1,489	1,298
Service Assist Law Enforcement	1,202	1,009	1,098
Alcohol	1,222	1,005	1,092
Vandalism	1,482	1,322	1,079
Accident Hit and Run	1,042	991	1,076
911 Hang Up	1,008	889	1,073
Lost/Found Property	965	1,026	1,013

Calls For Service by Zone

<u>Zone</u>	<u>2019</u>
A1	8,903
A2	5,857
B1	11,945
B2	22,189
C1	10,129
C2	8,180
C3	9,007
D1	7,851
D2	7,196
Initial call mapped outside of Billings	1,579
Unknown offense location	<u>1,873</u>
	94,709



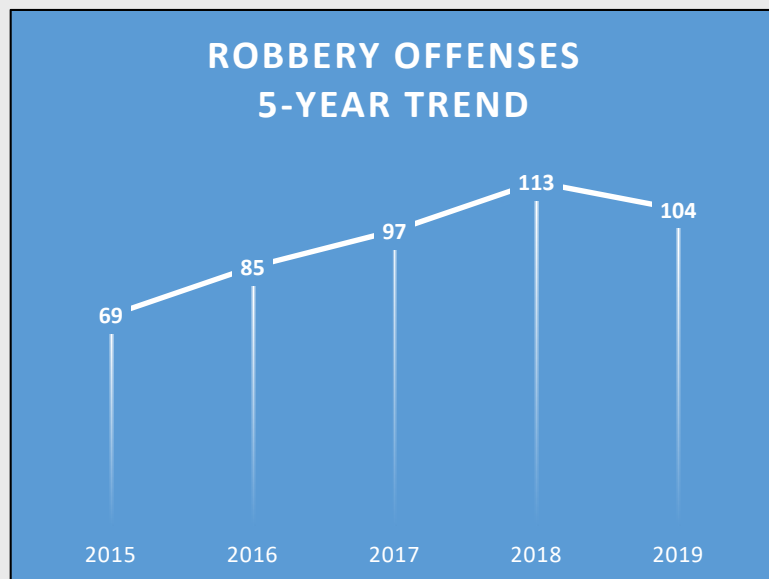
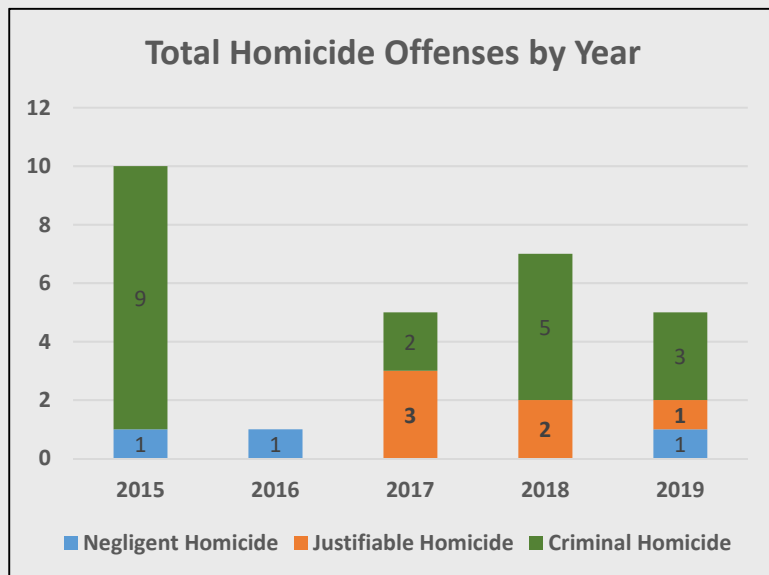
Violent Crimes

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

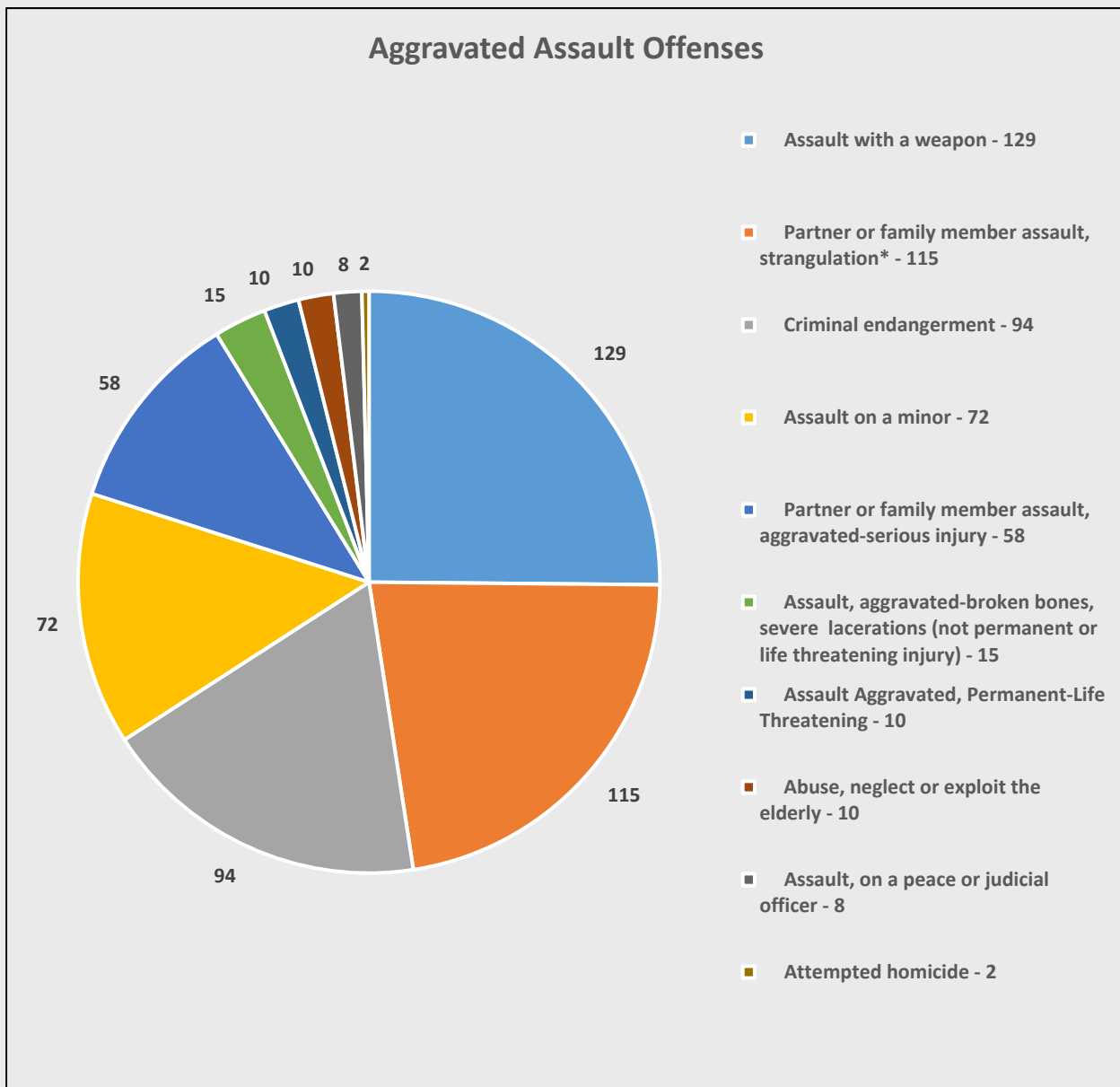
Negligent Homicide (Manslaughter) - the killing of another person through negligence

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

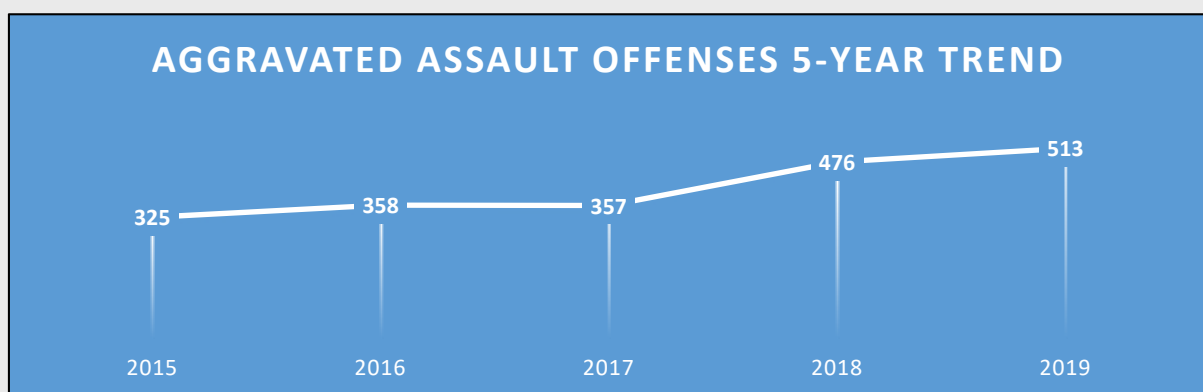
Criminal Homicide - the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another



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 databases. Due to continuous data entry after reports are compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.

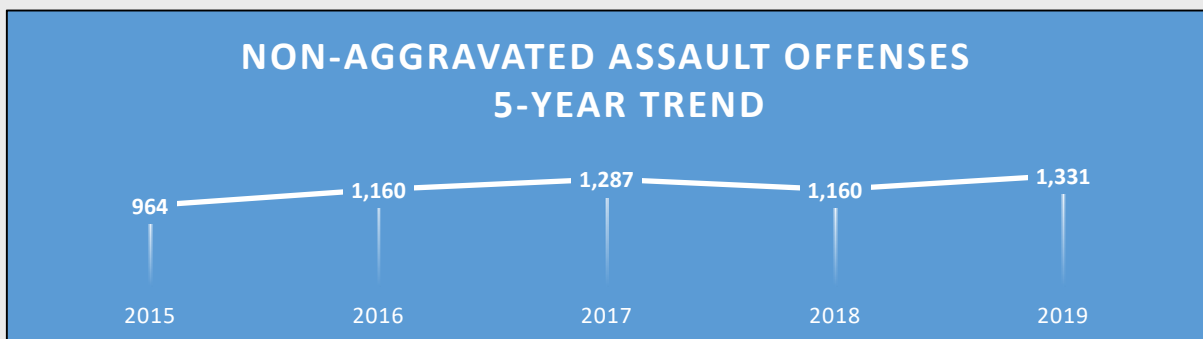
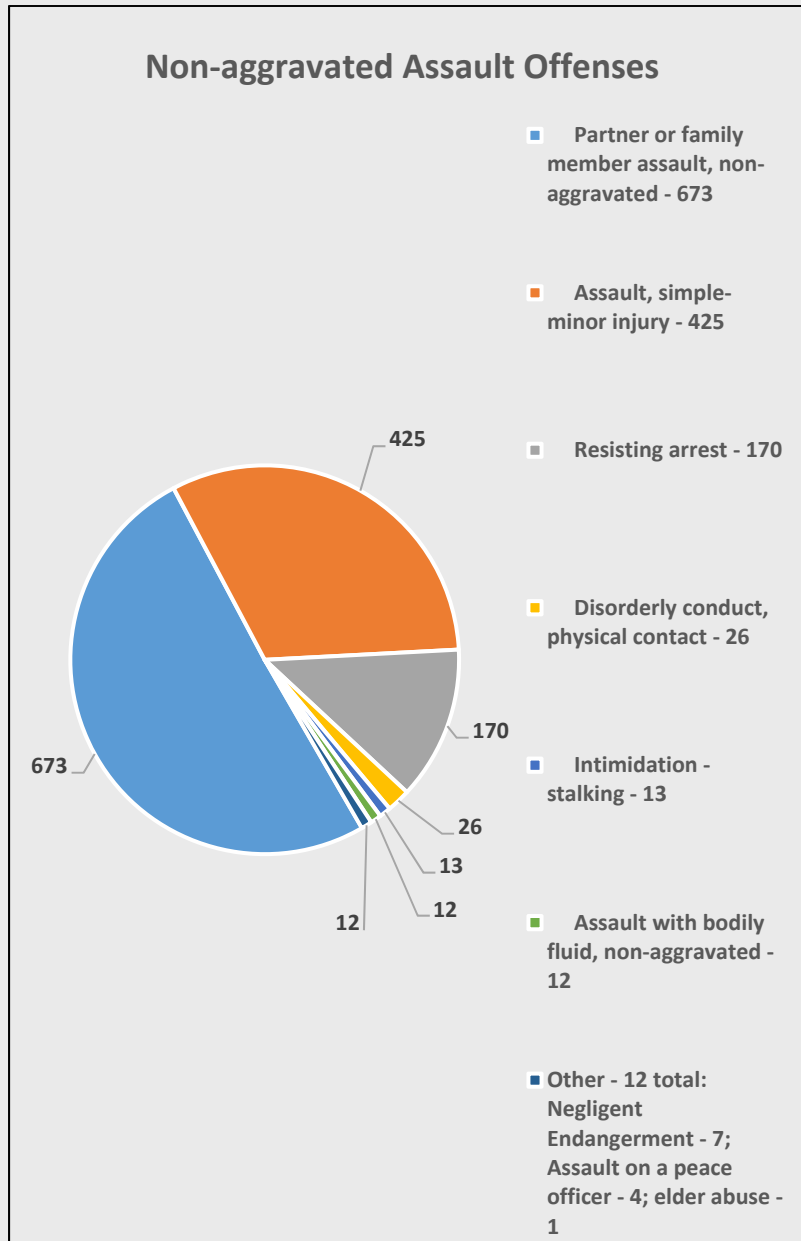


**PFMA strangulation was added in 2018 that has increased aggravated assault reporting.*



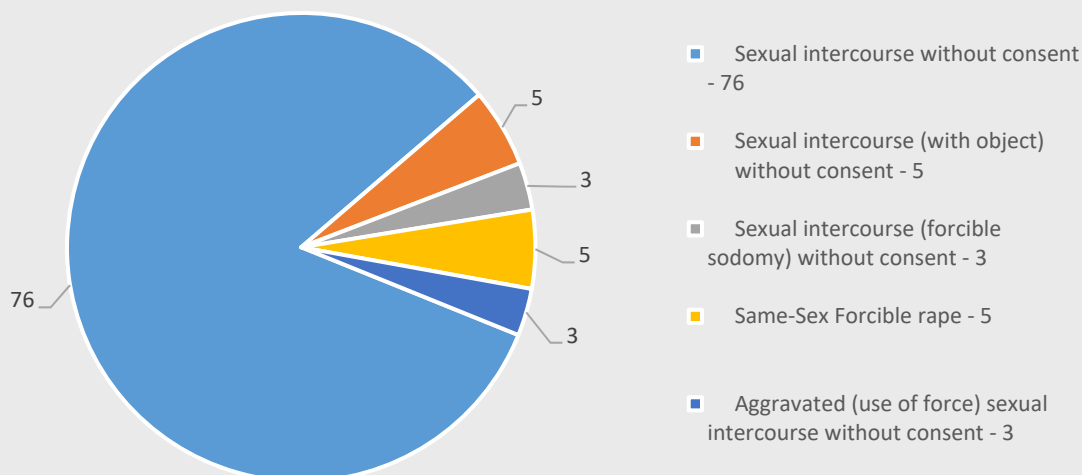
Non-Aggravated Assaults

There were 170 resisting arrest offenses reported during 2019. This number includes warrant arrests on earlier incidents. The 2019 Response to Resistance Report shows that officers were injured in about 17 percent of the incidents but only 6 officers required medical care. See the Billings Police Department Response to Resistance Report on pages 57 to 66.

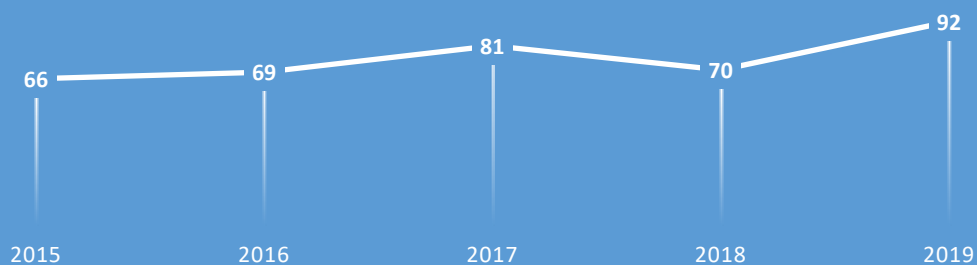


Sex Offenses

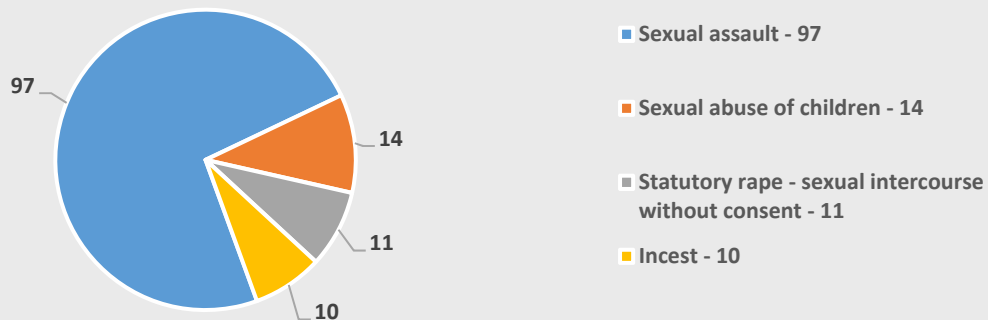
Sexual Assault Offenses



SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSES 5-YEAR TREND



Other Sexual Offenses

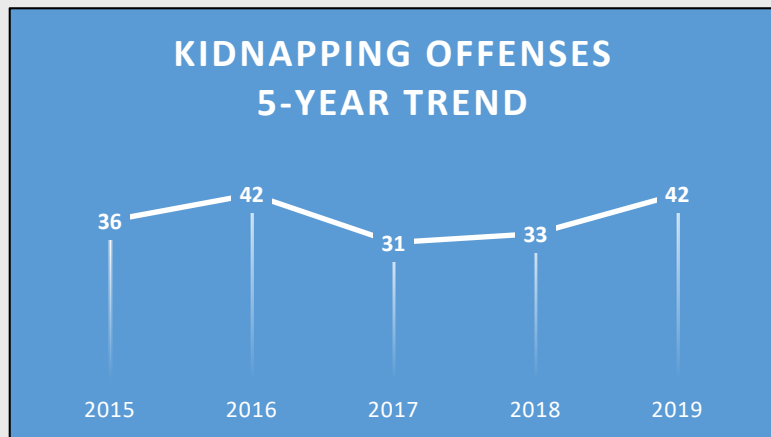
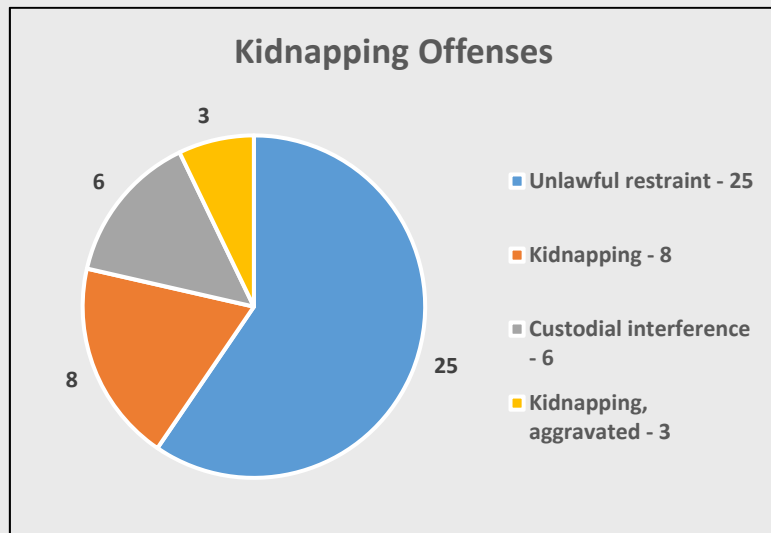


Kidnapping

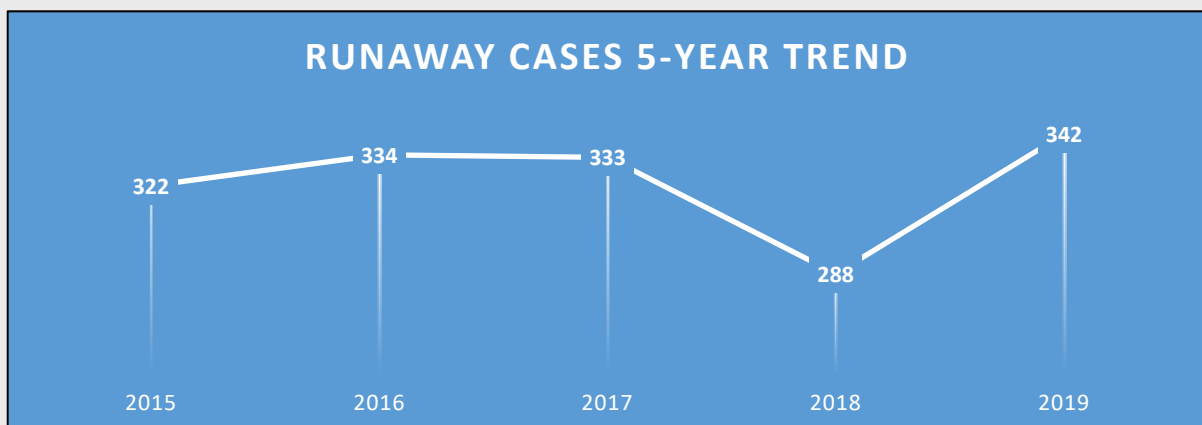
The FBI definition of kidnapping is the unlawful seizure, transportation and/or detention of persons against their will or of minors without the consent of their custodial parents or legal guardians.

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

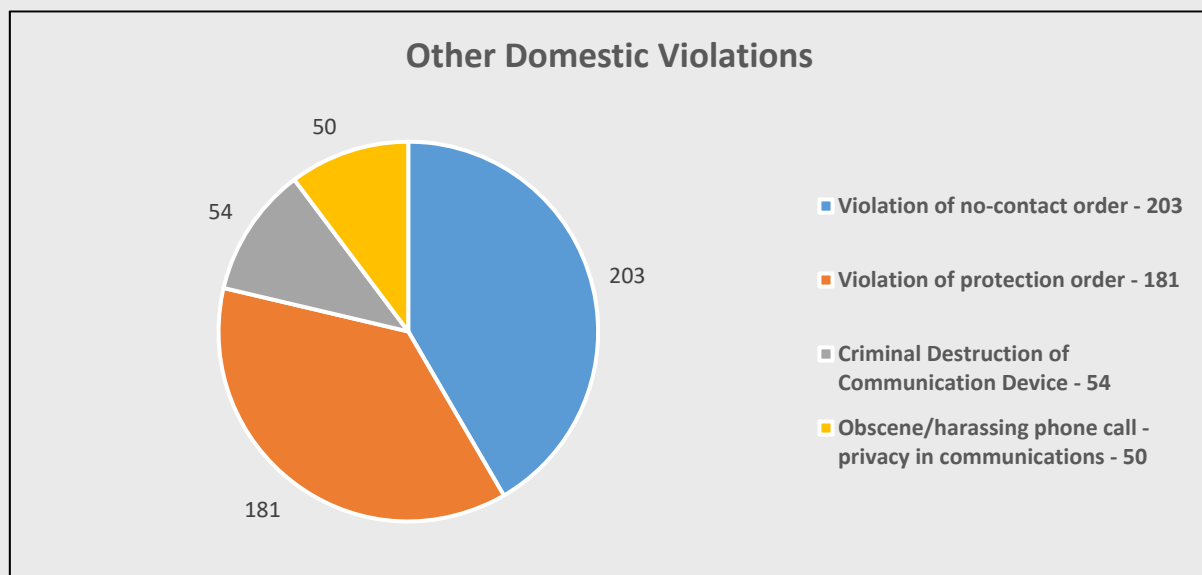
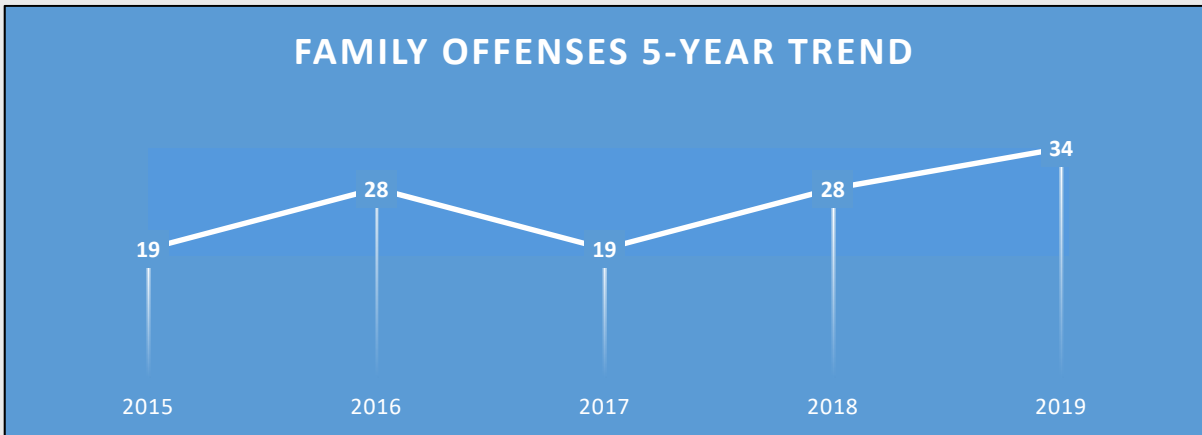
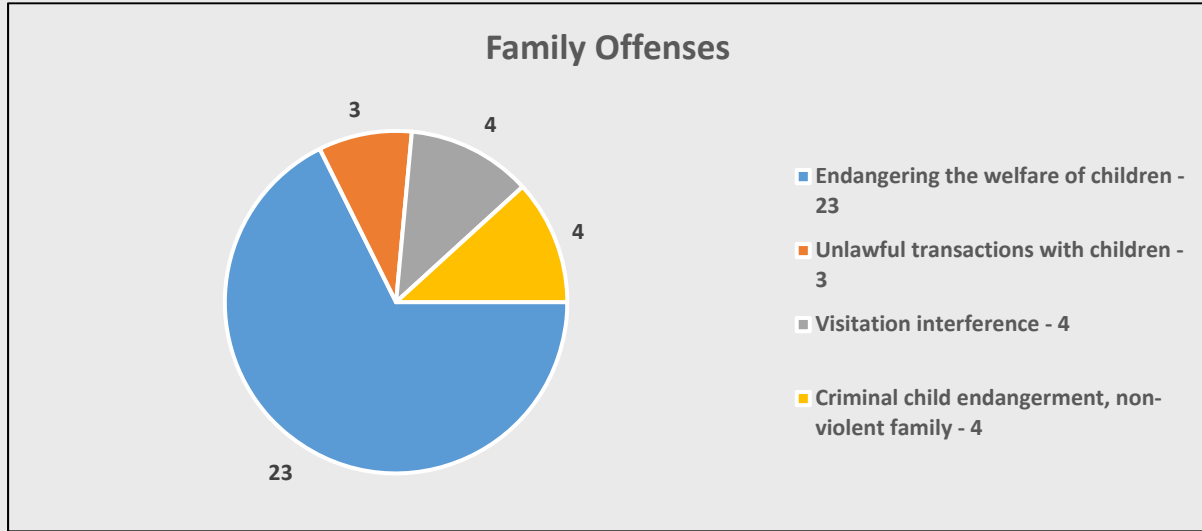
Officers investigated 151 allegations of Custodial Interference in 2019 but only 6 rose to the level of a crime.



Running away is not a crime, but 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.



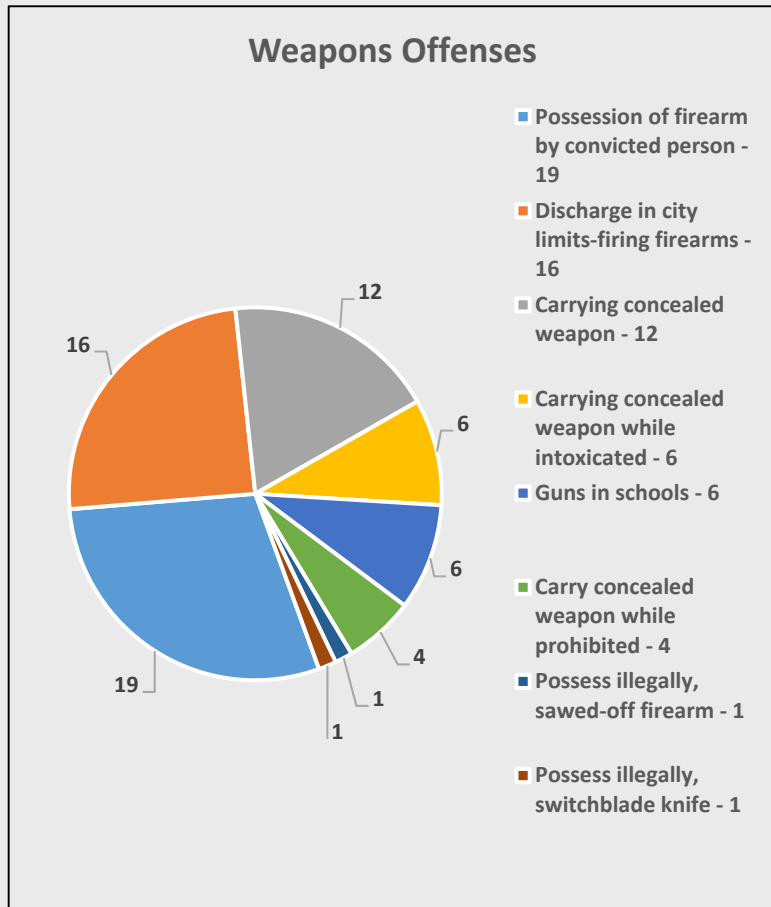
Offenses Against the Family



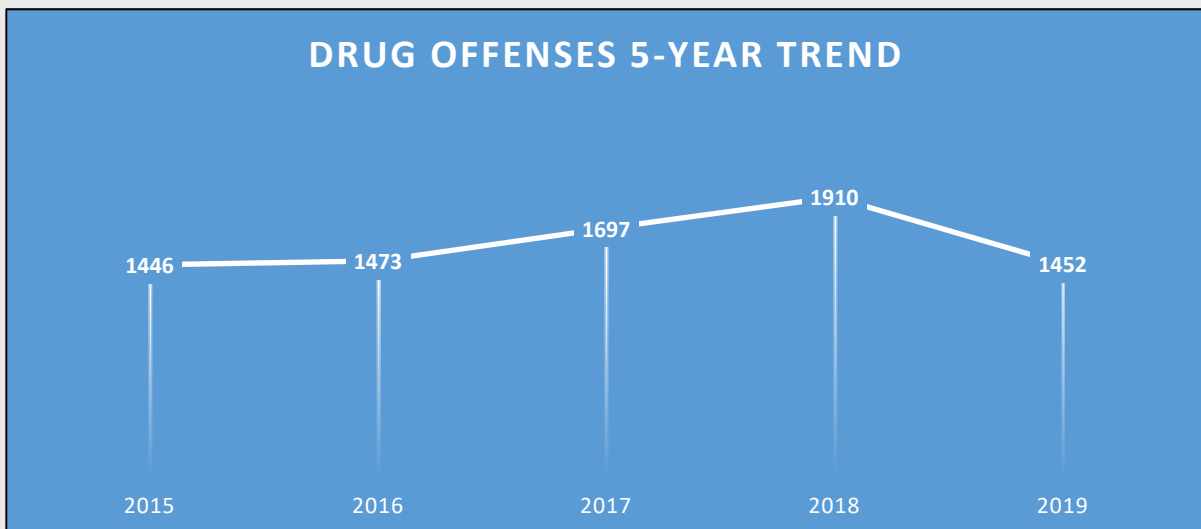
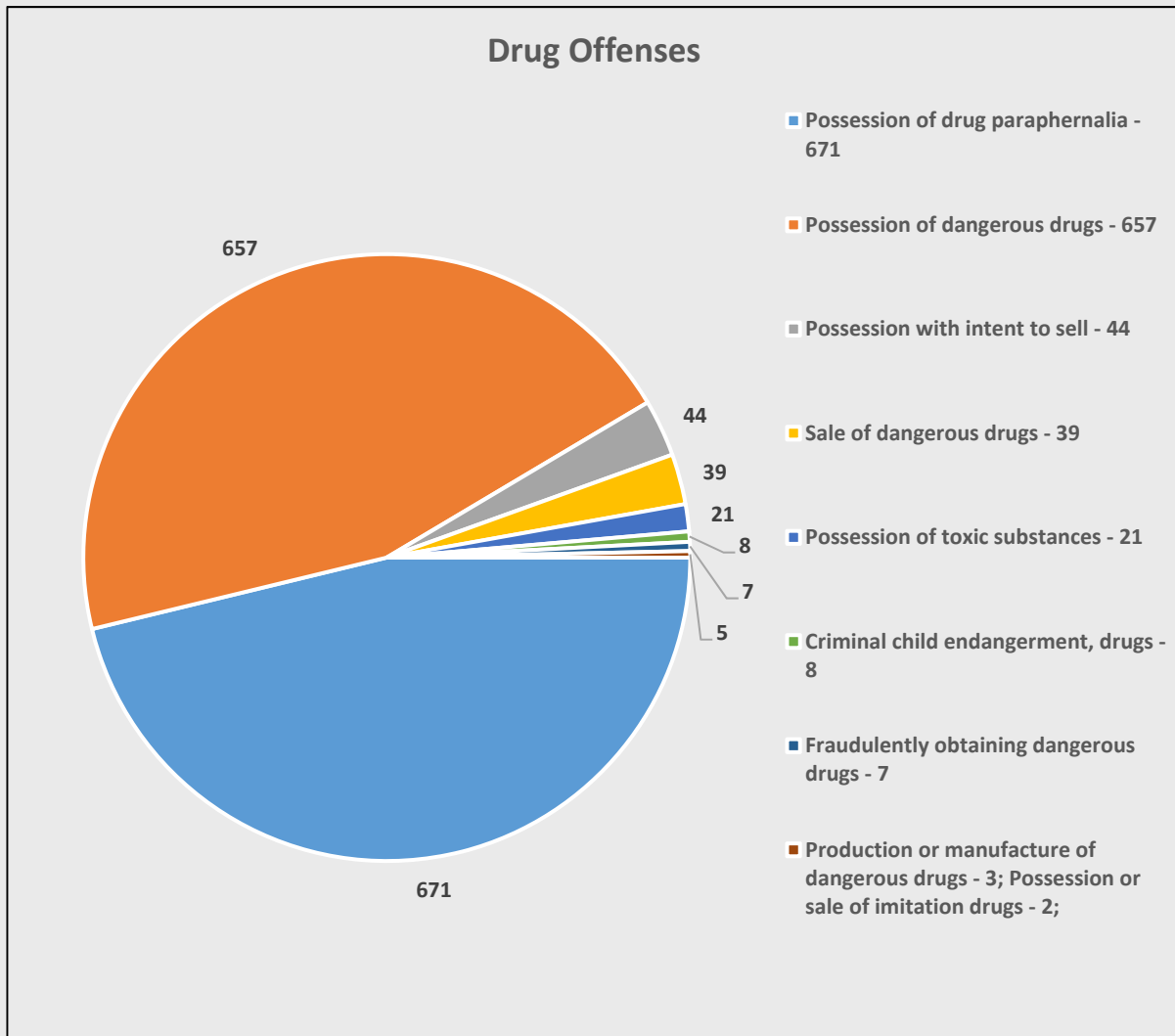
Weapons Offenses

Did you know?

Billings Police Officers train year-round using a wide variety of scenario based training to maintain firearms proficiency. Department instructors are experts in the use of all firearms used by Billings police officers and utilize classroom instruction and live fire exercises in both an indoor and outdoor range. Emphasis of the extreme training is decision making in rapidly evolving situations.



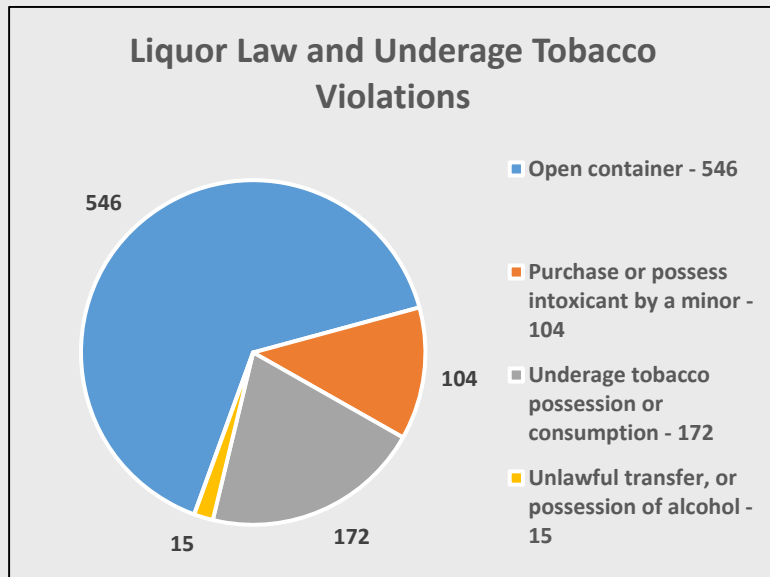
Drug Offenses



Liquor Law Offenses

The Billings Police Department and the Downtown Billings Alliance have a contract which provides two officers dedicated to the downtown area. Staff of the Billings Army Navy Surplus Store management say the program is “very beneficial” to business owners and customers, adding that the officers are great ambassadors for Billings. “They can truly be here in 2 minutes,” owner Eddie Schmidt said.

Pictured below from left are Officer Nichols, Schmidt, Officer Frank, Zach Phelps and Mitch Bonawitz, store manager.



Did you know? Billings Police officers served 1,077 non-appearance warrants in 2019 for people who failed to go to court on previous open container offenses.

Property Crimes

The BPD implemented a Streets Crimes Unit in 2018.

During the first year, this 5-member team recovered 94 stolen vehicles and in 2019 they recovered 65.

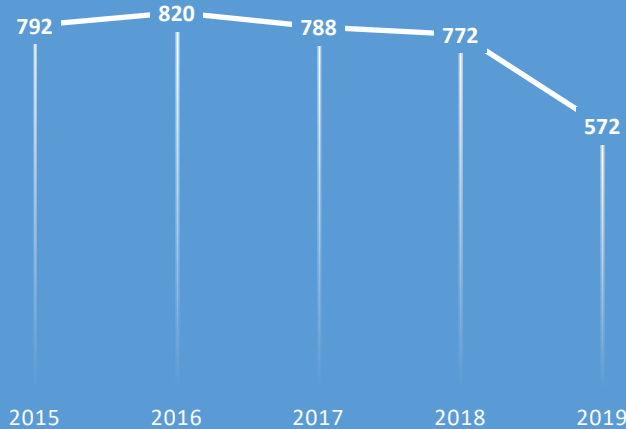
Their efforts to disrupt repeat offenders is part of the reason vehicle thefts and burglaries decreased during 2019.

Did you know?

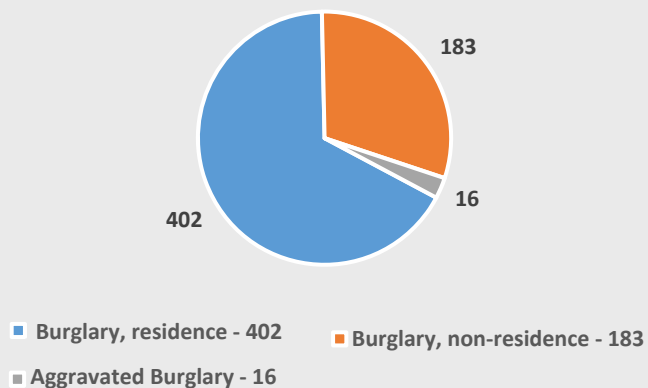
New Billing Police Officers go through 3 weeks of intensive group training followed by 3 to 4 months of individual training with a Field Training Officer on patrol. Below, Clerk Amy instructs Officer Dollarhide on report writing.



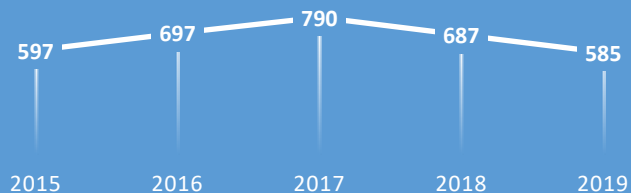
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS 5-YEAR TREND



Burglary Offenses



BURGLARY OFFENSES 5-YEAR TREND



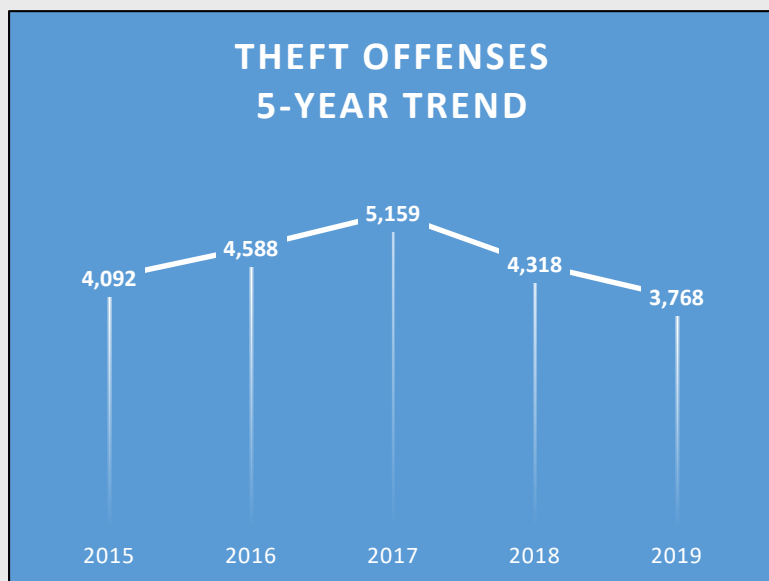
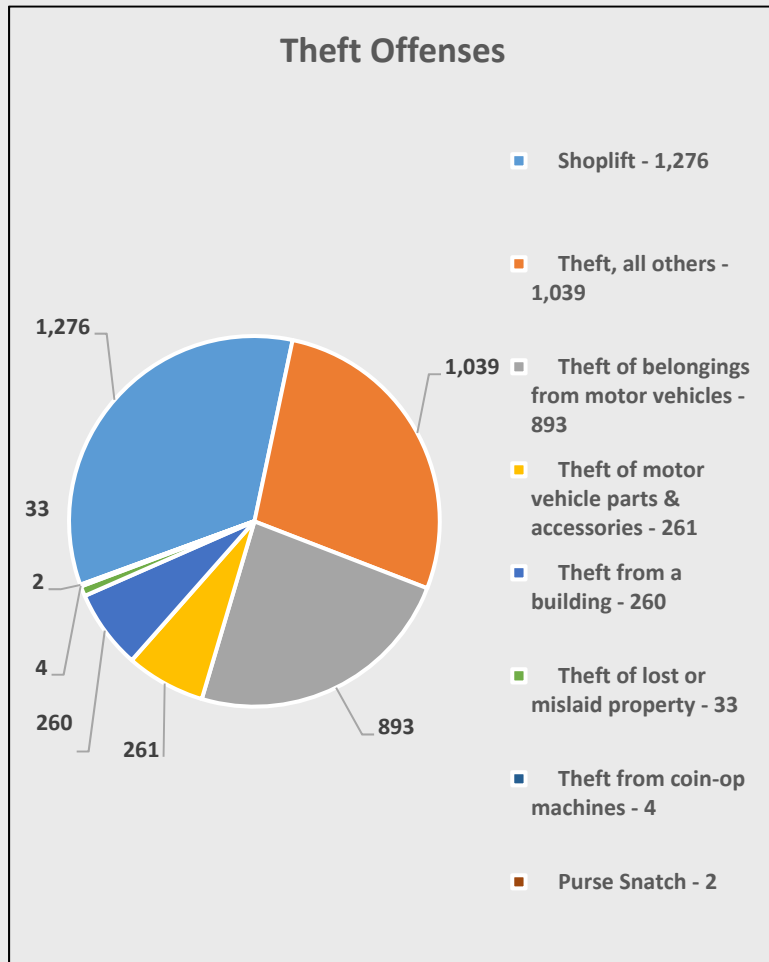
Theft Offenses

Did you know?

The Billings Police Department implemented on-line citizen reporting during 2019. Crimes with unknown suspects and those that don't involve injuries can be reported through the system – including some thefts.

The reports are submitted through an encrypted email service so citizens' information is kept confidential. Reports are vetted by police department staff and forwarded to commanders when appropriate. Citizens receive copies of their reports and are notified when they are entered into police records.

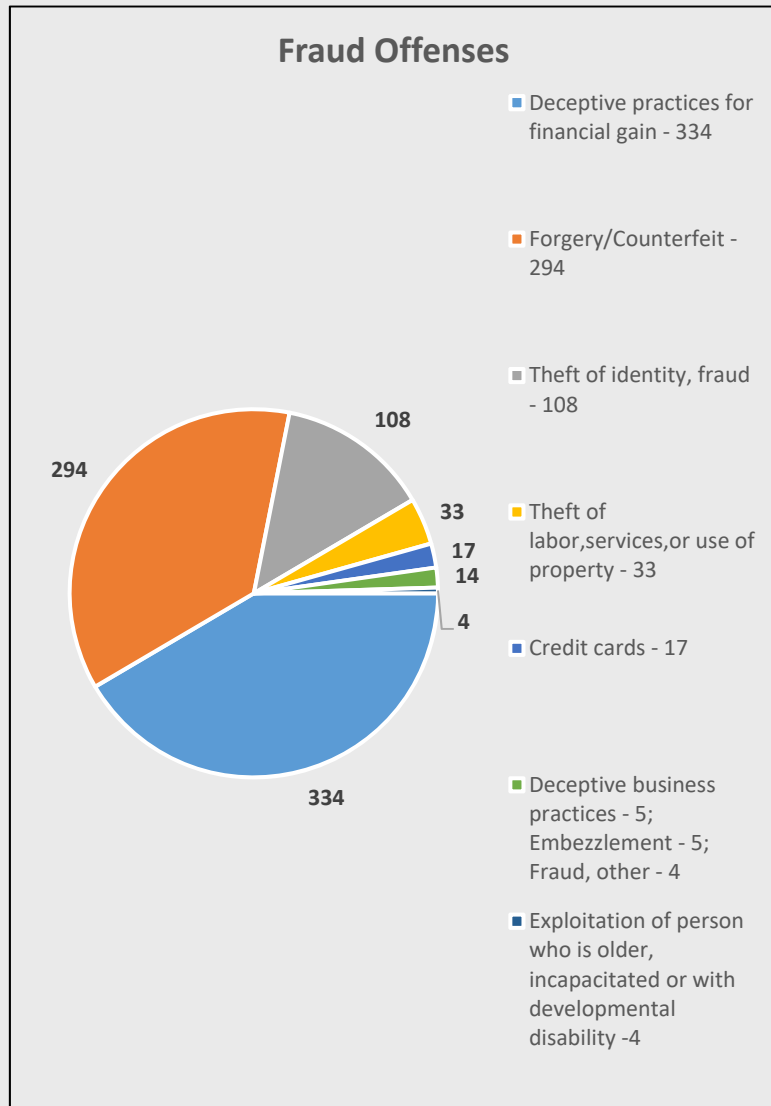
Citizens may always call the Dispatch Center (911 or 657-8200) to see an Officer. Learn more at www.billingspolice.com



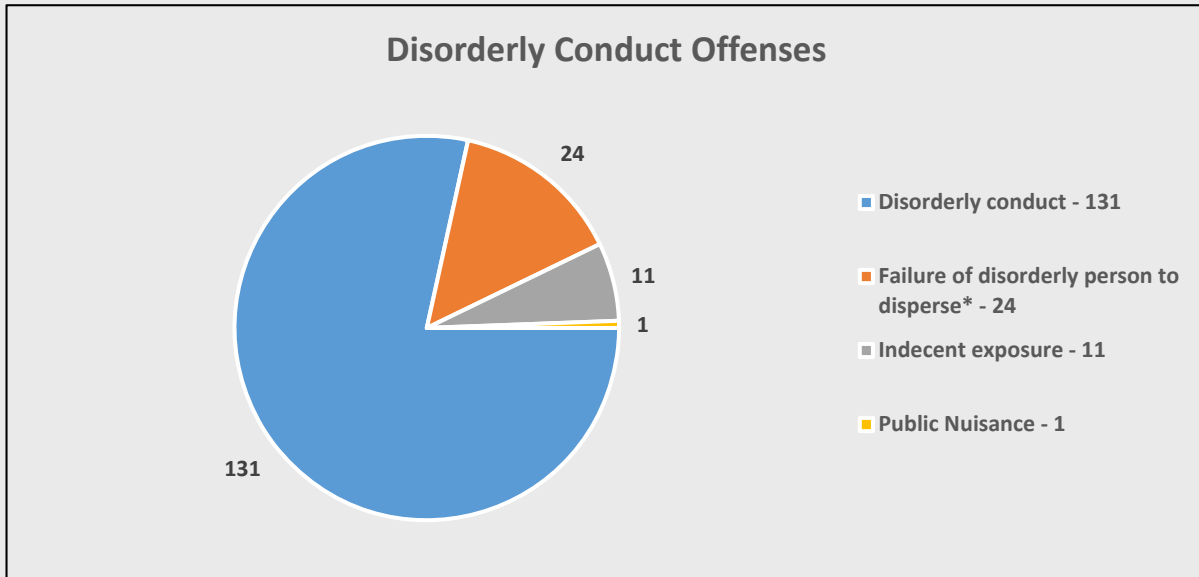
Fraud Offenses

Did you know?

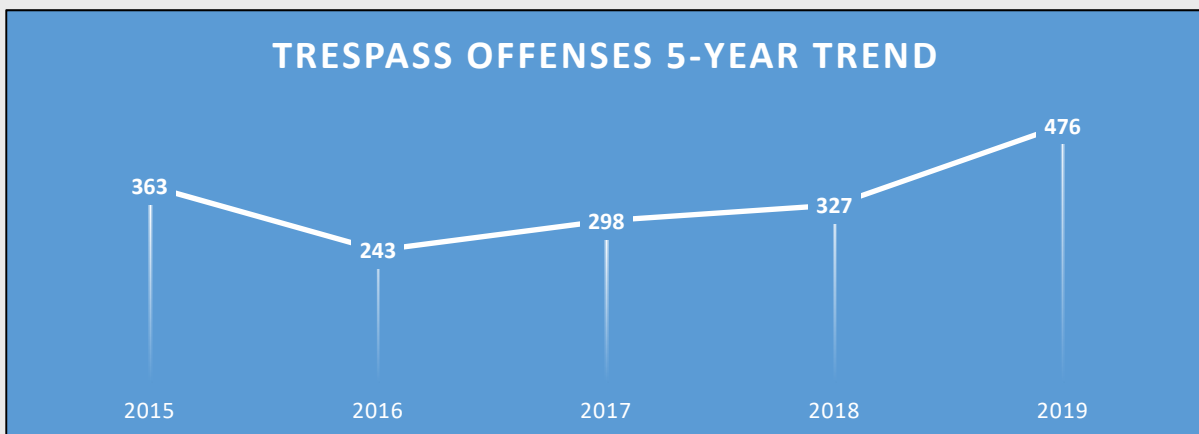
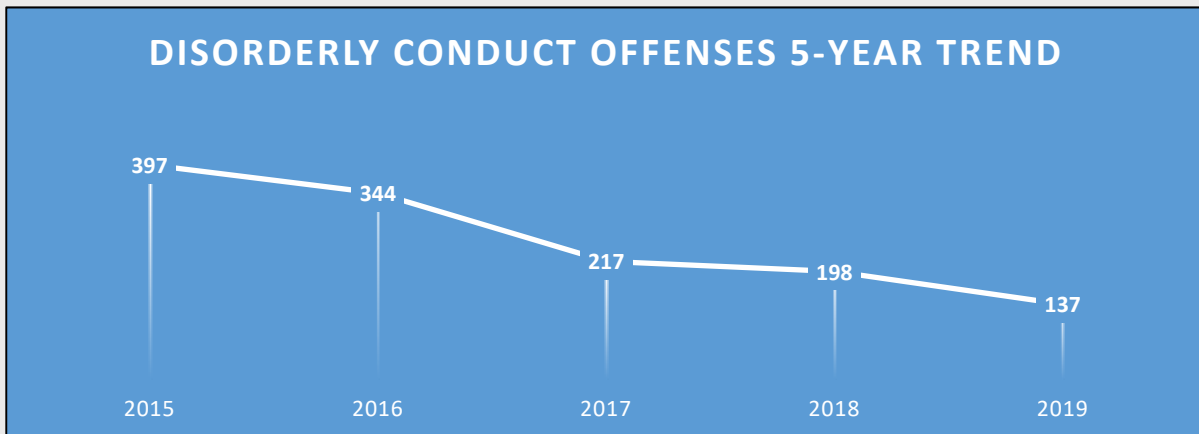
The department hosts a Citizen's Police Academy. The 7-week class is instructed by police department staff. Some of the activities include (below) touring the crime scene van, seeing a K9 team catch a bad guy (an officer in a safety bite suit) and clearing the building with the SWAT team.

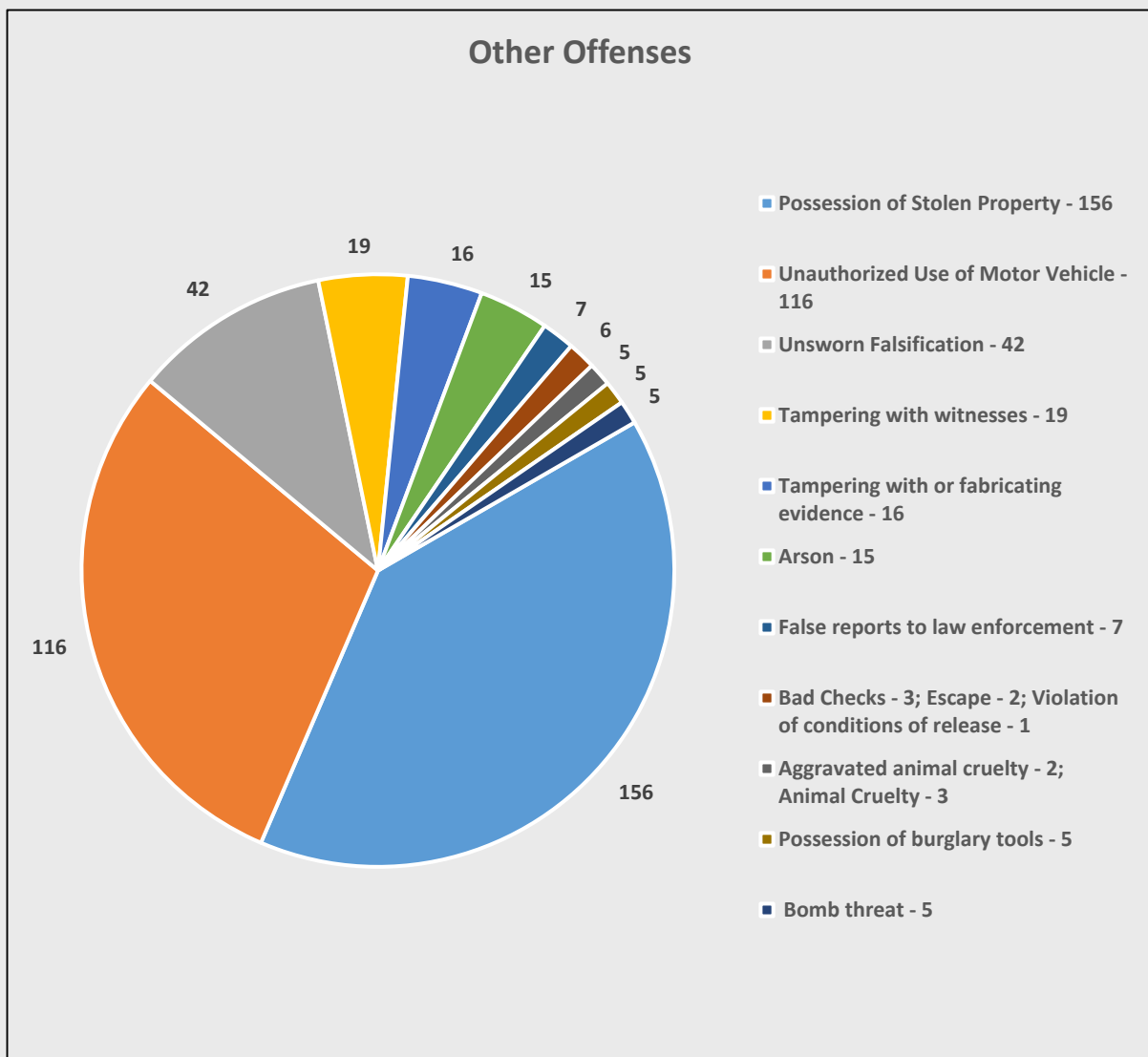
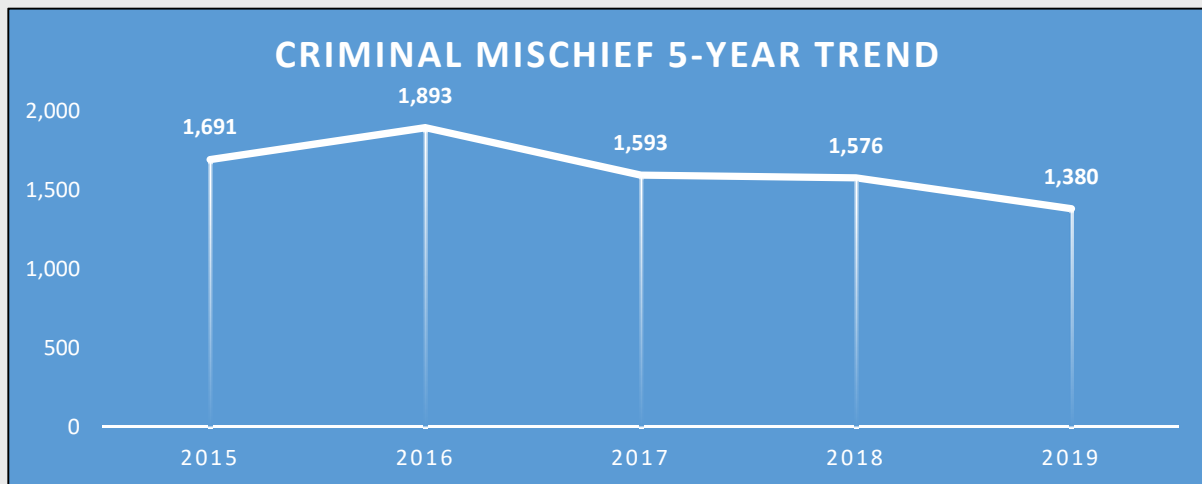


Crimes Against Public Order



**Failure to disperse became an option for Officers in 2017, following changes in Montana law that excluded jail on a first-offense Disorderly Conduct charge.*

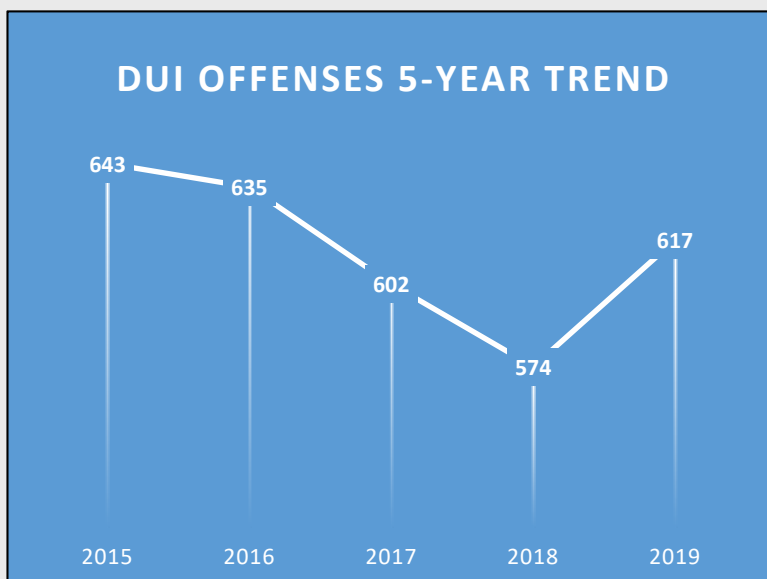
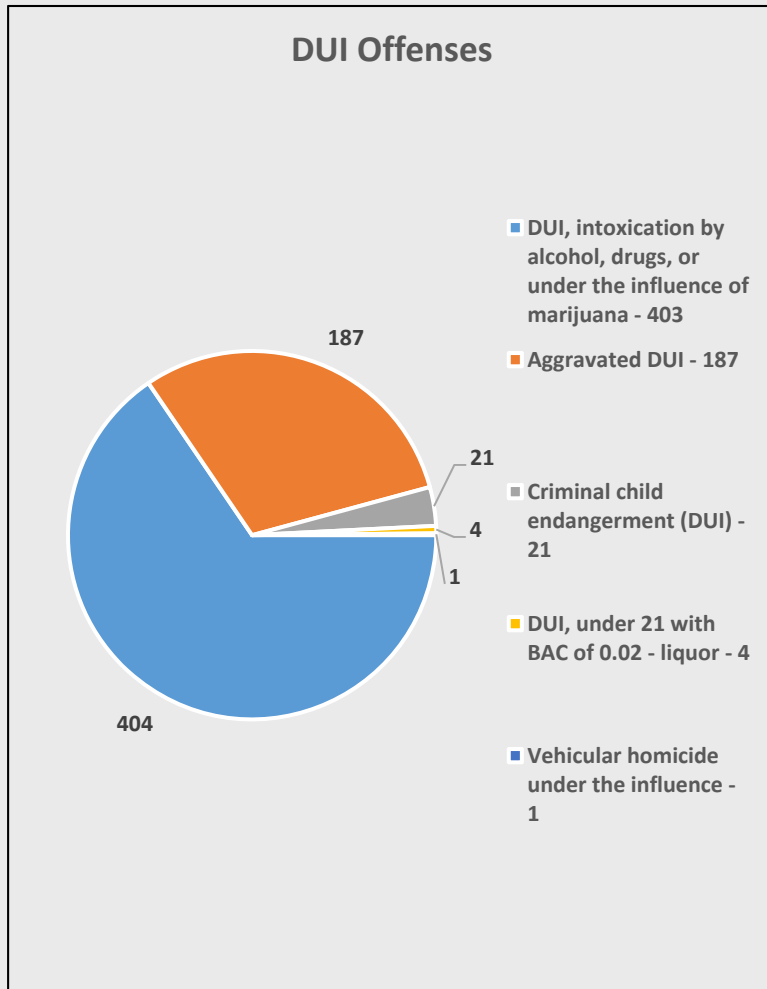




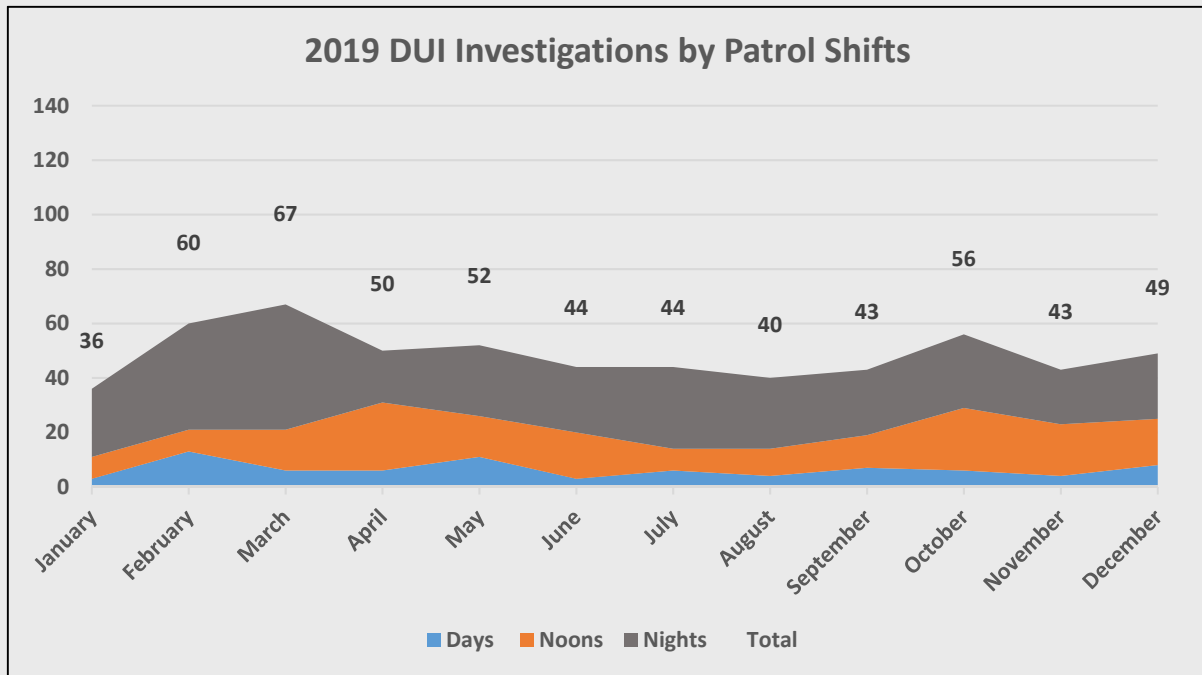
DUI Offenses

Did you know?

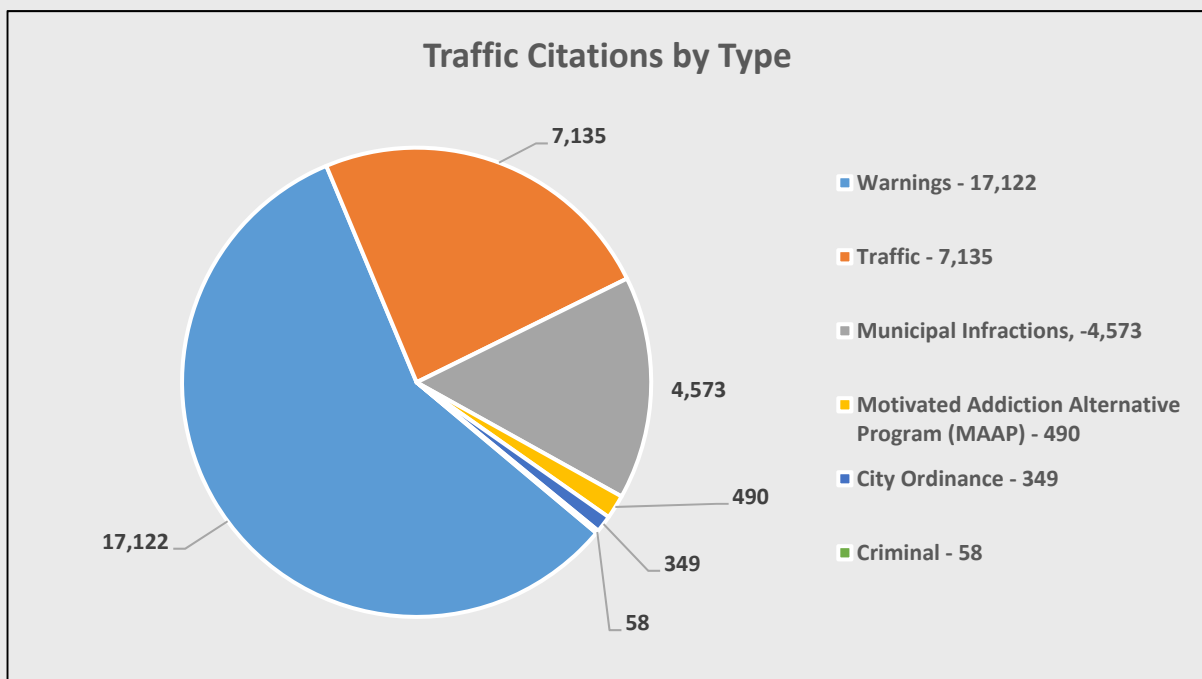
- When officers start a Driving Under the Influence investigation there is a 20-minute deprivation period so there is no residual alcohol in the mouth
- The average DUI investigation takes about 3 hours including administrative time to complete paperwork and process evidence
- Some officers are Drug Recognition Evaluators trained to identify impairment caused by drugs
- The Billings Police Department works with the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force to reduce the number of impaired incidents in our community
- Officer Cameron Fox was the 2019 BPD recipient of the Award of Merit for his efforts to enforce DUI laws

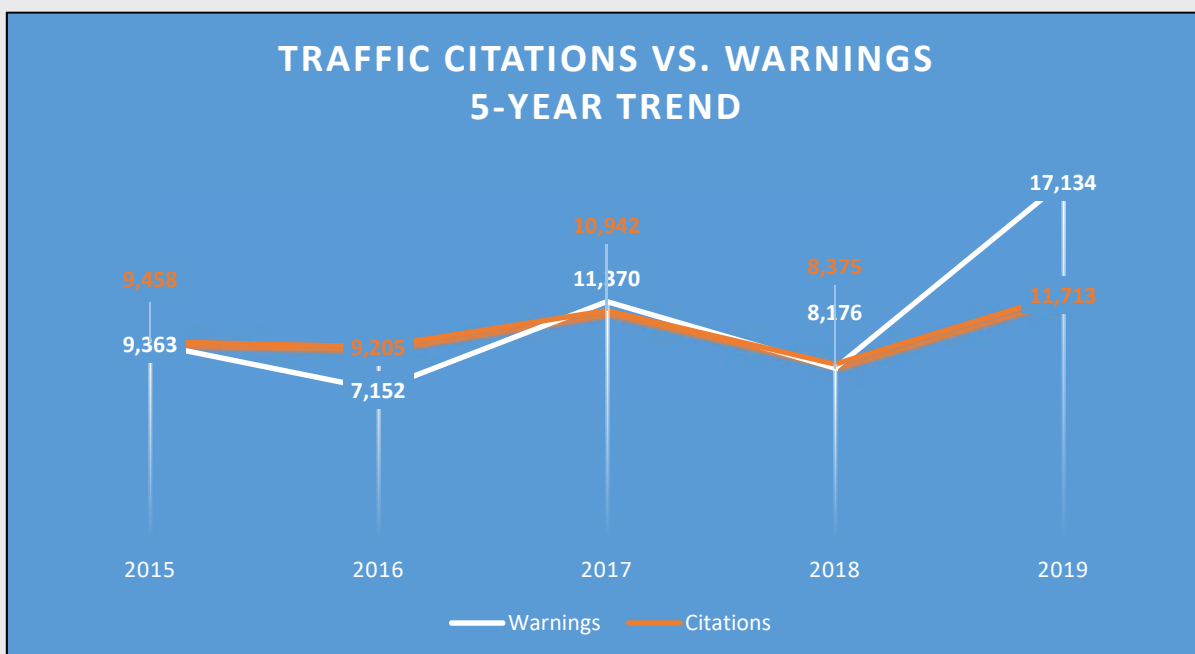
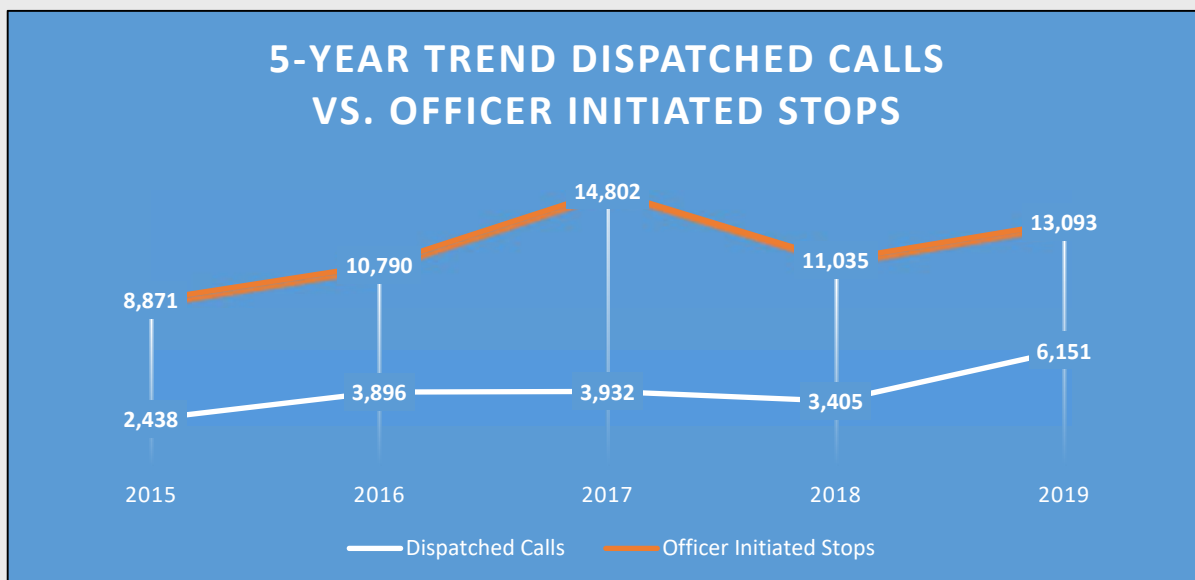


Traffic Statistics



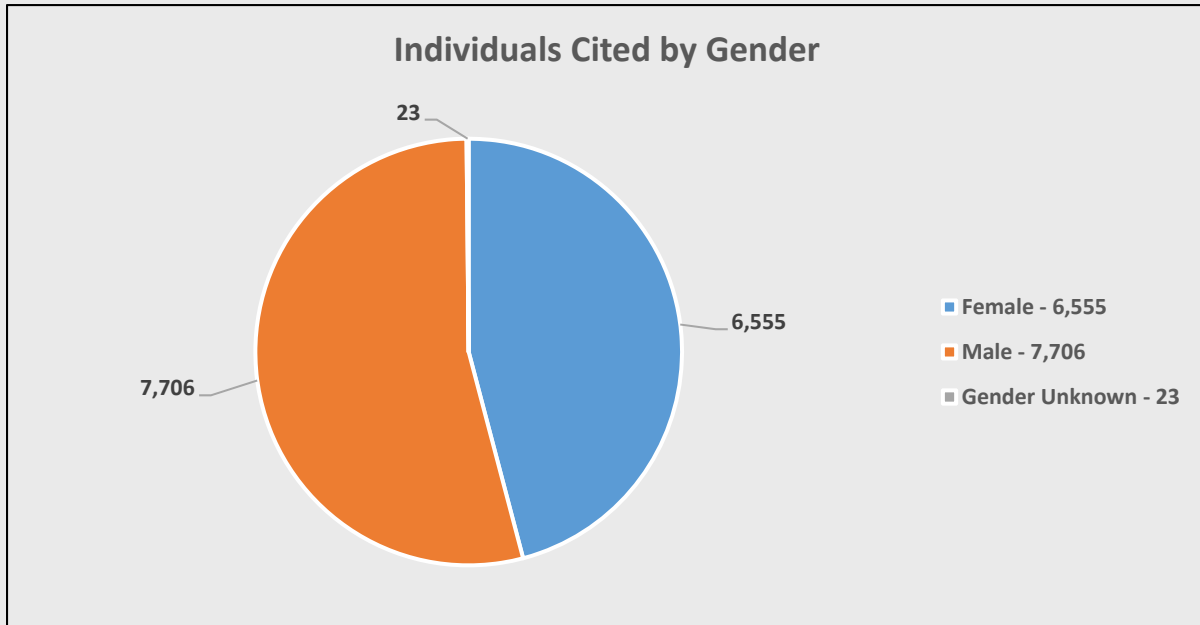
Billings Police officers issued 29,727 citations and warnings to 14,284 individuals.





A few times during 2019, anonymous supporters left messages written in chalk at the officer entrance to the department.





Issued Citations by Ethnicity & Gender

This data includes all citation types, including animal, traffic and criminal

Ethnicity	2017		2018		2019	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
White	5,465	6,981	5,893	7,309	7,129	8,370
Native American	896	873	924	1,070	1,059	992
Unknown	468	548	462	487	331	385
Hispanic	214	525	244	440	225	336
Black	137	319	130	406	182	416
Asian/Pacific	42	41	40	49	53	63
Hawaiian/Pacific	30	26	39	27	16	30
Middle Eastern	3	25	5	19	4	12
Total	7,255	9,338	7,737	9,807	8,999	10,604

Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

The STEP team consists of 4 officers who work specifically on traffic enforcement.

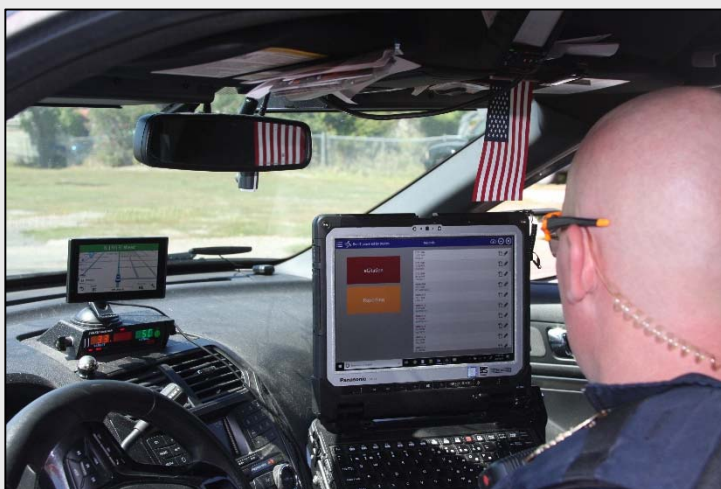
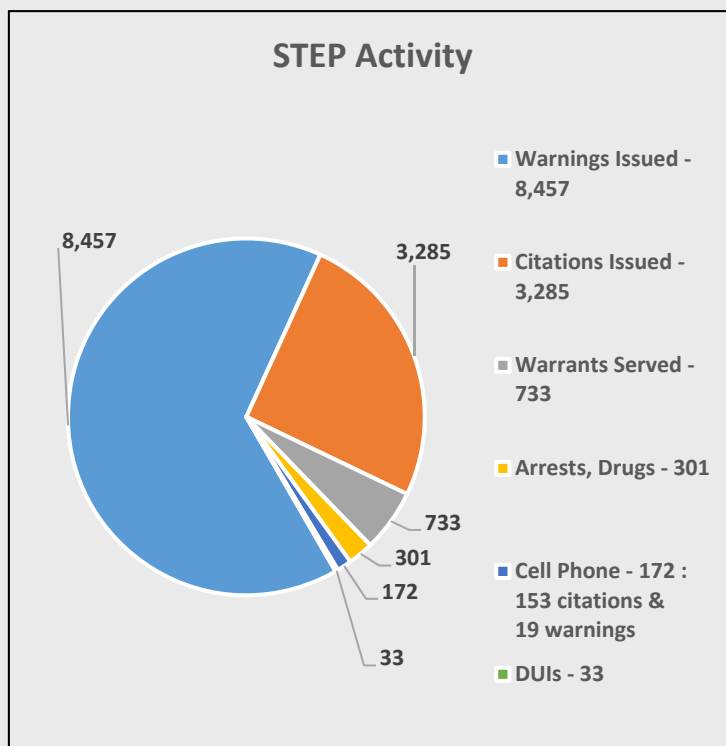
Their 11,742 citations & warnings make up about 40 percent of department total during 2019.

STEP responds to citizen complaints and concerns by working details in specific areas, such as school zones and neighborhoods and they focus on distracted drivers using cell phones. They also work regular traffic patrol throughout the city.

The team includes one K9, Tabasco, and his handler Officer Contreras.



BPD plans to add two more dogs to the STEP team during 2020.



Officer Gilmore writes an electronic citation. In late 2018 the STEP officers became the first in the department to utilize e-citation software and in-car printers.

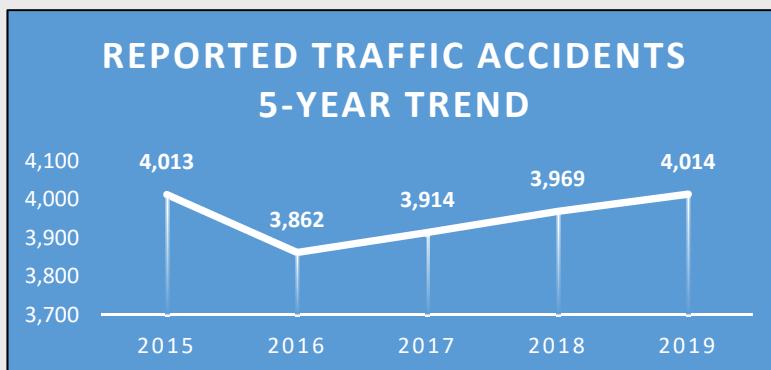
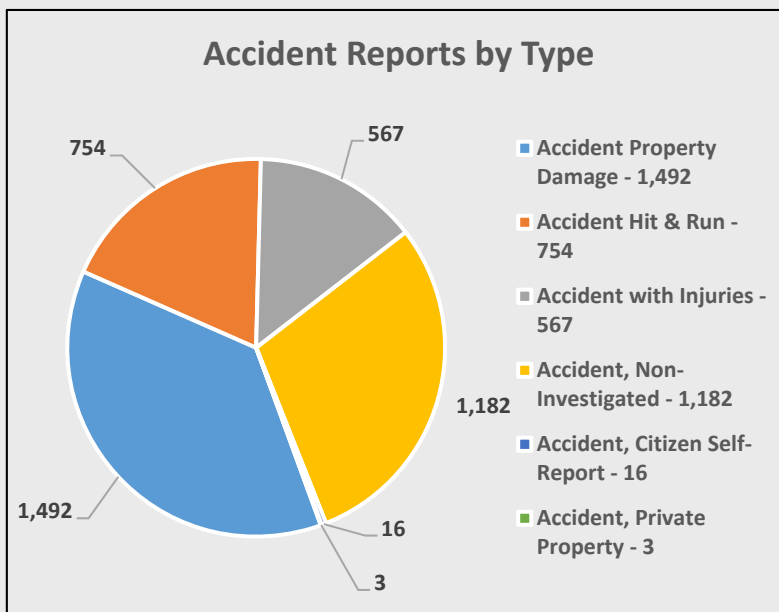
Accident Statistics

Did you know?

Private property and minor damage, or fender-bender, crashes may not require an officer to investigate.

During some storms, there are not enough officers to investigate every minor damage accident and the department implements the “slick streets” policy. Under this protocol, only accidents with injuries, impaired drivers and disabled vehicles are investigated. The department went to slick streets 76 times during 2019.

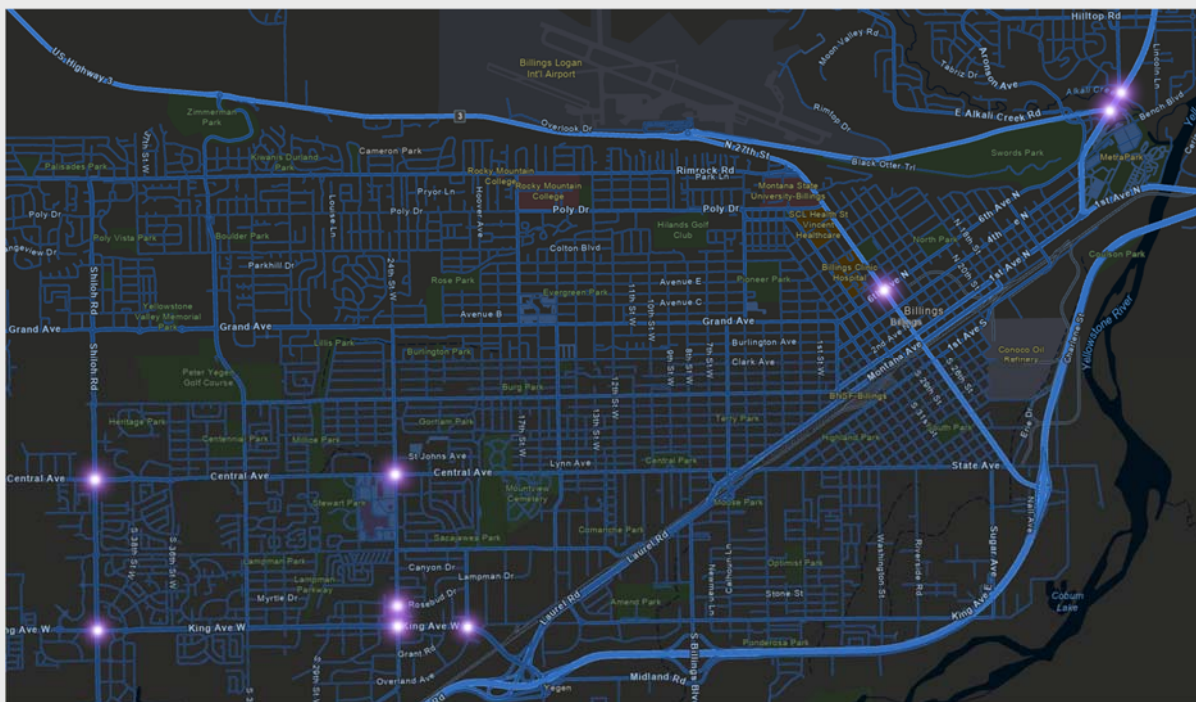
Of the 4,014 accidents reported, officers completed crash forms on 2,875 of them – that’s about 8 a day.



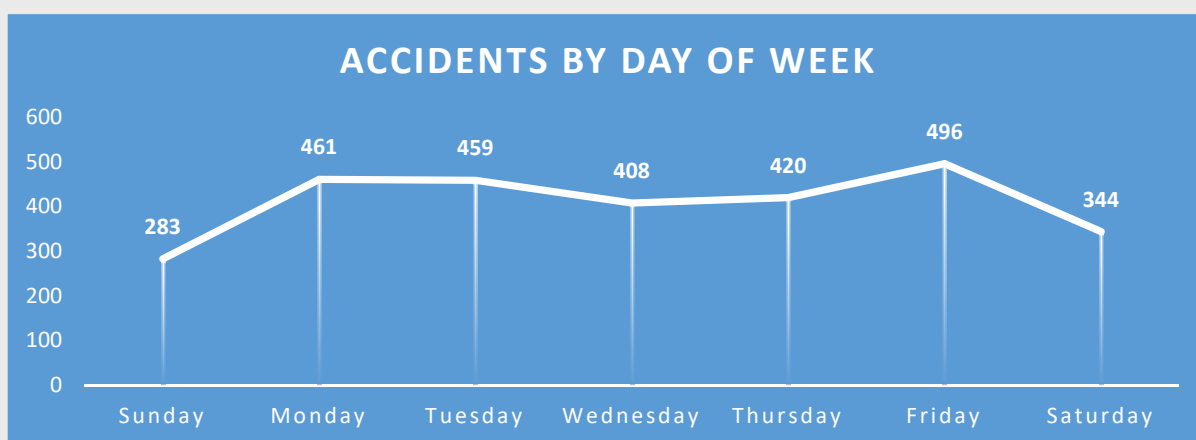
It’s not always bad roads or inattentive driving that lead to accidents. Here are some of the incident types that prompted accident investigations during 2019:

Disturbance / Suspicious Activity	28
Drug Investigation	2
Shooting / Stabbing	3
Partner or Family Member Assault	2
Assault	1
Robbery	1

High Risk Intersections



King Avenue West / Shiloh Road	38
King Avenue West / South 20 th Street West	32
Main Street / Lake Elmo Drive	25
Main Street / East Airport Road	25
South 24 th Street West / Marketplace Street	24
Central Avenue / 24 th Street West	23
King Avenue West / South 24 th Street West	23
Shiloh Road / Central Avenue	21
6 th Avenue North / North 27 th Street	21



Most Frequent Arrest Charges in 2019

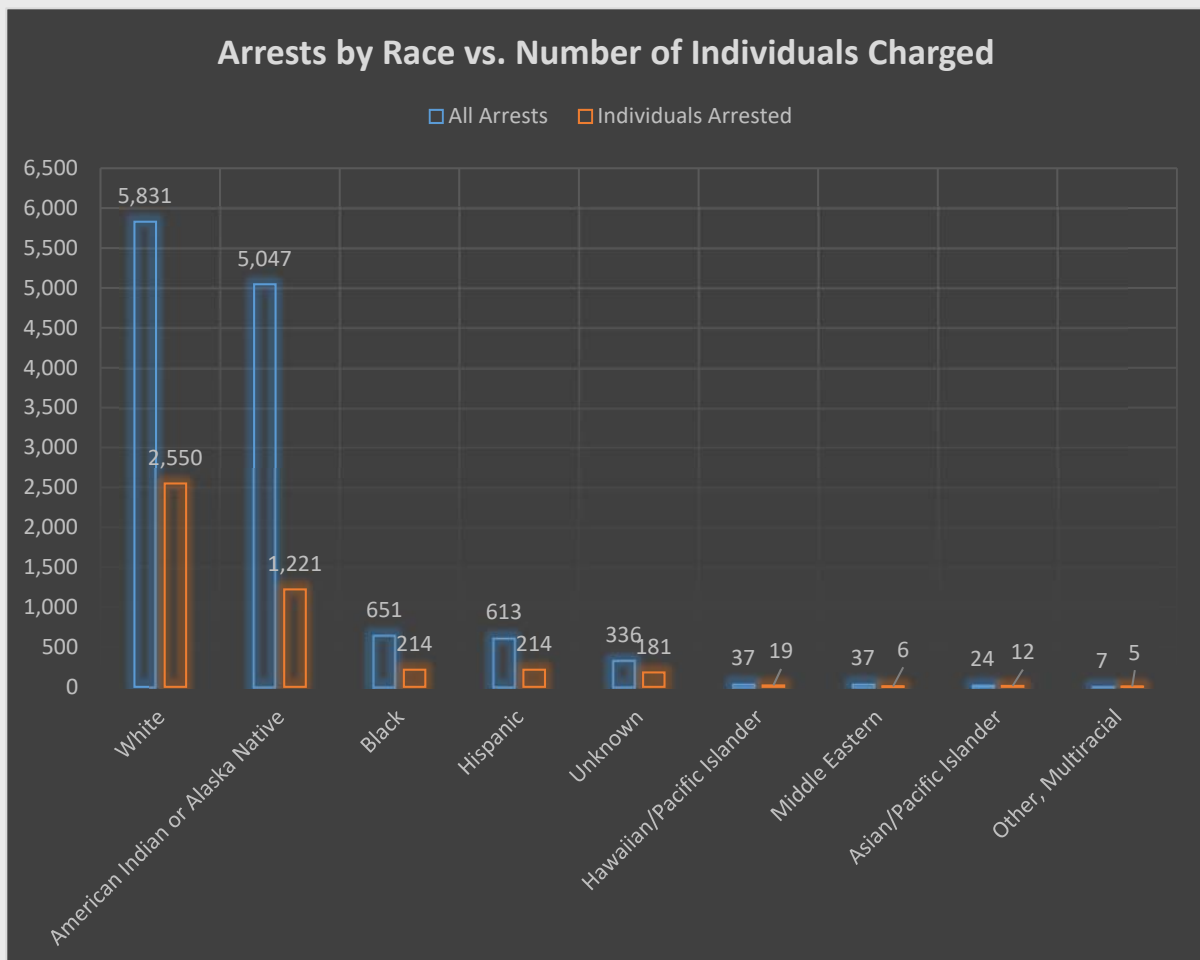
<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Top 15 Juvenile Arrest Charge</u>
207	Minor in Possession of Vapor Products
127	Theft - Shoplifting, 1st Offense
95	Possess Intoxicants Under Age 21 (Under Age 18)
67	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
57	Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs - Marijuana
54	Assault
43	Obstructing a Peace Officer
39	Partner or Family Member Assault, 1st Offense
37	Warrant - Contempt of Court, Misdemeanor
32	Criminal Mischief, Loss Less Than \$1,500
29	Warrant - Contempt of Court, Felony
27	Tobacco Possession or Consumption
23	Warrant - Traffic - Municipal Court
19	Warrant - Municipal Court
18	Disorderly Conduct, Threats/Profanity

<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Top 15 Adult Arrest Charge</u>
3,496	Warrant - Municipal Court
1,580	Warrant - Traffic - Municipal Court
722	Warrant - Revocation of Suspended or Deferred Sentence
625	Warrant - Contempt of Court, Felony
586	Theft - Shoplifting, 1st Offense
569	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
508	Warrant - Out of Area, Felony
404	Obstructing a Peace Officer
352	Criminal Trespass to Property
330	Warrant - Probation Violation, Felony
325	Partner or Family Member Assault, 1st Offense
248	Criminal Possession Dangerous Drugs - Methamphetamine
225	Warrant - Violate Conditions of Release
216	Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, Felony

Arrests by Race and Ethnicity

Officers made 12,583 arrests during 2019 accounting for more than 13,500 charges. Because people can be arrested multiple times, the arrests involved 4,422 individuals. These individuals represent 2,796 males and 1,626 females.

Arrests include activity *not* mandated by federal crime reporting requirements.



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

Investigations Division

Other Critical Tasks

Photo downloads 4,618

Cellphone extractions -
85

Cellphone mapping &
analysis – 77

Child forensic
interviews – 124

Did you know?

Police Support Specialists transcribe all of the department's telephonic search warrants and statements. Officers and detectives audio record statements and two clerks transcribe them verbatim. It can take 1 to 3 hours to type a transcription. Not all statements are transcribed – thousands are archived each year and retained in their digital format.

There are 12 detectives who are assigned cases as crime are reported to Billings Police Department.

Crimes against persons – Detectives were assigned 304 cases on crimes against persons during 2019. That is an average case load of more than 25 per detective at any given time. At year's end, 94 cases remained open and 210 had been cleared.

Death investigations – All death investigations required a minimum of 2 detectives. The Division investigated 73 deaths during 2019. These included 7 homicides (attempted, justified and committed), 37 suicides and 16 overdoses. Another 13 deaths remains unclassified while toxicology is pending.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative – The Billings Police Department works in cooperation with the Montana Department of Justice and the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. The project funds analyzing sexual assault kits and submitting the results to the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database to try and identify suspects.

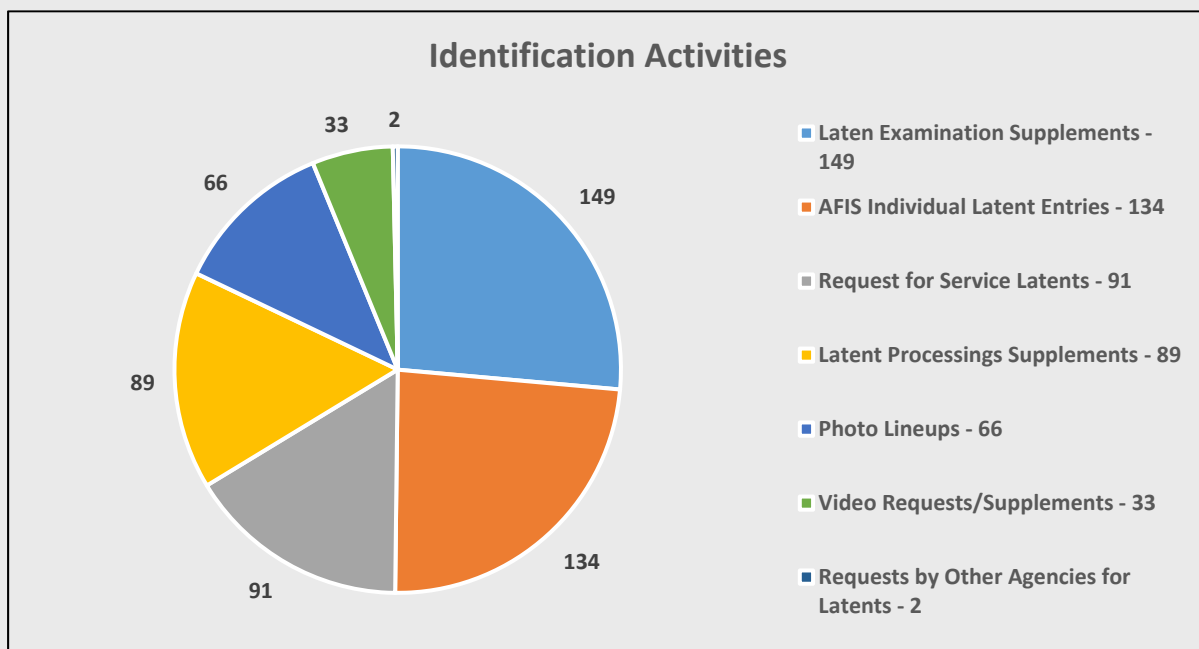
Department of Public Health and Human Services – Reports made to this state agency regarding child sexual assault and abuse, as well as abuse of vulnerable adults, are by statute referred to law enforcement. During 2019 there were 436 child cases and 156 adult cases investigated by BPD detectives.

Evidence & Identification



A highlight of 2019 was starting a \$3.3 million expansion of the evidence facility. The new 15,000 square-foot space, with numerous security updates, includes office space for staff, a lab, an area for processing evidence and more space for holding vehicles.

The current facility took in 18,202 pieces of evidence during 2019. Following state laws, the staff was able to dispose of 19,318 pieces of evidence, some that had been held for decades.





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. The Eastern Montana HIDTA Drug Task Force was created in 1996 and is part of Rocky Mountain Region which covers Colorado, Montana, Utah, & Wyoming.

	2018	2019
Felony Arrests	217	119
Assets Seized	\$617,272	\$171,609
Firearms Seized	112	92
Drugs Seized		
Methamphetamine	129.74 pounds	122.22 pounds
Marijuana	33.23 pounds	15.79 pounds
Heroin	2.83 pounds	2.34 pounds
Cocaine	6.08 pounds	1.31 pounds
Pharmaceuticals	4,253 pills	18,542 pills

CCSIU Drug Trafficking Organizations

2019	Targeted	Disrupted/Dismantled
International	3	3
Multi-State	11	10
Local	1	1
2018	Targeted	Disrupted/Dismantled
International	1	1
Multi-State	12	10
Local	5	3

Cassidy Ketchem, Administrative Assistant to the City-County Special



Investigations Unit received the 2019 Rocky Mountain HIDTA Support Personnel Award. Cassidy assists investigators with information, oversees their paperwork and tracks cases. She goes on all of the unit's search warrants, enters the location after it is secure and then organizes the search and accounts for all items seized. Cassidy is

responsible for tracking spending from local and federal budgets, conducting monthly audits and keeping the equipment inventory.



Pictures with the Chief Santa is a Billings Police tradition. The festivity extends from Officers with their children to the entire BPD family. The current Officer of the Year earns the honor of serving as the Elf, which in 2019 was Officer DeNio.

Posing with Santa are the Weston brothers who are both BPD Officers and (at right) Officer Weaver and his family.





Montana Violent Offenders Task Force

One Billings Police Detective serves on the Billings District Violent Offenders Task Force. This group makes high-risk arrests, predominately on warrants.

High-Risk Arrests		
	2018	2019
Warrant Closures	660	659
Firearms Seized		
Hand guns	24	39
Long guns	12	77
Narcotics Seized		
	2018	2019
Marijuana	6,908.09 grams	5,657.1 grams
Methamphetamine	6,411.82 grams	8,550.93 grams
Heroin	487.5 grams	563.3 grams
Cocaine	17.7 grams	78.1 grams
Assets Seized		
Vehicles Recovered	21	20
Currency	\$36,819	\$118,000

Billings Police Department Street Crimes Unit

	2018	2019
Warrant & Other Arrests	571	633
Citations/Warnings	395	283
Recovered firearms	71	63
Recovered cash	\$82,000	\$111,658
Seized drugs	65 pounds	91 pounds
Marijuana plants	---	113
Recovered Vehicles	94	65
Cases Assigned	434	380

Specialized Assignments

Billings Police Officers who meet eligibility requirements may participate in specialized assignments. These include serving as instructors and/or team members. The assignments include full-time patrol, such as the parks officer, and detective positions as well as collateral assignments that range from crisis intervention training and background investigator for hiring to crash reconstruction and use of Naloxone/Narcan for intervening in overdoses.



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



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.

Hostage Negotiators - The team received a grant during 2019 to purchase and outfit a van with electronic communications equipment for crisis incidents. The negotiators are called out to situations with hostages, barricaded people and other situations where de-escalation is needed, including with suicidal subjects.

The SWAT team, negotiators and bomb squad work in conjunction on critical incidents.

Billings Police Bicycle Patrol

Thirty officers participated in the bicycle details during 2019. The program has grown, not only to include more officers but they are riding farther each year starting downtown and peddling to the West End and the Heights.

Overtime Details	68
Total Hours	387
Citations	159
Arrests	49
Warnings	68



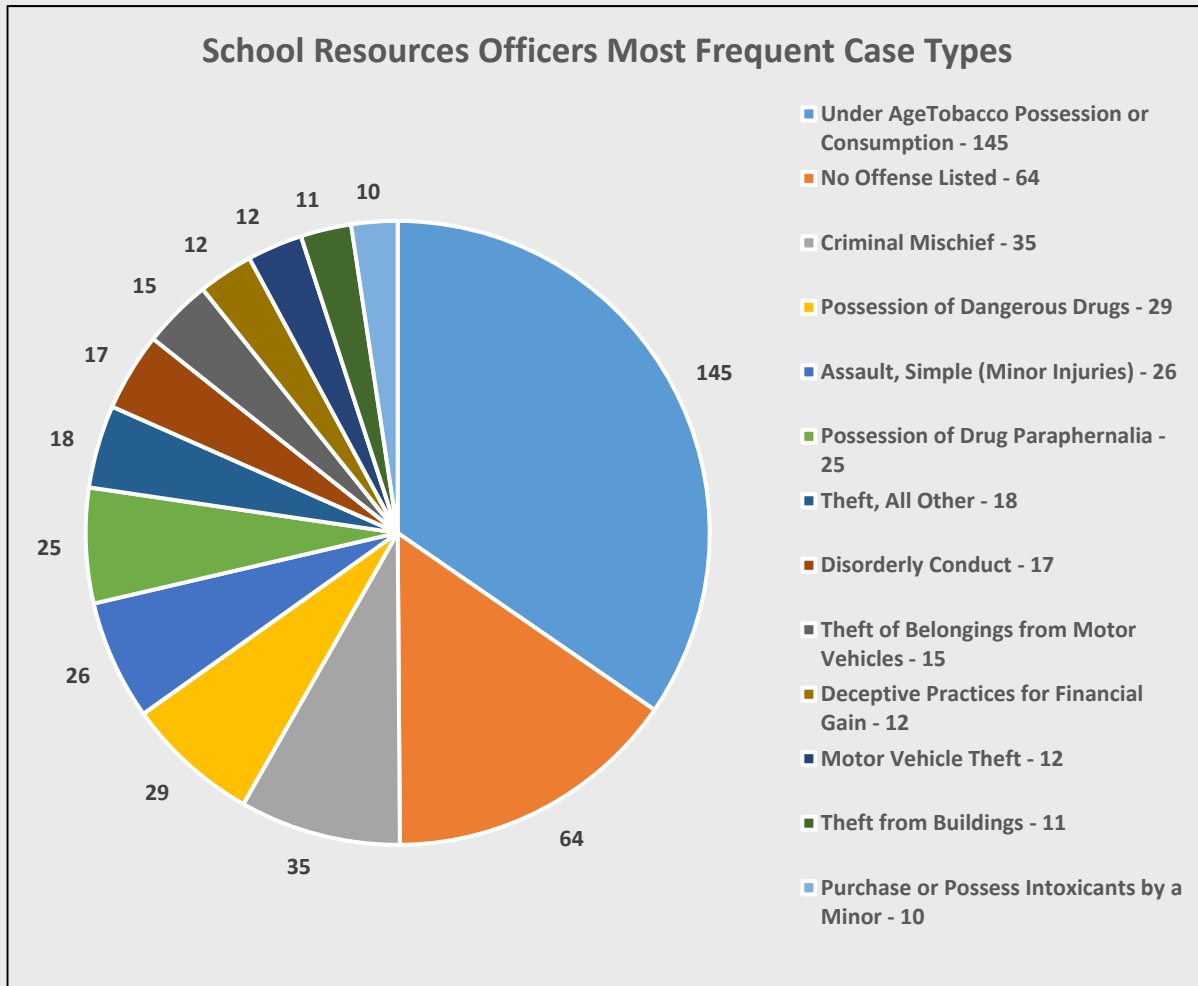
Honor Guard



The Billings Police Department Honor Guard provides ceremonial duties including flag presentations at local events and accompanying the caskets of retired Billings officers and line-of-duty deaths of officers throughout the region.

School Resource Officers

Billings School Resource Officers are funded in cooperation with School District 2. The officers are assigned to individual high schools or middle school and visit several elementary schools as part of their duties. During 2019-20 school year the 8 officers wrote 829 cases, nearly 400 of which involved arrests.



Officers who have worked more than 20 years and are in good standing have the option of a formal retirement party. Here Sgt. Winden adjusts Sgt. Curry's uniform ribbons as commanders line up to enter a send-off celebration. The events always acknowledge the officers' families and their commitment to law enforcement careers.

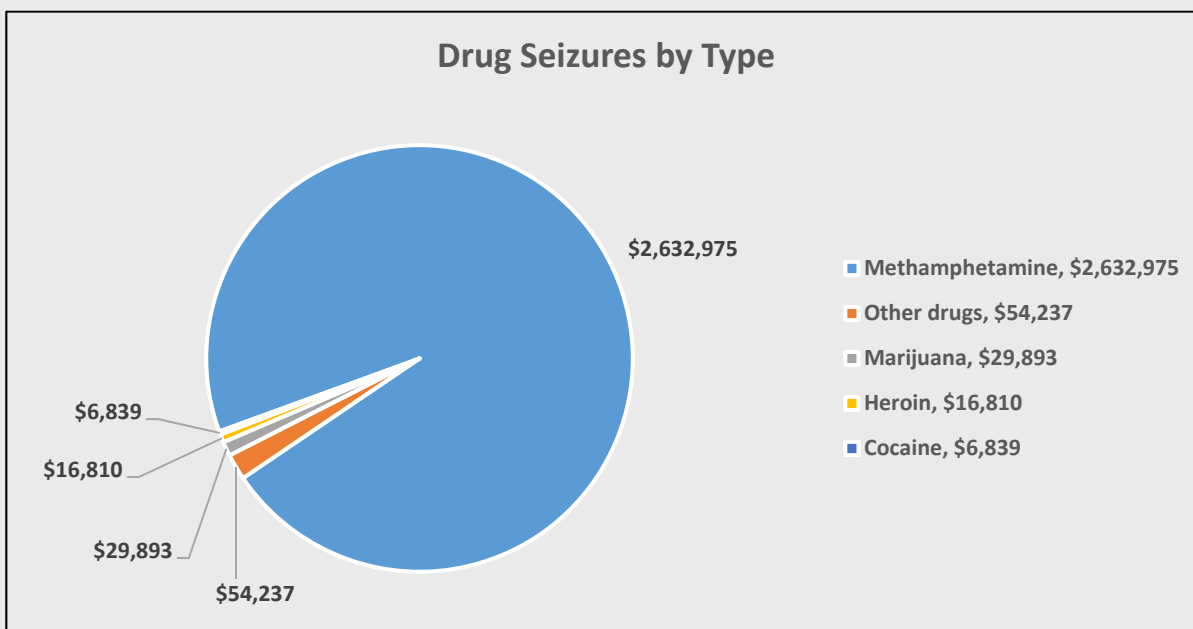
K-9 Program



These are some of the K-9 team training: Top, Officer Contreras searching cars with Tabasco, above left Dutch finding narcotics hidden behind a banner and above right, Officer Adams with Susan getting ready to track.

K-9 Activity by Category

K-9 Visits to Schools, Civic Groups & Other Organizations	18
Assist Other Agencies	133
Drug Deployments	290
Patrol Deployments	873
Search Warrants	21
Arrests	472
Total Seizures	\$2,789,567



The Police Department extends a heart-felt thank you to the businesses and community members that make it possible to sustain and grow the K-9 Program.

To learn more about the Billings Police K-9 Association follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BillingsPDK9/

Domestic Violence Investigations: Making Home Safe

Safety—a basic human need. Lessons about safety begin in childhood: Don't talk to strangers. Use the buddy-system. Wear your seatbelt. Lock your doors. But what if the threat to your safety was already inside your house? For the hundreds of domestic violence victims in Billings, that is reality.

By nature, domestic violence (DV) is a crime of secrecy, and it is vastly under-reported. What we do know is that the Billings PD investigates 600-800 Partner or Family Member Assaults (PFMAs) annually: the highest number of offenses statewide. Nearly half of all non-aggravated PFMAs in Central Montana occurred right here in Billings. The number of PFMAs in Billings in 2018 was 673. That total is greater than the ***combined*** number of car crashes with injury (548), DUI crashes (55), and fatal car crashes (13) in Billings that same year. The BPD's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) consists of 4 officers, while the Domestic Violence Investigation Program consists of one officer.

The Domestic Violence Investigator (DVI) became a full-time position in the BPD in 2012 with the goal of collaborating with the City Attorney's Office DV Unit in addressing DV-related crimes in Billings. BPD Officer Katie Nash, who had been a patrol officer since 2006, has been the BPD's only DVI since the program began. Officer Nash has a case load of more than 20 investigations at any given time. She and the DV Unit must triage cases where offenders pose the greatest risk to their victims and to the community in general. Officer Nash not only investigates DV assaults (felony and misdemeanor), but also related crimes including court order violations and stalking in the context of DV relationships. Officer Nash's investigations



Officer Nash is Billings Police Department's only Domestic Violence Investigator. She works closely with victims and prosecutors. During 2019 she implemented an on-scene risk assessment which officers use to assist victims in receiving additional services.

result in an average of 50 new criminal cases annually—cases that otherwise may have gone undetected.

Officer Nash strives to improve the way the BPD responds to DV cases. To that end, Officer Nash implemented an on-scene risk assessment that patrol officers administer with victims on DV calls. Using this risk 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.

Only when people are safe in their own homes can Billings really consider itself a safe place to live. The DVI Program works toward that goal.

When Officer Nash works with victims she often learns of crimes that would have otherwise gone unreported. Below is some of the work she completed in 2019.

Follow-up Assignments		New Cases Generated from Follow-up
PFMA - Misdemeanor and felony (3rd offense+)	270	2
Protective Order Violations	17	3
No Contact Order Violations	28	24
Stalking	6	4
Sexual Assaults	3	
Strangulations	17	2
Other Felonies	3	
Witness Tampering	2	8
Other	13	3
Privacy in Communications		1

Police Chaplain 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. During 2019, the chaplains gave the department, and the community, 1,133 hours of their time.

Here is a break-down of chaplain activity by hours:

Attending Officer Briefings	198.75
Executive Committee & Public Relations	157
Monthly Meeting	136.75
Call Out to Deaths & Crime Scenes	78.5
Detention Facility Visits	69
Personnel and Crime Prevention Center	48

The Billings Clinic and the Billings Police Department entered a contract in 2019 in which the Clinic pays for a full-time officer with patrol car and equipment to work on its campus. The contract expanded to two officers in 2020. Below, Officer Snider

(left), the first officer to hold the Billings Clinic position, visits with Officer Schara outside the Emergency Department. Clinic officers respond to anything that occurs on the campus, from assaults on staff to keeping a police presence in parking lots.



Crime Prevention Center

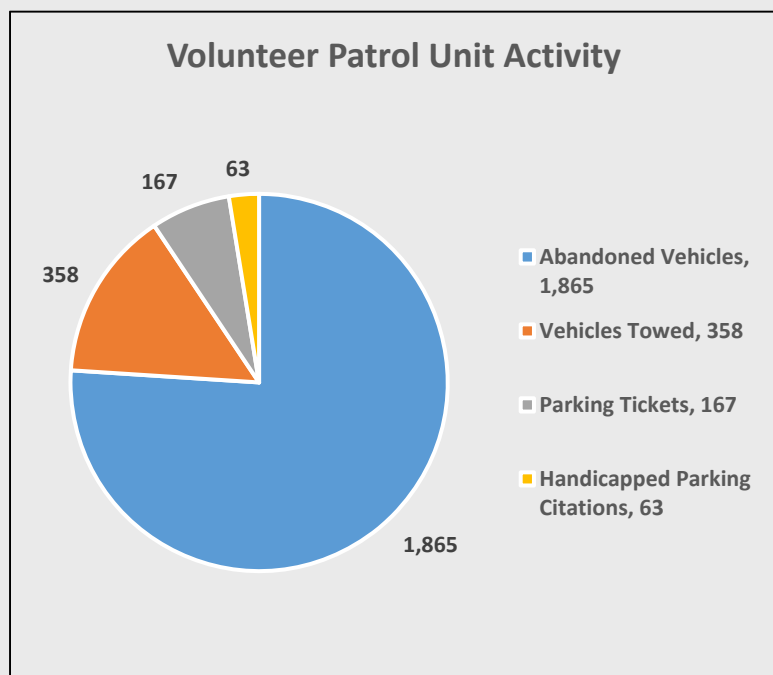
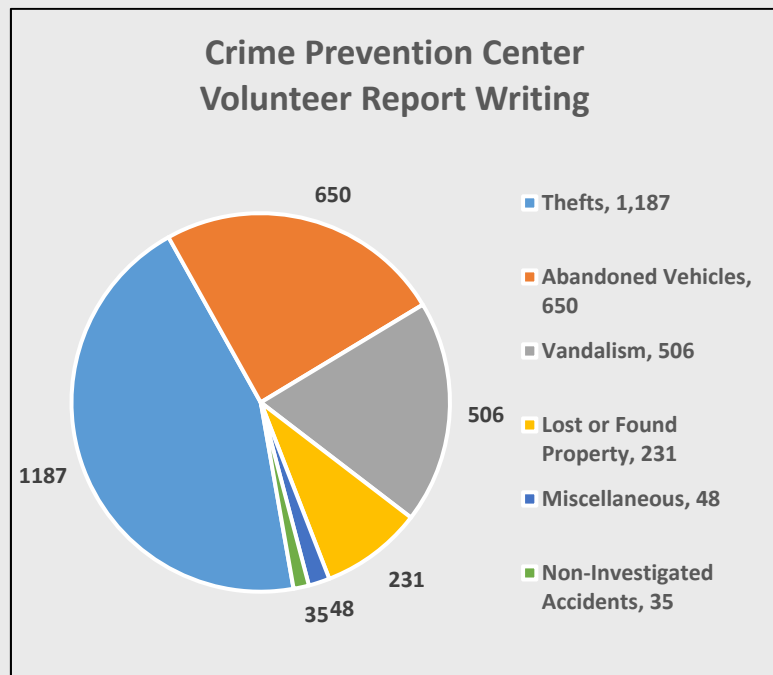
The Crime Prevention Center is located at 2910 3rd Avenue North. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Volunteers work with citizens who are reporting certain types of crimes and write reports for the department.

Some volunteers are trained to take fingerprints. During 2019 they made 1,886 fingerprint cards.

This service cost \$10 and is by appointment only. Call the CPC at 247-8592 for more information.

The Volunteer Patrol Unit are citizens who have taken training to be authorized to document abandoned vehicles and write parking citations.



ANIMAL CONTROL 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Animal Control Board meetings included the following dates: May 21, 2019, November 5, 2019. Public meetings included: animal education efforts. Possible circus banning ordinance.

The main focus of the board was public education about animal related issues, including considering an ordinance to prevent circus animal abuses.

FACILITY

No major improvements were made to the facilities.

ANIMAL ACTIVITY

YEAR	2017	2018	2019
Total Stray Cats Handled	1,224	1,078	1,401
Total Stray Cats Claimed	160=13%	165=15%	166=12%
Total Stray Dogs Handled	945	1,012	1,144
Total Stray Dogs Claimed	774=76%	854=84%	904=79%

YEAR	2017	2018	2019
Total Dogs/Cats Adopted	552/1042 1,594	553/1,088 1,641	1,542/679 2,221
Total Dogs/Cats Euthanized	110/562 672	84/517 601	250/92 342

* These numbers include all animals that could have been placed for adoption, when many may have been designated as un-adoptable because of behavior, age, health, or other issues. Animals transferred to other organizations have been included in the adopted animals. Animals euthanized include requests related to public health and age related. (These numbers were provided by Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter Staff.)

ANIMALS RECEIVED AT SHELTER

SOURCE	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR
	2017	2018	2019
CITY ANIMAL CONTROL	1,226	1,173	1,884
BILLINGS POLICE	31	34	32
BROUGHT BY PUBLIC FROM WITHIN CITY	2,430	2,533	2,914
COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL	4	6	7
BROUGHT IN BY PUBLIC FROM OUTSIDE CITY	171	174	122
LAUREL (CITY) RESIDENTS	47	35	37
LAUREL POLICE	8	8	8
OTHER – OUTSIDE COUNTY	122	94	143
TOTAL	4,039	4,057	5,147

ENFORCEMENT

In 2019 - 87% of the officer's total time worked was spent in the field, 3% writing reports, 5% preparing for the field and training, 3% on kennel duties and 2% assisting or working in the Animal Control office. Animal Control officers traveled 65,077 miles on the city streets enforcing animal control ordinances.

YEAR	2017	2018	2019
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	5,464	5,646	5,941
TOTAL CITATIONS	868	1,262	1,217
TOTAL ON-VIEW INVESTIGATIONS*	181	265	235

*Animal complaints initiated by Animal Control Officers

LICENSES SOLD	2017	2018	2019
DOG	4,340	3,957	4,226
CAT	992	1,044	1,158
Total Sold	5,332	5,001	5,385
Current Licensed animals	11,019	11,414	11,299

*These numbers provided by Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter.

CALLS FOR SERVICE RECEIVED

	2017	2018	2019
Animal Noise	498	687	686
Small Animal at Large/confined	1,344/804	1,377/814	1,021/931
Potentially Dangerous Animal	129	109	142
Animal Bite/Dangerous	333/0	283/2	356/5
Wildlife	568	462	562
Cruelty/Neglect/Abandoned/Hot	54/350/15/328	45/250/18/296	65/257/9/291
Other	1,041	1,403	1,716
Total	5,464	5,646	5,941

OFFENSES CITED/WARNING	2017	2018	2019
SMALL ANIMAL AT LARGE	303	209/338	252/244
UNLICENSED SMALL ANIMAL/VOID*	193/144*	421/223*	284/17/268*
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR	120	57/85	55/64
DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR	0	2/0	2/1
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	14	13/9	4/0
NO RABIES VACCINATION/ VOID*	185/144*	432/6/223*	271/8/268*
OTHER	53	128	349
TOTAL	868	1,262/447	1,217/301

* Void = 7 Day grace period license and rabies only.

New = 2019 Citations / Written Warnings.

In August 2019 the Animal Control Division worked with police officers and detectives on a search warrant to remove cats from a Billings residence following an animal cruelty investigation. Animal Control officers trapped six cats in about four hours. The owner eventually released 10 cats to the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter

Right: Animal Control Officer Gudmundson (left) and police officer Richter take traps into the scene of an animal cruelty case at a Billings residence.



Below Left: Billings firefighters in protective gear used monitors to check the house for unhealthy levels of ammonia and other toxins. Animal Control officer O'Donnell was one of the officers who used a net to try and coax the cats out of hiding places.

Below Right: A Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter volunteer, Officer Richter and Detective Schwartz talk with the pet owner who waited in an air conditioned patrol car during the search.





Happy Halloween!

The Department participates in Downtown Trick or Treat giving hundreds of kids a chance to have fun interaction with officers and staff. Some of the 2019 participants are: At left, Officers D. Stovall and Mansur, and clockwise from below: Officer Unruh, Officer Richter, Officer J. Stovall, Officer Mansur with Chaplain Thompson and Clerk Erica.



POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Officer of the Year – Officer Jeff Stovall

Officer Stovall joined the Billings Police Department with a great deal of knowledge and experience in March of 2014 after working for Westminster PD in Colorado. He is very well liked and looked up to by not only his peers, but the department as a whole. In his time with BPD, he has taken on a vast array of important responsibilities and duties within the department. Some of these include being an instructor in Crisis Intervention Training, Firearms and PVOC and a member of the BPD SWAT team for the last 3 years. He is also a member of the department's Critical Incident Debrief Team, which involves assisting and supporting officers after they endure a critical incident. Officer Stovall has also made himself available to his peers with assistance and support when they have had difficult times in their personal lives, which is a prime example of Stovall's genuine care and compassion for his peers and department.

Supervisor of the Year – Sergeant Matthew Lennick

Sgt. Lennick joined the Billings Police Department in December of 2006. During his time with the BPD, Sgt. Lennick has demonstrated his ability to handle multiple projects at once in addition to being a night shift commander. He exhibits excellent problem solving/decision making skills on patrol and in the office making him a prime example of a good leader. Sgt. Lennick is in charge of the Taser and FTO programs, instructing newly hired officers about the Billings Police Department's expectations for their personal and professional success. Sgt. Lennick maintains an effective manner and demeanor and sets a great example for all to follow. He is respected among his coworkers and the officers he supervises. It is obvious that he understands the mission of the Billings Police Department and he works tirelessly to help achieve this mission.

Employee of the Year – Joel Watson

Joel Watson has been employed with the Billings Police Department since 2001 and was a Detective for the last few years leading into his retirement. Since then he has joined the ranks of the evidence facility and has become a valuable member to their team. Joel has a great passion for the department's history. He has worked diligently to sort through old photos throughout the years and create museum spaces that display the history of the department for all to enjoy. His efforts have resulted in positive feedback from all who visit. If it were not for Joel, these items and photos would still be locked away and buried in the basement of city hall.

Respect for Law – Officer Dan Brown

Officer Dan Brown has been employed with the Billings Police Department since August of 1993. Throughout his 26 years, he has made significant contributions to the department through various positions and shifts, which include but are not limited to: SRO, COPS representative, MPAT Instructor and child safety seat instructor. He has also maintained a consistent and

positive contribution to the youth of our community throughout his lifetime. He has assisted the Emmanuel Baptist Church as an AWANA leader, coached and assisted kids in basketball and track programs, served as a camp leader in countless summer youth camps and assisted in fundraising and coaching for the Special Olympics. Officer Brown has been, and continues to be, a positive influence to the youth of the community and the state.

Chief's Unit Citation – Street Crime Unit

Officers Ben Beck, Mike Beechie, Seth Foster & Detective Steve Hallam

This specialized unit is in a unique position to work proactively, focusing on taking preventative measures to reduce crime in Billings. They work as team to develop leads and make cases that not only lead to arrests but generate information for new cases. Their tenacity since the SCU was created in 2018 has led to large drug seizures, disruption of significant criminal organizations and apprehension of known dangerous offenders. In October 2019 a suspect escapee went on a crime spree throughout Billings and Yellowstone County. The SCU relentlessly pursued him and conducted investigations that tied him to 17 stolen vehicles, 5 burglaries, a theft of more than \$16,000 in military equipment and 4 vehicle pursuits with local law enforcement. The suspect was charged federally. In November, when the City was plagued by a rash of shootings, the SCU did tireless investigating and arrested 2 known violent suspects and identified a third shooter.

Promotions

Riley Finnegan ~ Lieutenant

Tina Hoeger ~ Sergeant

New Officers

Billings Police Department welcomed 16 new officers during 2019. Five other recruits resigned during training. Three officers came to BPD already having completed Police Officer Standard Training. The others spent 12 weeks at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy for training. All officers beginning their Billings Police career go through field training with seasoned officers. These new officers replace 7 officers who retired and 3 who resigned during 2019.

Lucas Knaff	Eric Stigen
Mackenzie Unruh	Tara Weekes
Tanner Messerschmidt	Elizabeth Samson
Darren Stovall	Aaron Larkin
Jeremy Hart	Taylor Vladic
Tyler Kammerzell	Christopher Thiel
Trevor Smith	Kevin Sparrow
Nicholas Fonte	Riley Hutchens



Police Officer Dustin Stroble (right) presented his brother-in-law Kevin Sparrow with his police badge.



Office of Professional Services

2019 Annual Report

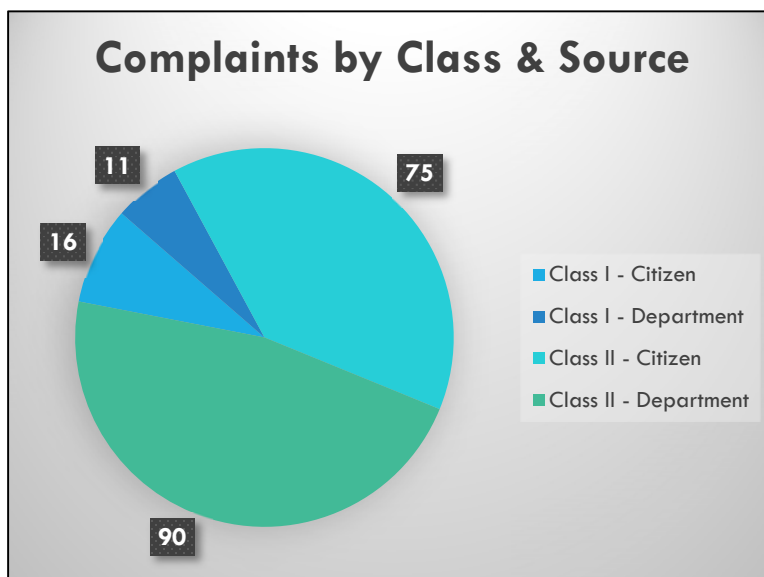
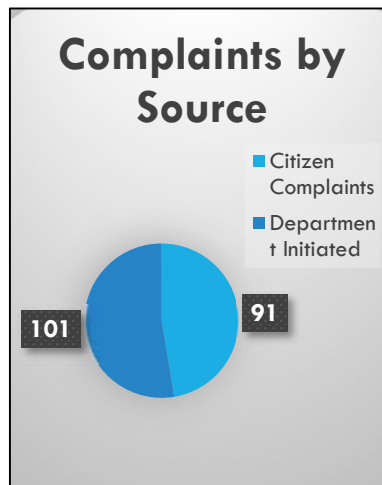
2019 in Review

94,709 Calls For Service

29,727 Traffic Citations Written

192 Complaints Against Officers

The Office of Professional Standards is directed by a police Captain who reports directly to the Chief of Police and Assistant Chief. The primary function of this office is to receive, assign and investigate complaints on employee 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 employee(s).



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.

Internal vs. External

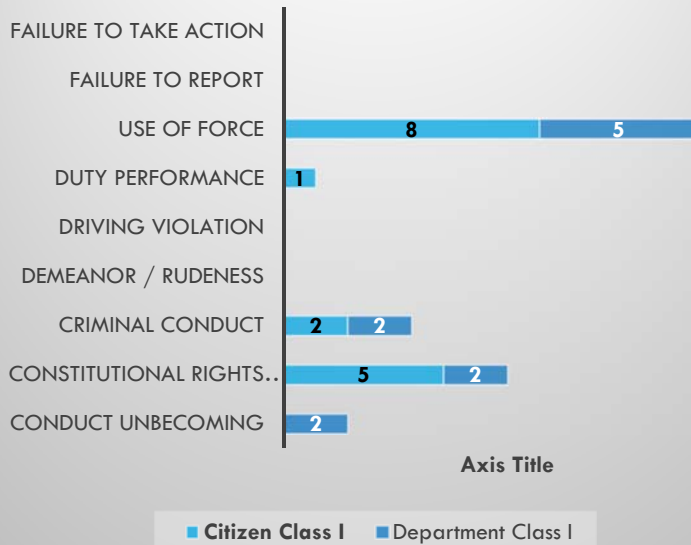
Citizens or BPD supervisors may enter complaints.

Class I vs. Class II

Class I complaints are more serious and include allegations such as excessive force, violations of criminal law, breach of civil rights, bias policing, 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.

Class I Complaint Classifications



Class II Complaint Classifications



A single complaint may result in multiple allegations of misconduct. Since the types of allegations may be vastly different, it is difficult to categorize complaints.

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.

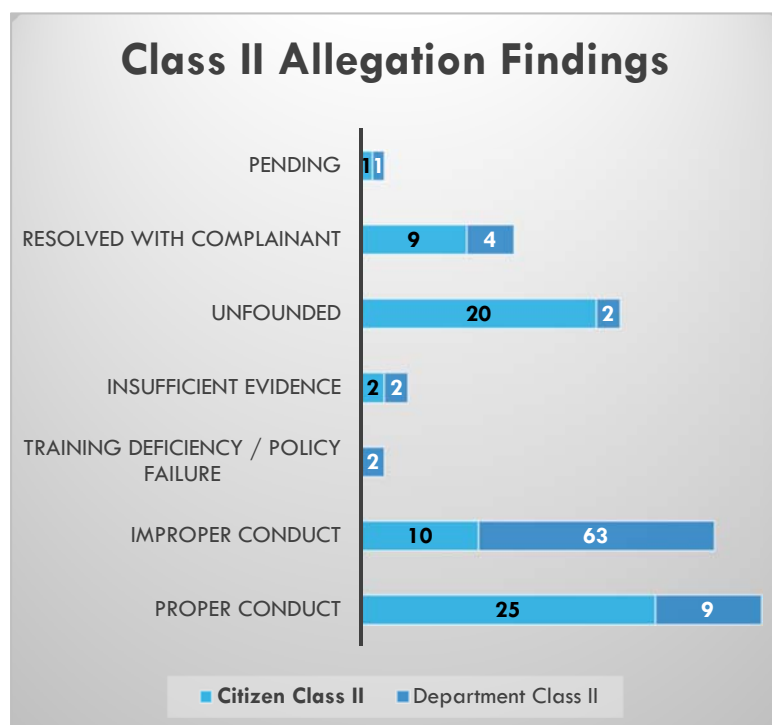
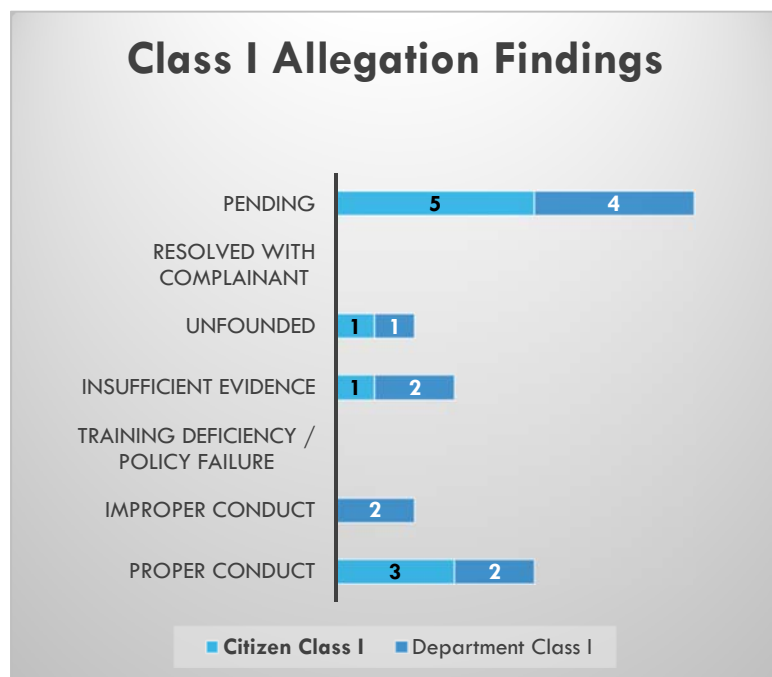
Findings

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.

BPD 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.



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.

Pending — The investigation is on-going.

Citizen Commendations

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 contacts go undocumented. The written feedback is tracked by the Office of Professional Standards. These numbers exclude commendations by our Command staff.

Officer Commendations

2017 – 55

2018 – 49

2019 – 73

Employees Recognized

2017 – 59

2018 – 88

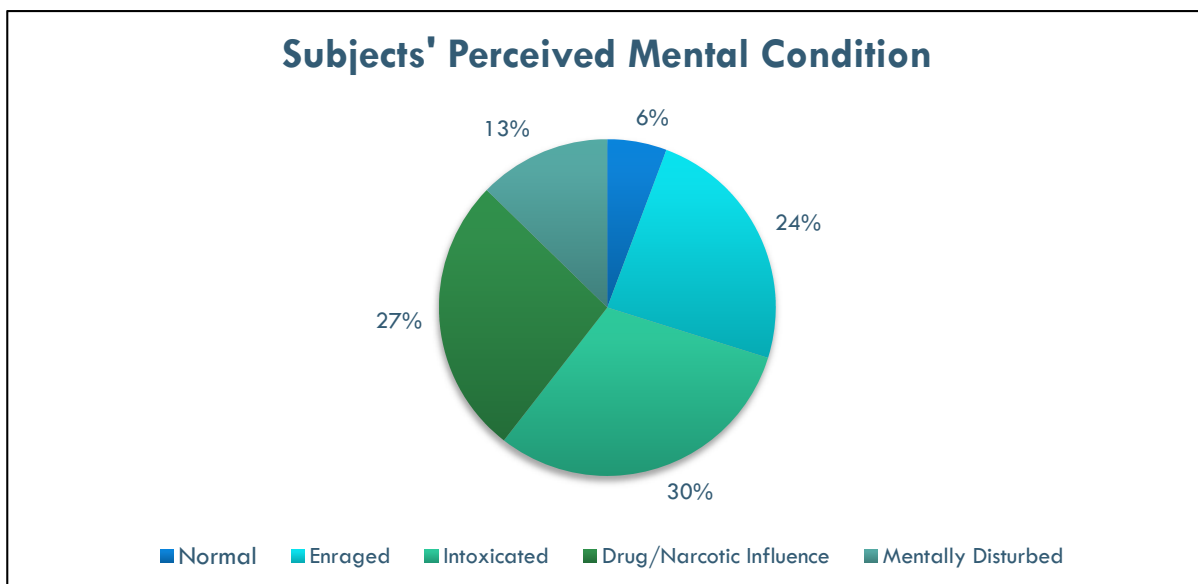
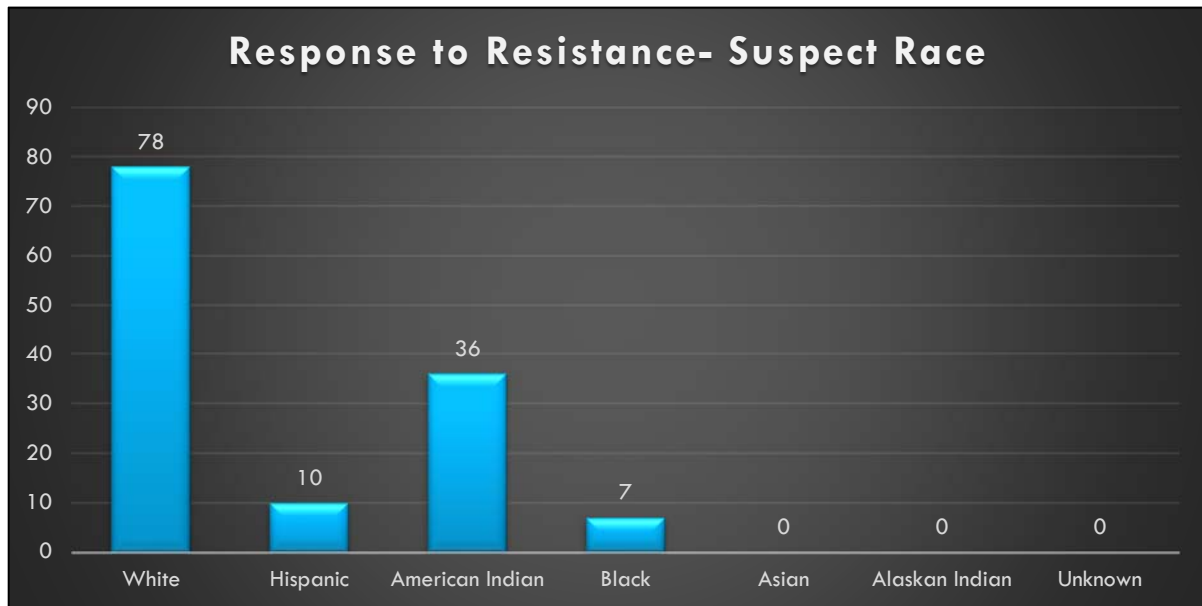
2019 – 70

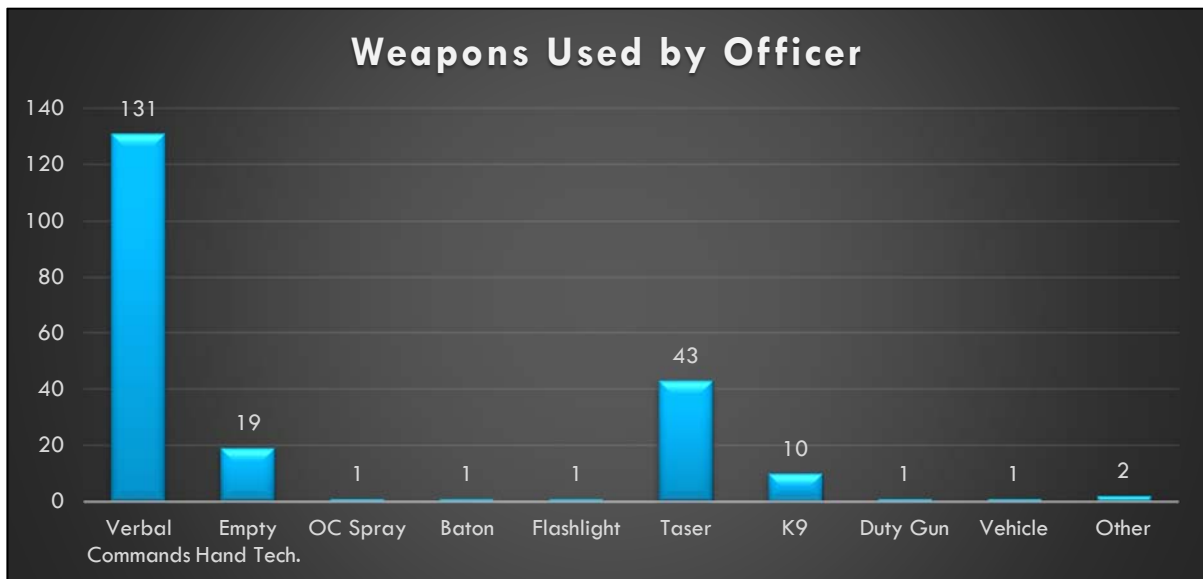
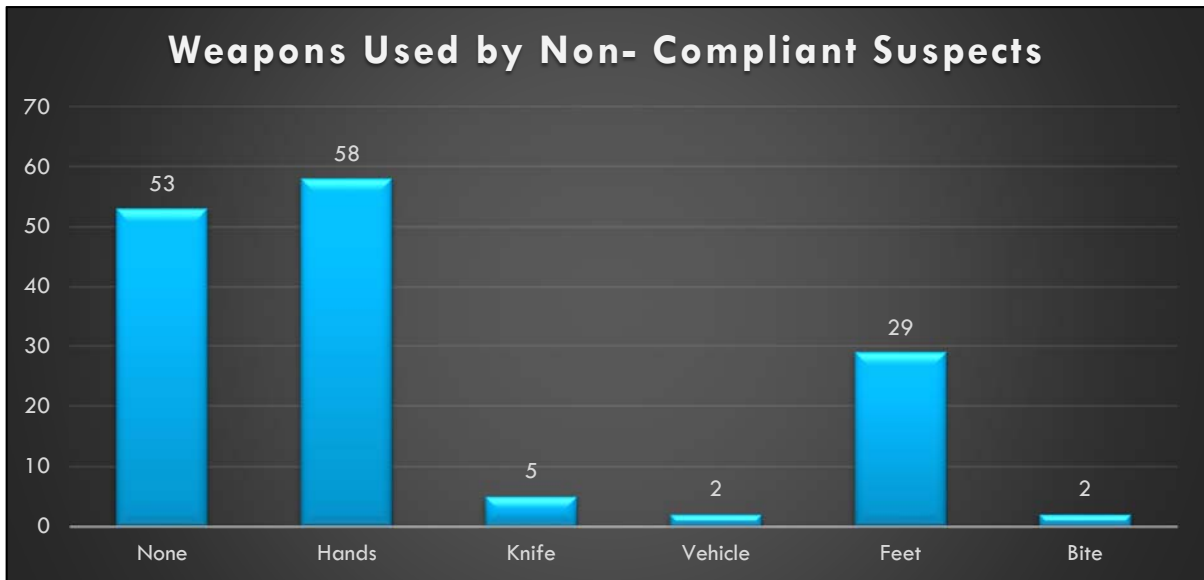
Each year Billings Officers volunteer with Special Olympics Montana. Below: (left) Sgt. Conrad helped present medals to athletes, (center) Officer Romero ran the torch during the Law Enforcement Torch Run relay and (right) Officer Jones and Sgt. Hoeger along with others pose with an athlete. Sgt. Hoeger is the Montana Torch Run Director.

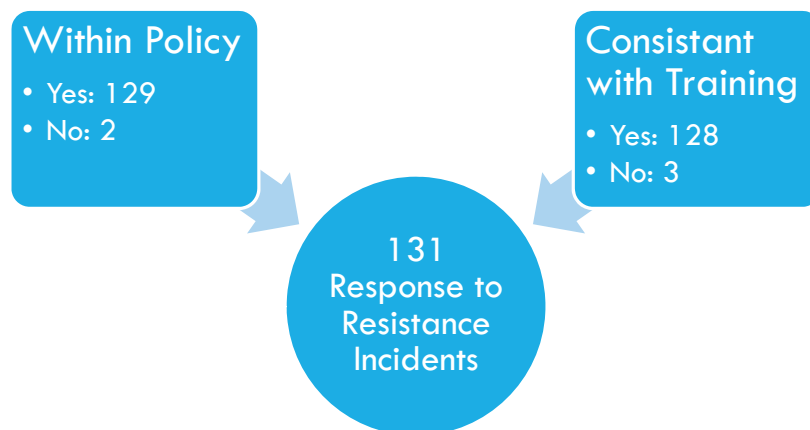


2019 Response to Resistance Report

Billings Police Officers recorded 131 incidents of Response to Resistance during 2019. Officers record the details of the incident 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. Offices may use any of these techniques, at any time, to meet the circumstances of the situation.







Thank you Billings!

The Billings community is incredibly generous with its support of Billings Police Department. Looking back, 2019 was a great year. 2020 started very nice with a visit from 3-year-old Corina Gonzalez who “attacked” us with hearts. Capt. Korell repaid Corina with stickers and a tour of the Department.

