MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT ON CRIME & SAFETY

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2020 MCPD Annual Report on Crime & Safety compiled by the MCPD Policy and Planning Division

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Police is to safeguard life and property, preserve the peace, prevent and detect crime, enforce the law, and protect the rights of all citizens. We are committed to working in partnership with the community to identify and resolve issues that impact public safety.

OUR VISION

We, the Montgomery County Department of Police, in cooperation with the community we serve, will work to enhance community relations and build trust through transparency, accountability, and strong leadership. We will strive to be a premiere law enforcement agency by employing a highly educated, diverse, and technical workforce that utilizes purpose-driven technology, and effectively balancing our resources to meet our mission.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

This report covers 2020, another unusual year for Montgomery County and the nation. It was the year that the pandemic struck with full force. As a result, some of the statistics presented here reflect that condition. The COVID-19 affected everyone, including the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), whether someone was sickened or not. It may be some time before we can accurately determine how this report will fit into overall crime trends.

In that context, I am pleased to report that Montgomery County is making great strides in improving public safety. In 2020, the number of crimes was 14% lower than in 2019.

In 2020, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received 727,500 calls for service, approximately 13% fewer calls than 2019. Sixty five percent of the calls received by the ECC were emergency calls, an average of 1,300 emergency calls per day, a decrease of 11% from the number of emergency calls received in 2019. The remainder constituted non-emergency or otherwise non-dispatched call types.

The number of dispatched calls for service decreased 12% in 2020. Police officers were dispatched to 185,873 calls, of which nearly 9% were priority calls, those which require two or more officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens. The Third District (Silver Spring) has the highest number of calls, 37,112, followed by the Fourth District (Wheaton), 36,143.

The number of homicides unfortunately increased, to 19 in 2020 up from 15 in 2019. That figure is a continued improvement from the high of 30 in 2015. Our average over 10 years is about 18 per year.

We can tell with some certainty that the pandemic worsened the affliction of opioids. The number of overdoses increased 37% over 2019. Both fatal and non-fatal overdoses increased by 37%. As we detail in the report, the correlation of drugs to disease is very close, and the results are damaging to our residents and to our health care system.

At the same time, the total number of offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) in 2020 declined 57%. The likely cause, however, can be attributed to the coronavirus pandemic and not a decrease in illegal drug activity in Montgomery County.

The pandemic also affected our efforts at community engagement, with the closure of schools being the biggest factor. We carried on, virtually in many cases, attending 477 events with civic associations, business groups, faith communities and other organizations. We expect as conditions ease to resume our engagement at higher levels than in the past. We have created a new Community Resources Bureau to be led by an assistant chief who will be a civilian, rather than a sworn officer.

Thank you for looking through our report. I believe we have an excellent department that provides top-flight service

to Montgomery County. We are always trying to improve our methods and procedures, and I look forward to continuing the discussions about how we can make our work even more effective. 2020 was a challenging year for everyone, and we all hope for a more normal life in 2021.

Marcus G. Jones
Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

The Montgomery County Police Department experienced significant organizational change in 2020. The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), formerly part of the Field Services Bureau, was transferred to a newly created county department, the Office of Animal Services, and continues to provide education, adoption, and animal control services for Montgomery County.

The Professional Accountability Division was formed under the Office of the Chief. The mission of the Professional Accountability Division is to ensure compliance with established policies, procedures, and legislative mandates through internal inspections and audits of all bureaus, divisions, and sections. Section 35-3(i) of the Montgomery County Code mandates that the Chief of Police establish an internal inspections program to ensure that the Department is operating within established policies, procedures, and legislative mandates. This Division will assist the Chief of Police in ensuring that the department is operating within established parameters.

And in 2020, the Analytics and Operational Support Section (formerly known as the Crime Analysis Section) finalized a reorganization that had started three years earlier. In 2017, a reorganization was proposed that would expand the section and included the addition of a hierarchal series of positions for growth and advancement, which in turn would enhance the Department's ability to build and sustain a robust, long-term analytic capability. In 2018, a manager was hired to oversee the Analytics and Operational Support Section, and after much deliberation and discussion, the proposal was accepted by the Office of Human Resources in 2019. The professionals who perform crime analysis, and the techniques they use, are dedicated to helping a police department become more effective through better information. Quality analysis of crime and disorder requires a specific skillset, educational background, and level of critical thinking to be effective. When done properly, a skilled crime analyst is a force multiplier, providing data-driven recommendations for operational decisions, so that specific crime problems can be addressed at the applicable locations, dates, and times. Since then, a Crime Analysis Unit Supervisor was hired, and three District Crime Analysts were promoted to Senior Crime Analysts, a newly created classification that allows for growth and mobility in this field. One of these new senior positions was assigned as the Violent Crimes Analyst and supports the Special Victims Investigations Division and the Major Crimes Division. Six other crime analysts support the six police districts. Both the Senior Analysts and District Analysts play critical roles in the divisions/districts they support by providing statistical and operational data to the commanders and decision-makers in a timely manner to support ongoing crime prevention efforts. The patrol officers and investigators also rely on the analysts for significant case support such as communication analysis, financial analysis, social network analysis, informational bulletins, forecasts of future events and crime mapping products.

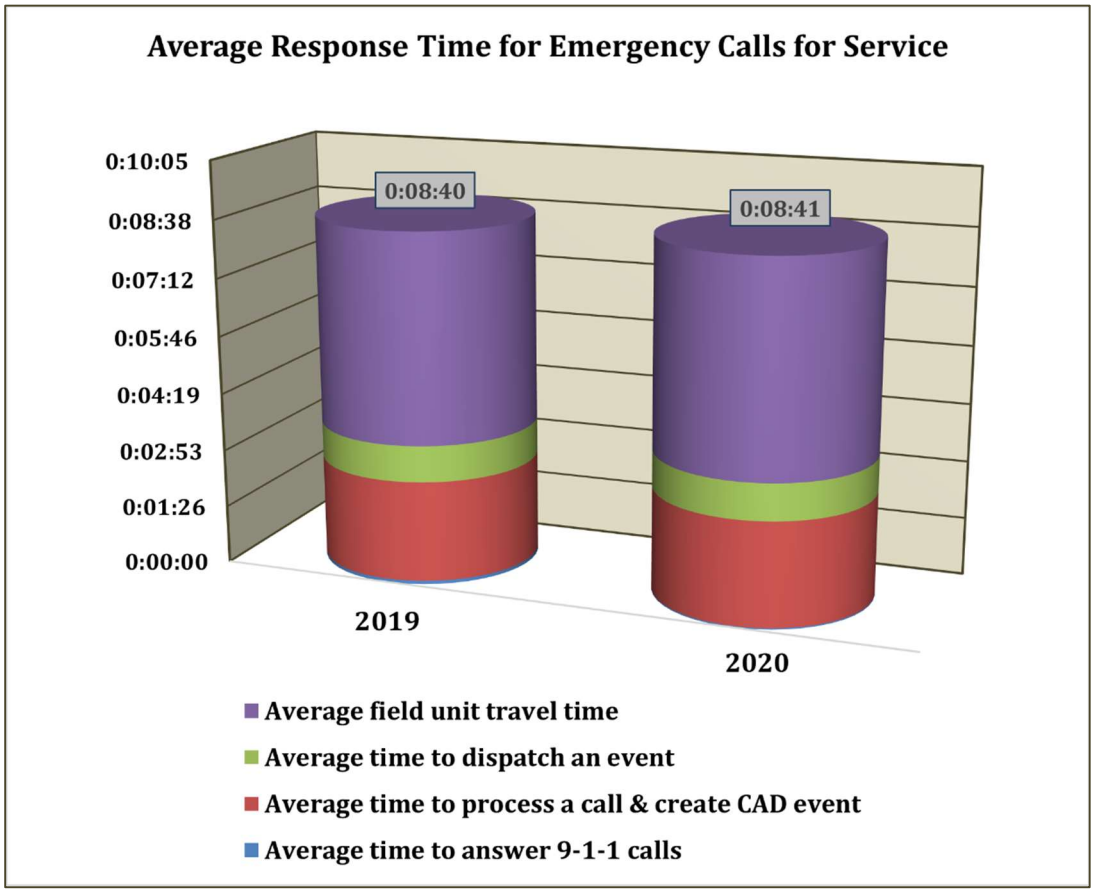
The Policing Advisory Commission (PAC) was created under Bill 14-19 to advise the Montgomery County Council on policing matters, provide information regarding best practices, recommend policies, and engage in public education and other programs related to policing in Montgomery County. Although the PAC is an external party, it has a direct impact on the Department as it will play a significant role in helping the community understand policing by improving community and police interactions and enhancing positive community engagement. Bill 14-19 was enacted in December 2019; however, it was in 2020 when the 15 appointed members were approved, and work began. Commission members serve a three-year term and reflect the racial and economic diversity in the county's communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

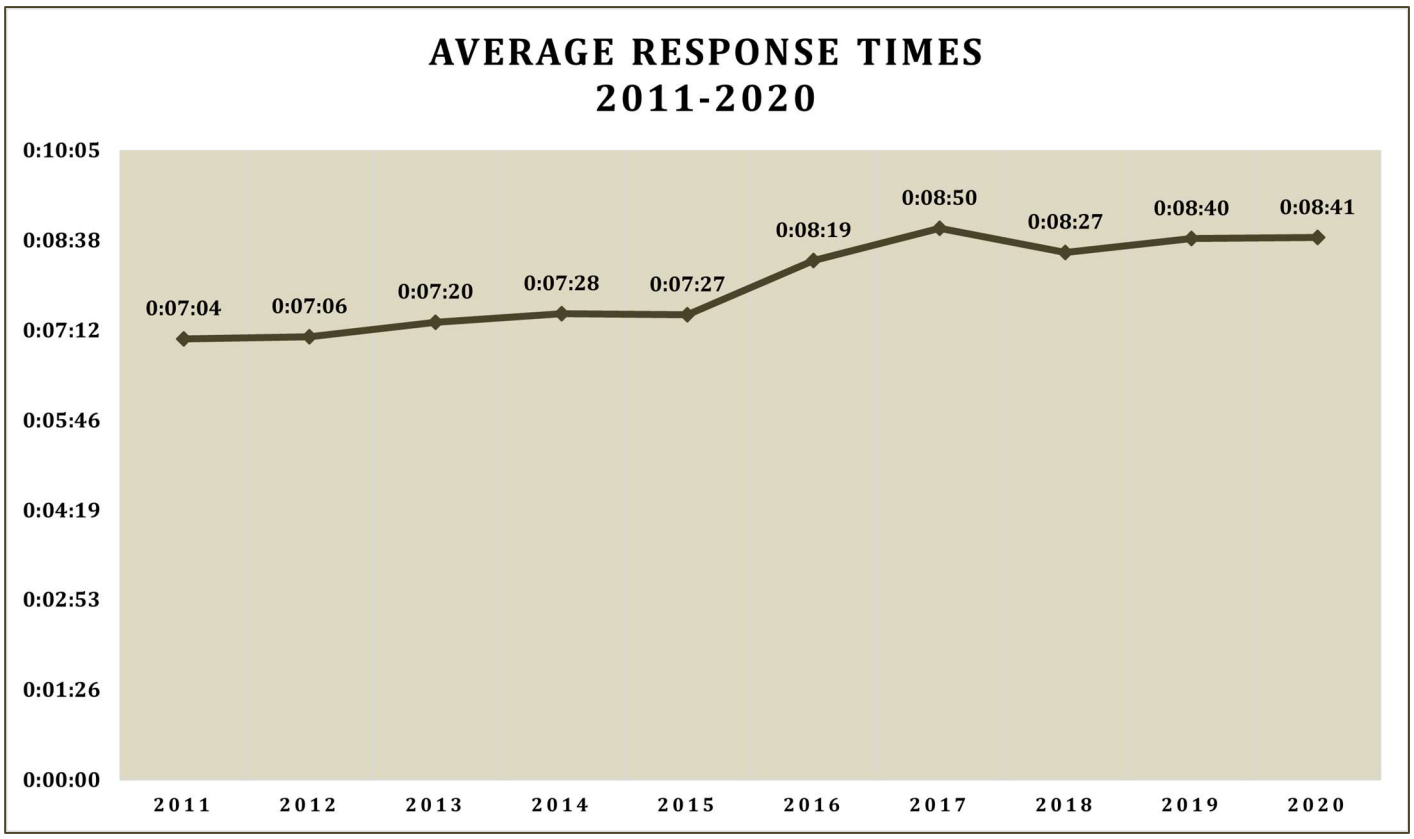
In 2020, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received 727,500[1] calls for service, approximately 13% fewer calls than 2019. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the calls received by the ECC were emergency calls, an average of 1,300 emergency calls per day, and a decrease of 11% over the number of emergency calls received in 2019.

The number of dispatched calls for service decreased 12% in 2020. Police officers were dispatched to 185,873 calls, of which 9% were priority calls, those which require two or more officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens.

The average emergency response time to priority calls includes the time to answer, time to process, time to dispatch, and travel time. The average response time in 2020, as compared to 2019, showed an improvement in average times to answer (-3 seconds), but an increase in time to process (+4 second). Dispatch and travel time remained the same.



[1] *Includes 111,155 calls that were transferred from MCP to MC Fire & Rescue Services.*



Most of the challenges that have occurred over the last few years have been directly related to the consolidation of the Emergency Communications Center, the transition to dispatch protocols, and staffing. The department will continue to monitor this statistic to ensure that life-safety is not compromised, either for the responding officers or the persons waiting for the officers to arrive. The Montgomery County ECC is a nationally recognized communications center and has always prided itself on exceeding industry standards.

YEAR-END CRIME STATISTICS, 2019 - 2020 COMPARISON

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) has historically reported its crime data following the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Summary (SRS) guidelines, in which only total counts of specific incident classifications are reported. In 2017, the MCPD began reporting details about its individual crime incidents through the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Under NIBRS, MCPD records all offenses associated with an incident, rather than only the most severe offense, which provides greater specificity in reporting (greater capability to break data into more categories).

Under SRS, agencies only report the most serious index offense per incident of crime (the hierarchy rule). For example, if there was an incident where an individual broke into a house and assaulted the resident prior to stealing their car, this incident would have only counted as an assault. Using NIBRS, this example would lead to three separate offenses being reported, one in each category of assault, burglary, and auto theft.

With the change in reporting, the department restructured its internal business analytics processes. Under NIBRS, the department collects and reports incident and arrest data on 52 Group A offenses and 10 Group B offenses (note: under NIBRS, only the Group B arrests are reported to the FBI, but the MCPD does track the incidence of those

incident types as well).

Within the Group A category, incidents are further categorized as crimes against person, property, and society. These categories contain many of the same crime types that were provided by the UCR SRS data, while some of the crime types were not recorded as such in previous years. The chart below provides a more realistic depiction of the criminal activity in Montgomery County, rather than looking at the quantity or percent change in the more detailed chart on the following page.

Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	5,901	5,301	-10%
Crime Against Property	21,977	22,817	4%
Crime Against Society	5,528	2,599	-53%
Group B Offenses*	18,697	14,192	-24%
Total	52, 489	44,914	-14%

Despite the slight increase in crimes against property, crime (Group A offenses) was down 8%. There were nearly 3000 fewer crimes against society and approximately 600 fewer crimes against persons.

In 2020, the crime rate per capita declined from 3216 to 2923 per 100,000 people in Montgomery County (crime rate per capita calculated with Group A Offenses only)[2].

The chart on the following page shows all Group A offenses in these three offense categories in greater detail.

[2] Based on U.S. Census Bureau population data for Montgomery County, MD, 2019. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/montgomerycountymaryland

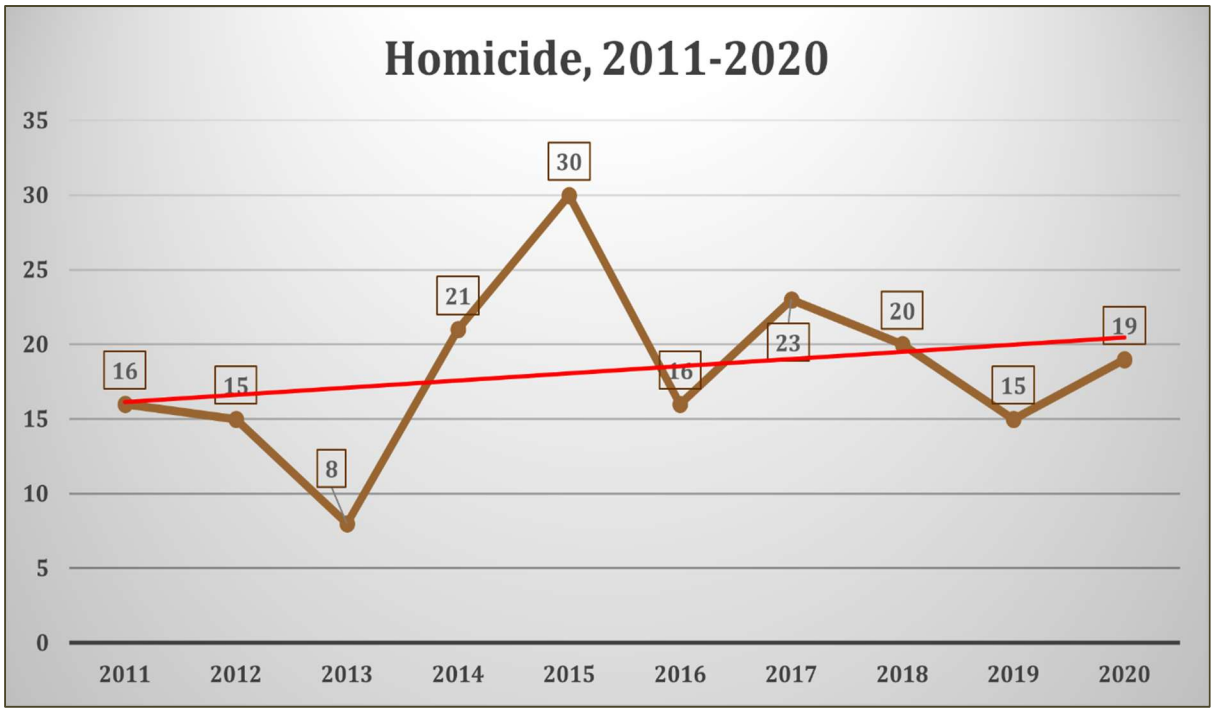
Montgomery County Police Group A Offenses

OFFENSE CATEGORIES	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2019	2020	% Diff
Assault Offenses	Aggravated Assault	803	828	3%
	Simple Assault	4,403	3,874	-12%
	Intimidation	48	45	-6%
Homicide Offenses	Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	15	19	27%
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	12	3	-75%
Kidnapping/Abduction	Kidnapping/Abduction	9	8	-11%
Sex Offenses	Forcible Rape	287	248	-14%
	Forcible Sodomy	146	137	-6%
	Sexual Assault with An Object	83	93	12%
	Fondling	208	132	-37%
	Forcible Fondling	121	126	4%
TOTAL CRIME AGAINST PERSON		**6,135**	**5,514**	**-10%**
Arson	Arson	50	48	-4%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1,423	1,332	-6%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Counterfeiting/Forgery	482	498	3%
Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	2,863	3,140	10%
Embezzlement	Embezzlement	97	73	-25%
Extortion/Blackmail	Extortion/Blackmail	40	90	125%
Fraud Offenses	False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game	1,022	1,256	23%
	Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	581	914	57%
	Impersonation	51	34	-33%
	Welfare Fraud	1	0	-100%
	Wire Fraud	46	39	-15%
	Identity Theft	1457	1,433	-2%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	Pocket/picking	123	84	-32%
	Purse-snatching	80	66	-18%
	Shoplifting	3,133	2,343	-25%
	Theft from Building	1,860	1,520	-18%
	From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	3	16	433%
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	4,414	5,003	13%
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	840	1,141	36%
	All Other Larceny	2,221	2,330	5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	901	1,172	30%
Robbery	Robbery	584	469	-20%
Stolen Property Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses	27	23	-15%
TOTAL CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY		**22,299**	**23,024**	**3%**
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	4,783	2,051	-57%
	Drug Equipment Violations	336	189	-44%
Gambling Offenses	Operating/Promoting/ Assisting Gambling	0	0	0%
Pornography/Obscene Material	Pornography/Obscene Material	42	68	62%
Prostitution Offenses	Prostitution	29	17	-41%
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	2	1	-50%
Weapon Law Violations	Weapon Law Violations	362	298	-18%
TOTAL CRIME AGAINST SOCIETY		**5,554**	**2,624**	**-53%**
TOTAL GROUP A OFFENSES		**33,988**	**31,163**	**-8%**

Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD dashboard on 3/25/2021.

VIOLENT CRIME, GUNS, AND GANGS

In 2020, there were 19 homicides (19 incidents), an increase from 15 homicides in 2019. Three of the homicides were domestic-related and two homicides were gang affiliated and/or motivated. On average, the department records 18 homicides a year (based on the 10-year trend).

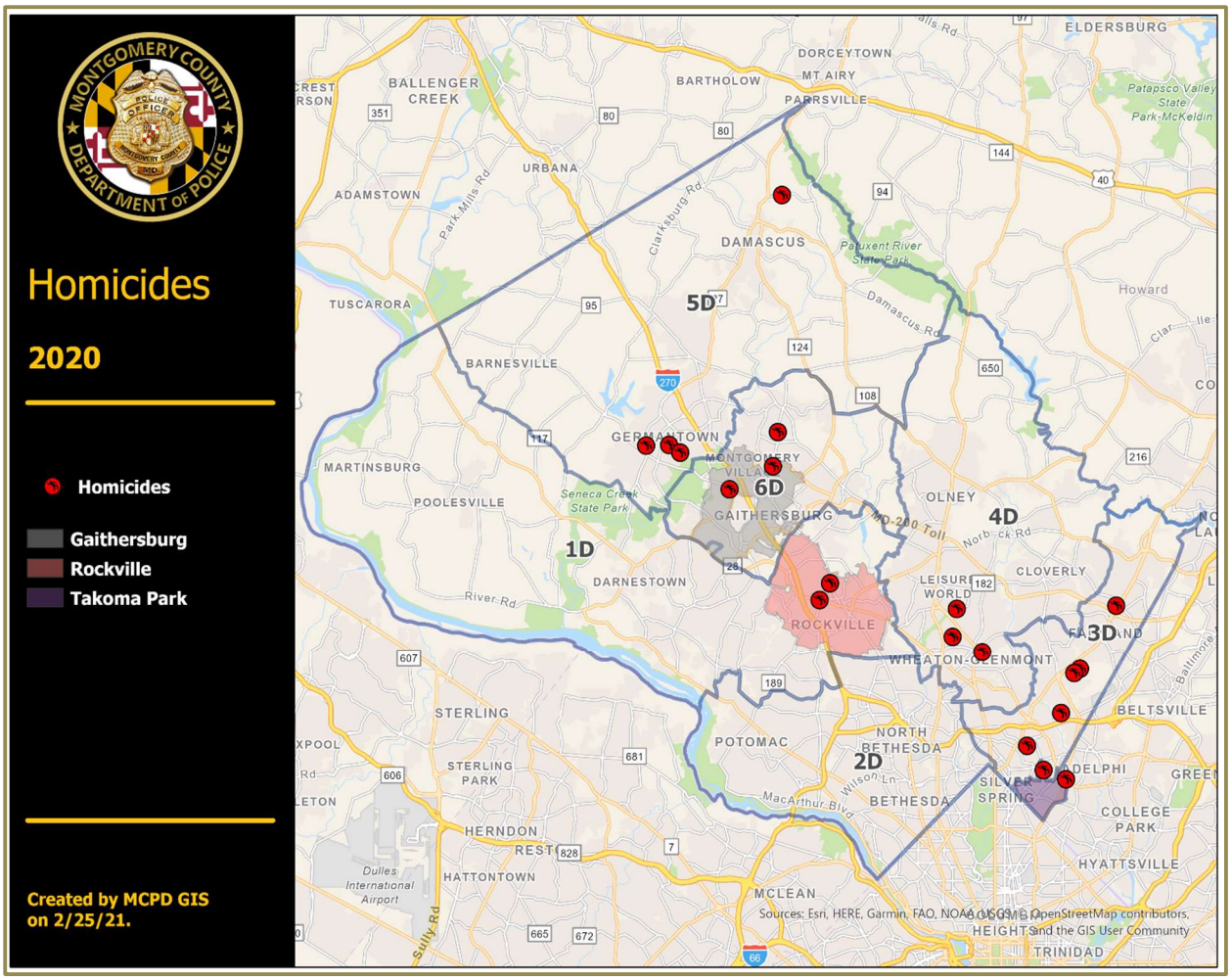


A note about gang reporting:

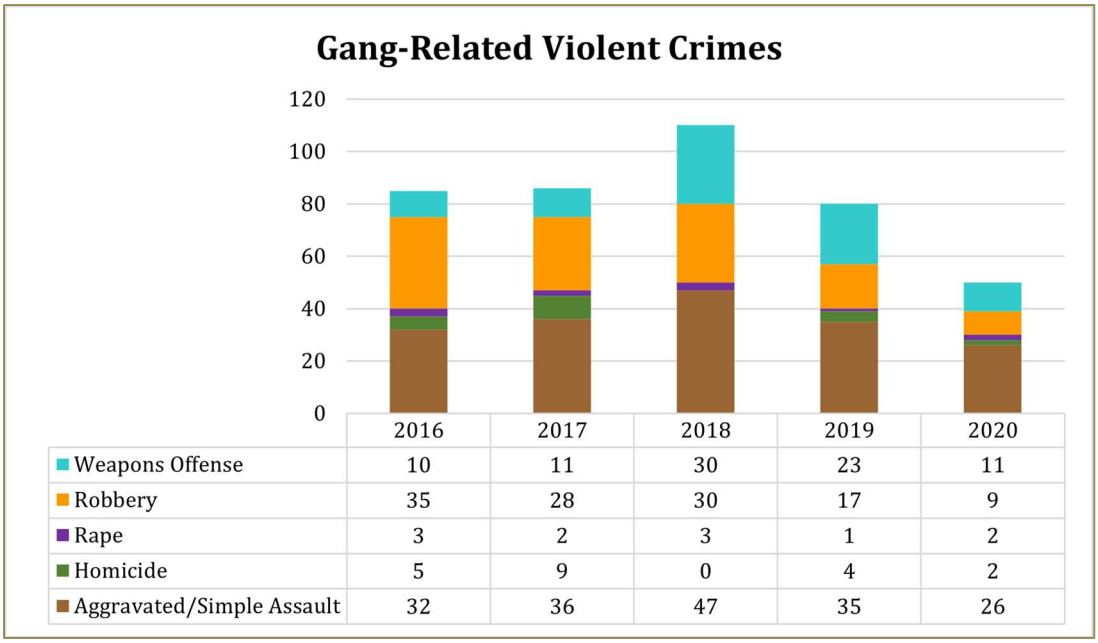
To further clarify statistics related to gangs, the MCPD now classifies homicides according to whether they were gang-***motivated*** or gang-***affiliated***.

Gang Affiliated refers to the persons involved in a homicide. It can refer to the victim or the suspect. To say that a homicide was gang affiliated means that the victim or the murderer is a validated gang member or associate, as determined by the Special Investigations Division (SID) using their gang validation criteria. The term *Gang Affiliated* does not speak to the motivation of a murder.

Gang Motivated refers to the motivation of a murder as determined by homicide detectives during the investigation. To say that a murder is *Gang Motivated* means that the murder investigation has revealed that the murder was committed for the benefit or in the furtherance of the gang.



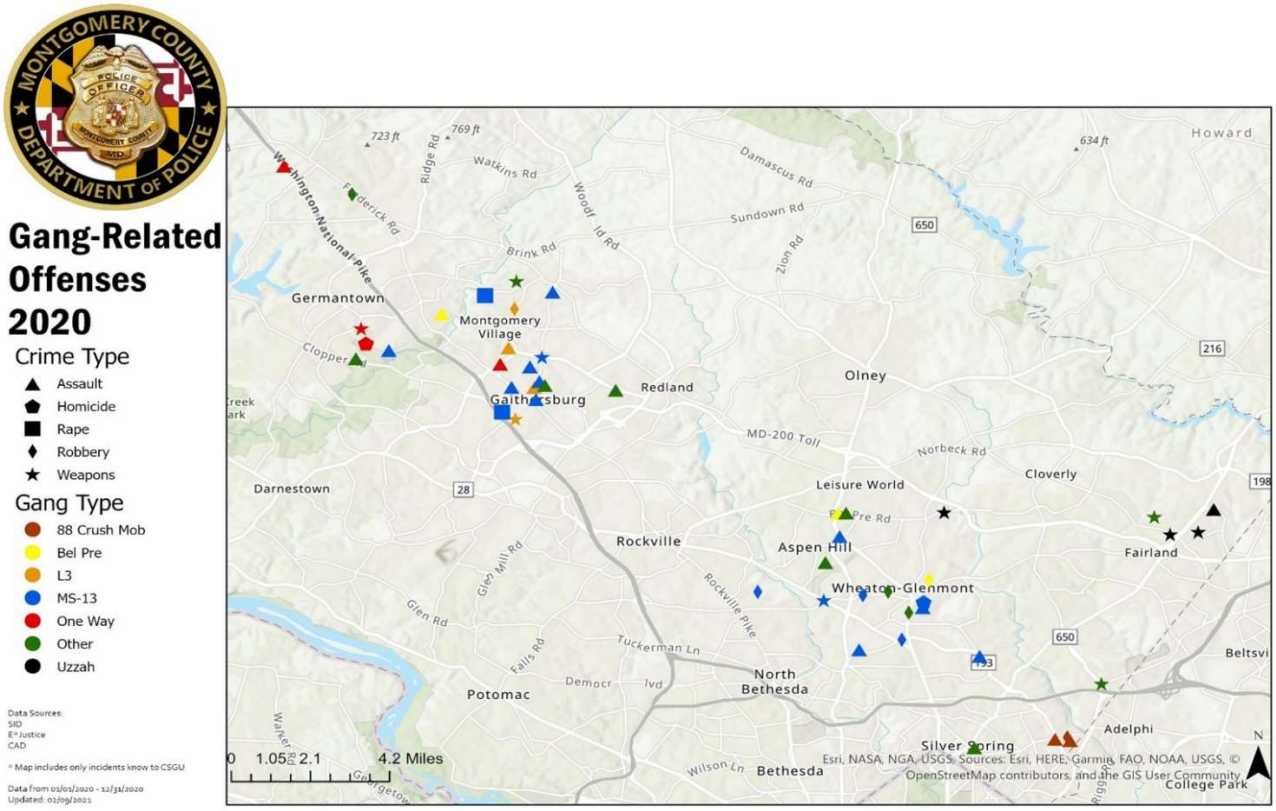
Overall, gang-related violent crime in 2020 decreased by 39% from 2019. This reduction in gang-related violent crime was primarily driven by fewer homicides, weapons offenses, robberies, and aggravated/simple assaults. Gang-related assaults also decreased 25% from 2019 to 2020. Many of these incidents involved members of MS-13 and other hybrid or neighborhood gangs. Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) continues to be the largest gang operating within Montgomery County, and historically has been responsible for a large portion of the gang-related assaults in the county. Although gang-related weapon offenses decreased approximately 52% since 2019, most of the weapon offenses that occurred in 2020 involved hybrid/neighborhood gangs (81% of the investigated incidents). Youth were responsible for 14% of all gang-related robberies, 10% of gang-related weapon offenses, and about 18% of all gang-related assaults.



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Weapons Offense	10	11	30	23	11
Robbery	35	28	30	17	9
Rape	3	2	3	1	2
Homicide	5	9	0	4	2
Aggravated/Simple Assault	32	36	47	35	26

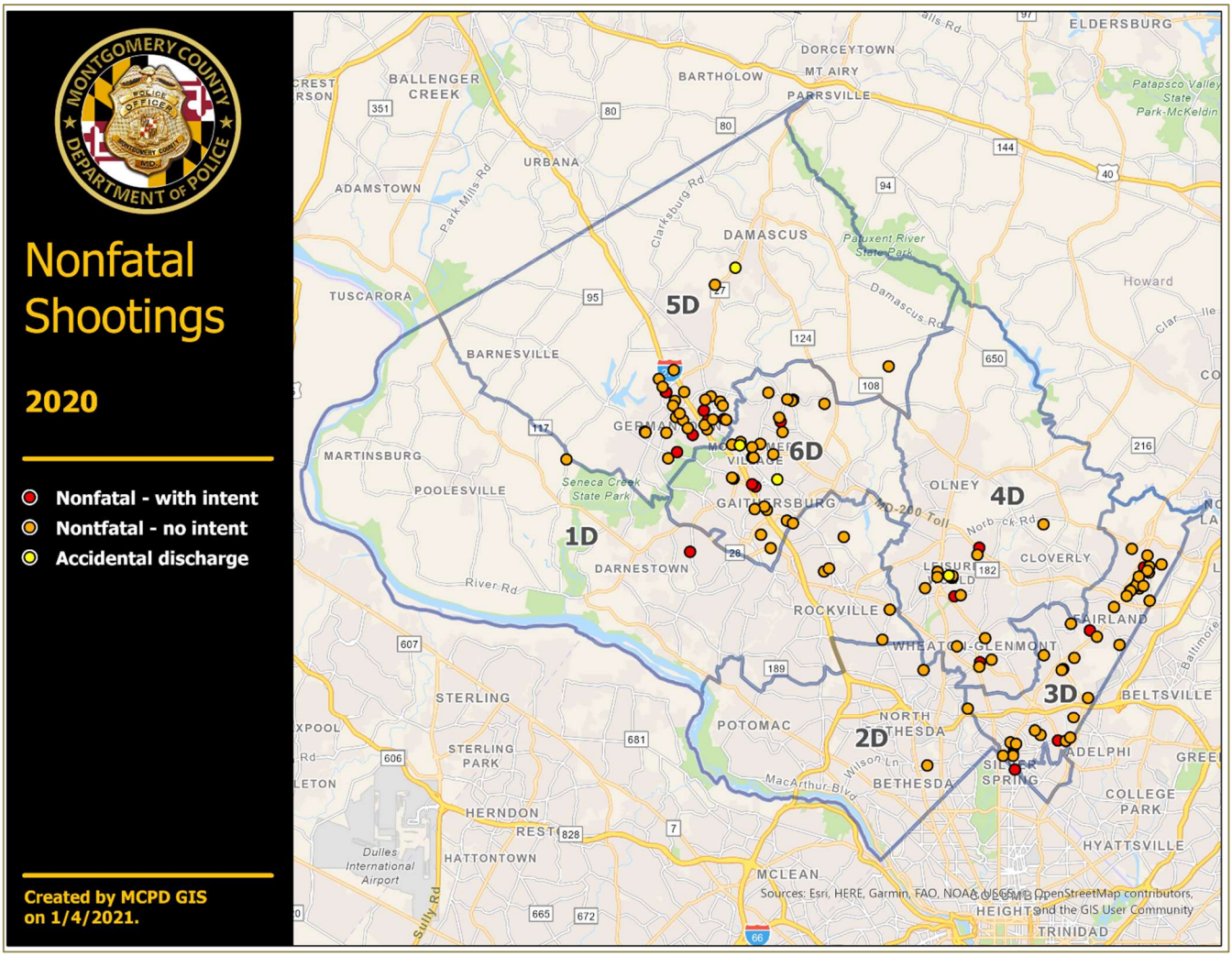
This chart represents incidents SID was notified of or investigated.

The map below reflects some of the violent gang-related offenses investigated by the Special Investigations Division in 2020.



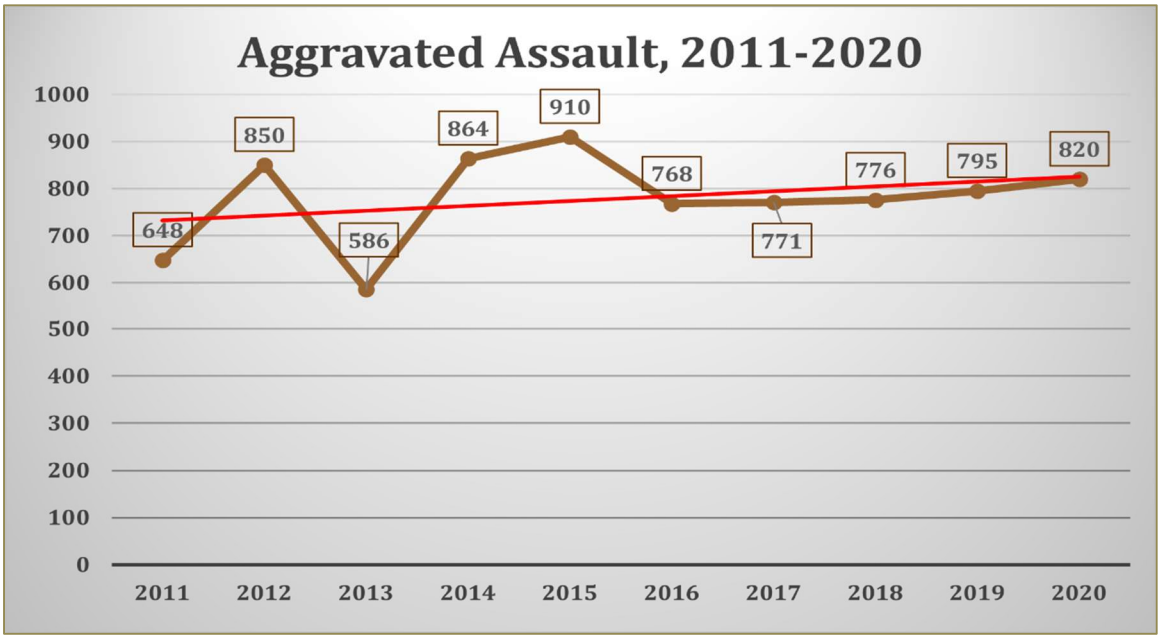
NONFATAL SHOOTINGS

There was a total of 140 nonfatal shooting incidents in 2020, an increase over the 99 nonfatal shooting incidents reported in 2019, and the 93 incidents in 2018. The department further classified the shootings by whether intent was known or discovered through the course of investigation; suspects in 47 of the incidents had intent to do harm, resulting in 27 victims with nonfatal injuries. In the remaining incidents in which evidence of a shooting was discovered, there was generally property damage, including apartments/ houses, vehicles, and fences. There were also eight accidental discharges, which resulted in four people being struck, and property damage in three of the remaining incidents. Eighty-one percent of the recorded nonfatal shootings occurred in the 3rd, 5th, and 6th Districts.



ASSAULTS

Approximately 32% of all assaults investigated in Montgomery County are domestic or family related. In 2020, total assault offenses were down approximately 10%, but there was a slight increase (3%) in aggravated assaults. Aggravated assaults have increased 27% over the last ten years.

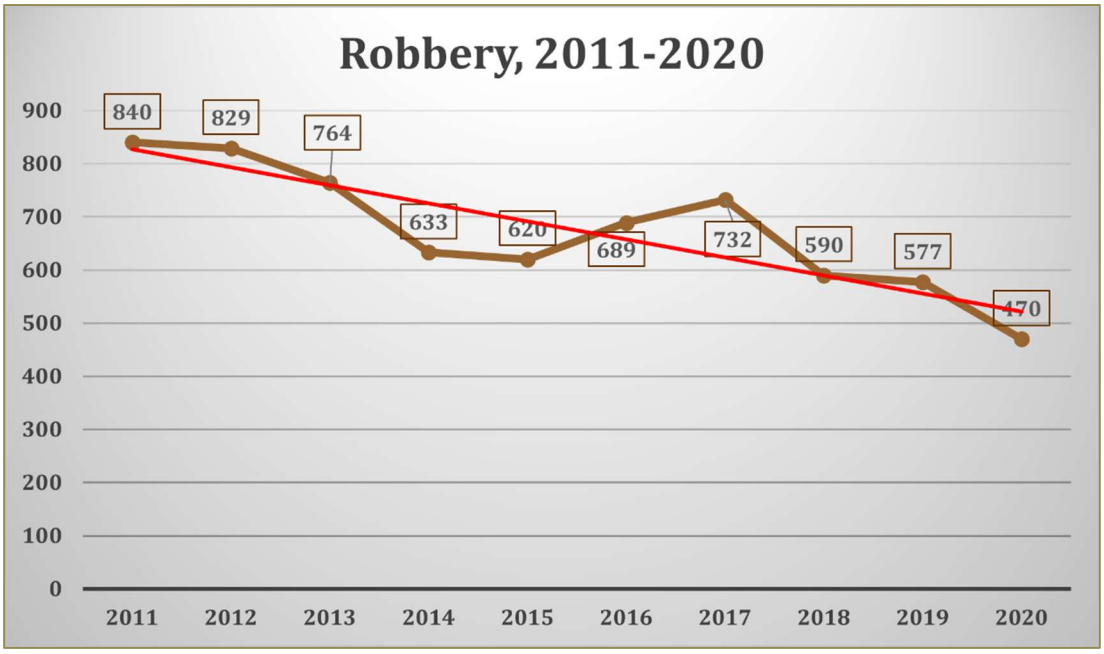


ROBBERY[3]

Robberies declined by 19% in 2020 and was most likely attributed to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and stay-at-home orders. For example, in 2020, both domestic and individual robbery decreased by 59% and 44% respectively. With more people quarantining in their homes and remaining socially distant in public, there were fewer opportunities to gain entry to unoccupied residences or to approach potential victims within close range.

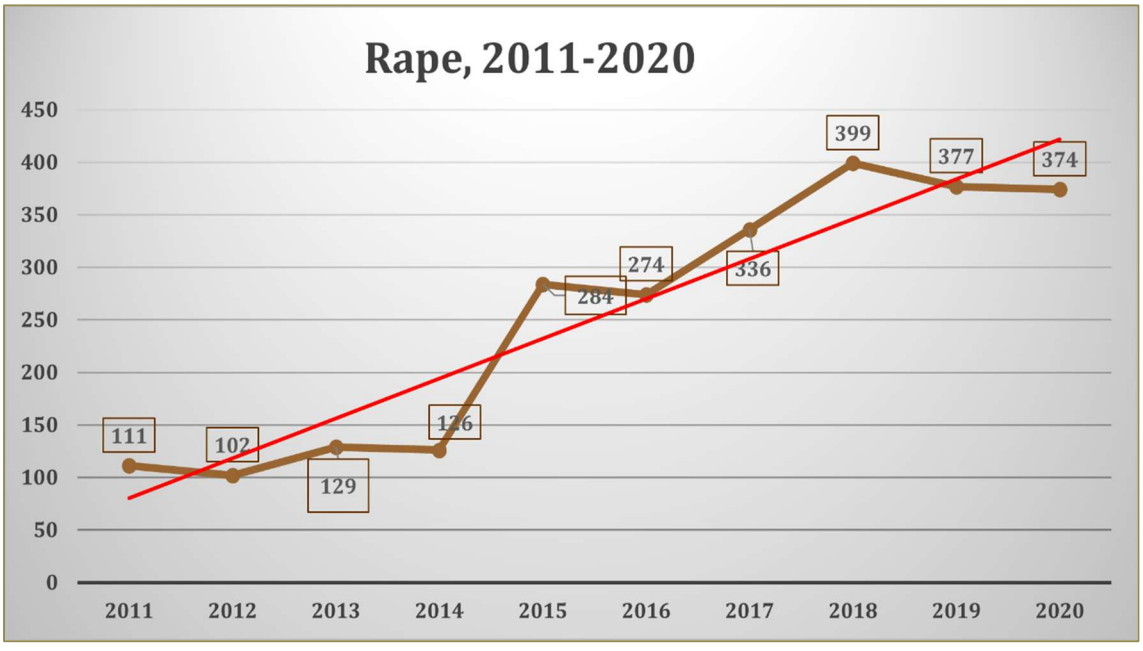
Conversely, armed carjacking increased 80% from the number reported in 2019. The carjacking trend was particularly noted in the 3rd district where nine incidents occurred between June and October of 2020 and were believed to have been committed by the same group of suspects.

[3] According to NIBRS guidelines, the offense of *robbery* falls under the crime against property category. However, because of the force that is generally used to perpetrate a robbery, most police departments refer to robbery in the violent crime category.



RAPE

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, the MCPD has decided to publicly report all offenses according to NIBRS requirements, which means that published annual statistics reflect the number of incidents that occurred in the calendar year. This change had the most significant impact on the published rape statistics, which look to be significantly less than previous years' annual reports. This is because many offenses are reported a period of time after they allegedly occurred. For example, if a victim reports on June 1, 2019 that a rape occurred on January 1, 1990, the MCPD would have counted that offense in 2019 and published it under previous reporting practices. While this practice was indicative of the number of cases reported to the MCPD, it did not align with NIBRS requirements or the annual reporting practices of surrounding jurisdictions.



In 2020, there were more than 550 incidents of rape reported to the Montgomery County Police Department (this counts multiple offenses of rape per incident). Of those incidents, 26% were reported to have occurred prior to 2020. On average, 25% - 31% of rape reports in any given year are reported to have occurred before the current (reporting) year. Therefore, according to NIBRS reporting requirements, those reports are not reflected in the annual totals below (2017 and 2018 were also recalculated).

This modification in how the MCPD publishes these numbers does NOT affect how these crimes are investigated. The MCPD remains sensitive to the fact that victims of sex offenses struggle with the decision on whether to report being sexually assaulted and the MCPD has always fostered a belief in encouraging victims to come forward. Detectives from the Special Victims Investigation Division investigate every report regardless of when the victim states the offense occurred.

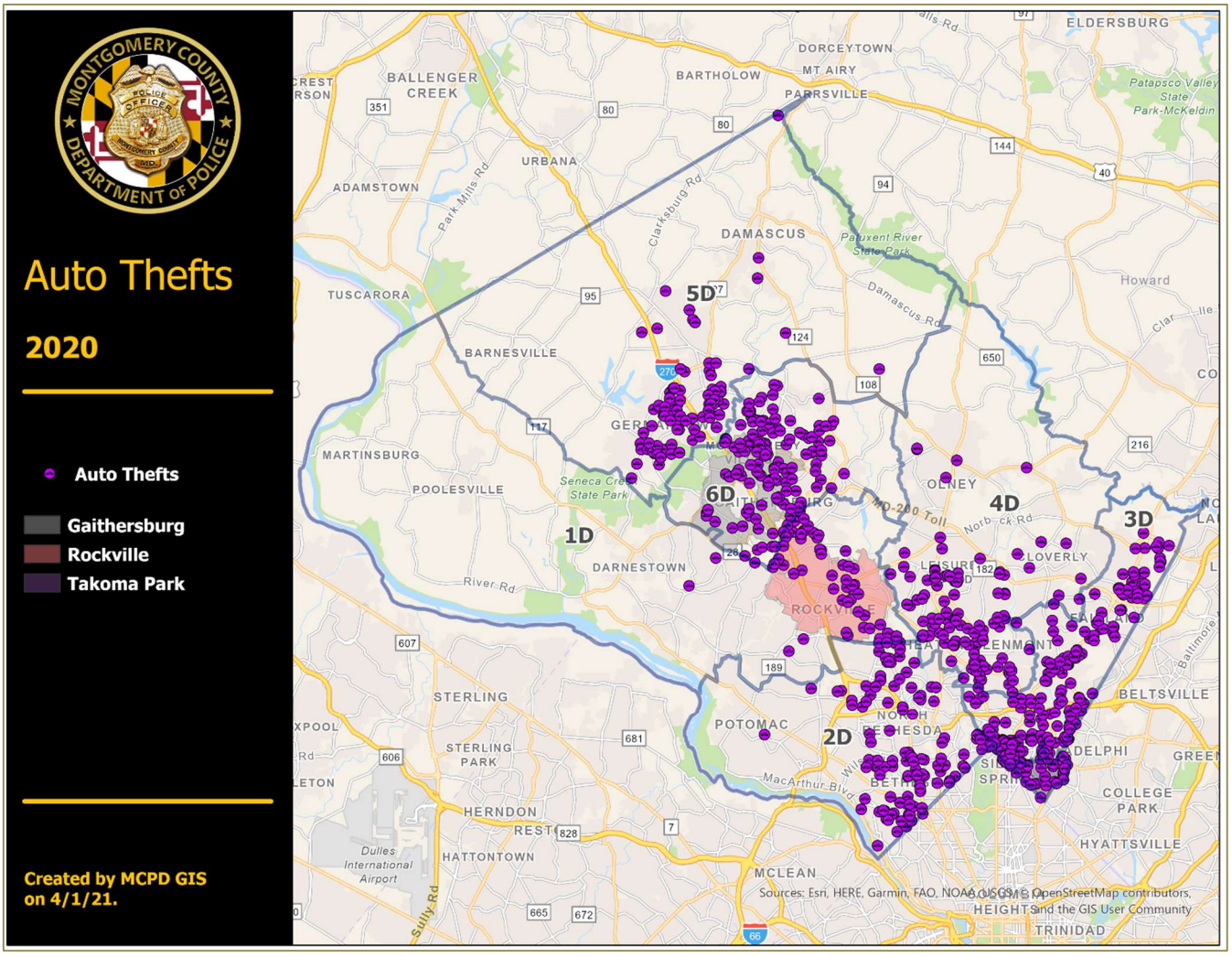
Another important point related to this offense category is that victims in only 13% of the reported offenses stated that they did not know the suspect at all (stranger). So much of this type of crime is committed by someone who knows and has access to the victim. Victims reported that the subjects in 46% of the incidents were acquaintances or otherwise known by the victim (teacher, babysitter, employee, etc.). The remaining 41% of the victims reported that subjects were a significant other (spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend) or family member. In 2020, the number of sex offenses may have been under-reported due to pandemic restrictions limiting accessible resources for victims to report such offenses. Likewise, school closures also inhibited the mandatory reporting of physical or sexual abuse. The MCPD remains committed to reducing the total number of rapes through non-traditional means and education, with services offered to adult victims at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center and to juvenile victims through the Department of Health and Human Services' programs, in coordination with Child Protective Services and Victim Assistance Sexual Assault Program (VASAP).

The COVID-19 pandemic caused much of our everyday lives to be conducted virtually; not only for work or school, but for basic social interaction. The increased use of online dating and messaging services presented opportunities for the creation of fake profiles, thereby increasing the risk of fraud or even sexual assault by a potential partner. By following basic safety precautions, being aware of your surroundings, and trusting your instincts if you notice redflags, are just a few ways to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

PROPERTY CRIMES

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS & THEFTS FROM AUTOS

The number of auto thefts increased 29% in 2020, and thefts from autos (including vehicle parts and accessories) increased 17%. The increases are most likely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Citizens have been teleworking more and driving less since March 2020; as a result, there are many unattended vehicles creating easy targets for opportunistic thieves. Likewise, with the increase of food and supply deliveries to area homes and businesses, delivery vehicles became notable targets, especially when left running or unlocked and unattended during drop-off and pickups.



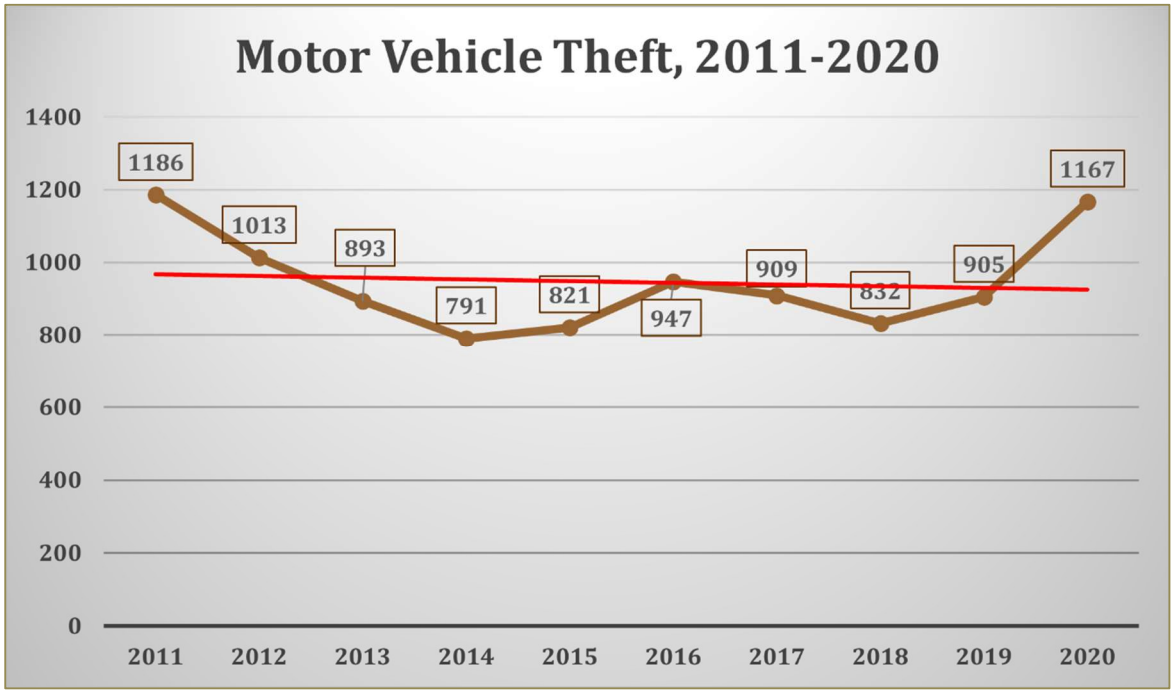
Several specific trends emerged related to thefts from autos and of auto parts. Each of the below trends occurred countywide.

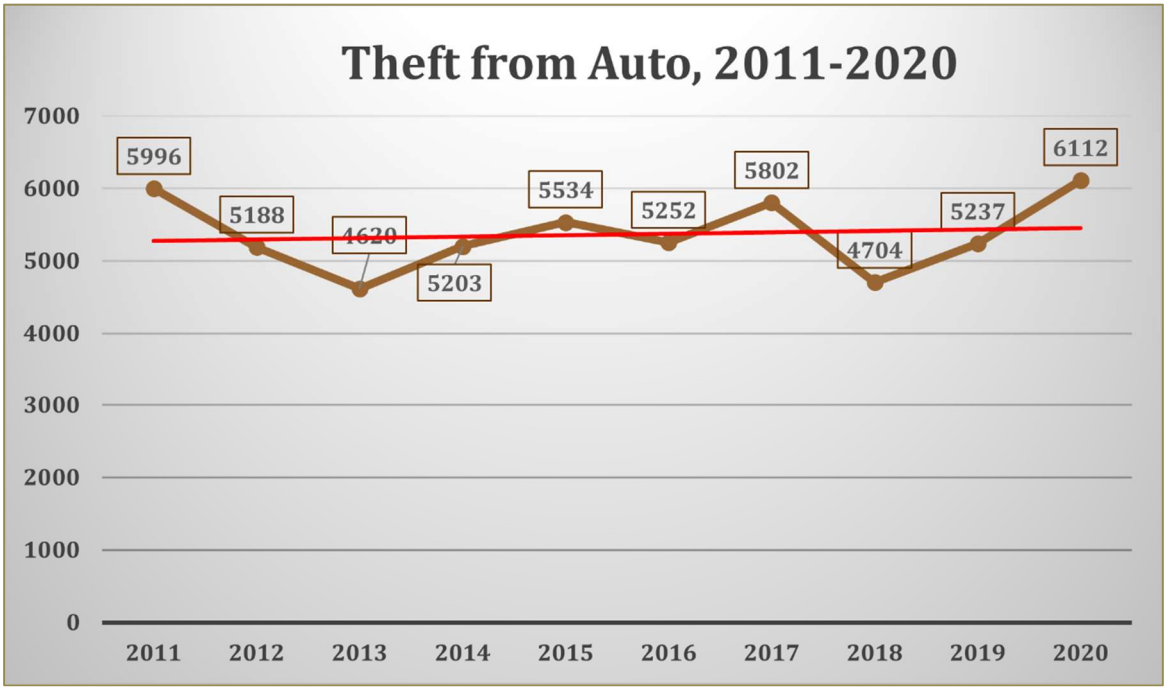
- Thefts of airbags from Honda
- Thefts of tools from work trucks/vans
- Thefts of catalytic converters
- Thefts of tires and rims

There were 50 airbag thefts in the 3rd District in 2020, more thefts than the other five districts combined. There were also increases regionally in airbag thefts, particularly in Prince George's County, Howard

County, and Washington, DC, so geographic accessibility may have contributed to the increase in the 3rd District.

Furthermore, fraud incidents were up nearly 25% in 2020 compared to 2019 and illegal use of credit card reports were driving the increase. The increase may be attributed to the countywide and regional increase in thefts from autos, in which credit cards are a commonly stolen item.



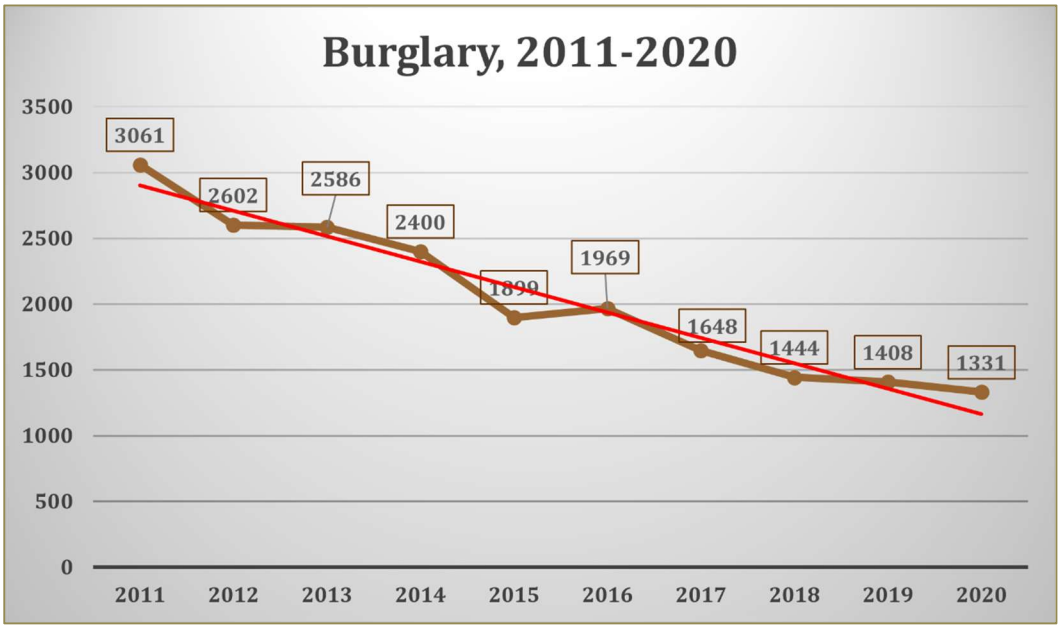


On average, both motor vehicle theft and theft from auto offenses have remained fairly consistent over a

10-year period, with only a 2% decrease and 2% increase respectively. Many of the auto thefts continue to occur in the same area as the reported thefts from autos and may be attributed to vehicle owners leaving vehicle keys and/or keeping the spare keys in the vehicle, as too many of the thefts from autos still occur because the vehicle has been left unlocked. These are preventable offenses that continue to occur frequently throughout the county. Remember: if they can see it, they can steal it. The district commanders urge you to lock your vehicle when you park, take all your valuables with you, and never leave your spare keys inside the vehicle. And most importantly, always lock the vehicle doors, regardless of where you live. These offenses are generally committed by individuals who target a neighborhood and quickly travel by foot among parked vehicles, trying door handles. If a vehicle opens, the subject quickly rummages through the vehicles. But if the vehicle is locked, you have successfully deterred the potential offender, and they are generally unlikely to put more effort into the offense. Also, recent technology has made it increasingly easier to operate and monitor home and vehicle devices via a smartphone, including the capability to lock and unlock doors or activate an alarm system remotely. However, individuals are advised to be continually vigilant and not to rely on technology alone, as a lost device or online hacker intrusion may compromise the reliability of such mechanisms. If everyone does their part, there could be a significant decline in these offense categories.

BURGLARY

The number of burglaries has steadily declined 57% over the last 10 years, and in 2020, there were just over 1300 burglaries reported in Montgomery County. This is positive news, which may be attributed to the sophistication and convenience of do-it-yourself alarm and security monitoring systems. Unfortunately, there was an increase in commercial burglaries (22%), which may be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. With commercial establishments closed for extended periods of time, there was opportunity for these establishments to be targeted for burglaries and less opportunities for the burglaries to be viewed and/or interdicted by witnesses. Conversely, shoplifting incidents have decreased since there were significantly fewer opportunities for this type of crime to occur.



To avoid the emotional and financial losses associated with a burglary, make safety a lifestyle. Avoid

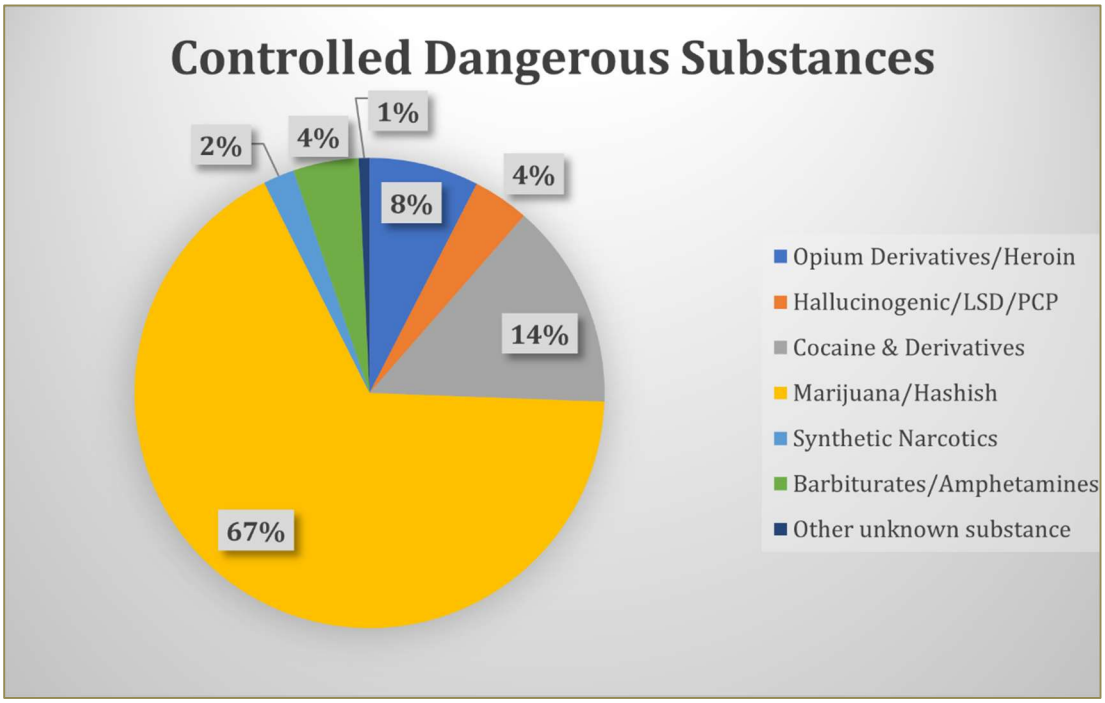
posting too much information on social media about your vacation plans. Tend to your yard and maintain your landscaping, so burglars aren't enticed by hiding spots. The locks that come standard on new constructions aren't always the best, so consider an upgrade or add a doorbell camera. Look for other weaknesses or vulnerabilities on your property, like dark walkways. If you're a renter, talk to your landlord about security concerns. Be the eyes of your neighborhood and watch for suspicious activity around new constructions and vacant homes. For additional crime preventions tips, or to arrange for a community services officer to conduct a neighborhood watch or group association meeting, contact your district station.

CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

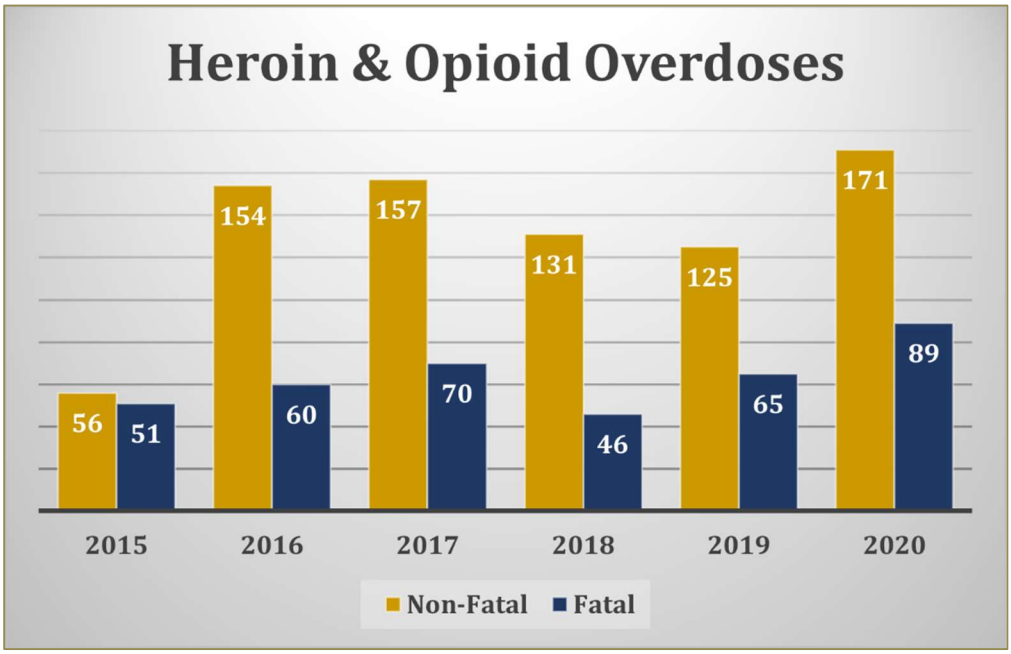
Controlled Dangerous Substances

The total number of offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) in 2020 declined 57%. The likely cause, however, can be attributed to the coronavirus pandemic and not a decrease in illegal drug activity in Montgomery County. Police reports for illegal drug offenses are frequently precipitated by an arrest. Arrests are usually made due to police contact with subjects who are involved in illegal drug activity. Since the pandemic has forced the reduction of in-person police contact, illegal drug offenses have subsequently fallen as well.

Of the CDS-related offenses in 2020, 90% of the total number were related to possession. Synthetic narcotics, which historically have involved 8-9% of CDS offenses made up only 2% in 2020. Although overall CDS-related offenses declined in 2020, offenses involving marijuana and cocaine remained the highest percentages of the total. Combined, marijuana and cocaine made up 81% of the total of all CDS-related violations.



The number of overdoses in Montgomery County increased 37% in 2020. Nonfatal and fatal overdoses increased 37% each. The opioid crisis and COVID-19 pandemic are both public health crises that have direct impacts upon one another. The relationship between COVID-19 and the opioid crisis has been evident nationwide in various ways, including the overburdening of the health care system and social distancing restrictions which may limit or create barriers to health care, services, and treatment for persons suffering from addiction; victims who are substance abusers may have an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 as well as experiencing symptoms or medical complications due to the affects substance abuse has on overall health; and stress associated with COVID-19 restrictions which impact daily life and financial hardships may increase the likelihood of substance abuse. [4]

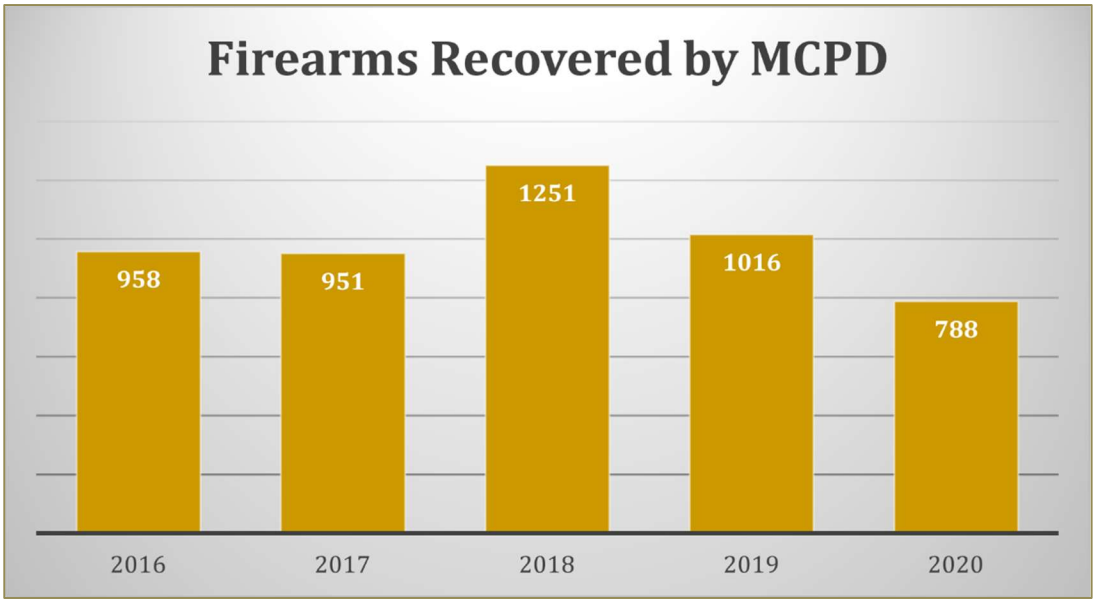


Learn more about the risks of opioids and the resources available to you through the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services by visiting their **Know the Risks** page.

Weapons Offenses

Although there were fewer weapons offenses recorded in 2020, the MCPD continues to work diligently to remove firearms from the streets of Montgomery County. Over the last five years, the number of firearms recovered has decreased nearly 18%. However, in 2020, this number was likely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

[4] As nationally identified by the National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation, 2020.



GROUP B OFFENSES

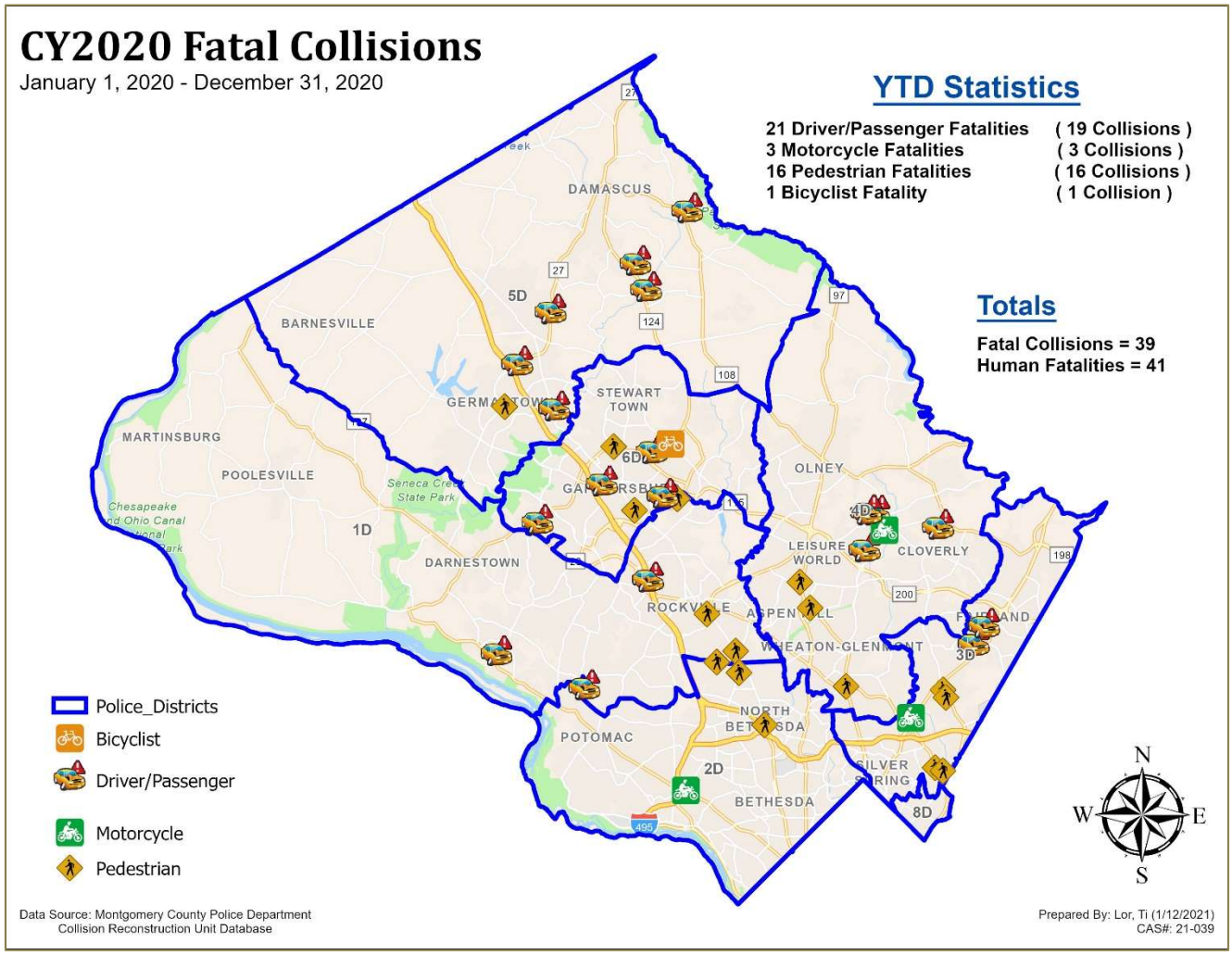
The NIBRS Group B offense category contains ten offenses which encompass all the crimes that are not Group A offenses and represents several of the offense types that were previously reported under the SRS Part II offenses (note: runaway is not a criminal offense. Under NIBRS rules, a Group B offense must have an arrest to be reportable under the NIBRS program. For internal tracking and reporting, the MCPD records all incidents of Group B offenses, shown in the chart below.

Group B Offense Category	2019	2020	% Diff
Bad Checks	83	28	-66%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	2	2	0%
Disorderly Conduct	1,058	608	-43%
Driving Under the Influence	2,804	1,655	-41%
Drunkenness	17	9	-47%
Family Offense (Non-violent)	135	109	-19%
Liquor Law Violations	1,475	479	-68%
Peeping Tom	19	18	-5%
Trespass of Real Property	755	508	-33%
All Other Offenses*	12,405	10,818	-13%
Total	18,753	14,234	-24%

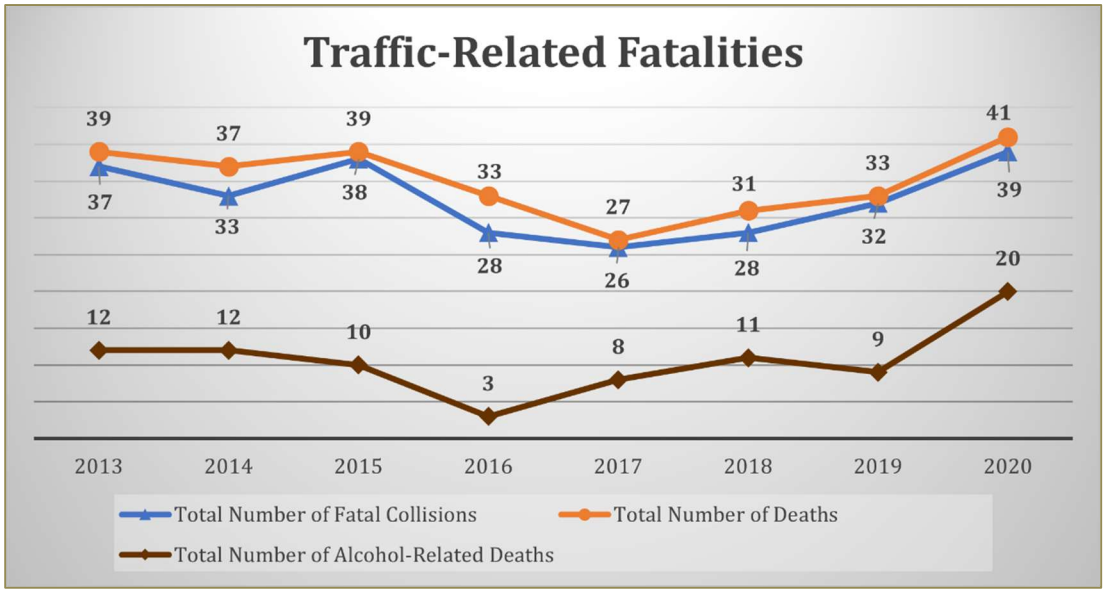
It should be noted that the category *All Other Offenses,* which has the highest volume of the Group B offenses, includes all crimes that are not Group A offenses or one of the specifically named Group B offense categories. Under the current police records management system, *Police Information* reports are currently included in this count. A *Police Information* report is made by an officer when he or she needs to document an incident or activity in which no element of a criminal offense occurs and/or suspicious circumstance(s) may warrant documentation for later or future investigative purposes. Generally, these are noncriminal incidents, and should not be factored into any calculations of crime rates per capita.

TRAFFIC SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT

In 2020, the MCPD conducted 39,412 traffic stops, a significant decrease (63%) from the number of traffic stops made in 2019. The decline is likely attributed to fewer drivers on the roads due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and people working from home. Montgomery County police officers continued to emphasize pedestrian safety, occupant protection, aggressive driving, and distracted and impaired driving enforcement. Despite these efforts, the Montgomery County Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) responded to 39 fatal collisions which resulted in 41 total deaths in 2020. The number of fatal collisions represents a 22% increase over the 32 collisions that occurred in 2019 and took the lives of 33 people.

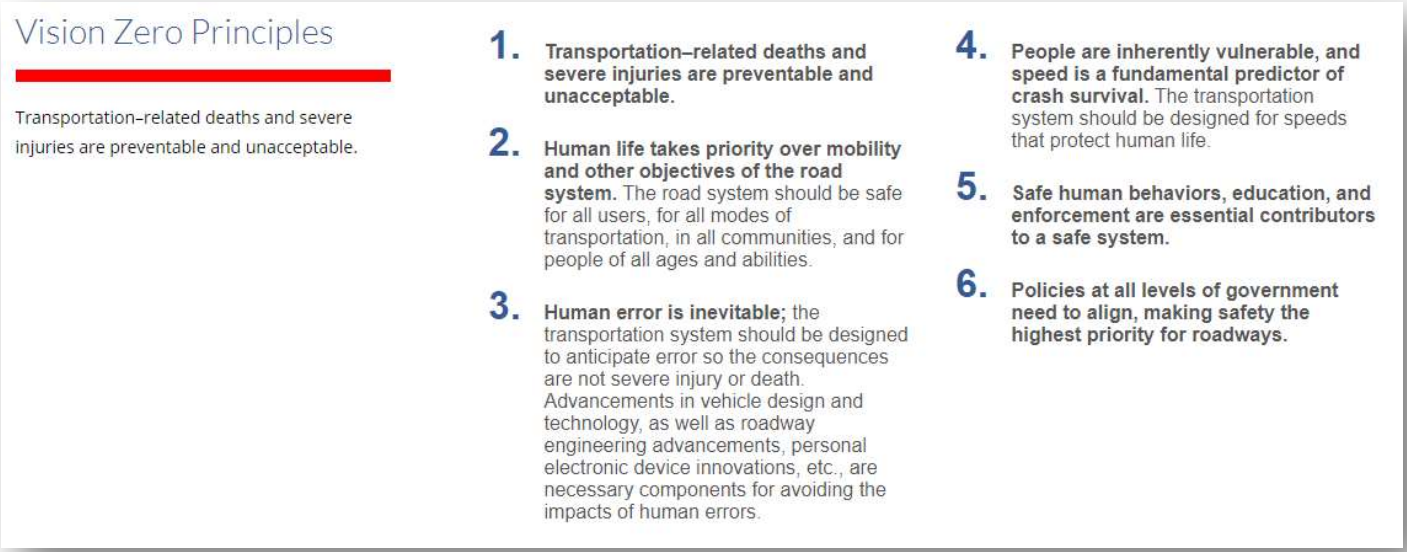


Two of the most significant causes of fatalities in Montgomery County are pedestrian and alcohol-related collisions. In 2020, these factors accounted for 88% of the total deaths from collisions, a nearly 32% increase from 2019.



The MCPD takes this matter very seriously. The department is actively involved in the County's Vision Zero initiative and conducts various data-driven enforcement initiatives throughout the year directed at these specific issues and trying to change human behavior through enforcement and education.

The MCPD also conducts an annual Holiday Task Force for eight weeks of the year, using personnel from the Alcohol Initiatives Unit, police cadets and volunteers, and sworn personnel from the district stations, the Takoma Park Police Department, the Rockville City Police Department, the Maryland National Capital Park Police – Montgomery County Division, and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. In addition to the law enforcement agencies, the Holiday Task Force receives additional support from the Montgomery County



Department of Liquor Control and various media outlets. Training and enforcement efforts conducted during this period focused on pedestrian, "move-over", and underage party enforcement, sobriety checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols, and compliance checks for sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. The Task Force members were successful in helping to keep the roadways and motoring public safe from impaired drivers by conducting more than 2,100 traffic stops. There were 289 DUI arrests and over 5,000

warnings and citations issued. This was one of the highest producing task forces in recent years, and can be attributed to the training, enforcement, publicity, and many hours put in by the task force partners. Through the unity of these services, the 2020 Holiday Task Force was able to effectively provide the greatest level of protection to the residents of Montgomery County.

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

The MCPD reminds residents that anyone who plans on drinking must rely on a sober driver. People should use taxis, Uber, public transportation, or sober friends or family to take them where they need to go.

Anyone who sees a driver they believe is under the influence of drugs or alcohol should call 911 and try to get the license plate and description of the vehicle, if it is safe to do so.

Residents who have information on businesses selling alcohol to underage youth or over-serving customers should call the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000.

Anyone who has information on underage drinking at parties should also call the police non-emergency number.

THE MCPD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Montgomery County is a vibrant and growing community, and the MCPD remains committed to providing the highest quality police services and responding to the needs of a community impacted by the growing population, increasing development, traffic challenges, and crime and public safety concerns. The MCPD believes that community outreach and engagement is the foundation for providing police services throughout the county. Community policing stresses prevention, early identification, and timely intervention to deal with problems and concerns before they reach an unmanageable level. It is instilled in every officer that healthy community relationships are based on mutual respect, supported by trust, developed over time, and must be constantly nurtured.

In 2020, many of the department's community outreach and engagement efforts were interrupted by COVID-19; restrictions prohibited many of the common efforts the department employs. Perhaps the single biggest factor impacting outreach and engagement efforts was the closure of schools in the spring of 2020, which continued into the 2020-21 school year. Despite restrictions, the MCPD was still able to engage the community, albeit virtually, and recorded 477 events designed to educate, inform, and build relationships with many communities within Montgomery County. The department attended homeowners/civic association meetings and continued outreach to businesses, school groups, and many faith communities. Moreover, officers of the MCPD participated in 42 food distribution sites established at various times and locations throughout the county, ensuring the safety and well-being of Montgomery County residents in need during the pandemic.

- MCPD, along with the Montgomery County Police Foundation (MCPF), purchased and distributed over 200 winter coats to students in various elementary schools throughout the county to ensure the warmth and health of young children in the community.

- The "Community Opioid Prevention Education" (COPE) Trailer was unveiled as an important effort to inform the public about the warning signs of drug and opioid abuse, and education awareness for loved ones to recognize potential drug-related issues within the home in effort to prevent addiction or overdose occurrences. The Trailer is part of the Community Engagement Division and a partnership with the Opioid Intervention Team (OIT).

- Montgomery County Police participated in the first National Faith and Blue Weekend in an effort to bring law enforcement and faith traditions together to build strong communities. Meet and Greet sessions as well as community discussions were held in several districts to address current issues and outreach programs within the community.

- With the closure of most summer camps due to pandemic restrictions, MCPD along with local businesses hosted a golf clinic for children to provide safe outdoor physical activity and a chance to learn a new sport.

This is just a sample of what the men and women of the MCPD do with and for our public and private community partners. The Montgomery County Police Department relies heavily on the support of a highly engaged community, and is grateful to all community members, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other partners, as we continue to work together to reduce crime and the fear of crime and make Montgomery County a better, safer place for all.

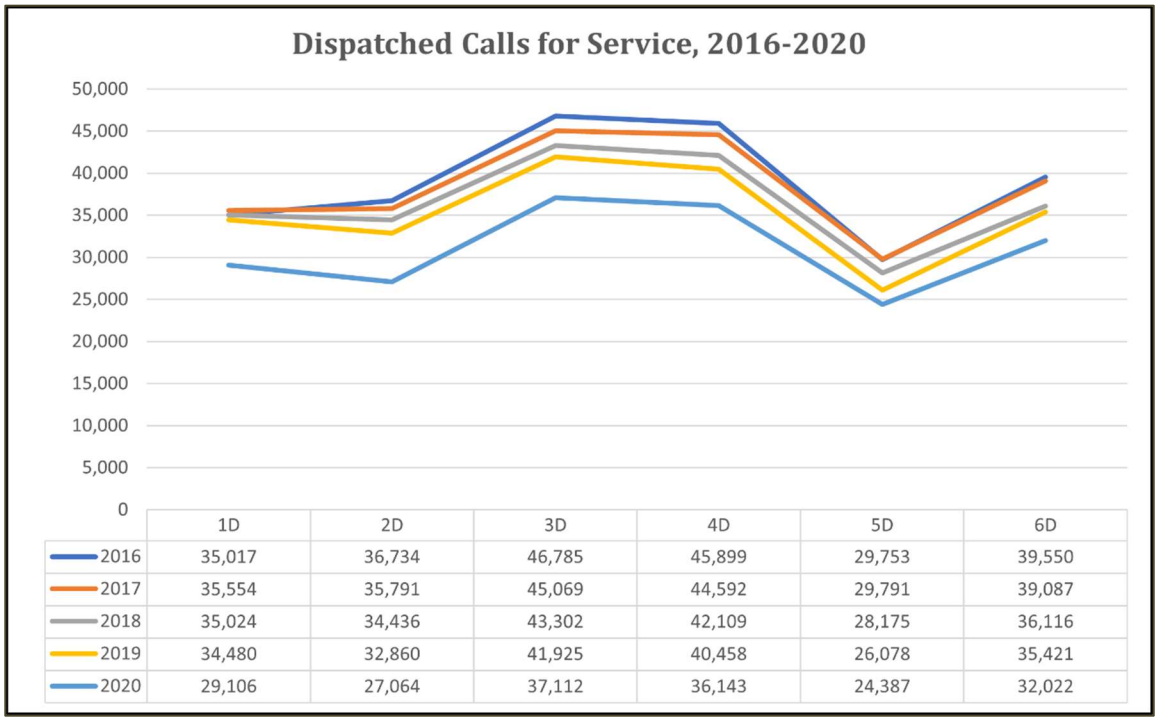
The Montgomery County Police Department is grateful to our many residents and community partners who make events like these possible. Whether it's joining together to provide pandemic supplies or holiday cheer, or events that lift our less fortunate and more vulnerable populations, we appreciate your support and generosity.

DISTRICT ANALYSIS

The Montgomery County Police Department provides patrol services from six district stations: Rockville (1D), Bethesda (2D), Silver Spring (3D), Wheaton (4D), Germantown (5D), and Gaithersburg (6D). Each of the districts varies significantly in size, density, and demographics, and each faces its own challenges with preventing and reducing crime. Geographic and demographic factors specific to each district must be considered comprehensively, to make an accurate and complete assessment of crime in that area.

Calls for Service

The number of dispatched calls for service declined for the third consecutive year, decreasing approximately 12% in 2020. Overall, dispatched call volume is approximately 20% lower than it was in 2016. Over the last five years, dispatched calls for service have declined in all districts. The largest decreases were in districts 2, 3, and 4 (-26%, -21%, and -21%, respectively), followed by districts 1, 5, and 6 (-17%, -18%, and -19%, respectively).



	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D
2016	35,017	36,734	46,785	45,899	29,753	39,550
2017	35,554	35,791	45,069	44,592	29,791	39,087
2018	35,024	34,436	43,302	42,109	28,175	36,116
2019	34,480	32,860	41,925	40,458	26,078	35,421
2020	29,106	27,064	37,112	36,143	24,387	32,022

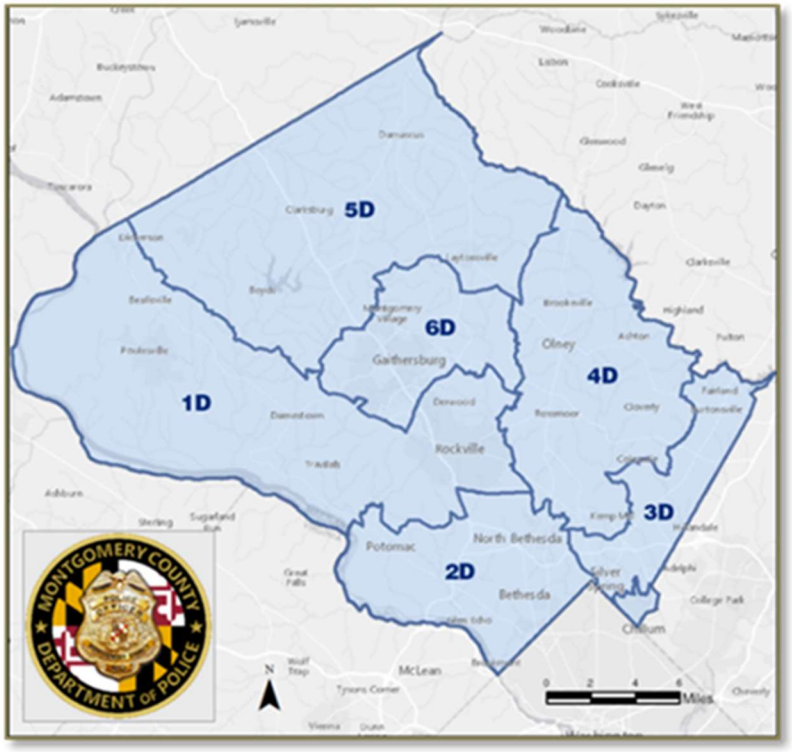
2020 NIBRS Offenses at the District Level

Overall, every district experienced a decline in total Group A offenses. The 2nd District experienced the highest decline in Group A offenses, down 31%, or approximately 2,100 offenses. The 3rd and 4th Districts which historically have the highest quantity of Group A offenses, both experienced a reduction in total Group A offenses, each at nearly 14%. The remaining districts, 1st, 5th, and 6th showed declines at 10%, 6%, and 3% respectively.

As previously noted throughout this report, the COVID-19 pandemic likely influenced elements of both the surge and reduction seen among various crime types and offense categories, and the related restrictions posed both opportunity and obstruction of criminal activity.

For more specific information about crime in your community as it occurs, the MCPD Public Information Division (PID) continues to be your primary source for up-to-date information on public safety incidents, news, and updates in Montgomery County. Last year, the PID provided nearly 500 press releases and over 2000 social media posts and/or tweets. You can also review the weekly crime summaries on the MCPD website for current activity. For those who want a more in-depth look at public safety in Montgomery County, dataMontgomery features several datasets in addition to crime, including traffic violations, bias incidents, and arrests.

Montgomery County residents should also consider joining the Nextdoor platform. Each district commander uses this social network to provide real-time crime updates and other important information to the "neighborhoods" within their districts. There are currently just under 700 Nextdoor neighborhoods in Montgomery County and more than 220,000 members.



Are you not sure what district you live or work in? Use the Find My District feature on our website.

*Note: As a reminder, the numbers for the Group B offenses contain some noncriminal report classifications. The **crime rate per capita** on the district pages was calculated using the Group A offense totals only. Population estimates for each district were extrapolated using population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

1ST DISTRICT – ROCKVILLE

1st District Commander
Captain Elizabeth Hattenburg
100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-773-6070
1DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

149.9 sq. miles
Population: 156,848
Crime Rate per capita: 2,413.8/100,000

Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	639	618	-3%
Crime Against Property	2,877	2,786	-3%
Crime Against Society	677	382	-44%
Group B Offenses*	3,063	2,581	-16%
Total	7,256	6,367	-12%

2ND DISTRICT - BETHESDA

2nd District Commander
Captain Sean Gagen
4823 Rugby Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
240-773-6700
2DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

56.3 sq. miles
Population: 190,506
Crime Rate per capita: 2,439.3/100,000

Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	574	462	-20%
Crime Against Property	3,844	4,018	5%
Crime Against Society	568	167	-71%
Group B Offenses*	2,189	1,744	-20%
Total	7,175	6,391	-11%

3RD DISTRICT – SILVER SPRING

3rd District Commander
Captain David McBain
1002 Milestone Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904
240-773-6800
3DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

31.9 sq. miles
Population: 163,266
Crime Rate per capita: 3,962.2/100,000

Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,143	1,048	-8%
Crime Against Property	4,782	4,775	0%
Crime Against Society	1,573	646	-59%
Group B Offenses*	4,038	2,671	-34%
Total	11,536	9,140	-21%

4TH DISTRICT - WHEATON

4th District Commander
Captain Marc Yamada
2300 Randolph Road
Wheaton, MD 20902
240-773-5500
4DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

82.8 sq. miles
Population: 216,176
Crime Rate per capita: 2,502.6/100,000

Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,179	961	-18%
Crime Against Property	3,979	3,968	0%
Crime Against Society	1,115	481	-57%
Group B Offenses*	3,727	2,661	-29%
Total	10,000	8,071	-19%

5TH DISTRICT – GERMANTOWN

5th District Commander
Captain Edward Pallas
20000 Aircraft Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
240-773-6200
5DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

143.1 sq. miles
Population: 141,113
Crime Rate per capita: 2,916.8/100,000

Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,038	918	-12%
Crime Against Property	2,724	2,883	6%
Crime Against Society	628	315	-50%
Group B Offenses*	1,956	1,664	-15%
Total	6,346	5,780	-9%

6TH DISTRICT - GAITHERSBURG

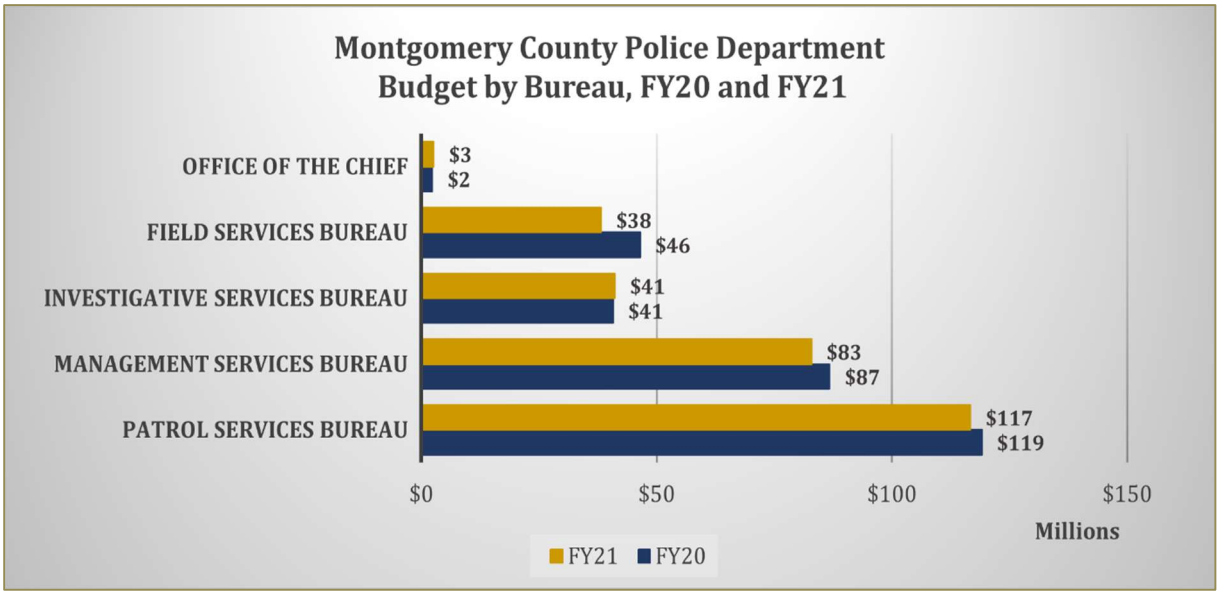
6th District Commander
Captain Michael Ward
45 West Watkins Mill Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-773-5700
6DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

40.6 sq. miles
Population: 156,064
Crime Rate per capita: 3,449.2/100,000

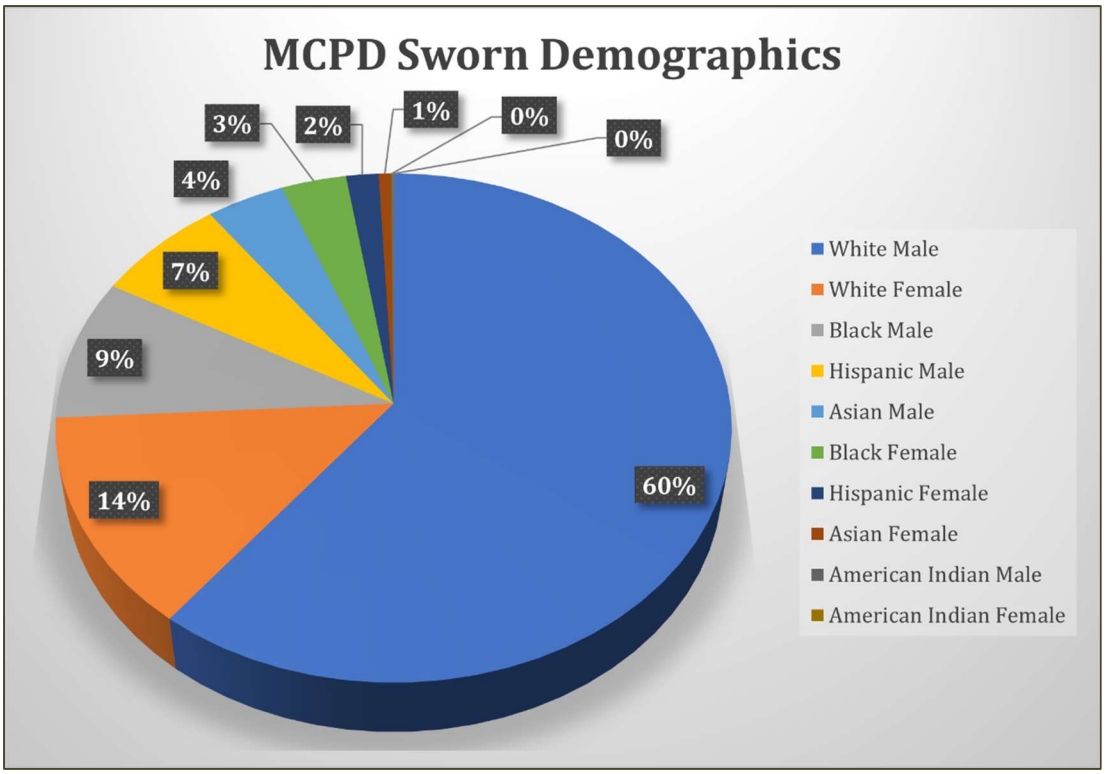
Offense Categories	2019	2020	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,248	1,190	-5%
Crime Against Property	3,403	3,634	7%
Crime Against Society	898	559	-38%
Group B Offenses*	3,202	2,490	-22%
Total	8,751	7,873	-10%

MCPD ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- The MCPD FY21 budget (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) is 5% lower than the FY20 budget and included funding for new and replacement technology devices (i.e., BWC, drones, cell phones), creation of the Professional Accountability Division, and additional personnel within the Analytics and Operational Support Section.

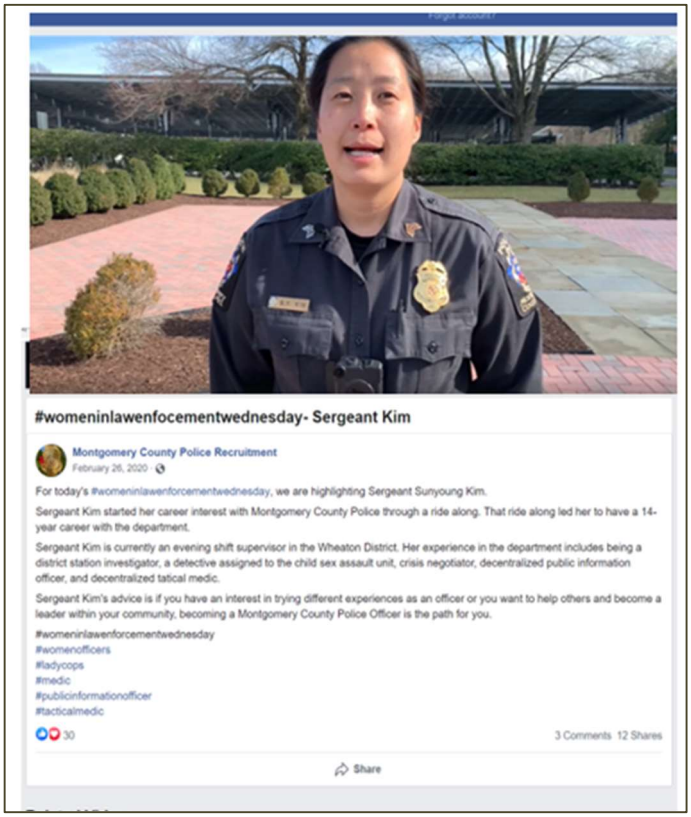


- At the end of 2020, the number of sworn MCPD personnel was 1290, and the number of professional staff was 647 (authorized strength is 1306 and 733, respectively).



- Prior to the pandemic, the Personnel Division made great strides in implementing several new recruitment initiatives, including online scheduling of test; walk-in and proctored off-site and remote testing opportunities; and the utilization of early hiring practices to bring recruits in before the official start date of the training academy. Despite these efforts, recruitment continues to be a challenge for the MCPD, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and social distancing. Notwithstanding, the MCPD and ECC attended nearly 70 career fairs and hiring expos in 2020, including 16 virtual events.

  If you are interested in learning more about what it takes to be a Montgomery County police officer, please visit the **Join Our Team** page.



- If you are still young, and you think law enforcement is interesting or you're considering a career, please inquire about the Police Cadet Program. This program, a partnership between the MCPD and Montgomery College, supports recruitment and retention of the highest quality candidates for sworn police officer positions through mentorship, training, and experience. Not only does the Cadet Program benefit the Police Department by attracting young adults to the field of policing and exposing them to the responsibilities of being a police officer, but it also benefits the cadets through meaningful participation that develops critical life skills, bolsters cultural awareness and sensitivity, and builds relationships. Watch this short clip about the program to learn more!

If you don't think you're cut out to be a cadet or a police officer, there are also internships and volunteer opportunities available. In 2020, approximately 120 interns and volunteers contributed 4,685 hours to the department, working side-by-side with patrol officers, detectives, and professional staff. There are many ways the department can utilize your talents and skills, while you bring a fresh perspective to the

workforce. Check out the website for more information.

- In 2020, the Public Safety Training Academy, with support from all of the bureaus, graduated 33 community members from three, 15-week Citizen Police Academy classes and 35 Hispanic community members from three sessions of the Hispanic Community Police Academy, which was established four years ago in response to the growing Hispanic population in Montgomery County. All the participants in these programs graduated with a much higher level of insight into the hiring, training, and operations of the police department, through a mix of classroom and hands-on learning opportunities. In addition to letting community members learn about how MCPD operates, every class emphasizes that the department's vision is to protect ALL people who live and work in our county or visit it, irrespective of their immigration status. Together, the MCPD and the academy participants are changing *fear* of the police into a *partnership* with the police, where the community regards the police as trusted problem solvers who understand and listen to their concerns and work to improve the safety level in their communities for them and their children.

- The MCPD publishes several other annual reports containing analysis that may be of interest to you, including use of force review, pursuit analysis, and bias incident reporting. All of these reports may be found on the MCPD website.

Congratulations to the 29 new Montgomery County Police officers who graduated from Sessions 69 & 70 of the MCPD Training Academy in 2020!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/

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