

WILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve and to protect all citizens, and to maintain peace and preserve the quality of life within the Town of Wilton by upholding the highest standards of integrity, fairness and vigilance. We are committed to defending civil rights, honoring the value and dignity of every person, and insuring the equitable and just application of the law. We strive to build upon our professionalism by valuing teamwork, encouraging innovation, accepting accountability, and seeking knowledge and growth.

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Coronavirus Pandemic

In 2020 the entire country was impacted by the person-to-person spread of the novel SARS-CoV-2 virus, the infectious agent responsible for the respiratory illness called Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The virus quickly reached pandemic status, presenting tremendous challenges to our nation, state, and community. Our law enforcement operations were not immune. Court, Department of Motor Vehicle, and forensic laboratories were closed or limited in operations at various stage in 2020. With stay-at-home orders in place, our roadways saw less traffic volume. Similar to police departments across the country, we were forced to reconsider fundamental operational activities in order to protect the health of personnel and community, while also still carrying out our duties. While the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis, we worked jointly with the Town Health Department to deploy public safety strategies that would assist in mitigating community spread of the virus. In addition, we always recognized our responsibility of service, which is multi-faceted in protecting the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our community. In 2020 this manifested differently than pre-pandemic years, such as our officers participating in birthday parades, social media read-a-louds, assisting social services with the delivery of food gift cards to residents in need, and delivery of PPE to small business owners. With that caveat, data reported in the following publication should be compared with pre-pandemic years with caution and understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Calls for Service

A call for service (CFS) is any assignment requiring action by the police to correct, resolve or assist. A CFS can be initiated by the public or a police officer. Each call for service is assigned an incident number in the Department's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

In 2020 the Department logged a total of **13,483** CFS. This represents an 7% decrease from the 2019 number of 14,431. The decrease in calls for service is largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. The actual total time for all police units spent on calls for service year to year decreased from approximately 6,532 hours (2019) to 5,489 hours (2020)¹. These statistics do not account for the amount of time officers spend following-up after the initial dispatch in the potential days, weeks or months following an incident or tending to the requisite report documentation.

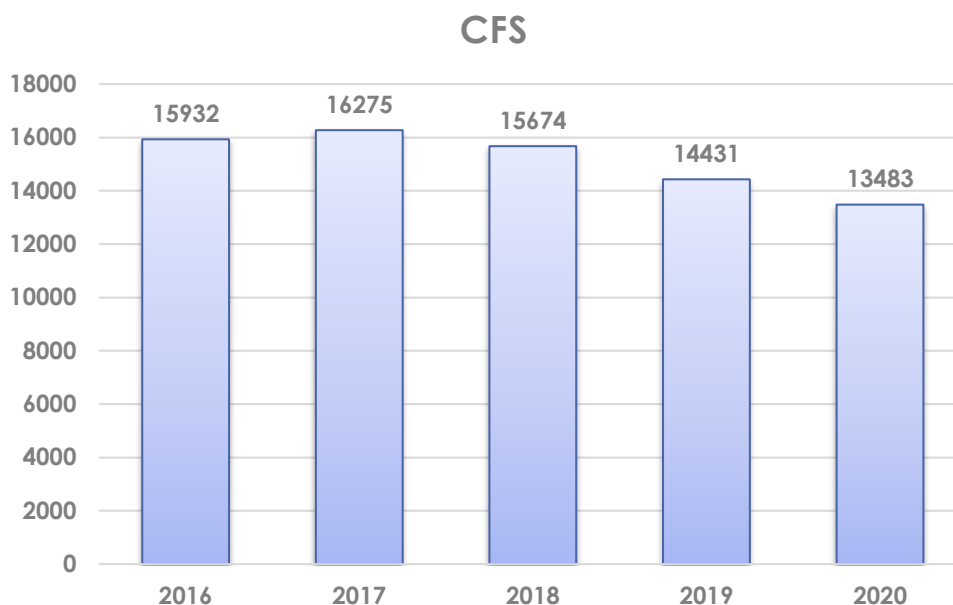


Figure-1 Calls for Service 2016-2020

¹ The total number of officer-hours needed to handle a CFS (number of officers multiplied by the number of hours)



The below pie chart is a breakdown of Department CFS in 2020 by categories of Criminal Investigations, Motor Vehicle Investigations, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Alarm Response, and Other Service. The category of Other Service encompasses activities such as motor vehicle lock-outs, permits, and general resident assists. Specific data related to motor vehicle crashes and crime will be documented in the following sections.

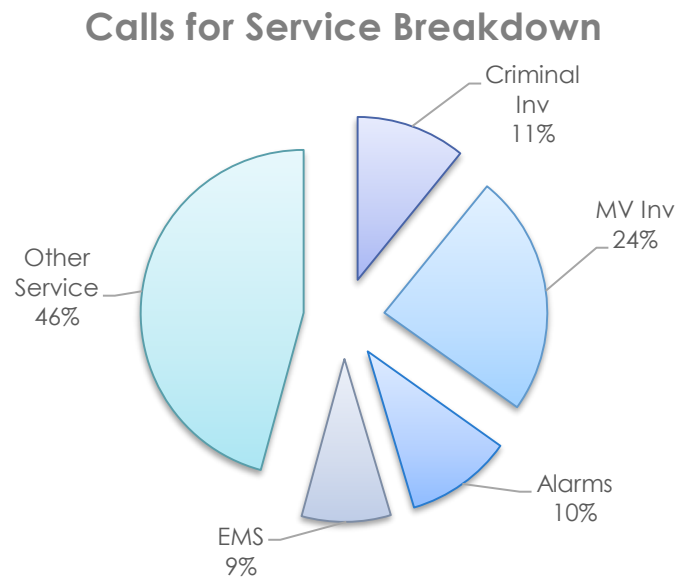


Figure-2 CFS Breakdown 2020



Motor Vehicle Crashes

According to in-house records management data analyzing the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) reports, there were **344** reportable motor vehicle crashes that occurred on public highways in the Town of Wilton in 2020. This represents the lowest total crashes in the last five years. In **77** of the reportable crashes there were complaints of injuries sustained, also a five-year low. Additionally, there were **86** private property crashes that required police response and, in most instances, reporting. For a third consecutive year, there were zero fatal crashes. The impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on traffic volumes is a prominent variable in the drastic 36% year to year reduction in crashes. From March through mid-May some of the main road corridors throughout the State experienced approximately 50% reductions in traffic volumes.

The five-year (2016-2020) moving average of total crashes is **469**, a 7% decrease from the five-year (2015-2019) moving average of 503.

The five-year (2016-2020) moving average of crashes with injuries and/or fatalities is **112.8**, a 3.6% decrease from the five-year (2015-2019) moving average of 117.

Crash Severity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Property Damage Only	373	381	360	398	267
Injury	126	112	111	138	77
Fatal	1	1	0	0	0
Total	500	494	471	536	344

Table-1 Motor Vehicle Crashes 2016-2020

Motor Vehicle Crashes

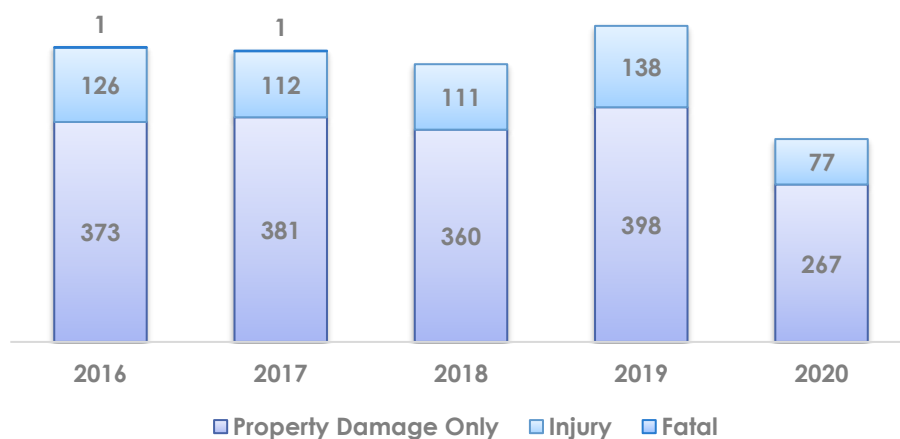


Figure-3 Motor Vehicle Crashes 2016-2020



Crime

The Wilton Police Department analyzes crime trends in order to inform budget, planning, resource allocation, and training decisions. In addition, crime analysis is one tool used to assess efficacy of police operations. It is noted that the FBI strongly discourages comparing or ranking agencies based solely on crime data due to the intrinsic uniqueness of each locale (FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics: Their Proper Use, 2017). Furthermore, no two offenses are similar, as each come with their own distinct facts and complexities.

The Wilton Police Department utilizes the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to submit Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data to the State of Connecticut. The below data indicates the number of Group A² offenses brought to the attention of the Department based on victim, police or witness reports. The data in the below table has been obtained from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Safety Crime Analysis Unit as well as in-house records.

Crimes Against Persons					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	1*
All Assaults	21	33	36	51	40
All Sex Offenses	3	5	5	0	3
TOTAL	24	38	41	51	44
Crimes Against Property					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Burglary	15	14	16	13	13
Robbery	0	2	0	0	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	12	8	15	9	15
Destruction of Property	14	24	20	36	13
Embezzlement	4	1	1	2	1
All Fraud	54	72	58	69	71
All Larceny	50	125	135	91	79
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	6	17	7	9
Bribery	0	1	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	1	4	0	1
Stolen Property Offenses	1	0	3	1	1
TOTAL	156	254	263	228	204
Crimes Against Society					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Drugs/Narcotics	26	20	38	33	14
Prostitution	0	1	0	0	0
Weapon Violations	5	3	3	1	2
Porn/Obscene Material	0	0	1	5	0
TOTAL	31	23	42	39	16

Table-2 Offense Report 2016-2020

2020 data is preliminary and all data is subject to revision

*In 2020 the Department began reporting offense data for fatal opioid overdoses

² Group A offenses consist of 24 offense categories made up of 52 distinct offenses



The below table is a breakdown of the 264 reported Group A offenses in the Town of Wilton disaggregated by crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society.

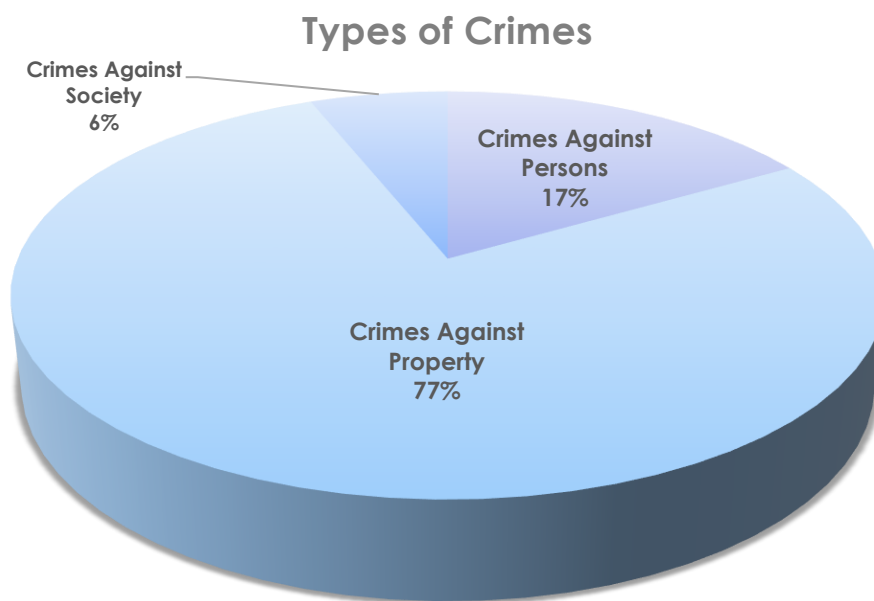


Figure-4 Types of Crimes Reported in 2020

The Town of Wilton experienced an approximately 17% reduction in reported Group A offenses³. A significant contributor to the decrease is a 58% reduction in drug-related offenses. The majority of the Department's drug-related offenses derive from interdiction stops that are the result of motor vehicle enforcement. The reduction of drug-related offenses is consistent with the reduction in motor vehicle enforcement occurring in 2020. The crime of thefts from motor vehicles continues to be a persistent crime pattern in the State of Connecticut as well as Wilton. In 2020 the Department investigated 35 incidents of thefts from motor vehicles that involved 56 unique victims⁴. In addition, the Department investigated 9 stolen vehicle incidents.

³ A total of 318 Group A Offenses were reported in 2019 compared to 264 in 2020

⁴ One incident resulting in a crime spree can include multiple victims



In 2020 the Department cleared a total of ***one-hundred and twenty-seven (127)*** incidents with arrest⁵. ***Eight (8)*** arrests involved drug-related charges. It is noted that some incidents involved multiple persons arrested. In addition, a total of ***thirty-five (35)*** infractions for possession of less than ½ ounce of marijuana and/or paraphernalia were issued, an approximate 42% year to year reduction.

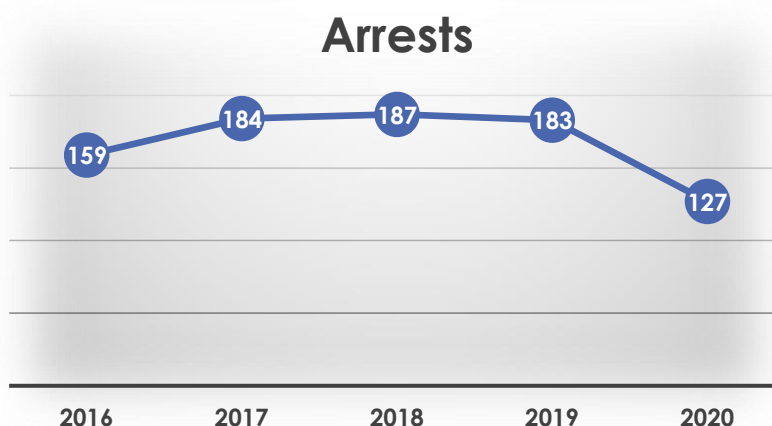


Figure-5 Arrests 2016-2020

The below table is a breakdown of Group A offenses reported in 2020 that were cleared by arrest or exceptional means⁶ disaggregated by crime type. It is noted that clearance rates are subject to change as offenses reported in a particular calendar year may be cleared in following years.

Crime Type	Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
Crimes Against Persons	77%
Crimes Against Property	11%
Crimes Against Society	94%

Table-4 Clearance Rates 2020

⁵ Ten arrests in 2020 were related to incidents that occurred in prior years

⁶ In certain situations, elements beyond law enforcement's control prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. When this occurs, the agency can clear the offense exceptionally. Examples of exceptional clearances include, but are not limited to, the death of the offender (e.g., suicide or justifiably killed by police or citizen); the victim's refusal to cooperate with the prosecution after the offender has been identified; or the denial of extradition because the offender committed a crime in another jurisdiction and is being prosecuted for that offense.



Motor Vehicle Enforcement

The Department is committed to the safety of our Wilton community; That is, to be safe on our roads and free of crime. One method the Department utilizes to accomplish these goals is proactive high-visibility traffic enforcement. The proactive enforcement of motor vehicle laws serves several purposes. It curtails dangerous driving behaviors as well as provides visibility in our community that both detects and deters crime.

In 2020 the Department initiated a total of **2,215** traffic stops, a 46% decrease in overall traffic stops from 2019. The decrease in traffic stops is largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in lower traffic volumes and mitigation efforts to reduce prolonged person-to-person contacts. The five-year moving average of traffic stops decreased 11.3% from 5,019 (2015-2019) to 4,426 (2016-2020).

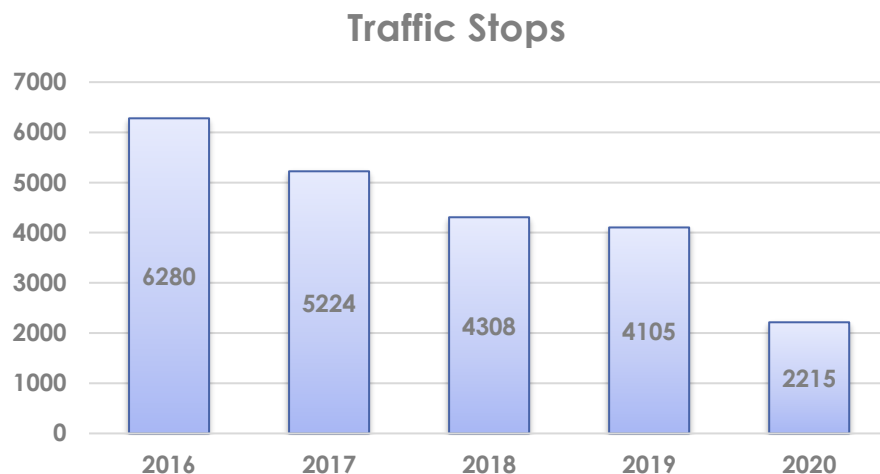


Figure-6 Traffic Stops 2016-2020



A total of **689** traffic stops were a result of strategic enforcement related to citizen complaints, identified areas of high crash frequency, and grant activity such as Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement (DDHVE), Click it or Ticket, and DUI. The selective enforcement activity marks a 44% decrease from 2019 (1,235) to 2020 (689).

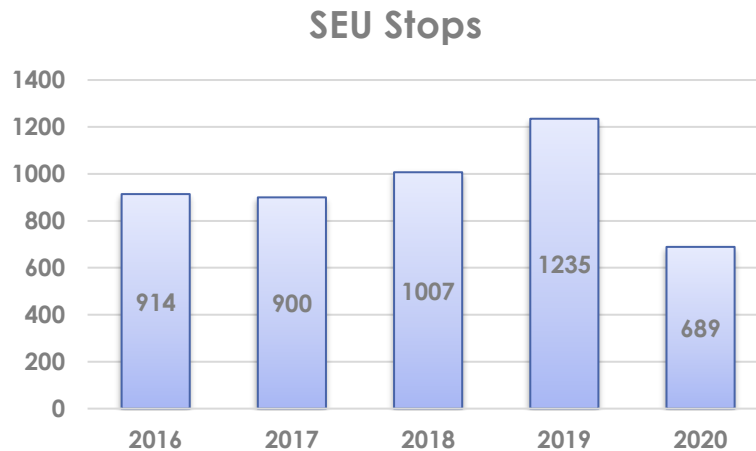


Figure-7 Selective Enforcement 2016-2020

The proactive enforcement of motor vehicle laws also assists in the detection of drivers impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. In 2020 the Department made a total of **thirty-five (35)** arrests for DUI charges.

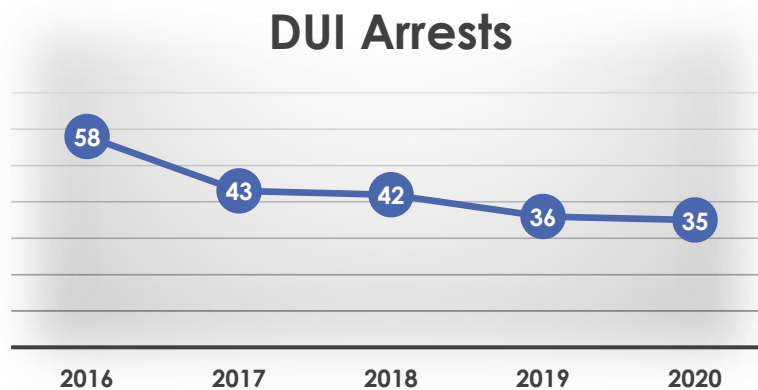


Figure-8 DUI Arrests 2016-2020



Bias Profiling Review

The Wilton Police Department complies with the *Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act*. The Act, which has been incorporated in the Connecticut General Statutes, requires the collection of data related to traffic stops such as race, color, ethnicity, age and gender of operator of motor vehicle (based on the observation and perception of the officer). The collection of data related to disposition of the stop, including whether a warning, citation or summons was issued, whether a search was conducted and whether a custodial arrest was made, is also required.

In totality, of the 2,215 traffic stops conducted in 2020 approximately 34.2% involved a Minority operator (Blacks, Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Other Race). The data is consistent with the most recently published Statewide Analysis of traffic stop data (2018) that showed the statewide percentage of drivers stopped by police who were identified as Minority was 35.4%. More specifically, Department traffic stop data for 2020 showed that 12.6% of operators were Black and 17.7% were Hispanic. The ratios are consistent year to year with the Department's 2019 traffic stop data, producing slight percentage increases among Black (+1.6%) and Hispanic (+.6%) operators. In addition, the 2020 ratios are consistent with the 2018 Statewide Analysis of traffic stop data that found across Connecticut's municipal departments and State Police troops, a total of 17.1% of operators stopped were observed to be Black while 15.2% of stops were Hispanic operators. Of the operators stopped by our officers in 2020, approximately 19% were residents of Wilton and approximately 89% were residents of the State of Connecticut.

Traffic Stop Dispositions

A review of traffic stop dispositions revealed that approximately 18% of traffic stops involving Caucasian non-Hispanic operators resulted in dispositions of arrest, misdemeanor summons or infraction, with the remaining 82% of traffic stops involving Caucasian non-Hispanic operators resulting in warnings. Approximately 22% of traffic stops involving Black operators resulted in dispositions of arrest, misdemeanor summons or infraction, with the remaining 78% of traffic stops involving Black operators resulting in warnings. For Hispanic operators dispositions of arrest, misdemeanor summons or infraction resulted in 32% of traffic stops, with the remaining 68% resulting in warnings.

Vehicle Searches

The State of Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project identifies discretionary vehicle searches in their analysis. Discretionary vehicle searches are defined as those conducted under the authority of probable cause or consent, excluding inventory searches. In 2020 our officers engaged in approximately 51 discretionary vehicle searches. Of these, three (3) were under the authority of consent and forty-eight (48) probable cause. The three consent searches conducted involved one (1) Caucasian non-Hispanic operator and two (2) Hispanic operators.



Approximately 1% of traffic stops involving Caucasian non-Hispanic operators resulted in discretionary vehicle searches with a hit rate of approximately 67% (12 out of 18 searches). Approximately 5% of traffic stops involving Black operators resulted in discretionary vehicle searches with a hit rate of approximately 71% (10 out of 14 searches). Approximately 5% of traffic stops involving Hispanic operators resulted in discretionary vehicle searches with a hit rate of approximately 65% (13 out of 20 searches). Approximately 5% of traffic stops involving either a Black or Hispanic operator resulted in discretionary vehicle searches with a hit rate of approximately 70% (23 of 33 searches). While the ratio of traffic stops to discretionary vehicle searches is higher when the operator is non-Caucasian, the overall volume of searches and hit rates are relatively consistent across all groups.

The Department received zero complaints of bias profiling due to either race or ethnicity. The below table is the data collected by the Wilton Police Department in 2020.

Run Date: 01/04/2021
Run Time: 08:55

Wilton Police Dept
240 Danbury Road, Wilton CT 06897-4008
(203) 834-6260

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Racial Profiling Traffic Stop Report 2020-01-01 00:00 Thru 2020-12-31 23:59

	Gender		Ethnicity			Resident		Custodial Arrest		Enforcement Category			Authority for Search					
	Female	Male	Hispanic	M Eastern	N/A	Municipal	CT	Yes	No	General	Blind	Spot Chk	N/A	Consent	Invent	Other		
White:	632	1204	380	0	1456	390	1637	32	1804	1347	369	120	1765	3	33	35		
Black:	125	153	11	0	267	8	243	6	272	205	70	3	256	0	8	14		
Indian:	13	34	0	4	43	13	42	0	47	41	5	1	47	0	0	0		
Asian:	31	23	0	1	53	14	45	1	53	40	14	0	53	0	1	0		
Unknown:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Totals:	801	1414	391	5	1819	425	1967	39	2176	1633	458	124	2121	3	42	49		
	Stop Nature			Veh Searched		Vehicle Towed		Result of Stop						Duration of Stop			Contraband	
	Invest	Violation	Equip	Yes	No	Yes	No	UAR	Mis	Infra	Verbal	Written	None	0-15	16-30	Over 30	Yes	No
White:	83	1546	207	70	1766	102	1734	19	93	273	1029	377	45	1307	405	124	26	1810
Black:	7	220	51	22	256	31	247	6	27	29	174	37	5	168	81	29	11	267
Indian:	2	41	4	0	47	1	46	0	1	3	32	10	1	30	15	2	0	47
Asian:	0	49	5	1	53	1	53	1	0	6	26	21	0	44	9	1	0	54
Unknown:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	92	1856	267	93	2122	135	2080	26	121	311	1261	445	51	1549	510	156	37	2178
Grand Totals																		
			White:	1836	82.89%	Male:	1414	63.84%		Hispanic:	391	17.65%						
			Black:	278	12.55%	Female:	801	36.16%		Middle Eastern:	5	0.23%						
			Indian:	47	2.12%					N/A	1819	82.12%						
			Asian:	54	2.44%													
			Unknown:	0	0.00%													
			Totals:	2215	100.00%													

Table-5 Traffic Stop Data Collection 2020



Domestic Violence

The Wilton Police Department strives to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable when responding to incidents of domestic violence. The Department ensures victim safety and offender accountability through education and awareness, partnerships with local victim advocacy groups, and the arrest of offenders.

In 2020 the Department responded to a total of **sixty (60)** domestic-related incidents⁷. Of these incidents a total of **twenty-four (24)** qualified as family violence incidents⁸.

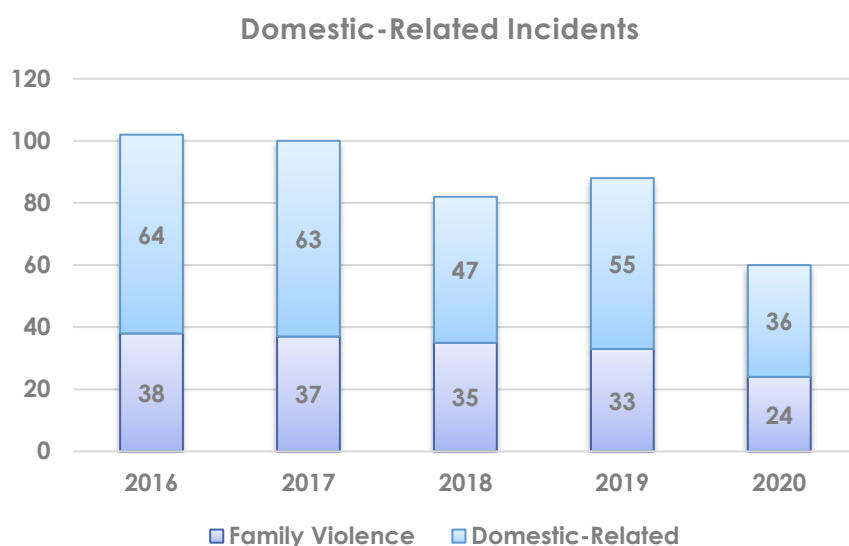


Figure-9 Domestic-Related Incidents 2016-2020

In 2020 probable cause was established in **twenty (20)** family violence incidents to result in arrest. Family violence arrests represented 16% of all arrests in the Town of Wilton in 2020. The prevailing relationship category for family violence incidents involved *parents and children*, accounting for 46% (11) of all incidents. Intimate partner relationships⁹ accounted for 46% (11) of all family violence incidents.

⁷ Domestic-related calls for service include disputes among family or household members that do not rise to the level of the statutory definition of family violence, such as verbal arguments

⁸ C.G.S. § 46b-38a states. "Family violence means an incident resulting in physical harm, bodily injury or assault, or an act of threatened violence that constitutes fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, including, but not limited to, stalking or a pattern of threatening, between family or household members. Verbal abuse or argument does not constitute family violence unless there is present danger and the likelihood that physical violence will occur"

⁹ Five family violence incidents occurred between spouses and former spouses and six family violence incidents occurred between persons in, or who have recently been in, a dating relationship.



Relationship	Arrest	Dual Arrest	No Arrest	Violence	Order of Protection Violation	Alcohol/Drug	Child Present	Child Involved	TOTAL
Spouse	4	0	1	3	1	1	5	0	5
Parent/Child	9	0	2	8	1	1	1	9	11
Siblings	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Dating	5	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	6
Other	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	20	0	4	16	3	4	7	9	24

Table-6 Family Violence Statistics 2020

Family Violence Incidents

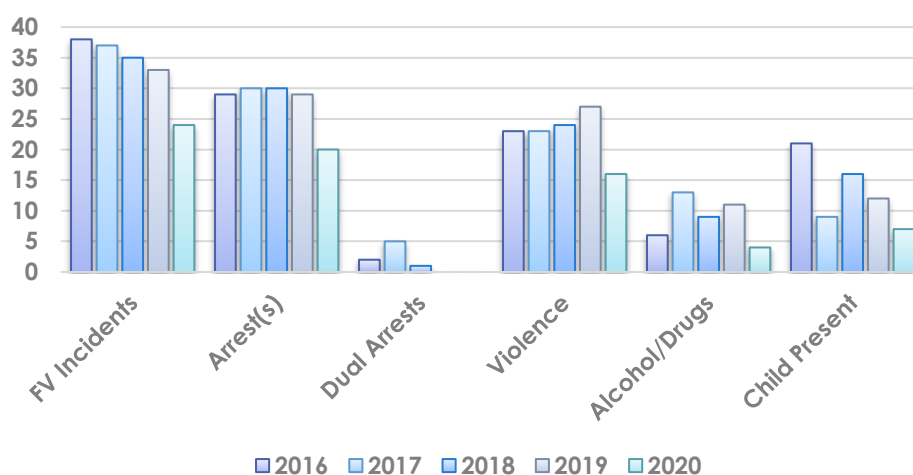


Figure-10 Family Violence Incidents 2016-2020

Dual Arrests

A dual arrest is the arrest of both parties in a family violence incident. Dual arrests have long been recognized as a serious problem facing victims and survivors of family violence. According to the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) dual arrests...

“Create a chilling effect and daunting barrier for victims seeking future assistance from law enforcement; they place further stress on the domestic violence advocacy system with advocates needing to direct limited time and resources advocating for victims as offenders instead of focusing on their safety needs as victims; and they overburden the criminal justice system and detract from focusing resources and efforts to address the true issue of dominant aggressor control, coercion and violence” (CCADV, 2020)



Beginning January 1, 2019, the State of Connecticut enacted a dominant aggressor law to limit instances of dual arrest in family violence crimes. Since implementation the Department has made zero dual arrests across all relationship categories. Of note, 2020 represents the third consecutive year that the Department had zero dual arrests among intimate partner violence incidents. According to data published by the CCADV¹⁰, our Department is the only reporting agency in the State of Connecticut to realize such sustained outcomes.

Offense Types

In each family violence arrest, a Family Violence Offense Report (FVOR) is submitted to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Safety Crime Analysis Unit. Multiple offenses may occur during the course of a single incident, but for reporting purposes the most serious is reported. The following chart is a breakdown of offense types for family violence incidents occurring in 2020 that resulted in arrest:

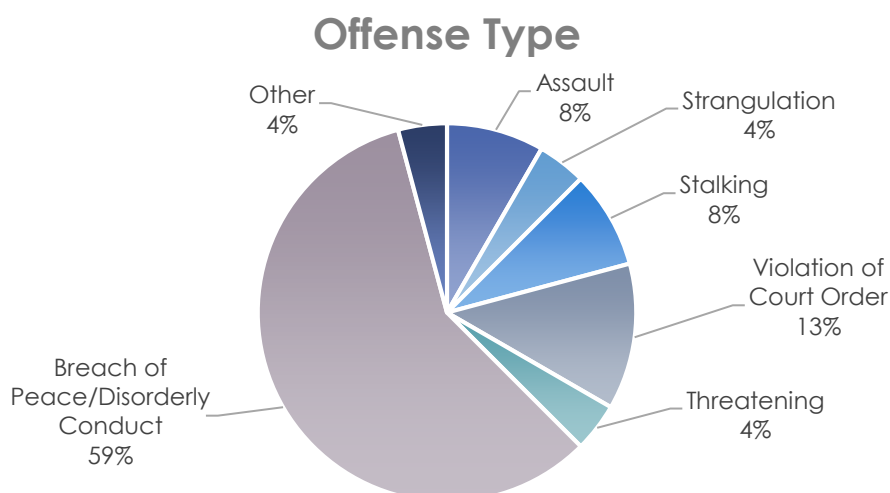


Figure-11 Family Violence Offense Breakdown 2020

¹⁰ https://public.tableau.com/profile/opm.cjppd.research.unit#!/vizhome/CCADV_Dual_Rate_Maps/Story1



Lethality Assessment Program

The Department strives to provide fair and compassionate services to victims and other persons affected by the turmoil of family violence. In 2013, the department implemented the Lethality Assessment Screening Program (LAP). LAP represents an innovative partnership with victim advocacy groups to implement nationally recognized risk assessment strategies to better serve victims of intimate partner violence in the greatest danger.

Year	Lethality Screens	High Danger	Non-High Danger	DNA	Spoke to Hotline Worker
2016	26	12	14	0	6
2017	42	19	23	0	19
2018	31	17	12	2	13
2019	32	19	12	1	14
2020	12	8	4	0	6
TOTAL	143	75	65	3	58

Table-7 Lethality Assessment Program Data 2016-2020



Pursuits

In 2020 officers were engaged in *ten (10)* pursuits. Departmental reviews of pursuits are conducted by the Lieutenant who oversees the respective shift on which the pursuit occurred. The 2020 reviews determined that *five (5)* of the pursuits were not within policy. The overarching theme in policy violations was that the pursuits were not terminated in a timely manner. Corrective action in the form of counseling occurred with the involved officer. The following is an analysis of the year's pursuit activity.

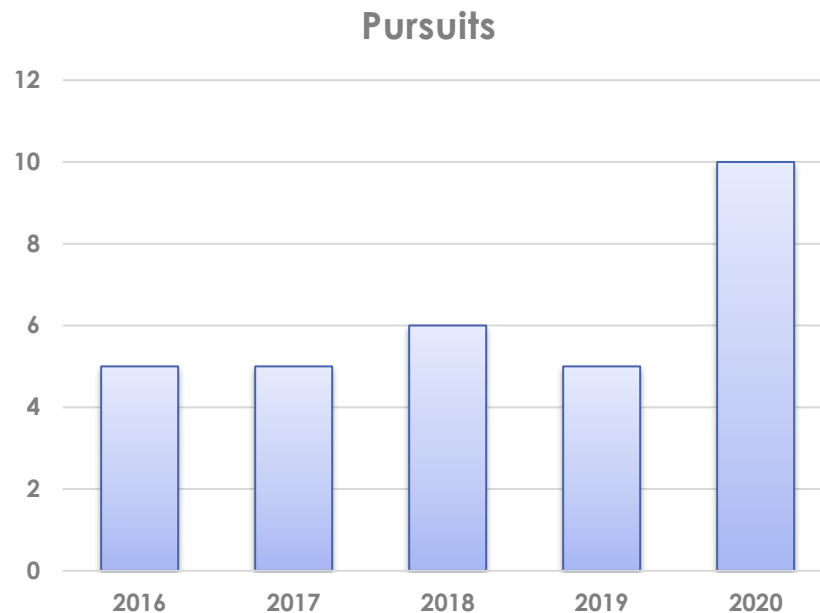


Figure-12 Pursuits 2016-2020

Reason for Pursuit

Of the pursuits occurring in 2020, four (4) involved criminal violations consisting of property offenses to include two stolen vehicles, one trespass, and one larceny. The remaining six (6) pursuit engagements were the result of motor vehicle charges.



Reason for Pursuit

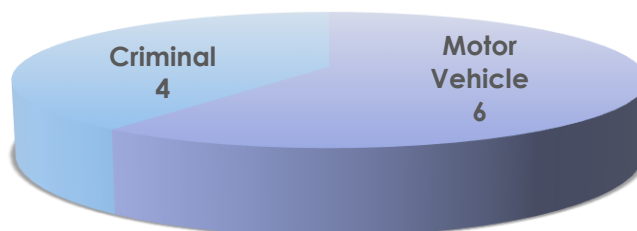


Figure-13 Reason for Pursuit 2020

Pursuit Outcomes

The below table is a breakdown of pursuit outcomes in 2020.

Outcomes				
Crash, Death or Injury	Arrest	Terminated by Officer	Terminated by Supervisor	Termination Device
1	1	4	5	0

Table-9 Pursuit Outcomes Data 2020

Duration

The average duration of the pursuits was approximately 1 minute and 8 seconds with the longest lasting approximately 3 minutes and the shortest 3 seconds.

Crashes and/or Injuries

There was one (1) crash resulting from a pursuit in 2020. In the incident the evading vehicle backed into a police vehicle and later drove off the roadway resulting in disabling damage. The suspect fled from the vehicle on foot and attempted to enter an occupied vehicle on Route 7 stopped at a traffic signal. The suspect was tasered and taken into custody. Aside from the taser probes, there were no injuries sustained.



Arrests

There was one (1) arrest resulting from a pursuit in 2020. In other words, 90% of vehicle operators who engaged officers in pursuit avoided apprehension.

Age of Offender

The age of the offender is known for only one pursuit. The age of that offender was 37 years old.

Conclusion

In 2020 the Department experienced a 100% (+5) year to year increase in the number of incidents that resulted in officers being engaged in pursuit. Despite the fact that overall the Department saw an approximately 46% year to year drop in motor vehicle enforcement, officers were engaged in pursuit at a greater frequency, with a pursuit to traffic stop ratio in 2020 of approximately .5% compared to .1% in 2019.



Use of Force

In 2020 there were **thirteen (13)** unique incidents that resulted in officer use of force (UOF), an **86%** increase in UOF incidents from the previous year, seven. Of the thirteen incidents, **nine (9)** involved multiple officers using force, resulting in a total of **twenty-seven (27)** officer UOF reports completed, a **125%** increase from the previous year, twelve. **Five (5)** officers were involved in multiple incidents. **Two (2)** officers were found to be involved in three or more UOF incidents with the maximum being **one (1)** officer involved in four UOF incidents. All UOF incidents underwent supervisory review and were found to be within policy and training.

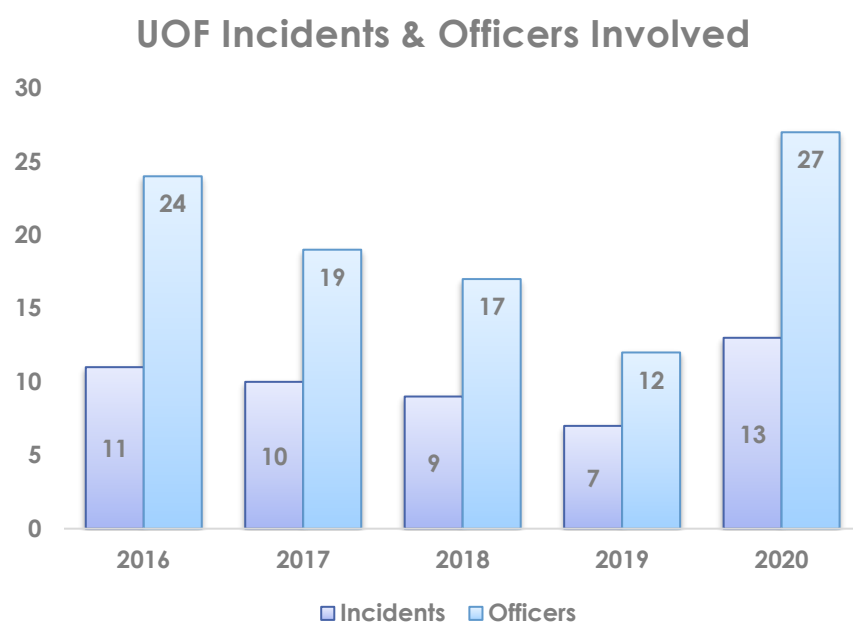


Figure-14 Use of Force Incidents and Officers Involved 2016-2020



Call Types

All except one UOF incident were the result of officers being dispatched to calls for service. The one UOF incident that resulted from an officer-initiated activity was the result of a drug investigation deriving from a traffic stop. A loaded firearm was recovered from the driver's floorboard area of the vehicle in the incident. The call types resulting in officer(s) UOF were crisis intervention (5), family violence (2), motor vehicle crash (2), drug investigation (1), DUI (1), fraud (1), and pursuit (1). The majority of UOF incidents occurred on the Evening Shift (10), followed by Day Shift (2), and Midnight Shift (1).

The majority of the incidents were the result of subjects not complying with officer verbal commands or resistance to being taken into custody for arrest or medical transport, resulting in forcible handcuffing. Two (2) incidents involved the report or observation of firearms present.

Call Type

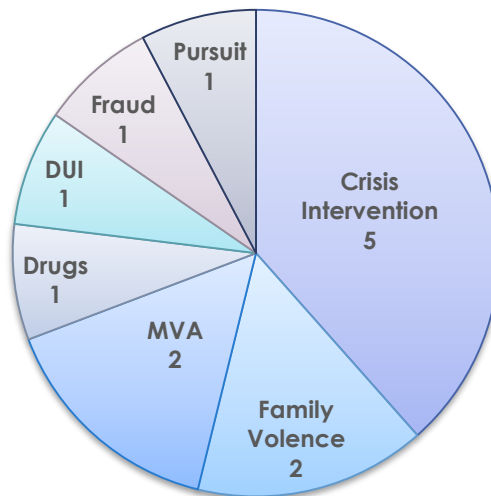


Figure-15 Use of Force Incident Data 2020



Force Type

In 2020 physical force in the form of control holds and/or takedowns were the predominant application of force used by officers, accounting for *twenty-two (22)* uses of force or approximately **63%** of all force applied. It is noted that during the course of an incident some officers may use multiple levels of force. The Department experienced a considerable increase in TASER¹¹ deployments with four (4) separate officers deploying TASER prongs on subjects during three (3) distinct incidents. These are the first TASER deployments by officers of the Department since 2015. Despite the increase, all incidents underwent supervisory review and were found to have been within policy and training.

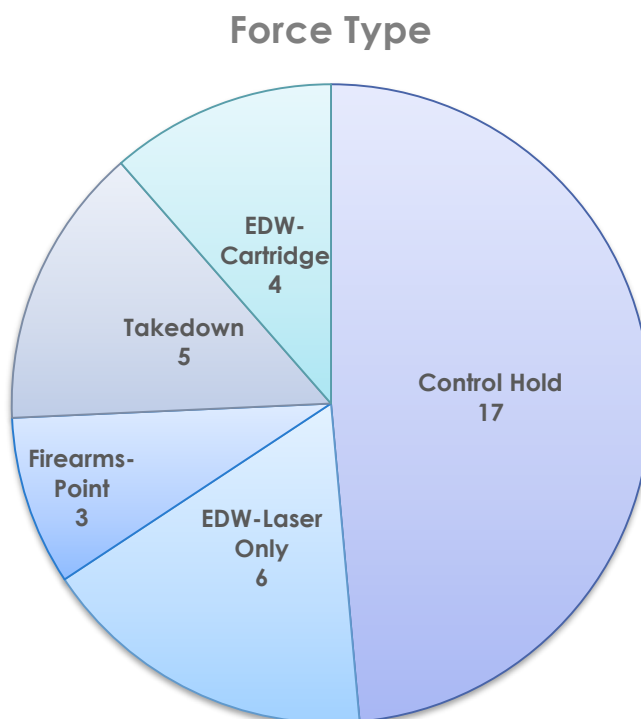


Figure-16 Type of Force Used 2020

¹¹ The Department uses the TASER brand electronic defense weapons (EDW)



Demographics

In reviewing the demographics of the subjects in which force was used **eleven (11)** were male and **two (2)** were female. The average subject age was approximately **34** years old with the youngest subject being **19** and the oldest **55**. The breakdown of subject race is **77%** (10) White, **15%** (2) Black, and **8%** (1) Asian. In **two (2)** UOF incidents the subject's ethnicity was Hispanic. **Five (5)** UOF incidents involved subjects who were residents of the Town of Wilton, with one resident the subject of multiple incidents.

Injuries

Injuries were sustained by three (3) subjects of force, each the result of TASER probes needing to be removed from the subject. There were three (3) officer injuries as the result of UOF incidents, with the most severe being a broken nose suffered by the officer.

Use of Force Ratios

Of the thirteen UOF incidents, **nine (9)** resulted in arrest. In 2020 the Department had 127 arrest incidents. Therefore, the Department's UOF to arrest ratio is **93%**. In other words, 93% of arrests effectuated by officers involved no level of force.

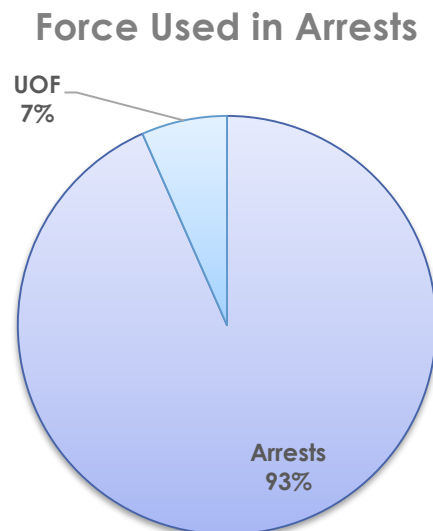


Figure-17 Use of Force to Arrest Ratio 2020



In 2020 the Department responded to 13,483 calls for service. The Department's UOF to call for service ratio was .1%. In other words, in 99.9% of officers documented interactions with the public, no force was used.

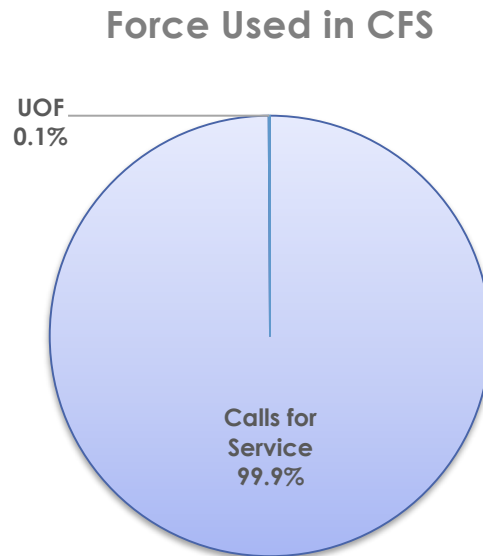


Figure-18 Use of Force to Call for Service Ratio 2020

Conclusion

In reviewing the use of force incidents for 2020 there were no identified patterns or trends that would indicate policy, training, tactics or officer safety concerns in the department's application of force. The Department did not receive any complaints of excessive force in 2020.



Internal Affairs

In the interest of public trust, the Wilton Police Department will investigate all complaints against its officers. The integrity of the Department is of paramount concern. It is also a paramount concern to protect officers against false or malicious complaints. The purpose of the police Internal Affairs unit is to maintain the integrity of the Department by the use of an internal system in which objectivity, fairness, and justice are ensured by an impartial investigation.

The Wilton Police Department Internal Affairs process shall serve the following objectives:

1. Protection of the public.
2. Protection of Department personnel.
3. Protection of the Department.
4. Training of personnel.
5. Identify policy deficiencies and training needs of personnel.

In 2020 the department initiated *five (5)* internal affairs investigations. *Three (3)* complaints were generated externally; i.e. citizen complaint. With the Department responding to 13,483 calls for service (CFS) in 2020, only **.02%** resulted in citizen complaint. The following is a breakdown of the nature of complaints and/or investigations.

Allegation	Number of Complaints
Discourteous	2
Standards of Conduct	2
Improper Investigation	1

Table-10 Internal Affairs Complaint Type 2020

Of the five investigations, three (3) were investigated at the first line supervisor and/or command level, while two (2) were investigated by an Internal Affairs officer due to the seriousness of the allegation. The average length of investigation, date of complaint to finalized report of investigation submitted to the Chief of Police for disposition, was approximately nineteen (19) days. The following is a breakdown of investigation dispositions¹² in 2020:

DISPOSITIONS		
Unfounded	Summary Action	Sustained
2	1	2

Table-11 Internal Affairs Dispositions 2020

¹² Department Standard Operating Procedure [1-12 Complaints/Internal Affairs](#) outlines eight disposition classifications



The Department experienced a marked decrease in overall internal affairs investigations, down 67% overall year to year. In particular the Department realized a 70% year to year decrease in citizen complaints received. There were zero (0) Union grievances related to Internal Affairs and/or discipline filed in 2020. A grievance filed in 2019 related to an employee termination is still pending an arbitration hearing.



Crisis Intervention Team

The goal of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is to facilitate safe resolutions to crisis situations for all parties involved: officers, community, and person in crisis. In addition, similar to providing a victim of domestic violence with information on appropriate advocacy services, the CIT will link persons in crisis to appropriate services that may benefit them. Resources include, but are not limited to referrals to 211, the Franklin S. DuBois Center, Office of Victim Services, Department of Developmental Services, and Wilton Social Services.

In 2020 officers responded to *fifty-four (54)* incidents classified solely as CIT calls for service. Some consumers required multiple calls for service throughout the year. Officers respond to a myriad of other calls for service that involve subjects with underlying mental health and/or substance abuse issues, but may be classified as a different call type, such as family violence. A total of *thirty-seven (37)* Police Emergency Examination Request (PEER)¹³ forms were completed in 2020. The below chart is a breakdown of CIT calls for service by age group.

CIT Calls by Age Group

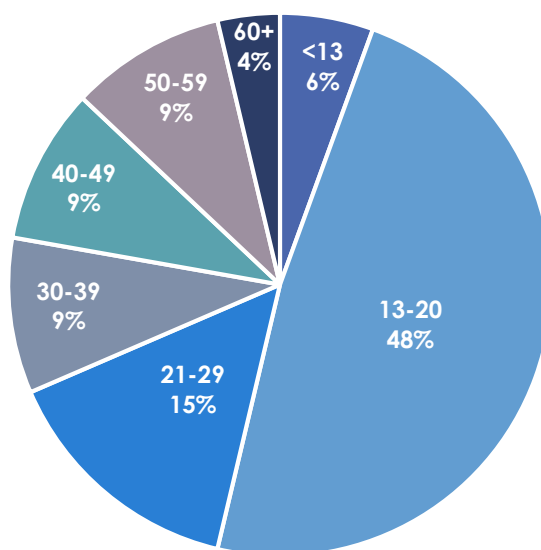


Figure-19 CIT Calls by Age Group

¹³ C.G.S. 17a-503 states, "Any police officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of immediate care and treatment, may take such person into custody and take or cause such person to be taken to a general hospital for emergency examination under this section."



Tragically the Department also investigated three deaths by suicide in 2020. Of those, two involved decedents in the 13-20 age group. The Department is informed by The Hub¹⁴, the regional Behavioral Health Action Organization, for support and coordination of behavioral health initiatives such as prevention, intervention, and recovery.

#BeTheITo

SUICIDE RESOURCES 2020

You can #BeTheITo help someone:

- ✓ Ask if they're suicidal
- ✓ Keep them safe
- ✓ Help connect to resources

Information and resources for those who are struggling, have survived an attempt or have lost someone:

- Visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) at <https://afsp.org/get-help>
- AFSP **Healing Conversations** in CT: Call Emily at 785-312-0227
- Charter Oak Family Center - **Survivors of Suicide Attempts (SOSA) Group**: Contact Steve Machattie at (860) 268-4953 or email at smachattie47@gmail.com

STRUGGLING?

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
800-273-8255 (English)
(option 1 for vets)
888-628-9454 (Spanish)

Text the Crisis Text Line:
741741

CT Mobile Crisis:
Dial 2-1-1, select option 1

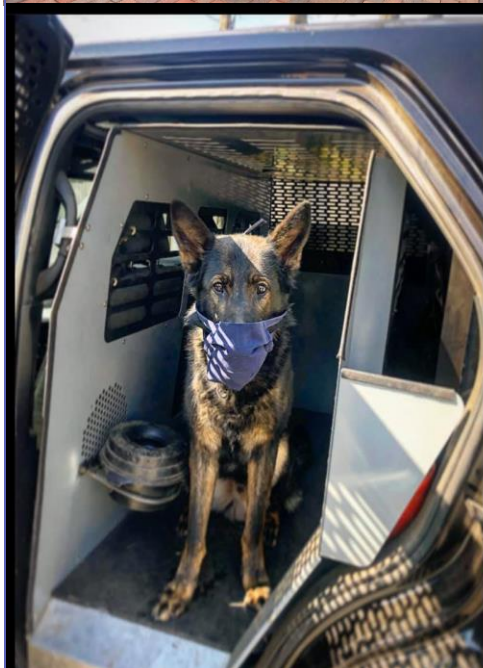
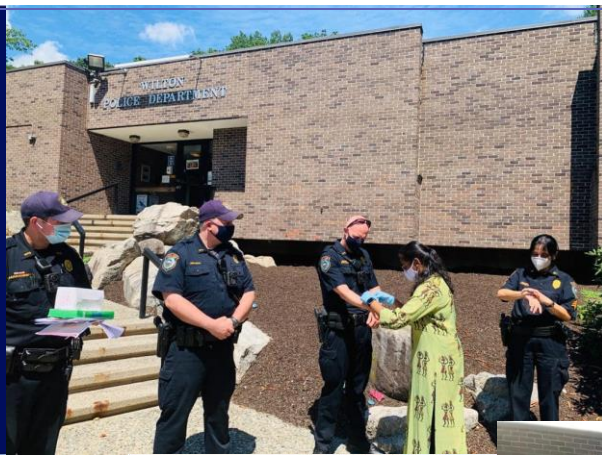
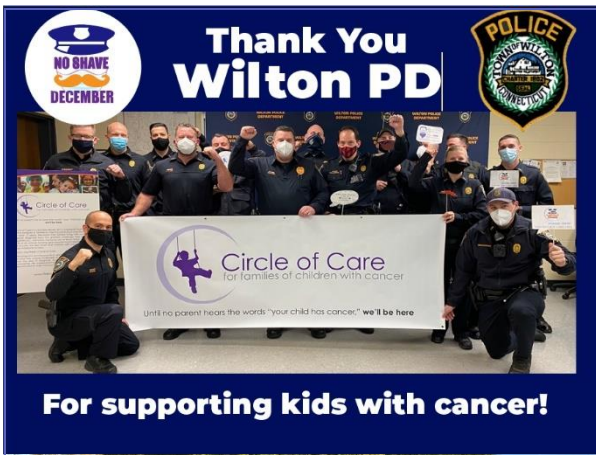
Law Enforcement Support:
1-800-COPLINE

Suicide Loss support groups in Southwestern CT are online during COVID. Call for details!

- Darien:** Mondays at 6pm, Center for Hope. Call Ashleigh 203-599-3782.
- Greenwich:** 1st Mondays, 7:30pm, 2nd Congregational Church. Call 203-434-0369.
- Trumbull:** 2nd Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm, Congregational Church. cmorris@trumbull-ct.gov
- Westport:** 3rd Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm, Christ and Holy Trinity Church, Mackenzie House. Call Diane 720-838-3880.

For guidance on communications, memorialization & programs after a suicide:
Visit CT's Suicide Advisory Board website, <https://www.preventsuicidect.org/resources>

¹⁴ <https://www.thehubct.org/>





Notable Arrests

Burglary Arrests

In June of 2019 the department received reports of two residential burglaries occurring during the day. A canvass and press release to the public resulted in several witness accounts of a suspect vehicle. Investigators were able to connect the suspect vehicle to a similar incident occurring in New Canaan, CT the same day. Investigation identified a male and female offender who were both later arrested by warrant in February 2020 for Burglary and Larceny charges.

Counterfeit Currency Arrest

In February 2020 officers responded to a local gas station on the report of two male suspects who attempted to pay for goods with a suspected counterfeit \$100 bill. The suspects left in a vehicle prior to police arrival. However, officers located the suspect vehicle at another local gas station. During the investigation officers recovered approximately \$2,900 in counterfeit \$100 bills, as well as a small amount of marijuana. Both male offenders were arrested and charged with Forgery, Larceny, and Drug charges.

Assault Arrest

In February 2020 officers responded to an assault in progress. Investigation revealed that local business owners had suspected an offender was stealing firewood from their storage area while the business was closed and decided to stake out the property. The business owners, equipped with bats, caught the offender in the act and confronted the suspect. The offender disarmed the business owners and subsequently assaulted both causing injuries to their heads and face. A male offender was arrested for Robbery and Assault charges. The business owners were also charged with Breach of Peace.

Firearm Arrest

In May 2020 an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a moving violation. Upon making contact with the vehicle occupants, an odor of marijuana emanating from the interior of the vehicle was present. A subsequent search of the vehicle located marijuana and a loaded pistol on the driver's floorboard. A magazine with ammunition was located on the person of the male driver. A male offender was arrested for Weapon and Drug charges.

Drug Arrest

In June 2020 an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a moving violation. Upon contacting the vehicle occupants, the officer observed marijuana in plain view. A subsequent search of the vehicle and its occupants revealed approximately one ounce of marijuana and five pills of Ecstasy. A male offender was arrested for Drug charges as a result.



Fraud Arrests

In July 2020 officers were dispatched to a local grocery store twice in a four-day period for a fraud scheme. On both dates offenders entered the business and made multiple purchases at self-checkout aisles for low value items, each time completing a cash back transaction. The offenders were using payment cards and/or digital wallets containing personal identifying information of unknown individuals to complete the transactions. In one incident a store employee confronted an offender and was subsequently assaulted by him. In both incidents officers responded and located suspects. In the first incident one male offender was arrested and charged with Assault, Identity Theft, and Larceny. In the second incident four male offenders were arrested and charged with Larceny and Identity Theft. In the second incident investigation revealed that the offenders had been at similar business locations in Fairfield County prior to committing the fraud in the Town of Wilton. A search of the suspect vehicle recovered \$15,243 in U.S. currency.

Stalking Arrest

In February 2020 the department began an investigation into stalking and harassment. Much of the harassment and stalking was being facilitated through spoofing applications. A lengthy investigation involving the completion of approximately 15 search warrants and/or ex-parte orders identified a male offender who had previously been involved in a dating relationship with the victim. The male was arrested by warrant in September 2020 and charged with Stalking and Harassment.

Embezzlement Arrest

In February 2020 a local business reported that they suspected a former employee of embezzling over \$200k during his employment. A review of financial records determined that the offender had created fictitious vendors in the business's accounts payable system with routing numbers linked to the offender's personal bank accounts. The male offender was arrested by warrant in October 2020.

Burglary Arrests

In June 2020 a resident had their garage burglarized. Stolen were two high value bicycles. The victim resident located their stolen bicycles for sale on a social networking site. The completion of several search warrants and collaboration with neighboring police departments experiencing a similar crime pattern identified a male suspect. Further investigation linked the male suspect to a separate attempted residential burglary occurring in the Town of Wilton in July 2020. The male offender was arrested for both burglaries by warrant in October 2020 for Burglary and Larceny charges.



Identity Theft Arrest

In February 2020 a resident reported being victim of an Identity Theft. The victim's personal identifying information was used to open four credit card accounts that resulted in approximately \$35k in fraudulent purchases at various merchants. Video surveillance of purchases was obtained and through intelligence sharing, a male suspect was developed. A search warrant on the suspect's cellular phone data placed him at many of the locations of the fraud activity that occurred over a two-week period in Connecticut and New Jersey. The male offender was arrested by warrant in November 2020 for Identity Theft and Forgery charges.

Commercial Burglary Arrest

In October 2020 a local restaurant was burglarized during the overnight hours. Through collaboration with neighboring police departments both a male and female suspect were developed. The female and male offenders were arrested by warrant in December 2020 and January 2021 respectively.