MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT ON CRIME & SAFETY

Contents

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

As you read this report, note that the information is from 2019 – before the Covid-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders. It will be interesting to see in next year's report, covering 2020, how that condition affected our crime statistics.

Yet 2019 was still a significant year because it included a significant change in Montgomery County public safety with the retirement of MCPD Chief Tom Manger after 15 years. Chief Manger's contributions to Montgomery County and to the country can't be understated. I am honored to succeed him, mindful of the lessons he taught but certainly aware of the need to respond to conditions as they are now.

We had other changes in the leadership in the Department. Assistant Chief Laura Lanham left to become Deputy Chief in Rockville, Assistant Chief (and Acting Chief) Russ Hamill became the Chief of Police in Laurel, and Assistant Chief Dave Anderson retired. They all made considerable contributions to our Department and the County and will be missed.

Our new assistant chiefs were officially confirmed in April 2020. They are Assistant Chief Ron Smith, Assistant Chief Tom Didone, Assistant Chief Willie Parker-Loan, and Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil.

I am pleased to report that Montgomery County is making great strides in improving public safety. In 2019, the number of crimes was 2.5% lower than in 2018. Notable in the report is that crimes involving drugs (shown as Crimes Against Society) were 20.4% lower in 2019 than in 2018.

In 2019, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received 835,108 calls for service, approximately 1.3% fewer calls than 2018. Sixty-four percent of the calls received by the ECC were emergency calls, an average of 1,465 emergency calls per day, and an increase of 3.4% over the number of emergency calls received in 2018.

The number of dispatched calls for service decreased nearly 4% in 2019. Police officers were dispatched to 211,275 calls, of which nearly 10% were priority calls, those which require two or more officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens.

Our homicide rate improved by 25%, from 20 in 2018 to 15 in 2019. That figure is a continued improvement from the high of 30 in 2015. Six of the homicides were domestic-related and three homicides (four victims) were gang affiliated and/or motivated.

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) continues to be the largest gang operating within Montgomery County, and is responsible for nearly half the gang-related assaults in the county (45%). MS-13 is also known to be responsible for human, narcotics, and firearms trafficking. Approximately 67% of known gang-related crime in 2019 was committed by youth (ages 21 and under). Youth were responsible for 82% of all gang-related robberies, 83% of gang-related homicides, 65% of gang-related weapon offenses, and about 54% of all gang-related assaults.

The number of overdoses in Montgomery County increased 7.3% in 2019. While nonfatal overdoses declined 5% from 2018, fatal overdoses increased 41% in 2019, following a substantial reduction in 2018. Toxicology reports indicated that 92% of the fatal overdoses involved fentanyl, a powerful drug that's easily made and readily available.

Overall, we saw crimes against people, including assault, homicide and sex-related offenses, drop by 3 percent, while crime against property, including arson, robbery, burglary and car theft, were up by 2.3% from 2018.

Finally, the Department is making a concerted effort to increase our engagement with the public to be responsive to crime and public safety issues that impact the quality of life for everyone in Montgomery County. In 2019, the department recorded more than 2,100 events that engaged or educated the public.

➢ Coffee with a Cop events continued to be a popular way for command staff and district officers to meet community members in a casual environment and address concerns in person. In 2019, the MCPD partnered with local coffee shops to host 42 of these popular forums.

➢ Community services (CSO) and school resource officers (SRO) attended and supported more than 400 mentoring and truancy prevention programs and after school clubs in the Montgomery County Public Schools. Overall, at least 35.4% of the events recorded by the MCPD focused on establishing relationships and fostering trust with the youth of Montgomery County.

➢ The Community Engagement Division, CSOs, and Special Operations Division delivered more than 160 security assessments and/or Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training programs in 2019.

➢ There were more than 100 events recorded in churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques in 2019; nearly half of those focused on training and education for securing places of worship.

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.

Marcus G. Jones
Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

The Montgomery County Police Department experienced significant organizational change in 2019. After 15 years of service, Chief J. Thomas Manger retired, and Assistant Chief Russ Hamill took the helm as Acting Chief of Police. Shortly thereafter, Chief Hamill was announced as the new Chief of Police for the Laurel (MD) Police Department, and Chief Marcus Jones was announced as the Acting Chief of Police for the MCPD while the County Executive conducted a nationwide search for a new chief. The additional departure of Assistant Chief Laura Lanham (to become Deputy Chief of the Rockville City Police Department) and the retirement of Assistant Chief Dave Anderson left additional vacancies at the top of the department.

MCPD Leadership at Graduation for Recruit Class 67, February 2019

In November 2019, the Montgomery County Council confirmed Chief Marcus Jones as the official Chief of Police, but due to scheduling and then the emergence of COVID-19, it was not until April 2020 that four new assistant chiefs were confirmed: Assistant Chief Ron Smith, Assistant Chief Tom Didone, Assistant Chief Willie Parker-Loan, and Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil (pictured below, left to right).
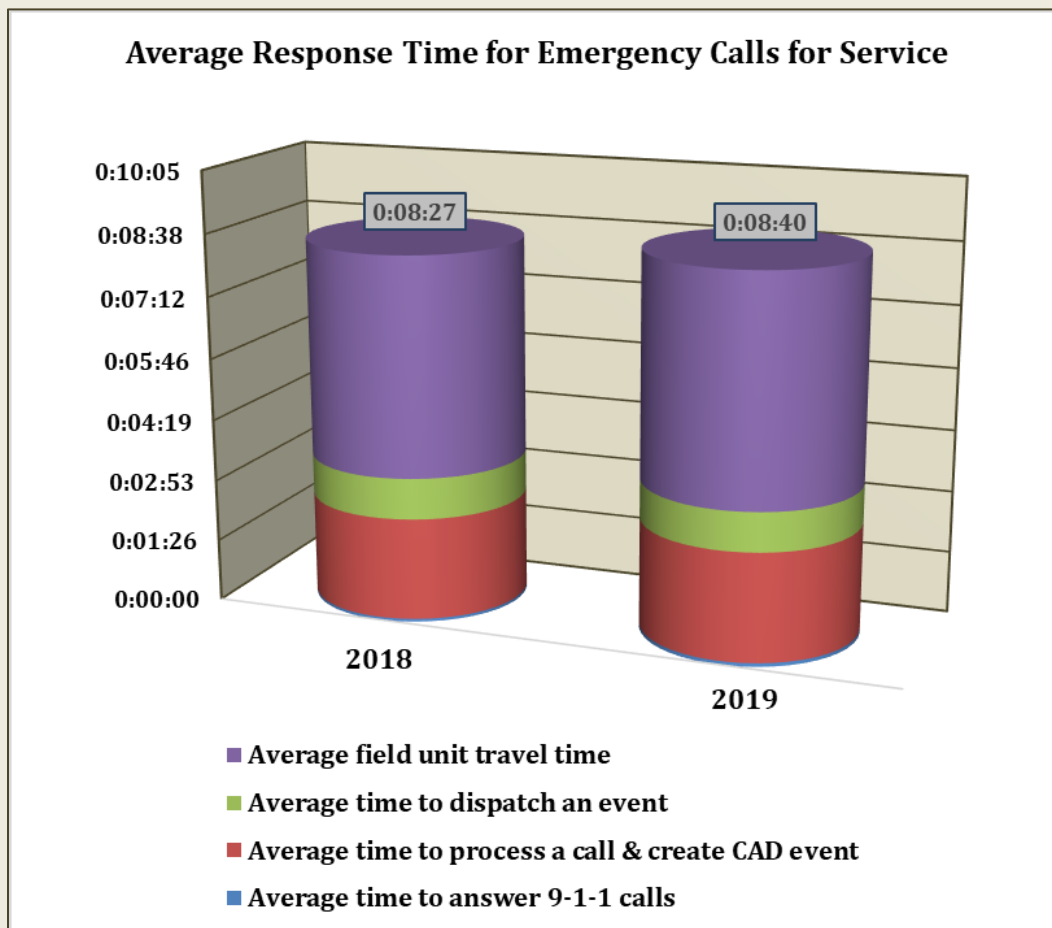

Despite these organizational changes last year, the men and women of the Montgomery County Police Department diligently continued their work to maintain the safety and security of Montgomery County residents and visitors, as evidenced by the information highlighted in this report.
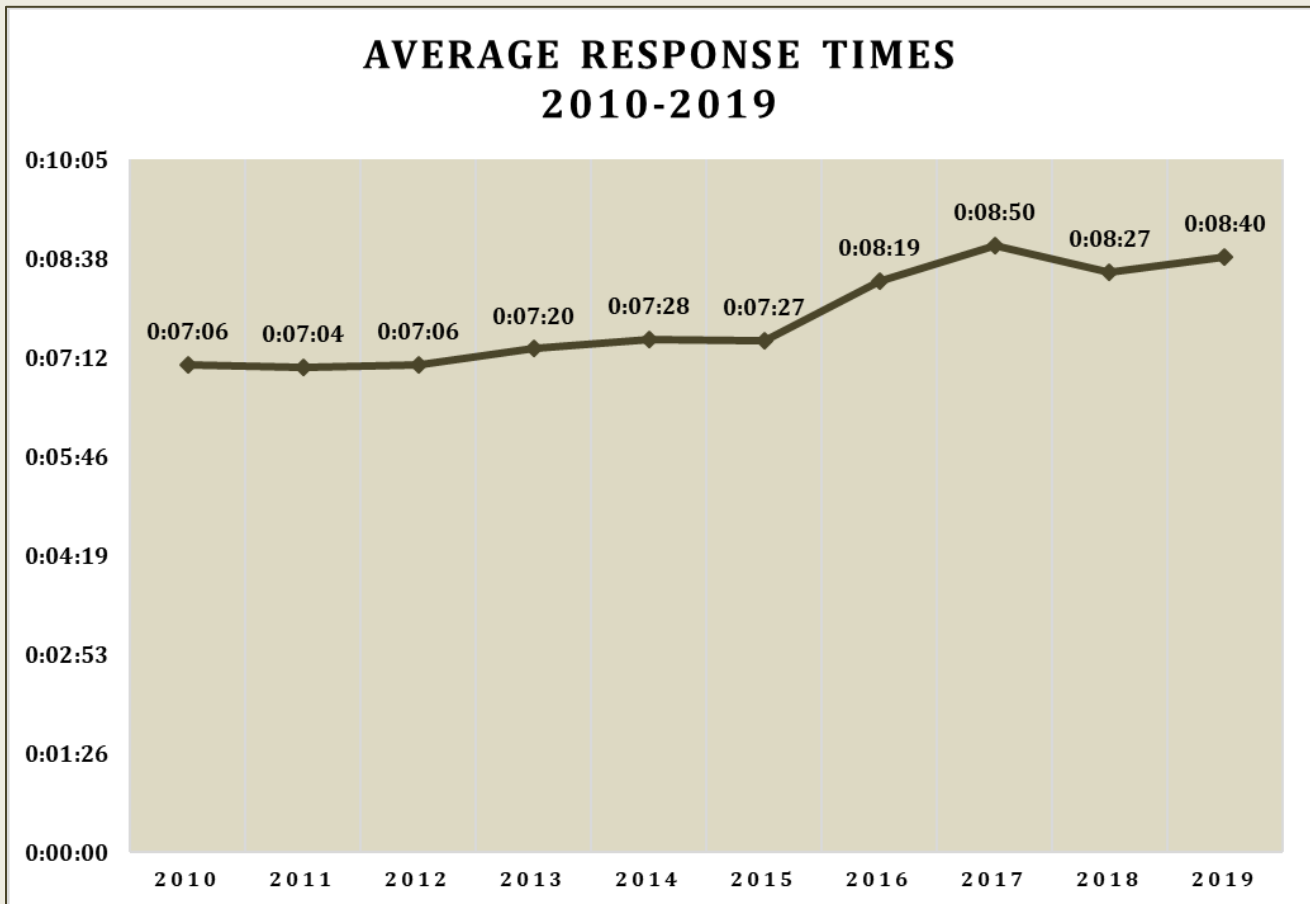
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received 835,108[1] calls for service, approximately 1.3% fewer calls than 2018. Sixty-four percent of the calls received by the ECC were emergency calls, an average of 1,465 emergency calls per day, and an increase of 3.4% over the number of emergency calls received in 2018.

The number of dispatched calls for service decreased nearly 4% in 2019. Police officers were dispatched to 211,275 calls, of which nearly 10% 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. After making some improvements in 2018, the average response time jumped back up again, driven by an increase in average times to answer (+1 second), to process (+8 seconds), and travel (+7 seconds).

Average Response Time for Emergency Calls for Service

	2018	2019
	0:08:27	0:08:40

Legend:
- ■ Average field unit travel time
- ■ Average time to dispatch an event
- ■ Average time to process a call & create CAD event
- ■ Average time to answer 9-1-1 calls

Y-axis values: 0:00:00, 0:01:26, 0:02:53, 0:04:19, 0:05:46, 0:07:12, 0:08:38, 0:10:05

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[1] *Includes 125,485 calls that were transferred from MCP to MC Fire & Rescue Services.*

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES 2010-2019

A line chart titled "AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES 2010-2019" with the y-axis showing time values from 0:00:00 to 0:10:05 (labels: 0:00:00, 0:01:26, 0:02:53, 0:04:19, 0:05:46, 0:07:12, 0:08:38, 0:10:05) and the x-axis showing years 2010 through 2019.

Data points:
- 2010: 0:07:06
- 2011: 0:07:04
- 2012: 0:07:06
- 2013: 0:07:20
- 2014: 0:07:28
- 2015: 0:07:27
- 2016: 0:08:19
- 2017: 0:08:50
- 2018: 0:08:27
- 2019: 0:08:40

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, 2018 - 2019 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	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	6,082	5,901	-3.0%
Crime Against Property	21,488	21,977	2.3%
Crime Against Society	6,947	5,528	-20.4%
Group B Offenses*	15,792	15,626	-1.1%
Total	50,309	49,032	-2.5%

Despite the slight increase in crimes against property, crime (Group A offenses) was down 3.2%. There were approximately 1400 fewer crimes against society and nearly 200 fewer crimes against persons.

In 2019, the crime rate per capita declined from 3288 to 3179 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.

A note about MCPD offense reporting in 2019: Concerns surrounding the number of rapes in Montgomery County caused the department to reexamine the way it was reporting offense numbers on an annual basis. Previously, Montgomery County was reporting all offenses according to the date the actual police report was written, which is contrary to the way the FBI NIBRS program records offenses. This caused discrepancies between the MCPD's and the FBI's data, as well as the data from surrounding jurisdictions. To rectify this, internal processes were modified to record offenses **according to when the offense occurred**. As a result, variations appeared in several offense categories, but most notably, the sex offenses.

In all the graphs that show the 10-year offense trend, the data points for the last three years have been adjusted to reflect offenses according to when they occurred. Readers should also note that data from 2010 to 2016 was collected under UCR Summary requirements, and data from 2017 onward was collected under UCR NIBRS requirements.

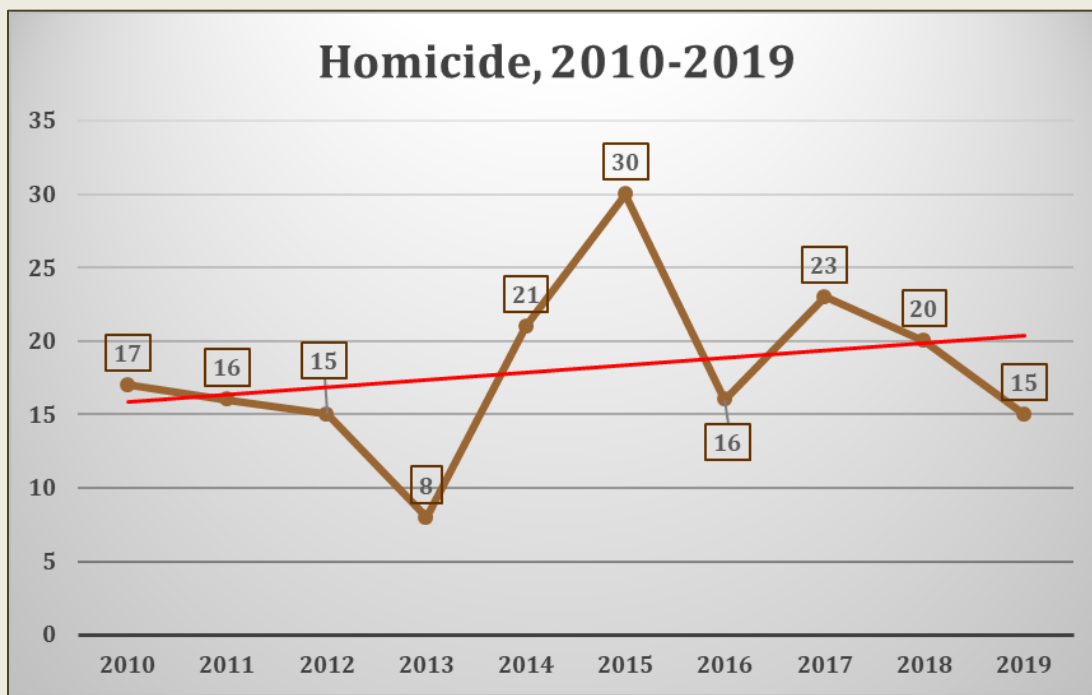[2] Based on U.S. Census Bureau population data for Montgomery County, MD, 2018. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/montgomerycountymaryland

Montgomery County Police Group A Offenses

OFFENSE CATEGORIES	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2018	2019	% Diff
Assault Offenses	Aggravated Assault	776	795	2.4%
	Simple Assault	4,480	4,398	-1.8%
	Intimidation	118	48	-59.3%
Homicide Offenses	Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	20	15	-25.0%
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	9	8	-11.1%
Kidnapping/Abduction	Kidnapping/Abduction	19	9	-52.6%
Sex Offenses	Forcible Rape	230	222	-3.5%
	Forcible Sodomy	105	97	-7.6%
	Sexual Assault with An Object	64	58	-9.4%
	Fondling	180	180	0.0%
	Forcible Fondling	81	71	-12.3%
TOTAL CRIME AGAINST PERSON		**6,082**	**5,901**	**-3.0%**
Arson	Arson	57	48	-15.8%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1,444	1,408	-2.5%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Counterfeiting/Forgery	461	460	-0.2%
Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	2,960	2,851	-3.7%
Embezzlement	Embezzlement	80	82	2.5%
Extortion/Blackmail	Extortion/Blackmail	50	40	-20.0%
Fraud Offenses	False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game	964	1007	4.5%
	Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	645	568	-11.9%
	Impersonation	55	47	-14.5%
	Welfare Fraud	0	1	100.0%
	Wire Fraud	42	44	4.8%
	Identity Theft	1230	1331	8.2%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	Pocket/picking	111	120	8.1%
	Purse-snatching	71	79	11.3%
	Shoplifting	2,848	3,126	9.8%
	Theft from Building	2,089	1,828	-12.5%
	From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	13	5	-61.5%
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	3,900	4,407	13.0%
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	804	830	3.2%
	All Other Larceny	2,190	2,186	-0.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	831	905	8.9%
Robbery	Robbery	590	577	-2.2%
Stolen Property Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses	53	27	-49.1%
TOTAL CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY		**21,488**	**21,977**	**2.3%**
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	6,034	4,767	-21.0%
	Drug Equipment Violations	441	336	-23.8%
Gambling Offenses	Operating/Promoting/ Assisting Gambling	1	0	-100.0%
Pornography/Obscene Material	Pornography/Obscene Material	34	36	5.9%
Prostitution Offenses	Prostitution	30	27	-10.0%
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	1	2	100.0%
Weapon Law Violations	Weapon Law Violations	406	360	-11.3%
TOTAL CRIME AGAINST SOCIETY		**6,947**	**5,528**	**-20.4%**
TOTAL GROUP A OFFENSES		**34,517**	**33,406**	**-3.2%**

Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD dashboard on 2/12/2020.

In 2019, there were 15 homicides (14 incidents), a decrease from 20 homicides in 2018. Six of the homicides were domestic-related and three homicides (four victims) were gang affiliated and/or motivated.

Homicide, 2010-2019

Year	Homicides
2010	17
2011	16
2012	15
2013	8
2014	21
2015	30
2016	16
2017	23
2018	20
2019	15

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.
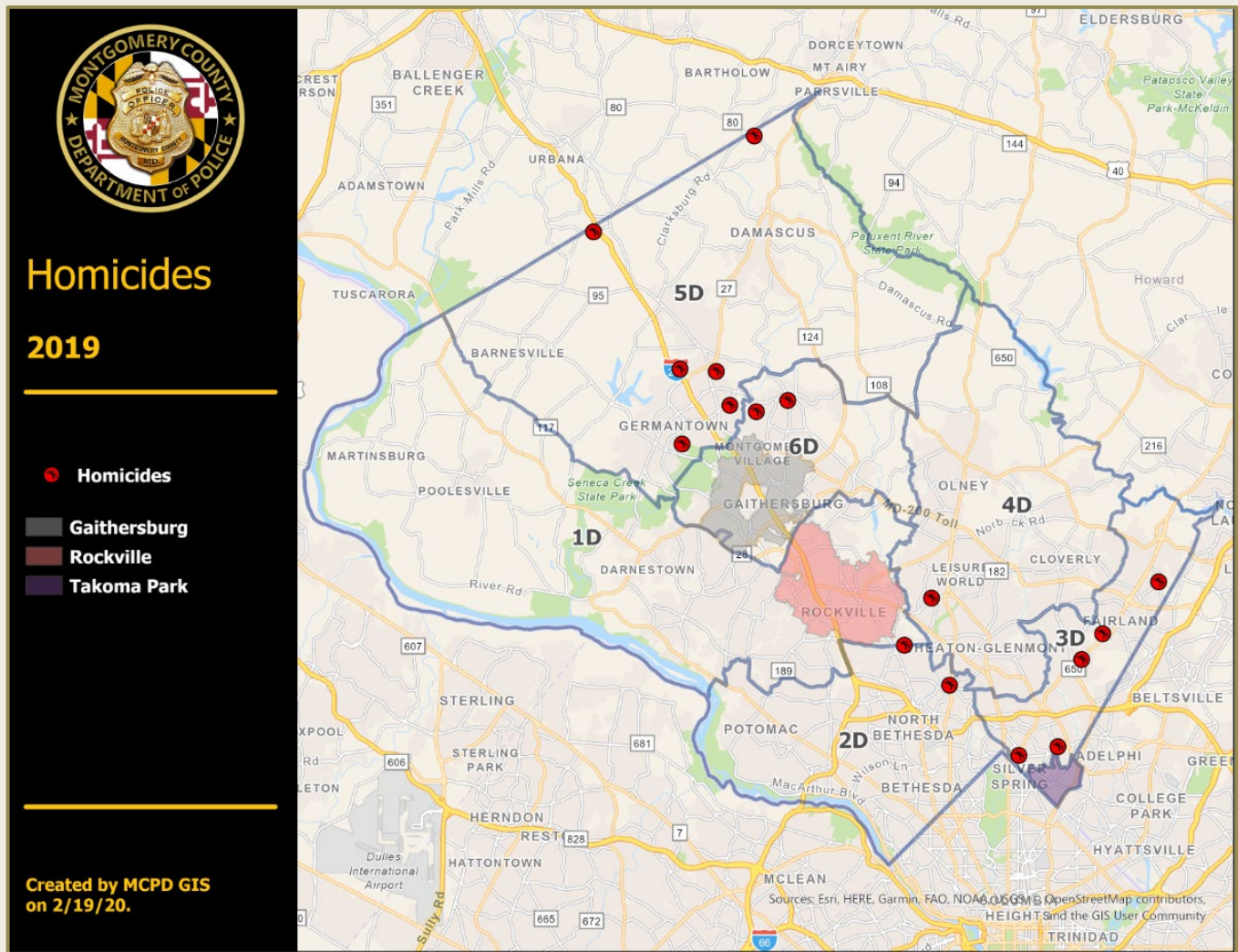
Homicides 2019

Legend:
- Homicides
- Gaithersburg
- Rockville
- Takoma Park

Created by MCPD GIS on 2/19/20.

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) continues to be the largest gang operating within Montgomery County, and is responsible for nearly half the gang-related assaults in the county (45%). MS-13 is also known to be responsible for human, narcotics, and firearms trafficking. MS-13 members reside throughout Montgomery County, but there is a heavier concentration or presence in the 3rd, 4th, and 6th Districts. Despite their presence, other transnational and neighborhood gangs were active in Montgomery County. The 5th District, for example, had the highest level of gang-related violent activity, but it primarily came from a hybrid gang known as One Way Hustle, and a lesser known gang that consists of One Way Hustle members who broke off after several high-ranking members were incarcerated. Approximately 67% of known gang-related crime in 2019 was committed by youth (ages 21 and under). Youth were responsible for 82% of all gang-related robberies, 83% of gang-related homicides, 65% of gang-related weapon offenses, and about 54% of all gang-related assaults.

Gang-Related Violent Crimes

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
■ Weapons Offense	15	10	11	30	23
■ Robbery	21	35	28	30	17
■ Rape	2	3	2	3	1
■ Homicide	8	5	9	0	4
■ Aggravated/Simple Assault	33	32	36	47	35
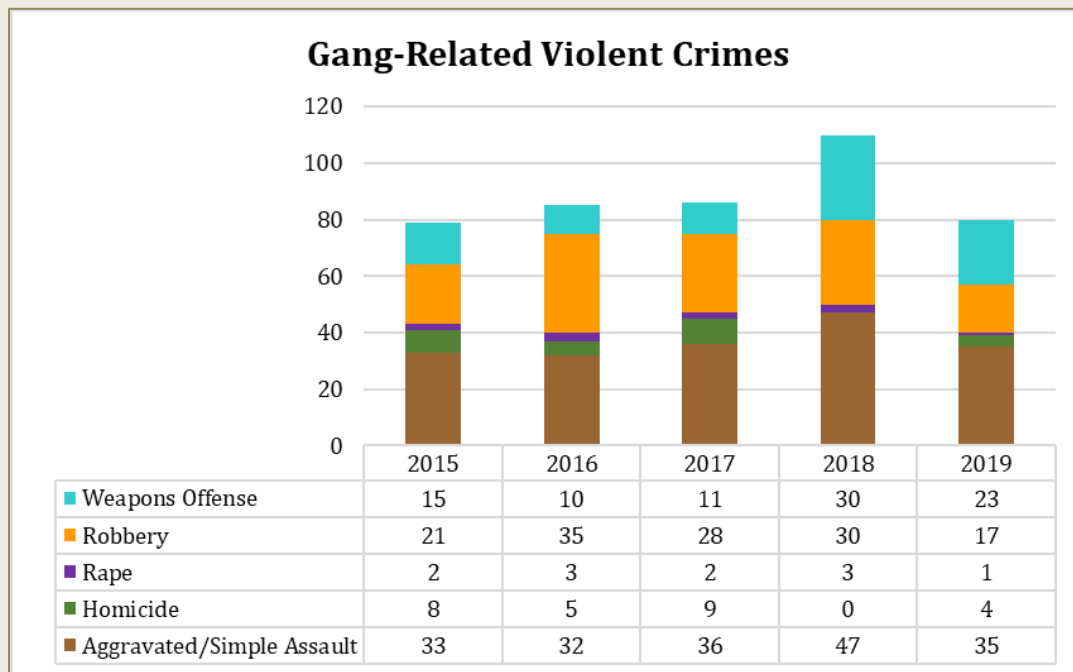
This chart represents incidents SID was notified of or investigated.

The map below reflects some of the violent gang-related offenses investigated by the Special Investigations Division in 2019.
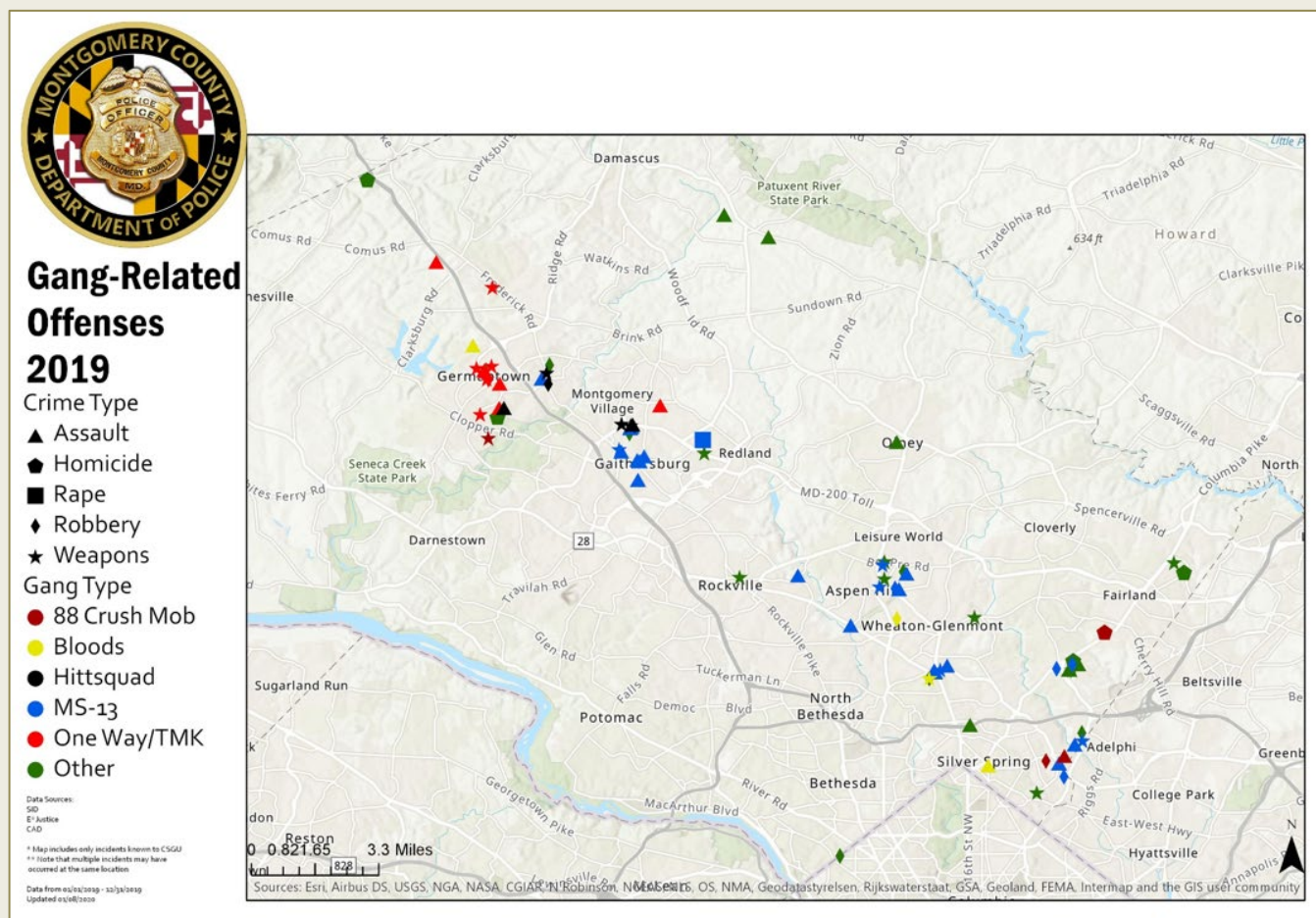
NONFATAL SHOOTINGS

There was a total of 99 nonfatal shooting incidents in 2019, an increase over the 93 nonfatal shooting incidents reported in 2018, and the 79 incidents in 2017. The department further classified the shootings by whether intent was known or discovered through the course of investigation; suspects in 30 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 five accidental discharges, which resulted in one person being struck, and property damage in three of the remaining incidents. Seventy-six percent of the recorded nonfatal shootings occurred in the 3rd, 5th, and 6th Districts.
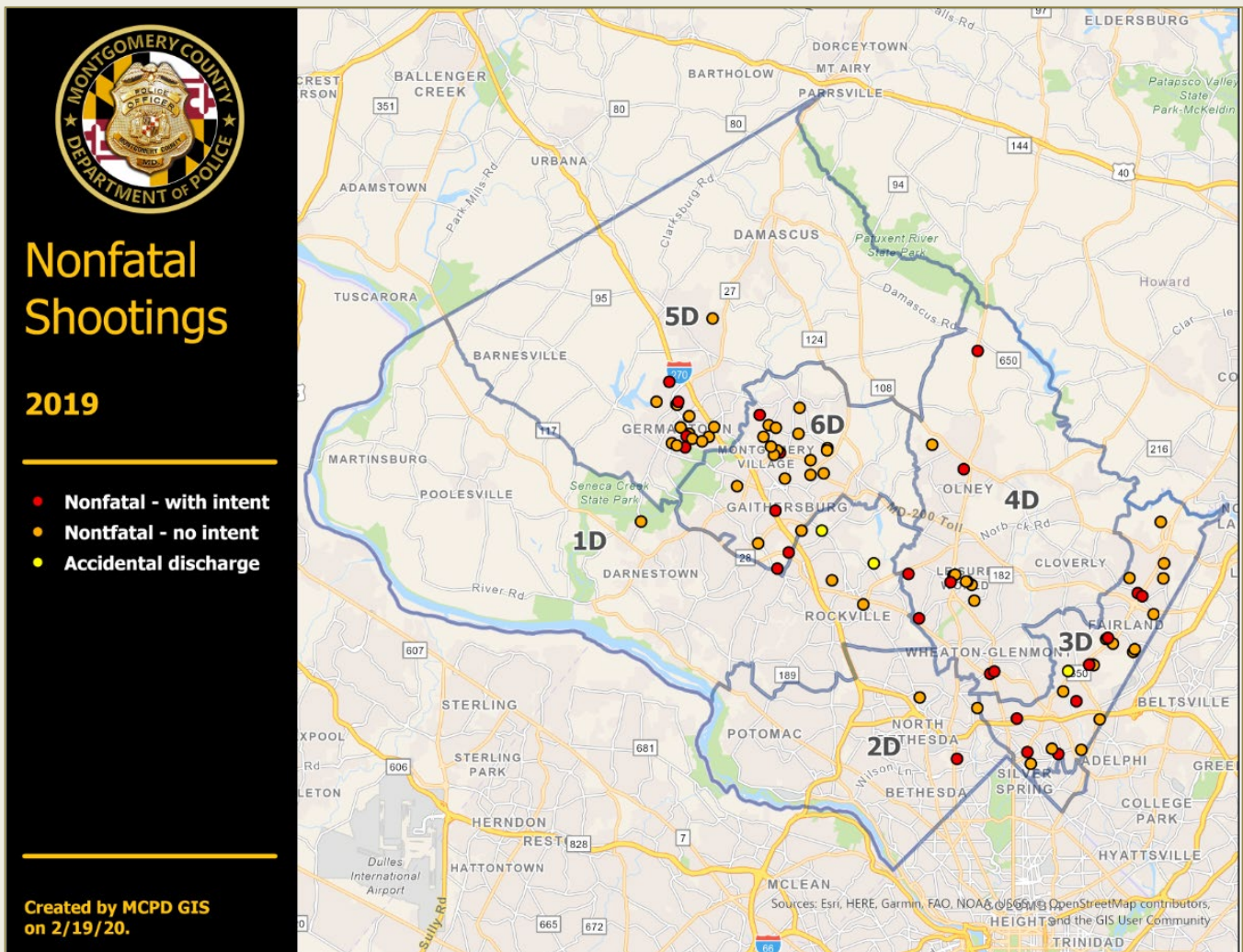
ASSAULTS

Approximately 40% of all assaults investigated in Montgomery County are domestic or family related. In 2019, total assault offenses were down approximately 2.5%, but there was a slight increase (2.4%) in aggravated assaults. Aggravated assaults have increased 21.7% over the last ten years.

Aggravated Assault, 2010-2019

Year	Value
2010	653
2011	648
2012	850
2013	586
2014	864
2015	910
2016	768
2017	771
2018	776
2019	795
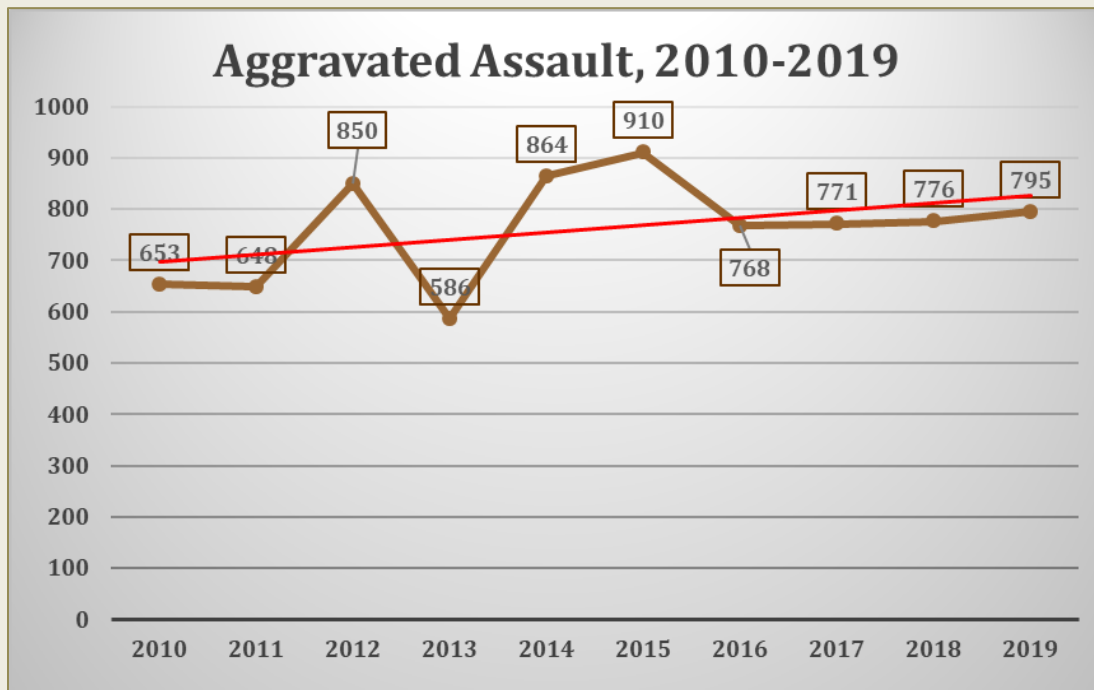
While some assaults are unavoidable, here are some tips on making sure simple arguments do not turn violent or deadly:

If you are involved in a heated argument that appears to be turning violent, walk away. Staying to fight — "to prove something" — only demonstrates poor judgment in almost every instance.

Never carry a firearm, knife or other illegal weapon. A weapon will definitely escalate the situation, and it could ultimately be used to harm innocent people or yourself.

Avoid excessive drinking, or if you have been drinking, recognize its impact on your judgment. Alcohol is a contributing factor in many assaults.

If you see an assault in progress — dial 9-1-1 immediately to alert the police. DO NOT jump into the fray — unless it is a last resort to prevent more serious injury.

ROBBERY[3]

Despite several challenging robbery trends in 2019, robberies declined by 2.2%, and the total number of offenses was well below the 10-year average of 743 robberies.

- ➢ Three men were arrested and charged after committing several smash-and-grab ATM robberies at 7-Eleven stores in the 3rd and 4th Districts.

- ➢ The metropolitan Washington region was impacted by a string of SunTrust bank robberies in 2019, four of which occurred in Montgomery County. The suspect was identified and later found deceased (suicide) in Hagerstown.

- ➢ Armed robberies at CVS and other smaller pharmacies continued in 2019. The suspects were never identified.
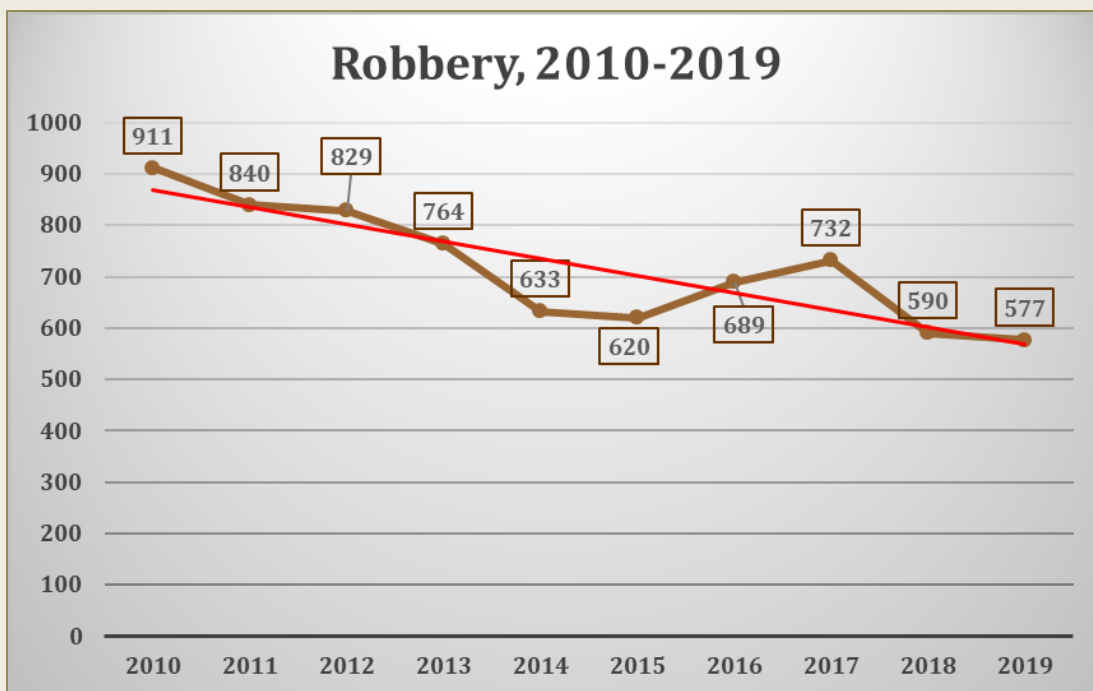
RAPE

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.

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[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.

In 2019, there were more than 500 incidents of rape reported to the Montgomery County Police Department (this counts multiple offenses of rape per incident). Of those incidents, 29% were reported to have occurred prior to 2019. 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).

Rape, 2010-2019
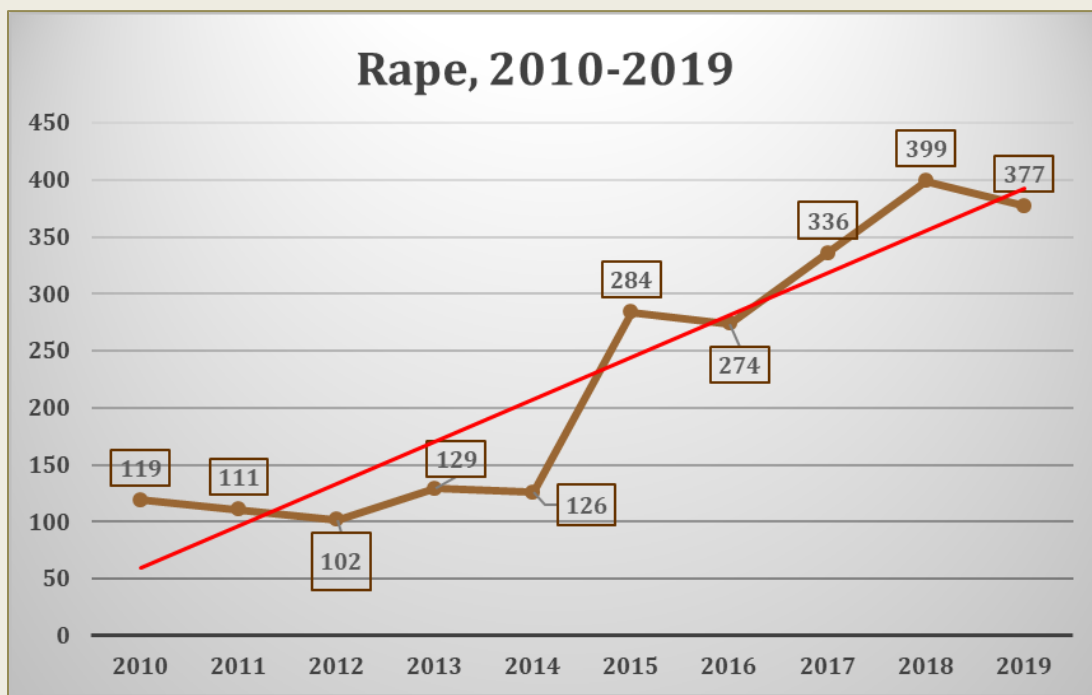
This modification in how the MCPD publishes these numbers does NOT affect how these crimes are investigated. The MCPD remains sensitive to the fact that victims of sex offenses struggle with the decision on whether to report being sexually assaulted and the MCPD has always fostered a belief in encouraging 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 11.6% 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 45.2% of the incidents were acquaintances or otherwise known by the victim (teacher, babysitter, employee, etc.). The remaining 43.2% of the victims reported that subjects were a significant other (spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend) or family member. 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).

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS & THEFTS FROM AUTOS

The number of auto thefts increased nearly 9% in 2019, while thefts from autos (including vehicle parts and accessories) increased 11.3%. Many of the auto thefts occurred 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.
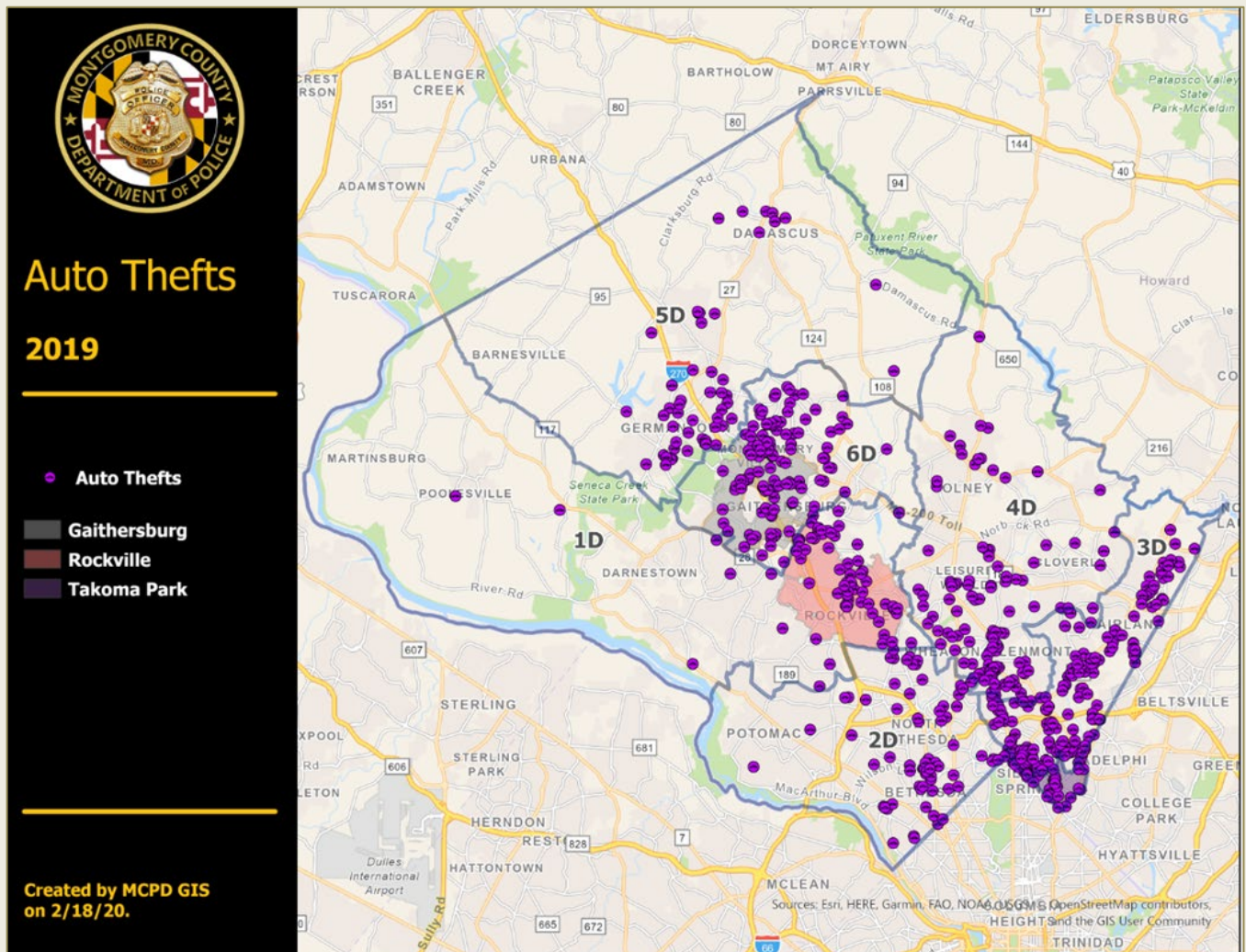
Thefts of tools from work vans continued in 2019, and the 4th District Station held several engraving events to help residents increase their chances of recovering property if it should be stolen from them.

The County also experienced several crime sprees involving catalytic converter thefts in the 1st, 3rd, and 6th Districts early in 2019, and theft of vehicle rims in all districts throughout the year.

Although the trend in both motor vehicle thefts and thefts from autos continues downward, 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. If everyone does their part, there could be a significant decline in these offense categories.

Motor Vehicle Theft, 2010-2019

Year	Value
2010	1455
2011	1186
2012	1013
2013	893
2014	791
2015	821
2016	947
2017	909
2018	832
2019	905

Theft from Auto, 2015-2019

Year	Value
2015	5534
2016	5252
2017	5802
2018	4704
2019	5237
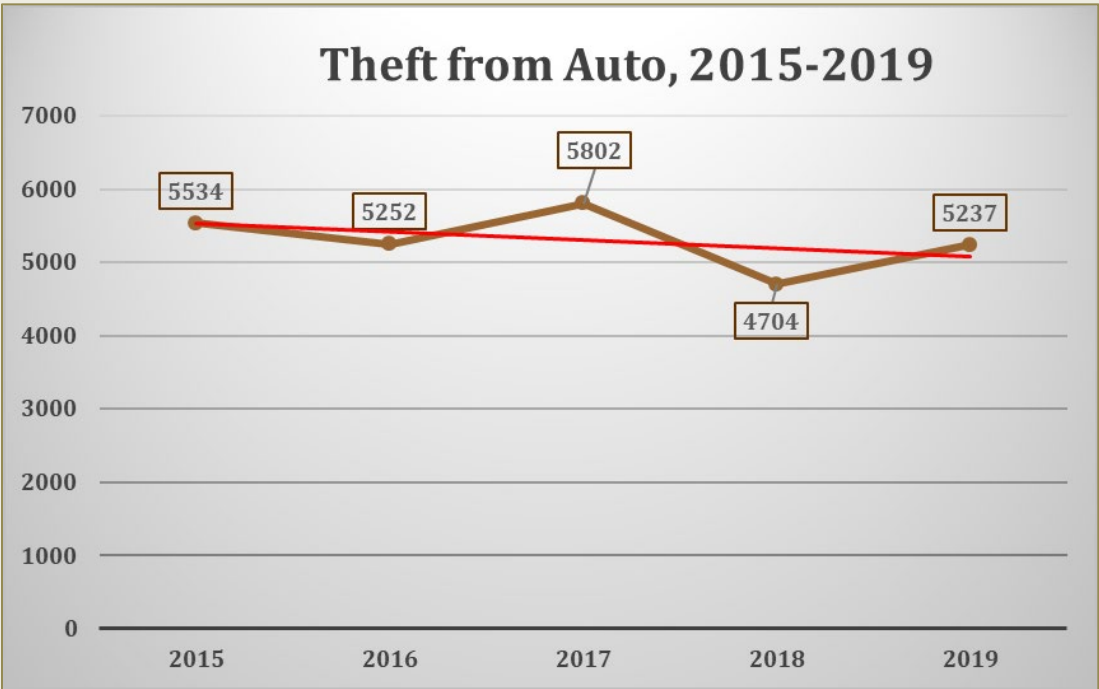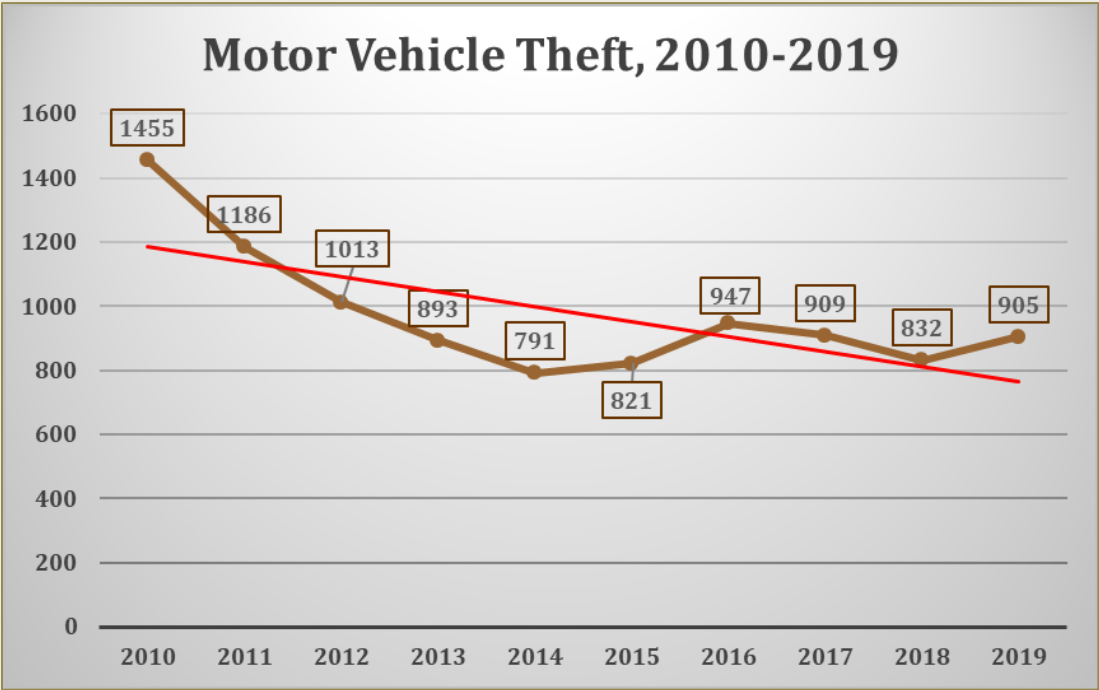
BURGLARY

After a trend in commercial burglaries in 2016 caused an upturn in the total number of burglaries that year, the number of burglaries has steadily declined, and in 2019, there were just over 1400 burglaries reported in Montgomery County. Overall, burglaries have declined 57.6% over the last 10 years. This is positive news, which may be attributed to the sophistication and convenience of do-it-yourself alarm and security monitoring systems. 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.
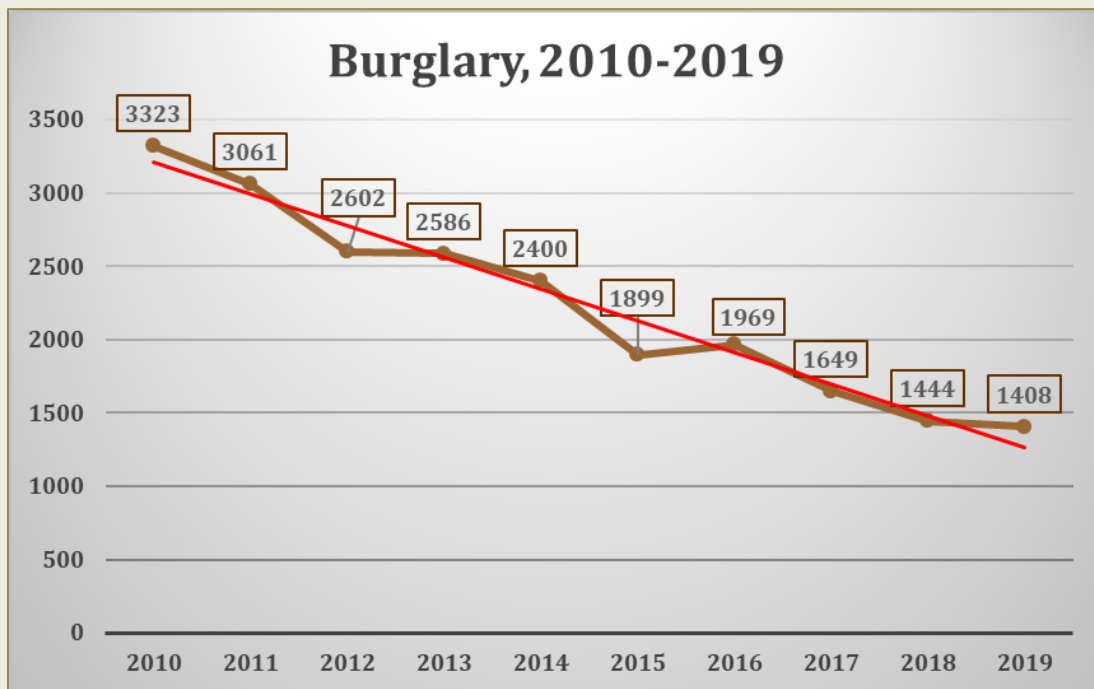
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Controlled Dangerous Substances

The total number of offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) in 2019 declined 21.2%. Ninety-one percent of the total number of CDS-related offenses are related to possession. Synthetic narcotics, which have typically been involved 8-9% of CDS offenses (2017 and 2018), made up only 1.6% in 2019. There was an increase in offenses as a percentage of the total involving marijuana and cocaine, which combined, made up 87% of all CDS-related violations.
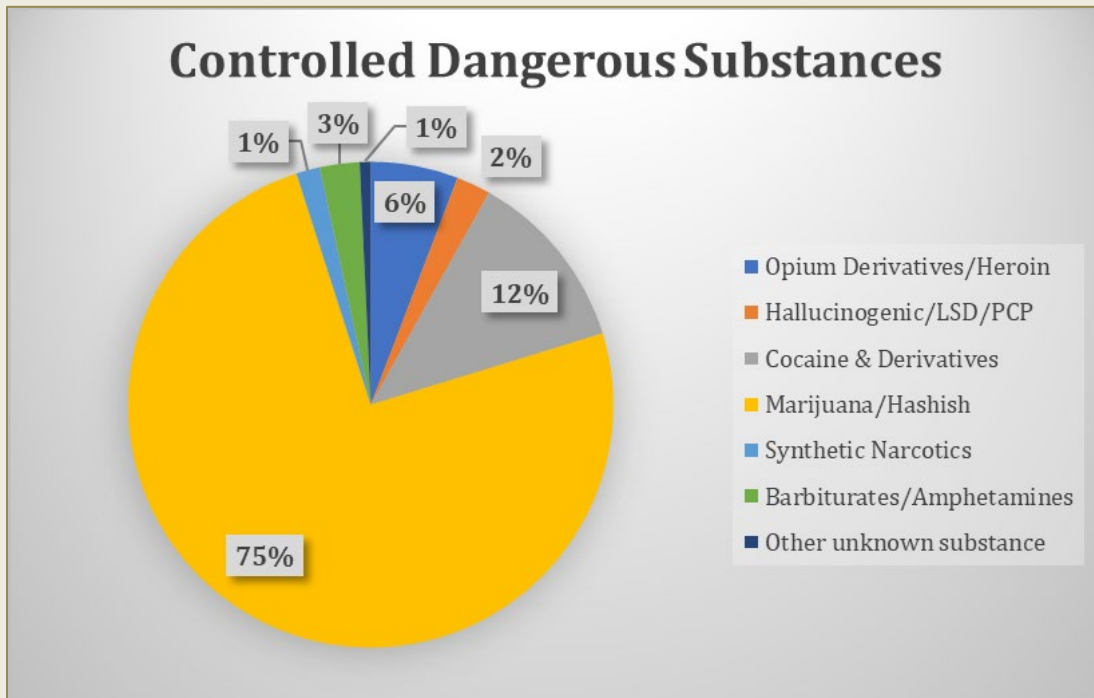
Controlled Dangerous Substances

Legend:
- Opium Derivatives/Heroin
- Hallucinogenic/LSD/PCP
- Cocaine & Derivatives
- Marijuana/Hashish
- Synthetic Narcotics
- Barbiturates/Amphetamines
- Other unknown substance

1% — 3% — 1% — 6% — 2% — 12% — 75%

The number of overdoses in Montgomery County increased 7.3% in 2019. While nonfatal overdoses declined 5% from 2018, fatal overdoses increased 41% in 2019, following a substantial reduction in 2018. Toxicology reports indicated that 92% of the fatal overdoses involved fentanyl.

Heroin & Opioid Overdoses

Year	Non-Fatal	Fatal
2014	52	40
2015	56	51
2016	154	60
2017	157	70
2018	131	46
2019	125	65
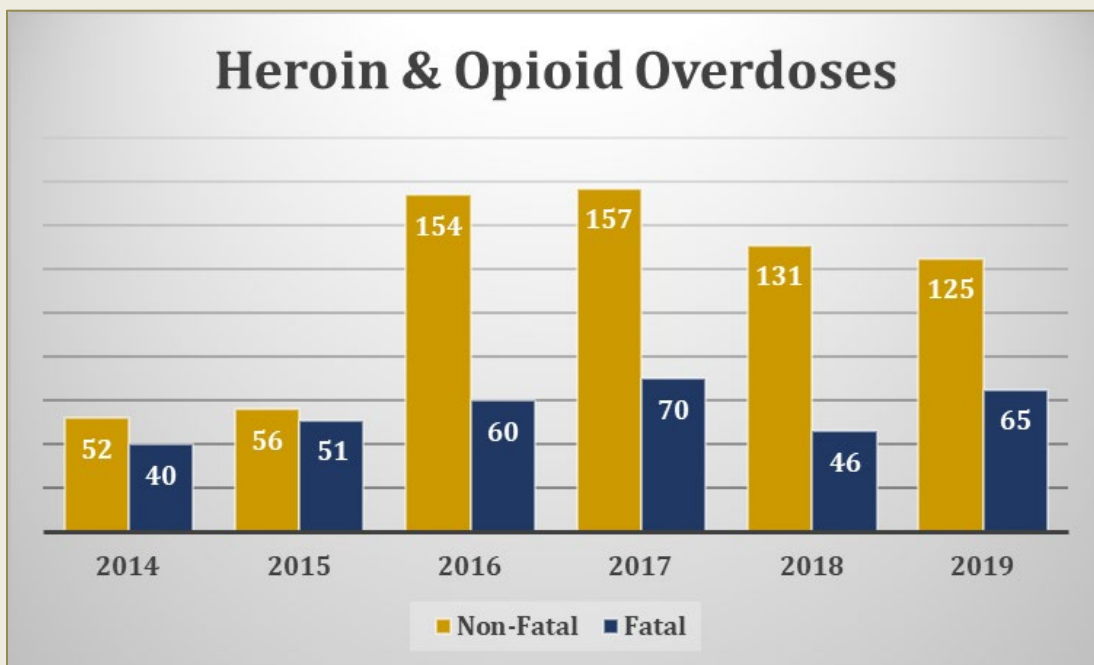
Learn more about the risks of opioids and the resources available to you through the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services by visiting their **Know the Risks** page.

Weapons Offenses

Although there were fewer weapons offenses recorded in 2019, 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 increased 36.5%. Twenty-six percent of the firearms recovered in 2019 were involved in domestic-related offenses.
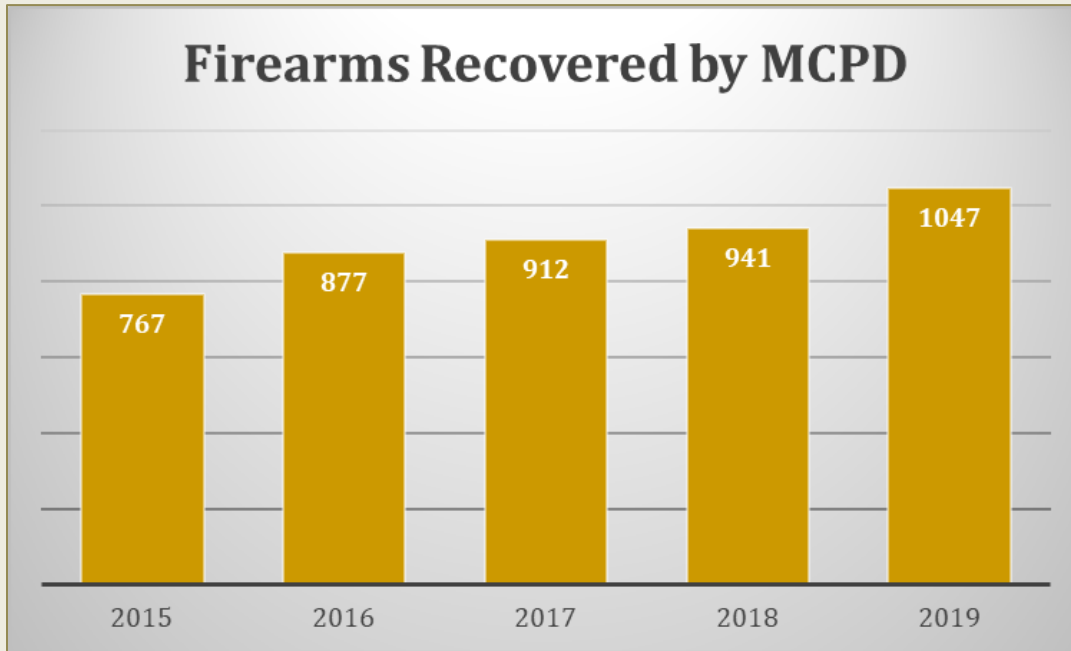
GROUP B OFFENSES

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	2018	2019	% Diff
Bad Checks	86	82	-4.7%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	13	2	-84.6%
Disorderly Conduct	1,131	1,040	-8.0%
Driving Under the Influence	2,752	2,795	1.6%
Drunkenness	19	17	-10.5%
Family Offense (Non-violent)	186	162	-12.9%
Liquor Law Violations	1,797	1,470	-18.2%
Peeping Tom	17	19	11.8%
Trespass of Real Property	708	753	6.4%
All Other Offenses*	11,962	12,580	5.2%
Total	18,671	18,920	1.3%

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 2019, the MCPD conducted 106,075 traffic stops, which resulted in 188,561 enforcement actions[4] (warning, citation, or state equipment repair order (SERO)). Montgomery County police officers specifically emphasized pedestrian safety, occupant protection, aggressive driving, and distracted and impaired driving enforcement. Despite these efforts, the Montgomery County Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) responded to 32 fatal collisions which resulted in 33 total deaths in 2019. The number of fatal collisions represents a 14.3% increase over the 28 collisions that occurred in 2018 and took the lives of 31 people.

_____
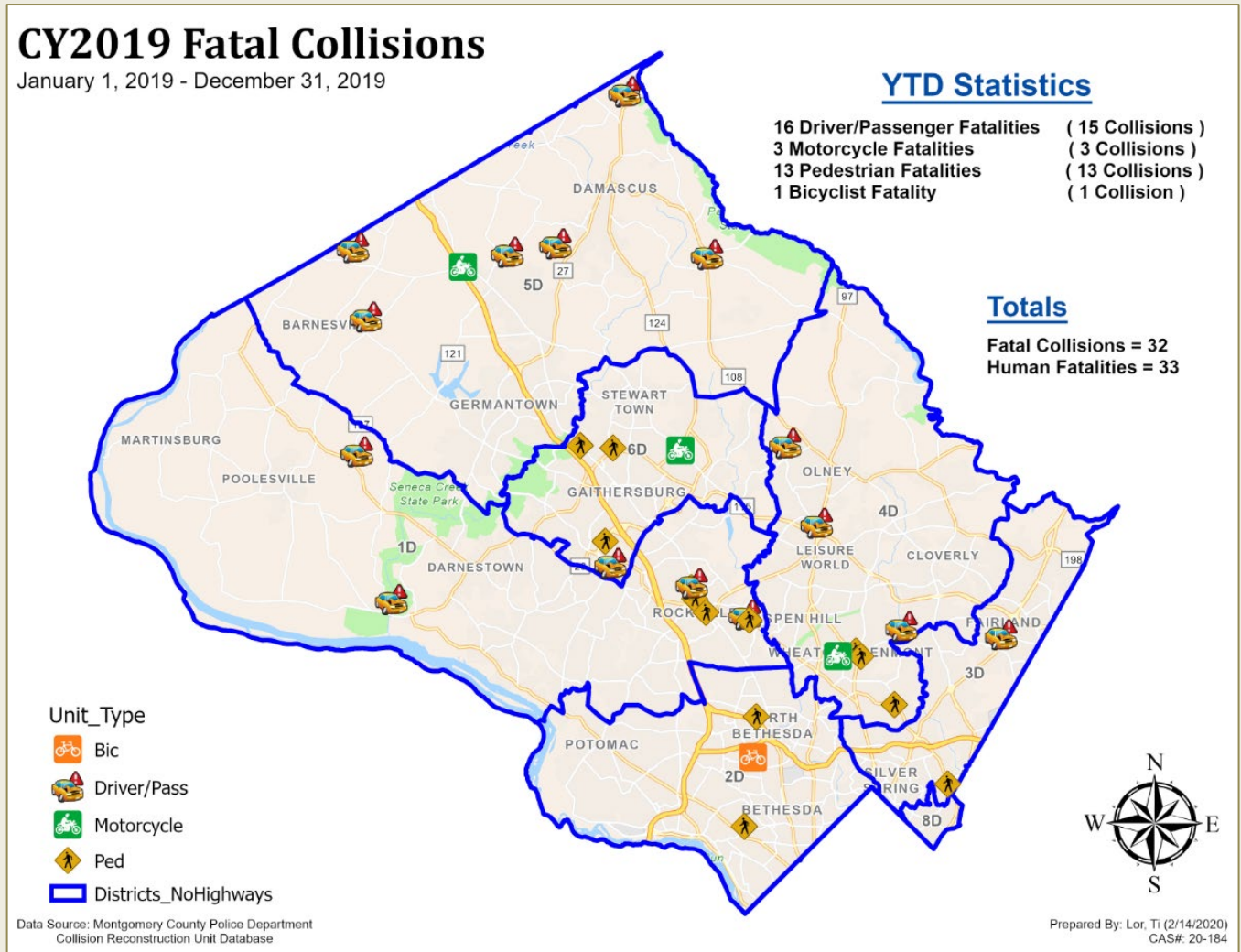
[4] *Data recorded by the state's Electronic Traffic Information Exchange (E-Tix).*

Two of the most significant causes of fatalities in Montgomery County are pedestrian and alcohol-related collisions. In 2019, these factors accounted for 67% of the total deaths from collisions.

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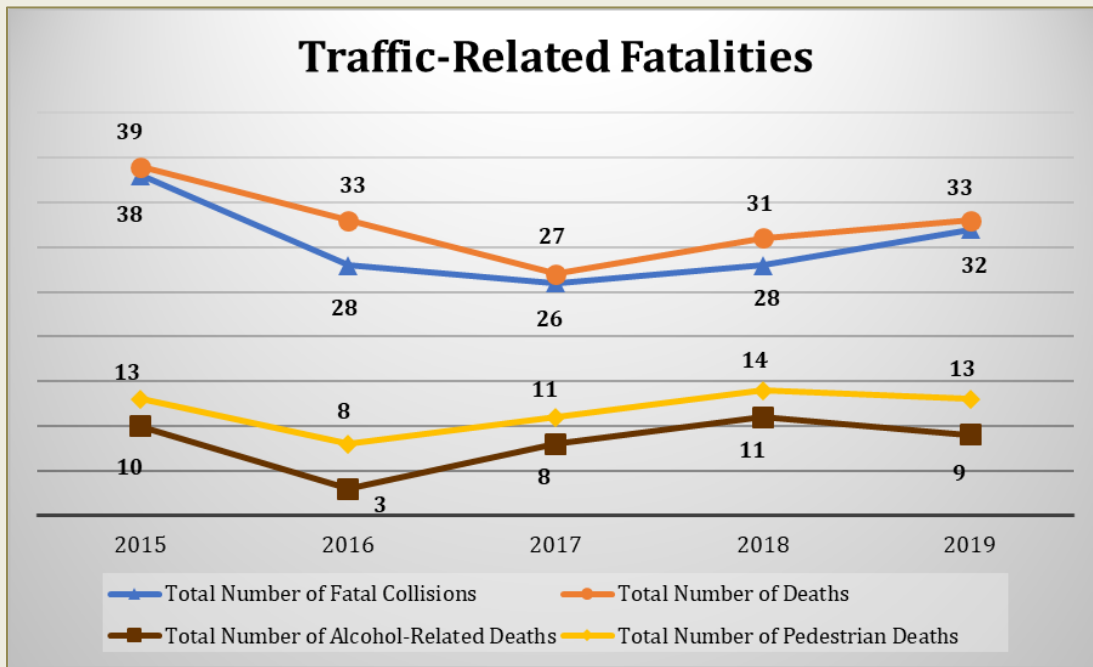
The MCPD takes this matter very seriously. The department is actively involved in the County's Vision Zero initiative and conducts various data-driven enforcement initiatives throughout the year directed at these specific issues and trying to change human behavior through enforcement and education.

Vision Zero Principles

Transportation–related deaths and severe injuries are preventable and unacceptable.

1. Transportation–related deaths and severe injuries are preventable and unacceptable.

2. Human life takes priority over mobility and other objectives of the road system. The road system should be safe for all users, for all modes of transportation, in all communities, and for people of all ages and abilities.

3. Human error is inevitable; the transportation system should be designed to anticipate error so the consequences are not severe injury or death. Advancements in vehicle design and technology, as well as roadway engineering advancements, personal electronic device innovations, etc., are necessary components for avoiding the impacts of human errors.

4. People are inherently vulnerable, and speed is a fundamental predictor of crash survival. The transportation system should be designed for speeds that protect human life.

5. Safe human behaviors, education, and enforcement are essential contributors to a safe system.

6. Policies at all levels of government need to align, making safety the highest priority for roadways.

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, conducting more than 2,100 traffic stops and 415 details. There were 289 DUI arrests and nearly 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 2019 Holiday Task Force was able to effectively provide the greatest level of protection to the residents of Montgomery County.

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.

One of the primary ways the MCPD works to establish this foundation of trust and respect is within the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system. The MCPD, in partnership with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Rockville City Police Department, and the Gaithersburg Police Department, currently has a school resource officer (SRO) at each of the Montgomery County High Schools (26 total). The SRO program is an important nexus between the police department, the school community and the community at large, and through interactions with students, teachers, parents and administrators, these officers work to identify issues early, to prevent them from becoming more serious, and to direct necessary resources where they might be needed. The SRO wears many hats, as highlighted in this short video last year. Under the Safe to Learn Act (2018), these officers have received advanced training through the Maryland Center for School Safety, and work diligently to promote and enhance safe school communities and to build positive relationships with the students.

Outside of the schools, the department has continued to be sensitive to the needs of the entire community and responsive to crime and public safety issues that impact the quality of life for everyone in Montgomery County. In 2019, the department recorded more than 2,100 events that engaged or educated the public.

➢ *Coffee with a Cop* events continued to be a popular way for command staff and district officers to meet community members in a casual environment and address concerns in person. In 2019, the MCPD partnered with local coffee shops to host 42 of these popular forums.

➢ Community services (CSO) and school resource officers (SRO) attended and supported more than 400 mentoring and truancy prevention programs and after school clubs in the Montgomery County Public Schools. Overall, at least 35.4% of the events recorded by the MCPD focused on establishing relationships and fostering trust with the youth of Montgomery County.

➢ The Community Engagement Division, CSOs, and Special Operations Division delivered more than 160 security assessments and/or *Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events* (CRASE) training programs in 2019.

➢ There were more than 100 events recorded in churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques in 2019; nearly half of those focused on training and education for securing places of worship.

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 hurricane relief or Thanksgiving meals, or events that lift our less fortunate and more vulnerable populations, we appreciate your support and generosity.
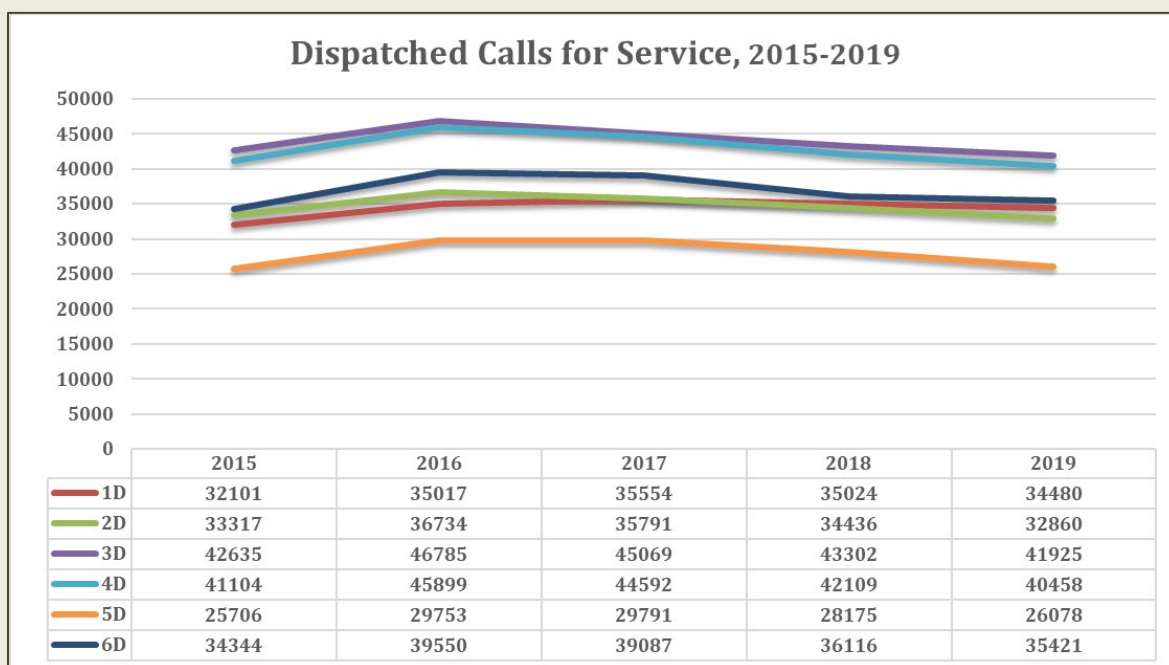
DISTRICT ANALYSIS

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 3.6% in 2019. Overall, dispatched call volume is approximately 1% higher than it was in 2015. Over the last five years, dispatched calls for service have declined in districts 2, 3, and 4 (-1.4%, -1.7%, and -1.6%, respectively), and increased in districts 1, 5, and 6 (7.4%, 1.4%, and 3.1%, respectively).


Dispatched Calls for Service, 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1D	32101	35017	35554	35024	34480
2D	33317	36734	35791	34436	32860
3D	42635	46785	45069	43302	41925
4D	41104	45899	44592	42109	40458
5D	25706	29753	29791	28175	26078
6D	34344	39550	39087	36116	35421

2019 NIBRS Offenses at the District Level

Overall, every district, except for the 2nd District, experienced declines in total Group A offenses. The 5th District experienced the highest decline in Group A offenses, down 12.6%, or approximately 600 offenses. The 3rd and 4th Districts still have the highest quantity of Group A offenses, but each experienced a reduction in total Group A offenses, 2.0% and 4.3%, respectively. The increase in the 2nd District was minimal, only 1.5%, fewer than 100 more offenses in 2019 than 2018.

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 more than 700 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 more than 600 Nextdoor neighborhoods in Montgomery County and more than 190,000 members.
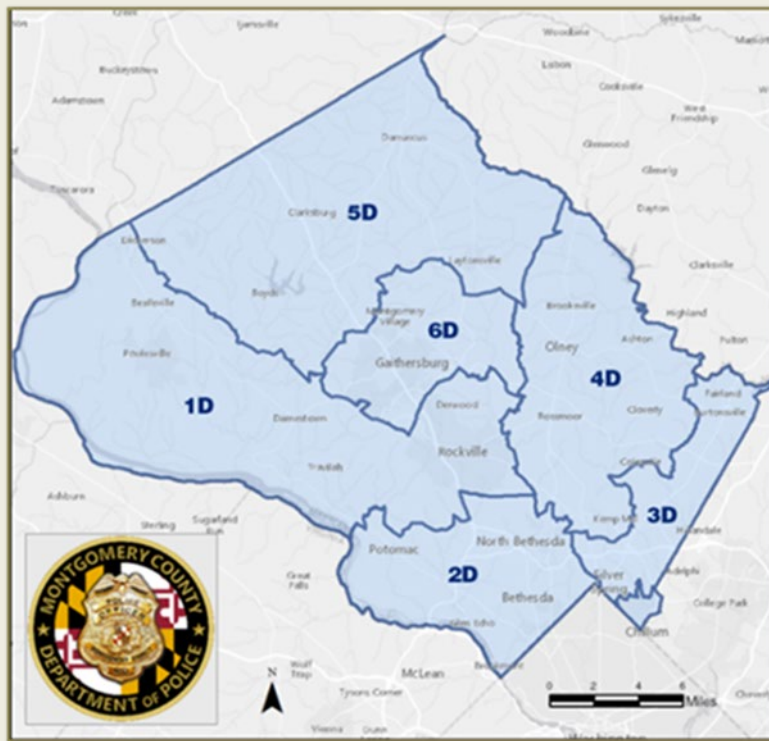
Are you not sure what district you live or work in? Use the [Find My District](#) feature on our website.

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, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

1ST DISTRICT – ROCKVILLE

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

149.9 sq. miles
Population: 154,142
Crime Rate per capita: 2575.5/100,000

Offense Categories	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	698	626	-10.3%
Crime Against Property	2,683	2,825	5.3%
Crime Against Society	813	673	-17.2%
Group B Offenses*	2,422	2,334	-3.6%
Total	6,616	6,458	-2.4%

2ND DISTRICT - BETHESDA

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

56.3 sq. miles
Population: 189,705
Crime Rate per capita: 2599.3/100,000

Offense Categories	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	581	571	-1.7%
Crime Against Property	3,756	3,796	1.1%
Crime Against Society	522	564	8.0%
Group B Offenses*	1,811	1,770	-2.3%
Total	6,670	6,701	0.5%

3RD DISTRICT – SILVER SPRING

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

31.9 sq. miles
Population: 161,857
Crime Rate per capita: 4570.1/100,000

Offense Categories	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,196	1,130	-5.5%
Crime Against Property	4,666	4,701	0.8%
Crime Against Society	1,683	1,566	-7.0%
Group B Offenses*	3,263	3,555	8.9%
Total	10,808	10,952	1.3%

4TH DISTRICT - WHEATON

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

82.8 sq. miles
Population: 215,887
Crime Rate per capita: 2880.7/100,000

Offense Categories	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,214	1,173	-3.4%
Crime Against Property	3,568	3,933	10.2%
Crime Against Society	1,715	1,113	-35.1%
Group B Offenses*	3,603	3,260	-9.5%
Total	10,100	9,479	-6.1%

5TH DISTRICT – GERMANTOWN

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

143.1 sq. miles
Population: 140,857
Crime Rate per capita: 3088.2/100,000

Offense Categories	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,082	1,026	-5.2%
Crime Against Property	3,005	2,696	-10.3%
Crime Against Society	892	628	-29.6%
Group B Offenses*	1,726	1,608	-6.8%
Total	6,705	5,958	-11.1%

6TH DISTRICT - GAITHERSBURG

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

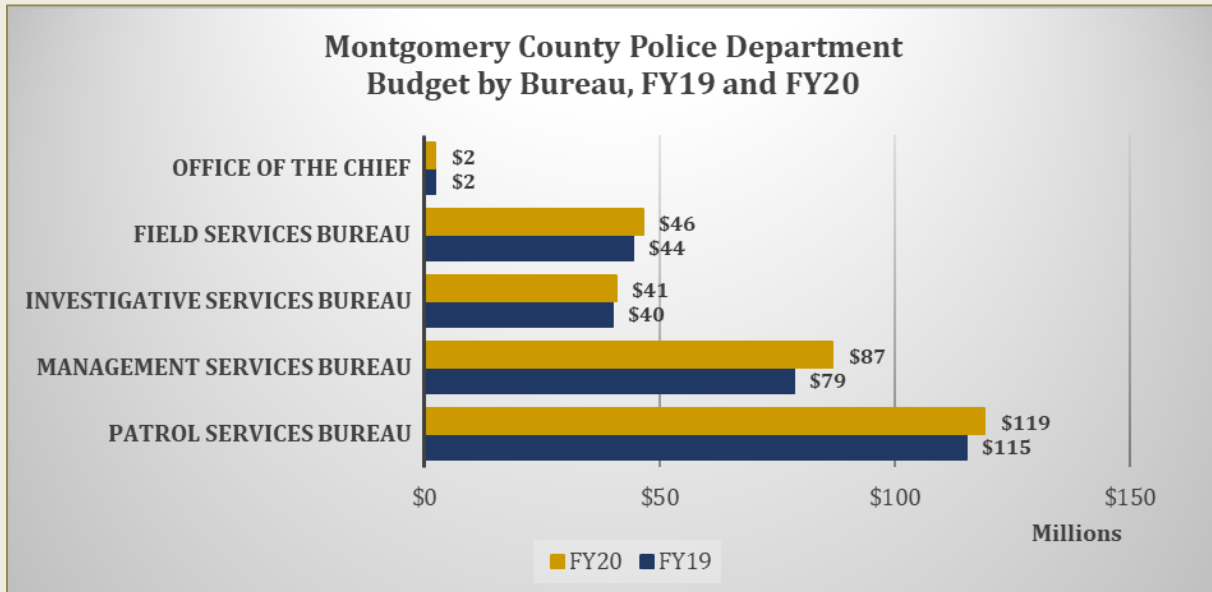**40.6 sq. miles**
Population: 158,711
Crime Rate per capita: 3462.3/100,000

Offense Categories	2018	2019	% Diff
Crime Against Person	1,177	1,242	5.5%
Crime Against Property	3,210	3,357	4.6%
Crime Against Society	1,200	896	-25.3%
Group B Offenses*	2,618	2,645	1.0%
Total	8,205	8,140	-0.8%

MCPD ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

➤ The MCPD FY20 budget (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) is 5.46% higher than the FY19 budget and included funding for new and replacement dashboard camera equipment, additional security officers at Progress Place, two school resource officers, and a forensic scientist.

Montgomery County Police Department Budget by Bureau, FY19 and FY20

Bureau	FY20	FY19
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF	$2	$2
FIELD SERVICES BUREAU	$46	$44
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	$41	$40
MANAGEMENT SERVICES BUREAU	$87	$79
PATROL SERVICES BUREAU	$119	$115

(Values in Millions)

➤ At the end of 2019, the number of sworn MCPD personnel was 1295, and the number of professional staff was 695 (authorized strength is 1307 and 804, respectively).

MCPD Sworn Demographics

Category	Percent
White Male	61%
White Female	14%
Black Male	9%
Hispanic Male	7%
Asian Male	4%
Black Female	3%
Hispanic Female	1%
Asian Female	1%
American Indian Male	0%
American Indian Female	0%
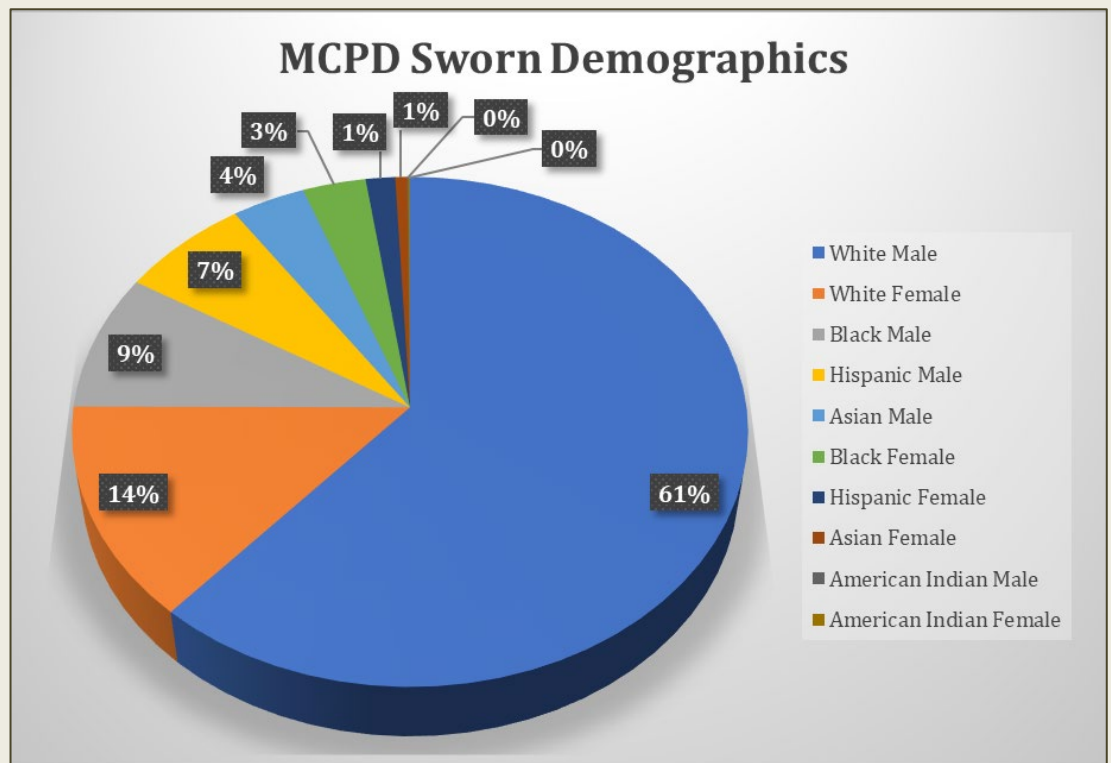
➢ Recruitment continues to be a challenge for the MCPD, for both sworn officers and emergency communications specialists. The MCPD and ECC attended nearly 100 career fairs and hiring expos in 2019. The Personnel Division also implemented several new recruitment initiatives in 2019, in order to streamline the hiring process, which is often cited as the main barrier to hiring qualified individuals. Perspective candidates can now schedule testing online. Walk-in and proctored off-site and remote testing opportunities were made available. The MCPD also held a lateral transfer academy and began utilizing early hiring practices to bring recruits in before the official start date of the training academy. An aggressive social media campaign was also initiated to highlight the many opportunities that are present within the department and what it's like to be a Montgomery County police officer. The #womeninlawenforcementwednesday campaign has also showcased many of the department's successful female officers and professional staff and encourages young women to consider careers in law enforcement.

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.

Montgomery County Police Recruitment
Published by Ana Licia [?] · October 2, 2019 · 🌐

For today's #womeninlawenforcementwednesday, we are featuring Officer Jennifer Hoffmann. As a 27 year veteran, Officer Hoffmann is currently the only female motor officer on the department. In addition to being a motor officer, Officer Hoffmann has been coaching at the high school level for 20 years and is also the Montgomery College softball coach.

#womeninlawenforcementwednesday
#femalemotorofficers
#areyouready... See More

Women in Law Enforcement Wednesday-
Jenn Hoffmann

Send Message

22,643
People Reached

5,377
Engagements

Boost Again

Congratulations to the 39 new Montgomery County Police officers who graduated from Sessions 67 & 68 of the MCPD Training Academy in 2019!

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 2019, approximately 175 interns and volunteers contributed 19,866 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 2019, the Public Safety Training Academy, with support from all of the bureaus, graduated 98 community members from three, 15-week Citizen Police Academy classes and 121 Hispanic community members from three sessions of the Hispanic Community Police Academy, which was established three 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.

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

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

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