

# ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 END OF YEAR REPORT

## Chief Of Police

Gary M. Boudreau

## Deputy Chief

Jason K. Thomas

## Captain Patrol Bureau

Todd Pinkham

## Captain Support Bureau

Andrew Swanberry



## CITY OVERVIEW

Rochester is a city located in Strafford County that is comprised of the villages of East Rochester, Gonic, and North Rochester. Nicknamed the “Lilac City”, Rochester is the largest city in Strafford County and the Seacoast Region. It comprises 46 square miles and is home to Skyhaven Airport and Baxter Lake. The population according to the 2020 census is 32,429.

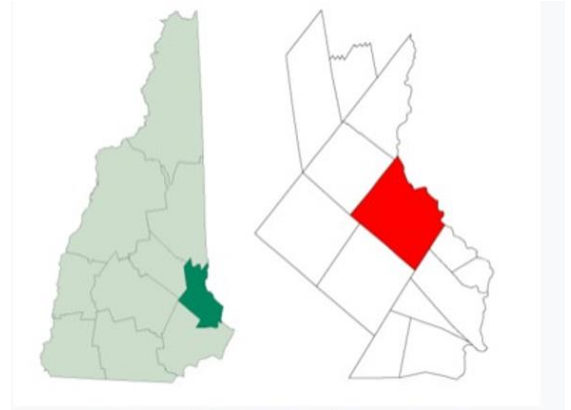


Photo: Courtesy of Wikipedia.org

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Rochester Police Department is located behind city hall at 23 Wakefield St., and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 65 full time and 6 part time sworn officers, along with 15 full time and 4 part time civilian personnel make up the department. The agency also has a full time Crime Analyst that is contracted through a private vendor.

Legal duties for the agency are handled by 4 personnel from the city Legal Department. Those personnel are housed in the police station for improved efficiency.

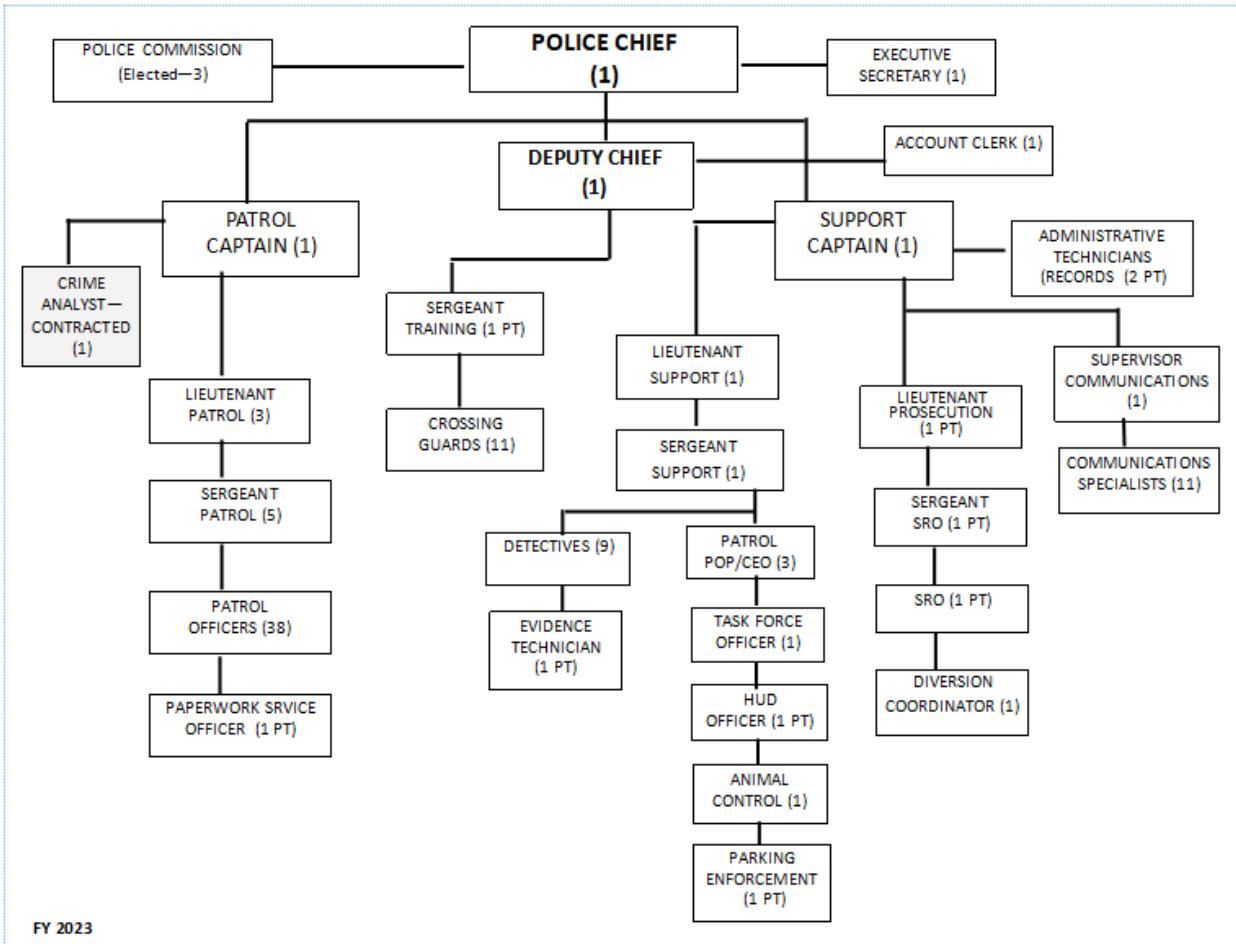


An organizational chart is included in this report that shows where these positions are located within the agency.

The police department answers to a 3-member Police Commission that is elected by the voters of the community. The Commission meets regularly with members of the agency on matters concerning the police department.

The Rochester Police Department works very closely with the community to help improve the quality of life that includes the protection of citizens and property of Rochester. The agency has several specialized units and community initiatives that help to focus efforts on assisting and protecting the community. Those units and initiatives are described in more detail in this report.

# 2022 ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## MISSION STATEMENT

The prime mission of the Rochester Police Department is the protection of life and property. This is accomplished through fair and equal enforcement, always keeping in mind the rights and dignity of the public.

The basis of all police action is the law and the credibility of the agency. The measure of our service will be judged by the public in the way we deliver our service. We will hold all personnel to a high level of ethical practices.

This mission can be achieved through crime prevention, public relations, and community policing.

## VISION STATEMENT

To reduce crime and improve the quality of life, through continuous community engagement.

## **VALUE STATEMENT**

<b><u>Dedication</u></b>	--	To serving the public to the best of our abilities
<b><u>Pride</u></b>	--	In ourselves, department, and community
<b><u>Integrity</u></b>	--	Always doing the right thing, even when no one is looking

### **Major Service Responsibilities**

- To protect life and property through an effective partnership with the public and to address the needs and concerns of citizen customers.
- The operation of a uniformed patrol force responsible for routine investigations and the general maintenance of law and order.
- The operation of an investigations bureau divided into specialty sections investigating crimes and disorder against persons and property, domestic violence, prosecution, motor vehicle offenses, problem-oriented policing, and maintenance of evidence.
- The prevention and control of juvenile delinquency through a Juvenile Prosecutor, Juvenile Division Coordinator, School Resource Officers, and coordination of community agencies interested in crime prevention.
- The operation of a centralized communications center within the PD staffed 24 hours per day specializing in dispatching calls for service for Police, Fire and EMS.

The Rochester Police Department is comprised of two bureaus: Patrol Bureau and Support Bureau. The Patrol Bureau is comprised of uniform patrol officers and the Crime Analyst. The Support Bureau is comprised of the Investigations Division, Communications Center, and civilian staff that provide support to the agency and community. Within the Patrol and Support Bureaus are a variety of specialty units/positions that help the agency provide professional law enforcement services to the citizens of the community. Listed below are some of those specialty units/positions:

- **Animal Control Officer** – Civilian position that handles animal related calls for service.
- **Bicycle Patrol Unit** – Officers specially trained in patrol operations using a bicycle.
- **Canine Unit** – Officer assigned a dog that is specially trained in detection and tracking.
- **Police Explorer Post** – Police department sponsored group of teens and young adults that are interested in law enforcement as a career. They meet regularly and receive instruction on different topics of law enforcement.
- **Crime Analysis** – Civilian contract position that provides in-depth analysis on crime and traffic activities in the city.

- Crime Scene Unit – Specially trained officers that process complex crime scenes in the city.
- Crisis Intervention (CIT) – Specially trained officers that handle mental health and crisis related incidents.
- Domestic Violence Unit – Investigator that is specially trained in domestic violence issues and follows up on more complex cases.
- Field Training Officer – Specially trained officers that assist newly hired officers in their training after they are hired and complete in-house training.
- Honor Guard – Specially trained ceremonial drill team of officers that represents the city and police department at official functions.
- Housing Authority Officer – Officer that is assigned to the Rochester Housing Authority properties as a liaison.
- Juvenile Services/Diversion – Civilian position that works with first time juvenile offenders in lieu of court proceedings.
- LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) – Specially trained instructors that present a series of drug prevention classroom sessions to school students.
- Motorcycle Unit – Specially trained officers that conduct uniform patrol operations on a motorcycle. They focus efforts on traffic enforcement.
- Problem Oriented Policing – A team of specially trained officers that focus on specific problem areas/situations throughout the city.
- Community Engagement Officer – Officer that is a liaison with the business community also focuses efforts on community events and issues that require long-term engagement/solutions.
- School Resource Officers – Specially trained officers that are assigned to the middle and high schools. They work closely with the schools and also are primary LEAD Instructors in their respective schools.

The Rochester Police Department has also partnered with other agencies in Strafford County to form the following specialty teams:

Strafford County Regional Tactical Operations Unit – a highly trained team of officers and medics that perform high-risk operations such as warrant service and barricaded subject incidents.

Strafford County Regional Accident Reconstruction Team – a team of highly trained officers that conduct in-depth investigations involving traffic crashes involving serious bodily injury and/or death.

The agency offers access to crime mapping through the agency website, along with online crime reporting.

The Rochester Police Department operates using a community policing philosophy that uses community engagement along with different partnerships/programs etc that help strengthen relationships and build trust within the community. Along with the specialty positions/units noted above, the agency employs several outreach programs that include:

- Citizens Police Academy - 11-week program for citizens ages 18 and older that exposes participants to the many facets of the police department through presentations, hands-on training and ride-a-longs.
- Teen Night – A collaborative effort between Rochester Police and Rochester Recreation Department that provides 1 night a week for teens to socialize and participate in fun activities.
- Teen Travel Camp – A collaborative effort between the Rochester Police and Rochester Recreation Department that provides teens, 13 – 15 the opportunity to visit local attractions for fun, engaging activities 1 day a week during the summer.
- Project Good Morning – A program for residents who live alone to have someone check on them each day. The person calls into the police department each morning. If the police department does not hear from them by a certain time, an officer is sent to check on them.
- National Night Out – An annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.
- Social Media – The police department uses various social media outlets outside of normal channels to communicate with the community.
- Skate with a Cop – A program that allows citizens to skate with police officers followed by a charity hockey game between police officers and firefighters.

## Annual Report

This report reflects a compilation and analysis of activities of the Rochester Police Department during the year 2022. Specifically, the report looks at data from 2022 and how it compares with the period 2018 through 2022. Also included is 2022 data in percentages for the year in all categories. The following categories of activities were used to compile this report: Calls for Service and Traffic Enforcement along with Traffic Enforcement Demographics, ~~Accident~~ Crash Analysis, Property Crimes, Violent Crimes, Crimes Against Society, Arrest Demographics, Drug Events/Overdose Incidents, Mental Health Related Calls and Training, and Time Allocation.

Throughout 2021 the agency was challenged with staffing issues. Those issues carried over into 2022 and although staff were hired during the year, they needed to be trained. As 2022 progressed, officers were trained and began working solo patrol which helped relieve the workload from already taxed officers. During the year, the Problem Oriented Police Team (POP) was reactivated as staffing allowed. The team was able to begin to focus on long term issues that would normally be handled by patrol officers. A new Detective was assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit after a retirement during the year. With new changes to the unit, domestic violence related cases reflected the only increase in crime in a year that saw substantial decreases across the board. With challenges related to staffing being addressed throughout the year, the agency was able to continue to provide professional service to the community.

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for service are defined as:

- **Total Calls for Service** (Includes all calls the agency responded to that includes):
  - **Public generated calls.**
    - **Priority 1** – Most serious calls, requiring multiple officers/resources response. These calls require immediate response due to risk of injury/danger to public etc. Examples: Assault/Burglary/Disturbance/Robbery etc.
    - **Priority 2** – Somewhat serious calls, at times requiring multiple officers/resources. These calls do not require immediate response and have no threat to public safety. Examples: Welfare Check/Wanted Person/Theft/Trespass etc.
    - **Priority 3** – Least serious calls, requires least amount of resources. Examples: Animal Matters/Police Information/Escort/Parking Complaint etc.
  - **Officer initiated calls.**
    - **Proactive Calls:** Calls that are generated by officers. Examples: Motor Vehicle Stops/Business Checks/Community Policing/Extra Patrol
    - **Administrative Calls:** Calls that are generated by officers or supervisors that include: Follow-up Investigation/Paperwork Service/Report Writing/In-service Training.

Total calls for service for 2022 decreased slightly (-2%) from 2021. During 2022 the agency responded to 41,416 calls for service. Prior to 2021 it appeared that total calls were beginning to trend up. As shown in **Figure 1**, the years 2018 through 2020 were significantly higher than the last 2 years. There was a significant drop between 2020 and 2021. The trend continued down after 2021 extending into 2022.

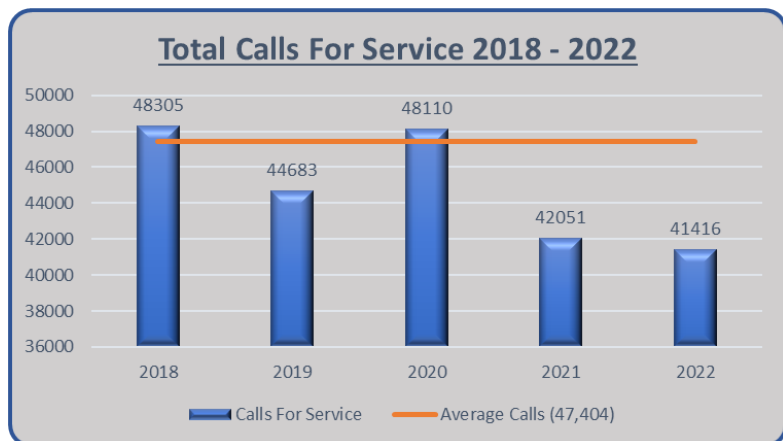


Figure 1

One factor that must be taken into consideration is the level of staffing over the past 5 years, and the number of calls generated by officers. Total Calls for Service represents “all” calls including ones generated by officers. During the years 2018 through 2020, the agency had more officers on the street than they did during 2021 and 2022. 2021 and 2022 have been “rebuilding years” as the agency saw retirements and officers leave the department or law enforcement all together. The agency has hired new officers over the past two years and is almost at full staff. It takes approximately 1 year from the time an officer is hired to the point they complete training and begin working without a training officer.

**Figure 2** represents the number of calls generated by the public for police assistance from 2018 through 2022. This figure does not factor in officer generated calls or activity. From 2018 through 2020 public generated calls remained consistent. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted public generated calls for service. For the period from 2021 through 2022 calls began a downward trend. As the country continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, and Rochester continues to grow with new business and housing, the agency will be monitoring these calls for changes.

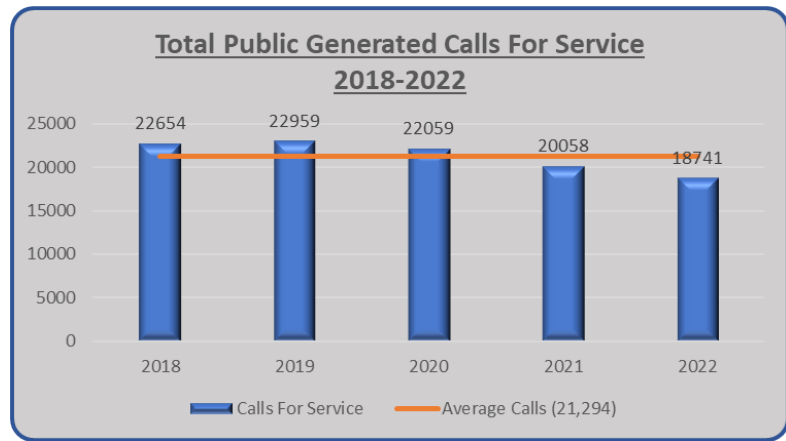


Figure 2

**2022 Top Public Generated Calls for Service:**

- Welfare Check (16%)
- Motor Vehicle Accident (11%)
- Alarm (9%)
- Police Information (8%)
- Animal Matters (7%)
- Suspicious Activity (6%)
- Domestic Disturbance (6%)
- Motor Vehicle Complaint (5%)
- Theft (4%)
- Wanted Person (4%)

**Calls For Service**

**Month**

**Figure 3** details Calls for Service by month for 2022. Overall calls trended upwards during the early months of the year, peaking in May/June before beginning a downward trend. This pattern reflects the same trends in the previous three years.

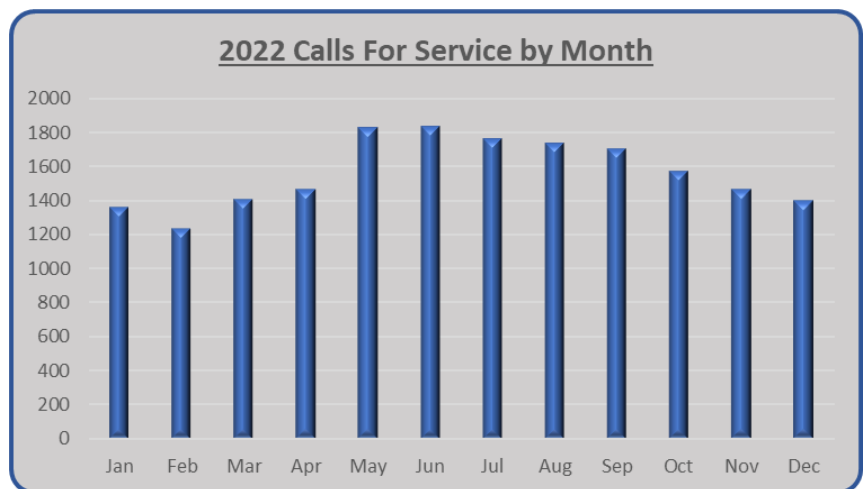


Figure 3



Day of Week

**Figure 4** represents Calls for Service by Day of the Week for 2022. For the most part, calls were spread out consistently throughout the week with most calls handled on Friday.

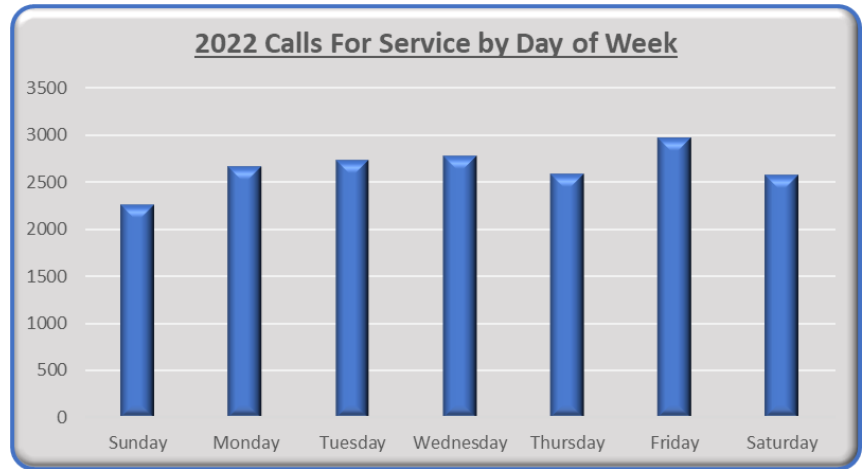


Figure 4

Time Block

**Figure 5** shows 2022 Calls for Service by time block. The 24-hour day is broken down into the 6 blocks shown on the chart. For 2022, the majority of calls were handled between 0800 and 2000 hrs. Breaking it down further, the following time blocks accounted for 69% of the calls - 0800-1200 (22%), 1200-1600 (24%), 1600-2000 (23%).

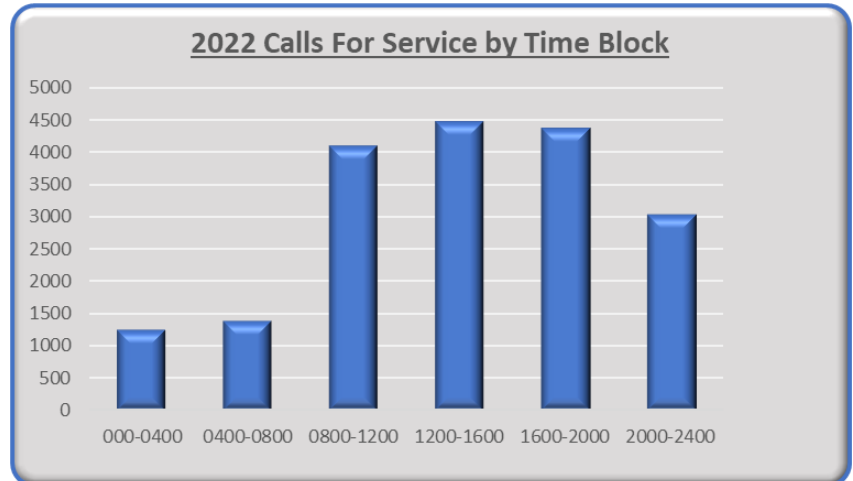


Figure 5

Time Allocation

**Figure 6** represents time allocation in number of hours spent on each call type for the period 2018 through 2022. As can be seen in the chart, the majority of time was spent handling the public's call. Next came administrative duties which include follow-up investigations. Lastly came proactive activities, which will always be the lowest priority. As the agency gains experience, it is expected that time will shift from administrative to proactive activities.

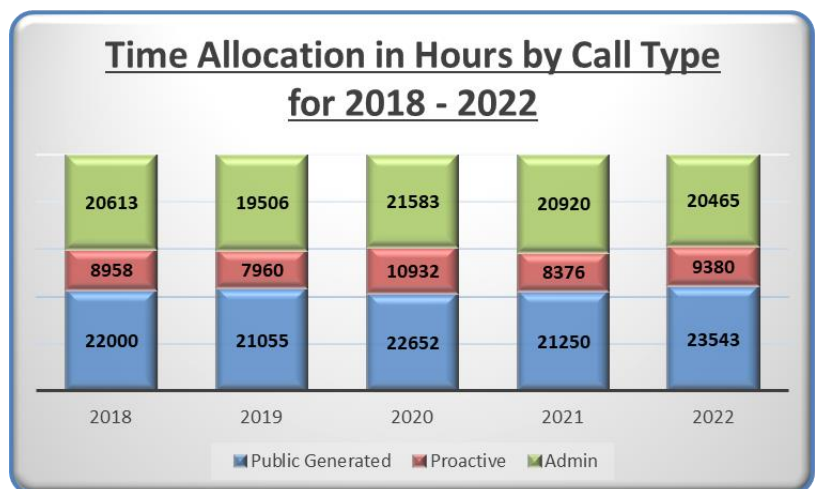


Figure 6

**Figure 7** breaks down officer time allocation for 2022 into percentages. The largest amount of time was spent handling calls for service. Coming in a close second was administrative duties. It is expected that an agency with new officers will spend more time handling administrative duties and will get better with time.

With many new officers, the agency spent numerous hours providing training for them. A lot of that training was completed during on-duty hours when not answering calls. Follow-up investigations also accounted for administrative duties.

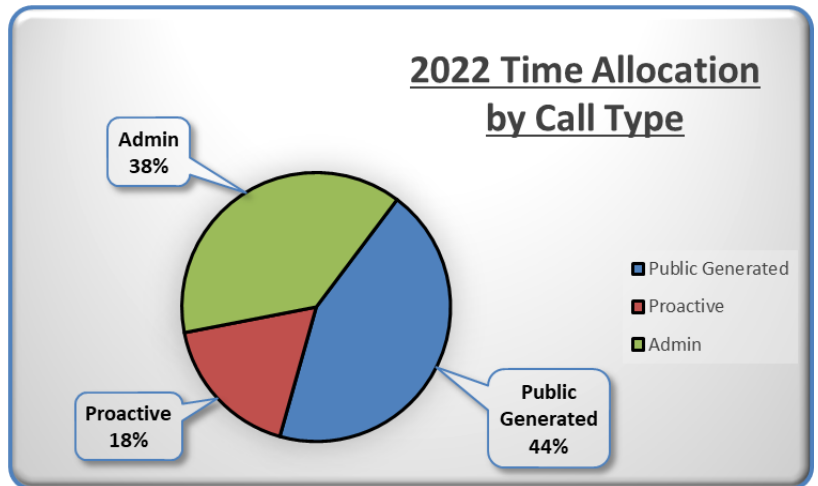


Figure 7

What time was left over after handling calls from the public and doing administrative work was allocated for proactive activities. As the agency grows in experience, more efforts can be directed to proactive activities. The agency also had to use the motorcycle unit in a limited capacity during the past year. The motorcycle unit is primarily a proactive activity-based unit but due to staffing issues, the unit was used on a limited basis for 2022. With more staff on hand, the unit will be able to focus on proactive activities.

The Rochester Police Department participates in traffic management planning with city officials for proposed projects throughout the city. Traffic control is one of the top concerns of our citizens, including matters related to speed in individual neighborhoods. The police department works to resolve these matters through a multi-pronged approach that includes education, planning, and enforcement. The agency has a representative on the City Council Public Safety Committee that works closely with the group to address citizen and city concerns. Rochester Police Department also participates in grant funded initiatives with the NH Highway Safety Agency. Some of those initiatives are: Drive Sober DWI patrols, Speed Enforcement patrols, Seatbelt Safety and Distracted Driving initiatives which include enforcing hands-free laws. The following is an analysis of traffic activities and crash calls over a 5-year period followed up by more in-depth analysis for the past year.

## Traffic Activities and Crash Calls Analysis

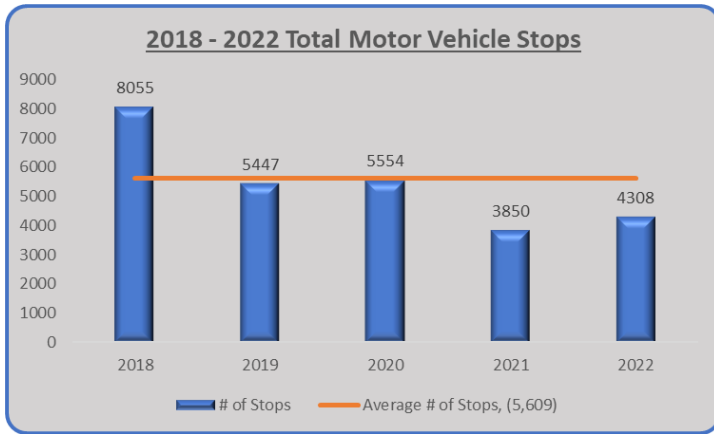


Figure 8

Overall, motor vehicle stops decreased slightly in 2022 from the 5-year average however, there were significant increases from 2021. **See Figure 8 and Table 1** Summons' and arrests saw increases in 2022 from the 5-year average (10%) and from 2021 (50%). Warnings decreased slightly in 2022 from the 5-year average however, there was a notable increase over 2021 (30%).

Motor vehicle stops are primarily the result of proactive actions on the part of patrol officers. As has been noted previously, the agency has dealt with

staffing issues and Covid-19 during the years 2019 through 2021. Although calls for service had also been decreasing, the limited patrol staff was not able to devote as much time to proactive activity such as traffic enforcement during that period.

Motor Vehicle Stops	2021	Average 2018-2022	Normal Range	2022	% Change Average - 2022	% Change 2021-2022
Traffic Stops	3850	5609	3850-8055	5153	-8%	34%
Arrest/Summons	401	547	401-816	602	10%	50%
Warnings	3314	4776	3314-6946	4308	-10%	30%

Table 1

## Traffic Stop Demographics

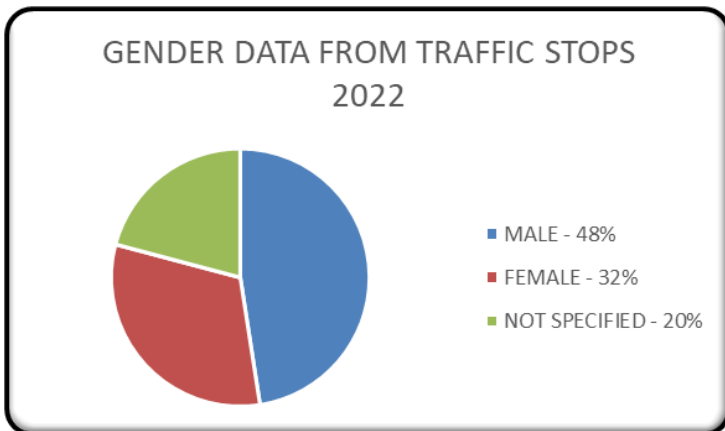


Figure 9

The most recent census data for Rochester is from 2021. According to that census, females accounted for 49% of the population. Traffic stops of women during 2022 accounted for 32% while men accounted for 48%. 20% of those stopped were not specified. **Figure 9**

A review of racial data from the previous data set, combining both males and females for totals it shows 67% of operators from traffic stops were white, 3% were minorities and 20% were classified as unknown race and 10% were not specified. **Figure 10**

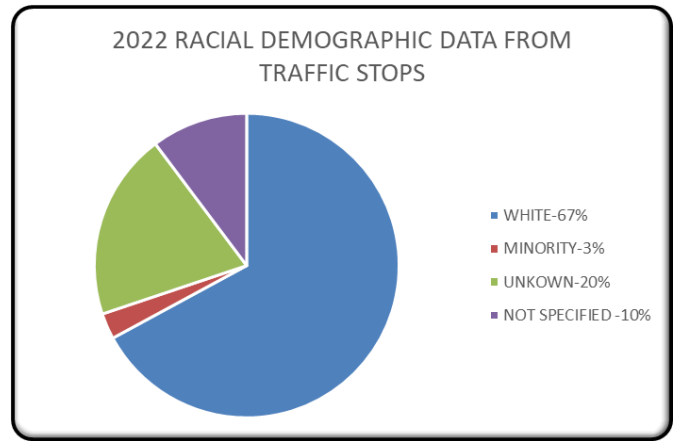


Figure 10

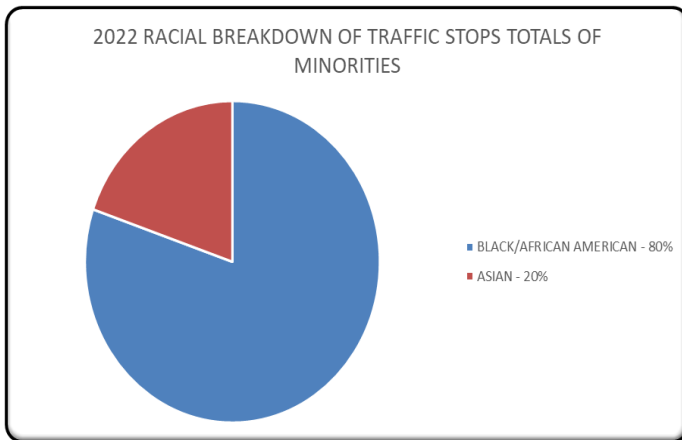


Figure 11

Of the total traffic stops for 2022, 137 were identified as minorities. 80% (110) were Black/African American, and 20% (27) were Asian. **Figure 11**

Upon review of statistical data collected throughout 2022 regarding traffic enforcement activities, it would appear officers of the Rochester Police Department are not engaging in unethical practices targeting minorities.

### DWI Enforcement

DWI incidents for 2022 increased slightly over 2020/2021. In looking at the 5-year average (88), 2022 was slightly higher with 93 incidents. **Figure 12**

DWI enforcement continues to be a priority for the agency. However, with decreased staffing levels in recent years the agency has had to balance responding to calls with other priorities such as traffic enforcement.

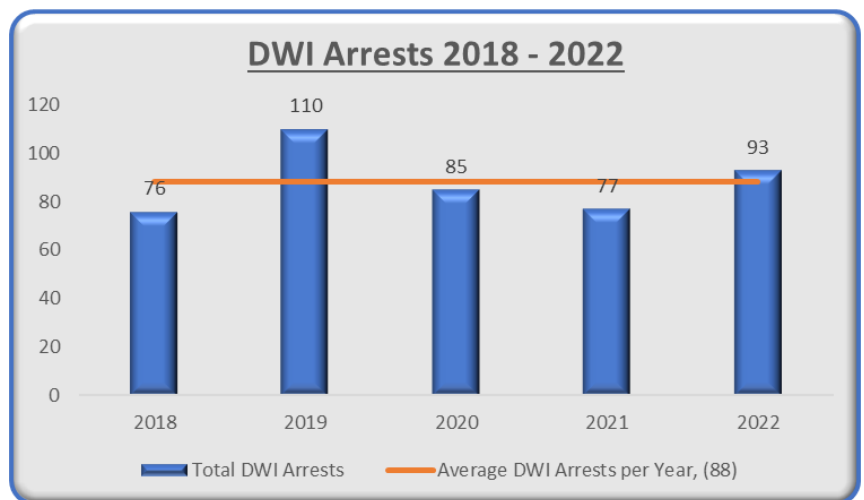


Figure 12

## Crash Analysis

Reportable vehicle crashes include those involving any injury, damage in excess of \$1,000, hit and run crashes or crashes involving city vehicles.

The number of crashes for 2022 was slightly higher than the 5-year average of 1,037. **Figure 13** Crash totals for 2020/2021 were lower than the average, primarily as a result of restricted travel during the Covid-19 pandemic.

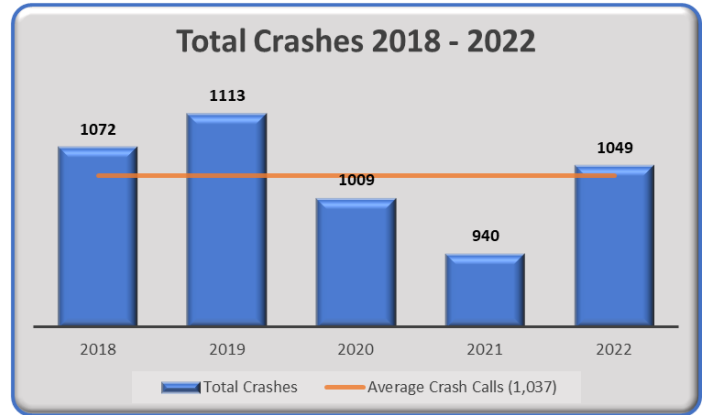


Figure 13

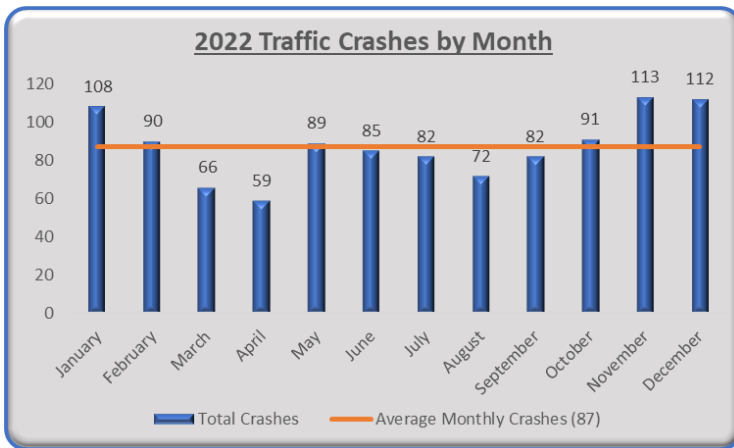


Figure 14

During 2022, crash totals for each month were close to or below the average of 87 crashes per month. March and April saw the lowest number of crashes for the year, while the highest numbers were observed during the months of January, November, and December. Poor weather and increased holiday traffic were contributing factors during those months. **Figure 14** Overall, contributing factors found to be failure to yield, driver inattention, follow too close and unsafe backing, these are historically the most frequent causes and there was no real change from previous years.

A review of crash data by the day of the week, Friday had the greatest number of crashes, 203, (18%) while Sunday had the least number, 125, (11%). The average number of crashes by day for 2022 was 157. Excluding Sunday and Friday, crashes were spread out equally throughout the week. **Figure 15**

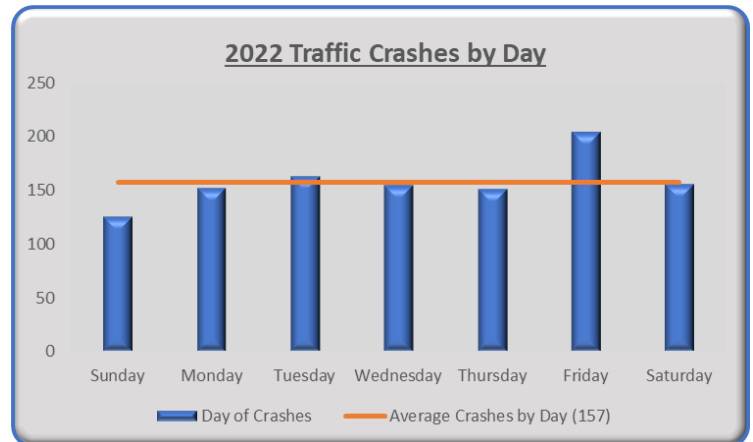
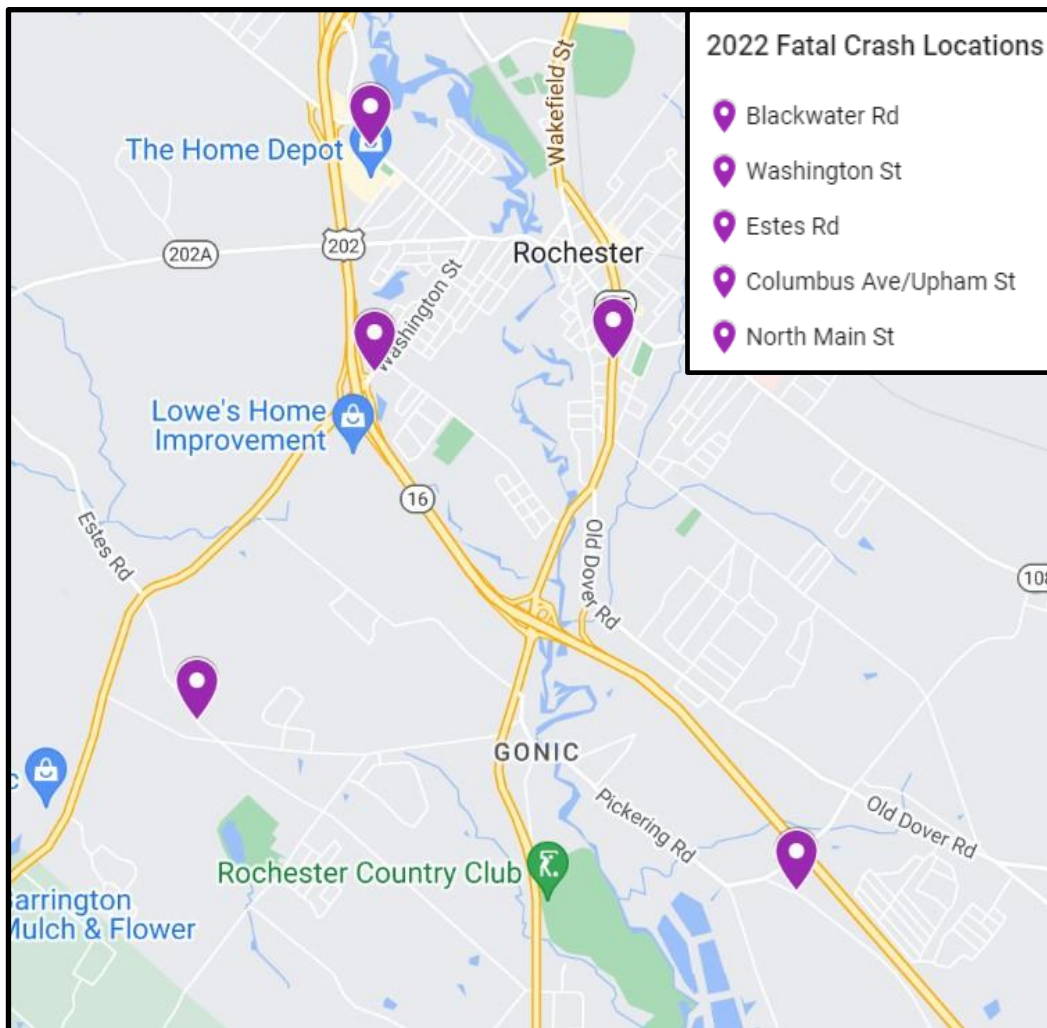


Figure 15



There were 5 fatal crashes in 2022. The Rochester Police Department was assisted by members of the Strafford County Regional Accident Reconstruction Team with the investigations of those incidents. **Figure 16** shows the locations on the map of those fatal crashes.

2 of the crashes were single vehicle crashes in which the driver was the lone passenger. 2 crashes involved another vehicle, and one crash involved a pedestrian struck by a vehicle.

## Property Crimes

Rochester Police Department classifies the following crimes as “Property Crimes”: Burglary/Shoplifting/Motor Vehicle Theft (MV Theft)/Theft from MV/All Other Theft/Vandalism. A review of Property Crimes over the past 5 years (2018 – 2022), **Figure 17** shows a 42% decrease and between 2021 and 2022 there was a 16% decrease. In looking at the data, 2018 had the highest number of crimes. The following years carried on a downward trend.

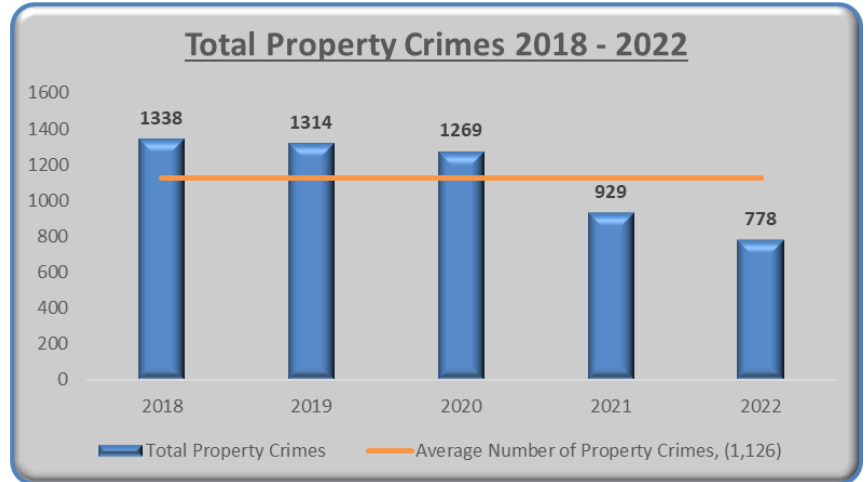


Figure 17

Property Crimes									
Specific Crimes	2022	2021	% Change	2020	2019	2018	% Change	2022 Closure Rate	2021 Closure Rate
Shoplifting	108	158	-32%	292	196	259	-58%	26%	53%
Theft from M/V	66	120	-45%	122	236	187	-65%	2%	2%
All Other Theft	189	223	-15%	317	363	359	-47%	3%	6%
M/V Theft	21	33	-36%	51	34	42	-50%	19%	24%
Vandalism	351	330	6%	427	385	397	-12%	22%	21%
Burglary	43	65	-34%	60	100	89	-52%	12%	15%
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>1269</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>-42%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>20%</b>

Table 2

**Table 2** illustrates Property Crime totals over the years 2018 – 2022. The table also shows overall average changes between 2018/2022, (5-year average) and 2021/2022 (short term average). As seen in the figure above, there was a substantial decrease in crime between 2018 – 2022. When 2022 is compared with 2021, there is a smaller decrease (16%), but a substantial decrease, nonetheless.

The one crime category that had the lowest 5-year change was Vandalism (-12%). When comparing 2022 with 2021, there was a 6% increase in this crime category. Further analysis revealed that there were a couple of substantial graffiti cases, commonly referred to as “tagging incidents” in the downtown area during the summer of 2022. These incidents drove the number of cases for the year up high enough to reflect an increase in Vandalism over 2021.

**Figure 18** shows Property Crime Arrests for the 5-year period, 2018/2022. As was stated regarding the reporting of property crimes for the same period, there is a significant decrease in arrests from 2018 through 2022.

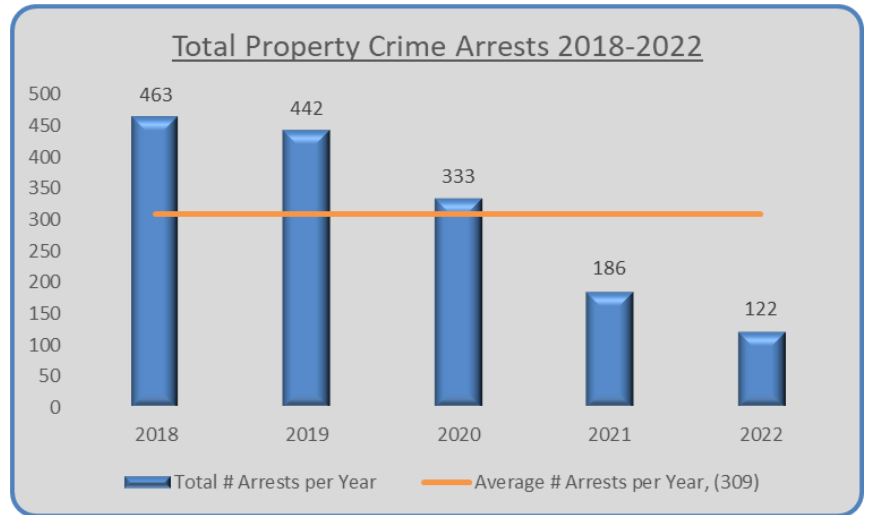


Figure 18

Property Crime Arrests							
Specific Crimes	2022	2021	% Change	2020	2019	2018	% Change
Shoplifting	28	83	-66%	189	203	185	-85%
Theft from M/V	1	2	-50%	2	9	7	-86%
All Other Theft	6	14	-57%	34	66	70	-91%
M/V Theft	4	8	-50%	5	6	11	-64%
Vandalism	78	69	13%	96	139	131	-40%
Burglary	5	10	-50%	7	19	13	-62%
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>-74%</b>

Table 3

**Table 3** compares Property Crime arrests for the 5-year period, 2018/2022 and 2021/2022. While there was a 42% decrease in the reporting of property crimes from 2018 through 2022, there was also a substantial decrease in the number of arrests, (74%). All classifications of crimes showed decreases in arrests, as did the reporting of crimes with one exception. Between 2021 and 2022 there was an increase in arrests for Vandalism, which reflects the increased reporting of Vandalism for the same period.

**Figure 19** shows the breakdown of property crimes for 2022 in percentages. Vandalism had the highest percentage of reporting in this category, a trend that continued through the 5-year period 2018/2022. Further analysis shows that the tagging incidents during the summer months helped increase the reports. A large percentage of Vandalism incidents were the result of domestic violence related incidents.

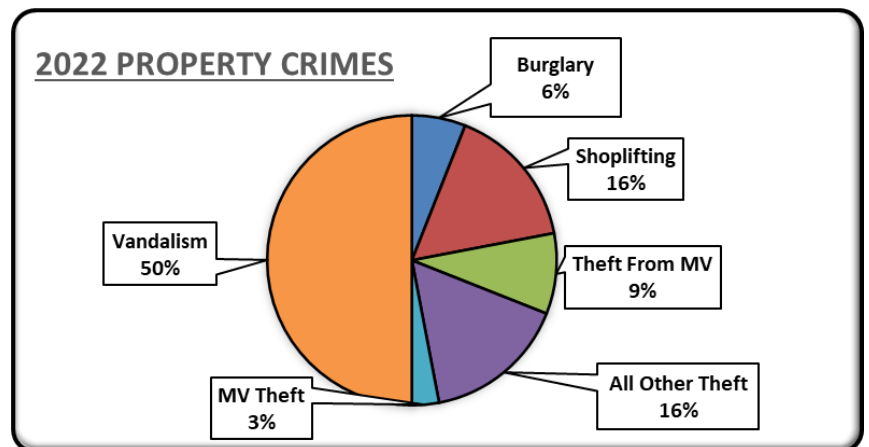


Figure 19



## Violent Crimes

The Rochester Police Department classifies the following crimes as Violent Crimes: Homicide, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Simple Assault. **Figure 20** shows Violent Crime Figures from 2018 through 2022. The average number of crimes during this period was 437. 2018 had the highest number of reports (598) with a steady decrease to 2022 (342). Overall, violent crimes decreased over the 5-year period resulting in a 43% decrease from 2018 through 2022.

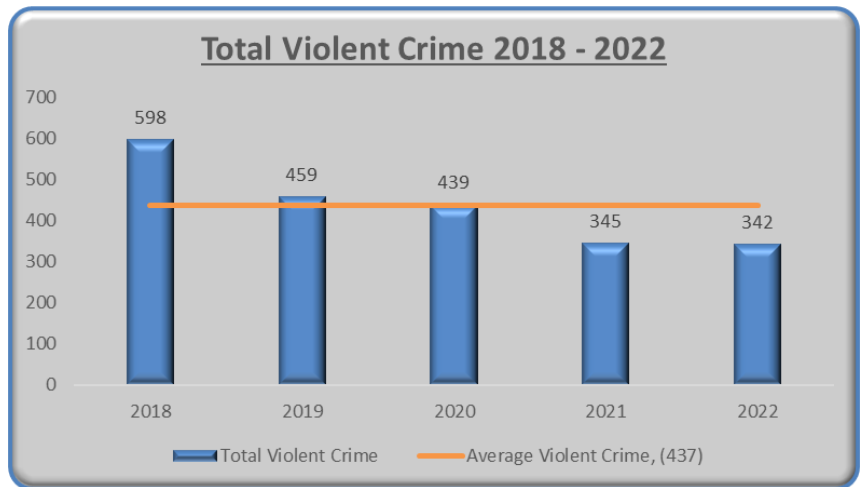


Figure 20

Violent Crime Incidents									
Specific Crimes	2022	2021	% Change	2020	2019	2018	% Change	2022 Closure Rate	2021 Closure Rate
Homicide	0	1	-100%	5	0	2	-100%	0%	100%
Robbery	3	2	50%	20	11	16	-81%	33%	100%
Aggravated Assault	31	32	-3%	30	61	79	-61%	84%	53%
Domestic Violence	24	23	4%	14	23	44	-45%		
Simple Assault	308	310	-1%	384	387	457	-33%	54%	47%
Domestic Violence	186	159	17%	198	200	246	-24%		
<b>Total Violent</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4

**Table 4** shows Violent Crime Incidents over the 5-year period. In looking at these figures, there is a notable decrease (43%), across all categories for the 5-year period. In comparing 2022 with 2021, there are a couple of increases worthy of mention. Robberies were up 50% however, closer inspection shows an increase of (1). All of the incidents for 2022 involved victims who knew the suspect and were either drug or domestic violence related. Domestic Violence related Aggravated Assault also accounted for a minor increase between 2022 and 2021. As was the case with Robberies, this classification also had an increase in 1 case. In looking at Domestic Violence related Simple Assault, there was a 17% increase (27 incidents) between 2022 and 2021. It should be noted that during 2022 a new detective was assigned to the Investigations Bureau to focus on domestic violence. The detective conducted follow-up investigations in the field that added to the increase in this category. A thorough approach at addressing domestic violence incidents clearly added to the increase in assault cases brought forward for prosecution.

**Figure 21** shows the percentage breakdown of violent crimes for 2022. Simple Assault accounted for 90% of the violent crimes. 60% of Simple Assault cases were domestic violence related. The other cases were a mix of circumstances such as neighbor disputes, mutual fighting, or juvenile matters. Aggravated Assault accounted for 9% of violent crime. 24 of the 31 reported incidents were domestic violence related. Lastly, Robbery accounted for 1% and as stated above involved known suspect/victims.

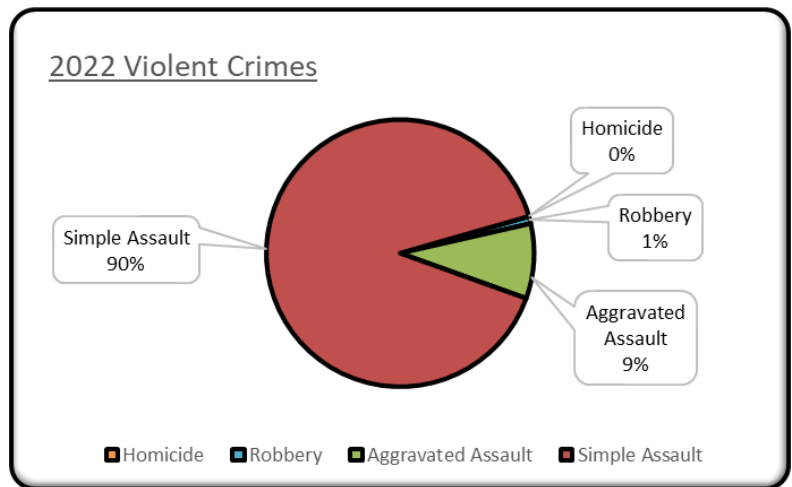


Figure 21

Violent Crime Arrests steadily decreased from 2018 (286) through 2022 (194). **Figure 22** shows 227 arrests for the 5-year period. From 2018 through 2021 there was a steady decline noted. In 2022, there was an increase from the previous year of 17%. The uptick in the number of arrests can be attributed to the increase in domestic violence related incidents between 2022 and 2021. As noted above, the increase can be attributed to the additional efforts by the Domestic Violence Investigator.

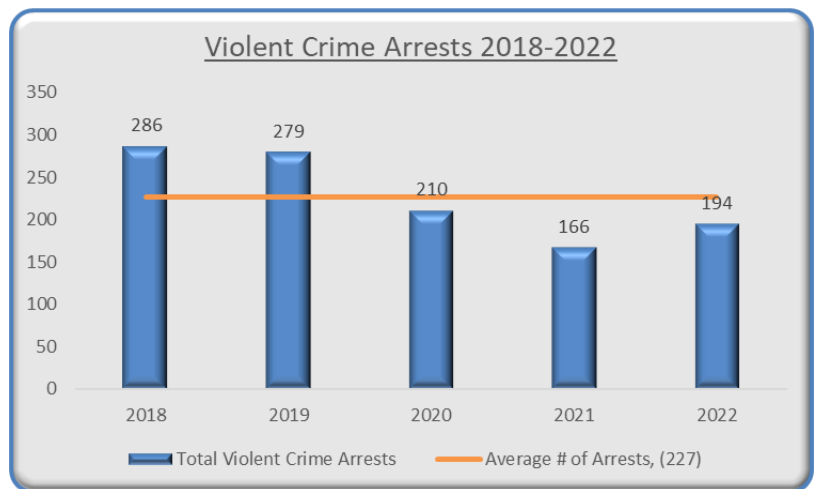


Figure 22

Violent Crime Arrests							
Specific Crimes	2022	2021	% Change	2020	2019	2018	% Change
Homicide	0	1	-100%	3	1	0	0%
Robbery	1	2	-50%	11	7	9	-89%
Aggravated Assault	26	17	53%	15	37	48	-46%
Simple Assault	167	146	14%	181	234	229	-27%
<b>Total Violent</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>-32%</b>

Table 5

**Table 5** compares Violent Crime Arrests for 2018 through 2022. Along with a decrease in reporting, there is a substantial decrease in arrests for the 5-year period (32%). With the exception of Homicide, all categories had substantial decreases over the past 5 years. However, when comparing 2022 with 2021 there was an increase in arrests. A closer look at the data shows that those increases occurred with assault related arrests. More specifically, Aggravated Assaults were up by 9 arrests (53%). When comparing 2022 Aggravated Assault arrests over the 5-year period, 2022 was slightly lower than the average of 29.

Simple Assault arrests were higher in 2022 (21 arrests), when compared with 2021 arrests. However, when looking at 2022 over the 5-year period, arrests were significantly lower than previous years. In looking at 2022 reporting data for domestic violence related Simple Assaults, there is an increase from 2021 reporting. That increase mirrors the arrest data for the same category. As stated previously, the increases seen in domestic violence arrests and reporting are a result of the efforts of the Domestic Violence Investigator and follow-up investigations.

## Crimes Against Society

Crimes Against Society are considered those offenses where there is no real victim such as a person or company and the offense disrupts the rule of order in society. The Rochester Police Department classifies the following offenses as Crimes Against Society:

Drug Offenses, Criminal Trespass, Disorderly Conduct, DWI, Weapons Offenses, Drunkenness, Liquor Offenses, and Pornography.

**Figure 23** shows the 5-year comparison of Crimes Against Society along with how each year compares to the average. There was a steady increase from 2018 through 2020. A steady decrease began to occur in 2021 and continued through 2022. In fact, 2022 had the lowest number of incidents reported and is below the 5-year average of 768 incidents.

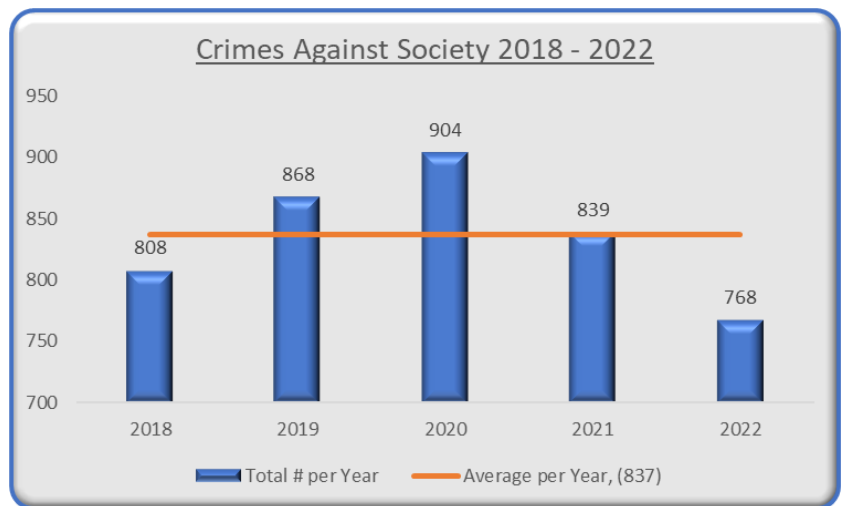


Figure 23

**Figure 24** shows the breakdown of Crimes Against Society in percentages for 2022. Drug Offenses had the highest number of incidents (25%) while Pornography had the lowest number of incidents (3%).

Looking at the years 2018 – 2022, two categories showed substantial decreases over the 5-year period, Drug Offenses and Trespass. Although they were the highest among Crimes Against Society in percentage for 2022, both categories were at their lowest in 5 years.

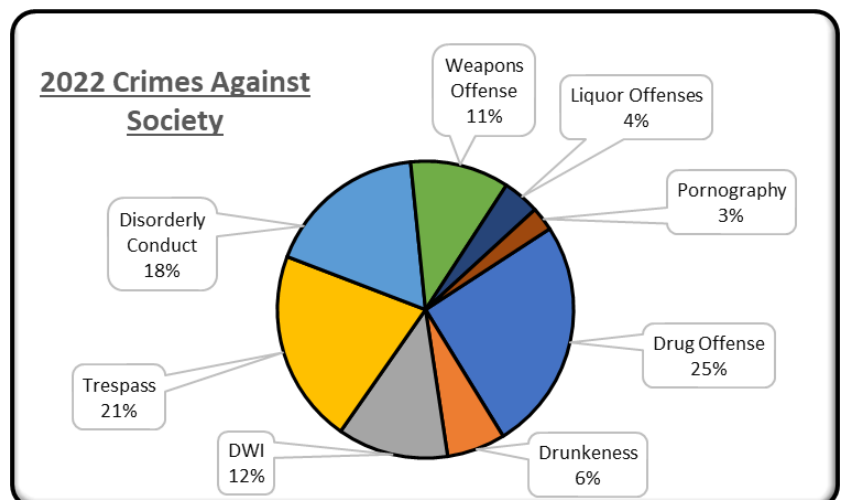


Figure 24

Crimes Against Society frequently resulted in enforcement action by officers. Action can be either Arrest, Summons, or in cases of alcohol/drug impairment – Protective Custody. **Figure 25** compares enforcement action during the years 2018 through 2022. During this period, arrests decreased steadily. Summons activity decreased substantially beginning in 2018 peaking in 2021. 2022 saw a decrease in this category. 2022 saw the agency struggling with staffing issues and as a result, enforcement efforts are reflected here. Protective custody action is reserved for those situations where there is no alternative, and the person is taken into custody for their protection and the protection of society. 2022 had more instances than 2021, however there seems to be a decline from previous years.

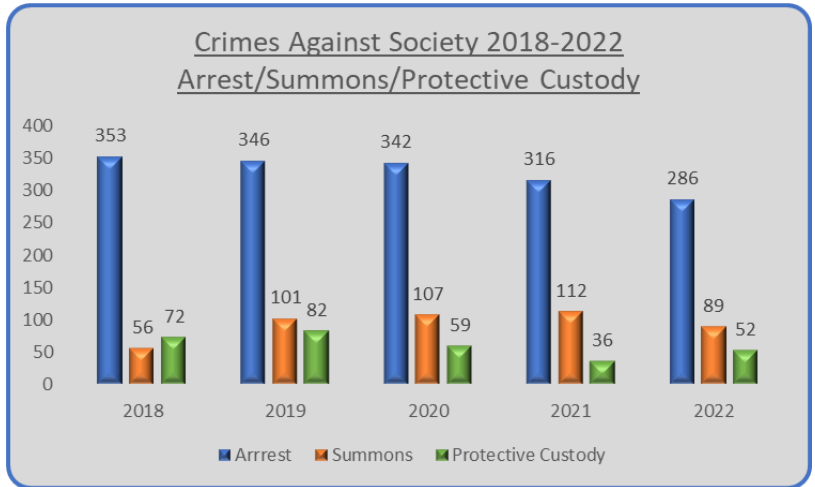


Figure 25

### Arrest Demographics

During 2022, Officers of the Rochester Police Department made 2,183 arrests for various reasons. These range from protective custody arrests to felony level arrests. While US Census data has the estimated total population of the city split with 50.6% of the population being male and 49.4% female. Arrest records indicate 65% (1436) of all arrest were male and 34% (747) female. **Figure 26**

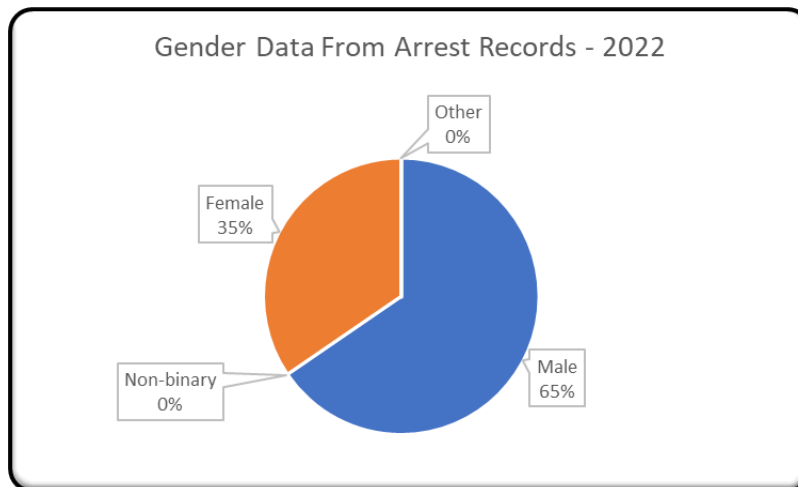


Figure 26

In analyzing data in relation to race as indicated by US Census data the City of Rochester is predominately white at 96.1% (31,062) and minorities representing 10.9% (3,515) of the city’s population. If we were to further break down the minority population it would be as follows; two or more races at 3.3% (1059), Asian at 2.9% (923), Black/African American at 2.2% (721), Other .9% (299), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander .5% (162), and American Indian and Alaska Native 1.1% (351). For purposes of comparison due to low minority population, the initial comparison will be between minorities and white population for arrest data.

Statistically 2,011(92.1%) of the 2,183 total arrests are white and 166(7.6%) of arrests are of minorities. Statistically this closely follows the racial makeup of the city. **Figure 27**

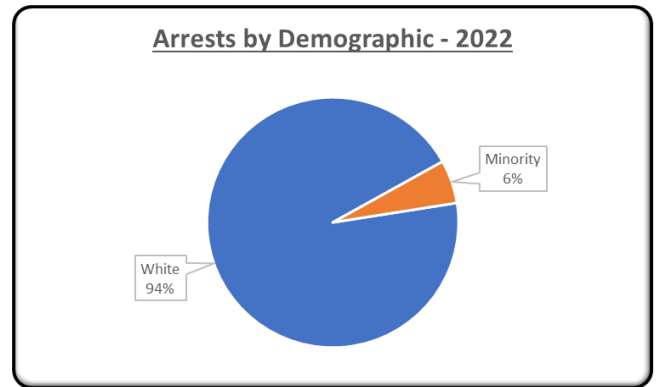


Figure 27

If we breakdown the total of arrests, by all racial demographic it represents as seen in **Figure 28**.

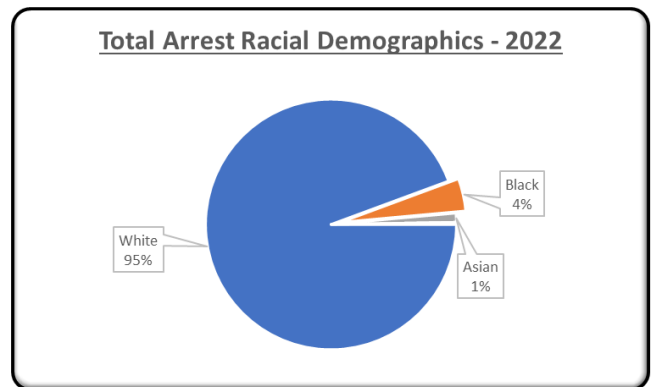


Figure 28

If we further break down the 166 minority arrests among the above listed minorities that are in the RMS (records management system) database, they represent as seen in **Figure 29**

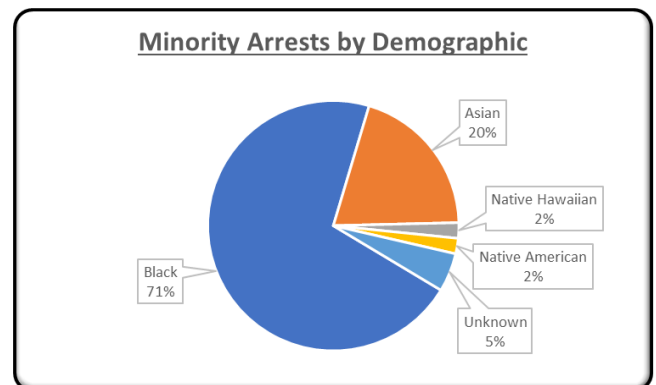


Figure 29

On an initial review of the above charts and numbers, the overall arrest demographics closely mirror those of the makeup of the city with 92.1% of arrestees being white. As we broke down our minority arrests further it is seen that 62% of minority arrests were of Black/African American individuals, followed by 15% Asian, 3.6% unknown race and 1.8% Native Hawaiian. This does not mirror the minority demographic makeup of the city, but the immediate conclusion that police targeting Black/African American minorities at a higher percentage than other minorities must be explored further. Due to limitations with the records management system, there is no data option to include/research individuals who might identify as two or more races; officers can only input someone as one race. This will affect the data output. Further, officers arrest individuals who are residents and nonresidents of the city; none of the above information considers that fact. Due to the records management system limitations without manually researching each arrest we are not able to further breakdown the race in relation to resident status.

Overall arrest demographics suggest officers are not targeting minorities when compared to the demographic makeup of the city or to New Hampshire as a whole.

### Drug Events/Overdoses

The Rochester Police Department has been tracking Drug Event and Overdose related calls as they pertain to the opioid crisis since 2014. During 2022 Officers responded to a total of 3,153 Welfare Check, Suspicious Activity, and Suspicious Person calls for service. Many of those calls were related to Drug Event/Opioid situations. All of these calls require a lot of resources from all first responders, not just the police department. The agency uses the following definition in relation to these incidents:

- Drug Event – calls in which a person has ingested drugs that result in the response from emergency services (Police/Fire/EMS). These calls do not have an obvious connection with opioid use and the person does not receive medical assistance and leaves the scene.
- Overdose – calls for assistance in which the person has ingested drugs, is usually unconscious with labored or no breathing and requires medical assistance and intervention to assist them. These calls typically involve the use of Naloxone to reverse the opioid overdose. Most of these calls result in the person being transported to the hospital for further medical aid.
- Overdose Fatalities – calls in which a person has accidentally overdosed on a drug and is deceased.

Most of these cases are opioid related, but in the past couple of years there have been cases of overdose deaths attributed to Cocaine and Methamphetamine use and not opioids.

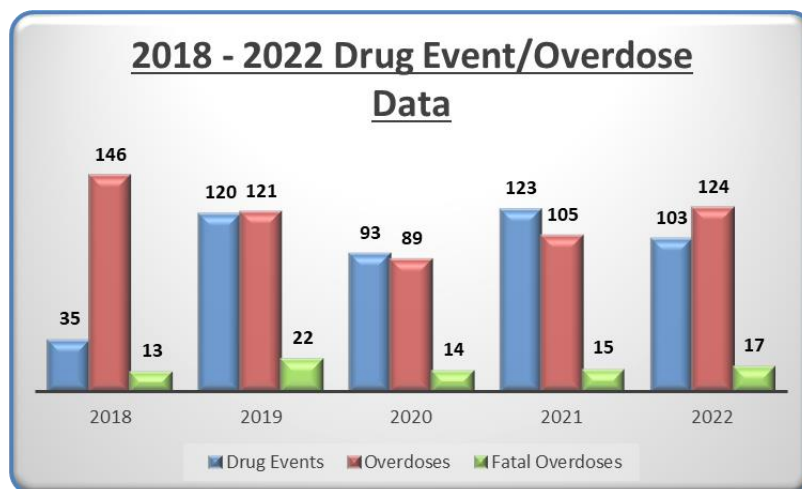


Figure 30

**Figure 30** shows the 5-year comparison of Drug Events, Overdoses, and Overdose Fatalities the police department responded to. 2018 had a much lower rate of Drug Events than the other 4 years. During 2018/2019 the area experienced an uptick in methamphetamine use that drove those numbers up in 2019 and moving forward. Prior to that point, the majority of drug related calls were for opioid overdoses.

Regarding overdoses, 2018 saw the highest number of incidents and then they trended down. 2020 saw the lowest number of overdoses, possibly due to the Covid epidemic, before beginning to trend upward. There

are many variables associated with drug use that determine these statistics such as population demographics and available services to name a couple.

Over the 5-year period, the number of overdose fatalities ranged from 13 at the lowest (2018), and 22, the highest (2019). Prior to 2021, all fatalities were fentanyl related. Beginning in 2021 the agency started to see fatalities involving methamphetamine with no fentanyl. Each fatality is thoroughly investigated by members of the agency in an effort to bring charges forward on those individuals responsible for providing drugs to the deceased person. These are lengthy investigations that take many hours of investigation and at times must be suspended due to lack of evidence. However, the agency has had many successes in investigating and prosecuting those individuals deemed responsible.

During 2022 the agency started to see fentanyl in the form of counterfeit pills. People who had been pill users started to experience overdoses from these pills. The individuals did not use drugs in powder form and thought they were taking a commercially produced pill such as Oxycontin or Percocet. They had obtained the pill from an illicit source, not realizing it was a counterfeit pill. The result was they overdosed and required medical aid. This is a trend that has become popular across the country and has become very popular in this area now.

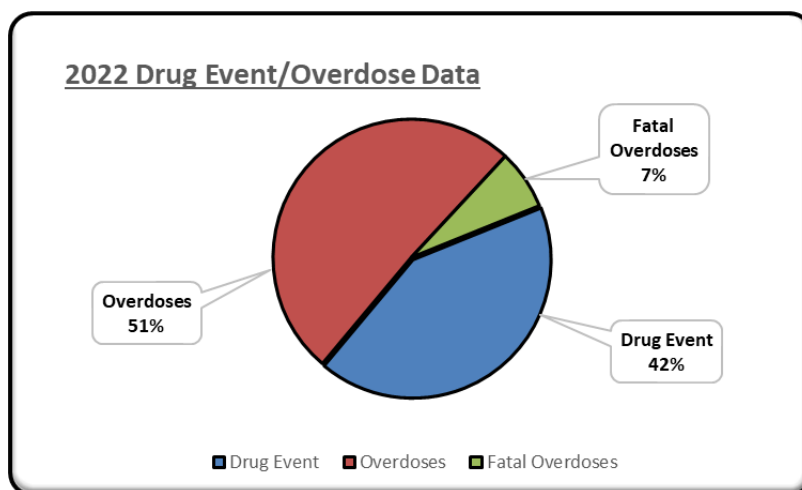


Figure 30

**Figure 30** shows all Drug Event/Overdose and Fatalities broken down by percentage for 2022. Overdoses and Fatalities account for just over half of the incidents for the year. It should be noted that while Drug Events do not require medical assistance beyond response to the scene, there is still a significant draw on emergency services for these calls.

Drugs continue to be a primary issue in society causing pain and harm. The Rochester Police Department recognizes the impact illicit drug use has on society and continues to educate officers so they can be more effective when dealing with individuals in these situations. Officers work closely with local service providers in the community to assist individuals in getting the help they need. When officers respond to these types of calls, they offer assistance and information that can help them with their drug addiction. Officers also work closely with the city Community Outreach Coordinator to assist people in these situations.

## Mental Health Related Calls

Police officers on the street have become the primary response for many citizens suffering from mental illness. Across the nation, many calls for police assistance have ended in tragedy because responding officers weren't trained properly on how to deal with persons suffering from mental health issues. The Rochester Police Department recognizes this fact and continues to make educating officers about mental illness a priority. There are currently 27 officers certified in Crisis Intervention (CIT) to help the agency address these types of calls in an effort to reduce harm and provide a compassionate, effective response.

During the past year, the agency has participated in the following training:

- Four (4) officers were certified as mental health first aid instructors: two for Juvenile and two for adults.
- All certified CIT officers attended the Symposium on Depression presented by the UNH as part of annual recertification.
- Two (2) patrol officers attend a CIT certification hosted by the Lee Police Department.

The Rochester Police Department responded to 459 calls involving mental illness in 2022. This is an increase over 2021, but still fewer calls than 2020 (502). There were three (3) completed suicides in 2022, a decrease from 2021 which had five.

## Types of Calls

216 individuals were brought to the local hospital for mental health services. Of those 216, 190 were transported to the hospital for mental health evaluation by police or EMS. The remaining 26 individuals voluntarily requested to be brought to the hospital.

31 of these subjects were deemed to have been a threat to others.

## LETHAL WEAPONS

There were 30 cases where weapons were still present upon police arrival. This is an increase over both prior years 2021 (20) and 2020 (15).

## REFFERALS

Fourteen individuals were referred to the Community Outreach Coordinator as a result of mental health contacts between August and December 2022. The Outreach Coordinator assisted with coordinating services including those offered by Community Partners.

## Conclusion

The agency started the year with staffing issues that got better as the year went on. They remained visible in the community and were able to meet the challenges that faced them. Drug use continued to be an issue in Rochester as in many communities today. The agency responded to and addressed those issues along with support from service providers in the community. With more staff on hand, the agency can now be more proactive with their specialized functions such as the POP and Motorcycle Unit.

The agency understands the importance of having a well-trained staff and continues to seek out and provide the best training possible for their officers.