

*Livingston, Montana*

# 2015 Annual Report



**LIVINGSTON**  
*Montana*

GO BEYOND YELLOWSTONE

# LIVINGSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

**YEAR 2015**

Prepared by: Dale Johnson, Chief of Police



# **MISSION STATEMENT**

**of the**

## **LIVINGSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*It is the mission of the Livingston Police Department to enforce the laws of the United States, the State of Montana and the City of Livingston, to assist the citizens of Livingston in protecting their lives and property, and to provide service to the public to the extent which we are empowered and enabled to do so by law, by department regulation, and by financial consideration.*

# PERSONNEL RELATED

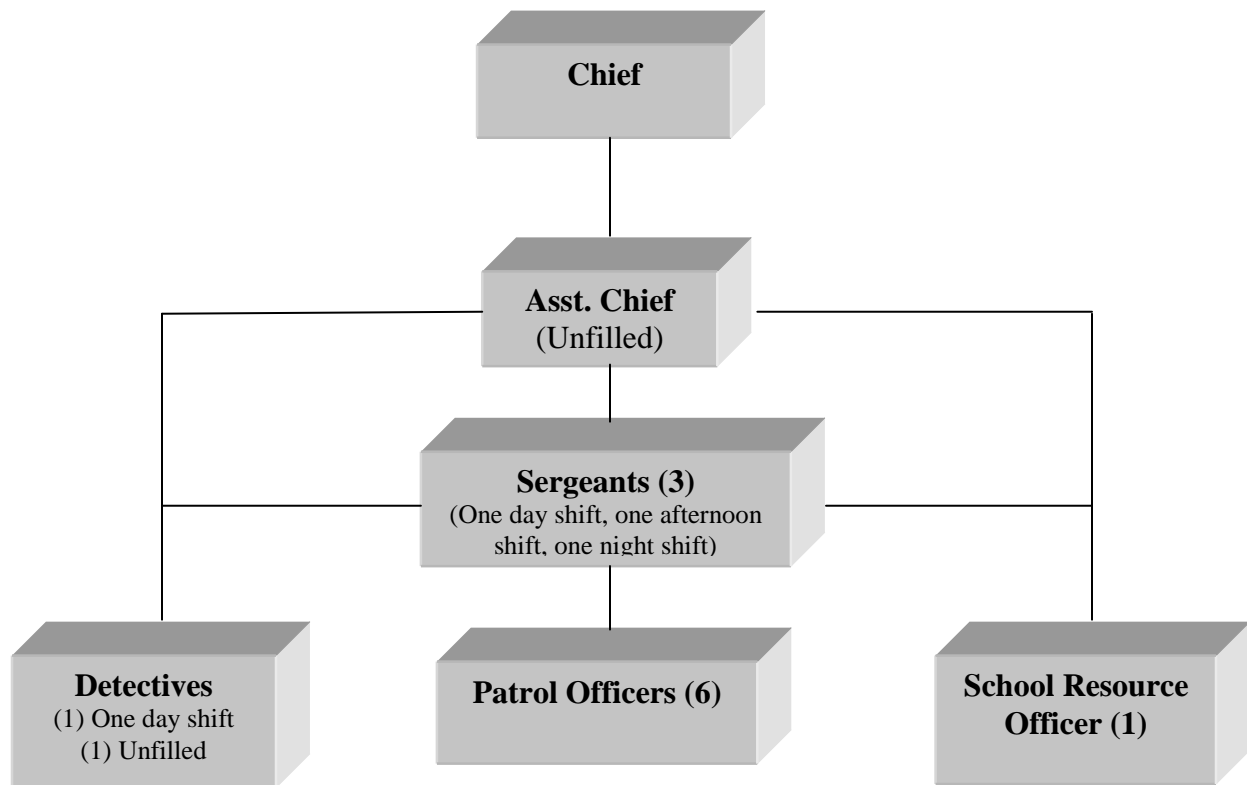
## DEPARTMENT STAFFING

The police department's budgeted staffing consists of 14 full-time sworn officers. The structure consists of the chief, assistant chief, 3 sergeants, 6 patrol officers, two full time detectives, and one school resource officer (SRO). Unfortunately due to staffing challenges, we have been unable to fulfill the Assistant chief position and one of the detective's positions. Budgeted staffing levels remain consistent from the previous year.

The termination of an officer in late 2012 still remains unresolved due to unforeseen circumstances. The vacant position has not been able to be filled until final resolution of this situation. We experienced 2 officers resigning to move to larger departments and we have worked to fill those positions. The staffing consisted of an average of 12 officers during most of 2015.

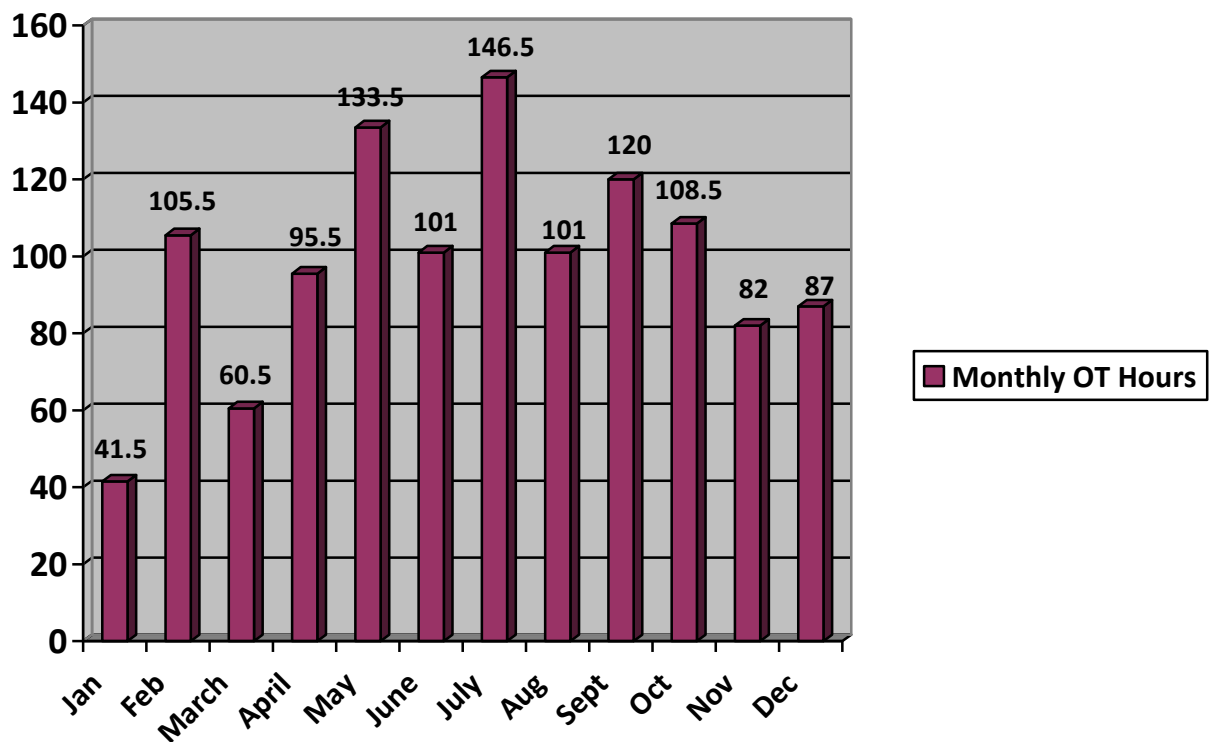
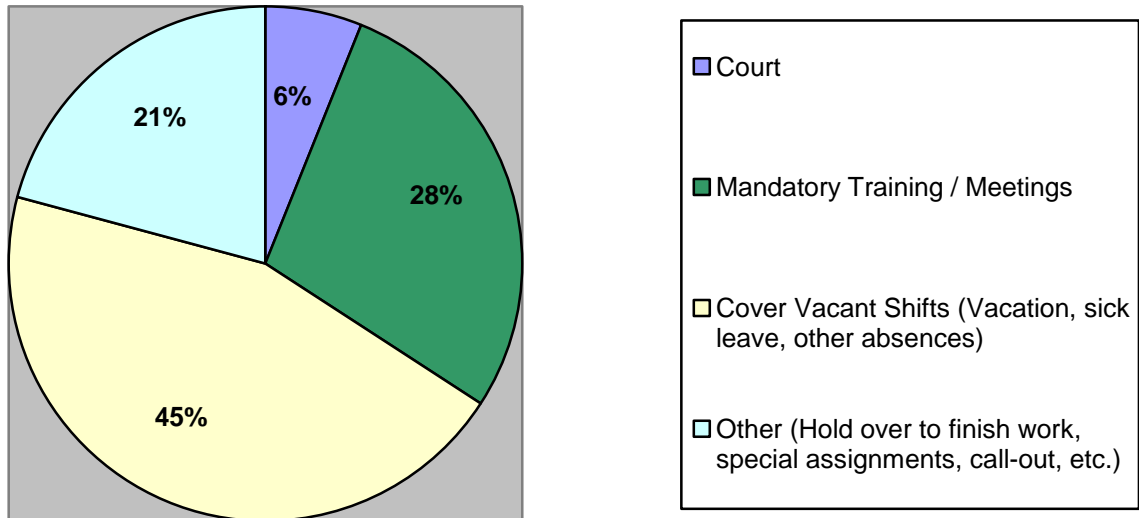
2015 Budgeted Positions	2015 Staffed Positions
Police Chief	1
Assistant Chief	0
Sergeant	3
Detective	1
Patrol Officer	6
School Resource Officer	1

# Department Chain of Command



# 2014 Overtime Usage Distribution

(Actual number of hours logged)



## PERSONNEL COMPLAINTS / COMPLIMENTS

The Livingston Police Department is committed to receiving and accepting complaints and compliments about the actions and performance of all our personnel. We believe the public is entitled to efficient, fair and impartial service. We investigate the allegations of employee misconduct, respond to inquiries about employee actions or department policy, and document all commendations received from the public.

We formally investigate all allegations and inquiries for the following reasons:

1. To protect citizens from misconduct by an employee.
2. To identify and take appropriate action against employees who violate the law, department policy, or rules and regulations.
3. To protect the department and those employees who conduct themselves appropriately.
4. To identify policies and procedures that may need review or change, and to find ways to improve the quality of service to the community.

Complaints against employees may be initiated by citizens or internally. Citizen complaints generally pertain to improper conduct or unsatisfactory service. Internal complaints generally deal with violations of policy, SOP or rules and regulations. Complaints are resolved in one of the following manners:

1. **Unfounded** – The investigation conclusively proved that the allegations or act complained of did not occur.
2. **Exonerated** – The acts that formed the basis for the complaint or allegation did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper according to department policy or standard operating procedures.
3. **Not Sustained** – The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made.
4. **Sustained** – The investigation disclosed a preponderance of the evidence to prove the allegation(s) made.
5. **Sustained with Qualifications** - The investigation discloses the action complained of did in fact occur, but not in the manner or to the degree stated.
6. **Unresolved** – The investigation cannot proceed because the complainant failed to disclose promised information to further the investigation; or the complainant wished to withdraw the complaint; or the complainant is no longer available to provide necessary information. This finding may also be used when information provided is not sufficient to determine the identity of the officer(s) involved.

If a complaint is sustained against an employee, appropriate action will be taken. The action may involve counseling, written reprimand, suspension from duty, termination, criminal prosecution, or other action.

**Three (3) complaints against police officers were received and investigated.**

**2015 Personnel Complaints**

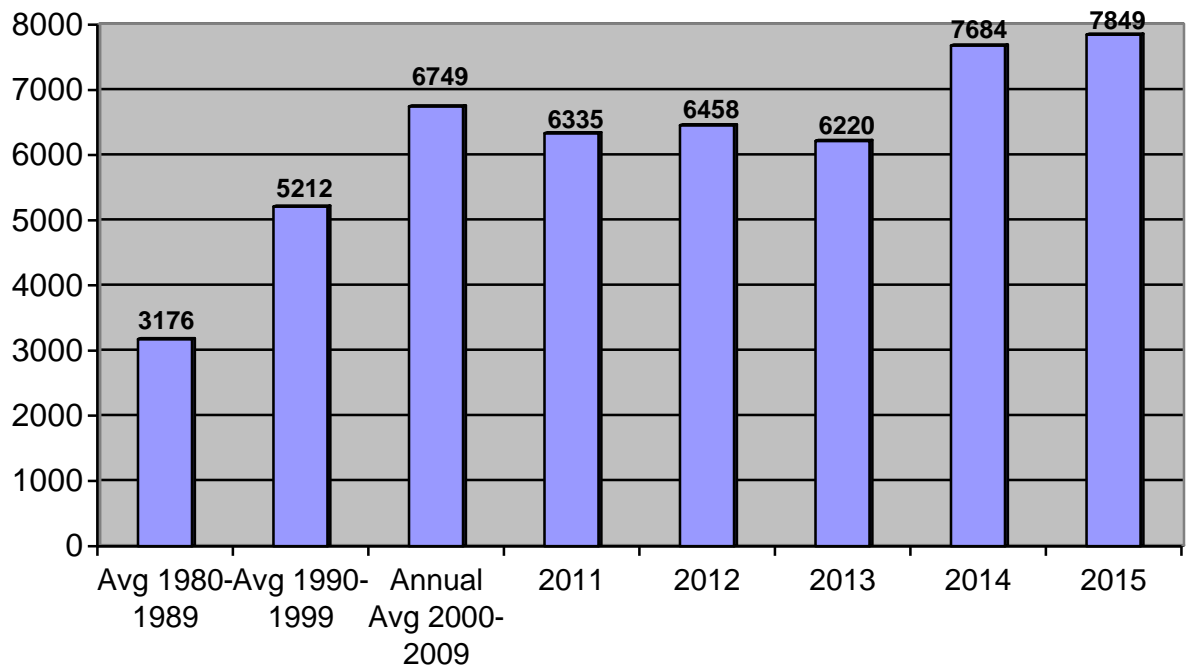
Complaint Type	Source	Findings	Resolution
Insubordination	Police Dept	Sustained	Letter of Counseling
Unbecoming Conduct	Police Dept	Sustained	Letter of Counseling
Officer misconduct	Citizen	Exonerated	



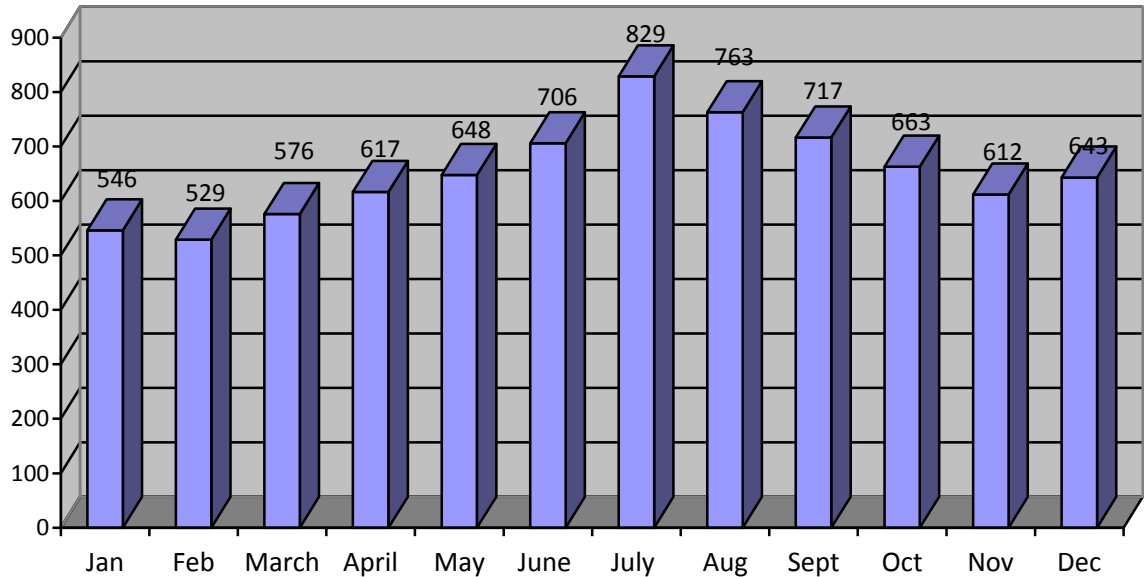
# CITIZEN CALLS FOR SERVICE

The department received 7849 calls for service in 2015, and continues to increase year to year. Calls for service represent all calls received by the communications center that fall within our jurisdiction in which the Livingston Police Department routinely respond to, including Fire/EMS and animal related calls. Because LPD officers respond to the vast majority of calls within our jurisdiction, all calls for service are included.

**Annual Calls for Service**



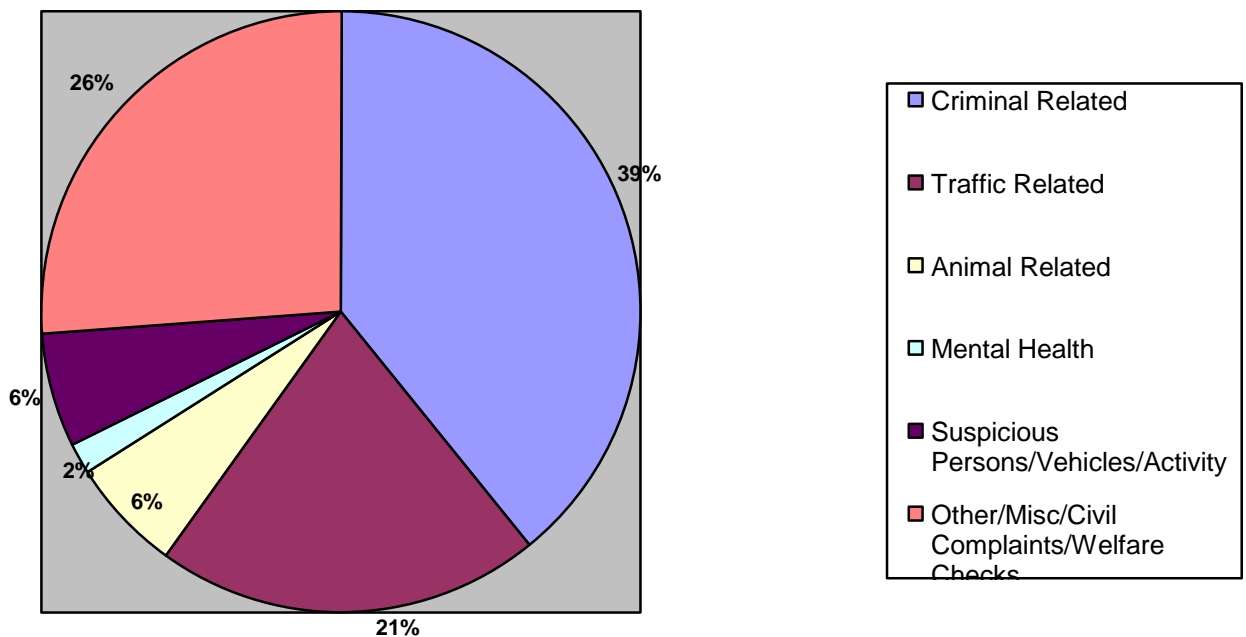
## Calls for Service by Month



## TYPES OF CALLS RECEIVED

Officers respond to a wide variety of calls that may be time consuming but unrelated to crime or enforcement activities. Consistent with prior years, a large percentage of calls for service are non-criminal related.

## Calls for Service; by Type



# POLICE ACTIVITY

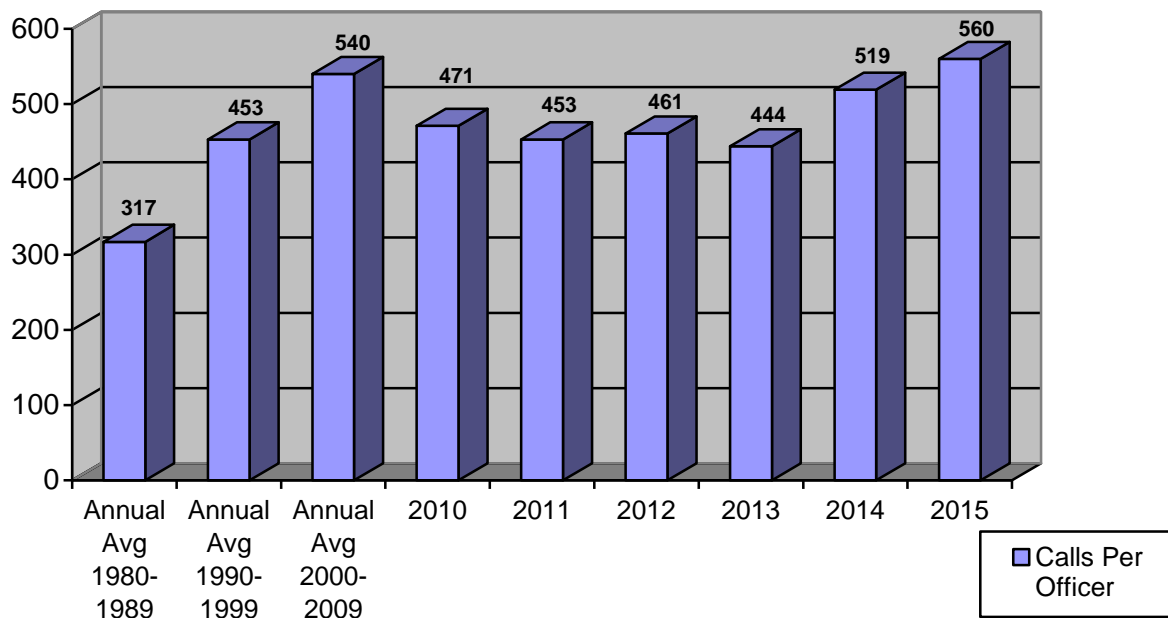
## PATROL OFFICER WORKLOAD

Patrol Officers respond to the vast majority of calls for service we receive. Despite 14 budgeted positions, only 12 officers were actually employed due to the vacancy created by an on-going employment action following the termination of an officer in 2012 along with other vacancies. There are times staffing shortage can be expected due to vacation, sick leave, injury, and training. Although available when needed, the Detectives, Chief, Assistant Chief and the School Resource Officer (during school months) do not typically respond to calls for service on a routine basis. In reality, the number of calls per patrol officer is actually much greater than shown.

In the 1980's, based on full staffing of 10 sworn officers as of 1989, officers averaged 317 calls per year. Despite adding 2 sworn positions in the 1990's, this average rose when the number of calls escalated rapidly during this time period. A new position was added in the fall of 2001 when the City entered into an agreement with the school district and a private citizen to fund a School Resource Officer position. Although the SRO was assigned to the schools during the school year, the position was available for patrol during the summer months to assist with the added workload. Despite this added position, the workload continued to grow.

The average number of calls per officer from 2000-2009 reflect a 70% increase from the 1980's and a 20% increase from the 1990's. A 14<sup>th</sup> sworn position was added in 2009, which attributed to a decline in the average numbers of calls per officer in subsequent years. The 2015 calls for service per officer is considerably higher than the 1980's and prior, higher than the 1990's, and has surpassed the number of calls per officer as in the 2000's. Calls per officer have increased 19% from the average of 2010-2014.

## Annual Number of Calls per Officer, 1980 - 2015 Trends

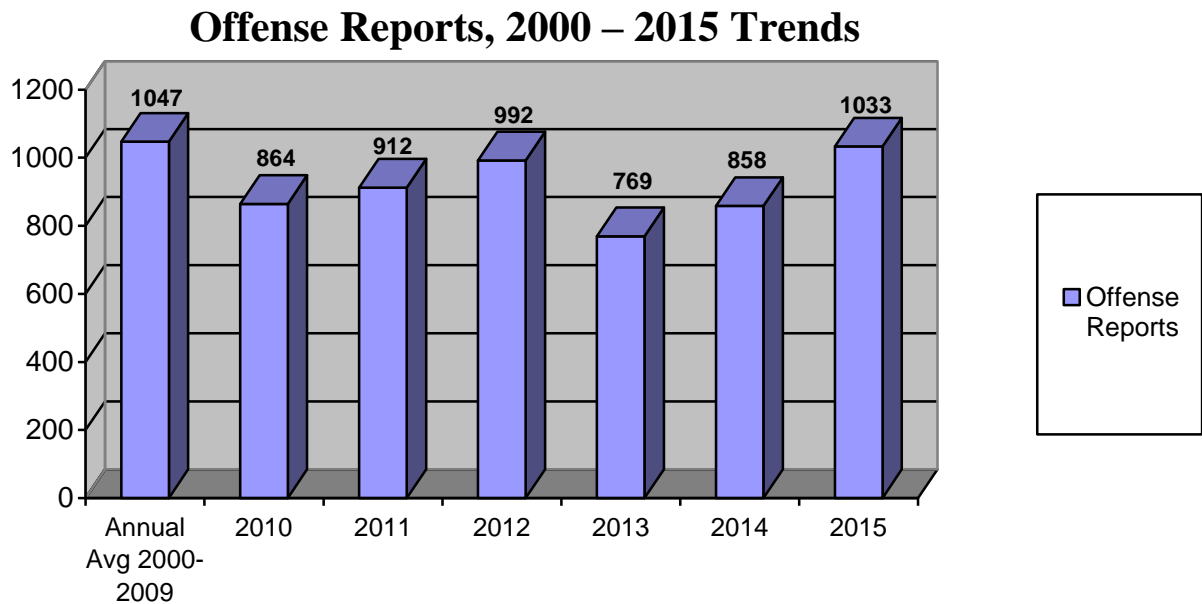


As the number of calls per officer increases, less time is available for routine patrol duties and traffic enforcement. Each call for service can be time consuming, some more so than others, considering response time and any follow-up work that needs to be done. Calls that require an investigation or that lead to an arrest require several written reports to be generated and data entered into the computerized records management system, in addition to time dedicated to the investigation or activity related to the call. Increased workload also requires officers to prioritize calls and assess how much time to dedicate to minor issues or routine patrol activities.

Regardless of the number of calls for service officers must respond to, it is important to recognize that much of the time there are only 2 patrol officers on duty and there are times when only 1 is on duty. Most calls are non-threatening in nature. However, on-duty officers are expected to immediately respond to whatever situation occurs, if necessary, dealing with hostile situations and dangerous persons alone or with inadequate assistance. Typical of smaller jurisdictions, our officers do not always benefit from relying on multiple officers to assist with a dangerous situation.

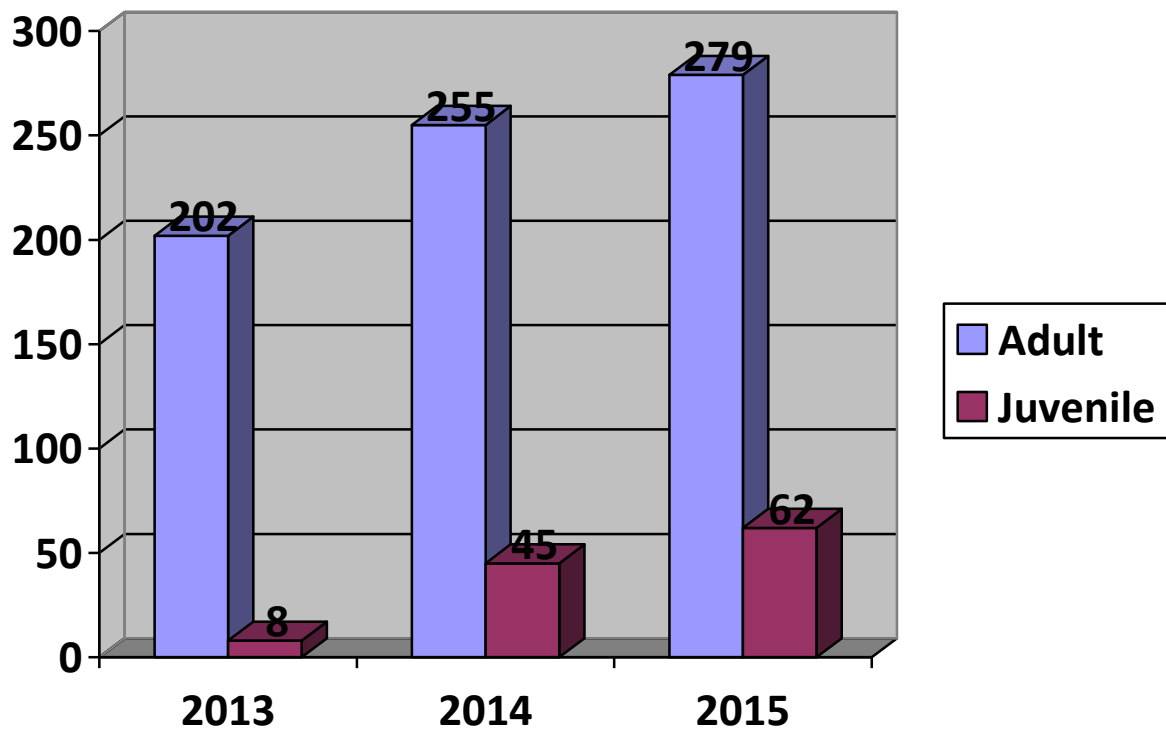
## INVESTIGATIONS

Officers generated 1033 written offense reports, an increase of 175, or 20%, from the previous year. Offense Reports are written when a calls for service results in an arrest, criminal investigation or other police action requiring written investigative reports and follow-up activity.



The department has experienced an increase in felony investigations, including financial crimes that are time consuming to investigate along with more intensive drug related investigations.

## ARRESTS



## USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Many force and equipment options are available to officers. They must choose an appropriate option based on the threat, either actual or perceived, including but not limited to: officer presence, verbal direction, physical control, chemical or inflammatory agents, impact weapons, Tasers (Electronic Control Devices), firearms, vehicles, and/or weapons of necessity or opportunity.

It is the policy of the Livingston Police Department that officers use the amount of force which is objectively reasonable to make an arrest, gain control of a situation, or to protect the officer or another from harm, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time force is applied.

A separate written Use of Force Report is completed and documented, in addition to an incident report, in any of the following use of force incidents:

- Discharge of a firearm, accidentally or intentional, at or toward any person
- Striking of a subject with an impact weapon, or other weapon of necessity or opportunity.
- Discharge of a Taser.
- Use of force that results in injury to the subject, or complaints of injury.
- Use of physical or weaponless force against an individual to the extent it is likely to cause or lead to unforeseen injury, claim of injury or allegations of excessive force.
- Use of empty hand stunning or striking techniques.
- Discharge of a chemical weapons.
- Use of a vehicle as an offensive weapon.
- The use of a canine to apprehend a subject, resulting in a bite.
- The pointing of a weapon at any person, or drawing a weapon accompanied by verbal threats to use the weapon. This does not apply to the drawing of weapons in appropriate situations where officers do not point the weapon at any person or threaten to use the weapon.
- The use of leg restraints.

Separate Use of Force Reports are not required for weaponless hand to hand control techniques that have little or no chance of producing injuries when gaining control over or subduing non-compliant or resisting persons. These techniques include, but are not limited to, physical touching, escort holds, gripping or holding, frisking, or handcuffing.

### Use of Force Reports

- |                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| • Use of force reports in 2015 | 9  |
| • Use of force reports in 2014 | 24 |
| • Use of force reports in 2013 | 18 |
| • Use of force reports in 2012 | 15 |
| • Use of force reports in 2011 | 26 |

### Taser Deployments:

• Taser deployments in 2015	4
• Taser deployments in 2014	2
• Taser deployments in 2013	5
• Taser deployments in 2012	4
• Taser deployments in 2011	1
• Officers injured from Taser deployments in 2015	0
• Officers injured from Taser deployments in 2014	0
• Officers injured from Taser deployments in 2013	0
• Officers injured from Taser deployments in 2012	1
• Officers injured from Taser deployments in 2011	0
• Suspects / Citizens injured from Taser deployments in 2015	0
• Suspects / Citizens injured from Taser deployments in 2014	0
• Suspects / Citizens injured from Taser deployments in 2013	0
• Suspects / Citizens injured from Taser deployments in 2012	1
• Suspects / Citizens injured from Taser deployments in 2011	0

### Reason for Use of Force – 2015 (More than one may apply during each incident)

Effect Arrest	Prevent Escape	Defend An Officer	Defend Other Person	Restrain Person For Their Own Safety	Prevent Escalation Of The Situation	Felony Vehicle Stop	Size Disparity Of Officer VS. Suspect	Alarm Call	Other
6	2	3	2	2	1		1		

### Resulting Outcome

Misdemeanor Arrest	Felony Arrest	Protective Hold (Mental)	Suspect Escaped	Other
4	2	2		1

### At Time of Contact, the Individual was: (As perceived by officers)

Under Influence Of Alcohol Or Drugs	Suspected Under The Influence	Mentally Impaired	Emotionally Upset	Normal
9		2	2	



**Level of Resistance (More than one may apply during each incident)**

None	Psychological Intimidation	Verbal Non-Compliance	Passive Resistance	Escape Resistance	Active Aggression	Aggravated Active Aggression - Weapon Visible	Aggravated Active Aggression – Weapon Used
	3	5	6	4	3	1	

**Control Techniques Used (More than one may apply during each incident)**

Verbal Direction Only	Verbal Commands While Displaying Chemical Weapon (i.e. OC spray)	Verbal Commands While Displaying Impact Weapon	Verbal Commands While Displaying Firearm	Verbal Commands With Firearm Pointed At Individual	Soft Empty Hand Control Techniques	Chemical Weapon / Taser Used	Hard Empty Hand Control Techniques	Impact Weapon Used
			1	2	5	4		

# **SPECIALIZED AREAS WITHIN THE LIVINGSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **BICYCLE PATROL**

Several specially trained officers continued to conduct bicycle patrols throughout the City at various times of the day and night, depending on workload and the availability of enough officers to provide vehicle patrol. Bicycle patrols are very effective in proactive patrol, being stealthy and versatile. Officers can cover much more area than foot patrols, and are less visible to potential offenders than marked patrol vehicles. Bicycle patrols are also more approachable to citizens, affording enhanced interaction with the public.

## **MOUNTED PATROL UNIT**

In 2014, the Livingston Police Department implemented a Mounted Patrol Unit. This unit consists of a highly-trained, specialized officer and horse team. In 2015 the pair traveled out-of-state to receive on-going and continue training. The unit has attended numerous community events and has been very successful in the community oriented policing aspect which works to breaking down the barriers between officers and citizens of the community.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)**

In 2001 the City entered into an agreement with the school district and a private citizen to fund a School Resource Officer position. The SRO is a sworn police officer who is assigned to the schools during the school year and is available for patrol during the busier summer months. The SRO program continues to be a highly effective program by interacting with the youth of the community in a positive and proactive setting. The funding for this program is currently split between the school district and the City.

## **MISSOURI RIVER DRUG TASK FORCE**

The Livingston Police Department continued to be a member of the Missouri River Drug Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional effort funded by a federal grant with partial contributions from participating agencies. Pursuant to the agreement, the City of Livingston and Park County equally fund a portion of the costs necessary to provide one full time Park County deputy who works with the task force as a full time investigator. Our officer's work closely with this investigator, sharing drug related intelligence and forwarding cases for follow up investigation by the task force. These joint efforts continue to be successful in prosecuting drug offenders in Livingston and Park County.

## **CANINE UNIT**

The department maintains one canine unit, consisting of a specially trained and certified dog/handler team. The canine is certified in narcotics detection, article search, tracking, building search, area search, officer protection and aggression control. Over 145 training hours were completed in 2015 and annual certifications were received from the National Police Canine Association and the Southern Police Canine Inc.

The canine unit assists other agencies in the local area upon request. One (4) public demonstration was conducted.

The number of drug related incidents utilizing the K9 dramatically decreased in 2015 over the past two (2) years. This is a direct result of the Montana Highway Patrol acquiring several K9 units for their agency, two (2) of which are stationed here in Livingston/ Park County. Due to this, there is currently four (4) drug detection K9s in the Livingston/ Park County area. Although the number of drug sniffs has decreased, the number of patrol related deployments and K9 apprehensions from individuals attempting to flee or elude officers has increased.

## **CANINE DEPLOYMENTS BY TYPE**

<b>Building Searches</b>	<b>Apprehensions</b>	<b>Vehicle Sniffs</b>	<b>Tracking</b>	<b>Article Searches</b>	<b>Security</b>
3	6	8	8	1	2

## **Canine Deployments by Agency**

<b>Livingston P.D.</b>	<b>Park County S.O. / MRDTF</b>	<b>Montana Probation &amp; Patrol</b>
14	11	1

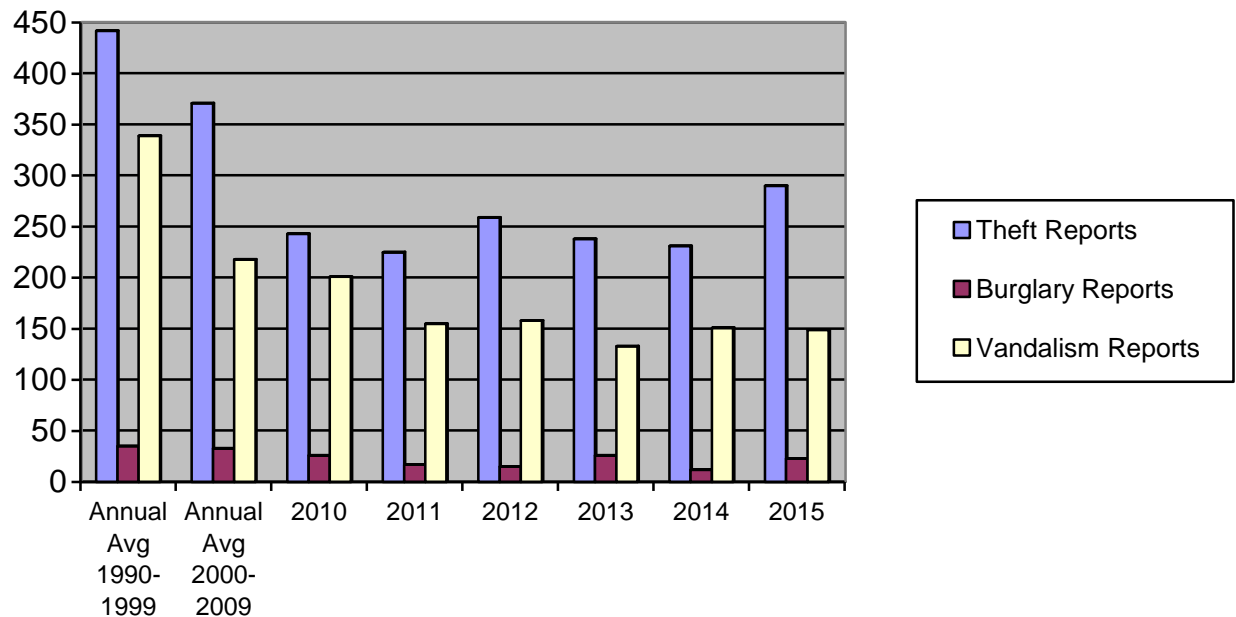
## **Approximate Drug Seizures Resulting From Canine Sniffs**

<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>Numerous Drug Paraphernalia items</b>
9.4	

# PROPERTY CRIMES REPORTED

The number of theft reports decreased in 2015, but burglary and vandalism reports were up significantly. Overall, reported incidents of theft, vandalism and burglary remain lower than the long term average

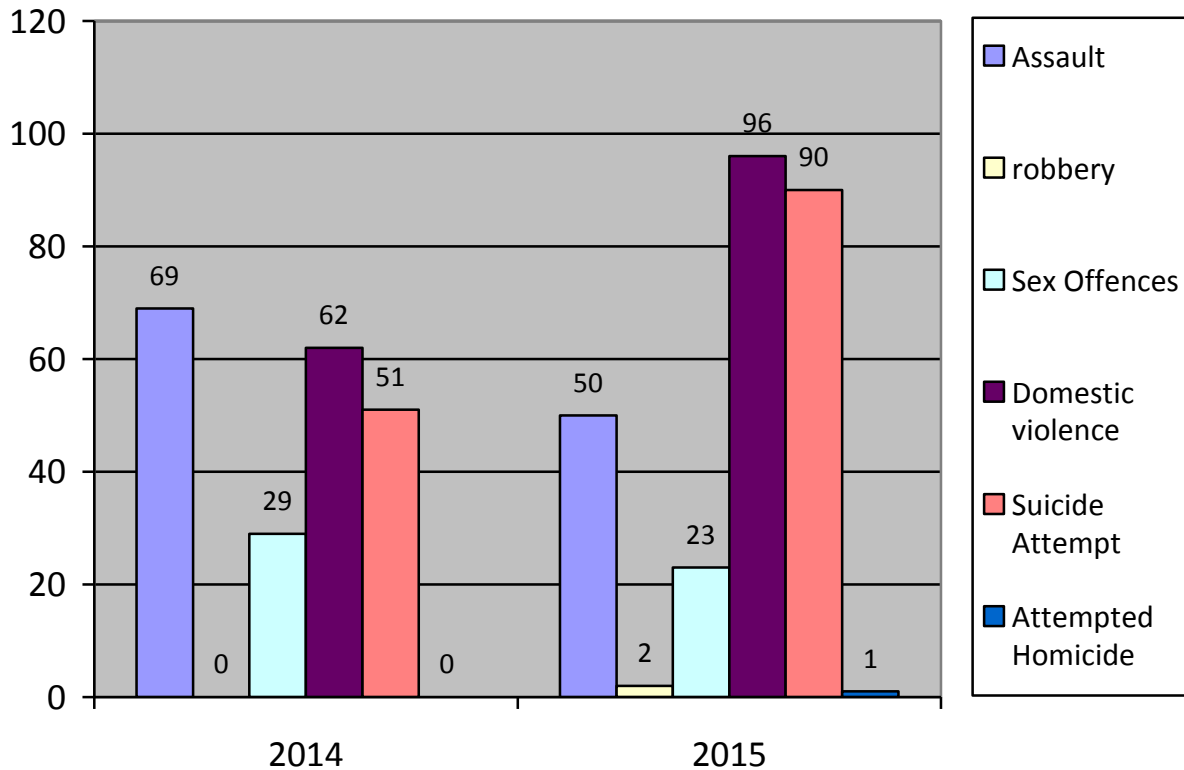
**Property Crimes Reported, 1990 – 2015  
Trends**



There were 42 vehicles reported stolen from our jurisdiction in 2015 (not including unauthorized use), that represents a 180% increase from 2014. A large majority of these vehicles were stole by the same individual as he traveled back and forth to Bozeman (yes, he was arrested and charged). All of the vehicles had their doors unlocked and the keys inside the vehicle. Precious years' numbers are; 15 in 2014, 11 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 6 in 2011, 7 in 2010, 5 in 2009, 11 in 2008, 19 in 2007, 12 in 2006 and 15 in 2005.

## VIOLENT CRIMES REPORTED

In the fall of 2013, we began a new software system for the entire law enforcement community. The software allows greater detail in the collection of information. We are now able to better track violent crime trends.



We received 342 complaints of some type of a Disturbance in 2015. These calls can range from loud music to loud and disorderly individuals to verbal domestic arguments. Of the 342 complaints, 325 were persons related i.e. disorderly conduct, verbal fights/ altercations, or other human disturbances. In 2014 the total Disturbance complaints were 356 with 289 being directly involving people.

## VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

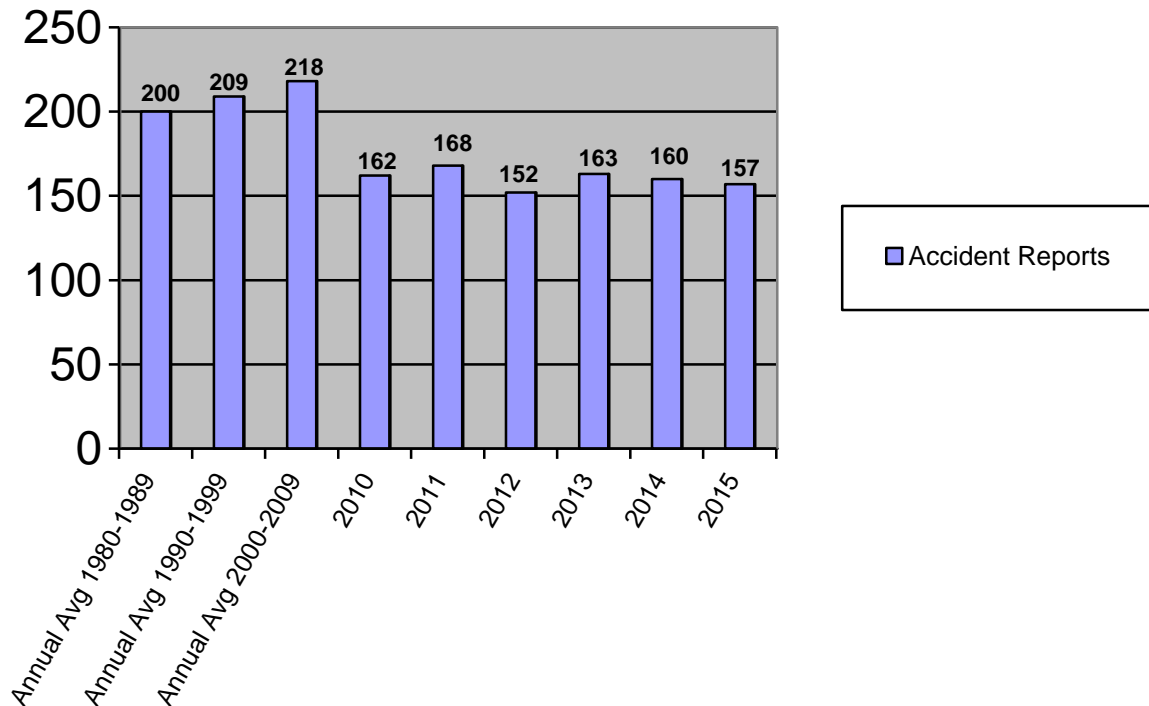
Officers completed 157 vehicle accident reports in 2015, slightly less than the previous year but continuing a trend of lower accident rates compared to the long term average. Even though the City has assumed jurisdiction of more roads through annexation in recent years, the accident rate has remained relatively static until 2009 when we have since experienced a significant reduction.

Of the accidents that occur on public roads (not including private property, such as parking lots), most, 58%, were not intersection related. This is consistent with previous years.

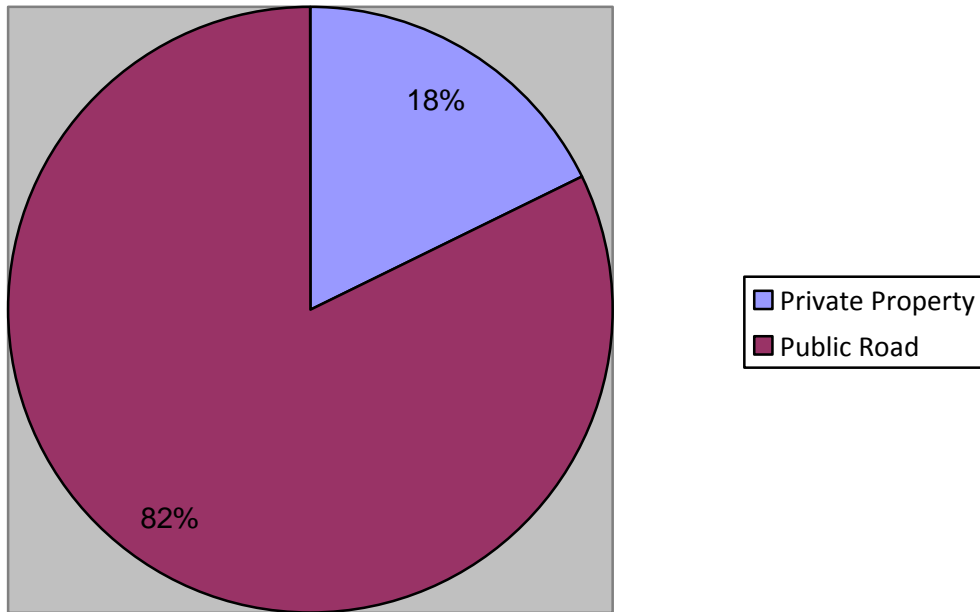
67% of intersection related accidents occur at controlled intersections. Controlled intersections are those where at least one roadway is regulated by a yield sign, stop sign or traffic light.

10% of all crashes within the City Jurisdiction occur at uncontrolled intersections.

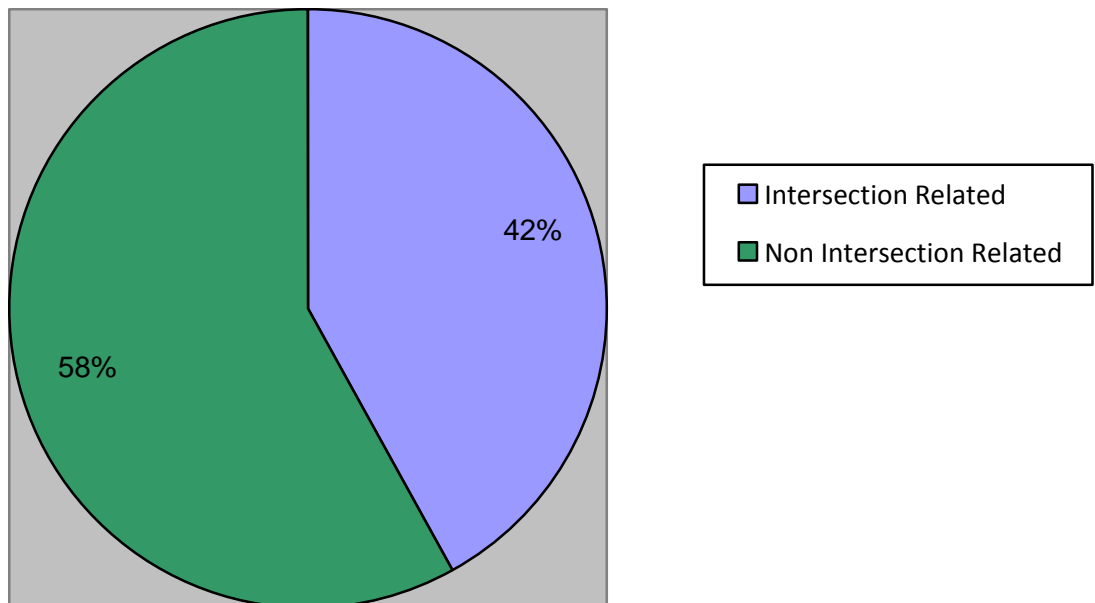
**Vehicle Accident Reports, 1980 – 2015**



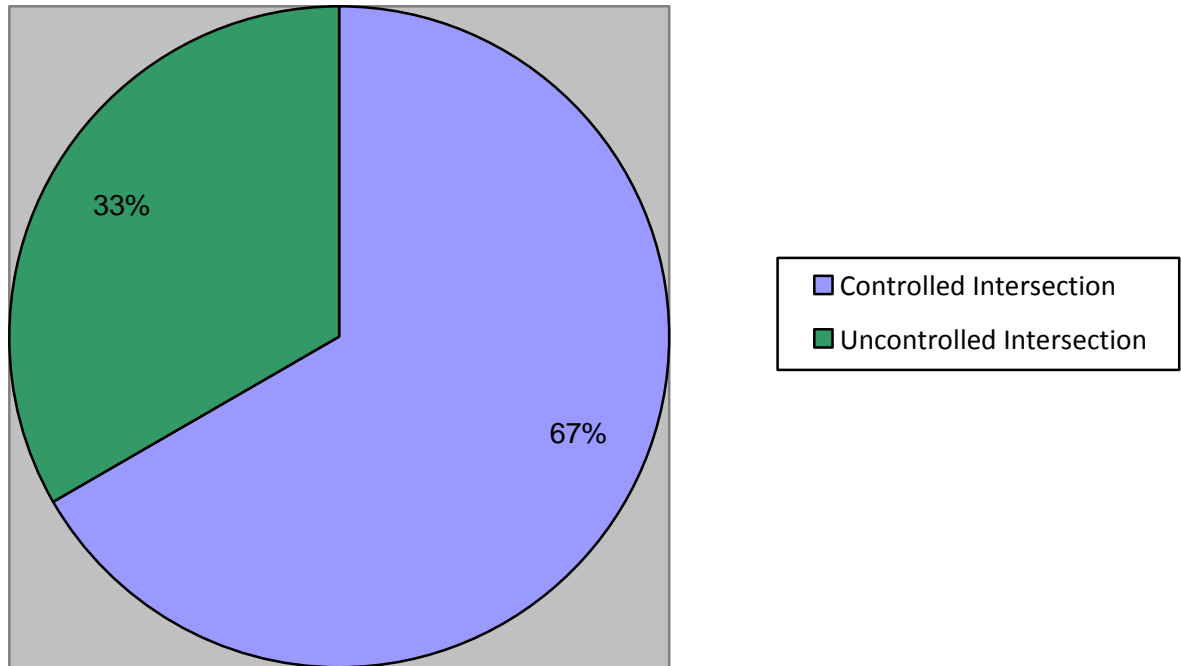
### Total Accidents; Private Property vs. Public Road



### Intersection Accidents that Occurred on Public Roads (Private Property Accidents Not Included)

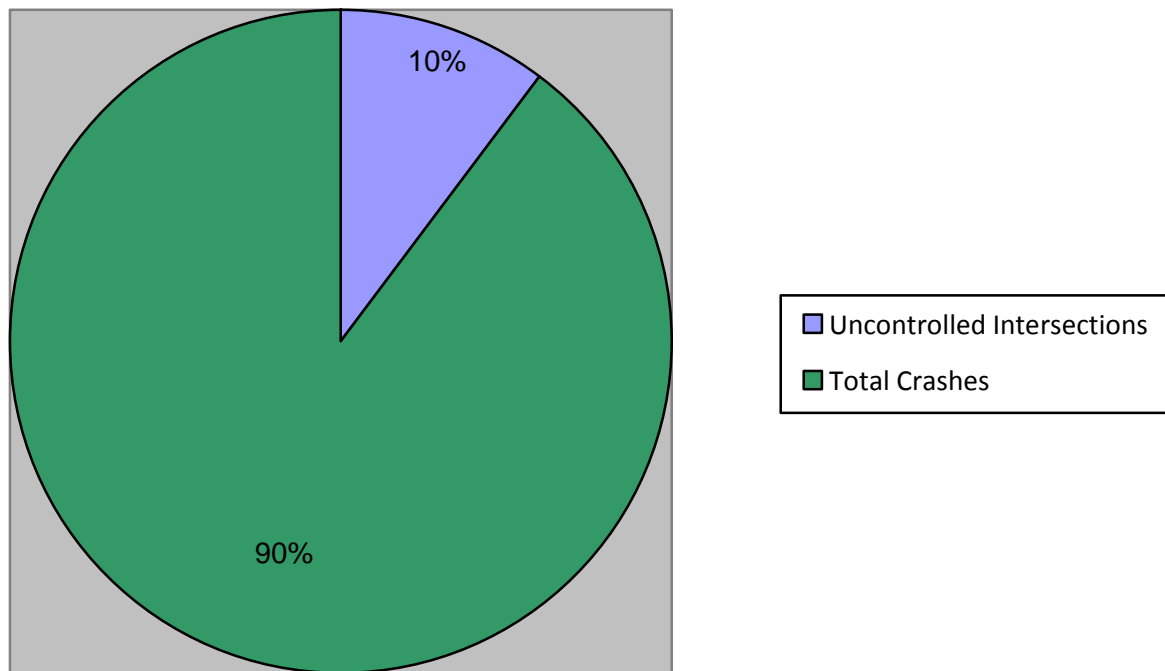


### Intersection Related Accidents; Controlled vs Uncontrolled



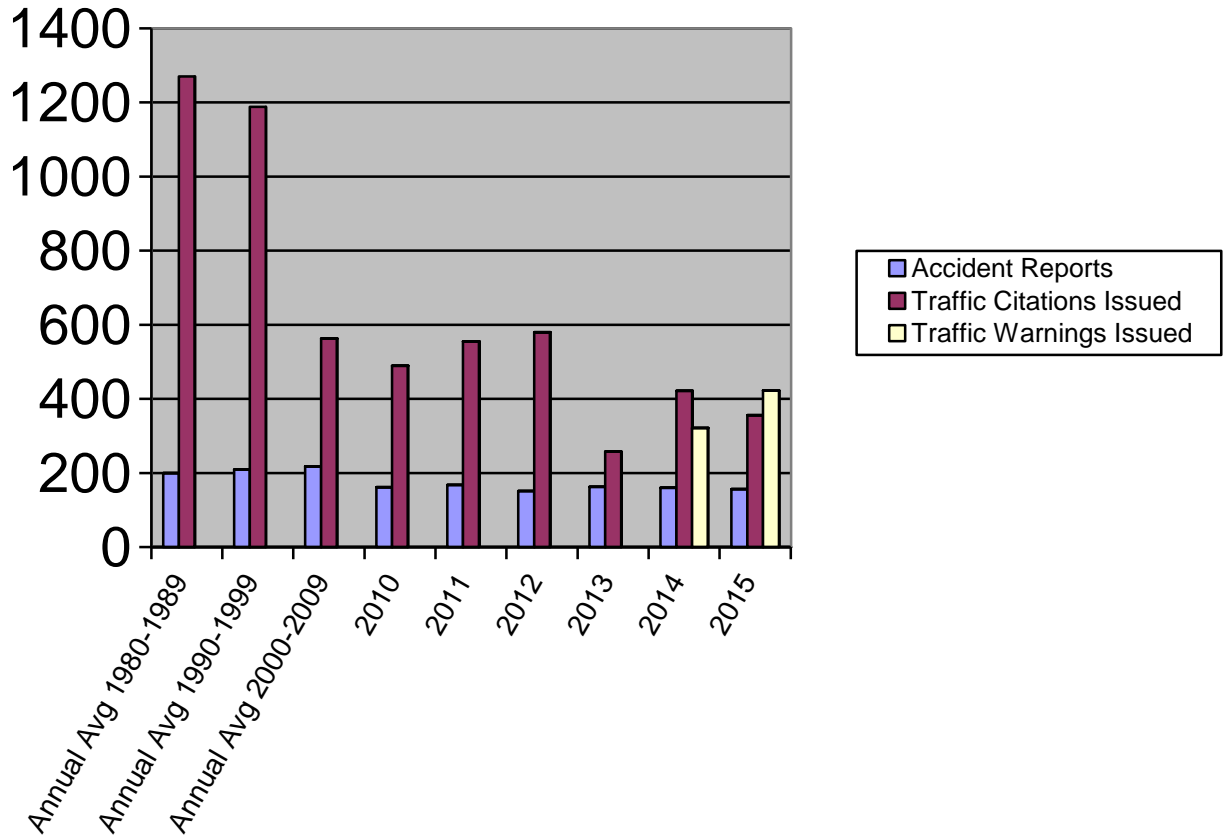
### Uncontrolled Intersection vs. Total Public Road Crashes





Although traffic enforcement is an important public safety tool and a means to address specific problems, based on historical accident data aggressive traffic enforcement or the number of citations and warning issued do not seem to correlate to lower accident rates. With the software system we began in using in the fall of 2013, we are now able to track traffic warnings issued as well as traffic citations.

**Vehicle Accident / Traffic Citation Ratio, 1980 – 2015**



## **RACIAL PROFILING AND TRAFFIC STOP DATA**

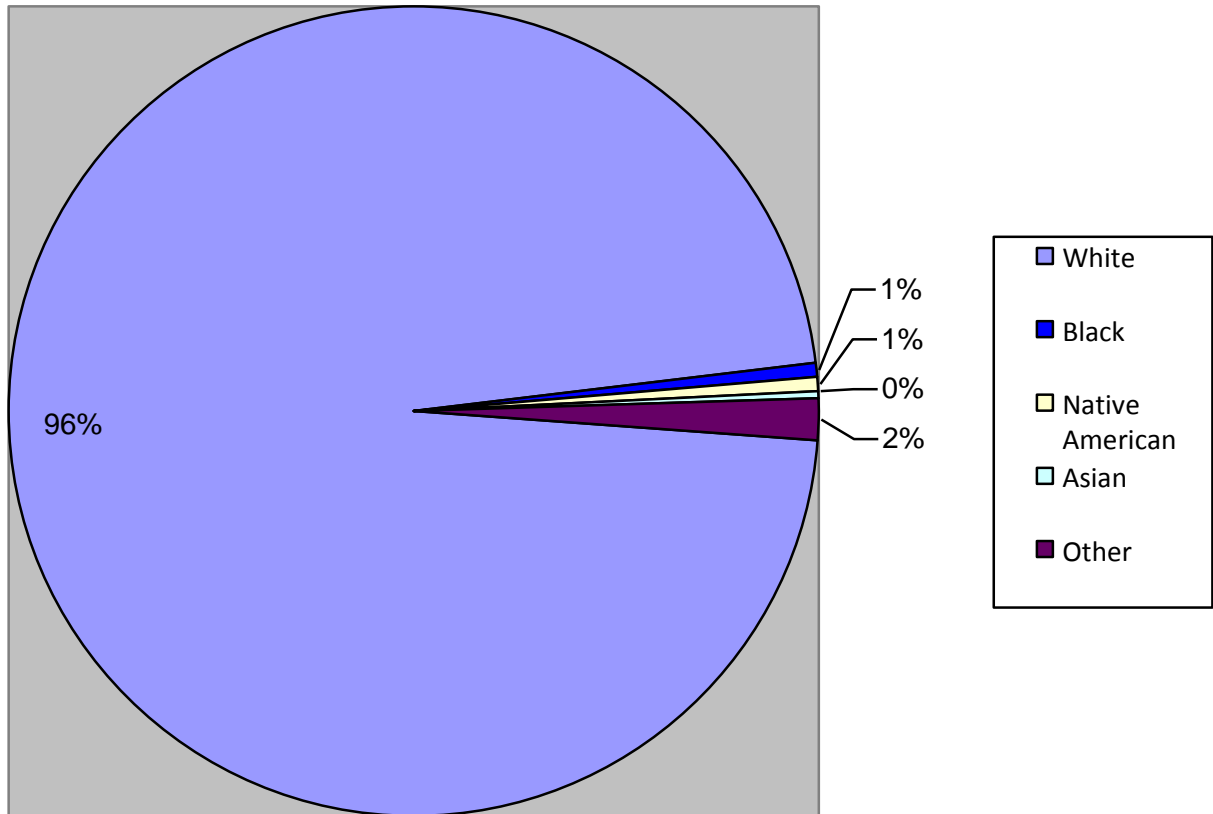
Pursuant to the requirements of 44-2-117 MCA, department policy requires the collection of data for each traffic stop that determines whether any officer has a pattern of stopping members of minority groups for violations of vehicle laws in a number disproportionate to the population of minority groups residing or traveling within our jurisdiction.

Officers are required to document the race or ethnicity of the driver and record the information into our records management system to be used to compile racial profiling data. The determination is based on their perception of the person's race. The diagrams below show the number of drivers, by race, ethnicity and sex that were stopped in 2015.

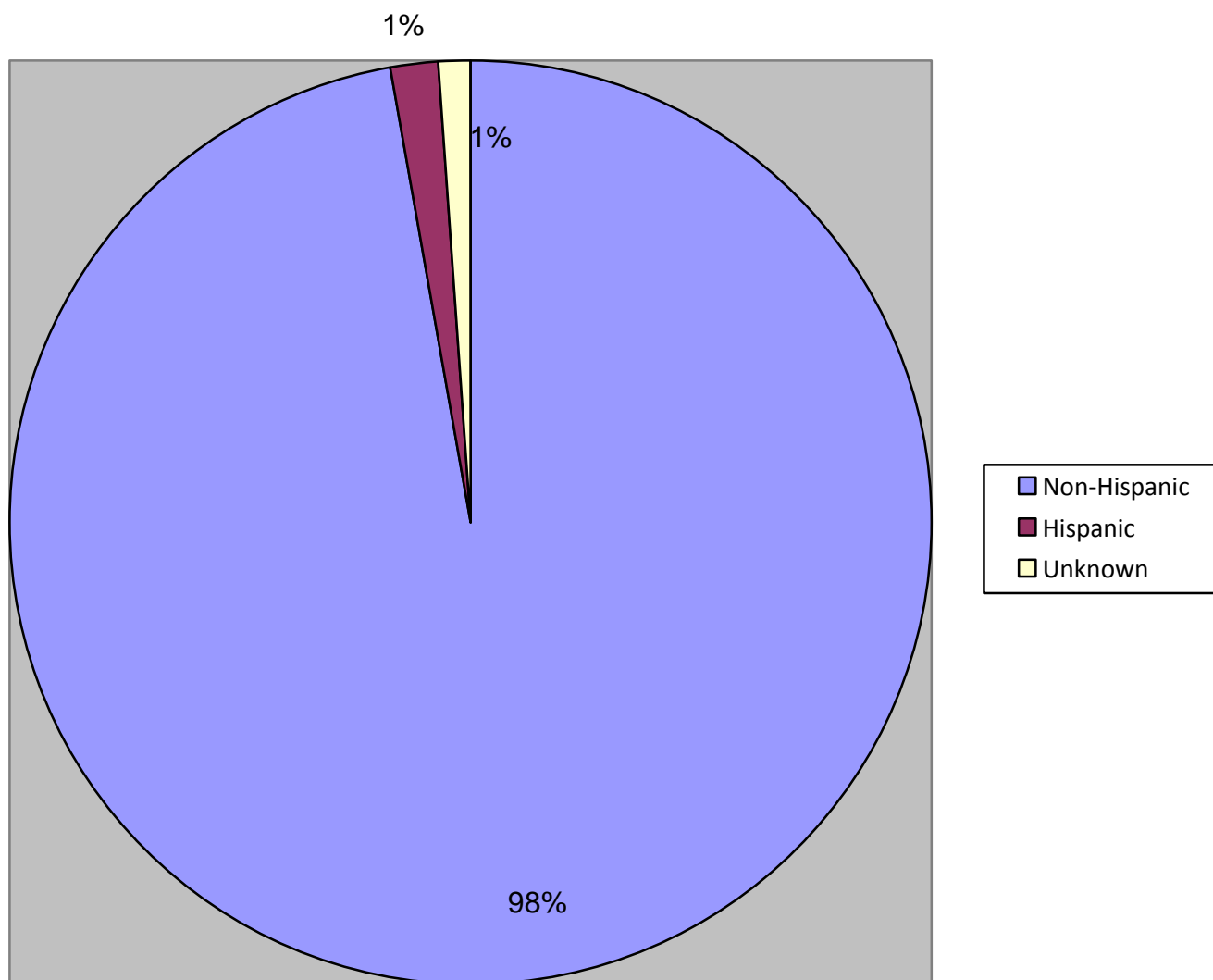
Consistent with the requirements of law, department policy provides for an annual review of this data. If the review reveals a pattern of any officer(s) of the Livingston Police Department stopping members of minority groups for violations of vehicle laws in a number disproportionate to the population of minority groups residing or traveling within our jurisdiction, an investigation must be conducted to determine whether the officer(s) routinely stop members of said minority groups for violations of vehicle laws as a pretext for investigating other violations of criminal law. The required review is incorporated into the Livingston Police Department Annual Report of Statistics, and this shall be considered the required review.

Upon review of departmental statistics, and having received no complaints alleging racial profiling from any person in 2015, there is no reason to conclude that officer(s) routinely stop members of minority groups for violations of vehicle laws as a pretext for investigating other violations of criminal law.

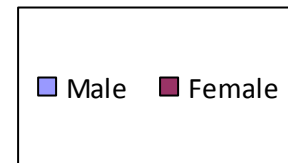
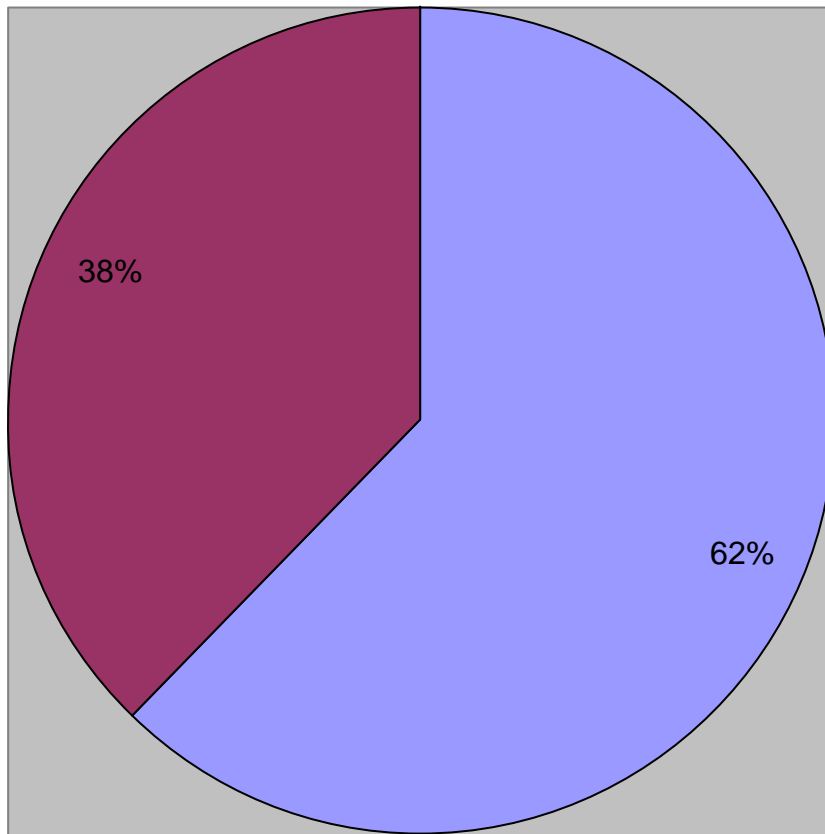
## 2015 Traffic Stops by Race



## 2015 Traffic Stops by Ethnicity



## 2015 Traffic Stops by Sex



## 2015 Traffic Stops by Age

