

# Columbus Police Department 2019 Annual Report

---



**Columbus Mayor:**  
James D. Lienhoop

**Columbus City Council:**  
Laurie Boher  
Dascal Bunch  
Tom Dell  
David Bush  
Frank Miller  
Tim Shuffett  
Elaine Wagner



<b>Table of Contents</b>		Self-Defense Class	p. 20
<b>Mission</b>	<b>p. 3</b>	<b>Police &amp; Community Relations...</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	<b>p. 3</b>	Youth Programs	p. 21
<b>Core Values</b>	<b>p. 3</b>	Cadet Program	p. 21
<b>Major Activities</b>	<b>p. 4</b>	D.A.R.E.	p. 21
International Accreditation	p. 4	Homework with Officers	p. 21
Police Review Board	p. 4	Hooked on Fishing	p. 22
Body-Worn Cameras	p. 5	Police Youth Academy	p. 23
Officer Recruitment	p. 5	Precision Driving Course	p. 23
<b>Crime Reduction Efforts</b>	<b>p. 7</b>	S.A.F.E.	p. 24
Violent Crime	p. 7	School Visits	p. 25
Property Crime	p. 8	Scouts in Government	p. 26
Drug Crimes	p. 9	Shop with a Cop	p. 26
Interventions	p. 10	Other Opportunities	p. 26
Intelligence Led Policing	p. 10	Coffee with a Cop	p. 26
Education	p. 11	College Internships	p. 27
Partnerships	p. 11	Community Events	p. 28
<b>Uniform Division</b>	<b>p. 13</b>	Department Tours	p. 29
Officer Activity	p. 13	Guest Speaking	p. 30
School Resource Officers	p. 14	<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<b>p. 30</b>
K-9 Officers	p. 14	Accident Reconstruction	p. 30
Bike Patrol Officers	p. 15	Bomb Technicians	p. 31
<b>Detective Division</b>	<b>p. 15</b>	Civil Unrest Response Team	p. 31
Joint Narcotics Enforcement	p. 16	Crime Scene Investigators	p. 31
<b>Police &amp; Community Relations</b>	<b>p. 19</b>	Crisis Negotiation Team	p. 31
Social Media & Website	p. 19	Dive Team	p. 31
Adult Programs	p. 19	Firearms Training Simulator	p. 31
Firearms Safety Class	p. 19	SWAT	p. 32
Neighborhood Watch	p. 19	<b>Closing</b>	<b>p. 34</b>
Public Safety Academy	p. 20	<b>Roster</b>	



## **Mission**

To Protect and Serve

## **Vision**

We strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our community by evaluating and improving our services through ongoing quality performance reviews that gauge our current practices to strategies that adhere to the internationally recognized best practices for law enforcement. We practice fair and impartial enforcement of the law that is responsive to citizen needs and are committed to providing professional service that protects lives, property and personal liberties, while developing community partnerships and welcoming the diversity of our citizens.



## **Core Values**

- We have:
  - Integrity – We are honest and have strong moral principles
  - Duty – We have obligations beyond our moral and legal responsibilities
  - Honor – We are fair and uphold the responsibilities of the position in which we are entrusted
- We are:
  - Loyal – We are faithful to and fulfill our commitments, obligations and duties
  - Responsible – We are accountable for that which is in our power, control, and management
  - Service Oriented – We are helpful
- We do all this with:
  - Excellence – We surpass ordinary standards
  - Respect – We treat all people with high regard
  - Equality – We treat all people the same



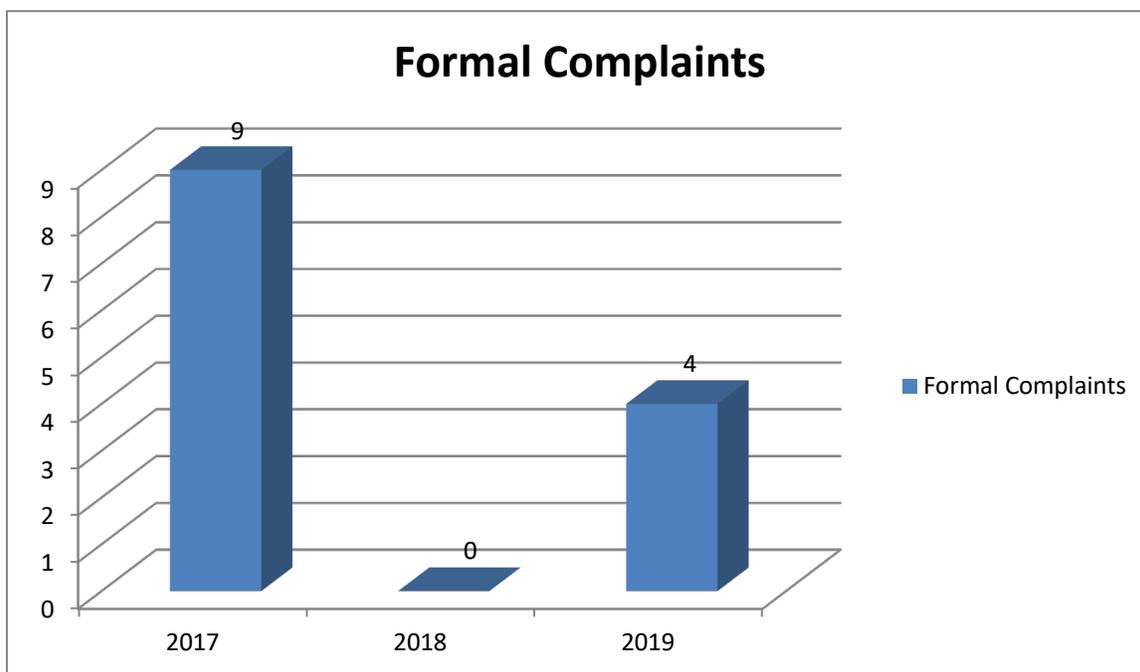
## Major Activities

Knowing that professionalism and transparency in law enforcement activities is at the forefront of the national media, we worked hard, making a conscious effort, to demonstrate to our community that we operate according to our Mission, Vision and Core Values.

- International and State Accreditation
  - The Columbus Police Department maintains dual accreditation. We have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since November of 2014, achieved reaccreditation in November of 2017, and were found to be 100% in compliance after our 2019 annual review.
    - CALEA establishes the internationally recognized best practices for all areas of law enforcement, and provides impartial and objective third party oversight to ensure law enforcement agencies both establish and practice those standards. The standards are developed in collaboration with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum.
  - The Columbus Police Department has also been accredited at the state level since 2015 by the Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation commission (ILEAC).
- Police Review Board
  - Since 1992 the policies and procedures for what was previously named the Audit & Review Committee went unchanged. After a year of community dialogue and comprehensive research, in March of 2018, these policies and procedures were revamped for the first time in 26 years in order to ensure they are current with today's police and community relations.
  - The desire of the Police Review Board is to foster transparency in policing, gain community trust and respond to the needs of all residents, while reflecting our community's racial, ethnic and religious diversities. This Board serves as a third party oversight of formal complaints against the department, which ensures that the police department is appropriately handling citizen complaints.



- The formal complaint process was highly publicized and promoted throughout the year. In 2019, the police department received 4 formal complaints.

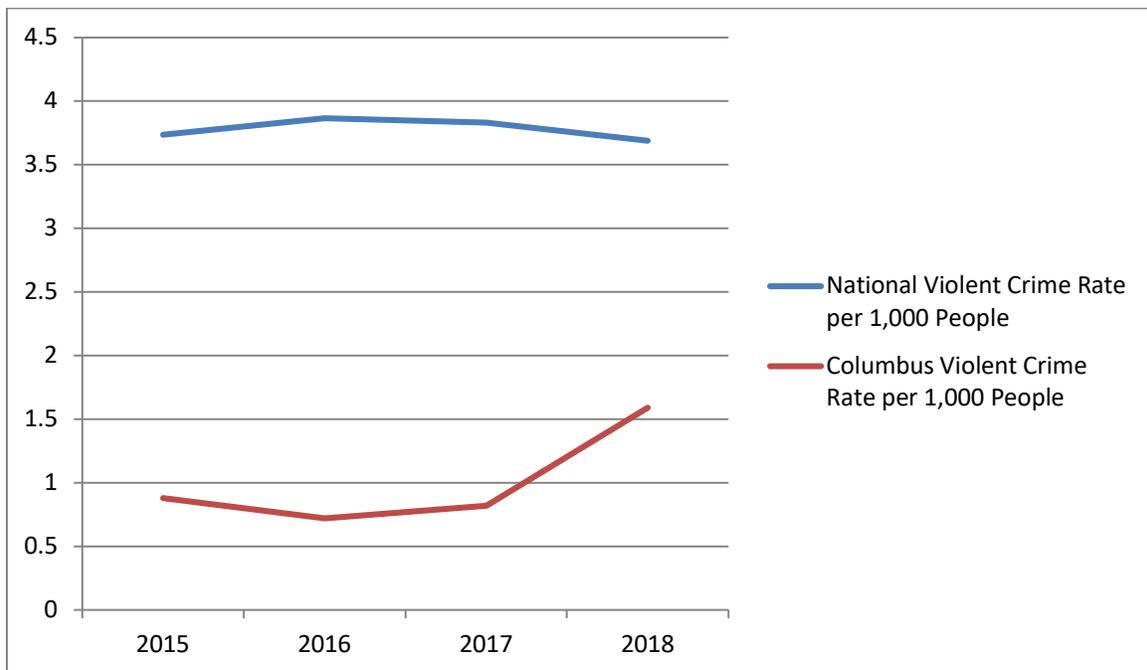


- **Body-Worn Camera Program**
  - While many police departments struggle to secure and/or maintain the resources to outfit their officers with body-worn cameras, the Columbus Police Department has outfitted all uniformed officers with body-worn cameras since 2015.
  - The data research on this technology shows that use of body-worn cameras reduces citizen complaints and incidents of resistance, and is also valuable for evidentiary purposes.
- **Officer Recruitment & Retention**
  - We recognize that the quality of law enforcement personnel is crucial to public safety services, and it is necessary for our police department to attract and retain the best and brightest law enforcement talent. Law enforcement executives nationally list the most challenging issue facing their respective agencies as being recruiting and retaining sworn personnel, and our agency is no exception. In 2019 the number of applications we received dropped over 21% compared to 2018 and the number of applicants showing up for the testing dropped over 10% compared to 2018.



## Crime Reduction Efforts

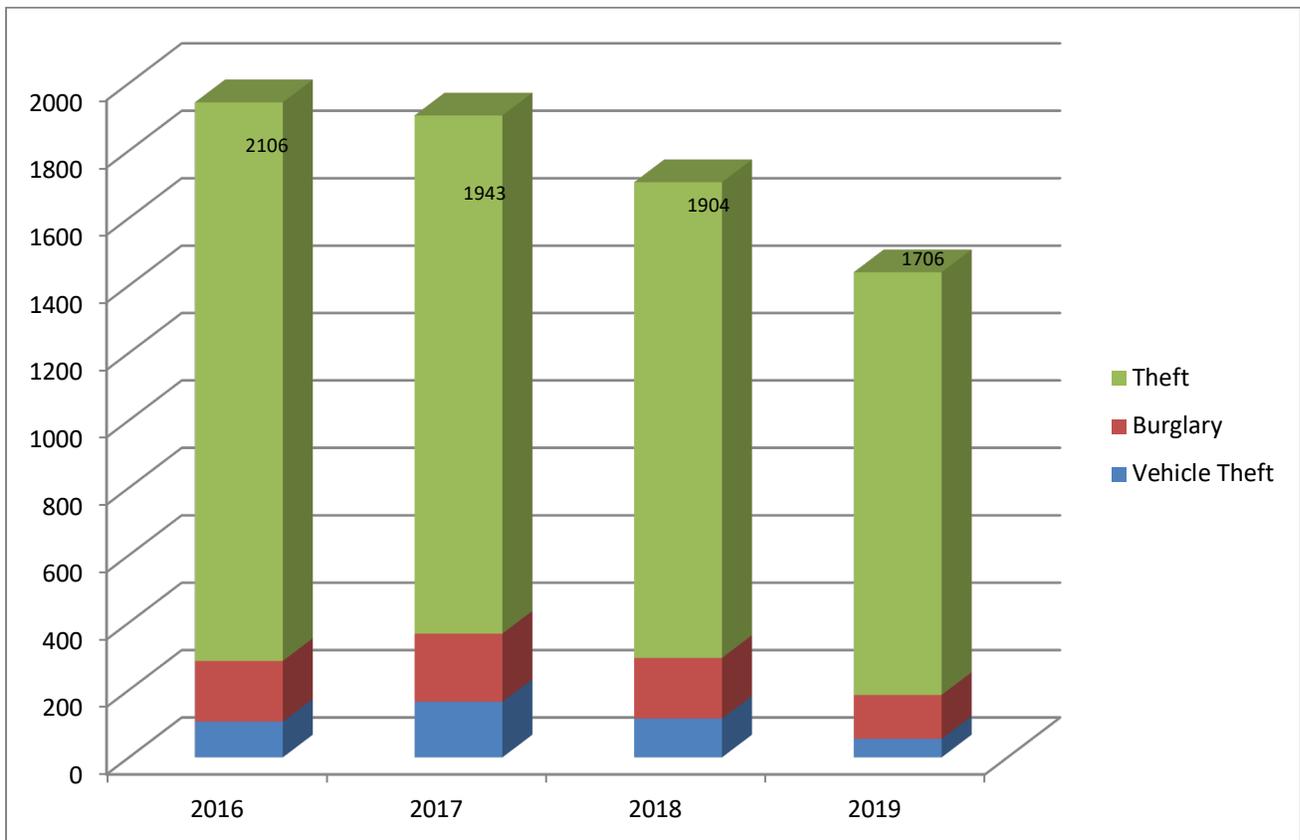
- The most accurate way to currently measure crime is through the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. However, the FBI is altering how data is going to be reported by changing the reporting mechanism from the UCR system to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), as well as changing some definitions of the reported crimes and incidents. This change means that after this year, we will not be able to provide a comparable historical evaluation of crime data. However, the NIBRS system will provide more detailed data in order to better determine crime patterns, and will allow for more timely law enforcement action based on the data.
- Violent Crime
  - Our most current violent crime rate (2018) shows that Columbus was 59% below the national average, meaning that our community is a very safe place to live. *Please note that 2019 violent crime rates cannot be determined because the 2019 national violent crime rate and the 2019 estimated Columbus population are not yet available. Also, note that the FBI has changed their violent crime definitions, so 2018 violent crime rate numbers will not be comparable to prior years.*





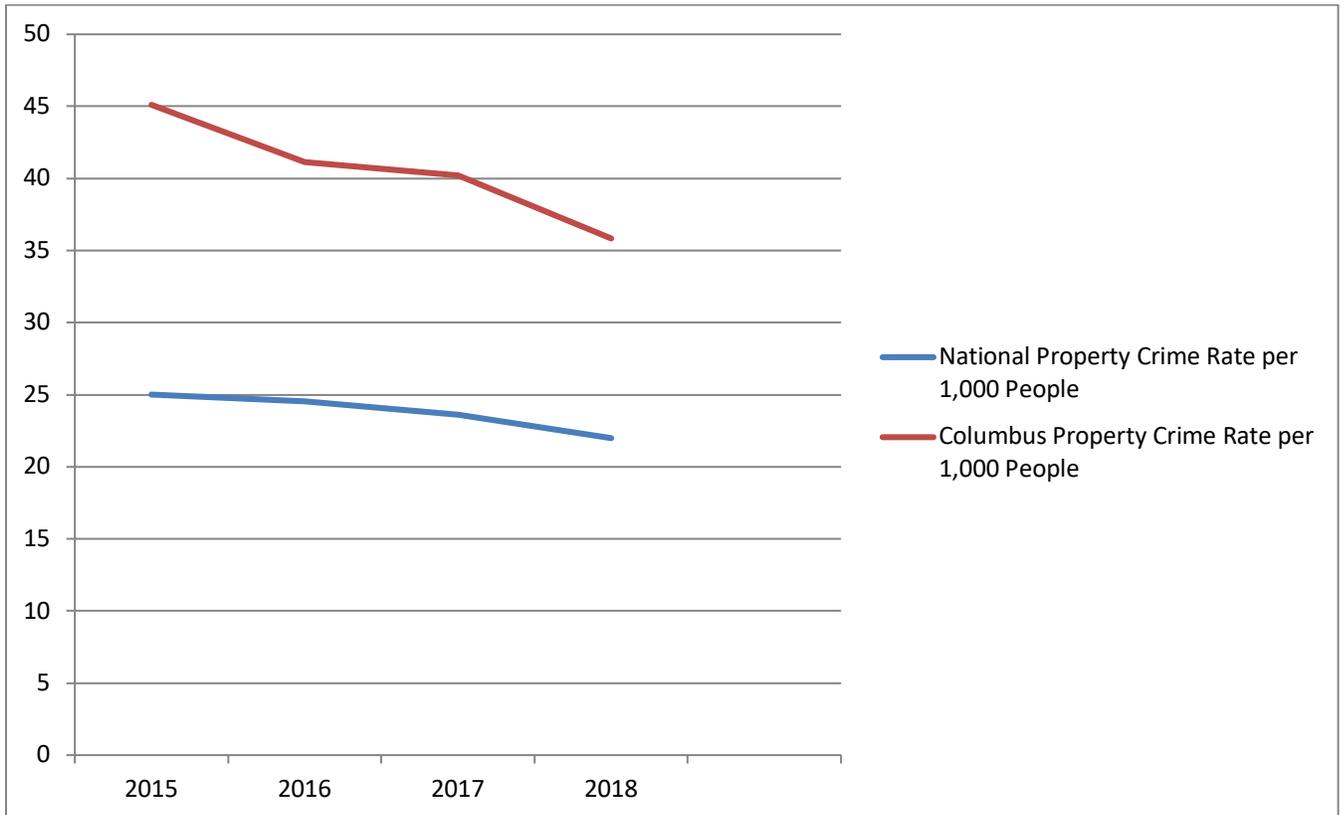
- Property Crime

- Property crimes have both historically and currently been a complex crime problem in our community. In Mayor Lienhoop’s four years in office, property crime has been reduced each year.
  - In those four years, we have had an overall 32% decrease in property crime. In addition, during the same time period, each of the categories that are included in the property crime classification were reduced.
    - Vehicle theft is down over 58%;
    - Burglaries are down almost 47%; and
    - Thefts (not vehicles) are down over 27%.





- Our most current property crime rate (2018) shows that Columbus was 63% higher than the national average, again demonstrating that theft of property is the major crime issue in our community. *Please note that 2019 property crime rates cannot be determined because the 2019 national property crime rate and the 2019 estimated Columbus population are not yet available.*

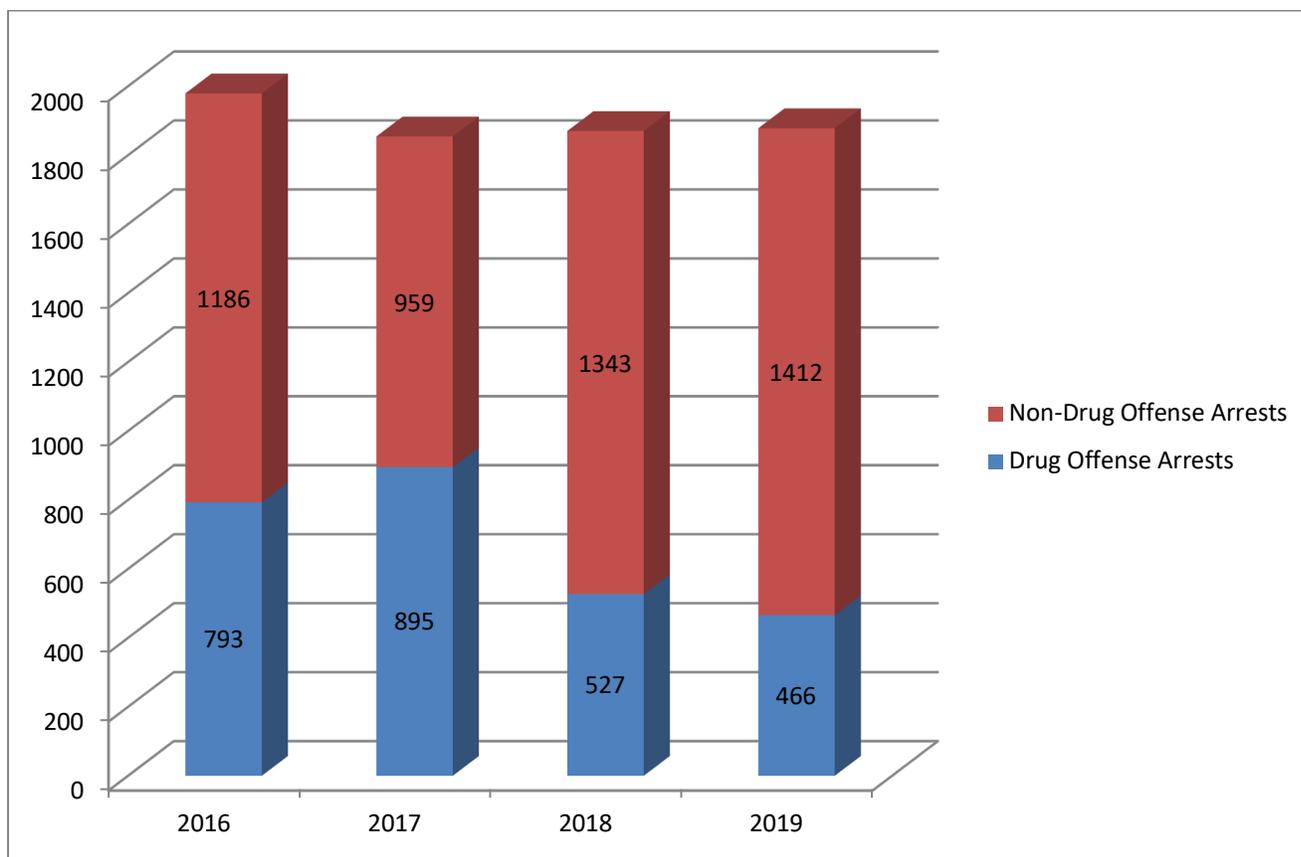


- Comparing 2018 to 2019, our property crimes were reduced by 16%.
  - Vehicle theft decreased by over 52%;
  - Burglaries decreased by almost 27%; and
  - Thefts (not vehicles) decreased by over 11%.
- While this data helps determine where we need to make improvements, we also believe our higher than average property crime rate has a direct correlation to drug addiction in our community.



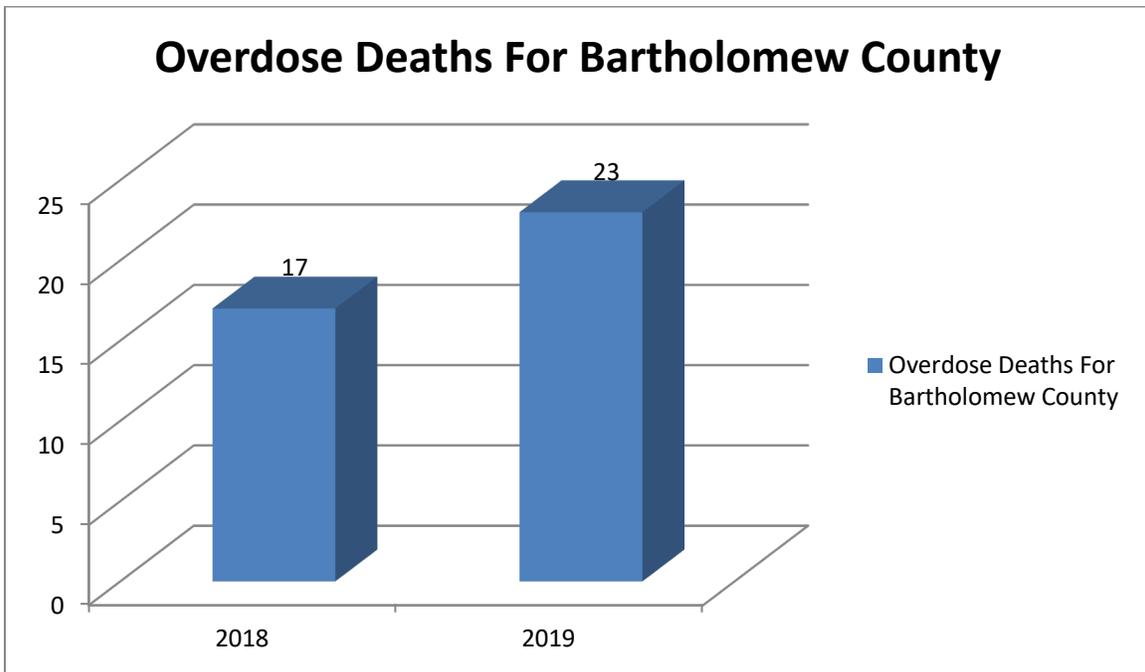
- Drug Crimes

- Supply & Demand – This basic concept is the easiest way to describe the drug problem in our community. While the police department constantly works to arrest drug dealers to thwart the supply of drugs, working with community partners to reduce or eliminate the demand is just as important. If we can reduce or eliminate the demand, this will collaterally reduce the drug supply. Conversely, if we do nothing to address the demand, the supply of drugs will continue to flow to try to meet the demand. This concept reinforces the reason why our community partnerships are vital to reducing crime.
- While the police department made more adult arrests in 2019 compared to 2018, 25% of our arrests involved a drug offense. This number was 27% in 2018 and 48% in 2017. This demonstrates that our law enforcement efforts to reduce drug supply and the community-wide efforts to decrease drug demand are having a positive and progressive impact.





- In 2019 we had a 29% increase in juvenile arrests compared to 2018. In 2019 we made 195 juvenile arrests compared to 151 in 2018. Of those juvenile arrest 11% were drug arrests in 2019 compared to 14% in 2018.
- Opioid overdose related deaths were up 35% from last year.



- Interventions
  - Intelligence Led Policing (ILP)
    - Since 2018, our property crime rate has continued to go down when we overcame all obstacles and fully implemented an intelligence led policing program. Property crime dropped over 15% in 2019 compared to 2018 and has dropped over 24% from 2017 to 2019. This innovative style of policing has had a direct result in our reduction of property crime and drug related offenses, and will continue to reduce crime in our community.
    - The intelligence led policing unit includes three police officer positions and one civilian criminal intelligence analyst. In 2019 a Bartholomew County deputy was assigned to work with this unit. This centralized unit in the department collects and stores all information, analyzes the information and produces actionable direction for our law enforcement activities.



- Education – With the majority of our thefts from vehicles being from unlocked vehicles in 2019, we routinely educate the public in several easy practices that every citizen can do to help us in our goal to reduce the number of thefts from vehicles that we have each year.
  - Immediately report suspicious activity;
  - Hide it, lock it, keep it program: Hide valuable personal property; secure the property by keeping it behind a locked door, which translates to people keeping their property; and
  - Help us identify property if it is stolen by registering items with serial numbers and pictures on the free and secure inventory system that our department uses: <https://reportit.leadsonline.com/>
- Partnerships – Key to our crime reduction efforts is maintaining and building partnerships throughout the community. Here is a brief overview of some of our partnerships, a few of which will be expanded on later in this report.
  - The Intelligence Led Policing unit (ILP)-This is our most recent partnership with the Bartholomew County Sheriff's office. This unit includes officers from Columbus Police Department, a deputy from the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office and a civilian criminal intelligence analyst.
  - Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) – This team is made up of officers from the Columbus Police Department, deputies from the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office and a Bartholomew County Deputy Prosecutor. Their purpose is to unite local efforts to aggressively pursue drug dealers in our community, and has combined local investigative and prosecution efforts as it relates to drug crimes. This relationship has led to additional partnerships with other state and federal agencies to collectively attack the supply of drugs in our community. These additional partners include:
    - The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA);
    - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI);
    - The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF);
    - The U.S. Marshalls;



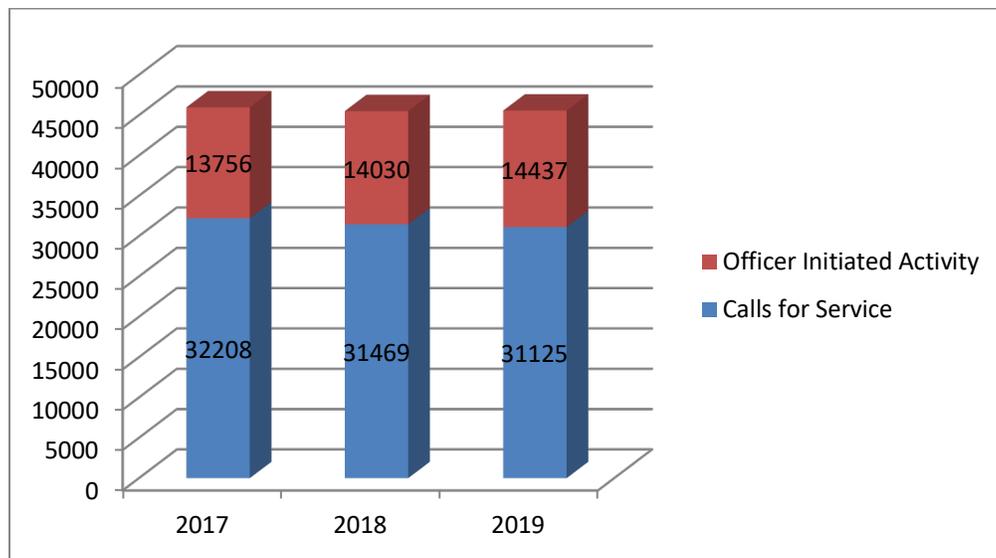
- The Department of Homeland Security; and
  - The U.S. Postal Service Inspectors
- 
- Heroin Overdose Response Initiative – This is a partnership between the Columbus Police Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Office to maximize interagency cooperation by establishing consistent investigation protocols and facilitating intelligence gathering and sharing between the agencies for heroin overdoses.
  - School Resource Officers (SROs) – This is a partnership between the Columbus Police Department, Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Department and the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation to place police officers in our schools. This is another partnership that was expanded in 2019 to a total of five officers. We added two SRO’s to the two that we already had working in the school system and the Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Department assigned a deputy to work as an SRO as well.
  - Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) – As much of law enforcement’s responsibility is to combat the drug supply, ASAP was designed to reduce drug demand. The police department is an active participant in ASAP’s progress and believes that this is a major component to crime reduction as well as producing many other collateral community benefits.
  - Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) – This is a partnership with local law enforcement, judges, the prosecutor, probation department, community corrections, defense attorneys and treatment providers. It’s purpose is to revamp the criminal justice system to reduce the likelihood that a person who has committed a crime will reoffend. The results of this partnership have made our community a leader in the state and the country in several criminal justice change targets.
  - Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) – This is a partnership with the state and all local stakeholders in the juvenile justice system with the purpose of changing delinquent youth behavior so that youth in the criminal justice system can be transformed to ultimately become productive citizens as adults.
  - Adult Drug Court – The police department has designated two liaison officers that participate in the adult drug court, which is intended to rehabilitate low-level and high risk drug offenders.



- Veteran’s Court – the police department has designated two liaison officers that participate with this court, which helps rehabilitate veterans who have committed a crime.
- Safe Place – The police department partners with the Foundation for Youth, the Bartholomew County Youth Services Center, Columbus Fire Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Office. This program provides youth a safe place to go to receive assistance when they are in a time of need.
- Neighborhood Watch – We meet regularly with established neighborhood watch group and welcome opportunities to meet with and assist others in establishing new watch groups or join existing groups.

### Uniform Division

- When a person within the city requests law enforcement assistance for any reason, the Uniform Division is our first response. While these officers respond when citizens call for help (calls for service), they also proactively work hard to protect you and your property (officer-initiated activity). From 2018 to 2019 our calls for service decreased 1.1%, and our officer initiated activity increased 3%.



- Contained within our Uniform Division are several specialty units – School Resource Officers, K-9 Officers and Bike Patrol Officers.



- School Resource Officers (SROs)
  - This partnership was noted earlier in this report on page 12, and this section provides more detail. Since 2014, two School Resource Officers have been assigned full-time to the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation. In 2019 this program was expanded from two officers to five officers. We now have four officers from Columbus Police Department and one from the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department assigned to work as SRO's. These additions will undoubtedly provide additional safety within our schools, and multiply the opportunity for officers to build relationships with our youth. These officers spend a majority of their time engaging with students in a positive manner, while still maintaining a safe environment for students, school personnel and visitors using school facilities.
  
- K-9 Officers
  - In 2019 we replaced one of our K-9 with a two year old German shepherd name Bane. The Columbus Police Department has three K-9 units. All of our K-9s are multipurpose dogs that detect narcotics, as well as track and apprehend. Throughout the year all of our K-9s were involved in narcotic seizures, locating fleeing suspects and locating articles that were lost, stolen or used in the commission of a crime.





- Bike Patrol Officers
  - The goal of the Bike Patrol is to find a balance between public relations and enforcement of laws. Using the bicycle is a great tool to interact with the community in a positive manner, but is also very effective in crime reduction. The Bike Patrol Unit is used in parades, high crime areas, routine patrols, bike rodeos and bike safety education.

## Detective Division

- Our department utilizes a Detective Division to investigate crimes that cannot be resolved by the Uniform Division due to the time commitment of the investigation, complexity of the investigation or other qualifying circumstances.
- Every report submitted by the Uniform Division is reviewed to determine if it will be assigned to a detective for additional investigation. In 2019, detectives were assigned 731 cases (223 being cases worked by Narcotic Detectives). Detectives are also called to the scenes of major crimes to coordinate on-scene investigations, and are well trained to handle a broad spectrum of cases such as:
  - Property crimes, such as theft, burglary, financial crimes, and arson.
  - Personal crimes, such as battery and robbery.
  - Sex crimes, such as rape, child molestation and voyeurism.
  - Death investigations, including homicide, suicide and accidental deaths.
  - Pharmaceutical diversion crimes, dealing with prescription fraud, doctor-shopping and related offenses.
  - Domestic violence crimes, such as battery, confinement and violation of protection orders.
- In addition to investigating crimes, we have established relationships throughout the community to provide a point of contact to key groups in the community to help deter crimes from happening and to have established partnerships that allow for more efficient investigations for crimes that do occur. We currently maintain the following relationships:
  - A retail theft liaison who partners with asset protection personnel from Columbus area retail merchants;
  - A fraud liaison who partners with representatives of financial institutions in Columbus;



- 
- A diversion crime liaison partners with local health care facility administrators; and
  - A domestic violence liaison who works directly with Turning Point.
- Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) – This partnership was noted earlier in this report on page 11, and this section provides more detail. The following are some highlights of a few of the 223 cases that JNET investigated in 2019:
    - After a lengthy narcotics investigation, two Columbus residents suspected of bringing fentanyl and heroin from out of state and selling it locally were arrested after their vehicle was stopped. During the investigation, JNET narcotics detectives determined that two Columbus residents made multiple trips to Cincinnati, Ohio where they purchased heroin and fentanyl. The pair then brought the drugs back to Bartholomew County where it was sold. JNET detectives were able to secure arrest warrants for both subjects on charges of dealing in a narcotic drug.
    - Three people were arrested on felony drug charges after an early afternoon warrant service in Columbus. Members of the CPD Swat Team, which consists of officers from the Columbus Police Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department, served a search warrant. The warrant was a result of a lengthy investigation into the manufacturing and selling of methamphetamine by the Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team. Methamphetamine as well as a large amount of currency was recovered by officers.



- Twelve people are in custody after a multi agency narcotics investigation and warrant service conducted by local law enforcement officers at a Columbus home where officers recovered a large amount of drugs, guns, and currency. Officers from the Columbus Police Department SWAT Team, which consists of officers from the Columbus Police Department and the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department, served a search warrant after receiving information that the house contained narcotics as well as several firearms. Officers from the Columbus Police Department Intelligence Led Policing Unit, assisted by Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department K-9 Diesel and his handler conducted several traffic stops just prior to the warrant service. During the warrant service officers and investigators recovered approximately one pound of methamphetamine, a quarter ounce of heroin/fentanyl mixture, marijuana, several controlled substances, as well as drug paraphernalia, syringes, scales, and drug packaging material. Officers also recovered several long guns including two AR-15 rifles, an AK-47 rifle, four handguns and a large amount of ammunition and U.S. currency. Officers also recovered methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.





- Local law enforcement officers arrested six people during a narcotics investigation involving drug activity at a Columbus residence. Officers from the Columbus Police Department Intelligence Led Policing Unit conducted a traffic stop near 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Avenue. Officers located in the vehicle methamphetamine and a controlled substance. Officers also arrested a male from Franklin, Indiana on several charges including two local warrants and an out of county warrant after stopping his vehicle near 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Gladstone Avenue. A Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department canine later alerted to the odor of narcotics in the vehicle and while searching the car, officers reportedly located marijuana as well as a Suboxone strip. A short time later, officers stopped a vehicle driven by a male from Columbus. While speaking to the driver and his passengers a Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department canine was requested and later alerted to the odor of narcotics inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle yielded nearly 30 grams of methamphetamine. Officers and investigators from the Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team executed a search warrant Monday evening. During a search investigators reportedly located methamphetamine, heroin, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, and narcotics packaging material.
- A Columbus man out on bond after being arrested for dealing marijuana in October was arrested on felony drug dealing charges. The arrest led to a search warrant and recovery of a large amount of drugs and currency at the man's apartment by the Bartholomew County Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team. Officers arrested a Columbus man as a result of an ongoing investigation into drugs being sold at Columbus East High School. The investigation began after school resource officers received a tip about the man using a student to sell marijuana and THC vape cartridges at the school. A high school student that the man reportedly recruited to sell drugs at the school has been taken into custody by school resource officers. The Columbus Police Department SWAT Team, which consists of officers from the Columbus Police Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department, served a search warrant in Columbus. Also assisting were officers from the CPD Intelligence Led Policing Unit, Columbus Police Department K-9 Division, as well as the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department. During a search of the residence, officers located marijuana, THC vape cartridges, psychedelic mushrooms, cocaine, as well as over \$20,000 in currency inside the apartment.



- Investigators from the Bartholomew County Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team along with officers the Columbus Police Department, Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police, United States Postal Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), as well as the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) served a search warrant at a Columbus residence. The search warrant was a result of an ongoing investigation into illegal narcotic sales in Columbus and Bartholomew County. During a search of the home, officers recovered 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of over \$30,000.00 along with three firearms.

## **Police & Community Relations**

- Social Media – Regular and efficient communication is vital to maintaining a strong partnership with our community. We regularly communicate through Facebook and Twitter, with our Facebook page having over 32,000 followers.
  - We also occasionally communicate through YouTube, Instagram and Periscope.
  - Website – Please visit us on our website, where you will find information on all our upcoming events: <http://www.columbus.in.gov/police/>.
- Adult Programs
  - Firearms Safety Class
    - We host full day firearms training courses that feature time in the classroom as well as on our firing range with our firearms instructors.
  - Neighborhood Watch Groups – These partnerships were noted earlier in this report on page 13.



- Public Safety Academy

- This is our most comprehensive program that requires a significant time commitment from the participants. The program educates adults on every aspect of public safety by giving them an inside look at the job of a police officer. In the course, we provide such an in depth look at our operations, participants must pass a background check.



- Self-Defense Class

- Our defensive tactics instructors and other officers instruct women's self-defense classes each year.





- Youth Programs
  - Cadet Program
    - The cadet program is designed for high-school age youth, who are mentored by and provided law enforcement training from our officers. With the help of several community partners, we have incorporated this program into our long-term recruitment plan, and seek to use this recruitment plan to increase the diversity on our department.
  - D.A.R.E.
    - We have nine D.A.R.E. officers that teach this popular anti-drug program to sixth graders at eight elementary schools in Columbus. This program not only teaches youth the negative effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, but also provides an opportunity for our officers to build a positive relationship with them.



- Homework with an Officer
  - Our homework with an officer program occurs after school every Monday and Tuesday while school is in session. During each session officers work with the youth on their homework and spend some time doing fun activities.



- Hooked on Fishing
  - Officers spent the day fishing with youth in our community.





- Police & Fire Youth Academy
  - This program is similar to the adult Public Safety Academy, except it is designed for youth. During this program the children receive a small taste of what it would be like to attend a police academy, and learn about different aspects of law enforcement. The academies provide opportunities to engage local youth from ages 6-13.



- Precision Driving Course
  - Our department offers this course to give young drivers hands-on experience on a closed track with our police driving instructors. These teens are instructed in critical accident avoidance areas such as evasive maneuvers, threshold braking, skid control, weaving, backing, and off-road recovery.



- S.A.F.E. (Situational, Awareness & Fun Everyday) Course
  - Our officers teach this crime-victim prevention program to female high school seniors throughout the county. The program includes both classroom education as well as hands-on self-defense instruction. This nationally recognized program has a dual purpose:
    - To prevent crimes of sexual violence in our communities through programs of education and training; and
    - To educate women about realistic options that will help them avoid, escape and survive assaults if they do occur.
    - Course was offered to male students for the first time in 2019.





- School Visits

- We enjoy engaging our youth and ensuring they have positive interactions with law enforcement. Visiting schools is another way this is accomplished.





- Scouts in Government Days
  - These days give us an opportunity to have students shadow us for a day to see what it's like to be a police officer.



- Shop with a Cop
  - In preparation for Christmas, we partner with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and many other law enforcement agencies to provide necessities and toys to children in need. Officers volunteer their time during this event.



- Other Opportunities for Youth and Adults
  - Coffee with a Cop
    - In 2016 we implemented the Coffee with a Cop program, which provides opportunities for local residents to meet with Columbus police officers in an informal setting, and gives us the opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with community members so that we can better understand and address their public safety needs. Mayor Lienhoop often uses this opportunity to further engage community members.



- College Internships
  - We offer internship programs to college students, and can adjust the program to accommodate their academic requirements.



- Community Events

- Throughout the year, we are at a variety of community events, including our Public Safety Day, where any member of the public can see and touch much of the equipment that we utilize in our daily activities and in our department specialties such as the Bomb Team, SWAT, Dive Team, Crisis Negotiators, etc. These events provide an excellent opportunity for members of the public to interact with our officers.





- o Department Tours

- We have guided dozens of tours within the police department and continue to do so upon request.





- Guest Speaking
  - As a service to our community, our officers are available to speak at most engagements. Some of the popular topics requested include active threats, domestic violence, drug trends, K-9 demonstrations and prescription drug diversion.

### Emergency Preparedness

- The Columbus Police Department has numerous specialty units that are prepared to respond to any type of event or disaster that may affect the Columbus area. The officers that serve on these specialties do so in addition to their regular assigned duties. The following are some of the specialty services we provide:
  - Accident Reconstruction Unit
    - The Accident Reconstruction Unit is called on to investigate and properly document crashes that involve serious bodily injury or death. Accident reconstruction involves analyzing a large amount of data from a crash scene. Although every police officer investigates motor vehicle crashes, these investigators specialize in the gathering of all available data to best determine what occurred before, during and after the crash.



- Bomb Technicians
  - The Columbus Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit, or bomb squad members, are certified through the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) as bomb technicians. The certified bomb technicians are trained to identify and neutralize explosive devices.
  
- Civil Unrest Response Team (CURT)
  - In 2017 this emergency response team was trained and equipped to work together to respond to civil unrest incidents. The CURT team is comprised of Columbus Police Department officers and Bartholomew County Sheriff deputies.
  
- Crime Scene Investigators (CSI)
  - Our crime scene investigators are trained in the collection and processing of delicate evidence found at major crime scenes. The investigators are trained in a wide range of forensic disciplines such as DNA, fingerprints, bloodstain pattern analysis, ballistics, photography, etc. These investigators are typically called to scenes where a person has suffered significant bodily injury or death.
  
- Crisis Negotiation Team
  - The Crisis Negotiation Team members possess the unique ability to communicate with persons under intense and often unpredictable conditions. The team is activated in conjunction with our SWAT team and assists with the same types of high-risk situations. This unit takes pride in defusing critical situations while focusing on the overall mission of peaceful crisis resolution.
  
- Dive Team
  - The Dive Team is prepared for emergency deployment in water rescue situations where victims have dropped below the surface of water. In addition, they are utilized to recover evidence submerged in local lakes and rivers.
  
- Firearms Training Simulator (FATS)
  - This training equipment is available 24/7 for officers to further refine their verbal de-escalation skills and their split second use of force decision making.



- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)
  - The SWAT team is prepared to handle highly volatile situations including high-risk search warrants, armed suicidal persons, barricaded persons, hostage situations and many other high-risk scenarios. The SWAT team is comprised of Columbus Police Department officers and Bartholomew County Sheriff deputies who train together regularly.





- The Columbus Police Department received the Above and Beyond Award for its dedication to its officers who are also members of the National Guard and Military reserves.



## Closing

- With the progressive changes we have made within our department coupled with the many partnerships we have established throughout the community, the complex crime problems we have identified are trending in the right direction – downward. Although we are seeing successes, we continually strive to improve and be more efficient in order to provide the citizens and visitors of this community the best public safety service and protections.

Respectfully,

Michael D. Richardson,  
Chief of Police