

Hilliard Division of Police

Annual Pursuit Analysis 2022

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Real People. Real Possibilities.

Division
of Police

Overview

Policy 307 - Vehicle Pursuits defines a vehicle pursuit as an event involving one or more peace officers attempting to apprehend a suspect who is trying to avoid apprehension while operating a motor vehicle by using high speed or other evasive tactics or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop.

Per Policy 307, officers are authorized to pursue a motor vehicle when the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the suspect(s) involved in the motor vehicle pursuit committed:

1. An offense of violence as defined in section 2901.01 (A)(9) of the Ohio Revised Code;
2. A sex crime involving juvenile victims;
3. The crime of Criminal Child Enticement; or
4. When the suspect's continued or imminent actions present a danger to human life or may cause serious physical harm to themselves or others (Example: a suicidal driver creating a substantial risk to innocent civilians).

Annually, the Division reviews and analyzes the data collected from pursuit reports. In addition, a seven-year look back was conducted to compare and analyze the data in an effort to identify trends that may indicate training needs or policy modification.

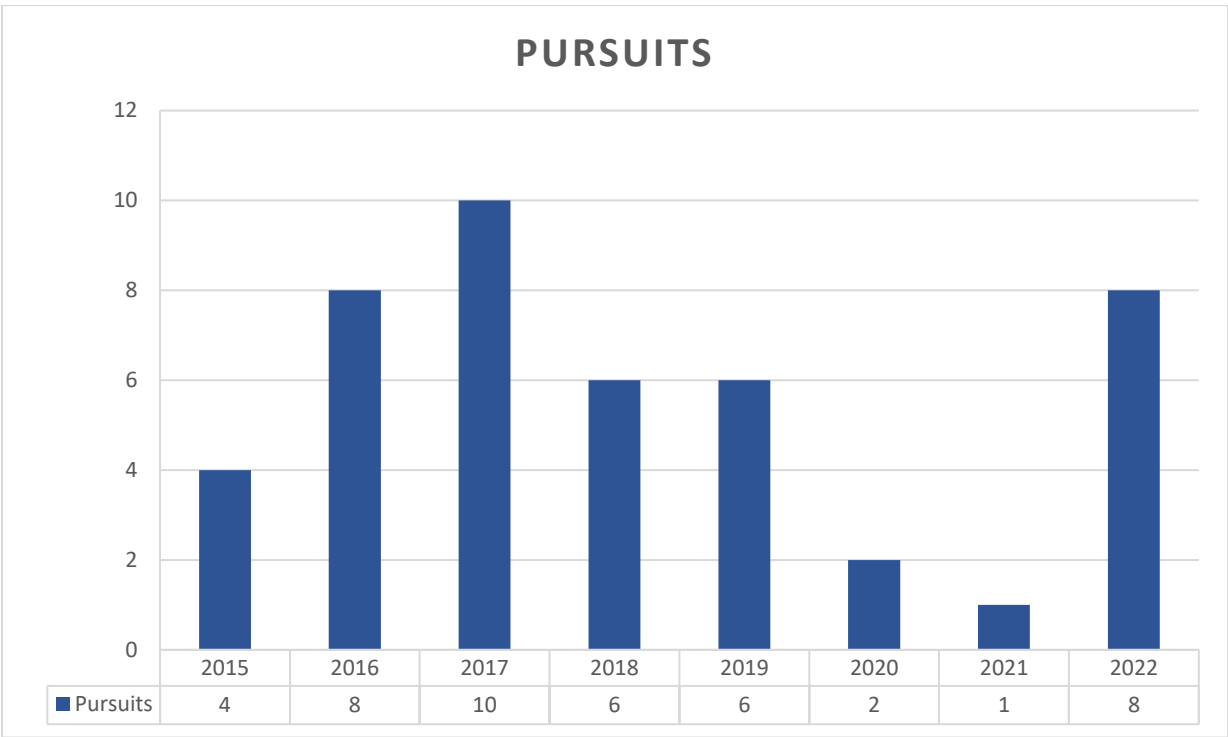
The Division is in compliance with the pursuit standards established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.

Pursuit Analysis

In 2022, the division reported eight vehicle pursuits, which is a dramatic increase over last year which recorded one. Over the last seven years, the division averaged approximately five pursuits per year; however, the division was on a downward trend until this year as indicated by the chart below.

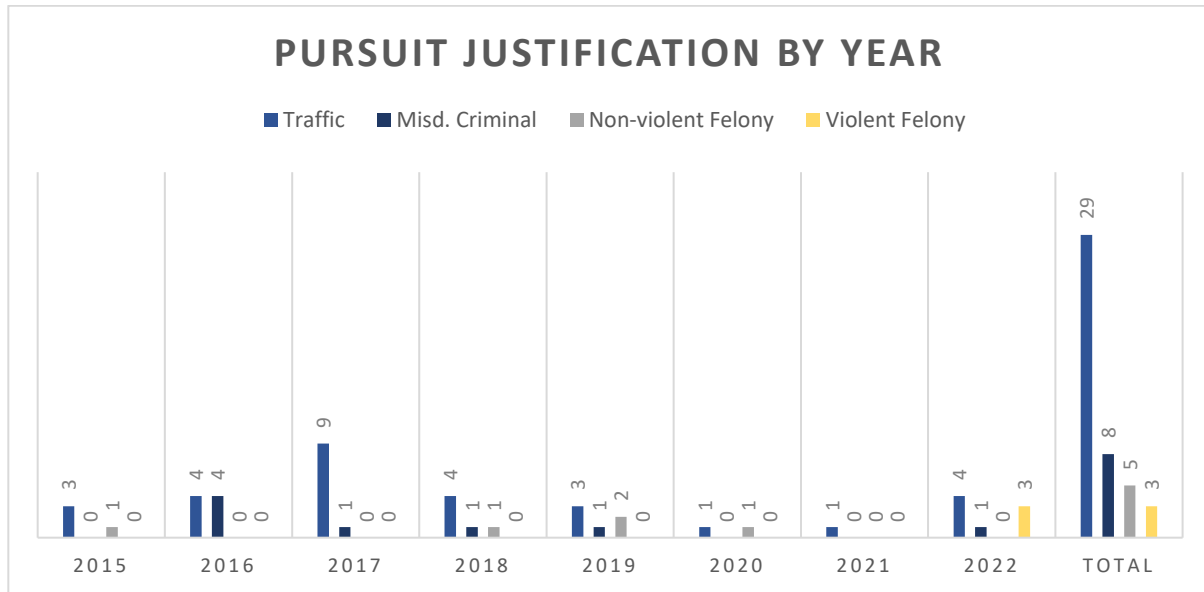
It is difficult to determine the primary reason for the increase; however, the increase follows a period of social unrest, an increase in violent crimes, and justice reforms.

The division did not change the pursuit policy, or change the way the pursuit policy was administered, which strongly suggests that societal issues were at the root for the increase in pursuits.



Pursuit Justification

Traffic related offenses continue to be the primary reason for the initiation of a pursuit; however, in 2022 three pursuits were initiated due to the involvement of a violent felony. This corresponds with the conclusion that social issues are involved in the increase of pursuits.



Pursuit Distance and Duration

The majority of pursuits travel less than two miles. In 2022, only one pursuit traveled over two miles.

Length Miles	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
<1	0	2	6	4	3	1	0	4	20
1 - 2	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	3	11
2.1 - 5	3	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	10
5.1 - 10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
>10	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

Generally, pursuit duration is a direct correlation to pursuit distance. The majority of pursuits lasted two minutes or less. In 2022, three pursuits lasted over two minutes with the longest pursuit lasting about 6 minutes.

Duration in Minutes	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
<1	0	2	5	5	1	1	0	3	17
2	2	3	2	1	3	0	1	2	14
3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	5
4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>10	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3

Pursuit Time of Day and Day of the Week

With the low occurrence of pursuits, there is no discernable pattern related to the number of pursuits and the time of day or day of the week. A conclusion can be made that the majority of pursuits occur on Second and Third Watch.

Pursuit by Watch	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
0701 - 1500	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	8
1501 - 2300	1	2	5	1	3	1	0	5	18
2301 - 0700	3	4	2	3	2	1	1	1	17

Pursuit Disposition

The data illustrates that approximately 55% of pursuits conclude due to officers/supervisors discontinuing the pursuit.

In 2022, 75% of the pursuits were discontinued by the officer or supervisor.

Pursuit Conclusion	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Driver Stopped	1	3	0	2	1	1	1	0	9
Officer Discontinued	2	3	7	1	2	1	0	4	20
Supervisor Discontinued	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	5
Violator Eluded	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Police Intervention	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
Suspect Crash	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Suspect Vehicle Disabled	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

In 2022, Stop Sticks were deployed during three incidents.

- An incident involved deployment to avoid a pursuit from occurring. The deployment was effective in stopping the vehicle prior to officers initiating a pursuit.
- An incident involved deployment during a pursuit. The deployment was successful in ending the pursuit.
- One incident involved deployment during a pursuit, but the suspect avoided the stop sticks and the pursuit continued.

Apprehensions Rate

In 2022, 50% of the pursuit incidents involved an arrest or charges filed, either during the pursuit or following-up investigation.

Apprehension Status	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Arrest/ID Rate
During Pursuit	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	28.9%
None	2	2	5	2	2	1	0	4	40.0%
Delayed - After Pursuit Concluded	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	3	31.1%
Arrest/ID Rate by Year	50.0%	75.0%	50.0%	66.7%	66.7%	50.0%	100.0%	50.0%	

Policy Compliance

All pursuit reports are reviewed by the on-duty supervisor as well as a chain of command review to ensure policy compliance. In 2022, two pursuit was determined to be outside of policy.

Compliance Factor	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Within Policy	4	8	6	5	4	1	1	6	35
Not within Policy	0	0	4	1	2	1	0	2	10

Failure to Comply Cases

In addition to the eight pursuits, the division reported 11 incidents of *Failure to Comply with the Order/Signal of a Police Officer*. These are incidents where an officer attempted to stop a vehicle and the vehicle did not stop, but the officer did not initiate a pursuit. This is down from last year, which had 29 incidents.

Pursuit Analysis Conclusions

Pursuits by Division officers are a rare occurrence. In 2022, Division personnel conducted approximately 3777 traffic stops, with only eight pursuits.

The primary take-away from the data shows an increase in pursuits in 2022. While this may be a temporary spike, the division must remain vigilant to the frequency of pursuits to ensure policies and tactics are aligned with societal changes and the challenges faced by officers and supervisors in the field.

Additional conclusions:

- Overall, pursuit duration and distance traveled reflects sound judgement on behalf of the officers and supervisors monitoring the pursuits. The relatively short distance and duration, coupled with the discontinuance rate is indicative of Division personnel carefully balancing the danger to the public created by the pursuit against the need to immediately apprehend the offender.
- The number of cases of *Failure to Comply with an Order/Signal of an Officer* shows officers and supervisors are using good judgement and following policy when confronted with fleeing person incidents. Frankly, these are incidents where officers are not permitted to pursue per division policy.
- The use of tire deflation devices can be an effective tool to prevent a pursuit from starting. This, along with other police intervention techniques should always be considered as a tactic to prevent a pursuit from starting.
- The apprehension/charges filed rate is relatively high, even in cases in which a pursuit was discontinued.
- The pursuit review process is comprehensive and complete. The multi-layer review process ensures policy compliance. In addition, violations of policy are documented and addressed through remedial training and the disciplinary process.

Recommendations

While the frequency of pursuits is low, the risks remain extremely high. This low frequency/high risk relationship requires an emphasis on training, tactics, and accountability.

Recommendations include:

- Continue annual training on vehicle pursuit policy, pursuit best practices, vehicle stopping tactics, and safe driving techniques.

- Continue to be proactive in the area of officer safety through emphasis on the Below 100 Initiative. This should be accomplished through roll call training, reviewing local and national pursuit incidents, supervisory debrief with involved personnel on pursuit incidents and general officer safety awareness bulletins.
- Policy clarification for supervisors and officers as it relates to actions taken following police intervention techniques, especially if the intervention is used to prevent a suspect from fleeing when a pursuit would not otherwise be authorized.