

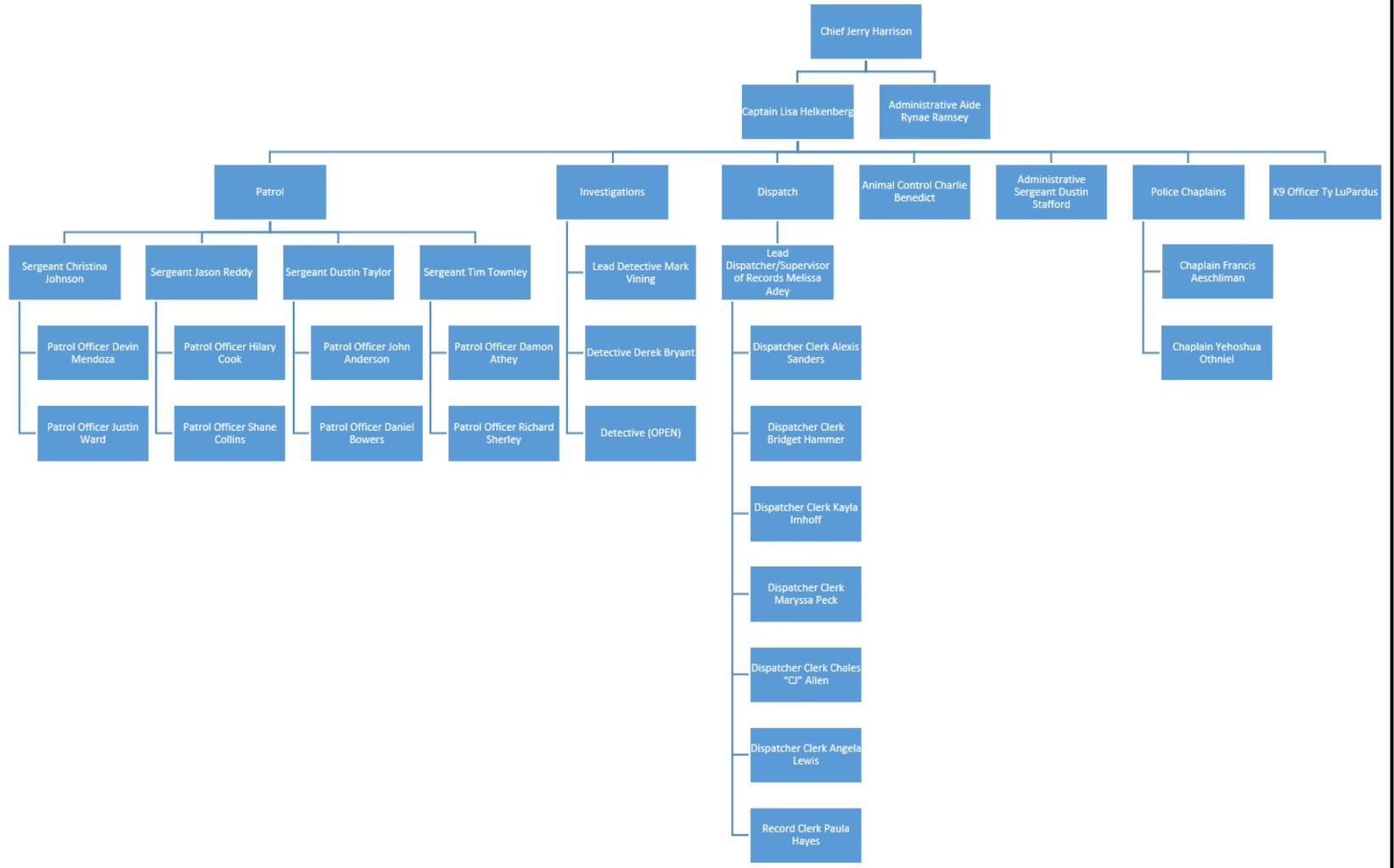


**INDEPENDENCE  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
2019 YEAR-END  
REPORT**



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## Animal Control

IPD has one Animal Control Officer, Charlie Benedict. Charlie has been with IPD since 2007 and has been ACO since 2015. Charlie is an asset to our department because he is certified as a police officer and assists with patrol activities when requested. In 2019, Charlie picked up 187 dogs and 123 cats, for a total 310 animals. This represents a 49-percent increase in the number of animals seized from the 2018 total.

Charlie also conducts women's self-defense classes in the community. He held three training sessions during the year, with approximately 32 attendees.

## Dispatch



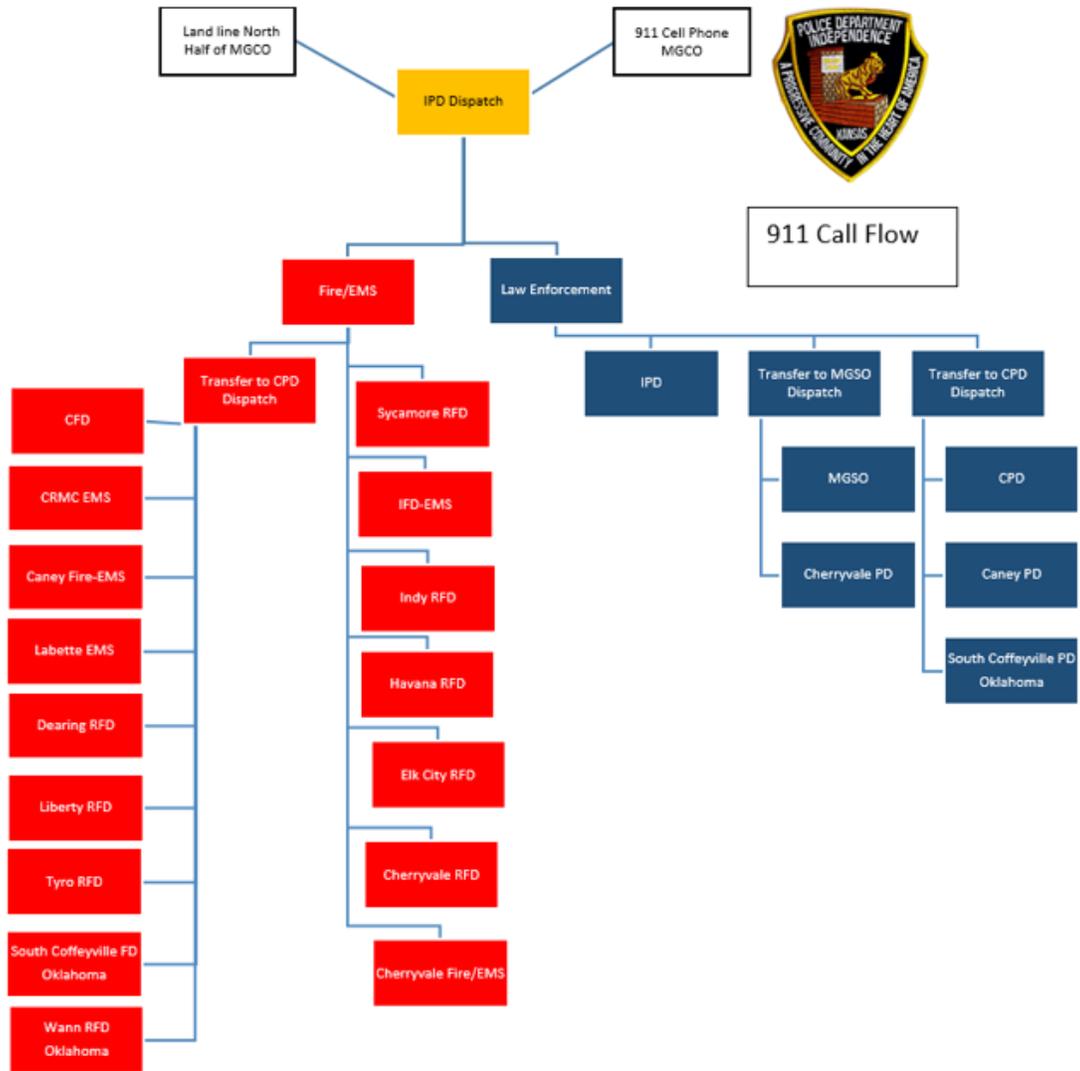
We have seven full-time dispatchers and one records clerk. Dispatch accounts for 25% of our full-time personnel. Our dispatchers are responsible for directly dispatching for eight public safety agencies and receive 911 calls for an additional 14 agencies in Kansas and Nowata County, Oklahoma. Page 3 visually depicts the agencies served by our PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point).

Our full-time dispatchers are all certified in Emergency Medical, Police and Fire Dispatch. Additionally, our dispatch section is responsible for data entry of pawn tickets, traffic and ordinance citations, and records clerk duties.

Dispatchers received 12,785 calls to the 911 system in 2019 and fielded a total of 69,972 telephone calls overall.

### **Calls for Service**

<b>Police</b>	<b>17,867</b>
<b>Independence EMS</b>	<b>2,932</b>
<b>Independence Fire</b>	<b>509</b>
<b>Cherryvale EMS</b>	<b>531</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,839</b>



## Agencies Served by IPD Dispatch

## **PATROL DIVISION ACTIVITY**

Our patrol division has 12 full-time officers (43% of personnel). We have two part-time officers. Those officers are uniformed and patrol in marked police units. They work 12-hour shifts in four squads supervised by a sergeant.

Typically, two to three patrol officers are on duty on each shift. They provide a visible presence to prevent crime; respond to emergency and non-emergency calls; enforce traffic laws; conduct preliminary criminal investigations; maintain the peace; and perform any other duties that require a uniformed police officer.

Patrol officers responded to 17,867 calls for service and wrote 2,278 criminal, non-criminal and traffic accident reports in 2019. In 2019, IPD experienced a 17-percent increase in call volume compared to 2018.

IPD fielded a new badge in 2019 in observance of IPD's upcoming 150-year anniversary. The Independence Daily Reporter was able to document that IPD was founded on 11-29-1871 when the first city marshal, Goodell Foster, was appointed. The new badge, designed by Sergeant Dustin Taylor, is featured on the cover-page of this report.

### **Meritorius Conduct Awards**

Ike Dye            Mentoring children in crisis at the SEK Academy  
Tim Townley    Helping an elderly lady from a burning house

### **Promotions**

Dustin Stafford from Police Officer II to Administrative Sergeant  
Tim Townley from Police Officer II to Sergeant

### **Police Officer I to Police Officer II**

Hilary Cook  
Devin Mendoza

### **Years of Service Awards**

**5 Years**            Richard Sherley  
                         Ty Lupardus  
                         CJ Allen  
                         Bridget Hammer  
**15 Years**          Christina Johnson  
**20 Years**          Dustin Stafford  
**25 Years**          Derek Bryant

# Traffic Report 2019

Contributed by Sergeant Tim Townley

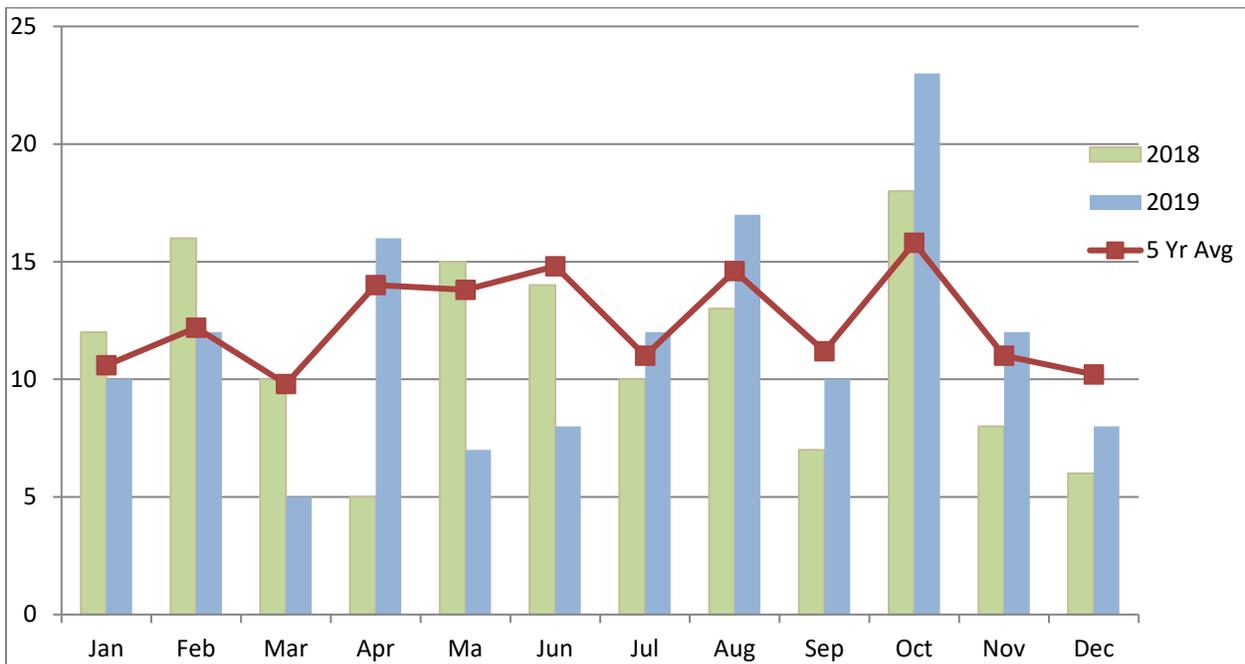
In 2019, Independence Police Department officers responded to 140 state-reportable accidents.

- This is a 4% increase from the 134 accidents reported in 2018.
- It is a 7% reduction from our five-year average of 151.2 accidents.\*
- 23 injury accidents were reported in 2019 compared to 16 in 2018
- There were no fatality accidents reported in 2019 or 2018

There was a significant increase in crashes in April 2019. When compared to the 5-year average, there was a reduction of crashes in eight months out of the year. Four months were either equal to or greater than the 5-year average.

\*There was a change in policy regarding what accidents are reported. The accident totals before 2016 used different criteria for reporting. This change affects the accuracy of our five-year average

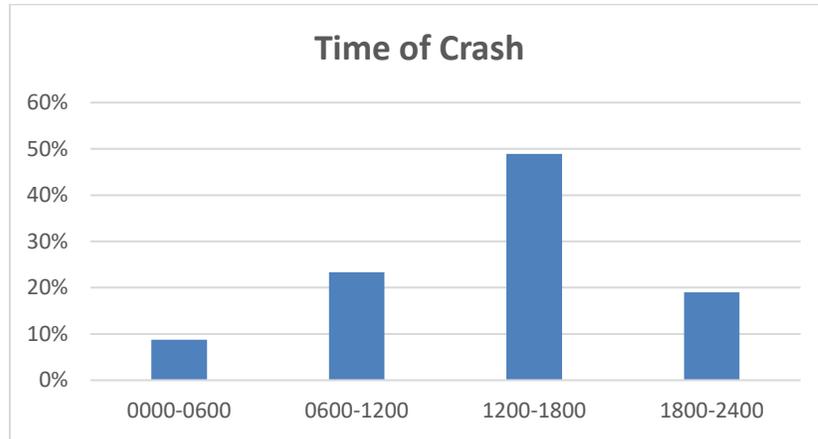
## Accidents by Month



### Time of Accident

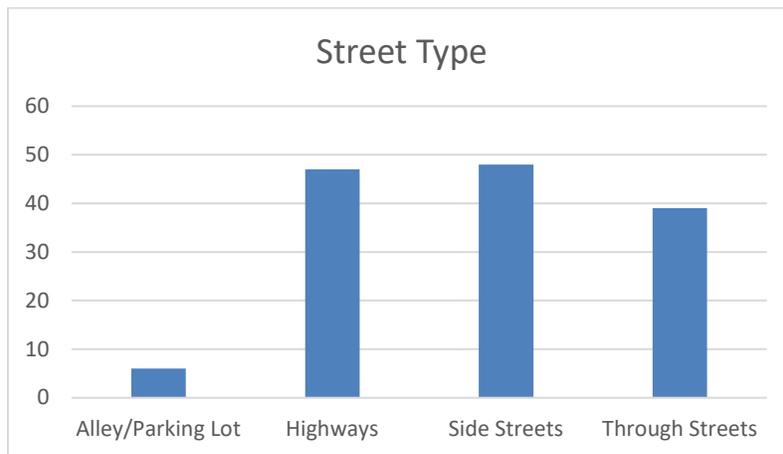
- 49% occurred between 1200 hours and 1800 hours
- 23% occurred between 0600 hours and 1200 hours
- 19% occurred between 1800 hours and 2400 hours
- 9% occurred between 0000 hours and 0600 hours

These statistics are in line with when accidents have occurred in previous years.



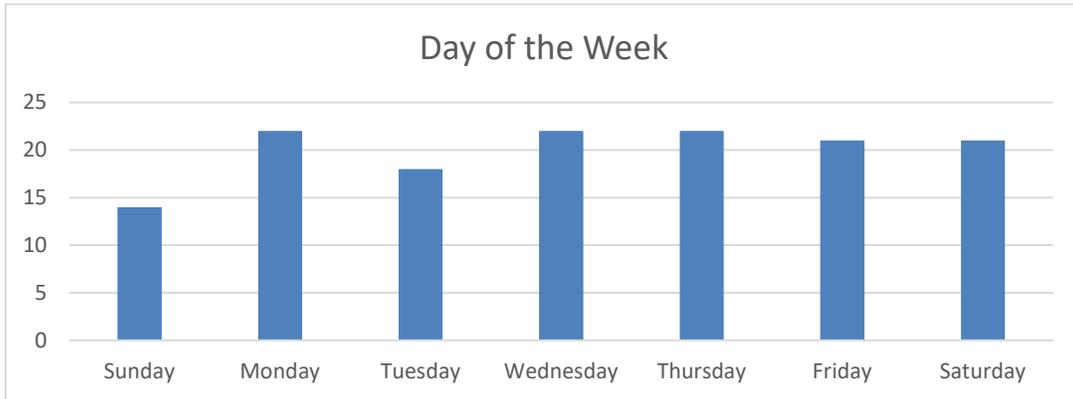
### Location of Accident

- 34% occurred on federal highways in town
- 34% occurred on side streets (e.g. Locust, Wald, etc....)
- 28% occurred on non-highway through streets (Poplar, Laurel, etc....)
- 4% occurred on private property



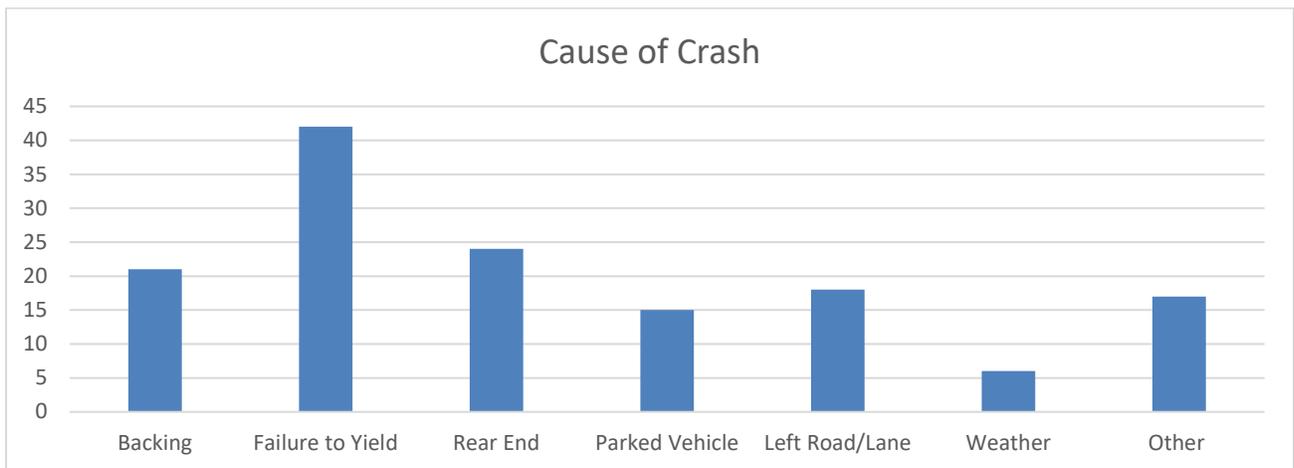
### Day of the Week

The crashes were spread relatively evenly between every day of the week, except Sunday, which had a few less.



### Probable Contributing Circumstance

Failure to yield was the leading cause of accidents this year at 42. These were failure to yield at stop lights, stop signs, at the end of driveways and while turning left. Failure to yield was followed by rear ends, backing accidents, then vehicles leaving the road/lane. There were several cases where there were two or more contributing circumstances for one accident so the overall number in the contributing factor chart is higher than the total number of accidents for the year.

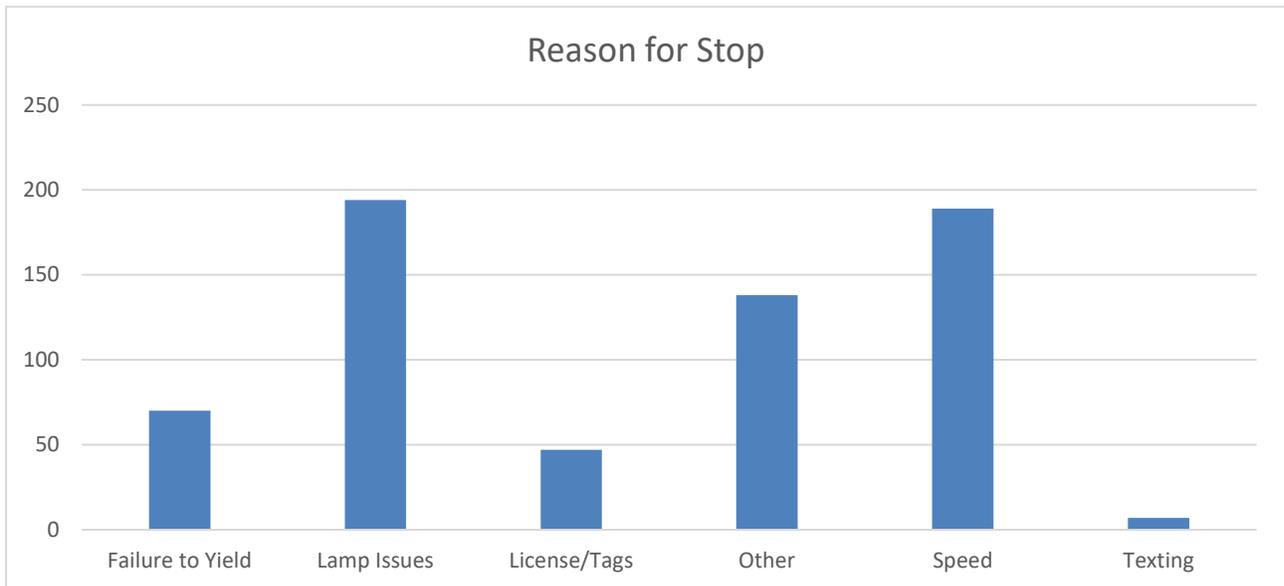


## DUI Enforcement

There were 20 arrests for DUI in 2019. This is a 25% increase from 2018. There were two accidents caused by a driver under the influence. There were three DUI accidents reported in 2018.

## Traffic Stops

There were 537 traffic stops conducted in 2019. In 2018, officers conducted 632 traffic stops. Lamp issues were the primary reason for 194 of the stops, followed by speed with 189 stops. Lamp issues included headlights, taillights or tag lights out, driving without lights, colored lights shining forward, etc. Failure to yield included failure to yield at stop signs, stop lights, exiting driveways and while turning left.



## Conclusions

- This year saw fewer crashes than the five-year average in most months.
- Failure to yield and parking enforcement continue to be areas we could focus on to reduce the number of accidents.
- There were no reported traffic stops for following too close. An increase in enforcement of that ordinance could possibly reduce the number of rear end accidents.
- Although DUI arrests increased, there is still room for improvement.
- A few targeted enforcement events could increase those numbers.

# Narcotics, Warrant and Weapons Seizures 2019

Contributed by: Sergeant D. Taylor and Dispatcher/Clerk Charles C.J. Allen

Illegal narcotics or “drugs” are controlled substances identified in the Comprehensive Drug Control Act, which identifies substances for which the manufacture, importation, possession, use and distribution are regulated by law.

The Independence Police Department (IPD) makes it a priority to identify, locate, and investigate the use and distribution of illegal narcotics within the city limits. IPD works with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, Coffeyville Police Department, Cherryvale Police Department and other surrounding agencies, in a joint effort to combat the drug problem and risk that it poses to the general public. The goal of narcotics enforcement is to combat the distribution and use of illegal narcotics as they are commonly associated with and responsible for a wide variety of criminal acts, medical emergencies and evolving underground networks of criminal behavior. The criminal acts range from petty theft to more violent crimes, some of which may involve the use or possession of deadly weapons. The use and distribution of illegal narcotics has evolved rapidly over time, creating dangerous substances which can cause a multitude of medical issues.

2019 showed another steady year in the drug enforcement category, with a variety of illicit substances located throughout the year inside residences, vehicles, and on persons during police contact. Two examples of citizen contacts in 2019 resulted in the seizure of firearms and illegal narcotics, one of which was reported by a concerned citizen. The first case stems from a 911 caller reporting gunshots near their residence on an early January morning. Officers responded and contacted a resident of the home the shots allegedly originated from. Officers obtained a search warrant for the residence and recovered a loaded handgun, 2 shotguns and a rifle. Also located were freshly spent shotgun shells in the trashcan, illegal drug paraphernalia, suspected methamphetamine and suspected marijuana. The resident was a convicted felon, who was not allowed to be in possession of a firearm.

The second case stems from several citizen complaints and anonymous tips of illegal narcotics distribution being conducted by an individual on a bicycle. Officers spent several months identifying the suspect, who has a history of illegal narcotics distribution and possession of firearms while being a convicted felon. Officers were able to contact the suspected narcotics distributor in mid-October 2019, locating distribution amounts of suspected methamphetamine and suspected marijuana, along with a loaded handgun.

During 2019, Independence saw a four percent increase in drug cases and a 94.5% increase in drug-related arrests. Total search warrants increased by over 363% in 2019.

Category	2019	2018	Increase
Narcotics Cases	100	96	4%
Narcotics arrests	107	55	94.5%
Total Search Warrants	51	11	363%

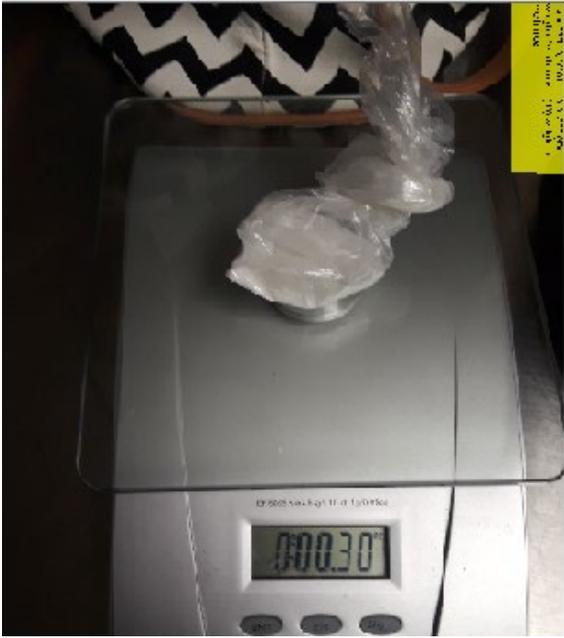
There was also an increase in amounts of illicit substances located, along with an increase in narcotics-related cases and arrests compared to 2018.

Seizures	2019	2018	Percentage Change
Marijuana	838.79 Grams	526.85	+59.2%
Methamphetamine	71.43 Grams	69.04	+3.46%
Liquid Methamphetamine	19.4 CC's		
Pills (Dosage Units)	127.5	148.5	-14.4%
Firearms/Weapons	9	9	0%

The Independence Police Department continues to strive every day to combat the ongoing drug issue in our community. However, with growing technology and social media at the fingertips of anyone, the illegal narcotics trade is ever evolving. Officers must continue to learn and adapt to smuggling techniques and signs of illegal narcotics use in order to keep a foothold.









## Canine Patrol Team



K9 Team Ty Lupardus & Pax with donors Brad & Tracy Oakes

In Summer 2019, IPD's canine patrol team was placed into service. The canine team is funded by donations and grants. Since fund-raising began in 2017, IPD has received about \$44,000 in donations.

Ty Lupardus and K9 Pax were certified by the Kansas Highway Patrol after completing the K9 Basic course in Spring 2019. They have weekly training sessions with other agencies that participate in the KHP K9 training program. The team is available to assist law enforcement agencies in southeast Kansas and has deployed in Montgomery County to assist other agencies.

<b>Deployments</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Outside Agency Assists</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Training Hours</b>	<b>627</b>
<b>Seizures</b>	<b>&gt;1 lbs Marijuana</b>

# 2019 Community Policing Report

Contributed by School Resource Officer Dustin Stafford

In 2019, the School Resource Officer position title was changed to Community Policing Coordinator. The purpose of the change was to spread the community policing role of the SRO to the entire community, not just limit community policing to schools. The goal of the change is to strengthen the relationship between the police department and the citizens we serve.

The position is filled by Administrative Sergeant Dustin Stafford. Stafford has several duties in this role. One is to continue the education and community policing programs in the school. His other duties include complaint investigations, Neighborhood Watch, Police Explorers, police auxiliary, citizens' academy, public information officer, ALICE instructor and other crime prevention/community outreach projects. Stafford also oversees internships with USD 446, Jobs for America's Graduates-Kansas (JAG-K USD 446) and Upward Bound.

## School Activities:

- Booth during central Registration in August
- School Presence
  - Hallways before and after school, during passing periods and cafeteria
  - Many positive daily contacts with students and students who would seek me out during these times
- Parking lot checks
- Locker checks
- Cafeteria during lunch/breakfast at different schools
- Monthly drills and alarm tests
- Lockdown drills
- Investigated crimes at schools
- Prom planning
- Create prom plan for PD
- Coordinate with HS planning
- Freshman Orientation
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (August)
- Presented to 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents
- Parent Teacher Conferences (worked into evening hours each day of conferences)
- Long Term Suspension Hearings
- IHS and IMS School Dances/concerts
- IHS Basketball games worked and scheduled officers
- Other duties as requested

## Presentations

### Jefferson Intermediate School

- 24 classroom presentations
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades; all students
- 24 Presentations
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades; all students

### Independence Bible School

- Peer Pressure

### Middle School

- 15 Presentations
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades; all students

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade - Integrity and leadership
- Law enforcement role
- Responding to school staff and police officer requests appropriately
- Q&A

#### High School

- Cyber Bullying
- Government class- Search Warrants and civil rights/Q&A
- Presentation during Driver's Education
  - Common law violations
  - What to expect during a traffic stop
- Presentation for Quest staff
- Trained officers on responding to calls at schools and juvenile procedures

#### **Calls & Investigation**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of calls/reports/arrests at the schools;</li> <li>• Total of 2 arrests:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Battery</li> <li>○ Alcohol</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Disorderly students</li> <li>• Misc. reports completed</li> <li>• Conflicts between students</li> <li>• Harassment</li> <li>• Phone harassment</li> <li>• Tobacco</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home visits for truancy</li> <li>• Non-compliant students</li> <li>• Suspicious behavior</li> <li>• Assaults</li> <li>• No-contact orders (through the school)</li> <li>• School code violations</li> <li>• Profanity</li> <li>• Special needs students, assist with behaviors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic needs around the schools and in the parking lots</li> <li>• Threats</li> <li>• Damage to property</li> <li>• Fights</li> <li>• Thefts</li> <li>• Found property</li> <li>• Child custody situations</li> <li>• Irate/disorderly parents at schools</li> <li>• Vehicle accidents</li> <li>• Suicidal students</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

#### **Committees/Programs/Other Essential Duties:**

##### SEK Academy Placement Committee

- Referral hearings
- Referral reviews

##### KidsCREW Advisory Board

- Quarterly meetings
- Presentations during KidsCREW

##### S.A.F.E.

- Monthly educational components
- Regular meeting with the student team
- Seatbelt surveys

- Pledge card Signings
- Drawings for cash giveaways from pledge card
- SAFE Conference in Topeka
- Sponsored Miss Kansas to speak at the schools

#### IHS Guitar Club (on personal time)

- Meet once a week on Wednesday evening from 1800 to 1900 hrs.
- Played in the foyer by cafeteria on select Friday mornings before classes started

#### Neighborhood Watch

- Meetings with established Watch Group
- Contacted several people interested in starting a group
- Met with new group

#### Police Auxiliary

- Researched and revised policy
- Created training book for new Auxiliary

#### Tri-State SRO group

- Monthly meetings
- Served as secretary
- Served on the training committee

#### ALICE

- High School
- Middle School
- Jefferson School
- Eisenhower
- Riley Early Learning Center
- First Baptist Church

#### Dispatch Review Committee Chairperson

#### Intern Program

- Created guidelines for the program
- Maintain logs, files and paperwork of attending students
- Created a training program and tracking log
- Included each division in the dept., Coordinated and scheduled time for the intern with each division
- Implemented training classes

#### Background Investigator/Hiring procedures

- Attended specialized training
- Restructured the hiring process (quarterly testing, interviews and backgrounds, making the process faster and smoother
- Restructured the file keeping

#### Internal Affairs Administrative Investigator

- Attended FBI-LEEDA training
- Reviewed current policy to update according to the training
- Completed investigations
- Custodian of files

Neewollah - Meetings, planning, implementing, scheduling, and coordinating with other committee/city offices, downtown supervisor during carnival and downtown events.

#### **Other events:**

- Speaking at various events and for groups as requested
  - Public Library about youth and bullying
- City active shooter drill
- School bus stop enforcement
- Boys and Girls Read groups at Jefferson
- Appeared as a “Pal” and read with Jefferson aged students after school
- Club Fair at IHS
- Fly-in at the airport
- Presents given to Jefferson students donated by Walmart
- Jingle Jog with Jefferson Students in December

#### **Specialized Training:**

- Background Investigations
- Internal Affairs Investigations
- Trauma Informed Care
  - Continuation of the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training

#### **Temporary Administrative Aide:**

- Filled the position from April through July performing essential duties (i.e. bills, payroll, ordering, filing, other office clerical duties) until the position was filled, then helped train the replacement that was hired.

# 2019 Bias-Based Policing Report

Contributed by Chief Jerry Harrison

## **Background**

In June 2016, we began tracking data regarding bias-based policing. The purpose of tracking this data is to demonstrate that the Independence Police Department (IPD) is enforcing the law in a fair and equitable manner or working toward that goal. This report explains what information is being analyzed, including searches, traffic stops, complaints and use of force. There is no national standard to determine whether a police department is performing in an unbiased manner. However, this report is provided in an effort to demonstrate transparency to the community.

## **Legislation & Chief's Advisory Board**

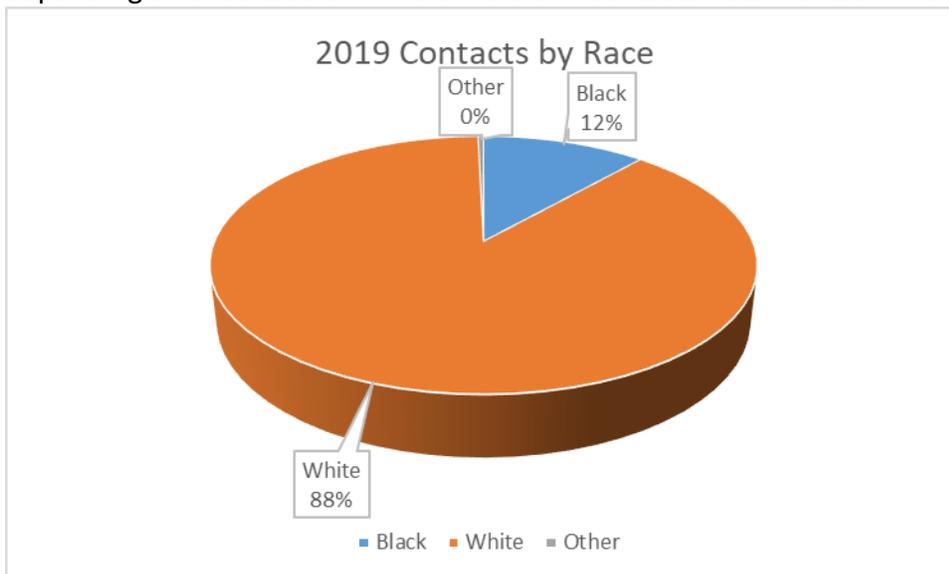
There has not been any recent legislation involving bias-based policing. It is important to note that IPD follows the guidelines of KSA 22-4610 regarding what data we are gathering from our traffic stops. A Police Chief's Advisory Committee (PCAC) was formed in 2016 and began meeting in January 2017. The PCAC also serves as a bias-based policing advisory board.

## **Training**

IPD got a new Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) instructor in 2018. This training is designed to help officers understand about implicit bias. IPD complies with state law regarding agency reporting and training on bias-based policing (KSA 22-4610).

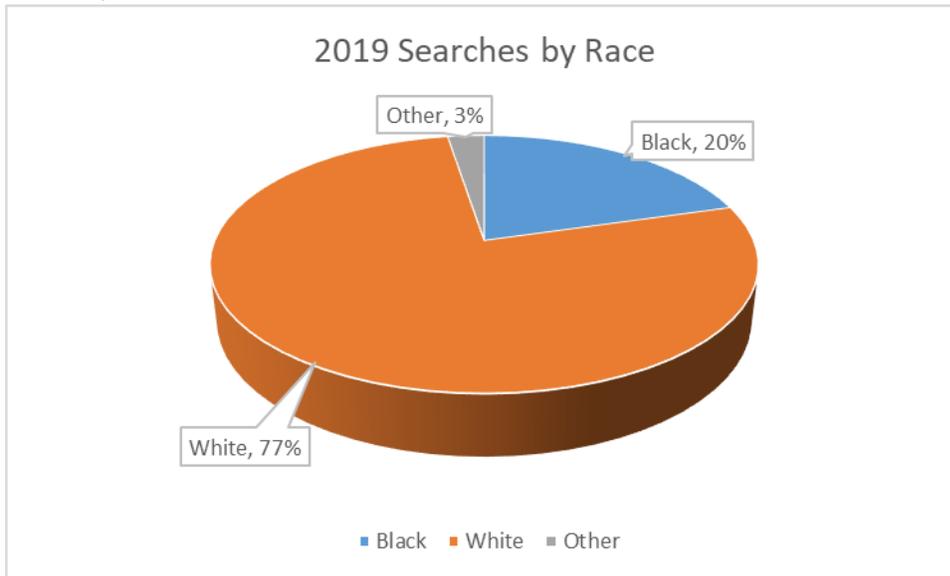
## **Officer Contact Summary**

Department policy mandates that all officers document any self-initiated contacts by recording the information on our non-bias-based policing form. Some of what we document includes time of stop, location of stop, race and gender. We document up to 21 data points, depending on the situation. There were 511 contacts documented in 2019.



## Searches

In 2019, there were 39 searches.



## Citizen Complaints

We did not have any complaints regarding bias-based policing in 2019.

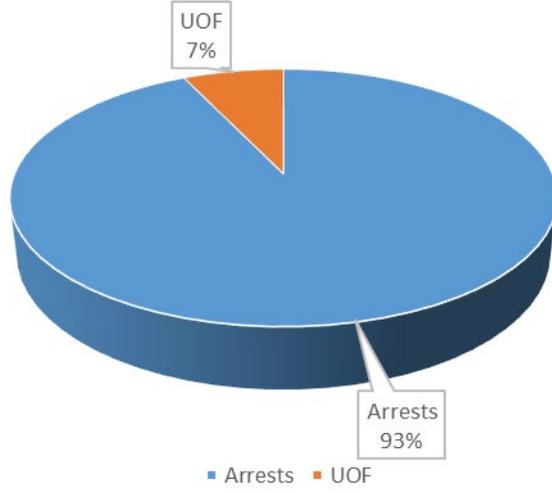
## Use of Force

Use of force incidents include any action by a police officer that goes beyond handcuffing a subject. Reportable use of force includes the following: weapon drawn for officer safety, pushing someone into a car seat or jail cell, removing an unwilling subject from a car seat, etc. Warning a subject with a TASER is also included, regardless whether the TASER is deployed.

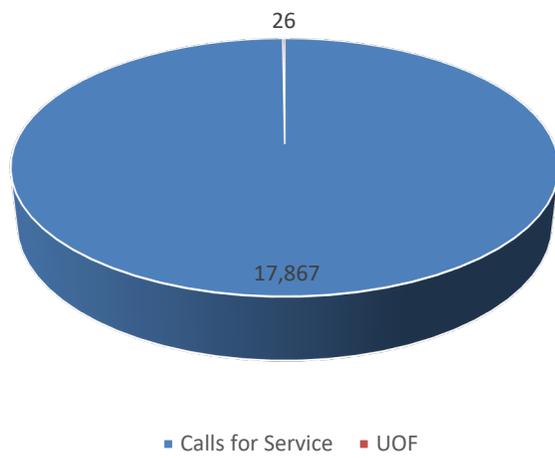
Independence police officers were dispatched to 17,867 calls in 2019. IPD officers used force in 27 separate incidents or 1.5 times per 1,000 calls. This is a 36 percent reduction in the rate of use of force when compared to 2018. There were two reports of use of force on juveniles. IPD arrested 340 persons in 2019. IPD used force on 7.9% of those taken into custody.

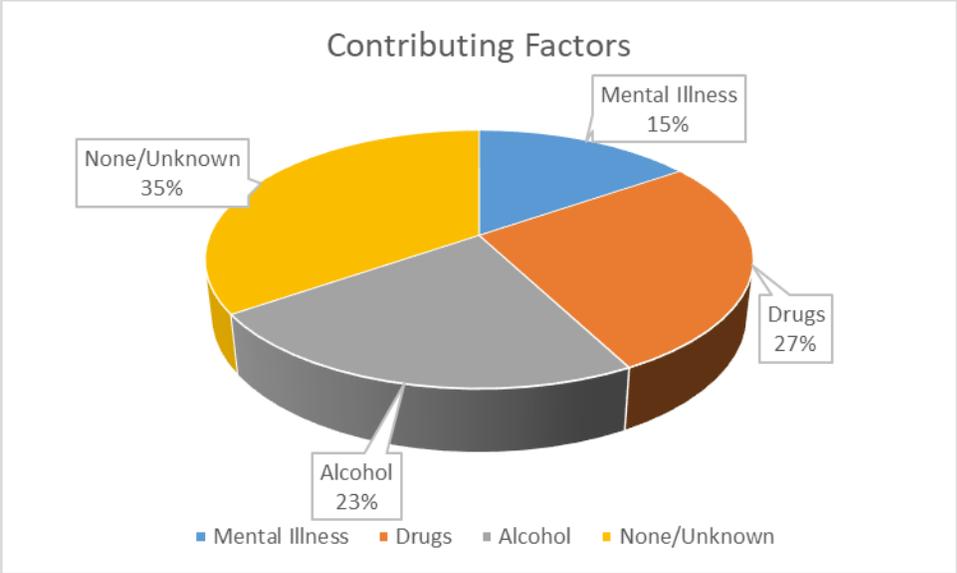
There was one TASER warning and one activation reported in 2019. There were no hand or intermediate-weapon strikes, mace deployments or deadly uses of force instances reported in 2019.

2019 Arrest Resistance vs Arrests



2019 Arrest Resistance vs Calls for Service

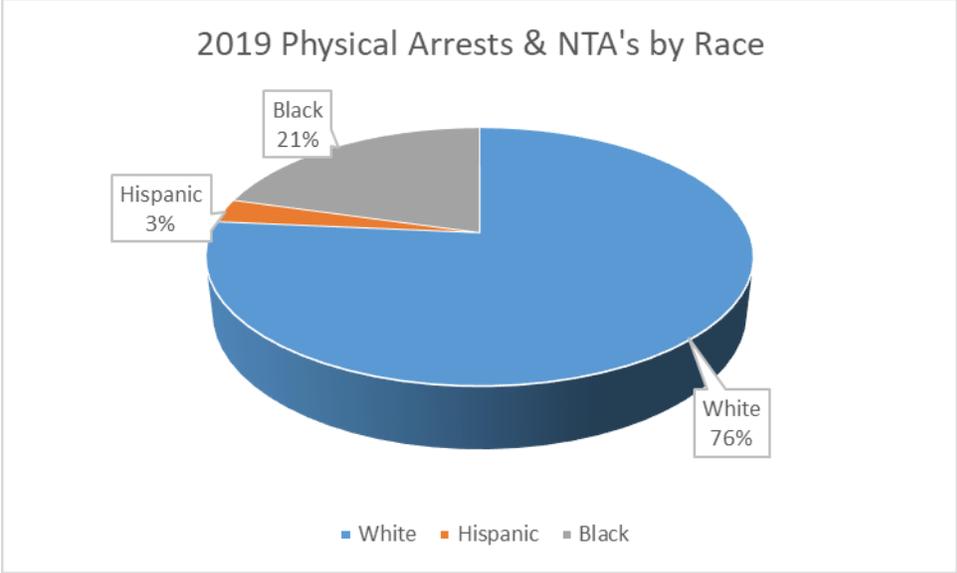


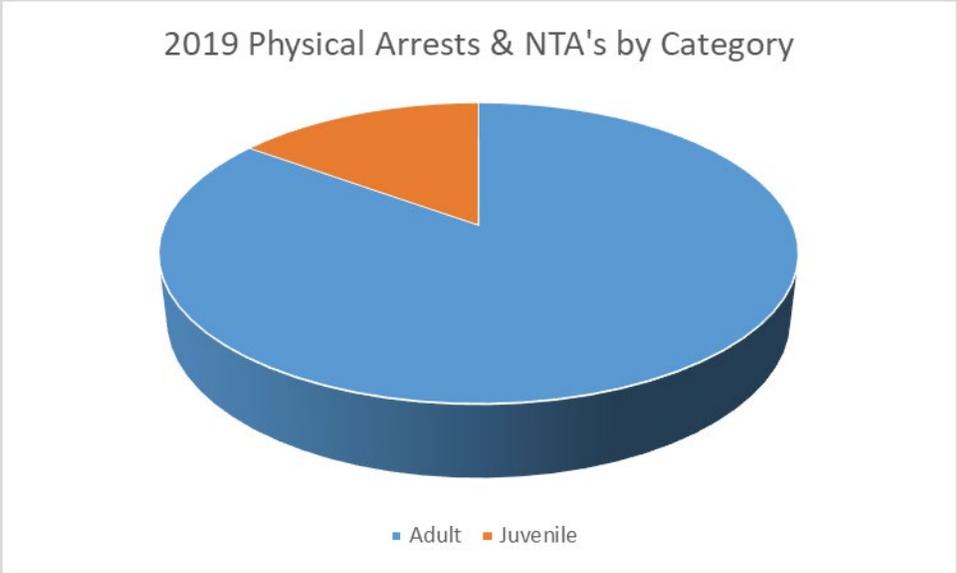


**Arrests**

There were 340 physical arrests in 2019. Officers made a physical arrest on 19 of every 1,000 calls. For our purposes, a physical arrest means someone was physically taken into custody one time for one or more charges. If the same person is taken into physical custody at a later time for any reason, that is considered a different arrest.

Kansas Statutes Annotated 12-4211 and 4212 govern when officers can make a physical arrest. If the law does not permit a physical arrest, officers issue a notice to appear (NTA). The following graphics demonstrate IPD’s use of physical arrests and NTA’s for 2019.





**Conclusion**

We have comprehensively examined, studied and analyzed the 2019 stop data and have found nothing to suggest that bias-based policing occurred. We remain committed to our voluntary approach of self-examination and scrutiny to ensure we are providing professional services that are absent of bias.