



HARRISONBURG POLICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

WHERE WE ARE NOW

The Harrisonburg Police Department enjoyed a successful year in 2019 with various projects/tasks being completed in the calendar year. In 2018 the purchase of the new Records Management System (RMS) took place and the system was implemented in November of 2019. The new system will enable us to track crime data more effectively and be able to share data with our law enforcement partners. The agency also reviewed all our internal policies and we either modified or created policies to keep in line with best practices. Policy review will also allow us to continue moving forward with our accreditation process for 2020. Our department conducted 9 community walks in various parts of the city. This allowed us to meet our citizens and establish partners in our different communities. The community walks were very well received, and we will continue to provide those monthly walks in 2020. The department hosted the Adventure Race for the first time at our training grounds in June. There were many participants for this event, and we provided opportunities for attendees to interact with various units/officers in our department as we had static displays at the event.

From the standpoint of crime, we saw a 4% increase in violent crime (1 more crime than in 2018) and 7% increase in property crime (20 more crimes than in 2018) for the year. Violent crime in the city has remained relatively low and there were no significant increases. One bright spot is that there were 0 homicides in 2019, so anytime you do not have anyone lose their life to violence is great accomplishment. The increase in property crime was mainly driven by Theft from Motor Vehicles and Shoplifting. The majority of these thefts took place from unlocked vehicles. We continue to urge citizens to lock their vehicles and remove any items from plain view to help prevent these incidents from occurring. The overall crime chart is available further in this report.

The men and women of this organization continue to focus on specific crimes in order to provide a safe city for our residents and visitors. The year saw some change in organizational structure. In July the department had two veteran Captains that retired, and both had a lot of institutional knowledge of the organization. Nevertheless, the department continued with its mission. In December, Gabriel Camacho was hired as the new Deputy Chief for the Harrisonburg Police Department. DC Camacho comes to the organization from Camden, New Jersey, after 25 years with the Camden County Police Department. With the retirement of two Captains and DC Camacho on board, 2020 will provide several promotional opportunities for staff and I look forward to our members stepping up and taking leadership roles.

Going into 2020 we will continue to focus on reduction in crime with a concentration on property crime as that is where we experienced a spike in crime. Our accreditation process will continue to be a priority as we seek accreditation in 2020. Engagement with our citizens and stakeholders will continue to be a focus for the department. We will continue to try to break down barriers between the police and the citizens, form partnerships and improve quality of life for our residents. I am proud of the men and women of the Harrisonburg Police Department as they continue to go out each day to provide excellent service to our city. We will always look to improve, and I continue to say that public safety is a shared responsibility, so we need citizens to be a part of the solution. I look forward to a great 2020 for public safety and working with our citizens to make it happen.



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

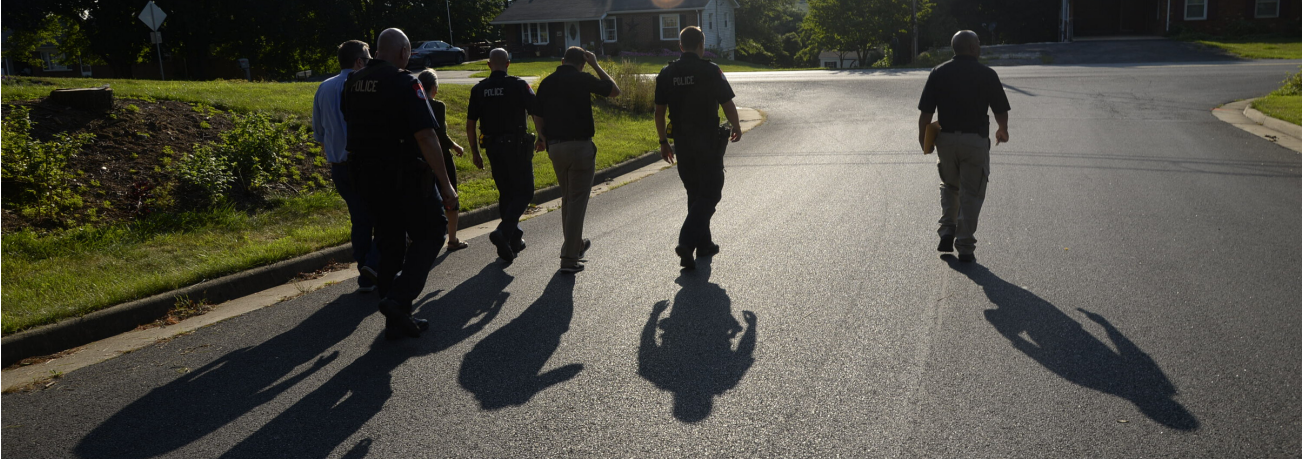
Mission

The Harrisonburg Police Department will partner with our community to reduce crime, solve problems and improve quality of life.

Vision

We will uphold our core values in behavior and demeanor with loyalty, honesty, integrity, poise and control. We will strive to master our skill sets and constantly seek knowledge.





VALUES

These values guide how we treat each other and the public we serve. We use these as the basis for our actions, including training, reinforcement, rewards and consequences, and alignment of policies.

Integrity

Our moral and ethical principles are reflected in our actions, words and conduct.

Accountability

Our moral and ethical principles are reflected in our actions, words and conduct.

Honor

Honor is the foundation of our character, it is the quality that empowers us to exemplify uncompromising moral and ethical behavior.

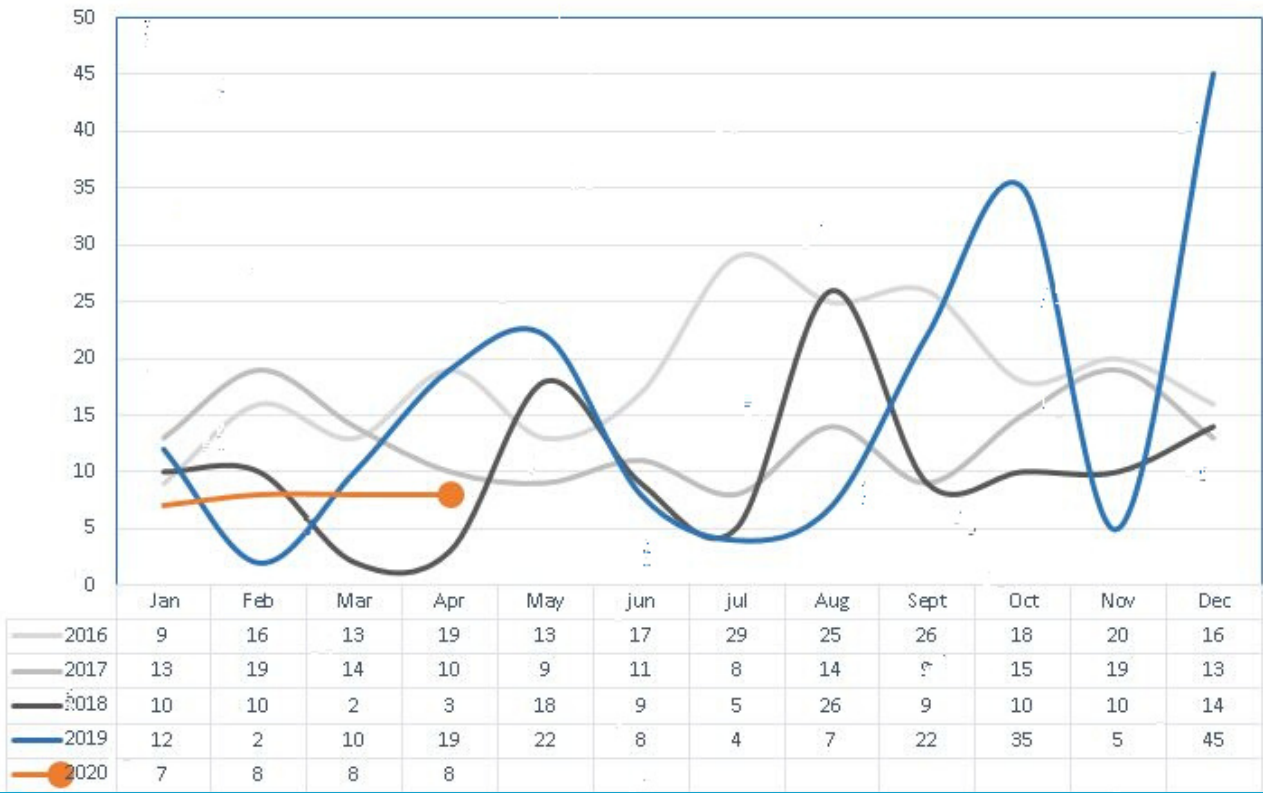
Leadership

Through motivation, inspiration and mentorship (and through leading by example) we inspire employees to accomplish our mission

Diversity

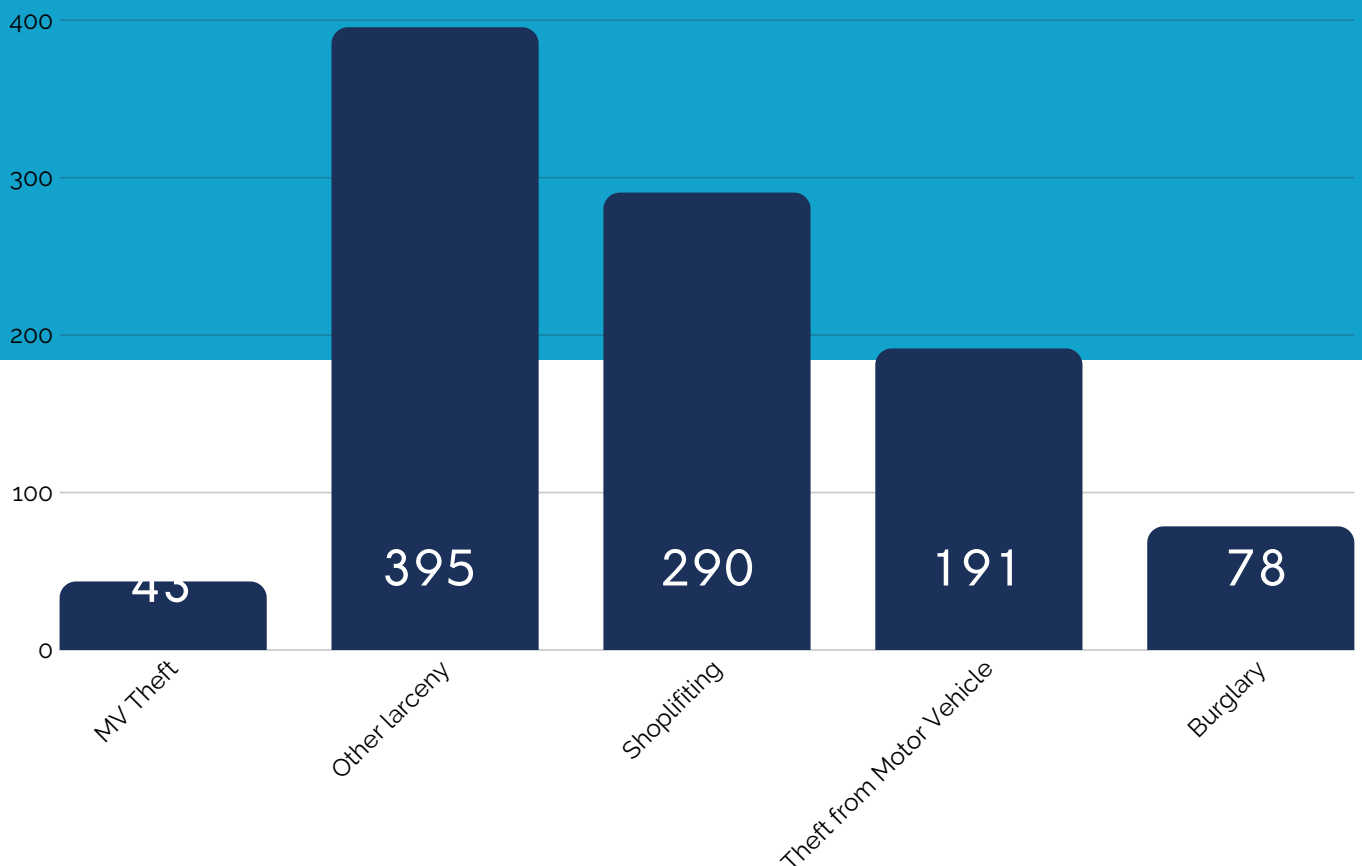
We are committed to create a diverse workforce and reflect the community we serve through inclusion, compassion and understanding.

Theft From Motor Vehicle



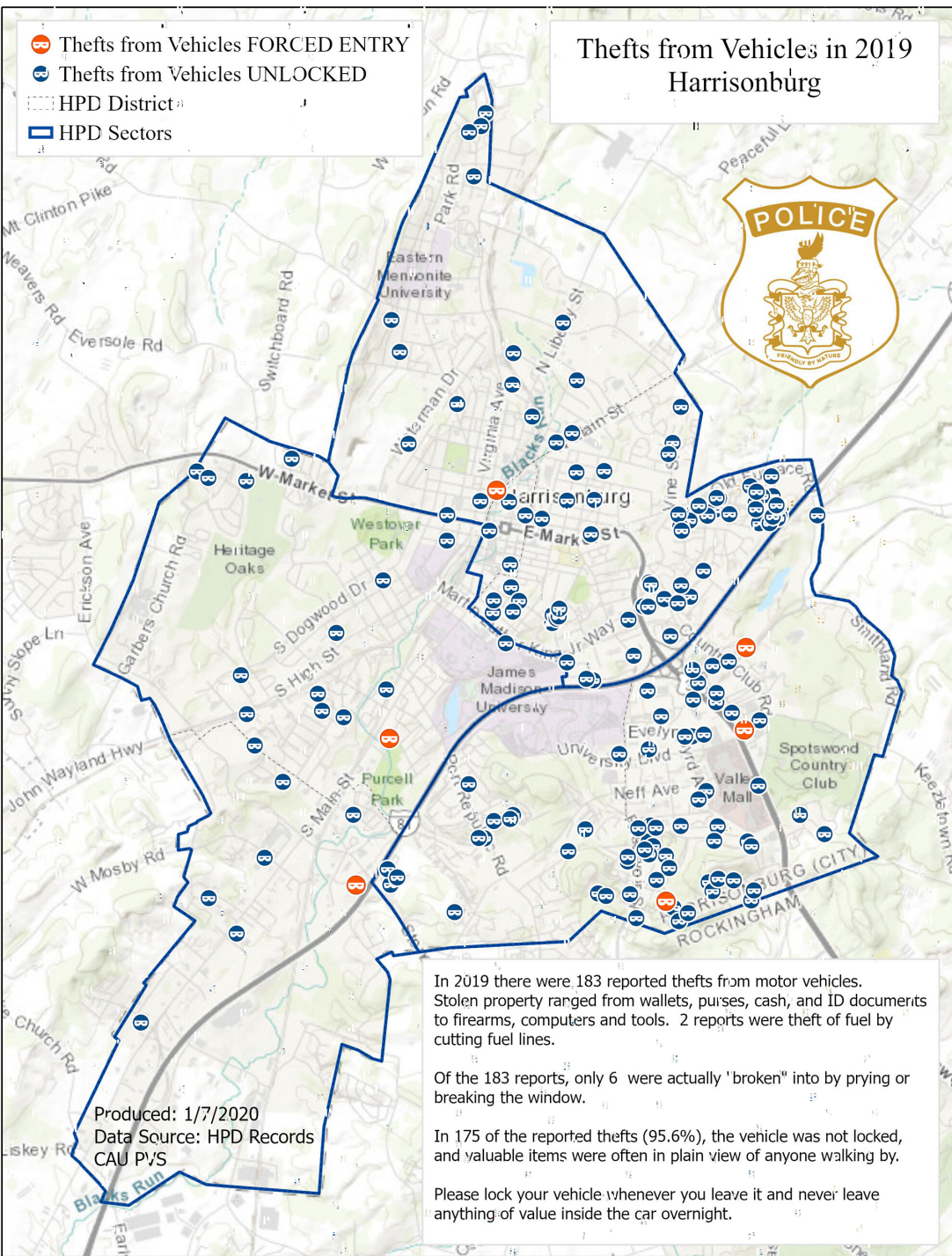
Statistical Analytics

Property Crimes



THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Most cases of things being stolen from vehicles occur when the cars are left unlocked and unattended with valuable items visible...Lock it or Lose it!





PEER SUPPORT

Serving Our Own

2019 marks the first year the Harrisonburg Police Department has implemented a peer support program. The goal of the program is to provide overall emotional/mental wellness support to Department personnel. The Harrisonburg Police Department immediately provides a comprehensive array of services to personnel who are involved in traumatic events or who have personal issues and ensure appropriate follow-up as needed. Personnel also have the option of receiving the same services for a significant other or immediate family member. This year, members were chosen to fill the roles of peer support. These members received training hosted by Virginia State Police in association with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation Inc.

During the year the peer support team was utilized sixteen times-- twelve times for members of our agency and four times for outside agencies.

Peer Support Team:

Sergeant Grubbs, Detective Miller, Corporal Drugo, Officers Wright, Jewell, Dolph and Hensley. Also assigned to the team are civilians Chaplain Murphy, Dr. Echterling and Dr. Czyszczon.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT

The Community Resource Unit (CRU) is assigned to the Administrative Division of the Harrisonburg Police Department.

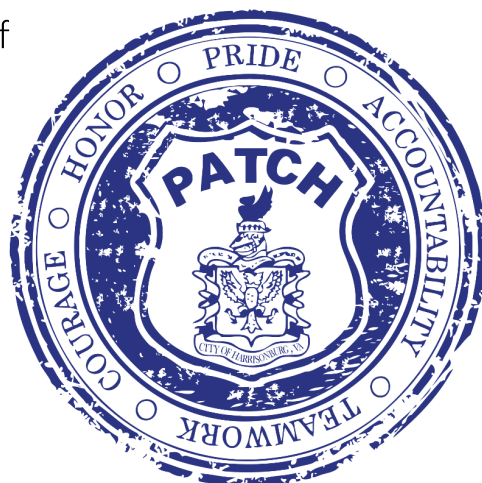
The Community Resource Unit (CRU) is a collaborative effort of crime prevention, education and community engagement. The CRU's goal is to foster a positive working relationship between the Police Department and the community we serve.

The CRU is comprised of a Sergeant, Community Resource Officer, DARE Officer, and four school resource officers. The CRU strives to develop positive relationships and trust between the youth and police.

Our first annual P.A.T.C.H. (Pride-Accountability-Teamwork-Courage-Honor) Camp provided 14 kids the opportunity to develop leadership skills and offered them a behind-the-scenes look at the Harrisonburg Police Department.

In alignment with our values, the Harrisonburg Police Department launched its first annual "Go Back with a Pack" program. The employees within the department personally contributed

toward the purchase of new backpacks and school supplies tailored to the needs of nine students from Harrisonburg Public Schools.



PROGRAMS

The CRU works closely with the citizenry and businesses sponsoring events such as the Explorer Program, Community Police Academy, Chiefs Advisory Board and the On the Road Collaborative. Also included under the unit's responsibilities are special programs such as the Special Olympics Torch Run and National Night Out.

12,328

PEOPLE EDUCATED

Through various community safety events the unit was able to reach more than 12,000 employees, residents, students and others with over 530 hours of education.



4,414

COMMUNITY KIDS

Through our youth programs, we were able to reach thousands of children with positive interactions.

50

SENIORS

Our seniors programs affected the lives of 50 senior citizens in our community. The CRU will be starting a Senior Summer Safety Academy in the summer of 2020.

POLICING WITH A PURPOSE

Officers developed a geographical target area that showed a high crime rate that affected the quality of life for its residents. Repeated drug overdoses, distribution of illegal narcotics, drug possession, and environmental issues were contributing factors.

Operational Goal:

To improve the quality of life in this affected neighborhood by addressing the specific and residual criminal activity directly related to drug overdoses, narcotic possession and distribution.

Locations:

Community Street, Broad Street
Area bordered by Elizabeth, Broad, Mason and Gay Streets



STRATEGIES

ENVIRONMENTAL

Review of environmental factors such as lighting, alleyways and street safety.

DISTRICT

Increase directed patrols by vehicle and foot to deter criminal activity. Enforce traffic initiatives to impact the appearance of police activity and increase safety on the streets.

Serve outstanding warrants on subjects living in the area. Conduct door-to-door surveys and field interviews.

DRUGS

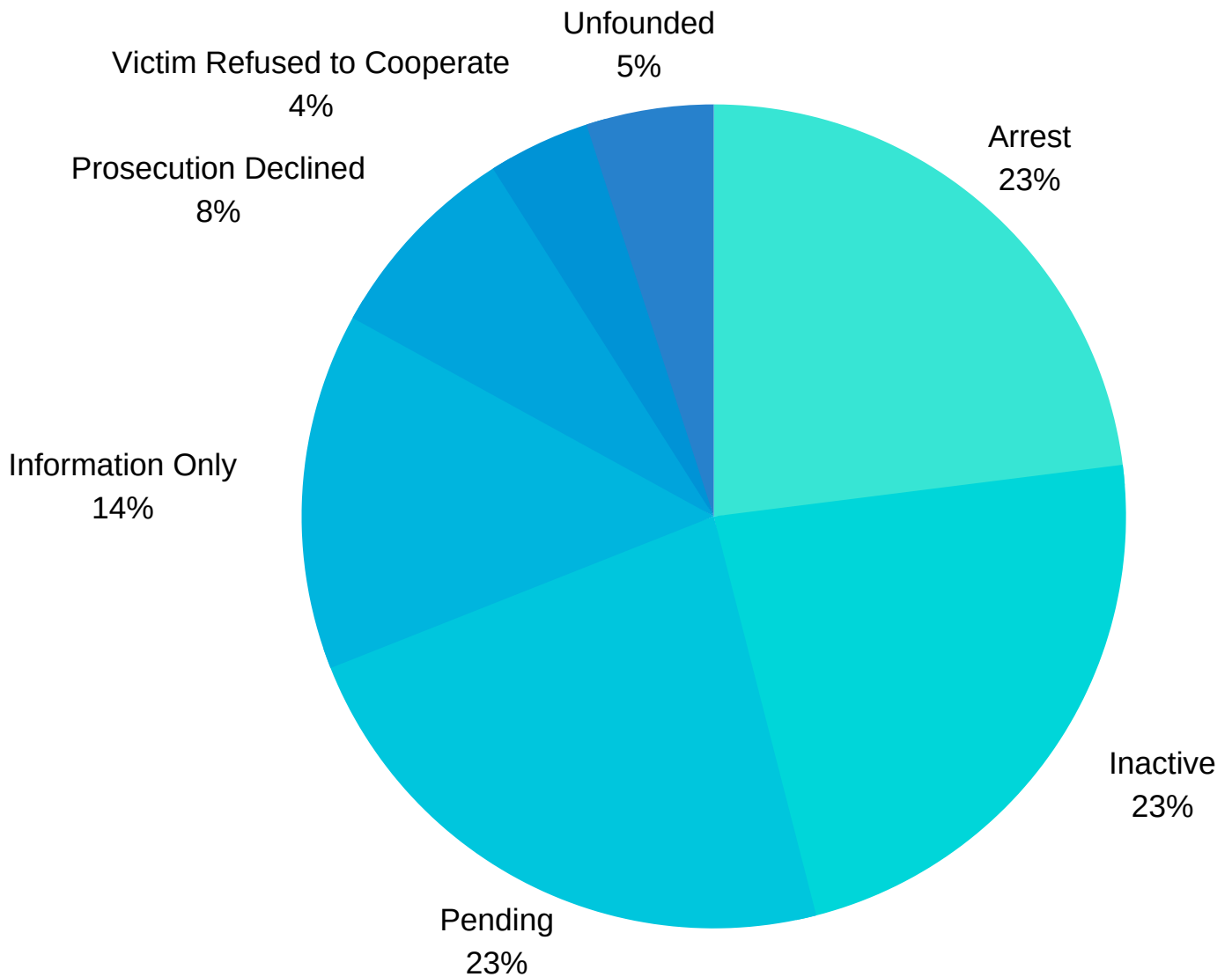
Implement specific drug enforcement initiatives in the area to reduce the drug overdoses and abate the drug distribution and possession.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

Implement bike patrols to engage the community and enforce nuisance violations.

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

The Major Crimes Unit assigned 505 criminal investigations to our detectives, with an average of 45 cases assignments each. Below is a breakdown of case closure rates by status:



The Major Crimes Unit experienced a rise in some offenses during 2019: Auto Larceny, Child Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, Embezzlement, Financial Exploitation, Intimidation, Missing Persons, Drug Violations, Robbery, Sexual Assault, and Suspicious Activity.

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

NOTABLE CASES

In May 2019, Detectives investigated an aggravated sexual assault involving a child. Major Crimes subsequently obtained charges on the suspect. Coordinating apprehension with the U.S. Marshals, detectives were able to apprehend the suspect in Florida before he could flee the country. He is awaiting trial.



In July 2019, Detectives responded to an aggravated assault involving two victims who had been shot on W. Gratten Street. One victim was shot in the face and the other in the leg. Two suspects were identified and soon arrested. A third suspect was apprehended with the help of the U.S. Marshals Service. The case is awaiting trial.

In August 2019, a suspect sent messages to others threatening to shoot people at James Madison University before the first day of classes. Detectives worked tirelessly on identifying the suspect, reviewing surveillance footage and obtaining a vehicle tag. Following the leads to Richmond, Detectives were able to apprehend the suspect and obtain a confession.

In October 2019, a victim was shot in the abdomen by three suspects. All three were arrested and are awaiting trial.

In November 2019, the 7-11 on North Main Street was robbed by two suspects armed with hand guns. The case is still under investigation.

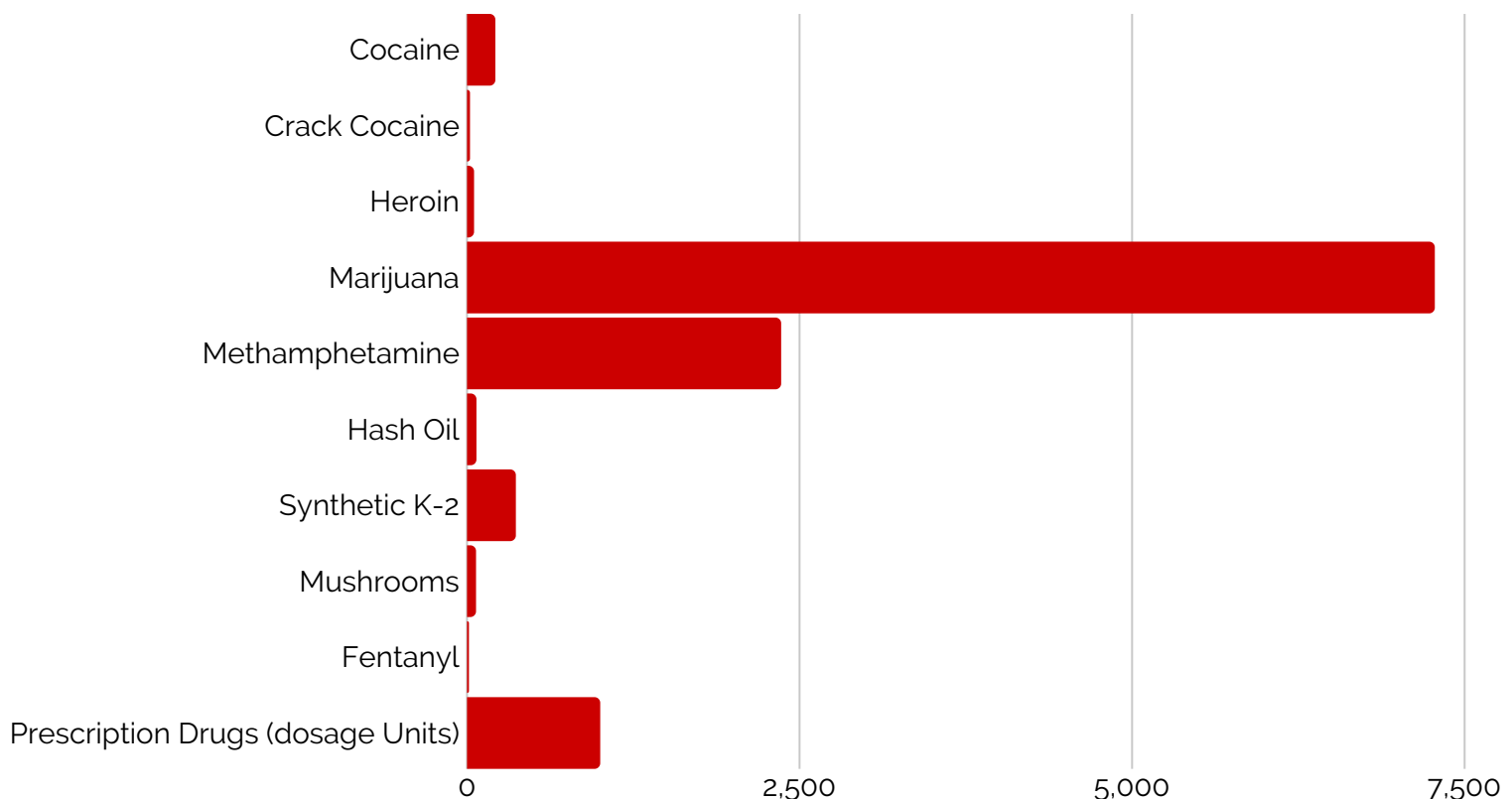
2019 DRUG CRIMES

R.U.S.H. Drug Task Force, Harrisonburg Unit

The R.U.S.H Drug Task Force is a regional team with three special agents from the Virginia State Police, three Rockingham County Sheriff's Office investigators and three Harrisonburg Police Department detectives. The focus of the task force is to target illegal drug distributors in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Until November, the Harrisonburg Police Department had two detectives assigned. In November, a third detective joined the team. In the first three quarters of 2019, the task force worked 325 cases.

In addition to their responsibilities on the Drug Task Force, the detectives participate in multiple other areas for the department including instructing at the training academy, post and pre academy training, Honor Guard, the Forensic Evidence Team, the SWAT team and education/outreach at schools, businesses, churches and other local departments.



All measurements in grams unless noted

ACCREDITATION



The end of the calendar year witnessed the Department making final preparations in anticipation of an assessment in the beginning of 2020. A comprehensive review of existing policies throughout the year reflected Chief English's efforts to ensure a more transparent and community focused approach in the Department's policing efforts. Subject matter experts and other staff spent numerous hours reviewing, editing, and approving approximately 124 policies. These policies were then scrutinized by the accreditation staff and linked to 190 Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VLEAC) standards, which then required the department to provide nearly 560 "proofs" of compliance. Additionally, policies are also being prepared for public release on the Department's website.

