

TOWNSHIP OF
NORTH BERGEN
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



2018
ANNUAL
REPORT



Mission & Values

MISSION



- ◆ The primary mission of the North Bergen Police Department is to provide safe and stable neighborhoods for the residents and visitors of the Township of North Bergen through various department programs and community policing efforts.
- ◆ This goal can only be accomplished through a mutually cooperative relationship between the North Bergen Police Department and the resident and business community which it serves.
- ◆ By working together, we can maintain peace, provide safety and security for our citizens, and reduce crime. We are part of a team dedicated to the safety and protection of our community.

VALUES

- ◆ The North Bergen Police Department will serve our community with respect, fairness and sensitivity. We will be compassionate and considerate in our dealings with the community and the victims of crime.
- ◆ We are committed to the protection of life and property, the prevention of crime and the safeguarding of our citizens to ensure that their Constitutional guarantees are preserved.
- ◆ Empowered by the community, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life and fostering a sense of security to enable our residents to live, work and prosper in the Township of North Bergen.
- ◆ We will nurture the public's trust by holding ourselves to the highest standards of performance and integrity. We will strive for personal and professional excellence, dedication to duty and the delivery of quality service to the public.
- ◆ The men and women of the North Bergen Police Department, pledge that through our efforts, we will establish a new standard of excellence in law enforcement and service to our community.

MOTTO



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Chief's Message



As a police leader with over 25 years of public service, I take great pride in providing the North Bergen Police Department (NBPD) with a clear vision of quality service. Motivated by the historic notion that “the police are the public and the public are the police,” the NBPD concentrates on recruiting a diverse workforce that is truly representative of the community we serve. As an Accredited police agency, our organizational climate is centered on reputation, competence, reliability, transparency, and community trust.

As we look back on the year 2018, we have many achievements to highlight; however, our greatest success remains our commitment to a crime control strategy of community policing coupled with the use of cutting-edge technology. We are proud to report that a recent national study of over 13,000 cities having populations of 50,000 or more people revealed North Bergen as the safest municipality in Hudson County, the 6th safest community in New Jersey, and the 23rd safest city in the United States of America.

The Command Staff of the NBPD has dedicated a great deal of time and energy increasing professionalism in our department. We have magnified our public outreach through an aggressive social media campaign utilizing Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We currently have over 7,000 followers on Facebook and Instagram, as well as over 3,300 followers on Twitter. All three platforms continue to grow daily.

It is my pleasure to share our 2018 Annual Report featuring the outstanding work of the 135 men and women of the NBPD. It is with the full support of Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco, Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual and the entire Board of Commissioners, that North Bergen Police personnel are properly equipped, trained, and fully committed to ensuring the Township of North Bergen is a safe place to live, work and visit. I also encourage you to browse our department web site at www.northbergenpolice.com, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram or Twitter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief Robert J. Dowd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Robert J. Dowd

Mayor's Message



As Mayor of the Township of North Bergen, it gives me great pride to review the North Bergen Police Department's 2018 Annual Report. Keeping North Bergen safe is, and always shall be, one of my highest priorities as Mayor. Unless the community feels a sense of safety and security, no other program or initiative we offer can truly succeed. Thankfully, here in North Bergen we are lucky to have a truly outstanding police department that is succeeding every day in keeping all of our families safe.

North Bergen has consistently been ranked as one of the safest cities in the country according to studies of crime rates and patterns. We have been ranked as the safest community in Hudson County for the last several years, and this is a true testament to the effective approach to reducing crime that has taken place under the leadership of Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual and Chief Robert Dowd.

Maintaining safe and stable neighborhoods requires a fully staffed, properly equipped, and well-trained police department. Our administration has always made this a priority, and the result is a department that has strong manpower, modern technology and a strong sense of community engagement. We have continued to invest in public safety by hiring additional officers, keeping supervisory ranks full and supplementing the regular force with additions like our Special Police Officers and crime stopping technologies like our CCTV camera system and analytics designed to anticipate crime and respond quickly.

I am also very proud of the fact that our police department is one of the most diverse departments in our area. We have a higher than average percentage of female officers and nearly 60% of our officers are of Hispanic heritage. Our Resident Only Hiring Policy has played an important role to ensure our police department is truly representative of the community that it serves. Our officers actively engage with the community and participate in various programs such as National Night Out Against Crime, Winterfest, and the TAPS program. These initiatives allow our officers to bond with the community in a fun and informal setting in order to help facilitate stronger relationships with our residents.

I would like to thank Chief Robert Dowd, his command staff and every single officer in the North Bergen Police Department for their unshakable commitment to the Township of North Bergen and its residents. These brave men and women are the reason why our community is a safe place and why it will remain successful, vibrant and dynamic in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas J. Sacco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicholas J. Sacco
Mayor, Township of North Bergen

Commissioner's Message



I am not only honored, but proud to serve as North Bergen's Public Safety Commissioner. I have had the opportunity to witness first-hand the work done by the fine men and women of our police department and I admire their dedication, selfless attitude and sense of duty. Our officers embody the traits and characteristics needed for a police department to thrive and because of their relentless efforts, the Township of North Bergen is the safest community in Hudson County and one of the top 100 safest cities in the entire country. The Township's administration and NBPD as a whole have one goal in mind; the safety and quality of life of our residents. It is for that reason that we strive to be one of the best departments in the entire state.

Being ranked in the top 10 of safest cities in the State of New Jersey reaffirms the professionalism and efficiency of our police department. Crime rates in North Bergen continue to be at an all-time low, as a result of the excellent collaboration between our police department, residents, and the administration. This has not occurred by chance but by careful planning and execution of effective community policing strategies. Because of this, the NBPD is at an all-time high of one hundred and thirty-five police officers. I can proudly say, every school in North Bergen now has a police officer assigned to it. The safety of our children is an utmost priority.

We continue to connect on a more personal and direct level with the community we serve, we have expanded our community outreach with grass root events such as Coffee with a Cop, walking patrols and other methods of community policing. This has enabled the North Bergen Police Department to build trust and connections with the people that call North Bergen home. In addition, our courageous officers volunteer their time at Township events such as Winterfest and National Night Out Against Crime. By participating willingly in these events, the officers give back to the community they so proudly call home.

We have remained committed to provide our police department with state-of-the-art installations and technology and adequate personnel. The renovation of the police department to include a dedicated Emergency Operation Center, the creation of our Crime Prevention and Intelligence Center (CPIC) which serves as the core of our North Bergen Township Alternative Policing Strategy (NBTAPS) and numerous hiring and promotion ceremonies have all been instrumental in making North Bergen the safest city in Hudson County. I would like to thank Mayor Nicholas Sacco and my colleagues at the Board of Commissioners for their continued support toward the North Bergen Police Department. Lastly, I would like to thank the entire North Bergen Police Department from Chief Robert Dowd, to his administrative staff, to all of the brave men and women who everyday serve and protect valiantly our community.

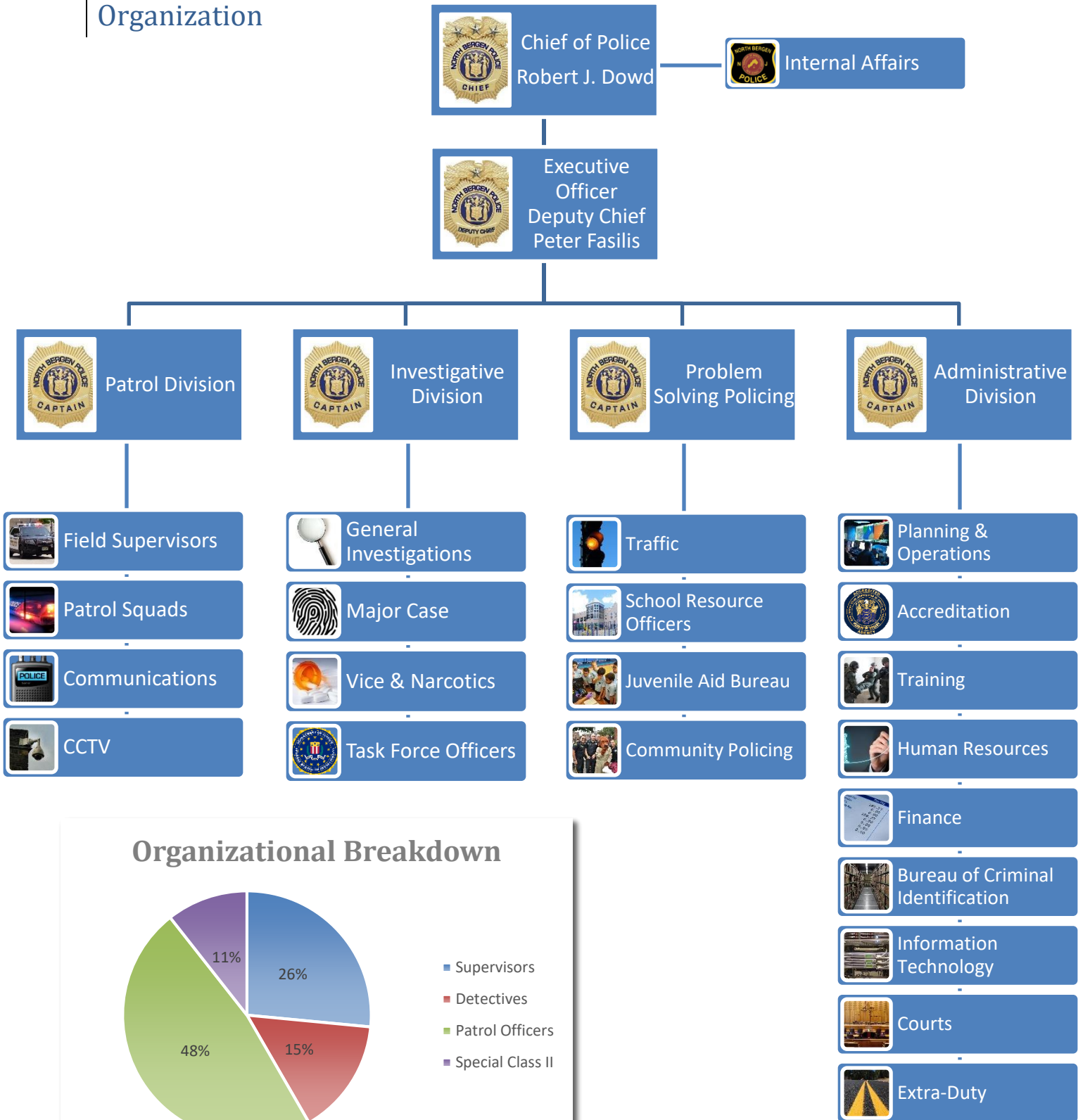
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Pascual". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen Pascual

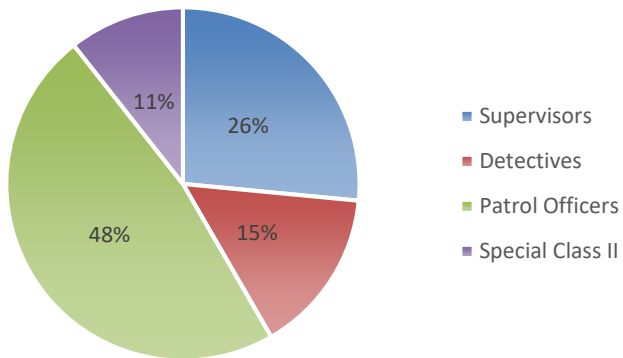
Commissioner of Public Safety, Township of North Bergen



Table of Organization



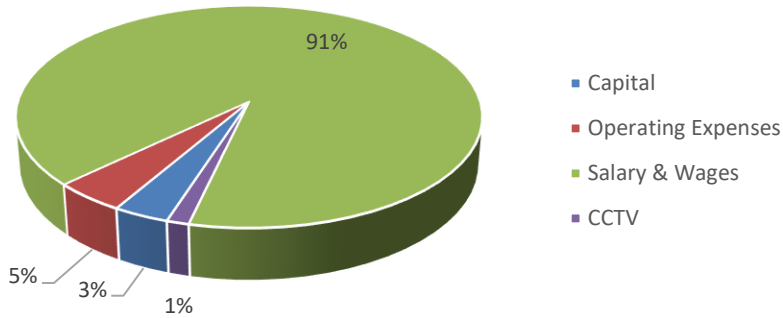
Organizational Breakdown



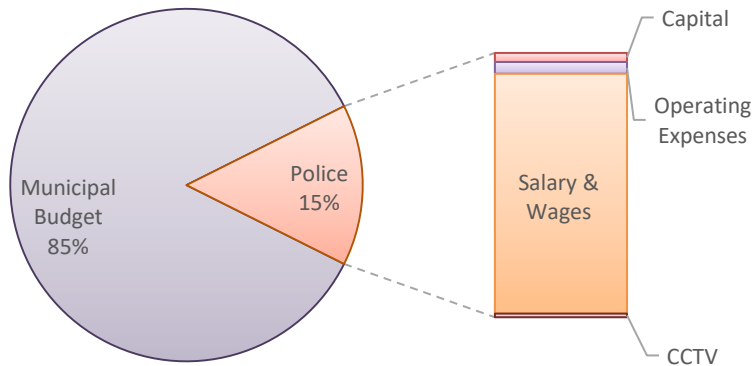


2018 Budget

Police Budget Breakdown

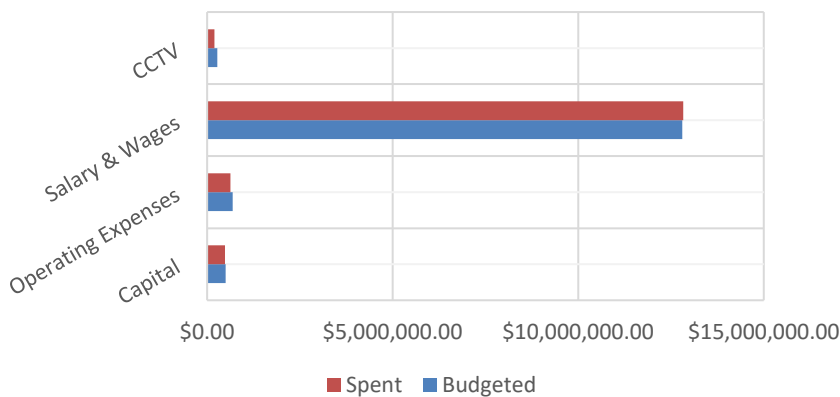


2018 Municipal Budget



Capital Operating Expenses Salary & Wages CCTV Municipal Budget

Budgeted/Spent



2018 Total Municipal Budget

\$95,767,526.30

2018 Total Police Budget

\$14,141,377.53



Internal Affairs Summary Report

Type of Complaint	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Administratively Closed	Total Dispositions	Pending Cases
Excessive Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Differential Treatment	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Demeanor	5	0	28	0	0	33	2
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Rule Violation	31	0	22	0	1	61	11
Other Criminal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	36	8	50	0	1	95	14

109 Total Cases

Internal Affairs is entrusted with ensuring compliance with North Bergen Police Department rules, regulations, policies and procedures, as well as state and federal law. The division investigates and resolves complaints of police misconduct that originate from within the department or by private citizens. The object of Internal Affairs is to increase the Department’s efficiency and accountability, as well as to identify officers who require counseling, training, or other type of intervention.



Demographic Summary



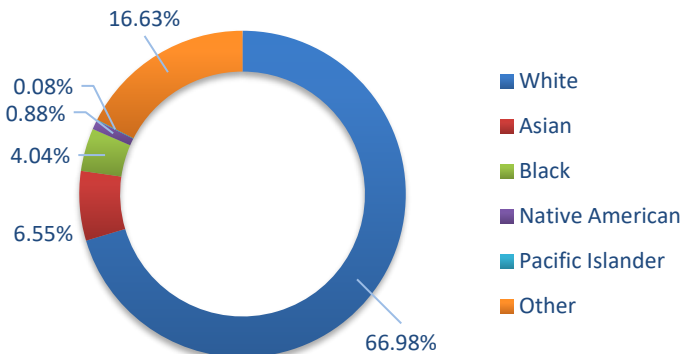
Township of North Bergen Statistics

Population 2010	60,773
Population 2016 (est.)	62,886
Area	5.575 sq. mi.
Population Density	11,838 / sq. mi.
Households	22,062
Median Age	36

Department Composition

(*CY2018 average)

Sworn Police Officers	
Chief	1
Deputy Chief	1
Captains	4
Lieutenants	12
Sergeants	17
Detectives	19
Patrol Officers	62
Police Academy Recruits	5
Special Class II (P/T)	14
Total Sworn	135

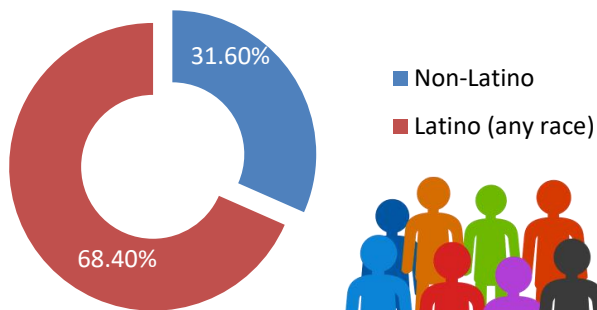


Civilians	
Clerks	5
Dispatchers	8
CCTV Monitors	24
Interns	3
Other	4
Total Civilian	44

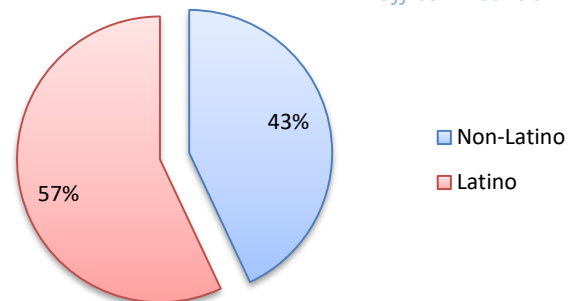
Total Employees

179

Township Breakdown



Officer Breakdown





Divisions

Patrol Division

The uniformed Patrol Division is the North Bergen Police Department's largest division. Patrol personnel are deployed strategically to provide uniform coverage throughout the township. The Township is divided into four pre-determined geographic zones called *sectors* that are used to delineate areas of responsibility for officers on patrol. In addition to responding to dispatched calls for service, officers conduct self-initiated activities, such as traffic stops, and patrol the neighborhoods they are assigned to. Their duties are not limited to crime prevention and traffic enforcement; officers routinely work with the community to help solve problems and maintain the quality of life. They also serve as first responders to medical emergencies aiding sick or injured persons.



Patrol Squad 3 standing at attention for roll call and inspection.

The Patrol Division is comprised of five platoons or *squads* each of which consist of one lieutenant, two (2) sergeants and approximately 10 officers. Approximately fifty-percent of the Police Department's resources are committed to the Patrol Division.



Personnel monitor over 100 cameras throughout the township

The Patrol Division also encompasses support services such as communications and CCTV. While Hudson County serves as the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for Township of North Bergen, the communications unit has the responsibility to answer telephone and radio calls for service for the North Bergen Police Department on a 24-hour basis. This includes 911 emergency calls originating from the PSAP as well as local calls for service. When a call for service is received, it is entered into the Department's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system where it is routed appropriately utilizing division, location, or the desk supervisor's instruction.

The North Bergen Police Department CCTV system consists of over 100 cameras deployed throughout the entire township. The CCTV department utilizes approximately 24 operators who monitor the system on a 24-hour basis. These monitors conduct *virtual patrols* throughout the township and act as a force-multiplier. If an operator comes across any suspicious activity, they alert the tour commander who will in turn take appropriate action. In addition, the CCTV operators will also act as a support-service providing units with situational awareness when responding to calls.

A captain and several ranking field supervisors oversee the Patrol Division's Operations.



Investigative Division

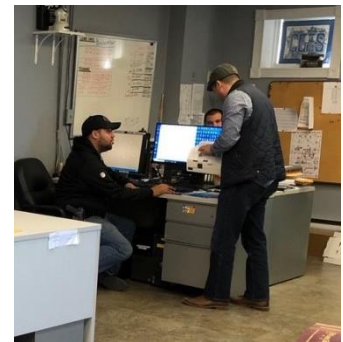


The North Bergen Police Investigative Division, more often recognized as the Detective Bureau, is responsible for conducting criminal investigations of crimes occurring within the Township of North Bergen. Detectives and investigators assigned to this division are specially trained in crime-scene forensics as well as interviewing and interrogation techniques necessary to investigate crimes such as robberies, thefts, domestic violence, burglary, fraud, vandalism, and missing persons. Members of the Investigative Division work closely with their counterparts in the uniformed Patrol

Division and Problem-Solving Policing Division in order improve the chances of successfully solving cases. Detectives and investigators usually dress in plain clothes and professional attire.



The Investigative Division is comprised of several distinctive units which include General Investigations, Major Case, Narcotics and Vice, and Task Force Officers. The vast majority of cases that are investigated by our detectives fall under General Investigations. Our Major Case detectives are highly experienced officers and investigate the most serious crimes, such as carjackings, kidnappings, and bank robberies. They work closely with county, state, and federal law enforcement investigators to solve cases and bring



criminals to justice. Personnel assigned to Narcotics and Vice are responsible for narcotic enforcement, particularly the manufacturing and distribution of controlled dangerous substances. This unit is also responsible for monitoring and investigating prostitution rings as well as human trafficking operations. Lastly, the Investigative Division also has officers assigned to various task forces working throughout New Jersey such as the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.

Some of the work detectives handle is highly specialized, requiring that evidence is thoroughly examined and analyzed in order to apprehend suspects and to build solid cases against them for trial. The North Bergen Police Department ensures that Bureau commanders and investigators conduct high-quality investigations in a timely manner, and that every investigation is handled efficiently, with dedication and professionalism. The North Bergen Police Department's exceptionally high clearance rate is a testament to the division's effectiveness.



Administrative Division

The North Bergen Police Department’s Administrative Division include bureaus and offices that serve in various non-enforcement roles, providing important support services to the various ranks and divisions, and furthering the mission of the North Bergen Police Department. The Administrative Division is comprised of Property and Evidence, Accreditation, Training, the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Records, fiscal services such as payroll, finance and budgeting, human resources, Courts, Information Technology, and Extra-Duty Employment.

The property and evidence function is an integral part of every law enforcement agency. Every day, officers come into custody of lost or stolen property, contraband, and various forms of evidence. The North Bergen Police Department must provide for the secure and efficient classification, inventory, retrieval, and ultimate disposition of these items and has established a system of documentation to track property from its receipt to its eventual disposition.



The North Bergen Police Department is proud to be an accredited law enforcement agency. It is a title that very few police departments hold on a national level. Accreditation provides objective evidence of a police department’s commitment to excellence in quality of service, leadership, and management. The North Bergen Police Department has incorporated a proven management system of written directives and training that support decision-making based on best practices. Accreditation helps ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability at all levels.

The importance of training and education in the professionalization of law enforcement cannot be overstated. The North Bergen Police Department recognizes that no law enforcement agency can function efficiently or effectively unless it promotes high standards of education and training in its operations. In order to maintain a high quality of service and improve upon officer safety, the Department has committed a significant amount of human and financial resources in order to achieve and maintain the highest standards and quality of training for our members.



The Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) is the Department’s central repository of criminal records, fingerprints, and crime statistics. BCI also acts as our custodian of records and is responsible for the dissemination, archiving, and destruction all reports that the Department keeps on file. BCI compiles statistics and reports them to the State of New Jersey and FBI as outlined by the National Incident Based Reporting Standards (NIBRS).

Information technology plays an integral part our operations. The importance of embracing technology for promoting public safety cannot be overstated in our digital age. The North Bergen Police Department has invested heavily in the acquisition and implementation of various technology to support our mission, promote safety and efficacy, and most importantly, fight crime.

These along with the other units of the Administrative Division perform highly specialized functions that are essential to successfully maintaining operations for the entire police department.



Problem-Solving Policing Division

Problem-Solving Policing (PSP) is a policing strategy that involves the identification and analysis of specific crime and disorder problems in order to develop effective policing response strategies. It is paradigm shift in policing that replaces the traditional incident-driven reactive model of policing with a proactive process that requires us to identify underlying problems which lead to crime and disorder. Problem-Solving Policing requires that our officers focus on the “big picture” instead of on single calls or incidents. The North Bergen Police Department has implemented a successful intelligence-led, community-oriented model of policing which operates in conjunction and in concert with the other police divisions. The culmination of intelligence-led policing is the COMPSTAT process where crime data and other relevant information is analyzed, discussed and disseminated to our various divisions.



Biweekly COMPSTAT meeting are at the core of intelligence sharing

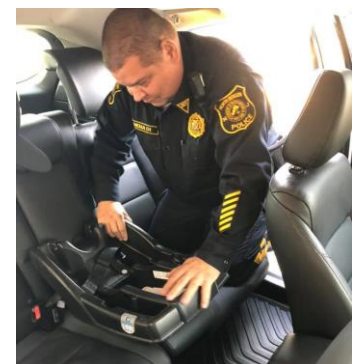
Our strategy also empowers our community to assist us with our mission through our successful North Bergen Township Alternative Policing Strategy (NBTAPS) meetings. NBTAPS allows residents and business owners take on an active role solving problems that lead to crime and disorder and affect our community’s quality of life. Our Town-Stat initiative brings together division heads from all Township’s services in order to address problem issues that require attention that fall beyond the scope of law enforcement but contribute to crime, disorder, or the deterioration of our neighborhoods.



In addition to the Community Policing Unit, the Problem-Solving Police Division consists of the Traffic Unit, Juvenile Aid Bureau, and School Resource Officers.

A very high proportion of police calls for service are related to traffic-related issues. As a result, the North Bergen Police Department incorporates a fully staffed Traffic Unit consisting of a

Sergeant, four traffic officers, and a civilian clerk. The North Bergen Police Department Traffic division’s responsibilities include traffic enforcement, motor vehicle crash investigations, road side safety checks, and public awareness campaigns. The enforcement of traffic codes and high visibility not only helps prevent speeding and motor vehicle accidents but has also been found to be a contributing factor in reducing crime. The Traffic Unit also has specially trained accident re-construction investigators who respond in cases of serious or fatal crashes as part of a Hudson County Regional task force. Finally, the traffic division also utilizes specially trained traffic control officers who review North Bergen’s road infrastructure and construction projects for their impact on travel throughout the Township.



Detective Frank Mena showing a resident how to properly install a car seat.



Youth Outreach

Cops and Kids: A Powerful Combination



Officer William Brown cooling off with a student during Ice Cream with a Cop.

The North Bergen Police Department believes that that cops and kids are a powerful combination. We continually strive to connect with our youth population both inside and outside of the educational environment. The North Bergen Police Department relies on resources such as its Juvenile Aid Bureau and Community Policing Unit to strengthen the bonds between youth and law enforcement. The Department continues to utilize and improve upon successful programs such as L.E.A.D. and the Junior Police Academy while continually searching for new ways to connect with our kids. Hosting programs for our youth outside our normal duties as police officers yields dramatic results, and we constantly strive to make long-lasting, positive connections with our youth population.



Officer Jeffrey Gonzalez teaches an up and coming angler how to cast in our "Cops and Bobbers" fishing derby.



Officer Kaylan Tarabocchia conducting pedestrian safety instruction at Lincoln School.

In 2018, the Township of North Bergen made a commitment to have a police officer in every school. After a collaborative effort between the Township of North Bergen, The North Bergen Board of Education, and the North Bergen Police Department, the mission was achieved. The North Bergen School Resource (SRO) program not only provides a safe learning environment for our students, but it also provides valuable resources to school teachers, administrators, and other staff members. School officers foster positive relationships with students and incorporate strategies that resolve problems affecting our youth population so that they can reach their fullest potentials. Our School Resource Officers work closely with the North Bergen Board of Education administrators and faculty to provide safety without disrupting the educational environment. Our SRO's perform a variety of functions and receive continuing education and training to they can meet the challenges of interacting with youth populations in an educational setting. They not only serve as protectors, but also as mentors and counselors.



Detective Anthony Ortiz showing a student how to tie a Windsor knot



Junior Police Academy and L.E.A.D.

The North Bergen Police Department's Junior Police Academy is a comprehensive and immersive summer program which introduces its youth participants to policing and law enforcement. Each year, the program continues to expand and improve its itinerary in order to educate participants while simultaneously reinforcing positive relationship between youth and law enforcement.



Students learn about firearms safety and are able to safely observe live-fire exercises during Range Day

In 2018, the Junior Police Academy entered its sixth consecutive session and successfully recruited 25 qualified 7th and 8th grade students to participate in the week-long program. The program is modeled after an actual police academy class, and participants are challenged both physically and mentally during the course of their training. Students are provided with a daily physical training regimen and



Detective Peter Insetta showing recruits how to lift fingerprints

then subsequently participate in various classroom instruction and practical training related to law enforcement. Junior Police Academy students also partake in various simulated police scenarios such as crime scene investigations and K9 searches. The North Bergen Junior Police Academy creates a vital link between youth and law enforcement and promotes responsible citizenship and community involvement. This year, all 25 student applicants who were accepted successfully completed the North Bergen Police Junior Academy Class.



The 2018 North Bergen's Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) program marks the five-year anniversary of its introduction. L.E.A.D. is a comprehensive resource solution that provides law enforcement, educators, community leaders, and families proven and effective programs to deter both youths and adults from drug use, drug related crimes, bullying and violence. Through L.E.A.D., the North Bergen Police Department is committed to reinforcing the mutual respect, goodwill and relations between law enforcement and the

community we serve. In 2018, nearly 600 students and their families participated in the program.

The program concludes with L.E.A.D. Day where the students are publicly recognized and celebrated for completing the program. It is filled with various events, programs, and activities designed to bring together students, educators, families, and law enforcement for a day of enjoyment and celebration.



Community Outreach

The North Bergen Police Department prides itself in being community-driven. For us, community policing is not just a policing strategy, it is an organizational philosophy that supports the Department’s mission and vision. Every officer is encouraged and empowered to engage in community policing to contribute to the success of this philosophy. With this mission in mind, the concept that community policing is everyone’s job. Establishing a culture of integrity within a department is crucial to building and sustaining the community trust. These are the building blocks of effective policing and safe communities. The North Bergen Police Department has clearly defined standards that guides the actions of every member of the Department and lays the foundation for a trusting relationship with the community.



Nearly a hundred officer volunteer their time to participate in the annual Winterfest celebration



The police cannot combat crime alone. Reducing crime and disorder requires that our officers work with the community to identify their concerns, solicit their help, and ultimately solve their problems. One of the most effective solutions to preventing crime and disorder is to establish a dialogue between all Township stakeholders to address the problems affecting the community. The North Bergen Township Alternative Policing Strategy (NBTAPS) was developed for

facilitating this dialog. Our theory is that tables are better than stages and listening is better than talking. When an officer stands up on stage or behind a podium, there is little chance for officers and citizens to have constructive conversation. NBTAPS was developed to break down barriers and encourage dialogue between the police and the community. When citizens and officers can sit around a table with each other at the same level, positive things happen. People speak and we listen. This is how we build a partnership based on trust.



Chief Dowd conducting some Q&A on policing with students from Hudson Community College.

The North Bergen Police Department utilizes its Community Policing officers to organize and support various community events and special initiatives. In 2018, the Department hosted or participated in a wide variety of events including such as National Night Out, Winterfest, Coffee with a Cop, Ice Cream With a Cop, Game Night, A Taste of Greece, the Classic Car and Bike Show, Special Olympics, Game Night, Cops and Bobbers Fishing Derby, flea markets, the Halloween Pumpkin Patch, toy drives, and many more.



Pride



North Bergen Police Honor Guard



Special Olympics Torch Run



Toy Drive



Police Unity Tour



Blue Mass



Battle for Blue Fundraiser



New Hires and Promotions



Sergeants

August 7, 2018
Gleny Henry
David Botwin

September 14, 2018
Edgar Mendez

Detectives

December 21, 2018

Danny Brown
Jason Castillo
Santiago Hernandez
Christopher Orellana



New Appointments

July 13, 2018

Christopher Arce
Scott Milne
Sean Moultrie
Richard Rodriguez



SLEO Class II

August 29, 2018
Martin Antelo
Rudolfo Velazquez

September 20, 2018
Gabriel Colucci

November 21, 2018
Jake Pietrefesa

December 10, 2018
Joseph Montemurro





Officers of the Month

JANUARY

Officer Eric Weyand



Officer Weyand apprehended a wanted individual leading to multiple arrests for drugs and weapons. Over a dozen firearms and various narcotics were seized in Hudson County as a result of the ensuing investigation.

FEBRUARY

Detective Roberto Maldonado



Responded to a domestic violence incident where the victim was threatened with a handgun. Actor fled but Detective Maldonado located the boyfriend as well as a loaded handgun he had hidden in the engine of his vehicle.

MARCH

Unit Award



A vehicle posted for sale on the Internet led to a carjacking and kidnapping. Detectives Maldonado, Botello, Vangelakos and Castillo were able to identify the actors and safely locate the victim. Perpetrators were arrested and charged.

APRIL

Officer Kevin Rodriguez



Officer Rodriguez observed a pair of suspicious vehicles in the rear of a parking lot. After investigating, it was determined that both vehicles were stolen. The occupants were arrested for theft as well as narcotics possession.



Officers of the Month

MAY

Officer Alfredo Echeverria



During a traffic stop Officer Echeverria detected the smell of raw unburnt marijuana. Further investigation resulted in the discovery of narcotics and a stolen firearm. The driver, who had an extensive criminal history was arrested.

JUNE

Officer Bryan Suarez



Officer Suarez observed and identified an individual wanted for theft of government property. The ensuing investigation led to a confession, arrest, and recovery of the property in question.

JULY

Detective Roberto Maldonado



While conducting an investigation at a motel, Detective Maldonado observed three individuals who acted suspiciously when they realized he was a police officer. The investigation led to an arrest a variety of drugs and paraphernalia.

AUGUST

Officer Michael Rivetti



Officer Rivetti was conducting a motel parking lot check when he discovered a stolen vehicle. When he tried to stop the vehicle, the driver fled on foot. Officer Rivetti gave chase and apprehended the driver who also had drugs in his possession.



Officers of the Month

SEPTEMBER

Detective Hector Botello



Detective Botello was tasked with investigating a robbery turned kidnapping. A thorough investigation involving video surveillance and cell phone data led to the arrest of two individuals for multiple crimes.

OCTOBER

Officer Feliz Vargas



A woman and her child were kidnapped at gunpoint by the child's father. Officer Vargas responded to the last known location and was able to locate the vehicle. After a brief pursuit, he was able to free the victims, and arrest the actor without any injury.

NOVEMBER

Officer Johnny Sanchez



While on patrol, Officer Sanchez observed three individuals attempting to force entry into a residence. Officer Sanchez was able to confine the individuals and prevent their escape. All three actors were subsequently arrested and charged.

DECEMBER

Detective Christopher Orellana



Detective Orellana led the police department in arrests for the month of December. His investigations led to multiple arrests for narcotics, firearms, and other serious crimes included the apprehension of an individual wanted for a brutal assault.



Officer of the Year

Detective Christopher Orellana

Chief Robert J. Dowd and the North Bergen Police Department Command Staff has selected Detective Christopher Orellana for 2018 Officer of the Year. Detective Orellana has become an informal leader among his peers in the detective bureau and requires very little supervision. He has made numerous arrests for major crimes throughout 2018.



A brief synopsis of some of his cases are as follows:

Detective Orellana was the lead detective in an investigation conducted in conjunction with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, and the Department of Homeland Security. A significant part of the investigation was his interview of a suspect which resulted in a confession. Detective Orellana's part in the investigation ultimately led to the the arrest of four (4) members of the MS-13 criminal street gang for attempted murder.

Detective Orellana was investigating a robbery that occurred within the Township of North Bergen and determined that similar robberies that had occurred in surrounding municipalities including West New York, Union City and Jersey City had likely been perpetrated by the same individual. As a result of his investigation, Detective Orellana was able to identify the vehicle that was used in the robbery which subsequently led to the apprehension and arrest of the actor. After further investigation the suspect was tied into several other area robberies resulting in additional charges in West New York, Union City and Jersey City.

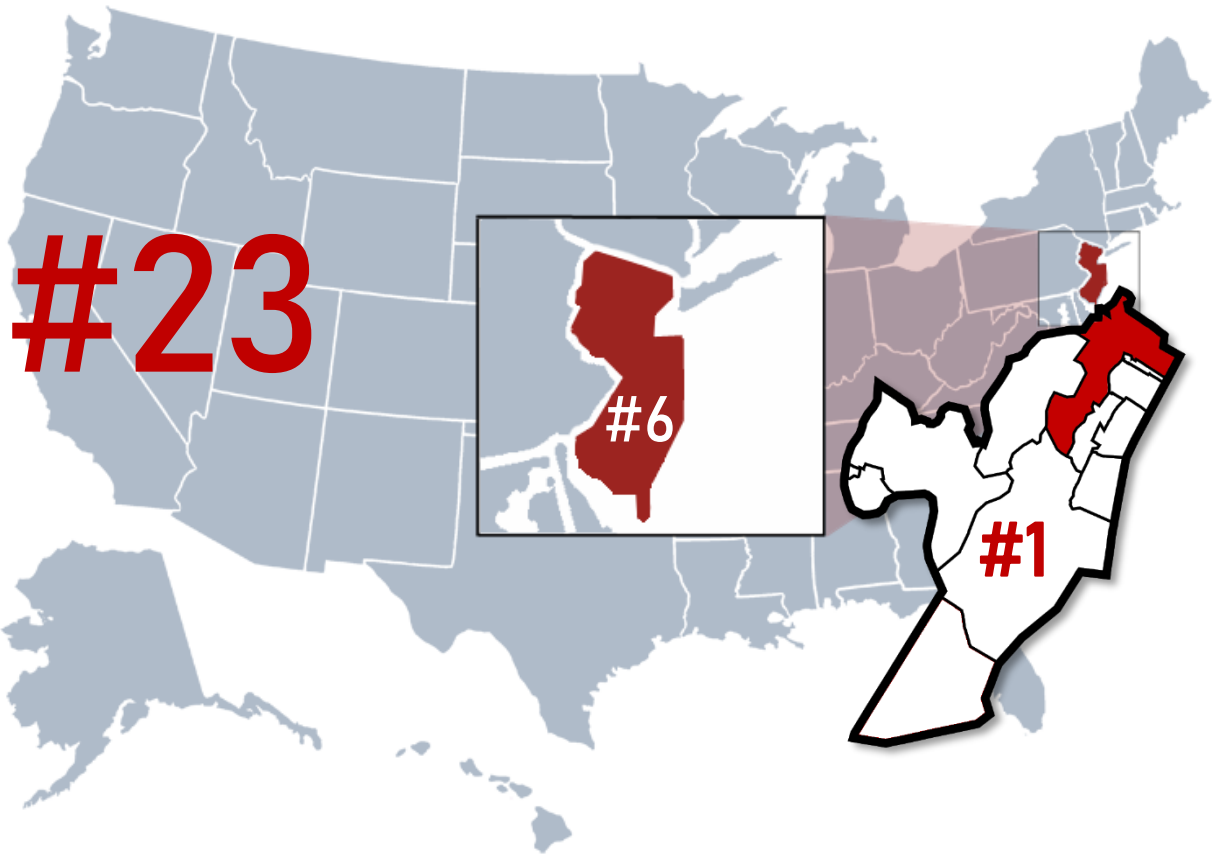
Detective Orellana was conducting a check of an area hotel when he discovered a stolen and occupied vehicle in the parking lot. When he attempted to initiate a felony motor vehicle stop, the vehicle fled. After a brief pursuit the vehicle stopped, and the occupants fled on foot. Detective Orellana was able to apprehend two of the three occupants but a third was able to escape. At the conclusion of his investigation, the third party was identified and arrested.

Detective Orellana was conducting a follow-up investigation at a local motel when he suddenly detected a strong odor of marijuana emanating from a vehicle and its occupant in the parking lot. The investigation on scene led to the arrest of the occupant for possession of a controlled dangerous substance as well as a defaced firearm. This case was subsequently taken on by a federal prosecutor and is currently awaiting trial in federal court.

Detective Orellana was conducting a routine investigation when he observed a suspicious vehicle. As he approached the vehicle, he detected a strong of marijuana emanating from the vehicle and its occupant. The investigation on scene led to the arrest of the occupant for distribution of narcotics and the seizure of over \$10,000.00 from the proceeds of his distribution enterprise.



North Bergen – One of America’s Safest Cities



Violent Crime

2.5X The Township of North Bergen has a violent crime rate 2.5 times lower than the national average.

 <p>North Bergen Violent Crime Rate</p> <p>1.53 per 1000 people</p>	 <p>National Violent Crime Rate</p> <p>3.83 per 1000 people</p>
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Property Crime

3.1X The Township of North Bergen has a property crime rate over 3 times lower than the national average.

 <p>North Bergen Property Crime Rate</p> <p>7.74 per 1000 people</p>	 <p>National Property Crime Rate</p> <p>23.62 per 1000 people</p>
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In 2017, the Township of North Bergen was named as one of the safest cities (populations over 50,000) in America. For 2018, our historic low crime rates allowed the Township of North Bergen to retain its status as one of the safest cities in the country. Out of the 13,000 cities cited in the report, the Township of North Bergen ranks as the safest city in Hudson County, the sixth safest city in New Jersey, and the twenty-third safest city in the United States.

Based on 2017 FBI and NBPD Data

Source: https://www.nj.com/hudson/2018/02/5_hudson_county_municipalities_ranked_among_safest.html



Uniform Crime Report

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a system of collecting and analyzing crime and arrest statistics gathered on selected types of crime. The UCR Program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management; over the years, however, the data have become one of the country's leading social indicators

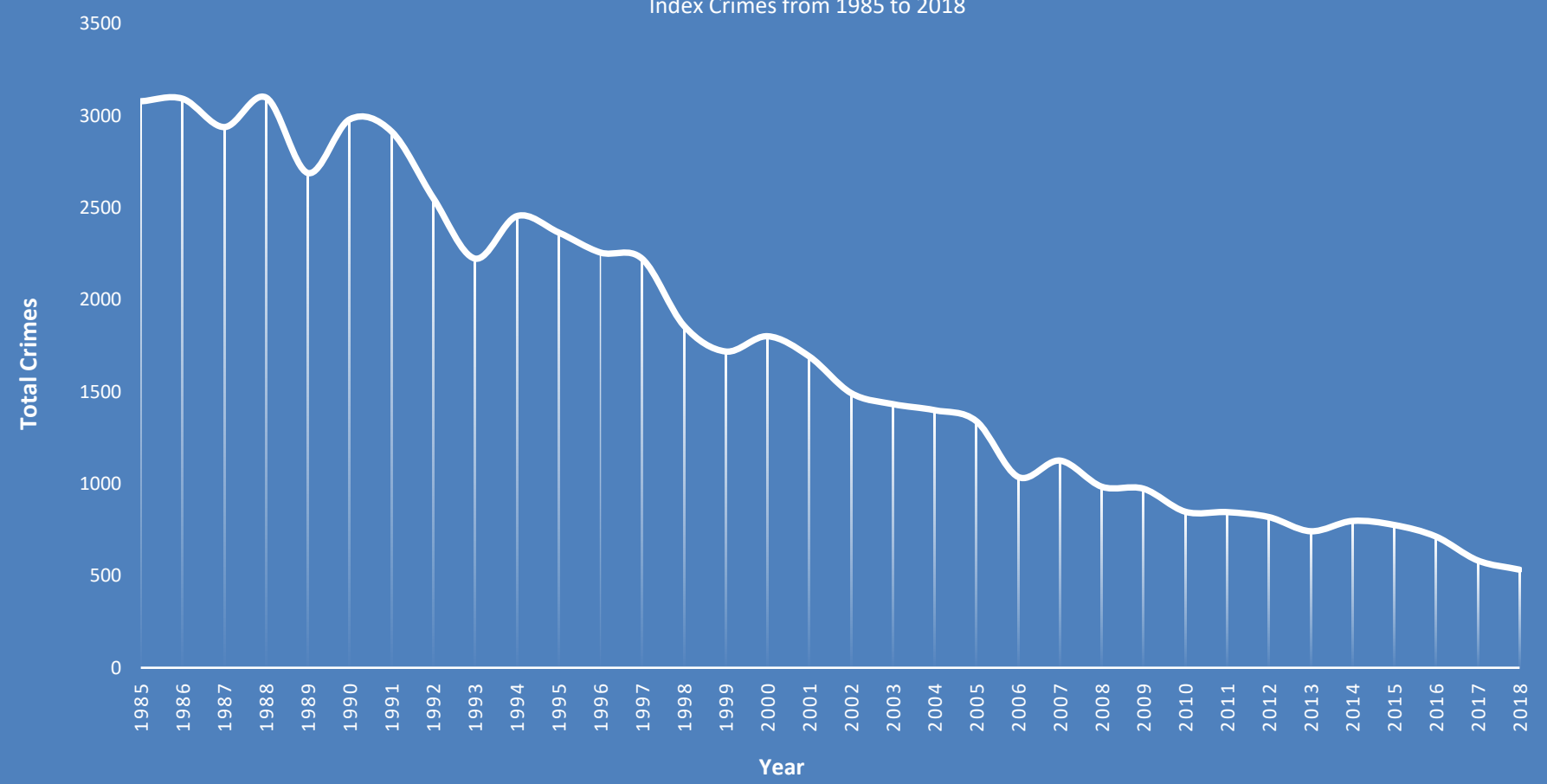
OFFENSE TYPE (Part 1 Index Crime)	2018		2017		% Change From 2017	5-Year (2014) Comparison		% Change From 2014
	Offense Count	Crime Rate*	Offense Count	Crime Rate*		Offense Count	Crime Rate*	
Murder	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.0%	0	0.00	0.0%
Rape	19	0.30	9	0.14	111.1%	9	0.15	111.1%
Robbery	27	0.43	35	0.56	-22.9%	42	0.69	-35.7%
Aggravated Assault	52	0.83	52	0.83	0.0%	62	1.02	-16.1%
Burglary	70	1.11	55	0.87	27.3%	116	1.91	-39.7%
Larceny (Theft)	302	4.80	366	5.82	-17.5%	479	7.88	-37.0%
Automobile Theft	63	1.00	66	1.05	-4.5%	90	1.48	-30.0%
Arson**	0	0.00	1	0.02	-100%	3	0.05	-100%
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	533	8.48	583	9.27	-8.6%	798	13.13	-33.2%
Crimes Against People	98	1.56	96	1.53	2.1%	113	1.86	-13.3%
Crimes Against Property	435	6.92	487	7.74	-10.7%	685	11.27	-36.5%
Part 2 Crimes	1211	19.26	1428	22.71	-15.2%	1550	25.50	-21.9%
OVERALL CRIME (Part 1 & Part 2)	2007	31.91	2332	37.08	-13.9%	2697	44.38	-25.6%

*Crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants based on 2018 population of 62,886 (60,773 estimated for 2014).

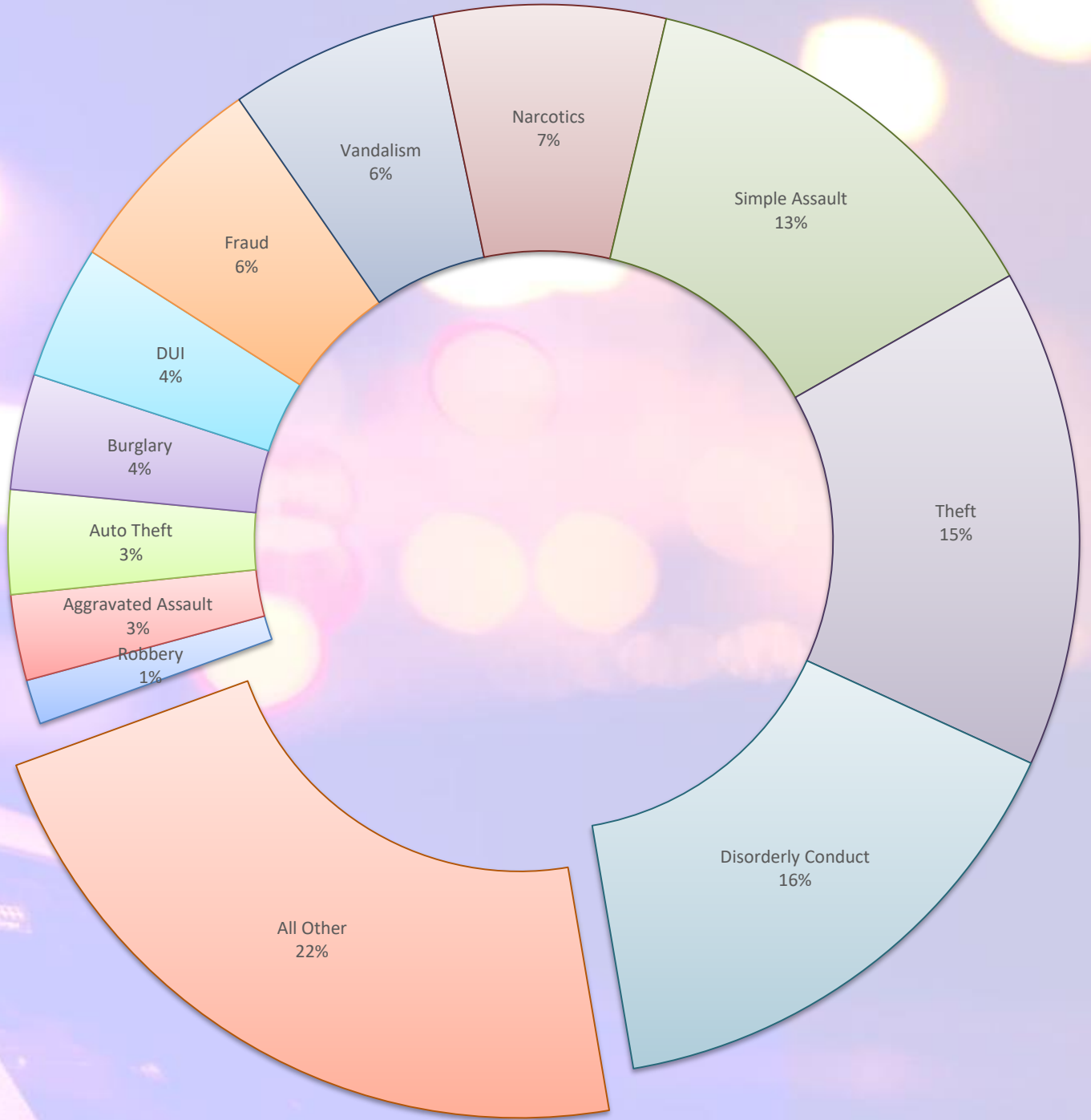
**The UCR Program does not include arson statistics when tabulating Index Crime totals.

CRIME TREND ANALYSIS: OVERALL CRIME

Index Crimes from 1985 to 2018



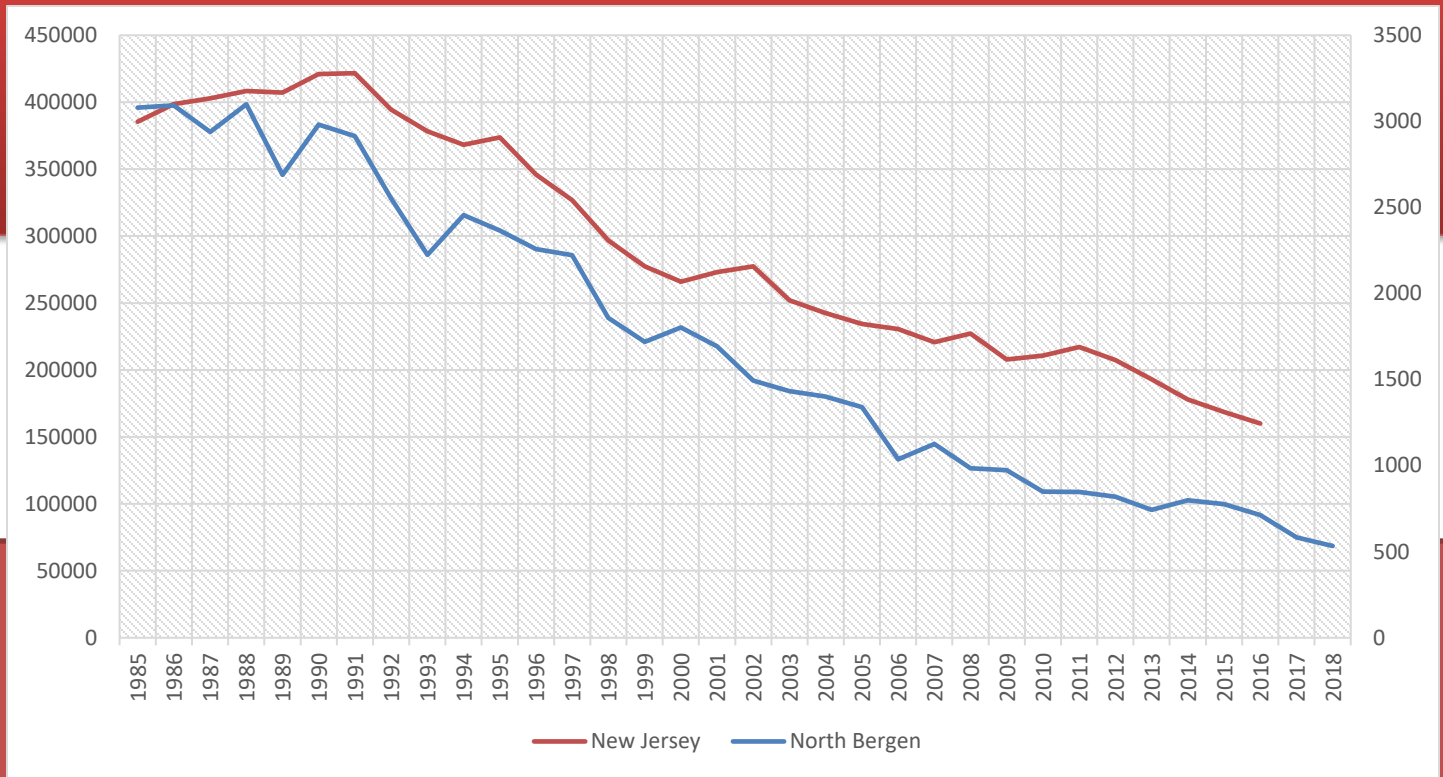
Crime Breakdown by Type



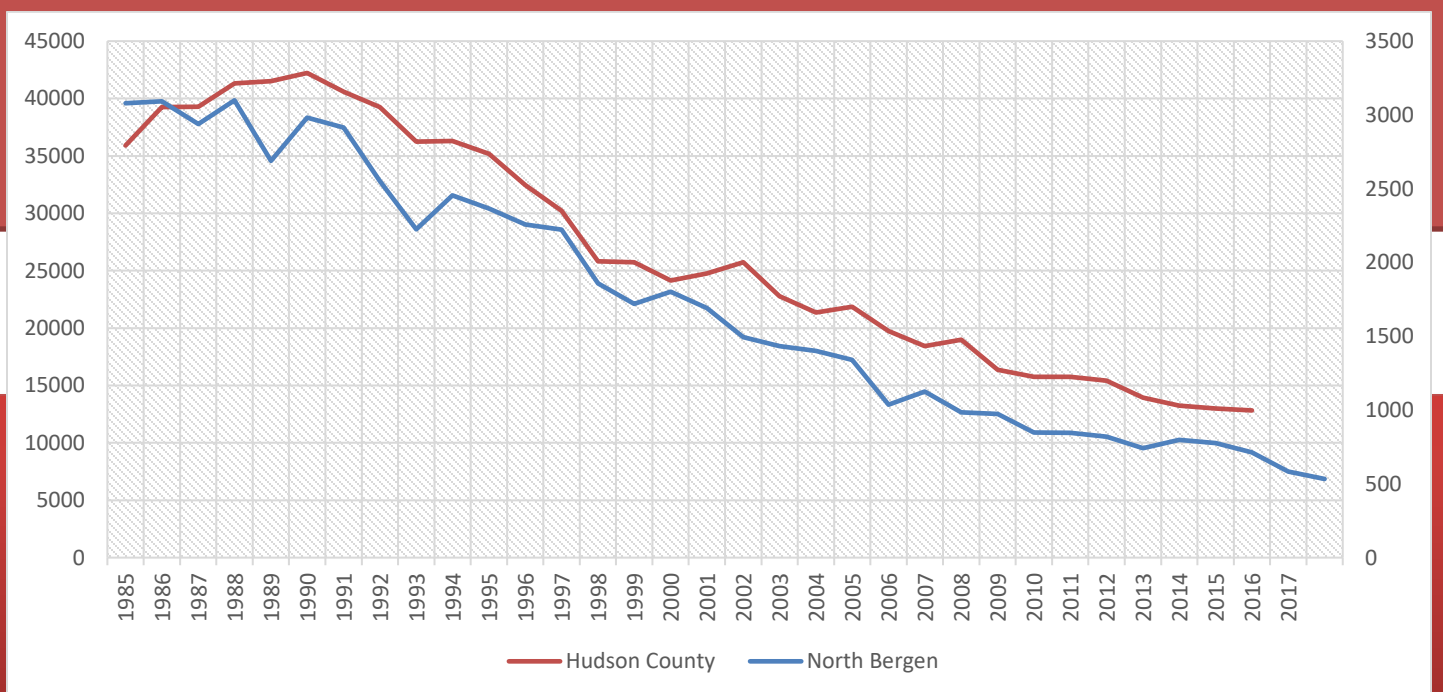


Crime Trend Comparisons – North Bergen vs. State and County

North Bergen vs. State

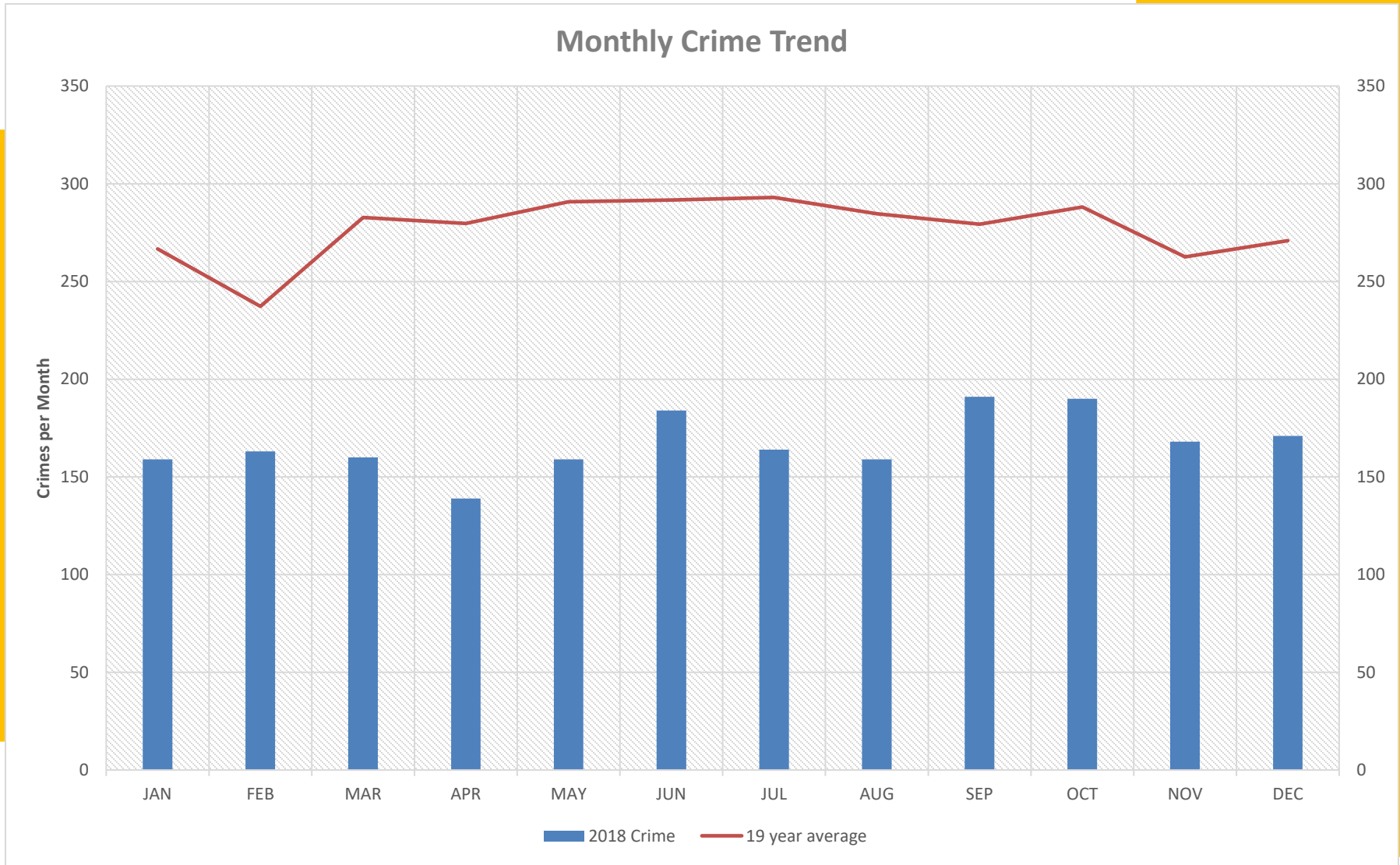


North Bergen vs. Hudson County



Note: 2017, 2018 data not available from State UCR at time of publishing

Crime Trends by Month

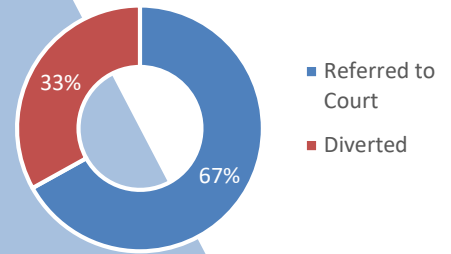




Arrest Statistics

PART I ARRESTS	2018	2017
Juveniles	33	19
Adults	314	323
Part I Totals	347	342

Juvenile Arrests



PART II ARRESTS	2018	2017
Juveniles	92	92
Adults	643	676
Part II Totals	735	768

TOTAL ARRESTS	2018	2017
Juveniles	125	111
Adults	957	999

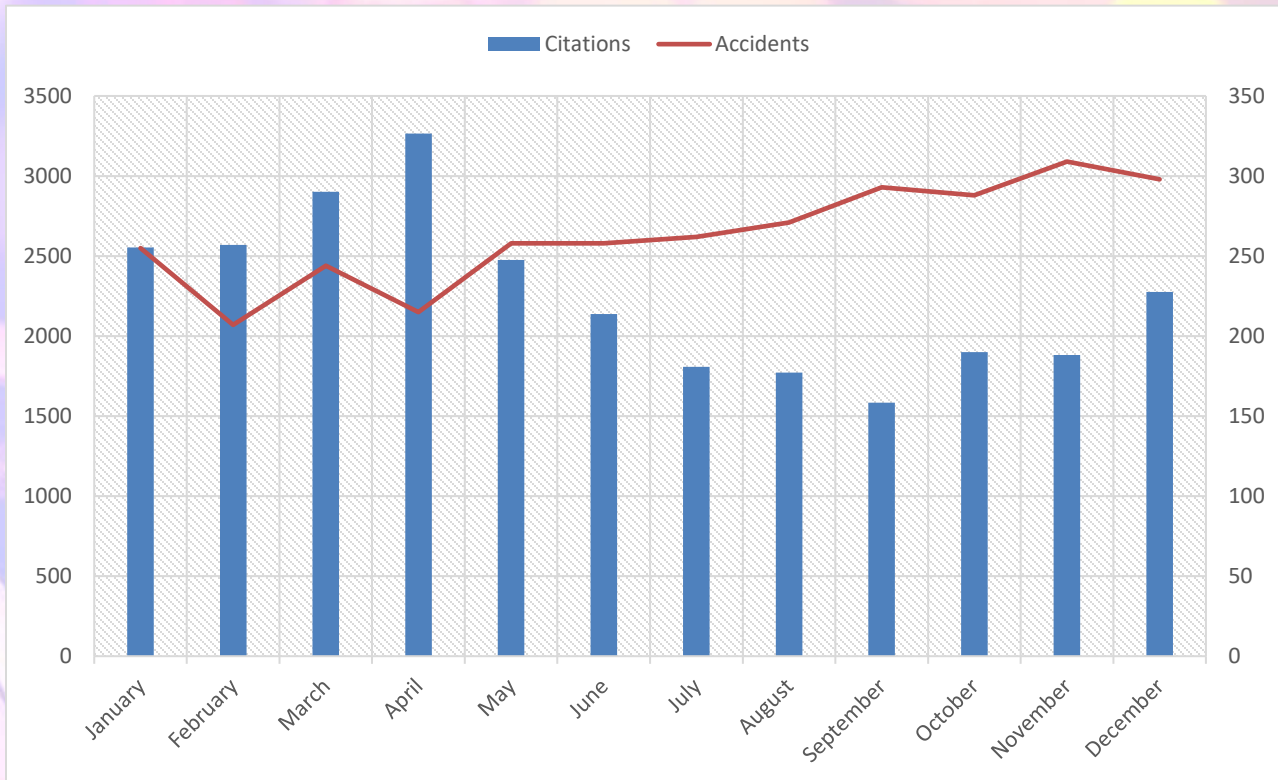
Arrest Totals	1082	1110
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1 in 3 juveniles are diverted from the courts



Traffic Statistic

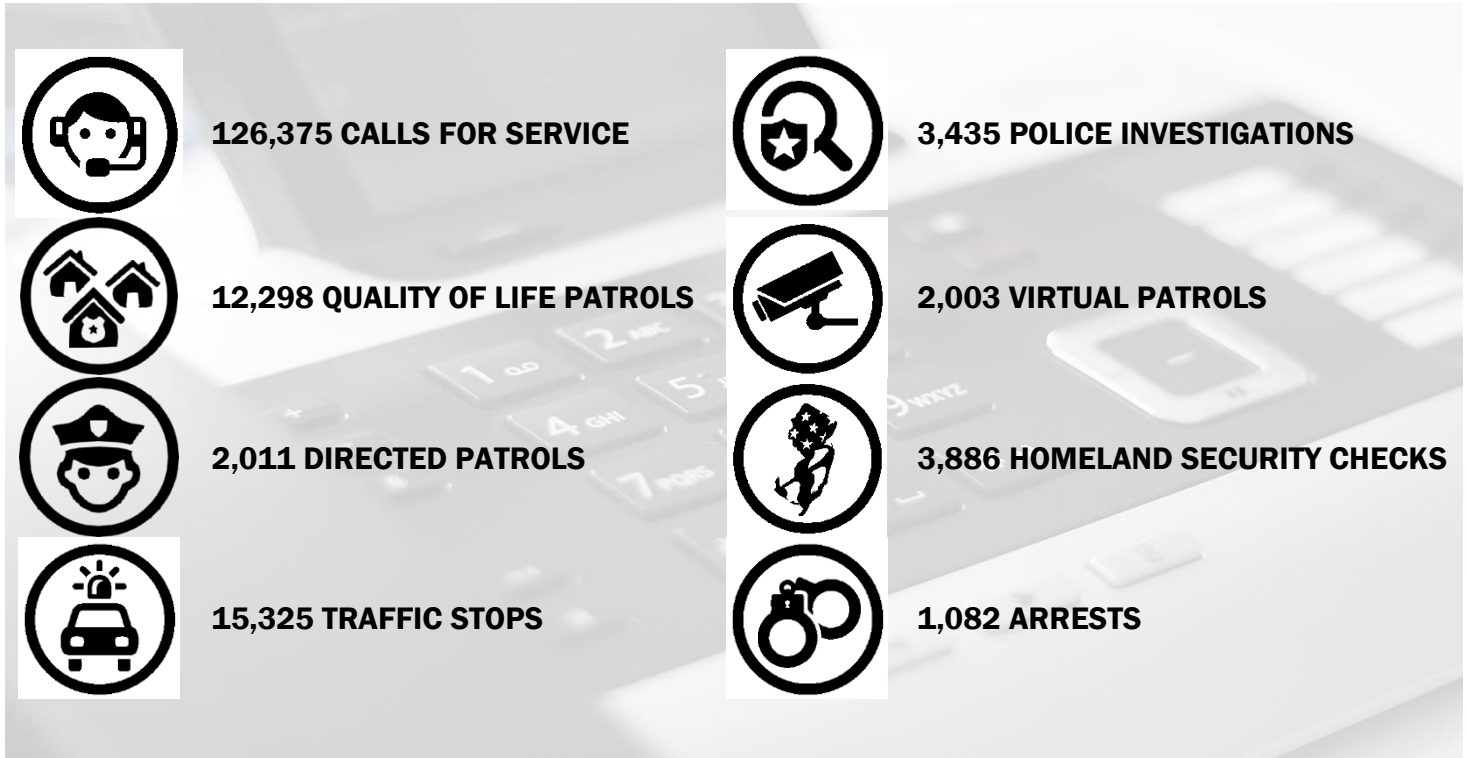
2018 Totals	Traffic Accidents	Tows	Citations	D.U.I.
January	255	179	2554	7
February	207	145	2569	7
March	244	141	2902	5
April	215	162	3265	5
May	258	132	2476	4
June	258	98	2137	9
July	262	82	1807	8
August	271	98	1772	5
September	293	99	1584	3
October	288	124	1900	7
November	309	134	1881	9
December	298	124	2275	12
Total	3,158	1,518	27,122	81



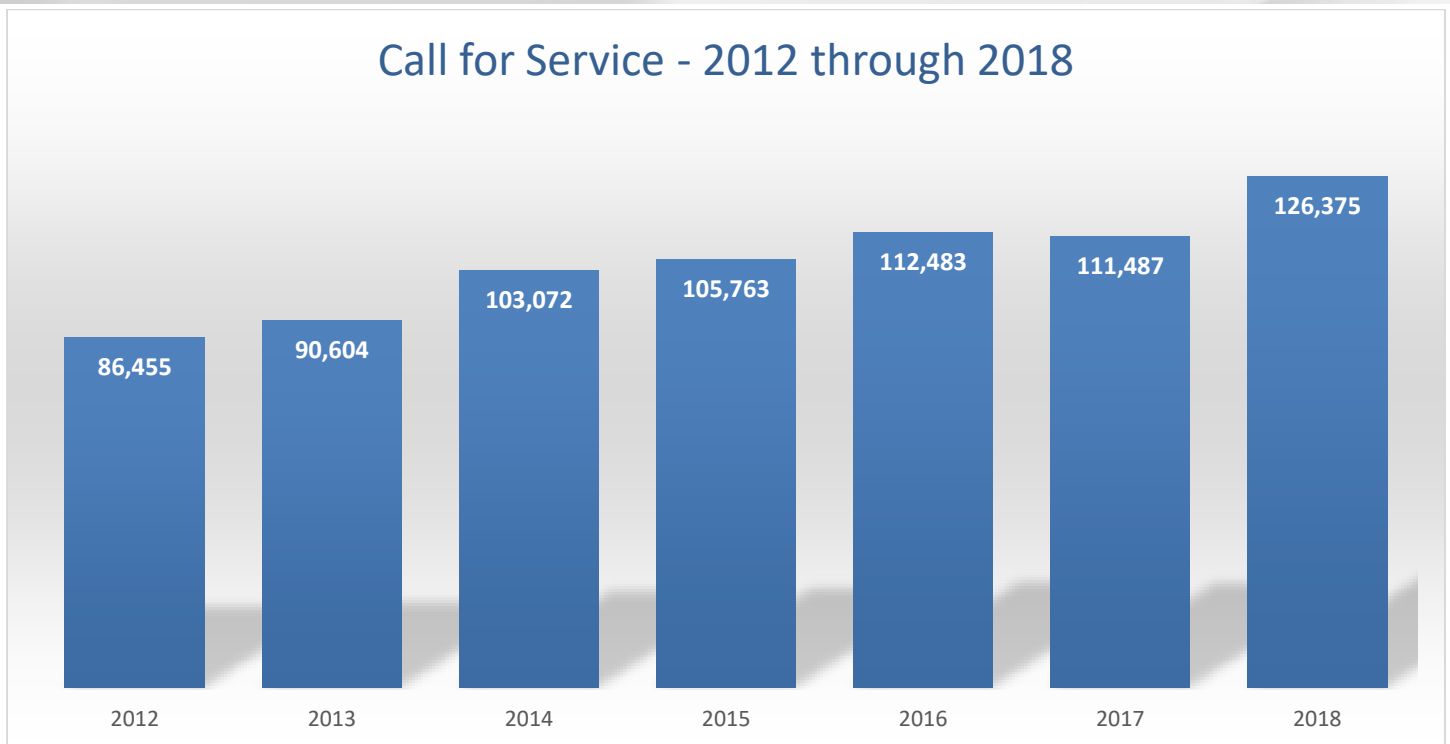


Calls for Service

BY THE NUMBERS

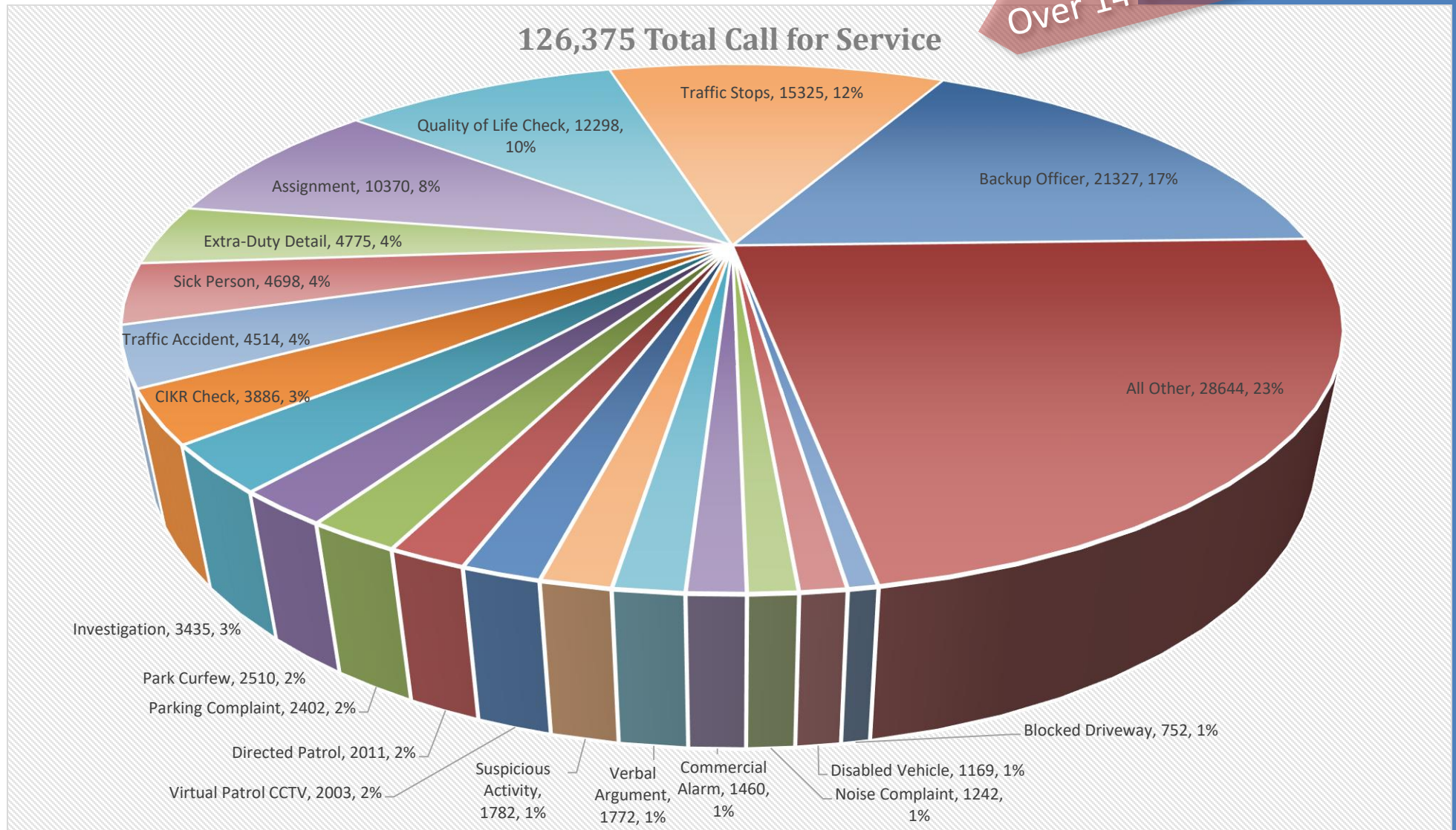


Call for Service - 2012 through 2018



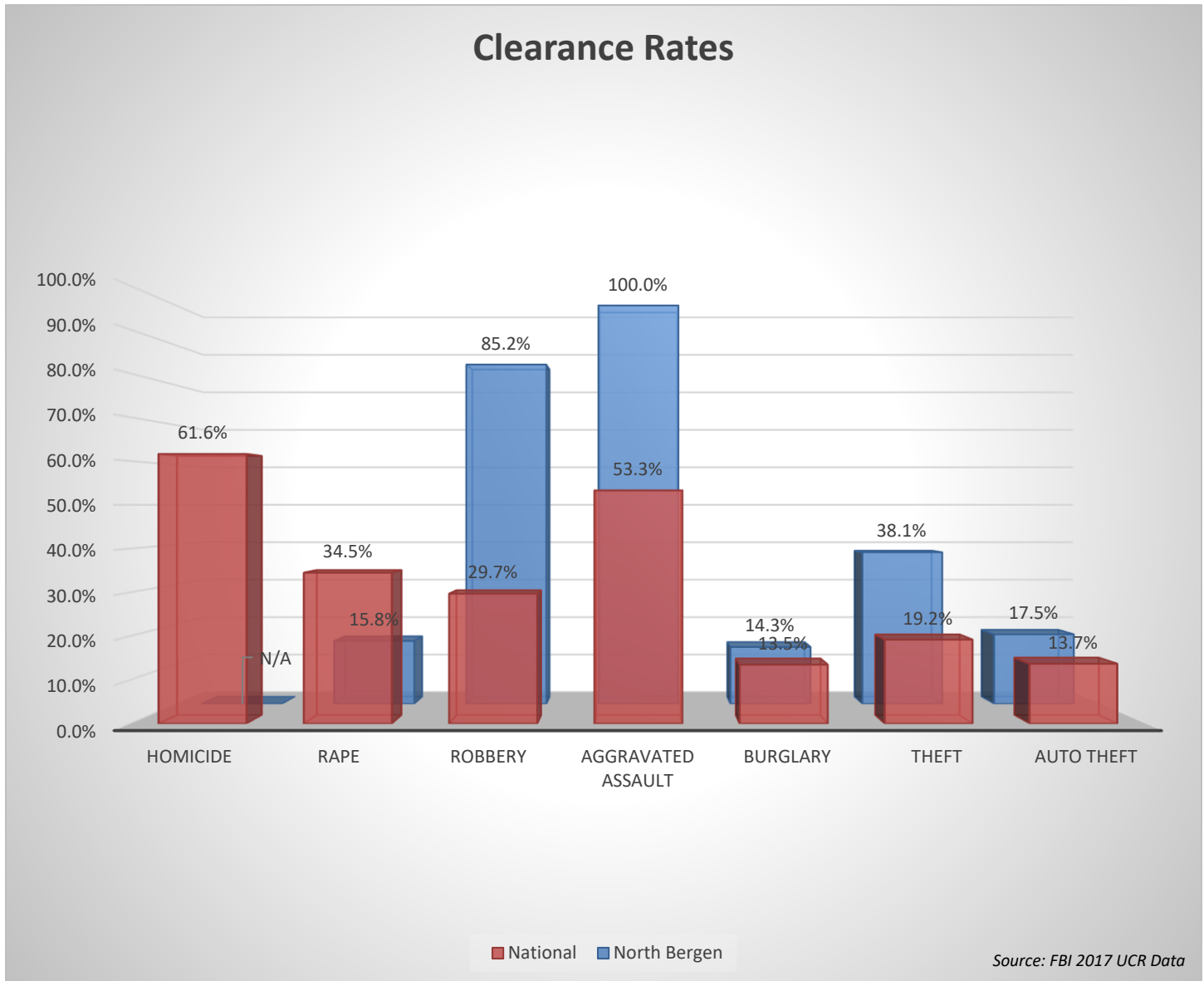
Calls for Service – Breakdown

Over 14 calls per hour





Clearance Rates



Under the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, law enforcement agencies can clear or “close” cases in one of two ways: by arrest or by exceptional means. Exceptional means include elements that are beyond law enforcement’s control and that prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender (e.g. death of the offender, denial of extradition, etc.) The North Bergen Police Department has double the clearance rates of the national average for many UCR crime categories as a result of diligent investigators, collaborative efforts with other law enforcement agencies and resources, and technology advances.



Notable Cases

Gun Arrests



During a street encounter, a North Bergen Police Officer made an arrest of a male armed with a handgun and in possession of heroin. The North Bergen Police Detective Bureau conducted a follow-up investigation and traced the firearm to an individual who resided in Weehawken. North Bergen detectives conducted a joint investigation with the Hudson County Prosecutors Office and the Weehawken Police Department to

apprehend the individual who was selling the firearms to purchase heroin. The operation consisted of mobile surveillance to follow the suspect to various locations where he stored and loaned the firearms. The suspect was subsequently arrested, and three firearms were recovered from various locations. The legal owner of the firearms maintained that he had no knowledge of their whereabouts. This investigation eventually led to the seizure of multiple handguns, assault rifles and ammunition that were in the possession of an owner that eventually was arrested and had all weapons seized.



A North Bergen Police Detective conducting a follow-up investigation at a local hotel was interrupted when he observed a suspicious male and female in the parking lot of the hotel. During the course of his field interview, the officer detected an odor of marijuana emanating from their vehicle. The detective detained the two suspects for further investigation which led to the discovery of a defaced handgun in the vehicle. During the investigation the suspect qualified and was successfully referred for federal *Trigger Lock* prosecution and is now facing federal criminal charges for the handgun possession.



The North Bergen Police Department conducted an investigation to determine the whereabouts of a suspect who was wanted for committing an aggravated assault. The suspect of the attack was known to the investigating officers but was evading capture. During the course of the investigation, detectives obtained additional information that the suspect was in possession of a firearm. Utilizing various informants and databases, detectives were able to locate where the suspect was hiding. A search of the premises led to the recovery of a defaced firearm.



Notable Cases

Carjacking



An attempt to sell a motor vehicle turned into a major crime investigation. A North Bergen Township resident posted his car for sale on the Internet where he was contacted by an individual who was interested in purchasing it. The suspect requested to test drive the vehicle and the victim allowed the suspect to test-drive the vehicle along with the victim's 17-year old

son. The suspect subsequently drove to Newark where he brandished a handgun at the victim's son and told him to get out of the vehicle leaving the juvenile stranded in Newark. Using various law enforcement resources including license plate readers and CCTV video footage, North Bergen Police detectives were able to identify the actor along with a female co-conspirator and her personal vehicle. The investigation also generated social media evidence of the suspect. The North Bergen Police and the FBI Violet Crimes Task Force conducted a joint investigation to apprehend the offender. The individual was also a suspect in another theft of a vehicle in another jurisdiction.

Theft Ring

After a crime trend was identified, North Bergen Police detectives reviewed several investigations involving vehicle thefts and thefts of construction equipment. Detectives conducted an analysis of the crime data and the investigation revealed a distinct pattern where trucks were stolen contemporaneous to the theft of various construction equipment. It was determined that a small group of individuals were



stealing pickup trucks and using the stolen vehicles to remove trailers off construction sites. The equipment stolen was valued at well over \$100,000. North Bergen CCTV cameras and Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR's) played a crucial role in tracking down and apprehending the suspects.

Taxi Robbery

The Department investigated reports of a taxi driver who was robbing passengers that were intoxicated. The investigation led to the apprehension of a male and female duo who were committing these robberies. Several months later, another robbery was reported with a similar description. North Bergen Police detectives conducted surveillance on the previous suspects' residence and began tracking their movements. The current suspects were in possession of a cell phone that was acquired from the victim of the most recent robbery. The detectives began tracking the stolen phone and established that the locations of the phone coincided with the suspects' movement. During surveillance, the suspects were also observed travelling to various jewelry stores attempting to sell the victim's jewelry. North Bergen Detectives conducted a motor vehicle stop and recovered the proceeds from the robbery. Both suspects were arrested and charged again, and their vehicle was seized.



Notable Cases

Human Trafficking

The North Bergen Police Department conducted an investigation related to suspicious flyers advertising a modeling agency. It was determined that the information contained within the advertisement could potentially lead to the exploitation of juvenile females indicative of human trafficking. North Bergen detectives conducted a joint undercover operation with the FBI, New Jersey State Police



and Hudson County Prosecutor's Office to determine the identity of the individual posting the flyers. Undercover officers placed phone calls to the number posted on the flyer posing as juvenile females in order to set up a meeting with the suspect. The suspect advised the undercover officer that his intentions were to make a pornographic film with her and that she would be compensated for her participation. Further interaction with the suspect made it apparently clear that he wanted to engage in sexual acts with the undercover officer who was posing as a 15-year old girl. When the suspect came to North Bergen to meet the undercover officer, he was arrested. The North Bergen Police Department's rapid and proactive response to the investigation averted the potential for further victimization.



The North Bergen Police conducted a joint Human Trafficking Operation in conjunction with the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, New Jersey State Police, Human Services, and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. The goal was to identify juvenile and adult victims of Human Trafficking and to provide appropriate services for anyone requesting assistance. The operation consisted of a law enforcement outreach to females who engaged in prostitution. During the operation, various victims were

interviewed by trained counselors who educated them regarding the services that are available through the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, and law enforcement. The encounters gave victims a chance to become educated regarding the dangers of Human Trafficking, the availability of victim services, and to spread the message regarding the outreach program.

Home Invasion

The North Bergen Police responded to a home invasion involving gunshots being fired. Responding officers recovered evidence of a bullet in the wall of the residence. The investigation led to the discovery of the vehicle that was involved in the crime. Utilizing the Department's CCTV cameras and Automated License Plate Readers to track the suspect vehicle, evidence was obtained to link the suspects to the crime. North Bergen police detectives obtained the identities of the suspects and recovered the firearm used in the commission of the crime. The North Bergen Police and the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force is conducting a joint operation to apprehend the additional involved suspect who is currently in hiding.

(Note: The suspect in this case was apprehended in Oklahoma and extradited on March 27, 2019)



Notable Cases

Commercial Thefts

North Bergen Police responded to a local hotel on a report of an armed robbery. The victim reported that an unknown male had entered her room armed with a handgun and demanded money. The victim struggled with the suspect and was struck on the head with the firearm where she sustained injury. North Bergen Police were able to track the suspect vehicle described as a white taxi from New York City. Utilizing the North Bergen Police CCTV cameras and Automated License Plate Readers, the taxi was positively identified and tracked using video surveillance and plate data from various locations. The taxi driver was located and interviewed leading detectives to suspect that he was involved in the robbery based on conflicting evidence. Subsequently, the taxi driver as well as two occupants of the vehicle were positively identified and arrested. Detectives were able to track down and arrest an additional suspect who conspired to commit this robbery.



North Bergen Police investigated a robbery at a local Deli. The suspect fled in a vehicle which was identified by North Bergen Police detectives utilizing CCTV video footage. Detectives provided the vehicle description to other law enforcement agencies in an attempt to identify the suspect vehicle. During the investigation, several other law enforcement agencies reported that they had experienced a crime trend with a similar vehicle. A joint investigation by several agencies led to positive identification of the vehicle and the apprehension of the suspect. The suspect was found to have committed other crimes throughout the region, including a bank robbery in Jersey City.

Aggravated Assault



A brutal stabbing outside a local restaurant led to a multijurisdictional investigation and manhunt of the MS-13 gang members who were suspected of orchestrating the attack. North Bergen Police responded to a call of a fight in progress which had escalated into multiple victims sustaining stab wounds. Officers quickly responded to the scene and were able to apprehend one of the suspects after a brief foot pursuit. Another two suspects fled the scene and went into hiding. As the investigation continued, it was determined that the attack was a result of an MS-13 gang conspiracy. With the assistance of The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Department of Homeland Security, as well as the Union City and West New York Police Departments, the wanted suspects were subsequently identified and apprehended.



Goals for 2019

Re-Accreditation

On October 13, 2016, the North Bergen Police Department achieved accredited status from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP). Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement for the police department, its officers, and the community we serve. The attitudes, training, and actions of the North Bergen Police Department reflect our dedication to the pursuance and compliance of the standards contained in this program. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective reflecting a commitment to advancement of the law enforcement profession. The accreditation process however does not conclude upon receiving accredited certification. It is an ongoing practice which is reinforced and achieved only by a commitment to oversight. Accreditation requires that over one hundred professional standards, many of which have multiple objectives, are achieved, maintained and verified by the NJSACOP every three years. In 2019, the North Bergen Police Department must once again demonstrate its commitment to the process to maintain its status.

Body Worn Camera Pilot Program

The North Bergen Police Department has requested capital funds in order to pilot an exploratory program designed to examine the feasibility of implementing dashboard and/or body worn cameras. While not mandated, the Department recognized that these devices, while costly to implement and maintain, may help increase public and officer safety, reduce liability, increase transparency, and assist with criminal prosecution.

Expand Conducted Energy Device (CED) Program

The emergence of Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs, also known as Tasers) as a less-than-lethal use-of-force option for police departments has been a substantial benefit to both the public and to law enforcement. With proper training and use, CEDs have reduced the risk of harm to both police officers and suspects. The North Bergen Police Department currently issues CEDs to supervisory personnel. For 2019, the Department will expand its program by assigned CEDs to specially trained non-supervisory personnel. The New Jersey CED program is arguably the safest and most accountable alternative use-of-force option in the United States. Funding for the purchase of additional CEDs is pending through Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

Full-Time Civilian Crime Analyst

In furtherance of its commitment to combating crime and disorder through intelligence-led policing, The North Bergen Police Department has budgeted for the creation of a full-time crime analyst position. Crime analysis has become an essential tool in our efforts to enhance public safety, identify emerging trends, allocate resources, and plan crime-prevention strategies. The value of integrating a civilian crime analyst into our agency is to increase the effectiveness of our crime reduction strategies by directing our finite resources in a more efficient manner. A civilian analyst with strong computer and analytical skills will also act a force-multiplier by increasing the efficacy of our analytical unit which will allow command staff to make better use of the deluge of data the Department collects on a daily basis.

Photo Finish



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“Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. As the chief law enforcement officer of this community, I am proud to lead the 135 men and women of the NBPD into the year 2019. Our main concern is making North Bergen a safe place to live, work and visit.”

Robert J. Dowd—Chief of Police