



2022 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS

# Vehicular Pursuits 2018-2022

ERIC D. ENGLISH, CHIEF OF POLICE

Published March 23, 2023

ONE TEAM. ONE COMMUNITY.  
**SAFER TOGETHER**



[HENRICO.US/POLICE](https://henrico.us/police)



### **NOTE: Change in COVID Protocols**

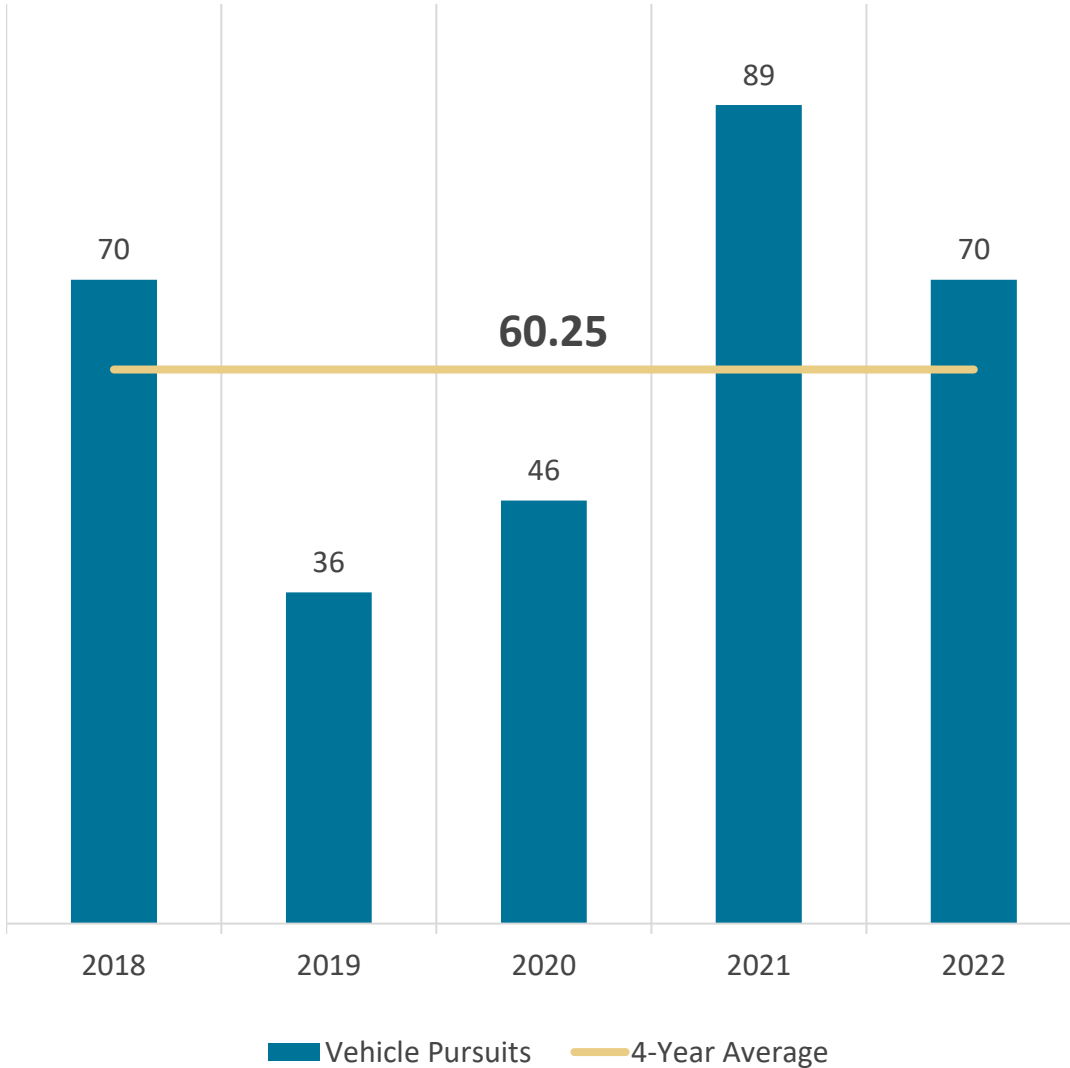
Pursuits decreased significantly from 2021 to 2022. However, the number of pursuits exceeded the previous four-year average of 60.25 pursuits per year.

The modification of employer reporting requirements, due to changes in COVID protocols, has resulted in less remote work schedules and increased traffic volume. Traffic congestion is a possible factor in the decreased distance traveled during pursuits. The increased traffic volume limits pursuit speeds and evasion opportunities.

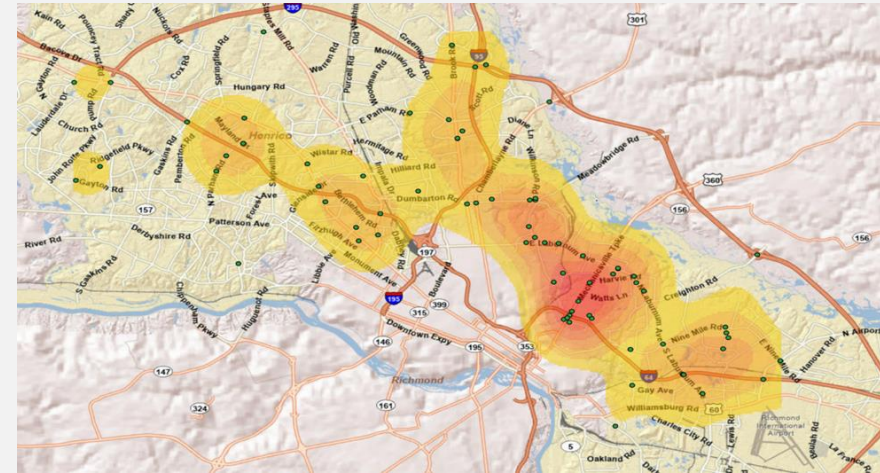


# 2022 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS OCCURRENCES & LOCATION

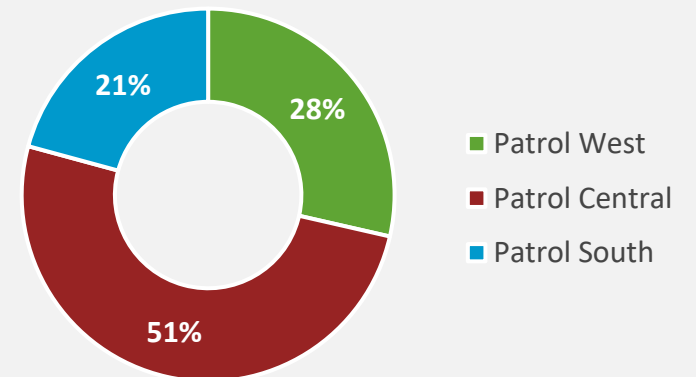
TOTAL PURSUIT INCIDENTS BY CALENDAR YEAR (2018-2022)  
AND FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE



## 2022 PURSUIT START LOCATIONS



## 2022 PURSUIT INCIDENTS BY PATROL STATION

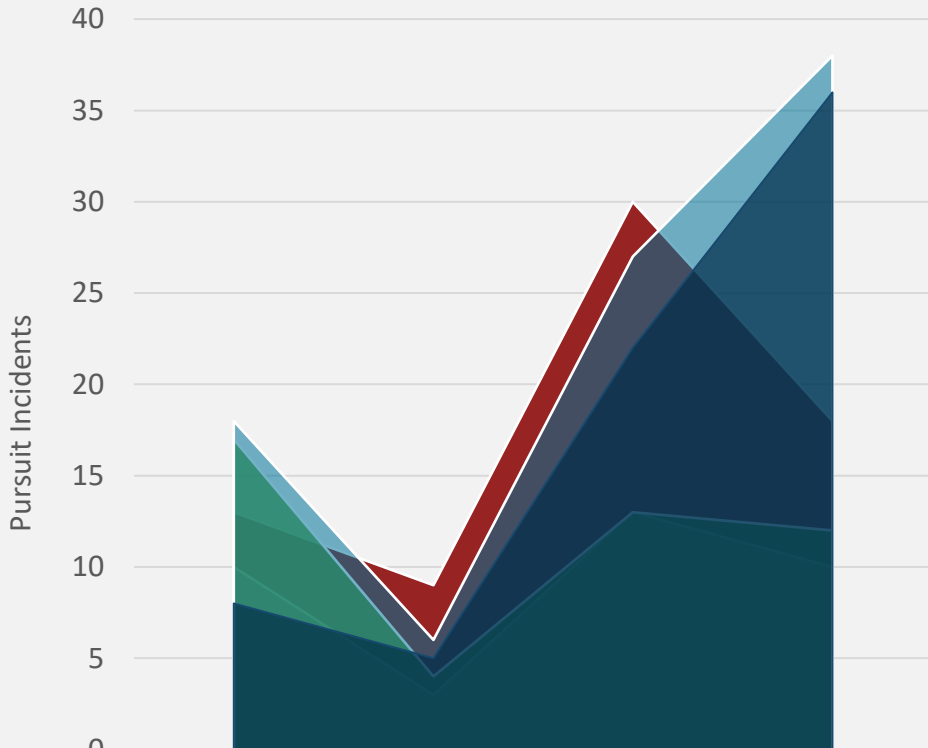




# 2022 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS INCIDENT OCCURRENCES

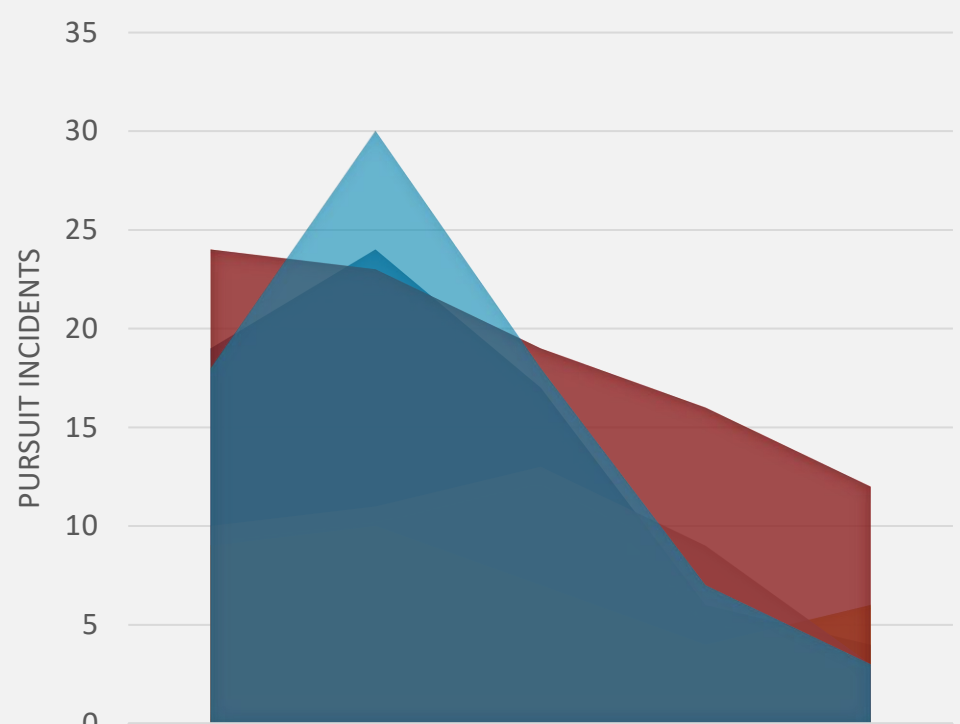
In 2022, the most prevalent time for a vehicle pursuit to be initiated was 6 p.m. - 12 a.m., with an average distance of 2.7 miles from initiation to conclusion.

TIME OF DAY PURSUIT INCIDENTS OCCURRED, 2018-2022



	12-6 am	6 am-Noon	12-6 pm	6 pm-12 am
2018	13	9	30	18
2019	10	3	13	10
2020	17	4	13	12
2021	18	6	27	38
2022	8	5	22	36

DISTANCE PURSUIT INCIDENTS TRAVELED, 2018-2022



	< 1 Mile	1-2 Miles	2.1-5 Miles	5.1-10 Miles	10+ Miles
2018	19	24	17	6	4
2019	9	10	7	4	6
2020	10	11	13	9	3
2021	24	23	19	16	12
2022	18	30	18	7	3



## 2022 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS

### REASONING FOR FLIGHT & PURSUIT

SUSPECT REASONING FOR FLEEING, 2018-2022		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reason for Flight	% Total 2018-2021	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents
Unknown/No Statement	52.2%	29	14	19	57	37
DUI	13.1%	7	10	9	4	3
Mental Health	2.6%	6	-	-	-	-
Knew Vehicle was Stolen	8.3%	6	5	1	7	11
Scared	6.6%	4	1	3	7	4
Possession of Narcotics	3.1%	4	1	2	-	-
Possession of Stolen Property	3.1%	1	3	-	3	-
Wanted	5.3%	-	2	4	6	6
Revoked/Suspended License	2.2%	-	-	2	3	2
Didn't want Ticket	0%	-	-	-	-	1
Other	3.5%	-	-	6	2	6

OFFICER REASONING FOR PURSUIT, 2018-2022*		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reason for Pursuit Initiation	% Total 2018-2021	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents
Vehicle Flagrantly Reckless Prior to Pursuit	69.6%	49	29	39	57	30
Armed and Dangerous or Committed/Attempted Violent Felony	16.4%	9	6	4	22	9
Stolen Vehicle	13.2%	8	21	2	2	21
Committing/Committed Commercial or Residential Burglary	0%	-	-	-	-	-
Assisting Another Agency	0.8%	1	-	1	-	-
Wanted	0%	-	-	-	-	10

\* Data not collected prior to 2018; Multiple reasons for initiating pursuits may be documented in some incidents.

Source: Professional Standards, Quality Assurance Unit Annual Pursuit Analysis





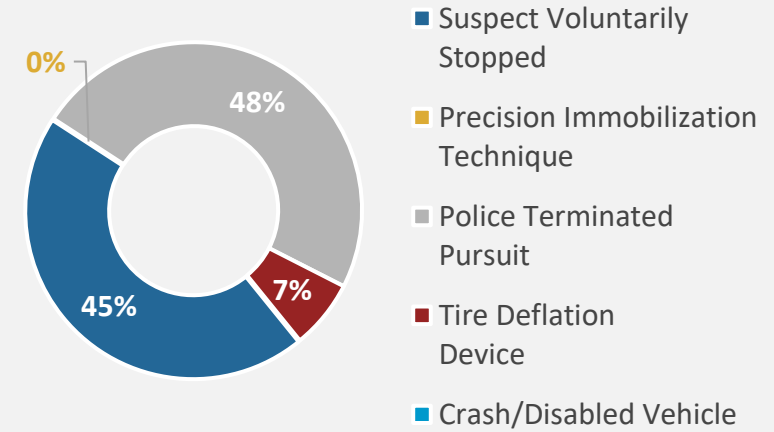
# 2022 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS CONCLUSIONS & NON-PURSUIITS

EVENTS CONCLUDING PURSUITS, 2018-2022		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Events Concluding Pursuits	% Total 2018-2021	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents
Suspect Voluntarily Stopped	26.2%	11	18	7	30	27
Precision Immobilization Technique	13.1%	12	8	7	6	-
Police Terminated Pursuit	33.7%	30	7	17	31	29
Tire Deflation Device	5.6%	3	-	5	6	4
Crash/Disabled vehicle	21.4%	14	3	10	27	19

In 2022 there were 62 instances in which officers elected not to engage a fleeing suspect as it did not meet established policy criteria and the danger to the public outweighed the severity of the offense in each of these instances.

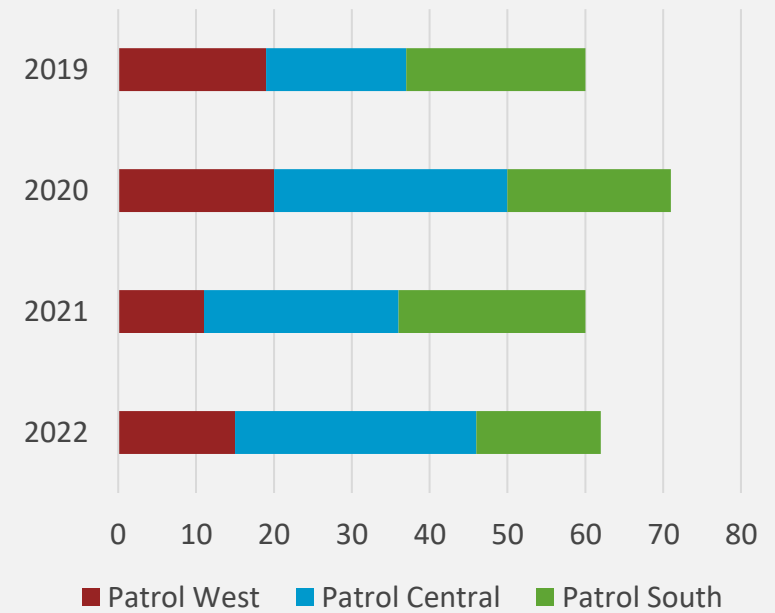
Source: Professional Standards, Quality Assurance Unit Annual Pursuit Analysis

## 2022 EVENTS CONCLUDING PURSUITS BY TYPE



## DISREGARD SIGNAL TO STOP, NON-PURSUIITS, 2019-2022\*

Officers elected not to pursue despite signaling vehicle to stop.



\*Disregard Signal to Stop data not collected prior to 2018



## 2022 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS POLICY & PROCEDURES

[View the Division's official  
Vehicular Pursuit policy.](#)

### POLICY

The authority of a law enforcement officer to engage in vehicular pursuits stems from the duty to apprehend law violators. When officers engage in vehicular pursuits utilizing emergency lights and siren, they shall do so in accordance with existing statutes and this directive. Since vehicle pursuits create the potential in which officers, citizens, and/or the suspect may be killed or seriously injured, pursuits shall only be initiated and continued in accordance with the provisions set forth herein.

The decision to initiate a pursuit is a difficult one. The decision to terminate a pursuit is even more difficult. Professional judgment and objective reasonableness are the determining factors. It shall be noted that a police officer and police supervisor can be held civilly liable for damages and injuries that occur during a pursuit. The pursuit policy for vessels is the same as vehicles.

### DEFINITIONS

- **Active School Zone:** School zone that is controlled by signs with flashing yellow lights indicating a reduction in speed or in residential areas where school zones are denoted by road signage and the school is actively accepting or dismissing students.
- **Armed and dangerous:** A person who has committed or attempted to commit any offense involving the unlawful discharge, display, possession, or use of a weapon or explosive device in such a manner as to provide an officer reason to believe that the person presents an immediate threat to the public.

#### *Forcible Stopping Techniques*

- **Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT):** The intentional act of utilizing a Police Division vehicle in a prescribed manner to physically contact a fleeing vehicle in order to force it from its original course of travel to a stopped position.
- **Intentional Contact** – The act of deliberately making contact with a suspect's vehicle for the purpose of containing the suspect's vehicle. Intentional contact may be used as part of a preplanned vehicle containment or dynamic vehicle containment. Intentional contact is a trained containment technique to be performed only on slow moving or stationary vehicles. For additional information on Intentional Contact see LP-08B.
- **Roadblocks:** Means the establishment of a barrier across all or a part of the traveled portion of a roadway. This barrier may be moving (as in the case of vehicles placed in front of a fleeing vehicle), or stationary. Roadblocks are frequently established using police vehicles as a barrier, but may utilize other objects
- **Ramming** – the intentional act of using a Police Division vehicle to deliberately contact another vehicle with the intent of preventing or impeding the other vehicle from moving or fleeing. PIT and Intentional Contact are not included in ramming.
- **Stinger:** A device designed to stretch across the roadway with hollow spikes designed to puncture tires of vehicles that run over them, slowly deflating air from the tire slowing the vehicle and ultimately bringing it to a stop.
- **Stinger Rat Trap:** A compact, pocket-sized unit that can be quickly placed under a stationary tire of an unoccupied vehicle, quickly deflating the tire, disabling the vehicle to minimize the potential for vehicular pursuit.
- **Reckless Driving:** Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person (Code of Virginia § 46.2-852).
- **Terminate:** To immediately cease pursuit, deactivate emergency equipment and pull over at the next safe location.
- **Vehicle Pursuit:** An active attempt by a law enforcement officer operating an emergency vehicle while displaying flashing, blinking or alternating emergency lights, and sounding an intermittent siren in an attempt to apprehend one or more occupants of a moving vehicle
- **Violent Felony:** Any felony involving the use or threatened use of physical force or violence against another person including, but not limited to, murder, manslaughter, mob-related offenses, rape, kidnapping or abduction, robbery, malicious wounding, escape by force, placing or detonating a destructive/explosive device or bomb.

