



2023 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS

Vehicular Pursuits 2019-2023

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VEHICULAR PURSUIT

Pursuits increased significantly (58.6%) from 2022 to 2023. The previous five-year average was 62.2 pursuits; 2023 was a 78.5% increase over the five-year average.

Officers' reasons for initiating a pursuit were similar from 2022 to 2023, with one exception – pursuing a stolen vehicle rose from 27.7% in 2022 to 37.7% in 2023.

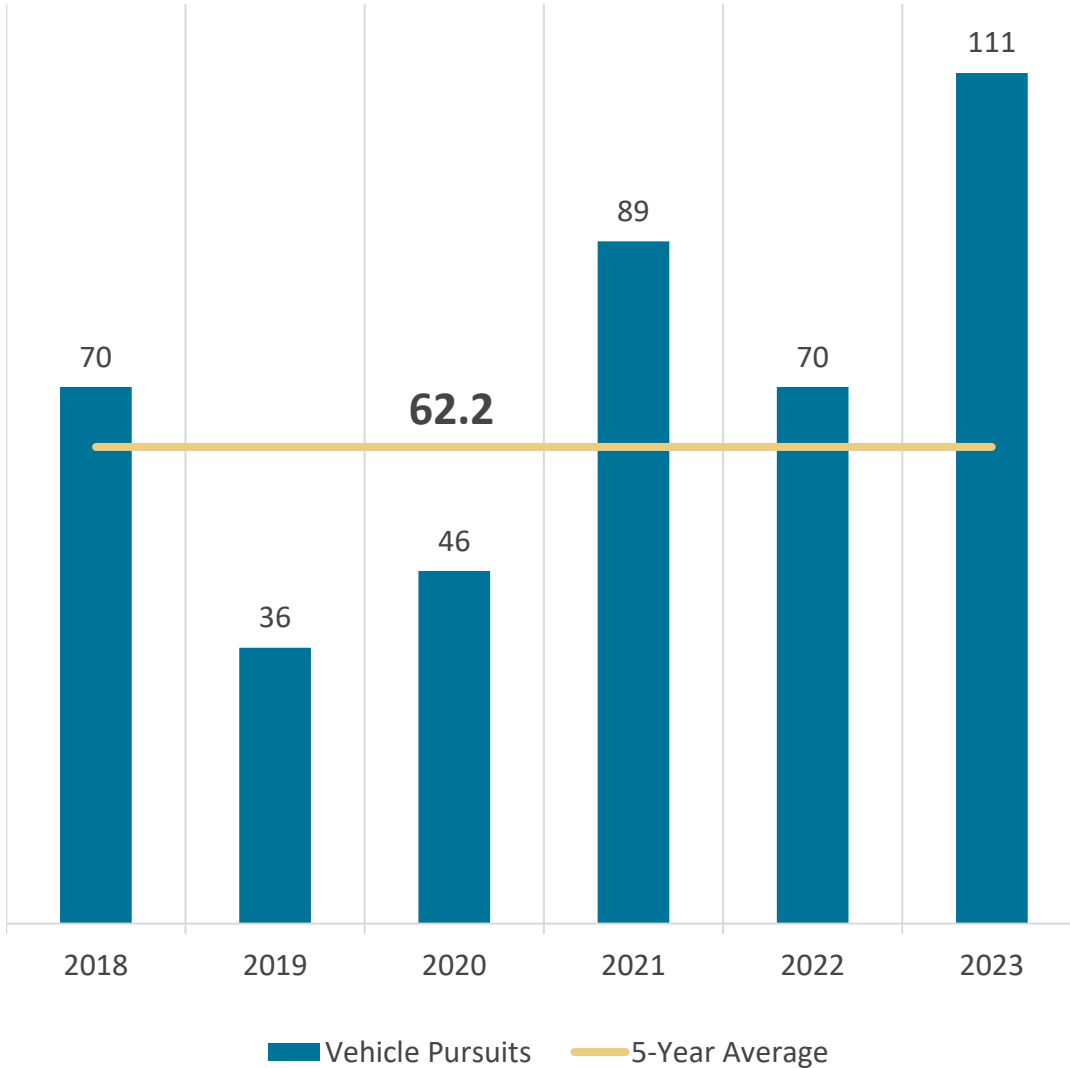
Analysis of the age of the pursued reveals a consistent average age of 30, +/- two years, for the last three years. However, a significant decrease in age was evident upon calculation of the data mode for the last four years. **The most prominent age for the data group in 2023 was 16 years old.**

The Police Division continues to seek enhanced pursuit training opportunities for sworn personnel and continuously evaluates pursuit data for policy revision considerations and officer development. These measures in conjunction with proper equipment allocation, policy transparency, and community feedback enhance community safety during pursuit events.



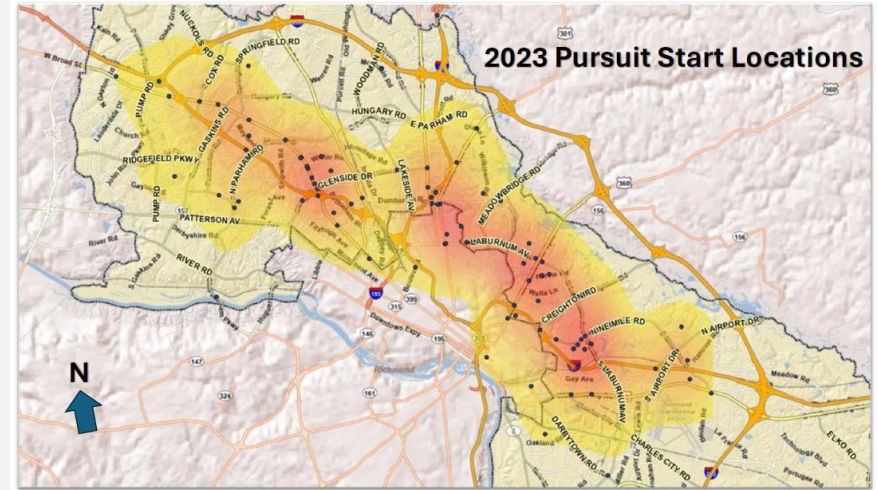
2023 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS OCCURRENCES & LOCATION

TOTAL PURSUIT INCIDENTS BY CALENDAR YEAR (2018-2023)
AND FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE (2018-2022)

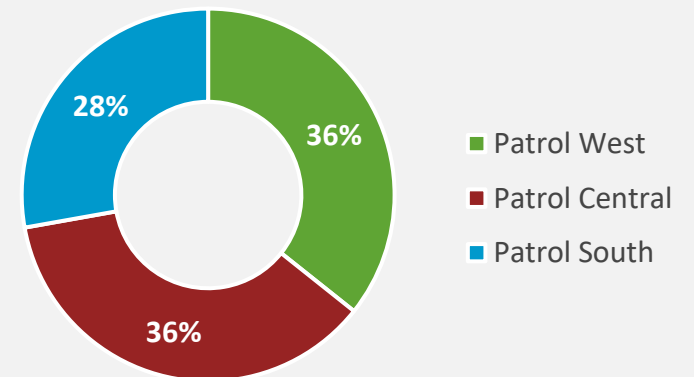


Source: Professional Standards, Quality Assurance Unit Annual Pursuit Analysis

2023 PURSUIT START LOCATIONS



2023 PURSUIT INCIDENTS BY PATROL STATION

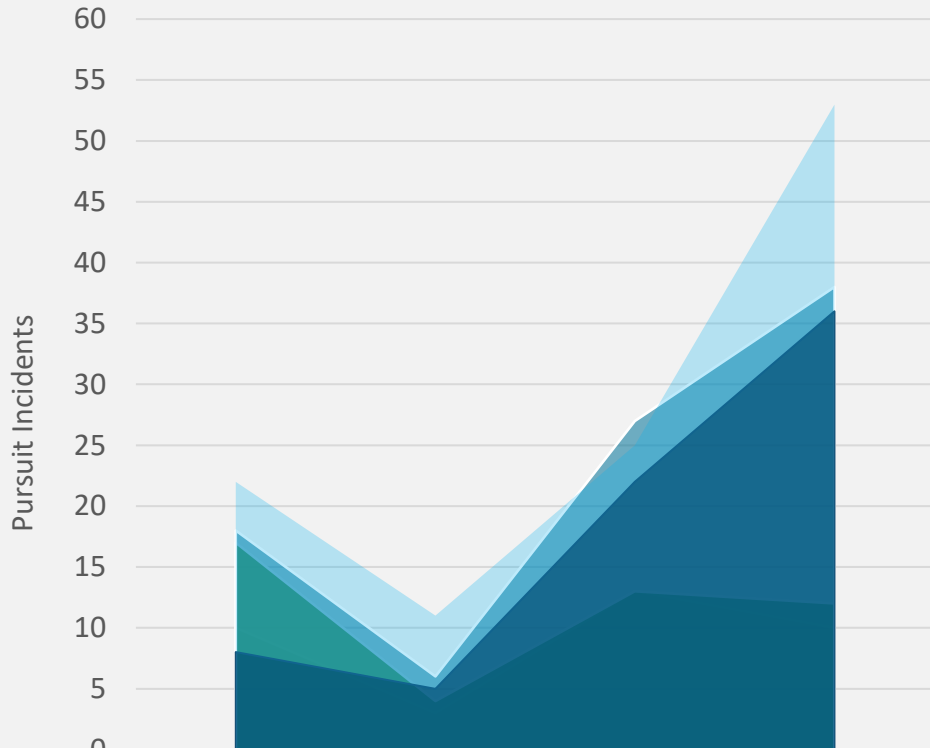




2023 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS INCIDENT OCCURRENCES

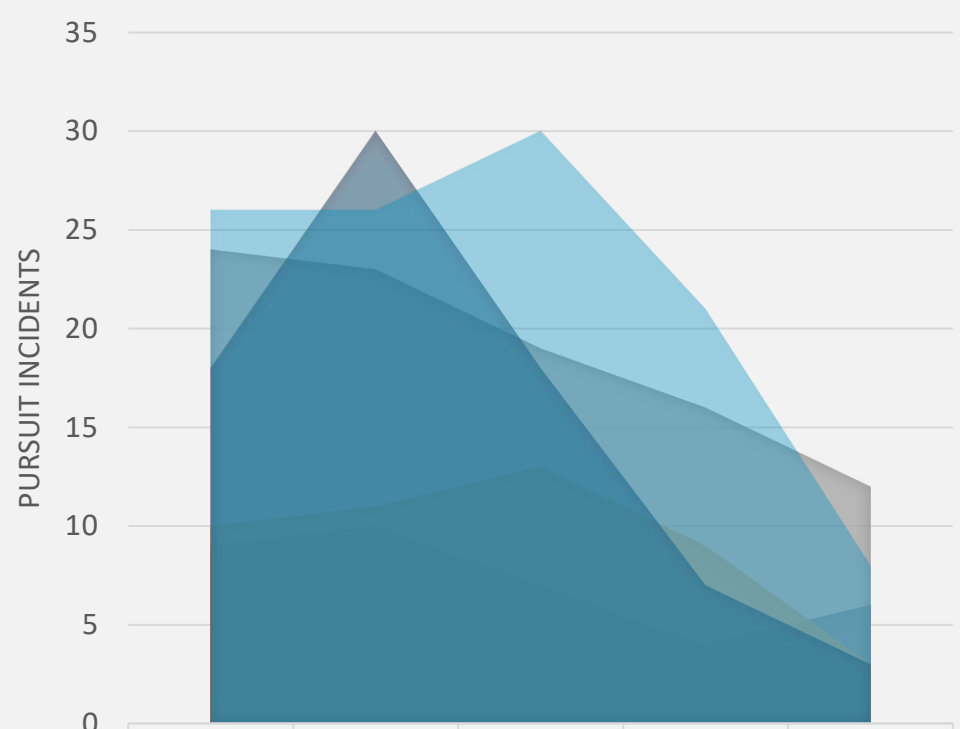
In 2023, the most prevalent time for a vehicle pursuit to be initiated was 6 p.m. - 12 a.m., with an average distance of 3.79 miles from initiation to conclusion.

TIME OF DAY PURSUIT INCIDENTS OCCURRED, 2019-2023



	12-6 am	6 am-Noon	12-6 pm	6 pm-12 am
2019	10	3	13	10
2020	17	4	13	12
2021	18	6	27	38
2022	8	5	22	36
2023	22	11	25	53

DISTANCE PURSUIT INCIDENTS TRAVELED, 2019-2023



	< 1 Mile	1-2 Miles	2.1-5 Miles	5.1-10 Miles	10+ Miles
2019	9	10	7	4	6
2020	10	11	13	9	3
2021	24	23	19	16	12
2022	18	30	18	7	3
2023	26	26	30	21	8



2023 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS

REASONING FOR FLIGHT & PURSUIT

SUSPECT REASONING FOR FLEEING, 2019-2023		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reason for Flight	% Total 2019-2023	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents
Unknown/No Statement	52.7%	14	19	57	37	58
DUI	7.7%	10	9	4	3	1
Mental Health	0%	-	-	-	-	-
Knew Vehicle was Stolen	12.3%	5	1	7	11	19
Scared	8%	1	3	7	4	13
Possession of Narcotics	0.9%	1	2	-	-	-
Possession of Stolen Property	2%	3	-	3	-	1
Wanted	8%	2	4	6	6	10
Revoked/Suspended License	2%	-	2	3	2	-
Didn't want Ticket	0.3%	-	-	-	1	-
Other	6.3%	-	6	2	6	8

OFFICER REASONING FOR PURSUIT, 2019-2023		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reason for Pursuit Initiation	% Total 2019-2023	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents
Vehicle Flagrantly Reckless Prior to Pursuit	52.2%	29	39	57	30	37
Armed and Dangerous or Committed/ Attempted Violent Felony	16.6%	6	4	22	9	20
Stolen Vehicle	24.2%	21	2	2	21	43
Assisting Another Agency	0.8%	-	1	-	-	2
Wanted	6.3%	-	-	-	10	13

Source: Professional Standards, Quality Assurance Unit Annual Pursuit Analysis



2023 HENRICO POLICE VEHICULAR PURSUIT STATISTICS CONCLUSIONS & NON-PURSUIT

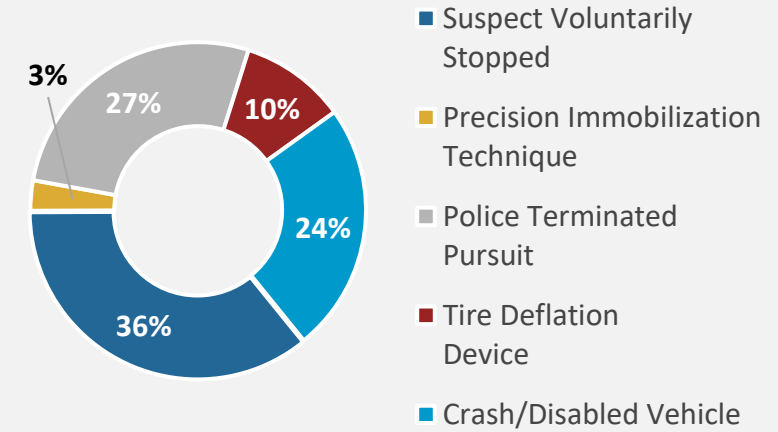
EVENTS CONCLUDING PURSUITS, 2018-2022		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Events Concluding Pursuits	% Total 2018-2021	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents
Suspect Voluntarily Stopped	33%	18	7	30	27	49
Precision Immobilization Technique	6.3%	8	7	6	-	4
Police Terminated Pursuit	30.4%	7	17	31	29	37
Tire Deflation Device	7.3%	-	5	6	4	14
Crash/Disabled vehicle	23.1%	3	10	27	19	33

In 2023 there were 99 instances in which emergency equipment was activated and disregarded by the motorist, but the officer chose not to continue engaging a fleeing suspect as it did not meet established policy criteria. The danger to the public outweighed the severity of the offense in each of these instances, so emergency equipment was deactivated.

There was a 59.68% increase in the number of motorists disregarding a lawful traffic stop from 2022 to 2023.

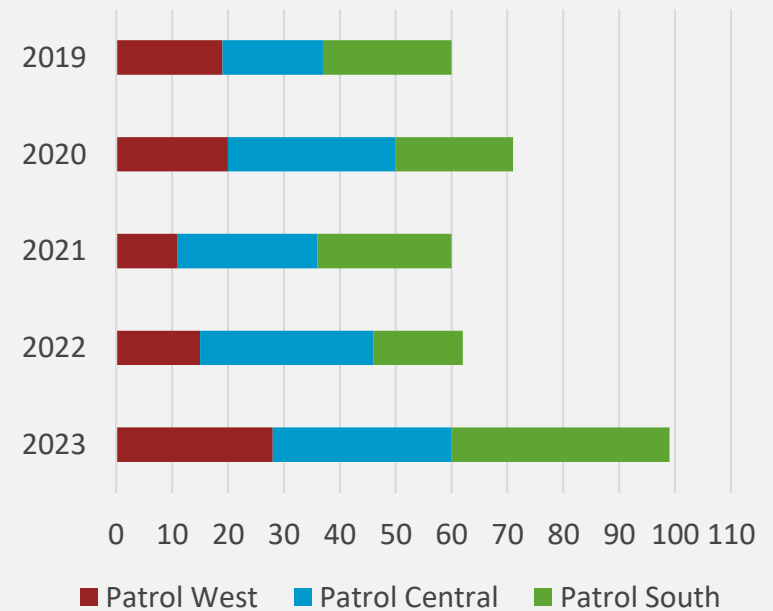
Source: Professional Standards, Quality Assurance Unit Annual Pursuit Analysis

2023 EVENTS CONCLUDING PURSUITS BY TYPE



DISREGARD SIGNAL TO STOP, NON-PURSUIT, 2019-2022

Officers elected not to pursue despite signaling vehicle to stop.





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.
- **Mini Tire Deflation Device:** 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Tire Deflation Device:** 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.
- **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.