



Chattanooga Police Department

Lt Joe Shaw
Director of Training
3200 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406

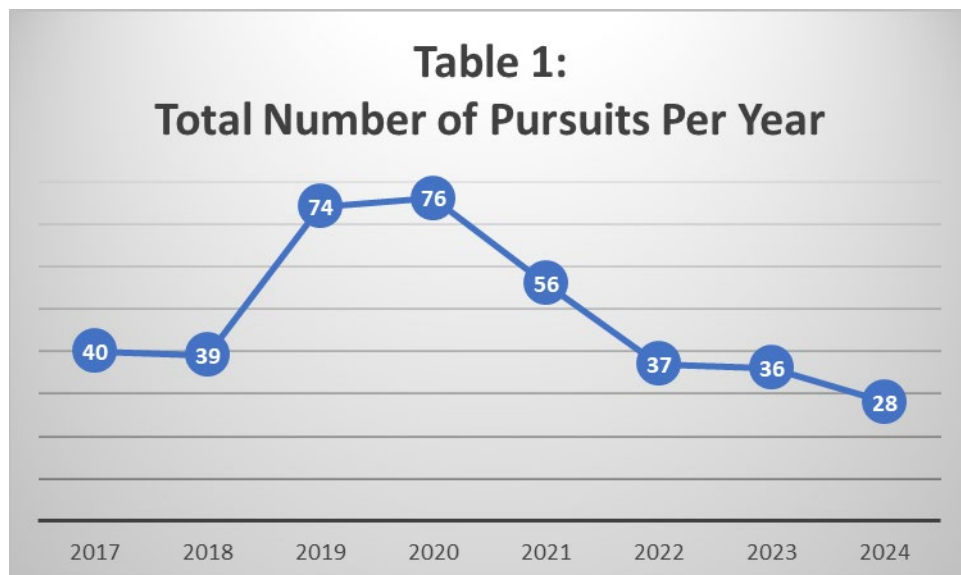


February 10, 2025

Chief of Police John Chambers
Chattanooga Police Department
3410 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Vehicle Pursuits Report (2024)

In 2024, the Chattanooga Police Department had **28** reported vehicle pursuits compared to the 36 reported vehicle pursuits in 2023 (see Table 1). This is a 22% decrease from the previous calendar year. Chattanooga Police Department Policy OPS-02 (Pursuit Driving) governs the pursuit of motor vehicle practice in this agency. The Policy Review Committee reviews the policy at least once every year and makes recommendations for change if needed. Every sworn personnel member of this agency signs off electronically on the policy and any updates on an annual basis. IAPro findings indicate that 93% of Vehicle Pursuits were within policy in 2024, whereas 86% were within policy in 2023.



*Data compiled and analyzed by Dr. Kyle Irwin



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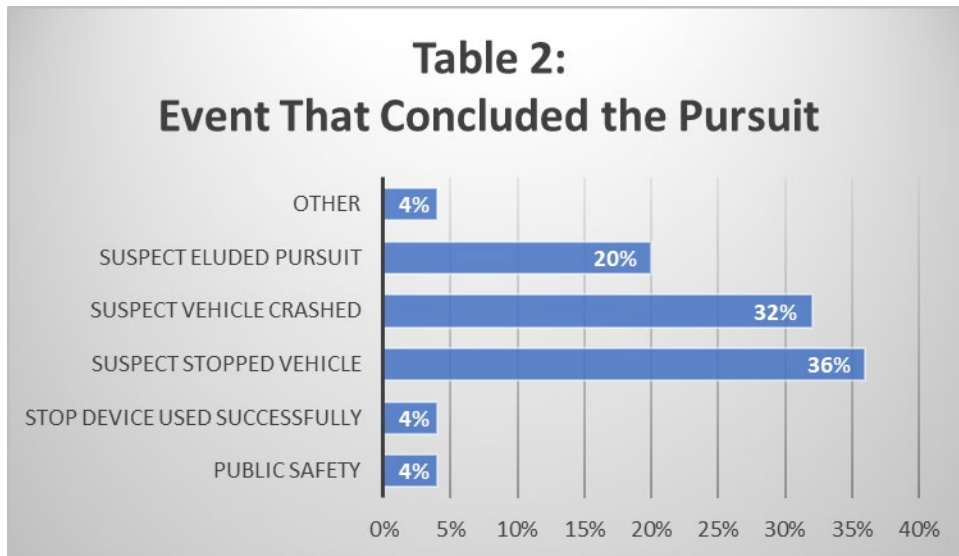
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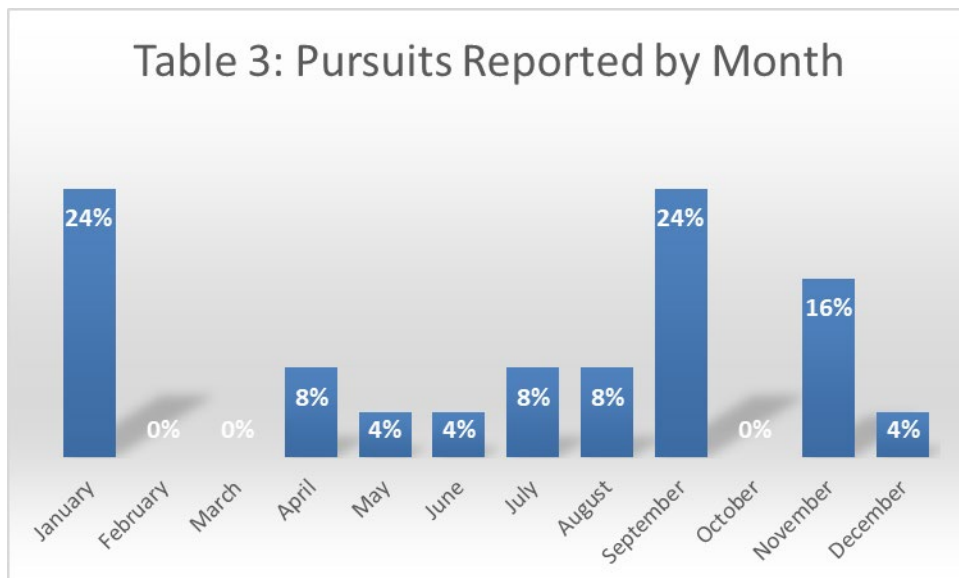
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Of the 28 reported pursuits in which CPD was involved, 89% were initiated by this agency (25), and 4% from Hamilton County (in addition 4% from THP, and another 4% from a separate agency). For the pursuits that happened in 2024, 32% ended due to the suspect vehicle crash (9). Twenty percent (or 6) occurred when the suspect's vehicle eluded pursuit. Data also indicates that a total of 10 occurred when the suspect stopped his/her vehicle (36%).



The reported months with the highest percentage of pursuits were in the months of January (24%) and September (24%). February, March and October were the months with the fewest percentage of reported pursuits (0%) in 2024. In 2023, January had the highest percentage (21%).





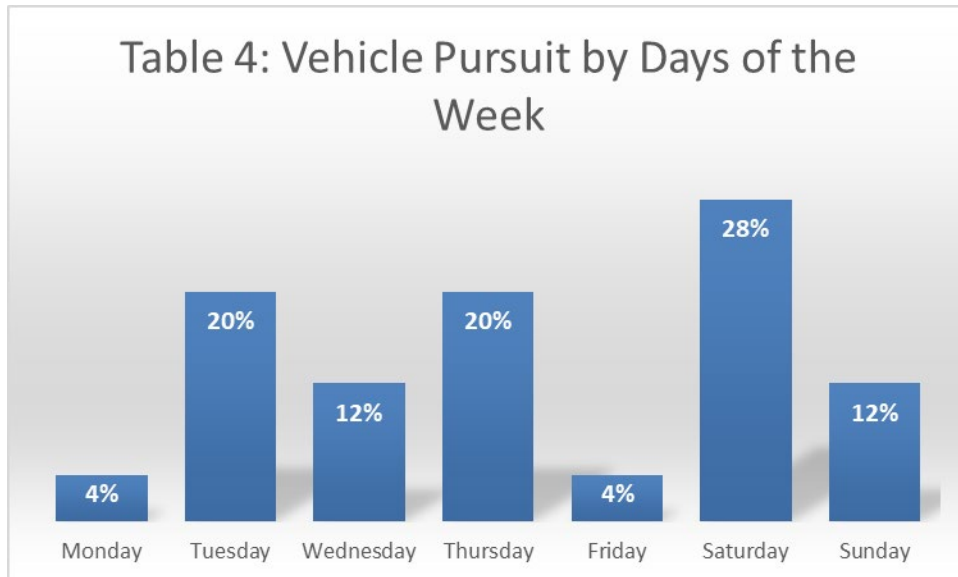
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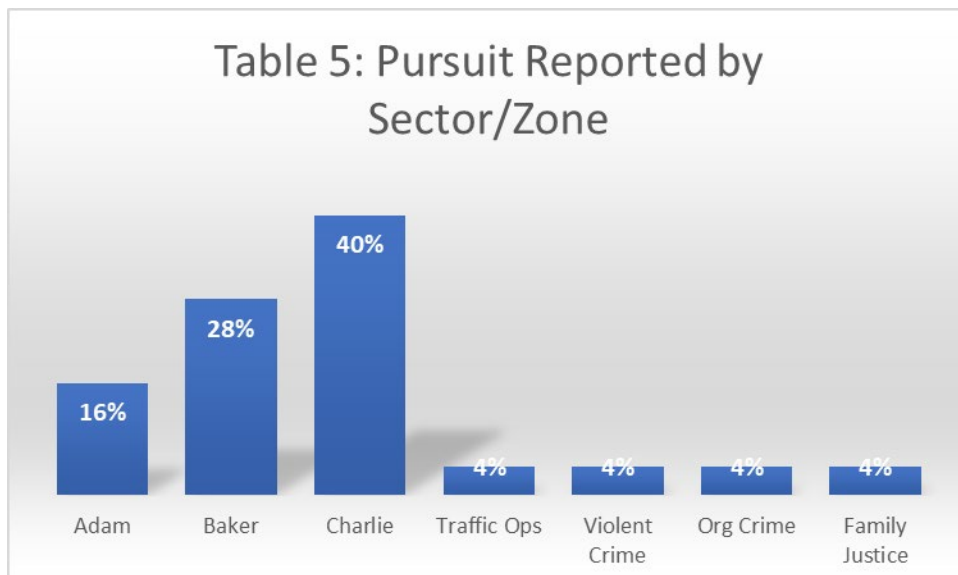
Saturday was the day of the week with the highest percentage of reported vehicle pursuits at 28%, and Monday and Friday the lowest with 4%, respectfully. Saturday was also the highest day in 2023.

Table 4: Vehicle Pursuit by Days of the Week



Geographically, Charlie Sector had the highest percentage of initiated pursuits in 2024 with 40%. Charlie also had the highest percentage in 2023 (46%). The lowest percentages were Traffic Ops, Violent Crime, Organizational Crime, and Family Justice (4%) in 2024.

Table 5: Pursuit Reported by Sector/Zone





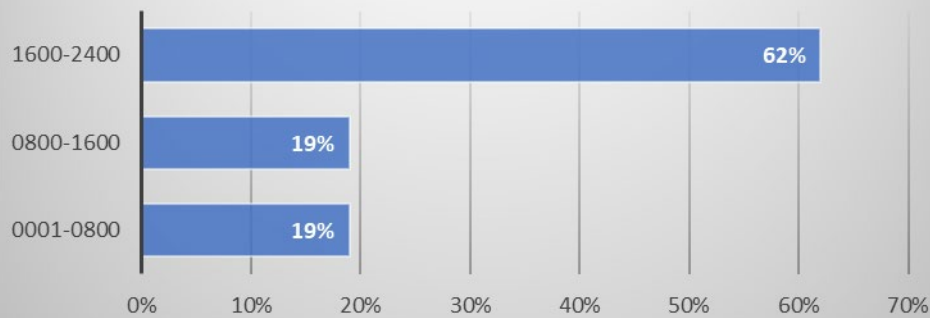
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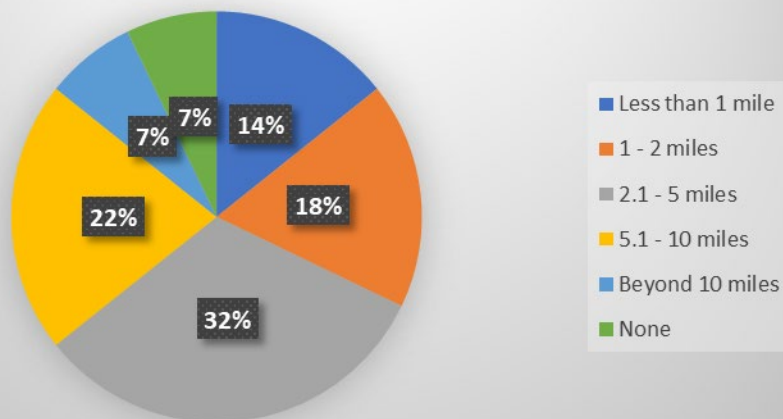
In 2024, sixty-two percent of the pursuits happened between the hours of 1600-2400. In 2023, 62% of the initiated pursuits at the Chattanooga Police Department were also during the same time of day as 2023.

Table 6:
Time of Day Where Vehicle Pursuits Occur



Most of the distances of pursuit in 2024 were between 2.1 and 5 miles. This accounted for 32% of the reported vehicle pursuits in that year. The distance reported most frequently in 2023 was 2.1 to 5 miles (34%).

Table 7: Percentage of Pursuits in Miles





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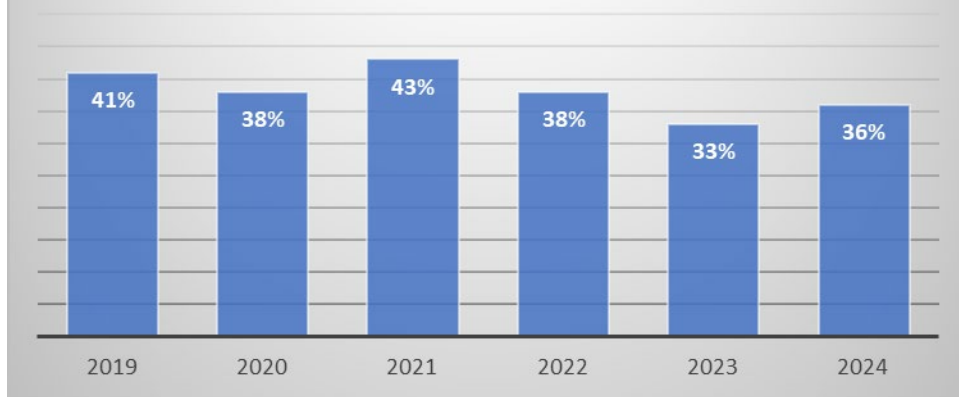
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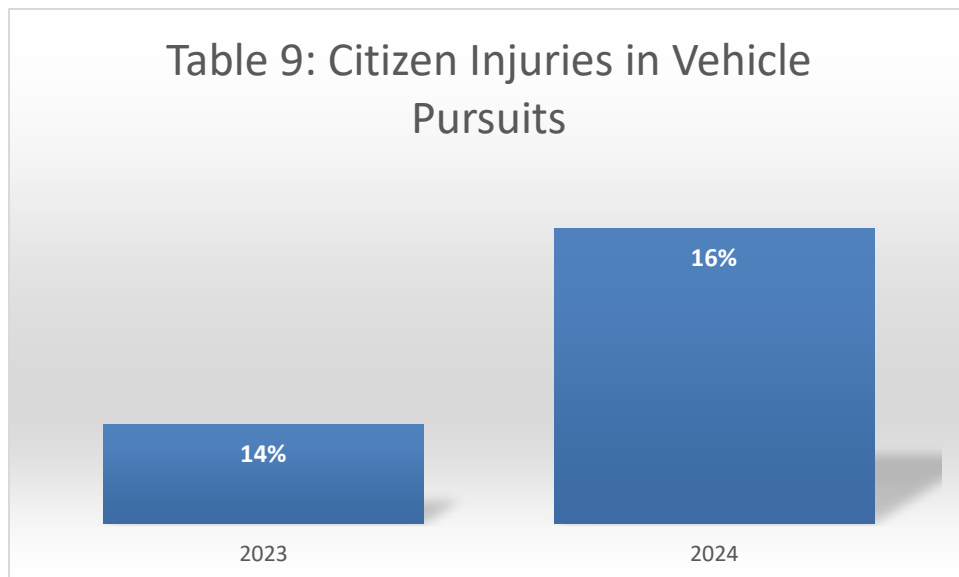
In 2024, 36% of the reported pursuits involved some type of vehicle accident. The percentage of crashes has remained somewhat consistent over the past several years, and the amount is not significantly lower or higher over time. All in all, the number of crashes remains stable.

Table 8:
Pursuits Involving an Accident



Data from IAPro CALEA indicates no civilian or officer injuries occurred in Vehicle Pursuits in 2023 or 2024. However, a deeper dive in the data shows that, within VP incidents, 14% of civilians were injured in 2023 and 16% were injured in 2024. Findings also showed that officers did not report any injury in VP incidents in 2023 or 2024.

Table 9: Citizen Injuries in Vehicle Pursuits





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Each cadet becomes a certified Emergency Vehicle Operator during our police academy training. They undergo 40 hours of classroom and practical training to achieve this. It is a TN POST Commission mandate. The EVOC instructor covers the pursuit policy (OPS-02) in great detail during this driving course.

Annual EVOC training is conducted every year at the Chattanooga Police Department during In-Service Training for our sworn personnel. Each officer attends four hours of instruction and completes a practical application of the training on a driving course. At this time, the training staff also reviews the Pursuit Driving Policy (OPS-02) with each class. In said policy under *V. Stopping Techniques*, B. it states, “Roadblocks are not an authorized technique for stopping vehicles and shall not be employed to end a pursuit **[41.2.3a]**. Every officer electronically signs for the newest revision of said policy in the PowerDMS system on an annual basis.

Upon being involved in a vehicle pursuit, the initiating officer completes the vehicle pursuit report. This report is submitted, documented and archived in our BlueTeam system and must be finalized before the end of their shift. The supervisor has 24 hours to review and approve these reports. Each supervisor is required to review in-car camera and body worn camera (BWC) footage of each pursuit as a means of maintaining integrity, accountability and consistency with the policy and practice of pursuit driving along with accurate documentation. If the pursuit is found to be out of policy, the Chain of Command (COC) conducts an administrative investigation, review and recommendation for disciplinary action as a result of the violation.

In past years, we have had issues with some officers not submitting complete information for all reportable fields in their reporting of pursuits thereby restricting the accuracy of the overall analysis and access to data. This has improved significantly from last year as our data analyst was able to capture all data points related to this analysis from 2021. Supervisors need to continue to reject reports that are not complete and have the officers amend their reports to include the missing data. It is incumbent upon the supervisors to continue the monitoring and reviewing of all pursuit reports for thoroughness and accuracy.

Finally, this analysis has shown that there are no current trends or patterns as it relates to major policy violations or abuses in vehicle pursuits or vehicle pursuit reporting at the Chattanooga Police Department.