



BURLINGTON POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

May 2023

May 18, 2023 – all data preliminary & subject to change



POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as National Police Week. Since the BPD's founding in 1865, three officers have died in the line of duty. While we hope never to see another, we also vow never to forget.

On Monday May 15, we honored that vow. With the extraordinary help of [the Queen City Police Foundation](#), particularly QCPF board member Andi Higbee, we placed a marker at the grave of Patrolman Robert Provost. Patrolman Provost died in 1954 of an apparent heart attack after carrying two elderly patients at an apartment building. You can see a [video of the event on the BPD's YouTube channel](#). Patrolman Provost's surviving sister and two surviving daughters were in attendance.

This was the third marker the BPD and QCPF have placed. Two other BPD officers have given their lives to Burlington: Patrolman James McGrath was shot and killed by an AWOL soldier in 1904, while on foot patrol in the Burlington rail and lumber yard, at Main Street and Battery Street. Patrolman Albert Fisher died in 1947 after falling into an elevator shaft while conducting a building check.





2022 AWARDS



On May 22 the Queen City Police Foundation hosted the BPD at our annual awards ceremony, recognizing extraordinary conduct in 2022. Employees, family members, awardees, the Mayor, and others were in attendance.



Among a variety of awards, we recognized:

- the Detective Bureau’s exemplary record of closing the historic, horrible record-high of five murders in 2022, while also closing the 1971 Rita Curran case
- our Patrol officers for responding to those five murders, as well as eight other shootings, and 13 other incidents of gunfire
- life-saving officers Noah Hyunh, Joe Congdon, Victor Montalvo, and Deirdre Lacouture
- Team awards for our Dispatchers and for the CAIP team’s successful first year

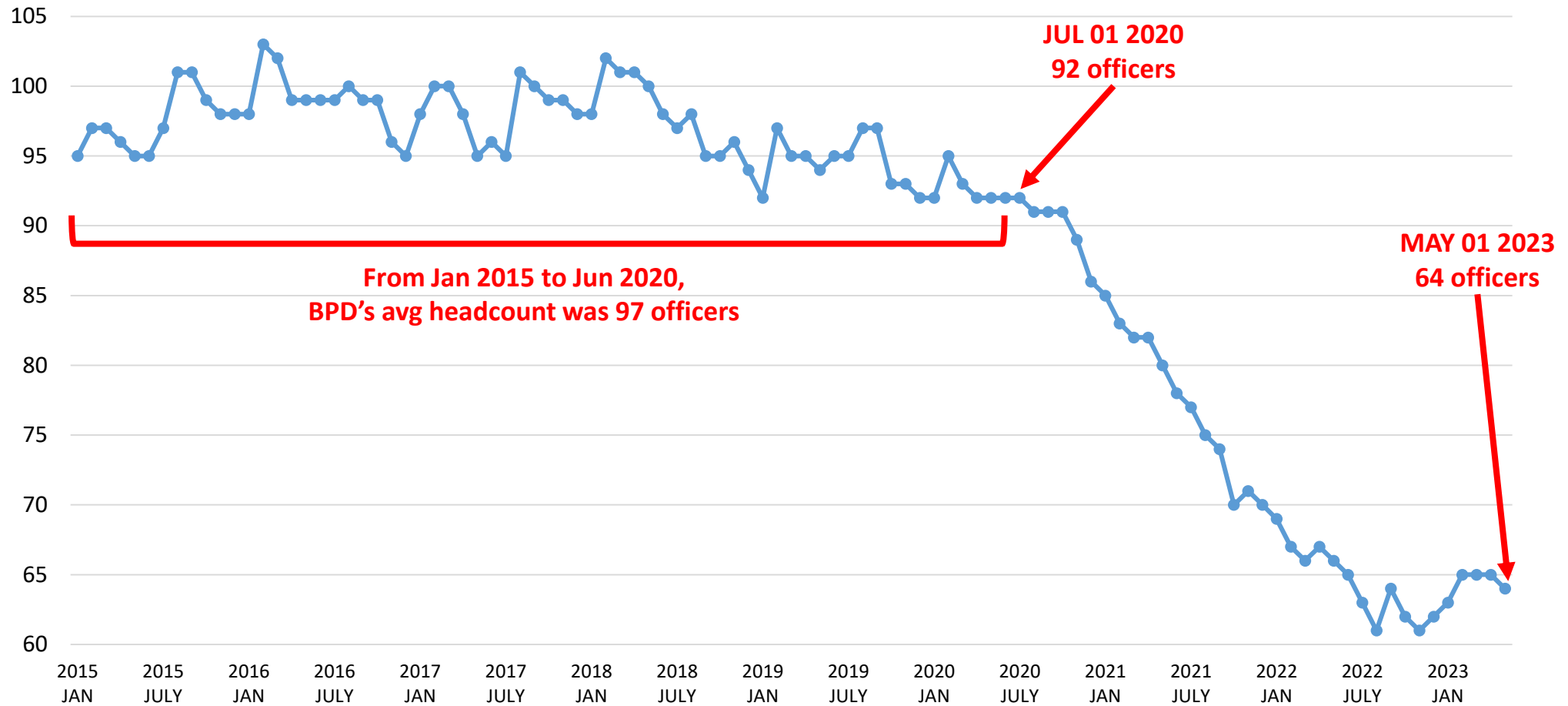


May 23, 2023 – all data preliminary & subject to change



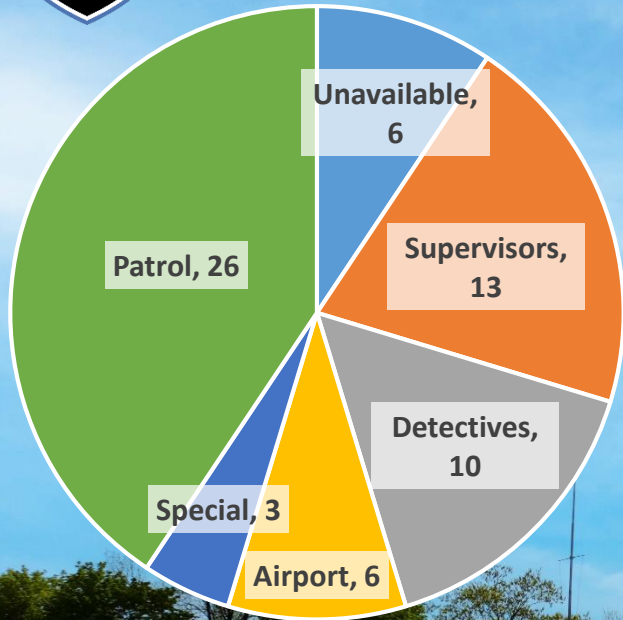
BPD SWORN OFFICER HEADCOUNT, 2015-2023

TOTAL SWORN HEADCOUNT, as of the first of each month, month-by-month





64 TOTAL, 58 AVAILABLE



As of May 15, 2023, the BPD has **64 total sworn officers**, of whom 58 are available to be deployed. Historically, headcount has been in the high 90s; currently we are authorized for 87 officers.

minus 6 on injury, at VPA, or on leave = 58
minus 13 supervisors = 45
minus 10 detectives = 35
minus 6 airport officers = 29
minus 3 special assignments = 26

26 officers on Patrol



PUBLIC SAFETY ROLES UNIQUE TO BPD

As part of the 2021 Public Safety Continuity Plan, we have hired:

- **Community Service Officers (CSOs),**

These are unarmed, unsworn officers who answer quality-of-life calls for service. BPD currently has six employees in the role, and **the budget allots us 11 CSOs and one CSM** (or Community Service Manager). The role is also a stepping stone to becoming a police officer.

**BPD
currently
has 6 CSOs
and 5 CSLs**



As part of the Public Safety Continuity Plan, we also hired:

- **Community Support Liaisons (CSLs)**

These are embedded social workers with expertise in mental health, substance use disorder, and houselessness. BPD currently has five employees in the role, and **the budget allots us six CSLs and one CSS** (or Community Support Supervisor).

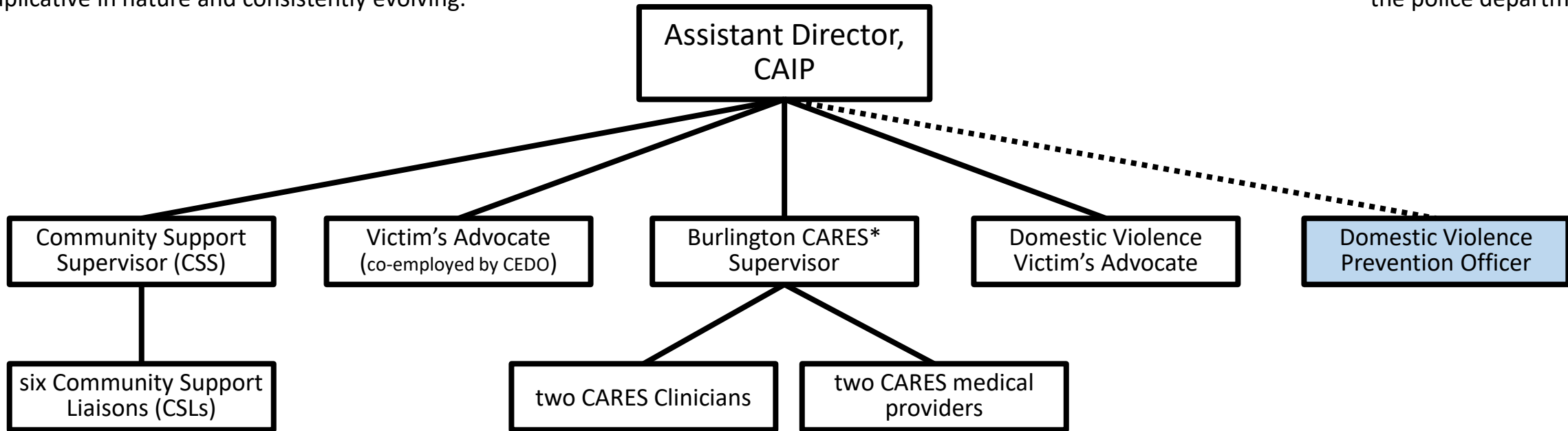


NEW ORGANIZATION

C.A.I.P. CRISIS ADVOCACY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

CAIP is “lower barrier” assistance that supplements the social service system. That system’s structure has gaps in service, often because of population-specific and program-specific requirements from grants and funding. CAIP is trying to fill gaps, while working collaboratively with community partners. These services are non-duplicative in nature and consistently evolving.

Through CAIP, the City can take the lead in the effort to address needs when community social service systems in the community cannot. CAIP’s collaborative model allows for seamless continuity of care and jumpstarts a public safety transformation because it integrates change directly into the largest public safety component: the police department.

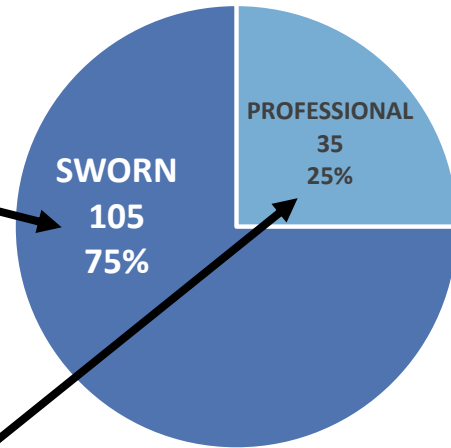
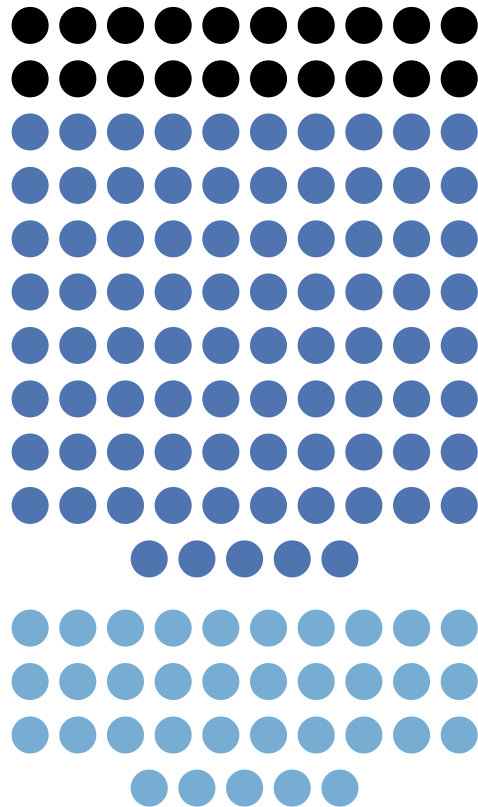


*Burlington CARES is the **Crisis Assessment, Response, and Engagement Service**; specifics about it are in development

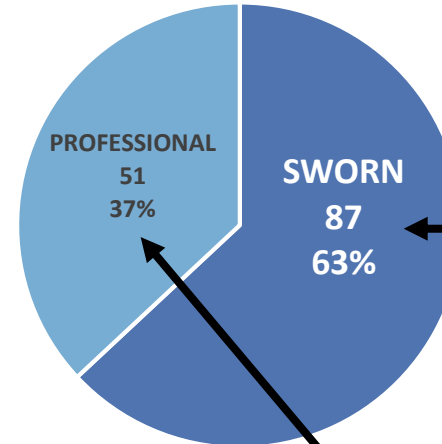
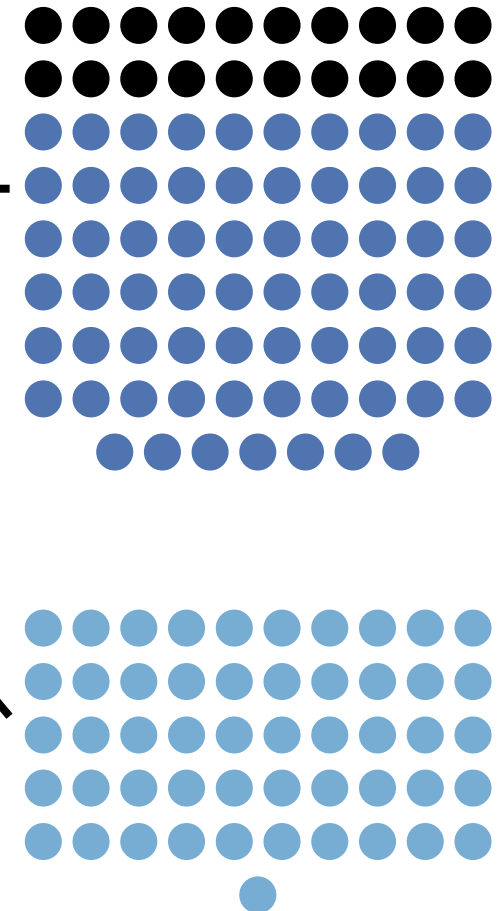


CHANGING PROPORTIONS

Authorized 2019
140 total*



Authorized 2023
138 total



Since 2019 to 2023, we have significantly changed the BPD's ratio of sworn to professional employees.

- Sworn supervisor
- Sworn officer
- Professional employee

* note: 2019 personnel count was 150 when Parking was included; Parking was moved to DPW in July 2020

"Professional employee" includes CSOs, CSLs, ID techs, dispatchers, clerks, & others



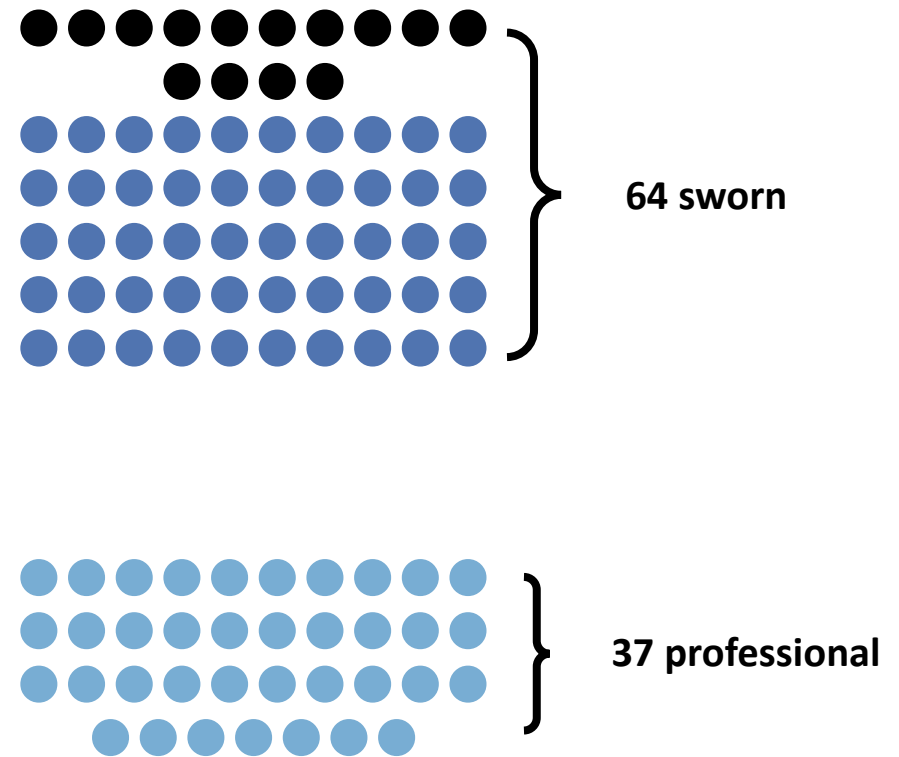
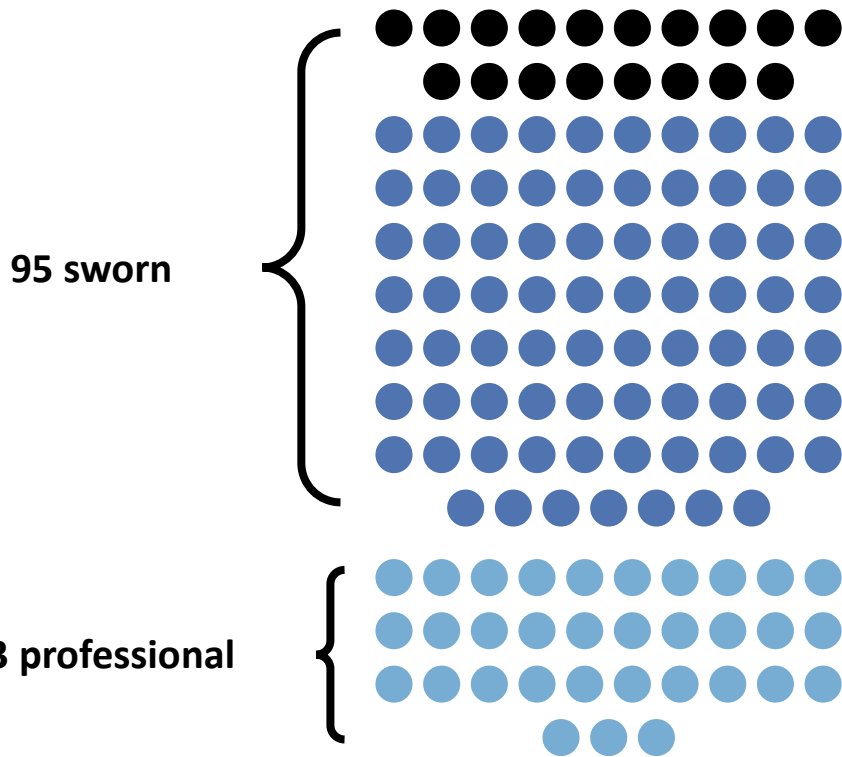
BPD CURRENT PERSONNEL COUNT

- Sworn supervisor
- Sworn officer
- Professional employee

“Professional employee” includes CSOs, CSLs, ID techs, dispatchers, clerks, & others

Actual May 2019

Actual May 2023





NON-SWORN RESPONSE

In 2022, there were more than 38,500 individual officer responses (to more than 25,000 incidents).

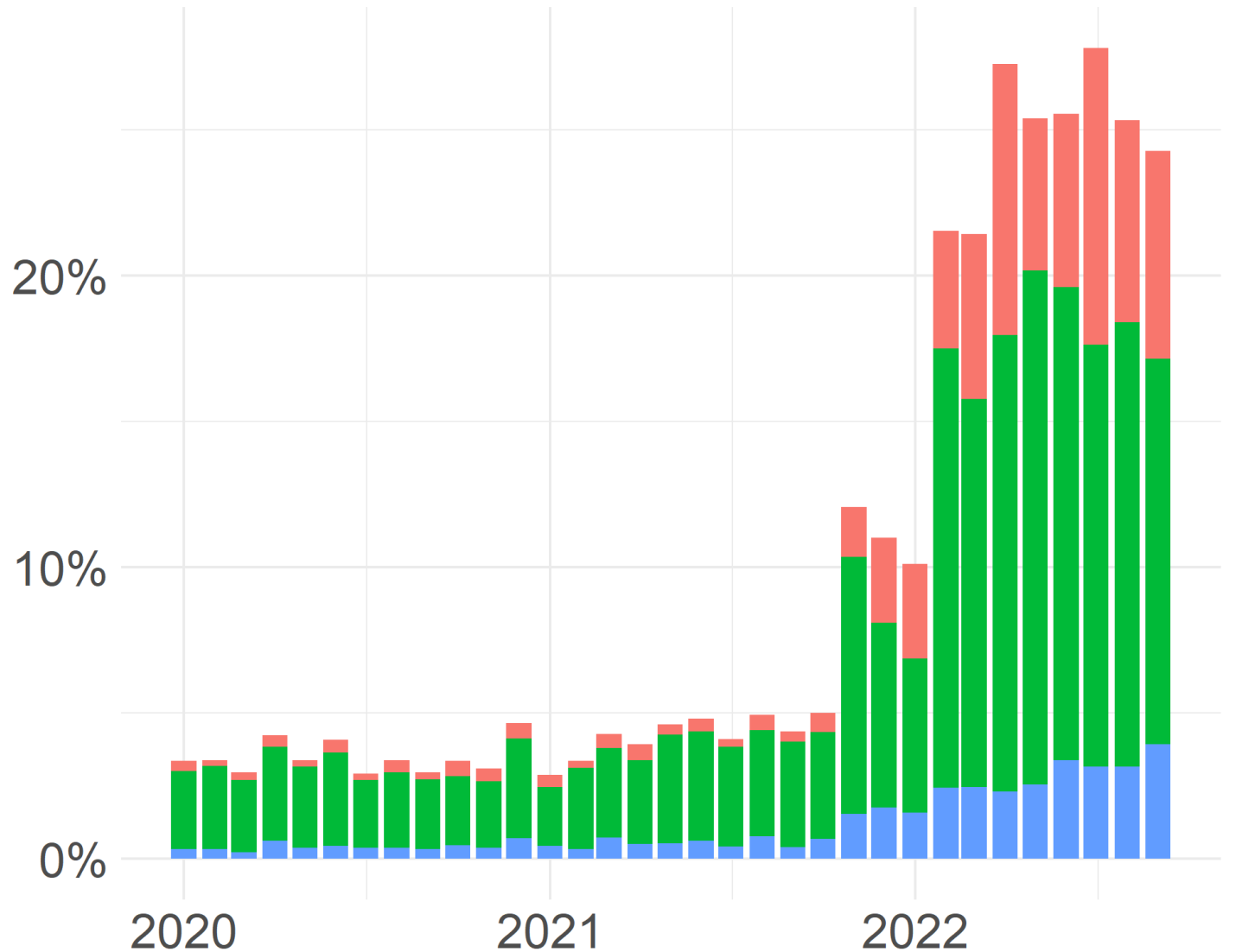
Of those responses:

14% were CSOs

7% were CSLs

3% were Street Outreach

Of the 25,000 incidents, CSOs and CSLs were the primary respondent by a similar percentage: 16% for CSOs, 6% for CSLs, 2.5% for Street Outreach.





THE BPD IS HIRING!

\$71,000
starting pay

\$100,000
top pay (when contract matures)

and a \$15,000
hiring bonus

- City retirement with 5-year vesting
- Shift differential, weekend, and holiday pay
- **full medical benefits** and wellness incentives
- Retirement after 20 years of service at 50% salary
- Retirement after 25 years of service at 75% salary
- 15-step pay scale for non-supervisory employees
- Overtime can be received as cash or vacation accrual
- **10-hour workday, 4-days-on/3-days-off schedule**
- **Weekends off every other month**
- Yearly education bonus
- Beards and tattoos permitted
- Various **specialty assignments** such as detectives, narcotics, K9, domestic violence prevention, airport
- **Applicant can be a non-U.S. citizen** if applicant is a permanent resident / green-card holder

www.bpdcareers.com



REVISED PRIORITY RESPONSE PLAN

PRIORITY 1	High priority.
PRIORITY 2	Middle priority. (*) = situationally dependent; some may be Priority 1 or Priority 3.
PRIORITY 3	Low priority. Response may be delayed based on officer availability; may receive a CSO response.

We originally implemented [the Priority Response Plan](#) in May 2021. We have made several revisions, shown in this chart. The categorization of incidents has **not** changed. (Our primary goal remains **NEIGHBORS' PHYSICAL SAFETY**, so Priority 1 incidents are still Priority 1 incidents, etc.) But many Priority 3 incidents will now receive a different response.

In the chart, **incidents labeled "CSO"** will initially receive a response from a CSO, rather than a police officer, unless the incident evolves in a way that changes its category or requires a sworn officer.

Incidents labeled "ONL" (for "Online Only") will be diverted to an online reporting function. Unless extenuating circumstances apply, callers will be asked to make an online report. There are reporting mechanisms for callers who do not have Internet access.

Additionally, during daytime weekday hours when DSB detectives are available, **DSB will handle untimely deaths.**

911 Hangup	Cruelty to a Child	Illegal Dumping	CSO	Robbery
Airport AOA Violation	Cruelty to Animals	Impeding a Public Officer	CSO	Runaway
Airport Duress Alarm	Custodial Interference *	Impersonation of a Police Officer *		Runaway Apprehension
Airport PHASE Alarm *	Disorderly Conduct *	Inciting a Felony		Search
Alcohol Offense	Disorderly Conduct by Elec Comm	Intoxication	CSO	Search Warrant
Animal Problem	Disturbance	Investigation - Cold Case		Sex Offender Registry Violation
Arrest on Warrant	DLS	Juvenile Problem *		Sexual Assault
Arson	Domestic Assault - Felony	Kidnapping		Sheltering/Aiding Runaway
Assault - Aggravated	Domestic Assault - Misd	Larceny - from a Building		SRO Activity
Assault - Simple	Domestic Disturbance	Larceny - from a Motor Vehicle		Stalking
Assist - Agency	Drugs	Larceny - Other		Stolen Vehicle
Assist - Car Seat Inspection	Drugs - Possession	Larceny from a Person		Subpoena Service
Assist - K9	Drugs - Sale	Lewd and Lascivious Conduct		Suicide - Attempted
Assist - Motorist	DUI	Lockdown Drill		Suspicious Event *
Assist - Other	Eluding Police	Mental Health Issue *		Theft of Rental Property
Assist - Public	Embezzlement	Minor in Possession of Alcohol		Theft of Service
Background Investigation	Enabling Consumption by Minors	Missing Person		Threats/Harassment *
Bad Check	Escape	Motor Vehicle Complaint	CSO	Traffic
Bar / Liquor License Violation	Extortion	Noise	CSO	Trespass *
Bomb Threat	False Info to Police	Obstruction of Justice		TRO/FRO Service
Burglary *	False Pretenses	Operations		TRO/FRO Violation
CHINS	False Public Alarms	Ordinance Violation - Other	CSO	Unlawful Restraint
Community Outreach	False Swearing	Overdose		Untimely Death
Compliance Check	Fireworks	Parking	CSO	Use of Elec Comm to Lure a Child
Computer Crime	Foot Patrol	Possession of Stolen Property		Uttering a Forged Instrument
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	Forgery	Prescription Fraud	ONL	Vandalism
Counterfeiting	Found/Lost Property	Prohibited Acts		VIN verification
Crash - Fatality	Fraud	Property Damage	CSO	Violation of Conditions of Release *
Crash - Injury to person(s)	Fugitive From Justice	Reckless Endangerment *		Voyeurism *
Crash - LSA *	Graffiti Removal	Recovered Property	CSO	Weapons Offense
Crash - Non-Investigated	Hindering Arrest	Resisting Arrest		Welfare Check *
Crash - Property damage only	Homicide	Retail Theft		
	Identity Theft	Roadway Hazard		



INCIDENT VOLUME

YEAR-TO-DATE 5/15

Year-to-date, **incidents in 2023 are up 33% compared to 2022. They are up 45% over 2021**, but are lower than years prior to that. They are down 6% since 2018.

Patrol officers are addressing ≈6% fewer incidents with ≈50% fewer officers.

Of the 9,587 incidents in 2023 so far, 1,177 have been “stacked”—i.e., 12%.

Additionally, 1,253 have been referred to online reporting, or 13%.

	YTD INCIDENTS (as of 5/15)	%Δ
2018	10,177	100%
2019	9,670	↓5%
2020	8,786	↓9%
2021	6,619	↓25%
2022	7,226	↑9%
2023	9,587	↑33%
	Δ 2018 to 2023:	↓6%



SELECTED VALCOUR INCIDENTS, YTD AS OF MAY 15

	Assault - Agg	Assault - Simple	Burglary	Crash w Injury or Fatal	Disorderly Conduct	Domestic Assault*	Domestic Disturb	Gunfire	Larceny (all)**	Mental Health Issue	Overdose	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Stolen Vehicle	Traffic
2018	18	45	34	34	39	24	151	1	140	273	16	5	26	1	1,312
2019	13	52	23	25	46	27	143	2	148	295	19	8	24	19	850
2020	14	45	33	18	41	18	225	5	217	339	40	5	24	19	633
2021	12	43	28	27	22	12	168	3	262	307	37	3	22	24	390
2022	23	50	64	34	36	16	191	7	317	361	43	9	18	88	229
2023	9	63	57	49	28	21	166	3	422	346	148	3	11	127	184

* = combines incidents categorized as “Domestic Assault – Felony” and “Domestic Assault – Misdemeanor”

** = combines incidents categorized as “Larceny from a Person,” “Larceny – from a Building,” “Larceny – from Motor Vehicle,” and “Larceny – Other”

NOTE: All categories shown year-to-date, through May 15 of their respective year

NOTE: These data are derived from Valcour incidents. Incidents are initially categorized by dispatch according to the information provided by a caller; the category may be changed by the officer who responds to the scene and/or the detective who takes the case. Offense data and/or NIBRS data may differ.

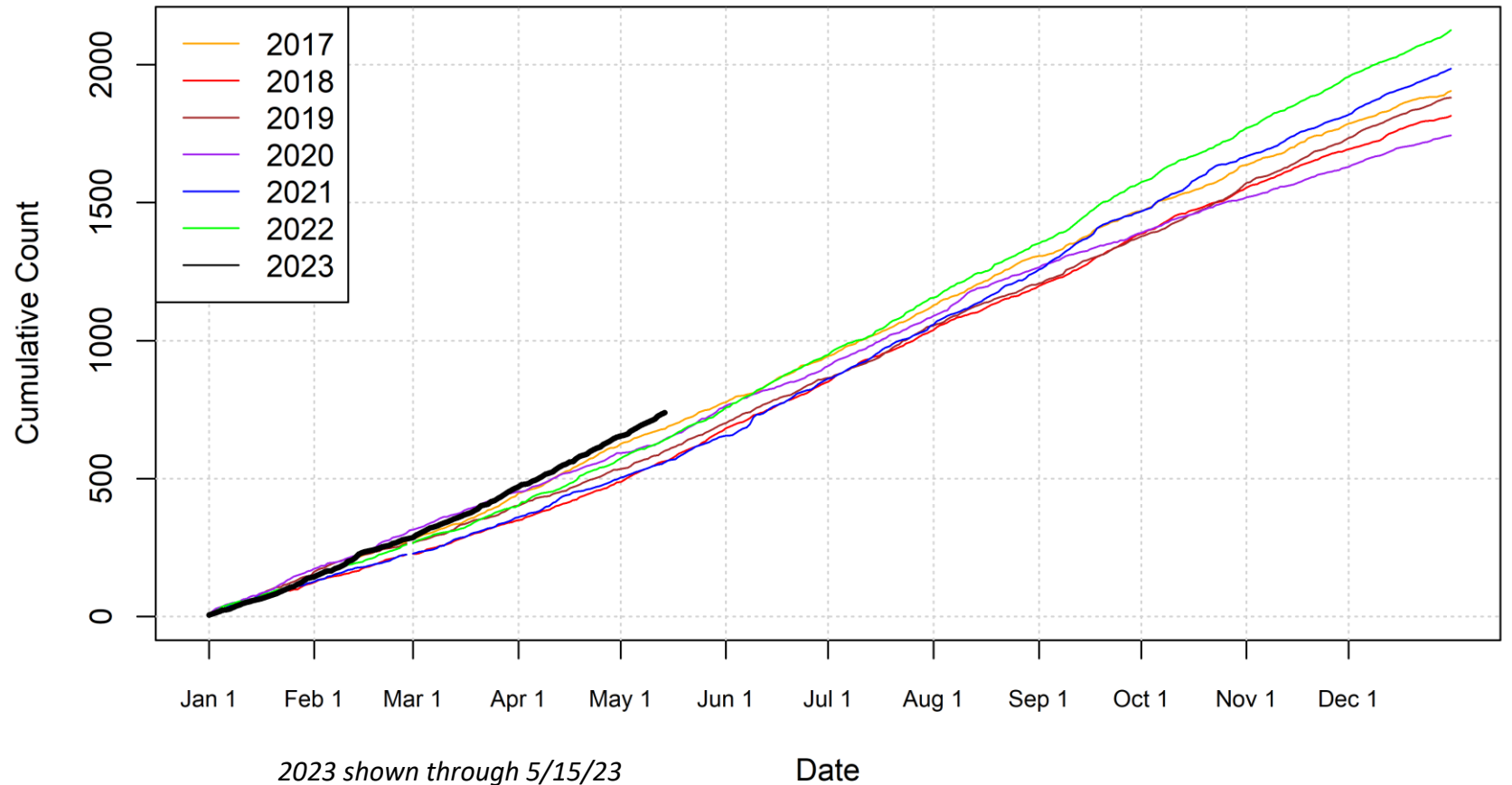


PRIORITY 1 INCIDENTS

In 2022, there were more Priority 1 incidents than in any of the previous five years. Almost halfway into the year, 2023 is higher than that. A significant portion of the 2023 total is the extreme number of overdoses Burlington has experienced.

Priority 1 incidents include assaults, crashes with injury, domestic incidents, overdoses, robberies, and homicides. Year over year, Priority 1 incidents comprise an increasingly large percentage of all incidents.

Priority 1 Incidents





OVERDOSE INCIDENTS

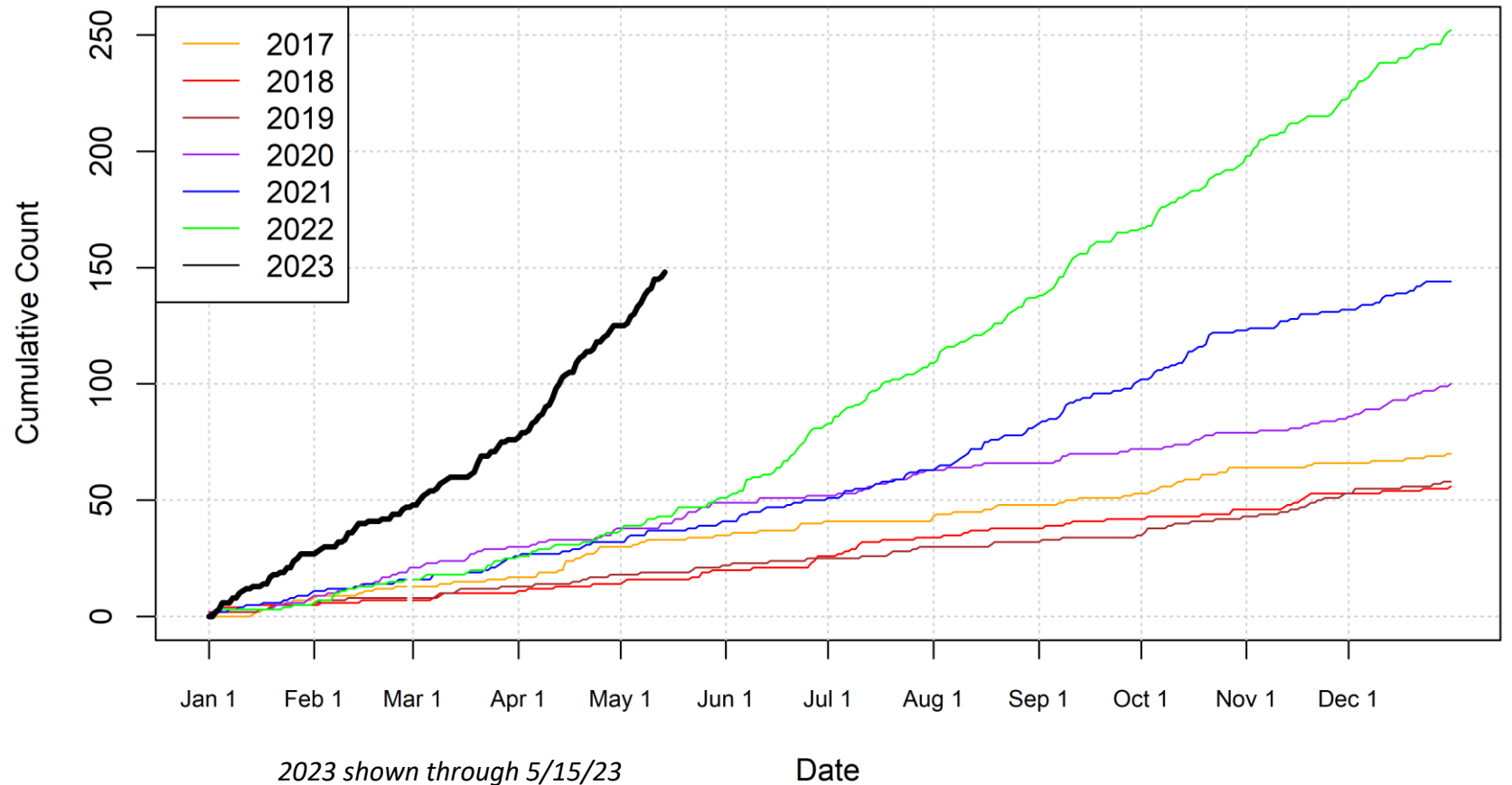
This graph shows all “Overdose” incidents listed in Valcour. It does not show fatal overdoses; in fact, those are often carried as “Untimely Death” incidents until a medical examiner determination can be made.

A recent article in *Curbed* magazine entitled “[Spiraling in San Francisco's Doom Loop](#)” talked about that city’s woes, and noted “to live in San Francisco right now, to watch its streets, is to realize that no one will catch you if you fall. In the first three months of 2023, 200 San Franciscans OD’ed, up 41 percent from last year.”

San Francisco has 815,000 people, nearly 20 times Burlington’s population. Year to date, the Queen City has seen 148 overdoses, up nearly 350% from last year.

(Note: although the article does not specify, it may be that it is counting fatal overdoses.)

Overdose





NARCOTICS-RELATED DATA

