



BURLINGTON POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

March 2024

Mar 22, 2024 – all data preliminary & subject to change



ECLIPSE – APRIL 08 2024

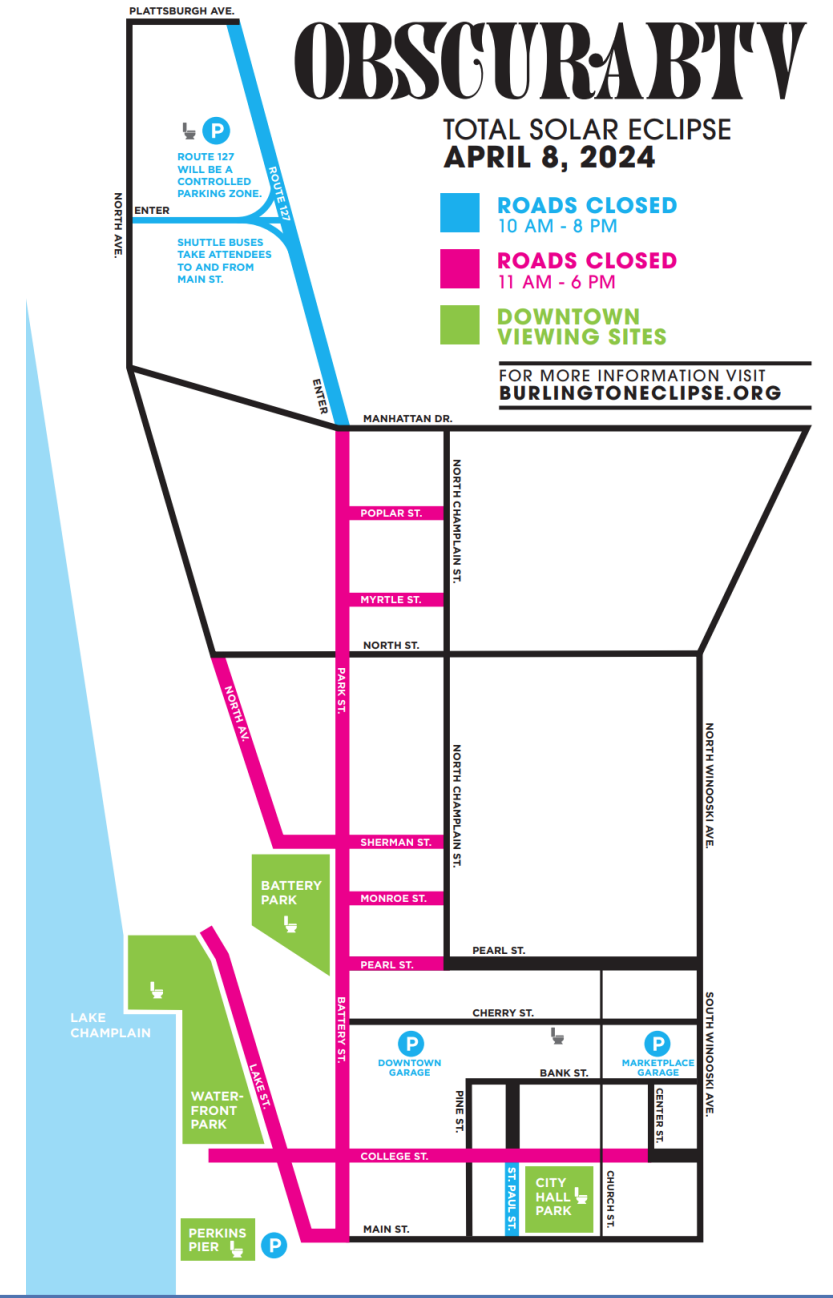
Our maximum staffing for the Eclipse Event is 40. This includes officers and professional employees and is equivalent to the number of BPD staff we had for the July 3rd Fireworks in 2023. (It should be noted that for that event we hired an additional five law-enforcement officers from neighboring agencies. We are unable to do this for the Eclipse because neighboring agencies are fully using their own personnel.)

Eight officers and five CSOs will be detailed to maintain a shuttle bus lane and street closures, shown opposite. The main route will extend from Main Street north along Battery Street and Park Street to Route 127. It will be closed to traffic other than emergency vehicles and shuttle busses, and Route 127 will be used for parking.

One supervisor and four officers will be on duty to address non-event calls for service. The remaining officers will be detailed for safety and security at the event sites and ERV staffing.

Our internal assessment is that if crowds in Burlington run from 25,000 to 50,000, we will be able to maintain the limited access lane but the rest of our roadway infrastructure will experience significant traffic, potentially at levels that will even affect emergency response.

If crowds exceed 50,000, we do not have confidence that we can maintain traffic flow anywhere in the city. Crowds in the 75,000+ range will, in all probability, create total gridlock in the city and larger crowds will potentially shut Interstate 89 as well as major arteries such as Route 7 and Route 2. ***At that point, even emergency-vehicle movement cannot be guaranteed in the city.***





SOME ADVICE FOR OUR ROADWAYS



Vermont Agency of Transportation
@AOTVermont

Vermonters, we're in the path of totality for the 4/8 solar eclipse! We expect a LOT of visitors. Help reduce traffic by encouraging family and friends who are visiting to stay longer, or help them find a way home via less-traveled roads. vermont.gov/eclipse #VTEclipse



Vermont Agency of Transportation
@AOTVermont



Vermont is a-buzz with planning and preparations for the solar eclipse on 4/8, which is expected to bring thousands of visitors. Please do not drive on 4/8 unless you must, and use local roads, not highways and interstates. Hunker down, Vermont! vermont.gov/eclipse #VTEclipse



4:00 PM · Mar 13, 2024 · 450 Views

Mar 22, 2024 – all data preliminary & subject to change

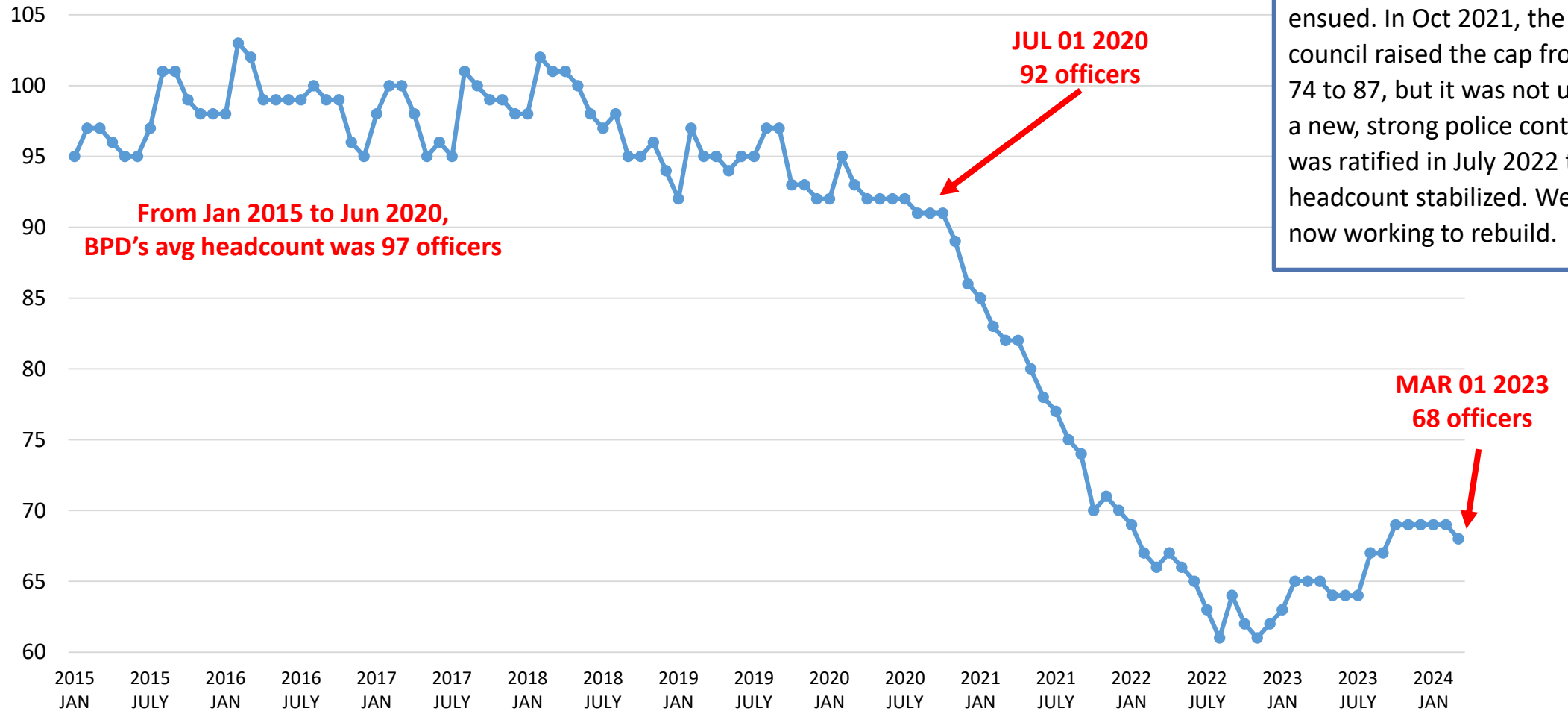


4:00 PM · Mar 20, 2024 · 515 Views



BPD SWORN OFFICER HEADCOUNT, 2015-2024

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



In June 2020, the Burlington City Council voted to reduce, by attrition, the BPD's authorized headcount from 105 to 74. An officer exodus ensued. In Oct 2021, the council raised the cap from 74 to 87, but it was not until a new, strong police contract was ratified in July 2022 that headcount stabilized. We are now working to rebuild.



ADVERTISING

Our Recruitment team, Corporal Erwin and Coordinator Bajwa, got a full-page, centerfold ad placed in the most-read tabloid in New York City, a paper with the ninth largest circulation of any in the US. We've already had bites, and a visit from an interested NYC applicant.

Police Recruitment

JOINING THE FORCE

Want a meaningful job? Consider a career in policing

By FERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

IDEALIS ad Mortem: Faithful unit March 29, 2024 - all data preliminary & subject to change

women of the New York Police Department live by as they protect our city every day. We have what it



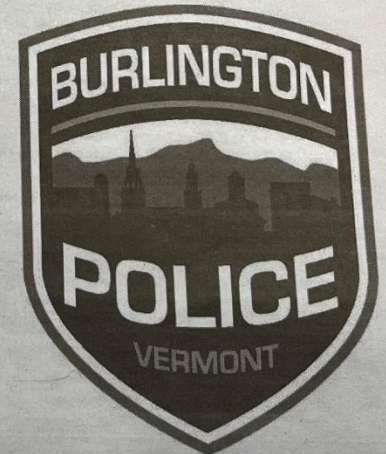
35 New York Post, Friday, March 8, 2024 nypost.com



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JOIN THE BURLINGTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT TODAY.**



Visit: bpdcareers.com
OR Contact Cpl. Carolynne Erwin
• cerwin@bpdvt.org
• 802-540-2260



APPLY TODAY!

Police Officer
\$72,248 - \$79,693
Depending on Experience

- NO CIVIL SERVICE EXAM!
- Condensed hiring process
- Competitive Salary
- Wellness Benefits
- Strong Union
- Annual educational bonus

37 New York Post, Friday, March 8, 2024 nypost.com

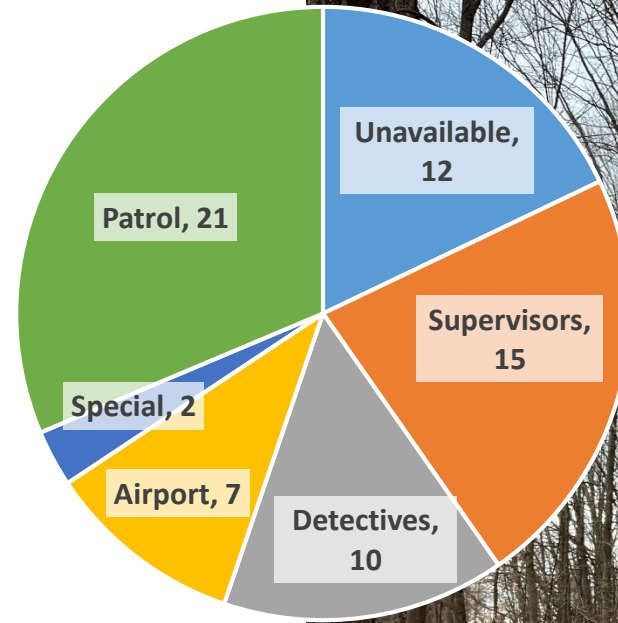


67 TOTAL, 55 AVAILABLE

As of **March 15 2024**, we are authorized for 87 sworn officers. Of those 87, we have 67. Of those 67, 55 are able to be deployed as solo officers, or “effective.”

minus 12 injured, light, military, FTO, etc. = 55
minus 15 supervisors = 40
minus 10 detectives = 30
minus 7 airport officers = 23
minus 2 special assignments = 21

21 officers on Patrol





INCIDENT VOLUME

YEAR-TO-DATE 03/15

Incidents in 2024 are up 21% compared to 2023. BPD is addressing more incidents with fewer patrol officers—50% fewer, actually. As a result, of the 5,450 incidents in 2024 so far, 671 have been “stacked”—i.e., 12%. And 398 have been referred to online reporting, or 7%.



	YTD INCIDENTS (as of 03/15)	%Δ
2019	5,245	100%
2020	5,352	↑2%
2021	3,239	↓40%
2022	3,602	↑11%
2023	4,524	↑26%
2024	5,450	↑21%
Δ 2019 to 2024:		↑4%

It should be noted that not all incidents are crimes. They are more accurately “calls for service.” As shown on the previous slide, there are more than 100 categories of incident. The fact that incidents are up does not necessarily mean that crime is up; as the next slide shows, some categories of criminal incident are up and some are not.



THE 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.

With staffing down and incident volume up, the BPD had to create the Priority Response Plan. It husbands resources while remaining true to our duty to prioritize our **NEIGHBORS' PHYSICAL SAFETY** and their sense of safety. **The Plan goes into effect when two or fewer sworn police officers are available for response; when that happens, Priority 2 and Priority 3 incidents get "stacked" and do not receive an in-person response.** When three or more officers are available, they are dispatched to all incidents regardless of Priority category.

Incidents labeled "CSO" or "CSL" initially receive a response from a CSO or CSL, rather than a sworn officer, unless the incident evolves in a way that changes its category or requires a sworn officer.

Incidents labeled "ONL" (for "Online Only") are to be diverted to an online reporting function. Note that larcenies and retail thefts are NOT supposed to be online reports.

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

911 Hangup	Cruelty to Animals	CSO	Illegal Dumping	CSO	Robbery
Airport AOA Violation	Custodial Interference *		Impeding a Public Officer		Runaway
Airport Duress Alarm	Disorderly Conduct *		Impersonation of a Police Officer *		Runaway Apprehension
Airport PHASE	Disorderly Conduct by Elec Comm	ONL	Inciting a Felony		Search
Alarm *	Disturbance		Intoxication	CSO	Search Warrant
Alcohol Offense	DLS		Investigation - Cold Case		Service Coordination
Animal Problem	Domestic Assault - Felony		Juvenile Problem *		Sex Offender Registry Violation
Arrest on Warrant	Domestic Assault - Misd		Kidnapping		Sexual Assault
Arson	Domestic Disturbance		Larceny - from a Building		Sheltering/Aiding Runaway
Assault - Aggravated	Drugs		Larceny - from a Motor Vehicle		SRO Activity
Assault - Simple	Drugs - Possession		Larceny - Other		Stalking
Assist - Agency	Drugs - Sale		Larceny from a Person		Stolen Vehicle
Assist - Car Seat Inspection	DUI		Lewd and Lascivious Conduct		Subpoena Service
Assist - K9	Eluding Police		Lockdown Drill		Suicide - Attempted
Assist - Motorist	Embezzlement	ONL	Mental Health Issue *		Suspicious Event *
Assist - Other	Enabling Consumption by Minors		Minor in Possession of Alcohol		Theft of Rental Property
Assist - Public	Encampment Outreach	CSL	Missing Person		Theft of Service
Background Investigation	Encampment Policy	CSL	Motor Vehicle Complaint	CSO	Threats/Harassment *
Bad Check	Escape		Neighbor Dispute	CSL	Traffic
Bar / Liquor License Violation	Extortion	ONL	Noise	CSO	Trespass *
Bomb Threat	False Info to Police		Obstruction of Justice		TRO/FRO Service
Burglary *	False Pretenses	ONL	Operations		TRO/FRO Violation
CHINS	False Public Alarms		Ordinance Violation - Other	CSO	Unlawful Restraint
Community Outreach	False Swearing		Overdose		Untimely Death
Compliance Check	Fireworks	CSO	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	ONL	Prescription Fraud	ONL	Vandalism
Counterfeiting	Found/Lost Property	CSO	Prohibited Acts		VIN verification
Crash - Fatality	Fraud	ONL	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		
Cruelty to a Child	Identity Theft	ONL	Roadway Hazard		



PITTSBURGH CURTAILS SERVICES

Pittsburgh, PA, has a population of 303,000 and covers 58 square miles. They currently have 740 officers and have declared a staffing and response emergency.

In Pittsburgh, the Police Chief is facing headcount reductions. The agency is down about 18% from their historic full authorization of 900 (i.e., they're down about 18% from their historic full count—For comparison, the BPD is down 35% from our historic full count. Our cities' respective officer:citizen ratios are, for authorized headcounts, 1:337 for Pittsburgh vs 1:419 for Burlington, and, for actual current headcounts, 1:410 vs 1:647.

The Pittsburgh chief wants to cut the agency's call volume from approximately 200,000 calls per year down to about 50,000. For perspective, 200,000 calls for Pittsburgh means that residents call about 6% less often, per resident, than in Burlington, with 31,000 calls for 45,000 residents.

Calls such as criminal mischief, theft, harassment, and burglary alarms will be handled by the telephone reporting unit or online reporting.

Between the hours of 3 a.m. and 7 a.m., there won't be a desk officer at any of Pittsburgh's six zone stations. On some overnight shifts, there will only be 22 officers to cover the entire city—a shocking 1:13,772 ratio. In Burlington, with one supervisor and two officers on most overnight shifts, the ratio is 1:15,000.

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911

Pittsburgh police will only respond to calls of in-progress emergencies as part of new staffing plan

Chief Larry Sciroto aims to reduce the bureau's call volume from 200,000 calls to 50,000 calls this year

March 12, 2024 12:55 PM



Photo/Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Facebook page

By Joanna Putman

Police1

PITTSBURGH –The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has implemented a new response policy. Beginning March 11, officers will only respond to calls of



SELECTED VALCOUR INCIDENTS, YTD AS OF MARCH 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
2019	7	31	13	14	20	21	64	0	79	174	12	4	16	13	572
2020	11	31	16	13	25	7	116	1	95	187	24	3	16	11	578
2021	7	16	10	8	14	5	94	2	114	153	18	2	9	12	184
2022	11	21	43	15	18	9	102	1	125	199	17	4	5	31	164
2023	4	30	30	16	15	13	88	1	222	195	60	0	4	73	113
2024	10	31	37	17	12	5	91	3	233	169	45	2	7	40	262

* = 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 March 15 of their respective year

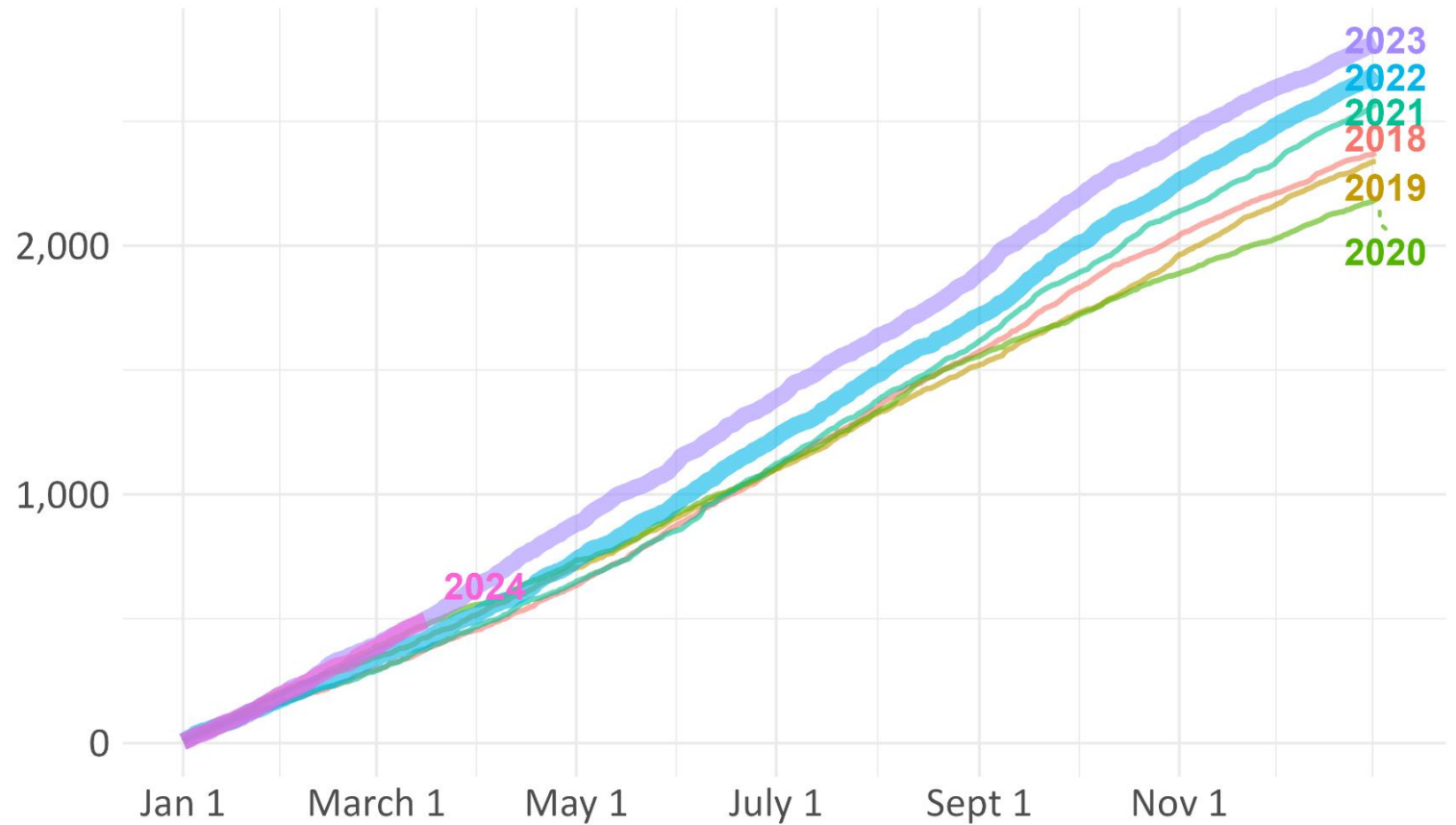
NOTE: These data are derived from Valcour incidents. Valcour is the BPD’s computer-aided dispatch and records-management system. Incidents are initially categorized by dispatch according to the information provided by a caller; the category may be changed by the officer who responds to the scene and/or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



PRIORITY 1 INCIDENTS

Priority 1 incidents have been climbing steadily over the past few years. Last year's total was significantly affected by the huge increase in overdose. So far 2024 is a bit lower than 2023.

BPD Priority 1 Incidents



Data through 03/15/2024



DRUG UNIT WORK

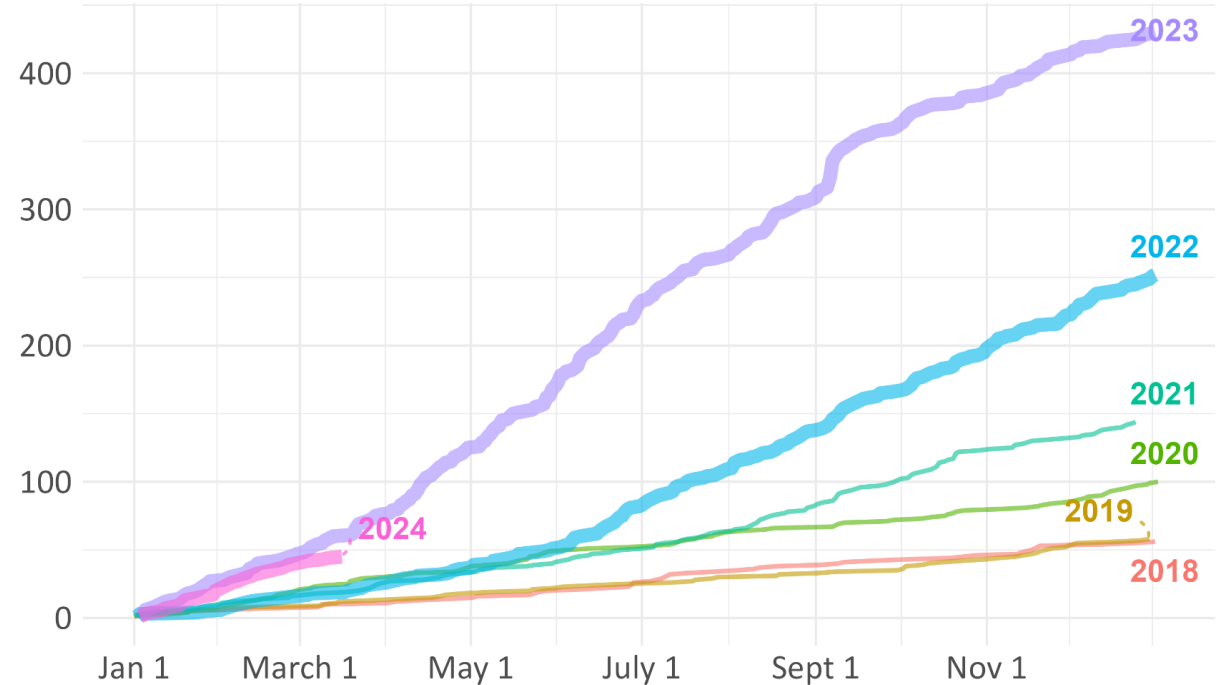
Enforcement against traffickers is a key component of addressing the drug problem. The Burlington Police Department’s Drug Unit continues to disrupt and dismantle drug organizations operating in Burlington. Since late 2021, the Drug Unit’s primary focus has been xylazine-laced opiates, when detectives first started hearing about “the new Philly dope.” Labs identified xylazine, or “tranq,” in early 2022.

Most of the organizations in Burlington connect to nearby “source cities” that supply our area with illegal drugs, Philadelphia being one. These organizations rely heavily on local community members for introductions to our city’s drug scene and customer base. But it is typically out-of-state members of the organization who oversee trafficking in the Burlington area. This was true of recent BPD Drug Unit operations on [Saint Paul Street](#), on [Walnut Street](#), and on [North Champlain Street](#).

Cumulatively, we have seized tens of thousands of bags of fentanyl, usually mixed with xylazine, as well as crack cocaine, firearms, and cash.

Over the past few years there have also been more than a dozen federal convictions, thanks to the BPD’s tremendous partnership with the DEA and the US Attorney’s Office for the District of Vermont, including recent sentencing announcements for older drug-related cases involving [money laundering](#), [hundreds of thousands of dollars seized](#), and [multiple firearms recovered](#).

BPD Overdose Incidents



Data through 03/15/2024



THE BPD IS HIRING!

\$74,500
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