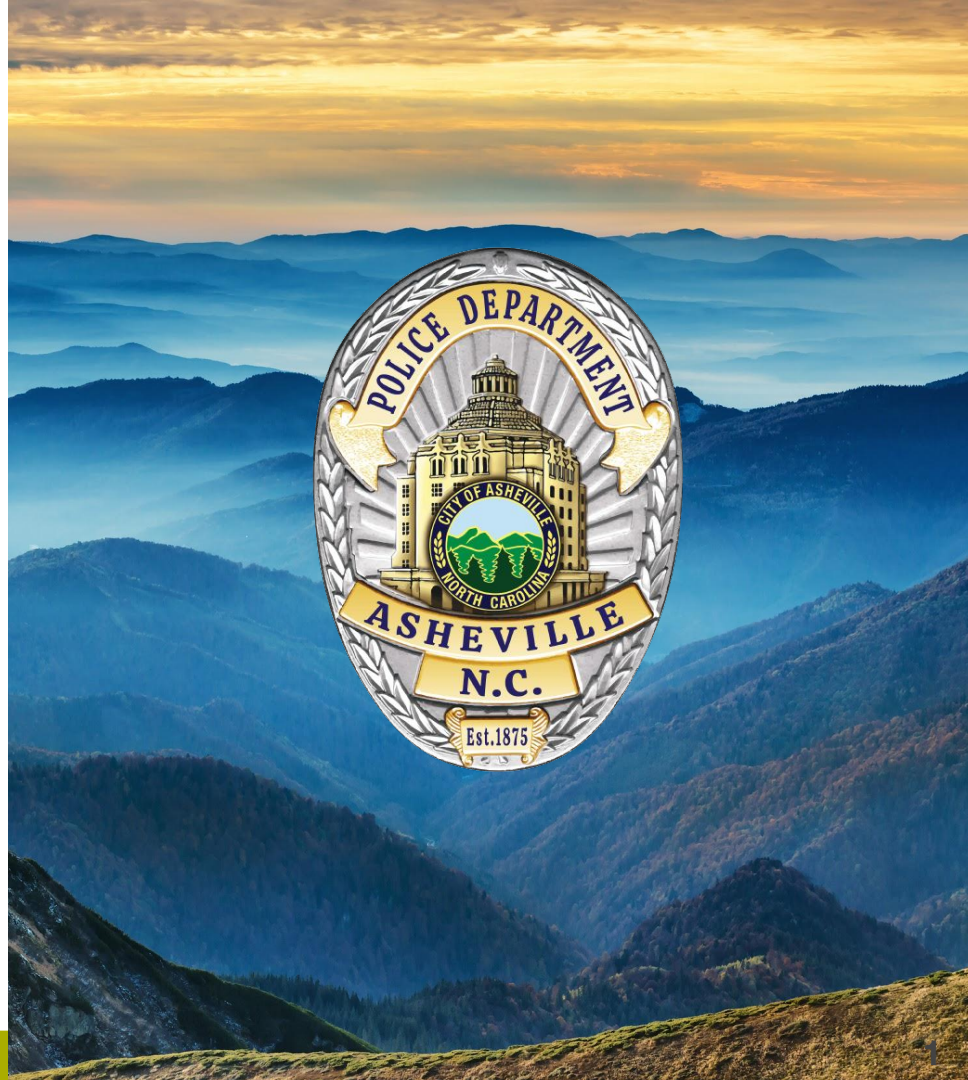
City Council
APD Update

Chief David Zack
June 22, 2021



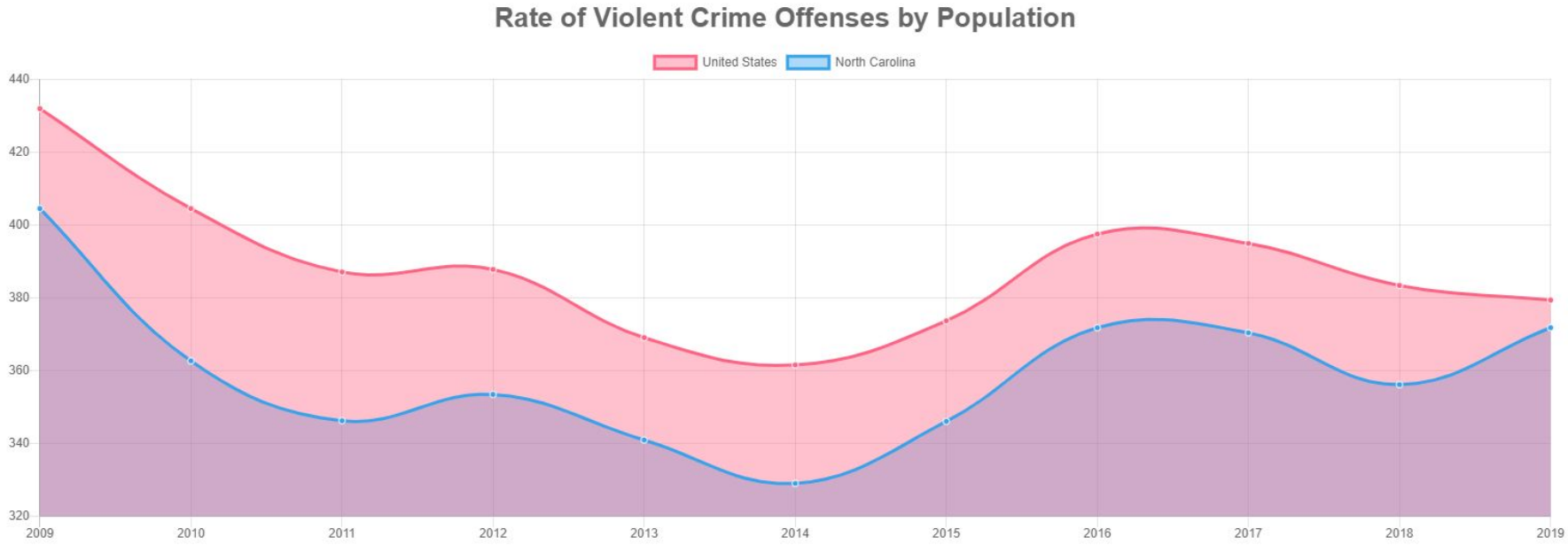
Key Takeaways

- Over the past 10 years Asheville has experienced an increase in violent crime, which is on trend with other major metropolitan cities in North Carolina like Raleigh, Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Greenville.

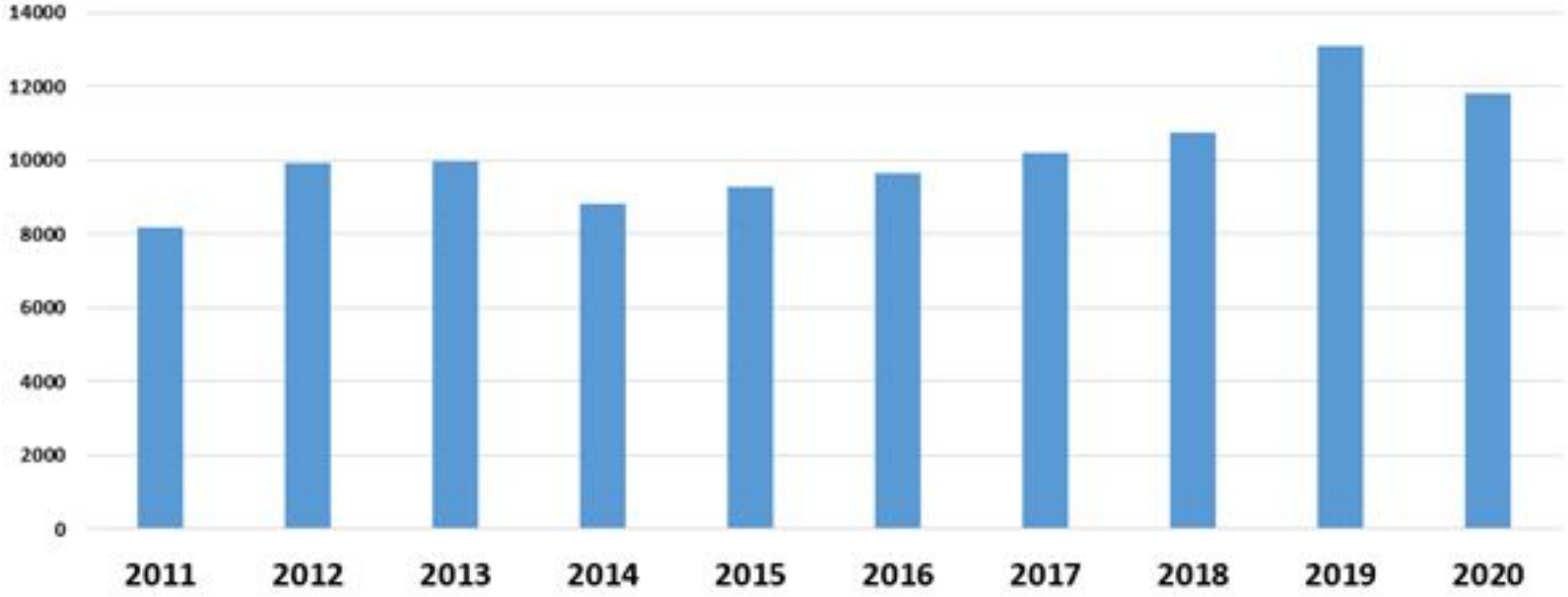
- APD continues to work with other city departments and community partners to take proactive steps to address crime and reimagine the role of APD.

- Despite current staffing shortages, APD is still aggressively developing strategies to address especially violent but also other types of crimes.

Violent Crime in US vs. NC

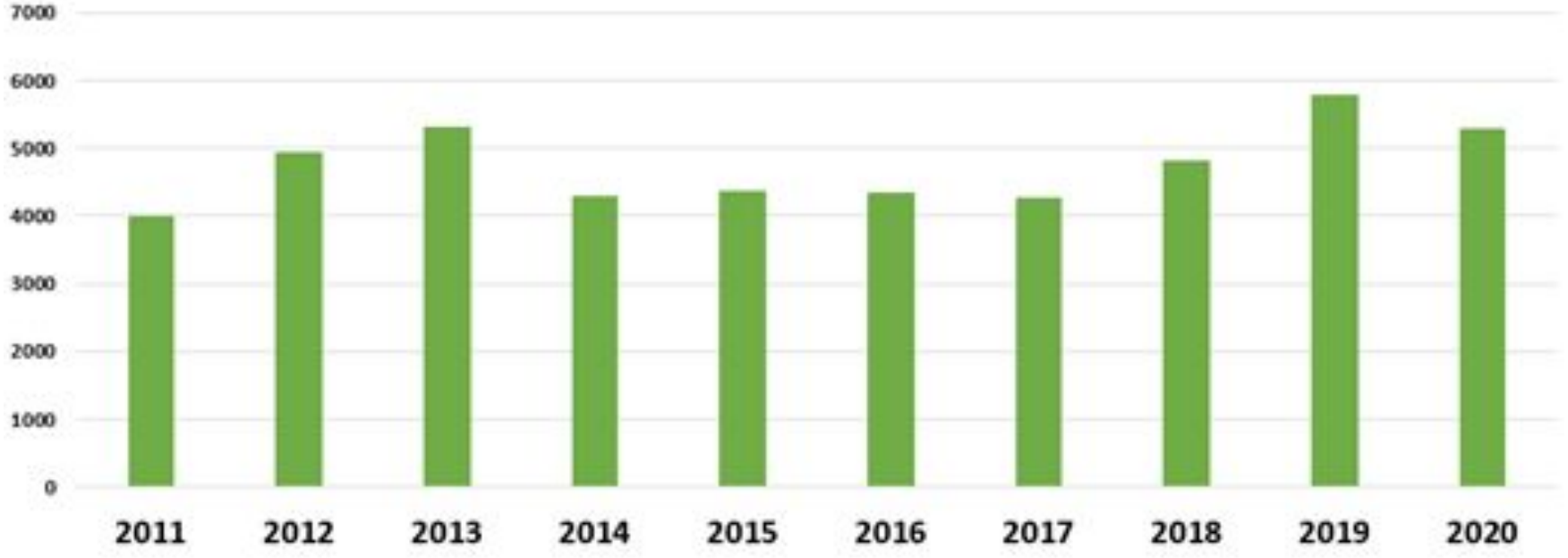


Overall Crime



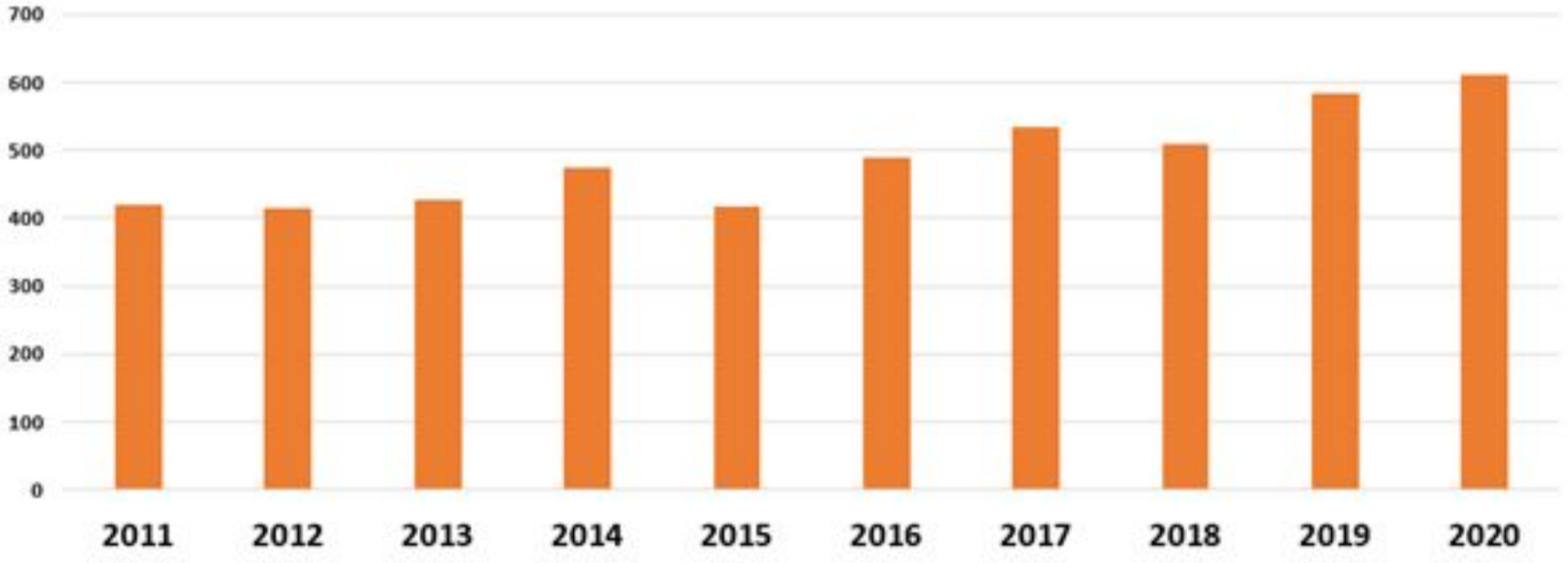
Crimes include all Part I and Part II offenses defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Property Crime



Property crimes are defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Part I offenses, which include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Violent Crime



Violent crimes are defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Part I offenses, which include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Violent Crime - Homicides

- Asheville is not seeing a major increase in homicides like other major metropolitan areas.
  - The Major Cities Chiefs Association found that homicides rose by more than 32% in 66 major cities from 2019 to 2020.

- People killed in Asheville:
  - 2020 - 10
  - 2021 (YTD) - 5 (all killed by gunfire)

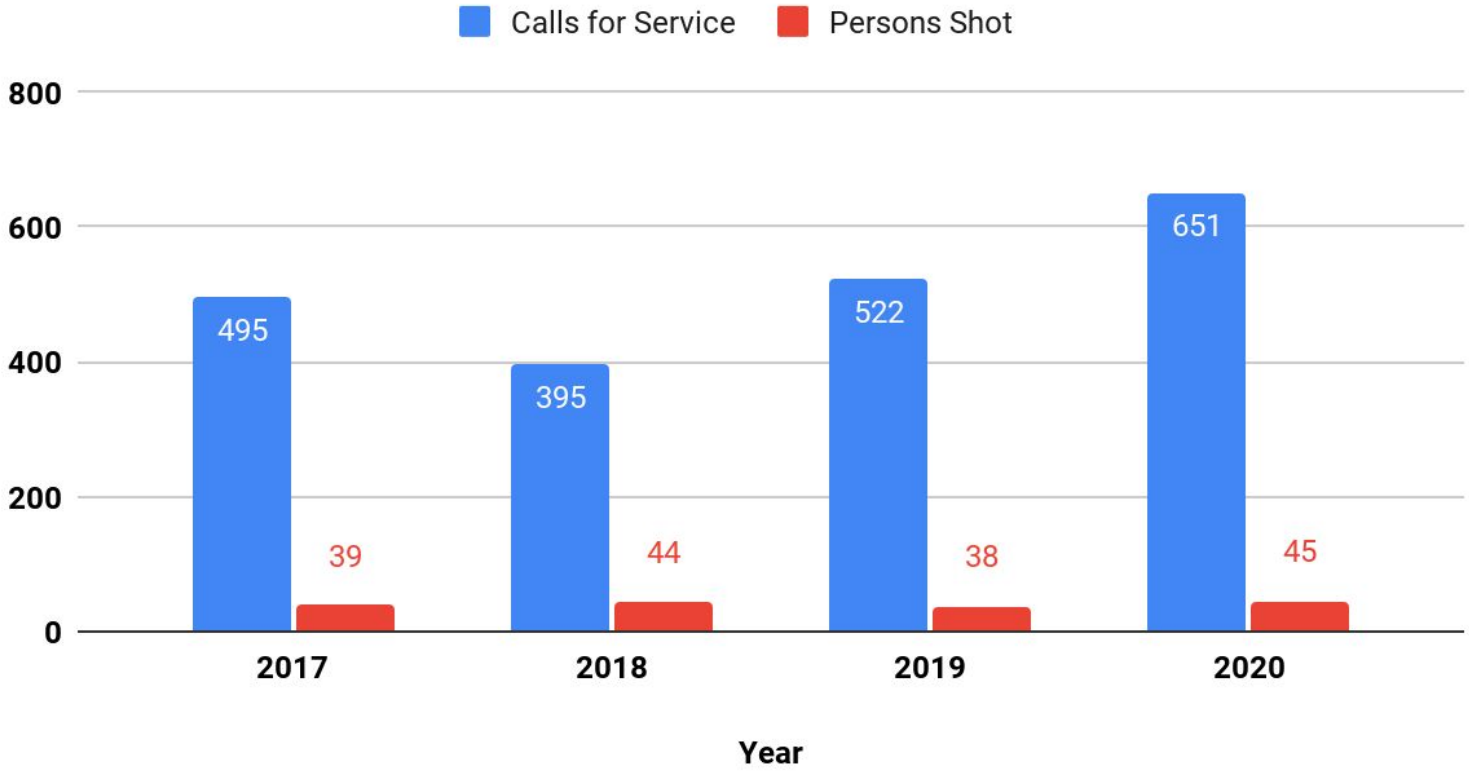
- National clearance rate for homicide - **61.4%**

- APD clearance rates for homicide:
  - 2019: 58%
  - 2020: 60%
  - 2021 (YTD): 80%

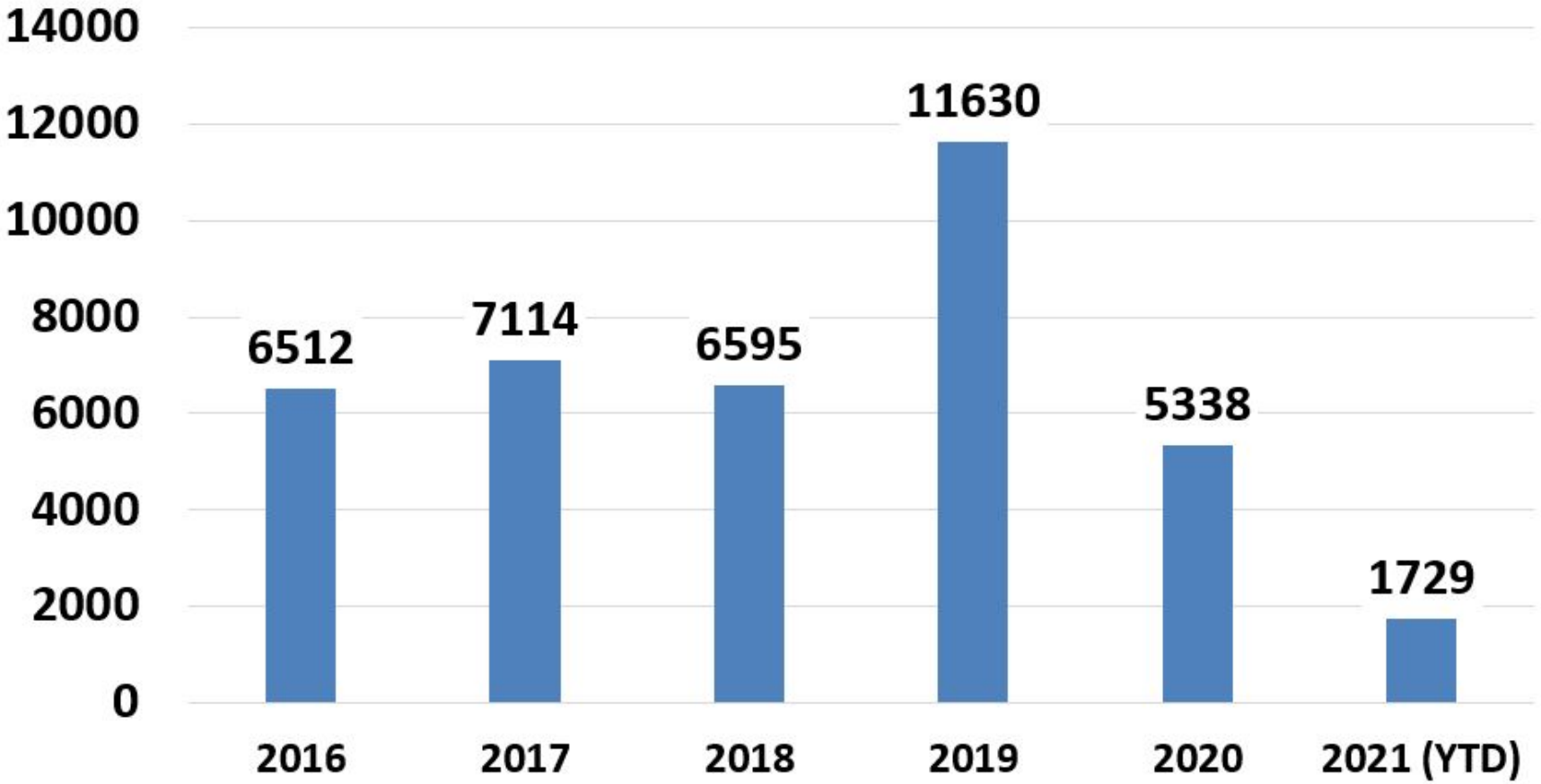
Gun Violence

- **18** people have been shot in 2021 (year-to-date), down from **21** in 2020.
- APD has seized **114** guns since January 1, 2021.
  - **200** guns were seized in 2020.
- APD coordinates monthly with federal, state, and local partners to discuss and address ongoing gun violence in Asheville.

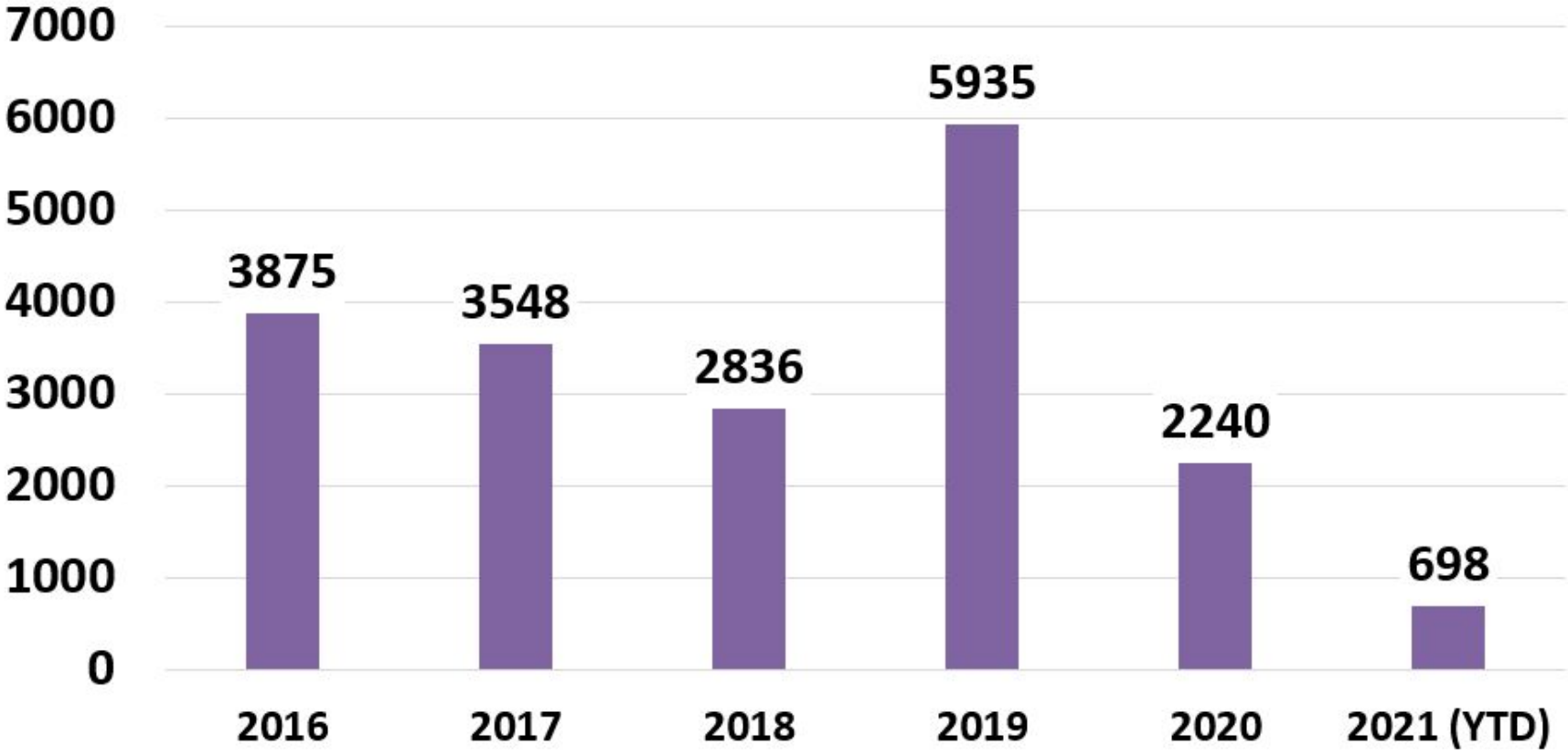
Calls for Gun Discharge and Persons Shot



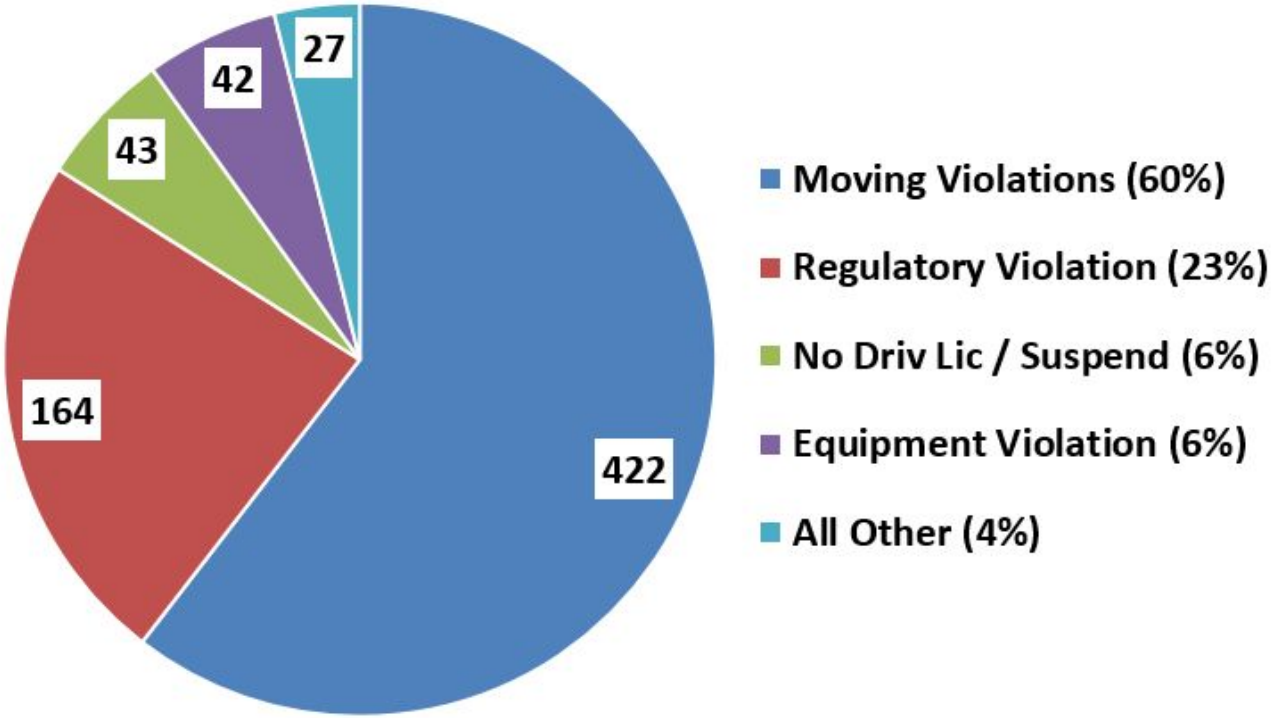
Traffic Stops: Past Five Years



Traffic Citations: Past Five Years



Traffic Stops Citations (2021)



QUESTIONS

What Can Our Community Do to Help?

- If you are a victim of a non-emergency crime, use the P2C tool to report the incident online.

- Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility:
  - Remember to always lock your doors (both home and vehicle)
  - Secure your belongings (secure bicycles, tools, and lawn equipment)
  - Place valuables out of sight

- If you **see something, say something**. You can even "say something" anonymously using the TIP411 text feature or smartphone app.

Police to Citizen (P2C) Online Reporting

- Online reporting of non-emergency crimes is not new.
  - In May of 2020 APD announced an upgrade to the Police to Citizen tool that provides victims of non-emergency crimes the ability to submit reports online.

- For over a year we have encouraged individuals to use P2C to report non-emergency crimes - proactive stories with local media and continuous social media reminders.

- Online reporting has been underutilized.

- Website to access P2C: https://ashevillepd.policetocitizen.com/ReportIncident

TIP411

- Provides the ability to **anonymously** provide information to APD, as well as anonymous 2-way communication.

- Two ways to use:
  - Text keyword **TIP2APD** to **847411**.
  - Download the smartphone app by searching for **Asheville PD** on your app phone (compatible with iPhone and Android)

- TIP411 stats
  - Announced rollout of the tool on December 1, 2020
  - Since the rollout **1,074** tips have come into the app
  - Many tips have led directly to, or assisted in, charges and arrests

Reimagining Public Safety Efforts

- APD continues to engage with community members and organizations about ways to reallocate and share public safety services
    - **Community Paramedics**
        - Continue to work with Buncombe County to learn more about a co-response to calls regarding medical/behavioral health issues
    - **Asheville City Schools**
        - Conversations with ACS about roles and responsibilities of School Resource Officers
    - **911 Consolidation**
    - **Response to Traffic Crashes**
        - Crash Report Centers?
        - Civilian Crash Investigators (Wilmington model)?

Conclusion

- APD continues to work with the community, as well as federal, state, and local partners to discuss and address violent crime in Asheville.

- The number of traffic stops are down drastically compared to 2019 and 2020 numbers.
  - The total number of regulatory violations and equipment violations have decreased by 25% since 2019.

- We continue to have conversations with other city departments and community organizations to reimagine public safety services.


POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE
N.C.
Est.1875