



KINSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



MISSION STATEMENT:

THE KINSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PLEDGES TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY, TO SAFEGUARD LIVES AND PROPERTY, AND TO PRESERVE ORDER ALL WHILE RESPECTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF EVERYONE TO LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE.

About Kinston, North Carolina



The Kinston Police Department is charged with the protection of life and property and with maintaining public order through the prevention and reduction of crime. In addition to enforcing the law, the Department places emphasis on addressing community concerns related to safety, quality of life, and the public's perception of crime. Through the implementation of community-oriented policing strategies, the Department works in coordination with community stakeholders to identify concerns, develop solutions, and promote a safe and livable environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

The City of Kinston serves as the county seat of Lenoir County, North Carolina, and had a population of 19,888 according to the 2022 Census. Kinston has served as the county seat since Lenoir County's establishment in 1791 and is geographically located within the Coastal Plain region of Eastern North Carolina. The city has a history of civic engagement and recognition, including being designated an All-America City in 1988 and again in 2009.

Kinston was established in December 1762 by an act of the North Carolina General Assembly as Kingston, named in honor of King George III. Following the American Revolution, the city was renamed Kinston in 1784, reflecting the community's move away from monarchical influence. Over time, Kinston has experienced continued growth and development and now supports a diverse mix of residential neighborhoods, commercial enterprises, healthcare facilities, and industrial resources. Key institutions include UNC Lenoir Health Care, a revitalized downtown business district, and the North Carolina Global TransPark. In 2024, Professional Baseball's Frontier League announced they would bring the Down East Bird Dawgs to Kinston beginning with the 2025 season, contributing to economic development and community engagement initiatives.





Law Enforcement Agency of
Year
Presented to
**KINSTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
2025

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

OUR MISSION

The Kinston Police Department pledges to serve our community, to safeguard lives and property, and to preserve order all while respecting the constitutional rights of everyone to liberty, equality and justice.

OUR VALUES

- Compassion • Professionalism • Fairness • Respect
- Honesty • Trust • Integrity • Loyalty

RESPONSIBILITIES

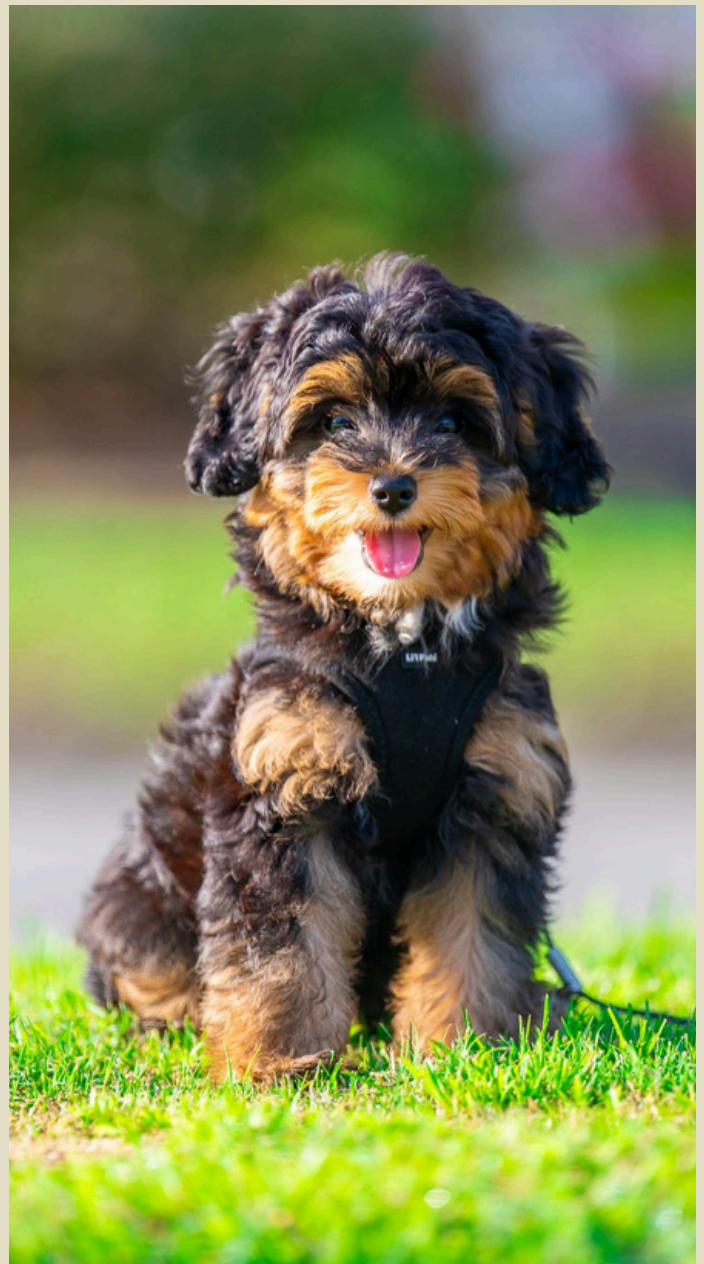
We are proud providers of professional police services to the citizens of the City of Kinston. Our Police Department provides:

- Proactive Uniformed Patrol
- Operation Safe & Sound
- Traffic Enforcement
- Support Services
- Criminal Investigations
- School Resource Officers
- Crime Laboratory
- SWAT Capabilities

PROGRAMS WE PROVIDE

- Community Partnership Programs
- Victims Services Coordination
- Community Watch Program Assistance
- Sentinel Program
- Home Safety Inspections
- Residential, Commercial and Houses of Worship Safety Workshops
- Blessing Box
- Informational Channel "2" Community Access Channel

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Citizens of Kinston,

It is my privilege to present the Kinston Police Department's Annual Report for 2025. This document reflects the collective work of our agency over the past year and provides a detailed account of our efforts to enhance public safety, strengthen community partnerships, and uphold the highest standards of professional policing.

Throughout 2025, the department remained focused on advancing initiatives that support a safer and more resilient community. Our strategies were guided by data-driven decision-making, responsible resource management, and a continued commitment to transparency and accountability. The accomplishments outlined in this report are the result of disciplined planning, dedicated service, and the strong collaboration between our officers, staff, and the citizens we serve. Several areas of progress merit particular recognition:

Public Safety and Crime Reduction: Through targeted enforcement efforts, interagency cooperation, and the effective use of analytical tools, we continued to address crime trends with precision and purpose. These efforts contributed to measurable improvements in several key areas of public safety.

Community Engagement: Strengthening relationships with the community remained a central priority. The department expanded its outreach initiatives, increased participation in civic events, and continued to foster open dialogue with residents, community leaders, and partner organizations.

Professional Development: The department invested significantly in training and leadership development to ensure our personnel are equipped to meet the evolving demands of modern policing. Emphasis was placed on officer wellness, advanced skills training, and the reinforcement of ethical and professional standards.

Operational and Technological Enhancements: Continued modernization of our systems and equipment improved the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. These advancements support our ability to respond promptly, conduct thorough investigations, and maintain a high level of service to the public.

The progress achieved in 2025 reflects the dedication of the men and women of the Kinston Police Department. Their professionalism, integrity, and commitment to duty remain the foundation of our success. I extend my sincere appreciation to each member of the department for their service. I also wish to express my gratitude to the residents of Kinston. Your support, cooperation, and engagement are essential to our mission. The partnership between the community and the police department is vital to maintaining a safe and thriving city, and we remain committed to strengthening that partnership in the years ahead.

As we look toward 2026, the Kinston Police Department will continue to advance initiatives that promote safety, trust, and accountability. We remain steadfast in our responsibility to protect and serve this community with honor.

Sincerely,

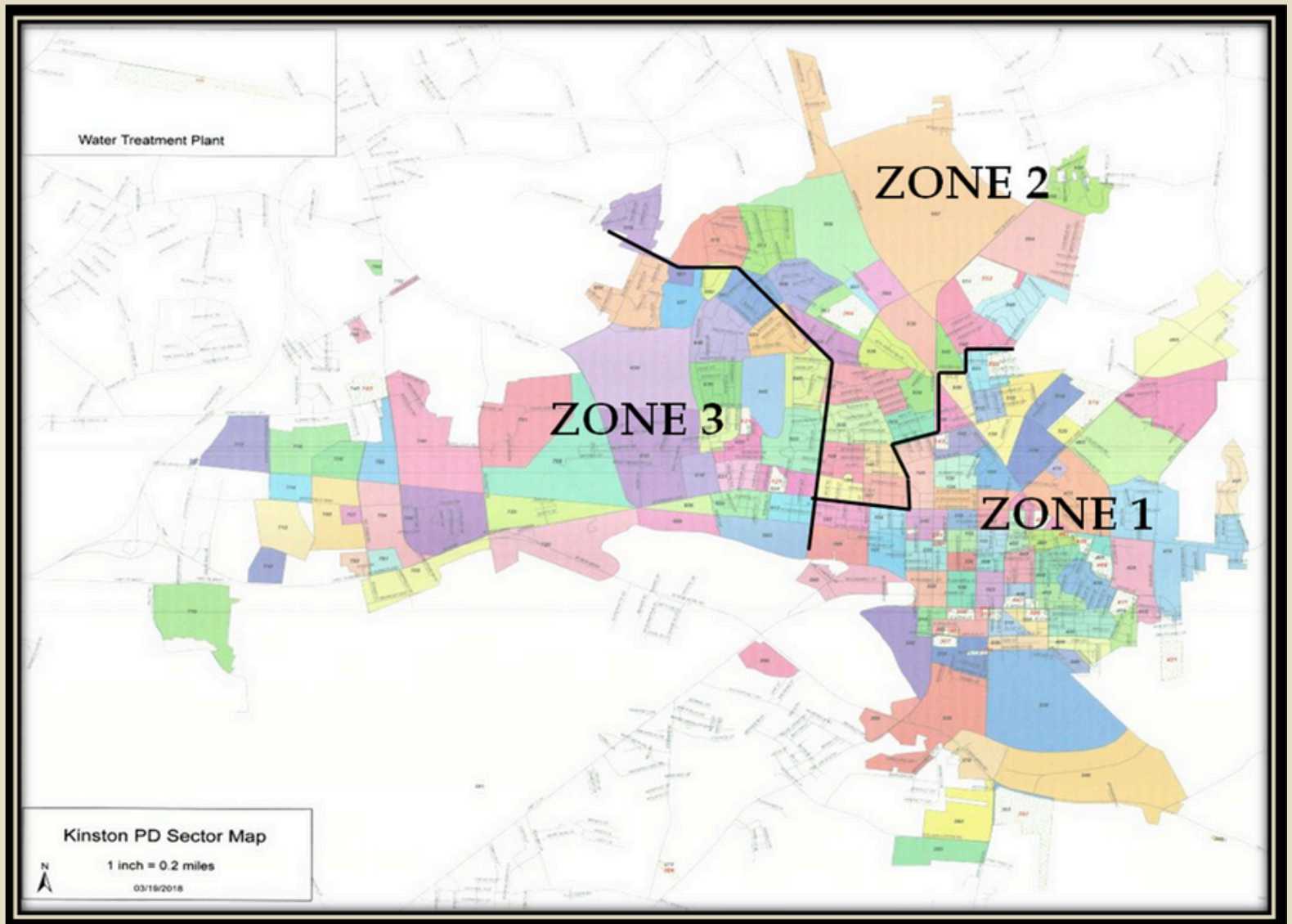
Chief of Police,
Kinston Police Department



KPD ZONE ASSIGNMENTS

The City of Kinston is divided into three patrol zones to ensure effective and efficient delivery of police services throughout the city. These zones are designated as North, East, and West, with each zone encompassing a defined geographic area.

Patrol supervisors are responsible for assigning officers to zones based on an analysis of historical data and current call-for-service volume. Zone assignments are adjusted as necessary to ensure adequate coverage, timely response, and optimal use of departmental resources.



AGENCY SUMMARY

The Kinston Police Department is structured to provide effective, efficient, and accountable law enforcement services to the community through a clearly defined organizational framework. The department is organized into four primary divisions: Operations, Support Services, Professional Services, and Administrative. This structure ensures clear lines of authority, functional separation of duties, and consistency with professional law enforcement practices and accreditation standards.

The Operations Division is responsible for the delivery of core law enforcement services. This division integrates both patrol and investigative functions to promote operational continuity and effective resource deployment. Responsibilities include uniformed patrol operations, first response to calls for service, and criminal investigations. The Operations Division consists of patrol squads, General Investigations, the Violent Crime Action Team, and Crime Scene Investigations (CSI).

The Support Services Division provides essential operational and administrative support critical to the department's mission. This division includes the Records Unit, Public Information Officer (PIO) functions, School Resource Officers (SROs), Sentinels, and analytics. Support Services is responsible for records management and compliance, public information and media coordination, school-based law enforcement services, data collection and analysis, and information dissemination to support informed decision-making and transparency.

The Professional Services Division supports organizational sustainability and professional excellence. This division oversees internal affairs, personnel recruitment and selection, training and professional development, and accreditation management. The Professional Services Division is responsible for ensuring personnel are appropriately trained, qualified, and evaluated, and that the department maintains compliance with CALEA and NCLEA standards.

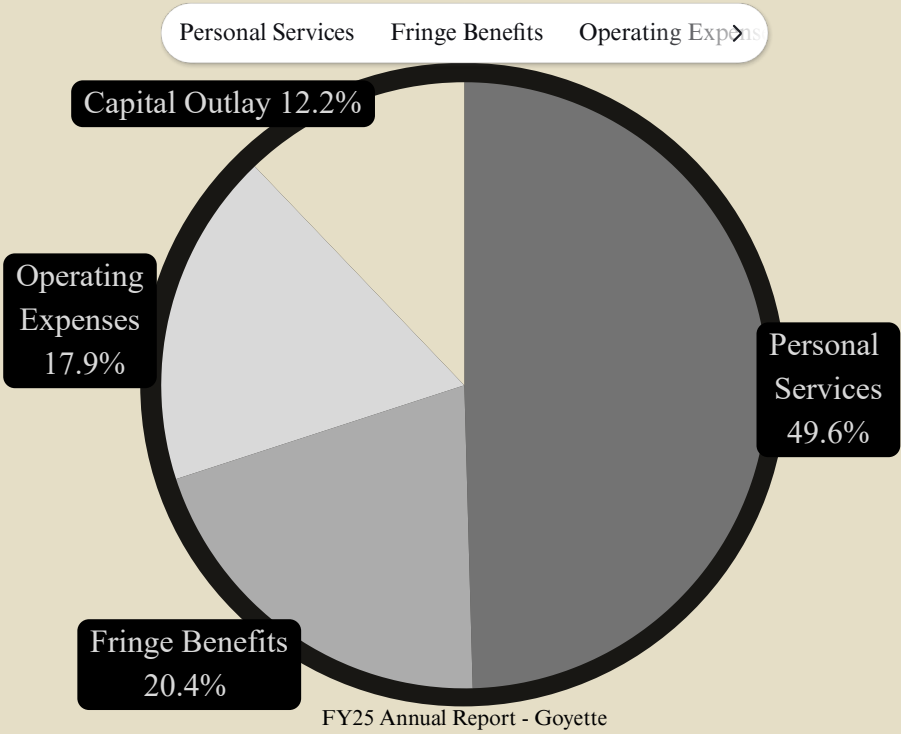
The Administrative Division provides executive leadership, strategic direction, fiscal oversight, and internal accountability. This division is comprised of the Chief of Police, Administrative Manager, Majors (Deputy Chiefs), and the Internal Investigations supervisor. The Administrative Division ensures policy development, fiscal responsibility, discipline oversight, and alignment of departmental operations with the department's mission and goals.

As of 2025, the Kinston Police Department is staffed by 67 full-time sworn officers, five part-time sworn officers, and seven non-sworn personnel. Staffing levels and organizational alignment are evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure adequate service delivery and compliance with professional standards.

This organizational structure supports the department's strategic objectives, promotes accountability, and enhances operational effectiveness. The Kinston Police Department remains committed to continuous improvement, professional standards, and community-oriented policing consistent with the principles of accrediting bodies.

Operating Budget
KPD Fiscal Year 25-26

Operating Categories	Funding
Personal Services	\$5,071,532
Fringe Benefits	\$2,090,861
Operating Expenses	\$1,826,911
Capital Outlay	\$1,243,586
Total	\$10,232,890



Sworn Staff Rank Structure

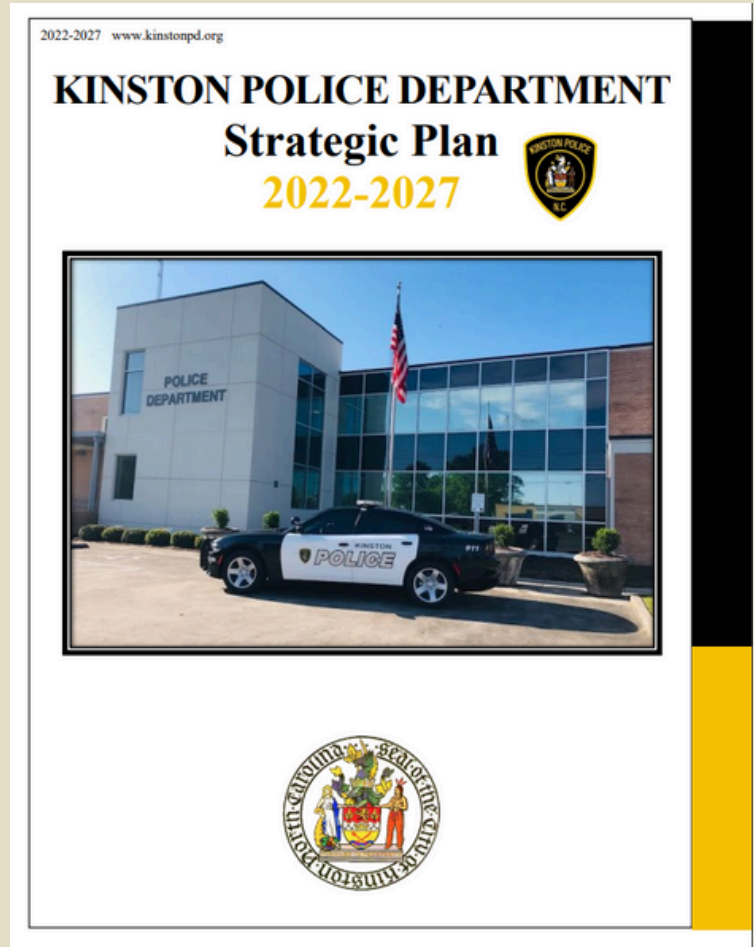
Chief of Police
Major
Captain
Sergeant
Corporal (formerly MPO)
Senior Police Officer
Police Officer II
Police Officer I
Police Officer
Police Trainee
Police BLET Student



STRATEGIC PLAN

In April of 2020, the agency developed a Strategic Planning Committee that was comprised of command, supervisory, sworn and nonsworn personnel from throughout the department. This plan reflects the Agency's efforts to formulate a strategic direction for our future. This evaluation was completed while considering the needs of the Kinston community, with special consideration given to the Department's Mission.

From our internal assessment, we set initiatives (goals) and short-term actions (objectives) to guide our direction and decision making for our Agency's future. The Kinston Police Department Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 represents the Agency's ongoing commitment to improve the manner in which we serve. The Kinston Police Department is a professional law enforcement agency that continually seeks to meet the challenges of serving and protecting the residence, guests and businesses of our community.



We are thrilled to share that the Kinston Police Department has successfully completed 75% of our ambitious five-year strategic plan, with two years still remaining to achieve our goals. This remarkable progress is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our officers, staff, and community partners. By focusing on key areas such as crime reduction, community engagement, technological advancements, and professional development, we have laid a strong foundation for continued success. As we move forward, we remain committed to fulfilling the remaining objectives and ensuring that Kinston continues to thrive as a safe and vibrant community for all. Your ongoing support and partnership are crucial in making these achievements possible, and we are excited to see what we can accomplish together in the coming years.

In the summer of 2022, the Strategic Plan was before the City of Kinston Council and ever since then, the KPD Strategic Plan has been in place. The Strategic Plan is located on our website. The ten goals the KPD Strategic Plan identifies are:

- Maintain a safe & secure community
- Develop a comprehensive traffic safety plan
- Develop an enhanced recruiting & retention plan
- Upgrade facilities, technology & equipment
- Upgrade vehicles
- Enhance community partnerships & Engagement
- Develop employee skills & enhance organizational leadership
- Expand and improve the SWAT Team for future development
- Revamp the K9 Unit
- Agency Enhancement



PATROL DIVISION

A-SQUAD



CAPTAIN A WILLIS

B-SQUAD



CAPTAIN N METTS

C-SQUAD



CAPTAIN J WALKER

D-SQUAD



CAPTAIN J BEST



SERGEANT
C COULOMBE



SERGEANT
J WILLIAMS



SERGEANT
L MILLER



SERGEANT
O STEWART

The Patrol Division is the largest division within the Kinston Police Department and serves as the primary operational component of the agency. The division is responsible for providing uniformed police services throughout the City of Kinston and operates under the command of Major Turner.

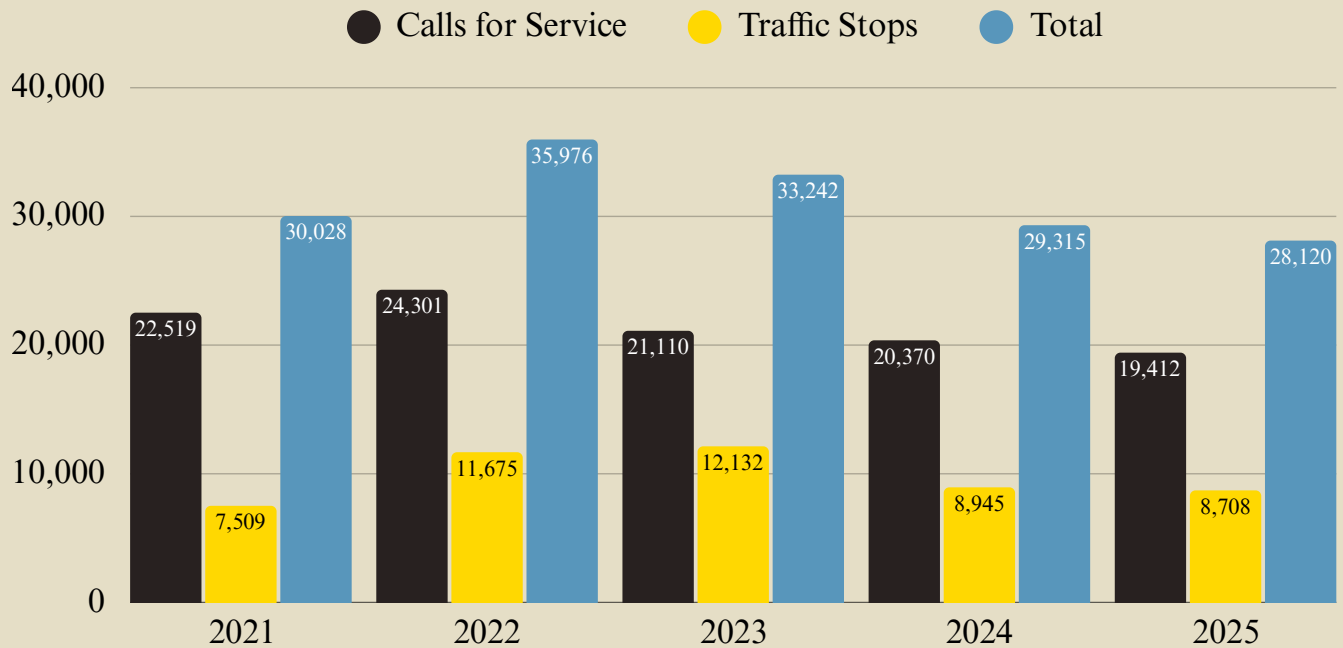
The Patrol Division is comprised of four patrol squads, each led by a Squad Captain and a Sergeant. Each squad is structured to include eight non-supervisory officers, for a total of ten sworn personnel per squad. As is common among law enforcement agencies nationwide, the Patrol Division continues to experience staffing vacancies and currently operates at approximately seventy percent of its authorized strength.

The division has four fully certified K-9 teams assigned to patrol operations, with the addition of a fourth K-9 team anticipated in 2025. Patrol officers work 12-hour shifts and provide continuous coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Officers are assigned to designated geographic zones to ensure visible patrol presence, respond to calls for service, conduct traffic enforcement, and serve as community liaisons to support crime reduction and community engagement efforts.

Throughout 2025, patrol personnel voluntarily worked additional shifts to maintain adequate staffing levels and ensure timely response to calls for service, thereby continuing to meet the public safety needs of the citizens of Kinston.

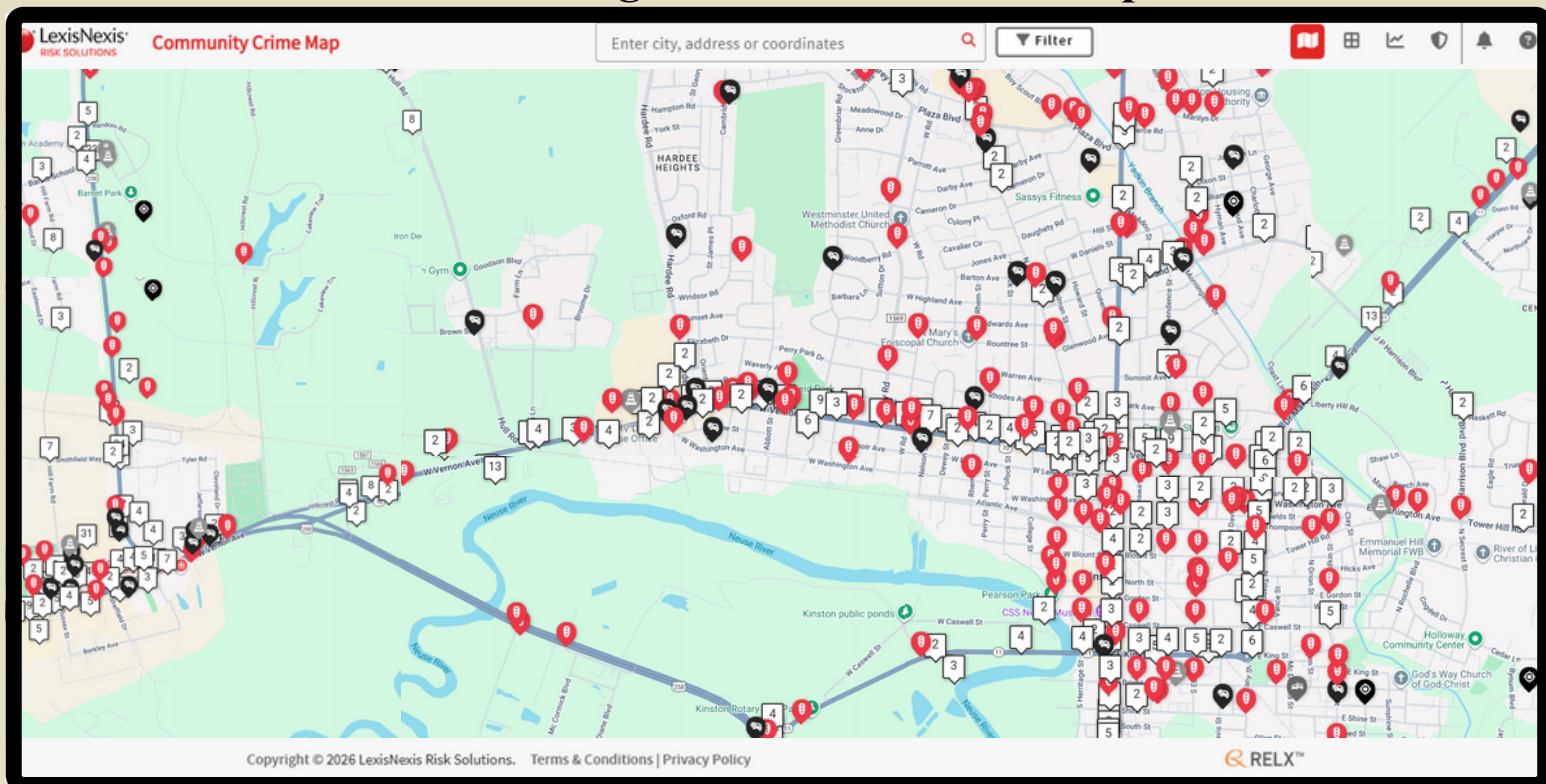
CALLS FOR SERVICE & TRAFFIC STOPS

KPD 2021-2025



TRAFFIC STOPS & CRASH MAP

- kinsonnc.gov/668/KPD-Crime-Map



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



SERGEANT S GREENE
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS



CAPTAIN C ARD
INVESTIGATIONS



SERGEANT D CONNOR
CRIME LAB

The General Investigations Unit consists of five investigators who tackle felony investigations for the agency. The Crime Lab Unit is made up of three Investigators and 1 nonsworn employee tasked with the processing all of the department's evidence and conducts crime scene investigations.

Criminal Investigations Division

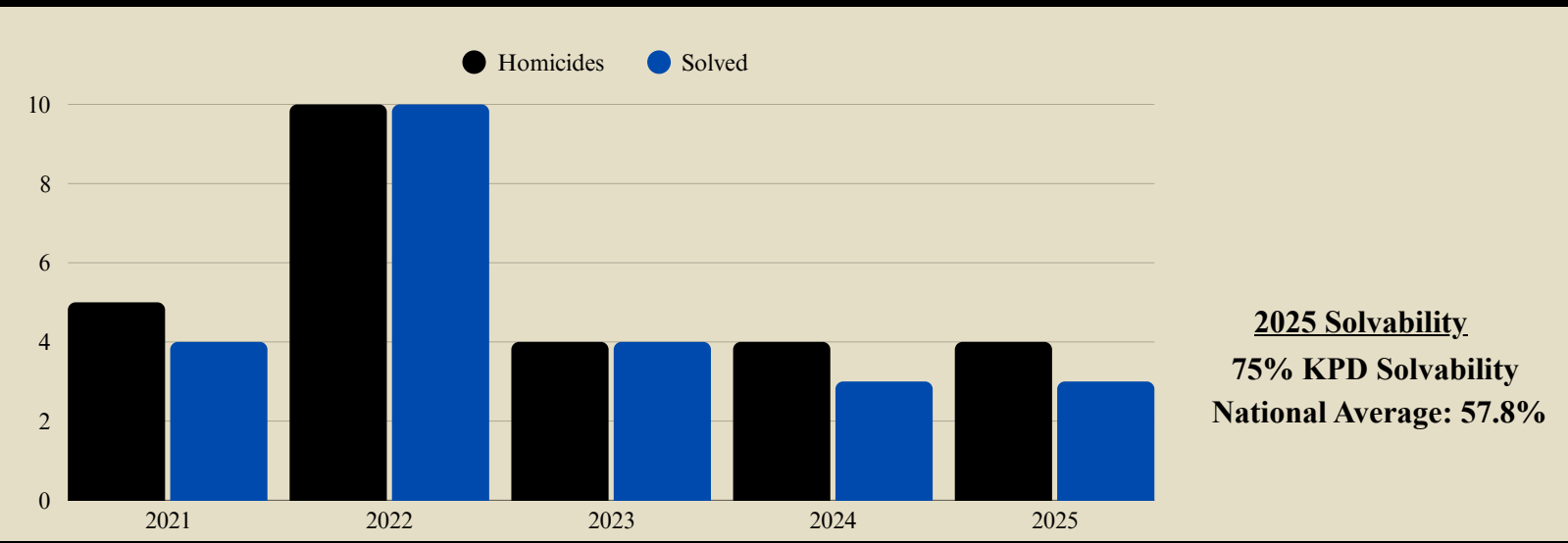
The Criminal Investigations Division remains steadfast in its mission to solve serious crimes committed within the city. The Division's efforts reflect a deep-rooted commitment to the pursuit of justice and dedicated service to the community. By leveraging innovative investigative techniques and maintaining strong partnerships with state and federal agencies, the Criminal Investigations Division continues to advance complex investigations and provide meaningful closure to victims and their families. The Division also remains committed to the development of a formal cold case initiative aimed at pursuing justice in long-unresolved cases.

2025 Year in Review:

During 2025, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigated four homicide cases. Three of these cases were cleared by arrest, resulting in an overall homicide clearance rate of 75 percent. This rate exceeds the most recent national average for homicides cleared by arrest or exceptional means, which remains approximately 57.8 percent.

In addition, the Unit investigated seventeen (17) cases involving individuals struck by gunfire. Fourteen (14) of these cases were cleared by arrest, yielding an 82.3 percent clearance rate. This performance significantly surpasses the national average clearance rate of 46.1 percent and reflects continued progress in addressing gun-related violence within the city.

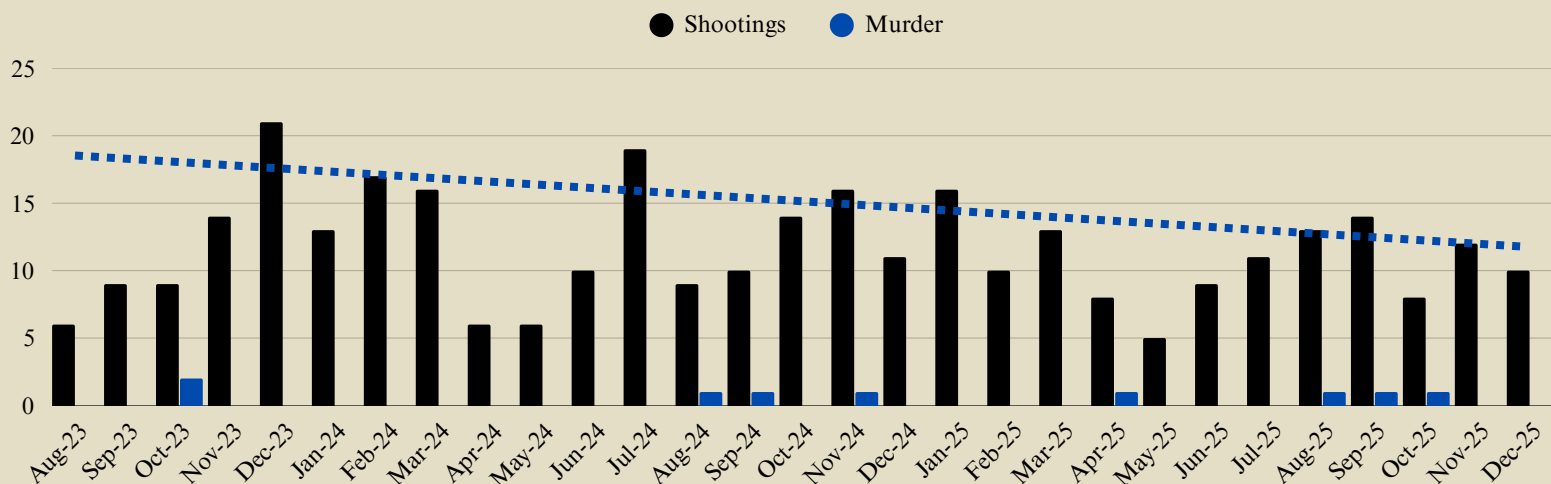
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Cases Assigned	24	23	15	22	12	11	22	11	4	11	5	14	174
Open Cases	2	3	2	2	2	1	4	5	2	4	0	4	31
Leads Exhausted	6	3	5	8	4	5	4	0	1	3	0	4	43
Unfounded	2	2	1	4	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	17
Refuse / Decline	5	5	5	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	22
Arrest / Located	9	10	2	6	2	4	9	5	1	3	5	5	61
Solvability Rate	38%	43%	13%	27%	17%	36%	41%	45%	25%	27%	100%	36%	35%



B/M Victims	16	B/M Known Suspects	14
B/F Victims	1	B/F Known Suspects	4
B/ Total	17	B/ Total	18
W/M Victims	1	W/M Known Suspects	0
W/F Victims	0	W/F Known Suspects	0
W/ Total	1	W/ Total	0

17 Total Victims Shot
Case Status
 14 Solved
 2 Victim Refused to Cooperate
 1 Leads Exhausted
2025 Solvability
 KPD 82.3%
 National Average 46.1%

ANNUAL SHOOTING STATS

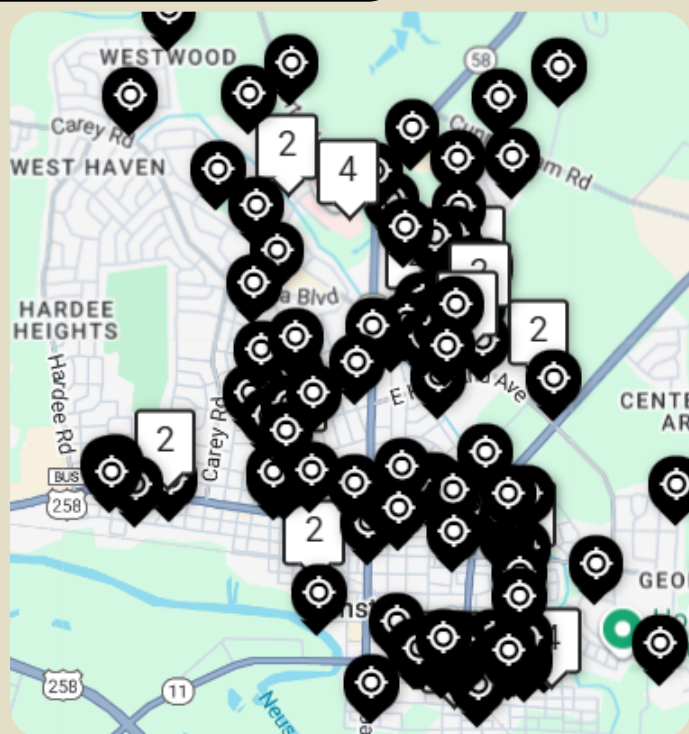


	MURDERS	ATTEMPTED	PEOPLE SHOT	"SHOOTINGS"
2021	5	1	20	64
2022	4	0	31	60
2023	4	8	23	73
2024	4	12	18	89
2025	4	16	25	101*

DIVERGENCE BETWEEN GUNFIRE FREQUENCY AND VICTIMIZATION RATES

*defined here as detected evidence

Data from 2021–2025 reveals a significant divergence: while recorded "Shootings" have increased (64 to 101), this surge has not produced a correlating rise in victimization. With murders remaining unchanged to date and "People Shot" totals staying below 2022 peaks, the data points to a "high frequency / low accuracy" dynamic. This indicates a shift toward reckless, high-volume fire with a lower conversion rate to physical injury. Or an increased sensitivity in community reporting. While the stability in fatal outcomes is positive, the rise in indiscriminate gunfire presents a distinct, continuing collateral threat.



Crime Lab / CSI Unit

The Crime Lab serves as the agency's Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit. For 2025, the Crime Lab Unit was staffed by three sworn investigators who were solely responsible for processing all departmental evidence and conducting crime scene investigations. Each CSI investigator is trained in the documentation, collection, and preservation of all forms of physical evidence. This includes, but is not limited to, fingerprints, footwear impressions, tool impressions, blood and other biological evidence, trace evidence such as hair and fiber, and tire impressions. These seemingly small or insignificant pieces of evidence often prove critical in identifying suspects and bringing offenders to justice.

CSI investigators have attended specialized training programs provided by the FBI, TBI, ATF, DEA, and various universities throughout the southeastern United States. In addition, investigators have received advanced instruction in chemically enhanced latent print processing, specialized and digital photography, bloodstain pattern analysis, fingerprint comparison, tire and footwear impression analysis, flight path analysis, practical homicide and death investigations, and modern fingerprint development techniques, among other forensic disciplines.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Crime Scenes	8	8	6	6	4	4	16	13	12	6	5	9	97
Evidence Collected	137	159	236	270	221	164	262	245	279	206	238	248	2665
Video / Discovery	19	10	7	10	7	17	11	8	8	8	17	4	126
Evidence To / From Labs	157	144	93	234	147	0	200	196	203	10	165	150	1699
Latent Examinations	7	1	1	1	3	23	5	1	2	25	7	2	78
Guns Collected	12	14	14	25	12	10	25	21	16	14	16	11	191

Violent Crime Action Team (VCAT)

The Violent Crime Action Team (VCAT) serves as the Department's proactive street crimes and narcotics enforcement unit. VCAT is tasked with identifying, disrupting, and dismantling violent criminal activity through targeted enforcement, intelligence-led policing, and proactive investigative strategies. The Unit focuses on individuals and groups driving violent crime, illegal firearms possession, and narcotics distribution within the city, while maintaining a strong emphasis on accountability and constitutional policing.

VCAT employs a data-driven approach to enforcement, leveraging crime analysis, community intelligence, and collaborative partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies. Through directed patrols, covert operations, controlled purchases, and search and arrest warrant service, the Unit works to reduce violent crime and improve quality of life in high-impact areas. VCAT's efforts are closely coordinated with patrol and criminal investigations to ensure seamless case development and successful prosecution.

2025 Year in Review:

During 2025, VCAT conducted numerous proactive enforcement operations targeting violent offenders and narcotics traffickers. These efforts resulted in more than 171 felony arrests, the seizure of illegal firearms, and the removal of significant quantities of controlled substances from circulation. Additionally, the Unit assisted in the seizure of more than \$650,000 in illicit proceeds associated with drug trafficking. Through focused deterrence and sustained enforcement efforts in identified crime hot spots, VCAT played a critical role in suppressing violent crime and supporting broader departmental crime reduction initiatives.

Drugs Seized	Weight in Grams
Fentanyl	161.20
Cocaine	1,528.40
Crack Cocaine	61.80
Methamphetamine	478.40
Marijuana	16,364.90



Firearms Seized	14
US Currency	\$657,512
Felonies Charged	171

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for conducting administrative investigations, including citizen complaints and use-of-force reviews, involving members of the Kinston Police Department. The purpose of the Office of Professional Standards is to promote accountability, transparency, and professional integrity while supporting the department’s commitment to maintaining public trust with residents and visitors.

Personnel assigned to the Office of Professional Standards ensure that all complaints are thoroughly, objectively, and timely investigated. Investigations are conducted in a manner that ensures fairness and consistency for both the complainant and the involved employee. Information obtained during the investigative process is forwarded through the accused employee’s chain of command for review and adjudication. Final findings are reported to the Chief of Police.

Upon completion of a citizen or internal investigation, each case is classified into one of the following disposition categories:

Not Involved: The employee was not present at the time of the alleged incident or had no involvement in the matter.

Unfounded: The allegation was determined to be false or without factual basis.

Not Sustained: There was insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.

Exonerated: The incident occurred; however, the employee’s actions were lawful, proper, and within departmental policy.

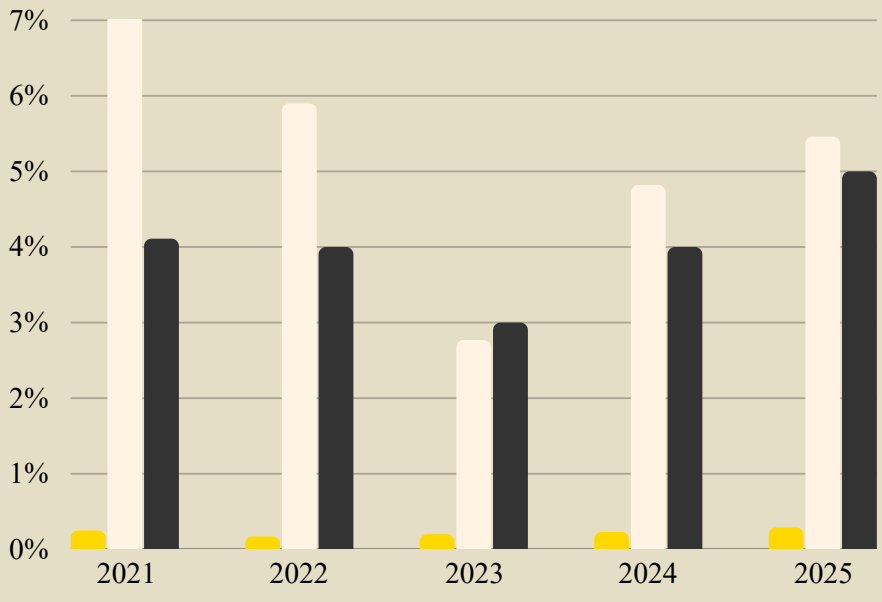
Sustained: The allegation was supported by sufficient evidence to reasonably conclude the misconduct occurred.



Sergeant J Burkett
Internal Affairs

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Citizen Complaints	10	21	23	11	12
Sustained	0%	0%	13%	0%	8%
Internal Employee Complaints	8	15	3	5	3
Sustained	88%	80%	100%	20%	100%

Source: Data Table: Complaints Summary, 2025 (KPD) Law Enforcement Accreditation

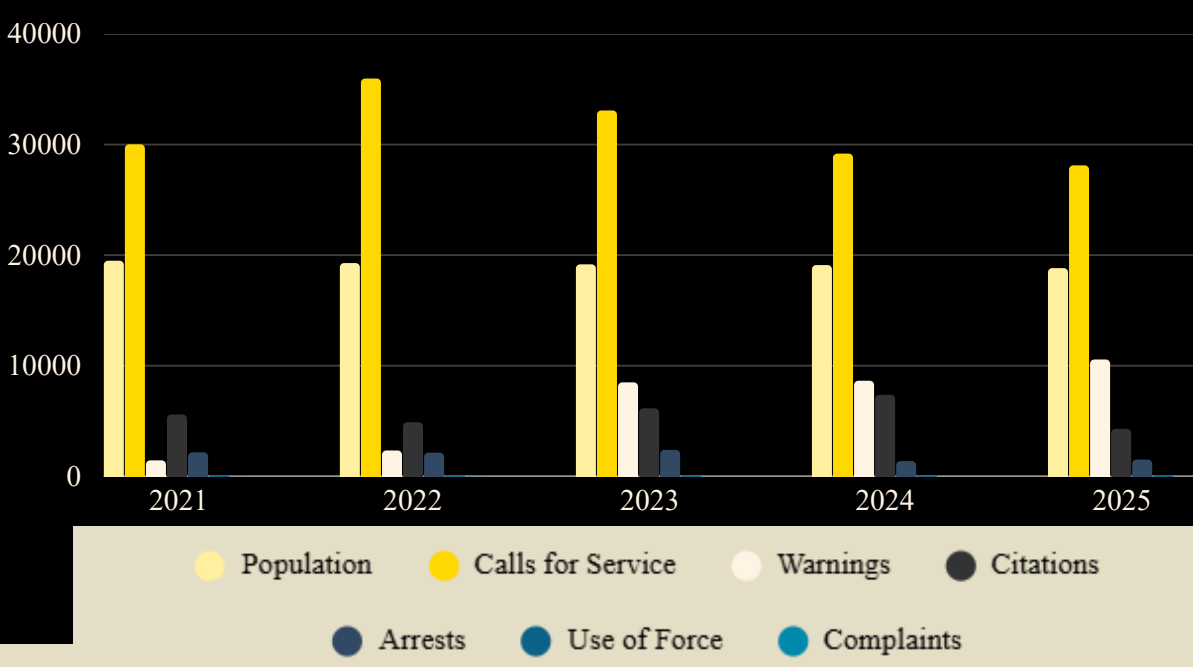


The Calls for Service vs Use of Force data indicates that force is consistently used in less than 0.3% of incidents. This aligns with the department's focus of training techniques, a passion for procedural standards and complying with state statutes and best practice.

In 2025, less than 3 uses of force for every 1,000 calls.

● Use of Force events per Calls for Service
 ● Use of Force events per arrest
 ● Active Resistance per Arrest

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Calls for Service	30,024	35,976	33,085	29,184	28,120
Arrests	2,160	2,127	2,379	1,368	1,503
Use of Force	75	62	66	66	82



- State: <1% force per arrest
- High Poverty/Crime: ~2.0% - 3.0% force per arrest
- Kinston (2025): 5.46% force per arrest

Indicates low trust and extreme volatility in the average police-citizen interaction.

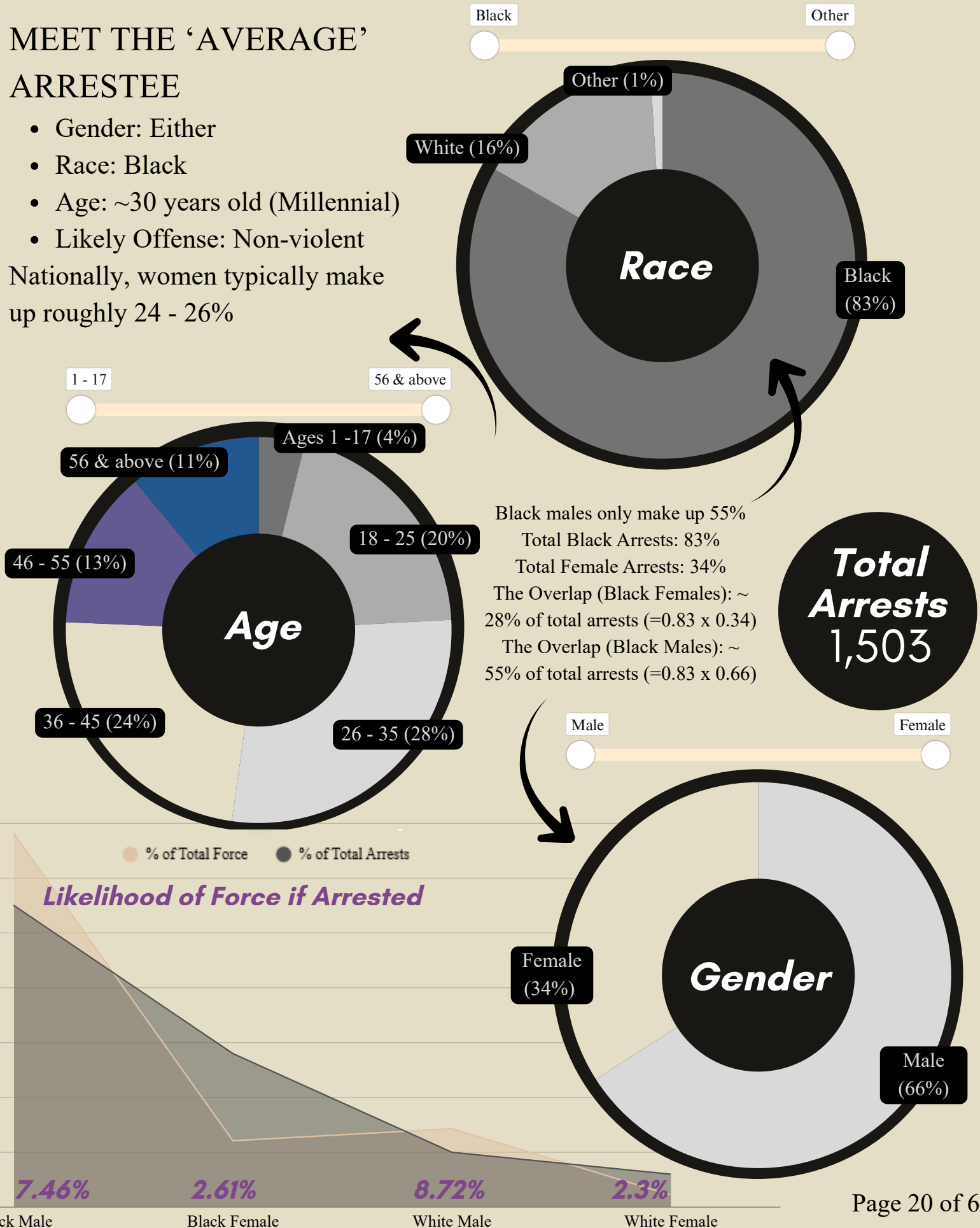
Increasing Officer Injuries indicate that increased levels of resistance.

ARREST DATA

MEET THE 'AVERAGE' ARRESTEE

- Gender: Either
- Race: Black
- Age: ~30 years old (Millennial)
- Likely Offense: Non-violent

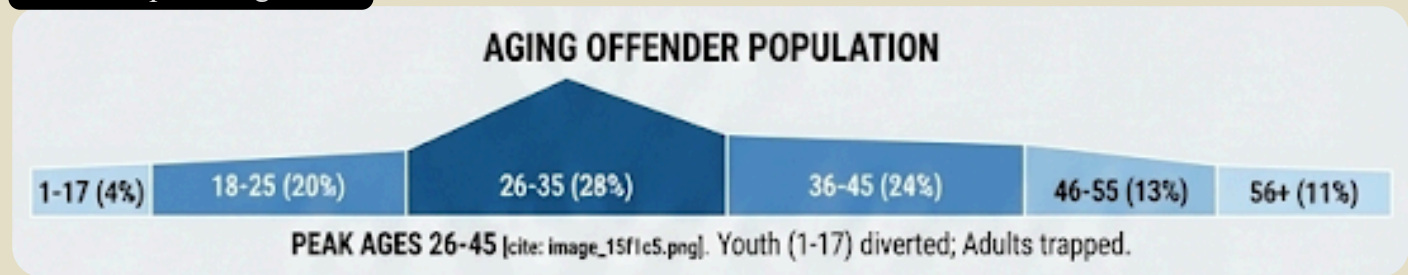
Nationally, women typically make up roughly 24 - 26%



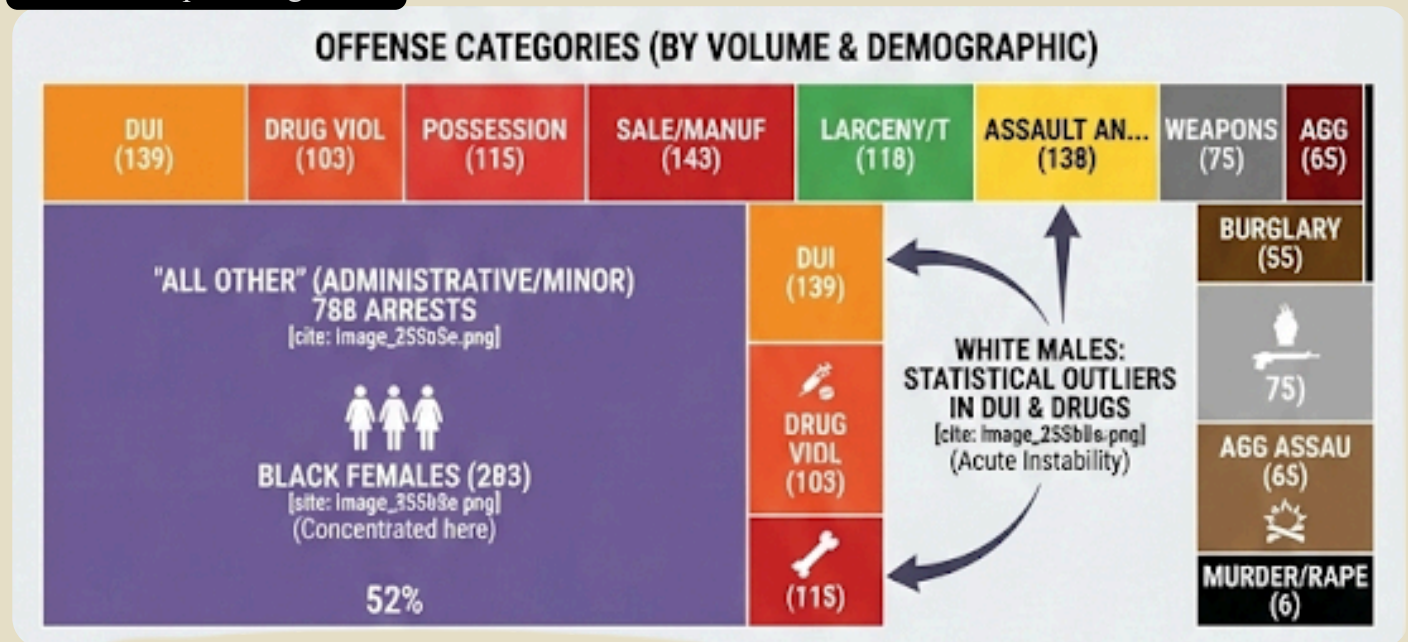
MEET THE “HIDDEN” KINSTON ARRESTEE

Female % significantly higher than the national average (~25%)

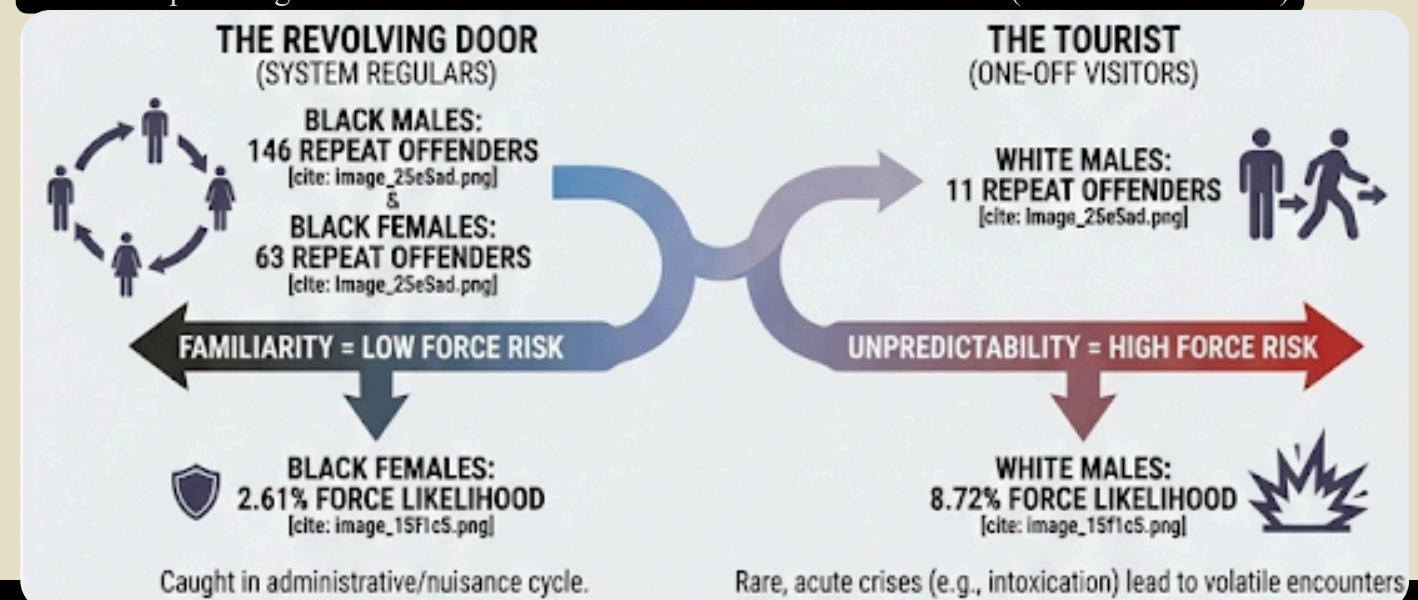
First Compounding Factor



Second Compounding Factor



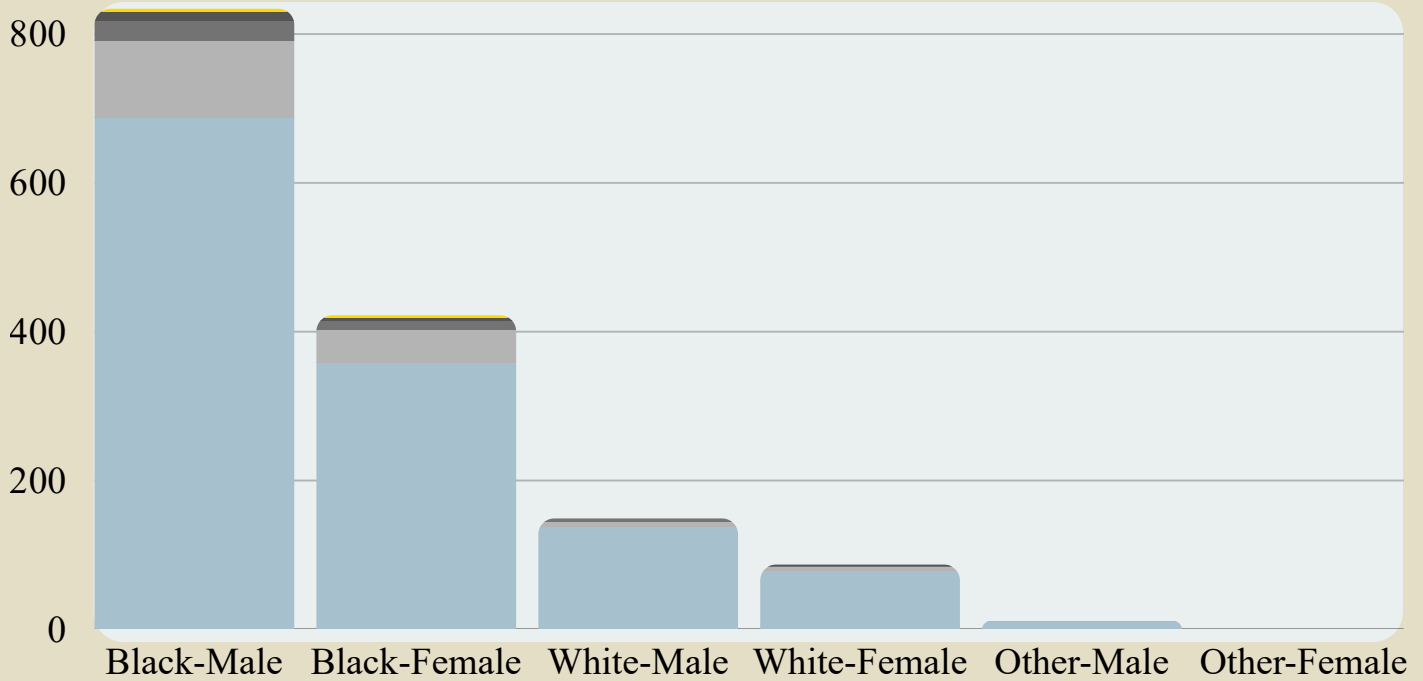
Third Compounding Factor: THE REVOLVING DOOR vs THE TOURIST (Recidivism & Force)



White males are statistically higher chance of having force used, possibly due to the significantly smaller sample population and arrests are for offenses that escalate due to substance-related issues

REPEAT OFFENSES IN 2025

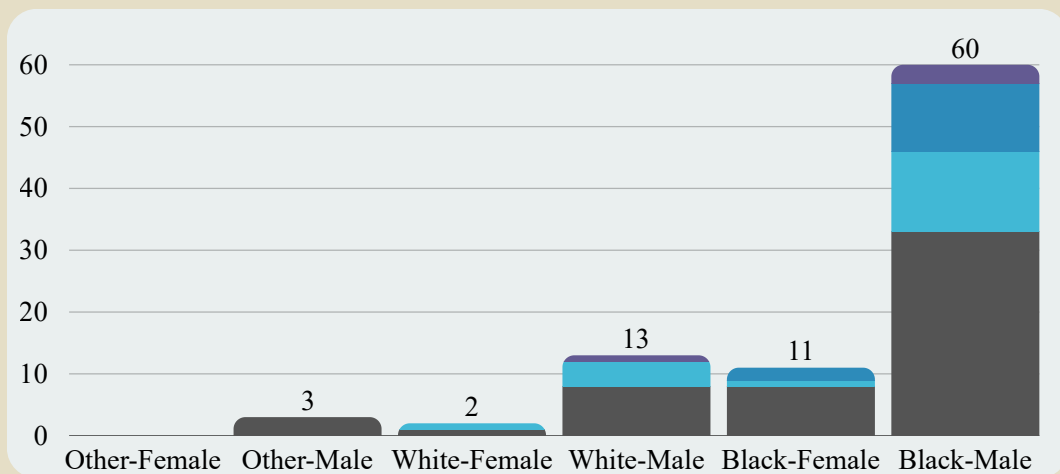
● First Offense ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 or more



RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE OCCURENCES

Metric	2023	2024	2025	Trend / % Change
Total Use of Force Incidents	66	66	82	24%
Force per Arrest Rate	2.77%	4.82%	5.46%	Doubled (High Risk)
Combined OC Spray & Taser	1	1	17	+1,600% (Major Escalation)
Weapon Point (Display Only)	11	16	19	+73% (Since 2023)
Weaponless	32	43	53	+65% (Since 2023)

ECW Discharge



This confirms compounding resistance: one tool is no longer working, so officers are deploying multiple weapons in single encounters. These numbers typically imply that a “failure of initial force” has occurred. Correlates to a active resistance severity/frequency is increasing.

FROM COMPLIANCE TO COMBAT:

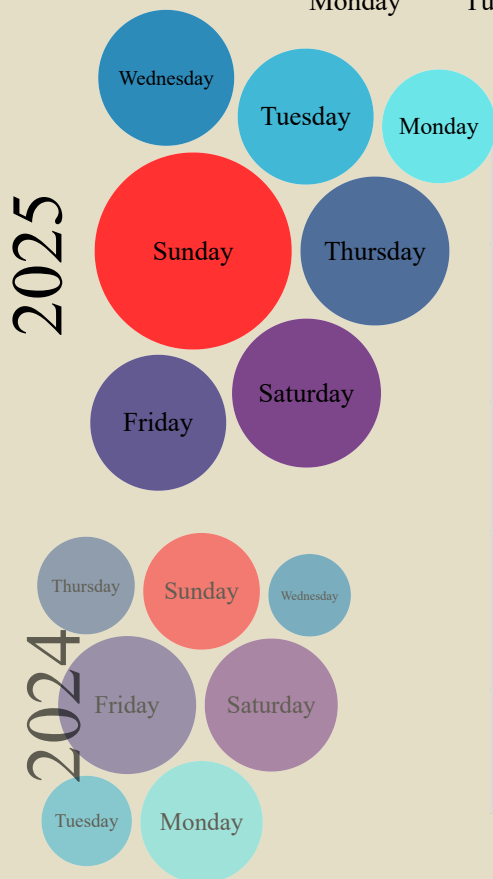
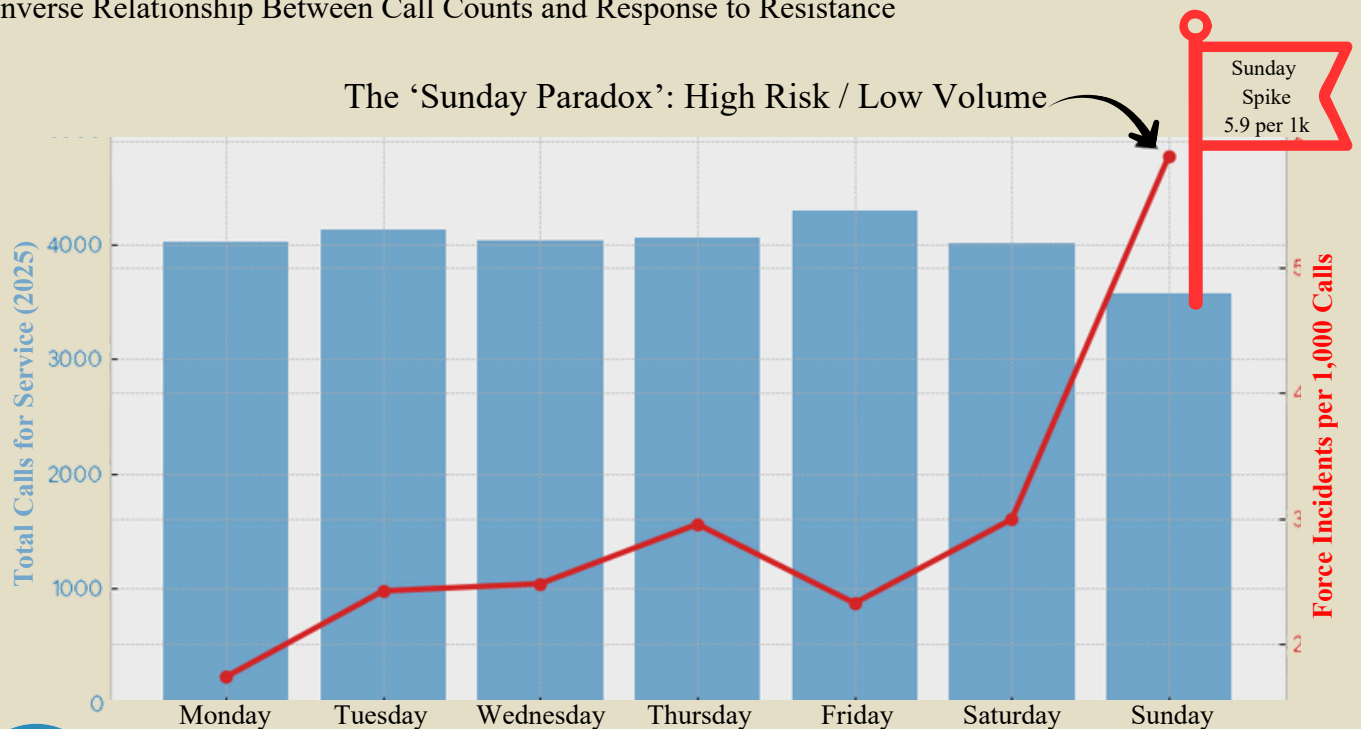
2023: Force was mostly "Physical Control" (grabbing).

2025: Force is frequently "Weapon Point" (threat of death) or "OC & Taser" (high-intensity pain compliance).

VOLUME vs VOLATILITY

The Inverse Relationship Between Call Counts and Response to Resistance

The 'Sunday Paradox': High Risk / Low Volume

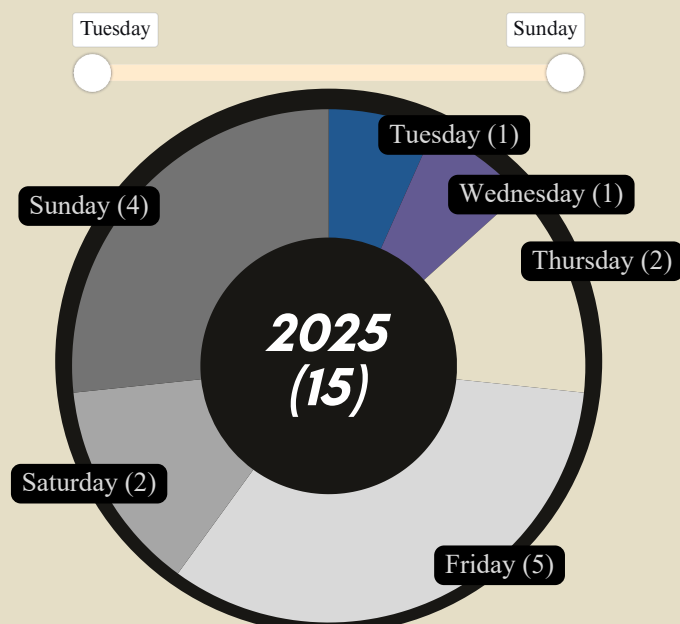
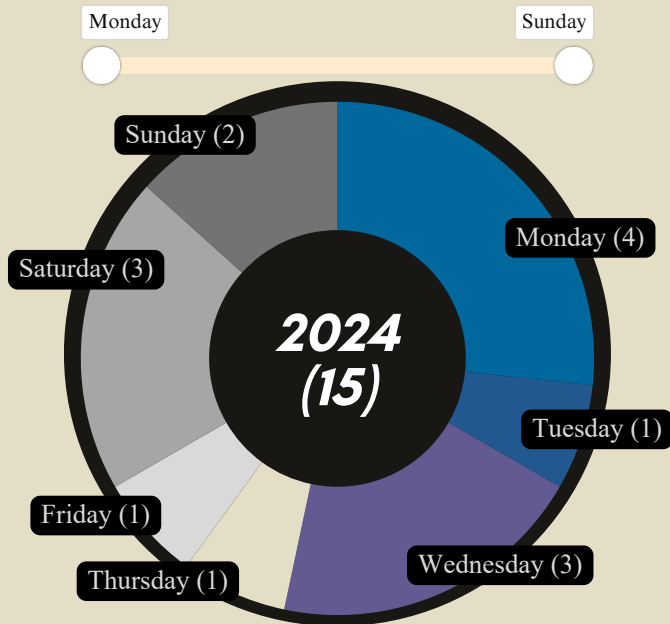


DAY OF THE WEEK	Total Calls (2025)	Force Incidents (2025)	Risk Rate (Force per 1k Calls)	Operational Assessment
Friday (High Call Volume)	4,296	10	2.33	Safest Day (High staffing likely mitigates risk)
Monday	4,020	7	1.74	Routine Operations
Sunday	3,568	21	5.89	Critical Failure (2.5x higher risk than Friday)
Sunday vs. Friday Gap	-17% Volume	+110% Force	+153% Risk	Action Required: Audit Sunday Staffing

A distinct inverse correlation exists between call volume and force frequency on Sundays. While Sunday represents the lowest volume of calls for dispatch, it accounts for 5.61% of all force incidents (21 total), nearly double the daily rate of the routine Mon-Wed period. Notably, Sundays also accounted for 27% of all vehicle pursuits (see next page), contributing to a notably higher Force-to-Call Ratio.

Risk management protocols show that a higher incidence of armed subjects necessitates a state of heightened situational awareness. An objectively higher threat environment accounts for observed increase in force application.

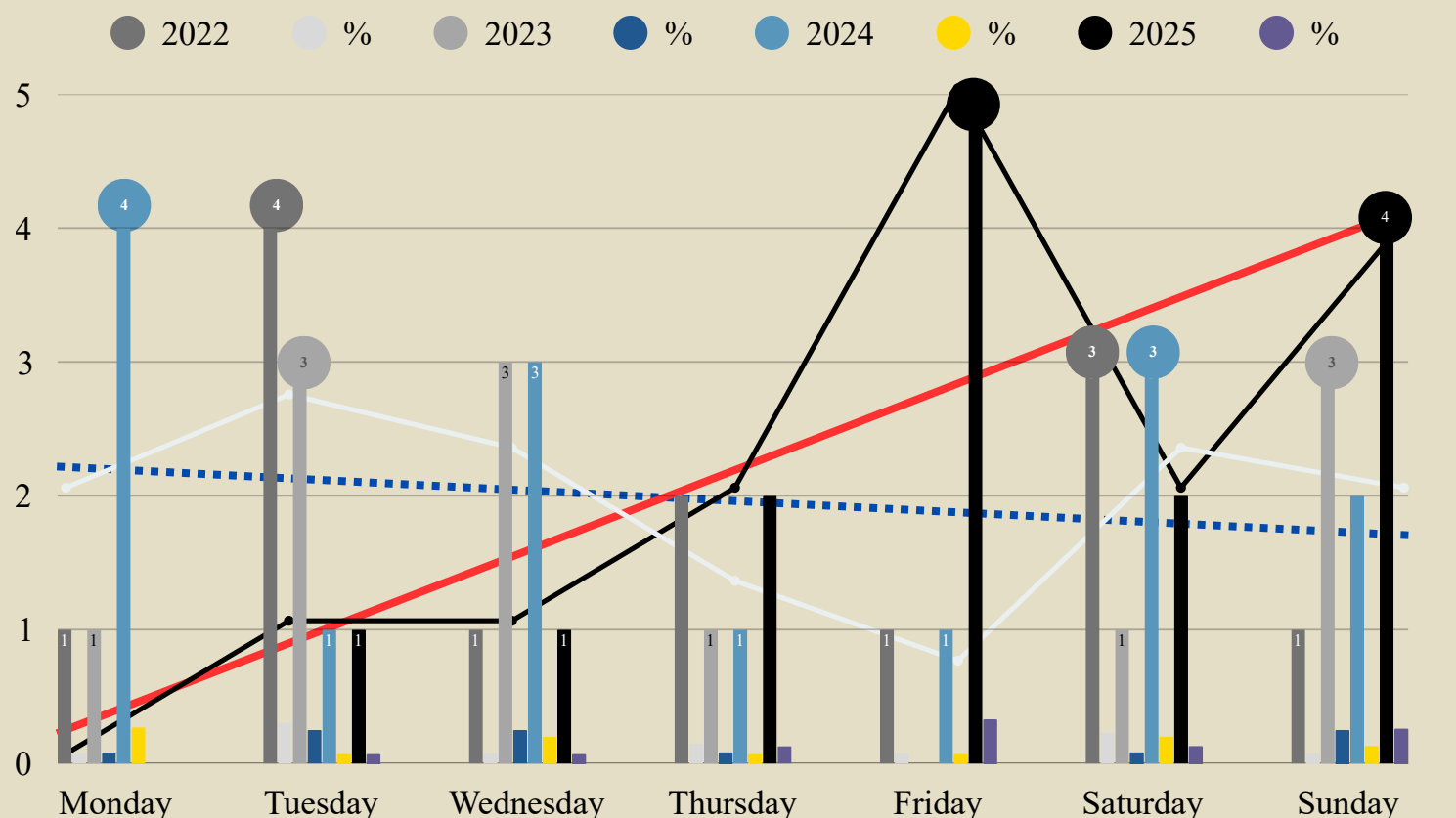
Flight Analysis VEHICLE PURSUITS



Data correlates with the concept of "Performative Violence" within the city (Gunfire with no accuracy) suggests that act of resistance is more important than the outcome. With a recidivism rate near 30% it is likely that there is a greater than average likelihood that a subject is driving while revoked, carrying weapons, or facing felony warrants. A pursuit is initiated because the cost of stopping outweighs the personal risk. This is also supported by the data points Control to Combat, response to resistance indicating that officers know these stops are high-stakes. Desperation is a factor of escalation.

Friday maintains the highest frequency for volume (4,296 calls), but it also leads the city in Vehicle Pursuits (5 incidents) and other high risk events

BREAKDOWN OF VEHICLE PURSUITS BY DAY OF THE WEEK

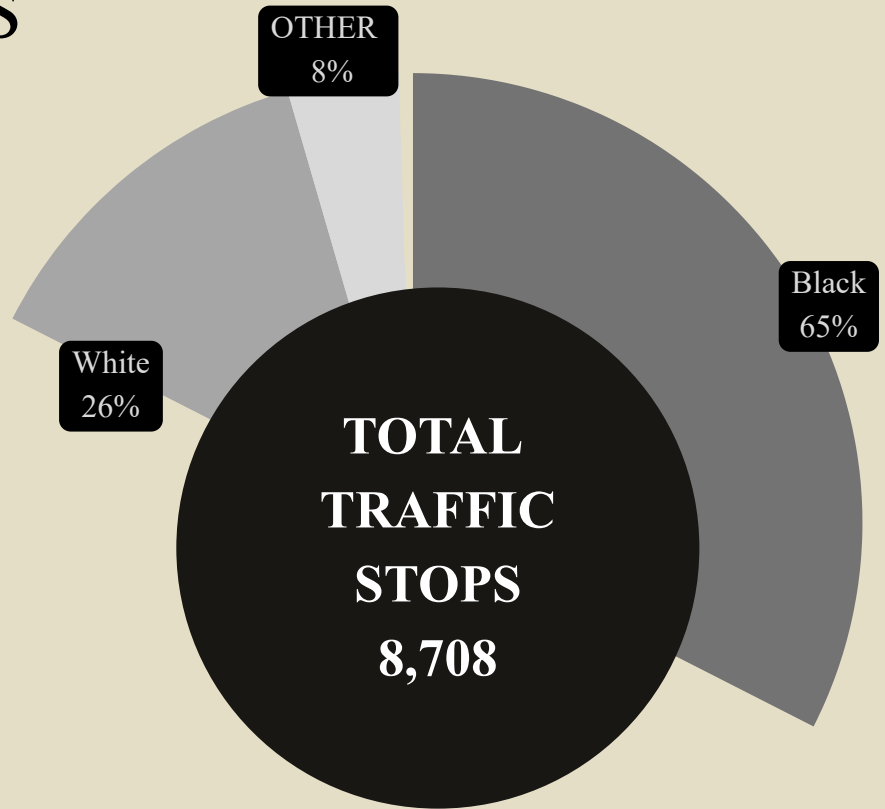


Source: Data Table: Pursuit Analysis, 2025 (KPD) Law Enforcement Accreditation Pg 5

2025 is not just "higher" in volume, but fundamentally different in behavior compared to previous years.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

TRAFFIC STOPS



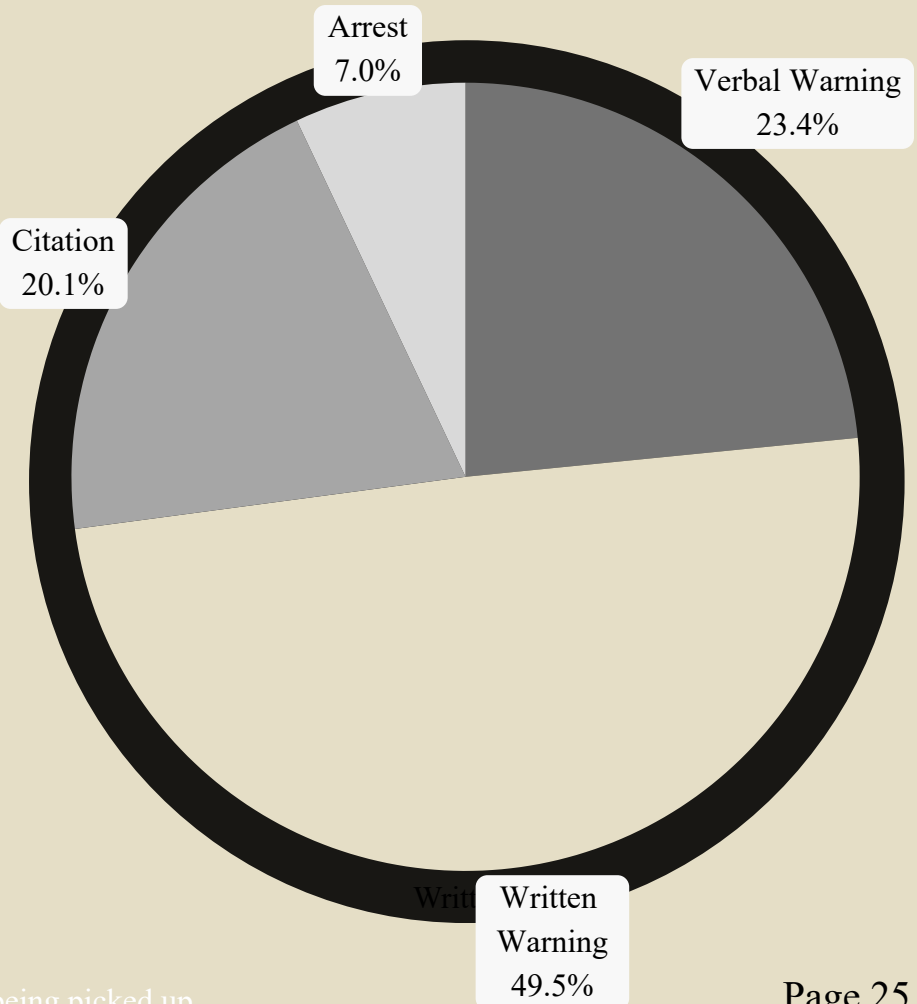
If the Arrest Data reveals who gets trapped in the system, the Traffic Stop data reveals how the police interact with the community at large. The data shows a massive volume of "catch and release" activity, where the primary objective appears to be documentation rather than incapacitation.

Contrary to the belief that traffic stops are for ticketing and crime fighting, the data shows that 3 out of 4 result in no penalty. The department is investing thousands of man-hours into community engagement and officer initiated contact.

There are pre-indicators for a pattern of escalation in 2025, and confirms the "Tourist" hypothesis: White drivers are stopped fairly regularly, but they are rarely filtered down into the arrest system unless the offense is acute (like the DUI/Drug anomaly previously identified).

Also, the majority of arrests (~60%) are from Calls for Service or Warrant Service. This reinforces the "Administrative" policing profile of the average arrestee.

Offenders aren't being pulled over, they are being picked up.

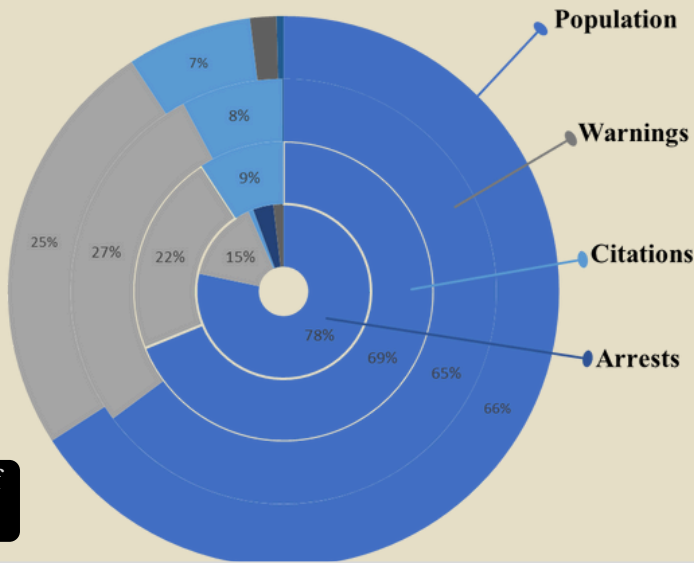


ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Arrests without incident 94.5%

The data reveals a police department in the middle of a massive strategic shift. Over the last four years (2022–2025), KPD has moved away from mass physical arrests and towards a model of data-driven deployment and administrative documentation.

Involving Use of Force 5.5%

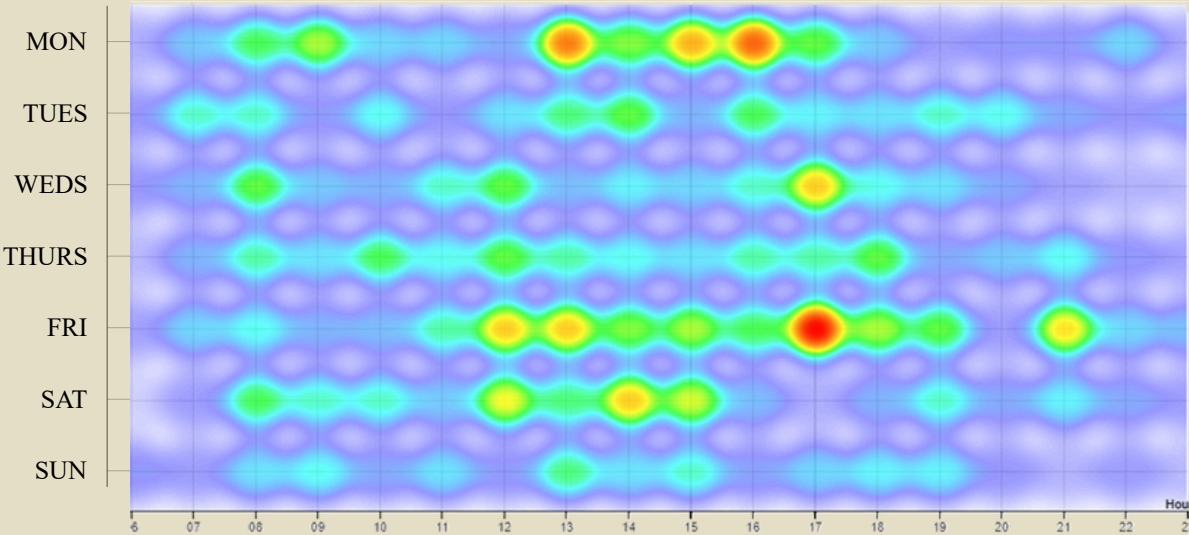


	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change
Traffic Crashes invg.	1,231	1,105	1,100	1,027	Decreasing (-16.5%)
Traffic Stops	11,675	12,132	8,945	8,708	Decreasing (-25%)
Driving While Impaired	68	78	141	131	Doubled (+92%)
Written Warnings	8,637	8,489	8,156	10,559	Spike in 2025
Citations Issued	2,327	2,359	4,153	4,285	Doubled (+84%)
Arrests	2,127	2,379	1,378	1,503	Decreasing (-29%)

Less Presence: Traffic stops have plummeted by 25% since 2022 (11,675 -> 8,708).
More Penalties: Despite making fewer stops, officers are writing significantly more tickets. Citations issued have doubled (+84%) in the same period.

Date Time Received : 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Success in the focus on DUI and increased programs. Fewer arrests, fewer stops, but harder enforcement on DUI and Citations correlates with the metric that matters most to the public: Safety: Traffic crashes incidence have dropped by 16.5%.



RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division of the Kinston Police Department is responsible for the management, maintenance, and dissemination of official police records. This includes incident and arrest reports, DCI validations, and ensuring departmental compliance with reporting requirements established by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NC SBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Records Division personnel ensure all reports are completed accurately and validated in accordance with National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) standards. NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system used to collect detailed information on crimes known to law enforcement. These standards are established by the FBI and administered at the state level by the NC SBI. Accurate NIBRS reporting supports crime analysis, transparency, and informed decision-making at the local, state, and federal levels.

In addition to data management and regulatory compliance, Records Technicians provide essential customer service to the public and department personnel. Staff members respond to a high volume of daily telephone inquiries, assist citizens with obtaining incident and crash reports, and process report requests through in-person, mail, and electronic methods. Through these interactions, Records Division staff frequently serve as the first point of contact between the public and the Kinston Police Department.

Reporting and Records Requests

- Citizens may file or request reports through the following methods:
- Emergency Reporting: Dial 911
- Non-Emergency Reporting: 252-559-6118 or 252-939-3160
- Online Incident Reporting: www.kinstonpd.org/FormCenter/Police-Forms-5/Incident-Report-113
- Incident and crash reports may also be requested online at: www.kinstonpd.org/FormCenter/Police-Forms-5/Incident-Report-113

Kinston Police Department Records Staff Members



Sergeant B Biggins
PIO/Records Supervisor



Emma Slabbert
Data Analytics Manager



Andrea Sutton
Records Technician



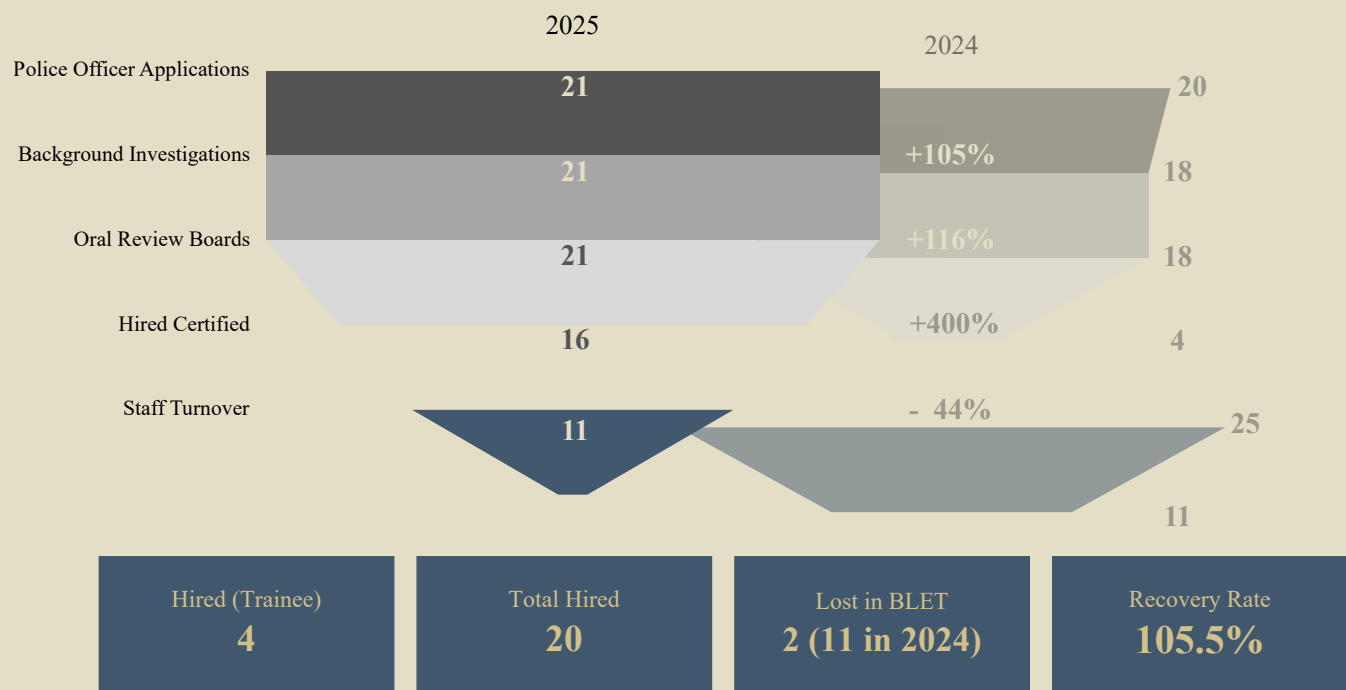
Genesis Juckett
Records Technician

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

IN 2025, KPD ACHIEVED A 105.5% REPLENISHMENT RATE, MEANING WE NOT ONLY REPLACED DEPARTING PERSONNEL BUT SUCCESSFULLY FILLED CRITICAL VACANCIES, CLOSING THE STAFFING GAP BY 5.5%.

Effective recruitment, hiring, and retention of qualified law enforcement personnel are essential to maintaining a safe and thriving community. The Kinston Police Department recognizes that a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the community it serves enhances public trust, collaboration, and organizational transparency.

The Kinston Police Department continues to work in partnership with the City of Kinston Human Resources Department and utilizes multiple recruitment avenues to strengthen its hiring and selection processes. Through the implementation of new initiatives, policy enhancements, and best practices, the department is pursuing innovative strategies designed to attract, hire, and retain high-quality candidates committed to professional policing and community service.



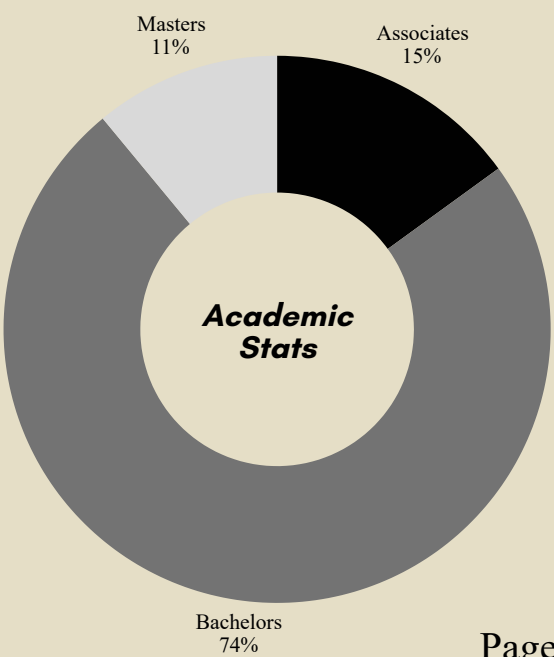
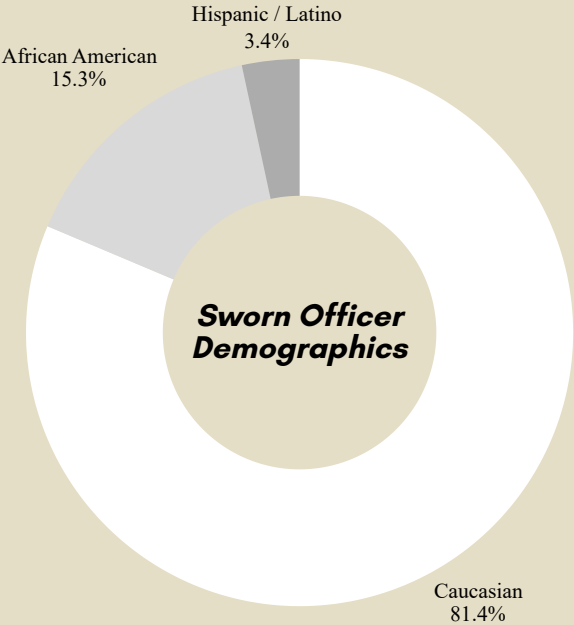
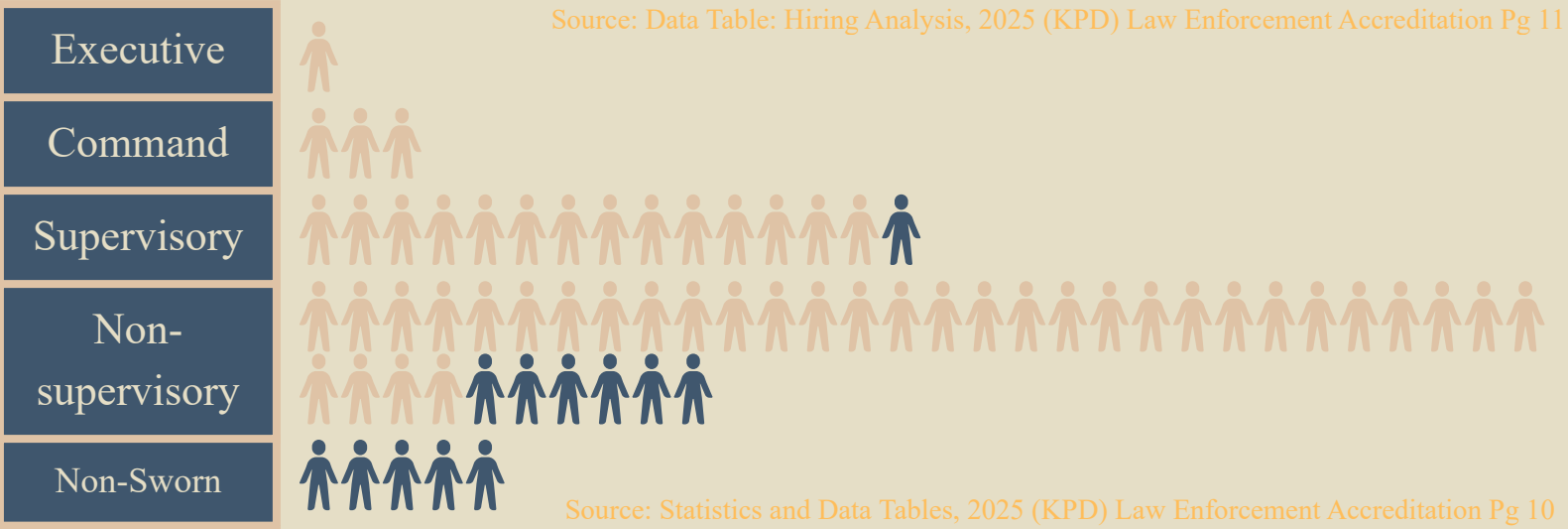
Sergeant J Moody
Recruitment

	2023	2024	2025
Other LE Agency	3	9	3
Retired	2	2	0
Out of Law Enforcement	8	9	1
Duress	1	5	7

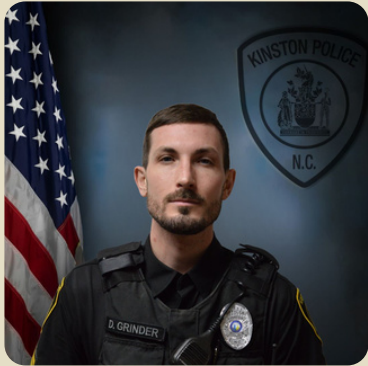
Source: Data Table: Discipline & Grievances, 2025 (KPD) Law Enforcement Accreditation Pg 5

Total Full Time Employees 64	Total Sworn Employees 59	Non-Supervisory Positions 44	Vacancies 4
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	White Non-Hispanic		Black Non-Hispanic		Hispanic Latino Any Race		Other		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Qualified Applicants	14	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	21
Applicants Hired	13	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	20
Percent Hired	92.86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95.20%
% Workforce	23%		6%		2%		0%		



2025's New Hires



D GRUNDER



T GARRETT



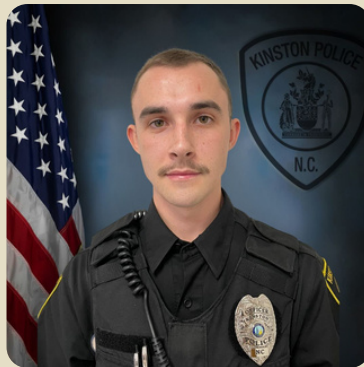
D BUSBY



J BENJAMIN



J McDEVITT



T FULLER



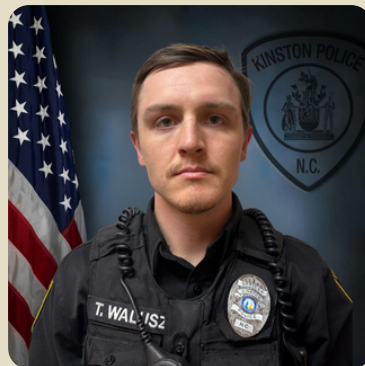
D RICHARDSON



R OVERLIN



C SMITH



T WALUZ



M POOLE



D WOODS



D McDOUGALD



M ZAK

ACCREDITATION

In 2025, the agency will continue working toward simultaneous accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA). This dual accreditation process is a significant milestone for our agency, demonstrating our commitment to upholding the highest standards in law enforcement practices. Our new Accreditation Manager, who started in May, has already begun collaborating closely with CALEA and the NCLEA to streamline and enhance the accreditation process.

Checklist				
Item	Status	Owner	Due Date	Notes
NCLEA Stds & Policies	✓ Completed ▾	8	30 Nov 2025	
NCLEA Proofs	✎ In progress ▾	8	31 Jan 2026	
NCLEA Mock Assessment	👁 Under review ▾	8	04 Mar 2026	
NCLEA Audit	⌚ Not started ▾	8	29 May 2026	
CALEA Stds & Policies	✓ Completed ▾	8	24 Dec 2025	
CALEA Proofs	✎ In progress ▾	8	09 Jun 2026	
CALEA Mock Assessment	⌚ Not started ▾	8	📅	
CALEA Audit	⌚ Not started ▾	8	📅	



Captain J Poole



2025 REPORT: OVER 80% OF NCLEA STANDARDS NOW EVALUATED

2024

2023 - 2026
CALEA
Accreditation

100%

2024 - 2026
NCLEA
Accreditation

21.6%

76.7%

2025

2023 - 2026
CALEA
Accreditation

66% Evaluated

12.2%

51.7%

34.3%

2024 - 2026
NCLEA
Accreditation

81% Evaluated

75%

18.1%

0%

20%

40%

60%

80%

100%



In Compliance



In Progress

Not Applicable



Not Set

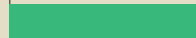
CALEA STD 1-10



CALEA STD 11-20



CALEA STD 21-30



CALEA STD 31-40



CALEA STD 41-50



CALEA STD 51-60



CALEA STD 61-70



CALEA STD 71-80



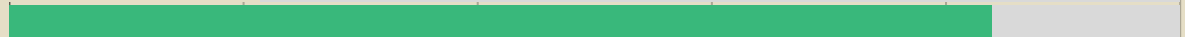
CALEA STD 81-90



CALEA STD 91-100



NCLEA STD 1



NCLEA STD 2



NCLEA STD 3



NCLEA STD 4



NCLEA STD 5



NCLEA STD 6



NCLEA STD 7



NCLEA STD 8



NCLEA STD 9



NCLEA STD 10



NCLEA STD 11



0%

20%

40%

60%

80%

100%

Based on the dramatic shift from the mostly gray ("Not Set") bars in 2024 to the green ("In Compliance") bars in 2025:
2025 Gains: The 2025 section shows "66% Evaluated" for CALEA and "81% Evaluated" for NCLEA, with the NCLEA "In Compliance" metric jumping to 75%.

We didn't just move the needle, we buried it—thank you for the team effort to crush our 2025 accreditation goals. Results like this don't happen by accident, they happen because of this team's relentless dedication.

TRAINING DIVISION

The Kinston Police Department Training Division is responsible for coordinating, documenting, and delivering comprehensive training to ensure all personnel remain prepared, professional, and compliant with state and departmental standards. During the reporting year, the Division oversaw mandatory in-service requirements, continuing education, leadership and professional development opportunities, and conference attendance for sworn and civilian staff. Collectively, department personnel completed over 7,000 hours of training, reflecting a strong commitment to operational readiness and career development. The Training Division also administers the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program, providing structured onboarding and mentorship for newly hired officers, which is addressed in further detail in the following section.

Leadership Training:

Command & Executive Leadership

- FBI-LEEDA Trilogy (Supervisor, Command, Executive)
- Law Enforcement Executive Program
 - Police Chief's Institute
- Admin Officers Management Program
 - Ethical & Servant Leadership

Supervision & Instructor Development

- General & Field Training Officer (FTO) Instructor
 - Internal Affairs & Civil Liability
 - Mid-Level & First Line Supervision
- Specialized Instructors (Hazmat, PepperBall)
 - Supervising Critical Incidents

General Training:

Specialized Investigations

- Violent Crime: Homicide, Suicide, & Gang Investigations (Basic/Adv)
- Drugs: Narcotics Inv. (Basic/Adv), Drug Enforcement for Patrol
- Forensics: Fundamentals of CSI, Property & Evidence Mgmt.
- Interviewing: Basic & Advanced Interrogation
 - Human Operations: Human Trafficking, Fugitive Apprehension

Tactics & Response

- High Risk: Basic SWAT, Active Shooter, Hostage Negotiations
- Field Ops: Building Search Tactics, Criminal Interdiction
- Officer Safety: Surviving the First 3 Seconds, Direct Threat Engagement, TacMed & TECC
 - Preparedness: CERT Basic Training, Preventing Violent Extremism

Patrol & Traffic Safety

- DWI Enforcement: SFST, Intoximeter, Warrantless Searches
- Speed Enforcement: RADAR & LIDAR Certification
- Community: Community Oriented Policing, Interdiction for Protection of Children
- Process: Search Warrant Prep, Law Institute

OVER 7,000 HOURS OF TRAINING

Conferences

- NCTOA Conference
- NC R.I.S.E. Back to School Safety Summit
 - Recovery Alliance Initiative Summit
- 2025 NCAI Annual Educational Conference
 - 2025 SERSUN Training Conference
 - NCHIA Annual Homicide Conference
- North Carolina Community Alternative for Youth
- 2025 Gangs Across the Carolinas Annual Conference
- 31st Annual Reflections Symposium on Child Abuse and Neglect
 - CALEA Conference
- NC Association of School Resource Officer Conference
 - M is for Murder Conference
 - Eastern North Carolina Gang Conference
 - NCLEAN Accreditation Conference
 - NCDPA Annual K9 Conference

Mandated Inservice Training

North Carolina Law Enforcement Officers certified by the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission must complete 24 hours of mandatory in-service training annually. Annual training on Blood Borne Pathogens and TASER must also be conducted. Topics Included:

- 2025 Juvenile Justice
- 2025 Firearms Training and Qualification
- 2025 Evidence Handling Best Practices
- Understanding and Responding to Matters of Civil Process
 - 2025 LE Mental Health/Cultivating Resiliency
 - 2025 Leading by Example (Ethics)
 - 2025 Legal Update
 - Targeting the Elderly
 - Annual TASER Certification
- 2025 Recognizing and Responding to Hazardous Substances
 - 2025 Legislative Update
- Responding to Traffic Incidents – Officer Safety
 - Blood Borne Pathogens

Field Training Officer (FTO) Program:

The Field Training Officer (FTO) Program serves as a critical component of the Kinston Police Department's training and professional development framework. Throughout the reporting year, certified FTOs provided structured, hands-on instruction, evaluation, and mentorship to newly hired officers. Collectively, FTOs conducted approximately 6,000 hours of field training, resulting in the successful development and transition of 18 new officers into solo patrol assignments. This program ensures new personnel meet departmental standards, demonstrate operational competence, and are prepared to serve the community safely and effectively.



OVER 6,000 HOURS OF FIELD TRAINING

Train, account and collaborate to enhance officer readiness, promote professional growth, and ensure the Department remains responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

SWAT UPDATE

The Kinston Police Department utilizes its Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team for incidents and operations that present a higher-than-normal level of risk. These include high-risk search warrants, barricaded subjects, hostage situations, the apprehension of violent offenders, and assistance to surrounding agencies when requested.

The SWAT Team is made up of 15 operators and is deployed at the discretion of the Chief of Police. Over the past year, the team added five new operators, increasing overall staffing and strengthening operational capability.

TRAINING

Over the past 12 months, the SWAT Team completed 144 hours of required in-house training conducted during monthly training days. Training focused on core tactical skills including building clearing, hostage situations, operational planning, and physical fitness.

In addition to required training, team members completed 672 hours of additional, voluntary training. These hours included advanced tactical courses, specialty schools, and skill-specific certifications. While not mandatory, this training is strongly encouraged and reflects the commitment of team members to maintaining a high level of readiness.

Specialized training attended during the year included:

- NC Tactical Officers Association Conference
- Emergency Tactical Medical Training
- Rapid Deployment
- Chemical Munitions Training

Ongoing training remains a priority to ensure SWAT personnel are prepared to safely and effectively handle high-risk incidents.



MISSIONS

Throughout the year, the SWAT Team coordinated multiple tactical operations, primarily involving the apprehension of violent offenders and execution of high-risk search warrants. When high-risk enforcement actions are identified, SWAT is responsible for operational planning, threat assessment, warrant service coordination, and execution. This includes evaluating risk factors, assigning resources, establishing command and containment plans, and ensuring officer safety during dynamic or high-threat incidents.

UPDATES

Over the last year, the SWAT Team experienced significant leadership transitions. Major Turner and Sergeant Burkett retired from the team, concluding distinguished careers marked by dedication and service to the Kinston community.

Following these retirements, Captain Ard assumed responsibility as SWAT Team Commander, and Captain Willis took over duties as a SWAT Team Leader, ensuring continuity of leadership and supervision within the team.

The SWAT Team continues to play a critical role in officer safety and public safety operations. The team's training, experience, and operational performance remain essential to the department's ability to safely manage high-risk incidents within the City of Kinston and surrounding jurisdictions.



K-9 UNIT UPDATE

The Kinston Police Department K-9 Unit is utilized primarily for the detection of narcotics and other contraband, the apprehension of criminal suspects, the recovery of evidence, and in situations where deployment enhances officer safety.

In 2025, the K-9 Unit continued to serve as a critical operational and community-engagement asset for the Department. During the year, K-9 teams conducted 21 tracks involving fleeing suspects and missing persons, successfully locating or apprehending 15 individuals, resulting in a success rate exceeding 70 percent.

K-9 teams were deployed 221 times throughout the year for narcotics searches and patrol-related operations. These deployments directly contributed to 53 arrests in which the use of a K-9 was instrumental, all of which were completed without any bites. In addition to enforcement activities, the Unit conducted 15 community demonstrations, enhancing public visibility and strengthening community trust.

Operational efforts by the K-9 Unit resulted in significant seizures related to drug trafficking, including:

- Over 1 kilogram of cocaine
- 109 grams of methamphetamine
- 40 grams of fentanyl
- Approximately \$14,000 in illicit drug-trafficking proceeds
- 8 firearms recovered

During the year, the Unit also experienced a personnel transition. Sergeant Miller transferred from the K-9 Unit, and Officer C. Wilkins assumed handler responsibilities for K-9 Nero, ensuring continued operational readiness and continuity within the Unit.

Training and professional development remained a priority throughout the year. In 2025, K-9 teams completed 1,134 hours of training, attended the North Carolina Police Dog Association (NCPDA) Conference, completed K-9 Legal Issues training through the North Carolina Justice Academy, and maintained annual certification through the NCPDA.



K-9 Nero
Officer C. Wilkins



K-9 Loki
Officer C. Heath



K9 Kilo
Officer W. Thompson



K9 Knox
Officer J. Stroud

THERAPY K-9 PROGRAM

In 2025, the Kinston Police Department expanded its employee wellness and community engagement efforts through the introduction of a Therapy K-9 program. The department's therapy dog, Grainger, was generously donated by William and Erin Stanley of Lenoir County. A key objective of the program was to implement and sustain it at no cost to Kinston taxpayers. That goal was successfully achieved through community donations and the commitment of Grainger's handler, who assumed all ongoing financial responsibilities associated with the program.

The Therapy K-9 program is designed to support the mental health and overall well-being of department personnel while also enhancing positive interactions with the community. At the conclusion of 2025, Grainger formally began his therapy dog training and certification process.

Since joining the Kinston Police Department in July 2025, Grainger has participated in several community events and departmental functions, providing comfort, stress relief, and positive engagement opportunities for both officers and residents. The program continues to strengthen relationships between the department and the community while promoting wellness within the agency.



K9 Grainger
Sergeant B Biggins



Volunteers

Sentinel Program

The Sentinel Program is a community-based volunteer initiative that enhances police services within the City of Kinston while maintaining no additional cost to taxpayers. Through this partnership, trained volunteers support departmental operations by providing a visible presence, assisting with non-emergency services, and promoting positive relationships between the police department and the community.

Sentinels patrol assigned areas of the city in marked Sentinel vehicles and perform duties that allow sworn personnel to focus on emergency response and enforcement activities. Their involvement contributes to crime prevention, community engagement, and overall service efficiency.

Sentinel responsibilities include, but are not limited to, crime prevention and community education efforts, support of Neighborhood Watch programs, residential and business security checks, responses to non-threatening calls for service, completion of incident reports when appropriate, vacation house checks, funeral escorts, and traffic control during special events or incidents.

Cold Case

The Cold Case Volunteer Program was established in 2025 to support the Kinston Police Department's investigative efforts involving unsolved cases. The program utilizes trained volunteers to assist with organized case file review, documentation management, and identification of potential investigative leads for review by sworn personnel. This initiative enhances investigative efficiency, preserves case continuity, and ensures continued attention to cold cases while allowing detectives to focus on active investigations. In 2025, the program was supported by volunteers Amanda Denise and Karman Harris, whose contributions were instrumental in establishing and maintaining the program.



Sentinel
G Rybolt



Sentinel
R Hooker



Cold Case Unit
Amanda Denise



Cold Case Unit
Karman Harris

Promotions



CAPTAIN J WALKER



CAPTAIN J BEST



SERGEANT
J WILLIAMS



SERGEANT
L MILLER

Annual City of Kinston Years of Service Awards



G Juckett
5 Years



Detective J Delaney
10 Years



Captain J Poole
20 Years



Major K Jenkins
20 Years

2025 OFFICERS OF THE MONTH



A Gomez



C Wilkins



J McDevitt



D Busby



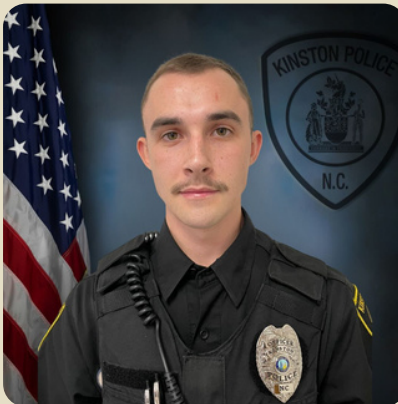
W Thompson



E Slabbert



A Gomez



T Fuller



J Herbert



J Benjamin



M Pool



T Normile

2025 Kinston Police Department Awards



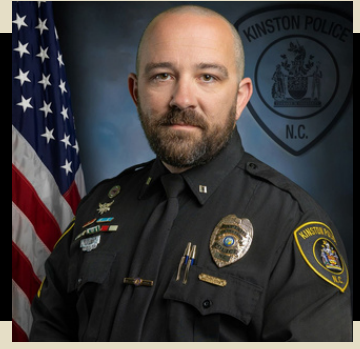
Rookie of the Year
Officer T. Fuller



Detective of the Year
Corporal A. Wilson



Officer of the Year
Corporal J. McDevitt



Supervisor of the Year
Captain J. Best



Distinguished Service
Sergeant J. Moody



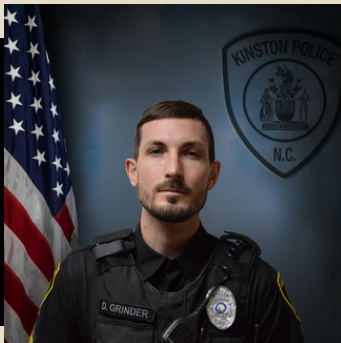
Distinguished Service
Corporal D. Busby



Meritorious Police Duty
Officer J. Hewitt



Meritorious Police Duty
Data Analyst Manager E. Slabbert



James T. Webb Award
Corporal D. Grinder



Sgt. Ronnie Sutton Traffic Award
Officer B. Davis



Combat Star Medal
Captain A. Willis



Combat Star Medal
Corporal J. McDevitt



Citizen Commendation
Amanda Denise



Citizen Commendation
Karman Harris



Distinguished Unit Award
KPD's Investigations Division

Expert Pistol (37)

- Officer Bashio Anthony
- Captain Caleb Ard
- Cpl. Andrew Beck
- Cpl. Jeffery Benjamin
- Captain Jacob Best
- Officer Tylor Brokaw
- Sgt. Jay Burkett
- Cpl. David Busby
- Sgt. Doug Conner
- Officer Davis
- Cpl. John Delaney
- Officer Jeremy Falkowski
- Officer Triston Fuller
- Cpl. Tyler Garrett
- Cpl. Alex Gomez
- Sgt. Seth Harrison
- Cpl. Jeffrey Herbert
- Cpl. McKinley Jones
- Cpl. James Marshburn
- Cpl. James McDevitt
- Officer Dominique McDougald
- Captain Nathan Metts
- Sgt. Lucas Miller
- Sgt. Jay Moody
- Cpl. Trevor Normile
- Officer Ronald Overlin
- Captain Joshua Poole
- Officer Cody Smith
- Sgt. Oliver Stewart
- Cpl. Justin Stroud
- Major Brandon Turner
- Captain Julian Walker
- Officer Candace Wilkins
- Sgt. Robert Williams
- Captain Andrew Willis
- Cpl. Andrew Wilson
- Officer Michael Zak

Top Shot Officer

- Trevor Normile: 100%

Top Shot Shift

- C Shift: 96.95%

Safe Driving (19)

- Captain Caleb Ard
- Captain Jacob Best
- Officer Tylor Brokaw
- Sgt. Jay Burkett
- Sgt. Doug Conner
- Officer Blake Davis
- Cpl. John Delaney
- Sgt. Seth Harrison
- Cpl. Jeffrey Herbert
- Cpl. McKinley Jones
- Cpl. James Marshburn
- Captain Nathan Metts
- Sgt. Jay Moody
- Cpl. Trevor Normile
- Captain Joshua Poole
- Cpl. Justin Stroud
- Captain Julian Walker
- Sgt. Robert Williams
- Cpl. Andrew Wilson

Progress (17)

- Captain Caleb Ard
- Captain Jacob Best
- Officer Tylor Brokaw
- Sgt. Jay Burkett
- Sgt. Doug Conner
- Officer Blake Davis
- Cpl. John Delaney
- Sgt. Seth Harrison
- Cpl. Jeffrey Herbert
- Cpl. James Marshburn
- Captain Nathan Metts
- Sgt. Jay Moody
- Captain Joshua Poole
- Cpl. Justin Stroud
- Captain Julian Walker
- Sgt. Robert Williams
- Cpl. Andrew Wilson

Life Saving (6)

Major Brandon Turner

On January 27, 2024, Major Turner was driving to work and checked out with what appeared to be a disabled vehicle; however, upon his approach, he realized a six-year old child was suffering a medical emergency. After assessing the situation, Major Turner quickly realized the child wasn't breathing. Major Turner performed CPR on the child and the child began to breathe on his own.

Cpl. James McDevitt

On July 15, 2025, Corporal McDevitt, along with several other officers responded to 1513 Stroud Avenue in reference to a 12-year-old suffering from a gunshot wound to his back as well as a gunshot graze to his head. Without hesitation, he applied 'Quick-Clot' gauze and exerted pressure to control the bleeding, all while being careful to avoid impeding the victim's airway. Noticing that the victim was experiencing difficulty breathing, Corporal McDevitt assessed the situation and suspected a sucking chest wound. He retrieved a chest seal from his trauma kit but determined it was potentially faulty due to heat exposure. He then improvised by using a latex glove as a makeshift seal, maintaining airway integrity and pressure until fire and EMS personnel arrived. His quick thinking, technical skill, and decisive action in this high-pressure situation directly prevented what could have been a probable death or further serious injury.

Officer Tylor Brokaw / Officer Blake Davis / Cpl. Tyler Garrett

On July 26, 2025, officers responded to the 300 block of S. Davis Street, at the Richard Green Apartments, in reference to a gunshot victim. Upon arrival, officers located a male subject suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, including injuries to his right leg, lower back, neck, right arm, and a vital area below the waist. Together, Officers Brokaw, Davis, and Corporal Garrett coordinated life-saving efforts, including applying gauze and maintaining pressure on the victim's wounds in an effort to control significant blood loss. Their sustained actions continued until EMS personnel arrived and assumed medical care. Due to the number and location of the victim's injuries, the immediate and coordinated actions of these three officers directly resulted in a life being saved.

Officer Julia Jones

On October 28, 2025, Officer Jones, along with several other officers responded to 205 Wilson Avenue in reference to a 4-month-old infant actively choking at 205 Wilson Avenue. Upon arrival, Officer Jones was met in the front yard by the infant's mother, who was holding her baby. Officer Jones observed that the infant was struggling to breathe and was not making any sounds, indicating a possible airway obstruction. Acting quickly and decisively, she positioned the infant face down, supporting the child securely with one hand, and delivered several firm back blows. The infant responded by expelling the obstruction and immediately began to cry, indicating that the airway was cleared and normal breathing had resumed. Officer Jones' prompt response, calm demeanor, and decisive actions directly resulted in saving the life of the infant.

Distinguished Unit

Investigations Division

From July 2025 through September 2025, the City of Kinston experienced a surge in gun violence. During this period the Investigations Division, comprising General Investigations, the Crime Lab, and the Violent Crime Action Team (VCAT) was tasked with investigating twelve shootings in which victims were murdered, struck by gunfire, shot at, or had their residence struck by gunfire.

Over the course of sixty days, investigators worked tirelessly, often around the clock, to ensure justice for the victims and safety for the community. Their professionalism, commitment, and attention to duty were exemplary. As a result of their relentless efforts, more than fifteen individuals were arrested and charged with Attempted First-Degree Murder, Conspiracy, Accessory, or Aid & Abet. An additional four suspects were charged with First Degree Murder, Conspiracy, Accessory, or Aid & Abet. Remarkably, every shooting case investigated during this period was closed and cleared by arrest.

Distinguished Service (2)

Cpl. David Busby

Upon starting with the Kinston Police Department, Corporal Busby brought a wealth of knowledge that has greatly contributed to solving and preventing crimes. His expertise was instrumental in a domestic violence investigation that resulted in the seizure of nearly one kilogram of cocaine. Corporal Busby has served as an outstanding ambassador through his recruiting efforts, successfully bringing in four officers. His dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact on both the community and the department, enhancing public safety and ensuring the City of Kinston is protected by highly trained and qualified officers.

Sgt. Jay Moody

Over the course of 2025, Sgt. Jay Moody's commitment and outstanding contributions as the Recruiting Officer has resulted in 17 successful hires within a single year at the Kinston Police Department. In a time when law enforcement agencies across North Carolina are facing unprecedented staffing challenges, nearly half reporting vacancy rates above 10%, and a quarter exceeding 20%, Sgt. Moody has distinguished himself through unwavering dedication and exceptional performance. His tireless efforts have positioned our department as a leader in recruitment during one of the most difficult periods in recent memory.

Meritorious Police Duty (2)

Officer John Hewitt (Previously Awarded)

On March 11, 2025, at 12:13 p.m., Officer Hewitt's quick thinking and decisive actions saved the life of an individual who had been reported missing and was in imminent danger of harm. Upon responding to a call concerning the individual's whereabouts near the Neuse River, Officer Hewitt demonstrated not only bravery but also profound compassion. Recognizing the critical nature of the situation, he engaged with the individual in a manner that was both empathetic and skillful, ultimately preventing them from jumping into the river.

Emma Slabbert

Through her exceptional analytical skills and innovative mindset, Emma provided officers and command staff with critical intelligence that has directly contributed to solving complex cases and preventing further acts of violence. Her ability to transform intricate data into actionable insights has strengthened operational planning and improved the overall effectiveness of investigations. Emma's professionalism and unwavering commitment to supporting law enforcement efforts embody the highest standards of teamwork and service. Her contributions have made a profound and measurable impact on the continued success of the department's mission.

GRANTS UPDATE

The Kinston Police Department has been proactive in seeking and securing federal and state grants to bolster its capabilities and enhance public safety. Through diligent efforts and strategic planning, the department has been able to obtain funding to support various initiatives, ranging from advanced training programs for officers to the acquisition of cutting-edge technology. These grants have enabled the department to address critical needs, improve response times, and implement innovative crime prevention strategies, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

One of the key advantages of these grants is the ability to undertake projects that would otherwise be financially challenging. For example, the department has utilized grant funding to enhance community policing efforts, support youth outreach programs, and invest in state-of-the-art equipment that aids in crime detection and investigation. By leveraging these resources, the Kinston Police Department not only improves its operational effectiveness but also strengthens its commitment to fostering a safer, more connected community. The continued pursuit of federal and state grants remains a priority, ensuring that the department can adapt to evolving challenges and maintain its focus on excellence in public service.

In 2025, the KPD received four grants:

- The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Traffic Safety Grant provides funding to support initiatives aimed at reducing traffic crashes and fatalities across the state. Administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, this grant helps law enforcement agencies, local governments, schools, and nonprofit organizations implement programs focused on impaired driving prevention, seat belt safety, young driver education, motorcycle safety, and pedestrian awareness. KPD has been awarded \$16,500 in funds to be utilized for traffic enforcement overtime.
- The FY25 Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation grant, offered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), is designed to help law enforcement agencies achieve accreditation by ensuring their policies and procedures meet the highest standards set by accreditation entities. This funding opportunity is part of the Community Policing Development (CPD) Accreditation program, which aims to enhance law enforcement capacity, promote effective policing strategies, and support crime prevention efforts. Accreditation helps agencies implement best practices, fostering efficient, fair, and community-focused policing. KPD has been awarded \$51,270 in funds to assist with seeking agency accreditation.
- The FY25 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Grant, administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), is designed to support law enforcement agencies in enhancing mental health and wellness services for officers and their families. This funding aims to improve access to peer support, training, suicide prevention, stress reduction, and clinical support programs, helping agencies implement best practices for officer well-being. Eligible applicants include state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies, with funding available for LEMHWA Implementation Projects that focus on expanding mental health resources. KPD has been awarded \$136,020 in funds to assist with Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness.
- The FY25 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program from the Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded KPD \$7,101. The funds were utilized to purchase body armor vests for law enforcement officers.

AGENCY STATS

2025

2025 YEARLY CRIME STATS

Kinston Police Department | 01.01.2025 – 12.31.25

CALLS FOR SERVICE



19,412



191

FIREARMS SEIZED



TRAFFIC CRASHES

1,038



TRAFFIC STOPS

8,708



746
ON-VIEW ARRESTS



When an officer makes an arrest without a warrant but has established probable cause to arrest by observing or "viewing" a criminal offense in his/her immediate presence.



757 WARRANTS SERVED

WARNINGS ISSUED
10,559



4,285

TICKETS ISSUED

Total Violations 14,844

COMMUNITY AND TRUST

<https://www.ci.kinston.nc.us>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

228

Community Engagement F2F Events

We heard you. Since August, we have been counting our partnership presence. Whether it's PACE or Lunch with the Law, we are measuring our success by the strength of our relationships.

19

Police-initiated and Led Education & Awareness Programs

We view this as shared community investment. By running programs like Explorers we prioritize early intervention over enforcement.

Unprecedented Transparency

36.2 MILLION VIEWS &
59K COMMENTS

KPD ensuring "educational continuity" through massive visibility.

1H 46M RESPONSE TIME

Engagement isn't just posting; it's listening. We fielded 534 direct community inquiries with a 73% response rate (up 14%). When you reach out, we answer in under 2 hours—proving that we are available, accountable, and actively listening.



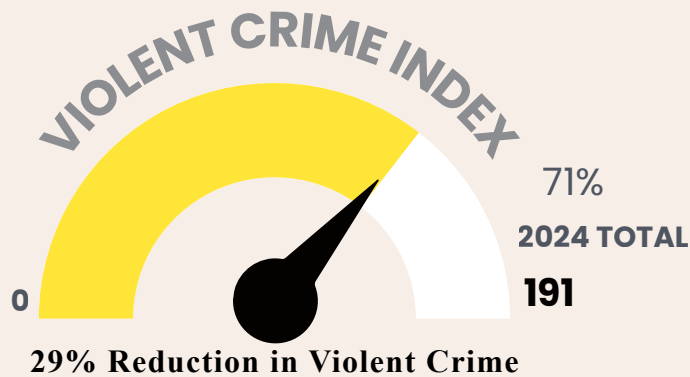
QUARTERLIES

CRIME STATS

2025

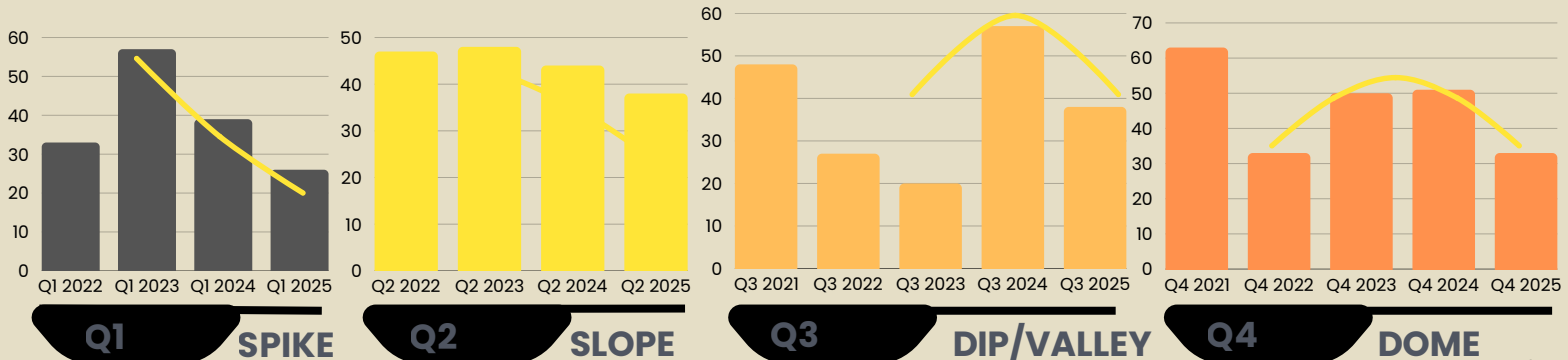
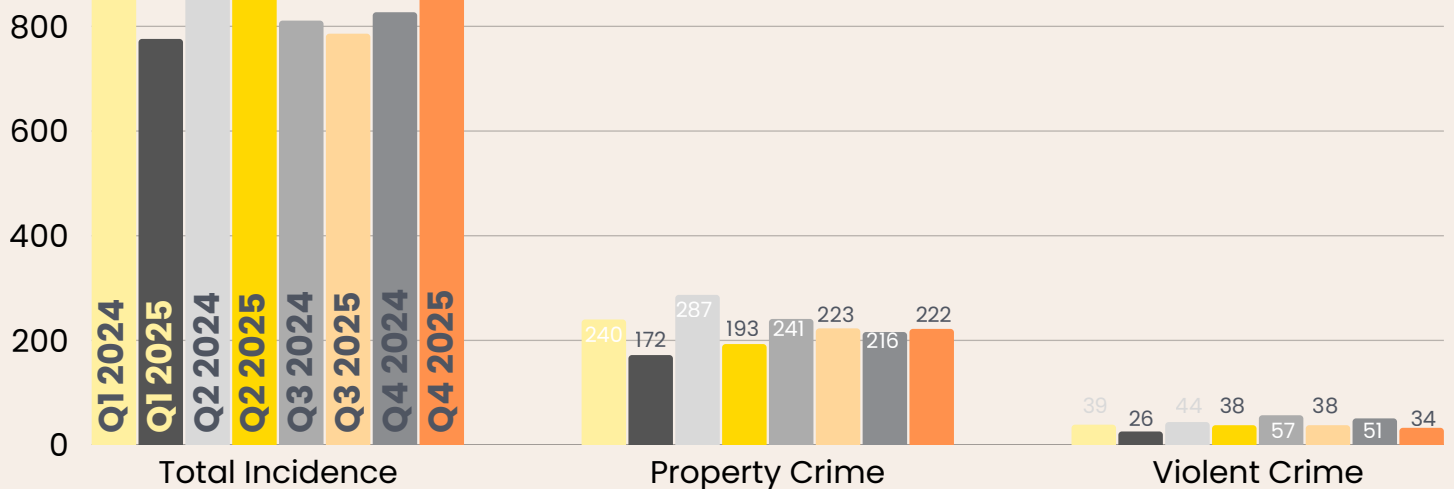
This report provides an overview of the crime stats issued monthly. Report based on National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) standards for compiling Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) summary statistics.

Quarterly Crime as a % of 2024 Total



Show the percentage of 2025 TOTAL over the total incidents for 2024

Quarterly Reporting

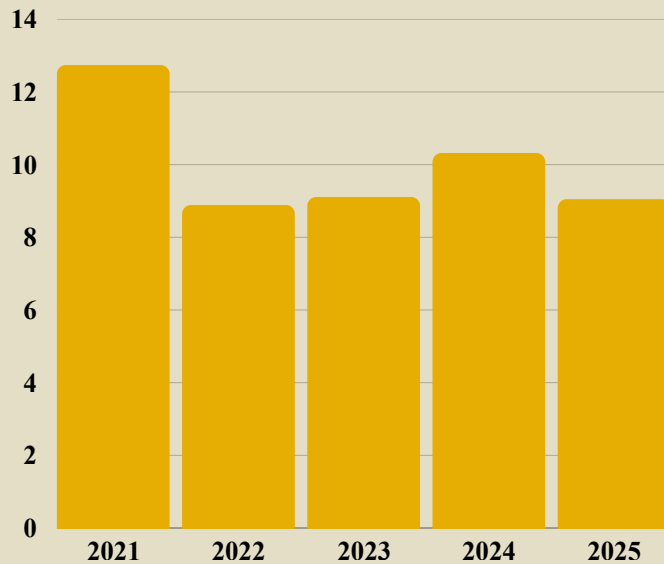


CRIME TRENDS 2025

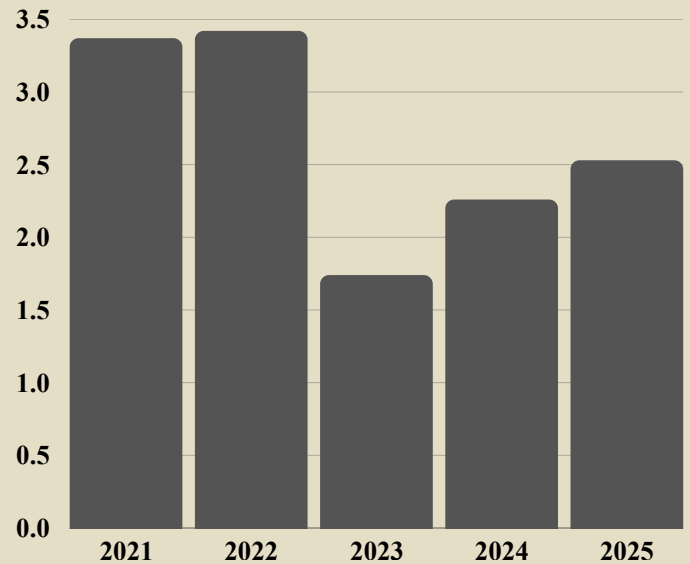
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY FIVE YEAR TRENDING

Number of Incidents per 1000 Residents

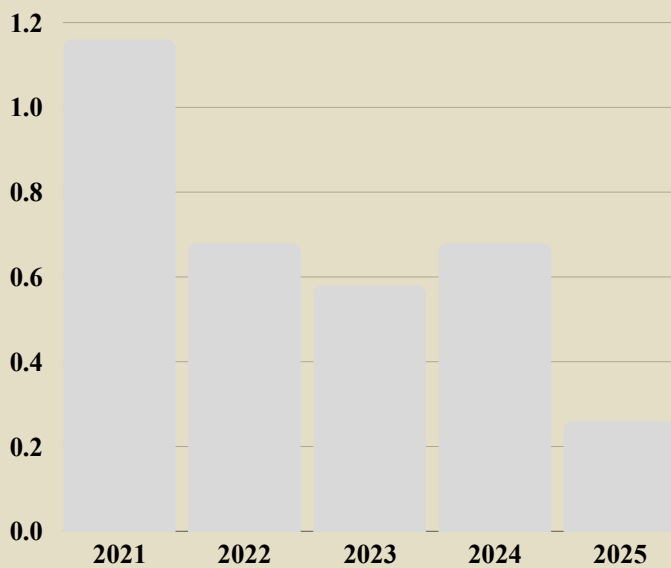
Burglary / Breaking & Entering



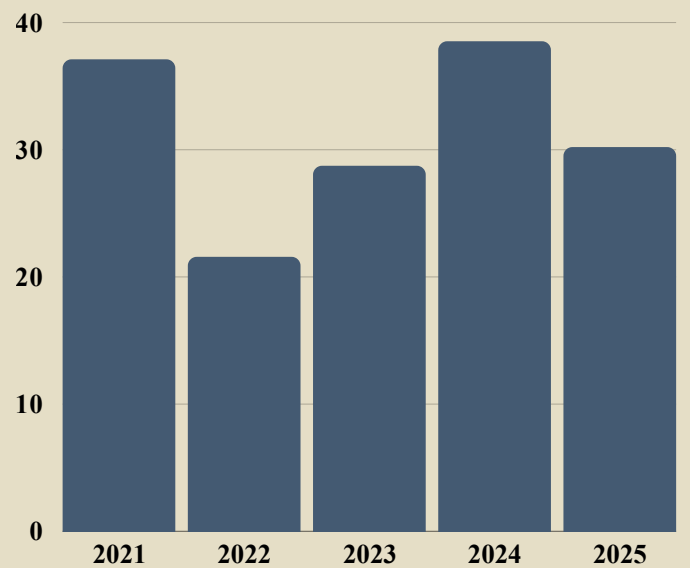
Motor Vehicle Theft



Arson



Larceny



CRIME TRENDS - cont.

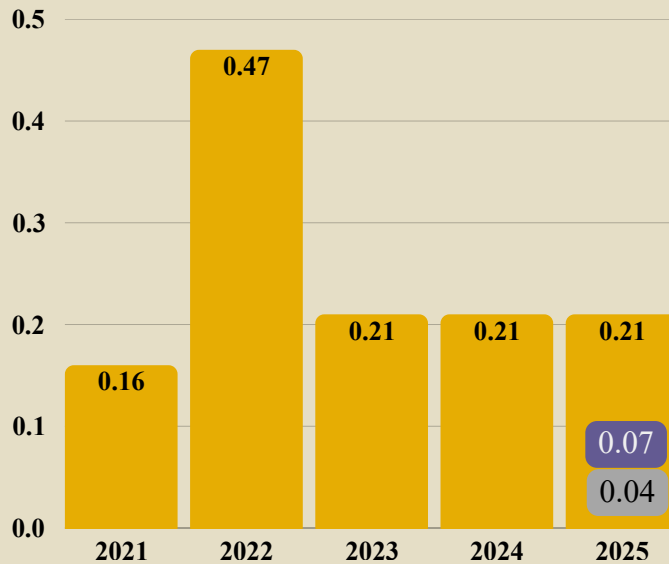
CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE

FIVE YEAR TRENDING

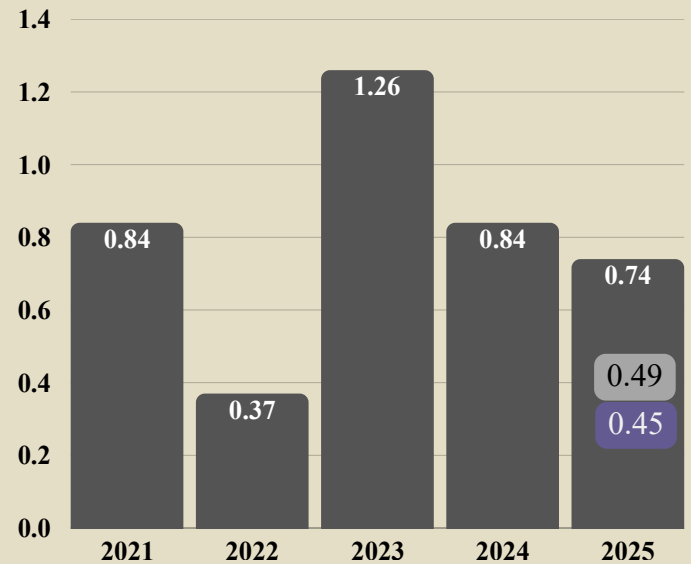
USA (Avg)

NC (Avg)

Murder



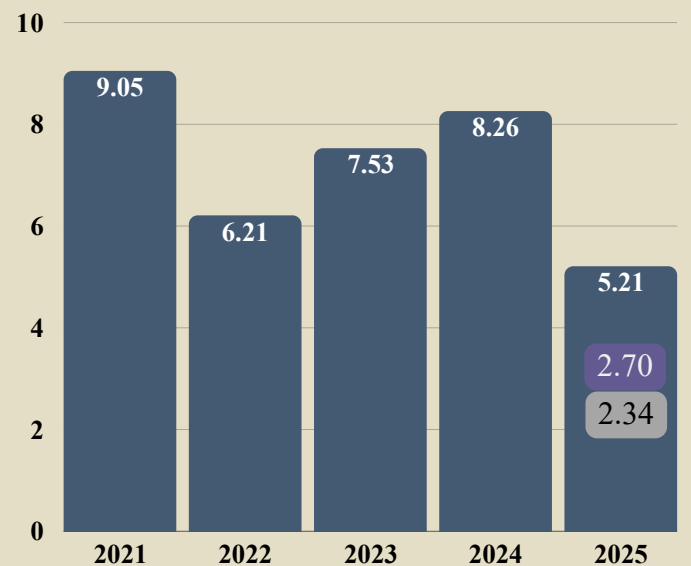
Robbery



Sex Offenses



Aggravated Assault



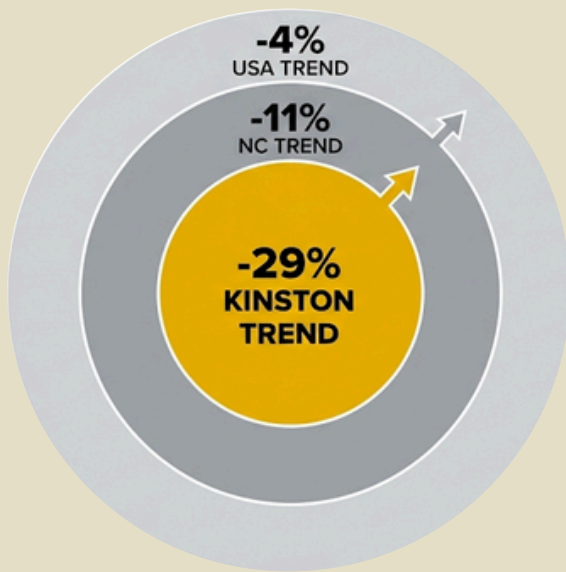
THE DATA INDICATES KINSTON HAS A HIGHER PER-CAPITA CRIME RATE THAN THE STATE/NATIONAL AVERAGE (WHICH IS EXPECTED FOR AN URBAN HUB VS. RURAL/SUBURBAN AVERAGES). THE "WIN" HERE IS THE SLOPE OF DECLINE.

2025 STRATEGIC BASELINE

Outpacing the Trend

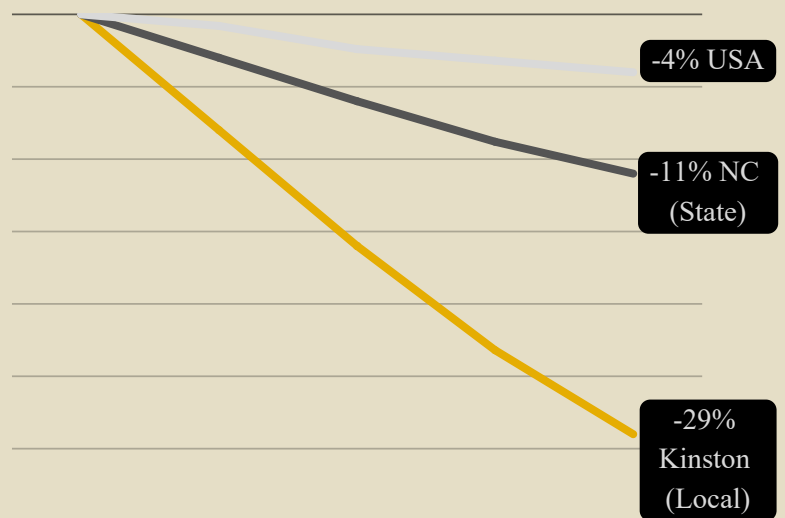
While the nation and state see steady declines, Kinston Police Department is accelerating the disruption of violence locally.

CRIME REDUCTION DEPTH



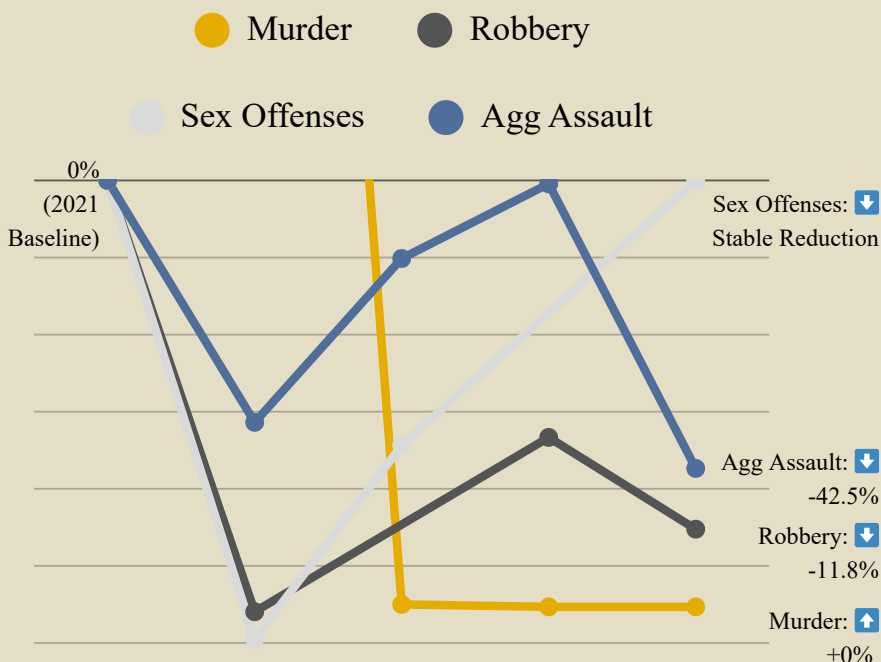
VELOCITY OF VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION

Indexed Year-over-Year Change (2024 vs 2025)



VELOCITY OF CRIME REDUCTION

Indexed Year-over-Year Change (2021 vs 2025)



Aggravated Assault (The Big Win):

The Gap: In 2024, Kinston's assault rate was nearly 3x the state average (~8.0 vs ~3.0).

While the State of NC reduced assaults by ~9.8%, Kinston reduced them by ~35%.

We are closing the safety gap three times faster than the state.

Robbery (Converging Trends):

National robbery rates dropped by ~20% in 2025. Kinston mirrored this success, dropping our rate from ~0.83 to ~0.75 per 1,000. We are now within striking distance of the national urban average (~0.60–0.90 for similar-sized cities).

(Note: Murder volume is so low—0.16 to 0.21 per 1,000—small variances look like large % jumps.

Note: National and State figures are projected based on mid-year 2025 reporting trends. Kinston figures reflect actual Year-End 2025 performance.

C.L.E.A.R. & P.A.C.E.

In late 2022, Sgt. Moody introduced C.L.E.A.R. (Cops Listening, Engaging, and Responding) to strengthen police-community relationships in Kinston. Over the past year, multiple C.L.E.A.R. events have been held, providing opportunities for officers to connect with residents, understand community concerns, and collaborate on solutions to local issues.

As part of this initiative, the Police and Community Engagement (P.A.C.E.) group was established, meeting monthly to foster open dialogue between KPD and the community. The group, which reflects Kinston-Lenoir's diversity, focuses on:

- ✓ Community Engagement
- ✓ Juvenile Justice Matters
- ✓ Programming & Public Education
- ✓ Improving Community Trust

By prioritizing non-enforcement engagement, KPD continues to build lasting relationships and trust, reinforcing our commitment to serving and supporting the people of Kinston.



RETIREMENT



Sentinel
G Rybolt

PHOTOS





