ANALYSIS OF ILLINOIS POLICE PURSUIT REPORTING: 2016

Brent Fischer, Executive Director

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Analysis of Police Pursuit Data 2016

Overview

This report provides data on Pursuit Driving Reports submitted to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The majority of the data is descriptive in nature providing information for the 2016 reporting period. It is notable that some report submissions did not include complete information, therefore, in some instances, reporting is based on a smaller submission size and percentages may not equal 100%.
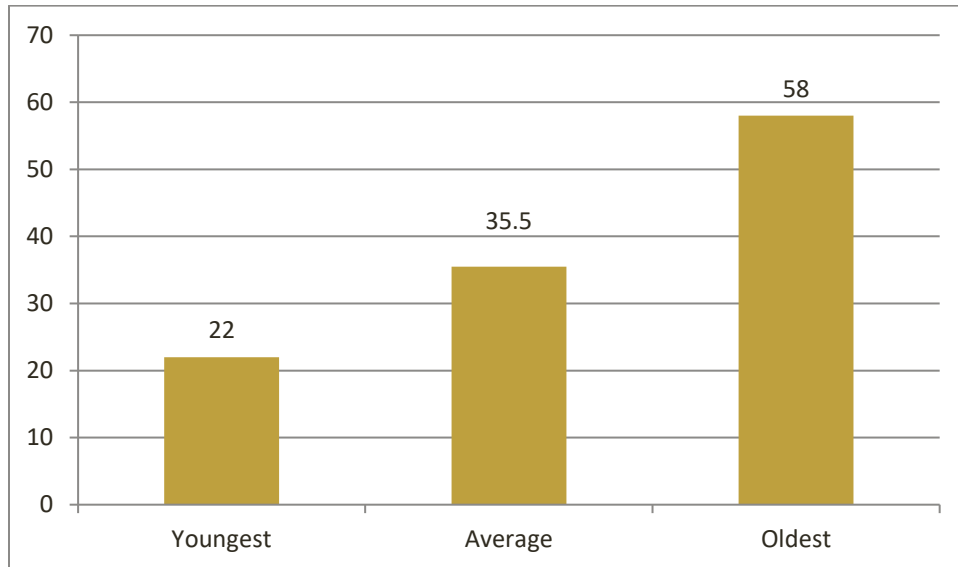
Topical areas for comparison and review purposes include: officer demographics, pursuit demographics, initiating events, crash information, ending events, and suspect/passenger information.

Number of Reports Submitted

In 2016, 254 reports were submitted, compared to 187 in 2015, and an average of 132 the previous five years.

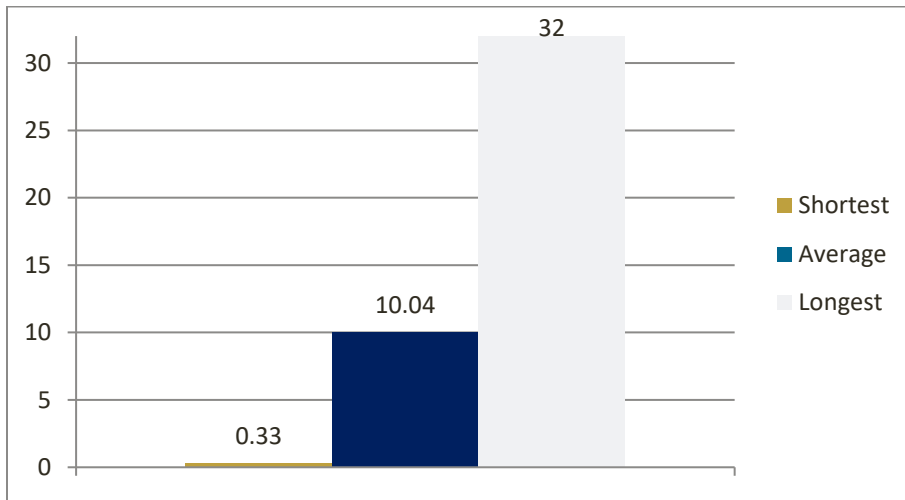## Officer Demographics

Age

The average age of officers reporting police pursuits for 2016 was 35.5 years of age. The youngest officer reporting a pursuit was 22, while the oldest was 58. These ages are similar to previous years. (n=254)

Years of Service

On average, officers who reported pursuits had approximately 10.04 years of service. The officer with the shortest time of service had 4 months on duty while the longest term of service was 32 years. (n=251)

Officer Gender
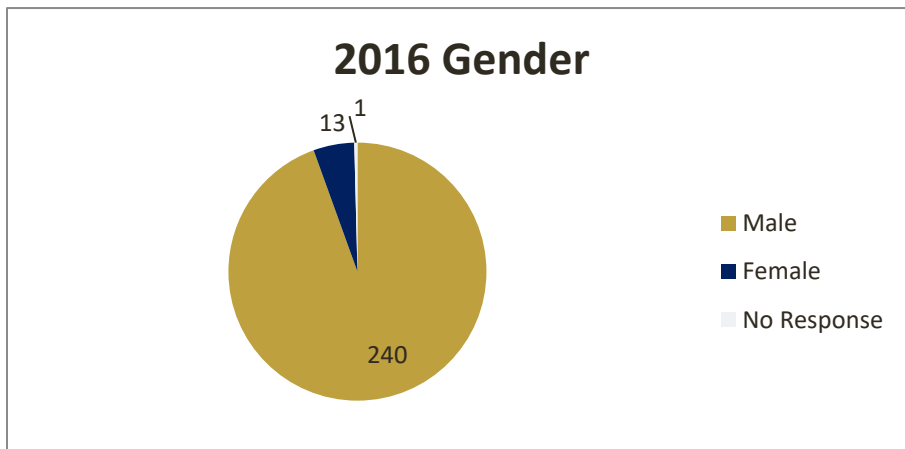
The number of male officers versus the number of female officers reporting pursuits shifted slightly in 2016. On average, 94.9% of officers submitting the Pursuit Driving Report were male while 5.1% were female, whereas in 2015, male officers accounted for 90.9% of reports while female officers accounted for 8.6% of reports submitted.

Employment Type

2016 Employment Status

4

247
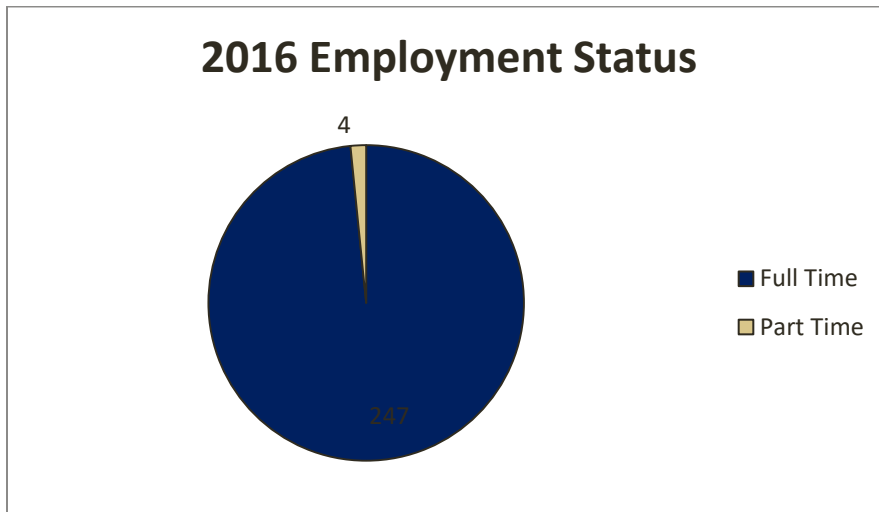
■ Full Time
□ Part Time

Of the 251 reports that indicated employment status, only four (1.6%) reported part-time employment. The remainder indicated full time employment status.

Race

Of the 254 submissions, only 10 (3.9%) included officer race: 80% identified as white; 10% identified as African-American; and 10% identified as Hispanic. In 2015, 5.3% of reports included officer race. This can be attributed to different agencies using different forms for submission and agencies not including this demographic.

Pursuit Demographics

A number of areas can be reported under the pursuit demographics category including:

- Duration of pursuit in minutes
- Duration of pursuit by distance
- Locale of the reported pursuit
- Road types while in pursuit
- Type of vehicle utilized in the pursuit

Duration in Minutes
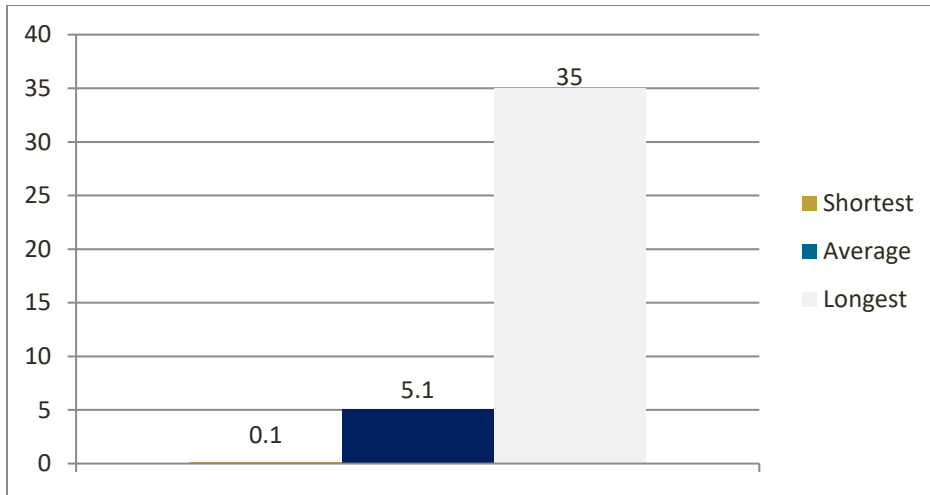
Officers in 241 reports listed duration of the pursuit in terms of minutes. On average, pursuits generally lasted a little more than five minutes (5.1). The longest pursuit lasted 35 minutes, while the shortest was reported at 6 seconds.

Duration in Miles

### 2016 Miles

Pie chart data:
- Under 0.5 mile: 39
- 0.5-1 mile: 46
- 1-2 miles: 38
- 2-3 miles: 29
- 3-4 miles: 25
- 4-5 miles: 31
- Other: 41
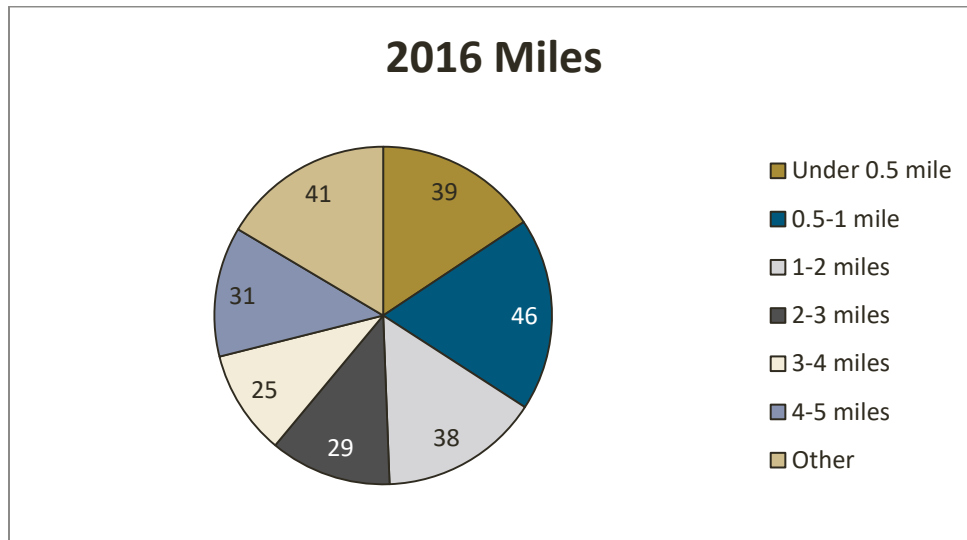
A total of 249 reports provided the distance of pursuit. The average length of a pursuit in terms of distance was 3.7 miles. The longest pursuit reported lasted 30 miles. The shortest pursuit reported was less than .5 miles.

Speed of Pursuit

Bar chart data:

	Slowest	Average	Fastest
Suspect Vehicle	20	78	130
Police Vehicle	20	73.7	125
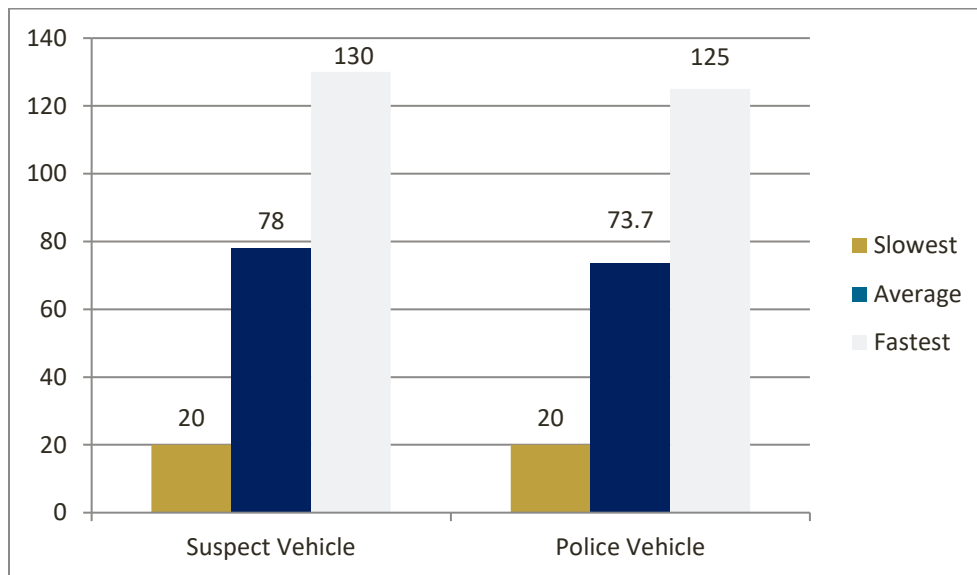
The average reported speed for suspect vehicles (n=228) during pursuits was 78 mph. The highest speed was reported at 130 mph, while the lowest was reported at 20 mph. The average reported speed for police vehicles (n=248) during pursuits was 73.7 mph. The highest speed was reported at 125 mph, while the lowest was reported as 20 mph.

Locale of Pursuits

2016 Locale

Value	Category
67	Urban
155	Residential/Suburban
28	Rural
35	Multiple
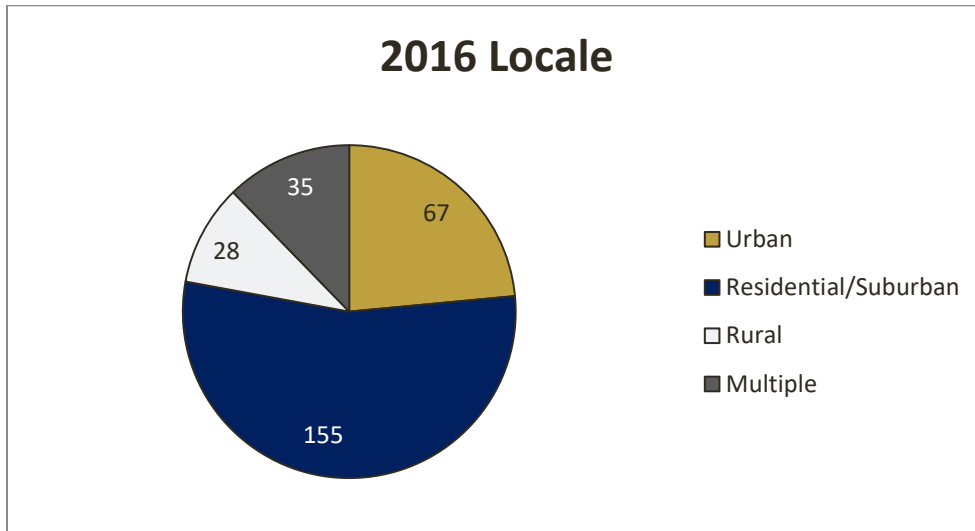
According to the 250 reports that indicated locale where the pursuits took place, pursuits were mostly likely to occur in residential/suburban areas at a rate of 62% and in urban areas at a rate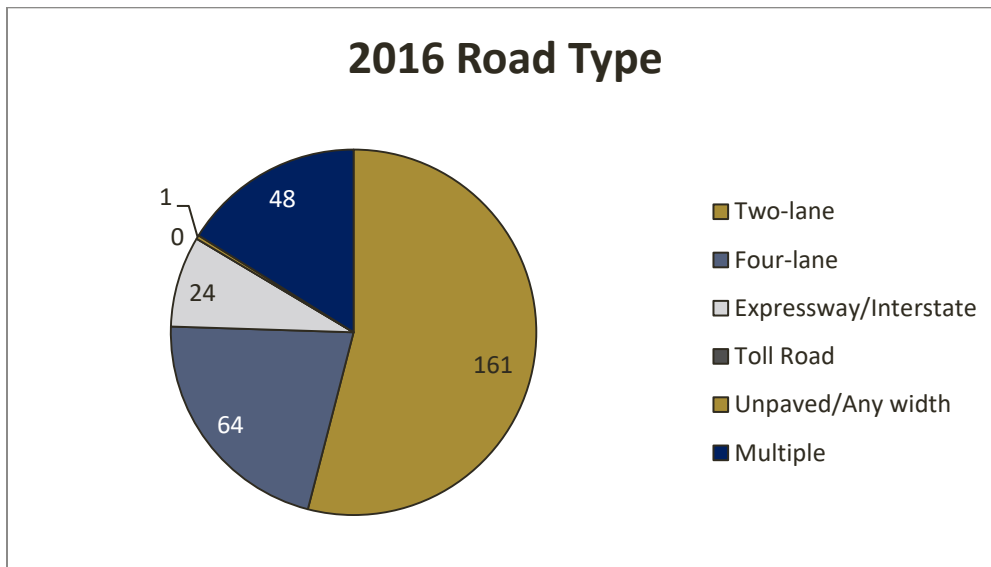 of 26.8%. Rural areas were the least likely (11.2%) to have pursuits take place. Furthermore, 14% of pursuits took place in more than one locale.

Road Type during Pursuit

2016 Road Type

| Value	Category
161	Two-lane
64	Four-lane
24	Expressway/Interstate
0	Toll Road
1	Unpaved/Any width
48	Multiple

The majority of pursuits took place on a two-lane road at a rate of 64.4% and on a four-lane road at a rate of 25.6%. Expressway/interstate pursuits took place on 24 occasions (9.6%). There were no Tollway road pursuits reported for the year 2016. Unpaved road pursuits were reported

only once (0.4%). The occurrence of a pursuit on more than one road type was reported 76 times (30.4%) out of the 250 reports containing road type information.

Initiating Events, Crash Information, and Ending Events

Initiating Events

There are 13 potential initiating events for police pursuits. The top five events most often reported out of the 253 reports listing the initiating event for 2016 are compared here.
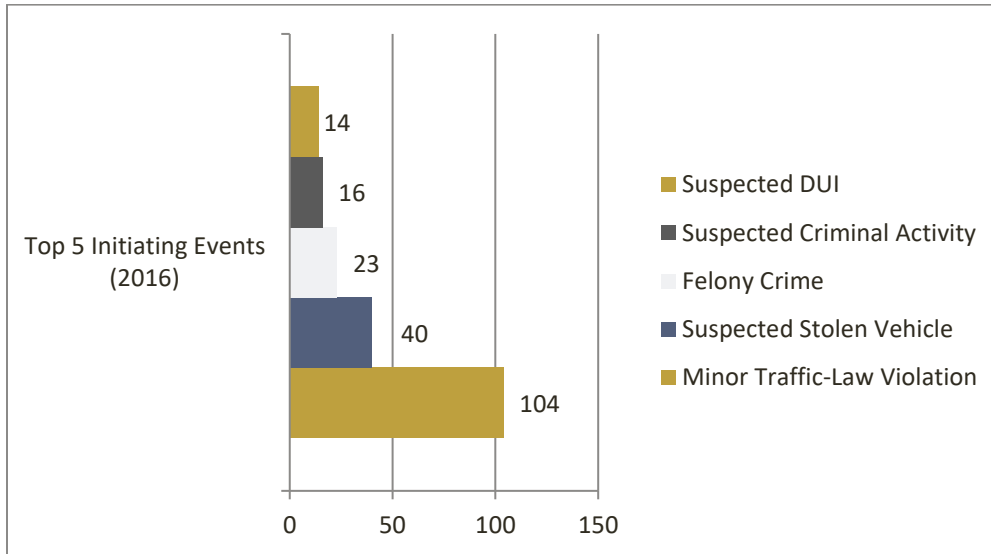
The event that most often initiated the pursuit activity was minor traffic law violations (104 times) followed by suspected stolen vehicles (40). Compared to 2015, suspected criminal activity and suspected DUI moved into the top 5 events replacing unlisted violations and reckless driving. It is also interesting to note that some pursuits (n=91) had a secondary initiating event listed. Most often suspected criminal activity was secondary to another event. It should also be noted that in 8 (3.1%) of initiating events and 6 (6.6%) secondary events, firearm use by the offender was involved.

Crash Reporting

Property Damage

Reports indicate that during 2016, 47 crashes occurred during pursuits. Of the 47 crashes reported, 18 (38.3%) crashes occurred resulted in private property damage, 15 (31.9%) of those crashes resulted in public property damage, and 9 (19.1%) resulted in specific damage to a police unit, fence, light pole, tree, stop sign, and other related property. The other five reports did not indicate type of property damaged.
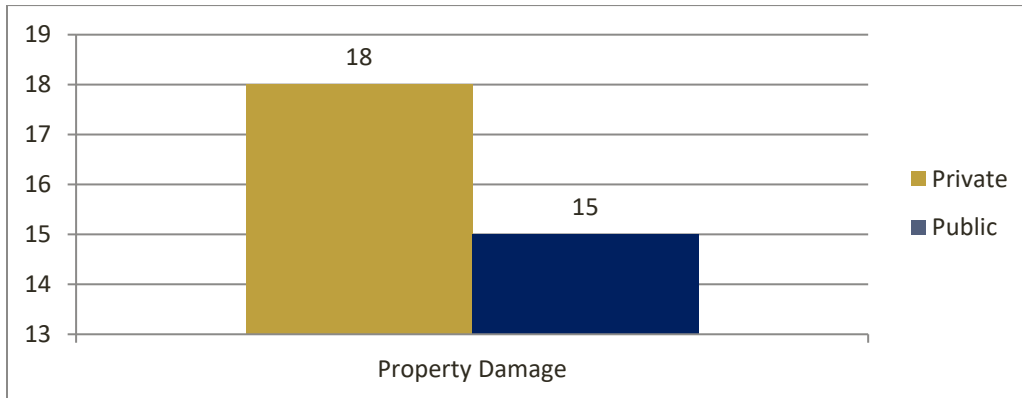
Vehicle Damage

Of the 47 incidents involving crashes, the suspect's vehicle was damaged 40 (85.1%) times, while citizen vehicles were damaged 16 (34%) times. It should be noted that on eight occasions more than one citizen vehicle was damaged.

Pursuing officer vehicles were damaged nine (19.1%) times.
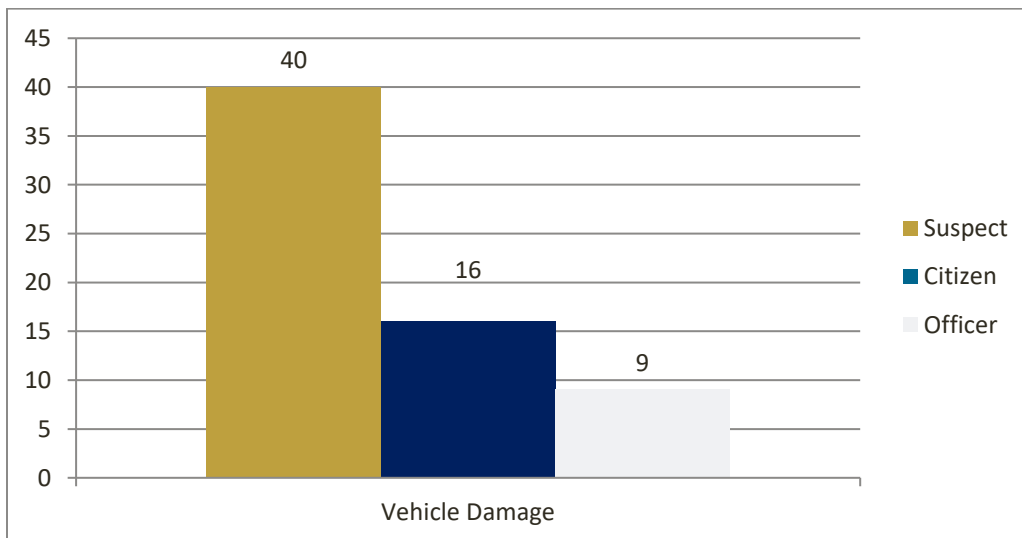
Personal Injury

Reports indicated a total of six incidents in which injury to the officer or the suspect was involved. The data shows suspects (67%) were injured more frequently than passengers (0%), officers (33%), or citizens (0%). There were no fatalities reported in the data received for 2016.
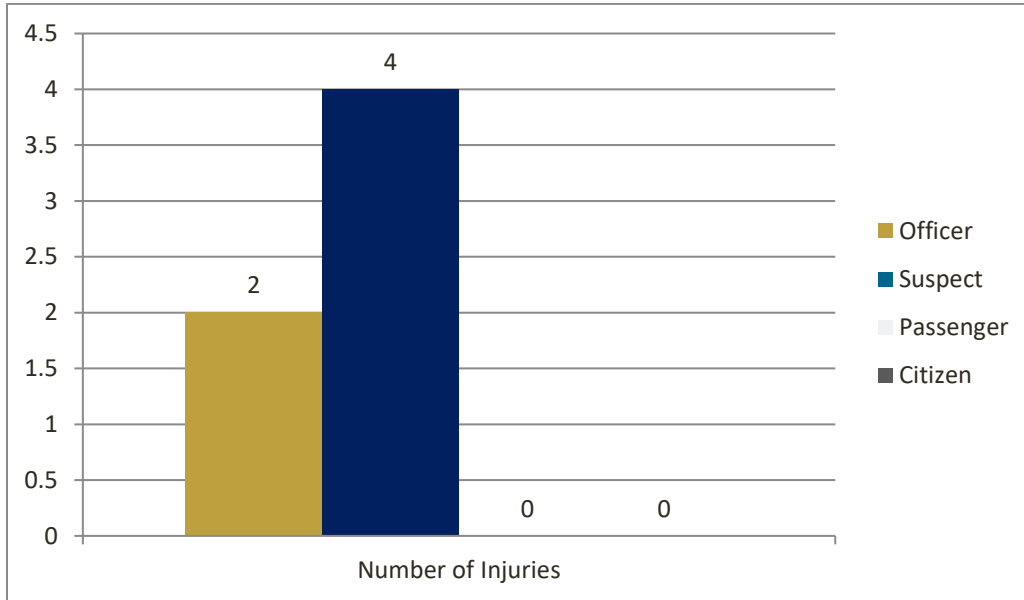
Pursuit Terminations

Thirteen choices are available on the Pursuit Driving Report for the Reason for Pursuit Termination. Of the 254 reports submitted, 247 provided reasons for pursuit termination. The top five are compared here for 2016.

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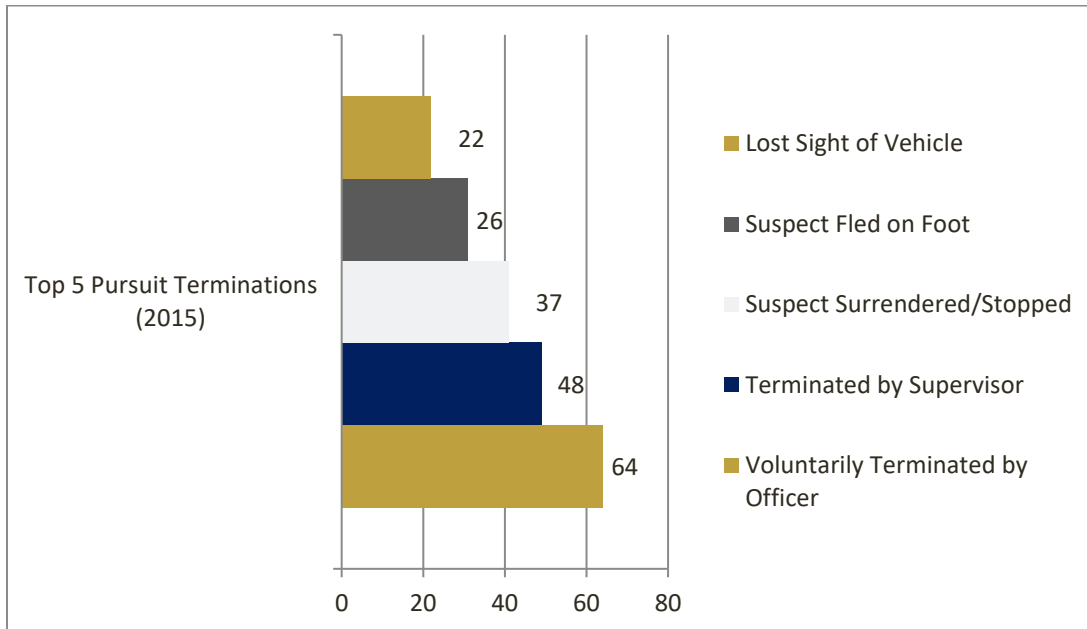
The majority of terminated pursuits (25.9%) were reportedly stopped due to the officer's decision.

Stop Techniques

2016 Stop Techniques

- Stationary Roadblock
- Rolling Roadblock
- Ramming
- Heading Off
- Other

Only 16 reports (6.2%) indicated a specific stop technique. The most common stop technique (n=10) was listed as "other," which occurred in 62.5% of the reported stops. The term "other" included information such as "stop stick/spike strip" or "suspect stopped" indicating that officers did not see these as part of the stationary roadblock technique.
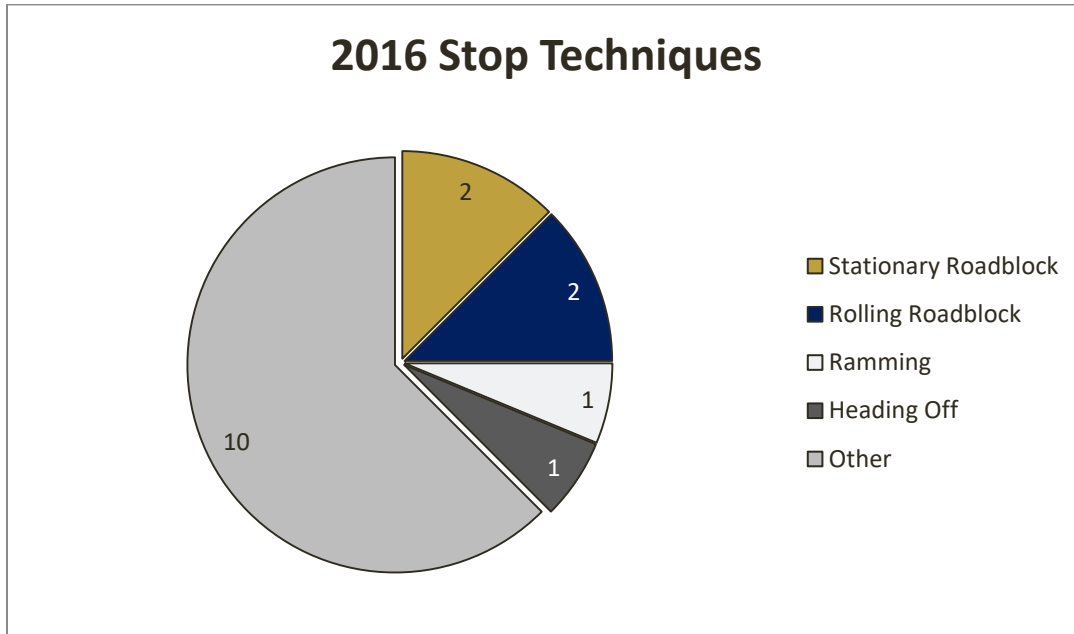
Suspect/Passenger Information

Suspect information is gathered related to information such as: age of the suspect, valid driver's license, vehicle type, drivers fleeing on foot, and follow up conducted when the driver was not apprehended. Passenger information is gathered related to number in the suspect vehicle and number apprehended.

Not all reports contained all information related to suspects and passengers; therefore, some numbers may not equal 100%.

Of the 162 reports that provided information about suspect apprehension, 103 reported the suspect was apprehended and 59 indicated no apprehension.

Age and Gender of the Suspect
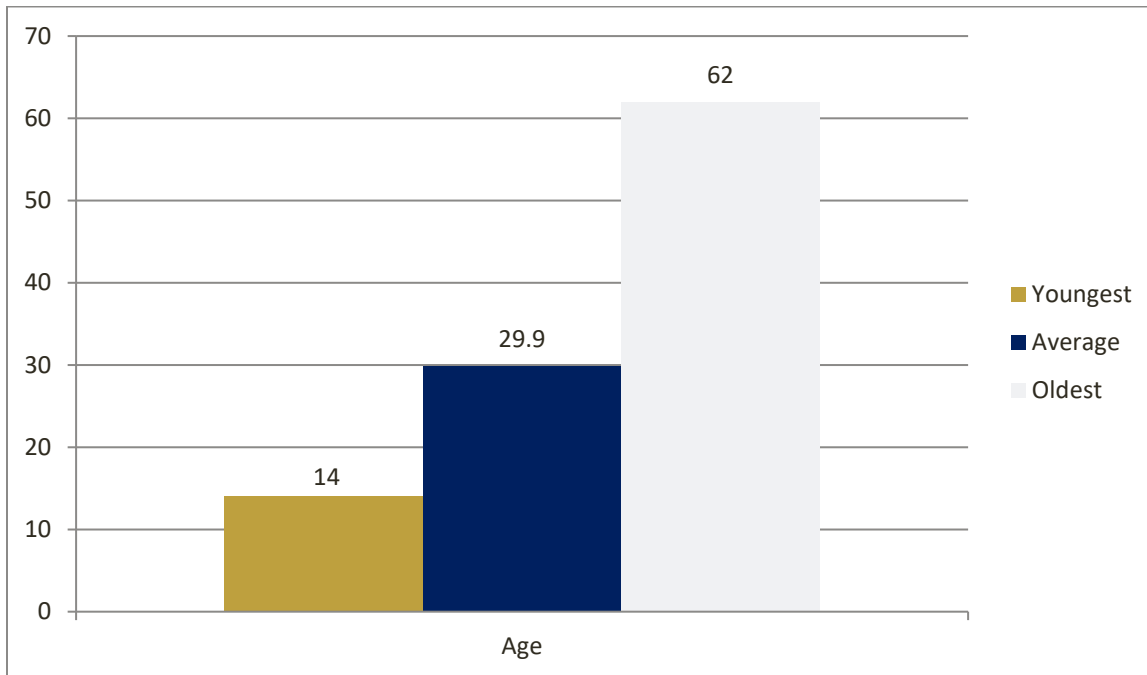
In 152 of the reports age of the suspect was identified. The average age of the suspects involved in reported police pursuits was 29-30 years of age. The oldest offender was listed as 62 years old while the youngest offender was 14 years old.

All 162 reports provided the gender of the suspect. Twelve (7.4%) were female and 150 (92.6%) were male.

Valid Driver's License

2016 Valid Drivers License
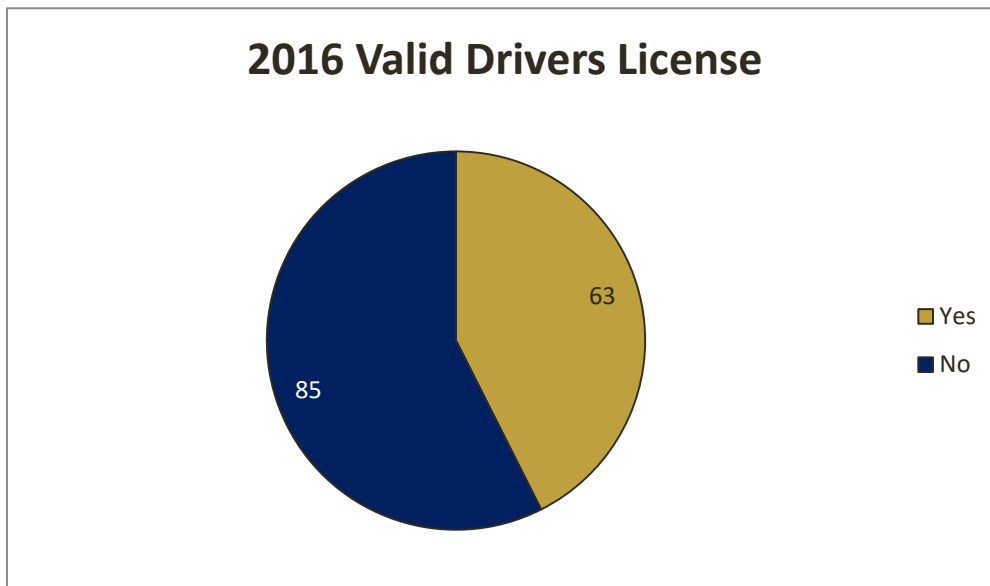
A total of 148 reports indicated whether or not the suspect had a valid driver's license. The majority (57.4%) did not.

Suspect Vehicle Type

2016 Vehicle Type
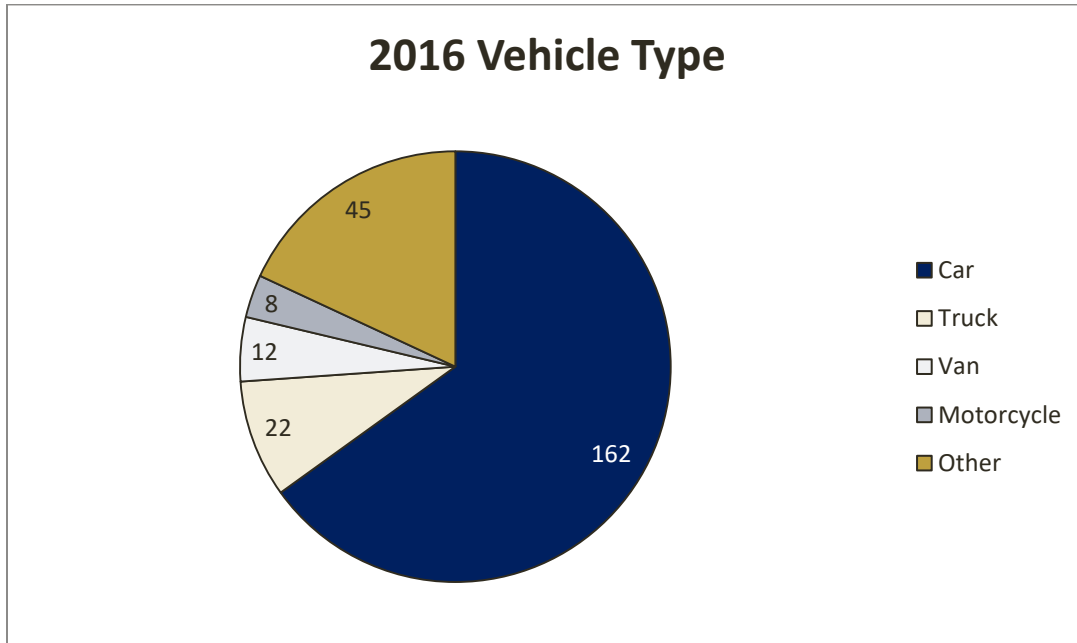
More suspects (n=249) were pursued in cars (65.1%) than in trucks (8.8%), vans (4.8%), and on motorcycles (3.2%). The "other" category (18.1%) was often reported as an SUV.

Fleeing on Foot
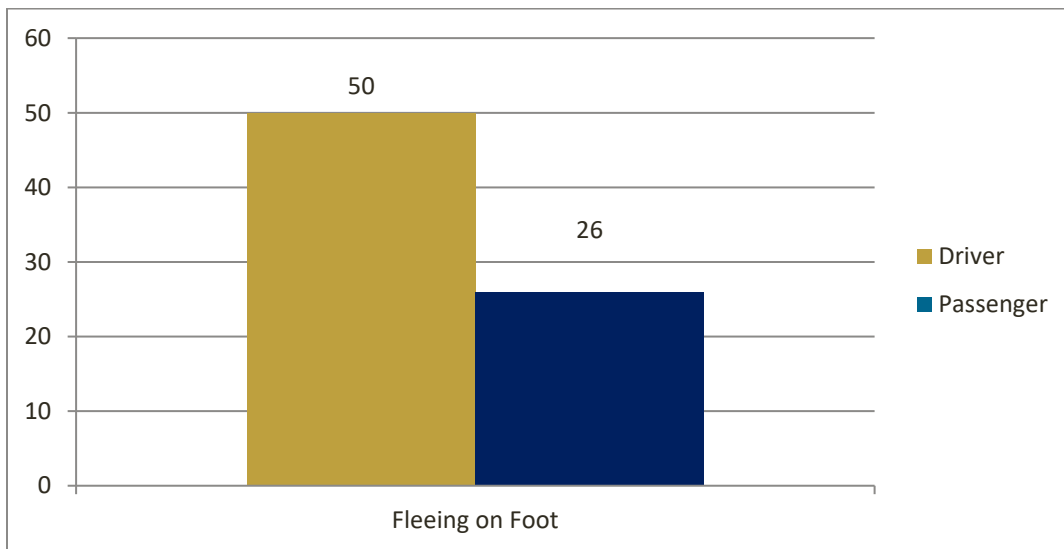
Sixty-nine (69) reports included information about fleeing suspects. Only one (1.4%) indicated the suspect driver was not apprehended while fleeing on foot. Forty-five (45) reports indicated

that passengers had also fled on foot and only three (3) indicated the passengers were not apprehended. Passengers were recorded as present in 159 instances and the highest passenger count in a pursued vehicle was four (4).

Follow-Up When Driver Not Apprehended
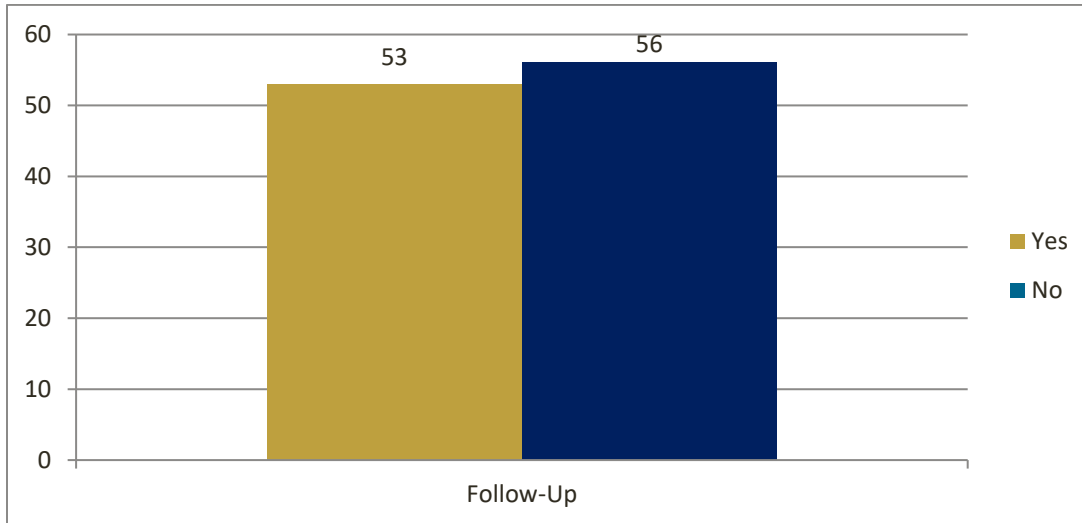
Of the 254 total reports, 75 indicated that follow-up investigations were conducted when the driver was not apprehended while 92 reported no follow-up investigation.

Agencies Submitting

In past reports of the pursuit data, agencies who have submitted were not reported; however, with the improvement in submission data, this analysis includes agencies who submitted and the number of reports received from each:

Number of Reports Submitted by Agencies

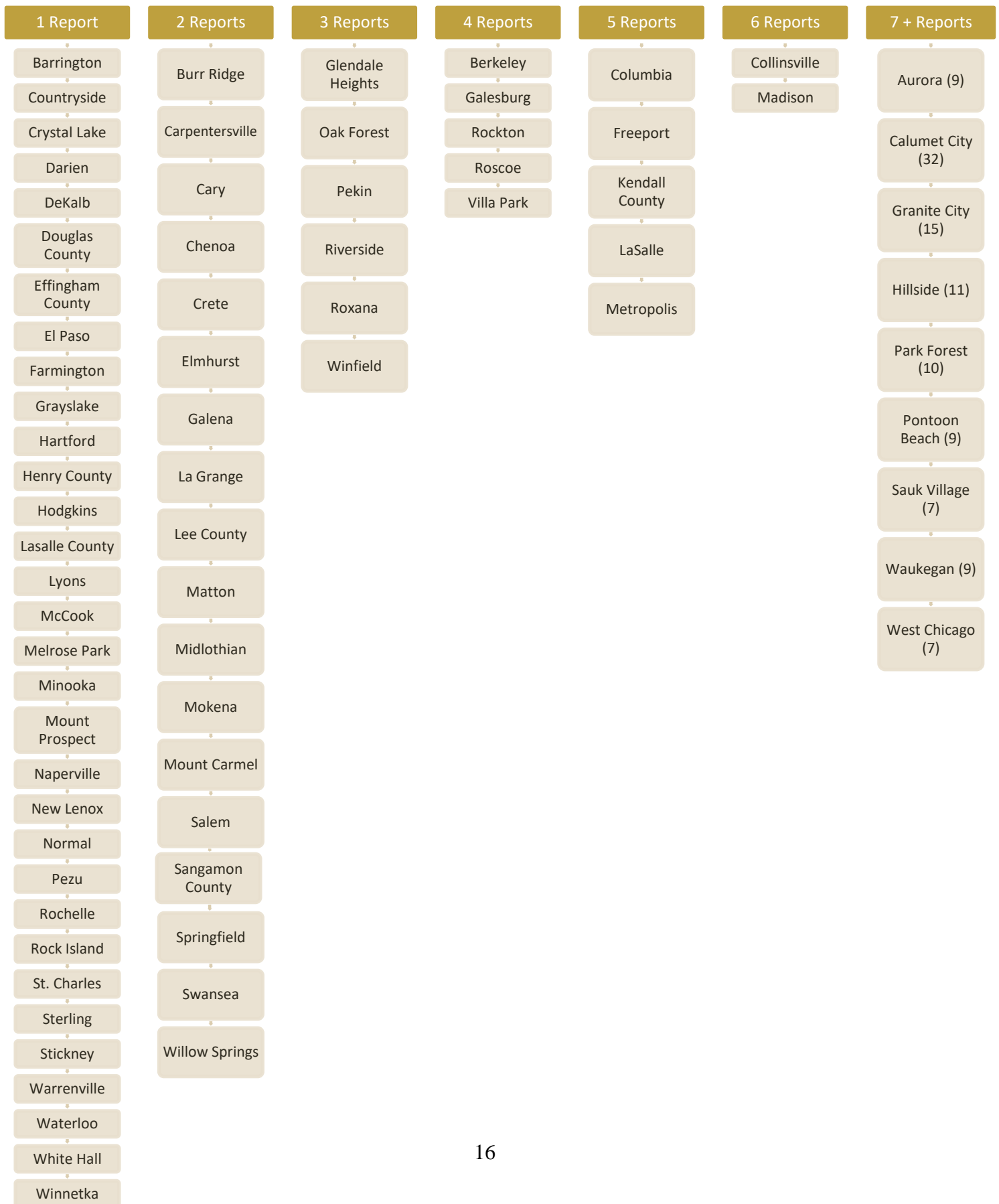| 1 Report	2 Reports	3 Reports	4 Reports	5 Reports	6 Reports	7 + Reports
Barrington	Burr Ridge	Glendale Heights	Berkeley	Columbia	Collinsville	Aurora (9)
Countryside	Carpentersville	Oak Forest	Galesburg	Freeport	Madison	Calumet City (32)
Crystal Lake	Cary	Pekin	Rockton	Kendall County		Granite City (15)
Darien	Chenoa	Riverside	Roscoe	LaSalle		Hillside (11)
DeKalb	Crete	Roxana	Villa Park	Metropolis		Park Forest (10)
Douglas County	Elmhurst	Winfield				Pontoon Beach (9)
Effingham County	Galena					Sauk Village (7)
El Paso	La Grange					Waukegan (9)
Farmington	Lee County					West Chicago (7)
Grayslake	Matton					
Hartford	Midlothian					
Henry County	Mokena					
Hodgkins	Mount Carmel					
Lasalle County	Salem					
Lyons	Sangamon County					
McCook	Springfield					
Melrose Park	Swansea					
Minooka	Willow Springs					
Mount Prospect						
Naperville						
New Lenox						
Normal						
Pezu						
Rochelle						
Rock Island						
St. Charles						
Sterling						
Stickney						
Warrenville						
Waterloo						
White Hall						
Winnetka						

Conclusions

With the submission of a substantially higher number of reports during calendar year 2016, this analysis begins to present a clearer picture of the pursuits in Illinois; however, this is likely only a small percentage of what occurs throughout the state. Agencies have their own documents and many do not submit documents through the ILETSB.

In moving forward with technology, it is recommended that agencies submit their reports via an online form (see attached) through the use of Survey Monkey. The form can be accessed and completed immediately via computer, tablet, or phone. It includes a responsive design that allows easy access on a phone without side to side scrolling. All information is maintained in a password protected cloud file. While it appears to be longer in the printout, it is simply separated out by each area required and many areas are simple clicks of the mouse. Agencies could still use the attached PDF hard copy and submit those for data entry into the system. Utilizing Survey Monkey online submissions will also allow for more correlational examination and easier reporting efforts. Adjustments can be made to the document but it is fashioned after the current board hard copy.