ANALYSIS OF ILLINOIS POLICE PURSUIT REPORTING: 2020

Keith Calloway, Interim Executive Director

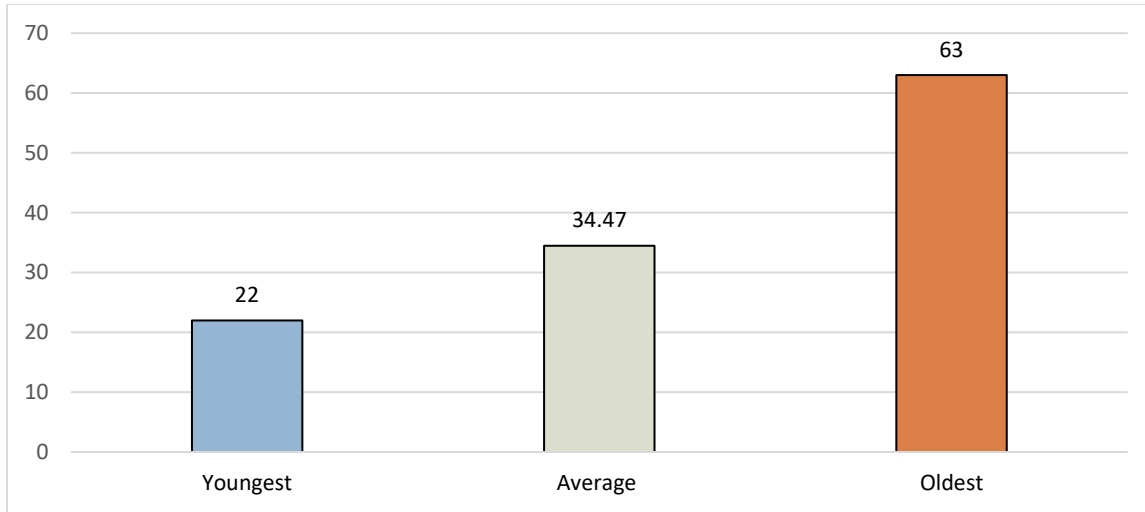# Contents

Number of Reports Submitted

In 2020, 583 reports were submitted, compared to 512 last year. This is a 13.86% increase from 2019.

Officer Demographics

Age

The average age of officers reporting police pursuits for 2020 was 34.47, with a standard deviation of 7.73 years. The youngest officer reporting a pursuit was 22, while the oldest was 63.

Years of Service
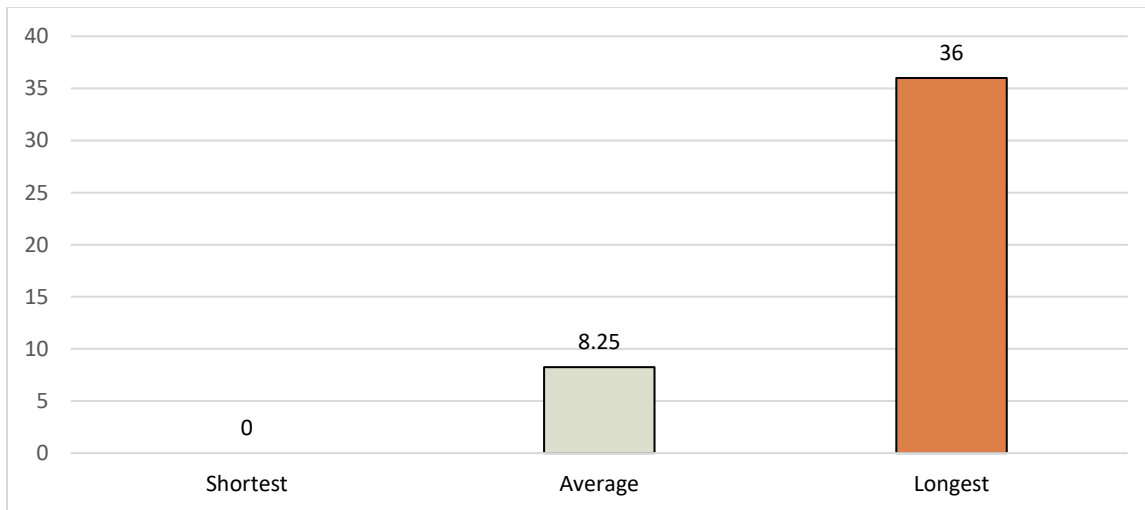
On average, officers who reported pursuits had approximately 8.25 years of service, with a standard deviation of 7.039 years. The officer with the shortest time of service had zero months on duty while the longest term of service was 36 years.

Gender
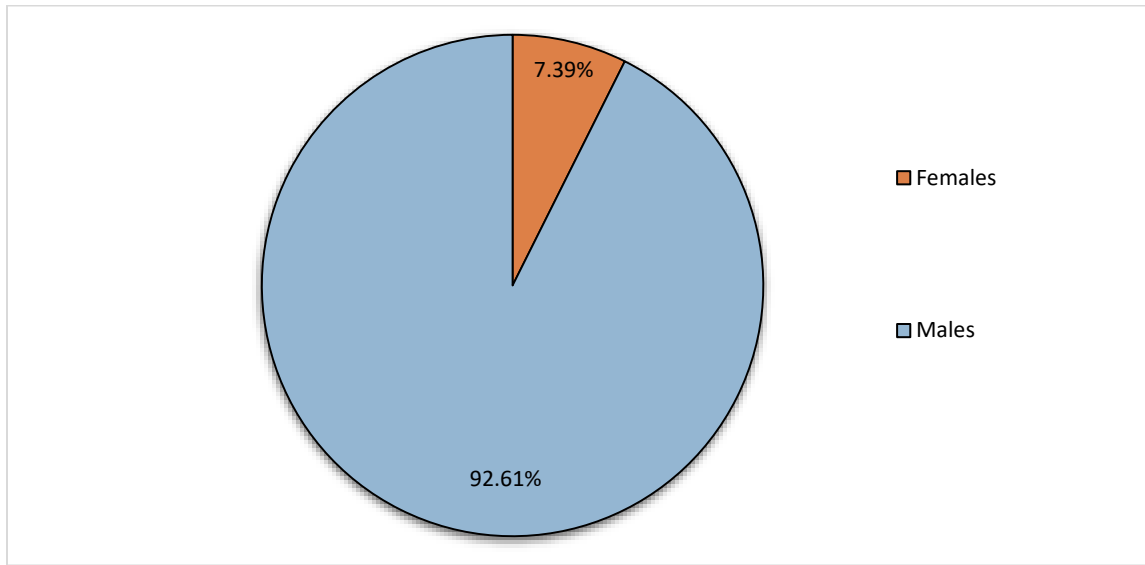
Of the reports that provided gender, 539 officers (92.61%) submitting the pursuit driving report were male and 43 (7.39%) were female. One report failed to identify gender.
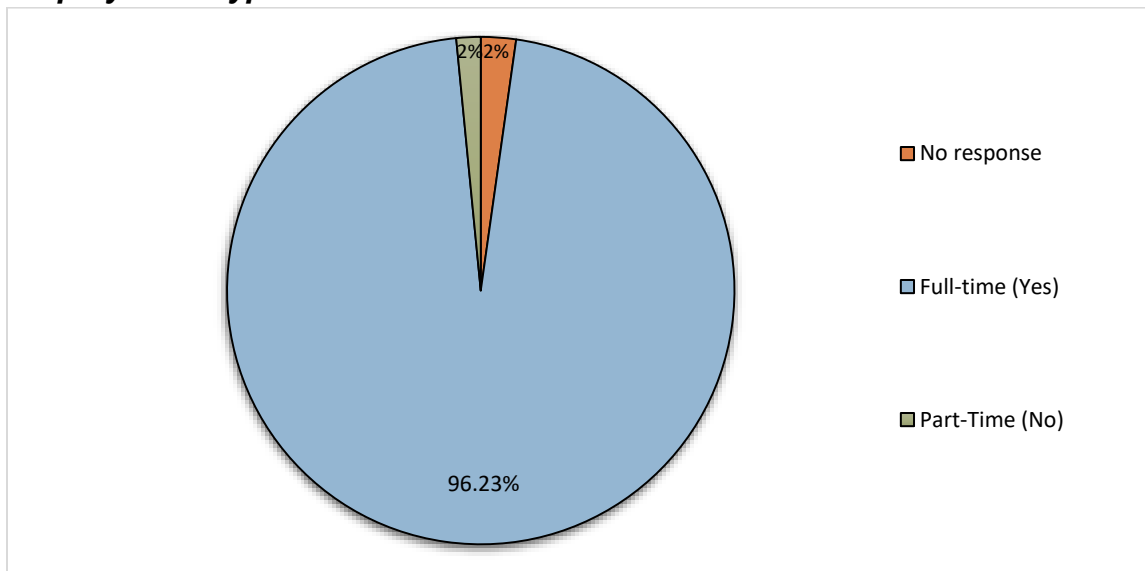
Employment Type

Nearly all reporting officers, 561 (96.23%), indicated full-time duty with their employers. Out of the 583-member sample, only nine (1.54%) indicated part-time work, while 13 individuals (2.23%) did not list a status.

Race

Of the submissions, eleven (1.89%) included officer race; ten (90.9%) identified as Caucasian and one (9.90%) identified as Black. The low response rate 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
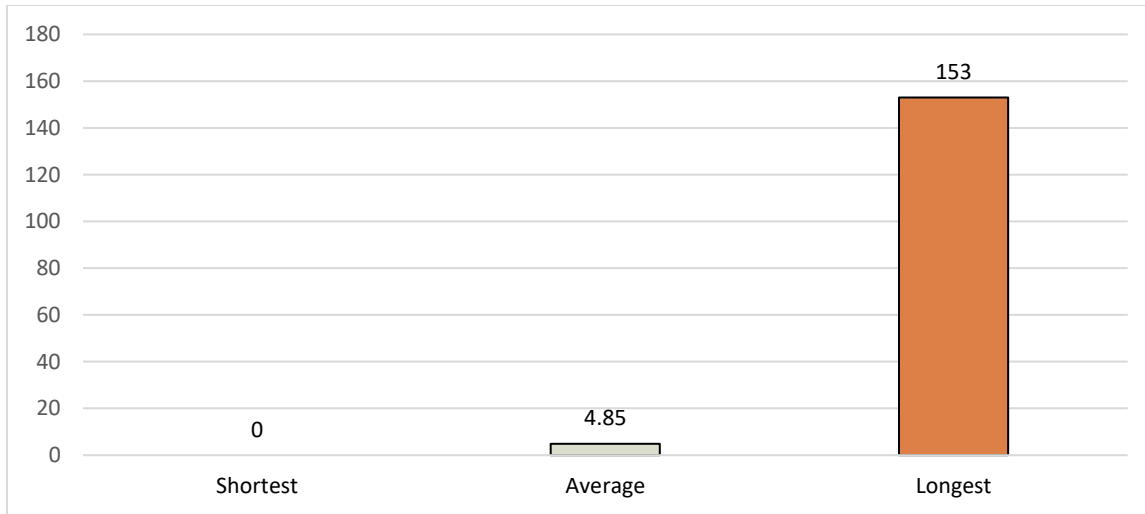
On average, pursuits generally lasted slightly under five minutes (4.85). The longest pursuit reported lasted 153 minutes, while the shortest was reported at zero minutes. There were 34 reports that did not provide a duration of the pursuit.

Distance in Miles
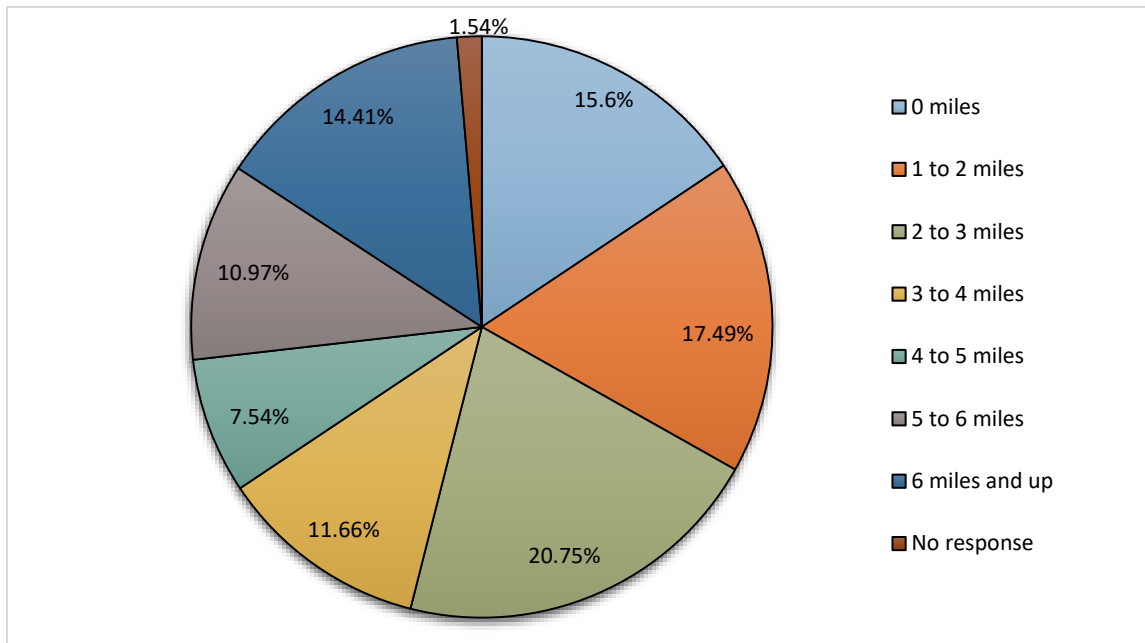
The average distance of a pursuit was 3.524 miles, with a standard deviation of 4.265 miles. The longest pursuit reported lasted a stretch of 35 miles. The shortest pursuit reported was 0 miles. There were nine reports that did not provide a distance.

Speed of Pursuit
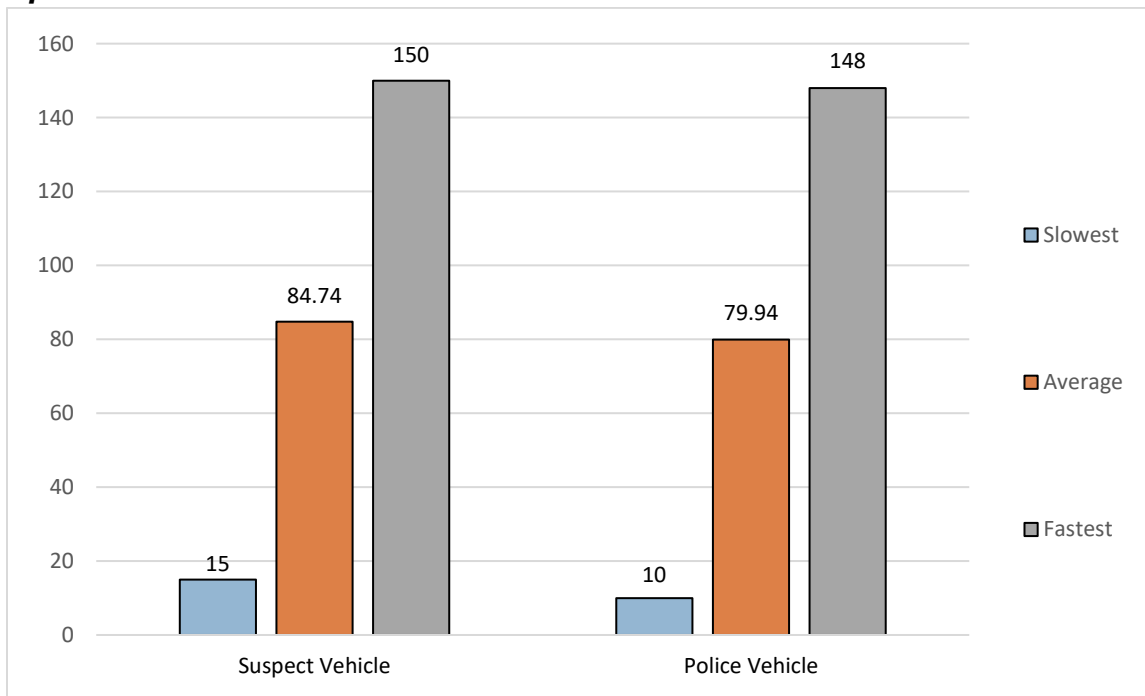
 The average reported speed for suspect vehicles during pursuits was 84.74 mph. The fastest speed for a suspect vehicle was reported at 150 mph, while the slowest was reported at 15 mph.

The average reported speed for police vehicles during pursuits was 79.94 mph. The fastest speed for police was reported at 148 mph, while the slowest was reported as 10 mph. There were 66 responses not given for suspect's speed and 18 responses not given for the officer's speed.

Locale of Pursuit
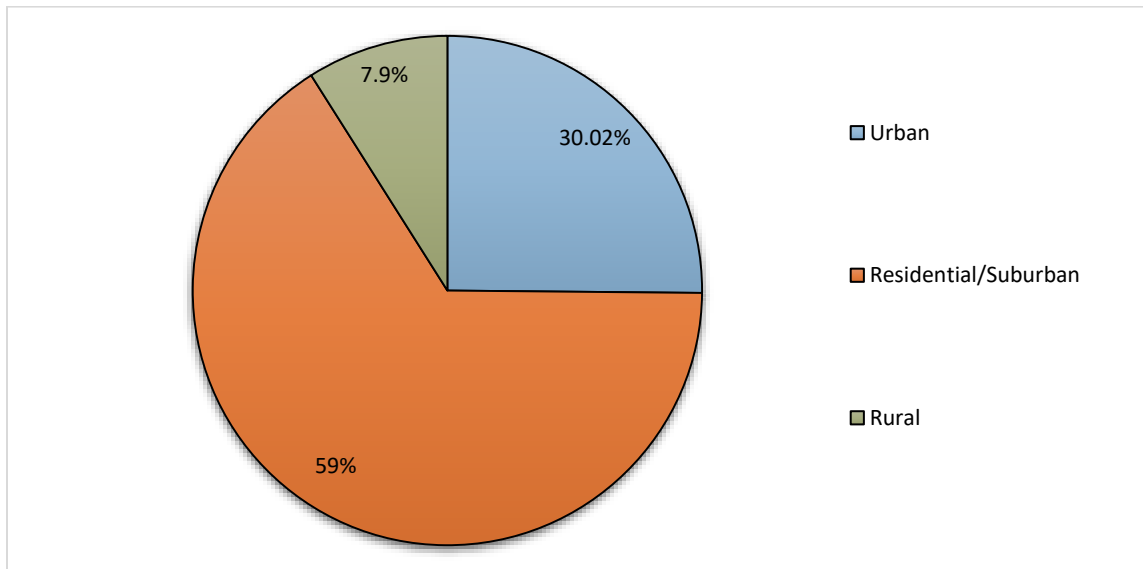
Police pursuits were most likely to occur in residential/suburban areas with a total number of 344 incidents, nearly double the second highest locale, which is urban areas at 175 pursuits. Rural areas were the least likely to have pursuits take place; however, they still occurred in the rural locales on 46 occasions. Furthermore, 3.08% of pursuits took place in more than one locale. A total of 18 reports did not identify a locale.

Road Type During Pursuit
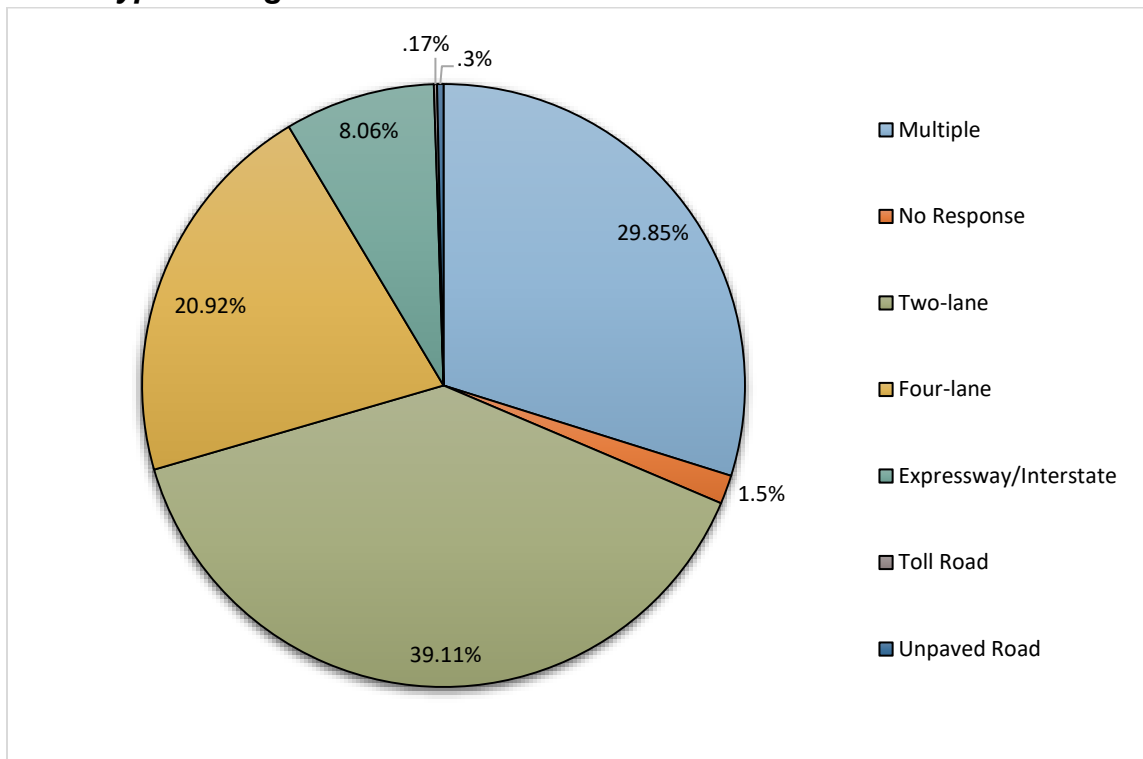
The majority of pursuits took place on a two-lane road, with 228 occasions for a rate of 39.11%. The second largest number of pursuits took place on multiple road types with 174 occasions for a rate of 29.85%. Four-lane pursuits took place on 122 occasions (20.92%), expressway/interstate pursuits took place on 47 occasions (8.06%), and two pursuits (.3%) took place on unpaved roads. One pursuit was reported on tollway roads (0.17%), and 9 reports (1.5%) did not report a road type.

Initiating Events

There are 13 potential initiating events for police pursuits. On the report, officers may choose from the following initiating events: minor traffic law violation, suspected DUI, reckless driving, suspected stolen vehicle, outstanding misdemeanor warrant, felony violent crime warrant, felony property crime warrant, suspected criminal activity, wanted by another agency, felony crime, misdemeanor crime, firearm use by offender in crime of escape, or other events. If more than one of these were the initiating event, they were included in the "multiple events" category. If the initiating event was not for the reasons listed, they were included in the "other events" category. The top five initiating events in 2020 are compared below.

Top 5 Initiating Events in 2020
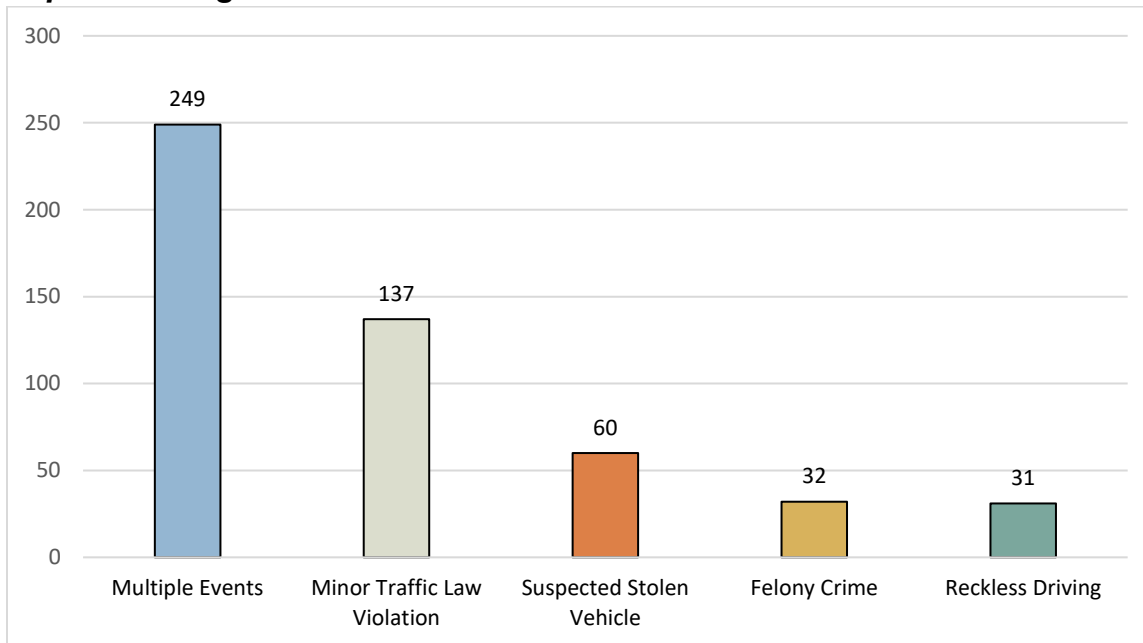
The event that most often initiated the pursuit activity was a combination of multiple events (249 times). The top five initiating factors, which account for 87.31% of total pursuits, are: multiple events, minor traffic violation, suspected stolen vehicle, felony crime, and reckless driving. Two reports did not include the initiating event.

Crash Information

Property Damage
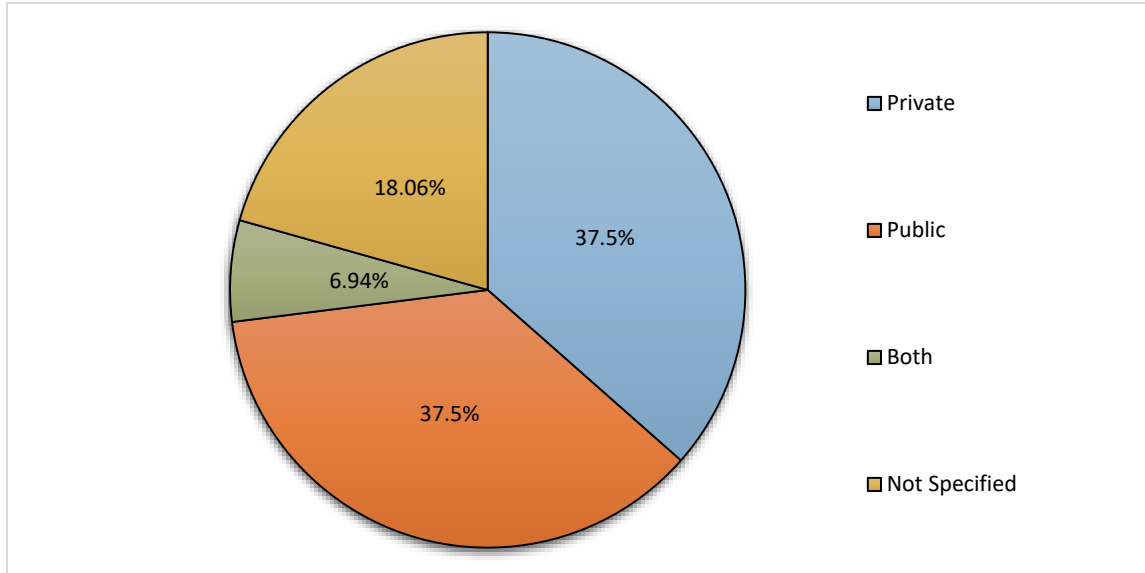
During 2020, 108 (18.52%) pursuits ended in crashes. Of those crashes that provided data, 72 (66.6%) resulted in property damage: 27 (37.5%) affected private property, 27 (37.5%) affected public property, 5 (6.94%) affected both private property and public property, and 13 (18.06%) reports did not specify property damage type.

Vehicle Damage
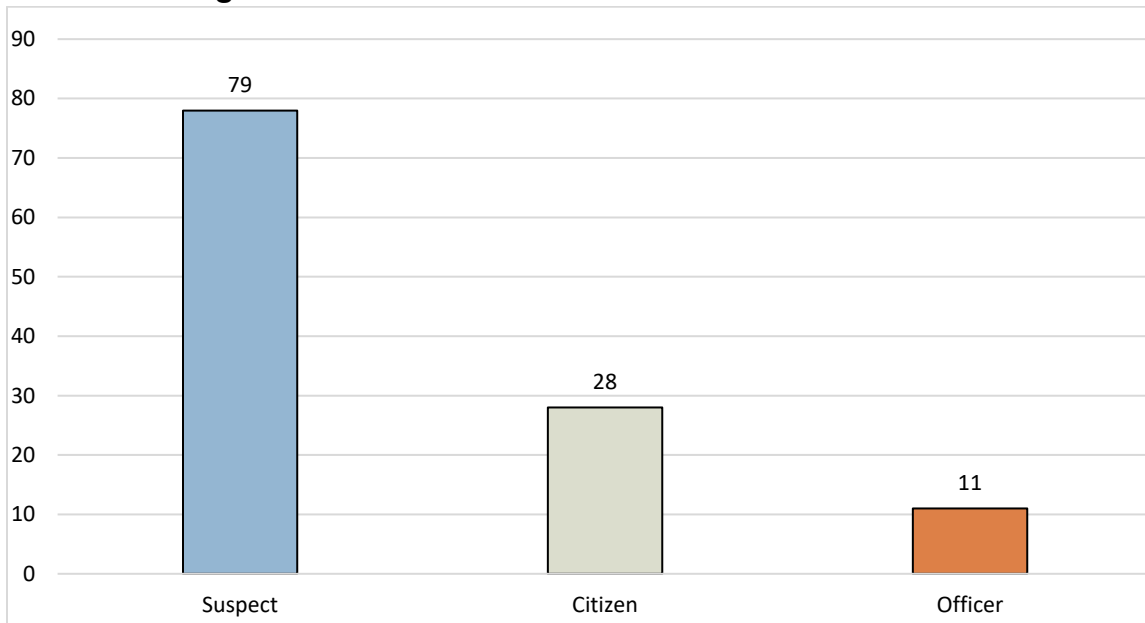
Of the 108 incidents involving crashes, the suspect's vehicle was damaged 79 times (73.15%), while citizen vehicles were damaged 28 times (25.92%). Pursuing officer vehicles were damaged 11 times (10.19%).

Personal Injury
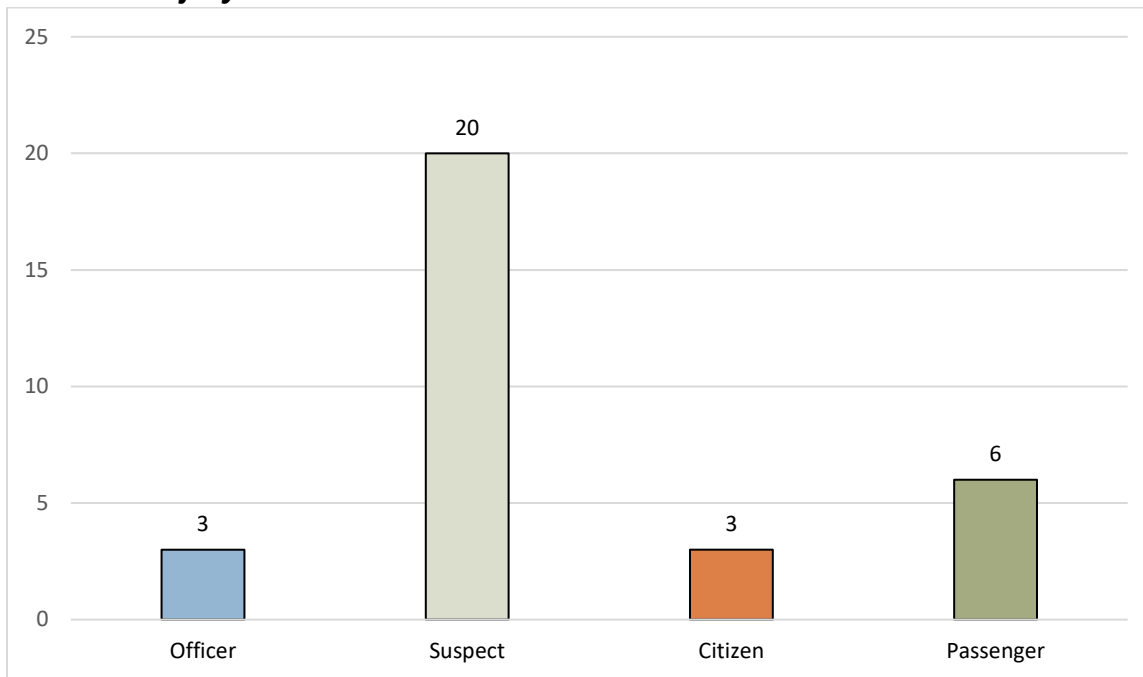
Reports indicated a total of 32 total injuries in which the officer, the suspect, the citizen, and/or passenger was involved. The data shows suspects (62.5%) were injured more frequently than passengers (18.75%), citizens (9.375%), or officers (9.375%). There were two suspect fatalities and one passenger fatality reported in the data received for 2020.

Pursuit Terminations

Thirteen choices are available on the pursuit driving report for pursuit termination. These choices include: suspect surrendered/stopped, suspect fled on foot, suspect's vehicle was disabled, officer's vehicle was disabled, officer voluntarily terminated pursuit, crash involving suspect vehicle and citizen, crash involving suspect vehicle, crash involving police vehicle, crash involving suspect vehicle only, forcible stop technique, terminated by supervisor, lost sight of vehicle, or other. If more than one cause terminated the pursuit, they are included under the "multiple causes" category. The top five are compared here for 2020.

Top Five Pursuit Terminations
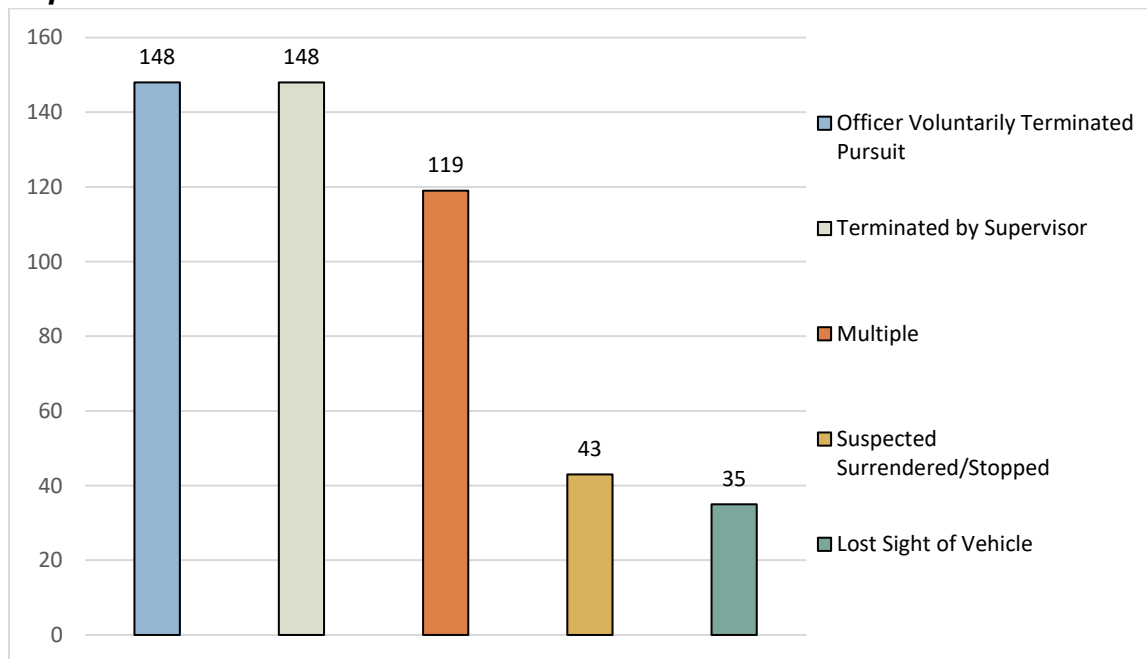
* "Officer Voluntarily Terminated Pursuit" and "Terminated by Supervisor" both had the same value for the most frequent incident.

Of the 583 reports submitted, 556 provided reasons for pursuit termination. Over one-fourth of pursuit terminations (26.62%) occurred due to the officer voluntarily terminating the pursuit, while another 26.62% were terminated by a supervisor.

Ending Events

Stop Techniques
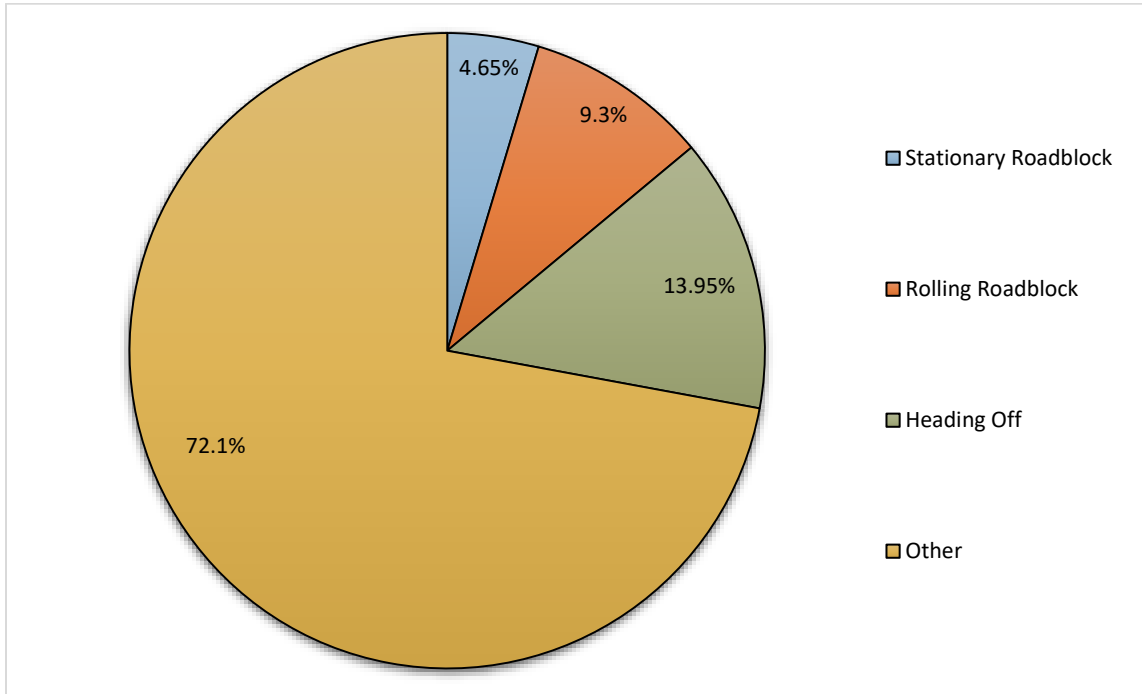
Stop techniques were only utilized 43 times (7.38%) in pursuits reported in 2020. The most common stop technique ("Other") was listed in 31 instances, or 72.1% of reported stops. Heading off was used six times, or 13.95% of the reported stops. Rolling roadblocks were only used four times (9.3%), and stationary roadblocks were used two times (4.65%).

Suspect/Passenger Information

Suspect information gathered includes: 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.

Age of the Suspect
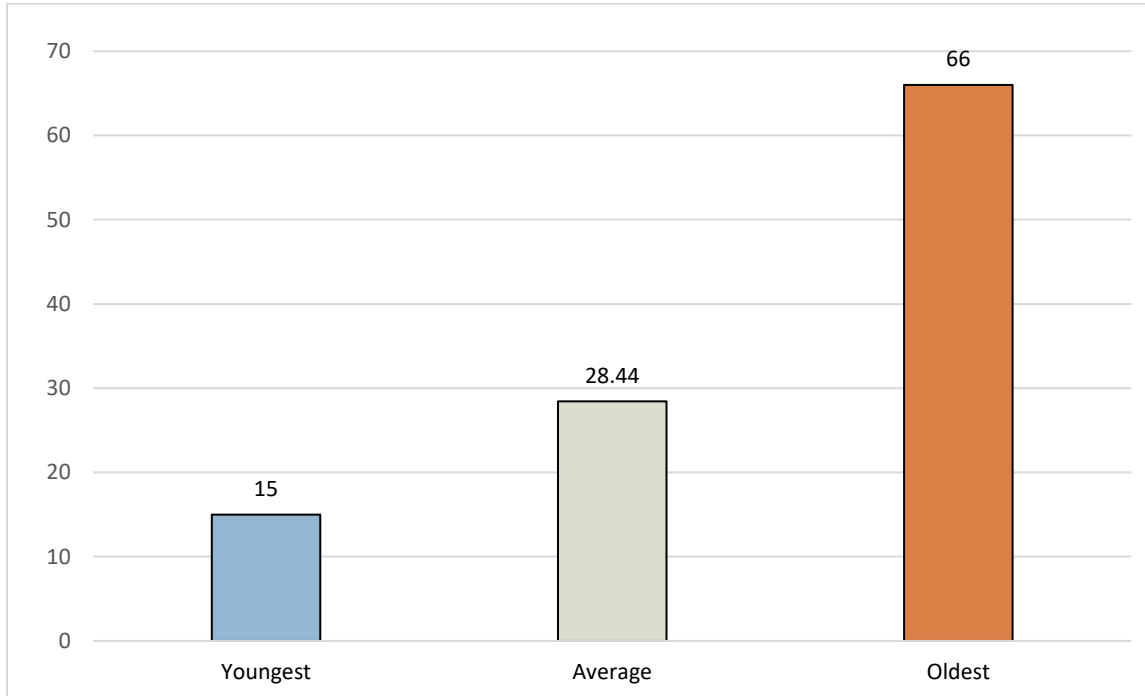
The average age of the suspects involved in reported police pursuits was 28.44, with a standard deviation of 9.99 years. The oldest offender was 66 years old, while the youngest offender was 15 years old. There were 241 apprehensions out of the 583 reports (41.33%). All of this information is based on these 241 apprehensions.

Valid Driver's License
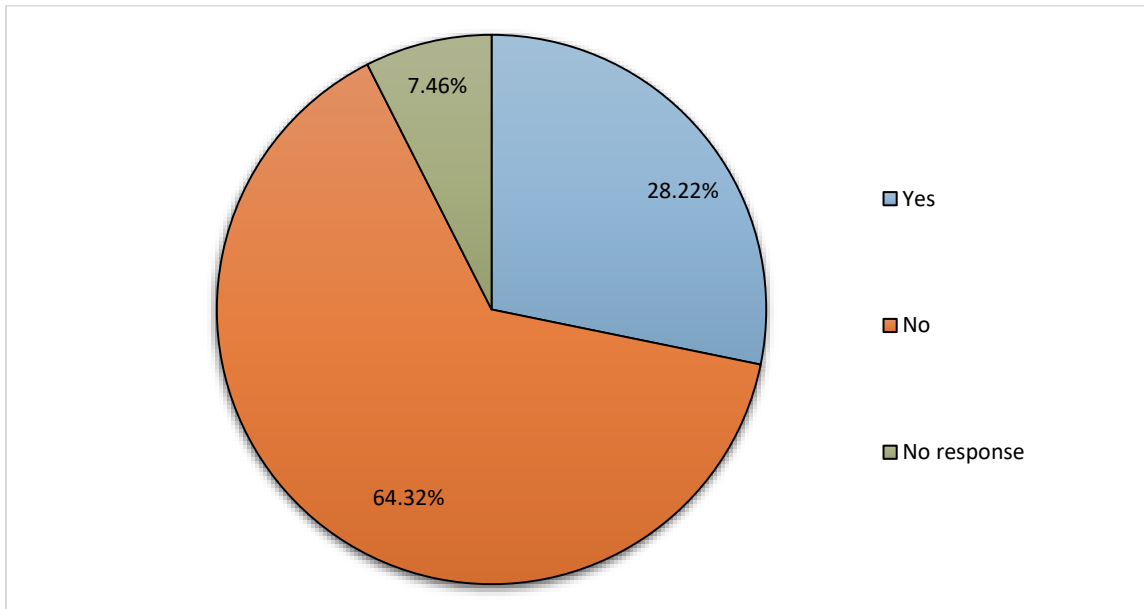
Out of the 241 reports that had apprehended the suspect, the chance of apprehending a suspect with a valid driver's license (28.22%) is less than the chance of apprehending them without a valid driver's license (64.32%).

Suspect Vehicle Type
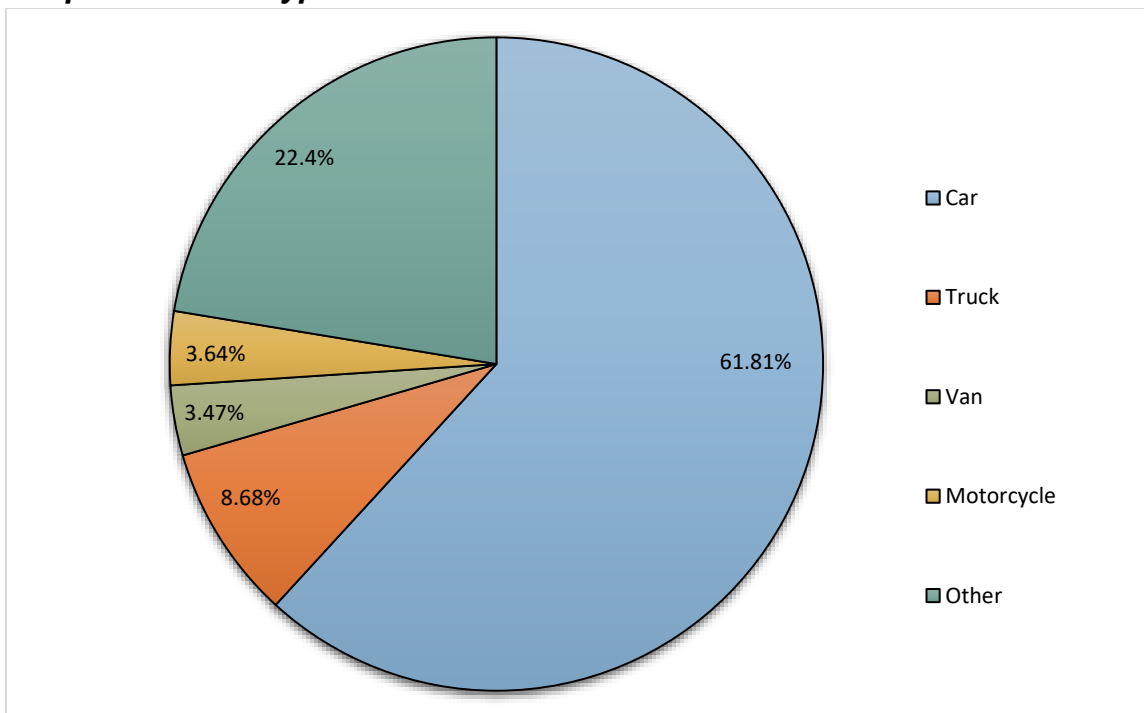
Excluding those reports who did not report vehicle type, an analysis of the data reflects that more suspects were pursued while driving cars (61.81%) than in trucks (8.68%), motorcycles (3.64%), and vans (3.47%). The "other" category (22.4%) was often reported as an SUV.

Fleeing on Foot

Driver: 107
Passenger: 110
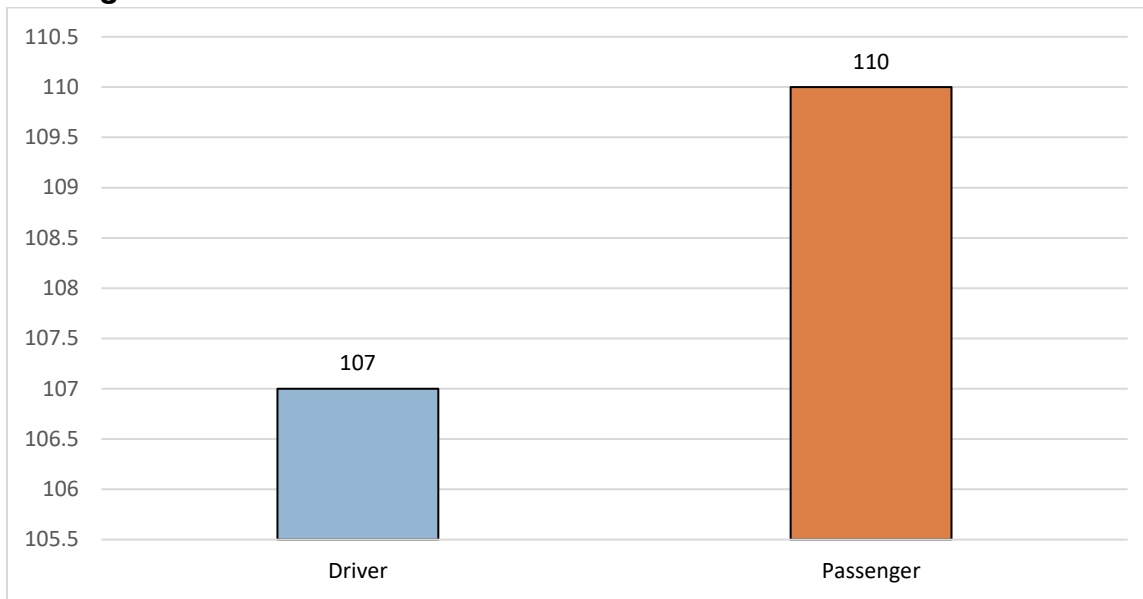
From all 583 reported pursuits, there were a total of 698 passengers. Passengers were recorded as present in 369 instances and the highest passenger count in a pursued vehicle was six. There were 88 (15.09%) instances where the pursued vehicle had no passengers, and in 125 (21.44%) instances no passenger count was recorded. The pursued drivers attempted to flee on foot 15.33% of the time (107 occurrences) while passengers attempted to flee on foot 15.76% of the time (110 occurrences).

Follow-Up When Driver Not Apprehended

Yes: 158
No: 224
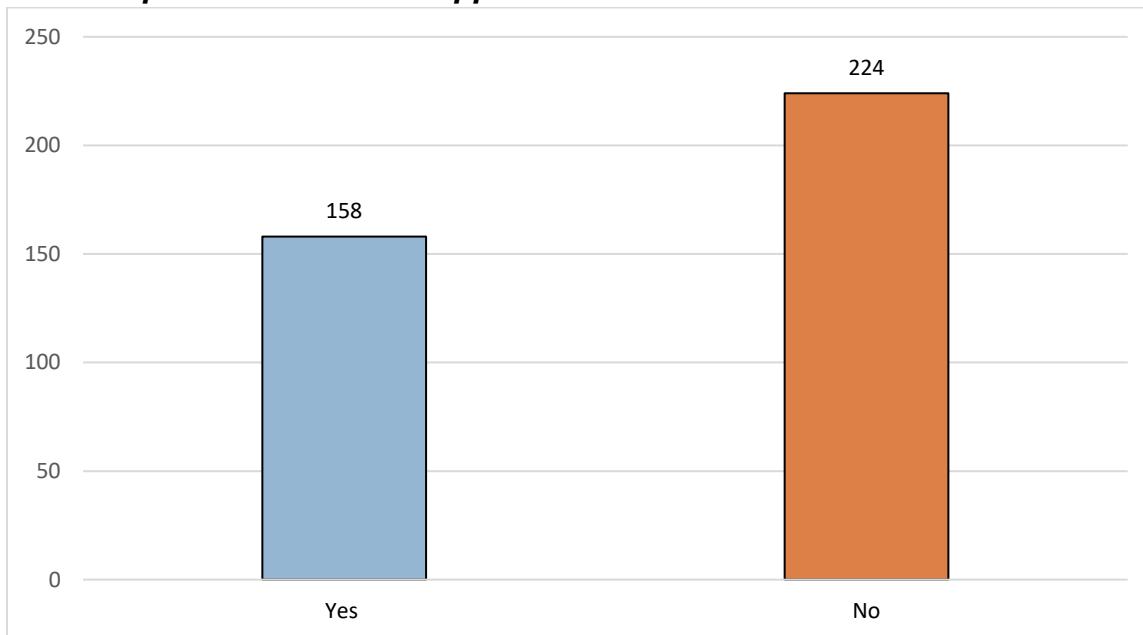
Of the reports that stated that the driver was not apprehended, follow-ups were conducted 41.36% of the time, while 58.64% of the time a follow-up was not conducted.

Conclusions

With the submission of a fourteen percent higher number of reports during calendar year 2020 as compared to 2019, 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 Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

The longest pursuit in the past ten years was in 2019 and the pursuit lasted three hours. However, even though 2019 had the longest pursuit, the average pursuit duration in 2020 (mean duration of 4.85 minutes) was longer than 2014-2019 data (mean duration of 4.586 minutes). The average pursuit distance in miles in 2020 was shorter (mean distance of 3.524 miles) than the 2014-2019 data (mean distance of 4.7016 miles).

The average speed for suspect vehicles during pursuits in 2020 (mean speed of 84.74 miles per hour) was 7.235 miles per hour faster than the average for 2014-2019 (mean speed of 77.505 miles per hour). The number of pursuits ending in crashes has increased from years past (2014-2019 mean was 53 crashes, while 2020 total was 108 crashes), but the percentage of pursuits that end in crashes has fallen (2014-2019 average was 20.426%, while 2020 average was 18.52%). The number of stop techniques used has increased (in 2020 stop techniques were utilized 43 times versus the last six-year average of 23.83 times), but their proportion to all pursuits has decreased (the 2020 percentage was 7.4, while the last six-year percentage was 9.25).

Number of Reports Submitted by Agencies

1 Report	2 Reports	3 Reports	4 Reports	5 Reports	6 Reports	7 + Reports
Addison	Elmhurst	Dekalb	Bensenville	Cook County	Champaign County	Aurora (45)
Algonquin	Galena	Glen Carbon	Berkeley	Fairfield	Franklin Park	Calumet City (65)
Avilla	Glenwood	La Grange	Crest Hill	Fox Lake	Montgomery	Collinsville (12)
Bethany	GPD	Midlothian	GCPD	Kane County	Pekin	Columbia (16)
Canton	Lake in the Hills	Minooka	Oak Forest		Rockton	Crete (10)
Carol Stream	LaSalle County	Peru	OCPD			Des Plaines (12)
Cary	Madison	Swansea	Posen			Freeport (7)
Chenoa	Metropolis	Villa Park	Richton Park			Galesburg (11)
Darien	Mount Olive	West Chicago	Rock Island			Granite City (39)
Ford County	Mount Prospect	Winfield	Steger			Hartford (7)
Galva	Roxana					Hillside (18)
Glen Ellyn	RPD					Lisle (10)
Hampshire	SCSO					Oak Brook (9)
Kendall County	St Charles					Park Forest (21)
Maroa	Watseka					Pontoon Beach (23)
Mattoon	Mount Carmel					Riverdale (18)
Melrose Park						Sauk Village (25)
Midlothian						Springfield (7)
MPD						Tinley Park (9)
Naperville						Waukegan (8)
Normal						Westchester (10)
PBPD						
Plainfield						
RIPD						
Riverside						
Riverwoods						
Rosemont						
Round Lake						
Sangamon Co						
Shiloh						
Sterling						
Stone Park						
SVPD						
West Dundee						
Westmont						
Will Co						
Winnetha						
WPD						