

ANALYSIS OF ILLINOIS POLICE PURSUIT REPORTING: 2022

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Report Overview

This report provides data on pursuit driving reports submitted to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The majority of the data is descriptive in nature, providing relative information for the 2022 reporting period. It is notable that some report submissions did not include complete information, so in some instances, reporting is based on a smaller submission size.

In 2022, 834 reports were submitted, compared to 866 last year. This is a 6.7% decrease from 2021.



Trend Analysis

Pursuit, Apprehensions, Crash, Injury, and Fatality Trends from 2016 to 2022



There was an increase in all aspects--i.e., apprehensions, crashes, injuries and fatalities--as the number of reports has also increased. However, there was a decrease in the numbers in 2022.

Officer Demographics



The average age of officers reporting police pursuits for 2022 was 34, with a standard deviation of 8 years. The youngest officer reporting a pursuit was 20, while the oldest was 61.

Years of Service

On average, officers who reported pursuits had approximately 7.93 years of service, with a standard deviation of 7.05 years. The officer with the shortest term of service had zero months on duty, while the longest term of service was 36 years.



Gender



Of the reports where officer's gender was included, out of 831 officers (99.6%) submitting the pursuit driving report, 775 (93.26%) were male and 56 (6.74%) were female. Three reports failed to identify gender.

Employment Type



Nearly all reporting officers, 815 (97.72%), indicated full-time duty with their employers. Out of the 834-member sample, only six (0.72%) indicated part-time work, while thirteen individuals (1.56%) did not list a status.

Pursuit Demographics

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

- Duration in minutes
- Duration in miles
- Speed of pursuit
- Locale of pursuit
- Road types while in pursuit

Duration in Minutes



On average, pursuits generally lasted under five minutes (4.21), with a standard deviation of 5.38 minutes. The longest pursuit reported lasted 57 minutes, while the shortest was reported at 0.16 minutes (9.6 seconds). There were two reports that did not provide a duration of the pursuit.

Distance in Miles



The average distance of a pursuit was 3.22 miles, with a standard deviation of 4.13 miles. The longest pursuit reported lasted 44.5 miles. The shortest pursuit reported was 0 miles. There were fourteen reports that did not provide a distance.

Speed of Pursuit



The average reported speed for suspect vehicles during pursuits was 83 mph. The fastest speed for a suspect vehicle was reported as 160 mph, while the slowest was reported as 3 mph. The average reported speed for police vehicles during pursuits was 78.9 mph. The fastest speed for police was reported as 160 mph, while the slowest was reported as 10 mph. 101 respondents did not report the suspect's speed and 29 respondents did not report the officer's speed

Locale of Pursuit



Police pursuits were most likely to occur in residential/suburban areas with a total number of 532 incidents, nearly double the second highest locale, which is urban areas at 273 pursuits. Rural areas were the least likely to have pursuits take place; however, they still occurred in the rural locales on 107 occasions. Of the locales recorded, 13% of pursuits took place in more than one locale. A total of 35 reports did not identify a locale. • Geographical Locale of Pursuit:



The size of the circles on the map of Illinois shows the number of pursuits reported from the particular agency. It can be seen that most of the pursuits happen in the northeast region, which is also more populous as compared to the rest of the regions.





The majority of pursuits took place on a two-lane road, with 529 occasions, for a rate of 50.2%. Four-lane pursuits took place on 358 occasions (34%) and expressway/interstate pursuits took place on 128 occasions (12.1%). 33 reports (3.1%) did not report a road type. About one in four pursuits took place on multiple road types, with 220 occasions, for a rate of 27.46%.

Time of Pursuit



The number of pursuits is lowest in the early mornings and is highest during mid-night hours. The lowest number of pursuits (4) was reported at 7 in the morning and the highest number of pursuits (66) was reported at 12 midnight.



Pursuit Frequency w.r.t. Day of the Week

The pursuits are likely to happen around the weekend as compared to the weekdays. 47.2% of the pursuits happened on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday combined. However, the difference is negligible.

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 the initiating event did not fall into one of the 13 categories, they were included in the "other events" category. The top five initiating events in 2022 are compared below.



Top 5 Initiating Events

The event that most often initiated the pursuit activity was a combination of minor traffic law violations with 398 times. The top five initiating factors, which account for 73.4% of total pursuits, are as follows: minor traffic violation, suspected stolen vehicle, felony crime, suspected criminal activity and reckless driving. Nineteen reports did not include the initiating event.

Crash Information

Property Damage



During 2022, 126 (15.1%) pursuits ended in crashes. Of those crashes that provided data, 109 (86.51%) resulted in property damage: 32 (29.36%) affected private property, 25 (22.94%) affected public property, 5 (4.59%) affected both private property and public property, and 47 (43.12%) reports did not specify property damage type.

Vehicle Damage

Of the 126 incidents involving crashes, suspect vehicles were damaged 96 times (76.22%), while citizen vehicles were damaged 32 times (25.4%). Pursuing officer vehicles were damaged 14 times (11.11%).



Suspect 29

Citizen

Officer

Passenger

9

6

3

6.4%

Personal Injury

Reports indicated a total of 47 total injuries in which the officer, the suspect, the citizen, and/or the passenger was involved. The data shows suspects (61.7%) were injured more frequently than citizens (19.1%), passengers (12.8%), or officers (6.4%). There were two suspect, one citizen and one passenger fatalities reported in the data received for 2022.

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 2022.

Top Five Pursuit Terminations



Of the 834 reports submitted, 811 provided reasons for pursuit termination. Over one-third of the pursuit terminations (31.4%) occurred due to the officer voluntarily terminating the pursuit, while another 26.4% were terminated by a supervisor.

Ending EventsStop TechniquesOther44Rolling Roadblock9Stationary Roadblock4Heading Off46.5%

Ramming

1

Stop techniques were utilized 62 times (7.43%) in pursuits reported in 2022. The most common stop technique "Other" was listed in 44 instances (71%) of reported stops. Rolling roadblock was used nine times (14.5%) in the reported stops, while stationary roadblock and heading off were utilized four times (6.5%) each. Ramming was used once (1.61%).

Suspect/Passenger Information

Suspect information gathered includes: age of the suspect, valid driver's license, suspect 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 30.81, with a standard deviation of 11.39 years. The oldest offender was 68 years old, while the youngest offender was 14 years old. There were 276 apprehensions out of the 834 reports (33.1%). All of this information is based on these 276 apprehensions.



Gender



Of the reports, 278 (33.3%), that provided gender of apprehended suspects/passengers, 243 (87.4%) were male and 35 (12.6%) were female. 556 (66.6%) reports failed to identify gender.

Valid Driver's License

Out of the 276 (33.1%) reports that had apprehended the suspect, the chance of apprehending a suspect with a valid driver's license (36.2%) is less than the chance of apprehending them without a valid driver's license (59.8%). Eleven (4%) of the reports confirming apprehension did not report driver's license validity information.



Suspect Vehicle Type



Excluding those reports that did not report vehicle type, an analysis of the data reflects that more suspects were pursued while driving cars (65.6%) than trucks (8.4%), motorcycles (2.4%) and vans (2%). The "other" category (21%) was often reported as an SUV.

Fleeing on Foot



From all 834 reported pursuits, there were a total of 802 passengers. Passengers were recorded as present in 462 instances and the highest passenger count in a pursued vehicle was seven. There were 119 (14.3%) instances where the pursued vehicle had no

passengers, and in 252 (30.2%) instances no passenger count was recorded. The pursued drivers attempted to flee on foot 17.6% of the time (147 occurrences), while passengers attempted to flee on foot 9% of the time (75 occurrences).

Follow-Up When Driver Not Apprehended

Of the reports that stated that the driver was not apprehended (549 incidents), follow-ups were conducted 25.3% of the time, while 74.7% of the time a follow-up was not conducted. There were 143 reports that did not submit a response.



Conclusions

There was a decrease (6%) in the number of reports during calendar year 2022 for the first time. The pursuits reported are 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 average pursuit distance in miles in 2022 was almost the same (mean distance of 3.52 miles) as 2021 data (mean distance of 3.59 miles), but shorter than 2014-2020 data (mean distance of 4.53 miles). The average pursuit duration in 2022 (mean time of 4.21 minutes) was shorter than in years past (2014-2021 mean duration of 4.57 minutes). The longest pursuit in the past ten years was in 2020 and the pursuit lasted three hours.

The average speed for suspect vehicles during pursuits in 2022 (mean speed of 83 miles per hour) was almost the same as the average for 2021 (mean speed of 83.43 miles per hour). When compared to 2014-2020 data, the average speed for suspect vehicles was 78.54 miles per hour. The average reported speed for police vehicles during pursuits in 2022 was 78.9 miles per hour, down slightly from 2021 average rates (79.74 miles per hour). When compared to the 2014-2020 data (mean speed of 74.6 miles per hour), police vehicle speeds in 2022 were up approximately six percent.

The number of pursuits ending in crashes has decreased from last year (the 2021 total was 143 crashes, while the 2022 total was 126) and the percentage of pursuits that end in crashes has fallen (the 2021 number was 16.51%, while the 2022 number was 15.1%). The data from 2014-2020 reflects that the average percentage of pursuits that end in crashes was 20.15%. The number of stop techniques used has decreased (in 2022 stop techniques were utilized 62 times versus the 2021 total of 64 times), which reflects a 3.1% decrease in stop techniques being used.

Number of Reports Submitted by Agencies

1 Report	2 Reports	3 Reports	4 Reports	5 Reports	6 Reports	7+ Reports
 Bridgeview PD Brookfield PD Clinton PD Cook County Sheriff's Department Country Club Hills PD Effingham PD Freeburg PD Glencoe PD Grand Ridge PD Hodgkins PD Kendall County Sheriff's Office Lee County Sheriff's Office Lincolnshire PD Morton PD Norridge PD Plano PD Robinson PD Robinson PD Robinson PD Southern Illinois Univ PD Sterling PD Sterling PD Streamwood PD Waterloo PD Will County Sheriff's Dept Worth PD 	 Carpentersville PD Crete PD Douglas County Sherrif's Office Elmhurst PD Fairview Heights PD Ford County Sheriff's Office Highland Park PD Mattoon PD Naperville PD Normal PD Rantoul PD Watseka PD West Dundee PD Whiteside County Sheriff's Office Winfield PD Winnetka PD Winnetka PD 	•Belleville PD •Chenoa PD •Clarendon Hills PD •Forest View PD •Glen Ellyn PD •Hampshire PD •Marengo PD •Metropolis PD •Mount Carmel PD •Peru PD •Round Lake PD	•Canton PD •Cary PD •Countryside PD •Freeport PD •Hartford PD •La Grange Park PD •Posen PD •Riverside PD •Tinley Park PD •Warrenville PD •West Chicago PD	•DeKalb PD •Oak Forest PD •Richton Park PD •Swansea PD	•Elmwood PD •Fox Lake PD •Villa Park PD	 Champaign County Sheriff's Office (7) Elmwood Park PD (7) La Salle County Sheriff's Office (7) Lake Villa PD (7) Midlothian PD (7) Springfield PD (7) Crest Hill PD (8) Des Plaines PD (8) Stickney PD (8) Waukegan PD (9) Columbia PD (9) Rock Island PD (9) Columbia PD (9) Rock Island PD (10) Pontoon Beach PD (11) Ottawa PD (12) Bensenville PD (14) Aurora PD (16) Berkeley PD (16) East Peoria PD (17) Rockton PD (17) Sauk Village PD (25) Hillside PD (33) Park Forest PD (58) Calumet City PD (81) Granite City PD (116)