

2023 Annual Pursuit Analysis

Albany Police Department



Report prepared by:

Captain Jerry Drum and Accreditation Manager Merab Smith

Approved by: _____

Merab A. Smith
Chief of Police

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Introduction

The 2023 Albany Police Department Pursuit Analysis uses data from the past three years to compare trends. In 2023, Albany Police Department officers were involved in thirteen vehicle pursuits. Information in this analysis reviews and compares the pursuits from the current year to the two previous years. The data is broken down into sections, which include specific analysis of speed, distance, road conditions, pursuit termination, outcome of pursuits, and reasons for the elude. Each section will describe details surrounding the pursuits the department was involved in.

Policy Review

The Vehicle Pursuit Policy 280 was reviewed by Operations Captain Jerry Drum. No discrepancies were found in the policy relating to our procedures. On September 6, 2023, two new sections (280.8.1 and 280.10.1) were added to the policy for reporting eludes and convening a pursuit review board. The vehicle pursuit policy lacked guidelines for conducting a pursuit review board. The addition of section 280.10.1 includes reasons a pursuit review board should be convened, what materials are reviewed, who are the members of the board, and what the responsibilities of the review board are.

Policy language was added on September 6, 2023, defining how to report eludes. In 2023, there were 47 eludes, which means there were 60 total incidents when vehicles did not comply with officers' overhead lights and sirens, and officers continued to pursue in thirteen (22%) incidents. It is important to note that in 2021, the policy was revised to include strict language requiring officers to deactivate their overhead lights and sirens, and immediately pulling to the side of the road upon termination of a pursuit. APD began tracking vehicle eludes as a part of this change. An elude is when an officer initiates a traffic stop with lights and siren and the vehicle does not comply. If the officer does not have an authorized reason to pursue the vehicle, the officer deactivates their overhead lights and sirens and pulls over to the side of the road. It is important for APD to track eludes in addition to pursuits.

In accordance with the Vehicle Pursuit Policy 280, every pursuit and elude is reviewed by the involved officer's sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and an EVOC (emergency vehicle operator course) instructor. The pursuit review contributes to the creation of safer strategies for

employees and citizens. The pursuit review includes policy adherence, training needs, equipment status, and corrective action.

Vehicle pursuits pose a high risk for the community and the pursuing officers. It is the policy of the Albany Police Department to exercise good judgement and consider public safety in the decision to pursue, continue, or terminate vehicle pursuits and to use sound tactics during those pursuits to ensure safe resolution. The policy is consistent with law enforcement best practices across the United States.

Training

Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training was conducted for all sworn employees in September 2023. The training consisted of policy review, refresher training on defensive driving, drive time, blocking/boxing, and vehicle placement. This training is conducted at least once every two years. It is valuable to have the officers drive the patrol vehicles in a secure environment where they can learn and improve their driving techniques. Officers train in roadblocks and slalom courses as well.

Overall Summary of Data

Due to the relatively low number of pursuits each year, small differences can indicate a large percentage change in the data. This is especially true with only thirteen pursuits this year. Changes in the data, positive or negative, are not always an accurate indicator of a trend or a result of our actions.

The following statistics are important to note from our pursuit data:

- 84.6% of the pursuits were terminated within five miles.
- 84.6% of the pursuits were terminated within five minutes.
- 92.4% of the eludes were due to the suspects relation to a crime. (DUII, suspect of a crime, stolen vehicle, warrants, or having a suspended, revoked, or no license)

Cause of Pursuit Initiation

There was not a significant trend for reasons of pursuit initiation. Traffic related incidents combined include traffic infraction, traffic crime, DUII, and stolen vehicle, all of which accounted for 61.6% of the pursuits in 2023.

Initiating Event	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Traffic Infraction	4	4	2	33.3%	33.3%	15.4%
Traffic Crime	2	1	3	16.7%	8.3%	23.1%
Other Agency Initiated	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
Suspicious Incident	0	1	0	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%
DUII	2	2	3	16.7%	16.7%	23.1%
Stolen Vehicle	3	1	0	25.0%	8.3%	0.0%
Person Felony	0	1	2	0.0%	8.3%	15.4%
Other Non-Person Felony	0	2	1	0.0%	16.7%	7.7%
Misdemeanor Crime	1	0	1	8.3%	0.0%	7.7%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Total Distance of Pursuits

In 2023, 84.6% of the pursuits were terminated within five miles. There is an increased opportunity for crashes, injuries, or property damage to occur the longer the pursuit is engaged.

Distance	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
1 Mile or Less	9	9	8	75.0%	75.0%	61.5%
1.1 - 5 Miles	2	2	3	16.7%	16.7%	23.1%
5.1 - 15 Miles	1	1	1	8.3%	8.3%	7.7%
15.1 Miles or More	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Total Duration (Time) of Pursuits

In 2023, 84.6% of the pursuits were terminated within five minutes. The longer the pursuit is engaged, the greater opportunity there is for an accident, injury, or property damage to occur.

Pursuit Duration	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
1 Minute or Less	8	7	7	66.7%	58.3%	53.8%
1.1 - 5 Minutes	3	4	4	25.0%	33.3%	30.8%
5.1 - 10 Minutes	1	1	1	8.3%	8.3%	7.7%
10.1 - 15 Minutes	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
15.1 - 20 Minutes	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
20.1 Minutes or More	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Road Conditions During Pursuits

Road conditions are an important factor when determining whether to engage in a vehicle pursuit. Weather, traffic, and road conditions can substantially increase the danger of the pursuit, which can easily outweigh the worth of apprehending the suspect.

Condition	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Dry	10	8	7	83.3%	66.7%	53.8%
Wet	2	4	6	16.7%	33.3%	46.2%
Snow	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ice	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fog	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pursuit Top Speed

This section evaluates the top speed reported by the officer during the pursuit, which can be used to estimate the speed of the suspect vehicle. Speed continues to be a high-risk factor in the justification of terminating a pursuit.

Speed (mph)	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
0 - 45	3	5	3	25.0%	41.7%	23.1%
46 - 75	6	4	6	50.0%	33.3%	46.2%
76 - 100	2	3	1	16.7%	25.0%	7.7%
101 +	1	0	3	8.3%	0.0%	23.1%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pursuit Terminations

One collision was reported as the cause of the termination of the pursuit, while two collisions were reported to occur during the overall pursuit (below). This section only reports on how the pursuit was terminated.

Termination of Pursuits	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
By Pursuing Officer	6	2	6	50.0%	16.7%	46.2%
By Supervisor	2	3	1	16.7%	25.0%	7.7%
By Collision	2	4	1	16.7%	33.3%	7.7%
Suspect Stopped/Pursuit Intervention	2	3	5	16.7%	25.0%	38.5%
Outside Agency	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Pursuit Collision Results

In 2023, collisions decreased by 17.9% from 2022.

Collision Data	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Collision	2	4	2	16.7%	33.3%	15.4%
Non-Collision	10	8	11	83.3%	66.7%	84.6%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Outcome of Pursuits

On February 1, 2021, the pursuit policy was revised to include strict policy language regarding officers deactivating their overhead lights and siren, and immediately pull to the side of the road upon termination of a pursuit. This action is likely related to the reason suspects fled and no arrest was made.

Pursuit Outcome	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Arrested	4	8	6	33.3%	66.7%	46.2%
Suspect Fled on Foot (No Arrest)	0	1	2	0.0%	8.3%	15.4%
Suspect Fled in Vehicle (No Arrest)	8	2	4	66.7%	16.7%	30.8%
Fatality	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hospitalized - Unable to Arrest	0	1	0	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%
Outside Agency Took Over	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Suspect Reason for Elude

Suspects elude police officers for various reasons. When the suspect successfully flees, it is usually unknown to the officer as to why the suspect eluded unless the vehicle was reported as stolen. In 2023, 92.4% of the eludes were due to the suspects relation to a crime through DUII, suspect of a crime, stolen vehicle, warrants, or having a suspended, revoked, or no license.

Suspect Reason for Elude	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
DUII	1	2	3	8.3%	16.7%	23.1%
Suspect of Crime	1	2	2	8.3%	16.7%	15.4%
Suspended, Revoked or No License	0	1	1	0.0%	8.3%	7.7%
Parole, Probation or Violation	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Stolen Vehicle	2	2	3	16.7%	16.7%	23.1%
Warrants	1	2	3	8.3%	16.7%	23.1%
Unknown	7	3	1	58.3%	25.0%	7.7%
Total Pursuits	12	12	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%