



2022

## PURSUIT REVIEW REPORT

Bloomfield Township Police Department  
4200 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
238-433-7755

## OVERVIEW:

The information in this report is obtained by reviewing police reports, conducting officer debriefings, and reviewing dash cam video/audio recordings of our police pursuits. All written reports and camera reviews are conducted to verify compliance with department policy. This review will cover both vehicular and foot pursuits.

## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP FLEE & ELUDE / PURSUITS

A vehicular pursuit is defined by our policy as, **“An attempt by a police officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend the occupants of another moving vehicle; provided, the driver of such vehicle is aware of the attempt and is resisting apprehension by maintaining or increasing the speed of his/her vehicle, and by ignoring the officer's direction to stop.”**

On an annual basis, the Bloomfield Township Police Department reviews and analyzes the pursuit policy and the data collected from each pursuit occurrence. The information gathered during the analysis assists with policy review, changes, implementation, and departmental training.

In accordance with Bloomfield Township Policy 2.03c, a vehicular pursuit may be initiated if both of the following criteria are met:

1. The suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by using a vehicle to flee or refuses to stop at the direction of a police officer.
- AND
2. The officer reasonably believes that the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

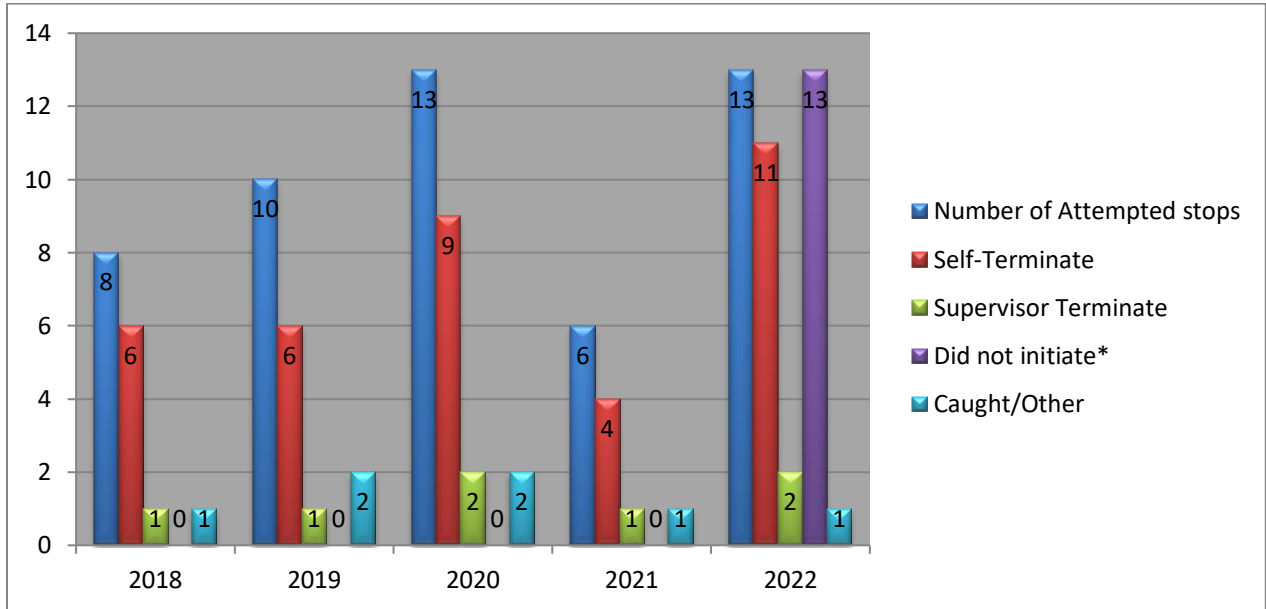
The Bloomfield Township Police Department recognizes the dangers of police pursuits to all parties involved and innocent bystanders. Our Pursuit Policy states, ***“A vehicular pursuit should be attempted only when, in the judgment of the officer, the danger created by the possible escape of the fleeing suspect outweighs the danger created by the vehicular pursuit, and no reasonable alternative exists.”***

## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP VEHICLE PURSUIT STATISTICS

In 2022, Bloomfield Township police officers were involved in 13 incidents where a driver willfully disobeyed an officer's attempt to stop the vehicle. Traffic violations were the primary reason for the attempted traffic stops. Of the 13 incidents, 13 involved an officer who made a reasonable attempt to stop the vehicle and the officer did not initiate a pursuit when the violator failed to stop, 11 self-terminated after losing sight of the vehicle and two incidents were

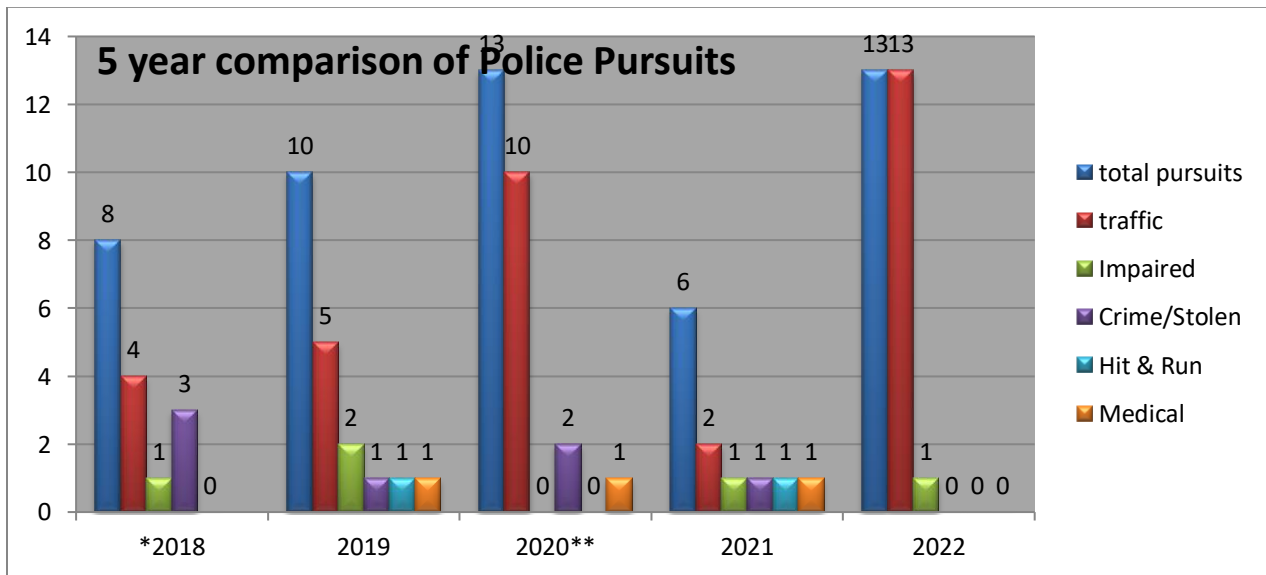
terminated by a supervisor due to the dangers created by the pursuit. No incidents resulted in discipline for violation of department policies.

The following graph shows the number of attempted stops and the actions taken by the officers involved.

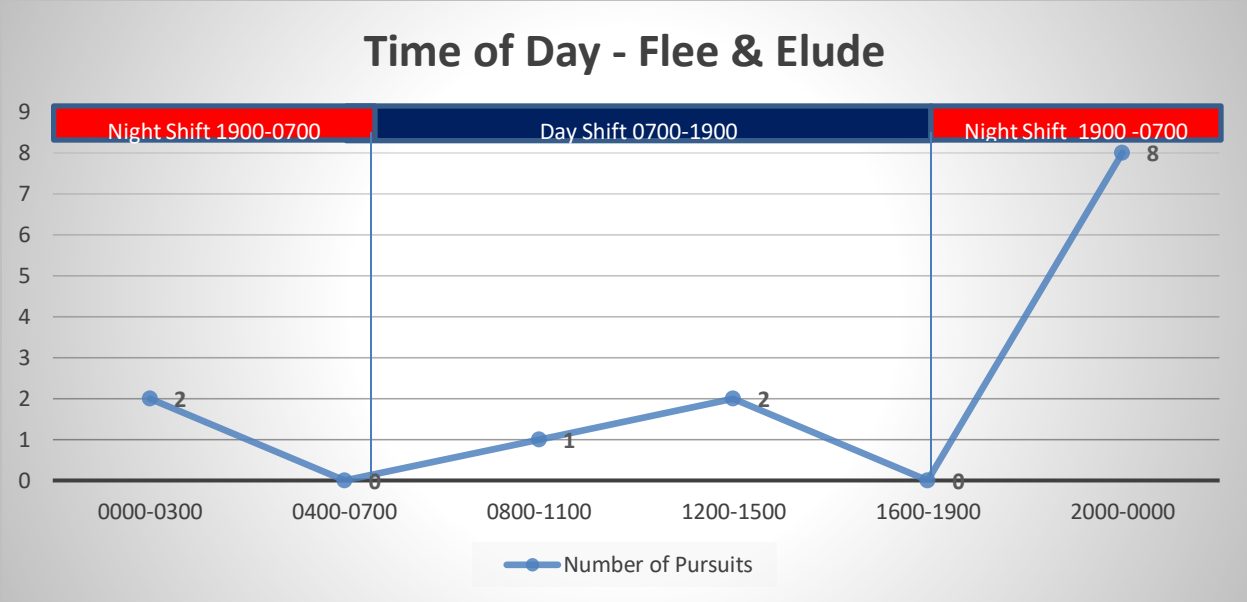


\*did not initiate includes vehicles that initially complied but fled during the stop and where officers chose not to pursue.

Over the last five years, 65% of the incidents were initiated because of a traffic violation, i.e. red light, speeding, lane changes violations; 17% were involved in a crime or involved a stolen vehicle.



\*2018 began accreditation reporting of pursuits / \*\*2020 decline likely due to COVID-19 decline in traffic related incidents



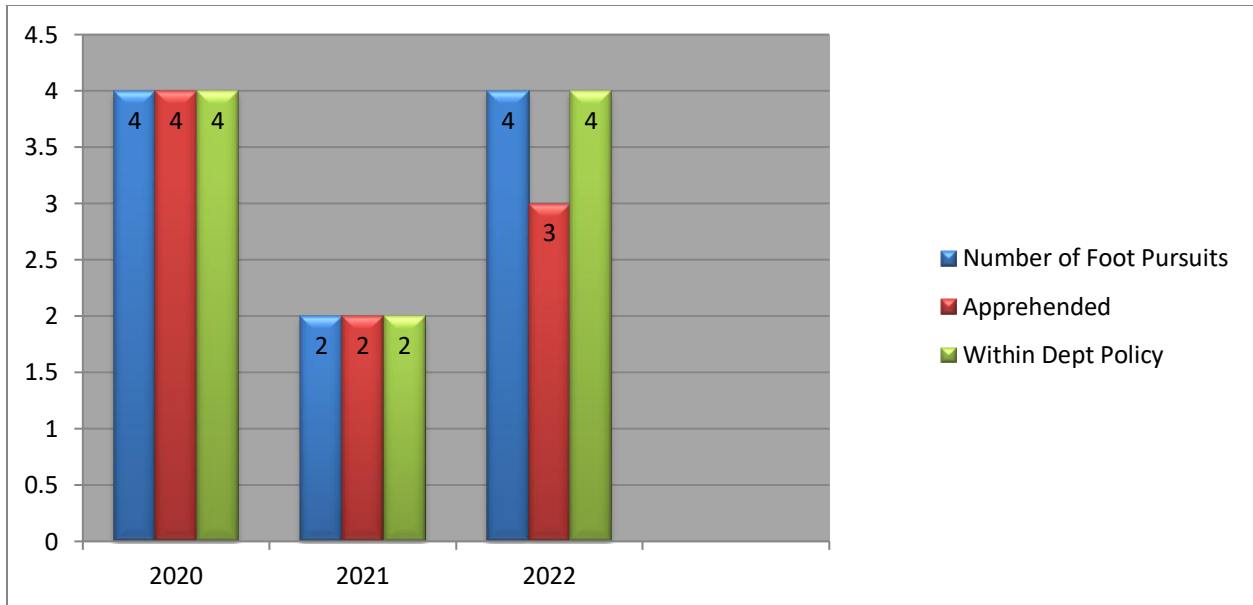
## FOOT PURSUITS

A foot pursuit is defined in our policy as **“A situation in which an officer chases a subject on foot in an effort to detain or arrest an individual, whom he/she has reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime, or is being taken into protective custody, and is resisting apprehension by fleeing from the officer on foot.”**

Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous police actions. It is the policy of the Bloomfield Township Police Department that officer and public safety shall be the overriding consideration in determining whether a foot pursuit will be initiated or continued. Foot pursuits occur in a wide variety of circumstances. Therefore, our foot pursuit policy is intended to provide overall direction and guidance to officers when deciding if such pursuits are warranted and how they should be conducted.

## FOOT PURSUITS STATISTICS

In 2022, Bloomfield Township officers were involved in four foot pursuits. Each incident involved person(s) actively committing a crime or fleeing the scene of a crime. Three of the four subjects involved were apprehended. The officers involved in each foot pursuit were found to be within the department policy.



## SUMMARY OF CASES ENDING IN ACCIDENT OR INJURY

- In 2022, no vehicle accidents or injuries occurred as the result of a police pursuit involving a vehicle.
- One (1) foot pursuit resulted in soreness to the officers jaw. No suspects were injured as a result of foot pursuits.
- None of the four-foot pursuits resulted in use of force due to the subject's actions upon apprehension.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Officers Harwood, Carlson and Schlabach were dispatched to investigate a possible domestic assault in the parking lot of Aldi. The involved parties were said to be inside a vehicle in the parking lot. Officer Harwood approached the vehicle on the driver side and asked the female for ID. The female had blood on her face. Officer Harwood asked for ID from the male passenger he said he did not have an ID. When Officer Schlabach and Carlson arrived, Officer Harwood asked the passenger to step out of the car. Officer Schlabach opened the door and as soon as the male stepped out he took off on foot. Officer Carlson attempted to cut off of the male subject and was hit in the face by the subject's elbow. He was able to get by Officer Carlson. Officer Harwood pursued on foot and the subject fell into some bushes and was taken into custody.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sgt. Sparks was on his way to Troy for a follow up investigation. While enroute he overheard a radio call for a B and E in progress. Sgt. Sparks was near the area of the call for service and arrived on scene. Sgt. Sparks started to check the residence and then observed a suspect in the back yard of the home. Sgt. Sparks yelled at the suspect to stop, however the suspect ran on foot and got into a Astro Van and fled the scene. Sgt. Sparks was

able to give descriptions of the suspect and vehicle to responding units. Officer Newsome then arrived and observed the suspect vehicle leaving the area. He tried to stop the vehicle but it fled from his attempted traffic stop. Officer Newsome gave an updated location and Troy PD was able to find the car and arrested all suspects involved.

## SUMMARY

The Bloomfield Township Police Department is committed to the safety of our officers, residents, and visitors to Bloomfield Township. The safety of the involved officers and the public are the most important aspects of a police pursuit. In 2022, Bloomfield Township Police Officers initiated **6,753** traffic stops. Of those traffic stops, **13** violators (**.001%**) willfully disobeyed the officer's reasonable attempt to stop their vehicle. 84% of the incidents involving a fleeing vehicle were terminated by the officer or the officer did not initiate a pursuit when a driver of a traffic violation fled the officers attempt to stop.

Our officers responded to **25,880** calls for service and only four (**4**) foot pursuits occurred when violators fled from the scene of a crime or on foot from a traffic stop.

Every incident involving a vehicle pursuit or foot pursuit was reviewed with the officers involved to ensure compliance with department policies and procedures. Radio communications was found to be the area in need of most improvement. In both instances of discipline, the officers involved failed to properly advise dispatch of the circumstances involving the pursuit.

This report reflects the continued need for Emergency Vehicle Operations Training. The majority of the incidents involving a potential vehicle pursuit occurred on the midnight shift where historically the less experienced officers are assigned. We shall continue to review the policy and procedure in roll calls and share information learned during each administrative review.

The information contained in this report confirms the practical knowledge learned during department training, policy & procedure reviews, and administrative reviews of all incidents is considered by the officers when deciding their course of action in real time incidents.

## KEY POINTS

- Review policies and procedures related to pursuits several times a year.
- Timely review with involved officers and shift personnel.
- Share lessons learned after administrative reviews.
- Emergency Vehicle Operation Training, including refresher courses.
- In 2022, Officers used sound judgement and self-control when considering whether to engage in a pursuit.

