Welcome to the 2015 Portland Police Department Annual Report. The men and women who make up this Department work hard every day to keep Portland safe. I am eager to share their accomplishments, discuss our challenges, and set the course for the future of the Department.

From the snowiest winter on record (91 inches!) to an unprecedented late summer robbery spree, 2015 was a busy year at the PD. With thousands protesting police violence in other parts of the country, we continued to focus on working with all members of our community. We enhanced our social media presence to improve transparency and ensure we are reaching the broadest possible audience and we redoubled our efforts to recruit officers that are representative of the entire community.

After several years of dramatic drops in crime, we saw an uptick in all categories of violent crime in 2015. A 54% increase in robberies is most likely tied to the troubling increase in people suffering from substance use disorders—a problem also reflected in the upward trend of drug-related calls for service.

With the heroin epidemic taking hold in the City, we introduced the Law Enforcement Addiction Advocacy Program (LEAAP) in December. Modeled after our nationally recognized mental health program, LEAAP includes elements of outreach, facilitation of treatment and education. We also partnered with a group of public and non-profit agencies to develop a systemic approach to this crisis.

I am proud to serve this City and this Department and I genuinely appreciate the support and interest in the PD expressed by community members each day. You can be assured that the members of the Portland Police Department will continue to work diligently to ensure a safe and secure city for all those who live, work, visit, or conduct business here.
City of Portland
Incorporated: 1876
Municipal Budget: $225,036,526
Population: 66,194

Portland Police Department
Organized: 1848
Chief: Michael J. Sauschuck
Headquarters: 109 Middle St
Sworn Officers: 163
Civilian Employees: 59

2015 Statistics
Calls for Service: 85,115
Arrests: 3477
Motor Vehicle Stops: 9043
Citations: 4424

Located on the southern coast of Maine, the City of Portland consistently ranks as one of the best places to live in America. While the City’s excellent restaurants, top-notch health care services and thriving arts scene are notable, there is no doubt that Portland’s consistently low crime rate contributes to its quality of life as well.

The men and women of the Portland Police Department are dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the community. From community policing to criminal investigations and routine patrol to specialized services, PPD personnel strive to keep Portland safe.

The Department maintains an organizational chart that identifies the organizational components and establishes the chain of command and lines of authority.
Inside the Department

Police Administration

The Administration is comprised of the Office of the Chief plus a number of support positions:

The Police Attorney provides legal services in areas ranging from labor and employment law to search and seizure. She also ensures Department compliance with City, State, and Federal law.

The Neighborhood Prosecutor utilizes a wide range of legal tools to solve neighborhood problems and address quality of life issues.

The Principal Financial Officer oversees all fiscal aspects including budgeting, payroll, purchasing, and financial grants management.

The Personnel Office oversees all human resources needs including recruitment, hiring, benefits, and retirement.

The Internal Affairs Unit guarantees the integrity of the Department by ensuring the highest standards of professionalism from all employees. The Unit investigates complaints against personnel, tracks the use of force by police officers and administers the Department’s Performance Management System.

Uniformed Operations

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible component of the Portland Police Department. More than 80 uniformed officers patrol the City 24/7 responding to calls for service and proactively preventing problems. Additional officers are assigned to perform traffic enforcement and accident investigations, Jetport patrol, and Peaks Island patrol. A Major and six Lieutenants run the day-to-day operations of patrol. Officers are assigned to one of six teams and work a hybrid schedule of four 10-hour and five 8-hour shifts allowing for a concentration of personnel during the busiest time periods. Each team plays an important role in serving the community. The dedication of these officers to serve their community is not only demonstrated in their daily responsibilities, but in their desire to be involved and active members of the Department.

At least half of all patrol officers are members of a specialty team such as the Dive Team, Crisis Negotiator Team, Special Reaction Team, K9 Team, or Bomb Team. Additionally many officers volunteer their free time to participate in community events.

The Community Policing Division is responsible for a number of important services and tasks within the Department. This division offers direct support to Patrol through its proactive Community Policing Officer program and provides neighborhood problem-solving via the Community Policing Coordinator program. Community Policing Officers are assigned to neighborhood sectors throughout the City and on Peaks Island while Coordinators are civilian employees embedded in the neighborhoods of the Portland Peninsula as well as the City’s Portland Housing Authority properties. Coordinators and officers work closely with residents, businesses, patrol officers, and other City departments to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life for citizens and businesses in their assigned areas.

The Neighborhood Prosecutor uses a wide-range of legal tools to tackle persistent quality of life problems in the City while the Youth Services Officer focuses solely on youth outreach and development of youth-oriented programs. This division also includes school resource officers assigned to Portland and Deering High Schools.
Investigations:

After patrol officers respond to a crime scene, they forward their preliminary findings to the members of the Criminal Investigations Division. This division includes 16 detectives, four evidence technicians, administrative personnel, and three sworn officers assigned to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. The division is divided into six specialty areas: Crimes Against People, Crimes Against Property, Forensic Services, Property and Evidence, Court Services, and the Crime Reduction Unit. Detectives interview victims and witnesses while evidence technicians collect and process evidence in an effort to develop information that leads to the identification, and ultimately, the arrest of a suspect. Of note, Portland’s Criminal Investigations Division is one of only three in the state that conducts its own homicide investigations.

The Crime Reduction Unit targets emerging trends such as robberies, burglary sprees or street-level drug trafficking. The unit was designed to be agile and responsive to issues identified through the Department’s COMPSTAT system. CRU members also conduct bail checks, investigate crime tips, and work closely with detectives to identify and arrest suspects.

Emergency Communications

The Portland Regional Communications Center (PRCC) provides emergency communications services to first responders in Portland, South Portland and Cape Elizabeth. A minimum of seven telecommunicators (2 Call Takers, 3 Police Dispatchers, 2 Fire Dispatchers and a supervisor) are on duty at any time. They answer 911 and non-emergency calls and dispatch police, fire and ems units.

Telecommunicators juggle multiple tasks including maintaining telephone and radio communications and accurately documenting information and activity in complex software programs while maintaining situational awareness of multiple simultaneous emergencies. They provide life-saving medical instructions, obtain and convey officer safety information, and coordinate multi-jurisdictional responses to major incidents.

The PRCC is the busiest Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in the State of Maine. In 2015, PRCC telecommunicators received and processed 64,535 911 calls—nearly 7,000 more calls than the next busiest PSAP. This averages out to 177 911 calls per day. More than 73% of those calls were from wireless phones while just 18% came from landlines.
Programs and Initiatives

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDICTION ADVOCACY PROGRAM
In response to the opioid addiction crisis, the Portland Police Department announced the launch of the Law Enforcement Addiction Advocacy Program (LEAAP) in December 2015. Funded with asset forfeiture money seized from drug dealers, this program seeks to address the crisis through outreach, education, and the facilitation of treatment.

COP CAMP
Seventeen of the Portland area’s finest kids spent a week learning about what it takes to be a police officer. Campers observed demonstrations by K9 and SWAT teams, learned about crime scene investigations, and received basic self-defense training. Each day also included discussions centered around a “word of the day” to include leadership, respect, and integrity. And to keep things fun, there was plenty of time for the obstacle course and dodge ball.

CodeRED
Portland, along with all other communities in Cumberland County adopted a new emergency alert system in April. Residents can sign up via the PPD website to receive emergency messages such as severe weather alerts or evacuation notices via text, email or phone. CodeRED replaces a dated system which was slower and limited to voice notifications.

RESURGAM
In August, the Portland Police Department conducted a joint exercise with the Maine National Guard, South Portland Police and Fire Departments and the Portland Regional Communications Center. The three day exercise tested the ability of these agencies to communicate and work together in the event of a natural disaster or civil emergency.

PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM REPLACEMENT
In 2015, the City of Portland initiated replacement of the nearly two decade old public safety radio system. This multi-year, multi-million dollar project is being necessitated by the vendor’s decision to end support for the existing analog radio system. The new digital system, which is being paid for with Capital Improvement Program funds and grant funds will improve system reliability, redundancy and radio coverage.
Each year, we hire a contingent of new officers to replace those who have retired or moved on to other careers. All candidates must undergo a rigorous hiring process including a written test, physical fitness test, background investigation, job suitability, a polygraph and an oral interview. New hires who are not already certified law enforcement officers must attend the 18 week Basic Law Enforcement Training program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. All new hires also participate in a 14 week field training program at the PD. We welcome the following officers hired in 2015:

Officer Josh Holben  
Officer Ayaovi Alognon  
Officer Blake Cunningham

Officer Morgan MacLean  
Officer Andrew Knutsen  
Officer Brent Ross

We are also pleased to welcome three new telecommunicators to PPD: Kristen McCarthy, Josh Della-Quilla, and Allyson Hildreth. All three hit the ground running and are welcome additions to the Portland Regional Communications Center staff.

**Promotion**

In May, 2015, Andy Dziegielewski was selected to be the Director of Emergency Communications for the Portland Regional Communications Center. A native of Brooklyn, NY, Andy attended John Jay College where he studied security management. He was hired as a PPD telecommunicator in 2001 and later served as a telecommunications supervisor. Trained in all aspects of emergency communications, Andy was an integral part of the 2013 communications merger with South Portland.

Andy’s commitment to people is second to none. He is a valuable member of the department’s peer support team and is trained as a critical incident debriefer. Andy’s high level of performance led to him being selected PPD Civilian Employee of the Year for 2014.

While we are grateful for Andy’s contributions to the PD, we can’t help but point out his very noticeable New York accent and his love of the Yankees.

**Retirement**

The Portland Police Department bid farewell to custodian Linda Cole in 2015. Linda was, without a doubt, the hardest working person at 109 Middle Street—and never without a smile. Her upbeat personality and unsurpassed work ethic were very much appreciated and will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her much-deserved retirement.
Out and About

Here are just a few of the folks (and pups!) we had the pleasure of meeting in 2015:

Above: SealsFit 2015

Right: PPD Summer Cadets

Below: Chaplain Phaedra Bond’s dog Balto helps out in the Community Policing Office.

Above: SealsFit 2015

Right: PPD Summer Cadets
Commendations and Awards

COMMENDATION FOR HEROISM
For safely disarming a suicidal male armed with an AR-15 rifle.
Sergeant Dan Hayden
Officer Thien Duong
For successfully disrupting a wrong-way driver on I-295.
Officer Michael Galetta

COMMENDATION FOR MERIT
For going to extraordinary lengths to locate a suicidal teen.
Gennette Cardullo
Officer Christopher Kelly
For locating a burglary suspect and finding evidence to link him to additional crimes.
Officer Zachary Grass
For conducting a traffic stop which led to the arrest of 12 grams of heroin and the arrest of a drug trafficker.
Officer Sean Hurley
Officer Matthew Rider
Officer Zachary Theriault
For researching the history of the Portland Police Department Special Reaction Team.
Detective Kelly Gorham

ADMINISTRATIVE AWARD OF MERIT
For locating a career criminal who fled a traffic stop on Riverside St.
Officer Zack Finley and K9 Mako
For locating a male suspected of committing multiple motor vehicle offenses.
Officer Zack Finley and K9 Mako
For the investigation of a motor vehicle spree which led to the arrest of a suspect.
Detective Paul Murphy
For the investigation into a multi-million dollar art theft.
Detective Kelly Gorham
For identifying a suspect in a shooting involving rival drug dealers.
Officer Andrew Hagerty
For immediately connecting a suspicious vehicle to a shooting that had just occurred in the Old Port.
Officer Zachary Theriault

For the response, investigation and arrest of a suspect in a string of residential burglaries on the West End of Portland.
Detective Jeff Tully
Detective Mark Gibbons
Officer Zachary Grass
Officer Jason Nadeau
Evidence Technician Victor Cote

For coordinating the response to a complex double shooting in the Old Port.
Communications Supervisor Hiram Del Rio
Telecommunicator Heather Grant
Telecommunicator Susan Gorham
Telecommunicator Jesse Lemieux
Telecommunicator Sydney Doyle
Telecommunicator Mitch Lutskie
Telecommunicator Jennifer Lee

For responding to a complex double shooting in the Old Port.
Lieutenant Aaron Pepin
Lieutenant Amy Tenorio
Detective Benjamin Noyes
Detective Timothy Farris
Officer Brian Truax
Officer Matt Pavlis
Officer Jon Lackee
Officer Thomas Kwok
Officer Kyle Brake
Officer Erik Richard
Officer Jason Leadbetter

For the investigation and arrest of a suspect in a kidnapping and robbery case.
Officer Sean Hurley
Officer Matthew Rider
ET Frank Pellerin
Detective Karl Rybeck
Special Agent Nick Goodman

For identifying a suspect in a shooting involving rival drug dealers.
Officer Andrew Hagerty
For immediately connecting a suspicious vehicle to a shooting that had just occurred in the Old Port.
Officer Zachary Theriault
For researching the history of the Portland Police Department Special Reaction Team.
Detective Kelly Gorham

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Officer Brian Truax
Officer Matt Pavlis
Officer Jon Lackee
Officer Thomas Kwok
Officer Kyle Brake
Officer Erik Richard
Officer Jason Leadbetter

For the investigation and arrest of a drug trafficking suspect.
Sergeant Jeff Culloway
Detective Heath Gorham
Officer Andrew Hagerty
Officer Joshua McDonald
Officer Matthew Morrison
Officer Daniel Townsend
Special Agent Nicholas Goodman
Special Agent Christopher Dyer
Special Agent Daniel Hondo
For a narcotics investigation which culminated in the seizure of drugs, money, and guns.
Special Agent Nicholas Goodman

For coordinating the response to a complex double shooting in the Old Port.
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Officer Brian Truax
Officer Matt Pavlis
Officer Jon Lackee
Officer Thomas Kwok
Officer Kyle Brake
Officer Erik Richard
Officer Jason Leadbetter
Commendations and Awards

For the investigation and arrest of two human traffickers and the recovery of a victim.
Officer Daniel Townsend  Officer Mark Keller
Officer Joshua McDonald  Officer Andrew Hagerty

For the response to a shooting in the Old Port which led to the immediate arrest of a suspect.
Lt. Aaron Pepin  Sergeant Ben Noyes
Sergeant Timothy Farris  Officer Brent Abbott
Officer Dan Aguilera  Officer Charles Hodgdon
Officer Graham Hults  Officer Chris Kelley
Officer Thomas Kwok  Officer Jon Lackee
Officer Jason Leadbetter  Officer Matt Paulis
Officer Kathryn Phelan  Officer Jonathan Roberts
Officer Jonathan Reeder  Officer Zachary Theriault
Officer Brian Truax  Officer Samuel Turner
Telecommunicator Supervisor Hiram del Rio
Telecommunicator Jennifer Lee
Telecommunicator Svetlana Miljkovic
Telecommunicator Jeremy Turner
Telecommunicator Susan Gorham
Telecommunicator Sidney Doyle
Telecommunicator Josh Dell’Aquila

Citizen Award

For her assistance in saving a newborn child and obtaining treatment for the mother.
Tanya Levecque

For alerting officers to an in-progress motor vehicle burglary.
Anita Stewart-McCafferty  Erica Mazzeo

For the rescue of a man who fell off a pier into Casco Bay.
John Tracy

For detecting and reporting the suspicious behavior of what turned out to be the perpetrator of a bank robbery.
James Anderson

For donating new shoes to a needy student.
Officer Steve Black

For providing assistance to a teenage girl who collapsed at Deering High School.
Carolyn Roberge  Abdullahi Ahmed  Ira Waltz
Michael Kennedy  Michael D’ Andrea  Larry Nichols
Liz Koharian  John-Paul Mal  Owen Sprague
Kathleen Harris  Jean Ricardiello  Robert Carroll
Cheryl Hudson  Mary Ann Brown  Melanie Craig
Debra Tanguay  Wallene Curran  Glen Mayberry
Kaitlin Stefanski  Liana Littig

Commendatory Letters

For assisting in the recovery of a suicide victim.
Shawn Neat  Timothy Harmon
Michael Sargent  Steven Bishop
Keith Corey  Lucas Brundage

For honoring deceased PPD officers by placing flags at gravesites.
Detective Bryan Letarte  Officer Kevin Haley
Evidence Technician Frank Pellerin

For rescuing an injured girl located on the rocky coast of Peaks Island.
Officer Kevin Haley  Officer Randy Richardson
Captain Chris Thomson

For detecting and reporting the arrest of a drug trafficking suspect.
Special Agent Chris Peavey  Special Agent Patrick Clancy

For the investigation into a multi-million dollar art theft.
Special Agent Thomas McDonald

For the response, investigation and arrest of a suspect in a series of brazen daytime crimes.
SPPD Officer Shane Anderson and K9 Zak

For a narcotics investigation which culminated in the seizure of drugs, money, and guns.
Special Agent Patrick Clancy
By the Numbers

CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Portland Regional Communications Center (PRCC) processed just over 85,000 Portland Police Department calls for service in 2015. This amounts to a small increase over total calls processed in 2014. Calls may originate with a member of the public or be generated by an officer conducting self-initiated activity (e.g., a traffic stop). A call is entered into a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system which provides an electronic record of the incident including the names of all Department personnel involved and all times, locations, and dispositions associated with the call. Any call requiring further documentation generates a corresponding arrest, incident, citation, or accident report. In most cases, these reports are completed by officers using their in-car computers. Reports are reviewed and approved by supervisors before being copied into the Department’s Record Management System known as CRIMES. Much of the statistical data contained in this report was derived from the CAD and CRIMES system.

TYPES OF CALLS

The most common types of officer-initiated calls for service are Motor Vehicle Stops (9043), Pedestrian Checks (3664), and Special Attention Checks (3608). These activities are an effective way of addressing crime by engaging with the public. It is not at all unusual for a traffic stop or pedestrian check to result in a warrant arrest or even a significant drug seizure while Special Attention Checks are used to monitor areas of particular concern.

The ten most common citizen-generated call types from 2015 are shown in the chart on the right. Many of these calls represent quality of life concerns from residents and businesses in the City and, while they may not result in criminal charges, they are an important aspect of policing in the City of Portland.

Drug and alcohol related calls for service continue to trend upward with all four categories reaching a five year high in 2015. While calls related to chronic inebriation are increasing, they remain well under the numbers recorded prior to the implementation of the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) Team program in 2010.

Street outreach workers now provide direct intervention with individuals who are exhibiting disruptive or unsafe behaviors. These interventions increase the safety of both the individual and the community by helping individuals relocate to a more appropriate place—the Milestone emergency shelter or other appropriate social services—where they are more likely to receive needed services. In the year prior to standup of the Home Team, police officers responded to more than 1500 layout calls, approximately 3 times the number of calls recorded in 2015.

The increase in drug possession and drug overdose calls are at least partially related to the heroin epidemic gripping the entire country. Note that these numbers represent calls, not crimes or charges or confirmed overdoses. At least some of the increase appears attributable to a renewed awareness and concern about drugs in the community which is motivating community members to report suspected drug possession and use. Community members are also more likely to distinguish an overdose from a different type of medical emergency. Additionally, many of the heroin overdoses occur in public places including several troubling incidents of individuals shooting up/overdosing while operating a motor vehicle. In at least one case, the user was accompanied by his very young children.

It is important to note that calls categorized as overdoses include accidental overdoses on legitimate prescription drugs, intentional overdoses as part of suicide attempts, as well as overdoses resulting from illicit drug use. That said, statistics from the Medical Examiner’s Office confirm that an increasing percentage of drug deaths statewide are attributable to heroin.

While illicit drugs are of acute concern, alcohol consistently drives a significant volume of calls in Portland to include domestics, public disorder calls (Persons Bothering, Persons refusing to Leave, Drinking in Public, etc.), fights, simple assaults, and motor vehicle accidents. In 2015, 112 motor vehicle accidents were classified as alcohol related including one fatal accident and 33 accidents with personal injury. Approximately 225 drivers were arrested for Operating Under the Influence.
Mental Health Response

Nationally recognized as one of just six Law Enforcement/Mental Health Learning sites, the Portland Police Department remains at the forefront of providing a specialized response to people with mental illness. The Department’s program includes:

- All PPD officers receive Crisis Intervention Training—a 40 hour course to prepare officers to recognize and effectively respond to people suffering from a wide-array of mental illness.
- A full-time Behavioral Health Coordinator supervises and manages a robust co-responder program, facilitates Crisis Intervention Training and collaborates with other providers to share information and effectuate system-wide service improvements.
- The Department partners with Opportunity Alliance to provide a full-time co-responder who is dispatched to calls for service, conducts crisis assessments and stabilization of subjects and provides follow-up and referrals.
- Master’s levels interns working under the supervision of the Coordinator serve as co-responders. They work part-time in a non-pay status gaining invaluable hands-on experience while meeting degree requirements.

Mental Health CFS

As shown on the right, mental health related calls have been relatively consistent over the past three years. Of note, the number of calls related to mental health issues is likely much higher than depicted in this graphic. A grant-funded analysis of CFS in 2011 and 2012 indicated that more than double the number of calls annotated as mental health related were actually tied to a mental health problem. In many cases, the impact of mental health on a call is not immediately evident so the call is classified based upon the actual complaint. Once the officer responds, it becomes clear the issue is actually one of mental health, however the call classification stands as it was originally entered. A good example of this situation might involve a call from an elderly person reporting a theft. Upon arrival, the officer determines that the caller is suffering from dementia and no theft occurred. A straight data query would show that the officer responded to a theft call rather than a mental health related call. We, along with other law enforcement agencies and the Department of Justice, continue to work toward improving data collection to better understand the scope of the mental health crisis and more effectively focus our resources.

Arrests

The Portland Police Department made 3477 arrests in 2015, a slight increase over the prior year. As seen below, males comprise the vast majority (nearly 80%) of those arrested in 2015. Nearly 60% of those arrested were Portland residents and the highest number of arrests fell into the 25-29 age category. The most common charge types are listed below left.
The Portland Police Department participates in the federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, a system designed to provide a uniform method of tracking crime across the country. The FBI collects, publishes and archives all UCR data so that interested parties such as researchers, students, and the media can easily obtain reliable crime statistics.

The Portland Police Department tracks these specific crimes (known as Part I Crime) as part of an effort to effectively measure, predict and map crime throughout the City. Part 1 Crimes are defined as either Violent or Property Crime. Violent Crime consists of Murder, Aggravated Assault (including Elevated Aggravated Assault and Criminal Threatening with a Dangerous Weapon), Gross Sexual Assault and Robbery. Property Crimes include Larceny (Theft by Unauthorized Taking, Theft By Deception, Motor Vehicle Burglary, Attempted Burglary), Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Unauthorized Use of Property (Motor Vehicle Theft) and Arson. Tracking this data on an ongoing basis enables police commanders to identify emerging trends, allocate resources, and focus prevention efforts more effectively.

The following pages provide an overview of crime in Portland in 2015 as measured by the Uniform Crime Reporting System.

**Crime in Portland**

**UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING**

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**HOMICIDE**

Under the UCR program, Criminal Homicide is defined as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense is based solely on the police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury or other judicial body.

There were two homicides in Portland in 2015: a shooting in an Old Port recording studio resulted in the death of nineteen year old Treyjon Arsenault in May and Freddy Okoa was beaten to death in his Cumberland Avenue apartment in August.

While these two homicides represent an increase over the single homicide reported in each of the last three years, the total is under the ten year average of 2.5 per year.

Thankfully homicide is rare in Portland. Those which do occur share a common denominator: all are drug or alcohol related in some way. Additionally, the majority of these cases involved individuals who were familiar with each other. In fact, of the 7 homicide cases since 2010 with an identified suspect, only one involved an offender who was a stranger to the victim. Nationwide just over 50% of victims were slain by someone they knew.

Portland’s homicide statistics are in line with national numbers in terms of gender: most victims and perpetrators are male. Two of the thirteen homicides reported since 2010 involved female victims; just one involved a female suspect.

**UNSOLVED CASES**: Despite the best efforts of detectives, some homicide cases are not immediately solved. In an effort to find killers who remain on the loose and obtain justice for victims, we have posted a list of unsolved homicides on our website: http://me-Portland.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/2246

If you have any information regarding these cases, please contact the Detective Bureau at (207) 874-8533 or submit an anonymous tip by going to the Online Services Section of our Website.
Rape

Historically, UCR defined rape as carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will by a male. In 2011, the FBI UCR program revised the definition of Rape for reporting purposes. As the offense is now defined, it is possible to report males and females as rape victims.

After two years of historically low numbers, reports of rape returned to 2012 levels this year. Thirty-three rapes were reported in 2015, slightly more than the ten year average of 30.6 reports per year.

The majority of rapes in Portland can be classified as acquaintance rapes, that is rape perpetrated by a person previously known to the victim. These include family members, neighbors, friends, co-workers and people in business or caretaker relationships. Two reported rapes involved parties who had originally met online and two victims believed they had been given a “date rape drug” prior to being assaulted. While the UCR definition of rape now extends to include male victims, only two males reported being raped in 2015. Many experts believe male rape goes largely unreported so this number is probably not reflective of actual crimes.

Support and Advocacy

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM) provides free and confidential advocacy to those affected by sexual violence in Cumberland and York counties. Services range from a 24 hour Crisis and Support Line to Support groups, and Advocates who can work with victims as they navigate the criminal justice system.

To Contact SARSSM, Call 1-800-313-9900

Robbery

The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a type of theft committed in the presence of the victim. The victim is directly confronted and is threatened with force or put in fear that force will be used.

Ninety-nine robberies were reported in Portland in 2015. While this represents a significant increase over the 64 robberies reported in 2014, it is below the ten year average of 103 robberies per year.

Nearly 70% of the robberies reported in 2015 occurred on the Portland Peninsula with approximately 20% concentrated in the Bayside neighborhood and 15% on the West End. In Deering, the highest concentration of robberies occurred in the Riverton and outer Brighton Ave neighborhoods. There were ten bank robberies with two reported within a one hour period in mid-January and again in mid-June. There were also ten convenience store robberies with three occurring during a five day period in mid-November.

For UCR purposes, robberies are classified into four categories based upon the weapon used (or threat of weapon used): firearm, knife or cutting instrument, other dangerous weapon, and strongarm. More than half of the robberies reported in 2015 were strongarm meaning that the perpetrator only used a body part such as his hands to deprive the victim of possessions. Firearms were displayed in approximately 27% of the robberies. The highest concentration of robberies with a firearm occurred in Parkside and the Old Port with each of these neighborhoods experiencing five such incidents.

Robberies occurred throughout the year with the highest number (11) reported in September and lowest (7) reported in December. The highest concentration of robberies (14) occurred between the hours of 10:00 and 11:00 P.M. followed by the period between 1:00 and 2:00 a.m. Half of the bank robberies occurred between 11:00 am and just after twelve noon.

Nearly half of the robberies reported in 2015 were considered “street” robberies. These robberies occur on the street or in a residence and distinguished from “commercial” robberies which occur in businesses or commercial properties.
Aggravated Assault

Aggravated Assault is defined as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Criminal Threatening with a Dangerous Weapon also fits within this category for UCR.

A total of 81 incidents were classified as Aggravated Assault in 2015. This number represents a continuation of the slow climb in Aggravated Assaults since bottoming out in 2012. It should be noted that Portland routinely saw 250-300 Aggravated Assaults in the mid to late 1990’s. That number dropped below 150 in 1999 and has remained at relatively low levels since that time.

A review of these incidents reveals several common threads: In more than 70% of the cases, either the victim, the perpetrator or both were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. And nearly 90% of the victims knew the perpetrators. Just under half of these incidents were domestic violence situations while the remainder involved acquaintances, housemates, or persons in a business relationship (to include drug-dealing). Many of these incidents occurred in residences and involved alcohol.

While the UCR definition of aggravated assault indicates that weapons are usually involved, the majority of incidents (46) reported in 2015 did not involve a weapon. In these cases, the level of injury elevated an assault to the aggravated category. Sixteen incidents involved a knife or other cutting instrument while 11 involved a firearm. In two incidents, the firearm was actually discharged; in the remainder of incidents, the firearm was brandished. This type of situation, which is considered Criminal Threatening with a Dangerous Weapon under state law, is classified as an Aggravated Assault under the UCR program.

Burglary

Burglary is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Burglary reports increased to 266 in 2015, up from a ten year low of 246 reported in 2014. Despite this increase, burglaries remain well under the ten year average of 447 reports per year. Under UCR guidelines, attempted burglaries are included in these statistics. Portland PD investigated 15 attempted burglaries in 2015.

For reporting purposes, burglaries are categorized as residential or commercial. Approximately 60% of Portland’s 2015 burglaries were residential; the remainder were commercial. Apartments or condominiums were the target of 64% of the residential burglaries. Office buildings and restaurants were the targets of more burglaries than any other types of business.

In Deering, most burglaries were concentrated in North Deering and the area bounded by Stevens, Forest, Brighton and the Westbrook line. On the Peninsula, burglaries were primarily concentrated on the West End and Parkside.

Not surprisingly, burglaries most commonly occurred outside the winter months with the most reports in November (36), August (31) and May (30). January and February saw the lowest numbers with just 9 and 8 respectively. Nearly 2/3 of residential burglaries occurred during daylight hours, most commonly during the work week. In these situations, the perpetrator is generally looking for items to steal and easily sell for cash—primarily electronics. Alcohol, cigarettes, electronics, cash and tools are among the items most frequently taken during commercial burglaries.

Of note, more than sixty percent of the burglaries reported in Portland involved entry through unlocked doors or windows.
Crime in Portland

Larceny

Larceny is defined as the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of any property from the possession or constructive possession of another. All thefts and attempted thefts are included in this category.

The number of reported larcenies continues to decline with just 1687 reported in 2015—considerably less than the 10 year average of 2153 per year.

The three most common types of larcenies in Portland are motor vehicle burglaries, theft from buildings and shoplifting. Approximately 800 motor vehicle burglaries were reported in 2015. Of note, the vast majority of these incidents involved vehicles that were not locked. Thefts from buildings numbered just over 400 while nearly 300 shoplifting incidents were reported in 2015. The items reported stolen from buildings most frequently were tools, prescription medications, and jewelry; liquor, clothing, and food items constituted the most commonly shoplifted items.

Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor Vehicle Theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Sixty nine motor vehicles were reported stolen in 2015, a slight increase over 2014, but well under the ten year average of 104 per year.

A wide variety of makes, models and model years were among the vehicles taken. As is typically the case in Portland, many of these vehicles were recovered soon after being reported stolen and, in more than a few cases, the keys were still in the car. Six of the reported thefts involved failure to return a rental car.