

MERRILLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

In reviewing the data presented herein, keep in mind that the principle objective of the compilation is to make readily available a purposeful collection of criminal, traffic and police statistics for administrative and operational use. At the same time, the data is provided for those not directly associated with police operations, but having a related interest in the problems of law enforcement in our community.

Proper reporting and collecting of police activity and criminal incidents, along with interpretation of these statistics, are an essential element of enforcement and prevention of crime.

Police records afford valuable administrative and investigative use. Failure to maintain an adequate records system results in a loss in police performance and a loss to the community. The intelligent use of law enforcement records is a vital tool in meeting the challenge for efficient police work.

Crime is a social problem and the concern of the entire community. A community's crime rate is primarily the product of its inhabitants, victims, as well as the perpetrators of crime. Law enforcement, through its records, statistically report on local crime conditions as a part of its community responsibility. Positive action to reduce crime depends to a large extent on the degree to which the individual citizen supports law enforcement.

Police efforts to control crime are limited to: Prevention, by exposing the nature of the crime, principally the effect of contributing community factors; Suppression, through properly oriented and alert patrol procedures; and Deterrence, through successful investigation and apprehension of the offender.

Factors which cause crime are many and variable; therefore, no positive conclusion can be arrived at by comparing the crime figures of one year to those of another year without first considering the factors involved. The material summarized in the criminal section of this report can be used as a guide in determining the deviations of the crime rate between individual years. These rates can be compared to the national averages reported in the F. B. I. Uniform Crime Report.



Merrillville Police Department

Police Commissioners

William Poling

Petar Dragojic

Gene Ward

Tom Pawlak

Eugene Guernsey

Administration

Chief of Police

W. Luther Cuttino

Assistant Chief of Police

Konstantinos Nuses

Operations Commander

Nathanel Dillahunty

Detective Commander

Joshua Gonzales

Patrol Commander

Jeffrey Bunnell

Support Service Commander

Kurt Horvath



Merrillville Police Department

Personnel Statistics

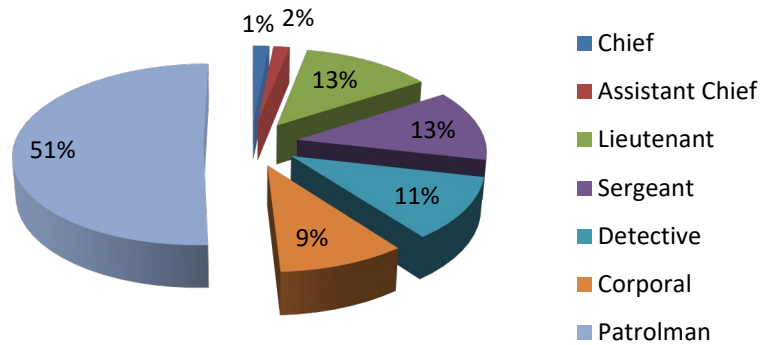
2021

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Enforcement | 63 |
| Civilian - Full Time | 6 |
| Civilian - Part Time | 1 |
| TOTAL: | 70 |

Enforcement Rank Percentage

| Personnel | % of Total | Total Within Rank |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| Chief | 2% | 1 |
| Assistant Chief | 2% | 1 |
| Lieutenant | 13% | 8 |
| Sergeant | 13% | 8 |
| Corporal | 11% | 7 |
| Detective | 10% | 6 |
| Patrolman | 51% | 32 |

Law Enforcement

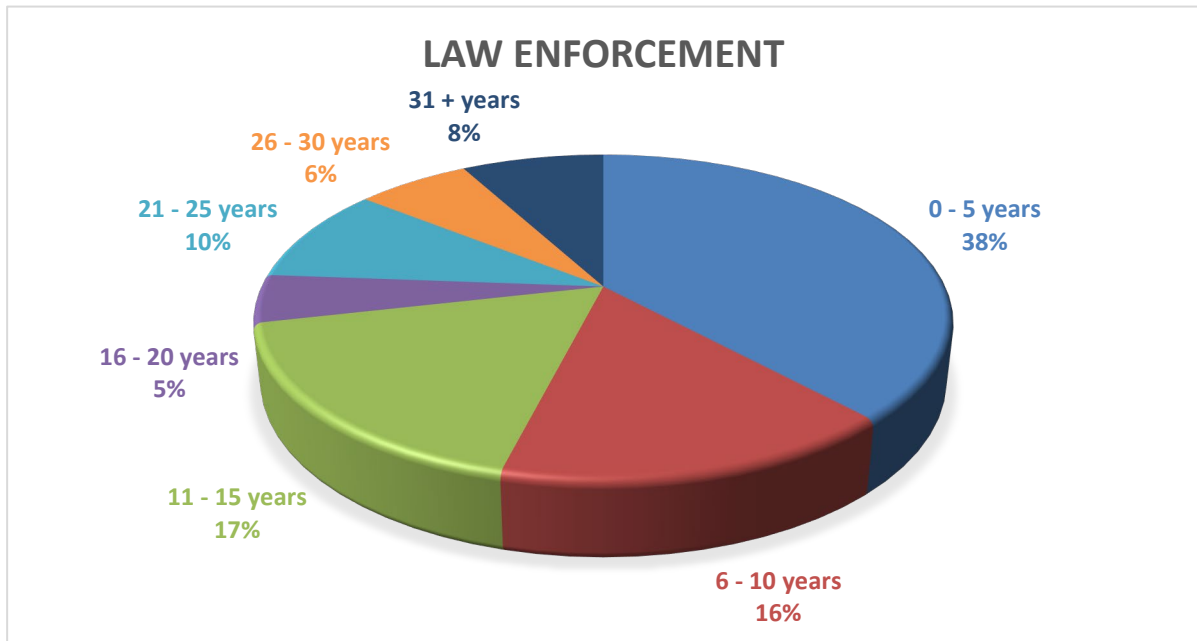




Merrillville Police Department

Average Years of Service:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 0 - 5 years | 24 |
| 6 - 10 years | 10 |
| 11 - 15 years | 11 |
| 16 - 20 years | 3 |
| 21 - 25 years | 6 |
| 26 - 30 years | 4 |
| 31 + years | 5 |





Merrillville Police Department

General Operating Fund

| 2020 | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Personal Services: | \$3,487,560.63 |
| Benefits: | \$1,340,796.32 |
| Supplies: | \$161,351.87 |
| Services: | \$147,085.58 |
| Total: | \$5,136,794.40 |

| 2021 | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Personal Services: | \$3,535,492.62 |
| Benefits: | \$1,424,561.31 |
| Supplies: | \$233,175.73 |
| Services: | \$340,691.96 |
| Total: | \$5,533,921.62 |

Grants:

| |
|-----------------------------|
| CHRIP Grant |
| TSP |
| SAVE Grant |
| Bullet Proof Vest |
| ATF Task Force |
| GRIT Task Force |
| HIDTA-DEA Task Force |
| IDHS-FEMA |
| Equitable Sharing - Federal |
| Totals: |

| Receipts | Disbursements |
|--------------|---------------|
| \$22,426.96 | \$26,376.92 |
| \$5,052.19 | \$5,052.19 |
| \$5,809.68 | \$5,630.84 |
| \$2,360.00 | \$4,720.00 |
| \$24,801.41 | \$27,607.52 |
| \$34,410.27 | \$33,145.86 |
| \$9,985.44 | \$13,407.68 |
| \$17,499.07 | \$17,499.07 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| \$122,345.02 | \$133,440.08 |

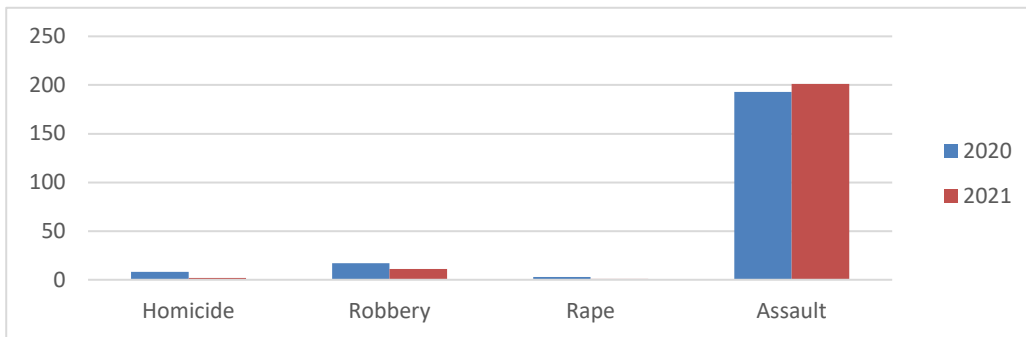


Merrillville Police Department

FBI Crime Stats

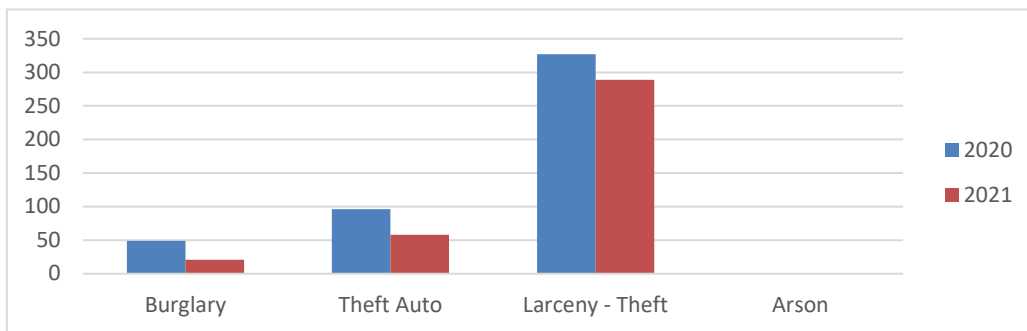
Violent Crime

| | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|----------|------|------|--------|
| Homicide | 8 | 2 | -75% |
| Robbery | 17 | 11 | -35% |
| Rape | 3 | 1 | -67% |
| Assault | 193 | 201 | 4% |



Property Crime

| | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|-----------------|------|------|--------|
| Burglary | 49 | 21 | -57% |
| Theft Auto | 96 | 58 | -40% |
| Larceny - Theft | 327 | 289 | -12% |
| Arson | 0 | 1 | 100% |





Merrillville Police Department

Crime Reports

| Offenses | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Homicide | 8 | 2 | -75% |
| Rape | 3 | 1 | -67% |
| Robbery | 17 | 11 | -35% |
| Criminal Mischief | 82 | 44 | -46% |
| Battery | 193 | 201 | 4% |
| Battery on Police Officer | 4 | 5 | 25% |
| Disturbance | 583 | 1840 | 216% |
| Burglary Residence | 31 | 16 | -48% |
| Burglary Business | 18 | 5 | -72% |
| Vehicle Recovery | 33 | 49 | 48% |
| Fraud | 308 | 285 | -7% |
| Theft / Auto | 96 | 58 | -40% |
| Theft / from Motor Vehicle | 115 | 114 | -1% |
| Theft / Vehicle Parts | 4 | 11 | 175% |
| Theft / Shoplifting | 36 | 42 | 17% |
| Theft / Other | 88 | 64 | -27% |
| Arson | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Case Reports | 2208 | 1861 | -16% |
| Incident Reports | 22552 | 22159 | -2% |
| Total Calls for Service | 25976 | 29640 | 14% |



Merrillville Police Department

Adult Criminal Charges Filed

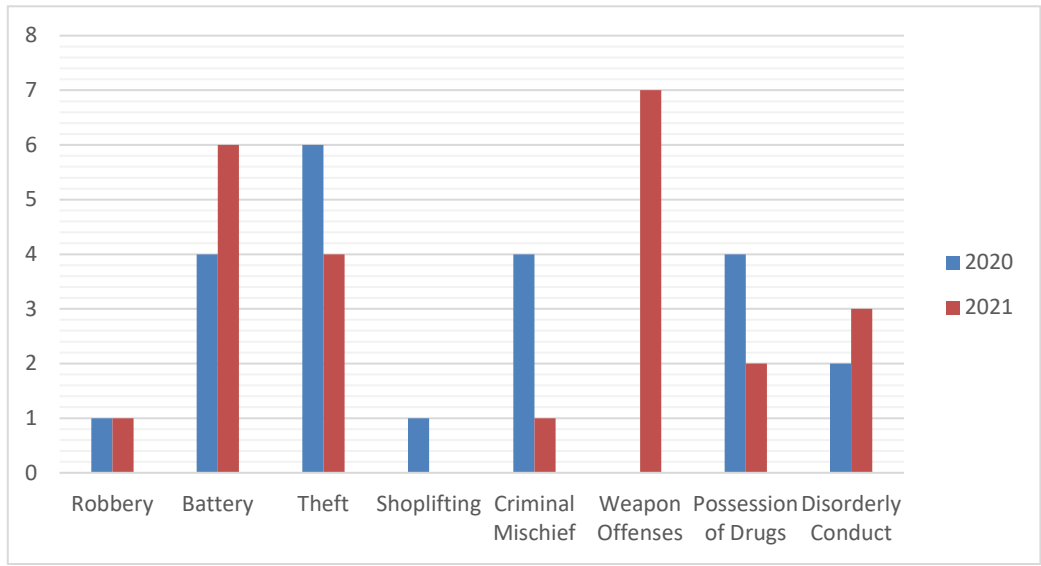
| Offenses | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|-----------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Murder | 8 | 3 | -63% |
| Rape | 4 | 5 | 25% |
| Robbery | 17 | 19 | 12% |
| Battery | 171 | 215 | 26% |
| Battery on Police Officer | 4 | 15 | 275% |
| Burglary | 49 | 24 | -51% |
| Auto Theft | 46 | 24 | -48% |
| Theft | 281 | 99 | -65% |
| Shoplifting | 36 | 56 | 56% |
| Criminal Mischift | 49 | 40 | -18% |
| Weapons | 35 | 29 | -17% |
| Drugs | 64 | 76 | 19% |
| Public Intoxication | 11 | 30 | 173% |
| Operating While Intoxicated | 61 | 47 | -23% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 15 | 42 | 180% |
| Fraud | 62 | 34 | -45% |



Merrillville Police Department

Juvenile Criminal Charges Filed

| Offenses | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|---------------------|------|------|--------|
| Robbery | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Battery | 4 | 6 | 50% |
| Theft | 6 | 4 | -33% |
| Shoplifting | 1 | 0 | -100% |
| Criminal Mischief | 4 | 1 | -75% |
| Weapon Offenses | 0 | 7 | 100% |
| Possession of Drugs | 4 | 2 | -50% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 2 | 3 | 50% |

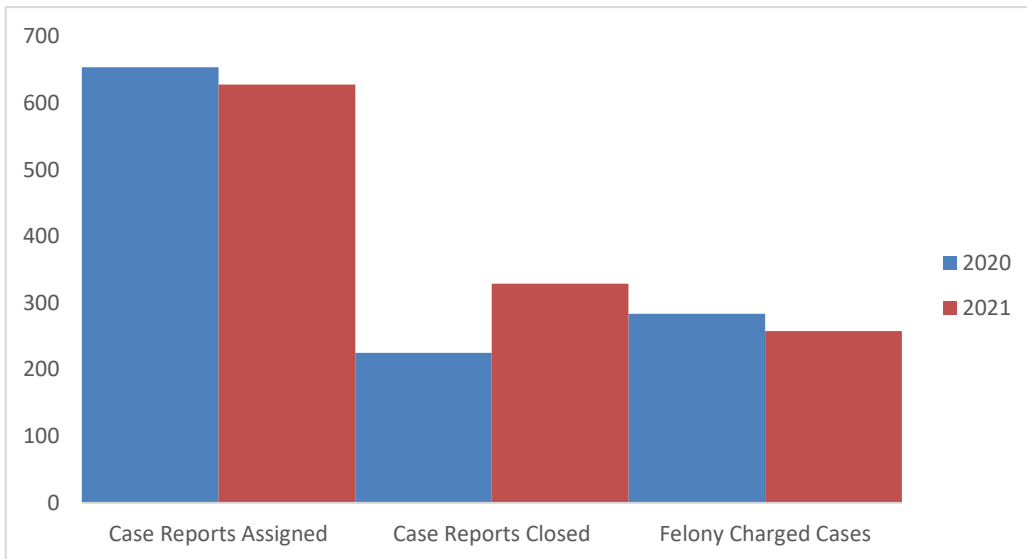




Merrillville Police Department

Criminal Investigations

| | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|-----------------------|------|------|--------|
| Case Reports Assigned | 654 | 628 | -4% |
| Case Reports Closed | 225 | 329 | 46% |
| Felony Charged Cases | 284 | 258 | -9% |





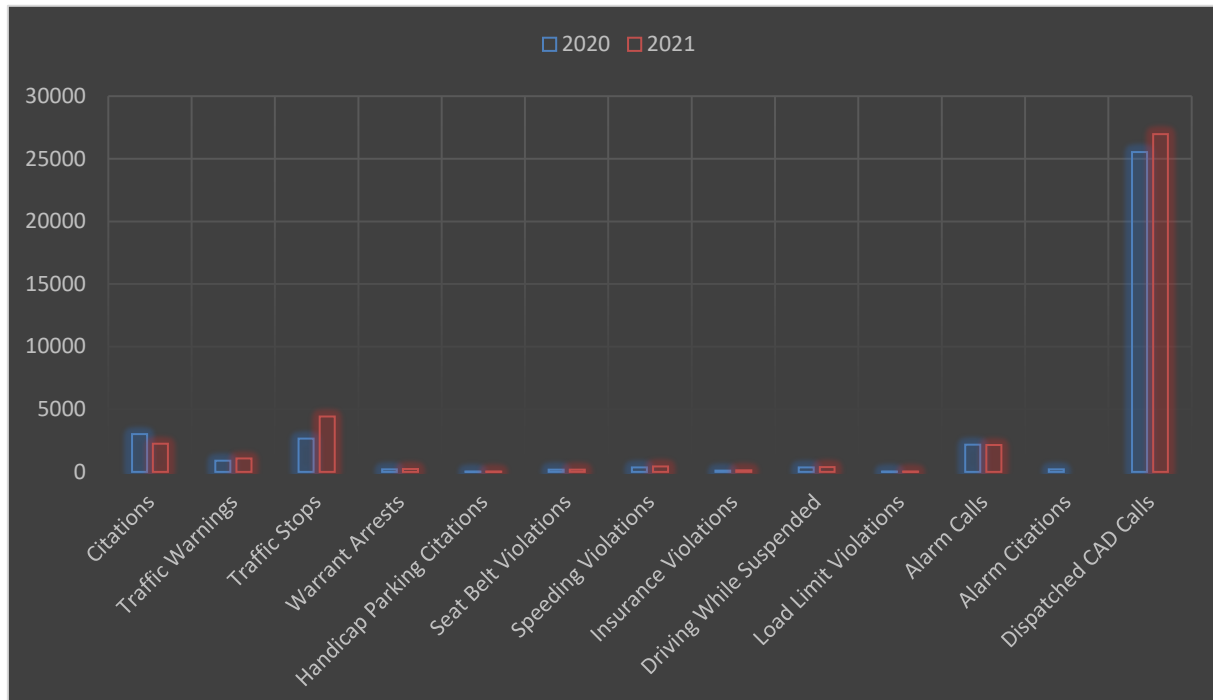
Merrillville Police Department

Patrol Operations

| | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|------------------|------|------|--------|
| Citations | 3026 | 2260 | -25% |
| Traffic Warnings | 883 | 1063 | 20% |
| Traffic Stops | 2666 | 4428 | 66% |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Warrant Arrests | 194 | 219 | 13% |
| Handicap Parking Citations | 17 | 12 | -29% |
| Seat Belt Violations | 188 | 175 | -7% |
| Speeding Violations | 353 | 439 | 24% |
| Insurance Violations | 101 | 132 | 31% |
| Driving While Suspended | 368 | 390 | 6% |
| Load Limit Violations | 15 | 17 | 13% |
| Alarm Calls | 2173 | 2151 | -1% |
| Alarm Citations | 194 | 0 | -100% |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Dispatched CAD Calls | 25538 | 26967 | 6% |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----|





Merrillville Police Department

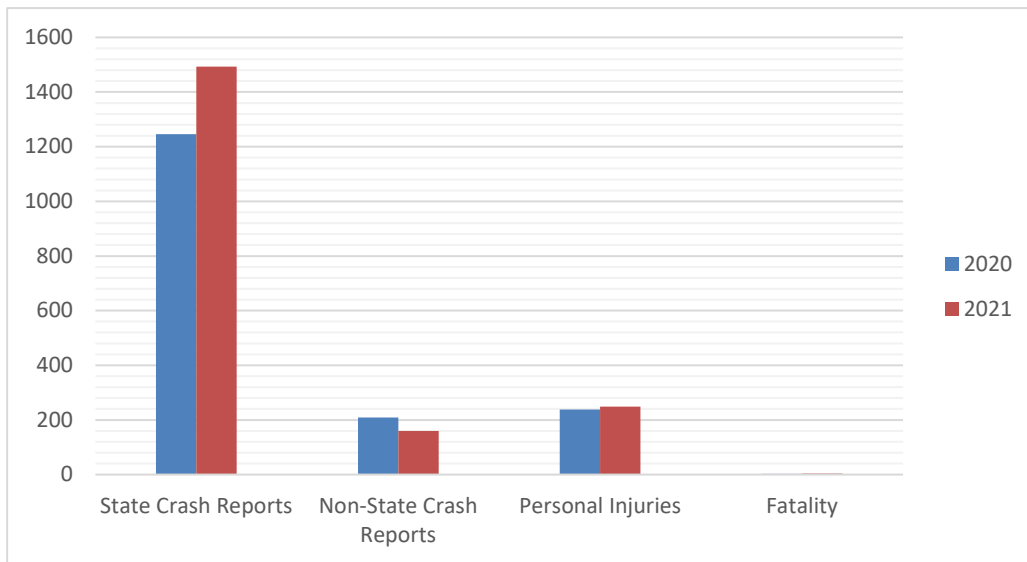
Accidents

Accident Types

| | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|-------------------------|------|------|--------|
| State Crash Reports | 1246 | 1493 | 20% |
| Non-State Crash Reports | 209 | 160 | -23% |
| Personal Injuries | 238 | 249 | 5% |
| Fatality | 3 | 4 | 33% |

Other Accident Stats

| | 2020 | 2021 | Change |
|------------------|------|------|--------|
| Alcohol involved | 19 | 14 | -26% |
| Hit and Run | 216 | 243 | 13% |





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