

GUARDIANS OF THE HILL

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

January - June 2025



**Serving,
Protecting, and
Partnering with the
Chapel Hill Community**

CHAPEL HILL
North Carolina



UPDATED
10/31/25

INTRODUCTION

From the Chief

Message from The Chief

At the Chapel Hill Police Department, our mission is simple and meaningful: we serve, protect, and partner with our community — and it drives us every day.






We're pleased to share we've seen decreases in crimes against people as well as fewer stolen vehicles and less theft from stolen vehicles. During this period, we assigned a special team of officers to handle these cases and increase patrols in order to discourage these crimes.

In this report, we strive to highlight the ways we're using data and building relationships, all to help make Chapel Hill a place where everyone thrives.

Thank you for taking the time to read it!

Celisa Lehew
Chapel Hill Chief of Police

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BY THE NUMBERS

Compassion, Leadership, Commitment



12,756

Calls for Service



3 min 31 s

Average Response Time



1,061

Crisis Unit Responses



288

CARE Team Responses



479

Virtual Unit Reports



56

Language Line Calls
In 9 Languages



3,292

Total Training Hours



11

Staff Language Fluency

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with the Community

February - Red vs. Blue Games

The Police and Fire Departments battled in the **Red vs. Blue games** by completing daily workouts and recording their progress. **CHPD won the challenge** with the victory aided greatly by Captain Todd Harris and Sgt. Jason Bellavance who did workout runs to all five of the fire stations and took photos with the firefighters.



Stars of Honor

Stars of Honor celebrates local youth by recognizing their achievements both academically and in the community. They are able to attend UNC Chapel Hill sporting events and our officers are there to celebrate with them.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with the Community

continued

April - First Pitch

Carolina Baseball and SERVPRO celebrated the 2025 first responders of the year at their game against Duke.

Officer of the Year Derek Jackson helped throw the first pitch.



May - Tigerfest

Chapel Hill High School's annual **Tigerfest** is organized by students as a stress-reliever before exams start. Students attend engaging and creative sessions lead by community members. Chapel Hill Police officers and staff met with students to talk about making a career in law enforcement.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with the Community

continued

Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop events at Starbucks, Merritt's Grill, and Purple Bowl brought together community members, officers, and members of the police department for casual conversations. If your business is interested in hosting Coffee with a Cop, email policeinfo@townofchapelhill.org.

May - Kits for Kids (K4K)

Chapel Hill police officers helped put together **Kits for Kids (K4K) a compassion-driven initiative** created to comfort children facing distressing emergency situations. Each kit includes a notepad, crayons, multiple fidget toys and puzzles, and a handwritten note from first responders providing encouragement. Kits for Kids are kept in patrol vehicles for officers to hand out when children need comfort during emergencies.

June - Open Chapel Hill Day

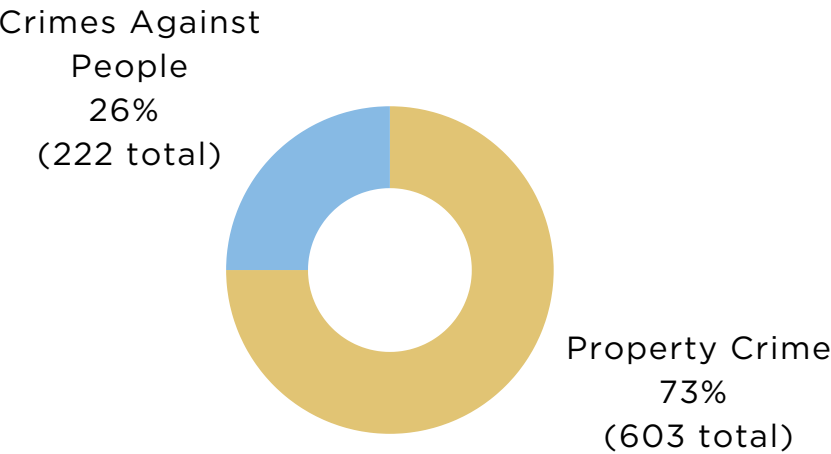
The **free townwide open house** invited community members to take tours of facilities, do fun activities, and meet staff. At the police department kids tried on gear, sat in patrol cars, and watched a K9 demonstration. The Police Department was a popular stop during the event!



KEEPING CHAPEL HILL SAFE

Your Safety is Our Focus

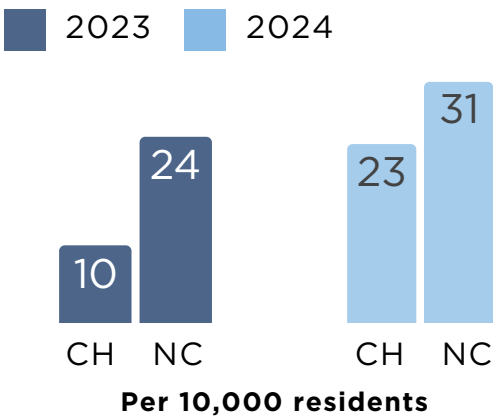
Crime Trends



Property crime accounts for 73% of all reported crimes in Chapel Hill, which is consistent with the same period in 2024.

Crimes against people represents 26% of reported crimes, showing a **7% decrease** from the previous year.

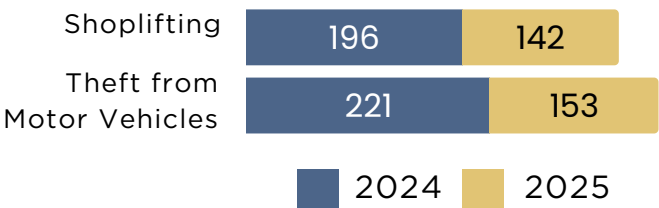
Motor Vehicle Theft Rates - Chapel Hill vs. State Average



Motor vehicle theft rates in Chapel Hill remain lower than state averages. In **2023**, Chapel Hill saw 10 thefts per 10,000 residents, compared to the state average of 24. In **2024**, Chapel Hill's rate was 23, while the state rate was 31. Complete data for 2025 will be available in our next report.

Recent Decreases

- ▼ **30%** Theft from motor vehicles (153 this period vs. 221 last)
- ▼ **29%** Motor vehicle thefts (49 this period vs. 69 last)
- ▼ **27%** Shoplifting (142 this period vs. 196 last)
- ▼ **26%** Breaking & entering residence/business (73 this period vs. 99 last)



Recent Increases

- ▲ Larceny of license plates (11 this period vs. 3 last)

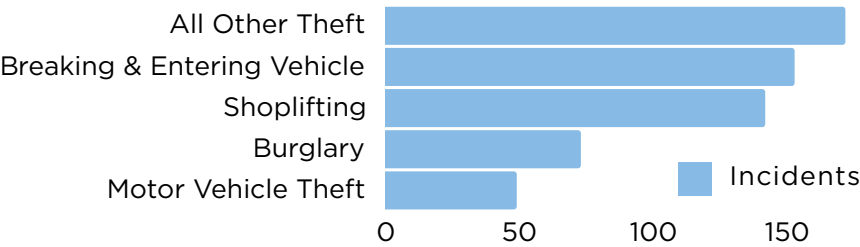
KEEPING CHAPEL HILL SAFE

Your Safety is Our Focus

continued

Incidents and Citations

Top Five Offenses

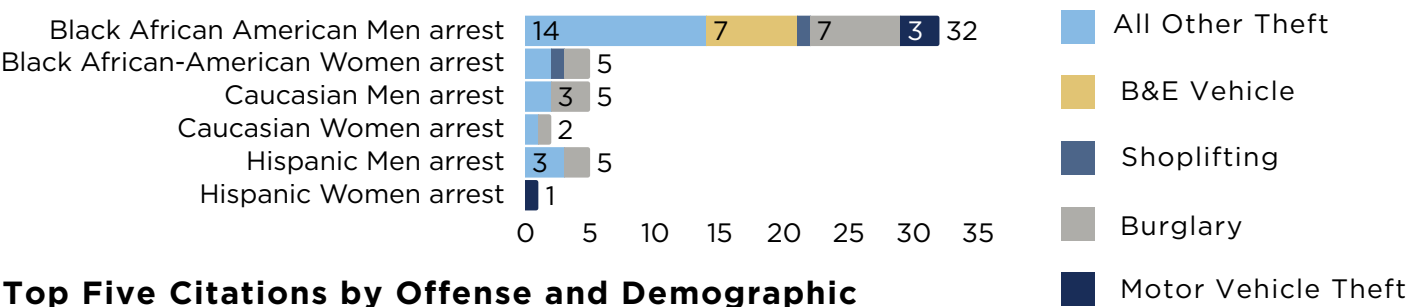


Repeat Offenders

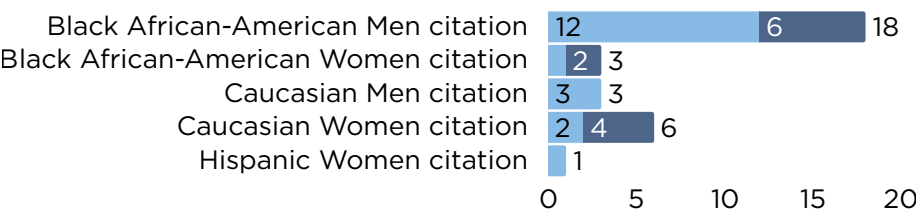
One person was charged with two shoplifting offenses.

One person was charged with two offenses of breaking and entering a vehicle.

Top Five Arrests by Offense and Demographic



Top Five Citations by Offense and Demographic



Diversion Programs

We continue to use diversion programs to minimize involvement in the criminal justice system.



PROMOTING SAFE STREETS

Traffic Enforcement Efforts

Vision Zero Initiative

We remain committed to the Vision Zero initiative, aiming to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries through education, enforcement, and infrastructure improvements.

Vision Zero Dashboard & Map

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/residents/transportation/bicycle-and-pedestrian/road-to-zero>

Traffic Safety Enforcement

3,423

Citations for Speed and Safety

287

Citations for Stop Sign/Light Violations

90

Arrests for Driving While Impaired

907

vehicle crashes



19

pedestrian crashes



5

bicycle crashes



TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY

Commitment to Professionalism and Accountability



Professional Standards

We uphold professional standards through rigorous internal oversight. This includes **tracking and reviewing reports** on officer conduct.

Unfounded - Determined that what was reported did not occur.

Sustained - After looking into a complaint, we found it to be true.

Pending - The investigation is not finished and we haven't made a final decision yet.

3

Demeanor

Rude or unprofessional officer.

3 Reported | 2 Unfounded | 1 Sustained

10

Improper conduct

Violating a policy or law.

10 Reported | 1 Unfounded | 9 Pending

6

Pursuits

All vehicle pursuits are reviewed for compliance with policy, state law, and to identify training opportunities.

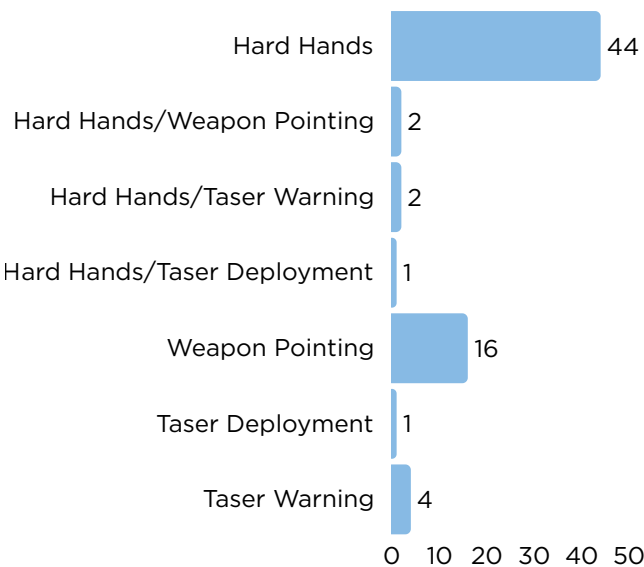
Use of Force

We address use of force with a commitment to transparency, accountability, and data-driven reporting.

Hard Hands - Officer uses their hands to physically control a person. Such as restraining a limb or taking the person to the ground.

Pointing of Weapon - The officer pointed their weapon at a person.

Taser Warning - Officer implies the use of a Taser verbally or by pointing.



Number of Incidents

CONCLUSION

Our Ongoing Dedication

Our mission to serve, protect, and partner guides us every day. It's important to us that we build thoughtful relationships with everyone in our community.

If you ever **have questions** or **want to talk**, our door is open.

📞 919-968-2760

✉️ policeinfo@townofchapelhill.org



CHAPEL HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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