Lowell Police Department

2015 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Mission Statement 2

Department at a Glance 3

Organizational Chart 4

Letter from the Chief 5

Introduction 6

- 2015 in Review 6

Community Policing and Problem Solving 8

Drugs 10

Violent Crime 14

Crime in the City of Lowell 18

- National Incident Based Reporting System 18
- Homicide 20
- Rape 20
- Aggravated Assault 21
- Robbery 22
- Burglary 23
- Vandalism 24
- Gang Crime 25
- Firearm Crime 26
- Drug Crime 27
- Juvenile Crime 28
- School Crime 28
- Domestic Violence 29
- Computer-Aided Dispatch 29

Departmental Overview 30

LPD Contact Information 34

Dedication 35

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lowell Police Department is to work with the community to reduce crime, the fear of crime, and to improve the quality of life in the City of Lowell. We stress partnership, professionalism, integrity, and fairness.

Department at a Glance

As of December 31, 2015

Budgeted Sworn Strength: 245

Actual Sworn Complement: 239

Male: 216

Female: 23

Ethnic Breakdown:

African American: 5

Asian: 11

Caucasian: 190

Hispanic: 33

Rank Structure

Superintendent: 1

Deputy Superintendent: 2

Captain: 9

Lieutenant: 13

Sergeant: 30

Patrol Officer: 184

Civilians: 97 (71 full time)

Male: 37

Female: 60

Ethnic Breakdown:

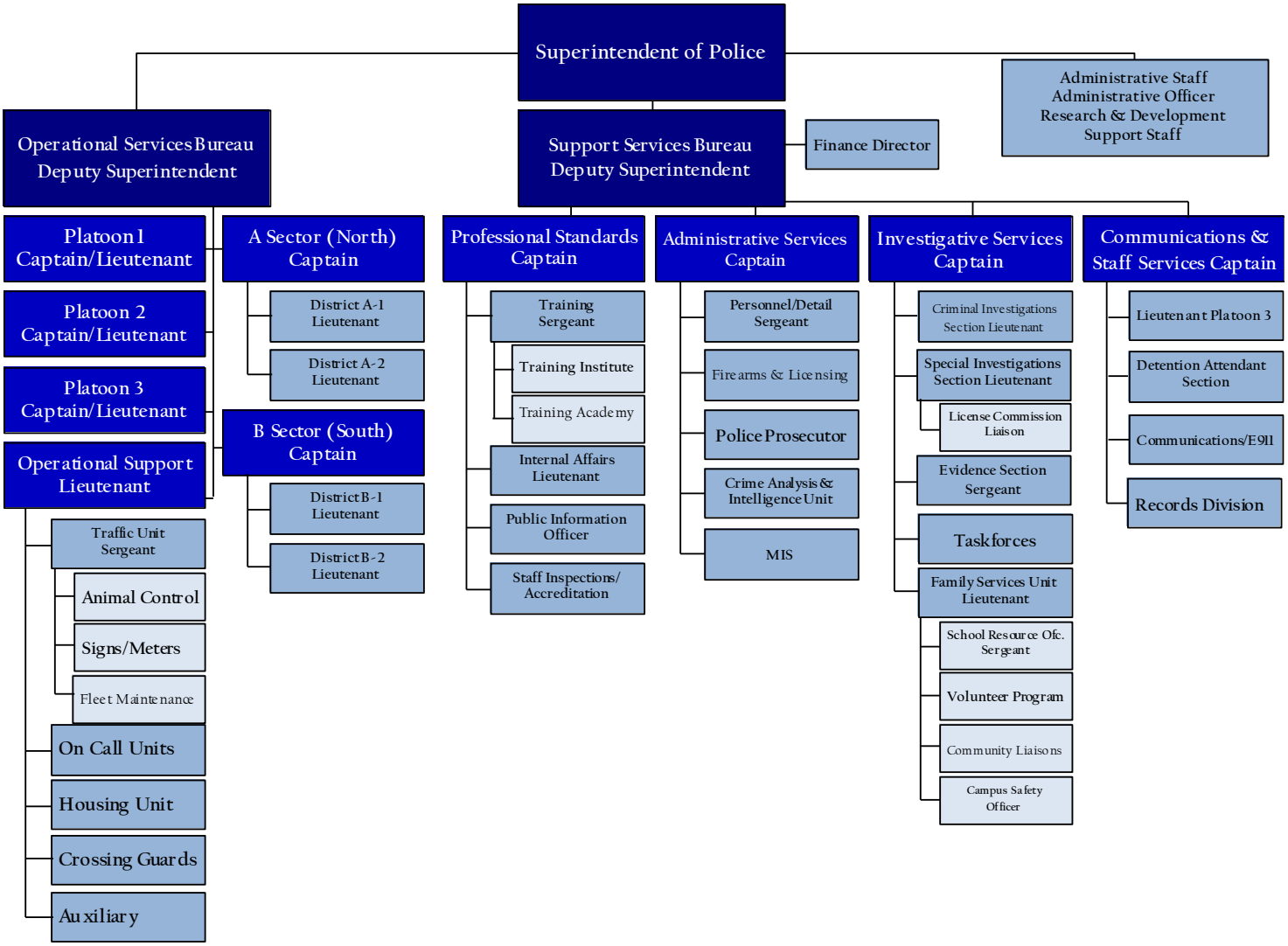
African American: 4

Asian: 6

Caucasian: 80

Hispanic: 7

Organizational Chart



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William M. Taylor
Superintendent

Deborah Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

Jonathan C. Webb
Deputy Superintendent

Dear Lowell Residents,

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) worked very hard throughout 2015 to keep the City of Lowell safe. The department took several significant steps to improve public safety in 2015. These steps include opening a new substation in Centralville, increasing foot, bicycle, and Segway patrols, and holding numerous community events and meetings. These initiatives have all been designed to increase the LPD's collaboration with the entire community of Lowell. We believe that working directly with the community as much as possible is the best way to keep the City safe and we plan on continuing that strategy in 2016 and beyond.

I am happy to report that the City experienced a 10% overall reduction in crime in 2015. This includes a 22% reduction in robberies, a 33% reduction in aggravated assaults, and a 32% reduction in incidents involving firearms. The LPD was able to remove 70 illegal firearms from the streets, with nearly half of those being seized from suspected gang members or associates. Most importantly, for the second time in four years, there were no homicides in Lowell in 2015. The entire LPD takes great pride in making Lowell a safe place to live, work, and visit. I am extremely proud that our efforts in 2015 have had a positive impact on the City.

Of course, there is still work to be done to improve public safety in Lowell. Domestic violence is one area where the department will work to improve its response in 2016. The LPD received a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women that will allow the department to hire a Victim Advocate to work with domestic violence victims. The department will also implement a rapid response program that will allow high risk victims to receive expedited services. Another issue the LPD will work hard to combat in 2016 is the growing opioid crisis. There were over 500 opioid overdoses in Lowell in 2015, 46 of which were fatal. The LPD started carrying naloxone, a drug that can be used to reverse the symptoms of opioid overdose, in August 2015. A grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will allow the LPD to purchase additional naloxone and medical supplies to be used in response to opioid overdoses. Additionally, the department is working with other City departments and community organizations to expand treatment options for individuals struggling with addiction.

The LPD is looking forward to continuing to work with the community to prevent crime and improve the quality of life in Lowell in 2016.

Sincerely,

William M Taylor

William Taylor
Superintendent of Police

INTRODUCTION

2015 in Review

The New Centralville precinct on Bridge Street opened in May 2015.

In 2015, the Lowell Police Department (LPD) continued to execute and improve upon its community policing strategy. The department began the process of reorganizing its organizational structure in 2014, with the goal of enhancing its community policing strategy. This involved splitting the City into two patrol sectors with a Captain in command of each. Each sector was split into two districts, overseen by Lieutenants who report directly to the sector Captains. Each of the four districts has a dedicated District Response Team, a specialized unit dedicated to identifying and responding to the specific issues within each district. In 2015, the final phase of the reorganization was completed. The formerly centralized Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit (CAIU) has now been decentralized with Crime Analysts dedicated to specific sectors. Dedicated Analysts now work more closely with sector Captains, Lieutenants and District Response Teams. This gives the leaders of each sector stronger insights into the issues affecting the neighborhoods they are responsible for, allowing them to tailor their response appropriately. Additionally in 2015, a new community precinct was opened in Centralville. A grand opening event was held in May, giving residents an opportunity to tour the new precinct and meet both patrol and command officers who work in their neighborhood.

One of the most significant issues currently facing Lowell (as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole) today is opioid addiction. Opioid addiction and overdoses have been rising significantly for several years and continued to do so in 2015. Starting in August 2015, LPD patrol officers began carrying naloxone, which is an opioid overdose antidote. The LPD was able to obtain naloxone and train all of its officers on its administration through a grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In the fall, the department applied for and received the same grant for 2016 to ensure that naloxone is available for officers to reverse overdoses. The grant allows the department to purchase more naloxone and equipment used to provide medical care to opioid overdose victims. To learn more about this program and the LPD's overall strategy for dealing with opioids and other narcotics, please see the "Drugs" section of this report on page 10.

The LPD is pleased to report that there were reductions in most major crime categories in 2015. This includes:

- a 22% reduction in robberies
- a 21% reduction in aggravated assaults and a 13% reduction in simple assaults
- a 24% reduction in burglaries
- a 65% reduction in armed robberies
- a 32% reduction in incidents involving a firearm and a 43% reduction in shots fired incidents.
- There was a 53% reduction in non-fatal shootings
- Most importantly, there were no homicides in Lowell for the second time in the last four years.
- Additionally, the LPD recovered 70 illegal firearms, a 17% increase from 2014. Nearly half of the seized firearms were seized from suspected gang members or associates. The LPD continues to focus its efforts on decreasing gun-related violence while confiscating more illegally-owned firearms.

There was a modest 5% reduction in simple domestic assaults in 2015, and a more substantial 22% reduction in aggravated domestic assaults. Despite these positive steps, the LPD is dedicated to the ultimate goal of minimizing both the number and severity of domestic violence incidents, and there is clearly a long way to go to do that. To help protect Lowell residents from intimate partner abuse, the LPD applied for and received a federal grant from the Office on Violence Against Women in the fall of 2015. The grant will be used to hire a Victim Advocate. The Victim Advocate will work with domestic violence victims to help them obtain services such as safety planning, legal advocacy, mental health counseling, and emergency housing. Funds will also be utilized to implement a lethality assessment program designed to identify victims who are at an elevated risk for experiencing lethal violence at the hands of an intimate partner. These victims will be provided access to emergency services through Alternative House, a local domestic violence victim service provider. This grant is a positive step towards preventing serious cases of domestic violence and helping victims receive the support they need.

Community Policing and Problem Solving

The mission of the LPD is to work with the community to reduce crime, the fear of crime, and to improve the quality of life in the City of Lowell. We stress partnership, professionalism, integrity, and fairness.

As the department's mission statement expresses, the LPD is committed to a community policing philosophy. We believe keeping the City of Lowell safe is a joint effort with all those who live and work here. As a result, the department constantly works to keep the community involved in efforts to improve public safety in Lowell. We are focused on earning and keeping the trust of all Lowell residents. Law enforcement and civilians working together is the most effective way to keep our community safe.

At the heart of our community policing strategy is a focus on problem solving. We understand that crime is typically not a random occurrence. Most often, there are underlying factors that lead to crime. Understanding and addressing these factors is necessary to make a significant and lasting impact on public safety. The LPD uses interactions with the community, both while out on patrol as well as during regular community meetings, combined with advanced data analysis carried out by the Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit to evaluate crime issues facing the City.

LPD representatives hold a sidewalk meeting to keep residents informed following the Eagle Park shooting in June.

To further enhance the relationship between the LPD and Lowell residents, the department regularly hosts and/or participates in community events. The following photos show some examples of events that the department participated in in 2015.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and better places to live. Lowell's 2015 National Night Out events gave numerous officers the opportunity to interact with the community through safe and fun activities.

The Lowell Student Police Academy is a summer leadership program run by the Lowell Police Department's School Resource Officers. The Student Police Academy teaches student officers a wide variety of useful and important skills, with a strong focus on anti-gang and anti-drug messages. The importance of being active is also stressed with daily physical fitness exercises.

Officers teach kids about bike safety at the LPD's annual Bike Safety Rodeo. In addition to the safety tips, the LPD was able to give away a significant amount of free bike gear with the help of local sponsors.

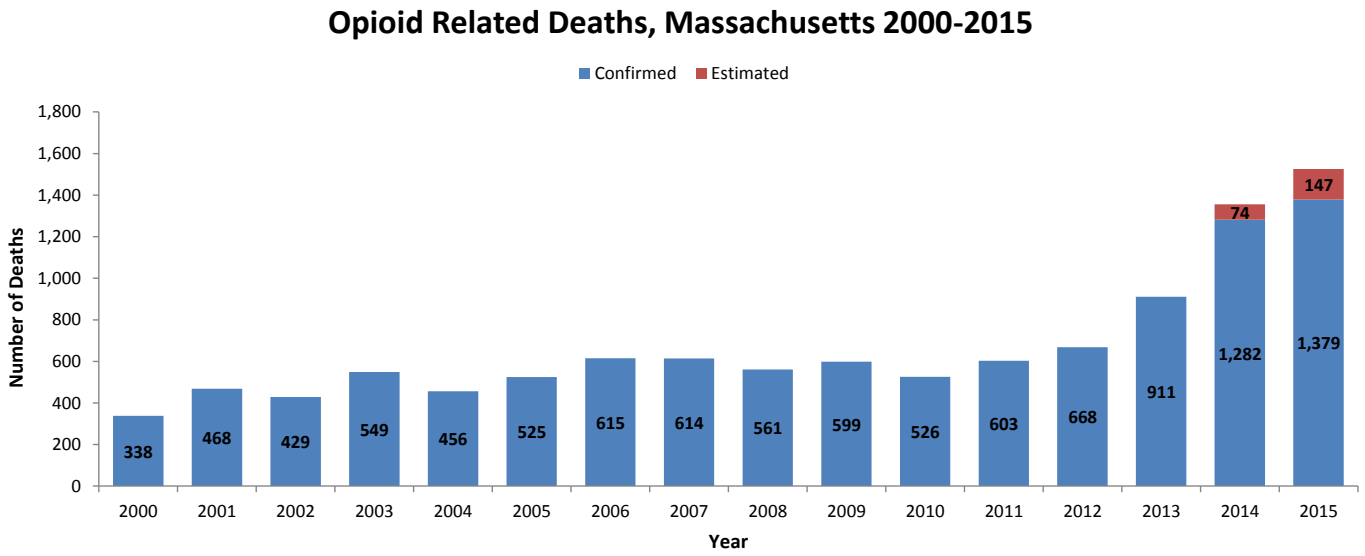
Officers at the annual Child Passenger Safety Checkpoint, which offers residents the opportunity to have their child passenger seats inspected for safety.

Newly arrived immigrants and refugees visited the LPD main headquarters to learn about the resources available to them through local police departments.

Drugs

The Opioid Epidemic

It is well known that opioid addiction has become an epidemic for the entire state of Massachusetts. While heroin and other opioids have always been a serious concern, over the last five years this issue has transformed into a full blown public health crisis. According to data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the number of Massachusetts residents who have died of opioid overdoses has seen significant increases each year since 2011. In 2013, the number of opioid-related deaths increased 36% from 668 in 2012 to 911 in 2013. This number increased by another 21% in 2014 to 1,282. Through September 2015, the estimated number of opioid-related deaths had already reached roughly the same level as for the entire year of 2014.



Data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

While the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic has affected all of Massachusetts, it has been particularly devastating in Lowell. According to Trinity Emergency Medical Service, there were 579 confirmed opiate overdoses in Lowell in 2015. Please note, there were likely more than 579 total opiate overdoses in the City, however, not all could be confirmed. Of the 579, 46 were fatal. There were 284 priority 1 patients, meaning they would most likely die without medical intervention (note that some of these patients may have died despite medical intervention, and the 46 fatal overdoses are included in the 284 patients classified as priority 1). Highlighting the severity of addiction as a disease and the difficult road to recovery, 94 individuals overdosed more than once in 2015 and 30 individuals were priority 1 overdose patients multiple times.

Drugs and Crime

While drug addiction takes a huge toll on individuals and their families, it also impacts the community as a whole. Evidence suggests that much of Lowell's property crime is driven by drug-addicted individuals using crime to support their habit. As addiction makes it difficult for individuals to hold steady jobs, they look for other means of financial support that allows them to buy drugs. Often times this includes crimes such as burglary, shoplifting, or car breaks. Occasionally, desperate individuals will commit more serious offenses, including armed robberies or home invasions.

While property crime is largely driven by drug-addicted individuals, violent crime is driven by competition over drug distribution by both gangs and independent drug dealers. Many violent crimes committed in Lowell are ultimately driven by drugs. While drug dealers and gangs tend to target one another, rather than innocent civilians, there have been several close calls in recent years in which bystanders were nearly injured or killed because of violence aimed at drug dealers and/or gang members. This highlights that the recent increase in drug addiction is not only a public health crisis, but a public safety crisis, as both property and violent crime are significantly impacted by drug use and the drug trade.

LPD Response to Drugs

In 2015, the LPD received a grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to purchase naloxone, a drug that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose. During the first half of 2015, the department planned the implementation of its naloxone program. Every officer in the department was trained on when and how to use naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses. The LPD officially started carrying naloxone in mid-August. The department equipped each of its front line patrol cars and several other units with naloxone. Within days, naloxone was used to reverse an overdose for the first time. Over the course of the ensuing four and a half months, the LPD used naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses 18 times. All 18 of the individuals who were given naloxone survived. It is very likely that officers saved several lives by administering naloxone to overdose victims in the latter portion of 2015. The department will receive the grant again in 2016 to purchase additional naloxone and medical supplies associated with assisting overdose victims.

In order to reduce drug dealing and improve quality of life in neighborhoods where drug dealing is common, the LPD partnered with the City of Lowell's Building Commissioner and Development Services Department to implement a Drug Abatement Response Team (DART). The program is being funded by a Justice Assistance Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. It is modeled after a successful project in San Diego, California, in which drug dealing at problem locations was reduced by focusing on improving property management practices. The San Diego DART program leveraged the authority of civil law to pressure landlords into addressing problems at rental properties where drug problems had been identified. The program's treatment properties recorded a 60% reduction in crime compared to a control group.

The Lowell DART began operating in October 2015. It focuses on two goals: eliminating drug dealing and fixing properties in disrepair. Building off the momentum of the Neighborhood Expedited Enforcement Directive (NEED) Project that was already underway, the LPD's DART Program adds an additional focus of targeting properties that have recorded multiple drug incidents in recent years. The LPD's Special Investigations Section has partnered with Lowell's Building Commissioner and Development Services Department. Together, they identify locations to target, arrest those distributing drugs, fix code violations and in some cases, shut down the property until all issues can be addressed. In 2015, the Lowell DART targeted four properties. In 2016, the LPD and the Division of Development Services will partner with other City entities, including the City Manager's Office, to meet with landlords in order to hold them accountable activities occurring at their properties.

Major Drug Arrests in 2016

On April 25, SIS detectives executed a search warrant at the home of a suspected drug dealer. Inside the detectives found 6 small bags of suspected cocaine and one larger bag. The suspected cocaine was tested using a field testing kit, which gave a positive indication for cocaine. The total weight of the cocaine seized was 36 grams. The suspect was then arrested on charges of Trafficking in Cocaine (18 grams or more).

On April 27, as part of an ongoing investigation into heroin dealing in the Centralville neighborhood of Lowell, a search warrant was executed by SIS detectives at the home of a suspected drug dealer. Detectives found ten individually packaged bags of heroin on the suspect's person. The total weight of the seized heroin was 20 grams. The suspect was arrested on charges of Trafficking in Heroin (18 grams or more).

On August 17, as the result of a lengthy investigation into the distribution of large amounts of marijuana in the City, Detectives from the Special Investigations Section arrested two Lowell men and seized 62 pounds of marijuana and over $5,000 in cash. On August 14th, after conducting months of surveillance and intelligence gathering including observing at least one 'delivery' on the day, Detectives stopped a vehicle on Westford Street that was believed to be transporting trafficking amounts of marijuana and delivering to numerous points in the City. After confirming the presence of illegal drugs with the assistance of the Chelmsford Police K-9, the vehicle was found to be carrying 50 pounds of marijuana. Another 12 pounds was located at 105 Gates Street. These discoveries led to the arrests of two Lowell residents along with the issuance of search warrants for their apartments. The search warrants turned up additional evidence of a large scale marijuana distribution operation. One suspect was charged with Trafficking in Marijuana and Distribution of a Class D Substance. The other was charged with Illegal Possession of a Class D Substance with Intent to Distribute.

On October 29th, as part of the aforementioned Lowell DART project, the Special Investigation Section arrested a Lowell man on charges of trafficking heroin. The man's apartment on Garnet Street was suspected to be the location of heroin distribution. A lengthy investigation was conducted, culminating in a search warrant being executed at the apartment. The search resulted in the seizure of one compressed 'finger' and 57 individually packaged bags of suspected heroin. The total weight of the suspected heroin was over 28 grams. This weight is over the threshold for being considered Trafficking in heroin, which is a more serious charge than Distribution. The department also confiscated $533 which was suspected to be the proceeds of the suspect's heroin trafficking operation.

On December 3rd, the Special Investigations Section executed a search warrant on Branch Street as part of an investigation into suspected drug dealing. The warrant was granted after detectives conducting surveillance at the location on November 29th witnessed what they suspected was a drug transaction. They conducted a traffic stop on the car that left following the suspected transaction and found the occupants to be in possession of heroin, which they admitted they had purchased at the targeted residence on Branch Street. The search warrant was executed and resulted in the seizure of 86 grams of suspected cocaine, six amphetamine pills, a stun gun, two military Kevlar helmets and ballistic vests, and $342 in cash suspected to be the proceeds of drug transactions. The suspect was charged with Trafficking in Cocaine (36 grams or more) and Illegal Possession of a Class E Substance (amphetamine pills) with Intent to Distribute.

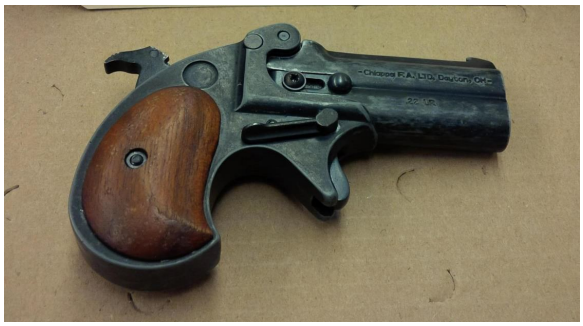
VIOLENT CRIME

Overview

Most categories of violent crime were down in 2015 compared to 2014. Most importantly, there were no homicides in 2015, after there were six in 2014. Aggravated assaults were down 21% from 316 in 2014 to 249 in 2015. Firearm crime was down significantly, decreasing 32% from 207 incidents to 141. There were substantial reductions in several specific categories of firearm incidents, including armed robbery (65%), aggravated assault (23%), shots fired (43%), fatal shootings (100%) and non-fatal shootings (53%). There was a 17% increase in illegal firearms seized by the LPD, largely due to proactive policing focused on deterring violent and gang-related crime. Overall, the LPD is pleased with the progress made in 2015 with regard to violent crime. The department will work to continue reducing violent crime in years to come.

Major Arrests and Firearm Seizures

On April 21, SIS detectives executed a search warrant on Garnet Street as the result of an investigation into drug sales at the location. The warrant turned up cocaine and a variety of pills, as well as nearly $4,000 in cash. Also found were two loaded handguns, one a .40 caliber and one a 9 mm. Eight people were arrested as the result of the search warrant being executed.



On May 14, an off-duty LPD officer witnessed an individual chasing after a motor vehicle while pointing a handgun at it. The officer immediately called LPD dispatch while maintaining visual contact with the suspect. Additional officers responded to the scene and were able to take the suspect into custody, seizing a loaded .22 caliber pistol with the hammer cocked back in a "ready to fire" position.

On May 23, LPD officers responded to a report of a motorist brandishing a firearm at another motorist. The suspect was stopped for committing several motor vehicle infractions shortly after officers responded. A loaded Smith and Wesson semi-automatic handgun with a high capacity magazine was located on the floor of the vehicle. The firearm was seized and the vehicle's operator was arrested on several firearm-related charges.

In the early morning hours of May 31, several LPD officers were monitoring the Early Parking Garage on Middlesex Street, as there was a large crowd of people exiting a nearby nightclub following closing time. Officers heard what they believed to a gunshot coming from inside the garage. Officers were able to contain the area and began checking vehicles as they exited the garage. After checking several vehicles, they located a loaded .38 caliber revolver in one of them. Witnesses who saw and heard the gunshot identified the operator of this vehicle as the individual who had fired the shot. The suspect was arrested and charged with Unlawful Carrying of a Firearm While Loaded, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition and Discharging a Firearm within 500 Feet of a Dwelling.

On June 23, a 21-year old man was shot multiple times at Eagle Park. The victim was airlifted to Tufts Medical Center in Boston and ultimately survived the incident. The suspect was identified through investigation by the LPD's Criminal Investigation Division. He was arrested on June 25 and charged with 3 counts of Armed Assault with Intent to Murder, Unlawful Carrying of a Firearm, Discharging a Firearm, and Possession of Ammunition.

On July 19, the detectives from LPD's Gang Unit were checking on a party after observing a large group of people displaying colors of several known street gangs. Detectives noticed one individual who appeared to be concealing something in his waist area. A search revealed a loaded .38 caliber revolver and several rounds of additional ammunition. The suspect was arrested on several firearm-related charges.

On August 19, LPD officers responded to a report of shots fired following convenience store robbery. Detectives from the Gang Unit identified a male that fit the description of one of the two suspects, whom they recognized as a Blood Gang member. The suspect attempted to flee and discarded a backpack as he ran from officers. The suspect was eventually apprehended and became assaultive towards the officers who were taking him into custody. A search of the discarded backpack revealed a loaded Tec-DC9 firearm with an obliterated serial number. The suspect was arrested on numerous firearm charges and one count of Assault and Battery on a Police Officer.

During a three day period from October 31 to November 2, the LPD seized five firearms and made six arrests in three unrelated incidents. Four of the firearms were possessed illegally while the fifth was used in an illegal manner. Two of the incidents involved shots being fired. One of the firearms seized was a loaded semi-automatic 9 millimeter handgun with a high capacity magazine. The suspect in possession is believed to have fired the weapon twice during the course of an altercation at a large party. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Three of the five firearms seized during a 3-day period in late October/early November

On December 10, an LPD officer conducted a traffic stop for an equipment violation. During the stop, the officer discovered the vehicle operator did not possess a driver's license and placed the individual under arrest. During the arrest, a live .40 caliber round was found in the individual's pocket. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a loaded .40 caliber handgun with an obliterated serial number in the glove box. The individual was placed under arrest on numerous firearm charges.

Violence Prevention through Youth Programs

While making arrests and seizing illegal weapons is an important part of the LPD's response to violent crime in Lowell, it is just as important to prevent crimes from happening altogether. The LPD received several grants in 2015 dedicated to violent crime prevention, especially among young people in the City. These grants focus on providing opportunities for youth that offer alternatives to gang membership and delinquent behavior. The grants also provided funding for increased police presence in areas where violent crime is high. These shifts generally focused on engaging in preventative and community-based policing methods to reduce crime and enhance relationships between the LPD and the community.

The Shannon Community Safety Initiative, funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security is geared towards providing opportunities for at-risk youth in Lowell to provide positive alternatives to gang membership and criminal activity. The grant provides a variety of after school and summer programs that offer safe and fun activities for kids to participate in when they aren't in school. It also supports numerous summer jobs through the Career Center of Lowell, giving teens a chance to earn money and develop relevant, resume-building job skills. The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) works with youth who are already gang and/or criminally involved; SSYI provides case management, counseling, education, and employment opportunities to help these youth get their lives back on track and leave crime and gang membership in their past. Finally, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant targeted the Centralville neighborhood specifically, offering a variety of opportunities to youth and families designed to reduce crime and improve quality of life in Centralville.

Chief Taylor poses for a photo with staff and youth from the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) at the Massachusetts State House during the Shannon/SSYI "Day on the Hill." The event is an opportunity for beneficiaries of these grants to advocate for the positive effects the programs are having in communities throughout the Commonwealth. UTEC is one of the LPD's biggest partners on both programs.

These grants also provide funding for the LPD to conduct overtime shifts that provide increased police presence in areas that are prone to crime. The Shannon grant funds extra patrols in areas the CAIU has identified as hot spots for violent crime. It also funds investigations conducted by the Gang Unit that help deter criminal activity carried out by the numerous gangs operating in Lowell. The BCJI grant provided funding for shifts focusing specifically on the highest crime areas of Centralville. Many of these shifts were walking or bicycle patrols and involved extensive interaction with community members. The LPD believes the increased police presence and ability to engage in community policing provided by these grants had a positive impact on public safety in 2015.

Crime in The City of Lowell

Table 1: 2014-2015 Group A NIBRS Offenses			
Group A Offenses	**2014**	**2015**	**Percent Change**
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	6	0	-100%
Kidnapping/Abduction	11	7	-36%
Forcible Rape	26	25	-4%
Forcible Sodomy	10	1	-90%
Sexual Assault With an Object	2	5	150%
Forcible Fondling	33	37	12%
Robbery	183	143	-22%
Aggravated Assault	372	249	-33%
Simple Assault	1611	1407	-13%
Intimidation	409	329	-20%
Arson	17	12	-29%
Extortion/Blackmail	9	4	-56%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	654	496	-24%
Pocket-picking	0	2	N/A
Purse snatching	6	3	-50%
Shoplifting	258	290	12%
Theft From Building	241	150	-38%
Theft from Coin Operated Machine	4	2	-50%
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	658	501	-24%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Acc.	164	186	13%
All Other Larceny	523	593	13%
Motor Vehicle Theft	312	207	-34%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	70	76	9%
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confident	107	86	-20%
Credit Card/ATM Fraud	155	158	2%
Impersonation	90	111	23%
Welfare Fraud	0	4	N/A
Wire Fraud	7	9	29%
Embezzlement	21	6	-71%
Stolen Property Offenses	59	43	-27%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1097	1057	-4%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	305	274	-10%
Drug Equipment Violations	5	0	-100%
Statutory Rape	1	4	300%
Pornography/Obscene Material	8	10	25%
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gaming	3	1	-67%
Prostitution	13	13	0%
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	28	17	-39%
Weapon Law Violations	127	145	14%
Total	**7605**	**6663**	**-12%**

Group A & Group B NIBRS Offenses

As evident by Table 1, the City of Lowell reported 6,663 Group A Offenses per NIBRS standards in 2015. Compared to 2014, Group A Offenses declined 12% in 2015. Please note that Group A Offenses include all those offenses recorded by the LPD and are the more serious crimes that occurred in the City.

The majority of the 2015 Group A NIBRS Offenses experienced decreases, in fact:

- There were no homicides in 2015;
- Robberies declined 22%;
- Aggravated assaults decreased 33%, while simple assaults declined 13%;
- Burglaries fell 24%;
- Motor vehicle theft declined 34%;
- Drug/narcotic violations decreased 10%;
- Vandalism incidents dropped 4%.

Although the majority of Group A Offenses decreased from 2014-2015, there were a few categories of note that experienced increases, specifically:

- Shoplifting increased 12%;
- All other larceny jumped 13%;
- Impersonation rose 23%;
- Weapons Law Violations increased 14%.

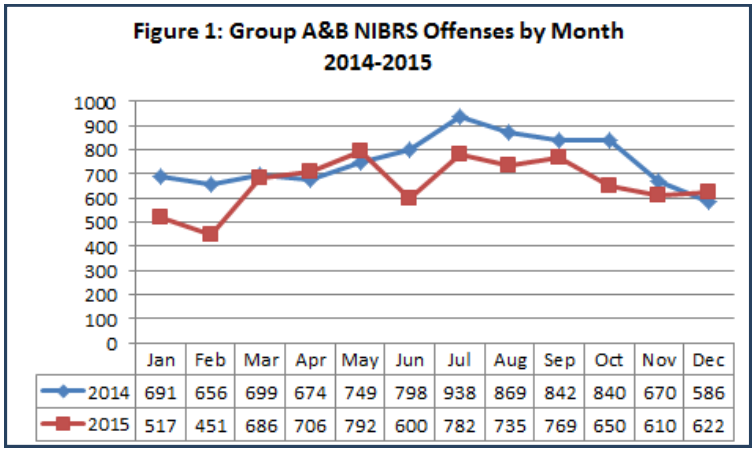
Table 2: 2014-2015 Group B NIBRS Offenses			
Group B Offenses	**2014**	**2015**	**Percent Change**
Bad Checks	0	1	N/A
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0	0	No change
Disorderly Conduct	144	139	-3%
Driving Under The Influence	60	55	-8%
Drunkenness	5	3	-40%
Family Offenses (Nonviolent)	33	26	-21%
Liquor Law Violations	36	29	-19%
Peeping Tom	0	0	No change
Runaway	0	0	No change
Trespass of Real Property	74	43	-42%
All Other Offenses	1055	1186	12%
Total	**1407**	**1482**	**5%**

Group B NIBRS Offenses include only those offenses in which an arrest was made. Group B Offenses are typically a good measure of proactive policing techniques. Group B Offenses in 2015 increased by 5% compared to 2014. As evident in Table 2, while the majority of categories recorded decreases, the offenses recorded in the all other offenses category increased 12% which contributed to the overall increase in Group B Offenses in 2015. The majority of the all other offenses were warrant arrests.

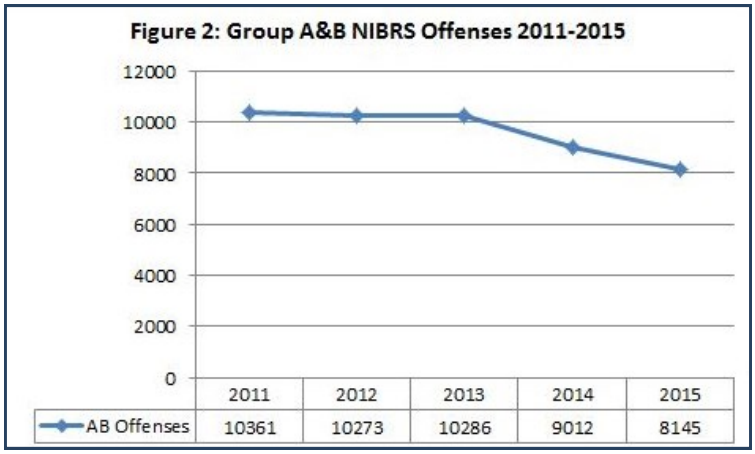
Table 3 illustrates the Group A and B NIBRS Offense totals for 2014 and 2015. Overall NIBRS Offenses declined 10% from 2014 to 2015.

Table 3: Total 2014-2015 Group A&B NIBRS Offenses				
Group A&B Offenses	**2014**	**2015**	**Frequency Change**	**Percent Change**
Group A&B Totals	**9012**	**8145**	**-867**	**-10%**

Figure 1 highlights the Group A and B NIBRS Offenses by month in 2014 and 2015. The number of crimes in 2015 at the start of the year was well-below 2014 statistics. However, crime began trending upward in April and May, followed by a sharp decline in June. In July crime increased but remained relatively stable throughout the summer months, dropping off in October. Since, crime began to trend upward, ending the year above December 2014 statistics.



NIBRS crime has steadily declined since 2013. Figure 2 illustrates Group A and B NIBRS Offenses from 2011-2015. While crime declined from 2011 to 2012, there was a slight increase in 2013. However, since 2013, NIBRS Offenses have decreased steadily in both 2014 and 2015. Comparing 2015 to 2011 data, overall NIBRS Offenses have declined 21.4 percent.



Homicide

In 2015, for the second time in four years, there were no homicides in the City of Lowell. Figure 3 illustrates the ten-year homicide trend in the City. After experiencing a particularly high number of homicides in 2006, the City has recorded 6 or less homicides in each of the following 9 years. On average, there were 3.5 homicides per year from 2007-2015.

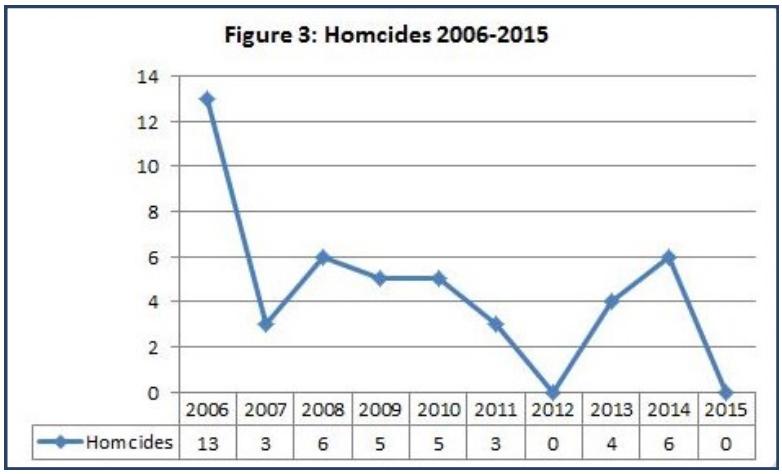


Table 4: Homicides by Weapon 2007-2015											
Type of Weapon	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	9-year average
Firearm	2	3	5	3	1	0	2	2	0	18	2
Stabbing	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	10	1.1
Other	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	4	.4
Total	**3**	**6**	**5**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**6**	**0**	**32**	**3.5**

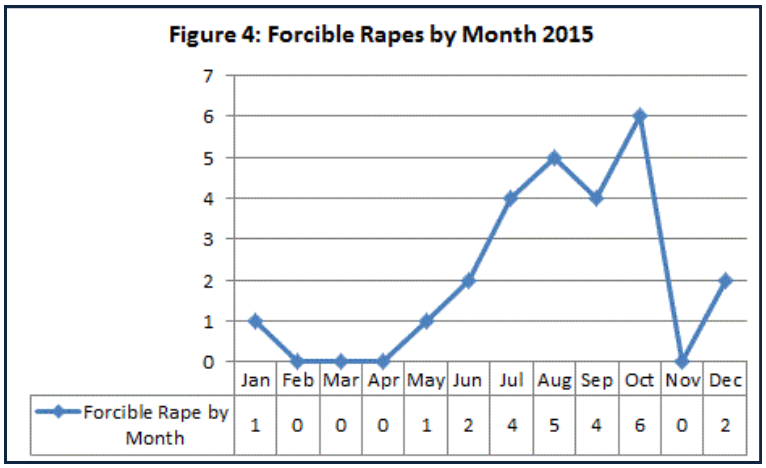
There have been 32 homicides in the City of Lowell since 2007. The majority have been committed with a firearm (18 or 56.25%), while 10 (31.25%) were the result of a stabbing, which is depicted in Table 4. Four homicides (12.50%) were committed by other means. Please note that the LPD does not have data on weapons used for 2006, which is why it is not included in Table 4.

Forcible Rape

There were 25 incidents of forcible rape in the City of Lowell in 2015, a decrease of 3.84% compared to 2014, which is evident in Table 5. The number of forcible rapes in 2015 is slightly below the three-year average of 28.

Table 5: 2013-2015 Forcible Rapes					
	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015	3-year Average
Forcible Rapes	33	26	25	-3.8%	28

Figure 4 illustrates the number of forcible rapes per month in 2015. These incidents increased steadily from April through August, before registering a slight decrease in September and peaking in October. There were a total of 26 victims in the 25 incidents reported. Ten victims were juveniles (10 or 40%), followed by age 18-27 (7 or 28%), age 25-34 (6 or 24%) and age 35-44 (3 or 12%). There were no victims over the age of 44 in 2015. The average age of forcible rape victims was 23.

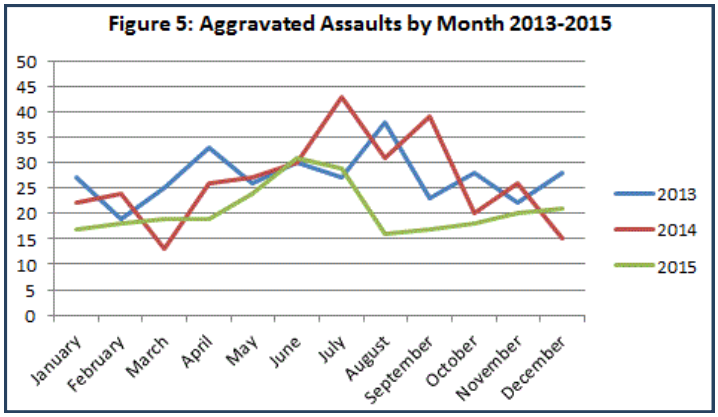


Aggravated Assaults

Table 6: 2013-2015 Aggravated Assaults by Weapon Used					
Weapon Type	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**% Change 2014-2015**	**3-year Average**
Firearm	58	60	34	-43.3%	51
Knife	118	107	104	-2.8%	110
Blunt Object	22	10	24	140%	19
Personal Weapon	64	45	56	24.4%	55
Other	47	82	31	-62.2%	53
Unknown	17	12	0	-100%	10
Total	**326**	**316**	**249**	**-21.2%**	**297**

In 2015, there were 249 aggravated assaults reported. This represents a 21.2% decrease in aggravated assaults from 2014. As illustrated by Table 6, aggravated assaults with a firearm plummeted over 43% and those with a knife declined slightly (-2.80%). Firearm-involved aggravated assaults in 2015 (34) are well-below the three-year average of 51. Assaults with a blunt object, which include clubs and hammers, increased 140% and those involving a personal weapon (hands, feet, teeth, etc.) rose 24.44%.

Of the 249 aggravated assaults that occurred in 2015, 69% (171) were cleared by either arrest or court action. Specifically, of those cleared, 76% (130) were cleared by arrest, while the remaining 24% (41) were cleared by court action. Eighty-eight (35%) of all aggravated assaults in 2015 were identified as domestic in nature.



As evident in Figure 5, aggravated assaults followed a more predictable pattern in 2015 than in the previous two years. During the colder months of 2015, aggravated assaults were at their lowest. They rose significantly from April through June, while then decreasing through August. The rate of aggravated assaults was low and fairly consistent from September through December. In 2014 and 2013 followed no discernable pattern, although similar to 2015, the lowest number of aggravated assaults typically occurred in the colder months (January-March).

Table 7 depicts the number of aggravated assaults by neighborhood. Centralville experienced the highest number of aggravated assaults with 49 (or 19.67%). Centralville was followed by the Acre (44 or 17.67%) and Downtown (37 or 14.85%). There were 310 aggravated assault victims and 305 offenders identified. The majority of victims were between the ages of 35-44 (84 or 27.09%) and 18-24 (78 or 25.16%). The majority of offenders were between the ages of 18-24 (86 or 28.19%) and 25-35 (111 or 36.39%).

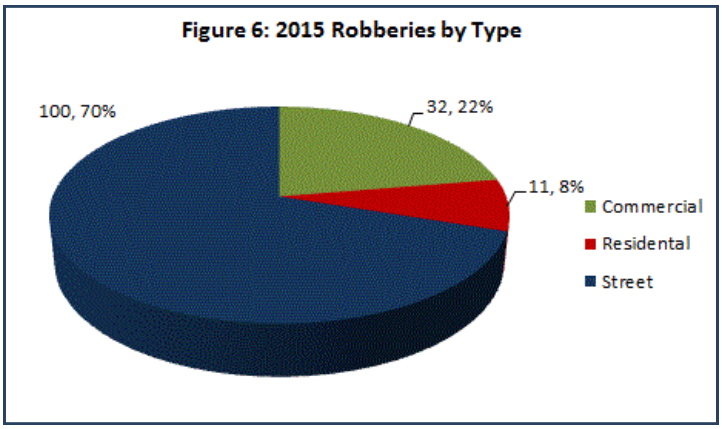
Table 7: Aggravated Assaults by Neighborhood	
Neighborhood	**Frequency**
Acre	44
Back Central	14
Belvidere	8
Centralville	49
Downtown	37
Highlands	22
Lower Belvidere	16
Lower Highlands	27
Pawtucketville	14
Sacred Heart	11
South Lowell	4
Total	**249**

Robbery

There were 143 robberies in Lowell in 2015. As evident in Table 8, this represents a 21.85% decrease in robberies in 2015 compared to 2014. Specifically, armed robberies declined 43.6% (133 incidents in 2014 vs. 75 incidents in 2015). However, unarmed robberies increased by 36% during the same time frame. Robberies involving a firearm decreased 68.6 percent. The 27 robberies involving a firearm recorded in 2015 is well-below the 3-year average of 55. Of the total robberies, 5.59% (8) were identified as drug-related. Forty two (29.37%) of the robberies were cleared by either arrest or court action. Specifically 26 (62%) were cleared through arrest and 16 (38%) were cleared through court action.

Table 8: 2013-2015 Robbery by Weapon

Weapon Type	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015	3-year Average
Firearm	52	86	27	-68.6%	55
Knife	41	33	34	3%	36
Other	24	14	14	No change	17
Unarmed	76	50	68	+36%	65
Total	**193**	**183**	**143**	**-21.9%**	**173**



As depicted in Figure 6, there were 100 street robberies, 32 commercial robberies and 11 residential robberies. Please note that a residential robbery is defined as a robbery that occurred inside a residence and does not necessarily mean an armed home invasion/forced entry into the residence. Five commercial locations experienced 2 or more incidents of robbery in 2015. There were also 3 incidents of purse snatching in Lowell this year, which are not included in the robbery totals. Robberies peaked in October 2015 (20), followed by March (16) and May and July (both recorded 15 incidents). The fewest robberies occurred in April (5), August (8) and November (9).

Table 9: Robberies by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015
Acre	30	21	-30%
Back Central	16	17	6%
Belvidere	2	1	-50%
Centralville	34	16	-53%
Downtown	14	19	36%
Highlands	19	19	No change
Lower Belvidere	13	10	-23%
Lower Highlands	34	25	-26%
Pawtucketville	8	8	No change
Sacred Heart	10	5	-50%
South Lowell	3	2	-33%

As illustrated in Table 9, In 2015, the Lower Highlands recorded the highest number of robberies in the City (25), while 21 occurred in the Acre and 19 were recorded in both the Downtown and Highlands neighborhoods. In 2014, the Lower Highlands and Centralville tied for the highest number of robberies, followed by the Acre and Highlands. All neighborhoods with the exception of Back Central and Downtown recorded reductions or experienced no change in robberies from 2014 to 2015. Centralville registered the biggest decrease (-52.94%), along with Belvidere (-50%), South Lowell (-33.33%) and the Acre (-30%).

Burglary

The City of Lowell recorded 496 burglaries in 2015, a significant 24.84% decrease from 2014. As illustrated in Table 10, forcible entries recorded the biggest decline (-33.6%) and the number of forcible entries in 2015 (243) is far below the three-year average of 359. Most burglaries in 2015 were categorized as residential (421 or 84.9%), followed by commercial (67 or 13.5%) and the remaining 8 burglaries (1.6%) occurred at a church, City building, motor vehicle, school or storage unit. In most incidents, nothing was stolen, however electronics (153 or 31%), money (41 or 8.3%) and jewelry (40 or 8.1%) were the top items stolen in 2015.

Table 10: 2013-2015 Burglary by Entry Method

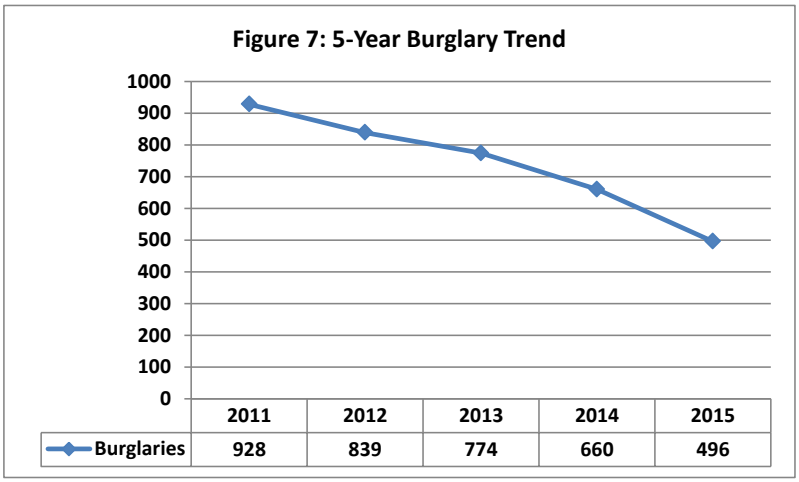
Entry Method	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015	3-year Average
Forcible Entry	467	366	243	-33.6%	359
Unlawful Entry	177	189	162	-14.3%	176
Unknown Entry	84	64	58	-9.4%	69
Attempted Breaks	46	41	33	-19.5%	40
Total	**774**	**660**	**496**	**-24.8%**	**643**

Table 11: Burglaries by Neighborhood

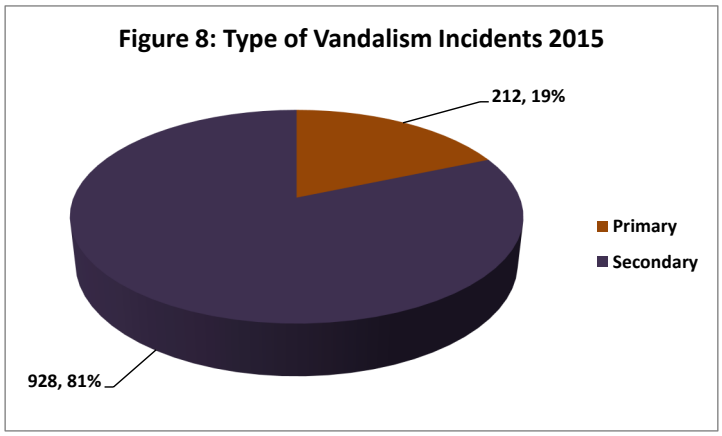
Neighborhood	2014	2015
Acre	85	63
Back Central	45	30
Belvidere	45	24
Centralville	141	91
Downtown	37	46
Highlands	89	80
Lower Belvidere	25	14
Lower Highlands	79	56
Pawtucketville	48	47
Sacred Heart	48	40
South Lowell	18	5

As illustrated in Table 11, Centralville recorded the highest number of burglaries in both 2014 and 2015. However, burglaries in Centralville declined 35.5% (141 to 91) from 2014 to 2015. In fact, burglaries in all eleven of the City's neighborhoods declined from 2014 to 2015. Burglaries in 2015 peaked in September (57). The lowest number of burglaries were recorded in January (21) and February (21). Platoon 3 (180 or 36.3%) recorded the highest number of burglaries, followed closely by Platoon 2 (177 or 35.7%). Platoon 1 accounted for 139 (28%) of the overall burglaries in 2015.

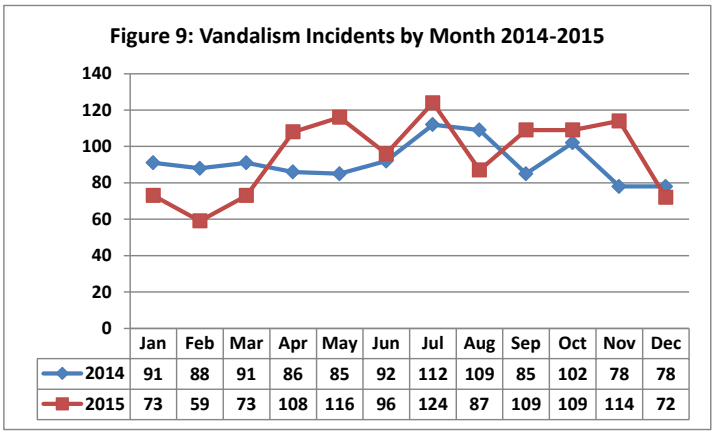
Of the 496 burglaries that occurred in 2015, the LPD was able to clear 78 by either arrest or court action. Of those cleared, 49 incidents (63%) were cleared through arrest and 29 (37%) were cleared through by court action. Two of the incidents in 2015 involved firearms that were stolen. The LPD identified 3 repeat burglary offenders. Reviewing the five-year burglary crime trend, as depicted in Figure 7, burglaries have dropped significantly from 2011 to 2015. Comparing 2011 to 2015, burglaries have dropped 46.6% and are presently well-below the five-year average of 739.



Vandalism



There were 1,140 total incidents of vandalism reported in Lowell in 2015. As illustrated in Figure 8, of the 1,140 incidents that occurred in 2015, 928 (81%) were considered primary incidents of vandalism and 212 (19%) were categorized as secondary incidents of vandalism. A primary incident of vandalism is defined as an incident that did not occur in conjunction with another crime, while a secondary vandalism incident is identified as an incident that did occur in conjunction with a crime. Overall vandalism incidents increased slightly by 3.8% from 2014 to 2015. Specifically, primary vandalism incidents decreased 4.8%, however, secondary incidents increased by 73.8 percent. There were a total of 17 tagging incidents in 2015, which is a 22.7% decline from the number of tagging incidents in 2014 (22).



In both 2014 and 2015, the highest number of vandalism incidents occurred in July, which is illustrated in Figure 9. In 2015, the first three months of the year (January-March) experienced particularly low levels of vandalism, which can undoubtedly be attributed to the high level of snowfall the City received in early 2015. Vandalism for the remainder of 2015 fluctuated throughout much of the spring and summer, however, incidents were fairly consistent through the fall, before dropping significantly in December. Incidents in 2014 were more consistent for the first 6 months of the year, before recording a spike in July and August.

As depicted in Table 12, the Acre recorded the most incidents of vandalism in 2015 (215 or 18.9%), followed by Centralville (187 or 16.4%). Conversely, in 2014, Centralville had the highest number of vandalism incidents (174 or 15.8%), followed by the Acre (165 or 15%). Six of the eleven neighborhoods recorded decreases in vandalism incidents from 2014 to 2015, including Back Central, Belvidere, Lower Belvidere, Lower Highlands, Pawtucketville and South Lowell.

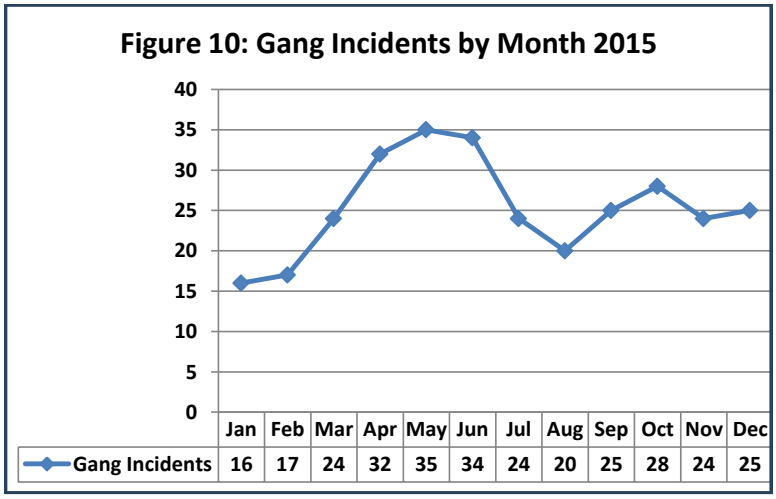
Table 12: Vandalism by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	2014	2015
Acre	165	215
Back Central	98	91
Belvidere	47	44
Centralville	174	187
Downtown	127	132
Highlands	101	110
Lower Belvidere	53	43
Lower Highlands	111	96
Pawtucketville	103	100
Sacred Heart	84	100
South Lowell	34	22

Gang Crime

Table 12: 2013-2015 Gang Crime by Category					
	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015	3-year Average
Violent	163	137	139	1.5%	146
Property	65	48	43	-10.4%	52
Other	161	116	122	5.2%	133
Total	**389**	**301**	**304**	**1%**	**643**

The City of Lowell recorded 304 gang-related crimes in 2015, just under a 1% increase from 2014 (301 incidents), which can be seen in Table 12. Similar to 2014, violent crimes accounted for the majority of gang-related crimes in 2015 (139 or 45.7%). Violent gang-related crimes increased by 1.5%, however property crimes decreased 10.4% comparing 2014 to 2015. Other crimes, which include crimes such as drug offenses, trespassing, status offenses, etc. increased 5.2%, however, in 2015 these crimes still remained below the three-year average of 133. Gang-related domestic incidents accounted for 59 (19.4%) of the gang-related crimes. There were 38 aggravated assaults (12.5%) that were deemed gang-related. Over 50% of gang-related crimes were cleared by an arrest (154), with another 125 incidents (41.1%) cleared by warrants.



As illustrated in Figure 10, there were few gang-related crimes to start 2015, however, they steadily increased for the first five months of the year, peaking in May, before declining consistently through the summer months. Surprisingly, gang-related crimes were higher in the spring months than the summer, which has historically been the busiest time for gang-related incidents. Gang crime rose from August to October, however, they remained lower than the peak experienced in the spring. There were 50 incidents of gang activity involving a firearm in 2015 and 30 firearms were recovered from a known or suspected gang member of associate in 2015.

Table 13: Gang Crime by Neighborhood		
Neighborhood	**2014**	**2015**
Acre	39	52
Back Central	29	33
Belvidere	5	7
Centralville	62	73
Downtown	25	27
Highlands	35	22
Lower Belvidere	8	6
Lower Highlands	64	42
Pawtucketville	11	18
Sacred Heart	19	23
South Lowell	4	1

Sunday was the busiest day of the week for gang-related crimes (63 or 20.7%), followed by Saturday (57 or 18.8%) and Friday (50 or 16.4%). The fewest number of incidents occurred on Mondays (29 or 9.5%3). The early night shift (Platoon 3) recorded the highest number of gang-related crimes (154 or 51.7%), followed by the late night shift (Platoon 1, 76 or 25.5%) and Platoon 2 (day shift, 68 incidents of 22.8%). Please note that in 6 of the incidents, the time was unknown. As evident in Table 13, in 2015 Centralville (73 or 24%), the Acre (52 or 17.1%) and the Lower Highlands (42 or 13.8%) recorded the highest number of gang-related crimes, similar to 2014.

Firearm Crime

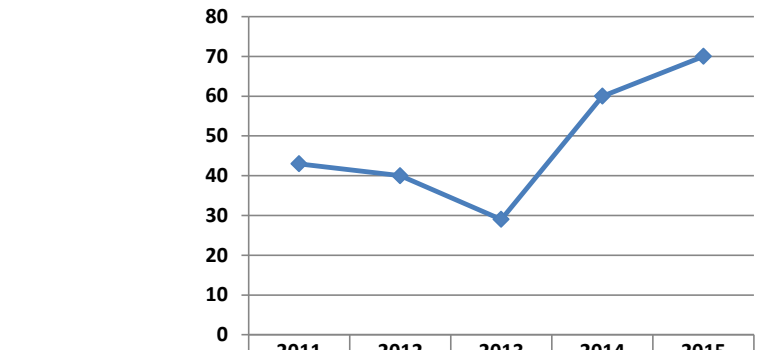
There were 141 incidents involving a firearm in the City of Lowell in 2015, a 31.9% reduction from 2014. As indicated in Table 14, with the exception of unlawful possession of a firearm and number of firearms recovered, the remaining firearm crime categories declined. Specifically, armed robberies with a firearm fell 65.5% and firearm-involved aggravated assaults decreased 22.5% from 2014 to 2015. The 4 recovered firearms in Table 14 are guns that were tossed or thrown away and cannot be tied to direct criminal charges.

Table 14: 2014-2015 Firearm Activity by

Category Type	2014	2015	% Change
Armed Robbery	84	29	-65.5%
Aggravated Assault	40	31	-22.5%
Homicide	1	0	-100%
Improper Storage	1	1	0%
Recovered Firearm	0	4	N/A
Shots Fired/Discharging	56	32	-42.9%
Unlawful Possession of a	23	44	91.3%
Unlawful Sale of a Firearm	2	0	-100%
Total	**207**	**141**	**-31.9%**

Figure 11 depicts the number of firearms recovered over the past five years. The LPD more than doubled the number of firearms recovered from 2013 to 2014 and increased the number again in 2015, removing 70 firearms, an increase of 16.7% from 2014. Of those found in possession of a firearm, 47% were suspected gang members or associates. The majority of firearms were recovered during the search of a residence (33 or 47.1%), search of a person (15 or 21.4%), found at an outside location (12 or 17.1%) or during the search of a motor vehicle (10 or 14.3%).

Figure 11: Recovered Firearms 2011-2015



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Recovered Firearms	43	40	29	60	70

Table 15: 2014-2015 CAD Shots Fired

Category Type	2014	2015	% Change
CAD Call	294	156	-46.9%
Verified/Shots Fired/ Discharge of a Firearm	77	44	-42.9%
During the Commission of Another Crime	21	11	-47.6%

There were no fatal shootings in 2015, however, there were 7 non-fatal shootings in 2015, a 53.3% decrease from 2014 (15). Of the 7 non-fatal shootings, 5 were gang-involved. In 2015, there were a total of 156 CAD calls for gun shots, resulting in 145 reports being filed by officers. Of those reports, 44 (30.3%) were verified as shots fired. Eighty percent of all firearm-involved incidents occurred during Platoon 1 and Platoon 3, demonstrating that most firearm crime occurs between 18:00 and 03:59, with the highest concentration of activity occurring on the weekends between 01:00 and 03:59.

In 2015, Centralville (26 or 18.4%) and the Lower Highlands (25 or 17.7%) experienced the highest number of firearm activity of any other neighborhoods in the City. This is a slight change from 2014, when Centralville (40 or 19.3%) and the Acre (35 or 16.9%) were the two neighborhoods that experienced the highest amount of firearm crime.

Drug Crime

Table 14: 2014-2015 Drug Arrests by Charge			
Category Type	**2014**	**2015**	**% Change**
Possession	169	152	-10.1%
Distribution/Trafficking	148	106	-28.4%
Other	12	14	16.7%
Total	**329**	**272**	**-17.3%**

There were 272 individuals arrested on drug charges in Lowell in 2015, a 17.3% decline from 2014, which is illustrated in Table 14. Of those individuals arrested on drug charges in 2015, the majority were arrested for possession (152 or 55.9%). Possession and distribution/ trafficking charges declined comparing 2014 to 2015, however, other drug charges increased 16.7% from 2014 to 2015. There were 96 arrests (35.3%) for Class B drugs, which includes cocaine, crack, OxyContin, LSD, methamphetamines, etc. and 86 arrests (31.6%) for Class A drugs (which includes heroin, morphine, Special K, GHB, etc.). In 2015, there were 8 drug arrests (2.9%) within a school zone.

Table 15: Drug Crime by Neighborhood		
Neighborhood	**2014**	**2015**
Acre	68	38
Back Central	35	25
Belvidere	4	5
Centralville	62	79
Downtown	33	39
Highlands	22	15
Lower Belvidere	13	4
Lower Highlands	56	42
Pawtucketville	11	9
Sacred Heart	17	9
South Lowell	11	7

As illustrated in Table 15, Centralville recorded the highest number of drug arrests in 2015 (79 or 29%). The number of drug arrests in Centralville from 2014 to 2015 increased 27.4 percent. Drug arrests in the Acre declined 44.1% from 2014 to 2015 and the Lower Highlands also recorded a decrease of 25% during the same time period.

The highest number of drug arrests occurred in March (33 or 12.1%), followed by October (31 or 11.4%). The lowest number of drug arrests occurred in July (13 or 4.8%) and January and April (each with 19 arrests, or 7%).

Table 16: Drug Arrests by Age	
Age	**# Arrested**
Juvenile (up to age 17)	7
18-25	95
26-30	52
31-35	41
36-40	31
41-45	10
46-50	17
Over 51	19
Total	**272**

Of the 272 individuals arrested for drug charges in 2015, 37 (13.6%) were female, while 235 (86.4%) were male. As illustrated in Table 13, the majority of individuals arrested for drug charges were White (168 or 61.8%), followed by Hispanic (63 or 23.2%). There were 13 repeat offenders in 2015. Approximately 12% of those arrested on drug charges were suspected gang members or associates.

Juvenile Crime

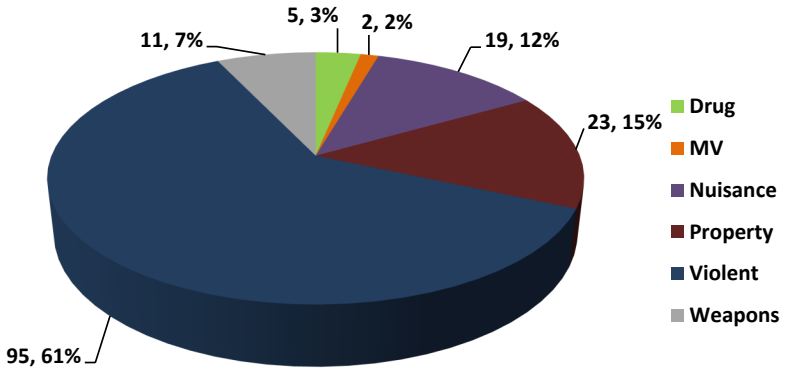
There were 195 juveniles arrested in the City in 2015. Of the 195 juveniles, 155 were arrested for crimes, while 40 were arrested on warrants. Of the 155 arrested for various crimes, 95 (61.3%) were arrested for a violent crime, which can be seen in Figure 12. The second leading category of juvenile arrests was property crime (23 incidents or 14.8%). Table 16 illustrates the juvenile arrests in 2015 by specific crime category. Forty-six (29.7%) juveniles were arrested for a simple assault, while 43 (27.7%) were arrested for an aggravated assault. The third highest category was disorderly/disturbing with 18 arrests (11.6%). Centralville accounted for the highest number of juvenile arrests (36 or 18.5%), followed by the Acre (31 or 15.9%) and Downtown (26 or 13.3%).

Most juvenile arrestees were males (134 or 68.7%). Of the 2015 juvenile arrestees, 94 (48.2%) were White, 68 were Hispanic (34.9%), while 20 (10.3%) were Black and 13 (6.7%) were Asian.

Table 16: Juvenile Arrests by Crime Category

Crime Category	Arrests
Aggravated Assault	43
Burglary	1
Car Break	1
Disorderly/Disturbing	18
Drug Offense	5
Larceny	1
MV Violations	2
Rape	2
Robbery	4
Shoplifting	6
Simple Assault	46
Stolen Property Offenses	7
Trespassing	2
Vandalism	6
Weapons Offense	11
Total	**155**
Warrant	**40**

Figure 12: Juvenile Arrests by Crime Type 2015



School Crime (2014-15 School Year)

There were a total of 193 incidents reported to the LPD from the public schools in Lowell during the 2014-2015 school year. Of the 193 incidents, 39 resulted in arrest. As illustrated in Table 17, there were 64 (33.2%) violent crimes reported, 53 (27.5%) property crimes and 37 (19.2%) nuisance crimes. Most of the incidents were reported from the Lowell High School (55 or 28.5%), followed by the Butler School (24 or 12.4%) and the Career Academy (18 or 9.3%).

Table 17: 2014-2015 School Year Incidents at Public Schools

Incident Type	Incidents
Drug Offense	3
Nuisance Crime	37
Property Crime	53
Status Offense	17
Violent Crime	64
Warrant	4
Weapons Offense	15
Total	**193**

Domestic Violence

There were 3,179 domestic incidents in the City of Lowell in 2015. As evident in Figure 13, the majority of these incidents were categorized as disputes (1,886 or 59.3%). The second most prevalent domestic-related incident were simple assaults (850 or 26.7%). There were a total of 129 violations of a restraining order recorded in 2015.

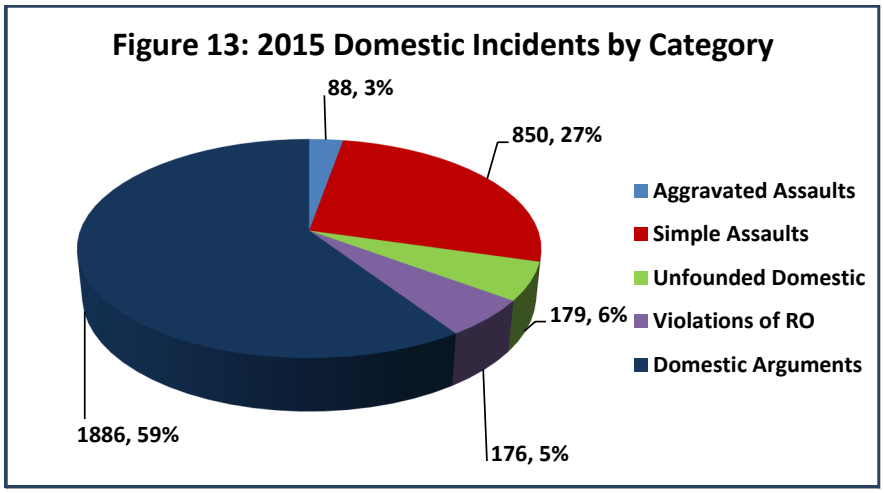


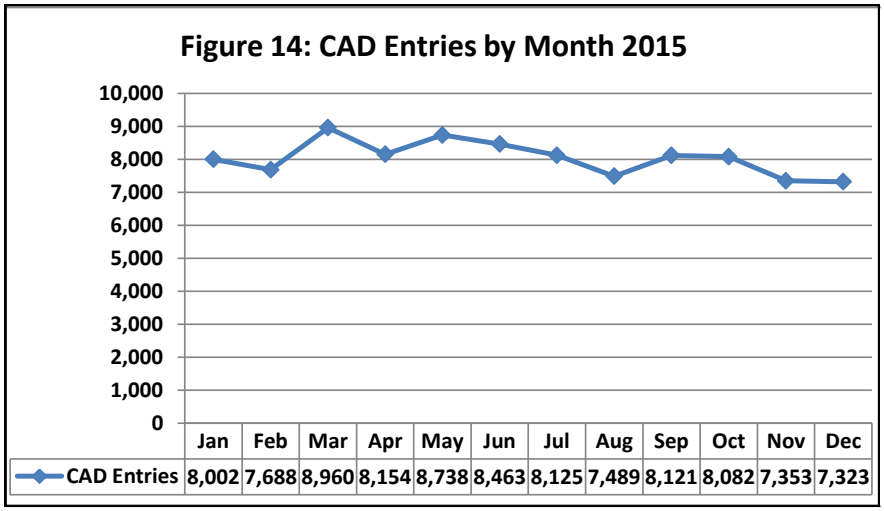
Table 18: 2014-15 Domestic Assaults			
	2014	2015	% Change
Simple	888	850	-4.3%
Aggravated	113	88	-22.1%
Total	**1001**	**938**	**-6.29%**

There were 938 domestic assaults in 2015, with 850 (91%) identified as simple assaults and 88 (or 9%) classified as aggravated assaults. Of the 88 aggravated assaults, 72% (64) were cleared by arrest, while 22% (19) were cleared by court action. Over 97% (829) of the simple assaults were cleared, with 66.82% (568) cleared through arrest and 31% (261) cleared by court action. Both aggravated and simple assaults declined from 2014, with aggravated assaults dropping by 22 percent.

Of the 88 aggravated assaults, 37 (42%) involved a knife or cutting instrument, while 21 (24%) involved hands, fist or feet and in 20 incidents (23%) the weapon was categorized as other. Finally, in 5 incidents (6%), a firearm was used and in 5 incidents (6%), a blunt object was utilized.

CAD Entries

The LPD uses a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to dispatch officers to handle any situations that arise. This includes both calls for service from residents and officer-initiated calls. There were a total of 96,680 CAD entries, a 7.2% decrease from the number of CAD entries in 2014 (104,219). The majority of CAD entries were traffic and motor vehicle charges (17,339 or 17.9%), medical related (16,702 or 17.3%), followed by proactive policing (10,535 or 10.9%) and accidents (5,357 or 5.5%).



CAD entries in Sectors A and B were very similar, with Sector A recording 43,990 (45.50%) entries and Sector recording 44,389 (45.9%) CAD entries. There were 306 (3.2%) CAD entries that were unknown and 7,995 (8.3%) did not require the dispatch of an LPD officer. Figure 14 breaks down the total number of CAD entries by month in 2015. The number of CAD entries remained relatively consistent throughout the year. There was a slight spike in March and a small drop in August.

Departmental Overview

Family Services Unit

City officials, including several LPD officers, and members of the community gather at City Hall for the annual White Ribbon Day in March. White Ribbon Day is an opportunity for men to pledge to be a part of the solution for ending violence against women and all gender-based violence.

The Family Services Unit (FSU) is responsible for combating domestic violence in the City of Lowell. The Unit provides support and assistance to victims of domestic violence and their families. Civilian staff members help victims access services from local community organizations and assist them through any necessary court proceedings. FSU detectives investigate domestic violence incidents, in addition to tracking juvenile crime, crimes against the elderly, missing and runaway youth, and sexual assaults. The FSU also participates in the Greater Lowell Evaluation and Advocacy Network (GLEAN), which is comprised of numerous agencies dedicated to ending domestic violence. GLEAN meets once a month to evaluate recent domestic violence cases and identify those that have a high risk of leading to lethal violence. These cases are prioritized, with the offender being targeted for arrested and prosecution and the victim given access to vital services.

The FSU also participates in numerous community meetings and events. In 2015, these included:

- White Ribbon Day at City Hall
- National Night Out
- Bike Safety Rodeo
- LPD Station tours for newly arrived immigrants

The Family Services Unit can be contacted at (978) 674-4502. Residents are encouraged to contact the FSU if they, or someone they know, has experienced domestic violence and is in need of services, including emergency shelter or assistance with obtaining a restraining order.

Records Bureau

The Records Bureau handles all incident reports, subpoenas, and accident reports. They collect, organize, input and maintain all written reports, including incident, arrest, missing person, and stolen motor vehicle reports. In 2015, the Records Bureau handled over 19,000 reports. The Records Bureau also handles all restraining orders and other court-related paperwork. They devote a significant portion of their time to responding to public requests for information and answering questions from citizens. The Records Bureau can be contacted at (978) 674-4508.

Professional Standards Division

The Lowell Police Department's Professional Standards Division investigates all complaints made toward individual officers and internal investigations within the department.

There were 62 investigations in 2015. Of the 62 complaints received, 11 had multiple officers listed for a total of 77 officers complained against. The most common type of complaint was rudeness (28, or 36%). Misconduct accounted for 22 (29%) of the complaints, internal complaints accounted for 12 (16%), excessive force accounted for 12 (16%), and harassment accounted for 3 (4%) of complaints.

Of the complaints against officers:

- 14 were unfounded (allegations were baseless and without foundation)
- 29 were exonerated
- 21 were not sustained (inadequate or lack of evidence)
- 6 were sustained (the accused committed all of the alleged acts)
- 1 was justified
- 2 resulted in misconduct noted
- 2 were administratively closed
- 9 were incomplete and still being investigated as of December 31, 2015.

As shown in Table 19, There were 174 resisting arrest incidents, an 8% increase from 2012. There were 284 use of force reports filed by LPD officers in 2015. This is a 52% increase from 2014. The increase in use of force reports is due to a policy change that took place in 2015. Previously, 1 use of force report was required for each incident that involved a use of force in order to take a subject into custody. Starting in 2015, the department began requiring a use of force report from each officer involved in an incident that involved the use of force, leading to the significant increase in use of force reports from 2014 to 2015.

Table 19: Use of Force and Resisting Arrest

	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015	3 Year Avg.
Use of Force	200	187	284	52%	224
Resisting Arrest	183	189	174	-8%	182

Police Prosecutor's Office

The Police Prosecutor is responsible for preparing all court documents. He attends pretrial conferences and hearings, issues court notifications and cancellations, and screens all requests for warrants, summonses, and hearings.

In 2015, the Police Prosecutor's Office issued 4,921 court notifications, attended 782 clerk magistrate hearings, and attended 110 juvenile magistrate hearings.

Firearms and Licensing

The Firearms and Licensing detective issues temporary and permanent licenses for firearm permits, firearm identification cards, taxi and livery licenses, and permits for raffles, peddlers and hawkers. The Licensing Bureau also does fingerprinting for citizens. In 2015, 264 licenses to carry firearms were issued or renewed.

The Licensing Bureau does taxi licenses and fingerprinting on Tuesdays. Applications for peddler licenses, ice cream vendor licenses, and raffle and bazaar licenses are accepted on a rolling basis. Firearm permits are done by appointment Monday through Thursday. Applications for firearm permits include a meeting, fingerprints, payment, a photo, criminal background check and mental health background check. The Licensing Bureau can be contacted at 978-674-1879.

Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit

The Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit (CAIU) collects, tracks, and analyzes all crime data from the City of Lowell. They use data to identify crime trends, locate hot spots, and uncover the underlying drivers of crime in the City. They also create intelligence bulletins on topics such as gangs, domestic violence, and officer safety information, which are disseminated throughout the department to ensure all officers are aware of this vital information.

The CAIU is vital to the LPD's bi-weekly COMPSTAT meetings, which keep all commanding officers up to date on crime issues throughout Lowell. At the meetings, crime from the most recent two week period is compared to the previous two weeks and the same two week period from the previous year. This allows commanding officers to review both short term and long term crime trends and adjust deployment strategies accordingly. The CAIU is instrumental in preparing crime data for presentation at COMPSTAT meetings.

In 2015, the CAIU was decentralized as the final phase of a departmental reorganization that began in 2014. The purpose of the change was to improve the department's ability to engage in problem-oriented policing. Each of the two sectors created by the reorganization now have two Analysts dedicated to tracking crime trends. Sector Captains, Lieutenants, and District Response Teams work closely with the Analysts to identify crime hot spots, recognize trends, and understand the underlying causes of crime in particular places. This allows sector Captains a greater ability to tailor their response to particular issues based on a deeper understanding of what is causing them. This is helping the department ensure it is allocating its resources effectively and maximizing its impact on public safety throughout the City.

Lowell Police Academy

The Lowell Police Academy is a 24 week program that stresses the fundamentals of being a patrol officer. In order to be awarded a diploma, each cadet must demonstrate the required knowledge, skills, and abilities in each of the program's four major components:

- Community—focuses on problem solving and crisis intervention.
- Law—classes are taught in criminal, constitution, motor vehicle, juvenile, elder and civil law.
- Tactics—concentrates on patrol procedures, how to drive emergency vehicles, how to subdue, restrain and handcuff a suspect, and how to use a firearm.
- Officer—focuses on ethics, health and wellness, and physical training.

More than 60 Massachusetts police agencies have sent officers to the Lowell Police Academy over the years, including most local departments in Northeastern Massachusetts. In 2015, 49 cadets graduated the Academy. The LPD welcomed 13 of those graduates to its force in 2015. Other graduates joined several other local departments.

The 13 graduates of the Lowell Police Academy who joined the LPD in 2015 pictured with Chief Taylor and several other members of the LPD's Command Staff and Academy leadership.

Detention Section

The Detention Section is responsible for processing all offenders arrested each day within the City of Lowell. They fingerprint and photograph each arrestee and record a detailed property inventory of all individuals in custody. The Detention staff also works with the Criminal Investigation Section to run fingerprints to eliminate potential suspects. Additionally, Detention Attendants are required to fingerprint all sex offenders that come to the LPD to update their registration information.

In 2015, a total of 3,756 people were booked by the Detention Section. This represents a 1.4% decrease from 2014, during which 3,810 people were booked.

Contacting the LPD

Non-emergency .....(978) 937-3200

Crime Stoppers Tip Line ..... (978) 459-8477

Family Services Unit ..... (978) 674-4502

Records ..... (978) 674-4508

Professional Standards ..... (978) 674-4507

Licensing ..... (978) 674-1879

Traffic Division ..... (978) 674-4505

In case of an emergency, always dial 911.

In addition to the phone numbers listed above, the LPD can be contacted through its **MyPD** smart phone application. Just download the free application and select the "**Lowell Police Department**" as your default police department. The application allows you to keep up with the latest news and alerts from the LPD, submit tips which can include uploaded photos and GPS location, or commend an officer.

You can also follow the LPD's social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

DEDICATION

The 2015 Annual Report is dedicated to those officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting the citizens of Lowell.

Patrick F. Leavitt

December 18th, 1941

George F. Pearsall

April 24th, 1957

John Joseph Winn

May 3rd, 1971

Christos G. Rouses

November 17th, 1978