

Accountability on the Road

Law Enforcement's Role in Reducing Reckless Driving Harm

Milwaukee Police Department
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow
6 Month Update



Reckless Driving

Full Year Reckless Driving

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-25 % Change
CAD Calls – Reckless Vehicle	2,175	2,072	1,618	1,290	975	985	1%
Arrests	613	741	711	831	734	1,046	43%
Reckless Driving Citations (346.62)	499	390	503	660	636	558	-12%
Reckless Driving Citations with Speeding	22,384	31,472	16,740	14,575	12,543	12,587	0%

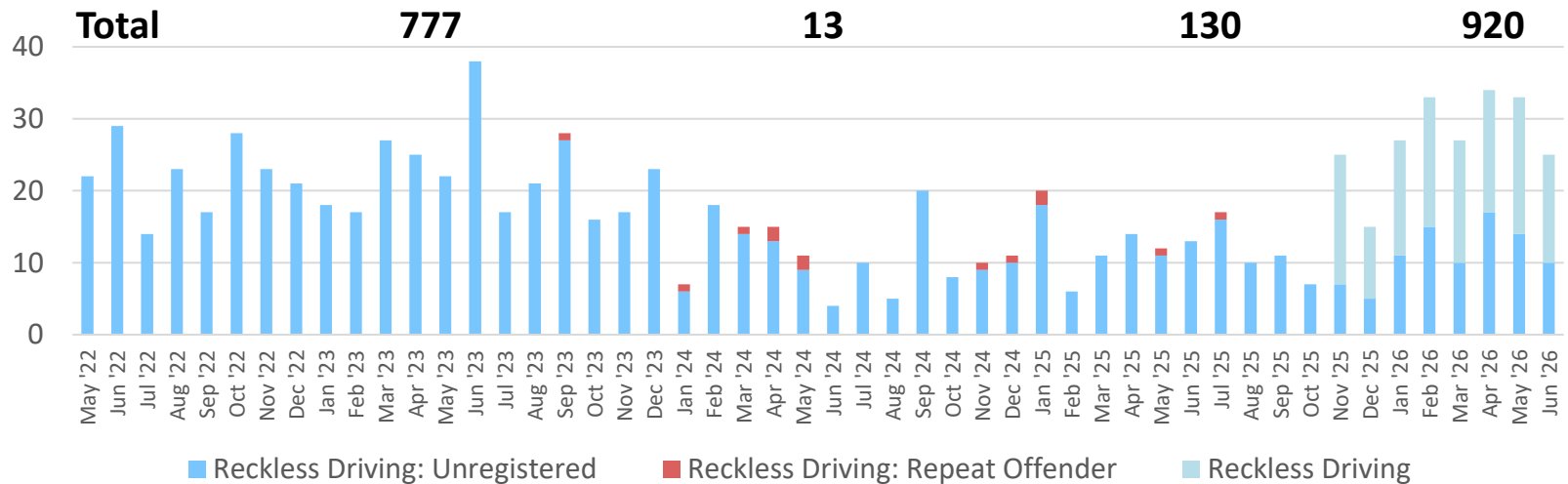
YTD Reckless Driving | January 1 - June 30

Category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2025-26 % Change
CAD Calls – Reckless Vehicle	1,085	978	725	473	527	335	-36%
Arrests	336	374	389	392	536	504	-6%
Reckless Driving Citations (346.62)	189	202	385	301	310	212	-32%
Reckless Driving Citations with Speeding	19,478	8,739	7,665	6,551	6,819	6,672	-2%

Calls for service was obtained from Tiburon and Hexagon Computer Aided Dispatched (CAD) systems and counts distinct calls for the time period of January 1, 2020- June 30, 2026. Arrest data was obtained from Central Square Inform Jail and counts distinct arrests for the same time period. Citation data was obtained from the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) 10 system and counts distinct citations for the same time period. Reckless driving citations include "346.04(2)", "346.46(1)", "346.04(2t)", "346.04(3)", "346.34(1)(a)(3)", "346.37", "346.57", "346.57(2)", "346.57(3)", "346.59", "346.62", "346.94(2)", "346.89", "346.39(1)", "346.94(1)", "346.94(12)", "346.57(4)", "346.57(5)". Arrests use the citations "346.46(1)", "346.04(2)", "346.57", "346.04(3)", "346.62(2)", "346.94(12)", "346.89(1)", "346.39(1)", "346.04(2t)", "346.62(4)", "346.94(2)", "346.62(3)", "346.59(1)", "346.94(1)", "346.89(3)(a)", "346.89(5)".

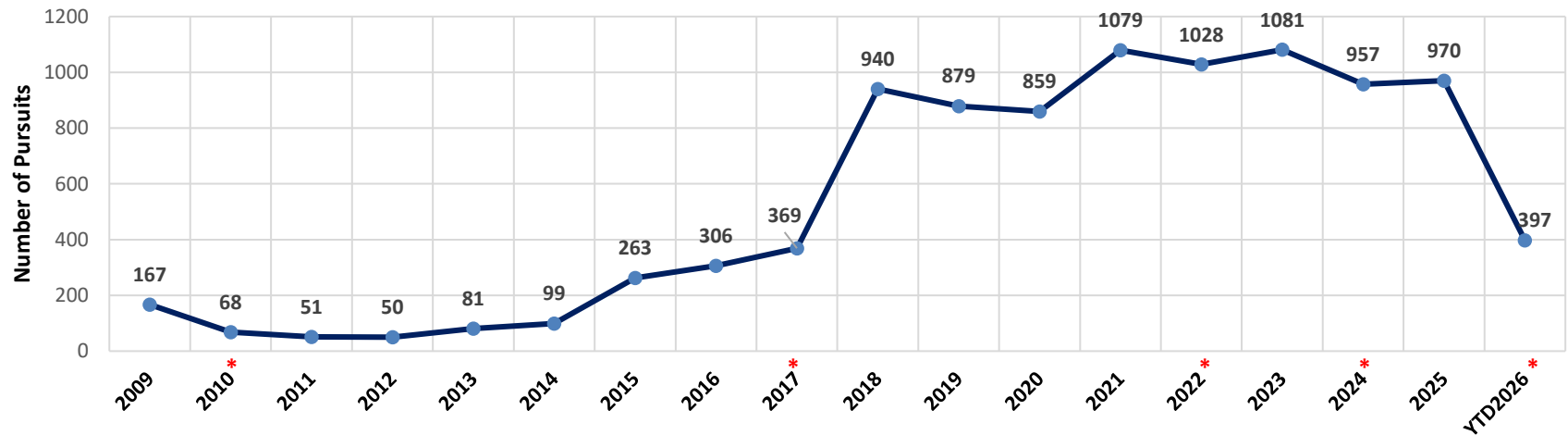
Reckless Driving Vehicle Tows

Year	Reckless Driving: Unregistered Start Date: May 1, 2022	Reckless Driving: Repeat Offender Active Dates: Jun. 2, 2023–Nov. 4, 2025	Reckless Driving Start Date: Nov. 5, 2025	Total
2022	177	-	-	177
2023	268	1	-	269
2024	126	8	-	134
2025	129	4	28	161
2026 YTD	77	-	102	179

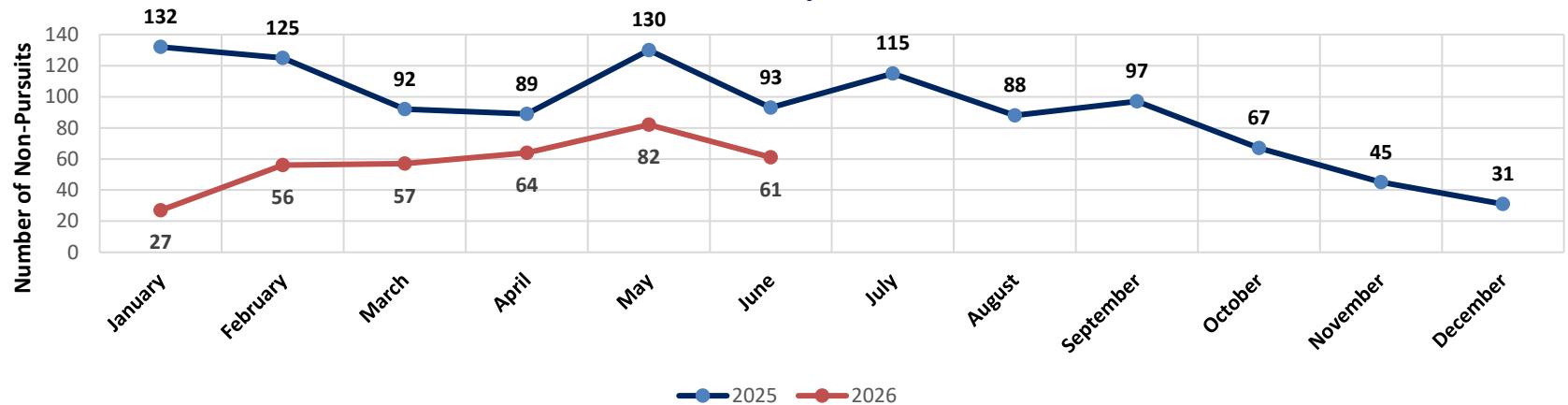


Vehicle Pursuits (2009-YTD2026)

Total Number of Vehicle Purusits per year



Non-Pursuits per month



Years with * reflect a pursuit policy change.

Reason

Reason	2025	2026	2025-26 % Change
Traffic Offense – Reckless Vehicle	388	309	-20%
Wanted (Felony Crime)	0	59	N/A
Violent Felony	105	10	-90%
Drug Offense	8	10	25%
Refusal to Stop	8	7	-13%
Misdemeanor Offense	0	2	N/A
Warrant	2	0	-100%
Non-Violent Felony	10	0	-100%
Total	521	397	-24%

Outcome

Outcome	2025	2026	2025-26 % Change
Terminated – Violator Stopped	128	120	-6%
Terminated – Crash	129	102	-21%
Terminated – By Law Enforcement	141	91	-35%
Violator Escape	109	84	-23%
Violator Vehicle Failure	14	0	-100%
Total	521	397	-24%

Arrests/Charges

Charge Category	2025	2026	2025-26 % Change
Resisting/Obstructing	238	195	-18%
Fleeing/Eluding	247	192	-22%
Reckless Endangering Safety	214	164	-23%
Drug Related Charges	122	126	3%
Operate w/o Consent	146	107	-27%
All Other Charges	80	70	-13%
Weapon Related Charges	106	63	-41%
Traffic Related Charges	54	40	-26%
Probation/Parole	41	35	-15%
Total	388	300	-23%

Crashes & Fatalities

Full Year Crashes

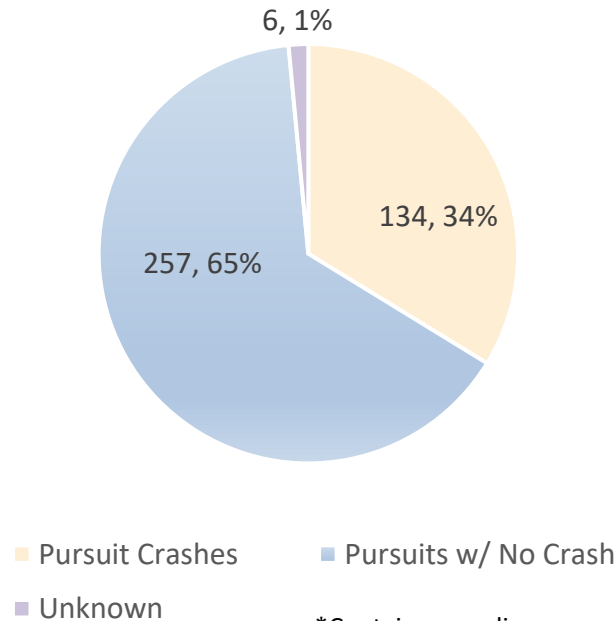
Crash Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-25 % Change
Fatal Injuries	78	66	77	74	66	55	-17%
<i>Reckless Fatal Injuries</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>28</i>	-33%
Crashes	70	61	72	66	57	48	-16%
Hit & Run Crashes	6,081	7,124	5,897	5,407	5,409	5,455	1%
Overall Crashes	16,139	17,478	15,263	14,482	14,318	14,319	0%

Year-to-Date Crashes | January 1 – June 30

Crash Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2025-26 % Change
Fatal Injuries	31	30	43	36	18	15	-17%
<i>Reckless Fatal Injuries</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>7</i>	-36%
Crashes	28	29	37	29	17	14	-18%
Hit & Run Crashes	3,701	3,001	2,638	2,705	2,616	2,693	3%
Overall Crashes	8,987	7,607	7,046	7,127	6,850	7,475	9%

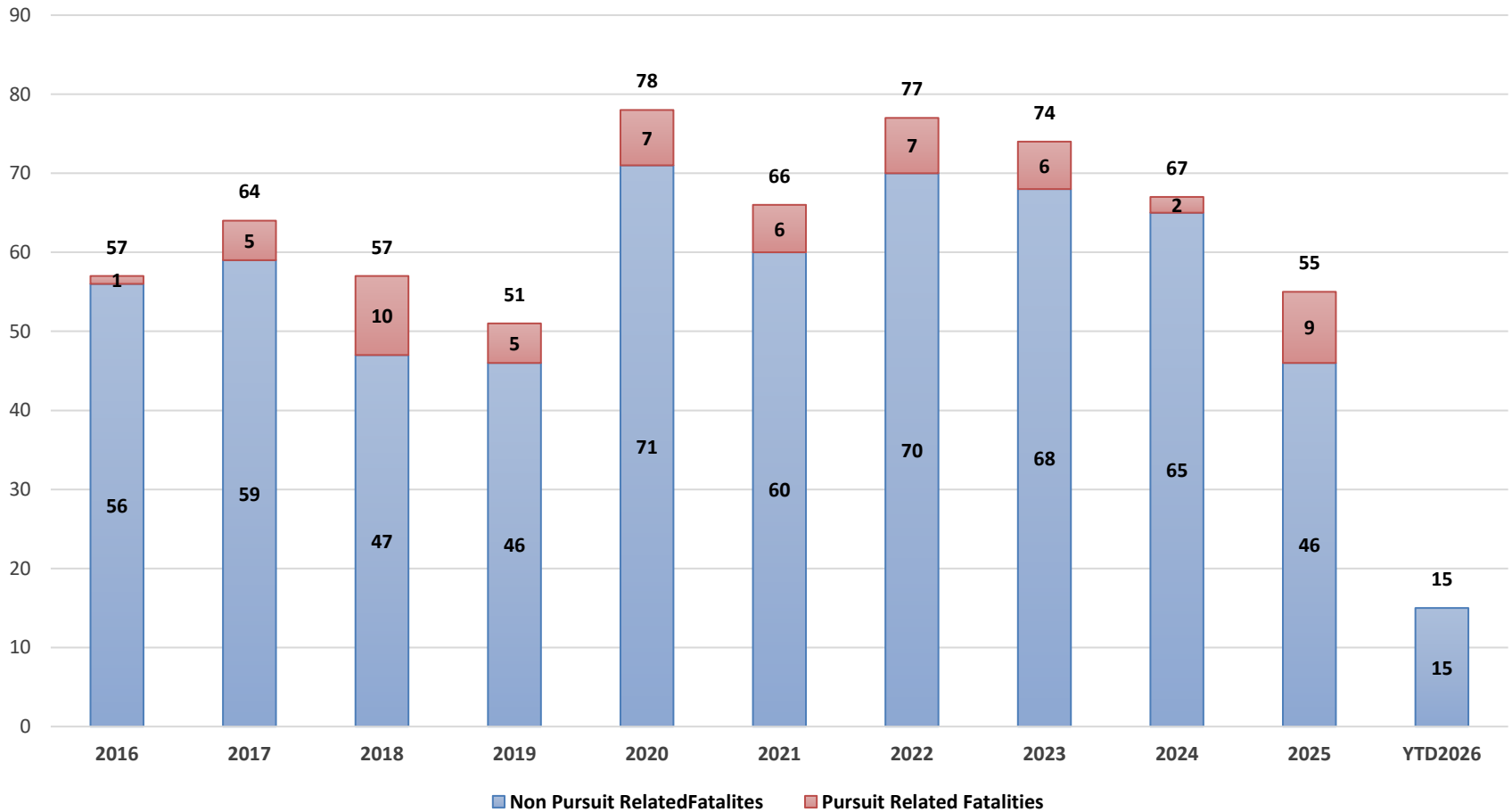
YTD2026 Pursuit Crashes & Injuries

Pursuit Crashes in 2026*



- 52 incidents involved a subject who was injured
 - Of all incidents, 4% (14) involved bystanders (3rd party) that were injured in 2026
 - 64% (9) of those incidents were initiated due to reckless driving.
 - 8 members were injured in vehicle pursuits this year (7 incidents)
 - One incidents had two different members injured.
 - There were 0 incidents involving fatalities
-
- 34% (134) of incidents involved a crash
 - 72% (97) of vehicles were pursued for reckless driving and 17% (23) for wanted violent felony

Fatalities / Pursuit Related Fatalities



YTD2026 Summary of Findings



AVERAGE PURSUIT
DISTANCE WAS 3.58 MILES
IN 2026, COMPARED TO 4.04
MILES IN 2025.



AVERAGE PURSUIT LASTED 4
MINUTES AND 35 SECONDS,
COMPARED TO 4 MINUTES
AND 45 SECONDS IN 2025.



AVERAGE MAXIMUM
PURSUIT SPEED WAS 80.79
MPH IN 2026, COMPARED
TO 85.69 MPH IN 2025

- Average age of a pursuit driver was **27** years old
- 5 subjects were involved in two or more vehicle pursuit incidents (11)
- 1 subject (20%) was 17 yoa and younger
- Of those incidents 64% (7) were for reckless driving and 36% (4) were wanted (felony crime)

Dashboards

Milwaukee Police Department

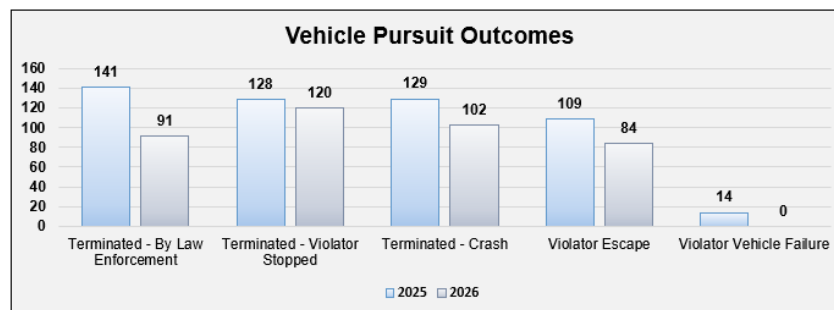
Vehicle Pursuit Report January 1 – June 30, 2025/2026



Reason for Pursuit

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Pursuit Outcome



Data was obtained from the Milwaukee Police Department Internal Affairs Division and counts distinct incidents for the time period of January 1 – June 30, 2025/2026

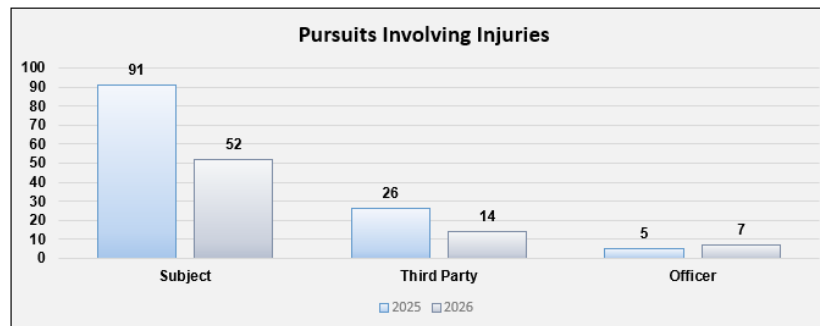
Dashboards

Milwaukee Police Department

Vehicle Pursuit Report January 1 – June 30, 2025/2026



Vehicle Pursuit Injuries & Crashes



*Counts distinct vehicle pursuit incidents involving injury

- 34% (134) of vehicle pursuits involved a crash compared to 33% (173) in 2025.
- In 2026 there was 0 pursuit incidents involving fatalities compared to 1 pursuit incident involving 2 fatalities in 2025.

Current Vehicle Pursuit Policy

- Members may initiate a vehicle pursuit for either (1) reckless driving observed by the member prior to the initiation of a traffic stop or (2) if the suspect vehicle flees while driving in a reckless manner after an attempted traffic stop for any state law or ordinance violation. However, vehicle speed in and of itself is not enough for a member to initiate a vehicle pursuit for reckless driving for either (1) or (2). Members shall also have at least one of the following, but not limited to, factors present to initiate a vehicle pursuit for reckless driving (e.g., behaviors that show substantial and unreasonable risk of death or great bodily harm to another beyond just speeding): 1. Collisions with other vehicles or objects; 2. Forcing other vehicles to take evasive action to avoid collision; 3. Failure to stop at controlled intersections without slowing or stopping.
- The complete Milwaukee Police Department vehicle pursuit policy can be located at <https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/mpdAuthors/SOP/660-VEHICLEPURSUITSANDEMERGENCYVEHICLEOPERATIONS1.pdf>

Questions?

