



**2020**

# **PURSUIT REVIEW**



**Bloomfield Township Police Department**  
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## OVERVIEW:

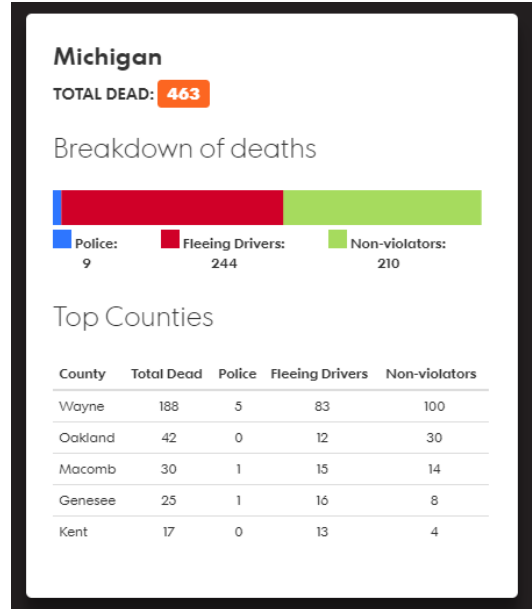
The information in this report is obtained by reviewing police reports, conducting officer debriefings, and reviewing dash cam video/audio recordings of our police pursuits. All written reports and camera reviews are conducted to verify compliance with department policy.

A vehicular pursuit is defined by our policy as, **“An attempt by a police officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend the occupants of another moving vehicle; provided, the driver of such vehicle is aware of the attempt and is resisting apprehension by maintaining or increasing the speed of his/her vehicle, and by ignoring the officer's direction to stop.”**

On an annual basis, the Bloomfield Township Police Department reviews and analyzes the pursuit policy and the data collected from each pursuit occurrence. The information gathered during the analysis assists with policy review, changes, implementation, and departmental training.

In accordance with Bloomfield Township Policy 2.03c, a vehicular pursuit may be initiated if both of the following criteria are met:

1. The suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by using a vehicle to flee or refuses to stop at the direction of a police officer.
- AND
2. The officer reasonably believes that the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

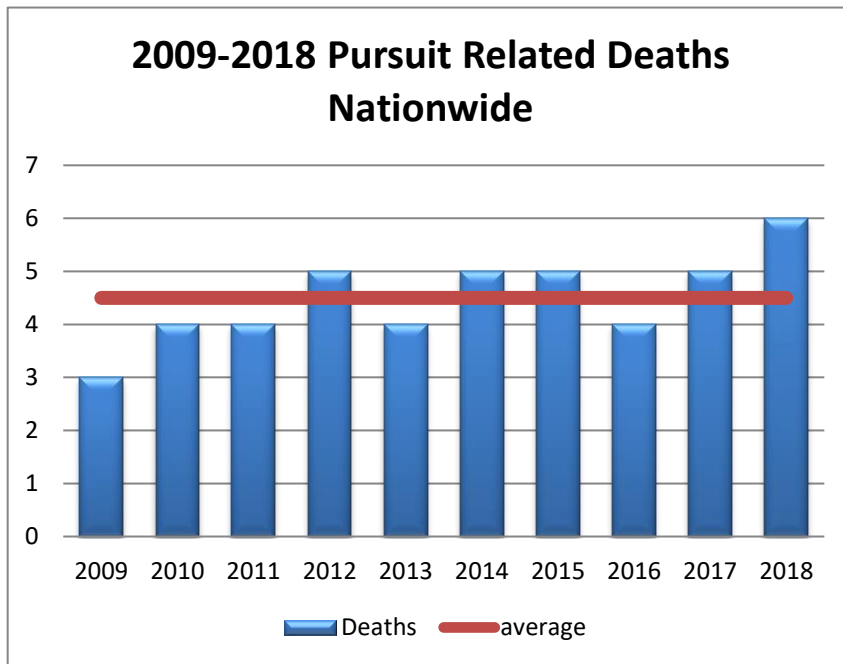


## NATIONWIDE STATISTICS:

According to statistics from the Page (Officer Down Memorial Page, were killed as a result of vehicular

Over the past 10 years, averages of killed in pursuit related police 150 officers have been killed while

Across the country nearly everyday high speed chase between police The Michigan breakdown from is represented in the graph to the than 5000 people innocent passengers have been killed as a (Frank, 2015).



Officer Down Memorial 2018), in 2018, 6 officers pursuits.

4.5 officers have been activities. Overall, nearly engaged in a pursuit.

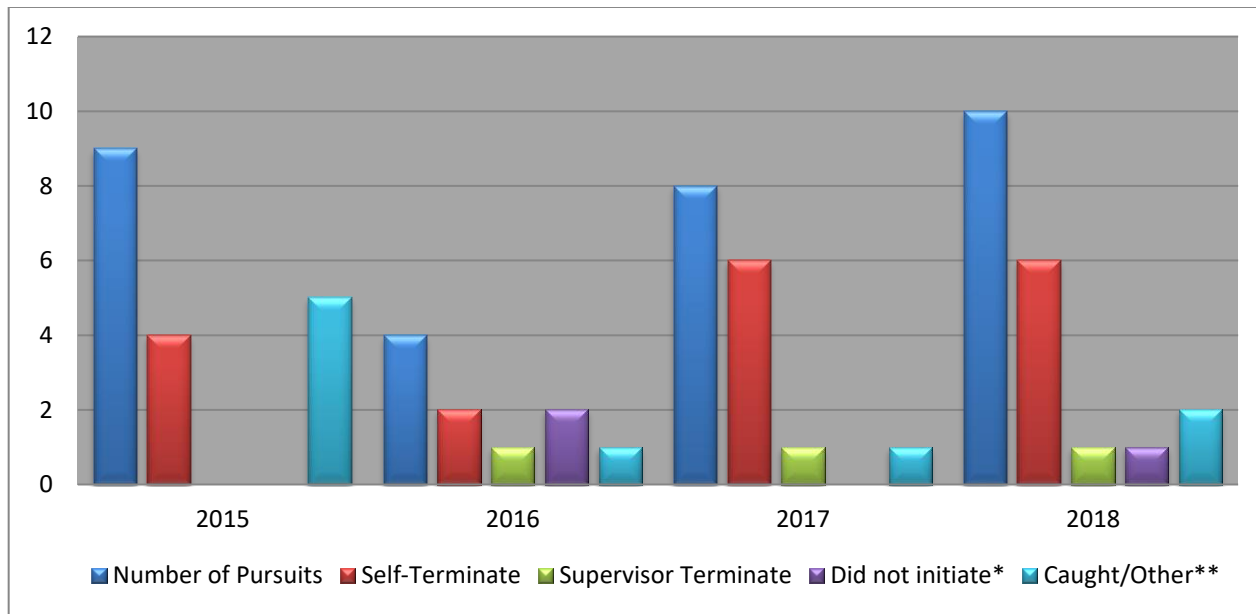
someone is killed during a and fleeing suspects. 1979-2015 (Frank, 2015) right. Since 1979, more bystanders and result of police pursuits

The Bloomfield Township Police Department recognizes the dangers of police pursuits to all parties involved and innocent bystanders. Our Pursuit Policy states, ***“A vehicular pursuit should be attempted only when, in the judgment of the officer, the danger created by the possible escape of the fleeing suspect outweighs the danger created by the vehicular pursuit, and no reasonable alternative exists.”***

## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP STATISTICS

In 2018, Bloomfield Township police officers were involved in 10 police pursuits. Traffic violations were the primary reason for initiating pursuits. Of the 10 pursuits, seven of them were terminated by the officer immediately, one was not initiated when the traffic violator fled the scene, one was terminated by a supervisor, one was determined to be a medical emergency, and one fled into a subdivision and ran on foot from the scene.

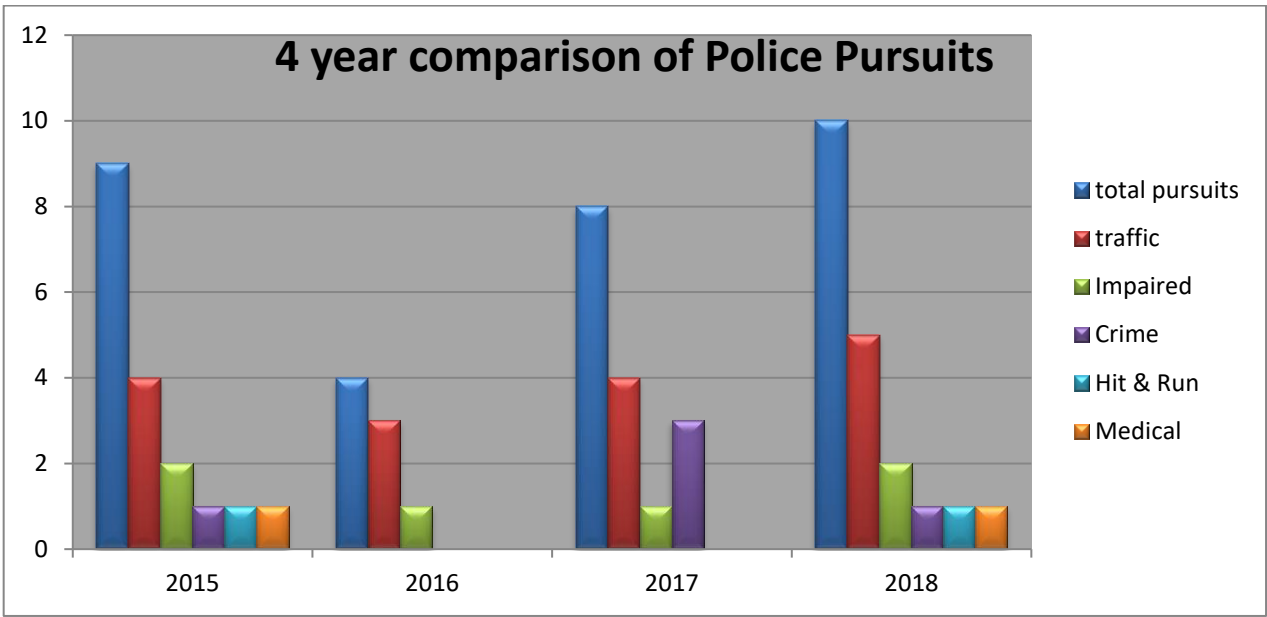
The following graph shows how the decision was made to engage or terminate the police pursuit.



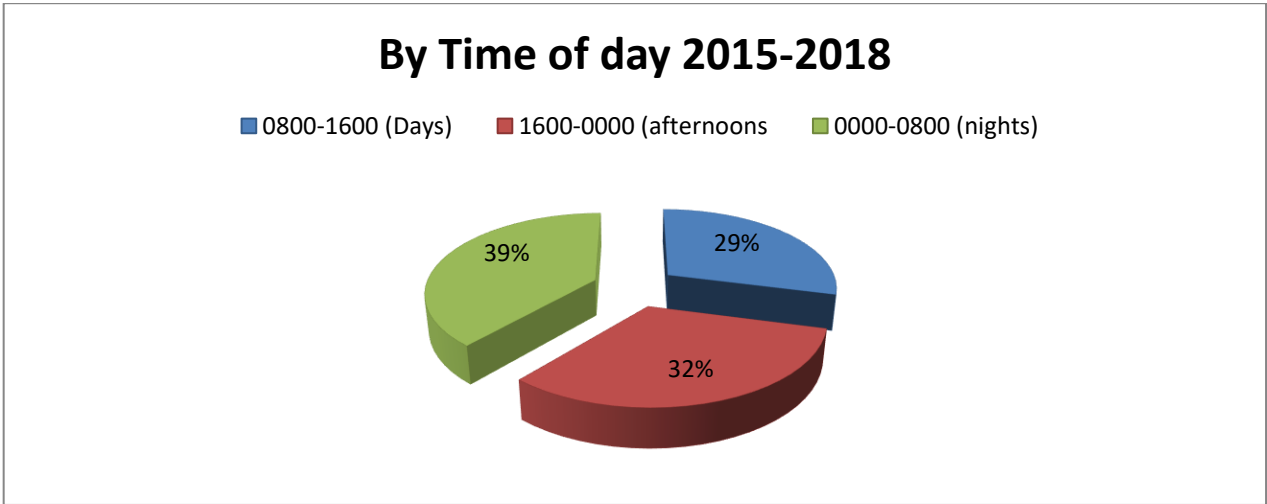
\*did not initiate includes vehicles that initially complied but fled during the stop and where officers chose not to pursue.

\*\*other includes, medical emergencies, and assists to other agencies and short pursuits where driver was taken into custody

Over the last four years, 48% of the pursuits were initiated because of a traffic violation, i.e. red light, speeding, lane changes violations



Our data shows that vehicle pursuits were consistent by time of day. Nights consisted of the largest percentage of police pursuits.



## SUMMARY OF CASES ENDING IN ACCIDENT OR INJURY

- 11/06/2016 – Officer Soley attempted to stop a vehicle for an expired license plate. The driver of the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed. Officer Soley terminated the pursuit in less than a mile. The driver continued at a high rate of speed and failed to manipulate a turn at Square Lake and Lasher. The subject crashed into a brick wall and fled on foot. The driver resisted arrest and was tased. Prescription drugs were found to be a contributing factor. Driver had minor injuries. No injuries to officers.
- 06/17/2018 – Officer Woycehoski attempted to stop a vehicle that was involved in a retail fraud. The vehicle fled into a subdivision. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. Officer Woycehoski suffered an injury during the foot pursuit.

- 12/26/2018 – Bloomfield Township received multiple emergency calls reporting a wrong way driver on Telegraph Rd near Maple. Officer Ed Nolan located the vehicle travelling southbound in the northbound lanes of traffic near 14 Mile Rd. The vehicle was travelling on the rim at low speeds. Officer Nolan used legal interventions to stop the vehicle. Alcohol was a contributing factor. No injuries.

## SUMMARY

In 2018, Bloomfield Township Officers initiated 11,369 traffic stops with 10 pursuits. The Bloomfield Township Police Department is committed to the safety of our officers, residents, and visitors to Bloomfield Township. The safety of the involved officers and the public are the most important aspects of a police pursuit. The apprehension of the subject is not the primary reason for a vehicle pursuit. In 2018, 70% of the pursuits were terminated by the officer or the officer did not initiate a pursuit when a driver of a traffic violation fled the traffic stop.

The information contained in this report demonstrates that our annual training scenarios, quarterly training, policy and procedure review and reviews of all police pursuits are utilized by the officers when making a decision in the field.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Frank, T. (2015, July 30). High-speed police chases have killed thousands of innocent bystanders. *USA Today*.

*Officer Down Memorial Page*. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.odmp.org/statistics>