

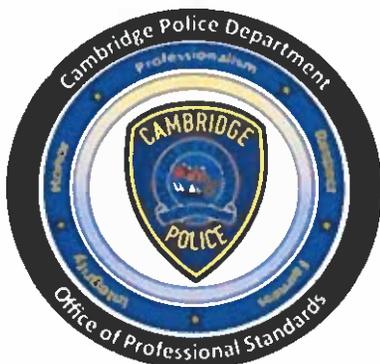


2023

Cambridge Police Department



Town Hall Report 2023



Sgt. Chris M Flynn #0253
Office of Professional Standards
10/1/2023

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



Citizens of Cambridge,

In August of 2023 the Cambridge Police Department, Office of Professional Standards was tasked by Chief Justin Todd with completing an in-depth report on a host of topics that Chief Todd felt are important to the citizens that we serve.

The report would contain topics ranging from the diverse makeup of the officers and civilians that serve in your police department to statistical reports detailing issues that we as a community are faced with. This information, along with statistics on current crime trends, traffic enforcement issues, gun violence issues, and Juvenile Crime issues is presented to you, the citizens that we serve to share with you what the dominant issues are in our community.

The culmination of several months of data gathering is presented without “watering down” of any data to demonstrate our commitment to transparency within the police department and to keep our community informed on the current issues that have a direct effect on the quality of life in our city. It is our sincere hope that by sharing this unfiltered information with you, our citizens, that together we can solve the challenges that are faced by our city.

This report is not all-inclusive, and we acknowledge that there are other areas of concern, we hope that you will feel free to contact your police department with any questions or additional concerns.

Respectfully,

Sergeant Chris M Flynn
Office of Professional Standards
Cambridge Police Department

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



The City of Cambridge is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and is the county seat of Dorchester County.

Cambridge is the fourth most populated city on the eastern shore, after Salisbury, Elkton, and Easton. According to the 2020 census the population of Cambridge was 13,096.

Cambridge Demographics 2020 (from U.S. Census)

Race/Ethnicity	2010	2020	%2010	%2020
White	5,419	5,001	43.96%	38.19
Black/African American	5,814	6,208	47.17%	47.40%
Native American	33	26	0.27%	0.20%
Asian	162	192	1.31%	1.47%
Pacific Islander	4	2	0.03%	0.02%
Other Race	19	66	0.15%	0.50%
Mixed race	265	558	2.15%	4.26%
Hispanic or Latino	610	1,043	4.95%	7.96%
Totals	12,326	13,096	100.00%	100.00%

**Town Hall Report
Cambridge Police Department
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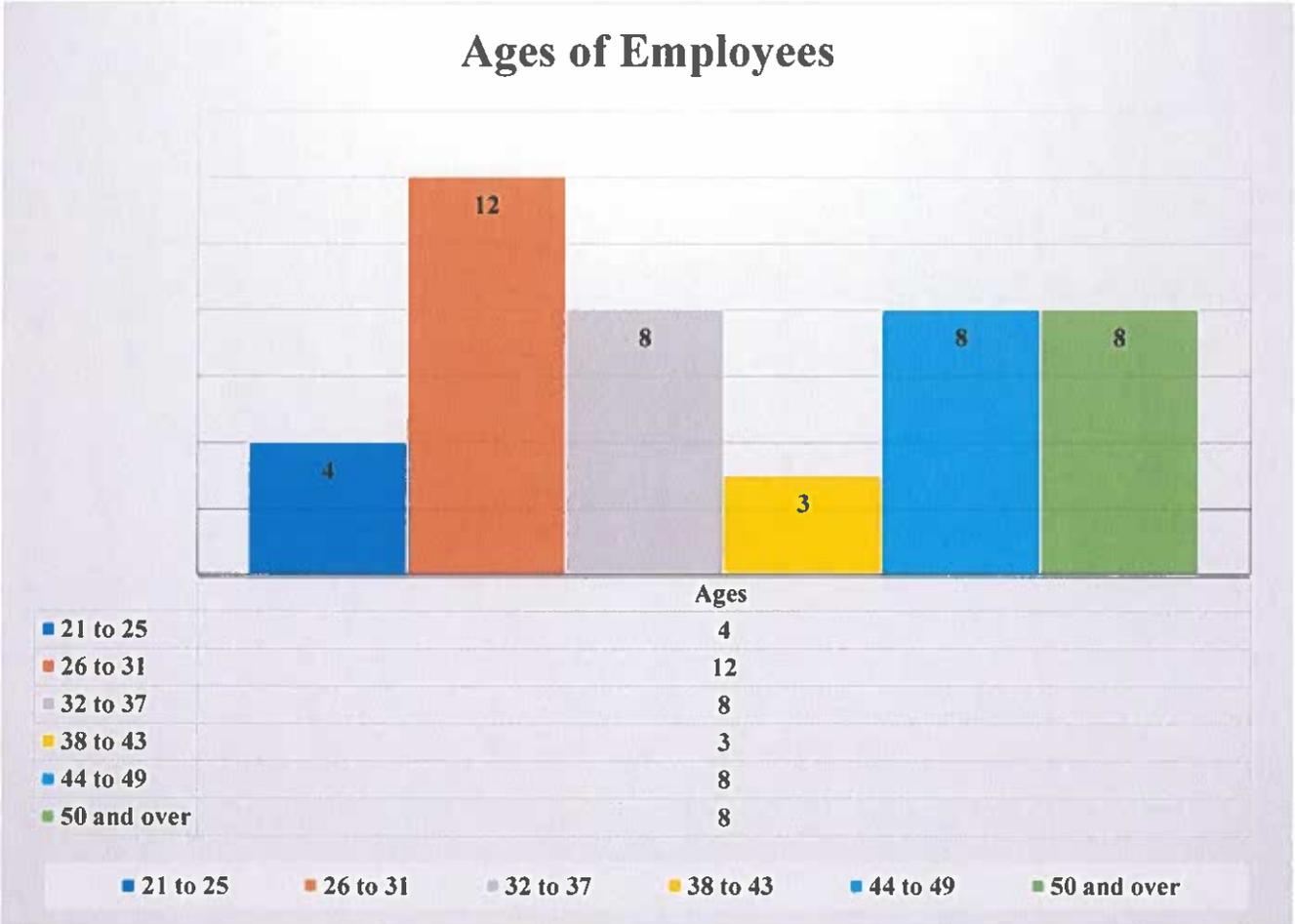
Cambridge Police Department Demographics

The Cambridge Police Department (CPD) currently employs a total of 44 people, 35 are Police Officers with 4 additional officers currently enrolled in the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy in Salisbury, they are scheduled to graduate in December of 2023.

The Cambridge Police Department also employs 5 civilian support staff members; these civilian staff members are responsible for tasks that include records management, data entry, uniform crime reporting (UCR), crime scene processing, evidence management, school crossing guard duties, uniform purchasing and maintenance, and community events such as the national night out.

The employees of the Department are men and women from different ages, backgrounds, races, religions, and educational levels. But are all dedicated to the same mission of serving our city to the best of their abilities.

The attached chart details the age ranges of our employees, the ages range from a low of 21 to a high of 60.



The average age for a Cambridge Police Department employee is 37 years old.

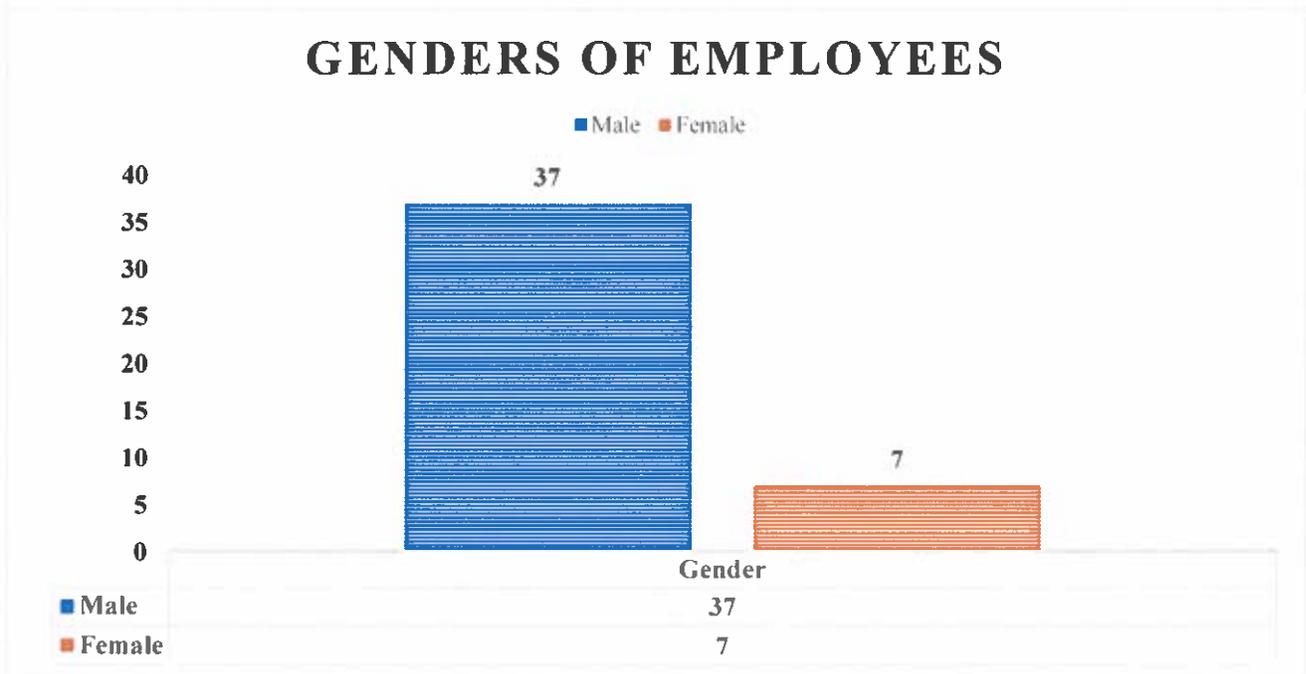
Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



Employees of the Cambridge Police Department currently include 37 males and 7 females, this total includes officers scheduled to graduate in December of 2023.

Male employees make up 94% of the police department while Female employees make up 6%.

- ⬇ CPD currently has 31 male officers (4 additional male officers in academy) and 4 female officers.
- ⬇ CPD currently has 2 male and 3 female support staff.

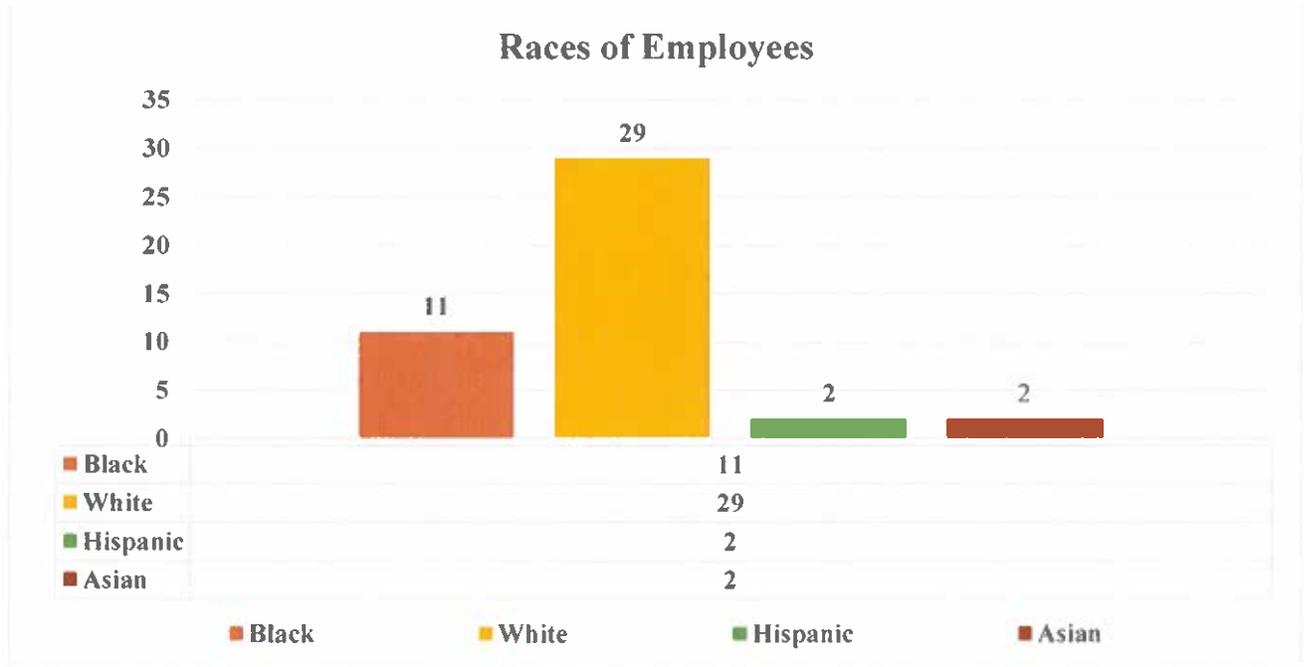


Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



We have a diverse group of employees; the current racial makeup of the department is:

- 👇 67.5% White
- 👇 22.5% Black
- 👇 5% Hispanic
- 👇 5% Asian.



**Town Hall Report
Cambridge Police Department
Division/Group Descriptions**



CPD is comprised of several distinct groups, each has its own specific tasks and duties assigned to the employees that work in these divisions.

Patrol Division: This division is considered to be the “backbone” of the police department; the division consists of uniform patrol officers who are the first people to respond to calls for service. The patrol division responds to approximately 30,000 calls for service every year and is also the largest division in the department with 23 officers assigned to patrol duties. The officers are divided into 4 patrol squads, each led by a Corporal or Sergeant.

Criminal Investigations Division (CID): The criminal investigations division or CID are the detectives that work on major cases. In CPD our detectives conduct follow up investigations in everything ranging from simple thefts to Homicides, they also conduct in-depth investigations involving Controlled Dangerous Substances and Firearms. The CID division is led by a Detective Sergeant and has 2 criminal detectives, 1 detective assigned to the Dorchester County Narcotics task Force and a crime scene/evidence technician. The CID Division will also include officers assigned to the Proactive Community Engagement Unit or P.A.C.E.

Administration Division: The administration division is responsible for the operations of the entire police department. The division is staffed with the chief of Police, two Captains, two Lieutenants, and two Sergeants. One Sergeant is assigned to the Professional Standards Unit.

Community Policing Division- The Community Policing Division promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address immediate conditions that effect public safety issues. The Community Policing Division also includes School Resource Officers assigned to city schools.

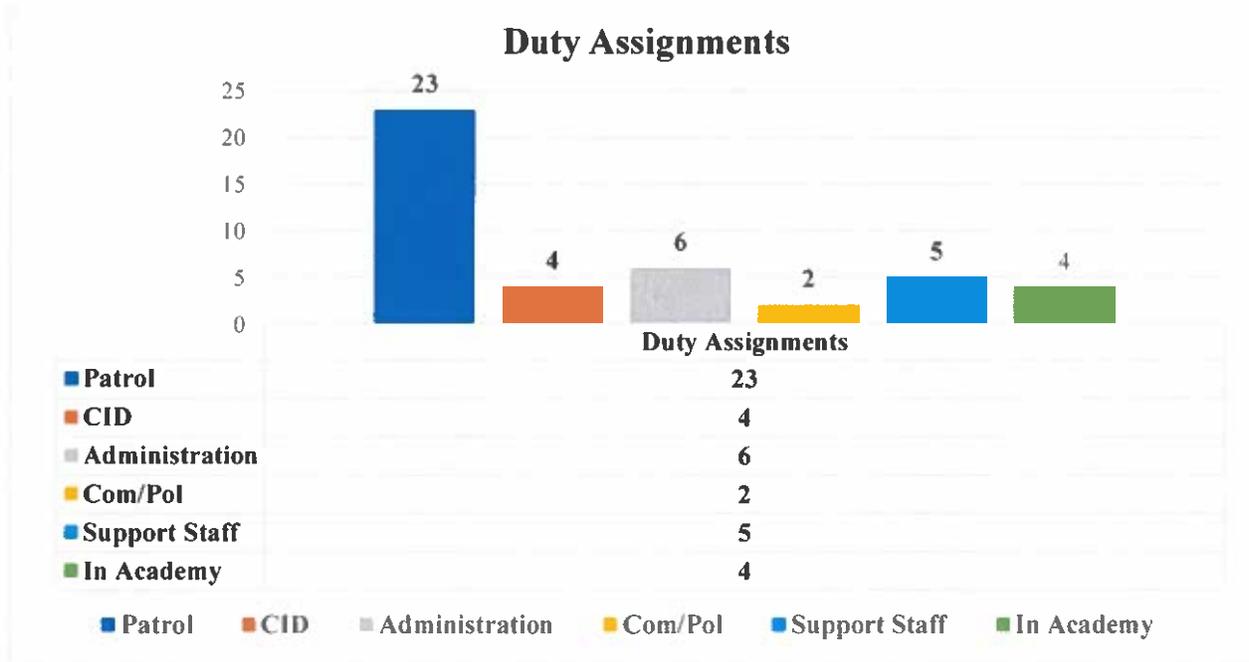
Support Staff: The support staff is responsible for tasks that include records management, data entry, uniform crime reporting (UCR), crime scene processing, evidence management, school crossing guard duties, uniform purchasing and maintenance, and community events such as the national night out.

Academy: This group contains the recruits that are currently enrolled in the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy, they are scheduled to graduate in December of 2023.

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CPD Duty Assignments



Cambridge Police Personnel Duty Assignments by percentage

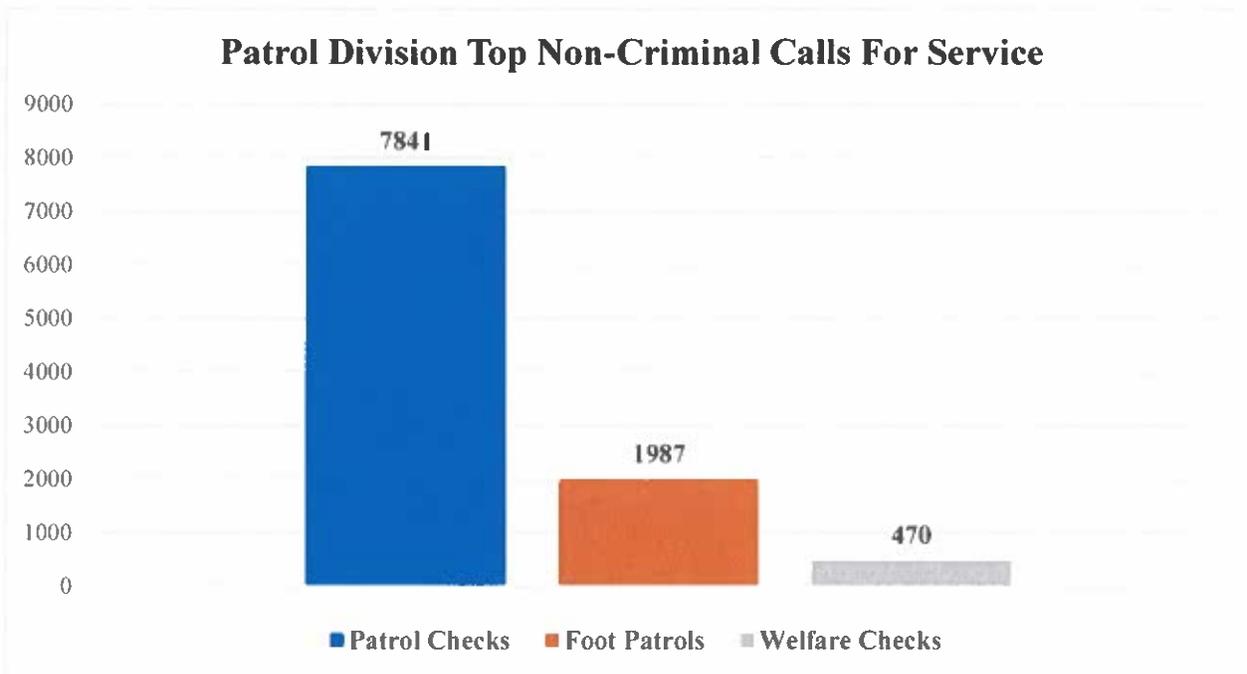
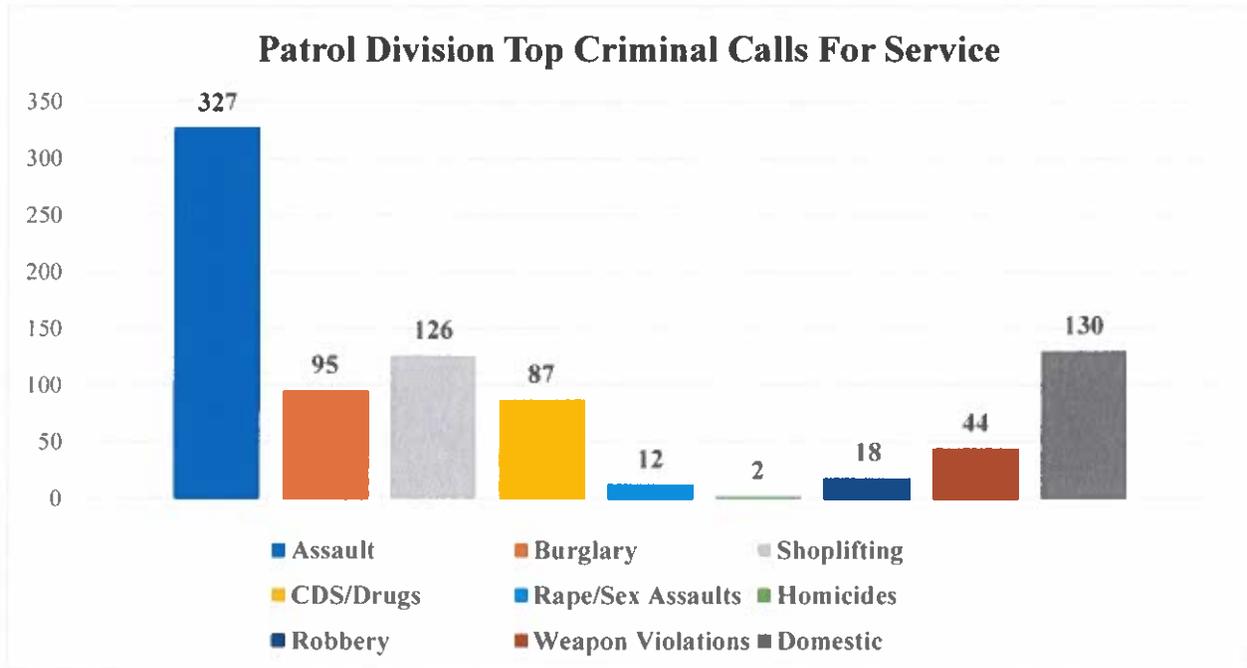
- 👮 **Patrol Division 52%**
- 👮 **Criminal Investigations Division 9%**
- 👮 **Administrative Division 13.6%**
- 👮 **Support Division 11.3%**
- 👮 **In Academy 9%**

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Patrol Division

The patrol division currently has 23 officers assigned to patrol duties, as of October 1 2023 the patrol division has responded to 26, 457 calls for service since January 1 2023. This breaks down to almost 100 calls for service every day.

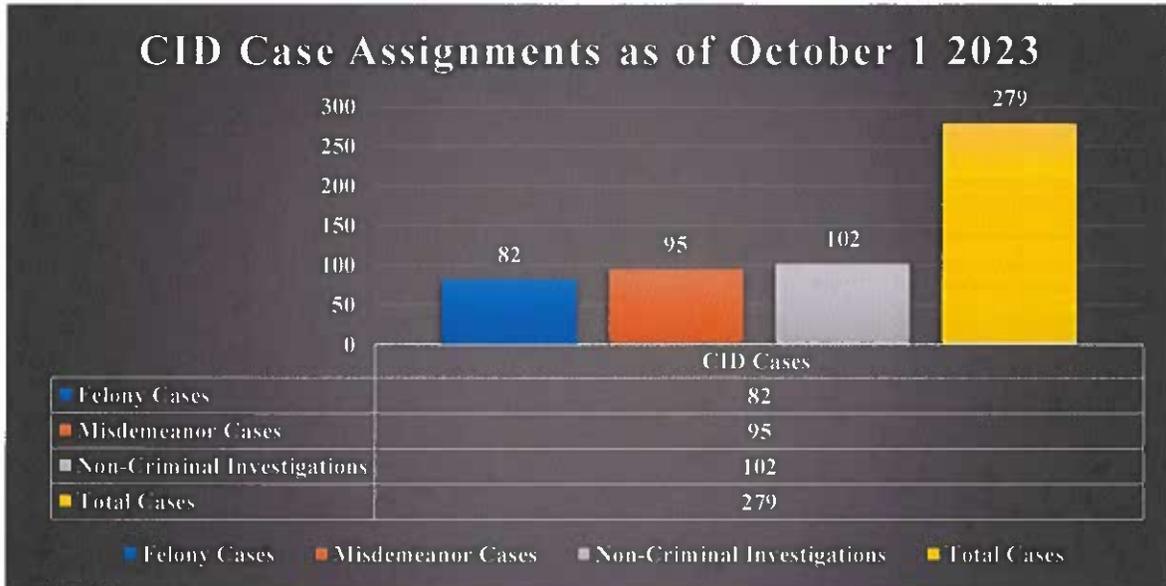


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Criminal Investigations Division/ Statistical Reports

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) currently has 3 detectives and one crime scene/evidence technician assigned to the division; one detective is assigned to the Dorchester County Narcotics Task Force. The division is responsible for all criminal investigations initiated by the patrol division. The division typically handles over 300 investigations a year.



- ⬇ Non-Criminal Investigations include cases where no criminal activity is present (missing persons, suspicious circumstances, etc.)
- ⬇ The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for the authoring and serving of all search warrants for the department. These warrants typically involve crimes such as Homicides, Rapes, Weapon violations, or Narcotics investigations.



Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department Community Policing Division

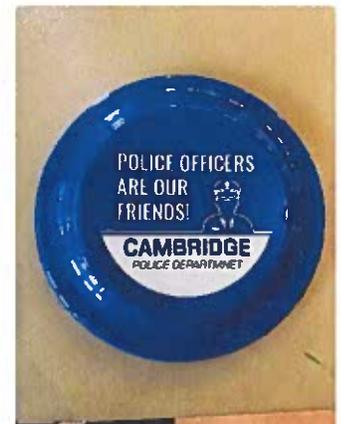
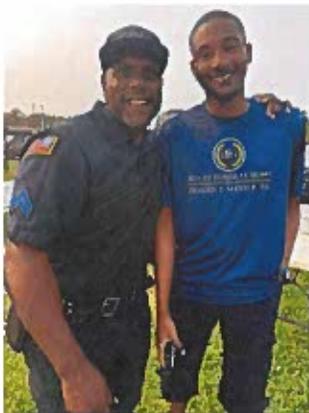


While Community Policing is the responsibility of every officer of the Cambridge Police Department, The Community Policing Division leads the way and is responsible for planning, organizing, and holding community events such as:

- ↓ National Night Out
- ↓ Ice Cream Socials
- ↓ Community Meetings
- ↓ Crime Prevention Initiatives
- ↓ Boys and Girls Club
- ↓ Senior Community Meetings
- ↓ Shop With A Cop
- ↓ Community Thanksgiving Dinners

Our School Resource Officers (SRO) are assigned to the Community Policing Division and coordinate events at city schools.

This year, as of October 1 2023 the Division has been involved in over 45 community events in our city.



Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department E-Trace



The Cambridge Police Department utilizes the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (B.A.T.F.E.) E-Trace database to track firearms that are seized by officers during criminal incidents, this database provides valuable information on the last known purchaser of a particular firearm, the purchase location, any other information that matches additional firearms to a person.

From January 1 2019 to October 1 2023, CPD has taken 114 illegal guns off our streets and has partnered with Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to add additional resources dedicated to getting illegal guns out of the hands of criminals and out of our community.

Most of the firearms seized were handguns:

- 🔫 Handguns 87 76.31%
- 🔫 Rifle 13 11.4%
- 🔫 Shotgun 6 5.2%



* Totals are as of October 1 2023

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department Homicide Statistics

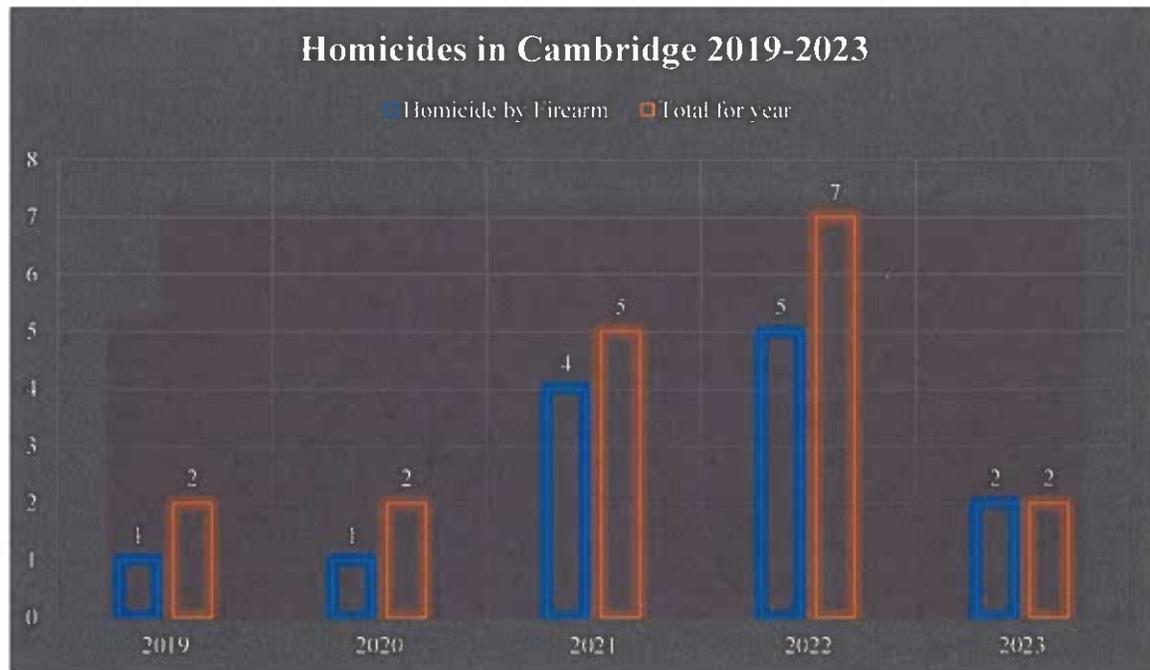


In 2022 we suffered the highest homicide rate that our city has ever seen, with 7 total homicides for the year, five of these murders were committed with firearms that were in the hands of people who were not allowed to lawfully possess guns. In November of 2022, the Cambridge Police Department partnered with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to form a task force to combat gun violence in our community.

As a result, as of October 1 2023, we have seen a 71.5% drop in the number of homicides that have occurred in our city over the previous year. While one murder is too many, we do feel that we are making progress towards a safer city.

Homicide Stats 2019-2023

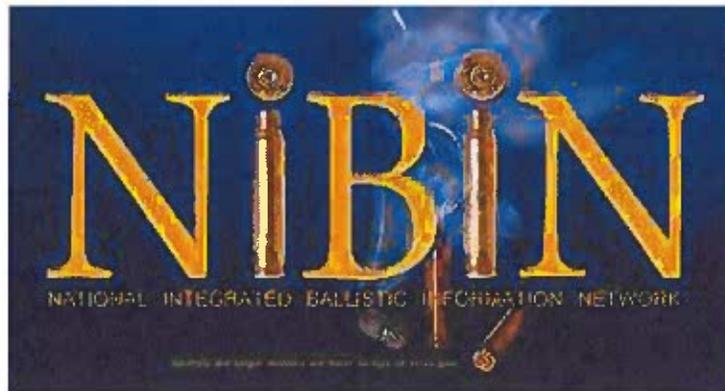
- 🔫 There were 18 total homicides committed in Cambridge from 2019 to 2023
- 🔫 12 were committed with handguns.
- 🔫 1 was committed with a rifle.
- 🔫 1 was committed with a knife.
- 🔫 3 people were beat to death.
- 🔫 As of October 1, of 2022 we had already recorded 5 murders for the calendar year. With two additional murders in December of 2022



Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



N.I.B.I.N Tracing



In 2020 The Cambridge Police Department began submitting spent casings that were located at crime scenes in our city to the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network or N.I.B.I.N.

N.I.B.I.N. is an initiative administrated by the B.A.T.F.E. that links casings located at crime scenes to specific firearms, to date CPD has matched casings to crime scene in separate 34 cases within our city.

To date CPD has submitted over 100 casings that were located at crime scenes to N.I.B.I.N.

Highlighted Cases of the system include:

- ✚ Casings found in Cambridge matched a homicide scene in Baltimore (case turned over to Baltimore PD)
- ✚ Two guns that were seized by CPD officers and test fired by CPD were submitted to N.I.B.I.N. and matched two different homicides in Washington D.C. (the case was turned over to federal authorities)
- ✚ One suspect was arrested by CPD with a handgun that was later linked to 12 different shootings in our city.
- ✚ Using N.I.B.I.N. CPD investigators were able to link a firearm to a homicide that occurred in April of 2021
- ✚ Casings recovered at a homicide scene in Cambridge were later matched to a firearm that was found on a suspect in that same homicide

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department Traffic Enforcement



The Cambridge Police Department has always placed a high value on the safety of the public while enforcing traffic law violations and this mission can usually be accomplished in the form of a warning from an officer rather than a traffic citation for minor offenses. In fact, less than 15% of traffic stops result in a citation being issued.

However, CPD officers have zero tolerance for violations which endanger the safety of our citizens. Offenses that involve driving while impaired, operating a motor vehicle in a reckless manner, or violations that involve passing a school bus while the red lights are activated will normally result in a citation being issued to the operator.

Since January 1 2023, CPD officers have made 2640 traffic stops resulting in:

- 📄 385 Citations 14.5%
- 📄 1753 Warnings 66.4%
- 📄 502 Equipment Repair Orders 19%



Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform



In April of 2022 Maryland Senate Bill 691 was passed. This bill contained sweeping reforms to Maryland's juvenile justice system. Many of these changes impact the eligibility of children for juvenile court action, the possibility of avoiding court at all, and limits on the length of the terms of juvenile probation, most of these changes took effect on October 1, 2022.

One of the most major changes to Maryland juvenile laws is the new minimum age for juvenile action. Under the new Maryland juvenile laws, **no child under the age of 10 can be charged with any criminal offense, no matter what the offense is, this includes Homicide, Rape, Armed Robbery, etc.**

Children under 13 can only be charged with offenses that would constitute a "crime of violence" under Maryland law.

What is a crime of violence under Maryland Law?

Abduction	Arson in the first Degree
Kidnapping	Manslaughter (except involuntary)
Maiming	Murder
Rape	Robbery
Carjacking	Armed carjacking
Sexual Offense First Degree	Sexual Offense second degree
Use of a firearm in the commission of a felony	child abuse in the first degree
home invasion	assault in the first degree

Second Degree Assault is no longer considered to be a “crime of violence” under Maryland Law, if a child under 13 assaults a schoolteacher or a police officer in the second degree this would not qualify as a “crime of violence” and therefore would not be an arrestable offense.

This means that children under the age of 13 cannot be charged with any non-violent misdemeanor offenses, some of these offenses include motor vehicle theft, firearm possession, assaults in the second degree, some sex offenses, or drug possession in any amount.

Juveniles charged as adults:

The law before October 1, 2022, stated that any child who is age 14 or older, could be charged as an adult if certain criteria were met, these criteria were:

- a child at least 16 years old alleged to have violated certain traffic or boating laws (where a fatality was involved)
- a child at least 16 years old alleged to have committed certain violent crimes (armed robbery, 1st degree assault, Rape, etc.)
- a child at least 14 years old alleged to have done an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime punishable by death or life imprisonment, and
- a child who has previously been convicted as an adult of a felony and subsequently alleged to have committed an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



The new law allows only:

14 years and older crime must be:

- First Degree Murder (not any other degree)
- First Degree Rape
- First Degree Sex Offense

16 years and older crime must be:

- Abduction
- Kidnapping
- Second degree murder
- Armed Robbery
- Manslaughter
- Certain Weapon Offenses

The Department of Juvenile Services Responsibilities

The Department of Juvenile Services screens juvenile cases, collecting information, and provides services to youth involved in the justice system. The new laws will allow the Department of Juvenile Services to impose an “*informal adjustment*” in felony cases, a right which they did not have in the past.

Juvenile Intake officers may also use informal adjustments without the consent of a victim, but only after they have made reasonable efforts to contact the victim. (The law does not specify what these reasonable efforts are)

What is an informal adjustment?

An informal adjustment is an administrative punishment for a delinquent act, where a juvenile is assigned to complete certain programs or be involved in community-based services in exchange for keeping delinquent acts outside of the juvenile court.

In the past this was only an option for an allegation of a delinquent act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult. Now these informal adjustments can also be applied to cases involving certain non-violent felonies and do not require the approval of the juvenile court.



Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



Juvenile Petitions may be returned to intake upon consent of the State, a juvenile, and the Department of Juvenile Services

A new mechanism, called a return to intake, has been created. This will allow certain juvenile cases to avoid prosecution if all the parties agree upon a return to intake. There will be a pre-court supervision agreement along with Department monitoring of the terms of any return to intake agreement. This process will involve assessment and the implementation of services. This is different from a STET, because the matter will be completely outside of the Court process.

Juvenile Detention

There are additional changes to detaining youth charged with misdemeanors. These include a new prohibition on detaining children charged with misdemeanors for offenses other than firearm possession.

This change states that unless the child was adjudicated delinquent twice in the last twelve months, he/she cannot be detained. (This change does not apply to firearm possession)

Juvenile Probation Changes

Juvenile Probations have been significantly shortened. If the most serious offense that a juvenile has been adjudicated to is a misdemeanor, the maximum initial length of probation would be up to six (6) months. This probation could be extended by three (3) month terms if there is good cause to do so, and the purpose for the extension is to complete rehabilitative programming. The maximum length of a juvenile probation for a misdemeanor is now one (1) year.

Juvenile Felony Probation changes

Felony juvenile probation will now have a maximum initial length of one-year, Additional three-month extensions can be sought but the standard maximum length of a juvenile probation for a felony is no more than (2) years.

Juvenile Probation violation changes

Juvenile probation laws have redefined their definition of probation violations, and a child cannot be placed in a detention facility for a technical violation. Technical violations are all violations except those involving:

- an arrest or a summons
- A violation of criminal prohibition
- A violation of no-contact / stay away orders.
- Absconding

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



Changes to juvenile placements

Juvenile respondents aren't given jail sentences, instead they are placed in rehabilitative placements. These are often schools or similar facilities that restrict the movement of children whom they board, feed, educate, and provide therapy to. Now the Court may not commit a child to the Department of Juvenile Services for an out-of-home placement for a misdemeanor unless the charge is a handgun violation.

Child Interrogation Protection Act Maryland HB0269

Effective October 1, 2022, the law requires a police officer who takes a juvenile into custody, interrogates a juvenile, or charges a juvenile with a criminal violation to provide reasonable notice to the child's parents, guardian, or custodian of the juvenile.

This notice will include the juvenile's location, the reason for the custody action, and instructions on how to make in-person contact, prohibiting the interrogation of a juvenile by a law enforcement officer until the juvenile has consulted with an attorney.

The police officer must get permission from an attorney before any interrogation of a juvenile (under 18).

- A parent or guardian can't grant consent to speak to the juvenile, it must be an attorney. This requirement can't be waived by the child or their parents or guardian.
- The law applies even if the child is being charged as an adult for a serious offense (murder, rape, etc.)
- There are exceptions for emergency situations where there is a significant threat to public safety, but these exceptions are not clearly defined in the law.
- The law does not apply to traffic stops of juveniles unless during the stop the officer develops probable cause for a criminal arrest of a juvenile.

Town Hall Report Cambridge Police Department



How have the Changes in the Law Effected Law Enforcement for CPD?

Stolen Vehicles

We have seen a dramatic increase in stolen vehicles since the law has taken effect, most of these offenses are being committed by juveniles and since the changes in the law these juveniles are not being held accountable.

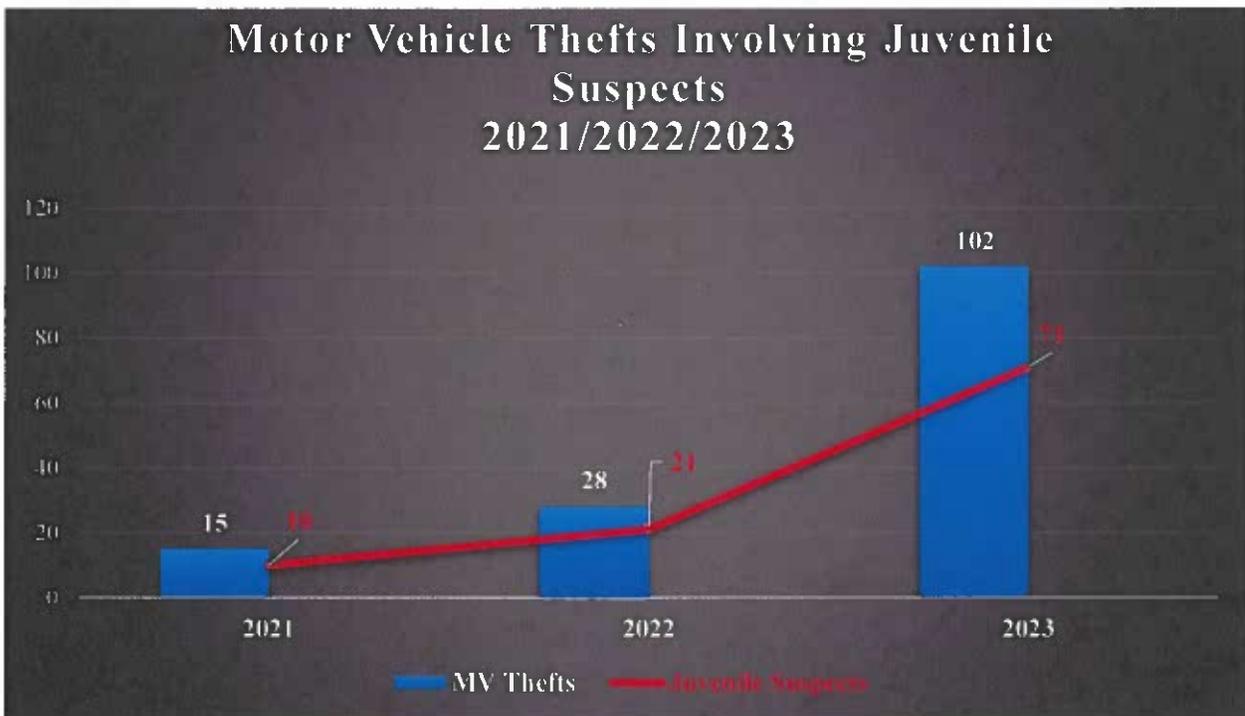
For example, in 2022 just prior to the change in the “juvenile Justice reform act” the Cambridge Police Department responded to 28 reports of stolen vehicles in all of 2022 approximately 13 of these cases involved juvenile offenders.

As of October 1, 2023, 102 vehicles were reported as stolen to CPD, juvenile offenders are caught and charged, but are immediately released due to the changes in the law. Motor vehicle theft is not a “crime of violence” and does not qualify for the detention of a juvenile.

Through investigation and statistical analysis, we have determined that the overwhelming suspect profiles for these crimes are male juveniles under the age of 16. But we have detained suspects as young as 11 for stealing vehicles in Cambridge.

We have one 12-year-old that has been arrested 11 times for motor vehicle theft.

- 🔪 Motor vehicle thefts have increased 264% since last year and 580% since 2021.
- 🔪 Motor vehicle thefts involving juvenile suspects have increased 238% since 2022 and 610% since 2021.
- 🔪 The majority of vehicles stolen are manufactured by Hyundai.
- 🔪 CPD has purchased and distributed to citizens anti-theft products for their vehicles.



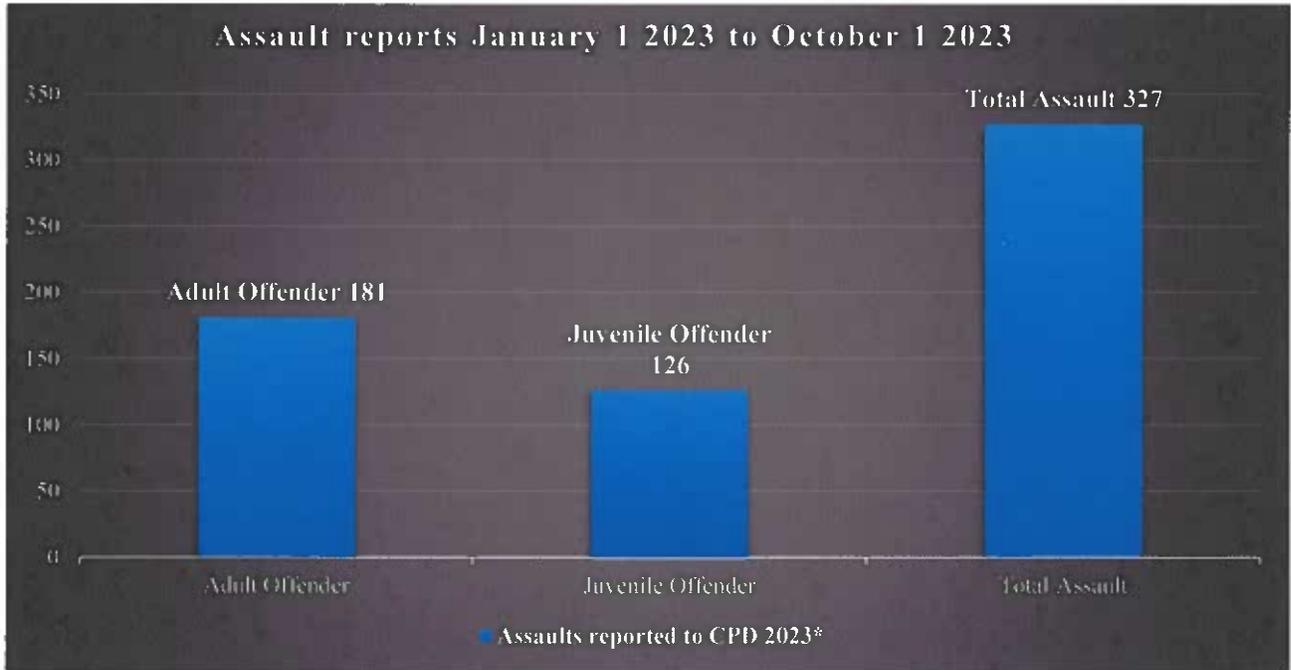
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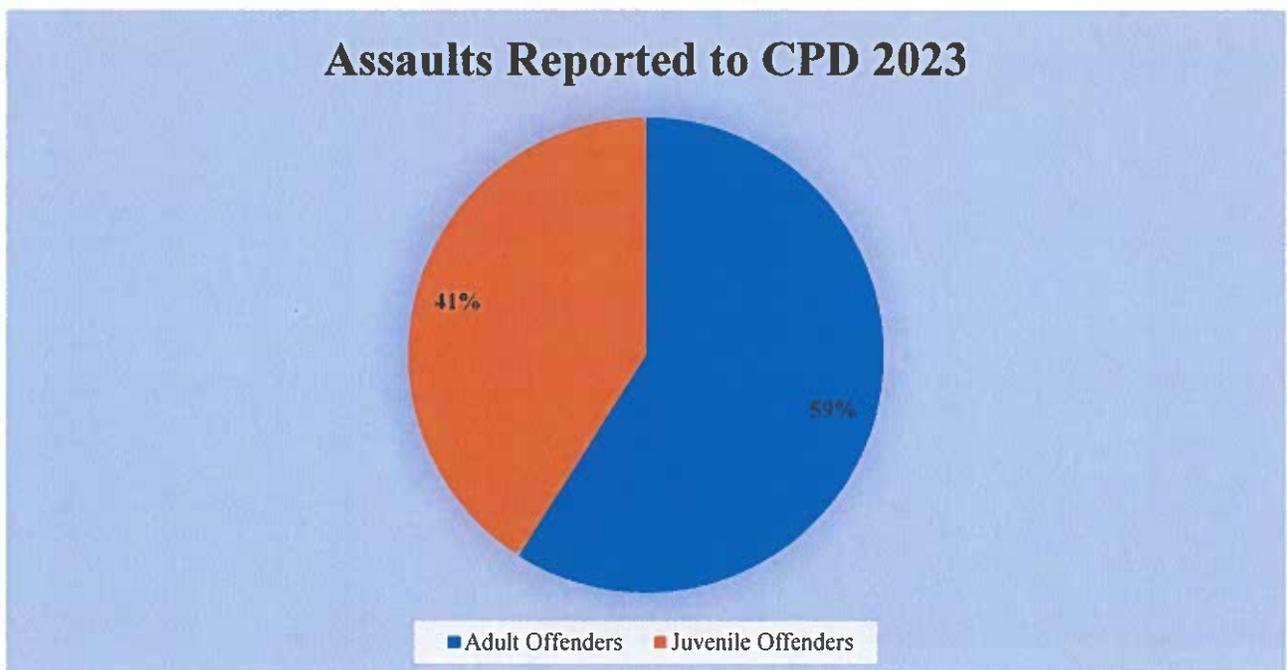
Assaults

In the past year, we have also seen a dramatic rise in the number of assaults committed by juvenile offenders, in cases where the offender is under 13, the change in the law exempts the juvenile offender from criminal charges, as second-degree assault is no longer a “crime of violence”.

Of the 327 Assaults reported to Cambridge Police over the past year, 126 have been committed by offenders under the age of 18.



* Totals are as of October 1 2023





**Town Hall Report
Cambridge Police Department**

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