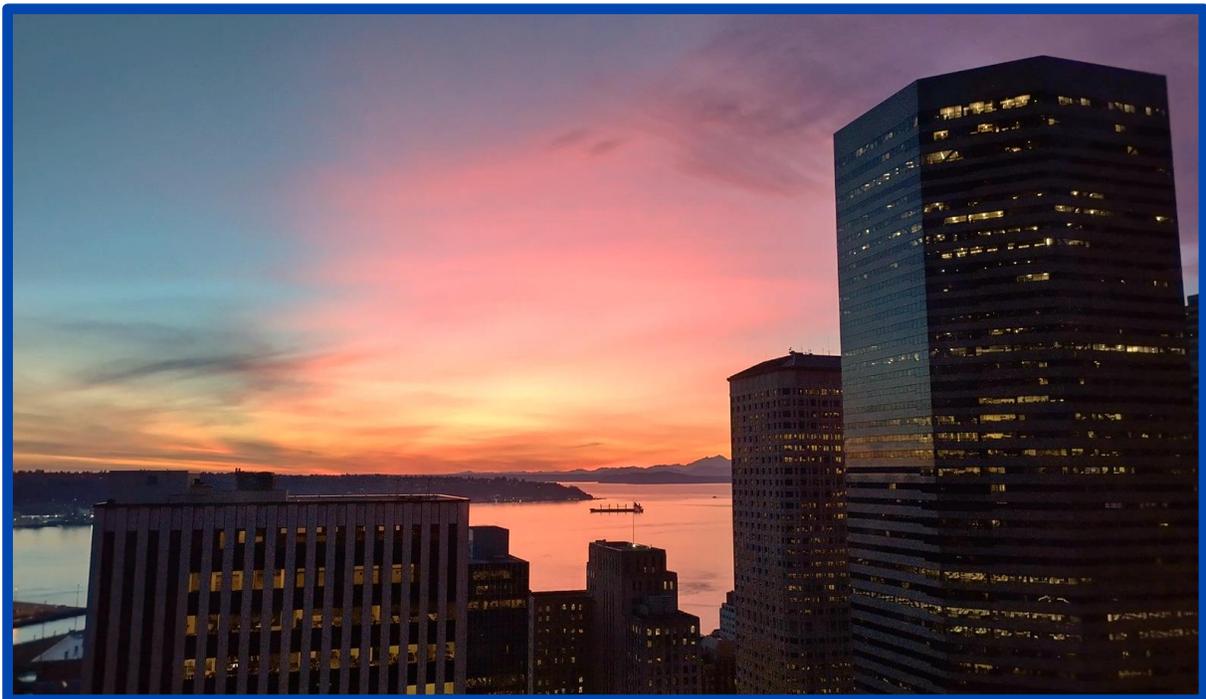




# Criminal Division Quarter IV, 2023 Report

SEATTLE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
ANN DAVISON



Report Compiled by Per-Olaf Swanson. Please address inquiries to:

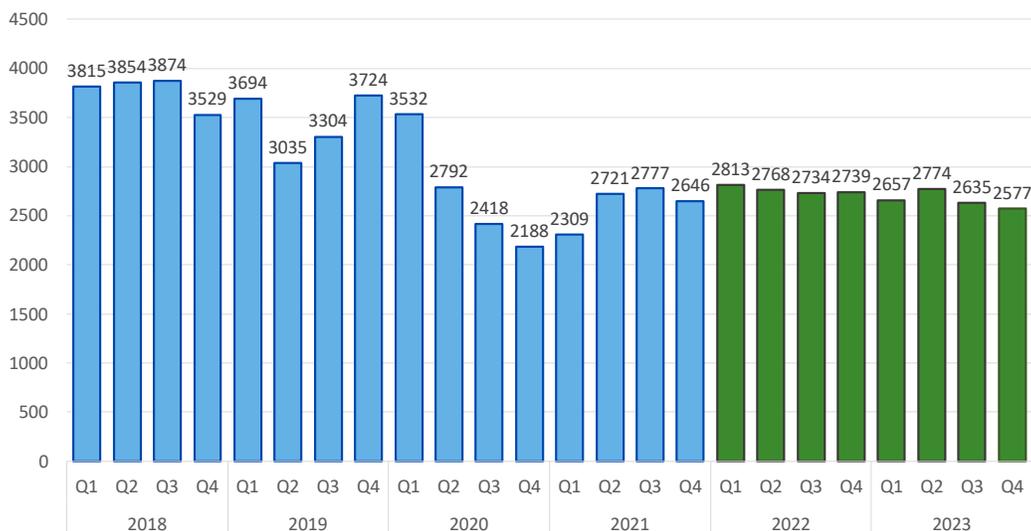
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# Police Referrals

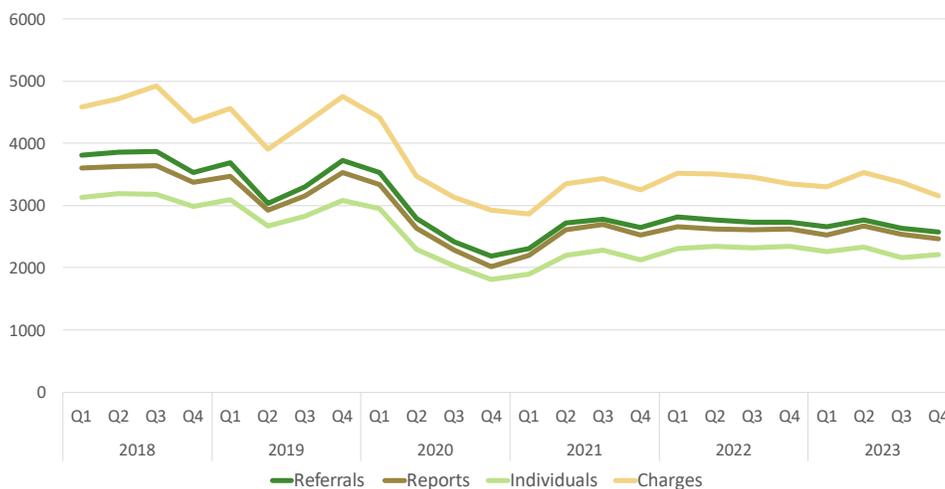
### Misdemeanor Referrals



In the fourth quarter of 2023, the City Attorney’s Office received 2,577 referrals from the Seattle Police Department. This represents a 2% decrease from Q3 of 2023 and 6% decrease from Q4 of 2022. The number of current referrals is below pre-COVID levels and lower than before the loss of a significant number of SPD officers.

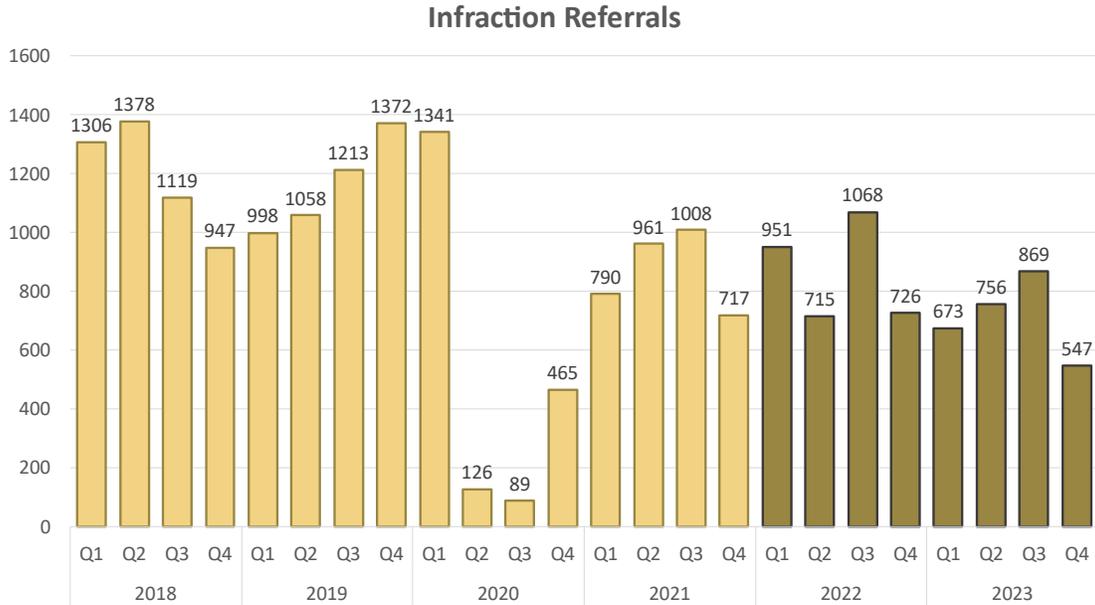
- **Referral:** represents a unique person from an SPD report; a single report with two suspects would be two referrals. This reflects the best measure of law department workload and is used in this analysis.
- **Report:** a single document sent from the Seattle Police Department.
- **Individual:** one, unique person referred to CAO; most individuals will only have a single referral, but some can have dozens like the criteria for the High Utilizer Initiative.
- **Charges:** are the actual criminal offenses. Each report and each individual can have many.

### Referrals vs Reports vs Individuals vs Charges



## Infractions

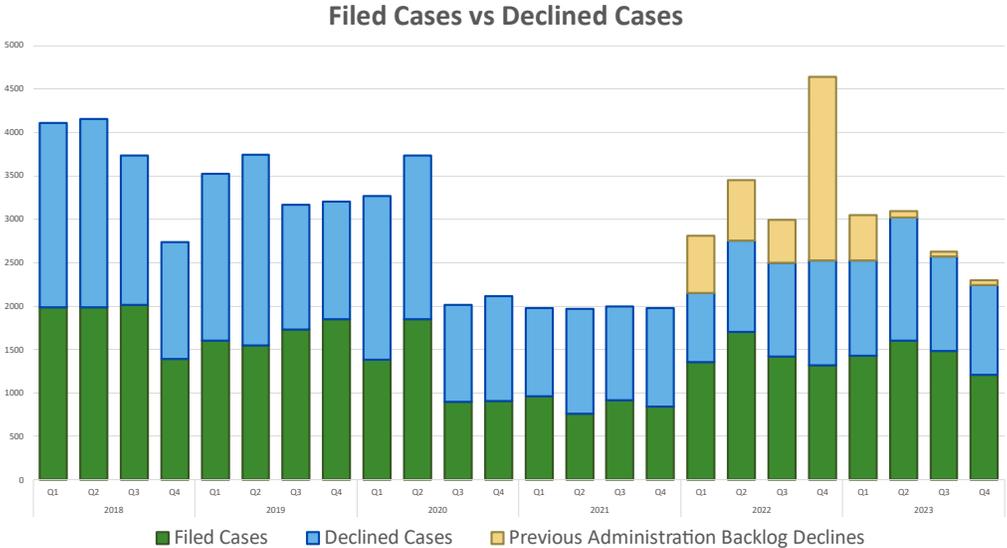
When an individual receives a citation for an infraction, it does not go to the City Attorney’s Office. If the citation is challenged, also called “contested,” then it is referred to the City Attorney’s Office by the court. Contested citations are almost always filed the same day they are received at the CAO. Contested citations are not part of the misdemeanor system and therefore are measured separately in the graph below.



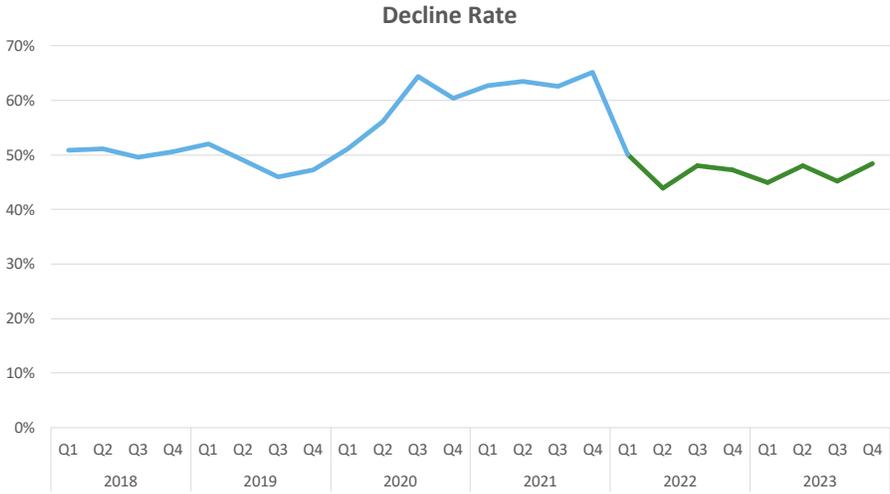
In Q4 of 2023, the City Attorney’s Office received 547 infractions that were sent from the Seattle Municipal Court. This represents a 37% decrease from Q3 of 2023 and a 25% decrease from Q4 of 2022.

# Case Filing

Referrals can either be filed cases with the Seattle Municipal Court or declined. Diverted referrals turn into declines after successful completion of requirements.



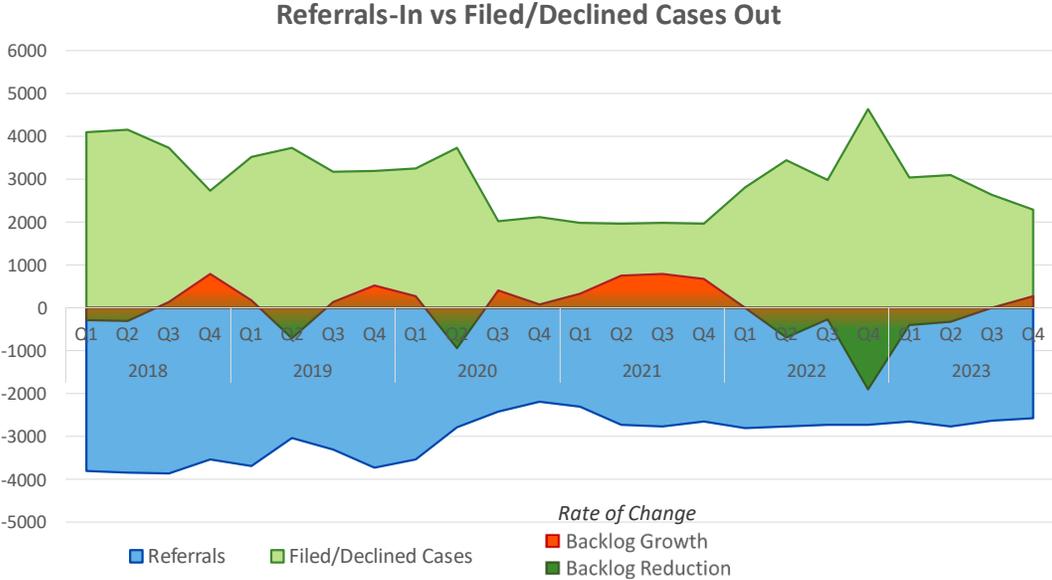
This chart shows the output of filing decisions from the City Attorney’s Office. In Q4 of 2023, the City Attorney’s Office filed 1,208 cases (a decrease of 18% from Q3 2023 and 8% less than Q4, 2022) and declined a total of 1,087 (down 6% from Q2 2023 and down 67% from Q4 2022 when there were significant backlog declines). The tan elements represent declined cases from the previous administration’s backlog.



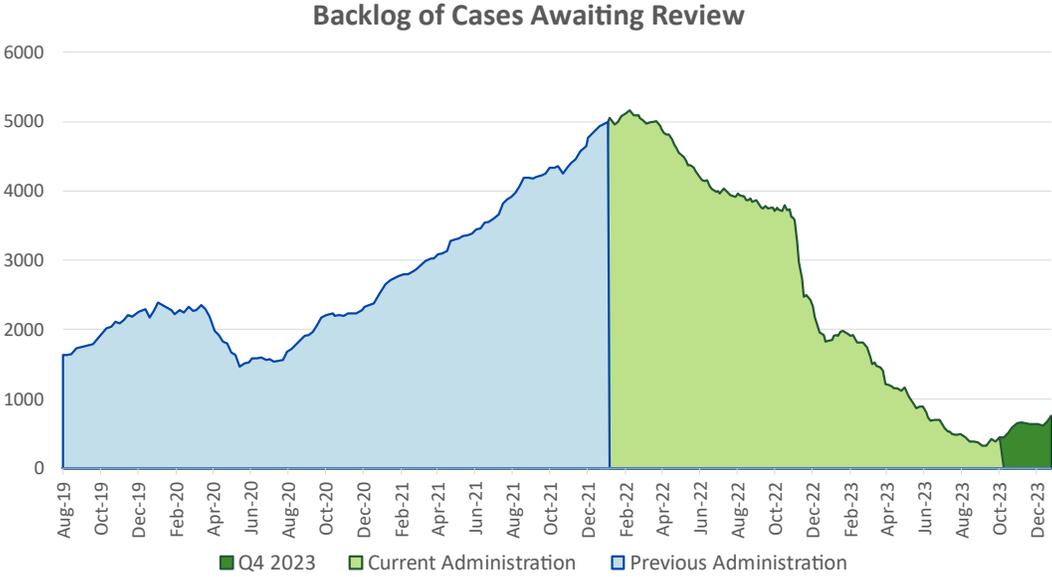
Decline rates as measured by  $\frac{\text{declines}}{\text{files} + \text{declines}}$  rose in the fourth quarter of 2023. The decline rate for filing decisions on referrals during Q4 2023 was 48%, up from Q3 2023’s 45% and up from Q3 2022’s 47%.

# Backlog

Referrals awaiting a response are considered part of the backlog.



Responses to incoming referrals lagged for years and resulted in a substantial backlog within the Criminal Division. Areas in orange represent times when the backlog grew and areas in green represent times when it was addressed and reduced. The backlog was at 4990 referrals at the start of 2022.

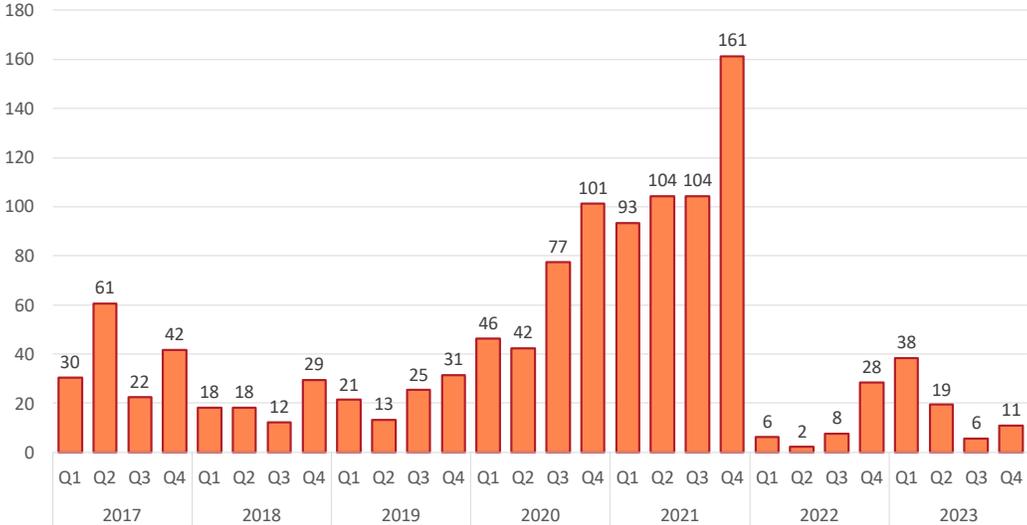


The Review and Filing Unit mostly recovered from its significant staff shortages by the end of Q1 2022 though some of the effects lasted into Q2. The special project initiated in Q4 combining prosecutors with technological efficiency was focused on DV backlog referrals essentially clearing the domestic violence backlog. Changes in staffing in Q3 2023 resulted in a temporary increase of the backlog though it still remains well below earlier levels.

# Close-in-Time Filing

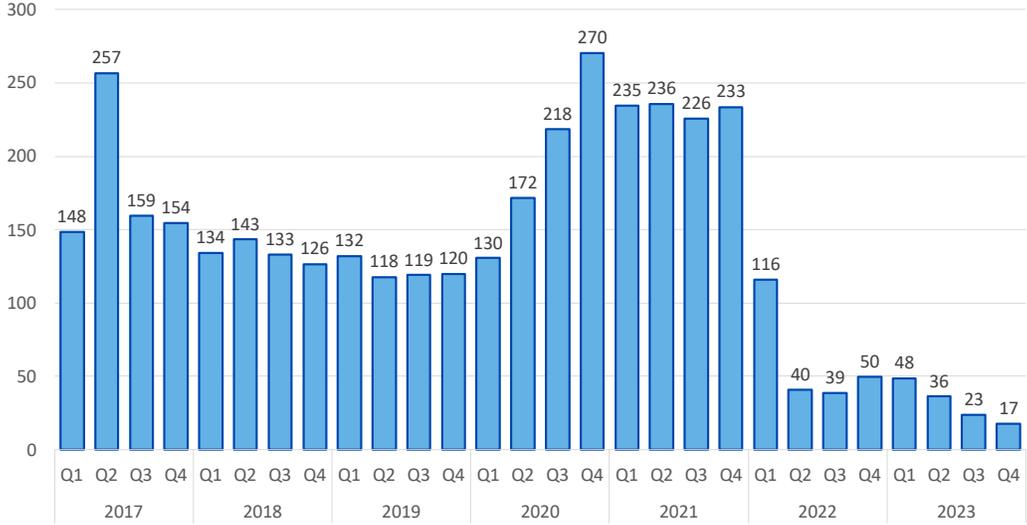
The Close-in-Time filing policy set by City Attorney Davison created the goal of making a filing decision within five business days (seven calendar days). Domestic violence referrals are afforded an additional week to engage in a trauma informed approach, which considers input from the victim on their safety concerns. Referrals involving LEAD clients get 30 days for clients to engage in services.

**Median Time to Make a Filing Decision**

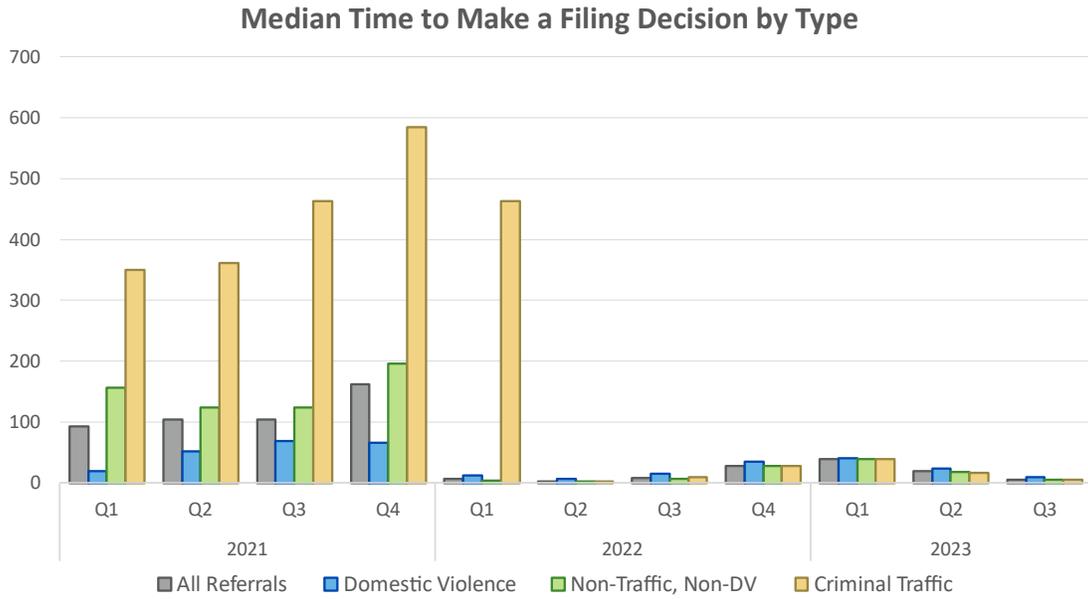


The reduced Review and Filing Unit staffing lowered the effectiveness of Close-in-Time filing in Q4 2022. These issues were mostly fixed by the end of Q1, but it took some time to get back to close-in-time goals. A similar staffing issue has returned for Q4 of 2023.

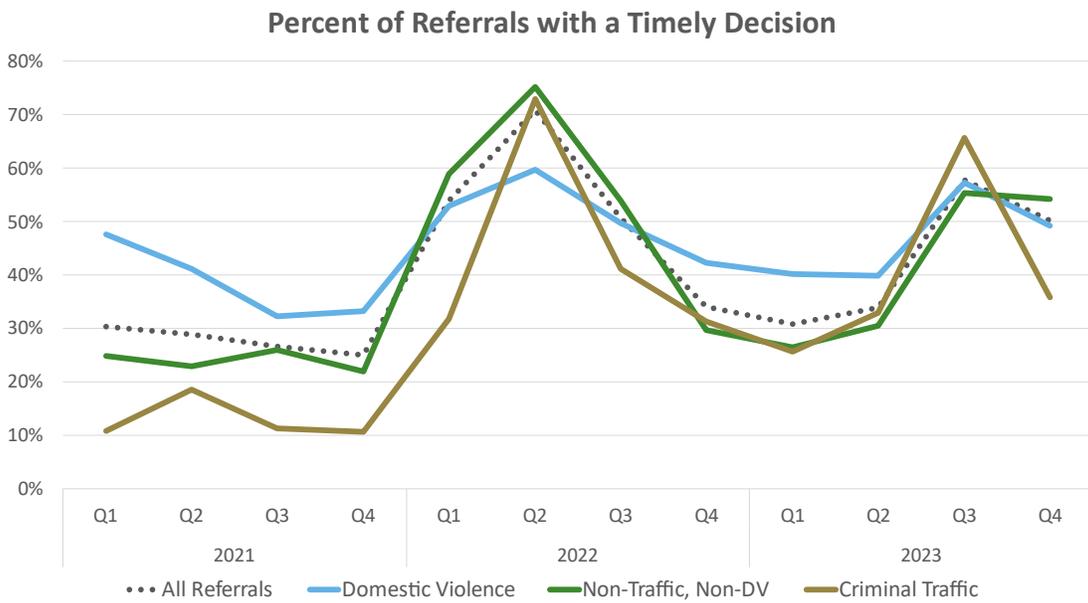
**Mean Time to Make a Filing Decision**



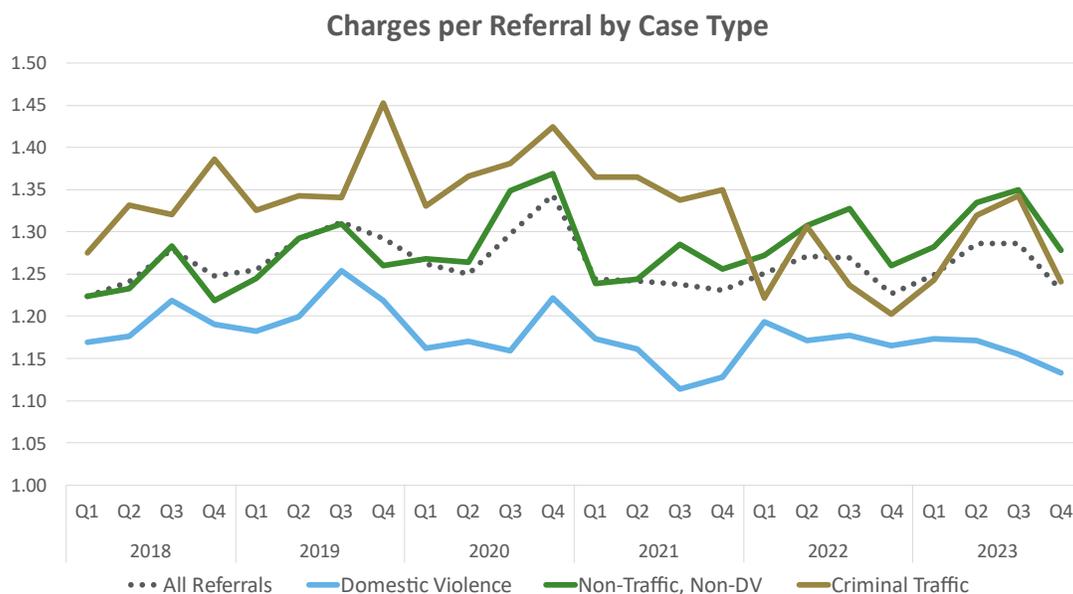
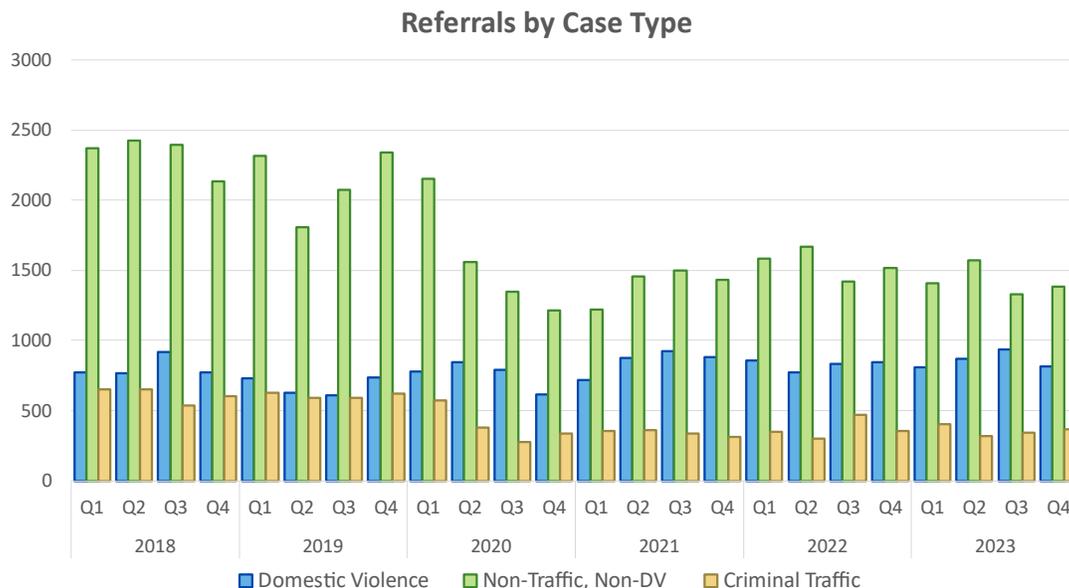
Median filing time is a more accurate description of the data due to its skewed nature.



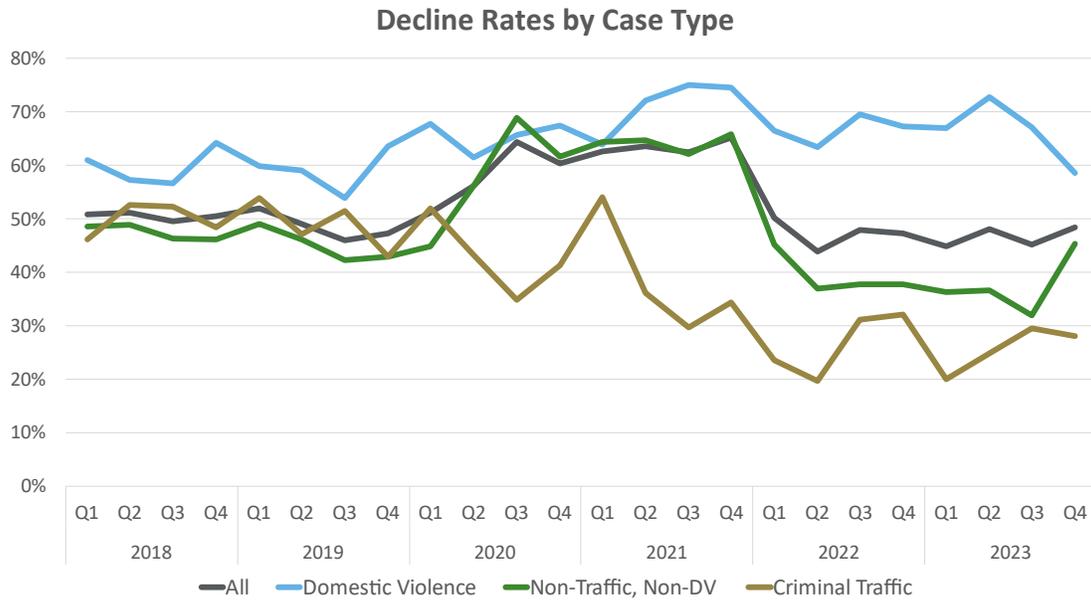
Median time to make a filing decision is still lower than historical levels, but it has increased beyond desired goals. While the median times are still under a month, the number that meet policy goals has dropped to pre-policy levels.



# Case Type Specifics

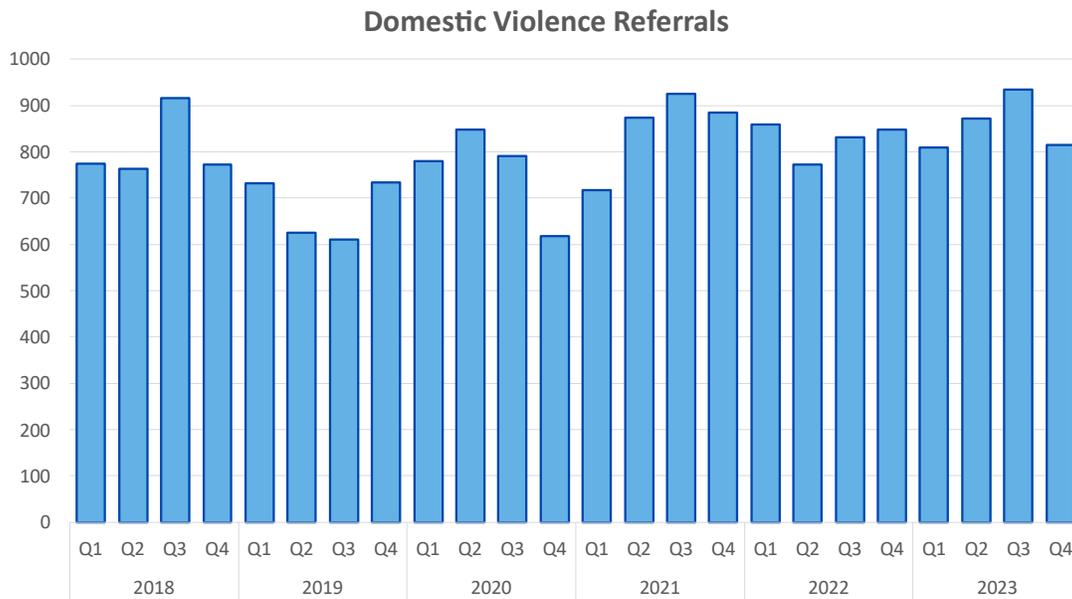


The number of charges on each police referral averages about 5 charges for every 4 referrals (1.25) and does not vary much between quarters. The decrease for Criminal Traffic is likely due to far fewer referrals including driving with a suspended license.

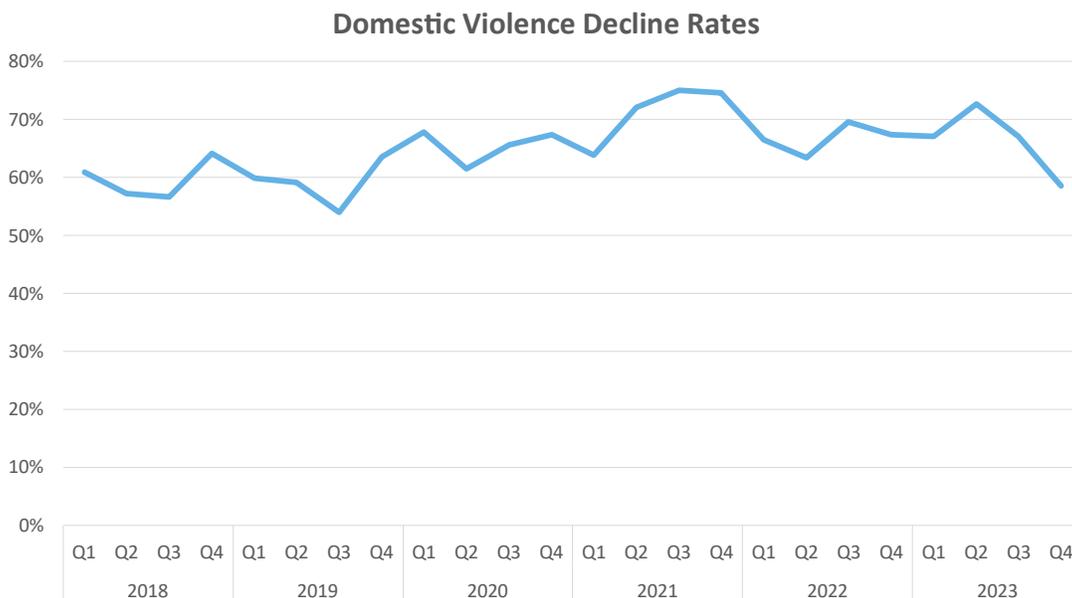


Domestic violence referrals historically have higher decline rates for a variety of reasons. Prosecutors carefully weigh the impact to the victim, the victim's desired outcome, lethality factors, and the nature of past referrals in addition to the evidence. Some referrals are declined as part of a consolidation of cases between other jurisdictions. The reduction in the decline rate for criminal traffic referrals is because a higher percentage of them now include DUIs.

## Domestic Violence

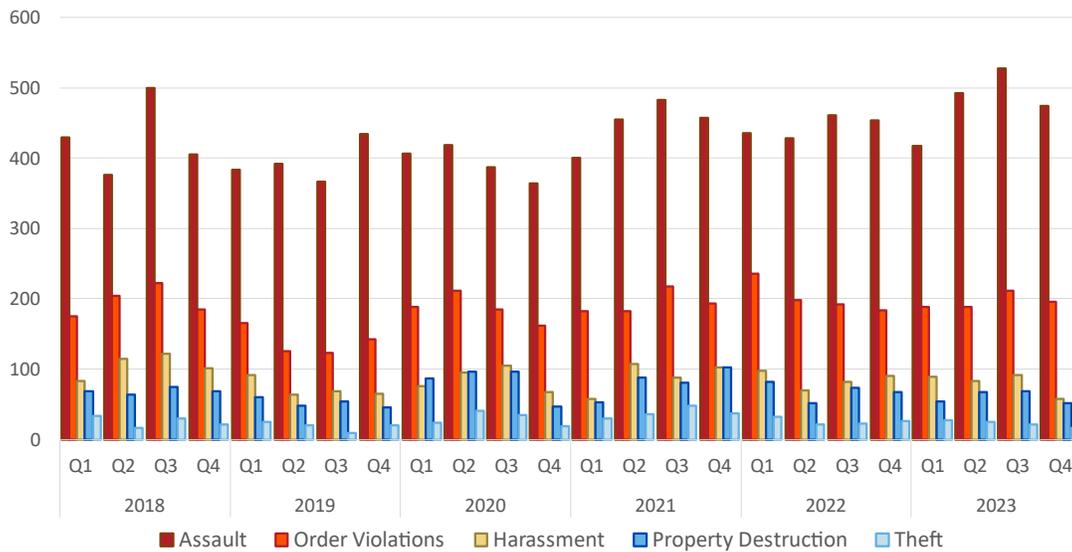


Domestic violence referrals did not see a sharp decrease during the pandemic, unlike other referrals. If Seattle followed the national trend of increased incidents of domestic violence during the pandemic, then these numbers could be under-reported due to SPD under-staffing. They were down slightly in Q4 2023 compared with Q3 2023 and similar to previous years.



Domestic violence referrals differ because of the impact charges may have on a survivor of intimate partner or family violence. Their ability to assist prosecution varies based on many factors, leading to a higher decline rate. These rates do not reflect backlog filing and the Q3 2023 rate was 59%.

### Domestic Violence Referrals by Charge Type

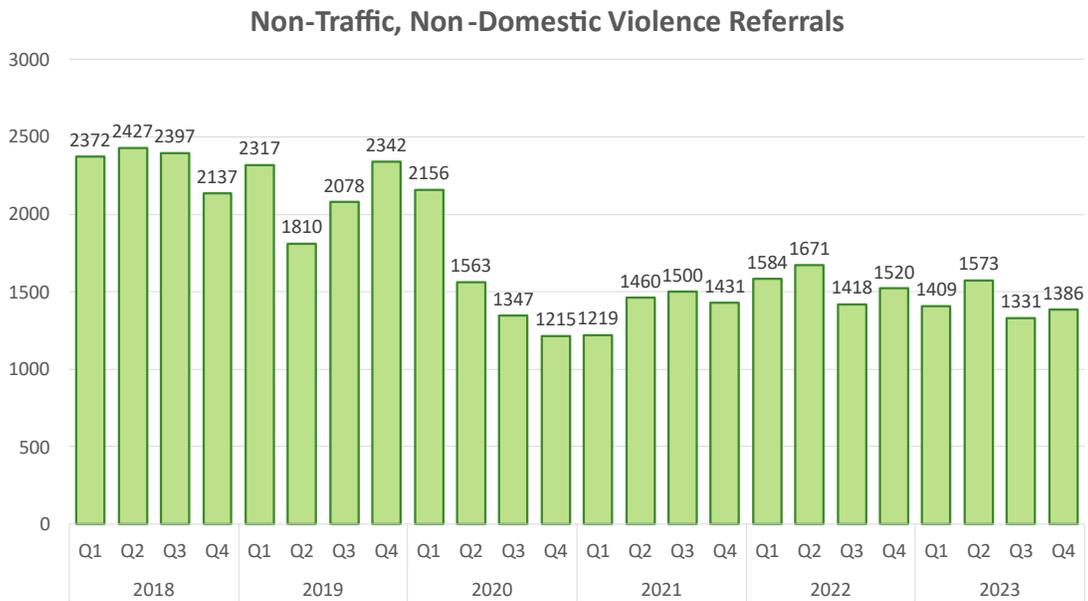


Assaults and protection/no contact order violations are the most common types of domestic violence charges. This is not an exhaustive list of domestic violence charges but represents the most common types.

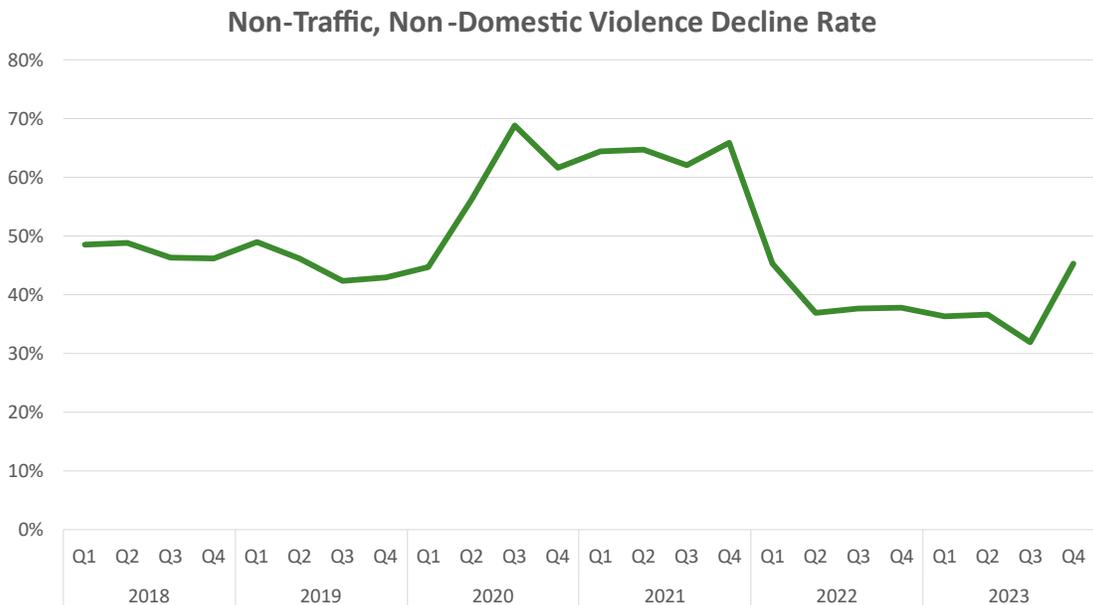
### Domestic Violence Decline Rates by Charge Type



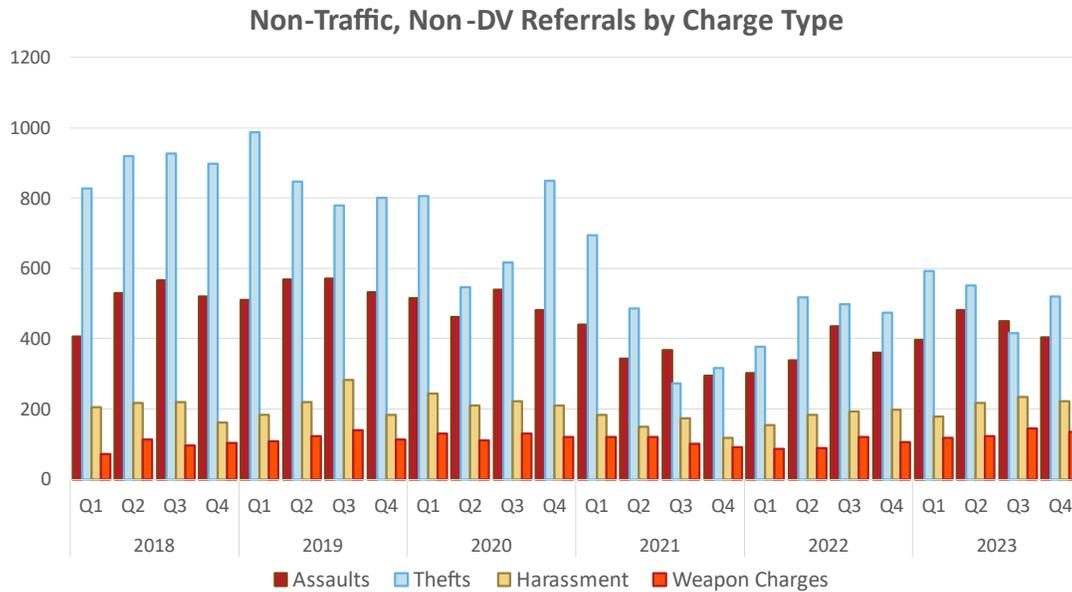
## Criminal Non-Traffic, Non-Domestic Violence



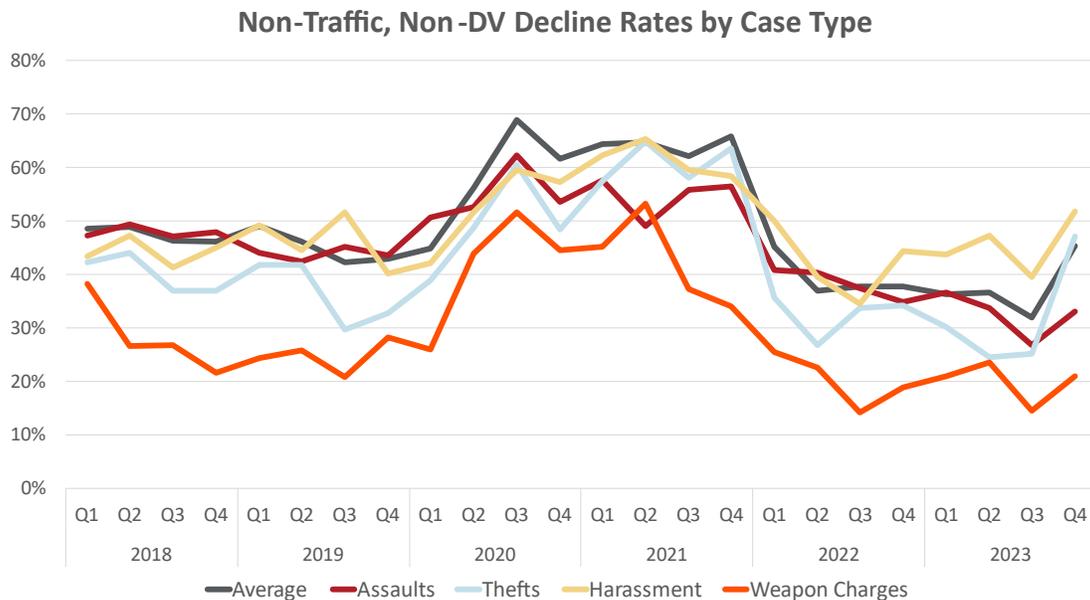
Criminal non-traffic, non-domestic violence referrals include many dozens of offenses and have a large proportion of thefts, trespasses, harassment, and assaults. They also include weapons charges and a myriad of less common offenses like reckless burning or false reporting.



Decline rates for these misdemeanors had been rising more than any other category through 2021. Part of this can be explained by the backlog in referrals that was increasing until early 2022. The decline rate not including backlog filing was 45% in Q4 2023.



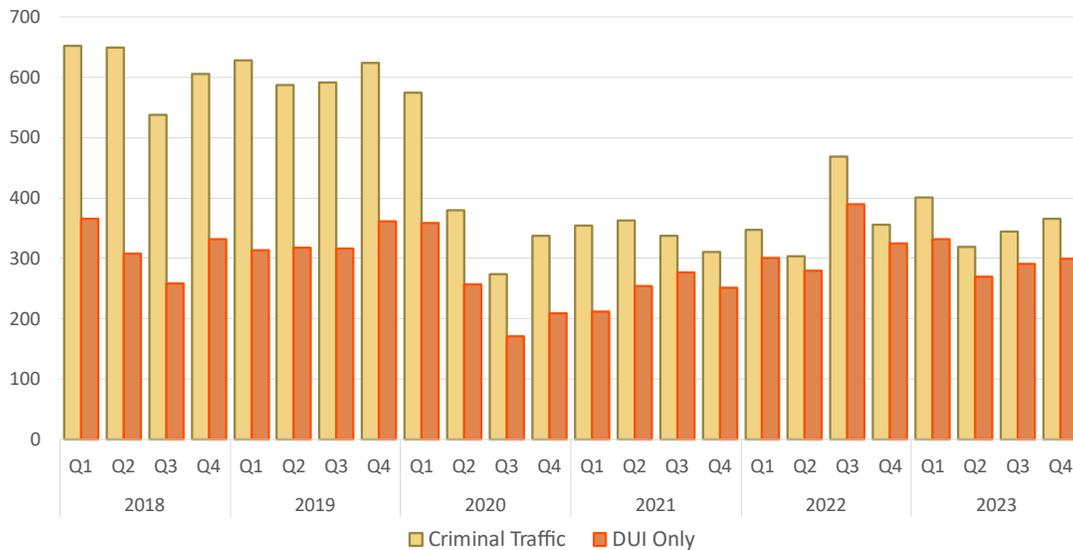
Assault and Theft are the most common non-traffic, non-domestic violence charges. Thefts are likely heavily under reported compared to assaults given the staffing challenges at SPD.



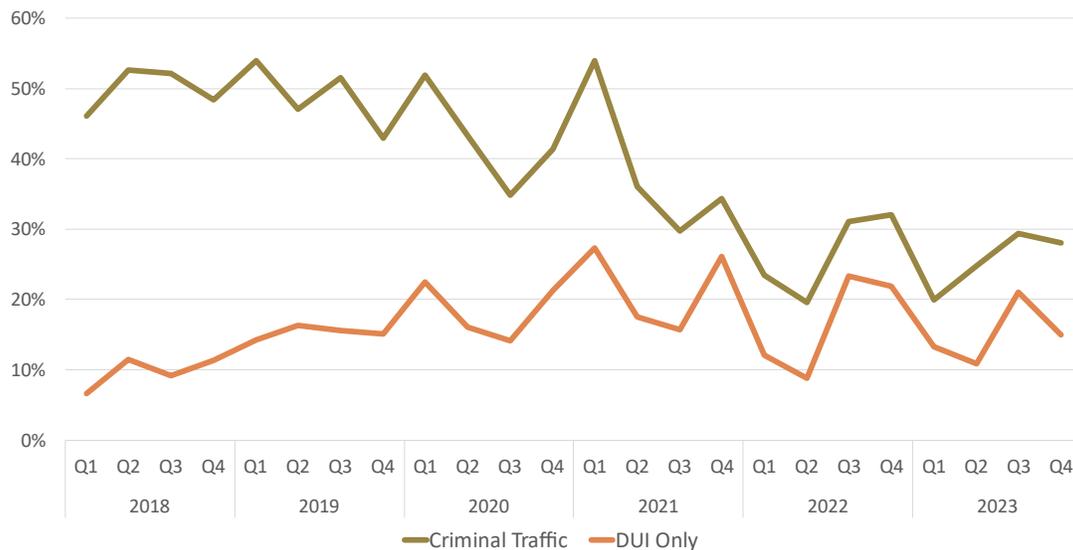
Weapons charges have the lowest decline rates, though their relatively smaller sample sizes lead to more variation.

## Criminal Traffic

### Criminal Traffic Referrals



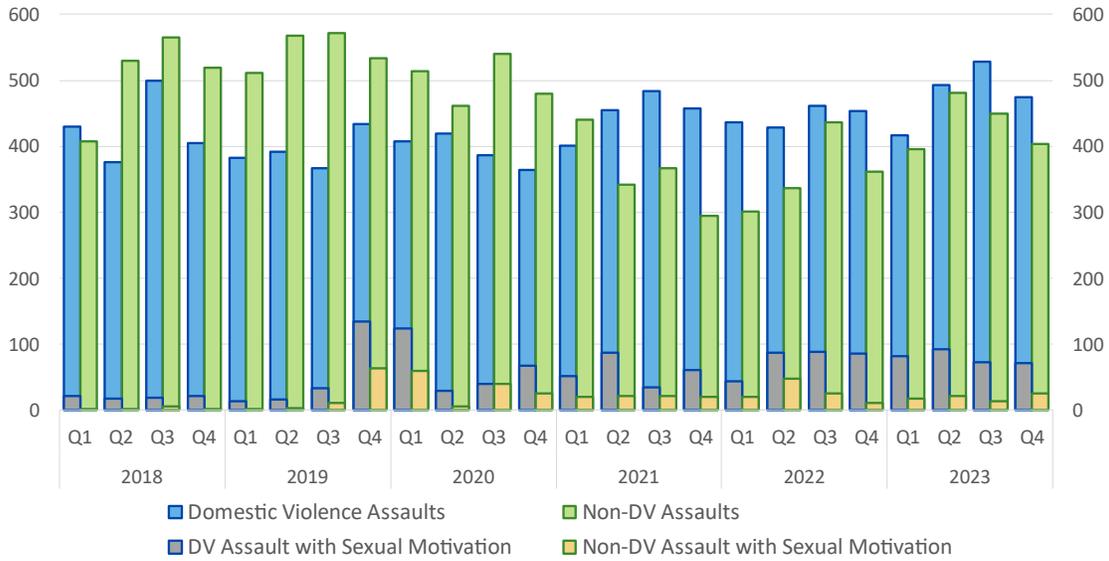
### Criminal Traffic Decline Rates



Historically DUIs have had very low decline rates but have been rising lately. This is potentially because of large delays at the state toxicology laboratory that has forced some declines. The overall traffic decline rate has dropped as DUIs have become an increasingly more dominant proportion of all traffic misdemeanors. Non-backlog filing saw a decline rate of 28% in Q4 2023.

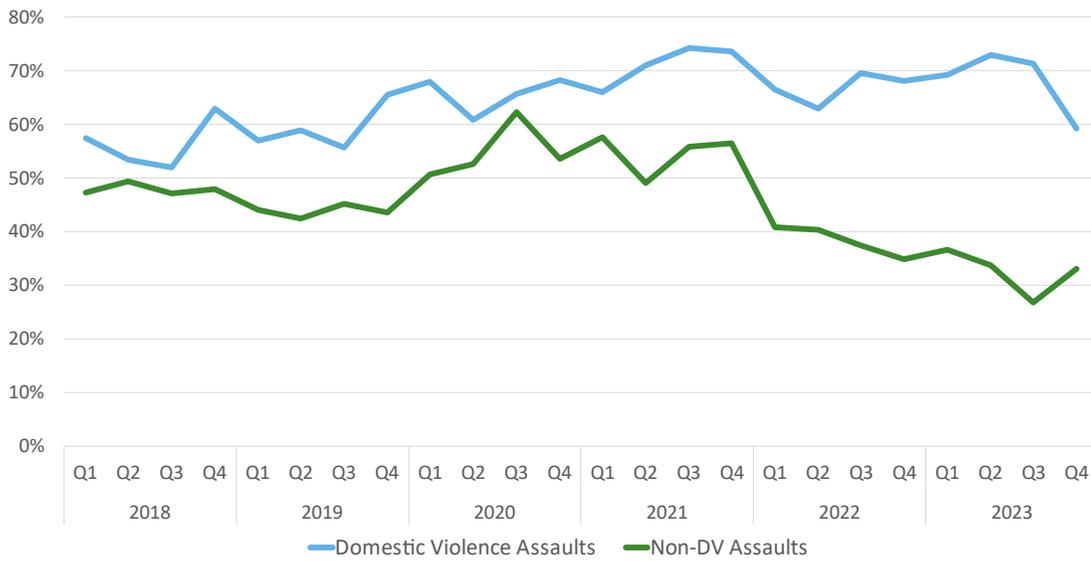
# Assault

## Referrals that Included at least One Assault Charge



Assaults of all kinds remained high in Q4 2023.

## Decline Rates for Referrals Containing Assault Charges

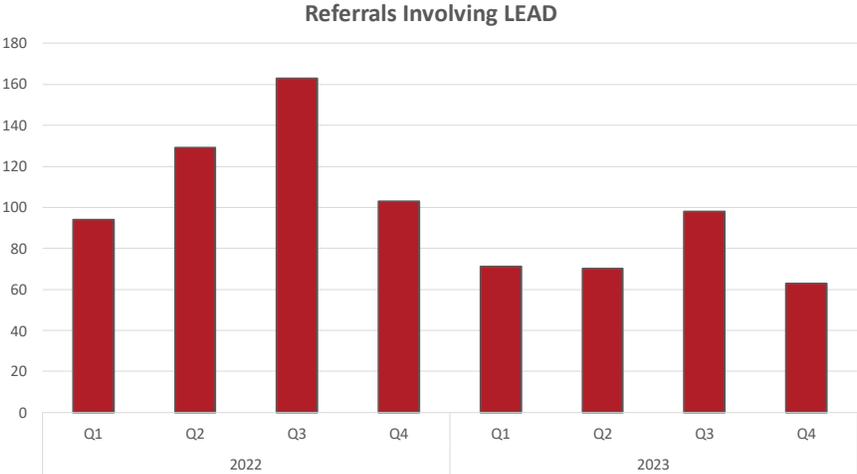


The decline rates for current non-DV assault referrals continue to fall.

# Alternatives to Traditional Prosecution

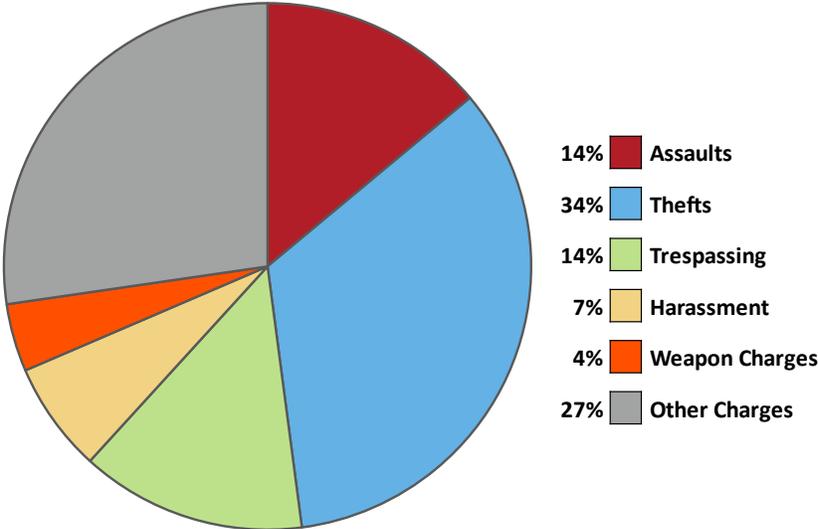
## LEAD, CoLEAD, and Vital Clients

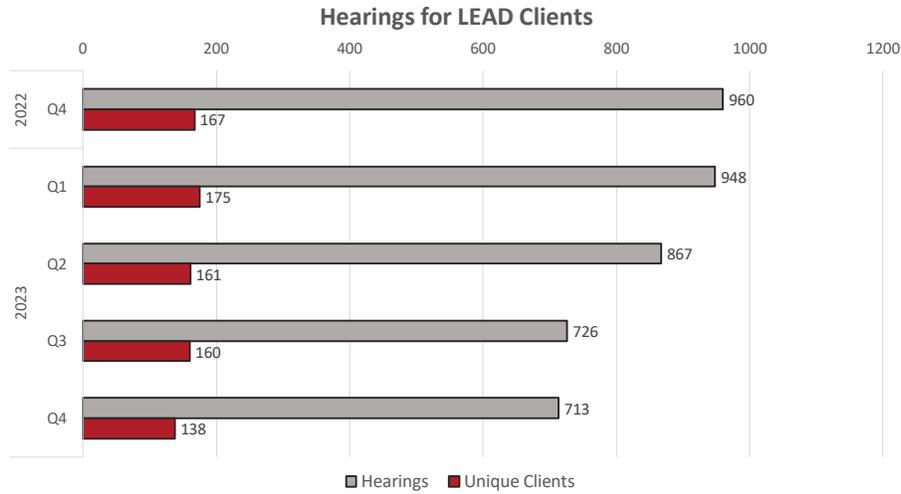
The Seattle City Attorney’s Office LEAD prosecutors work with LEAD’s almost 900 enrolled clients as well as 150 clients in CoLEAD and 60 in Vital.



The City Attorney’s Office has started to track these clients with much greater detail. The department has integrated better client tracking as to overcome shortcomings in the current criminal case management system (DAMION). We are working on putting in past clients, but currently only have clients from 2022 onward.

### Breakdown of Charges on Referrals Involving LEAD

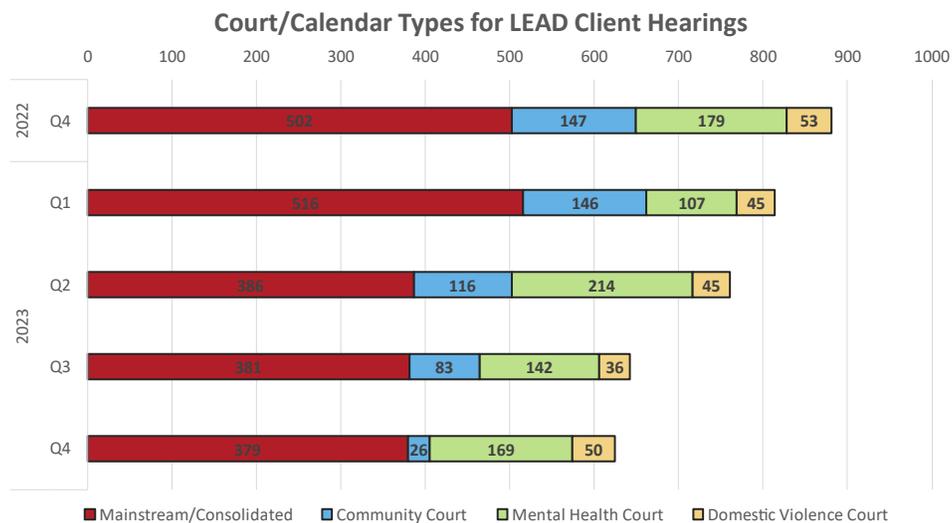




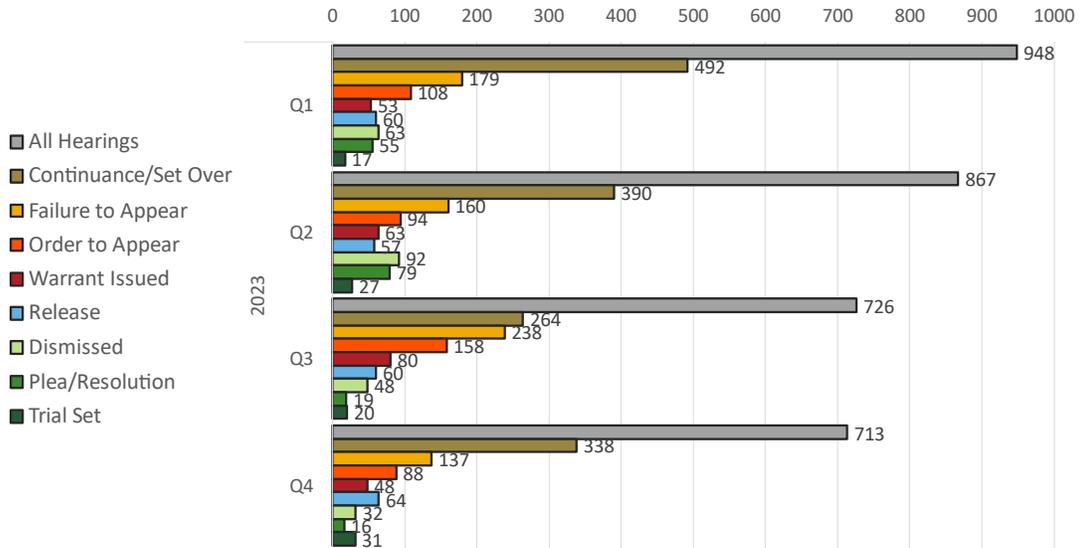
The Seattle City Attorney’s Office has a specialized team to work with program clients. A new data tracking system was put in place starting in Q4 2022. In Q4 2023 the team was part of 713 hearings covering 138 clients. One person can have multiple hearings on the same day if they have multiple active cases. Clients with multiple hearings require more work and coordination from the City Attorney’s Office. The average number of hearings per client in Q3 2023 was 5.2.

There are 4 main hearing types:

- **Mainstream/Consolidated:** This category covers cases that are not part of the below categories
- **Community Court:** Many program clients utilize the Community Court described on page 23
- **Mental Health Court:** This references the court described on page 24
- **Domestic Violence Court:** For clients suspected of committing domestic violence

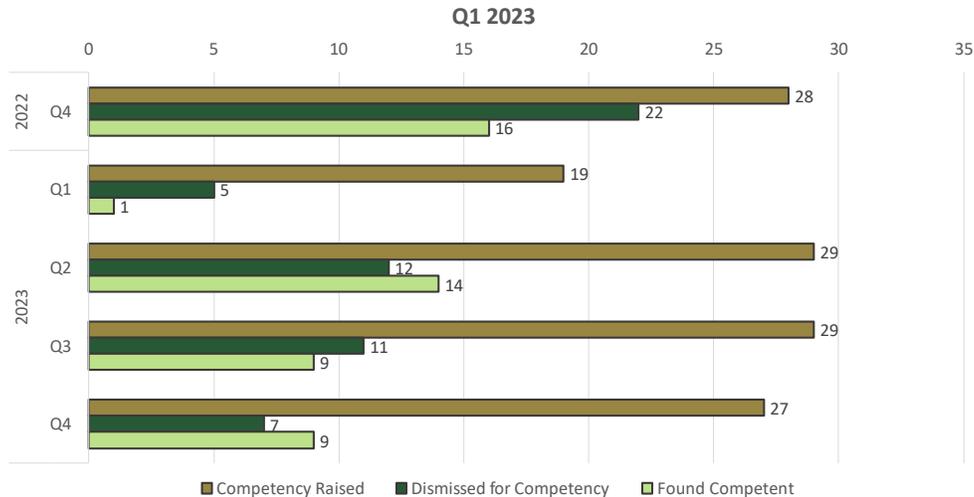


### Common Hearing Outcomes for LEAD Clients



The above are common hearing outcomes for program clients. Each hearing can have multiple outcomes. A continuance or set-over is when a hearing is delayed and set for a later date. A failure to appear often results in either an order to appear the next time or a warrant to do so. A Release refers to being released from custody either on their own recognizance, released with an electronic monitoring device, or a temporary release for something like treatment. Hearings can also have an outcome like a dismissal, plea or the setting of a trial date.

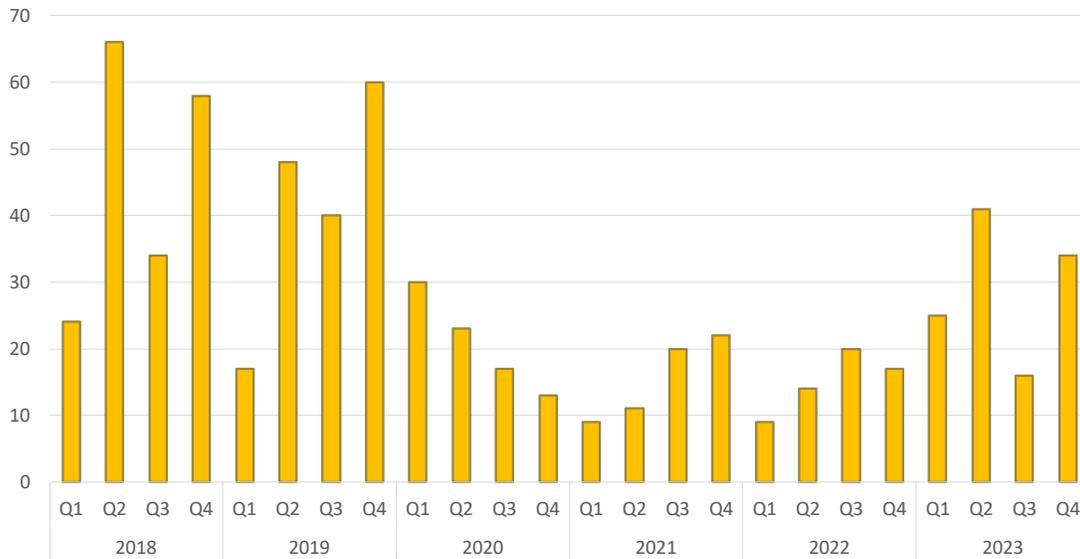
### Competency Hearings for LEAD Clients



Hearings can also have an outcome of asking whether a defendant is mentally competent to stand trial as well as a dismissal because they are not found competent or they can be found competent. A competency finding does not always occur in the same quarter that it was raised.

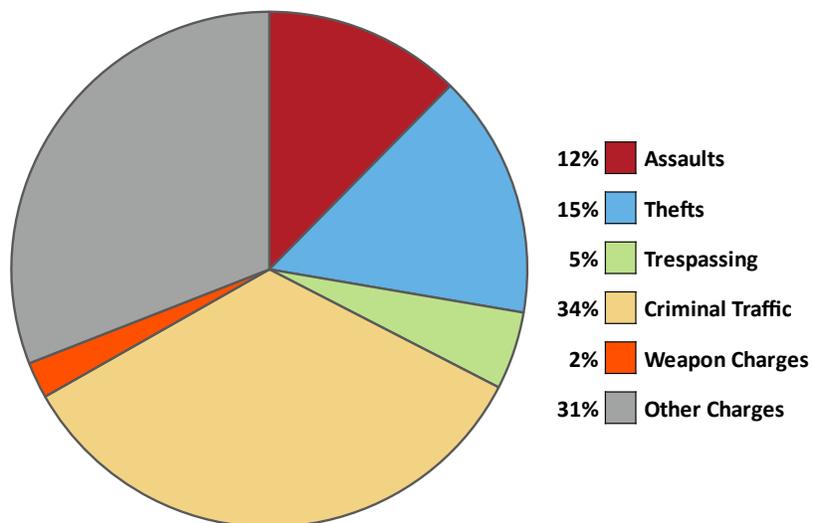
## Pre-File Diversion

### Referrals Declined After Successful Pre -File Diversion

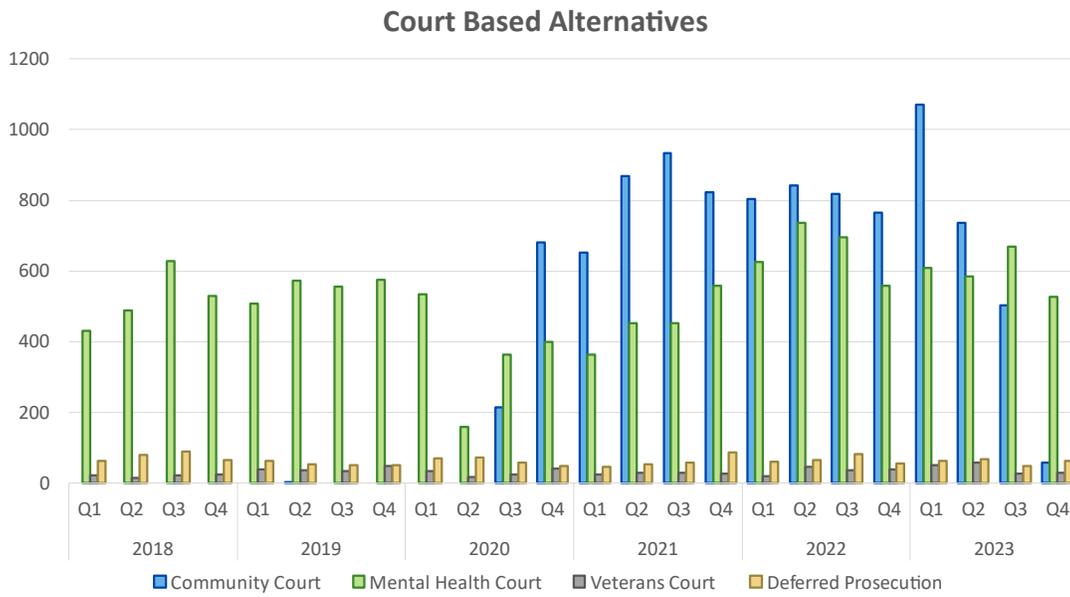


This data does not include diversions done by the team after a case has been filed.

### Breakdown of Charges in Pre-File Diversion Declines



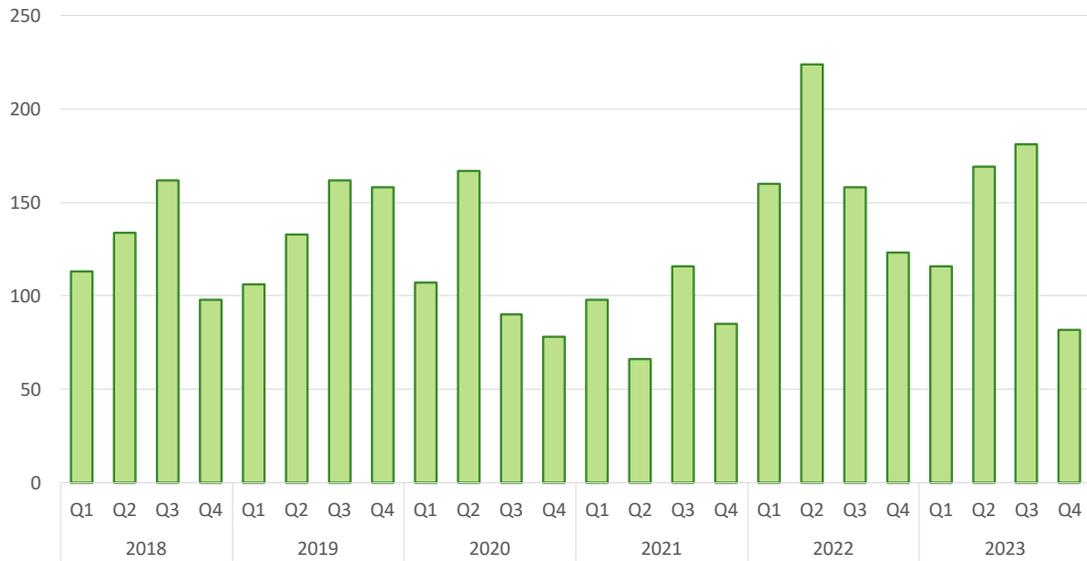
## Court Based Alternatives



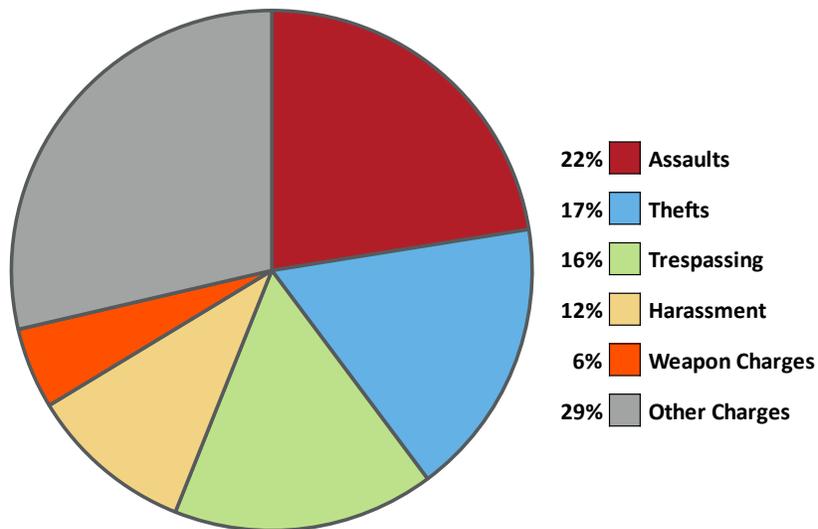
To compare between alternatives, the rest of the charts use the disposition date, but this one uses the date of court hearings. The gap in community court represents the time in which it was closed between its second and third iterations.

# Mental Health Court

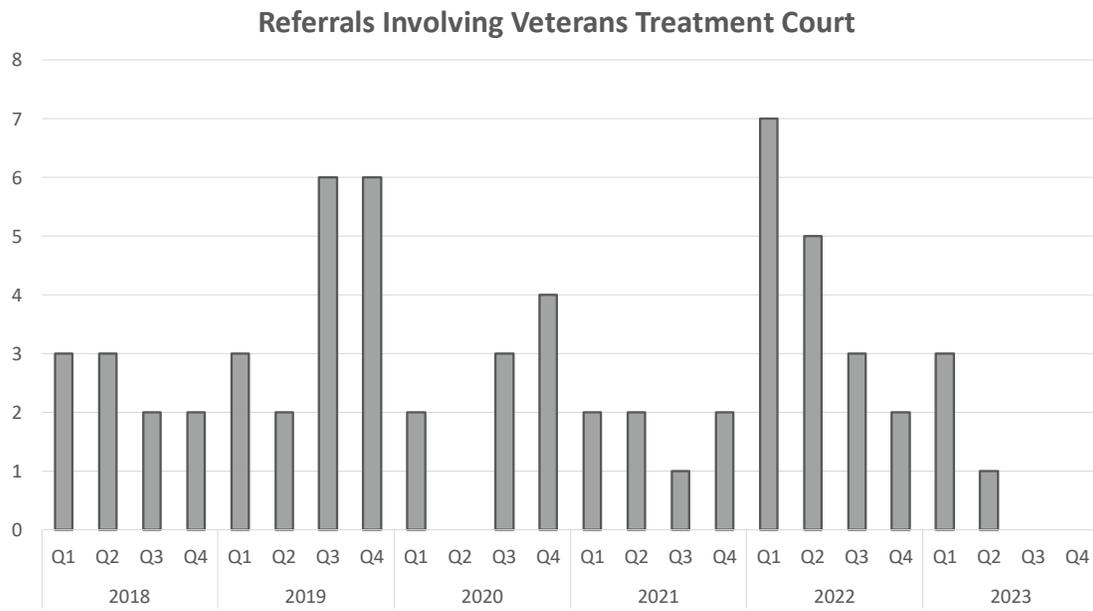
## Referrals Involving Mental Health Court



## Breakdown of Charges in Mental Health Court

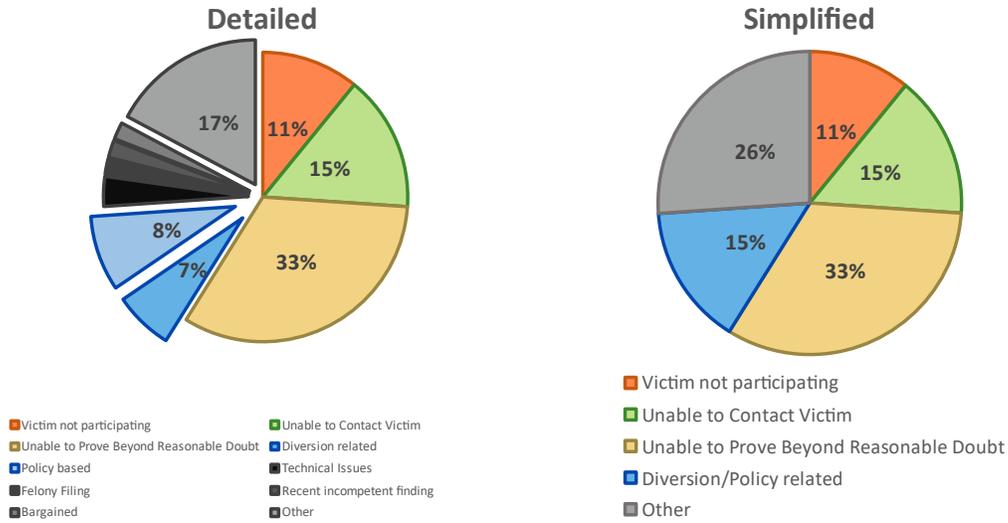


## Veterans Treatment Court



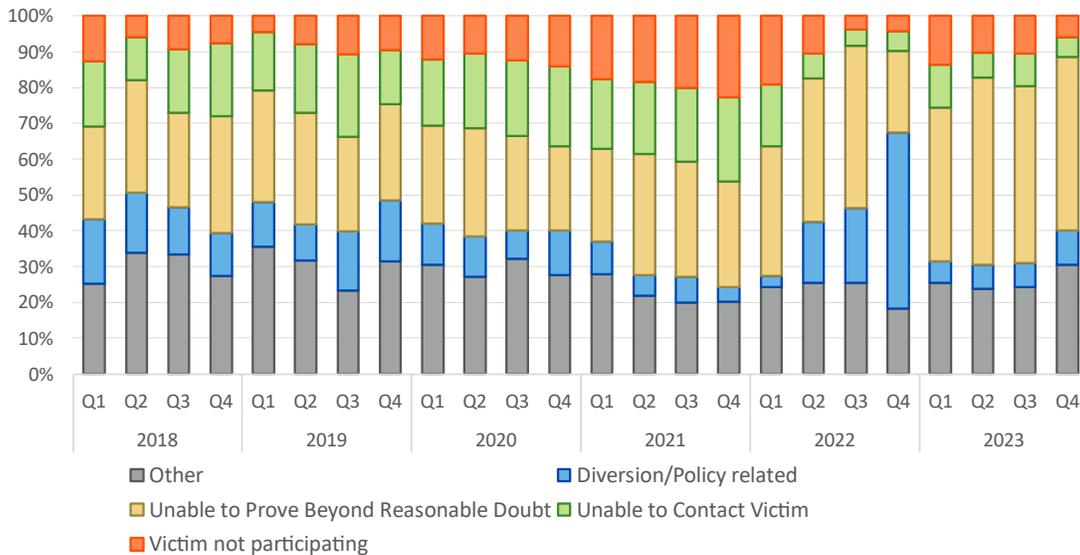
# Decline Reasons

**Breakdown of Decline Reasons**  
(2-year averages)



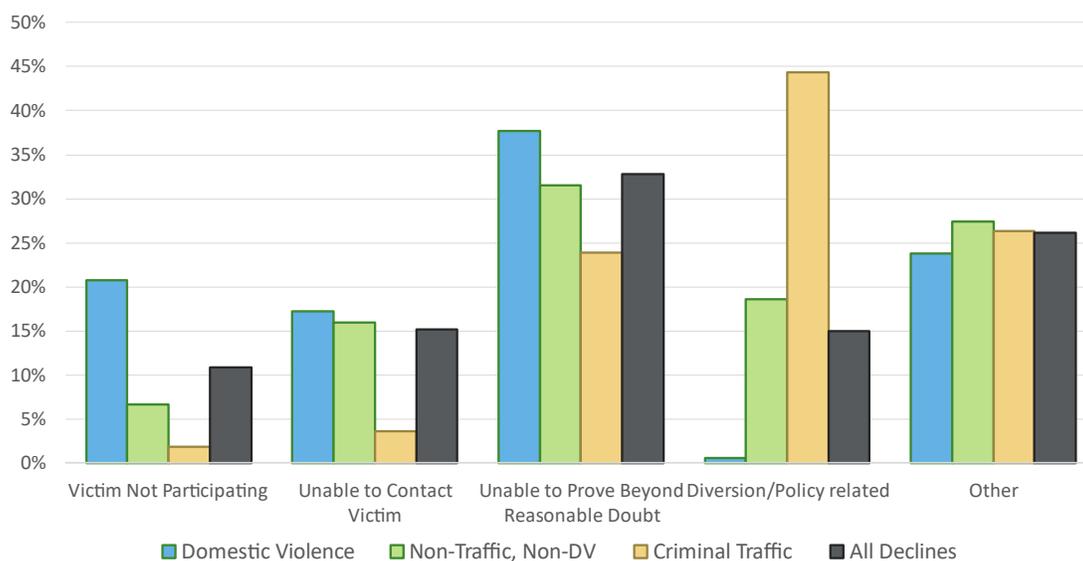
There are many reasons that the City Attorney’s office may decline to file a case. The major ones are listed above. The simplified one is used for reporting ease. These are based on 5-year averages.

**Timeline of Declines by Reason Category**



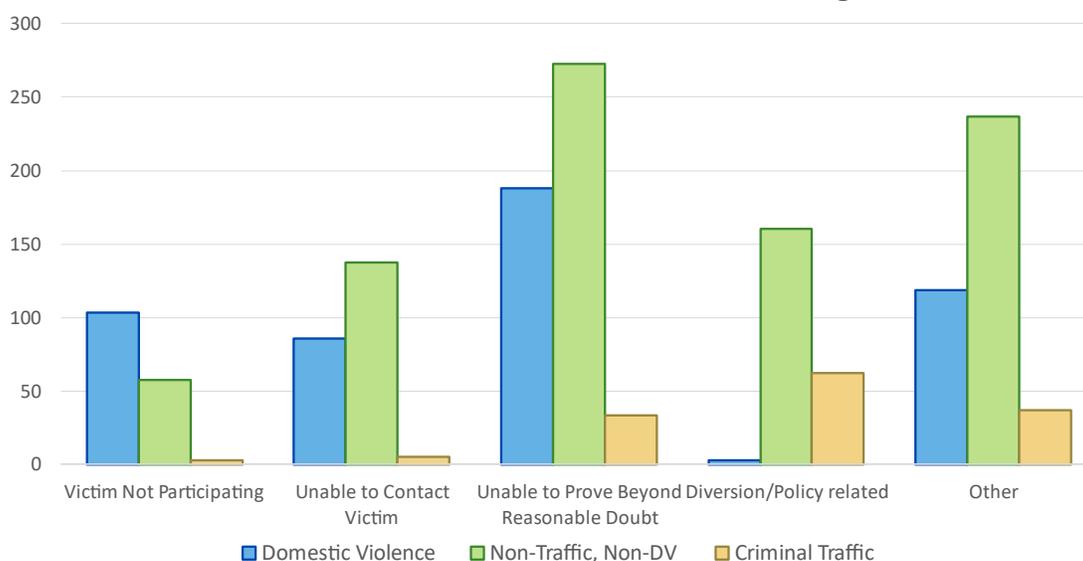
Victim related issues have continued to decline and have become a very small barrier to filing. This is partly due to better contact outcomes from the Close-In-Time policy as well as a concerted effort to look at the merits of cases beyond relying only on victim participation. Policy based declines in Q4 2022 are primarily due to the backlog filing project and skew the other proportions in that quarter.

### Breakdown of Historical Decline Reason Proportions



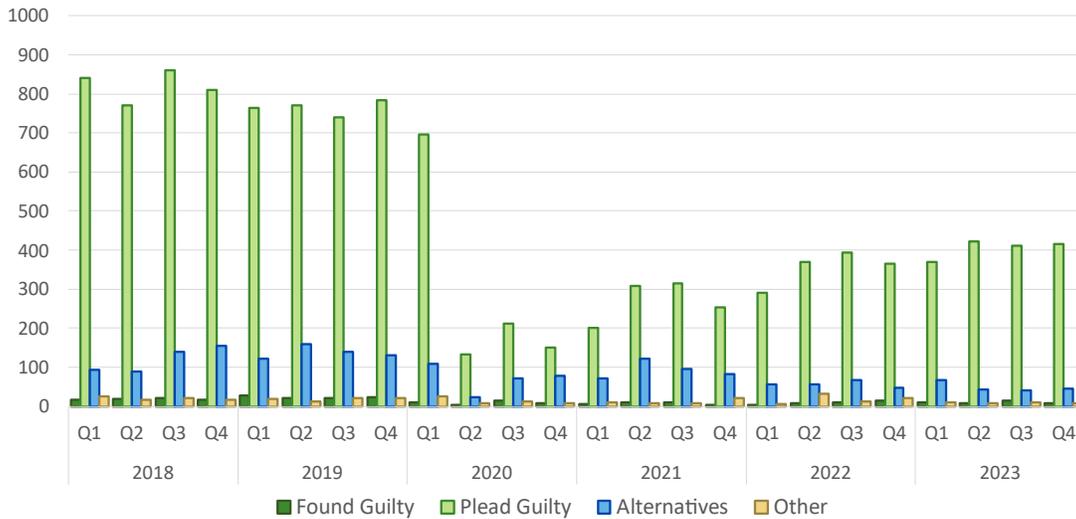
Over the past five years, a large proportion of domestic violence declines are related to the victim not wanting or being able to assist the prosecution. This is the primary reason that domestic violence decline rates are higher than for other crime types. The large percent of declines in criminal traffic referrals come from the policy of not pursuing charges on driving while license suspended charges. As these referrals are currently rare, this does not reflect the current state in 2023. The chart above shows the relative proportions of each type of decline for each crime type. The chart below shows the five-year average number of quarterly declines.

### Breakdown of Historical Decline Reason Averages

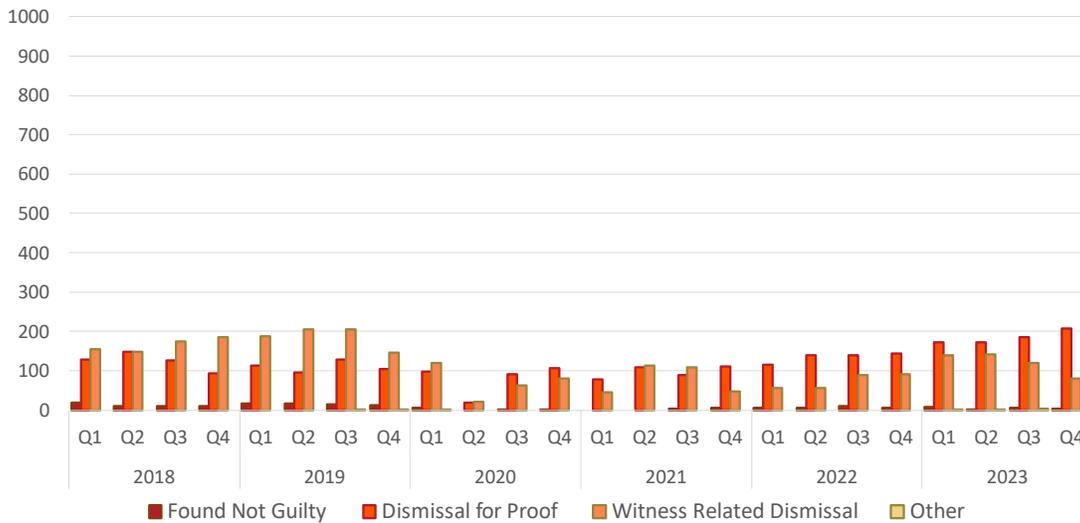


# Final Dispositions

Select Final Dispositions  
(part 1)

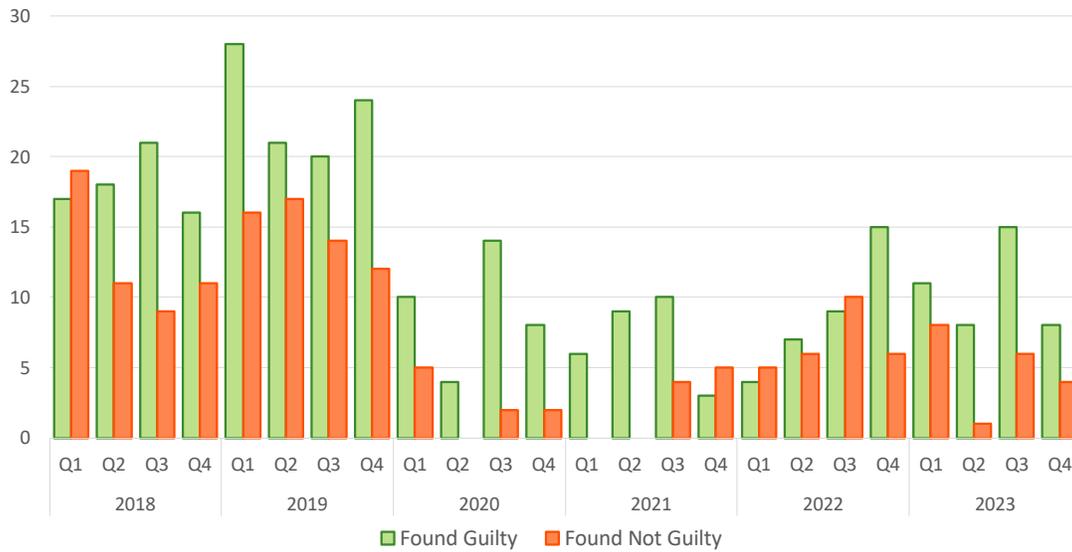


Select Final Dispositions  
(part 2)



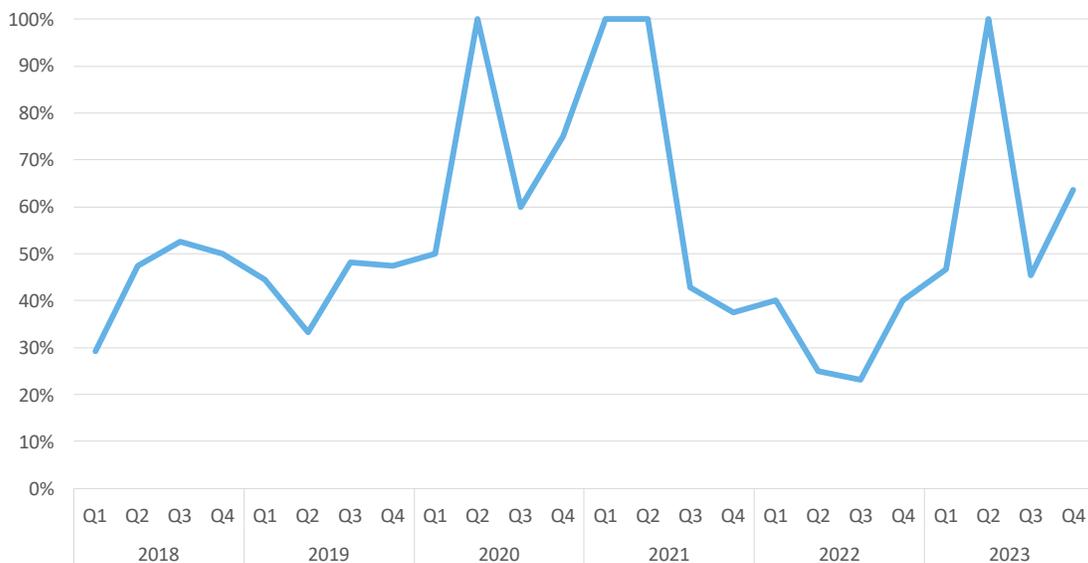
The most common final dispositions are guilty pleas, typically as part of a negotiated plea deal. Dismissals related to successful completion of alternatives to traditional prosecution, proof issues, and victim or witness related dismissals are also common. Guilty and not guilty findings via jury verdict are rare due to the decreased number of jury trials. Major capacity issues that originated during the pandemic still exist within the Seattle Municipal Court resulting in decreased levels of all final dispositions.

### Suspects Found Guilty vs Not Guilty

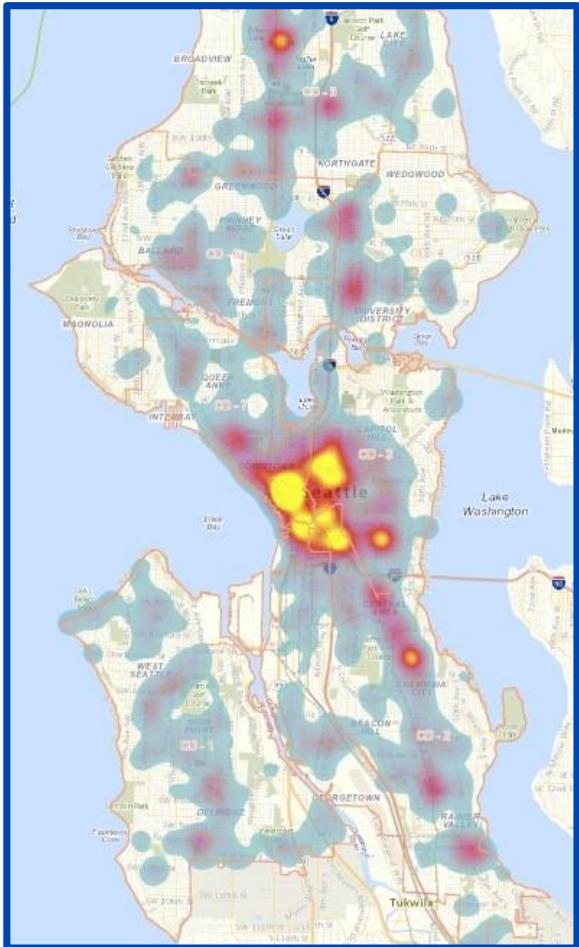
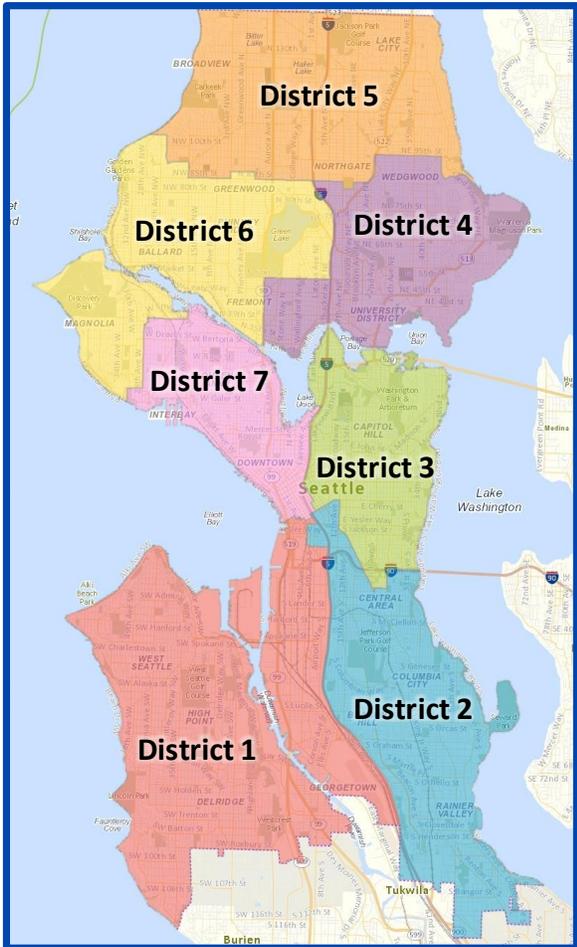


Findings of guilty and not guilty after a jury trial make up a very small proportion of outcomes. Findings of either kind have been rare since the courts shut down for the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a result, the found guilty vs not guilty rate is not reliable.

### Percent of Suspects Found Guilty After a Jury Trial



# District Specifics



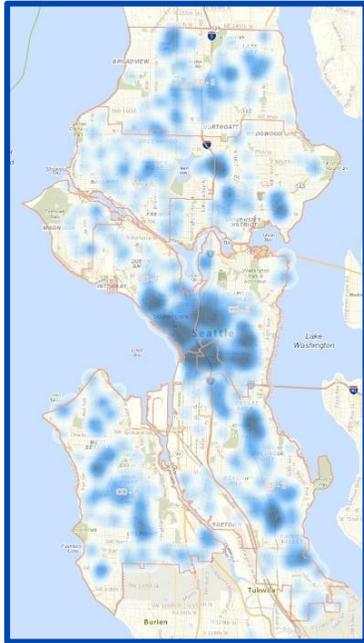
Council Districts were redrawn effective Q1 2023. The largest changes were District 1 absorbing the land between the Duwamish and I-5 and District 6 absorbing Magnolia.

### Mapping Accuracy

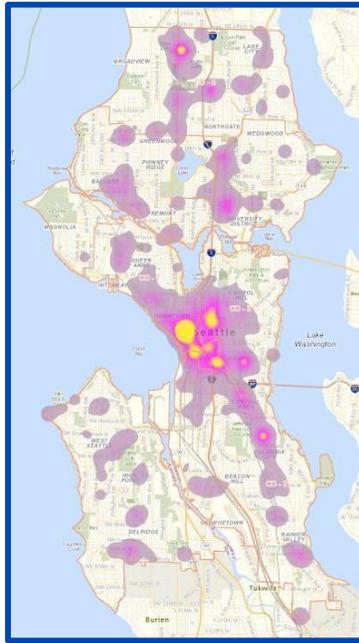
Mapping a police referral relies on the accuracy of the information on a report. Even after manually correcting addresses, some either do not have enough information or are not tied to a physical address in the city’s GIS database. The most common of these are DUIs that occur on grade-separated roads.

	Domestic Violence	Court Order Violations	Assault	Weapons Charges	Harassment	Theft	DUI	Total Referrals
Mapped	803	203	843	121	268	362	293	2527
UnMapped	11	5	17	3	3	2	6	50
Mapped %	99%	98%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	98%

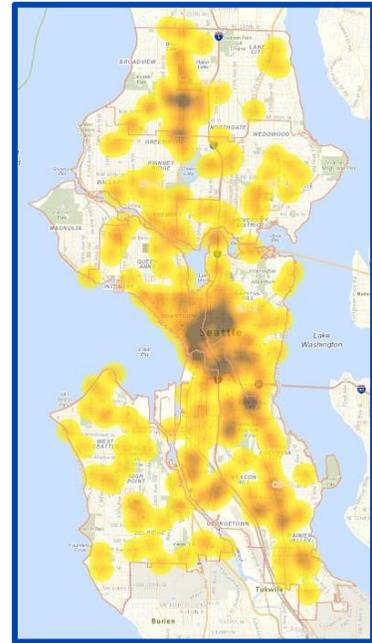
### Domestic Violence



### Non-Traffic, Non-DV



### Criminal Traffic



### Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Referrals concentrate in any part of the city that has a higher density of housing. In addition to the city's core, higher rates of domestic violence follow the light rail down the rainier valley and the denser portions of the Lake City Way and Aurora corridors. It can also be found in higher levels in West Seattle and Wallingford.

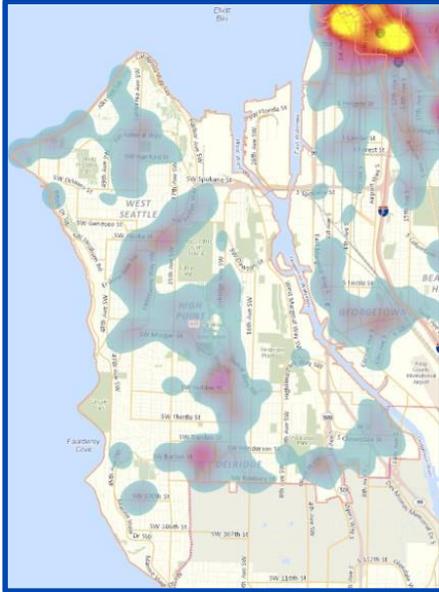
### Criminal Non-Traffic, Non-Domestic Violence

Misdemeanors that are neither traffic nor domestic violence related concentrate around commercial areas like Downtown, Capitol Hill, Northgate, The U District, Mount Baker, North Aurora, and Ballard.

### Criminal Traffic

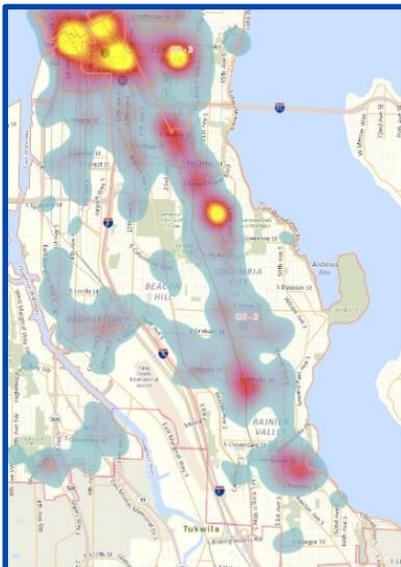
Unlike the other categories, criminal traffic misdemeanors do not have the highest concentration downtown. Rather they have the highest concentration in Capitol Hill. The downtown areas with the most are Pioneer Square and Belltown and are likely related to bar activity. North Aurora, Fremont, Ballard, Georgetown, and South Park also have higher incidents of criminal traffic referrals.

## District 1



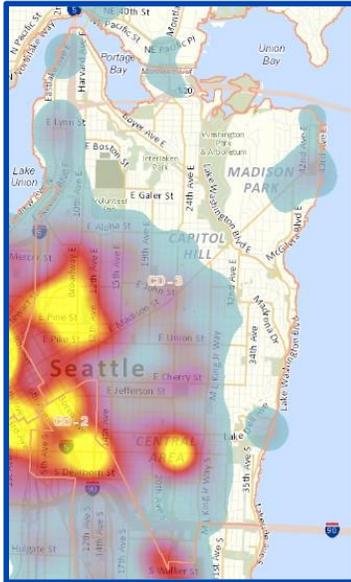
District 1, Q4-2023		
	Count	% of Seattle
Domestic Violence	158	20%
Court Order Violations	36	18%
Assault	164	19%
Weapons Charges	14	12%
Harassment	48	18%
Theft	41	11%
DUI	50	17%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>16%</b>

## District 2



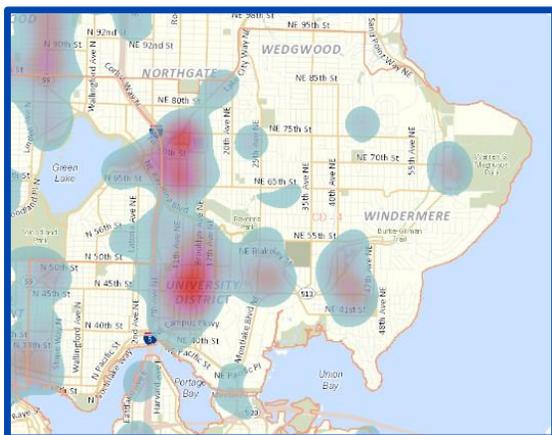
District 2, Q4-2023		
	Count	% of Seattle
Domestic Violence	174	22%
Court Order Violations	40	20%
Assault	178	21%
Weapons Charges	14	12%
Harassment	46	17%
Theft	71	20%
DUI	73	25%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>21%</b>

## District 3



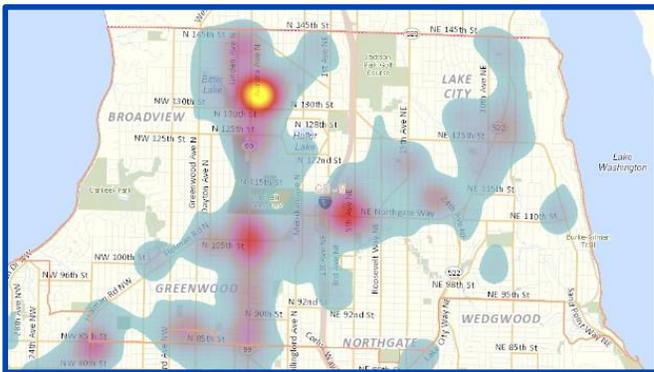
District 3, Q4-2023		
	Count	% of Seattle
Domestic Violence	130	16%
Court Order Violations	25	12%
Assault	148	18%
Weapons Charges	26	21%
Harassment	52	19%
Theft	53	15%
DUI	63	22%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>18%</b>

## District 4



District 4, Q4-2023		
	Count	% of Seattle
Domestic Violence	59	7%
Court Order Violations	13	6%
Assault	66	8%
Weapons Charges	13	11%
Harassment	18	7%
Theft	31	9%
DUI	15	5%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>7%</b>

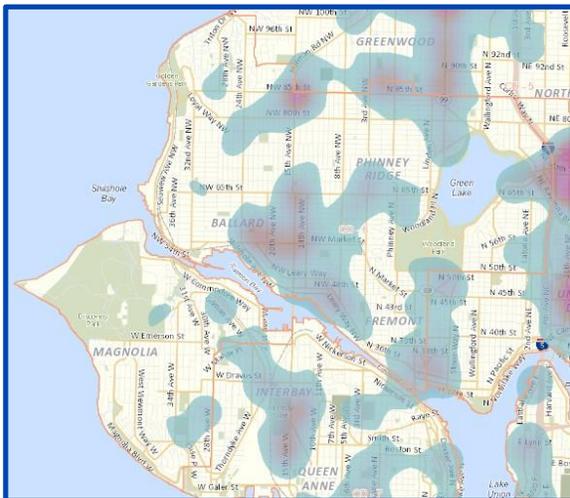
## District 5



### District 5, Q4-2023

	Count	% of Seattle
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	98	12%
<b>Court Order Violations</b>	32	16%
<b>Assault</b>	80	9%
<b>Weapons Charges</b>	12	10%
<b>Harassment</b>	35	13%
<b>Theft</b>	56	15%
<b>DUI</b>	30	10%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>12%</b>

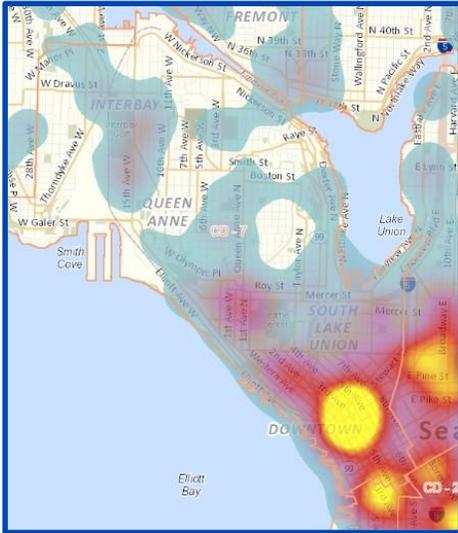
## District 6



### District 6, Q4-2023

	Count	% of Seattle
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	67	8%
<b>Court Order Violations</b>	27	13%
<b>Assault</b>	60	7%
<b>Weapons Charges</b>	6	5%
<b>Harassment</b>	18	7%
<b>Theft</b>	28	8%
<b>DUI</b>	19	6%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>7%</b>

## District 7

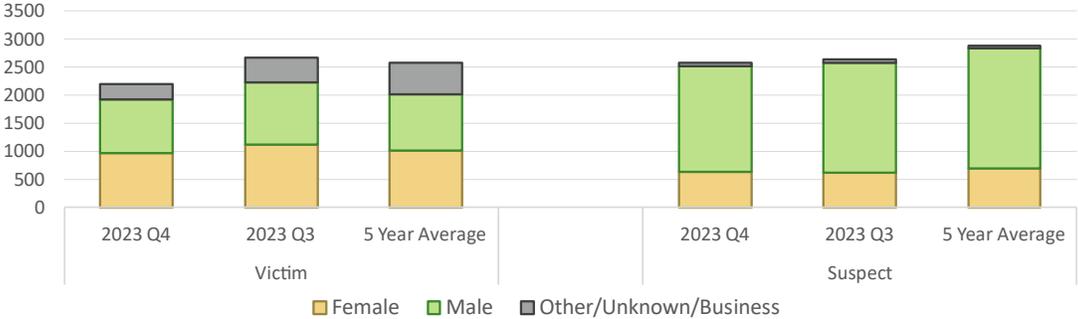


District 7, Q4-2023		
	Count	% of Seattle
Domestic Violence	117	15%
Court Order Violations	30	15%
Assault	147	17%
Weapons Charges	36	30%
Harassment	51	19%
Theft	82	23%
DUI	43	15%
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>20%</b>

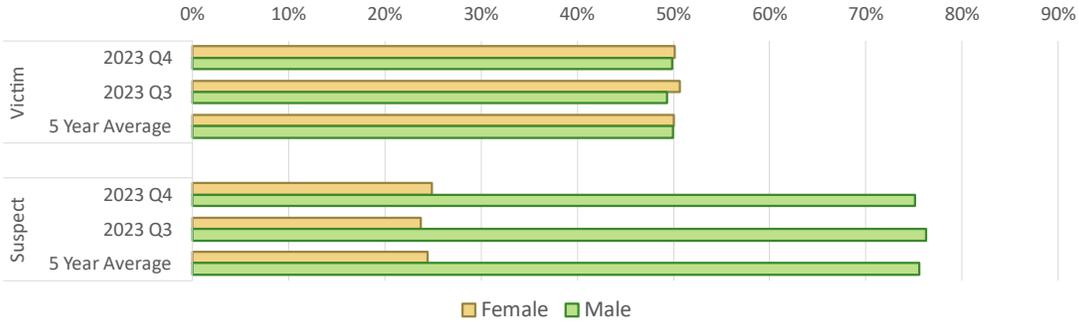
# Gender Specifics

Demographic information originates with police reports and are on occasion updated by SCAO staff.

**Incoming Referrals by Gender for Victims and Suspects**

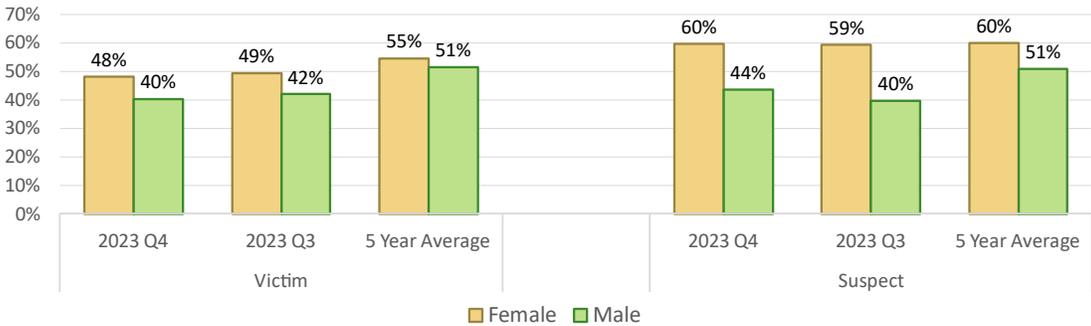


**Proportion of Incoming Referrals by Gender for Victims/Suspects**



While males make up about three quarters of police referrals, crime victims are more proportional to the population with businesses making up a large proportion of the “other/unknown/business” category. Gender diverse individuals are less than one percent of victims and of suspects.

**Decline Rates by Gender for Victims and Suspects**



## Tables

These tables provide the information on the next several pages in a condensed form. Blank sections refer to data that has too small of a sample size to be relevant.

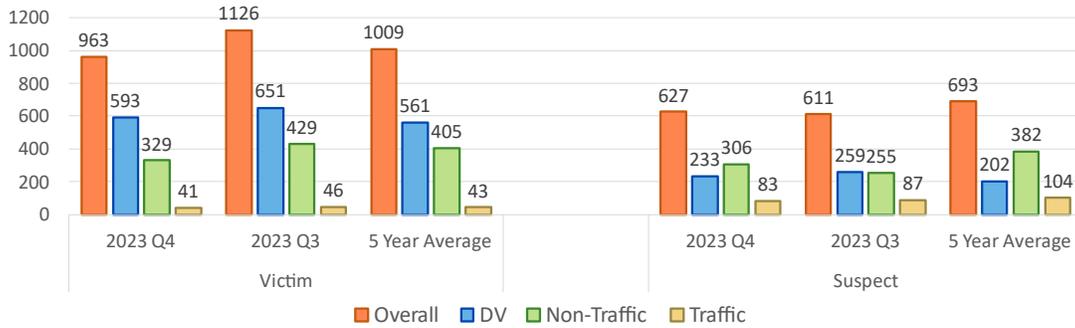
Referrals by Gender													
		Q4 2023				5-year Average				Change			
		Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic
Female	Victims	963	593	329	41	1009	561	405	43	-5%	6%	-19%	-4%
	Suspects	627	233	306	83	693	202	382	104	-10%	15%	-20%	-20%
Male	Victims	959	262	639	58	1006	262	679	65	-5%	0%	-6%	-11%
	Suspects	1895	563	1055	271	2144	578	1244	316	-12%	-3%	-15%	-14%

Decline Rates by Gender													
		Q4 2023				5-year Average				Change			
		Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic
Female	Victims	48%	51%	46%	-	55%	61%	49%	16%	-6%	-10%	-3%	-
	Suspects	60%	75%	51%	-	60%	79%	54%	41%	0%	-4%	-3%	-
Male	Victims	40%	64%	33%	-	51%	72%	46%	18%	-11%	-8%	-13%	-
	Suspects	44%	51%	43%	25%	51%	62%	48%	41%	-7%	-11%	-5%	-16%

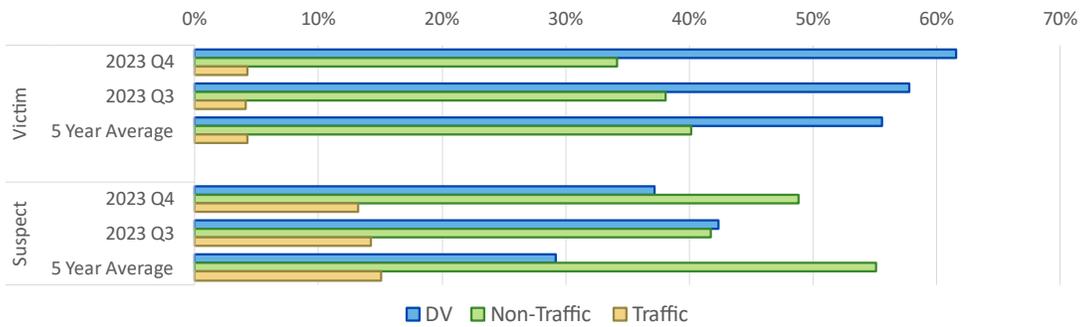
Final Dispositions by Gender											
		Q4 2023			5 Year Average			Change			
		% Guilty Pleas	% Jury Trials w/ Findings	% Found Guilty	% Guilty Pleas	% Jury Trials w/ Findings	% Found Guilty	% Guilty Pleas	% Jury Trials w/ Findings	% Found Guilty	
Female	Victims	-	0%	-	47%	3%	65%	-	-3%	-	
	Suspects	49%	4%	-	53%	6%	73%	-4%	-1%	-	
Male	Victims	71%	0%	-	55%	2%	43%	16%	-2%	-	
	Suspects	53%	5%	72%	57%	6%	65%	-4%	-1%	7%	

# Female

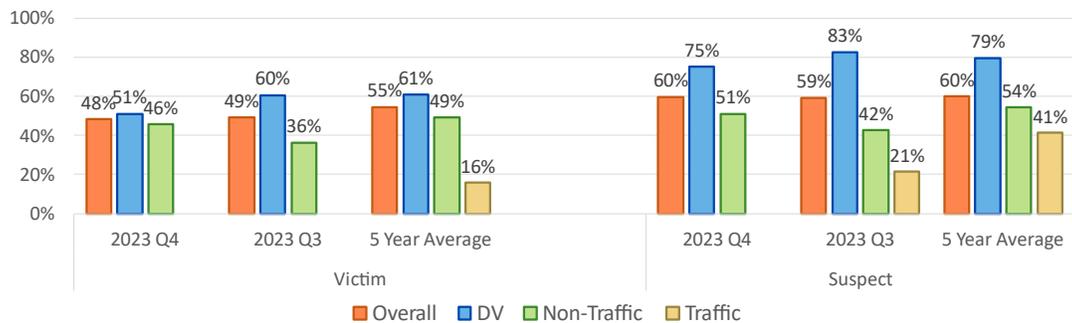
### Referrals by Category Involving Female Victims and Suspects



### Crime Type Proportions for Female Victims and Suspects

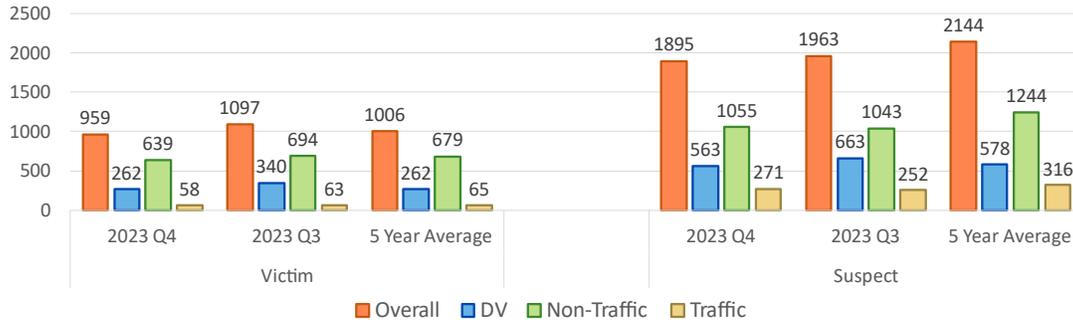


### Decline Rates for Referrals Involving Female Victims and Suspects

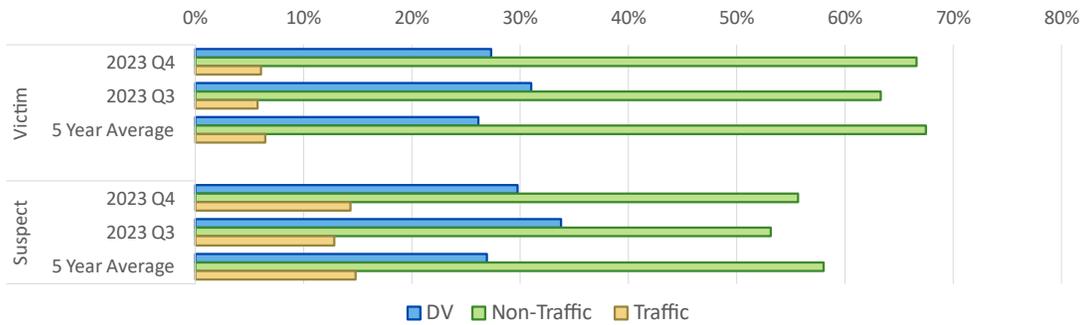


# Male

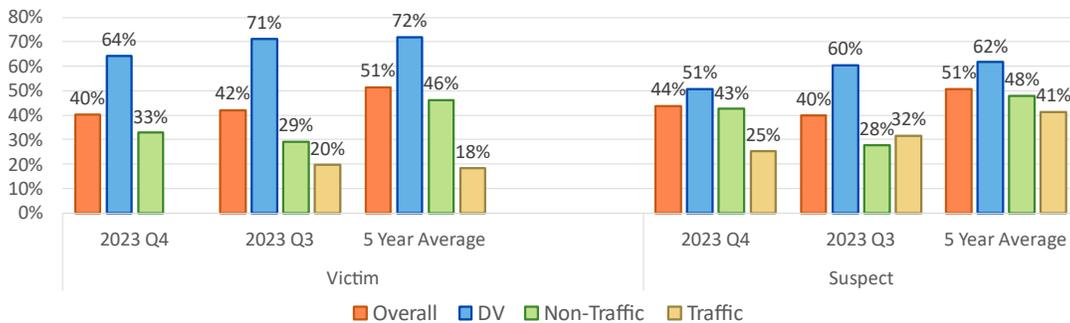
### Referrals by Category Involving Male Victims and Suspects



### Crime Type Proportions for Male Victims and Suspects



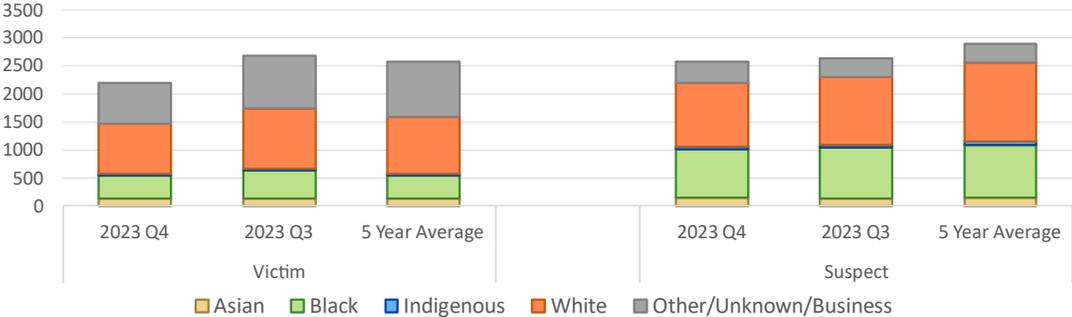
### Decline Rates for Referrals Involving Male Victims and Suspects



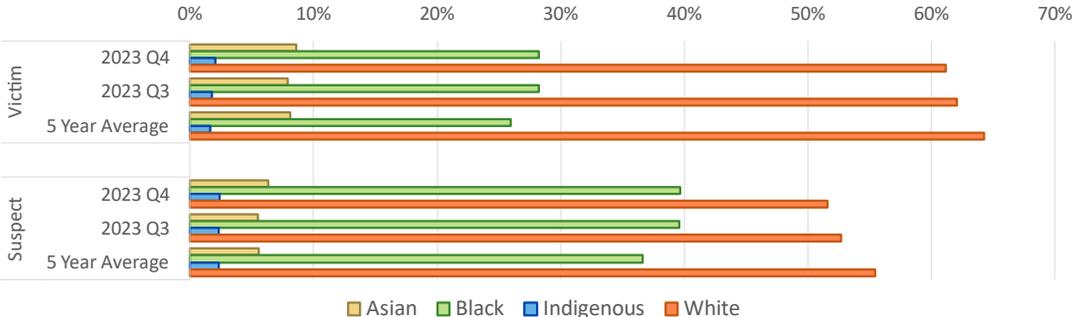
# Race Specifics

Demographic information originates with police reports and are updated by SCAO staff. **Small sample sizes for Asian and Indigenous peoples may reduce statistical relevance.**

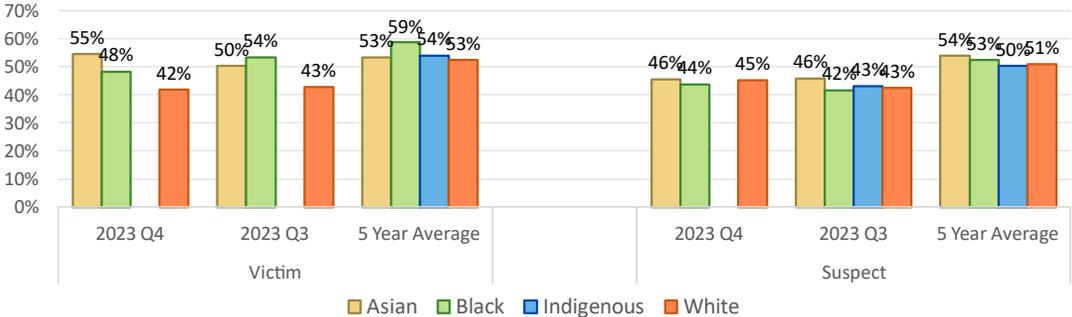
**Incoming Referrals by Race for Victims and Suspects**



**Proportion of Incoming Referrals by Race for Victims/Suspects**



**Decline Rates by Race for Victims and Suspects**



## Tables

These tables provide the information on the next several pages in a condensed form. Blank sections refer to data that has too small of a sample size to be relevant.

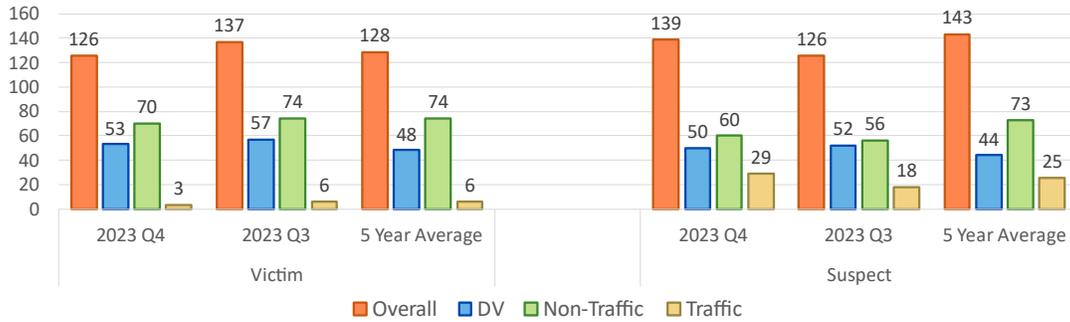
Referrals by Race													
		Q4 2023				5-year Average				Change			
		Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic
Asian	Victims	126	53	70	3	128	48	74	6	-2%	10%	-5%	-
	Suspects	139	50	60	29	143	44	73	25	-3%	14%	-18%	-
Black	Victims	414	234	168	12	411	218	181	12	1%	7%	-7%	-
	Suspects	871	255	517	98	937	265	548	123	-7%	-4%	-6%	-20%
Indigenous	Victims	30	22	8	0	26	17	9	0	-	-	-	-
	Suspects	53	17	34	2	59	15	39	4	-11%	-	-14%	-
White	Victims	898	377	487	34	1017	408	574	35	-12%	-8%	-15%	-3%
	Suspects	1133	360	598	174	1418	351	844	217	-20%	3%	-29%	-20%

Decline Rates by Race													
		Q4 2023				5-year Average				Change			
		Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Overall	DV	Non-Traffic	Traffic
Asian	Victims	55%	68%	45%	-	53%	65%	48%	-	1%	3%	-4%	-
	Suspects	46%	-	50%	-	54%	66%	50%	44%	-8%	-	0%	-
Black	Victims	48%	56%	40%	-	59%	67%	52%	18%	-10%	-10%	-11%	-
	Suspects	44%	56%	40%	19%	53%	64%	48%	48%	-9%	-8%	-8%	-29%
Indigenous	Victims	-	-	-	-	54%	59%	47%	-	-	-	-	-
	Suspects	-	-	-	-	50%	68%	46%	-	-	-	-	-
White	Victims	42%	55%	34%	-	53%	64%	46%	21%	-11%	-9%	-13%	-
	Suspects	45%	57%	42%	22%	51%	65%	48%	35%	-6%	-8%	-7%	-13%

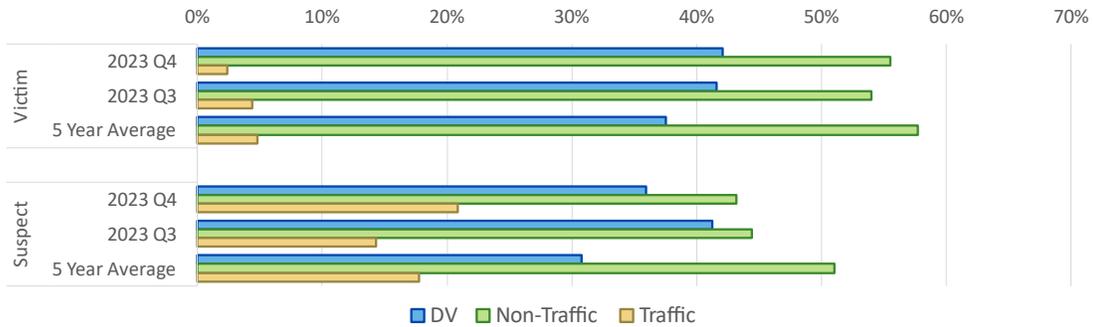
Final Dispositions by Race										
		Q4 2023			5 Year Average			Change		
		% Guilty Pleas	% Jury Trials w/ Findings	% Found Guilty	% Guilty Pleas	% Jury Trials w/ Findings	% Found Guilty	% Guilty Pleas	% Jury Trials w/ Findings	% Found Guilty
Asian	Victims	-	0%	-	-	1%	-	-	-1%	-
	Suspects	59%	0%	-	53%	6%	-	6%	-6%	-
Black	Victims	-	0%	-	35%	3%	51%	-	-3%	-
	Suspects	47%	5%	67%	56%	5%	53%	-9%	0%	13%
Indigenous	Victims	-	0%	-	-	3%	-	-	-3%	-
	Suspects	-	0%	-	-	6%	-	-	-6%	-
White	Victims	-	0%	-	43%	2%	56%	-	-2%	-
	Suspects	57%	6%	83%	58%	6%	75%	-1%	0%	9%

# Asian

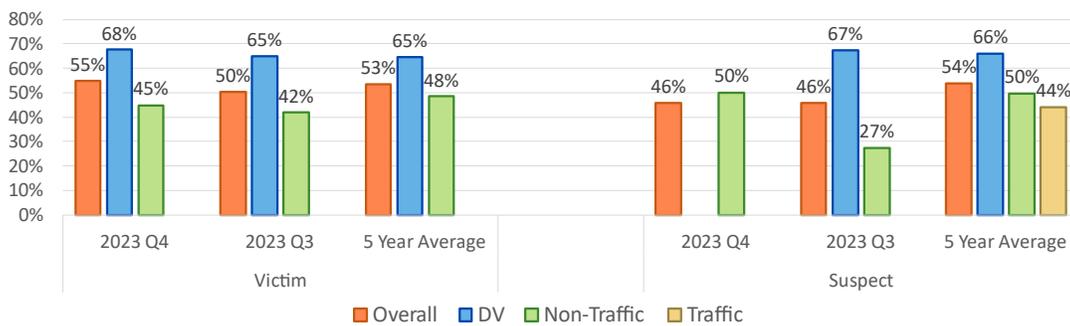
### Referrals by Category Involving Asian Victims and Suspects



### Crime Type Proportions for Asian Victims and Suspects

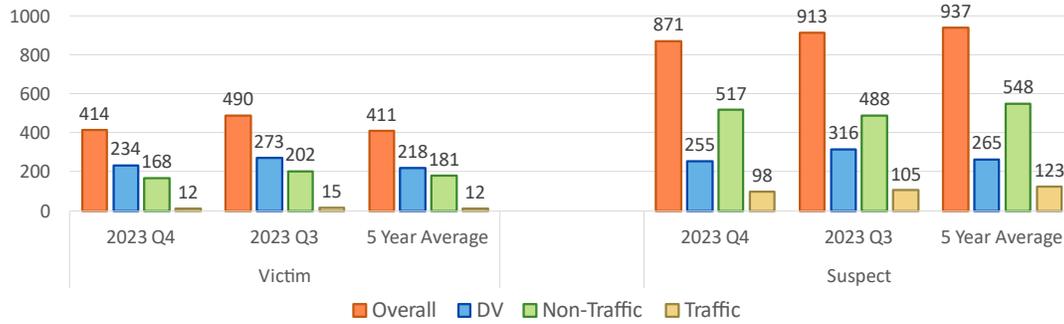


### Decline Rates for Referrals Involving Asian Victims and Suspects

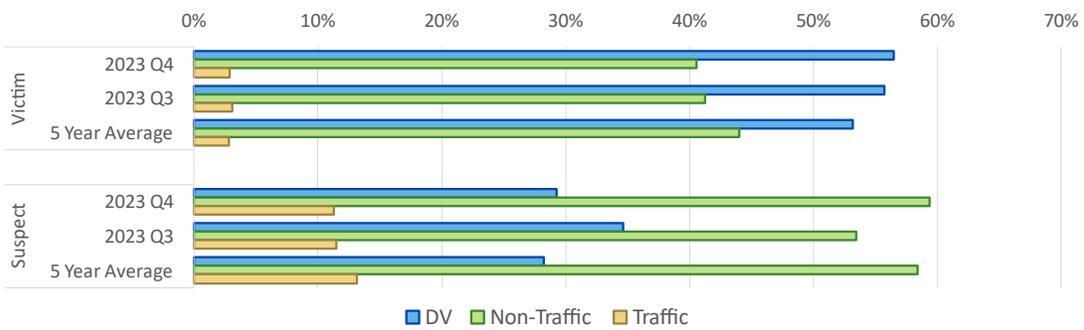


# Black

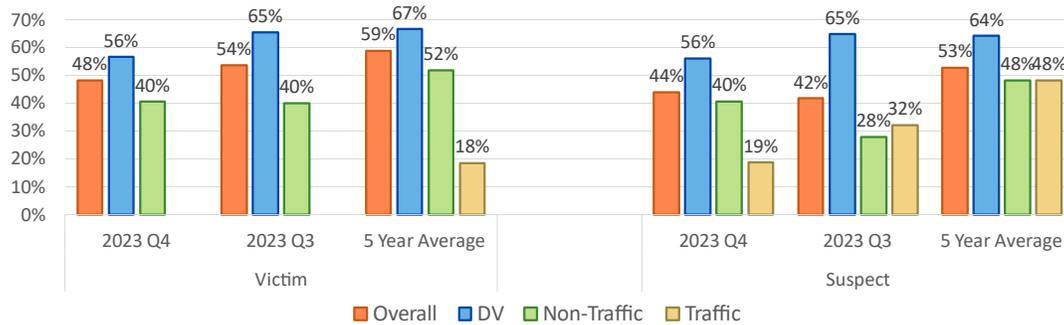
### Referrals by Category Involving Black Victims and Suspects



### Crime Type Proportions for Black Victims and Suspects

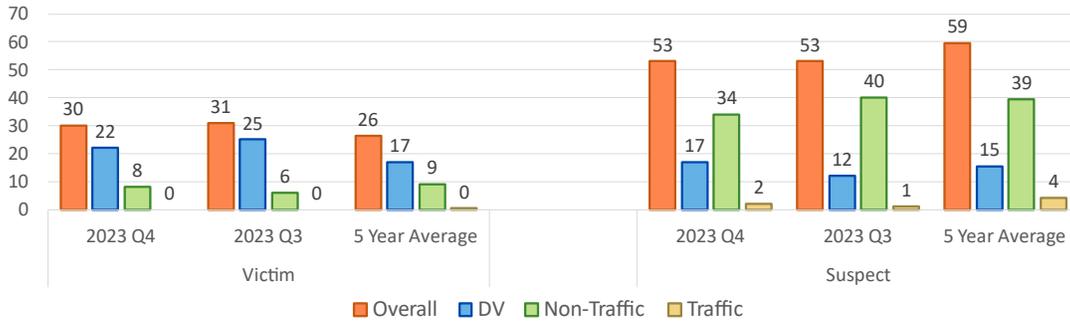


### Decline Rates for Referrals Involving Black Victims and Suspects

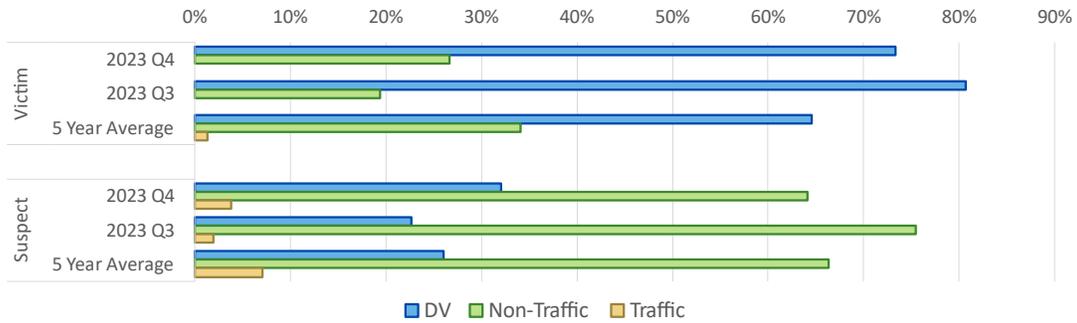


# Indigenous

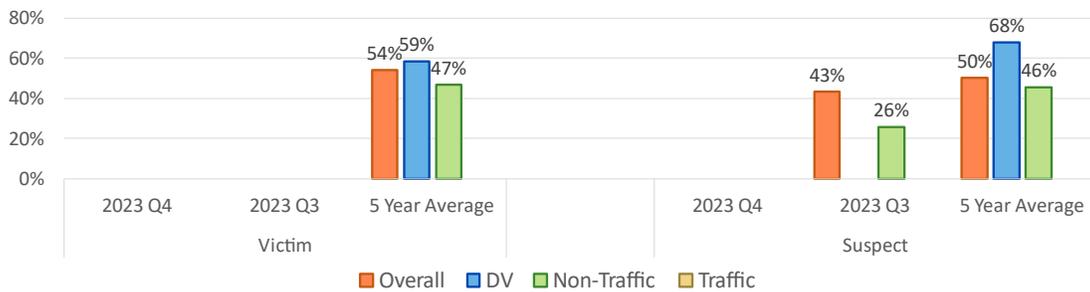
### Referrals by Category Involving Indigenous Victims and Suspects



### Crime Type Proportions for Indigenous Victims and Suspects



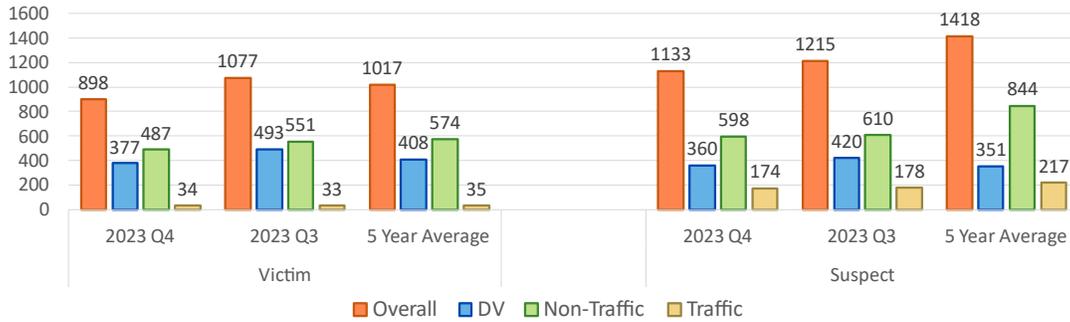
### Decline Rates for Referrals Involving Indigenous Victims and Suspects



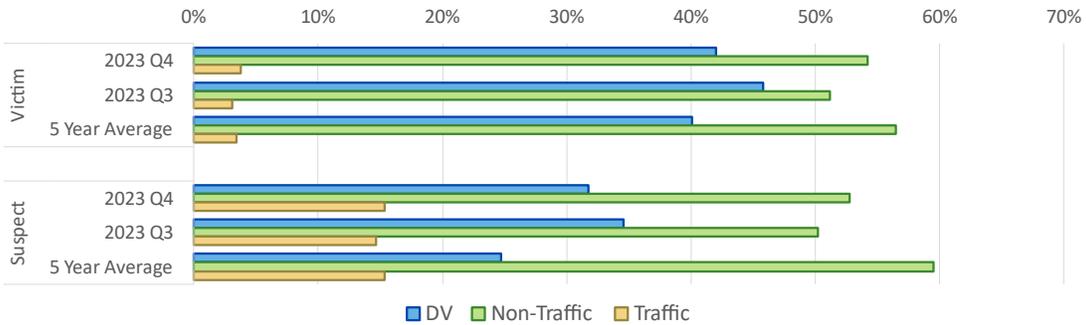
Other than overall rates, there were too few Indigenous victims and suspects that had filed or declined referrals for any meaningful decline rates in Q4 2023 or Q3 2023.

# White

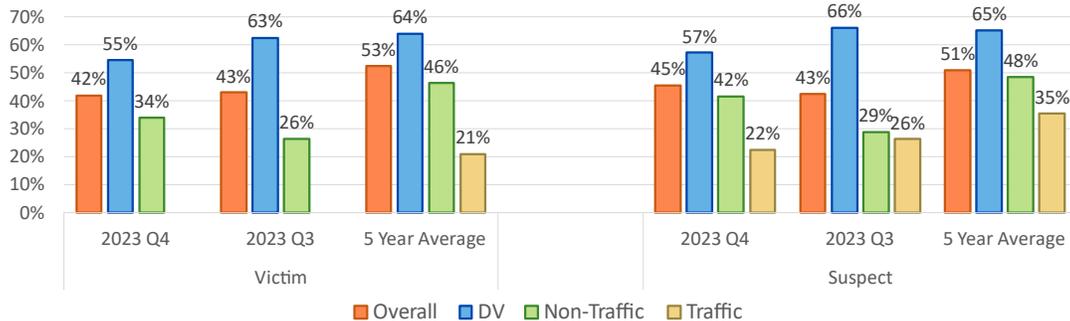
### Referrals by Category Involving White Victims and Suspects



### Crime Type Proportions for White Victims and Suspects



### Decline Rates for Referrals Involving White Victims and Suspects



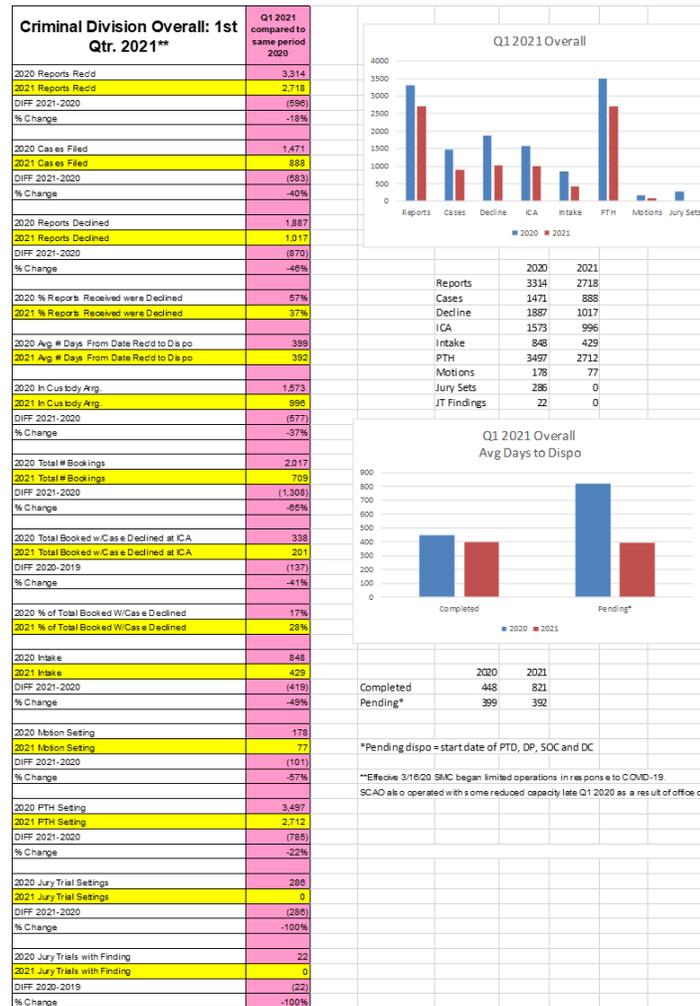
## Policy Changes

There were no significant policy changes in Q4 2023.



## Prior Versions of the SPAR

The Statistics of Prosecution & Analysis Report (SPAR) was coded decades ago to query the DAMION database and return a digital “ticker tape” of values. It was not created to handle any form of demographics that are now required by council ordinance, nor does it look at historical context. Prior reports relied on copying this information into an excel sheet to display that period’s data alongside the previous period’s data. Below is an example of this report as it was delivered in years past.



Because the data in the department contains relatively high variability between quarters, a comparison to just one other period does not provide contextually accurate information to policy makers. It also lacked analysis to describe potential causes for high variance from previous periods in most instances or descriptions that would benefit readers from the general public.

The reports also contained information on outcomes provided by a companion query program. This was also copied into a spreadsheet most quarters and it showed counts of 20 “favorable” outcomes, 7 “unfavorable” and 2 others. An example is shown at the start of the following page.

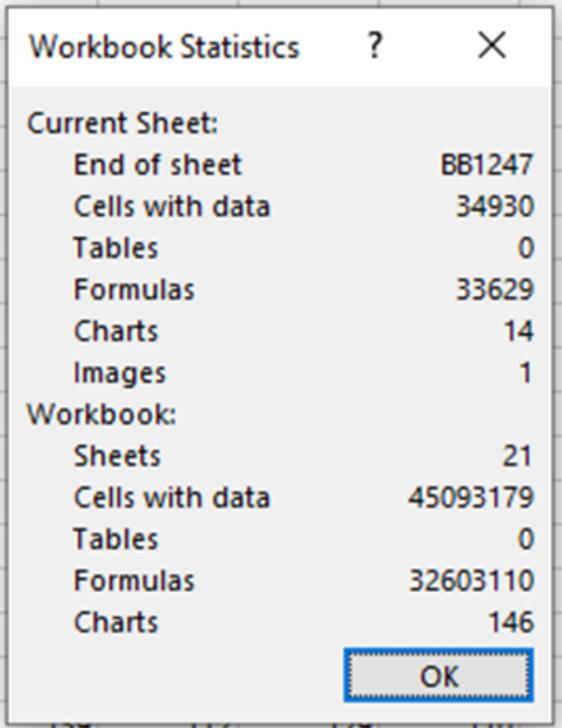
OUTCOME MEASURES SUMMARY REPORT					
2019		2019		2018	
JANUARY - SEPT (FAVORABLE)		JANUARY - SEPT (FAVORABLE)		JANUARY - DECEMBER (FAVORABLE)	
Count	Description	Count	Description	Count	Description
122	Deferred Prosecution	116	Deferred Prosecution	158	Deferred Prosecution
10	Dismiss - Prison	21	Dismiss - Prison	25	Dismiss - Prison
126	Dismiss DP - Successful	138	Dismiss DP - Successful	176	Dismiss DP - Successful
46	Dismiss Pre-Trial Diversion	40	Dismiss Pre-Trial Diversion	75	Dismiss Pre-Trial Diversion
481	Dismiss- Dispo. Cont. Successful	437	Dismiss- Dispo. Cont. Successful	583	Dismiss- Dispo. Cont. Successful
171	Dismiss-SOC successful	151	Dismiss-SOC successful	193	Dismiss-SOC successful
1,590	Dismissed - Negotiated Plea	1,680	Dismissed - Negotiated Plea	2,146	Dismissed - Negotiated Plea
40	First Time Offender DWLS*	1	First Time Offender DWLS*	2	First Time Offender DWLS*
56	Dispositional Continuance - Red.	67	Dispositional Continuance - Red.	94	Dispositional Continuance - Red.
415	Dispositional Continuance	478	Dispositional Continuance	547	Dispositional Continuance
28	FG - Unsuccessful DP	16	FG - Unsuccessful DP	28	FG - Unsuccessful DP
2	FG - Unsuccessful DC	6	FG - Unsuccessful DC	8	FG - Unsuccessful DC
6	FG - Unsuccessful PTD	9	FG - Unsuccessful PTD	12	FG - Unsuccessful PTD
171	FG - Unsuccessful SOC	24	FG - Unsuccessful SOC	26	FG - Unsuccessful SOC
120	Found Guilty	89	Found Guilty	107	Found Guilty
2,282	Plead Guilty	2,579	Plead Guilty	3,173	Plead Guilty
437	Plead Guilty Reduced	312	Plead Guilty Reduced	388	Plead Guilty Reduced
21	Pre-Trial Diversion	38	Pre-Trial Diversion	31	Pre-Trial Diversion
181	Stipulated Order of Cont.	189	Stipulated Order of Cont.	258	Stipulated Order of Cont.
41	Dismissed - Felony Filing	47	Dismissed - Felony Filing	60	Dismissed - Felony Filing
6,325	Total Favorable	6,456	Total Favorable	8,091	Total Favorable
JANUARY - SEPT 2019 Unfavorable		JANUARY - SEPT 2018 Unfavorable		JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018 Unfavorable	
58	Dismissed Proof Problem	63	Dismissed Proof Problem	771	Dismissed Proof Problem
888	Dismissed - No Civilian Witness	731	Dismissed - No Civilian Witness	866	Dismissed - No Civilian Witness
6	Dismissed - No Non-Civilian	2	Dismissed - No Non-Civilian	2	Dismissed - No Non-Civilian
0	Hung Jury	0	Hung Jury	0	Hung Jury
138	Not Guilty	95	Not Guilty	68	Not Guilty
0	Stricken	0	Stricken	0	Stricken
0	Reduced Charge - No Officer	0	Reduced Charge - No Officer	0	Reduced Charge - No Officer
1,604	Total Unfavorable	1,427	Total Unfavorable	1,807	Total Unfavorable
3	Dismissed - Court Error	3	Dismissed - Court Error	3	Dismissed - Court Error
420	Dismissed - Age	11	Dismissed - Age	11	Dismissed - Age
Summary JANUARY - SEPT 2019		Summary JANUARY - SEPT 2018		Summary JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018	
7,929	Total Dispositions	7,885	Total Dispositions	9,898	Total Dispositions
80%	Favorable Dispositions	82%	Favorable Dispositions	82%	Favorable Dispositions
20%	Unfavorable Dispositions	18%	Unfavorable Dispositions	18%	Unfavorable Dispositions

While this example provides context of the entire previous year, it is for a different timeframe, so it is difficult to use the data for comparison. The graphic below also points out that sometimes the data can vary wildly from report to report. The two examples side by side are from Q2 and Q3 of 2021. One states that 2020 had zero cases dismissed due to no civilian witness and the other has over 1000 listed.

2021 Q2 Report		2021 Q3 Report	
2020		2020	
JANUARY - DECEMBER (FAVORABLE)		JANUARY - DECEMBER (FAVORABLE)	
Count	Description	Count	Description
73	Deferred Prosecution	137	Deferred Prosecution
12	Dismiss - Prison	13	Dismiss - Prison
101	Dismiss DP - Successful	144	Dismiss DP - Successful
5	Dismiss Pre-Trial Diversion	53	Dismiss Pre-Trial Diversion
204	Dismiss- Dispo. Cont. Successful	576	Dismiss- Dispo. Cont. Successful
127	Dismiss-SOC successful	199	Dismiss-SOC successful
786	Dismissed - Negotiated Plea	1,970	Dismissed - Negotiated Plea
81	First Time Offender DWLS	53	First Time Offender DWLS
22	Dispositional Continuance - Red.	69	Dispositional Continuance - Red.
169	Dispositional Continuance	449	Dispositional Continuance
8	FG - Unsuccessful DP	32	FG - Unsuccessful DP
4	FG - Unsuccessful DC	2	FG - Unsuccessful DC
1	FG - Unsuccessful PTD	6	FG - Unsuccessful PTD
15	FG - Unsuccessful SOC	42	FG - Unsuccessful SOC
48	Found Guilty	140	Found Guilty
1016	Plead Guilty	2,753	Plead Guilty
171	Plead Guilty Reduced	622	Plead Guilty Reduced
5	Pre-Trial Diversion	25	Pre-Trial Diversion
132	Stipulated Order of Cont.	216	Stipulated Order of Cont.
57	Dismissed - Felony Filing	47	Dismissed - Felony Filing
3,037	Total Favorable	7,548	Total Favorable
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020 Unfavorable		JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020 Unfavorable	
518	Dismissed Proof Problem	690	Dismissed Proof Problem
0	Dismissed - No Civilian Witness	1022	Dismissed - No Civilian Witness
0	Dismissed - No Non-Civilian	10	Dismissed - No Non-Civilian
0	Hung Jury	0	Hung Jury
14	Not Guilty	138	Not Guilty
0	Stricken	0	Stricken
0	Reduced Charge - No Officer	0	Reduced Charge - No Officer
532	Total Unfavorable	1,860	Total Unfavorable
0	Dismissed - Court Error	3	Dismissed - Court Error
40	Dismissed - Age	432	Dismissed - Age
Summary JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020		Summary JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020	
3,569	Total Dispositions	9,408	Total Dispositions
85%	Favorable Dispositions	80%	Favorable Dispositions
15%	Unfavorable Dispositions	20%	Unfavorable Dispositions

## Case Management System Limitations

To overcome the limitations of the DAMION criminal case management system, the City Attorney's Office's Data and Transparency Team built a program that recreates the relevant sections of the DAMION database then runs analysis on that data. This should expedite the release of future reports while DAMION is still in use. This program continues to evolve to include additional functionality and now has over 32 million formulas spread across 21 sheets. Below is a screenshot of the number of calculations it requires to stitch the disparate sections of the DAMION database together and pull-out useful information:



Workbook Statistics	
<b>Current Sheet:</b>	
End of sheet	BB1247
Cells with data	34930
Tables	0
Formulas	33629
Charts	14
Images	1
<b>Workbook:</b>	
Sheets	21
Cells with data	45093179
Tables	0
Formulas	32603110
Charts	146

## Data Caveats

### DAMION

Running the same report on different days can yield slightly different results as an automatic process can update a field. While specific values might change on the margins, overall data is consistent with itself and none of the marginal changes are enough to influence important trends or statistics.

### Decline Rates

Decline Rates in this report are generally based on the quarter in which the referral was received.

### Small Sample Sizes

Many categories, especially within demographic breakdowns represent very small quantities of data and are not useful for comparison or statistical analysis. For example, if there is one person that fits a set of criteria, then a decline rate can only be 0% or 100%. Similarly, a single event can have an unusably strong effect on the data. Even a sample of 20 that adds another data point will sway the aggregate by nearly 5%. Often, areas of data with too low of a sample size are not included.

### Alternatives to Traditional Prosecution

The nature of alternatives is that they are very individualized and come in many forms. For this reason, it is difficult to compare one to the other and one person can be involved in many or none. In general, the information in this report refers to individuals who have successfully completed alternatives and not people who have not been successful.

### Final Dispositions

Final Dispositions were changed to reflect cases instead of charges in Q3 2023.