

Hudson Police Department FY 2016 Town Report

Preface:

It gives me pleasure to share with the citizens of Hudson, your Police Department's FY 2016 Annual Town Report. The following information will summarize the year in a few short pages. Although we had a lot of successes as an organization that I am very proud of, the year 2016 will probably be listed as the worst year of my career. There are three specific areas that cause me to feel this way. The first is the Heroin/Fentanyl crisis. That topic will be discussed in greater detail below. The second issue that has been very disturbing is the cowardly assaults and murdering of police officers. The third is the skimming devices.

Have officers made tragic mistakes, yes they have. And those officers should be held accountable. I would be the first to hold the officer accountable for a couple of the videos I have seen. However, most of the claims about officers using excessive force to the point where some people were killed have been completely false. The officers had no other choice but to use deadly force. You and I as citizens have no right to resist arrest. Law Enforcement is the executive branch of government which enforces the laws written by the legislative branch and judicial branch determines if the law is valid and/or was enforced properly. Our place to dispute an arrest is in the judicial part of our government. That is how our government works and if we (as an individual) don't like how it works, then we can run for office to try and make changes or move to another country whose philosophies and beliefs fit our personal philosophies and beliefs.

There are waves of criminal groups traveling the country. They come into an area and install credit card skimming devices. These devices have been found on gas pumps and ATM machines. Once your debit or credit card is used in one of these devices, criminals are able to duplicate your cards and use them to steal from you. In one of the cases we had the cards but the card numbers were being used in Florida. The reason for this is that once the criminals have your information, they will use it for their organization and at the same time they are selling your information over the internet to other criminals where they can use your information to create scams and profit from it. Be as diligent as you can, check your bank statements carefully, go inside to pay for your gas, inspect the machine for tampering. If you see anything suspicious report it to the gas station or bank and your local law enforcement immediately. We were able to make a number of arrests in these cases and we have been working with law enforcement agencies in different regions of the country.

Despite these issues that have appeared in different parts of the country, I am grateful we have not seen them in this region of the country.

Being nationally accredited shows our professionalism and holding ourselves to higher standards. Currently, we are in the last year of our reaccreditation cycle. In December of 2017 we will be reassessed by CALEA. To me being accredited means that we have made a promise to our community for professionalism, holding ourselves to higher standards, and courtesy. A successful reaccreditation means we kept our promise. In the spirit of keeping that promise, I expect to have another successful on-site review.

I cannot express enough, the gratitude I have for the women and men (both civilian and sworn) that comprise the Hudson Police Department. If it were not for their efforts day-in and day-out we would not be the successful organization that we are today and for our tomorrows.

Heroin/Fentanyl

Due to the serious nature of this epidemic I am including some of last year's information of heroin/fentanyl. If you wish to read only the new information skip down to the section titled "Updates".

What is it?

Although the media and law enforcement will use the word Heroin when discussing this problem, please understand that Fentanyl is truly the cause of this issue. What is Fentanyl? Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opiate analgesic similar to but more potent than morphine. It is typically used for patients to manage pain after surgery. Fentanyl works by binding the body's opiate receptors that control pain and emotions in the brain. When they bind, it can drive up dopamine levels in the brain's reward areas and produce a state of euphoria and relaxation. Mixing Fentanyl with Heroin can lead to euphoria, drowsiness/respiratory depression and arrest, confusion, unconsciousness, coma and death. These conditions can only be reversed by Naloxone more commonly known as Narcan.

Depending on what you read, Fentanyl can be as strong as 10 to even 100 percent stronger than heroin. However, the cost to make Fentanyl in clandestine labs is as equally less expensive. Because the cost to make is so much less, dealers will sell the Fentanyl at heroin prices to increase their profit margin. Why would anyone risk death to use this powerful drug? The drug alters a person's brain so it can no longer experience normal pleasures. Depression may set in and the addict unwittingly seeks to find that better high to make them feel "better". Some people get hooked on opioids because at some point they had a doctor's prescription for pain medication. If the patient becomes addicted to the medication and when that prescription medication is no longer given to them, the cost to buy that medication on the street is very expensive. Hence, the low cost of heroin becomes their drug of choice.

Recently, family members of heroin addicts are able to possess and use Narcan at home in the event that a loved one overdoses. I am concerned this measure will allow a false sense of security for the family with good intentions. Specifically, when a family member uses Narcan they should still do whatever they can to get the person who overdosed to the hospital. Narcan has a shorter shelf life than Fentanyl. It is possible the amount of the overdose may be higher and last longer than Narcan does in the body. Thus, the opportunity for a potential 'second overdose' could occur. When this happens it is unknown if the nearby family members will be aware of the second occurrence.

Again, Fentanyl seen on the street typically is not being created by drug companies. Instead, they are being created in back yard labs, mixed with a small amount of heroin and/or a cutting agent and eventually sold on the streets as heroin.

In the 2014 Annual Town Report, I wrote about the concern of overdoses. The crime analysis and various tools we use to help make decisions in our operational planning identified this problem a year before it became mainstream. You will recall it wasn't until the end of calendar year 2014 the heroin epidemic first started to catch the attention of all law enforcement agencies as well as the media. We have not seen an improvement in the reduction of overdoses yet. We believe this problem will not be solved by arrests only. The State needs to figure out a way to increase drug treatment facilities and we need to work collaboratively to get people into those treatment centers. However, that is only the first step. We need to have programs in place for people to continue getting treatment and counseling well after their departure from treatment facilities. Even though you and I don't ingest drugs, it still affects us and we have to be part of the solution.

Update:

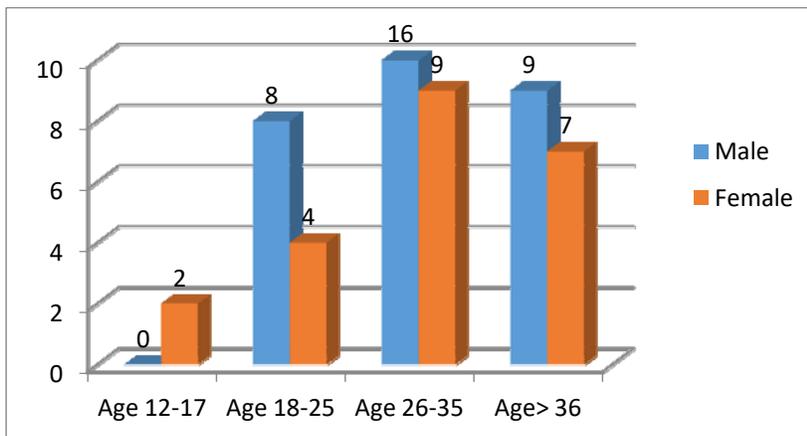
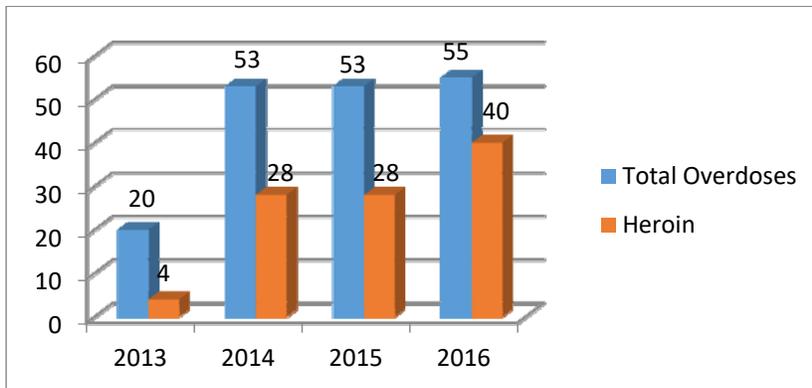
You may recall in last year's report I cited some of the work being done with the partnership we formed with the DEA and FBI. Anytime the media reports on "Operation Granite Hammer" the Hudson Police Department is actively involved in those investigations and arrests due to our officer assignments to both groups. In one three month period the groups:

- Made over 250 arrests
- Took 7 stolen handguns off the street
- Confiscated over 1,200 oxycodone pills
- Confiscated 36 kilos of fentanyl
- Seized over \$1.2 million dollars in assets
- And dismantled 3 large scale drug trafficking organizations that spanned across the country

Due to the outstanding work of this team, they were sent to Washington DC in March of 2016 to receive the National Drug Control Policy Award for "Outstanding Opioid Investigation". With all the work in Operation Granite Hammer, this past year they have been nominated for the DEA's highest award titled "DEA Administrators Award". Regardless of whether or not they receive the award, I am very proud of their effort to keep people safe and I appreciate that they have been recognized nationally for their accomplishments.

Below is a chart showing the total number of reported Overdoses which we have responded to during 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. There was a **900 percent increase** in the Heroin Overdoses since 2013. Both 2014 and 2015 have had the same Total Overdoses. Hudson also had seven (7) people die due to a fentanyl overdose. That number does not include Hudson residents that passed in other communities. In 2016 the overdoses have continued to grow as seen below.

We will persevere to get as much of this poison off the street. I am grateful for all the efforts of law enforcement to remove this dangerous drug off the streets. I am certain many lives have been saved by the amount of drug seizures that have been made and drug trafficking organizations that have been dismantled.



Statistics:

The Police Department utilizes many policing models to help reduce, prevent and solve crimes. For fiscal year 2016 we had 30,922 calls for service.

Activity	7/01/14	7/01/15	% Δ
	-6/30/15	-6/30/16	
Total Arrests	988	927	-6%
Juvenile Arrests	123	128	4%
DWI Arrests	101	86	-15%
Drug Arrests	111	93	-16%
Crime vs Person			
Homicide	0	0	N/C
Aggravated Assault	20	30	50%
Simple Assault	145	140	-3%
Sexual Assault	24	23	-4%
Robbery	5	3	-40%
Crime vs Property			
Arson	2	1	-50%
Burglary	58	52	-10%
Criminal Mischief	121	129	7%
MV Theft	17	21	24%
Theft/Larceny	314	285	-9%
Theft/Fraud	101	84	-17%
Motor Vehicle			
State Reportable MVA's	669	627	-6%
MV Citations	1,202	1,315	9%
MV Warnings	7,412	8,057	9%
Domestic Disturbances	318	344	8%

*N/C- not capable of being computed, zero incidents to calculate against for the prior year.

Community Programs and Events:

Citizen Police Academy: We had a great class that began last April. Participants ranged from business owners, Town employees, and residents. This one night a week for 10 week program has been well received. Many participants in this program stated they wished it was mandatory for all residents to go through.

AARP: We conducted three AARP Safe Driving classes during the year. This two day (three hours each day) is personalized for people over 55 years of age, and many may benefit with a discounted insurance rate just by taking the course. Participants are reminded of safe driving habits and are made aware of various dangers encountered while driving.

Drug Take Back Program: We collected 368 pounds of unused prescription medications. We have a drop off box in the lobby where people can drop off their unused medications to us for disposal. Unused medications should not be disposed of down toilets and into the sewer system. We also participate in two drug take back programs with the DEA.

We conducted two successful Red Cross sponsored blood drives, hosted the Special Olympics Torch Run, sponsored CHiPS “Fright Night”, participated in the “Toys for Tots” drive in partnership with Recycled Percussion (a Las Vegas act and the group is from Goffstown NH), collected donations at the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and participated in many other charity events.

Goings and Comings:

Goings:

- Master Patrol Officer Daniel Dolan. Retired. MPO Dolan joined HPD in 1996. He was a Marine Corp Reservist for a few years. He served the department in various capacities such as a mountain bike/OHRV rider, Field Training Officer, Detective, Prosecutor, Special Operations Unit, and was a lead trainer for the department in first aide, CPR, and defibulators. MPO Dolan is credited with saving the lives of three (3) people. We thank you MPO Dolan for your 20 years of service to Hudson and we wish you and your family well in your future endeavors.
- Sergeant Joseph Hoebeke: Sgt. Hoebeke left HPD for an opportunity to enhance his career opportunities with another local agency.
- Officer Charles Katsikides: Left to pursue other career opportunities in the private sector.
- Victim Witness Advocate Lori Grant: Ms. Grant has decided to pursue a new career.
- Deborah Anderson: Ms. Anderson left to get back to family she has in Texas.
- High school maintenance assistant, Jonathan Buckley left to pursue different school related interests.

Comings:

- Officer Taylor Morin was a full time dispatcher for HPD whose career ambition was to be a police officer. She comes from a family of dedicated public and community service oriented people. She is a graduate of the Hudson School System.
- Officer Tyler Merrill comes to us from the TSA. He grew up in Litchfield, NH and is a graduate of Franklin Pierce in Criminal Justice.
- Officer Andrew Valcourt comes to us from a family owned business. He grew up in Nashua, NH and is a graduate of the University of Lowell. He has almost completed his Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice.
- Officer Tyler Toney comes to us from the private sector. He has taken college courses in Psychology and is now starting his career in law enforcement. He was recognized by the Police Academy for his motivational and leadership skills.
- Victim Witness Advocate Jeri Cloutier: Ms. Cloutier is the wife of a retired First Sergeant military veteran. She has a lot of experience in assisting families with coping and navigating their way through difficult times.
- Part-Time Dispatcher John Curran joined us. He is a retired Manchester NH Police Officer.
- Part-Time Dispatcher Haley Magee has worked in loss-prevention in the private sector.
- Dispatcher Sabrina Madi has transitioned from a part-time position to a full-time position.

- Leiane Hewitt is our new part-time legal clerk. She comes to us from the private sector.
- Ryan Bianchi is our new high school assistant maintenance person.

Goals and Objectives for 2017:

- To continue to ensure our officers receive the best training in modern day police practices.
- Host community based programs to reduce crime and to foster our Partnership with the Community.
- Reduce the number of motor vehicle collisions on the three main arteries in Hudson through education, motor vehicle enforcement and police presence.
- Continue to identify and arrest sexual predators and to provide educational programs to parents and children through our schools.
- Continue to focus our resources on identifying and arresting drug dealers in our Community.
- Continue coordination and collection of CALEA proofs of standard compliance in preparation for future re-accreditation.
- Continue to utilize the Police Department's Directed Patrol System with emphasis on neighborhood presence to reduce criminal activity.
- Working with the Selectmen to fund and replace dispatch consoles that have been outdated since 2009 and improve the overall Town dispatch infrastructure.

Closing:

On behalf of the Hudson Police Department I would like to thank the Citizens of Hudson, the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Steve Malizia, Department Heads, and the School District for their continued support.

To the employees of the Hudson Police Department; thank you for all your efforts in keeping our agency one of the best in the State. The honor is mine to represent you. I look forward to working with the community in (as I said earlier) keeping Hudson a great place to own a business and an even better place to raise a family.

Sincerely,

Jason J. Lavoie
Chief of Police
Town of Hudson, NH