

Hudson Police Department 2018 Town Report

Preface:

It gives me pleasure to share with the citizens of Hudson, your Police Department's 2018 Annual Town Report. The following information will summarize the year in a few short pages. 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.

I have listed a few of my concerns below. One that will be important to the tax-payers of Hudson is the need to plan for an expansion of the police department. Not everyone realizes that Hudson is the ninth (9th) largest community (population wise) out of the 234 Towns and Cities and 25 unincorporated communities in this State. Nor will people realize that we had a minimum of 32,493 calls for service during the year. The Town of Hudson is a business and every taxpayer is an owner. To be successful we must make investments into our business and an expansion of the police facility is one that is needed. We have been making adjustments and placing Band-Aids on things for the last fifteen years. We are at a point where we need to invest into the police facility. We will need your support as we move forward with this endeavor.

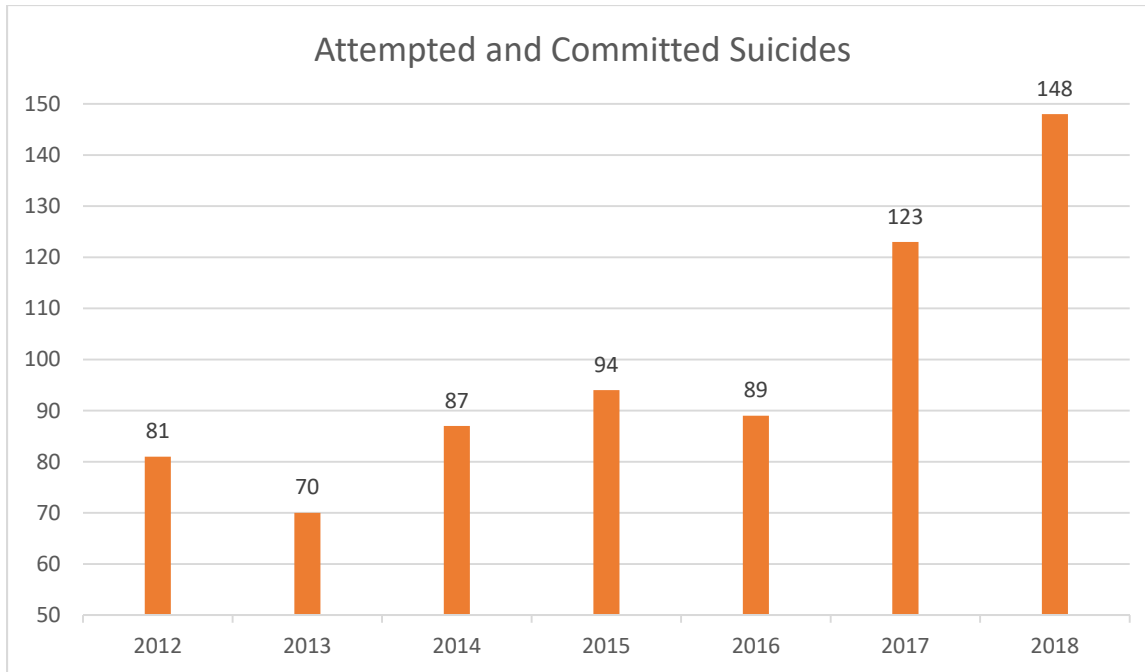
Concerns:

As we move forward we continue to see the same concerns as I wrote in last year's report; heroin/fentanyl, scams and identify thefts are continuing. Under scams, we are seeing more issues with dating apps or web-sites. Although most of the people on these sites may be legitimate/honest, some people are not who they say they are. Some people are creating false identities and telling you what you want to hear, so they can manipulate you into giving them money. If you are using these methods to meet people and they start asking you for money so they can get on a plane or finish up some work in order to come and meet you, it is a scam. These criminals will think nothing of playing on your emotions and lure you in to giving them money. If you know someone who may be a victim to this crime, please step in and look into ways you can break this cycle.

Mental Health.

Our attempted suicide and committed suicide rate has jumped dramatically in 2017 (123) and 2018 (148) as compared to the previous five year average of 84.2. That's an increase of 46.4% in 2017 and 76.2% in 2018 as compared to the five year period from 2012 thru 2016.

I would ask that everyone take the time to listen and pay attention to people. If you are hearing or observing signs of depression, problems, or if you know someone has experienced trauma in their life whether its physical or emotional we need to inquire if they need help. We all need to do a better job communicating and not being afraid to ask uncomfortable questions. Likewise, we ourselves have to open up and be willing to let people know when we are not okay and to ask for help. Our experience has shown us that people don't usually ask for help, they just do it. That's why I am asking all of us to be attentive to what someone else has gone through. Encourage and understand it is okay to seek counselling. Everyone needs to realize that ending your own perceived problems is the start of new problems for everyone you left. It is our hope that these trends reverse. If you need information or guidance in this area, please contact us. See chart below:



I cannot stress enough of people being aware of this. As a society we need to be more understanding of mental health issues. The brain is like every other organ in our body. It is susceptible to illness. A lot of people are not diagnosed because on the surface they may seem 'normal'. It is very important we pay attention to cues and if seen begin a conversation. Then follow-up with that conversation.

Facility

Expansion of Police Department

For almost twelve (12) years I have been advocating for the Town to take care of some building needs for such departments like the Fire Department. I was doing this because if those problems weren't fixed in a timely matter than the tax payers of Hudson would be in a significant dilemma, as the police department would soon be in need of an expansion. Now, that the Town has decided to solve the fire departments issues, it is time to start taking a look at addressing the spatial needs of the police department. Currently we are working with the Board of Selectmen and other Town staff to address those needs.

The police department was originally designed in 1993 to be a 24,000 square foot facility at a cost of \$3,000,000.00. The governing body at that time said they would only allow \$1.5 million to be used. The construction was cut down to a 14,000 square foot building. The architects explained that their experience showed we would outgrow the building in ten (10) years versus having a facility that would last for twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) years. We have now been in this building for over 22 years. We have made changes to the interior, but are at a point where we need to expand the footprint of police facility so that we can accommodate our needs. I look forward to working with our community, the governing body(ies), and department heads to help us meet the needs of the police department.

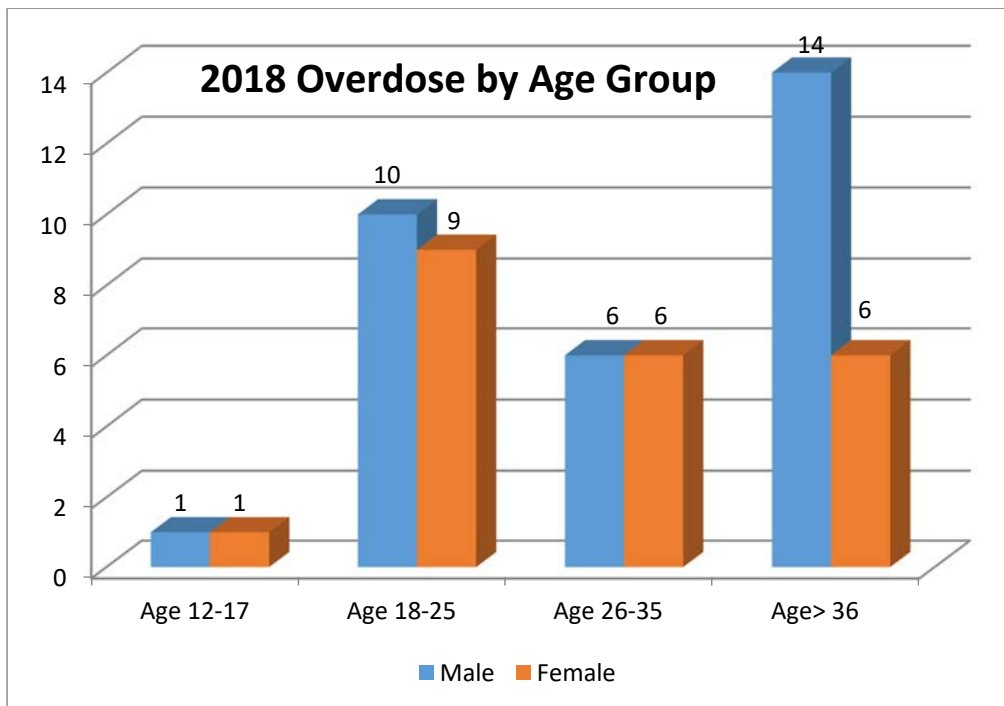
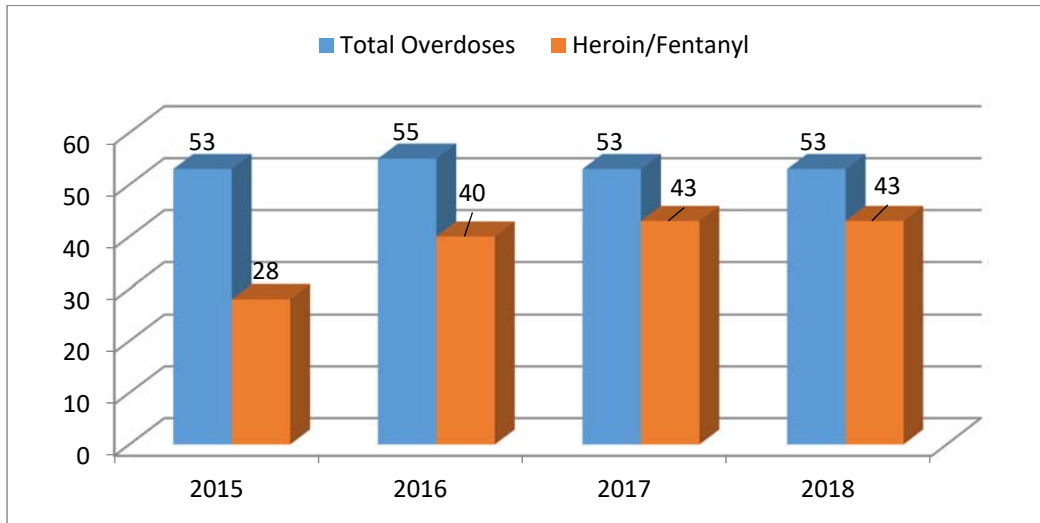
Community Concerns

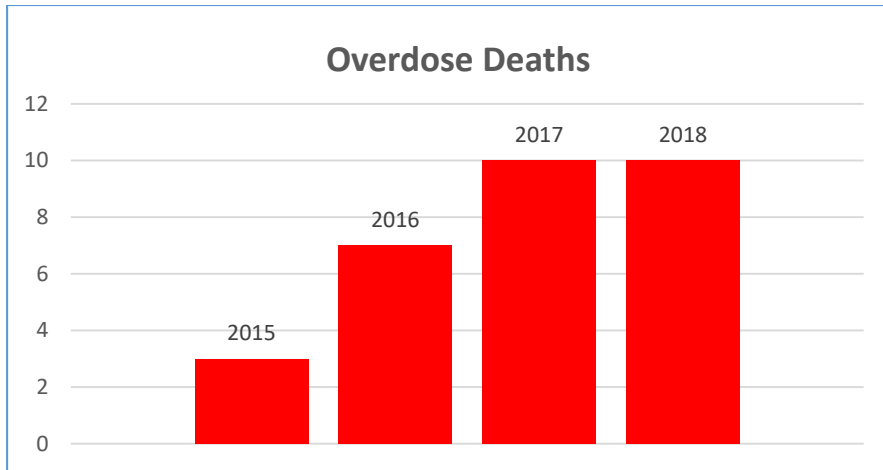
Heroin/Fentanyl

Once again, I am grateful for all that law enforcement does to rid our community of these deadly drugs. Although this problem continues to be the same in the Hudson area. A potential problem that we had identified a couple years

ago is beginning to show more and more of a presence. Law Enforcement is seeing 'homemade' pills. These pills may claim to be one where a prescription is needed (ie: Xanax) however, the pills are pressed with cocaine and or Fentanyl. People are purchasing these drugs on the street and it is proving to be deadly. We encourage people who are using drugs to seek help and do what you can to get off these dangerous drugs.

It has been amazing to me that our numbers over the last four (4) years have remained fairly consistent.





Statistics:

Below are some of the calls

Activity	1/01/17 -12/31/17	1/01/18 -12/31/18	% Δ
Total Arrests	1,145	1,008	-12%
Juvenile Arrests	117	101	-14%
DWI Arrests	126	97	-23%
Drug Arrests	140	107	-24%
Crime vs Person			
Homicide	0	0	NC
Aggravated Assault	21	16	-24%
Simple Assault	141	174	23%
Sexual Assault	22	14	-36%
Robbery	1	2	100%
Crime vs Property			
Arson	2	1	-50%
Burglary	28	27	-4%
Criminal Mischief	115	115	0%
MV Theft	13	16	23%
Theft/Larceny	222	219	-1%
Theft/Fraud	136	144	6%
Motor Vehicle			
State Reportable MVA's	656	699	7%
MV Citations	1,188	659	-45%
MV Warnings	13,354	9,531	-29%
Domestic Disturbances	356	440	24%

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

Initiatives:

CALEA – National Accreditation

In years past, we would have to submit various reports to CALEA on a yearly basis. Then, on every third year, a team of assessors would begin to review our files off-site prior to an on-site inspection and review. This cycle will be our first review cycle where every year, random files, will be reviewed and we will have an on-site evaluation every four years. We will continue to look for innovative ways to continue to provide a professional service to our community.

Community Programs and Events:

Citizen Police Academy: This was the first year that we did not have enough community participation to present this program. It was unfortunate that we had to cancel this class due to a lack of interest. This one night a week for 10 week program has been well received in years past. Many participants in this program stated they wished it was mandatory for all residents to go through. We will give it another chance to take place this year and then assess whether or not we give it a break for a few years.

AARP: We conducted two (2) 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 379.3 pounds (ten (10) more pounds than last year) 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. One is in the spring and the other during the fall.

Blood Drives: Master Patrol Officer Adam Lischinsky did an outstanding job replacing Ms. Iskra in organizing our two (2) Red Cross blood drives. We are very fortunate for all the assistance we get in putting this even on. A special thank you to all the volunteers and businesses that donate time and food.

Toy Drive: in partnership with the Dartmouth Hospital and CHaD we collected a truck full of toys for children in need.

Social Media:

The use of social media has been very helpful to us. It has helped us broadcast information such as when to avoid a road due to an accident or when we are looking for a suspect and we have a photo(s). The community has helped us solve crimes in identifying suspects and on a couple of occasions suspects have turned themselves in once they saw our post on social media. As Sir Robert Peele said in his “Nine Principles of Policing”, Principle number 7; “...the police are the public and the public are the police...” I believe this is a fine example of the partnership we have with the community. I would encourage as many people to join our page so you can be up-to-date as to what your police department is doing, and help keep this community safer.

Goings and Comings:

Goings:

- Master Patrol Officer Scott MacDonald retired after serving the Town for 20 years. He has entered the private sector. We wish him and his family the very best as they start this new chapter.
- Master Patrol Officer James Connor also retired after serving the Town for 20 years. He will be enjoying his time fishing and traveling. We wish him the best in his retirement.

- K9 Looch retired at the same time of his handler MPO Connor. K9 Looch will be busy trying to keep up with Retired MPO Connor.
- Telecommunications Technician Karen Lawton served the Town of Hudson for seven (7) years. She left us to work as the Administrative Assistant for the Town of Hollis Police Department.

Comings:

- Officer Alec Golner is a Massachusetts resident. He graduated from Rogers Williams University in Rhode Island.
- Officer Tyler Tamboris is a resident of New Hampshire. He graduated from Rivier University in New Hampshire.
- K9 Ice came to us from New York. He received his training from the Boston Police Department and is now in patrol with his handler Officer Dan Donahue.
- Telecommunication Technician, Paige Tierney was hired to work in our Dispatch Center. Ms. Tierney came to us from the private sector.
- Telecommunication Technician, Anyssa Sevigny, is also working in our Dispatch Center. She came to us from the private sector and is also a graduate of Alvirne High School.

Goals and Objectives for 2019:

- 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.
- Increase the sworn compliment by two in order to efficiently keep up with the complexity and time it takes to investigate crimes in our community.
- 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.
- Develop plans for a police facility expansion.

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 to keep 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