



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**2022 Report on SWAT Team Deployment and
No-Knock Search Warrants**

Public Safety Article, §§ 3-508(e) and 3-525(e)

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Contact: Nathan Kemper
410-697-9344 | Nathan.Kemper@Maryland.gov

October 12, 2023
MSAR #13161 & MSAR #13159

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrants	4
Activations and Deployments	4
Search Warrants Executed	5
Location of Deployments and No-Knock Search Warrants	6
Number of Days Between Issued and Executed Search Warrants	7
Legal Authority for Activation & No-Knock Search Warrant Issued	8
Reason for Deployment	9
Outcome of Deployment	11
Arrests Made	11
Property Seized	11
Forcible Entry	13
Weapon Discharged	13
Injured or Killed Animal	13
Injured or Killed Person	13
SWAT Officer Injured	14
Conclusion	14

Introduction

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams are a type of Special Tactical Response Team that consist of two or more law enforcement officers who possess “advanced tactical training and expertise.”¹ In addition to advanced training in tactical strategies, SWAT officers also have access to equipment beyond standard patrol issue (e.g., rifles, battering rams). Duties of a SWAT team can range from non-emergency situations (e.g., dignitary protection) to potentially high-risk situations (e.g., issuing a no-knock warrant). A no-knock warrant is a type of warrant service operation in which the serving officer(s) does not announce their presence prior to entering the premises (as opposed to a knock and announce warrant, where a serving officer(s) announces their presence prior to entry). Prior to each deployment for a no-knock warrant service a special tactical response team or police officer (1) ensures compliance with all applicable training standards, (2) conducts a documented threat and risk assessment to determine the appropriate response and resources necessary for the mission; and (3) develops a mission-specific operational plan and orders.

Chapters 542 and 543 of 2009 required law enforcement agencies that maintain a SWAT team to report specific activation and deployment information to the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) by January 15 and July 15 of each year.² It also required GOCPYVS to submit a report of the analyses and summaries of the reports of law enforcement agencies to the Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency by September 1 of each year. The collection and submission of SWAT data began on July 1, 2009, and ended on June 30, 2014, due to the bill’s termination date of June 30, 2014.

Chapter 59 of 2021 (House Bill 670) restored the requirement that data collection and reporting of SWAT team activities in which law enforcement agencies must biannually submit SWAT team data to GOCPYVS.³ Specifically, law enforcement agencies that maintain a SWAT team must report the following information from the previous six months to GOCPYVS by January 15 and July 15 of each year:

¹ Code of Maryland Regulations (2020). *Title 12: Department Of Public Safety And Correctional Services; Subtitle 4: Police Training And Standards Commission; Chapter 8: Special Tactical Response*. <http://mdrules.elaws.us/comar/12.04.08>

² Maryland General Assembly. (2009). *Chapters 542 and 543 of 2009 (Senate Bill 447/House Bill 1267), Public Safety - SWAT Team Activation and Deployment - Reports*.
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters_noln/Ch_542_sb0447E.pdf;
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters_noln/Ch_543_hb1267T.pdf

³ Maryland General Assembly. (2021). *Chapter 59 of 2021 (House Bill 670), Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures*.
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_59_hb0670E.pdf

1. The number of times the SWAT team was activated and deployed by the law enforcement agency in the previous six months;
2. The name of the county or county and municipal corporation and the zip code of the location where the SWAT team was deployed for each activation;
3. The reason for each activation and deployment of the SWAT team;
4. The legal authority, including type of warrant, if any, for each activation and deployment of the SWAT team; and
5. The result of each activation and deployment of the SWAT team, including:
 - i. The number of arrests made, if any;
 - ii. Whether property was seized;
 - iii. Whether a forcible entry was made;
 - iv. Whether a weapon was discharged by a SWAT team member; and
 - v. Whether a person or domestic animal was injured or killed by a SWAT team member.

Chapter 62 of 2021 (Senate Bill 178) made various modifications to provisions relating to search warrants, including “no-knock” search warrants, and requires law enforcement agencies to annually report specified data to GOCPYVS.⁴ Specifically, and in accordance with § 3-525(b) of the Public Safety Article, law enforcement agencies must report information, from the prior calendar year, to GOCPYVS by January 15 of each year as it relates to the following:

1. The number of times a no-knock search warrant was executed in the previous year;
2. The name of the county and municipal corporation and the zip code of the location where each no-knock search warrant was executed;
3. For each search warrant executed, the number of days from the issuance until the execution of the search warrant disaggregated by whether the search warrant was a no-knock search warrant;
4. The legal basis for each no-knock search warrant issued;
5. The number of times a search warrant was executed under circumstances in which a police officer made forcible entry into the building, apartment, premises, place, or thing to be searched specified in the warrant;
6. The number of times a SWAT team was deployed to execute a search warrant;
7. The number of arrests made, if any, during the execution of a search warrant;
8. The number of times property was seized during the execution of a search warrant;
9. The number of times a weapon was discharged by a police officer during the execution of a search warrant; and

⁴ Maryland General Assembly. (2021). *Chapter 62 of 2021 (Senate Bill 178), Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Search Warrants and Inspection of Records Relating to Police Misconduct (Anton's Law)*. https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_62_sb0178E.pdf

10. The number of times a person or domestic animal was injured or killed during the execution of a search warrant disaggregated by whether the person or animal was injured or killed by a police officer.

Furthermore, and in accordance with §§ 3-508(e) and 3-525(e) of the Public Safety Article, GOCPYVS must analyze and summarize the reports of law enforcement agencies and, by September 1 of each year, submit the information in a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency and publish the report on its website.

SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrants

Activations and Deployments

Between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, a total of 17 law enforcement agencies reported at least one SWAT deployment and activation (*as shown in Table 1*). Twenty-four additional agencies had an active SWAT team; however, they did not report a deployment during the reported period. All remaining law enforcement agencies in Maryland were excluded from this report because they do not have a SWAT team.

Table 1. SWAT Deployments by Law Enforcement Agency		
Agency	Frequency	Percent
Aberdeen Police Department	0	0.0%
Allegany County Sheriff's Office	1	0.2%
Annapolis Police Department	1	0.2%
Anne Arundel County Police Department	95	18.5%
Baltimore County Police Department	94	18.3%
Baltimore Police Department	65	12.6%
Calvert County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Cambridge Police Department	1	0.2%
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Charles County Police Department	52	10.1%
Combined County Criminal Investigations Unit*	1	0.2%
Cumberland Police Department	2	0.4%
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Easton Police Department	8	1.6%
Elkton Police Department	0	0.0%
Frederick Police Department	23	4.5%
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Gaithersburg Police Department	8	1.6%

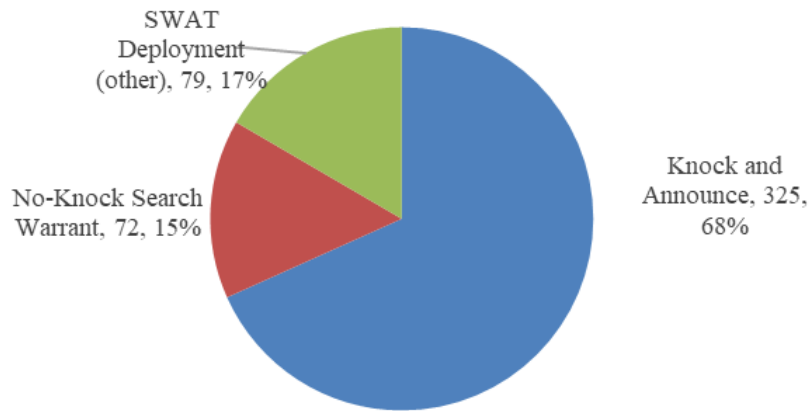
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Greenbelt Police Department	0	0.0%
Hagerstown Police Department	0	0.0%
Harford County Sheriff's Office	33	6.4%
Howard County Police Department	119	23.2%
Kent County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Maryland Natural Resources Police	0	0.0%
Maryland State Police	0	0.0%
Maryland Transit Police Force	0	0.0%
Montgomery County Police Department	0	0.0%
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Ocean City Police Department	0	0.0%
Prince George's County Police Department	7	1.4%
Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Salisbury Police Department	3	0.6%
Somerset County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Takoma Park Police Department	0	0.0%
University of Maryland Police Department	1	0.2%
Washington County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Worcester County Sheriff's Office	0	0.0%
Grand Total	514	100%

*The Combined County Criminal Investigations Unit is comprised of investigators from Cumberland Police Department, Maryland State Police, Allegany County Sheriff's Office, Frostburg Police Department, Frostburg State University Police, and the Allegany County State's Attorney's Office

Search Warrants Executed

In 2022, SWAT teams were deployed 476 times to execute a search warrant. This represents over 92% of all SWAT deployments (n = 514). Of these search warrants, there were a total of 293 no-knock search warrants that were executed during the same period (*as shown in **Chart 1***).

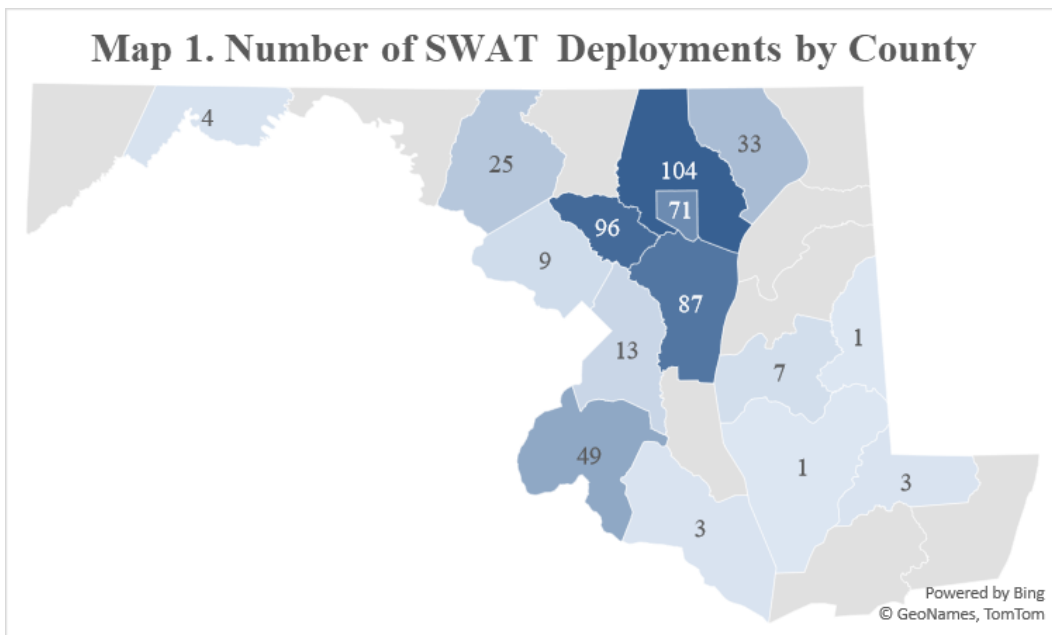
Chart 1. Search Warrants Where a SWAT Team Was Deployed



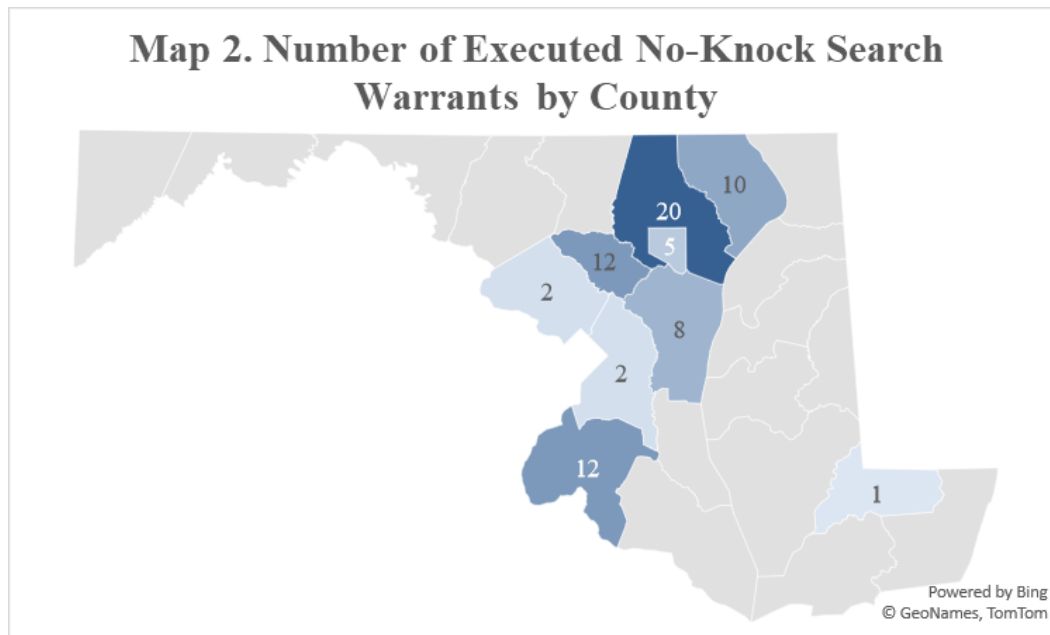
Location of Deployments and No-Knock Search Warrants

Nearly 80% (n = 407) of the total deployments activated in Maryland (n = 514) occurred in the following jurisdictions: Baltimore County (n = 104), Howard County (n = 96), Anne Arundel County (n = 87), Baltimore City (n = 71), and Charles County (n = 49) (*as shown in **Map 1***).

Map 1. Number of SWAT Deployments by County

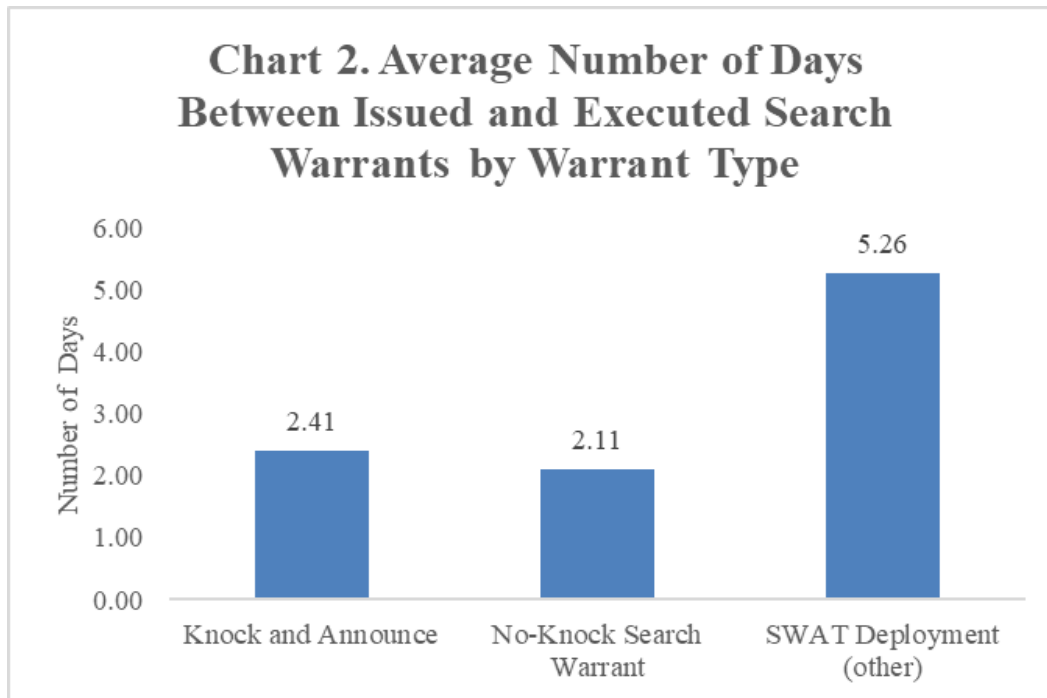


Approximately 70% (n = 62) of the executed no-knock search warrants were in Baltimore County (n = 20), followed by Howard County (n = 12) and Charles County (n = 12), and then Harford County (n = 10), and Anne Arundel County (n = 8) (*as shown in Map 2*). Note that 9 of the total reported no-knock search warrants did not involve a SWAT team.



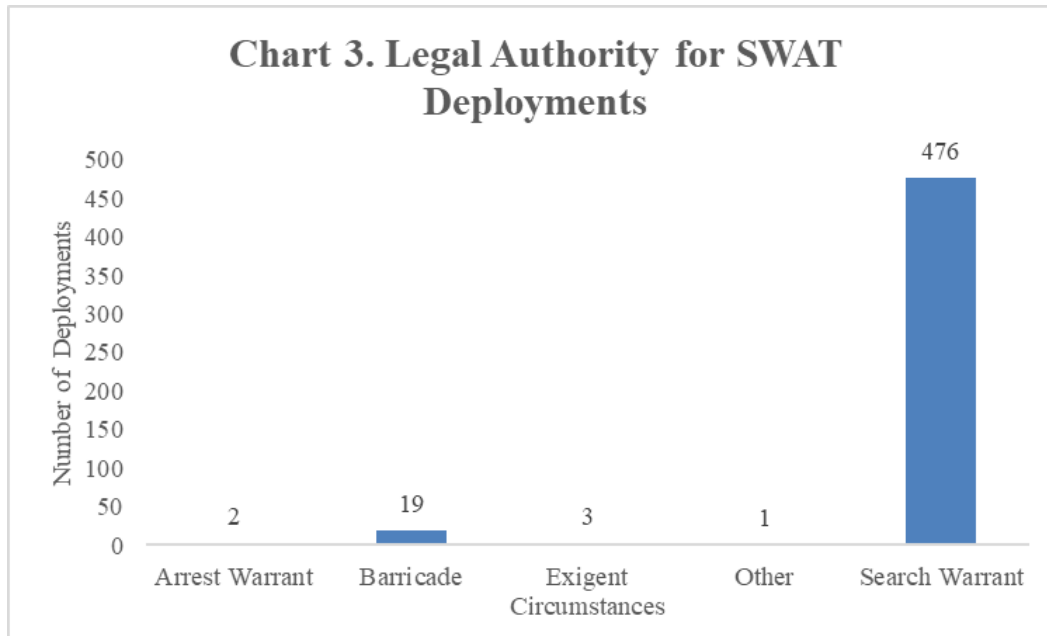
Number of Days Between Issued and Executed Search Warrants

On average, there were nearly three days between the date a search warrant was issued and the date a search warrant was executed between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022 (*as shown in Chart 2*). In addition, and specific to no-knock search warrants, the average time between issuance and execution of a search warrant consisted of about two days.

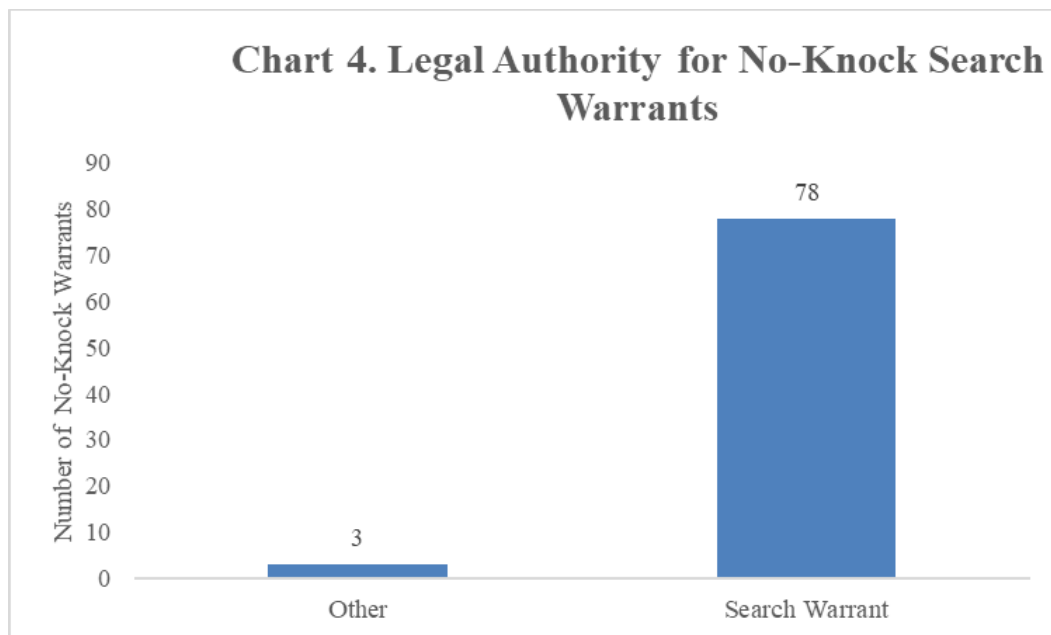


Legal Authority for Activation & No-Knock Search Warrant Issued

As illustrated in **Chart 3**, the majority of deployments occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant (92.6%, n = 476). The remaining categories accounted for 7.4% of the deployments, including: barricade (3.7%, n = 19), exigent circumstances (0.6%, n = 3), arrest warrant (0.4%, n = 2), and other (0.2%, n = 1) . A total of 13 cases (2.5%) were of unknown warrant type.



As illustrated in **Chart 4**, the vast majority of no-knock warrants occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant (88.6%, n = 78), whereas three occurred in conjunction with other types of legal authority. Seven occurred in conjunction with an unknown type of warrant.

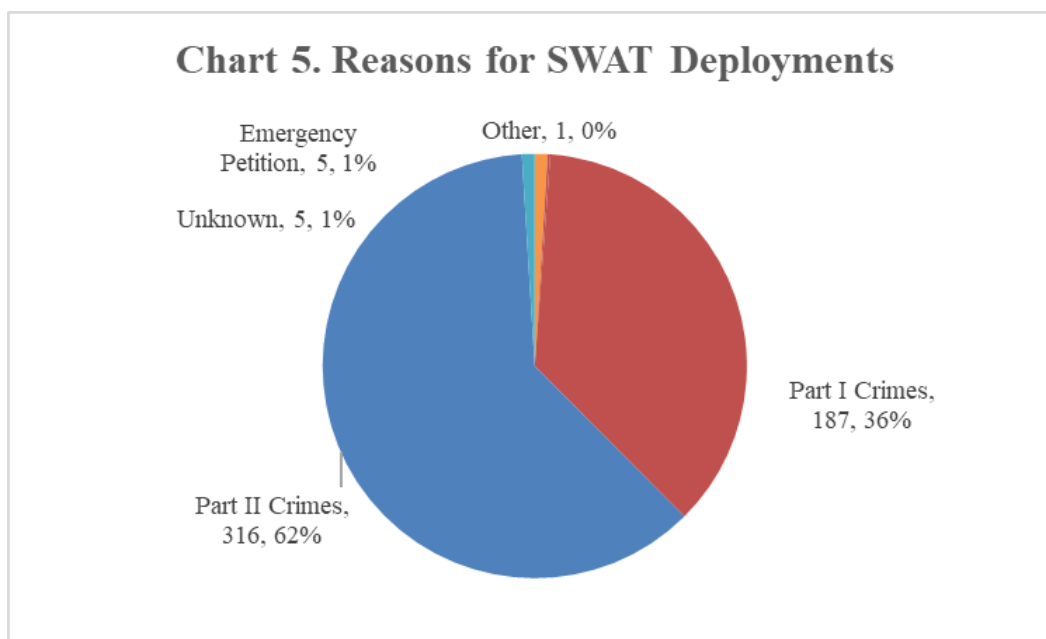


Reason for Deployment

Agencies deployed their SWAT teams to respond to Part I Crimes, Part II Crimes, emergency petitions, suicidal persons, or other reasons. According to the Uniform Crime Reports, Part I

Crimes consist of eight crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, breaking and entering, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Part II Crimes can consist of a variation of offenses; however, for the purposes of a SWAT team, most deployments would be activated to recover and seize illegal drugs and other contraband items from the subject of the warrant. An emergency petition is a process by which a person with a mental disorder who poses a risk to themselves or others is involuntarily hospitalized. As illustrated in **Chart 5**, the majority of deployments (97.9%, n = 503) were activated in response to a suspected Part I Crime (36.4%, n = 187) or Part II Crime (61.5%, n = 316).

Additional reasons for deployment activation consisted of answering to an emergency petition (1.0%, n = 5) or other reasons (0.2%, n = 1); five were for unknown reasons. Regardless of the reason for the SWAT deployment, all SWAT teams are deployed to respond to potentially dangerous or violent situations in order to minimize the risk of harm to police officers and members of the public.



Most deployments occurred in conjunction with the execution of a search warrant for Part I and Part II Crimes (93.6% and 95.3%, respectively). Emergency petitions are primarily barricade situations. **Table 2** displays the deployment reason in comparison to the legal authority.

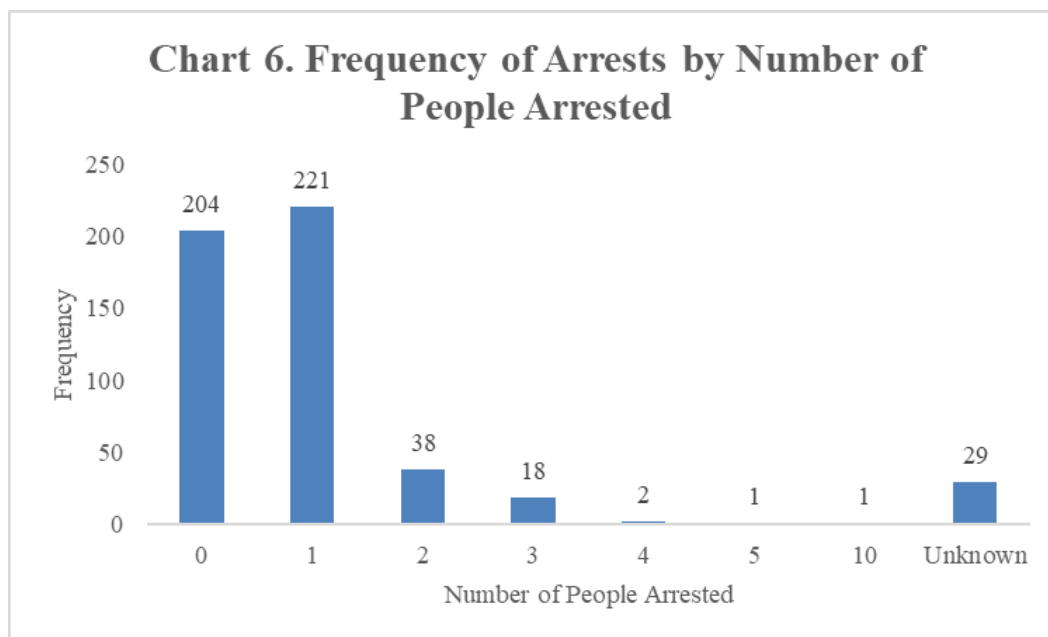
Table 2. Legal Authority by Underlying Reason for the SWAT Deployment							
Authority	Part I Crime	Part II Crime	Emergency Petition	Suicidal	Other	Unknown	Total
Arrest Warrant	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Barricade	4	11	4	0	0	0	19
Exigent Circumstances	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Search Warrant	175	301	0	0	0	0	476

Unknown	6	1	0	0	1	5	13
Total Deployments	187	316	5	0	1	5	514

Outcome of Deployment

Arrests Made

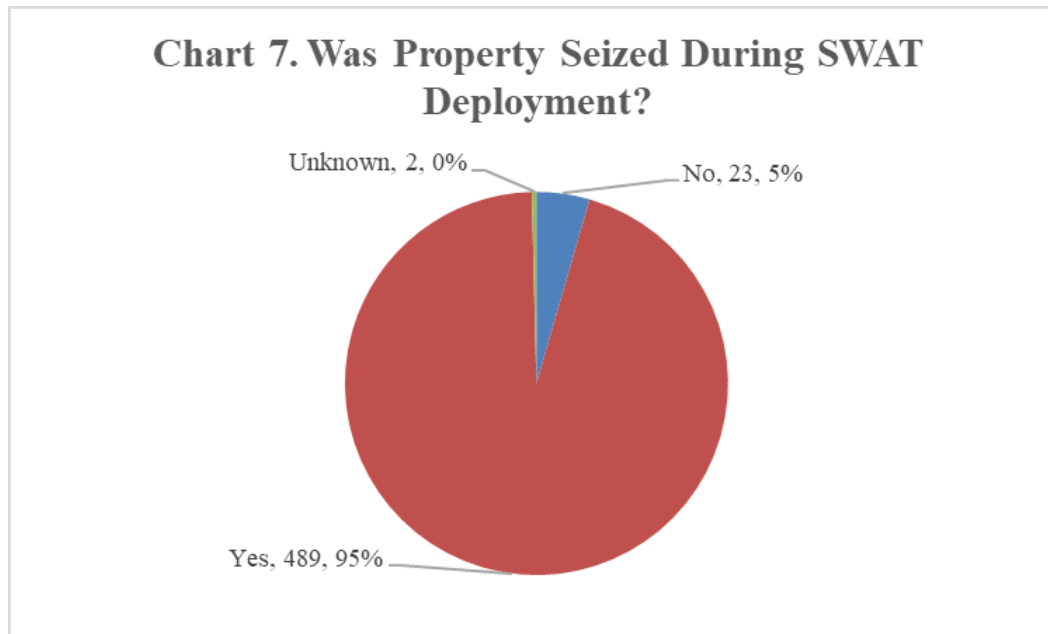
SWAT teams made arrests in 282 of all SWAT activations (54.9%, n = 514). Those 282 incidents involved an approximate total of 374 individuals arrested. In contrast, 204 reported SWAT deployments (39.7%) resulted in no arrests. In 29 cases, the arrest data was unknown. In addition, the number of arrests made during a single deployment ranged from 1 to 10 (*as shown in Chart 6*). Furthermore, of the 374 arrests, 351 occurred during the execution of a search warrant (93.9%), ten occurred during a barricade (2.7%), three during the execution of an arrest warrant (0.8%), one under exigent circumstances (0.3%), one under other circumstances (0.3%), and eight arrests were made under unknown circumstances (2.1%)



Property Seized

In 2022, SWAT teams recovered or seized property in 95.1% of all deployments (n = 489), compared to deployments where no property was seized (4.5%, n = 23) (*as shown in Chart 7*). Property seizure was frequent during activated deployments due to a Part I or Part II Crime

(95.7% and 96.2%, respectively). Property was comparatively less likely to be seized in response to emergency petitions and other reasons.

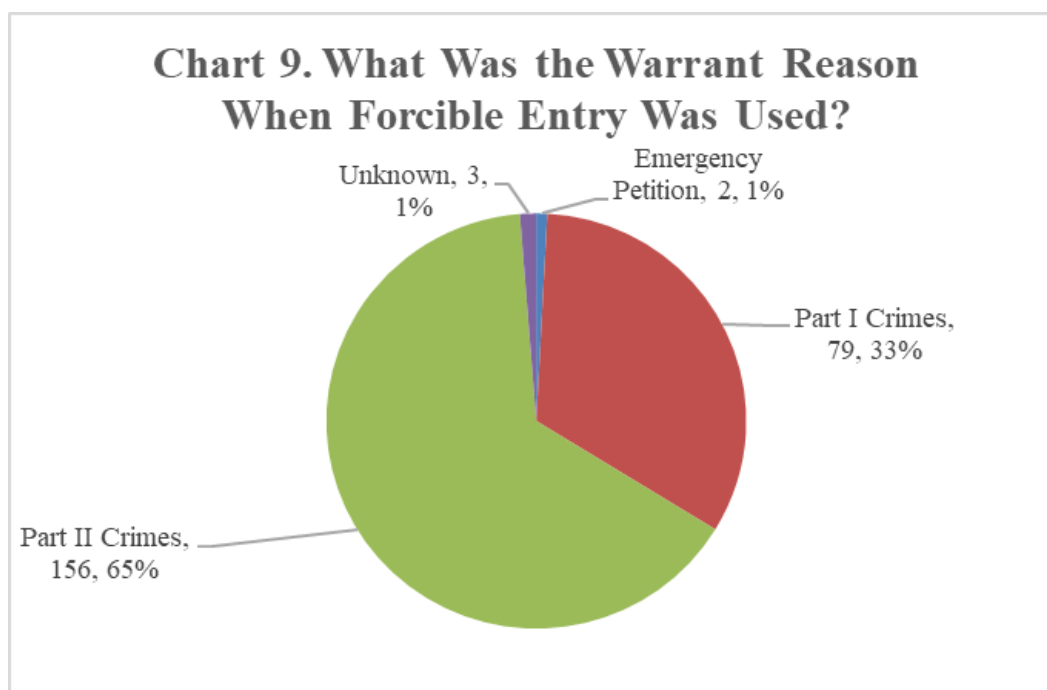


During the same reporting period, law enforcement agencies seized property 290 times during the execution of a no-knock search warrant (*as shown in **Chart 8***).



Forcible Entry

Approximately 240 of all SWAT deployments involved forcible entry (46.7%). Forcible entry was utilized similarly during responses to Part I and Part II Crimes (42.2% and 49.4%, respectively), though comparatively less likely to be used during a response to emergency petition or other deployments (*as shown in Chart 8*).



A total of 64 (72.7%) no-knock search warrants were executed under circumstances in which a police officer made forcible entry into a building, apartment, premises, place, or thing to be searched that was specified in the warrant.

Weapon Discharged

No law enforcement agencies reported a firearm being discharged by a SWAT team member in any of the qualifying SWAT deployments and/or no-knock search warrants.

Injured or Killed Animal

In 2022, one knock and announce warrant resulted in an animal being injured, but no animals were killed during any qualifying SWAT deployments.

Injured or Killed Person

During the reporting period, no deployments resulted in a person being injured by a SWAT team member. In fact, of the 1,635 total executed search warrants in 2022 (including those where no

SWAT was deployed), one resulted in a person being injured by a law enforcement officer and zero resulted in the death of a human being.

SWAT Officer Injured

In 2022, no deployments resulted in a SWAT officer being injured by another person. In addition, no executed search warrants resulted in a law enforcement officer being injured by another person.

Conclusion

In accordance with §§ 3-508(e) and 3-525(e) of the Public Safety Article, GOCPYVS will continue to work with law enforcement agencies that maintain a SWAT team and execute search warrants to ensure all required data elements are received, made available on its website, and submitted in a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency each year. The next report, *2023 Report on SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrants*, will provide information relating to SWAT team deployments and no-knock search warrants executed by the law enforcement agencies for the 2023 calendar year (January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023).