Here are some initial findings from the dataset. I'll keep digging deeper and do some crosstabs, plus make some charts. Happy to answer any further questions in the meantime:

Out of 465 vehicular pursuits by police spanning January 2016 to January 2019:

Nearly half of all chases begin with a traffic stop. A third start due to a stolen vehicle.

About 28 percent of pursuits end due to an unintentional crash, while another 23 percent end because the individual flees on foot.

Only about 15 percent of chases end because the driver stops voluntarily, while another 15 percent end due to supervisory direction.

Less than 10 percent of vehicle pursuits end in an injury.

About 77 percent span two miles or less.

Additional findings:

The number of pursuits terminated for reasons of "supervisory direction" jumped considerably in 2018 from 13 per year in 2016 and 2017 to 40.

There doesn't seem to be any noticeable correlation between that trend and how long chases go or whether injuries are involved.

So I'll delve into trying to crosstab the demographic data of those charged with the vehicular pursuits data next. But while looking at race and age trends over time, this jumped out at me.

Here's race, which doesn't show a particular upward trend for any demographic:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **race** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **Grand Total** |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 18 | 28 | 14 | 3 | 63 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 4 | 4 | 16 |  | 24 |
| Black | 239 | 323 | 303 | 40 | 905 |
| Unknown | 17 | 21 | 19 | 7 | 64 |
| White | 126 | 142 | 124 | 16 | 408 |
| Grand Total | 404 | 518 | 476 | 66 | 1464 |

But drill down into the age brackets by race and we find that the only demographic cross section that has a straight trend upward is black kids/teens aged 11 to 17:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **race/age** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **Grand Total** |
| **Black** | **239** | **323** | **303** | **40** | **905** |
| 11\_17 | 111 | 136 | 146 | 21 | 414 |
| 18\_24 | 31 | 59 | 54 | 4 | 148 |
| 25\_34 | 64 | 79 | 61 | 9 | 213 |
| 35\_44 | 24 | 27 | 26 | 3 | 80 |
| 45\_54 | 9 | 19 | 12 | 3 | 43 |
| 55\_plus |  | 3 | 3 |  | 6 |

So we could ask them why the only race/age cross section of charged suspects in vehicular pursuits on the rise are black minors? They were 27% of all those charged in 2016 pursuits and jumped to 30% in 2018.

It certainly seems like they're charging multiple people in a single chase though, so maybe there are just fewer solo drivers among some demographics groupings?