

Ward 4 MPD Adult Arrest Trends, 2023-2024

Background

MPD recently made its annual public release of adult arrest data, covering 19,263 arrests in 2024. This data represents the first full year of data available since Chief Smith took office in November of 2023, and reveals major changes in policing strategy over that timeframe. This report begins with an overview of citywide trends, and then explores the data specific to Ward 4.

This adult arrest data is taken from the Open Data DC website. DC resident and data scientist Taylor Terry maintains an archive of this and other DC public data at <https://github.com/taylorterry3/dc-public-data>. A complete index of these reports for each Ward is available at <http://bit.ly/4iG0Uht>. Taylor can be reached at taylor.terry@gmail.com.

Citywide Changes in Arrest Patterns

In 2024 there were 19,263 adult arrests citywide, a +27% change from 15,223 arrests in 2023 and a +30% change from the 2021-2023 average of 14,861. The increase in arrests was concentrated in Wards 1, 7, and 8. These wards each saw more than 1,000 additional arrests, while the next biggest gain was 212 additional arrests in Ward 5.

| Ward | 2023 | 2024 | Change | Percent Change |
|------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | 1,699 | 2,820 | +1,121 | +66% |
| 2 | 1,790 | 1,916 | +126 | +7% |
| 3 | 466 | 477 | +11 | +2% |
| 4 | 1,119 | 1,296 | +177 | +16% |
| 5 | 2,414 | 2,626 | +212 | +9% |
| 6 | 1,578 | 1,723 | +145 | +9% |
| 7 | 2,798 | 4,017 | +1,219 | +44% |
| 8 | 3,359 | 4,388 | +1,029 | +31% |

Much of this increase in arrests was driven by 2,000 additional arrests for Traffic Violations, 868 for Theft, 814 for Narcotics, 743 for Liquor Law Violations.

| Category | 2023 | 2024 | Change | Percent Change |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Traffic Violations | 898 | 2,898 | +2,000 | +223% |
| Theft | 870 | 1,738 | +868 | +100% |
| Narcotics | 529 | 1,343 | +814 | +154% |
| Liquor Law Violations | 164 | 907 | +743 | +453% |
| All Other Categories | 12,762 | 12,377 | -385 | -3% |

This crosstab shows the percentage change for these arrest categories by Ward from 2023 to 2024.

| Category | W1 | W2 | W3 | W4 | W5 | W6 | W7 | W8 |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Traffic | +108% | +45% | +106% | +80% | +129% | +137% | +1047% | +211% |
| Theft | +176% | +69% | +16% | +231% | +56% | +79% | +173% | +89% |
| Narcotics | +400% | +42% | +33% | -29% | +113% | +181% | +100% | +229% |
| Liquor | +433% | +89% | +100% | +260% | +470% | +140% | +844% | +1369% |
| Other | +23% | -10% | -7% | 0% | -13% | -11% | -10% | +4% |

Productivity per Officer

MPD reported having 3,282 sworn officers in 2024, meaning that 19,263 arrests represents 5.9 arrests per sworn officer for the year. This is a substantial increase from the 2021-2023 average of 4.3 arrests per officer per year, but is far from a return to the 2016-2019 average of 7.7 arrests per officer. The chart below shows the trend in arrests per sworn officer over time, as well as the trend in stops per officer for periods when this data is available. (MPD stops data currently runs only through June of 2024, and the release schedule is irregular.)

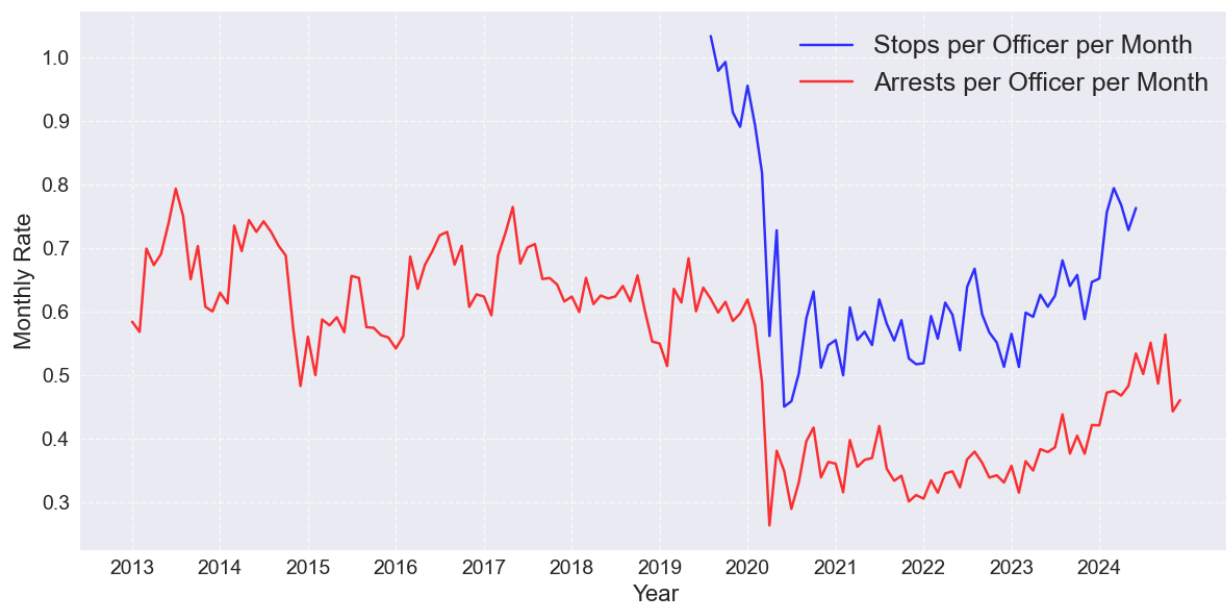


Figure 1: Arrests and Stops per Officer

Ward 4 Overview

In 2024 there were 1,296 adult arrests in Ward 4, a +16% change from 2023 (citywide: +27%) and a +29% change from the 2021-2023 average (citywide: +30%). The second half of 2024 saw 590 arrests, compared to 706 in the first half.

Arrest Categories with Largest Increase 2023-2024

This table highlights the arrest categories that saw the largest percentage increases in Ward 4 from 2023 to 2024. The citywide changes are shown for comparison to help identify whether these trends are ward-specific or part of broader patterns.

| Category | 2023 | 2024 | Ward 4 Change | Citywide Change |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|---------------|-----------------|
| Fraud and Financial Crimes | 1 | 7 | +600% | +36% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 2 | 8 | +300% | +84% |
| Liquor Law Violations | 5 | 18 | +260% | +453% |
| Theft | 35 | 116 | +231% | +100% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 2 | 5 | +150% | +61% |
| Traffic Violations | 122 | 220 | +80% | +223% |
| Sex Offenses | 6 | 10 | +67% | -3% |
| Burglary | 8 | 11 | +38% | +31% |
| Driving/Boating While Intoxicated | 65 | 77 | +18% | 0% |
| Robbery | 13 | 15 | +15% | +23% |
| All Other Categories | 860 | 807 | -6% | +2% |

Top Arrest Categories in 2024

The table below shows the most common types of arrests in Ward 4 during 2024, compared with 2023 counts. For each category, the ward-specific and citywide percentage changes are shown to provide context.

| Category | 2023 | 2024 | Ward 4 Change | Citywide Change |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|---------------|-----------------|
| Simple Assault | 360 | 370 | +3% | -9% |
| Traffic Violations | 122 | 220 | +80% | +223% |
| Release Violations/Fugitive | 121 | 136 | +12% | +3% |
| Theft | 35 | 116 | +231% | +100% |
| Driving/Boating While Intoxicated | 65 | 77 | +18% | 0% |
| Other Crimes | 88 | 74 | -16% | -6% |
| Weapon Violations | 76 | 50 | -34% | -10% |
| Damage to Property | 49 | 39 | -20% | -16% |
| Narcotics | 48 | 34 | -29% | +154% |
| Property Crimes | 29 | 33 | +14% | 0% |
| All Other Categories | 126 | 147 | +17% | +49% |

Arrest Categories with Largest Increase H1-H2 2024

Many areas of the city and types of crimes saw substantial changes in the pattern of arrests between the first half and second half of 2024. The following table compares arrest counts between the first half (H1) and second half (H2) of 2024 in Ward 4. This comparison helps identify emerging trends within the year. Categories are sorted by the magnitude of change between halves.

| Category | H1 2024 | H2 2024 | Ward 4 Change | Citywide Change |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Kidnapping | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0% |
| Prostitution | 0 | 0 | N/A | +86% |
| Vending Violations | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0% |
| Sex Abuse | 0 | 1 | N/A | -48% |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | N/A | -7% |
| Gambling | 0 | 0 | N/A | +33% |
| Arson | 0 | 0 | N/A | -50% |
| nan | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 2 | 6 | +200% | -14% |
| Sex Offenses | 3 | 7 | +133% | -23% |
| All Other Categories | 701 | 575 | -18% | +6% |

Arrests by Category, 2023-2024

Figure 2 below compares the distribution of arrests across different categories between 2023 and 2024 in Ward 4. The side-by-side bars allow for easy comparison of how the composition of arrests has changed year over year.

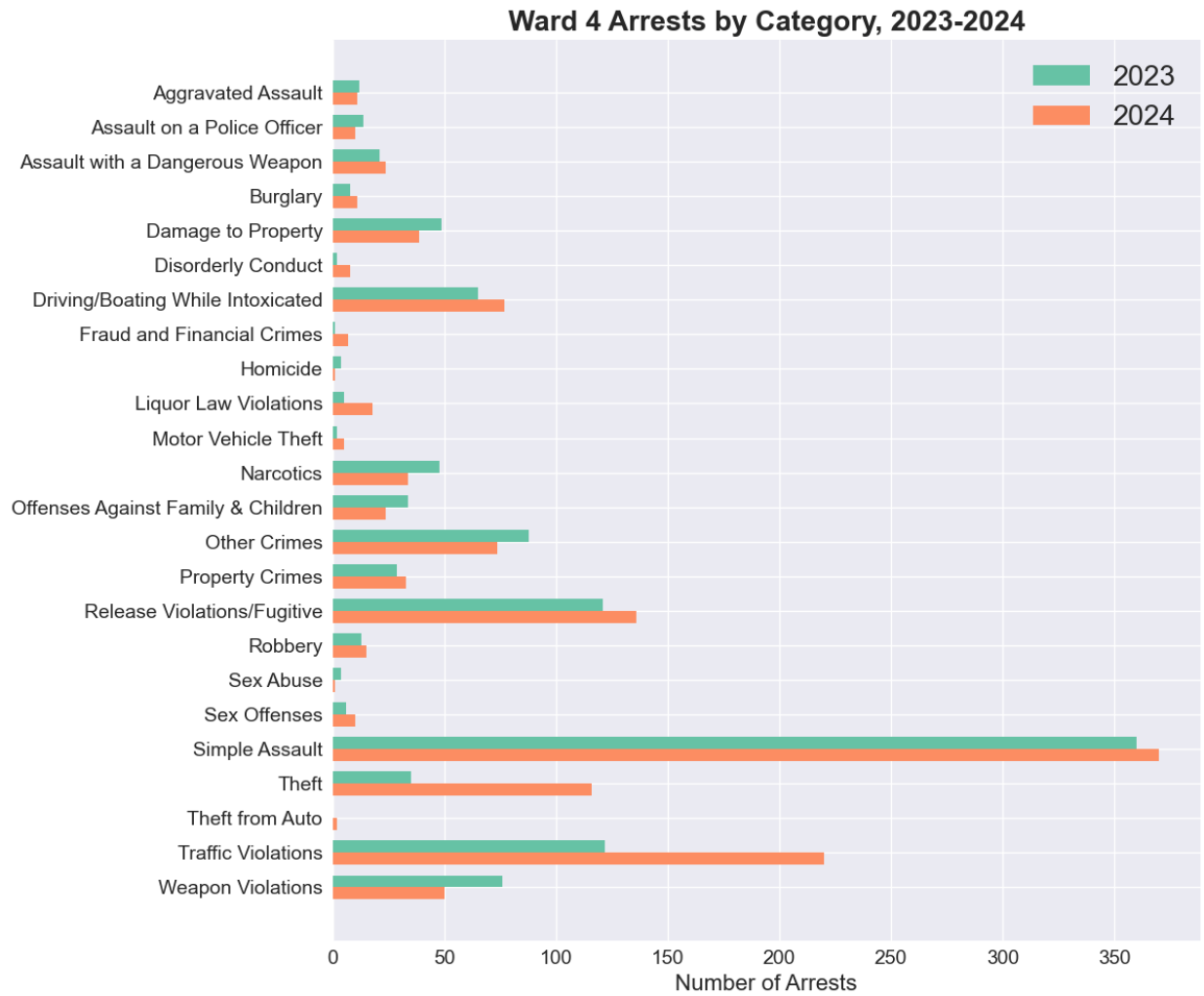


Figure 2: Arrests by category