

Ward 5 MPD Adult Arrest Summary, 2023-2024

Background

MPD recently made its annual public release of Adult Arrests 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 5.

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 Overview

In 2024 there were 19,263 adult arrests citywide, a +27% change from 2023 and a +30% change from the 2021-2023 average. This represents a substantial increase in arrests per sworn officer, which fell sharply after 2020 from an average of 7.7 arrests per officer per year in 2016-2019 to 4.3 in 2021-2023.

Ward 5 Overview

In 2024 there were 2,626 adult arrests in Ward 5, a +9% change from 2023 (citywide: +27%) and a +16% change from the 2021-2023 average (citywide: +30%). The second half of 2024 saw 1,340 arrests, compared to 1,286 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 5 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 5 Change	Citywide Change
Liquor Law Violations	20	114	+470%	+453%
Theft from Auto	2	6	+200%	+114%
Aggravated Assault	20	48	+140%	+93%
Traffic Violations	163	373	+129%	+223%
Narcotics	77	164	+113%	+154%
Fraud and Financial Crimes	3	6	+100%	+36%
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	11	+57%	+61%
Theft	147	229	+56%	+100%
Disorderly Conduct	17	21	+24%	+84%
Driving/Boating While Intoxicated	94	105	+12%	0%

Top Arrest Categories in 2024

The table below shows the most common types of arrests in Ward 5 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 5 Change	Citywide Change
Simple Assault	833	698	-16%	-9%
Traffic Violations	163	373	+129%	+223%
Release Violations/Fugitive	247	230	-7%	+3%
Theft	147	229	+56%	+100%
Narcotics	77	164	+113%	+154%
Weapon Violations	178	143	-20%	-10%
Other Crimes	172	117	-32%	-6%
Liquor Law Violations	20	114	+470%	+453%
Driving/Boating While Intoxicated	94	105	+12%	0%
Damage to Property	103	77	-25%	-16%

Arrest Categories with Largest Increase H1-H2 2024

The following table compares arrest counts between the first half (H1) and second half (H2) of 2024 in Ward 5. 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 5 Change	Citywide Change
Kidnapping	0	2	N/A	0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	7	+75%	+38%
Liquor Law Violations	42	72	+71%	+23%
Traffic Violations	138	235	+70%	+55%
Offenses Against Family & Children	19	26	+37%	-16%
Narcotics	73	91	+25%	+15%
Sex Offenses	7	8	+14%	-23%
Damage to Property	36	41	+14%	0%
Theft	108	121	+12%	+5%
Robbery	17	19	+12%	-3%

Monthly Trends

Figure 1 below shows the month-by-month pattern of total arrests in Ward 5 over time. This visualization helps identify seasonal patterns and longer-term trends in arrest volumes. Note that all arrest locations are based on current ward boundaries.

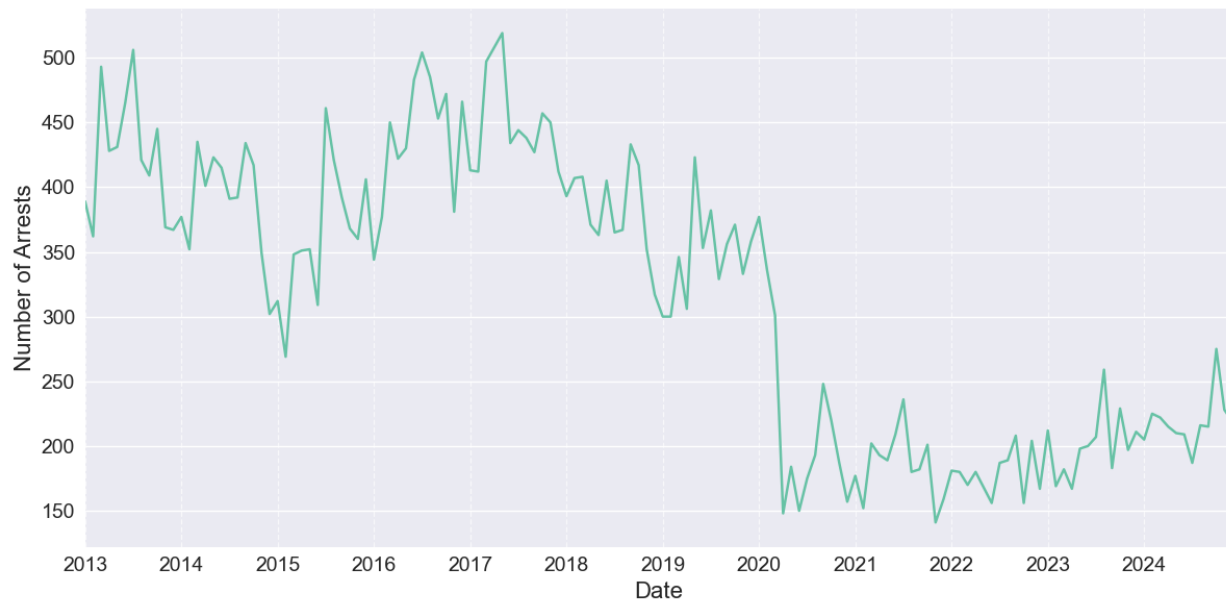


Figure 1: Monthly Arrest Trends

Arrests by Category, 2023-2024

Figure 2 below compares the distribution of arrests across different categories between 2023 and 2024 in Ward 5. The side-by-side bars allow for easy comparison of how the composition of arrests has changed year over year.

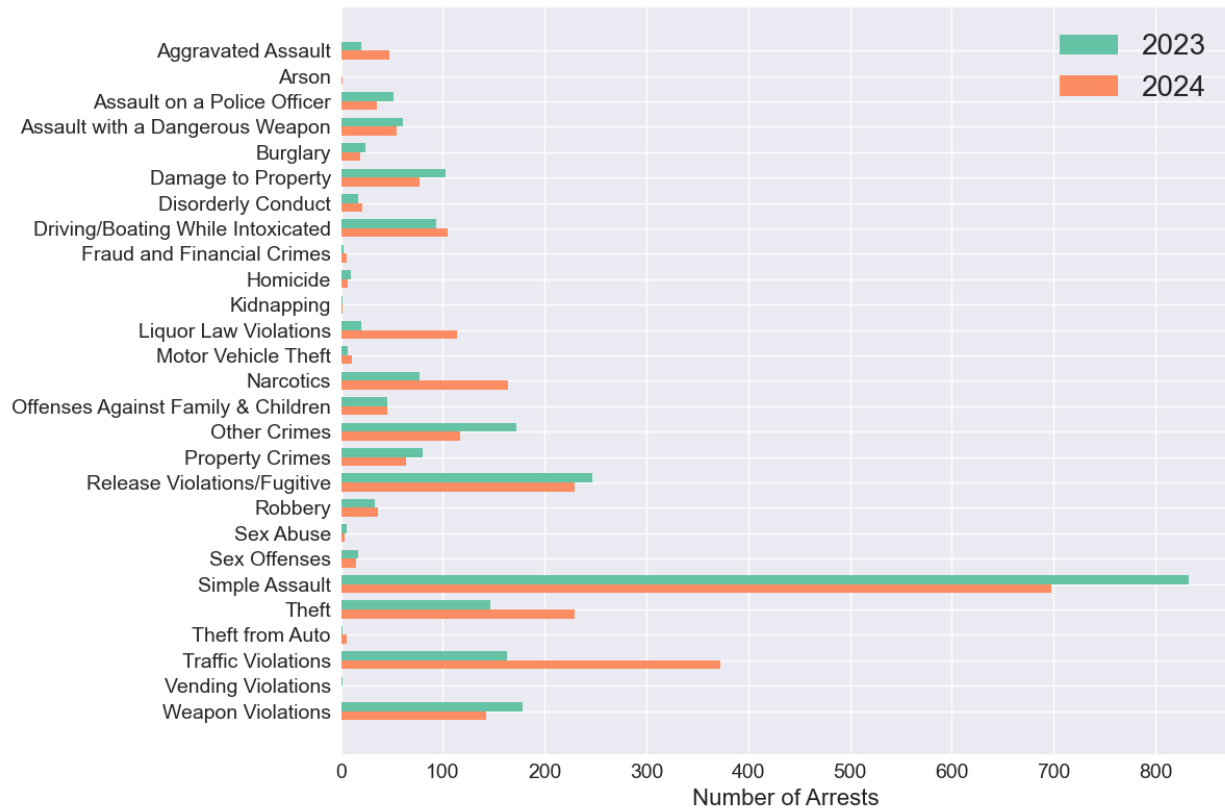


Figure 2: Arrests by category