

Ward 5 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 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 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.)

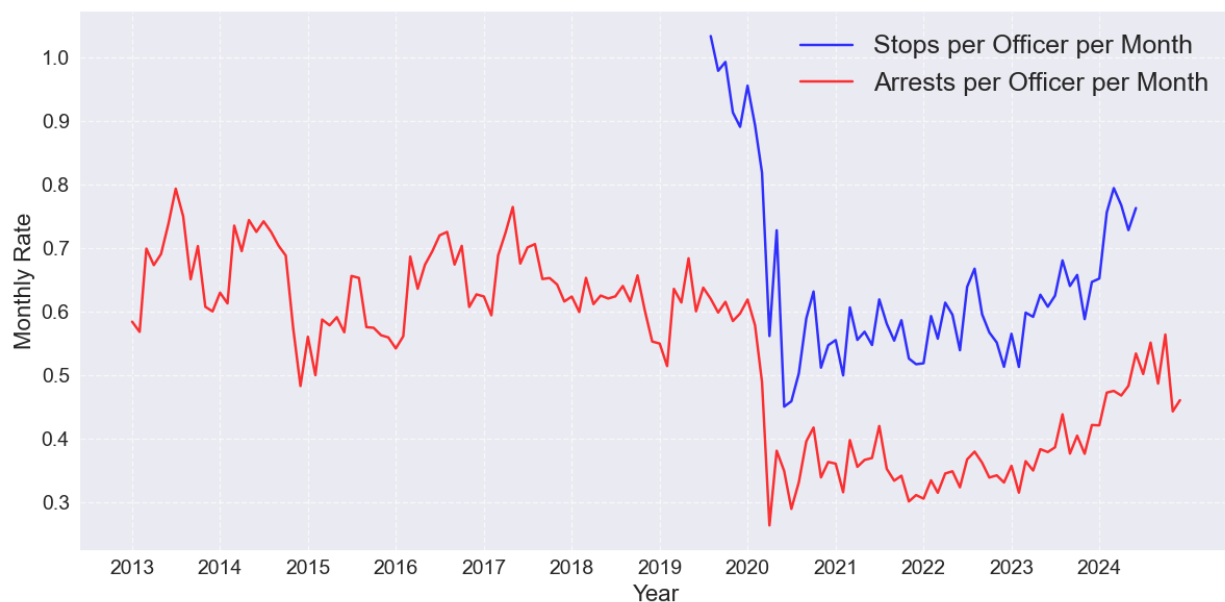


Figure 1: Arrests and Stops per Officer

Ward 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%
All Other Categories	1,864	1,547	-17%	-5%

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%
All Other Categories	380	376	-1%	+12%

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 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
Vending Violations	0	0	N/A	0%
Prostitution	0	0	N/A	+86%
Kidnapping	0	2	N/A	0%
Gambling	0	0	N/A	+33%
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%
All Other Categories	1,003	899	-10%	-4%

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.

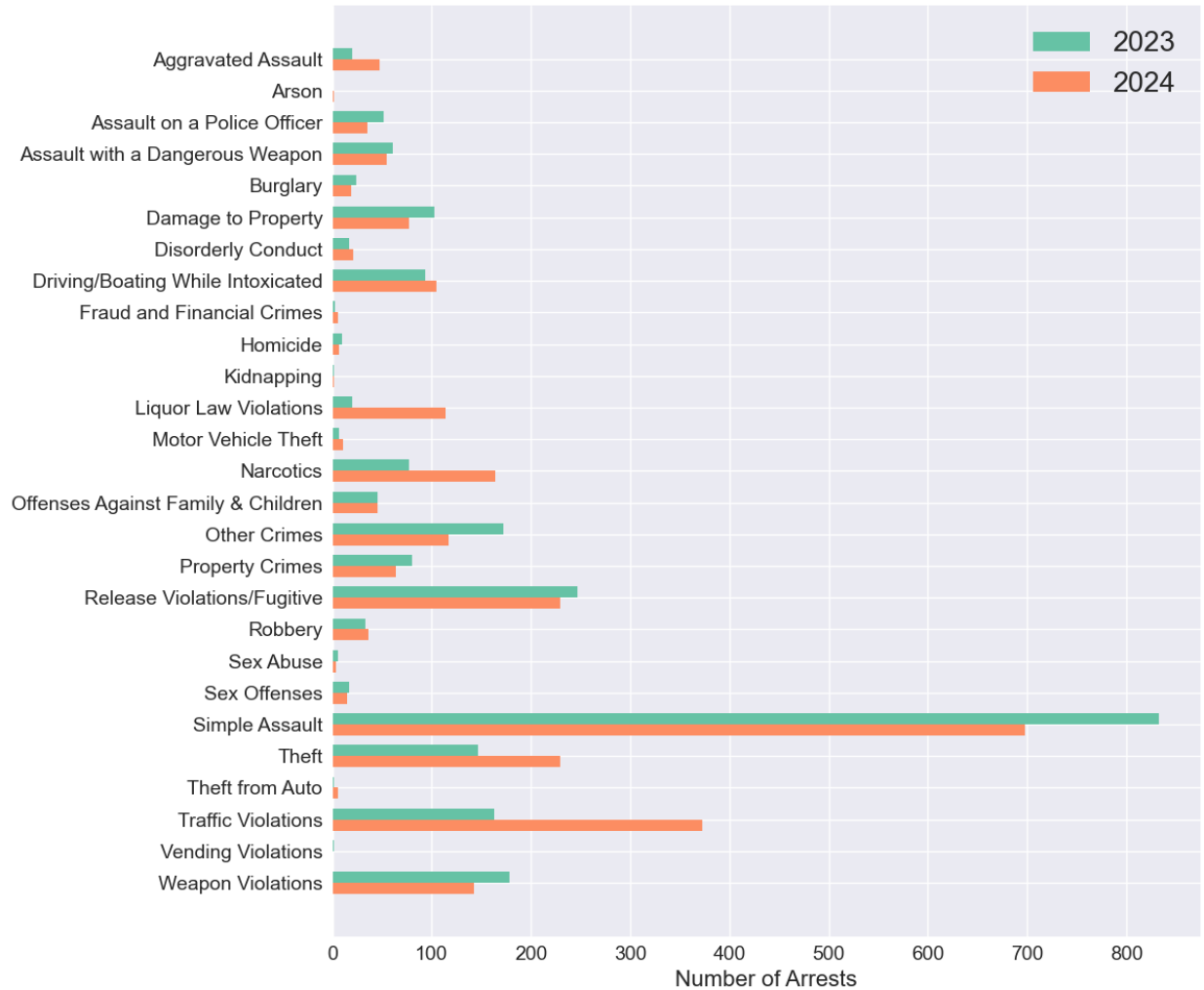


Figure 2: Arrests by category