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## Wheeling Police Department Releases 2019 Crime Statistics

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 28, 2020**

The City of Wheeling remains a safe place to live as major crimes continue to be on the downward trend. In 2019, there were fewer serious crimes committed – an overall decrease by 15% the last three years, according to statistics released by the Wheeling Police Department.

The specific crime data is divided into two areas – “Group A” offenses, which are generally more serious (murder, robbery, burglary, sex crimes), and “Group B” offenses, which involve more nuisance, quality of life, property crimes and highway safety/traffic offenses.

“Group A” offenses (more serious crimes) were **down**, along with total calls for service. However, for the third straight year, “Group B” (less serious crimes) were **up**, mostly because of increased directed patrols and focusing on specific issues and saturating high crime areas.

The department continues to see, on average a 3% yearly decrease in its calls for service. However, the ongoing nationwide opioid epidemic continues to increase with overdose related calls and medical emergencies.

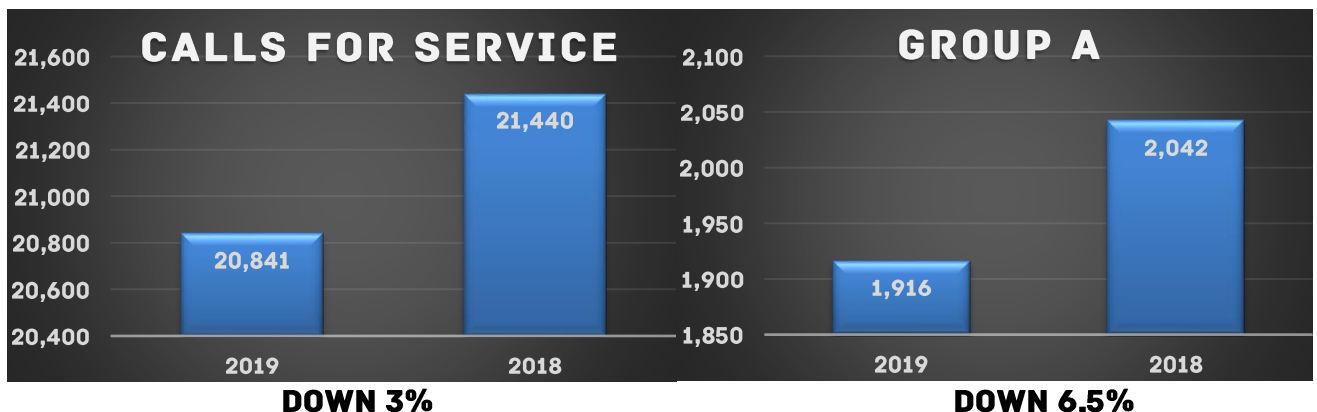
### → **Group A** (more serious offenses) **DECREASED by 6.5%**

Group A categories that **decreased** from the previous year were:

- Vandalism (down 22%)
- Burglary (down 10%)
- Robbery (down 33%)
- Drug Related Calls (down 27%)

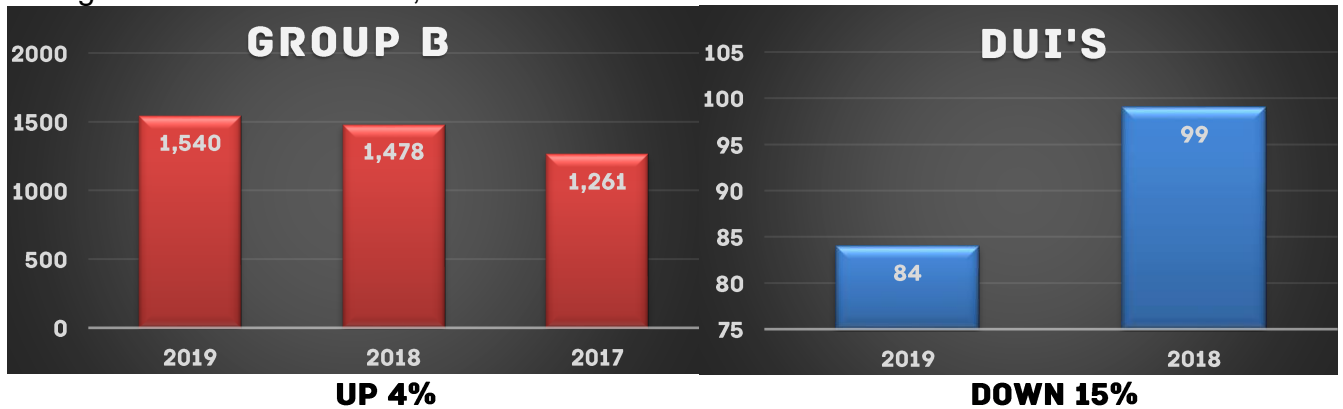
Group A categories that **increased** significantly:

- Motor Vehicle Thefts by **24%** (**46** in 2019 vs. **37** in 2018)
- Assaults by **7%** (**577** in 2019 vs. **536** in 2018)



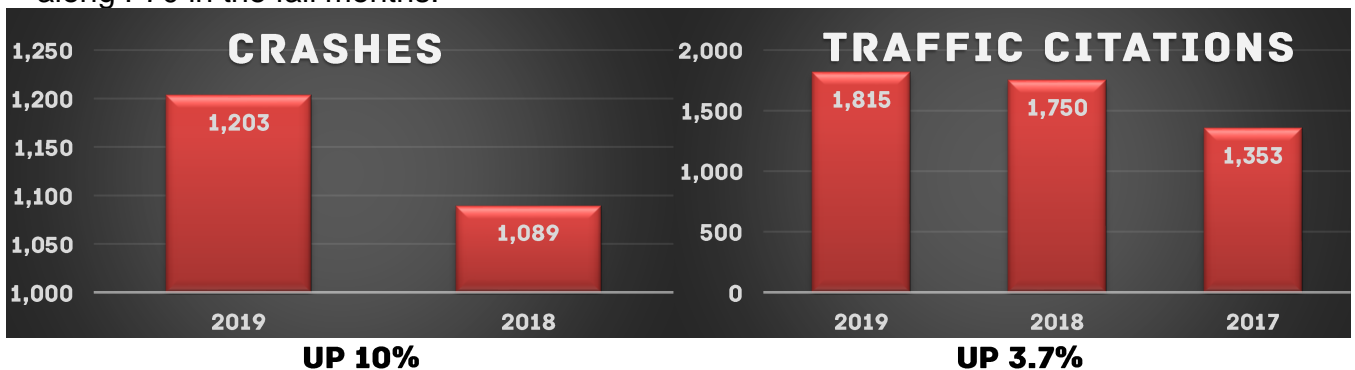
→ **Group B** (less serious offenses) **INCREASED by 4%**

Group B offenses increased slightly because of geographical policing and focusing on specific areas of crime in the city. Also, in 2019, officers continued to be visible and focus on impaired driving education. As a result, DUI arrests were down 15%.



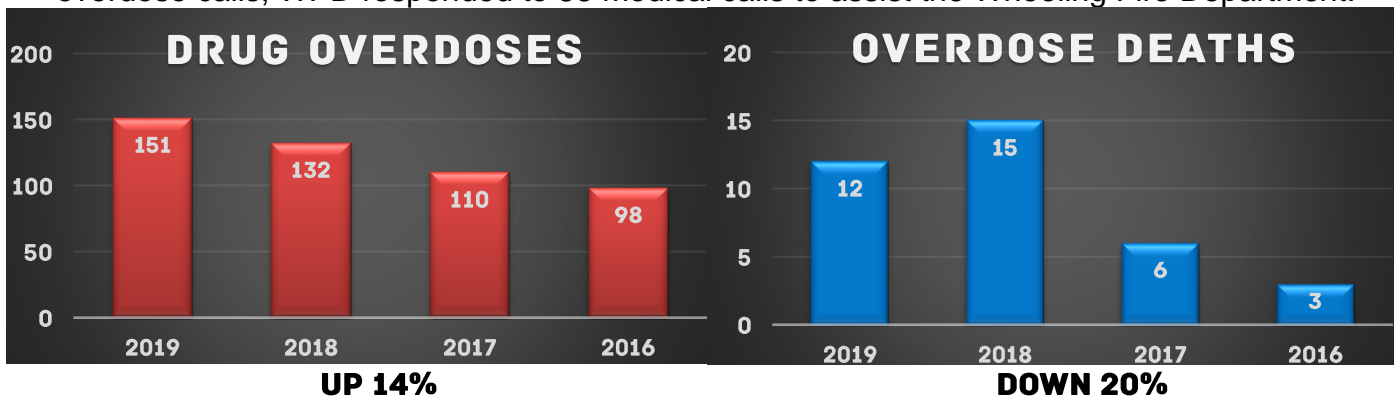
→ **Traffic Enforcement** **INCREASED by 3.7%**

WPD continued its efforts to increase traffic enforcement throughout Wheeling in 2019, with a heavy emphasis on Interstate 70. Last year, there was a slight increase in crashes – mostly along I-70 in the fall months.



→ **Drug Overdoses** **INCREASED by 14%**

Drug-related overdoses have increased each of the last four years. In 2019, Overdose released deaths *decreased* for the first time in years – a total of 20% from 2018 to 2019. Overdoses were NOT just heroin related – but multiple types of narcotics. In addition to overdose calls, WPD responded to 85 medical calls to assist the Wheeling Fire Department.



*\*Note: Overdose death numbers can change after annual statistics are released because of pending cases with the state medical examiner's office.*