

Davis Police Department Crime Review

Arrests

Overall, officers made 443 arrests in 2020. Of these arrests, 45% (N=201) were for felony offenses which is an unusually high proportion and likely due to the simultaneous decline in misdemeanor arrests. In 2020, misdemeanor arrests dropped by 30% compared to the 2019 average and by 45% compared to the previous five-year average. This decrease could be attributable to COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols and the decriminalization/non-prosecution of many misdemeanor offenses (drugs, shoplifting, minor vandalism, petty theft). In summary, while officers made far fewer arrests than in years past, the arrests they did make were for more serious offenses.

Violent Crime

Reported violent crime has decreased across all categories except aggravated assault. Compared to 2019, aggravated assaults have increased by 25% (N=10). At this time, there do not appear to be any sub-trends regarding the assaults. Concerning demographics, roughly half of the assaults are between people who are living unsheltered and 1/3 were domestic violence incidents. Preliminary reports suggest that this finding is consistent with trends across the State.¹

Property Crime

Also consistent with national and statewide trends, Davis has observed either a return to baseline or decreases in the following categories: residential burglaries, vehicle burglaries, and shoplifting. Notably, these crimes are generally crimes of opportunity—the likes of which have been impeded by intermittent shelter in place orders and remote working due to COVID-19. Likely due to the same circumstances, commercial burglaries increased exponentially in 2020 because businesses were not open and fewer people were out acting as deterrents to crime. Specifically, commercial burglaries increased by 53% (N=188) compared to 2019 and 126% compared to the previous five-year average.

Vandalism and motor vehicle thefts have increased, both well above the “normal” range for Davis. While many jurisdictions have reported similar increases for motor vehicle theft, there does not appear to be a prevailing theory as to why, other than perhaps vehicles are left unattended for longer periods of time during shelter in place.

Larcenies also increased in 2020 and remain well above the previous five-year average. This increase is due almost exclusively to the sharp rise in catalytic converter thefts (grand theft). To that end, Davis has experienced a 186% (N=315) increase in catalytic converter thefts during 2020.

¹ October 9, 2020; Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), “California’s Major Cities See Some Increases in Crime”; Accessed at <https://www.ppic.org/blog/californias-major-cities-see-some-increases-in-crime/>

Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average	St Dev	Normal Range	2020	Z Score	% Change Average-2020	% Change 2019-2020
Calls for Service	47,121	46,908	45,956	43,160	44,416	45,512	1514.46	43998-47027	37,363	-5.38093	-18%	-16%
Total Arrests	718	718	677	499	510	624	99.09712	525-723	443	-1.83053	-29%	-13%
Misdemeanor Arrests	478	537	480	357	344	439	75.57089	364-515	242	-2.60947	-45%	-30%
Felony Arrests	238	179	195	140	166	184	32.62269	151-216	201	0.533371	9%	21%
Moving Citations	4,435	3,135	2,757	2,075	1,281	2,737	1058.318	1678-3795	455	-2.15587	-83%	-64%
Homicide	2	0	1	2	3	2	1.019804	1-3	1	-0.58835	-38%	-67%
Rape	21	31	18	22	23	23	4.335897	19-27	19	-0.92253	-17%	-17%
Robbery	40	31	35	44	44	39	5.114685	34-44	30	-1.72054	-23%	-32%
Aggravated Assault	40	49	43	50	40	44	4.317407	40-49	50	1.297075	13%	25%
Burglary	281	246	272	233	274	261	18.43258	243-280	387	6.824872	48%	41%
Larceny	1,337	1,297	1,238	1,370	1,822	1,413	209.2782	1204-1622	1,928	2.461795	36%	6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	105	110	126	91	97	106	12.02331	94-118	148	3.509849	40%	53%
Arson	9	7	8	7	4	7	1.67332	5-9	14	4.1833	100%	250%
Residential Burgs	192	164	171	147	144	164	17.44248	146-181	146	-1.00903	-11%	1%
Vehicle Burgs	215	278	305	344	578	344	124.3173	220-468	379	0.281538	10%	-34%
Commercial Burgs	70	73	78	72	123	83	20.07386	63-103	188	5.220719	126%	53%
Shoplifting	56	45	42	49	33	45	7.615773	37-53	20	-3.28266	-56%	-39%
Vandalism	262	256	294	229	325	273	33.1385	240-306	347	2.227017	27%	7%
Driving Under the Influence (all cases)	147	147	99	77	73	109	32.57975	76-141	45	-1.95213	-59%	-38%
Drug/Narcotic Violations (all HS cases)	168	194	169	142	165	168	16.4997	151-184	94	-4.46069	-44%	-43%

*z score= any score that is 2+ means two or more standard deviations above the average