

Public Safety

Status of Public Safety in Lakewood

Similar to other municipalities in the state, the City of Lakewood is experiencing increased crime, specifically property crimes and motor vehicle thefts. There has also been a staggering increase in juvenile crime. For example, the table below shows the increase in vehicle thefts and eludes before and after the passage of HB 1054, the “vehicle pursuit bill”.

Comparing Monthly Averages for 2 Years		Pre HB 1054	Post HB 1054	% Change
	Motor Vehicle Thefts	31	68	+119% (+37)
Eluding	2.5	25.5	+920% (+23)	

Public Safety is a Shared Responsibility

The state and local governments have a shared responsibility in protecting public safety. Part of the state’s responsibility is to provide adequate resources to local jurisdictions who deliver public safety services. Recent changes to state laws necessitate additional state investment in public safety. In some cases, the laws need refinement since they are hindering officers’ ability to protect the public. In collaboration with other Pierce County municipalities, the City requests the Legislature:

- 1) Provide tools to address auto theft and property crime, including increased state funding to grant programs to support regional enforcement and prosecution efforts;
- 2) Make refinements to the restrictions to allow for the pursuit of stolen vehicles given the number of criminals using stolen vehicles to commit other crimes;
- 3) Commit ongoing state funding for therapeutic courts to satisfy the new state drug possession law;
- 4) Supply stable state funding for co-responder programs, such as the City’s Behavioral Health Contact Team; and
- 5) Amend state law to allow for a parent or guardian to provide consent for a juvenile to be interviewed by law enforcement to include consent to search property to resolve unsolved crimes and prevent future incidents.

Public Safety Data in Lakewood

The following data show increasing trends in motor vehicle thefts, eludes from police, juvenile crimes to include vehicle theft, assaults, and robbery, and drug possession and overdoses. Lakewood has experienced increases across all these crime areas in the past several years, in spite of recent public safety state legislation aimed to address these problems.

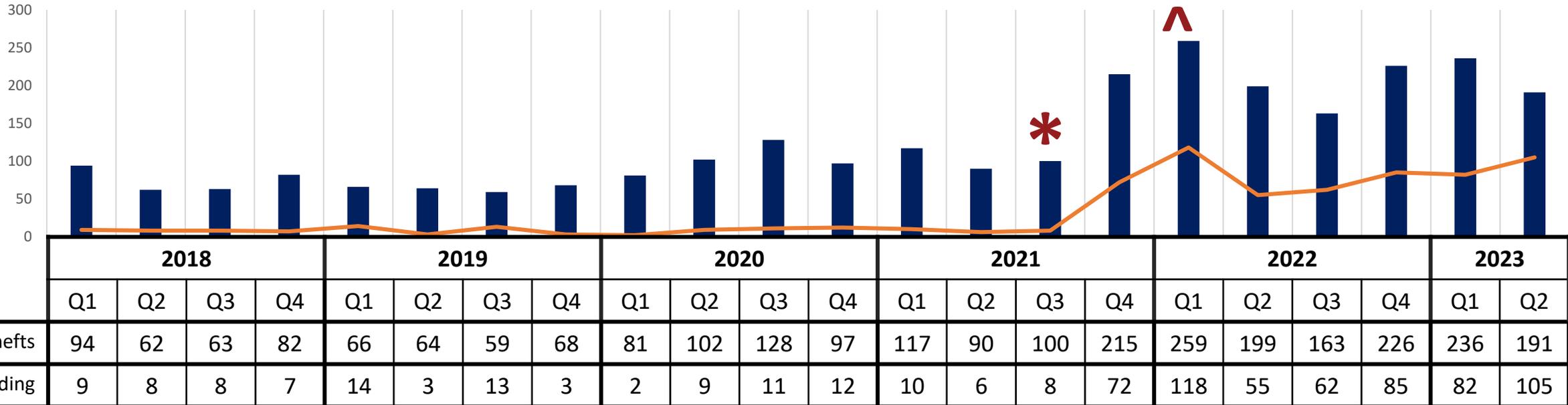




Motor Vehicle Thefts



Motor Vehicle Thefts & Eluding



* HB 1054 & HB 1310 effective July 25th 2021
 ^ HB 1140 effective January 1st 2022

Comparing Monthly Averages for 2 Years		Pre HB 1054 & HB 1310	Post HB 1054 & HB1310	% Change
	Motor Vehicle Thefts	31	68	+119% (+37)
	Eluding	2.5	25.5	+920% (+23)

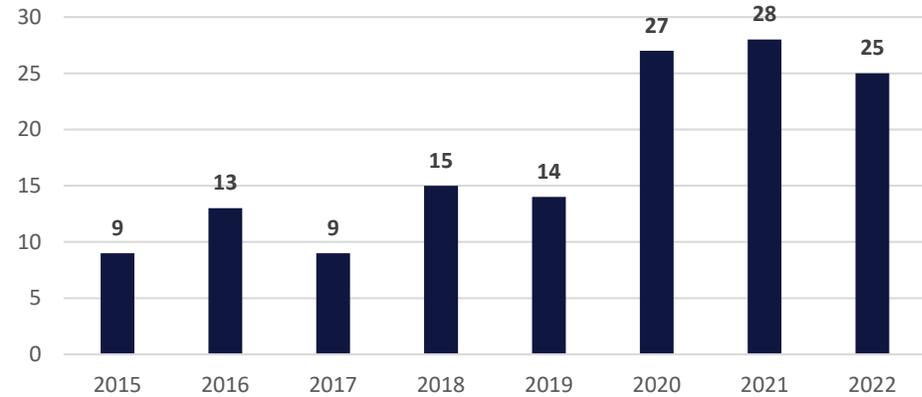


Drug Possession

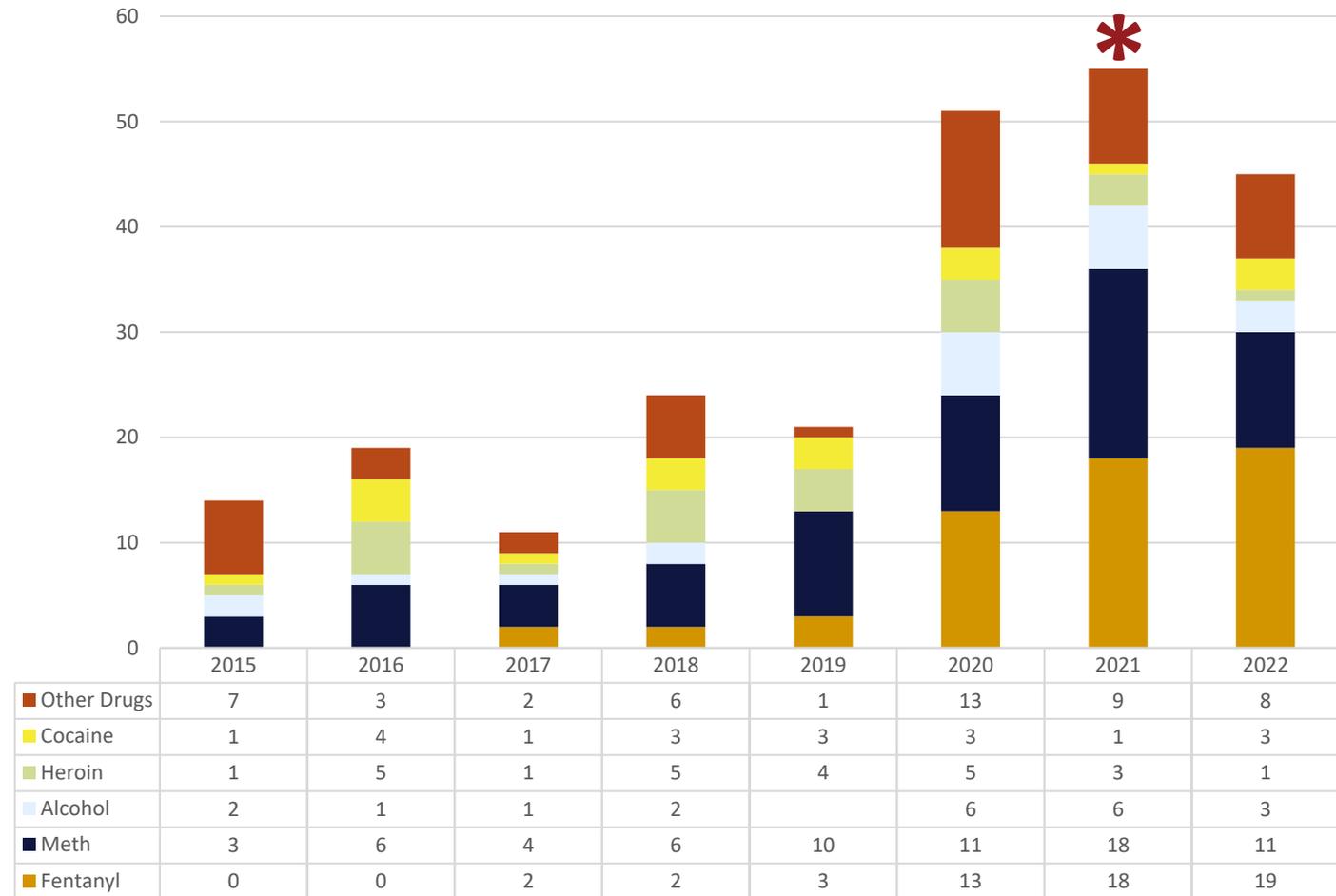
2015 – May 2023



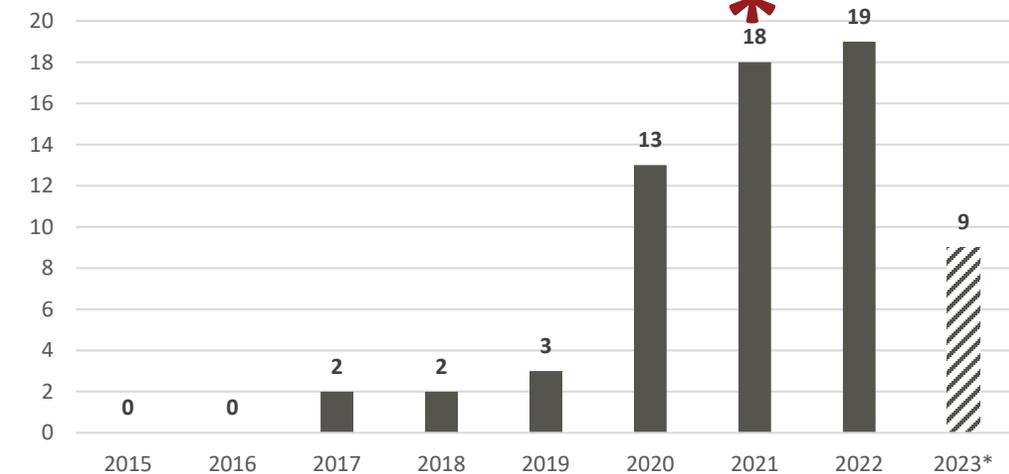
Overdose Deaths in Lakewood



Types of Drugs Used in Overdoses in Lakewood



Lakewood Fentanyl Related Deaths



*** SB 5476 (Blake Bill) effective July 25th 2021**



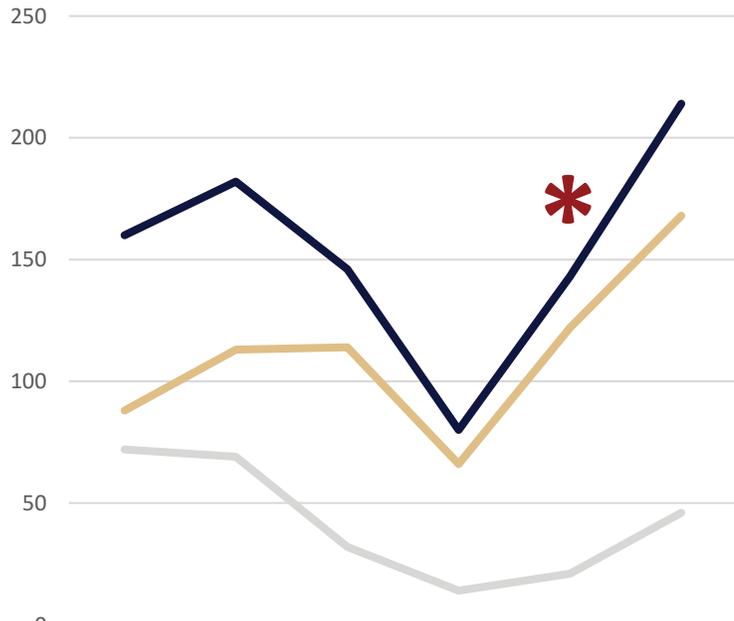
2023* Partial Year = (Jan 1 – May 31)



Juvenile Crimes



All Juvenile Crime Trends in Lakewood YTD 2018-2023 (Jan 1 - Jul 31)



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Suspect	88	113	114	66	122	168
Arrestees	72	69	32	14	21	46
Total	160	182	146	80	143	214

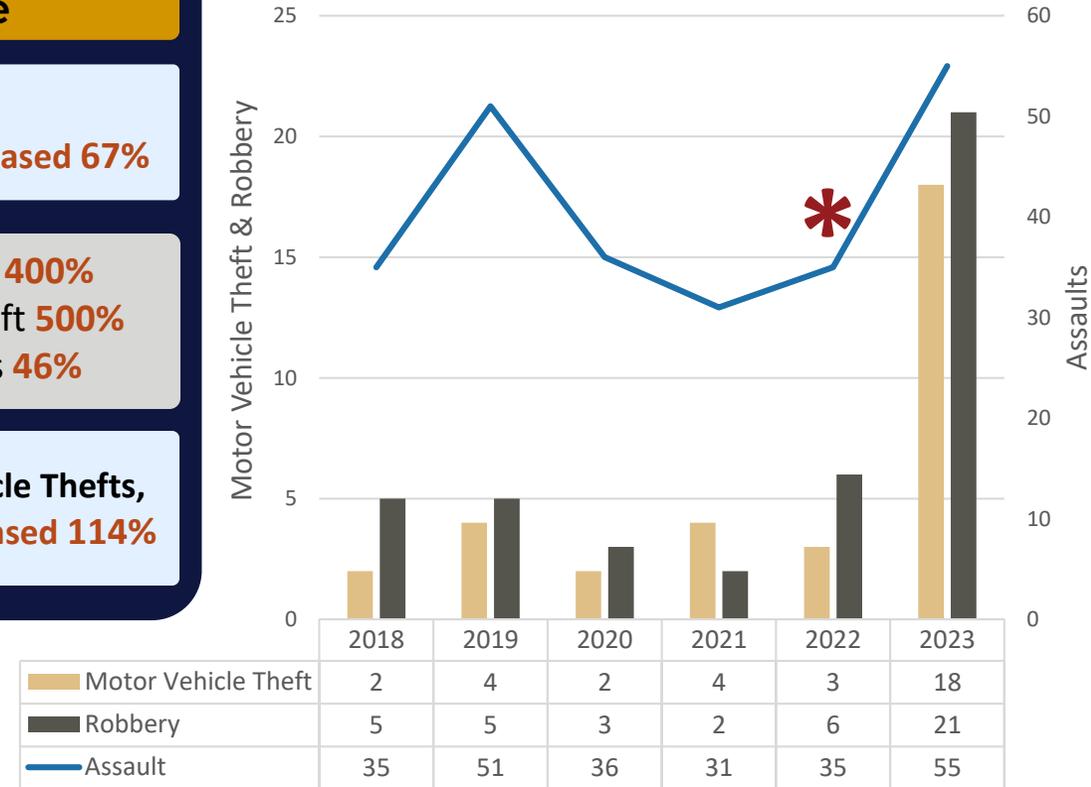
Compared to the 5 Year Average

For All Crimes
Known Juvenile Suspects **increased 67%**

 Robbery **400%**
Motor Theft **500%**
Assaults **46%**

For Assaults, Robbery & Vehicle Thefts,
Known Juvenile Suspects **increased 114%**

Juvenile Crime By Type YTD 2018-2023 (Jan 1 - Jul 31)



Note: Motor Vehicle Theft & Robbery use the scale on the Left; Assaults use the scale on the Right

*** HB 1140 effective January 1st 2022**