



# Wilkesboro Police Department



## 2014

# Annual Report



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**Message from the Chief of Police,**

**Robert Bowlin**



*Welcome to the Wilkesboro Police Department,*

*I invite you to learn more about us by reviewing our Annual Report, telephoning us, or visiting us in person or online. The men and women of our department take great pride in serving this beautiful historic community.*

*I continue to be honored to serve the residents of the Town of Wilkesboro as your Chief of Police. I am also proud to support the accomplishments and fine work of the men and women of this department that continually provide quality service each and every day, to provide you with the best policing services available.*

*Allow me to extend my personal appreciation to our fine citizens, local officials, and the officers and employees of the Wilkesboro Police Department for their gracious support of me and the professional law enforcement services we provide.*

*I am proud of the men and women who serve in the Wilkesboro Police Department. They all have embraced the Responsibility of Service and Leadership with Integrity and Conviction.*

*Sincerely,*

*Robert D. Bowlin*

## Mission Statement of the Wilkesboro Police Department:

*Not One Step Backwards with*

*Service, Accountability, Professionalism, Integrity, and Dignity*

*We provide quality law enforcement to our community with Service, Accountability, Professionalism, Integrity, and Dignity. We will always work in unison with our citizens and law enforcement partners while applying our objectives to make Wilkesboro a great place to Live, Work, and Visit.*

**Service**-Our community and department members are deserving of our full efforts and attention every minute of every day.

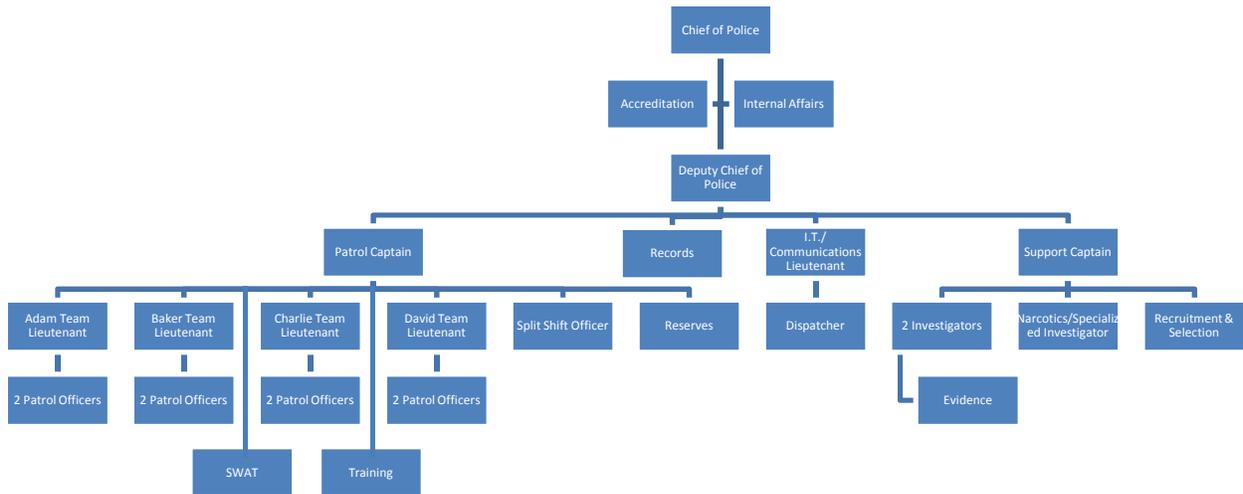
**Accountability**-We recognize that personal and organizational ethics are essential for the department to perform at the highest professional level and to the accomplishment of our mission. We know that we must always be transparent with the ones we serve and report to them often. We realize that the Wilkesboro Police Department ultimately belongs to the citizens

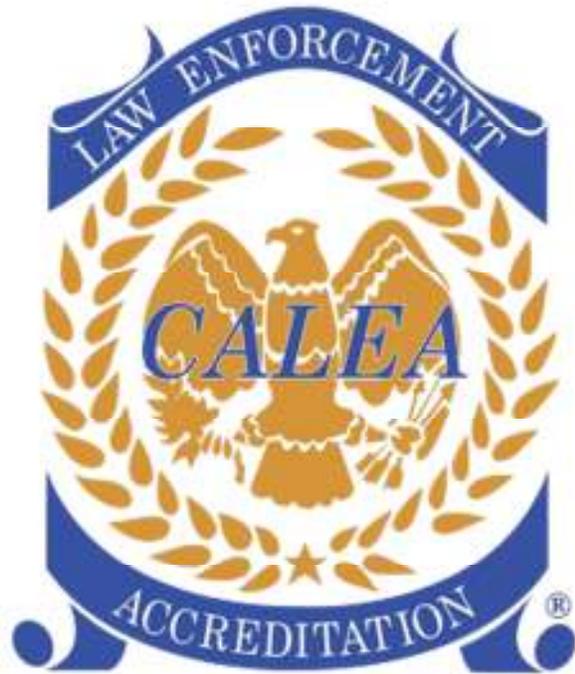
**Professionalism**-We strive for excellence in providing quality service while maintaining a work environment that develops our members through effective, timely training and progressive leadership.

**Integrity**-Greatly valued by the Wilkesboro Police Department. Departmental integrity requires that members maintain the highest standards for the law enforcement profession and are held accountable for the exercise of their authority. The Constitutions of the United States and of North Carolina, State statutes, and Departmental Policy serve to establish boundaries by which authority may be responsibly used recognizing that policies and procedures cannot be written to anticipate every circumstance in which authority may be exercised appropriately.

**Dignity**-Treating everyone with a caring and compassionate attitude while ensuring fairness and equality for all.

# 2014 Organizational Chart





## CALEA

CALEA is an acronym for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. The purpose of this program is to improve the delivery of public safety services by maintaining a body of standards developed by public safety practitioners, establishing and maintaining an accreditation process, and recognizing professional excellence. The accreditation process involves a complete review of departmental standards and an inspection of compliance with those standards. The review is conducted by independent experts

in the field of law enforcement, who come from all over the United States. The auditors spend time with officers to ensure their understanding and knowledge of the CALEA process, and they also reach out to the community by allowing public comments on the quality of services provided by the Department.

CALEA is a departmental-wide function and is administered by the Support Operations Division Captain. Various compliance reports are assigned to different personnel within the department. Compliance reports include analyses, summaries, and evaluations that must be completed on a time sensitive schedule. The Support Operations Division Captain ensures that reports are completed and maintains files of corresponding standards. Although CALEA requires a great deal of hard work on behalf of the Police Department and Town, it produces a number of benefits. Examples of benefits include international recognition, agency accountability, and professional excellence.

The Department was first awarded the CALEA accreditation on November 19, 2011. The Department went before the Commission and received reaccreditation at the CALEA conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in November 2014.

## **Retirement**

On May 1, 2014, Deputy Chief Steve Dowell retired after serving the Town of Wilkesboro for 30 years. A retirement event was held at Wilkesboro Town Hall celebrating Deputy Chief Dowell's career. There he received a 30 year service plaque and recognition of being the first Wilkesboro Police Officer to have ever retired with a full 30 years continuous service.



## **2014 Promotions**



In May 2014, Captain Craig Garris was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. Deputy Chief Garris has been with the Wilkesboro Police Department since October 1997.



In August 2014, Lieutenant Jason Delbert was promoted to the rank of Captain of Patrol Operations. Captain Delbert oversees the Patrol Division and is the agency training coordinator.

## Sergeant Promotions



Officer Craig Greer was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in September 2014. Sgt. Greer has been with the Wilkesboro Police Department since December 2009. He will be supervising the “Charlie” Team.



Officer Nathan Wells was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in October 2014. Sgt. Wells has been with the Wilkesboro Police Department since January 2010. He will be supervising the “Adam” Team.

## New Officer

The Wilkesboro Police Department hired one new officer in 2014. This officer was hired filling a vacancy left after Deputy Chief Steve Dowell retired with 30 years of service.



Officer Reggie Shumate came to the department on June 9, 2014, after completing his Basic Law Enforcement Training Program at Wilkes Community College.



## Division Commander

*Captain Jason Delbert*

## Team Supervisors

### ***Adam Team***

*Lt. Nathan Wells*

### ***Baker Team***

*Lt. Brian McManus*

### ***Charlie Team***

*Lt. Craig Greer*

### ***David Team***

*Lt. Ronnie Price*



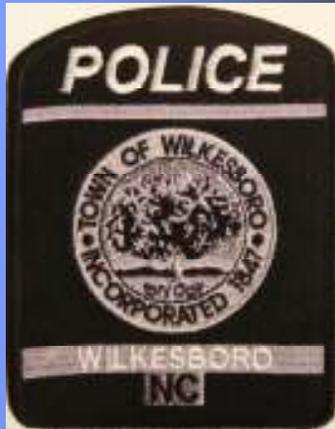
## Patrol Operations Division

The Patrol Division is commanded by Captain Jason Delbert and is the largest section in the agency. There are 13 full-time and 2 part-time sworn officers assigned to the patrol division. The officers are divided into four teams of three officers. The four patrol teams each have a Lieutenant. These teams work a rotating 12-hour schedule and they are the first staff members to respond to all crimes, including responding to 911 calls, calls for service, domestic disturbances and shopliftings. The Patrol Division operates under a patrol based investigation approach to all crimes. All personnel assigned to the Patrol Division are responsible for taking a proactive approach to partnerships, prevention and problem solving in the Wilkesboro Community.

In 2014, the Patrol Division responded to 9,271 calls for service and completed 1,557 Reports, 664 Crash Investigations and issued 1,665 Traffic Citations.



In 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department purchased new Sony 20 mega pixel digital cameras for all patrol officers. These cameras assist officers with documenting scenes and are also used to document domestic assaults. The value of these cameras has already been seen in collecting evidence on cases. The agency purchased new outer vest carriers for all officers. These carriers give a new look to the uniform and helps keep officers from overheating during the summer months.



### Division Commander

*Captain Tommy Rhodes*

### Investigators

*Lt. Chris Handy*

*Lt. Rocky Moore*

*Lt. Chris Arnder*



## Support Operations Division

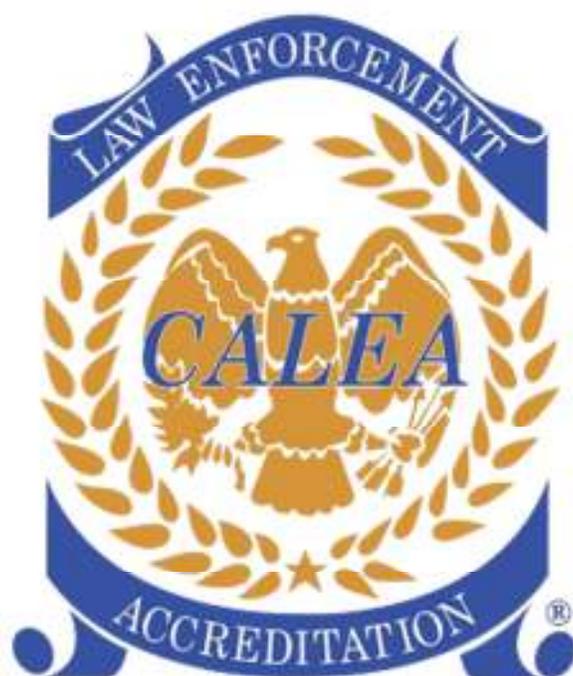
The Support Operations Division is commanded by Captain Tommy Rhodes and is staffed by three Lieutenant Investigators. Two of these investigators are assigned to handle felony crimes including homicide, rape, robbery, theft and fraud cases. One investigator is assigned to investigate drugs and vice cases. The investigators employ a team approach to major crime investigations, where multiple investigators are assigned to all major crimes such as a homicide, robbery and missing person cases. This division is also responsible for several other duties within the department to include; Evidence and Property Management, Quartermaster, Recruitment and Selection, Background Investigations and Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Two of the three Investigators are also trained in Crime Scene Investigation which allows the department to process most crime scenes without calling for assistance from outside agencies.



In 2014, the department recovered and or seized property valued at \$128,049.87. These items include eight automobiles, electronic equipment and \$3,218.19 worth of stolen power tools.

# ANNUAL REVIEW



# AND ANALYSIS

## Response to Aggression

Because the application of force on an individual by a police officer is subject to close scrutiny by society the Wilkesboro Police Department investigates all incidents involving officers where some type of response was used on an individual. All responses must be reasonable and necessary. Each response to aggression incident is reviewed by the Division Commander and then by the Senior Command staff for compliance with policy and reasonableness of the response used.

During 2014, Wilkesboro Police Department Officers were involved in 17 response to aggression incidents. All were reviewed and only one was found to be in violation of departmental policy. As a result of this violation a written reprimand was issued. Below is a listing of the incidents for the last three years.

<b>Shift</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Day (0700-1900)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Night (1900-0700)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Division</b>			
<b>Patrol</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Suspect Activity</b>			
<b>Assaultive</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Non-Compliant</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Running/Evading</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fighting</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Known Threat/Felony Stop</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Weapon Found on Suspect</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Officer Response</b>			
<b>Firearm (Drawn)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Firearm (Fired)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hands</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Taser</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pepper Spray</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Response by Race</b>			
<b>White</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Response by Sex</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>

## Internal Affairs/Complaints

The Wilkesboro Police Department investigates all complaints received by the agency. Complaints may be received in writing, in person, by telephone, by email; anonymous complaints are accepted. The preferred method is in writing on a *Citizen Complaint Form*.

The agency uses a two-tiered investigative system that involves the First Line Supervisors for minor complaints that may be a misunderstanding of policy or procedures and a formal investigation for more serious complaints. All officers assigned to internal investigations have specialized training in internal investigative affairs. The Chief of Police assigns all complaints to either a First Line Supervisor, Division Commander or to Internal Affairs for a complete investigation.

The agency investigated two complaints filed in 2014 on employees of the Wilkesboro Police Department. Of the complaints both were on full-time officers from the Patrol Operations Division. One of the complaints was received from a citizen outside the agency while one was initiated by the Command Staff inside the agency. Below is a breakdown of the complaints:

<b>Complaint Origin</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Citizen</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Internal</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Originating Action</b>			
<b>Traffic Stop</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Arrest</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Officers Conduct</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Disposition</b>			
<b>Sustained</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Not Sustained</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Exonerated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

### Definitions

**Sustained-** The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to believe the incident complained of occurred

**Not Sustained-** Investigation discloses insufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation

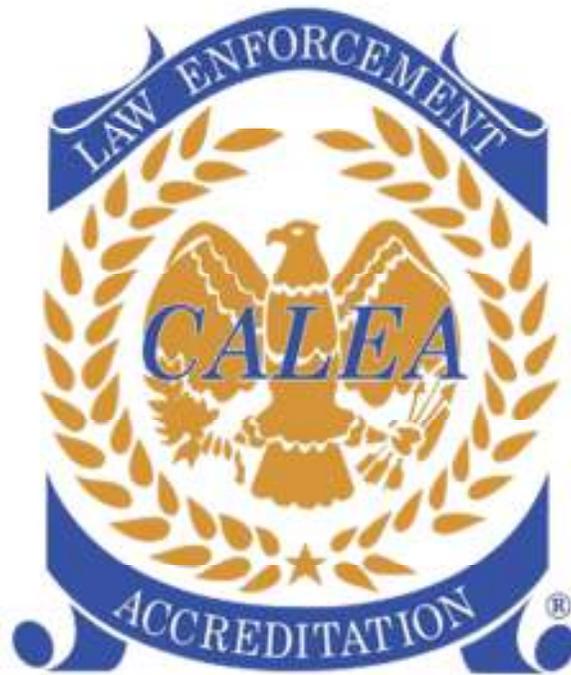
**Unfounded-** The investigation disclosed that the act complained of never occurred and therefore is false

**Exonerated-** The incident complained of occurred; however, the actions of the staff member were lawful and proper

## **Vehicle Pursuits**

During 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department had two Motor Vehicle Pursuits. In 2013, the agency did not have any Motor Vehicle Pursuits. Both of the pursuits in 2014, occurred during the day, one being at 2:49 pm and the other at 1:45 pm. The two pursuits started from motorist being observed for Speeding. The longest pursuit was for five miles which lasted approximately four minutes and the shortest pursuit was for forty-five seconds and traveled one mile. Both of the pursuits were terminated by an on-duty supervisor. During the longest pursuit the offender was stopped in Watauga County by the Watauga County Sheriff's Office and charged for the incident that occurred in Wilkesboro.

# Performance

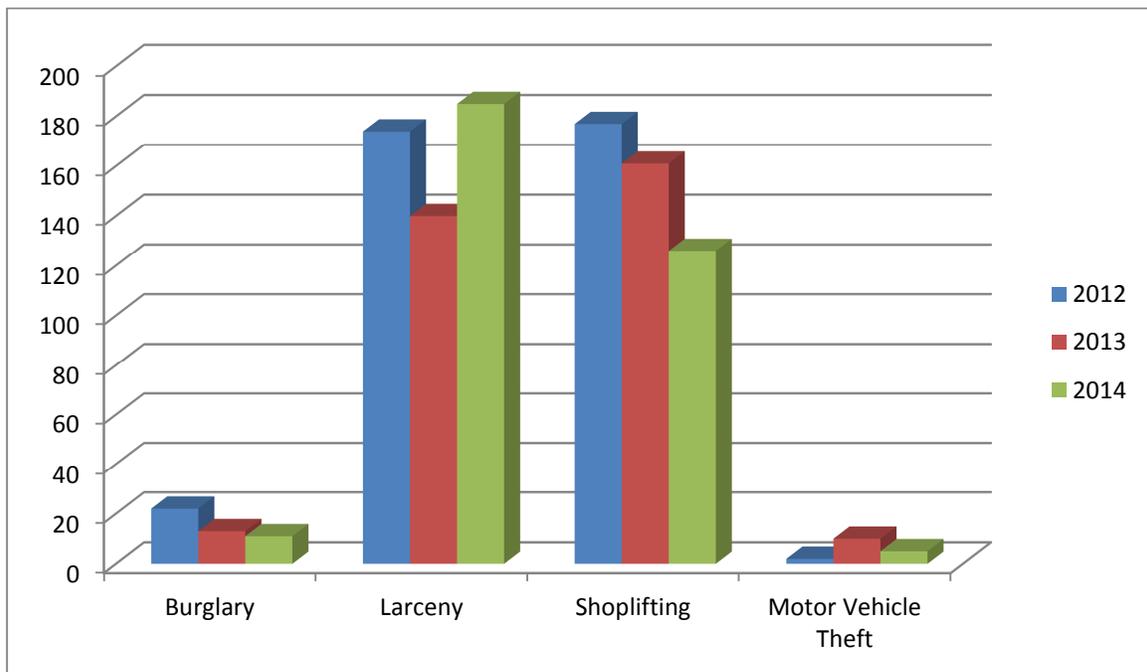


# Reports

## Crime Index

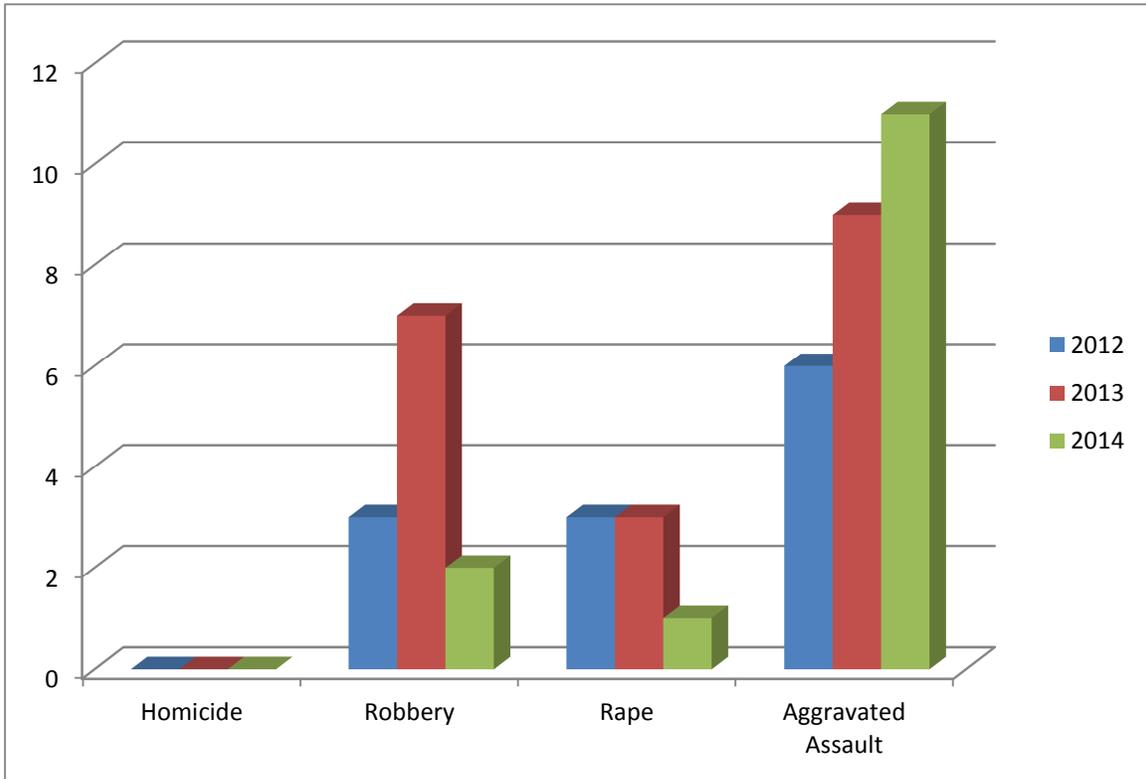
On a monthly basis, the Wilkesboro Police Department sends crime statistics to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) Research and Planning Division. The SBI and FBI compile the data at the state and national levels into the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). The UCR program is based on a crime index. The Crime Index consists of seven major crimes selected for their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence and on the reliability of reporting from citizens to law enforcement agencies. The Crime Index includes the violent crimes of homicide, rape, robbery and aggressive assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The Crime Index is used when comparing crime rates and statistics for various cities, towns and counties across the United States.

### Crime Index - Property Crimes



The agency had a decrease in two areas of Property Index-Crimes (Shoplifting and Motor Vehicle Theft). The number of Larceny crimes increased by 45 incidents in 2014.

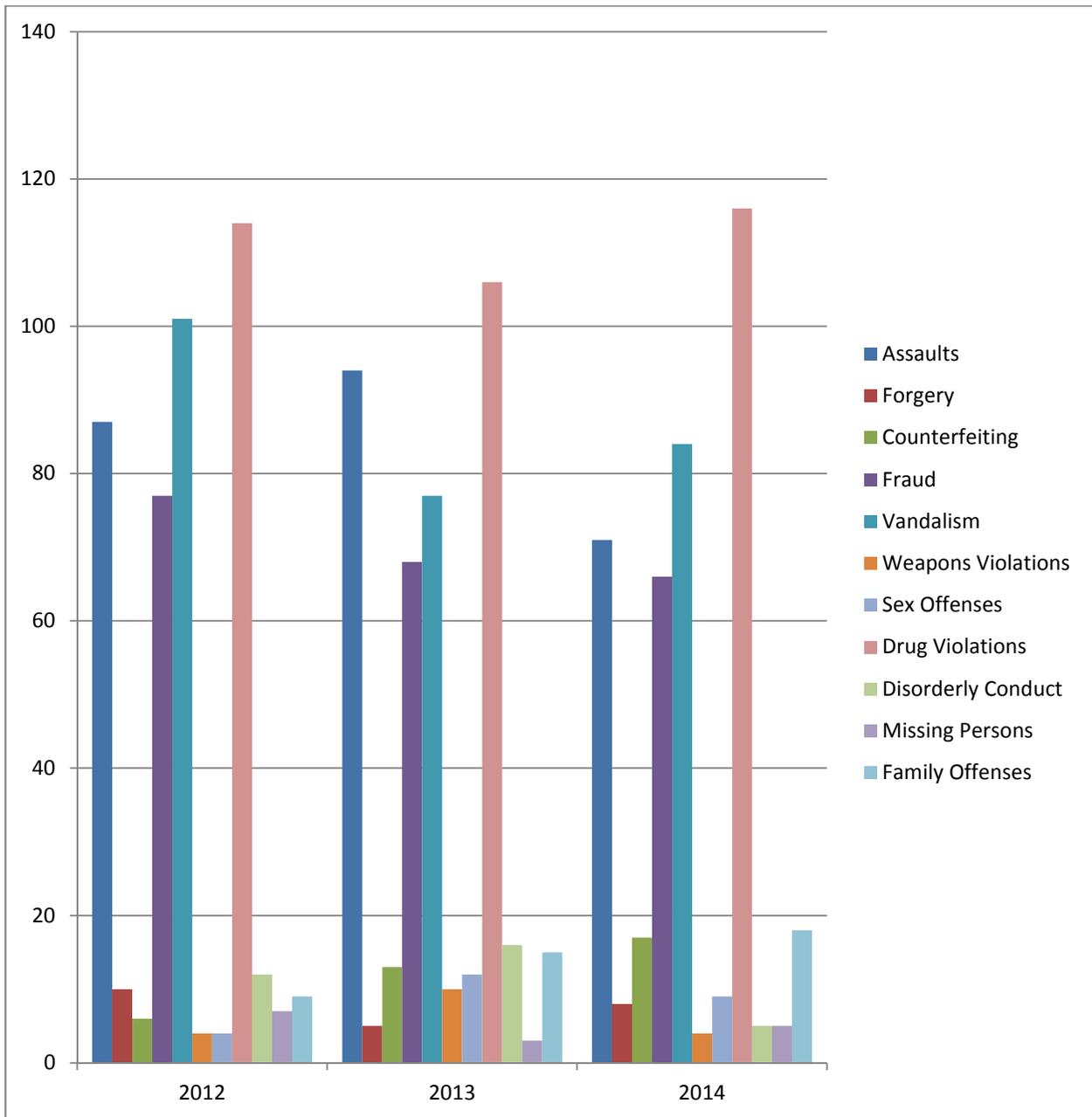
## Crime Index - Violent Crimes



The Wilkesboro Police Department did not have any Homicides in 2014, making it four years in a row without a Homicide. In 2014, the department had five (5) less Robbery Incidents than the previous year. The department had one (1) Rape Incident reported in 2014.

## Non-Index Crimes

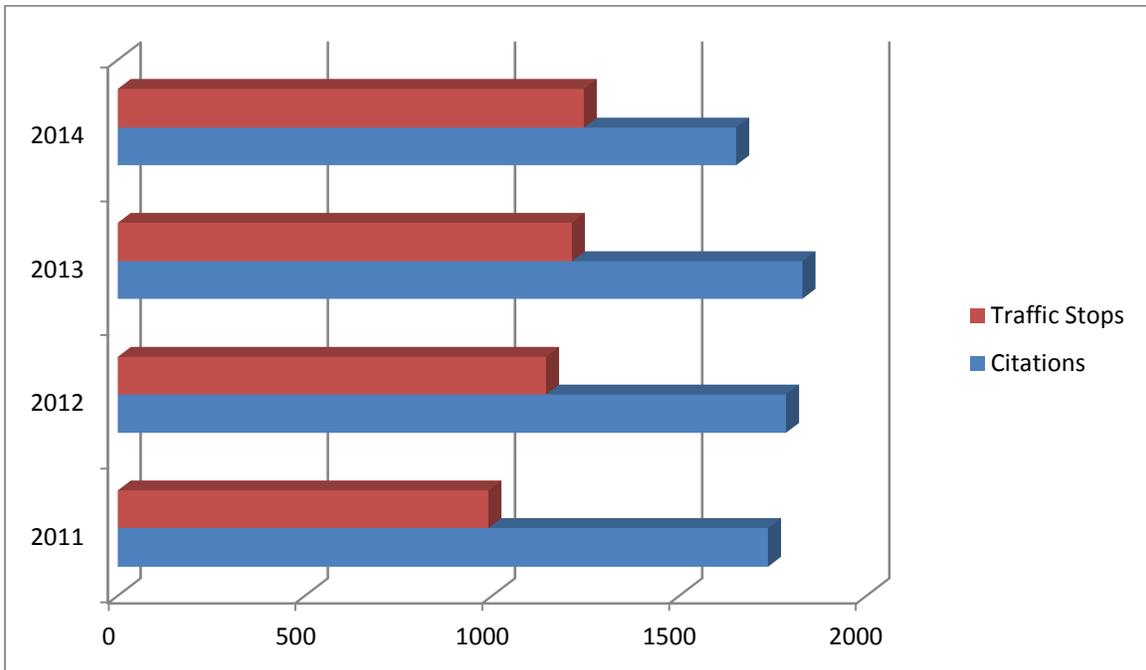
The Non-Index crimes are crimes that consist of non-physical confrontation or incidents reported that are not considered to be life threatening. These crimes are taken seriously as many times they are an indication of the quality of life in a community.



# Traffic Data

## Citations

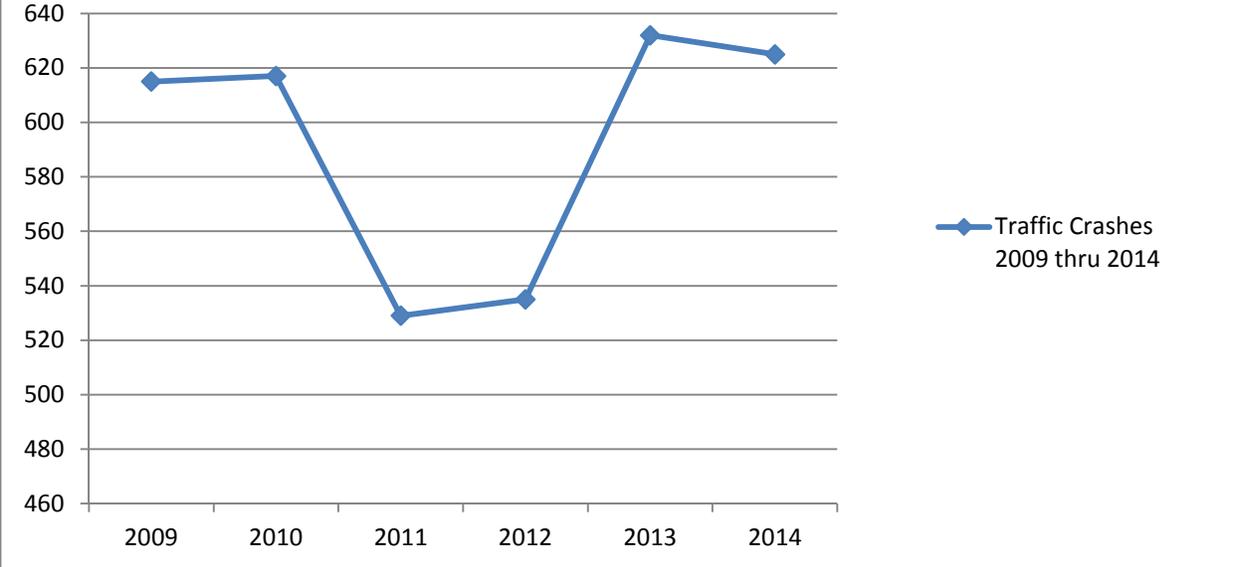
Citations differ from arrests in law enforcement reporting. Citations are primarily issued to offenders charged with infractions or minor misdemeanors that do not require the signing or the posting of a bond (waivable offenses). Citations are written for traffic violations, violation of ABC Laws, violations of the Town Ordinances and other minor violations that are not included in the UCR totals for a given year. In 2014, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department issued 1,652 citations and conducted 1245 traffic stops.



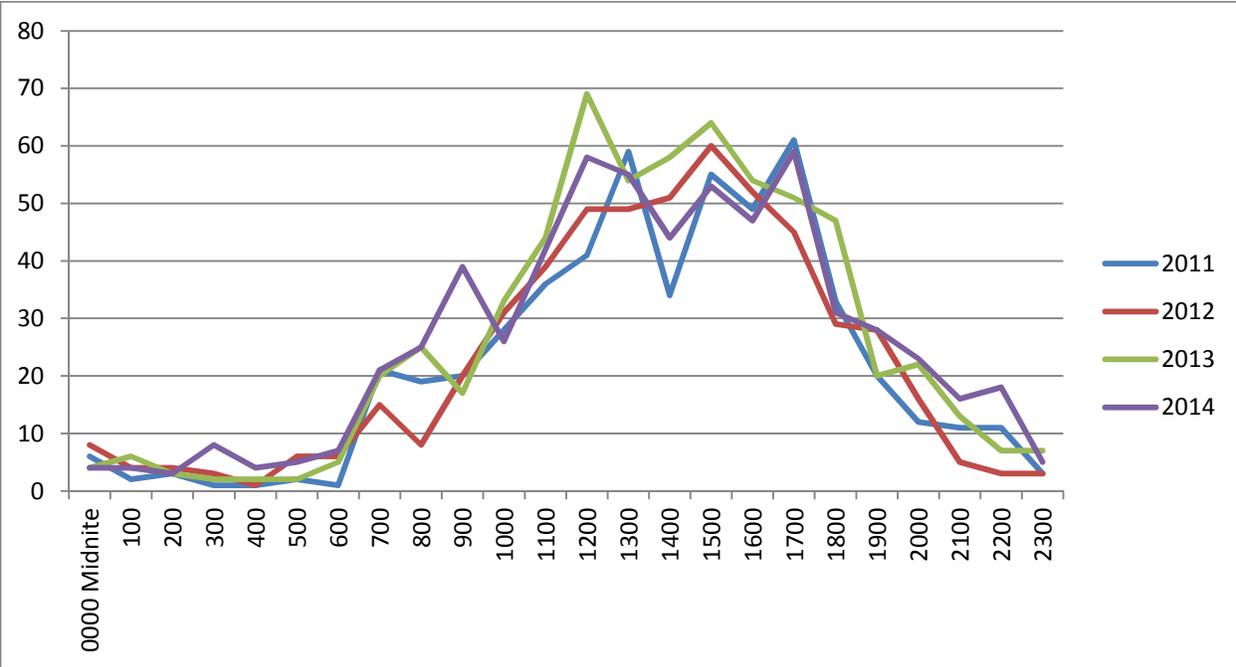
## Traffic Crashes

In 2014, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department investigated 625 traffic crashes, with no fatal crashes. In 2013, officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department investigated 632 traffic crashes, of which 1 was a fatal crash. This is a decrease of 7 crashes from the previous year with one fatality for the past two years. The Town of Wilkesboro has averaged 592 crashes per year since 2009. The increase in traffic crashes can be attributed to the amount of traffic the city is seeing in the US Hwy 421 area which is an area of our larger businesses.

### Traffic Crashes 2009 thru 2014



### Crashes by Time of Day



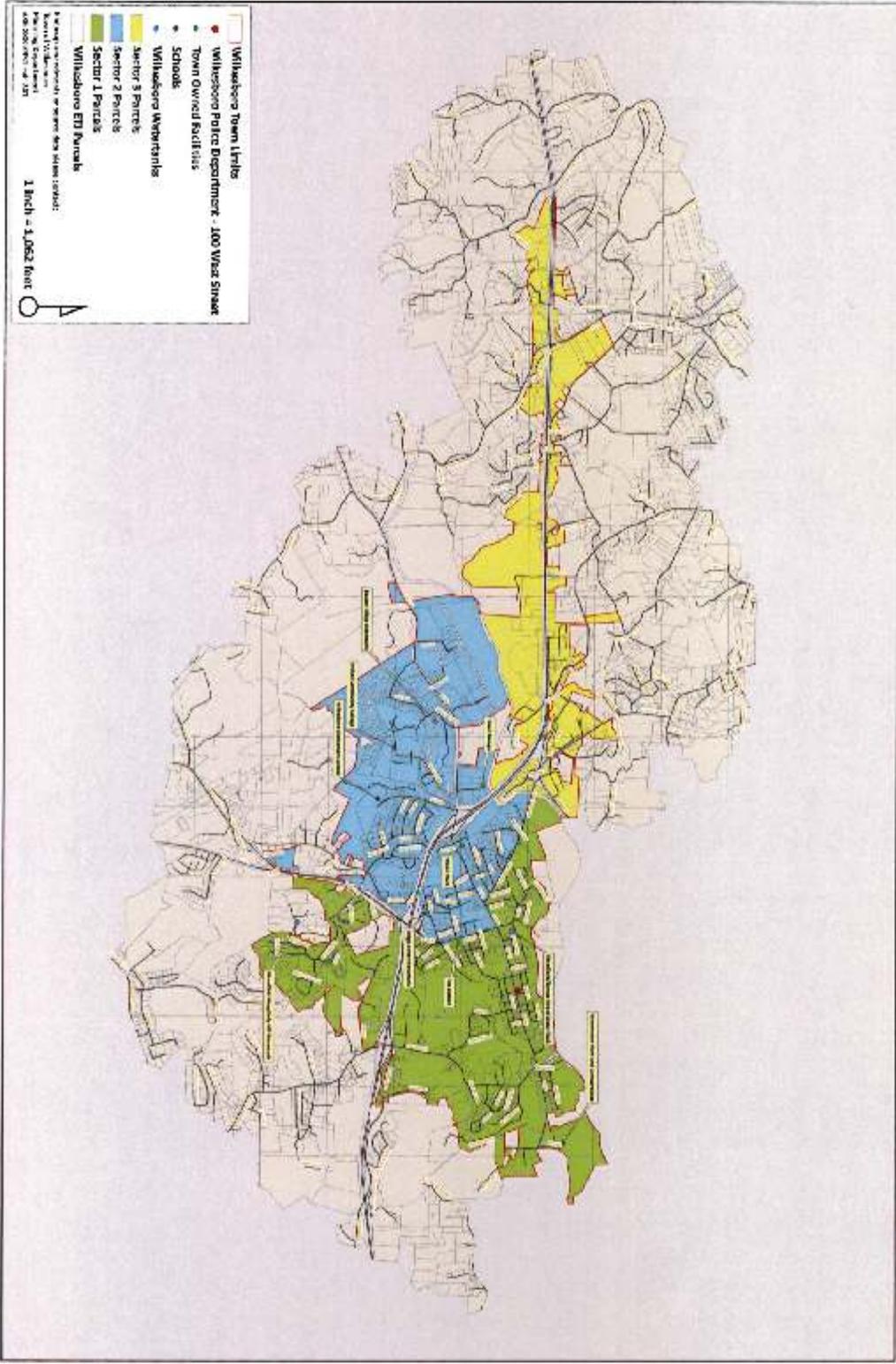


Service • Accountability • Professionalism • Integrity • Dedication

# Wilkesboro Police Department Patrol Sector Map



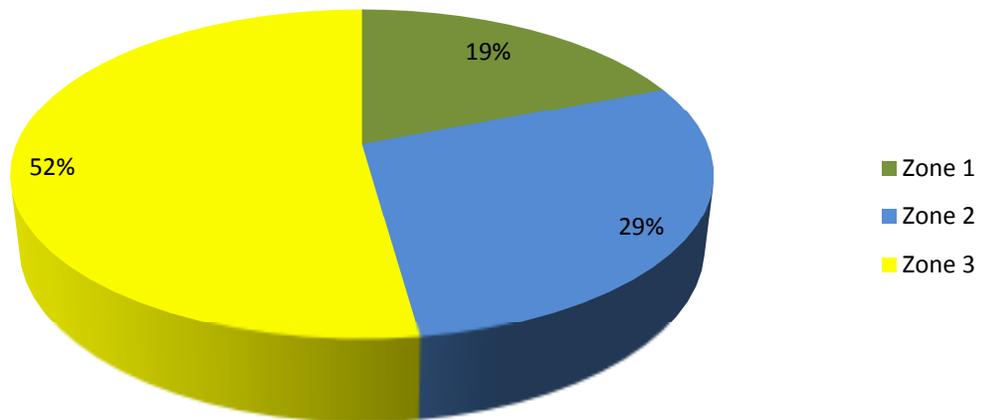
North Carolina  
July 2003



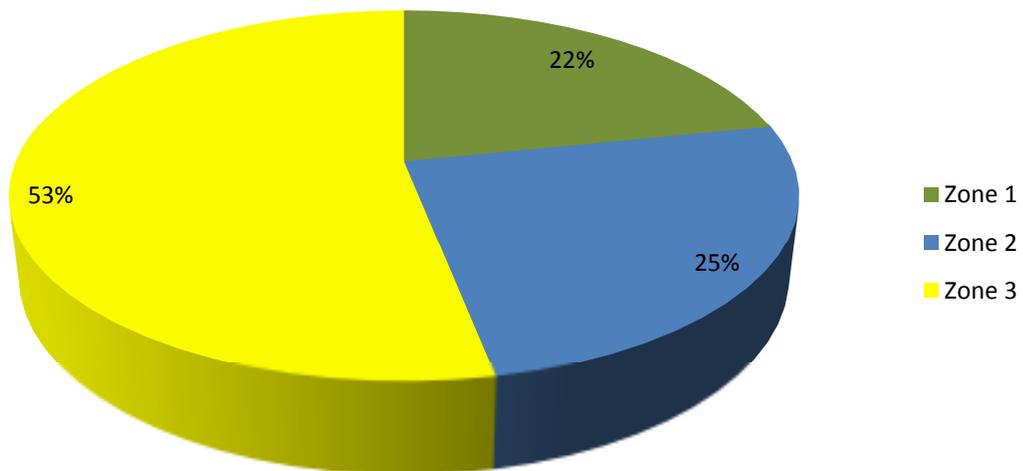
## Crashes by Area

To provide better coverage of the city the Wilkesboro Police Department has divided the city into three zones. Zone 1 consists of the East side of the city which is from NC Hwy 16 South and Cherry Street, East to the city limits. Zone 2 consists of the middle section of the city which contains River Street, NC Hwy 268 West, Curtis Bridge Road and US Hwy 421 Business. Zone 3 consists of the West side of the city which is the US Hwy 421 area. This area contains a lot of the retail stores in the city.

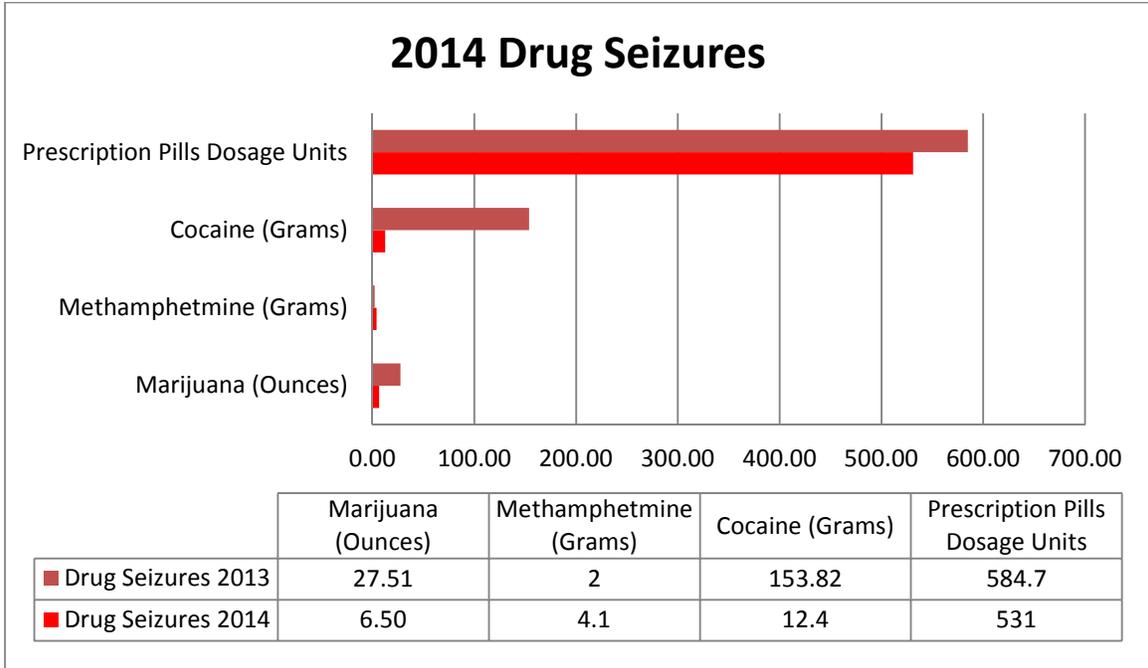
### 2014 Crashes by Area



### 2013 Crashes by Area



## Illegal Drug Summary Report



During 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department experienced a narcotics officer change due to the retirement of Major Steve Dowell. During 2014, the agency seized \$4,688.49 in cash and narcotics from a total of 178 drug related arrest with 229 drug related charges. Out of these 178 arrests, offenders were taxed \$7,991.00. The state is responsible for collecting the taxes and returns 75% of the collections to the agency to assist in future drug investigations.



**Photograph of a mobile Meth Lab seized in 2014**

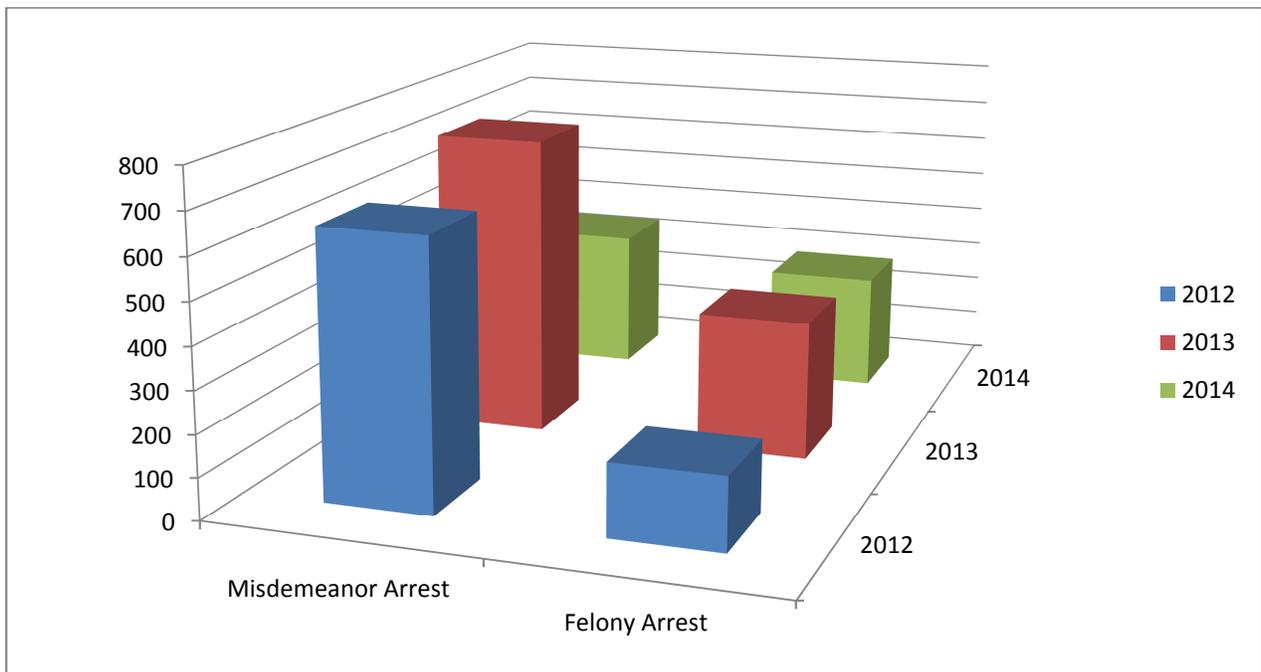
# Arrest Data

## Misdemeanor Arrest Charges

In 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department made 540 Misdemeanor Arrest Charges and made 345 Misdemeanor Arrest.

## Felony Arrest Charges

In 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department made 283 Felony Arrest Charges and made 114 Felony Arrest.



## Wilkesboro Police Department Training

In 2014 all officers within the department completed 64 hours of In-Service Training. Of those 64 hours, 24 hours are mandated by the State of North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. The additional 40 hours of in-service training is mandated by the department.

Members of the department also attended 1,091 hours of additional training throughout the year.

120 hours were devoted to management training.

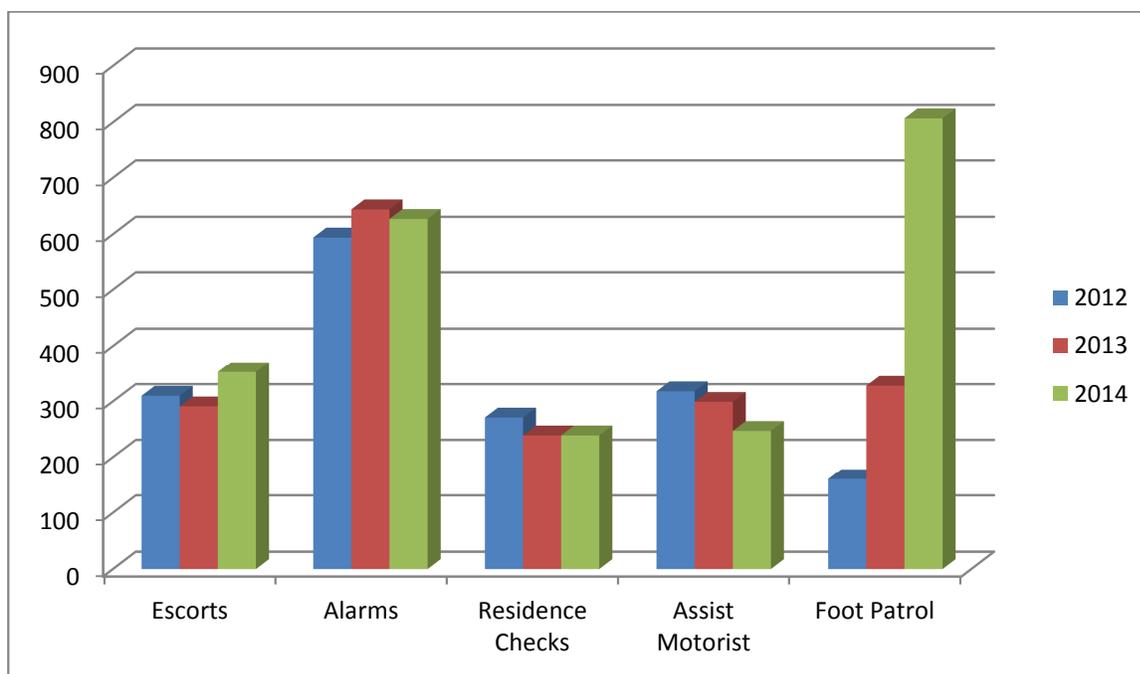
The department sent officers to 123 hours of officer safety courses, 120 hours of specialized crash investigation course,

112 hours of investigative courses, Two (2) officers also attended a 16 hour internal patrol rifle course. The department also sent officers to several conferences to include; North Carolina Police Executives Association, Southern Software Conference, CALEA Fall Conference, Governors Highway Safety Conference, North Carolina SWAT Conference, Child Passenger Safety Seat Conference, Management Development Conference and Pennsylvania State Police Crash Reconstruction Conference . All other training hours were devoted to recertification's.



## Community Service

The Wilkesboro Police Department has maintained the community service philosophy during 2014. With community service in mind, every police officer is encouraged to interact with the public during their shifts. These activities have included vacation/residence checks, funeral and business escorts, responding to alarms and emphasis patrols in addition to the daily community policing contacts in retail and residential areas of the town.





## **Outer Body Armor Carriers**

In 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department purchased Outer Body Armor Carriers for all officers. These carriers are worn on the outside of the officer's clothing and allow the officer's body heat to be released. On extremely hot days the officers can remove the vest while completing reports in the office with very little inconvenience.

## **2014 Officer of the Year**

Lt. Brian McManus was awarded the "2014 VFW Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for Wilkes County at the VFW Post 1142 in North Wilkesboro on December 11, 2014. Lt. McManus has been with the Wilkesboro Police Department since 2007. He supervises the agencies "Baker Team".



## **2014 North Carolina Torch Run for Special Olympics**



On May 1, 2014 officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department participated in the North Carolina Torch Run for Special Olympics. The run started at Wilkes Community College and traveled through downtown Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro ending at West Park in North Wilkesboro. Officers of the Wilkesboro Police Department have carried the torch through the two towns for many years. Often runners are joined by Special Olympians for portions of the run.



## **Child Car Seat Inspections**

In 2014, the Wilkesboro Police Department removed its status as a permanent car seat inspection station. The agency has remained active in conducting car seat inspections for the public. When checking child restraint seats our officers check car seats to ensure they are properly installed and not under any kind of a recall. With the retirement of one certified car safety seat technician the agency now has two safety seat technicians.

## **SAFE Spot Child Advocacy Center**

SAFE Spot is a place that delivers comprehensive, community-based services to children and families affected by sexual abuse or severe physical abuse. The center currently provides forensic interviews, victim advocacy and case coordination services. Captain Tommy Rhodes participates in multidisciplinary team meetings along with representatives from the Wilkes Department of Social Services, law enforcement, mental health, Guardian Ad Litem, district attorney's office and the public school system to discuss cases.



## Operation Christmas Cheer

For several years the Wilkesboro Police Department has conducted Operation Christmas Cheer. This program was developed to assist citizens in Wilkesboro by delivering food boxes to them. Every year, the program has been funded by donations



from Kulynych Family Foundation One, Wilkesboro Business and Professional Club, Cook Family and the Town of Wilkesboro. In 2014, Officers, members of the Town Council and Town Hall employee's rallied and built forty food boxes. The boxes were built in the bay of the police department. After the boxes were completed they were delivered to citizens of Wilkesboro. The requests for the food boxes were down slightly in 2014 from previous years.