



Citizens Police Oversight Commission

# Agency Report

January 23, 2025




City of  
Philadelphia



# Citizens Police Oversight Commission

The mission of the Citizens Police Oversight Commission (CPOC) is to oversee and investigate the conduct, policies, and practices of the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD).

CPOC currently:

- Receives complaints of police misconduct
  - Audits and monitors Internal Affairs investigations and police disciplinary processes
  - Sits and votes on PBI panels at police discipline hearings
  - Conducts oversight of police shootings
  - Analyzes police data
  - Develops policy recommendations and reports
  - Engages in outreach and training
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## Why Civilian Oversight Is Necessary

- **Protects** human rights
  - **Promotes** constitutional policing
  - **Increases** public confidence and trust in the police
  - **Builds** bridges between law enforcement and the public
  - **Supports** effective policing
  - **Ensures** greater accountability
  - **Enhances** risk management
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# CPOC FY26 Budget Meeting

- CPOC presented our FY26 (July 2025 – June 2026) budget request to Finance, Procurement, and the Mayor's Office.
  - CPOC provided justifications for program expansion and planned new hires in FY26.
  - This was the first opportunity CPOC has had to meet directly with Finance and advocate for our budget needs.
  - This is a positive sign that CPOC's budget will be moved to being independent in FY26.
  - We also discussed how CPOC could reallocate our current (FY25) budget to allow us to make new hires in FY26, if we do not receive any increases in funding.
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# CPOC December Complaint Report!

CPOC issues a monthly complaint report, summarizing the complaints received by CPOC and referred to the Internal Affairs Division (IAD) of PPD.

You can find the report on CPOC's website:  
<https://www.phila.gov/documents/citizens-police-oversight-commission-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>



## CPOC December 2024 Complaint Referral Report

In December 2024, 19 complaints of police misconduct were received by CPOC and referred to the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) Internal Affairs Division (IAD). In 2024, CPOC received and referred a total of 204 complaints to IAD.

Summaries of the 19 complaints from December 2024 are below. All demographic data is reported by complainants. These complaints only represent complaints submitted directly to CPOC and do not include complaints filed directly with PPD.

These summaries are allegations made by complainants, they do not represent any findings of fact or conclusions.

Date Received	Demographics	Division	Summary
12/01/2024	F – B/AA	<a href="#">South</a> <a href="#">West</a>	Complainant stated PPD never <a href="#">notified them</a> that their vehicle was found. They had previously filed a missing vehicle police report with PPD. Later PPA found the vehicle and requested that PPD come file a report. There was no follow-up by PPD with the complainant regarding this report, even though the license tags were the same.
12/01/2024	F – B/AA	East	A police officer filed an inaccurate police report after a complainant car was broken into. The complainant was frustrated when told by police at the district that they would need to pay for another report to get the date corrected on the report. The complainant felt the officers they interacted with at the district were also unprofessional.
12/02/2024	F – W	East	Complainant had a tool taken from their bag by a SEPTA officer. They called 911 and an officer responded, they confirmed the complainant was allowed to have the tool but did not instruct the SEPTA officer to return their <a href="#">belonging</a> . They felt this was a failure to act.
12/02/2024	F – W	<a href="#">North</a> <a href="#">East</a>	Complainant states that an officer was handling traffic control at <a href="#">an</a> intersection where a vehicle accident occurred. The complainant felt the officer was handling this matter in a hazardous and ineffective manner, yelling at drivers and waving their arms in frustration. The officer's directions were unclear, and at one point, nearly causing a collision. The officer's behavior was unnecessarily aggressive and seemed to escalate the situation rather than help resolve it.
12/04/2024	F – B/AA	<a href="#">South</a> <a href="#">West</a>	Complainant met the Officer at the hospital after her vehicle accident, and said they would follow up with the complainant to complete the report. Complainant stated the officer failed to complete the police report, even after attempting to contact to officer multiple. Complainant stated they <a href="#">have</a> never seen the police report and even their car <a href="#">insurance</a> , had difficulty getting in contact with the police district.



# Summaries of some recent complaints

***These summaries are allegations made by complainants which have not been investigated. They do not represent any findings or conclusions.***


An officer was handling traffic control at an intersection where a vehicle accident occurred. The complainant felt that the officer was handling traffic in a hazardous and ineffective manner, yelling at drivers and waving their arms in frustration. The officer's directions were unclear, and at one point, nearly caused a collision. The officer's behavior was unnecessarily aggressive and seemed to escalate the situation rather than help resolve it.

The complainant stated that they had previously been arrested during a "street sweep." During the "street sweep," the complainant's license to carry and firearm were confiscated. The charges against the complainant because of this arrest were later dropped. After receiving the news that the charges were dropped, the complainant attempted to retrieve their seized firearm, only to be told by PPD that they would have to pay \$3,000 to get the firearm back. The complainant decided to purchase a new firearm, as this would be cheaper than paying to have their firearm returned.

The complainant was later pulled over again and "yanked" out of his car. The officers searched his car and seized his new firearm. While transporting the complainant for processing, officers responded to other calls for service.

The complainant's charges for the second arrest were also dropped but are still "open" in the court system, making it difficult for him to get a job and housing.

The complaint reported a lack of service by officers from the District after reaching out to them repeatedly over 6 days regarding a vehicle that was illegally parked on their street, in front of their home. On 3 occasions, officers came out, but failed to issue a ticket or citation for the vehicle, even though it was illegally parked on the sidewalk.

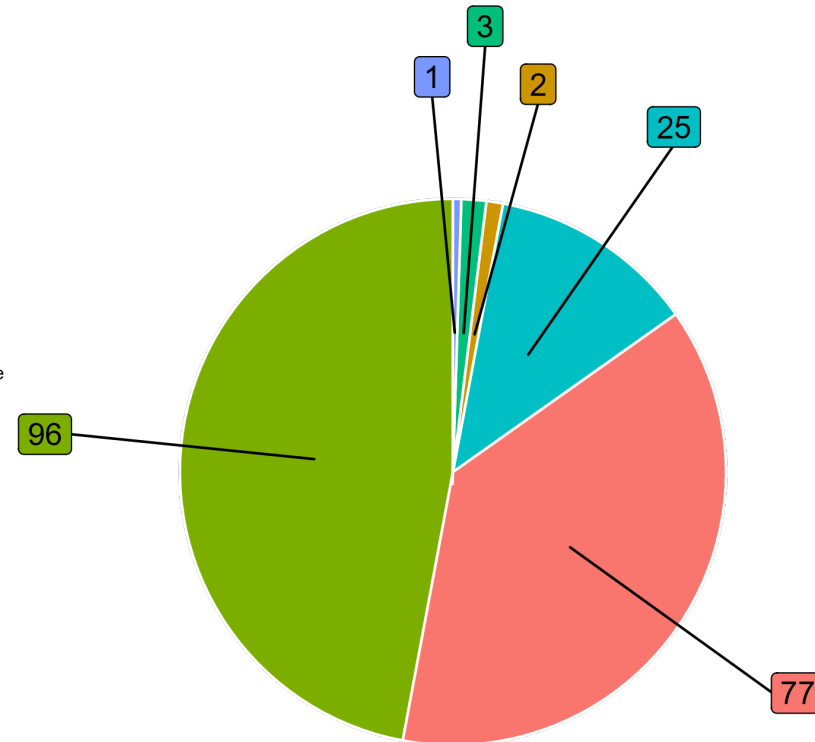
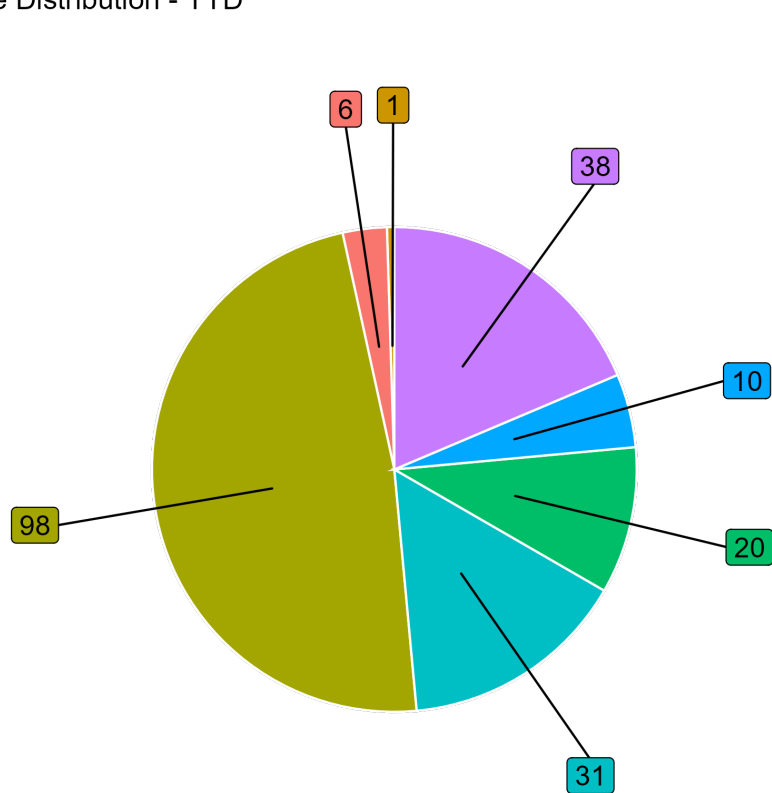


# Complaint Data: 2024 Demographics

In the month of December 2024, CPOC referred 19 complaints to PPD's Internal Affairs Division (IAD).

In 2024, CPOC referred a total of 204 complaints to IAD. These charts show demographic data from 2024 complaints, as reported by complainants.

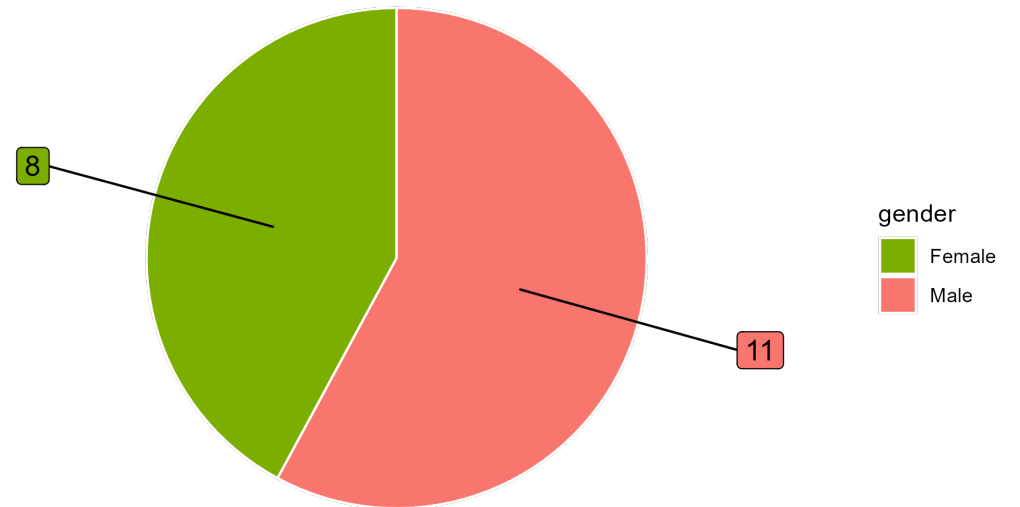
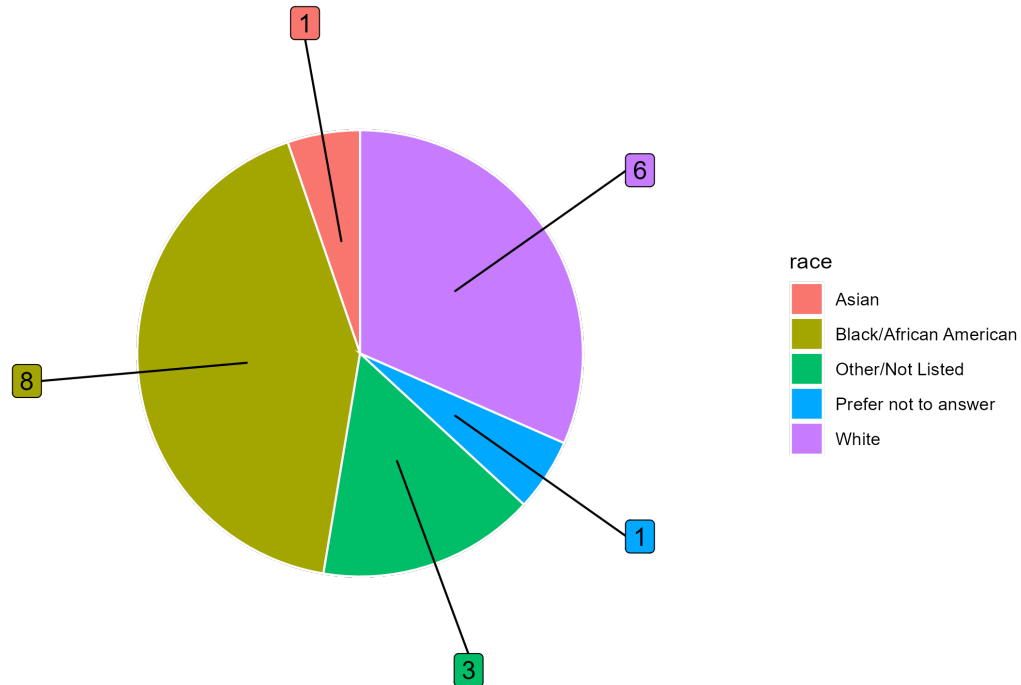
Race Distribution - YTD



# Complaint Data: Nov. Demographics

These charts show demographic data from the 19 complaints received in December 2024, as reported by complainants.

Race Distribution - November 2024





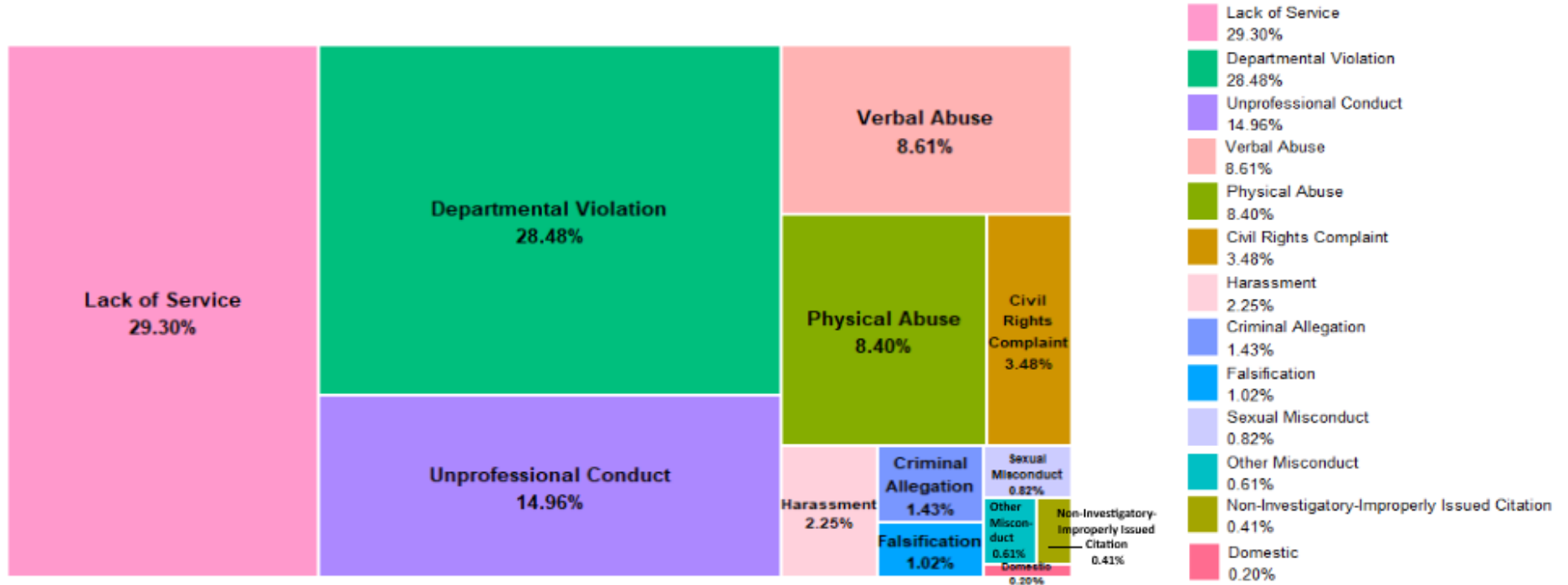
# Complaint Data: Allegations

Most allegations reported by complainants in 2024 are related to Lack of Service or Departmental Violations.

A single complaint can have multiple misconduct allegations.

More than a quarter of allegations are “Departmental violations” which are explained further on the next slide.

Percentage of Allegation Types

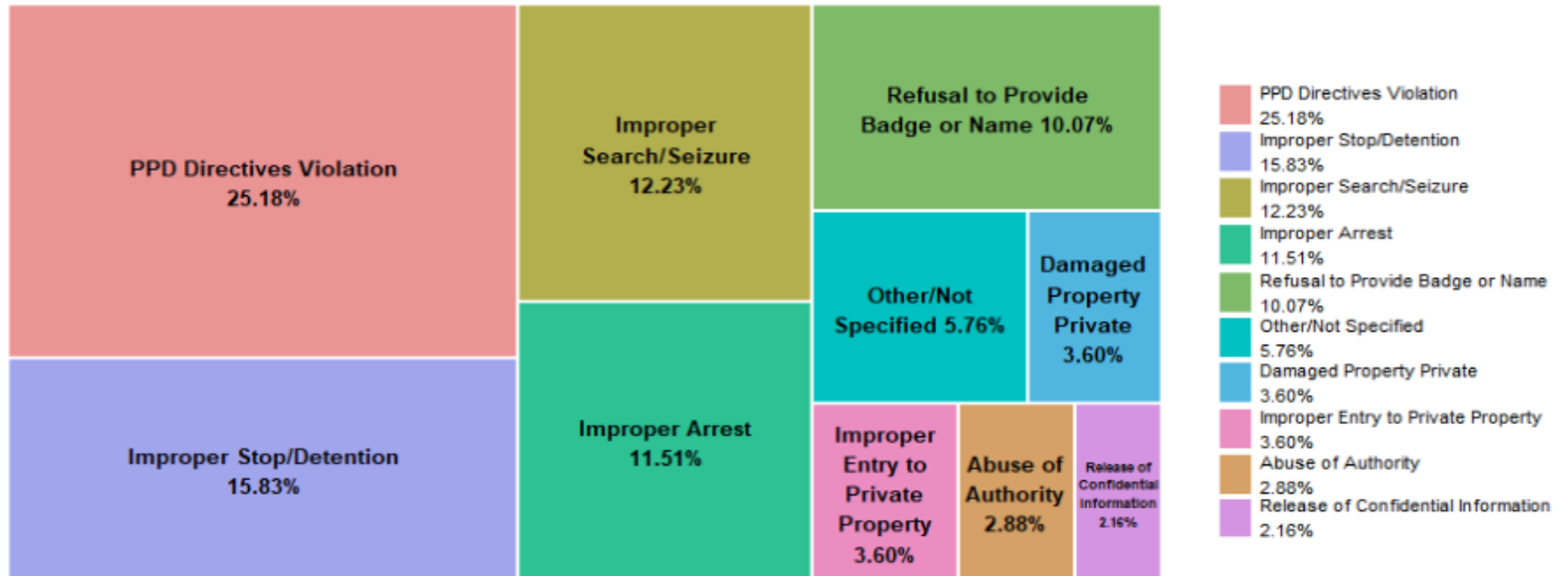


# Complaint Data: Department Violation subcategories

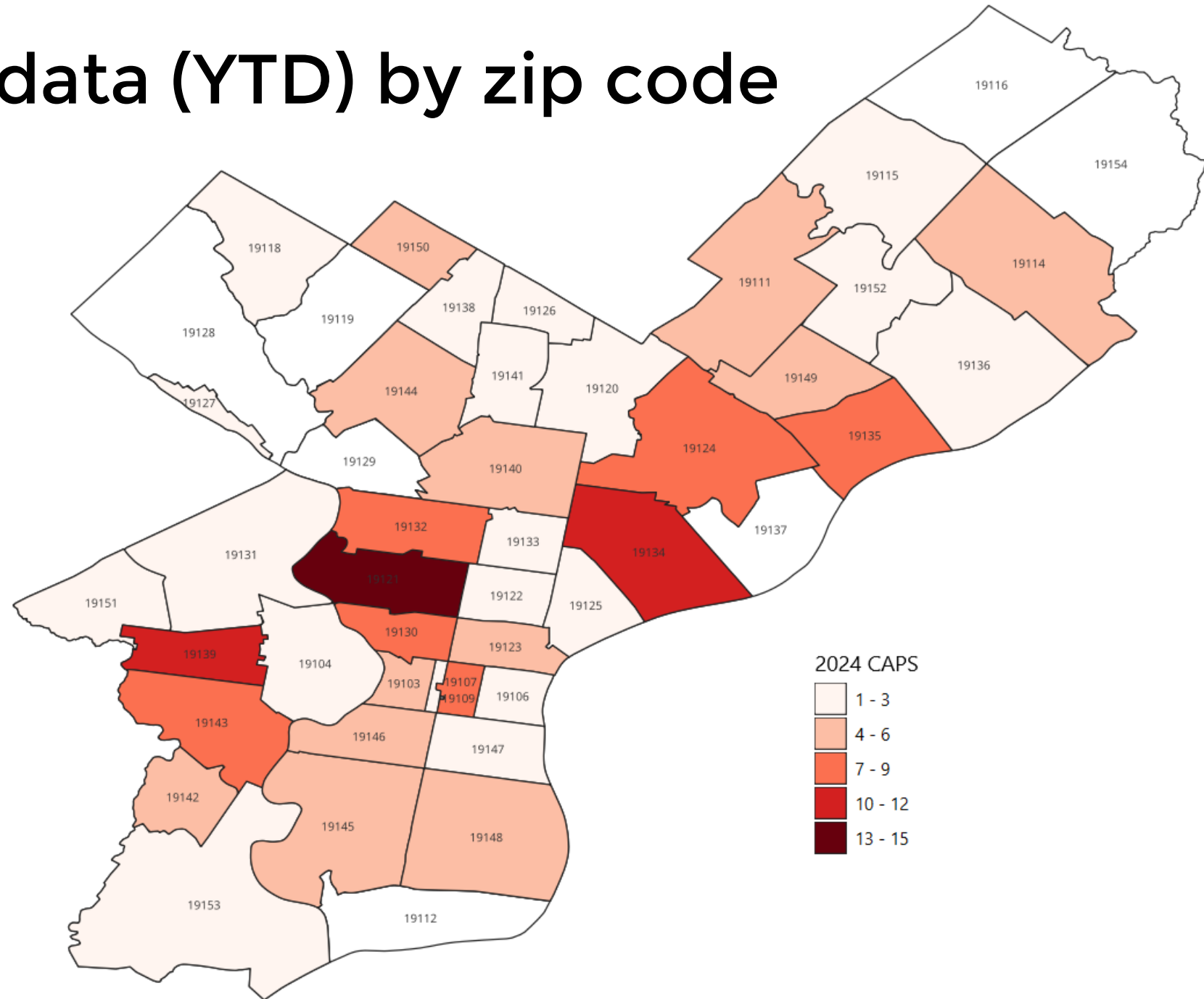
This data shows the breakdown of each sub-category within the Departmental Violation Allegation type.

A single complaint can have multiple misconduct allegations.

Top 10 Sub Allegation Types

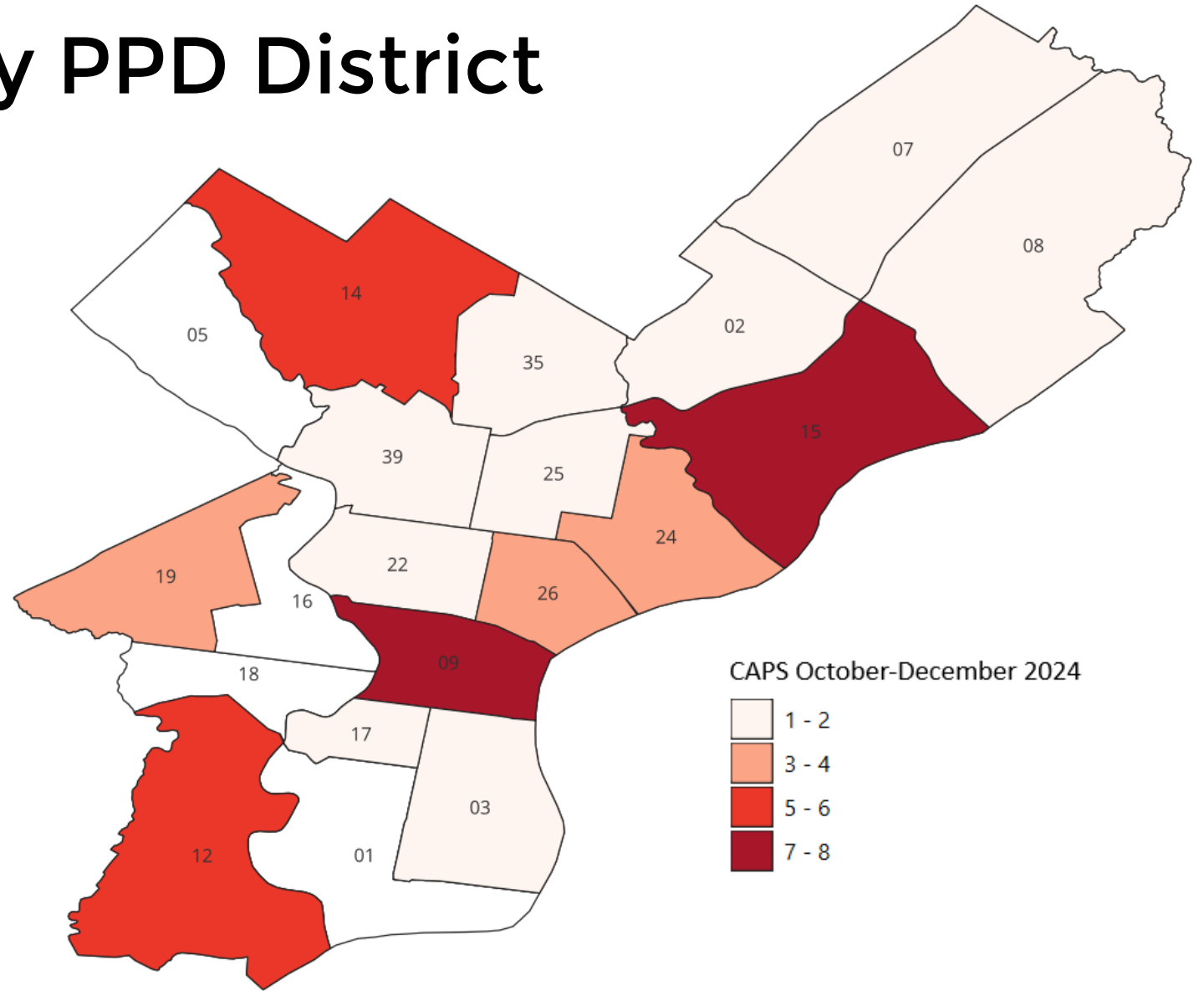


# Complaint data (YTD) by zip code

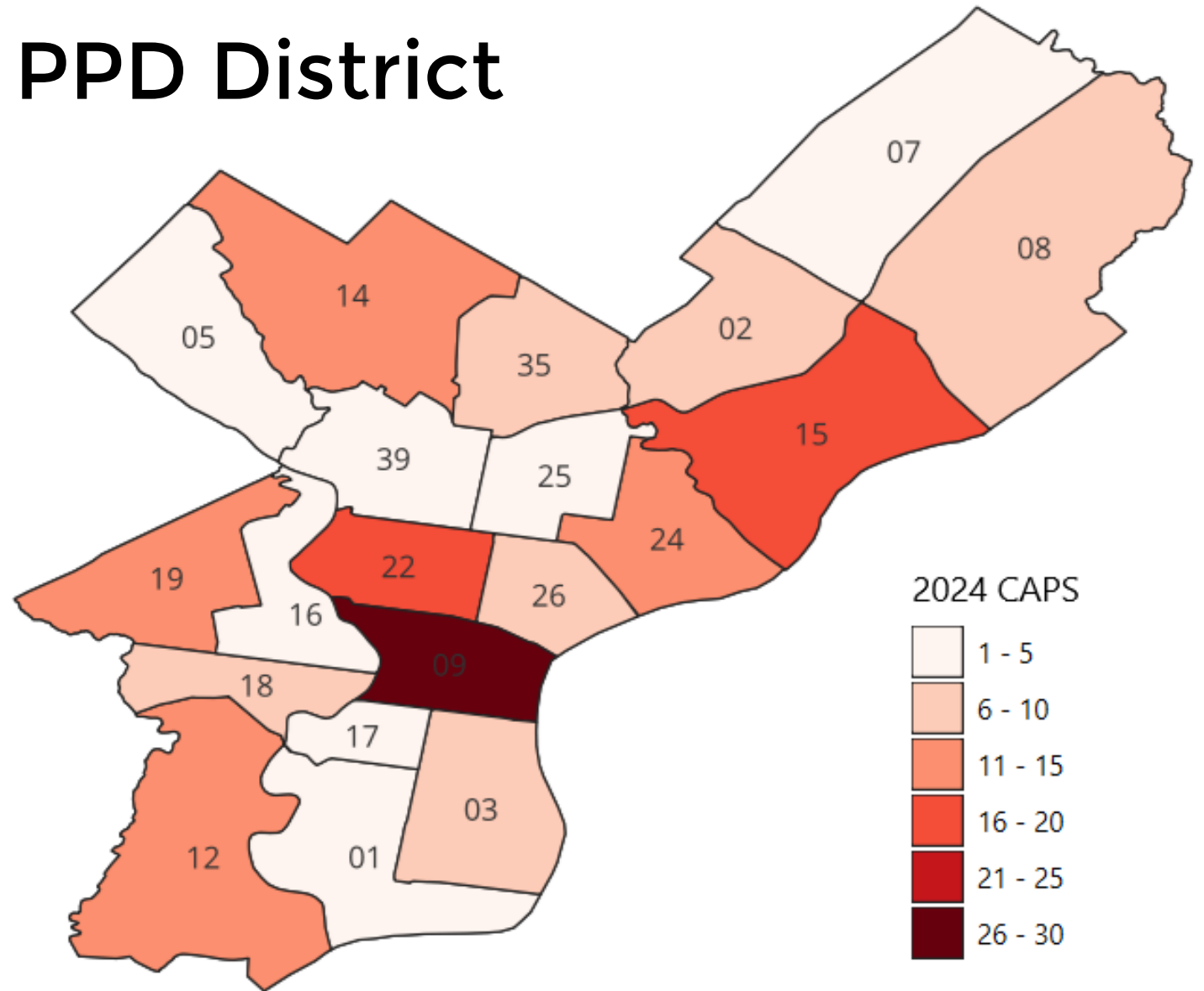


# Complaint data by PPD District

## Oct - Dec 2024



# Complaint data by PPD District 2024 YTD






# APR Division: Plans for 2025

Auditing and Monitoring Unit



Auditing, Policy, and Research Division

- Monitoring is a function of the Investigations Division now
  - APRD will continue to audit CAPs while adding additional policy-related work
  - The following slides explain what this change means for the day-to-day work, and go through some plans for 2025
  - Note: APRD is still a small team - 3 staff members plus a director.
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# APR Division: Plans for 2025 - Auditing

## What is Auditing at CPOC?

- In-depth reviews of case file materials provided by PPD for CAPs
- Staff use a standard series of questions to assess each case consistently
- CPOC has 10 business days to complete each review and notify PPD if we have feedback
- CPOC sends specific recommendations for each case back to IAD and tracks their response
- This allows civilian oversight perspective to be included

## Plans for the new year

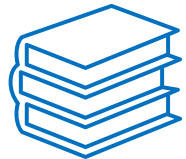
- 2025: Publish a report with the results from the first few month of this process, and the audits done earlier in 2024.
  - 2025: Continue to conduct audits, collect data, and publicly report
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# APR Division: Plans for 2025 - Policy and Research

## What is policy work?



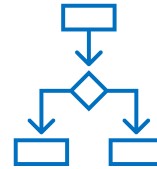
Observing trends,  
prioritizing, assessing impact



Research, design, determining  
feasibility, assessment of  
(un)intended outcomes



Collaboration with relevant  
stakeholders, colleagues



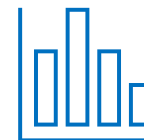
Project execution, data collection,  
analysis, recommendations



Designing and tracking  
implementation



Publication of results, info,  
recommendations/response

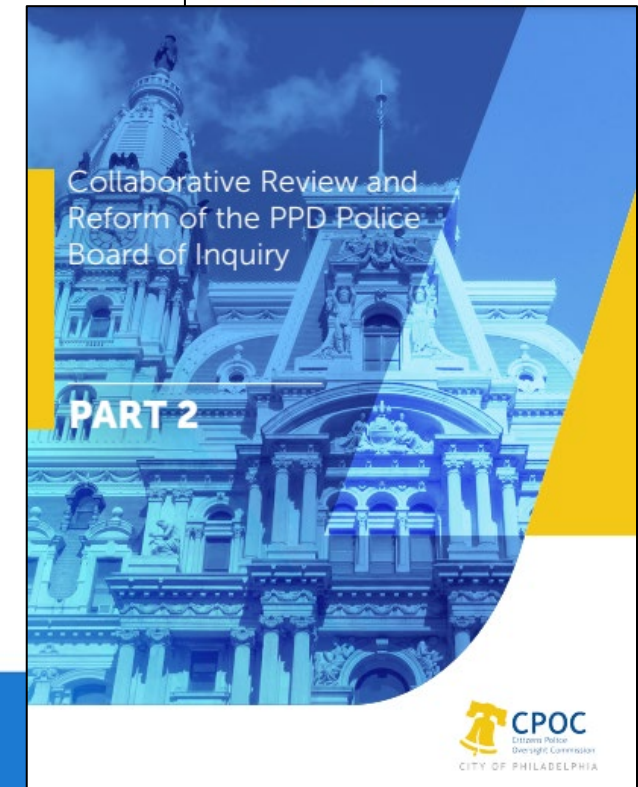
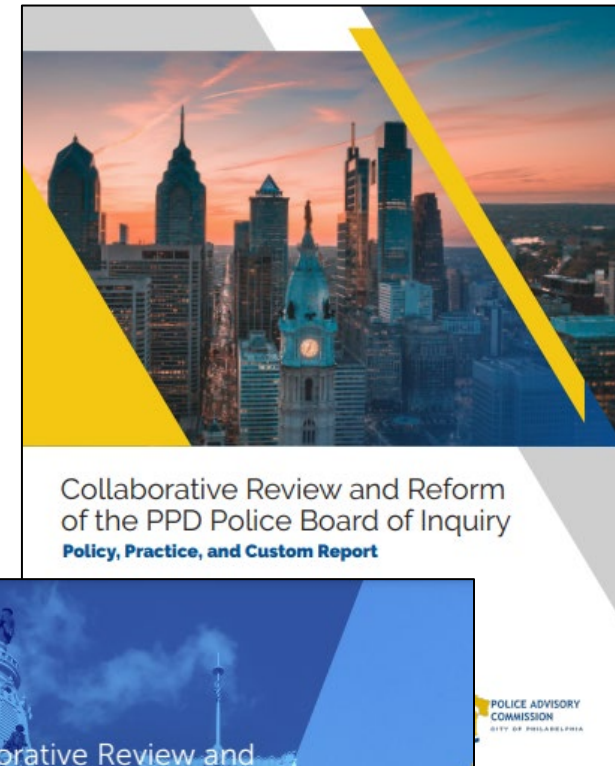


Data collection and analysis to  
track impact of reforms and  
recommendations



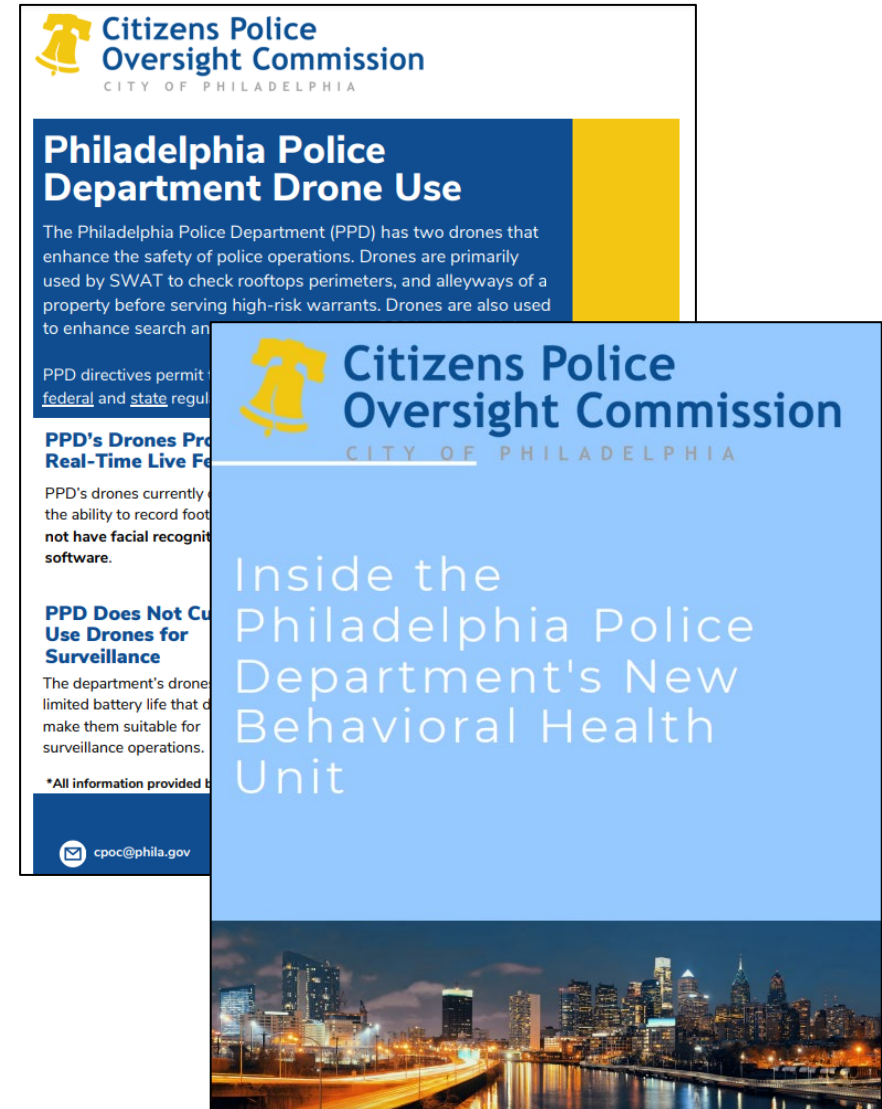
# APR Division: Policy and Research

- Some of CPOC's greatest progress has been made through policy projects- but they can be long term efforts.
- PAC/CPOC's efforts reform to the disciplinary process began in 2020 and are ongoing - and they all came about through a policy project.
- The PBI project was an effort to take a big process (discipline process) and take a holistic view, then pinpoint areas for reform and track data over time.
- Not every policy project will be at this scale, but this is an example of what is possible.



# APR Division: Plans for 2025


- Some topics have a more short-term need for a response – current events, concerns we receive from residents, etc.
- With the help of our outreach/social media team we can produce information for the public to explain police policies and operations when we see a need for that.
- [Example of an explainer/infographic about drones from Winter 2024](#)
- [Example of an explainer about behavioral health](#)





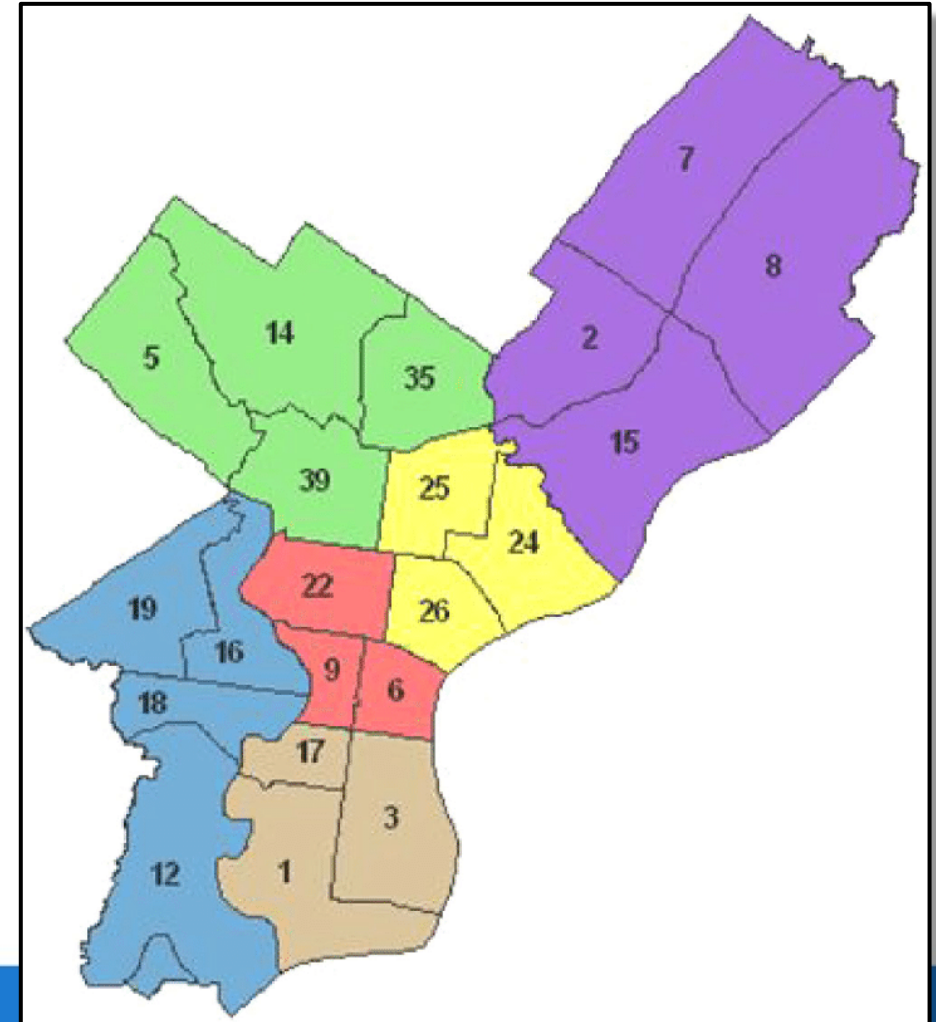
# APR Division: Plans for 2025

## **What does the addition of policy and research mean for APRD work going forward?**

- APRD team will continue CAP audits
  - Audits have always generated ideas, themes, but now we can more formally operationalize these into things like blog posts, explainers, and longer-term projects
  - APRD will continue to produce explainers for the public
  - Determining team capacity and balancing CAP audits with policy work will be a priority and will continue develop depending on staffing levels of the division.
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# APR Division: Plans for 2025 - Projects

- Re-launch of the BWC compliance audit project
- It took a while to develop workflows to ensure this project could go forward as envisioned
- CPOC has briefed PPD on the update to the project plan
- Audit 4 districts to check for compliance with the BWC directive:
  - Keeping camera in standby mode
  - Activating and turning off properly
  - Tagging/labeling videos properly
- Provide findings to relevant leadership
- Audit each district a second time a few months later to check again



# APR Division: Plans for 2025 – Projects



- BWC SSO study
- Wrapping up coding work
- Proof of concept – this can be repeated in other cities
- Once coding is done, researchers will analyze and produce results
- Hope to help present results/model to peers in law enforcement and oversight as an example of the type of research that is possible



Initial article has been accepted for publication and released online!

<https://www.ojp.gov/library/publications/measuring-what-matters-21st-century-policing-partnering-civilian-oversight>

# APR Division: Plans for 2025 – Projects

- There is no shortage of ideas for projects and topics to explore further
- We will continue to look at peer agencies for inspiration, ideas, and methods
- As always, we encourage anyone to reach out with comments, concerns, or ideas so that CPOC can be responsive to our communities





Citizens Police Oversight Commission

# Thank you for coming

Questions or comments?

Please raise your hand, type your question in  
the chat, or contact us:

[cpoc@phila.gov](mailto:cpoc@phila.gov) or (215) 685-0891



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