

Subject: POL- Criminal Investigations

**FY 2022 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/1/2021

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Mr. Dorsey at the work session on 3/2/2021, regarding the following question:

Does the Police department use clearance rates or benchmarks to track performance for their criminal investigations section?

The challenge to benchmarking closure rates is finding comparable data. Jurisdictions report their data differently and definitions of a “closure” can vary from locality to locality. Because of this, the Arlington Police Department does not benchmark with other jurisdictions. However, for comparison purposes, nationwide data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for calendar year 2018 reported the following closure rates:

FBI Data on Closure Rates	
Category	Closure Rate
Murder/Manslaughter	62.3%
Aggravated Assault	52.5%
Rape	33.4%
Burglary	13.9%
Larceny	18.9%
Auto Theft	13.8%
<u>Link to FBI Source Data</u>	

When looking at police department data from calendar year 2019, the most complete dataset to date, closure rates for similar cases were above the national average. In Arlington, the police department reports closure rates as it pertains to assigned cases; in the categories listed above, all of those types of crimes would be assigned to a detective with the exception of larceny:

Arlington County Closure Rates	
Category	Closure Rate
Homicide Robbery Unit: murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults	74.8%
Special Victims Unit: rapes and domestic assault and battery	63.9%
Property Crimes: burglaries, larcenies, and auto theft	21.8%

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In the Criminal Investigations Division, Criminal Investigations Section line of business documents, closure rates are for all assigned cases in the Criminal Investigations Section ([FY 2022 proposed budget, page 353](#)), which includes the Homicide Robbery Unit, Special Victims Unit, and Property Crimes Unit, was 55% for FY 2020. This rate is in line with previous years.

Closure rates for assigned cases in the Organized Crime Section ([FY 2022 proposed budget, page 355](#)), which includes drug enforcement, were significantly higher, at 100% for FY 2020. This is because cases assigned in this unit usually start with an arrest or development of an informant that leads to an arrest, which is quite different than other cases where the suspect is often unknown.