



**Your Department  
At Work**

# Hinesburg Community Police

## Introduction

The Hinesburg Community Police Department strives to achieve the goals stated in its Mission Statement “To protect the safety of the people of Hinesburg and enhance their quality of life”. The department operates using the “Community Policing Model”. This model promotes partnerships with the community as a key element for proactively addressing public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and even the fear of crime. These partnerships happen every day with individuals, businesses, educational institutions, community groups, and social and religious organizations. The strength in the partnerships is from the open sharing of information between the participants. In sharing information about the department’s operations, this report contains statistical perspectives for the year 2011. These perspectives may enhance the community’s understanding of how the department serves the town.

Good community policing is about maintaining detailed information regarding incidents and being in the field engaged in policing activities. Much of the information is specific to individual cases and is in policing terms. The summarization categories shown within this report provide residents with an overview of how the department spends its time and resources.

At the end of each quarter (since January 2010), the Select Board receives a written report containing this summary information. The primary sources for the data are the State of Vermont’s Public Safety Spillman System for law enforcement and the Hinesburg Police department’s Time Management System or Activity Log. The common link between these two systems is the Incident Number assigned by the Spillman System. It provides the cross-reference key to summarize data by [1] incident counts (“How Often?”) or by [2] incident time (“How Much Time Spent?”). This summary capability is unique to the Hinesburg Community Police department. It provides a more complete picture of how the department manages its resources for the town.

This report consists of the following sub-sections:

1. Incident Related Statistics [Pages 3-10]
2. Activity Related Statistics [Pages 11-13]
3. Budget and Tax Related Statistics [Pages 14-17]

# Hinesburg Community Police

## 1. Incident Related Statistics

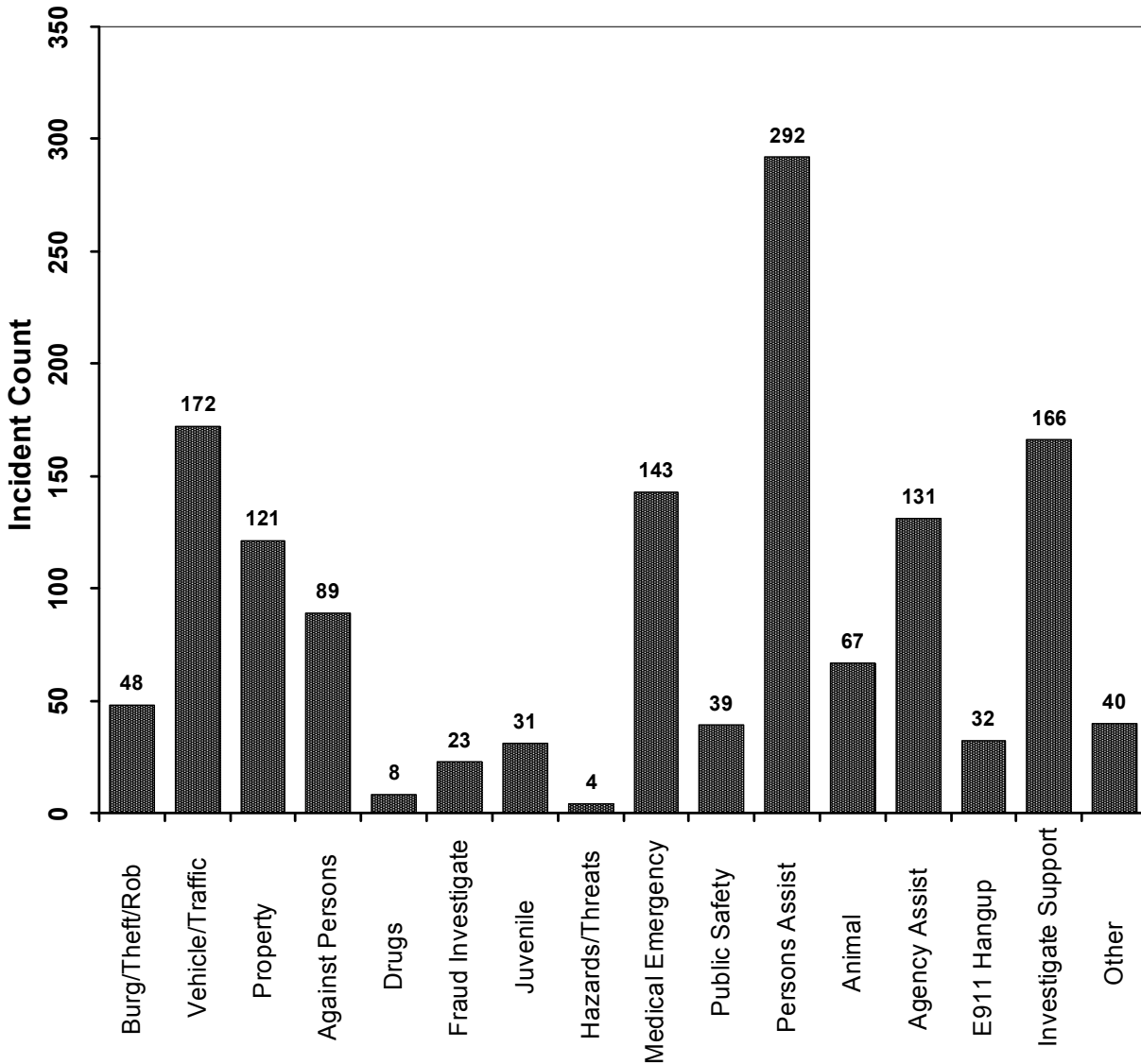
The sixteen categories listed below provide the classifications for incident type summarization. Some examples of typical incident types by category include the following:

CATEGORY	EXAMPLE INCIDENTS
1. Burg/Theft/Rob	Larceny, Burglary, Theft
2. Vehicle/Traffic	Accident DMV Reports, Traffic Offense, Motor Vehicle Disturbances, Parking Problems, Driving License Suspended Criminal, Driving Under the Influence
3. Property	Alarms, Vandalism, Property Damage, Trespassing Violations
4. Against Persons	Citizen Dispute, Family Disturbance, Noise Disturbance, Simple Assault, Annoying/Harass/Suspicious Phone Calls, Sex Offences, Suicides, Disorderly Conduct, Mistreatment of a Child, Domestic Abuse Order Violations
5. Drugs	Intoxicated Persons, Possession of Regulated Drugs
6. Fraud Investigate	Insufficient Funds Checks, Checks on Closed Accounts, False Pretenses/Swindling, Theft of Services, Forgery, Impersonation, Credit Card/Teller Machines
7. Juvenile	Juvenile Problem, Runaway Juvenile
8. Hazards/Threats	Bomb Threat, Fireworks, Chemical Spills
9. Medical Emergency	Ambulance or Medical Assist
10. Public Safety	Traffic Hazard, Arrest on Warrant, Abandoned Vehicle, Condition of Release Violation, Probation/Parole Violation, Utility Problem
11. Persons Assist	Citizen Assist, Property Watch, VIN Inspection, Lockouts, Welfare Check, Motorist Assistance, Attempt to Locate, Missing Persons
12. Animal	Animal Problems, Cruelty To Animals
13. Agency Assist	Agency (Police, Fire, Rescue) Assist, Fire Prevention Law Violation, Mental Health Assistance, Directed Patrol, Fire Investigation, Unlawful Burning
14. E911 Hang-up	E911 Hang-up Calls
15. Investigate Support	Suspicious Person/Circumstances, Background Investigation
16. Other	Lost/Found Property, Tobacco Problem, Communications Offense, Littering, Illegal Possession by a Minor, False Swearing, False Information to Police

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In the Hinesburg Community Police section of the Hinesburg Record, a graph shows the number of incidents logged by category for the designated time. The following graph shows the total count for each category for the Year 2011:

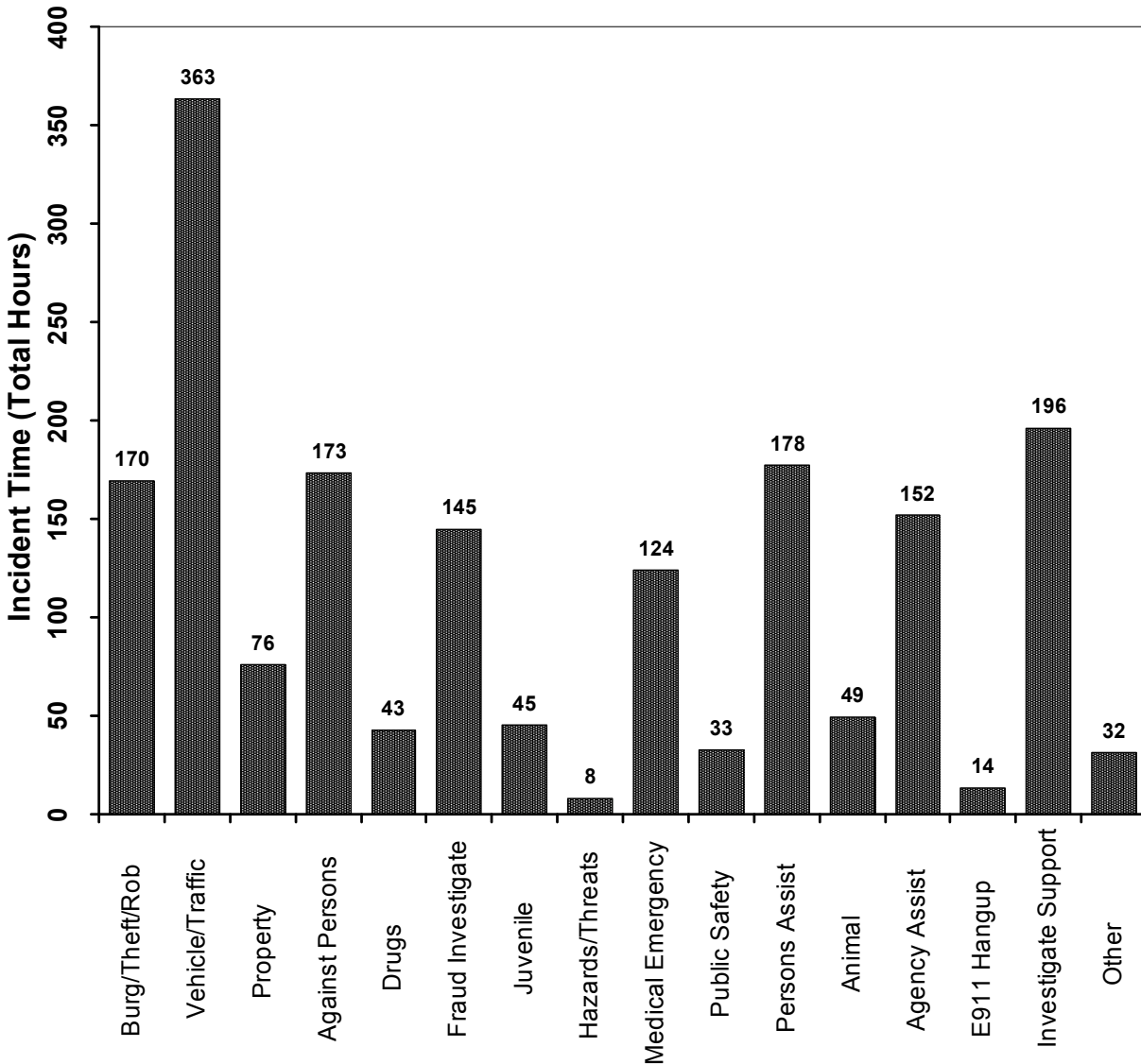
## Hinesburg Incident Counts by Category Year 2011



# Hinesburg Community Police

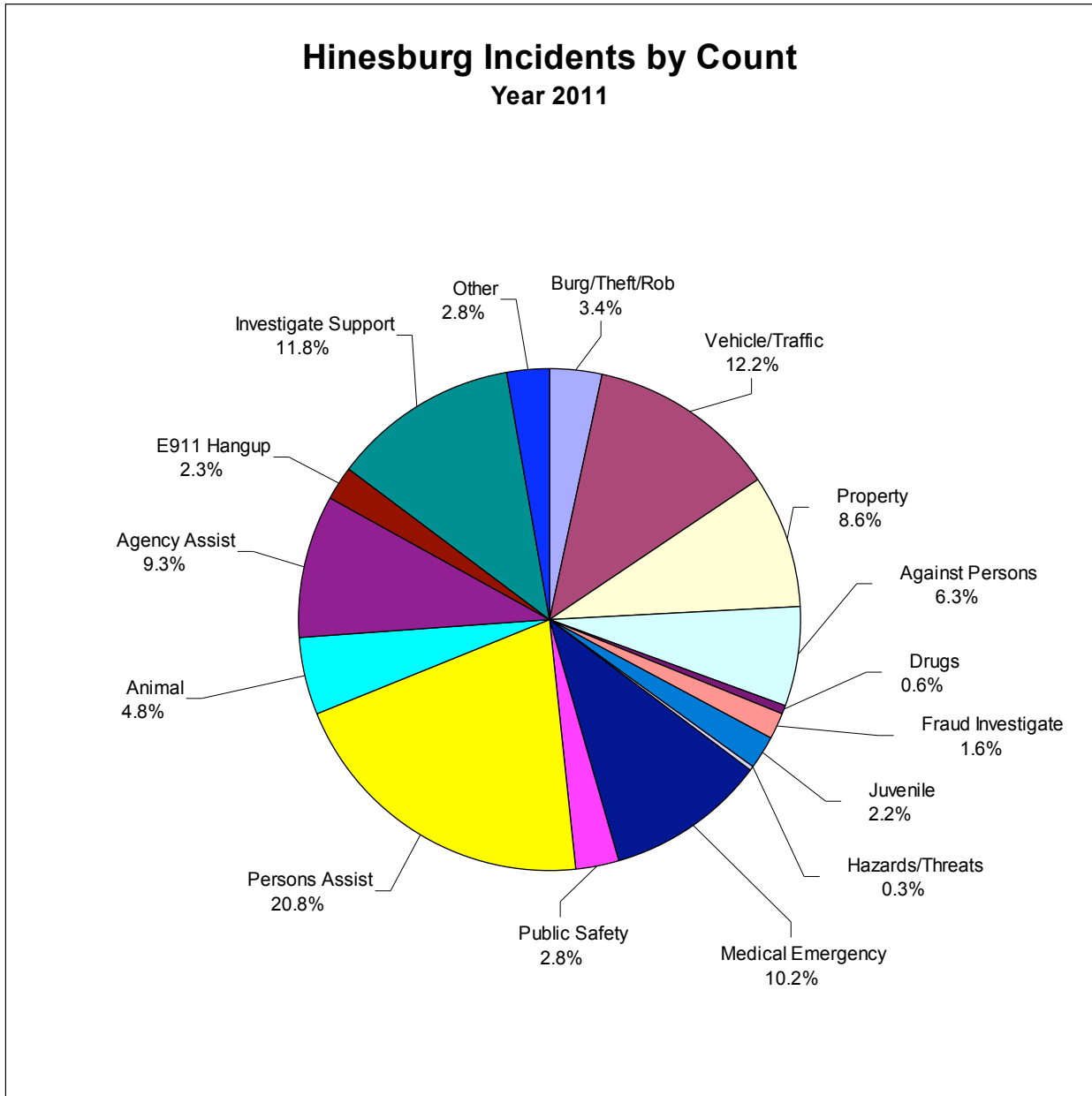
Using the Incident Number as the cross-reference key, the following graph shows the total time spent in hours for these incidents by category for Year 2011:

## Hinesburg Incident Time by Category Year 2011



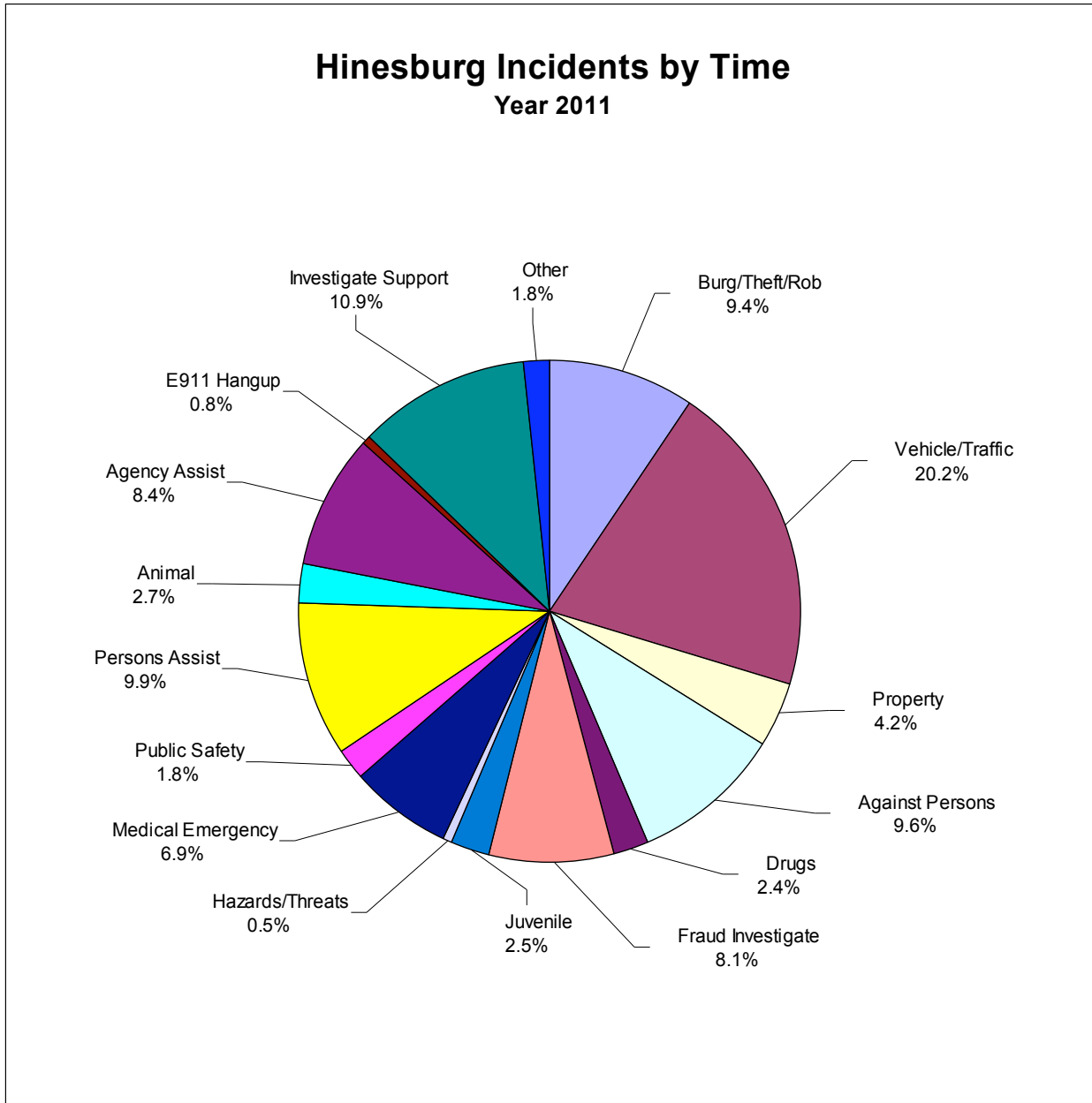
# Hinesburg Community Police

Another view of the incident data is the percentage relationship between the incident summary category counts for Year 2011 is in the following pie chart:



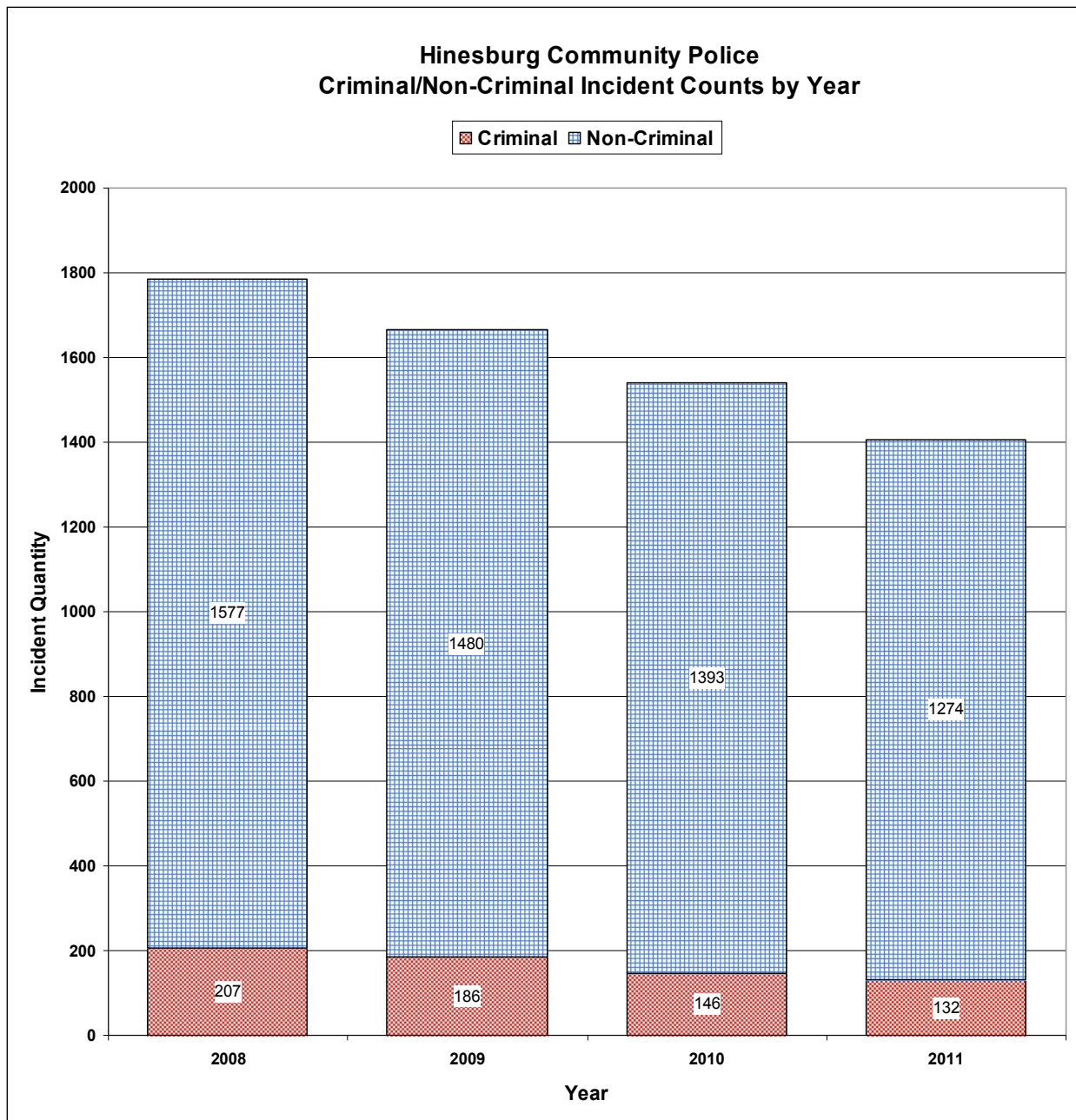
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The corresponding percentage relationship between the incident summary category times for Year 2011 is in the following pie chart:



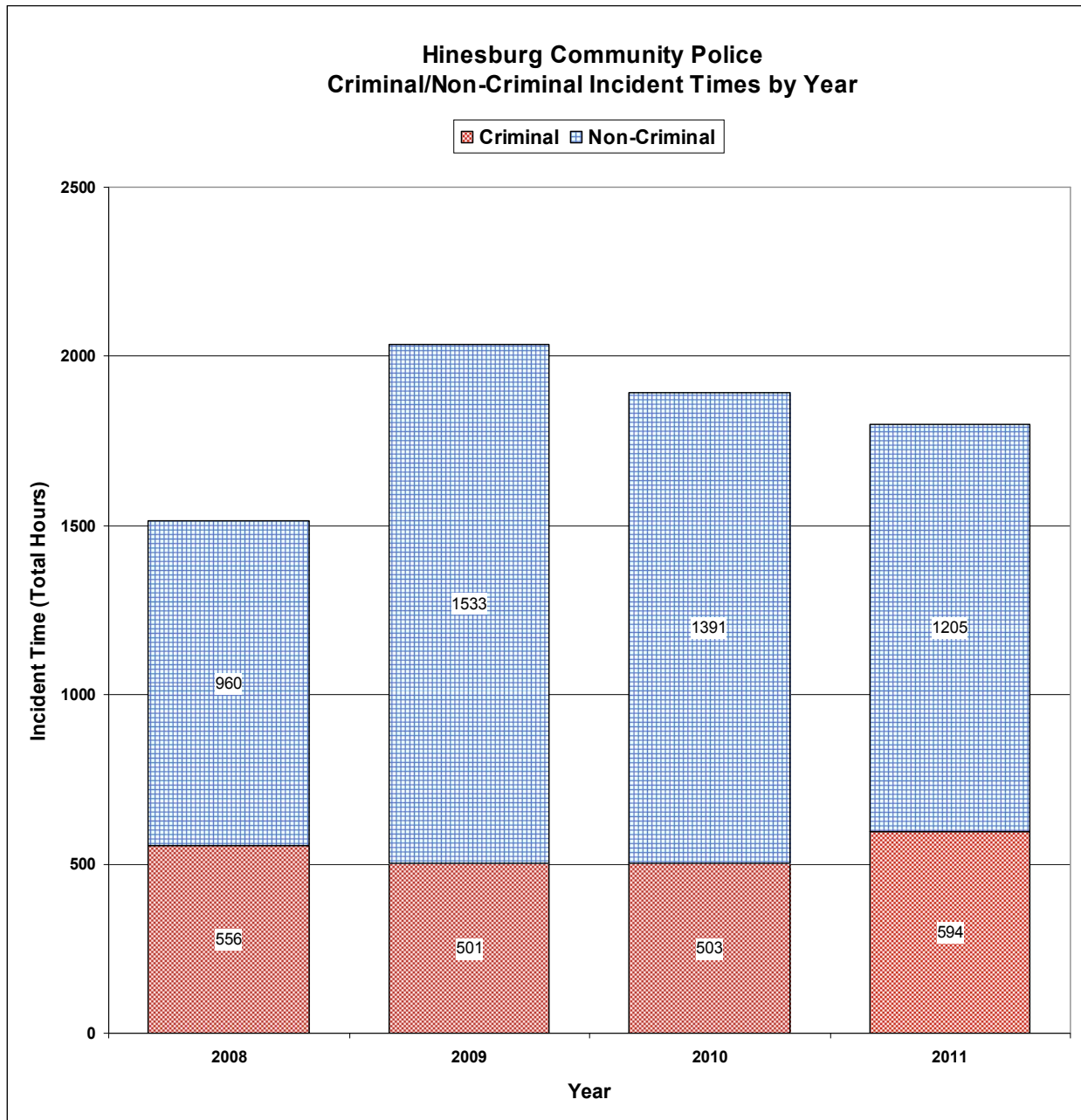
## Hinesburg Community Police

The time spent per incident varies between criminal and non-criminal incidents. Comparing the two groups by count and time spent is important. The summary categories listed above do not correlate to criminal or non-criminal classifications. The Burg/Theft/Rob and Fraud Investigate categories include only criminal incidents, but the remaining categories are a mix of criminal and non-criminal incidents. The following graph shows the counts for criminal and non-criminal incidents for the last four years:



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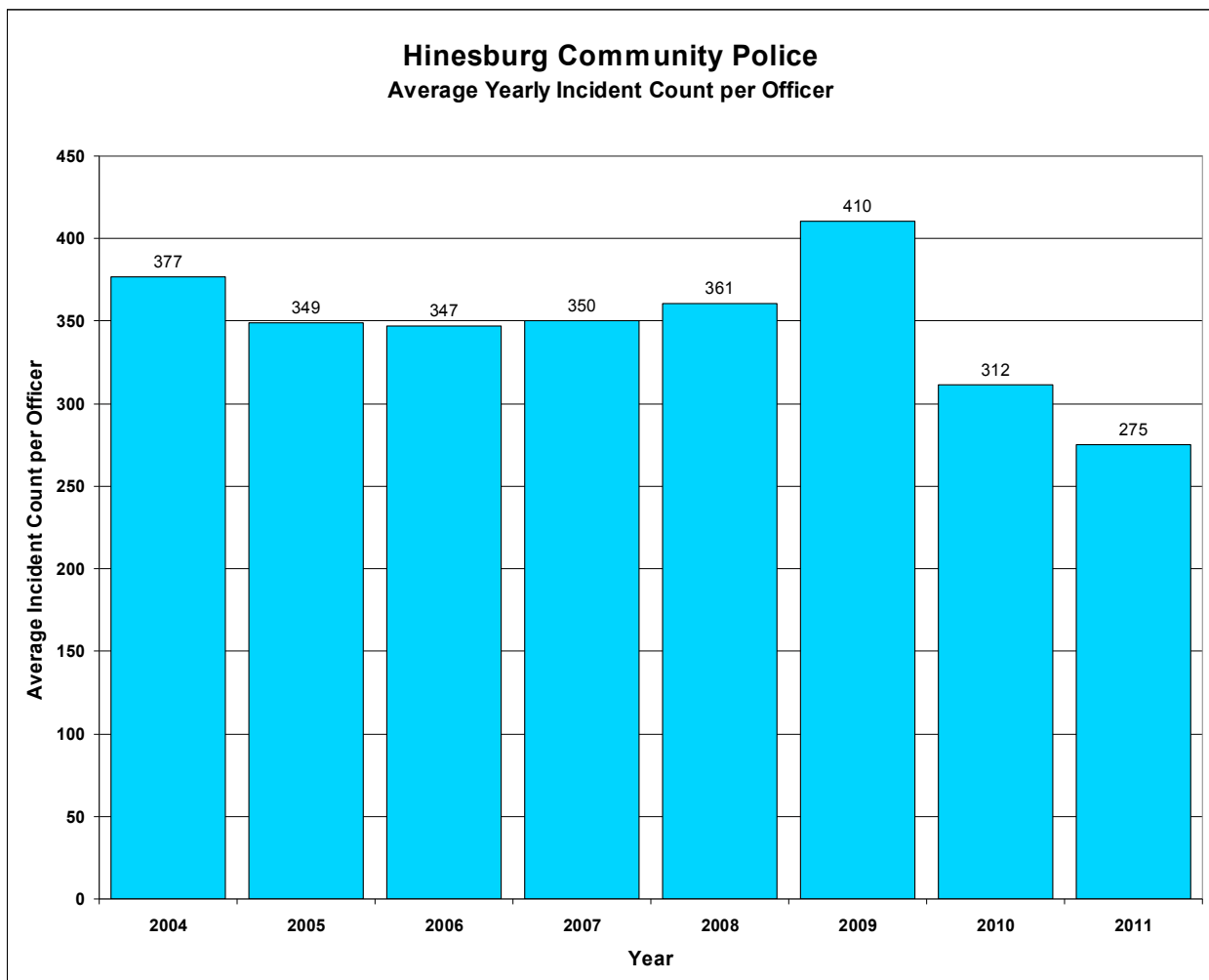
The following graph shows the time (in total hours) spent for criminal and non-criminal incidents for the last four years:



With the current officer resources, Hinesburg has been able to transition from a reactive department (responding to crimes) to a more proactive department (anticipating and preventing crimes). Proactive policing is effective in reducing crime and improving the safety for residents of the community.

## Hinesburg Community Police

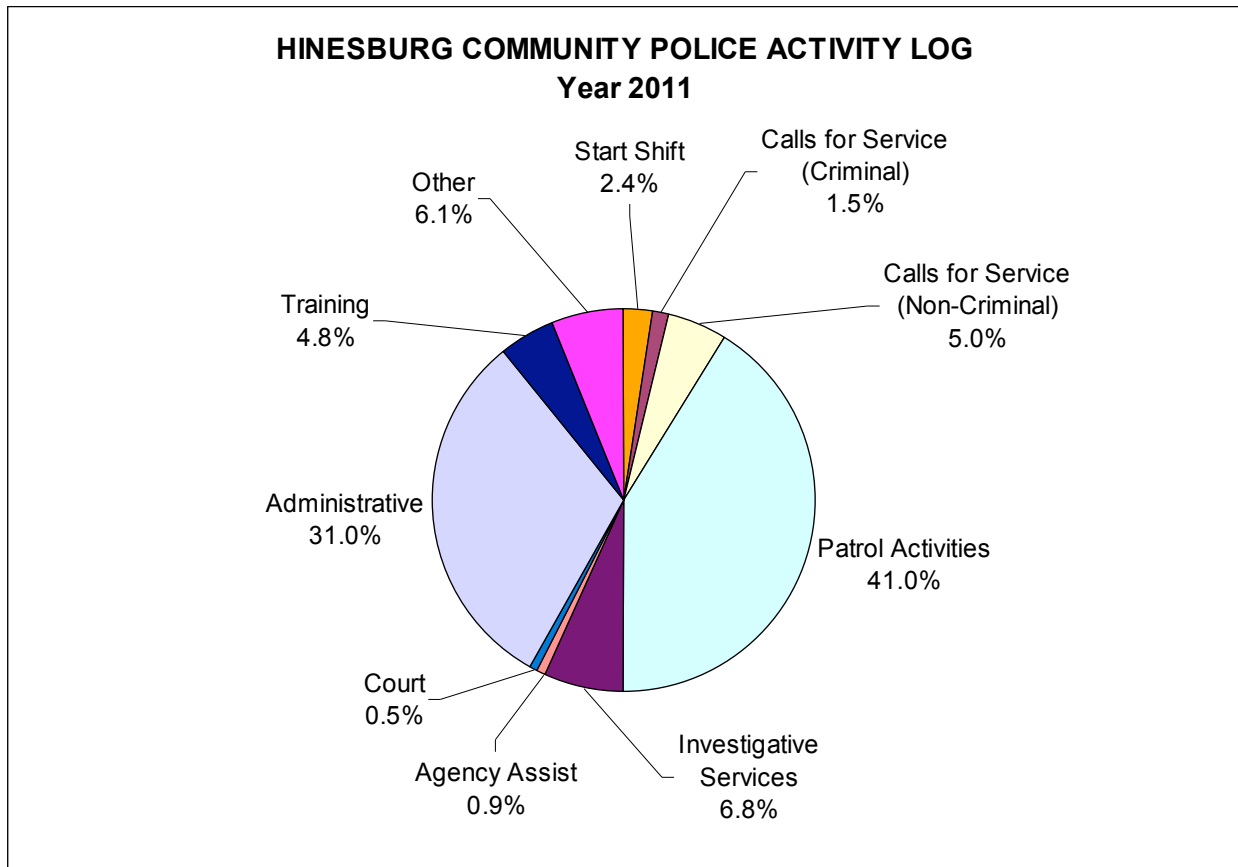
The 2008 Strategic Plan recommended tracking the average annual number of incidents handled per officer on a yearly basis. This calculation is the total number of incidents for the year divided by the average number of full-time officer equivalents for the year. Since both of these variables change year to year, the yearly result can increase with more incidents and/or less officers for the year. Likewise, the yearly result can decrease with fewer incidents and/or more officers for the year. The target suggested by the Plan is 300 incidents per year per officer. The following graph shows this measure for the years 2004 through 2011:



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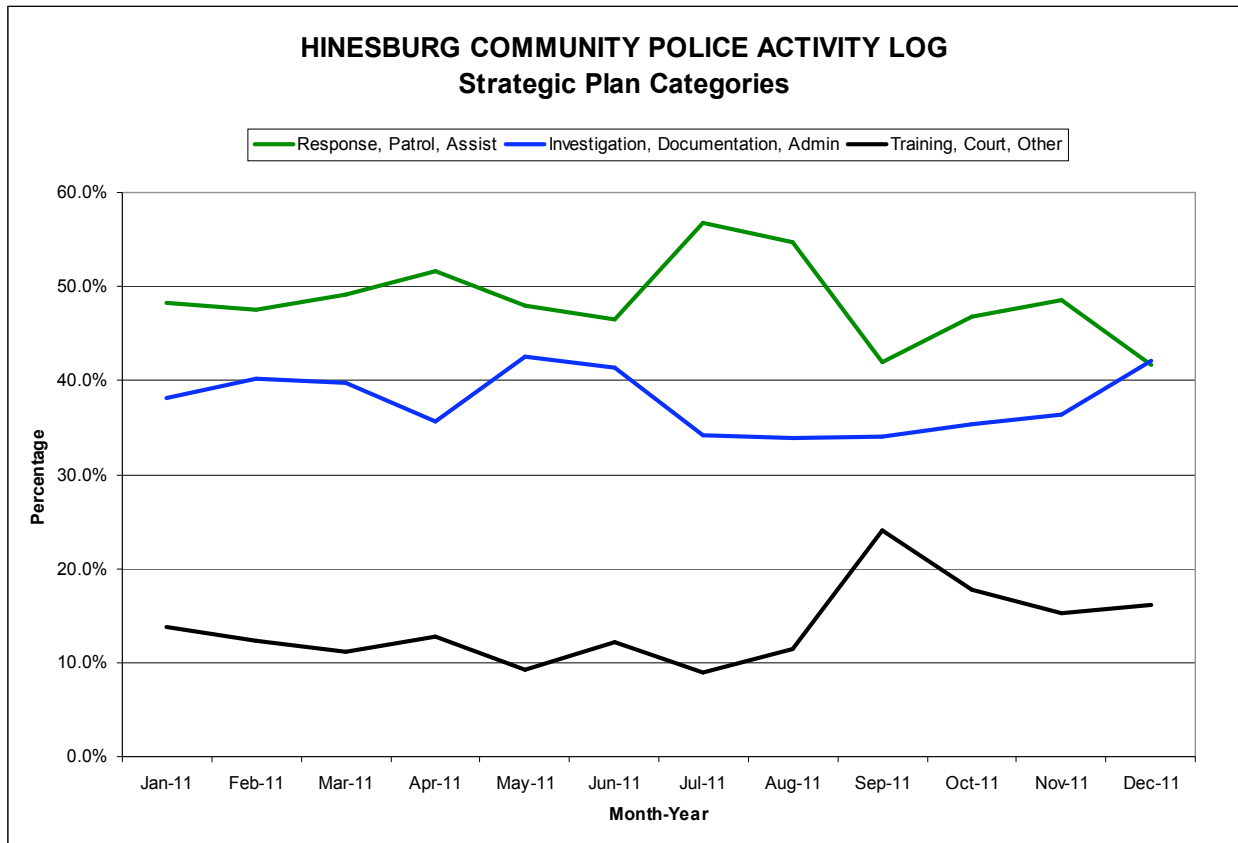
## 2. Activity Related Statistics

The Time Management System tracks all activities for the Hinesburg Community Police department. The incident time data shown above in the Incidents Related Statistics section only tracks to the portion of the officer's time that specifically relates to incidents. For the Year 2011, incident time totaled 1799 hours or 17.0% of the overall 10591 hours logged by the officers. The criminal incident time logged is 594 hours for 132 incidents or an average of 4.5 hours per incident. The non-criminal incident time logged is 1205 hours for 1274 incidents or an average of 57 minutes per incident. The time accumulated for incidents is across several of Time Management tracking categories. It is intermixed with non-incident time data and not shown separately when presenting the overall time spent by the officers. The following graph shows the portion of time spent in the activity categories tracked for the department:



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Patrol and Traffic duties constitute the largest block of time. This is when officers are proactively looking for troublesome situations and responding to calls for service. It reduces the risks and enhances the safety for all persons in Hinesburg. The Administrative block of time includes the time spent for documentation, case preparation, attending meetings and department management. The Select Board tracks three summary groups of the Time Management categories based on recommendations made in the 2008 Strategic Plan. These summary groups include [1] Incident Response, Patrol and Agency Assist, [2] Investigation, Documentation and Administration and [3] Training, Court, Shift Start and Other. The following graph shows these groups by month for the year 2011:

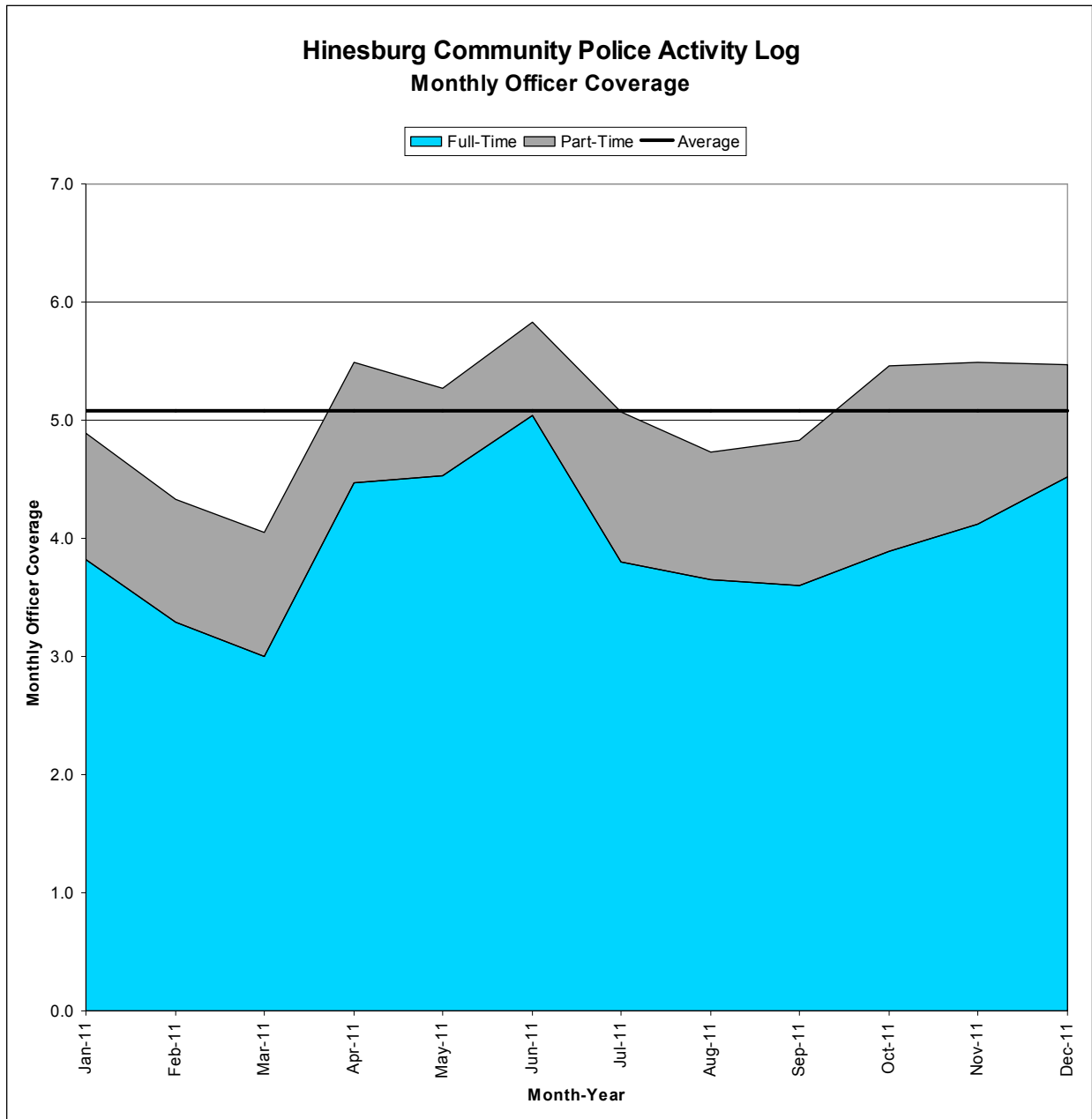


As this graph depicts, these categories vary month to month. The Group 3 increase for Training in September through December includes hours in the EMT course for training of two officers. The Group 2 increase of time at the end of the year is for time spent for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget planning. When additional time is required in Group 2 or Group 3, it is on a non-priority basis to time needed for Group 1 Calls for Service.

For 2011, the Group averages are [1] 48.4% (Response, Patrol, Assist), [2] 37.8% (Investigation, Documentation, Administration) and [3] 13.8% (Training, Court, Shift Start, Other).

# Hinesburg Community Police

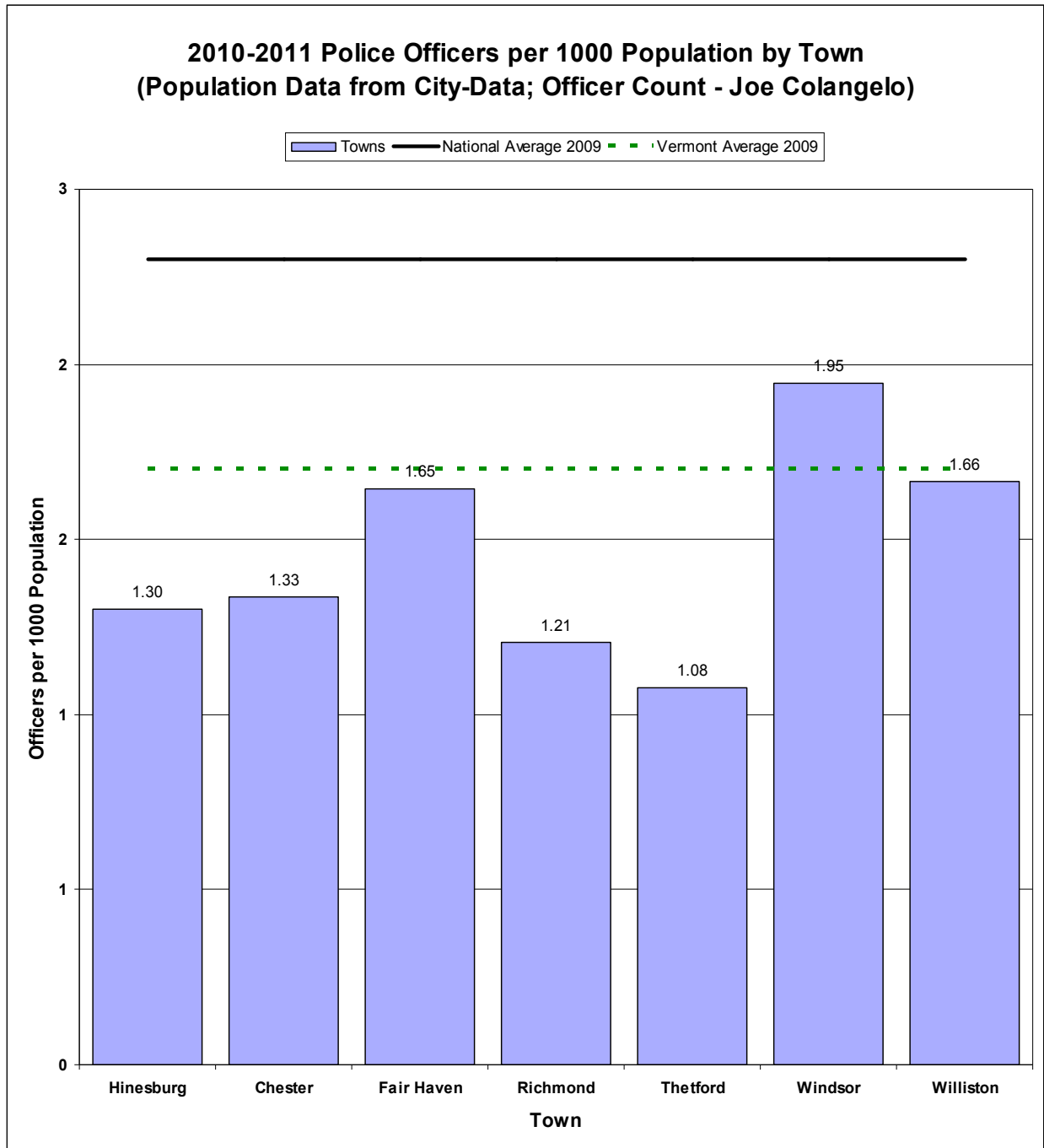
The department resource for Year 2011 is a mix of five full-time officers and four part-time officers totaling six full-time equivalents. For the year 2011, the following graph shows the monthly resource spent on duty for full and part-time resources and does not include vacation and compensation time off.



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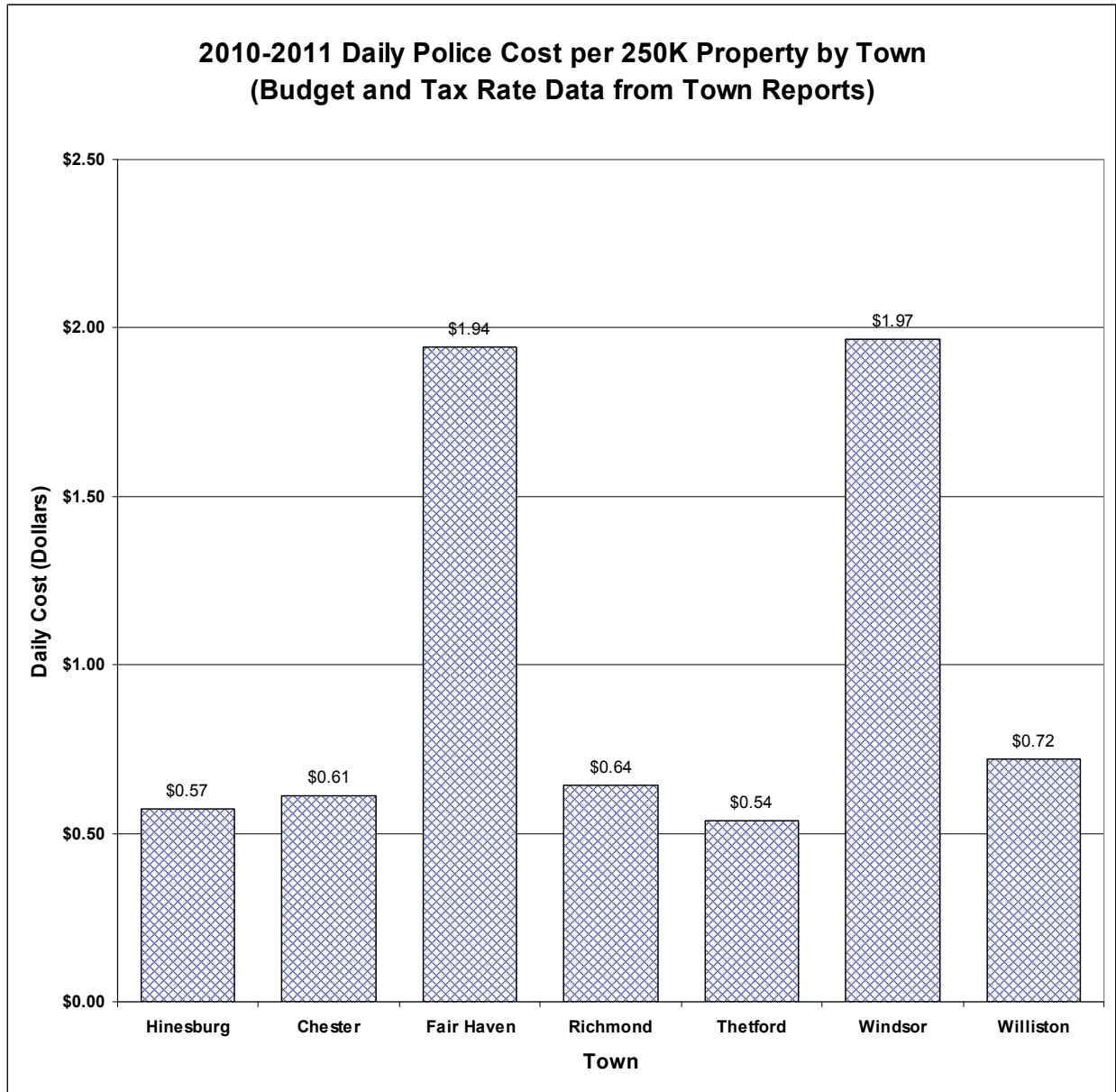
## 3. Budget and Tax Related Statistics

The recent Hinesburg Police Advisory Committee gathered information from several Vermont towns to compare with Hinesburg. One comparison is the number of full-time equivalent police officers per 1000 population.



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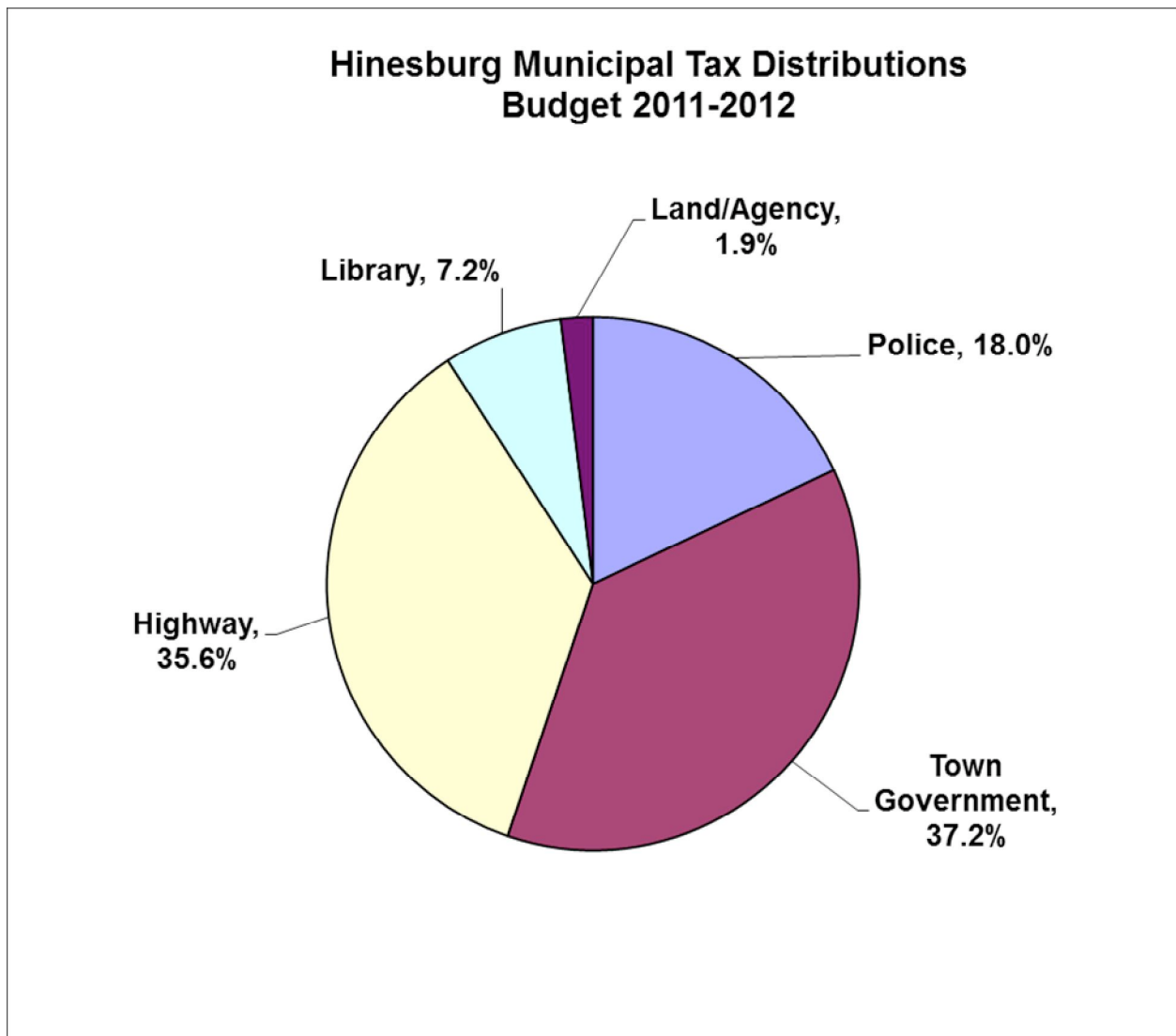
A second comparison is the taxpayer daily cost to support their policing services. The comparison point is for a property owner with the Hinesburg median assessed property value of \$250,000.



In both of these comparisons, Hinesburg falls at or below the average for the towns selected. This suggests the current resource for Hinesburg is reasonable for the services provided. In addition, only the Hinesburg Police provide EMS services.

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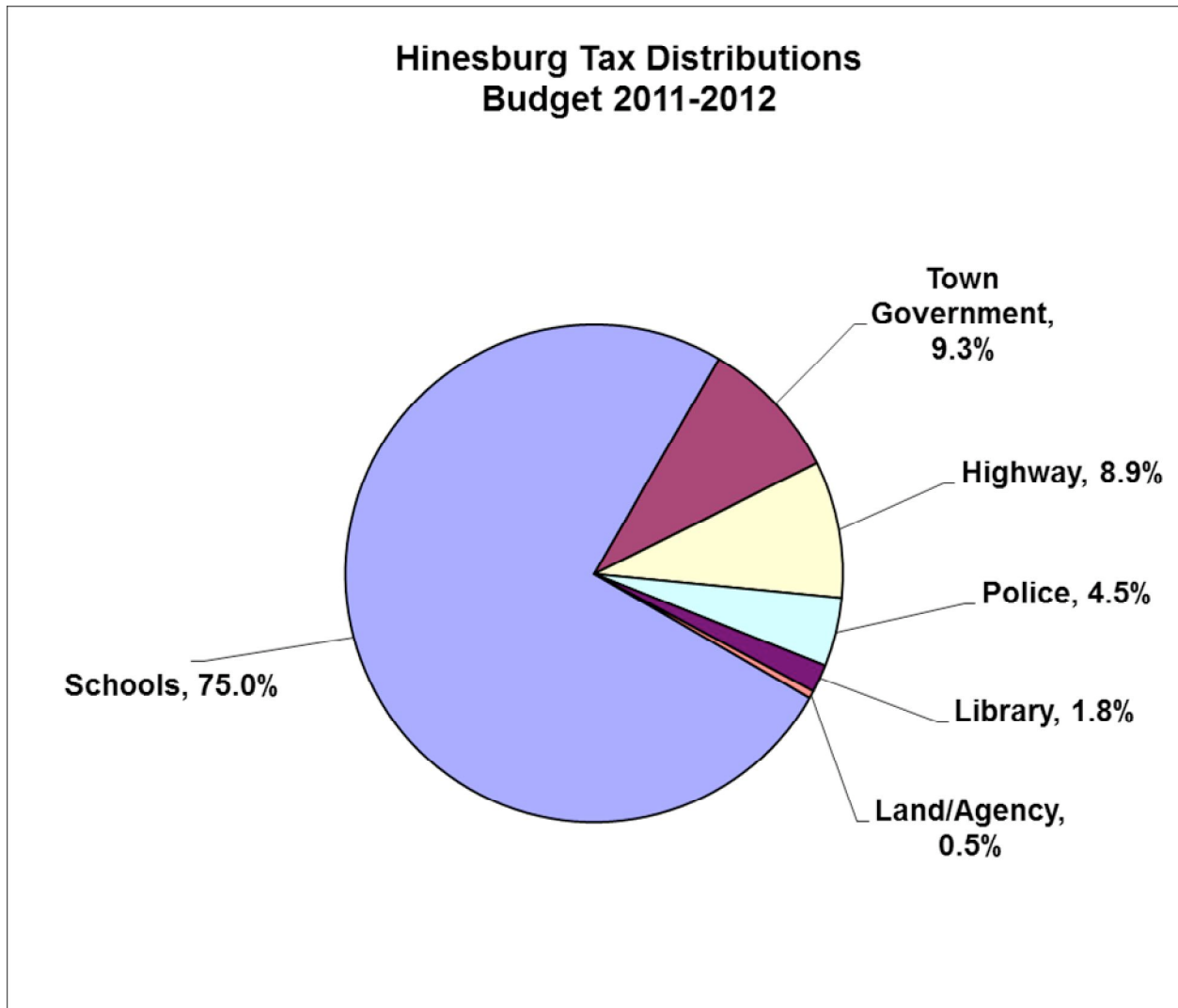
It is important to understand the distribution mix of our tax dollars in Hinesburg without and with the Education component. We can affect our Municipal tax costs because these expenses are locally controlled. In Hinesburg, the distribution of the major expense categories for Budget Year 2011-2012 is the following:



The Policing Services in Hinesburg are 18% of our Municipal Budget. It is important to remember that changes made in the Municipal Budget only affect 25% of your Overall taxes for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

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The Overall tax amount also includes the Education Taxes. Our ability to control the Education tax costs is limited due to the State redistribution of Education funds. By including the Education portion in the analysis for Hinesburg, we find the budgeted Hinesburg Community Police costs are only 4.5% of our Budgeted Overall Tax dollars.



For a taxpayer with a property value of \$250,000 (the median property value in Hinesburg) the taxes were \$4734 for budgeted Fiscal Year ending 2012. Only \$213 (or \$0.58 per day) went to supporting the Police Services. This is the cost of a half-a-cup of coffee a day per taxpayer “To protect the safety of the people of Hinesburg and enhance their quality of life”.

## **Hinesburg Community Police**

Doug Olufsen, a retired engineer and volunteer with the Hinesburg Police department, prepared this report. Doug started providing statistical analyses for the department management, the Select Board and Hinesburg residents in 2007. The scope and capabilities of the analyses expanded in mid-2007 to include the implementation of a Time Management System. The linking of the Time Management data with the Incident Database occurred in 2009. Several additional analyses were prepared for the recent Police Advisory Committee with incident and tax rate comparisons for the selected towns in Vermont. These analyses are located on the Hinesburg website under the Advisory Committee report (<http://www.hinesburg.org/police-public-safety-committee/index.html>).

The Hinesburg Community Police strives to be a transparent department for the Select Board and Community residents. Please consider stopping by the office when you have unanswered questions to get the most recent information available.