SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrants 2022 Report

Public Safety Article, Sections 3-508(e) and 3-528(e)

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

March 18, 2025 Revised

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY

DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Public Safety Article §§ 3-508(e) (MSAR #15678) and 3-525(e) (MSAR #15680)

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

As required by §§ 3-508(e) and 3-525(e) of the Public Safety Article, please find an enclosed copy of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's revised report, titled *SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrant 2022 Report*. This revised report includes updated information on all SWAT activations/deployments as well as no-knock search warrants served by law enforcement agencies in 2022, based on a revised methodology to analyze the reported information.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

As required, five color copies will be sent to the DLS Legislative Library.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

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Introduction

In accordance with §§ 3-508(e) and 3-525(e) of the Public Safety Article, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) must submit a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency by September 1 of each year, on the results of its analysis and summary regarding SWAT team deployments and search warrants executed; and requires GOCPP to publish the report on its website. In addition, §§ 3-508(b) and 3-525(b) of the Public Safety Article require law enforcement agencies to report specified information to GOCPP for the purpose of this report:

- Section 3-508(b) of the Public Safety Article requires agencies that maintain a SWAT team to report information on SWAT team activities by January 15 and July 15 of each year.[1]
- Section 3-525(b) of the Public Safety Article requires law enforcement agencies to report information on search warrants, specifically no-knock search warrants, by January 15 of each year.[2]

Pursuant to its charge, this *SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrants 2022 Report* includes information on all SWAT activations/deployments as well as no-knock search warrants served by law enforcement agencies for the calendar year 2022.

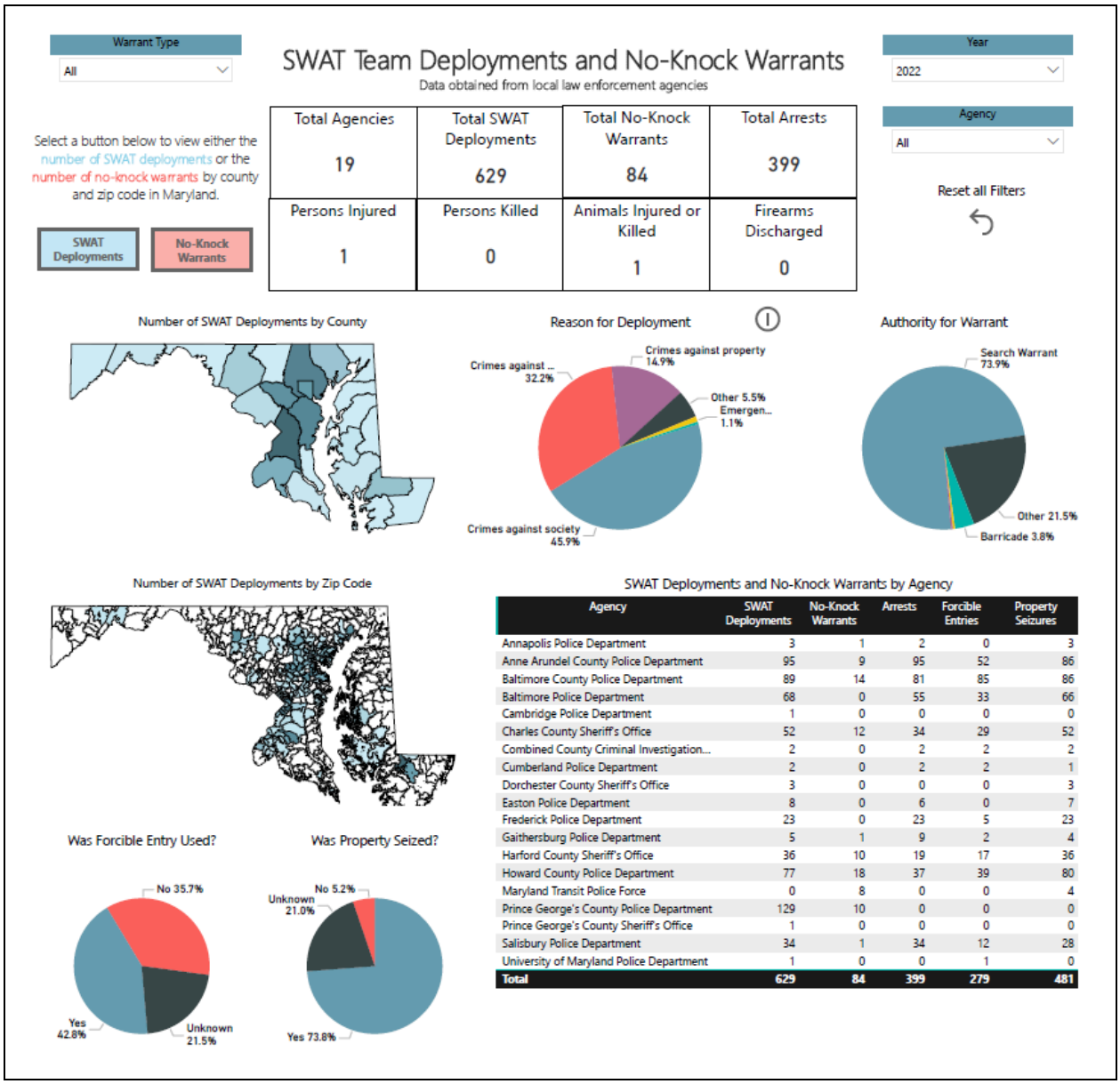
[1] SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams are a type of Special Tactical Response Team that consist of two or more law enforcement officers who possess advanced tactical training and expertise. Duties of a SWAT team can range from non-emergency situations to potentially high-risk situations, such as issuing a no-knock search warrant. It is important to note that law enforcement agencies used one reporting template to account for § 3-508(b) and § 3-525(b) requirements. For this reason, GOCPP changed the due date for § 3-508(b), from January 1 and July 1 of each year to January 15 and July 15 of each year, to mirror the due date for § 3-525(b).

[2] A no-knock search warrant is a type of warrant service operation in which the serving officer(s) does not announce their presence prior to entering the premises (as opposed to a knock and announce warrant where the serving officer(s) announce their presence prior to entry).

SWAT Deployments and No-Knock Search Warrants

Activations and Deployments

Between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, 19 law enforcement agencies reported information to GOCPP. From this total, 18 reported at least one SWAT deployment and activation that resulted in 629 deployments in which a SWAT team was utilized (*as shown below*).



Agency	SWAT Deployments	No-Knock Warrants	Arrests	Forcible Entries	Property Seizures
Annapolis Police Department	3	1	2	0	3
Anne Arundel County Police Department	95	9	95	52	86
Baltimore County Police Department	89	14	81	85	86
Baltimore Police Department	68	0	55	33	66
Cambridge Police Department	1	0	0	0	0
Charles County Sheriff's Office	52	12	34	29	52
Combined County Criminal Investigation...	2	0	2	2	2
Cumberland Police Department	2	0	2	2	1
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	3	0	0	0	3
Easton Police Department	8	0	6	0	7
Frederick Police Department	23	0	23	5	23
Gaithersburg Police Department	5	1	9	2	4
Harford County Sheriff's Office	36	10	19	17	36
Howard County Police Department	77	18	37	39	80
Maryland Transit Police Force	0	8	0	0	4
Prince George's County Police Department	129	10	0	0	0
Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	0
Salisbury Police Department	34	1	34	12	28
University of Maryland Police Department	1	0	0	1	0
Total	**629**	**84**	**399**	**279**	**481**

Reason for Deployment

Agencies deployed SWAT teams to respond to crimes against persons, crimes against property, crimes against society, emergency petitions, or other reasons (*as shown in the **Reason for Deployment** visual above*). According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), crimes against a person, property, or society include the following:[3]

Crimes Against Person	Crimes Against Property	Crimes Against Society
Assault Offenses	Arson	Animal Cruelty
Homicide Offenses	Bribery	Drug/Narcotic Offenses
Human Trafficking Offenses	Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Gambling Offenses
Kidnapping/Abduction	Counterfeiting/Forgery	Pornography/Obscene Material
Sex Offenses	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	Prostitution Offenses
	Embezzlement	Weapon Law Violations
	Extortion/Blackmail	
	Fraud Offenses	
	Larceny/Theft Offenses	
	Motor Vehicle Theft	
	Robbery	
	Stolen Property Offenses	

SWAT teams were also deployed to recover and seize illegal drugs and other contraband items from the subject of a search warrant, as well as respond to emergency petitions - a process by which a person with a mental disorder posed a risk to themselves or others and then involuntarily hospitalized. As illustrated in the **SWAT Team Deployments and No-Knock Warrants** graphic above, nearly half (45.9%) of the deployments were activated in response to crimes against society. The remaining deployments were activated for crimes against a person (32.2%), crimes against property (14.9%), emergency petition (1.1%), other reasons (5.5%), or unknown reason (0.4%). Regardless of the reason for deployment, all SWAT teams were deployed to respond to potentially dangerous or violent situations in order to minimize the risk of harm to law enforcement officers and members of the public.

Authority for Deployment and Search Warrant

Of the 629 deployments, 73.9% (n = 482) were deployed to execute a search warrant (*as shown in the **Authority for Warrant** visual above*). The remaining deployments occurred for a barricade,

[3] U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2019). *Uniform Crime Reporting Program: National Incident-Based Reporting System: Crimes Against Persons, Property, and Society*. https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/2018/resource-pages/crimes_against_persons_property_and_society-2018.pdf It is important to note that the referenced crimes are based on Group A offenses.

exigent circumstance, arrest warrant, or other situation. In addition, of the 84 no-knock search warrants, 61 were executed by a SWAT team. The remaining 23 were executed by other law enforcement officers.

Location of Deployments and No-Knock Search Warrants

Nearly 72.2% (n = 454) of the deployments in Maryland (n = 629) occurred in the following five jurisdictions: Prince George's County (n = 125), Baltimore County (n = 95), Anne Arundel County (n = 90), Howard County (n = 77), and Baltimore City (n = 67). Over 84% (n = 71) of the executed no-knock search warrants (n = 84) occurred in the following six jurisdictions: Baltimore County (n = 17), Charles County (n = 13), Howard County (n = 12), Harford County (n = 10), Anne Arundel County (n = 10), and Prince George's County (n = 9). For more information, please refer to GOCPP's website at: https://gocpp.maryland.gov/data-dashboards/swat-team-deployments-dashboard/.

Timeframe Between Issued and Executed Search Warrants

In 2022, the average time between the issuance and execution of a search warrant was 2.96 days[4] In addition, specific to no-knock search warrants, the average time between an issued and executed search warrant was two days.

Outcome of Deployment

In 2022, law enforcement agencies reported a total of 399 arrests as a result of the deployments. From this total, 377 occurred in response to an executed search warrant. In addition, 59 arrests resulted from the 84 executed no-knock search warrants.

Nearly 75% (n = 469) of all deployments resulted in the recovery or seizure of property. Most property seizures occurred in response to deployments for crimes against society (n = 236), crimes against persons (n = 131), and crimes against property (n = 64).

In addition, 82.1% (n = 69) of the 84 no-knock search warrants resulted in the seizure of property. From this total, nearly 96% occurred in response to deployments for crimes against persons (n = 33), crimes against society (n = 20), and crimes against property (n = 13).

Forcible Entry

Nearly 44% (n = 273) of all deployments involved a forced entry. Most forcible entries occurred in response to deployments for crimes against society, crimes against persons, or crimes against property (50.9%, 28.6%, and 14.7%, respectively), compared to deployments for an emergency

[4] It is important to note that several entries pertaining to the timeframe were missing or entered incorrectly (e.g., 2023 was listed for the issued date while 2022 was listed for the executed date). For this reason, the presented figures were only based on available data.

petition or other reason. In addition, 72.6% (n = 61) of the no-knock search warrants were executed under circumstances in which a police officer made forcible entry into a building, apartment, premises, place, or thing to be searched as specified in the warrant.

Weapon Discharged

No law enforcement agencies reported the discharge of a firearm by a SWAT team member during deployments and/or executed no-knock search warrants.

Injuries or Fatalities

In 2022, law enforcement agencies reported the following injuries or fatalities:

- One animal was injured during a knock-and-announce deployment for a search warrant; however, no animals were killed.
- One person was injured during a knock-and-announce deployment for a barricade situation; however, no individuals were killed.
- No deployments resulted in an injured officer by another person, and no executed search warrants resulted in an injured officer by another person.

Conclusion

GOCPP will continue to work with law enforcement agencies that maintain a SWAT team and execute search warrants to ensure all required data elements are received, made available on its website, and submitted in a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency each year.