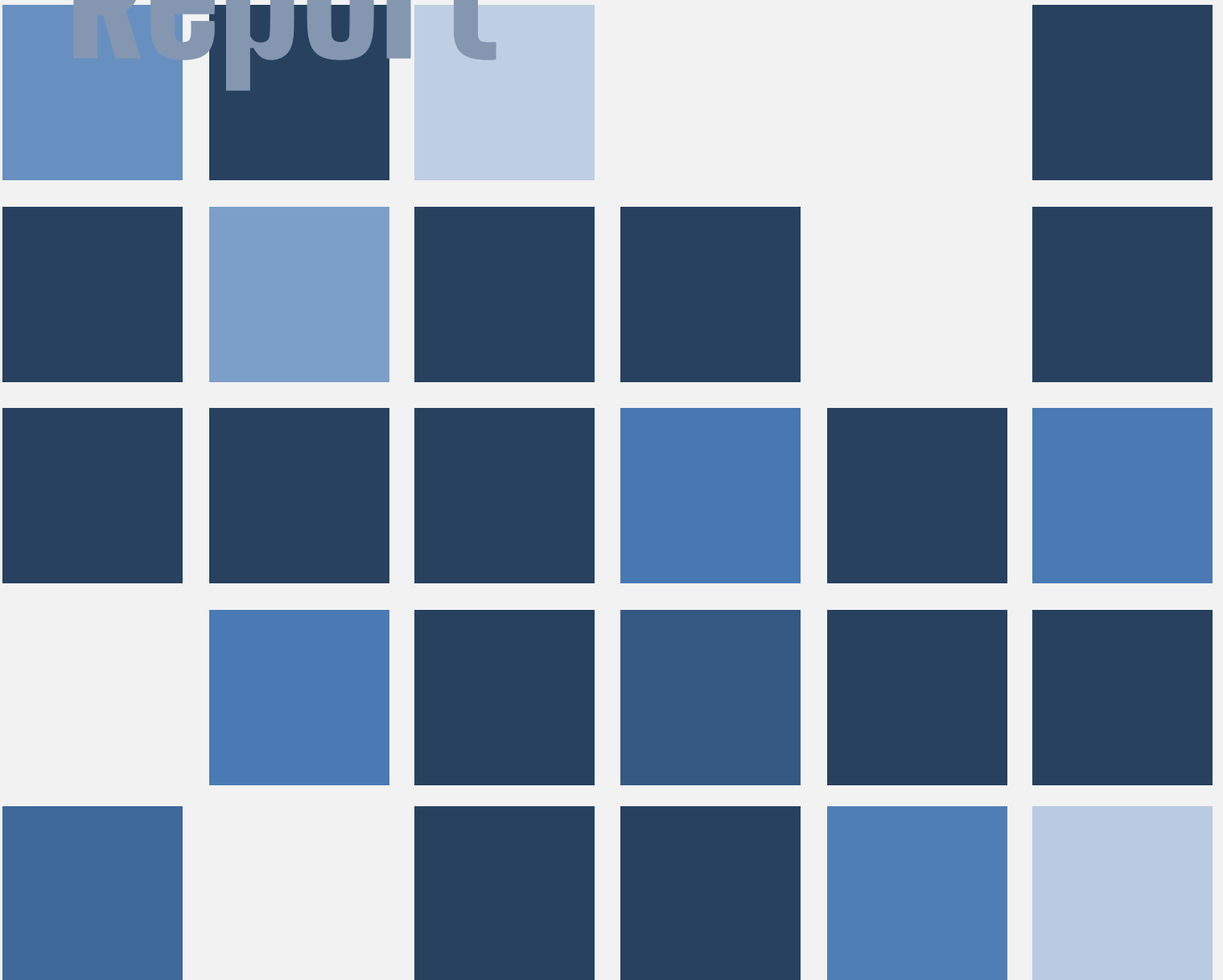


January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026  
Chief Administrator LaKenya White



# Quarterly Report



**Civilian Office of Police Accountability**  
**2026 First Quarter Report**  
**January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026**

April 15, 2026

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# Message from Chief Administrator

Integrity, Transparency, Independence, and Timeliness are four pillars on which COPA's work is rooted. Together, they enable the agency to provide meaningful oversight and accountability, strengthen public trust in law enforcement, and ensure that members of law enforcement have a system they can trust in return.

These pillars serve as a guiding reminder as I begin this chapter as Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, a department I have served for over 25 years across its predecessors, the Independent Police Review Authority and the Office of Professional Standards. During that time, I have witnessed many transformative moments in the accountability space. Each has offered an opportunity to reflect on the circumstances that brought us to that moment, and to consider the lasting impact those circumstances can have on a community and those who serve it. These lessons will play an important role in how COPA moves forward.

In my administration, our priorities will center on strengthening our investigative processes and continuing to build meaningful relationships with the community and our partners in police accountability.

COPA's work is not easy, but it is necessary. Accountability does not need to be adversarial. At our core, we have a commitment to strengthening the Chicago Police Department by recommending improvements to policies and training, correcting misconduct, and ensuring that those who undermine the department's integrity are held accountable. Public safety requires not only law enforcement, but a community that is a willing partner in the process. And only when a community can trust those who serve it can that partnership truly flourish. COPA is committed to playing a pivotal role in making that possible.

COPA's work invites many differing opinions, and some of our decisions will face scrutiny. But through a fact-driven, balanced, and transparent investigative process, we can deliver results that serve all residents of Chicago. That is a commitment I make, and one that every member of COPA's staff makes alongside me.

I want to reaffirm my commitment to being an open and available leader. If you believe COPA could be doing something better, please reach out directly at [Chief@chicagocopa.org](mailto:Chief@chicagocopa.org).

Sincerely,



**LaKenya White**  
**Chief Administrator**



## VISION

To be the leader in police accountability by conducting thorough investigations, to advance the culture of policing and build trust in civilian oversight.



## MISSION

- Provide a just and efficient means to fairly and timely conduct investigations within our jurisdiction
- Determine whether allegations of police misconduct are well-founded
- Identify and address patterns of police misconduct
- Make policy recommendations to improve the Chicago Police Department, thereby reducing incidents of police misconduct



## VALUES

### INTEGRITY

COPA employees are committed to pursuit of excellence and hold themselves personally accountable for the quality and fairness of their work. Collectively, the COPA organization has been designed to deliver neutral and fair police misconduct investigation.

### TRANSPARENCY

COPA is committed to sharing information about its work to the utmost extent possible while preserving the integrity of the investigative process.

### INDEPENDENCE

As individuals and collectively, COPA employees carry out their responsibilities without regard for external influences or political consequences.

### TIMELINESS

COPA understands that time is of the essence in all matters. Complainants and officers alike want COPA investigations to be conducted as expediently as possible. COPA strives to conduct investigations that are both thorough and timely.

# Introduction

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) is responsible for receiving complaints of police misconduct involving the Chicago Police Department (the Department) and its Members,<sup>1</sup> and investigating complaints involving excessive force, domestic violence, sexual misconduct, coercion, verbal abuse, unlawful search or seizure, and unlawful denial of counsel. COPA also receives notifications of and investigates certain types of incidents including all officer-involved firearm discharges, all officer-involved deaths, custodial deaths, Taser discharges resulting in serious injury or death, and any incident involving an officer that results in serious bodily injury or death.

COPA is pleased to provide quarterly and annual report updates on its performance. This report provides information concerning operations and a statistical summary of data on investigative work from January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026. To learn more, please visit [www.chicagocopa.org](http://www.chicagocopa.org)

## Operational Updates

### *Welcoming City Ordinance*

On March 18, 2026, the Chicago City Council voted to grant COPA investigatory jurisdiction over alleged violations of the Welcoming City Ordinance (WCO). The WCO has existed in various forms since 1985 and restricts City of Chicago employees from assisting federal authorities with civil immigration enforcement.

Prior to last month's City Council vote, allegations involving CPD members and potential WCO violations were investigated by the Chicago Police Department's Bureau of Internal Affairs. Following a series of high-profile immigration enforcement activities in the summer of 2025, elected officials and key stakeholders advocated for shifting this investigatory authority from CPD to COPA.

COPA worked closely with these officials and stakeholders to ensure the transition was implemented with minimal operational disruption while strengthening transparency around these matters.

COPA began processing WCO-related complaints on March 18 and has expanded transparency through multiple channels, including its data dashboard and data portal.

### *Community-Police Mediation Program*

COPA has continued its work to operationalize the upcoming pilot of its Community-Police Mediation Program. During the first quarter of 2026, COPA began building the infrastructure needed to recruit, train, and deploy a diverse group of community mediators who will facilitate mediations for eligible misconduct complaints.

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<sup>1</sup> Any individual who is a current employee of the Chicago Police Department.

COPA will accept applications from qualified candidates throughout April and will begin reviewing submissions immediately thereafter. Selected applicants will be required to complete 40 hours of foundational mediation training, along with an additional 25 hours of specialized training focused on community-police mediation.

COPA's current timeline anticipates mediation will begin in the third quarter of 2026. For more information about the program or to apply, visit [Chicagocopa.org/mediation](https://chicagocopa.org/mediation).

## *Community Advisory Committee*

In the first quarter of 2026, COPA began accepting applications for its relaunched Community Advisory Committee. As a key component of COPA's community engagement efforts, the Committee serves as a conduit between the broader Chicago community and the agency, helping to foster effective and transparent dialogue.

Committee members will share community perspectives on COPA's work and provide input on issues affecting residents of the City of Chicago. The Public Affairs Section is responsible for recruiting members, coordinating meetings, maintaining communication, and conveying committee feedback to COPA leadership and staff.

The Committee will consist of 7 to 15 members of the public and will meet quarterly, either in person or virtually. Members serve renewable one-year terms and do not receive compensation for their participation.

## Community Engagement

COPA's Public Affairs Section is responsible for engaging members of the public through a wide variety of community events, presentations, and community service opportunities. In Q1 2026, the public affairs section participated in 46 community engagement events. These events engaged over 4,500 Chicagoans across 20 wards, 19 Community Areas, and 15 Police Districts. A full list of community engagement activities is available in **Appendix A**. The public affairs team is regularly looking for new opportunities to connect with residents across Chicago. If you have opportunities for COPA to engage with residents, please reach out to [copa-publicaffairs@chicagocopa.org](mailto:copa-publicaffairs@chicagocopa.org).

Highlighted below are various community engagement activities COPA participated in during the first quarter of 2026:

### **Partner Spotlight: Northwest Community Alliance**

COPA has been a partner of the Northwest Community Alliance for the past several years. This alliance is a group of nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and government agencies that work to collectively support Latino communities on the northwest side of Chicago. The alliance is committed to providing training opportunities to local leaders so that they can support the communities they serve. COPA has developed strong relationships with stakeholders who directly support COPA's community engagement efforts. COPA has also taken on a role in supporting the alliance to bring training that could benefit its leaders on how to access resources for their program participants.

### **COPA & Chicago Animal Care and Control**

COPA has developed a strong relationship with Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC). As city departments, we have collaborated in a wide variety of community events across Chicago. Additionally, this past quarter, we held a supply drive, engaging our staff and donating much-needed goods for CACC. COPA's staff donated many items, including food, treats, toys, newspapers, and other much-needed supplies for the shelter. This partnership has allowed COPA to bring the agency's service committee to volunteer with animals directly at CACC. Our day of service in January included enrichment activities, and three pets were adopted by COPA staff by the end of our visit.

### **COPA at the Altgeld Branch, Chicago Public Library**

In February, COPA visited several branches of the Chicago Public Library to provide patrons with information about COPA's role in police accountability. Libraries are that special third, beyond home and work, allowing COPA to engage with a wide variety of community residents. One such visit was to the Altgeld Branch on East 131st Street, the branch furthest south in the city of Chicago.

### **Intrinsic Schools Networking Night**

This past month, COPA's Public Affairs Section had the opportunity to participate in the Intrinsic Schools Networking Night at their downtown campus. COPA connected with high school juniors and seniors to discuss career opportunities in public safety, police accountability, and community engagement. Students learned valuable networking skills, asked thoughtful questions, and followed up after the event. It was a powerful opportunity to inspire and empower young people from across Chicago alongside professionals from a wide variety of career fields.

## News Affairs

COPA's News Affairs Division is responsible for updating and informing all local and national news outlets on matters related to high-profile incidents of misconduct, including updates on officer-involved shootings and other incidents, the release of materials or Final Summary Reports (FSR), and the closing of investigations. During the most recent quarter, News Affairs published five press releases, one related to video and other materials in accordance with the city's video release policy, and four providing updates regarding investigations. For a complete list of press releases published in Q1 2026, please visit **Appendix B**. The releases can be read in their entirety by visiting [www.chicagocopa.org/press](http://www.chicagocopa.org/press)

### *Engagement via Social Media*

COPA's News Affairs and Public Affairs Divisions engage in a robust social media engagement strategy. Through the efforts of these teams, the agency works with members of the public proactively to provide updates and other necessary outreach functions regarding much of COPA's work. If you are interested in keeping up to date with COPA on social media, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram **@ChicagoCOPA**.

# Video Release and Transparency Unit

The Video Release and Transparency Unit (VRTU), which was created in 2022, is responsible for organizing, reviewing, redacting, and releasing materials as stipulated by the City's Video Release Policy and Mayoral Executive Order No. 2021-1, COPA's response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and posting Final Summary Reports to COPA's website. These efforts play an imperative role in building public trust in law enforcement through transparency and timeliness, two of COPA's core values. The addition of a dedicated team to handle these important requests also has operational benefits for the agency, as this work was previously shared by COPA's Investigations and Legal team members.

## *Transparency Efforts*

Since the enactment of the City's Video Release Policy in 2016, COPA has released certain evidentiary materials collected during investigations of OIS incidents, or during incidents where a Taser discharge or other use of force in police custody results in death or great bodily harm. Pursuant to the City's Video Release Policy, and subject to legal restrictions, COPA conducted two transparency postings in Q1 2026, releasing 32 related materials as permitted by law. This included 18 videos, eight audio recordings, and six reports. For a full list of cases for which materials were released in Q1 2026, including releases that have been withheld because of a court order or due to the Juvenile Court Act, see **Appendix C** or visit <https://www.chicagocopa.org/data-cases/case-portal>

## *Freedom of Information Act Requests*

In addition to the unit's responsibilities in accordance with the City's Video Release Policy, VRTU is responsible for the timely response to materials requested through FOIA. In Q1 2026, VRTU processed 143 FOIA requests with an average response time of eight business days. To submit a FOIA request or to learn more about the process, visit: <http://chicago.gov/publicrecords>

## *Executive Order Requests*

On February 5, 2021, the City of Chicago issued an executive order calling for COPA to expand the scope of its transparency efforts to include the release of video evidence directly to those who are subject, or their representative, of an alleged misconduct complaint. Previously, the City's Video Release Policy did not allow for the release of law enforcement video from an incident not covered under the policy. In Q1 2026, COPA fulfilled 11 Executive Order Requests with an average response time of 24 days. COPA also forwarded eight Executive Order requests to CPD for fulfillment because the related investigation fell under their jurisdiction. To make an executive order request, visit [chicagocopa.org/contact-copa](http://chicagocopa.org/contact-copa) and click "Video/Materials Request."

# Policy, Research, & Analysis Division

In Q1, the Policy, Research, and Analysis Division (PRAD) transitioned to being the official unit responsible for completing data requests. This shift involved changing the reporting chain for the Senior Information Analyst position from Information Services (IS) to PRAD and shifting the Project Manager from PRAD to IS. Training for the Senior Information Analyst is

ongoing. Collaboration between PRAD and IS will continue to be a critical element in COPA's data management approach and ongoing system modernization efforts. Relatedly, PRAD began the multi-month process of pulling data for COPA's consent decree submissions, due in May of 2026. Staff also continued to analyze data, looking at complaint frequency, and developed an approach to audit and verify the data used in our analysis. Furthermore, PRAD led discussions with CPD that aligned us both on the use of allegation categories related to the use of force and bias, which are critical for consent decree data reporting.

PRAD staff reached out to CPD to discuss complaints about warrantless searches, as well as the steps in CPD's policy development process and COPA's policy recommendation process. We made plans to provide input and feedback on CPD's policies based on complaint data, research, and known best practices, earlier in the development of CPD's policy discussions and drafts. PRAD aims to make more effective policy recommendations by being timelier and more relevant. Additionally, PRAD updated its publication page to enhance its visuals, better label and organize publications, and improve searchability. PRAD completed new revisions to COPA's policy on pattern or practice investigations after receiving feedback from the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability and internal discussions with COPA staff. The updated policy will be reviewed by staff involved in implementing it, and then the policy will go to the consent decree monitor for approval and be posted on COPA's website for public feedback.

PRAD staff are still refining the policy guidance related to COPA's process for making disciplinary recommendations in a consistent, fair, and transparent way. The guidance focuses on refining the names and definitions of aggravating and mitigating factors, documenting the factors, and streamlining the identification and review process. Plans for an agency-wide pilot this year are being developed, but implementation is currently delayed pending feedback and possible negotiation with police unions.

## Budget and Personnel

### Staffing

In Q1 2026, COPA onboarded two employees representing the following positions:

- Senior Help Desk Technician (1)
- Special Victims Investigator – COPA (1)

# Training and Professional Development

In pursuit of COPA's Consent Decree compliance and its commitment to training a well-educated and professional workforce, the agency conducts numerous trainings throughout the year. Led by the agency's Training and Professional Development Division (TPDD), these pieces of training cover a diverse range of important topics and can be delivered *ad hoc*, as a refresher, as part of new-hire orientation, or however else needed. In Q1 2026, TPDD delivered 6.5 training hours of material to members of COPA staff.

## *Consent Decree In-Service*

In Q1 2026, TPDD delivered two Consent Decree topics for In-Service Training.

- **4th Amendment: Vehicle Stops & Searches:** This training provided investigative staff with an overview of vehicle stops and searches as they pertain to COPA investigations.
- **COPA Intake Unit: Overview of Policies and Procedures:** This training provided an overview for staff on the relevant points of the various collective bargaining agreements held by the Chicago Police Department and how they may affect investigations at COPA.

## *Non-Consent Decree Training*

In Q1 2026, TPDD delivered 3.5 hours of Non-Consent Decree content throughout three sessions.

- **NACOLE Webinar: Immigration Detention: Oversight's Forgotten Space:** This webinar explored the findings of the UK's first statutory inquiry into mistreatment in immigration detention. This inquiry resulted in a report to the UK government containing recommendations to improve treatment.
- **NACOLE Webinar: Why & How More Stringent Foot Pursuit Policies Might Reduce Community Harm:** This webinar discussed data analysis of foot pursuit incidents and highlighted why policies should specifically address foot pursuit incidents and those factors that can culminate in the use of deadly force.
- **NACOLE Webinar: Beyond Washington: Local Civilian Oversight of Police Without DOJ Intervention:** This webinar consisted of a panel discussion on how cities can strengthen oversight, improve accountability, and increase public trust without relying on federal intervention. This panel covered investigative best practices, strategies for collaborating constructively with law enforcement, ways to navigate union contracts and local political dynamics, and self-evaluation methods for oversight bodies.

## *COPA Wellness Program*

TPDD launched a pilot wellness initiative in partnership with Define Wellbeing, with the first sessions beginning at the end of 2025. The pilot includes monthly sessions over a six-month period (November 2025 through April 2026), designed to support staff wellbeing in a flexible and accessible format.

Each wellness session includes a 40-minute large-group experience followed by optional 10-minute one-on-one consultations. These individual consultations offer staff personalized guidance on topics of their choice, such as desk ergonomics, movement strategies, and stress management techniques. Group sessions have covered a range of topics,

including mindful movement with music, yoga, mindfulness meditation, mindful eating, and practical strategies for integrating mindfulness into daily routines. All sessions emphasize accessibility and trauma-sensitive approaches.

Midway through the pilot, TPDD distributed a survey to participants who attended the initial sessions. Feedback was positive, indicating that the program has been well-received and valued by staff. Participants highlighted the practical nature of the sessions and the opportunity to engage in wellness activities within the workday.

To build on this momentum and ensure the program continues to meet staff needs, TPDD plans to distribute a survey to all COPA staff in the second quarter of 2026. This broader outreach will help identify additional opportunities to refine and expand wellness programming to better support staff.

### *NACOLE Conference Call for Proposals*

The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) is accepting proposals for its 2026 conference, which will take place in Louisville, KY, from November 8–12. The theme is *Protecting Rights, Fighting for Accountability*. COPA is preparing to submit multiple proposals covering a range of relevant topics to contribute to the conference's discussions on oversight and accountability.

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# Investigative Data

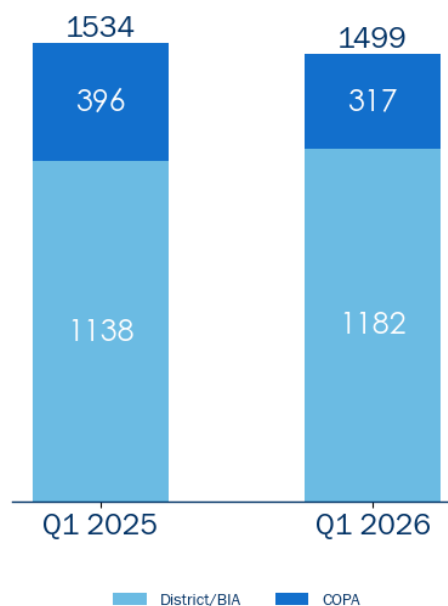
## Methodology

To fulfill the requirements of COPA's enabling ordinance (MCC § 2-78-150), the agency queried relevant databases in which complaint and operational data are recorded to retrieve the information analyzed for this report covering the period from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026. The data contained in this report represents the most accurate information available at the time of publication. However, the information stored in the database is dynamic and can change as an investigation progresses. For example, an allegation category may change as an investigation uncovers additional evidence, or a case previously concluded may be reopened. Thus, the numbers reported here are subject to future revision, and historical comparative data presented may vary slightly from previous reports. Data herein is presented in an order similar to COPA's investigative process: intake, pending investigations, and concluded investigations. More information on how COPA uses its Case Management System (CMS) throughout the investigative process and to produce public-facing datasets, such as this report, can be found in **Appendix D**.

## Intake

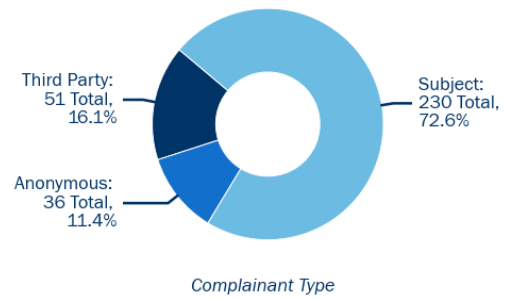
It is important to note that COPA can only report on the complaints and notifications it receives—it cannot account for individuals who have or believed they have experienced Department member misconduct, but have not filed a complaint, or the conduct did not generate a notification to COPA. Therefore, with respect to COPA's intake, all numbers represent the number of reported complaints and notifications of actual or perceived misconduct. COPA's intake process documents the number of complaints received, but there may be multiple allegations of misconduct, potentially involving multiple Department members, contained in a single complaint.

In Q1 2026, COPA received 1,499 complaints and notifications. A decrease of two percent compared to the first quarter of 2025. Of the total intake in Q1 2026, 1,182 fell outside of COPA's investigative jurisdiction and were referred to the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA). The complaints referred to BIA included criminal conduct, operational violations not involving civilian contact, or other less serious complaints not otherwise within the jurisdiction of COPA.



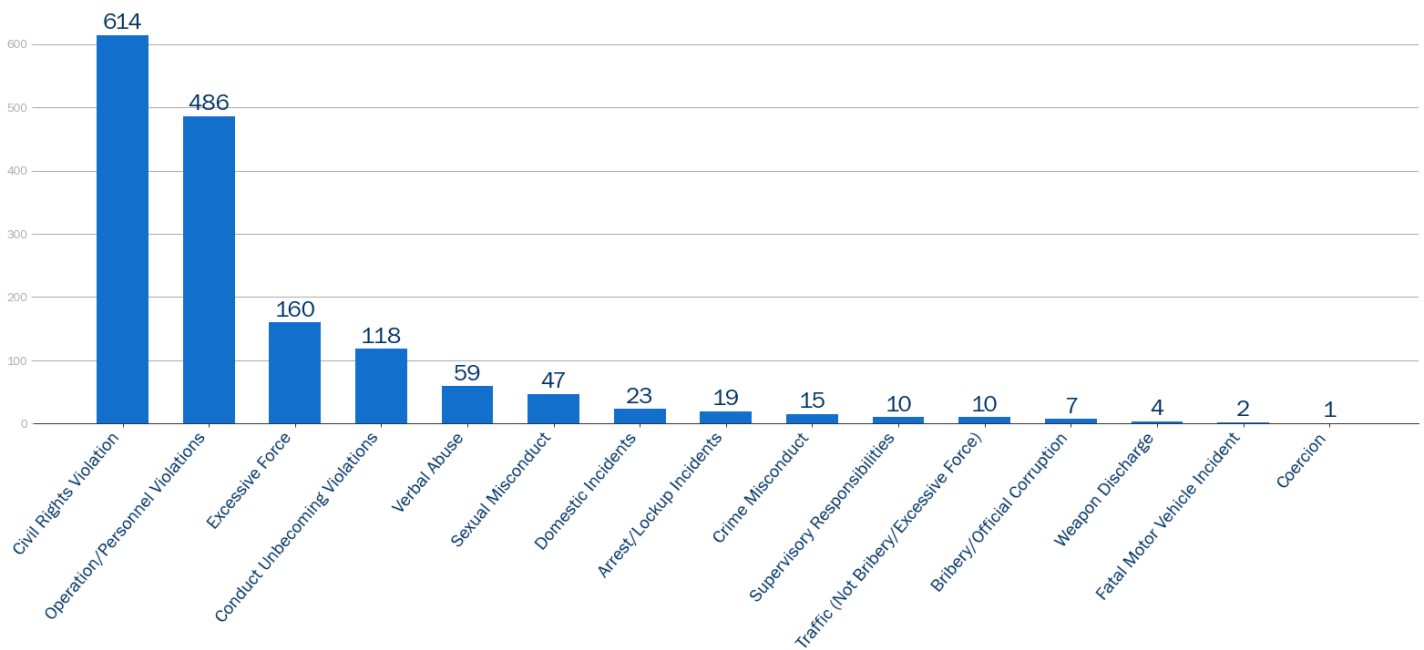
Yearly Comparison of Complaints and Notifications

In the first quarter of 2026, about 73% of complaints under COPA jurisdiction were reported by a self-identified complainant (230), about a 16% were reported by a third party (51), and the rest were anonymous (36). Moreover, the average time from receipt of a complaint to the next or initial contact with the complainant or representative was fourteen days.



### Allegations by Category

A single complaint may contain multiple allegations against one or more Department members. In Q1 2026, COPA recorded 1,575 allegations<sup>2</sup> against Department members. The most common allegations involved Operational Violations and Civil Rights violations. These categories have consistently represented COPA’s largest percentage of allegations on an annual basis.



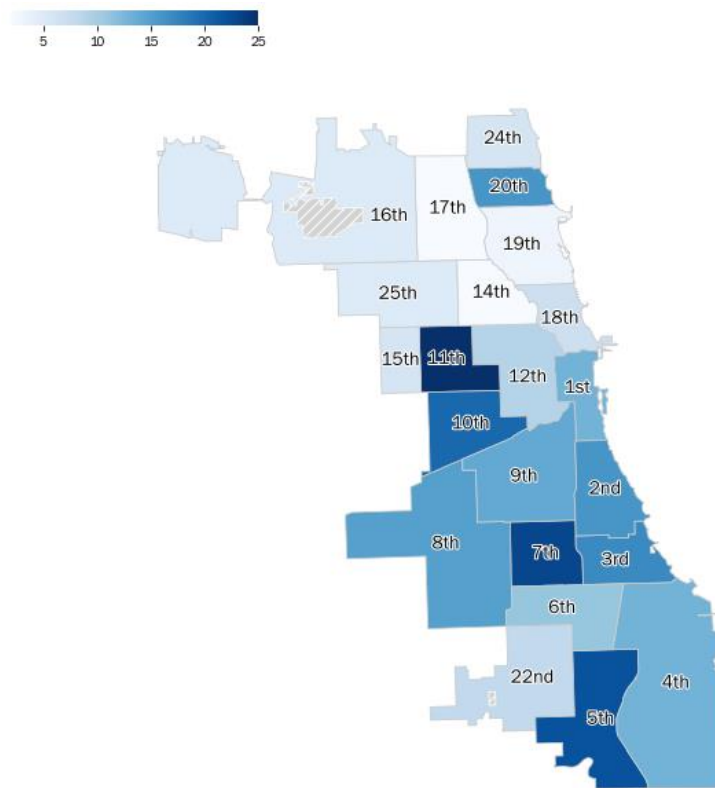
Allegations by Allegation Category

<sup>2</sup> In 2025, through COPA’s data modernization efforts, the agency modified the way it counts certain datasets to ensure public data more accurately reflected COPA’s operations. As part of this modernization, COPA adjusted filters to ensure a more expansive view of complaints as they come in. Therefore, COPA’s allegation count at intake may include values previously removed, such as duplicates, cases sent to CPD, or cases closed due to lack of investigative viability.

## Location of Incidents by District

During Q1 2026, Harrison, Englewood, and Calumet were among the districts with the highest number of incidents that resulted in complaints and notifications under COPA's jurisdiction. The table and map display the geographic distribution of intake under COPA's jurisdiction.

Police District	Q1 2026
1st - Central	13
2nd - Wentworth	16
3rd - Grand Crossing	17
4th - South Chicago	13
5th - Calumet	22
6th - Gresham	11
7th - Englewood	23
8th - Chicago Lawn	15
9th - Deering	14
10th - Ogden	20
11th - Harrison	25
12th - Near West	9
14th - Shakespeare	2
15th - Austin	6
16th - Jefferson Park	5
17th - Albany Park	2
18th - Near North	7
19th - Town Hall	3
20th - Lincoln	16
22nd - Morgan Park	8
24th - Rogers Park	6
25th - Grand Central	5
Total	258



### Complainant Demographic Information<sup>3</sup>

The following figures are based on demographic information provided by self-identified complainants or subjects of police-involved incidents in which COPA is notified by the Department. Q1 2026, 40% were male, while 38% were female, and most of the complainants or subjects were between the ages of 20 and 39 years old (39%).

Gender	Total	%
Female	101	38%
Male	107	40%
Non-Binary	0	0%
Unknown	59	22%

Age	Total	%
19 & below	7	3%
20-29	46	17%
30-39	58	22%
40-49	45	17%
50-59	33	12%
60-69	4	1%
70-79	0	0%
Unknown	74	28%

Race	Total	%
Black or African American	115	46%
Latinx	35	14%
White	23	9%
Asian	3	1%
NHPI	0	0%
Native American	2	<1%
Two or more races	4	2%
Unknown	66	27%
Other	0	0%

### Accused Member Demographic Information

The following figures are based on the demographic information of accused members in Q1 2026. The largest group of accused members remains those who are male, with the most significant age group being those between the ages of 30-39 (47%).

Gender	Total	%
Female	62	15%
Male	346	85%
Non-Binary	0	0%
Unknown	1	<1%

Age	Total	%
19 & below	0	0%
20-29	99	24%
30-39	191	47%
40-49	79	19%
50-59	37	9%
60-69	2	<1%
70-79	0	0%
Unknown	1	<1%

Race	Total	%
Black or African American	69	29%
Latinx	16	7%
White	133	55%
Asian	16	7%
NHPI	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Two or more races	0	0%
Unknown	8	3%
Other	0	0%

<sup>3</sup> Demographic information gathered during investigation: self-reported and/or available on Department reports/records.

The table below is a breakdown of allegations recorded in Q1 2026, by allegation type and police district.

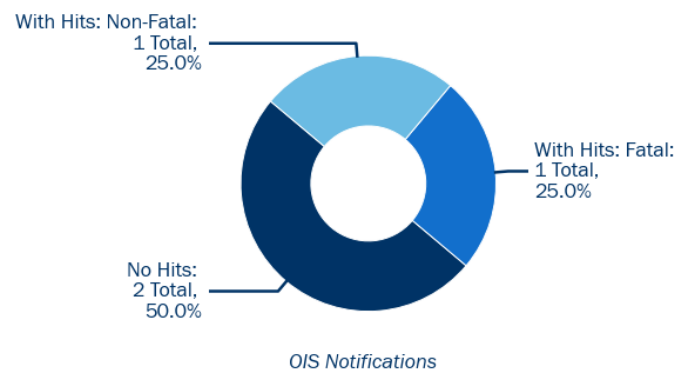
Allegation Type	Police District																					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	22	24	25
Arrest/Lockup Incidents	1	0	2	0	11	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bribery/Official Corruption	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil Rights Violation	21	63	46	36	73	18	84	39	37	38	40	6	2	6	25	4	11	2	13	0	1	10
Coercion	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conduct Unbecoming Violations	6	11	8	9	11	3	19	4	5	1	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	3	3	1	1	0
Crime Misconduct	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
Domestic Incidents	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	3	0
Excessive Force	9	3	10	18	14	9	21	11	4	10	14	4	2	8	2	3	4	1	4	2	2	2
Fatal Motor Vehicle Incident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operation/Personnel Violations	17	34	50	23	41	16	63	25	19	34	48	17	3	9	26	5	14	2	9	4	3	4
Sexual Misconduct	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	1	2	1
Supervisory Responsibilities	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic (Not Bribery/Excessive Force)	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Verbal Abuse	1	0	1	8	0	2	7	3	2	7	8	2	0	7	1	1	3	0	3	0	0	2
Weapon Discharge	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>

## Officer-Involved Shootings

The figures shown in this section may exclude firearm discharges related to animal shootings<sup>4</sup>, accidental discharges<sup>5</sup>, and officer suicides. In Q1 2026, COPA received four notifications of an officer-involved shooting (OIS): 2 were no hits, 1 involved non-fatal injuries, and 1 involved a fatality. During Q1 2026, COPA concluded 4 OIS investigations.

Concluded Investigations	Q1 2026
Sustained	2
Not Sustained	1
Unfounded	0
Exonerated	0
Within Policy Officer Involved Shooting	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

Number of OIS Concluded OIS

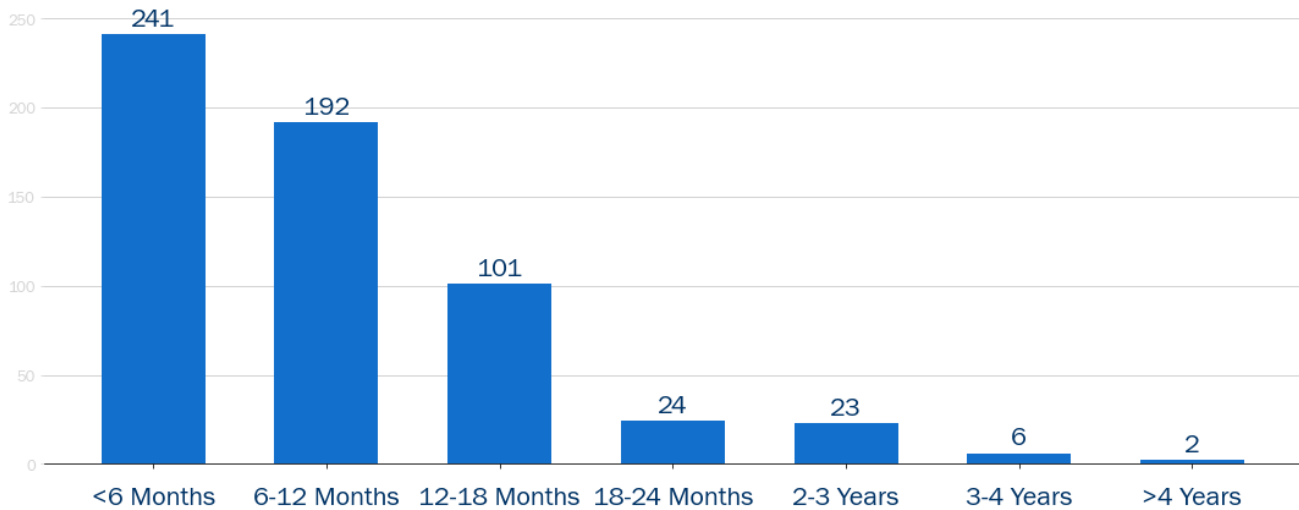


<sup>4</sup> COPA retains discretion to determine whether to retain animal-related and accidental discharge cases based on the factors set forth in MCC § 2-78-120.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

## Pending Investigations

At the end of Q1 2026, COPA had 589 pending investigations.



*Open Cases by Aging Period*

The 589 pending investigations encompass a total of 3,650 allegations. Of these, 33% concern allegations of improper search or seizure (civil rights violations), 36% concern allegations of operational violations, and another 10% concern allegations of excessive force. In total, they represent 79% of the allegations that remain under investigation at the end of Q1 2026.

Allegation Type	Total Allegations
Alcohol/Drug Abuse	12
Arrest/Lockup Incidents	13
Bribery/Official Corruption	5
Civil Rights Violation	1219
Coercion	7
Conduct Unbecoming Violations	126
Crime Misconduct	24
Domestic Incidents	248
Drugs/Substance Abuse	1
Excessive Force	351
Fatal Motor Vehicle Incident	4
Notifications	9
Operation/Personnel Violations	1322
Search Warrants	5
Sexual Misconduct	60
Supervisory Responsibilities	23
Traffic (Not Bribery/Excessive Force)	4
Verbal Abuse	136
Weapon Discharge	81

*Number of allegations remained under investigation by type*

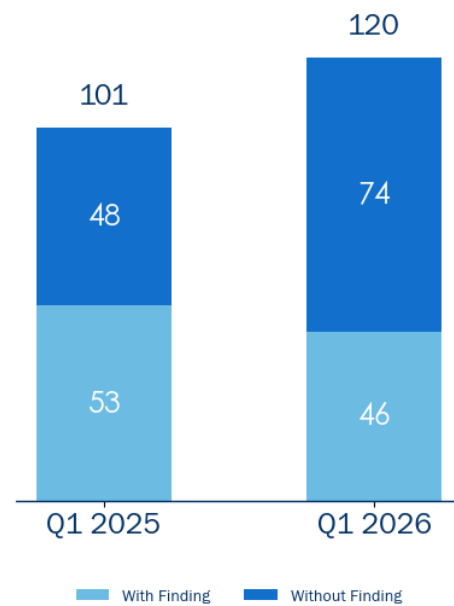
## Concluded Investigations

In Q1 2026, COPA concluded a total of 120 investigations. Of these investigations, 46 were concluded with findings, and 74 were concluded without findings.

### Investigations Concluded with Findings

A “finding” is determined when, after a fair, thorough, and independent investigation, sufficient proof is obtained to warrant a determination of one of the four categories shown in the box on the next page, entitled Finding Types. As will be discussed below, several factors may contribute to an investigation being concluded without reaching a finding.

COPA makes investigative findings of Sustained and Not Sustained based on the “Preponderance of Evidence” standard, in which the evidence must show it is “more likely than not” that the incident did or did not occur as alleged. However, in accordance with the March 1, 2019 Consent Decree, findings of Unfounded and Exonerated must be supported by “Clear and Convincing” evidence. Clear and Convincing evidence is a higher standard than Preponderance of Evidence, but less than “Beyond a Reasonable Doubt.”



Closed Findings Breakdown

### Finding Types

**Sustained:** The allegation was supported by sufficient evidence (“Preponderance”) to justify disciplinary action. Recommendations of disciplinary action may range from Violation Noted, to Suspension, to Separation from the Department.

**Not Sustained:** The allegation is not supported by sufficient evidence (“Preponderance”) to prove or disprove the allegation.

**Unfounded:** The allegation was not supported based on facts revealed through investigation, or the reported incident did not occur, as shown by “Clear and Convincing Evidence.”

**Exonerated:** The incident occurred, but the action taken by the officer was lawful and proper, as shown by “Clear and Convincing Evidence.”

In Q1 2026, COPA concluded 46 cases and issued findings on 413 allegations of misconduct. Of the total allegations with findings, 250 or 60% were sustained.

Case Finding	Q1 2026
Sustained	36
Not Sustained	8
Unfounded	1
Exonerated	1
TOTAL	46

Allegation Finding	Q1 2026
Sustained	250
Not Sustained	121
Unfounded	15
Exonerated	27
TOTAL	413

The table below depicts the outcome of misconduct investigations during Q1 2026, broken down by allegation type and finding.

Allegation Type	Sustained	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Exonerated
Alcohol/Drug Abuse	4	1	0	0
Arrest/Lockup Incidents	1	6	0	0
Civil Rights Violation	63	34	8	9
Coercion	2	0	0	0
Conduct Unbecoming Violations	14	3	0	0
Domestic Incidents	28	4	0	0
Excessive Force	11	11	3	15
Operation/Personnel Violations	90	57	2	3
Supervisory Responsibilities	6	0	0	0
Verbal Abuse	24	4	1	0
Weapon Discharge	7	1	1	0
Total	250	121	15	27

*Number of allegations with finding*

## Recommended Discipline

At the conclusion of an investigation in which COPA sustains one or more allegations, the agency recommends discipline of the accused member to the Department. However, it is ultimately up to the Department, an arbitrator, or the Chicago Police Board to come to a final decision regarding discipline. In Q1 2026, COPA recommended 217 disciplinary charges on sustained allegations of misconduct.

Sustained Allegations	Q1 2026
Non-Disciplinary Outcome	3
Disciplinary Charges	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

In Q1 2026, COPA recommended disciplinary charges to 80 Department members with sustained allegations of misconduct. Of those, COPA recommended four members for Separation and 54 members for Suspension.

Recommended Discipline	Q1 2026
Violation Noted	2
Reprimand	20
Suspension: 1-29 Days	42
Suspension: 30 Days or More <sup>6</sup>	12
Separation	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>

## Police Board Review Decision

The Chicago Police Board is tasked with deciding disciplinary cases when the Superintendent of Police files charges to discharge a sworn officer from the Department and rules on disagreements between the COPA Chief Administrator and the Superintendent of Police. During instances of disagreement between the COPA Chief Administrator and the Superintendent of Police, a single Police Board Member decides if the Superintendent of Police meets the burden to overcome the Chief Administrator's recommendation. If the Superintendent does not meet this burden, the Chief Administrator's recommendation shall be deemed accepted by the Superintendent; if the recommendation is to discharge the officer from the Department, a case is to be filed for hearing and consideration by the full Police Board. If the Superintendent meets this burden, the Superintendent's response shall be implemented. In Q1 2026, the Police Board decided on zero COPA-investigated discharge cases and seven disagreement cases.

Discharge Cases	Q1 2026
Guilty, Discharged	0
Guilty, Suspended	0
Not Guilty	0
Settlement: Suspended	0
Charges Withdrawn: Respondent Resigned	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

*Result of discharge cases*

Disagreement Cases	Ruling for COPA	Ruling for CPD
Discharge from the Department	1	0
Suspension > 30 Days	1	1
Suspension 11 - 30 Days	0	3
Suspension 1-10 Days	0	1
Reprimand	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

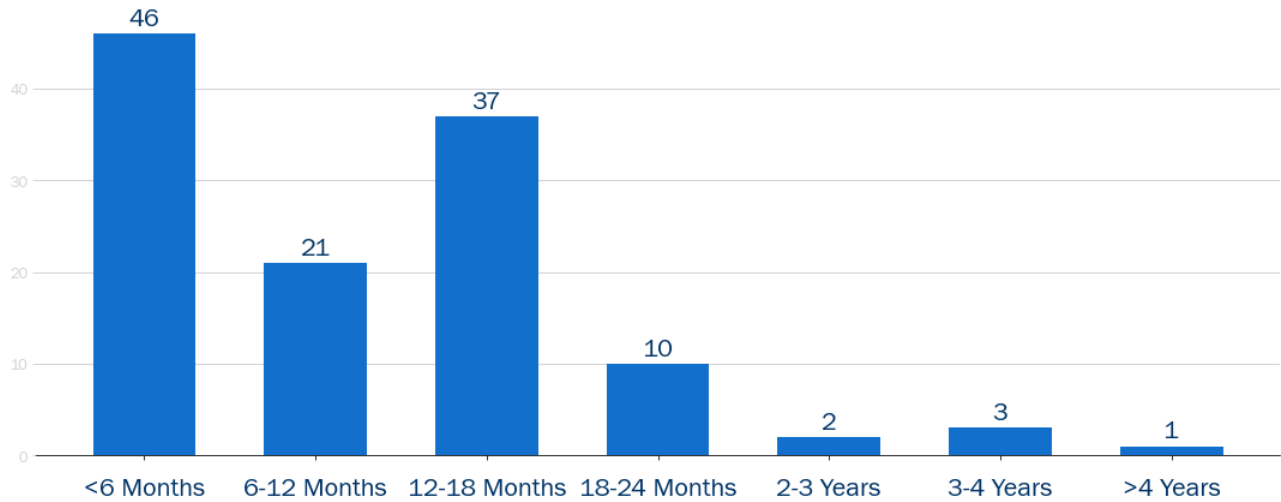
*Result of disagreement cases*

<sup>6</sup> This category may include instances where COPA recommends a disciplinary recommendation of 366 days up to Separation.

## Length of Investigation

COPA strives to conclude its investigations within six months of receiving a complaint of misconduct or a notification from the Department of a police-involved incident for investigation. Pursuant to municipal ordinance, MCC § 2-78-135, when COPA is unable to conclude its investigation within six months, notice to the complainant and any Department member who is the subject of the investigation must be provided and include the general reasons for a delay. Some investigations, such as OIS incidents and incidents involving excessive force, may conclude beyond the six-month timeframe as they are, by nature, more complex, often involve multiple parties, and require an intricate analysis of collected evidence.

Of the 120 concluded investigations during Q1 2026, 46 (38%) were completed within 6 months, and 21 (17%) were completed in 6-12 months.



*Closed Cases by Aging Period*

## Length of Post-Investigation

Once COPA completes its investigation of an incident and issues findings and recommended discipline, the case may go through additional steps (i.e., Superintendent review, grievance process, arbitration, and/or Police Board hearing) before it reaches a final disposition. During Q1 2026, the average time from the investigative findings and recommendations to a final disciplinary decision is 86 days. Additionally, the average time from the investigative findings and recommendations to a final disposition is 687 days.

**86**

Average Days from Investigative Findings to Final Disciplinary Decision

**687**

Average Days from Investigative Findings to Final Disposition

## Demographic Information<sup>7</sup> of Complainants and Accused Members in Concluded Cases

The tables below display the demographic information of complainants or subjects in concluded cases with findings during Q1 2026.

Gender	Total	%
Female	8	26%
Male	18	58%
Non-Binary	0	0%
Unknown	5	16%

Age	Total	%
19 & below	1	3%
20-29	12	39%
30-39	6	19%
40-49	3	10%
50-59	2	6%
60-69	1	3%
70-79	0	0%
Unknown	6	19%

Race	Total	%
Black or African American	22	71%
Latinx	3	10%
White	1	3%
Asian	0	0%
NHPI	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Two or more races	0	0%
Unknown	5	16%
Other	0	0%

The tables below depict the demographic information of accused members in concluded cases with findings during Q1 2026.

Gender	Total	%
Female	7	8%
Male	85	92%
Non-Binary	0	0%
Unknown	0	0%

Age	Total	%
19 & below	0	0%
20-29	37	40%
30-39	39	42%
40-49	9	10%
50-59	7	8%
60-69	0	0%
70-79	0	0%
Unknown	0	0%

Race	Total	%
Black or African American	14	26%
Latinx	3	6%
White	31	58%
Asian	4	8%
NHPI	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Two or more races	0	0%
Unknown	1	2%
Other	0	0%

<sup>7</sup> Demographic information gathered during investigation: self-reported and/or available on Department reports/records.

# Additional Data Reporting

## *Complaints per Member*

Per COPA’s ordinance, the agency must report on the number of total complaints (COPA and BIA investigations combined) filed against each member in each district during the quarterly or annual reporting period. In the table below, the first column displays the name of each police district in which at least one member has been the subject of a complaint. The header row displays the number of complaints. So, the first line would be understood as: “Of members assigned to 1st District, 12 members each have one complaint, and zero members each have two complaints.”

Police District	Number of Complaints							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1st - Central	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2nd - Wentworth	20	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3rd - Grand Crossing	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4th - South Chicago	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5th - Calumet	19	4	4	1	0	0	0	0
6th - Gresham	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
7th - Englewood	43	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
8th - Chicago Lawn	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
9th - Deering	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10th - Ogden	18	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11th - Harrison	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12th - Near West	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14th - Shakespeare	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15th - Austin	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16th - Jefferson Park	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17th - Albany Park	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18th - Near North	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
19th - Town Hall	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20th - Lincoln	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22nd - Morgan Park	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24th - Rogers Park	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25th - Grand Central	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Members with Multiple Completed Investigations

The table below shows the number of Department members who have been the subject of more than two completed misconduct investigations in the previous 12 months.

Number of Members	Total Completed Investigations
12	3
3	4
1	5
1	9
1	15

## Members with Multiple Sustained Allegations

The following table depicts the number of Department members who have had more than one sustained allegation of misconduct in the previous 12 months.

Number of Members	Total Sustained Allegations
30	2
5	3
3	4
1	5
1	8
1	14

## Discriminatory Policing, Allegations of Excessive Force, and Allegations of Improper Search or Seizure

The following tables represent the number of CPD members who have been the subject of more than two complaints in the previous 12 months, in the following classifications of allegations, regardless of the outcome of those investigations: discriminatory policing, excessive force, or improper search or seizure.

Number of Members	Total Allegation of Discriminatory Policing <sup>8</sup>
3	3
1	5

Number of Members	Total Allegation of Excessive Force
74	2
12	3
6	4
3	5
1	9

<sup>8</sup> Discriminatory policing is defined as one or more allegations against a Member from allegations subcategories such as: bias, select EEO investigations, and profiling.

Number of Members	Total Allegation of Improper Search
12	3
11	4
6	5
1	7
2	8
1	13

Number of Members	Total Allegation of Improper Seizure
21	3
9	4
3	5
3	6
1	7
1	8
1	17

Number of Members	Total Allegation of Improper Arrests
4	3

### *Final Summary Reports*

Pursuant to Chicago Ordinance MCC § 2-78-145, all final summary reports of investigation created by COPA shall be posted to its website and open to public inspection, except to the extent the information contained therein is exempted from disclosure under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, collective bargaining agreement, or any other applicable law. In Q1 2026 COPA posted total 53 final summary reports. To view the final summary reports, please visit <https://www.chicagocopa.org/data-cases/case-portal/>

### *Referrals*

COPA may partially or fully refer a matter to another agency for a variety of reasons. For example, if COPA determines in the course of a preliminary investigation that the accused officer is a member of a police department other than the Chicago Police Department, COPA fully refers the matter to the department the accused is a member of. A partial referral occurs when COPA retains its administrative investigation, but shares certain information with another agency, for instance, when COPA’s investigation reveals potential criminal violations. In accordance with COPA’s ordinance, COPA may also refer complaints to the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General. In Q1 2026, COPA referred 17 investigations.

Agency	No. of Referrals
City of Chicago Office of Inspector General	6
Cook County Sheriff’s Department	3
External Police Department	6
Other	2

# Appendices

## A. Community Events

Date	Community Meeting	Organization	Ward	Police District
Jan 9	My Chi. My Future First Friday meeting	Department of Family & Support Services	1	12
Jan 9	Winter Community Resource Fair	West Town Academy	27	12
Jan 10	Mikva Challenge Chicago Citywide Soapbox	Mikva Challenge	27	12
Jan 13	Leaders Network Monthly Meeting	Leaders Network	29	15
Jan 15	Chicago is With You Taskforce	Chicago City Clerk		
Jan 15	Alderdwoman Stephanie D. Coleman Know Your Rights Forum	Alderdwoman Stephanie D. Coleman	16	7
Jan 17	Mercy Works Chicago Monthly Community Food Pantry	Ss. Genevieve and Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Parish	31	25
Jan 20	Nobel Neighbors Monthly Meeting	Noble Neighbors	27	11
Jan 21	Humboldt Park Earth Day Committee Meeting	Humboldt Park Advisory Council	26	12
Jan 28	Bingo with Seniors at DFSS Regional Senior Center	Department of Family & Support Services	14	8
Jan 28	Western Illinois University Virtual Community Engagement Forum: De-Escalation Training	Western Illinois University		
Jan 29	Northwest Community Alliance Monthly Meeting	Family Focus	26	14
Jan 29	Community Commission for Public Safety & Accountability Monthly Meeting	Community Commission for Public Safety & Accountability	27	12
Jan 30	COPA at Chicago Animal Care & Control	Chicago Animal Care & Control	12	10
Jan 31	Chicago Public Library Little Village Branch: La Hora de Los Cuentos	Chicago Public Library	25	10
Feb 3	New Life Center Community Meal	New Life Centers	26	25
Feb 5	Westside Ministers' Coalition Monthly Community Meeting	Westside Ministers' Coalition	29	15
Feb 6	My Chi. My Future First Friday meeting	Department of Family & Support Services	34	1
Feb 9	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Resource Fair	Cook County Health	4	2
Feb 10	Leaders Network Monthly Meeting	Leaders Network	29	15
Feb 11	COPA at Chicago Public Library - Albany Park Branch	Chicago Public Library	39	17
Feb 18	Budget Engagement Brainstorm	Mayor's Office of Community Engagement		
Feb 18	Mayor's Office of Community Safety Cabinet Meeting	Mayor's Office of Community Safety	42	1
Feb 19	Chicago is With You Taskforce	Chicago City Clerk	25	10
Feb 19	Black History Month Reception	Mayor's Office	34	1

Feb 21	COPA at Chicago Public Library - Humboldt Park Branch	Chicago Public Library	26	14
Feb 24	COPA at Chicago Public Library - Altgeld Branch	Chicago Public Library	10	5
Feb 25	COPA at Chicago Public Library - Richard M. Daley W Humboldt Branch	Chicago Public Library	27	12
Feb 26	Northwest Community Alliance Monthly Meeting	Family Focus	1	14
Feb 27	DFSS Southwest Regional Center Black History Month Celebration	Department of Family & Support Services	14	8
Mar 5	Westside Ministers' Coalition Monthly Community Meeting	Westside Ministers' Coalition	29	15
Mar 6	Honoring the Life & Legacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. - Memorial Services	Rainbow Push Coalition	9	5
Mar 7	Chicago Park District Teen Opportunity Fair	Chicago Park District	15	9
Mar 9	Intrinsic Schools Networking Night - Downtown Campus	Intrinsic Schools	34	1
Mar 10	Leaders Network Monthly Meeting	Leaders Network	29	15
Mar 11	Humboldt Park Earth Day Committee Meeting	Humboldt Park Advisory Council	26	12
Mar 14	Chicago Park District Teen Opportunity Fair	Chicago Park District	20	7
Mar 15	Aetna Better Health of Illinois Pop-Up Farmers Market	Aetna Better Health of Illinois	24	10
Mar 18	Pui Tak Center Spring 2026 Job Fair	Pui Tak Center	11	9
Mar 19	Chicago is With You Taskforce	Chicago City Clerk		
Mar 20	H.O.M.E Senior Summit & Resource Fair	Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly (H.O.M.E)	49	24
Mar 21	LUCERO CRC Health and Resource Fair	University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center	20	9
Mar 25	Humboldt Park Earth Day Committee Meeting	Humboldt Park Advisory Council	26	12
Mar 26	Northwest Community Alliance Monthly Meeting	Family Focus	31	25
Mar 28	2026 Teen Bash	Department of Family & Support Services	42	18
Mar 31	New Life Center Community Easter Meal	New Life Centers	26	25

## B. Media Releases

Date	Media Press Releases
Jan 14	COPA Provides Update on Officer-Involved Shooting Near 4700 W. 5th Avenue
Jan 22	COPA Releases Video & Other Materials From Fatal Officer-Involved Shooting Near 5700 N. Washtenaw
Jan 26	COPA Provides Update on Officer-Involved Shooting Near 7900 S. Ingleside
Feb 9	COPA Provides Update on Officer-Involved Shooting Near 8100 S. Merrill
Mar 11	COPA Provides Update on Fatal Officer-Involved Shooting Near 800 N. Homan

## C. Transparency Postings

To view transparency postings in their entirety, please visit COPA’s online case portal at <https://www.chicagocopa.org/data-cases/case-portal/>

Log Number	Type	Video	Audio	Reports	Other
2025-5766	Firearm Discharge				Court order
2025-6029	Firearm Discharge				Court order
2025-6070	Firearm Discharge	11	3	5	
2026-0143	Firearm Discharge				Court order
2026-0168	Motor Vehicle Accident				Court order
2026-0268	Motor Vehicle Accident	7	5	1	
2026-0349	Firearm Discharge				Court order
2026-0682	Firearm Discharge				JCA
2026-1189	Motor Vehicle Accident				JCA

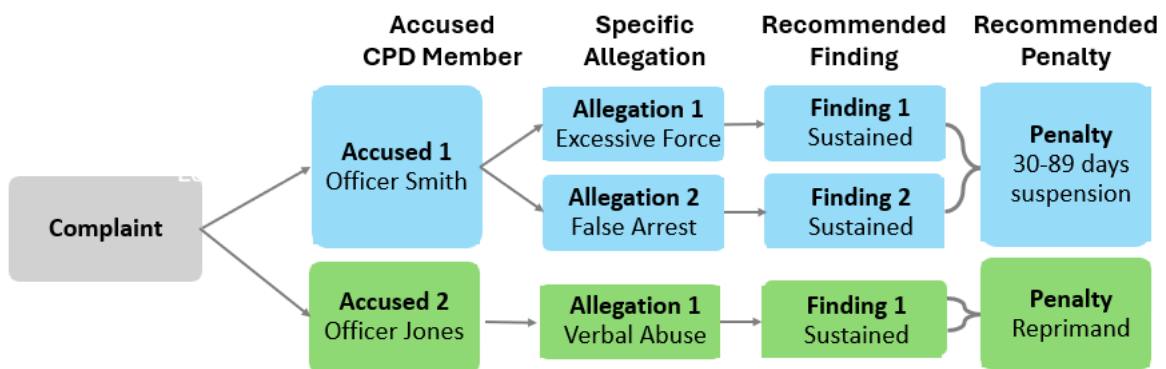
## D. Data Explainer

### Complaints and Allegations

A single complaint can involve multiple accused CPD members, multiple complainants (i.e. reporting parties), and other people involved (e.g. witnesses). Relatedly, one complaint can lead to an investigation into multiple allegations, each of which will have a finding as described in the Concluded Investigations section. When an investigation results in at least one sustained allegation finding, a recommended penalty is assigned to the accused CPD member based on the nature of the sustained allegations against them and other aggravating and mitigating factors.

Figure 1 depicts a simplified example of the relationship between an initial complaint, two accused CPD members involved, the specific allegations made, the allegation findings, and two recommended penalties (one for each officer).

Figure 1



## Data Reporting

All the information related to a complaint and the investigation is stored in a database underlying COPA's investigative case management system (CMS). The database updates daily with the latest information about complaints and investigations, so information about a complaint may change frequently throughout the investigation process. <sup>9</sup> When data is analyzed and data reports are created, this must all be considered. Multiple data pulls are usually required to observe and summarize complete and accurate data about complaints. There are different approaches to linking the data together depending on the need or purpose for the data.

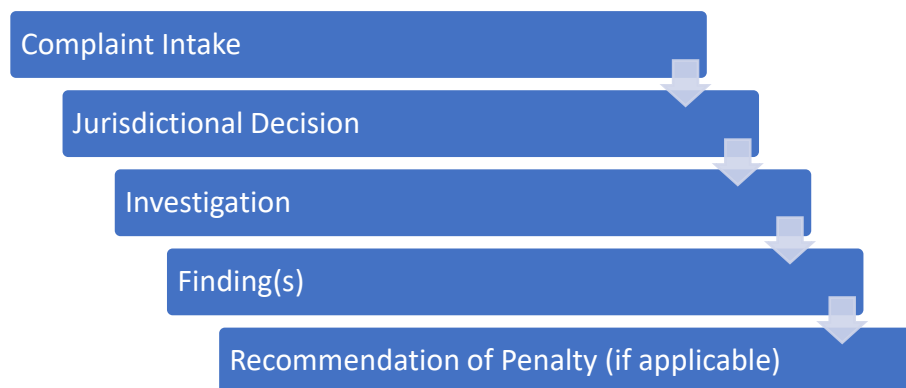
## Allegation categories

Allegation categories define the specific types of alleged misconduct related to a complaint. Allegations are entered into CMS by investigators as they investigate each complaint. There can be up to four levels of category tiers available to get to the specific category for the allegation. For example, a complaint about an improper search would be entered as a specific type of "Civil Rights Violation" allegation. When creating data reports, allegation category tiers are used to find, summarize, and report on different types of misconduct. The allegation categories available are limited to pre-defined values. There are currently around 400 different allegation categories.

## Data Availability

The overall disciplinary process involves many possible steps across multiple agencies. The data available about a complaint depends on the details of the complaint, which agency has jurisdiction over the investigation, the findings, the severity of any recommended discipline, and a host of other factors. Many complaints investigated by COPA adhere to the following sequence internally:

Figure 2



Complaints ultimately follow a different pathway depending on the circumstances. One of the biggest factors to consider is whether a complaint was accepted by COPA for investigation. Another important factor is whether an investigation is still open at COPA or not. COPA filters which cases are included in data reporting, depending on the need or purpose of the data. <sup>10</sup> COPA's annual and quarterly reports contain different sections dedicated to reporting data relevant to different parts of the complaint and investigation process.

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<sup>9</sup> A complaint's intake data is frozen once the intake process is complete. If a complaint is accepted for further investigation, the intake data is transferred to the case data table, where the data is updated as the investigation unfolds. Whether a complaint is accepted for investigation or not depends on a variety of factors.

<sup>10</sup> COPA is currently in the process of enhancing the way it enters, stores, and reports on its data. Comparisons across different data reports and data sets should be done with caution during this time.



CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

INTEGRITY  
TRANSPARENCY  
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