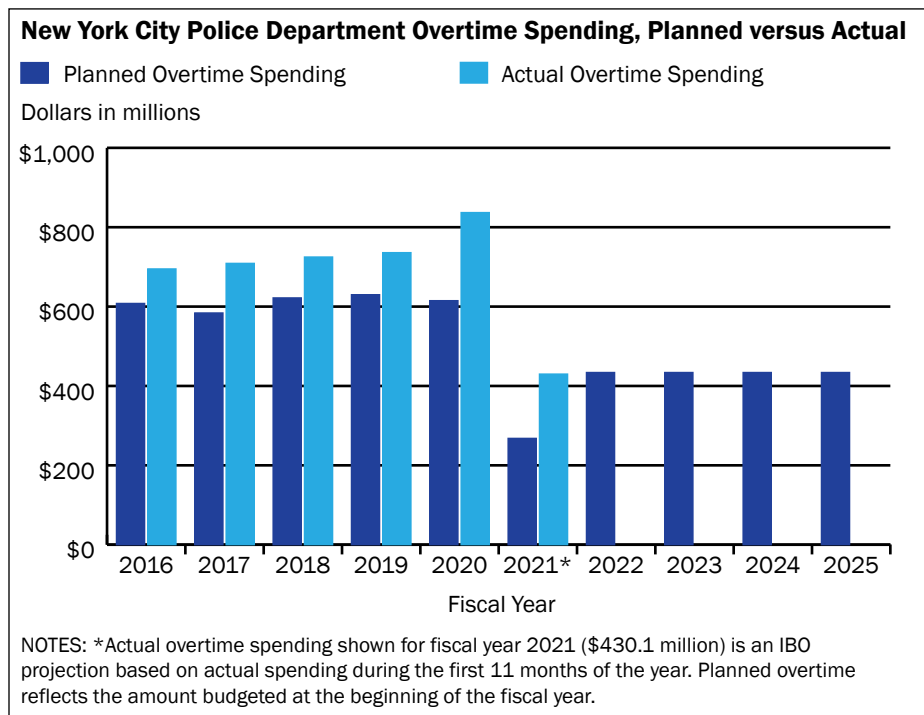


Police Overtime Spending Is Down This Year. How Far Down, and Is It Expected to Stay Below Past Years?

While just a few weeks remain in the fiscal year, the police department is on track to spend considerably less on overtime than it has in recent years. How much less? And despite the lower spending, will the department exceed its overtime budget for this year?



- The police department is on pace to spend about \$430 million on overtime for officers and civilians this fiscal year, about half the roughly \$838 million spent last year.
- Pandemic-induced cancellations of parades and other major events, diminished street protest activity, less traffic, and fewer arrests are among the factors that have contributed to the drop in overtime spending for uniformed police.
- A reduction in overtime spending for the department’s civilian staff is also contributing to the decline, falling to under

\$21 million in the first half of this fiscal year from more than \$65 million last year. Among the reasons, lighter traffic has meant fewer traffic enforcement agents needed to work extra hours, and with fewer after-school programs during the pandemic there has been less overtime for school safety agents.

- Even with the considerable drop in uniformed and civilian overtime, the police department will spend substantially more than the \$268 million originally budgeted for this year—a recurring police department practice.
- Looking ahead, the Mayor’s April 2021 Financial Plan assumes \$434 million in police overtime spending in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025, well below the average of \$716 million annually from fiscal years 2016 through 2019—the four years preceding the pandemic.
- One factor that could affect police overtime spending is the decline in the size of the force. There were 35,118 uniformed officers as of January 2021, nearly 5 percent (1,802) fewer than the prior year. The current financial plan provides for 35,030 officers over the 2022-2025 plan period, about 1,200 fewer than average actual staffing over the past five years.
- IBO estimates that an additional \$50 million in funding will be required to cover police overtime next year, followed by an additional \$100 million annually in 2023 through 2025.