The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Professional Standards Section/Internal Affairs accepts, assigns, tracks and investigates internal and external complaints regarding employee misconduct.

Our goal is to objectively investigate all complaints against our employees in order to preserve public confidence. All investigations are conducted in a fair and expeditious manner in accordance with administrative, state, and federal laws.

In many cases, the supervisor of the employee conducts an inquiry into the alleged misconduct. The Professional Standards Section conducts and prepares investigations of all criminal and serious allegations. Any person who witnesses or has direct knowledge of employee misconduct may lodge a complaint with the Professional Standards Section.

The section's primary function is to investigate any allegation of misconduct, which is contrary to Sheriff's Office policy or a violation of city, state, or federal law. This includes the use of excessive force or discourteous treatment.

The charts below outline the last six years of citizen complaints received and investigations conducted at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office:

Citizen Complaints Received	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
Professional Standards Section/Internal Affairs	492	110	82	53	62	22
District /Division	386	327	258	132	103	87
Total # of Complaints	878	437	340	185	165	109

The total number of misconduct complaints has decreased steadily over the past six years. This trend shows the decrease is a direct reflection of new administration philosophy, active supervision, internal enhancements to policies or procedures, or combination thereof.

Investigations Conducted	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
Professional Standards Section/Internal Affairs Cases	54	56	49	54	48	43
District /Division Cases	123	93	121	84	100	68
Total # of Investigations	177	149	170	138	148	111

The total number of Professional Standards Section/Internal Affairs investigations conducted during 2012, showed a decrease from the 2011 period. This is in direct relationship to the administration holding employees and supervisors accountable. The total number of District/Division investigations in 2012 showed a decrease from 2011. This downward trend directly relates to the Districts/Divisions taking a proactive role regarding complaints.