

2023 KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT





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EXECUTIVE STAFF



**SHERIFF
JOHN GESE**



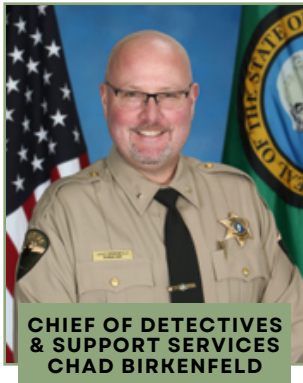
**UNDERSHERIFF
RUSS CLITHERO**



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
MELYNDA PHELPS**



**FINANCIAL MANAGER
WENDY
DUTENHOEFFER**



**CHIEF OF DETECTIVES
& SUPPORT SERVICES
CHAD BIRKENFELD**



**CHIEF OF PATROL
JEFFREY MENGE**



**CHIEF OF
CORRECTIONS
PENELOPE SAPP**

LIEUTENANTS



**LIEUTENANT
LISSA GUNDRUM**



**LIEUTENANT
WILL SAPP**



**LIEUTENANT
KEITH HALL**



**LIEUTENANT
KEN DICKINSON**



**LIEUTENANT
GENIE ELTON**



**LIEUTENANT
JAMES KENT**

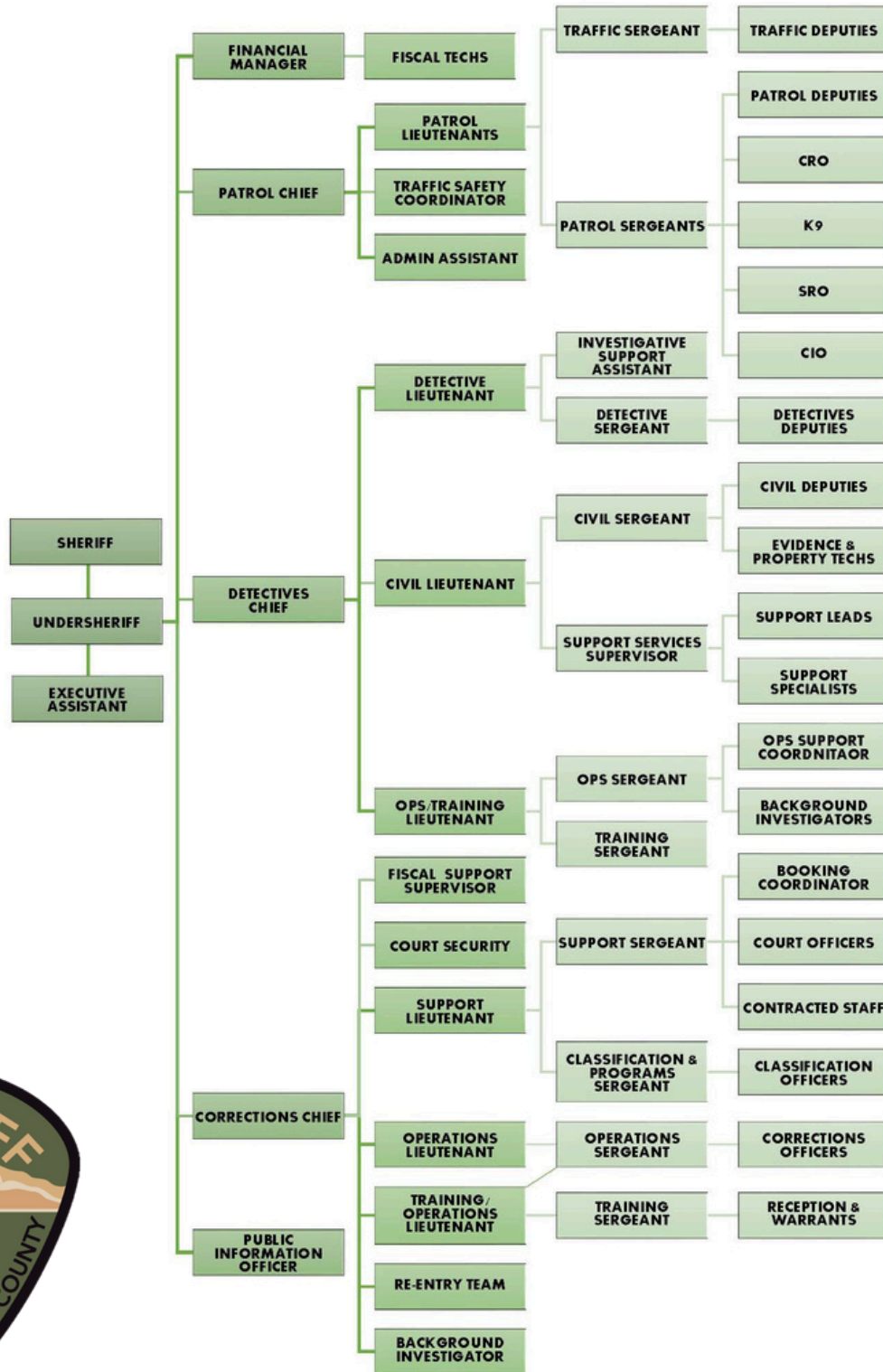


**LIEUTENANT
JOSH MILLER**



**LIEUTENANT
KAECEE COATES**

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ORGANIZATION CHART



OUR MISSION



MISSION STATEMENT

Through our vision and values, we are dedicated to providing quality public safety services in partnership with our diverse communities.

VISION

To be recognized as a respected and trusted Sheriff's Office while making Kitsap County a safer place to live, work, and visit.

CORE VALUES

Central to our mission are the values which guide our work. These values are the foundation of our agency and help us to ensure the quality of life and public safety in Kitsap County.

Teamwork

We are committed to consistently engaging and interacting with the public, civic partners, and other police agencies in order to continually improve our community and our Sheriff's Office. We also empower and support the individual talents and creativity of our personnel. We understand that collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge and information result in the greatest problem-solving outcomes for all and further cultivate partnerships across our community.

Integrity

Understanding the great authority given to us, whether observed by others or not, we embrace the highest standards of honesty, discipline, and ethics. We ensure that our communication and actions are conscientious and empathetic. We respect and show dignity to all persons, recognizing that diversity enhances our community.

Professionalism

We recognize and adjust to the evolving needs of our community, ensuring a sustained commitment to those we serve. We are an agency that remains fiscally responsible, progressive, proactive, effective, and reliable. Being sworn to be accountable to ourselves and to the citizens, we conduct ourselves as an example to others. We invest in the welfare and safety of our personnel and the public. We are an agency that continuously strives to learn and operate at the highest levels of our professions in order to ensure that we continue to provide quality services

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE



Dear Citizens of Kitsap County,

Following you will find our agency's annual report for 2023. 2023 was a very dynamic year continuing a trend for the last three years which has presented many new challenges for our agency, profession, and community. Along with the challenges have come many opportunities as we have changed and adapted in many ways over the last few years.

Having the pressures of the pandemic fall into the background in 2023, we are still feeling and understanding the effects the pandemic had on our society. While some crime rates had been rising before the pandemic, we saw a dip in crime during the height of the pandemic, but since its end, we have seen crime rates rise once again and, in some cases, to ten-year highs. We have continued to focus on addressing violent crimes and focusing on crime issues by holding people who commit crimes accountable and prioritizing our enforcement and investigative efforts.

Police Reform and criminal justice reform continue to have a significant impact after the 2020 death of George Floyd and starting in 2021 the State of Washington passed many police and criminal justice reform legislation. The dynamic of changing best practices and new legislation has had a profound impact on our profession and our agency. We have continued to develop new polices, best practices, and made significant investments in our training and equipment. As Sheriff, I continue to lobby for practical legislation that meets our community needs and provides the proper tools that law enforcement needs and the community expects to address crime and public safety needs. Being transparent and accountable have been our agency goals that extend back many years, and we continue to make strides in these areas. A major accomplishment in 2023 was the approval and funding for a body-worn camera program that will be implemented in early 2024. In addition, we have worked hard on providing outreach to our communities to hear and address their concerns and share information regarding the Sheriff's Office and our challenges.

2023 continued a trend that began in 2020 of a significant staffing turnover as many in our agency and our profession retired or left the profession over the last few years. This precipitated a significant effort to recruit, hire, and train new employees throughout our agency. Lower staffing levels have impacted all areas of our operations for the last few years. In 2023 we saw many new members join our agency, however, the training cycle for a new deputy can last almost a year and a half, and for corrections officers just a bit less which means it takes time to become fully trained and effective. Fortunately, staffing turnover is expected to slow for our deputy ranks but unfortunately is continuing to run higher in corrections. As we move into 2024, we expect our situation to improve and hope to see most of our budgeted positions filled. Washington State ranks 50 out of 50 states for the ratio of officers per population, and the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office typically ranks in the bottom ten of Washington agencies for the same metric. The number of deputies budgeted has not grown since 2008. So even with our budgeted positions filled, our staff strive to do the best job possible with the resources they have. As our county continues to grow, keeping pace with that growth and the impact that growth will have will continue to be a challenge for the Sheriff's Office.

Adhering to our Mission and Vision and following our Agency Values of Teamwork, Integrity, and Professionalism, we will continue to strive to provide quality public safety services and continue our strong partnership with our communities and citizens.

Sheriff John Gese

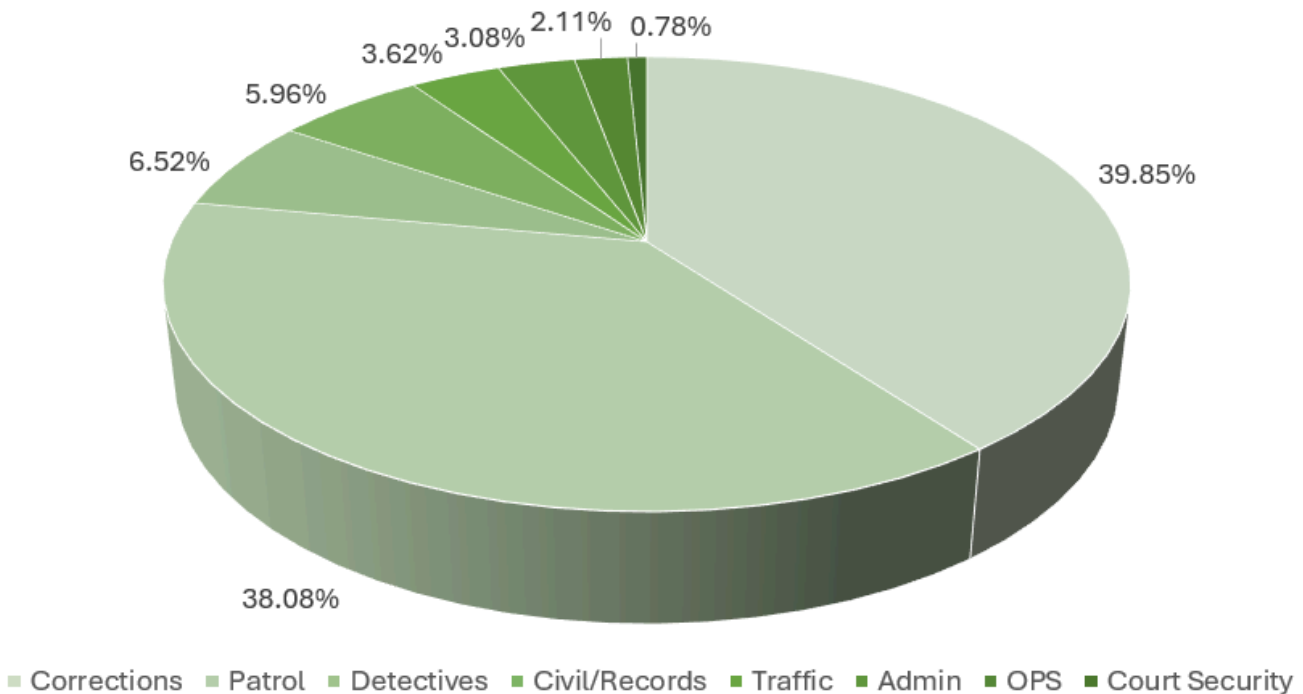
BUDGET

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Finance Office manages the budget and performs accounting functions for the Sheriff's Office including accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll processing. In addition, fiscal staff serves in the Human Resources partner role, by processing new hires, terminations, and staff changes. The finance team is comprised of four members: one finance manager and three fiscal technicians.

The Sheriff's Office budget includes 18 different program categories and 17 active grants. These grants, totaling \$4,858,917, help support 11 full-time positions, re-entry services, domestic violence training, traffic safety, boating safety, and equipment purchases.



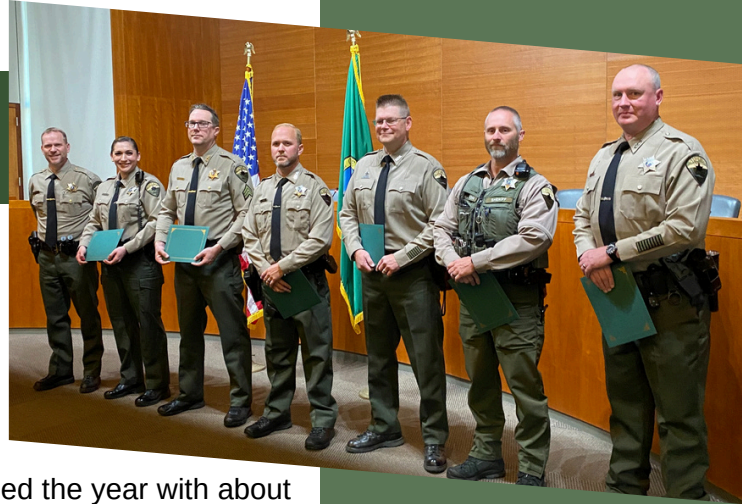
PERCENTAGE PER DIVISION



BUDGET

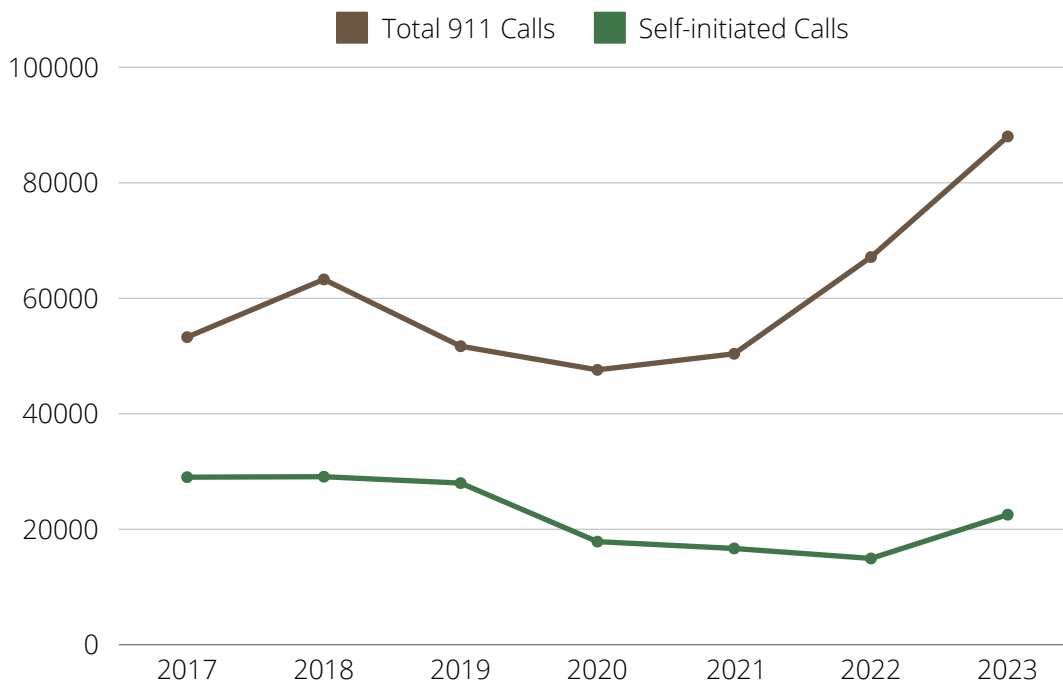
PROGRAM	BUDGET	SPENT	%	UNDER/ (OVER)
9401 ADMIN	\$1,428,690	\$1,501,243	105.08%	(\$72,553)
9402 CIVIL/RECORDS	\$2,790,351	\$2,900,198	103.94%	(\$109,847)
9403 TRAFFIC	\$1,814,181	\$1,760,876	97.06%	\$53,305
9404 PATROL	\$18,258,463	\$18,531,908	101.50%	(\$273,445)
9405 DETECTIVES	\$3,055,697	\$3,175,048	103.91%	(\$119,351)
9406 CORRECTIONS GRANTS	\$1,354,310	\$543,120	40.10%	\$811,190.10
9407 LEOFF	\$355,000	\$271,515	76.48%	\$83,485.25
9408 CORRECTIONS	\$19,761,017	\$19,394,628	98.15%	\$366,388.64
9409 OPS	\$1,933,114	\$1,027,142	53.13%	\$905,971.90
9410 COURT SECURITY	\$483,622	\$377,744	78.11%	\$105,877.78
1521 JAG	\$82,921	\$10,000	12.06%	\$72,921.00
1171 BOATING SAFETY	\$244,782	\$176,454	72.09%	\$68,328.45
1351 INMATE WELFARE	\$235,054	\$179,049	76.17%	\$56,005.39
1361 SIU	\$73,841	\$86,869	117.64%	(\$13,028.07)
1151 MAT GRANTS	\$626,000	\$345,261	55.15%	\$280,738.69
1591 CRIME PREVENTION	\$60,209	\$17,398	28.90%	\$42,810.87
TOTAL FOR 2023	\$52,557,252	\$50,298,453	95.70%	\$2,258,798.73

PATROL



When looking back on 2023 in Patrol, our successes were numerous. We maintained our specialty units and saw increased production from each one. The primary focus for the Patrol Division was onboarding and training more than 15 new deputies which takes 10-18 months from the hire date to put a new deputy out on solo patrol. Our Field Training Officers bore the brunt of this demand for resources and deserve the credit for this success. We finished the year with about 10 more deputies on solo patrol from the year before and we continue this training as we move into 2024. Patrol also provided every deputy with tire deflation devices to end police pursuits more safely and quickly.

CALLS FOR SERVICE



In the last year, we spent considerable time and effort addressing homelessness. This effort was primarily designated to our Community Resource Officer. Consistent with our mission to partner with other agencies and resources, our work with the HEART and REAL teams resulted in significant improvements along the Clear Creek Trail and the properties near St. Michaels Medical Center in Silverdale, the two most pressing concern areas. Those are once again the enjoyable public and private spaces they were intended to be. The homeless encampments are gone, and they have not returned to those areas.

The numbers for 2023 reflect our staffing levels and the burden of training new deputies. Over the past two years, we have experienced the lowest staffing of Patrol deputies since 2007-2010. However, we saw increases in self-initiated activity and DUI arrests in 2023 this can be attributed to our push for more pro-activity in Patrol and Traffic. Our staffing levels increased slightly, even with training new deputies, which allowed for more time for these efforts. The calls for service increased noticeably, but collision numbers remained similar to 2022. Our numbers for traffic tickets remained low, that was due to the loss of one of our dedicated traffic enforcement positions, the prior COVID restrictions on traffic stops, and the effects of police reform legislation.

Staffing:

- 1 Chief
- 2 Lieutenants
- 11 Sergeants
- 69 Patrol Deputies
- 7 Traffic Deputies
- 2 K-9 Deputies
- 2 Community Resource Officer
- 3 School Resource Officers
- 1 Crisis Intervention Coordinator
- 1 Traffic Safety Coordinator
- 1 Civilian Support Personnel

Patrol Resources:

- Bicycle Unit
- Bomb Program
- Cadet Program
- Community Resources Officers
- Crisis Negotiation Team
- Drone Operators
- Field Training Unit
- K-9 Unit
- Marine Patrol
- School Resource Officers
- Search and Rescue
- SWAT

PATROL



We restructured the Traffic Unit in 2023 to allow for more time dedicated to enforcement while still handling the same number of collision investigations. Our direction to all of Patrol was that DUI enforcement was a core function and coupled with the restructuring of Traffic, this led to about a 30% increase in DUI arrests in 2023. Going forward in 2024, we hope to add one full-time and two-part time enforcement positions to increase our efforts in improving traffic safety. One of our primary goals for Patrol is to increase our traffic tickets by 20% in 2024.

TRAFFIC STATS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
STAFFING INCLUDING 1 SERGEANT	8	8	8	7	7	8	9
DUI ARRESTS	225	282	238	169	169	172	228
NOI/CITATIONS AGENCY	8,416	8,377	8,441	5,115	4,583	2,947	3,066
NOI/CITATIONS TRAFFIC UNIT	4,422	4,199	4,654	3,122	2,448	1,863	1,859
TOTAL COLLISIONS	1,149	1,170	1,067	894	1,048	1,085	1,091
FATAL COLLISIONS	9	8	8	9	8	10	8
MAJOR COLLISIONS*	12	15	14	13	19	15	18

*any collision with death or serious injury

2023 was, in many respects, the year of maintaining our current units and programs while rebuilding our staffing levels. With our focus on training the basics along with outlining our priorities, we saw an increase in DUI arrests and self-initiated activity in 2023. We know that along with Domestic Violence, DUI enforcement is at the top of our priorities in public safety concerns. Our continued increase in staffing allows us to increase our self-initiated activity, the cornerstone of effective public safety.

ARREST STATS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ARRESTS	2,121	2,140	1,995	1,489	1,306	1,582	1,598
% OF CASE REPORTS WITH ARREST	16.1%	15.7%	15%	13.7%	11.3%	11.69%	12.75%

CORRECTIONS



The Corrections Division's focus is to provide a safe, secure, legal, and respectful environment for staff, incarcerated individuals, professional personnel, and the community. The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officers are dedicated to their role of serving the community and the criminal justice system, applying their passion, dedication, and motivation to make a positive difference.

BOOKING STATS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BOOKINGS	8,498	7,790	5,606	4,487	4,525	4710
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION	415	370	260	262	313	313
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY	18 DAYS	17 DAYS	17 DAYS	22.1 DAYS	23.8 DAYS	33 DAYS

When looking at the 5-year data, the jail experienced a significant number of bookings in 2018, and then a dramatic decrease due to the pandemic and booking intake restrictions. In 2023, booking restrictions were lifted, but the number of bookings remained lower. The average daily population is increasing, but the average length of stay has almost doubled since 2018, meaning people are staying in jail longer. With the increase in the average length of stay, our reentry team has had more time to help incarcerated individuals with release plans, enrolling them in services to help them succeed when they transition back into the community. In 2023, the reentry team referred 570 individuals into programs, with 236 returning to jail for either new charges or court compliance issues. A 58% reduction in returns is something everyone should be proud of. While this is a great step in the right direction, there is still a lot of work to do.

RE-ENTRY STATS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL RE-ENTRY SCREENING/REFERRALS	651	615	542	540	570
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY	419	278	106	117	103
MENTAL HEALTH ONLY	37	13	16	23	22
CO-OCCURRING*	195	324	420	380	445
TOTAL RETURNS**	264	293	228	207	236
REDUCTION IN RETURNS***	59%	52%	58%	62%	58%
PATIENTS IN MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAM	84 (STARTED IN SEPT)	208	206	185	306

*Co-occurring is when someone has both a substance issue and mental health issues. Some people who have a diagnosed mental health issue, use illegal drugs to cope with it. With these individuals we need to address both the addiction and the mental health concerns.

**Total returns are the individuals that returned to jail after they were referred/connected to services. Note: this does not infer that these individuals were arrested on new charges. Some of the individuals had warrants, I just do not know the percentage at this point.

***Reduction returns-This the percentage of people that did not return to jail. For example, 58% reduction in returns is the stating that of the people we seen in 2021 and referred/connected to services, 58% of them did not return to jail.

The fentanyl crisis continues to impact members of our community and the jail itself. Almost 80% of the people who were booked last year had chemical dependency issues, the majority of this was related to fentanyl. Many of the individuals who are booked into our jail require a higher level of medical care, not only due to the use of substances but also undiagnosed medical issues. Our Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program enrolled 306 new patients in 2023, helping people refrain from using OPIOIDS upon release. These numbers are very promising, but there is still a lot of work to do. Our corrections officers exemplify Teamwork, Integrity, and Professionalism every day despite the challenges they face.

Staffing:

- 1 Chief of Corrections
- 3 Lieutenants
- 9 Sergeants
- 83 Corrections Officers
- 1 Fiscal Support Specialist
- 2 Re-Entry Coordinators
- 3 Civilian Employees
- 2 Maintenance Workers

Corrections Resources:

- Re-Entry Program
- Medical and Mental Health Services
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program for Opioid addiction
- Behavioral Health Assessments (Drug, Alcohol, and Mental Health)
- Veteran's Services
- Transitional assistance
- Assistance for pregnant women
- Assistance for victims of domestic violence or human trafficking

DETECTIVES



In 2023, the Detective Division saw some changes, with one retirement and a promotion to Patrol Sergeant. This brought the number of investigators down to 11, with an additional United States Postal Inspector assigned to detectives as well. The Detective Division is supervised by one Detective Sergeant, a Detective Lieutenant, and a Division Chief.

Investigators were challenged with nine homicide investigations this past year, that utilized our entire team of dedicated men and women. Those investigations, in addition to multiple warrants, new forensic testing capabilities, and hours on investigations, led to arrests. In 2023, the Detective Division had a total of 1,195 cases assigned for further investigation, a substantial increase from 2022. The largest increase was reported in crimes against children and protected adults. Fortunately, we saw fewer burglaries and robberies being assigned for investigative work. As more unfunded and mandated training is required for law enforcement officers, investigators continued to receive quality training while we found ways to cover these training costs. We were able to update current crime scene processing tools and cameras, and we were excited to see the implementation of body-worn cameras.

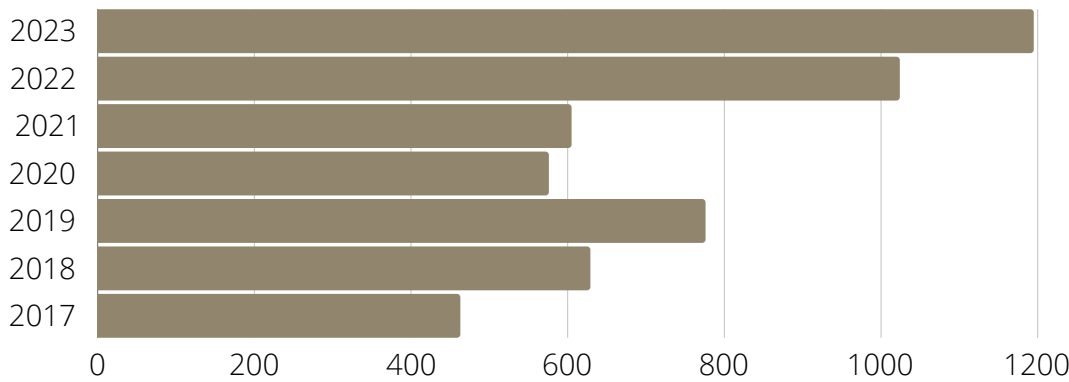
Staffing:

- 1 Chief of Detectives
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Sergeant
- 11 Detectives

Detectives Resources:

- Crimes against persons
- Crimes against property
- Other crimes, including sex crimes
- Crime scene processing

■ Total Detectives Cases



Investigators continued their work with the Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT) and have completed the required Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act (LETCSA) training. Currently, we have 12 investigators qualified by CJTC as Lead Investigators for use-of-force situations.

We look forward to continuing our advanced training, identifying new equipment and tools, and building community relationships that will result in successful problem-solving outcomes all while serving with integrity and professionalism.

CASES ASSIGNED TO DETECTIVES

CASE TYPE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
SEX OFFENSES	156	199	290	260	215	324	242
BURGLARIES	75	45	80	47	62	86	32
ASSUALTS	29	49	47	31	37	150	50
ROBBERY	10	10	10	6	9	18	6
ALL OTHER CASES	193	326	349	232	282	446	865

SUPPORT SERVICES



Support Services and the Sheriff’s Office welcomed the implementation of a new records management system in 2023. Employees assisted the entire Sheriff’s Office along with regional partners in training and the application of the new system. The work completed by Support Services includes our financial, evidence, records, and civil departments. Their continued professionalism and dedication kept them all very busy.

With the body-worn camera project, new evidence storage, retention, and public disclosure, procedures had to be identified and more staff hired. To assist with the body-worn cameras, 2 additional staff were selected and hired to support services.

Our biggest workflow increases in support services showed in public disclosure requests and civil documents served. Our two civil deputies were very busy with paper services, while office staff worked hard to complete all the required documents and tracking needed. This came with challenges and new changes in the laws. To accommodate those changes, patrol deputies assisted with services, firearm surrenders, and court orders.

In 2023, our evidence team took 5,568 items of evidence into storage. They worked hard and with their dedication, 3,702 items were disposed of. Most of the disposed of items were destroyed or returned to the owner. One of the challenges continues to be storage space. Out of the 751 firearms received in evidence, 305 were from court-ordered surrenders. Those firearms must be retained for 3 years.

Our goals continue to be a safe, comfortable, and inclusive work environment while promoting growth and training.

Staffing:

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Sergeant
- 2 Deputies
- 23 Civilian Support Personnel

Support Services

Resources:

- Property Evidence
- Public Records
- Civil Unit
- Reception
- Fingerprinting
- Concealed Pistol Licensing
- Criminal History
- Records Requests
- Drug Take Back program

REPORTS PROCESSED

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
REPORTS PROCESSED	13,812	14,221	13,917	12,495	12,577	14,947	12,636
CALL RECEIVER REPORTS	727	552	786	463	359	484	NA
COPLOGIC REPORTS	985	884	887	2,043	455	1,371	1,176
CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS	6,453	7,189	6,258	6,668	7,004	6,452	6,446
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUESTS	3,219	3,795	3,957	2,395	3,554	4,307	4,619
CIVIL DOCUMENTS SERVED	2,514	2,530	2,559	1,591	1,346	1,734	2,094
CIVIL FEES COLLECTED	\$194,824	\$184,921	\$202,547	\$101,445	\$74,953	\$90,922	\$102,751
FIREARM TRANSFERS	5,381	5,463	5,989*	11,291	10,358	10,484	6,449**

*There was a law change in July 2019, resulting in more firearm transactions being completed by law enforcement agencies.

**In 2023, the state automated the firearms process and the Washington State Patrol took over more

EVENTS FROM 2023



Armed Forces Day
May 20, 2023



Beyond the Badge Event
February 2023



Bremerton Bridge Blast
June 24, 2023



Cadet of the Year
May 24, 2023



CKHS Mock Crash
May 31, 2023



Cub Scouts Meeting
January 27, 2023



Coffee with a Cop
August 30, 2023



Fathoms of Fun Parade
June 24, 2023



Viking Fest Parade
May 20, 2023



Shop with a Cop Kitsap
December 2, 2023



Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma
May 27, 2023



Harbor Haute Dogs
August 17, 2023



Kitsap Fair & Stampede
August 2023



Leadership Kitsap Graduation
June 7, 2023



Kingston Fourth of July Parade
July 4, 2023