

2008 Annual Report
of the
Clark County Sheriff's Office
Custody Branch



A Message from the Chief

It is the goal of the Clark County Sheriff's Office Custody staff to provide a positive atmosphere free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination for staff, inmates and professional visitors; to greet the public with courtesy, respect and understanding for their situation; to provide a safe and secure environment for all. To achieve this mission the Custody Branch has 134 Custody Officers, 18 Sergeants, five support staff, 14 Food Service technicians, one Managing Nutritionist, five Industry personal and five administrative position dealing with over 700 inmates on a 24-7 basis and who do a wonderful job daily.

Today, Custody Staff deals with a very unpredictable inmate population. Many inmates have extensive drug and alcohol issues, mental health issues and can be prone to violent outbreaks. As we look to 2009 this branch will be asked to do more with less because of budget reductions. I take my hat off to the entire Custody Branch, for they do a phenomenal job keeping both inmates and the public safe.

Chief Jackie Batties

Washington law requires the Sheriff to operate a jail to lodge adult pre-trial and sentenced offenders. However, most jails do much more than simply house prisoners. In Clark County, jail staff is responsible for inmate admissions, court security, transports, program facilitation, work release, and other additional support unit work groups.

A jail is much different than a prison in several ways: admission numbers, inmate turnover, average length of stay, court appearance needs, transportation requirements as well as the mental, physical, and psychological status of the detainees. In 2008, the Clark County Jail processed 16,323 intakes and 16,392 releases from the jail, while the average length of stay remained around 17 days.

One jail mental health professional postulated that about eight percent of the jail's population suffers from some form of mental illness. Of that group, two to three percent have severe mental health issues. Additionally 95-98% of all jail inmates are impacted by drug and alcohol addictions or abuse issues. One of the greatest challenges for line staff has been to manage this population with these additional factors. This is magnified when these offenders are also increasingly violent, whether this is directed at others or themselves.

Specialty courts like Drug Court, Sex Offender Court, Family Court, and Mental Health Court coupled with inmate programs that provide basic life skills, mental health care, and geared for rehabilitation have greatly evolved in the Clark County jail. We believe that the reduction of the average daily population by 29 inmates from 2007 data is related to these programs and the specialty courts. Even with a reduction in inmate population, staff dealt with some very challenging issues throughout the year. Statistical data provides a snapshot of basic events, activities and numbers; statistics do not demonstrate staff dedication, patience and the resourcefulness initiated by the line and support staff to operate a safe and secure facility.

Staff Awards

It is always a pleasure to honor staff, especially those whose performance excels during difficult times or rise to the occasion when it is most needed. The following were staff happily acknowledged in 2008.

Custody Officer of the Year

Custody Officer Clarice Jones was selected as the 2008 Custody Officer of the Year due to her consistently excellent performance; whether while working on her squad or as an Field Training Officer (FTO).



Officer Jones works very well with all of her coworkers. She is able to work in all areas of the jail and is often considered a "go to" person when other officers have questions about booking or property procedures. She is always willing to work wherever she is assigned without complaint. She contributes to the overall morale of the squad and is an asset to any squad.

Custody Sergeant of the Year

Sergeant Dan Schaub was selected as Custody Sergeant of the Year for 2008 due to his unwavering

professionalism, genuine care and concern, and his highly effective communication skills. The position of Sergeant in the Internal Affairs Unit is a stressful and thankless job; which can make it difficult to stay motivated on the job. Sergeant Schaub has never shown a lack of motivation in this position, or any other, during his service to the Custody Branch. Sergeant Schaub has been known to take reports home or come into work on nights and weekends, in order to complete a case in a timely manner. These actions not only meet the needs of the department, but also acknowledge the stress and worry experienced by employees during the internal affairs investigations. His self-sacrifice is incontestable proof that he cares about the people working for the Sheriff's Office and believes in the Internal Affairs process.



Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Paul Dougher was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal as an acknowledgement his leadership and contributions related to the following;

Annual Shift Bid & Deployment

SRT Team Leader

Coordinating and teaching Defensive Tactics, Ground Grappling, ASP and Taser Training

Life Saving Award 2006

Jail Retrofit Project 2001

Coordination of the electronic Key Box System

Law suit research and coordination

Sergeant Dougher's commitment, dedication and untiring devotion to the Clark County Sheriff's Office deserves recognition. His excellence in leadership, willingness to teach others and professional expertise demonstrates his worthiness to be recognized with a Distinguished Service Medal.



Medal of Merit

Custody Officers Dietz and Robison were awarded the Medal of Merit for their actions related to an inmate hostage incident that occurred on December 22, 2007. This event had the potential for loss of life and involved an inmate with a history of violence who had armed himself with an improvised edged weapon. Their actions that evening helped control and stabilize the situation until relieved by the Regional SWAT (Special Weapons & Tactics) Team. This event ultimately ended peacefully without serious injury to the victim, the hostage taker or officers.

Custody Officers Anderson and Krupicka were awarded the Medal of Merit for actions related to subduing an inmate who had armed himself with a three foot bar torn from an ADA Cell on June 27, 2008. Officer Anderson was the lead shield person of the entry team and charged the inmate taking strikes with such force that a large gouge was made in the shield, yet he continued to press forward and drove the inmate into the back wall. Officer Krupicka moved



in and deployed the taser, striking the Inmate with both probes. This subdued the inmate while other officers secured him with restraints. The alertness and resourcefulness shown by all the officers brought this violent inmate under control.

Exemplary Performance Award

The following Officers were awarded an exemplary Performance Award for their involvement and contributions related to the jail hostage incident that occurred on December 22, 2007:

Custody Commander Kim Beltran

Custody Sergeant Paul Dougher

Custody Sergeant Robert Tuggle

Custody Officer Brock Hood

Custody Officer Andy Wicks

The following Officers were awarded an exemplary Performance Award for their involvement and contributions related

to the jail hostage incident that

occurred on June 27, 2008.



Custody Officer Matthew Hartshorn

Custody Officer Michael James

Life Saving Medal

Custody Officer James Morrow is being awarded the Life Saving Medal for his actions on January 29, 2008, while in the booking area of the Clark County Jail. Officer Morrow placed his own personal health and safety at risk when he provided emergency first aid to a new intake.



Purple Heart Medal

Officer Bryan Pilakowski was awarded this medal due to his prolonged disability period following a work-related injury. This injury occurred on April 17th, 2005, and resulted from an emergency response to an "officer needs assistance" call.

He has endured pain and the associated physical limitations as a result of this injury for over three years.



Operational Support Services

Jail Administration

The jail administration support staff is a talented group of individuals. They are responsible for all supply orders for the jail and work center, gathering information and data required for law suits and public disclosure requests, facility and transport statistics, jail clearances, program coordination, database management, construction/remodel coordination, contract monitoring, budgets, medical billings, authorship of inmate handbooks, website maintenance and myriad other duties.

In 2008, support staff reviewed the professional clearance system and worked diligently to determine the impact this process has on jail operations. Several concurrent items initiated the systems review; including the limited staffing and jail space, the Federal Religious Institutions Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RILUPA), survey results stemming from the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and other safety and security concerns.

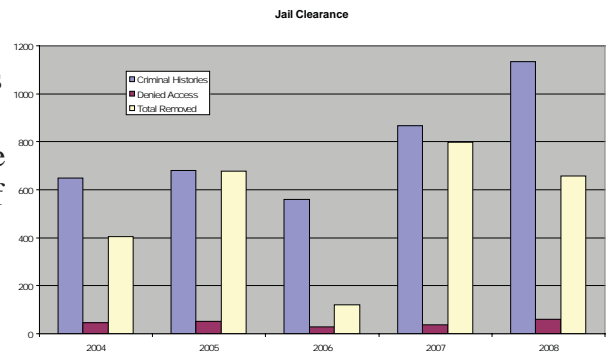
In order to streamline processes, improve workflow and the security of the jail, they consulted extensively with custody staff and professional visitors to formulate a plan to utilize existing jail space. Considering the 18,569 professional visits in 2008 and only having four rooms available, a reevaluation of the system seemed prudent. A large portion of professional visitors, designated by classification and purpose, were relegated to utilize non-contact visiting areas that previously were under utilized. The four contact visiting rooms were designated for use by current case attorneys, members of law enforcement, and court ordered mental health providers. As a result of the changes in room placement, the wait for professional visitors to see their clients has virtually been eliminated.

Database changes were implemented enabling them to accurately track all professionals in and out of the facility, eliminate duplicate records, and set a duration status for the type and purpose of facility clearance. Reporting abilities also track how many visits an individual has had, and when the last time was that they were in the facility. As a result, the number of clearances reduced from roughly 6,500 to an average around 800 active individuals.

Lockers were provided for professional visitors to secure briefcases and all personal non-essential belongings prior to entering the facility. This security measure has enabled staff to quickly view the few items still allowable and brought in by professionals, instead of items remaining obscured by a bag or case.

The facility was brought into compliance with RILUPA by regulating religious visitors to the inmates regular visiting list (adding a 5th visitor slot), and decreasing the number of visitors an inmate may have at one time (from 4 to 3). This has reduced crowding in visiting rooms, addressed issues with emergency evacuation concerns, and reduced cadet overtime necessary to manage inmate visiting groups. Volunteer religious programs shifted their service to the Jail Work Center, as it can better accommodate the space required for the multitude of religious affiliations. A partnership with The Clark County Chaplaincy was also forged, providing crisis service to inmates upon request.

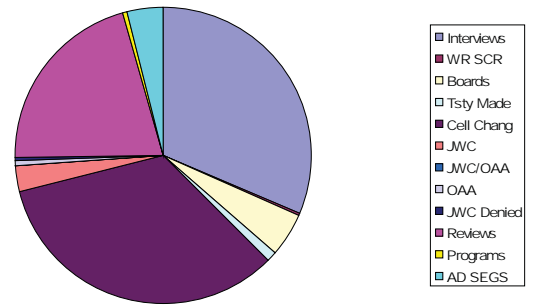
32 tours were conducted, encompassing 308 individuals from the community. Most of these tours were to individuals interested in a law enforcement career. Partner programs such as Leadership Clark County, College of Legal Arts and the Clark County Skills Center Criminal Justice Program collaborate with our facility educationally, while providing knowledgeable candidates to employee applicant pools.



Classification

This unit is responsible for classifying inmates and determining housing assignments based upon current charges, past charges, behavior, and risk. Sergeants Jack Huff and Robert Tuggle over saw this unit. Custody Officers Brunelle, Schubach, Bjorkman and Baldwin staffed the unit. These officers work closely with housing staff and the medical unit to manage the inmate population.

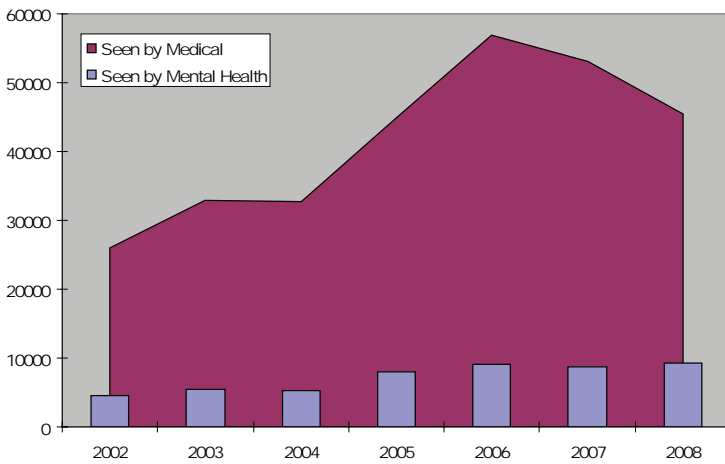
Types of Classification Interviews Conducted



Medical

Clark County contracts with a vendor to supply all the medical and mental health services for those persons held by the Sheriff’s Office or Juvenile Detention. The current vendor is Wexford Health Sources, Inc. headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is a serious undertaking felt keenly by the Sheriff’s Office as an area that is consistently and constantly monitored for quality, consistency and ease of accessibility.

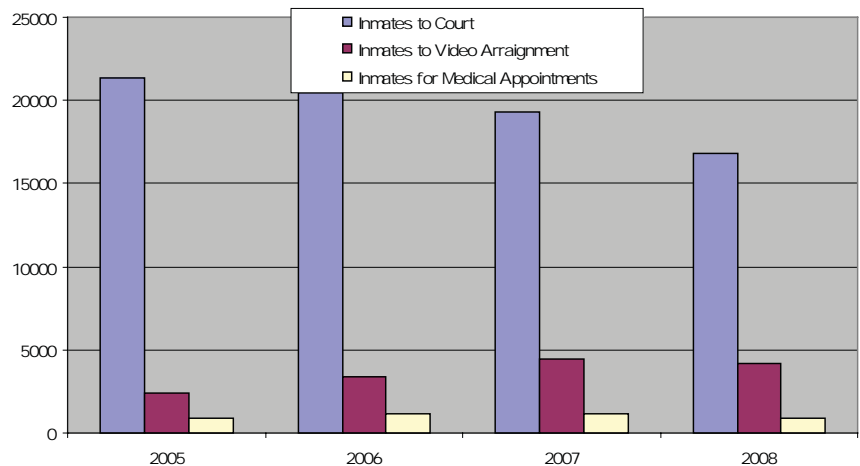
Detainees are afforded the opportunity to request a medical visit at any time. Those requiring specialty care, or levels of care exceeding what can be provided at the facility, are transported to local providers while continuing to be guarded by Custody personnel.



Transport Unit

This specialized unit is staffed by 14 officers and one sergeant. Inmate movement to all courts and to most outside medical appointments is coordinated through this unit. While that seems succinct and relatively simple it is actually only through carefully orchestrated and detailed plans that it functions smoothly and safely. These officers ensure the safety of the inmate, the public and themselves while moving these individuals outside of secured facilities. It is a testament to their diligence and industriousness that court times and medical appointments are kept on time with no injuries or successful escapes.

Number of Inmates Transported



Security Response Team

The Clark County Custody Branch maintains a Security Response Team (SRT) comprised of specially selected, trained, and equipped Custody Officers. The SRT is utilized in situations when conventional detention center resources are unable to maintain or regain control, or when circumstances present the potential of posing such a high risk that the skills and equipment of the team are the most effective option available to the jail. Team members are required to be contactable and available to respond at all times. They are also expected to maintain above average performance evaluations and fitness levels. They meet on a monthly basis for training and/or to conduct strikes to ensure proficiency of essential skills and critical incident readiness.

Following Custody's first hostage situation in December 2007, the team procured additional equipment and partook of additional training. All of this preparation was well served, when, in October of 2008, there was yet another hostage situation. Much like the first hostage situation, SRT paired with the SWAT members to ensure a quick and peaceful resolution. They responded as a cohesive unit; minimizing danger and maximizing the safety of departmental personnel and inmates. Numerous members of the SRT and SWAT teams received awards for their performance during the hostage situation.



Janitorial

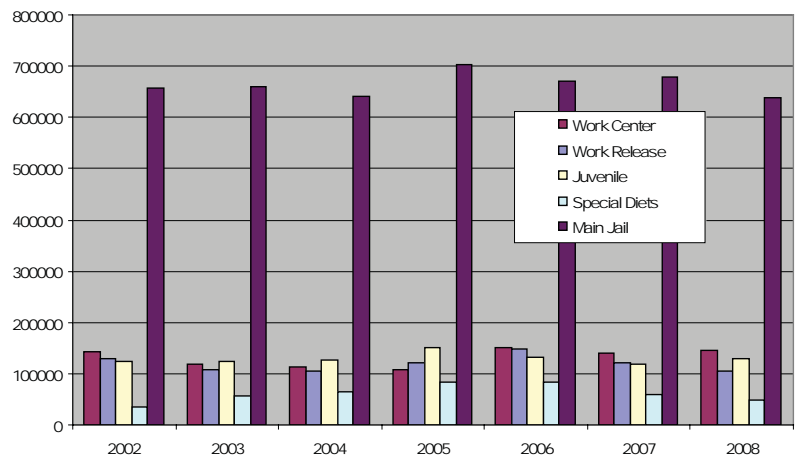
The secured portion of the main-jail and the entire jail work center is cleaned utilizing a crew of working inmates (trusties). In 2008, attention was finally able to be afforded these areas after the Sheriff's office joined the rest of the County in contracting for cleaning services.

Food Services

This unit, under the management of Clark Campbell, provides all meals to the main-jail, jail work center, and juvenile detention facility. Using inmate labor, meals are cooked and distributed to the listed facilities three times per day, seven days per week, all year, while maintaining a continually high rating from the County's Public Health Department for food handling specifications. This equals 1,106,549 meals for the 2008 year. As with everything in the economy the cost of food stuffs increased for the County as well as the general populace. The costs per meal rose from \$1.42 in 2007, to \$1.62 for 2008.

During 2008, \$74,924.97 of revenue was generated by this unit and returned to the Clark County general fund. This revenue came in the form of reimbursements from the State of Washington by participating in and adhering to the stringent requirements for the school lunch and school breakfast programs in the meals for the juvenile detainees.

Number and Type of Meals



Laundry Services

This unit services the main-jail, jail work center, and the juvenile detention facility. Using inmate labor, this unit collects, washes, folds and delivers clothing, bedding, towels and sandals to the listed facilities, five days per week. They also process bio-contaminated linens. In 2008, approximately 523, 410 pounds of laundry was processed, which is approximately 262 tons. This is slightly down from last year's weight only because of a change from the heavier wool blankets, that used more resources to clean, to a lighter poly blanket that, while providing the same amount of warmth, washes and dries faster and with less processing.

Jail Industries

Utilizing inmate labor, this unit partners with various agencies and companies to help reduce the amount of e-waste entering landfills. Officer Dean Muth was the Jail Industries Coordinator from January 2007 to January 2009; the following was accomplished during that time frame:

- *818 tons of electronic waste material was recycled and kept out of landfills - including 27,324 CRT tubes
- *\$288,766 was generated for the Clark County general fund
- *Approximately 155 inmates spent 45,079 hours processing materials
- *Over 100 computers were refurbished and distributed to low income members of the community

Agencies and departments that partnered this program during 2008:

Both the City of Vancouver and Clark County Public Works - Solid Waste Divisions

- *Clark County Purchasing
- *Columbia Resources Co.
- *Fruit Valley Foundation
- *Cowlitz County
- *CRESA
- *Clark College
- *The Salvation Army
- *Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
- *South West Washington Medical Center

The close of 2008 saw the end of this program. Manufacturers of computers, monitors and televisions are now required by state law to provide recycling of their own products to the citizens of Washington state. This became effective January of 2009, effectively reducing the incoming raw materials by ninety-six percent. Also, continuing this program form would have resulted in an unfair competition situation with the local vendor, which is also against state law. Now electronic items not recycled by their manufacturers can be handled by IMS Electronics Recycling.



Operations

Jail Work Center Operations

The Jail Work Center is a minimum security facility located at a separate site from the Main Jail. This location is managed by Commander Joe Barnett and contains functions that lend support to the entire operation. The “In Custody Building” houses the inmate workers that provide the labor for the various worker programs. Those inmates that meet classification standards are allowed to work in Food Services, Janitorial Services, Laundry Services or other programs that are all managed from this site.



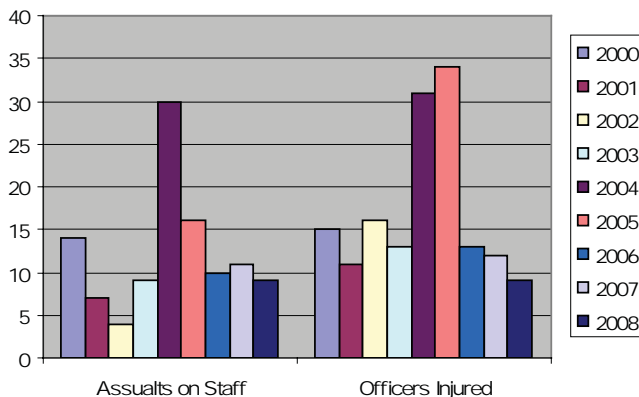
The Work Release building at this site houses those inmates that are allowed to gain or continue employment while serving their sentences. Currently, local inmates must be referred by the courts to initiate eligibility in this program. The State of Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) holds a contract with the Sheriff’s Office to house up to 30 state inmates at this facility and make use of this program. Those individuals transitioning from prison and who meet requirements and are deemed suitable are scheduled through this program.

Main Jail Operations

Main Jail Operations is managed by two Commanders. For 2008, those were Commander Mike Anderson (days) and Commander Kim Beltran (nights).

2008 saw a reduction in use of force events to 79 incidents; 49 fewer than 2007. We had nine officers who sustained injuries and had nine officers who were assaulted during this reporting period. While these figures indicate a level of danger associated with the job, they are still two less officer assaults and three less sustained officer injuries than the previous year.

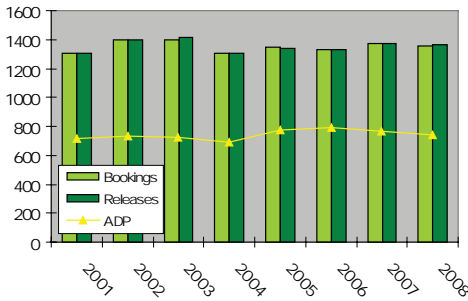
Officers intervened in 13 suicide attempts throughout this reporting period. Unfortunately, in October there was a completed suicide. These are always difficult for staff as well as the family of the deceased.



In 2007 the Clark County Law Enforcement Center (CCLEC) has its first jail hostage situation. On October 6, 2008, another offender repeated the occurrence in the same area of the jail. Thankfully, the incident ended peacefully without injury to staff, the inmate victim, or the inmate hostage taker after the introduction of a flash bang device by the Southwest Washington Regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit.

Lost Beds

H Pod opened in 2007 as an attempt to reduce overcrowding it was closed at the end of 2008. The staff positions for those 57 beds were lost at the end of 2008 because of budget cuts associated with the downturn of the economy.



While population numbers dipped slightly, the amount of bookings and releases held fairly steady with previous year's numbers.

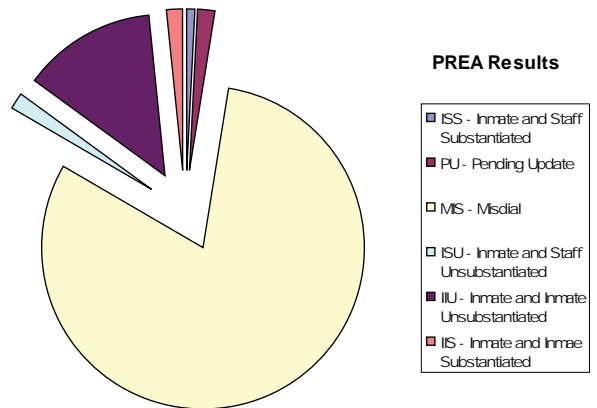
ICE

A continued partnership exists with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE). A satellite office is located within the main jail and is staffed by a local agent. This agent has developed a close working relationship with custody staff; this facilitates identifying foreign nationals who have violated federal immigration laws. ICE conducted 444 interviews with foreign nationals during 2008. Out of these interviews, 246 foreign nationals were determined to have questionable legal status to reside in the United States.

PREA

On June 25, 2008 the Department of Justice related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act reported survey findings titled, Sexual Victimization in Local Jails Reported by Inmates, 2007. In this report, 80 jails from around the county had inmates surveyed by federal employees. Out of those jails Clark County was listed as having the second highest rate of inmate reported sexual abuse in the nation. Resulting from this and at the direction of the Sheriff, education efforts and reporting systems for PREA related issues increased. A few of these are: all persons entering the facility (employees and those outside the Clark

County Sheriff's Office, volunteers and visitors to the facilities) were provided with the requirements of PREA, inmates were educated on how to avoid victimization and how to report should an instance occur, information was posted for continual reminder for both inmates and persons entering the jail on how to report and avoid victimization, the method of reporting inside the facility was streamlined and now includes utilization of the inmate telephone system as a reporting method, investigative procedures were reviewed and improved, staff were retrained on report writing for PREA violations, a special report was created to document any actual or alleged PREA allegation, and tracking system for these reports was implemented.



2008 Jail Statistics

Jail Population

Average Daily Population	740
Average Length of Stay	16.62
Bookings	1,360
Releases	1,366

Transport

Inmates to Court	16,853
Mini Chain	2,241
Medical	165
Western State Hospital	112
Inmates to Video Arraignment	4,194

Medical Unit

Inmates Seen by Staff	45,515
Seen by Mental Health Counselors	9,243

Food Service

Total Meals Served	1,106,549
Restricted Diets	48,893
Cost Per Meal	\$1.62

Classification

Interviews	11,399
Screen for Work Release	120
Made Trustee	287
Cell Changes	11,202

Jail Operations

Escapes	1
Escape Attempts	3
Suicides	1
Suicide Attempts	13
Assaults on Staff	9
Officers Injured	9
Hostage Situations	1

Work Release Operations

Walk Away	0
Terminations	71
New Admissions	710

Inmate Discipline

Major Infractions	802
Minor Infractions	1,224
Top Three Major Infractions	
Refusal or Delay to follow Orders	
Fighting	
Malicious Mischief	

Staffing

Jail Administration	5
Custody Sergeants	20
Custody Staff	134
Support Staff	5
Food Service	15
Laundry/Industry	4
Medical Contract Positions	21

Jail Industry

Offender Hours	223,693.5
Kitchen Hours	120,624
Laundry	27,483.5
Janitorial	6,758.75
Industry	23,531.25
Outside & Grounds Crew	7,220
Main Jail	37,950
Other	126

Office Information

Criminal Histories	1,133
Removed from Jail Access	658
Denied Jail Access	61
One Time Clearances	8
Medical Bills Processed	761
Medical Bills Paid	\$403,971.94



For alternate format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office,
V(360)397-2322; TTY (360)397-24485; Email ADA@clark.wa.gov