

# CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Annual Report

2021



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# **Mission and Values of the Clark County Sheriff's Office**

## **Our Mission Statement**

...to protect and safeguard the community.

## **Our Value Statement**

- We value hard work, dedication, and a commitment to service.
- We value teamwork throughout the agency, branches, and work units.
- We value a healthy balance between work, family, and community.
- We value personal integrity and human dignity.

# Introduction

After going through the pandemic in 2020, all of us were ready for a year of relief. 2021 was going to be great! Unfortunately, that did not turn out to be the case. In fact, for many of us, 2021 was far worse than 2020.

One of the biggest challenges facing law enforcement is retention and recruitment within police departments. In a [2021 survey](#) by the Police Executive Research Forum, law enforcement agencies reported an 18% increase in resignations and a 45% increase in retirements compared to the previous year. We found this to be true here in Clark County, too. Respondents reported that numerous factors contributed to officers leaving, including, but not limited to:

- Officers seeking jobs outside of law enforcement.
- Negativity surrounding law enforcement in general.
- Pandemic fatigue.
- Pressure from family to change careers. (<https://www.columbiasouthern.edu/blog/blog-articles/2022/february/current-issues-in-law-enforcement/>)

Locally, the Clark County Sheriff's Office has experienced unprecedented levels of employee vacancies, which in turn have created, subsequently, unprecedented levels of service disruptions to the community. Employee wellness has always been a heightened area of interest in our responsibility as an employer. It is difficult for the executive management to accurately describe the extent to which our employees are suffering. This is true in all branches and levels of our organization. More work is being done by far too few employees, resulting in fatigue and frustration. We are an agency in a staffing crisis.

We recently entered what Sheriff Atkins described as a “perfect storm.” We have endured a world-wide pandemic, we have worked through civil unrest, a national disparagement resulting in distrust of and disregard for the police, extreme state-legislated police reform, and a state-wide shortage of police officers. We are in a newfound reality that more people are quitting, and fewer people are entering the workforce; let alone desire to become part of the criminal justice system. With our staffing already so low, we have very little margins left to accomplish our work. These low staffing levels have left us with very limited capacity to backfill staff that are quarantined out for illness or injury; or taking scheduled days off or vacations. The most important thing we can do right now is retain our existing employees. They should understand they're valued, appreciated, and tremendously needed. The second most important thing we can do right now, is to take the necessary and immediate actions to become more competitive in the marketplace through increased compensation.

Sadly, many of our corrections deputies are also leaving or retiring due to high vacancies which forces the critical need for mandatory overtime (i.e., ordered to stay 4 hours past the end of their 12-hour shift, sometimes day after day and on regularly scheduled days off). To top it all off, we have literally seen our hiring drop to nothing. That is, no one is applying for jobs in all three branches (Enforcement, Corrections, and Civil/Support). Our employees are tired, stressed, anxious and disgruntled, and as for them there is no end in sight.

Due to the above, we have been forced to make tough decisions in all three branches. On Patrol, we have lowered the minimum number of patrol deputies per squad, and therefore created fewer deputies on-duty at any given time. This has exposed our deputies to more risk. This has occurred at a time that legislative mandated de-escalation techniques require more deputies per call. We are simply unable to respond to as many 911 calls for help. We have cut specialty positions to push more deputies to patrol to handle calls for service (SROs, Marine Patrol, detectives, and supervisors). All of this has a direct impact to the

victims of crime. Inside our jail, we are evaluating the real possibility of closing one of our pods to decrease the number of corrections deputies needed per shift. The pod closure would re-distribute 60-80 inmates into already full pods, limiting the ability to social distance for COVID and potentially creating a further hostile jail environment. It is well known that crowded inmates do not behave well, not towards each other nor towards our employees. Our lack of staff in the records unit has caused our branch chief to reach out to other agencies to assist with the workload, and those requests have been denied. We have already reduced the minimum coverage and combined units to effectively manage the shortage of supervisors.

The Clark County Sheriff’s Office is at risk of fundamentally failing our community in its ability to perform mandated services. Sweeping reform of our recruitment and retention strategies is paramount, as never seen by anyone in this agency in the last five decades.

As mentioned numerous times in the past, the state of Washington is ranked 51<sup>st</sup> of the 50 states (including Washington DC) when it comes to the staffing of law enforcement officers. Within the state of Washington, Clark County ranks last! (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/nsleed.pdf>).

Clark County has a total population of 513,100 residents. 236,200 of those residents reside in the unincorporated county boundaries. Adding the populations of Yacolt (1670) and the Woodland residents in Clark County, increases the population by 85 for a total of 237,955 people served by the Clark County Sheriff’s Office. (<https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/april-1-official-population-estimates>).

				2020	2021
46	41	1 Clark	Clark County	503,311	513,100
47	42	2 Clark	Unincorporated Clark County	233,048	236,200
48	43	3 Clark	Incorporated Clark County	270,263	276,900
49	44	4 Clark	Battle Ground	20,743	21,160
50	45	4 Clark	Camas	26,065	26,870
51	46	4 Clark	La Center	3,424	3,605
52	47	4 Clark	Ridgefield	10,325	11,910
53	48	4 Clark	Vancouver	190,915	194,400
54	49	4 Clark	Washougal	17,039	17,200
55	50	4 Clark	Woodland (part)	84	85
56	51	4 Clark	Yacolt	1,668	1,670

Interestingly, Clark County’s population density ranks #2 in the state, second only to King County ([https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/pop/april1/ofm\\_april1\\_press\\_release.pdf](https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/pop/april1/ofm_april1_press_release.pdf)). We truly patrol a large urban area on rural dollars.

On July 23, 2021, the unthinkable occurred and we lost one of our own. Sergeant Jeremy Brown was shot and killed while conducting surveillance at an apartment complex in the 3500 block of NE 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the city of Vancouver. He was ambushed as he sat in his vehicle observing suspects from a stolen firearms investigation. The suspect who shot Sergeant Brown was arrested by members of the United States Marshals Service two days later and charged with first-degree aggravated murder. Sergeant Brown had served with the Clark County Sheriff’s Office for 15 years and was assigned to the Clark-Vancouver Drug Task Force.

The very next week, Friday (July 30<sup>th</sup>) was the 17-year anniversary of the murder of CCSO Sergeant Brad Crawford. Many of our current employees were not working here when that happened. Brad was killed when his patrol car was intentionally rammed by the suspect in his Ford F-350 pickup fleeing the scene of a standoff.

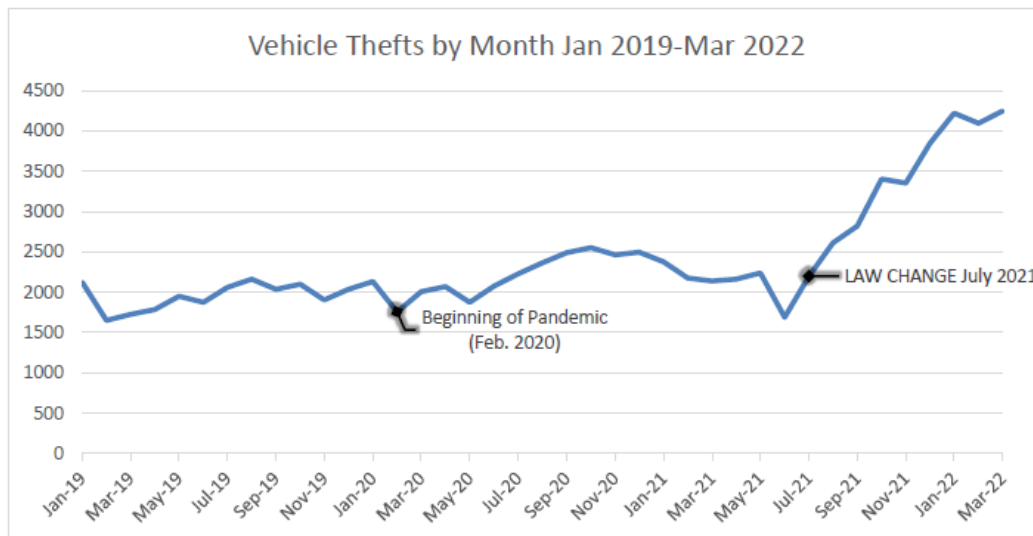
I bring up the long-ago murder of Brad Crawford to highlight the character of these two men. The Bible tells us, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13). Both Jeremy and Brad laid down their lives to protect the citizens of Clark County. The crazy part about it is that I know they would do it again, if necessary.

On July 25, 2021, the worst police reform laws in the nation became mandated. These laws created by the Washington State legislature emboldened criminals and allowed a continuing environment of brazen disregard for the law, reduced or eliminated consequences for those who victimize others, discouraged arrests even when it is clearly justified and needed, and ignored and minimized crime and concerns over public safety. We even printed cards for our deputies to give the public. The cards briefly explained the new restrictions and had the names and contact information of our local legislators if they wished to express their concerns.

Steve Strachan, Executive Director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) added,

*“These trends have made it more difficult to retain and attract the people we need, which only exacerbates the problem. Our state must do the heavy lifting to invest and support behavioral health and treatment, ensure consistent consequences for endangering others, and create an environment for accountable, well trained, well-staffed law enforcement who know what is expected, know what happens if they do it wrong, and feel supported. This takes cooperation, commitment and talking to each other. It takes bipartisan leadership, which we saw for a while this session, until we didn’t.”*

If the loss of employees and the reform laws were not enough, we saw an increase in crime. For example, here is a graph from WASPC of Car Thefts - Statewide:



This dramatic increase was commented on by the WASPC Director.

*“The data show what our law enforcement and communities are seeing out there every day—the word is out and criminals know what they can do under our current laws,”* said Strachan. *“Each of these alarming numbers represent a victim, and victims of auto theft too often are those who can least afford it—with older cars with fewer anti-theft systems, with less insurance coverage, and with greater impacts on their lives.”*

We are hopeful that the 2022 legislative session will address some of the unintended consequences created by these laws.

Meanwhile, The Clark County Sheriff's Office prides itself on providing a high level of service to the citizens of Clark County. As a sheriff's office, we strive to protect and safeguard the community by upholding and enforcing the law in a variety of areas including law enforcement patrol and criminal investigations, enhance public safety through sound correctional practices, and serve the public through effective civil process. These services are provided from the three divisions of the sheriff's office: the enforcement branch, the civil branch, and the corrections branch. We value hard work, dedication, and a commitment to service. We value teamwork throughout the agency, branches, and work units. We value a healthy balance between work, family, and community. We value personal integrity and human dignity.

Since 1986, the Clark County Sheriff's Office has been nationally accredited. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) accreditation programs provide public safety agencies with an opportunity to voluntarily meet an established set of professional standards. These standards require:

- Comprehensive and uniform written directives that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities.
- Reports and analyses to make fact-based and informed management decisions.
- Preparedness to address natural or man-made critical incidents.
- Community relationship-building and maintenance.
- Independent review by subject matter experts.
- Continuous pursuit of excellence through annual reviews and other assessment measures.

This report contains the three individual reports from each of our branches. Each branch report highlights the unique services each branch provides as well as some statistical information on the performance of each branch. It is hoped that this report provides the reader with some insight into the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the work accomplished by the over 400 employees who work each day to make Clark County a safe place to live, work, and recreate.

John Chapman  
Undersheriff

# Enforcement Branch

## Patrol Division

The Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Patrol Division serves the unincorporated areas of Clark County, Washington. Clark County spans 656 square miles, to include 27 square miles of waterway. CCSO patrol serves the unincorporated areas to include the town of Yacolt, the Cowlitz Tribe, as needed, and a small part of Woodland, WA.

The Sheriff's Office Enforcement Branch is authorized 117 deputies, 22 sergeants, 5 commanders and 1 branch chief. CCSO's authorized staffing numbers do not always represent the true staffing numbers. While authorized 117 deputies and 22 sergeants, the average daily staffing levels were considerably lower in 2021, often as much as 10-12% lower.

The Patrol Division represents approximately 60% of the 117 authorized staff, and therefore should be staffed at approximately 70 deputies. In 2021, patrol's readiness average was 54 to 56 deputies available for work. The lack of staff can be attributed to retirements and resignations. Many resignations were unexpected and due to several factors (i.e., WA state law changes, change of employment to higher paying LE agencies).

As reported in previous annual reports, CCSO remains understaffed when compared to similarly sized law enforcement agencies in the Pacific Northwest. The most current data shows a deputy to citizen ratio at .57 per 1000. A lack of staffing does not stop the calls for service. CCSO Patrol was very busy in 2021.

CCSO responded to approximately 71,749 calls in 2021, which averages out to 196.5 calls per day, or one call every 8 minutes. The patrol division writes approximately 11,568 police reports per year. The current response time for a priority one call and a priority two call is 5 minutes, 28 seconds and 7 minutes, 48 seconds, respectively. Priority one and two represents the most serious of police calls. These response times are calculated based on when a deputy receives a call (time dispatched) and when a deputy arrives (time arrived).

Lower staffing levels result in a loss of pro-active policing efforts. Deputies spend most of their time traveling from 911 call to 911 call. Pro-active traffic enforcement and/or other patrol efforts traditionally used to reduce criminal activity are often delayed and/or not accomplished consistently, because of a lack of staff. Overtime is utilized on most all shifts to maintain mandatory minimum staffing. The result has been a reported increase in property crimes throughout Clark County.

Deputies have documented increases in the following types of crimes, which are:

- Open air drug use / chronic homelessness / mentally ill person(s) roaming our business district and downtown campus.
- Human waste strown about roadways, parking lots, overpasses, in our wetlands, in our community parks.
- Increased calls for service at our local schools with no SROs available to respond.
- Chronic and repetitive shoplifting and other petty thefts in our places of business.
- Significant increase in stolen vehicles, stolen trailers, stolen equipment, and damage to vehicles.
- Increases in auto prowling, mail theft, residential and commercial burglaries.
- The erosion of traffic safety on our county roadways; we have increases in excessive speed, failure to observe basic traffic control devices and in collisions with injury. Traffic violators are



intentionally failing to yield to our attempts to stop them with no penalty.

- Organized gang behavior with an increase in armed robberies and drive by shootings, with ties to other Portland Metropolitan cities and counties.

Steps taken by CCSO patrol include engagement at public meetings, maintaining a high visibility police force on our public roads, utilizing social media, and exploring new schedules and beat maps to better deploy our limited resources, to fight crime. Additionally, the patrol division has implemented service cuts for lower-priority, non-emergency calls, to allow deputies to remain free for the more emergent calls for service. With service cuts implemented, we moved to increase the capability of our on-line reporting system and to expand the desk deputy work hours.

Staffing continues to be the greatest challenge facing the Enforcement Branch, specifically the Patrol Division. With hiring difficulties and training challenges, the Sheriff's Office took an aggressive approach in 2019 and 2020 to recruit lateral applicants. Lateral hires have had significant impacts on our ability to get deputies through training and deployed much quicker than the traditional route of hiring and training a new employee. Upfront due to some of the police "reform" law in WA that took place in July, our lateral applicants stopped applying. Also, many other LE agencies around the county are offering large incentive and paying a higher wage than CCSO and several newly hired laterals have left our agency because of this. This issue is still on going and until unless something changes with the compensation for entry level and lateral deputies it will continue to decent our staffing.

### **Investigations Division**

The Investigations Division includes the following units: Major Crimes Unit (MCU), Children's Justice Center, Domestic Violence/Child Recovery, and the Regional Drug Task Force (DTF). Both the Drug Task Force and the Children's Justice Center are multi-jurisdictional in nature with law enforcement and support personnel from several agencies. The annual report for the Children's Justice Center is not included in the Investigative Unit annual report. The Children's Justice Center produces its own annual report each year. There are 23 full time CCSO personnel assigned to the Investigations Division with no vacancies.

MCU has 15 members including a supervisor. In 2021, the CCSO MCU responded to a wide range of calls for service in support of patrol deputies, regional investigative units, as well as agency specific assistance requests. The types of cases worked on or assisted by the MCU ranged from Adult Protective Service referrals, Frauds and Forgeries, Sexual Assaults, Death Investigations, Homicides, and Officer Involved Shootings.

In all, members of the CCSO MCU again generated over 620 reports documenting their continuing investigations during 2021. During this period, the CCSO MCU team worked multiple Fraud and Theft cases that resulted in significant financial recovery and criminal charges being referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Specifically, over \$225,000 was recovered for multiple theft victims.

The MCU continued to work in partnership with our regional partners to maintain and operate as a mandated regional Independent Investigative Team. IIT training was conducted per statute with regional partners.

The MCU continued to expand its investigative efforts around Internet Crimes Against Children. Over two dozen search warrants were executed on individuals and residences in this effort and several arrests and multiple charges have been referred to the PA's office. MCU completed over 30 APS Investigation referrals, multiple death investigation patrol assists, four infant death investigations, and three controlled substance homicide investigations. The MCU also hired a new digital forensics investigator in 2021.

The MCU team members also continued to assist the agency by covering patrol shifts when needed, serving as instructors in multiple disciplines and working in collateral duties including Defensive Tactics Instructors, Firearms Instructors, UAS operators and MRT team members.

### **Drug Task Force**

The Clark/Vancouver Regional Drug Task Force (CVRDTF) is made up of investigators from The Clark County Sheriff's Office, The Vancouver Police Department, The Washington State Patrol, and Homeland Security. In addition to investigators, the Clark County Sheriff's Office provides one financial investigator, one assistant financial investigator, one legal secretary, and one administrative assistant.

2021 was a very challenging year for CVRDTF, along with law enforcement in general. On July 23, 2021, Sergeant Jeremy Brown had been assisting another unit with surveillance of a group that was suspected in burglarizing several properties and stealing firearms. While on surveillance, Sergeant Brown was ambushed and murdered. He was able to return fire prior to succumbing to his injuries. His death affected the members of CVRDTF with some members still experiencing the effects of this tragedy. One member elected to leave the profession altogether.

Even with all the challenges and obstacles placed on team, the detectives all accomplished a lot of good work. These investigations focus on drug trafficking organizations that operate within the geographic area. Below are the numbers for 2021. From 2020 there was a decrease in methamphetamine and cocaine seizures. There was an increase in marijuana plant seizures, but what is shocking is the increase in Fentanyl seizures. Fentanyl seizures increased more than 1700 percent over 2020. The number of cases opened compared to the year prior were also down. Controlled purchases of narcotics were up. Both custodial and non-custodial arrests were down compared to last year.

### **Headquarters Division**

The Headquarters Division is managed by the Clark County Sheriff's Enforcement Branch. The Headquarters Division includes the following units: CALEA Accreditation, Public Information, Training, Backgrounds, Recruitment, Campus Deputies, Case Management, Civil Deputies, Internal Affairs and Sex Offender Registration. The Headquarters Division provides help with planning, logistical support and staffing assistance for the unusual occurrence and/or special project, as assigned by the Sheriff or his designee.

The Case Management Sergeant supervises the Campus and Civil Deputies, who enforce both criminal and civil law; deputies provide uniformed patrol within the courthouse and around the County campus. The Case Management Sergeant also provides a single repository for information to be received, assigned, and tracked through the Case Management System.

New for 2021, the four Civil Deputies serve warrants, civil papers, enforce court ordered evictions and enforce various types of protection orders, as defined by the court. This was done to properly serve the amount of protection orders and other expanding civil processes mandated by the state Legislature. The Civil Deputies work directly with the civil branch and have been working four days on and four days off to ensure service of civil papers can be performed seven days a week and provide assistance to the patrol division.

The Internal Affairs Unit conducts investigations of alleged misconduct and/or violations of Sheriff's Office General Orders. Internal Affairs is staffed by two Sergeants, one from the Enforcement Branch and one from the Corrections Branch. Internal Affairs tracks awards and discipline, internal complaints, citizen complaints, traffic accidents, accidental firearm discharges, outside investigations, and service

complaints. Internal Affairs saw an increase in traffic collisions in 2021 and created a simplified investigation process to ensure proper tracking of the collisions.

### **Public Information Officer**

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is an integral function within the Sheriff's Office. The PIO provides timely, accurate, and useful information to the public about events for which the Sheriff's Office is involved with and/or which are of concern to citizens living in Clark County, WA. The PIO accomplishes this through communication with the local, state, and national media. The PIO transitioned the administration of the Sheriff's Office social media platforms, which include Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to the new Backgrounds Sergeant. The PIO is often the spokesperson for the organization when public statements are released by detective units or command staff.

### **Sex Offender Registration Unit**

The Clark County Sheriff's Office SOR unit monitors convicted sex offenders that live within CCSO's jurisdiction as required by law. The SOR Unit is viewed as a model program by other regional SOR units, state, and federal agencies with the responsibility for monitoring sex offenders and alerting the public to newly released offenders. The SOR unit has seen increasing numbers of offenders that have moved to the area. The greatest challenge the unit faced this year was responding to a court decision that required the contact of over 90 convicted offenders that were now required to report differently than their original conviction required.

### **Accreditation**

Accreditation and Planning functions include project research and management, multi-year planning, administrative reporting, operational planning and maintenance of written directives, and accreditation master files. This unit is responsible for monitoring and reporting on changes, programs, policies, and procedures to assure compliance with The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA).

### **Backgrounds**

Employee background investigations are completed in partnership with the CCSO Human Resources as well as the County HR Division. The Background Detectives now report to a Backgrounds/Recruiting sergeant, who spent several months in early 2021 reviewing the recruiting, testing, interviewing and background process. Multiple changes were implemented that have significantly increased efficiency within the unit. Background detectives complete pre-employment screening for the enforcement, corrections, and support branches, as well as outside contract vendors and other agencies upon request and with the approval of the Sheriff's Office.

### **Training**

Three Sergeants and one deputy are assigned to monitor the training programs. The Sergeants must work together and in partnership with staff at two WA State run academies (Enforcement and Corrections). In 2021, the training unit continued to ensure employees reached their mandated 24-hour training requirement. As required by the Criminal Justice Training Commission, CCSO training attended the Patrol Tactics Instructor certification after selecting the new instructors. Several of these mandated classes were held throughout the year. Members of the training unit also researched and presented the plan to purchase the Lexipol/PoliceOne online training academy. This will provide a resource for training content that meets required and elective training courses. This program was approved and will be implemented in 2022.

## **Special Operations Division**

The Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division is comprised of personnel that work in a variety of specialized policing disciplines to include: Sheriff's Marine Unit, Traffic Unit, Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Unit, Sheriff's Canine Unit, Portland Metropolitan Explosive Disposal Unit (MEDU), Tactical Detective Unit (TDU), Tactical Emergency Medics Unit, Crisis Negotiators Team, Air Support Unit, Mobile Response Team (MRT), Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and our new Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Unit.

The Special Operations Commander has additional duties that include supervision and/or liaison for, or committee membership with: Regional Active Threats Response Policy Group, Region IV Law Enforcement Sub-Committee, UASI Law Enforcement Work Group, WA State Traffic Safety LEL, WA State Target Zero Program, the Safe Streets Task Force, and the U.S. Marshals Service Violent Offender Task Force.

## **Traffic**

In 2021 fatalities increased in the State of Washington and in Clark County. The increase was directly correlated to decreased enforcement due to legislative impacts and staffing. The Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit responded to 44 callouts that included 13 fatalities, 50 injuries and 2 requests for assistance from outside agencies. As the table below indicates, the Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit responded to a statistical average number of fatalities this year after a record year in 2020.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TOTAL TRAFFIC CALLOUTS</b>	<b>FATALITIES</b>	<b>% FATALITIES INVOLVING ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS</b>	<b>INJURED PERSONS</b>	<b>% INJURIES INVOLVING ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS</b>
2011	23	7	57%	19	40%
2012	23	9	66%	21	86%
2013	24	7	43%	30	23%
2014	44	20	40%	41	44%
2015	41	8	88%	44	43%
2016	35	8	63%	37	64%
2017	36	13	62%	40	63%
2018	43	13	53%	43	40%
2019	45	14	64%	51	47%
2020	37	20	35%	46	43%
2021	44	13	46%	50	36%

Staffing continues to be a concern for the Traffic Unit. The Traffic Unit continues to handle all serious injury and fatal collisions, traffic complaints, traffic education, commercial vehicle enforcement, derelict RV complaints and enforcement, hulk vehicle inspections, VIN inspections, and continues to be the liaison for Clark County Public Works.

The Traffic Unit participates in DUI, phlebotomy, and motorcycle emphasis patrols, and conducted 6 patrols in 2021. This was down from our usual number due to cancelled HVE patrols at the state level.

In 2021 our Law Enforcement Blood Draw Officer Program conducted 27 blood draws. 26 were related to DUI investigations and the other was a Vehicular Homicide investigation. 13 of the blood draws were consented and 14 were authorized by a search warrant.

The Traffic Unit continued in our goals to thoroughly investigate and work to prevent serious injury and fatality collisions. They strive to deliver an excellent service to our peers and citizens, while maintaining the integrity that is necessary in this profession.

## **K9**

Four canine teams represented the Sheriff's Office in 2021. However, the canine unit operated at full strength for only part of the year as two of our dogs were retired.

The K9 Unit continues to train with our regional partners. The training group includes the Vancouver Police Department, Washougal Police Department, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and the Kelso Police Department. Due to our canine unit being at half strength, we rely on our regional partners much more for training.

The K9 Unit combined for a total of 104 deployments in 2021. There were 52 arrests as a result of the deployments. 6 of those arrests resulted in canine bites. 11.5% of arrests resulted in a use of force by canine.

2021 was a year of great change within the canine unit. Police reform laws that were passed by the legislature required the canine unit to evaluate current policy and deployment procedures. Fortunately, our policy and deployment procedures are well thought out and meet the new standards required. As the new laws are interpreted, we continually evaluate policy and procedure to ensure we are making lawful and sound decisions.

Currently only two deputies represent the CCSO canine unit and we ended the year with two vacancies. Filling the vacancies as early and possible would greatly improve the unit's ability to provide service to patrol and specialty units. Current staffing levels make filling the vacancies challenging. Hopefully they can be filled soon.

## **Marine**

The Clark County Sheriff's Marine Unit has responsibility for marine law enforcement on all waterways within Clark County. Clark County is bordered on three sides by the Columbia and Lewis Rivers. These waterways are a popular boating and watersport destinations that attract local and out of area boating enthusiasts year-round.

The unit is a regional service provider with responsibilities that can be broken down into eight areas:

- 1) Enforcement of boating regulations and response to on-water complaints and emergencies.
- 2) Boating accident investigations and reporting.
- 3) Vessel safety inspections.
- 4) Boater assistance.
- 5) Boating safety education and information.
- 6) Marine LE Training.
- 7) Waterway markings.
- 8) Complete reporting requirements to the State.

In 2021 the unit was staffed by two full-time deputies and a supervisor. Due to the COVID pandemic and the 2020 reassignment of School Resource Officers (SROs) to patrol, we again in 2021 did not have the benefit of full time SROs to patrol the lakes and relied heavily on our cadre of 20 trained skippers and deck hands for summer recreational months. Because the Marine Unit is an approved boating safety program under WAC 352-65, it receives funding from the State to help support its mission.

Back in November of last year, both Marine Unit deputies were reassigned to patrol and courthouse duties due to staffing shortages. Unfortunately, our staffing shortages have not changed for the better, and we have re-assigned both deputies back to patrol. Despite some of the limitations the CCSO Marine Unit was able to accomplish much during the year. Agency staffing is likely to play a large part in our ability to maintain a robust Marine Patrol program. It's very likely that our ability to be a leader in the state and local programs will suffer.

### **Tactical Detective Unit**

The Tactical Detective Unit (TDU) is a specialized unit of detectives which serves to support our patrol deputies with more complex investigations. TDU Detectives also assist our Major Crimes, DTF, CJC and the US Department of Justice. In 2021, TDU assisted patrol on 227 investigations throughout the year. This consisted of 503 reports completed and 94 search warrants served. This unit was rebuilt in 2021 after being shut down temporarily in 2020 due to staffing shortages. This unit has proven to be invaluable with assisting patrol deputies with investigative follow up that might not normally get completed due to time or lack of staffing.

### **Special Events / Outreach Division**

In 2021, the Special Events Division started getting to normal operations after many of the events were canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19. Our staffing levels required us to have less of a footprint at Amphitheater shows, Washougal Motocross and other special events. Each of these venues understood that regular staffing could not be attained as in previous years and adjusted their requirements for CCSO.

The Body/Vehicle Camera program is currently in a holding pattern waiting for budget approval from the County Council.

The Outreach Unit continued to have Neighborhood Association meetings but were held mostly online. They are also planning on having an in-person Citizens Academy starting in April 2022. They have not been able to have an academy since 2020 and many citizens are excited at this program returning.

# Civil/Support Branch

The Clark County Sheriff's Office Civil/Support Branch continued to fulfill the Sheriff's Office Mission of "Protecting and Safeguarding our Community" despite times of unprecedented upheaval and change. Our drive to serve our community never faltered in 2021. All staff demonstrated a resiliency and tenacity in fulfilling their mandates in supporting the public and their peers. They came to work every day, interacted with the public during COVID restrictions, experienced the tragic loss of a co-workers, but still carried on.

At the end of 2021 we were facing significant staffing shortages. The reality of the job market, given the pay, hiring incentives, and retention pay became readily apparent. In 2021 there was a massive shift in the workplace; people working from home, resigning to follow other pursuits, or earning equitable pay for the same work but at a different agency. Unfortunately, the County has been extremely slow to respond to the changing landscape of the marketplace.

The Civil/Support Branch will continue to work toward being progressive, building partnerships, and educating county leadership of the high-level work we provide internally and to our law enforcement partners nationwide.

## **Criminal Records Division**

The work within the Criminal Records Unit relates mostly to the enforcement branch of CCSO. It is responsible for reviewing and reconciling police reports and supplementals, facilitating protection orders, managing the entry, modification, recovery, cancellation and querying of people, vehicles, and articles in the Washington Criminal Information Center systems (WACIC), as well as a variety of other tasks as follows:

- Conducting records checks/background checks
- Document imaging
- Meeting state retention requirements for all records files
- Fulfilling requests for criminal justice information
- Processing public disclosure requests
- Processing of warrants
- Bail acceptance
- Public service window
- Coordination with regional/national law and justice agencies

Per contracts with Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield, La Center and Washougal, this unit also handles WACIC entries and queries after hours.

- Processed 11,278 Sheriff's Office Criminal Reports and an additional 5,349 supplementals
- 5,283 Protection Orders Received
- Fulfilled 1,953 criminal justice agencies request for information

## **Jail Records Unit**

The Jail Records Unit has an extensive workload managing inmate activity, carrying out court orders regarding sentencing, changes to sentencing due to sanctions or good time, facilitating entry of court slips, bail, bookings, and court dockets.

The high-liability nature of the work within this unit requires a significant degree of quality control. The Jail Records unit is responsible for managing the time inmates serve and ensure they are not released too early or late. This requires complex sentence calculations. The unit also manages inmate files, good time calculations, the addition of charges to inmates per the court or further investigations; manages bail bonds and facilitating court ordered mental health holds.

- 5,061 Jail Bookings in 2021
- Jail Releases Processed 4,951
- 31,550 Court Slips Processed

## **Warrants Unit**

The Warrants Unit has two main functions: 1) processing the paperwork associated with, and managing the status of, various types of warrants including felony, misdemeanor, fugitive and extradition warrants; and 2) managing the Northwest Shuttle Service – a cooperative effort involving an estimated 5,000 law enforcement agencies across 15 states – responsible for transporting inmates/fugitives from one jurisdiction to another as needed to answer charges. This complex process includes national and international extraditions. This program is very extensive, requiring a high degree of logistics, which involves scheduling travel arrangements for outgoing and incoming prisoners, and checking each shuttle inmate passenger for warrants, mental and medical conditions.

- 693 Felony Warrants Issued in 2021
- Misdemeanor CCSO Warrants Issued 1,840

## **Civil Unit**

The Civil Unit is responsible for processing, coordinating, and overseeing the execution of all Sheriff's Office civil process, including writs, replevins, and protection orders. This unit coordinates the service of process with deputies, attorneys, and the court. Accepting payments and arranging for the seizure of property, scheduling moving and tow companies, invoicing, refunding, recording, and depositing fees.

- 1,677 Civil Papers Received in 2021
- Civil Papers Served 1,385
- Evictions: 135 Scheduled / 108 Completed

## **Identification Unit**

The Identification Unit is responsible for ensuring the proper identification of all persons encountered by the Sheriff's Office as part of an investigation or incarceration. This unit verifies the identity of persons who are booked into custody, arrested, entered in CCSO systems, or require verification by another agency through fingerprints photographs and other available records. The correct identity of arrested individuals is critical to accurate criminal history information, which is relied upon by law enforcement and the legal purchase of firearms. The unit also certifies fingerprints and photographs and creates photo line-ups for investigations. The employee in this unit is a certified fingerprint examiner; they respond to court when requested to verify fingerprint matches.

*\*No stats for 2021 due to long-term vacancy\**



## Evidence Division

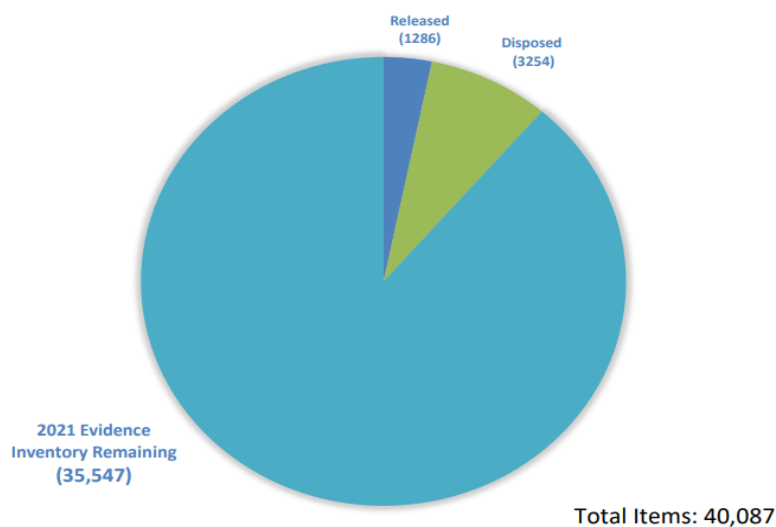
The Clark County Sheriff's Office Evidence Unit supports local law enforcement agencies and their investigative efforts to include: the Sheriff's Office, La Center Police Department, Ridgefield Police Department, Clark-Vancouver Drug Task Force, County Fire Marshal, Prosecuting Attorney's Offices, and the Medical Examiner.

The primary duties of the unit are maintaining and protecting the evidentiary chain of custody. This includes the collection, secure storage, documentation, distribution, and disposal of evidence, found property and safe-keep items.

The Evidence Unit follows best practices for property room management regarding sexual assault handling, DNA collection, drug and narcotics handling, money safeguards, purging guidelines, evidence auctions, disposal procedures, audits, and firearms handling.

### Noteworthy Highlights for 2021

- Improved impound lot management continued from 2020 - quarterly communication with the traffic unit and PA's office to keep the impound lot available for new intakes and updated information to how long the vehicle may be staying or released.
- An additional 55 SAKs were added to the SAKI private laboratory testing - State Attorney General's standards and requirements for untested kits to be entered into the state track system.
- COVID continues to affect the day-to-day functions. Adjustments were made for evidence intake and front window releases.
- 2021 – Evidence staff completed the 2020 wall to wall inventory of over 40,000 pieces of evidence.
- Primary management and assists to the La Center and Ridgefield Police Departments for evidence.
- Low staffing levels were a challenge to the unit in 2021. Increased workload on employees and a reduction of open hours.
- Established an application and selection process for test fire specialist. Deputies can assist in the IBIS test fire protocol.
- Applied for and was awarded a grant for an evidence refrigerator.

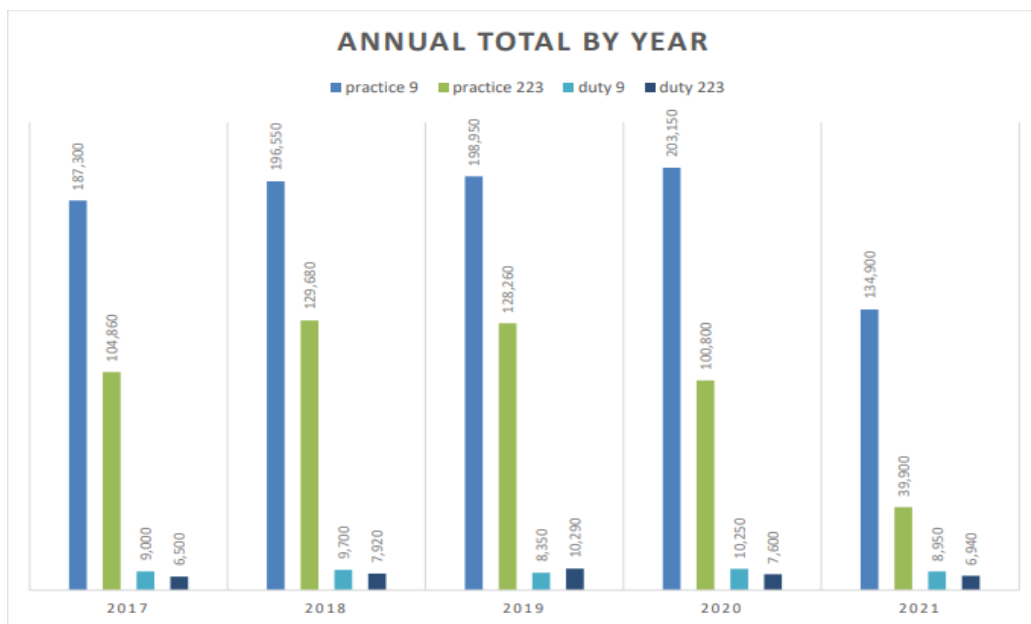


## Logistics Division

The Logistics Unit is an internal service unit, which supports all Sheriff's Office employees and volunteers through procurement activities to include ordering, receiving, and issuing of materials, equipment, and supplies. This includes the distribution, storage, general maintenance, inspection, calibration, and repair of items.

### Noteworthy Highlights for 2021

- PPE supplies, (gloves, cleaners, N95, hand sanitizer, etc.) continue to be a challenge to source due to the COVID pandemic. Creative sourcing and extensive product research were performed by Logistics staff.
- COVID testing supplies for the jail remain a challenge to source.
- Logistical interruptions within the supply chain are impactful considerations during the ordering process.
- Cell phone management from Clark County IT to the Sheriff's Office; including the issuance of new cell phones and phone numbers to staff.
- Protocol changes for the issuing of practice ammunition at Logistics to the range.
- Line of Duty death was a unique uniform challenge for Logistics. Some amazing and creative sourcing was done to ensure all uniformed deputies were properly fitted.



### Combined Warehouse 2021

- A State Audit was conducted in December of 2021. This included multiple reports generated at the request of the State Auditor for Logistics and Evidence.
- CALEA Certification completed an audit in 2021, including a video presentation and interviews.
- The warehouse received substantial security upgrades. This includes improved lighting, cameras, and special monitor at an entry/exit door.
- The fire alarm system has reached its end of life.
- The front lobby safety and security upgrade was approved in late 2021 with a begin date of January 2022.

## **Public Disclosure Division**

The Public Disclosure Unit manages agency compliance with the Washington Public Records Act and coordinates response to all requests for records on behalf of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The unit reviews all records prior to release to identify material that is confidential or otherwise exempt from release under state and federal statutes. Legal analysis is conducted, redactions are made, copying costs estimated, and requests are tracked.

Public Disclosure staff also endeavor to stay abreast of changes resulting from updates to public records law and related court decisions. Staff regularly attend training and webinars to understand and implement best practices.

### **2021 stats**

- The Sheriff's Office had 133 open public records requests at the start of 2021
- 2,985 public records requests received throughout the year *(14% increase)*
- Closed the year with 160 open public records requests
- 223,931 pages reviewed and produced in 2021, an average of 18,661 pages per month *(39% increase)*
- The Clark County Sheriff's Office received 60% of all public disclosure requests county-wide

The unit continues to experience an increasing trend of large and complex requests, including records relating to the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other local critical incidents. One of the unit's challenges is the length of time to train new staff in this highly detailed specialty position. Goals for 2022 include preparing for the potential of a body worn camera program and the subsequent requests for video records.

## **Information Technology Division**

The Sheriff's Office Information Technology Division works with County IT and vendors to support all branches of the department. Ongoing COVID restriction were helped by the laptops deployed previously for ongoing pandemic issues, and allowed remote work as needed. We added additional laptops to the computer fleet this year to assist with offsite training of new hires and newer versions of MDCs with built-in cameras.

Here are a few wins for the CCSO IT department this year:

- Duo rollout – The DUO rollout went smooth and was challenging at the same time. CCSO IT staff stepped up to the challenge and coordinated the DUO rollout with the required DUO app and YubiKeys.
- Camp Bonneville gate technology conversion project – We worked with Facilities and County IT to install and link a Proximity card system with our current Win Pak PROX card system. This allows us to control access in the same way that we control access at all our other secure locations.
- Continued updates to codes within the EIS RMS and JMS systems – As RCWs get updated, and processes are changed within CCSO, we make changes within the RMS/JMS systems to reflect the needs of the agency.

- General software and hardware support for all CCSO – The Sheriff’s Office has approximately one hundred software applications, and countless hardware devices to maintain and coordinate to keep them up and operational for CCSO staff.
- Setup of a second HID/Crossmatch fingerprint system for the front desk; due to the demand for social distancing and increased demand for CPLs.
- Sheriff’s Office IT customers include all branches of CCSO, six Clark County departments, five outside agencies, all of which utilize the EIS RMS and ten departments that utilize the JMS (Prebook) system.

# Corrections Branch

## Goals for 2022

- ❖ Seek funding for clear covering (Lexan product) of all maximum-security cell doors and windows.
- ❖ MOUD program – implementation of an opioid treatment program (OTP) for incarcerated individuals to receive an opioid use disorder (OUD) assessment, medication, treatment throughout incarceration, and connection to treatment upon release.
- ❖ Staff Retention
- ❖ Recruiting
- ❖ ADA accommodations (deaf/hearing impaired)
- ❖ Continued facility renovations
- ❖ Replacement of older transport vehicles

## Some of the Projects Completed in 2020 and 2021:

- ❖ Inmate phones and kiosks upgraded.
- ❖ Body scanner issues fixed.
- ❖ Fire alarm system replacement throughout the Sheriff's Office.
- ❖ Permanent stools in four maximum security housing units at inmate kiosk locations.
- ❖ Implemented a bail schedule for non-violent Class-C Felonies.
- ❖ Signed an agreement with US Department of Justice to implement new policies, procedures, training, and equipment to comply with ADA requirements for the deaf and hard of hearing.

## Ongoing Projects:

- ❖ Security upgrade throughout the jail. Project is 80% complete by the end of 2020. Due to contractor staffing and COVID-19 it is still active.
- ❖ Fixing issues with all max security doors.
- ❖ Additional tablets in all living units. Every living unit will have 1 tablet to every 6 inmates per living unit.
- ❖ Replace all outside windows of the jail.



*Deputy of the Year: Lemar Elliott*

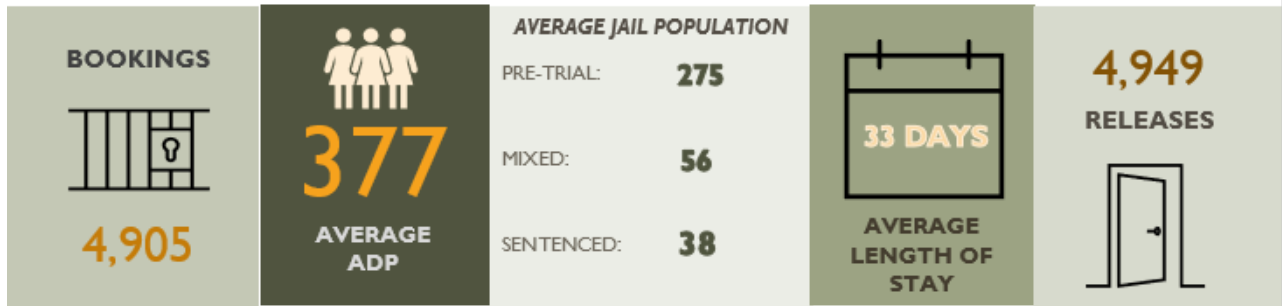


*Sergeant of the Year: Chris Wolfe*

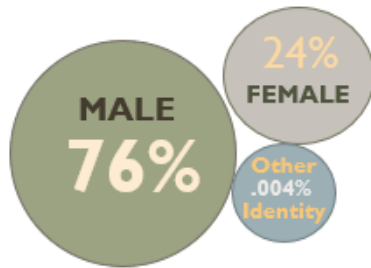




## WHO WAS INCARCERATED IN 2021?

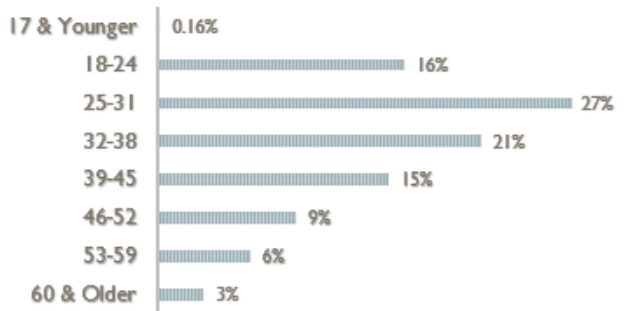


### GENDER IDENTITY

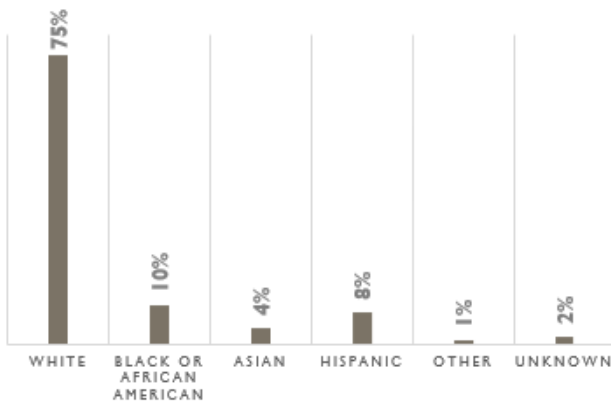


### AGE GROUPS

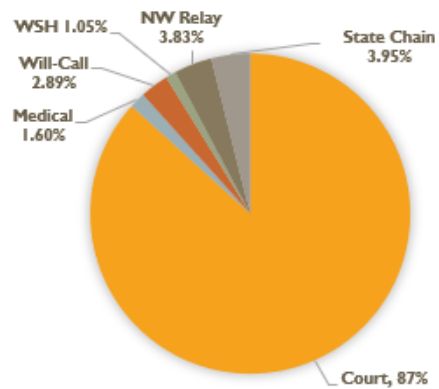
(\*17 & younger charged as an adult, but housed at Juvenile Detention Center)



### RACE & ETHNICITY



### TRANSPORTS



Statistics for the Clark County Jail (CCJ) are outlined over the past three years. At the end of 2019, CCJ's medical contract expired with Correct Care Services and in January 2020 the contract was awarded to ~~Naphcare~~ (some data is unavailable due to this change). \*In mid-March of 2020, jail operations and policies were adjusted to help prevent the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>			
<b>JAIL POPULATION</b>	2019	2020*	2021
Average Daily Population (ADP)	634	462	377
Pre-Trial ADP	369	321	275
Mixed ADP	116	77	56
Sentenced ADP	137	57	38
Male/Female/Other ADP	9,701/3,400	5,066/1,600/1	3,774/1,174/2
Average Age	36 years old	35 years old	35 years old
Homeless	2,762	1,182	757
Bookings	13,115	6,445	4,905
Releases	13,101	6,666	4,949
Average Length of Stay	17 Days	24 Days	33 Days
<b>TRANSPORTS</b>			
Jury Trials	25	10	14
Medical	167	113	139
NW Relay	1,469	505	333
Court	14,155	9,407	7,541
Western State Hospital	59	47	91
Will-Call	596	270	251

<b>DISCIPLINE AND CLASSIFICATION</b>			
<b>INMATE DISCIPLINE</b>	2019	2020	2021
Inmate vs. Inmate Assaults	200	183	118
Inmate vs. Staff Assaults	11	27	19
Incident Reports	2,404	1,801	1,383
Disciplinary Hearings	1,605	903	724
Minor Infractions	1,055	665	580
Major Infractions	1,034	847	373
<b>CONTRACT SERVICES</b>			
<b>MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	2019	2020	2021
Sick Calls	N/A	12,188	12,648
Quick Note	N/A	35,624	36,332
Nursing Protocols	N/A	4,788	3,773
Kites Responded To via <del>Telmate</del>	11,616	9,751	8,745
<b>MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>			
Offsite Medical Bills Received	\$1,294,076	\$897,244	\$182,079
Offsite Medical Bills Paid	\$110,383	\$33,840	\$29,845
Columbia River Mental Health	\$99,337	\$156,505	\$59,621
<del>Naphcare</del>	N/A	\$3,667,511	\$4,108,455
<b>FOOD SERVICES</b>			
Meals Served	982,451	875,395	644,246
Cost of Food & Services	\$846,124	\$753,296	\$650,807
Cost Per Meal	\$1.24	\$0.66	\$0.76



<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			
<b>WARRANTS (Received)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Superior Court	1,603	851	697
District Court	3,185	2,641	1,846
Battle Ground/Ridgefield/La Center	790	554	531
Camas/Washougal	937	599	528
<b>OTHER</b>			
Public Visitors – On-Site	8,265	1,883	0
Visitation Calls – Off-Site	908,456	714,173	555,792
Professional Visitors	18,742	10,779	10,235
Approved Photos via <u>Telmate</u>	26,071	12,127	4,394
Approved Messages via <u>Telmate</u>	321,961	309,882	435,018
Kites Responded to via <u>Telmate</u>	22,671	13,736	10,934

\*\*As of 2021, the estimated Census population for Clark County was 513,100. This is a growth of 9,789 and lists Clark County as the 5<sup>th</sup> most populated county in the State out of 39 counties.

## **Successes and Future Issues:**

### **Successes**

- Signed an agreement with US Department of Justice to implement new policies, procedures, training, and equipment to comply with ADA requirements for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Inmate phones and kiosks upgraded.
- Body scanner issues fixed.
- Fire alarm system replacement throughout the Sheriff's Office.
- Logistics: Procured and distributed additional PPE to keep employees safe and healthy during the pandemic.
- Completed 100% inventory of property and evidence - over 40,000 items.
- Corrections staff serving the Clark County Sheriff's Office Jail has done an outstanding job of keeping inmates safe from traditional hazards in the correction environment such as self-harm and victimization, while protecting them from a pandemic.

### **Future Issues**

- Recruitment / Staffing - The largest hurdle for all branches will be to maintain a minimum amount of staffing for work units. Between retirements, resignations, and injuries, this task is daunting. In 2020, we created a new position for a full-time background/recruitment sergeant. We started developing new recruitment strategies for 2021, to attract talented new hires to our workforce. Our goal is to hire and retain a diversified workforce which is adequate to maintain the safety of our employees and our community.
- Police Reform - Compliance with new "police reform" Washington laws that are took effect in 2021. It is unknown which laws will be modified by the 2022 legislature, but a number of them will affect the manner in which we conduct business, limit our tactics, and maintain officer safely while maintaining compliance.
- Technology - In order to gain efficiencies in a number of agency-wide areas, we need additional technology. The costs are prohibitive in purchasing new software.
- Civil Process - once the eviction moratorium is lifted by the governor in 2022, we expect numerous requests by landlords and property owners to have delinquent renters removed. Our state legislature continues to add unfunded mandates that require specific expertise without additional resources.
- Maintaining inmate safety and well-being as the COVID-19 virus has not been eradicated.