



# *Sonoma County Sheriff's Office* *Annual Report*

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Published October 2023

*Honoring the past, celebrating the future*

ISRAEL BROCKMAN 1849-1855 • A.C BLEDSOE 1855-1857 • E.L GREEN  
1857-1858 • J.J. ELLIS 1859-1860 • JOSEPH MARTIN BOWLES 1861-  
1862 • JAMES PRESTON CLARK 1863-1866 • SAMUEL POTTER 1867-  
1870 • EDWARD LATAPIE 1871-1876 • JOSEPH WRIGHT 1876-1878 • J.L  
DINWIDDIE 1878-1883 • TENNESSEE CARTER BISHOP 1883-1886 •  
EDWARD POWER COLGAN 1886-1890 • J. MULGREW 1891-1892 • SAM  
ALLEN 1893-1898 • FRANK P. GRACE 1899-1906 • JOHN “JACK” SMITH  
1907-1918 • JAMES PETRAY 1919-1920



## *Mission Statement & Core Values*

In partnership with our communities, we commit to provide professional, firm,  
fair, and compassionate public safety services with integrity and respect.

JOHN M. BOYES 1920-1924 • JOSEPH F. RYAN 1925-1926 • JOE  
MCMINN 1926 • E. DOUGLAS BILLS 1927-1930 • MARCUS  
“MIKE” FLOHR 1931-1934 • HARRY L. PATTESON 1934-1938 •  
ANDREW ALBERT WILKE 1939-1942 • HARRY L. PATTESON 1943  
-1958 • JOHN ELLIS 1959-1970 • DON STRIEPEKE 1971-1978 •  
ROGER MCDERMOTT 1979-1986 • RICHARD “DICK”  
MICHAELSEN 1987-1990 • MARK IDHE 1991-1997 • JIM  
PICCININI 1997-2002 • BILL COGBILL 2003-2010 • STEVE  
FREITAS 2011-2017 • ROB GIORDANO 2017-2018 • MARK ESSICK  
2018-2022



## A MESSAGE FROM

*Sheriff Eddie Ingram*

**J**oe Amezcuita and 26,435. A name and a number.

Names and numbers. Both have important roles in any organization, and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office is no exception. Numbers guide our budget, tell us how many we serve, how many in our ranks, how many more badges we need. Names are the narrative; they tell the story behind the badge.

Since becoming Sheriff earlier this year, I've repeated another number – three – to every audience, internal and external. They're the three areas we highlight, the three things we'll do exceptionally: Public Safety – when you call 911, a deputy comes. Recruitment – our office will be well staffed and better reflect our community. Engagement – we'll spend more of our time meeting the people we serve, as well as community partners, the Board of Supervisors, IOLERO, and other law enforcement agencies. To our office, these three are daily affirmations. To the community, a promissory note.

By the numbers, we're succeeding in our charge of improving Public Safety, emboldened and supported by a stronger relationship with the Board of Supervisors, while we continue to face roadblocks like staffing shortages and laws that make it tough to get repeat offenders off the streets.

We're focused on our mission, and that includes taking care of our own people, too. After years of mandatory overtime in an ever-changing environment, we must put the oxygen mask on ourselves before we can help others. We are implementing a comprehensive new wellness program will include an app to gauge real-time needs, a resiliency room, along with an onsite clinician to address emotional wellbeing.

This report will delve into the numbers, but it's important to realize that the gains we've made don't happen on their own – they're driven by a professional team who see this career as a calling. Like the two deputy sheriffs who put themselves in the line of fire to rescue a gunshot victim. And the four correctional deputies who saved a woman trying to take her own life.

Joe Amezcuita? He was a heroic kid who helped save a life. He joined the Sheriff's Explorers at 15, became a Correctional Deputy and today is one of our newest Deputy Sheriffs, helping us build better bonds with Spanish speaking residents. He and others new to the team are how we connect.

26,435? That's the number of Sonoma County residents we've touched through our engagement programs these past four quarters – spending 205 hours meeting with 9,449 people this last quarter alone, outside of times of crisis. We don't just want to be there on your worst days, we want to be part of your good days, too.

So, our annual report is a collection of names and numbers that tell a simple story – we're doing better than ever by setting clear goals and putting all our time and energy into achieving them. We've made a fresh start with a good year, great numbers, and compelling stories. All in service to a community we love.

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SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



# Meet Executive Staff

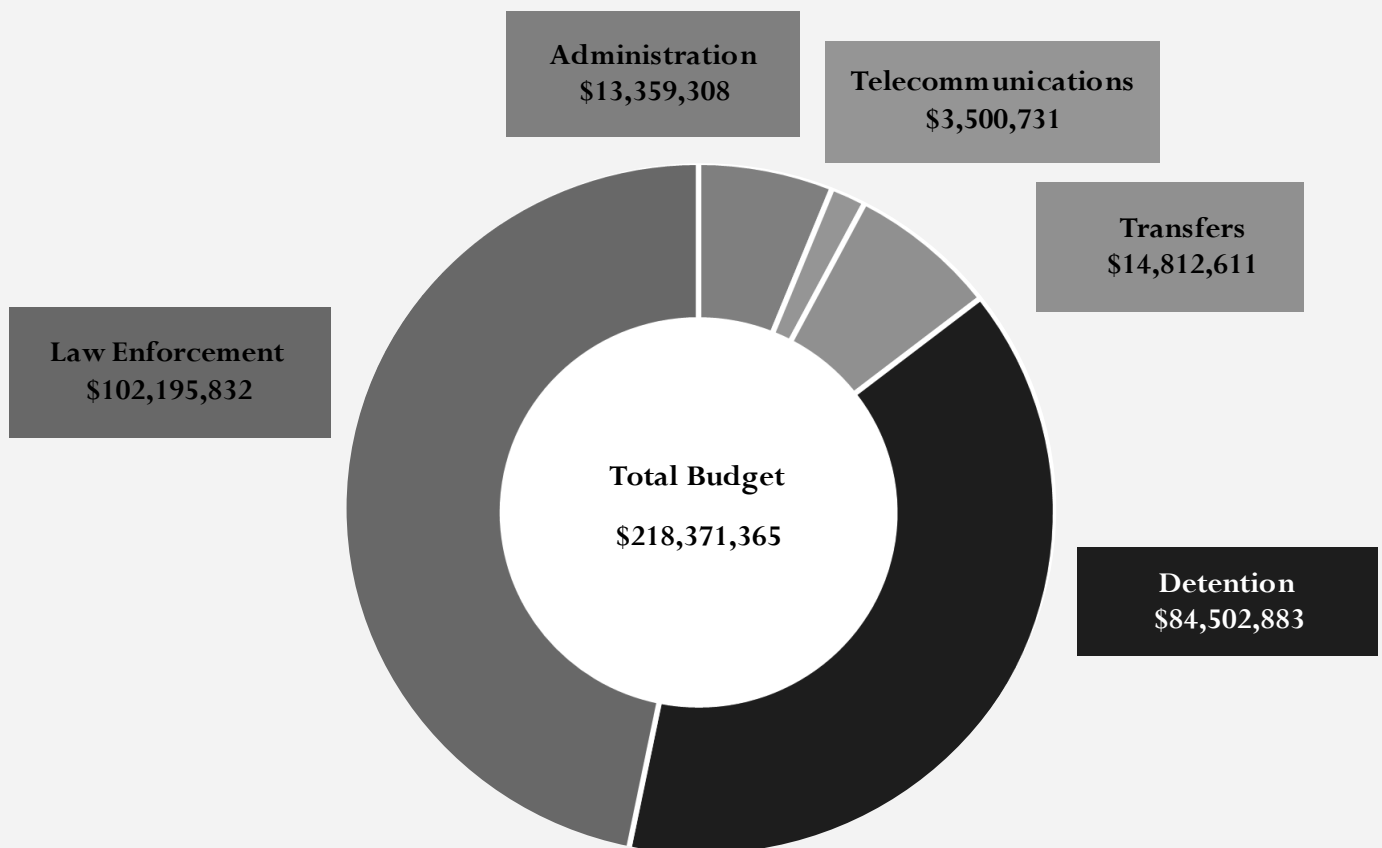


Left to right: Law Enforcement Special Services Captain Orlando Rodriguez, Law Enforcement Field Services Captain Shawn Murphy, Assistant Sheriff Jim Naugle, Sheriff Eddie Engram, Chief of Financial and Administrative Services Heidi Keith, Assistant Sheriff Mike Merchen, Detention Division Special Services Captain Chad McMasters, Detention Division Operations Captain Melissa Parmenter

# Budget

This year's budget totaled just over \$218 million, funded by \$104 million of County General Fund and \$114.7 million in other revenue. At fiscal year-end over \$9 million of unspent funds were returned to the County General Fund, primarily because of savings generated from unprecedented employee vacancies. Despite the vacancies, the Office accomplished many one-time projects, including establishing a robust recruitment program with hiring and retention bonuses for new employees and contracting with a firm to develop specialized recruitment materials, a website, and a digital marketing campaign. Other projects included replacing and upgrading critical equipment, such as upgrading the training simulator, upgrading spike strips for vehicle pursuits, replacing outdated audio/visual equipment in briefing and training rooms, replacing emergency dispatch infrastructure, buying essential equipment for the Telecommunications Bureau, and securing a contract for electronic scheduling software for Detention, Patrol, and Dispatch.

The Office received multiple grants for required resources for the Marine Unit, off-road vehicles for the Motorcycle Unit, technologically advanced radios for Patrol, and services for officer wellness. The Detention Division initiated new agreements for behavioral health services and various programs and classes for incarcerated adults, including library and book club services, parenting classes, domestic violence prevention, job skills training, anger management, and incarcerated person & family support. New tablet-based resources include a law library, art therapy program, substance use disorder treatment support, trauma healing, and re-entry strategies.

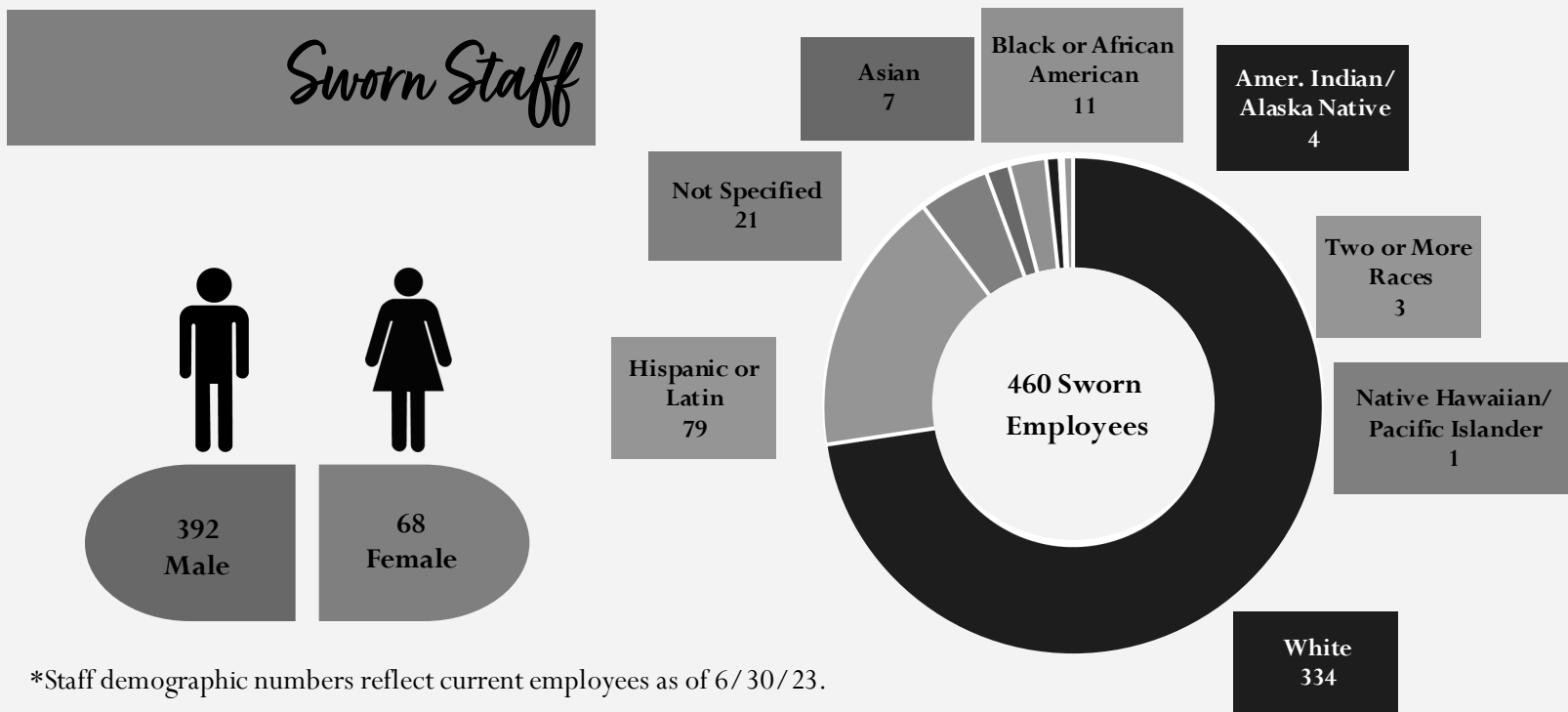
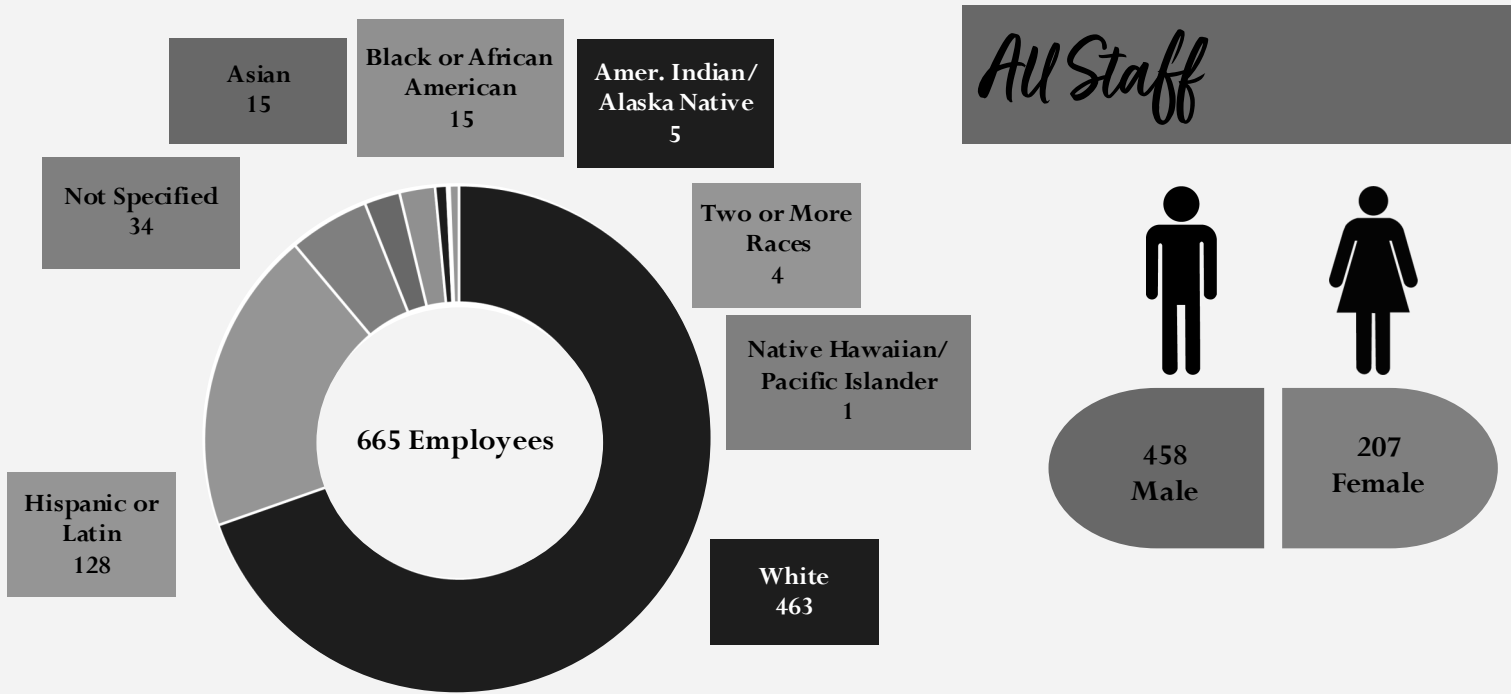


# Staff Allocations

TOTAL ALLOCATED STAFF: 629.5		
Law Enforcement Division	297 allocated staff	222 sworn deputy sheriffs
		6 sworn correctional deputies
		69 civilians
Detention Division	280 allocated staff	1 sworn deputy sheriff
		201 sworn correctional deputies
		78 civilians
Sheriff Administration	47.5 allocated staff	10 sworn deputy sheriffs
		3 sworn correctional deputies
		34.5 civilians
Telecommunications	5 allocated staff	5 civilians
TOTAL EXTRA HELP STAFF: 94		
Extra Help	94 Extra Help Staff	54 sworn deputy sheriffs
		11 sworn correctional deputies
		29 civilians

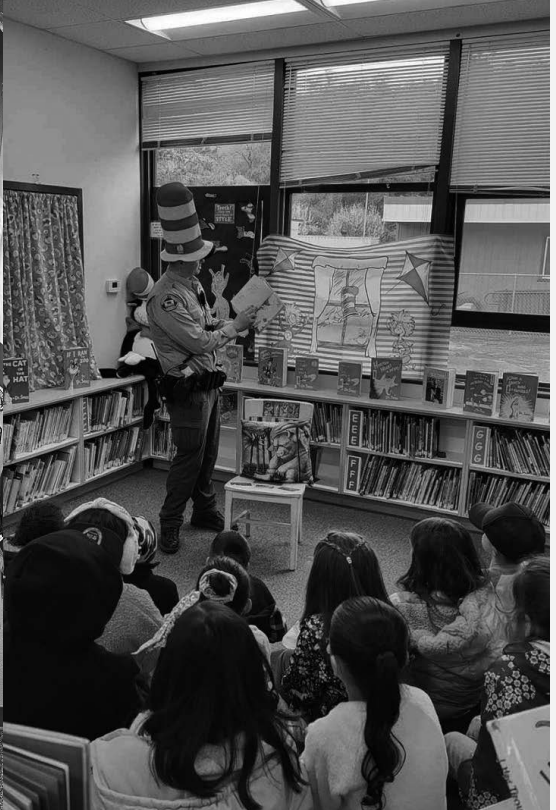


# Staff Demographics



\*Staff demographic numbers reflect current employees as of 6/30/23.

Staff allocations are positions identified in the budget. Therefore, these numbers may not match.



# Detention Division



The Detention Division is overseen by Assistant Sheriff Mike Merchen, who has served in the Detention Division for 24 years. He is known for having high expectations of his staff and leading with heart. Assistant Sheriff Merchen is well-versed in the management and operation of all aspects of modern detention facilities, with experience and specialized training in budgeting, personnel management, bargaining, labor law, vendor contracts, incarcerated person classification, emergency response, crisis negotiation, programs, and detention alternatives. His top priorities are improving correctional deputy staffing, focusing on employee health and wellness, and enhancing programs and services for the incarcerated population to improve re-entry outcomes.

## Overview



Bookings  
11,743



Releases  
12,464



Average Daily  
Population  
725



Unhousted  
Incarcerated  
Persons  
29%



AB 109  
940



The Detention Division is responsible for the processing, care, and management of individuals held in lawful detention. They are committed to serving the people of Sonoma County by providing a secure, safe, and humane environment for staff and incarcerated persons. The Main Adult Detention Facility is a direct supervision design, operated under the principles of direction supervision and Strategic Inmate Management as developed by the National Institute of Corrections, which creates a safer environment, allowing correctional deputies to interact with incarcerated persons more regularly. This facilitates better supervision, communication, and control of the facility.

All incarcerated persons are evaluated using an objective jail classification process that includes a risk and needs assessment to determine the appropriate housing location. They are classified as minimum, medium, or maximum security based on factors including their charged offense, in custody behavior, and criminal history. This includes men and women going through the court process and those who have been sentenced. Correctional deputies supervise and manage their daily activities with the goal of releasing them back into the community in better condition than when they arrived. Mental health issues, addiction, and homelessness complicate the care provided and there is often crossover between those three factors.

Since the passage of AB 109 in 2011, the Detention Division has housed people who historically would serve time in State prisons but are instead housed in county jails. They present more challenges because they remain in custody longer, requiring a different level of medical and programmatic services, and they may be more criminally sophisticated.

The North County Detention Facility remained closed this year due to low population following the COVID-19 pandemic and severe staffing shortages.



### Detention Highlight

In April 2023, the Main Adult Detention Facility was accredited through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC). The Detention Division, in partnership with the contracted medical provider, Wellpath, demonstrated their dedication to improving the delivery and quality of health care provided to incarcerated persons. Accreditation signals a constitutionally acceptable level of care for those in custody, which translates to improved health status and reducing health risks to the community when incarcerated persons are released from custody.

# Medication Assisted Treatment



Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is an evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder and an essential element of comprehensive opioid treatment programs. MAT is the use of medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to effectively treat opioid use disorders and help some people sustain recovery. The benefits of a MAT program include improved survival rates, increased treatment retention, and decreased illicit opioid use and criminal activity among those with opioid use disorder.

Incarcerated persons who are already in a MAT program continue to receive a safe maintenance dose of medication while housed in the jail. Before they are released, jail medical staff contact medical providers in the community to ensure they can continue to receive treatment. They are released with a short-term prescription and Narcan, which would counteract an accidental overdose.



The Programs Unit provides a wide range of programming and services for incarcerated persons and continues to rebuild in-person programming after COVID-19. This unit’s goal is to provide evidence-based programming with an emphasis on re-entry into the community to reduce recidivism. The programs include educational, mental health, stress reduction, and addiction studies. Diverse spiritual counseling and services, provided by faith-based organizations, are also offered.

This year the Programs Unit provided new tablets to incarcerated persons. The tablets have over 10,000 hours of content, including substance abuse programming, instructional videos, e-books, a law library, poetry, podcasts, and documentaries. Incarcerated persons can buy premium content, such as movies and music.



Hours of Classes  
595



Classes Offered  
287



Five Keys Charter School is a fully accredited public high school and the first charter school for incarcerated adults in the nation. Since 2019, it has operated at the Main Adult Detention Facility as a traditional school that includes a principal and teachers. There are currently 160 incarcerated persons enrolled in this school. This year seven incarcerated persons earned their high school diploma.

# Jail Based Competency Treatment



The Sheriff's Jail Based Competency Treatment Program (JBCT) was established in 2017 for incarcerated persons deemed incompetent to stand trial. They participate in a specially designed curriculum that teaches proper courtroom etiquette, how to communicate with their attorney, and the ability to fully understand their charges. They also participate in psychoeducational classes that provide tools to help them overcome depression, anxiety, drug addiction, and much more. This year it took an average of 62 days to restore a person to competency. The JBCT is a 14-bed branch of the Department of State Hospitals.

*"JBCT is helping me know how to work with my attorney and understand trial. I'm feeling prepared to go back to the courtroom soon."*

– JBCT participant

*"I like the program a lot. I think it's very good for people who don't know how the court works. I've learned about sleep, self-esteem, and tools to pick yourself up when you're feeling low."*

– JBCT participant



Professional staff carry out essential functions throughout all areas of the Main Adult Detention Facility, from booking to housing modules to the laundry room. These staff members include detention specialists, detention assistants, custodians, and cooks. Detention specialists provide administrative, clerical, and legal processing services. Examples include processing releases, arranging personal and professional visits, working in the public lobby, calculating jail sentences, and serving as court liaisons. Detention assistants provide support services, including delivering commissary items to incarcerated persons, doing laundry, ordering supplies, and supervising incarcerated persons working in the facility. Custodians keep the jail exceptionally clean for incarcerated persons, their visitors, and staff. They often respond to urgent calls to areas that need immediate attention in addition to daily tasks. Cooks prepare three healthy meals for incarcerated persons daily following a strict schedule and specific dietary requirements. They also train and supervise incarcerated persons working in the kitchen.



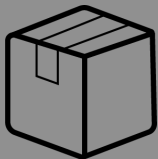
*Detention Professional Staff*



**Personal Visits**  
18,224



**Professional Visits**  
9,886



**Commissary Orders Delivered**  
20,800



**Meals Served**  
812,344



**Large Loads of Laundry**  
4,680




**Medical and Religious Diet Meals Served**  
108,000

# Detention Crisis Negotiation Team



The Detention Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) was established in 2007. The goal of CNT is to successfully negotiate with incarcerated persons involved in critical incidents to achieve a peaceful resolution. Critical incidents include a barricaded person, hostage situation, a person in crisis, or any other extreme situation that could result in force being used. A successful incident is defined as one resolved peacefully, without force, solely using de-escalation and negotiation techniques.

Each team member initially receives 40 hours of basic hostage negotiation training, with ongoing regular training to enhance their skills.



CNT  
Incidents  
114




CNT Incidents  
Resolved  
Without Force  
80






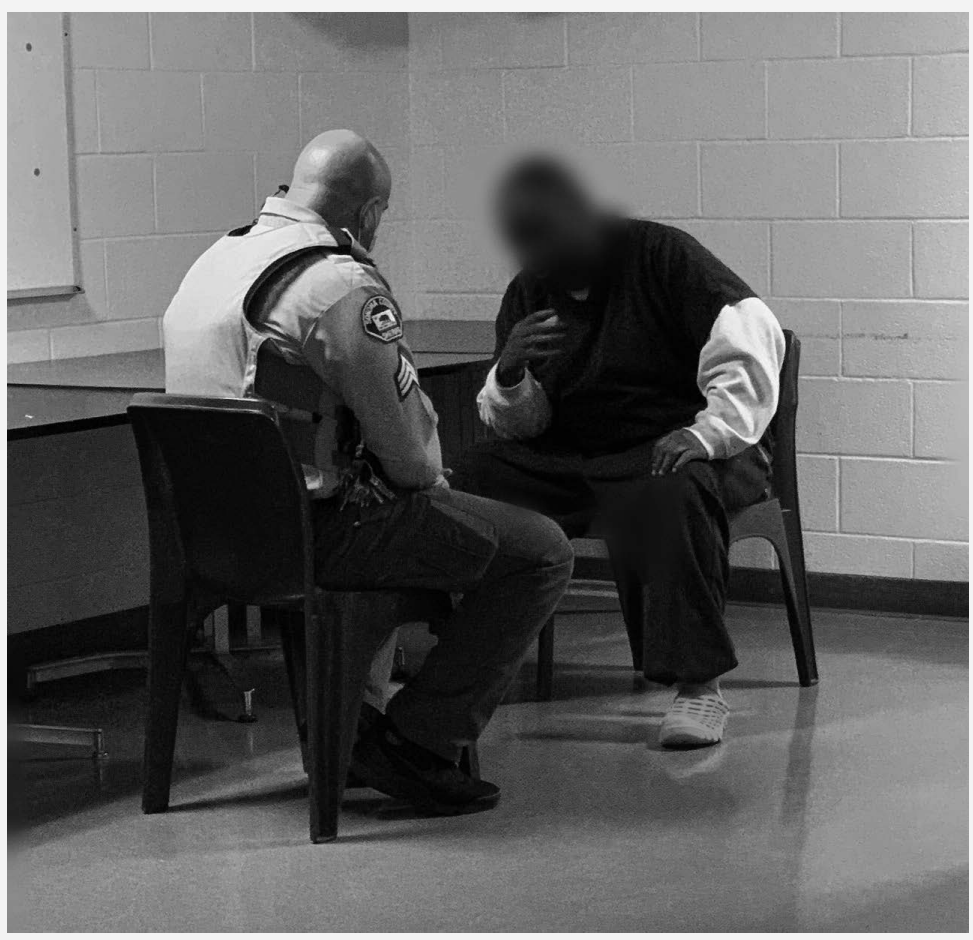
Approximately 49% of incarcerated persons in Sonoma County are living with a mental illness. Of those, about 32% are seriously mentally ill. They require routine interaction with mental health clinicians and specialized supervision and interaction with correctional staff to ensure their daily needs are met. To accomplish this, the Detention Mental Health Team is assigned to their care and management. This team is made up of one correctional lieutenant, one correctional sergeant, and 30 correctional deputies who work in housing modules for incarcerated persons with acute mental health diagnoses. They work closely with clinicians and have enhanced training in communication, crisis intervention, de-escalation, and suicide prevention. They establish rapport and make connections with those with serious mental illness to improve outcomes.



**Incarcerated  
Persons with  
Mental Health  
Diagnosis  
49%**



**Of the 49%,  
32% are Seriously  
Mentally Ill**



# Law Enforcement Division



Assistant Sheriff Jim Naugle has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2001 and has worked a variety of assignments during his tenure. Since 2019, Assistant Sheriff Naugle has overseen all 10 bureaus of the Law Enforcement Division. He has been instrumental in establishing and fine-tuning evacuation procedure and protocol following several wildfires. He has also led the implementation of expanded civilian oversight. As he approaches the end of his career, Assistant Sheriff Naugle is focused on improving deputy wellness support and helping build the next generation of law enforcement leaders.

Assistant Sheriff Naugle has coached youth sports for years, from little league to high school varsity teams. This year he coached freshman football in Petaluma.

## Unincorporated Sonoma County



**Calls for Service**

57,761



1.17 deputies : 1,000 residents



**Reports Written**

5,216



**Average Response Time**

(priority 1)

11 minutes, 22 seconds



**Arrests**

2,008

The Law Enforcement Division provides law enforcement services to people in unincorporated Sonoma County and the contract cities of Windsor and Sonoma.

Deputy sheriffs work out of the main office in Santa Rosa, the River Substation in Guerneville, and the Valley Substation in Sonoma. They patrol by land, water, and air with the primary duty of protecting people and property. There are six patrol zones in unincorporated Sonoma County. In addition to proactively patrolling their zones, deputy sheriffs respond to emergency calls, investigate crimes, and write reports for potential prosecution of suspects.

While deputy sheriffs are the most visible employees, there are a variety of other sworn and civilian staff who provide valuable services in the Law Enforcement Division. These employees manage the computer and software systems; manage the telecommunications towers and radios; conduct background investigations and hire new employees; answer 911 calls and dispatch deputies to those calls; investigate complex crimes; provide security in courtrooms; process evidence and reports; provide customer service; serve court-ordered paperwork; and run the Office's social media accounts.

## Use of Force

Deputies regularly encounter potentially violent individuals who pose a threat to them or the community. These encounters require them to make quick decisions with limited information in high-pressure and rapidly changing situations. Their primary objective is to de-escalate situations and use force only when necessary. To ensure their preparedness, deputies undergo five times the amount of State-required use-of-force training, which includes de-escalation techniques.

While their ultimate goal is to resolve situations peacefully, there are instances where the use of force becomes unavoidable. In the current year, deputies have resorted to force 228 times. Deputies used force in approximately 7.7% of arrests, based on a three-year average in unincorporated county and contract cities.



# River Substation

The River Substation is one of two Sheriff's Office substations. Located in Guerneville, the River Substation is the base of operations for the coast and far western Sonoma County. Most of the concerns have been homeless-related issues in downtown Guerneville and at the Highway 116 park and ride lot on Moscow Road. While homelessness is not a law enforcement issue, there are often quality of life crimes that occur near encampments. The River Substation deputies have been continually working with the County Department of Health Services to ensure services are provided to the homeless population. On occasion, after all options have been exhausted, deputies will contact Permit Sonoma to remove vehicles. The Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that limits camping in April 2023, resulting in deputies taking more enforcement action when needed to address homeless-related issues.



**Calls for Service**  
8,746



**Arrests**  
282



**Reports Written**  
381



**Average Response Time**  
**(priority 1)**  
9 minutes, 43 seconds



*Valley Substation*



**Calls for Service**  
9,014



**Arrests**  
260



**Reports Written**  
659



**Average Response Time**  
(priority 1)  
8 minutes, 24 seconds

The Sonoma Valley substation is responsible for patrolling the 166 square mile Sonoma Valley, which includes the largest outdoor venue in the county, Sonoma Raceway. The deputies have been continually working with Sonoma County Regional Parks officers conducting extra patrols through Larson and Maxwell Parks. They have also continued extra patrols around the middle school and elementary schools during drop off and pick up times to address traffic safety concerns. After a hiatus of more than two years because of COVID-19, the deputies hosted their first Coffee with a Cop event in December.

Fire preparedness remains top of mind for the Sonoma Valley community. In May, the deputies participated in the Grove Street evacuation drill, using hi-lo sirens to simulate an evacuation and providing preparedness information to participants. Regular evacuation preparedness education is provided in partnership with local and State fire agencies and community groups like HALTER and local Fire Safe Councils.





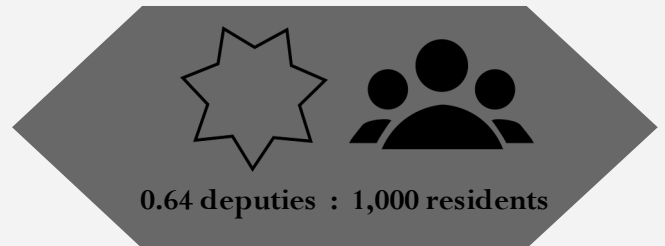




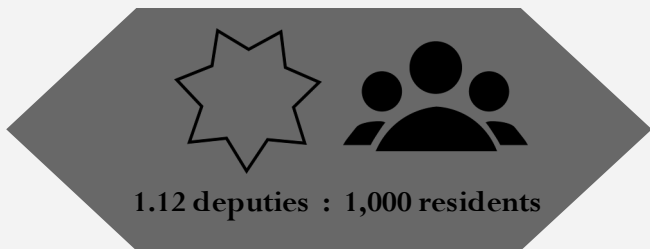
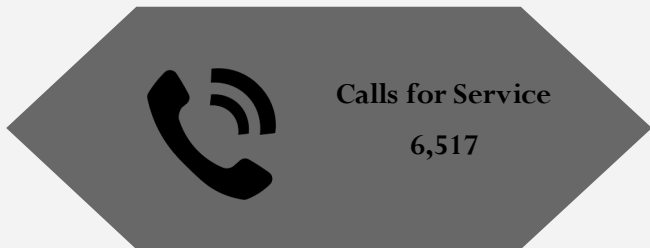


# Windsor Police Department

The Town of Windsor has contracted with the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services to the Town for 30 years. Over the past year, the Windsor Police Department staff has had some noteworthy accomplishments that made the town safer for residents and visitors. The Town Council, in collaboration with the Windsor Police Department, passed a sideshow ordinance that makes it illegal to participate as a driver, passenger, spectator, and/or promoter in any sideshow. Windsor Police Department developed a Town Green rapid response plan to respond to potential rapidly evolving dangerous incidents, such as an active shooter. Partnering with local schools, they provided campus site assessments, helped school staff develop evacuation protocols and procedures, and helped Windsor Christian Academy obtain a \$200,000 grant to target harden that school's campus.



The City of Sonoma began contracting for law enforcement services from the Sheriff's Office in 2004. In addition to responding for public safety calls for service, the Sonoma Police Department handles traffic accidents, parking-related issues, and animal control within the city limits. They work very closely with the Sheriff's Office Sonoma Valley substation deputies responding to calls, proactively patrolling the City of Sonoma. Sonoma Police Department is staffed with one chief, two sergeants, 10 deputy sheriffs, and two community services officers. Three volunteers regularly donate their time to help staff with parking enforcement and various office tasks.



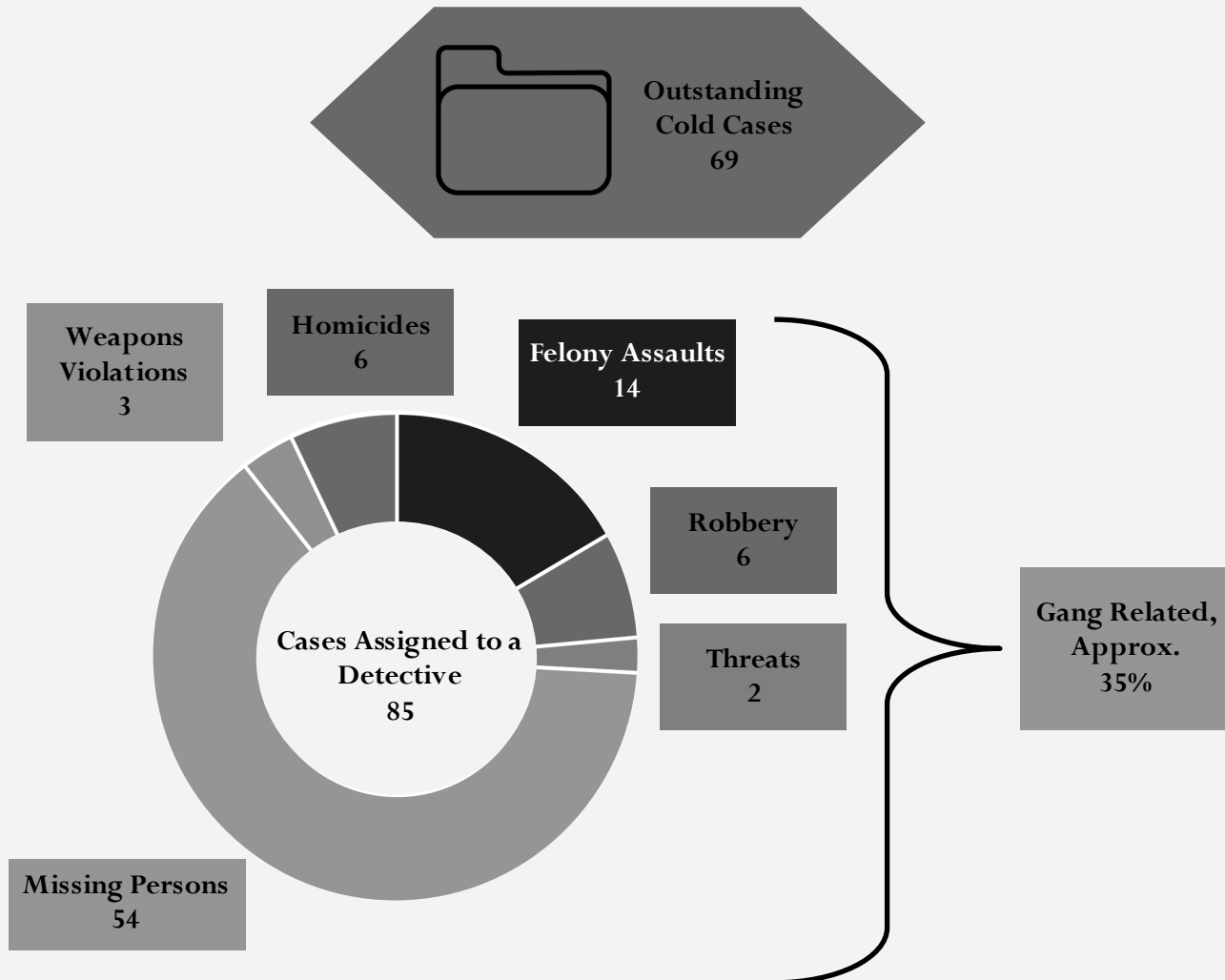
*Sonoma Police Department*

# Violent Crimes Investigations




Violent Crimes Investigations detectives investigate violent crimes, primarily focusing on homicides, attempted homicides, officer-involved shootings, significant assaults against Sheriff's Office employees, and in-custody deaths. They also investigate complex robberies, felony assaults, shootings, and kidnappings that are outside the scope of patrol deputies. Since the disbandment of the county's Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Team (MAGNET) in 2017, they have taken over several gang investigations.

However, without MAGNET, gang enhancements are typically not pursued nor are gang-related activity or crimes being tracked. Detectives work with outside gang experts to help with gang enhancements for priority cases. They also work closely with federal law enforcement and the United States Attorney's Office for federal prosecution of certain cases that meet federal guidelines and are of substantial benefit to the community.




The Property/Narcotics Unit investigates large-scale theft, drug crimes, and arson. While the Unit is usually staffed with seven detectives, this year they were staffed with only five detectives due to staffing shortages. Detectives reviewed over 1,200 cases involving burglary, petty theft, grand theft, auto burglary, forgery, embezzlement, possession of stolen property, and shoplifting. Of those cases, detectives followed up on over 100 cases by writing search warrants, doing surveillance, interviewing witnesses and suspects, coordinating with other agencies, and testifying in court.

This year's notable cases include arresting a man responsible for approximately 50 burglaries and several stolen vehicles; a fentanyl overdose case where the suspect was convicted of manslaughter; a jail escapee who was later captured; and a suspect who was stealing equipment and copper wire in vineyards.


**Search Warrants  
Written**  
154


**Methamphetamine  
Seized (approx. lbs)**  
90



**Cocaine Seized  
(approx. lbs)**  
4



**Money Seized  
Related to Drug  
Sales (approx.)**  
\$66,000

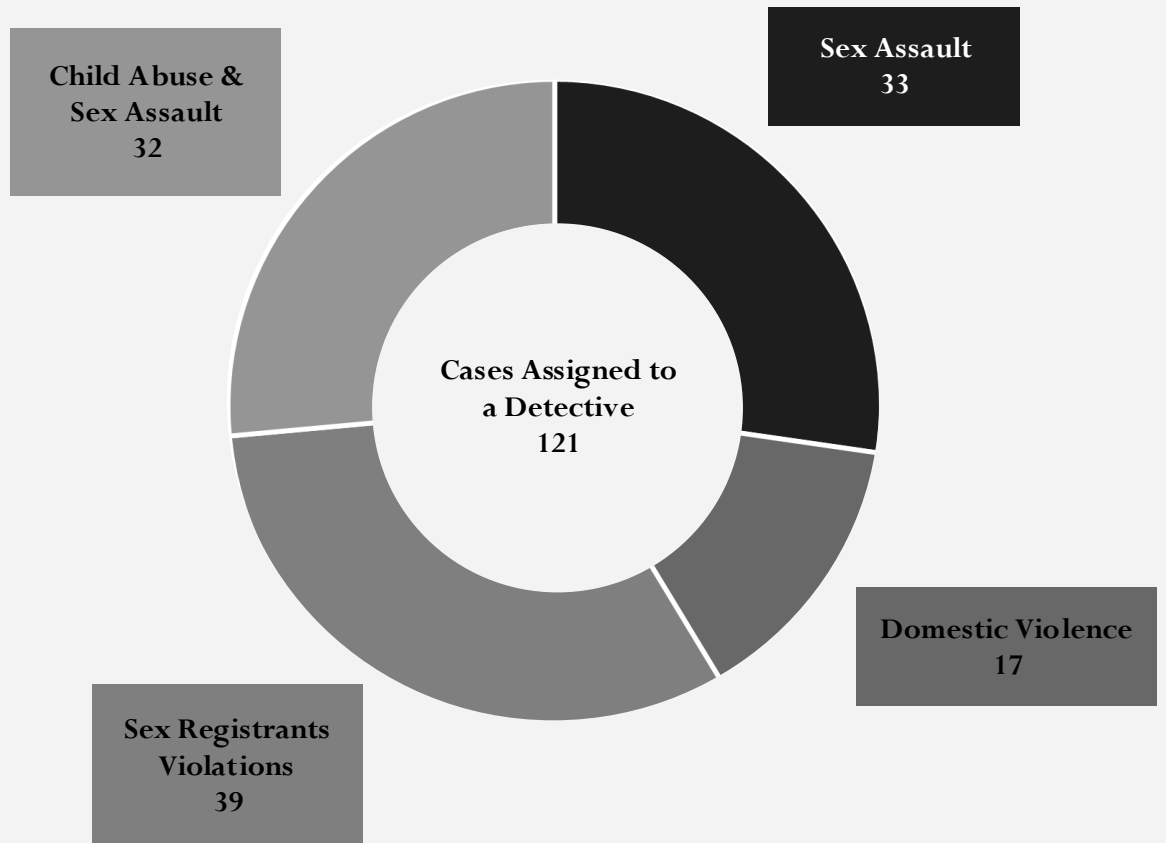



**Guns Seized**  
135

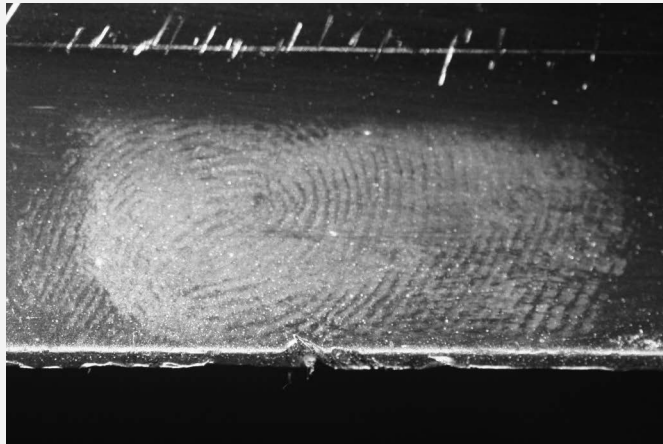




The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Unit is responsible for investigating felony domestic violence cases outside the scope of patrol deputies and a variety of sex crimes and crimes against children. Examples include sexual assault against children and adults, felony child abuse, human trafficking, child pornography, and internet crimes against children. They also track and investigate registered sex offenders and investigate gun violence restraining order violations. These detectives are part of a multi-disciplinary team of law enforcement, local government, criminal justice, and non-profits that support survivors through the criminal investigation, prosecution, and their future well-being. They work in the Family Justice Center, which is funded and managed by the Sonoma County District Attorney’s Office.

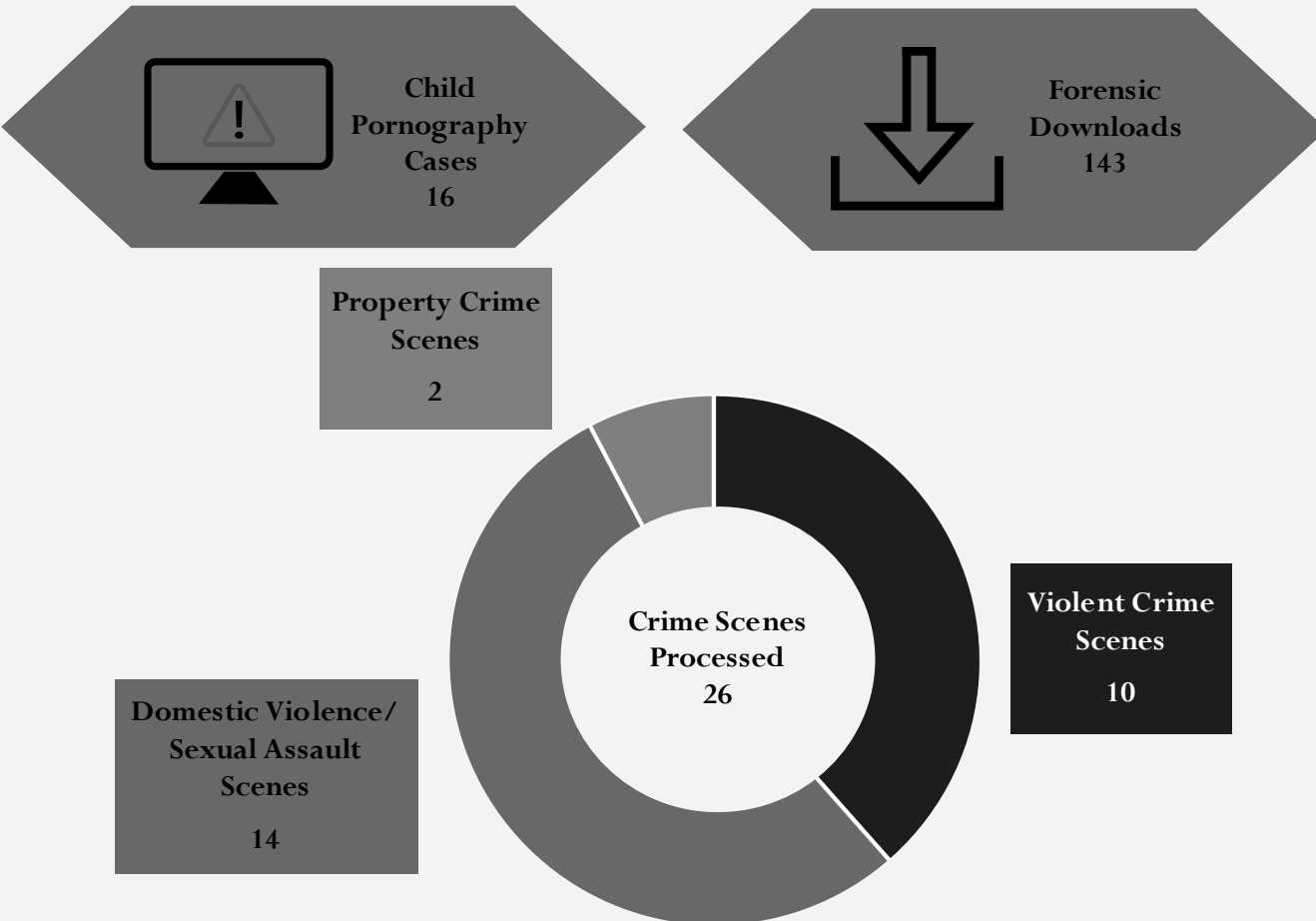






The Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Unit is responsible for processing a variety of crime scenes. CSI detectives collect, preserve, and analyze physical evidence at crime scenes. This can include fingerprints, blood, hair, fibers, weapons, clothing, and digital evidence. Trace evidence such as fibers, hairs, glass fragments, or soil can help link suspects to the crime scene or establish associations between people and places. Digital evidence is commonly found in computers, cell phones, surveillance cameras, and other electronic devices. This can include child pornography, which the CSI detectives investigate.

This year the CSI Unit bought equipment to safely fire guns potentially used in crimes to get ballistic information. That information is sent to a national database to determine if that gun was used in other crimes, which can help identify a suspect and solve crimes. Using the new equipment, CSI helped solve a homicide on Hall Road in March 2023.

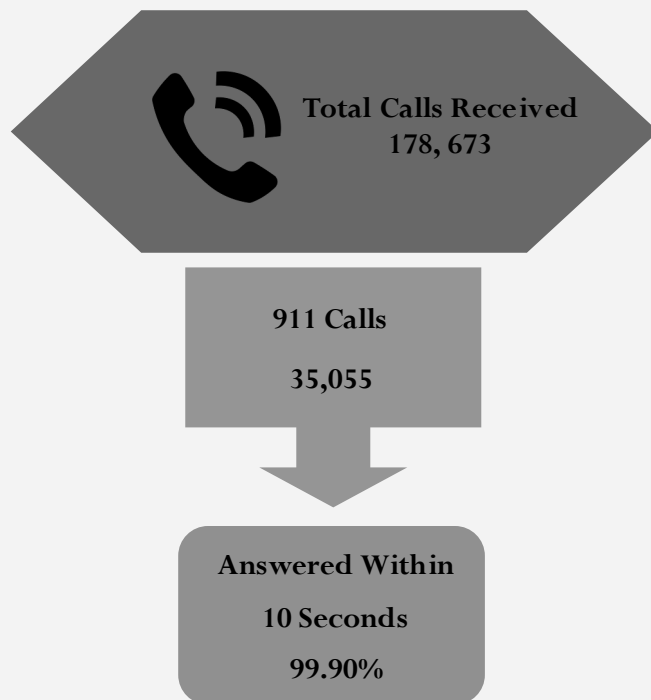


# Dispatch



The Dispatch Bureau answers the public's 911 calls, dispatches deputy sheriffs and probation officers, and provides after-hours dispatch services for 13 other County departments. Each dispatcher is a highly-trained professional who can dispatch everything from a suspicious car to an active shooter.

This year's extreme winter weather resulted in more calls for service than typical. Dispatchers received 4,794 more 911 calls this year than last year, largely due to intense rain and snow at lower elevations than normal. This was the first year that a snowplow was requested multiple times in one night.



# Explorers

The Explorer Program is a career development and education program for young adults between 14 and 20 years old who have an interest in becoming peace officers. This program is jointly sponsored by the Sheriff's Office and the Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life Program. It provides training and experience to young adults in maturing, becoming responsible, being compassionate, and building self-confidence while serving as a volunteer in their community.

Numerous deputies began their careers in law enforcement as explorers. Today some of them teach Explorers law enforcement techniques, such as the laws of arrest, crime scene management, radio use, and firearms. After a multiple year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Sheriff's Office is excited to have this program active again.

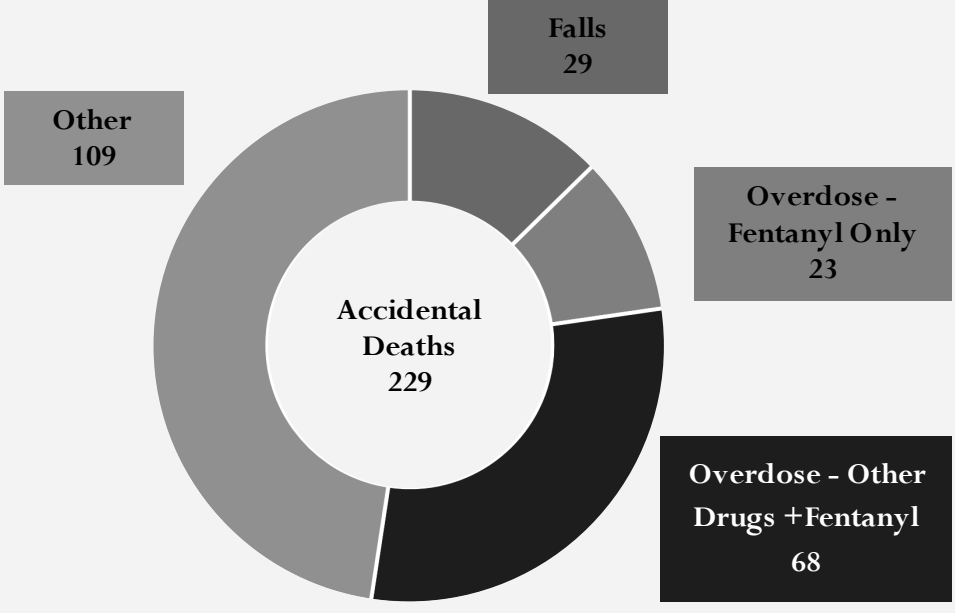
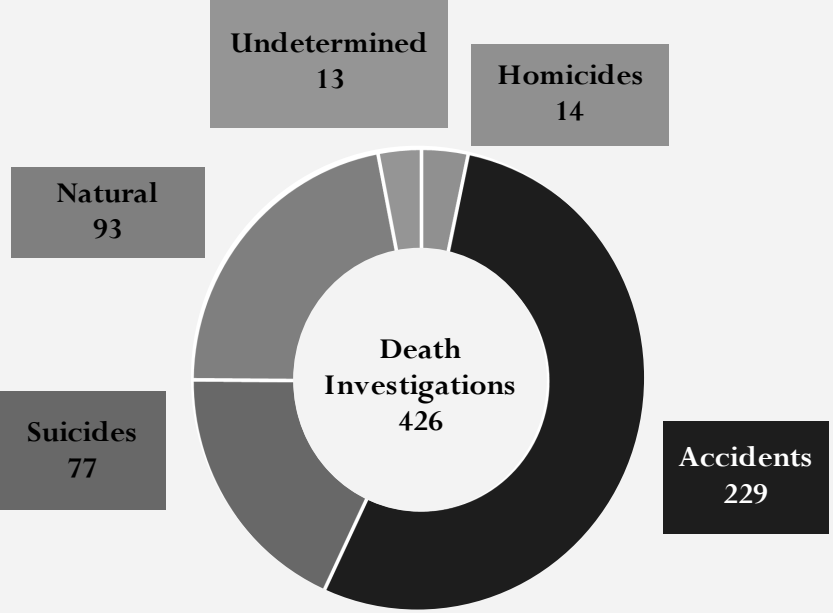


Learn more about the Explorer Program or how to apply:



# Coroner Bureau

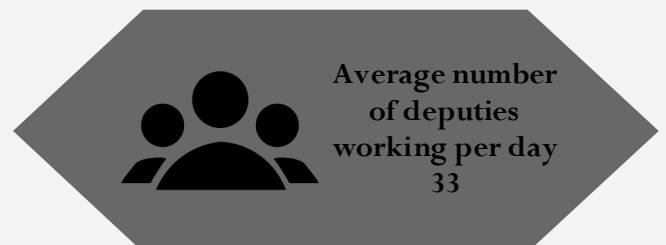
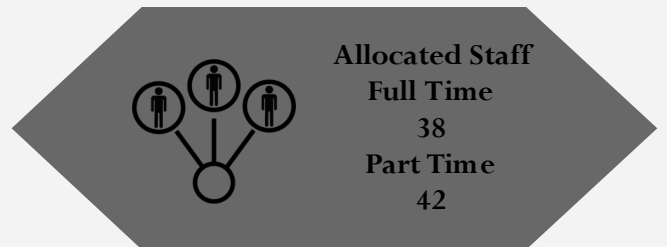
In accordance with State law, the Coroner Bureau conducts death investigations for all violent, sudden, unattended, or unusual deaths that happen in Sonoma County. They are responsible for determining the cause and manner of death in each investigation. There are five manners of death: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, and undetermined. Coroner Bureau staff are the primary point of contact for family members of decedents. They strive to give family members timely and accurate answers about the deaths of their loved ones.



# Court Security

In accordance with the California Constitution, court security deputies provide security services for all Superior Court locations in Sonoma County. These deputies serve as bailiffs in the courtrooms, maintaining security and order in the courtrooms, providing safe movement and custody of incarcerated persons attending court, and responding to public safety calls for service in court facilities and on court property. This includes rallies, protests, and common disturbances. Court security deputies also provide security for the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors meetings and executive protection of Superior Court judges inside court facilities and while off-site on official court business. Court security deputies saw an increase in visitors to the courthouses this year as court staff address a backlog of cases due to COVID-19.

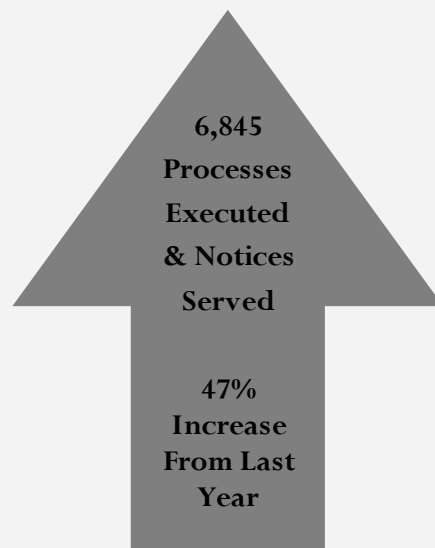
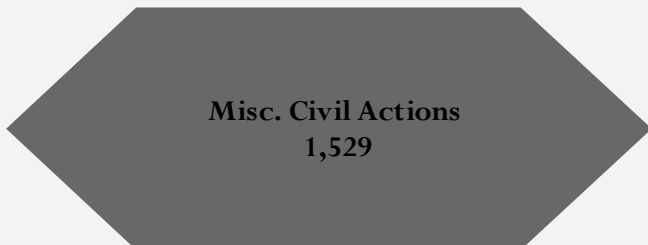
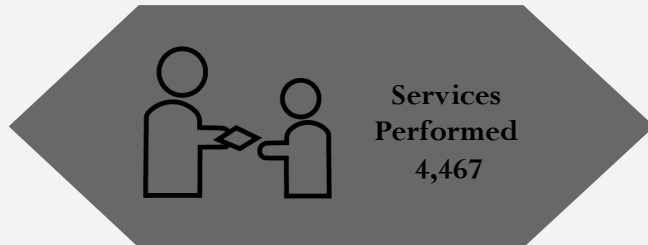
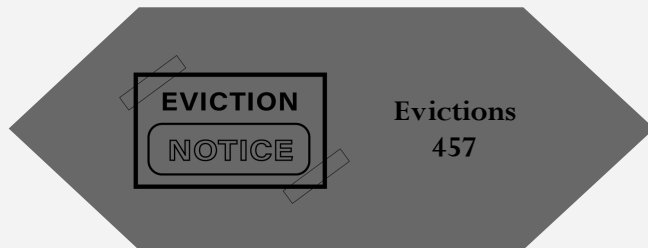
The Court Security Unit is funded by an agreement with the State's judicial services branch.



# Civil Bureau



State law requires the Sheriff to execute all valid process and orders issued by the courts. The Sheriff is the levying officer for property located in the county, even if it's within city limits. The Civil Bureau carries out this responsibility by serving court-issued process for civil actions at the request of individuals, attorneys, and other agencies. These civil actions often pertain to collecting money or property to be seized and/or sold to satisfy a judgment. Civil actions can also require the service of legal documents such as temporary restraining orders, earning withholding orders, and civil subpoenas. Civil Bureau personnel also process and execute eviction orders.





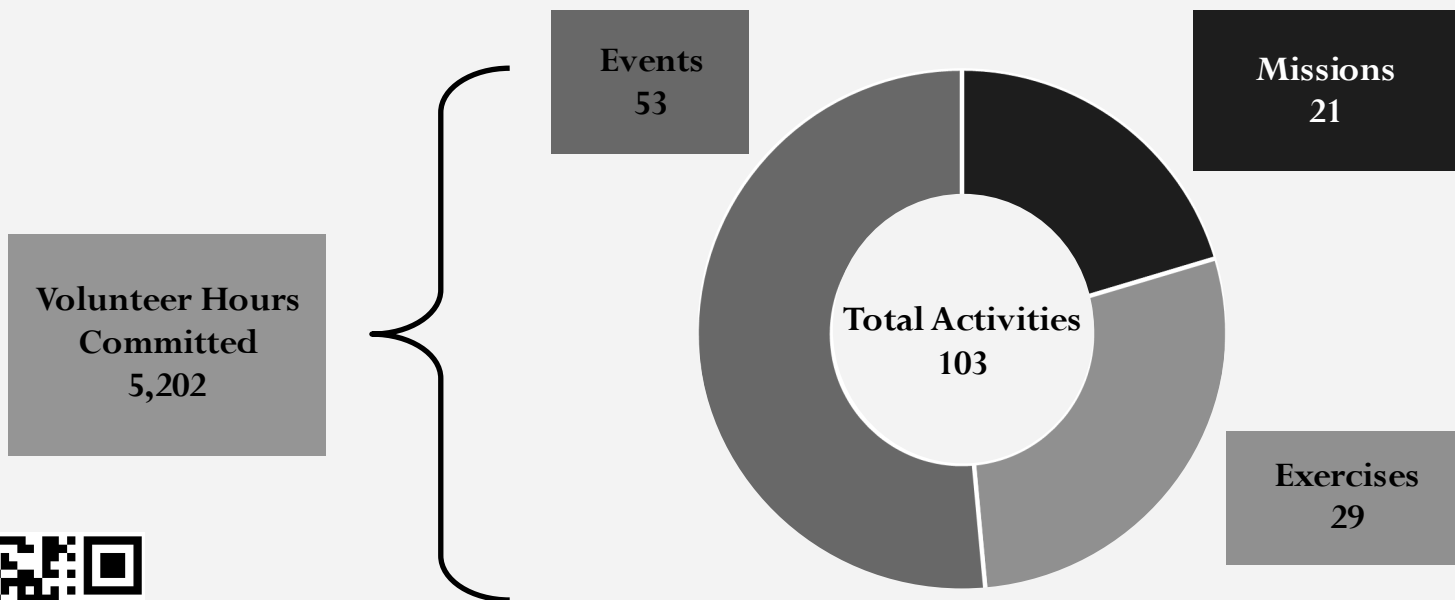
# Search and Rescue Team



In accordance with State law, the Sheriff’s Office maintains a Search and Rescue Team. This 38-person team is overseen by deputy sheriffs and comprised solely of volunteers with extensive training. They are most well-known for searching for lost or missing people, but they also conduct evidence searches, search for human remains following a natural disaster, and respond to mutual aid requests for other counties who have exhausted their own resources. Because of their unusual skillset, Search and Rescue Team members also provide basic outdoor awareness and first aid education at community events.

In August 2022, the Search and Rescue Team was asked to look for a missing woman in Healdsburg. She had late-stage Alzheimer’s and had walked away from her home. Search and Rescue Team members quickly found her and safely reunited her with her family.

The Sheriff’s Office appreciates the life-saving work performed by the volunteers on the Search and Rescue Team.



Learn How to  
Become A Volunteer

# Professional Standards

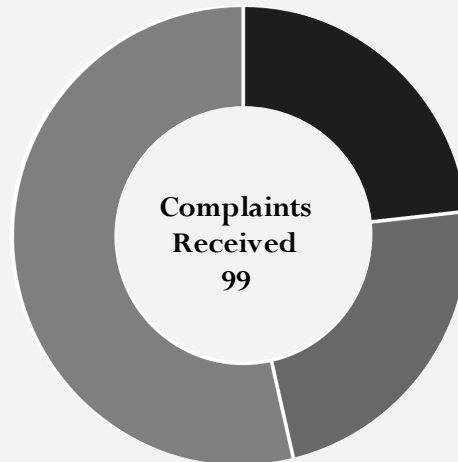
The Professional Standards Bureau is responsible for investigating citizen complaints and potential violations of policy and procedure. They also conduct Administrative Reviews of critical incidents involving Sheriff's Office staff.

Professional Standards staff investigate risk management issues and conduct internal audits of Office policies. They work with County Counsel reviewing civil liability matters, report certain personnel investigations to POST, and publish investigations for the public in accordance with State law.

The Professional Standards Bureau expanded in January 2023 by adding a Detention Sergeant Internal Affairs Investigator. The Bureau now consists of one lieutenant, three sergeants, and an administrative aide.

## Total Complaints Received

Public, Submitted  
to IOLERO  
53

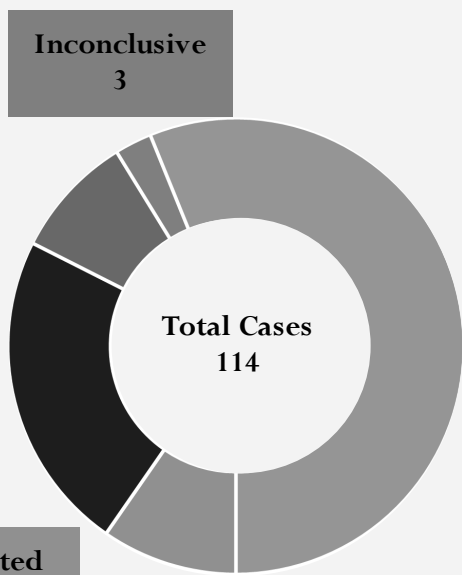


Internally  
Generated  
23

Public, Submitted  
to Sheriff's Office  
23

## Disposition of All Cases

Read Our Policies



In Progress  
64

Sustained  
10

Unfounded  
26

Exonerated  
11

# Henry-1

The helicopter program, Henry-1, is one of the busiest single aircraft rescue helicopter programs in the country. This year, 70% of the crew's missions were law enforcement related. Perhaps the most notable law enforcement call happened in September 2022. Henry 1 responded to a domestic incident in Geyserville involving a man with a handgun. While providing critical information to deputies on the ground, the crew saw the suspect point and fire a handgun at the helicopter several times. Thankfully, neither the crew nor the helicopter were hit. This was due largely to the crew's tactics and defensive flying to minimize risks.



Watch a Henry-1 Rescue



Law Enforcement  
736

# New Employees



New Hires  
89



Sworn  
42



Non-Sworn  
47



# Recruitment

This year the Sheriff's Office experienced considerable challenges recruiting and retaining staff due to a backlog of vacant positions due to the pandemic, high cost of living, a significant decrease in the number of applications, and turnover within the Office. These challenges resulted in high mandatory overtime hours for several job classes, particularly correctional deputies.

The Personnel Unit responded to this staffing crisis by temporarily adding two background investigators; contracting with a recruiting firm; adding another psychologist to do psychological exams for sworn positions; offering \$25,000 - \$30,000 hiring bonuses for key positions; and recruiting at community events.

These efforts resulted in reducing deputy sheriff vacancies from 19 to 9, and dispatcher vacancies from 5.5 to 2. The priority remains filling correctional deputy vacancies.



Position	Salary	Hiring Bonus
Deputy Sheriff II (Lateral)	Up to \$126,291	\$30,000
Deputy Sheriff Trainee	Up to \$108,759	\$25,000
Correctional Deputy II	Up to \$115,647	\$25,000
Correctional Deputy I	Up to: \$92,146	\$25,000

[View Current Job Openings](#)



# Central Information Bureau



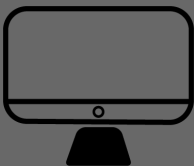
The Central Information Bureau consists of four units: Property & Evidence, Records, Front Desk, and Public Records Act/Discovery. The Property & Evidence Unit is responsible for tracking, storing, and maintaining control of all property and evidence. They currently have over 90,000 items in their inventory. The Records Unit maintains all crime reports and prepares cases for the District Attorney. They sent 2,753 cases to the District Attorney's Office this year. The Front Desk Unit is the face and voice of the Sheriff's Office for anyone walking into the public lobby or calling to conduct business. This year they served 8,524 walk-ins, answered 13,284 phone calls, wrote 563 crime reports, fingerprinted 967 people, and registered 478 sex, gang, and arson registrants. The Public Records Act/Discovery Unit is the official custodians of record for the Office. They handle all PRA requests, process subpoenas, and process all discovery requests for the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and private attorneys.



Pieces of Evidence Processed  
20,549



Pieces of Evidence Disposed/Released  
14,371



Digital Evidence Processed  
26,178



Discovery Requests  
3,325



PRAs Processed  
276



# Volunteers

Volunteers In Policing (VIPs) are committed to serving Sonoma County by volunteering their time with the Sheriff's Office. There are 14 active VIPs that gave 2,199 hours of service this year. They help the Patrol Bureau with tasks like parking enforcement, traffic control, and various tasks at major events. They also play a significant role in community outreach by helping with the Office-sponsored community academies and tabling at events. This year they saved the Office tens of thousands of dollars in staff time. The Sheriff's Office is thrilled to welcome them back after a multi-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

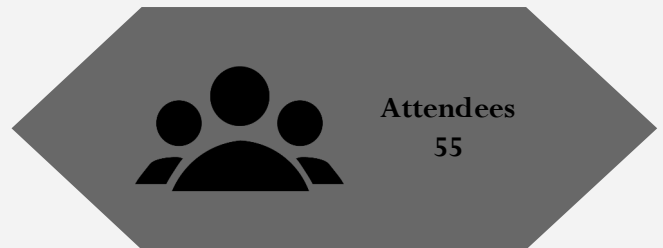
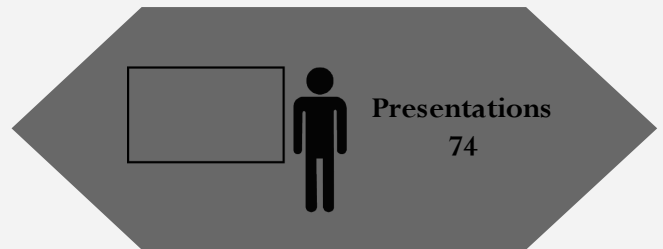
14 Volunteers  
2,199 Hours



# Community Academies



The Sheriff's Office holds three community academies annually as part of its commitment to community engagement, education, and transparency. These academies give community members a chance to learn about major functions of the Sheriff's Office from members of varying positions, ranks, and assignments. The two adult academies, one in English and one in Spanish, are offered over four Saturdays for eight hours each day. This year the Office hosted 19 attendees in the English language academy and six attendees in the Spanish language academy. Our third academy is for high schoolers age 13-18 years old. The Youth Academy is an opportunity for young people to get an in-depth look at the Sheriff's Office and a chance to explore different career opportunities if they have an interest in law enforcement. This year's Youth Academy hosted 30 students from across Sonoma County and consisted of five consecutive days, totaling 30 hours of instruction, during their summer break.

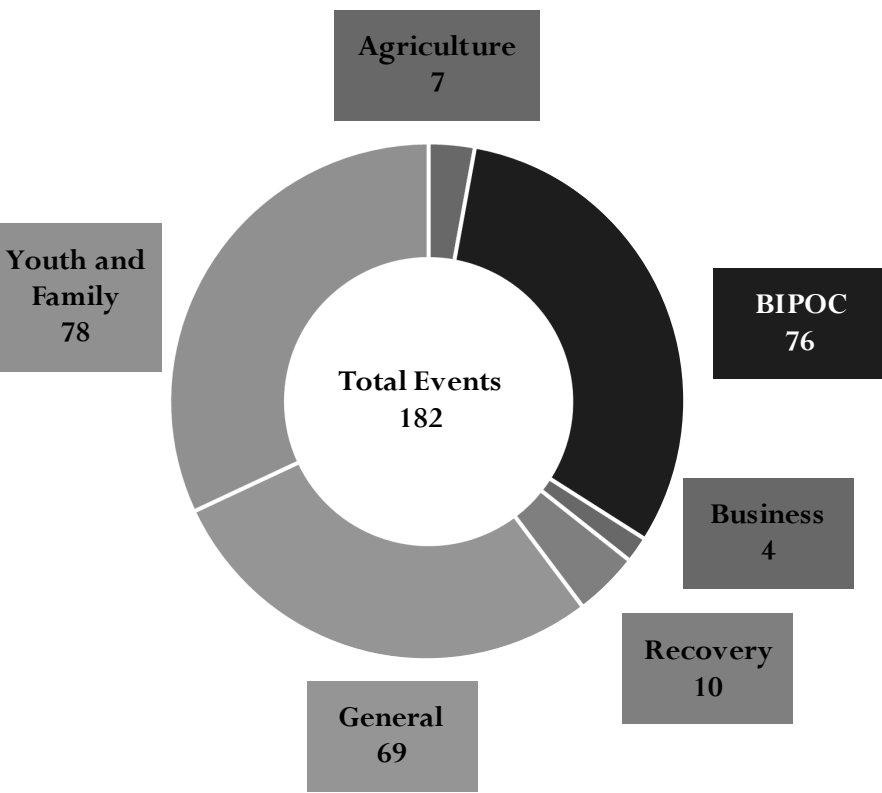


# Community Engagement

The Community Outreach Unit is the lead on Sheriff's Office community engagement and communications. This unit is responsible for the social media program, media response, crime prevention education, community academies, and attending a variety of events across the county. During wildfires and other natural disasters, this unit is responsible for sending evacuation orders to the public and following up on information to build situational awareness.

This year the Community Outreach Unit took a strong role in supporting the Sheriff's newly formed Community Roundtable for Equity, Engagement, and Diversity (CREED). CREED is a 14-member group of people who

provide feedback and review policies with the goal of improving community relationships. Members live all over Sonoma County and have diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.



Sign Up For Our Monthly Newsletter!



\*Totals exceed 182 because some events cover multiple demographics.



*Sonomasheriff.org*

