

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Dennis W. Hickman, Jr.



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings:

We are very proud of the level of service which the Kent County Sheriff's Office delivered to the citizens of the County during 2023. We are dedicated to maintaining a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Kent County. Statistics alone, however, do not tell the full story of our accomplishments. We have made significant progress in many areas which demonstrate our commitment to our vision:

The Kent County Sheriff's Office is a first-class law enforcement agency, delivering superior service to the citizens of Kent County.

Law Enforcement Accreditation In 2003 the Kent County Sheriff's Office became the first Eastern Shore Sheriff's Office to achieve accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Your Sheriff's Office remains in compliance with more than 464 law enforcement "best practices." In November 2023, the Kent County Sheriff's Office received their seventh Certificate of Accreditation.

Kent County Narcotics Task Force The Task Force is comprised of the Kent County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Chestertown Police Department and Maryland Natural Resources Police. In 2023, Forty Two (42) search and seizure warrants were executed resulting in Forty One (41) arrests for possession or distribution of narcotics.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team In March 2009, the Kent County Sheriff's Office entered into a partnership with the Maryland State Highway Administration's Motor Carrier Division to enable KCSO Deputies to perform routine commercial vehicle enforcement inspections based on the North American Standard (NAS Standard). During 2023, KCSO Deputies performed 98 CMV inspections that resulted in 5 violations. During 2023, 4 (four) Kent County Sheriff's Office Deputies had earned their certification through the Maryland State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division to perform routine commercial vehicle enforcement safety inspections.

We want to be fully responsive to the citizens of Kent County and serve you in the best way we can. We would welcome any comments or questions you have about this report. Visit our website, www.sheriff.kentcounty.com or contact us using the below information:

**Kent County Sheriff's Office
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Chestertown, MD 21620
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Email: sheriff@kentgov.org**

MISSION STATEMENT AND CODE OF ETHICS

The Kent County Sheriff's Office is a full-service police agency responsible for enforcing the laws of

the State of Maryland within the County. The Sheriff is also responsible for serving legal papers at the direction of the District and Circuit Courts of the County, providing security for the Kent County Government Building and the Kent County Courthouse. The men and women of the Kent County Sheriff's Office are dedicated to service through superior performance. We believe mutual respect, trust, and pride in our organization, combined with traditional values and innovative techniques, will ensure the community's right to a safe environment.



CORE VALUES

The men and women of the Kent County Sheriff's Office are bound by a high standard of conduct, as exemplified in the following values:

Life - We believe the protection of life is our highest priority.

Respect - We believe in individual human dignity and the preservation of human rights under the rule and spirit of law, always treating others as we would like to be treated.

Integrity - We believe in maintaining the public's trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest moral and ethical standards.

Fairness - We believe in the delivery of service that provides fair and equal treatment to all citizens without regard to age, gender, race, creed, color, religion, or national origin.

Trust - We believe in order to provide effective service we must develop and maintain the confidence of the community.

Partnerships - We believe in working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve problems and issues which affect the safety of our citizens.

Loyalty - We believe in an allegiance to the community, to the organization and to each other.

Professionalism - We believe in delivering a level of service which will reflect the pride we have in our community and organization.

Body Worn Cameras

The Kent County Sheriff's Office began its first full year of utilizing Axon body worn cameras in 2022. Although this police mandate will not take effect until 2025 for our agency, Sheriff Hickman and the Kent County Government made it a priority to outfit all deputies with this new technology. In conjunction with our in-car cameras, the body camera helps to show the entire event from beginning to end.

During the first years of use, we have already seen the benefit the body worn cameras have had in policing in Kent County. The evidence that is captured on the body camera is quite convincing and helps the States Attorney's Office successfully prosecute cases. The Kent County community has overwhelmingly supported their police to have body worn cameras, which gives a level of transparency that helps to increase public confidence. We also use the camera footage for training deputies to ensure they have the skills to handle the wide range of scenarios facing police officers today.

The use of body worn cameras is expensive, but the value it has to everyone is priceless. When a Kent County Sheriff's Deputy is handling a call, you can expect to hear the words, "You are being audio and visually recorded".

Additionally, you may see Deputies using their agency issued cellular phones to take evidence photos. These phones utilize an application that links the photos captured to the body camera footage to streamline the evidence process. This simplifies our agency process of preparing the photos for our final case files and makes the photos readily available to the State's Attorney's Office for prosecution.



Compared to Calendar Year 2022

	2022	2023	# Increase (Decreased)
Miles Driven	358,653	384,145	+25,492
Criminal Arrests	391	409	+18
Juvenile Arrests	29	4	-25
CDS Arrests	50	38	-12
DWI Arrests	48	40	-8
Traffic Accidents	50	68	+18
Traffic Warnings	3,813	6,641	+2,828
Traffic Citations	1,075	1,750	+675
Non-DWI Traffic Arrests	174	283	+109
Criminal Summons Served	61	43	-18
Criminal Reports	246	186	-60
Call Assists	541	620	+79
Civil Process	1,471	1,445	-26
Court Security (hours)	768.0	561.0	-207
Calls for Service	18,831	17,764	-1,067

** Includes Patrol and C.I.D.



FELONY CRIMES	2022	2023	INCREASE / DECREASE
Homicide	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	3	1	-2
1 st Degree Burglary	7	3	-4
Home Invasion	1	1	0
2 nd Degree Burglary	3	3	0
3 rd Degree Burglary	2	1	-1
1 st Degree Rape	3	1	-2
2 nd Degree Rape	6	1	-5
Child Sex Abuse	2	2	0
Theft \$1,500 - \$25,000	13	8	-5
Theft \$25,000 - \$100,000	2	4	+2
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	1	-3
1 st Degree Assault	4	4	0
1 st Degree Vulnerable Adult Abuse	0	2	+2
2 nd Degree Child Abuse	0	2	+2
Robbery	1	1	0
CDS: Poss. w/Int to Distribute	6	6	0
Forgery	0	0	0
1 st Degree Child Abuse	1	1	0
Child Pornography	0	0	0
3 rd Degree Sex Offense	0	1	+1
Firearms Possess / Felony Conv.	0	1	+1
Attempted Kidnapping	0	1	+1
Accessory After the Fact	0	1	+1
Bomb Threat	2	0	-2
Sexual Solicitation of Minor	1	0	-1
TOTAL FELONY CRIMES	61	46	-15

Crimes Handled by the Kent County Sheriff's Office

MISDEMEANOR CRIMES	2022	2023	INCREASE / DECREASE
2 ND Degree Assault	70	50	-20

Theft \$100 - \$1,500	22	6	-16
Theft Less Than \$100	3	1	-2
CDS Possession	41	32	-9
Trespassing	0	1	+1
Arson Threat	3	1	-2
Reckless Endangerment	0	0	0
Violate Protective Order	6	2	-4
2 nd Degree Child Abuse	4	0	-4
Handgun on person / vehicle	3	1	-2
Revenge Porn	2	1	-1
Threaten School Official	1	0	-1
MDOP Over \$1,000	6	1	-5
MDOP Under \$1,000	8	10	+2
ID Theft	0	1	+1
Rogue & Vagabond	4	3	-1
4 th Degree Burglary	2	5	+3
Unauthorized Use of M/V	0	1	+1
Illegal Ammo Possession	0	2	+2
Illegal Poss. Of Reg. Firearm	0	0	0
Child Neglect	1	2	+1
4 th Degree Sex Offense	3	2	-1
Dangerous Weapon on School Property	1	1	0
Threat of Mass Violence	1	1	0
Email Harassment	1	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	2	1	-1
Disturb School Operations	2	0	-2
Use Hate Symbol	1	0	-1
False Statement	0	1	+1
Resist Arrest	1	1	0
Sex Offender Viol. Registry	2	1	-1
Recording in Private Place	1	0	-1
Animal Cruelty	1	0	-1
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CRIMES	192	129	-63

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING - UCR

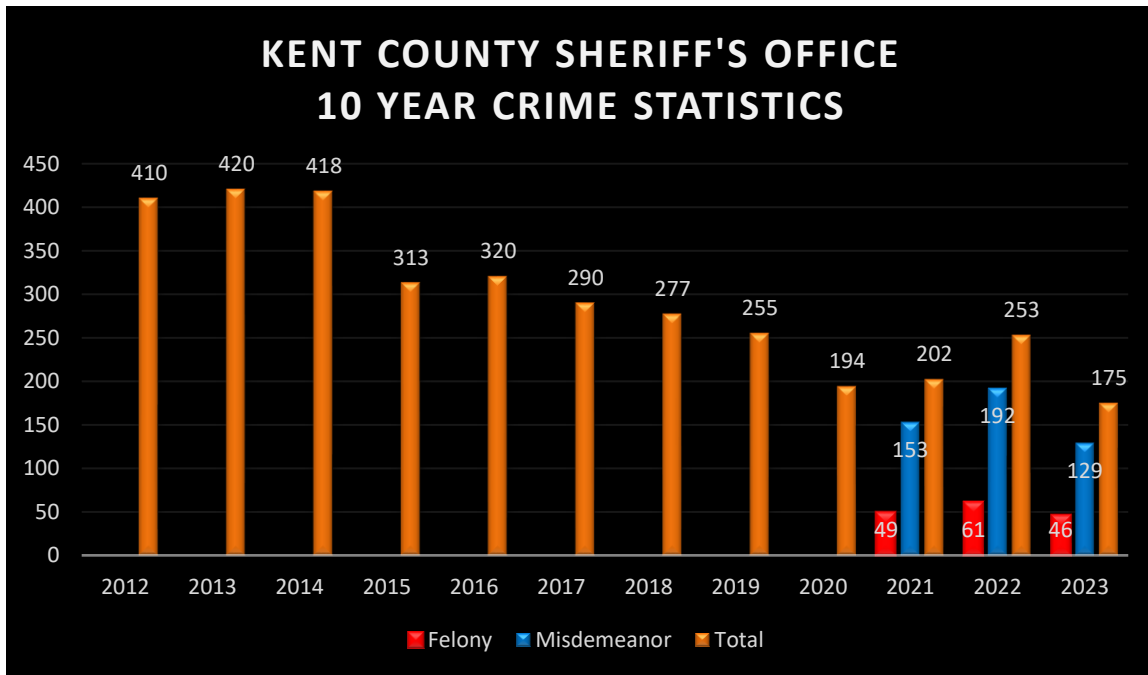
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Beginning in 2021, the transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) became the standard for reporting crime statistics to Federal Authorities. This

information is generated from the records management systems used by Local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies.

Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes. Unlike data reported through the UCR Program’s traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS)—an aggregate monthly tally of crimes—NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared.

As recommended by professional law enforcement organizations, the FBI has made nationwide implementation of NIBRS a top priority because NIBRS can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing. In accordance with these changes, the Kent County Sheriff’s Office no longer tracks crimes as Part 1 and Part 2 crimes as we have done in the past. Therefore, our crime statistics will now be shown as a total, instead of being broken down into categories as in the past.



*October 2014 Maryland de-criminalized less than 10 grams of Marijuana

*July 2023 Maryland legalized Marijuana

Speed Enforcement

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2022	2023	Increase / Decrease

Betterton			
Warnings	88	115	+27
Citations	12	23	+11
Galena			
Warnings	450	859	+409
Citations	100	174	+74
Millington			
Warnings	107	358	+251
Citations	59	122	+63

Traffic Accidents

	2022	2023	Increase / Decrease
By Type			
Property Damage Only	41	57	+16
Personal Injury	7	11	+4
Fatal	1	0	-1
Total	49	68	+19
By Location			
U.S. Highways	0	0	0
State Roads	17	22	+5
County Roads	23	37	+14
Municipal Roads	9	9	0
Total	49	68	+19

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
January 2023 – December 2023

For the 2023 year, the Kent County Sheriff’s Office had four (4) Deputies certified to perform Level III inspections of Commercial Motor Vehicles based on the North American Standard (NAS). In order to retain the certification, each Deputy is required to conduct a minimum of thirty-two (32) Level III inspections in a one (1) year period. The Sheriff’s Office maintained a total of four (4) Deputies certified to conduct Level III inspections during 2023.

Commercial Vehicles Inspected	98
Logbook and/or Hours Violations	5
Disqualified Operators	2
Traffic Violations	5
Total Violations	12
Total Drivers placed “Out of Service”	6

Also, in addition to conducting the Level III CMV inspections utilizing grant funds received from the State of Maryland, Kent County Sheriff’s Office personnel conducted numerous CMV inspections during their scheduled patrol shifts. These numbers do not include operators and passengers that were arrested for criminal offenses or warrants.



<u>Arrests</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Adult Arrests	63	41
Juvenile Arrests	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Arrests	70	41

Search Warrants Written 50 42

Search Warrants Executed 50 42

Narcotics Seized

Cocaine (Powder)	13.5 grams	339.5 grams
Cocaine (Crack)	45.94 grams	50 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	201.29 grams	161.9 grams
Marijuana	244.1 grams	4,008 grams
Marijuana Plants	11 plants	13 plants
Prescription Pills:	42.25 grams	3 grams
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	0 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	7 grams	0 grams

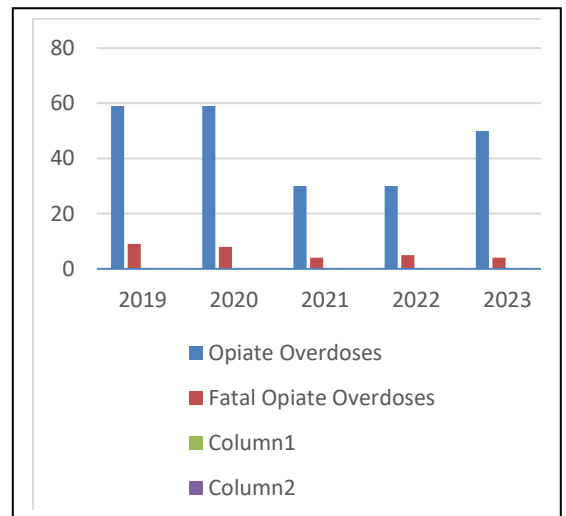
Other Items Seized

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Firearms	2	4
Vehicles	6/27,100	7/58,500
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0
Currency	\$1,905	\$2,180

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Opiate Overdoses	59	30	30	50

Fatal Opiate Overdoses 5 4 5 4

Narcan Administrations by Law Enforcement 25





The KCSO had 4 K9 teams consisting of 3 narcotics detection/tracking teams and one full service narcotics detection/tracking/patrol team until July 1, 2023. There are currently two (2) K9 teams.

K9 Scans/ Tracks/ Crowd Control

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Vehicles	77	64
Buildings and other Scans	7	6
Tracks	2	3
Crowd Control Calls	1	1

Narcotics Seized (street value)

	<u>\$2,120.00</u>	<u>\$4,730.00</u>
Cocaine	11.6 grams	1.9 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	29 grams	22.7 grams
Marijuana	36 grams	0 grams
LSD	0 tabs	0 tabs
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	0 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	9.2 grams	0 grams

also numerous articles of illegal paraphernalia which contain illicit drug residue

Other Items Seized

Illegal Handguns	2 handguns	0 handguns
Total Currency	\$1,568.00	\$ 21,756.00
Total K9 Demonstrations	2	4
Total Training Hours		
662.5 hours	442.75 hours	