

Kent County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Dennis W. Hickman, Jr.



2025 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 2025. 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 2025, the Kent County Sheriff's Office received their eighth 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 2025, thirty-four (34) search and seizure warrants were executed, resulting in twenty-five (25) 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 2025, 2 (two) Kent County Sheriff's Office Deputies maintained 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 you have about this report. Visit our website, www.sheriff.kentcounty.com or contact us using the information below.

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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.



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.



Overall Performance Report

January 1 thru December 31, 2025

Compared to Calendar Year 2024

	2024	2025	# Increase (Decrease)
Miles Driven	377,491	358,075	-19,416
Criminal Arrests	437	328	-109
Juvenile Arrests	30	24	-6
CDS Arrests	48	20	-28
DWI Arrests	24	22	-2
Traffic Accidents	68	57	-11
Traffic Warnings	7,401	5,843	-1,558
Traffic Citations	2,171	1,364	-807
Non-DWI Traffic Arrests	319	222	-97
Criminal Summonses Served	58	48	-10
Criminal Reports	237	183	-54
Call Assists	592	540	-52
Civil Process	1,624	1,262	-362
Court Security (hours)	743.5	697	-46.5
Calls For Service	18,479	17,536	-943



Crimes Handled by the Kent County Sheriff's Office

FELONY CRIMES	2024	2025	INCREASE / DECREASE
Homicide	0	2	+2
Attempted Murder	1	0	-1
1st Degree Burglary	5	5	0
Home Invasion	1	0	-1
2nd Degree Burglary	2	4	+2
3rd Degree Burglary	1	1	0
1st Degree Rape	2	1	-1
2nd Degree Rape	0	2	+2
Child Sex Abuse	0	4	+4
Theft \$1,500 - \$25,000	11	5	-6
Theft \$25,000 - \$100,000	5	2	-3
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	0	-4
1st Degree Assault	5	3	-2
1st Degree Vulnerable Adult Abuse	0	0	0
2nd Degree Child Abuse	3	4	+1
Robbery	2	0	-2
CDS: Poss w/ Int to Distribute	7	2	-5
Forgery	1	0	-1
1st Degree Child Abuse	0	0	0
Child Pornography	0	1	+1
3rd Degree Sex Offense	2	0	-2
Firearms Possession / Felony Conv.	0	0	0
Attempted Kidnapping	0	0	0
Accessory After the Fact	0	1	+1
Bomb Threat	0	0	0
Sexual Solicitation of Minor	0	0	0
TOTAL FELONY CRIMES	52	37	-15

Crimes Handled by the Kent County Sheriff's Office

MISDEMEANOR CRIMES	2024	2025	INCREASE / DECREASE
2nd Degree Assault	62	48	+20
Theft \$100 -\$1,500	9	10	+1
Theft Less Than \$100	1	4	+3
CDS Possession	39	20	-19
Trespassing	1	1	0
Arson Threat	0	0	0
Reckless Endangerment	0	0	0
Violate Protective Order	1	1	0
2nd Degree Child Abuse	5	4	-1
Handgun on person / Vehicle	1	0	-1
Revenge Porn	0	0	0
Threaten School Official	0	1	+1
MDOP Over \$1,000	0	1	+1
MDOP Under \$1,000	1	9	+8
ID Theft	0	1	+1
Rogue & Vagabond	4	0	-4
4th Degree Burglary	1	4	+3
Unauthorized Use of M/V	0	0	0
Illegal Ammo Possession	0	0	0
Illegal Poss. Reg. Firearm	0	0	0
Child Neglect	0	0	0
4th Degree Sex Offense	1	2	+1
Dangerous Weapon on School Property	0	1	+1
Threat of Mass Violence	2	1	-1
Email Harassment	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	1	0	-1
Disturb School Operations	0	0	0
Use Hate Symbol	0	0	0
False Statement	0	0	0
Resist Arrest	0	1	+1
Sex Offender Viol Registry	1	1	0
Recording in Private Place	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CRIMES	130	110	-22

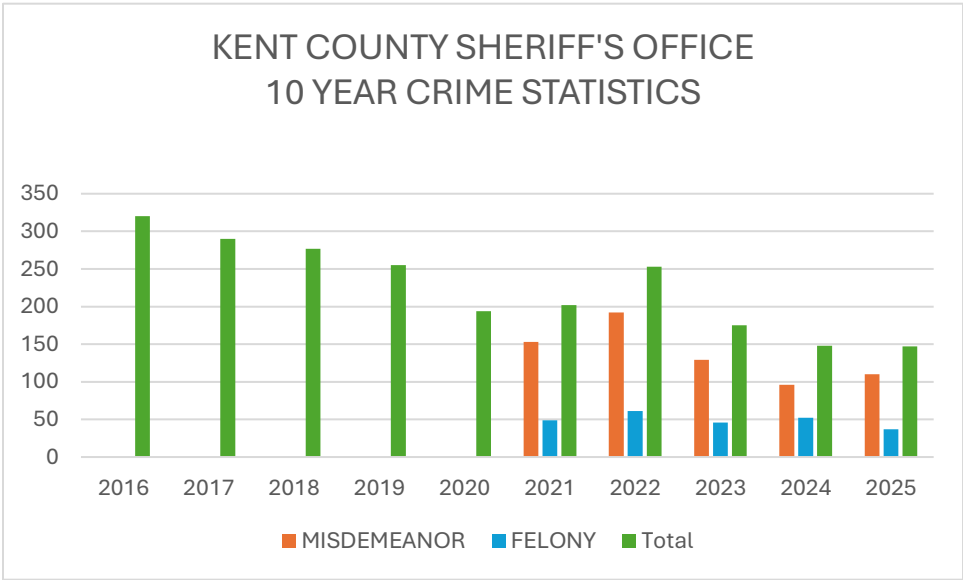
NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM – NIBRS

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

	2024	2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE
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BETTERTON

Warnings	134	140	+6
Citations	17	34	+17

GALENA

Warnings	971	659	-312
Citations	240	121	-119

MILLINGTON

Warnings	357	276	-81
Citations	112	80	-32

TRAFFIC CRASHES

	2024	2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE
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BY TYPE

Property Damage	60	54	-6
Personal Injury	8	3	-5
Fatal	0	0	0
TOTALS	68	57	-11

BY LOCATION

US Highway	0	1	+1
State Roads	38	25	-13
County Roads	30	27	-3
Municipal Roads	0	4	+4
TOTALS	68	57	-11

*These numbers include Kent County Sheriff's Office incidents only. They do not include incidents handled by other police departments in Kent County.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

January 2025 – December 2025

For the 2025 year, the Kent County Sheriff's Office had two (2) 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 one (1) calendar year. The Sheriff's Office maintained a total of two (2) Deputies certified to conduct Level III inspections during 2025.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office receives grant funds from the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program, administered through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for its Deputies, who are certified inspectors, to conduct commercial vehicle inspections during overtime enforcement assignments. In addition to these grant funded overtime assignments, those Deputies conducted numerous commercial vehicle inspections during their scheduled patrol shifts.

During these Commercial Motor Vehicle inspections, Deputies enforced numerous traffic and safety violations. These violations include logbook/hours of service violations, disqualified drivers, traffic violations, as well as placing drivers and commercial vehicles out-of-service. Deputies also arrest operators and/or passengers that violated criminal laws and/or had outstanding warrants



Kent County Narcotics Task Force
Reporting Period: January 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025

<u>ARRESTS</u>	2024	2025
Adult Arrests	27	25
Juvenile Arrests	0	0
Total Arrests	27	25
Search Warrants Written	17	34
Search Warrants Executed	17	34

NARCOTICS SEIZED

Cocaine (Powder)	145.5 grams	142.5 grams
Cocaine (Crack)	52.39 grams	10.2 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	147.6 grams	46.8 grams
Marijuana	688.7 grams	60.6 grams
Marijuana Plants	26 plants	0 plants
Prescription Pills	52 grams	25 grams
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	0 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	0 grams	0 grams

Other Items Seized

Firearms	2	0
Vehicles	4/\$14,800	1/\$10,000
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0
Currency	\$2,429.11	\$5,772.00

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Opiate Overdoses	30	30	50	29	19
Fatal Opiate Overdoses	4	5	4	0	1

Law Enforcement administered 10 doses of Narcan in 2025

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CANINE UNIT

The Kent County Sheriff's Office consists of two narcotics detection/tracking teams.

K-9 Scans / Tracks / Crowd Control

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Vehicles	81	62
Building and Other Scans	2	2
Tracks	6	7
Crowd Control Calls	0	2

NARCOTICS SEIZED (STREET VALUE)

	\$2,301.00	\$2,280.00
Cocaine	154.85 grams	10 .5 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	84.5 grams	2.5 grams
LSD	0 tabs	0 tabs
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	0 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	1.5 grams	4.5 grams

OTHER ITEMS SEIZED

Illegal Handguns	1 handgun	1 handgun
Total Currency	\$24,752.00	\$33,338.00

TOTAL K-9 DEMONSTRATIONS

9 16

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS

HOURS 352 HOURS 400

(2 dogs) (2 dogs)



COMMUNITY EVENTS

