

# KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Dennis W. Hickman, Jr.



2022

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 2022. 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." We now proudly display the CALEA logo on our uniforms and marked vehicles. In November 2019, the Kent County Sheriff's Office received their sixth Certificate of Accreditation.

**Kent County Narcotics Task Force** The Task Force is comprised of Kent County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Chestertown Police Department and Maryland Natural Resources Police. In 2022, Fifty (50) search and seizure warrants were executed resulting in Seventy (70) 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 2022, KCSO Deputies performed 116 CMV inspections that resulted in 44 violations. At the conclusion of 2022, 5 (five) 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](http://www.sheriff.kentcounty.com) or contact us using the below information:

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**104 Vickers Drive, Unit B**  
**Chestertown, MD 21620**  
**(410) 778-2279**  
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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.



### 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 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 this first year 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".



**Overall Performance Report  
January 1 thru December 31, 2022  
Compared to Calendar Year 2021**

	2021	2022	# Increase (Decreased)
Miles Driven	367,327	358,653	-8,674
Criminal Arrests	413	391	-22
Juvenile Arrests	21	29	+8
CDS Arrests	53	50	-3
DWI Arrests	52	48	-4
Traffic Accidents	42	50	+8
Traffic Warnings	3,516	3,813	+297
Traffic Citations	1,201	1,075	-126
Non-DWI Traffic Arrests	170	174	+4
Criminal Summons Served	65	61	-4
Criminal Reports	274	246	-28
Call Assists	437	541	+104
Civil Process	1,188	1,471	+283
Court Security (hours)	35.9	768.0	+732.1
Calls for Service	20, 412	18,831	-1,581

\*\* Includes Patrol and C.I.D.



## Crimes Handled by the Kent County Sheriff's Office

<b>FELONY CRIMES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>INCREASE / DECREASE</b>
Homicide	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	1	3	+2
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Burglary	14	7	-7
Home Invasion	2	1	-1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Burglary	9	3	-6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Burglary	0	2	+2
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Rape	0	3	+3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Rape	5	6	+1
Child Sex Abuse	3	2	-1
Theft \$1,500 - \$25,000	14	13	-1
Theft \$25,000 - \$100,000	1	2	+1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	4	+3
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Assault	12	4	-8
Robbery	1	1	0
CDS: Poss. w/Int to Distribute	8	6	-2
Forgery	3	0	-3
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Child Abuse	0	1	+1
Child Pornography	1	0	-1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Sex Offense	2	0	-2
Bomb Threat	0	2	+2
Sexual Solicitation of Minor	0	1	+1
<b>TOTAL FELONY CRIMES</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-16</b>

## Crimes Handled by the Kent County Sheriff's Office

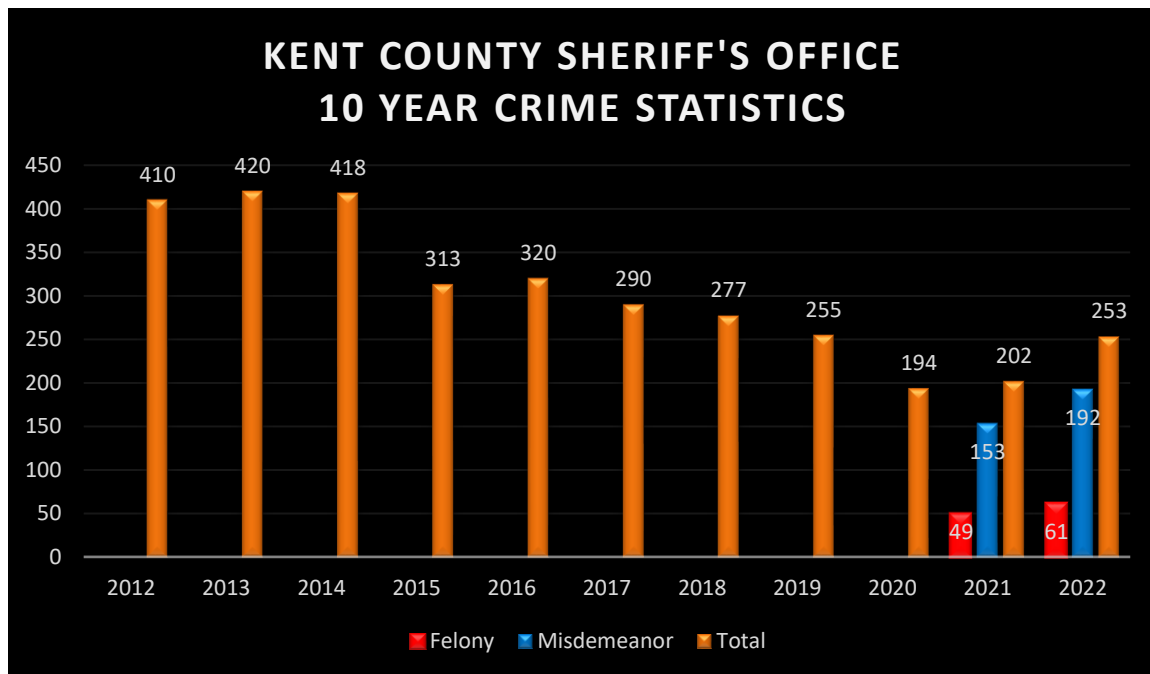
<b>MISDEMEANOR CRIMES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>INCREASE / DECREASE</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> Degree Assault	45	70	+25
Theft \$100 - \$1,500	14	22	+8
Theft Less Than \$100	2	3	+1
CDS Possession	41	41	0
Arson Threat	1	3	+2
Reckless Endangerment	2	0	-2
Violate Protective Order	1	6	+5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Child Abuse	3	4	+1
Handgun on person / vehicle	4	3	-1
Revenge Porn	1	2	+1
Threaten School Official	1	1	0
MDOP Over \$1,000	4	6	+2
MDOP Under \$1,000	15	8	-7
ID Theft	2	0	-2
Rogue & Vagabond	3	4	+1
4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Burglary	3	2	-1
Unauthorized Use of M/V	1	0	-1
Illegal Poss. Of Reg. Firearm	1	0	-1
Child Neglect	2	1	-1
4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Sex Offense	2	3	-1
Dangerous Weapon on School Property	1	1	0
Threat of Mass Violence	0	1	+1
Email Harassment	0	1	+1
Disorderly Conduct	0	2	+2
Disturb School Operations	0	2	+2
Use Hate Symbol	0	1	+1
Resist Arrest	0	1	+1
Sex Offender Viol. Registry	0	2	+2
Recording in Private Place	0	1	+1
Animal Cruelty	0	1	+1
<b>TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CRIMES</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>+43</b>

## UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING - UCR

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.



\*in October of 2014 Maryland legislature de-criminalized less than ten(10) grams of Marijuana.



### Speed Enforcement

	2021	2022	Increase / Decrease
<b>Betterton</b>			
Warnings	72	88	<b>+16</b>
Citations	17	12	<b>-5</b>
<b>Galena</b>			
Warnings	417	450	<b>+33</b>
Citations	129	100	<b>+29</b>
<b>Millington</b>			
Warnings	85	107	<b>+22</b>
Citations	50	59	<b>+9</b>

### Traffic Accidents

	2021	2022	Increase / Decrease
<b>By Type</b>			
Property Damage Only	30	41	<b>+11</b>
Personal Injury	12	7	<b>-5</b>
Fatal	1	1	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+6</b>
<b>By Location</b>			
U.S. Highways	0	0	<b>0</b>
State Roads	10	17	<b>+7</b>
County Roads	30	23	<b>-7</b>
Municipal Roads	3	9	<b>+6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+6</b>

## Commercial Vehicle Enforcement January 2022 – December 2022

For the 2022 year, the Kent County Sheriff's Office had six (6) 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 six (6) Deputies certified to conduct Level III inspections during 2022.

Commercial Vehicles Inspected	116
Logbook and/or Hours Violations	6
Disqualified Operators	3
Traffic Violations	27
Total Violations	44
Total Drivers placed "Out of Service"	4
Total Enforcement Hours	97.5

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.



**Kent County Narcotics Task Force**  
**Reporting Period: January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022**

<u>Arrests</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Adult Arrests	63	63
Juvenile Arrests	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>

<b>Search Warrants Written</b>	31	50
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<b>Search Warrants Executed</b>	31	50
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**Narcotics Seized**

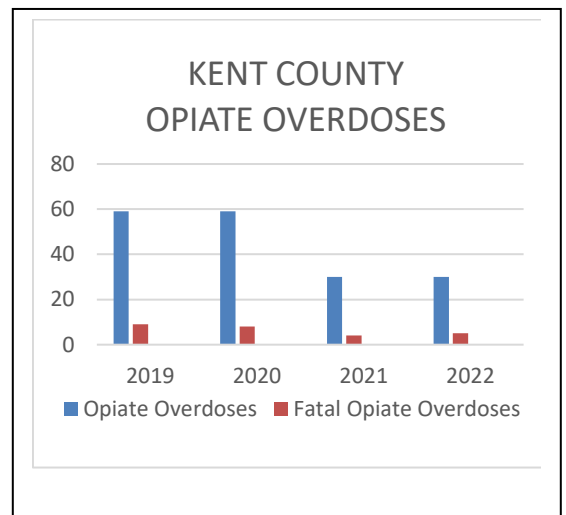
Cocaine (Powder)	6 grams	13.5 grams
Cocaine (Crack)	139.29 grams	45.94 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	367.9 grams	201.29 grams
Marijuana	3680.3 grams	244.1 grams
Marijuana Plants	29 plants	11 plants
Prescription Pills:	250.5 grams	42.25
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	5896.7 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine		7 grams

<u>Other Items Seized</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Firearms	10	2
Vehicles	8/\$43,900	6/27,100
Miscellaneous	\$4,500	0
Currency	\$40,851	\$1,905

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Opiate Overdoses</b>	59	59	30	30

<b>Fatal Opiate Overdoses</b>	9	5	4	5
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**Narcan Administrations by Law Enforcement 18**



## Kent County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit



The KCSO had four K9 teams consisting of 3 narcotics detection/tracking teams and one full service narcotics detection/tracking/patrol team in 2022.

### K9 Scans/ Tracks/ Crowd Control

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Vehicles	120	77
Buildings and other Scans	8	7
Tracks	1	2
Crowd Control Calls	1	1

### Narcotics Seized (street value)

	<u>\$2,455.00</u>	<u>\$2,120.00</u>
Cocaine	.9 grams	11.6 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	19.6 grams	29 grams
Marijuana	99.5 grams	36 grams
LSD	128 tabs	0 tabs
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	8 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	7.6 grams	9.2 grams
**also numerous articles of illegal paraphernalia which contain illicit drug residue**		

### Other Items Seized

Untaxed Cigarettes	750 cartons	0 cartons
Illegal Handguns	2 handguns	2 handguns
Total Currency	\$5,126.00	\$1,568.00
Total K9 Demonstrations	2	2
Total Training Hours	630 hours	662.5 hours

