

# **Kent County Sheriff's Office**

**Sheriff Dennis W. Hickman, Jr.**



## **2024 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 2024. 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 2024, 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 2024, seventeen (17) search and seizure warrants were executed resulting in twenty seven (27) 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 2024, 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](http://www.sheriff.kentcounty.com) or contact us using the information below.

**Kent County Sheriff's Office  
104 Vickers Drive, Unit B  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-2279  
Email: [sheriff@kentgov.org](mailto: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.



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.



**"You are being audio and visually recorded"**

**Overall Performance Report**  
**January 1 thru December 31, 2024**  
**Compared to Calendar Year 2023**

	2023	2024	# Increase (Decrease)
Miles Driven	384,145	377,491	-6,654
Criminal Arrests	409	437	+26
Juvenile Arrests	4	30	+26
CDS Arrests	38	48	+10
DWI Arrests	40	24	-16
Traffic Accidents	68	68	0
Traffic Warnings	6,641	7,401	+760
Traffic Citations	1,750	2,171	+421
Non-DWI Traffic Arrests	283	319	+36
Criminal Summonses Served	43	58	+15
Criminal Reports	186	237	+51
Call Assists	620	592	-28
Civil Process	1,445	1,624	+179
Court Security (hours)	561	743.5	+182.5
Calls For Service	17,764	18,479	+715



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

FELONY CRIMES	2023	2024	INCREASE / DECREASE
Homicide	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	1	1	0
1st Degree Burglary	3	5	+2
Home Invasion	1	1	0
2nd Degree Burglary	3	2	-1
3rd Degree Burglary	1	1	0
1st Degree Rape	1	2	+1
2nd Degree Rape	1	0	-1
Child Sex Abuse	2	0	-2
Theft \$1,500 - \$25,000	8	11	+3
Theft \$25,000 - \$100,000	4	5	+1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	4	+3
1st Degree Assault	4	5	+1
1st Degree Vulnerable Adult Abuse	2	0	-2
2nd Degree Child Abuse	2	3	+1
Robbery	1	2	+1
CDS: Poss w/ Int to Distribute	6	7	+1
Forgery	0	1	+1
1st Degree Child Abuse	1	0	-1
Child Pornography	0	0	0
3rd Degree Sex Offense	1	2	+1
Firearms Possess / Felony Conv.	1	0	-1
Attempted Kidnapping	1	0	1
Accessory After the Fact	1	0	-1
Bomb Threat	0	0	0
Sexual Solicitation of Minor	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL FELONY CRIMES</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-9</b>

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

<b>MISDEMEANOR CRIMES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>INCREASE / DECREASE</b>
2nd Degree Assault	50	28	-22
Theft \$100 - \$1,500	6	9	+3
Theft Less Than \$100	1	1	0
CDS Possession	32	39	+7
Trespassing	1	1	0
Arson Threat	1	0	-1
Reckless Endangerment	0	0	0
Violate Protective Order	2	1	-1
2nd Degree Child Abuse	0	5	+5
Handgun on person / Vehicle	1	1	0
Revenge Porn	1	0	-1
Threaten School Official	0	0	0
MDOP Over \$1,000	1	0	-1
MDOP Under \$1,000	10	1	-9
ID Theft	1	0	-1
Rogue & Vagabond	3	4	+1
4th Degree Burglary	5	1	-4
Unauthorized Use of M/V	1	0	-1
Illegal Ammo Possession	2	0	-2
Illegal Poss. Reg. Firearm	0	0	0
Child Neglect	2	0	-2
4th Degree Sex Offense	2	1	-1
Dangerous Weapon on School Prop	1	0	-1
Threat of Mass Violence	1	2	+1
Email Harassment	1	0	-1
Disorderly Conduct	1	1	0
Disturb School Operations	0	0	0
Use Hate Symbol	0	0	0
False Statement	1	0	-1
Resist Arrest	1	0	-1
Sex Offender Viol Registry	1	1	0
Recording in Private Place	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CRIMES</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>-33</b>

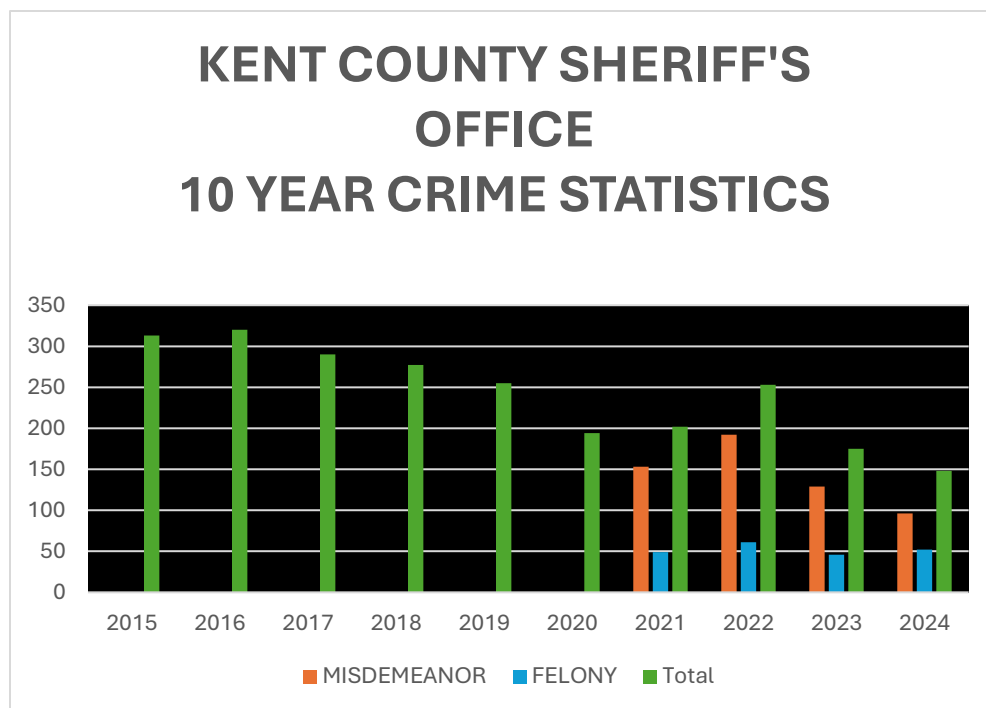
## **NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM - NIBRS**

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

	2023	2024	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<b>BETTERTON</b>			
Warnings	115	134	+19
Citations	23	17	-6
<b>GALENA</b>			
Warnings	859	971	+112
Citations	174	240	+66
<b>MILLINGTON</b>			
Warnings	358	357	-1
Citations	122	112	-10

## TRAFFIC CRASHES

	2023	2024	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<b>BY TYPE</b>			
Property Damage	57	60	+3
Personal Injury	11	8	-3
Fatal	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	68	68	0
<b>BY LOCATION</b>			
US Highway	0	0	0
State Roads	22	38	+16
County Roads	37	30	-7
Municipal Roads	9	0	-9
<b>TOTALS</b>	68	68	0

\*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 2024 – December 2024**

For the 2024 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 2024.

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, 2024 thru December 31, 2024**

<b><u>ARRESTS</u></b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Adult Arrests	41	27
Juvenile Arrests	0	0
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>
Search Warrants Written	42	17
Search Warrants Executed	42	17

**NARCOTICS SEIZED**

Cocaine (Powder)	339.5 grams	145.5 grams
Cocaine (Crack)	50 grams	52.39 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	161.9 grams	147.6 grams
Marijuana	4,008 grams	688.7 grams
Marijuana Plants	13 plants	26 plants
Prescription Pills	3 grams	52 grams
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	0 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	0 grams	0 grams

**Other Items Seized**

Firearms	4	2
Vehicles	7/\$58,500	4/\$14,800
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0
Currency	\$2,180	\$2,429.11

	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
<b>Opiate Overdoses</b>	59	30	30	50	29
<b>Fatal Opiate Overdoses</b>	5	4	5	4	0

**Law Enforcement administered 20 doses of Narcan in 2024**

# 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>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Vehicles	64	81
Building and Other Scans	6	2
Tracks	3	6
Crowd Control Calls	1	0

## NARCOTICS SEIZED (STREET VALUE)

	\$4,730.00	\$24,752.00
Cocaine	1.9 grams	154.85 grams
Heroin / Fentanyl	22.7 grams	84.5 grams
LSD	0 tabs	0 tabs
Psilocybin / Mushrooms	0 grams	0 grams
Methamphetamine	9.2 grams	1.5 grams

## OTHER ITEMS SEIZED

Illegal Handguns	0 handguns	1 handgun
Total Currency	\$21,756.00	\$2,301

## TOTAL K-9 DEMONSTRATIONS

2	9
---	---

## TOTAL TRAINING HOURS

662.5 HOURS	352 HOURS
(4 dogs)	(2 dogs)



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

