



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

AUSTIN GARRETT, SHERIFF

2024

STATISTICAL REVIEW

Prepared By:

HCSO Accreditation & Standards (CALEA)

HCSO Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU)

HCSO Public Relations Office

www.hcsheriff.gov

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHERIFF



Together, we are one team, with one mission, *Leading the Way...*

As we look to the future, your Sheriff's Office is committed to leading the way in creating a safer, stronger Hamilton County. With a focus on professionalism, exceptional customer service, and innovation, we will continue to adapt to the evolving needs and challenges of our community to ensure our service meets the highest standards of excellence.

I am honored to serve you as your Sheriff and share my continued vision for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office as we begin a new year in my administration. Your Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring the safety of our county while maintaining a focus on providing the highest level of customer service, professional law enforcement and corrections services, and innovation.

Recruitment of qualified, diverse candidates remains a top priority for my administration. The HCSO continues to be one of the highest-compensated law enforcement agencies in our region. We will continue to maintain a rigorous selection process for deputies and civilian personnel in order to foster a diverse, growth-oriented work environment that supports professional development and career advancement.

Under my leadership, we will remain focused on the principles of data-driven law enforcement. This includes utilizing our Crime and Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) to deploy resources effectively by analyzing crime data and trends while promoting public access and transparency through our free, online Crime Data Dashboard.

The foundation of our agency's success is built on our brand and the steadfast commitment of our people to professionalism, customer service-driven law enforcement, and the adoption of innovative practices and technologies. By prioritizing training and professional development, and utilizing advanced technology and specialized response vehicles, the HCSO is setting the standard for law enforcement operations in Hamilton County and the region.

In conclusion, your Sheriff's Office is stronger than ever, and the future holds great promise for 2025. The dedicated men and women of the HCSO will continue, as our motto states, to lead the way with a focus on professionalism, customer service-driven law enforcement, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of you and your family. As always, it is my honor and privilege to serve you as your Sheriff.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin Garrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Austin Garrett
Sheriff - Hamilton County, TN

Overview

BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBERS

Data used in this report represents current information housed within law enforcement databases.

Due to the fact database entry is ongoing; some statistical information will change over time. For example, a fire investigation will remain a miscellaneous report until the investigation determines otherwise.

Additionally, it is important to look at the numbers being analyzed in addition to the percent changes. Abnormally high percent change can sometimes be a reflection of a small data set, rather than an indicator of significant change. In statistics, this is called the Law of Small Numbers.



-0.4%

Decrease in crimes listed in this report in 2024.

Our Agency

The primary operations of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office are broken into three categories: Law Enforcement Services, Corrections Services, and Administrative Services.



Law Enforcement Services



Corrections Services



Administrative Services

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES



One Team, One Mission...

HCSO Law Enforcement Services is responsible for law enforcement services county-wide, particularly those in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

This includes assisting our local law enforcement partners as needed.

Law Enforcement Services is comprised of Uniformed Services (Patrol) and Investigative Services.

78,929

**Number of Calls for
Service and Deputy
Initiated Activities
within Hamilton
County in 2024**

Uniformed Services

Uniformed Services is the most visible unit to the public as they are present county-wide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Uniformed Services Deputies respond to emergency and non-emergency incidents and conduct proactive law enforcement operations for 576 square miles of jurisdiction, including 33 miles of the Tennessee River, in Hamilton County.

Law Enforcement Services also includes many of our agency's specialty response units and teams such as SWAT, Marine Patrol, Traffic Unit, Hostage Negotiation, K-9 Unit, School Resource Deputy Unit, Judicial Security Operations, and Honor Guard.

Investigative Services

Investigative Services is responsible for conducting investigations into criminal activity and reported crimes that occur throughout Hamilton County, the majority of which occur within the unincorporated areas of the county.

Investigative Services also comprises the Crime and Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU), Narcotics & Special Investigations, Sheriff's Underwater Recovery Team (SURT), Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit (DRONE), and Criminal & Civil Warrants.

HCSO SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTY UNIT



33

Current Total Number of HCDE Public Schools Covered by HCSO SRD's

6

Current Total Number of HCDE Charter Schools Covered by HCSO SRD's

39

Current Number of School Resource Deputies

900

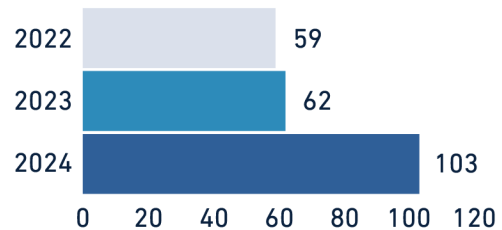
Hours of SRD Related Classroom Instruction (23-24 School Year)

174

Number of Presentations Delivered in Schools by SRDs/DARE Instructors (23-24 School Year)

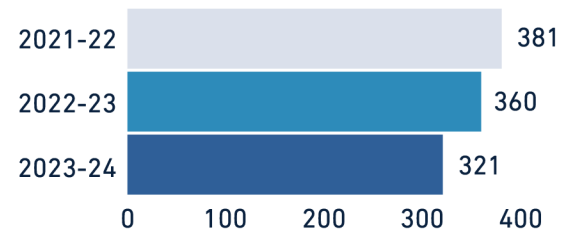
Number of School Threats Received/Investigated

*Per Calendar Year (January - December)



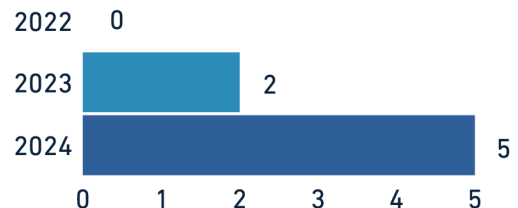
Number of Students Charged

*Per School Calendar Year (August - May)



Number of Firearms Recovered

*Per Calendar Year (January - December)



CRIME BY CATEGORY



CRIMES AGAINST **PROPERTY**

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines property crime as the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of these theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims.

CRIMES AGAINST **PERSONS**

Crimes against persons are defined as incidents where an individual has either used or threatened physical force to injure another person such as assault, homicide, kidnapping, false imprisonment, robbery, rape, or sexual assault.

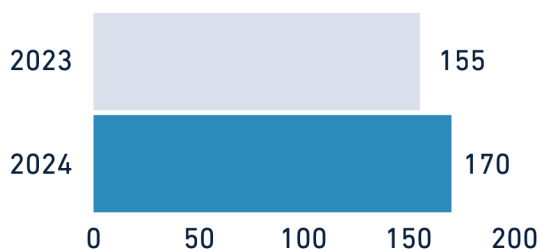
CRIMES AGAINST **SOCIETY**

Crimes against society involve criminal activity such as illegal narcotics use and distribution, gambling, human trafficking, or weapons law violations. Generally speaking, crimes against society represent activities a society has chosen to prohibit through laws and legislation.

BURGLARY & VANDALISM

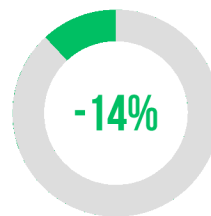
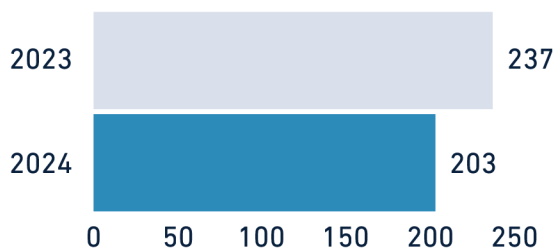
Burglary is the unlawful entry into a residence or business, or any other structure, with the intent to commit theft. The unincorporated areas of Hamilton County have seen a 10% increase in burglary in 2024.

Vandalism is defined as the unlawful destruction or damage to public or private property. This includes defacing public property, damaging vacant houses, destroying public signs, or keying an individual's vehicle. There was a 14% decrease in vandalism in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.



Burglary

There was a 10% increase in **reported** burglaries



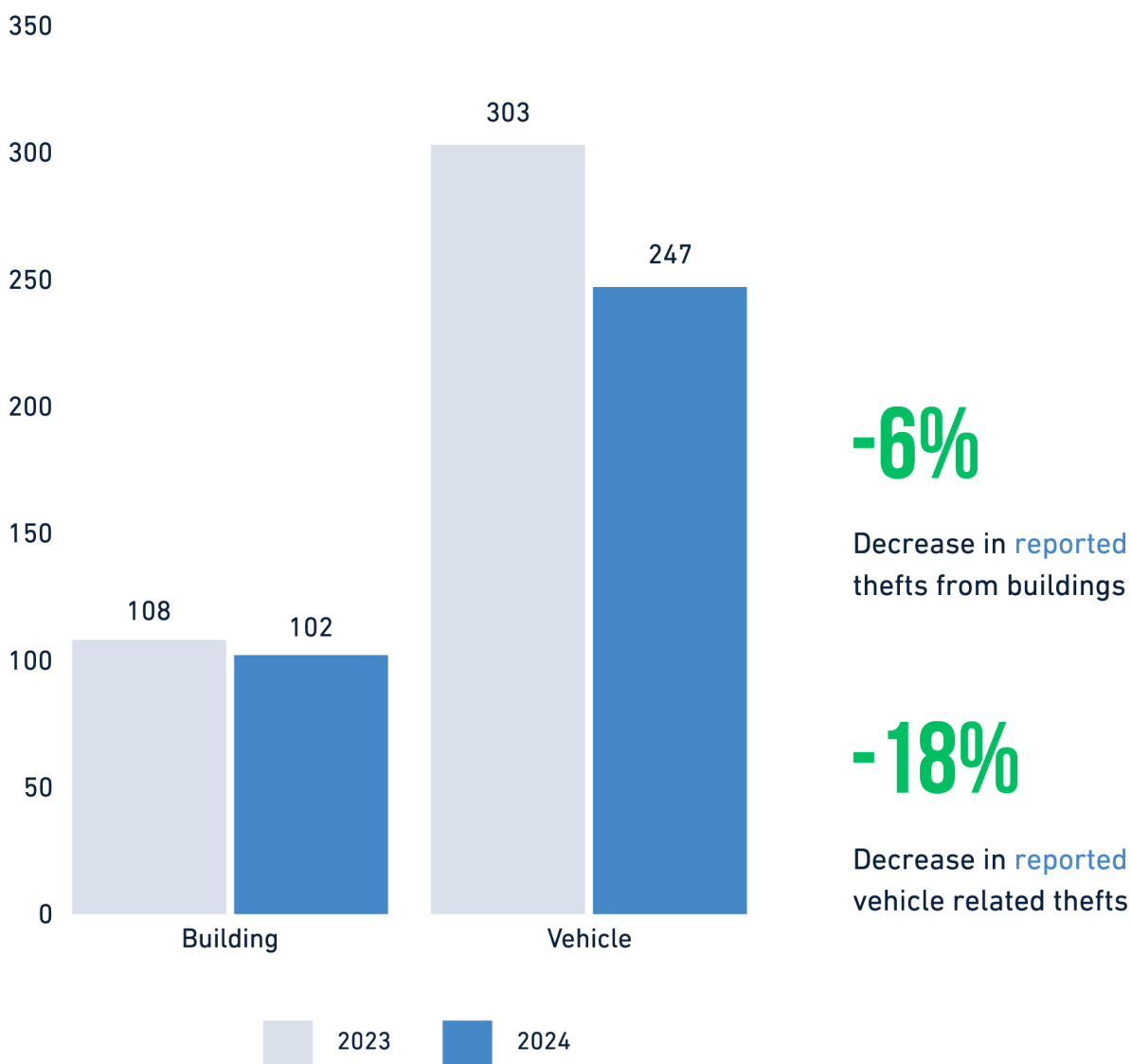
Vandalism

There was a 14% decrease in **reported** vandalism

THEFT - BUILDING & VEHICLE

The following data represents the number of reported thefts from homes and vehicles in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

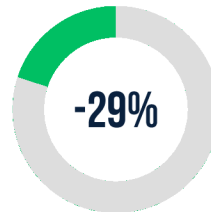
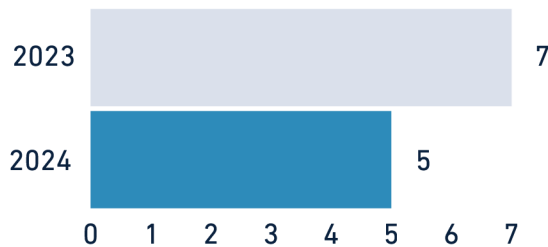
Vehicle-related thefts include the combined numbers from auto theft, theft of items from inside vehicles, and theft of vehicle parts.



ROBBERY & ALL OTHER LARCENY

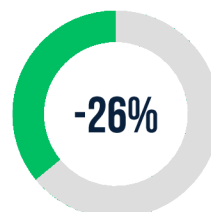
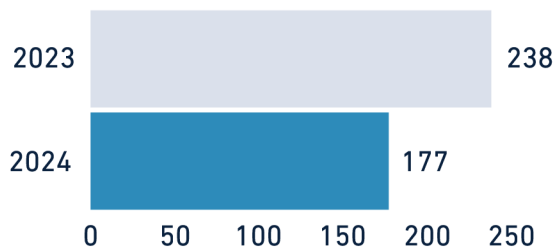
Robbery is defined as the taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

All other larceny is defined as all thefts that do not fit any of the definitions of the specific subcategories of Larceny/Theft (e.g. theft from a vehicle).



Robbery

There was a 29% decrease in **reported** robberies



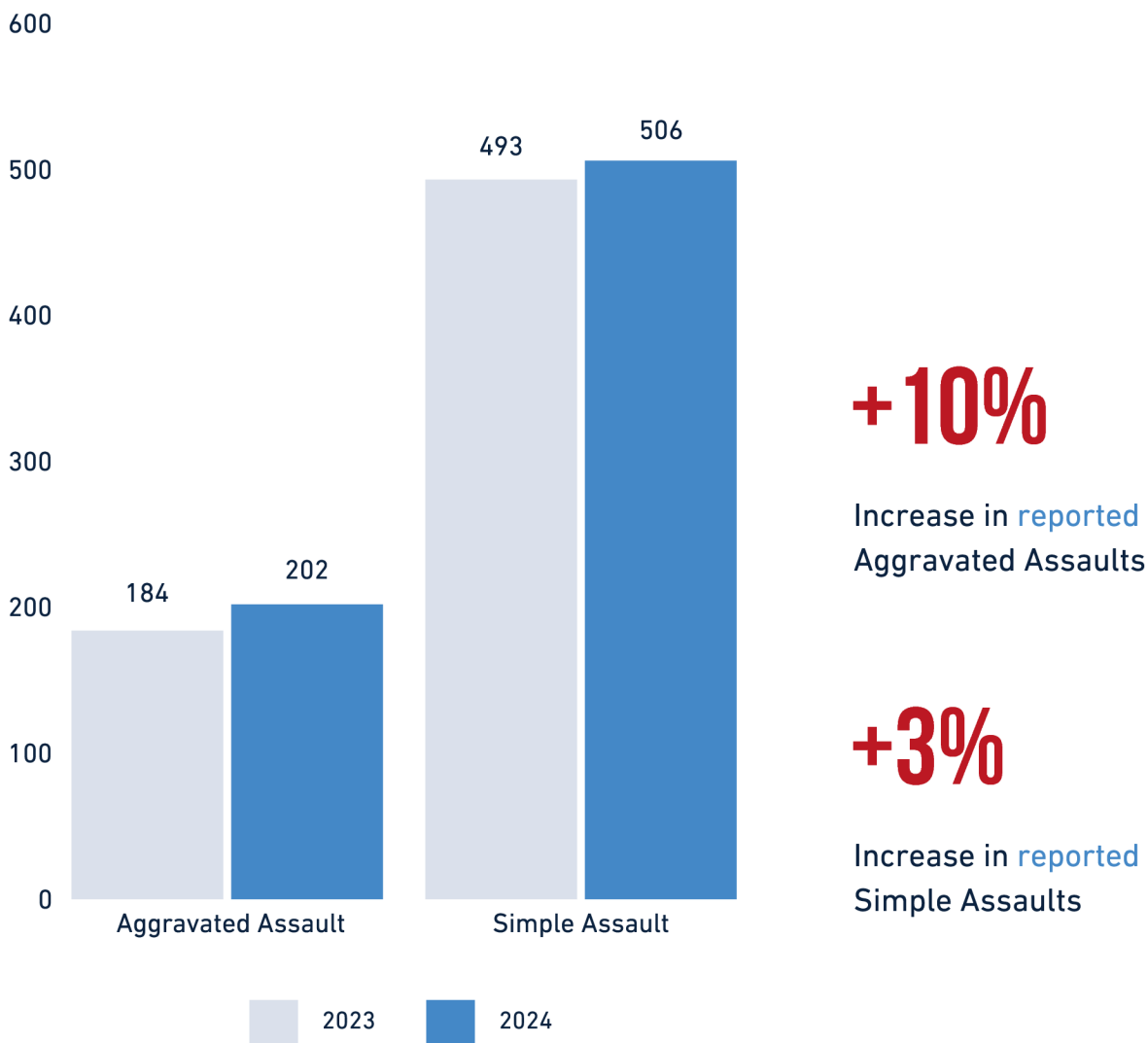
All Other Larceny

There was a 26% decrease in **reported** larceny

ASSAULTS, AGGRAVATED & SIMPLE

Crimes against persons are defined as crimes that contain an element of use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force. These crimes include homicide, assault, kidnapping, reckless endangerment, robbery, and rape.

Assaults are categorized into two separate types, aggravated and simple assaults. The following data contains what was reported and then investigated by the HCSO.

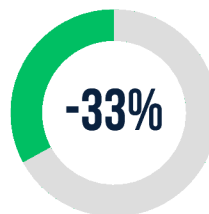
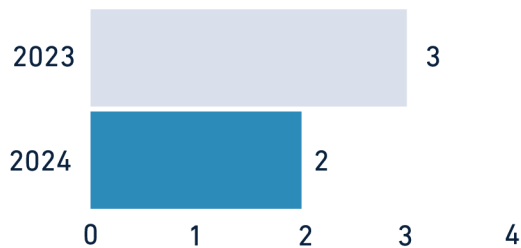


HOMICIDE, INTIMIDATION & RAPE

Homicide is defined as the willful killing of one person by another.

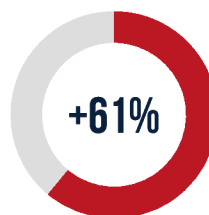
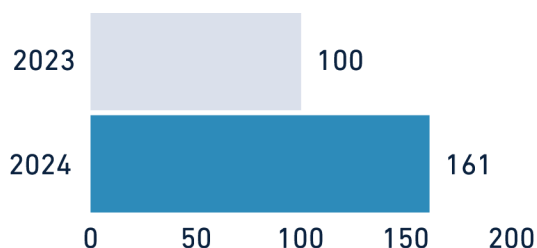
Intimidation is defined as the act of unlawfully placing another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to an actual physical attack.

Rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent due to age or mental status.



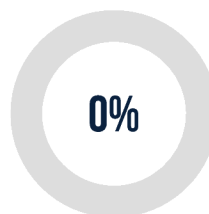
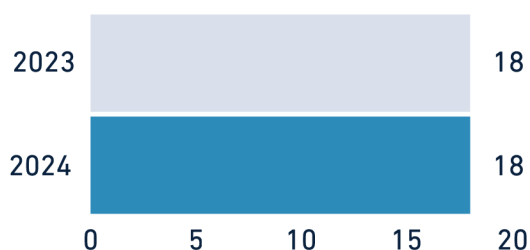
Homicide

There was a 33% decrease in homicides.



Intimidation

There was a 61% increase in [reported](#) intimidation/harassment crimes



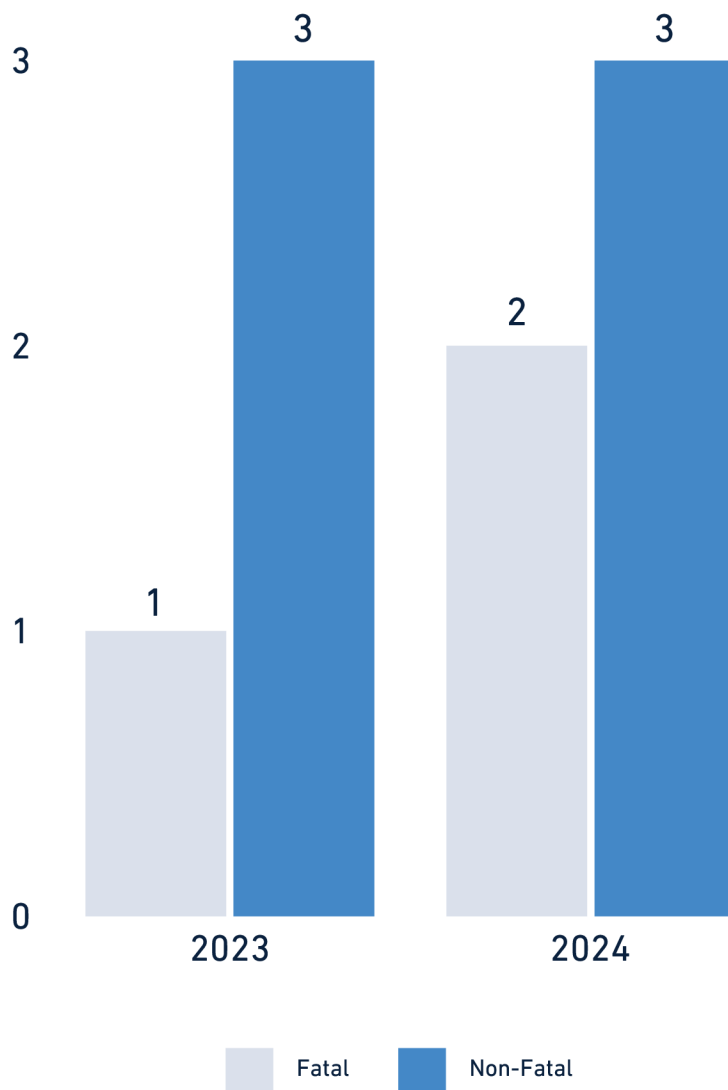
Rape

There was a 0% increase or decrease in [reported](#) rape cases

SHOOTING INCIDENTS

We have divided the data for shootings in Hamilton County by fatal and non-fatal. These are the number of shootings that occurred with bodily injury or death in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County that resulted in criminal investigations.

Please note, in certain shooting events, there can be more than one victim. The numbers below reflect the number of shooting incidents, not the number of victims.



+100%

Number of fatal shooting incidents from 2023-2024

0%

Number of non-fatal shooting incidents with gunshot wounds from 2023-2024

OVERDOSE DATA

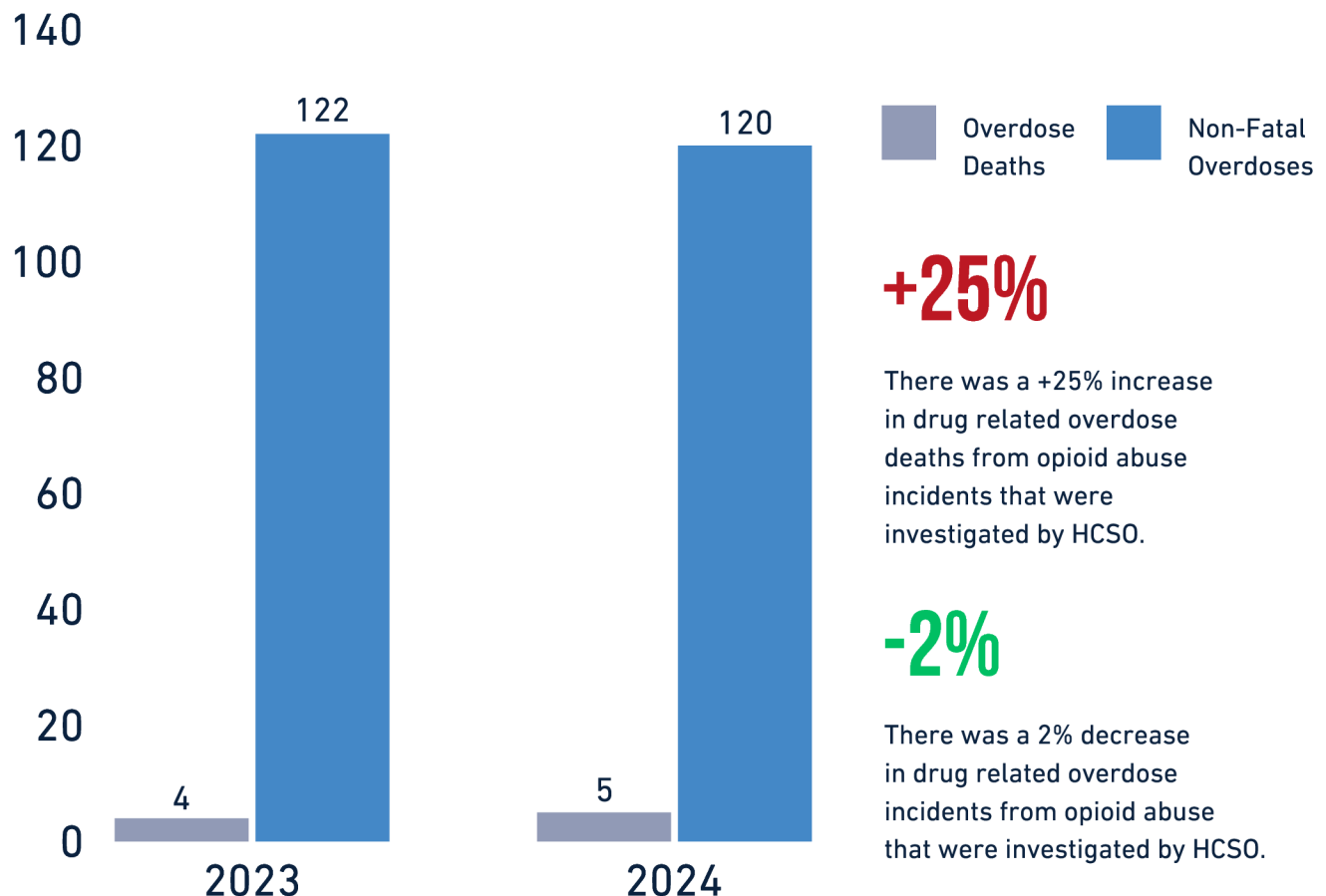
An overdose death occurs when an individual takes a lethal dose of either a legal or illegal substance, whether intentionally or unintentionally, which ultimately results in death.

Across our nation, overdose deaths, particularly those related to the illegal use of Fentanyl and opioids, are rising at an extremely alarming rate. Unfortunately, Hamilton County has not been spared from this national epidemic of illegal drug usage.

HCSO Investigative Services is responsible for investigating all overdose deaths that occur in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

The graph below represents the total number of non-fatal overdoses as well as overdose deaths investigated by the HCSO for 2023 and 2024.

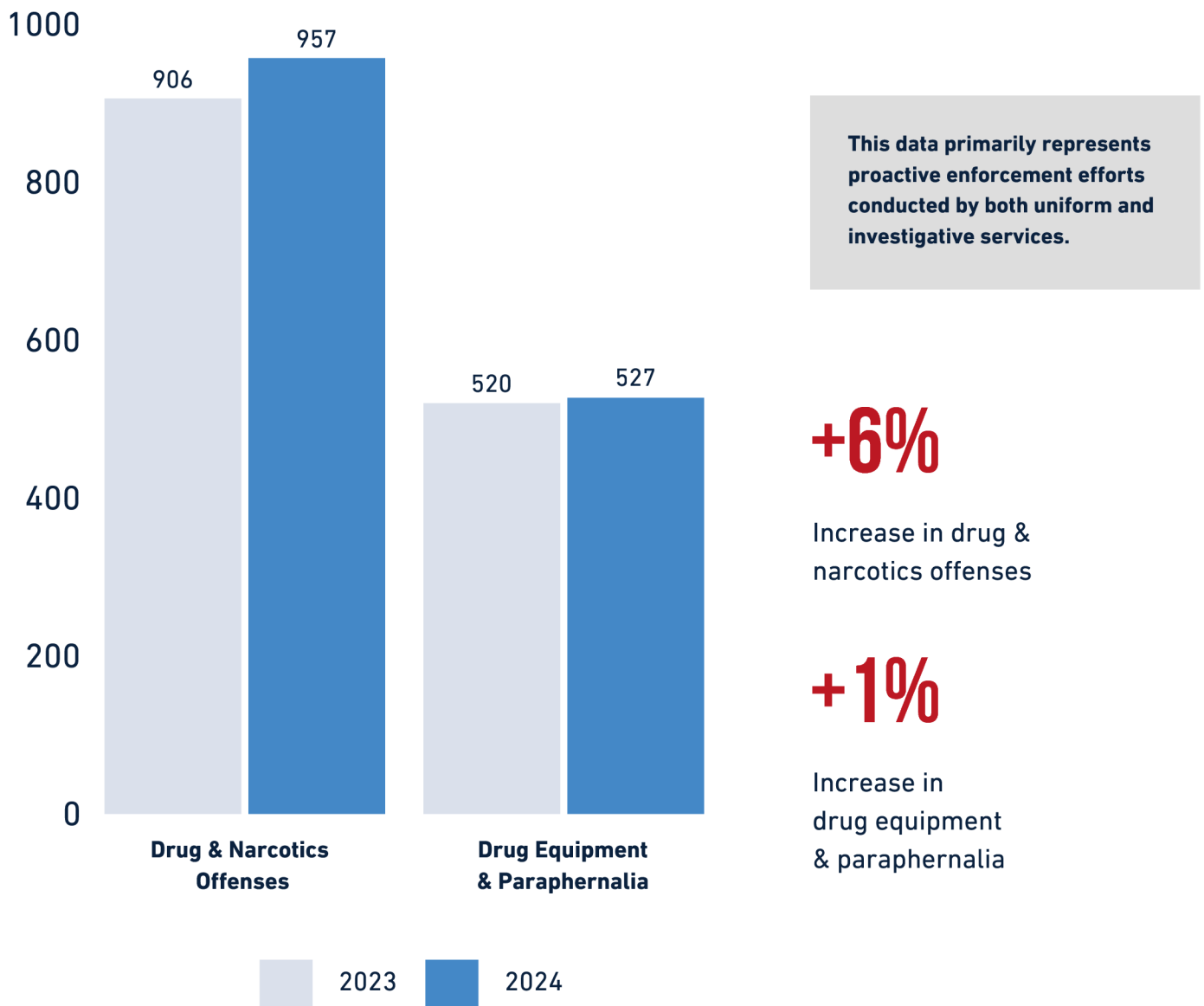
(Data Source: TBI's Dangerous Drug Task Force (DDTF) DI3 System)



DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES

Drug-related offenses are categorized by Drug Violations and Drug Equipment Violations, which involve drug-related paraphernalia.

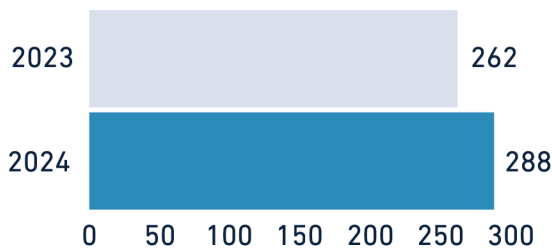
The term drug paraphernalia means “any equipment, product or material of any kind which is primarily intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing, producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance.”



DUI, PUBLIC INTOXICATION & DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Public Intoxication commonly pertain to crimes committed while under the influence of alcohol or illicit or prescription drugs.

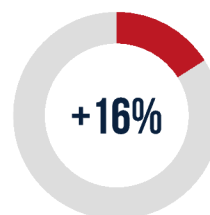
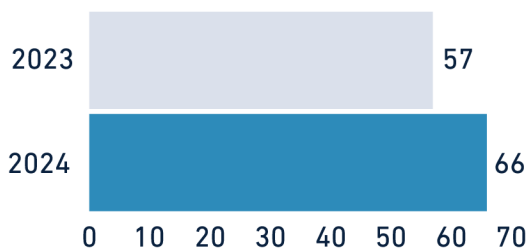
Disorderly Conduct generally refers to actions that disturb the peace or the safety of the general public. These actions can cause others to be alarmed, offended, or injured. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to: being intoxicated in public, loitering, fighting, or making loud or disturbing noises.



DUI

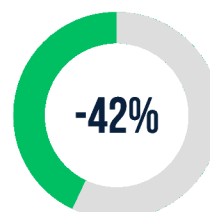
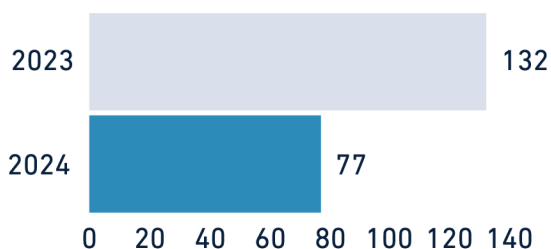
There was a 10% increase in DUI cases.

(this reflects an increase of proactive enforcement efforts)



Public Intoxication

There was a 16% increase in Public Intoxication cases.



Disorderly Conduct

There was a 42% decrease in Disorderly Conduct cases.

CRIMINAL PURSUIT DATA



Vehicle Pursuit Data

The following information outlines the number of vehicle pursuits in which suspects refused to stop, thereby initiating a pursuit with deputies, as well as the outcomes of each pursuit.

426

**Pursuits HCSO
Deputies Have
Initiated and
Concluded
Since 2022**

	2022	2023	2024
Handed Over to Another Agency	2	1	2
Patrol Vehicle Malfunction	1	0	2
Police Intervention (PIT)	18	21	13
Pursuit Terminated	23	18	29
Stationary Roadblock	0	2	0
Rolling Roadblock	1	2	3
Spike Strips	8	6	8
Suspect Crash	25	24	32
Suspect Eluded	23	28	21
Suspect Stopped	30	36	28
Suspect Vehicle Malfunction	5	5	9
Total:	136	143	147

CORRECTIONS SERVICES



One Team, One Mission...

HCSO Corrections Services is responsible for the daily oversight and operations of the Hamilton County Jail & Detention Center. This includes ensuring inmates have access to state-of-the-art medical services, a safe and secure environment, food and basic necessities for life and re-entry based job skills.

14,432

**Number of Inmates
Booked in 2024 by
Corrections Services
Personnel**

Jail Operations & Personnel

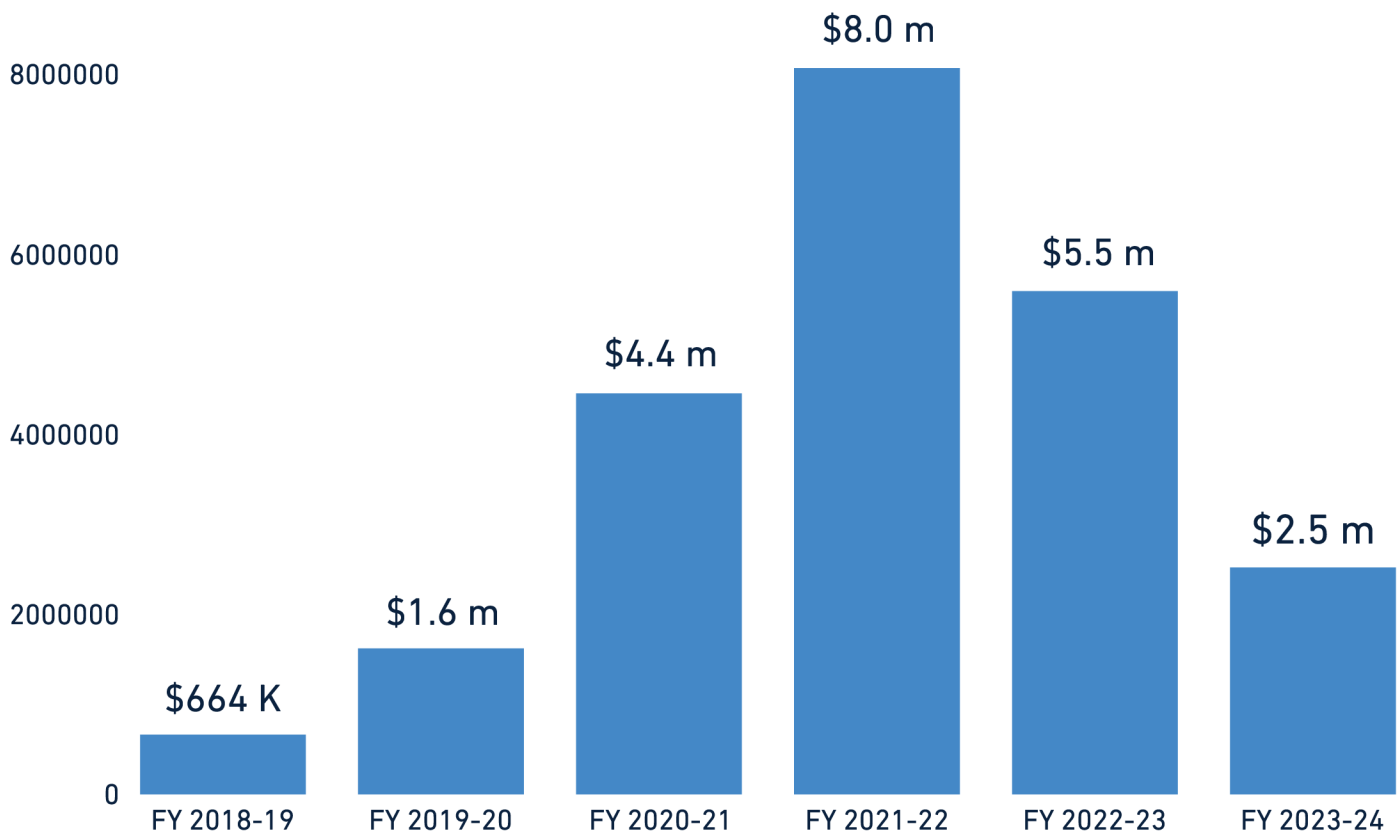
HCSO Corrections Services oversees the daily operation of the Hamilton County Jail & Detention Center. This 1,196-bed facility serves as the intake point for all arrestees in Hamilton County, regardless of the arresting agency, and is designed to detain those deemed a risk to the community.

Each day, HCSO Corrections Deputies strive to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for correctional personnel, deputies, visitors, and persons lawfully incarcerated by the criminal justice system in the Hamilton County Jail.

Corrections Services personnel maintain a climate cognizant of detainee welfare, including social, emotional, and physical needs, and meet or exceed the minimum standards as listed by federal and state laws and standards outlined by the Tennessee Corrections Institute (TCI).

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

Jail Operational Cost **Reductions** When Compared to \$36.1 million
operating cost in FY 2017 - 2018



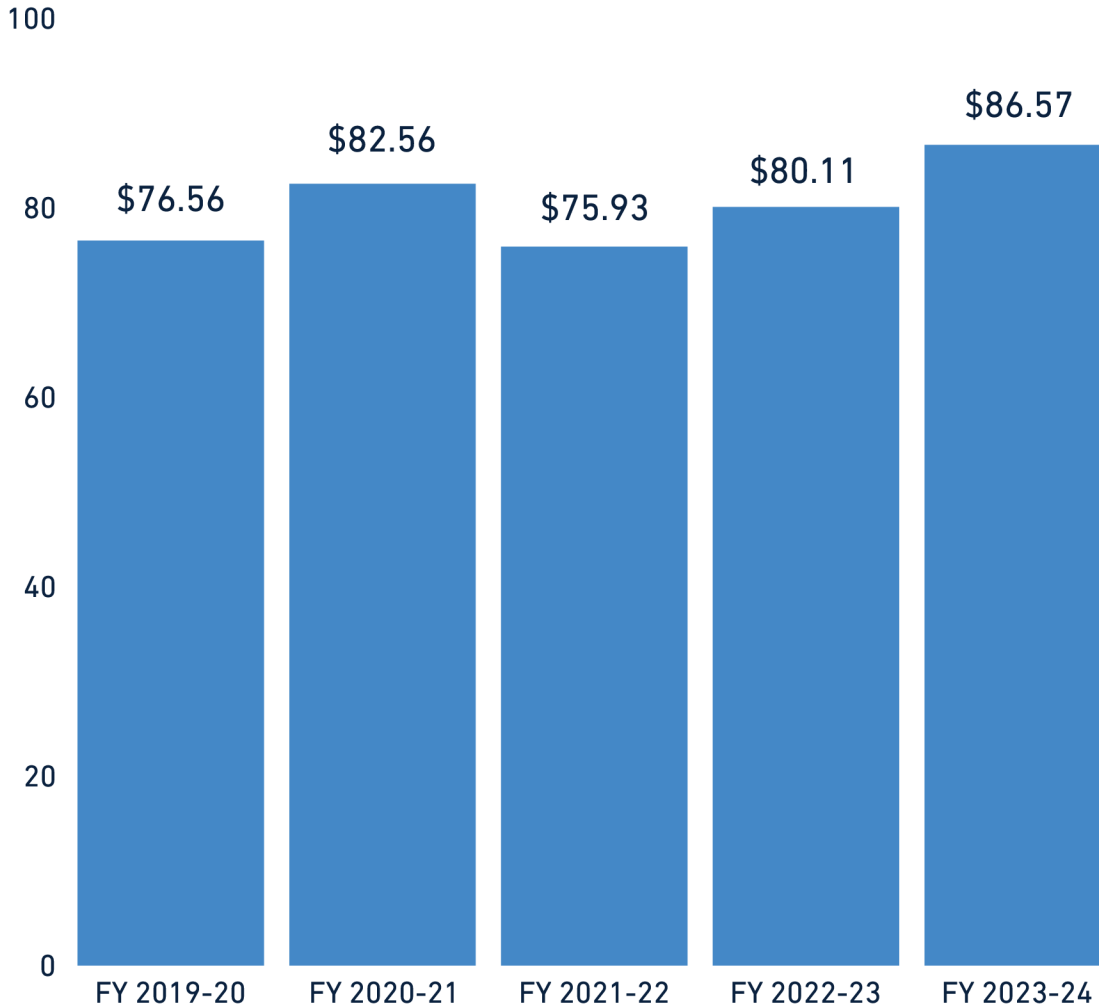
Jail Operating Costs Reduced by \$22.7 Million

Since FY 2017-18

The HCSO has maintained a decrease in operating costs for the combined Hamilton County Jail each fiscal year since FY 2018-19. It is important to note that the **HCSO didn't assume contractual oversight of the former Silverdale facility until FY 2017-18** and began consolidating both the Hamilton County Jail and the Silverdale Detention Center in FY 2020-21.

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

Daily Cost Per Inmate - FY 2019 - 2024



Daily Cost Per Inmate Explained

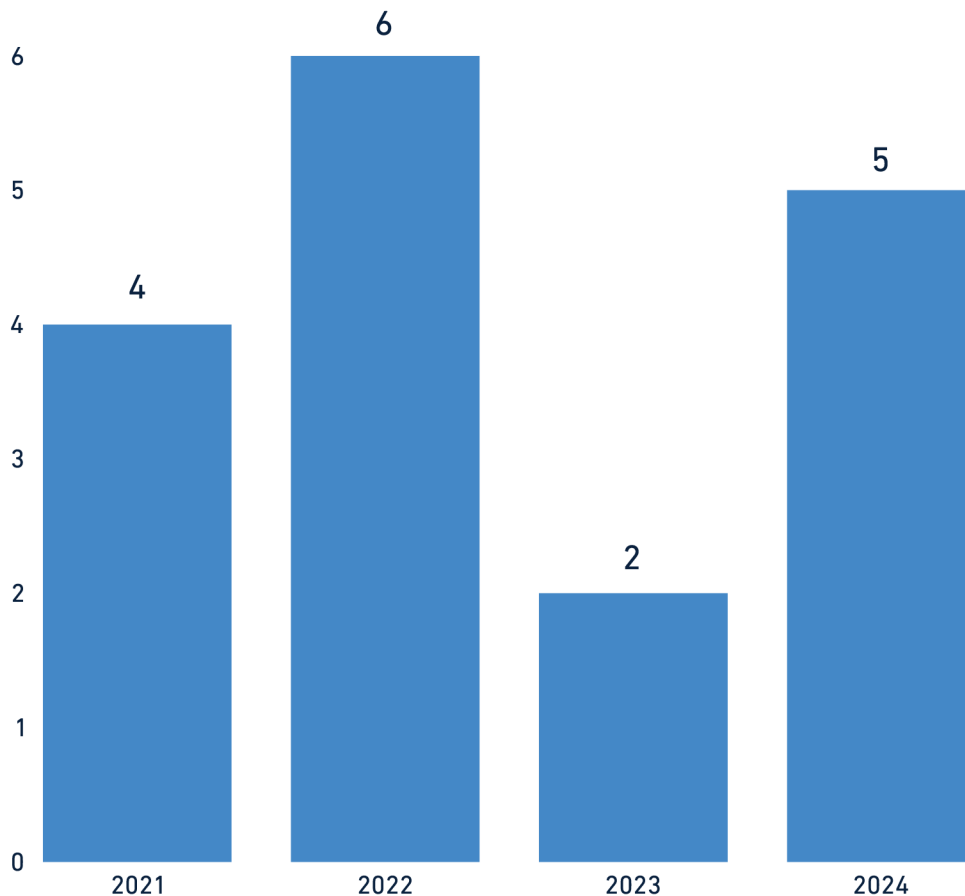
Disclaimer: The average daily cost of housing inmates is derived from an annual audit conducted by the Hamilton County Auditor's Office. This figure reflects the jail's total daily operating expenses, which include personnel salaries and benefits, equipment and maintenance, building depreciation, indirect operational costs, food services, medical care, and other related expenses.

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

In-Custody Deaths 2021 - 2024

An in-custody death is when an inmate dies while within the custody of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. The chart below details the number of in-custody deaths that have occurred at the Hamilton County Jail & Detention Center for the last four years.

During that time, all 17 in-custody deaths that occurred at the Hamilton County Jail & Detention Center were ruled by the Medical Examiner's Office as accidental (overdose), suicide, or natural.



HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

2024 Overview

Operational FAQ

1,196 Jail Capacity

1,067 Average Daily
Inmate Population

14,432 Inmates Booked

14,497 Inmates Released

1,296 Misdemeanor Citations

Security Operations

60 Housing Areas Searched

245 Routine Searches

30 High Risk Target Cells

175 Dangerous Contraband
Recovered

1,016 Blood Draws





HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

(continued)

Medical Services

7,442	Inmate Physicals
6,707	Inmate Sick Calls
161	Inmate Dental Services
2,810	Inmate Mental Health Services
440	Average # of Inmates on Prescription Medications
199	Average # of Inmates on Mental Health Medications
543	Inmates with outside Medical Appointments
511	Emergency Room Visits

Inmate Transports

1,312	Total Number of Transports
40,014	Total Mileage for Transports
1,636	Total Inmates Transported
4,388	Total Hours of Transports

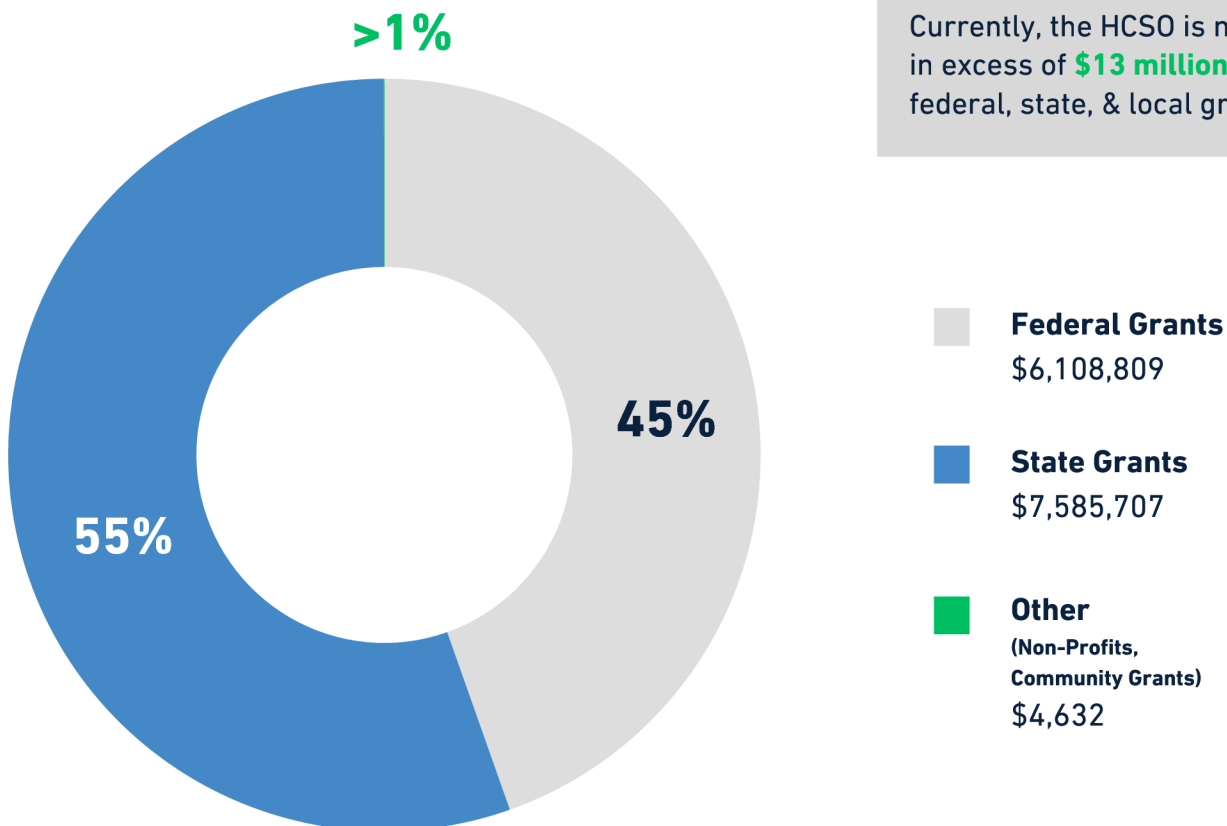


2024 GRANT FUNDS

For over a decade, the HCSO has secured numerous federal, state, and local grants, which have greatly enhanced our ability to fund specialized equipment, technology upgrades, and vital programs.

This year, we are excited about several major grants that will significantly benefit Hamilton County. The Tennessee Statewide Student Resource Officer Grant allows us to place Resource Deputies in most schools across the county, improving safety for students and staff. The Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) Grant provides funding for critical equipment for our patrol units, enhancing their efficiency. Additionally, the Mental Health Transport Grant, totaling over \$1 million, helps cover the costs of non-emergent, non-custodial transports for individuals needing mental health care.

These grants build on past successes, including funding for our Marine Patrol Unit's boats, our Dive Team's specialized equipment (including a tow-fish sonar), and other key upgrades that improve public safety throughout Hamilton County. HCSO remains dedicated to securing funding that strengthens our agency and enhances the services we provide to our community.



Currently, the HCSO is managing in excess of **\$13 million** in federal, state, & local grants.

HCSO RECRUITING EFFORTS



Human Resources Recruiting Unit

In 2024, the HCSO Recruiting Unit continued its commitment to attracting top talent by expanding its digital presence and strengthening community engagement. One of the most significant achievements was the launch of the HCSO Recruiting Instagram profile (@hcsorecruitingtn), which has allowed the agency to connect with a broader audience and showcase career opportunities in law enforcement.

HCSO Recruitment Highlights

Additionally, HCSO Recruiting was featured in the Sheriff & Deputy Magazine, highlighting the agency's innovative recruitment strategies on a national level. Representing HCSO, a member of the recruiting team presented at the FRA Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Summit in February and August 2024, sharing insights and best practices with agencies from across the country. These initiatives, along with a continued focus on attending job fairs and community events, have helped reinforce HCSO's reputation as a leader in law enforcement recruitment.

Building on the momentum from previous years, HCSO Recruiting has prioritized outreach efforts to engage with both experienced professionals and young individuals considering careers in law enforcement. The recruitment team has maintained strong partnerships with local high schools and colleges, ensuring that students are aware of career pathways, internships, and part-time job programs within HCSO.

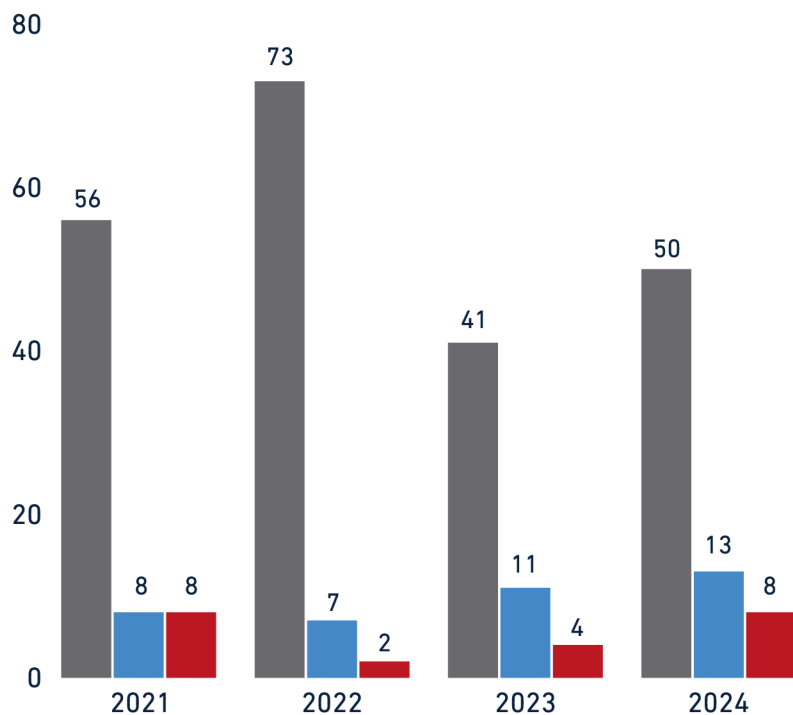
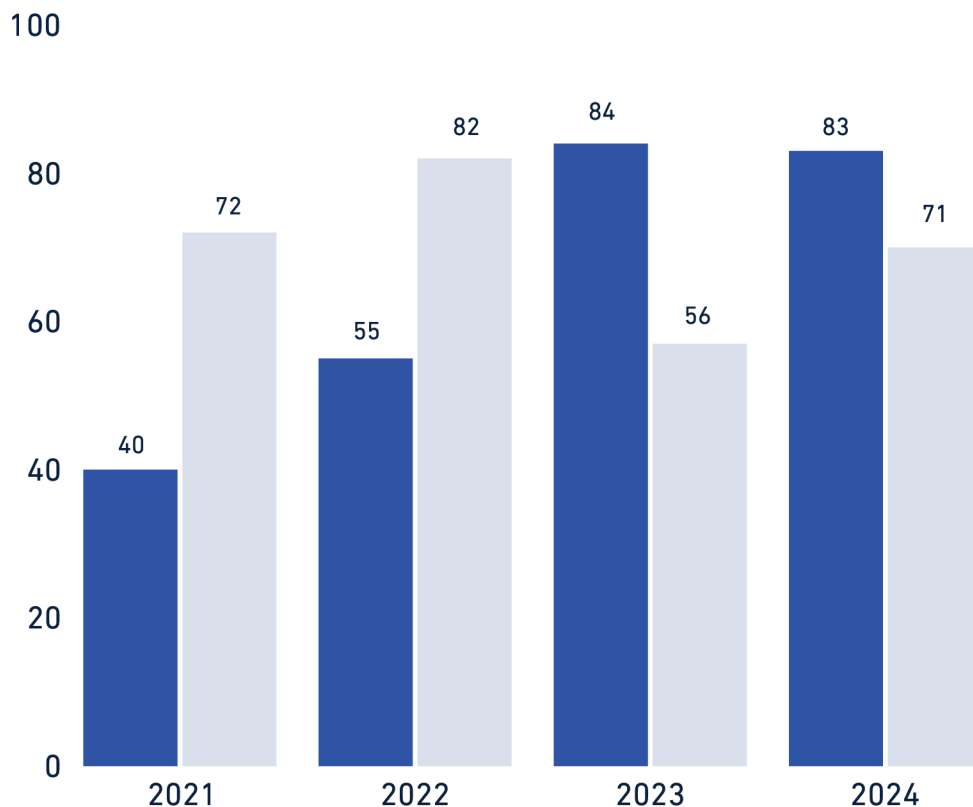
Participation in major community events, such as the Hamilton County Fair, the Chattanooga Market, and the Chattanooga Lookouts, has continued to be a key strategy for community outreach. HCSO's commitment to customer service, professionalism, and innovation has solidified the agency's ability to attract dedicated and qualified individuals from across the country.

HR ONBOARDING NUMBERS

Total HCSO Full-time Employees Hired & Separated from 2021 - 2024

Hired Separated

The data to the right highlights the success we've had in achieving our goals in reversing the number of separations from our agency.



The data to the left highlights the reduction of separations from the agency and details the various types of separations.

Total type of Separation of Full-time Employees from 2021 - 2024

Resigned Retired Terminated

THANK YOU



It is our privilege to serve you...

Sheriff Austin Garrett and the men and women of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office are honored to serve you and your family each day.

It is our agency's mission to provide the highest level of law enforcement services to the citizens of Hamilton County ensuring we all have the safest county to live, work, and play.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Together, we are **"One Team, One Mission, Leading the Way..."** in law enforcement and corrections services.

CONTACT US :



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
423-209-7000



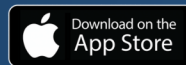
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mobile app:



View HCSO
Crime Data
Dashboard:

