



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

AUSTIN GARRETT, SHERIFF

2025 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



One Team, One Mission – Leading the way in Law Enforcement and Corrections Services in Hamilton County.

As your sheriff, I am committed to your safety and ensuring Hamilton County remains the greatest place to live, work, and play. With a focus on professionalism, exceptional customer service, and innovation, we will continue to adapt to the evolving needs and challenges of our county to ensure our services meet the highest standards of excellence.

I am honored to serve you as your Sheriff and to share my continued vision for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office as we begin the fourth year of 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.

To strengthen our foundation and guide our future, we have implemented a new mission, vision, and core set of values. Our core values—**Honor, Character, Selfless Service, and Opportunity**—define who we are, what we stand for, and how we serve Hamilton County. These guiding principles reflect our dedication to professionalism, accountability, and service to you, the citizens we so proudly serve.

Our people are, and always will be, our greatest asset. Recruiting qualified and diverse candidates remains a top priority for my administration, and we will sustain that standard through a rigorous selection process for both deputies and civilian personnel. The HCSO is one of the highest-compensated law enforcement agencies in our region, and we will continue to cultivate a diverse, growth-minded workforce that supports professional development and long-term career advancement.

We will also continue to remain committed to data-driven law enforcement. By leveraging the expertise of our Crime and Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU), we can strategically deploy resources based on crime data and emerging trends. This approach enhances transparency and public access to information through our free, online Crime Data Dashboard.

In conclusion, your Sheriff's Office is stronger than ever, with its strength built on our brand and the unwavering dedication of our personnel. The future holds great promise for 2026, and the dedicated men and women of the HCSO are and will continue to be—as our new mission statement states—"Committed to serving the citizens of Hamilton County through the pursuit of excellence in customer service, professionalism, and innovation" while remaining steadfast in their commitment to your safety and well-being ensuring Hamilton County remains the greatest place to live, work, and play.

As always, it is my honor to serve you as your Sheriff.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin Garrett".

Austin Garrett
Sheriff - Hamilton County, TN

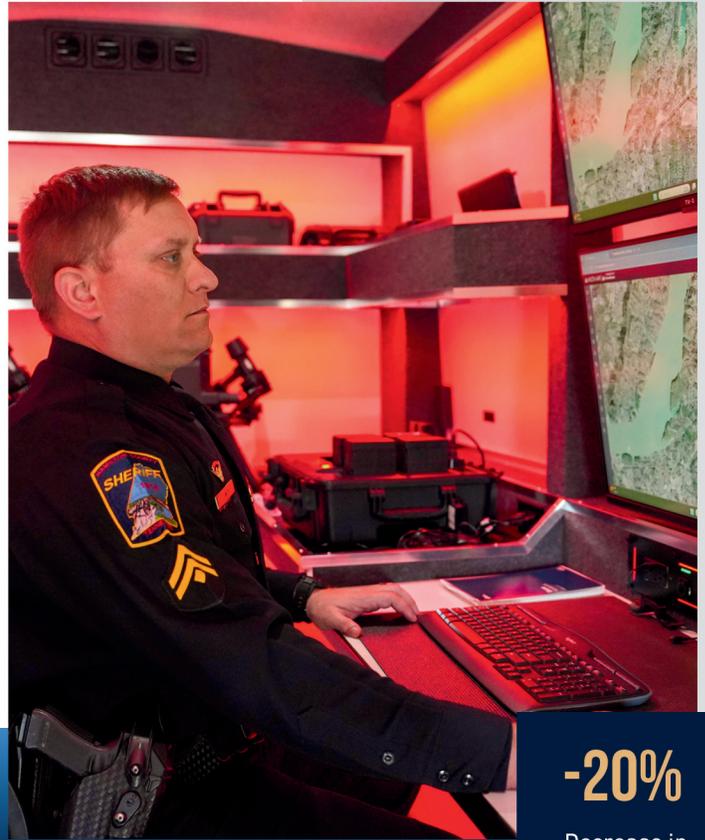
Overview

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.



-20%
Decrease in crimes listed in this report in 2025.

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 Uniform Services (Patrol) and Investigative Services.

74,877

Number of Calls for Service and Deputy Initiated Activities within Hamilton County in 2025

Uniform Services

Uniform Services is the most visible unit to the public as they are present county-wide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Uniform 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



31

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

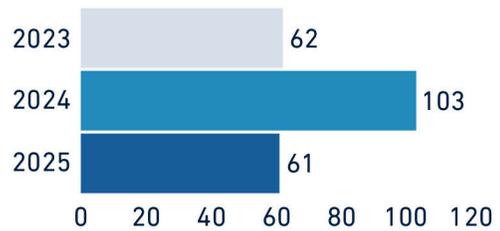
38

Current Number of School Resource Deputies

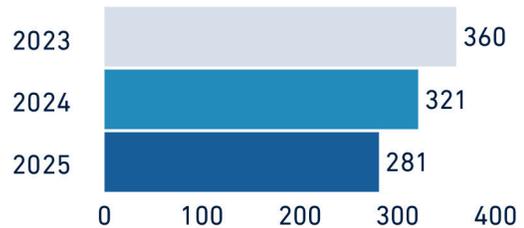
156

Number of DARE Presentations

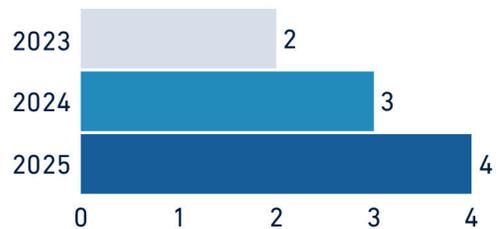
Number of School Threats Received/Investigated



Number of Students Charged



Number of Firearms Recovered



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.

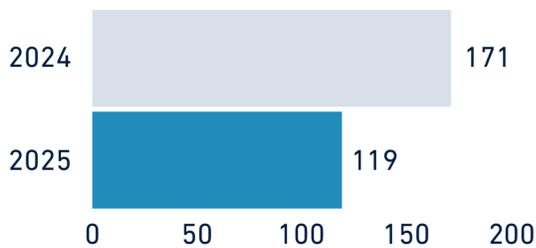
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

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

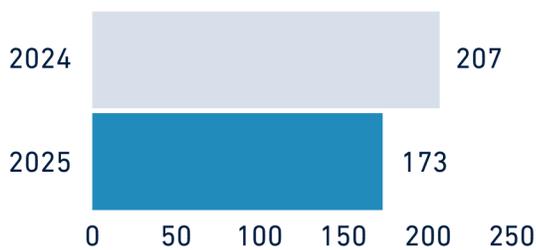
Burglary is the unlawful entry into a residence or business, or any other structure, with the intent to commit theft. The unincorporated areas of Hamilton County have seen a 30% decrease in burglary in 2025.

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 16% decrease in vandalism in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.



Burglary

There was a 30% decrease in reported burglaries



Vandalism

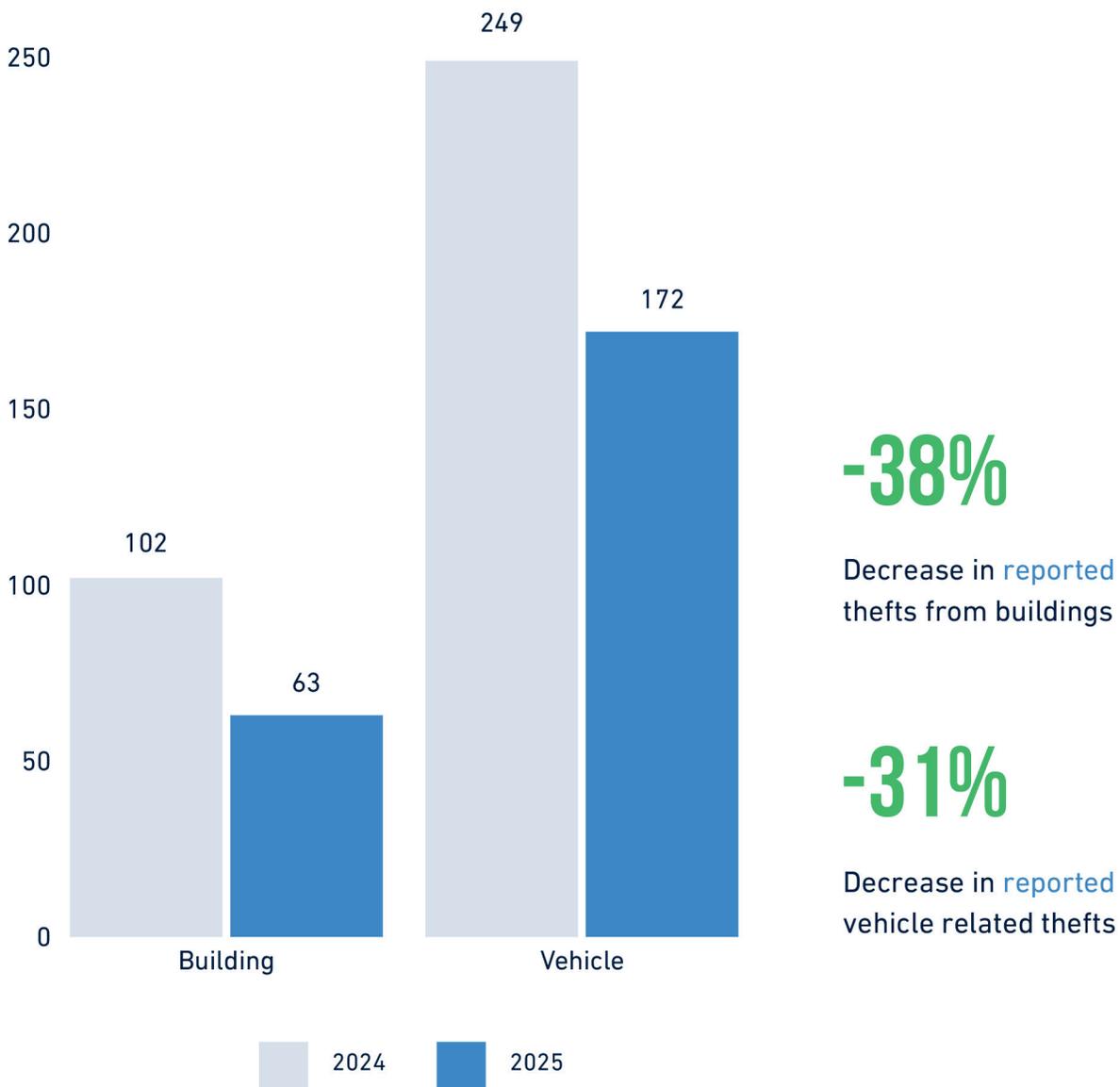
There was a 16% decrease in reported vandalism

Crimes Against Property

THEFT - BUILDING & VEHICLE

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

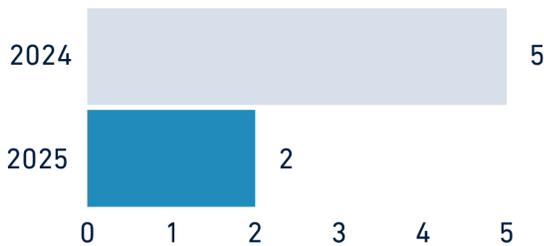
Vehicle-related thefts include the combined numbers from auto theft, theft of items from inside vehicles, and theft of vehicle parts.



ROBBERY & ALL OTHER LARCENY

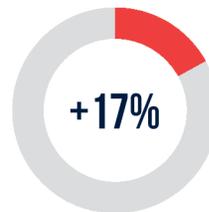
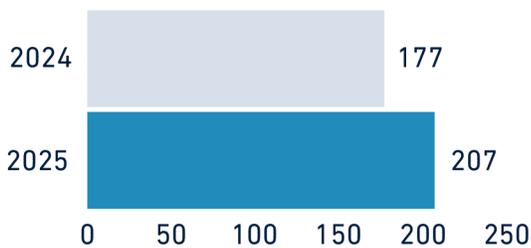
Robbery is defined as the taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

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 60% decrease in reported robberies



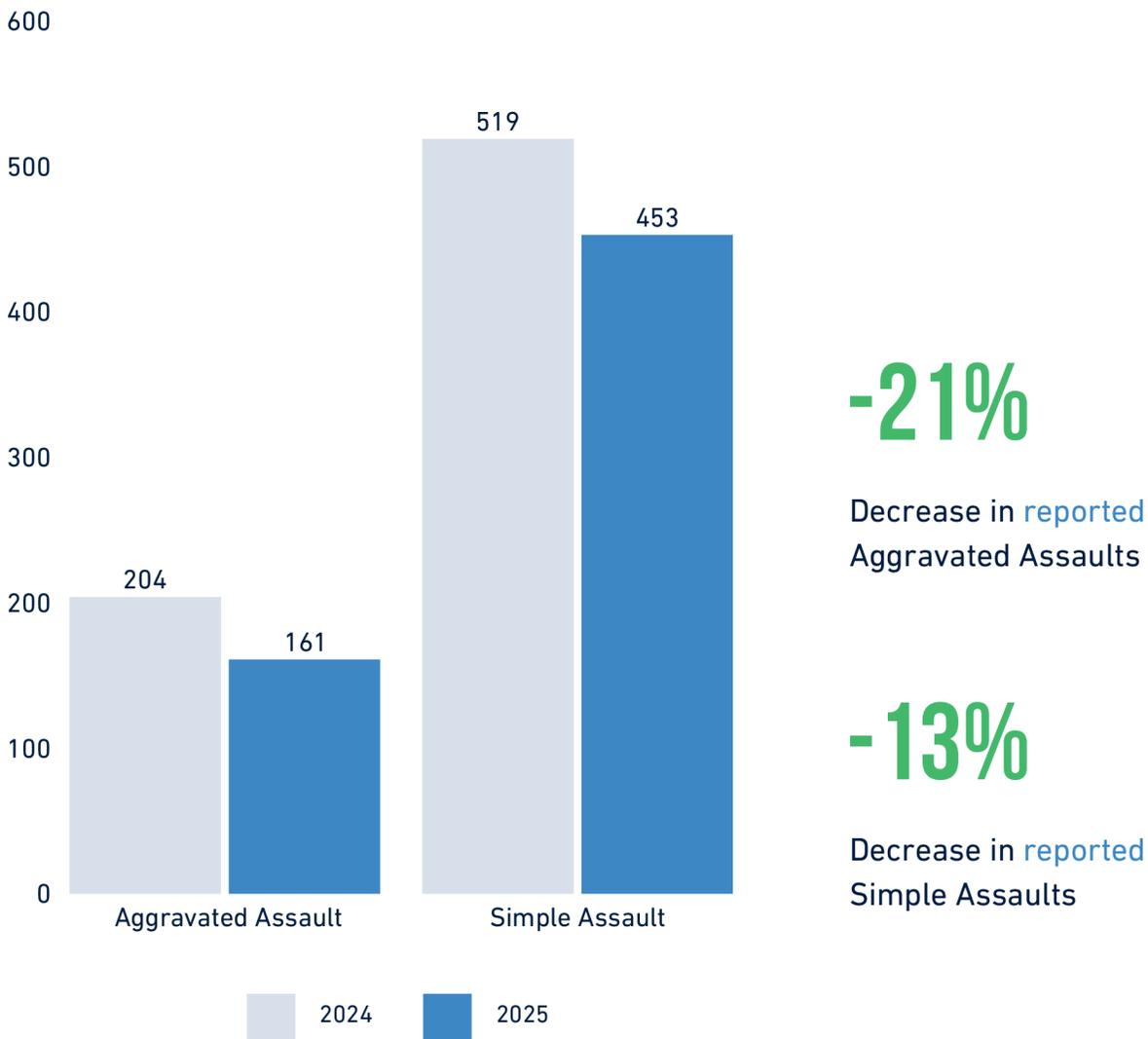
All Other Larceny

There was a 17% increase 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.

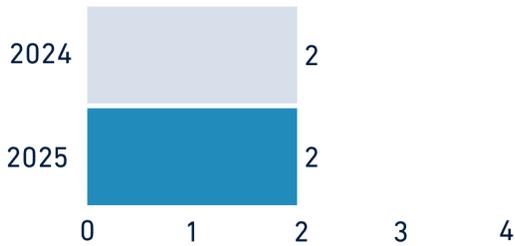


HOMICIDE, INTIMIDATION & RAPE

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

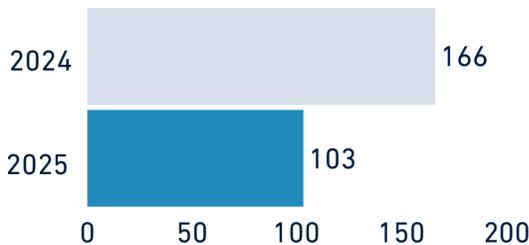
Intimidation is defined as the act of unlawfully placing another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to an actual physical attack.

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.



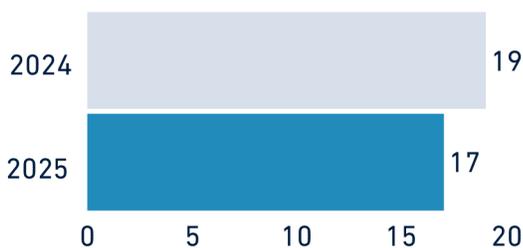
Homicide

There was an 0% change in homicides.



Intimidation

There was a 38% decrease in [reported](#) intimidation/harassment crimes



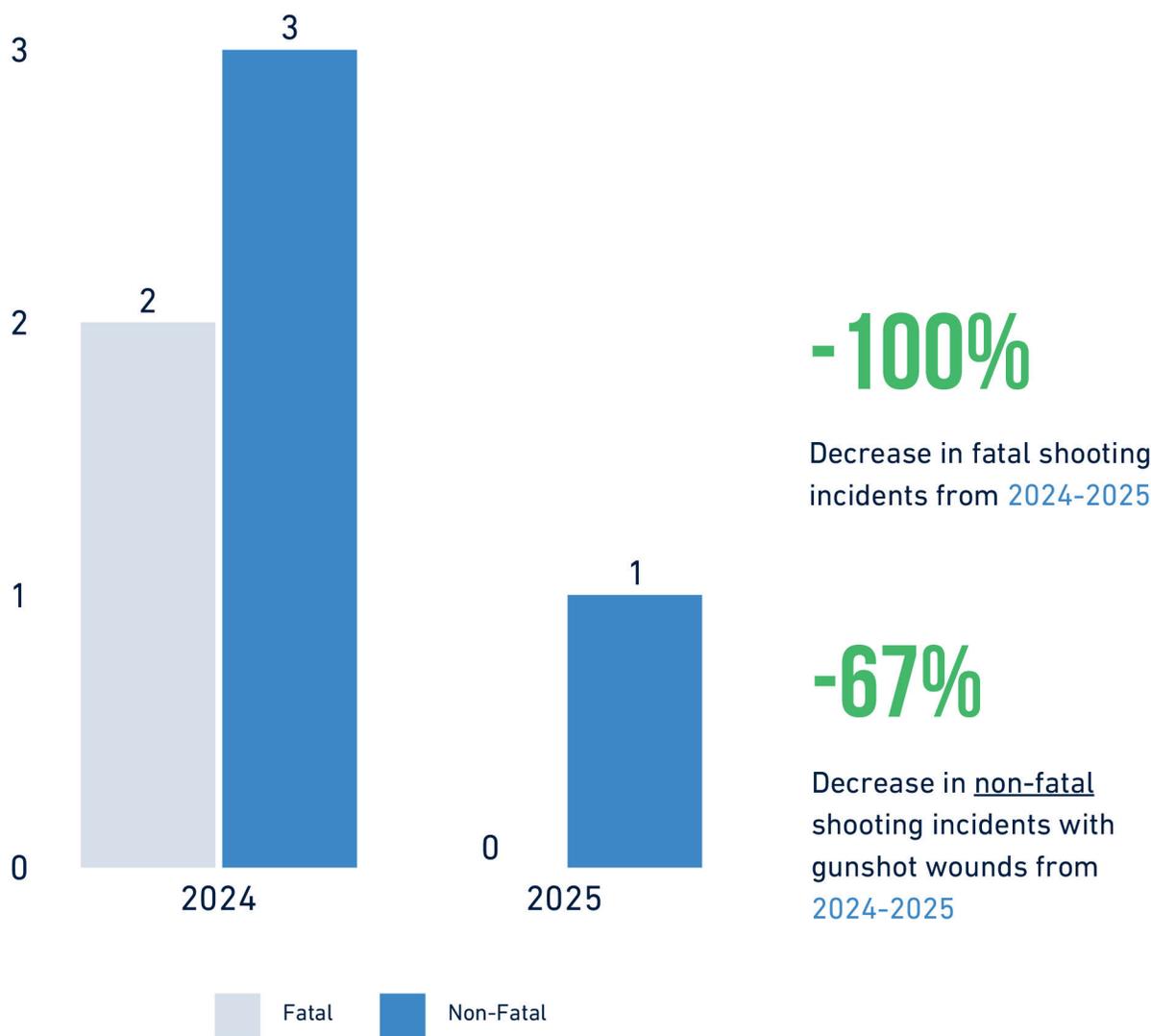
Rape

There was a 11% 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.



OVERDOSE DATA

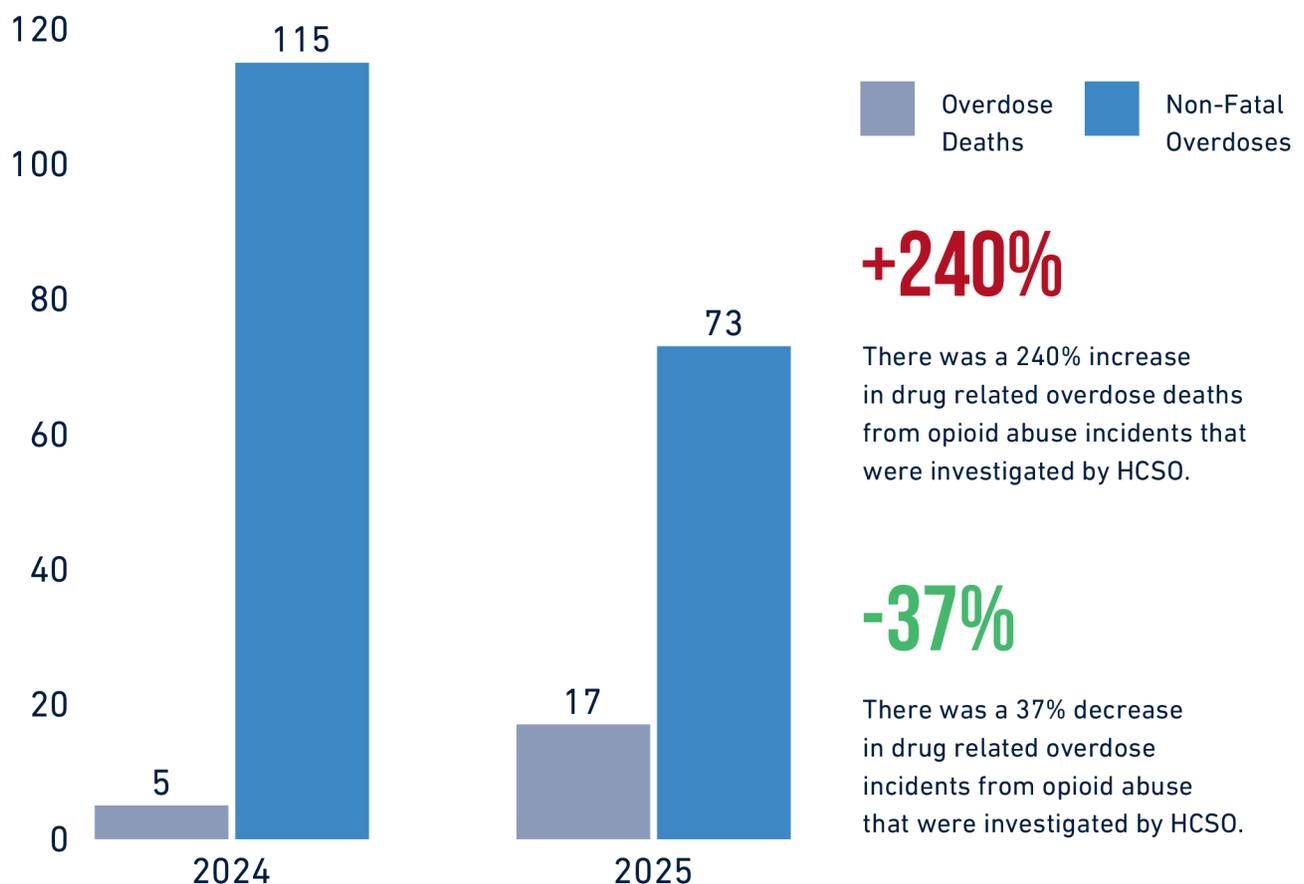
An overdose death occurs when an individual takes a lethal dose of either a legal or illegal substance, whether intentionally or unintentionally, which ultimately results in death.

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 2024 and 2025.

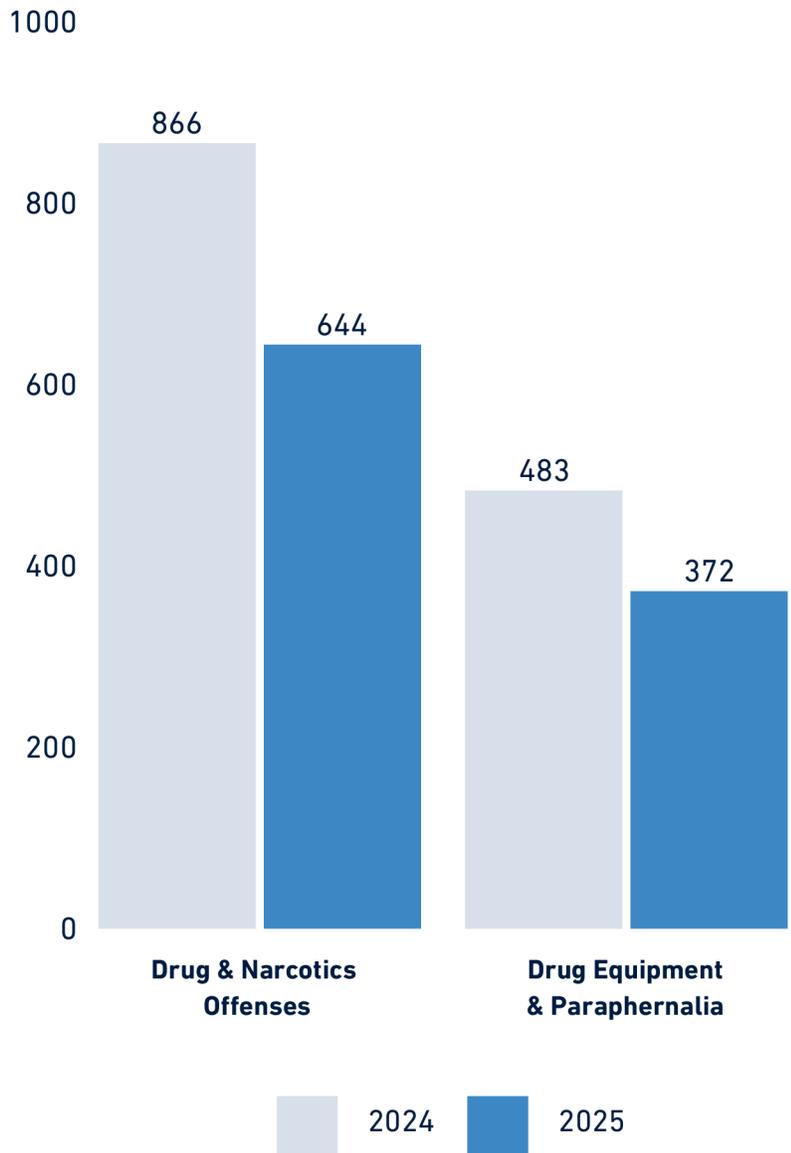
(Data Source: TBI's Dangerous Drug Task Force (DDTF) DI3 System)



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.”



This data primarily represents proactive enforcement efforts conducted by both uniform and investigative services.

-26%

Decrease in drug & narcotics offenses

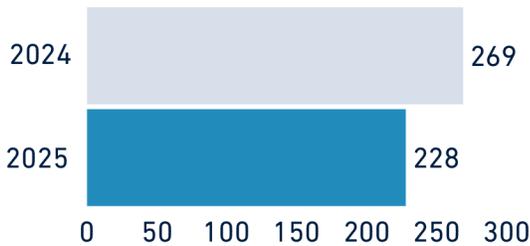
-23%

Decrease in drug equipment & paraphernalia

DUI, PUBLIC INTOXICATION & DISORDERLY CONDUCT

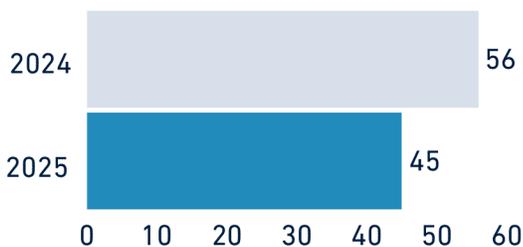
Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Public Intoxication commonly pertain to crimes committed while under the influence of alcohol or illicit or prescription drugs.

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.



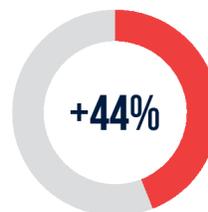
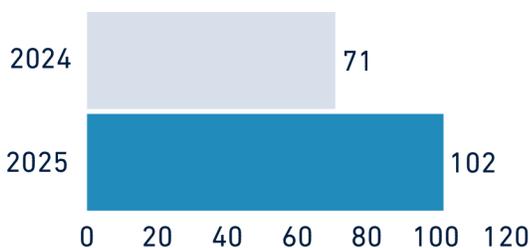
DUI

There was a 15% decrease in DUI cases.



Public Intoxication

There was a 20% decrease in Public Intoxication cases.



Disorderly Conduct

There was a 44% increase 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.

409

**Pursuits HCSO
Deputies Have
Initiated and
Concluded
Since 2023**

	2023	2024	2025
Handed Over to Another Agency	1	2	0
Patrol Vehicle Malfunction	0	2	0
Police Intervention (PIT)	21	13	10
Pursuit Terminated	18	29	18
Stationary Roadblock	2	0	1
Rolling Roadblock	2	3	0
Spike Strips	6	8	3
Suspect Crash	24	32	23
Suspect Eluded	28	21	35
Suspect Stopped	36	28	27
Suspect Vehicle Malfunction	5	9	2
Total:	143	147	119

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.

14,084

Number of Inmates Booked in 2025 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 county.

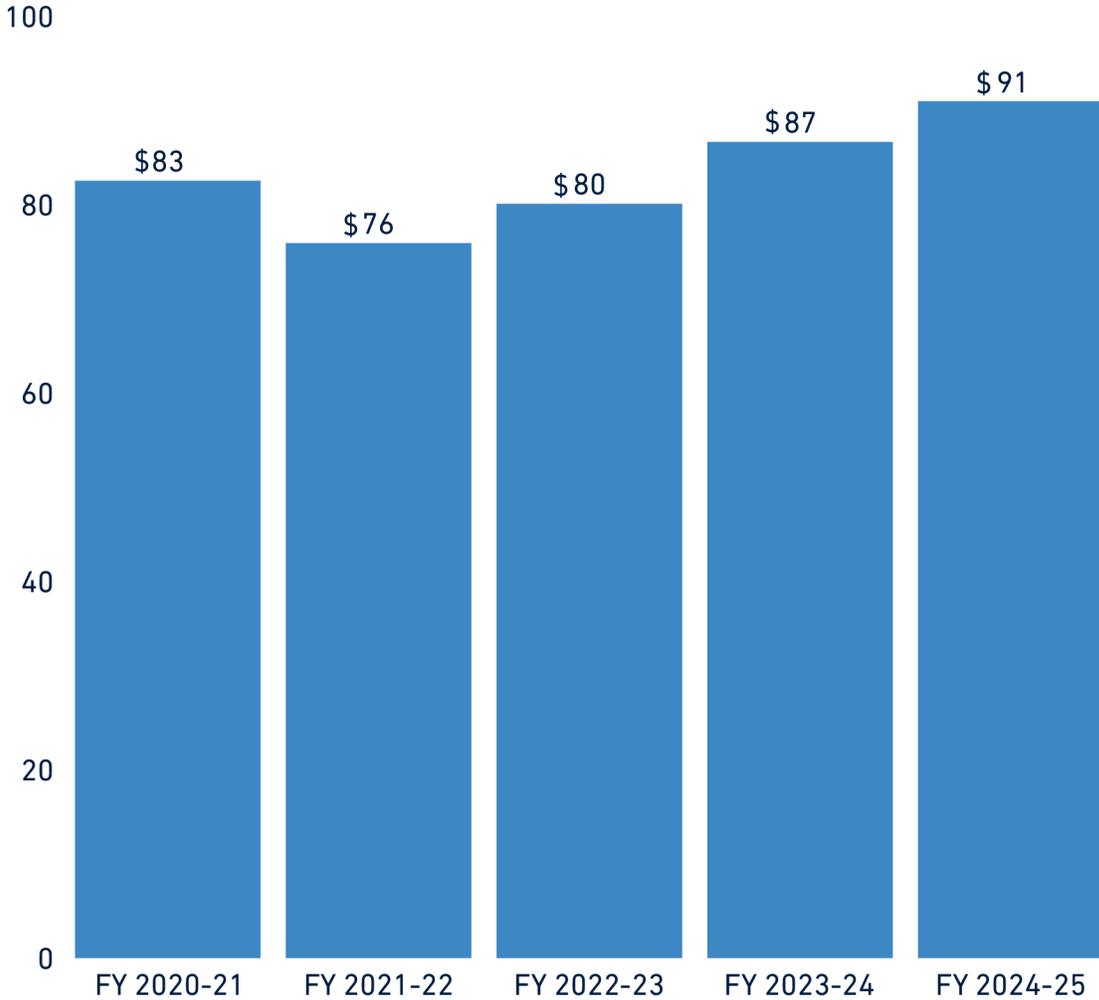
Each day, HCSO Corrections Deputies strive to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for correctional personnel, deputies, visitors, and persons lawfully incarcerated by the criminal justice system in the Hamilton County Jail.

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

Daily Cost Per Inmate - FY 2020 - 2025



Daily Cost Per Inmate Explained

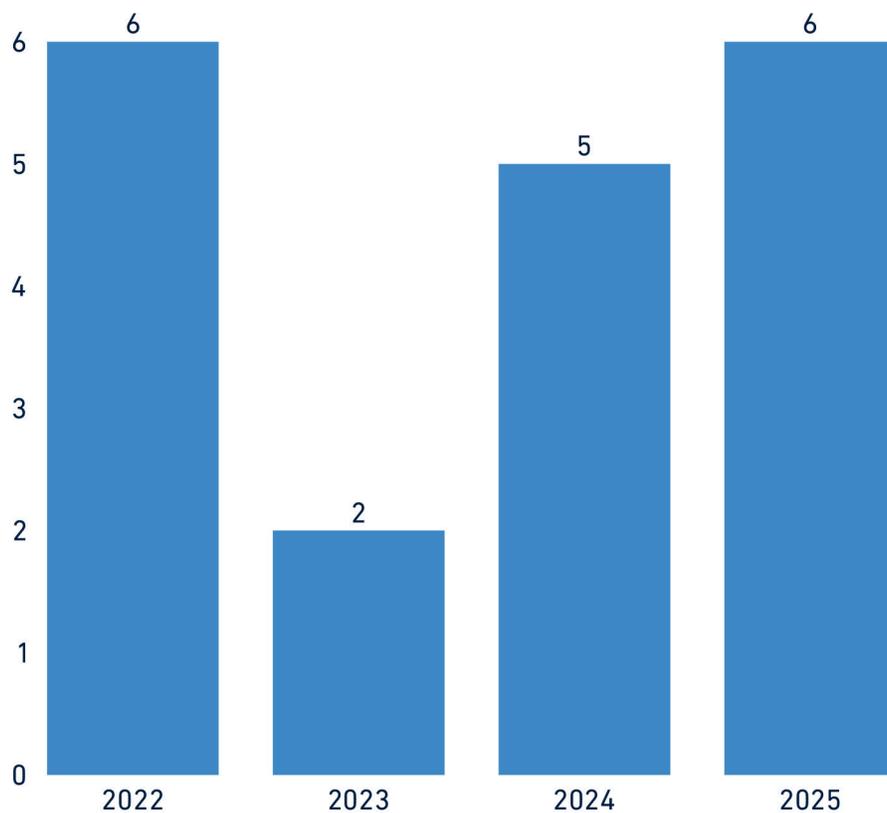
Disclaimer: The average daily cost of housing inmates is derived from an annual audit conducted by the Hamilton County Auditor's Office. This figure reflects the jail's total daily operating expenses, which include personnel salaries and benefits, equipment and maintenance, building depreciation, indirect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

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

In-Custody Deaths 2022 - 2025

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.

All 19 in-custody deaths at the Hamilton County Jail & Detention Center since 2022 have been ruled by the Medical Examiner's Office as accidental (overdose), suicide, or natural causes, with one determined to be a homicide committed by an inmate. At the time of this report, one case remained pending the Medical Examiner's determination.



CAUSE OF 2025 DEATHS:

- 1. Natural Causes**
(Coronary Atherosclerosis; Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease)
- 2. Natural Causes**
(Hypertensive and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease)
- 3. Natural Causes**
(Histoplasmosis Pneumonia)
- 4. Homicide - By Inmate**
(Exsanguination, Multiple Sharp Force Injuries)
- 5. Accidental**
(Intracerebral Hemorrhage/ Methamphetamine Overdose)
- 6. Pending Medical Examiner's Report**

HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

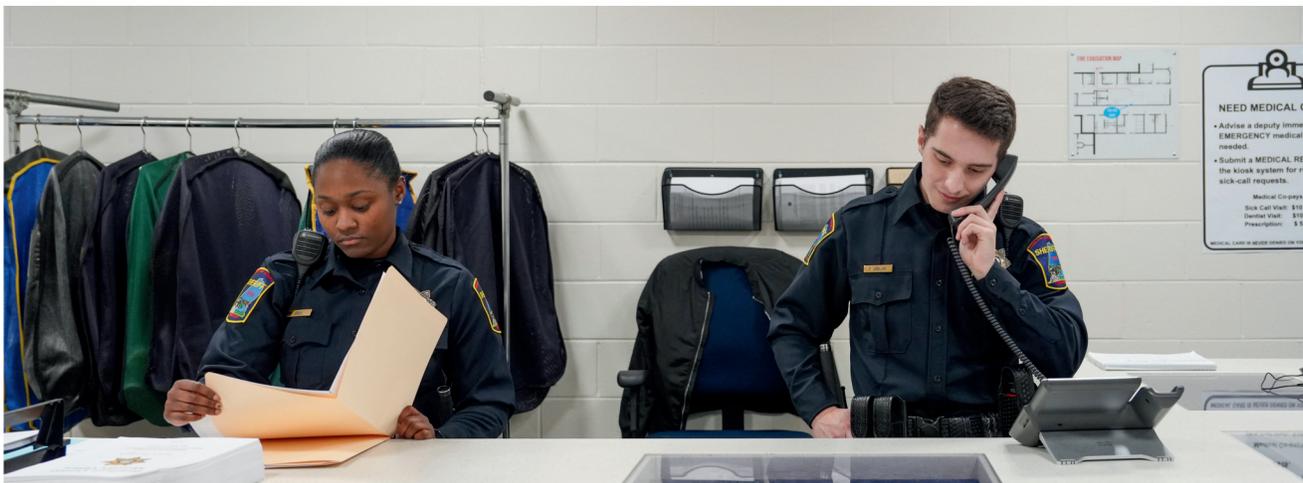
2025 Overview

Operational FAQ

- 1,196** Jail Capacity
- 1,060** Average Daily Inmate Population
- 14,084** Inmates Booked
- 14,044** Inmates Released
- 1,036** Misdemeanor Citations

Security Operations

- 149** Cells Searched
- 20** High Risk Target Cells
- 361** Dangerous Contraband Recovered
- 3,061** Blood Draws



HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER



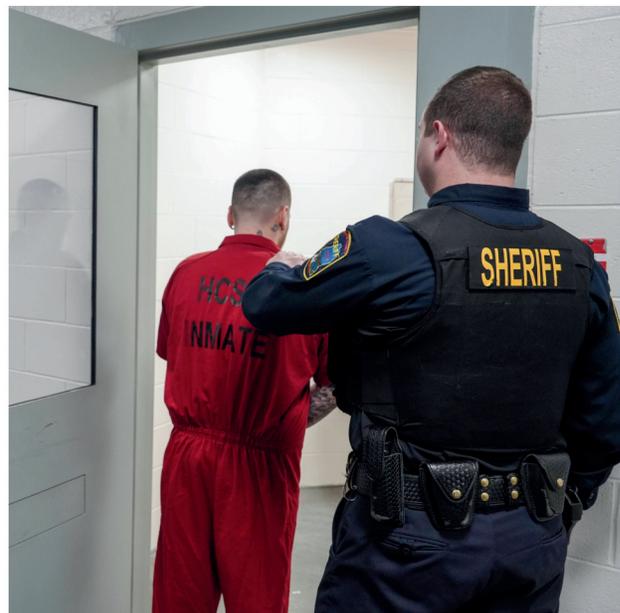
(continued)

Medical Services

7,798	Inmate Physicals
4,223	Inmate Sick Calls
194	Inmate Dental Services
7,688	Inmate Mental Health Services
598	Average # of Inmates on Prescription Medications
301	Average # of Inmates on Mental Health Medications
299	Inmates with outside Medical Appointments
246	Emergency Room Visits

Inmate Medical-Related Transports

1,086	Total Number of Transports
39,922	Total Mileage for Transports
1,482	Total Inmates Transported
4,396	Total Hours of Transports





HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

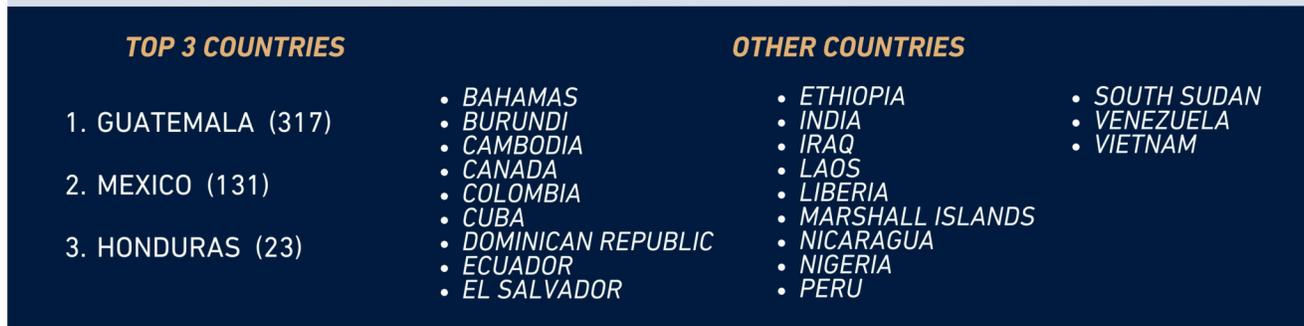
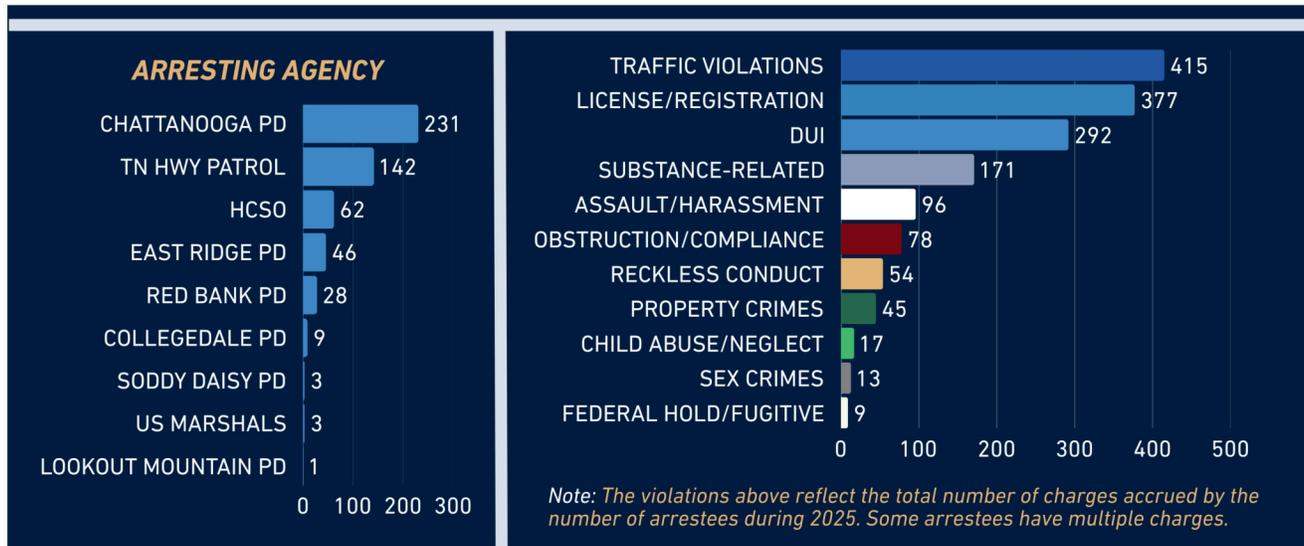
This data set only includes offenses committed in the Hamilton County Jail and Detention Center (HCJDC). Data from the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County was excluded from this table.

Overall, there was a **32% decrease** in these crimes compared to 2024.

OFFENSE	2024	2025
Call for Service (CFS) / Deputy Initiated Activity	9,635	9,707
Overdoses	39	19
Robbery	4	2
Auto Theft	0	1
Vandalism	13	16
Homicide	0	1
Rape	1	0
Aggravated Assault	83	28
Simple Assault	594	390
Intimidation	9	18
Theft from Building	0	1
All Other Larceny	2	4
Drug & Narcotic Offenses	91	63
Drug Equipment & Paraphernalia	11	8
Disorderly Conduct	25	37



ARREST DATA FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AN UNLAWFUL OR UNKNOWN CITIZENSHIP STATUS



Data reflects arrestees who self-reported being not lawfully present or whose citizenship status was unknown at the time of arrest. In accordance with TCA § 40-7-125, these individuals were booked and processed into the HCJDC. This process applies only after arrest for a separate, qualifying offense.

525 Arrestees with Unlawful or Unknown Status

425 Placed on ICE hold

473 Released to ICE

*The numbers shown to the left reflect different stages in the detention and transfer process. While some individuals may overlap between categories, these figures do not represent the same group of people. Timing, case outcomes, and ICE determinations can cause counts to fluctuate across different months.

Overview

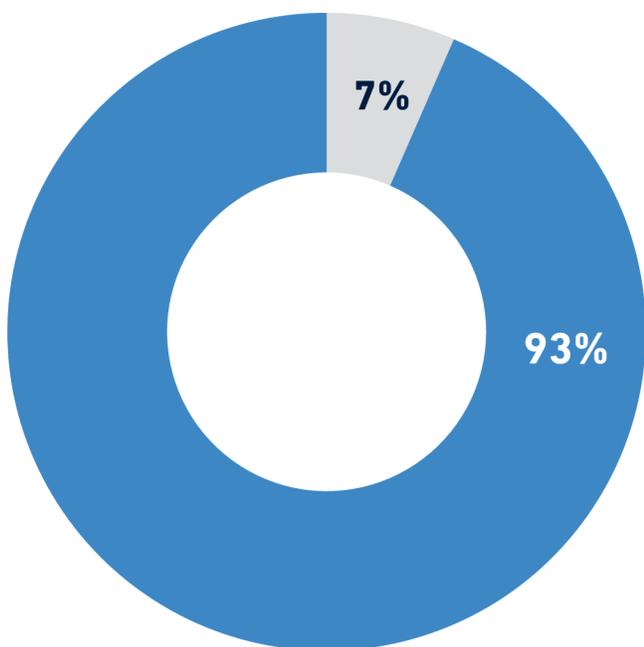
2025 GRANT FUNDS

In 2025, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office actively managed more than \$9 million in federal and state grant funding to support public safety, corrections, and county-focused initiatives, secured within a highly competitive funding environment.

A significant portion of this funding is focused on long-term capacity building within the detention system, combining both infrastructure and programming investments. The VCIF Zip Codes Grant supports the construction of a dedicated facility on the Hamilton County Detention Center campus to house evidence-based training and programming. Complementing this investment, the OCJP Evidence-Based Programming Grant (EBPG) funds reentry services, including job readiness training, workforce development, and HiSET (high school equivalency) education for justice-involved individuals.

Additional active grants support mental health transportation, School Resource Deputies, opioid response initiatives, port and infrastructure security, and law enforcement equipment and training, ensuring HCSO remains responsive to our county's evolving needs.

Collectively, these awards reflect the HCSO's ability to compete successfully for limited funding and translate grant investments into lasting public safety and operational improvements for Hamilton County.



Currently, the HCSO is managing in excess of **\$9 million** in federal and state grants.

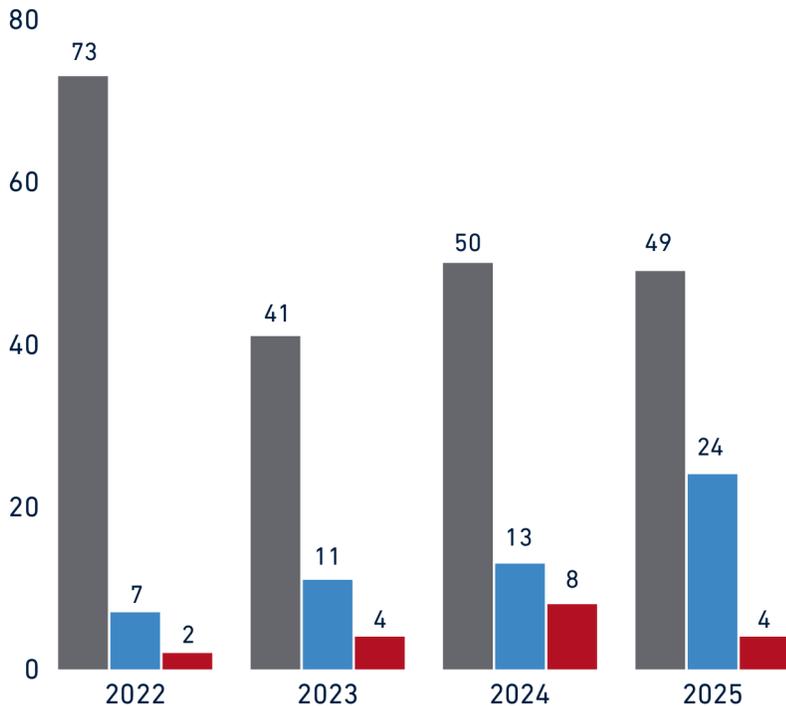
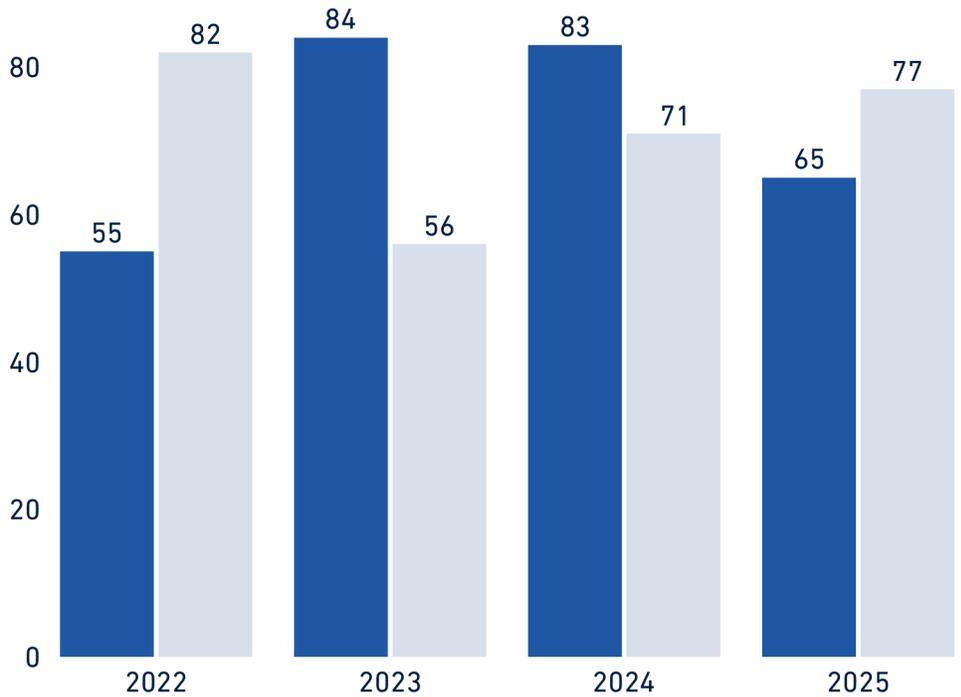
	Federal Grants \$589,361
	State Grants \$8,430,176

HCSO RETENTION NUMBERS

Total HCSO Full-time Employees Hired & Separated from 2022 - 2025

Hired **Separated**

The data to the right highlights the work of HCSO HR and HR Recruiting to hire and retain employees. In 2025, HCSO's operations were impacted by a large number of retirements, resulting in more separations than hires over 2 years.



The data to the left highlights the types of separations at HCSO. This year, HCSO experienced the highest number of retirements in 5 years. The 24 retirements do not include the 7 personnel who are on retirement leave.

Total type of Separation of Full-time Employees from 2022 - 2025

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 :



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423-209-7000



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media@hcsheriff.gov



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Chattanooga, TN 37402



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mobile app:



View HCSO
Crime Data
Dashboard:

