



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

AUSTIN GARRETT, SHERIFF

2023

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...*

By continuing our commitment to safe schools and utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, effective recruitment strategies, and a data-driven approach to traditional law enforcement operations, the HCSO is committed to leading the way to a brighter, safer Hamilton County.

Now that I am firmly in the second year of my first term as Sheriff of Hamilton County, it is important to share my vision for this agency as we move forward during the next years of my administration.

Recruiting and selecting qualified, diverse candidates is one of my most important priorities. To support this endeavor, my staff and I worked together internally to devise a strategic plan that allowed us to use existing, budgeted tax dollars to dramatically increase current and starting salaries for law enforcement and corrections personnel across our agency. Thanks to this bold approach, the HCSO, along with our partners in the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), are now two of the highest compensated law enforcement agencies in the state of Tennessee.

Under my administration, we will continue incorporating the principles of data-driven law enforcement that I began during my term as Chief Deputy. This includes utilizing statistical crime data and efficiently deploying resources to address specific crime-related issues within geographical areas. To support this mission, we hired additional personnel to serve in our Crime Intelligence & Analyst Unit (CIAU) and invested in new software programs that will allow us to capture and analyze data more efficiently.

The HCSO is focused on incorporating innovative and creative law enforcement practices throughout our operations. For example, we were one of the first agencies in Tennessee and our region to utilize specialized training and technology such as underwater divers and unmanned aerial systems (drones) for evidence collection, recovery, and search and rescue efforts.

Our agency will continue to focus on our brand, which is built upon professionalism, a commitment to customer service-driven law enforcement operations, and innovation.

The future looks bright for your Sheriff's Office and Hamilton County. Together we continue to lead the way providing the highest level of services for the citizens of Hamilton County whom we are honored and privileged to serve.

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.



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.

43,930

Calls Responded to by HCSO Deputies in Hamilton County

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, Motor Unit, Hostage Negotiation, School Resource Deputy, 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 CIAU, Narcotics, Sheriff's Underwater Recovery Team (SURT), Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit (DRONE), K-9 and Criminal & Civil Warrants.

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.

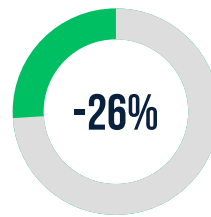
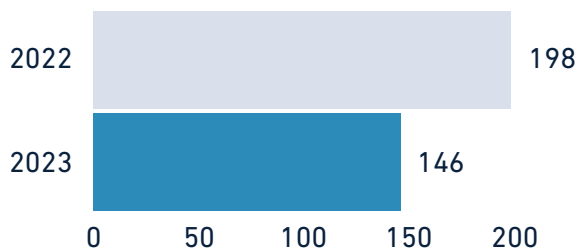
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

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

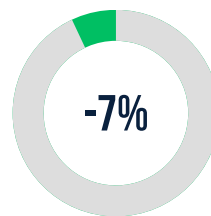
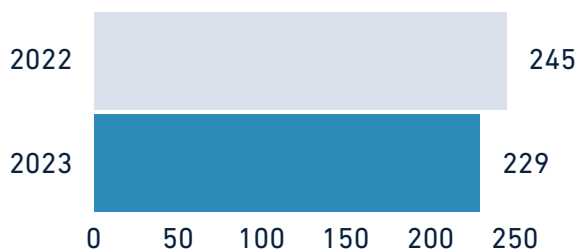
Burglary is the unlawful entry into a residence or business, or any other structure, with the intent to commit theft. The unincorporated areas of Hamilton County have seen a 26% decrease in burglary in 2023.

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.



Burglary

There was a 26% decrease in burglaries



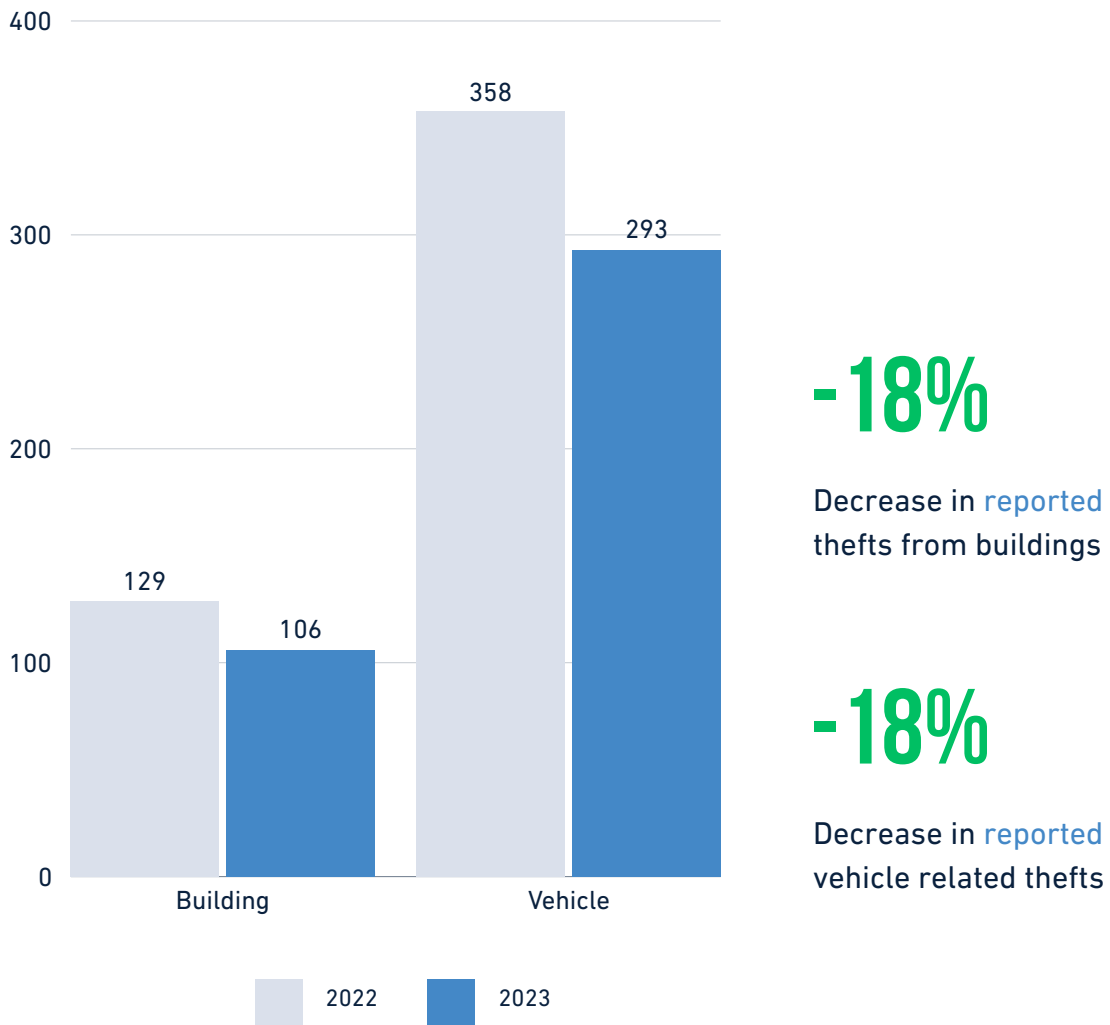
Vandalism

There was a 7% decrease in vandalism

THEFT - BUILDING & VEHICLE

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

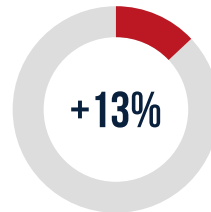
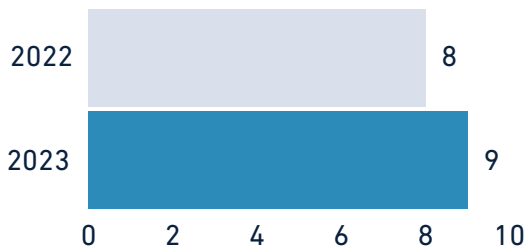
Vehicle-related thefts include the combined numbers of theft of vehicles, theft of items from inside vehicles, and theft of vehicle parts.



ROBBERY & ALL OTHER LARCENY

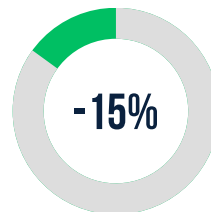
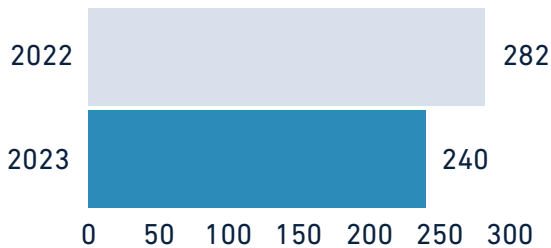
Robbery is defined as the taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

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 13% increase in robberies



All Other Larceny

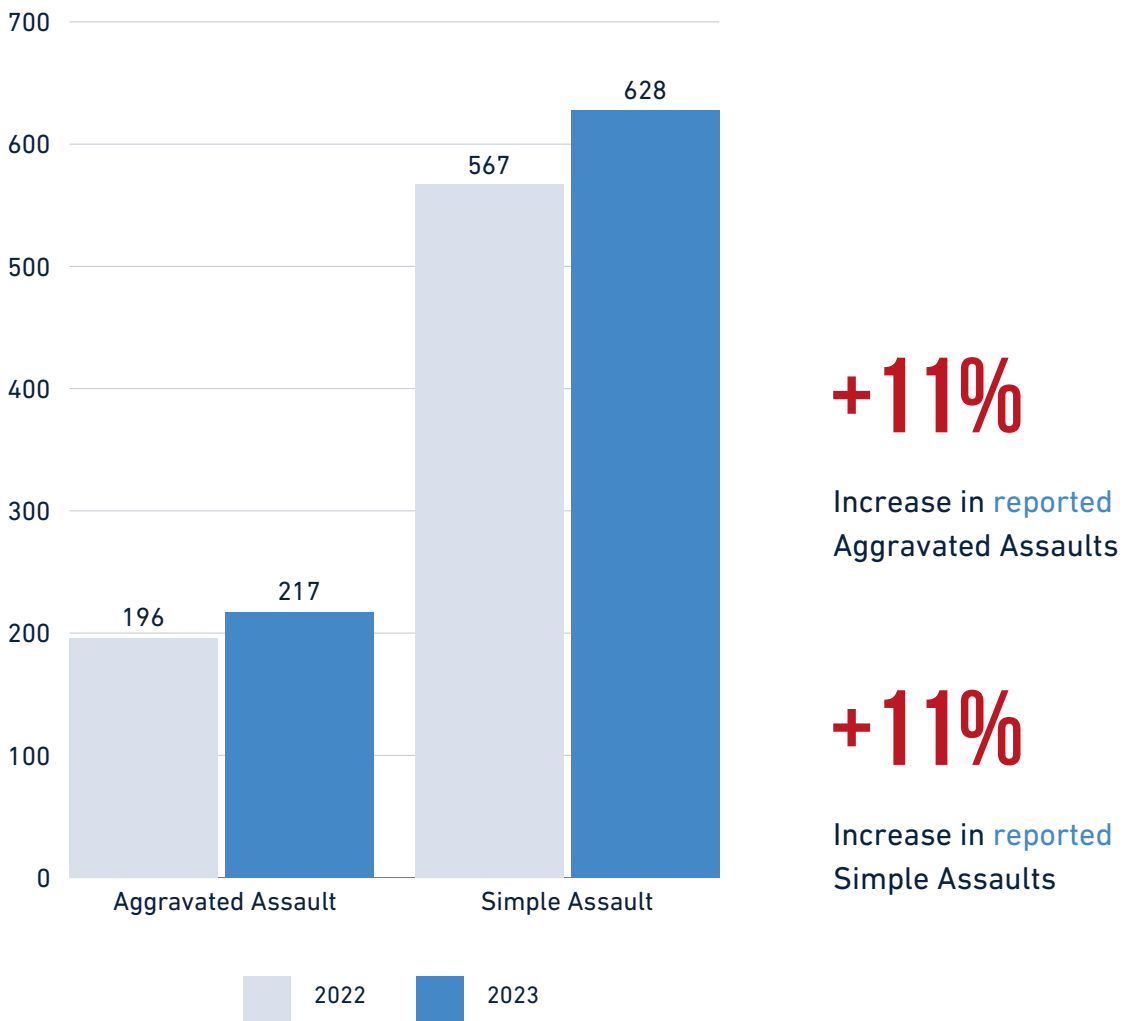
There was a 15% decrease in larceny

Crimes Against Persons

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.

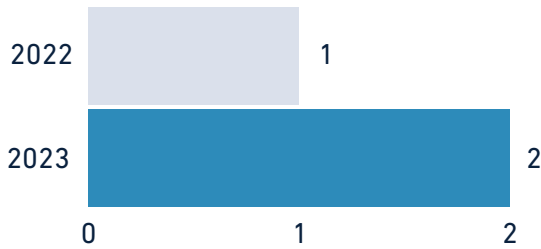


HOMICIDE, INTIMIDATION & RAPE

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

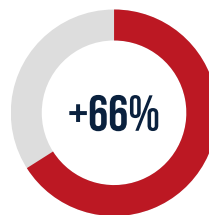
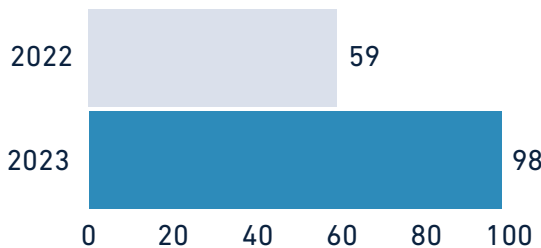
Intimidation is defined as the act of unlawfully placing another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to an actual physical attack.

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.



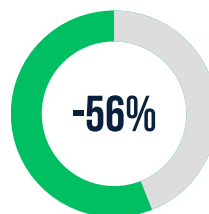
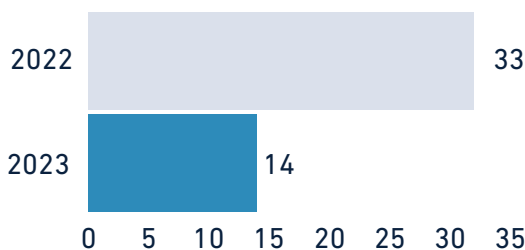
Homicide

There was a 100% increase in homicide (from 1 to 2 cases)



Intimidation

There was a 66% increase in **reported** intimidation crimes



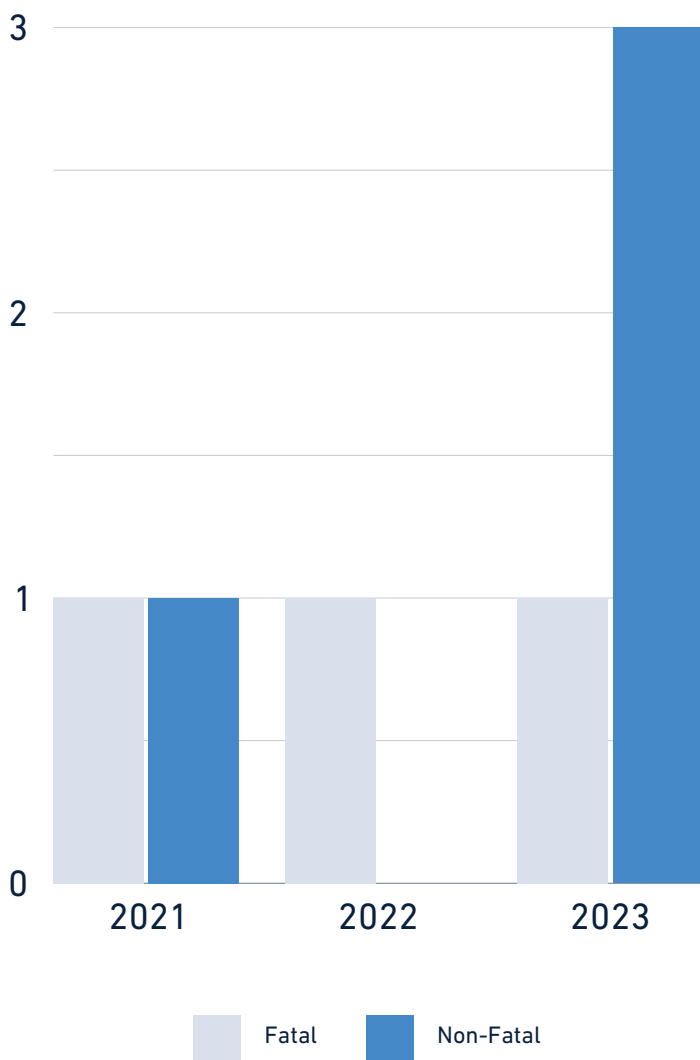
Rape

There was a 56% decrease in **reported** rape cases

SHOOTING INCIDENTS

We have divided the data for shootings in Hamilton County by fatal and non-fatal, and are showing the data for the past three years to the present. 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.



3

Number of fatal shooting incidents from 2021-2023

4

Number of *non-fatal shooting incidents with gunshot wounds from 2021-2023

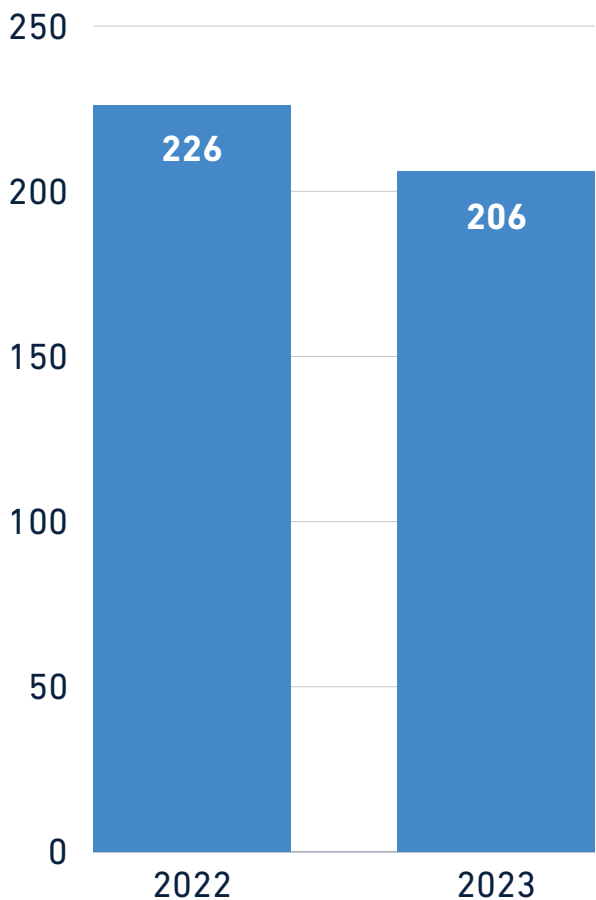
OVERDOSE DEATHS

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.

The graph below represents the total number of overdose deaths county-wide for 2022 and 2023 as reported by Hamilton Counted.*

*For more information related to illegal opioid usage, please visit: <https://www.hamiltontn.gov/HamiltonCounted.aspx>



-8.8%

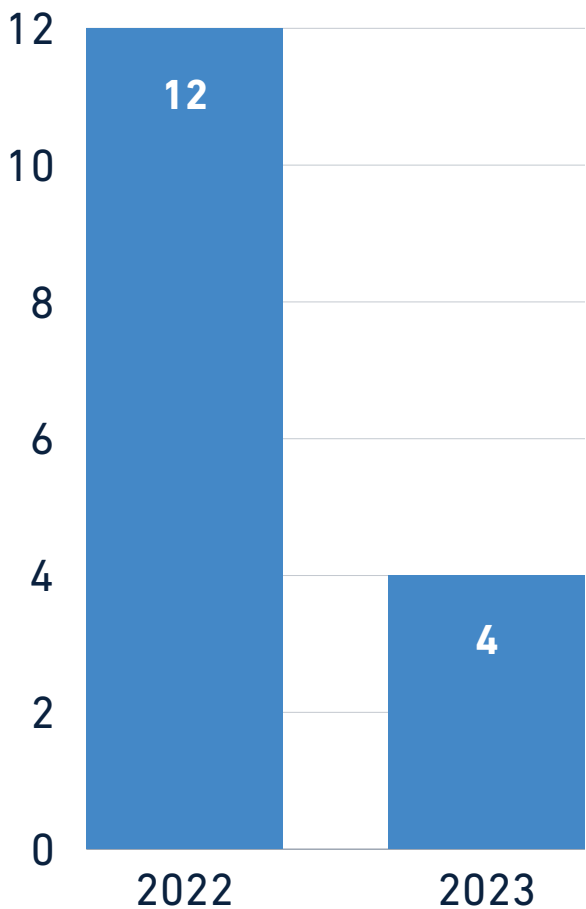
There was a 8.8% decrease in drug related overdose deaths from opioid abuse

OVERDOSE DEATHS

(continued)

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 overdose deaths investigated by the HCSO for 2022 and 2023.



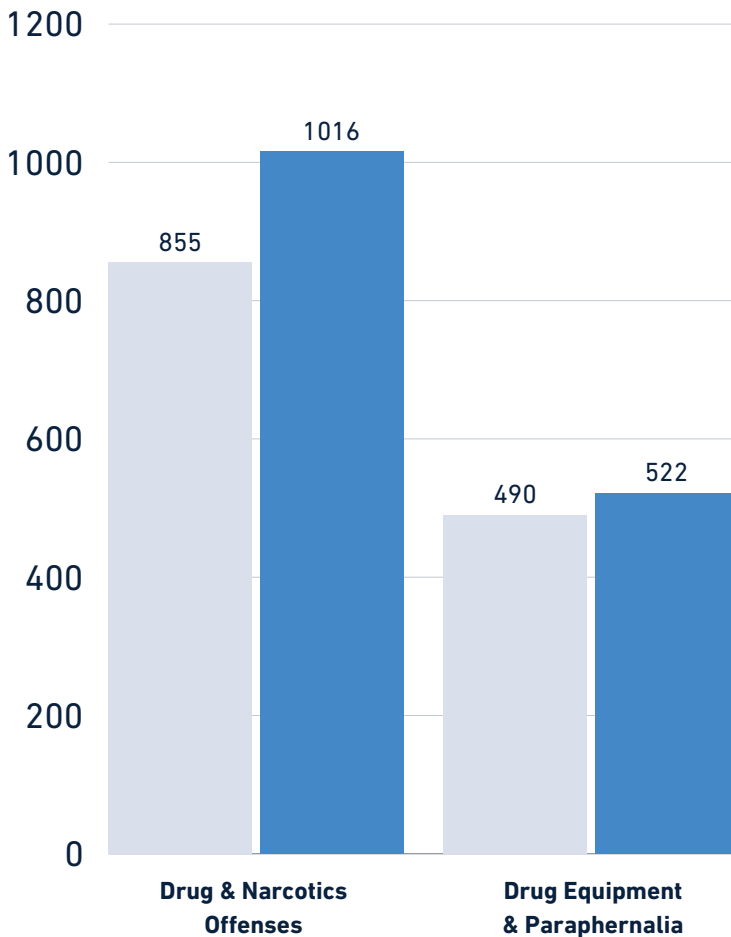
-67%

There was a 67% decrease in drug related overdose deaths from opioid abuse investigated by HCSO

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 activity conducted by uniform & investigative services.

+19%

Increase in drug & narcotics offenses

+7%

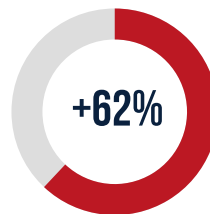
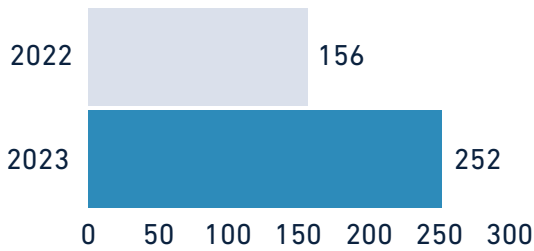
Increase in drug equipment & paraphernalia

2022 2023

DUI, PUBLIC INTOXICATION & DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Public intoxication tend to pertain to crimes committed while under the influence of alcohol or illicit or prescription drugs. One pertains to being under the influence while operating a vehicle or while in public.

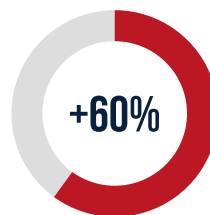
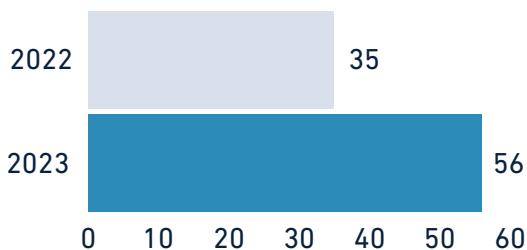
Disorderly Conduct generally refers to actions that disturb the peace or the safety of the general public. These actions can cause others to be alarmed, offended, or injured. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to: being intoxicated in public, loitering, fighting, or making loud or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



DUI

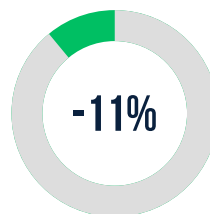
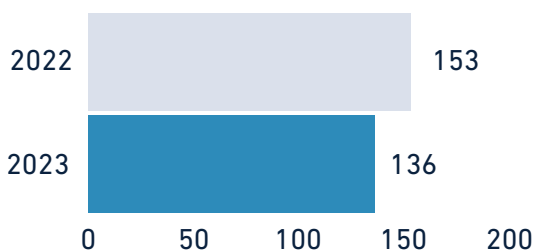
There was a 62% increase in DUI cases.

(this reflects an increase of proactive enforcement efforts)



Public Intoxication

There was a 60% increase in Public Intoxication cases.



Disorderly Conduct

There was an 11% decrease in Disorderly Conduct cases.

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 to life, and re-entry based job skills.

15,923

Number of Inmates Booked in 2023 by Corrections Services Personnel

Jail Operations & Personnel

HCSO Corrections Services oversees the daily operation of the Hamilton County Jail & Detention Center. This 1,084-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.

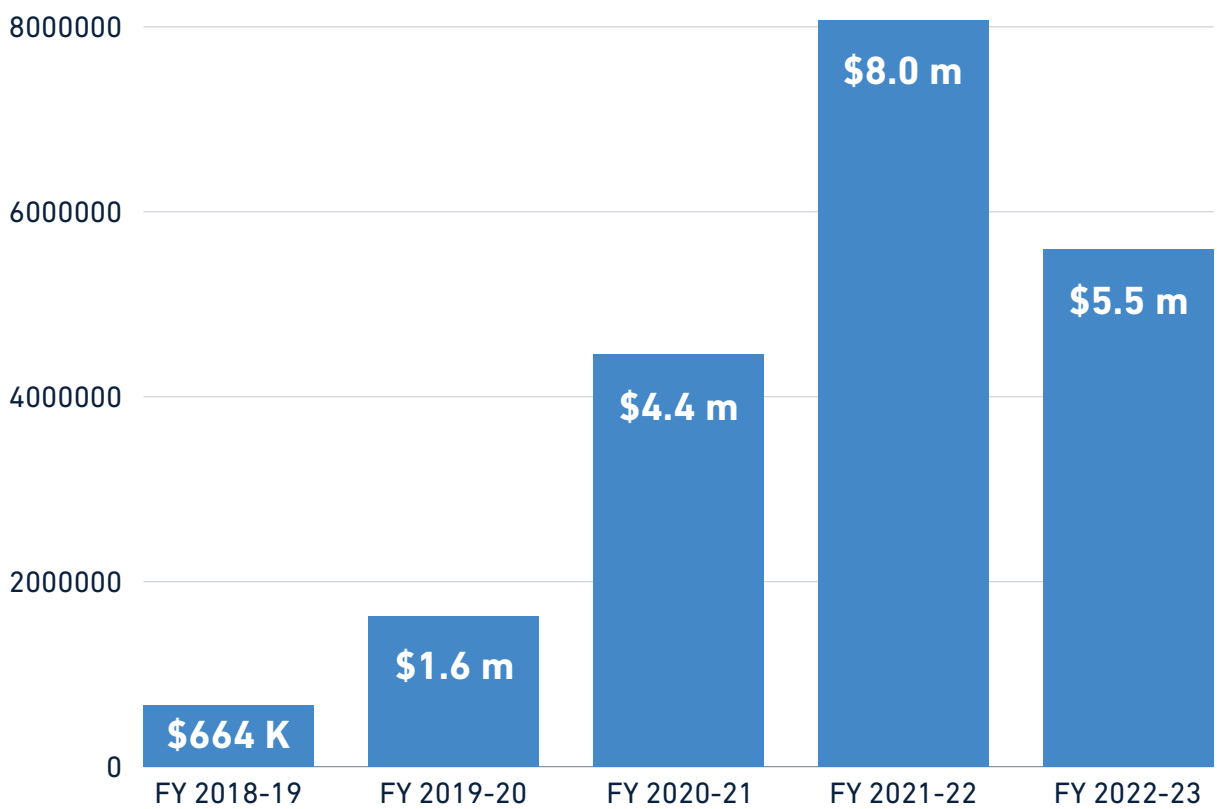
Each day, HCSO Corrections Deputies strive to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for correctional personnel, deputies, visitors, and persons lawfully incarcerated by the criminal justice system in the Hamilton County Jail.

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), the American Correctional Association (ACA), the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003, and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).



HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

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

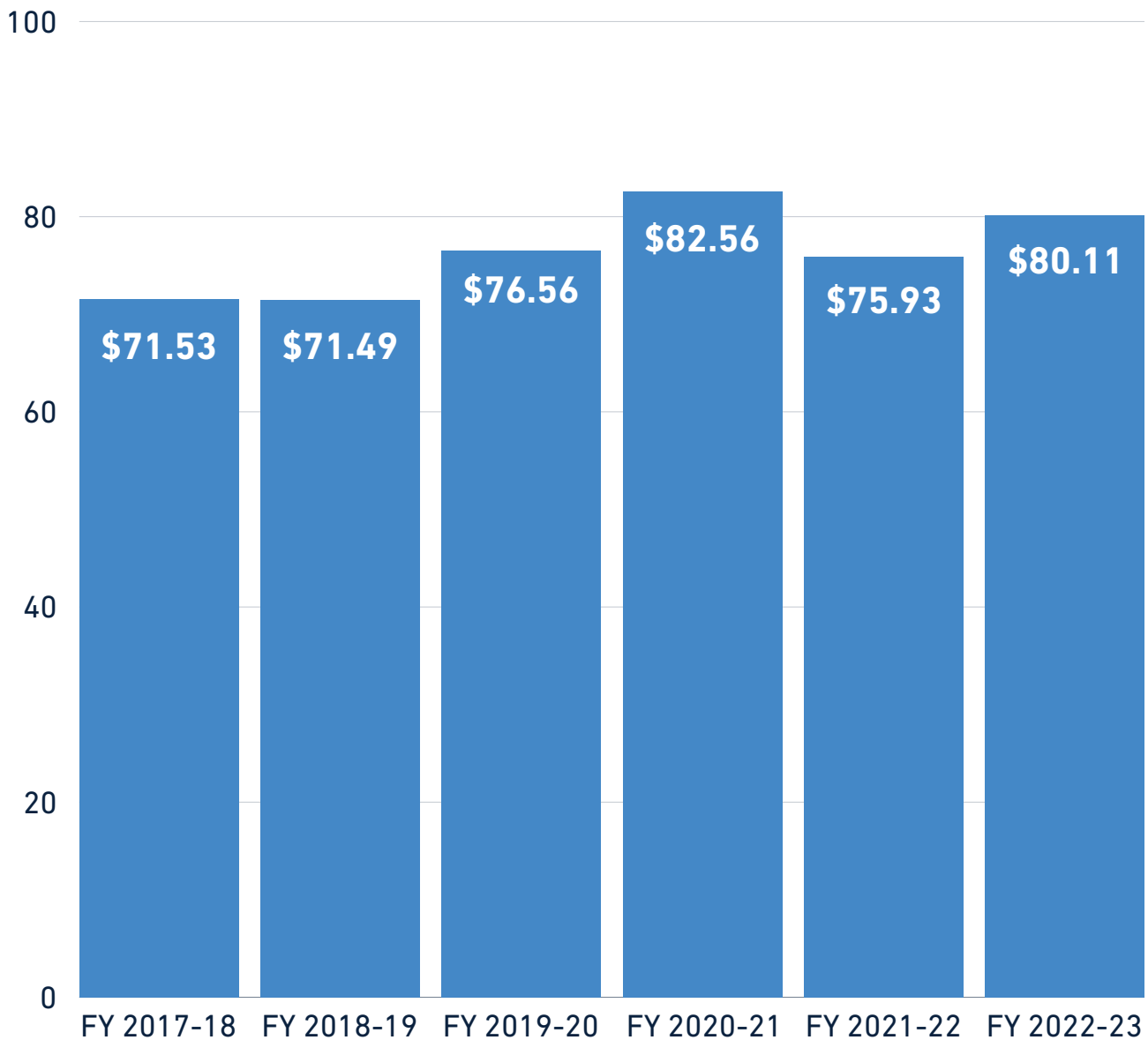


Jail Operating Costs Reduced by \$20 Million Since FY 2017-18

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 2017 - 2023





HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

Operational FAQ

1,084 Jail Capacity

1,074 Average Daily Inmate Population

15,923 Inmates Booked

15,809 Inmates Released

1,177 Misdemeanor Citations

Security Operations

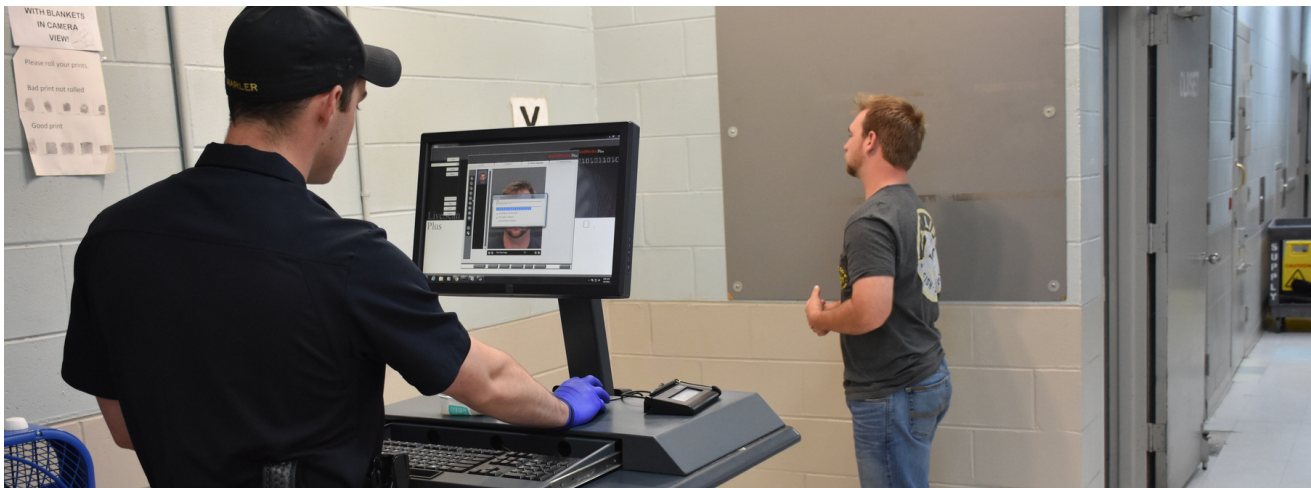
186 Cells Searched

300 Routine Searches

43 High Risk Target Cells

275 Dangerous Contraband Recovered

1,071 Blood Draws





HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL & DETENTION CENTER

(continued)

Medical Services

- 5,789** Inmate Physicals
- 8,765** Inmate Sick Calls
- 271** Inmate Dental Services
- 2,810** Inmate Mental Health Services
- 46%** Average # of Inmates on Prescription Meds
- 39%** Average # of Inmates on Mental Health Meds
- 210** Inmates with outside Medical Appointments
- 259** Emergency Room Visits

Inmate Transports

- 1,087** Total Number of Transports
- 33,777** Total Mileage for Transports
- 1,357** Total Inmates Transported
- 4,307** Total Hours of Transports



Overview

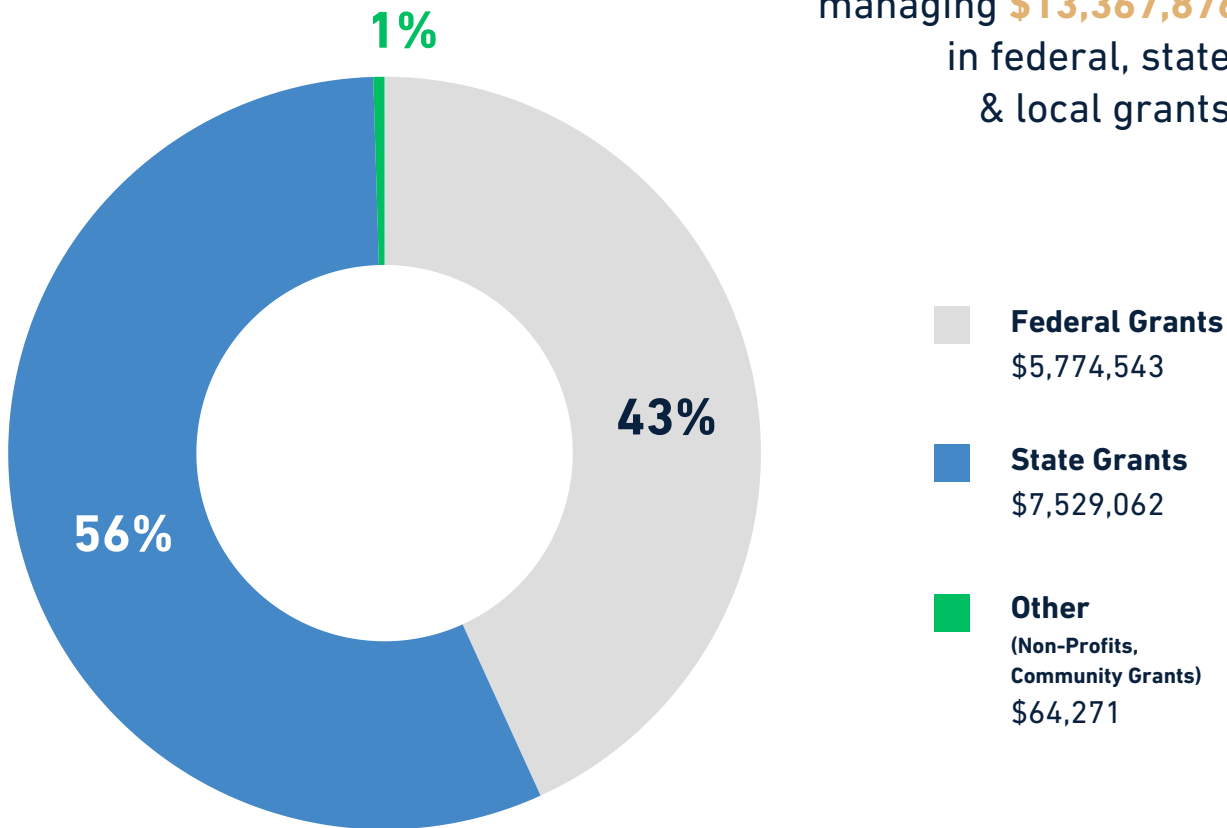
2023 GRANT FUNDS

For the last decade, the HCSO has been very successful in obtaining many federal, state, and local grants which have been extremely helpful in funding many of our agency’s specialty equipment needs and technological upgrades.

These upgrades include the boats utilized by our Marine Patrol Unit, the dive gear, and tow-fish sonar utilized by our Sheriff’s Underwater Recovery Team (SURT), many of our Re-Entry programs for our inmates, social and employee resources such as our Chaplain Unit, and most recently, the purchase of a new BearCat Armored Vehicle for our SWAT Team and a new Munson multi-purpose marine vessel costing approximately \$349,000.

These grant funds help our agency offset the need to ask for additional funding from the County Commission for large capital projects and equipment upgrades, as well as items that would normally be purchased through county taxpayer operating funds.

Currently, the HCSO is managing **\$13,367,876** in federal, state, & local grants.



HCSO RECRUITING EFFORTS



Human Resources Recruiting Unit

In 2022, Sheriff Austin Garrett created the HCSO Recruiting Unit and tasked it with creating new, innovative strategies and data-driven practices to increase the HCSO's ability to attract, recruit, and retain qualified, talented personnel to serve the citizens of Hamilton County.

HCSO Recruitment Highlights

In a time when most law enforcement agencies in the US are struggling to recruit talented and qualified individuals, the HCSO Recruiting Unit has shown measurable and demonstrated success.

Thanks to the competitive salary increase implemented in 2022 within HCSO's pay matrix for law enforcement and corrections personnel, coupled with our reputation for being a traditional law enforcement agency dedicated to data-driven principles and the use of technology, and our commitment to professionalism and focus on customer service, we are leading the way in attracting successful candidates from across the United States.

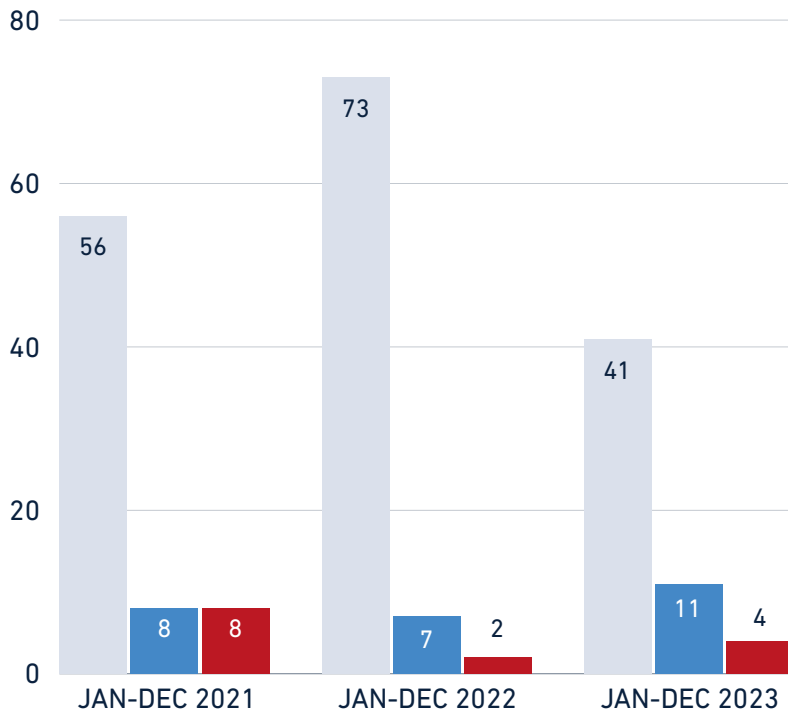
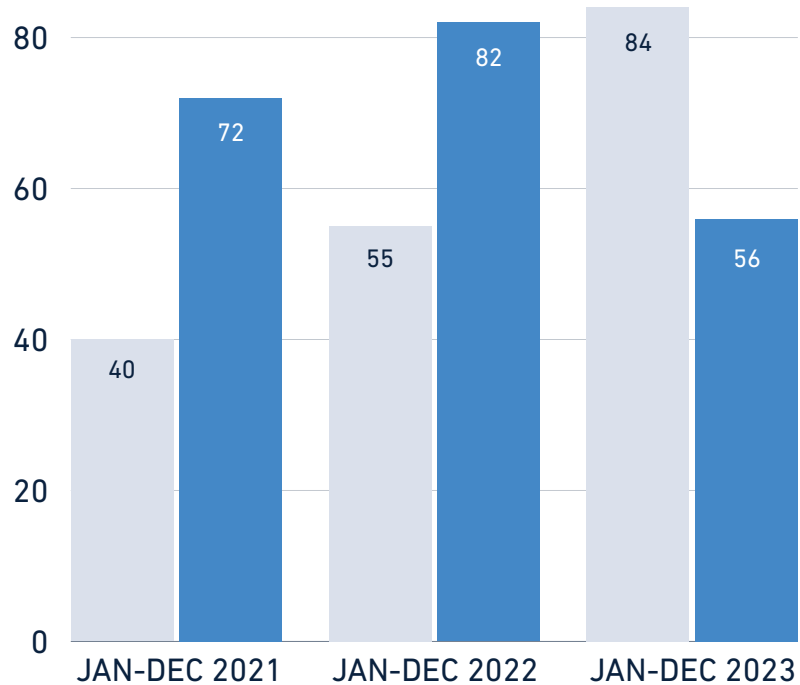
In 2023, HR Recruiting launched the HCSO recruitment website, join.hcsheriff.gov, and participated in several community events, the largest events being the Hamilton County Fair, the Chattanooga Market, and the Chattanooga Lookouts. HR Recruiting also partnered with several local high schools to speak with students about future career opportunities, internships, and part-time job programs for local college students so they can begin their careers in law enforcement.

HR ONBOARDING NUMBERS

Total HCSO Full-time Employees Hired & Separated from Jan.1 to Dec. 31 in 2021, 2022, 2023

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 Jan.1 to Dec. 31 in 2021, 2022, 2023

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 community 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



Email Address
media@hcsheiff.gov



Office Address
600 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402