



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

Annual Report

2019

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MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF BILL ELFO

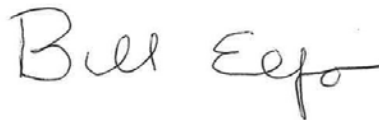
I am pleased to present the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office 2019 Annual Report. Initially, the report was planned to be released in early 2020 but was delayed as many of our members were involved in the County's response to COVID-19.



The Office of Sheriff in Whatcom County was founded in 1854. The duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff are defined in the Washington State Constitution, the Revised Code of Washington, and the Charter and Code of Whatcom County. Responsibilities include providing law enforcement, corrections, emergency management, and a wide array of other services throughout Whatcom County while ensuring public safety and the protection of everyone's constitutional rights.

We are fortunate to live and work in a community that demands a culture of law enforcement professionalism, integrity, and compassion. I am very proud to lead the men and women of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office as they demonstrate a commitment to our values of excellence, integrity, and teamwork and work to build our vision of excellence in public safety.

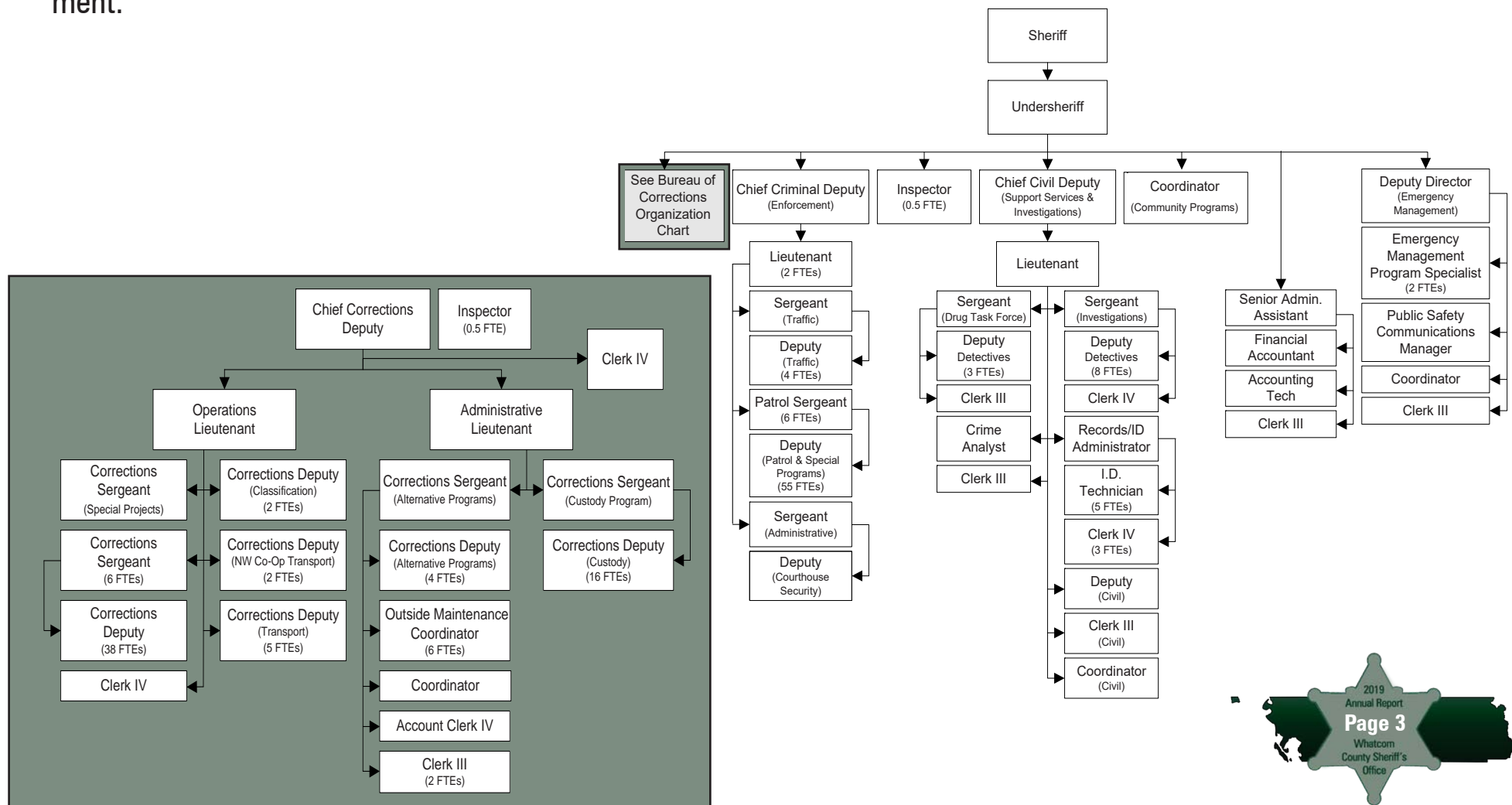
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Elfo".

Bill Elfo, Sheriff

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

As an elected official, the County Sheriff is responsible for law enforcement in the unincorporated areas of Whatcom County. The Sheriff also has several countywide responsibilities (serving both the cities and unincorporated areas), including operating the county jail and coordinating professional and volunteer search and rescue efforts. The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) is made up of three Bureaus: Field Operations, Investigations and Support Services, and Corrections; the Office of Professional Standards, and the Division of Emergency Management.



VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our Vision

The Office of Sheriff: Dedicated to making Whatcom County the safest in the State through excellence in public safety.

Our Mission

We will provide the highest quality Law Enforcement, Corrections, Emergency Management and Support Services by:

- Protecting the lives, property, and rights of all Whatcom County residents and visitors through proactive, professional and compassionate actions by all members in partnership with the community;
- Upholding the highest standards of performance, behavior and ethics through our conduct, appearance, demeanor and decision-making;
- Preserving, honoring and defending the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington.

OUR CORE VALUES

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to delivering an extraordinary level of service by performing to the best of our abilities and seeking solutions that are practical, innovative, timely and effective.

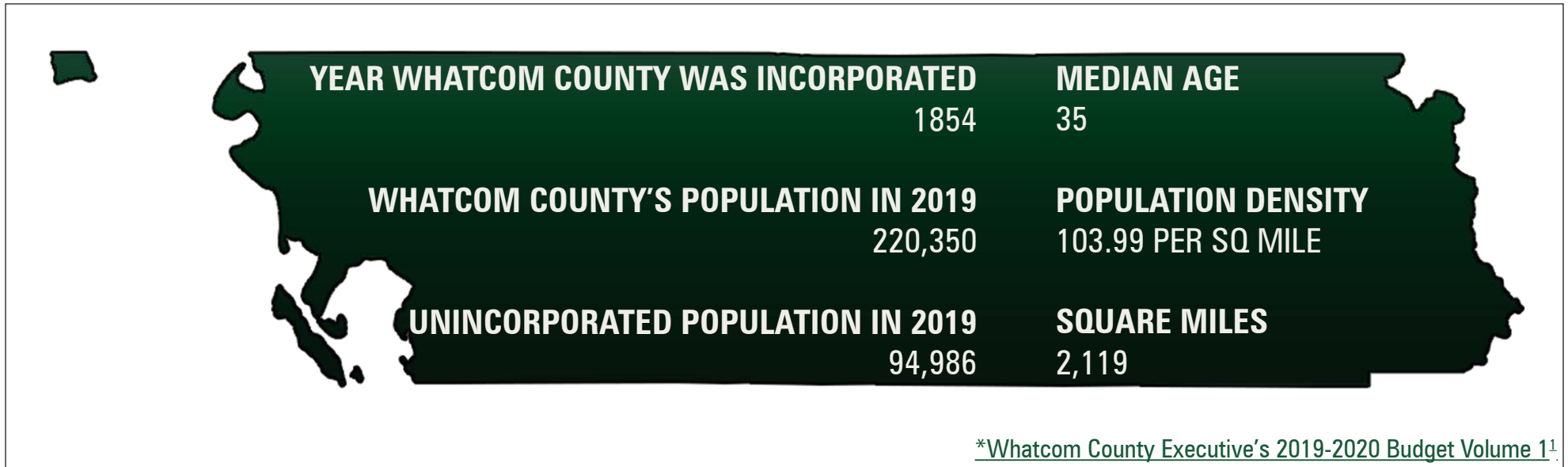
INTEGRITY

We will maintain credibility with each other and our constituents through honesty, consistency, loyalty and accountability.

TEAMWORK

We believe success is achieved by working together and in partnership with our community with openness, humility, resolve and respect.

WHATCOM COUNTY AT A GLANCE*



The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office provides direct law enforcement services to a community of 94,986 and additional services to 220,350 residents and visitors.

In 2019, deputies responded to 44,408 incidents. Neighborhood and Resident Deputies focus on densely populated unincorporated areas by working with residents to achieve community safety.

IN THE COMMUNITY

A few of the events the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office participated in throughout 2019.

10th Annual Safe Kids Safety Fair
June 1, 2019



Mock DUI at Nooksack High School
June 3, 2019



Public Safety Appreciation Day
June 22, 2019



Birch Bay Independence Day Clean-Up
July 5, 2019



National Night Out
Birch Bay, Kendall, Point Roberts,
South Lake Whatcom and Maple Falls
August 7, 2019



Northwest Washington Fair, Lynden
August, 2019



Birch Bay Discovery Days
August 17, 2019



International First-Response Drill
October 16, 2019

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

CITIZENS ON PATROL (COP)

Citizens On Patrol is a program consisting of well-trained volunteers who assist the WCSO by being the eyes and ears of the community. COP members are not deputies, do not take enforcement action, carry weapons or make arrests. The COP mission is to reduce and prevent crime through cooperation and partnering with communities, neighborhoods and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. Some of the duties for COP volunteers include: neighborhood patrols, reporting suspicious activity, conducting requested home security checks, and distributing sex offender notifications. In 2019, the COP program logged 865 volunteer hours.

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

The Citizen's Academy is a 12-week program that provides an opportunity for Whatcom County residents to learn about the WCSO. Participants become familiar with the WCSO's mission, values, and philosophy of policing. Due to staffing changes, Citizen's Academy was not offered in 2019, but will be scheduled as soon as possible.

PROJECT SANTA

Project Santa was founded in 1979 with the mission of helping children in Whatcom County and providing them with toys and food. In 2019, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Project Santa, in partnership with various car clubs, community organizations, WTA and Wal-Mart helped 109 children ages four to 17 years old.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

In 2019, the WCSO filled a new full-time position of Community Programs Coordinator. The CPC organizes, coordinates and facilitates community education activities and enhances community engagement.



L TO R: Andrea Day, GRACE Intensive Case Manager,
Capt. Joe Frank, Community Paramedic, Bellingham Fire Dept.
Jamie Collins, WCSO Mental Health Deputy

MENTAL HEALTH DEPUTY PROGRAM

The Mental Health Deputy Program is intended to assist the Patrol Division in effectively intervening and de-escalating crisis situations involving persons with behavioral health issues and/or developmental disabilities. In 2019, a second deputy was added to the program. These two deputies are assigned to focus primarily on mental-health related calls and to connect people with appropriate services. They are liaisons between the WCSO and the behavioral health community and social service organizations.

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

PATROL UNIT

The Patrol Unit is the largest division of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. Patrol deputies provide a wide variety of services including responding to 911 calls for service, in-progress crimes, requests for information and assistance, investigating crimes, motor vehicle accidents and natural and unnatural deaths. Patrol deputies also make arrests, testify in court, resolve complaints, maintain the peace, and perform crisis intervention.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

2017	40,330
2018	46,632
2019	44,408



Patrol Sergeant Linderman

RESIDENT DEPUTY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEPUTY PROGRAM

The WCSO utilizes both a resident deputy program and a neighborhood deputy program. The resident deputy program allows law enforcement presence and response in remote or isolated areas within Whatcom County. The WCSO has three deputies who reside full-time in these areas: two in Point Roberts and one in Newhalem.

The neighborhood deputy program consists of four deputies assigned full time to specific geographical areas; Foothills (which encompasses Maple Falls and Glacier area), Birch Bay, and the South Lake Whatcom area (which encompasses the Sudden Valley and Cain Lake areas.)



Patrol Deputy Damon with Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce employees Liz Thornton and Danielle Gaughen

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit was formed in 2004 to provide a more coordinated effort in preventing collisions on County roadways. The mission of the Traffic Unit is to provide safe roadways to all drivers through the use of engineering, education and enforcement to prevent death, injury and property damage.

TRAFFIC UNIT HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019:

- Participated in multiple safety patrols including Target Zero, Distracted Driving, Seat Belt Emphasis, and School Zone Emphasis
- Deputy Osborn and Deputy Karb were recognized as top performers for Region 11 Click It or Ticket patrols
- Deputy Osborn was recognized as the top performer for the past three years for Region 11 Distracted Driving Campaign
- Participated in a mock DUI crash at Nooksack Valley High School
- Directed and worked with area neighborhood deputies on their traffic issues, including Point Roberts
- Participated in three-day motorcycle emphasis for Oyster Run in Skagit County to assist Skagit County Sheriff's Office
- Handled 194 collisions in the first 11 months
- Issued 2537 infractions and 96 Criminal Traffic citations
- Trained Whatcom County Parks Department employees on truck/trailer safe loading capacity
- Created a [motorcycle safety video](#)² with Washington State Traffic Safety Program in response to serious injuries and fatalities

2019 AGENCY-WIDE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Infraction Traffic	4797
Infraction Non-Traffic	8
Criminal Traffic	710
Criminal Non-Traffic	426

	Total	Fatal Collisions	Injury Collisions	Fatalities	Injuries
January	40	0	8	0	9
February	48	0	11	0	12
March	44	0	14	0	16
April	40	0	14	0	17
May	50	0	14	0	19
June	45	0	17	0	25
July	57	0	19	0	22
August	59	0	14	0	16
September	35	0	9	0	9
October	52	0	14	0	16
November	44	0	13	0	18
December	50	0	7	0	7
TOTALS	564	0	154	0	186



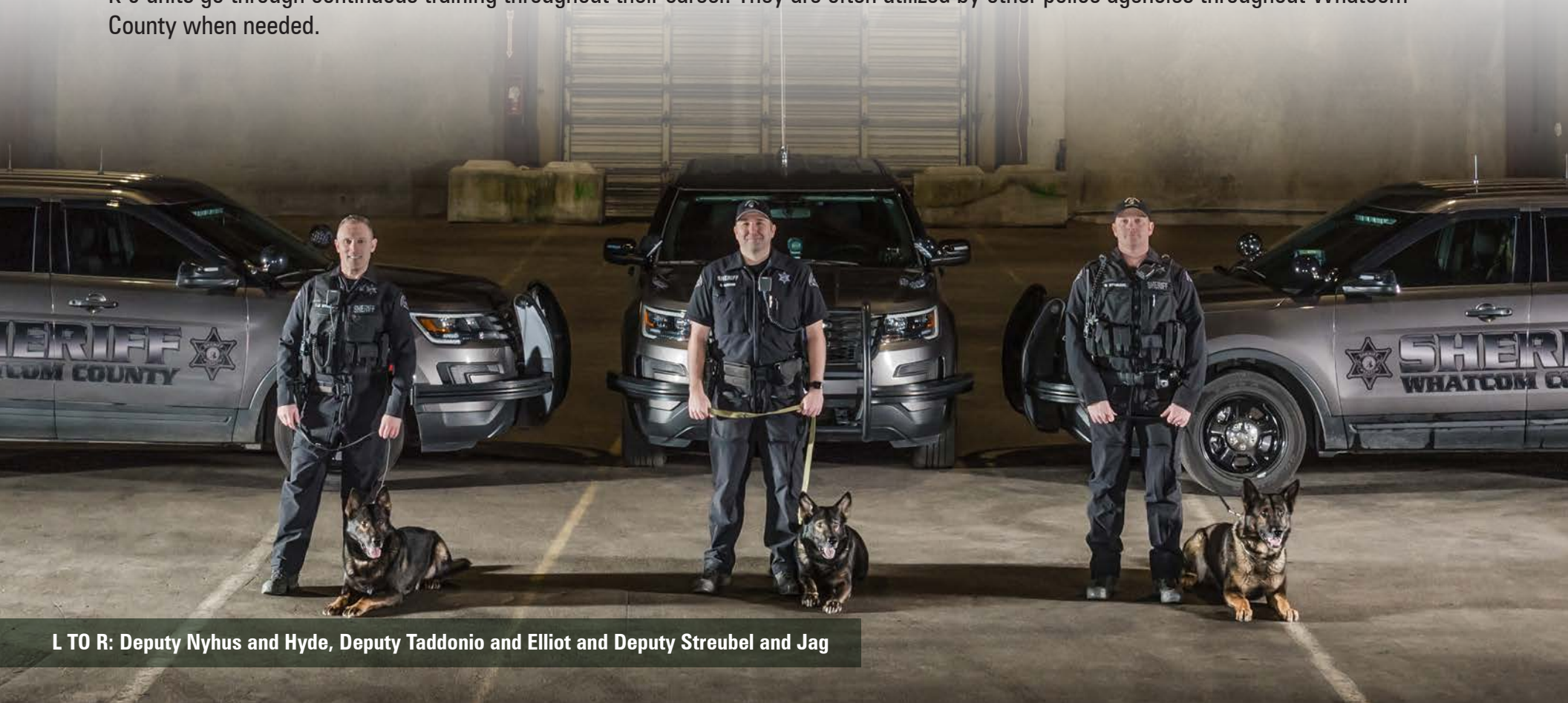
Patrol Deputy Osborn
on the Noon Rd.

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

K-9 UNIT

In 2019, WCSO had three canine (K-9) teams. The K-9s are chosen for specific traits and attributes. They are partnered with a K-9 handler deputy who works extensively with the K-9 before going into the field as a team. Because of their superior senses of smell and hearing and physical capabilities, trained K-9s are valuable law enforcement assets. The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office K-9s are used to locate missing or endangered persons (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention) and persons wanted for criminal offenses.

K-9 units may be used when there is a reasonable belief an individual poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm, the individual is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest, or the individual is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the K-9 would pose a greater threat to the safety of deputies or the public. K-9s are also utilized to locate various controlled substances. The K-9 units go through continuous training throughout their career. They are often utilized by other police agencies throughout Whatcom County when needed.



L TO R: Deputy Nyhus and Hyde, Deputy Taddonio and Elliot and Deputy Streubel and Jag

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

K-9 UNIT 2019 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Assisted Homeland Security with a cross border methamphetamine/cocaine smuggling case:
A suspect from Canada was dropping narcotics into the U.S. by helicopter. The ground transporters resided in Ferndale. Two helicopters, a snowmobile, a vehicle and U.S. currency were seized by law enforcement in the U.S. and Canada.
- Assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Homeland Investigations, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Postal Service, and Federal Bureau of Investigations on numerous occasions
- Provided training to other patrol officers and troopers in Whatcom County in drug recognition and interdiction
- Provided training to the regional K-9 group (WCSO, Bellingham Police, Skagit County Sheriff, Mount Vernon Police, Anacortes Police, and San Juan County Sheriff)



K-9 Hyde with seized cash

2019 K-9 STATISTICS	
Deployments	196
Narcotic Seizures (in pounds):	
Cocaine	88
Methamphetamine	443
Heroin	24
MDMA (Ecstasy)	22
Total Pounds of Narcotics Seized	577
Firearms Seized	57
Cash Seized	\$522,000



K-9 JAG in helicopter

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

SPECIAL RESPONSE UNIT

The WCSO maintains a Special Response Unit (SRU) comprised of two teams: a Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) and a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.

CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM (CNT)

The goal of the CNT is to resolve crisis incidents while attempting to avoid unnecessary risk to deputies/officers, citizens, victims, and subjects. Crisis negotiation skills have consistently proven to be law enforcement's most risk effective method to achieve the desired outcomes. Crisis negotiators are deployed with SWAT as part of the Special Response Unit. In addition, negotiators are regularly used on Patrol to deal with barricaded subjects and to de-escalate situations involving persons with mental health issues.

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM (SWAT)

The SWAT team provides specialized support to the WCSO or other law enforcement agency personnel in handling critical field operations where special tactical deployment methods beyond the capacity of field deputies/officers appear to be necessary.

In 2019, WCSO SWAT and CNT teams were involved in four full-scale activations:

- A barricaded robbery suspect out of Skagit County. The suspect was negotiated out of the residence and arrested.
- A barricaded robbery suspect out of Bellingham. The suspect was negotiated out of the residence and arrested.
- A barricaded burglary suspect. Chemical munitions were used to force the suspect to exit the residence and surrender.
- To arrest a suspect for Rape 2nd, Robbery 2nd and Unlawful Imprisonment. The suspect had a violent criminal history. The suspect was negotiated out of the residence and arrested.



There are many times where incidents are resolved by members of both CNT and SWAT who are on patrol, without requiring a full team activation.



L to R: SWAT member Deputy DeZeeuw, SWAT training with U.S. Customs and Border Protections Air and Marine Unit helicopter

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

MARINE SERVICES UNIT

The Marine Services Unit conducts vessel safety inspections and education pertaining to safety on the water. Marine deputies also provide enforcement of Boating Under the Influence (BUI) laws and assist with search and rescue incidents in and around county rivers, lakes and coastal areas. The WCSO Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) unit conducted the following operations between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend in 2019:

20 patrol missions on Lake Samish
21 patrol missions on Lake Whatcom
11 missions on Puget Sound
Participated in Operation Dry Water

In 2019, RBS patrols provided:

355 vessel-on-the-water law enforcement hours
547 officer-on-the-water law enforcement hours
84.5 ramp inspection hours

This produced:

423 written inspections
303 spot inspections
8 infractions
1 citation for BUI

In 2019, the WCSO RBS assisted nine vessels
and 52 boaters in distress.

2019 WCSO MARINE SERVICES FLEET

Donzi
2008
27' Fiberglass
Primary vessel for
Lake Whatcom

Munson
2017
19' Aluminum
Primary vessel for
search and rescue
and Lake Samish

Heliarc
1995
20' Aluminum
Primary vessel for
Nooksack River
and Baker Lake

Bombardier
2005
10' Personal Watercraft
Primarily used for
patrol during high
traffic periods



WCSO's Donzi

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS

FIELD TRAINING UNIT

The WCSO's Field Training Unit provides on the job field training to newly hired student deputies. The FTO Program is managed by a Lieutenant and supervised by the FTO Sergeant. Six tenured senior deputies are selected, trained, and staffed to serve as Field Training Officers (FTOs). The FTOs are certified by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. The FTOs train student deputies.



Deputy Matt High field training
Deputy Faith Van Dyke

While FTO stands for Field Training Officer, it is the term commonly used for field training student deputies under the direction of the Field Training Unit.

The Field Training Officer is the primary trainer assigned to train student deputies that have successfully graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Upon successful completion of Field Training, each student deputy is prepared to function as an independent deputy within the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.

The FTO training program consists of four phases, each approximately one month in duration. Every day is intensive on-the-job training which is documented in Daily Observation Reports (DORs) and each phase requires an End of Phase Report (EPR). The student deputy must demonstrate an increase in knowledge, skills, and abilities related to their patrol duties. They are required to demonstrate specific performance standards and skills before proceeding to the next FTO phase and ultimately be certified for solo patrol duties.

During 2019, the FTO Unit trained nine students: three laterals* and six entry level.

*Laterals are tenured officers from other agencies with at least two years of experience as a full-time peace officer.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Bureau of Investigations and Support Services is primarily responsible for long-term detailed investigations into crimes against persons and narcotic crimes, as well as executing processes and orders of the courts, managing WCSO records and evidence, and overseeing many of the processes that support the accomplishment of WCSO's core missions.

2019 MAJOR CRIMES HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Major Crimes unit started off 2019 with the Dustin Wilson homicide and the ensuing investigation that ran for over 48 continuous hours before Cody Brock was captured. Mr. Brock entered a guilty plea several months later and was sentenced to 30+ years in prison. The year ended with the Heimsoth homicide and attempted suicide that galvanized the community the day after Christmas.
- The Amanda Stavik homicide cold case investigation from 1989 went to trial after the arrest of Timothy Bass in December of 2017. The several week trial led to the conviction of Timothy Bass for Murder 1st in the Spring of 2019 and in July he was sentenced to 27 years in prison. This case received a great deal of national media attention, including CBS's "48 Hours" and ABC's "20/20".
- The Major Crimes Unit deployed a new "bait device" which, when activated, led to a well-publicized arrest in the Locust Beach area. This publicity helped stave off further property crimes at trail heads and public areas as the numbers went down following this investigation.
- In conjunction with the Drug Task Force, the Major Crimes Unit completed an in-depth investigation into catalytic converter thefts in Whatcom County. The investigation led to several arrests and the take down of the "fence" for the stolen property. This has virtually ended catalytic converter thefts in the county for now.



2019 CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

CPS Referrals	100
Child Abuse Case Investigations	58

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

WHATCOM GANG AND DRUG TASK FORCE (WGDTF)

The WGDTF is a multi-agency task force comprised of members from the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Bellingham Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations and Customs and Border Protection. The WCSO oversees and manages the Task Force which focuses on mid to upper level distributors of narcotics in and around Whatcom County.

2019 WGDTF HIGHLIGHTS:

- A several month-long joint investigation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on the County's first-ever large scale Fentanyl case in which bulk Fentanyl from China was being shipped to several residents of Bellingham. The raw fentanyl was processed in Snohomish County then distributed throughout the state of Washington. The case made national news. Nine Federal indictments; 49 guns seized; cash and property over \$2.2 million seized; 16,000 fentanyl pills seized in addition to steroids, cocaine, and heroin.
- An investigation into the sale of cocaine, MDMA, LSD, and Psilocybin mushrooms out of a residence in downtown Bellingham led to three arrests and seizure of drugs and four firearms. These drugs were selling in many of the bars and clubs downtown and running an after-hours nightclub out of an apartment on Holly Street.
- A joint case with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces and DEA on a female suspect living in unincorporated Whatcom County. This investigation led to nine Federal indictments, and seizures including over \$130,000, 20 lbs of methamphetamine, and over 11 lbs of heroin.
- A joint case with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on a male suspect from Canada trafficking MDMA across the border. This case led to one Federal indictment and a seizure of 10 kilograms of MDMA.
- An investigation led to an arrest from a case involving the selling of a dangerous new designer drug labeled "2C-B" in Bellingham and on the WWU campus.
- A joint investigation with HSI on a cross border drug trafficking ring. Seizures by both HSI and Canadian authorities included 188 kilograms of methamphetamine, two helicopters, and a large number of firearms.
- A joint investigation with the DEA and Major Crimes detectives led to the seizure of 1,000 tainted fentanyl pills, a half kilogram of cocaine, and over \$12,000 cash. This resulted in two Federal indictments. A female and male suspect from Skagit Valley sold fentanyl pills to juveniles and adults in the Bellingham area. Their sales led to the overdose death of a 17-year-old Squalicum High School student, the overdose death of an Anacortes man, and the overdose and near-death of another Bellingham resident.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

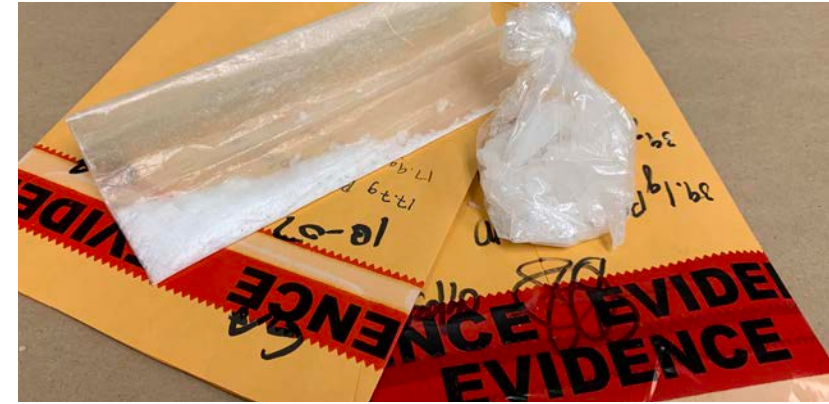
WHATCOM GANG AND DRUG TASK FORCE (WGDTF)

2019 WGDTF STATISTICS

Federal Indictments	14
Felony Whatcom County Arrests	50
Arrests of documented gang members	4
Pending Felony Cases	9

Seized approximately:

Cocaine	62 lbs
Methamphetamine	93 lbs
Heroin	13 lbs
MDMA (Ecstasy)	23 lbs
Fentanyl pills	6,000
Firearms Seized	61
Cash and property seized (between DEA and WGDTF)	\$3.5 million

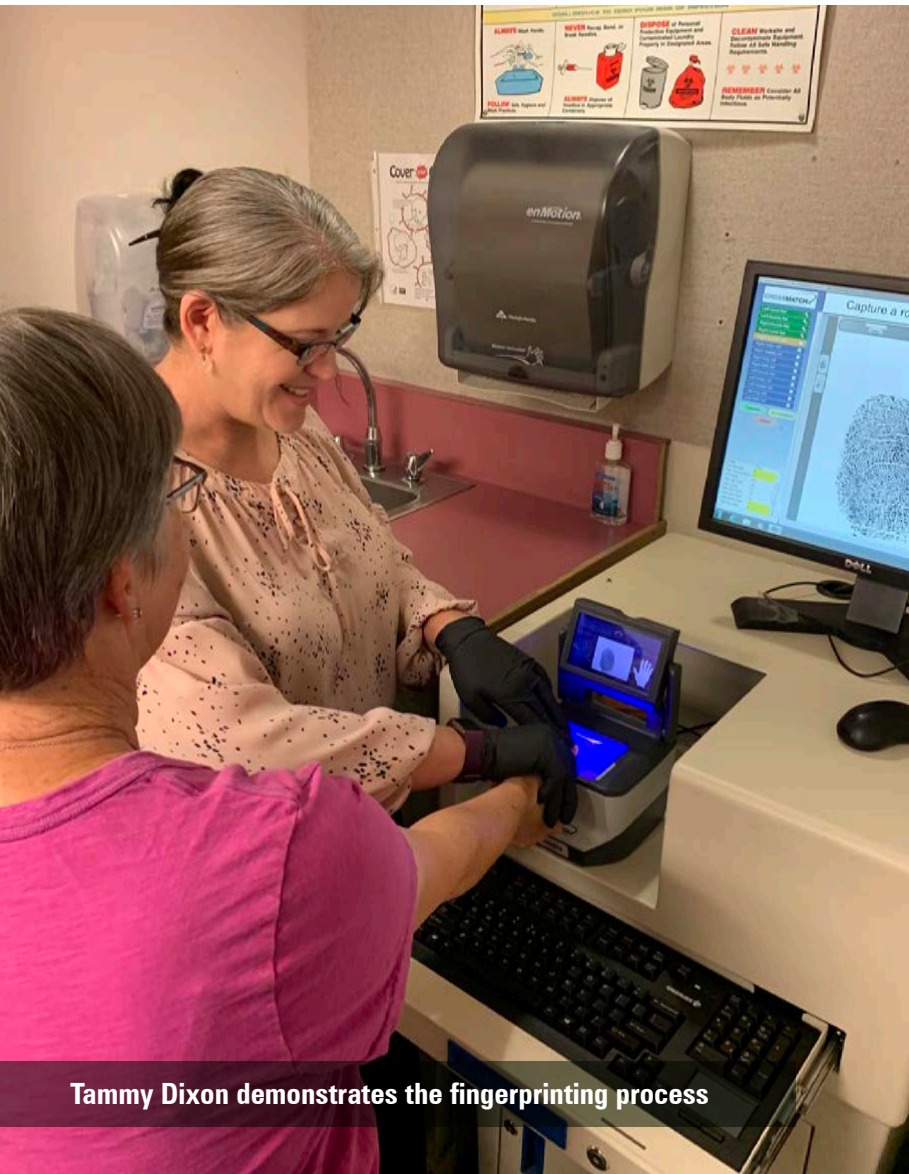


From L to R: firearms seized, MDMA disguised as candy, heroin, and methamphetamine

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

RECORDS AND EVIDENCE DIVISION

In 2019, WCSO's Records and Evidence Division inventoried, re-indexed and submitted 30-year-old evidence to the Prosecutor's Office for use in the Stavik Homicide trial. This led to a successful prosecution and conviction of Murder 1st for Timothy Bass on May 24, 2019.



Tammy Dixon demonstrates the fingerprinting process

WCSO's Records and Evidence Division also reclassified and cross-trained two Clerk III positions to ID Technician positions in order to assist in processing a large increase in the number of firearms transfer applications. This occurred after the FBI declined to continue the processing of applications for firearms transfers for individuals with concealed weapons licenses in Washington State.

2019 STATISTICS FROM RECORDS AND EVIDENCE

Public Disclosure Requests	2,257
Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPLs) Processed	2,397
Warrants Processed	1,828
Protection Orders Processed	1,024
Firearm Transfer Applications Processed	3,285
Evidence Items Booked	3,860
Evidence Items Destroyed	3,239

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

CIVIL DIVISION

The WCSO serves legal documents, performs evictions and carries out orders of the courts.

Trained WCSO personnel review all orders to be served by the Sheriff or deputies to limit their liability.

The WCSO handles all of the evictions for Whatcom County. All Writs of Restitution are required to go through the Whatcom County Superior Court before they are delivered to the WCSO.

Types of civil court orders carried out by the WCSO include: Orders of Sale, Writs of Execution, Writs of Attachment, Writs of Restitution, Writs of Replevin, and Writs of Habeas Corpus.

DOCUMENTS SERVED IN 2019	
Service of Subpoenas to Deputies	4,827
Service of Subpoenas on witnesses for Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office	350
Service of Subpoenas received from other Prosecutor's Offices within WA ST	24
DSHS Papers served	35
Attorney Papers served	303
(Papers served for Private attorneys and citizens)	
Total Civil Papers Served	5,539
Writs of Restitution	190
Real Property Executions	31
Personal Property Executions	2
Writs of Attachment (Real & Personal)	1
Writs of Habeas Corpus	9
Writs of Replevin	2
Total Evictions, Writs and Sheriff Sales Executed	235
Total Documents Served	5,774

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

Whatcom County Search and Rescue Council is currently comprised of six volunteer SAR units that can be activated by the WCSO for search, rescue, and recovery incidents in urban, rural, and wilderness settings. They can also be called upon for evidence searches related to criminal cases.

There are three trained SAR Deputy Coordinators plus a Lieutenant that oversees the group. SAR also works closely with partners from neighboring counties, Whidbey Naval Air Station, and Customs and Border Protection. Our partners regularly provide air assets (mostly helicopters) along with personnel. Our volunteers are also occasionally sent to assist other counties needing additional search personnel.

In 2019, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office SAR responded to 52 search and rescue reports. Typical SAR calls involve injured climbers, lost hikers, overdue subjects, overturned boats/swift water rescue, underwater dive recovery missions, and lost skiers to name just a few.



**Bellingham Mountain Rescue
with U.S. Customs and Border Protection**



Training on new search and rescue mapping technology

SIX SAR UNITS:

Whatcom County Dive Search and Rescue
Whatcom Emergency Communications Group
Whatcom County 4x4 Unit
Bellingham Mountain Rescue
Summit to Sound Search and Rescue
Whatcom County Snowmobile Search and Rescue



The WCSO is also a participant in Project Lifesaver in conjunction with Dementia Support Northwest. Project Lifesaver is a program designed to locate missing persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease, autism, or other various brain ailments. Radio frequency transmitters and receivers are used to track those with a tendency to go missing and wander. Participant intake is done by Dementia Support Northwest while the search component is done by trained SAR deputies and volunteers.

CORRECTIONS BUREAU

The WCSO Corrections Bureau operates the Whatcom County Jail and the Alternative Corrections Program. The jail is a medium security facility with a capacity of 210 inmates daily. The Corrections Bureau also operates a minimum-security facility that can house an additional 150 inmates daily.

JAIL POPULATION MANAGEMENT

In 2017, Whatcom County joined partner municipalities in contracting with Yakima County Jail to hold offenders. The numbers of people in jail were greater than the amount of space available. In Summer of 2019, Yakima County Jail discontinued its contract with all jurisdictions within Whatcom County. The impact of this was the loss of approximately 6000 bed days a year, which translates to room for about 17 people a day just for Whatcom County. Within five months the WCSO Corrections Bureau found an alternative resource in Kittitas County, negotiated a contract, and brought forward a proposal to amend the existing JUA (Jail Use Agreement). This amendment eliminated the need for WCSO's municipal partners to enter into contracts with any other facility for jail bed space and created a staffing plan that provided for the transportation of offenders to and from Kittitas.

THE OVERALL REDUCTION IN THE AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION (ADP)*

The number of jail bed days being used in Whatcom County from 2018-2019 was reduced by 3.2%. This continued a trend since 2010. Overall, ADP dropped by 30% from the highest ADP of 434 in 2010. This drop translated to an incarceration rate change from 216 per 100,000 in 2010 to 137 per 100,000 in 2019.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

Throughout 2019, the WCSO Corrections Bureau formalized and expanded a Medication Assistant Treatment (MAT) program. The program has three different sections: Withdrawal, Treatment, and Induction. For individuals who enter the jail and are addicted to opioids, there are three options: medicated assistance through withdrawal, participation in a community Suboxone program, or the MAT Program. Offenders who are either on an existing program or who may be started on a MAT program are maintained on the medication during their incarceration and released with enough medications to last until they go to their appointment with a community provider. In 2019, 758 offenders were contacted for participation in one of the MAT programs, with 499 either participating in one of the MAT programs or receiving other medical treatment to support them through withdrawal.

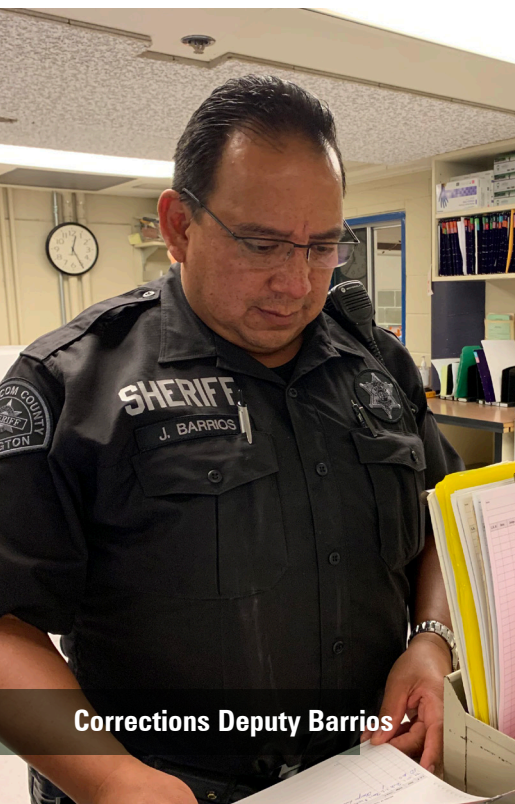


MENTAL HEALTH CARE

At the same time jail population has been dropping, the number of offenders with SMI (Serious Mental Illness) continued to increase. The one-year change from 2018-2019 for mental health referrals showed a 26% increase, while psychiatric visits increased by 16%. Going back farther, to 2010 when the jail was at its highest ADP, the number of referrals to the jail mental health services has increased by 41% and the number of psychiatric visits has increased by 130%.

*ADP=Average Daily Population: a measure of how many people, on average were in custody per day during a specific period.

The jail population can swing from 205, down to 180, then back up to 200 in 24 hours.



Corrections Deputy Barrios

CORRECTIONS BUREAU

2019 JAIL ALTERNATIVE OVERVIEW

The WCSO Corrections Bureau is responsible for facilitating Alternatives to Jail Programs. Offenders served 16,917 days of jail time in one of the Alternatives to Jail Programs: In-Custody Work Crew, Work Release, Electronic Home Detention and Out-of-Custody Work Crew. This resulted in approximately 565 low risk offenders being diverted from the Whatcom County Jail. Work Crews performed 63,944 hours of labor, a value of \$767,328 to the community.

Projects for this program included:

- Picking up litter, weeding, filling in trenches, raking, painting and removing blackberry bushes at project sites in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County sites including Hovander Park, Semiahmoo Park, Birch Bay Park, Interurban Trail, Samish Lake Park, Squires Lake, Silver Lake, and Tennant Lake
- Performing trail and campground maintenance in the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest
- Cleaning up illegal dump sites around the County for the Health Department
- Constructing and maintaining bioswales along County waterways to help slow water infiltration and filter pollutants out of the water
- Removing noxious and non-native weeds throughout Whatcom County



Rockport State Park ADA Trail, before and after

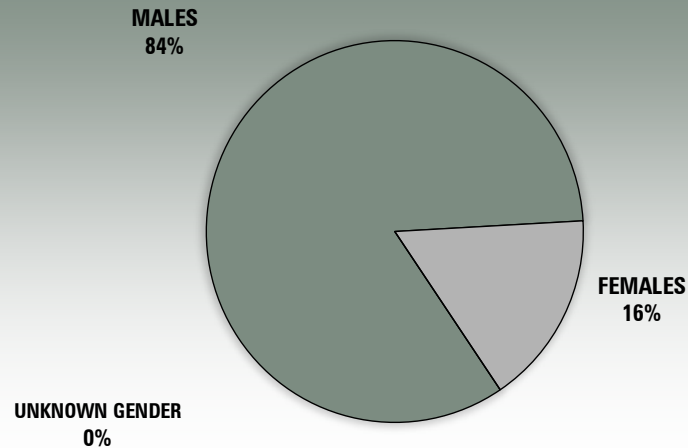
In 2019, the Alternative Jail Program provided 93 individuals the ability to continue to hold their community jobs while completing a combined total of 3,523 days for their jail sentences on the Work Release program. 117 offenders served 5,401 days on the WCSO Electronic Home Detention program. This saved approximately \$658,922 in jail housing costs and allowed lower risk offenders to stay in the community, supporting themselves and their families.

CORRECTIONS BUREAU

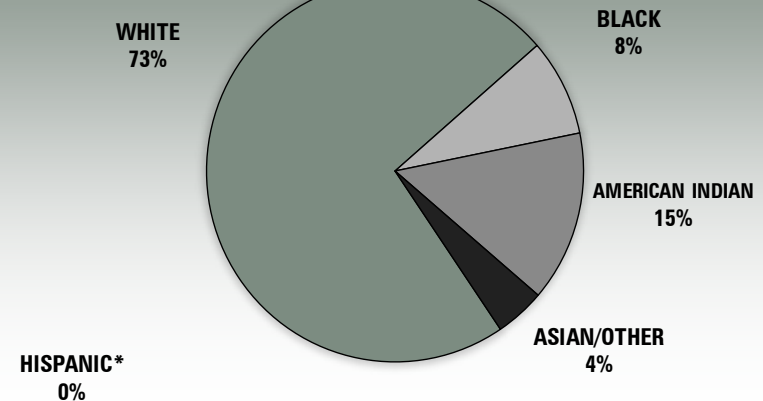
2019 WHATCOM COUNTY JAIL STATISTICS

Design Capacity (Downtown Jail + Work Center)	298
Daily Bed Rate	\$131
Average Length of Stay (Days)	12
Percentage of Use	102%
Average Daily Population (ADP)	304
Electronic Home Detention	5,958 days
Work Release	3,102 days
In Custody Work Crew	5,796 days
Out-of-Custody Work Crew	2,664 days
In Custody Deaths	0

2019 INMATES' GENDER (ADP)



2019 INMATES' ETHNICITY (ADP)



*In 2019 the Federal government moved the category of "Hispanic" from race to ethnicity. The Jail's record management system was not programmed to collect ethnicity, so individuals who would have previously identified themselves as "Hispanic" are selecting another category.

2019 CRIME STATISTICS

The following section provides WCSO offense counts for Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society. These numbers are derived from monthly National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) submissions by Washington State law enforcement agencies. For more detailed information, visit [Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Crime in Washington 2019 Annual Report](#).³



For up to date statistics on crime, please visit [WCSO's Crime Stats Dashboard](#).⁴

Offense Description	Attempt	Complete	Clearances by Arrest	Clearances by Exceptional Means
Murder Non Negligent Manslaughter	0	5	3	1
Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	33	10	0
Sodomy	0	6	0	0
Fondling	0	25	3	0
Incest	0	1	1	0
Statutory Rape	0	4	1	0
Robbery	1	7	5	0
Aggravated Assault	0	100	71	0
Simple Assault	0	286	176	1
Intimidation	0	126	42	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	15	13	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	24	326	60	0
Arson	3	5	4	0
Purse Snatching	0	1	1	0
Shoplifting	0	11	3	0
Theft From Building	0	64	7	0
Theft From Coin Operated Machine Or Device	0	2	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	0	231	8	0

2019 CRIME STATISTICS (cont)



For up to date statistics on crime,
please visit [WCSO's Crime Stats Dashboard](#).⁴

Offense Description	Attempt	Complete	Clearances by Arrest	Clearances by Exceptional Means
Theft Of Motor Vehicle Parts Or Accessories	0	13	0	0
All Other Larceny	9	448	35	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	100	8	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	6	1	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	42	7	0
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	2	9	0	0
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	0	23	0	0
Impersonation	0	61	7	0
Wire Fraud	0	11	0	0
Embezzlement	0	1	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	0	53	36	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism Of Property	0	372	53	0
Drug/Narcotic Violations	0	256	185	0
Drug Equipment Violations	0	7	3	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	0	4	1	0
Assisting Or Promoting Prostitution	0	1	1	0
Violation No Contact/Protection Orders	0	198	89	0
Weapon Law Violations	0	30	20	0
Animal Cruelty	0	3	1	0

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (OPS)

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) works to ensure the WCSO practices remain consistent with contemporary legal and best practice standards in the areas of policy and procedure, the management of citizen complaints and internal investigations, and the recruitment and hiring of new employees. Accountability to the citizens we serve is a fundamental element of maintaining the trust they have in our agency.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING

WCSO continues to provide training to law enforcement officers across Whatcom County in the area of fair and impartial policing. In 2019, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Blaine Police Department to bring this training to local and federal officers from around the region. The main goal of this training is to strengthen police legitimacy, which is the trust and confidence the public has that the police are exercising their authority appropriately. This training discusses the implicit biases that all people have, and how law enforcement must ensure that enforcement decisions are based on facts rather than these biases. This training also discusses the concept of procedural justice, which is the expectation that even when enforcement action is appropriate, community members must always be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness.

RECRUITMENT

The recruitment and hiring of new deputies continue to be a challenge for the WCSO, as well as across the nation as law enforcement agencies compete for a limited number of interested candidates. In 2019, recruiting efforts included an increased presence at career fairs around the state, as well as hosting career information nights in Lynden and Everson. Increased efficiencies in the hiring process condensed the hiring process time from 6-8 months to 3-4 months. This takes a tremendous amount of coordination as the hiring process involves written and physical testing, an oral interview, polygraph examination, background investigation, a psychological evaluation, and a comprehensive medical exam.



Corrections Deputy Brown and Patrol Deputy Robinson
at the Whatcom Community College Career Fair, December 2019

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DEM)

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, through its Division of Emergency Management (DEM), is responsible for providing emergency management services for all of unincorporated Whatcom County and for the cities of Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Nooksack, Sumas, and the Port of Bellingham. The City of Bellingham Fire Department, through its Office of Emergency Management, provides emergency management services within the city limits of Bellingham.

2019 DEM ACTIVITIES

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVATIONS

Incident #19-0410, Severe Winter Weather

February 11-22, 2019: Maintained countywide situational awareness, coordinated volunteers and staff for daytime and overnight shelters and warming centers, and activated volunteer mobilization center unit to register temporary emergency workers.

Incident #19-4006, Michael Knapp Memorial for Line of Duty Death

November 13-December 5, 2019: Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Support, Incident Management Team, coordinated volunteer support

FEMA PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION

FEMA DR-4418-WA: Washington Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides, Tornado

Incident Period: December 10-24, 2018

Declaration Date: March 4, 2019

While the incident occurred in December 2018, the documentation and successful application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declaration and public assistance funding was a heavy lift in January, 2019.

PLANS

Mount Baker Emergency Action Plan Completed

Whatcom County Tsunami Action Plan

TRAININGS, COORDINATED

February: Mount Baker/Glacier Peak PIO Training; coordinated with United States Geological Survey (USGS)-Cascade Volcano Observatory; 16 participants

March: G-427 CERT Program Manager; FEMA course coordinated with WA-Emergency Management Division (EMD); 16 participants

March: G-428 CERT Train-the-Trainer; FEMA course coordinated with WA-EMD; 17 participants

April: AWR-147 Rail Car Incident Response; FEMA course coordinated with WA-EMD; 32 participants

August: L-146 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP); FEMA course coordinated with WA-EMD

October: Railroad Emergency Response and Hazardous Materials Awareness Training, coordinated with BNSF Railway

November: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Training for OEM/DEM Staff & Duty Officers; six participants



Deputy Turner, Deputy Roosma and Deputy Oswalt in WCSO's rescue vehicle assisting with evacuations and surveying damage

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DEM)

2019 DEM ACTIVITIES (cont)

EXERCISES, COORDINATED

January: Moccasin Otter Landslide: full-scale exercise for search and rescue, Jones Creek

March: Black Squirrel: Lake Louise Dam Failure, Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District

April ShakeOut (earthquake)

October: Grey Fox - Cross-Border Train Derailment - full-scale exercise

October ShakeOut; damage assessment teams; 29 CERT participants

Ferndale School District exercises

PARTICIPATED IN OTHER AGENCY EXERCISES

January: king tide storm emergency response table-top exercise, Blaine Public Works

March: Whatcom County mass fatality planning workshop and table-top exercise, Whatcom County Health Department

March: tsunami response workshop, WA-EMD, Camp Murray

March: border closure table-top exercise, Whatcom Council of Governments, Peace Arch Park Port of Entry

March: volunteer mobilization center volcano response table-top exercise, Volunteer Mobilization Center

March: Washington State amateur radio exercise, WA-EMD, Camp Murray (remote participation)

April: special events team training. ACU-1000 X-Band OSCAR/Rac-2 and UAVs. (ACS and CERT also supported)

July: WSDOT salt shaker table-top exercise, 30 participants

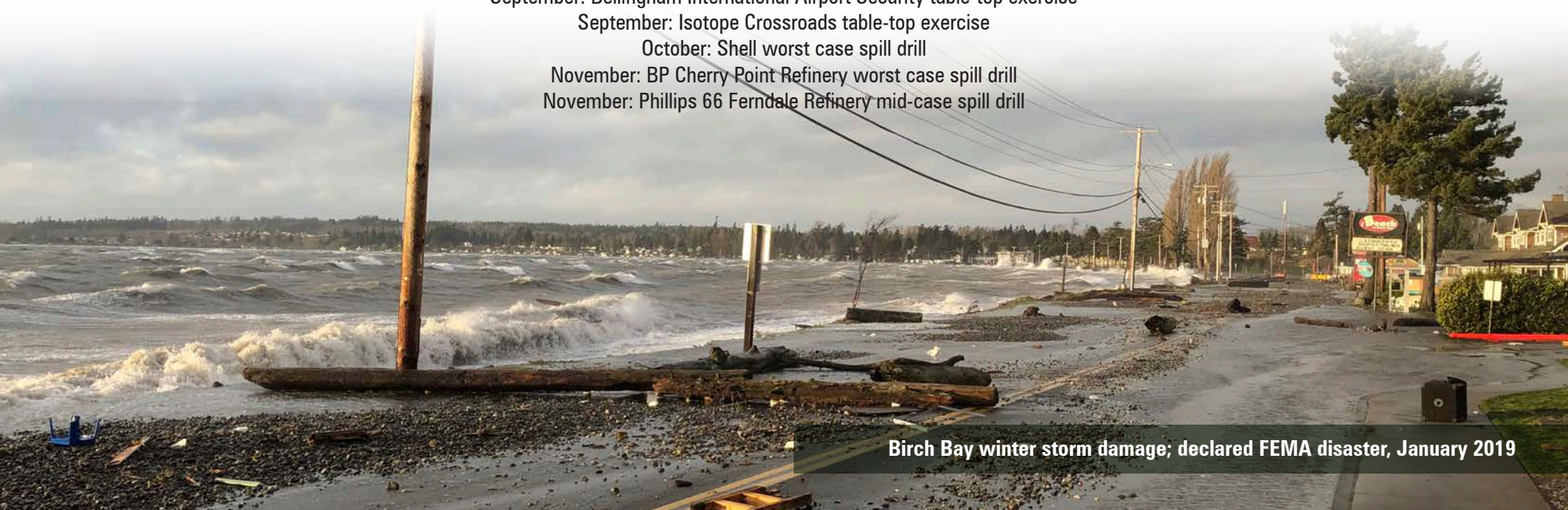
September: Bellingham International Airport Security table-top exercise

September: Isotope Crossroads table-top exercise

October: Shell worst case spill drill

November: BP Cherry Point Refinery worst case spill drill

November: Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery mid-case spill drill



Birch Bay winter storm damage; declared FEMA disaster, January 2019

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DEM)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities, put out small fires, treat the three killers (blocked airways, bleeding, and shock), provide basic medical aid, search for and rescue victims safely, and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

In 2019 Whatcom CERT celebrated twenty years of service to Whatcom County!

In 2019 CERT volunteers logged hundreds of hours in continuing education, attending courses in:

Role of the Scribe

ICS-100, 200, and 700

Chaplain Certification Training

Bellingham Neighbors Together

Impromptu Shelters

CERT Traffic and Crowd Management

CERT Mapping and Marking

CPR-AED

CERT Moulage and Role Player Training

Stop the Bleed

Domestic Animals and Livestock in Disasters

Amateur radio training and exam prep

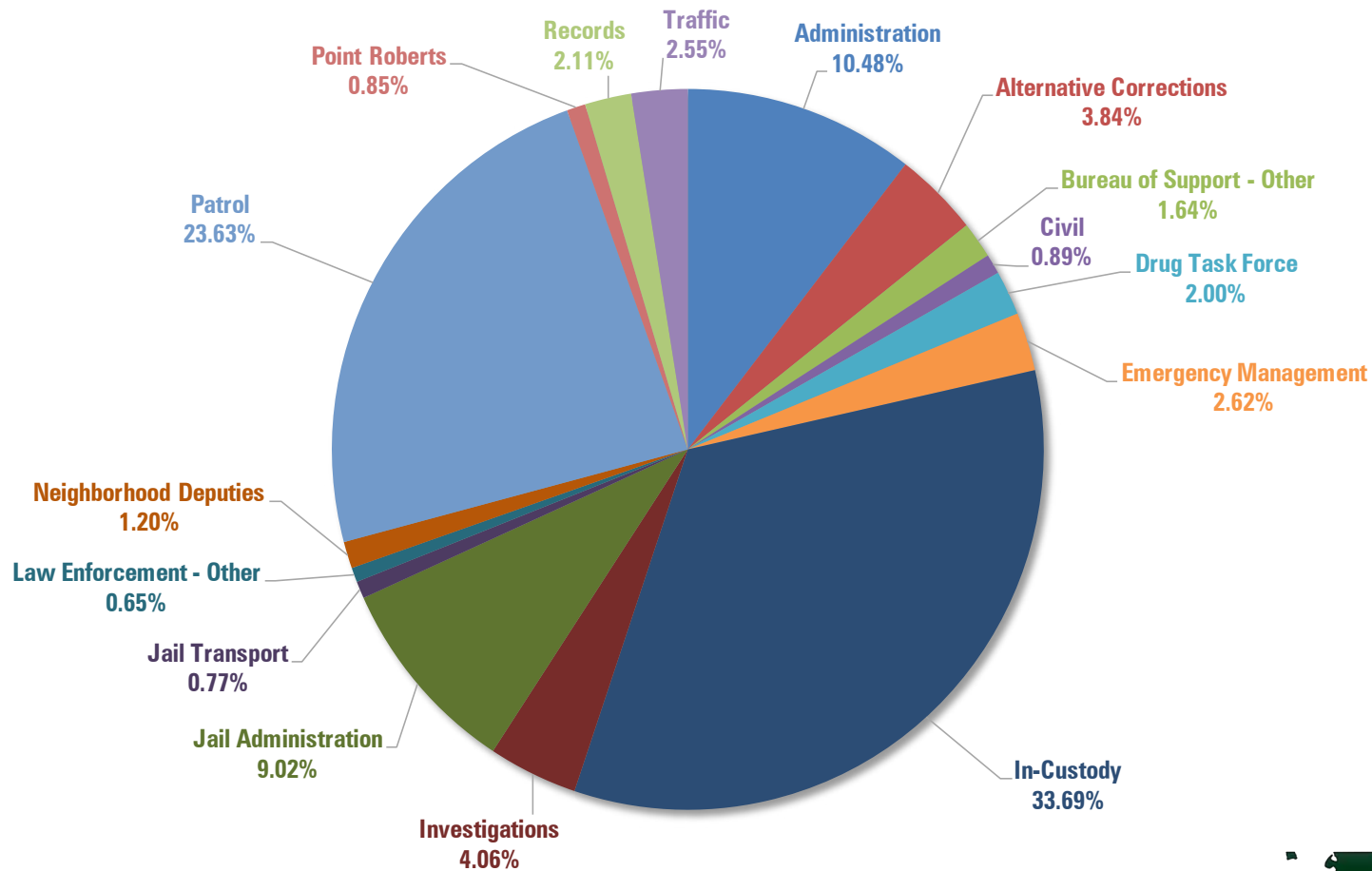


- In March, CERT instructors Greg Hope and Randi Sanders gave presentation at Citizen Corps Leadership Summit and Training Day, Pierce College/Fort Steilacoom delivering CERT Basic Training in Spanish.
- In April, CERT supported crowd control training for WCSO deputies and Washington State Patrol officers on the BNSF tracks in Blaine.
- In April and October, CERT participated in the semi-annual ShakeOut exercises in Bellingham, Point Roberts, Ferndale, North Whatcom, and Chuckanut Bay.
- CERT volunteers returned to Whatcom Community College in July to deliver a mini-response demonstration for an audience of high school students considering careers in healthcare and emergency response during the Scrubs Camp event.
- In October, CERT supported the Grey fox exercise, providing moulage and role players for PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical center.
- In October, CERT supported the WWU Earthquake Evacuation exercise.
- In November, Whatcom CERT supported the memorial service for Chief Michael Knapp, providing traffic management and security for emergency apparatus. It was a poignant opportunity to demonstrate to the family of Mr. Knapp, Lynden Police Department, and the community that Whatcom CERT is here for incidents of all kinds.

2019 BUDGET

Total Sheriff's Operations (including jail and emergency management) is 16.44% of the County's total budget. The WCSO also receives limited State and Federal funding to support programs such as sex offender registration/tracking, boating, international border, forest area and DUI patrols. Total law and justice expenditures (criminal and civil courts, probation, prosecution, public defense and similar programs, and WCSO) represent 57% of the County's general fund budget.

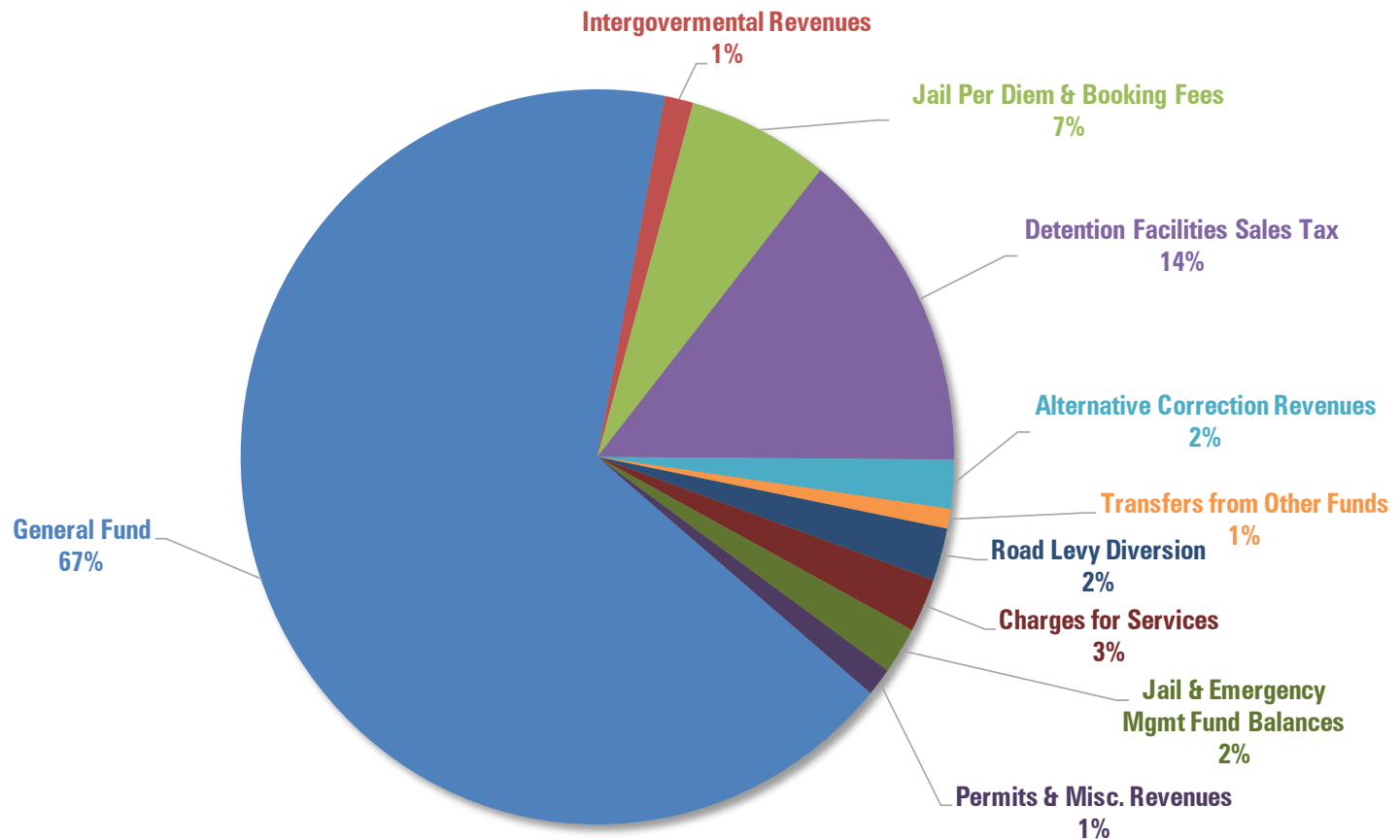
2019 SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET BY PROGRAM*



*Whatcom County Executive's 2019-2020 Budget Volume 2⁵

2019 BUDGET

2019 SHERIFF'S OFFICE FUNDING SOURCES*



*Whatcom County Executive's 2019-2020 Budget Volume 2⁵

ENDNOTES

- 1 <http://whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/37672/Executives-2019-2020-Budget---Vol-1>
- 2 <https://youtu.be/YuBB18Ptfql>
- 3 <https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/crime%20in%20washington%202019-small.pdf>
- 4 <https://whatcomcounty.us/CrimeStats>
- 5 <http://whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/37673/Executives-2019-2020-Budget---Vol-2>



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, March 1960