

MANITOWOC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Daniel Hartwig

MANITOWOC COUNTY SHERIFF

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHERIFF



To the Citizens and County Board of Manitowoc County,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you our annual sheriff's report, detailing our collective efforts and accomplishments in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. At the heart of our mission lies our steadfast commitment, encapsulated in our motto: "In partnership with the community, dedicated to your safety."

Over the past year, we have witnessed remarkable strides in advancing our capabilities and enhancing public safety. I am delighted to announce the successful implementation and utilization of our drone program, marking a significant milestone in our operations. With over 50 missions undertaken, ranging from locating lost children to aiding in criminal apprehension, our drones have proven to be invaluable assets in our pursuit of ensuring the security of our neighborhoods and residents.



In October, we welcomed a new addition to our law enforcement family: K9 Knox. With his exceptional skills and unwavering dedication, Knox has quickly become an integral part of our office, further bolstering our ability to respond effectively to various challenges and threats within our jurisdiction.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I am reminded of the profound impact that can be achieved through collaboration, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. Together, as partners in safeguarding our neighborhoods and promoting a culture of safety, we can overcome any obstacle and realize our collective vision for a safer, more resilient community.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every member of our community for your unwavering support, trust, and cooperation. It is through our continued partnership and shared commitment that we can pave the way for a brighter and safer future for our community.

Sincerely,



Dan Hartwig
MANITOWOC COUNTY SHERIFF

COMMAND STAFF



Brian Nack

Chief Deputy

briannack@manitowoccountywi.gov



Jason Orth

Major - Operations

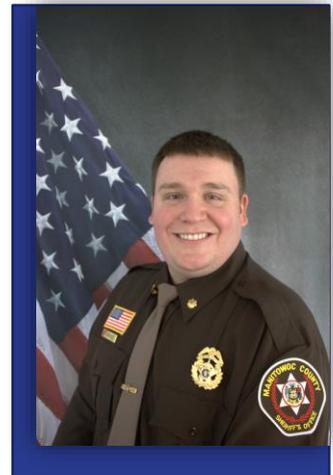
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Todd Cummings

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Mission Statement



Our MISSION

To work in partnership with the community to provide public safety while respecting and protecting their constitutional rights.

In furtherance of this mission, we are committed to our employees and the following values, which are represented by the law enforcement star we wear while serving the citizens of Manitowoc County with P.R.I.D.E.

2023 Awards



Wisconsin Hometown Hero Award

Lieutenant Travis Aleff was recognized and awarded the First Responder of the Year for the 25th Assembly District on October 17, 2023, during the WI Assembly Ceremony in Madison.

Travis Aleff has been employed with Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff for the past nine years working in our patrol division. Travis was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant in 2020 and was instrumental in creating our new drone program in the summer of 2022.

In 2021, Travis created a community outreach program for the Sheriff's Office called "Cops and Bobbers." This program is designed to connect children from difficult family situations and provide them with a positive experience with a law enforcement officer through fishing. Travis also volunteers at his church, serving as security team leader, welcome team, grade school teacher, and "Wise N Up" small group leader.



Merit Award

On February 5, 2023, at 0109hrs, Deputy Dakota Gamez conducted a traffic stop on I-43. The vehicle had heavy damage as if it was involved in a recent crash. Deputy Gamez detected the odor of marijuana exiting the vehicle during his initial contact. During a probable cause search of the vehicle a large amount of checks were located that did not belong to either of the occupants totaling 61 checks worth \$120,000.

A WI Crime Alert had been previously sent out regarding theft of checks throughout WI totaling over \$500,000.



Gallantry Award

On March 29, 2023 at 1511hrs, while conducting unrelated follow-up in the nearby area, Detectives Bret Oswald and Nate Steber overheard a medical request for assistance at Rockwell Lime. The call was in reference to a 56-year-old man who had fallen unconscious and reported not breathing while on a catwalk that was 40ft off the ground.

Both Detectives quickly responded to assist. Without thinking twice, they quickly climbed the tower leading up to the catwalk to assist the patient. They located a man lying on the narrow catwalk that only had cables for railings. This individual could have easily rolled off if immediate assistance was not provided. Bret and Nate administered care, communicated with dispatch and assisted first responders and fire rescue crews with safely removing the man via a rescue long board and ladder truck.



Operations – *Patrol Unit*



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit is responsible for enforcing and upholding both State and local laws, handling calls for service, assisting citizens/ motorists, criminal investigation, accident investigation, security checks, traffic enforcement and interacting with the community through many different positive events and engagements.

The Patrol Unit is currently comprised of the following;

- ✦ **3 - Lead Shift Lieutenants**
- ✦ **6 - Lieutenants**
- ✦ **25 - Patrol Deputies**
- ✦ **2 - K9 Deputies (Rocky and Knox)**

The patrol unit currently works three eight-hour shifts. Each shift is comprised of a Lead Lieutenant (oversees their shift) and two additional Lieutenants who report to the Lead. The entire unit is included under the Operations Division which is led by Major Jason Orth.

Manitowoc County has a total area of 1,494 square miles of which 589 square miles is land that our deputies routinely patrol. The Sheriff's Office has primary jurisdiction for all unincorporated towns, six of the villages, and all inland lakes within Manitowoc County including Lake Michigan and its shoreline.

Deputies are the initial response to most incidents within Manitowoc County which can be anywhere from citizen assist requests to major emergency situations. Besides their normal responsibilities, many of the deputies are also involved in additional agency specialties and as trainers which assist the Sheriff's Office in being able to provide quality services to the community.



Traffic Enforcement Totals



2023 Patrol Deputy Enforcement Efforts



Year	Traffic Citations	Warnings (Written)	Ordinance Citations	OWI Arrests	DNR Citations
2022	2238	2,904	149	190	34
2023	2548	2988	189	256	37



2023 Enforcement Efforts Comparison of Previous Years



Year	Traffic & Ordinance Citations	OWI Arrests
2018	2,709	171
2019	2,845	186
2020	2,540	181
2021	2,679	171
2022	2,387	190
2023	3177	256

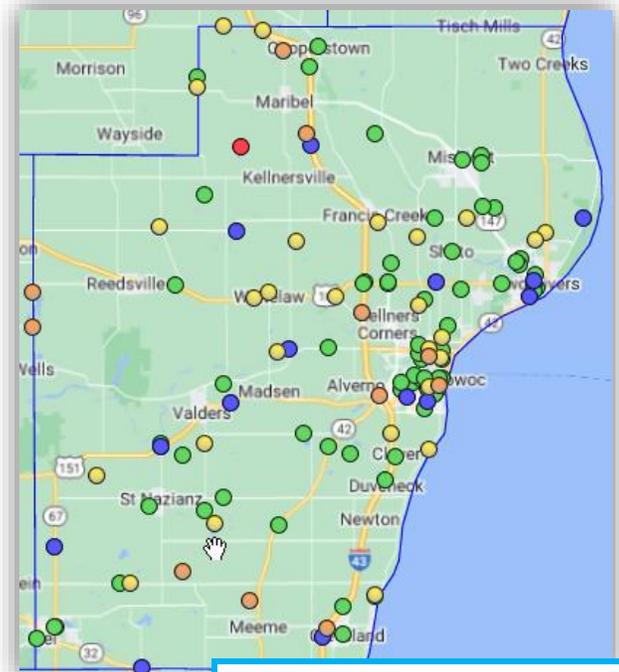
Operations – Patrol Unit Crash Investigation



2023 Manitowoc County Vehicle Crash Demographics

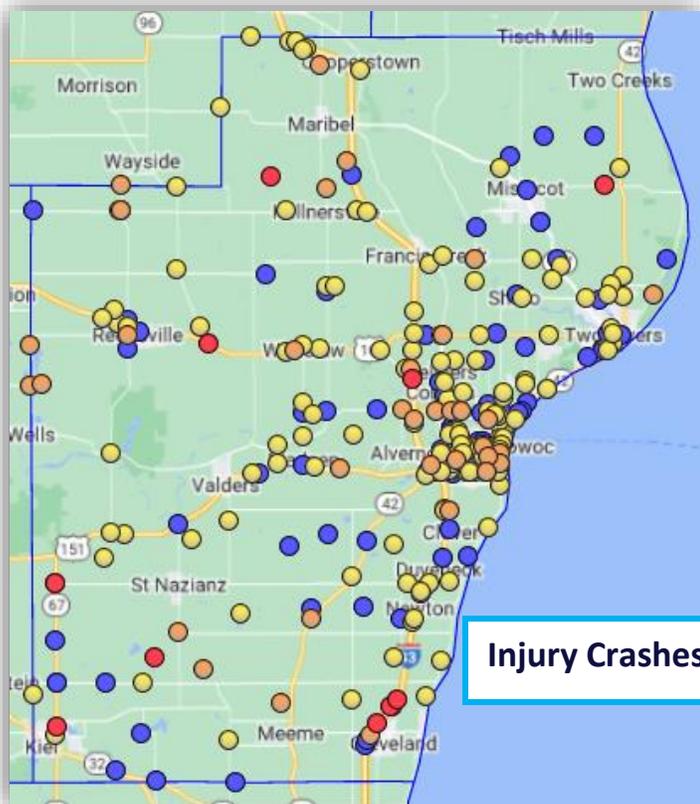
	Car v. Deer	Property Damage	Injury	Fatal*
2022	565	440	149	11
2023	559	320	159	10

*Includes all jurisdictions within Manitowoc County



Impaired Driver Related

- Fatality
- Injury (A)
- Injury (B)
- Injury (C)
- Property Damage



Injury Crashes

2023 Crash Investigations Comparison of Previous Years

	Crashes	Fatal Crashes*
2018	1,377	9
2019	1,470	15
2020	1,153	9
2021	1,237	10
2022	1,165	11
2023	1,164	10

2023 Crime Statistics

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office



Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office 2023 Crime Counts by Incident

Crime Category	Offenses	Victims	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests	Total Arrests
Total	752	775	369	21	390
Crimes Against Persons	99	99	56	8	64
Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	7	7	1	4	5
Sex Offenses - No forcible	1	1	0	0	0
Assault Offenses	90	90	54	4	58
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking	1	1	1	0	1
Crimes Against Property	240	263	42	5	47
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	13	14	7	0	7
Theft/Larceny	74	81	9	3	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	9	2	0	4
Stolen Property Offenses	6	9	5	0	5
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	11	12	1	0	1
Fraud Offenses	66	72	4	0	4
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	6	6	0	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0
Destruction/Vandalism	56	60	14	2	16
Crimes Against Society	413	413	271	8	279
Weapons Law Violations	29	29	10	1	11
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	376	376	251	7	258
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
Pornography	6	6	6	0	6
Animal Cruelty	2	2	4	0	4

Crime Statistics Comparisons

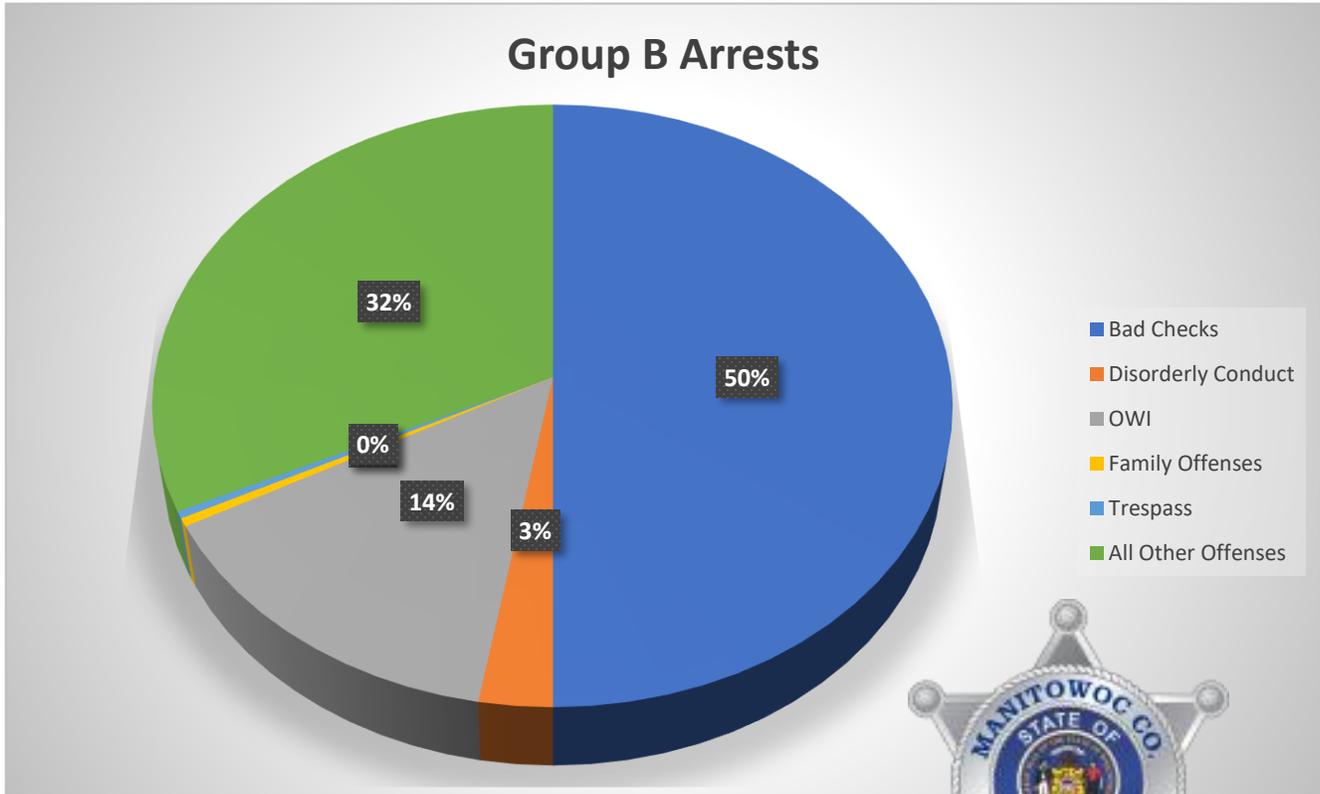
2020 – 2023 (Group A Offenses)



Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office				
Crime Statistic Comparison - January 2020 - December 2023				
Group A Offense	2020	2021	2022	2023
Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	1	1	0	0
Rape	2	4	0	2
Sodomy	0	1	1	0
Fondling	8	10	1	5
Incest	0	0	2	0
Statutory Rape	3	1	1	1
Aggravated Assault	24	28	19	22
Simple Assault	85	85	74	60
Intimidation	6	5	17	8
Kidnapping	1	1	1	0
Human Trafficking Commercial Sex Acts				1
Human Trafficking Involuntary				0
Robbery	1	1	1	0
Burglary	32	29	29	13
Theft - All	93	64	81	87
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	8	6	8
Stolen Property Offenses	9	8	5	6
Counterfeiting/Forgery	6	8	4	11
Fraud - False Pretenses	40	32	33	45
Fraud - Credit Card/ATM	0	2	0	0
Fraud - Impersonation	7	2	5	0
Fraud - Identity Theft	42	36	33	21
Embezzlement	2	2	0	0
Bribery	9	4	4	0
Destruction/Vandalism	74	52	52	56
Weapon Law Violations	22	24	17	29
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Drug/Narcotics Violations	171	264	196	221
Drug Equipment Violations	115	178	118	155
Pornography	11	4	7	6
Animal Cruelty	2	0	1	2

Group B Offenses Summary

2023



2023 Group "B" Offenses	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Total Arrests	667	15	682
Bad Checks	0	0	0
Curfew / Loitering / Vagrancy	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	29	8	37
Driving Under the Influence	194	2	196
Family Offenses Nonviolent	6	0	6
Liquor Law Violation	0	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	5	0	5
All Other Offenses	433	5	438

Operations – *Investigation Unit*



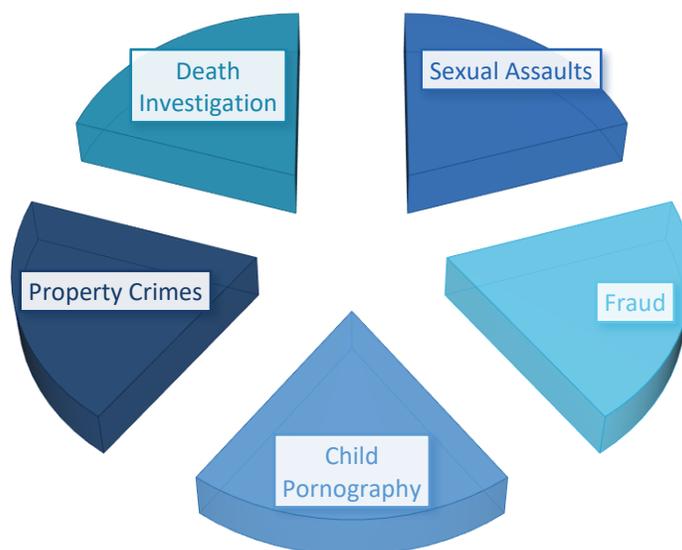
The Investigation Unit is comprised of the Detective and Metro Units which both fall underneath the Operations Division and are overseen by the Major of Operations.

The Detective Unit is comprised of a Lieutenant of Detectives who currently oversees five detectives and the Criminal Support Specialist. The members within this unit are all cross-trained investigators who each also specialize in certain areas of expertise.

During 2023, there were several changes within the Detective Unit, which included two newly assigned detectives (Brittney Schweigl and Matt Peronto) and a new Lieutenant of Detectives (Bret Oswald). Members of the Detective Unit receive specialized training in order to improve case applicable skills and knowledge to prepare them for future investigations. Detectives received specialized training in disciplines such as human trafficking, mental health and wellness, homicide and suspicious death, and fire investigations.



2023'S MOST INVESTIGATED CRIMES



Criminal Support Specialist



CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS

The role of the Criminal Support Specialist (CSS) at the MTSO is to work in the evidence room on intake, purging and organization of evidence. The CSS also analyzes evidence for fingerprints or DNA, completes background checks for firearm returns, sends evidence to the WI State Crime Lab, testify in court and assists the Detective Unit/Metro Drug Unit on scenes or search warrants as an evidence tech.

Throughout the last year as CSS, she has taken on tasks such as dispositions of firearms and older cases, attending trainings and forensics related events, had opportunities to work with other agencies as an Evidence Technician and has worked to create the evidence room to be a more efficient work space. In total, 79 firearms were removed from the evidence room and either destroyed or returned.

She attended the WAI Conference learning about topics such as firearms disqualifiers, evidence submission guidelines, cellphone technology advances, human identification using forensic anthropology, different powders for fingerprint processing, leucocrystal-violet (LCV) for bloodstain impressions, NIBIN, ghost guns, investigative genealogy. She also took an Alternate Light source & Injury Photography class. She attended the 2nd annual National Forensic Science Week event, showcasing to the public what members in the forensic field do and is hoping to host it this year in Manitowoc. To make the evidence room a more orderly area, she continues to organize and purge evidence. She has created an Evidence Guidebook that acts as a reference to handle and package various types of evidence. An old cleaning closet was transformed to be an evidence drying room to provide a larger and more sanitary place to allow evidence to dry.



Operations – *Metro Drug Unit*



The Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit continues to identify and investigate mid to upper level narcotic distribution in Manitowoc County, along with identifying drug source of supply's outside of Manitowoc County. Challenges continue with Methamphetamine and Fentanyl as the most significant health and safety threat locally.



In 2023 and continuing in 2024, The Metro Drug Unit is supported by full-time personnel from Manitowoc County Sheriff, Manitowoc Police and Two Rivers Police Department. Additional resources are utilized from member agencies with investigative staff that have prior Drug Task Force (DTF) experience. Additional resources and personnel are assisted by a commitment from the Sheriff's Office to enter into cooperative agreements with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S Marshal Service – Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force. This allows local DTF investigators and investigations the ability to receive partial funding, equipment and investigative resources to assist with operations.

Member agencies continue to recognize the importance of a Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force to focus on local and regional drug trafficking that affects the overall health and safety of the communities they serve. DTF personnel are constantly gathering information that identifies the most significant drug threat and prioritizing time and resources toward the disruption and dismantling of those drug trafficking organizations / groups. These cases can sometimes require extensive time and resources but has proven to be effective in controlling the most significant drug source in our area.



DTF investigators continue to be requested and utilized for local drug trend presentations. Investigators have presented to numerous groups and organizations resulting in positive feedback and the ability of the public to recognize and report suspicious activity in their community. Community outreach continues to be an important role for the DTF, specifically the recovery / addiction support

services that have developed and continue to be vital services for the overall progress toward addiction recovery.

The Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit has established a great working relationship with numerous agencies including the United States Attorney's Office – Eastern District of Wisconsin, Manitowoc County District Attorney's Office, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) along with Sheboygan, Brown and Lake Winnebago MEG Drug Task Forces.

Metro Drug 2023 Seizures



2023 Manitowoc County Narcotic Seizures			
DU = Dosage Unit	2021	2022	2023
Amphetamines (gm)	1114.583	1533.011	7366
Amphetamines (DU)	23.25	221.5	8
Crack Cocaine (gm)	25.5	.27	0.68
Crack Cocaine (ml)	0	0	0
Cocaine (gm)	167.05	178.53	847
Hallucinogen-other (gm)	133.52	2876.68	940
Hallucinogen-other (DU)	180.75	46	18
Hashish (gm)	0	0	44
Hashish Oil (oz)	0	0	0
Heroin (gm)	134.32	15.72	993
LSD (DU)	7	0	0
LSD (gm)	0	0	3.54
Marijuana (gm)	5364.049	9490.269	11174
Marijuana plants	12	0	0
Marijuana (ml)	395	166	456
Morphine (DU)	0	32	0
Morphine (ml)	35	0	0
Narcotics-other (DU)	307.2	702.257	108
Narcotics-other (gm)	846.927	1041.5	546
Opium (DU)	0	0	0
Opium (gm)	0.1	0	0
Other Depressants (DU)	19	22	15
Other Drugs (gm)	1.49	545.761	11
Other Drugs (DU)	218	118.5	225
Other Stimulants (DU)	0	5	19

Drug Disposal Program			
	2021	2022	2023
Pounds Collected	2077	2,111	2,065



Metro Drug Search Warrants	2021	2022	2023
SWAT Full Team Assist	0	1	1
SWAT Partial Team Assist	0	0	0
No Assistance from SWAT	16	14	22
Total Warrants	16	15	23

Metro Drug Cases	2022	2022	2023
* Metro & Patrol	137	137	*243

K-9 Unit



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office currently has two K-9 teams, which are K-9 Knox with his handler Deputy Chris Hemauer and K-9 Rocky with his handler Deputy Jon Schwede. Both of our K-9 teams are dual purpose with patrol and narcotic capabilities.



Some of the patrol capabilities consist of tracking, building searches, area searches, and crowd control. Some of the narcotic capabilities consist of sniffs on vehicles, postal packages and assisting school personnel with locker searches. Our K-9 teams are also very involved in our community with demonstrations and public engagements.

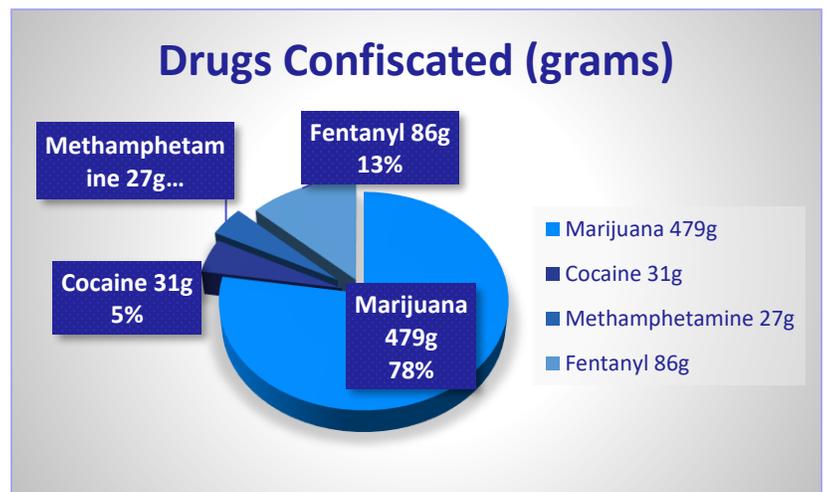


Our K-9 teams train a minimum of 16 hours per month to keep their skills refined as well as attend annual certification trainings. In 2023 K9-Leon called his final day of work on October 1st and we wish him an enjoyable retirement! K9 Knox attended K9 school and was certified this year as well.

During 2023 the K9 unit also hosted the annual Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association (WLECHA) conference. This is a working/training conference where different sites are set up for over 200 different K9 units from all across the state. The K9 units have a chance to train in unique and challenging locations to continue improving their skills and abilities. Many teams commented on how well the training went and the positive interactions with the Manitowoc area. A BIG thank you to all the sponsors, site owners, and individuals that helped make this conference happen.



During 2023 our K-9 teams were responsible for locating and assisting in the following:



Civil Process



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Civil Process Unit is comprised of two full-time sworn process servers and one civilian support staff assistant. The process unit's duties include:

- ★ Service of civil documents
- ★ Writ of Assistance (removal)
- ★ Writ of Restitution (eviction)
- ★ Writ of Replevin (repossession)
- ★ Writ of Execution (seizing and sale of property)
- ★ Temporary Restraining Orders and Injunctions
- ★ Jury Questionnaires
- ★ Court Subpoenas
- ★ Letters and Notices
- ★ Child Support
- ★ Sheriff's Sales and Postings

A circular inset showing a "Civil Process Worksheet" form from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office. The form includes fields for "Docket No.", "Civil Process No.", "Received Date", and "Court Date". It also has sections for "Civil Paper:", "Plaintiff", "Defendant", "Person to be Served" (with sub-fields for "Address", "Race", and "Sex"), "Instructions:", and "Card Comments".

The Civil Process unit works closely with the Manitowoc County Corporation Counsel regarding civil and legal matters. They also assist with the service of legal papers from outside counties within the State of Wisconsin and other states.

2023 Civil Process	
Legal papers received for service	1,383
Writ of Assistance	6
Writ of Restitution	67
Writ of Replevin	9
Sheriff Sale Postings	42

Court Bailiff



The Manitowoc County Courthouse and personnel had the privilege of welcoming the addition of a fourth Circuit Court Branch in August 2023. Branch 4 is located on the south side of the basement and is labeled as Room B-20; being presided by Judge Anthony Lambrecht. The addition of Branch 4 resulted in the Sheriff's Office gaining a much needed third bailiff position to cover the four branches, in addition to other security enhancements to allow for better coverage of the courthouse. The basement remodeling project relocated the Child Support Office to the first floor, room 119, and the County Executive's Office to third floor, room 306.

The bailiff's respond to calls for service that include, but are not limited to: medical emergencies (medical or substance related), threats to judges or courthouse personnel, disorderly subjects, theft incidents, taking custody of individuals who are ordered to the jail, jury security, injunction hearings and potential violations, and jury trial security. Multiple high-level security jury trials were held in 2023 causing additional officers to be assigned to assure a safe atmosphere for those attending the proceedings. This includes the use of metal detecting equipment and searches of people and property.



**BRANCH IV
HONORABLE
ANTHONY A. LAMBRECHT**
Angela A.P. Linderud
Judicial Assistant
Mary Homiston
Court Reporter

Jail Division



Our Mission is to enforce the safety and security of all inmates and staff.

The Jail Division is comprised of the following Team members:

- **1 Major**
- **2 Lieutenants**
- **11 Sergeants**
- **29 Corrections Officers (3 Short)**
- **3 Full-time nurses**
- **7 Kitchen Staff**
- **32-hour contracted mental health nurse**
- **Grant funded AODA counselor**

During the course of 2023 we once again seen a fluctuation in staff as we work to maintain safe staffing levels for both the inmates and staff. Overall, we continue to see growth as new team members come aboard allowing for experienced staff the opportunity to mentor and train these individuals.

Our staffing numbers improved greatly from 2022 to 2023. In total, we were able to hire 10 new corrections officers in 2022 and 9 new corrections officers in 2023. Both Justin Dunn and Justin Schmeichel were both promoted to the position of jail sergeant in 2023.

Day in and day out our jail staff works effectively and honorable to promote a positive atmosphere based upon teamwork. This has also been apparent outside the walls of the jail with the increase in staff participation at many of our community-based events, which in the past was mainly completed by patrol deputies.

Most recently jail staff once again received a Lifesaving Award from ACH for their quick actions, preventing the loss of life of an incarcerated individual.



Last year we partnered with UW Manitowoc to start the “Making Reading Memories Program”. In total, the program has been able to connect incarcerated parents to 42 children. Jail staff continues to increase their participation in community events

Jail Division...Continued



Below is the average monthly population of the jail through 2023. The operational capacity of the facility is 199 inmates.

2023 Monthly Bookings and Average Inmate Population			
	Male	Female	Monthly Total
Jan-23	139	42	181
Feb-23	135	35	170
Mar-23	135	51	186
Apr-23	149	53	202
May-23	145	49	194
Jun-23	126	55	181
Jul-23	126	49	175
Aug-23	130	55	185
Sep-23	131	36	167
Oct-23	137	53	190
Nov-23	138	57	195
Dec-23	148	51	199
2023 Totals	1639	586	2225



Programs offered to incarcerated individuals in the Manitowoc County Jail include:

GED/HSED AODA Group EMP Program Individual Mental Health Counseling

Religious Programs Employment Counseling Making Reading Memories

Drug Court Life Skills (Coping and Parenting) Welding Work Skills

Reserve Deputy Program



The Manitowoc County Reserve Deputy Program is comprised of retired and current law enforcement officers as well as those individuals right out of college looking for future full-time employment as a law enforcement professional. Our reserve deputies provide assistance with a multitude of different functions and responsibilities for the Sheriff's Office which include:

- ★ **Prisoner Transport (Mental Health, Prison, Jail, Court Appearances)**
- ★ **Security Guard Duty**
- ★ **Community Events**
- ★ **Traffic Control**
- ★ **Scene Security**
- ★ **Summer Festivities (Picnics / Races / Parades etc. / County Fair Detail)**
- ★ **Background Investigation**
- ★ **Bailiff Duties**
- ★ **Investigation Assistance**
- ★ **Role players for training scenarios**

During 2023 the reserve deputies combined to work 5075 hours and 20 non-county special events where they are contracted by a business or organization for security.

The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office is grateful for these individuals and the important role they play in the day to day operations and success of the agency.



Food Services



The Manitowoc Sheriff's Office currently has 6 food services employees and 1 food services manager who oversees not only all incarcerated individuals' daily meals but also the highly successful Meals on Wheels Program.

During the past year we said goodbye to Theresa Pries previous food services manager who retired from this position. In January we welcomed our new manager Cindy Richard.

The jail kitchen seen some much-needed upgrades this past summer with the replacement of our Double Convection Oven and Combi Steamer Oven. We also added a new heavy-duty food processor and are appreciative of the new equipment as it helps streamline processes and save time.

In January of 2022 we were happy to announce the collaborative effort with our Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to provide "meals on wheels" to the community. Our Sheriff's Office is uniquely positioned to help fill this critical need in our community, and we are more than happy to step up to the "plate" and help those in need.

Since the adoption of this program we have prepared over 83,000 meals for the community and not to mention the 173,044 meals that were prepared for our incarcerated individuals.



Volunteers



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Program is overseen by the Major of Support and currently has nine volunteer team members.

We can't say enough for how grateful we are to have these individuals who are willing to volunteer their time assisting the agency with daily tasks. Some of their assignments include:

- ★ **Disabled Vehicle Checks**
- ★ **House Checks**
- ★ **Manitowoc TRIAD Meetings**
- ★ **Squad Maintenance Transport**
- ★ **Assist with Daily Operations**
- ★ **Local Ballot Distribution**

During 2023, these nine volunteers donated 2,083 of their personal hours in helping out the sheriff's office. These volunteer hours not only significantly help to reduce the daily workload on our staff but also saves our taxpayers money. Since conception of the program, volunteers have donated over 127,500 hours!

Thank you to each and every one of you for helping make a difference in our community and your continued dedication to the Sheriff's Office! Your daily efforts do not go unnoticed!



2023 Officer of the Year



Deputy Cory Hartman was honored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles on May 6, 2023, when he was nominated as the “2022 Eagles Officer of the Year” for his dedicated service to the community in the areas of law enforcement and crime prevention.

Yearly, officers are nominated by their peers for this award. Those recipients who are honored to be nominated for the officer of the year award have not only demonstrated an exemplary work history but also must exceed standards in the following areas:

- ✦ Appearance (how they represent the uniform)
- ✦ Overall Attitude
- ✦ Public Relation Skills
- ✦ Job Performance
- ✦ Sheriff’s Office Involvement
- ✦ Ability to work well with others

Cory Hartman began his career with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office on October 3, 2010, as a Deputy Sheriff. Throughout his career, he has excelled within the agency, becoming a well-rounded deputy, trainer, and team member.



Cory has been and continues to be involved in many different facets at the Sheriff's Office, including being a field-training officer, firearms – Pepperball – D.A.R.E. instructor, SWAT, and honor guard team member, evidence technician, and an armorer.

During Cory's 13-year career, he has routinely taken the extra step to better himself and those around him through his knowledge, experience, and willingness to be involved within our agency. His professionalism and dedication to the Manitowoc Sheriff's Office and our community demonstrate his passion for this profession.

We are honored to have Deputy Cory Hartman on our team at the Sheriff's Office and are proud to announce his recognition as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

"One of the greatest honors for me as Sheriff is recognizing the men and women who put their lives on the line daily to protect the citizens we serve. This award cannot be overemphasized because it exemplifies the very best of our team."

2023 Corrections Officer of the Year



Sergeant Amy Matthias was honored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles on May 6, 2023, when she was nominated as the “2022 Eagles Corrections Officer of the Year” for her dedicated service to the community in the area of corrections.

Yearly officers are nominated by their peers for this award. Those recipients who are honored to be nominated for the corrections officer of the year award have not only demonstrated an exemplary work history but also must exceed standards in the following areas:

- ✦ Appearance (how they represent the uniform)
- ✦ Overall Attitude
- ✦ Public Relation Skills
- ✦ Job Performance
- ✦ Sheriff's Office Involvement
- ✦ Ability to work well with others

Amy Matthias began her career with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office as a corrections officer on December 15, 1997.

Amy has had a 25-year career in corrections. During her career she has been involved in many roles within this agency, including field-training officer, trustee coordinator, photo identification manager, and background checks. Amy was a corrections officer for four years and was promoted to sergeant in 2001. In 2019, Amy took on a new role and challenge by accepting the sergeant position in charge of the Huber and (EMP) Electronic Monitoring Programs.

Amy has brought many strengths, knowledge, and experiences to the Sheriff's Office. Through her work performance, she has demonstrated proficiency in being detail orientated and organized and is willing and dedicated to achieving those goals before her. In 2022, the EMP had a 90% success rate, with 81 of the 90 applicants succeeding in this program. These numbers continue to rise each year Amy has been in charge of the program. Amy's other passion is coaching seventh and eighth-grade-girls basketball, which she has been involved with for the past nine years.

We are honored to have Sergeant Officer Amy Matthias on our team at the Sheriff's Office and are proud of this well-earned recognition as our Corrections Officer of the Year.



Snowmobile and Boat Patrol



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Boat and Snowmobile units are utilized for monitoring the trails, rivers and waterways within Manitowoc County to provide education and to uphold the State recreational laws within Wisconsin. These programs are often funded annually between 60 to 80% through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Sheriff's Office snowmobile and boat units are comprised of both full-time and reserve deputies that perform the enforcement of the State of Wisconsin's recreation laws within Manitowoc County.

Snowmobile Patrol

Manitowoc County currently has over 248 miles of snowmobile trails that are divided into six sections. Unfortunately, due to the lack of snow accumulation the snowmobile program did not have any patrol hours.



Boat Patrol

The boat patrol unit provides education and enforcement to those utilizing the waterways within Manitowoc County. These include the rivers, inland lakes as well as Lake Michigan. During 2023 the Manitowoc Sheriff's Office Boat Unit worked 315 hours.

- ✦ Written Warnings – 42
- ✦ DNR Citations – 26
- ✦ Common Violations – Registration Issues, Boater Safety Certificate and Slow No Wake violations



The primary focus of both recreational patrol units is to provide education to those utilizing the Manitowoc County waterways and trails, to ensure an enjoyable experience for all, and provide enforcement to help keep everyone safe while in a boat or on a snowmobile

Specialty Teams – **SWAT /CNT TEAM**



SWAT Team

The multi-jurisdictional SWAT team includes members from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office (lead), Manitowoc Police Department, Two Rivers Police Department, and Two Rivers Fire Department. This team is a designated unit of law enforcement officers and tactical emergency medical support (TEMS) that is specifically trained and equipped to work as a coordinated team to resolve critical incidents.



This includes, but is not limited to, hostage taking, barricaded suspects, snipers, terrorist acts and other high-risk incidents. As a matter of office policy, such a unit may also be used to serve high-risk warrants, both search and arrest, where public and officer safety issues warrant the use of such a unit.

During 2023 the team cooperated in extensive training helping prepare them for actual call-out requests. The SWAT team was requested on three separate instances during 2023 for situations involving search warrants, armed and barricaded subject.

Crisis Negotiators Team (CNT)

The CNT is a joint agency county-wide team comprised of 11 negotiators from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office, Manitowoc Police Department, Two Rivers Police Department and Mishicot Police Department.

Each team member is responsible for completing the basic negotiator training as well as bi-monthly team training. During the monthly training the team reviews past call-outs, reviewing their equipment and procedures, and work through team scenarios.

In 2023 the CNT was activated on two call-outs.

Specialty Teams – *Dive & Recovery Team*



The Dive Team performs search and recovery operations in Lake Michigan, small lakes and other bodies of water within Manitowoc County. The team consists of eight members, seven from the Sheriff's Office and one from the Manitowoc Police Department, allowing for a joint operation.

During 2023 the team trained monthly from May through October along with one ice dive in January. Training, teamwork, experience and knowledge of the equipment are important aspects that make this team successful.

The team was utilized on two separate call-outs, one of which was cancelled and the second was to recover an airplane and its deceased pilot. The recovery was successful allowing closure for the families.



Annually the team completes training to maintain certification in ice, deep, night, and search and recovery dives training on in-land lakes, ponds and Lake Michigan within Manitowoc County.



We would like to thank Lt. Mike Polich for his continued dedication as he has served on the dive team for 26 years. During this time, Mike played the role as diver, assistant and team leader. Thank you for your efforts you put forth and the knowledge you passed down over your tenure.



Specialty Teams – *Drone Team*



In July of 2022, the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office created an Unmanned Aerial System team. The purpose of the Drone Unit is search and rescue, crash reconstruction, fugitive apprehension, assisting local Fire Departments/EMS, and Manitowoc County building inspections.

The team is comprised of two joint team leaders and eight additional pilots whom have all passed testing in accordance with the FAA Part 107 guidelines.

During 2023 the team was called out 53 times for a total of 83 times within the past year-and a half. The drones have been an integral part in continued technological aspects of law enforcement allowing officers and added safety during high risk calls.

The drone was used for the following calls for service in 2023:

- * Shots Fired Call
- * Vehicle Crashes (Fatal / Hit and Run / Injury)
- * Attempt to locate individuals
- * Structure Fires
- * Suicidal Subject (Officer Safety)
- * Swat Call Out
- * Animal at large
- * Armed Robbery
- * Stalking
- * Park Check
- * Juvenile Runaway
- * Trespassing
- * Check Welfare
- * Vehicle Pursuit
- * Warrant Arrest

Initial training for the team included a 40 hour video to prepare for the Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Test to become FAA UAS certified pilots. Pilots continue advanced training with the equipment on a regular basis.



Mobile Field Force



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Mobile Field force is a newly formed team of sworn officers trained to deal with civil disturbances. Currently assigned to the team is 3 patrol Lieutenants, 1 jail Sergeant, 1 Detective, and 5 Deputies. The majority of this team has FEMA Certification in Field Force Operations, with one of the Team leaders holding FEMA instructor certification. These officers are also equipped with uniforms and gear to assist them in dealing with unruly crowds.

The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office MFF trains quarterly and occasionally with outside agencies to stay up to date with current procedures and practices. The MFF works with the Wisconsin Emergency Management to respond to mutual aid requests from around the state. There were no responses by the MFF during 2023. The MFF team trained for a total of 32 hours in 2023.



Specialty Teams – *Honor Guard*



The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard was formed by six agency members in 2012. Since then the team has continued to progress not only with their knowledge and experience, but also with the uniform that was hand selected by all original team members. Currently the Honor Guard Team consists of seven members which include four patrol deputies, one detective, one jail sergeant and one patrol lieutenant.

In 2023, the Honor Guard Team responded to a total of nine team call-outs, all of which were partial team call-outs. The team trained for a total of 6 hours, primarily prior to each event to include, casket movements, flag folding, flag presentation and the annual sunrise guard mount.

Two members of the team were able to attend Police Week in Washington D.C. allowing them to proudly represent Manitowoc County in the process. Some of their responsibilities included;

- ★ Officers worked closely with other WI Honor Guard Association Member agencies and other agencies from around the nation to assist the NLEOMF, COPS, FOP organizations with ceremonial duties.
- ★ All functions were in full Honor Guard uniform and included: greeting and escorting surviving families and agencies of fallen officers at Reagan National Airport, Cordon of Honor and escorting Survivor families and agencies for the Candlelight Vigil, and provide a Cordon of Honor for Survivor families and agencies as well as VIPs for the Nation Police Officer's Memorial Ceremony on May 15th.



Training Unit – *Field Training Program*



The patrol and jail training programs are designed to give new team members the proper training, resources, knowledge and experiences for solo job functions. This process lays down a strong foundation for the individual to build upon for the rest of their career.

Within this past year we also incorporated a mentorship program utilizing our peer support members. Every new trainee is not only assigned a trainer but also a mentor for their upcoming year and beyond.

Field Training was an ongoing process during 2023 in the Jail Division. We hired a total of 9 corrections officers, all of which have successfully completed the training process.



Upon completion of our in-house training program, officers are required by the State of WI to complete a 5-week full time jail certification school. In 2023 we had a total of 7 officers successfully complete this schooling at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton.

As far as training goes, 2023 was a fairly quiet year for the patrol field training unit. There was only one deputy that had gone through the field training program in which he successfully passed. We did have the opportunity to utilize deputies that have shown interest in becoming trainers to fill in on days to better prepare themselves for that future role.

Our Training Unit goal for 2024 is to implement our in-house Field Trainer Instructor Program to better prepare newly appointed trainers in both the patrol and jail setting. This will hopefully increase the efficiency and consistency within the program. As there will most likely be movement coming within the department (retirements, promotions, etc) we will be looking at gauging interest and preparing more deputies to become trainers in the future.



Training Program



The Professional Standards Lieutenant position addition in 2022 has opened up the door to establish a training program that is more encompassing, allowing for team members the ability to gain their 24 hours of annual certification training through our agency, attending our training courses, with our trainers. We continue to develop enhance this training experience

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office trainers put on the following in-service training sessions for its members:

Jail

- ✦ In-service #1 - Fire Evacuation / Suicide Prevention / Medical Review (12 hrs)
- ✦ In-service #2 – Defensive Tactics / Taser / Daily Operations Review (12 hrs)
- ✦ Other – Gas Mask Fitting / Evidence Collection / Metro Drug Review

Patrol

- ✦ Tactical Emergency Combat Care – Tourniquets / Wound Packing / Airway / Chest Seals
- ✦ In-service #1 – Defensive Tactics Review (8hrs)
- ✦ In-service #2 – Firearms (8 hrs)
- ✦ In-service #3 – Firearms / Taser Review (8 hrs)
- ✦ In-service #4 – High Risk Vehicle Contacts / 40mm Less Lethal Launcher (8 hrs)
- ✦ In-service #5 - Firearms (2 hrs)

Not only have we provided our team members with in-house training but continue to look for ways to enhance our training program by sending individuals to outside specialty trainings. This allows for growth, expertise and knowledge which can be brought back to the rest of the agency.

We look at ways to advance our knowledge and experience through training that encompasses scenarios with the goal of being prepared for real life situations.



Retirements



On January 4, and October 13, 2023 we said goodbye to two friends as they transitioned into retirement.

In January, Theresa Pries retired from the position of Jail Food Service Manager after 7+ years of dedicated service to the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office!

During this time, she did an outstanding job overseeing and leading the jail kitchen staff. Theresa was also instrumental initiating and growing our "meals on wheels" program with the Manitowoc Aging Disability Resource Center.

Theresa was presented a retirement plaque from Sheriff Dan Hartwig as colleagues joined in congratulating Theresa on her last day.



Theresa Pries
7 years of service

In October, Chris Bessler retired from the position of Detective where she has been a valuable resource in the Sheriff's Office investigative unit since 2009.

Chris earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Oshkosh (Criminal Justice) and soon after began her career with the Manitowoc Sheriff's Office on August of 1993 as a full time Corrections Officer. In October of 1995 she was promoted to patrol deputy where she worked both 1st and 2nd shifts. In March of 2009, Chris was promoted to her current position of detective where she handled a wide variety of cases with a primary focus on sensitive crimes.

Some of Chris' accomplishments include; Officer of the Year (2014), completing many specialized trainings and certifications, Evidence technician, Peer Support and Wellness Team Member, Chaplain board member, Field trainer, Mentor, involvement with the community and always looking out for the best in people.



We wish Theresa and Chris good health and an enjoyable retirement as they open up a new chapter in their lives. Congratulations from your family at the Sheriff's Office on a job well done!

Community Involvement



Sheriff's Office in the Community

- D.A.R.E
- Shop with a Cop
- Trunk or Treat
- National Night Out
- Parades
- LE Memorial
- Cops & Bobbers
- Touch the Trucks
- Puppy Classes
- Lights of Christmas
- Community Helpers
- Tours





P.R.I.D.E

PROFESSIONALISM – RESPECT – INTIGRITY – DEDICATION - EXCELLENCE