

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Mark Lillywhite, Sheriff

Jason Bingaman, Undersheriff

Kitty Buchner, Captain

TJ Baker, Captain

Erin Goff, Emergency Management

Hannah Frye, Administrative Assistant

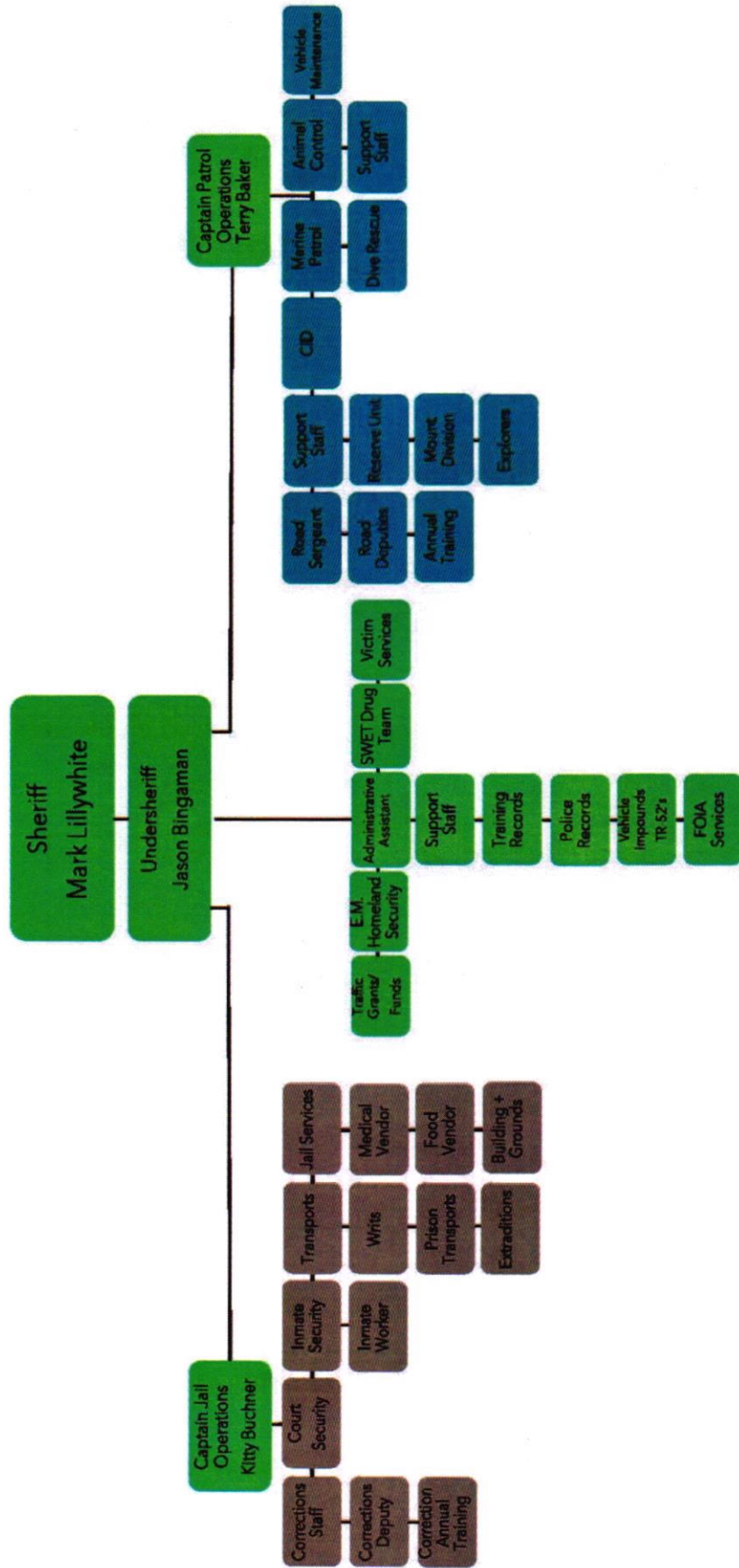


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Captain TJ Baker, Captain of Operations

Crimes Statistics

Marine Patrol

Victim Services

Animal Shelter Annual Report

Hannah Frye, Administrative Assistant

Staff (duties and statistics)

Financial Statistics

Captain Kitty Buchner, Jail Administrator

Population

Kitchen

Medical

CIT Jail Division

Administration

Retirements

Employee of the Year

Erin Goff, Director of Emergency Services

St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office Operations & Volunteer Units

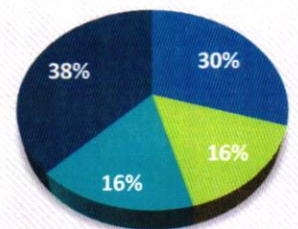


2023 CRIME STATISTICS

St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office

Complaints	2023	2022	2021	2020
<u>Non-Criminal Complaints</u>				
Missing Person	32	30	18	21
General Assist	526	557	552	517
Natural Death	53	56	56	16
Suicidal Calls	111	150	115	111
Civil	393	325	359	293
<u>Part 1: Crimes Against Persons</u>				
Assault: Aggravated/Felonious	231	193	213	192
Assault: Non-Aggravated/Domestic/Simple	274	279	164	136
Intimidation/Stalking	4	6	4	7
Sexual Assault	77	90	53	47
Kidnapping	2	2	1	1
Homicide	1	0	1	2
Robbery	2	3	4	7
<u>Part 2: Crimes Against Property</u>				
Motor Vehicle Theft	52	83	84	65
Embezzlement	0	3	1	6
Extortion	2	1	1	0
Larceny	186	195	216	195
Forgery	3	5	6	6
Arson	1	6	7	2
MDOP	107	129	110	104
B&E	147	136	119	152
<u>Miscellaneous Criminal Offenses</u>				
Disorderly Conduct	417	415	437	428
Health and Safety	481	507	280	183
Obstruct Justice	172	225	226	204
Retail Fraud	19	21	17	9
Drug Crimes	173	141	183	133
Weapons	118	92	79	88
Juvenile	139	116	84	59
Non-Criminal Crime	1115	1118	1100	958
Part 1: Crimes Against Person	591	573	440	392
Part 2: Crimes Against Property	615	558	629	611
Miscellaneous Criminal Offense	1402	1517	1306	1104
TOTAL INCIDENTS	13,391	13,048	13,296	11,779

Crimes 2023



- Non-Criminal Crimes
- Part 1: Crimes Against Person
- Part 2: Crimes Against Property
- Miscellaneous Criminal Offense

2023 TRAFFIC STATISTICS SHERIFF'S OFFICE

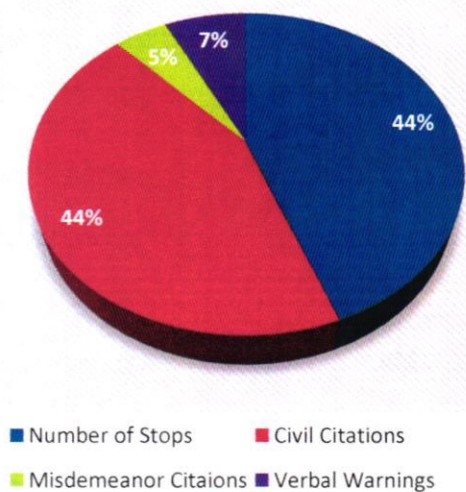
Traffic/416 Cars

Incident	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number of Stops	1153	516	1015	755
Civil Citations	1138	532	793	606
Misdemeanor Citations	123	43	49	108
Verbal Warnings	192	161	211	161

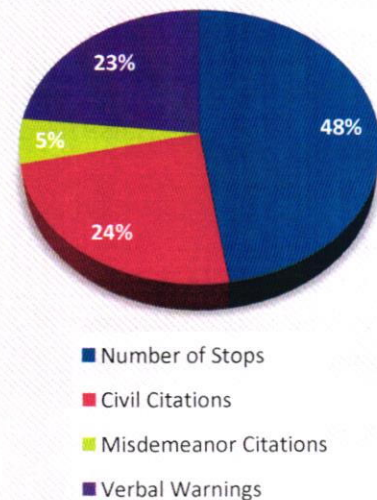
General County

Incident	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number of Stops	2402	3134	3483	2028
Civil Citations	1203	1068	1266	882
Misdemeanor Citations	266	228	237	422
Verbal Warnings	1172	1841	1933	969

**Traffic/416 Cars
2023**



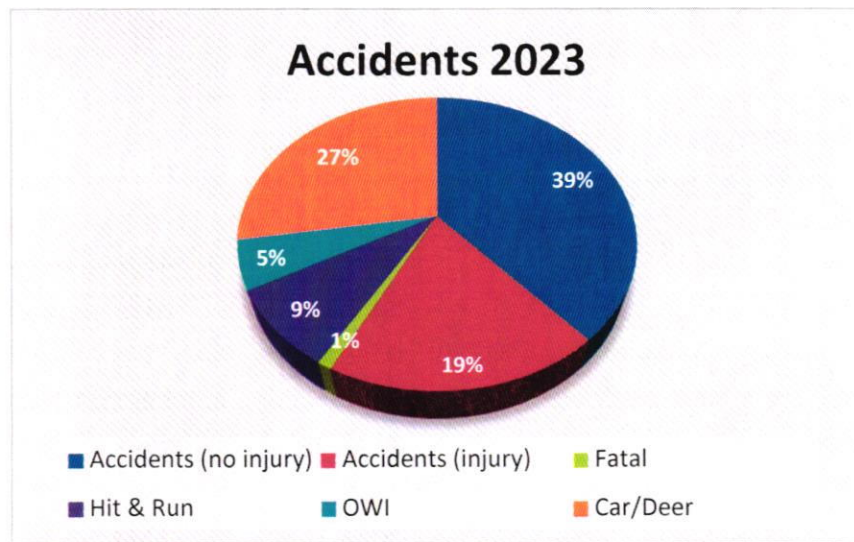
**General County
2023**



2023 TRAFFIC STATISTICS ACCIDENTS SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF

INCIDENTS	2023	2022	2021	2020
Accidents (no injury)	343	429	339	308
Accidents (injury)	168	237	160	115
Fatal	9	7	4	8
Hit & Run	77	69	62	64
OWI	48	56	55	58
Car/Deer	245	244	478	399
TOTAL	890	988	1,098	952



2023 MARINE PATROL

HOURS PATROLLED

Lakes Patrolled	2023	2022
Cade	22.42	5.5
Clear	78.92	61
Corey	162	152
Fish	0	34
Fisher	49.5	72
Kaiser	0	0
Klinger	120.39	85.5
Long (Fabius)	66.50	76
Long (Colon)	32.25	57
Noah	7	1.5
Omena	67.50	35
Palmer	73.92	85
Pleasant	96	67
Portage	73.53	71
Praire	32.50	0
Sand	41.65	14.5
Sturgeon	39	42.5
Templene	88.25	31.5
Thompson	0	18
Rivers	27	134
TOTAL HOURS	1117.25	1043

Activity (hours)	2023	2022
Accidents	4	6
Classes	0	8
Training	80	0
Public Meetings	12	12
Regatta Patrol	20	7
Equipment Maintenance	6	4
Livery	10	4.5
TOTAL HOURS	132	41.5
TOTAL MARINE HOURS	1249.25	1084.5

There is a total of 20 patrolled bodies of water in St. Joseph County.

**2023 MARINE PATROL
CITATIONS/WARNINGS**

	2023	2022
Careless/Reckless Operation Citation	21	0
Careless/Reckless Operation Warning	69	30
Navigation Rules Citation	2	0
Navigation Rules Warning	35	51
Mandatory PFD Wear Citation	5	1
Mandatory PFD Wear Warning	95	21
Registration Citation	23	2
Registration Warning	71	82

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY RESERVES UNIT 2023

Events	Dates
Glen Oaks Basketball Game	3/7/2023
Girl Scouts Law Enforcement	3/25/2023
Glen Oaks Graduation	5/5/2023
Burr Oak Prom	5/13/2023
Centreville Senior Parade	5/17/2023
Antique Motorcycle Club (Fairgrounds)	5/20/2023
Three Rivers Senior Parade	5/22/2023
Kent Power Security/Water Traffic	5/25/2023
Three Rivers Memorial Day Parade	5/29/2023
Missing Person Search	5/29/2023
Missing Person Search	5/29/2023
Flowerfield Township Patrol	6/1/2023
Flowerfield Township Patrol	6/2/2023
Three Rivers Water Festival	6/15/2023 – 6/17/2023
Protest in Three Rivers (Police Presence)	6/23/2023
Sturgis Light Parade	6/23/2023
County Parks Patrol	6/28/2023 – 6/30/2023
County Parks Patrol	7/1/2023
Colon 4 th of July Parade	7/4/2023
Constantine 4 th of July Parade	7/4/2023
White Pigeon Parade	7/7/2023
Covered Bridge Days Parade	7/15/2023
Fire House #3 Open House	7/15/2023
Burr Oak Heritage Days	7/27/2023 – 7/29/2023
Sturgis Route 12 HD Bike Event	8/5/2023
Crime Scene Investigation – Sweet Lake Mobile Park	8/6/2023
Colon Traffic Detail	8/12/2023
Mendon Riverfest Parade	8/19/2023
Sturgis Funeral Detail	8/28/2023
St. Joseph County Fair	9/17/2023 – 9/23/2023
Three Rivers Homecoming Parade/Football Game	9/30/2023
White Pigeon Homecoming Football Game	10/6/2023
Three Rivers Community Event – Home Depot	10/7/2023
Three Rivers Football Game	10/13/2023
Fall Tour Traffic Detail	10/21/2023
White Pigeon Football Game	10/27/2023
Church of the Nazarene Trunk and Treat	10/28/2023
M86 Traffic Detail at the Fairgrounds	10/28/2023
Correction Christmas Party for the Jail	12/7/2023
Centreville Holiday Parade	12/8/2023
Burr Oak High School Basketball Game	12/15/2023
Fabius Township Police Presence	12/27/2023

MONTH BREAKDOWN

MONTH	RIDES
January	14
February	13
March	13
April	7
May	20
June	26
July	23
August	12
September	13
October	18
November	9
December	17

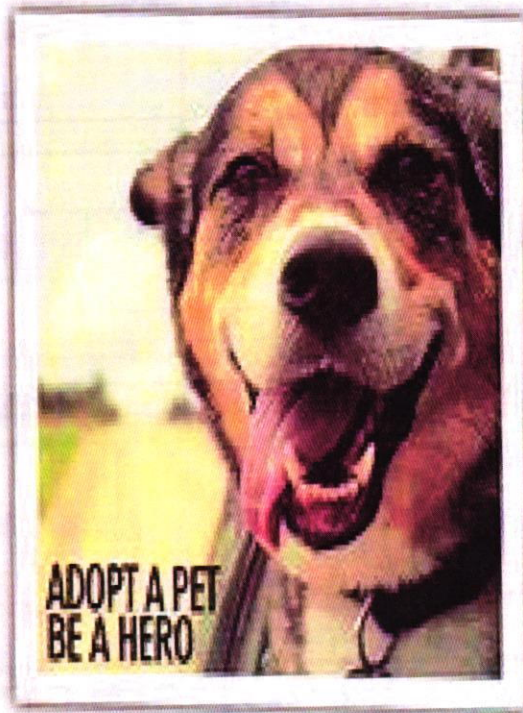
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES
2023 END OF YEAR STATISTICS

TYPES OF CALL OUTS:	2023	2022	2021	2020
Natural Death	49	51	36	46
Fatal Car Accident	3	6	2	6
Suicide	4	6	5	5
Homicide	2	0	1	2
Death Notification	4	1	5	1
Drowning	0	2	2	1
Fire	16	27	16	27
Other	7	4	3	7

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Number of Call Outs:	91	99	71	97
Total Volunteer Time:	597	418	303	338
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Total Number of Victims Helped:	536	442	230	418
Total Volunteer Mileage:	4602 Miles	3876 Miles	2473 Miles	3094 Miles



**St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office
Animal Control**





Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Animal Industry Division
P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909
www.michigan.gov/animalshelters
Email animalshelters@michigan.gov

Animal Shelter Annual Report

In accordance with Act 287, P.A. 1969 as amended

Animal Shelter Information									
Full Legal Name of the Animal Shelter St. Joseph County Animal Control					Shelter Operated By (organization name) St. Joseph County Sheriff Department				
Name of Shelter Manager Kyle Murk			Zip Code 49032		County St. Joseph		Email murkk@stjosephcountymi.org		
Act 287, Section 9(a) requires that animal shelters maintain written records on the total number of dogs, cats, ferrets and other animals received by the shelter and provide certain annual statistics to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) by March 31st, of the year following the year for which the statistics were compiled.									
Year Reporting Statistics For 2023			Main Companion Animals			Other Companion Animals			Total Other
Type of Companion Animals ¹			Dogs	Cats	Ferrets				
Check box if shelter did NOT intake last year			☐	☐	☒				
Shelter Intakes	Less than six (6) months of age		54	6					
	Six (6) months of age & older		382	14					
	Total Intake		436	20	0				0
Shelter Adoptions ²	Altered (before adoption)		160	11					
	Not Altered (before adoption)		93	7					
	Total Adopted to New Owners		253	18	0				0
Other Dispositions	Total Returned to Owner		105	1					
	Total Sold for Research ³		0						
	Total Transferred to MDARD Registered Shelters ³		45	0		0	0	0	0
Euthanasia	Shelter Animals Euthanized		29	3					
	Owner Request Euthanization ⁴		8	3					
	Total Euthanized		37	6	0	0	0	0	0
Shelter Euthanasia Policy. Please select ONLY one regarding your shelter: ☐ This shelter does NOT provide euthanasia services to the public. ☒ This shelter provides euthanasia services to the public, and the owner requested euthanized animals ARE included in our intake totals. ☐ This shelter provides euthanasia services to the public, and the owner requested euthanized animals are NOT included in our intake totals.									
Optional Comments We have 5 skipped docket numbers that were pulled by accident that have no animals assigned to them. Skipped docket numbers are: 55343, 55408, 55404, 55233, 55031									
Submitter's Name and Title Deputy Kyle Murk, Animal Control Supervisor					Submitters Phone 269} 467-9045		Submitters Email murkk@stjosephcountymi.org		

¹ Per MCL 287.331(d), report LIVE "animals": specifically rodents, mammals except livestock as defined in Act 284 of 1937.

² Per MCL 287.339a, only LIVE animals that are sold get reported in this category. Do NOT include dead animals, carcasses that are sold for research, or road kill.

³ Per MCL 287.338a(7), shelter animals may ONLY be transferred to other REGISTERED SHELTERS, law enforcement agencies, and certain service organizations. All other transactions are ADOPTIONS.

⁴ Per MCL 287.339a shelters must report the number of animals by category they euthanize each year. If you are separately reporting shelter and "owner requested" animals, then you MUST indicate below whether the number of "owner requested" euthanized animals are also included in your intake numbers.

St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office
Office Staff and Statics



St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office

Administrative Support Staff

Hannah Frye, Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff

Jennifer Sieber, Typist

Rachel Baker, Lobby Clerk

Jennifer Wall, Clerk/Typist

Office Statics

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Freedom of Information Act request processed:	434	380	246	154
Incidents in Alert:	9625	9735	9510	8358
Car/Deer Accidents reported on station:	521	528	321	316
Pistol Sales Records entered:	1484	1695	1855	1997
Application Denial:	1	2	8	5

Office Duties

Customer Relations

FOIA Processing

Process Abandoned Vehicles

Tracks Past Room and Board

Receives Booking Fees

Processes Subpoenas

Tracks Training for Deputies

Coordinate Grants for Marine Patrol and Secondary Road Patrol



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
MI-PISTOL STATISTICAL DATA REPORT

Statistical data contained in this report does not include data from the Automated Pistol Registration System (APRS).

Ran By MI7517500 - ST JOSEPH COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT for MI7517500 - ST JOSEPH COUNTY SHERIFF
DEPARTMENT

Date Range: 01/01/2023-12/31/2023

Applications Received	11
Applications Approved	132
Applications Denied	1
Pistols Entered from License or PSR	1484
Pistols Entered from License	152
Pistols Entered from PSR	1332
Pistols Entered with CPL	231
Pistols Entered with MCOLES	9
Pistols Entered with FFL as Seller	1090
Pistols Entered with FFL as Purchaser	2
Pistols Entered from Law Enforcement	2
Pistols Entered from Legacy Records	0
Issued Licenses	221
Unused Licenses	64

REASONS FOR DENIAL FOR: MI7517500

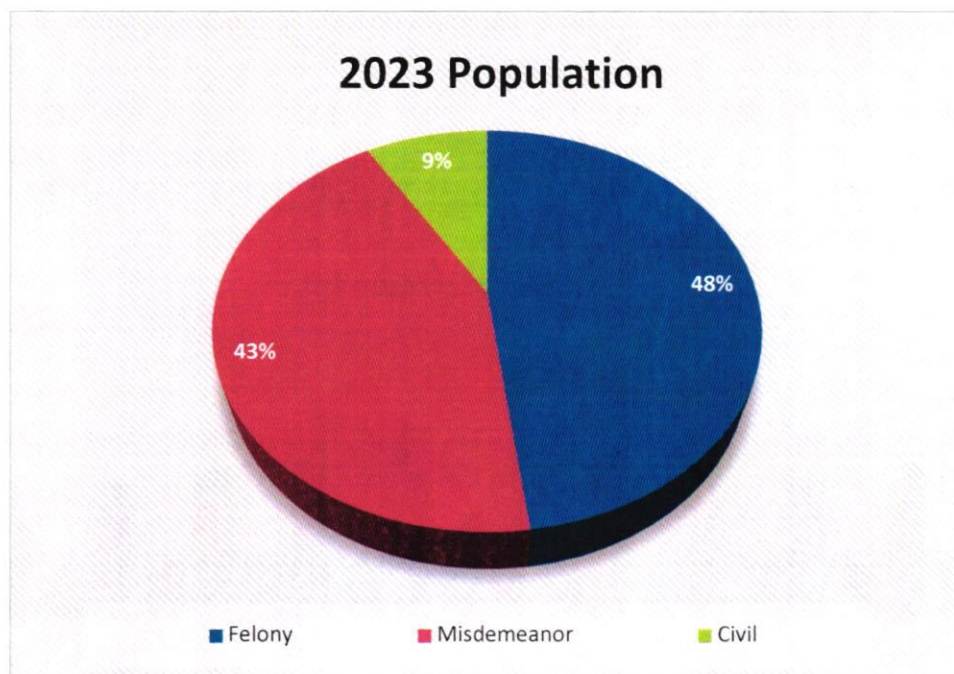
Felony Conviction	1
Pending Felony	0
Fugitive from Justice (All Elements Met)	0
Unlawful User of or Addicted to a Controlled Substance	0
Adjudged Legally Incapacitated or Insane	0
Under an Order of Involuntary Commitment for Inpatient or Outpatient Treatment due to Mental Illness	0
Found Incompetent to Stand Trial	0
Illegally in the United States or is a Non-Immigrant Alien	0
Dishonorably Discharged from the United States Armed Forces	0
Formerly Renounced United States Citizenship	0
Subject to a Court Order or Disposition with Firearms Restrictions	0
Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence (All Elements / Conditions Met)	0
Probable Cause	0
Pending Misdemeanor Charge Listed in MCL 28.425b	0
Under 18 Years of Age	0
Total:	1

**St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office
Corrections**



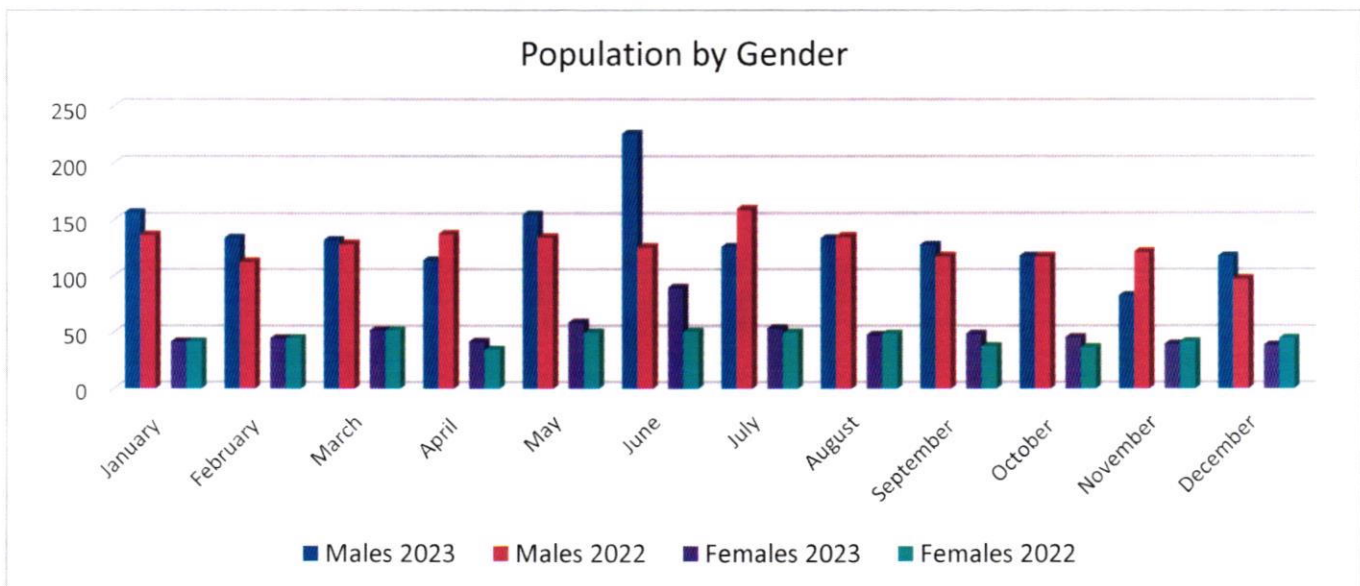
St. Joseph County Jail 2023 Population

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Civil		Average		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
January	121	120	32	36	11	8	131	126	164	164
February	150	133	137	128	37	27	121	121	324	288
March	146	101	142	27	26	7	122	110	314	135
April	135	148	107	152	24	19	136	140	266	319
May	117	120	131	146	16	35	123	117	264	3001
June	199	105	145	21	35	8	128	121	379	134
July	81	154	45	194	7	30	122	132	133	378
August	15	154	133	142	28	34	103	130	176	330
September	155	120	116	127	23	40	111	132	294	287
October	123	92	126	134	21	29	117	122	270	255
November	109	130	95	125	12	30	101	130	216	285
December	118	99	121	24	25	7	97	126	264	285
Totals	1469	1476	1330	1256	265	274	117.67	125.58	3064	3006



Yearly Jail Admission Breakdown by Gender Population

	2023		2022	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
January	157	42	137	42
February	134	45	113	45
March	132	52	129	52
April	114	42	138	35
May	155	59	135	50
June	226	90	126	51
July	126	54	160	50
August	134	48	136	49
September	128	49	118	38
October	118	46	118	37
November	83	40	122	42
December	118	39	98	45



Kitchen

2023		2022	
Jail meals prepared per day	388	Jail meals prepared per day	406
Jail Total 2022	141,476	Jail Total 2021	148,262
Cost per meal	\$1.63-\$1.55	Cost per meal	\$1.63-\$1.55



2023 Medical Services Provided

Total 14 Day Appraisal

Dental

Pregnant

TB Test

Diabetic

Court Order Blood Draw

2023

Total 14 Day Appraisal	563
TB Test	34
Dental	10
Diabetic	21
Pregnant	3
Court Order Blood Draw	14

2022

Total 14 Day Appraisal	440
TB Test	22
Dental	10
Diabetic	16
Pregnant	2
Court Order Blood Draw	2

2021

Total 14 Day Appraisal	573
TB Test	38
Dental	15
Diabetic	34
Pregnant	1
Court Order Blood Draw	15

2020

Total 14 Day Appraisal	726
TB Test	40
Dental	0
Diabetic	7
Pregnant	2
Court Order Blood Draw	13

St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office

2023 Extradition

<u>Extradition</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/14/2022 Wolfe, Stephen – Ohio DOC, Ohio	\$915.65
1/4/2023 Fox, John Sr – Lagrange County, Indiana	\$81.00
1/4/2023 Trittipso, Troy – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$129.00
1/10/2023 Carrilo, Ulises – St. Joseph County, Indiana	\$74.00
1/18/2023 White, Perry – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$84.00
1/18/2023 Rose, Anthony – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$96.72
2/23/2023 Mcquire, John – Lake in County, Indiana	\$199.05
3/1/2023 Dewitt, Darin – Lagrange County, Indiana	\$85.52
3/8/2023 Maddox, Thomas – Clark County, Indiana	\$782.64
3/8/2023 Myles, Lenard – Laporte County Sheriff, Indiana	\$121.52
4/11/2023 Grove, Tony – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$86.52
4/19/2023 Rocha, Heather – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$86.52
4/30/2023 Miller, Lewis – Dekalb County, Indiana	\$127.24
5/18/2023 Kelly, Paul – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$98.43
6/8/2023 Quiroz-Vazquez, Latasha – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$77.43
6/15/2023 Halferty, Jason – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$98.43
6/19/2023 Hope, Cameron – Lake In County, Indiana	\$205.00
6/22/2023 Johnson, Roger – Effingham County, Illinois	\$712.38
7/19/2023 Drinsky, Nicole – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$174.89
7/19/2023 Craft, Christopher – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$174.89
8/1/2023 Tipton, Lashel – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$84.89
8/5/2023 Heninger, Marie – St. Joseph County, Indiana	\$99.72
8/9/2023 Scott, Mackenzie – Indiana DOC, Indiana	\$374.64
8/9/2023 Nestor, Tony – Allen County, Ohio	\$369.64
8/31/2023 Pfenning, Dylan – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$86.89
10/1/2023 Depratter, Shawn – Jacksonville, Florida	\$4642.00

10/5/2023	Wolf, Denise – Lagrange County, Indiana	\$87.07
10/5/2023	Smart, Vincent – Elkhart County, Indiana	\$164.32
11/28/2023	Rhodes, Lee – St. Joseph County, Indiana	\$128.24
12/28/2023	Farrington, Tristan – Noble County, Indiana	\$133.24
TOTAL		\$10,427.59

St. Joseph County Diversion

JAN 1-MARCH 31 2023

Program Identified Measures:

Service	Number	Description
Jail Diversions	20	Individuals with early release or diverted into treatment at initial booking
Petition For Mental Health Treatment	2	Individual's judgement is so impaired by that mental illness, and whose lack of understanding of he need for treatment has caused him or her to demonstrate an unwillingness to voluntarily participate in or adhere to treatment that is necessary
Direct Service	147	Sessions provided by Jail Diversion Specialist, crisis intervention focused, solution focused
Rehab	18	Individuals with a secured rehab bed upon release
MHISUD Appts	15	Mental Health / Substance Use Disorder Appointment established upon release)
Continuity Care Post release (MHISUD) appt only	10	(Confirmed attended)
Applied for Medicaid	5	(Secured Medicaid through Jail Diversion Specialist)
Community Resources	33	(Warm hand-Off referrals to resources such as transportation services, food distribution sites, free stores, educational programs, domestic abuse shelters, etc)
Veteran	6	(Connected to the VA in St Joseph County and/or Battle Creek Outreach Director)
Vivitrol	1	(Received MAT upon release; 2 nd appt made through CBH)
Transported	1	Vehicle provided by St Joseph County Sheriff Department to transport inmates that have been released to treatment
Referred to SMART Recovery Jail Group	24	CBH Offers a weekly Female Recovery Group and a Male Group Recovery facilitated by CBH Staff

APRIL 1 – JUNE 30 2023

Program Identified Measures:

Service	Number	Description
Jail Diversions	31	Individuals with early release or diverted into treatment at initial booking
Petition For Mental Health Treatment	8	Individual's judgement is so impaired by that mental illness, and whose lack of understanding of he need for treatment has caused him or her to demonstrate an unwillingness to voluntarily participate in or adhere to treatment that is necessary
Direct Service	164	Sessions provided by Jail Diversion Specialist, crisis intervention focused, solution focused
Rehab	23	Individuals with a secured rehab bed upon release
MHISUD Appts	12	Mental Health / Substance Use Disorder Appointment established upon release)
Continuity Care Post release (MHISUD) appt only	9	(Confirmed attended)
Applied for Medicaid	7	(Secured Medicaid through Jail Diversion Specialist)
Community Resources	98	(Warm hand-Off referrals to resources such as transportation services, food distribution sites, free stores, educational programs, domestic abuse shelters, etc)
Veteran	7	(Connected to the VA in St Joseph County and/or Battle Creek Outreach Director)
Vivitrol	1	(Received MAT upon release; 2 nd appt made through CBH)
Transported	1	Vehicle provided by St Joseph County Sheriff Department to transport inmates that have been released to treatment
Referred to SMART Recovery Jail Group	32	CBH Offers a weekly Female Recovery Group and a Male Recovery Group facilitated by CBH Staff

JULY 1-SEPT 30 2023

Program Identified Measures:

Service	Number	Description
Jail Diversions	31	Individuals with early release or diverted into treatment at initial booking
Petition For Mental Health Treatment	0	Individual's judgement is so impaired by that mental illness, and whose lack of understanding of he need for treatment has caused him or her to demonstrate an unwillingness to voluntarily participate in or adhere to treatment that is necessary
Direct Service	178	Sessions provided by Jail Diversion Specialist, crisis intervention focused, solution focused
Rehab	16	Individuals with a secured rehab bed upon release
MHISUD Appts	20	Mental Health / Substance Use Disorder Appointment established upon release)
Continuity Care Post release (MHISUD) appt only	12	(Confirmed attended)
Applied for Medicaid	6	(Secured Medicaid through Jail Diversion Specialist)
Community Resources	101	(Warm hand--Offreferrals to resources such as transportation services, food distribution sites, free stores, educational programs, domestic abuse shelters, etc)
Veteran	5	(Connected to the VA in St Joseph County and/or Battle Creek Outreach Director)
Vivitrol	3	(Received MAT upon release, 2 nd appt made through CBH)
Transported	3	Vehicle provided by St Joseph County Sheriff Department to transport inmates that have been released to treatment
Referred to Jail Based Services (Recovery Groups)	39	CBH Offers a weekly Female Recovery Group and a Male Recovery Group Pivotal offers a Female Recovery Group and a Male Recovery Group

OCT 1-DEC 31 2023

Program Identified Measures:

Service	Number	Description
Jail Diversions	24	Individuals with early release or diverted into treatment at initial booking
Petition For Mental Health Treatment	2	Individual's judgement is so impaired by that mental illness, and whose lack of understanding of he need for treatment has caused him or her to demonstrate an unwillingness to voluntarily participate in or adhere to treatment that is necessary
Direct Service	180	Sessions provided by Jail Diversion Specialist, crisis intervention focused, solution focused
Rehab	11	Individuals with a secured rehab bed upon release
MHISUD Appts	18	Mental Health / Substance Use Disorder Appointment established upon release)
Continuity Care Post release (MHISUD) appt only	14	(Confirmed attended)
Applied for Medicaid	4	(Secured Medicaid through Jail Diversion Specialist)
Community Resources	120	(Warm hand--Offreferrals to resources such as transportation services, food distribution sites, free stores, educational programs, domestic abuse shelters, etc)
Veteran	3	(Connected to the VA in St Joseph County and/or Battle Creek Outreach Director)
Vivitrol	0	(Received MAT upon release, 2 nd appt made through CBH)
Transported	1	Vehicle provided by St Joseph County Sheriff Department to transport inmates that have been released to treatment
Referred to Jail Based Services (Recovery Groups)	32	CBH Offers a weekly Female Recovery Group and a Male Recovery Group Pivotal offers a Female Recovery Group and a Male Recovery Group

St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office
Office of Emergency Services



2023 Emergency Services Annual Report

Mission Statement:

The mission of Emergency Services is to provide effective coordination and integration of activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve capabilities to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards and disasters in St. Joseph County. This includes functions of emergency management and homeland security, such as maintaining the county's emergency plans, providing access to training, and acting as the liaison to state and federal resources that may be called upon to provide support.

Director of Emergency Services:

Erin Goff, MS, PEM

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)/Local Planning Team (LPT) Advisory Board:

Commissioner Rusty Baker, St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners

Captain TJ Baker, St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office

Chief Paul Schoon, Three Rivers Fire Department

Stacey Bower, St. Joseph County Central Dispatch

Shad Carpenter, Local Business/Infrastructure

Kris Dewey, Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

Larry Diekman, Glen Oaks Community College

Erin Goff, St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office – Emergency Management

Sharon Hoch, USDA Farm Services Agency

Commissioner Jared Hoffmaster, St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners

John Lindsey, St. Joseph County Road Commission

Chief Matt Overholt, Colon Fire and Rescue

Deputy Director Andy Strudwick, Sturgis Department of Public Safety

Highlights of Exercises, Trainings, and Events in 2023

January-March

- Delivered the FEMA/MSP Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program to 5th grade students, promoting awareness for creating family community plans and creating emergency kits
- Assisted local schools with Emergency Operations Planning and conducting emergency drills
- Conducted outreach with critical infrastructure and utility partners to better incorporate their resources into local emergency planning

April-June

- Delivered the FEMA/MSP Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program to 5th grade students, promoting awareness for creating family community plans and creating emergency kits
- Finalized and adopted the LEPC Strategic Plan for 2023-2026
- Organized and presented in a multi-day conference on combating domestic violent extremism (DVE)

July-September

- Provided school safety training to districts throughout the county, as well as Glen Oaks Community College
- Conducted an Emergency Operations Center drill and orientation session for partner agencies
- Provided civilian situational awareness training for county employees
- Co-organized a functional exercise with the fire sector, testing local mutual aid plans and collaborative processes

October-December

- Participated in a Regional Full-Scale Marine and Dive Team Exercise, testing collaborative plans with specialty response teams
- Provided school safety training to districts throughout the county
- Participated in hydroelectric dam emergency plan reviews
- Provided civilian training for active shooter events (CRASE program)

Also deployed vehicles, trailers, generators, and radios to trainings, incidents, and events as needed.

