



# Annual Report 2023

MENOMONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



# Chief's Welcome

On behalf of the Menomonie Police Department, I'm pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. As the newly appointed Chief of Police, I want to reassure both the police department personnel and community members that we will continue to utilize community oriented policing strategies, as well as continue existing programs such as the Domestic Violence Response Team, Project Hope, Quick Response Team, Drug Endangered Children, Child Abduction Response Team, Youth Response Team, and the evidence based Botvin training our officers provide to the schools and youth. These programs have proven beneficial and will continue to be supported.

In an effort to provide continued professionalism and the highest level of service to community members, myself and the current administration have made the physical and emotional well-being of the officers and support staff a priority. A new well-being initiative geared towards first responders has been initiated. Current efforts include allowing officers to work out while on duty, peer support training, coaching and mentoring sessions, and the creation of a new wellness room. A lot of time, thought, and work went into the creation of this room and we're very pleased with the result. The room provides a quiet space where officers and staff can take a quick break to debrief, de-stress, and have time to decompress, away from the noise and fast pace of responding to calls. It is meant to be used as needed by staff, in whatever manner they deem necessary, to improve their mental well-being. By doing so, it is this administration's hope that officers and staff will experience a decrease in stress, anxiety and depression while simultaneously improving their sleep habits, decision making, overall job performance, and their interpersonal relationships - both personal and professional.

Looking forward to 2024, the department is excited to be hosting a mental wellness training for area law enforcement, fire fighters, and other emergency personnel. We've partnered with Lexipol and secured Dr. Rachelle Zemlok, a nationally recognized speaker on first responder's mental well-being. I'd like to thank the Cedarbrook Church for providing their larger space as the two sessions of training are expected to be well attended.

Finally, I would like to thank all the incredible officers and support staff for their tireless work day in and day out towards meeting our Mission Vision & Values Statement. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by this group of professionals. Also, I would like to thank the community members for all your support. As the Chief of Police, I have the pleasure to work with a supportive Mayor and City Council. Thank you for your trust and vision in policing today and into the future.

Sincerely,  
Rick Hollister  
Chief of Police





# About Us

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STRIVE FOR

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Menomonie Police Department is to collaborate with the community to provide a safe and peaceful environment while protecting the liberties of all persons.

## VISION

The vision of the Menomonie Police Department is to be recognized as a professional law enforcement agency that responds to the dynamic social needs of the public through innovative and collaborative efforts involving all community shareholders.

## CHIEF OF POLICE

Rick Hollister

## COMMANDERS

Chris King    Brian Hagen

## LIEUTENANTS

Matt Benrud	Chad Mroczenski	Kelly Pollock
Michael Sampson	Andrew Brutlag	Wade Schilichting

## OFFICERS

Aaron Bergh	Joshua Draeger	Scott Hoffman
Jeff Small	Michael Cadalbert	Ben Pawlak
Ryan Gilbertson	Maxwell Gibson	Mark Spaeth
Tyson Kahl	Grantham Curtis	<hr/>
Kayla Tisol	Ben Mayerchak	Starting January 2024:
Tyler Ingebretson	Jordan Wold	Sam Miller
Garrett Hackl	Brandon Scott	Adam Hackbarth
Heather Strathman	Dane Weiland	

## CORE VALUES

Honor  
Integrity  
Innovation  
Professionalism



## CIVILIAN STAFF

Meghan Cartmill  
Katie Harshman  
Bethany Hedlund  
Becki Marlett  
Lori Paulson  
Jenn Tack

# Goals and Projects

## WHAT WE DID IN 2023 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

A new initiative was put forward with a focus placed on mental health and officer wellbeing. Policing is a rigorous career that can take a toll on officer's physical, as well as emotional and mental well-being. MPD put in a new Zen Room where employees can go to decompress and remove themselves from the triggers of the outside. Other facets of this initiative include the ability to work out while on duty, as well as the introduction of office dogs. These changes have brought a fresh outlook to the police department that we plan to continue in the coming years.

With Rick Hollister's promotion to Chief of Police, Commander King took his place as Operations Commander, in charge of patrol and day-to-day operations such as scheduling, training, special events, and officer deployments. Lieutenant Hagen was promoted to fill the vacancy at the Administration and Investigations Commander position and oversees the civilian staff, as well as investigations. Both commanders had the opportunity to attend the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command, and Commander Hagen went on to earn a scholarship to attend the Senior Management Institute for Police in Boston, Massachusetts. \*Top photograph

Officer Brutlag and Investigator Schlichting were promoted to Patrol Lieutenant. MPD has two nightshift Patrol Lieutenants and two dayshift Patrol Lieutenants.

We continue to benefit from the assistance of our Volunteers in Policing Services (VIPS). Bill Swannack and Jon Oakland conduct squad checks every week. This involves checking fluid levels, making sure the vehicle is mechanically sound, and that all of the lights and sirens are functioning properly. We are grateful for all of their hard work. \*Bottom photograph

Looking ahead to 2024 MPD has many goals that we continue to work towards:

- Continuing to hire quality personnel so that our department is fully staffed
- Adopt a new design for our Patrol Squads
- Continuing to digitize all of our historical records to make them more easily accessible and minimize storage space
- Evaluating our practices to ensure our department is evolving with the community we serve



# Notable Calls and Investigations

## The Investigation Division Consists of:

Commander Hagen

Detective Lieutenant Benrud

Detective Lieutenant Mroczenski

Youth Services Officer Draeger

Youth Services Officer Tisol

West Central Drug Task Force Inv. Schlichting

### **23-84 - Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)**

Officers received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children about an email account that had potential pornographic images of a child. Multiple Search Warrants were conducted locating numerous illegal images. The suspect was arrested and charged with four counts of Possession of Child Pornography.

### **23-169 - Robbery and Officer Involved Death**

A citizen called reporting someone had broken into their home and was threatening them with, and shooting, a firearm. The suspect stole the homeowner's vehicle and was eventually stopped by law enforcement. During the stop, officers from MPD and the Dunn County Sheriff's Department discharged their weapons, killing the suspect. WI Department of Criminal Investigations investigated the incident, per policy, and the death was deemed justified by their agency.

### **23-1446 - OWI Crash**

A vehicle was seen failing to stop for a flashing red light and was subsequently pulled over. The driver attempted to flee the stop, starting the vehicle again and driving through an intersection, striking a squad car and flipping it on its top. The driver then fled on foot and was apprehended a short distance away. The driver, passenger, and officer in the squad were not harmed in the crash. The driver was issued charges for Operating While under the Influence (OWI), Obstructing an Officer, Possession THC, Causing Injury while Operating under the Influence, as well as numerous traffic citations.

### **23-1984 - Assault**

Officers were dispatched to a call of someone hearing screaming and banging coming from a residence. Upon arrival, officers located a large amount of blood on the ground and followed it to the apartment where they found the victim who had life-threatening injuries. Emergency aid was rendered by officers on scene Menomonie Fire Department (MFD) personnel, saving the victim's life. The suspect was located a short distance away and after being medically cleared was charged with Aggravated Battery with Intent to Cause Great Bodily Harm, and Mayhem.

### **23-2348 - Drug**

While on patrol, officers noticed a vehicle with open alcohol containers inside. After running the vehicle's information, it was found the vehicle was listed as stolen out of Michigan. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of Methamphetamines and various drug paraphernalia. Three adults were taken into custody for active warrants as well as theft, weapon, and drug charges.

### **23-2478 - Juvenile Sexual Assault**

YSOs were given information regarding a staff member in the Menomonie High School (MHS) having inappropriate and sexual relationships with one or more students. An investigation began immediately and the staff member was arrested and issued charges for Sexual Assault of a Child by a School Staff Person.

### **23-2863 - Juvenile Protection Case**

Investigators partnered with Dunn County Human Services to remove four juveniles and two adults from a residence due to the living conditions of the property. Services continue to be offered to assist the family to get back on track.

# Notable Calls and Investigations

Continued

## **23-358 - Assault and Battery**

MPD responded to the MHS Field House after school hours for a report of a physical altercation with many people involved. Initial reports suggested that both juveniles and adults were involved in the altercation. MPD arrived on scene and de-escalated the situation for the time being. The YSO conducted a follow-up into the altercation in the following months. Many juveniles and adults were interviewed, and many hours of cell phone video and MHS camera footage were reviewed. Ultimately, several adults were arrested and charged with violations including Disorderly Conduct, Battery, Substantial Battery, and Child Abuse. Several juveniles also received referrals for Battery and Disorderly Conduct.

## **23-2711 - Theft**

An ATM belonging to WestConsin Credit Union was broken into and a large amount of cash was stolen from inside of the machine. Surveillance footage was reviewed and gave investigators an image of the suspects and their vehicle. The investigation remains ongoing.

## **23-129 and 23-264 - Burglary to a Business**

Officers were dispatched to Dick's Fresh Market for reports of security alarms being activated. In both cases, two subjects had entered the business after hours and stolen merchandise. Surveillance video was reviewed and the suspects were identified as being high school students. Each juvenile received charges relating to their actions in this case, including criminal damage, burglary, and theft.

## **M23-1046 and M23-1237 - ICAC**

MPD received a report of a male who was allegedly using the publicly accessible computers at the Work Force Resource Center to view inappropriate pictures of young girls on the internet. A staff member had taken a video of the male viewing the pictures and showed the video to officers. Officers made contact with the male and interviewed him about the content on the computer. A preview of the websites that the male had been browsing showed at least two images that could be counted as Child Pornography. The subject was ultimately arrested and charged with two counts of Possession of Child Pornography and a Probation Hold as he had previous convictions of this nature.

Approximately three weeks later, MPD received a CyberTip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in regards to Child Pornography that was located on a Dropbox account belonging to the subject from the earlier case. The CyberTip revealed that the Dropbox account had been accessed by the subject at the Work Force Resource Center. MPD issued a search warrant to Dropbox for the content on the account. Dropbox honored the search warrant, which revealed several hundred images of suspected Child Sexual Abuse Material. The subject was charged with an additional 10 counts of Possession of Child Pornography.

# NIBRS

## NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

Group A Offense Arrests	2013 10 Years Prior	2018 5 Years Prior	2022 1 Year Prior	2023
Murder	0	1	0	0
Rape	4	6	1	2
Robbery	2	1	0	1
Aggravated Assault	18	20	30	43
Simple Assault	68	63	40	31
Burglary	61	28	12	15
Theft	359	270	201	153
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	17	10	5
Arson	1	1	0	1

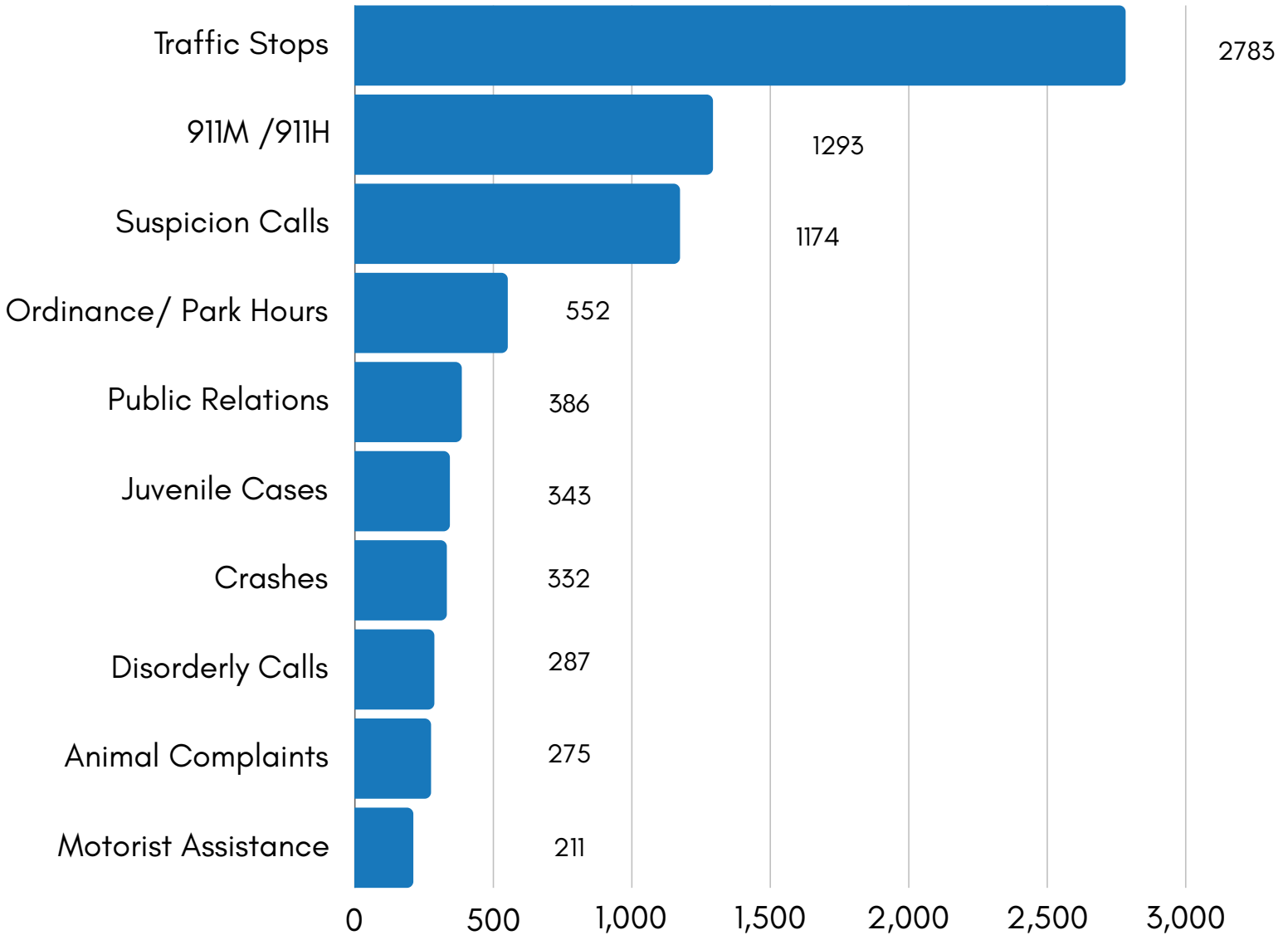
Group B Offense Arrests	2013 10 Years Prior	2018 5 Years Prior	2022 1 Year Prior	2023
Disorderly Conduct	NA*	140	78	56
Driving Under the Influence	80	71	71	79
Liquor Law Violation	NA*	182	147	86
All Other Offenses	NA*	353	240	229

\*In 2013 MPD used UCR Reporting, which calculated this data differently, making it unavailable for this report.

# Call Data

## CFS - CALL FOR SERVICE

Officers responded to a total of 11,435 calls for service in 2023. The top 10 call for service types were as follows:



CFS are generated by citizens calling into the Dunn County Communications Center (Dispatch), who then dispatch an officer to the call. Officers can also call in an incident over the radio. Depending on the type of call, a case number will be assigned and the officer will investigate or handle the call. If the case could require significant resources, the Investigations Bureau will then take on the case.

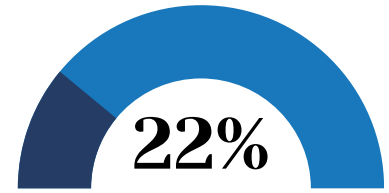
Throughout the process, resources can be offered to individuals, depending on the level of assistance that may be needed. MPD is fortunate to have positive partnerships with many local organizations, such as Stepping Stones, the Bridge to Hope, Arbor Place, and many more that can step in and help community members as well.



# Traffic Data

## TRAFFIC STOPS, DOWI'S, CRASHES

Traffic stops make up the majority of calls that MPD handles and traffic-related incidents account for over 11,435 of the annual calls for service.

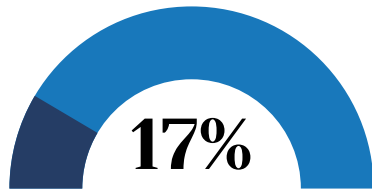


Traffic Stops with Citations Issued  
2783 Stops  
612 resulted in a citation

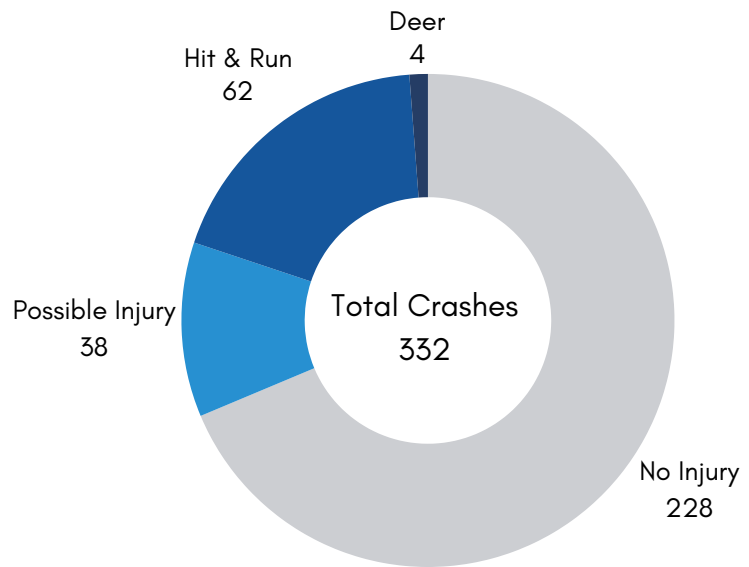
## Traffic Crashes



6 Pedestrian Involved Crashes



Crashes with Injury  
332 Crashes  
54 cases with reported injuries

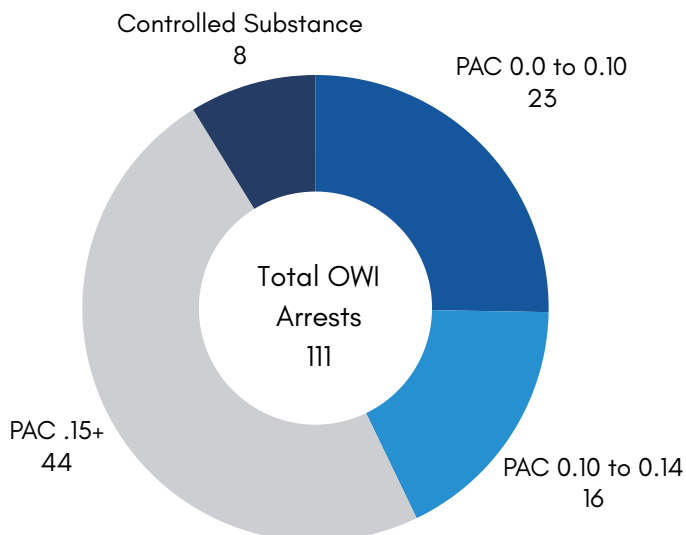


## Driving Under the Influence



6 drivers were under 21

1 driver was a juvenile (under 18)



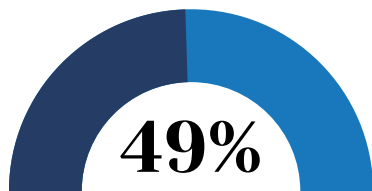
Recurrence	Drivers	With Passenger under 16
OWI 1st	69	2
OWI 2nd	20	1
OWI 3rd	6	
OWI 4th	9	
OWI 5th or 6th	2	
OWI 7th, 8th, or 9th	1	
OWI 10th +	1	

\*Not all blood results have come back from the lab as of January. These are not included in the PAC data

# Crime Data

DRUG CASES, DOMESTIC CASES, THEFT CALLS

## Domestic Disorderly Conduct



Domestic Cases With Charges

195 Cases

95 Ended in Arrest

Number of Domestic Cases per Year

2020	2021	2022	2023
166	184	177	195



53 Cases listed at least one child present

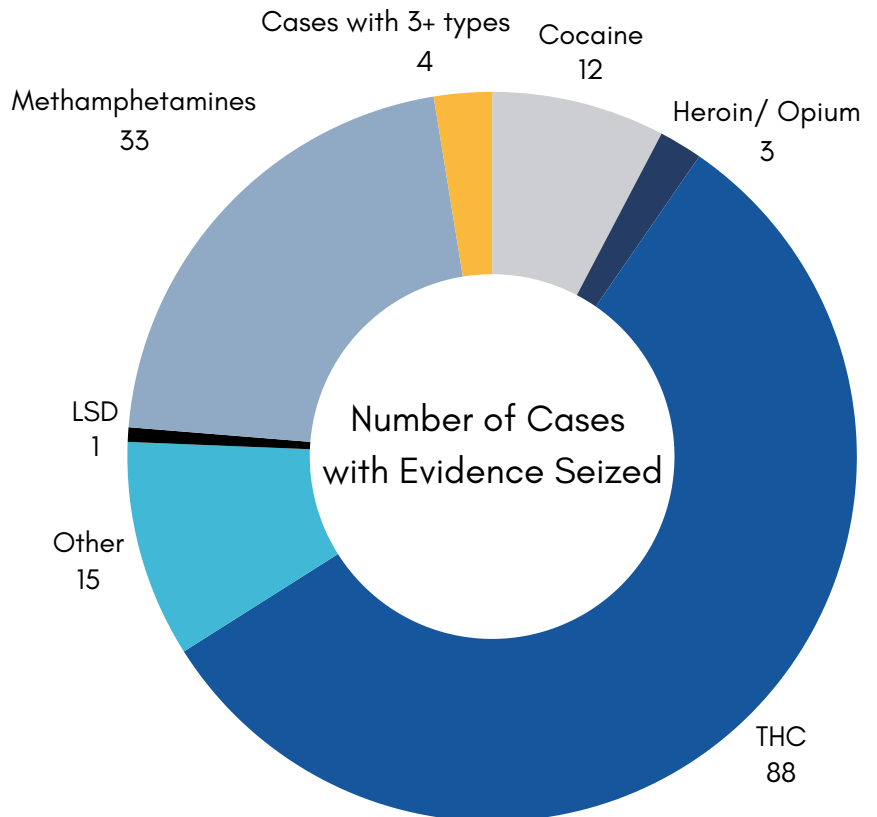
## Drug Related Cases



15 Calls for Service involving an overdose



3 Calls for Service where Officers administered Narcan



# Property Crime Data

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE, BURGLARY CASES, THEFT CALLS

Total number of cases in 2023 by property loss type

Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Burglary	Robbery	Fraud	Criminal Damage
194	5	16	1	77	49

Total Value of Property Stolen in 2023 ..... \$309,414.56

Total Value of Property Recovered in 2023 ..... \$19,142.50

Total Value of Property Damaged in 2023 ..... \$113,793.49

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# Data Quality Analysis

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CENTER FOR POLICING EQUITY

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, MPD Records Technician Meghan Cartmill partnered with the Center for Policing Equity (CPE) to analyze the data that we collect and retain. Collecting accurate and accessible data is essential to ensuring we understand the needs of the community we serve.

During the process, our department was able to pinpoint areas to focus on for improvement in our data retention. We were able to make procedural changes to reporting and reviewing Use of Force incidents to make data trend analysis available to command staff.

The analysts at CPE were very knowledgeable about data in the field of policing and we hope to use what we learned in our partnership to maximize our efforts in the city.

# Involving Community Youth

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF  
LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Botvin LifeSkills Training

Since the 2020-2021 school year, MPD has been teaching Botvin LifeSkills Training to the 6th grade students at MHS. Botvin LifeSkills Training (Botvin) is an evidence-based substance abuse and violence prevention program used in schools and communities throughout the US and in 39 countries around the world. Botvin has been extensively tested and proven to reduce tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drug use by as much as 80%. Botvin is taught by sworn officers who are employed by MPD, including patrol officers, investigators, and supervisors. Each officer has completed specific training to teach the topics and the program is funded by Project Hope. In 2023, MPD taught 223 students.



## Junior Police Program

MPD hosts a Junior Police Program each summer. The program allows youth in the community to get a closer look at what a career in law enforcement looks like. Participants have the opportunity to be formally interviewed by a panel consisting of patrol officers, investigators, and supervisors. They receive hands-on demonstrations of K-9 handlers, traffic stops, defensive tactics, SWAT, and first aid. The participants also attend presentations by the Investigations Bureau, MFD, and Dispatch.

Based on the participants' performance and age, they can be invited to attend the Advanced Junior Police Program. The advanced program allows participants to experience hands-on training for tasers, less lethal (bean bag or impact rounds), firearms, high-risk traffic stops, vehicle searches, and emergency vehicle operation courses (EVOC).



# Project Hope

## A GROWING EFFORT

Project Hope is an initiative that began with the City of Menomonie in 2020 as an effort to interrupt the negative and harmful impacts that substance use disorders have on individuals and the community. The initial phase of the program was targeted at youth in the community, and has grown to the programs and efforts being done by MPD's Youth Service Officers and the School District of the Menomonie Area. The second phase of the program began in 2022, and was intended to target the adult population. Through federal funding, the Menomonie Police Department partnered with several other organizations to develop two efforts, the Angels of Red Cedar (ARC) and the Quick Response Team (QRT), that are designed to engage individuals struggling with substance use disorders, and link them to services and resources in the community. Shortly before the launch of these two efforts, the Dunn County Sheriff's Office joined in Project Hope.

These two efforts were officially launched in February of 2023. While the ARC (self-referral) program has not attracted many participants, the QRT (active outreach) has engaged with numerous individuals. From the official launch through the end of 2023, QRT identified 72 individuals using law enforcement or EMS calls for service to reach out to. Of the individuals identified, 53 were contacted and engaged. Over the course of the year, over 400 interactions, or attempts to interact, were made by QRT. During these interactions, over 100 referrals or connections to services and/or treatment were made.

The next steps for Project Hope are to develop and implement an Officer-Led Diversion Program. The program will target individuals who commit minor criminal or ordinance violations, and the violation can be linked to the individual's substance use disorder. The program will hold the potential charge in abeyance while the individual works through requirements. Requirements may include an AODA assessment, paying restitution, connection to a peer support organization, an online class, and/or a connection to community organization. If successful, no charges will be issued and the case will be closed. The intent is to offer a quick connection to resources, and prevent the potential negative impacts that involvement in the criminal justice system can sometimes create.



# Giving Back to the Community



Through MPD's Cops 4 Kids, the Shop with a Cop Program took place again this year with two events: Back to School and Christmas. We had a great turnout and hope to continue to grow the program, which was started in 2016. MPD is grateful for the donors and volunteers who helped make this program possible.



National Night Out is a Nationwide annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships and camaraderie. This is MPD's 10th annual event which occurs every August. This is a chance for the officers to meet new people and interact with youth in the community.



Cop on a Rooftop is a fundraiser put on by Dunkin' Donuts to help raise money for Special Olympics. Officers braved the morning chill and were happy to help. Officers were also able to go and cheer on some of the athletes at their bowling event.



Officers took part in many different events throughout the city this year including:



- Coffee with a Cop
- Citizen's Academy
- Winterdaze Parade
- Community Cookout
- Trunk-or-Treat
- Leadership Menomonie
- Lions Club - Giving for Christmas
- MHS Homecoming Parade and school sporting events
- May Day Bike Event, and so many more.

When you see us out at various events, please come say hello!

