

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023



NEW CASTLE



POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

***As a law enforcement officer**, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.*

***I will** keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.*

***I will** never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

***I recognize** the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.*

***I know** that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.*

I will** constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... **LAW ENFORCEMENT.

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

MAYOR

Greg York

CITY COUNCIL

Rex Peckinpaugh - President

Michael Guffey

Jeff Hancock

Jerry Walden

Aaron Dicken

Lynn Perdue

Mark Koger

POLICE MERIT BOARD

Kirk Robbins-President

Van Goar

Paul Jannsen

Jeff Coatie

David Nantz

Mark Cronk

Scott Murphy

Letter from Police Chief

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

Dear Residents,

It is an honor to serve the community of New Castle as your Chief of Police. Our focus is to improve the quality of life for our residents as well as building lifelong relationships with our residents and those who visit our great community. We are here to respond to calls for service as well as to special requests from residents, schools, and businesses. New Castle police officers respond to an average of 11,000 calls for service on a yearly basis.

Our officers' range in ages from twenty-one (21) to fifty-eight (58), and their backgrounds vary as much as their ages. We are an all-inclusive department and are proud of the diversity of those serving our community. We live in our community, we love our community, and we share the concerns and challenges experienced by our community. I believe as a society; we must work on equality issues and basic human decency. We must ensure that all people are equal, with no assumptions simply because of race, ethnicity, orientation, religion, or any other difference. Our responsibility as humans is to abolish those biases and continue to break down the barriers between the public and the officials who serve.

New Castle Police Department is dedicated to serving this city. We work with all city government departments to provide the best possible service to our residents and visitors. We are in the community 24/7. You may not always see us but we are always patrolling and always available. You can contact us anytime to speak to an officer, or request a visit from one of our officers to your location.

Our officers are eager to be a part of resolving issues or addressing concerns within the city as well as attending special events to support community members and organizations as officer time allows. We are all in this together; making New Castle a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Be safe and enjoy the uniqueness of our great city.

Sincerely,

Matt Schofield

Chief of Police

City of New Castle



NCPD RANK STRUCTURE

ADMINISTRATION

Chief-Matt Schofield

Assistant Chief-Justin Wardlow

UNIFORM DIVISION STAFF

Cpt. Jim Nicholson – Uniform Division Commander

Lt. Adrian Darling - Day Shift Commander

Sgt. Eric Jackson - Day Shift Sergeant

Lt. Jason Boring - Afternoon Shift Commander

Sgt. Zack Medford - Afternoon Shift Sergeant

Lt. Joshua Hedges - Night Shift Commander

Sgt. Neil Sealover - Night Shift Sergeant

DETECTIVE DIVISION STAFF

Cpt. Scott Ullery-Investigations Commander

Sgt. Chase Hightower-Detective Sergeant

Det. Nick Rhodes-Detective

Det. Kirstyn Shafer-Detective

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

UNIFORM DIVISION PATROL OFFICERS

JB Nicholson ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Ty Terrell ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Joe Tompkins ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Tony Hughes ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Chase Koger ★★★★★★★★★★

Tyler Reece ★★★★★★★★★★

Justin Farr ★★★★★

Dustin Sult ★★★★★

John Buckingham ★★★★★

Ellis Evans ★★★★★

Joshua Harter ★★★★★

Jake Nicholson ★★★★★

Joshua Roe ★★★★★

Brady Renner ★★

Trevor Morrison ★★

Jackie Hernandez ★★

Zack Lee ★

Britton Adkins ★

Dawson Schmidt ★

Hannah Campbell ★

Brandon Cook ★

★ Stars denote one year of service with the New Castle Police Department ★

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

Dear Citizens of New Castle,

Serving the City of New Castle as a Police Officer is a tremendous privilege but also a tremendous responsibility. 2023 brought many challenges with regards to staffing and manpower as we work towards returning the Police Department to full strength. While we are currently budgeted to fully staff the Police Department, selecting, hiring, and training the right individuals remains challenging. In recent years Law Enforcement Agencies have been forced to compete with one another for applicants. Everything from new vehicles to bonuses are common incentives in Law Enforcement hiring practices currently. New Castle Police Department is committed to hiring the best applicants possible while also being good stewards of tax payer funds.

2023 did see the addition of several new Police Officers added to our ranks as well as 1 new civilian staff member. All of these new hires were to replace vacancies left due to retirements. During 2023 New Castle Police Department continued to equip and train our Police Officers to a much higher standard than required under Indiana State Statute and will continue to do so moving forward.

As we move into 2024, Chief Schofield and I remain committed to fairly, professionally, and impartially policing the City of New Castle. We will continue striving to build positive and impactful relationships with our citizens and will remain committed to being transparent in both our successes and failures. Chief Schofield and I continue to seek out opportunities for professional growth for ourselves and the Police Officers we are responsible for. We will also continue to seek out funding opportunities for necessary equipment as we strive to give our citizens a professional, competent, and well-equipped police force. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens of New Castle as a police officer and look forward to continuing the work of serving and protecting the citizens of New Castle.

Respectfully,

Justin Wardlow

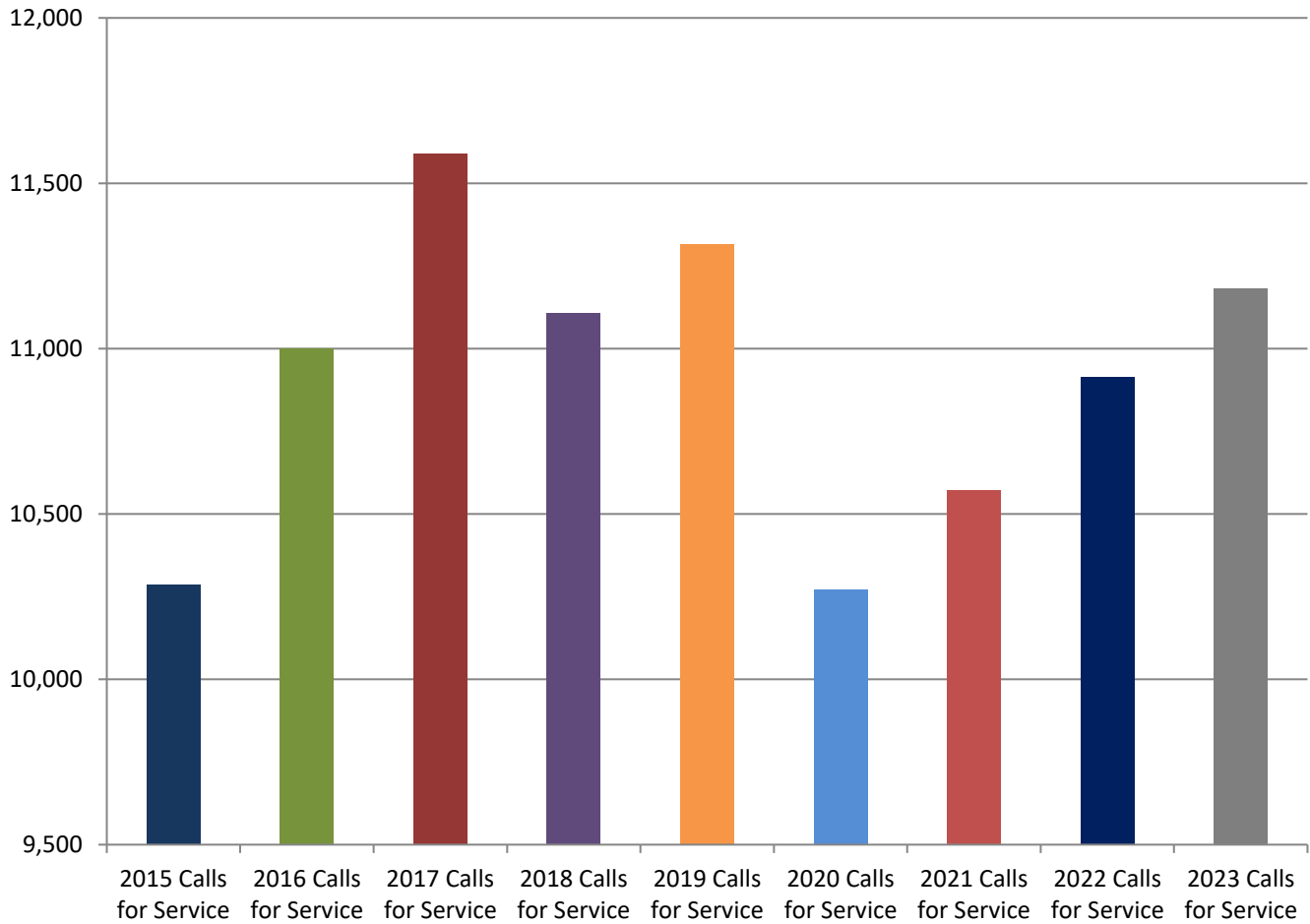
Assistant Chief of Police

City of New Castle



NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

NCPD Service Calls



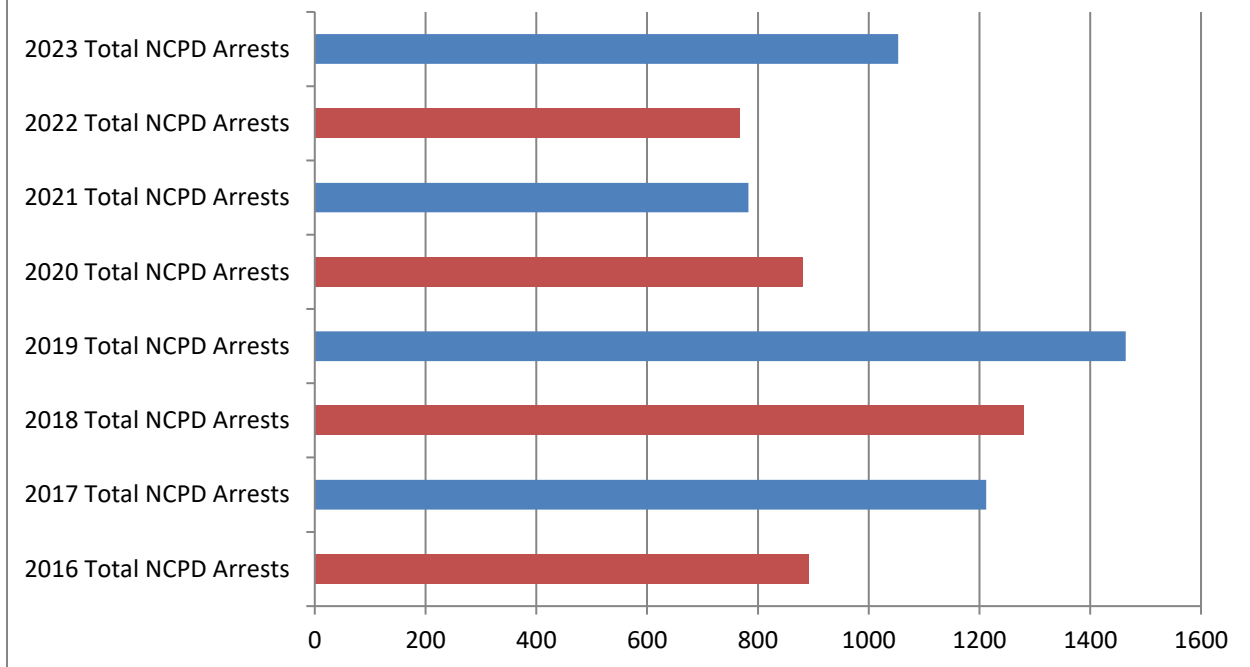
Starting midway through 2021, New Castle Police Department stopped responding to non-violent civil calls where no crime had been committed. The purpose of this guidance was to mitigate introducing law enforcement officers into situations where citizens had not committed a crime. In select situations, interjecting law enforcement into situations where no crime has been committed can escalate, rather than de-escalate, situations.

Examples: Landlord Tenant Disputes, Child Custody Disputes, Juvenile Problems

Additionally, New Castle Police Department has seen a steady increase in calls for service since 2020. Since 2020 NCPD's call volume has increased by nearly 1,000 calls per year. If NCPD was still responding to non-violent civil calls, our call volume would be even greater. NCPD has not been fully staffed since 2020. This means that an officer responds to approximately 450 calls for service annually. This does not factor in traffic enforcement, presence patrols, events, and/or the numerous others roles and responsibilities that are entrusted to our officers.

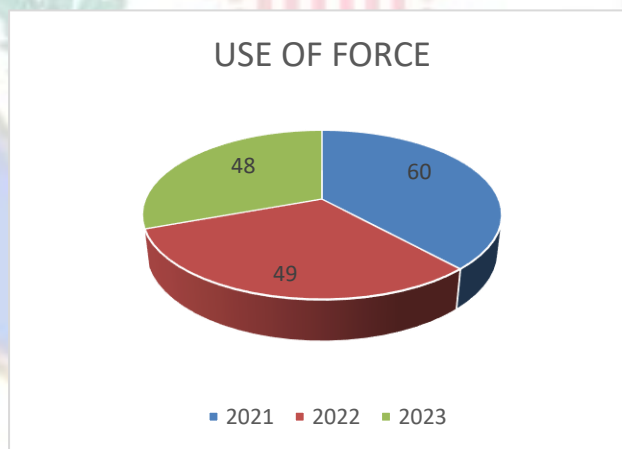
NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

NCPD ANNUAL ARRESTS



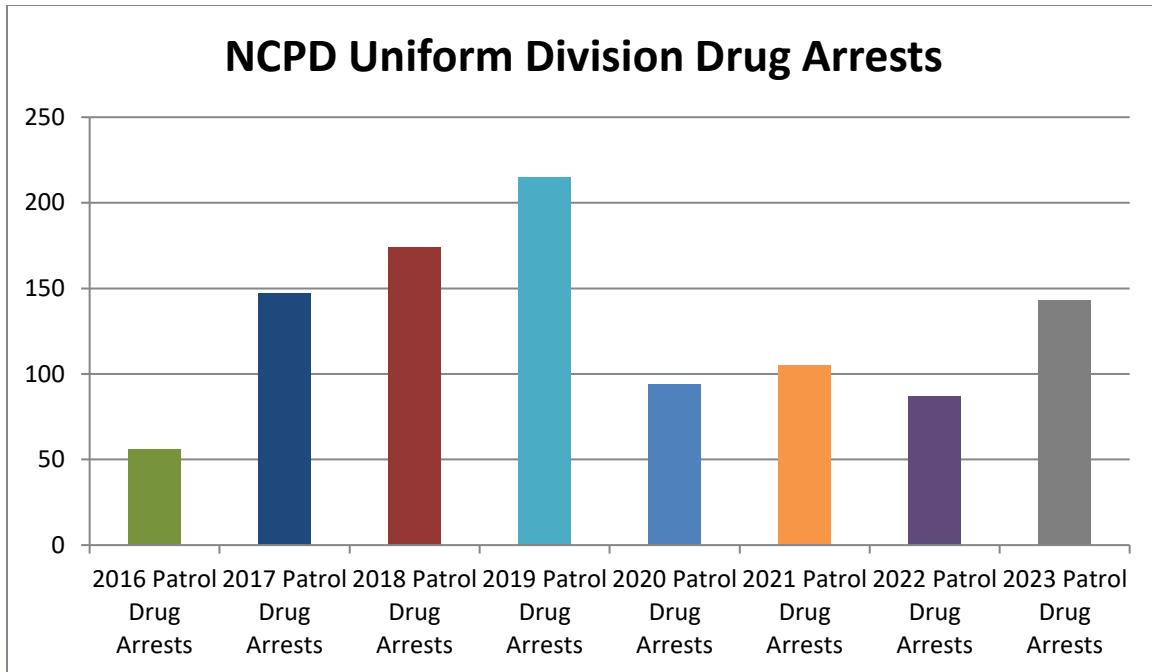
This data is the total number of incidents resulting in arrest, Not the total number of individuals arrested. For example, if a call resulted in 3 individuals being arrested it is tracked as 1 arrest incident. Additionally, many misdemeanor arrests are resolved through summoning the accused into court rather than incarcerating the individual in jail.

USE OF FORCE

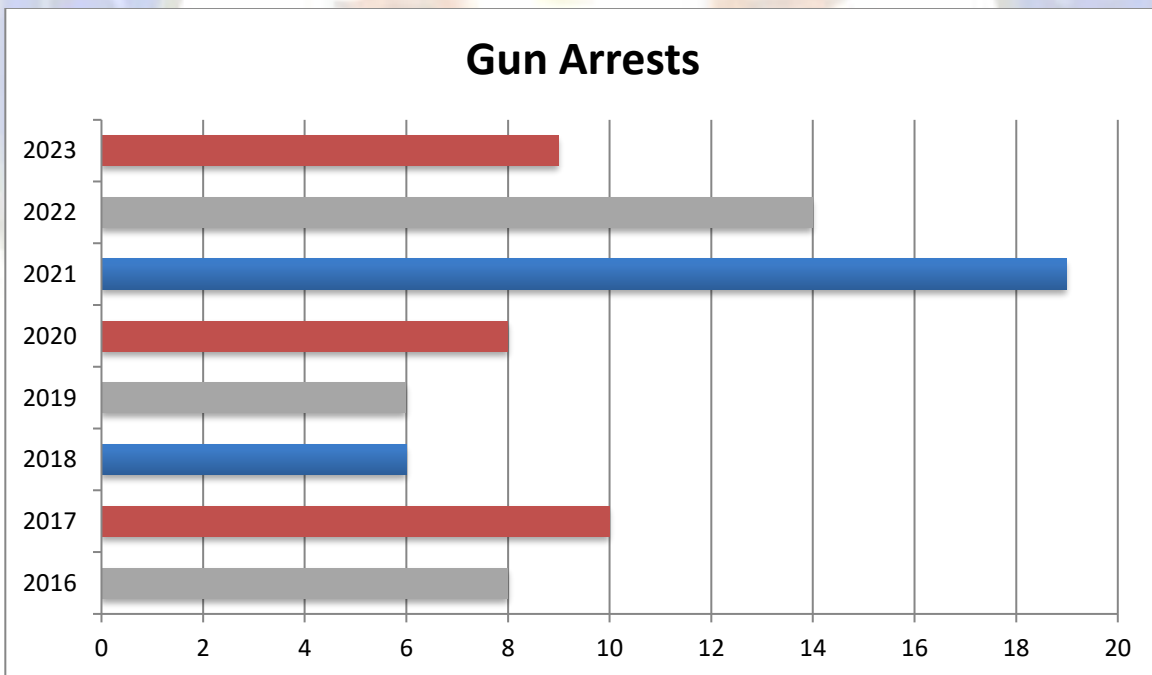


Towards the end of 2021, New Castle Police Department began tracking and reviewing all Use-of-Force incidents involving NCPD. During 2023, New Castle Police responded to 11,182 Calls-for-Service and conducted over 3,427 traffic stops. Of these 14,609 police encounters a Use-of-Force incident was involved 48 times. This means that NCPD has a Use-of-Force incident in approximately .33% of Police encounters with the public.

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

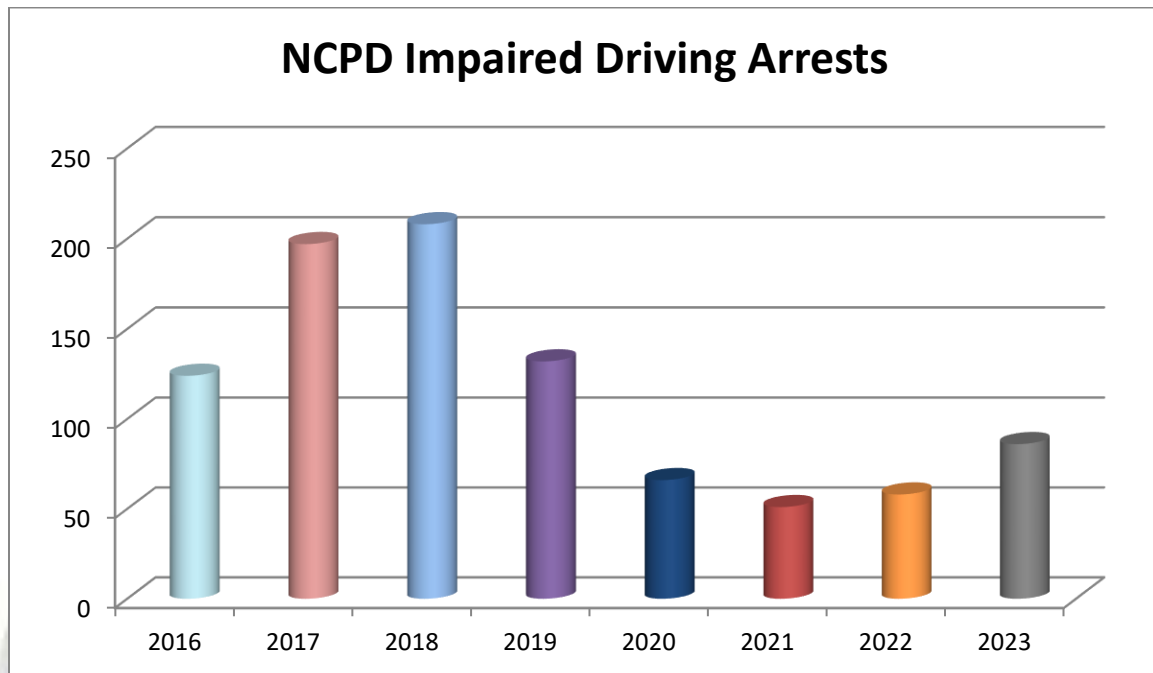


NCPD remains committed to combating the illegal sales, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs and narcotics within our community.

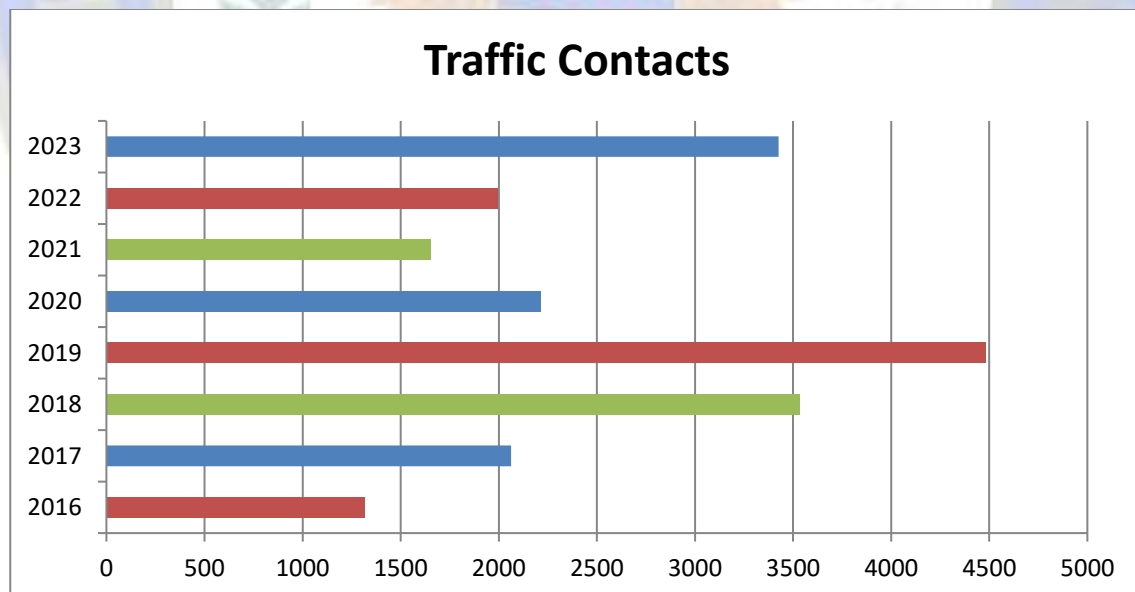


This is strictly arrests for illegal gun possession and/or Red Flag Firearms Seizures and does not factor incidents where legal guns were involved. Example-DUI arrests where the suspect was in possession of a legal gun. Additionally, in 2023 Indiana State Legislature passed a Constitutional Carry Law. This negated the requirement for possessing a License to Carry a Handgun (LTCH) under Indiana Law. Currently, any "Proper Person" can lawfully carry a firearm without possessing a LTCH in the State of Indiana.

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

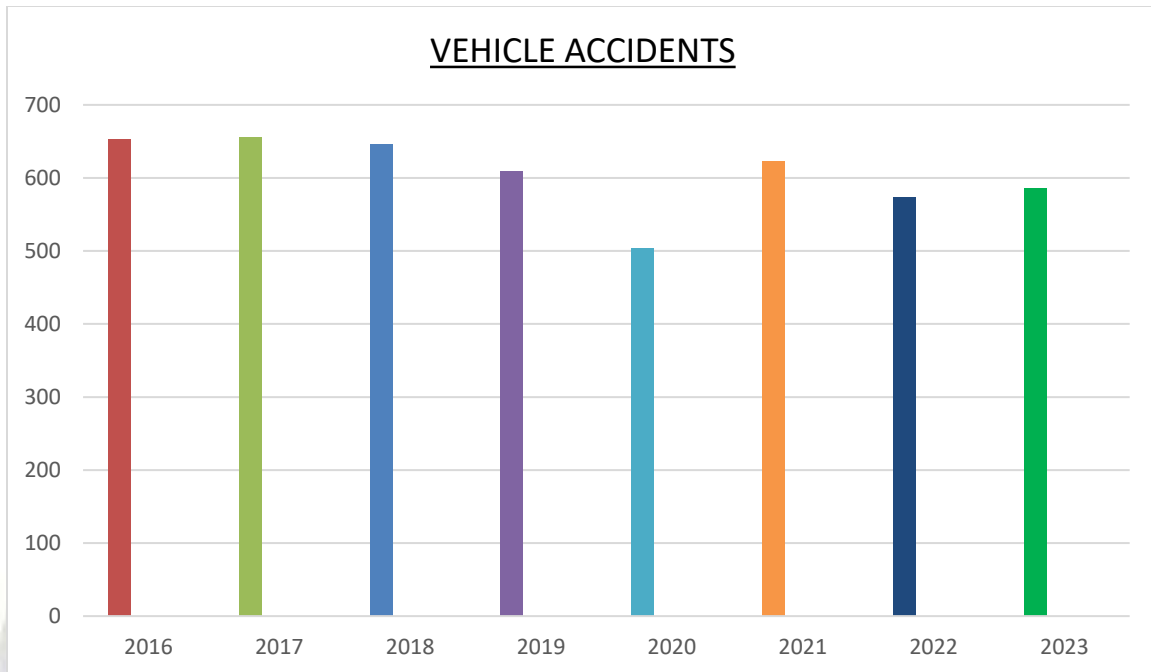


*In 2023 NCPD saw an increase in impaired driving. NCPD arrested 86 impaired drivers. This was made possible in-part due to the Operation Pull-Over Grant. **New Castle Police Department** would like to remind our community to **NOT** drink and drive. Drink responsibly, use designated drivers, or call a friend for a ride.*



These numbers include traffic citations and traffic warnings. NCPD encourages traffic enforcement in an effort to combat impaired driving, narcotics distribution, and safe driving.

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023



In 2023, New Castle Police Department saw a 2% increase in traffic accidents. Of the 585 Traffic Accidents investigated by New Castle Police Department, 168 accidents occurred on SR3. This means that 29% of all vehicle accidents investigated by NCPD occurred on SR3. If you reside in an area, and/or believe there are certain areas that would benefit from increased traffic enforcement contact New Castle Police Department at 765-521-6810.

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

NCPD K9 PROGRAM

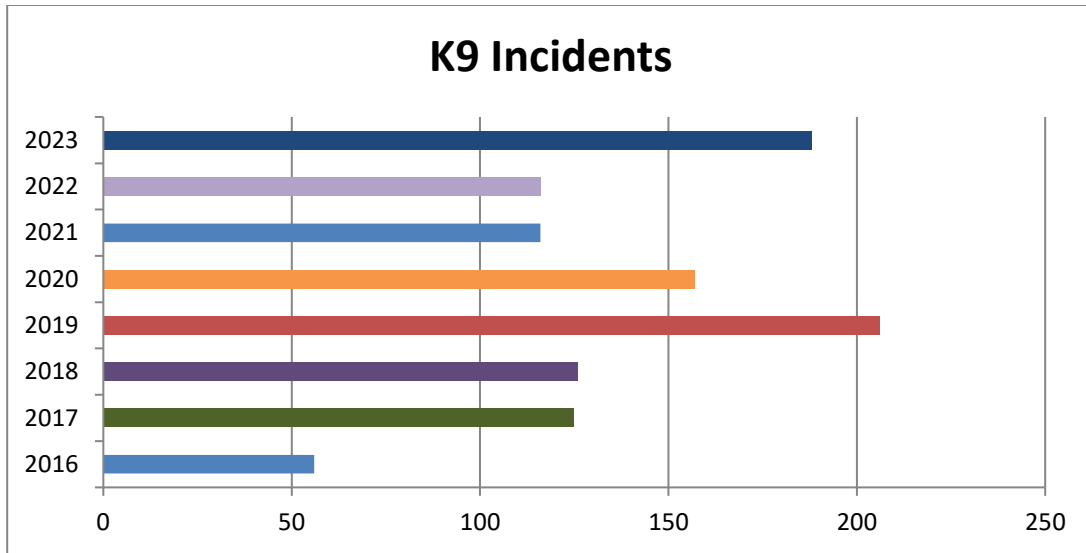


The New Castle Police Department K9 Unit currently consists of two dual purposes trained Belgian Malinois named Kori and Awpur. Both canines are dual purpose patrol/narcotics K9's which aid in tracking, apprehension, and drug/narcotics detection.

Officer Justin Farr and K9 Kori have been partnered for 5 years and Officer Jake Nicholson and K9 Awpur have been partnered for 2 years. In 2024 New Castle Police Department will be receiving a new K9 courtesy of Boars Head. Boars Head has graciously funded the purchase of our third K9 which we will receive in the Spring of 2024.

All of NCPD's canines were trained by Vohne Liche Kennels. NCPD K9 handlers train continuously throughout the year to maintain their proficiency. In addition to patrol and narcotics duties our K9 Unit also makes it a priority to interact with the citizens of New Castle by conducting demonstrations for various schools, organizations, and civic groups when requested.

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023



2023 K9 Incidents - 188

NCPD had 188 canine incidents in 2023. Our K9 handlers and their partners are instrumental in our ability to combat the sales, distribution, and use of narcotics within the City of New Castle. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work in 2023. We would like to thank the City of New Castle and citizens of our community for your continued support of our K9 Program.

New Castle Police Department's K9 Program is not funded through the City of New Castle and relies solely on fundraising and donations. Anyone wishing to donate to the NCPD K9 program may do so at 227 North Main St. New Castle, IN 47362 Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm. We greatly appreciate all of the support from our community during 2023.

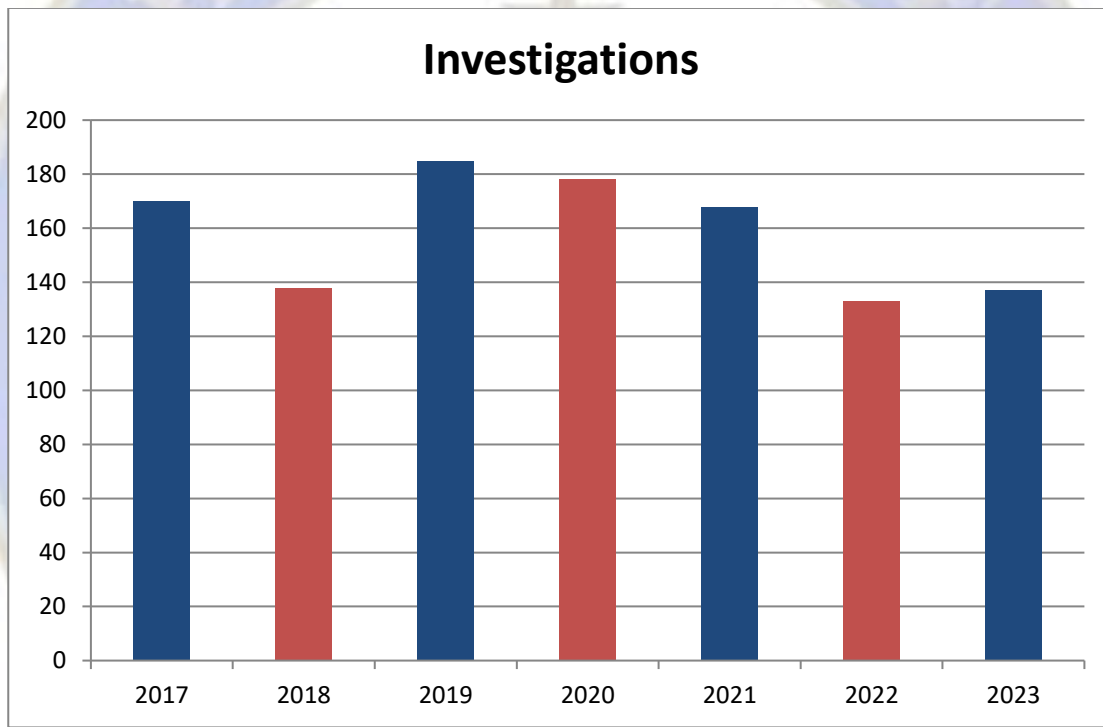


NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

NCPD DETECTIVE DIVISION

The New Castle Police Department Detective Division conducted 137 Criminal Investigations over the course of 2023 resulting in numerous felony arrests. Many criminal investigations are complex and require many hours of investigation. Detectives spend time tracking down leads, interviewing witnesses and suspects, and completing reports to facilitate prosecution in these investigations.

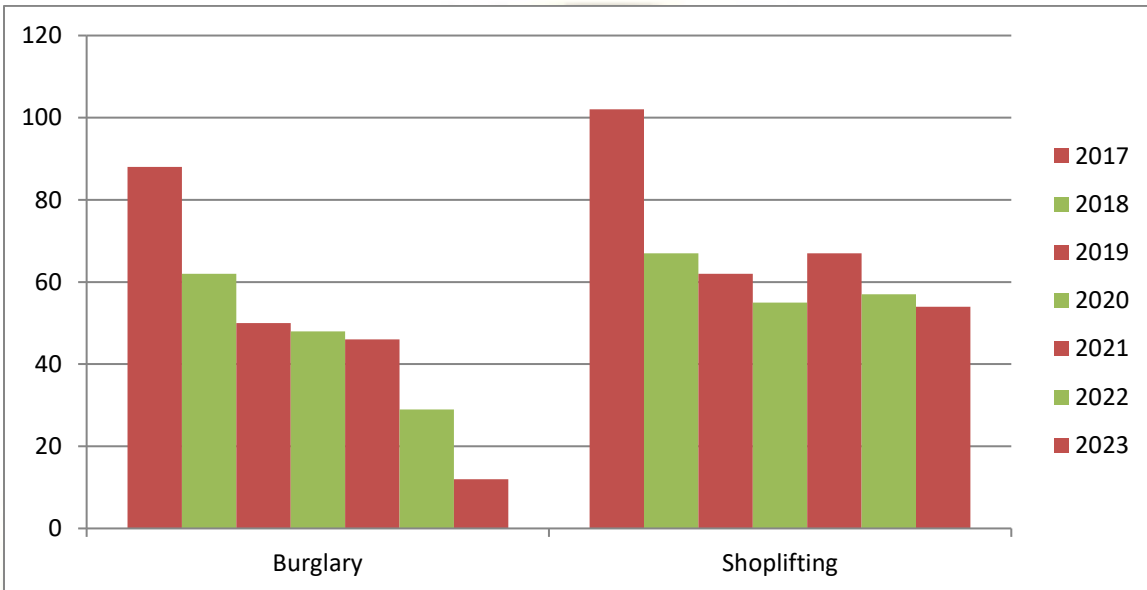
During 2023, NCPD Detectives investigated 1 homicide, 5 death investigations, 15 sex offenses, and 2 sexual assaults. This is just a small sample of the types of investigations being conducted by our Detectives on a daily basis.



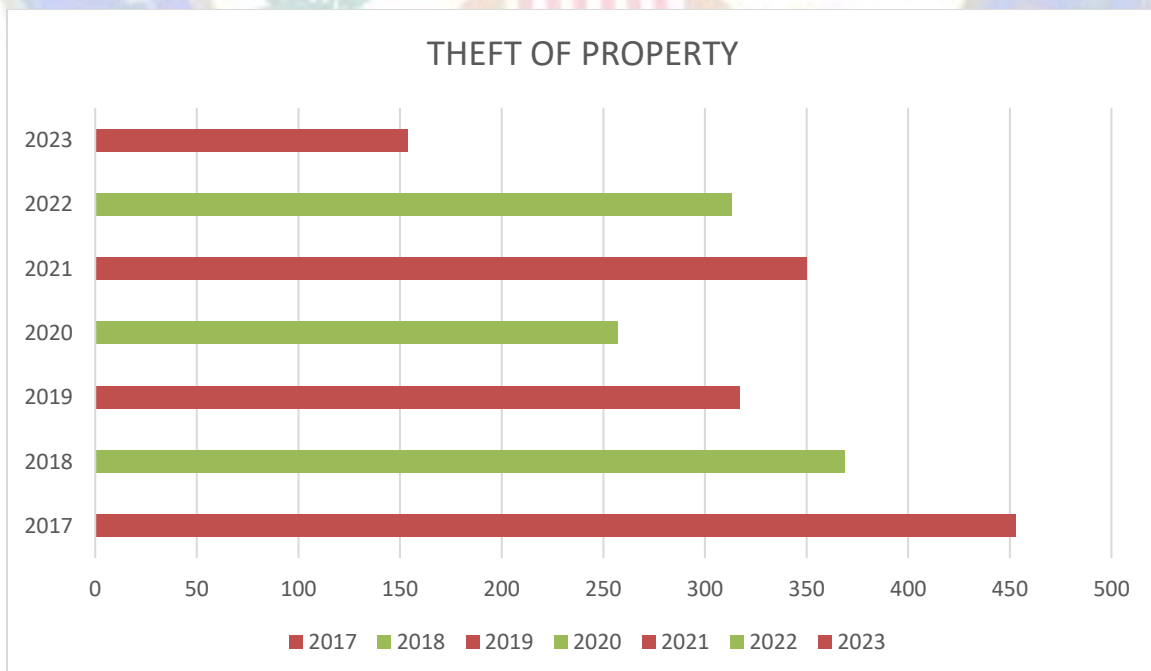
*Complex criminal investigations can take days, weeks, months, or in some cases, years before being completed. We greatly appreciate the hard work of all of our detectives and investigators as they diligently pursue suspects, collect evidence, and work with the Patrol Division to apprehend offenders. **In the event that you need to speak with a Detective regarding an investigation dial (765)-529-4890.***

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

New Castle Police Department responds to numerous property crimes every year. In the last 6 years NCPD has seen significant decreases in property crimes. NCPD appreciates the vigilance of our citizens, business owners, and officers as we all work together to mitigate these types of criminal offenses.



- *Burglary has decreased by 86% since 2017 in the City of New Castle*
- *Shoplifting has decreased by 47% since 2017 in the City of New Castle*
- *Theft has decreased by 66% since 2017 in the City of New Castle*

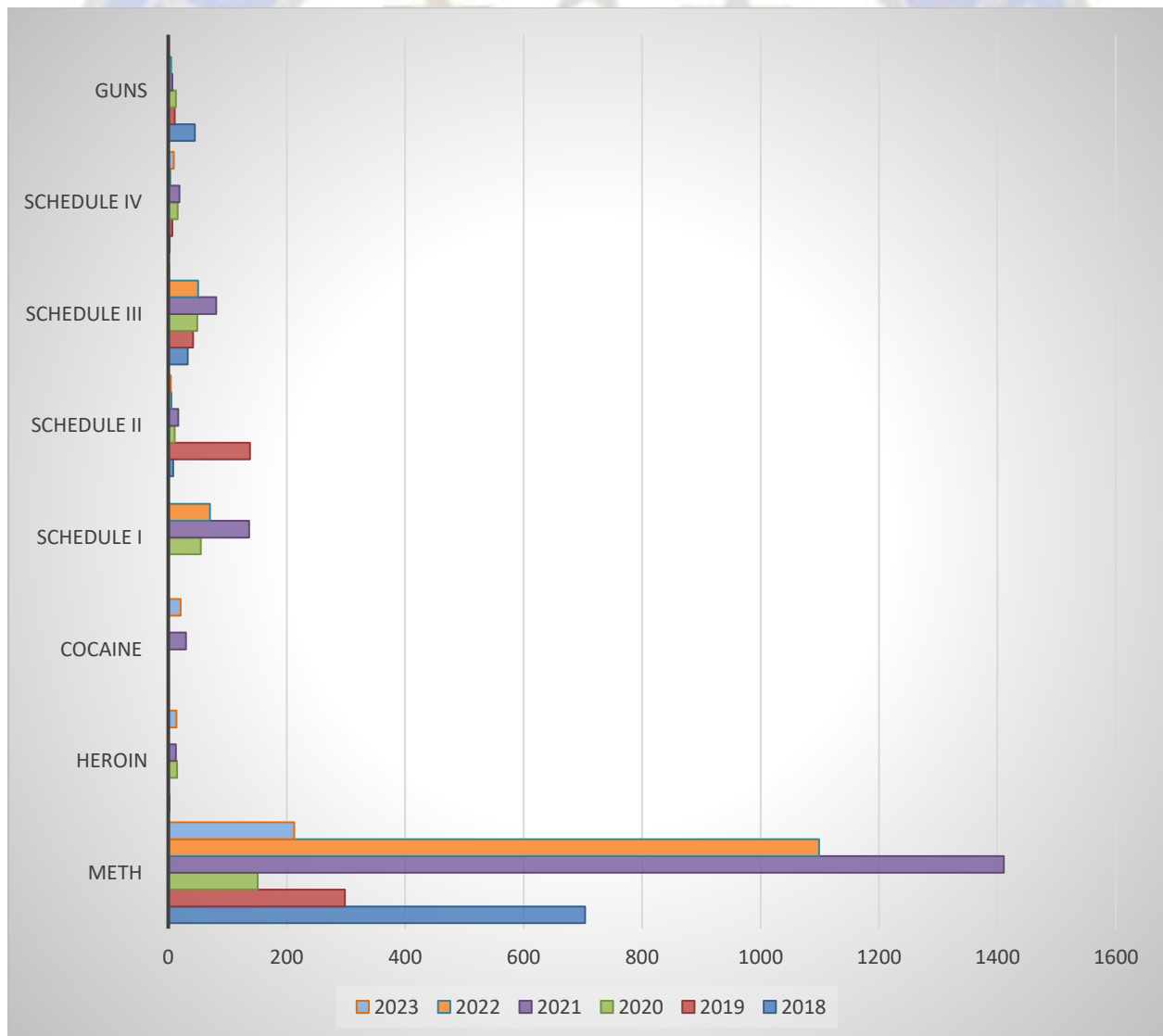


NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

Henry County Area Drug Task Force

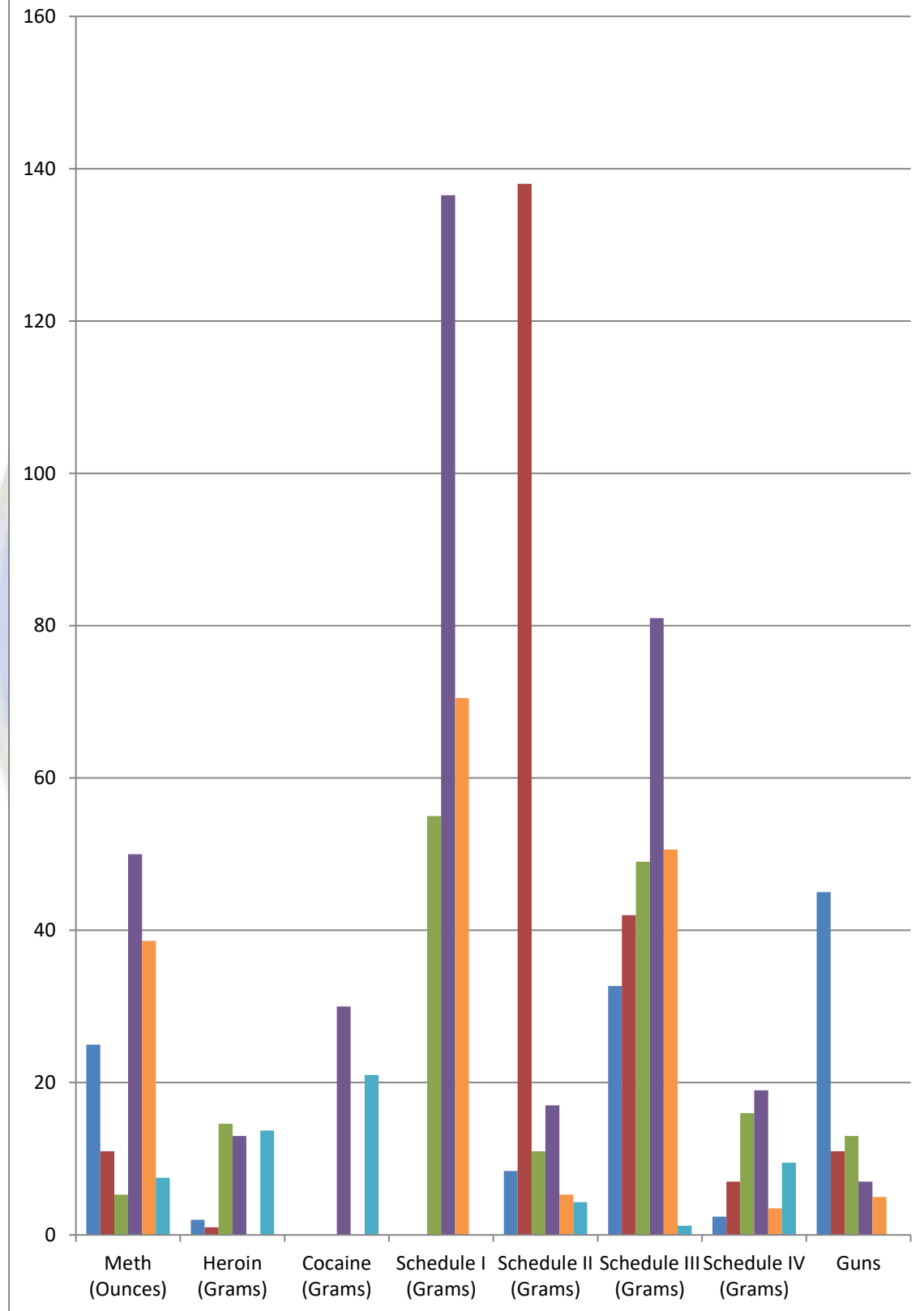
New Castle Police Department contributes narcotics officers to the Henry County Area Drug Task Force. These officers conduct narcotics investigation in and around Henry County in an effort to combat the sales and distribution of illegal drugs and narcotics.

In 2023 Undercover Narcotics Officers from New Castle Police Department made over 200 purchases for narcotics, conducted numerous Search Warrants on phones, vehicles, and residences suspected of dealing drugs/narcotics, and made numerous arrests on suspects involved in the sale, use, or distribution of drugs/narcotics. Over the course of 2023 ADTF Investigators seized over \$6,000 in US Currency, 5 Firearms, and 1000 Grams of Methamphetamine.



NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

2018 - 2022 SEIZURES IN GRAMS



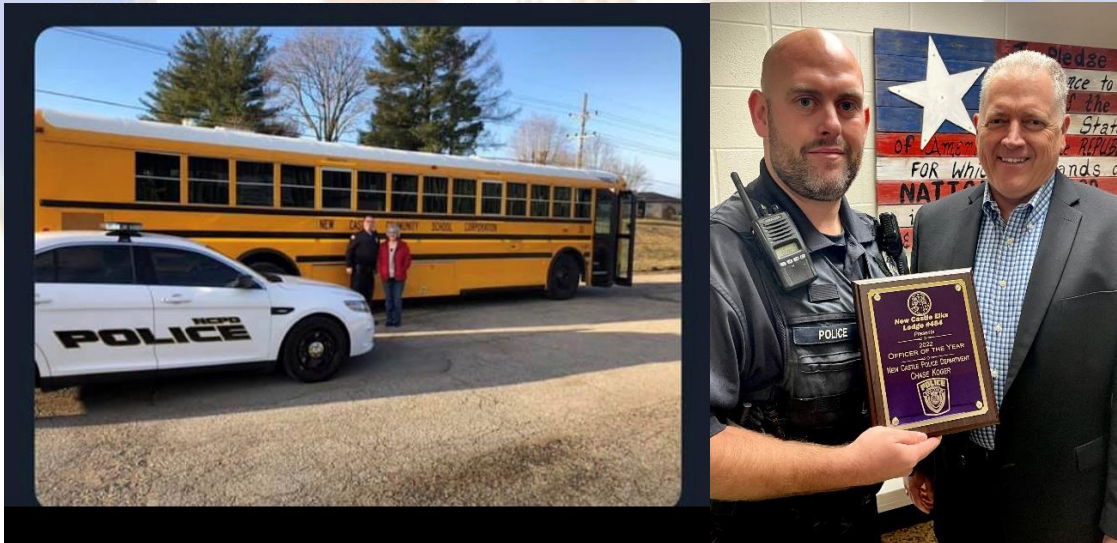
NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Over the course of 2023 our SROs were able to complete additional training to ensure the safety and security of the school campuses and children they are assigned to protect. Our SROs are responsible for safety and security of the children and faculty at New Castle High School, New Castle Middle School, Riley Elementary School, Parker Elementary School, Sunnyside Elementary School, Westwood Elementary School, and Wilbur Wright Elementary School.

In 2023 New Castle Police Department and New Castle Community School Corporation continued working together in an effort to increase safety and security within our schools. Currently, NCPD and NCCSC are working together in an effort to add an additional full-time SRO.

New Castle Police Department and New Castle Community School Corporation continues to look for ways to expand the safety and security of our schools as well as ensure the protection of our most important resource, our children. We look forward to the continued growth of the SRO Program during 2023 to better serve New Castle Community School Corporation and their student body.



NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023

NCPD OFFICER TRAINING

All NCPD Officers are certified through the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board (ILETB) within their first year of employment. This consists of 15 weeks of training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. After completing that initial 15 weeks of training all officers must complete mandatory In-Service training annually.

Training our officers and staff to perform their duties safely and effectively continues to be a top priority for the New Castle Police Department. The Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board mandates that all sworn police officers complete 24 hours of annual in-service training; however, it is our goal to far surpass this minimum standard on an annual basis.

Throughout the year NCPD Officers complete multiple firearms trainings, defensive tactics trainings, emergency vehicle operations training, de-escalation training, and many other trainings to ensure that our officers are able to safely, efficiently and professionally complete their duties.

In 2023 NCPD tried to send numerous officers to additional trainings above and beyond the state mandated training. In 2023 various officers attended the Indiana SWAT Conference, K9 Trainings, School Resource Officer Conference, Basic Investigator School, Instructor Development, and several other specialized training courses.

Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board Requires 24hrs of Training Annually, NCPD is proud to be far exceeding the State requirement for training.

- *Average Training Hours for All Officers – 64 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for SRO's – 68HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for Detectives – 75.8 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for K9 Officer – 101.5 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for SWAT Officers – 152.4 HRS*

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023



NCPD RECRUITING

Recruiting qualified applicants is a year-round effort. NCPD is always looking for qualified applicants to participate in our competitive hiring process. Officers assigned to the recruiting team are all volunteers and assist in job fairs, college outreach, and any other recruiting drives initiated by NCPD.

New Castle Police Department also accepts lateral candidates. Lateral applicants must have completed the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and be in good standing with their current law enforcement agency. By accepting lateral applicants NCPD is able to attract more qualified candidates and save money required to train newly hired officers.

While we are excited about the possibility of hiring lateral applicants NCPD's goal is and always will be, to hire, train, and equip the best police force we can for the residents of the City of New Castle.

If you know of a person that would be an asset to policing the City of New Castle, please encourage them to apply for NCPD. Additional information can be found on the New Castle Police Department Facebook page and by contacting New Castle Police Department at (765)-521-6810.



NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023



NCPD 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Hired 4 New Police Officers to fill vacancies within NCPD*
- *Hired 1 New Civilian Records Clerk to fill vacancies within NCPD*
- *2 New Officers successfully completed the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy*
- *Ordered 4 new police vehicles to maintain vehicle fleet*
- *Completed NCPD Hiring Process with NCPD Merit Board*
- *Completed NCPD Promotion Process with NCPD Merit Board*
- *Received donation to purchase 3rd Canine*
- *Decreased burglary in the City of New Castle*
- *Strengthened police and community relations*

NCPD 2024 OBJECTIVES

- *Hire 2 new officers and return NCPD back to full strength*
- *Continue Working with NCCSC to add additional full-time SRO*
- *Purchase new police vehicles as budget allows to maintain vehicle fleet*
- *All newly hired officers successfully complete Field Training Program and ILEA*
- *Continuously seek out new training opportunities for all officers*
- *Continue to evaluate equipment needs and considerations*
- *Continue Strengthening police and community relations*

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023



*ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEW CASTLE POLICE
DEPARTMENT, THANKS FOR REVIEWING OUR ANNUAL 2023 REPORT*



*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ASSISTANT
CHIEF JUSTIN WARDLOW or CHIEF MATT SCHOFIELD 765-521-6810*