

Thurston County Criminal Justice Data Trends – 2012-2022

Law and Justice Council
Thurston County
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Data Sources

Data in this report is from the Washington State Statistical Analysis Center's (SAC) Criminal Justice Data Book¹. The SAC creates the data book by combining data from the following sources:

- **National Incident-Based Reporting (NIBRS):** the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) collects data monthly from participating law enforcement agencies. This data is then shared to NIBRS, which collects national data on 23 different offense categories. While sharing data to NIBRS is voluntary, Thurston County has multiple jurisdictions participating. These include the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, Evergreen State College Police Department, Lacey Police Department, Olympia Police Department, Tenino Police Department, Tumwater Police Department, and Yelm Police Department.
- **Department of Social and Health Services' Rehabilitation Administration:** this data source collects information on juvenile residential program admissions.
- **The Administrative Office of the Courts:** this data source collects information on Superior Court case filings.
- **WASPC'S Jail Booking and Reporting System:** this data source collects information on jail populations from county correctional facilities.
- **Caseload Forecast Council:** this data source provides information on felony jail sentences from county Superior Court cases.

Reported Incidents

This section uses data from NIBRS to show rates of reported incidents over time. NIBRS captures data on incidents that law enforcement agencies document with a case number and became more widely used in Washington beginning in 2012. Reporting to NIBRS is voluntary, and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office began their reporting in 2012, with the cities following in 2013 and 2014.

The incident rates are based on the population served by the reporting agency, not the county population in its entirety, and is adjusted using population estimates for each year. It is important to note that 2020 and 2021 are still data anomalies, and we do not know the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, or the Blake Decision, on incident numbers at this time.

2022 Washington State Incident Rate²
- 67.60 per 1,000 residents -

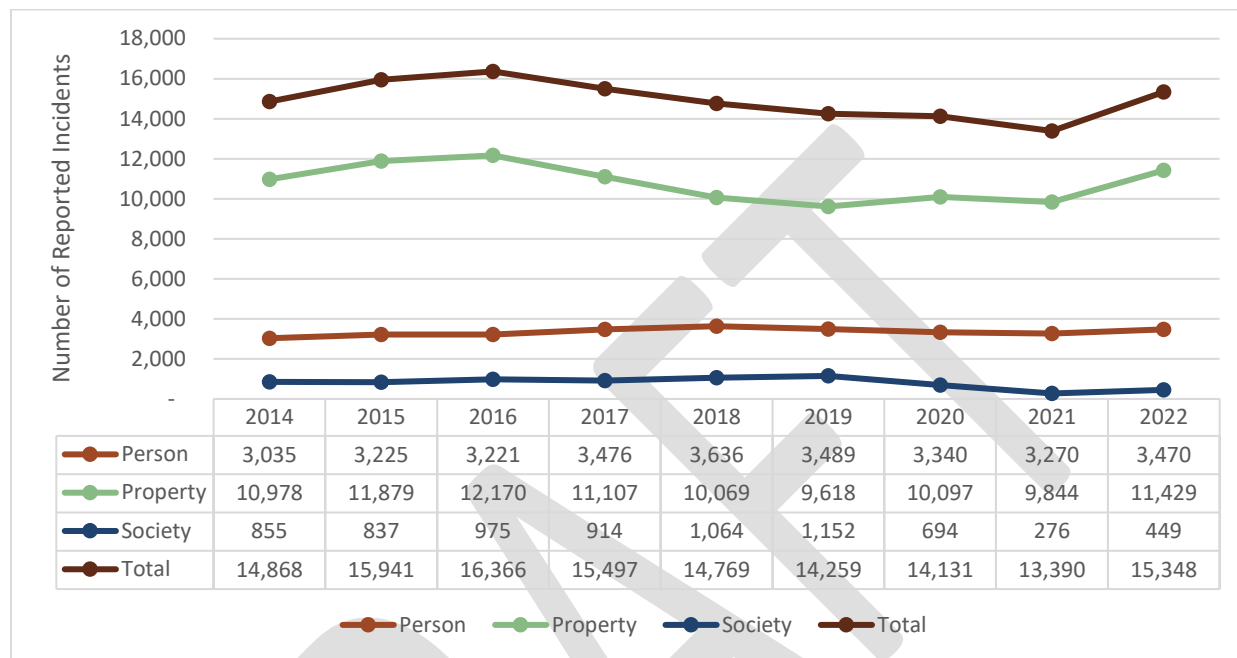
¹ <https://sac.ofm.wa.gov/data>

² <https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/2021%20CIW.pdf>

Reported Incidents in Thurston County (2014 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

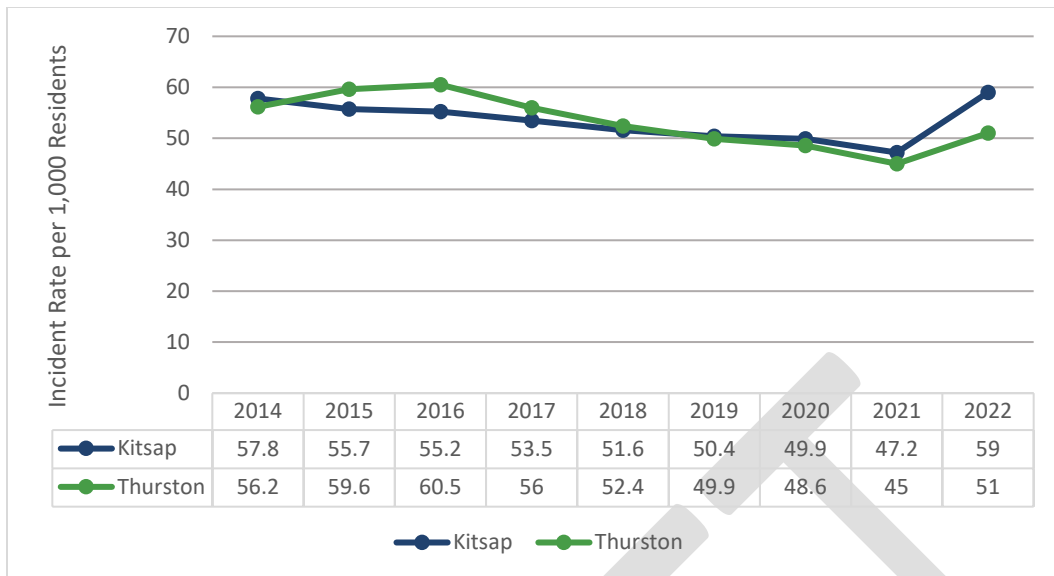
Reported violent and nonviolent incidents in Thurston County were declining since reaching a high of 16,366 in 2016. In 2022 though, we saw an increase in all crime types.



Thurston County vs. Kitsap County (2014 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

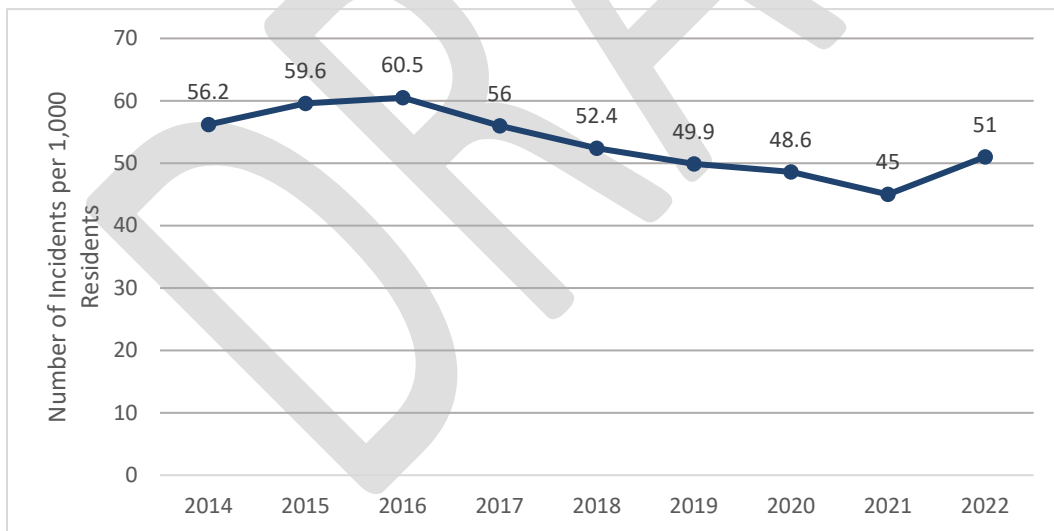
A comparison between Kitsap and Thurston County crime rates overtime is provided here as Kitsap is the closest county in population to Thurston. While both counties saw an increase in their 2022 crime rates, Kitsap County's was more significant.



Thurston County Incident Rate (2014 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

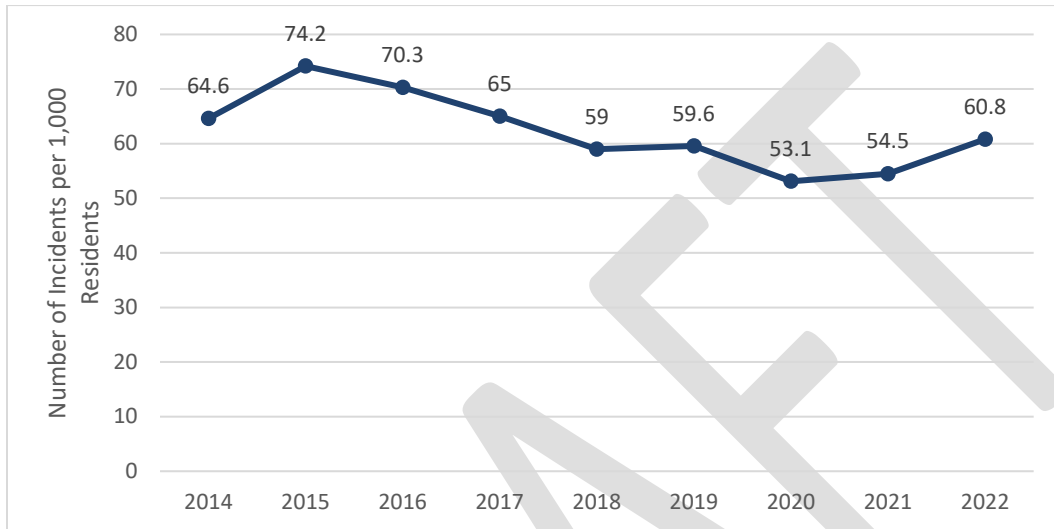
This incident rate combines all reporting jurisdictions and therefore, is county-wide. After declining since 2016, the violent and nonviolent incident rate per 1,000 increased by 13% in 2022. The 2022 incident rate is the highest rate the county has seen since 2018.



City of Lacey Incident Rates (2014 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

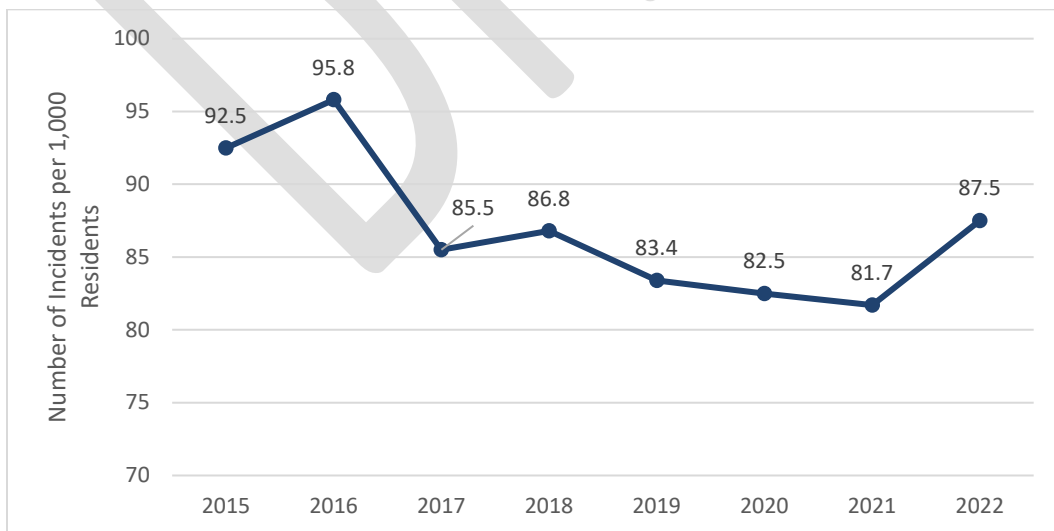
Though Lacey's rate of violent and nonviolent incidents has steadily declined since 2015, and is consistently lower than neighboring cities, the city did see an 12% increase in their violent and nonviolent incident rate in 2022. The 2022 incident rate is the highest the county has seen since 2017.



City of Olympia Incident Rates (2015 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

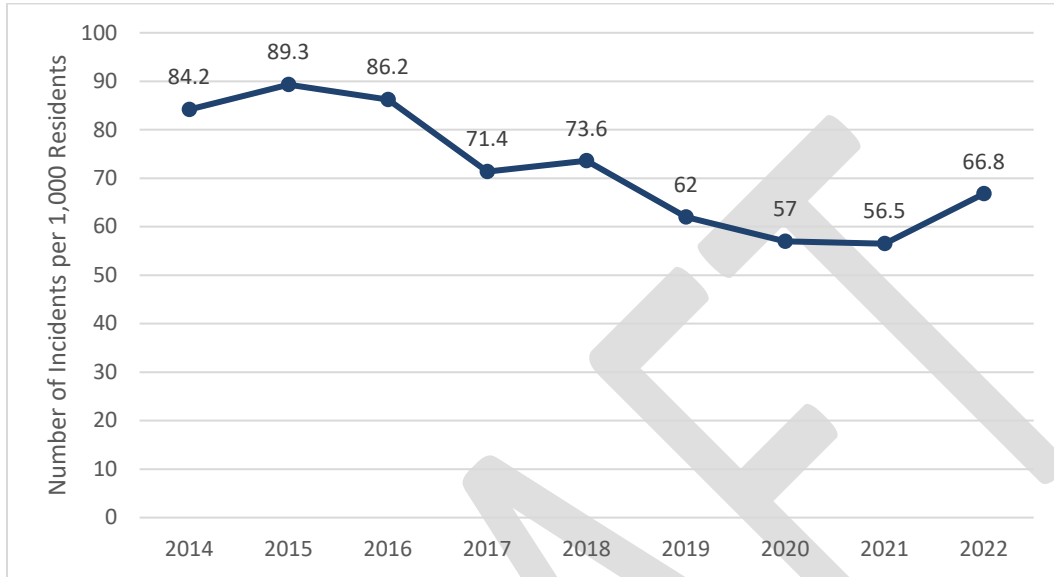
The City of Olympia also saw its highest incident rate in several years in 2022. The incident rate increased by 7% in 2022 and is the highest incident rate seen since 2016.



City of Tumwater Incident Rates (2014 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

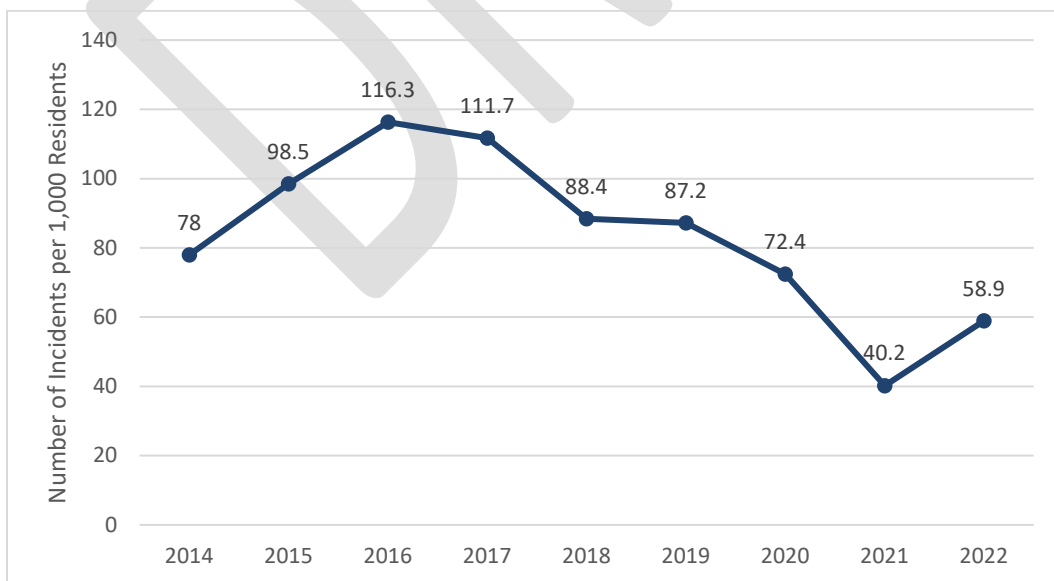
The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Tumwater Police Department increased by 18% in 2022, the highest incident rate the city has seen since 2018.



City of Yelm Incident Rates (2014 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

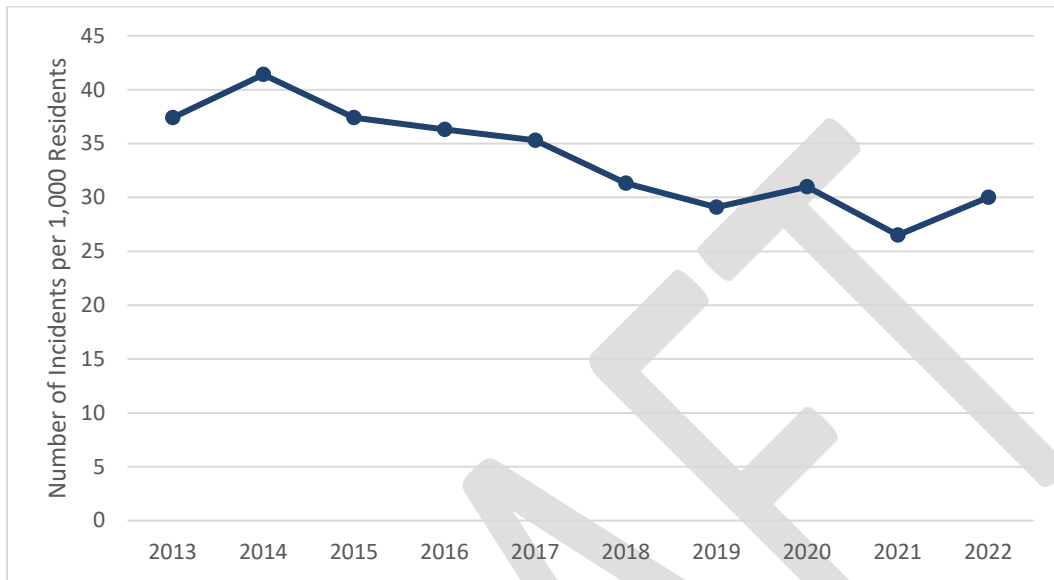
The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Yelm Police Department increased by 47% in 2022, though the rate remains lower than the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thurston County Sheriff's Office Incident Rates (2013 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office increased by 13.2% in 2022.

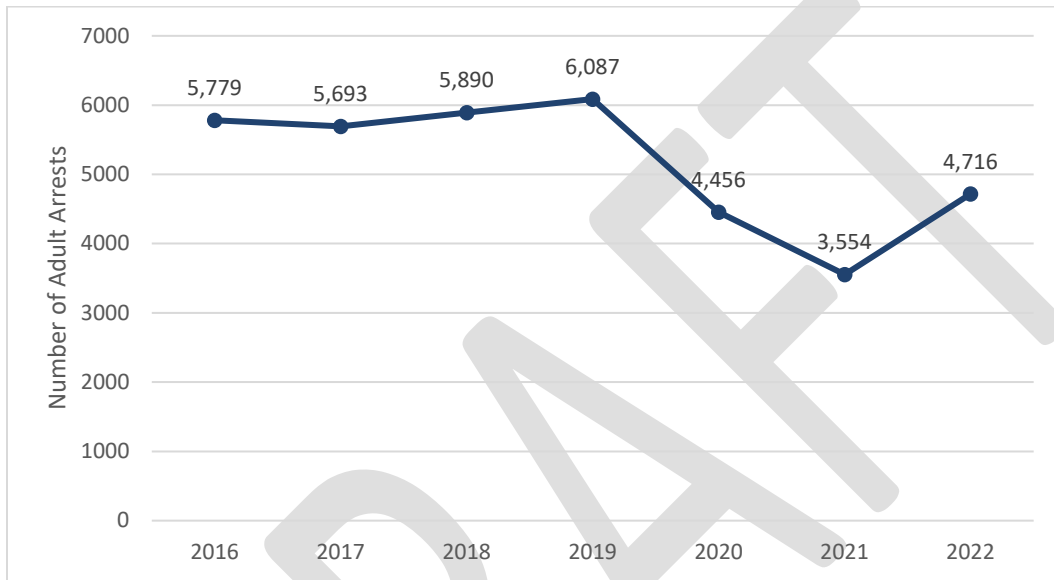


Adults

Adult Arrests (2016 – 2022)

Key Takeaway:

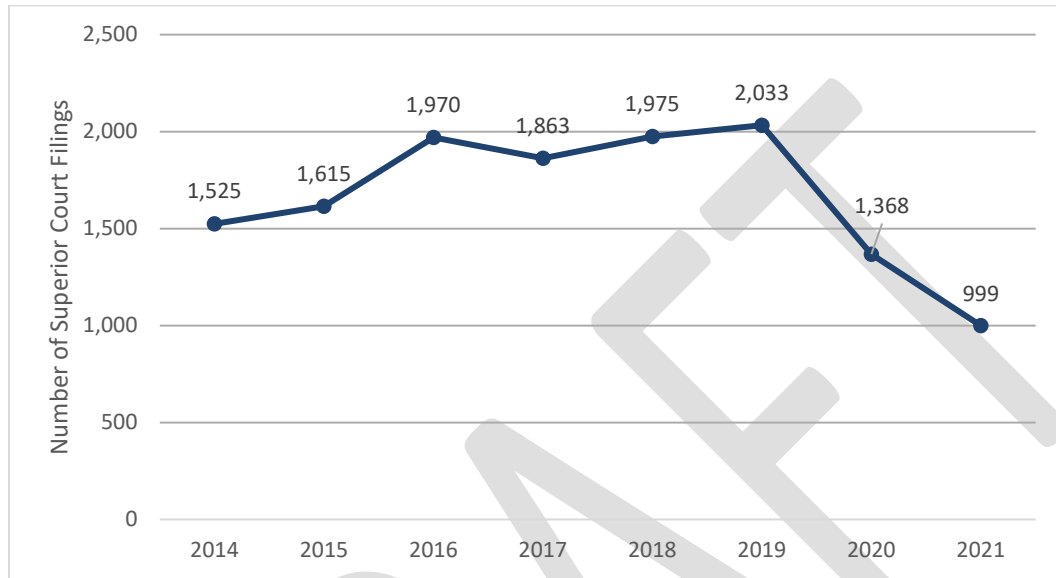
Though the data shows a decrease in arrests after 2019, this is likely due in part to changes in booking restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Blake Decision. Adult arrests across Thurston County increased by 33% in 2022 and were slightly higher than they were in 2020.



Superior Court Filings (2014 – 2021)

Key Takeaway:

As with the adult arrests numbers, the decrease seen after 2019 is not necessarily indicative of a lower crime rate and may be a byproduct of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Blake Decision. Further study is needed as additional data becomes available.

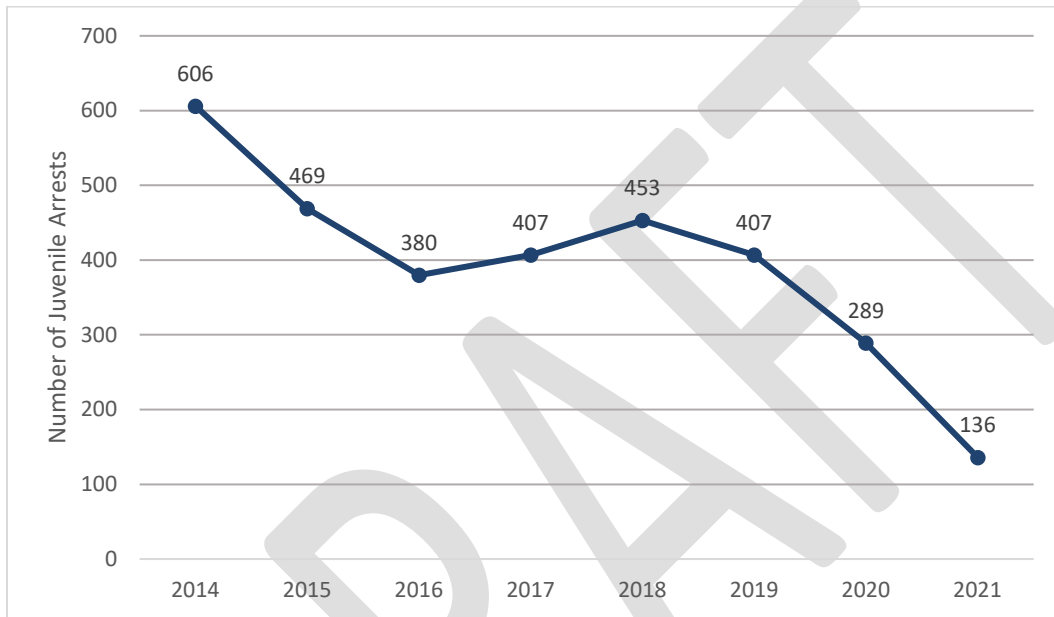


Juveniles

Juvenile Arrests (2014 – 2021)

Key Takeaway:

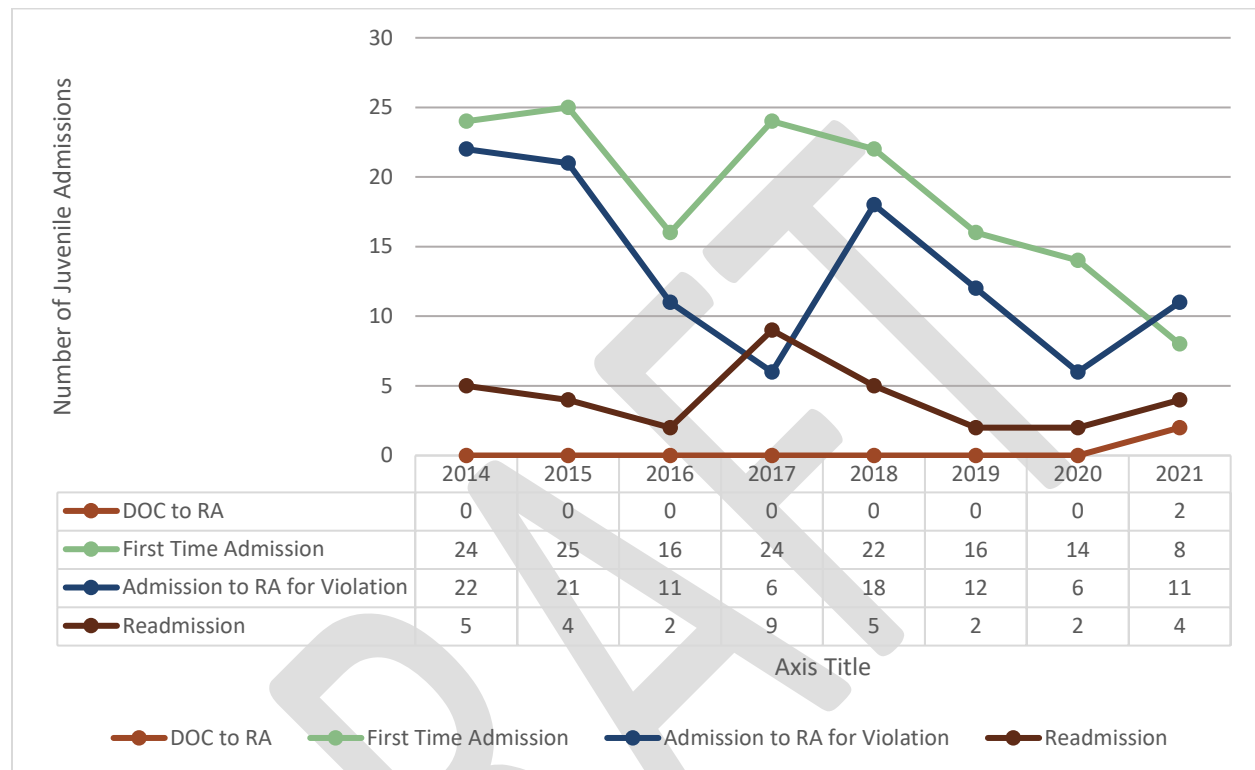
The number of juvenile arrests has been declining since 2018, though numbers plummeted in 2020. Further study is needed as additional data becomes available to determine if this is related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Blake Decision.



Juvenile Admissions (2014 – 2021)

Key Takeaway:

First time juvenile admissions to the Rehabilitation Administration have been steadily declining since 2017.



DOC to RA: this is a juvenile admitted to the Rehabilitation Administration from the Department of Corrections.

First Time Admission: this is a juvenile who is being admitted to the Rehabilitation Administration for the first time.

Admission to RA for Violation: this is a juvenile who is being admitted to the Rehabilitation Administration for violating conditions of parole or community custody but may not have committed a new offense.

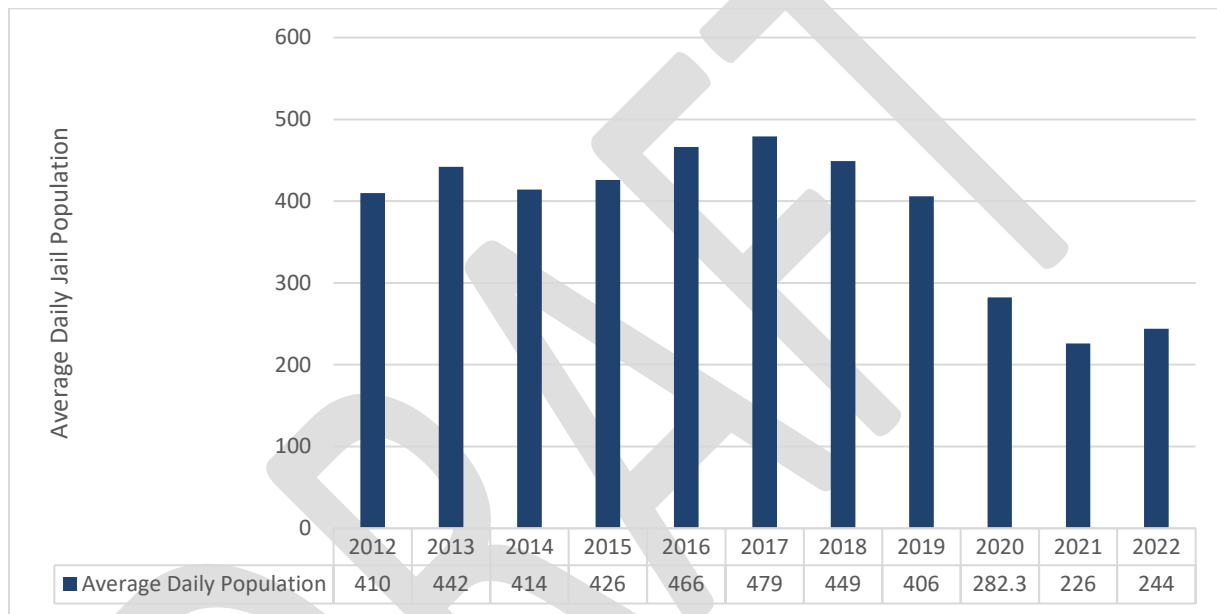
Readmission: this is the admission of a juvenile previously admitted to and then released from the Rehabilitation Administration.

Thurston County Corrections Facility

Average Daily Population (2012 – 2022)

Key Takeaways:

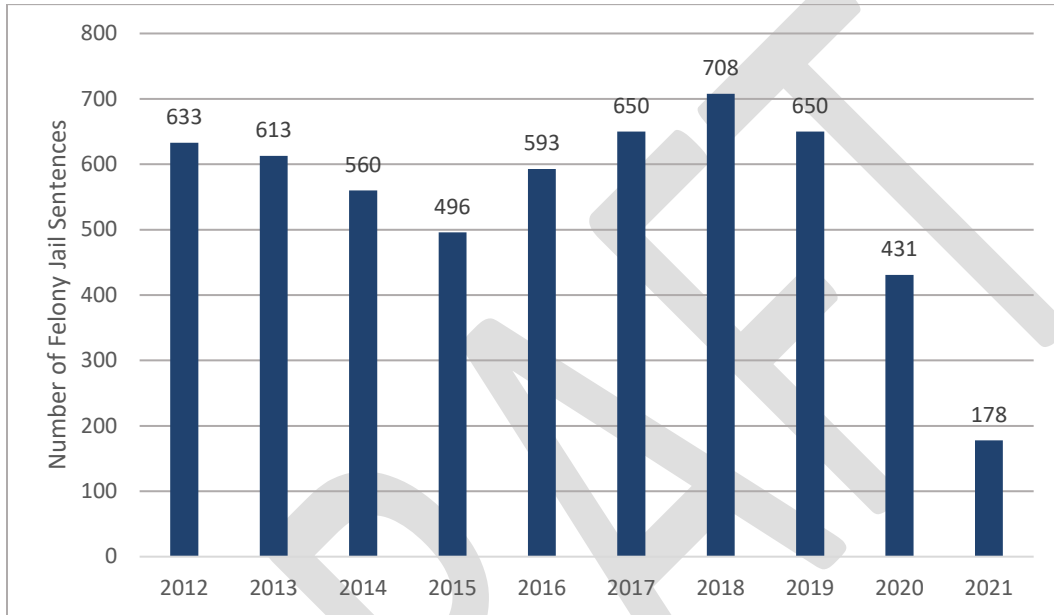
The jail population decreased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic due to booking restrictions. It is important to note that the jail is still “at capacity” for those who are high need, or violent. The average daily population continues to be lower than seen prior to 2020, but we expect that to change in the 2023 data as the booking restrictions were removed from the jail in August 2023.



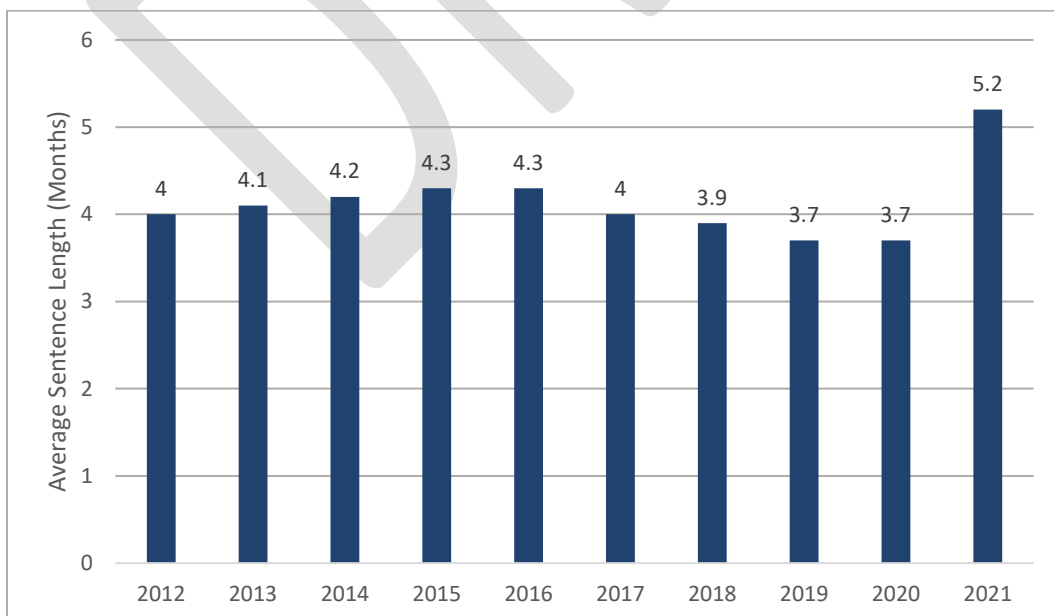
Number of Felony Jail Sentences – All Offenses (2012 – 2021)

Key Takeaway:

In 2021 the average felony jail sentence increased, a direct result of a lowering in the number of felony jail sentences. Due to booking restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the court backlog, there are fewer felony jail sentences. When those sentences occur though, they are typically longer due to the nature of the crime being more severe.



Average Felony Jail Sentence (Months) (2012 – 2021)



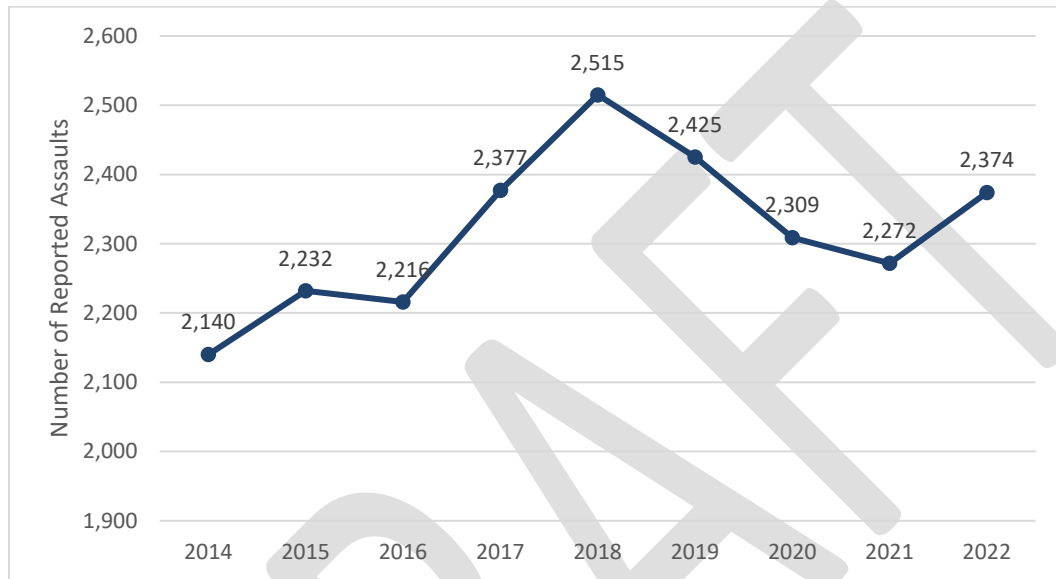
Reported Incidents by Crime Type

Key Takeaway:

All crime types except for forcible sex crimes saw an increase in 2022.

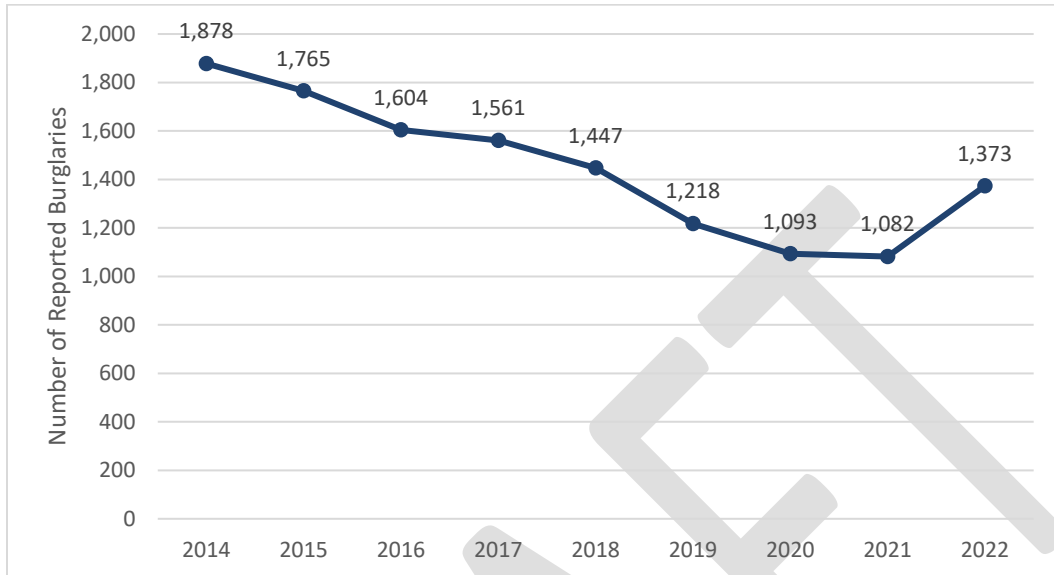
Reported Assaults

Reported assaults includes aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation.



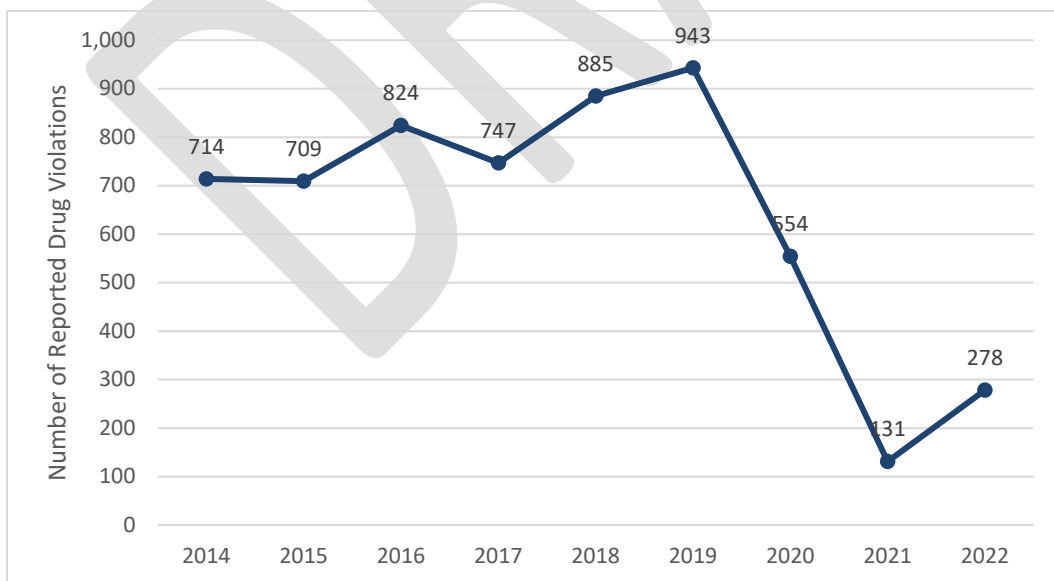
Reported Burglaries

Reported burglaries includes the unlawful entry into a building or another structure with the intent to commit a theft or felony.



Reported Drug Violations

Reported drug violations includes drug/narcotics violations such as the unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, as well as equipment or devices used to prepare drugs or narcotics.

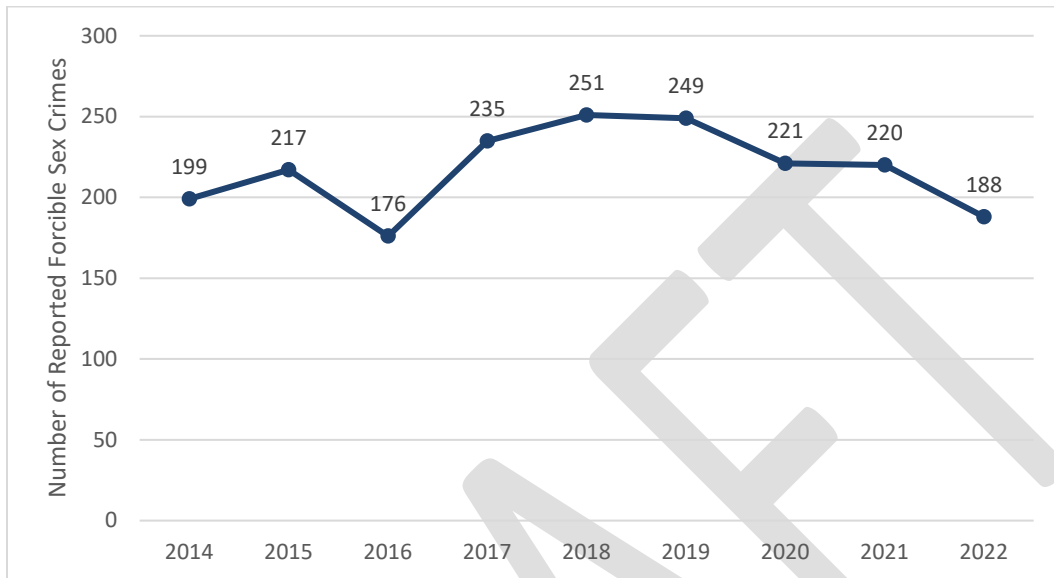


The large drop can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Blake Decision.

Reported Sex Crimes

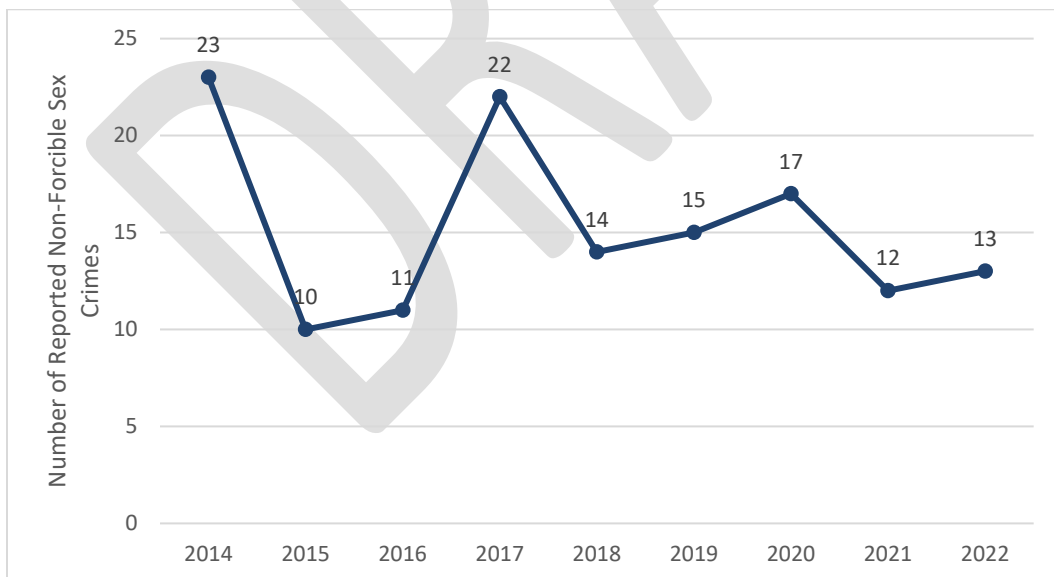
Forcible Sex Crimes

Forcible sex crimes include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling.



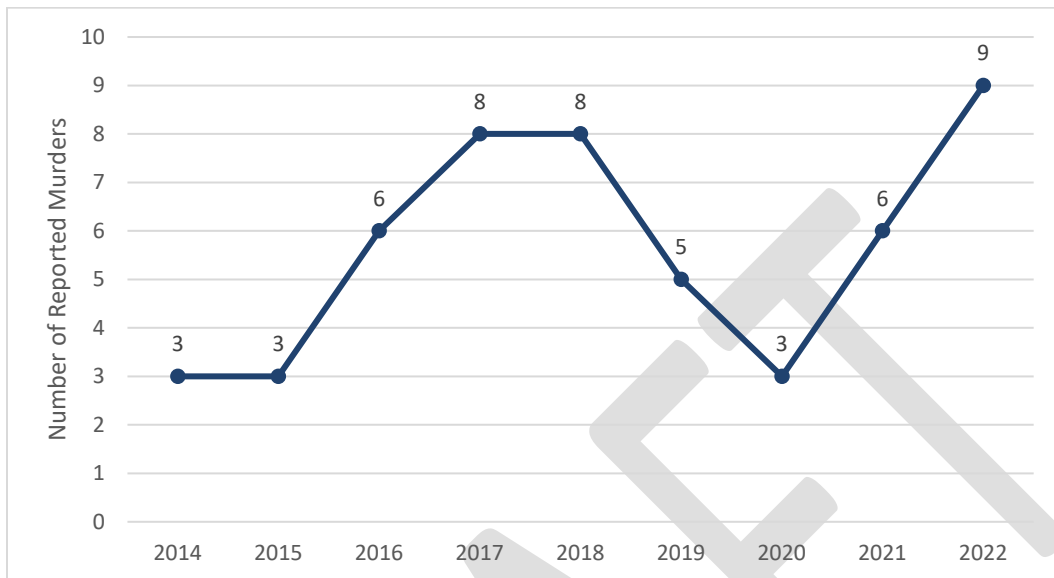
Non-Forcible Sex Crimes

Non-forcible sex crimes include non-forcible incest, and statutory rape.



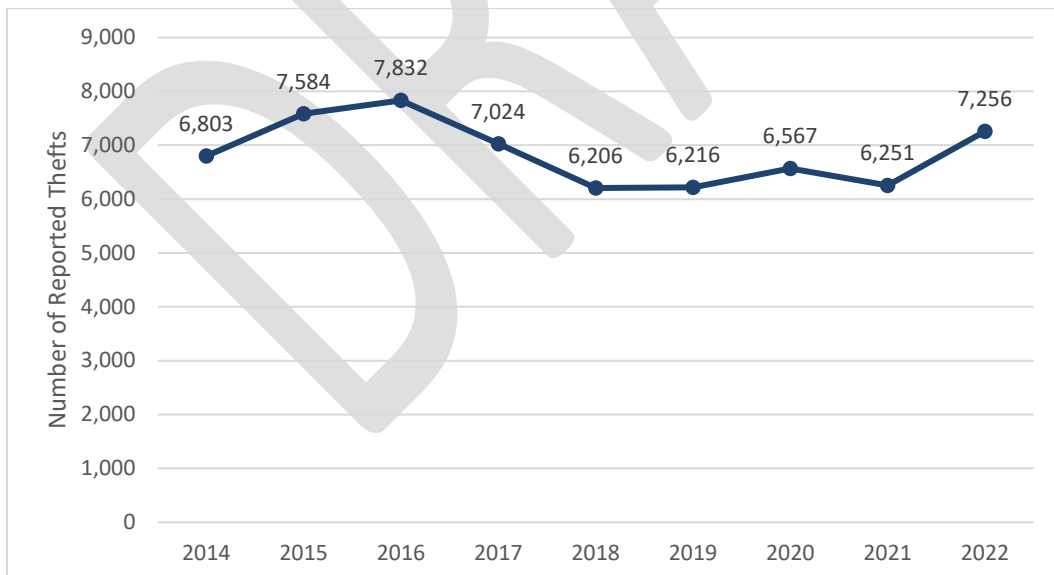
Reported Murders

Reported murders include the willful killing of another person, and non-negligent murders. Attempted murders are reported as aggravated assaults.



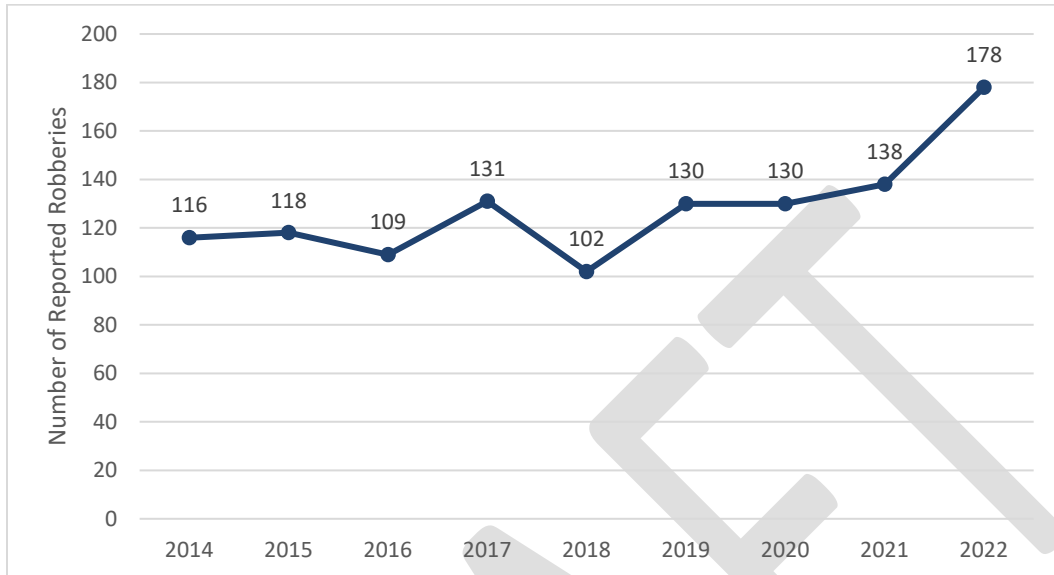
Reported Thefts

Reported thefts include embezzlement, fraud, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and stolen property offenses.



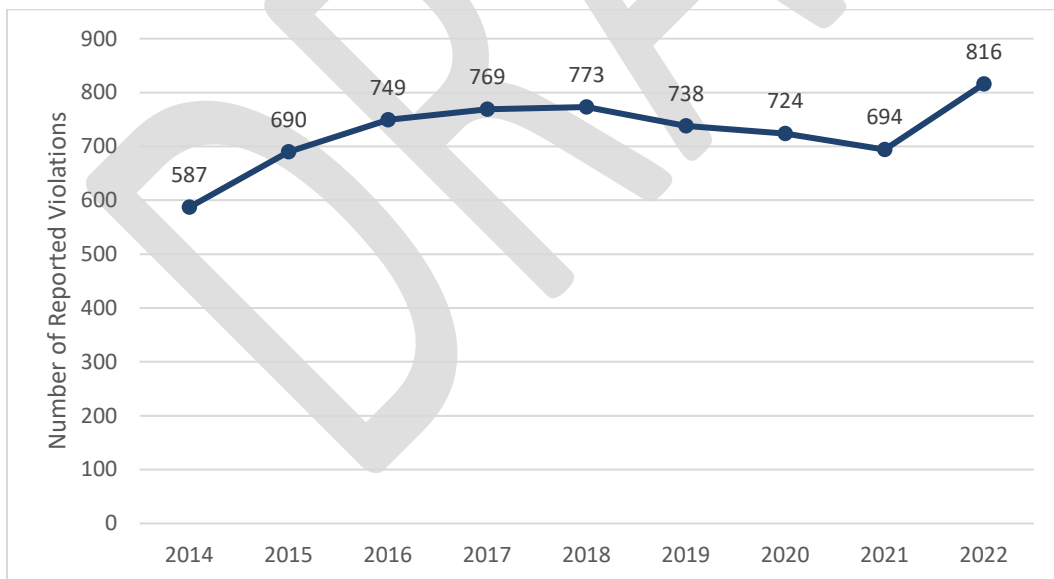
Reported Robberies

Reported robberies include the taking or attempting to take anything of value from another person by force or the threat of force or violence, and by putting the victim in fear.



Reported No Contact Order Violations

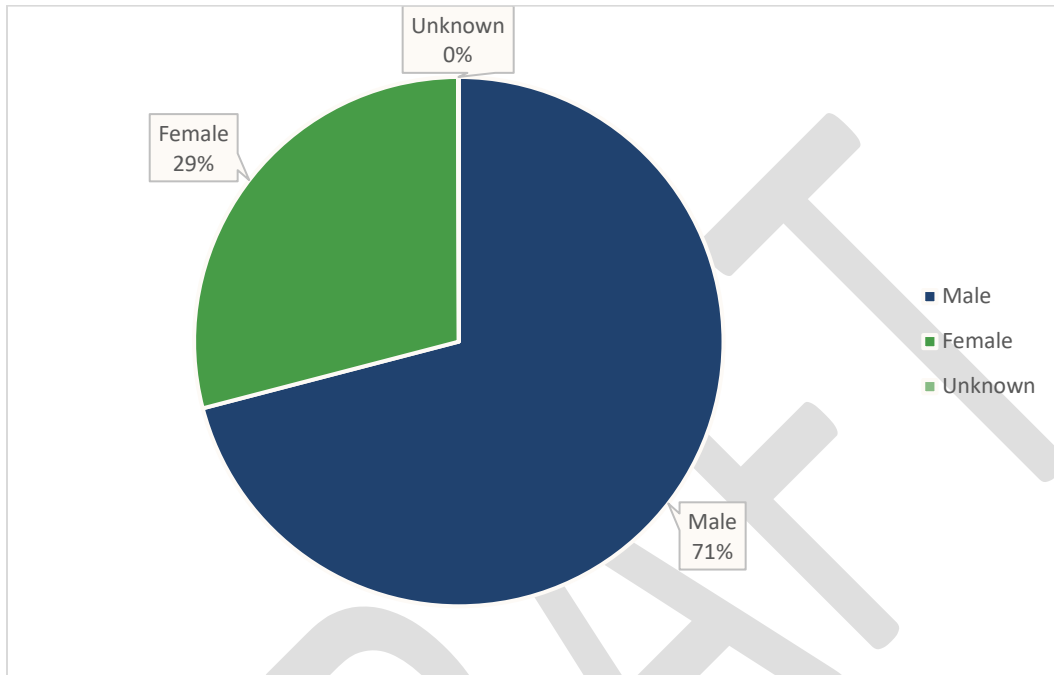
Includes violations of no contact orders (NCOs).



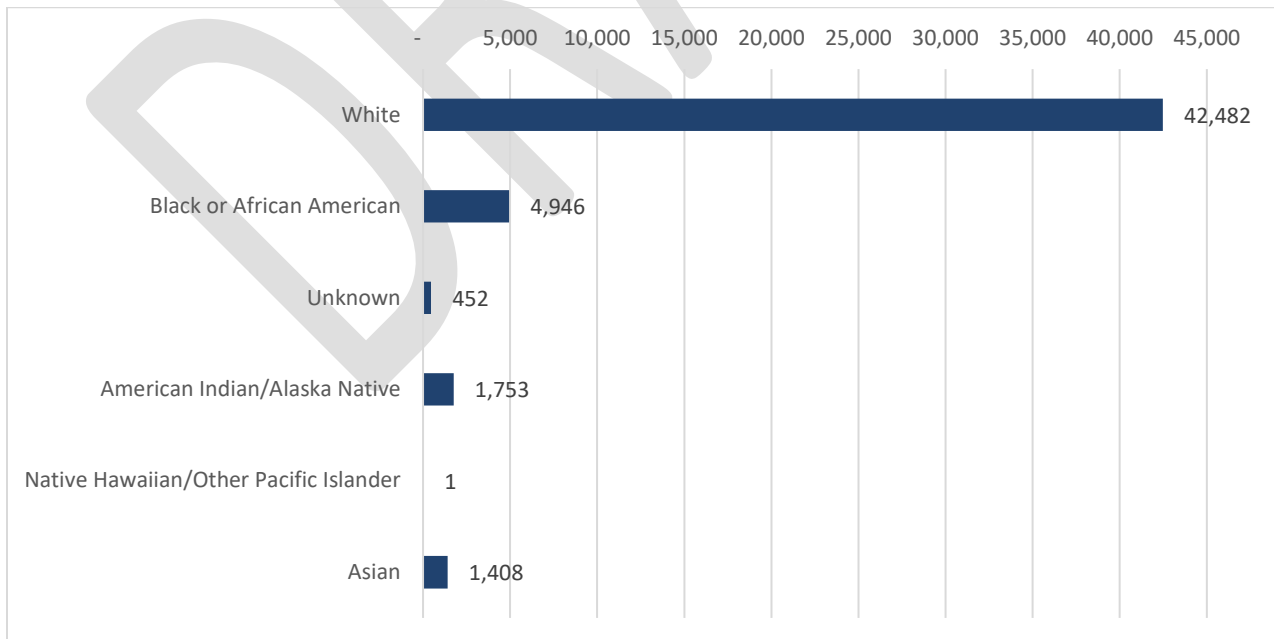
Thurston County Sheriff's Office (2013 – 2022)

Arrests

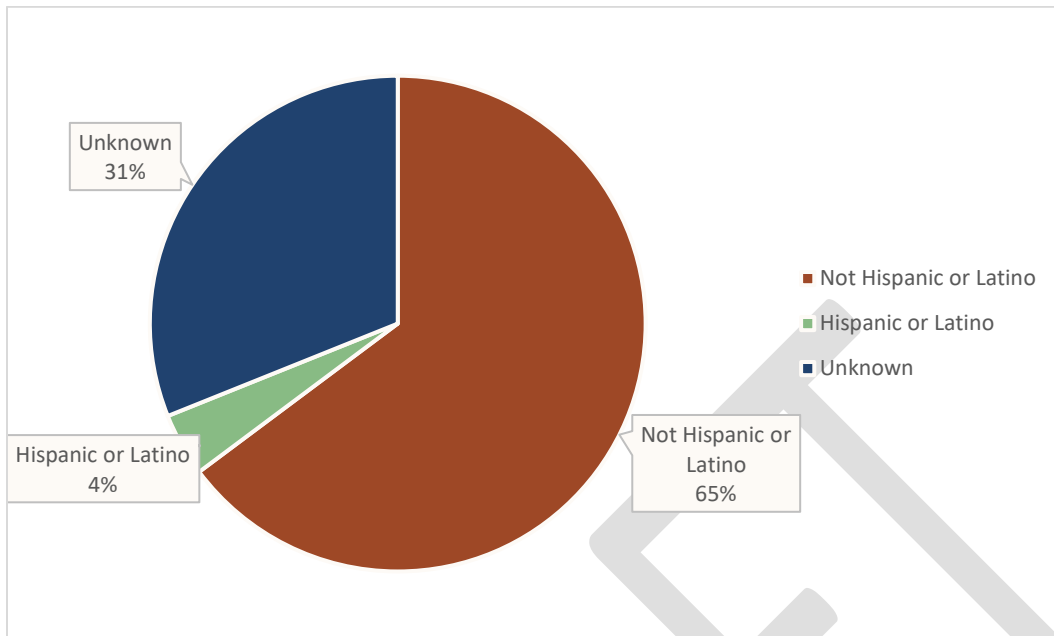
Arrestee Sex (N = 51,042)



Arrestee Race (N = 51,042)



Arrestee Ethnicity (N = 50,855)



Arrest Type (N = 51,042)

