

# Thurston County Criminal Justice Data Trends – 2012-2021

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 Book<sup>1</sup>. 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 every incident reported to police 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, if any, on incident numbers at this time.

For reference, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported a violent crime rate of 16.5 per 1,000 Americans aged 12 and older in America<sup>2</sup>.

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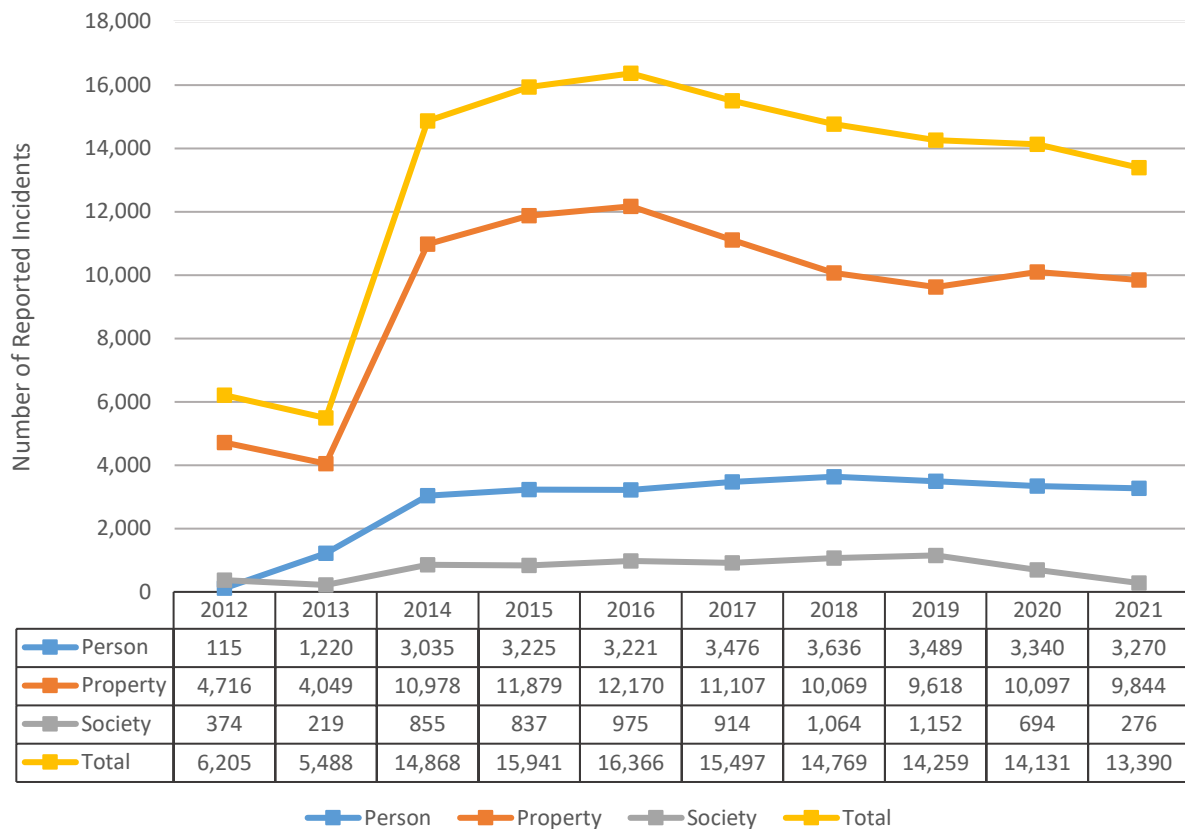
<sup>1</sup> <https://sac.ofm.wa.gov/data>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv21.pdf>

## Reported Incidents in Thurston County

### Key Takeaway:

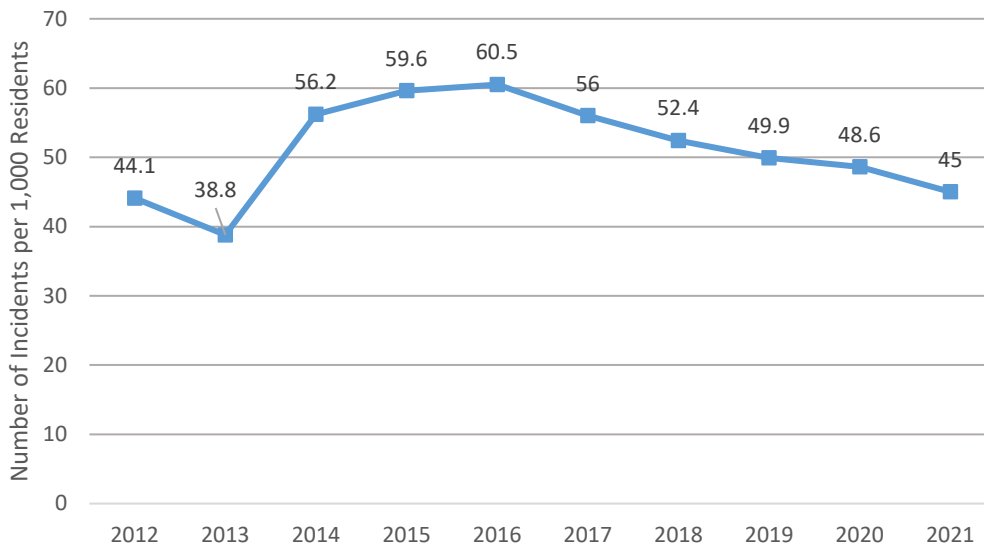
Reported violent and nonviolent incidents in Thurston County have been declining since reaching a high of 16,366 in 2016. While incidents overall are declining, crimes against people are trending slightly upward.



## Thurston County Incident Rate (2012 – 2021)

### Key Takeaway:

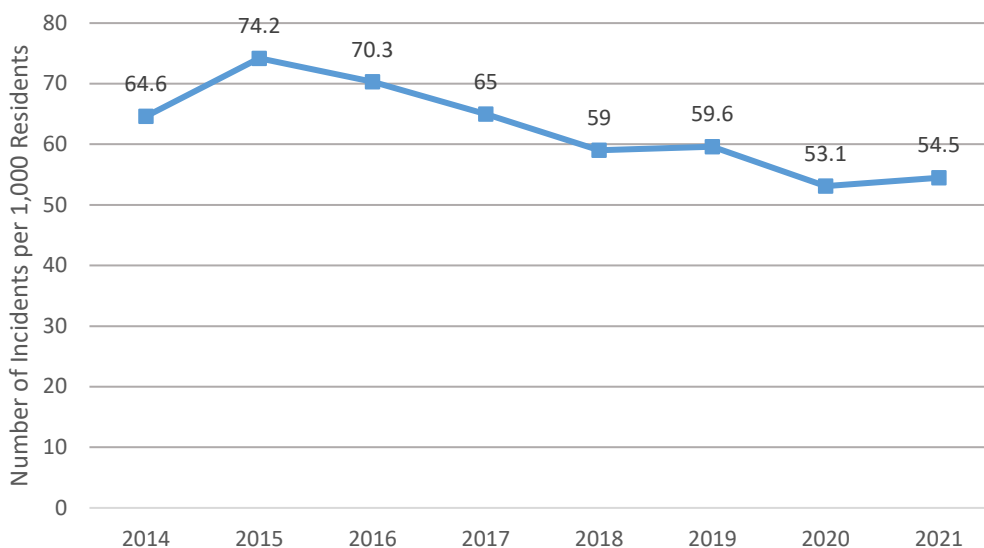
This incident rate combines all reporting jurisdictions and therefore, is county-wide. The violent and nonviolent incident rate per 1,000 residents has declined slightly since 2016.



## City of Lacey Incident Rates (2014 – 2021)

### Key Takeaway:

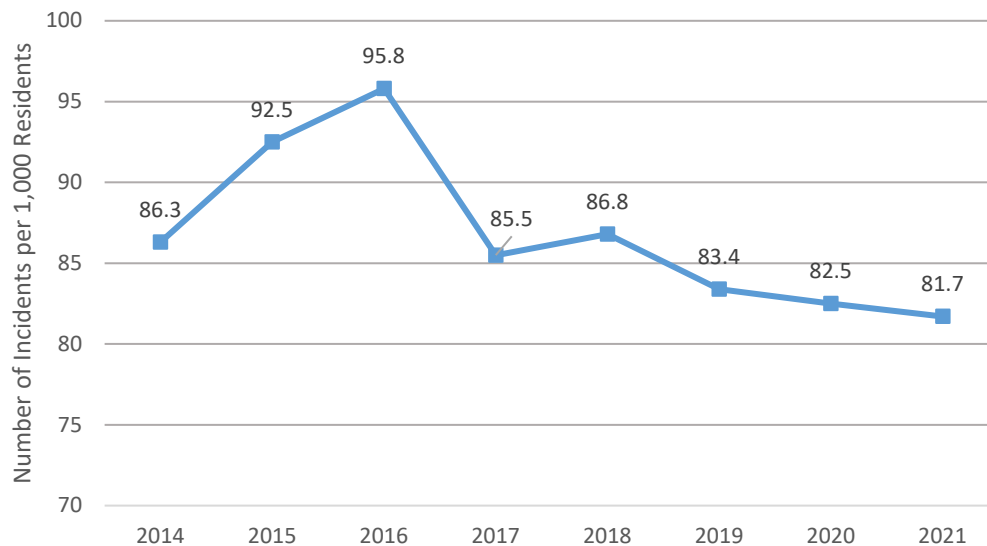
The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Lacey Police Department has declined since 2015 but has started trending upwards again.



## City of Olympia Incident Rates (2014 – 2021)

### Key Takeaway:

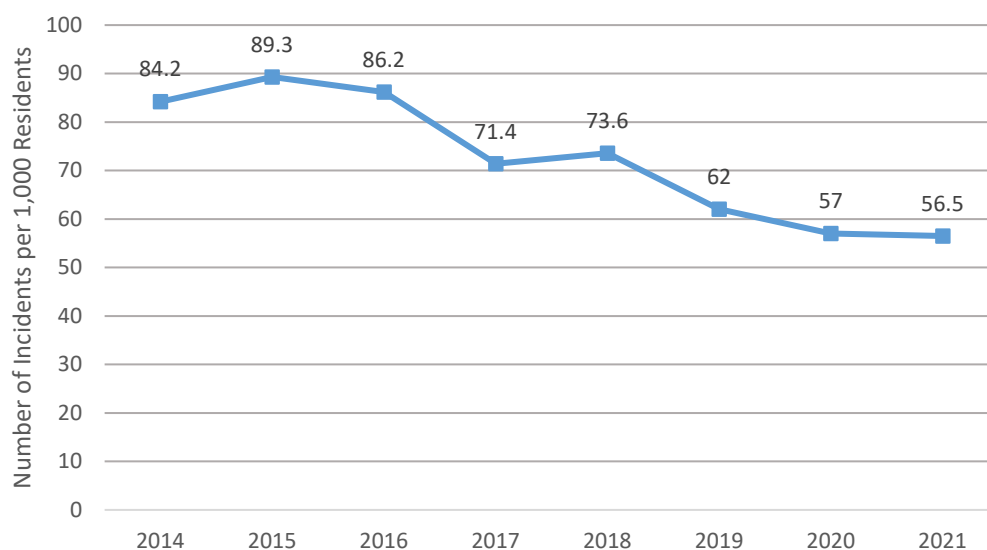
The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Olympia Police Department has steadily declined since 2016.



## City of Tumwater Incident Rates (2014 – 2021)

### Key Takeaway:

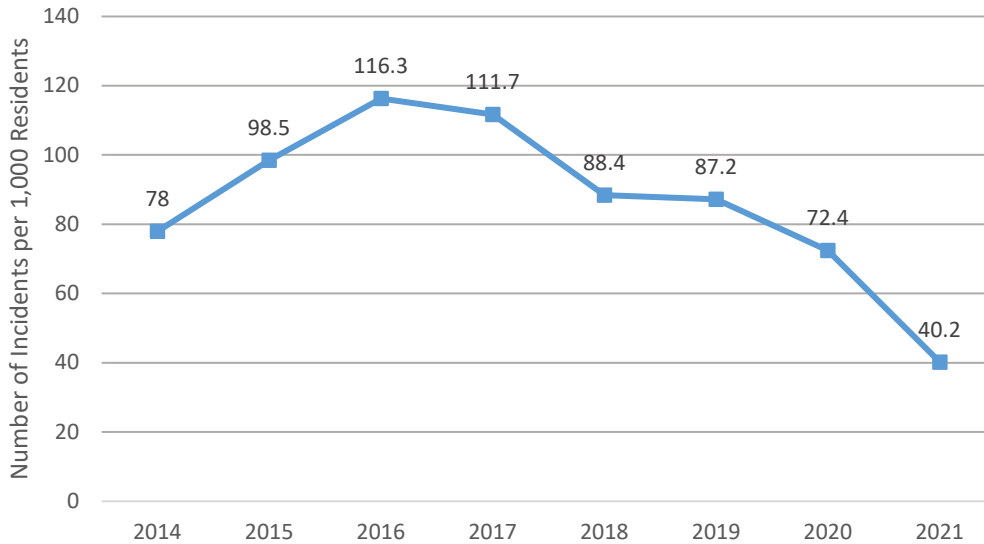
The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Tumwater Police Department has decreased since 2015.



## City of Yelm Incident Rates (2014 – 2021)

### Key Takeaway:

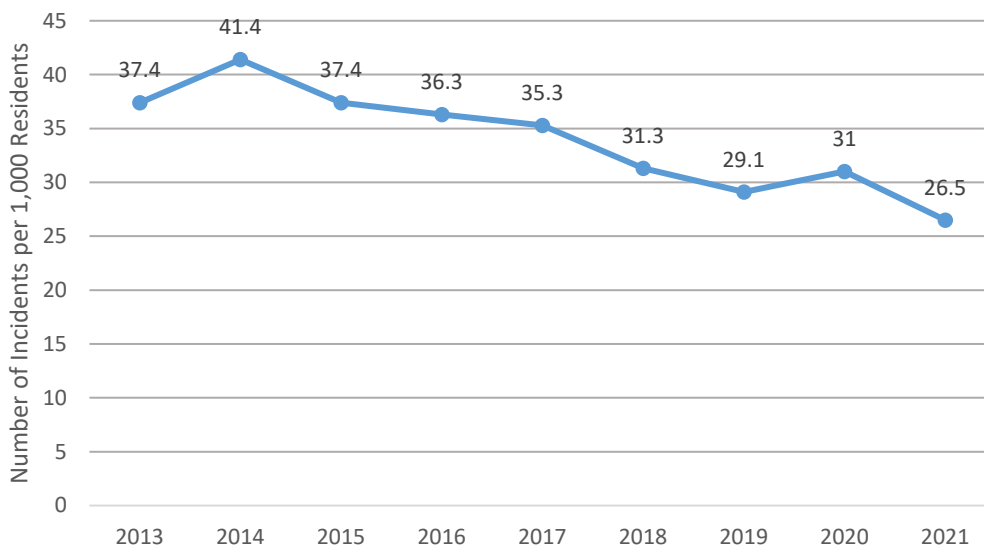
The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Yelm Police Department has seen significant decreased since it reached a high in 2016.



## Thurston County Sheriff's Office Incident Rates (2012 – 2021)

### Key Takeaway:

The rate of violent and nonviolent incidents reported to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office have declined steadily since 2014. An increase was seen in 2020, but numbers dropped again in 2021.

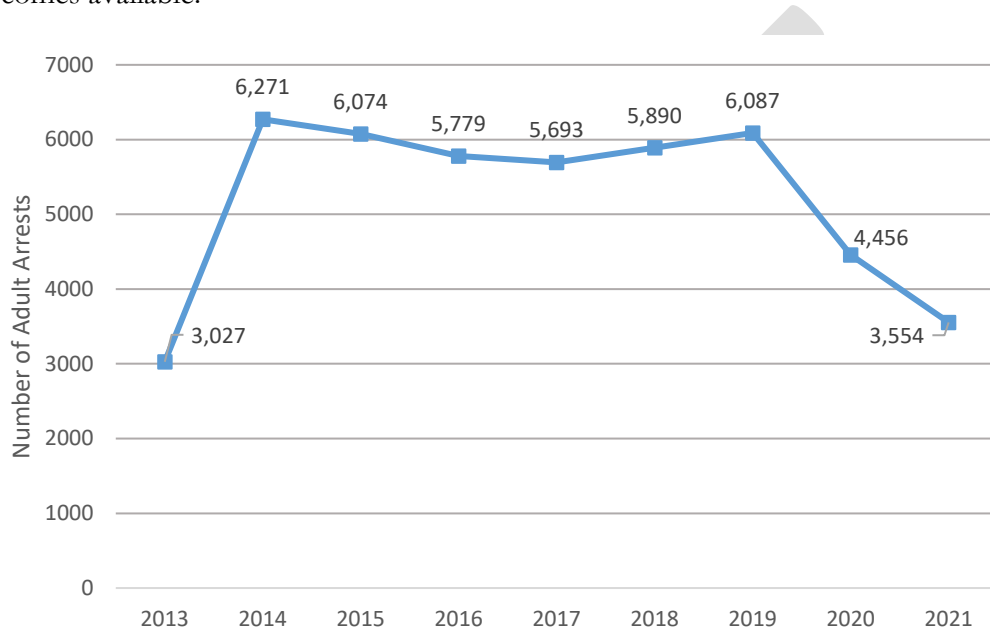


# Adults

## Adult Arrests

### 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. This should be studied further as more data becomes available.

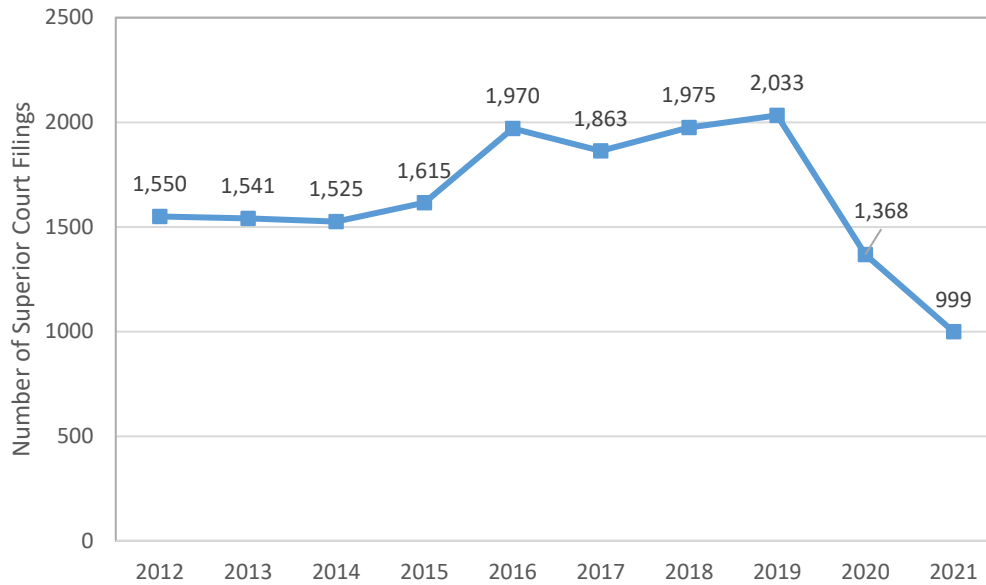




## Superior Court Filings

### 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. Further study is needed as additional data becomes available.

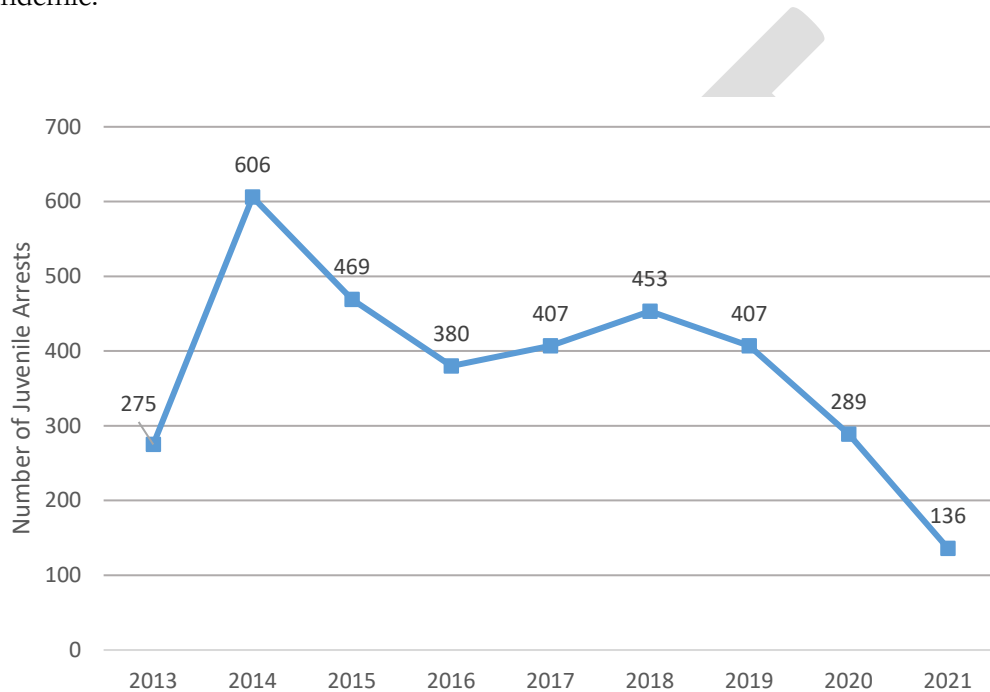


# Juveniles

## Juvenile Arrests

### Key Takeaway:

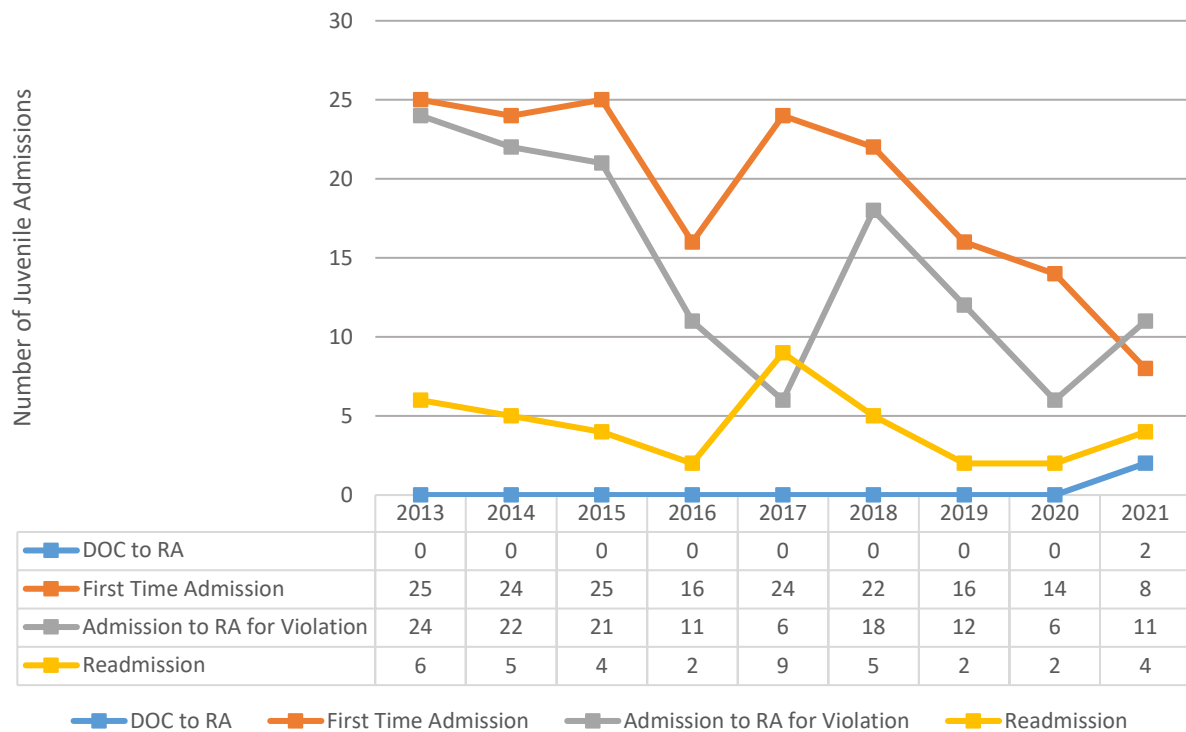
The number of juvenile arrests has been declining since 2018, though numbers plummeted in 2020. Further study is needed as additional data becomes available to determine if this is related to the pandemic.



## Juvenile Admissions

### 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.

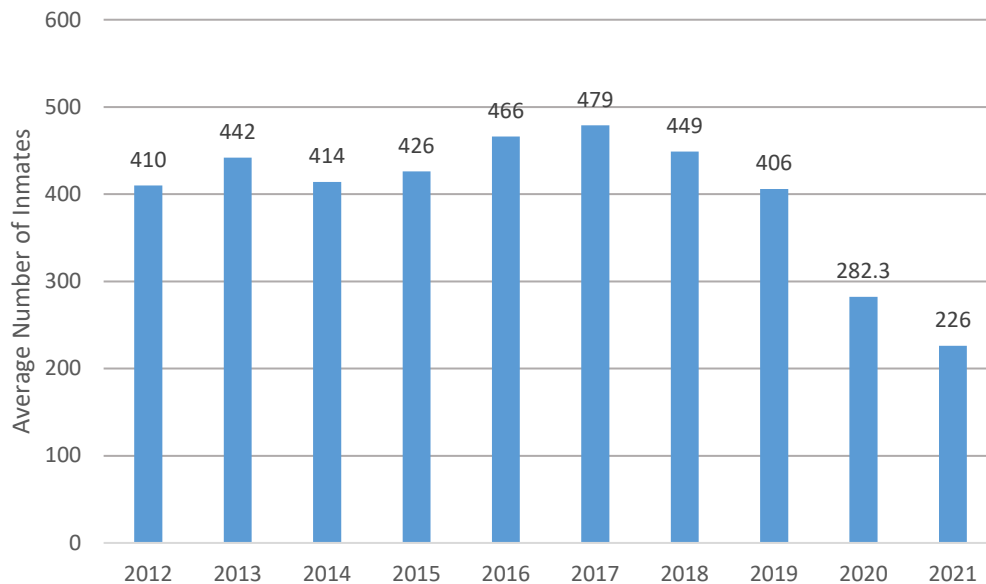
# Thurston County Corrections Facility

## Average Daily Population

### Key Takeaways:

The average daily jail population reached a peak in 2017. In response the county formed the Jail Crisis Action Team, a group of law and justice stakeholders tasked with finding solutions for the high jail population. This team still meets regularly and has been renamed to the Jail Resource Team.

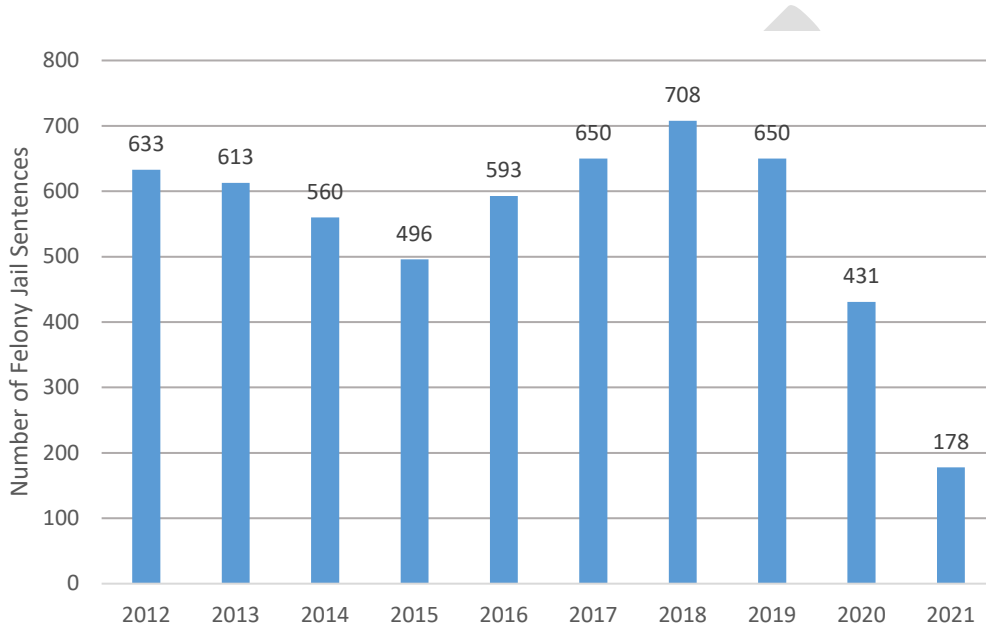
The jail population decreased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic due to booking restrictions. It is important to note that the jail is still “at capacity” for those who are high need, or violent.



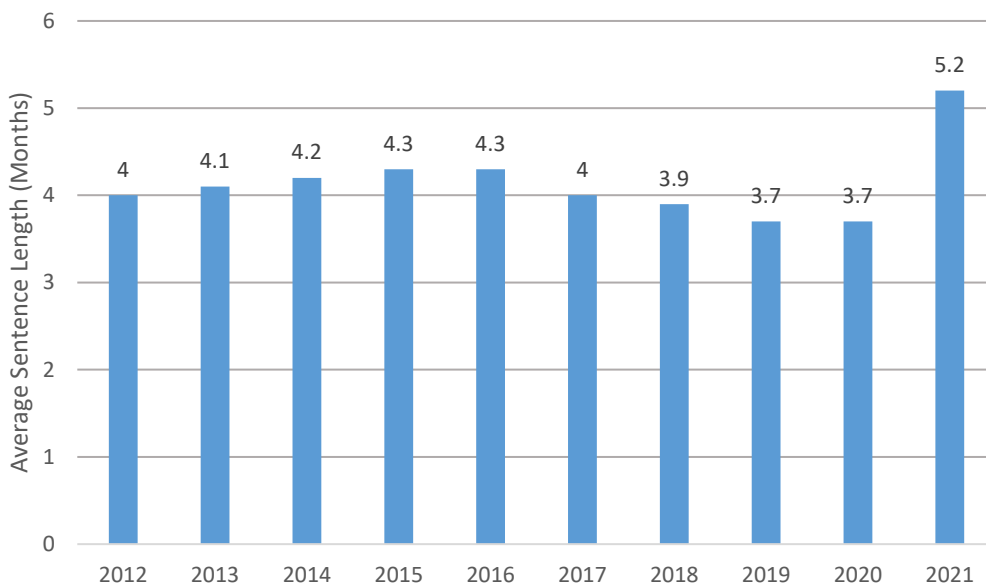
## Number of Felony Jail Sentences – All Offenses

### 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)



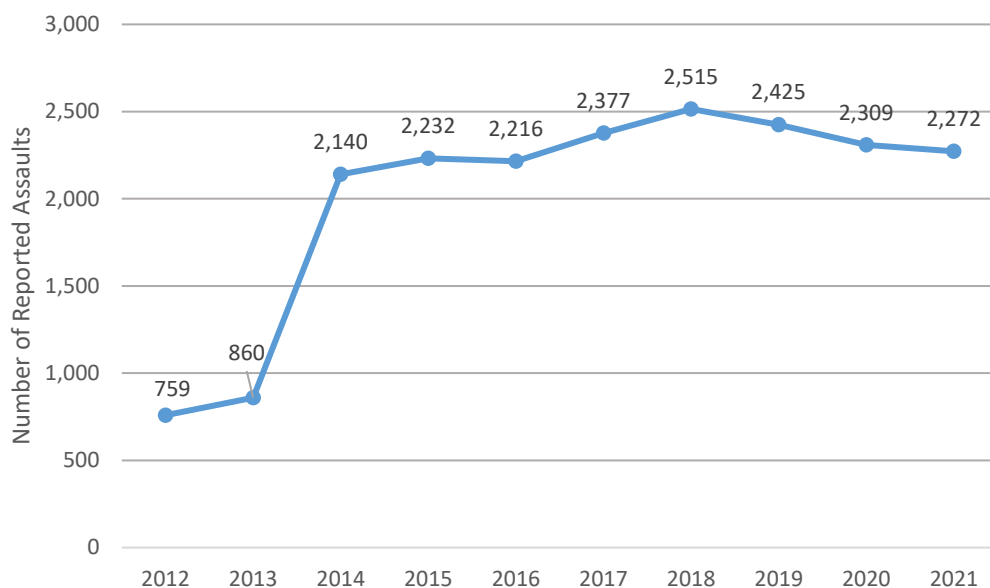
## Reported Incidents by Crime Type

### Key Takeaway:

Reported burglaries have steadily decreased since 2014, while assaults have decreased slightly. Drug violations have decreased substantially, likely due in part to the Blake Decision which ruled that the state's felony drug possession statute was unconstitutional. The rate of forcible sex crimes has steadied since reaching a high in 2018 and reported thefts have slightly declined. Reported robberies are trending slightly upwards.

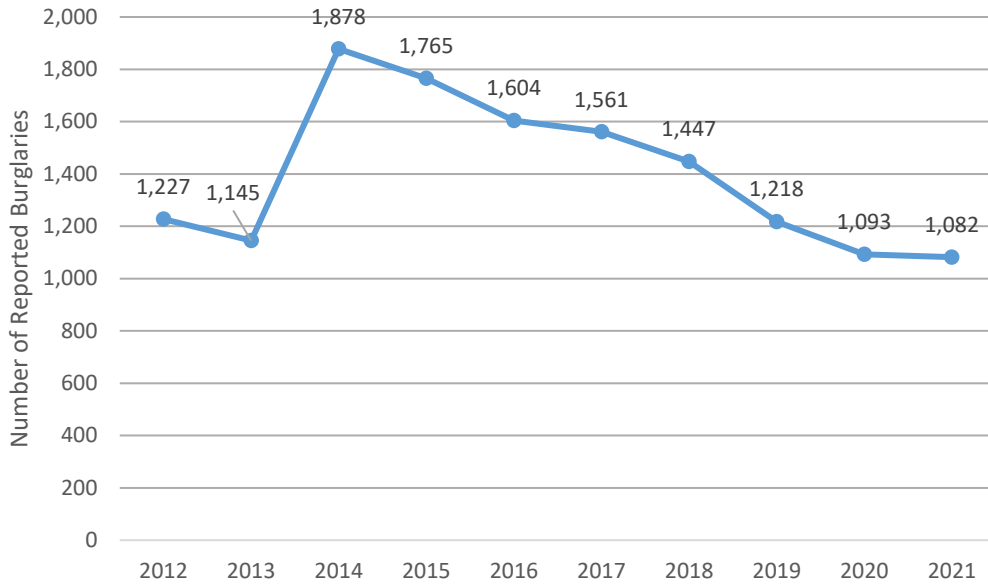
### Reported Assaults

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



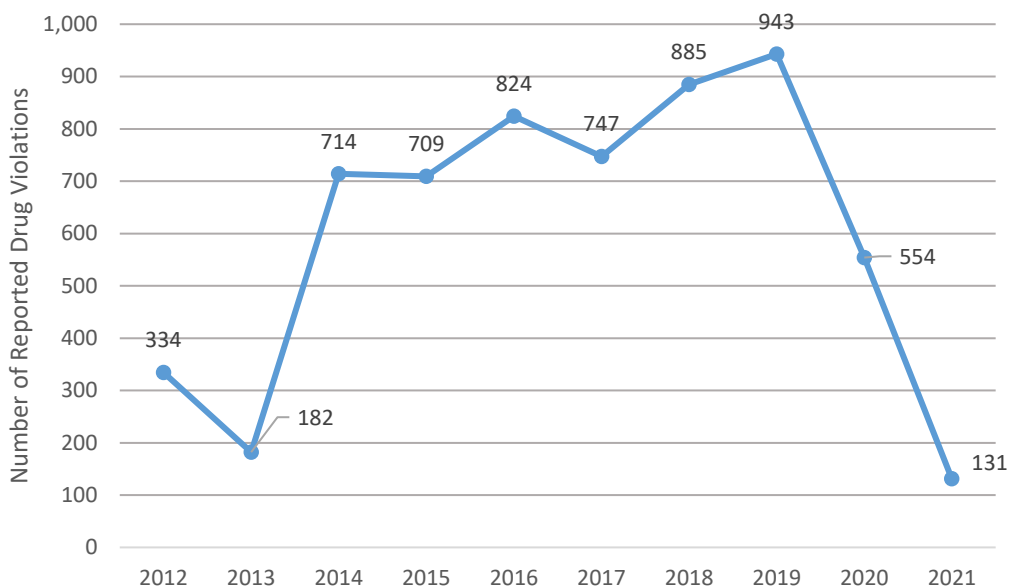
## Reported Burglaries

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.

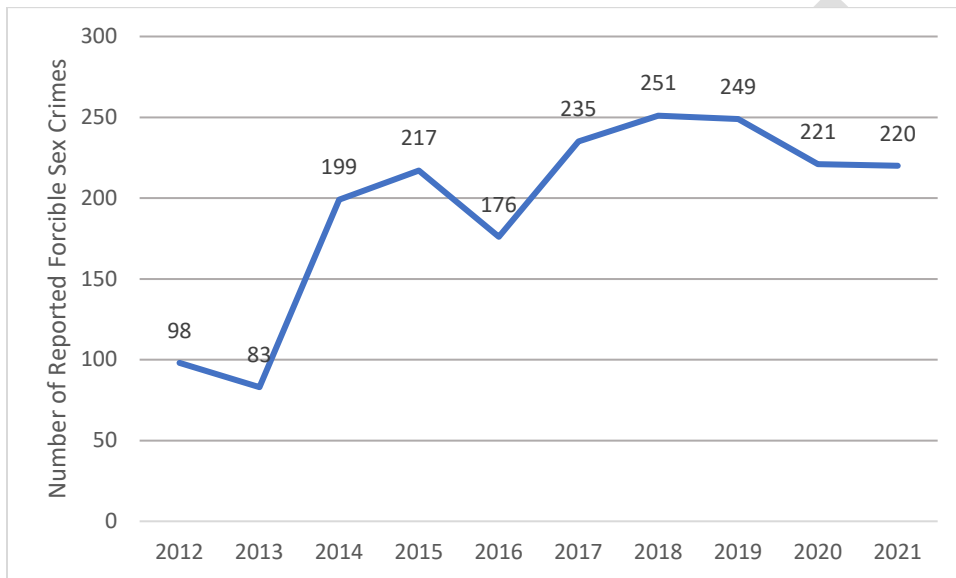


We are working to determine the cause of the increase in drug violations between 2013 and 2014. Many other counties saw an increase at this time, but none as drastic as Thurston County.

## Reported Sex Crimes

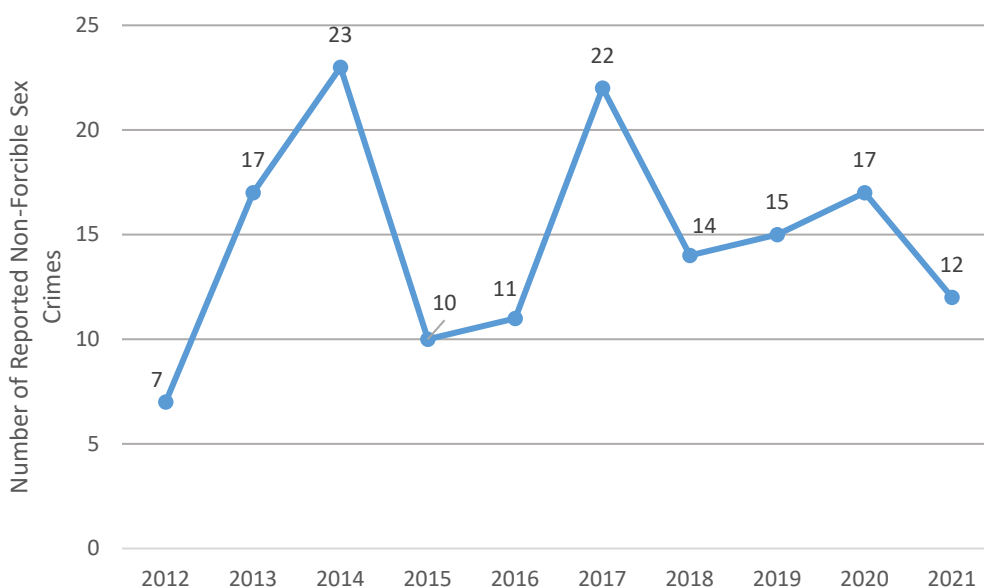
### Forcible Sex Crimes

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



### Non-Forcible Sex Crimes

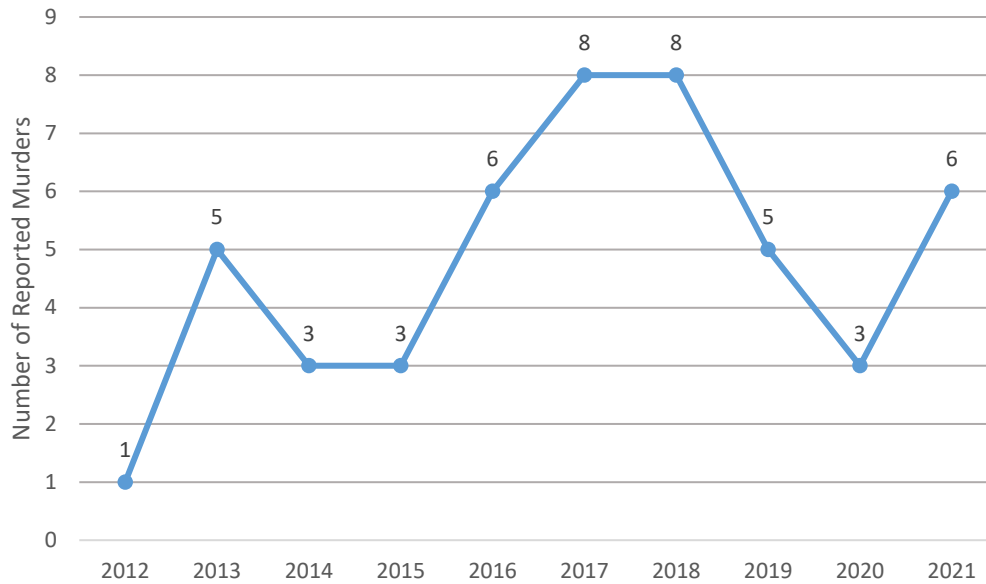
Non-forcible sex crimes include non-forcible incest, and statutory rape.





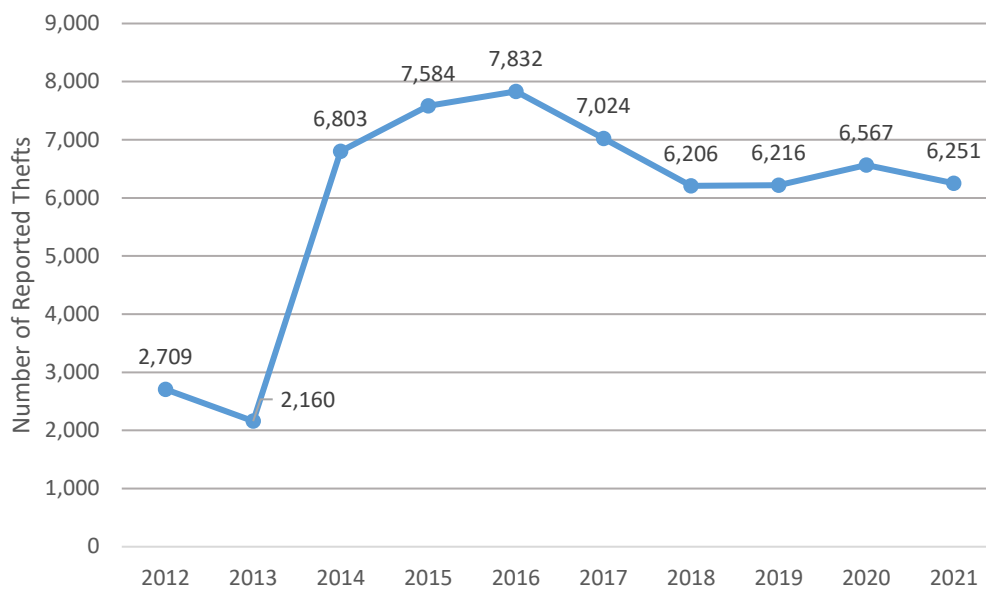
## Reported Murders

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



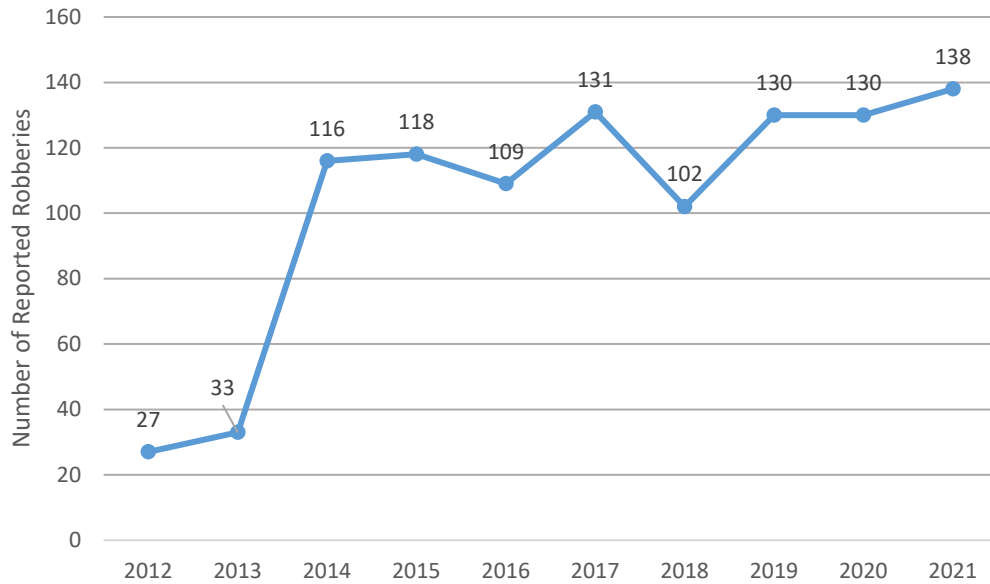
## Reported Thefts

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 Order Violations

Reported order violations include weapons violations and violations of no contact orders.

