



City of San Marcos

Police Department 2023 Annual Review

March 5, 2024



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- **Community**
- **Accountability**
- **Wellness and Resiliency**
- **Staffing**
- **Training**
- **Crime**
- **Investigations**
- **Special Topics: Mental Health and SMPD**



COMMUNITY



Community Engagement

- In 2023, the San Marcos Police Department
 - Took part in or led 99 community events
 - Made approximately 25,508 community contacts

First Annual Public Safety Trunk or Treat

- Over 3,000 people attended
- Police, Fire, EMS



51st Annual Blue Santa

- Reached 436 families
- 1,079 children gifted Christmas magic





Community in Action

- In 2017, SMPD welcomed its first volunteer
- In 2023, SMPD has over 60 active volunteers!
 - These volunteers gave 4,316 hours
 - Activities included community outreach events, scanning old files, recycling lead from bullets at firing range, and so much more!





Community Safety

- **In 2023, SMCISD approved school marshals for their elementary campuses**
 - Peace officers are assigned to campuses to
 - Protect students, staff, and visitors to prevent death or serious bodily injury
 - Other duties include
 - Assisting in the planning, tracking, and execution of mandatory drills
 - Assisting school nurses with Stop the Bleed training
 - Conducting audits and reviews of facilities and security protocols
 - Checking locks and doors
 - Assisting during arrival and dismissal of students
 - Assisting with the development of Emergency Operation Plans



Community Care

- In 2023, a qualified mental health professional (QMHP) was onboarded to assist the Mental Health Unit.
- In partnership with Scheib Mental Health Center, the QMHP is
 - A co-responder
 - A bridge to those in need
 - Assistance to identify least harm solutions for those experiencing crisis
- Citizens now have the benefit of quicker access to services, as well as increased case management.





Community Service

- **In 2023, the SMPD welcomed a new Police Service Specialist (PSS) team**
 - The unit began with 3 members, but has grown to 5 members in early 2024
 - A PSS is
 - A trained civilian who works in partnership with patrol, investigations, dispatch, and our citizens
 - Dispatched to non-emergency calls to
 - Take reports
 - Collect evidence
 - Respond to community contact calls
 - The PSS team is ready to respond to the needs of our community





ACCOUNTABILITY



Office of Professional Conduct

- **In 2023, the SMPD Event Review Board reviewed**
 - 81 incidents, including
 - Crashes
 - Uses of Force
 - Pursuits
 - Significant injuries
- **Of these 81 incidents, the Office of Professional Conduct initiated**
 - 5 investigations



Use of Force Analysis

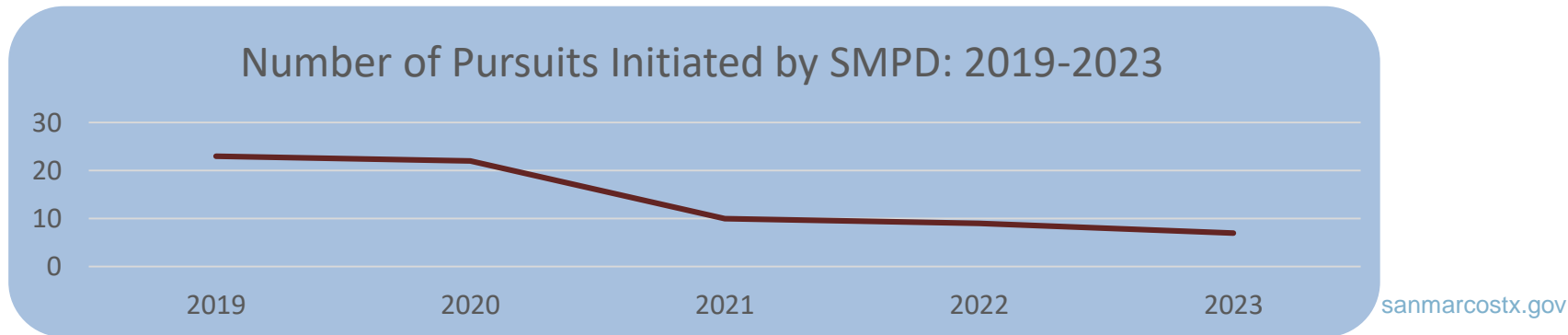
- In 2023, over 50,000 citizen contacts were recorded in the form of calls for service
- From these, 60 Use of Force incidents were reported

Type of Force Used	2022	2023	Difference from 2022 to 2023
Pepper Spray	8	7	-1
Deadly Force	2	0	-2
Impact Munition	5	0	-5
K-9 Bite	13	1	-2
Other (Injuries from non-reportable uses of Force)	20	18	-2
PIT Maneuver	1	4	+3
Strikes	16	20	+4
Taser	35	34	-1



Pursuit Analysis

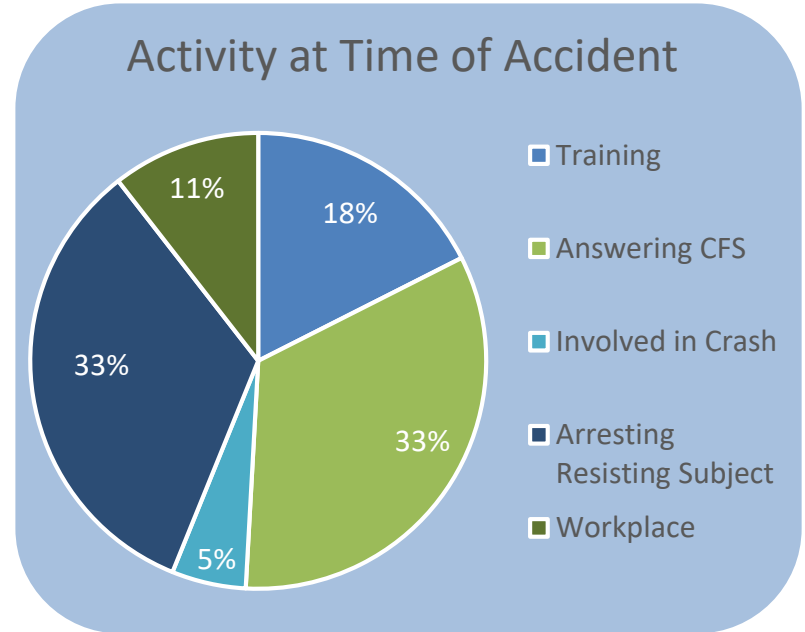
- **In 2023, SMPD officers initiated 7 pursuits**
 - Two less pursuits than 2022
 - 29% of pursuits were aborted
 - 71% of pursuits were kept within 10 miles
 - Two pursuits involved alcohol and/or drugs
 - Zero pursuits caused injury





Injury Analysis

- **In 2023, there were 57 reported personal injuries**
 - The most common injuries included
 - Joint trauma and pain
 - Impact trauma and pain
 - Smoke/chemical inhalation
 - Injuries were most likely caused by
 - Answering Calls for Service (33%)
 - Arresting a resisting Subject (33%)
 - 39% of injuries were the direct result of contact with a resisting subject





Fleet Accident Report

- **In 2023, 45 fleet accidents were reported**
- **In the same year, SMPD employees logged 2 million miles in drive time**
 - This averages to approximately one accident every 42,000 miles
 - Each of these accidents were reviewed by the Event Review Board
 - 18 were deemed preventable crashes
 - 27 were deemed non-preventable crashes (4 were deer strikes!)
 - Since 2021, preventable crashes have remained steady in frequency



WELLNESS AND RESILIENCY



Chaplain's Report

“Chaplaincy is a ministry of presence that requires availability, visibility, adaptability, and credibility on the part of the chaplain.”

21 Invocations

15 Hospital Visits

16 Community Events

3 Weddings/Funerals

9 Babies



Resiliency Report

“With crime trends and staffing levels, first responders primarily sought ongoing services for managing day-to-day events, while dealing with cumulative stress/burnout realities impacting their professional and personal lives” – Dr. Tania Glenn

20 Employees

87 Therapy Hours

8 Academy Training Hours



Awards and Recognitions

- **2 Police Commendation Medals**
- **11 Life Saving Medals**
- **70 Distinguished Service Awards**
- **4 Community Partnership Awards**
 - Judge John Burns
 - Judge Maggie Moreno
 - Kissing Tree Backs our Blue
 - San Marcos Toyota



STAFFING



Recruiting

- **In 2023, SMPD onboarded 31 new employees**
 - Professional Staff
 - 1 Crime Analyst
 - 4 Police Service Specialists
 - 2 Crime Scene Investigators
 - 1 Records Specialist
 - Sworn Staff
 - 5 Cadets
 - 9 Lateral Officers
 - 2 Police Assistants
 - Dispatch Staff
 - 7 Telecommunicators



Why SMPD?

We asked some of our new hires, why did you choose the San Marcos Police Department?

“Because the department welcomed me and my previous experience, emphasized the importance of teamwork and family, acknowledged my prior training without requiring me to repeat a full academy, and most importantly accommodated my family during our transition to Texas.”

–Transfer from Maryland

“The people at the police department are what really sold me on moving to Texas...From day one, everyone I have talked with has been so welcoming. It shows me that there is very strong leadership at every level of the department.”

–Cadet from Minnesota

“As we planned our move to Texas, I began searching for departments that were similar in size to my old agency, but more importantly shared the same or similar values. During my research I discovered San Marcos and learned they were a department full of hardworking men and women who truly work to make a difference in their community each and every day.”

–Transfer from California
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TRAINING



Training Stats

- In 2023, the San Marcos Police Academy delivered over **20,000 contact hours of training**
 - All full-time officers completed more than double the standard of the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement

Training Year	Classes	Students	Hours	% Change from Prior Year
2023	282	2,822	20,338	103.1%
2022	204	1,527	10,015	24.9%
2021	140	999	8,021	14.1%

Communicating with the Deaf
Collision Investigations
Youth Mental Health

K9 and Patrol
Juvenile Procedures
Team of Character

Civil Service and Discipline
Mastering De-Escalation
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CRIME



9-1-1 Call Center

- **In 2023, the SMPD call center reported that 133,751 calls came into the 9-1-1 dispatch center**
 - SMPD reported 51,147 incidents or calls for service
 - 17% decrease from 2022
 - 58% of incidents were community-initiated
 - The top 5 reported incidents in 2023 were
 1. Traffic Stop (9,806 incidents)
 2. Citizen assist/Service call (4,690 incidents)
 3. Assault (3,468 incidents)
 4. Accident (2,988 incidents)
 5. Suspicious Activity (2,931 incidents)

In 2023, the 9-1-1 call center received an average of:
366 calls a day

97% of all calls were answered within ten seconds

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Crime in San Marcos

- **In 2023, 1 in 36 people were reportedly a victim of crime**
 - In 2023, crime was down approximately 15% from 2022
 - Despite this reduction, crime trends overall, looked similar to previous years
 - The highest reported offense counts:
 - Simple assaults
 - Theft (excluding Motor Vehicle theft)



Violent Crime

- **In 2023, San Marcos saw its first major dip in violent crimes since 2014**
 - Offense counts reduced by 30% from 2022-2023
 - This noteworthy decrease is the product of
 - SMPD officers and investigators
 - Purposeful staffing increases
 - Assistance from our community
 - Community education and greater awareness



Property Crime

- **In 2023, property crime was down by 11% from 2022**
 - The biggest reduction in offense counts was theft (excluding Motor Vehicle theft) and arson
 - Burglaries continued to rise
 - Auto thefts remained concerning
 - In 2023, an average of 4 cars were stolen per week



INVESTIGATIONS



Leveraging Technology

- **Flock**
 - Comprehensive public safety platform that provides access to actionable intelligence
- **Cloud Gavel**
 - An electronic warrant software
- **Cellebrite**
 - A robust digital forensic examination tool used to collect, review, analyze, and manage digital data
- **Fusus**
 - Intelligence software that extracts and unifies data feeds from many different sources
- **Cameras**
 - Video surveillance capabilities in key locations where crime patterns are identified
- **Leads Online**
 - An upgrade to current software for the ability to run case data against data from reporting businesses in all 50 states to advance cases faster



CID Significant Cases-Trafficking

In August of 2023, three people reported they had been kidnapped and held for ransom for a short period of time. Patrol, CID, and Narcotics worked together for months to complete a very in-depth investigation that revealed three San Marcos residents had been involved in trafficking people into the United States from Mexico. At times, they would also kidnap the smuggled persons and hold them for ransom from their families. This culminated in CID, Narcotics, CSI, and both the Hays County SWAT and DPS SWAT teams serving three search warrants served simultaneously on residences in San Marcos and Hays County. CID detectives were able to make three arrests of the offenders who showed a strong propensity to violence and no regard for human life of their victims.



CID Significant Cases-Agg Assault

In November of 2023, a distressed caller reported “his throat was slit,” and that he needed assistance at a local motel. San Marcos Police Department patrol officers, detectives (CID), and crime scene investigators (CSI) responded and documented the gruesome crime scene. What followed was an intricate investigation that revealed the caller was complicit in online solicitation of a minor, in possession of child pornography, and had committed sexual assault of a child in other jurisdictions. The young man who slit the man’s throat contacted his parents just after committing this act and remained in contact with them while he returned home to the Dallas area. CID coordinated with the parents to safely take him into custody at his home. The caller whose throat was slit was arrested and formally charged for his offenses.

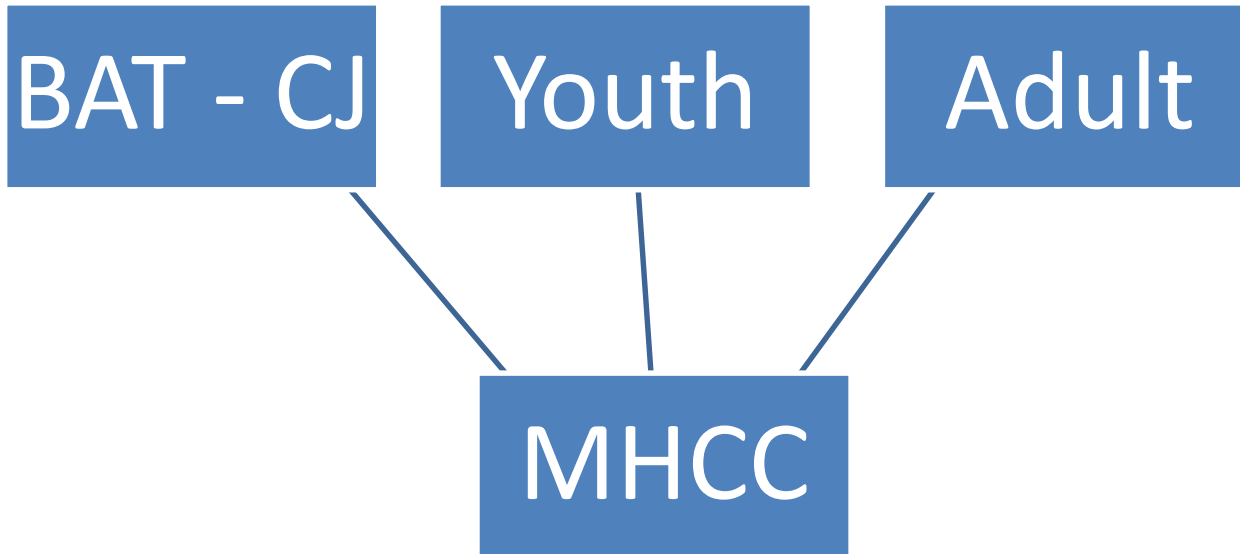


SPECIAL TOPICS: MENTAL HEALTH AND SMPD



Mental Health Initiatives

- **Mental Health Coordinating Committee (MHCC)**
 - Early discussions about creating a 15 person multidisciplinary leadership group with 4 on executive leadership counsel
 - 3 subcommittees, with each chair serving on the leadership council





Mental Health Initiatives

- **Behavioral Advisory Team – BAT update:**
 - \$185K given by County
 - Collaboration with EVOKE Wellness for drop-off center
 - Hill Country has hired a forensic director to monitor competency restoration waitlists
 - Did social autopsy of 16.22 mental health evaluations done during confinement
 - Plan to do social autopsy on emergency detention orders (EDOs)
 - Added Councilman Prather and Hays County Health Director Matthew Gonzales
 - County is hiring new Behavioral Health Coordinator



Mental Health Initiatives

- **Stop sending POLICE - Hill Country, 911 and AVAIL collaboration**
 - Avail Solutions offers a crisis line which is staffed with QMHP staff who are trained and experienced in providing mental health services to individuals in crisis. Many of their QMHPs are bilingual (Spanish/English) and able to triage calls, handle crisis situations, and contact on-call staff when necessary. Their highly capable personnel are trained and supervised by a licensed mental health professional, ensuring high-quality, reliable service.



Mental Health Initiatives

- AVAIL Solutions
 - POLICY: The 911 Call Center will have access to AVAIL Solutions as a resource on calls for service with a behavioral or mental health nexus. AVAIL is intended to be used as a supplement for telecommunicators when dealing with Callers who are in crisis and will provide licensed behavioral health clinicians via a hotline, which telecommunicators can use for consultation or to conference-call with the Caller.



Behavioral Threat Assessment Group - BTAG

- **Definition from FBI-BAU:**
 - “Threat assessment is a systematic, fact-based method of investigation and examination that blends the collection and analysis of multiple sources of information with published research and practitioner experience, focusing on an individual’s patterns of thinking and behavior to determine whether, and to what extent, a person of concern is moving toward an attack.”



Mental Health Initiatives

- **Behavioral Threat Assessment Group (BTAG)**
 - Purpose of the BTAG: Provide a proactive, evidence-based approach for identifying individuals who may pose a threat and for providing interventions before a violent incident occurs.
 - San Marcos, Kyle, Buda, University PD, Hays Co, DA's Office, Judicial Services, Juvenile Probation, School Districts, Hill Country, DPS



QUESTIONS

