

2024

NEVADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Juvenile Justice and Youth Outreach Annual Report



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A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF SHANNAN MOON



Our children are our future—this commonly heard proverb holds truth and is the main reason I’ve decided to introduce this report to the community, focusing on our future—our youth.

This is our first annual Juvenile Justice and Youth Outreach Report. Its purpose is to put a spotlight on our youth from a law enforcement perspective, identifying potential patterns in youth activity as they pertain to calls for service, crime, and related as well as to showcase our outreach efforts to develop strong, healthy relationships with our youth.

From toddlers to teens, our goal is to engage youth to build long-term trust with the Sheriff’s Office so children regard law enforcement as a dependable ally and resource, which may in turn reduce crime activity among youth and increase youth reporting. As part of this initiative, we participate in numerous community events throughout the year and are heavily involved in local schools, especially high schools. Our School Resource Officers provide guidance to students as well as intervention and mediation for common school occurrences, such as tardiness, bullying, fights, and more.

By identifying potential patterns in youth activity and customizing our outreach, we have an opportunity to shift our approaches and adjust our services to better serve our youth and their families. It is our hope fellow community members will see the value of investing our time and resources into our youth to better their futures and ours.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office provides two deputies to serve as School Resource Officers (SRO) for the Nevada County School District. They assist approximately 9,000 students across 28 schools, with primary assignments at Nevada Union and Bear River High Schools. In 2024, NCSO SRO deputies handled 343 calls for service and took 85 incident reports and supplements.

SRO deputies focus on issues and duties including:

- School Safety
- Truancy
- Drug and Alcohol Use
- Bullying
- Suspected Child Abuse
- Peer Court Classes
- Counseling/Mentoring Juveniles
- Senior Projects
- Attending extracurricular student activities and school events for support and security



COLLABORATIVE YOUTH PROGRAMS

In addition to the robust School Resource Officer program, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office also commits resources to several joint efforts of youth outreach programs in our community. We partner with numerous city and county departments, non-government organizations, and nonprofits in a focused effort to improve and enrich the lives of children and teens in Nevada County.

We are a proud member of the Nevada County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, which is comprised of officials from Probation, Schools, Courts, District Attorney, Public Defenders, County Board of Supervisors and Executive Leadership, Behavioral Health, Social Services, Granite Wellness, Victor Community Support Services, Bright Futures for Youth, NEO, Nevada Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission, and local law enforcement agencies.

Nevada County Sheriff Deputies also participate in "Project LEAD", an initiative through the Nevada County District Attorney's Office that brings a 10-week curriculum to local 5th grade classrooms. This evidence-based program presents a positive introduction to the criminal justice system, with lessons designed to equip elementary-aged children to make smart decisions, and bringing real-life examples of community service into their classrooms.

Sheriff Shannan Moon is also a long-standing board member for Bright Futures for Youth, a community-focused nonprofit organization committed to addressing the ever-changing needs of youth in Nevada County. Bright Futures is the umbrella organization for The Friendship Club, NEO, and SAFE programs. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office has awarded numerous "School Aged Youth Substance Abuse Fund" grants to Bright Futures for Youth.



Lt. Rusty Greene at Bright Futures Summer Camp



Sheriff Moon & BFFY Executive Director Jennifer Singer

YOUTH OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office places a strong emphasis on youth outreach and engagement. Not only do we believe that it is vital for a safe community and for building trust and partnership with our residents, but it also happens to be one of the most rewarding parts of our job! We tend to be smiling as big, if not bigger, than the kids we are interacting with.

Our staff love to represent the Sheriff's Office at numerous community events year around. From holidays, National Night Out events, local parades, and school events like sports, to the normal everyday encounters, our employees are passionate about creating positive impressions and good memories for the youth of Nevada County.

Here is a sampling of some of our favorite youth engagement events and programs we enjoy throughout the year!

- National Night Out & Kids Color Run
- Youth Holiday Card Artwork Contest
- Water Safety/Boating demonstrations at schools
- Special Olympics Torch Run
- Jeep Rides to School for Special Awards
- Bright Futures for Youth Grant
- Halloween Trick or Treat Event
- Penn Valley Rodeo and Parade
- Heroes Night at Nevada Union and Bear River High Schools
- School Career Day Events
- Nevada County Fair
- Scouts Program



One of many school visits throughout the year



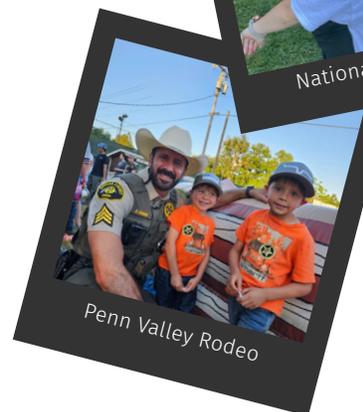
Female NCSO Deputies presentation to members of The Friendship Club for Girls, Bright Futures for Youth



Color Run



National Night Out



Penn Valley Rodeo

JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

The association of juvenile justice involvement and adult criminal behavior has been widely studied. It is commonly agreed that most adults that engage in crime, also offended or were exposed to criminal acts during adolescence. However, that is not to say that most juveniles who commit crime, will continue to commit crimes in adulthood.^[1] Additionally, studies have shown that today's juvenile victim has an increased risk of becoming tomorrow's adult crime suspect. Sadly, childhood abuse and neglect increase the odds of future delinquency and adult criminality. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) conducted a detailed study on this issue and found that juvenile victimization led to a 29% increase in the odds of criminal behavior continuing into adulthood.^[2]

The dedicated employees at the Nevada County Sheriff's Office understand these challenges and strive to prevent, intervene, and protect our youth from victimization, thus hopefully avoiding justice involvement as juveniles, and later as adults.

HISTORICAL NEVADA COUNTY JUVENILE ARRESTS AS REPORTED TO CA DOJ (COUNTYWIDE)

Crime Classification	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Felony:	77	51	54	68	50	66	39	35	32	28
Violent Offenses	15	15	13	23	7	19	16	9	20	12
Property Offenses	35	9	16	17	17	17	3	18	5	8
Drug Offenses	9	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sex Offenses	1	1	3	3	0	0	3	1	0	0
Other Offenses	17	16	19	25	26	30	17	7	6	8
Misdemeanor	181	135	135	132	163	192	78	76	51	72
Other Status Offenses	63	42	52	55	61	94	20	17	2	0
Total Arrests	321	228	241	255	274	352	137	128	85	100

[1] Robins, L. N. (1978). *Sturdy childhood predictors of adult antisocial behavior: Replications from longitudinal studies*. *Psychological Medicine*, 8, 611-622; and Sampson, R. J., & Laub, J. H. (1993). *Crime in the making: Pathways and turning points through life*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

[2] Widom, Cathy, and Michael Maxfield. *An Update on the "Cycle of Violence."* Feb. 2001.

JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH



Nevada County

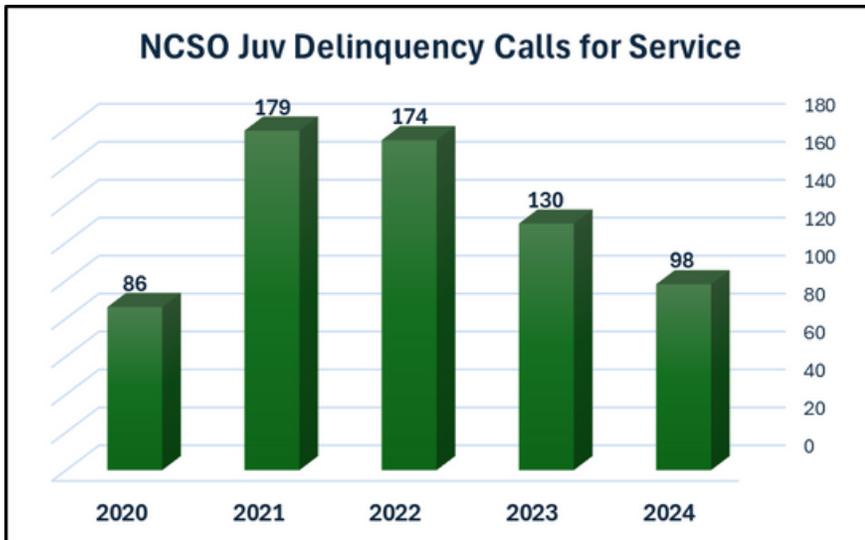
HANDLE WITH CARE

NCSO Participates in the “*Handle with Care*” Program for Nevada County Schools through 211. *Handle with Care* is a program that provides support to a child who has been exposed to some kind of trauma. It starts when a first responder sends a confidential notice to a designated school official to tell them that a child has been exposed to a traumatic incident. No specific details are shared, just one simple request: to focus on the child and handle them with care. Learn more about *Handle with Care* at <https://211connectingpoint.org/handle-with-care/>

YEAR	SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS
2024	91
2023	137
2022	137



Deputies Visit Elementary School



NCSO Calls for Service for miscellaneous juvenile
***Delinquency incidents have steadily decreased following a spike in 2021. We received 24% fewer of these call types in 2024, compared to 2023.**

**Delinquency calls are a miscellaneous category for incidents that do not fall into a typical crime against property or persons classification.*

JUVENILE CONTACTS

NCSO INCIDENT REPORTS & SUPPLEMENTS - JUVENILE INVOLVEMENT TYPES

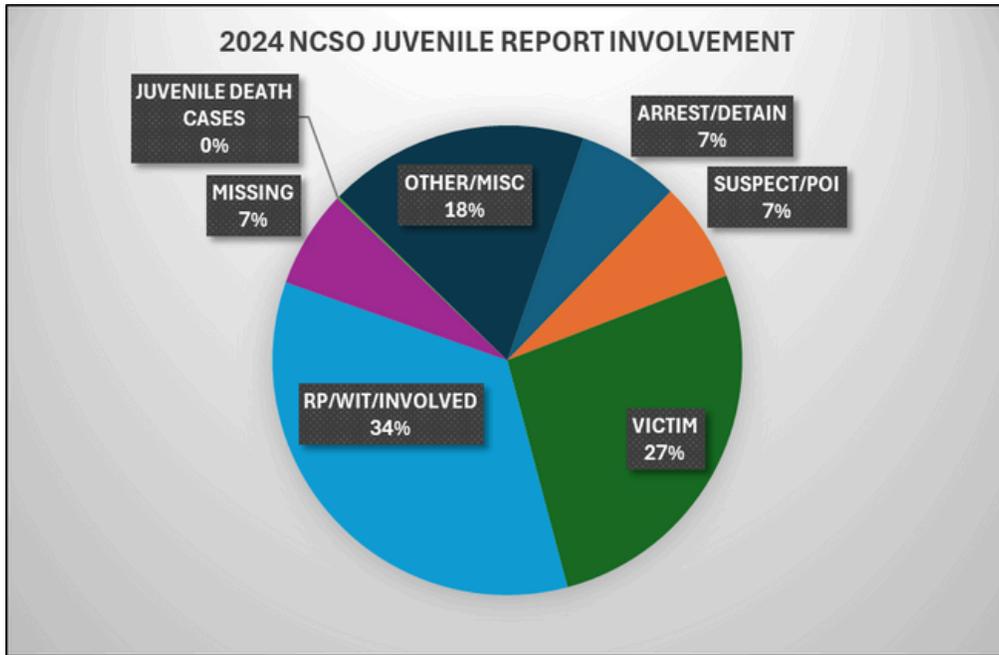
A common misconception among the public is that the Sheriff's Office primarily interacts with juveniles when they are getting into trouble or are reported as runaways. The truth is that out of the 1350 initial and supplemental reports taken by NCSO in 2024 that involved a juvenile, 361 (27%) of the incidents listed the juveniles as victims, while only 78 (5.8%) were listed as arrestees and 93 (6.9%) were listed as suspects or persons-of-interest. This means juveniles were more than twice as likely to be listed in a report as a victim, rather than an arrestee or suspect of a crime. Additionally, many juveniles (344, or 25.5%) were listed as an "Involved Party" in 2024, which means they are named in a report but were neither a victim, witness, nor suspect. Typically, a person listed as an "Involved Party" would be someone who was referenced by a primary participant in the investigation, such as a suspect, victim, or witness, who indicates that the "Involved Party" has some knowledge of the incident but was not necessarily directly involved.

The table below lists the categorization of juveniles in reports taken by the Sheriff's Office in 2024, along with the previous five years of data for comparison.

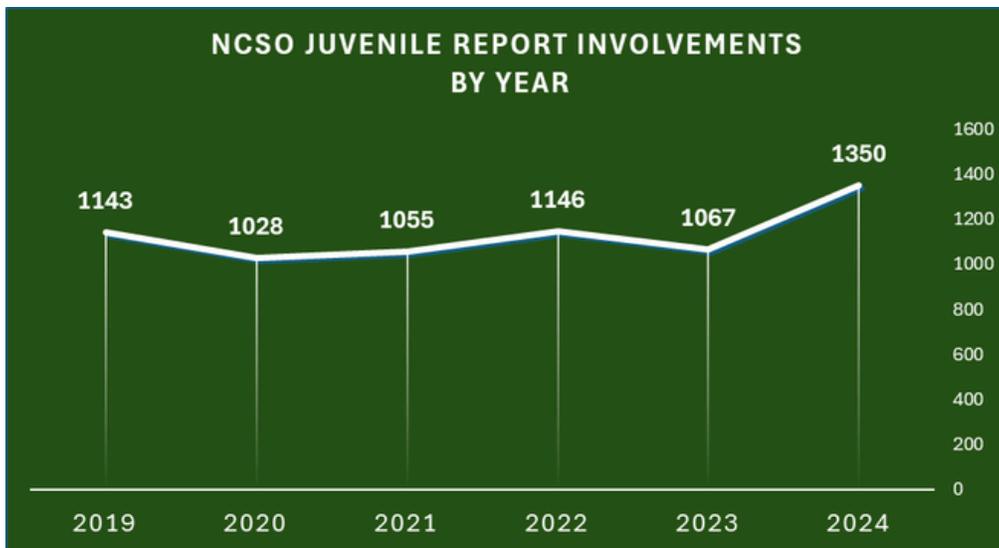
JUVENILE CONTACT REPORT INVOLVEMENT TYPE	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Average
ARRESTEE	78	28	19	25	54	81	48
JUVENILE DEATH CASES	2	4	4	6	1	1	3
DETAINED	16	23	19	22	30	9	20
DRIVER OF VEHICLE	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
INJURED PARTY	2	0	2	0	0	0	1
INVOLVED PARTY	344	280	292	264	201	232	269
MISSING PERSON	91	90	85	87	83	84	87
OTHER	223	192	204	176	185	165	191
PERSON OF INTEREST	2	3	0	6	2	2	3
PARENT/GUARDIAN	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
PASSENGER	7	5	0	0	2	6	3
REPORTING PARTY	18	9	13	11	10	12	12
REGISTERED OWNER	1	0	0	2	2	1	1
SUSPECT OF CRIME	91	44	72	42	57	46	59
VICTIM OF CRIME	361	298	398	340	335	397	355
VICTIM OFFENDER*	9	3	0	0	0	0	N/A - NEW
WITNESS TO CRIME	104	88	34	74	65	107	79
TOTAL INVOLVEMENTS**	1350	1067	1146	1055	1028	1143	1132
*NEW INVOLVEMENT TYPE IN 2023							
** COUNTS ARE OF REPORTED CONTACTS. AN INDIVIDUAL COULD HAVE MULTIPLE CONTACTS REPORTED PER INCIDENT.							

JUVENILE CONTACTS

DATA TRENDS



OF THE 2024 REPORTS WITH JUVENILE INVOLVEMENT, 14% WERE ARREST OR SUSPECT CLASSIFICATION TYPES.



IN 2024, WE HAD A 27% INCREASE IN JUVENILE INVOLVEMENTS DOCUMENTED IN INCIDENT REPORTS, AS COMPARED TO 2023.