

Essex County Sheriff's Office

2021 Annual Report



Sheriff David E. Reynolds

Undersheriff Thomas W. Murphy II

Major Michael Blaise - Major Peter Feeley

The year Two Thousand Twenty-One, the members of Sheriff's Office continued the mission to serve the citizens of Essex County with pride.

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for numerous functions throughout the county and is broken into three categories: the county jail, civil office, and road patrol.

The County Jail is a required function by New York State and is regulated by the New York State Commission of Corrections. The Civil Office is also required, this office handles evictions, orders of protection to name a couple. The Road Patrol division of the Sheriff's Office is the most visible, deputies are out in the communities responding to emergency calls and providing support for community functions.

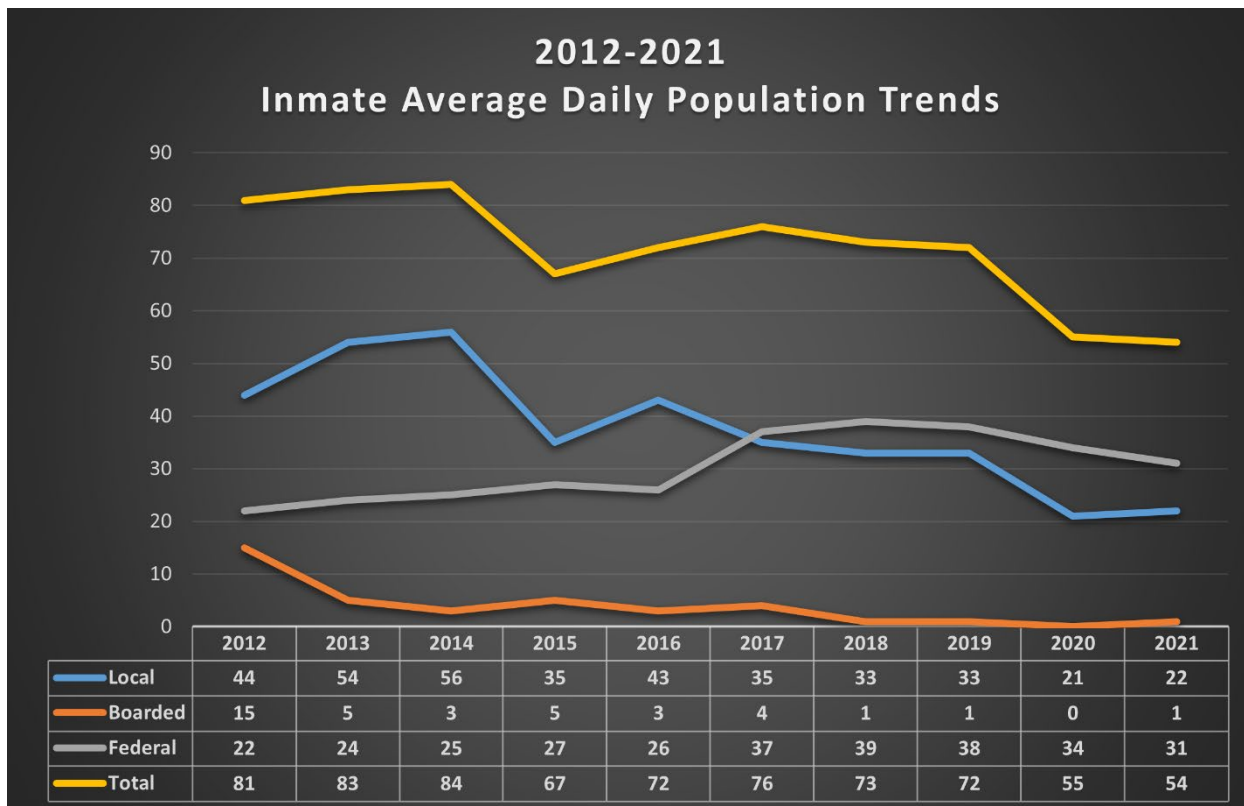
The information following will provide a greater breakdown of each of the divisions of the Essex County Sheriff's Office.



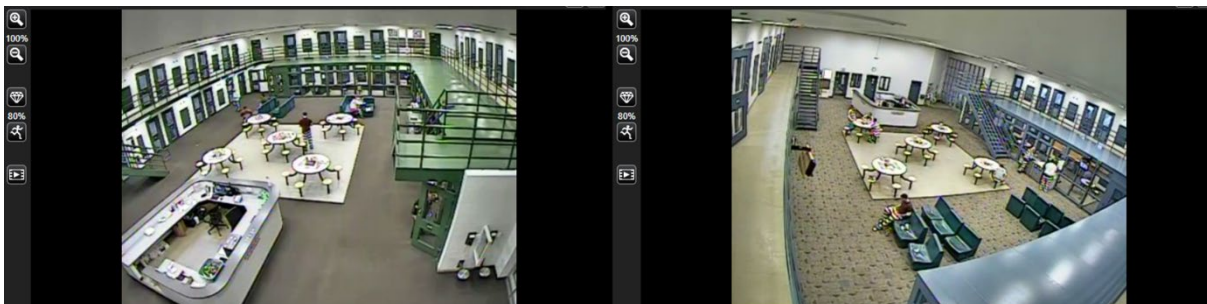
Most likely the summer of 1992, back when the cars were white and red, and the uniform was grey. Car being driven by then Deputy Stephen F. Duso, Sr.

~COUNTY JAIL~

The Essex County Sheriff’s Office is state mandated to operate a county jail. In 2021, the daily local inmate population was 22. The Sheriff’s Office has been able to relieve some of its mandated budget items by housing inmates from the US Marshall Service. The housing of federal inmates including transporting federal inmates generated over \$1.2 million in housing revenue, in 2021.



The County Jail is operated by 67 dedicated men and women and is a 24/7 operation. With a minimum staffing per shift set by the New York State Commission of Corrections. These individuals are charged with the operation of the jail. They maintain security and safety of the staff, inmates, facility, and the community. 196 inmates were processed into the county jail for 2021.



Once an individual is remanded to the custody of the Sheriff, it becomes the Sheriff's responsibility to transport that inmate to court and medical, if needed. In 2021, corrections staff safely completed 277 inmate transports.

The facility is self-sustained; all meals are prepared in the facility kitchen by civilian staff with some assistance from inmate workers. In 2021; 58,870 meals were prepared and served.

Most medical needs are handled by the jail nurse, with the assistance from a contract with Elizabethtown Community Hospital for additional nursing staff for nursing coverage 7 days per week from the hours of 7:00am until 10:00pm. A doctor or a physician's assistant come to the jail to see inmates and care for their medical needs.

The goal is to keep inmates' safety and secure, but also to reduce recidivism. With this goal several programs are offered within the facility:

A. Care Coordinators

Coordinate the needs of individual inmates upon release. Coordinate with several agencies to help ensure the individual does not re-offend criminally, thereby reducing recidivism. Examples of these agencies are, but not limited to: Department of Social Services, Mental Health Services, Housing, Substance Abuse Counseling, etc. These services are grant funded. In 2021, 40 inmates enrolled in this service.

B. Adult Education and Work Readiness

In 2021, a grant funded educator aided 55 adult inmates earn their high school equivalency, workplace safety certificates and safe food handling certificates.

C. Substance Abuse and Addiction Counselors

Individual counseling sessions, as well as group counseling sessions. Counselors and volunteers are available five days per week. Counselors are also able to coordinate with the inmate's attorney for the appropriate treatment plan. Two part-time counselors, and several volunteers.

In anticipation of a new state law requiring medically assisted treatment (MAT) the county jail was able to work with Essex County Mental Health (ECMH) and St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment & Recovery Centers (St. Joe's). This cooperation led to the start of the MAT program in the county jail, with grant funding, reducing the financial burden to the county. By starting this program early, the county jail is ready for the state requirements.

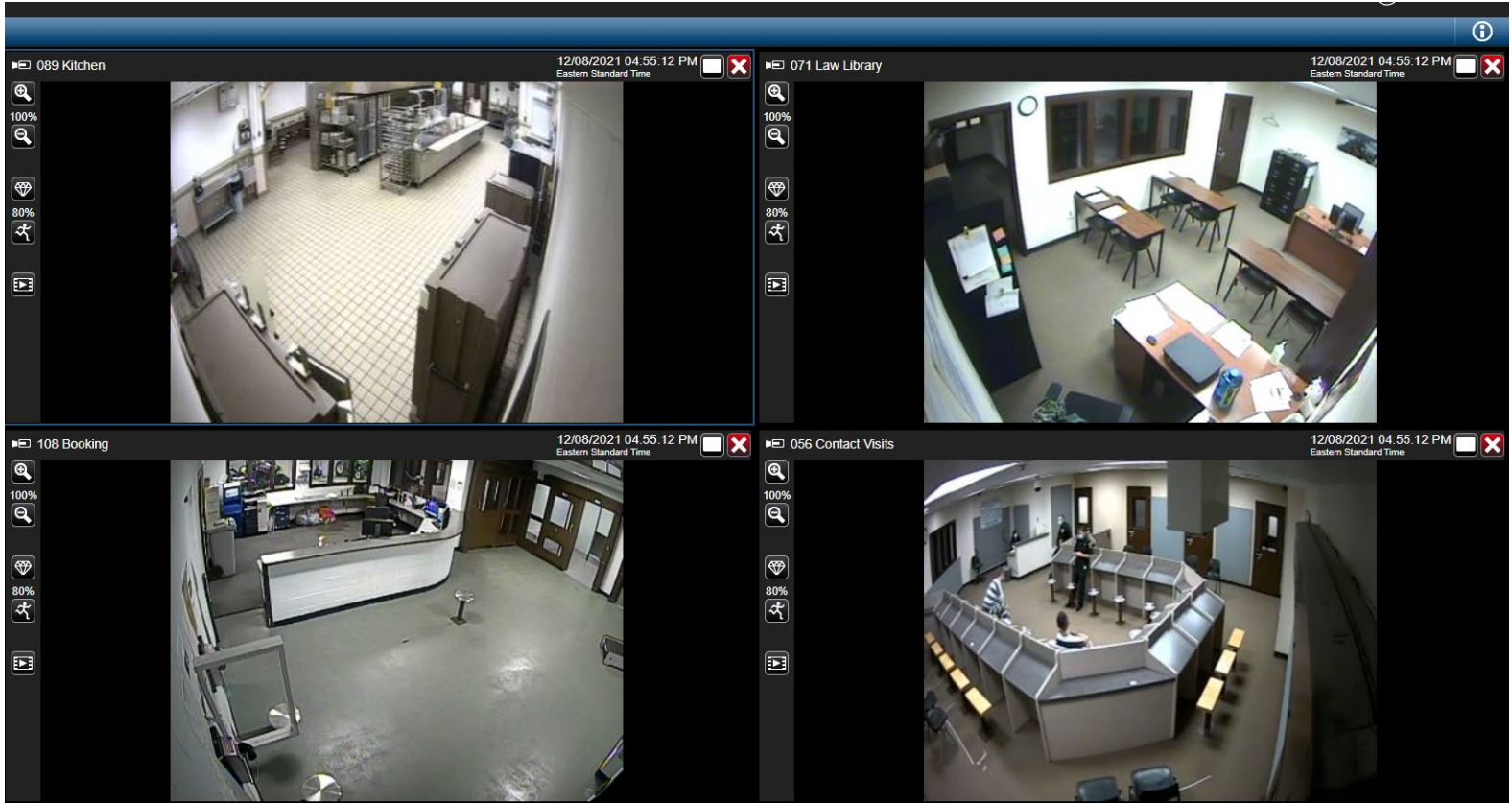
Forty-two inmates participated in medically assisted treatment (MAT) for substance abuse.

D. Mental Health Services

Provide needed crisis and maintenance counseling services to assist the inmate population.

E. High School Equivalency Diplomas

The New York State Department of Education with the Commission of Corrections requires all inmates between the ages of eighteen and twenty years of age and do not have a high school diploma attend high school equivalency class. Champlain Valley Education Services provides this program, to adults and incarcerated youth, in cooperation with the Bouquet Valley Central School. In 2021, 55 inmates participated in this program which is a 27% increase from, 2020, resulting in 7 High School Equivalency Diplomas awarded.



Top Left: Kitchen where all meals are prepared

Top Right: One of the four classrooms used

Bottom Left: Booking area

Bottom Right: Visitation area, also used for MAT

~CIVIL OFFICE~

The Sheriff's Office employees are public officers entrusted to serve and execute various legal processes for criminal and non-criminal courts. These serves are legal notices about a legal action commencing involving the person being served. The civil office employees are also providing the civilian fingerprinting services for the county. In 2021, 999 legal services and execution were served via personal service or mail if the law allowed. Total money handled by the civil office totaled \$335,460.11. This office is staffed with 1 deputy sheriff and 2 civilian clerks.

~ROAD PATROL~

The road patrol side of the Sheriff's Office is probably the most visible. It is made up of the Chief Deputy, 2 sergeants with 8 deputy sheriffs' available for road patrol functions and serve as School Resource Officers. Deputy Sheriffs also work with the DEA Drug Task Force and the Adirondack Drug Task Force. In 2021, five new deputy sheriffs were hired to be able to better serve the county needs and in anticipation of the World University Games being held in Lake

Placid in 2023. These five new deputies will have their training completed in mid-2022.



The road patrol handles many different assignments, all with community safety coming first. The deputies assist with IRONMAN events, marathons, fun runs, rugby tournament, lacrosse tournament, as well as the Essex County Fair. Deputies are always ready for response to assist when a natural disaster happens in the area.

In 2021, deputy sheriffs were dispatched to 4,027 calls, which generated 1,117 incident reports and 167 arrests. Plus, monitoring the registrations of sex offenders. Registered offenders are required to update and verify their address and any other changes with them. They report to the Sheriff's Office to make these changes or verifications. If they neglect to notify appropriately, criminal charges can be filed.

In addition to be ready to respond to a call, deputy sheriffs are trained in numerous specialties. Marine Patrol, Child Safety Identification Cards, 4 certified Child Safety Seat Technicians. Deputies have Crisis Intervention Team Training; this is a team of law enforcement and mental health case workers, working together to provide the appropriate assistance to the individual prior to arrest. This partnership resulted in 201 referrals made to the appropriate organization to help the individual in need. Fifty-eight of the referrals were made by the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office has deputies assigned to the Tri-County Special Response Team. This team is made up of members from Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties to provide a regional team

for response to special situations. Deputies also are trained in the use of a program called Project Lifesaver. This program has 11, 5 kids and 6 adults, participants, these people using the program are persons with medical conditions which may lead to becoming lost. The person wears a small bracelet which helps searchers locate them.

A program which was started a few years ago, to help with the emergency medical coverage throughout the county, has led to 9 deputy sheriffs becoming certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). These deputies have responded to 227 calls as EMTs assisting local fire and ambulance services. At least two of these calls saved a live, because of the deputies' response and efforts.



~TRAINING~

All new Correction Officers are given on the job training, before attending the basic corrections course outlined by DCJS. This course is a 5-week basic training conducted in-house by our own instructors, covering security and supervision, effective communication, defensive tactics, including being exposed to pepper spray to name a few of the courses taught.

New Deputy Sheriffs attend the Zone 9 Police Academy at the Plattsburgh Police Department for approximately five months of classroom, physical training, and reality-based training, with additional field training conducted. Field training is overseen by certified Field Training Officers. Three deputies are certified police instructors; these instructors help with in-service training as well as assisting at the Zone 9 Police Academy.

In-service training is also conducted in house; this is done in classroom style training as well as online training seminars. In 2021, over 2800 hours of training was conducted by Sheriff's Office instructors and outside agencies.

All instructors are also members of the Empire State Law Enforcement Trainers Network (ESLETN), this organization promotes networking between the counties to enhance training. This past year Sergeant Lloyd LaMotte and Deputy Kaycee Kolodzey were honored as Training Coordinator of the Year and Trainer of the Year, respectively.

A new body worn camera program was instituted for the road patrol, along with updated conducted electrical devices (Taser). Deputy Sheriffs have been trained in the use of these tools and the benefits. Road patrol policies were updated utilizing Lexipol, bringing the Sheriff's Office current

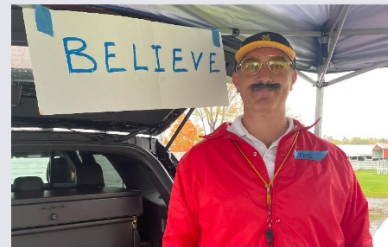
The highlight of the training for 2021 was conducted by RENZ Consulting, Inc., discussing policing in the North Country and the Adirondack Park. Dr. Lorenzo Boyd, Ph. D., Mike Lawlor, J.D., and Heather Pfeiffer, Ph. D., facilitated a discussion with police officers. The three-day long discussions, spread out through the year, helped bring a better understanding of the community perspective of police activity, along with the trauma associated with being a police officer.



A group photo from on of the training sessions with RENZ Consulting, Inc.

~COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT~

Throughout the year the Sheriff's Office receives numerous requests to provide traffic control or just be present at an event in the county. In-person events returned in 2021 and the Sheriff's Office was happy to assist. The highlight of assisting the community has been providing escorts for North Country Honor Flight. It is always a special day escorting the veterans and hearing their stories. New for 2021, was the addition of the Shop with a Cop program.



~APPENDIX~

County Jail Average Daily Population (ADP)			
Local ADP	Boarded In ADP	Federal ADP	Total ADP
22	1	31	54
Intake for 2021		Releases for 2021	
206		215	
Inmate Transports (Medical and Court)		Meals Served in the County Jail	
277		58,870	
High School Equivalency Diplomas Earned			
7			
Civil Processes Served		Civil Transactions	
999		\$335,460.11	
Deputies Dispatched Calls		Incident Reports Generated	
4,027		1,117	
Arrests Made		Emergency Medical Assistance	
167		227	