

# Essex County Sheriff's Office

## 2020 Annual Report



Sheriff David E. Reynolds

Undersheriff Thomas W. Murphy II

Major Michael Blaise - Major Peter Feeley

The year Two Thousand Twenty, a year that many will forever remember. Like everyone else, this past year brought many challenges and adaptations. The members of Sheriff's Office stood up and took this challenge, adapted and successfully served 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.

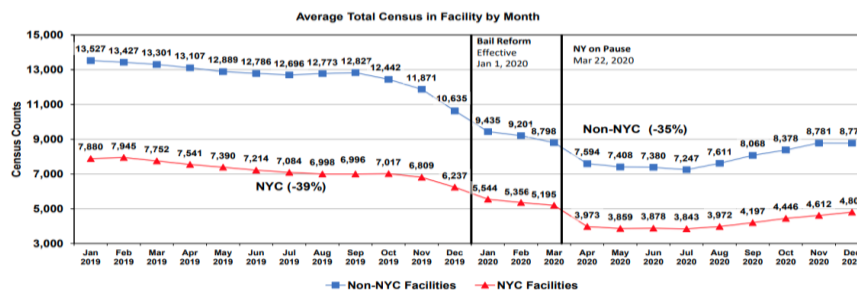
The County Jail is a required function by New York State and is regulated by the New York State Commission of Corrections. The Civil Office is also required, this office handles evictions, orders of protection to name a couple. The Road Patrol division of the Sheriff's Office is the most visible, deputies 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.

## ~COUNTY JAIL~

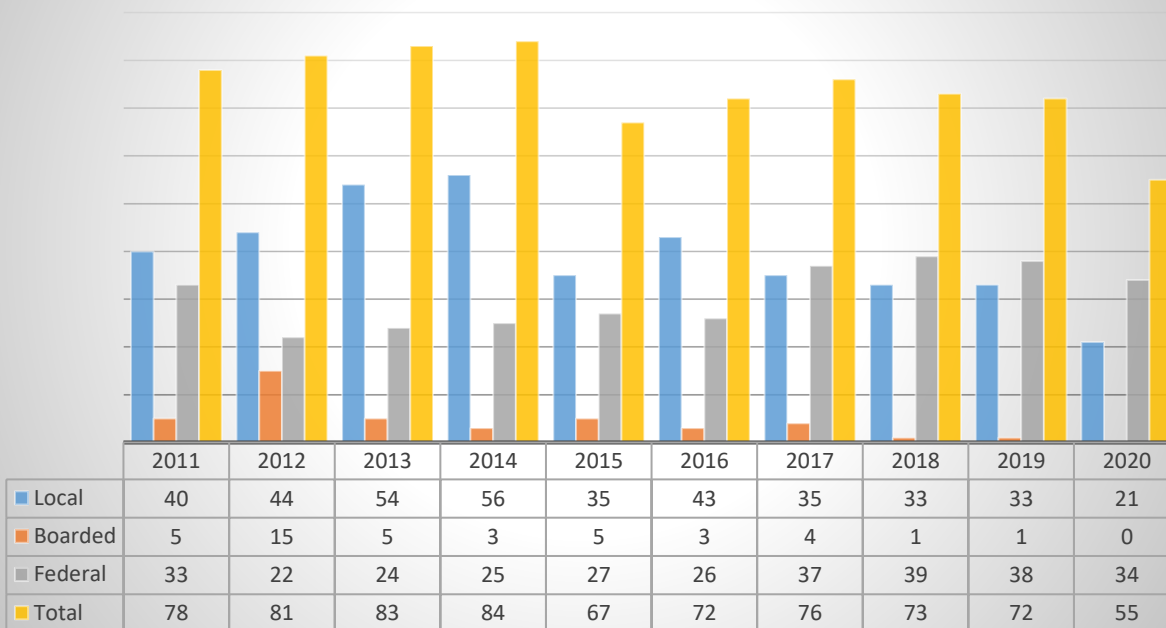
The Essex County Sheriff’s Office is state mandated to operate a county jail. In 2010, the local inmate population was a daily average of forty. In 2020, that daily local inmate population dropped to 21. The Sheriff’s Office has been able to relieve some of its mandated budget items by housing inmates from the US Marshall Service. The housing of federal inmates including transporting federal inmates generated over \$1.2 million in revenue for the county, in 2020. In a report issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the county jail inmate population, across New York State excluding New York City, is down 35% from January 2019.

### Jail Population: Census Jan 2019 – Dec 2020



Source: SCOC, Jail Daily Reporting System (January 2019 - December 2019 as of 1/1/2020; January 2020 - November 2020 as of 1/1/2021).

## 2011-2020 County Inmate Average Daily Population Trends



The County Jail is operated by sixty-seven dedicated men and women and is a 24/7 operation. These individuals are charged with the operation of the jail. They maintain security and safety of the staff, inmates, facility and the community. In 2020, 234 inmates were processed into the county jail.

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 2020, corrections staff safely completed 219 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 2020; 60,948 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 see inmates and care for their medical needs at the county jail. In 2020, 417 medical exams and procedures were conducted in the county jail medical unit.

All new officers are given on the job training, before attending the basic corrections course outlined by DCJS. This course is a five-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. In-service training is also conducted in house; this is done in classroom style training as well as online training seminars. In-service training conducted in 2020, over 1500 hours.

In-person visitation was suspended in March of 2020 and continued through the end of the year. Technology allowed inmates to maintain contact with family. Several years ago, the county jail installed video visit terminals. The intention was these terminals would reduce the number of in-person visits, thereby reducing contraband. This video service really wasn't used until this year. inmates were able to maintain contact to family still.

The goal is to keep inmates' safe and secure, but also to help them not recidivate. A majority of the programs conducted in 2020 were done remotely. The facility and program providers worked together to overcome and worked with the resources available to ensure the programming continued. With this goal several programs are offered within the facility:



**~JAIL PROGRAMS~**

**A. Work Readiness and Community Re-Entry**

Champlain Valley Education Services (CVES) provides and coordinates services with the aid of grant funding. These counselors 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. CVES also provides adult education, older than twenty, to achieve their High School Equivalency, OSHA Certifications, life skills. See below for statistics from the programs:

<b>CVES PROGRAMS AND STATISTICS</b>	
<b>ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM</b>	
Adult Basic Education / Adult Secondary Education (HSE)	14
Post-Secondary Education	29
Achieved High School Equivalency	2
Pending High School Equivalency Results (COVID Delays)	6
<b>RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS</b>	
Participation in Work Readiness/Re-Entry Education Programs	41
<b>CERTIFICATIONS EARNED</b>	
OSHA 10 General Industry	14
National Work Readiness Credential (NWRC)	2
AZTEC Ready for Work (Employability Skills)	3
AZTEC Life Skills Education (Community Re-Entry Series)	2
Paxen Pre-Release Reentry Preparation (Anger Management)	6
Paxen Pre-Release Reentry Preparation (Values Clarification & Goal Setting)	8
Paxen Pre-Release Reentry Preparation (Money Management)	6
<b>RE-ENTRY PLANS</b>	
Plans Developed and Implemented	10
Emergency Housing (DSS) Applications & Assistance	6
Food Security (SNAP) Applications & Assistance (DSS & JCEO)	6
Applications for Financial Assistance (DSS)	8
Mental Health Referrals & Placement Assistance (CCMH, Counseling Services)	10
Disability Support Referrals (ACCES-VR, Tri-Lakes Center for Independence)	2
Substance Abuse Treatment Referrals & Placement (MHAB, CVFC)	1
Parenting Classes Referrals (CCCCNC)	1
Appointments, Disposition Assistance (Family Court, DMV, Probation)	9
Employment Application Assistance & Submission (Potential Employers, ETS)	9
Continuing Ed., Job Training (OWS, CV-TEC, CCC, NCCC)	4
Clothing and Personal Necessities Provided	1



**B. 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. To assist combat drug addiction in cooperation with St. Joseph’s Addiction Counseling, the Essex County Jail started using medically assisted treatment or MAT. In the first year of this program, thirty-three inmates participated. Participation in this program greatly decreased with the program being done via video, rather than in person.

**C. Mental Health Services**

Provide needed crisis and maintenance counseling services to assist the inmate population. Mental Health Services are a one-on-one session at this time. In 2020, 361 individual sessions took place. These sessions were done in person and remotely.

**D. High School Equivalency**

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. One teacher is provided by the Boquet Valley Central School District and classes are in session everyday school is in session.

## ~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 2020, 730 legal services and execution where served via personal service or mail, if the law allowed. Total money handled by the civil office totaled \$373,226.95. This office is staffed with one deputy sheriff and two 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, two sergeants with ten deputy sheriff's available for road patrol functions. Deputy Sheriffs also work with the DEA Drug Task Force and the Adirondack Drug Task Force. Three deputies are certified police instructors; these instructors help with in-service training as well as assisting at the Zone Nine Police Academy.

The road patrol handles many different assignments, all with community safety coming first. Under normal circumstances the deputies assist with both IRONMAN events, marathons, fun runs, rugby tournament, lacrosse tournament, as well as the Essex County Fair. This year there were none of these events, but sheriff's deputies assisted in numerous celebration parades around the County. Socially distant parades to help celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, Halloween and Christmas. Deputies are always ready for response to assist when a natural disaster happens in the area. Besides assisting travelers during winter storms and blocking roads because of flooding, deputies delivered numerous COVID-19 supplies to the towns assisting Emergency Services.

In 2020, deputy sheriffs were dispatched to 2,397 calls, which generated 740 incident reports and 123 arrests. Plus, monitoring the registrations of 133 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.

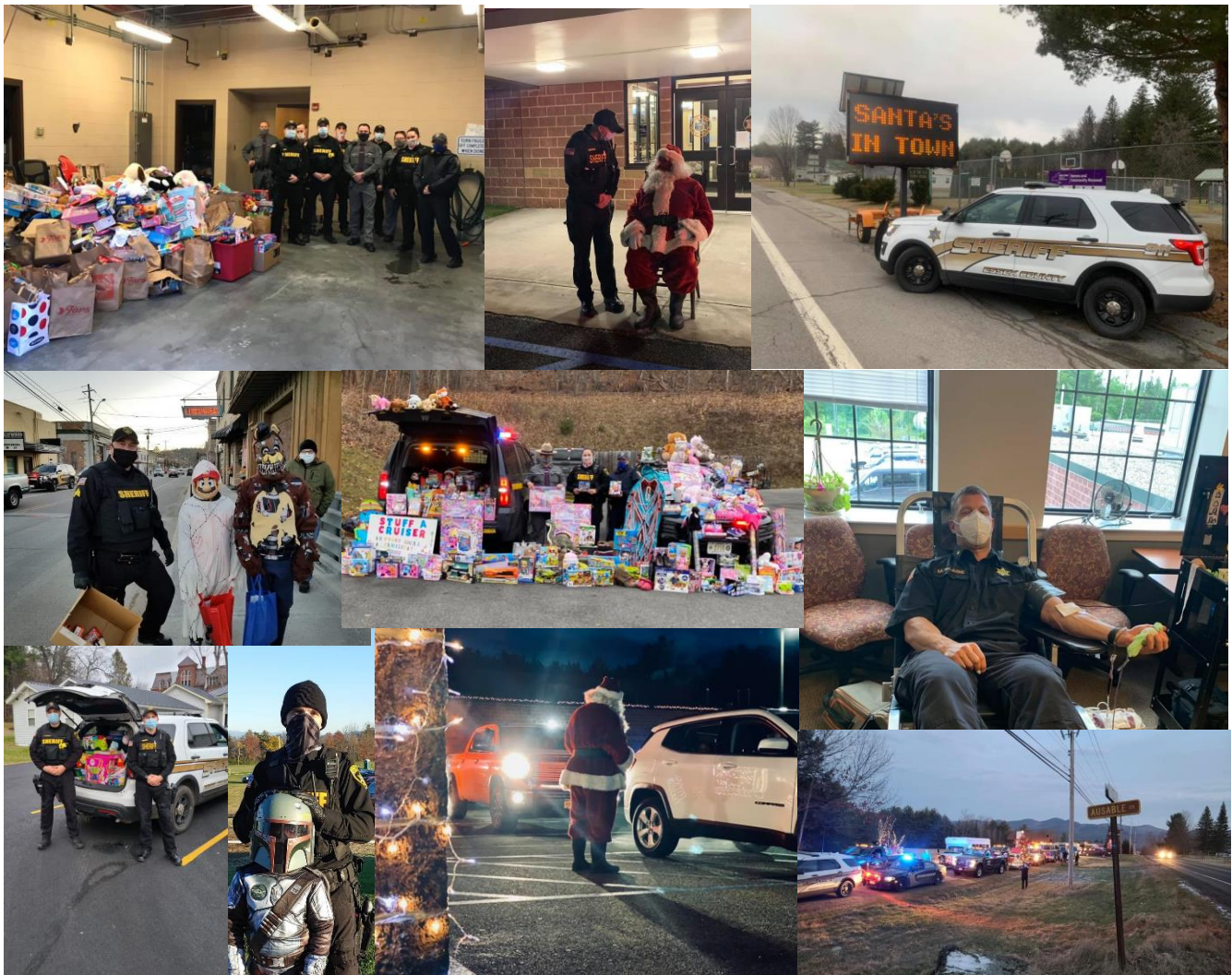
In addition to be ready to respond to a call, deputy sheriffs are trained in numerous specialties. Marine Patrol, Child Safety Identification Cards, five certified Child Safety Seat Technicians. Deputies have Crisis Intervention Team Training; this is a team of law enforcement and mental health case workers, working together to provide the appropriate assistance to the individual prior to arrest.

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 fifteen, six kids and nine adults, participants, the 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.

The Sheriff's Office has helped fill a void with emergency medical service. In 2020, eight Deputy Sheriffs acted as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). This special training allows deputies, to be the first on scene to help community members. They responded to 215 calls in 2020.

### ~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. Once in a while a request comes in to participate in the event. This is done by members of the Sheriff's Office volunteering on their day off to be part of a community event.





~APPENDIX~

<b>JAIL STATISTICS</b>	
<b>DAILY AVERAGE INMATE POPULATION</b>	
Local Inmates	21
Boarded In Inmates	0
Federal Boarders	34
Total Inmates	55
Total Inmates Booked	234
Total Transports	219
Total Meals Served	60,948

<b>ROAD STATISTICS</b>	
Calls Dispatched To	2,397
Calls Responded to as EMTs	215
Incident Reports Generated	740
Arrests Made	123
Sex Offenders Monitored	133

<b>CIVIL STATISTICS</b>	
Services Made	730
Money Handled	\$373,226.95