



WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2024

*"Service with Humility"*

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# Our Mission

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) makes a difference every day, enhancing the safety and security of all people and communities by providing the best in public safety services.

# Our Vision

To be the best public safety agency in the United States.

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## Washington State Patrol

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**Website:**  
[www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)



**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/WashingtonStatePatrol](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStatePatrol)



**X:**  
[www.x.com/wastatepatrol](https://www.x.com/wastatepatrol)



**Instagram:**  
[www.instagram.com/wastatepatrol](https://www.instagram.com/wastatepatrol)



# Our Values

- Strong Leadership
- Effective Partnerships and Community Relationships
- Professional Excellence
- Integrity and Accountability
- Respecting and Protecting the Rights of All
- Fostering a Culture of Continuous Improvement
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



# Message from the Chief

Greetings,

I can say with confidence that 2024 will be remembered as a defining year in our 104-year history—one marked by growth and loss, opportunity and heartbreak, and a renewed commitment to our mission.

In 2024, we expanded our ranks with the graduation of the 118th and 119th Trooper Basic Training Classes, welcoming 77 new troopers. In May, we launched our first class of nine lateral hires. Our physical footprint also grew with the opening of a new detachment office in North Bend. Across our eight districts, our commissioned and civilian personnel continued building trust with the communities we serve.

Our troopers upheld WSP's tradition of investigative excellence. In July, our forensic scientists helped solve a cold case over 30 years old, leading to the arrest of a murder suspect. In September, we apprehended a freeway shooter whose actions endangered many lives. And while we are serious about our work, the public took notice of our compassion too—our troopers rescued injured bald eagles, a wayward zebra, and even a wallaby on the run from a petting zoo.

But 2024 was not without deep pain.

In February, Trooper Ray Seaburg was seriously wounded after being shot multiple times during a foot pursuit. Thanks to the swift action of fellow troopers and first responders, Ray survived—and is expected to return to duty in 2025. His courage and resilience inspire us all.

Just weeks later, in March, we suffered an unspeakable loss. Trooper Christopher Gadd was killed by an impaired driver while completing "one more stop" before taking a break. A dedicated trooper, loving husband, and proud father, Chris became the 33rd member of our agency to give his life in service to the people of Washington. His sacrifice and the grief of his family, friends, and colleagues are a somber reminder of the risks we face each day.

Still, as Chris would have wanted, we moved forward.

We led major child exploitation investigations in July and November, honoring our duty to protect the most vulnerable. In April, Trooper Barry Marcus—now in his 32nd year—made his 4,000th DUI arrest. In total, we investigated 281 fatality collisions in 2024. While this represents a decline from prior years, it is still 281 lives too many. Over 80 percent of these collisions involved speed, and 76 percent involved impairment. The message remains clear: slow down, drive sober, and buckle up.

In every corner of the state, our troopers saved lives—through enforcement, rapid response, and unwavering dedication. From Ray's recovery to Barry's record to Chris's sacrifice, the story of 2024 was one of service, courage, and commitment.

The Washington State Patrol is proud to be part of the life of this state. We are honored to serve you—and we will always remember those who gave everything to protect others.

Sincerely,

Chief John R. Batiste



# Meet our Executive Staff



Chief John R. Batiste



Assistant Chief  
**Shannon I. Bendiksen**  
Commercial Vehicle  
Enforcement Bureau



Director  
**Dr. Fiona J. Couper**  
Forensic Laboratory Services  
Bureau



State Fire Marshal  
**Chad L. Cross**  
Fire Protection  
Bureau



Assistant Chief  
**Christina R. Martin**  
Technical Services  
Bureau



Assistant Chief  
**James R. Mjor II**  
Field Operations  
Bureau



Assistant Chief  
**Shane M. Nelson**  
Investigative Services  
Bureau







# Statistics at a Glance

Aviation	
Hours Logged	1,215
Flights	404
Speed	1,368
Suspect/Searches Containment	103
Aggressive Drivers	984
Pursuits	103
DUI Arrests	35
Alerts	
Amber	3
Endangered Missing Persons	22
Missing Indigenous Persons	53
Silver	111
Crime Lab	
Firearms and Toolmarks Cases	622
Latent Fingerprint	1,108
Material Analysis Cases	115
NIBIN Cases	1,100
Seized Drugs Cases	7,498
Criminal Records	
Fingerprint Background: Employment/Licensing	309,754
Fingerprint Background: Criminal	171,823
Records Vacated	37,477
Field Operations	
Rapid Deployment Team	10

Homeland Security	
Bomb Responses	282
Firearms Background	
Processed	249,728
Denied	3,416
Stolen Firearms Detected	126
Investigative Services	
SWAT Responses	119
Major Statewide Violations	
Chains	1,521
Child Restraints	2,116
Following too Close	15,647
HOV	17,773
Left Lane	6,702
Lights	42,092
Move Over/Slow Down	2,337
Public Disclosure	
Requests	18,762
VIN Inspections	
Inspections Completed	37,209
2023-25 Biennial Budget	
Transportation Fund	\$662,383,000
Omnibus Fund	\$279,894,762
Capital Fund	\$26,918,910

# Community Connections

We believe in being present in the community beyond just responding to calls. That's why we made it a priority to attend local events and connect with the people we serve in casual, low-key settings. In 2024, we took part in countless events and made meaningful connections through our community engagement efforts.

## Community Events

Throughout the year, we receive requests from community groups and organizations to attend events to talk to people and connect them with our agency.



## Chief for a Day

Chief for a Day honors chronically and terminally ill children by giving them a special day of recognition.



## School Visits

We want every student to feel comfortable turning to law enforcement for help, which is why we prioritize classroom visits for young learners.



## Shop with a Cop

A heartwarming community event where law enforcement officers team up with local youth to spread holiday cheer by shopping for gifts, strengthening bonds, and creating positive interactions between officers and the community.



## Turkey Giveaway

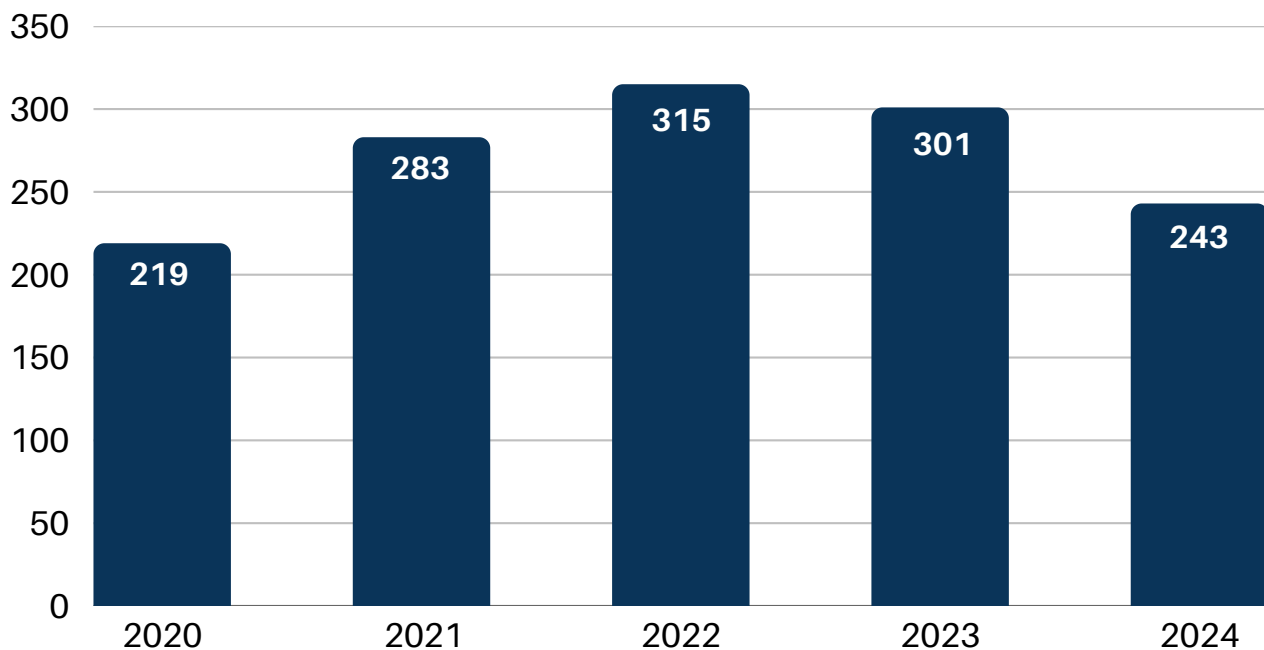
We partnered with the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance and Tacoma Police Department to distribute turkeys at the People's Community Center in Hilltop.





# Fatality Collisions

## Fatality Collisions Investigated



## Contributing Factors

**76**  
involved  
impairment



about  
**25%**  
involved no  
seatbelts

**83**  
involved  
excessive  
speed



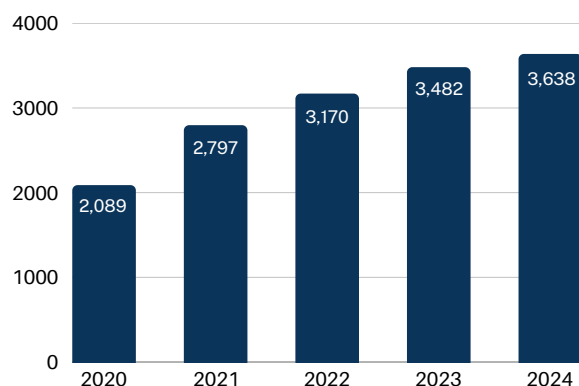
about  
**17%**  
involved  
distracted  
driving

## Quick Facts

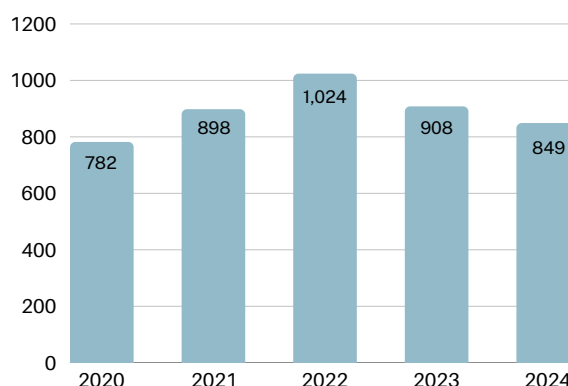
- Counties with the highest number of traffic fatalities are King, Pierce, and Snohomish.
- Roadways with the most fatalities are I-5, I-90, and US-2.
- Day of the week with the most traffic fatalities is Thursday.
- Hour of the day with the most traffic fatalities is 8:00 PM.

# Trends

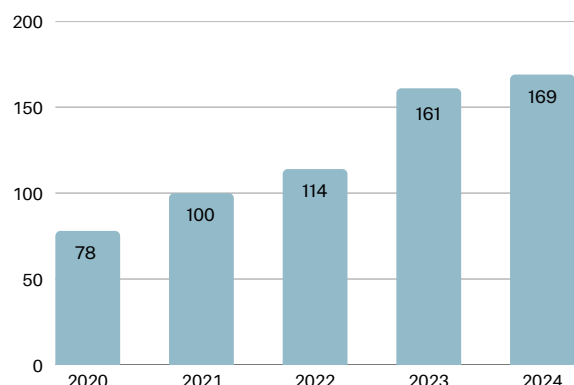
## Hit and Run Incidents



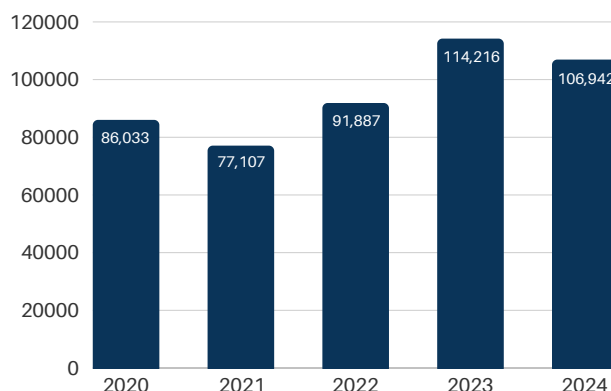
## Shooting Incidents



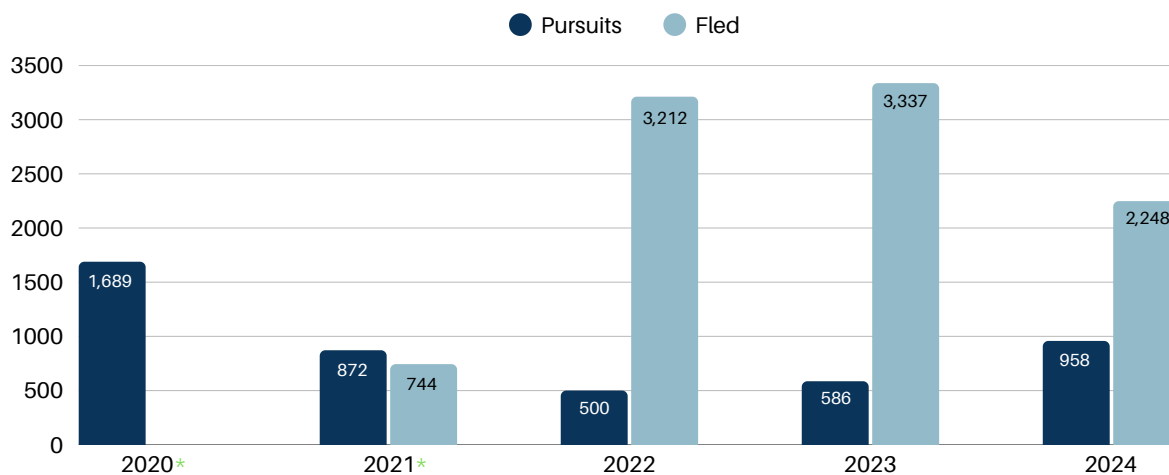
## Wrong Way Incidents



## Aggressive Driving



## Pursuits



\*The agency did not track failing to yield and fleeing incidents until July 2021.

# Patrols

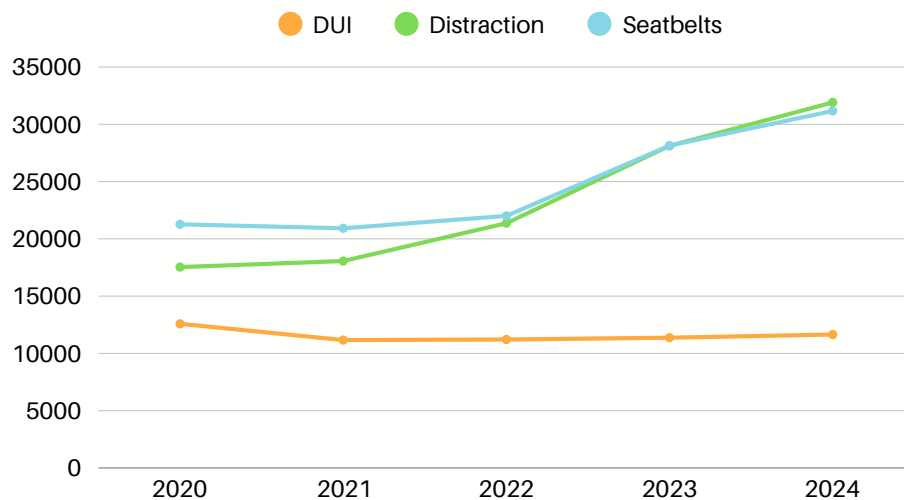
Troopers serve the community around the clock, responding to emergency and non-emergency calls. We patrol over 18,000 miles of highways, enforcing traffic laws, investigating collisions, and assisting motorists statewide.



391,994  
Citations Issued

377,790  
Verbal Warnings

130,618  
Written Warnings



11%  
Increase in  
seatbelt violations  
from 2023

13%  
Increase in  
distracted driving  
from 2023

2.4%  
Increase in  
impairment from  
2023



Speed violations **decreased** by **7 percent** in 2024 compared to 2023, dropping from **334,580** to **311,204**. This marks the **lowest** total since 2020, when **313,366** violations were recorded.



## Districts Patrol Breakdown

**District 1:** Pierce and Thurston Counties

**District 2:** King County

**District 3:** Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla and Yakima Counties

**District 4:** Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties

**District 5:** Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis and Skamania Counties

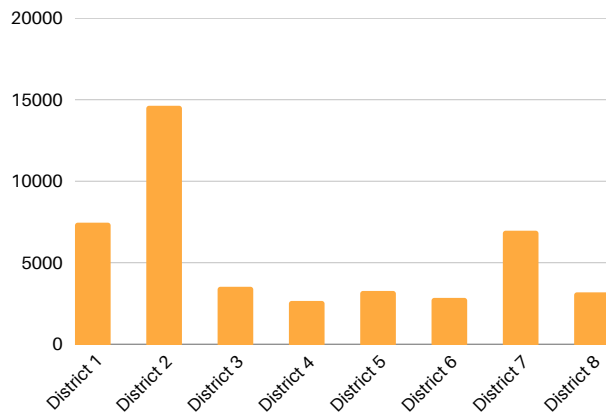
**District 6:** Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas and Okanogan Counties

**District 7:** Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties

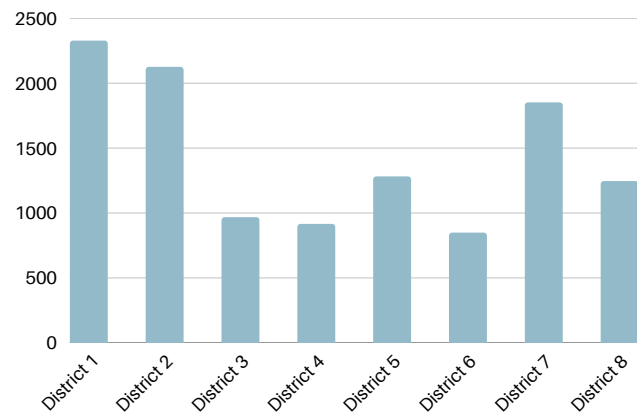
**District 8:** Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties



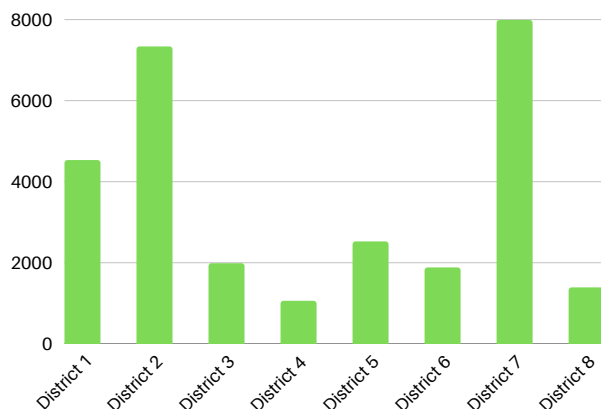
### Total Collisions



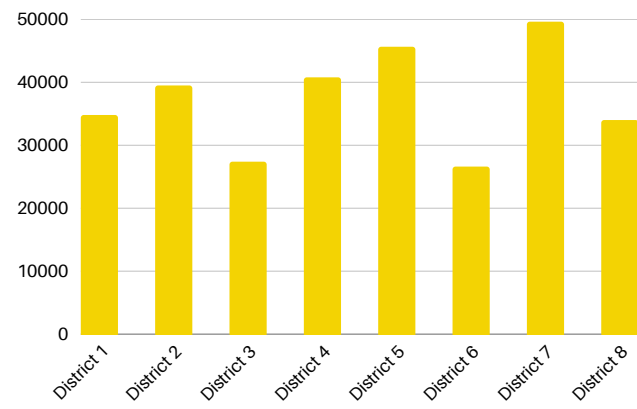
### DUIs



### Distracted Driving



### Speed Violations









# Commercial Vehicle Safety

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers are responsible for protecting state infrastructure by enforcing size, weight and load laws, and ensuring compliance of commercial motor vehicle regulations.

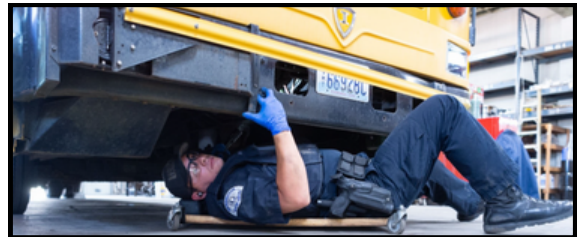
## Commercial Vehicle Inspections



## School Bus Inspections

Reinforcing the importance of protecting student passengers through routine and thorough safety checks.

**13,973**  
School bus inspections conducted



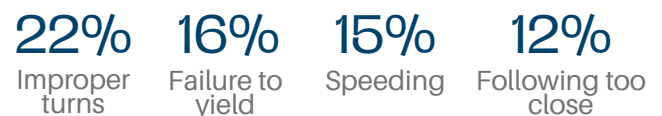
## Commercial Motor Vehicle Collisions



This significant decrease can be attributed, in part, to proactive enforcement strategies that targeted key collision causation factors. By leveraging data to identify high collision areas, enforcement efforts were focused where they would be most effective, contributing to enhanced road safety outcomes.

## Leading Factors for Collisions

These top four factors account for a significant portion of total collisions and highlight the need for continued driver education, enforcement, and data-driven interventions to reduce risky driving behaviors among commercial vehicle operators.





# Community Connections

## 2nd Annual Sensory Event

An event geared toward providing an opportunity for children on the Autism Spectrum and their families the chance to interact with law enforcement in a sensory friendly environment.



## Kiwanis Law Enforcement Camp

We host the Kiwanis Youth Law Enforcement Camp at our Training Academy in Shelton for high school juniors and seniors who have a strong interest in pursuing a career in law enforcement.



## Trunk or Treat

WSP attends Trunk or Treat events across the state.



## Faith and Blue

We were invited to participate in the Faith and Blue national initiative. Faith and Blue is a non-profit organization that helps facilitate connections between local faith-based communities and law enforcement through neighborhood events held across the nation.



## National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community event where we engage with the public, giving community members a chance to meet and connect with the first responders who serve them.



## Cheney Community Day

Our Spokane Crime Lab hosted a booth at Cheney High School's Community Day, where attendees had the opportunity to learn about forensic science and the types of analysis conducted at their local crime lab.









# Emphasis Patrols

Throughout the year, Troopers and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers conducted focused efforts and emphasis patrols. These patrols continuously support our agency's goal of keeping people and roadways safe.

## High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) Patrols

Combination of enforcement, visibility elements, and a publicity strategy to educate the public and promote awareness.

## Surviving Summer Campaign

A goal of reducing serious injury and fatality collisions during the state's 90 dangerous days on Washington Roadways.

## Night of 1,000 Stars

Focus on DUI enforcement effort with partners from Target Zero.



## One More Stop Campaign

A statewide DUI emphasis patrols to honor fallen Trooper Christopher Gadd #927, who tragically lost his life after being struck by an impaired driver on I-5.

## Home for the Holidays Campaign

Focus on reminding and encouraging drivers to take extra precautions in adverse weather conditions.





# Fire Services

The State Fire Marshal has broad responsibilities to ensure fire and life safety for the people of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

## Mobilization

The Fire Mobilization Plan provides personnel, equipment, and resources when wildfires or emergencies exceed local response capacity.

**30**  
Mobilizations

**\$45,280,000**  
Estimated Cost

## Inspections and Plan Review

Ensure fire and life safety compliance in licensed childcare, healthcare, and residential care facilities.

**1,791**  
Initial Inspections

**1,405**  
Re-inspections

**32**  
Plan Reviews for  
Schools

**33**  
Plan Reviews for  
Contracted Projects

## Certification and Licensing

We provide licensing and certification to businesses and individuals for a variety of fire-related services.



Fire Sprinkler Contractors

**475**  
Licenses  
Issued



Fire Sprinkler Fitters

**1,881**  
Certifications  
Issued



Fireworks License

**853**  
Licenses  
Issued



Fire Service

**3,217**  
Certifications  
Issued

## Fire Training Academy

### Types of Training

#### Fire Training Academy On-Site Training

Number of agencies provided training: **60**

Number of students trained: **2,824**

Number of classes: **22**

#### Regional Direct Delivery Program

Number of agencies provided training: **281**

Number of students trained: **1,161**

Number of classes: **43**

#### National Fire Academy

Number of agencies provided training: **100+**

Number of students trained: **1,013**

Number of classes: **59**



#### Consumables Used

Number of pallets burned: **5,059**

Number of gallons of  
flammable liquid burned: **5,314**



# Forensic Services

We provide a wide range of forensic services to the criminal justice system, medical examiners, and coroners. In addition, we oversee and coordinate the State's Breath Alcohol Test Program, Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, and Ignition Interlock Program.



## Crime Laboratory

The crime lab received **2,788** DNA/STR cases and processed **9,608** offender samples, resulting in **819** CODIS matches.

Additionally, **90 percent** of sexual assault kits were completed within the 45-day turnaround time.



## Impaired Driving

**249** DRE evaluations completed  
**21** ARIDE classes taught with **355** students

## Ignition Interlock

**270** Service center inspected  
**906** Compliance checks completed  
**422** Criminal investigations



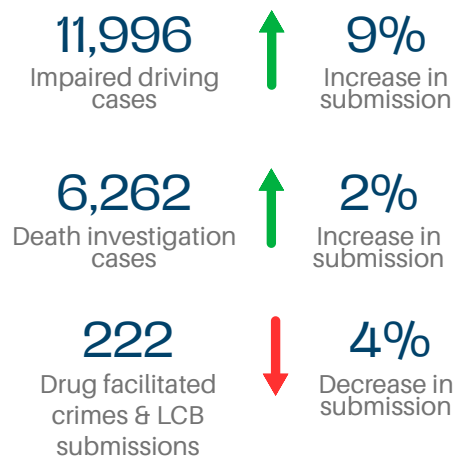
## Crime Scene Response

Responded to a total of **151** crime scenes:

- 67** Homicides
- 19** Assaults/attempted homicides
- 18** Vehicular assaults/homicides
- 14** Officer-involved incidents
- 11** Death investigations
- 8** Robberies/burglaries
- 5** Sexual assaults
- 9** Other cases



## Toxicology







# Investigations

We conduct a wide range of investigations, including traffic collisions, felony crimes, missing children, human trafficking, narcotics offenses, internal affairs matters, high-tech crime forensics, and organized crime intelligence. Our team integrates specialized expertise to support complex casework across local and state levels.

## Narcotics

**24,237**

Illicit cannabis plants seized

**217,310**

Fentanyl pills seized

**197 lbs**

Fentanyl powder seized

**103 lbs**

Cocaine seized

**33 lbs**

Heroin seized

**584 lbs**

Methamphetamine seized

**308**

Weapons seized



## Missing and Exploited Children Task Force

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before reaching adulthood. In response to these alarming statistics, the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) conducts “Net Nanny” operations across the state. These multi-day undercover stings are designed to proactively identify and arrest individuals attempting to exploit children online—stopping predators before they can cause harm.

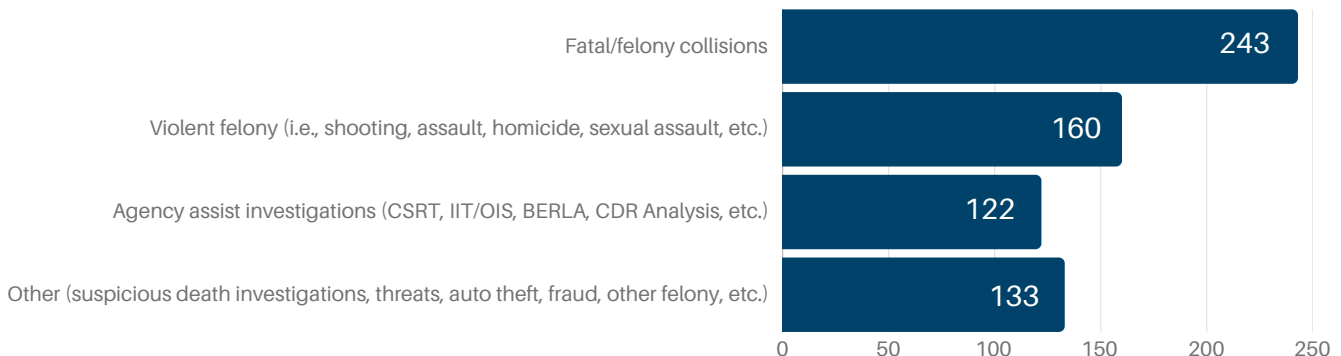
**4**

MECTF Operations

**67**

MECTF Arrests

## Criminal Investigations

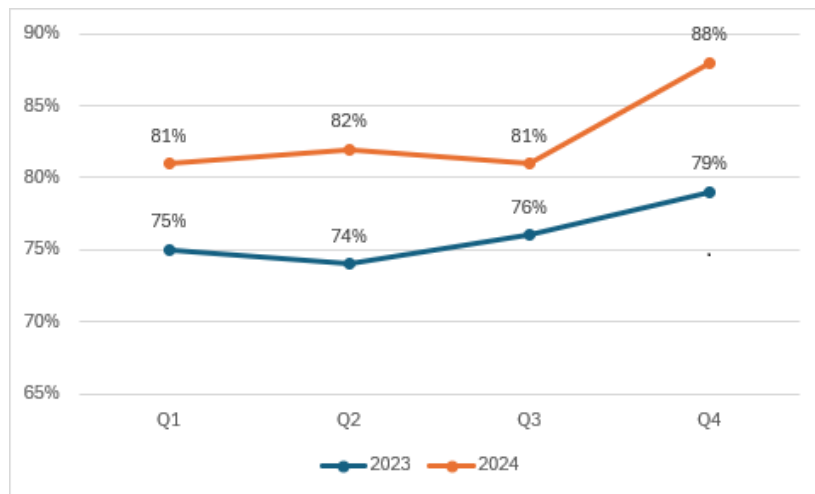




# Communications

Our Communications Division operates a 24/7 statewide emergency communications system through seven regional centers. These centers provide critical emergency dispatch services for the Washington State Patrol and 18 partner agencies at the state, federal, and tribal levels. Partner agencies include the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, State Parks, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Muckleshoot Tribal Police.

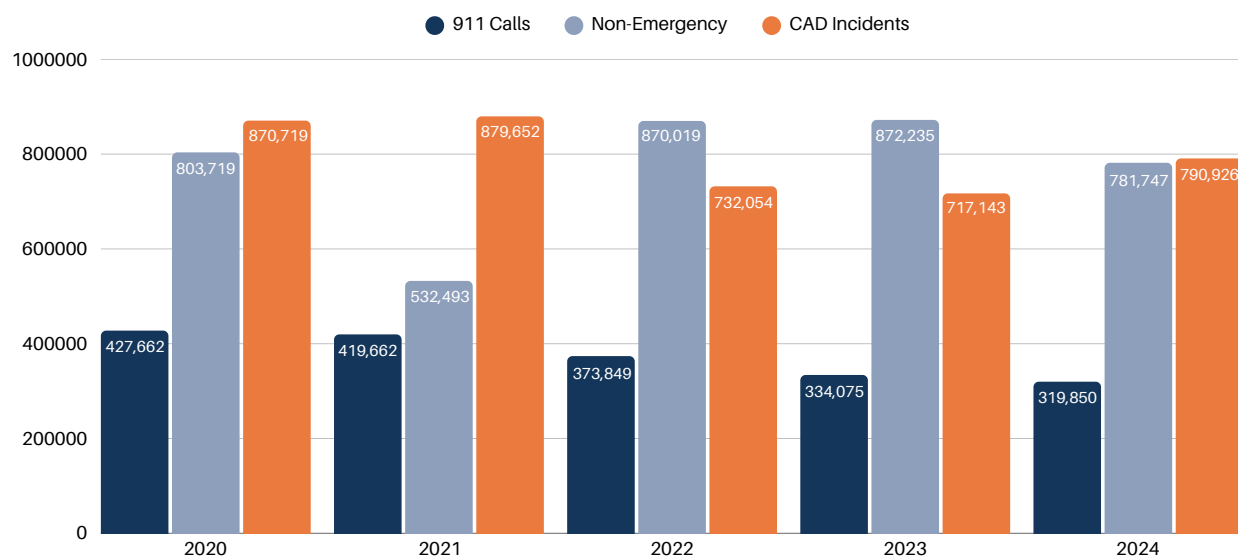
## Communications Staffing



Communications Division achieved its highest staffing levels since 2022, marked by **16 employee promotions** and the addition of **35 newly hired** communication officers.



## Communications Workload



# First Lateral Class

The Washington State Patrol's first lateral class began in March 2024, and graduated in May 2024. Lateral hires are certified law enforcement officers who have completed a training academy, allowing for a shorter WSP training process. Out-of-state hires must also complete a two-week course on Washington State law.

Nine new troopers were commissioned in May 2024. Five of the newly commissioned troopers have served in federal law enforcement, one served in another state police organization, and three served in local police departments. All of them are now fully trained and duly authorized to execute the duties of the Washington State Patrol.



ROADWAY TO *Your* FUTURE  
BE THE DIFFERENCE

# Sharing Knowledge and Expertise

## Human Trafficking Awareness

Our Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers participated in the Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative, educating commercial motor vehicle operators about human trafficking and providing information and resources at our Ports of Entry and other scale facilities across the state.



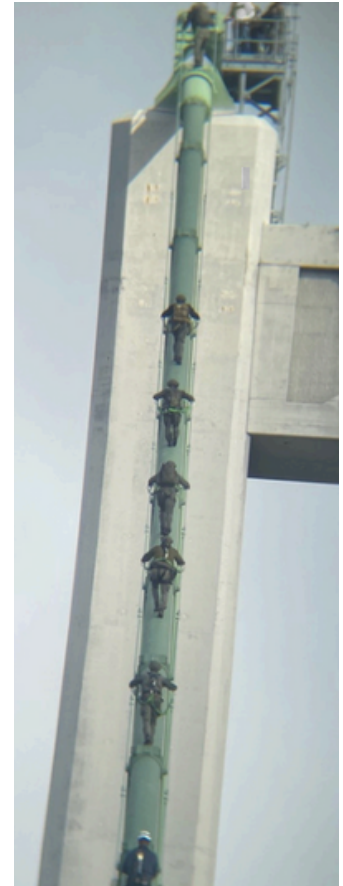
## Crime Scene Training

Our Crime Scene Response Team put on crime scene photography training for the Lacey Police Department.



## Bomb Squad Trains with WSDOT

Bomb technicians participated in a simulated response based on a 2019 incident involving a suspicious backpack on the Narrows Bridge outer main cable. Conducted in conjunction with our partners at WSDOT, the training required dismounted operations using equipment delivered via the bridge's support cables. Technicians gained valuable high-angle experience and enhanced their skills in a challenging and realistic environment.



## WSP and WTA Networking

Our Motor Carrier Safety Division hosted the Washington Trucking Association's (WTA) Safety Management Council at the Ridgefield Port of Entry in June 2024.

Carriers across Washington and Oregon attended this event to learn about the changes coming to commercial vehicle enforcement, such as road safety issues and current collision trends.



## SWAT Annual Maritime Training

Our Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team conducted its annual maritime training on Bainbridge Island. In partnership with Washington State Ferries, the Bainbridge Island Police Department, and the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, the team practiced a variety of boarding techniques, room-clearing procedures, and large-scale, multi-agency scenarios to prepare for potential maritime crisis responses.





# 2024 Legislative Tour

We hosted a legislative tour for lawmakers at our Training Academy in Shelton. The tour allowed our divisions and specialties to engage with lawmakers and demonstrate essential public safety work. The day-long event featured stations along the drive course with presentations.



# Agency Workforce Composition

As of December 31, 2024, the agency employed a total of 2,284 individuals, including both commissioned and non-commissioned personnel. The agency remains committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and representative workforce that reflects the communities we serve. The LGBTQ+ numbers are already included in the total employee count shown below.

## Commissioned Personnel

Races	Male	Female	Unspecified	Non-Binary	Total	LGBTQ+
White	686	76	0	1	763	7
Black	31	5	0	0	36	1
Hispanic	79	5	0	0	84	1
Asian or Pacific Islander	44	3	1	0	48	1
American Indian/Alaskan	12	2	0	0	14	2
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>12</b>

## Non-Commissioned Personnel

Races	Male	Female	Unspecified	Non-Binary	Total	LGBTQ+
White	471	542	5	4	1022	42
Black	23	23	0	0	46	3
Hispanic	65	53	1	1	120	10
Asian or Pacific Islander	54	59	1	0	114	4
American Indian/Alaskan	10	16	0	0	26	1
Unspecified	6	4	1	0	11	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>60</b>

## Agency-Wide

Races	Male	Female	Unspecified	Non-Binary	Total	LGBTQ+
White	1156	618	5	5	1784	49
Black	54	28	0	0	82	4
Hispanic	144	58	1	1	204	11
Asian or Pacific Islander	98	62	2	0	162	5
American Indian/Alaskan	23	18	0	0	41	3
Unspecified	6	4	1	0	11	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2284</b>	<b>72</b>

Sources: HRMS State of Washington Flexible Employee Date as of 12/31/2024.



# Recruiting Efforts

With multiple full-time troopers dedicated to recruiting efforts, we were able to visit with students in K-12 schools and attend career fairs, local community functions, and small business meetings and events. Additionally, we were able to focus advertisement and recruitment efforts on increasing diversity within the patrol.

Although not a comprehensive list, these activities included:

- Boys and Girls Club
- Being A Woman With Confidence – Girl Scouts
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- NAACP Events
- D.A.R.E.
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Lummi Nation Tribal Event
- Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley
- Faith and Blue
- Hire G.I. – Camp Pendleton
- Women’s Trades Fair
- National Night Out



## Follow our Recruiters on Instagram



**TROOPER VILLANUEVA**

[@trooperbryanvillanueva](#)



**TROOPER AXTMAN**

[@trooperheatheraxtman](#)



**TROOPER STANLEY**

[@trooperbriarstanley](#)



**TROOPER FELLER**

[@trooperbrianafeller](#)



**TROOPER TOWNSEND**

[@troopersteventownsend](#)



**TROOPER REYES**

[@trooperangiereyes](#)

# Office of Culture and Engagement

The Office of Culture and Engagement has been instrumental in creating a more inclusive, supportive, and connected workplace. Key accomplishments include launching equity and belonging initiatives, expanding employee resource groups, and delivering culturally responsive training agency-wide. These efforts have strengthened internal collaboration, boosted employee morale, and enhanced the quality of service provided to the public. The office also fostered partnerships with community organizations and partner agencies to advance shared values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—building greater trust and transparency across the board.

## Community Engagement Team:

The team includes six Community Engagement Liaisons serving across WSP's eight districts. They act as the agency's bridge to the community, helping ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in policies and initiatives.



## DEI Council

The DEI Council is made up of WSP employees representing diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. The council promotes respect and inclusivity across the agency. In 2024, we held seven meetings and developed a proposal for an All-Gender Appearance and Grooming policy, which was approved under General Order 24-002.

## Before We Serve

Designed to provide cadets and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer (CVEO) recruits with authentic interactions with diverse community members, this training also equips them with tools to effectively manage the stresses and challenges of their roles.



## Training

We held 31 trainings over the course of 2024. These trainings ranged in topics such as: History of Race and Bias, General Diversity, Workplace Boundaries, Microaggressions, Culture of Belonging, Psychological Safety and DEI Framework.



# Wellness, Support and Psychological Services

In 2024, the Wellness Program made significant strides in supporting the mental and physical health of WSP personnel:

- Conducted monthly statewide resilience trainings with an attendance of over 800.
- Expanded the Peer Support Team by 40 percent, growing from 30 to 42 members.
- Extended psychological services statewide by contracting three part-time psychologists in Districts 1, 4, and 7, in addition to the in-house Department Psychologist. These providers do not conduct fitness-for-duty evaluations to maintain confidentiality.
- Increased Academy training hours on wellness, mental health, and resilience by 1,000 percent—from 2 hours to 20.
- Hired a Program Specialist 4, who is also an athletic trainer, to co-lead both the Wellness and Peer Support Teams.
- Gained national recognition when the agency's resilience program was presented at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Boston.



# Graduations

## Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Graduation

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Basic Training program proudly graduated 22 new officers this year. Through an intensive 24-week academy, each officer gained the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience necessary to enforce the laws and regulations that ensure the safety of Washington's commercial motor vehicle operations.

## Fire Training Academy

The Fire Training Academy successfully graduated 3 recruit academies in 2024, which included 63 new firefighters. The instructors taught an additional 113 courses throughout the year to more than 5,000 students including fire service, marine, regional direct delivery, and national fire training.

## Training Academy

The Training Academy graduated 77 cadets from Trooper Basic Training Classes and 9 laterals in 2024. Trooper cadets attended a 37-week basic training. This training required the cadets learn state laws, WSP procedures, and tested their ability to apply this knowledge to practical law enforcement exercises.

## K-9 Graduation

In 2024, the K-9 Training Program graduated 10 explosive detection K-9 teams. Each team, consisting of a K-9 officer and their handler—completed a rigorous 12-week, 400-hour training course. The program included a wide variety of search environments to expose the dogs to numerous scenarios and conditions. Developing into an effective team requires both time and patience, as handlers must learn to understand their dog's unique personality, drive, and behavioral traits.







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