



July 15, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director:

All of us mourn the tragic death of Officer Shoop of Bothell PD. We will never forget your sacrifice- Rest in Peace Officer Shoop. All of us are thinking of Chief Seuberlich and the team at Bothell PD. Here is the message sent from Bothell PD yesterday--

It is with a very heavy heart that we identify our fallen officer. Officer Jonathan Shoop was shot while attempting to stop a violator vehicle on July 13th at around 9:40 PM. Officer Shoop died from his wounds at the scene.

Jonathan Shoop started his law enforcement career at the Bothell Police Department on June 3rd, 2019 after serving in the United States Coast Guard. Jonathan was a dedicated officer who served the City of Bothell with professionalism and compassion. Jonathan was well liked amongst his peers and throughout the community. Officer Jonathan Shoop will be dearly missed.

Officer Shoop is survived by his fiancé, his mother, and his two brothers.

More information will be available in the next few days regarding memorial services as well as opportunities to provide support for the family.



We have quite a bit of information for you this week, but as always, I will **highlight in bold** the general topic of each of these so you can skim if necessary-

Our Policy Director, James McMahan, has been providing overviews of our [legislative policy statements](#) for legislators and other groups. Here is a recent [article](#) on legislative topics and it refers to some of the topics we are discussing.

One recommendation we have supported since 2017 is **required data collection for use of deadly force by law enforcement**. Many of you are already reporting this data via the FBI portal, and we have been providing support for that reporting, although at the end of session last year the legislature chose not to pass that bill. This year's policy statement from WASPC again includes requiring this data being reported. As we have mentioned before, not having the complete data allows for the narrative that law enforcement is reluctant or otherwise trying to "hide" the information, and allows for editorials like this [one](#) in the Spokane newspaper that contains this phrase, "Many law enforcement agencies already track that sort of information internally, but they don't like to share it."

The Washington State Attorney General sent out a statement last week recommending this data be required, and it received coverage because, again, the media and others ignored the fact that we have been pushing for this all along. In any case, I would strongly suggest that we all start reporting, rather than waiting for some mandate or requirement later on. Here is a link to the national reporting process through the FBI, [here](#) are WASPC training materials for the process, and [here](#) is the contact information for our CJIS Manager, Joan Smith, and her team, who will be happy to walk you through any process questions for you or your staff. Many of our larger agencies in this state already report, and my impression is that many smaller agencies do not because there are few if any uses of deadly force, and there are limitations on staff resources. All this may be true but we should still get the data reported in the interest of transparency and public expectation. We are here to help you and please contact me or Joan if you have any questions- and thank you.

This past week the CDC issued an update to its **guidance for correctional facilities**. It focuses on the issue of testing. Our WASPC Jail Liaison, John McGrath, has been working with the state Dept. of Health on improving testing access with jail managers around the state. Here are the [guidelines](#) from CDC

Also here is a short [informational video for jails on COVID](#) for staff and inmates- it was developed in concert with Dr. Marc Stern and feel free to use it as you see fit-

Many of you have been having good conversations with community groups and others about **the role of police and better resources for behavioral health and not just sending law enforcement to deal with every societal problem-** again, a suggestion we have all been supporting for years. Here is a [PowerPoint](#) and a [summary](#) to our Mental Health Field Response Program, which has been funded by the legislature and administered by WASPC for a few years. These links may provide you with some additional information for which agencies and which programs are already out there and how they are working. This year we have also added the Arrest and Jail Alternatives grant program, and we will provide feedback on how those programs are progressing. Here is a [story](#) on Redmond's program, and here are two national stories on the same concepts. [\(1\)](#) and [\(2\)](#) Also, here is a [podcast](#) we did last fall on Olympia's program.

[John McGrath](#) is our WASPC liaison for Mental Health Field Response grants if you have any questions.

Last Friday, July 10, I was honored to attend the (COVID-delayed) memorial in Spokane for Lincoln County Sheriff's Sgt. Mike Stauffer, who passed away April 20. Mike was a longtime Sgt-at-Arms for WASPC and a good friend to many of us. Here is a [photo](#) from the service, which was socially-distanced outdoors and well attended.

Finally, the **Crime in Washington 2019 report** has been completed and posted on our website. Here is a [link](#) and below is a summary for you to use if you choose to send information in your city or county about the report- [Barbara Smith](#), our communications consultant, is available if you would like any assistance in preparing or sending any kind of press release specific to your community.

Overall crime in Washington state went down in 2019 according to a report released this week by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). The annual report tracks crime and arrest data from contributing law enforcement agencies throughout Washington.

The Crime in Washington 2019 report is compiled data from 181 state, county, municipal, and Tribal agencies and is published in conjunction with the FBI, which will compile and release national data based upon state reports later this year. The report is designed to give residents, elected officials, and law enforcement data-driven information about crime in their communities.

Crimes against persons, property and society are the three primary categories in the report. Together, these "Group A" offenses were down a total of 6.1 percent from the previous year. Crimes against persons were down 2.9 percent; crimes against property were down 7.9 percent and crimes against society increased 0.9 percent. More than eight percent of crimes indicated drug or alcohol usage during the commission of the crime.

Facts at a Glance

- *The total population for the State of Washington is 7,547,325.*
- *In 2019 there were 426,356 Group A offenses reported; compared to 454,059 Group A offenses reported in 2018. This resulted in a decrease of 6.1 percent in Group A offenses reported.*
 - *In 2019, Crimes Against Persons showed a decrease of 2.9 percent with 95,294 offenses reported; compared to 2018 offenses reported of 98,092.*
 - *In 2019, Crimes Against Property showed a decrease of 7.9 percent with 295,906 offenses reported; compared to 321,127 offenses reported in 2018.*
 - *In 2019, Crimes Against Society showed an increase of 0.9 percent with 35,156 offenses reported; compared to 34,840 offenses reported in 2018.*
- *Group A offenses were cleared by arrest or exceptional means 27.2 percent of the time.*
- *The crime rate (per 1,000 in population) for Group A offenses was 60.6, down from 69.5 percent in 2018*
- *The total arrest rate per 1,000 in population was 24.1.*
- *Juveniles comprised of 6.2 percent of the total arrests.*

- *Domestic Violence offenses made up 47.2 percent of all Crimes Against Persons and 2.6 percent of all Crimes Against Property. 2019 was the first year for reporting relationships and DV for all Crimes Against Property crimes so it may reflect a lower number as agencies are implementing changes in the records management systems.*
- *28,318 persons were arrested for DUI, including 155 juveniles.*
- *A total of 559 hate crime incidents were reported.*
- *There were 1,927 assaults on law enforcement officers and four officers killed in the line of duty.*
- *Full-time law enforcement employees totaled 16,508; of these 11,403 were commissioned (sworn) officers.*
- *There were 11,601 arrests for Drug/Narcotic violations; of that number 8.9 percent were persons under 18 years of age.*
 - *Possessing/concealing of marijuana constituted 7.8 percent of the total drug abuse incidents; the distributing/selling of marijuana accounted for 0.7 percent of total incidents (type of criminal activity can be entered three times in each incident).*
 - *Possessing/concealing of heroin constituted 20.8 percent of the total drug abuse incidents; the distributing/selling of heroin accounted for 3.5 percent of total incidents (type of criminal activity can be entered three times in each incident).*
- *The weapon type of "Personal Weapons" (hands, fists, or feet) was reported in 49,524 incidents; firearms were reported in 7,157 incidents (up to three weapons can be reported in each incident).*
- *There were 6,218 sexual assault (forcible and non-forcible) incidents reported in 2019. A total of 6,218 victims in these incidents, with a total of 5,799 offenders.*
- *A total of 56,532 domestic violence incidents reported; 12,649 of these incidents were Violations of Protection or No Contact Orders.*

Thank you and stay safe!

-Steve

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director