

Tucson Police Department

2024 Annual Report

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Message From the Chief

As Chief of Police and a third-generation Tucsonan, I remain deeply committed to our community and proud of our team's dedication to public safety. Every day, our 1,200+ team members work tirelessly to keep Tucson safe, vibrant, and welcoming.

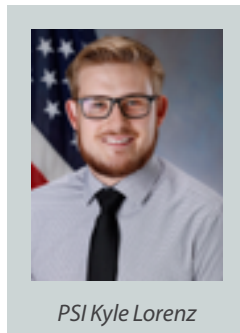
In 2024, we faced the devastating losses of Officer Adam Buckner, who gave his life in the line of duty, and Officer Mike Duffrin, whose death in hospice care reminds us never to take life's most important moments for granted. Their service and dedication leave a lasting legacy with our agency and team members. We will forever honor their contributions to this department and our community, and I encourage you to read their tributes in the Operations Midtown and Operations East pages of this report.

Last year, I shared my gratitude for Officer Kyle Lorenz's resilience and positive outlook on life after being critically injured by a drunk driver. He has embraced a new chapter in his career by transitioning to a professional staff investigator with inspirational optimism and strength. He is continuing his service with the same dedication he displayed as a sworn officer, truly living the meaning of "Struggle Well." Additionally, TPD K-9 Raven continues to exceed expectations in his recovery, thanks to the unwavering care of Officer Sam Rennick and his wife.

Throughout the year, we remained focused on our strategic priorities, including retention, recruiting, traffic safety, and violent crime reduction. Over the year, the department hired 124 new team members. Despite this positive news, due to the many retirements we had in 2024, we lost a significant number of commissioned officers. With the increase in professional staff, our overall numbers remained the same, but it remains vital that we increase our number of commissioned officers, who do the work no one else can.

More than 39,500 traffic citations were issued in 2024, and targeted operations against street racing and street takeovers resulted in numerous criminal citations, firearm seizures, and impounded vehicles. Structural changes also helped centralize resources on non-fatal shooting investigations, greatly improving the case clearance rate from 20% in 2023 to over 70% in 2024 – far surpassing rates in many major cities across the nation.

While zero is the only acceptable number of homicides or non-fatal shootings, we have made significant progress in reducing violent crime since 2021. Investments in technology, including cameras, have helped solve – and even prevent – violent crimes. When suspects are identified and arrested quickly, they have less opportunity to continue to hurt others.



PSI Kyle Lorenz

Furthermore, expanding community relationships and programs, such as our Community Violence Intervention program, has brought community members, social service providers, and government

agencies together to prevent violence, strengthening neighborhood resilience and building trust.

Our ongoing collaboration with local, state and federal partners ensures that violent offenders are held accountable. Of course, there is more work to do in 2025 and beyond to achieve a sustained reduction in violent crime.

For eight months in 2024, we were fortunate to be able to welcome members of the Army National Guard, who provided crucial assistance with administrative backlogs, asset movement, and department-wide support.



**Tucson Police Chief
Chad E. Kasmar**

Chief Kasmar is a Tucson native who came to the Tucson Police Department in 2000, shortly after graduating from the University of Arizona. He has served in multiple roles in the department, including as Deputy Chief, Chief of Staff, and Eastside Patrol Division Commander.

The father of two boys, and an avid cyclist, Chief Kasmar serves on the board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson, and has since 2017.

Their contributions significantly eased workloads and enhanced efficiency, while allowing us to focus our critically low numbers of commissioned officers where they could have the most impact.

As I look ahead, we will remain committed to building on last year's progress while addressing emerging challenges. This department's success is a testament to the dedication, resilience, and teamwork of our members. 2025 will be a year of intense focus on our strategic priorities, with primary focus on increasing our number of commissioned officers, supplying essential equipment to our team members, and adjusting our operational budget to meet community needs.

Together, we will continue striving for excellence in service to Tucson.

Programs & Initiatives



CSARC

The Community Safety, Awareness, and Response Center was up and running in 2024, integrating a number of tools into a cross-sector data and analytics hub.

CSARC provides real-time intelligence to police and fire field units through technology such as 360-degree cameras, Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras, Drones as a First Response (DFR), and other technologies, along with advanced analytical support. The situational awareness and ability to coordinate response that this system brings greatly adds to community and staff safety.

CGIC

Tucson was named a Crime Gun Intelligence Center by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2023, becoming a hub for crime gun intelligence in Southern Arizona. CGIC is a vital resource for the department, as well as for other local law enforcement agencies.

TPD's second NIBIN machine (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) has increased the speed with which crime scenes can be linked together via shell casings and other ballistic evidence, while the department's gunshot detection system (Firefly), and other technologies help pinpoint crime locations and identify suspects.

Recruitment and Retention

Like police departments nationally, TPD continues to experience difficulty with recruitment and retention.

On retention, the focus has centered on wellness programs, such as Struggle Well (post-traumatic growth training) and time off for confidential annual wellness checks. The department emphasizes gratitude and encourages seeking help, from colleagues as well as clergy or healthcare providers. TPD's Wellness Division and Behavioral Sciences

Unit are also available to all department members, with training, referrals, and programs.

On recruitment, TPD continues to pursue traditional applicants, as well as reaching out to non-traditional applicants, such as women, people of color, and people from backgrounds other than law enforcement or the military. Internal recruitment is another new innovation – helping TPD professional staff prepare for, and successfully complete, the police academy.

More Strategic Focus Areas

Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE)

Community-based Violence Intervention

VIVA / POPP (Violence Intervention and Vitalization Action / Problem-Oriented Precision Policing)

Homeless / Mental Health / Substance Misuse Outreach

Pre-arrest Deflection to Treatment

Drug / Human Trafficking Enforcement

Targeted Street Racing Deployments

Targeted Organized Retail Theft Deployments

Tactical Investigations Model

Social Network Analysis

Professional Staff Investigators

Pathway to Policing (P2P – internal career track from professional staff to police officer)

Struggle Well and Employee Physical and Mental Wellness Checks

PSP

Public Safety Partnership

After a surge in homicides and gun-related crime in 2021, the Tucson Police Department applied for and was awarded a Department of Justice Public Safety Partnership (PSP) grant the following year. A technical assistance grant, and not a monetary award, the program provides valuable training and technical assistance, while also building strong relationships with local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecutors.

Focus on Non-Fatal Shootings

The program offers assistance in eight core areas. TPD selected addressing gun violence – specifically non-fatal shootings (NFS), defined as a shooting with criminal intent that wounds, but does not kill, another. The difference between a non-fatal shooting and a homicide is often just a matter of inches.

While TPD has a very high homicide solve rate (90% in 2023!) its solve rate for NFS has been much lower, in line with national averages. The goal of the Public Safety Partnership in Tucson has been to investigate these cases more aggressively, to identify offenders, interrupt cycles of violence, pursue positive outcomes, and improve case closure rates – while creating safer neighborhoods and improving police-community relations.

Assessment Process

A team of subject matter experts (SMEs) from the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) conducted a full assessment of the department's approach to NFS investigations in their entirety, as well as how these cases fared in the courts, and what community resources were available to help with prevention. From their examination of department statistics, policy documents, training information, and interviews with people at all levels and components of the NFS "system," the team prepared a comprehensive assessment report with recommendations for TPD executive leadership to consider.



Recommendations

The team noted that NFS investigations were being handled by different detective units, depending on the nexus of the crime; i.e., was it associated with robbery, narcotics, domestic violence, etc. With this fragmented approach, opportunities for collaboration and information sharing were likely being lost – especially important given that research suggests that a small percentage of individuals are responsible for the vast majority of violent crime.

The team recommended weekly "shoot reviews," where investigators can discuss their cases in a group setting with other stakeholders in gun violence offenses. The team also emphasized co-locating these investigators, as well as "getting the right people in the right seats."

Changes Implemented

In May 2024, TPD's Central Investigations Division (CID) was restructured to create a Shooting Investigations Unit (SIU), responsible for all NFS investigations at TPD, regardless of nexus. Two squads of five detectives, each with a sergeant, were co-located with the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC)/NIBIN Unit to increase information sharing for all gun-related investigations.

Weekly shoot reviews began, involving detectives, supervisors, analysts, and command staff – up to the division commander and bureau chief level, to demonstrate the level of commitment to these cases. Local, state, and federal prosecutors participate, getting to know cases from the start of the investigation. Law enforcement agencies, probation officers, surveillance and apprehension teams, as well as patrol command staff participate, sharing intelligence and helping prioritize targets. In cases with uncooperative victims (historically a significant reason for the low solve rates), detectives work to build cases with other charges (such as discharging a firearm in city limits, or being a prohibited possessor) to disrupt the cycle of violence by impacting the individuals involved.

Results

In the 28 months leading up to the PSP assessment team's visit, TPD's solve rate for NFS cases was in line with national averages – about 20%. In just the first 3 months of implementing the recommended changes, the TPD Shooting Investigations Unit increased that rate to 66%. Since then, the NFS solve rate has consistently hovered around 70%.

By putting the right people in the right seats, treating these cases like the near-homicides they are, improving communication, bringing more partners to the table, and aggressively pursuing closures that impact gun offenders, the Tucson community is already realizing the tremendous benefits of the Public Safety Partnership.

Sharing Lessons Learned

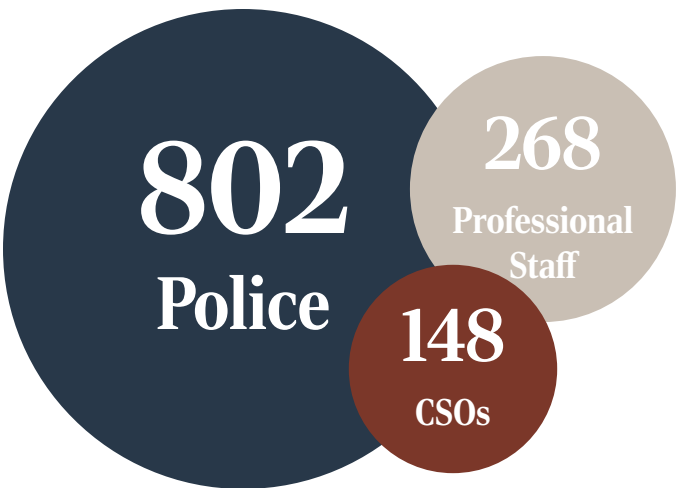
In December 2024, TPD was invited to present on their successful application of lessons learned through the PSP program at the Public Safety Partnership 10th Anniversary Summit in Minneapolis, Minnesota. That presentation, titled "Driving Down Gun Violence in Tucson: A PSP Success Story," received positive reviews from peer agencies across the country, and has resulted in other PSP sites in other parts of the U.S. turning to Tucson for guidance and mentorship on best practices that might help them better address gun violence in their own communities. Participation in PSP has again demonstrated how the Tucson Police Department is a national leader in applying innovative strategies to combat crime – leading to a safer, more secure Tucson.

Year at a Glance

Staffing

Staffing remains a challenge and a top priority. Numbers are as of December 31, 2024.

Multiple retirements in 2024 left TPD with 40 fewer police officers than in 2023. We increased our Community Service Officers (CSOs) and professional staff, including the addition of 18 Professional Staff Investigators (PSIs), a new job classification. We also introduced Pathway to Policing, a program to help CSOs and other professional staff succeed in the police academy.



Part 1 Crimes

Reported Crimes	2024 Total	5-year Avg.
Homicide	67	60
Sexual Assault	406	449
Robbery	849	1,000
Aggravated Assault	2,473	2,192
Burglary	2,084	2,226
Larceny	6,986	8,328
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,788	2,250
Arson	150	183

Part 1 Crimes is a designation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the more serious violent crimes and property crimes.

To ensure a more accurate comparison year to year, reports submitted online by the public have been excluded from total counts.

In 2024, homicides and aggravated assaults trended above 2023 levels and the 5-year average. Homicides were up 12% and aggravated assaults were up 12.8% from the 5-year average. Of note, a number of homicides in 2024 involved persons experiencing homelessness – as victim, suspect, or both.

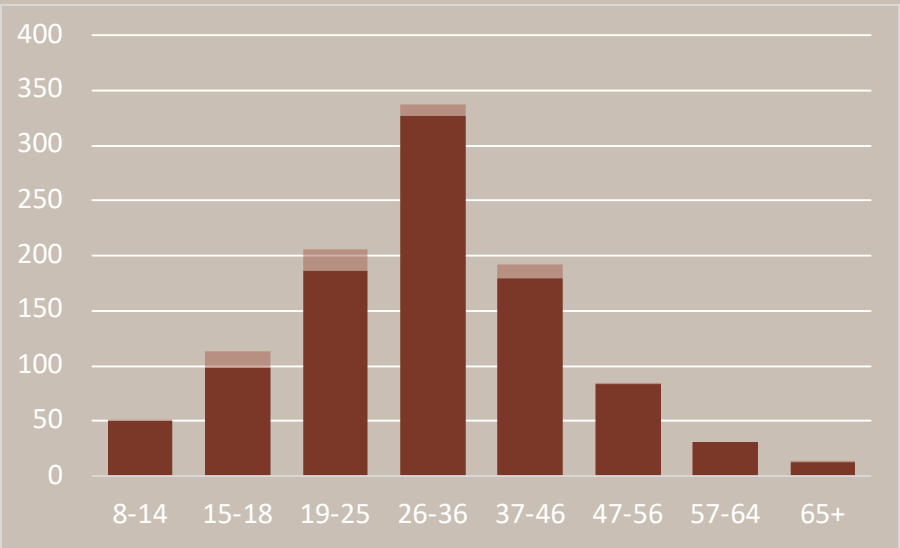
Motor vehicle theft remained stubbornly high, fueled by a high number of juvenile offenders – up 23.9% from the 5-year average. Kias and Hyundais were especial targets.

Other reported crimes were down from the 5-year average: robbery by 15.1% and larceny by 16%.

Aggravated Assault, Homicide Arrests by Age

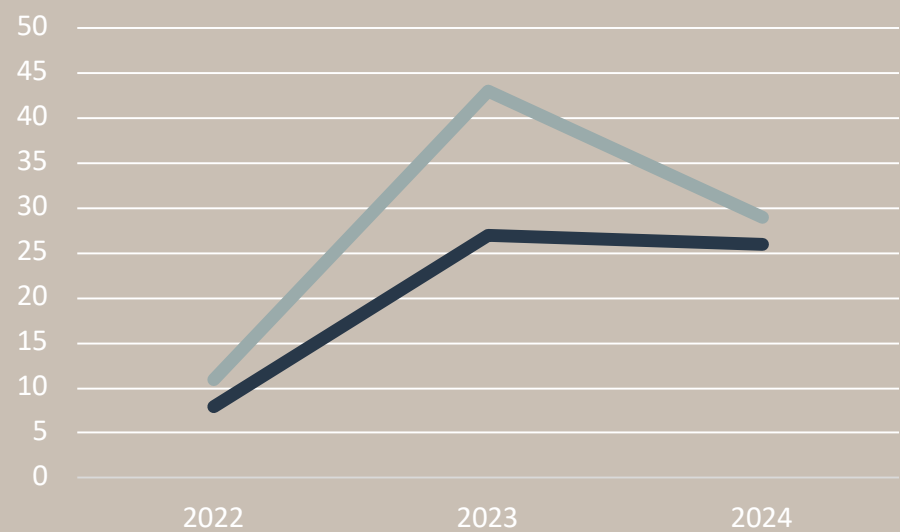
Violent crime is shocking at any age, but especially when committed by children and teens.

This chart shows arrests for Aggravated Assault (dark red) and Homicide (light red) by age group in Tucson in 2024.



Grand Theft Auto (GTA) Arrests, Children and Teens

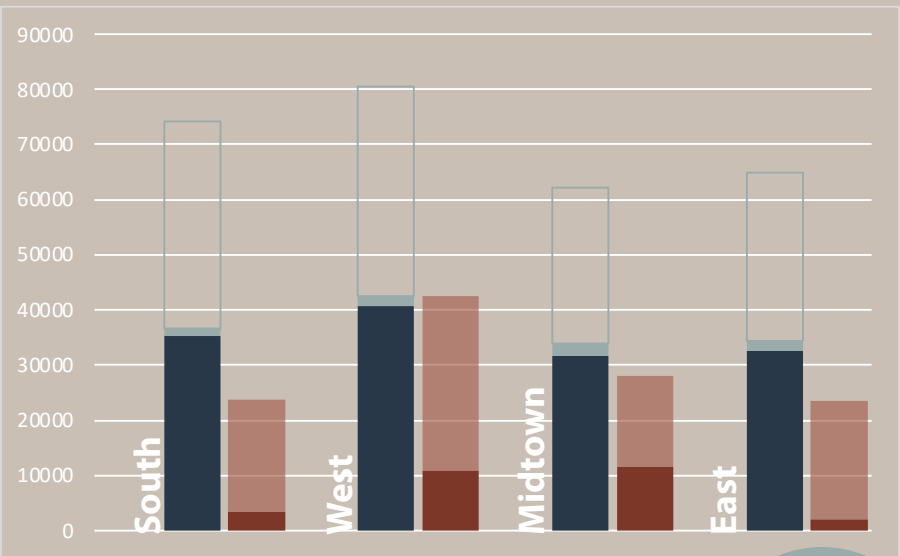
A manufacturing defect in Kias and Hyundais that made them relatively easy to steal was widely shared online, with the result that many more children and teens (dark blue line represents ages 8-14 and light blue line represents ages 15-18) were committing GTA crimes.



Activity by Patrol Division

The Patrol Services Bureau is divided into four geographic divisions: Operations South (Team 1), West (Team 2), Midtown (Team 3), and East (Team 4).

Many calls to 911 do not require police response. These "advise only" calls are shown in outline only. Police calls that were dispatched are shown in dark blue. Those that were not dispatched are shown in light blue. Traffic stops are shown in dark red, and other police-initiated activity is shown in light red.



Community

TPD works with the Tucson community as part of the community, and we are fortunate to have a strong non-profit sector to partner with. The department also works to build community with members and their families. Two examples of this are Family Day and the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope.

Partner Organizations

Afghan Arrivals Steering Committee
African American Student Services at TUSD
American Red Cross
Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program
Arts for All
Banner Hospital Refugee Clinic
Blessing Congolese Church
Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson
Boys to Men
Casa de Los Niños
Catholic Community Services
Child-Parent Centers
Community Food Bank
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
Desert Thunder Squadron
Dunbar School/Pavilion
EON Youth Lounge
Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse
Erik Hite Foundation
GAP Ministries
Goodwill REC
Hasanaat Refugee Services
Hearts of Gold
Higher Ground
Homicide Survivors, Inc.

I Am You 360
International Rescue Committee
Iskashitaa
Jewish Family and Children's Services of Southern Arizona
Juneteenth Festival Committee
Juvenile Justice Community Collaborative
La Frontera
La Paloma Academy
Lift Him Up Ministries
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
Mayahuel Prevention Consortium
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
Mi Nidito
NAACP
NAACP Youth Council
Network for Equity and Education Development (NEED)
Old Pueblo Faithfuls
Owl and Panther
Pillars and Bridges
Pima Community College
Pima Council on Aging (PCOA)
Pima County Juvenile Court
Pima Joint Technical Education District

(J.T.E.D.)
Rotary Club of Tucson
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF)
Southern Arizona Legal Aid
Special Olympics
Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.)
Sugar Hill Coalition
Toys for Tots
Tucson African Services
Tucson Pride
Tucson Refugee Ministry
Tucson Roadrunners Hockey
TUSD Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP)
TUSD Family Resource Centers
TUSD Homeless Education and Resource Team (HEART)
TUSD Refugee Services
United Way
University of Arizona
Youth on Their Own
World Refugee Day Committee

Law Enforcement United Road to Hope



The Law Enforcement United Road to Hope, a.k.a. "Tough Ride," is a three-day bike journey that ends at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. The purpose is to memorialize law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Along the route, riders stop for brief ceremonies with local law enforcement agencies that have experienced a line of duty death.

Family Day 2024

Coordinated by the Wellness Division, Family Day 2024 was a big success. It was great spending time together as a department with our families – especially the kids!

Many thanks to all who volunteered and donated to make this a success.



Between the zip line, face painting, a bouncy castle, and a close-up look at all kinds of police gear, kids (and adults) worked up an appetite.

2024 saw roughly 900 department and family members attend.



The ride is open to active and retired law enforcement and corrections officers, and surviving family members of officers who died in the line of duty. In 2024, 16 active, one reserve, and two retired Tucson Police Department officers made the 282-mile journey from Roanoke, Virginia to Washington, D.C.

The ride is indeed “tough,” and participants train for it months in advance. In 2024, riders included: Sgt. (now Lt.) Rudy Dominguez, Ofc. Devin Estes, Sgt. David Fritsch, Kerry Fuller (retired), Mark Fuller (retired), Det. Steve Harn, Ofc. Joe Jensen, Chief Chad Kasmar,

Lt. (now Capt.) Justin Lane, Det. Chris McNamara, Lt. (now Capt.) Cindy Mechtel, Ray Mechtel (reserve), Ofc. Kristin Moritz, Ofc. Jose Perez, Ofc. Chris Potter, Ofc. Gary Rosebeck, Ofc. Emily Sargent, Sgt. Linda Valencia, and Sgt. Vince Valenzuela.

Thank you to the riders and especially the support crew of Ofc. Cody Galloway, Ofc. Ruben Herrera, Ofc. Seth Hoyte, Ofc. Sean Towle, and Haley Estes (spouse) for participating in this memorable, and meaningful, experience.



**Deputy Chief
Monica Prieto**

Responsibilities

An extension of the Chief's Office, the Executive Office Bureau relays information to the public, develops and implements policy, maintains standards and accreditation, and promotes member wellness.

Wellness especially has come to mean many things in the department. Beyond annual wellness checks, it includes volunteer and community activities, nutrition and fitness, Family Day, and celebrating milestones, such as promotion and retirement ceremonies.

Strategic Communications and Policy works collaboratively to develop General Orders, manages the department's website and intranet, sends out four monthly newsletters, maintains the department's accreditation – and creates this annual report.



TPD Sergeant William "Wally" Kaderly bids farewell to his former colleagues at his retirement ceremony.

Components

Chief of Staff

Public Information Office

Office of Professional Standards

Strategic Communications & Policy

Accreditation

Wellness

Behavioral Sciences



Wellness includes being active, and department members enjoy a wide variety of sports – team and individual.

Public Information Office

The Public Information Office keeps the community informed, sending media releases, managing department social media, and responding on-scene to major incidents.



The Public Information Office is proactive as well as reactive. In addition to sending media releases on traffic fatalities, homicides, and other matters of public concern, the PIO works to increase the public's understanding of what TPD does and how department members contribute to the community.

2024 Statistics

197 Media Releases	320 Facebook Posts
110 Media Interviews	262 Instagram Posts
202 Events Recorded	126 Twitter Posts
92 Videos Created	3.6 Million Views on Facebook
1.2 Million People Reached on Facebook	

The office not only records, but also helps produce, some of the department's most meaningful events, including the Fallen Officer Memorial, retirement ceremonies, and Awards Ceremony.

The PIO works closely with the department's recruiting team to develop content aimed at attracting police officer recruits. Through dynamic video campaigns, social media outreach, and targeted messaging, the office helps showcase the opportunities and rewards of a career with TPD.

A defining moment for the office was receiving national recognition for its video for the Public Safety Partnership, a national Department of Justice program that TPD was selected for. Competing against other PSP agencies nationally, TPD's video stood out for its creativity and ability to communicate the department's approach to the partnership, which works to reduce violent gun crime.

Finally, the many engaging photographs in this report were taken by the Public Information Office videographers – nice job!

Professional Standards

Office Composition

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS, formerly Internal Affairs) investigates complaints against TPD members. OPS' role is to conduct fair, thorough, and timely investigations into administrative matters.

OPS consists of:

- 2 commanders
- 2 professional staff assistants
- 6 investigative supervisors
- 1 volunteer
- 2 detectives

Oversight and Accountability

OPS works with the Independent Police Auditor (IPA), who reviews OPS investigations and serves as the public's ombudsman.

The IPA is part of the City Manager's Office, not TPD, and ensures that investigations of critical incidents and complaints are thorough and impartial. Together, OPS and the IPA help ensure community safety and protect the rights of community members.

OPS investigates and determines whether policy violations occurred, but it is up to the chain of command to determine discipline. While community safety comes first, the department generally tries to take a restorative, rather than punitive, approach to discipline.

In addition to the IPA, Tucson has another layer to ensure police accountability. The Community Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB) consists of members selected by the Mayor and Council.

CPARB meets monthly to discuss closed OPS cases and determine whether the investigation was fair and thorough. The cases reviewed are randomly selected by CPARB and discussed at their monthly public meetings. Of the cases reviewed in 2024, CPARB members found all investigations to be fair and thorough.

News and Developments

In 2024, OPS began digitizing cases as they were closed, rather than maintaining physical files. We expect that this will expedite responses to public records requests. OPS has also begun the process of digitizing archived cases – almost 700 have been digitized so far.

In 2024, OPS handed off the management of use of force (UoF) reports to the Training Academy. UoF incidents are still investigated by supervisors in the field and reviewed by command staff. Once complete, however, they are kept at the Training Academy. This is so the Academy can quickly spot trends and develop training and best practices for the department. OPS continues to audit a random sample of reports to ensure that all investigative steps were completed and that findings were appropriate.

TPD received its initial accreditation with ALEAP (Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program) at an Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police meeting on April 26, 2024. Many thanks to Detective Frank Amado for his work getting this done. You can read more about ALEAP and the accreditation process at <https://www.azleap.org/>.

To maintain accreditation, TPD must show that it meets ALEAP's 178 standards, submitting annually both written directives and proof of compliance. Each standard requires one or more written directives and proofs, totaling several hundred items a year. ALEAP assessors review the department's submissions annually, and every four years the department receives a full site visit as well. Accreditation Manager duties have since moved from OPS to the Strategic Communications and Policy Division.

Complaint Process

The Tucson Police Department encourages community members and department members to report concerns of possible misconduct for investigation. Complaints can be made to OPS in a variety of ways, including:

- In person at any police facility
- Telephone (520) 791-4426
- Written letter to TPD Office of Professional Standards, 270 S Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701
- City website, <https://docs.tucsonaz.gov/Forms/TPD-Complaints>, or fax (520) 791-3269
- Independent Police Auditor (520) 837-4003
- Via other internal sources
- City Manager's Office, Council Member's Office, or Mayor's Office

Investigative Process

Once OPS receives a complaint, the investigative process begins.

OPS investigators record an interview with the complainant and anyone who witnessed the incident. After the interview, an investigator reviews police reports, use-of-force reports, and body-worn camera videos to determine whether a policy violation potentially occurred.

If no violation occurred, the complaint is closed, and the complainant is notified of the outcome.

If a policy violation potentially occurred, OPS investigators record interviews with department personnel. At the conclusion of the investigation, if a policy violation is found to have occurred, the matter is referred to the member's chain of command to determine discipline.

OPS conducts administrative investigations. If criminal misconduct is alleged, a separate criminal investigation is conducted by a separate TPD investigative unit, in addition to the administrative investigation conducted by OPS.



Statistics

OPS investigations may be external (generated by members of the public), internal (generated by department members), or administrative (lost or damaged property).

Case Type	2023	2024
Administrative Inspections	41	47
Contacts*	139	149
External Complaints	115	181
Internal Complaints	38	40
Officer-involved Shootings	10	4
Vehicle Collisions	104	111
Vehicle Damage	3	3

*Cases are counted as contacts when: 1) the complainant doesn't state a violation of law or policy; 2) the complainant abandons their complaint; or 3) a community

member contacts OPS for help locating items secured as evidence or for safekeeping.

After a critical incident, such as an officer-involved shooting, in-custody death, or serious injury/property damage incident involving TPD members, additional review focuses on the following areas, to learn from these incidents and improve as an agency.

- Policy
- Tactics
- Decision-making
- Communication/de-escalation
- Supervision
- Training
- Equipment

At the end of the investigation, OPS submits a written report covering the areas listed above to the member's chain of command. Critical incidents are also reviewed by the Force Review Board, which consists of community and department members. Recommendations for improvements to policy, training, or equipment are considered and, if appropriate, implemented.

2023 Cases by Source and Most Serious Outcome

Source	Unfounded	Not Sustained	Sustained	Exonerated	Chain of Command	Administratively Closed
Internally Reported	11	10	41	1	0	0
Externally Reported	21	6	30	8	55	114

2024 Cases by Source and Most Serious Outcome

Source	Unfounded	Not Sustained	Sustained	Exonerated	Chain of Command	Administratively Closed
Internally Reported	9	2	22	5	0	1
Externally Reported	12	4	20	3	73	144

Unfounded – The employee did not commit the alleged acts.

Not Sustained – It cannot be determined if the employee committed the alleged acts.

Sustained – The employee committed acts in violation of policy.

Exonerated – The employee committed acts in accordance

with policy.

Chain of Command – The employee received counseling (not discipline). Sustained policy violations receive discipline, not counseling.

Administratively Closed – No violation was alleged or the complainant could not be reached.

Wellness

TPD is dedicated to supporting members' health, wellness, and resilience with programs and services, including volunteer opportunities as well as physical and mental health education and resources.

Family Support

The Wellness Division and BSU, the Behavioral Sciences Unit, are there for family support as well as member support. In 2024, the department suffered two active duty member deaths. 31-year-old LPO Adam Buckner gave his life in the performance of his duties, while Officer Michael Duffrin passed away in hospice care.

While the entire department mourns these devastating losses, BSU works with the family to ensure that their wishes are respected and carried out, and helps them connect with benefits and services.

Transitions

The Wellness Division organizes retirement ceremonies for both sworn and professional staff, looking back at members' careers as well as forward to the next chapter in life.

Wellness also provides workshops preparing members for retirement, mentally and financially, including understanding both pension systems (sworn and professional staff), Medicare, and Social Security.

Education & Awareness

Wellness Checks

The Wellness Checks program was launched to incentivize employee check-ins with healthcare providers. Employees receive a day off each fiscal year to see the practitioners of their choice for both a physical and a mental (resiliency) wellness check. Results are confidential and not provided to the department or the City. The program is wrapping up its first year with 102 department members taking advantage of the physical, and 115 department members taking advantage of the resiliency checks.



Honor Guard prepares the flag for presentation at the funeral procession for LPO Adam Buckner, End of Watch March 31, 2024.

scans, courtesy of the Arizona Heart Foundation. To date, approximately 550 people have participated in this program.

Alcohol Awareness and The Addictive Brain

Dr. Alana Brunacini's presentation during Alcohol Awareness Month was originally developed for family workshops at substance abuse treatment facilities, to help them understand how the brain develops, what that means for addiction and learning, and what that looks like when interacting with folks struggling with substance use.

National Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers (SAFLEO)

TPD's Behavioral Sciences Unit (BSU) hosted the SAFLEO program, which provides training on help-seeking strategies and techniques for suicide prevention to law enforcement personnel.

The Power of Nutrition

Lisa MacDonald, the Coordinator of Nutrition Services at the University of Arizona, presented practical nutrition strategies impacting energy, sleep, concentration, mood, memory, and more.



At a retirement ceremony for Captain Colin King (right); Captain Frank Hand (left) also retired in 2024.

Heart Scans

Brought to the department by TPOA via CLEAA leadership in November 2023, the program provides an opportunity for department employees, family members, and retirees to receive free heart

Nourishing Choices Even on the Go

Ms. MacDonald also presented tools and tips for balanced meal preparation and ideas for eating on the go.



At the Tip-a-Cop fundraiser for Special Olympics Arizona.

Finally, a Struggle Well Train the Trainer Class added several more guides from police, fire, and communications.

Volunteer Activities

Bail-a-Thon – January 29 (*Special Olympics*)
Night to Shine – February 9 (*Special Olympics*)
24 Hours in the Old Pueblo Mountain Bike Race – February 16-18
LETR Guardian Games – March 22 (*Special Olympics*)
Track and Field – April 13 (*Special Olympics*)
Torch Run – April 1 (*Special Olympics*)

Special Olympics Summer Games – April 26-27

Tip a Cop – May 2, August 29 (*Special Olympics*)

Camp Fury – May 28-June 1 (*Girl Scouts*)

LETR State Conference – July 26 (*Special Olympics*)

Fuel of Dreams – October 24 (*Special Olympics*)

Breakfast With Champions – October 23 (*Special Olympics*)

International Conference – November 13-17

Over the Edge – November 16 (*Special Olympics*)

Fitness Equipment

Some very generous donations enabled some much-needed upgrades/additions to our fitness equipment. Police work is physical as well as stressful and regular exercise is essential.

Many, many thanks to all our generous donors, including Erik Hite Foundation Advisory Board Members and Tucson Police Department supporters Edmund Marquez and the Mike and Claudia Levin Family; the Arizona Sands Club Manager, Rick Kroner, and Director of Member Experience, Jennifer Coyle; and the Erik Hite Foundation and its team. We are grateful for your support!

First Responders Health and Wellness Day

In April, the Tucson Police Department worked with the Tucson Fire Department, Public Safety Communications Department (911), and other Southern Arizona public safety agencies to present this free event at the TCC, training more than 300 public safety personnel.

AACOP Presentation

The Wellness Division presented to the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police on Wellness and BSU programs, including the Struggle Well program.

Other Wellness Workshops:

- Health Concerns for Men and Women
- Health and Finance Day Workshop
- Estate Planning
- Resources for Families with Aging Parents
- PSPRS Education
- Understanding Your Civilian Pension
- Faith-Based Couples Class
- Faith-Based Women in Blue Class
- Chaplain Train the Trainer

Struggle Well

By the end of 2024, 821 people had completed the five-day Struggle Well training, including police, fire, and communications personnel. In collaboration with the Boulder Crest Foundation, the department offers monthly classes of about 25 members each, providing attendees with tools to support post-traumatic growth, toward a life of purpose and connection.

The Tucson Police Department remains the flagship for this program, so we often have personnel from other agencies attend and train as guides, or attend to assess the potential of bringing the program to their agencies.

Ongoing innovations with this program include: Struggle Well Micro Trainings, Struggle Well Refresher classes for alumni, a two-day Retiree Struggle Well class, the first Struggle Well class for healthcare workers at TMC, and Struggle Well classes for Police Officer Recruits, Community Service Officers, and Crime Lab and Records personnel.

Chief Kasmar checks out the new treadmill in the cardio room at police headquarters.





**Assistant Chief
Stacie Schaner**

Responsibilities

By far the largest TPD bureau, with 450 Police Officers, 118 Community Service Officers (CSOs), 7 Professional Staff Investigators (PSIs), and 12 other professional staff positions, the Patrol Services Bureau responds to calls for service and works proactively with community partners to solve problems.

The bureau is divided into four divisions, each with its own geographic area of responsibility. Resources, information, and assistance, however, are shared across division boundaries.

2024 Statistics

- 286,839 Calls for Service (138,506 Advise Only)
- 118,543 Officer-initiated

Bureau members also attend business coalition and neighborhood association meetings, as well as volunteering time and money for local schools and charities.



Operations Division South Patrol Officers deliver donated guitars to Sierra K-8 School's Mariachi program.

Components

Force Command

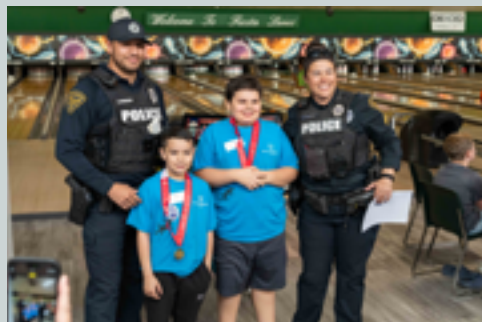
Operations Division South

Operations Division West

Downtown Entertainment District

Operations Division Midtown

Operations Division East



At a bowling event for Arizona Special Olympics.

Major Initiatives

The Patrol Services Bureau made some major changes in 2024, investing in staffing, supervision, and infrastructure.

Team 1 Capital Improvements

Operations Division South (Team 1) is the oldest and smallest substation,



Construction at Operations Division South.

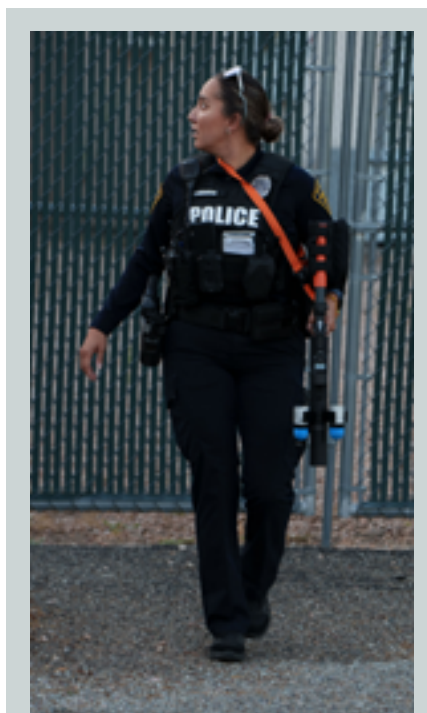
and staff have been operating out of very cramped quarters. Proposition 101 included funds to remedy this situation, and in 2024, the City broke ground on a new joint police and fire substation that will also include amenities for the public, such as a basketball court and a community meeting room with kitchen space.

The police side is expected to be up and running in 2025, while construction is expected to be complete in 2026.

CRTs and Force Command

To better respond to violent crime and community needs, a second Community Response Team (CRT) was added to each patrol division. In addition to helping investigate and apprehend violent offenders, these teams address street racing, VIVA operations, downtown violence reduction, and emerging community needs. CRTs are a flexible resource that can operate in uniform or plainclothes.

In addition, Patrol reinstituted Force Command, so that now a lieutenant is on duty overnight to manage critical incidents and coordinate resources across divisions. Their knowledge and experience ensures proper leadership and mentorship is available to newer officers and sergeants working overnight shifts.



An officer responds to a call with a 40mm less-lethal weapon.

Operations South

Operations Division South (ODS) members are deeply involved and invested in the community we serve, often volunteering time to help youth and families. Addressing violent crime and providing a safe and secure environment for local businesses to operate in are top priorities. Here are a few highlights from 2024.

Street Racing

On January 6, 2024, a group of street racers broke into a warehouse in the 3700 block of East Valencia Road. Several vehicles entered the structure, doing burnouts and donuts inside. Items were stolen and approximately \$30,000 in damage was sustained.

ODS Neighborhood Crimes Section (NCS) Detective McNamara was assigned the case. Using multiple resources and investigative tools, he was able to identify several of the juvenile suspects, two of whom were arrested for Felony Criminal Damage and Burglary in the Third Degree.

Metal Theft

On June 27, 2024, a male was seen tampering with an electrical box under a bridge in the 1800 block of East 22nd Street. The property is fenced with barbed wire, but recent damage had knocked over a section of fencing, giving easy access to the City-owned property. The complainant photographed the male in the act and provided information to police.

Shortly after, police located the male, who was exiting a recycling plant with cash in hand.

In his interview, he admitted that he was the male in the photo and that he had taken and sold wire from the property before, receiving less than \$20 dollars each time. Damage to City property was estimated to be more than \$10,000. He acknowledged that what he did was wrong, adding that other people had opened the panels before him. He said that he was homeless and trying to make ends meet.

Shoplifting, OTC Burglaries

On August 30, 2024, Officer Placencia with ODS NCS was made aware of a repeat shoplifter by loss prevention staff at a department store. Their losses were over \$6,000. Further investigation revealed that another retailer had over \$3,000 in losses from the same suspect.

The suspect was known to ODS NCS and Officer Placencia from a previous organized retail theft (ORT) case where he was arrested but the Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO) did not issue the

case. Also, this suspect had been arrested for several over-the-counter burglaries in ODS, for which he received prison time. Released in July 2024, his criminal behavior started again that month, victimizing these two stores.

Your officers' reliable partnership has resulted in numerous arrests of habitual shoplifters. Also, I'm proud to say that Tucson PD has gotten more arrests in the last two years than the entirety of our stores on the West Coast. Tucson PD is there for us when we need them. – Peter Acevedo, Loss Prevention

Officer Placencia worked with loss prevention in both stores to gather evidence to put this case together. He distributed a stop and arrest bulletin for the suspect, and on September 10, 2024, he was picked up by patrol officers. On September 16th, the case was issued by PCAO. Officer Placencia brought the old case back from 2023 and they issued that case as well.



Serial Burglaries

A property in the 2300 block of West San Juan Trail is owned by a cell phone service provider. Surrounded by a fence and locked gate, the property includes a generator-powered cell tower. Only maintenance workers have keys. A series of burglaries of diesel fuel had occurred at different cell tower properties throughout the Tucson area, prompting the company to place cameras at the San Juan Trail location.

On April 15, 2024, a generator alarm triggered a response to the tower and a company representative discovered that a burglary had occurred and diesel fuel had been siphoned. Surveillance video of the male suspect was distributed among the contractors who work on the towers. Three coworkers identified the suspect in the video as a former maintenance worker who was no longer employed by the company. The suspect had been employed with different companies in the industry since 2018 and had keys giving him access.

On June 18, 2024, a generator alarm was triggered at a cell tower property in the 3100 block of East Prince Road. Upon arrival the following day, a senior company engineer discovered a vehicle in a vacant lot adjacent to the site. Upon further inspection, a siphoning device and black tubing were found inside the generator tank and 43.3

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158
Community
Events

gallons of diesel fuel had been taken. The vehicle, a 2004 white Chevy Silverado, was registered to a female with the same last name as the suspect. A warrant was obtained for the vehicle, and search revealed a gas container with diesel fuel, black tubing matching that found inside the generator, and a baseball cap seen in the surveillance video.



Community Engagement

ODS members volunteer at neighborhood and school events, including, to name a few, backpack giveaways, career days, church Posadas, Coffee With a Cop, Love of Reading events, Miracle on 31st Street, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, school and community bowling events, shoe and jacket giveaways, toy giveaways, and Trunk or Treat.

Notably, ODS members coordinate the Tucson Youth Music Program at Sierra Middle School every Tuesday and Thursday – donating instruments and even playing Mariachi music with the students. That's ODS Officer Alberto Moreno in the background of the photo at left.

ODS members also give community presentations on social media and school safety, as well as fentanyl awareness; gather and donate toys, school supplies, clothing, and books; and mentor youth, including at the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center.

On June 20, 2024, the suspect called 911 to report his vehicle stolen. He said that the vehicle was registered to his mother, and had last been seen on the 18th at 8:00 p.m. When officers responded to take the report, he said he was not home and would make a report the following day at the Santa Cruz substation, which he did. He was subsequently arrested, taken into custody, and charged.

Armed Robbery

On August 8, 2024, ODS patrol officers responded to the area of Irvington and Park for a report of a male with a firearm.

The suspect's description matched that of an incident the day before, where an AR-15 style rifle was used to rob a female on a busy street in broad daylight, highlighting the brazen behavior of the suspect.

Officers responded without lights and siren to avoid escalation. When sufficient resources arrived, officers detained the suspect without incident. He was in possession of a firearm that matched the one used in the robbery and was wearing identical shoes from that incident.

He was booked into jail for one count each of armed robbery, aggravated robbery, and aggravated assault.

Firearms, Narcotics, Dangerous Drugs

On August 27, 2024, ODS patrol officers conducted proactive policing in the area of Fiesta Park and a nearby wash. They located a tent in a densely vegetated area where a male with a firearm was sleeping. They executed a plan that ensured the safe detention of the individual, avoiding escalation.

Investigation revealed that the male had a felony warrant and was in possession of 11 firearms, over 100 fentanyl pills, methamphetamine, and several hundred dollars in cash.

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Neighborhood
Association
Meetings

I have worked at Quincie Douglas for over eight years. When I started, we held a town hall to see what the community wanted. Their top priority was an event that was safe for families to enjoy. With the help of the Southside Division, we went to work to make it happen. The community had such a great time that now we are able to have six community events. Since then, thousands of families have made lifetime memories because of your help. Thank you for your officers' outstanding job for the Quincie Douglas community! – Jerry Neely, Quincie Douglas Center



Thank you for participating in Camp Leo! You all made the experience for the children and parents so much fun! The prizes were a hit! We appreciate everything you do for our community!!! – Becky Quintero, Sunny-side Neighborhood Association

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Operations West

TPD's largest patrol division, Operations Division West (ODW) includes the Downtown Entertainment District (the District), as well as TPD's largest VIVA site – an area targeted for multi-agency response to reduce violent crime and revitalize neighborhoods.

Officer of the Year

ODW was honored to have one of our own, Officer Keith Atchley, selected as TPD's 2023 Officer of the Year.

Officer Atchley is assigned to the Downtown District, where you most likely will find him patrolling City transit centers and parks on his department bicycle.



Officer Atchley is the epitome of what community policing is all about. He is friendly, engaging, and always up for a challenge. He works diligently to address constituent concerns and resolve problems. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

Narcotics Arrests

On November 2, 2024, Officer Leonui was in the area of 1st and Fort Lowell, conducting surveillance in the VIVA corridor. She observed a vehicle leaving a residence known for narcotics sales and coordinated with ODW Community Response Team (CRT) Bravo 60 officers for assistance.

The Bravo 60s conducted a traffic stop and contacted a vehicle occupant with drug paraphernalia. Search incident to arrest yielded meth and M30s (fentanyl). A ledger of drug sales was also located.

After receiving his Miranda warning, the subject admitted the drugs were his and that he sold drugs. He was booked into the Pima County Jail on multiple charges.

A search warrant was obtained for the residence the vehicle had been seen leaving from, which located:

- Approximately 1 pound of heroin
- 21.836 grams of meth
- 5.626 grams of cocaine
- 8.158 grams of crack
- 3,800 M30 pills
- \$3,640 in cash

The resident was arrested for possession of narcotics for sale, possession of dangerous drugs for sale, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Rio Nuevo Partnership

Rio Nuevo, the tax increment financing district, invests in Tucson's downtown. Thanks to their generous donation, ODW received two Can-Am Side-By-Side UTVs for use in patrolling the District. These vehicles help officers cover more ground and get through tight alleyways with ease. We were very pleased to welcome these compact vehicles to the TPD fleet.



Refugee Outreach

ODW hosted a Refugee Community Collaboration meeting with members from TPD, Tucson Fire, Housing and Community Development, and 311 (the City's non-emergency service request line), as well as faith-based leaders and others representing the refugee community in Tucson to discuss how to better engage with and serve community members from other countries. It was a great event with many productive ideas discussed to positively impact the Tucson community.

Sexual Abuse Arrest

On December 30, 2024, two calls were placed to 911 regarding sexual offenses at an apartment complex in the 200 block of West Blacklidge. Both victims were elderly. Detectives from the Adult Sexual Assault Unit responded, along with Crime Scene. ODW CSO Betty Rascon identified the male suspect through video from the apartment complex.

Approximately a week later, Officer Khole Lamey saw the suspect driving a vehicle and notified ODW CRT. They set up surveillance at a residence near Prince and Mountain. The suspect eventually exited the residence and was arrested for sexual abuse, kidnapping, burglary, and aggravated assault.

Lifesaving Response

On April 14, 2024, officers were in the area of the Tucson Mall when they heard a loud crash. Officers searched the area and found a passenger car that had impacted a light pole and burst into flames, the driver unconscious inside. Officers sprang into action and pulled the driver from the vehicle with the help of a good Samaritan.

Officer Shawn Corrigan, Officer Sarah Girvin, and Community Service Officer Daniel True should be commended for their extraordinary example of serving the Tucson community with courage.



Violence Interruption and Vitalization Action

VIVA selects locations with high levels of gun violence for targeted interventions – interventions that include increased community engagement and police presence, as well as physical improvements to the environment, such as lighting and roadways. It is a multi-agency approach, involving TPD and other City departments, as well as partners from business, community, and government.

Area Selected

The locations initially selected in ODW were in the areas of Stone and Fort Lowell and 1st and Fort Lowell. Due to the close proximity of these two sites, ODW command staff extended the boundaries in August to encompass more of the Fort Lowell corridor, from Oracle Road to Mountain Avenue. This VIVA location differs from other VIVA sites in the city in that there is not a large apartment complex or single problem location contributing to violent crime. Instead, this corridor has a high concentration of people experiencing homelessness that contributes to quality-of-life issues for residents and businesses, related to trespassing, theft, open-air drug use/sales, and criminal damage.

Environmental Cleanup

Problem areas identified include the Cemetery and Navajo Washes, a vacant property in the 200 block of East Mohave, Amphi Park, and Amphi Plaza at 1st and Fort Lowell.



ODW partnered with the City's Environmental and General Services Department to clean and remove overgrown brush in the Cemetery and Navajo Washes. Ongoing issues were addressed at

the Mohave property, which resulted in its being transferred to Pima County and set for demolition. ODW obtained a trespass letter for Amphi Park, as it is private property, not a City park. ODW also provided City Code Enforcement with crime data for Amphi Plaza.

CORE Statistics

TPD's CORE Units engage with people experiencing homelessness and offer to connect them with services. These are the statistics for the last quarter of 2024.

October

- 77 community members were contacted (4 arrested)
- 21 were added to the housing assistance placement list

November

- 48 community members were contacted (2 arrested)
- 13 were added to the housing assistance placement list

December

- 79 community members were contacted (5 arrested)
 - 8 were added to the housing assistance placement list
- Also during this time frame, CODAC Health, Recovery, & Wellness, Inc. transported 20 people to inpatient drug treatment.

Other Interventions

- Implemented daily special checks on businesses. Each squad is assigned a business or location in the area as a point of contact to address non-emergency issues.
- Cooperated with the Counter Narcotics Alliance to conduct surveillance and covert open-air drug purchases.
- Used CPTED principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) to identify issues at business properties.
- Conducted specialized deployments with TPD's CORE Unit.
- Implemented specialized equipment, such as pole cameras, to help identify subjects involved in narcotics trafficking in the VIVA location.
- Conducted proactive policing and responded to POPP check-ins. POPP, or Problem-oriented Precision Policing, alerts officers at set intervals to report to a POPP site, be visibly present, and note any contributing factors to crime.
- Built positive relationships with area residents, businesses, and church groups, together with TPD's CORE Unit.
- Held area cleanups to remove encampments with the City's Environmental and General Services Department.
- In the last three months, used alternative to jail programs: arrested and transported two people to Community Court and deflected six people to drug treatment rather than jail.
- Coordinated street outreach deployments with partners from ARC, CBI, CODAC, El Rio Health, and HOPE.
- Helped Tucson Fire's TC3 program distribute naloxone (medicine that reverses opioid overdose) to community members suffering from substance use disorder, and to area businesses.
- Partnered with the City's Community Safety, Health, and Wellness Community Enrichment Coordinators.
- Participated in the Fort Lowell Road Safety Assessment, looking at additional HAWK pedestrian signals, enhanced lighting, and traffic calming measures to reduce pedestrian fatalities.

Results

Over the last three months of 2024, ODW's proactive policing resulted in 21 felony arrests, 14 of which were drug related and 7 were firearm related.

ODW command staff has held several meetings with community stakeholders to explain VIVA's mission and to solicit feedback. This multi-faceted approach is proving to be effective, based on preliminary data showing reduced gun crime in the area.

Operations Midtown

Midtown suffered the loss of one of our own this year. On March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday, Lead Patrol Officer Adam Buckner gave his life in the line of duty. An outstanding officer and a fine human being, we mourn Adam's loss and honor his memory.

Recognition

ODM is proud to be the home of the 2024 TPD Officer of the Year, Maxwell McCully, and TPD Supervisor Leadership Award recipient, Sergeant Jacob Smith.



Officer McCully (above) joined TPD in 2015 and has been assigned to Midtown ever since. He has distinguished himself as a leader in proactive policing, showing a remarkable ability to identify and apprehend criminals in the act. His meticulous attention to detail and deep empathy for victims demonstrate his dedication to ensuring that justice is served and victims are supported. Officer McCully also serves as a Field Training Officer (FTO), where his exceptional skills as coach and mentor truly shine.

Sergeant Smith has been a member of the S.W.A.T. Team since 2016, where he is currently team leader. He helped develop active assailant training for TPD and other agencies, earning him recognition from Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training (AZPOST).

Serial Sexual Assault Arrest

Between March and June 2024, ODM investigated multiple reports of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault. Through the work of ODM officers and TPD's Adult Sexual Assault detectives, a suspect was identified. ODM CRT was able to locate and arrest the serial sexual assault suspect, whose DNA matched multiple cases.

Multiple Shooter Incident

On August 11, 2024 ODM officers were on a traffic stop in the area of Speedway and Swan when they heard multiple gunshots nearby. They courageously responded to a shooting involving four gunshot victims and approximately 100 witnesses. Multiple TPD units worked together to

investigate the incident, in which over 180 shots had been fired from eight different guns.

Following this incident, ODM CRT, in collaboration with other division CRTs, conducted operations to deter criminal activity in the area. ODM also worked to address factors contributing to this incident.

Over 400 Rounds Fired at TPD, Community

On March 10, 2024, at approximately 9:45 a.m., ODM patrol officers were conducting follow-up on a wanted suspect at a residence in the 3300 block of North Richey Boulevard. As S.W.A.T. personnel began to serve a search warrant, the suspect fired multiple rounds at police from inside the house. S.W.A.T. personnel discharged their firearms as a diversionary tactic (directed fire) to enable officers to reach cover.

For several hours, the suspect continued to fire at police and indiscriminately. A plan was made to access the residence by breaching the wall. Once S.W.A.T. gained access, the suspect was located and communication was attempted; however, ultimately, the suspect shot himself.

Officers secured the scene and rendered aid to the suspect, who was transported to Banner University Medical Center, where he was declared deceased. At the conclusion of the investigation, it was determined that he had fired over 400 rounds at police and the surrounding community.

Forensic Evidence Leads to Homicide Arrest

On June 1, 2024, Midtown officers responded to the 900 block of North Alvernon Way. A man had pointed a shotgun at his neighbors, who were outside with their children. The suspect was screaming at them in Spanish as he walked toward his vehicle in the parking lot. He fled before officers arrived, but returned to the apartment complex on foot a short time later and was detained. In an excited utterance, he told them, "I did not mean to point the shotgun at him."

The victims identified the suspect, and a search warrant was obtained for his residence. Ammunition and a shotgun manual were located inside. His vehicle was located nearby, and search recovered the shotgun, ammunition, and spent shotgun shells. The suspect was booked without additional incident.

In the early morning hours of June 2, 2024, officers responded to a check welfare call in the 0-100 block of North Tucson Boulevard. The 911 caller arrived at work and found an unresponsive male lying in front of the business in a pool of blood. The victim had been shot, and was pronounced deceased. Bullet fragments were located around the area.

Homicide detectives responded. There did not seem to have been a struggle, and the victim's belongings appeared undisturbed. Through forensics, detectives were able to link the two incidents. The same suspect was arrested and charged in each incident.

In Memoriam

On March 31, 2024, shortly before 10:00 p.m., Operations Division Midtown personnel responded to the 2000 block of East Speedway regarding a male who had broken a window of a business and was still in the area. Upon arrival, officers located a male matching the description of the suspect and attempted to contact him. The suspect fled on foot, arming himself with a baseball-sized rock. Officers broadcast this information as they pursued the suspect on foot.

LPO Adam Buckner was responding to assist, heading north on Campbell Avenue, his emergency lights and siren activated. As he traveled through the green light at the intersection with East 6th Street, a vehicle failed to yield and turned directly in his path, causing a catastrophic collision.

Several citizens who witnessed the collision courageously began rendering aid until personnel from the Tucson Police and Tucson Fire Departments arrived to relieve them. LPO Buckner was transported to Banner University Medical Center where, despite the lifesaving efforts of all involved, he tragically succumbed to his injuries.

LPO Adam Buckner served with the Tucson Police Department since November 2021. Before that, he served four years as an officer and detective with the New Orleans Police Department. The Tucson Police Department, Tucson community, and most importantly, the Buckner family lost a great husband, son, brother, friend, and police officer. Adam will forever be missed.



LPO Adam R. Buckner

End of Watch March 31, 2024



Operations East

Operations Division East (ODE), along with other patrol divisions, added a second Community Response Team (CRT) Unit in 2024, to continue to address street racing/street takeovers, gun violence, and other crime and quality of life issues. We also remain committed to listening to and working with our great Eastside community.

PNI/VIVA Update

PNI, now called VIVA, is a multi-department, multi-agency approach that engages businesses, community members, and nonprofits in reducing violent crime. ODE command staff, CSO Terry Hayward, and Ward 4 Project Manager Martha Cantrell held a community meeting with other City departments to discuss a proposed alley closure to reduce criminal activity in the 7400 block of East 22nd Street. TPD and Ward 4 continue to seek out environmental fixes that can improve living conditions for area residents, while deterring violent crime.

Many thanks to our VIVA partners: Community Safety, Health & Wellness, Housing & Community Development, Transportation & Mobility, Dietz Neighborhood Association, and area businesses.

10,000 Fentanyl Pills Seized

In July, ODE CRT began investigating a drug dealer on the Eastside. The dealer agreed to sell fentanyl powder to an undercover officer, and a meeting was scheduled. Several more undercover buys occurred over a two-month period.

On September 18, 2024, the undercover officer contacted the drug dealer again, asking for methamphetamine. The dealer advised that he had moved to a hotel in the 6200 block of North Oracle Road. Surveillance was conducted and the drug dealer's identity was confirmed. Before the scheduled meeting, the dealer and another subject left the area in a vehicle. CRT officers conducted mobile surveillance while he made several short stops. Ultimately, the dealer crashed the vehicle into a light pole, and he and his passenger fled the scene. Responding officers located a handgun in plain view in the vehicle. Both suspects were detained a short time later with assistance from S.W.A.T., K-9, and ODW patrol personnel.

A warrant was obtained to search the dealer's vehicle and hotel room. In all, officers located:

- 2 handguns
- 14 g of methamphetamine
- 10,000 fentanyl pills
- 7.5 g of heroin
- 980 g of fentanyl powder

The dealer was interviewed and admitted to possessing a firearm. (He was a prohibited possessor.) He also admitted to having large quantities of narcotics and selling narcotics regularly. He was arrested for narcotics sales and firearms charges and booked into the Pima County Jail.

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In Memoriam

ODE Officer Michael Duffrin passed away in hospice care on October 29, 2024, surrounded by his wife, daughter, family members, and friends. On December 14, 2024, department personnel attended his memorial service to celebrate his life and commitment to service.



Officer Duffrin was hired by the Tucson Police Department in September 2005, after his retirement from a 22-year career with the United States Air Force. Upon completing field training in May 2006, he was assigned to Operations Division Downtown, where he became a Lead Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer. In March 2012, he was briefly assigned to the Emergency Management & Homeland Security Section before returning to patrol in April 2012. Four years later, Officer Duffrin transferred to ODE, where he remained until his passing. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

Bike Unit Recovers Stolen Mementos

Sergeant Pelton and his Bike Unit deployed around Pima Street and Wilmot Road to address ongoing open-air drug activity. In one of these deployments, bike officers contacted a subject who was in possession of over \$3,000 worth of stolen property, including belt buckles won in competitions that had great sentimental value. Bike officers located the victim and returned the stolen property. The gentleman kindly wrote, "...memories of these events are important, and the buckles prove that an 'old guy' can still compete. The officers were so polite and professional, and I was really impressed. They all looked sharp, on the ball, and ready to help those in need and dissuade those with bad intentions ..."

Kudos to Sergeant Brad Pelton, Detective Tristan Pittenridge, LPO Matthew Timpf, and Officers Aaron Brown, Randall Engler, and Jamie Voss.

ODE CRT is 88-CRIME's Squad of the Year

On May 18, 2024 ODE's CRT was chosen as the 2023 88-CRIME Outstanding Squad of the Year. CRT made a difference by targeting violent offenders and

others creating problems in the community – resulting in numerous arrests, and improving the quality of life for Eastsiders.



ODE in the Community

ODE Captain Belinda Morales marched in the Tucson Pride Parade on September 27, 2024, along with Chief Chad Kasmar, Assistant Chief Stacie Schaner, Captains Cindy Mechtel and Lauren Pettey, and many other TPD members.



Tucson Pride was founded in 1977, making it Arizona's first and largest LGBTQ organization. Events like this one show the love and support Tucsonans give one another. Pride, indeed!

ODE commissioned and professional staff members also participated in Christmas events throughout the city: T'was the Night Before, Shop With a Cop, Kids & Cops, Christmas With a Cop, and Breakfast With Santa, just to list a few. These events foster strong and positive relationships with our community – and the joy they bring to kids is priceless.

Youth Outreach

ODE and Ward 2 both strive to engage youth in their communities, schools, peer groups and families in ways that are positive and enjoyable for all. Ward 2 sponsored a five vs. five basketball takeover at Jesse Owens Park, for youth from across the city to highlight their basketball skills. ODE officers cheered on participants from the sidelines.

C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation (Catch a Special Thrill) enriches the lives of children with special needs through the sport of fishing. Formed in 1991, the charity connects volunteers with children for a day of fishing. C.A.S.T. came to Lakeside Lake and hooked up (sorry) with Sergeant Jeremy Williams and other officers to catch some fish. Special connection were made that day, and everyone had a great time.

Community Conversations

On November 13, 2024, ODE held our Division Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting. Partners from across the city gave updates on projects impacting our division, including TPD's efforts to combat violent gun crime, the opioid crisis, and street racing. There were also presentations on TPD's Community Safety Awareness & Response Center (CSARC), ODE's crime statistics and Violence Interruption Vitalization Action (VIVA) site, as well as future strategic deployment missions to address crime heat maps. Also presenting were representatives from City Parks, the Pima County Attorney's Office, and Environmental and General Services. DAC Members and attendees left well-equipped with knowledge and contacts to help address community concerns.

2024 ODE CRT Statistics

Street Racing/Takeovers

- 14 Deployments
- 15 Felony Arrests
- 80 Misdemeanor Arrests
- 71 Civil Citations
- 6 Guns Recovered
- 5 GTA Recovered
- 39 Vehicle Impounds

Targeted Enforcement

- 166 Felony Arrests
- 82 Misdemeanor Arrests
- 3 On-sight (Short-term) Targeted Arrests
- 75 Detective Assists
- 37 S.W.A.T. Assists
- 10 S.W.A.T. Consults
- 19 TAC Assists
- 23 K-9 Assists
- 48 Search Warrants
- 22 GTA Recoveries
- 1 Gun Recovered
- 134 Hours in VIVA Sites
- 16 Undercover Events
- 108 Crime Tips Worked
- 25 Long-term Investigations
- 26 Other Division/Agency Assists

Seizures

- \$63,724 Cash
- 80 Guns
- 22,159 Fentanyl Pills
- 27.24802 kg Fentanyl Powder
- 27.858 g Heroin
- 149 lbs THC Cartridges/Psilocybin
- 352.436 g Methamphetamine
- 34.703 g Cocaine



**Assistant Chief
Diana Duffy**

Responsibilities

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) works primarily on felony crimes.

ISB divisions include Central Investigations, the Counter Narcotics Alliance, and Forensics. Central Investigations (CID) is where most of our detectives are assigned, investigating crimes against persons and property. CID also includes our violence reduction program, engaging at-risk youth

with social supports. The Counter Narcotics Alliance is a joint task force with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that targets narcotics crimes from street-level dealers to the cartels. Forensics includes sections that confirm people's identity and collect, analyze, and store evidence.

Components

Central Investigations

Violent Crimes

Special Victims

Special Investigations

Violence Reduction Coordinator

Counter Narcotics Alliance

Conspiracy

Undercover & Covert Interdiction

Racketeering & Violent Crime

Forensics

Crime Laboratory

Identification

Property and Evidence



Forensics Criminalists review electronic storage device data on a computer screen.



A Forensics Criminalist examines a cell phone.

Public Safety Partnership

For the past two years, TPD's Investigative Services Bureau has been deeply involved in the Department of Justice Public Safety Partnership (PSP). One of a cohort of just six cities nationally, Tucson was selected for this three-year program.

PSP now has 67 active and alumni cities, ranging in size from Oxford, Alabama to Chicago, Illinois.

The program offers cities a selection of eight core areas for "expedited delivery of assistance":

- Community Engagement
- Constitutional Policing
- Crime Analysis
- Criminal Justice Collaboration
- Federal Partnerships
- Gun Violence
- Investigations
- Technology

TPD selected gun violence as its core area.

The program brought national experts to Tucson to look at our investigative capabilities and processes.

After review, TPD expanded its Crime Gun Intelligence Center by reorganizing the Violent Crimes Section (adding a second Homicide Unit and creating a Robbery/Assault Unit), as well as adding a second National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) machine, and integrating the NIBIN Enforcement Support System into its records management system.

Not only did this lead to an increased clearance (solve) rate for homicide cases, which already had a very high clearance rate; it also led to a 52% increase in clearance rate for non-fatal shooting cases!



A NIBIN technician examines a crime scene bullet.

Central Investigations

The Central Investigations Division (CID) consists of three sections that handle major felony investigations: Violent Crimes, Special Victims, and Special Investigations, plus TPD's Violence Reduction Coordinator. The division is overseen by a captain who commands the three sections and its 3 Lieutenants, 16 Sergeants, 75+ Detectives, 8 Professional Staff Investigators, and a number of other investigative and support staff.

Violent Crimes Section

The Violent Crimes Section was part of a restructuring of CID in early 2024 to better address violent crime by refocusing efforts on non-fatal shootings. These investigations were moved from the Violent Crimes Section to a new unit in Special Investigations. Today, the Violent Crimes Section consists of the Homicide Unit and the Robbery/Assault Unit.

The Homicide Unit consists of two squads, each overseen by a sergeant. There are a total of 9 homicide detectives and one professional staff investigator assigned to the unit.

In 2023, of Tucson's 59 homicides that year, the Homicide Unit solved 53 – a 90% solve rate. The national average is about 50%. In 2024, Tucson had 64 homicides – 63 of which occurred within city limits. One has been determined to have occurred outside city limits. Of these 64 cases, 52 have been solved to date – a solve rate of 82%. We expect that to rise, as the other 12 are still being investigated.

2024 Homicides by Patrol Division

Operations South – 25 (38%)

Operations West – 16 (25%)

Operations Midtown – 11 (17%)

Operations East – 13 (20%)

A serial robbery case in Operations Division East demonstrates the work of the Robbery/Assault Unit. Between February and June 2024, several locations were hit, including financial institutions and a nonprofit. The suspect's description and MO of "note passing" were similar in each case. Surveillance video was reviewed and attempt to ID flyers were distributed.

During one final robbery case, the ODE Community Response Team (CRT) overheard the radio traffic and recognized the suspect description from previous robberies. With the help of ODE CRT, the suspect was identified and located at his apartment complex, where he had been using robbery money to pay rent. Search warrants and interviews were conducted. Evidence was recovered, including clothing and the robbery note, and the suspect was arrested. Due to the serial nature of the robberies and the financial institution nexus, the Robbery/Assault Unit met with the FBI regarding the case, which will be prosecuted federally.

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Special Investigations Section

The Special Investigations Section (SIS) includes the Shooting Investigations (SIU), Crime Gun Intelligence (CGIU), and Financial Crimes Units, as well as a hybrid squad that handles Sex Offender Registration Tracking (SORT), Missing/Runaway Juveniles, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and Human/Sex Trafficking.

SIU was formed in May 2024 to investigate all non-fatal shootings (NFS) and intentional discharge (of a firearm) cases. Before its inception, NFS cases were investigated by six squads spread across two divisions.



From May 5 to December 31, 2024, SIU investigated 83 NFS, solving 72% with an arrest – a 52% increase from the previous investigative structure. Including intentional discharge cases, SIU has already been assigned over 270 cases since its inception. SIU also works with patrol divisions to formulate strategies to combat gun violence related to 24-hour car washes, loud parties, and the 36th Street Trailhead.

**Non-Fatal Shootings
(NFS) by Division
(May 5 – December 31)**
Operations South – 15

82%*
**Homicide
Solve Rate
& Climbing**

Operations West – 10
Operations Midtown – 6
Operations East – 7
Unknown – 1

CGIU consists of 1 sergeant, 5 detectives, 3 CSOs, 2 ATF contract analysts, and 1 PSI. In 2024, the unit maintained a 75% solve rate (closed by arrest or warrant). Of the commissioned staff, 1 sergeant and 3 detectives are part-time federal task force officers (TFO) and have authority to enforce federal law. These personnel act as a liaison with the FBI and ATF and help in complex federal investigations. From October 2023 through 2024, the TFOs brought 48 cases forward for federal prosecution.



In July 2024, TFOs helped the FBI in multiple arrests and search warrants of outlaw motorcycle gang members throughout Tucson. The arrests and warrants led to the recovery of over 400 machine gun conversion devices, 60+ firearms, 3 3-D printers, thousands of rounds of ammunition, multiple pounds of cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as the arrest of 8 gang members, including the club president and sergeant at arms.

CGIU provides NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network) services for 17 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. In 2024, CGIU entered 1,661 casings into NIBIN for the Tucson Police Department, plus an additional 719 for supported agencies. The NIBIN section maintains 75.4% success rate in entering items into the system within the national standard of 48 hours – compared to the national average of 39.7%.

SVS is also involved in the Firearms Technical Assistance Program (FTAP), along with members from Tucson Domestic Violence Court, Emerge, the City Prosecutor's and the Public Defender's Office, Pima County Adult Probation, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The goal is to prevent domestic violence abusers from having access

to firearms in domestic violence cases.

SVS is also involved in the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI). In 2019, TPD eliminated its backlog of unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) through a District Attorneys of New York grant. However, many cases remain that need further investigation. TPD is applying advanced DNA methodologies, such as familial DNA searches, forensic genealogy searches, and phenotyping/ancestral analysis, for cold case sexual assaults, including homicides.

The addition of Professional Staff Investigators is making a difference. PSI Taylor Rosenow has been helping investigate misdemeanor indecent exposure cases, while PSIs Samantha Madrigal and Melissa McCormick have been helping investigate misdemeanor domestic violence cases – cases that, before the addition of PSIs, we did not always have the staffing to investigate.

2024 Statistics

Cases Investigated – 2,126
Average Active Case Load per Detective – 10
Solve Rate – 71%
Orders of Protection Served – 36
Survivors Referred to Emerge – 18
Firearms Removed – 2

Special Victims Section

The Special Victims Section (SVS) investigates cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and child physical and sexual abuse, as well as cold case sexual assaults. With a team of over 29 highly trained investigators, SVS conducts victim-centered, trauma-informed, and offender-focused investigations, ensuring that survivors receive help and care while navigating the criminal justice process.

52%

**Increase in
NFS
Solve Rate**

In addition, SVS oversees training for all detectives and Professional Staff Investigators (PSIs) in the department, and reviews all U-Visa applications submitted to the department, providing vital support to immigrant survivors seeking legal protection.

Violence Reduction Coordinator

TPD and Goodwill of Southern Arizona have worked together over the years, and in 2024, TPD helped support the launch of Goodwill's new Community Violence Intervention (CVI) program, The Village. With referrals from community partners, including the Level 1 Trauma Center at Banner University Medical Center, Emerge, and others, The Village conducts outreach and engages young people ages 12 to 24 who have been victims, witnesses, and in close proximity to violence. Through The Village, they and their families have access to mentoring, free enrollment in GED and high school diploma programs, job skills training, job placement, bereavement support, and more.

From May to December, 2024, sergeants, detectives, and officers from TPD's Community Response Teams and Homicide, Shooting Investigations, and Robbery/Assault Units, referred 88 young people to The Village, providing them with opportunities and support to succeed and keep themselves and their communities safe.

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Counter Narcotics Alliance

The Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA) is a task force consisting of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. Its focus is on narcotics enforcement, from cartels to street dealers.

85705 Zip Code Area Overview

In 2023, fentanyl seizures in Arizona constituted roughly 50% of fentanyl seizures nationwide.

During a 7- month period, from November 2023 to May 2024, CNA's Street-Level Undercover Group (SLU) sought to identify the most prolific street-level dealers (emphasis on fentanyl) operating in Operations Division West (ODW). SLU's initial deployment consisted of an observational period in which investigators identified significant open-air drug markets in the following areas:

- Amphi Park
- 3000 block of North Oracle Road
- 400 block of West Thurber Road

Based on these observations, SLU initiated a long-term surveillance/undercover operation in and around these areas to identify key street-level dealers. Suspected dealers were contacted by undercover personnel, resulting in 37 suspects. Twenty-three prosecutable drug buys were completed. Surveillance also led to 14 arrests for drug-related offenses – producing additional information and evidence that enabled investigators to dismantle a well-established drug trafficking organization in the area.

I-10 Fentanyl Seizure

On March 24, 2024, CNA's Mid-Level Transportation Group was conducting an interdiction operation on Interstate 10 to identify vehicles suspected of transporting illegal drugs into the United States.

During the operation, a traffic stop was conducted on a 2023 Nissan X-Trail. Following a positive K-9 alert, agents searched the vehicle, locating bundles of fentanyl pills wrapped in plastic wrap in the gas tank. The vehicle was transported to a law enforcement facility where officers could safely remove the bundles. Officers recovered 20 bundles weighing a total 23.1 kilograms – estimated to be 230,100 pills. The driver was booked into the Pima County Jail.

The Mid-Level Transportation Group continued the search, locating additional packages in the rear quarter panels and all the doors in the SUV. In total, officers located an additional 122 packages, weighing 73.9 kilograms.

On March 26, 2024, two more packages were discovered, weighing 1.25 kilograms. In total, the number of fentanyl pills recovered from this one vehicle is estimated to be 980,000. The investigation is ongoing.

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2024 Seizures (Major Categories Only)

Fentanyl – 3,405,886 pills

Fentanyl – 1.668 kilograms powder

Cocaine – 44.591 kilograms

Methamphetamine – 108.429 kilograms

Heroin – 3.372 kilograms

Marijuana – 407 Pounds

THC liquid – 32.822 kilograms

THC resin – 15.322 kilogram

Guns – 76

Cash – \$919,620

Enforcement Challenges

Historically, street-level sales of methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine have largely been conducted in open-air drug markets. This afforded law enforcement the opportunity to focus on specific locations and offenders to eliminate or disrupt the activity.

In Tucson, street-level fentanyl distribution is more decentralized. Counterfeit M30 pills can easily be purchased from numerous sources, including end users, without having to approach established dealers.

The accessibility of fentanyl is unprecedented. Moreover, the profit margin behind this drug is remarkable – an investment of a few thousand dollars can net cartels millions in profits. The situation is compounded in wholesale markets like Arizona, where enormous quantities move through the state for distribution across the country.

The result of all this is a robust street-level market that lacks the organization and hierarchy of traditional drug trafficking organizations.

Neighborhood Impact

Notwithstanding the decentralized nature of the fentanyl problem, SLU's efforts show that concentrating enforcement in specific areas can result in the identification of prolific street-level dealers. For example, SLU identified addresses in these blocks as significant sources of street-level fentanyl:

- Building in the 400 block of West Thurber Street
- Building in the 1600 block of North McKinley Drive

Investigation indicated both locations were used to facilitate drug trafficking of a single organization - one that has long been a target of Operations Division Midtown, due to its trafficking of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and Xanax.

SLU conducted surveillance operations at both the Thurber and the McKinley addresses over several months. This established probable cause to execute search warrants at both locations and to arrest the primary target for conspiracy to possess a narcotic drug for sale. Upon execution of the search warrants, agents seized nearly 1 pound of methamphetamine, 2 kilos of cocaine, and approximately 30,000 fentanyl pills.

With the successful dismantlement of this drug trafficking organization – and others like it – law enforcement can positively impact the safety and quality of life of community members who live and work in close proximity to source locations. Despite the complex problem that fentanyl presents, strategic enforcement such as this can be effective in improving community safety.

Operation Michelin Star

This investigation into a drug trafficking organization greatly expanded CNA's investigative techniques.

Beginning in 2023, this was CNA's first investigation involving a wire intercept court order (wiretap). Obtaining a wiretap is an exhaustive process of providing the court with sufficient evidence to justify the order. In this case, there was extensive physical and electronic surveillance, financial analysis, undercover work, historical case investigation, comprehensive phone toll analysis, and coordination with law enforcement agencies across the country – all of which fed into a nearly 200-page affidavit that accompanied the application for a court-ordered wire intercept, which the court granted.

But this was not the only new technique applied.

The primary target often used his vehicle to engage in drug-related discussions with co-conspirators. Agents secured a court order authorizing the temporary removal of the target's vehicle to install covert audio and visual recording devices. This enabled agents to clandestinely record conversations in the vehicle, capturing critical evidence as the target comfortably conducted phone calls and discussions with other conspirators.

On July 19, 2024, CNA concluded this operation, serving multiple warrants at a variety of locations related to both suspects in the case.

Items seized included

- \$438,332.00 cash
- 3.76 lbs cocaine
- 3 vehicles
- 25.22 lbs hydroponic marijuana
- 9 handguns
- 20.02 lbs THC resin
- 6 rifles,
- 4,000 rounds of ammunition

Interdiction Stop

On June 20, 2024, members of the Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA) Mid-Level Transportation Group conducted an interdiction operation on Interstate 19, looking for vehicles transporting illegal narcotics. During the operation, investigators conducted a traffic stop on a 2006 Ford F150. During the stop, K-9 Zoe alerted to the presence of narcotics, prompting investigators to apply for and receive a search warrant for the vehicle.

During the search, investigators located several tables in the truck. While inspecting the tables, they found over 275,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills, four pounds of cocaine, and nearly two pounds of heroin. The driver, a juvenile female, was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

2024 Cases

Arrests – 701

Overdose death related arrests – 17

Cases opened – 451

TPD cases issued – 587

TPD cases declined/dismissed – 116

Cases pending – 299

Cases closed – 393

Fentanyl

Forensics

Forensics includes the Crime Laboratory, the Identification Section, and the Property and Evidence Section. Forensics personnel respond to and document crime scenes, collect and store evidence, and perform the scientific analysis to identify and rule out suspects.

Post-mortem Drawing Brings ID, Closure

Lead Crime Scene Specialist and Forensic Composite Artist Jessica Romero completed a post-mortem drawing of an unidentified male who was found deceased in a rural desert area in Tucson. The cause of death was determined to be an overdose.

After exhausting all leads to identify him, detectives turned to Jessica to create a composite drawing to show what he had looked like in life. After two media releases without any leads, the subject's father saw the composite drawing on a Facebook missing persons group and believed it to be his son. He contacted the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner and, through DNA, they were able to confirm the identity of the decedent.

Without Jessica's composite drawing, detectives would not have been able to positively identify the individual and provide closure to the family. We're thankful to be able to rely upon her skill in sad cases such as this one.

New Vehicles

As part of the City's commitment to the Tucson Police Department, truth in taxation dollars were used to purchase an SUV for TPD K-9 Handler Gayle Warren and Zona, and a new cargo van for the Crime Scene Unit to respond to major crime scenes. The Crime Scene Unit and Property & Evidence Section also ordered two new cargo vans to replace vehicles that are over 20 years old.

New Technology

The Crime Laboratory received two new gas chromatography/mass spectrometry instruments for the Seized Drugs Unit under the Arizona Fentanyl Prosecution, Diversion, and Testing Grant. These instruments use two technologies to identify and measure chemical concentrations of suspected narcotics and controlled substances.

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Unit upgraded mugshot and livescan fingerprint hardware and software, replacing hardware that was over ten years old and software that was over 25 years old. The new cloud-based system allows AFIS Technicians to electronically submit fingerprints to state and national databases, as well as allowing investigators to search mugshots and create photographic line-ups. In addition, 72 new MorphoIDent mobile fingerprint devices were purchased, replacing 63 devices that were over ten years old. These new devices allow for faster capture of biometrics – personnel can scan index

fingers and search state and national databases to identify individuals in the field.

Capital Improvement

TPD's new long-term evidence vehicle storage facility, funded by Proposition 101 Tucson Delivers, officially opened in April. Over 500 vehicles were securely transported from the old facility to the new location. The new facility is over three times the size of the old one, giving the department ample space to securely store vehicles in the future.

Federal Grant Award

The Crime Laboratory was awarded \$500,000 from the Fiscal Year 2024 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, which will fund two Forensic Scientists in the Forensic Electronic Media Unit for three years. The funding covers the purchase of hardware, software, training, and salaries for two employees for mobile device extraction (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.), which will help reduce the unit's backlog of requests for this work.

Zona Gets Her Own Merch

Zona, TPD's Electronic Storage Device (ESD) detection dog, started with TPD in March 2023.

Zona and her handler, Gayle Warren, primarily respond to search warrants with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit; however, they also respond to any call for help locating electronics.

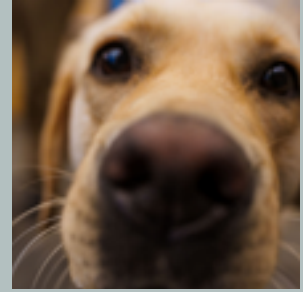


Zona is able to detect hard drives, SIM cards, USB flash drives, and other electronic storage devices that may contain evidence, particularly in child sexual abuse cases.

Zona's fame has spread, and she and her handler Gayle were featured recently in an article in Police1, "A day in the life of a digital forensic examiner." As Gayle explained in the article, Zona was originally trained as a service dog, but had too much "drive" for that role. She found her true calling in ESD work.



*Preparing a
DNA sample
for analysis.*



*Zona displaying her highly
trained (and boopable) sniffer.*



TPD's new impound lot.



*Comparing
striations
on bullets
recovered
from different
crime scenes.*



*Photographing
cell phone
evidence.*



**Assistant Chief
Michael Silva**

Responsibilities

The Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) provides support services to the department.

ASB includes human resources/workforce management and finance sections, as well as grant management and procurement functions. The Analysis Division has also expanded in recent years, adding data scientists with various specialties to make better use of our crime data.

One of ASB's more enjoyable responsibilities is managing promotional processes and celebrating promotions. These are milestones in our members' careers and we do our best to acknowledge and honor them.

Components

Administrative Resources

Human Resources

Workforce Management

Records

Analysis

Crime Analytics

Police Technology

Evidence Based Policing & Data Management

Logistics & Acquisition

Logistics

Grant Management

Finance



Two TPD
Criminalists
pose with their
promotion
certificates and
their friend,
Electronic
Storage Device
(ESD) detection
dog Zona.



Promotions are a really big deal – they should be celebrated!

Budget Process

Working with the rest of the department, the Administrative Services Bureau prepares TPD's budget presentation for consideration by the City Manager, who prepares a citywide budget for Mayor and Council review.

The department has done much to reduce operating costs. Professional staff, rather than sworn police officers, have been placed in many areas that formerly were staffed solely by police officers. This continues to be a force multiplier, but it cannot meet all of the public's service needs, or all of the department's budget needs.

Over the past three budget cycles, TPD's unfunded needs have continued to grow, from \$13.4 million in fiscal year 2023, to \$14.9 million in fiscal year 2024, to \$41.1 million in fiscal year 2025 (which includes half of calendar year 2024). Of particular concern with these deferred costs is the effect of inflation.

Effect of Inflation 2018-2025 (Pre-tariff)

Item	2018 Per Unit	2025 Per Unit	% Increase
Police Pistol	\$550.00	\$1,113.00	202%
Police Rifle	\$1,709.74	\$3,619.00	212%
Ballistic Vest	\$613.00	\$1,055.00	172%
Body-worn Camera	\$400.00	\$950.00	238%
Expandable Baton	\$87.00	\$139.00	160%
Flex Baton (less-lethal)	\$449.99	\$1,117.00	248%
40mm (less-lethal)	\$1,449.99	\$2,375.00	164%
Patrol Car	\$55,000.00	\$95,000.00	173%
Police Laptop	\$2,537.00	\$3,200.00	126%
Ammunition – Pistol	\$0.27	\$0.41	152%
Ammunition – Rifle	\$0.53	\$0.65	123%

Administrative Resources

Records

After a major department-wide effort that required custom modifications to the department's Records Management System, as well as for all sworn personnel and CSOs to change how they fill out police reports, the TPD Records Section became NIBRS certified in September 2024.

NIBRS, or the National Incident-Based Reporting System, is a program of the FBI to improve the quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. It replaces the previous Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. NIBRS certification is required for some federal grants.

Several Records Section personnel issues were finally addressed this year. A career path was created by developing a series of job classi-

fications (Police Records Specialist I, II, and III) based on experience, training, and professional development. A new Assistant Superintendent job classification was created, and two staff will be hired for those positions. Compensation for all PRS tiers and supervisors was increased to bring it in line with the high degree of precision and accountability these jobs demand. This is also expected to help with recruiting and retention.

Finally, the physical space that houses the Records team was completely redone. The carpeting, office furniture, and paint were several decades old, so this facelift was very much needed. It was also a way for the City and the Department to demonstrate, through action, how much this team is valued. Wellness components were incorporated into the design, such as a respite area, Struggle Well signage, and personal lockers for employees.

Records Stats

Teletype entries into state/national databases – 36,775

Warrants entered into local records management system and ACIC – 10,465

Subpoenas processed – 4,023

Audio records requests completed – 5,234

Public records requests processed and released – 9,501

People helped at the public counter – 4,389

Collision reports completed for ADOT standards – 3,326

Court-ordered marijuana expungements completed – 93



Workforce Management

Working with the City's Human Resources Department, TPD's Workforce Management Section helped pilot the Professional Staff to Police Officer Recruit process (P2P), which is an innovative concept to help professional staff members make the transition to becoming police officers.

This requires a lot of work from HR, including an additional unscheduled background process (there are around 30 of these per year), as well as ensuring adequate PCN (Position Control Number) coverage for staff who may wish to return to their professional staff position – police work isn't for everyone.

Also in 2024, the Recruiting Unit unveiled two new vehicle wraps highlighting some of what makes Tucson wonderful and unique and TPD a vital part of the community. These are meant to spark conversation at the over 100 career fair and community events the unit attends throughout the year.

Recruiting uses customer relationship management software to help manage applicants and keep them in the loop on all things TPD. This is especially important in between hiring periods, so we don't lose candidates due to a lack of engagement.

We value everyone who wants to serve our community and work with applicants throughout the year to ensure that quality applicants have the opportunity to join our team, in whatever position is right for them.



A recruiting event at the U of A mall



One student tries on protective gear while another checks out the view from the top of TPD's S.W.A.T. armored vehicle.



This student is trying her hand at one of the AZPOST requirements for becoming a police officer – dragging a 165 lb "victim" to safety.



Analysis

TPD's Analysis Division is the research arm of the police department. The division consists of commissioned members as well as data scientists with various specialties, and boasts four Ph.Ds.

Analysis staff work to uncover patterns, for purposes ranging from identifying and disrupting criminal networks to identifying and improving police department operational efficiencies and employee wellness.

Research Initiatives for Better Recruitment

The Analysis Division's Data Research Team has been conducting a thorough evaluation to improve how we attract new police officer applicants, focusing on diversity and numbers. By sending out postcards with various messages, we're testing which ones resonate best with potential recruits. The results from this study will help shape the Tucson Police Department's future recruitment strategies, aiming to bring in a wider range of candidates who reflect our community's diversity.

Building a Smarter, Connected City

Thanks to federal grant funding secured by the Analysis Division, TPD now has access to a cutting-edge, cloud-based data warehouse.

This new tool, developed in collaboration with City IT, will enable us to share and receive crucial data across multiple city and county departments.

This interconnected system will help us better understand and address factors contributing to criminal activity, drug overdoses, and traffic incidents, allowing for more informed decision-making and interventions.

NIBRS

The Reporting Technologies Unit has successfully completed multiple training sessions to update TPD's reporting format to meet the latest federal National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) standards.

This ensures that our data reporting is accurate, comprehensive,

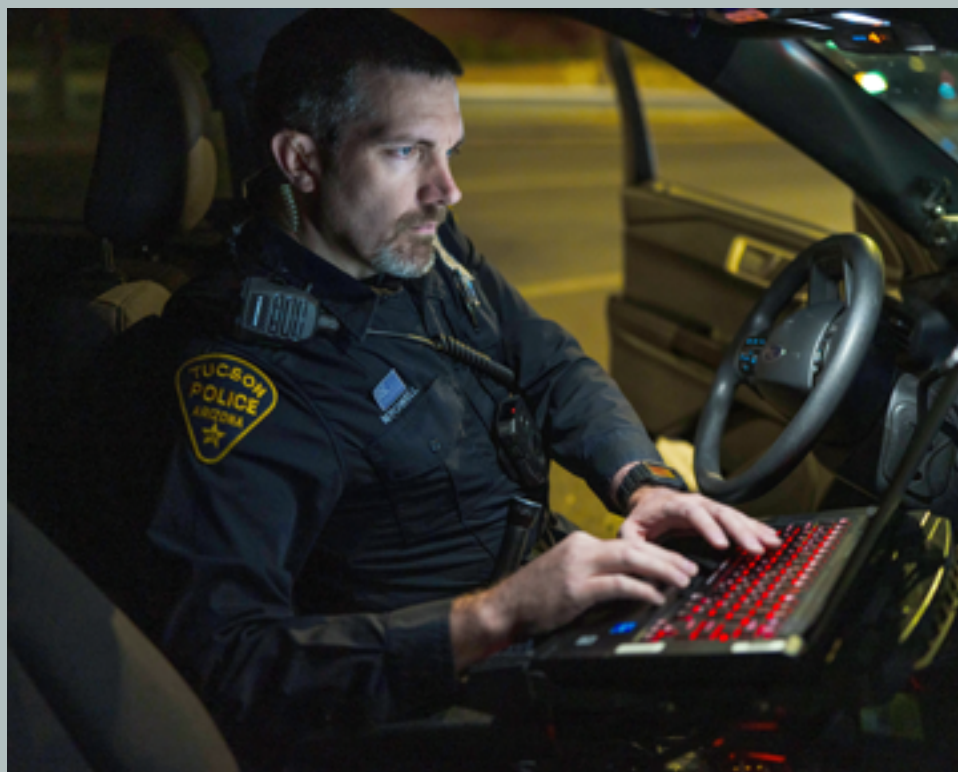
and in line with national requirements, contributing to better transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

CSARC

CSARC, the Community Safety, Awareness, and Response Center, is at the forefront of TPD's efforts to enhance public safety through advanced technology and real-time information. This center supports citywide operations with tools such as drones, video surveillance, GIS mapping, and license plate recognition.

By gathering and analyzing data from various sources, CSARC provides vital support to field units and emergency responders. It also plays a key role in tactical operations and investigations, using technologies such as Firefly to detect gunfire and precision analytics to anticipate crime trends.

The CSARC team is made up of highly skilled Sergeants and Tactical Analysts who are expert in the use of the technology and in rapid decision-making.



Officers in the field are able to draw upon data from previous arrests and convictions, as well as outstanding warrants, suspect descriptions, and requests to detain and question.



CSARC

CSARC, the Community Safety, Awareness, and Response Center, combines mapping and network data with live video feeds from multiple cameras, including body-worn cameras, drones, license plate readers, mobile video, pole cameras, and security cameras.

CSARC gives force commanders a 360-degree view of personnel and resources in large-scale operations.

CSARC is ideal for large crowd management, such as March Madness, to ensure public safety.



Logistics & Acquisition

Facilities and Equipment

2024 saw some of the last Prop 101 funded capital improvement projects, namely:

- Groundbreaking for the Southside Public Safety Complex (new police station and fire station)
- Groundbreaking for the new firing range at the Academy
- Completion of the new Vehicle Evidentiary Storage Facility (located at the Academy)

As of July 2024, the Logistics and Acquisitions team successfully facilitated the purchase, upfitting, and deployment of over 70 new department vehicles, used in various missions throughout the department. These included new vehicles for: CSOs (Ford Mavericks are the new standard for CSOs), PSIs (Professional Staff Investigators), CRTs (Community Response Teams), Force Command, and Patrol Officers (including K-9 vehicles).

The Logistics and Acquisitions team also successfully completed over five hundred thousand dollars' worth of facilities remodel and renovation projects throughout the department, including:

- A complete overhaul of the department's Records Section, creating sufficient functional space for existing and future employees; and
- The creation of workspace at various locations throughout the agency for the new position of Professional Staff Investigator (PSI).

Finally, we wished our longtime Fleet Manager, James Lemas, a happy retirement, and welcomed Ms. Kelly Williams to that role.

Grants

In 2024, TPD received substantial grant awards from the state of Arizona. This included \$500,000 for the K-9 Unit, and \$310,000 for the Counter Narcotics Alliance. Both awards are from the state's allocation for the Local Border Support grant program. TPD also received \$275,000 from the state's allocation for the federal Fentanyl Prosecution, Diversion, and Testing grant program for two gas chromatograph and mass spectrometers for the Crime Laboratory, and \$500,000 from the state's Anti-Human Trafficking grant program for TPD's Special Investigations Section.

The department also received grant funding for anti-human trafficking through the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (AZDEMA).

Due to the hold on federal grant opportunities, TPD anticipates applying for over 40 new federal, state, and tribal grant opportunities if and when they become available. Many are highly competitive federal grants. Traditionally, most awards are announced in the fall.

Currently, the Grants Section manages a portfolio of 50 to 60 active grants, each with various financial and program reporting requirements, which range from one to five years in program duration.

Finally, in 2024, the City's Finance Manager for TPD, Treth Sanchez, and City Financial Specialists Andrea Bartlett and Glorianna Escobar com-



By the time this patrol vehicle was finally retired, the odometer read 159,225 miles – well beyond its recommended service life.

pleted the Grant Management Certificate Program from Management Concepts.

Information Services Unit (ISU)

TPD uses several Axon products, and ISU manages their deployment. In 2024, ISU coordinated and quality checked deployment of the department's new Axon Fleet 3 automated license plate reader (ALPR) / mobile video recorder (MVR) devices.

ISU also installed the Axon Interview Room 2 package. Interview Room 2 is a state-of-the-art interview recording platform that provides superior video resolution and audio fidelity. The system integrates with Axon's evidence.com platform to provide simple operation and reliable evidence storage.

ISU also manages the deployment of other technologies.

To begin replacing old Panasonic TOUGHBOOK® computers in the Investigative Services Bureau, ISU acquired more than 60 cutting-edge Dell 5550 laptops.

ISU staff also identified an opportunity to upgrade department cell phones at no cost to the agency. About half of these new devices have been distributed so far. This was a critical update, since the old devices (iPhone X) are closing in on the end of their security update life.

Finally, ISU provides computer support to the department.

The team's capabilities were demonstrated when, on July 19, 2024, cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike issued a software update that caused global computer outages, including at the City and TPD. ISU resolved more than 90% of CrowdStrike issues on police department computers within 24 hours of the event – and within 96 hours, all known Windows-based systems had been addressed!

Apart from this incident, in the first half of the year, ISU staff handled more than 2,000 support inquiries. (These numbers do not include CrowdStrike events.)

- Almost 95% of requests were resolved.
- 70.6% of ISU support inquiries were handled in 10 minutes or less.
- 90.6% were handled in 20 minutes.
- More than 40% of support requests occurred outside normal business hours.

Finance

Although located at TPD headquarters, the Finance Section is actually part of the City's Business Services Department, which provides services to the police department.

TPD Finance had a successful 2024 Fiscal Year, starting with the completion of two audits. In the general operating fund, the Finance Section processed 2,654 invoices and \$7.4 million in goods and commodities, 6,309 p-Card transactions totaling \$2.2 million, and \$10.8 million in investment fund project transactions. We also increased the visibility of the section and the accountability of the department by providing budgetary education and variance analysis to department and division heads.

TPD Finance also serves as fiduciary for the Arizona HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), which includes multiple local, state, tribal, and federal agencies. In fiscal year 2024, HIDTA processed \$12.3 million in transactions and supported 44 initiatives under three HIDTA grants.



Community Service Officer Albert Tapia-Landry was working point control at the site of a collision when a drunk driver plowed into his patrol vehicle. Miraculously, CSO Tapia-Landry escaped with his life and was released from the hospital that day. This was one of a number of TPD vehicles totaled in 2024.

It's not surprising to anyone who knows her that our Fiduciary, Lisa Kadolph, was selected as Fiscal Year 2024 Support Person of the Year for Arizona by the Arizona HIDTA.

Here, Community Service Officer Soraya Rios receives her new CSO patrol vehicle from Manuel Mendez, Staff Assistant.





**Assistant Chief
Mickey Petersen**

Responsibilities

The Special Services & Innovation Bureau's multiple specialized units include:

Specialized Response: Air Support, DUI, Explosive and Hazardous Devices Detail (EHDD), Hostage Negotiations, Mobile Field Force, Motors, Rapid Response Team, Service Dog, S.W.A.T., Traffic Investigations

Community Engagement: Community Engagement and Outreach, CORE (Community Outreach, Resource, and Education), Emergency Management, Joint Terrorism Task Force, Mental Health Support Team, Reserve Officers, Special Duty/Special Events, Threat Mitigation, Volunteers

Training: Advanced Training, Basic Training, Explorers, Force Analysis, Proficiency, Field Training, Safe Teen Accident Reduction Training (START), Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center (SALETC)



Showing the police helicopter to elementary school students.

Components

Specialized Response

Special Operations

Air Support & Traffic Services

Community Engagement

Community Outreach, Resource & Education

Emergency Management

Community Engagement & Outreach

Training

Force Analysis

SALETC & Advanced Training

Major Initiatives

The Specialized Response Division (SRD) led the department's response to an unprecedented number of campaign rallies during the 2024 election, carefully coordinating with multiple law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of all.

Academy

A key facilities improvement was the redesign and resurfacing of the driving track, allowing us to better prepare officers for high-pressure driving situations.

Firearms training also saw advancements. The department-wide Pistol-mounted Optics (PMO) training was well underway, and mounting Miniature Red Dot Sights (MRDS) on firearms proved effective in enhancing accuracy, safety, and situational awareness in high-stress encounters. The Taser 10 was integrated into our training program, giving officers one more effective less-lethal tool. And the introduction of Axon VR goggles helped improve decision-making and response times in realistic, high-pressure scenarios.

CORE

In October, the CORE Unit sponsored training for co-responders who work with people experiencing addiction and/or homelessness. Twenty attended and learned basic techniques and tactics to safely perform their jobs if they find themselves in a dangerous situation.

CORE is also collaborating with Tucson Fire's TC3 and the City's Community Safety, Health, and Wellness Department to address gaps in follow-up with people who have survived an opioid overdose.



Motors group photo.

Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Division is comprised of the CORE Section (Community Outreach, Resource, and Education), the Emergency Management Section, and the Community Engagement & Outreach Section, which manages volunteers. (See the separate Volunteers pages, 49-50.)

CORE

CORE and MHST (Mental Health Support Team) work with other City and community partners to address some of the most complex social problems facing Tucson. People who are experiencing mental health crises, substance use disorder, being unsheltered, or (in many cases) some combination of the three, require a different approach – one that's compassionate and collaborative.

CORE also responds to concerns brought forward by residents and businesses who are impacted by criminal activity in areas frequented by unsheltered individuals. CORE officers and CSOs work with partners from CODAC to offer people an alternative to arrest, and use motivational interviewing techniques to encourage them to be willing to accept services/treatment as part of TPD's deflection program.

Housed in the CORE Section, deflection is a tool for officers to use in lieu of arrest for those who are victims of the current fentanyl epidemic. In 2024, TPD deflected 340 individuals – transporting 187 directly to treatment. Although this number may seem small, the goal of the program is to connect people with treatment options rather than the criminal justice system. Anyone who chooses to engage with treatment and finds a path out of addiction is a success.

CORE Stats

Naloxone kits handed out – 731

Overdose cases follow-up – 63

Deflection transports – 187

Patrol calls for service taken – 560

People contacted – 1,886

The CORE Section also follows up in non-fatal overdose cases – reaching out when people may be more receptive to treatment.

In August 2024, CORE received information from Operations Division Midtown regarding a family that was requesting assistance with a family member who was eight months pregnant and suffering from substance use disorder. CORE officers worked with the family to coordinate a time when officers and our CODAC Behavioral Health partners could speak with her. Due to her late-stage pregnancy, a treatment

option was put in place to ensure her safety as well as that of her baby. This type of outreach and collaboration between Patrol, CORE, CODAC, and other community providers demonstrates the kind of difference that can be made in the community. The family was very grateful for the work that was done to get their loved one into treatment.

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MHST

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) serves hundreds of mental health orders a year, and continues to work closely with providers and client families to facilitate a comprehensive continuum of care.

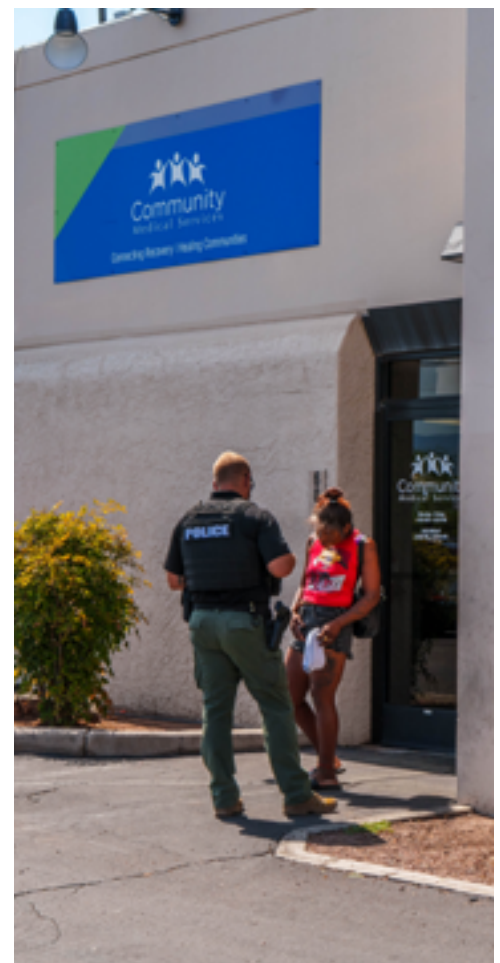
In April 2024, MHST Unit assistance was requested by Pima County Justice Services regarding a female who had found her way to the Transition Center near the Pima County Jail. She was in crisis and staff did not have the expertise to help her.

After several hours of MHST personnel working with the female to develop rapport and build trust, she was willing to go to a medical facility to receive the care she needed. This is typical of the day-to-day interactions MHST officers and detectives have with people who are in crisis.

MHST also works with Pima County to provide multiple sessions of a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT). CIT is a valuable tool for officers, CSOs, and communications staff when contacting people who are experiencing some type of crisis.

In the fall, MHST was part of offering an Advanced CIT course – a 10-hour course expanding upon the original CIT course, as well as reinforcing previous concepts. Together, these two courses will help equip officers and CSOs with additional skills to provide appropriate service to community members.

Also in the fall, MHST launched a full-time co-responder



program that embedded a mental health clinician in the MHST Unit, allowing MHST to work cases more effectively and improve outcomes.

MHST Stats

Mental Health Orders served – 444

Mental Health Orders attempted – 489

911 calls handled for Patrol – 144

Community transports completed for Patrol – 81

Detective cases assigned – 592

Total encounters – 1,200+

Total uses of force – 0

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Section (EMS) works on planning and staffing off-duty coverage for hundreds of community events a year, as well as managing the School Safety Officer program, hate crime investigations, and threat cases.

Much work goes into events large and small: ensuring the proper staffing of off-duty and on-duty officers and CSOs, as well as traffic detours, barricade placement, emergency services coordination, and contingency planning. Some of the larger annual events EMS works on include:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade
- Dozens of individual Gem and Mineral Shows
- Rodeo Parade
- 4th Avenue Street Fair
- Folk Festival
- Cyclovia
- Pride Festival
- Pride Parade
- Tucson Meet Yourself
- All Souls Procession

- Veteran's Day Parade
- El Tour de Tucson
- Downtown Parade of Lights

- Winterhaven Festival of Lights

Many hours of planning go into each of these events, in partnership with other City departments and community groups. As soon as an event takes place, planning immediately begins for the following year.

Emergency Management Stats

*111 **Threat** cases cleared or arrested by patrol*

138 Threat cases assigned to detectives

(25 arrests made and 9 under investigation)

*35 **School threat** cases cleared or arrested by patrol*

26 School threat cases assigned to detectives

(8 arrests made, 3 schools did not press charges)

*16 **Hate crime** cases identified out of 85 reviewed*

(1 hate crime arrest and 8 under investigation)

For the second year in a row, TPD has worked with the Arizona Department of Education and Off Duty Management to staff off-duty police officers in eight local schools. The focus of this grant-funded partnership is school safety, building strong relationships with students, teachers, and parents, while also providing education on rules, laws, and the legal system that actively involves students to prepare them for responsible citizenship.

TPD also enjoys a good working relationship with Tucson's five major school districts. Members of the TPD Threat Mitigation Unit meet regularly with school safety directors and administrators – who also have direct 24/7 access to the Threat Mitigation Unit.



In conjunction with the other law enforcement agencies in Pima County, TPD is working on several joint programs to address school safety, including developing a standard training for officers, investigators, and school staff in CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines), and developing a standard Run, Hide, Fight active attacker training for school staff.

TPD's Emergency Management Section also fulfills requests for Threat Vulnerability Assessments (TVA) and Run, Hide, Fight active attacker training for school staff.

TPD has officers in three of the four patrol divisions who are assigned to address school issues. These officers work closely with the Threat Mitigation Unit (TMU) to provide additional services and training to schools regarding social media and threats.

Finally, in August 2024, a sex offender was sentenced to 40 years in prison after TPD's TMU investigated his sex trafficking of a 14-year-old female in several states, from

August to October of 2021.

Specialized Response

The Specialized Response Division includes the Special Operations Section (EHDD–Explosive & Hazardous Devices Detail (Bomb Squad)/Arson, Service Dog Unit, S.W.A.T./Field Response Unit), and the Air Support & Traffic Services Section (Air Support Unit, DUI Squads, Hostage Negotiations Unit, Mobile Field Force/Rapid Response, Motors, Traffic Investigations).

S.W.A.T. / Field Response

TPD Special Weapons and Tactics deployed for 225 operations in 2024, including:

- 2 Hostage Rescues
- 17 Barricades
- 37 High-risk Arrests
- 93 Warrants
- 7 High-risk Area Searches

These operations targeted people suspected of the following crimes:

- Homicide – 37
- Robbery – 18
- Aggravated Assault – 76
- Other Felonies – 43
- Sexual Assault – 1

S.W.A.T. also provided tactical teams for visits from Vice President Kamala Harris, First Lady Jill Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Governor Tim Walz, President Donald Trump, and Vice President J.D. Vance.

When a barricaded subject fired over 400 rounds at police and the community (see story in Operations Midtown), S.W.A.T. personnel used enhanced officer safety tactics that, with training, will ultimately benefit the entire department.

Also in 2024, we welcomed Sergeants Travis Mott and Jacob Smith as new full-time S.W.A.T. sergeants.

Air Support Unit

Purchased and installed in both police helicopters in 2024, the Air Support Unit's new Trakka system has now helped apprehend more



than 60 suspects. The system includes an upgraded mapping system, a high-definition camera with thermal imaging, and a recording system, as well as a new high-intensity LED spotlight.

Hostage Negotiations

The Hostage Negotiations Unit (HNU) responded to 115 events in 2024. In addition to barricaded subjects and people in crisis, HNU deployed negotiators for most search warrants the S.W.A.T. team served.

HNU and S.W.A.T. hosted two joint training sessions, ensuring that each knows what the other needs in order to achieve the mission. HNU also helped train negotiators from all over the region, having hosted two 40-hour FBI Hostage Negotiations Schools in 2024 that certified 44 new negotiators, including 12 from TPD.

Mobile Field Force / Rapid Response Team

Mobile Field Force (MFF) and Rapid Response Team (RRT) had a busy year with dignitary visits leading up to the 2024 election. Unfortunately, each visit was held at a different venue, raising different concerns at each location. Between September 12 and November 2, seven campaign events were held in Tucson and MFF and RRT were instrumental in ensuring the safety of thousands at each.

More typical of RRT operations was a June 27, 2024 callout, where the RRT was activated to help locate a missing vulnerable adult in Operations Division East. The missing person had walked away from a residence in the 5900 block of East 3rd Street. Officer Jim Davis was on duty and responded to the initial call. Once RRT arrived, a perimeter was established and neighborhood cameras were searched to



determine the person's direction of travel. After several hours, Officer Robert Cormier located the missing person, safe and sound, at a nearby convenience store.

EHDD (Bomb Squad) / Arson

There were 193 EHDD/Arson callouts in 2024 – 118 for explosive and hazardous devices and 75 for arson.



One bomb squad callout was related to the Stop Cop City riot. EHDD rendered safe approximately 30 hazardous items. Another involved simultaneous threats to three Vail School District schools and a ticking package received by a large manufacturer. Within a couple of hours, the bomb squad was able to resolve all four incidents.

When a barricaded subject fired over 400 rounds at police and the community (see story in Operations Midtown), EHDD technicians managed to use a robot (which had been shot) to place an explosive breach and remove debris to enter. Despite the severely crippled robot, the squad was able to fire multiple gas canisters in an attempt to compel surrender. After this particular callout, most EHDD gear that was deployed (including robots) was severely damaged. EHDD worked quickly with vendors to diagnose and order replacement parts to get equipment operational again – which they did in less than two weeks!

TPD also hosted a two-day regional training with Pima County and the FBI related to IEDs placed at critical electrical infrastructure. Scenarios were conducted with live power lines carrying 350,000 volts.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) hosted a regional tabletop exercise with 20 agencies. EHDD represented the Tucson Police Department. The exercise included several nightmare scenarios. At the conclusion of the exercise, TPD's Bomb Squad was named the top participant, based on knowledge and performance.

Finally, we welcomed Hazardous Devices Technician Raymond Magnussen to EHDD.

Motors / DUI / Traffic Investigations

In addition to issuing more than 23,000 citations in 2024, over 900 criminal arrests were made from traffic stops. Another 10,000 warnings were given.

Both Motors and DUI officers participated in more than 90 community events, including "know your limit" educational events. Also, three department members were honored at the annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving awards banquet: Captain Lauren Pettey, Detective Tony Boucher, and Officer Brenden Wiberg.

Motors also provided police escorts to the seven presidential campaign visits, often during rush hour traffic. Each relied on collaboration between TPD, Tucson Fire, the U.S. Secret Service, and occasionally other law enforcement agencies. The most difficult occurred on October 9, when two vice-presidential candidates visited Tucson on the same day.

On equipment, Motors completed the transition from Hondas to the BMW platform. Now, the unit is riding the BMW 1250RT.

The Traffic Investigations Unit responded to 124 serious collisions that resulted in 88 fatalities. The department also added a second squad to the unit, as well as two Professional Staff Investigators (PSIs).

Service Dog

The Service Dog Unit (SDU) had 1,002 deployments in 2024, finding 307 suspects.

In June, SDU began deploying a K-9 team during the day to better support patrol. SDU also provided training to police recruits and patrol officers on the proper deployment of small unit tactics.

Medically retired Police Service Dog (PSD) Raven continued to improve after being shot in October 2023. All PSDs have received new ballistic vests.

2024 also saw personnel changes, both human and K-9. Sergeant Richard Legarra replaced retiring sergeant and longtime unit supervisor Paul Sheldon. New PSDs Ace and Ranger were welcomed to the unit. Both dogs have achieved National Police Canine Association (NPCA) certifications and have been deployed into the field. Meanwhile, PSDs Dozer and Kiro retired to a life of ... well, being a dog – and what could be better than that.



Training

The Training Division includes the Force Analysis Section, SALETC (Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center), and Advanced Training.

In addition to basic training, officers undergo field training before operating on their own. Officers are also required to take certain advanced training, as well as to demonstrate proficiency with all firearms they are authorized to carry. The Training Division reviews all department uses of force, manages firearm proficiency qualifications, and runs Tucson Police Explorer Post 180, where young people explore a career in law enforcement.

Facilities & Equipment

The driving track at the academy was resurfaced in 2024, and a new road course was designed and painted.



TPD received rifle-rated (NIJ3 threat-level protection), folding ballistic shields. These lightweight shields can be transported easily and rapidly deployed, adding significant protection for officers in the field.

TPD also received an additional 50 PepperBall® launchers, bringing the department's total up to 130. Currently, 472 officers are trained in this less-lethal platform. TPD also received an additional 20 40mm platforms. 430 department members are trained in this less-lethal tool. Classes in these platforms are ongoing.

Basic Academy

Basic Recruits (PORs)

There were three basic recruit classes in 2024, plus one that began in 2023.

- Basic Recruit Class 23-2 graduated 16 TPD Officers in February.
- Basic Recruit Class 24-1 graduated 17 TPD Officers in July.
- Basic Recruit Class 24-2 graduated 19 TPD Officers in November. A new one-week pre-academy began with this class.
- Basic Recruit Class 24-3 graduated 21 TPD Officers in April 2025.

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Field Training Officers (FTOs)

In July, 36 new Tucson Police Field Training Officers (FTOs) graduated, including 23 Police Officer FTOs and 13 Community Service Officer (CSO) FTOs.

Pathway to Policing (P2P)

This 15-week program to mentor TPD professional staff to transition into the Police Officer Recruit (POR) academy started in July with 28 participants: 2 Professional Staff Investigators (PSIs) and 26 Community Service Officers (CSOs). Ultimately, 15 CSOs and 1 PSI entered the 24-3 POR academy, with 8 CSOs and 1 PSI graduating and 7 returning to their previous TPD professional staff positions, perhaps to try again.

Lateral Academy

Lateral Class 24-1 graduated two Police Officers on July 3, 2024. One had been a police officer in Eureka, California; the other had been an officer with the Tucson Airport Authority.

Community Service Officers (CSOs)

CSO class 24-1 graduated 14 CSOs in May and CSO class 24-2 graduated 18 CSOs in January 2025.



Advanced Training

Department-wide training on PMOs (Pistol-Mounted Optics) was completed in 2024. Evidence shows that PMOs improve accuracy and situational awareness, and are more effective in high-stress situations.

In April, the Training Division began advanced firearms training for members who had completed their PMO training, familiarizing them with the new AZ POST (Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board) qualification and target identification requirements.

TASER 10 training began in January. Thirty-five sessions took place in 2024, and 511 officers are currently trained and deployed with TASER 10s.

Twenty officers completed the 5-day rifle school, adding more rifle coverage for patrol.

In partnership with the Pima Regional Active Attack Committee, the Training Division began department-wide training on active assailant response. The eight-hour training consisted of four hours of classroom instruction and four hours of participation in scenario-based training. 135 sessions were held from August 5th to November 27th.

In June, the Training Division began a combined department-wide cultural awareness training: Hispanic Cultural Awareness and Successfully Interacting with Physically Disabled Suspects (SIPDS). Training consisted of a full day, with four hours devoted to each subject.

Explorers

Explorers is a program for youth and young adults ages 14 to 20 that lets them explore a career in law enforcement through classroom instruction and hands-on experience volunteering with police departments.

TPD Explorers partnered with Oro Valley and Marana Police Departments and held a multi-agency Explorer Academy from June 10 to June 20, 2024. The academy graduated 20 new Explorers, including 11 who were welcomed to Tucson Police Explorer Post 180. TPD values their help and hopes they apply to work here one day.



Police officers practice defensive tactics.

Graduation

Academy training is grueling, making demands on members' physical and mental endurance.

Graduates are rightfully proud of their achievement, as are their families.



Volunteers

TPD's Community Engagement & Outreach Section manages the department's volunteer program, bringing people in as volunteers and connecting department members with volunteer opportunities in the community.

TPD's volunteer program affords our community the opportunity to simply learn about the department and maybe quiet some concerns by getting to know us, or to use the program to become familiar with, and later apply for a job with, the Tucson Police Department.

TPD ended 2024 with 72 volunteers working in one of four general areas: administrative support, education, community engagement, or role-playing. Whatever the assignment, our diverse group of volunteers not only helped the department internally; they were also out and about making a difference in the community.

Volunteer Assignments

Administrative – Supporting various divisions, including investigative units working on human trafficking, domestic violence, and cold cases.

Education – Presenting information to the public on fighting bullying and avoiding scams targeting seniors.

Community Engagement – Staffing resource tables, helping at sporting events, doing arts and crafts with kiddos.

Role-playing – Serving as actors in training scenarios.

Who Volunteers With TPD?

Our volunteers range in age from 18 to 85: senior citizens, college students, skilled professionals, opportunity youth, and general community members.

Allan (top left photo) is 84 and has volunteered with TPD for 24 years after a very successful career in marketing. He has worked in a variety of assignments at TPD and is currently our Senior Outreach Volunteer who travels around the city, educating seniors on crime-prevention topics.

Hannah (middle left photo) was still in high school when she connected with our program. As soon as she graduated and turned 18, she joined our volunteer program, and we are proud to say that she is now a Tucson Police Community Service Officer (CSO).

Paulina (right photo) applied to our volunteer program when entering her sophomore year at the University of Arizona. Married with two young sons, Paulina volunteered throughout the remainder of her time at the U of A and, three years later, had another son, applied to the academy, and became a Tucson Police Officer.





In Memoriam



LPO Adam Buckner

End of Watch March 31, 2024