

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Annual Report-2009

2009 was another active and challenging year. One of the more significant events was the construction and eventual occupation of the new jail pod. This transition encompassed working closely with all construction phases, the hiring of additional staff and the training of all corrections personnel. We also began contracting with a private food provider to supply inmate meals which has shown to produce an annual savings of \$50,000.00. Administratively, there were significant changes as well. Following the death of former Chief Deputy Mike Soucy, former Jail Administrator Nathan Walrath was promoted to Chief Deputy and former Corrections Sergeant David Manninen was promoted to Jail Administrator. Corrections Officer Joshua McCaskill was promoted to Corrections Sergeant. On the enforcement end of business, both patrol and investigators continued their strong efforts to enforce illegal drug violations.

Sheriff Jeff Jaeger

911/Dispatch

2009 Annual Report

The 911 dispatch center continues to enhance its local and interoperability communications systems. In 2009 this was accomplished by the installation of additional Mobile Data Computers (MDC's) in our marked patrol units. We also replaced our mapping software providing additional information in Dispatch as well as being able to provide the same data to the officers in their patrol vehicles via the MDC's. The MDC's and enhanced mapping give the officers a visual picture of the active and pending calls that Dispatch has active.

Calls for service dispatched in 2009 were 26,504 a slight decline from 2008 where there were 28,537 calls for service. While there was a decrease this year we are still handling double the number of calls for service as we were in 2003. The increases shown from 2003 are due to adding dispatch duties for Merrill PD full time, dispatching for Tomahawk PD third shift and weekends and the increase of cellular calls.

Several of the specifics are listed here:

Ambulance calls:	2,053
Crashes:	1,040
Domestic disturbance:	175
Drug activity:	107
Fire calls:	138
Motorist assistance:	926
Reckless or impaired drivers:	321
Traffic stops:	6,398
Vehicle in ditch:	276
Vehicle lookouts:	564

Prepared by: Mark Handlin, 911 Administrator

Lincoln County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
2009 Annual Report

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR: Sergeant Investigator Chad Collinsworth

Drug abuse and addiction continues to destroy lives and families within our community. Many acts of violence, child neglect and property crimes are fuelled by drug addiction.

The current alliance between the Sheriff's department and several surrounding agencies has lead to an incredible amount of illegal drug intelligence being shared and with that incredible momentum has been made in drug investigations aimed at ridding our county of illegal narcotics.

The Sheriff's department is committed to keeping those lines of communication open and to maintaining those close working relationships with other agencies in order to continue that momentum, and to capitalize on it, to fight to remove illegal drugs from our community throughout the years to come.

Trends:

North-central Wisconsin saw a resurgence of methamphetamine production and use in 2009. The Lincoln County Sheriff's department worked cooperatively with several other agencies in the area including the Merrill Police Department, Wausau/Marathon County SIU and the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation to uncover clandestine methamphetamine labs. The investigations lead to the arrests of multiple methamphetamine cooks and the recovery and clean-up of several hazardous methamphetamine waste dump sites. The investigation remains ongoing and will continue well into 2010 with more arrests to follow.

Prescription drug abuse in Lincoln County remains a serious threat to the wellbeing of our community. Several lives, homes and families are being destroyed in our community by powerful addictions to prescription narcotics that individuals cannot overcome. OxyContin ("Oxy") and its' generic equivalents remain as one of the most widely abused drugs in our area. Other abused drugs of note include Adderall, Morphine, Ritalin and Vicoden. Addicts are swallowing, crushing and snorting, and even injecting, the prescription medicines. Multiple pill investigations are revealing the complexity of the prescription drug abuse trade. Addicts are stealing meds, trading pills with other addicts, going to multiple doctors for multiple prescriptions, altering prescriptions and faking the theft of prescriptions to attempt to obtain additional pills. As one addict stated, there are no clear dealers and users of prescription medicines, all users are dealers and all dealers are users, it just depends on who has pills at the time.

Heroin use in the area continues to rise. As "Oxy" abusers find themselves building tolerances and needing more and more of the OxyContin to satisfy their addiction often these addicts are turning to heroin. It actually becomes more cost effective for an addict to simply switch from prescription meds to heroin. Heroin remains a very dangerous drug as purities and concentrations are unknown. Users have no idea the strength of the drugs they are putting into their system. The threat of overdose death is there with every use as the city of Merrill saw with a tragic heroin overdose death that occurred in May.

Marijuana use remains widely present within the community. Arrests for marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia possession continue to be commonplace.

Ecstasy, cocaine and crack use is present in the community but are not currently as prevalent as meth, oxy and heroin.

Notable Cases:

In February 2009 Lincoln County Deputies stopped a possible drunk driver on US HWY 51. Investigation at the scene revealed the four occupants of the vehicle were from the Milwaukee area and had traveled to Tomahawk to sell their prescription "Oxy". The investigation revealed the subjects had made the run to Tomahawk in the past and the reasoning was that they could get almost twice the money for the pills in Tomahawk than they could in Milwaukee. Three of the occupants were charged in the case. Their 1998 Chevrolet Lumina and just over \$3,000 in cash were seized.

In the summer of 2009 the Sheriff's Department was very excited to obtain a new DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) car. The car was forfeited from a marijuana dealer that was arrested on traffic stop in October 2008 with three 1-ounce bags of marijuana in the car. Her 2004 Chrysler Sebring Convertible was forfeited to the Sheriff's department.

Prepared by:

Sergeant Investigator Chad Collinworth

Lincoln County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
2009 Annual Report

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR: Sgt. Investigator Carla Peters

The reported juvenile cases went down this year from 314 filed investigations involving juveniles in 2008 to 166 filed cases involving juveniles in 2009. This is a decrease of approximately 47 % (148 cases), even though the cases reported in 2009 were down, we noticed an increase in the number and severity of crimes committed at each single incident. The breakdown of the 2009 investigations is as follows:

Traffic Offenses	37
Sexual Abuse of a Child	18
Runaway	18
Disorderly Conduct	26
Battery	13
Physical Abuse of a Child	15
Underage Alcohol/Tobacco	16
Possession of Drugs/Drug Paraphernalia	3
Theft/Burglary	4
Criminal Damage to Property	10
Emergency Detention (51.15)	2
Child Neglect	1
Expose Child to Harmful Material	2
Operating a Motor vehicle while Intoxicated	1
Runaway/Escape from Lincoln Hills School	0
Obstructing an Officer	2
Operating a Motor Vehicle without a License	6
Trespassing	7
Sudden Death	0
Stolen Vehicle	0
Interfering with Child Custody	1
Invasion of Privacy	1
Endangering Safety	6
Welfare Checks	9
Exposure to Pornography	2

Prepared by:

Lt. Mark Gartmann

Lincoln County Sheriff Office
Special Response Team
2009 Annual Report

The Lincoln County Special Response Team (SRT) consisted of 10 members in 2009. SRT trains one day every month. These training dates allow the team to mesh as a unit, to move as a unit, giving them the ability and confidence to respond to high risk callouts. SRT responded to 4 callouts in 2009. High risk drug warrants, and armed barricaded subjects. SRT retired the 1986 ambulance that had been the response vehicle and replaced it with a truck and trailer. The new trailer gives the team much needed space allowing for quicker response time. All callouts and training were successfully concluded without injury to the public, team members or suspects.

Lincoln County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
2009 Annual Report

SUPERVISOR: Lieutenant Mark Gartmann
PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR: Sergeant Investigator Brian Kingsley
Sergeant Investigator Warren Steffenhagen
Sergeant Investigator Carla Peters
Sergeant Investigator Chad Collinworth

There were more changes within the division this year. In July Deputy Collinworth was promoted to Sergeant Investigator, and Sergeant Investigator VanderWyst returned to the patrol division. Congratulations to Sergeant Investigator Collinworth and best of luck to Sergeant Investigator VanderWyst. Because of the newly promoted personnel, several changes in assignments resulted with Sergeant Investigator Collinworth assigned to the Narcotics Division, Sergeant Investigator Peters to the Juvenile Division., Sergeant Investigator Steffenhagen and Kingsley were unchanged.

In 2009, 448 case files were submitted to the division out of these 239 case files were sent to the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office for charges.

Notable cases for 2009 – The Merrill Police Department, Department of Criminal Investigations, and our agency working jointly lead to the location of several clandestine methamphetamine labs. As a result of these cases, a massive amount of vital intelligence was gathered that resulted in a multi jurisdictional investigation including the North Central Drug Enforcement Group (NORDEG) and Central Area Drug Enforcement Group (CEADEC). From this joint effort, several more clandestine methamphetamine labs were located with one involving innocent children being removed from the lab. Because of the size and scope of the case, it continued into 2010, with more arrests to follow.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Lieutenant Mark Gartmann was primarily assigned to oversee and supervise the general operations of the bureau. Sergeant Investigator Warren Steffenhagen and Brian Kingsley are primarily assigned to general and property crime offenses, with Sergeant Investigator Steffenhagen also the lead evidence custodian. Sergeant Investigator Kingsley assisted with evidence custodial duties and is assigned as our forensic examiner of computer related crimes. Sergeant Investigator Carla Peters was assigned to general crimes as well as taking over as the Juvenile Investigator. Sergeant Investigator Chad Collinworth was assigned as our newly promoted Narcotic Investigator, working closely with Sergeant Investigator Kingsley until taking on his new role in late December.

Prepared by:
Lieutenant Mark Gartmann

Lincoln County Jail Division

The Lincoln County Jail booked in 1335 inmates in 2009. That was an increase of 91 inmates over the 2008 total. The average length of stay for an inmate was 19.17 days. This is a decrease of 10.03 days under the 2008 average of 29.20 days.

Huber fees collected in 2009 were \$ 49,078.60. The inmate phone system generated \$ 27,021.00 in profits. The state of Wisconsin reimbursed Lincoln County \$ 30,568.23 for probation and parole holds including ES sanctions.

The daily population average for 2009 was 60.17 In-house, 3.78 on electronic monitoring, 19.26 out of county for a total of 83.21. The highest average month was April with an average of 93.58 per day. The lowest monthly average was February with an average of 67.84 inmates per day. The highest day was March 17th with 107 inmates. The lowest day was October 29th with 57 inmates.

REPORT PREPARED BY

Jail Administrator
David Manninen

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Patrol Division

2009 Annual Report

2009's Patrol roster consisted of four Patrol Lieutenants, and seventeen Patrol Deputies. Patrol worked short one deputy for most of the year until the end of December when one deputy was hired, bringing patrol up to full staff. Of the eighteen Deputies one is assigned to the Recreational Officer position, and one Deputy assigned to court security at the Lincoln County Courthouse.

A total of 26,505 calls for service were received in 2009. This is a 7.13% decrease from the 28,541 calls for service received in 2008. Patrol deputies initiated 3,035 traffic stops in 2009, which is down approximately 34.54% from 4,637 stops in 2008. It appears the reduction in the number of traffic stops can in part be contributed to the traffic safety enforcement efforts of the Sheriff's Office, and the public's response to that enforcement.

Report submitted by;

Lt. Grant Peterson

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office