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# 2013 Annual Report

## Bainbridge Island Police Department

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Chief Matthew Hamner – June 1, 2015



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## 2013 Annual Report

This report is provided to highlight the significant events and accomplishments of the Bainbridge Island Police Department throughout the 2013 calendar year.

### A Year of Transition

In response to community criticism and inconstant leadership during 2012, City Manager Doug Schulze and Interim Public Safety Director Larry Dickerson invited representatives of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to conduct an intensive evaluation of the department through the Loaned Executive Management Assistance Program (LEMAP). This intensive study, which took place in January, identified problem areas and targeted internal processes for improvement in anticipation of a new Chief of Police.



#### New Leadership

In May of 2013, COBI concluded the search for a new police chief, selecting Matthew Hamner from among 57 applicants. Hamner, a decorated 23-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department, has a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and Public Safety. He arrived with his family in June and immediately began working to address internal issues while simultaneously ensuring the department accomplished its traditional law enforcement and public safety mission.

After just a short time on the job, Chief Hamner identified two critical issues that required immediate attention; restoring the community's trust in the department, and addressing mental health issues as they relate to law enforcement.

#### Restoring Community Trust

In order to restore the community's trust, Chief Hamner made it his highest priority to ensure transparency within the department, and within the community. He directed that the department's citizen complaint and internal affairs procedures be updated so that every citizen complaint or concern brought forth regarding officer conduct or department operations be documented and addressed in a thorough and consistent manner; he directed the continued utilization of body worn cameras and

#### Points of Interest

- COBI was rated the **7th safest city** in the State of Washington in 2013 by Safewise.
- COBI crimes against persons rate was **3.9** per 1000 residents vs 10.2 for the state.
- COBI crimes against property rate was **28.5** per 1000 vs 38.6 for the state.
- BIPD was one of the smallest per capita departments in the State with **0.8** officers per 1000 vs the state average of 1.3 officers per 1000, and the national average of 1.7 per 1000 for cities of similar size.

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began testing improved camera technology; he invigorated members of the department with enthusiasm, inspiring a renewed commitment to public service; he made clear his expectations - notably that every member of the department perform interactions with citizens and each other with integrity and polite professionalism; he demonstrated his commitment to openness and transparency by readily meeting with any citizen who wished to speak with him, spending hours each week meeting with islanders to discuss issues, listen to concerns, and build relationships.

### **Community Mental Health Issues**

Mental health issues involving law enforcement are at the forefront of most law enforcement agencies' concerns. As the Kitsap County Prosecutor stated: **"We leave our mentally ill citizens in the community until they create a threat of harm. We give our law enforcement officers the sole responsibility to deal with threats of harm...I think we ask too much of them. We have to find a better way to deal with mental illness."**

In 2013, the BIPD began sending all of its officers through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission approved 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). This week-long course focuses on law enforcement response to mental health crisis. By the end of 2013, all BIPD officers had attended the course, and Chief Hamner mandated that every new officer would also attend as soon as possible after hire. CIT training is only a start to addressing mental health issues in our community. The effort must be comprehensive, long term, and will require the entire community's recognition and support.

Restoring community trust and efforts to address mental health issues were on the forefront in 2013, but by no means the only things accomplished. What follows is a month by month synopsis of the the department's accomplishments and actions.

#### **January 2013**

The first month of the year started with one of the last big marijuana busts on the Island. An anonymous tip pointed BIPD officers toward a home on the north end of the Island where two men were supposedly growing marijuana and dealing drugs. BIPD detectives obtained a search warrant from the court and found 53 marijuana plants being cultivated as well as other drug related items. The two men were arrested by BIPD and subsequently evicted by the property owner.

#### **February 2013**

February is Chilly Hilly season, and the BIPD brought in plenty of extra officers to help support the island-wide event by helping control vehicle and bicycle traffic at key intersections, responding to bicycle accidents, and facilitating event coordination in concert with a handful of amateur radio operators. A few generous folks even took it upon themselves to provide free whiskey to passing cyclists at key locations this year! BIPD officers contacted the philanthropists and politely explained that what they were doing was against the law. The



Photo courtesy of Inside Bainbridge

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officers encouraged them to obtain a permit to serve liquor next year and they would be welcome back at Chilly Hilly 2014. The whiskey peddlers were cooperative, thanked the officers for the education, and departed the Chilly Hilly course to drink their whiskey in a legal venue.



On February 27th, BIPD was honored to retire Rusty, the Department's only K9. Rusty and his handler, Officer Dale Johnson, were a formidable crime fighting team for more than eight years. Because he loved his job so much, Rusty delayed his retirement several years after most K9s would normally have hung up the collar. During Rusty's distinguished career he completed 214 searches, finding 547 separate items of controlled substance and/or paraphernalia. Rusty had assisted in 181 arrests, 12 vehicle seizures and cash seizures totaling more than \$131,000. He also assisted the local Suquamish, Poulsbo, Bremerton and Gig Harbor Police Departments, as well as the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, US Customs, US Postal Service, and US Drug Enforcement Agency during various interagency operations.

Rusty's retirement gift was a specially made cake in the shape of a bone, which he promptly ate. Rusty is currently providing residential security and at-home personal training by ensuring that Officer Johnson takes daily walks and plays regular fetch for exercise. Rusty plans to make an appearance at National Night Out every year to continue supporting the department even in retirement.



Lastly in February, the department began another Citizens' Academy course. The Citizens' Academy, offered annually, was established years ago by the BIPD as a fun, educational way for island residents to learn about what police officers do. The ten-week course has consistently proven to be so popular that the department has had to establish a wait list for interested applicants.

### **March 2013**

In March, the department hosted several community outreach efforts. In the first, BIPD and Kitsap County Mental Health hosted a Mental Health First Aid course taught by nationally certified instructors. The target audience was employers, educators, business leaders and church members. The goal of the course was to provide the participants with the tools and knowledge to respond to people demonstrating signs of mental health distress. The BIPD's next community outreach effort was a gun turn-in event, which encouraged residents to bring their unwanted guns and ammunition to the BIPD station for safe, controlled, and complimentary destruction.

In March, BIPD arrested a 32-year old male on voyeurism charges after receiving reports of an adult male taking inappropriate photographs of juvenile females wearing skirts without the females' knowledge. The department worked closely with local store owners to identify the man and BIPD detectives surveilled him with the help of representatives from nearby agencies. The man was arrested following a brief struggle on March 6<sup>th</sup> after detective Scott Weiss observed him taking photographs up the skirt of a juvenile female. The suspect was booked into the Kitsap County Jail with

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an initial bail of \$250,000 on charges of voyeurism, resisting arrest, and assault 3rd degree. Detective Weiss was treated for minor injuries at the hospital and released. While executing court ordered search warrants on the suspect's phone, investigators believe there were actually over 60 separate victims of voyeurism. The suspect pleaded guilty, must now register as a sex offender and has since moved off the Island. Until this incident he had no criminal record.

### April 2013

In April, the department hosted a US Drug Enforcement Administration sponsored drug take back event. The purpose of this event was to provide a location where unwanted or expired prescription medications could be safely disposed of. Many medications contain chemicals and compounds that are can be deadly to the environment if they are flushed into sewer or septic systems or disposed of improperly in a landfill and can also be tempting targets for individuals looking to get high. In fact, prescription medications have become one of the most frequently stolen items during residential burglaries. Thieves can quickly sell prescription drugs to drug abusers for cash, so disposing of old medication properly helps discourage prescription drug abuse while preserving the environment.

### May 2013

The harbor community is a part of Bainbridge Island's history and culture. BIPD Harbormaster Tami Allen spearheaded National Marina Day in May, which seeks to celebrate the Island's maritime heritage while also providing activities that contribute to maritime safety. Events included "Anchoring with a Local" where participants learned the proper methods of anchoring in the Island's harbors. Kayak and canoe demonstrations and lessons were provided by Back of Beyond Outfitters, free vessel examinations were provided by Flotilla 48 US Coast Guard Auxiliary, a marine flare demonstration was sponsored by the Chandlery at Winslow, the Bainbridge Island Yacht Club sponsored a sailing on the *Solings*, the Bainbridge High School Sailing Team provided a Rigging Workshop, and the BIPD provided free hull inspections with its Remotely Operated Vehicle. The fun event is a textbook example of proactive public safety.



Also in May, the BIPD was proud to once again participate in the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Kitsap County portion of the national event began at the BIPD station, traversed the length of the Island via State Highway 305, crossed the Agate Pass Bridge, and was handed off to the Suquamish Police Department. Special guests Chris Marten and his father Norm, steadfast supporters of BIPD and the Torch Run, helped represent the department on the first, and most uphill, leg of the run. Officers and staff, along with some city and court employees, also participated this year.

### June 2013

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Hamner was welcomed as the department's new Chief of Police and immediately got to work.

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## July 2013



July is a historically busy month for the department, and 2013 was no different. In addition to the increased calls for service associated with summer vacation, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and beautiful weather, the department also stepped up its DUI patrols and arrests, and increased its marine unit patrols on the water. Members of the department also participated in the Bainbridge Youth Services annual Fun Run and received a Cops-for-Kids Service Award.

Also in July, BIPD warmly welcomed Officer Erik Peffer to the BIPD team. Peffer, an experienced officer from the San Juan County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico, brought his young family to the area along with his wealth of knowledge and experience, and his enormous energy and enthusiasm.



## August 2013



The first Tuesday in August is National Night Out, an event facilitated by law enforcement agencies nationwide to promote crime prevention education, safety, police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. BIPD Officer Carla Sias was the lead planner and coordinator for this huge event, which included live music, food, face painting, the dunk tank, and "giant bubble blowing." Rusty, the BIPD's retired K9 made an appearance as promised. Also on display was the BIPD patrol boat, a ladder truck and ambulance from the BI Fire Department,

the US Coast Guard, and the Washington State Patrol Bomb Squad.



## September 2013

In the spirit of continued community discourse and transparency, Chief Hamner held his first Town Hall Meeting in September. Joining him were several other members of the department, on hand to answer questions. The Chief discussed critical issues with the community. He also made himself available to the public, saying *"I want to be sure I am accessible to the community, and that I am available to anyone who wishes to speak with me. Residents are welcome to call the department to set up an appointment."*

Also in September, the department investigated a suspicious death that was ultimately determined to have been caused when the victim sustained a massive stroke. However, the initial call and scene of the death lead investigators and Chief Hamner to reach out to Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and Bremerton Police Department for assistance with the investigation in order to ensure nothing was missed. The department's detectives worked hand-in-hand with Kitsap County Sheriff's

Detectives and the coroner to ensure that a crime had not been committed. The mutual aid agreement between BIPD and local law enforcement jurisdictions worked well.

Lastly in September, the department arrested another person for voyeurism. An employee of a local restaurant was discovered to be clandestinely video recording people using the restroom at the restaurant by setting his cell phone to “record” and taping it to the trash can. The suspect was arrested and booked into the Kitsap County Jail.

### October 2013

The Department held another DEA sponsored Drug Take-Back Initiative in October. A press release encouraged island residents to bring unwanted prescription medications to the police station for proper disposal. The department also released a series of informational press releases with the intent of educating or reminding islanders of safe practices during Halloween, and the dangers of speeding in school zones.



In October 2013, Chief Hamner took another key step in addressing mental health issues with law enforcement by appointing Officer Trevor Ziemba to be the department’s designated Crisis Intervention Officer, or CIO. Officer Ziemba’s new responsibilities include coordination and communication with local law enforcement throughout Kitsap County, as well as with Kitsap County Mental Health Department and other mental health resources throughout Washington State.

### November 2013

A food drive took place in November, as BIPD partnered with the Helpline House to benefit the agency during the holiday season. Members of the department collected donated food at the local Safeway store to help those less fortunate just prior to Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season. The results of the food drive were fantastic, generating over 1,000 pounds of donated groceries to distribute to those in need through the Helpline House.



Also in November, BIPD officers responded to several critical incidents as part of their public safety mission. The first was a 911 call from an Illahee resident who heard cries of help coming from the Port Orchard Narrows after dark. This launched a multi-jurisdictional search and rescue effort involving the BIPD patrol boat, BIFD, KCSO and the US Coast Guard. Eventually, two 15-year-old runaways, adrift in an old leaking dinghy without engine or oars, were spotted by a US Coast Guard helicopter equipped with thermal cameras. The two runaways were evacuated to a nearby hospital and treated for hypothermia.

The second critical incident was a mental health crisis. This one involved a 24-year-old man with a history of mental illness. In the weeks leading to the crisis, BIPD had been called upon by several members of his family concerned about his erratic and disturbing behavior. At one point the young

man stated he was going send a particular BIPD officer to “meet his maker.” BIPD worked steadily with the young man’s family over a period of several weeks trying to help the situation. This mental health crisis culminated in a stand-off at the Bainbridge Island High School parking lot where the young man was eventually taken into custody without injury.

November of late has also been known as “Mo-vement.” As explained by Wikipedia, “Movember (a portmanteau of the Australian-English diminutive word for moustache, “mo”, and “November”) is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as depression, prostate cancer and other male cancers, and associated charities.” Those in the BIPD that could grow mustaches did, and those that could not...improvised.



Photo courtesy of Inside Bainbridge

### December 2013

In December, the department became heavily focused on a crime spree of vehicle prowls and car thefts occurring around the island. During the months of November and December, one individual was involved in more than 40 car prowls and theft incidents alone over a relatively short period of time. Officer Carla Sias stopped a suspicious individual and conducted a field interview where she was able to get the individual’s name. A few hours later, residents in the same area woke up to find their vehicles had been broken into overnight, and our car prowler had been identified. That individual was arrested shortly after the incident, confessed to detectives, and subsequently sentenced to prison time for his crimes.



Also in December, the department purchased its first round of new Trek police bikes made possible with funds from the Suquamish Tribe Mitigation Impact Grant. The department receives grant funds from the Suquamish Tribe every two years in order to offset the impact of the Clearwater Casino on local law enforcement. Funds received in 2013 were already earmarked for other equipment upgrades, but Chief Hamner made a special request for additional funds to inject new life into the department’s bicycle patrol program. The program, in addition to increased walking patrols in the downtown and other core areas, support his expectation that officers interact on a more personal level with the citizens they serve.

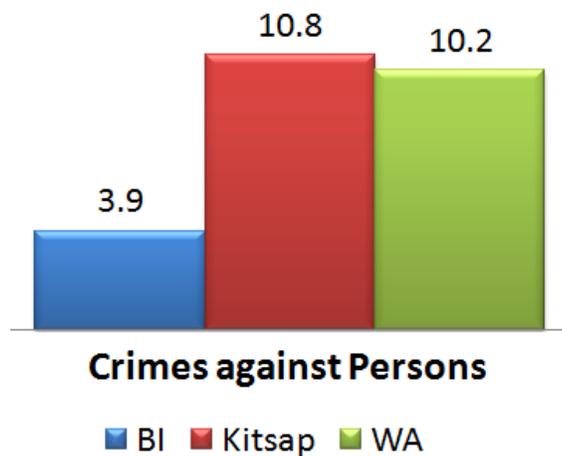
Additionally in December, the BIPD changed the way it plans, conducts and reports its training efforts. In response to LEMAP findings earlier in the year, a comprehensive review of current training processes and procedures was conducted, and Chief Hamner concluded that a fundamental shift was in order. He appointed Officer Aimee LaClaire as the Department Training Coordinator, ensuring all requests and records of training were filed through her. The Chief then directed that a comprehensive Annual Training Plan be developed for 2014 mapping all federal, state, city and department training requirements to ensure the department meets the requirements of state mandated in-service training. Lastly, Chief Hamner made individual supervisors responsible for the training of their officers. These

changes resulted in increased opportunities for officers to train, more training, and better tracking and supervision of training going forward.

The Department wrapped up 2013 with holiday cheer. The Chief and several officers along with their families participated in the annual Shop with a Cop event, providing toys for local area children less fortunate. Every year, Shop with a Cop brings officers and sheriff's deputies from around the county on their own time to help with the event. BIPD also held a family Christmas party where a surprisingly Chief Hamner-like Santa Claus listened to the Christmas wishes of the youngest members of the BIPD family.

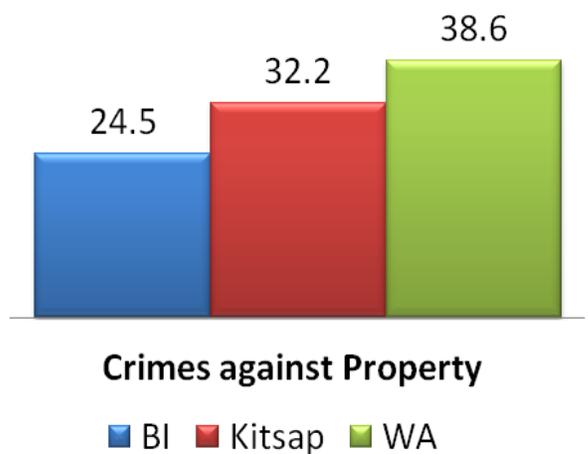


### Crime & Public Safety



Bainbridge Island saw a 13% decrease in crimes against persons in 2013 from 2012. Crimes against persons includes the reported crimes of; Assault, Homicide, Human Trafficking Offenses, Kidnapping/Abduction, and Sex Offenses (Forcible and Non-Forcible). Each victim equals one offense. These numbers are derived from National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) submissions by Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. Bainbridge Island remains one of the safest cities in the state with a rate of only **3.9** crimes against person per 1,000 residents compared to a rate of 10.8 for Kitsap County, and 10.2 for Washington State<sup>1</sup>.

In 2013 there was a (11%) increase in crimes against property on Bainbridge Island from 2012<sup>1</sup>. Crimes against property include the reported crimes of Arson, Bribery, Burglary, Counterfeiting/Forgery, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, Embezzlement, Extortion/Blackmail, Fraud, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, and Stolen Property Offenses. Each offense counts as one occurrence with the exception of Motor Vehicle Theft which counts the number of vehicles stolen. These numbers are derived from National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) submissions from the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. Again, Bainbridge Island's rate of **24.5** crimes against property per 1000 residents is far below the Kitsap County rate of 32.2, and the Washington State rate of 38.6<sup>1</sup>.



A major contributor to the increase in theft statistics occurred in the months of November and December when, as previously mentioned, one individual was responsible for a crime spree involving more than 40 incidents of car prowls and thefts.

Bainbridge Island in 2013 had zero traffic deaths, 210 traffic collisions with 57 of those involving injury, and one recreational diving fatality. The department conducted a total of 2,515 traffic stops, issued 722 tickets, and made 30 DUI arrests<sup>2</sup>. Without a dedicated traffic unit since 2008, all traffic enforcement was conducted between calls for service. The BIPD marine unit conducted 126 hours of maritime patrol, 19 vessel inspections, and assisted in 8 search and rescue/recovery efforts in 2013.

### **Calls for Service**

The department as a whole responded to 12,849 calls for service in 2013, an increase of 16.6% over the previous year<sup>3</sup>. Officers took case reports on 1,760 of those calls for service, an increase of 7% from 2012. Most of these calls for service were handled by only 12 officers assigned to patrol. The department's one parking enforcement officer handed out a total of 1,601 parking tickets for the year, while the Harbormaster collected more than \$18,000 in mooring fees and conducted numerous vessel inspections. The support services staff responsible for public records requests spent 258.6 hours fielding a total of 458 public records requests, in addition to processing over 1,800 primary, supplemental and follow-up reports. The support services staff also processed 173 applications for concealed pistol licenses, which includes fingerprinting the applicants.

All of these calls for service were handled by one of the smallest per capita departments in the state, if not the country. With 19 total commissioned officers, including the Chief of Police and four lieutenants, BIPD has nearly half of the average numbers of officers per residents as the state average, and less than half the national average for cities our size. BIPD has 0.8 officers per 1,000 residents, while the Washington State average is 1.5 officers per 1,000 residents, and the national average is 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents<sup>1</sup>.

### **Professional Standards**

The BIPD had no civil lawsuits or formal grievances filed against it in 2013. There were five Use of Force incidents and one pursuit. Officers were involved in two vehicle collisions in 2013. The department conducted three internal affairs investigations of its officers, two of which were sustained and the officer subjected to discipline. There were a total of five complaints against officers or the department, none of which were sustained, and a total of 15 general complaints. The results of each are detailed below.

#### **Internal Affairs Investigations**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Result</b>
Unsatisfactory Performance	Exonerated
GOM Violation; Canon of Ethics 6.3	Sustained/Oral Reprimand, Counseling
Unsatisfactory Performance	Sustained/Oral Reprimand, Counseling

#### **Complaints against Officers or Policy**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Result</b>
Rudeness, Intimidation, Falsifying a Report	Not Sustained
Unclear	Unsubstantiated
Being followed by police car.	Unsubstantiated

Failure to perform duty.	Exonerated
Reference tailgating, following, intimidation.	Unsubstantiated
Harsh language, rudeness.	Sustained/Coaching,Counseling

### General Complaints

Description	Result
Reference traffic at 305/Winslow Way.	Resolved to satisfaction
Reference handicapped parking at ferry.	Closed
Reference wrong time stamp on parking citation machine.	Resolved to satisfaction.
Reference DEA drug take back program.	Closed
Reference road markings at Winslow/Ericksen.	Resolved to satisfaction in conjunction with PW/ENG division.
Reference junk cars.	Closed
Reference junk cars.	Closed
Reference Attempted VoIP Fraud	Resolved via email.
Reference VoIP Harassment/ Fraud	Resolved via email.
Reference Attempted VoIP Fraud	Closed
Reference Attempted VoIP Fraud	Resolved via email.
Reference Helpline and Island Terrace Apartments.	Issue with TTY program, complaint transferred to CenCom.
Reference drag racing, noise from revving engines.	Resolved via email.
Reference ferry commuter parking for free at Safeway.	Resolved by PEO.
Reference threats.	Fwd to detectives per Chief.

### References

- <sup>1</sup>- Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Crime in Washington, 2013
- <sup>2</sup>- 2013 WA SECTOR report for BIPD
- <sup>3</sup>- 2013 iLeads Records Management System report for BIPD

## 2013 Washington NIBRS Submission Agencies

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PD**

Kitsap County

Population: 23,190  
Months Reported: 12

**Offense Overview**

Offense Total 689  
# of Cleared Offense 79  
Percent Cleared 11.5%

**Arrest Overview**

Arrest Total 66  
Adult Arrest Total 60  
Juvenile Arrest Total 6

Group A Offenses	Reported 2012	Reported 2013	% of Change	Crime Rate per 1,000	Total Arrests	DV Offense Totals
Murder	0	0		0.0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0		0.0	0	0
Forcible Rape	5	3	-40.0%	0.1	0	0
Forcible Sodomy	0	0		0.0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	0	0		0.0	0	0
Forcible Fondling	7	2	-71.4%	0.1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	8	9	12.5%	0.4	10	5
Simple Assault	75	57	-24.0%	2.5	14	33
Intimidation	6	2	-66.7%	0.1	1	0
Kidnapping	0	1		0.0	0	0
Incest	0	0		0.0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	1		0.0	0	0
Human Trafficking	0	0		0.0	0	0
Violation of No Contact/Protect.	0	15		0.6	5	0
Robbery	0	0		0.0	1	0
Burglary	55	50	-9.1%	2.2	3	0
Larceny Theft	259	304	17.4%	13.1	11	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	12	33.3%	0.5	0	0
Arson	2	0	-100.0%	0.0	0	0
Destruction of Property	114	126	10.5%	5.4	2	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	8	8	0.0%	0.3	0	0
Fraud	61	52	-14.8%	2.2	1	0
Embezzlement	0	1		0.0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	1		0.0	0	0
Bribery	0	0		0.0	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	2	14	600.0%	0.6	7	0
Drug/Narcotic Violations	15	19	26.7%	0.8	5	0
Drug Equipment Violations	32	9	-71.9%	0.4	0	0
Gambling Offenses	0	0		0.0	0	0
Pornography	0	0		0.0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0		0.0	0	0
Weapon Law Violations	6	3	-50.0%	0.1	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>38</b>

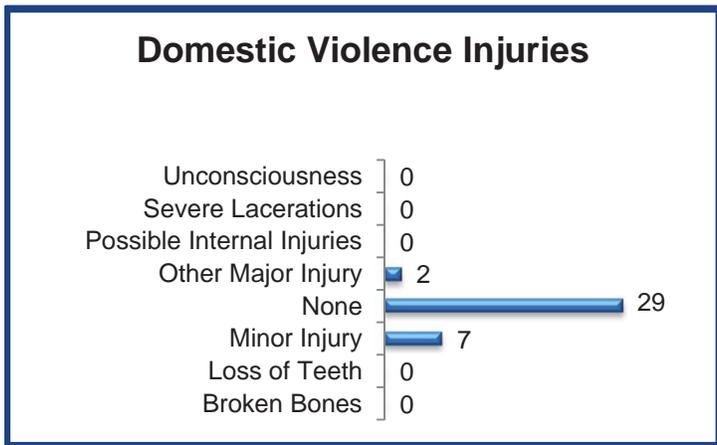
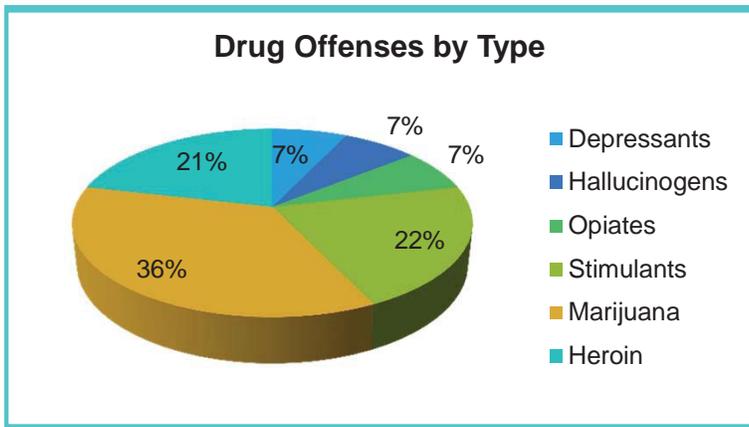
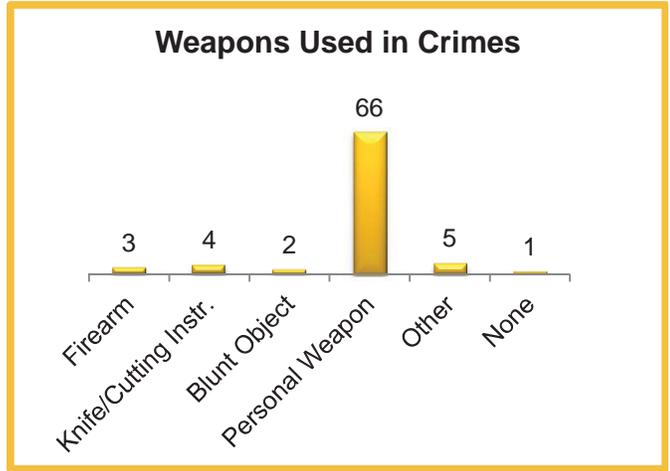
# 2013 Washington NIBRS Submission Agencies

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PD**

Continued

## 2013 Group B Arrests

Offense	Adult	Juvenile
Bad Checks	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	1	0
DUI	28	0
Family Offenses	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	4	0
Peeping Tom	1	0
Trespass	3	4
All Other Offenses	69	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4</b>



## 2013 Property Values by Type

Type	Value
Seized	\$59
Burned	\$0
Counterfeited/Forged	\$17,726
Destroyed/Damaged	\$75,535
Recovered	\$224,411
Stolen	\$640,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$958,022</b>