

2019

ALLEGAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ANNUAL REPORT



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO:

THE CITIZENS OF ALLEGAN COUNTY

AND

ALLEGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Allegan County Prosecuting Attorney 2019 Annual Report

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ALLEGAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report for your review. This report was prepared by the Allegan County Prosecuting Attorney, Myrene K. Koch and her staff.

The Michigan Constitution mandates that every county elect a Prosecuting Attorney whose duties are legally defined.

The Prosecuting Attorney administers public justice and is a local office. His or her duties to a large extent are local only in the sense that they are to be performed locally; for they are to be performed on behalf of the state just as much as are the duties of the judge who holds court for his or her county.

The Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for a wide array of legal functions for the County, including:

- Act as the chief law enforcement official in the County.
- Review, authorize and prosecute violations of felony and misdemeanor criminal laws of the State of Michigan and County ordinances committed inside the County.
- Authorize and prosecute felony and misdemeanor juvenile delinquency offenses.
- Represent the County in criminal matters before the District and Circuit Courts; juvenile delinquency, parental neglect and miscellaneous probate matters in the Family Court; and appeals in the Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court.
- Advise the Michigan Department of Human Services on child abuse and neglect petitions, and actions to terminate parental rights.
- Attend contested mental health commitment hearings.
- Advise the County Board of Commissioners and other County departments on legal matters.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STAFF

Myrene K. Koch, Prosecuting Attorney
Judith Kasson, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Steven J. Lanting
Rachel E. Keeley
Emily W. Jipp
Elizabeth Peterson
Meredith R. Beidler
James R. Rolland
Jeff Rhoa

Victim/Witness Coordinator

Emelda Calanchi-Pope

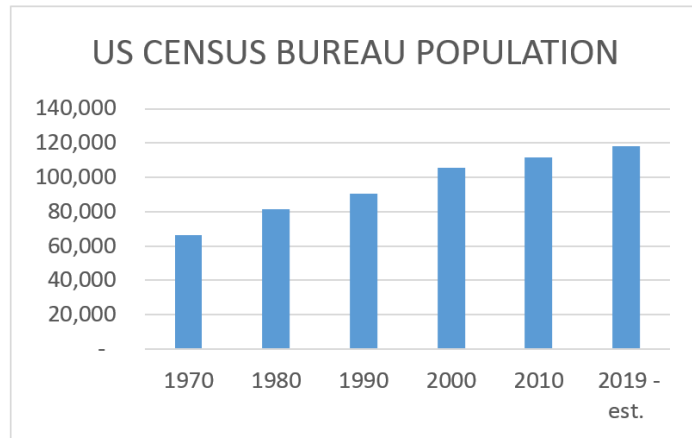
Support Staff

Paige Christman, Legal Administrative Specialist, II
Jewell Raab, Legal Administrative Specialist
Gina Shashaguay, Legal Administrative Specialist
Tom Moore, Legal Administrative Specialist
Nashell Miller, Legal Administrative Specialist
Delora Andrus, Victim's Rights Specialist
Dianne Yeaman, Irregular Part Time Legal Administrative Specialist
Hilary Anes, Irregular Part Time Legal Administrative Specialist

POPULATION

Allegan County is one of the fastest growing counties in this state by population having increased from 90,509 in 1990 to 105,665 in 2000 and then 111,407 in 2010. That is an increase of 23.09 from 1990 to 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates Allegan County's population at 118,081 in 2019. As a result, we have and will continue to experience the inevitable result of an increased workload with a limited staff.

Population by Year		% Increase
1970	66,575	
1980	81,555	22.5
1990	90,509	10.9
2000	105,665	16.7
2010	111,407	5.4
2019 - est.	118,081	5.99



<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/allegancountymichigan/PST045219>

According to Julie Mack in a story posted to MLive on April 18, 2019, *Michigan's population peaked at 10.09 million in 2006 and last exceeded the 10 million mark in 2008, on the eve of the Great Recession, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. With job losses hammering the state, the population dropped to 9.88 million by 2011, based on Census Bureau estimates. It's slowly increased since [then]. Among Michigan's 83 counties, Kent and Ottawa counties ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in population gains between 2017 and 2018. Allegan County is the 18th most populated county in Michigan, and ranks #7 in population growth.*

CRIMINAL CASE CHARGING DUTY

Under Michigan Law, it is the duty of the Prosecuting Attorney to decide "if" someone will be charged with a crime and the precise nature of that criminal prosecution. Police agencies submit their investigative reports to the Prosecuting Attorney to determine if a factual and legal basis exists to initiate prosecution. The Prosecuting Attorney has a great responsibility to properly review reports and properly charge suspects. Each investigative report, if it results in a charged crime, could result in a jury trial in District Court, Circuit Court, or Family Court/Probate Court; and a jury trial could cost Allegan County between \$300.00 and \$800.00 per day of trial. The graph on the following page shows the number of Adult and Juvenile charging requests and Abuse and Neglect charges received by our office since 2010.

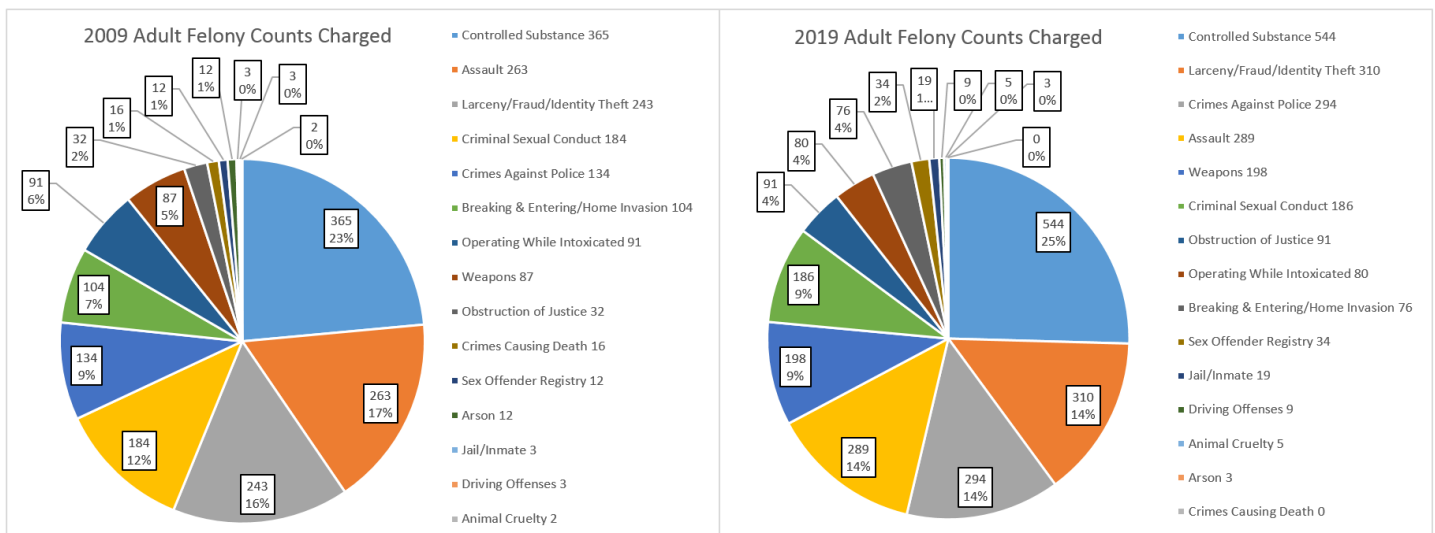
	Cases Entered in ACT/JCT						% of Charging Requests Denied		
	Adult	Denied	Juvenile	Denied	Ab/Neg	Total Rec'd	Total Denied		
2009								15.07%	Anderson/Bakker
2010	3889	682	547	103	178	4436	785	17.74%	Anderson/Bakker
2011	3901	575	486	99	194	4387	674	15.88%	Anderson/Kengis
2012	3761	615	516	88	228	4277	703	17.25%	Anderson/Kengis
2013	4307	655	448	75	221	4755	730	16.67%	Anderson/Kengis
2014	4062	633	503	85	147	4712	772	16.91%	Anderson/Kengis
2015	4237	496	434	77	146	4817	637	13.63%	Anderson/Kengis
2016	4308	512	436	77	151	4895	655	13.80%	Anderson/Kengis
2017	4827	496	438	71	76	5341	616	11.69%	Kengis/Koch
2018	5096	634	350	84	99	5545	771	14.15%	Koch/Kasson*
2019	4705	672	301	60	94	5100	732	14.62%	Koch/Kasson

*Kengis PA 1/1/18-3/16/18 Koch PA 3/17/18-12/31/18

During the last year, this office reviewed 4447 adult criminal warrant requests, 301 juvenile delinquent petitions and 94 new Abuse and Neglect petitions. On average, the office received 20.26 requests for adult and juvenile charges each day in 2019. The numbers below show how many cases were entered into our Adult Case Tracking (ACT) System and Juvenile Case Tracking (JCT) System. **(PLEASE NOTE:** The number of Adult Cases entered above vs. the number listed on page 19 varies because the number above includes Civil and Other cases entered in ACT in which warrant request forms were not submitted by an agency. Civil and Other cases for 2019 is 258. The 4447 Warrant Requests received from page 19 added to 258 equals the 4705 listed above.)

It is important that the Office of Prosecuting Attorney have a sufficient staff of attorneys to not only be available to staff the eight courtrooms and hearing rooms with their Judges and Referees but to also have attorneys available to review arrest warrant requests and search warrants. Due to the serious nature of criminal cases and county civil liability, it is necessary for Assistant Prosecutors to have a sufficient amount of time to review investigative reports and prepare cases.

The types of crimes being committed in Allegan County has shifted somewhat over the years.



The two pie charts on the previous page help illustrate that point. In 2009 and 2019, Controlled Substances remained the #1 most charged crime with 365 and 544 counts respectively. In 2019, Crimes against the Police was the #5 most charged and in 2019 it was the 3rd most charged offense.

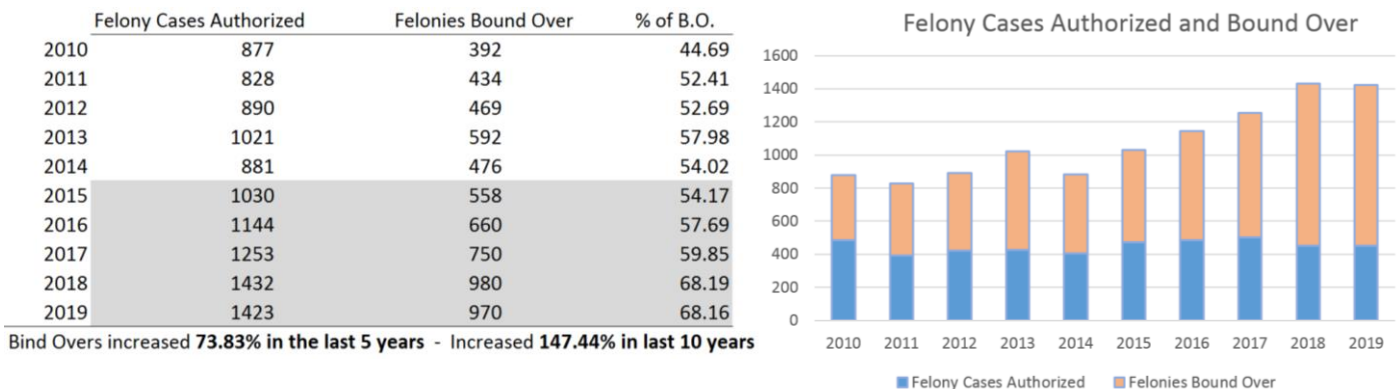
In 2008, Assaults were the 2nd most charged offense, and in 2019 it fell to #4, but the overall number still increased from 263 to 289. That is a 9.88 % increase.

Also, the laws themselves change regularly due to changes by the Michigan State Legislature. A charge that was once a Civil Infraction, can become a Misdemeanor, and likewise Misdemeanors become Civil Infractions or they may change to a Felony. For example in 2018, marijuana laws changed so that crimes that had been misdemeanors can now be Civil Infractions. Conversely, in 2015, Assault with Intent to do Great Bodily Harm changed to include strangulation, so a charge of Strangulation in the past was a misdemeanor, and now it is a felony.

The Prosecuting Attorney and staff have a tremendous impact on how the criminal element is handled in Allegan County. Economic pressures and constraints have been placed upon every segment of our governmental system. However, law enforcement (as well as our educational system) continues to be a vital link in our civilized society and must be protected. I point out to the Board of Commissioners that the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is a constitutionally mandated office in Michigan County Government and the County must fund the office at a serviceable level.

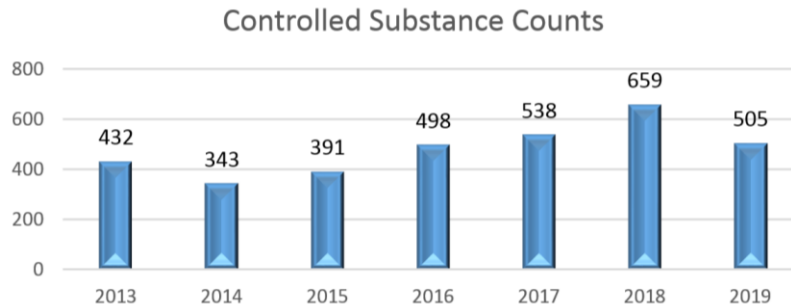
CIRCUIT COURT – FELONY CASES

The Circuit Court docket includes felony cases which are crimes where punishment is incarceration in excess of one year. Felony cases require significant staff time and multiple court appearances such as pre-exam hearings and preliminary examinations in District Court. If the case is bound over to Circuit Court, the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for all proceedings at that level including pre-trials, motion hearings, pleas, Bench or Jury trials, and sentencing. All felony cases have strict time limits both for preliminary examinations (within 14 days) and trials (within 180 days). Allegan County has two Circuit Court Judges, who are primarily responsible for handling the adult felony cases.



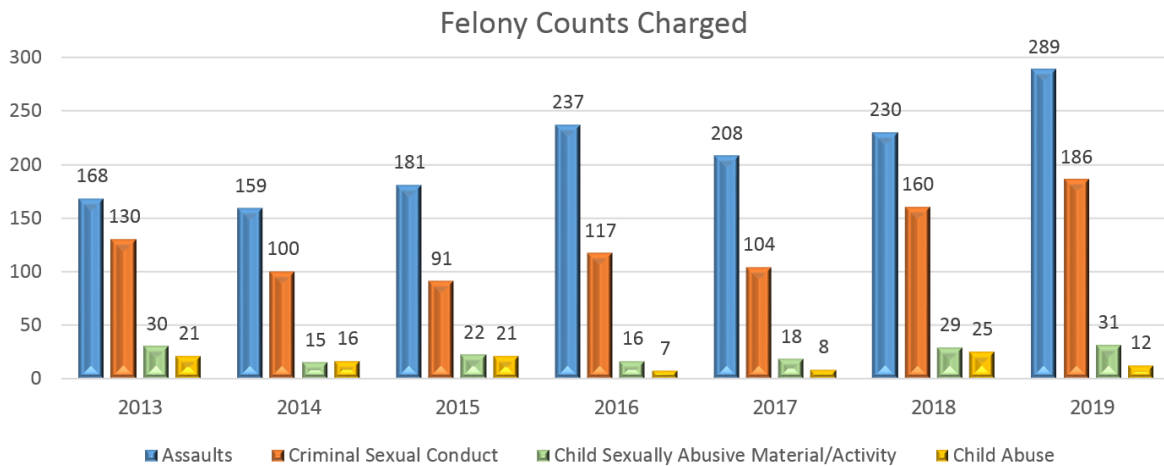
Controlled Substances

A large portion of our felony case load consists of controlled substance violations. Out of the 505 felony drug charges that were authorized, 383 or 75.84% of the drug cases were for Methamphetamine. Those charges are: Operating/Maintaining a Lab (1), Deliver/Manufacture Methamphetamine (27) and Possession of Methamphetamine (355). Of the 970 Felony Cases Bound Over during 2019, 52.06% were drug related and 39.38% were related to Methamphetamine.



Criminal Sexual Conduct

Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) charges, Child Sexually Abusive Materials and/or Activity (CSAM), Child Abuse and Assaults are included in the following graph.



Human Trafficking

In the last few years, Human Trafficking has come to the national forefront. It is defined as modern day slavery and includes recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting or providing individuals for the purpose of forced labor or services. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and

force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Many myths and misconceptions exist. Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life, and stop an offender. Not all indicators are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

Prostitution

Prostitution is a criminal act that includes the trade, barter, or exchange of sexual acts with the expectation of the receipt of economic gain or opportunity. The notion of ‘gain’ expressed in the definition of Prostitution may vary in its classification with regard to personal circumstance on a case-by-case basis. Human trafficking can play a part in this crime when the expressed intent of engaging and arranging forced sexual activity in the form of Prostitution; this type of Prostitution can involve victims ranging from adults to children. The following chart shows the number of times Prostitution or Human Trafficking was charged in Allegan County in the last 5 years.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING / PROSTITUTION

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Human Trafficking (M)	0	0	0	0	0
(F)	0	0	1	0	0
Prostitution (M)	0	1	1	1	0
(F)	0	1	7	0	0

Human Trafficking/Prostitution Charges		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Felony	Keeping a House of Ill Fame	0	0	1	0	0
	Prostitution/Pandering	0	0	2	0	0
	Prostitution/Accepting Earnings	0	0	2	0	0
	Prostitution/Transporting Person	0	0	2	0	0
	Human Trafficking of a Minor for Commercial Sexual Act	0	0	1	0	0
Misdemeanor	Prostitution/Engaging Services of	0	3	1	1	0
	Prostitution/Leasing House	0	0	0	0	0
		0	3	9	1	0

CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION

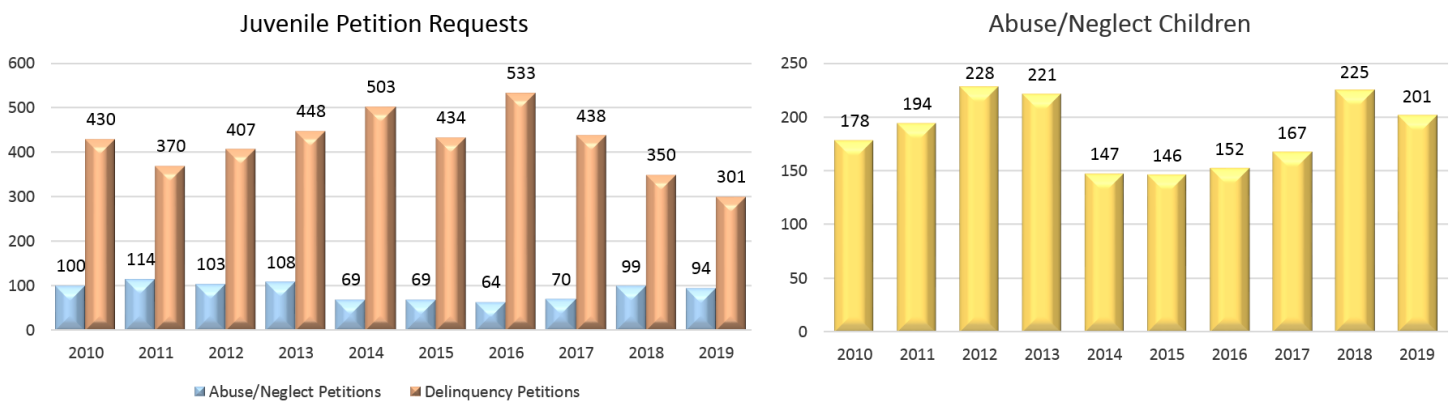
The Circuit Court – Family Division has one Family Court/Probate Judge, and two Hearing Attorney-Referees.

In the Family Court, the Prosecuting Attorney is charged with the responsibility of bringing cases of child neglect or abuse to the court, cases of juvenile delinquency, as well as involuntary commitments pursuant to the Mental Health Code in Probate Court.

In 2019, this office reviewed 301 requests for delinquency petitions, reviewed 94 petitions for new Abuse and Neglect cases, and filed 18 petitions to terminate the parental rights of one or both parents in Abuse and Neglect cases.

It is necessary to regularly appear for involuntary commitment hearings of the mentally ill. These hearings are held every month at the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital (KPH). Our county is on a rotation schedule with 14 other counties, and our office attends 4 times a year. These Hearings require an APA from our office travel to Kalamazoo on the days our Probate Judge and his recorder are scheduled to conduct these hearings. Occasionally, our Probate Court will hear these hearings in Allegan County. During 2019, there were 13 hearings set in the Allegan County Probate Court that our office was required to attend. These cases include many people that are a serious threat to the public or themselves.

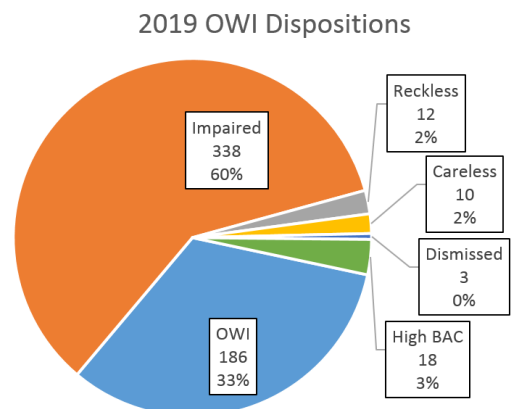
Below is the number of new Petitions received for Delinquency and Abuse/Neglect as well as how many children were involved in new Abuse and Neglect Cases authorized since 2010.



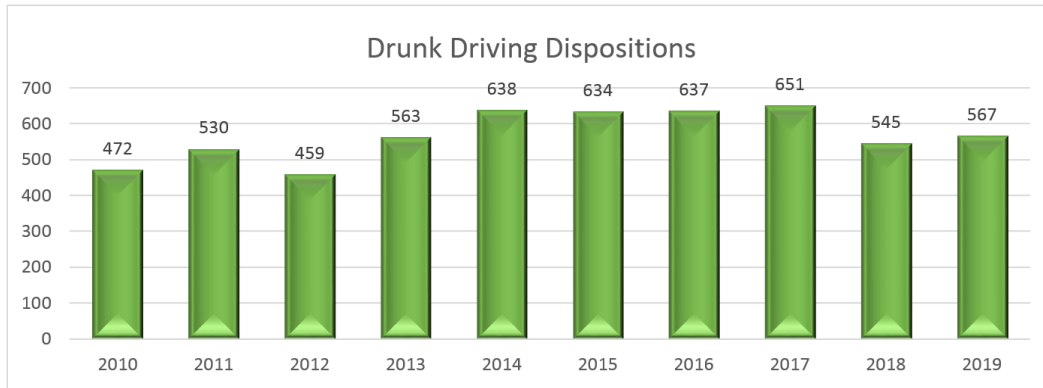
DISTRICT COURT – MISDEMEANOR CASES

Misdemeanor cases are crimes handled in District Court where punishment results in incarceration in the county jail for up to one year. Allegan County has two District Court Judges and a Hearing Magistrate. These types of cases are large in number and include, assaults (domestic and others), drunk driving, drug use or possession, and property crimes. As a matter of policy, this office has sought and received significant jail terms for repeat drunk drivers and domestic assault defendants.

In 2019, 92.41% (524) of the 567 individuals who were charged with Drunk Driving were convicted of either



Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) or Impaired Driving. The pie chart on the previous page shows what the final disposition was on individuals charged with OWI. The graph below shows the total number of Drunk Driving Case Dispositions from 2010 to 2019.



In some cases, OWI and Reckless Driving can rise to a Felony level. In 2016, there were 2 cases of OWI Causing Death, 7 cases of OWI Causing Serious Injury, and 1 case of Reckless Driving Causing Serious Injury.

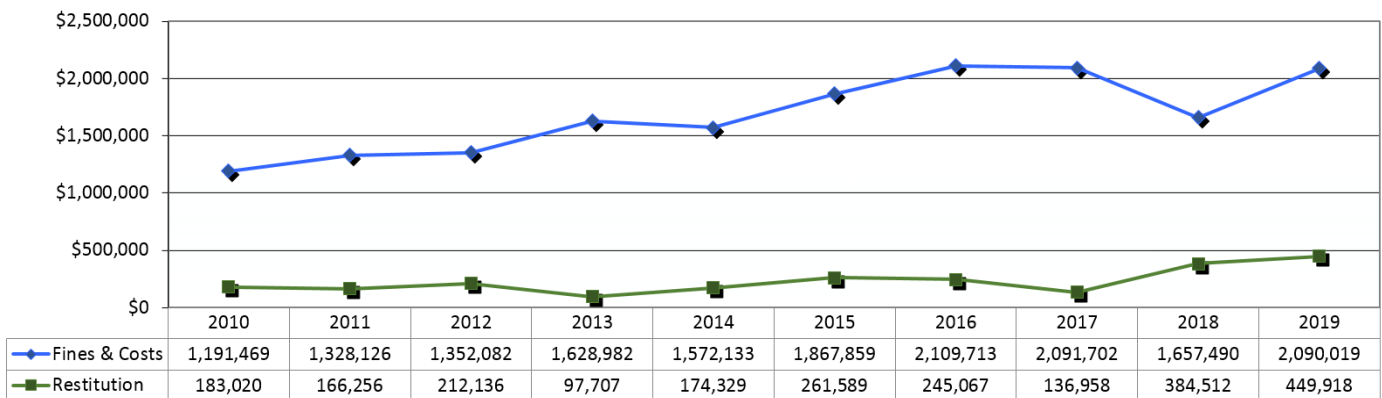
In 2017, there were 2 counts of OWI Causing Death, 5 counts of OWI Causing Serious Injury, and 1 count of Reckless Driving Causing Serious Injury.

In 2018, there were 4 counts of OWI Causing Death, 7 counts of OWI Causing Serious Injury, 1 count of Reckless Driving Causing Death, and 2 counts of Reckless Driving Causing Serious Injury.

In 2019, there were 74 felony level Operating While Intoxicated counts authorized and 2 counts of Felony level Operating with a High BAC.

MISDEMEANOR FINES, COSTS & RESTITUTION

The chart below shows what the District Court has ordered in regards to fines, costs, and restitution where this office has actively been involved.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

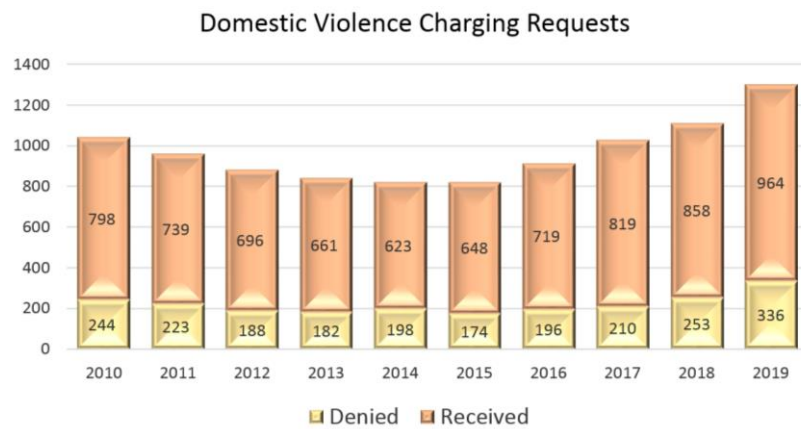
Domestic Violence is abuse perpetrated by one or both partners involved within an intimate or family relationship. Domestic Violence is considered to be fairly expansive in nature, due to the fact that it may include a wide range of victims, activities, and vary in severity. The term “Domestic Violence” can include physical assault, property damage, arson, home invasion, weapons charges, telephone misuse, interfering with electronic communication (interrupting a phone call for help), stalking, emotional abuse, unlawful imprisonment, sexual abuse, and homicide.

Domestic Violence can take place within a variety of intimate relationships, including married couples, individuals who are cohabitating, individuals considered to be intimately involved or child/parent relationship. Domestic Violence is not specific to sexual orientation or economic group.

When children are subjected to Domestic Violence it can often result in the perpetuation of violence.

Despite the existence of institutions providing resources, shelter, and assistance through the legal system, it is estimated that only about 50% of Domestic Violence cases are reported.

The graph on the right outlines the number of requests we receive each year for charges relating to Domestic Violence.



In 1998, the 57th District Court, at the request of this office and the Allegan County Domestic Violence Task Force, implemented a Domestic Violence Diversion Program where first-time offenders are given the opportunity to receive counseling and avoid criminal convictions. The pre-requisites for acceptance into the program are specific, and one cannot qualify if there is aggravated physical injury or a history of Domestic Violence. The goal of the program is to stop the cycle of violence. The statistics from the 57th District Courts Annual Report are extremely encouraging for successful results from this program.

In 2015, a change in the law made strangulation a 10 year felony, instead of a 93 day misdemeanor. Our office held training for local law enforcement outlining the changes in the laws. In 2015 our office charged 11 counts of Assault Causing Great Bodily Harm Less Than Murder and 38 counts of Strangulation. In 2016 our office charged 15 counts of Assault Causing Great Bodily Harm Less Than

Murder and 54 counts of Strangulation. In 2017, our office charged 38 counts of Assault Causing Great Bodily Harm Less Than Murder and 18 counts of Strangulation. In 2018 our office charged 55 counts of Assault Causing Great Bodily Harm Less Than Murder, which at that point encompasses strangulation as well. In 2019, there were 56 counts of Assault Causing Great Bodily Harm Less Than Murder.

SPECIALTY COURTS

As the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, it is an important part of our duties to respond to concerns of the community. One example is the participation of this office in the use of the Allegan County Mental Health Court, the Drug Treatment Court, West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court and Sobriety Treatment Courts. These programs require assigning an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney to attend program meetings and hearings in court.

Mental Health Treatment Court

On September 14, 2009, Judge Skocelas together with representatives from the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, Allegan City Police, Allegan County Prosecutor's Office, Allegan County Community Mental Health, Michigan State Police, local defense attorneys and local substance abuse providers (OAR) to create a Mental Health Treatment Court.

During the year 2019, 24 people applied to the program, 5 people were admitted into the program, and 19 people were rejected. 17 people graduated successfully from the program. The number of graduates included participants that were admitted in 2018 as well as 2019.

Drug Treatment Court

The first participant was admitted into the Adult Drug Treatment Court on June 30, 2011 and is presided over by District Court Judge Baillargeon. The Allegan County Drug Treatment Court addresses the revolving-door cycle in which drug and alcohol offenders moved in and out of the justice system. Drug Treatment Court provides a comprehensive, sustained continuum of therapeutic interventions, treatment and other services to increase a participant's periods of abstinence and reduce relapse, re-arrest and subsequently incarceration.

During 2019, 35 people applied for the program. 6 people were admitted, 29 were rejected and 4 graduated from the program. The number of graduates included participants that were admitted in 2018 as well as 2019.

Veteran's Court

The West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court began operation on February 7, 2014 and Magistrate Daniel Norbeck is the Administrator/Case manager. The jurisdiction of the Veteran's Treatment Court is that of both the district and circuit courts of Allegan, Van Buren and Ottawa counties, but also accepts veterans from surrounding counties. It was developed and organized by Judge Baillargeon and the treatment court team to help veteran participants address underlying service related issues.

Partnering with the court from all three counties are county commissioners, judges, prosecutors, probation, law enforcement, mentors, community supervision providers, treatment providers, the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration, veteran employment representatives and veterans service organization service officers.

During the year 2019, 8 people applied for the program. 4 people were admitted and 8 graduated successfully. The number of graduates included participants that were admitted in 2018 as well as 2019.

Sobriety Treatment Court

The Sobriety Court was established in April of 2018 and is presided over by Judge Baillargeon. This was specifically designed to address Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) 2nd Offense. This program has three goals: divert from jail, eliminate substance use among substance abusers and to reduce OWI recidivism.

During the year 2019, 24 people applied to the program, 13 were admitted, 11 were rejected and 21 graduated successfully. The number of graduates included participants that were admitted in 2018 as well as 2019. Sobriety Court currently has 3 therapy groups with a maximum of 10 people allowed in each group at one time. This is the only Specialty Court that has a limit of how many people can be in at one time.

OTHER CASE DUTIES

The Prosecuting Attorney also is responsible for enforcement of approximately 253 mandated duties created by 373 different statutes including from advising various county departments and agencies to making sure the annual county real estate tax sale is completed correctly.

This office is a part of the Southwest Michigan Enforcement Team (SWET). The team's top priorities are to: reduce the number of lives lost due to drug overdoses, investigate, dismantle, and successfully prosecute major drug trafficking organizations and be an investigative resource to police

agencies in Southwest Michigan. SWET is comprised of sworn Law Enforcement personnel from the Berrien County Sheriff’s Office, Allegan County Sheriff’s Office, Allegan City Police Department, Barry County Sheriff’s Office, Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office, Covert Township Police Department, Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office, Kalamazoo Township Police Department, Michigan State Police, South Haven City Police Department, St. Joseph County Sheriff’s Office and Sturgis City Police Department.

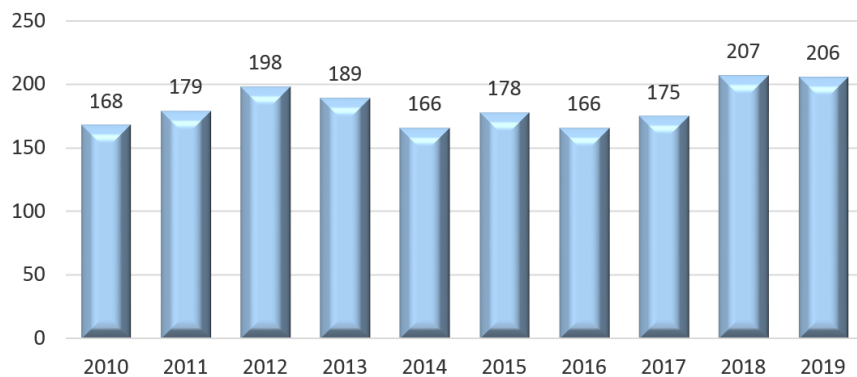
SWET is funded in part by the Michigan HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) as well as the U.S. Department of Justice, Byrne JAS Grant. As a member of this team, our office will now receive 20% of any contested civil forfeiture and 10% of any administrative civil forfeiture.

The Allegan County Prosecutor’s Office participates in the Allegan County Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team as a part of a memorandum of understanding with 10 other agencies pursuant to the Child Abuse Investigation Protocol mandated by the State of Michigan. The team reviews all cases of suspected child sexual abuse

and severe physical abuse. The reviews include monitoring child forensic interviews and a monthly case review process of those interviews. On average, this team reviews approximately 140 cases of child abuse, criminal sexual

conduct and child sexually abusive material every month. An interview of a child typically takes one hour to complete, and assistant prosecutors are present for that part of the investigation. Interviews are conducted by a trained forensic specialist, while the remainder of the team views the interview over closed circuit video at the Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy Center or through the use of poly-com technology from the Prosecutor’s Office. This system was made possible by a grant through Safe Harbor and allows Assistant Prosecutors to be present for the interviews while not leaving the office.

Forensic Interviews



ON CALL DUTIES

A Prosecuting Attorney is on call twenty-four hours a day. The Prosecutor is required to consult with police agencies, issue arrest warrants even during evenings, weekends and holidays and be available to prepare search warrants (which are usually needed at the most inconvenient times).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Prosecuting Attorney continues to be active in several different areas related to criminal justice. The involvement includes membership and participation in the following agencies and organizations:

- o Vice President - Board of Directors of *Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center*,
- o Co-Chair - *Allegan County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence*,
- o Chair - *Case Review Multi-Disciplinary Team*,
- o Chair - *Child Advocacy Center Advisory Committee*
- o Member - *Allegan County Substance Abuse Prevention Counsel*,
- o Member - *Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan*,
- o Member - *Child Death Review Committee*,
- o Member - *MACC*
- o Chief Chair - *Allegan County Law Enforcement Council (ACLEC)*
- o Trainer for the *Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan*
- o Member - *Allegan County Safe Schools Committee*,

OFFICE UPDATES

Canine Advocate - Joey

In 2019, our office received our newest Victim Advocate, Joey. Joey, our K9 Advocate, began working with us July 11, 2019. He is a yellow lab. His primary handler is Emelda Calanchi-Pope, our Victim/Witness Coordinator, and his secondary handler is Judy Kasson, our Chief Assistant Prosecutor. Joey was sworn in at a ceremony on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 3:00pm in Circuit Court.



Joey received nearly \$40,000 worth of training through Leader Dogs for the Blind and the Canine

Advocacy Program. We were able to secure grant funding to cover his costs.



Joey has a Facebook page (Joey – Allegan County K9 Advocate) and posts positive messages and pictures in support of various events, such as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Anti-Bullying day, the 4th of July, etc.

Joey has also visited other offices in the court house for Halloween and Valentine's Day as a way to support and bring a little joy to other people's day.

New Employees in 2019

Delora Andrus, Victim Rights Specialist. Started 04/08/2019

Meredith Beidler, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Started 05/23/2019

Jay Rolland, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Started 06/24/2019.

Joey, Canine Advocate. Started 07/11/2019

Janie Hernandez, Part Time Victim Advocate. Started 11/25/2019

Jeff Rhoa, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Started 12/11/2019

New Initiatives

1. Meth Regional Task Force
2. Translation of Victim Rights forms
3. Translation services for victim appointments
4. Increase training county wide

CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Most crime victims experience physical suffering, financial loss, and emotional distress. Physical injuries occur in nearly one-third of all violent crimes. Our Victim Assistance Program provides an extensive notification service to victims to advise them of each court proceeding as their case moves through the court system. In 2019, the Victim Assistance Program provided over 8995 contacts with victims throughout the year. This is a very important function of this office and is mandated by the Crime Victims Rights Act. During 2019, our office provided services by way of letter, telephone contact and email, providing support to victims in court and providing appointments with victims of various crimes. The Victim/Witness Coordinator serves as the primary contact for victims of Domestic Violence, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Drunk Driving or Driving Under the Influence of Controlled Substance Causing Death or Serious Injury. This contact includes explaining of rights, court procedures, services, shelter alternative and assistance. Our Victim Assistance Program is funded by a grant of \$163,378.00 from the Michigan

Crime Victim Services Commission. This fund is used to employ both a full time Victim Rights Coordinator, full time Victim’s Rights Secretary, and a part time Victim Advocate Specialist, who will assist the Victim/Witness Coordinator.

The Allegan County Victim/Witness Coordinator has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology with over twenty-nine years of experience working with child and adult victims.

APPEALS

Each person who is convicted of a crime in Michigan is entitled to appeal his or her conviction. The Prosecuting Attorney has the obligation to represent Allegan County in opposing each appeal. Appellate cases require meticulous research in the preparation of lengthy legal briefs, as well as appearances in the various appellate courts. These are vitally important areas of endeavor. If we are not successful in the appeals in the higher courts of the state, the efforts of our office as well as the police departments are futile.

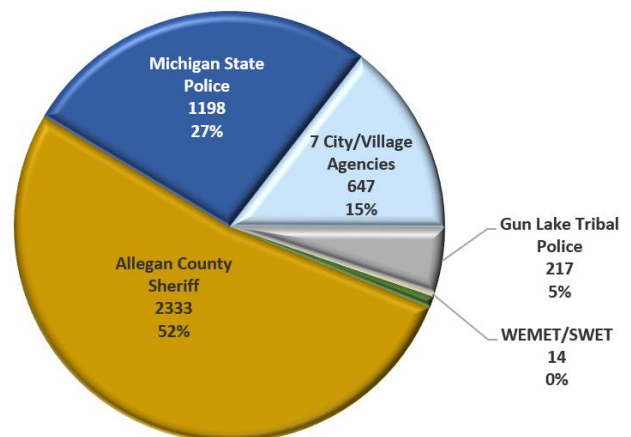
In 2019, our office filed 12 post-conviction pleadings with, as well as attended 2 oral arguments at the Michigan Court of Appeals in Grand Rapids. During this same time 14 pleadings and 44 correspondences were received and reviewed for cases pending in the Court of Appeals. Our office filed 1 pleadings with the Michigan Supreme Court while receiving 7 pleadings and 6 correspondences. Our office also filed 14 post-conviction pleadings on appeals in the Circuit Court, either as appeals from the District Court, remands from the Court of Appeals, or in post-conviction matters. Our office received 40 pleading and correspondences for appeals in Circuit Court. From those, 6 hearings were attended in the Circuit Court.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

This office serves all the law enforcement agencies in Allegan County including the Sheriff’s Office, the State Police, DNR, and the Cities of Plainwell, Otsego, Wayland, Holland, Allegan, Douglas, Fennville and Gun Lake Tribal Police Department. The Gun Lake Tribal Police was established in 2012.

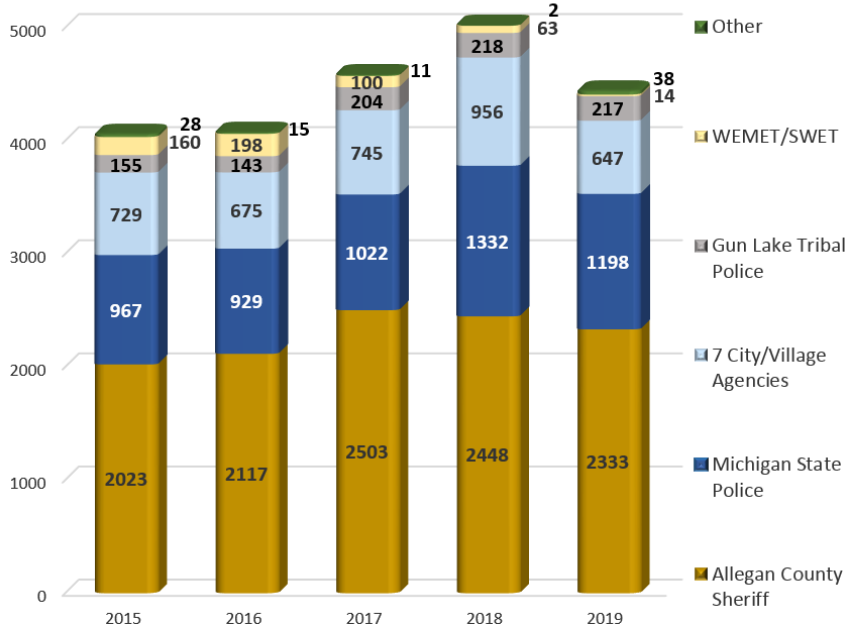
As the gatekeeper of all criminal activity from the policing agencies to the court system it is critical to our criminal justice system to adequately staff the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and not compromise the public safety of the citizens of Allegan

2019 Agency Request for Warrants



County. The pie chart on the previous page shows of all the charging requests we received in 2019, what the percentage was from each department. Below is a graph showing what the agencies have submitted

Agency Requests for Warrants



over the last 5 years. The chart below shows all the agencies that have submitted warrant requests since 2012.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Allegan County Sheriff's Dept.	1933	2167	1957	2023	2117	2503	2448	2333
Michigan State Police	638	960	933	967	929	1022	1332	1198
All Local City & Village Agencies:								
Allegan PD	223	187	185	155	176	167	199	223
Fennville PD		20	10	8	17	15	19	10
Hopkins PD	8	11	8	1	1	1	-	-
Holland PD	30	24	19	22	18	11	7	34
Otsego PD	93	118	97	106	85	106	116	120
Plainwell DPS	136	148	124	123	100	129	123	100
Saugatuck/Douglas PD	132	124	126	127	120	126	-	-
Douglas PD (2018)	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	60
Wayland PD	185	162	184	184	157	189	170	99
Total City/Village Agencies	807	795	754	729	675	745	956	646
Gun Lake Tribal Police	58	114	122	155	143	204	218	217
WEMET/SWET	122	107	89	160	198	100	63	14
All Other Agencies:								
Dept of Nat. Resources	24	32	14	21	4	5	14	27
Office of Insp. General	23	24	57	2	4	5	5	6
SCAR	3	4	-	4	3	1	1	2
Dept. Environ. Quality	-	-	1	1	0	-	0	-
Alpena Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Barry Co.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Berrien Co.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Kalamazoo Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ottawa Co	-	-	1	-	4	-	1	2
Van Buren Co.	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kalamazoo City PD	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Grand Haven City PD	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
South Haven City PD	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hastings City PD	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Wyoming City PD	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zeeland City PD	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total All Other Agencies	55	63	75	28	15	11	22	39
Yearly Totals	4475	5064	4759	4819	4767	5341	5726	4447

CONCLUSION

I look forward to working with other members of the law enforcement community to help make Allegan County a safe place in which to work, live, and raise a family.

Respectfully submitted,
Myrene K. Koch
Prosecuting Attorney