

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

### **Arrests**

An arrest is recorded when at least one suspect is arrested, cited, or referred for prosecution for a crime. "Total Arrests" indicate the number of approved arrest reports within each date range. The "Charges on Arrests" table shows the top charges on those arrests. Arrest data for the Crime in Washington report is compiled slightly differently and is based on the NIBRS categorization of the offense rather than the NIBRS categorization of the charge.

### **Cases Closed/Cleared**

Criminal cases are cleared by arrest, or in some circumstances, by exceptional means (the suspect died, is imprisoned on another charge, victim refuses to testify, etc.). The types of case closures are as follows:

**Cleared by Arrest:** A case can be closed by arrest when at least one suspect is positively identified, and charges are recommended to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This closure does not require physical booking into a jail or juvenile detention facility. It also does not require the charging of all suspects, if there are multiple suspects in the crime, or of charges for all offenses, if there are multiple offenses in a crime. This category includes criminal citations into district and municipal courts for misdemeanors and felony filings into Superior Court, as well as all filings into Juvenile Court.

**Exceptional Clearance:** A case can be closed "exceptional" if it can be established that a crime has been committed and the identity of a suspect is positively confirmed, but due to circumstances beyond our control, no charges are filed. An example of this type of closure is a case in which the victim declines to assist in prosecution. Another example is when another police agency files charges on a related crime stemming from the same incident. (Car stolen in King County, but suspect arrested in the stolen car in Bellevue. Bellevue P.D. charges the suspect with possession of the stolen car. We close the stolen car case "exceptional.")

**Unfounded:** Cases are closed as "unfounded" when the investigation reveals that no crime has been committed. An example would be the report of a theft by one party that is determined to be a false report by interviewing other independent witnesses. Reports of crimes determined false are typically not included on this report. Unfounded cases are not included on NIBRS statistics.

**Administrative Clearance:** This clearance is used primarily to close non-criminal police investigations like found property. For instance, if a citizen finds and turns over to police a wallet and investigation reveals who the owner of the wallet is and the item is returned to that person. Only non-administrative clearances are included on this report.

### **Dispatched Calls for Service**

Calls received in the Communications Center which result in one or more patrol units being dispatched.

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic Violence is a subcategory to other offenses that occurs when the offense is committed by one family or household member against another. Family or household members are spouses, former spouse, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who have a child in common, former/current roommates, persons who have or had a dating relationship, and persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationships, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparent and grandchildren. In some cases, the age of the victim or suspect may determine whether or not the legal definition above is met. For the purposes of this report, cases in this jurisdiction or investigated by this jurisdiction's police that have at least one domestic violence offense associated are counted.

**City of Shoreline**  
Annual Statistics 2023  
Crime Analysis Unit

**NIBRS**

The National Incident-Based Reporting System is an update to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program that is intended to capture more details on crime incidents than the previous Summary Reporting System (SRS). Starting in 2021, the FBI will require agencies to submit data through NIBRS. For more information on the NIBRS transition, visit [www.fbi.gov/nibrs](http://www.fbi.gov/nibrs).

While this report uses NIBRS terminology to categorize offenses, it is intended to provide useful working data and should not be viewed as the official crime statistics for the jurisdiction. For official crime statistics, visit <https://www.waspc.org/crime-statistics-nibrs->.

NIBRS divides crime into three major categories. This report provides data on selected offenses within each category:

**Crimes Against Persons:** Included offenses are murder and non-negligent homicide, negligent manslaughter, human trafficking for commercial sex acts and involuntary servitude, assault, kidnapping (custodial interference excluded), and sex offenses (e.g. rape, sexual assault, child molestation and related). These are defined as crimes against persons because the victims are always individuals. The State of Washington includes violation of no-contact or protection orders in this category as well.

**Crimes Against Property:** The object of Crimes Against Property is to obtain (or destroy) money, property, or some other benefit. Burglary, fraud, vandalism, robbery, motor vehicle theft, arson, and larceny all fall into this category.

**Crimes Against Society:** Crimes against society are offenses against society's prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity and typically do not have individual victims. Some offenses in this category include illegal drug activity, prostitution-related offenses, and weapon law violations.

**Response Times/Priorities**

**Priority X - Critical Dispatch:** This category is used for those calls that pose an obvious threat to the safety of persons. Examples include shootings, stabbings and in-progress crimes such as robberies or burglaries where the possibility of a confrontation between a victim and suspect exists.

**Priority 1 - Immediate Dispatch:** This category is used for those calls that require immediate police action. Examples include silent alarms, injury traffic accidents, in-progress crimes or crimes that have just occurred where a suspect may still be in the immediate area.

**Priority 2 - Prompt Dispatch:** This category is used for those calls that could escalate to a more serious degree if not policed quickly. Examples include verbal disturbances and blocking traffic accidents.

**Priority 3 - Routine Dispatch:** This category is used for those calls where response time is not a critical factor. Examples include burglaries and larcenies that are not in progress, audible alarms, or other routine reports.

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<sup>i</sup> Because data is pulled from the case itself in the report management system (RMS), and only pulling approved cases, there may be different results for the same time period depending on when the data is pulled. What is being provide is a "snapshot" at a given time and not considered official crime statistics.

<sup>ii</sup> NIBRS reporting for a city will only track offenses with that city as a "Primary Agency". This will exclude some crime that occurred within the geographical boundaries of the city and is intended to exclude crimes investigated by King County Metro Transit and Sound Transit police. While in most cases the primary agency will be correctly assigned, we have found that sometimes offenses have been incorrectly assigned to unincorporated King County, especially in cities where unincorporated units handle many of the calls. NIBRS statistics for a given time period are not fixed once initially generated – they can be updated every month as new developments occur and will also (usually) be based on the date of the offense rather than the date of the initial report. We only upload official NIBRS stats on a monthly basis and require report approval before upload. Because of this, there can also be some delay before WASPC records a crime, especially when complex cases are involved.

<sup>iii</sup> Includes bookings at time of incident, warrant arrests, and referrals for prosecution.

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<sup>v</sup> NIBRS offense codes are aligned to the internal KCSO Final Classification Codes (FCRs) in a standardized manner except that when the Records Unit manually changes a NIBRS code on a report (in accordance with NIBRS rules), then the FCR and NIBRS code may not match.