

August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023



## MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Education & Prevention Annual Report



MERIDIAN ANTI-DRUG COALITION  
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



Boys & Girls Club, Family Night



Pleasant View Elementary, Red Ribbon Week Assembly



Youth Safety Academy, K9 Demonstration

# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

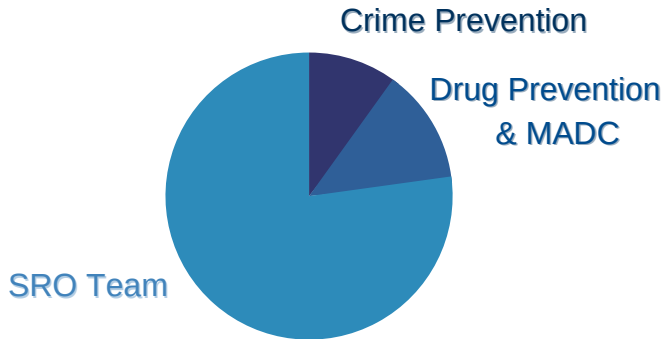


## Introduction

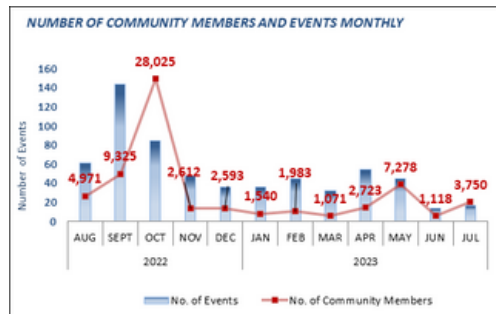
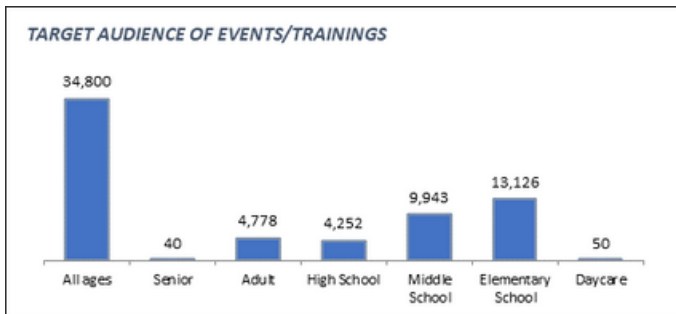
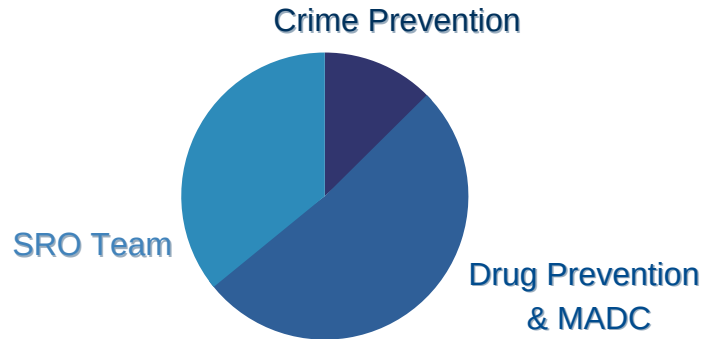
The Meridian Police Department's mission is *to provide the highest quality service in partnership with our community, to preserve and protect life and property through **education, prevention and enforcement***. As we continuously work to fulfill our mission, we provide a variety of education and prevention efforts throughout the community. This annual report highlights the prevention and education efforts provided by the School Resource Officer, Drug Prevention / Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition and Crime Prevention Units. In addition to our many partnerships, the work we do with West Ada School District helps strengthen and foster relationships creating a community where people can safely live, work, and raise a family.

From August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023, The Meridian Police Department facilitated **605** prevention events and trainings throughout the year, reaching **66,534** community members. These educational opportunities covered a variety of topics, reached all age groups and were held at a variety of locations throughout the City of Meridian.

### 605 TOTAL PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS



### 66,534 TOTAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED





## School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit

The SRO Team has grown over the last year, thanks to the support of our city leaders, West Ada School District, and the department, who all value the importance of specially trained officers working in our schools. The team now consists of 16 Officers, 2 Corporals, and 1 Sergeant. We are assigned to 37 schools in Meridian but also work with other schools within city limits that are not part of the West Ada School District. Our officers are assigned to elementary, middle, and high schools. Meridian's SROs serve their schools under the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Triad Model, which promotes three vital roles our SROs are tasked with. We carefully select each individual for the SRO position, which along with their police training, takes on the role of (1) Public Safety Educator, (2) Informal Counselor/Mentor, as well as them being (3) a Law Enforcement Officer.

As their Sergeant, I have seen firsthand the SROs' relationships with their students and teachers, whether it was helping a student with a drone project which allowed the student to assist in flying one of our police drones or helping ease the stress of a special needs student by playing race cars until parents arrived, taking "funny" photos with the school staff or helping coach sports teams at the school. During a recent Fourth of July event, an SRO was approached by former and current students, who all thanked him for being their SRO. A young mother sent her three kids to him to tell him he was her SRO ten years ago. These are just a few examples of the importance of the SRO program. When a student can reach out to their SRO as a friend or confidant, it allows the educational process to grow and cultivates a bond that will produce a partnership within our community.

Our SROs are also instrumental in the safety of our schools by providing ongoing safety education and training, being a visual presence, and assisting staff and students with two lockdown drills per school year. This event occurs at all our West Ada schools, but we also help other schools with the importance of continuous training.



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Our goal is to partner with our community and ensure a safe learning environment in our schools while being a resource to the students and staff for our upcoming school year.

This upcoming school year does bring some change. We've had our SRO Sgt. of 5-plus years, and one of our most tenured SROs retire. With these changes comes a challenge. I want our SROs to refocus on being a more prominent presence at the school and within the classroom. We are continuing to educate ourselves as well. In August, we will host numerous Idaho School Resource Officers from across the Treasure Valley and other outlying county Deputy SROs with topics such as Sex and Human Trafficking, Juvenile Mental Health, Fentanyl and other dangerous drugs, and the dangers of social media just to name a few. That week will conclude with active shooter drills at a local high school. The following week, all Meridian SROs will attend NASRO (24-hour) Advanced SRO course, which focuses on legal updates, communication with school administration, and school grounds site assessment, among other topics. Most of Meridian's SROs will now have certificates in basic and advanced SRO courses.



## SRO EVENTS/TRAININGS

- Alive@25
- Criminal Justice/Law Class
- Elementary School Visits
- Internet Safety
- K9 Demonstrations/Presentations
- Life Skills Trainings
- Personal Safety
- School Safety Trainings
- Special Events
- Sporting Events

**467 SRO PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS**  
**23,889 YOUTH REACHED**



## Drug Prevention Unit & The Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition

For nearly two decades the Meridian Police Department Drug Prevention Unit and the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) have been partnering to strengthen our community through substance abuse prevention. Over the years as we have expanded our efforts, we have continued to use data driven analysis and feedback from our community to improve and expand the prevention programs we provide to community members. This collaborative effort is led by two full time staff, fourteen MADC Executive Committee members, and numerous volunteers.



### MADC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES)

- Business: Anne Little Roberts
- Civic: Susan Stertz
- Government: Kati Chauvin
- Healthcare: Brenda Willson
- Law Enforcement: Officer Rodriguez
- Media: Kelsey Winnett
- Parent: Earl Scharff
- Religious: Jake Cluff
- School: Yoonwa Saechao & Kylee Bendorf
- Substance Abuse: David Phillips
- Youth: Sydney Nate & Arjun Sandil
- Youth Serving: Danielle Fanopoulos

From August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023, the Drug Prevention Unit & the MADC engaged with community members at **78** events and trainings throughout the year reaching **34,285** people. We formed new partnerships with Connection is the Cure, the Meridian Gathering Place and the Northwest Alcohol Conference. During Red Ribbon Week we provided 26,000 educational materials (a new record) to 34 schools within West Ada School District (WASD). Drug Prevention staff and the SRO Team were trained on and implemented the new evidence based vaping prevention program, CATCH My Breath, in partnership with Central District Health and the Boys & Girls Club. More than \$10,000 in grant funding awarded by the Idaho State Liquor Division helped fund Advanced SRO Training, drug-free school zone signs for WASD campuses, and supplies for Parent Prevention Packets, our most requested resource. In addition, The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and Idaho Association of Cities provided 500 printed



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handbooks for the packets. Also, new this year was the launch of the MADC's Newsletter enhancing communication to more than 500 coalition members. The newsletter shares information about the latest drug trends and prevention resources, partners' events, continuing education opportunities, and more.

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to expand the CATCH My Breath program, guide the City's use of opioid settlement funding, and continue to expand prevention to meet the needs of our growing community. We are also looking forward to celebrating the 20th Anniversary of MADC on January 25, 2024 and hope you will join us. (Email [madc@meridiancity.org](mailto:madc@meridiancity.org) to request additional information.)

As coalition membership, community, and statewide support continues to grow for the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition, we will continue to enhance and expand our contributions to public health through education and prevention working in partnership with units throughout the Meridian Police Department.



## April Highlights



**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:**  
congratulations to Danielle, the 2023 MADC Volunteer of the Year! She has served on the Coalition Executive Committee since April of 2021. She excels at building partnerships in the community to bridge gaps and help those in need, while consistently demonstrating compassion and empathy. A fellow volunteer said, "I feel blessed to



## DRUG PREVENTION UNIT & MADC EVENTS/TRAININGS

- Alcohol Compliance Check & Shoulder Tap Operations
- Breathalyzer Event
- Cannabis Compliance Checks
- CATCH My Breath Program
- Community Presentations
- Drug Policy Education
- Life Skills Classes
- Monthly MADC Meetings & Newsletters
- Parent Prevention Education
- Prescription Take-back Events
- Prevention Booths
- Public Safety Day
- Recovery Day Breakfast
- Red Ribbon Week
- Teens & Substance Abuse

**78 DRUG PREVENTION & MADC EVENTS/TRAININGS**

**34,285 COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED**



## Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit's mission is to develop and administer community-based crime prevention programs designed to reduce the fear of crime, reduce criminal activity, increase safety and reduce the likelihood of crime victimization.

The Crime Prevention Unit plays an active involved role with our community and provides resources, education and information to assist in keeping our community, families and businesses safe. Using community education we address the causes of crime and ways to reduce opportunities for crime to occur. Prevention is a proven method to lower costs of crime to individuals, neighborhoods and businesses. By working together, crime can be prevented.

The Crime Prevention Unit had a busy year with programs and events in the community. We graduated our 20th class of the Public Safety Academy, along with our 3rd class of the Youth Safety Academy, which was our largest class yet with 25 students. We kicked off National Prevention Week with Spring Safety Flings at all 5 of the Meridian middle schools and worked with our School Resources Officers to implement the "Student Standout" award which is awarded monthly to a student picked by SROs for being an outstanding student and positively contributing to their school, fellow classmates, and community.

This year, the Crime Prevention Unit created and implemented the Apartment Community Managers Group. With the City of Meridian continuing to grow and multi-family housing communities continuously being built, creating relationships with property managers and maintenance personnel is important. The goal of this group is to create a relationship between law enforcement and property managers in an attempt to decrease crime on their properties, as well as provide them with trainings and assistance with any issues they might be having on their property. We made contact with over 60 apartment complexes in Meridian to spread the word out about the Apartment Community Managers Group. The meetings for the Apartment Managers Group are



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held every three months and each meeting has a new training topic. The training topics have included patrol, property crimes, code enforcement, and the impact team. The Crime Prevention Unit offers apartment communities Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) security surveys, and Community Watch meetings.



From August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023 the Crime Prevention Unit planned and implemented **60** events and trainings, reaching **8,360** community members. A few notable events and trainings include:

- Youth Safety Academy
- National Night Out
- Public Safety Academy
- Spring Safety Flings



## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT EVENTS/TRAININGS

- Apartment Managers Group
- National Night Out
- Bike to School Day
- Neighborhood Watch/HOA Meetings
- Community Presentations
- Personal Safety
- Coffee with a Cop
- Prevention Booths
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Surveys
- Public/Youth Safety Academy
- Public Safety Day
- Daycare/Preschool Visits
- Spring Safety Flings
- Department Tours
- Story Time w/ An Officer
- Identity Theft Education
- Walk to School Day

**60** CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS

**8,360** COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED



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## Additional Information

### DATA COLLECTION

The information we collect to generate this annual report also includes the event location, length of the event and the target audience age groups. We examine different combinations of this data to evaluate how we can improve prevention education and outreach services for the community.

If you have questions or would like to request additional information regarding this report, please contact the Community Service Lieutenant, Shawn Harper.

sharper@meridianty.org | 208-846-7338



### SRO TEAM (2022-2023)

Sergeant Morgan Carter | [mcarter@meridianty.org](mailto:mcarter@meridianty.org)

Corporal Adnan Rudan	Officer Robert Rodriguez	Officer Marquise Mangram
Corporal Scott Frazier	Officer Jared Haustveit	Officer Danelle Barrera
Officer Greg Kortan	Officer Kirk York	Officer Josh Bridges
Officer Leroy Sunada	Officer Courtney Dozier	Officer Nick Anderson
Officer Robert Allison	Officer Dave Cushing	
Officer Jairo Villasano	Officer Mark Payne	
Officer Dallas Denney	Officer Chris Jacob	



### DRUG PREVENTION & MADC

Kendall Nagy, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator & Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition Director

[knagy@meridianty.org](mailto:knagy@meridianty.org) | 208-846-7313

Hailey Blogg, Anti-Drug Coalition Coordinator & Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition Secretary

[hblogg@meridianty.org](mailto:hblogg@meridianty.org) | 208-846-7395



### CRIME PREVENTION

Jennifer Abrao, Crime Prevention Specialist

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Lindsay Maryon, Crime Prevention Specialist

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