

# MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



# Education & Prevention Annual Report



MERIDIAN ANTI-DRUG COALITION  
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024



West Ada School District hosts the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition 20 Year Celebration



Public Safety Day



Reading with an Officer

# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

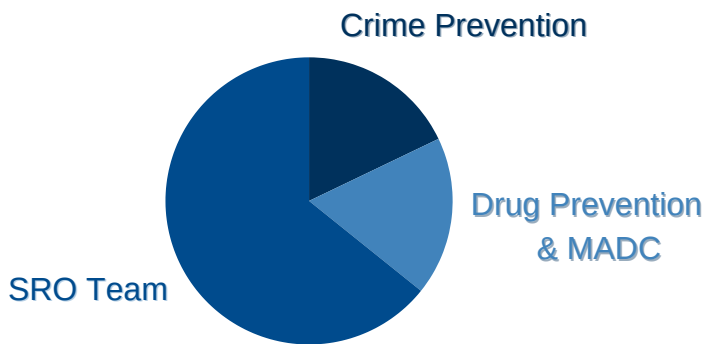


## Introduction

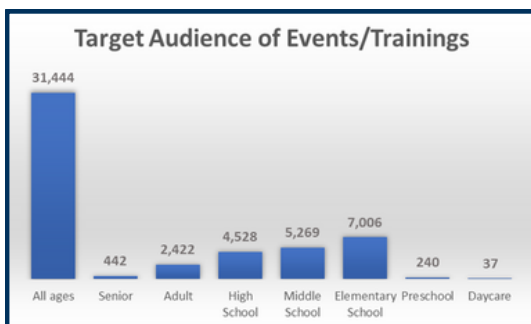
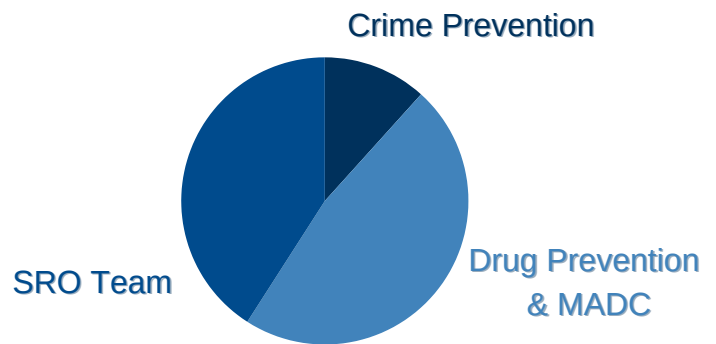
The Meridian Police Department's mission is *to provide the highest quality service in partnership with our community, to preserve and protect life and property through **education, prevention, and enforcement***. As we continuously work to fulfill our mission, we implement a variety of education and prevention strategies 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, 2023 through July 31, 2024, The Meridian Police Department facilitated **397** prevention events and trainings throughout the year, reaching **51,299** 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.

### 397 TOTAL PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS



### 51,299 TOTAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED







## School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit

The Meridian Police Department SROs had a tremendous 2023-2024 school year. With the support of the West Ada School District, the City of Meridian, and the Meridian Police Department, we were able to have a positive impact on the students, parents, and staff of the 32 schools we serve within the City of Meridian. This school year brought some great changes to the SRO Unit with the addition of a second Sergeant. While the SRO team still operates as one unit, the team is split into two parts, with half the team stationed at Central Station (our main campus) and the other half stationed at the new North Station. This new station has allowed us to meet the needs of our growing city to serve our community better.

Meridian SROs serve their school under the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) model, which promotes each being a Public Safety Educator, Informal Counselor/Mentor, and Law Enforcement Officer. Our SROs are assigned to elementary, middle, and high schools. This allows our carefully selected Officers to strive to positively impact the lives of the students they interact with through education, prevention, and enforcement. SROs interact with students daily and build trust with them during the school year, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for learning.

Throughout the school year, the SRO supervisors maintain regular interaction with our SROs, providing a firsthand view of their impactful interactions with the students. Students often visit their office or engage with them during passing periods. Many of the SROs teach various law enforcement or safety-related topics, furthering their role as educators and mentors. Meridian SROs genuinely care for the students and strive to be positive role models. While enforcement actions are occasionally necessary, our primary goal is always to guide the students toward a path of success. We are committed to seeing each student grow and mature into responsible citizens within our city.

During the 2023-2024 school year, MPD SROs attended various school functions and activities, demonstrating their active presence and commitment to the school community. These activities include home football and basketball games and attending proms and graduations. During school hours, SROs are visually present at the schools, ensuring the safety and



# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT



well-being of students and staff. During students' morning and afternoon arrival, SROs frequently enforce traffic laws around the school to ensure the students are safe during high-traffic periods. In addition, SROs assist the West Ada School District with lockdown drills at all of their schools, further emphasizing our commitment to preparedness and safety.

The 2024-2025 school year will bring some changes and additions to the MPD SRO Unit. We have been approved for a second Corporal and look forward to the addition. Adding a second Corporal will allow us to serve the school district and our current SROs better. The SRO Corporals will be in the field daily and assist SROs with investigations. This will allow SROs to stay at their schools more often, rather than assisting their fellow SROs with investigations. Our goal is for our SROs to invest as much time as possible in the schools they serve, and we believe this new addition will make a tremendous impact. All of our SROs will continue to attend training opportunities during the summer months and will attend a week-long training prior to the start of the new school year to better prepare for the start of school. Schools are constantly evolving and changing, and we as a department strive to stay current with these changes.

The Meridian PD SRO Unit thanks all who have helped make it a success. We will continue to strive to be the best we can, working with the community and the West Ada School District to provide the highest-quality service we can.



## SRO EVENTS/TRAININGS

- Alive@25
- Criminal Justice/Law Class
- Elementary School Visits
- Internet Safety
- Drug & Vaping Education
- K9 Demonstrations/Presentations
- Life Skills Trainings
- Personal Safety
- Lock Down Drills
- School Safety Trainings
- Sporting Events
- Prom & Graduation Events

**255 SRO PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS**

**20,992 YOUTH REACHED**





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

For more than 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. We use data driven analysis, and feedback from our community, to improve and expand the prevention programs we provide. This collaborative effort is led by two full time staff, fourteen MADC Executive Committee members, community partners, 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: *Open Position*
- Parent: Earl Scharff
- Religious: Jake Cluff
- School: Yoonwa Saechao & Kylee Bendorf
- Substance Abuse: David Phillips
- Youth: Caylee May
- Youth Serving: Danielle Fanopoulos

From August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024, the Drug Prevention Unit & the MADC engaged with community members at **71** events and trainings throughout the year reaching **24,312** people.

One highlight from the year was celebrating the coalition's twentieth anniversary. West Ada School District (WASD) hosted the event which brought together prevention partners from the past and present, including Former Mayor Tammy De Weerd who started the coalition. Attendees left inspired after hearing about the personal impact programs have made in the lives of community members. Another highlight was successfully implementing a solution to address the concerns of parents, regarding marijuana dispensary advertising. City leadership shared those concerns and approved a code update, making it illegal for dispensaries to advertise in Meridian (Meridian Unified Development Code 11-3D-4).

After reviewing WASD violation data from the 2023-2024 school year we were excited to see vape related violations have declined (the most common type of violation). Partnerships are the foundation of successful prevention, which are at the root of those data changes. Last year we



# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

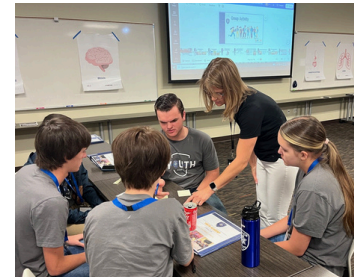


partnered with WASD and Central District Health to implement the *CATCH My Breath* evidence based vaping prevention program. This year we are starting to see the results of those efforts.

Parent Prevention Packets are the most requested resource we provide, and it has been through the support of community donations that we have been able to provide more than 1500 packets over the last year. Wienhoff Drug Testing has donated hundreds of drug tests to be used as positive prevention tools and Select Health and Beniton Construction have donated funds to print the booklets included in the packets. These resources are shared with families at a variety of school and community events.

After reconnecting with partners, past and present, and reviewing feedback from attendees at the twenty-year celebration; we are working to identify and implement another evidence-based prevention program and increase our collaboration with youth.

As the coalition grows alongside our community we will continue to enhance and expand our contributions to public health, through education and prevention, while working with a wide variety of prevention partners. It truly is a team effort, and those efforts are reaching far beyond our community. A resident in California recently emailed the coalition saying, "I have a client who lives in Idaho who told me yours is one of the few states where pot is still illegal. It moved me emotionally to know that there are still states that have a societally responsible majority." Prevention works.



## DRUG PREVENTION UNIT & MADC EVENTS/TRAININGS

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

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

**24,312 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 involved role within 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 productive year, introducing an exciting new addition – Officer Blue, who serves as our MPD Mascot. Officer Blue has been actively involved in various public events such as Trunk or Treat and Cones with a Cop at Texas Roadhouse, as well as making appearances at several schools and a Reading with an Officer event at the Meridian library. In collaboration with Officer Blue, we developed an educational coloring book containing prevention messages and engaging learning activities.

At the end of the 2022 - 2023 school year we launched our Student Standout program and over the academic year we successfully recognized a Student Standout at every high school and middle school, thanks to the collaboration with School Resource Officers. This monthly event highlights students selected by their SRO for their exceptional contributions to their school, peers, and community.

The 2024 Public Safety Academy marked our 21st class and received positive feedback from community members. This year's Youth Academy was also a success, with 24 students participating from diverse backgrounds, attending in-person and online schooling around the Treasure Valley. These academies aim to educate the community about public safety and promote a deeper understanding of city resources.



# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT



The Crime Prevention Unit has been consistently organizing bi-monthly meetings with the Apartment Community Managers Group. This group now consists of an expanding number of managers, security personnel, maintenance workers, and vendors who cater to these communities. Various training sessions, speakers, and resources are provided, covering topics such as code enforcement, investigations, crime analysis, records management, and report requests.



Patrol and other investigation units have utilized our Apartment manager resource contact list to assist in their investigations on several occasions. This list benefits those who live in multi-housing complexes by allowing Officers to make contact with property managers more quickly during emergency situations or investigations.



From August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023 the Crime Prevention Unit helped facilitate **71** events and trainings, reaching **5,995** community members. A few notable events and trainings include:

- Youth Safety Academy
- National Night Out
- Public Safety Academy
- Public Safety Day

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT EVENTS/TRAININGS

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

**71 CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION EVENTS/TRAININGS**  
**5,995 COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED**



# EDUCATION & PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT



## 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@meridianscity.org](mailto:sharper@meridianscity.org) | 208-846-7338



### SRO TEAM (2023-2024)

Sergeant Morgan Carter | [mcarter@meridianscity.org](mailto:mcarter@meridianscity.org)  
Sergeant Jimmy Federico | [jfederico@meridianscity.org](mailto:jfederico@meridianscity.org)

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Corporal Adnan Rudan   | Officer Josh Bridges     |
| Officer Robert Allison | Officer Courtney Dozier  |
| Officer Dave Cushing   | Officer Jared Haustveit  |
| Officer Leroy Sunada   | Officer Chris Jacob      |
| Officer Mark Payne     | Officer Marquise Mangram |
| Officer Kirk York      | Officer Robert Rodriguez |
|                        | Officer Jairo Villasano  |



### DRUG PREVENTION & MADC

Kendall Nagy, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator & Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition Director  
[knagy@meridianscity.org](mailto:knagy@meridianscity.org) | 208-846-7313  
Hailey Blogg, Anti-Drug Coalition Coordinator & Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition Secretary  
[hblogg@meridianscity.org](mailto:hblogg@meridianscity.org) | 208-846-7395



### CRIME PREVENTION

Jennifer Abrao, Crime Prevention Specialist  
[jabrao@meridianscity.org](mailto:jabrao@meridianscity.org) | 208-895-3341  
Christy Boyes, Crime Prevention Specialist  
[cboyes@meridianscity.org](mailto:cboyes@meridianscity.org) | 208-846-7307