



SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Law Enforcement, Criminal and Civil Justice
Subcommittee

Chairman Chris Wooten

The Honorable William H. Bailey

The Honorable Kambrell H. Garvin

The Honorable Leon Douglas “Doug” Gilliam

The Honorable Jefferey E. “Jeff” Johnson

A G E N D A

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Room 516 – Blatt Building

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Discussion of the study of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
- III. Adjournment



**SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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Charlie LaRosa	Riley McCullough	
Research Analyst	Research Analyst	

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Room 228 Blatt Building

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Room 516 – Blatt Building

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.7, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly’s website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on Committee Postings and Reports, then under House Standing Committees click on Legislative Oversight. Then, click on Video Archives for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

The Law Enforcement and Criminal and Civil Justice Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight Chair Jeff Johnson on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in Room 516 of the Blatt Building. Representative Kambrell H. Garvin, Representative Leon D. “Doug” Gilliam, and Representative William H. Bailey were present for all or a portion of the meeting. Subcommittee Chair Chris Wooten was not in attendance.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.

Approval of Minutes

- I. Representative Gilliam made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from prior meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Garvin's motion to approve meeting minutes.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Wooten			✓
Rep. Johnson	✓		
Rep. Garvin	✓		
Rep. Gilliam	✓		
Rep. Bailey	✓		

Discussion of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

- I. Prior to beginning today's testimony, Chair Johnson asks if there are any agency representatives who may address the subcommittee today or at future meetings who have not been placed under oath. Hailey Nelson, Lieutenant, Behavioral Science Unit; Michael Prodan, Captain, Behavioral Science Unit; Brian Truex, Captain, SLED Training Unit; and Jeremy C. Smith, Captain, State Grand Jury and Insurance Law Unit, were all sworn.
- II. Captain Jeremy Smith then begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
 1. Investigative Services, State Grand Jury and Insurance Fraud Unit;

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Captain Smith questions and he responds.

- III. Captain Michael Prodan begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
 1. Investigative Services, Behavioral Science Unit.

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Captain Prodan questions and he responds.

IV. Captain Trista Baird begins her presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Investigative Services, Special Victims Unit.

Throughout her presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Captain Baird questions and she responds.

V. Captain Craig Harrelson begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. Investigative Services, Vehicle Crimes / Social Security Fraud Unit.

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Captain Harrelson questions and he responds.

VI. Captain Brian Truex begins his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:

1. SLED Training Unit.

Throughout his presentation to the subcommittee, Members ask Captain Truex questions and he responds.

Adjournment

- I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (SLED)



ABOUT

On May 14, 1935, the General Assembly created the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to enforce the state liquor law, assist any law enforcement officer in the detection of crime, along with the enforcement of the state's criminal laws. Funding was provided for 21 new officers to the existing three members of the State Constabulary.

MISSION

The primary mission of SLED is to provide quality manpower and technical assistance to all law enforcement agencies in South Carolina to ensure that every citizen in the State of South Carolina is afforded an equal level of law enforcement service. SLED is also tasked with protecting and preserving the safety, integrity, and security of South Carolina's citizens and all statewide public resources, infrastructure, and data. SLED also conducts timely, thorough, and professional criminal investigations on behalf of the State of South Carolina along with many other statutory roles and responsibilities.

VISION

SLED seeks to be the premier law enforcement agency in the State of South Carolina so as to ensure every citizen in South Carolina is provided an equal level of law enforcement services.

SUCSESSES

- ❖ Experienced staff with a wide range of talents capable of handling a variety of tasks and projects.
- ❖ Collaboration and coordination with regional and federal counterparts to provide the highest quality of service.
- ❖ Personnel's dedication, ability and involvement in the law enforcement profession as subject matter experts in their own individual areas of expertise.
- ❖ Commitment to maintaining accreditation to ensure law enforcement partners have access to the best forensic analysis possible.

DEPARTMENTS

- ❖ Alcohol, Narcotics & Vice Services
- ❖ Criminal Justice Information Services
- ❖ South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center
- ❖ Counterterrorism
- ❖ Forensic Services
- ❖ Homeland Security
- ❖ Investigative Services
- ❖ Regulatory Services

EMPLOYEES

758

Authorized FTEs

FUNDING

\$148,137,395

Total Funds

CHALLENGES

- ❖ Personnel turnover
- ❖ Succession planning issues
- ❖ Reliance on others and outside factors causing a delay in case progress.
- ❖ High volume of plant material testing cases has caused a time delay in receiving results.
- ❖ Continued use of an outdated case management system.



NARCOTICS, ALCOHOL AND VICE SERVICES

House Oversight Committee Presentation

Frank O'Neal, Major, SLED Narcotics, Alcohol and Vice Services

MAJOR FRANK O'NEAL



- Forty-four years of sworn law enforcement experience.
- The first twelve years include city, county and private law enforcement experience, with the last thirty-four years at SLED.
- While with SLED, progressively advanced through the ranks.

Major of Narcotics, Alcohol, and Vice	2016 – Present
Captain of Narcotics/ Vice Unit	2011 – 2016
Lieutenant Low County Narcotics	2008 – 2011
Lieutenant State Grand Jury (SGJ)	2001 – 2008
Special Agent assigned to Organized Crime	1993 – 2001
Drug Enforcement Task Force	
SLED SWAT Team	1993 – 2003
Special Agent Narcotics (SGJ)	1992 – 1993
- Presently supervise 115 sworn agents and administrative personnel.
- Directly oversee the supervision and management of investigations involving narcotics, alcohol, human trafficking, immigration, dog fighting and public corruption crimes.
- Serves as liaison to community and civic organizations in drug prevention and child endangerment issues.

MAJOR FRANK O'NEAL



- Has an extensive and long-lasting relationship with municipal, county and federal law enforcement partners throughout the state and country, dating back to 1980s.
- Commitment to drug abuse extends beyond immediate responsibilities with SLED. Major served on Governor Haley's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council.
- Member and Spokesperson for Governor McMaster's Opioid Response Team.
- Board member of the National Marijuana Initiative Advisory Board which contributes to implementing the White House National Drug Control Strategy.
- Since 2008, involved in developing training programs for Narcotic Commanders across South Carolina as part of the US Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Drug Subcommittee.
- Dedicated to public education and regularly present to civic and community groups. A strong relationship with many members of the general assembly due to requests for information concerning legislative matters that are scope of expertise.
- Holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Liberty University and graduate of the 233rd Session the National FBI Academy.

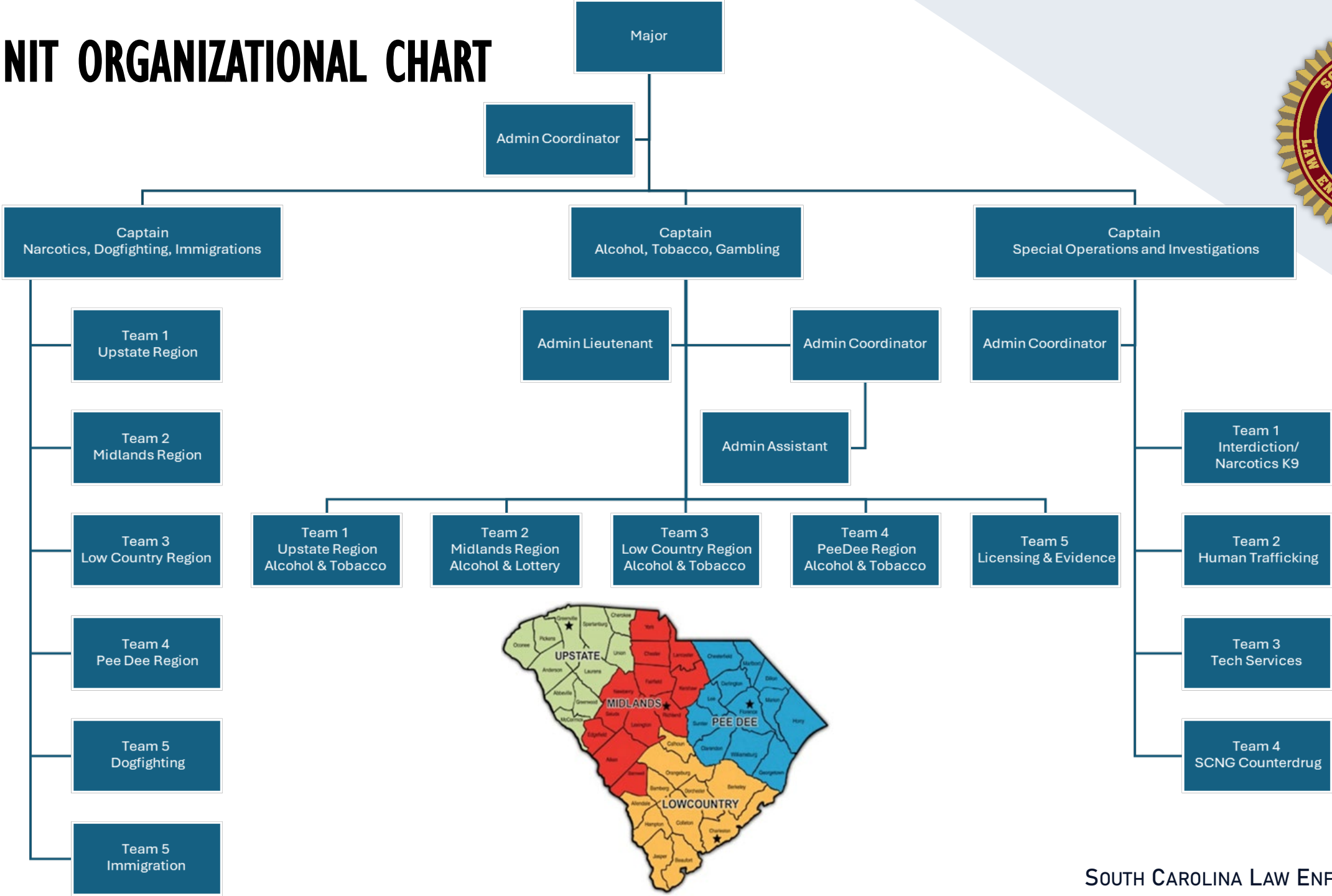
UNIT OVERVIEW



Narcotics, Alcohol, and Vice Services consists of three units:

- 1) Narcotics, Immigration and Vice
 - 2) Alcohol, Tobacco and Lottery
 - 3) Special Operations and Investigations
- **Narcotics has five teams.** The first four teams are regional and responsible for narcotic enforcement in that region while the fifth team handles responsibility throughout the state. Team 1 is the Upstate Enforcement. Team 2 is Midlands Enforcement. Team 3 is Low County Enforcement, and Team 4 is PeeDee Enforcement. Team 5 is specialized to criminal activity related to Dog Fighting and Immigrations.
 - **Alcohol, Tobacco and Lottery has five teams.** The first four teams handle regional alcohol enforcement and the first, third and fourth teams also handle tobacco enforcement, while the second team handles Lottery enforcement. The teams are as follows: Team 1-Upstate, Team 2-Midlands, Team 3-Low County, Team 4-PeeDee and Team-5 Licensing and Evidence.
 - **Special Operations and Investigations has three teams.** Team 1 specializes in Interdiction/Narcotics K9. Team 2 specializes in Human Trafficking and Team 3 specializes in Tech Services. This unit also contracts with a fourth team via South Carolina National Guard Counterdrug for analysis.

UNIT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

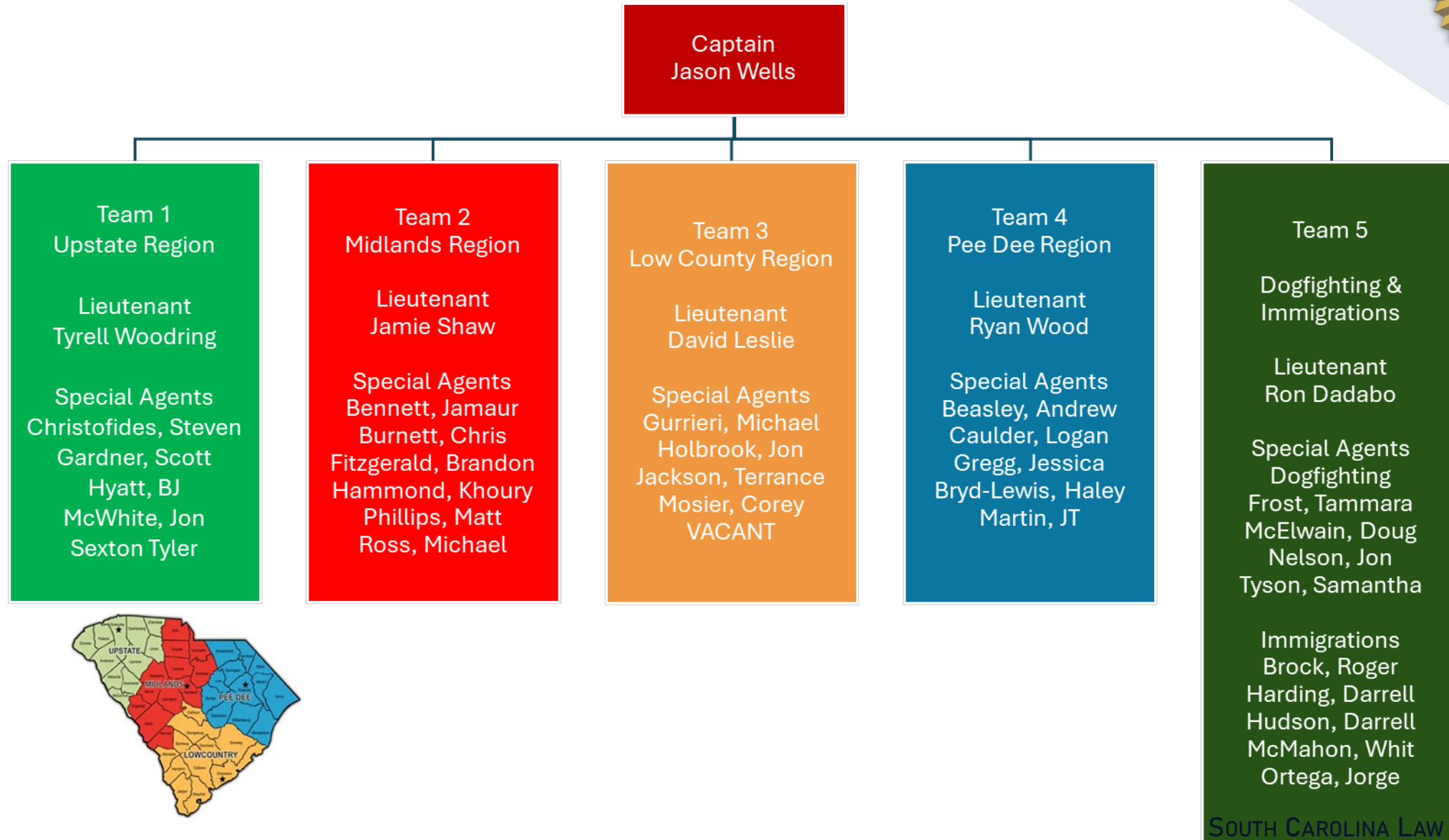


NARCOTICS VICE



- The Narcotics Vice Unit is dedicated to assisting local and federal law enforcement agencies with drug enforcement efforts across the state. Highly trained agents work to identify, disrupt, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations and dog fighting rings using physical and technical surveillance, intelligence gathering, and in collaboration with other agencies. By focusing on key criminal networks, this unit plays a crucial role in reducing drug-related crimes in South Carolina.
- The Dogfighting investigations team addresses dogfighting which is a secretive and violent crime. Investigations require advanced undercover skills as well as partnerships with shelters to care for seized animals. Long-term housing of animals in dogfighting cases can present logistical challenges, but agents remain committed to disrupting these illegal operations.
- The Immigration enforcement team is tasked with enforcing immigration laws and developing training programs for local law enforcement. The goal is to identify and prosecute criminal activity associated with illegal immigration.

NARCOTICS VICE ORG CHART

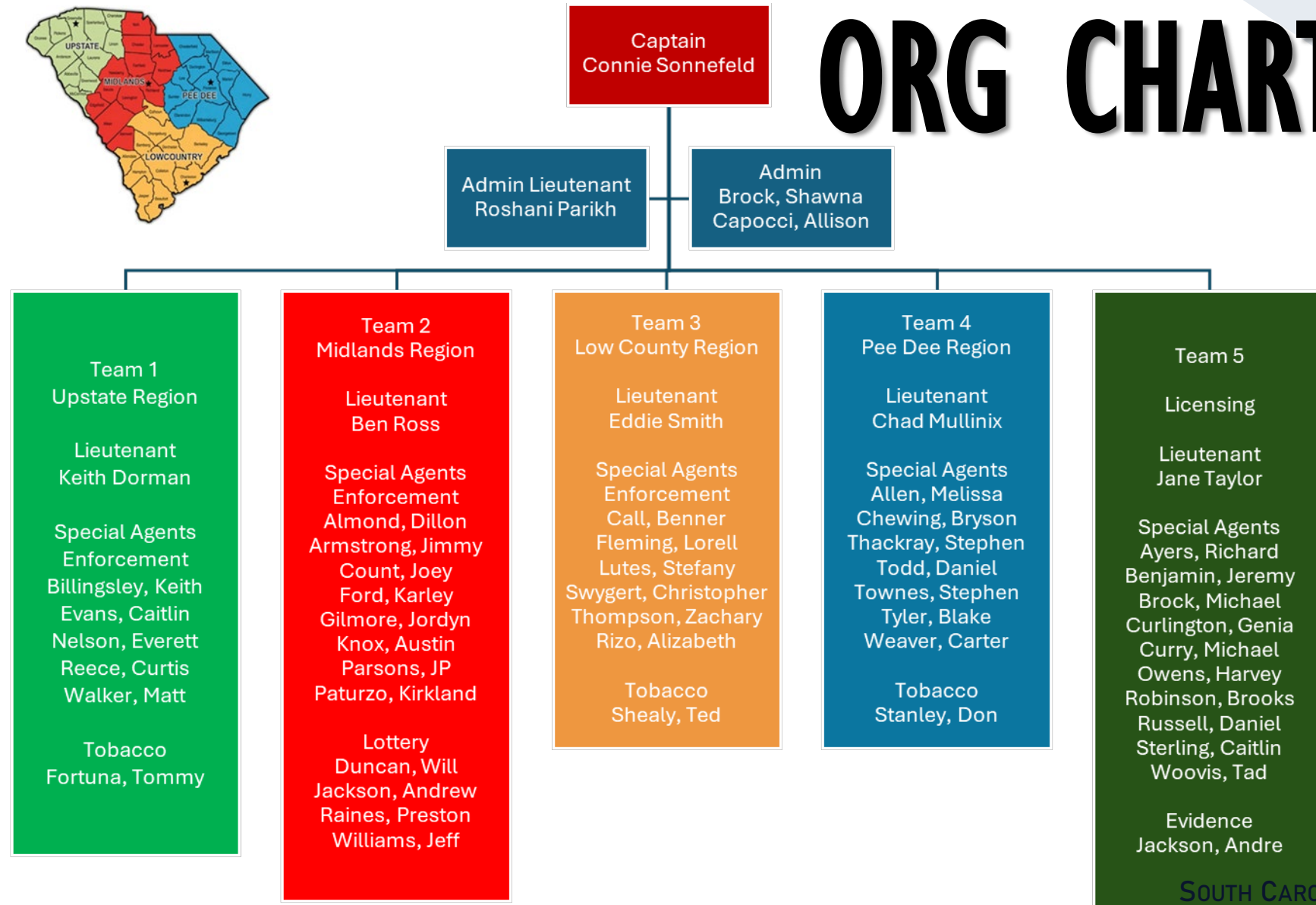


ALCOHOL TOBACCO LOTTERY



- The Alcohol Enforcement Unit is responsible for enforcing laws related to alcohol and gaming. This unit investigates potential violations of beer, wine, and liquor laws while also addressing illegal gaming operations. Key responsibilities include conducting inspections of licensed locations, investigating unlicensed establishments, and performing compliance checks using underage cooperating individuals (UCI).
- Additionally, Alcohol Licensing Agents conduct thorough investigations of alcohol license applicants in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR). Once these investigations are complete, results are sent to the SCDOR for license approval or denial.
- This unit also is responsible for lottery and tobacco enforcement as well. The lottery agents focus on investigating fraud and theft related to the South Carolina Education Lottery, while tobacco enforcement agents ensure compliance with state tax laws and the Tobacco Escrow Fund Enforcement Act.

ALCOHOL TOBACCO LOTTERY ORG CHART

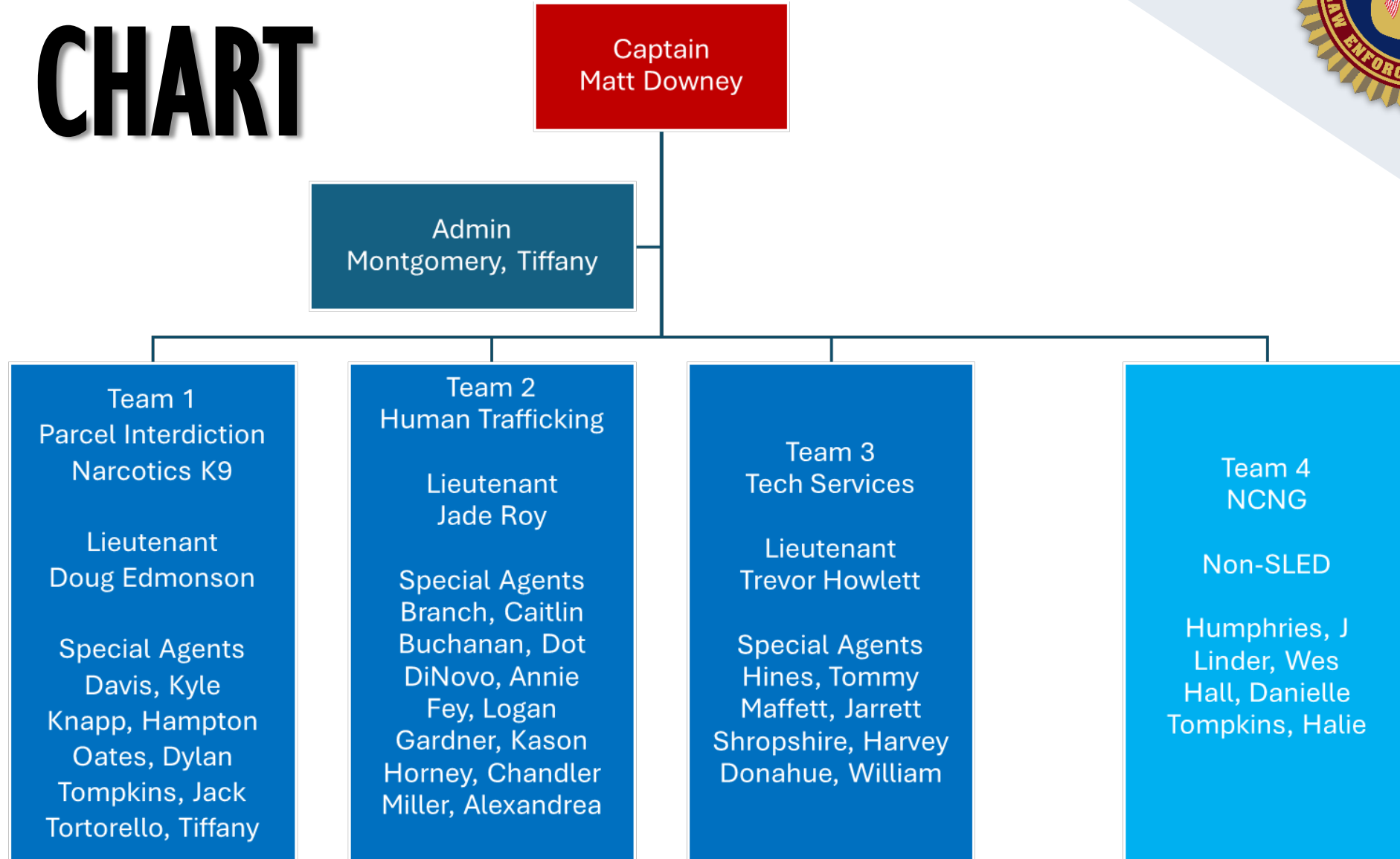


SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS



The Special Operations and Investigations Unit tackles a wide range of specialized criminal activities, including Parcel Interdiction, Human Trafficking, and Tech Services, as well as collaborates with the SC National Guard on Counterdrug via analysis.

SPECIAL OPS & INVESTIGATIONS ORG CHART



DEPARTMENT GOALS



Our unit goals are aligned with key law enforcement priorities to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of South Carolina. These goals reflect our commitment to enhancing public safety, maintaining regulatory compliance, and using advanced techniques to tackle a wide range of criminal activities across the state. **Our unit goals are:**

NARCOTICS

- **Reduce access** to illegal narcotics and opioids in the state through targeted enforcement and parcel interdiction operations.
- **Disrupt and destroy** dog fighting rings and criminal activities associated with dog fighting.
- **Increase awareness** and effectiveness of SLED's Immigration Enforcement Unit to address illegal immigration and associated criminal activities.
- **Reduce the supply** of illegal drugs, with a heightened focus on opioids, through coordinated efforts with federal and local partners.

DEPARTMENT GOALS



SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

- **Expand and improve parcel interdiction** operations to prevent the trafficking of illegal substances through mail and delivery services.
- **Effectively utilize technology** and continue researching and developing alternative methods of technical surveillance to enhance investigations.
- **Reduce human trafficking** through comprehensive investigations and collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies.

DEPARTMENT GOALS



ALCOHOL TOBACCO LOTTERY

- **Reduce underage access to alcohol and tobacco** by enforcing compliance and conducting investigations into underage sales and distribution.
- Diligently regulate and prosecute problem locations related to alcohol, tobacco, and gaming violations.
- **Reduce illegal gaming and gambling** by enforcing state laws and investigating illegal operations.
- **Increase regulatory awareness** and enforce laws related to alcohol, tobacco, and lottery through collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

ALL

- **Expand evidence storage capabilities** to meet the growing needs of various investigative units and maintain operational efficiency permanently.

DEPARTMENT CHALLENGES



Our department challenges highlight the complex and demanding nature of our work, but we remain committed to overcoming them through strategic partnerships, training, and resource management. **Our department challenges are as follows:**

- Resource limitations - balancing resources across multiple areas, including narcotics enforcement, alcohol and tobacco regulation, interdiction, dogfighting, human trafficking investigations and tech services can stretch personnel and equipment, especially in high-demand situations.
- Evolving Criminal Tactics - criminal organizations continuously adapt, particularly in narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal gambling. Staying ahead of these tactics requires constant training and technological upgrades.
- Technological Advancements - as criminals are increasingly using sophisticated technology, which can sometimes outpace law enforcement's ability to respond. Keeping up with advancements in surveillance, digital forensics, and investigative tools requires ongoing investment and training. **SLED agents lack the capability to perform a comprehensive analysis of cell phone data extracted from phones seized from drug traffickers.**

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES



Our department has strong, collaborative relationships with a variety of outside agencies, including local, state, and federal partners. We actively participate in joint task forces and coordinate closely with agencies across the state to enhance the effectiveness of our investigations. For example, we work with federal law enforcement agencies such as the DEA, HSI, and the FBI on narcotics and interdiction operations. In alcohol-related investigations, we partner with the South Carolina Department of Revenue to ensure compliance with state laws on alcohol, gambling, and tobacco. Additionally, we collaborate with animal protection agencies like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the ASPCA on cases involving animal cruelty and dogfighting, providing comprehensive support and expertise in these complex investigations. Our close relationships with these agencies are vital to addressing a broad range of criminal activities and ensuring successful outcomes.



ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND LOTTERY



House Oversight Committee Presentation

Connie Sonnefeld, Captain, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Lottery

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



CAPTAIN CONNIE SONNEFELD

- Captain Sonnefeld has been in law enforcement for twenty-six years and with SLED for twenty-four.
- Captain Sonnefeld began her career at SLED in 2001 as a Special Agent in Narcotics.
- In 2013, Captain Sonnefeld was promoted to Administrative Lieutenant in Narcotics.
- In 2017, Captain Sonnefeld was promoted to Captain of Alcohol Enforcement, Licensing and Vice Services.

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit

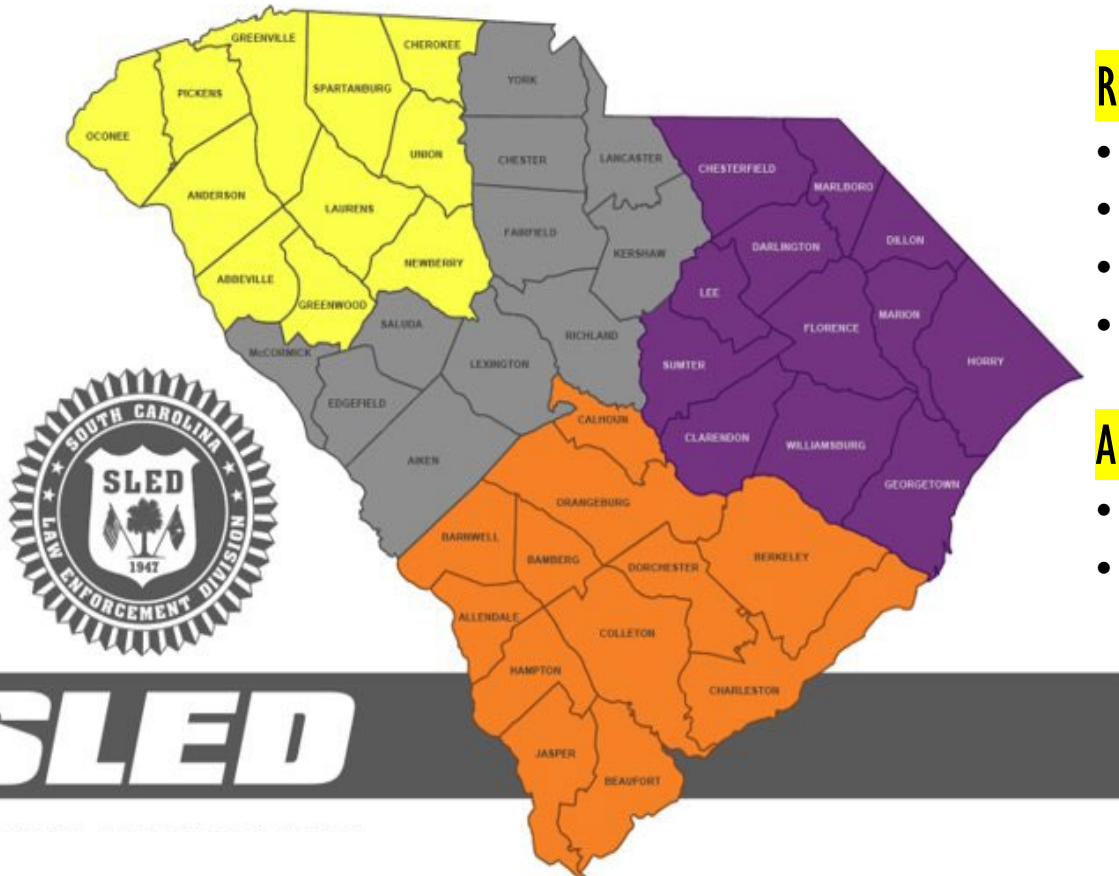


Staffing Total = 57

- Captain = 1
- Lieutenants = 6
- FTE Special Agents = 45
- Full Time Temp Special Agents = 3

- Administrative Coordinator = 1
- Administrative Assistant Full Time Temp = 1

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Regional Teams

- Low Country – 8 Alcohol Enforcement, 1 Tobacco Agent
- Piedmont – 6 Alcohol Enforcement, 1 Tobacco Agent
- Midlands – 8 Alcohol Enforcement, 4 Lottery Agents
- Pee Dee – 7 Alcohol Enforcement, 1 Tobacco Agent

Alcohol Licensing

- 11 Alcohol Licensing Agents
- 1 Evidence Custodian Agent

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Work Importance

- Provide discipline specific assistance to local law enforcement and SC communities
- Reduce underage access to alcohol and tobacco
- Ensure businesses comply with Alcohol Statutes and Regulations
- Investigate unlicensed and nuisance locations
- Investigate the origin of alcohol possessed or consumed after ARI's
- Reduce illegal gambling
- Investigate Lottery Fraud and Theft
- Investigate applicants and locations for the South Carolina Department of Revenue



ALCOHOL

Alcohol Enforcement and Licensing



Alcohol Enforcement Functions

- Underage Alcohol Enforcement – concerts, festivals, college areas
- Underage Compliance Checks for Alcohol and Tobacco
- Licensed Location Inspections
- Unlicensed Locations
- Nuisance Locations
- Alcohol Related Incidents (ARIs)
- Illegal Gambling

Alcohol Licensing Agents

- Investigate alcohol license applications received from the SCDOR
 - Gather facts surrounding location and licensee applying for alcohol license
- Additional investigations
 - True Ownerships
 - Map Requests

Alcohol Enforcement and Licensing



Relevant Laws Alcohol Enforcement/Licensing

Title 61 Chapter 2 – Alcohol and Alcoholic Beverages – General Provisions

61-2-20 – Provides authority to SLED (the Division) to enforce to provisions of Title 61.

Title 61 Chapter 4 – Beer, Ale, Porter and Wine Outlines both criminal and administrative violations

Frequent Violations

- 61-4-50 Sales to Underage Persons
- 61-4-60 False Info About Age
- 61-4-90 Transfer For Underage Consumption
- 61-4-120 Sales During Restricted Hours / Sunday Sales
- 61-4-200 Retail to Retail for Resale
- 61-4-230 Refusal to Permit Inspection
- 61-4-580 Permitting a Criminal Act (gambling A (3)/ nuisance A (4))
- 61-4-770 Wine – Excess of 16.5%



Alcohol Enforcement



Title 61, Chapter 6, ABC Act - Spirits Outlines both criminal and administrative violations and locations/licensee requirements to sell spirits

Frequent Violations — criminal and administrative

- 61-6-1540 Nonalcoholic Merchandise
- 61-6-1610 Sales During Restricted Hours / Sunday Sales
- 61-6-1636 1.75 Bottles
- 61-6-2230 Drinking Contest / Games
- 61-6-4060 Unlawful Storage of Liquor
- 61-6-4080 Sales to Underage Persons
- 61-6-4190 Refusal to Permit Inspection



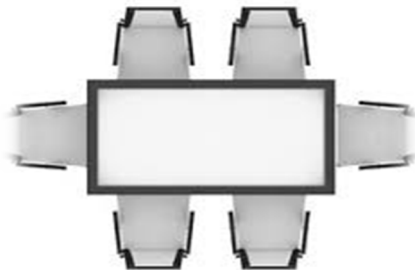
Alcohol Enforcement



SC Code of Regulations — Chapter 7 — Beer, Wine & Spirits Outlines Administrative Violations

Frequent Violations

- 7-200.4 Permitting Purchase of Beer/Wine/Liquor by Person Under 21
- 7-401.3 Restaurant Requirements
- 7-401.4 Nonprofit Organizations Permitting Consumption by Non-member



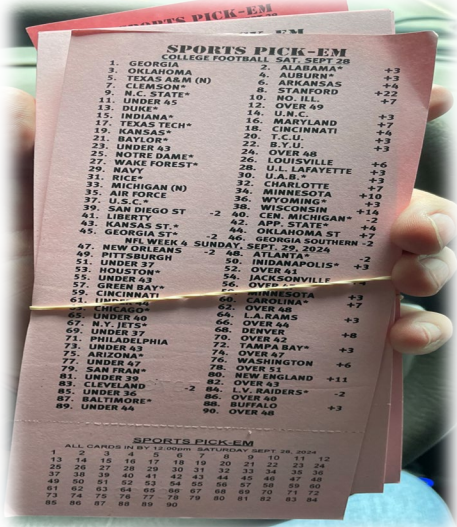
Alcohol Enforcement



Gambling

Frequent Violations

- 63-19-2440 (A) Operating a Gambling House
- 12-21-2710 Permitting Games of Chance
- 61-4-4060 Permitting Gambling or Games of Chance
- 61-4-580 Permitting a Criminal Act [Gambling (A) (3)]



Alcohol Enforcement



Unlicensed Locations/ Person

- 61-4-150 Sales (beer/wine) by Unlicensed Persons
- 61-4-560 Operation without a Permit
- 61-6-4010 Unlawful Possession or Sales (liquor)
- 61-6-4060 Unlawful Storage (liquor)

Underage Alcohol

- 63-19-2440 (A) Minor in Possession (Beer)
- 63-19-2450 (A) Minor in Possession (Liquor)
- 56-1-515 (2) Use of Fake ID, Use of Another's ID



Alcohol Enforcement



SC Code of Laws 23-3-160 Investigation of Injury or Death of Person Under 21 When Use of Beverages Containing Alcohol Suspected (Alcohol Related Incident — ARI)

- In any accident involving injury or death of a person under the age of 21, where there is cause to believe that any beverage containing alcohol was consumed prior to the accident by the person under 21, the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction to investigate the accident shall commence a detailed investigation to determine the circumstances under which the beverage was obtained.
- Upon initiation of this investigation by the local investigating law enforcement agency, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division shall assist in whatever capacity necessary to fully complete the inquiry and shall cooperate and assist in the prosecution of appropriate criminal charges against any person who provided a beverage containing alcohol to the person under 21.

Alcohol Enforcement



Specialized Equipment

- Intellicheck application is utilized by Alcohol Enforcement Agents. The app assists agents detect fraudulent identification cards and driver's licenses commonly produced by individuals as proof of age.



Alcohol Enforcement

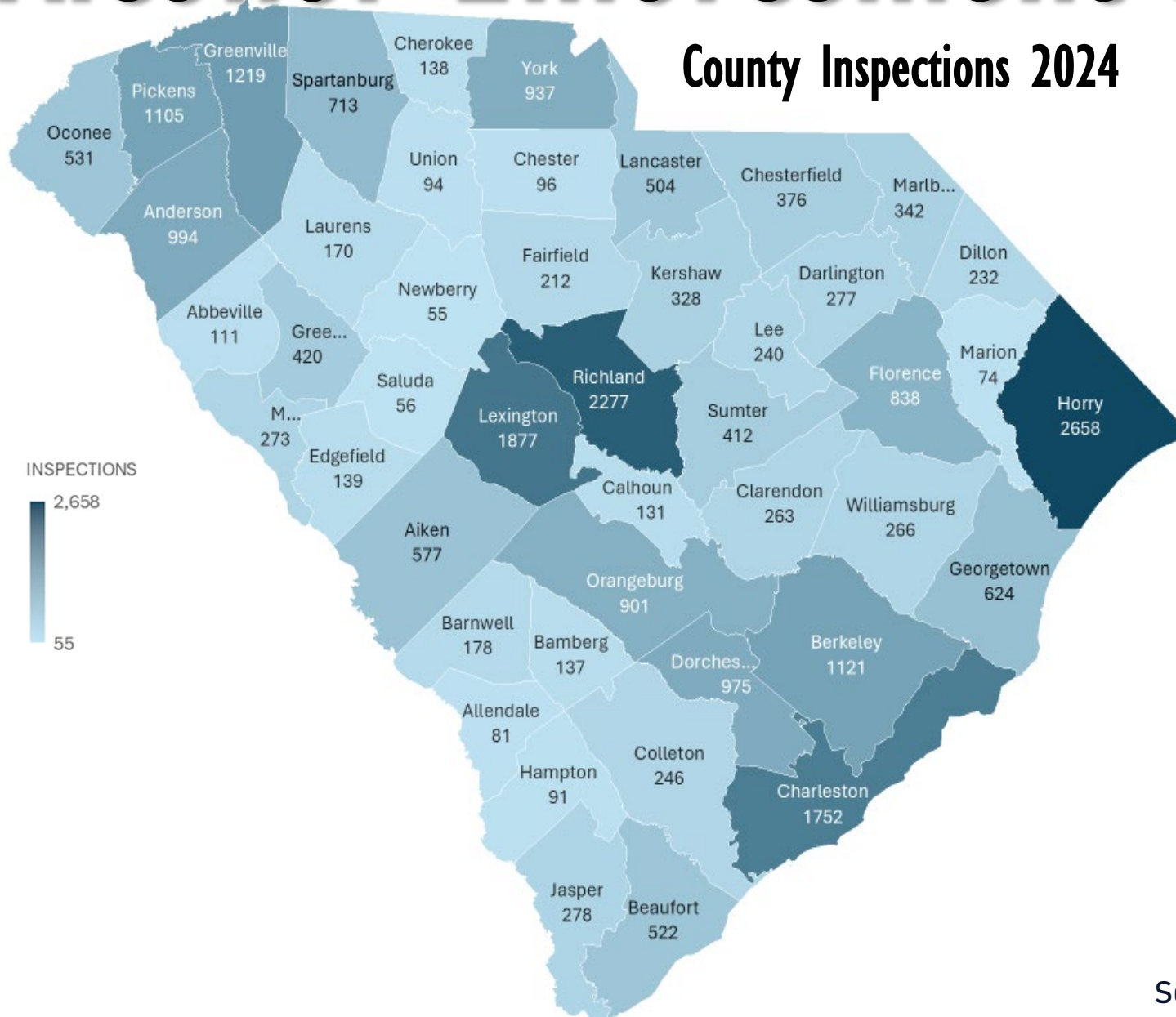


ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT	ARI	SUMMONS ISSUED	INSPECTIONS	VIOLATIONS	UCI ATTEMPTS	UCI BUYS	Failure Rate
2022	8	856	19,782	856	7,475	658	8.8%
2023	11	1,031	21,044	864	7,755	729	9.4%
2024	10	817	25,841	855	9,483	629	6.6%
2025 - May	4	349	10,466	244	3,846	203	5.3%

Manpower – twenty-nine full time Special Agents located regionally

Alcohol Enforcement

County Inspections 2024



Alcohol Licensing



ALCOHOL LICENSING	LICENSE APPLICATION INVESTIGATIONS	ADDITIONAL INV. REQUEST – MAP & TRUE OWNERSHIP
2022	1,773	443
2023	2,134	466
2024	2,012	287
2025- June 16	924	66

Manpower – Eleven full time Special Agents located regionally



TOBACCO

TYPES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS



Cigarettes

Smokeless

Cigars

Hookah

Cigarettos

E-Cigarettes

Tobacco



The **Tobacco Omnibus Act** was passed in 2023 creating administrative penalties for businesses and authorized SLED to inspect and conduct underage compliance operations.

- 16-17-500 Tobacco Sales to Minors (criminal and administrative)
- 16-17-501 Tobacco Related Definitions
- 16-17-502 Tobacco Product Samples
- 16-17-503 Tobacco Enforcement Authority
- 16-17-506 E-Liquid Containers

Alcohol Enforcement agents conduct these operations as a collateral duty.



Tobacco

Underage Compliance Inspections

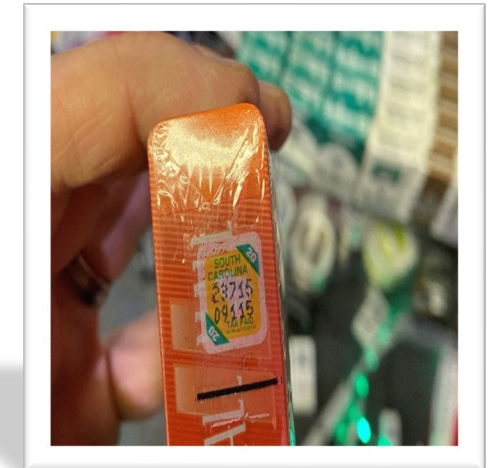
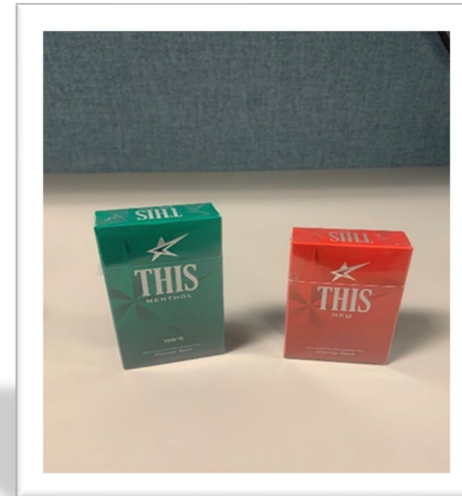
FY TOBACCO	TOBACCO SUMMONS ISSUED	TOBACCO VIOLATIONS	TOBACCO UCI ATTEMPTS	TOBACCO BUYS	Failure Rate
Sept 2023 – Dec 2023	48	63	434	63	14.5%
2024	139	268	1,628	197	12%
2025 – May	52	78	606	74	12.2%

Tobacco Enforcement



Tobacco Enforcement Agents conduct inspections related to the Tobacco Directory published by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. The Tobacco Directory contains a list of tobacco manufacturers and tobacco products that are in compliance with the Escrow Fund Act and the Tobacco Escrow Fund Enforcement Act.

- 11-47-10 SC Tobacco Escrow Fund Act
- 11-48-10 SC Tobacco Escrow Fund Enforcement Act





Tobacco Settlement Inspections

FY TOBACCO	INSPECTIONS	TOBACCO SEIZURES	Cigarette Packs Seized
2022	4,655	147	3,445
2023	5,937	139	1,858
2024	6,277	108	1,955
2025 – May	2,707	32	218

Manpower – One FTE and two full time temporary Special Agents located regionally

LOTTERY



Lottery Unit



Lottery Agents are primarily focused on investigating violations of SC Code of Laws 59-150-260A as it relates to the South Carolina Education Lottery (SCEL). The Agents work in conjunction with the Director of the SCEL and answer complaints throughout the state. Typically, the cases involve the theft of and attempted redemption of tickets including the attempted cashing of altered tickets.

Relevant Laws / Frequent Violations

- 59-150-130 Investigative Authority
- 59-150-260 Lottery Fraud
- 59-150-400 Conspiracy





Lottery Unit

LOTTERY CASES	2022	2023	2024	2025- May
Theft / Cashing Stolen Tickets	136	108	123	37
Robbery Involving Theft of Lottery Tickets	3	4	4	0
Burglaries Involving Lottery Tickets	12	30	32	3
Altering/Presenting Altered Tickets	39	26	43	9
Other Incidents	27	16	36	12
Total	217	184	238	61

Manpower – Four full time Special Agents located regionally

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Caseload

- Alcohol Enforcement – Minimum 80 Inspections – including UCI's
- Answer complaints, investigate nuisance locations, ARIs, illegal gaming, underage enforcement, unlicensed sales, underage alcohol and tobacco compliance inspections
- Alcohol Licensing – average 20-25 active investigations per agent
- Tobacco Settlement Agents – Average 200 Inspections Per Month
- Lottery – unit averages 10-15 active investigations

Vacancies

- Alcohol Enforcement – One Agent
- Alcohol Licensing – One Agent (in background process)

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit

Task Forces

HSI – Fake identification interdiction

AET – Alcohol Enforcement Teams

Board Assignments

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Partnerships

South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) (ABL and Tobacco)

Regional Alcohol Enforcement Teams – AET

SC Attorney General's Office – Legal Services – Tobacco

National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA)



Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Challenges

- Increasing numbers of unlicensed locations
- Vape, E-cigarette, E-liquid storage and disposal
- Increase in large venues with numerous points of sale for alcohol (stadiums, coliseums)
- Internet / direct to consumer alcohol sales

Needs

- Tobacco Enforcement Team for comprehensive coverage and compliance inspections -
Minimum of four agents and a supervisor
- Climate Controlled storage

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Suggested Law/Regulation Changes

- Alcoholic beverage definition expansion to include frozen or gelatin items that contain alcohol

Focus Area / Challenges

- Entertainment districts/venues where underage alcohol consumption is prevalent
- Fake identification detection
- Accessibility of vape / e-cigarette / tobacco products
- Nuisance Locations
- Sports betting / gambling at licensed and unlicensed locations

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Awards and Recognitions



SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Awards and Recognitions



Alcohol Tobacco and Lottery Unit



Overtime

1,589 hours



CONCLUSION & QUESTIONS



House Oversight Committee Presentation



NARCOTICS, DOGFIGHTING, IMMIGRATION

House Oversight Committee Presentation

JASON WELLS, Captain

NARCOTICS, DOGFIGHTING, IMMIGRATION



Captain Jason Wells

- Captain Wells has been in law enforcement for twenty-five years and with SLED for nineteen.
- Captain Wells began his career at SLED in 2005 as a Special Agent in the Piedmont Region with a focus on white collar crime.
- In 2009, Captain Wells transferred to SLED Narcotics and has been with the unit ever since.
- In 2018, Captain Wells was promoted to Lieutenant
- In 2019, Captain Wells was promoted to Captain of Narcotics, which now includes Narcotics, Dogfighting, and Immigration.

NARCOTICS



Staffing:

The narcotics unit is currently comprised of one Major, one Captain, four Lieutenants and 23 Special Agents. Three of those positions are currently in the process of being filled.





PIEDMONT REGION

6 Agents

MIDLANDS REGION

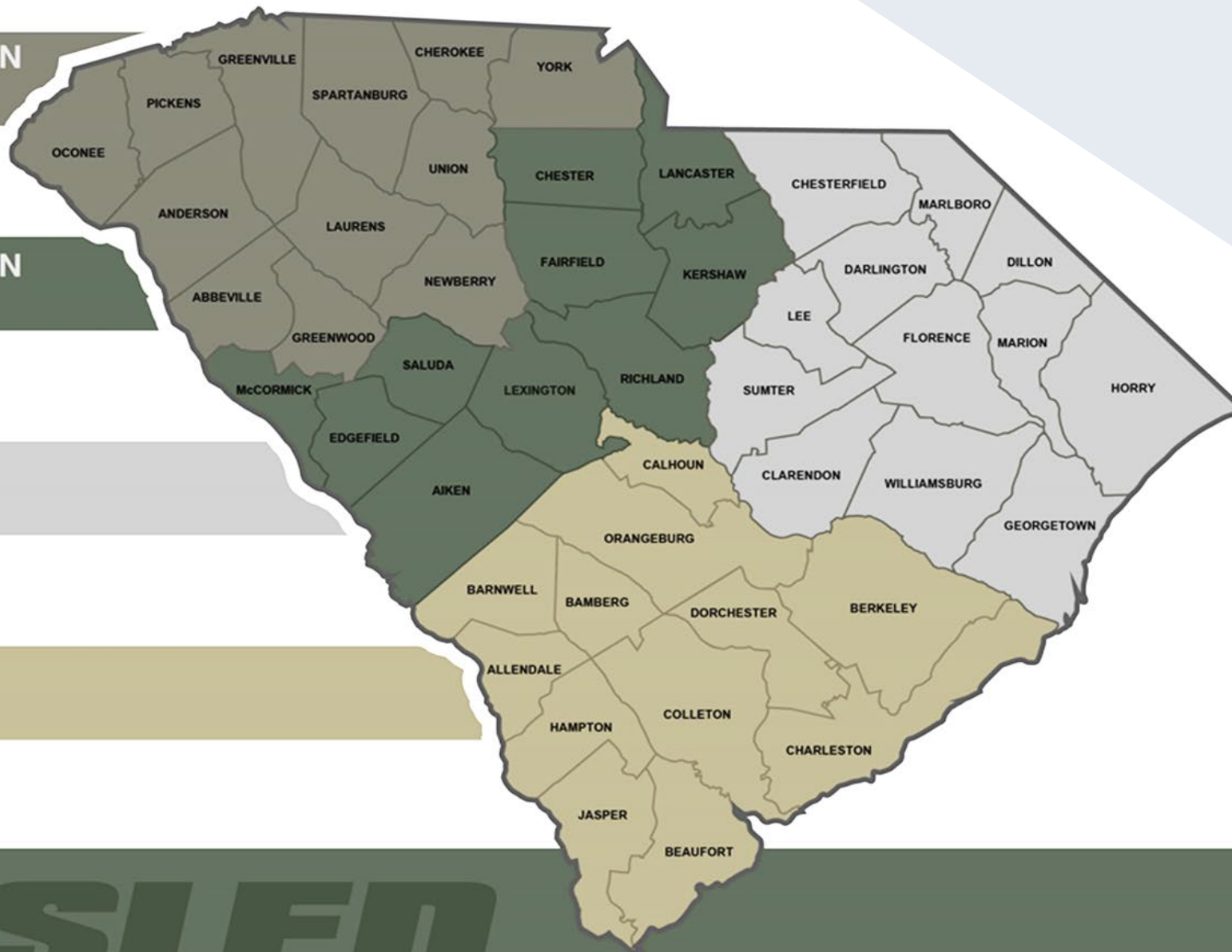
6 Agents

PEE DEE REGION

5 Agents

LOW COUNTRY

5 Agents



SLED
NARCOTICS UNIT

NARCOTICS



Why is Narcotics Enforcement Important?

- Essential element of law enforcement
- Illegal drug trade affects every community
- Drugs don't discriminate
- Helps reduce the illicit drug supply in SC and beyond
- Intelligence on emerging drug threats
- Education and awareness



NARCOTICS



Duties, Roles, and Responsibilities

- Mission - Enforcement of the controlled substances laws of South Carolina
- Investigation and preparation for the prosecution of major violators
- Asset forfeiture
- Clandestine lab enforcement and response team
- Pill Takeback
- Coordination with federal, state, and local LE partners
- Host training on a wide variety of drug enforcement topics

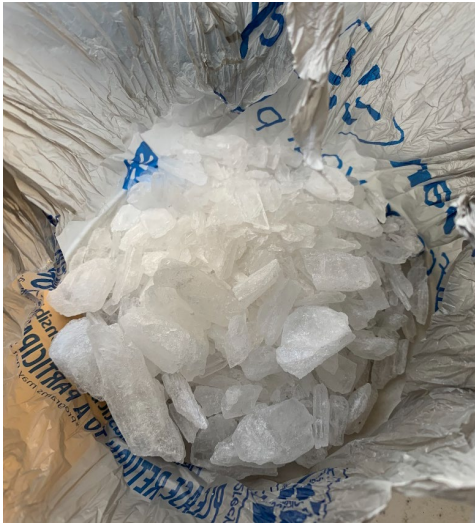


NARCOTICS



Caseload:

Agents commonly have 1-5 active cases at any given time. This depends on the number of defendants and the complexity of the case. State Grand Jury cases tend to take a significantly longer time to investigate. Agents often have 10-20 other cases that are in various stages of the judicial process.



SC NARCOTICS LAWS



South Carolina's laws on narcotics and controlled substances are primarily found in Title 44, Chapter 53 of the South Carolina of Laws, titles "Poisons, Drugs, and Other Controlled Substances."

Specific statutes dealing with narcotics enforcement:

- 44-53-370 Possession, PWID, and Trafficking Marijuana, Cocaine, Fentanyl, Heroin, and MDMA
- 44-53-375 Possession, PWID, and Trafficking Meth, Crack Cocaine
- 44-53-420 Attempt/Conspiracy
- 16-23-490 Poss. of Firearm or Knife During the Commission of a Violent Crime
- 44-53-379 Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Person Convicted of PWID, Dist, Trafficking, Manf.
- 16-23-500 Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Person Convicted of a Violent Crime
- 44-53-445 Proximity within ½ mile of a school/park
- 63-5-70 Unlawful Conduct Toward a Child

NARCOTICS



FOCUS AREAS:

Narcotics enforcement focus area is drug trafficking by attacking supply and criminal drug organizations.

Specialized Training or Certification:

- Clan Lab Certification (8)
- EMT (1)
- Haz-Mat Tech (Level A) (2)
- SWAT (8)
- Surveillance, Interview and Interrogation, Tactical Room Clearing
- Search warrant execution, financial investigative techniques
- Parcel interdiction, wire intercept, social media investigations

Specialized Equipment:

- TruNarc Drug Analyzer – we currently have four, that are each six years old. Purchase cost of new equipment is \$32,000/each. We could currently use two more of these. These were previously obtained through grant funding.

NARCOTICS



Board Assignments:

- Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) Narcotics Commander School
- Governor's Opioid Response Team (OERT) – Rapid Response Team
- OERT – Annex 4 Spokesperson – Leader Law Enforcement
- Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering (HIDTA) – Exec Board
- Marijuana Impact Group (MIG) – Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

Grants:

- Starting in 2022, we received a three-year COPS Anti-Opioid grant which enabled us to hire three Special Agents.

OUTSIDE PARTNERSHIPS



NARCOTICS

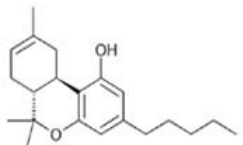


Challenges for the unit:

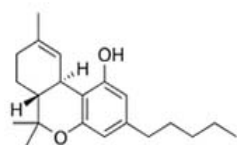
- Contraband cell phones in SCDC prisons
- Enforcement of THC items being sold at vape shops throughout the state
 - Prosecution is not consistent throughout the state
 - New items on the market everyday

Suggested Law Change:

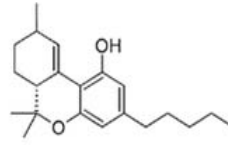
- Clarity regarding THC variants
i.e., Delta 8, Delta 10, THC edibles, Drinks



Delta 8 THC



Delta 9 THC



Delta 10 THC

NARCOTICS HISTORICAL DATA

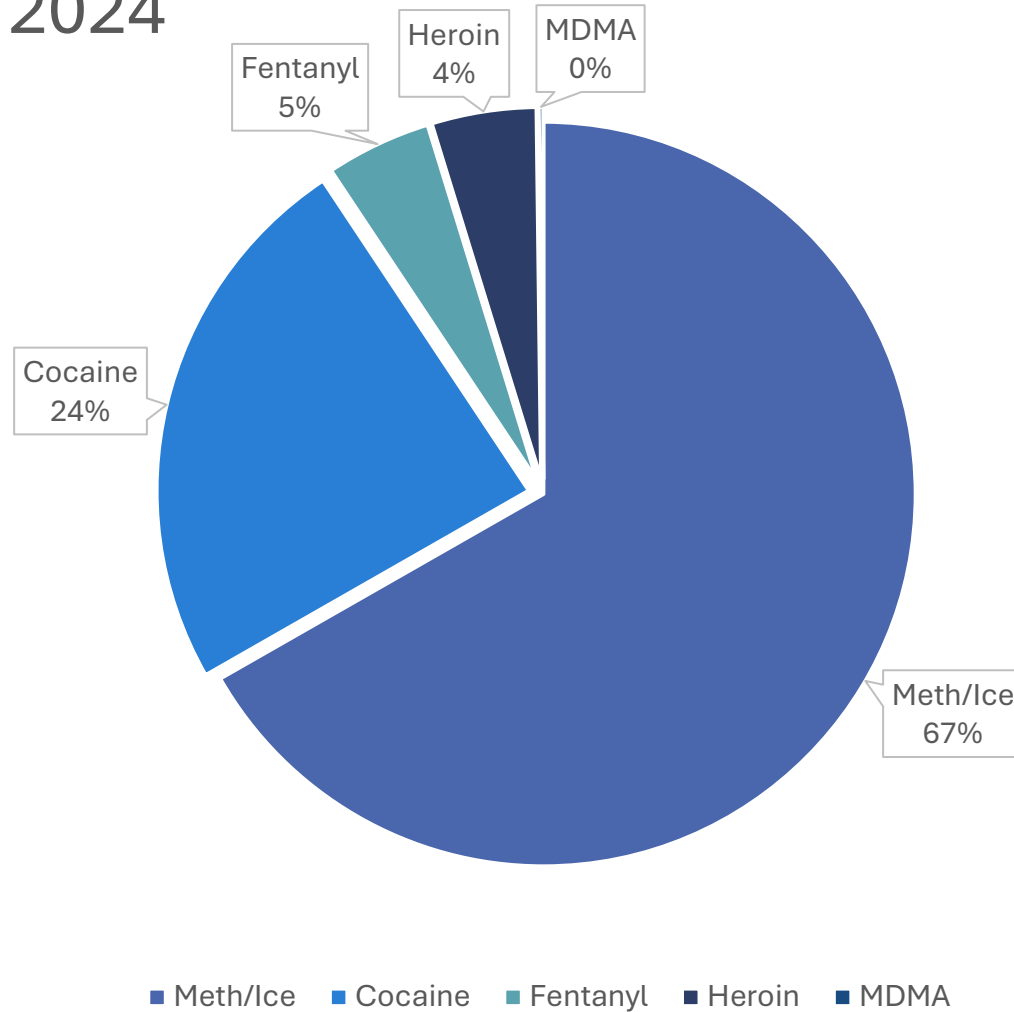


YEAR	CASES OPENED
2019	222
2020	408
2021	453
2022	355
2023	740
2024	658

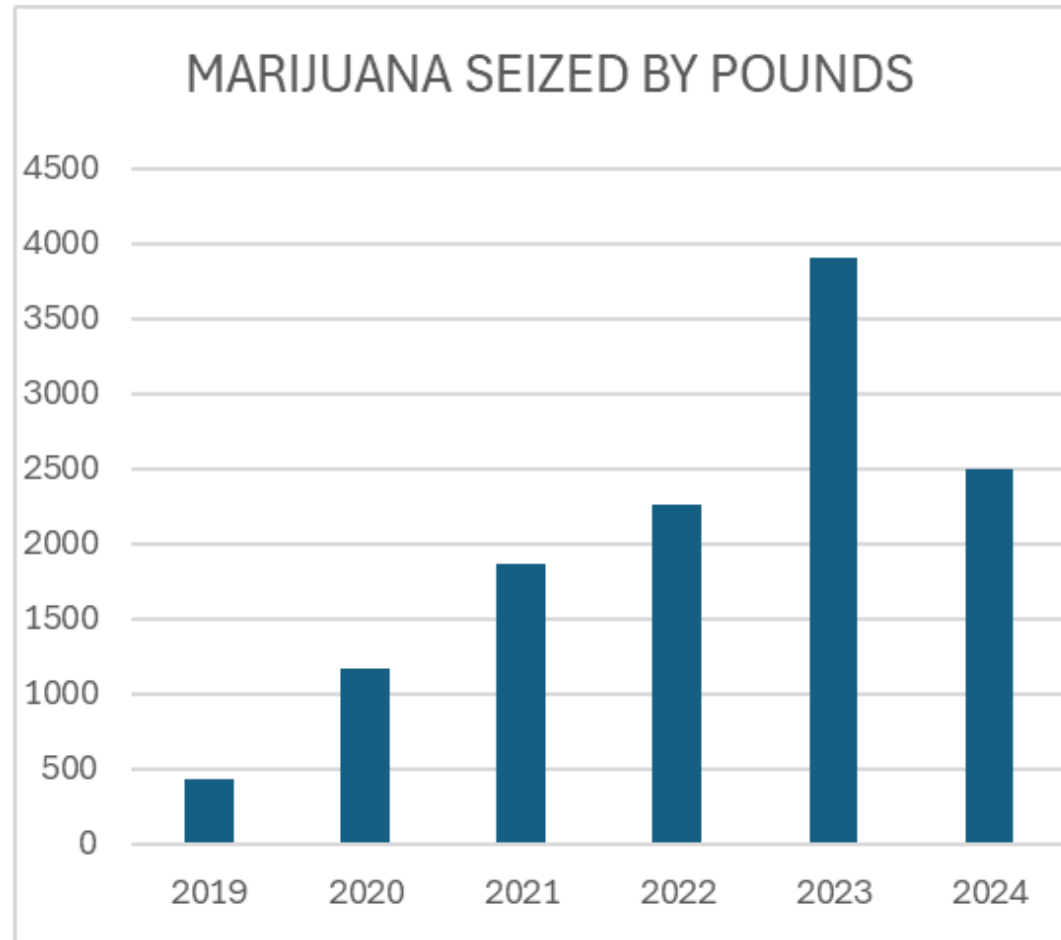


HISTORICAL DRUG SEIZURE DATA

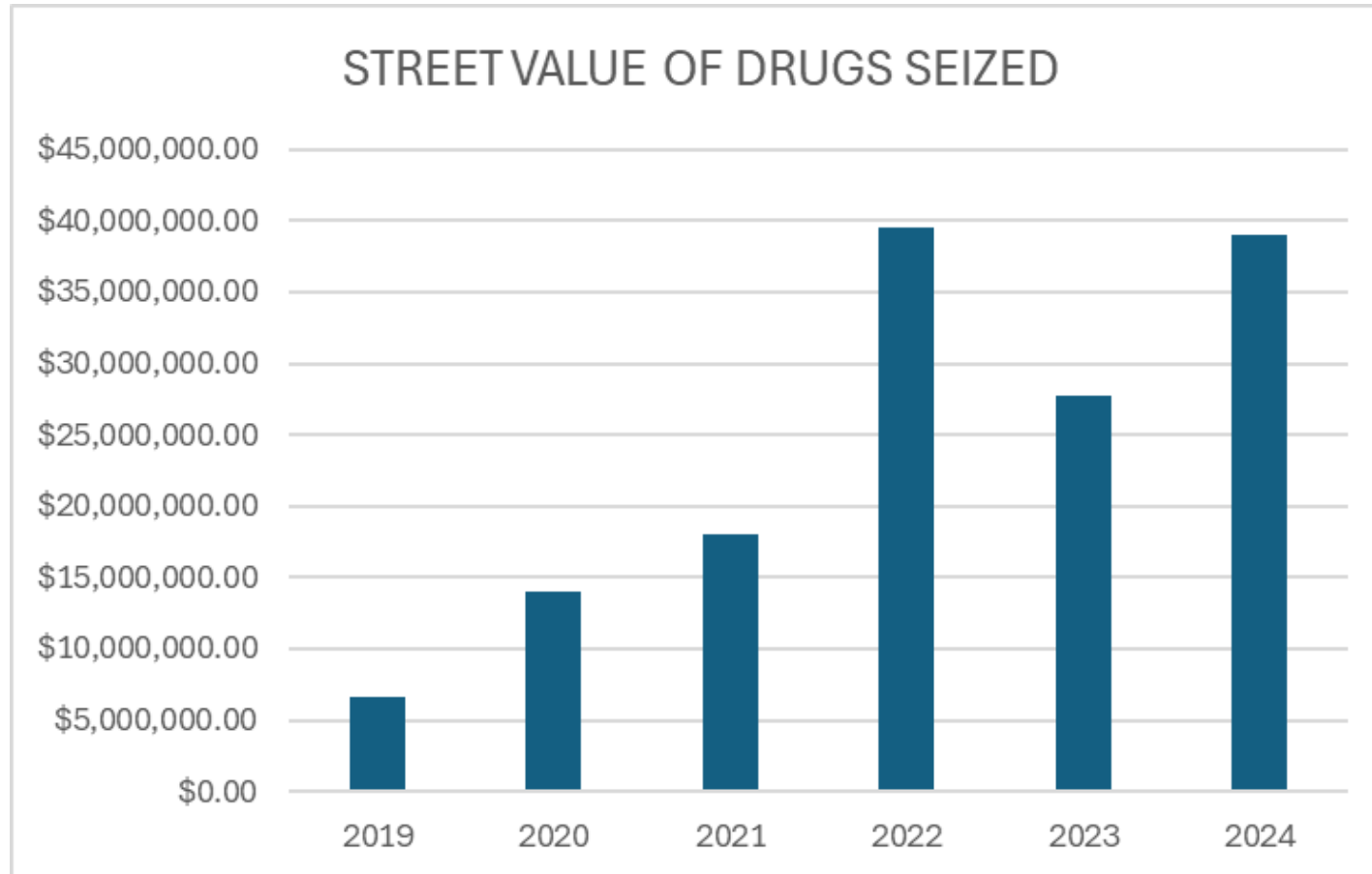
2022 - 2024



HISTORICAL MARIJUANA SEIZURE DATA



HISTORICAL STREET VALUES



NARCOTICS HISTORICAL SEIZURE DATA



YEAR	FIREARMS SEIZED	VEHICLES SEIZED	CURRENCY SEIZED
2019	90	6	\$836,321.39
2020	73	6	\$1,089,453.00
2021	40	6	\$315,769.00
2022	96	4	\$277,675.01
2023	71	0	\$338,956.00
2024	47	7	\$1,385,879.15



HISTORICAL ARREST DATA

YEAR	ASSISTED ARRESTS	ARRESTS
2019	107	181
2020	141	97
2021	105	183
2022	176	98
2023	234	148
2024	209	183

NARCOTICS OVERTIME

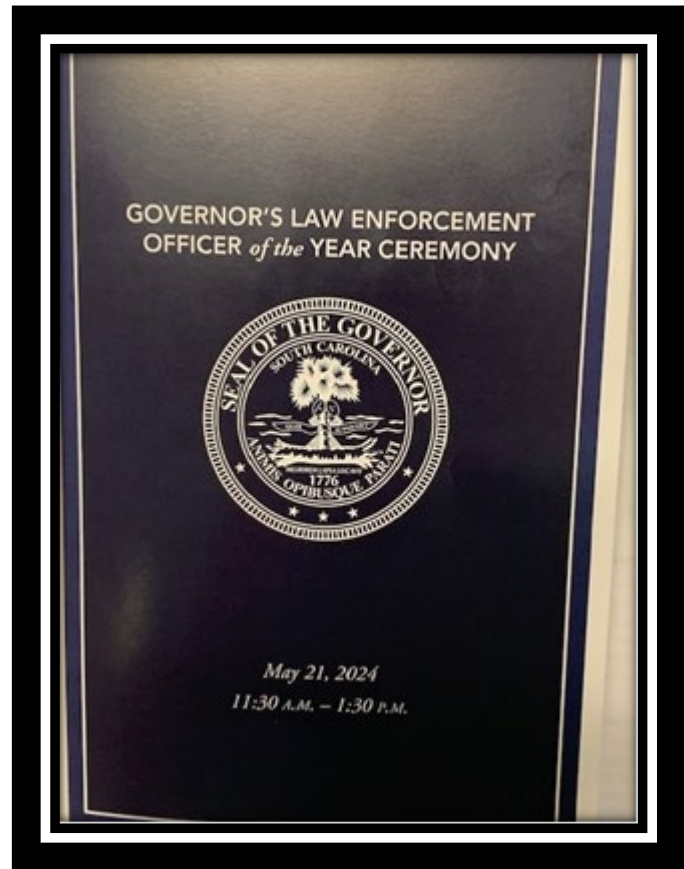


FY24

- 2,812 hours for \$139,236



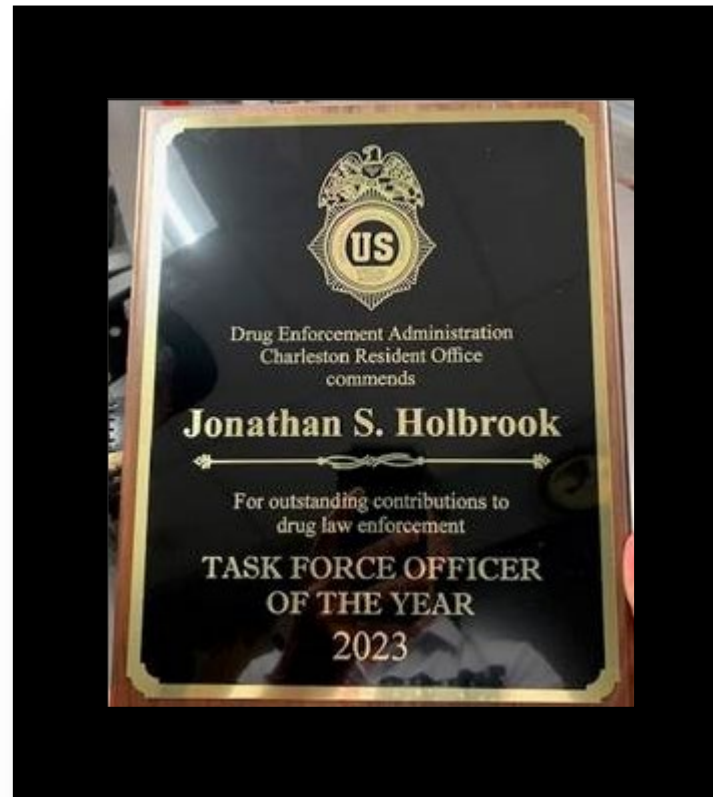
NARCOTICS AWARDS



NARCOTICS AWARDS



2023 Task Force Officer of the Year Award from DEA Charleston



NARCOTICS AWARDS

Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement in Greenville County



NARCOTICS



Devil in Disguise



DOGFIGHTING UNIT



DOGFIGHTING UNIT



Staffing:

The dogfighting unit is comprised of one Lieutenant and four Special Agents.



DOGFIGHTING UNIT



Caseload:

Agents generally work on 1-2 active cases at any given time. The length of a case depends on the number of defendants and how in-depth the agent goes with the case. Follow-up phone extractions/analysis take a significant amount of time to conduct. Agents often have 4-6 other cases that are in various stages of the judicial process.

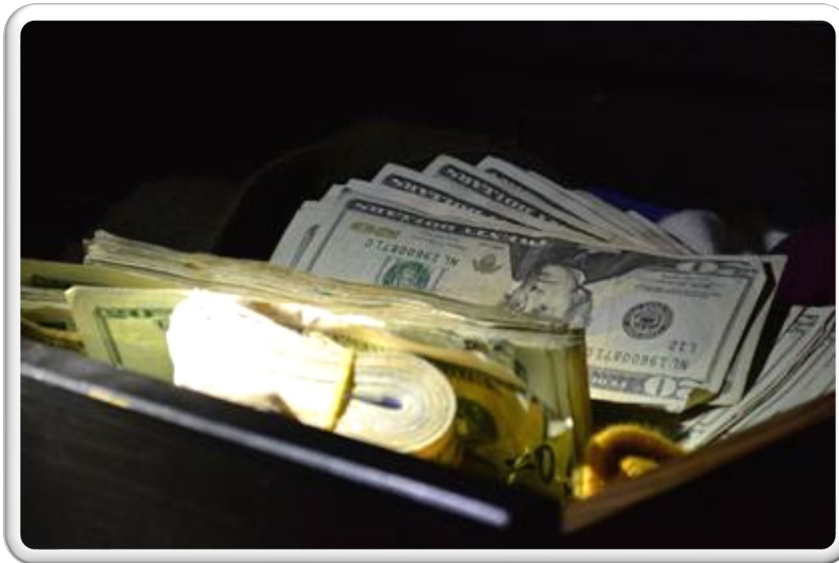


DOGFIGHTING UNIT



Why Dogfighting Team is important:

- Dogfighting is an underworked crime
- Relation to many other crimes such as drug trafficking and illegal gambling
- Helps break the cycle of generational involvement in this activity
- Rescuing innocent victims (dogs) from a life of misery and abuse



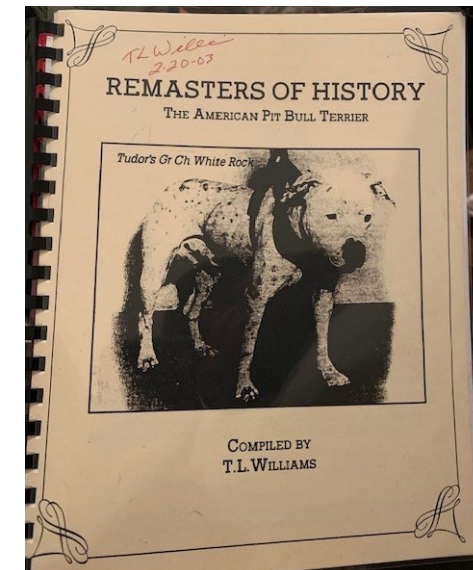
DOGFIGHTING — SC LAWS



In South Carolina, dog fighting is addressed under Title 16, Chapter 27, specifically, Section 16-27-30 which makes it unlawful to engage in, promote, or allow fighting. This section outlines the penalties for those found guilty of participating in or facilitating dog fighting activities.

Specific statutes related to dogfighting enforcement:

- 16-27-40 animal fighting or Baiting - misdemeanors upon conviction of 1st or 2nd offense (felonies 3rd or subsequent)
- 16-27-30 Animal Fighting or Baiting (Felony)
- 47-1-40 Ill treatment of animals
- 16-27-55 Forfeiture of property of one found in violation of act
- 47-1-170 Cost of Care



DOGFIGHTING UNIT



Specialized Training or Certifications

- Dogfighting Investigations training – ASPCA and Humane World for Animals (HWA)
- Animal Crimes and Forensics in Investigations

Specialized Equipment

- Kennels
- Catch Poles
- Bolt Cutters
- Surveillance equipment (cameras, UAS)

Areas of Focus

- Reducing the number of dogs around the state involved in dogfighting
- Intel gathering



Challenges

- Having a consistent place for dogs to go at the time of seizure
- Availability of a forensically trained veterinarian (some states have a state vet)
- Prosecution of animal crimes are not a priority



OUTSIDE PARTNERSHIPS

- American society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- Humane World for Animals (HWA) formerly HHUS
- K2 Solutions, LLC
- US Department of Agriculture
- All local law enforcement agencies
- Local Animal Control and Code Enforcement Units

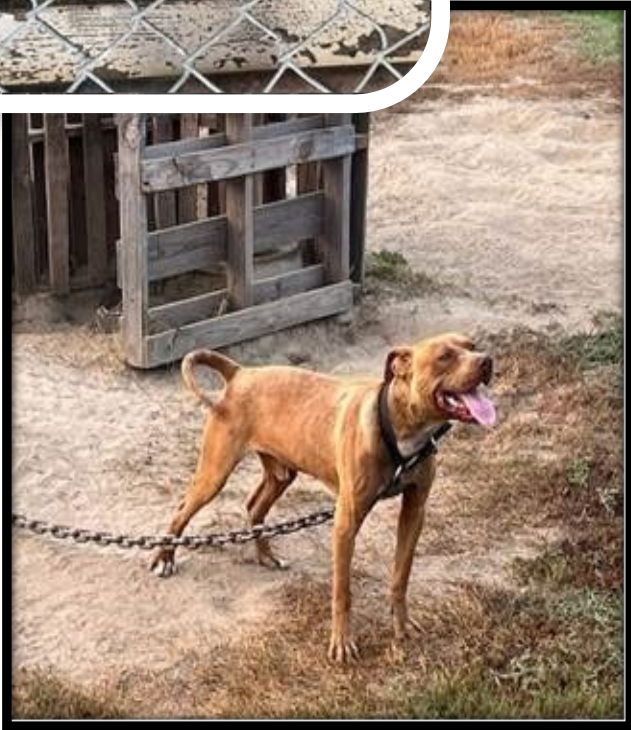




DOGFIGHTING FACTS AND PHOTOS

How Are Dogfighting Victims Raised and Trained?

Dogs used for fighting must be kept isolated from other dogs, so they spend most of their lives on short, heavy chains. They are usually unsocialized to other dogs and to most people. The dogs are exercised under controlled conditions, such as on a treadmill. The conditioning of dogfighting victims may also make use of a variety of legal and illegal drugs, including anabolic steroids to enhance muscle mass and encourage aggressiveness. Narcotic drugs may also be used to increase the dogs' aggression, increase reactivity, and mask pain or fear during a fight.



DOGFIGHTING FACTS AND PHOTOS



Where Do Dog Fights Take Place?

Fights can take place in a variety of locations and at any time. They may be impromptu street fights or carefully planned and staged enterprises in a location specifically designed and maintained for dog fighting. Fights usually take place in a pit that is between 14- and 20-feet square, with sides made of plywood.



DOGFIGHTING FACTS AND PHOTOS



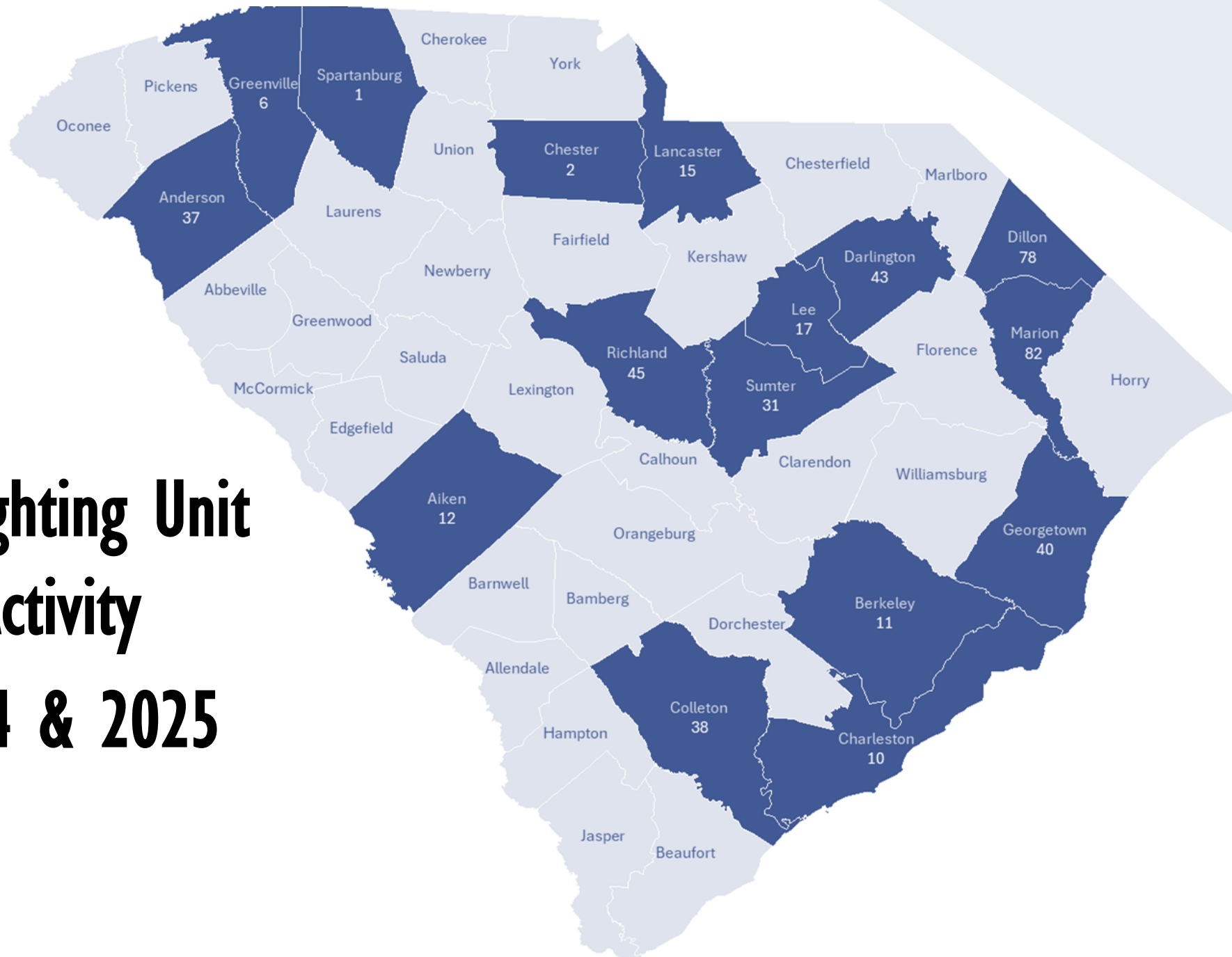
How Long Does a Dog Fight Last?

Fights can last just a few minutes or several hours. Both animals may suffer injuries, including puncture wounds, lacerations, blood loss, crushing injuries and broken bones. Although fights are not usually to the death, many dogs succumb to their injuries later.





Dogfighting Unit Activity 2024 & 2025



DOGFIGHTING UNIT STATS 2024



Rescued Dogs	Deceased Dogs	Euthanized Dogs	Total Dogs
205	23	2	231

DOGFIGHTING UNIT STATS 2024



Individuals Charged	Animal Related Animals	Firearm Related Charges	Drug Related Charges	Child Related Charges	Conspiracy Charges (non-animal)	Other Charges
60	233	52	32	21	9	4



DOGFIGHTING OVERTIME

FY24

- 589 hours for \$29,018



Before



Before



After



After

DOGFIGHTING

Spotlight Case

- April 2-3, 2025
- Dillon and Marion Counties
- 10 Search Warrants
- 11 Arrests
- 160 Dogs were Rescued
- \$69,700 in cash
- 55 firearms
- 17 pounds of marijuana
- 11 grams of crack cocaine
- 1 kilogram of cocaine
- 990 fentanyl pills
- 2,266 ecstasy pills





IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT UNIT

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT UNIT (IEU)



Staffing:

The Immigration Enforcement Unit is comprised of one Lieutenant and five Special Agents.

Caseload:

From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, the Immigration Unit initiated 67 new cases. This varies greatly on the priorities of the current administration.

SC IMMIGRATION LAWS



Specific statutes related to immigration enforcement include the following:

- 16-13-0010 Forgery
- 16-13-510 "Financial Identity Fraud" and "Identifying Information" Defined; Penalty and Restitution
- 16-13-525 Financial Identity Fraud Enabling Unlawfully Present Alien to Live or Work in United States; Penalties
- 16-23-530 Firearms; Possession by or Sale to Unlawful Alien; Penalties



IMMIGRATION UNIT



Task Force Assignments

- Two of the five agents assigned to the Immigration Enforcement Unit are Task Force Officers with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Specialized Training or Certifications

- Three of the five agents assigned to the Immigration Unit are Spanish speakers
- All five agents have completed 287(g) training – in total SLED has XX agents that have completed 287(g).

Challenges

- Hiring agents that speak Spanish

Specialized equipment utilized by the unit

- Unit members are currently utilizing Evolution Fingerprint Scanner. These scanners cost approximately \$2,200 – \$3,000 per unit. Our current scanners are five to six years old.

IEU PARTNERSHIPS



The IEU maintains a great working relationship with many local, state, federal and international agencies

US Department
of Transportation
(USDOT)

US State
Department
(USSD)

SC Highway
Patrol (SCHP)

Mexican Consulate,
Raleigh, NC

Guatemalan
Consulate
Raleigh, NC

Homeland
Security (HIS)

SC Labor,
Licensing and
Regulation (SCLLR)

**SLED
IEU**

SC Transport
Police (STP)

Honduran Consulate
Charlotte, NC

International
Police
(INTERPOL)

Federal
Bureau of Investigations
(FBI)

SC Department
of Employment
Workforce (SCDEW)

SC Attorney
General's Office
(SCAG)

SC Dept of
Revenue and
(SCDOR)

Immigration and
Customs
Enforcement (ICE)

Drug Enforcement
Administration
(DEA)

Social
Security
(SSA)

SC Department
of Motor Vehicles
(SCDOMV)

Internet Crimes
Against Children
Task Force (ICAC)

SC Department of
Natural
Resources (SCDNR)

US Marshal
Service (USMS)

US Department of
Health and
Human Services
(HHS)

Internal Revenue
Service
(IRS)

46 SC Counties Sheriff's Offices, City & Municipal Police

US Secret Service
(USSS)

US Attorney's Offices SC (AUSA)

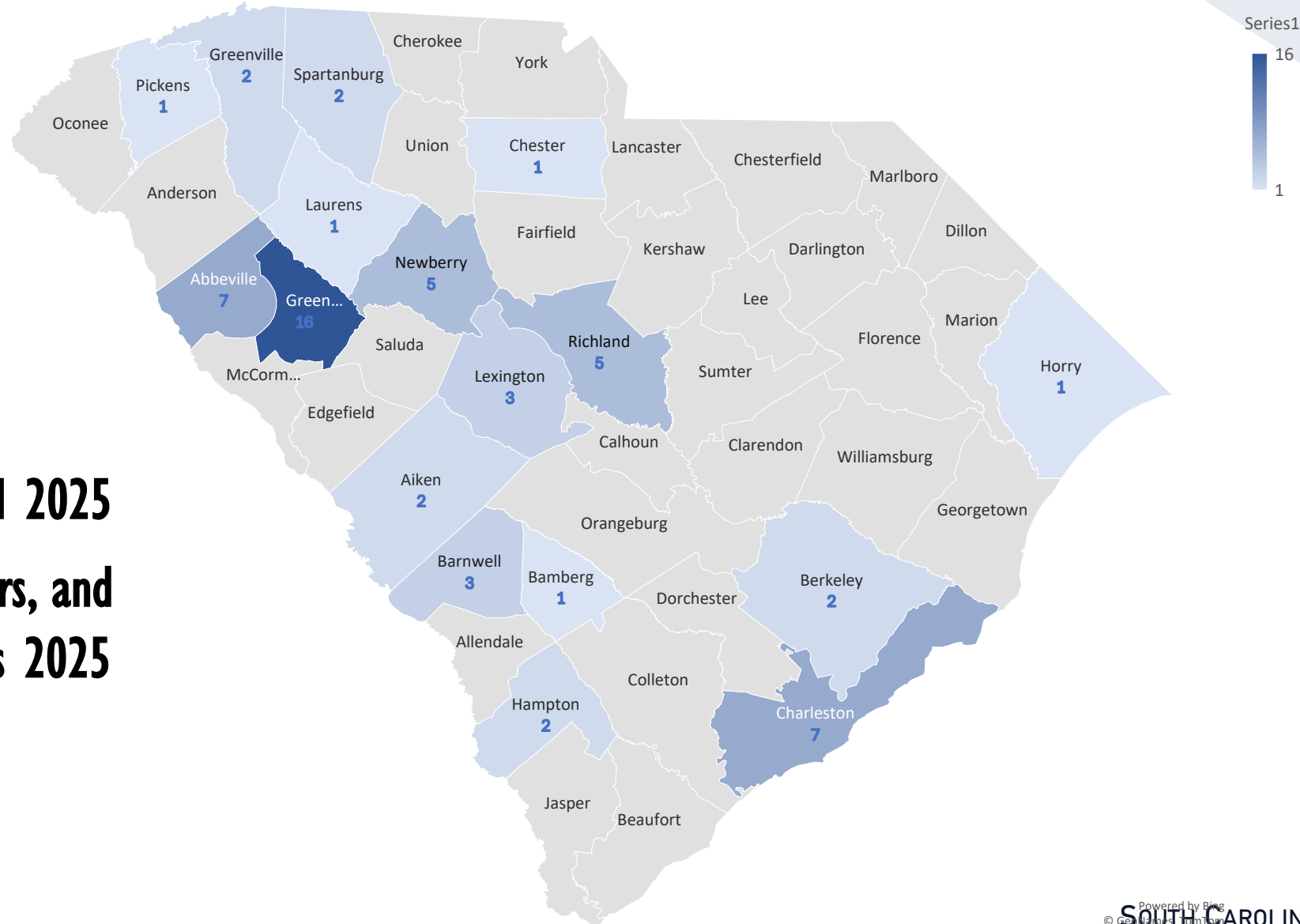
SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

IEU STATS FISCAL 2024



IEU	SUMMONS ISSUED (TICKETS)	WARRANTS SIGNED	ARRESTS	ASSISTED ARRESTS	ASSIST LE	FINGERPRINT EXECUTED	CLASSES TAUGHT		HOW MANY ATTENDEES		OPERATIONS	CASES OPENED	REFERRAL:	
							LE	Non-LE	LE	Non-LE			LE	Other
Jul-23		11	4	2	27	1					2	7	2	5
AUGUST		12	4	9	25	1					1	4	4	
SEPTEMBER		1	2	25	58	4					1	7	7	
OCTOBER			2	49	49	2						3	3	
NOVEMBER		6	3	39	46	5						10	10	
DECEMBER		14	3	18	60	5						7	7	
Jan-24				32	28	2					1	6	4	
FEBRUARY			1	4	47	7						5	4	
MARCH		18	4	6	47	9	1		13			11	4	
APRIL		8	1	26	47							2		
MAY		2	1	9	60		2		25			1		
JUNE	4	5	6	19	42	1	1		25			4		
TOTAL	4	77	31	238	536	37	4	0	63	0	5	67	45	5

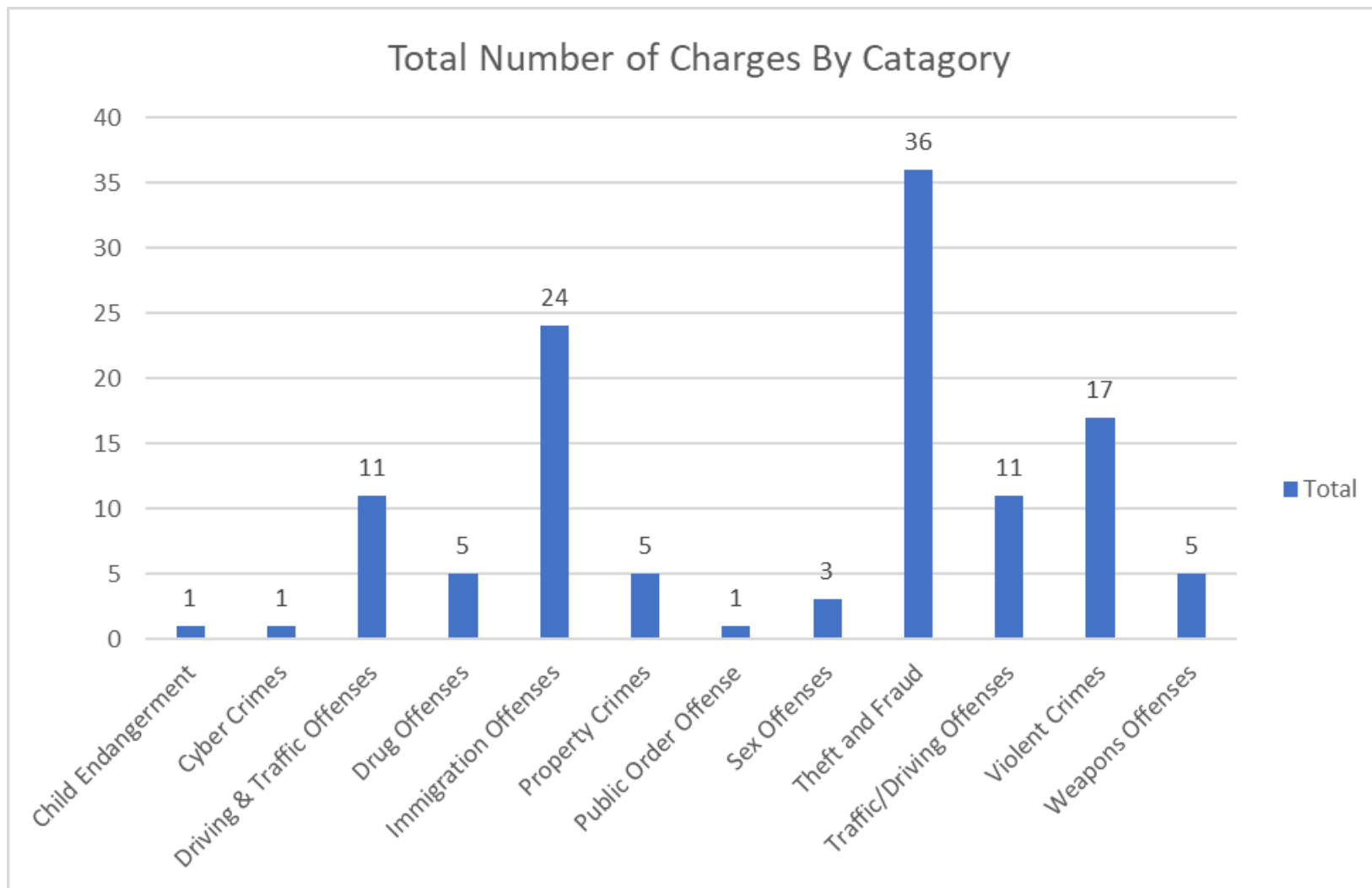
IMMIGRATION ERO ACTIVITY



January — April 2025

**Arrests, Detainers, and
Admin Warrants 2025**

IMMIGRATION PROSECUTION ACTIVITY



SUGGESTED LAW CHANGE



- **Amendment to Section 16-13-510 Financial identity fraud or identify fraud:** Adding (4) Possess, use, sell, manufacture, distribute, or have the intent to possess, use, sell, manufacture, distribute, another's personal identifying information or otherwise be articulatable in nature for the intent to facilitate fraud or to avoid detection by law enforcement with a gradual offense scale.
- **Amendment to Section 16-13-510 Financial identity fraud or identify fraud:** Adding Gradual offense scale to subsection (c) Identify Theft.





IMMIGRATION OVERTIME

FY24

- 1,052 hours for \$53,714



CONCLUSION & QUESTIONS

VICE SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS



House Oversight Committee Presentation

Matt Downey, Captain, Special Operations and Investigations Vice

SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



Captain Matt Downey

- Captain Matt Downey has been in law enforcement for twenty-two years and with SLED for eighteen.
- Captain Downey began his career at SLED in 2007 in Alcohol Enforcement Vice as a Special Agent.
- In 2011, Captain Downey became a Narcotics K9 handler.
- In 2021, Captain Downey was promoted to Lieutenant in Narcotics.
- In 2024, Captain Downey was promoted to Captain of Vice Special Operations and Investigations.

INTERDICTION





INTERDICTION UNIT

Authorizing statutes, relevant laws governing the units work, or regulations

South Carolina's laws on narcotics and controlled substances are primarily found in Title 44, Chapter 53 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, titled "Poisons, Drugs, and Other Controlled Substances." This chapter is extensive and covers various aspects of narcotics regulations, including:

- Definitions of controlled substances
- Classifications and schedules of drugs
- Penalties for possession, trafficking, and distribution
- Regulations regarding the prescription and dispensation of controlled substances
- Civil forfeiture laws related to drug offenses

INTERDICTION UNIT LAWS



Specific statutes dealing with narcotics enforcement

- 44-53-370 Possession, PWID, and Trafficking Marijuana, Cocaine, Fentanyl, Heroin, MDMA
- 44-53-375 Possession, PWID, and Trafficking Meth, Crack Cocaine
- 44-53-420 Attempt/Conspiracy
- 16-23-490 Poss. of Firearm or Knife During the Commission of a Violent Crime
- 44-53-379 Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Person Convicted of PWID, Dist, Trafficking, Manf.
- 16-23-500 Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Person Convicted of a Violent Crime
- 44-53-445 Proximity within ½ mile of a school/park
- 44-53-480 Enforcement - SLED Narcotics
- 44-53-530 Civil Forfeiture Procedures
- 46-55-10 Hemp Farming Act
- 46-55-20 Hemp licenses
- 46-55-60 Unlawful conduct relating to marijuana in proximity to industrial hemp



INTERDICTION UNIT

Staffing

- The Interdiction Unit currently consists of one Lieutenant, five Special Agents, and four narcotics detection canines. Agents are distributed throughout the four regions of the state with one Upstate agent, two Midlands agents, and two Pee Dee agents. The Low Country Region does not currently have an agent assigned to it.

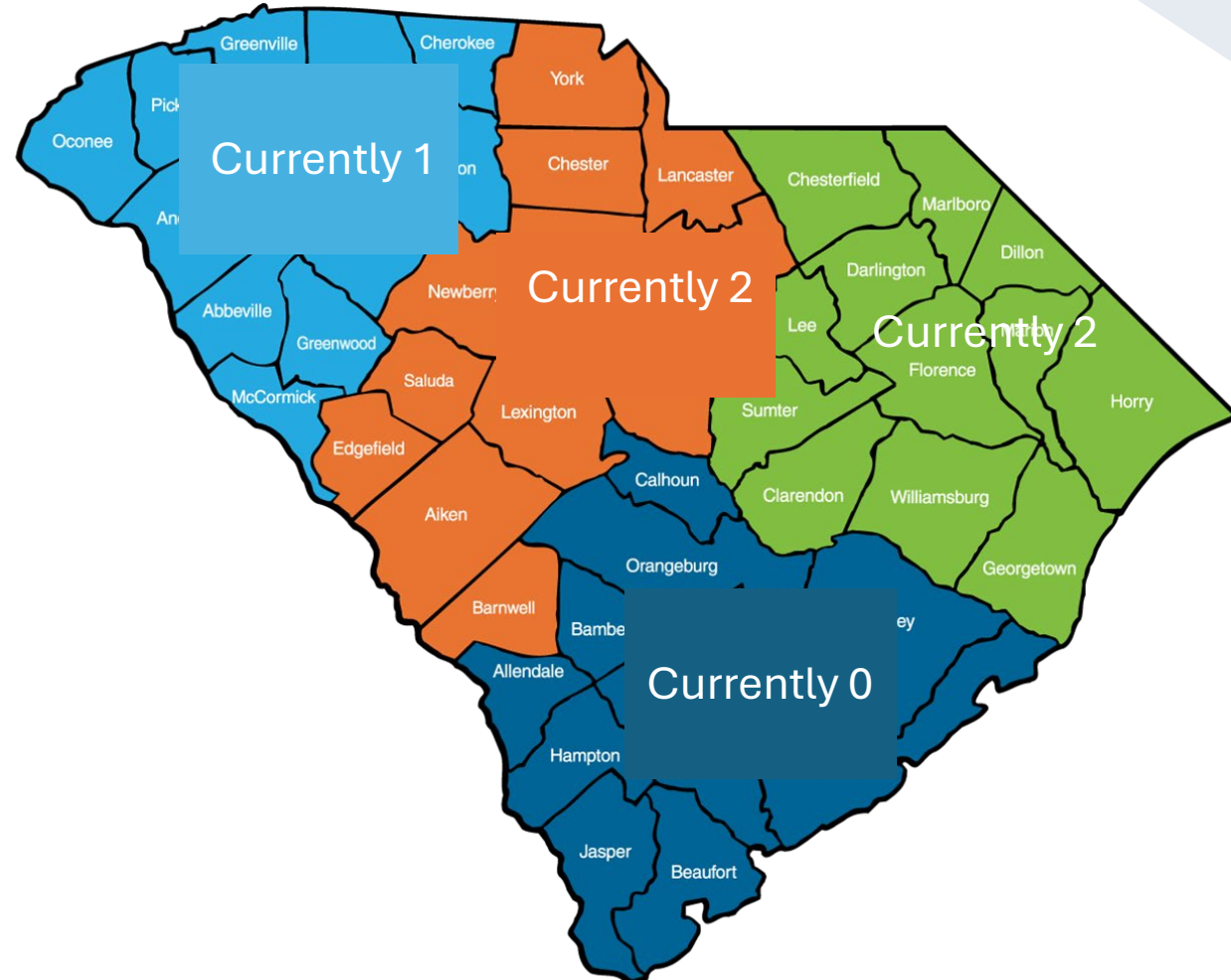
Caseload

- The average caseload for an interdiction agent is 90 cases a year.

INTERDICTION UNIT



The unit currently has no agent assigned to the Low Country Region of the state.





INTERDICTION UNIT

Why our work is important:

- The Interdiction unit is responsible for **stemming the flow of illegal drugs entering South Carolina via commercial parcel shipping facilities and airports.** The team regularly intercepts large amounts of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl destined for communities throughout the state. Without the unit, shipments of dangerous drugs would flow freely into South Carolina, which would result in increased crime and death. Through the efforts of the interdiction unit, the availability of these drugs is increasingly challenging to obtain for drug trafficking organizations throughout the state. The Interdiction unit also seizes high-concentration THC edibles, which can end up in the hands of children. A large majority of the THC edibles are packaged in a manner that resembles food products you would find in any retail grocery store (see photos). Much of these products resemble common candies and snacks that are traditionally marketed towards children.
- The Interdiction Unit also **intercepts shipments of currency destined for people attempting to financially scam citizens of South Carolina.** Often the victims are people in our elderly population. The interdiction unit can intercept and return the funds back to the victims of these crimes. These types of scams are becoming more prevalent, and the interdiction unit is aware of the lasting effects of these types of scams and is working to recognize, investigate, and prosecute these crimes.



INTERDICTION UNIT

Specialized Training or Certifications

- All agents in the interdiction unit have specialized training in the detection and interdiction of drug parcels, freight LTL loads, bulk cash smuggling, counterfeit identification, and airport interdiction.
- Four of the six agents are HSI TFO officers, who require a federal background check to obtain a level of security clearance and must complete bi-annual training to maintain their certification.
- The interdiction unit currently has four drug-detection K9s assigned to the unit, and the interdiction handlers are certified through the North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA). The initial training to be a certified drug-detecting k9 team is currently four months and requires yearly recertification.

Specialized Equipment

- TruNarc Device (4): 2-4 years old
- Sprinter Van (2): one new, one approx. 10 years old
- Box tracker (4): one year old



INTERDICTION UNIT

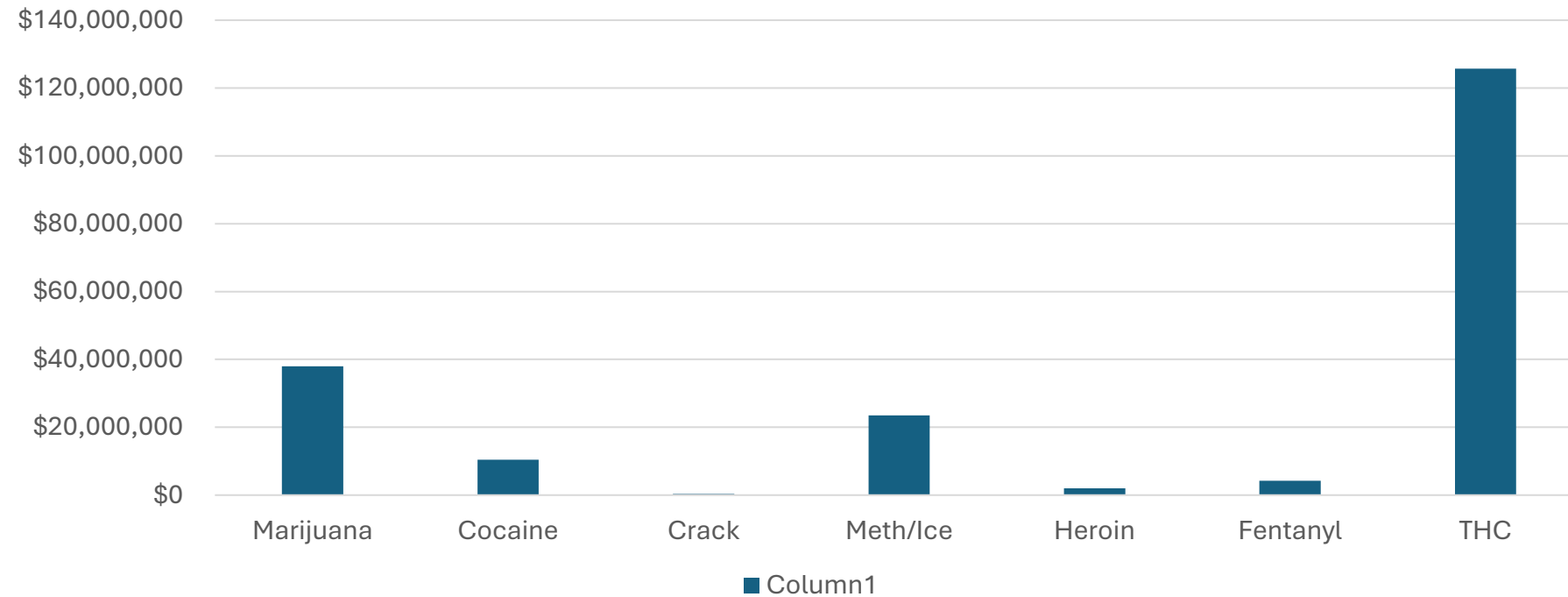
Statistics

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025(May)		
Arrest	44	46	63	22	86	44	15		
								TOTAL	Street Value
MJ (lbs)	394	955	1,662	1,817	3,595	3,158	1,075	12,656	\$37,968,000
Cocaine (gr)	2,508	5,733	19,272	27,549	31,557	14,915	2,633	104,166	\$10,416,600
Crack (gr)	298	31	0	2,793	94	100	0.00	3,316	\$331,600
Meth/Ice (gr)	8,033	23,232	22,906	85,694	74,101	53,922	25,362	293,249	\$23,459,920
Heroin (gr)	956	1,506	1,056	16,235	156	0	0	19,908	\$1,990,810
Fentanyl (gr)	0	7,090	3,131	14,618	4,927	3,860	0	33,626	\$4,203,250
THC	304	4367	1,456,158	6,069	39,295	35,716	29,655	1,571,563	\$125,725,040

INTERDICTION UNIT



Dollar Value of Drugs Taken from the Streets of SC 2019 – May 2025



INTERDICTION UNIT



Suggested Regulation Changes

- Adjust the law to eliminate THC consumables being sold in South Carolina.



2023 INIA Interdiction Team of the Year



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



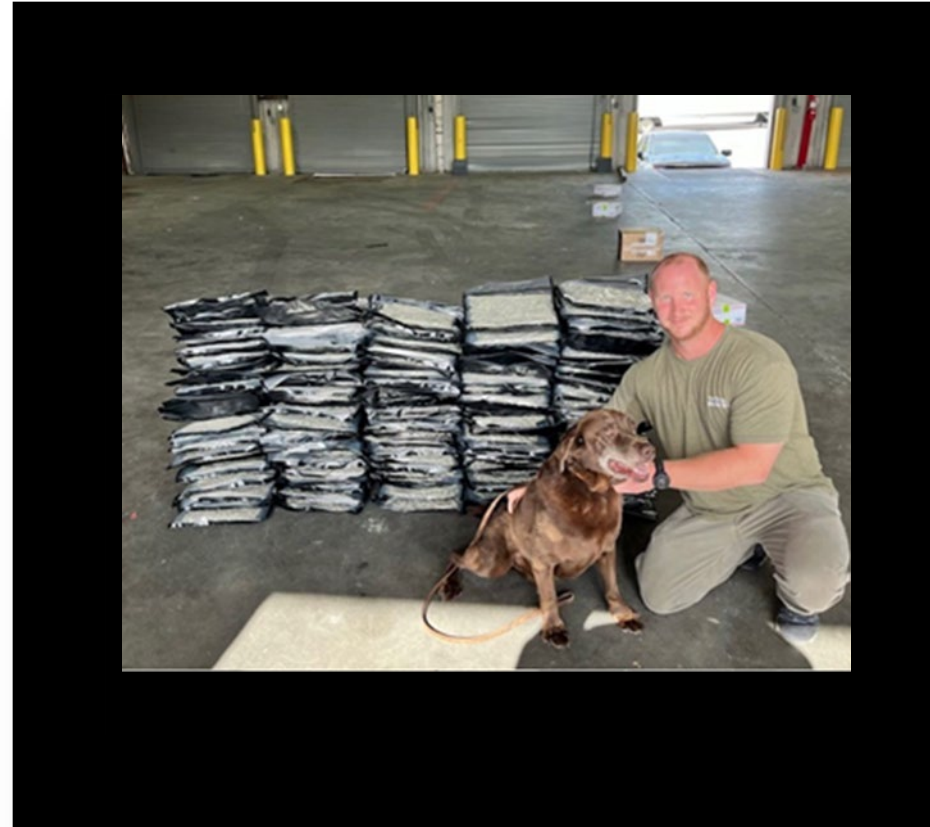
Parcel Interdiction – 24 pounds of ice



Parcel Interdiction 2 Kilos of Fentanyl



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



4 pounds of Marijuana, AR-15 Rifle, \$3,829 Cash



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



Parcel Interdiction – Controlled Delivery resulting in seizure of 4 pounds of marijuana and 5 firearms



Parcel Interdiction – Controlled Delivery resulting in 5.5 pounds of Marijuana

INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



Parcel Interdiction and Controlled Delivery



- 13 pounds of marijuana



- 10 pounds of Methamphetamine



- 2 kilos of Cocaine

INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



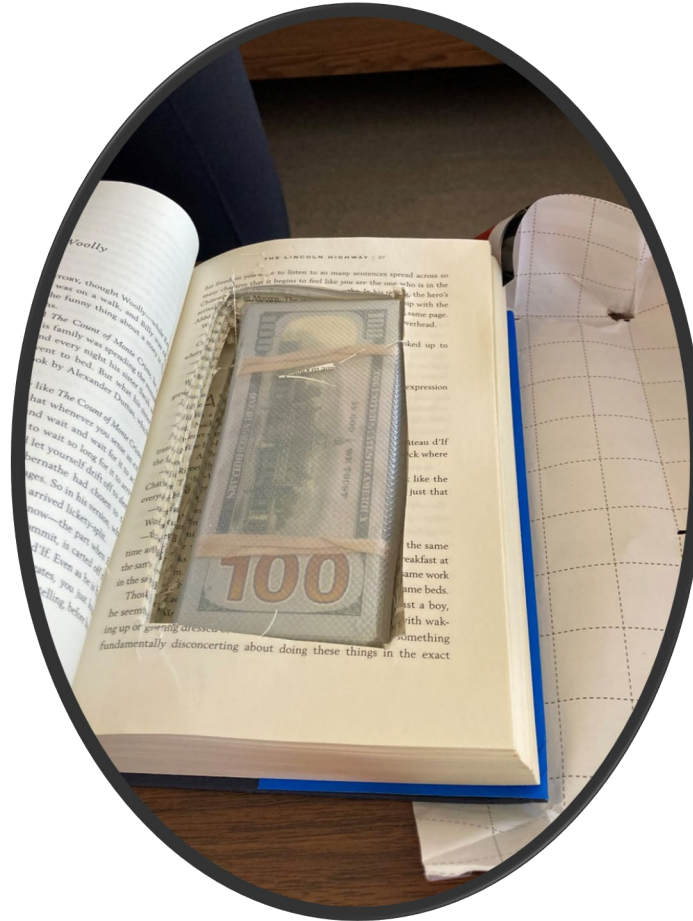
INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



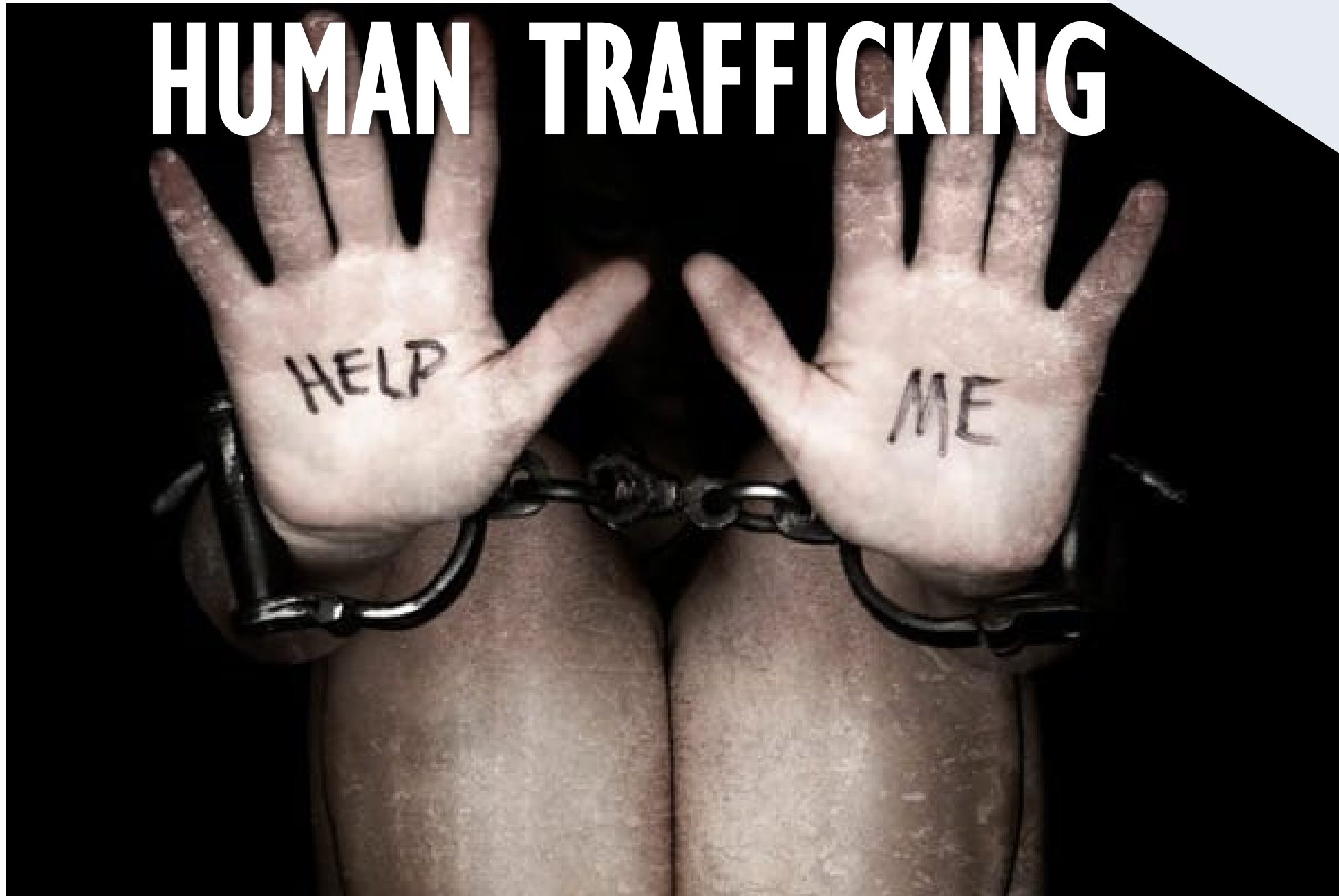
INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



INTERDICTION UNIT PHOTOS



HUMAN TRAFFICKING



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Authorizing statutes, relevant laws governing the units work, or regulations 16-03-2050(B)(5) — Formation of The Human Trafficking Task Force which states that SLED be a member of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force under the direction of the South Carolina Attorney General.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Most Common HTU Charges:

- Criminal Sexual Conduct – 16-3-652; 653; 654
- Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor – 16-3-655
- First Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 16-15-395
- Second Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 16-15-405
- Third Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 16-15-410
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor – 16-15-342
- Kidnapping – 16-3-910
- Trafficking in Persons – 16-3-2020
- Sexual Extortion 16-15-0430

Miscellaneous HTU Charges:

- Prostitution – 16-15-90
- Unlawful Communication – 16-15-250
- Unlawful Dissemination of Obscene Material – 16-15-305



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

Staffing

- 4 FTEs Special Agents (1 Assigned to each region; Midlands, Upstate, Low Country, Pee Dee)
- 1 FTE Supervisor (Housed in Columbia)
- 2 Temporary Grant Special Agents (2 Assigned to the Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester area focused primarily on adult victims and labor trafficking)
- 1 Temporary Grant Victim's Advocate (Assigned to the Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester area focused primarily on adult victims and labor trafficking).

Caseload

- Currently, agents are averaging six new tips or complaints each month. Additionally, agents self-generated or law enforcement or community referred cases that require fact finding and coordination with local and/or federal partners as well as other multidisciplinary team members.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Why our work is important

Training Local Law Enforcement

- Human trafficking is often hidden and can be challenging for local law enforcement officers to recognize, especially given its subtle nature and the diverse ways it can manifest. The SLED Human Trafficking Unit plays a critical role in:
 - Educating Officers - They provide specialized training for local law enforcement to enhance their ability to identify and respond to trafficking situations. This includes recognizing signs of trafficking, understanding the dynamics of exploitation, and knowing how to handle cases involving victims through trauma informed policing.
 - Standardizing Practices - By sharing knowledge and best practices, they help ensure that local agencies are using consistent and effective methods when dealing with trafficking cases.
 - Building Capacity - They equip local officers with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively conduct investigations and support victims, thereby increasing the overall efficacy of law enforcement efforts across the state in this area.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Combating Sex Trafficking Across the State

- Sex trafficking is a particularly severe form of human trafficking that involves the exploitation of individuals for commercial sex. The Human Trafficking Unit's efforts in this area include:
 - **Coordinated Operations** – They organize and conduct operations to identify and dismantle sex trafficking networks. These operations may involve undercover work, surveillance, and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies.
 - **Victim Recovery** – The unit focuses on locating and rescuing victims who are trapped in sex trafficking situations, providing them with immediate support and resources.
 - **Preventative Measures** – They work to prevent sex trafficking by targeting known hotspots, educating potential victims about the risks, and engaging with communities to raise awareness.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Handling Complex Criminal Investigations

- Human trafficking cases often involve intricate criminal networks and require sophisticated investigative techniques. The unit's involvement in complex investigations includes:
 - Specialized Investigative Techniques - They utilize advanced tools and methods to unravel complex trafficking operations. This can involve digital forensics, financial investigations, and tracking trafficking routes.
 - Victim-Centered Approach - They employ strategies that prioritize the safety and well-being of victims, recognizing the trauma and vulnerability associated with trafficking situations.
 - Collaboration with Other Agencies - The unit often works alongside federal agencies, other state law enforcement bodies, and non-profit organizations to tackle trafficking networks and build comprehensive cases against perpetrators.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Working with the State and Regional Task Forces

Human trafficking is a widespread issue that transcends local jurisdictions, making collaboration essential. The unit's role in working with state and regional task forces includes:

- **Coordinated Efforts** - They participate in and support task forces that bring together multiple law enforcement agencies, governmental bodies, and community organizations to address trafficking comprehensively.
- **Information Sharing** - They facilitate the exchange of intelligence and resources between different entities involved in combating trafficking, enhancing the effectiveness of operations and investigations.
- **Strategic Planning** - By working with task forces, they help develop and implement strategic plans to address trafficking trends and challenges on a broader scale.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Overall Impact

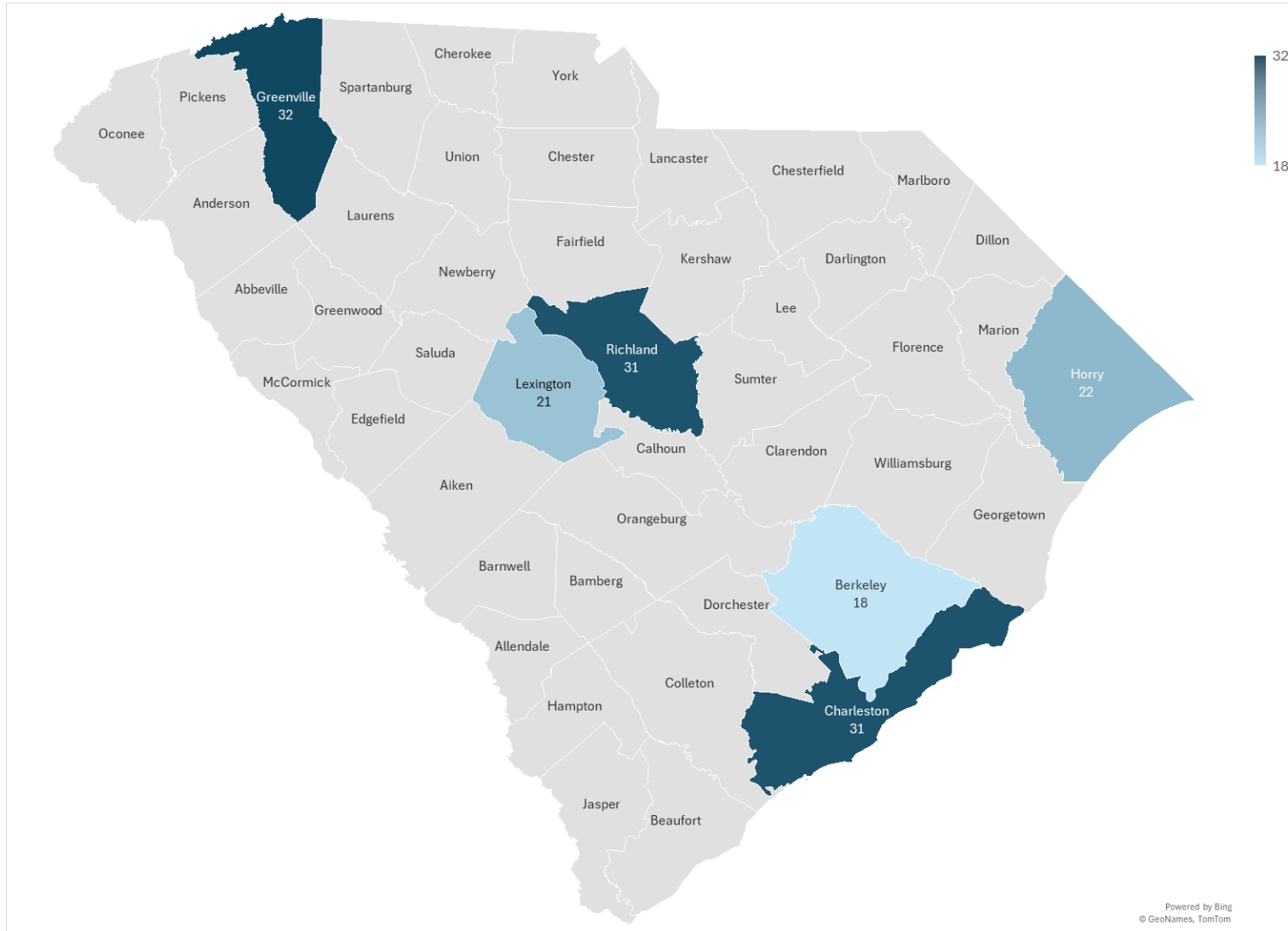
- The work of the SLED Human Trafficking Unit is vital for several overarching reasons:
 - Protection of Vulnerable Populations - Their efforts directly contribute to safeguarding individuals who are at risk of or who are currently experiencing trafficking.
 - Disruption of Trafficking Networks - By targeting and dismantling trafficking operations, they help reduce the prevalence of this crime and the associated harm.
 - Strengthening Community and Law Enforcement Capacity - Their training and collaborative efforts enhance the overall capability of the state's law enforcement agencies to handle human trafficking effectively.
- The Human Trafficking Unit is essential for addressing the multifaceted issue of human trafficking through training, operations, complex investigations, and collaboration with broader task forces. Our work not only combats trafficking but also builds a more informed and prepared law enforcement community, contributing to a safer state. Personnel assigned to the unit continuously seek out and continue their own education and training to remain on the forefront of current trends in this area and are counted on to be the subject matter experts for law enforcement and their many partners across the state.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

DATE	ARRESTS	ASSITED ARRESTS	CLASSES TAUGHT		JUVENILE RECOVERY	
			Law Enforcement	Non-Law Enforcement	Primary	Assist
2023	12	15	3	5	4	9
2024	11	23	14	8	6	4
January – May 2025	7	14	4	2	5	6

TOP COUNTIES BY TIPS 2024



- 1. Greenville (32)
- 2. Charleston / Richland (31)
- 3. Horry (22)
- 4. Lexington (21)
- 5. Berkeley (18)

TIPS BY COUNTIES 2024



County	Number of Tips
ABBEVILLE	2
AIKEN	7
ALLENDALE	1
ANDERSON	6
BAMBERG	2
BARNWELL	1
BEAUFORT	5
BERKELEY	18
CALHOUN	0
CHARLESTON	31
CHEROKEE	8
CHESTER	4
CHESTERFIELD	3
CLARENDON	2
COLLETON	2
DARLINGTON	2

County	Number of Tips
DILLON	0
DORCHESTER	8
EDGEFIELD	2
FAIRFIELD	1
FLORENCE	6
GEORGETOWN	2
GREENVILLE	32
GREENWOOD	2
HAMPTON	1
HORRY	22
JASPER	4
KERSHAW	2
LANCASTER	5
LAURENS	8
LEE	0
LEXINGTON	21

County	Number of Tips
MARION	1
MARLBORO	0
MCCORMICK	0
NEWBERRY	4
OCONEE	4
ORANGEBURG	4
PICKENS	1
RICHLAND	31
SALUDA	1
SPARTANBURG	16
SUMTER	3
UNION	1
WILLIAMSBURG	0
YORK	9

TIPS 2024



285

Tips Investigated

392

Potential Victims

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORM



Human Trafficking Tip Form


English (United States) ▾

Important

If you are in immediate danger or if someone's life is at risk, please dial 911 or contact your local police department immediately.

Next

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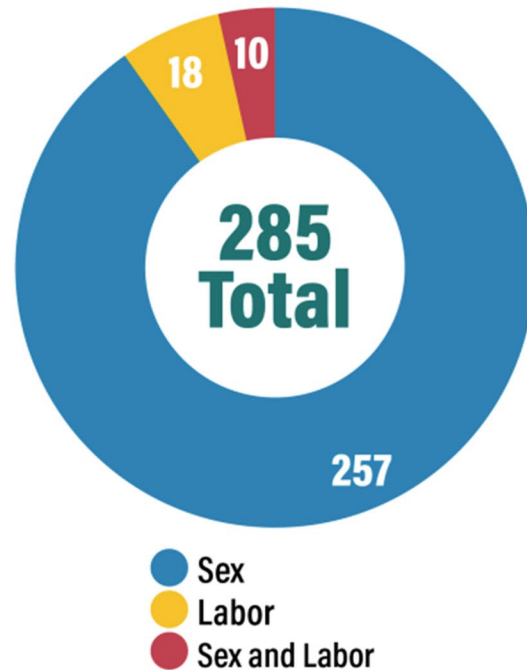
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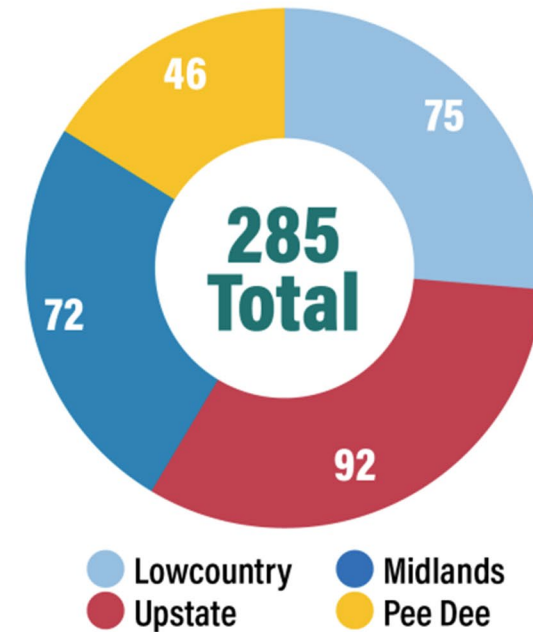
TIPS INVESTIGATED 2024



Tips Investigated in 2024



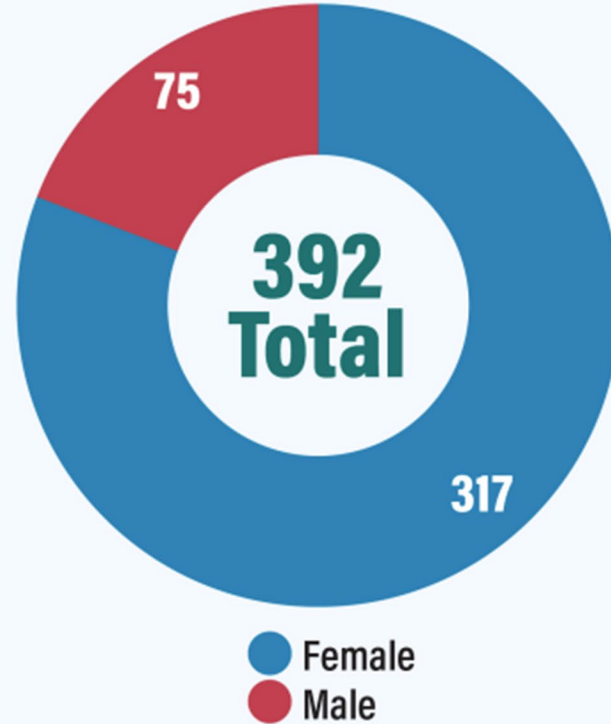
Tips by Area



MALE AND FEMALE VICTIMS 2024



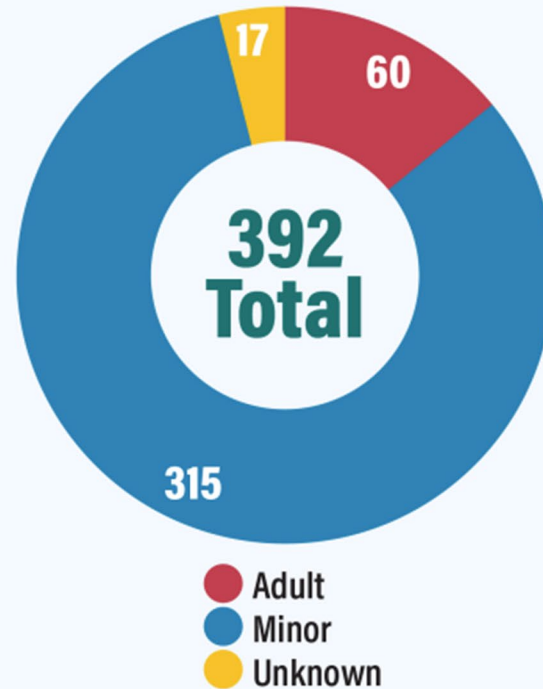
Male and Female Victims



ADULT AND MINOR VICTIMS 2024



Adult and Minor Victims



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Task Force Assignments

- S/A Logan Fey – TFO with HSI Charleston
- S/A Kason Gardner – TFO with FBI Columbia
- Lt. Jade Roy – TFO with HSI Columbia

Board Assignments

- Lt. Jade Roy – Chair of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee for the SC Human Trafficking Task Force

Specialized training or Certifications

- One agent and victim advocate are certified child forensic interviewers. Each agent has multiple hours of training specific to crimes against children, special victims, exploitation and trafficking related courses and are subject matter experts in the fields of labor and sex trafficking.

Specialized Equipment

- Microwave Surveillance Equipment (approximately 5 years old)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Partnerships

- South Carolina Department of Labor (SCLLR)
- South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS)
- South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ)
- South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
- South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW)
- United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Wage and Hour Division
- Other State Law Enforcement Investigative Agencies to include Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI), Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI), North Carolina Bureau of Investigations (SBI), Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA)

Grants

- Private foundation funding to the Lincoln Tubman Foundation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



- **Unit Focus Areas**
- **Training Local Law Enforcement**
 - **Challenges:**
 - **Knowledge Gaps:** Not all local law enforcement officers may be aware of the signs of human trafficking or understand the nuances of trafficking cases. Overcoming these knowledge gaps requires continuous education and training.
 - **Resource Constraints:** Smaller or underfunded departments may struggle to allocate resources for specialized training and may lack the necessary tools or personnel to implement what they've learned effectively.
 - **Resistance to Change:** Some officers or departments might be resistant to adopting new methods or protocols, particularly if they are accustomed to traditional approaches or if there is a lack of immediate visible results.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

Unit Focus Areas

- Combating Trafficking Across the State

- **Challenges:**

- **Hidden Nature of the Crime:** trafficking often occurs in clandestine environments, making it difficult to identify and disrupt. Perpetrators are skilled at concealing their activities, which complicates enforcement efforts.
 - **Jurisdictional Issues:** Coordinating efforts across different jurisdictions can be challenging, especially when trafficking operations span multiple counties or states. Variations in local laws and practices can also hinder effective intervention.
 - **Victim Reluctance:** Victims may be unwilling to come forward due to fear of retaliation, mistrust of authorities, or psychological manipulation by traffickers. This reluctance can impede rescue and support efforts.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



Unit Focus Areas

- Handling Complex Criminal Investigations
 - **Challenges:**
 - **Resource Intensity:** Investigations into human trafficking are resource-intensive and require significant time, expertise, and financial investment. Limited resources can stretch the capacity of the unit and affect the thoroughness of investigations.
 - **Trauma-Informed Care:** Investigators must balance the need for evidence collection with a trauma-informed approach, which can be challenging given the emotional and psychological trauma experienced by victims.
 - **Complexity of Networks:** Trafficking operations often involve sophisticated and clandestine networks that are difficult to penetrate and dismantle. Unraveling these networks requires advanced investigative techniques and collaboration with other agencies.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

Unit Focus Areas

- **Lack of Victim Services**

- **Challenges:**

- **Minor Victims:** There is often a significant lack of specialized services for minor victims of trafficking. These minors require distinct care and support, including trauma-informed counseling, educational services, and legal protection. The absence of dedicated resources and facilities for minors is severely impacting their recovery and reintegration.
 - **Adult Victims:** For adult victims, there is insufficient access to long-term support services such as housing, job training, and mental health care. Many adult victims face barriers to accessing these services due to stigma, lack of awareness, or financial constraints.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS TECHNICAL SERVICES



TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



Staffing

The Technical Services Unit currently consists of one Lieutenant and four special agents. The coverage areas for the technical Services Unit are not geographically assigned.

Caseload

The Technical Services Unit does not carry a traditional caseload.

Why your work is important

The Technical Services Unit (TSU) provides a unique service for not only SLED but our local law enforcement agencies. The TSU has the only full-time technical investigators in South Carolina. While the job description of the TSU covers a wide range of services, the primary function of the unit is obtaining covert audio and video evidence in criminal investigations. Traditionally, the TSU primarily supported narcotics investigations. However, the unit now supports every division of SLED, providing equipment, support, and assistance in gathering valuable evidence in a wide range of cases. The unit gives SLED the expertise and the means to monitor and protect undercover agents during dangerous operations, providing safety for agents acting in an undercover role while capturing crucial audio and video or criminal activity that can aid in the prosecution of suspects.

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



The following are three examples of important missions that the TSU supports outside of traditional undercover investigations.

- SLED has a full time **Human Trafficking Unit** that frequently conducts undercover operations targeting sex trafficking. The TSU installs covert audio and video equipment in hotel rooms used for these operations. The equipment is not only expensive but requires an extensive amount of technical knowledge to operate. Once the installation is complete the TSU monitors the audio and video during the operation. This equipment not only protects the undercover agents involved in the operation but captures audio and video recordings of criminal activity that can be used for prosecution.
- **The SLED Narcotics Unit** regularly conducts undercover narcotics investigations where a confidential informant or undercover agent is utilized to purchase illegal contraband from suspects. The TSU provides, trains, deploys and maintains the technical equipment utilized in these operations. This is not a task that cannot be delegated outside of the TSU. The TSU's role in these operations not only provides safety to those at risk, but aids in the prosecution of suspects.
- **SLED has a full-time fugitive unit** that focuses on locating and arresting suspects with arrest warrants for violent crimes. These suspects are all extremely dangerous and many of them are evading capture. The TSU aids with covert cameras and GPS tracking to allow the law enforcement to covertly track the suspects so that arrest can be made in the safest way possible.

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



Partnerships

The TSU supports investigations in each county (46) within South Carolina and/or the municipalities within the respective County. The TSU works closely with our federal partners agencies while conducting criminal investigations, including the ATF, FBI, HSI, CBP, DEA, USPIS. The TSU also works closely and maintains relationships with the electrical and power companies that service South Carolina.

Specialized Equipment

The TSU operates a vast inventory of technical equipment. The majority of the equipment is covert in nature. The TSU currently maintains an inventory of approximately \$1,000,000.00 in equipment



TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



Specialized Training and Certifications

Specialized training is paramount for agents assigned to the Technical Service Unit (TSU). While SLED can provide some direct training, neither SLED nor the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy can provide the training needed to properly conduct the duties of a technical investigator. Not only can SLED not provide this training, but it is also rare that applicable training is offered in South Carolina. The following covers two examples of specialized training but does not cover all the training needs:

- National Technical Investigators Association (NATIA)
- Certified Technical Investigator (CTI)

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT



The TSU set a goal that all agents assigned to the unit obtain qualification as a Certified Technical Investigator (CTI) through NATIA, The National Technical Investigators Association. NATIA is the only organization that offers a nationally recognized standard for technical investigators and there are only two training options approved by NATIA to become a CTI. The first is through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, GA and the second is through Covert Track in Phoenix, AZ. The FLETC course is not subsidized, and state and local attendees are charged for the course.

In addition to the examples given for the purpose of this outline, all agents assigned to the TSU are expected to attend the National Technical Investigators conference annually, attend IP programming training, basic electronics, regular vendor specific training and learn 3d printing and CAD design. Training is a major factor in determining budget needs for the TSU.



CONCLUSION & QUESTIONS