

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BERKS COUNTY DETECTIVES

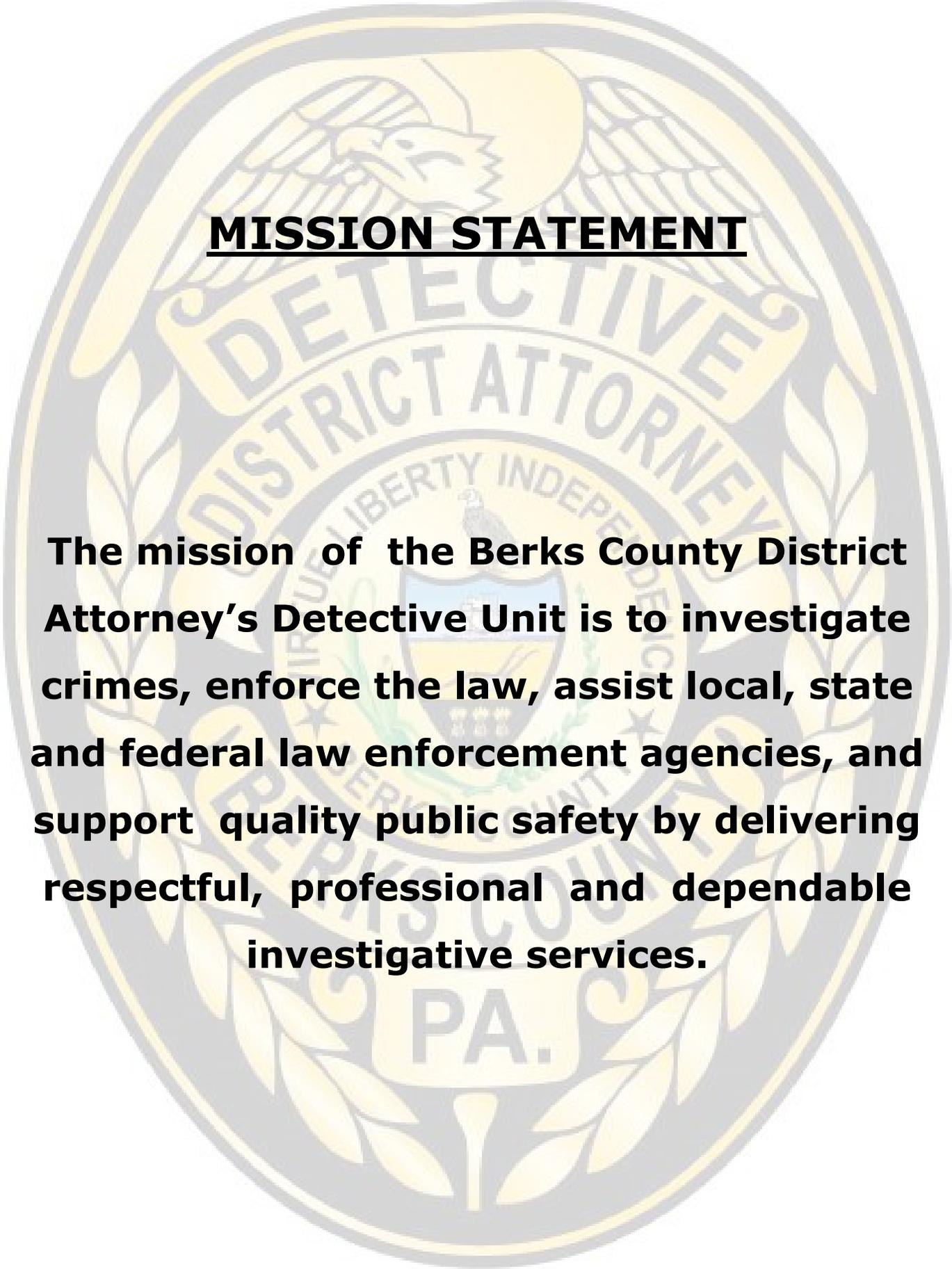


John T. Adams, District Attorney
Michael J. Gombar, Chief County Detective
Lt. Todd E. Trupp, Criminal Investigations Section
Lt. Nelson Ortiz, Narcotics Section

Table of contents



Mission Statement	3
Message from the Chief	4
2014– Programs—Pharmaceutical Drop Box Program	5
2014 Special Events	7
Criminal Investigations Section	8
ICAC—Internet Crimes Against Children	9
To Catch A Predator	10
2014 DA Sponsored Training	11
Blood Spatter Identification	12
Digital Photography for Law Enforcement	13
Digital Interview Room	14
Statistical Comparison– Crime Section	15
Criminal Investigations Chart	16
Forensic Service Charts	17
Bad Check Restitution Program	18
Gambling Seizure	19
Narcotics Section	20
Statistical Comparison—Narcotics Section	23
Educational Presentations— Narcotics Section	24
Operation Nightlight	27
Retirements / Recruitments	28
Grants Awarded	29
Awards	30
2014 Table of Organization	32

The seal of the Berks County District Attorney's Office is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features a central shield with a scale of justice, a sword, and a laurel wreath. Above the shield is a banner with the words "LIBERTY INDEPENDENCE". The outer ring of the seal contains the text "BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY" and "PA." at the bottom. The seal is rendered in a light, semi-transparent yellow and grey color.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit is to investigate crimes, enforce the law, assist local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and support quality public safety by delivering respectful, professional and dependable investigative services.

Michael J. Gombar

Chief County Detective

Message from the Chief

As the Chief Detective of Berks County, it is an honor to present the 2014 Annual Report of the Berks County District Attorney Detective Unit. The personnel of our detective unit, both sworn and civilian are dedicated and professional individuals that are committed to providing a dependable investigative service to the citizens of Berks County. Each and every one of our members, are an integral part in the success of our detective unit. Each year we strive to improve our services and strengthen our partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.



I encourage you to take the time to review the vast amount of information contained within this annual report. This report will provide an overview of the District Attorney's Detective Unit and various detailed statistical information that you may find useful.

I am extremely proud of our accomplishments and the successes we achieved during this past year, and we look forward to the challenges of a new year.

Lastly, I am truly proud to be the Chief Detective of this unit, which I consider one of the finest in our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Gombar
Chief County Detective



2014 PROGRAMS



Pharmaceutical Drop Box Program

In 2013, Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams announced the launching of Berks County Pharmaceutical Drop Box Program in Berks County, at the Berks County AG Center. This program was developed as a cooperative effort between the District Attorney's Office, the Council on Chemical Abuse (COCA), and Berks County Solid Waste Authority.

This pharmaceutical/medication drop box disposal program will allow Berks County residents to discard unused or unwanted medication year round at secure locations.



Medications are collected in many forms including: tablet, liquid, ointment, inhaler, powder or patch. This pharmaceutical/medication drop box disposal program will allow Berks County residents to discard unused or unwanted medication year round at secure locations.

The initiation of this program provides numerous benefits to the community. These benefits include:

- An opportunity to educate the community about the dangers these medications pose, if left unwanted in homes or improperly discarded.
- A positive connection between Berks County citizens, the township police departments, the District Attorney's Office, the Council on Chemical Abuse and Berks County Solid Waste Authority.
- A decrease of water contamination due to pharmaceutical medications being flushed down the drains in our homes, or contained in our landfills.
- A reduction of access to addictive medications for accidental or intentional misuse by children or others in the home.

Each drop box is securely placed and locked within a township municipal building where it can be protected. These drop boxes resemble a United States Postal Service mailbox, whereas there is an open door to collect medications, but once dropped they cannot be retrieved. Each box will also have a separate locked entry for District Attorney Detectives to retrieve the discarded medications. Inventoried materials will be incinerated at the discretion of the District Attorney's Detectives and Solid Waste Authority.

2014 PROGRAMS

Pharmaceutical Drop Box Program

Eighteen police departments initially participated in the Pharmaceutical Drop box Collection Program in 2014.

POUNDS COLLECTED

• Amity Police Department, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville	255
• Berks County Coroners Office, 1047 MacArthur Road, Bern Township	375
• Bern Twp. Police Department, 1069 Old Bernville Rd., Bern Twp.	156
• Birdsboro Police Department, 200 East Main Street, Birdsboro	57
• Brecknock Police Department, 889 Alleghenyville Road, Mohnton	18
• Caernarvon Twp. Police Department, 3307 Main St., Morgantown	177
• Central Berks Regional P.D., 2147 Perkiomen Ave., Mt. Penn	65
• Berks County Detectives, Berks Co. AG Center, 1238 Welfare Rd., Leesport	155
• Exeter Twp. Police Department, 4975 DeMoss Rd., Exeter Twp.	1148
• Fleetwood Police Department 110 West Arch St., Fleetwood	354
• Kutztown Police Department, 45 Railroad St., Kutztown	208
• Muhlenberg Police Department, 210 George Street, Muhlenberg Twp.	948
• Penn State Berks Campus, Tulpehocken Road, Spring Township	66
• Sinking Spring Police Department, 3940 Penn Ave., Sinking Spring	179
• Spring Twp. Police Department, 2800 Shillington Rd., Sinking Spring	764
• Reading Police Department, 815 Washington Street, Reading	108
• Tulpehocken Police Department, 22 Rehrersberg Road, Rehrersberg	36
• Western Berks Regional P.D., 100 N. Reber Street, Wernersville	113

The following police departments were added in 2014:

• Bally Police Department, 425 Chestnut Street, Bally	48
• Boyertown Police Department, 100 S. Washington St, Boyertown	20
• Shillington Police Department, 999 East Broad Street, Shillington	69
• Tilden Township Police Department, 870 Hex Highway, Hamburg	1
• West Reading Police Department, 500 Chestnut Street, West Reading	57
• Wyomissing Police Department, 22 Reading Blvd, Wyomissing	140

In 2014, 64 % more pharmaceuticals were collected as compared to 2013, for a total of 5516 pounds.

Currently, the Berks County Solid Waste Authority, in conjunction with the Berks County District Attorney's Detectives, offers pharmaceutical collection twice a year. During these scheduled collections, unwanted and expired medications both prescription and over the counter medicines are collected for incineration.

2014 PROGRAMS

Annual Pharmaceutical Collections

Berks County Detectives assisted the Berks County Solid Waste Authority with the annual spring and fall pharmaceutical collections. The spring collection was held at the Exeter Police Department. The fall collection was hosted at First Energy Stadium. A total of **411** residents participated in the events. **1720** pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected at the events. There was no cost to Berks County residents.



2014 SPECIAL EVENTS



Detectives from the Berks County District Attorney's Office routinely attend special community events to promote the services we provide to the citizens of Berks County. Below is a list of the special events attended by the Berks County Detectives.



**National Night Out
West Reading
Police Department
August 5, 2014**



Criminal Investigations Section

In general, the police departments in Berks County are staffed by twenty-five or fewer sworn officers. The majority of these officers are assigned to patrol duties and have limited specialized training. These departments must balance their resources, manpower and finances with the concerns and demands of the community. Often it becomes difficult to stretch their available resources and address community issues.

The Criminal Investigation Section is comprised of two distinct entities, Forensic Services and Crime Unit. Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Section work closely with police officers from over forty local Berks County police departments, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The majority of the Berks County Detectives are seasoned veterans with a vast amount of police experience and expertise, which they acquired from specialized schools and training. The Berks County Detectives offer their specialized services to those departments that do not have the expertise and/or resources to successfully investigate a specific crime. The Criminal Investigation Section is led by Lieutenant Todd Trupp.

Sgt. Gerardo Vega is the first line supervisor for the crime unit. The Crime Unit is responsible for the following:



- Auto Theft Task Force
- Bad Check Restitution Program
- Bingo Enforcement
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence Unit
- Financial Crimes
- Elderly Abuse, physical and financial
- Megan's Law Enforcement
- Precious Metals Unit

Sgt. Robert Johnson is the first line supervisor for Forensic Services. Forensic Services is responsible for the following:



- AFIS—Automated Fingerprint Identification System
- Computer and Cellular Telephone Forensics
- Crash Reconstruction
- Berks County DUI Processing Center
- Pharmaceutical Drop Box Program



Criminal Investigations Section

ICAC Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

In 2014, detectives assigned to the Berks County District Attorney's Office, Criminal Investigations Section, joined the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. During the course of these investigations, 16 subjects were arrested for various offenses.

On June 19, 2014, Detectives arrested 12 adults and one juvenile for possession and dissemination of Child Pornography. This was the second such sweep in two years.



Christopher Sackal
41 YOA
100 Blk. Bordic Rd
Exeter Twp.



Dale Williams
47 YOA
00 Blk. Hendel St
Shillington



Steven Schwartz
47 YOA
00 Blk. Winding
Brook Dr.
Sinking Spring



William Floriani
22 YOA
1300 Blk. Locust St
Reading



Larry Garner
65 YOA
00 Blk. S. Water St.
Womelsdorf



Michael Kendig
63 YOA
1800 Blk S. Mountain Rd.
Sinking Spring



Skerling Herrera-Mercedes
28 YOA
100 Blk. W Douglass
St
Reading



Phillip Knabb
27 YOA
200 Blk. Pine Forge
Rd
Douglassville



Alan Miller
53 YOA
600 Blk. E 4th St
Boyertown



Timothy Repsik
18 YOA
00 Blk. Elaine Dr
Boyertown



Justin Jones
31 YOA
1500 Blk. Ridge Ave.
Cumru Twp.



Craig Alabovitz
37 YOA
1000 Blk. Sheerlund Rd.
Cumru Twp.

TO CATCH A PREDATOR BERKS COUNTY DETECTIVES

In 2014, Berks County Detectives initiated our own version of "To Catch A Predator." Undercover detectives assumed the persona of an underage female. Shortly after entering public social media sites, the detectives were contacted by adult males, who wanted to meet the underage female for the purposes of engaging into sexual relations. Two individual contacts were made to the undercover detective, by adult males.

Criminal investigations were then initiated and the identity of both subjects were obtained. In both instances, the subjects agreed to meet the undercover detective at a neutral location. Upon arrival, the subjects were arrested. In addition, the vehicles utilized by the adult males to meet with the "underage female" were seized per Pennsylvania Law, that allows for this seizure for forfeiture purposes.



Berks County District Attorney's Office Sponsored Training



The District Attorney's Office is committed to assisting police personnel in Berks County by hosting several law enforcement related training sessions annually. Lieutenant Todd Trupp, of the Berks County Detectives, coordinates the training for Berks County. In 2014, 122 law enforcement officers from Berks County received free training in the courses listed below.

- May 7-9, 2014 — Digital Photography for Law Enforcement
- August 27—29 , 2014 — Blood Spatter Analysis
- October 10, 2014 — Human Trafficking for Law Enforcement
- November 3, 2014—DUI conference for Institute for Law Enforcement Education
- November 13, 2014 - Forfeiture, Return of Property



Blood Spatter Identification

The Berks County District Attorney's Office hosted its fifth Blood Spatter Identification Course in 2014. The course was instructed by Berks County Forensic Detectives. The course consisted of classroom lecture and hands on practical exercises designed to replicate actual crime scenes.

Blood Spatter Identification is one of several specialties in the field of forensic science. The science of bloodstain pattern analysis applies scientific knowledge from other fields to solve practical problems. Bloodstain pattern analysis draws on the scientific disciplines of biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics. If an analyst follows a scientific process, this applied science can produce strong, solid evidence, making it an effective tool for investigators. Students were taught the accepted means of documenting a blood scene through sketching, stringing, and photography.

The following departments attended the three day course:

- Berks County District Attorney's Office**
- Amity Township**
- Cumru Township**
- Muhlenberg Township**
- Reading**
- West Reading**
- Wyomissing**





Digital Photography for Law Enforcement

For the fifth consecutive year, the Berks County District Attorney's Office hosted a Digital Photography for Law Enforcement Course. The course was designed to assist qualified police officers in achieving a level of proficiency to successfully complete essential crime scene, close-up, investigative, and surveillance photographic assignments. This proficiency will come as a result of in depth classroom instruction followed by hands on use of a digital camera package supplied by the Berks County District Attorney's Office. Upon completion of the exercises, the students had the knowledge to properly transfer and save the captured images for evidentiary use and ultimately prepare images for courtroom presentation.

District Attorney John T. Adams provided funding for the equipment utilized in this course. Each two man team retained possession of the photographic equipment for their respective police departments. In many cases, this equipment was a vast upgrade to the photographic equipment they previously used.

The following departments attended the three day course:

Bern Township
Central Berks Regional
Colebrookdale Township
Cumru Township
Penn State Berks Police
South Heidelberg Township
Tulpehocken Township
Western Berks Regional
Womelsdorf Borough





Digital Interview Room

Berks County Detectives utilized the Federal Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to purchase state of the art digital Interview equipment, for use by all Berks County law enforcement officers. This system will enable officers to capture both audio and video while interviewing subjects in criminal cases.

The StarWitness system was put into place in early 2014, and over 300 interviews were both audio and video recorded as a result.

District Attorney John Adams utilized proceeds from drug forfeiture cases to fund video recording equipment for the following law enforcement agencies in 2014:

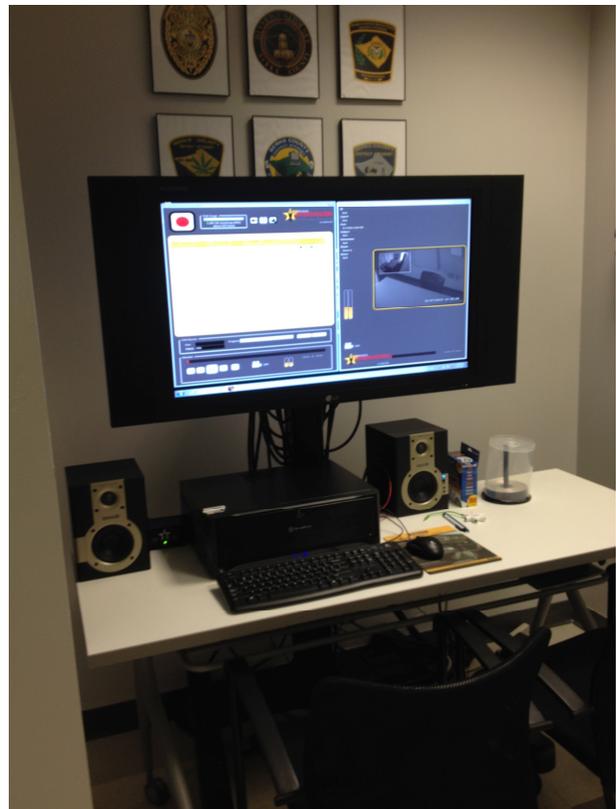
- Amity Township Police Department
- Central Berks Regional Police Department
- Cumru Township Police Department
- Exeter Township Police Department
- Reading Police Department

This will allow the above listed police departments and surrounding police departments to conduct interviews through a cooperative effort.

The District Attorney added a reconditioned big screen monitor that allowed detectives, assistant district attorney's and Children and Youth case workers to monitor interviews together live, which aids the coordinated effort, cutting down man hours that will eventually save the county money. The monitor was added at no cost, since it was originally purchased with drug forfeiture assets, and repurposed at the end of it's useful first life, which was for courtroom purposes



Berks County Detectives Harold Shenk and Ivan Martinez participate in an interview.





Criminal Investigations Section Statistical Comparison

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

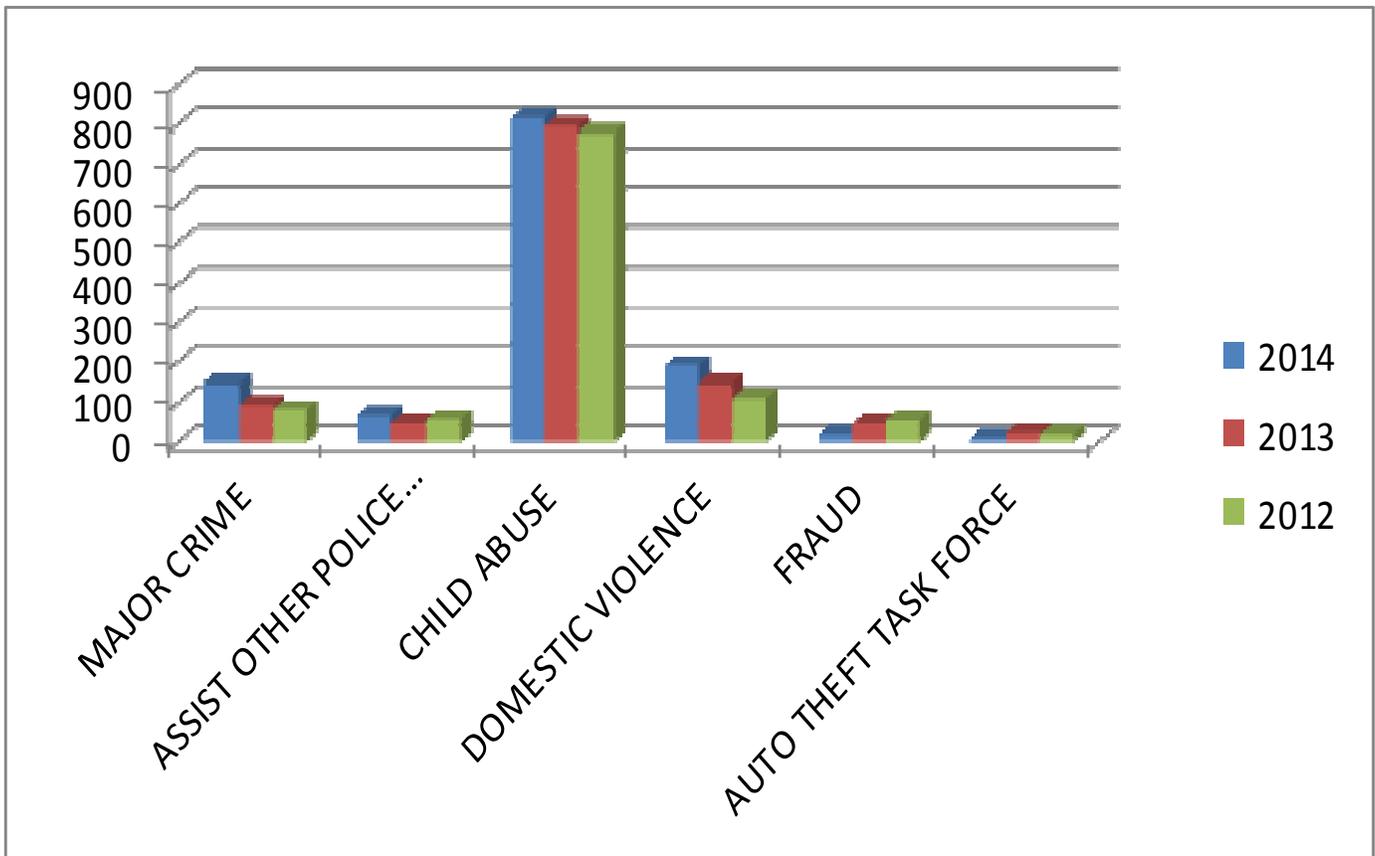
	2014	2013	2012
MAJOR CRIME	147	94	84
ASSIST OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT	69	48	60
CHILD ABUSE	816	796	780
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	191	147	112
ELDER ABUSE—PHYSICAL	1	2	1
ELDER ABUSE FINANCIAL	2	4	7
FRAUD	21	48	56
AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE	11	24	20

FORENSIC SERVICES

INCIDENT TYPE	2014	2013	2012
CRASH RECONSTRUCTION	26	15	40
AFIS (AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM)	552	695	831
COMPUTER FORENSICS	129	111	134
DUI BOOKING CENTER	665	620	587
FORENSIC PROCESSING	79	136	191
TELEPHONE KIOSK	46	13	-

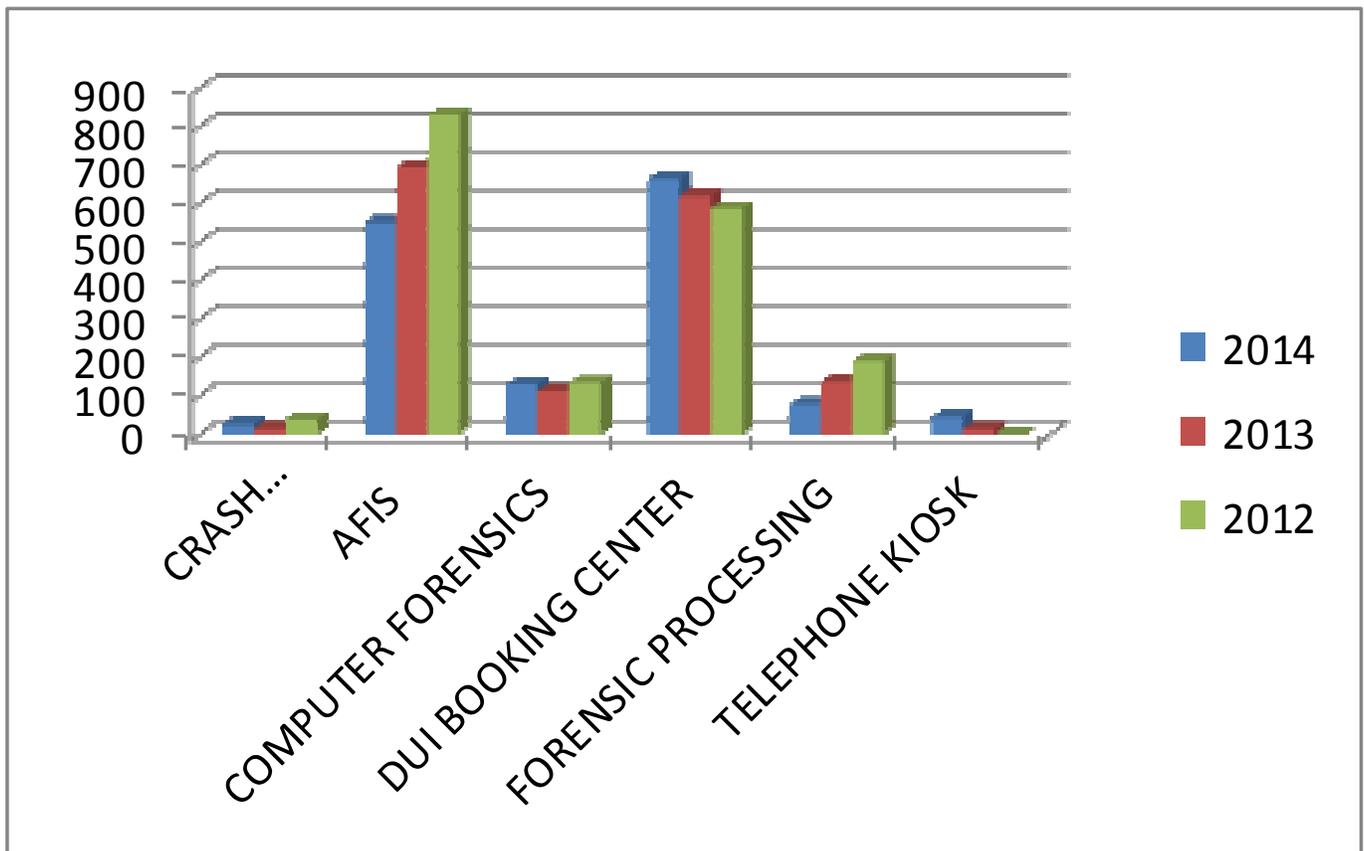
Criminal Investigations Chart

In 2014, the Crime Section experienced the third consecutive year of growth in the area of child sexual and physical abuse. The reporting law was changed in the latter part of 2014, so 2015 could produce record reporting across the State of Pennsylvania. Major crime and the request of assistance from outside police agencies were also up considerably in 2014. On the brighter side, fraud was down for the third consecutive year, possibly due to the improvement in the economy.



Forensic Services Chart

In 2014, the Forensic Services Section experienced growth in the areas of Crash Reconstruction, Cellphone Kiosk, Computer / Cellphone Forensics, and DUI Booking Center, while observing a decrease in AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) and Forensic Processing. The Cellphone Kiosk has been extremely successful in helping local law enforcement agencies seize valuable digital evidence while helping the District Attorney's Office reduce the overall county backlog of cellphone searches.



Bad Check Restitution Program

The District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program was initiated in the spring of 2008 to combat the negative impact of bad checks passed to local businesses. Millions of dollars are lost every year by merchants as a result of this ongoing problem. Bad checks affect everyone. Specifically, bad checks result in higher consumer costs that must be passed on to offset losses and increased taxes to cover the additional costs for law enforcement and prosecution.



In an effort to alleviate this problem, the Bad Check Restitution Program has been organized to assist local merchants with bad check losses. The primary goal of the program is to obtain full restitution for the victim without adding to the financial burden of the criminal justice system.

Accordingly, first time bad check offenders are given the opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by attending a mandatory intervention class in addition to paying restitution. All of this is accomplished without any cost to the taxpayers.

2014 proved to be the best year since 2011, for the amount of money recovered by the program and returned to the victims in Berks County. In addition, program satisfaction increased by one tenth of one percent from 2013.

	2014	2013	2012
Restitution Returned	\$50,115.11	\$28,820.17	\$ 39, 223.71
Checks Filed	847	568	631
Victim Filing	237	195	204
Class Attendance	97	75	123

Total Program Satisfaction Rating in 2014 was 4.2 out of 5



GAMBLING SEIZURE

In early April, 2014, Berks County Detectives assigned to the Crime Section initiated an investigation as a result of citizen complaints into illegal gambling machines located at several convenience stores throughout Berks County. With the assistance of the Major Crimes Task Force, every convenience store in Berks County was visited in an attempt to gather evidence of criminal wrong doing. This was a monumental task completed in less than two days. Seven locations were found to possess gambling machines capable of paying out United States Currency as a reward for successfully accomplishing a gaming task. Detectives executed search warrants at seven commercial properties in Berks County. A total of seven illegal gaming machines, with a value of over \$15,000 were seized. A total of over \$3,500 in United States Currency was also seized.



Narcotics Section

The Narcotics Unit is committed to investigating and enforcing local, state, and federal laws as they apply to individuals and corrupt organizations that may be responsible for the distribution and manufacturing of illegal controlled substances, and the illicit or unlawful possession of firearms within Berks County. This unit is comprised of eleven detectives led by Lieutenant Nelson Ortiz.

In 2014, the Narcotics Unit was involved in many investigations with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Unit continued to work closely with members of the Berks County Drug Task Force to decrease drug activity throughout the County.

Topton Drug Sweep – HEROIN

In January of 2014, detectives from the Berks County District Attorney's Office and troopers from the Pennsylvania State Police initiated a joint investigation due to citizens' concern about several heroin overdose deaths in the Topton area. The detectives and troopers used covert undercover investigative techniques that led to filing of charges against twelve (12) suspects for dealing illegal drugs in the Topton area.

The suspects were considered street level drug dealers who were distributing mainly heroin, but also cocaine, methamphetamine, prescription medications and marijuana in the Topton area. On May 5, 2014 the suspects were arrested and charged with possession with the intent to deliver and delivery of controlled substances.

Wiretap Operation California - MARIJUANA & GUNS

In 2014, a joint investigation was initiated by Berks and Montgomery Counties Drug Task Forces. The detectives developed information regarding a major drug organization trafficking large amounts of high-grade marijuana from Humboldt County, California into the state of Pennsylvania.

The investigation centered-around five principal suspects: Larry Kline, Jason Marks, Michael Lynch, Ruben Morales, and Gregory Gaudreau. As the investigation continued, nineteen other associates were identified. After detectives obtained probable cause, application was made to the Pennsylvania Superior Court for electronic interception for the "Kline Drug Trafficking Organization". The wiretaps began in March 5, 2014 and ended April 2, 2014. The organization was obtaining marijuana from Humboldt County, California and transporting it to Pennsylvania in a recreational vehicle. The organizations dealt with large amounts of cash and were heavily armed. The organization was distributing the marijuana to seven different Pennsylvania counties. The counties receiving large shipments of marijuana were Berks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks and Carbon.

The Berks and Montgomery investigative team was joined by the Upper Perk Police Department, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the California Mountain and Valley Marijuana Investigation Team. All law-enforcement agencies provided assistance including serving fifty-seven search warrants in the aforementioned seven counties and one in Humboldt County, California.

Narcotics Section

As a result of the search warrants, the following items were seized: more than one hundred fifty pounds of high-grade marijuana (street value of \$600,000), thirty nine firearms, six vehicles and \$582,629.00 in U.S. Currency, which was believed to be proceeds from the illegal sale of marijuana.

Twenty-four (24) suspects were charged with committing the following offenses: Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances (Marijuana), Dealing in Proceeds of Unlawful Activity, Corrupt Organizations and Criminal Use of Communication Facility. In addition, several of them were charged with firearms violations.

Wiretap Operation Tourniquet – HEROIN & GUNS

In May of 2014, detectives from the Berks County District Attorney's Office and agents from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office initiated a joint investigation into several street level and mid-level drug dealers who were distributing mainly heroin, but also cocaine, methamphetamine, prescription medications and marijuana within Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The investigation revealed that the street level dealers and the mid-level dealers were part of two organizations who were loosely tied and responsible for distributing illegal drugs throughout at least three counties in Pennsylvania: including Berks, Lancaster and Schuylkill. The majority of the illegal activity took place within Berks County.

The investigation revealed that members of both organizations colluded with each other at various points throughout the investigation. Members of the organizations acquired bulk quantities of heroin and would break it down into street level quantities to be distributed to numerous customers.



From May of 2013 until June of 2014, over thirty undercover drug transactions were made from numerous members of these two organizations. As the scope of the investigation increased, detectives and agents continued to investigate and utilized other investigative means including electronic surveillance. The wiretaps began in May of 2014 and ended June of 2014.

Narcotics Section

On June 23, 2014, as a result of the investigations, members of the Berks County District Attorney's Detectives, Office of Attorney General, FBI, DEA, Pennsylvania State Police, Exeter Township Police Department, Muhlenberg Township Police Department, Reading Police Department, and Berks County Sheriff's Office all participated in the case. In the course of the investigation, forty-eight (48) suspects were arrested, eighteen search warrants served, and the following items were seized: fourteen firearms (assault rifles, shotguns and semi-automatic handguns), nine vehicles used by drug suspects, numerous cellular phones, heroin, marijuana, synthetic marijuana, cocaine, drug related paraphernalia and over \$59,000.00 cash.

Operation City Sweep - DRUG ROUND UP

On September 3, 2014, members of the Berks County District Attorney's Drug Task Force, Reading Police Department, Pennsylvania State Police, and the Berks County Sheriff's Department conducted an early morning drug round-up of twenty-nine (29) drug suspects all from the City of Reading. All twenty-nine (29) suspects were wanted for violations of the Controlled Substance Act of Pennsylvania, specifically delivery of following controlled substances: heroin, cocaine, and marijuana.

This year-long investigation began with complaints from concerned citizens regarding unwanted drug activity in their neighborhoods. During the investigation, undercover officers purchased amounts of controlled substances with values ranging from \$20.00 to \$300.00.

Drug Smuggling – HEROIN & COCAINE

On October 8, 2014, detectives from the Berks County District Attorney's Drug Task Force, agents from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office (CBPO) of Philadelphia initiated a joint investigation regarding kilos of heroin being smuggled into Berks County from the country of the Dominican Republic. The shipments of heroin and cocaine were being packaged in video game boxes.

Several addresses in Berks County were identified as points of distribution to facilitate this smuggling operation.

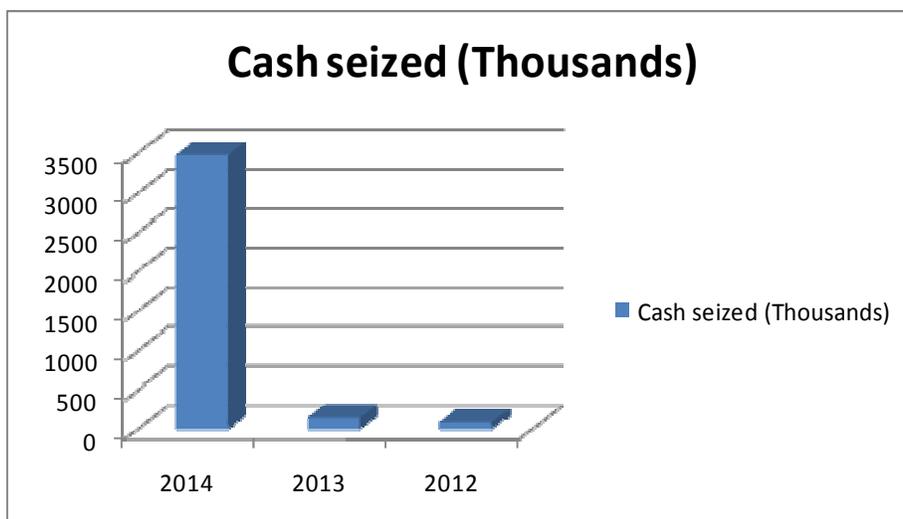
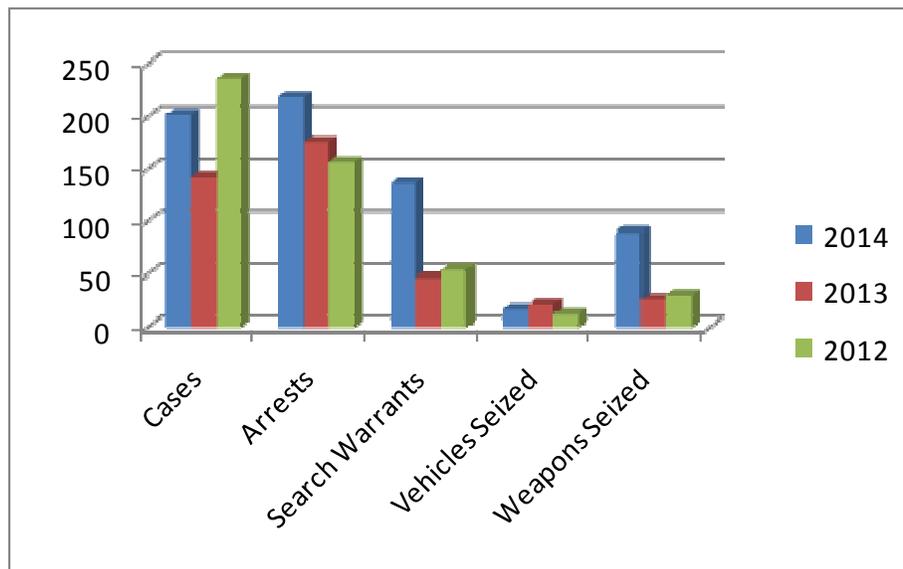
In the early morning hours of November 13, 2014, detectives and agents served search warrants on three distribution locations in Berks County and arrested seven suspects. The search warrants yielded the seizure of large quantities of cocaine and heroin, several semi-automatic hand guns with a stock of ammunition and a substantial amount of U.S. Currency which was believed to be proceeds from the illegal sales of cocaine and heroin.



Narcotics Section

Statistical Comparison

Type	2014	2013	2012
Cases	202	142	236
Arrests	218	175	157
Search Warrants	136	47	54
Vehicles Seized	16	21	12
Cash seized (Thousands)	3480	150	90
Weapons Seized	90	26	30



Narcotics Section

Educational Presentations

" Clearly we need to educate our young adults of the serious, serious problems that result from the use of this dangerous drug." - District Attorney John T. Adams

County Connection BCTV – The Growing Dangers of "Heroin" in PA

On County Connection BCTV, District Attorney John Adams interviewed Lt. Nelson Ortiz of the Berks County Drug Task Force on the growing heroin dilemma and how county law-enforcement is confronting the problem.

Wyomissing Town Hall Meeting – The Growing Dangers of "Heroin" in PA

Berks District Attorney John T. Adams and Lt. Nelson Ortiz, county chief narcotics detective, spoke about the toll that heroin addiction is taking on rural communities in Berks County.

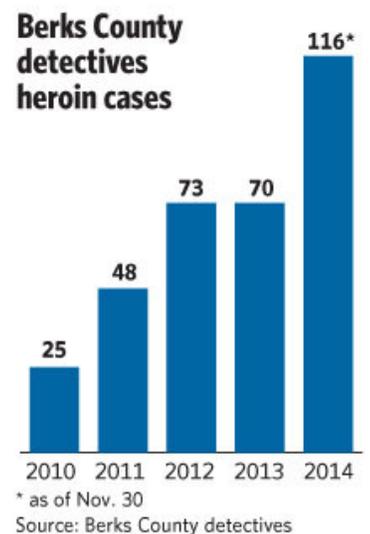
Tackling Sex Trafficking in Berks County

1. West Lawn UMC Community Center (community meeting)
 - Detective James Gresh of the District Attorney's Office discussed the elements evident in the 2010 bust of the Reading-based escort service ran by Paul S. Sewell.
 - Lt. Nelson Ortiz of the District Attorney's Office discussed the string of massage parlor prostitution stings throughout the county. There have been arrests made in Reading, Hereford, Cumru, Amity, Sinking Spring and other communities in Berks County.

The Dangers of "Heroin" & other Drug Trends

Sgt. Pasquale Leporace of the District Attorney's Office discussed the increase of heroin's availability and use throughout the county and new trends on other drugs like methamphetamine and synthetic marijuana. Sgt. Leporace addressed heroin's devastating impact on young people in our small communities.

1. Penn State University Berks Campus (staff & students)
2. Kutztown High School (community & staff)
3. Brandywine Heights School (community & staff)
4. Governor Mifflin High School (over 700 students)
5. West Lawn UMC Community Center (community meeting)
6. Kutztown High School (community & staff)
7. Pennsylvania Economy League meeting (Berkshire Country club)



READING EAGLE: BOB SCHNEIDER

Narcotics Section

Educational Presentations

8. Reading Hospital School of Health Science (over 250 attended)
9. Brandywine Heights High School (staff & students)
10. Berks County Career and Technology / Oley Campus (staff)
11. Berks County Intermediate Unit (staff)
12. Keeping Kids Safe Symposium @ BCIU (staff)
13. Oley High School (community meeting)
14. Oley High School (community meeting)
15. Conrad Weiser Students (C-span video)
16. Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce (Reading Country Club)
17. COCA Conference (treatment & enforcement)
18. Brandywine Heights Students (C-span video)
19. Fleetwood Church (community meeting)



Mother's VOICE - The Dangers of "Heroin"

Sgt. Pasquale Leporace was invited by Diane Shepler of "Mother's Voice" to speak to audiences across the county on the epidemic of heroin abuse and how many young people battled addiction which resulted in death.

1. Berks County Intermediate Unit
2. Governor Mifflin High School
3. Hamburg Strand Theater
4. Boyertown High School
5. Berks Catholic High School

How to Recognize Drug Use in Children's Bedrooms

1. Brandywine School District
2. Brandywine School District
3. Kutztown School District

Drug Awareness

1. Albright College Wellness Fair



Narcotics Section Educational Presentations

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Serving Arrest Warrants Training

Detectives John Lackner and James Gresh of the District Attorney's Office and Criminal Investigator Eric Driesbach of the Reading Police Department presented a two day training focusing on arrest and search techniques and threat assessment of wanted suspects for the Berks County probation officers. Forty-eight probation officers attended the training.



Criminal Drug Interdiction Techniques and Concealment Locations

The Berks County DA Detectives Office sponsored a three day training, presented by Trooper Greg Goltz of Nebraska focusing on interdiction techniques. Sixty Berks County Task Force Officers from various police agencies (state, city and county) attended the training.

Berks County Gang Conference

Sgt. Pasquale Leporace and Probation Officers Brian Harting and John Scolastico of Berks County conducted a two day training conference at Alvernia College, on "street gangs" within Berks County. One hundred people of various law-enforcement agencies (federal, state, city and county) attended. The course covered signs and trends of gangs, gang violent and their involvement in the organized illegal sales of drugs and guns.



Operation Nightlight

The thrust of the Operation Nightlight is to combine law enforcement efforts with other prevention and intervention programs. The plan pairs probation officers with police officers who together would make unannounced visits to the homes, schools and workplaces of high-risk probationers during non-traditional hours. Bar and after hours business checks were conducted by the team, in an attempt to curb late night violence associated with these types of establishments. By doing this, the officers would not only respond to criminal violations but also take steps to prevent the probationers from violating the conditions of their probation or becoming victims of violence themselves. Operation Nightlight is a joint operation with the Berks County Adult Probation Office, Juvenile Probation Office, Reading Police Department and the Berks County Sheriff's Office. It is the responsibility of Lieutenant Nelson Ortiz to coordinate Operation Nightlight and maintain the scheduling, statistics, and budget.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of Patrols	52	59	43	48
Bar Checks	0	0	630	429
Number of Home Visits	724	724	584	266
Detained on Parole Violations	19	17	66	65
New Charges	16	24	50	84



Promotions - Recruitments - Retirements



Detective Harold T. Shenk was promoted to the rank of Sergeant for the District Attorney's Crime Unit and Major Crime Task Force in December of 2014. Sergeant Shenk will be responsible for the supervision of the everyday operations and investigations conducted by ten-full time Berks County District Attorney crime detectives and twenty-five cross designated Major Crime Task Force detectives from twelve Berks County Police Departments.



Corporal Pasquale Leporace was promoted to the rank of Sergeant for the District Attorney's Narcotics Unit and Drug Task Force in December of 2014. Sergeant Leporace will be responsible for the supervision of the everyday operations and investigations conducted by eight full-time Berks County District Attorney's narcotics detectives and sixty-three cross designated Drug Task Force detectives from thirty-six Berks County Police Departments.



Detective Pamela Mathias joined the District Attorney's Crime Unit in March of 2014. Detective Mathias started her law enforcement career in 2001 with the Berks-Lehigh Regional Police Department where she held the positions of patrol officer, criminal investigator and crime scene technician. The District Attorney's Detective Unit proudly welcomes Detective Mathias.



Detective James P. Kellett retired from the District Attorney's Detective Unit in June of 2014 after six years of outstanding service. The law enforcement community of Berks County will miss Detective Kellett. We wish him the best with his well-deserved retirement.

Grants Awarded

The Berks County District Attorney's Office has applied for all applicable financial grants to supplement our operating budget. The grants listed below were applied for and awarded in 2014. These grants have allowed us to purchase equipment, attend training and pay other associated costs, without effecting the county budget.

Justice Assistance Grant

The Berks County District Attorney's Office was awarded a total of \$13,056 from the Edward Byrne Grant. This grant is used for equipment and training for the Berks County District Attorney's Office Criminal Investigations Unit.

2014 Coverdell Forensic Science Grant

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog. In 2014, the Berks County District Attorney's Office applied for and was awarded \$38,298 dollars for the upgrade and expansion of Foray Digital Workplace. This computer upgrade allows for simultaneous input of latent fingerprint evidence thus reducing turnaround time when searching for crime suspects.

Awards

COCA Public Safety Award

Corporal Pasquale Leporace

The Francis "Fran" Drexler Public Safety Award is presented by the Council on Chemical Abuse. The award is for the ongoing commitment to provide law enforcement related services in the community to help combat and intervene on drug and alcohol related problems. In 2014, the award recipient was Sgt. Pasquale Leporace of the Berks County District Attorney's Office.

Sgt. Leporace received the award for conducting over 30 public educational presentations, speaking to audiences across the county on the epidemic and dangers of heroin abuse. He addressed heroin's devastating impact on young people in our small communities and how many of them battled addiction and lost their lives. He also spoke on new drug trends within our county.



Awards

FOP Lodge 71 - OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Detective Edwin Santiago

Detective Edwin Santiago Jr. was the recipient of the 2014 Police Officer of the Year Award from the Berks County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #71. This annual award is presented to one deserving police officer from Berks County for his/her outstanding contribution and dedicated work in the field of law enforcement.

Detective Santiago was given this award for the successful undercover work he performed in two major drug investigations which were titled, "Operation Pill Mill" and "Operation Tourniquet."

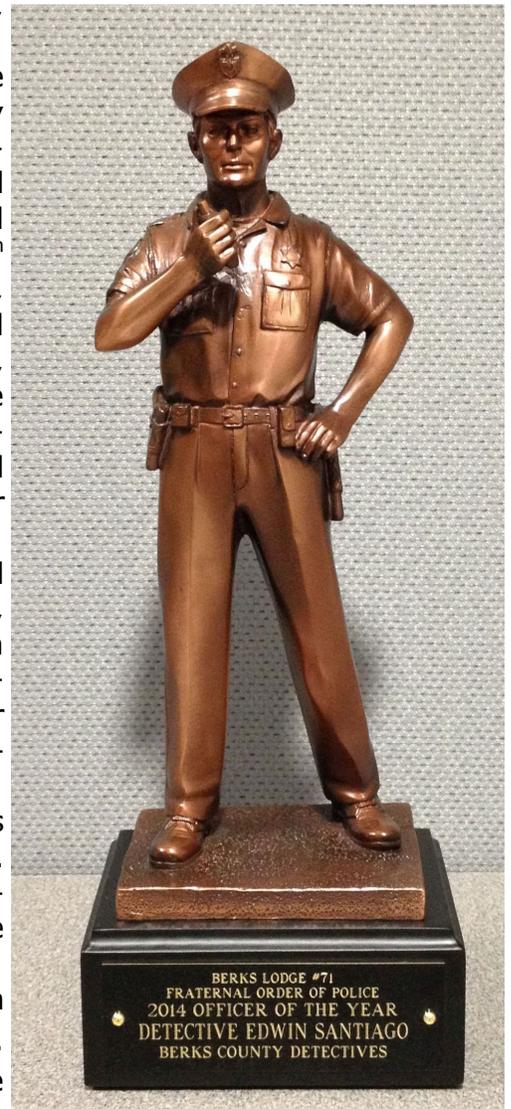
"Operation Pill Mill" was a joint investigation with the Attorney General's Narcotics Unit and the Berks County District Attorney's Drug Task Force. During this investigation, narcotics detectives learned that Doctor Mohammed Abdul Rahman Khan was dispensing prescription pills and controlled medicine improperly from his office at 146 S. 5th Street, Reading, Berks Co., PA. Detective Santiago, worked in an undercover capacity, posing as a patient and infiltrated Doctor Kahn's illegal practices. Subsequently, his investigation revealed that Doctor Kahn wrote more than 3,000 illegal prescriptions which included Adderall, Ritalin and Xanax to patients, many of whom were addicted and/or dealing on the streets of Berks County. Doctor Kahn and some of his staff were eventually arrested.

"Operation Tourniquet" was an investigation into several street and mid-level dealers who were distributing heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and prescription medications throughout Berks County. During this investigation, Detective Santiago made over thirty undercover drug transactions from numerous members of the drug organization.

As a result of his undercover work, forty-eight suspects were arrested and eighteen search warrants were served. Additionally, fourteen firearms, large quantities of controlled substances, and \$59,000 in U.S currency were seized.

Detective Santiago's undercover roles have never been publicized due to the clandestine nature of his assignments. He encounters violent offenders and puts his life on the line in an effort to build a case against individuals and criminal organizations.

He is committed to getting violent predators off the streets and making our community a better place to live. Detective Santiago is a hero and we are profoundly proud of him.



2014 Table of Organization

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

Michael Gombar

LIEUTENANT - CRIME

Todd Trupp

LIEUTENANT - NARCOTICS

Nelson Ortiz

SERGEANT - FORENSICS

Robert Johnson

SERGEANT - CRIME

Gerardo Vega

SERGEANT - NARCOTICS

Todd Harris

FORENSIC SERVICES

Albert Schade III
Justin Morrow

CHILD ABUSE

Donna Tothero
Ivan Martinez
Michael Fick
Christopher Santoro
Anthony Garipoli
George Forsyth

NARCOTICS

Scott Errington
James Gresh
Joseph Walsh
John Lackner

COMPUTER FORENSICS

Heather Calabria
Christopher Erb

SERGEANT - NARCOTICS

Pasquale Leporace

CRASH RECONSTRUCTION

Nicholas Bolognese

SERGEANT - CRIME

Harold Shenk

NARCOTICS

Camilla Karns
Edwin Santiago
David McQuate
Michael Rowe

PROPERTY - FORFEITURE

Anthony DeFazio

MAJOR CRIMES

Robert Heiden
Pamela Mathias
Thomas Weaver
Trevor Ritter

**AUTO THEFT TASK
FORCE**

Ronald Linderman