

JEFFREY A. STINEBURG
Chief Deputy

TIMOTHY R. SIPE
Deputy Prosecutor

DAVID G. CRELL
Deputy Prosecutor

LAURA DALRYMPLE
Victim Assistance
(260) 824-6558

OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
WELLS COUNTY
28TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF INDIANA

COLIN Z. ANDREWS
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

102 W. Market Street
Suite 405

Bluffton, IN 46714

Telephone: (260) 824-4102

Facsimile: (260) 824-6550

Email: prosecutor@wellscounty.org

TO: Wells County Commissioners and Wells County Council, Bluffton News-Banner

RE: Annual Report of Criminal and Child Support Activity/
Wells County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

This report provides a statistical breakdown of the volume and classification of criminal cases and charges, juvenile adjudications, and child support collection cases prosecuted and administered by the Wells County Prosecutor's Office in the year 2025. Below is a chart indicating the number of criminal cases filed in each of the last five years. Please remember that a case will often consist of multiple charges or counts filed against one individual and that a case is defined by the level of the most serious charge filed in the case. These numbers do not include the numerous traffic infractions which come through the county criminal justice system.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Adult Criminal Cases Filed	605	786	643	622	608
Felony Cases Filed	223	288	220	233	253
Misdemeanor Cases Filed	382	498	423	389	355
Juvenile Cases Opened	52	59	62	63	45

Below is a chart which indicates the number of cases, many of which contain multiple charges filed in 2025, for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the four prior years. For drug and alcohol offenses, it is very common for a Defendant to have one case but multiple charges.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Murder / Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	1
Operating While Intoxicated	132	139	103	114	115
Battery	81	94	81	53	52
Rape	2	2	1	1	1
Child Molesting	3	8	7	5	2
Sexual Misconduct with a Minor	4	1	5	2	4
Child Solicitation	13	9	10	13	0
Robbery	1	10	0	0	1
Burglary	6	13	2	9	8
Theft	29	65	63	59	66
Drug Charges	109	160	145	165	185

Below is a chart which indicates the number of Child Support cases handled by our IV-D Department and the amount of money collected in current and past due child support compared to the same for the past two years.

	2025	2024	2023
Child Support Cases Handled	858	873	943
Amount of Child Support Collected	\$2,742,809	\$2,775,865	\$2,717,532

The data above undoubtedly indicates that Wells County is an increasingly safe and law-abiding community. It is beyond the scope of this report to detail all criminogenic factors and how they relate to the overall drop in criminal activity in the county. Anecdotally, however, it appears that a few main factors have been instrumental in the recent decline in the crime rate. First, increased and aggressive federal policing of the border by the Trump administration has reduced the devastating effects of illegal immigration including human trafficking and narcotics dealing. Second, the Courts and more specifically our local probation department have taken a very hands-on, data driven approach to dealing with juvenile and adult offenders to successfully reduce recidivism. Third, increased cooperation between the Prosecutor's Office, the U.S. Attorneys, local law enforcement departments, schools, and local addiction and mental health service providers has elevated the quality and availability of assistance for citizens. This not only reduces maladaptive behavior for those seeking help, but also encourages continuous, future engagement in the community for offenders.

The successful prosecution of crimes and the collection of child support would not be possible without the hard work of all of the persons involved, including the deputy prosecutors, our staff, law enforcement officers, probation officers and staff, community corrections officers and staff, the clerk's office, as well as the judges and their staffs. It also should be noted that effective leadership is an indispensable aspect of public safety and Wells County is fortunate in that regard. Bluffton Chief Kyle Randall, Sheriff Scott Holliday, and Ossian Chief Kurt Jack have effectively led their departments over the past year and their tireless dedication to public safety has been a benefit to all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of these people, as well as the council and the commissioners for the support my office receives.

In 2026, this office will continue to work hard to provide quality and just prosecution of criminal and child support matters while efficiently using our resources. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this report, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Colin Z. Andrews
Prosecuting Attorney
Wells County, Indiana