



WSIN Impact in Washington

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program assists local, state, federal, and tribal criminal justice partners by providing adaptive solutions and services that facilitate information sharing, support criminal investigations, and promote officer safety and wellness.

The Western States Information Network (WSIN), one of the six RISS Centers, began providing services to its regional member agencies in 1981. The WSIN region consists of:

- Alaska
- California
- Hawaii
- Oregon
- Washington
- Guam, New Zealand, and parts of Canada

Since 1981, the number of criminal justice agencies benefiting from WSIN services has grown to more than 1,600.

www.riss.net/Impact

In FY2023

310 Member Agency Offices Served

3,975 Access Officers

4,050 RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe) Submissions

3,531 Intelligence Database Hits

32,962 Intelligence Database Inquiries

1,259,900 Officer Safety Bulletins Disseminated

Washington Leadership for WSIN

In addition to federal monitoring, WSIN is governed by a policy board composed of state and local representatives from each member state. In Washington, these leadership positions are held by the following WSIN members:

John R. Batiste
Chief
Washington State Patrol
210 11th Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98504

Ken Wade
Chief of Police
Ellensburg Police Department
100 North Pearl Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926



“I would recommend WSIN bulletins as a standard procedure in a human trafficking case to determine additional victims and locations of activity.”

—**Detective Travis Brown**
Vancouver Police Department

“WSIN has not only proved to be an invaluable platform enabling information sharing and networking, but also a great resource for offering unique resources such as [the currency detection K9]. Our success as a team is dependent on opportunities for deployments and the WSIN network has been a big part in spreading the word.”

—**Detective Bill McCormick**
Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force

“[My partner and I] are the only two drug detectives in our county...having a [specialized equipment] during controlled buys was a game changer. We were able to modify our safety plans to make our controlled by operations safer.”

—**Detective Derek Holmes**
Ellensburg Police Department

Examples of Shared Successes in Washington

Publications Services

Bulletin Distribution: Various agencies within Washington continue to utilize WSIN’s publication services for a variety of criminal investigations and uses. The Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force offered, via a WSIN bulletin, a K9 trained in U.S. currency detection to agencies throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Northern California. The Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team, Oregon, utilized the K9 during the service of a search warrant and located over \$400,000 concealed in the residence. WSIN continuously acts as an effective means to bring agencies together to work more effectively. By submitting a bulletin to WSIN for distribution, the Lakewood Police Department was able to connect an armed robbery and shooting suspect to five other agencies and their investigations. The Vancouver Police Department investigating a suspect utilizing dating “meetups” as a ruse to burglarize potential romantic partners, submitted a bulletin to WSIN indicating the suspect was an officer safety risk due to his recent theft of a firearm from a victim. The Sacramento County, California, Sheriff’s Office utilized the information in the bulletin to assist in the arrest of the suspect.

RISS Criminal Intelligence Database

Burglary and Sexual Assault: Due to the efforts of the WSIN watch center, the Kirkland Police Department (KPD) was able to apprehend a violent burglary and rape suspect within a few hours of the crime. After locating video surveillance of a possible suspect vehicle, KPD called WSIN to deconflict the vehicle and registered owner information. WSIN was able to connect the information to details stored in RISSIntel by the King County Sheriff’s Office, who also had real-time Global Positioning System (GPS) location on the suspect vehicle. The GPS information showed the vehicle at the victim’s home during the violent rape and burglary. Had it not been for the service WSIN provided, the success of this apprehension, recovery of guns and the victim’s property would not have happened.



Examples of Shared Successes in Washington

“I have found phone calls to out of state department phone trees to be a common roadblock. A cold call to another detective can sometimes lead to a loss in translation. The WSIN bulletin helps with providing an additional reference when speaking to an outside agency.”

— *Detective Travis Brown*
Vancouver Police Department

“WSIN not only helped us get information out to other agencies but helped us get information in return to assist with our investigation. Our case was turned over to a federal agency and without WSIN making connections our case would have most likely stayed in our jurisdiction unconnected to others.”

— *Sergeant Ryan Harvey*
Ephrata Police Department

RISS Criminal Intelligence Database

Drug Trafficking: The value of RISSIntel and WSIN’s ability to connect law enforcement agencies involved in a drug trafficking investigation were evident in the successful seizure based on collaboration between the Spokane Regional Safe Streets Task Force (SRSSTF) and the Spokane Police Department (SPD). After SRSSTF stored subject information in RISSIntel on their investigation, SPD arrested one of the subjects. Consulting with WSIN, the two agencies worked together in interviewing the subject. This collaborative work led to the identification of a large-scale drug trafficker and ultimately to the seizure of 6,000 fentanyl pills, one pound of methamphetamine, a gun, and approximately \$10,500 cash.

Equipment Services

Synthetic Drugs: WSIN assisted the Ellensburg Police Department with the loan of specialized equipment to facilitate the collection of evidence used in an illicit fentanyl investigation. Ultimately the equipment provided the much-needed evidence to assist in the investigation of three fentanyl dealers and developing probable cause for two additional methamphetamine dealers.