

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Use of Force Statistical Report 2018-2019

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Introduction

Law enforcement agencies across the nation are collecting use of force statistics in order to review and analyze the reasonableness of force being used by officers. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is committed to reviewing use of force incidents from multiple perspectives, including training, tactics, policies, procedures, and equipment use with the ultimate goal of identifying problem areas, applying appropriate corrective solutions and making improvements.

Enforcement of the law and the performance of law enforcement duties may require the use of physical force and/or physical restraint. The preservation of order and the observance of the law are best achieved through voluntary compliance rather than force or compulsion. The higher the level of voluntary compliance and cooperation, the less need for force. To that end, the use of force must always be considered secondary to the desirability of voluntary compliance. When the need for the use of force arises, deputies may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, overcome resistance, or in self-defense or defense of others. It is the responsibility of the Department and all sworn personnel to ensure force and restraint are used in a manner that not only provides for public safety, but for officer safety as well.

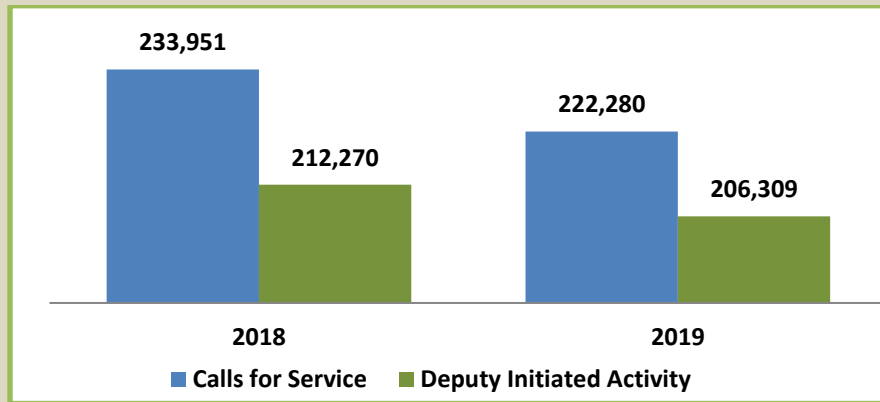
The Sheriff and the Undersheriff, in their continuous efforts to improve organizational transparency, are making these statistics available to the public on an annual basis. The first part of this report contains the use of force data for the years 2018 and 2019. This collection of data includes the use of all types of force by members of the Department. The Department believes that by providing this information to the public, it will clearly show how infrequently deputies use force when compared to the number of calls for service and deputy initiated activities.

These findings are published annually and posted to the Department's web site. They are also available for review at the John F. Duffy 3934 Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123.

Overall Activity and Use of Force Incidents

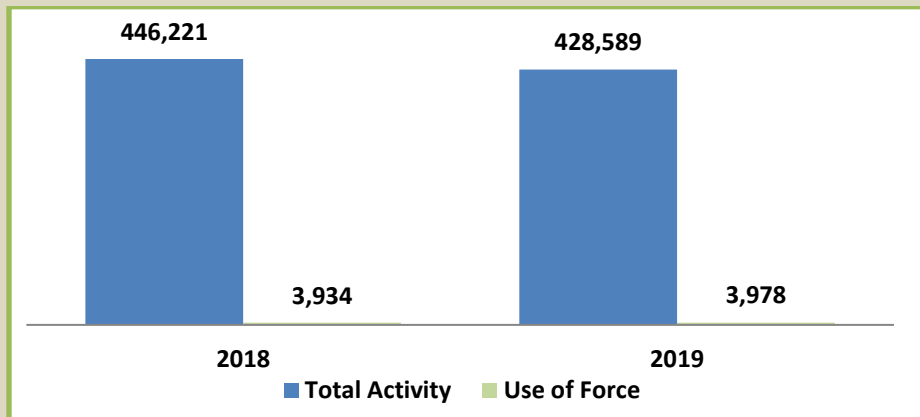
Before presenting the use of force data, it is important to understand the mechanism by which a deputy gets involved in a use of force incident. A deputy either responds to a call for service or makes an observation requiring action. Overall Department activity is categorized and tracked as either calls for service or deputy initiated activity. A call for service is a request from a member of the public or another agency for public safety services. Deputy initiated activity results from a deputy's own initiative or observation and does not require a request from the public or another agency. Examples include: *traffic stops, field interviews, or other situations observed by the deputy.*

Overall Sheriff's Department Activity



It is also important to look at the overall Department activity compared to the number of use of force incidents. The overall activity is a combination of *calls for service* and *deputy initiated activity*. The overall Department activity does not include the thousands of contacts that occur daily in the Sheriff's Detention Facilities. Deputies regularly perform walkthroughs of the housing modules, talking and interacting with/or monitoring those that are housed in our Detention facilities at least once an hour and/or transport them to and from court or medical visits. These operations are 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

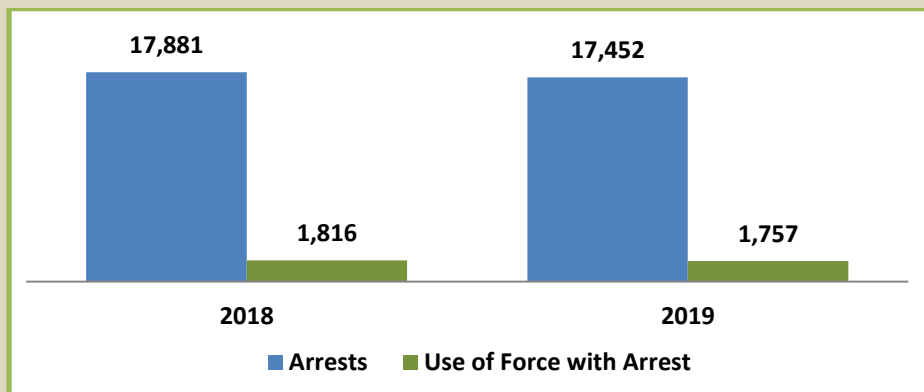
Total Activity vs Use of Force Incidents



The use of force number does not reflect multiple force options that may be utilized within a single use of force incident. Approximately 1% of the total activity resulted in a Use of Force incident in both 2018 and 2019

Another aspect to consider is that even though most of the use of force incidents result in an arrest; there are some instances when an arrest is not made. Making an arrest is an activity that is considered to pose a high risk/high frequency of potential harm to the deputy due to the subject's resistance during the encounter.

Total Arrests vs Arrests with a Use of Force



** Approximately 10% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in both 2018 and 2019**

Use of Force Data

In 2019, there were **3,978** use of force incidents reported, compared to **3,934** use of force incidents reported in 2018. Overall, there was a **1% increase** in use of force incidents between 2018 and 2019.

The following table depicts the uses of force by the Sheriff's Department. The table combines the statistical data for the Law Enforcement Bureau, the Detention Services Bureau, and the Court Services Bureau. Please note that the use of force totals may include scenarios when several types of force were utilized during a single incident and on the same suspect.

Sheriff's Department Use of Force 2018-2019

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents	3,934	3,978
Hands on Control	2,317	2,473
Cord Cuff Restraint	75	58
Spit Sock	423	487
Impact Weapons	65	47
Forcible Stop	1	-
Pro-Straint Chair	12	11
*Tactical Shield	-	18
*Wrap Restraint	129	207
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	458	368
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	175	164
Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)	1,554	1,520
Lethal Force	5	1
Canine	33	34
Total Uses	5,247	5,388
<p>*There was a 3% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2018 and 2019*</p> <p>*In April 2018, the Wrap Restraint was introduced and the Tactical Shield category was added*</p>		

Use of Force by Bureau

The following tables provide a breakdown of types of force used by each bureau.

Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2018-2019

The Law Enforcement Services Bureau provides law enforcement services to nine contract cities and the unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents	2,651	2,649
Hands on Control	1,296	1,362
Cord Cuff Restraint	66	57
Spit Sock	146	168
Impact Weapons	28	17
Forcible Stop	1	-
Pro-Strait Chair	1	-
*Tactical Shield	-	1
*Wrap Restraint	115	148
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	110	80
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	97	96
Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)	1,465	1,436
Lethal Force	5	1
Canine	33	34
Total Uses	3,363	3,400
<p>*There was a 1% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2018 and 2019*</p> <p>*In April 2018, the Wrap Restraint was introduced and the Tactical Shield category was added*</p>		

Detention Services Bureau 2018-2019

The Detention Services Bureau operates seven detention facilities providing services to those incarcerated in San Diego County. A significant portion of the use of force totals for the Detentions Bureau occur during the intake process where the arrestees may still be under a state of intoxication or be agitated from the arrest.

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents	1,180	1,217
Hands on Control	933	1,010
Cord Cuff Restraint	3	-
Spit Sock	264	298
Impact Weapons	37	29
Forcible Stop	-	-
Pro-Straint Chair	11	11
*Tactical Shield	-	17
*Wrap Restraint	9	40
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	347	285
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	74	65
Weapon Pointed (Displayed)	70	75
Lethal Force	-	-
Canine	-	-
Total Uses	1,748	1,830
<p>*There was an 5% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2018 and 2019*</p> <p>*In April 2018, the Wrap Restraint was introduced and the Tactical Shield category was added*</p>		

Court Services Bureau 2018-2019

The Court Services Bureau provides court security services for the seven courthouse facilities operating in San Diego County, as well as the County Administration Center.

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents	103	112
Hands on Control	88	101
Cord Cuff Restraint	6	1
Spit Sock	13	21
Impact Weapons	-	1
Forcible Stop	-	-
Pro-Straint Chair	-	-
*Tactical Shield	-	-
*Wrap Restraint	5	19
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	1	3
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	4	3
Weapon Pointed (Displayed)	19	9
Lethal Force	-	-
Canine	-	-
Total Uses	136	158

There was a 16% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2018 and 2019

In April 2018, the Wrap Restraint was introduced and the Tactical Shield category was added

Levels of Resistance Encountered

Psychological Intimidation refers to a subject's nonverbal cues indicating the subject's attitude, appearance and physical readiness to resist.

Verbal Non-Compliance is evidenced by a subject's expressed unwillingness to comply with a deputy's commands.

Passive Resistance is represented by a refusal to respond to verbal commands but also offers no form of physical resistance.

Active Resistance refers to overt physical actions intended to prevent a deputy's control, but that does not attempt to harm the deputy.

Assaultive Behavior is represented by conduct that suggests the potential for human injury. Such behavior may be conveyed through body language, verbal threats and/or physical actions.

Aggravated Active Aggression refers to subject actions that will potentially result in serious injury or death to a deputy or any other person.

Definitions of Force Options

Hands on Control includes grab, push or pull, control holds, pressure points, hand or leg strikes, takedowns, and carotid restraint technique.

Spit Sock is a light weight, sheer, protective mesh material that is placed over a subject's head/face, who is spitting as a means of assaulting or attacking a deputy or other person. Neither vision nor breathing is impaired, however, saliva will not penetrate the material.

Impact Weapons include the use of batons, saps, and flashlights as a means of delivering a strike to a subject.

Forcible Stop is the use of a Sheriff's vehicle to stop or control the movement of a vehicle.

Pro-Strait Chair is a restraining device used to control people who are violent and in need of maximum restraint.

Less-Lethal includes non-lethal chemical agents like OC spray and pepper ball launcher. Other less lethal weapons include the 37mm and 40mm launchers, supersock bean bag shotgun, sting ball grenades, Nova Shield, Ultran II, and REACT belt.

Conducted Energy Device (CED) is an electronic control device that is effective for the temporary immobilization of subjects. The Department considers not only deployment of the CED, but also the display of the CED as a use of force.

Weapon Pointed (Displayed) is the pointing of either lethal and/or less lethal weapon systems at a subject.

Lethal Force, "Hit" is the intentional discharge of a firearm that causes death or serious bodily injury.

Canine is a tool that is used by a K-9 handler to apprehend fleeing subjects.

Wrap Restraint is a device used to maximally restrain an individual who poses a threat to him or herself or others.