

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Use of Force Statistical Report 2019-2020

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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 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 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.

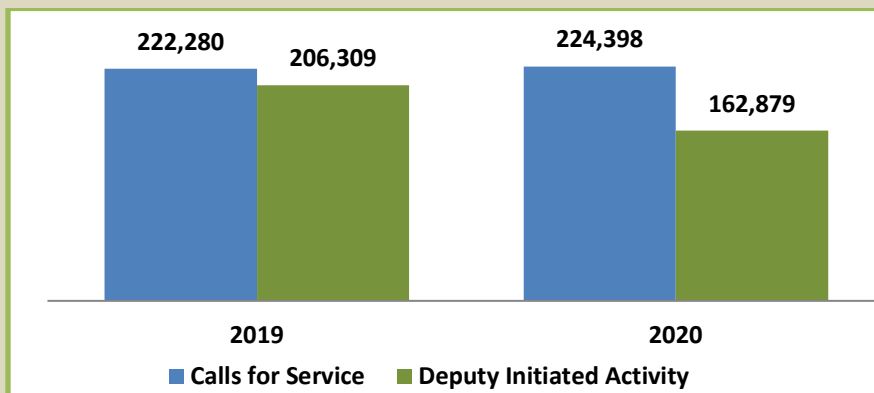
The Sheriff and the Undersheriff, in their continuous efforts to improve organizational transparency, are making these statistics available to the public on an annual basis. The first part of this report contains the use of force data for the years 2019 and 2020. This collection of data includes the 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

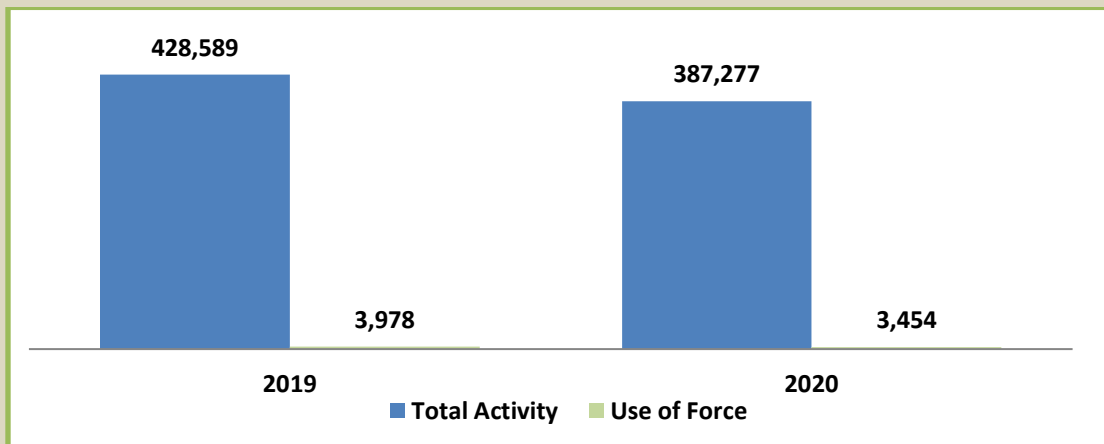
Before presenting the use of force data, it is important to understand the mechanism by which a deputy gets involved in a use of force incident. A deputy either responds to a call for service or makes an observation requiring action. Overall Department activity is categorized and tracked as either calls 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, and monitoring, those that are housed in our jails at least once an hour and transport them to and from court or medical visits. These operations are 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

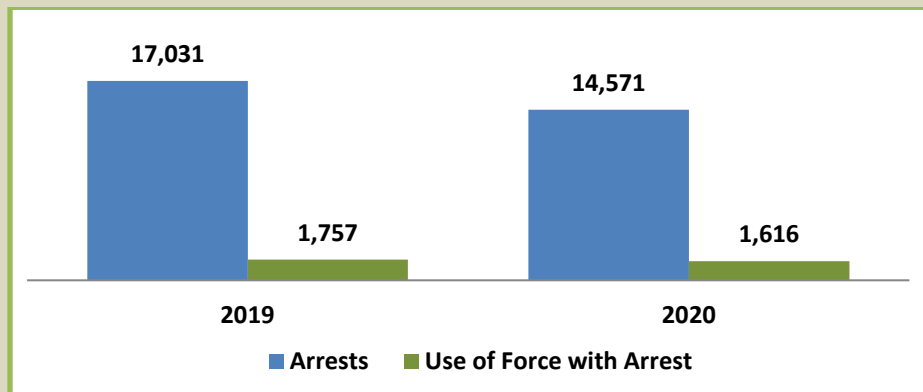
Total Activity vs Use of Force Incidents



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 2019 and 2020

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 of harm to the deputy due to the person's resistance during the encounter.

Total Arrests vs Arrests with a Use of Force



** Approximately 11% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in 2020 and approximately 10% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in 2019**

Use of Force Data

In 2020, there were **3,454** use of force incidents reported, compared to **3,978** use of force incidents reported in 2019. Overall, there was a **13% decrease** in use of force incidents between 2019 and 2020.

The following table depicts the uses of force by the Sheriff's Department. The table combines 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 2019-2020

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2019	2020
Use of Force Incidents	3,978	3,454
Hands on Control	2,473	2,086
Cord Cuff Restraint	58	45
Spit Sock	487	391
Impact Weapons	47	54
Forcible Stop	-	1
Pro-Straint Chair	11	12
Tactical Shield	18	146
Wrap Restraint	207	255
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	368	383
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	164	166
Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)	1,520	1,289
Lethal Force	1	2
Canine	34	22
Total Uses	5,388	4,852
<p>*There was a 13% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2019 and 2020*</p>		

Use of Force by Bureau

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

Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2019-2020

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

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2019	2020
Use of Force Incidents	2,649	2,404
Hands on Control	1,362	1,201
Cord Cuff Restraint	57	44
Spit Sock	168	160
Impact Weapons	17	24
Forcible Stop	-	1
Pro-Straint Chair	-	-
Tactical Shield	1	3
Wrap Restraint	148	173
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	80	140
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	96	104
Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)	1,436	1,244
Lethal Force	1	2
Canine	34	22
Total Uses	3,400	3,118
There was an 8% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2019 and 2020		

Detention Services Bureau 2019-2020

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 in a state of intoxication or be agitated from the arrest.

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2019	2020
Use of Force Incidents	1,217	1,008
Hands on Control	1,010	847
Cord Cuff Restraint	-	1
Spit Sock	298	224
Impact Weapons	29	29
Forcible Stop	-	-
Pro-Straint Chair	11	12
Tactical Shield	17	143
Wrap Restraint	40	77
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	285	242
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	65	61
Weapon Pointed (Displayed)	75	44
Lethal Force	-	-
Canine	-	-
Total Uses	1,830	1,680
There was an 8% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2019 and 2020		

Court Services Bureau 2019-2020

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	
	2019	2020
Use of Force Incidents	112	42
Hands on Control	101	38
Cord Cuff Restraint	1	0
Spit Sock	21	7
Impact Weapons	1	1
Forcible Stop	-	0
Pro-Straint Chair	-	0
Tactical Shield	-	0
Wrap Restraint	19	5
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	3	1
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	3	1
Weapon Pointed (Displayed)	9	1
Lethal Force	-	0
Canine	-	0
Total Uses	158	54
<p>*There was a 65% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2019 and 2020*</p>		

Levels of Resistance Encountered

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

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

Passive Resistance is represented by a refusal to respond to verbal commands but 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 bodily movements, verbal threats or physical actions.

Aggravated Active Aggression refers to person's 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, and takedowns.

Spit Sock is a light weight, sheer, protective mesh material that is placed over a person's head and 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 person.

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 irritant filled projectile launchers. Other less lethal weapons include the 37mm and 40mm launchers, 12 gauge less-lethal bean bag, 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 a person. 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 a lethal or less lethal weapon at a person.

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

Canine is a tool that may be deployed to locate articles of evidentiary value, narcotics, or to apprehend and control offenders when the handler has evaluated the severity of the crime, all levels of resistance, and whether the offender's actions pose an immediate threat to the safety of citizens or law enforcement officers.

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