

# **SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**



## **Use of Force Statistical Report 2020-2021**

Kelly A. Martinez, Acting Sheriff

## Introduction

Law enforcement agencies across the nation are collecting use of force statistics to review and analyze the reasonableness of force being used by officers. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is committed to reviewing each use of force incident. The review process requires approval from four different department levels and from multiple perspectives, including training, tactics, policies, procedures, and equipment use. The goal of the thorough review process is to identify problem areas, apply appropriate corrective solutions and make 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.

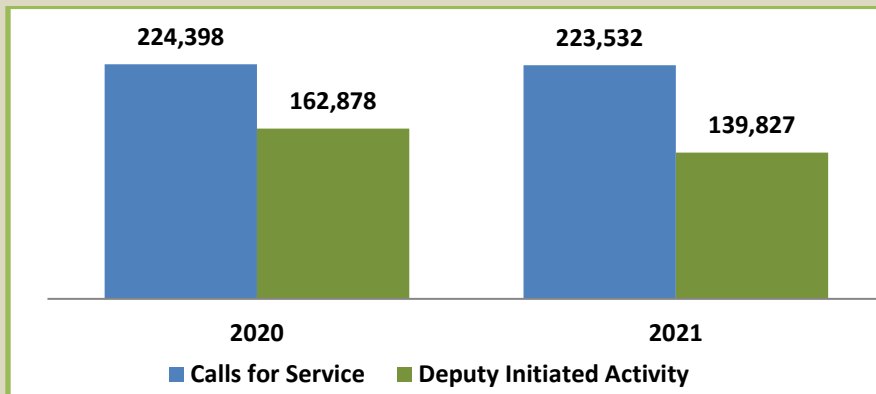
The Acting Sheriff, in her continuous effort to improve organizational transparency, are making these statistics available to the public on an annual basis. The first part of this report contains the use of force data for the years 2020 and 2021. This collection of data includes the use of all types 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 Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123.

### Overall Activity and Use of Force Incidents

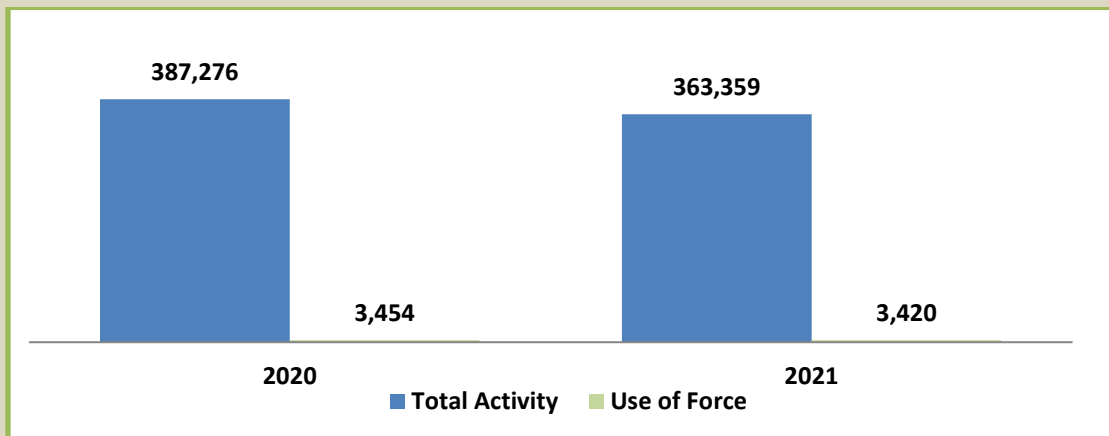
Before presenting the use of force data, it is important to understand the mechanism by which a deputy gets involved in a use of force incident. A deputy either responds to a call for service or makes an observation requiring action. Overall Department activity is categorized and tracked as either calls 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. Deputy initiated activity examples include: *traffic stops, field interviews, or other situations observed by the deputy.*

#### *Overall Sheriff's Department Activity*



The graph below depicts 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.

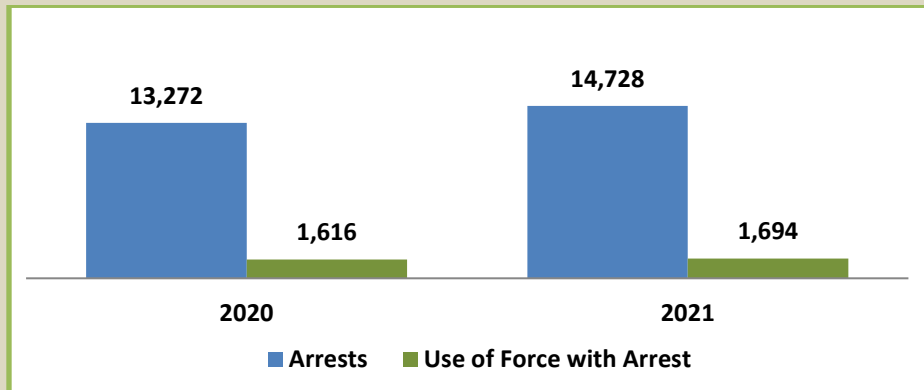
#### *Total Department Activity vs Use of Force Incidents*



*\*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 2020 and 2021\**

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 12% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in both 2020 and 2021. Please note that the graph above excludes arrests made by the detentions and court services bureaus\**

**Use of Force Data**

In 2021, there were **3,420** use of force incidents reported, compared to **3,454** use of force incidents reported in 2020. Overall, there was a **1% decrease** in use of force incidents between 2020 and 2021.

The following table depicts the types of force used 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 2020-2021**

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2020	2021
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>3,420</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	2,086	2,025
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	45	33
<b>Spit Sock</b>	391	215
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	54	41
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	1	-
<b>Pro-Straint Chair</b>	12	28
<b>Tactical Shield</b>	146	100
<b>*Ankle Strap</b>	-	6
<b>Wrap Restraint</b>	255	221
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes CED)	383	255
<b>Conducted Energy Device (CED)</b> (Deployed)	166	177
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed Only)	1,289	1,372
<b>Lethal Force</b>	2	3
<b>Canine</b>	22	20
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>4,852</b>	<b>4,496</b>
<p>There was a 1% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2020 and 2021.</p> <p><b>* The Ankle Strap category was added on 10/19/21*</b></p>		

**Use of Force by Bureau**

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

***Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2020-2021***

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	
	2020	2021
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>2,340</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	1,201	1,156
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	44	32
<b>Spit Sock</b>	160	76
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	24	25
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	1	-
<b>Pro-Strait Chair</b>	-	-
<b>Tactical Shield</b>	3	-
<b>*Ankle Strap</b>	-	5
<b>Wrap Restraint</b>	173	155
<b>Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)</b>	140	53
<b>Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)</b>	104	77
<b>Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)</b>	1,244	1,313
<b>Lethal Force</b>	2	3
<b>Canine</b>	22	20
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>2,915</b>
<p>There was a 3% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2020 and 2021.</p> <p><i>* The Ankle Strap category was added on 10/19/21*</i></p>		

**Detention Services Bureau 2020-2021**

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	
	2020	2021
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>1,028</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	847	824
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	1	1
<b>Spit Sock</b>	224	134
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	29	16
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	-	-
<b>Pro-Straint Chair</b>	12	28
<b>Tactical Shield</b>	143	100
<b>*Ankle Strap</b>	-	1
<b>Wrap Restraint</b>	77	62
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes CED)	242	201
<b>Conducted Energy Device (CED)</b> (Deployed)	61	98
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed)	44	50
<b>Lethal Force</b>	-	-
<b>Canine</b>	-	-
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,515</b>
<p>There was an 2% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>* The Ankle Strap category was added on 10/19/21*</p>		

**Court Services Bureau 2020-2021**

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	
	2020	2021
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	38	45
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	-	-
<b>Spit Sock</b>	7	5
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	1	-
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	-	-
<b>Pro-Straint Chair</b>	-	-
<b>Tactical Shield</b>	-	-
<b>*Ankle Strap</b>	-	1
<b>Wrap Restraint</b>	5	4
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes CED)	1	1
<b>Conducted Energy Device (CED)</b> (Deployed)	1	2
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed)	1	9
<b>Lethal Force</b>	-	-
<b>Canine</b>	-	-
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>66</b>
<p>There was a 24% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2020 and 2021.</p> <p><i>* The Ankle Strap category was added on 10/19/21*</i></p>		



## **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.

## Principles of Control

### Non-physical:

1. **Deputy presence** is the psychological impact of an authority figure.
2. **Verbal direction or redirection** refers to verbiage or commands given by a deputy.
3. **Display of firearm** refers to the drawing and/or pointing of a firearm.

**Drawing and pointing of a firearm:** Deputies may draw, and point, a firearm when they reasonably believe, based on the totality of the circumstances, that lethal force may be necessary to defend against a threat of death or serious injury to the deputy or to another person; or to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the deputy reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

### Physical:

1. **Less lethal force** refers to forms of force not likely to inflict serious injury. Less severe than intermediate or lethal force. Less lethal force includes:

**Hands-on control** is used as a means of overcoming resistive or assaultive behavior. Soft hand control may be used to control subjects whose behavior does not demand more severe tactics. Hard hands control, powerful hand or leg strikes, etc., are techniques used to control more assaultive suspects.

**Less Lethal Control devices** including the use of batons, WRAP, Cord Cuff restraints, etc., when used for restraint, joint locks or come along tactics.

2. **Intermediate force:** refers to forms of force capable of inflicting significant pain and causing serious injury. Intermediate force is less severe than lethal force. Passive or active resistance to arrest alone does not constitute an immediate threat justifying the use of intermediate force. Intermediate force includes:

**Hard intermediate weapons** including saps, batons, and flashlights when used to deliver strikes.

**Intermediate munitions** used for long range impact and electronic immobilization devices also fall within the intermediate weapon's category.

**Chemical agents** may be used when there is an immediate threat to the safety of the deputy or others; AND either:

- the offense committed is sufficiently severe to justify the use of intermediate force or
- the suspect is actively resisting arrest; or
- attempting to flee

**Canines:** when used to arrest or detain a suspect by physically contacting a subject.

### **Conducted Energy Devices**

3. **Lethal force**: refers to any force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including but not limited to, the discharge of a firearm.