

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



## **Use of Force Statistical Report 2017-2018**

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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 2017 and 2018. 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.

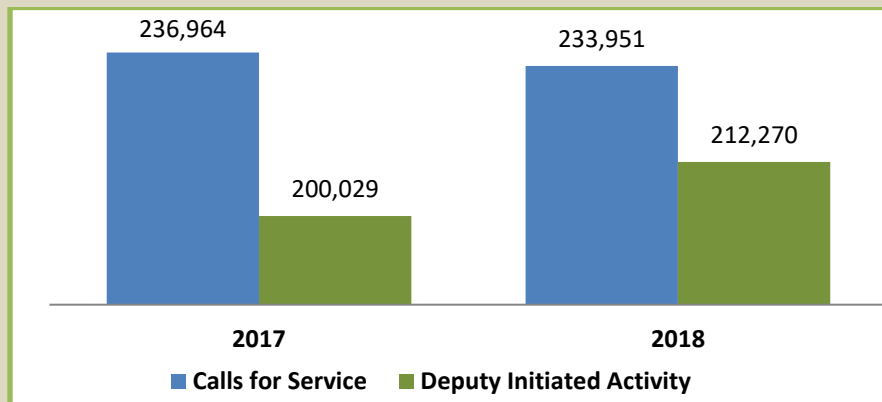
The second part of this report contains statistical information from the Internal Affairs Unit. Internal Affairs is the central controlling point for investigating complaints of alleged employee misconduct. The Internal Affairs Unit prides itself in its ability to conduct fair, thorough and impartial internal investigations. This collection of data includes the number, types and disposition of investigations. The Department believes that by providing this information to the public, it will clearly show that the Sheriff holds his personnel accountable for their actions.

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

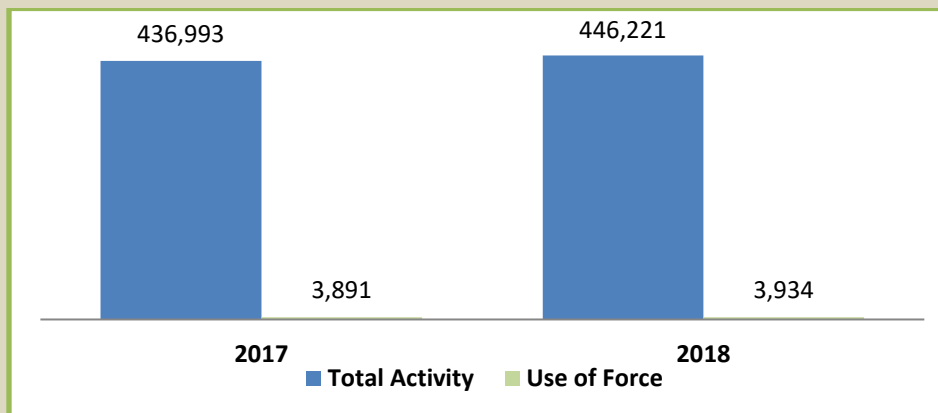
Before presenting the use of force data, it is important to understand the mechanism by which a deputy gets involved in a use of force incident. A deputy either responds to a call for service or makes an observation requiring action. Overall Department activity is categorized and tracked as either calls 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. 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.

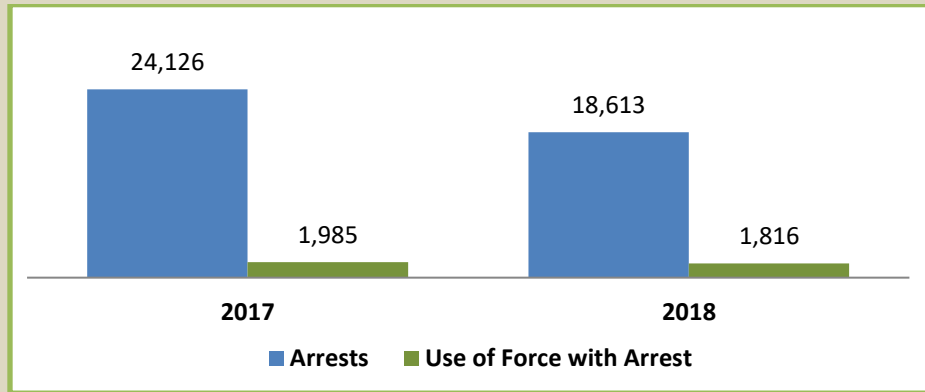
#### Total Activity vs Use of Force Incidents



*\*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 2017 and 2018\**

Another aspect to consider is that even though the majority of 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 9% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in 2018 and 8% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in 2017\**

**Use of Force Data**

In 2018, there were **3,934** use of force incidents reported, compared to **3,891** use of force incidents reported in 2017. Overall, there was a **1% increase** in use of force incidents between 2017 and 2018.

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 2017-2018**

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2017	2018
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>3,934</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	2,264	2,317
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	130	75
<b>Spit Sock</b>	471	423
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	70	65
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	3	1
<b>Pro-Strait Chair</b>	16	12
<b>*Wrap Restraint</b>	-	129
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes Taser)	567	458
<b>Taser</b> (Deployed)	209	175
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed Only)	1,491	1,554
<b>Lethal Force</b>	11	5
<b>Canine</b>	50	33
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>5,247</b>
<p><b>*There was a 1% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2017 and 2018*</b></p> <p><b>*Wrap Restraint was introduced in April 2018*</b></p>		

**Use of Force by Bureau**

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

***Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2017-2018***

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	
	2017	2018
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,651</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	1,102	1,296
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	120	66
<b>Spit Sock</b>	116	146
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	40	28
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	3	1
<b>Pro-Strait Chair</b>	-	1
<b>*Wrap Restraint</b>	-	115
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes Taser)	125	110
<b>Taser</b> (Deployed)	125	97
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed Only)	1,360	1,465
<b>Lethal Force</b>	10	5
<b>Canine</b>	50	33
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>3,363</b>
<p><b>*There was a 11% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2017 and 2018*</b></p> <p><b>*Wrap Restraint was introduced in April 2018*</b></p>		

**Detention Services Bureau 2017-2018**

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	
	2017	2018
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,180</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	1,074	933
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	4	3
<b>Spit Sock</b>	348	264
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	29	37
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	-	-
<b>Pro-Straint Chair</b>	16	11
<b>*Wrap Restraint</b>	-	9
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes Taser)	441	347
<b>Taser</b> (Deployed)	77	74
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed)	121	70
<b>Lethal Force</b>	-	-
<b>Canine</b>	-	-
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>1,748</b>
<p><b>*There was an 15% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2017 and 2018*</b></p> <p><b>*Wrap Restraint was introduced in April 2018*</b></p>		

**Court Services Bureau 2017-2018**

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	
	2017	2018
<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Hands on Control</b>	88	88
<b>Cord Cuff Restraint</b>	6	6
<b>Spit Sock</b>	7	13
<b>Impact Weapons</b>	1	0
<b>Forcible Stop</b>	-	0
<b>Pro-Straint Chair</b>	-	0
<b>*Wrap Restraint</b>	-	5
<b>Less Lethal Deployed</b> (Excludes Taser)	1	1
<b>Taser</b> (Deployed)	7	4
<b>Weapon Pointed</b> (Displayed)	10	19
<b>Lethal Force</b>	1	-
<b>Canine</b>	-	-
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>136</b>
<p><b>*There was a 12% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2017 and 2018*</b></p> <p><b>*Wrap Restraint was introduced in April 2018*</b></p>		



## **Definitions of Force Options**

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

**Spit Sock** is a tool that is used on subjects who are spitting as a means of assaulting or attacking a deputy or other person.

**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 the use of non-lethal chemical agents like OC spray and pepper ball launcher. Other less lethal weapons include the use of the bean bag, sting ball grenades, super sock, Nova Shield, Ultran II, and REACT belt.

**Taser** is an electronic control device that is effective for the temporary immobilization of subjects. The Department considers not only deployment of the Taser, but also the display of the Taser as a use of force.

**Weapon Pointed (Displayed)** is the use of both lethal and less-lethal weapon systems pointed 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.

