

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Use of Force Statistical Report 2022-2023

Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff
Rich Williams, Undersheriff

Introduction

Law enforcement agencies nationwide 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 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 using 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 voluntary compliance and cooperation level, 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 force arises, deputies may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, overcome resistance, or defend 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.

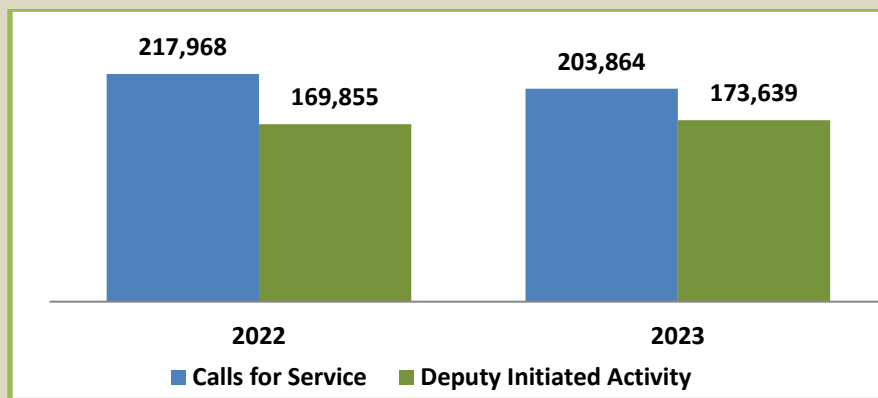
The Sheriff makes these statistics available to the public annually in her continuous effort to improve organizational transparency. The first part of this report contains the use of force data for the years 2022 and 2023. This collection of data includes the use of all types of force by members of the Department. The Department believes that providing this information to the public 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 on the Department's website. 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

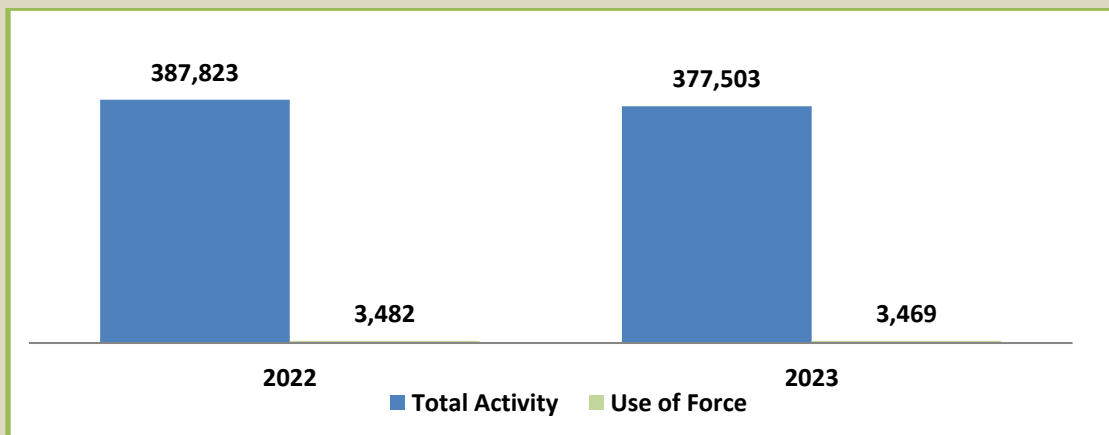
Before presenting the use-of-force data, it is essential to understand how a deputy gets involved in a use-of-force incident. A deputy either responds to a call for service or makes an observation requiring action. The overall Department activity is categorized and tracked as either a call for service 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 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 the deputy observes*.

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 housed in our Detention facilities at least once an hour and/or transporting them to and from a court or medical visits. These operations are 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Total Department Activity vs. Use of Force Incidents

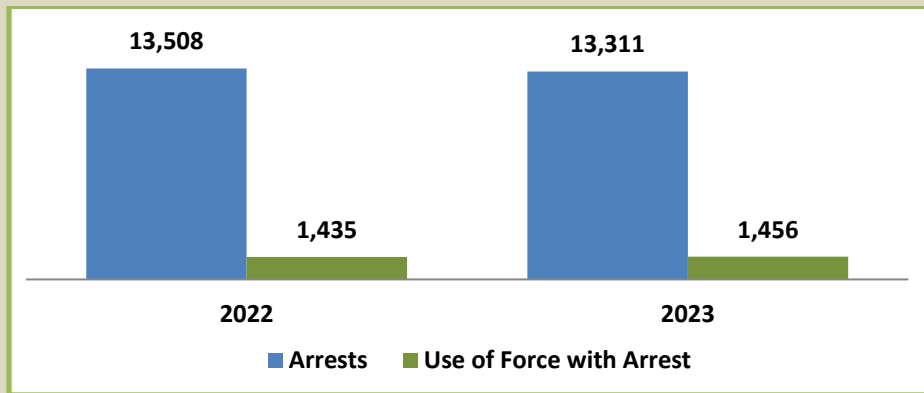


**The use of force number does not reflect multiple force options utilized within a single use of force incident.*

*Approximately 1% of the total activity resulted in a Use of Force incident in both 2022 and 2023**

Another aspect to consider is that even though most use-of-force incidents result in an arrest; there are some instances when an arrest is not made. Making an arrest poses a high risk/ 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 11% of arrests resulted in a Use of Force in both 2022 and 2023. Please note that the graph above excludes arrests made by the detentions and court services bureaus**

Use of Force Data

In 2023, **3,469** use-of-force incidents were reported, compared to **3,482** incidents reported in 2022. Overall, there was a **.04% decrease** in the use of force incidents between 2022 and 2023.

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 2022-2023

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2022	2023
Use of Force Incidents	3,482	3,469
Hands-on Control	2,120	2164
Cord Cuff Restraint	30	22
Spit Sock	221	241
Impact Weapons	31	31
Forcible Stop	1	0
Pro-Strait Chair	16	13
Tactical Shield	130	121
Ankle Strap	69	26
WRAP Restraint	180	255
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	264	217
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	199	230
Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)	1,268	1275
Lethal Force	4	4
Canine	20	23
Total Uses	4,553	4,622
There was a 0.4% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2022 and 2023.		

Use of Force by Bureau

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

Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2022-2023

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	
	2022	2023
Use of Force Incidents	2,103	2,139
Hands-on Control	1,013	1061
Cord Cuff Restraint	28	20
Spit Sock	81	84
Impact Weapons	9	18
Forcible Stop	1	0
Pro-Strait Chair	-	0
Tactical Shield	1	2
Ankle Strap	6	0
WRAP Restraint	156	195
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	70	73
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	60	76
Weapon Pointed (Displayed Only)	1,192	1185
Lethal Force	3	4
Canine	20	23
Total Uses	2,640	2,741
There was a 2% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2022 and 2023.		

Detention Services Bureau 2022-2023

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 intoxicated or agitated from the arrest.

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2022	2023
Use of Force Incidents	1,268	1,209
Hands-on Control	1,000	994
Cord Cuff Restraint	1	0
Spit Sock	131	152
Impact Weapons	22	13
Forcible Stop	-	0
Pro-Straint Chair	16	13
Tactical Shield	129	119
Ankle Strap	63	26
WRAP Restraint	16	51
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	193	143
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	135	151
Weapon Pointed (Displayed)	71	76
Lethal Force	-	0
Canine	-	0
Total Uses	1,777	1,738
There was a 5% decrease in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2022 and 2023.		

Court Services Bureau 2022-2023

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

Type of Force	Times Used	
	2022	2023
Use of Force Incidents	111	121
Hands-on Control	107	109
Cord Cuff Restraint	1	2
Spit Sock	9	5
Impact Weapons	-	0
Forcible Stop	-	0
Pro-Straint Chair	-	0
Tactical Shield	-	0
Ankle Strap	-	0
WRAP Restraint	8	9
Less Lethal Deployed (Excludes CED)	1	1
Conducted Energy Device (CED) (Deployed)	4	3
Weapon Pointed (Displayed)	5	14
Lethal Force	1	0
Canine	-	0
Total Uses	136	143
There was a 9% increase in the amount of Use of Force Incidents reported between 2022 and 2023.		

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 do 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 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 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 hand control and powerful hand or leg strikes are techniques 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 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.