



Use of Force Analysis

2022

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Annual Review

The Coronado Police Department (CPD) Policy Manual (Rev. 9/26/2022) indicates that at least annually, the Field Services Captain should prepare an analysis report on the use of force incidents. The analysis should include the identification of any trends in the use of force by members, training needs, equipment needs, and policy revision recommendations. This report is a summation of that analysis.

Definitions	
Force	Applying physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows themselves to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained.
Deadly Force	Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including but not limited to the discharge of a firearm (Penal Code §835a)
Less-Lethal Force	Less-lethal weapons are designed to provide officers with options during use of force incidents. Less lethal weapons may be used to resolve incidents in a less-lethal manner, to protect officers and other persons from harm, to protect a suspect/subject from self-inflicted injury, or to end incidents involving combative or violent suspects.
Non-Lethal Force	Non-lethal techniques/personal weapons are used by officers to protect themselves or others from physical harm, to restrain or subdue a resistant individual, and to bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

Statistical Data Nuances

In 2022 there were 41 key incidents where CPD officers used force. In some of those incidents, more than one officer applied force. Or, at separate times and for different reasons, force was used by one or more officers. For example, if three officers pointed firearms at two people at a felony car stop, six (6) occurrences of force use are statistically collected and separately analyzed. Likewise, if an arresting officer used a control hold during the arrest of a person, and later, other officers used a WRAP restraint after the person was in custody, each force application is separately analyzed.

Department of Justice Reporting

In October 2015, Governor Brown signed AB 71 into law, which went into effect on January 1, 2017. The law created section 12525.2 of the California Government Code, which requires law enforcement agencies to report specific force-use instances annually to the Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ developed the URSUS program to that end. The DOJ's annual report, a comprehensive statewide collection of applicable incidents, is titled "California Department of Justice URSUS Use of Force Incident Reporting."

The applicable instances include 1) an incident involving the shooting of a civilian by a peace officer, 2) an incident involving the shooting of a peace officer by a civilian, 3) an incident in which the use of force by a peace officer against a civilian results in serious bodily injury or death, and 4) an incident in which use of force by a civilian against a peace officer results in serious bodily injury or death.

For the purpose of reporting these instances to the California Department of Justice, “serious bodily injury” is defined as a bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.”

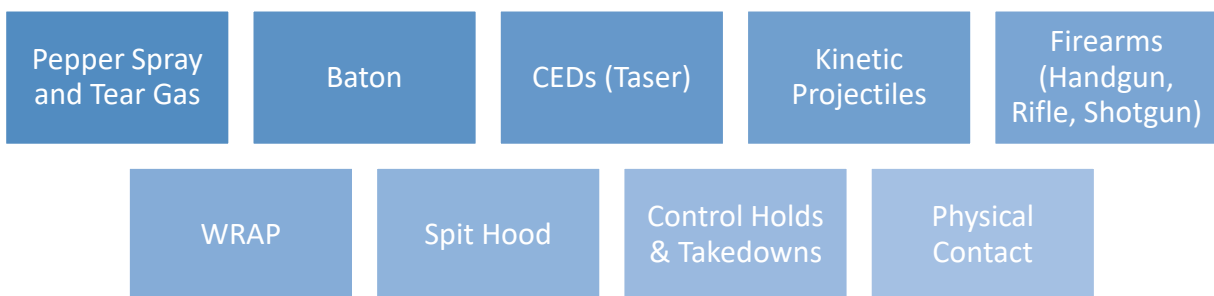
Of the 41 key incidents where CPD officers applied force in 2022, one person sustained a minor abrasion, an injury that does not fall within the definition of a serious bodily injury. That person was treated at a hospital, provided medical clearance from a physician, and booked into jail. No other force applications by CPD officers resulted in injuries. Subsequently, the incidents summated in this report are not included in the DOJ report.

As indicated above, all force applications by individual officers are evaluated separately and reported to DOJ. This explains the differences between what is reported by the CPD to DOJ and what the CPD collects and analyzes internally.

CPDs AB71/URSUS Submissions							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reportable Incidents	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Type of Force Used

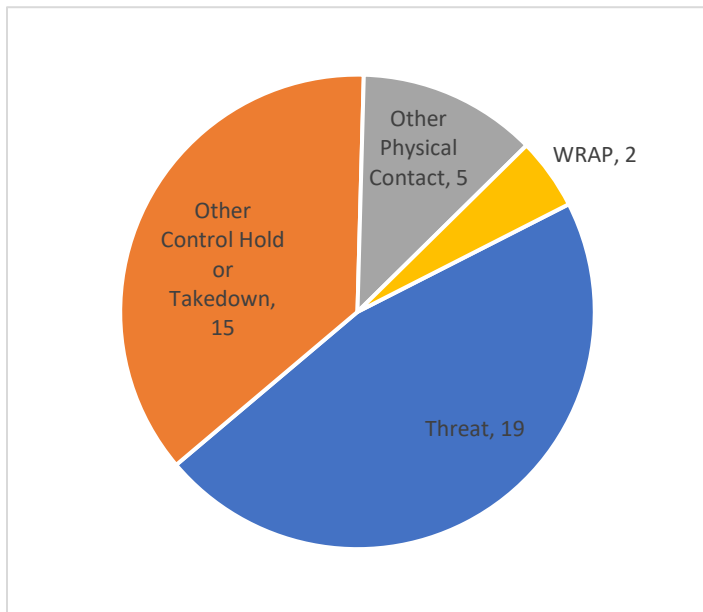
CPD officers are equipped with or have access to various devices and techniques that, when applied, are considered by the department as uses of force. Of the 41 key incidents, officers used: 1) threats of force, 2) control holds/takedowns, 3) physical contact, and a 4) WRAP device. There were no deadly force applications or any force applications that resulted in serious bodily injury. Additionally, there were no uses of batons, CEDs, kinetic projectiles, or pepper spray and tear gas. A spit hood was used on one occasion. A WRAP was used on seven occasions. In two of those seven incidents, the WRAP was the only force used.



Threat

Most of the force used by CPD officers was a *threat* of force. This occurred in 19 of the 41 incidents. For the purposes of this report, a threat of force is defined as pointing a firearm at an individual. Displaying a firearm is distinctly different than the actual discharge of a firearm. Discharging a firearm is considered a deadly force application, as the discharge may result in serious bodily injury or death. Officers may display a firearm if the officer does not initially perceive a threat but reasonably believes that the potential for such a threat exists. If the officer reasonably believes that a threat exists based on the

totality of circumstances at the time (e.g., high-risk stop, tactical entry, armed encounter), firearms may be directed towards such threat until the officer no longer perceives such threat.



Other Control Hold or Takedown

Officers usually use a control hold to move suspects from one place to another. For example, if a resistant arrestee physically resists the officers attempting to place them into a patrol car, they may use control holds to move the person.

An analysis of CPD encounters where force was used shows that in 15 of the 41 incidents (37%), CPD officers used control holds or takedowns. Five of the 15 incidents occurred when the suspect was already in custody. In twelve of the 15 incidents, the suspect showed signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

Other Physical Contact

Officers sometimes use hands, fists, feet, etc., when encountering a resistant or assaultive person. There were five key incidents in 2022 where officers used other physical contact. The officers used physical contact force in all five encounters to overcome the suspect's resistance. All but one suspect sustained no injuries. The single suspect who did sustain an injury was treated at a hospital for abrasions and was booked into jail.

At three of these five encounters, the suspect was booked into jail, and at two encounters, the suspect was placed in a 72-hour mental health commitment. In addition, it should be noted that in four of the five instances where other physical contact was used, the suspect demonstrated signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

WRAP

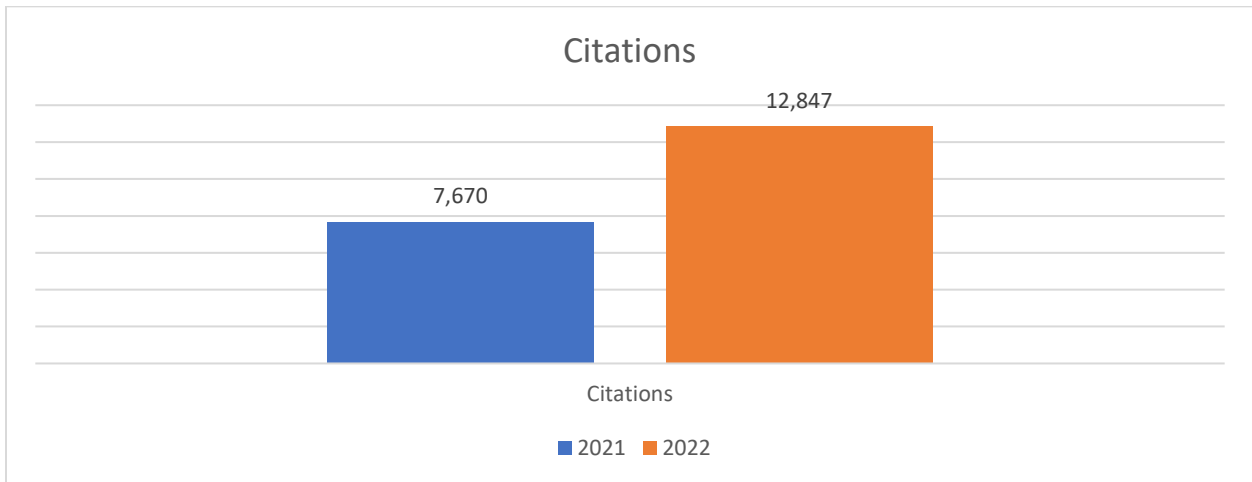
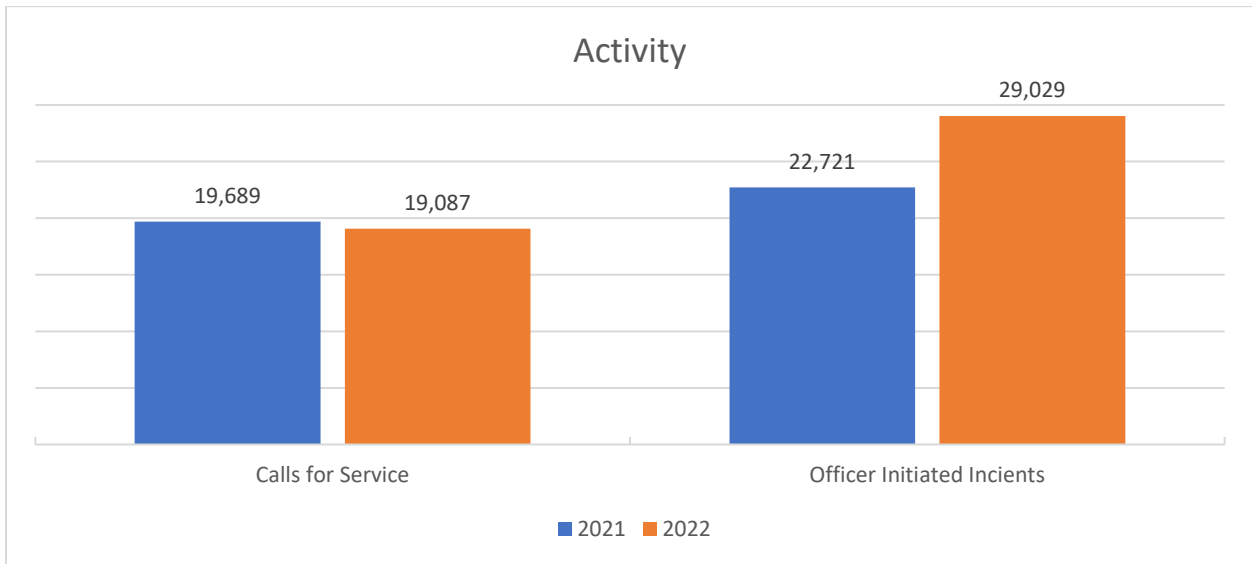
Officers use the WRAP Maximum Restraint System to restrain a violent or potentially violent person when it is reasonable to do so during a detention, arrest, or transportation. Additionally, officers consider using a WRAP when there is assaultive or resistant behavior if it is reasonably necessary to protect the suspect from their actions or avoid property damage. Out of the seven occasions where a WRAP was used, in two of those incidents, the WRAP was the only force used. Other tactics (e.g., control holds, etc.) were also used in the other five instances. For this report, those instances are categorized with control holds & takedowns (3 total) and other physical contact (2 total).

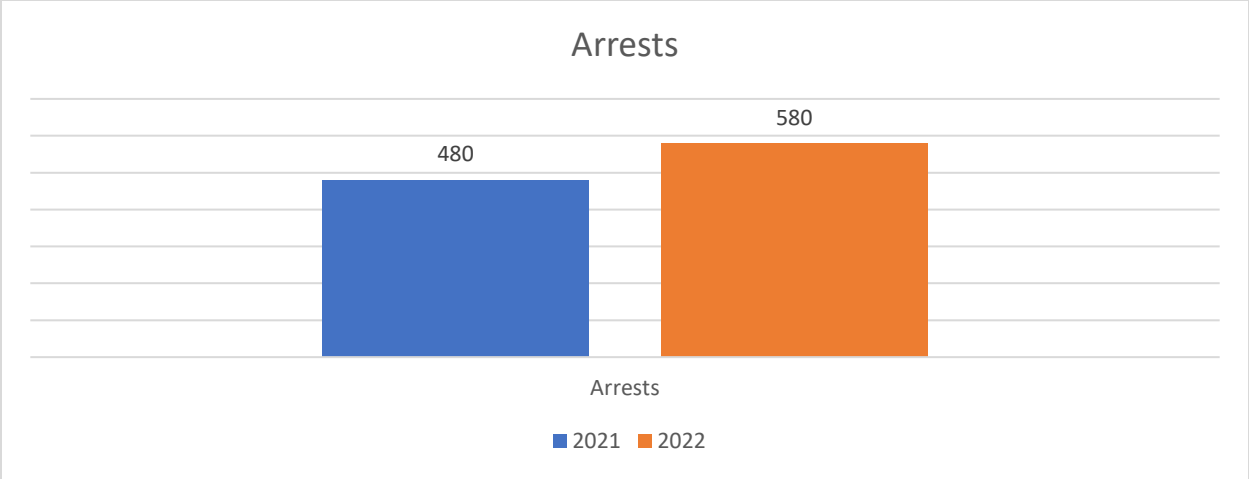
Comparative Analysis

An analysis of the total number of incidents officers participated in during the same period provides context to the frequency in that CPD officers used force. In 2022 the use of force was a statistical rarity

at CPD. Out of 48,116 calls for service and incidents handled by CPD officers, force was used 41 times. Said another way, for every encounter where force was used, there were about 1,171 where force was not used. Force encounters were fractional, despite the significant increase in the frequency of officer-initiated incidents, citations, and arrests.

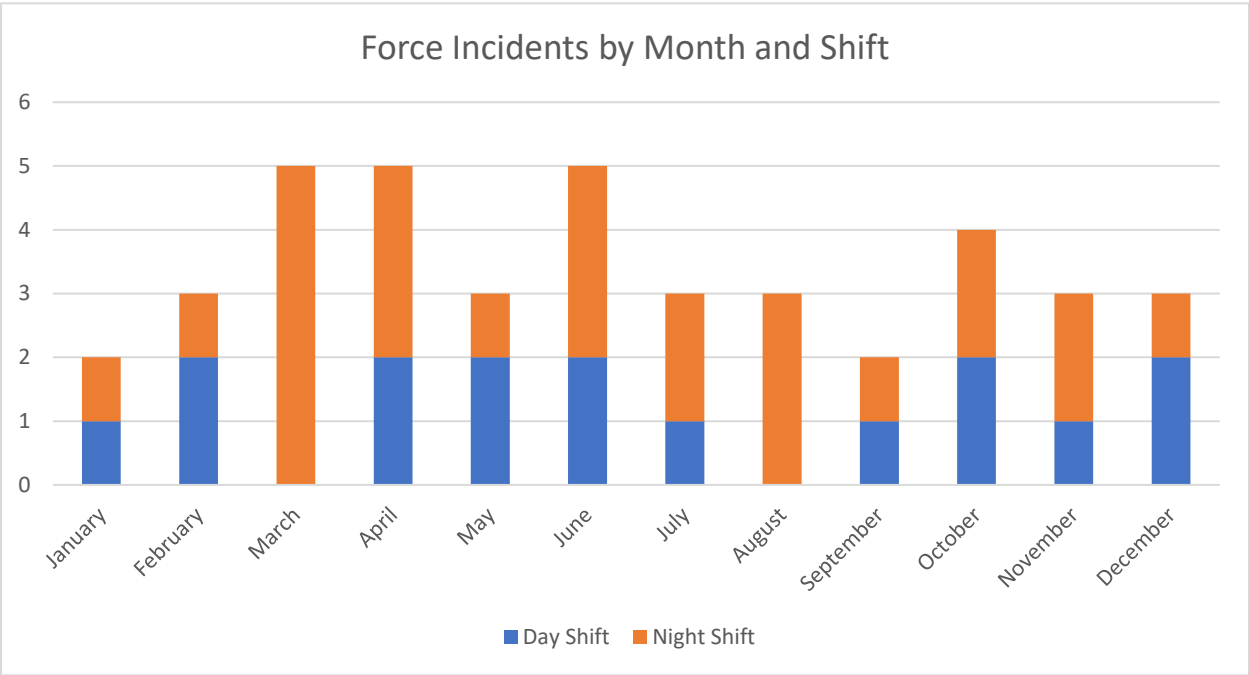
Calls for service dropped by about 3% from the year prior. However, **officer-initiated incidents increased by over 20%. Citations increased by over 67%, and arrests increased by over 20%.** When contrasted against arrest incidents, CPD officers used force at approximately 1 out of 14 arrests.





Force Incidents in 2022

Of all the force incidents analyzed, over 60% occurred during the night shift. The peak months were March, April, and June. The peak day was Saturday.



New Practices

CPD officers have historically used de-escalation tactics to reduce the situational intensity of volatile encounters with the public. De-escalation tactics are especially impactful with persons who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, people who are mentally or physically disabled, or people who are experiencing a heightened emotional state when officers arrive.

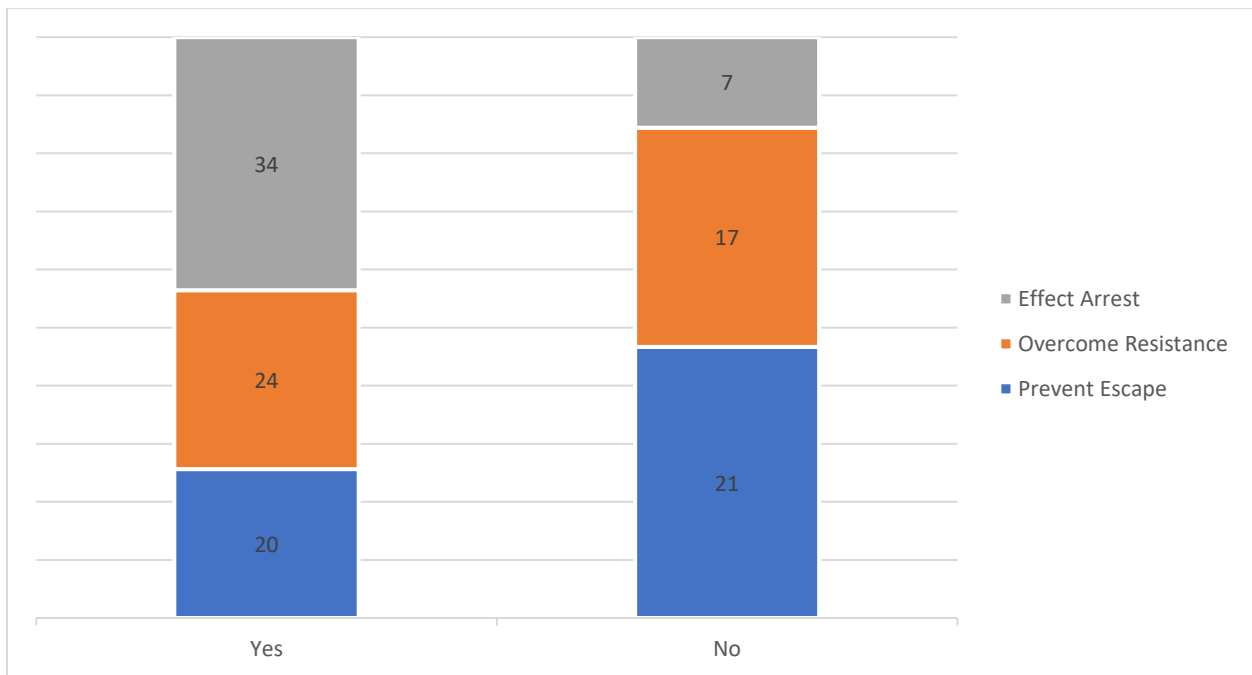
In 2022 the CPD incorporated the *rules of safety* into its standardized operational planning documentation (e.g., “OPS plan”). The CPD uses OPS plans to organize resources and responsibilities for

pre-planned, higher-risk operations outside normal activities. The rules of safety are a de-escalation tactic designed to improve the outcomes with barricaded suspects or other suspects secreted in a structure that officers believe to be armed. Officers on scene will calmly verbalize: 1) don't hurt anyone, 2) don't point any weapons at anyone, 3) don't come out with any weapons, and 4) when you come out, do what the officers tell you.

Trends

There were no unexpected trends in CPD's force-use data. The compelling point is that in 24% of encounters, there were signs of drug impairment, and in 39% of encounters, there were signs of alcohol impairment. In 12% of encounters, CPD officers recorded signs of a mental disability with the person they contacted. The most common age range of the people officers used force on was 31-35 (20%). The most common race was white (46%), and the most common gender was male (35%).

Officers recorded up to three reasons for each incident that force was used. In some encounters, all three reasons were selected by officers. At other encounters, two or less reasons were selected. The most common theme was to effect arrest/take into custody, which was present in all but seven of the 41 encounters.



Training

CPD officers should continue to receive de-escalation training, tactical communication training, and training involving encounters with people who have a mental or physical disability. Additionally, CPD officers should continue to receive regular defensive tactics training to build their action competency when using control holds or other physical contact to arrest or control resistant or combative persons. The most striking trend with force incidents is that many involve subjects under the influence of a mind-altering substance. Therefore, training should be sought that helps officers identify and communicate with subjects who have an impaired ability to perceive and communicate due to substance use.

Equipment

In early 2022 the CPD replaced beanbag rounds (shotgun launched) with 40mm kinetic energy projectile launchers. These projectiles are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury as they have a shorter minimum safe effective range, a longer maximum effective range, and are less likely to penetrate upon impact. The 40mm projectiles are also launched from a different platform than a shotgun. The replaced beanbag rounds were chambered for use in a shotgun. Using the same platform increased the chance of mistaking a shotgun round for a beanbag round. By replacing the beanbags with the 40mm projectile, the CPD has eliminated the possibility of officers mistakenly loading an incorrect round for a force application.

Use of Force Policy

The CPD routinely updates its policies to reflect legal changes, best practices, process changes, and equipment changes. When policy is changed, staff receive training on the change. The changes and training occur throughout the year as needed. There is currently no use of force policies that are identified for amendment.

Senate Bill 230

Effective January 1, 2021, each LEA is required to maintain a policy that provides guidelines on the use of force. Section 7286 of the California Government Code specifies the twenty (20) specific LEA policy requirements. After a comprehensive examination of CPDs policy, there are no recommendations for policy changes necessary to comply with SB 230.