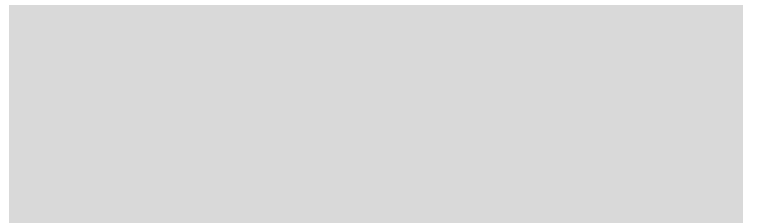


2018 Force, Pursuits, & Collisions

Planning, Training, & Accreditation Section





The Mission of the Lynnwood Police Department is to provide proactive, competent, and effective public safety services to all persons, with the highest regard for human dignity through efficient and professional law enforcement and crime prevention practices.

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INTRODUCTION

To support our mission, the Lynnwood Police Department carefully tracks and reviews significant events that can often occur when providing law enforcement services. For example, if force has been used by a police officer to restore safety, it should be scrutinized to ensure compliance with policy, training, and the law. Other significant events that demand this same level of critical analysis involve police pursuits and officer-involved collisions. For ease of reading, this report will be organized into the following four sections



USE OF FORCE

One objective of this report is to provide an overview of the use of force used by Lynnwood officers in 2018. Ideally, the report will provide some context on what kind and how often force was used by officers. The report will also look at demographics associated with those instances involving force. Police K9 and Taser applications will be examined separately.



PURSUIITS

This section examines the circumstances when Lynnwood police officers pursue criminals during their duties; that is, what level of criminal activity precipitated a vehicle pursuit and how the pursuit was ultimately resolved.



COLLISIONS

This section will look at those instances when an officer was involved in a vehicle collision. Both preventable and non-preventable collisions will be identified, and comparisons made to the previous year.



TRAINING

Lastly, this section will provide an overview of the number of training hours provided to Lynnwood Police personnel and our volunteers as well as a list of some of the formal training staff attended as part of our commitment to our core value of *Professionalism*.

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Lynnwood Police Department is to provide proactive, competent, and effective public safety services to all persons, with the highest regard for human dignity through efficient and professional law enforcement and crime prevention practices.

OUR VISION

Our Vision is to be recognized by our community as a major factor in determining and ensuring the quality of life in Lynnwood. We desire to be viewed as a leader in the law enforcement community; an organization that is committed to innovation and positive change in our endeavor to continually improve the quality of our service.

OUR VALUES

Professionalism

Committed to professional development while providing ethical, proficient, and respectful service.

Vigilance

Keeping the community safe through proactive and tenacious pursuit of violators of the law.

Community

Cultivating positive interactions by fostering trust; and partnering with citizens to create a high quality of life.

USE OF FORCE – POLICE OFFICERS

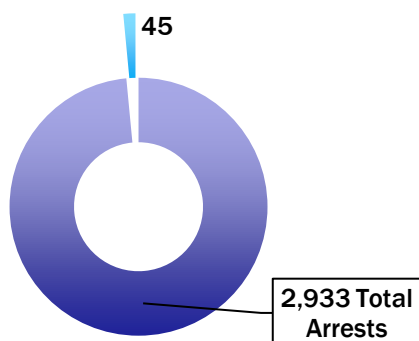
The Lynnwood Police Department follows the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) guidelines with respect to documenting the use of force. One important component of these guidelines is that officers are required to document *any force capable of causing injury*. When reviewing the numbers below it is important for the reader to understand a force report could be triggered even if there was no complaint of pain, or visible injury.

- Force Events By Police Officers

In 2018, Lynnwood Police officers handled a total of 47,537 incidents, which included both dispatched calls as well as self-initiated officer activity. The vast majority of these calls do not result in an arrest. However, in 2018, officers made 2,933 arrests.

Of these 2,933 arrests, there were forty-five (45) incidents of reportable force documented per WASPC guidelines.

45 Total Force Events



This equates to officers utilizing force 1.5% of the time when making an arrest.

The specific types of force and frequency will be examined in the following chart.

It is important for the reader to note that more than one type of force may have been recorded in a single event. In other words, officers may have pointed a firearm at a suspect and then utilized physical controls on the same individual. Although this just involved one individual out of the forty-five (45) listed above, it will show up as two (2) types of force in the charts that follow.

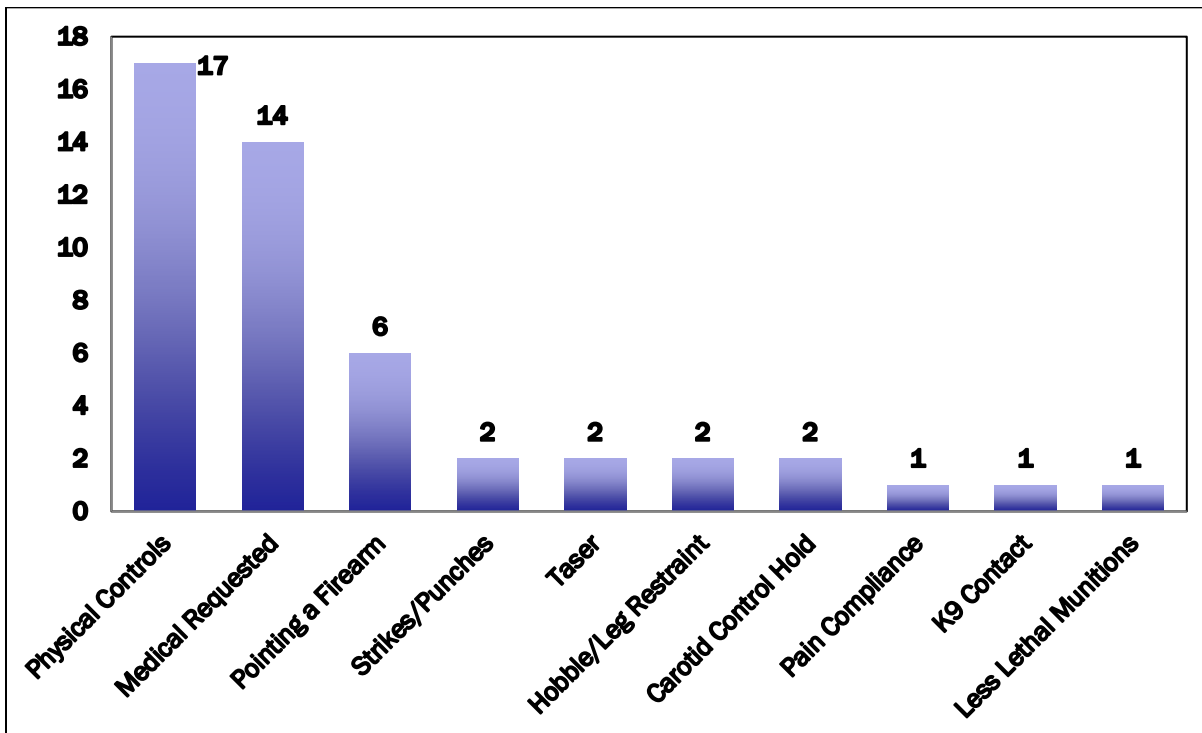


Chart 1 - Force Type/Frequency by Police

- Physical Controls

As noted in the graph above, “*physical controls*” – with seventeen (17) recorded instances – was the most common type of force utilized by police officers. One example of a *physical control* is when an officer uses a “hands-on” approach, in some manner, on a subject to overcome physical resistance. Commonly used physical controls are escorts techniques such as “wrist-locks” or “arm-bars.”

- Medical Requested

The second most frequently recorded category of force is classified as “*medical requested*” – with fourteen (14) recorded instances. “Medical requested” events are reported whenever a suspect sustained an injury and/or required medical attention, after a lower-level physical confrontation with an officer. The majority of these are minor abrasions or cuts sustained by the individual. This number is exclusive of Taser, K9 Contacts, and Carotid Control Holds, which automatically generate a medical evaluation and are counted separately from the “medical requested” events.

- Pointing Firearms

The “*pointing of a firearm*” is also recorded because it is inherently dangerous and capable of causing significant injury and/or death. There were six (6) recorded events where an officer pointed their firearm at a suspect in 2018.

- K9 Applications

A K9 application could be a search for a fleeing suspect or a search for evidence (such as narcotics). For the purposes of this report, it is those instances when a police K9 has physically contacted a suspect that qualifies as a force incident.

All Lynnwood Police Department K9 applications that result in a defined contact are reviewed internally. The review process entails a K9 Board of Review, which convenes to analyze the circumstances surrounding the K9 contact. The Board then submits a recommendation to the Chief of Police who ultimately determines if the K9 application was *Justifiable, Non-Justifiable, or Accidental*.

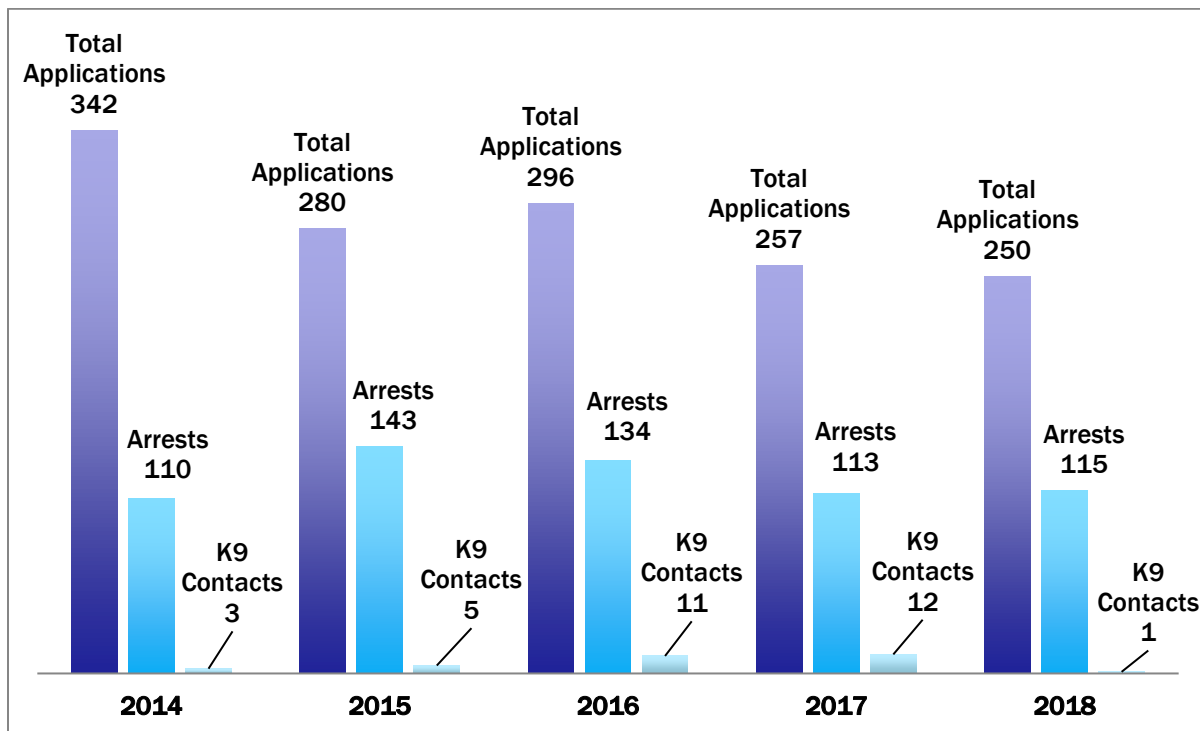


Chart 2 - K9 Contacts Last 5 Years

The above chart contains data for the last five years of K9 contacts compared to the total number of K9 applications and K9 arrests for each year.

As the above chart depicts, from 2017 to 2018, there was a reduction in K9 contacts – twelve (12) contacts in 2017 compared to one (1) contact in 2018. Some contributing factors for this reduction might include:

- K9 unit staffing was reduced by one officer and police K9 (a 25% reduction).
- Policy regarding K9 deployment factors was changed from *reasonable suspicion* to the higher standard of *probable cause*.
- There was a reduction in “outside agency” deployments. An “outside agency” deployment is when a Lynnwood K9 team assists another jurisdiction.

In 2018, the single documented use of force involving a K9 contact was found to be *Justified* by the Chief of Police.

- Taser Applications

The use of the TASER X-26 Electronic Control Device by Lynnwood Officers continues to be an effective option in attempting to overcome active resistance and gain lawful compliance in official law enforcement activities. In 2018, Lynnwood officers were involved in a total of two (2) Taser applications.

The graph below indicates the frequency of use of the Taser over the last five years.

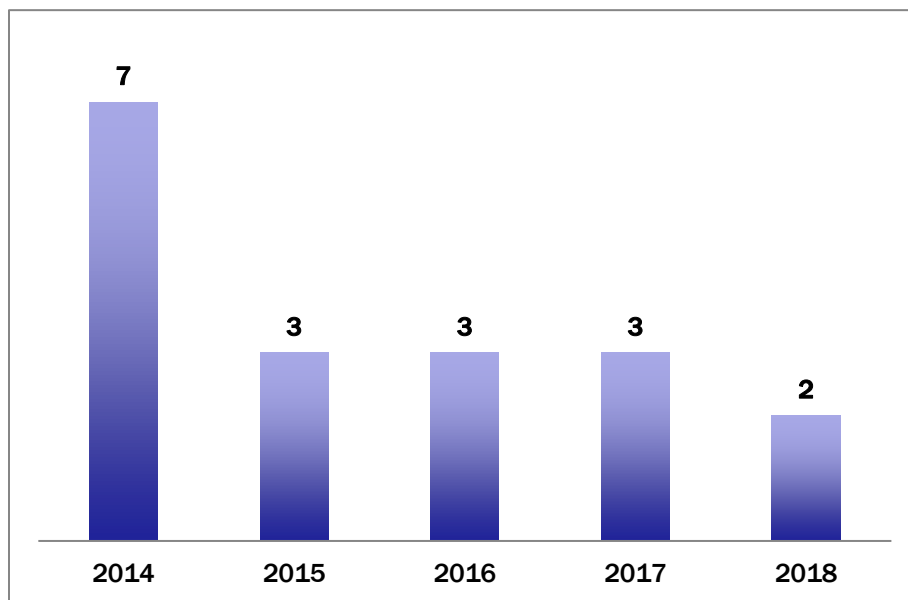


Chart 3 - Taser Applications Last 5 Years

- Other Force Types

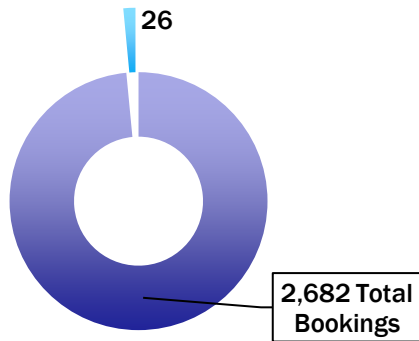
In 2018, there was no documented use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray or baton/impact tools by Lynnwood officers (nor have they been utilized in the previous four years). There were no deadly force incidents reported in 2018 (i.e. an officer-involved shooting).

One other category in Chart 1 above that merits further definition is the “pain compliance” category. “Pain compliance” techniques are defensive tactics such as stimulating pressure points in order to gain compliance from a combative individual.

USE OF FORCE – CUSTODY OFFICERS

In 2018, Custody Officers performed over 2,682 bookings with an average daily population of forty-three (43) inmates. There were twenty-six (26) incidents of reportable force documented per WASPC guidelines by custody officers.

26 Total Force Events



Data shows force is used less than 1% on individuals booked into the jail.

The specific types of force and frequency will be examined in the following chart.

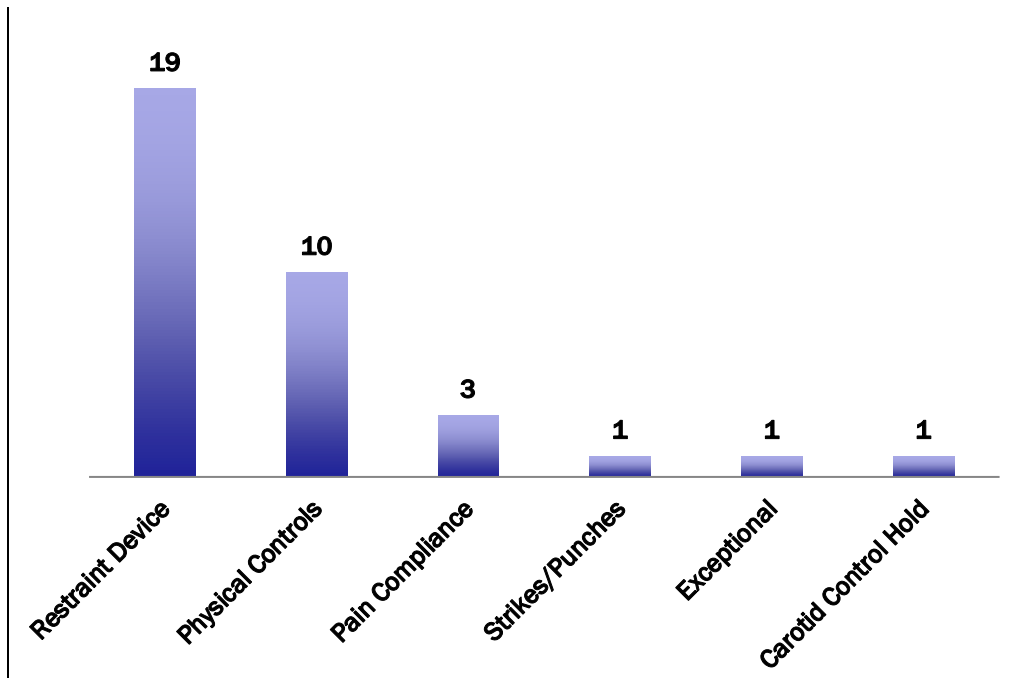


Chart 4 - Type/Frequency of Force by Custody Officers

Again, it is important for the reader to note that more than one type of force may have been recorded in a single event. In other words, custody officers may have had to utilize more than one type of force on the same individual to restore compliance.

- **Restraint Device**

The jail recorded nineteen (19) uses of a “*restraint device*”. These devices are most commonly utilized on individuals who are either being physical combative, or actively trying to harm themselves. Whenever an individual is placed into a restraint device they are regularly monitored and removed from the device as soon as practicable.

- **Physical Controls**

“*Physical controls*”, with ten (10) recorded instances, was the second most common force tactic utilized by custody officers.

- **Other Force Types**

One other category in Chart 4 above that merits further definition is the single event labeled as “exceptional”. The single instance recorded in 2018 was a low-level force event but was reviewed internally to ensure compliance with policy.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic analysis of those upon whom force was used will include a breakdown of gender, ethnicity, and residential data.

Of the seventy-one (71) subjects to whom force was applied, 77% (or 55 individuals) were male while about 23% (or 16 individuals) were female.

For reporting purposes, ethnicity is composed of seven subgroups. They include White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Unknown. The following graph shows the collective racial breakdown for the seventy-one (71) subjects who had reportable force used on them.

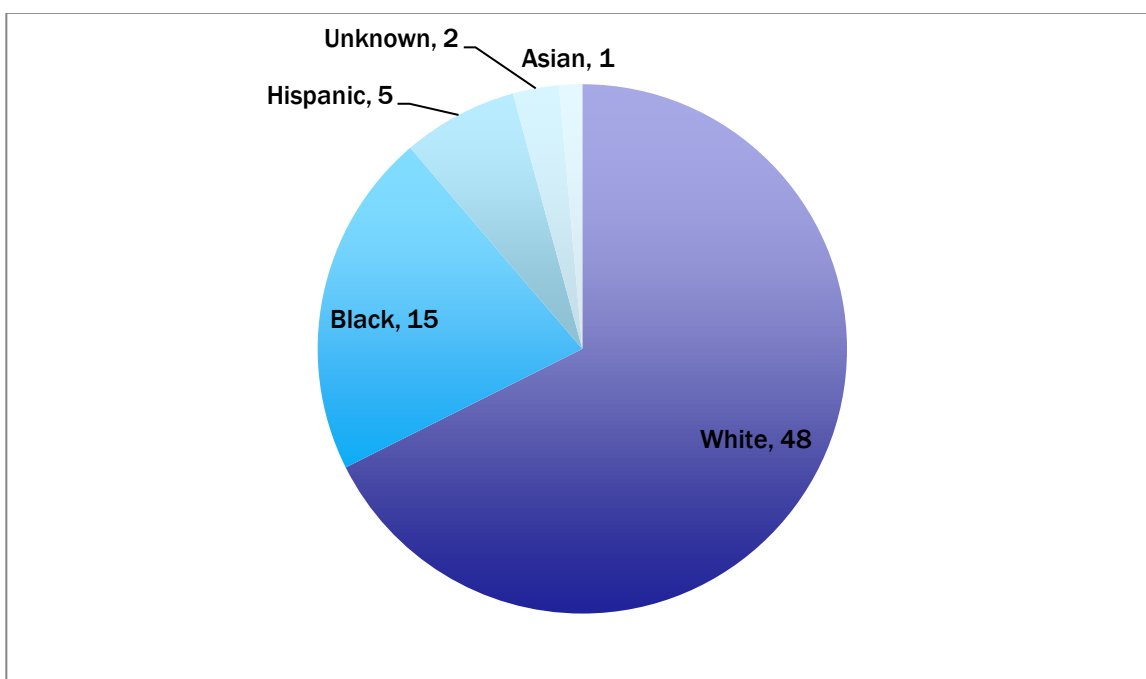


Chart 5 - Ethnicity

Residential data is also examined when looking at force incidents. Of the seventy-one (71) subjects to whom force was applied, 36.6% were Lynnwood residents while 63.4% were non-residents.

OFFICER INJURIES

During 2018, there was a total of twelve (12) use of force incidents that also resulted in an injury to an officer. This equates to 17% of the seventy-one (71) total force events recorded in 2018.

FORCE SUMMARY

The Lynnwood Police Department follows the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) guidelines with respect to documenting the use of force. One important component of these guidelines is that officers are required to document any force capable of causing injury.

In 2018, force was reported in seventy-one (71) incidents in 2018. Forty-five (45) reported incidents involved police personnel while twenty-six (26) involved custody personnel. Use of force numbers for 2018 reveal the vast majority of force utilized by Lynnwood personnel involve physical controls. Physical controls could range from holding an arm of a resisting suspect during an arrest to a “wrist-lock” on a resistive subject to direct the subject to move to another area.

The Lynnwood Police Department utilizes a careful documentation and review process when personnel use force and this report is just one component of a regular and ongoing review process. Our documentation and review process comports to best practices in addition to meeting WASPC accreditation standards. In addition, police personnel are regularly trained in force options and defensive tactic techniques to include extensive training in de-escalation, creating time and distance, communication, Crisis Intervention Team training, and other techniques designed to reduce or mitigate the need for force from the outset.

PURSUIITS

In 2018, Lynnwood police officers were involved in one (1) pursuit.

- In this pursuit, an officer responded to a report of a suspect in a store wearing a ski mask and possibly armed with a handgun. There was information that this same suspect had committed an armed robbery earlier in the day in another city. The suspect exited the store and got into a vehicle. A traffic stop was attempted and the vehicle fled. The pursuing sergeant ultimately terminated the pursuit. The pursuit was 11.6 miles in length and lasted approximately 10 minutes.

This single pursuit represents a reduction in pursuits as illustrated in the following chart.

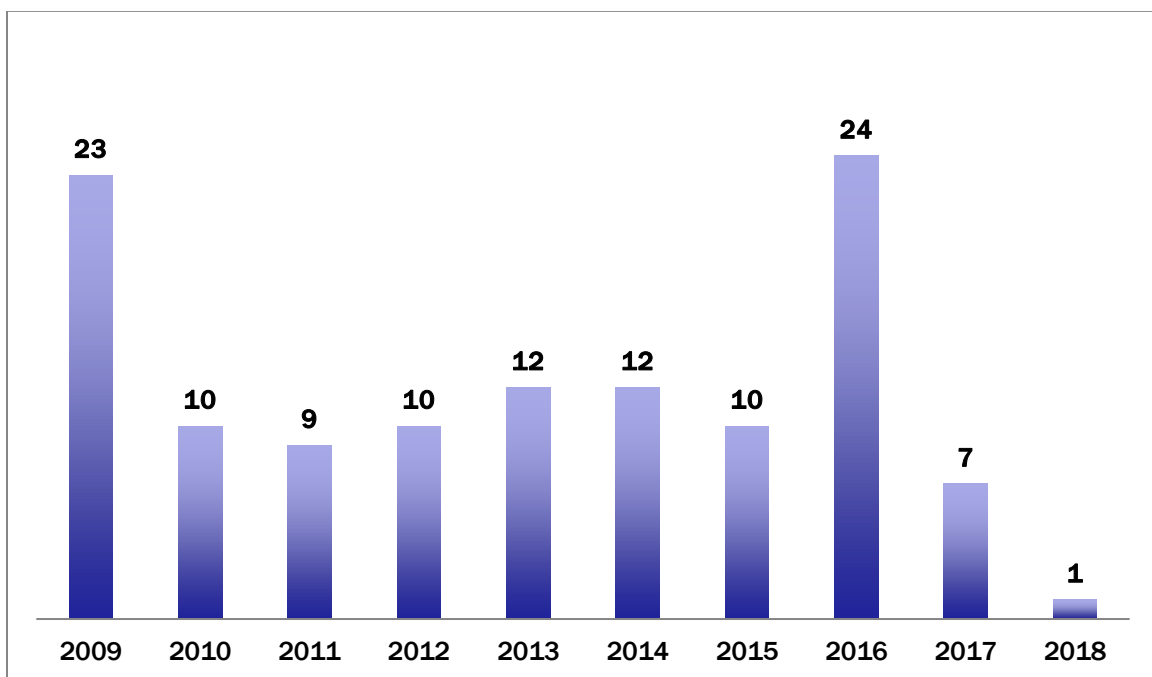


Chart 6 - Ten Year Pursuit Comparison (2009 - 2018)

One observable factor in the decrease in pursuits stems from a change in our pursuit policy; these changes became effective in January of 2018. The policy change required additional objective factors needed to be present in order for an officer to engage in a pursuit. Another change was a requirement of having direct supervisor approval in order to continue a pursuit. These changes were implemented to enhance safety to the public, the involved officer(s), and the involved suspect(s), as police pursuits are inherently dangerous events.

OFFICER INVOLVED COLLISIONS

Lynnwood officers were involved in twelve (12) collisions in 2018.

By comparison, there were fourteen (14) officer-involved collisions in the preceding year.

All officer-involved collisions are reviewed to determine if the collision was preventable or non-preventable. Of the twelve (12) collisions in 2018, seven (7) were determined to be preventable. Most of these involved backing or slow-speed maneuvers.

A low-speed forward and backing obstacle course continues to be a training component that is emphasized annually during our Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) training.

TRAINING

A significant part of the Lynnwood Police Department’s Planning, Training, and Accreditation Section’s mission is to provide quality training on all aspects of police work to departmental members and employees.

The following table shows the distribution of training hours attended by staff and volunteers at the department for 2018:

POLICE TRAINING ACTIVITY	2018 Hours
Roll Call	231
Firearms	978
SWAT	1,624
Traffic	448
K9	1,298
Police Skills Refresher Training	1,090
Other Formal Training	7,930
SUB-TOTAL (Hours)	13,599
Citizens Patrol	643
Explorers	1,040
VIPS	270
Car Seat Technicians	60
TOTAL TRAINING HOURS	15,612

- Police Skills Refresher Training

Department personnel, to include officers, detectives, and sergeants, attended our Police Skills Refresher (PSR) training program. Topics in 2018 included an emergency vehicle operations course (EVOC), defensive tactics, de-escalation and emotional intelligence training, tactical emergency medical support (TEMS), mechanical breaching, and scenario-based training in a SIMS environment. Congruent with PSR, the Jail Skills Refresher (JSR) program also provided custody specific skills refresher training to custody personnel. This training included defensive tactics, first aid, AED refresher, and scenario-based training.

- Firearms Training

As in previous years, we had six opportunities for members of the department to train and qualify with their service weapons. Half of these ranges involved shooting in low light conditions. These ranges included a rifle component as well as the opportunity for officers to qualify with a less lethal impact delivery system. Our regular range training is enhanced with a pistol familiarization course for new employees. We also provided Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) training earlier in the year to allow officers to work through various real-time scenarios involving use of force decision-making. In summary, we have provided **978 hours** of firearms-related training to the men and women of the department in 2018.

- Other Formal Training

Formal training attended by personnel instructed by outside entities is considered “other formal training.” Courses we sent personnel to during 2018 included:

Jail & Prisoner Issues
Mistake Free Grammar
2018 Highway Safety Research Software Forum
Peer Support Training
Basic Automated Fingerprint Identification System Training
FBI National Academy
Child Abuse Response Team Training
National Association of Field Training Officers Conference
Undercover School
Defensive Tactics for the Female Officer
Cell Extraction Training
Washington State Police Canine Association Conference
Drug Recognition Expert Annual Training
FBI National Academy Spring Conference
Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association Training Summit

Tyler Connect Conference
Combat First Aid Course
Association of Washington Cities Conference
First Level Supervision
Western States Hostage Negotiator’s Association Conference
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs Spring Conference
Northwest Gang Investigators Association Annual Symposium
Campus Violence Against Women
De-Escalation Training
Active Shooter Training
FBI National Conference
Rolling Surveillance School
National Fire Academy
Drug Recognition Expert National Conference
FBI National Academy Fall Conference



