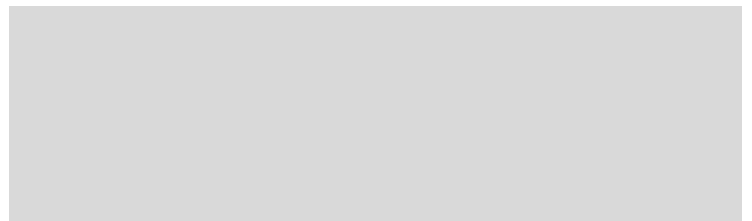


2021 Force, Pursuits, & Collisions

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 include 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 employed by Lynnwood officers in 2021. 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.



PURSUITS

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, a continuous evaluation of the seriousness of the crime committed versus the danger to the public and the officer if continued, and how the pursuit was ultimately resolved. This examination is completed through a Training Section review or formal Pursuit Board of Review.



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 examined to include any notable trends, a ten-year comparison from the current year, and any training recommendations that may serve to reduce officer-involved collisions.



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 our community members 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 data relating to use of force, 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.

The Lynnwood Police Department sets specific guidelines for reporting a use of force incident. This language is captured in policy and defined as:

SOP 300.1.1 – DEFINITIONS

Deadly force - The intentional application of force through the use of firearms or any other means reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

Force - Any act reasonably likely to cause physical pain or injury or any other act exerted upon a person's body to compel, control, constrain, or restrain the person's movement. Physical force does not include pat-downs, incidental touching, verbal commands, or compliant handcuffing where there is no physical pain or injury.

Also, policy is clear on those events that require the reporting of a use of force event. That policy reads as follows:

SOP 300.5 – REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.

- Force Events by Police Officers

In 2021, Lynnwood Police officers handled a total of 39,374 incidents, which included both dispatched calls for service as well as self-initiated officer activity. The vast majority of these calls did not result in an arrest. In 2021, officers made 1775 arrests.

Of these 1775 arrests, there were twenty-three (23) incidents of reportable force documented per WASPC guidelines.

23 Total Force Events To All Arrests

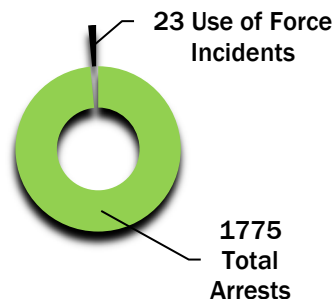


Figure 1

23 Total Force Events for All Calls For Service

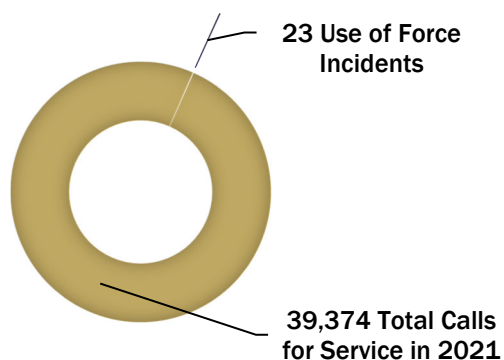


Figure 2

In figure 1 above, the total percentage of reported applications of force during an arrest for the 2021 year was approximately 1.3 percent.

In figure 2 above, the total percentage, when analyzed with all documented law enforcement calls for service in 2021, is about .06 percent. In other words, for every contact a Lynnwood Police Officer had with a community member in 2021, it resulted in a need to use documented force about .06 percent of the time, or from a different perspective, 99.94 percent of the time Lynnwood Police Officers did not use force when interacting with the public during a call for service.

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 can be recorded in a single force event. Additionally, the same type of force can be recorded more than once within that event. This is done to properly capture all types of reportable force used by each officer in each force event.

For example, in Chart 1 below, a “Physical Controls” was a documented as a use of force tactic forty (40) times in 2021 across the twenty-three (23) force events

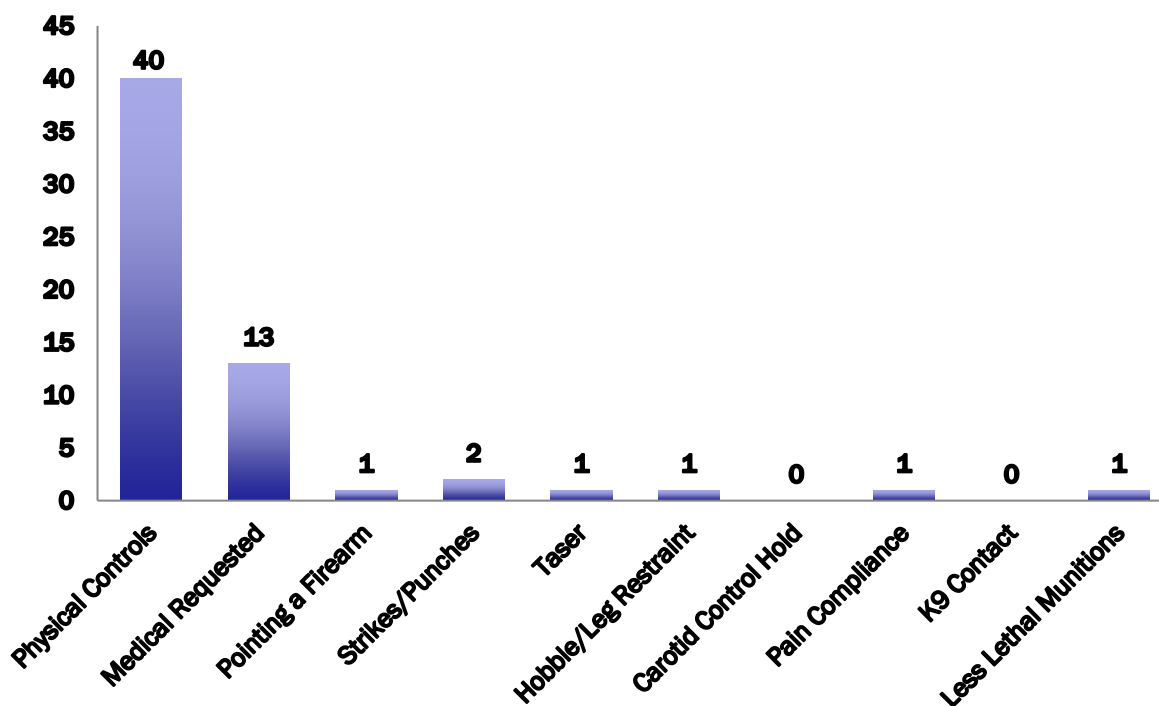


Chart 1 - Force Type/Frequency by Police

For illustrative purposes, a call for service may require two or more Lynnwood Police Officers to arrest a community member for a domestic violence assault. If both officers each grab onto an arm of the subject, the subject resists, and the subject is taken to the ground, then the documentation of that force event should include two applications of “Physical Control”; one from each officer.

In another example, using the category “Pointing a Firearm,” if multiple officers point their firearm at a suspect during a lawful arrest, that documentation should capture more than one “Pointing a Firearm” use of force during the same Use of Force event.

- Physical Controls

As mentioned in Chart 1, a “*physical control*” is the application of force by an officer, where, when feasible, a subject is given a notice to comply with a lawful order and/or intent to arrest and, when this notice is ignored, the officer(s) grabs onto the subject to place them under arrest. Some common types of *physical controls* include certain escort techniques such as a “wrist-locks” or the “arm-bar.” In such an event, an officer uses a “hands-on” approach, in some manner, on a subject to overcome physical resistance.

In 2021, “*physical control*” was documented a total of forty (40) times and was the most common type of force utilized by police officers.

One other category in Chart 1 that merits further definition is the “pain compliance” category. “Pain compliance” refers to physical tactics, such as stimulating pressure points, that are used in order to gain compliance from a combative or resistive individual.

- Medical Services Requested

The second most frequently recorded category of force is classified as “*medical requested*” – with thirteen (13) 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 of a Firearm

The “*pointing a firearm*” is also recorded because it is inherently dangerous and a precursor to a firearm discharge that is capable of causing significant injury and/or death. There was one (1) recorded event where an officer pointed their firearm at a suspect in 2021.

- Carotid Control Hold

A “Carotid Control Hold” is defined as a trained and certified tactic that employs bilateral compression of the carotid arteries and jugular veins at the sides of the neck, which results in diminished cerebral cortex circulation and potentially leaves the subject in a temporary “unconscious state.”

Officers of this department are not authorized to use chokeholds or neck restraints.

The Lynnwood Police Department had zero (0) reported use of force incidents involving the carotid control hold in 2021.



- Taser Applications

The use of the TASER Electronic Control Device by Lynnwood Officers continues to be an effective option in attempting to overcome active resistance and gain lawful compliance during law enforcement encounters. In 2021, Lynnwood officers were involved in a total of one (1) Taser application.

The graph below indicates the frequency of use of the Taser over the last five years. With the exception of 2019, the average rate of annual Taser use over the past five (5) years shows no significant change.

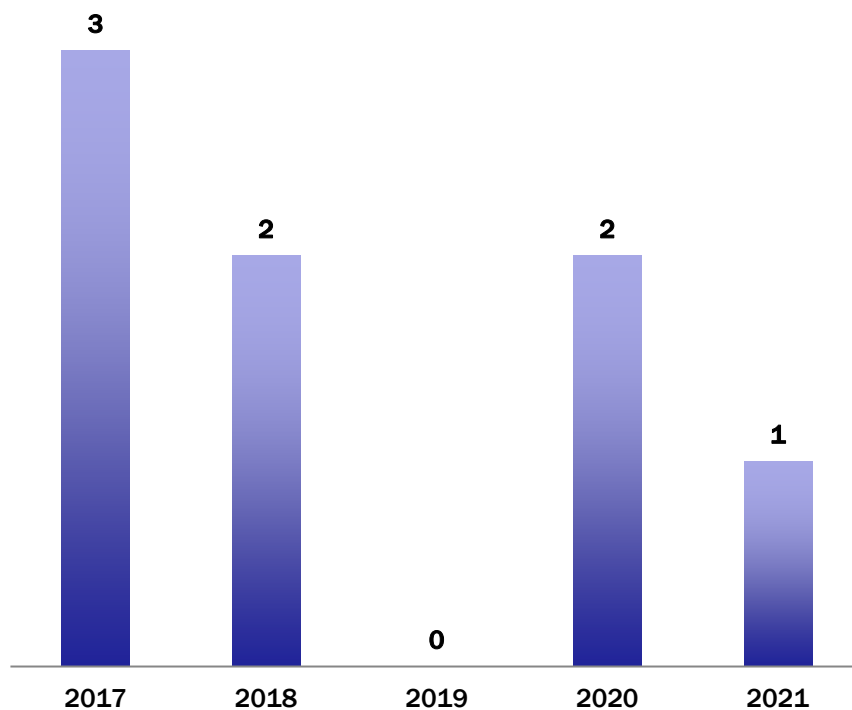


Chart 2 - Taser Applications Last 5 Years

- 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 where a police K9 has physically contacted a suspect or causes injury to an intended suspect, that qualifies as a use of force application. Per policy, the definition of a “K9 Contact” is:

A canine deployment that results in a bite or causes injury to an intended suspect.

A K9 deployment, for purposes of this report, is defined as the following:

A removal of the dog from the patrol car for any legitimate law enforcement purpose.

A K9 bite, for purposes of this report, is defined as the following:

Any gripping of a person's body or clothing by the dog's mouth, irrespective of injury or damage. Additionally, any injury or damage to a person's body or clothing caused by contact with the dog's teeth, i.e., rakes, abrasions, or tearing of clothing, will also be reported.

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 and its application to policy. The composition of the K9 Board of Review is selected by the Chief of Police as specified in the board of review policy section 302. The Board then submits a recommendation to the Chief of Police who ultimately determines if the K9 application was *Justifiable*, *Non-Justifiable*, or *Accidental*.

A ***justified*** K9 contact is where circumstances, at the time of the K9 contact, are consistent with provisions of policy section 318. A ***non-justified*** K9 contact is when the circumstances, at the time of the K9 contact, are not consistent with policy section 318 either through negligence on the part of the handler, or any indication of laxity, neglect, recklessness, or failure to exercise the care that a prudent handler usually exercises. An ***accidental*** K9 contact is where circumstances at the time of the K9 contact are not consistent with provisions of policy section 318 and the K9 contact was not judged to be justifiable or non-justifiable and the K9 contact was an unforeseen event.

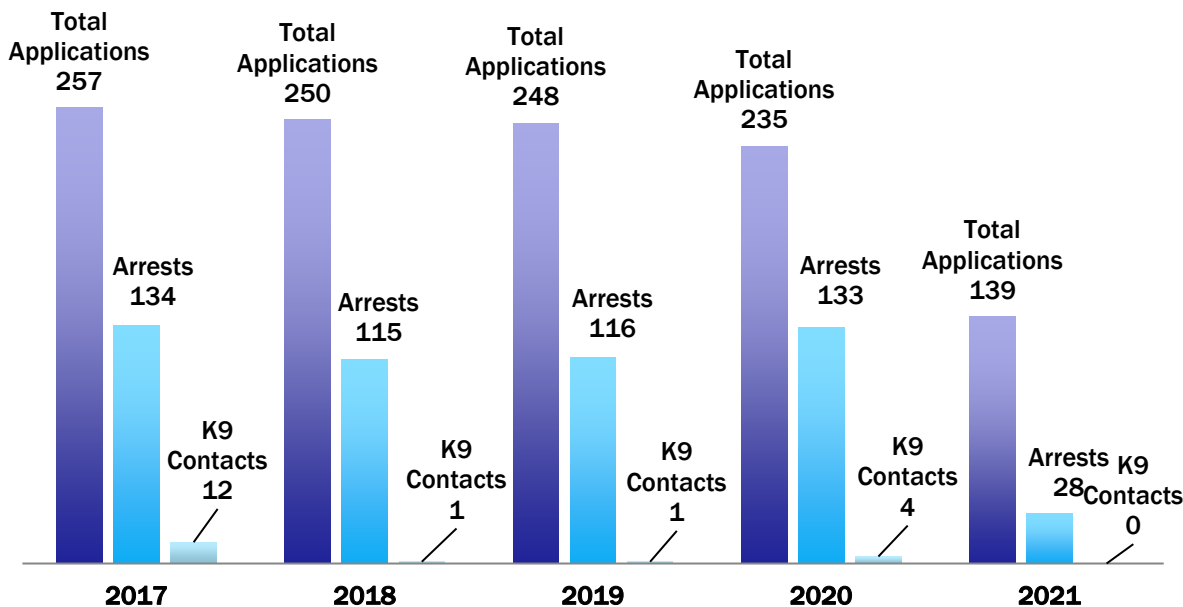


Chart 3 - K9 Contacts Last 5 Years

Chart 3 contains data for the last five years of K9 contacts compared to the total number of K9 applications and K9 arrests for each year.

The total number of K9 contacts in 2021 was zero (0).

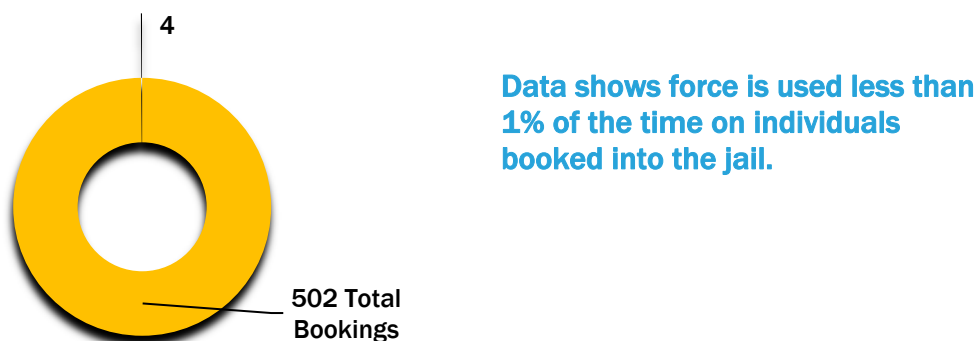
- Other Force Types

In 2021, 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 five years). There were no deadly force incidents reported in 2021 (i.e. an officer-involved shooting).

USE OF FORCE – CUSTODY OFFICERS

In 2021, Custody Officers performed over 502 bookings. There were four (4) incidents of reportable force documented per WASPC guidelines by custody officers. The Lynnwood Jail was on restricted booking due to COVID. The facility closed on August 19, 2021, for planned construction purposes.

4 Total Force Events



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

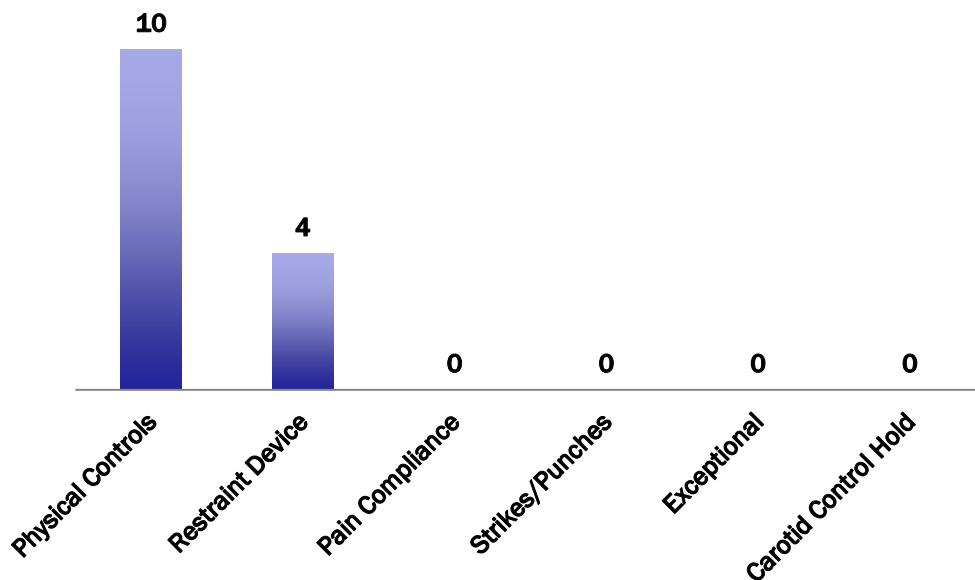


Chart 4 - Type/Frequency of Force by Custody Officers

More than one type of force and/or more than one officer 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 four (4) uses of a “*restraint device*.” These devices are most commonly utilized on individuals who are either being physically 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. This use of force event is followed by documentation of the incident to include a review for appropriateness and compliance with prescribed policy, tactics, and best practices.

Some of the common “restraint devices” approved for use in the Lynnwood jail include a restraint chair and a WRAP device. Both restraint devices may only be used by specific officers after training is provided.

A restraint chair is a larger metal-framed chair with extra padding on the seat and back support that restrains the subject’s arms, legs, and torso in order to keep them from moving around freely. An example of a restraint chair application would be a subject, while in a holding cell in the jail, who was actively punching the walls and/or door causing self-inflicted injury and demonstrating a danger to themselves. A custody officer, after attempting to de-escalate said subject, may, with the assistance of additional custody and/or police officers, place the self-harming subject in a restraint chair and document this use of force.

The WRAP device is similar to the restraint chair in that it is used to limit the movement of a combative and/or self-harming subject. The value the WRAP device affords is its portability. It can be deployed in the field unlike the restraint chair which is a large metal framed device that sits on wheels. The WRAP may also be a safer option to the restraint chair if the subject is already on the ground and officers are using body weight and physical controls to keep the subject from harming officers or themselves.

- ## Physical Controls

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

A “*physical control*” is defined as the application of force by an officer, where, when feasible, a subject is given notice to comply with a lawful order and/or intent to arrest and, where this notice is ignored, the officer(s) grabs onto the subject to place under arrest. Some common types of *physical controls* include escort techniques such as a “wrist-locks” or the “arm-bar”. In such an event, an officer uses a “hands-on” approach, in some manner, on a subject to overcome physical resistance.

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

Of all twenty-seven (27) subjects to whom force was applied in 2021 (this includes police and jail incidents), 81% (or 22 individuals) were male while 19% (or 5 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 twenty-seven (27) subjects who had reportable force used on them.

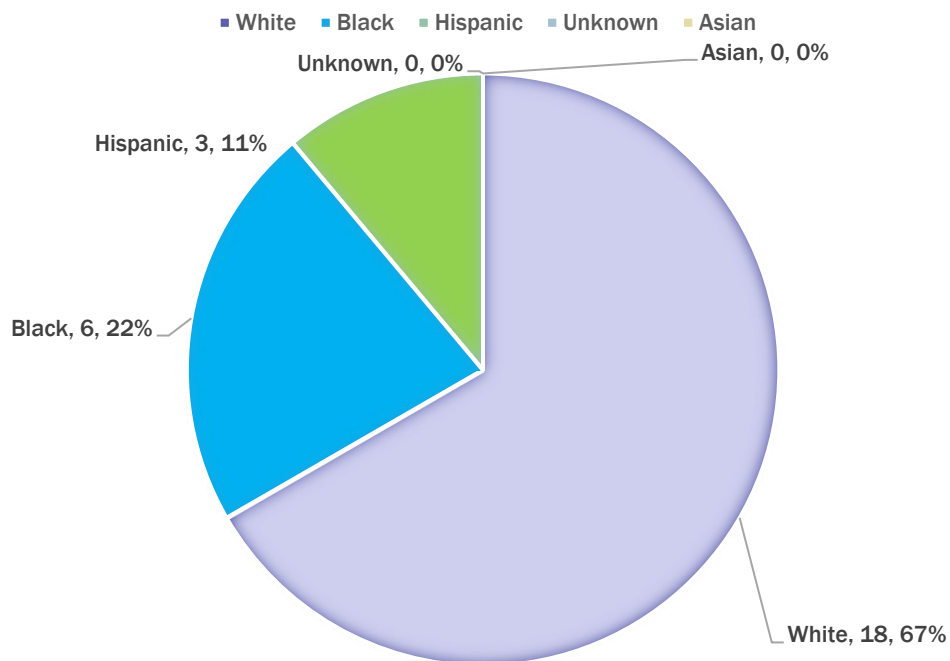


Chart 5 - Ethnicity

Residential data is also examined when looking at force incidents. Of the twenty-seven (27) subjects to whom force was applied, 44% were residents with a general Lynnwood address while 56% were non-residents. Those listed as residents of Lynnwood also include subjects who reported as “transient residing in Lynnwood.”

OFFICER INJURIES

During 2021, there was a total of twelve (12) use of force incidents that also resulted in an injury to an officer. This equates to 44% of the twenty-seven (27) total force events recorded in 2021.

In those twelve (12) events that resulted in an injury to officers, most were minor injuries consisting of, but not limited to scrapes, aches, and abrasions. None of the injuries resulted in time away from work.

In three of twelve instances (25%), the officer using necessary force was alone at the time.

In those cases where lessons-learned can be beneficial to the individual officer and/or department, after-action reviews (AAR) are conducted by the Training Section to discuss what went well and what could be improved upon during unfolding incidents. While not all documented use of force events garners an AAR from the Training Section, individual supervisors are encouraged to discuss lessons-learned with their officers.

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 2021, force was reported in twenty-seven (27) use of force events. Twenty-three (23) reported incidents involved police personnel and four (4) involved custody personnel. Use of force numbers for 2021 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 evaluation of our agency’s use of force. Our documentation and review process adheres 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.

PURSUITS

Per Lynnwood Police Department policy, a pursuit is defined as the following:

SOP 314.1.1 – VEHICLE PURSUIT DEFINED

A vehicle pursuit is an event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect who is attempting to avoid apprehension while operating a motor vehicle by using high speed driving or other evasive tactics such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop¹.

In 2021, Lynnwood police officers were involved in two (2) pursuits.

- On July 10, 2021, officers responded to an incident involving a driver who was suspected of driving under the influence. The suspect was located at a local fast-food drive thru. Officers attempted to contact the suspect in the suspect's vehicle. The suspect fled the scene striking a police vehicle. Officers pursued the suspect vehicle until they were able to perform a maneuver to stop the vehicle. The suspect was apprehended.
- On August 11, 2021, officers responded to an incident involving a driver who was suspected of driving under the influence. The suspect had been seen drinking alcohol and was driving in the wrong lane of travel. Officers attempted to locate the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle was involved in a collision. Officer arrived on scene of the collision and attempted to stop the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle struck a police vehicle and began fleeing the scene. Officers pursued the suspect vehicle until it pulled over and the suspect was apprehended.

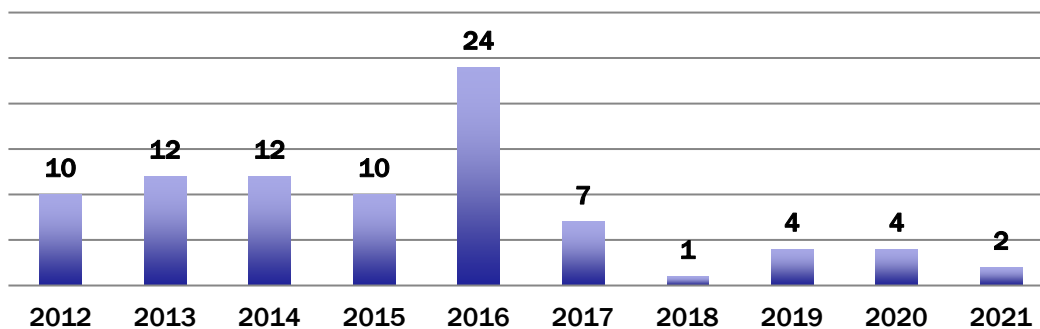


Chart 6 - Ten Year Pursuit Comparison (2012 - 2021)

¹ See Vehicle Pursuit policy attached as Addendum B.

In both of the pursuits that occurred in 2021, the Chief of Police declared they were justified and within the guidelines of the Lynnwood Police Department pursuit policy.

Pursuits continue to be a rare law enforcement event for the Lynnwood Police Department. This rarity can be attributed to department policy as well as legislative changes governing pursuits that went into effect July 2021. The pursuit policy change required a higher standard of factors be present for an officer to engage in a pursuit. Another change was a requirement of having supervisorial approval for the pursuit prior to the officer engaging in the pursuit. These changes were implemented to enhance safety to the public, the involved officer(s), and the involved suspect(s), as well as police pursuits being inherently dangerous events.

OFFICER INVOLVED COLLISIONS

Lynnwood officers were involved in fifteen (15) collisions in 2021.

All officer-involved collisions are reviewed to determine if the collision was preventable or non-preventable. Of the fifteen (15) collisions in 2021, eleven (11) were determined to be preventable while four (4) were determined to be non-preventable.

The review process for all officer-involved collisions includes documentation in a use of force tracking program. This includes a collision report and supporting documentation. It may include any available audio and/or video recordings. This information is referred to the Traffic Sergeant who completes a review of the documentation and makes a recommendation to the Chief of Police as to whether the collision was Preventable, Non-Preventable, or Preventable with Justification. If the officer involved in the collision disagrees with the findings presented by the Traffic Sergeant or if the Chief of Police directs it for additional information, a Collision Review Board may be convened.

In those rare events where a fatality occurs, policy directs the Washington State Patrol Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) be requested to conduct an independent investigation.

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, as well as specialized training required of certain positions or certification mandates.

The following table shows the distribution of training hours attended by staff and volunteers at the department for 2021:

POLICE TRAINING ACTIVITY	2021 Hours
Roll Call	369.25
Firearms	517
SWAT	1,336
Traffic	196
K9	3,123
Police Skills Refresher Training	1272
Other Formal Training	7,969.25
SUB-TOTAL (Hours)	14,782.5
Citizens Patrol	216
Explorers	8*
VIPS	132
Car Seat Technicians	42
TOTAL TRAINING HOURS	15,180.5

- The Police Explorer program was temporarily suspended due to Covid restrictions and is scheduled to resume in the summer of 2022.

- **Police Skills Refresher Training**

Department personnel, to include officers, detectives, and sergeants, were scheduled to attend our Patrol Tactics Instruction (PTI) training program for our annual Police Skills Refresher Training. The PTI program is a mandated program for consistent training of law enforcement statewide. Topics included scenario-based tactics in use of force, de-escalation, implicit bias, legal authority, medical training, and police tactics. The PTI training allowed us to meet our 24-hour mandated training requirement for commissioned officers. Our training was augmented through the use of our “on-line” training platform and brief, small-group training sessions.

Some training that is required by the department and/or state law include but are not limited to training on de-escalation tactics, use of force and use of deadly force review, case law updates, defensive tactics (every other year), training on less lethal platforms (i.e. Taser or impact munitions), and any State legislated training (i.e. HB 1064).

The Lynnwood Police Department Detention Division also holds yearly Jail Skills Refresher (JSR) training. This training affords each custody officer on-going training in skills specific to jail operations as well as continuing training in use of force, crisis de-escalation, defensive tactics, Taser, applicable case law, and jail best practices.

- **Firearms Training**

As in previous years, our training plan included six opportunities for members of the department to train and qualify with their service weapons. Some of these ranges involved shooting in low light conditions and/or included a rifle component.

Officers were required to attend three (3) firearms ranges in 2021.

- **Taser Training**

For all those staff who are issued a Taser, they must complete a basic course and qualify on their assigned platform every other year. This generally occurs during yearly Police Skills Refresher (PSR) and Jail Skills Refresher (JSR) training.

- Crisis Intervention/ De-Escalation Training

Department personnel, including Police and Custody Officers, receive annual and advanced training specifically focused on De-escalation and Crisis Intervention. In 2021, Department personnel received over 1677 hours of training in these areas. Officers attended or received additional training in topics to include:

- Annual Crisis Intervention
- Autism
- Patrol Tactics Instruction
- Implicit Bias
- Communicating with Persons with Disabilities

Crisis Intervention / De-Escalation Training 2021

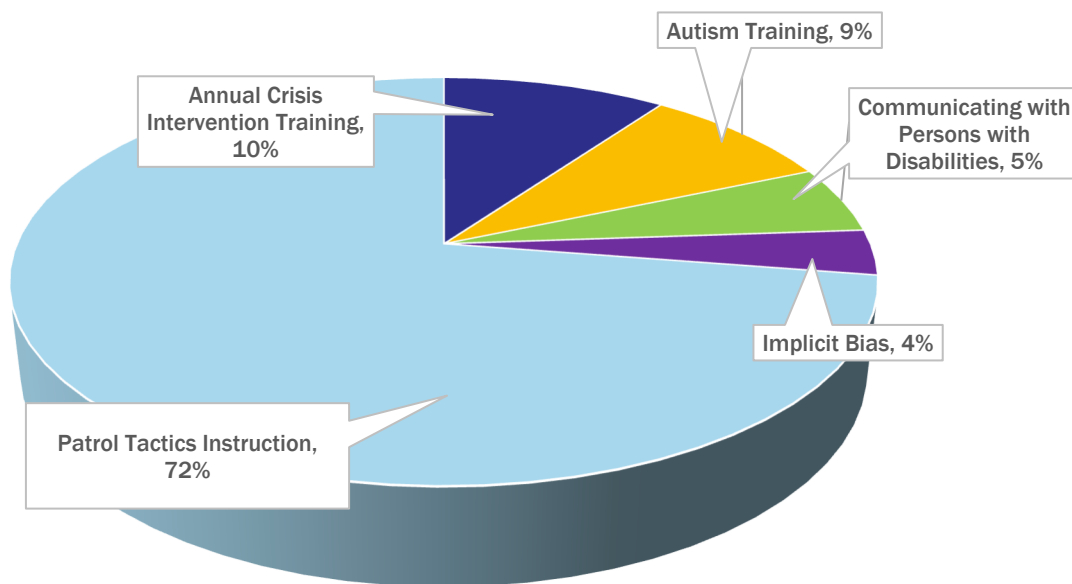


Chart 7 – Breakdown of Crisis Intervention / De-Escalation Training Time



• Other Formal Training

Formal training attended by personnel instructed by outside entities is considered “other formal training.” Courses we sent personnel to during 2021 included:

Child Abuse Response
First Line Supervision
Regional Police Canine Seminar
Drug Recognition Expert Annual Training
Association of Washington Cities Conference
Pre-Supervisor Training
Field Training Officer Academy
Annual Advanced Narcotics Officer Training
Digital Forensics
AELE Jail and Prisoner Issues
Police Canine Supervisor Course
Financial Crimes
Cell Phone Investigation Techniques

De-Escalation
FBI National Academy Spring Conference
FBI National Academy Fall Conference
Advanced SWAT Training
Crime Scene Photography
Patrol Tactics Instructor Course
Basic Cyber Investigations
Complex Coordinated Attacks
Critical Decision Making
Police Resiliency
Social Media Investigations
Tactical Medicine
WASPC Conference

