

# Use of Force Incident Reporting

## **Data Set Overview and History**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on use of force incidents that result in serious bodily injury or death or involved the discharge of a firearm. In late 2015, the California legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 71, adding Government Code (GC) section 12525.2. Effective January 1, 2016, all law enforcement agencies (LEAs) were required to begin collecting data on use of force incidents for submittal to the Department of Justice (DOJ) beginning January 1, 2017.

## **Statutory Authority**

The DOJ has the statutory authority to collect use of force data pursuant to California Government Code section 12525.2.

## **Data Characteristics and Known Limitations**

1. The data contained in the Use of Force database is narrowly defined and does not represent the totality of use of force incidents that occur in California. LEAs are only required to report use of force incidents that result in serious bodily injury or death of either the civilian or the officer and all incidents where there is a discharge of a firearm. As such, caution must be used when using the data for comparisons or in calculating rates.
2. 2016 represents the first year of data collection and reporting. While every effort was made to provide access to all LEAs in the state, not all agencies reported. Additionally, there could be inconsistencies in reporting during the first year as training and outreach efforts are ongoing.
3. The Use of Force application allows for multiple value selection for several data elements. The raw data file contains all values submitted for each data element. There is no order to the display of multiple selections, rather it's how the system exports the data.
4. For publication and statistical purposes, if multiple values are reported, a hierarchy of severity is used to identify the most severe value. Please reference the Use of Force, 2016 Appendix for more detailed information regarding hierarchy. For individuals where multiple race/ethnic groups were selected, the race/ethnic group was converted to "multi-race".
5. Government Code Section 7286.5 prohibits law enforcement agencies from using carotid restraints or choke holds by peace officers employed by that agency. However, San Bernardino Police Department did report the use of a carotid hold in the 2021 data. The

agency has acknowledged this is against policy and had disciplined the officer involved in that particular incident.

6. Montebello Police Department and the Glenn County District Attorney did not submit use of force/discharge of firearm data for 2022.

**Data Elements and Values Defined**

**Use of Force Incident File**

Cell Location	Data Element	Description/Definition	Value
A	INCIDENT_ID	A unique system generated incident identification number.	Alpha-numeric
B	ORI	The number for the reporting Agency.	Nine digit alpha-numeric
C	INCIDENT_DATE_STR	The date the use of force incident occurred.	Date format
D	INCIDENT_TIME_STR	The time the use of force incident occurred.	24 hour time clock
E	CITY	The city in which the use of force incident occurred.	Alpha
F	COUNTY	The county in which the use of force incident occurred.	Alpha; California counties Alameda - Yuba
G	STATE	The state in which the use of force incident occurred.	CA
H	ZIP_CODE	The zip code in which the use of force incident occurred.	5-9 digit numeric
I	ON_K12_CAMPUS	Indicates whether the use of force incident occurred on a K-12 campus.	TRUE FALSE
J	ARREST_MADE	Indicates whether the underlying incident in which the use of force	YES NO

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		was used resulted in a civilian being arrested.	
K	CONTACT_REASON	Primary reason for contact between involved civilian(s) and officer(s).	COURT_ORDER CRIMINAL_SUSPICIOUS_ACTIVITY DEMONSTRATION FOLLOWUP MEDICAL OTHER ROUTINE-PATROL TRAFFIC_STOP WARRANT UNKNOWN
L	NUM_INVOLVED_CIVILIANS	The total number of civilians involved in the use of force incident.	Numeric Count
M	NUM_INVOLVED_OFFICERS	The total number of officers involved in the use of force incident.	Numeric Count
N	NUM_INVOLVED_AGENCIES	The total number of agencies involved in the use of force incident.	Numeric Count

**Use of Force Civilian-Officer File**

Cell Location	Data Element	Description/Definition	Value
A	Incident_ID	A unique system generated incident identification number.	Numeric
B	Civilian_Officer	Indicator denotes if the record is for an involved civilian or involved officer.	CIVILIAN OFFICER
C	ORI	The number for the reporting Agency.	Nine digit alpha-numeric
D	Gender	Civilian/officer gender	F=Female M=Male T=Transgender UNKNOWN
E	Race_Ethnic_Group	Civilian/officer race/ethnic group	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE ASIAN INDIAN BLACK CAMBODIAN CHINESE FILIPINO GUAMANIAN HISPANIC JAPANESE KOREAN LAOTIAN NATIVE HAWAIIAN OTHER ASIAN OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER SAMOAN VIETNAMESE WHITE UNKNOWN
F	Age	Civilian/officer age	Numeric UNKNOWN
G	Injured	Indicates whether the involved civilian/officer received an injury as a result of the use of force incident.	YES NO UNKNOWN

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H	Injury_Level	Level of injury sustained by the involved civilian/officer.	DEATH INJURY SERIOUS BODILY INJURY BLANK
I	Injury_Type	Type of injury sustained by the involved civilian/officer.	ABRASION_LACERATION BONE_FRACTURE BRUISED CONCUSSION CUT_GASH DEATH DISLOCATION GUNSHOT INTERNAL_INJURY OBVIOUS_DISFIGUREMENT APPARENT_MINOR_INJURY SPRAIN STABBING_WOUND UNCONSCIOUSNESS UNKNOWN BLANK
J	Medical_Aid	Medical aid rendered to the civilian/officer involved in the use of force incident.	CRITICAL_INJURIES OTHER_CIRCUMSTANCES PRECAUTIONARY_MEASURE DIED_TRANSIT_SCENE TREATED_FACILITY_RELEASED TREATED_SCENE NO_MEDICAL_ASSISTANCE BLANK
K	Received_Force_Location	Location on civilian/officer's body where use of force was received.	ARMS FRONT_BELOW_WAIST FRONT_LEGS FRONT_LOWER_TORSO FRONT_UPPER_TORSO HEAD NECK_THROAT REAR_BELOW_WAIST REAR_LEGS REAR_LOWER_TORSO REAR_UPPER_TORSO NOT_APPLICABLE BLANK
L	Received_Force_Type	Type of force receive by civilian/officer during the use of force incident.	BATON BLUNT_OBJECT CANINE CHEMICAL DISCHARGE_FIREARM_HIT

			DISCHARGE_FIREARM_MISS ELECTRONIC EXPLOSIVE_PROJECTILE KNIFE_BLADE_STABBING VEHICLE_CONTACT OTHER_CONTROL_HOLD OTHER_PHYSICAL_CONTACT THREAT_OF_FIREARM NONE UNKNOWN BLANK
M	DISCHARGE_OF_FIREARM_INDIVIDUAL	Indicates if the individual civilian/officer was a recipient of a discharge of a firearm during the use of force incident.	TRUE FALSE
N	DISCHARGE_OF_FIREARM_INCIDENT	Indicates if the incident involved any discharge of a firearm whether it was the involved civilian(s) or officer(s).	TRUE FALSE
O	CIVILIAN_Signs_Impairment_Disability	Type of disability or impairment behavior observed in the actions of the civilian.	ALCOHOL DRUGS ERRATIC MENTAL DEVELOPMENTAL PHYSICAL UNKNOWN BLANK
P	CIVILIAN_Perceived_Armed	Indicates whether the involved civilian was perceived to be armed with a weapon.	YES NO BLANK
Q	CIVILIAN_Perceived_Armed_Weapon	Type of weapon that the civilian was perceived to be armed with.	FIREARM KNIFE_BLADE_STABBING OTHER_DANGEROUS_WEAPON UNKNOWN BLANK
R	CIVILIAN_Firearm_Type	Type of firearm that the civilian was perceived to be armed with.	HANDGUN RIFLE SHOTGUN OTHER_FIREARM BLANK

S	CIVILIAN_Resisted	Indicates whether the involved civilian resisted at the time of the incident resulting in use of force.	YES NO UNKNOWN BLANK
T	CIVILIAN_Resistance_Type	The level of the civilian's resistance at the time of the incident resulting in use of force.	ESCAPE_FLEE BARRICADE VEHICLE DISPLAY_WEAPON NONCOMPLIANCE BODY_FLUIDS VERBAL RESISTED THROWING FIREARM OTHER_WEAPON PHYSICAL UNKNOWN BLANK
U	CIVILIAN_Custody_Status	Civilian's custody status following the use of force incident.	CITED_RELEASED DECEASED FLED CUSTODY_OTHER CUSTODY_SECTION_5150 SUICIDE NONE BLANK
V	CIVILIAN_Confirmed_Armed	Indicates whether the involved civilian was confirmed to be armed with a weapon.	YES NO BLANK
W	CIVILIAN_Confirmed_Armed_Weapon	Type of firearm that the civilian was confirmed to be armed with.	FIREARM FIREARM_REPLICA KNIFE_BLADE_STABBING OTHER_DANGEROUS_WEAPON BLANK
X	OFFICER_Officer_Used_Force_Reason	Reason involved officer used force on a civilian.	DEFENSE ARREST_CUSTODY RESISTANCE ESCAPE NO_FORCE BLANK
Y	OFFICER_On_Duty	Indicates whether the involved officer was on duty at the time the	YES NO UNKNOWN

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		use of force incident occurred.	BLANK
Z	OFFICER_Dress	Type of dress/uniform the involved officer was wearing at the time the use of force incident occurred.	PATROL_UNIFORM PLAINCLOTHES TACTICAL UTILITY UNKNOWN