

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

USE OF FORCE YEAR-END-REVIEW

2020



The Kern County Sheriff's Office values the sanctity of human life and the freedoms guaranteed by the United States and California constitutions. Use of force (UOF) by an officer is an important concern to the community. The role of law enforcement is to safeguard life, dignity, liberty of all persons, without prejudice to anyone. Officers shall carry out duties, including UOF, in a manner that is fair and unbiased.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From the Sheriff	3
Organizational Chart	4
Sheriff’s Office Use of Force Policy	5
Body Worn Cameras	9
Violent Crime	10
Kern County Demographics	12
Use of Force Law Enforcement Bureau	13
Less Lethal Use of Force	16
Patrol Use of Force by the Numbers	19
Inside the Canine Unit	21
Injuries—Law Enforcement Bureau	23
Officer Involved Shootings	24
Use of Force—Detentions Bureau	26
Injuries—Detentions Bureau.....	28





A MESSAGE FROM THE
SHERIFF

Donny Youngblood

I am pleased to present the Kern County Sheriff's Office Annual Use of Force Report for 2020. This year was a challenging year for all in our community. With COVID -19, the rise in violent crime and polarization of our law enforcement officers, I am proud of my deputies' hard work and dedication during this complex year.

During my career as the Sheriff, transparency has been a priority for me. I have worked hard to achieve this goal. In 2020, the Community-wide Advisory Committee was founded to bring us closer to the people we serve and provide a credible voice the community can trust. Long before the committee, the Sheriff's Office held Community Academy's, hosted National Night Out events, and participated in many community events throughout our great county.

I am committed to community policing and a problem-solving philosophy, but I know it will take the community's help to work with us as one to solve today's challenges.

My work continued with the deployment of Body-worn Cameras, customer surveys, de-escalation training, and random audits. While there is still work to be done, the Sheriff's Office is moving in the right direction to build trust, accountability, and integrity with the public we serve.

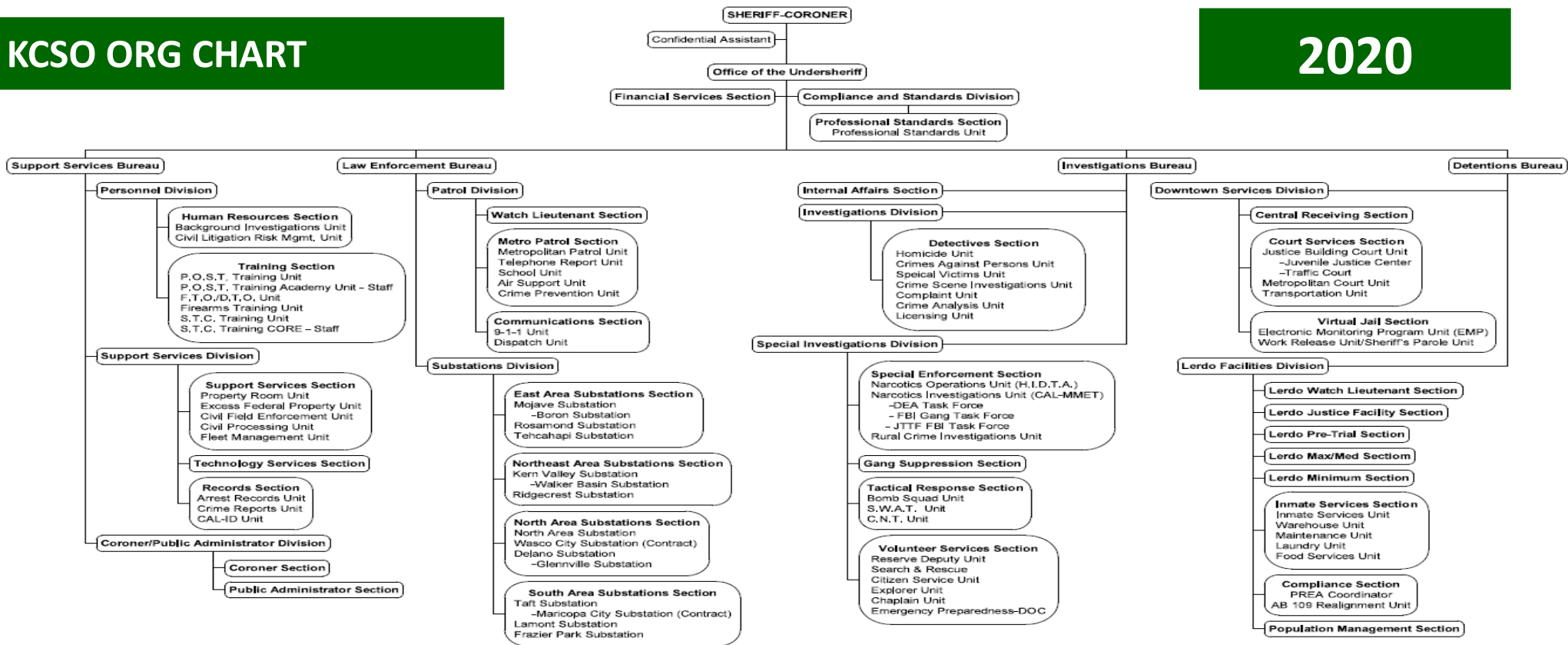
The members of the Sheriff's Office and I are dedicated to preventing crimes in our community, investigating crimes when they occur, and protecting your children while serving the community.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.



KCSO ORG CHART

2020



UNDERSTANDING

KCSO UOF POLICY

AND THE LEGAL STANDARD

LEGAL STANDARDS

Federal and State law defines general Use of Force (UOF) policy standards and practices for all law enforcement agencies. The Department's prescribed policies and procedures can be more restrictive when compared to the broader legal guidelines. Therefore, officer-involved shooting (OIS) incidents and other applications of force utilized by Department personnel can be adjudicated as Out of Policy, irrespective of the lawfulness of an officer's decisions or actions.

FEDERAL LEGAL STANDARDS

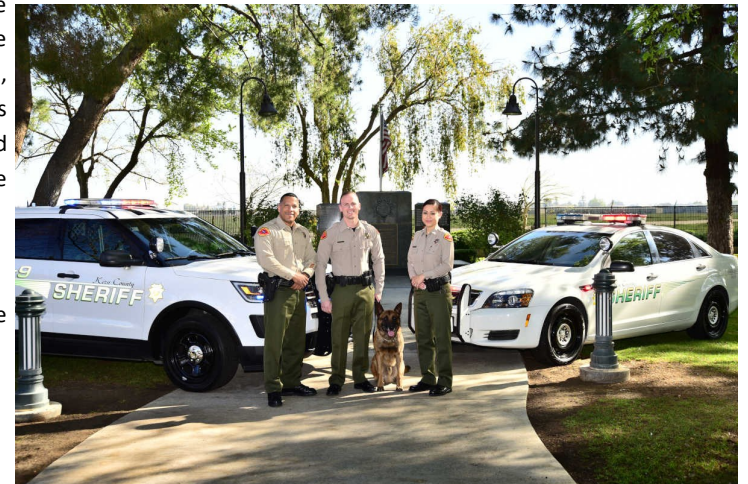
The United States (U.S.) Constitution and extensive case law dictates how all law enforcement organizations across the nation establish and maintain their UOF policies. The federal legal standard used to determine the lawfulness of a UOF is the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In *Graham v. Connor*, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that an objective reasonableness standard should apply to a civilian's claim that law enforcement officials used excessive force in the course of making an arrest, investigatory stop, or other "seizure" of his/her person. *Graham* states in part: The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. The test of reasonableness is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application. In essence, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling established that the force used must be reasonable under the circumstances known to the officer at the time. Therefore, the Department examines all UOF incidents from an objective, rather than a subjective, reasonableness standard.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA LEGAL STANDARDS

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 835(a), law enforcement personnel may only use the amount of force that is "objectively reasonable" to:

- Effect an arrest;
- Prevent escape; or,
- Overcome resistance;

A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed an aggressor or lose his right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. On August 19, 2013, the California State Supreme Court held, in the case of *Hayes v County of San Diego*, that under California negligence law, liability can arise from tactical conduct and decisions employed by law enforcement preceding the use of deadly force. As such, officers' tactical conduct and decisions leading up to the use of deadly force are evaluated to determine the objective reasonableness of an incident.



KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE USE OF FORCE POLICY

DEFINITIONS

When used in this policy, "law enforcement officers," or "officer" shall include Sheriff's Deputies and Detentions Deputies.

"Force" means physical contact with a person by hand or instrumentality to gain control of that person when verbal command is unavailing, inappropriate, or futile in the circumstances.

- Force shall not mean or include routine or incidental physical contact with a person as is necessary to take the person into actual, physical custody during a routine arrest situation when the arrestee does not offer physical resistance. Similarly, force does not mean or include the application of a wrist lock or control hold to handcuff an inmate, prior to movement for security reasons, when there is no physical resistance by the inmate.

"Deadly force" means 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(e)(1)).

The term "Deliberate Indifference" means the conscious or reckless disregard of the consequences of one's acts or omissions. It entails something more than negligence, but something less than acts or omissions intended to cause harm or undertaken with knowledge that harm will result. (18 U.S.C. § 242)

RELATIONSHIP WITH LAW

This policy does not have the effect of law and is not intended to have the effect of law. The law is contained in the federal and state constitutions, statutes, and court decisions. Ultimate liability of law enforcement officers under law can only be determined by the courts. Violation of this policy does not and is not intended to mean that the involved law enforcement officers are liable under the law.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHY

The use of any force, including deadly force, by law enforcement officers is a matter of critical concern both to the public and the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied human encounters and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Law enforcement officers must have an understanding of the extent of their authority; particularly with respect to overcoming resistance from and gaining and maintaining control over those with whom they come in official contact.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office recognizes and respects the sanctity of human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. It is also understood that officers have the authority to use reasonable force, including deadly force, to protect the public and carry out their duties.

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide officers of the Sheriff's Office with guidelines on the reasonable use of force. It is the policy of the Sheriff's Office that law enforcement officers, in the performance of their duties, shall use reasonable force, given the facts and circumstances known or reasonably believed by the officer at the time of the event, to effectively prevent escape, overcome resistance, or effect arrest.

The decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force (Penal Code Section 835a(a)(4)).

Force used within the Sheriff's Office Facilities shall never be for the purpose of maliciously or sadistically causing harm [(Johnson v. Glick (1973) U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit) and (Whitley v. Albers (1986) U.S. 312)]. Officers shall never be "deliberately indifferent" to the rights, health or safety of inmates. The 8th and 14th Amendments of the United States Constitution protect inmates against cruel and unusual punishment.

Law enforcement officers of the Sheriff's Office, in the performance of their duties, are permitted to use reasonable force to prevent escape, overcome resistance and effect arrests. The use of such force by officers shall conform to Penal Code Section 835a and the policies and procedures set forth in this manual and any applicable sections in the Detentions Bureau Manual.

In addition to Penal Code Section 835a, law enforcement officers in a custodial assignment, may use reasonable force in establishing and maintaining custody of prisoners to maintain the safety and security of the facility. The use of such force by officers shall conform to Penal Code Section 831.5(f) and the policies and procedures set forth in this Manual and any applicable sections in the Detentions Bureau Manual.

Nothing in this policy is intended to hinder or prevent an officer from using deadly force immediately to protect or defend themselves, another officer or any other person from a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury.

California Penal Code Section 835a provides that:

Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.

A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from their efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed an aggressor or lose their right to self-defense by the use of objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. "Retreat" does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation tactics.

California Penal Code Section 831.5 (f) provides that:

Law enforcement officers in a custodial assignment may use reasonable force in establishing and maintaining custody of prisoners to maintain the safety and security of the facility. No policy can realistically predict or cover every possible situation an officer might encounter. Each officer, therefore, must be entrusted with discretion in determining the force necessary in each incident. While it is the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter to minimize injury to everyone involved, nothing in this policy requires an officer to actually sustain physical injury or allow physical injury to any other person before using reasonable force.

Any use of force, including deadly force, by a member of the Kern County Sheriff's Office, must be judged by the standard of "reasonableness." When determining whether to use force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration. Those factors include, but are not limited to:

- The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time).
- Officer/subject/inmate factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, number and location of officers vs. subjects).
- Influence of drugs/alcohol (mental capacity).

- Proximity of weapons of any kind.
- Whether or not the subject/inmate has been searched.
- Whether the subject/inmate poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others and the seriousness of the threat.
- Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual.
- Seriousness of the inmate's facility rule violation.
- Whether the subject/inmate is resisting arrest by force.
- Whether the subject/inmate is evading arrest by flight.
- Whether efforts were made to temper the severity of the force used.
- Training and experience of the officer.
- Potential for injury to citizens, officers, subjects, and inmates.
- Number of subjects/inmates involved in the event.
- How organized the subjects/inmates in the disturbance appear to be.

At times, officers are called upon to make split-second decisions. In such cases, the amount of time available to evaluate and respond to changing circumstances may impact an officer's decision. When judging an officer's decision, this fact shall be given due consideration and weight.

Each officer is expected to use objectively reasonable force under the circumstances at the time to prevent escape, overcome resistance, effect arrests, restore order, and maintain the safety and security of the facility and inmates.

The decision to use force rests with each officer. While there is no way to specify what force is reasonable in advance, each officer is expected to use these guidelines to make this decision in a professional, impartial, and safe manner.

DIRECTIVE

Use of force by a member of the Sheriff's Office shall be reported to the member's immediate supervisor and documented in an Incident Report in accordance with the procedures set forth in F-200. Members shall also document all use of force incidents in the Use of Force Reporting System.

For the complete catalog of KCSO Policies and Procedures please visit www.kernsheriff.org

BODY WORN CAMERA AND DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO

The Kern County Sheriff's Office currently deploys two types of video recording devices in field operations, the Digital In-Car Video System and the Body Worn Camera (BWC). Both devices and their related software serve a crucial role in streamlining data collection and evidence sharing. The effective management of the ever-growing repository of digital evidence is critical given that the overriding goal of these systems is to increase transparency while simultaneously assisting the Department and its personnel in the performance of their duties. In addition, these platforms have facilitated the Department's initiative to release video recordings as part of the Critical Incident Video Release, which is used to enhance transparency and build public trust. It is also the goal of the Department to utilize these platforms to enhance accountability, deter criminal activity and uncooperative behavior, assist in resolving personnel complaints, and to provide information for officer training and improvement.



DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM (DICVS):

The DICVS program provides digital video and audio monitoring between officers and citizens. In effect, the DICVS assists officers in providing accurate depictions of events for courtroom testimony by capturing recordings of crimes in progress, the aftermath of crimes, and/or statements from suspects, victims, and witnesses. Audio recordings are obtained through wireless microphones (linked to the video system) that are worn on the officer's person. The activation of the wireless microphone simultaneously activates the camera system when the vehicles overhead lights are activated. One fixed video camera is positioned in the interior of patrol vehicle facing forward inside the windshield. When the emergency light bar on a patrol vehicle is activated, the DICVS automatically begins recording. Officers can also manually activate the camera system utilizing the touch screen monitor inside the cabin of the vehicle. The DICVS video and audio recordings are stored digitally and cannot be manipulated, altered, or deleted.

BODY WORN CAMERA (BWC):

BWC equipment generally consists of a body-mounted camera with a built-in microphone and a separate handheld viewing device. The BWC camera is worn facing forward, on the outside of the uniform. The BWC recordings are stored digitally on the camera's internal memory and can be immediately viewed on department issued smartphones or once uploaded, may be viewed on any tablet or computer. The recordings cannot be manipulated, altered, or deleted. Prior to usage and deployment in the field, Department personnel assigned a BWC must complete the Department's training on the proper use, maintenance, and activation criteria. Supervisors are required to ensure that subordinates adhere to Department BWC policy and procedures by providing the necessary guidance, training, and direction commensurate with both mandatory and proactive implementation standards.

CAMERA DEPLOYMENT :

In 2020 the Kern County Sheriff's Office deployed 100 cameras to personnel assigned to the Electronic Monitoring Program, Central Receiving Facility, Metropolitan Patrol, and Wasco Substation. The Wasco Substation also has five Digital In-Car-Systems. In total, the Sheriff's Office recorded a total of 115,623 individual videos and generated 18,835 hours of video.

Future Deployments :

Currently, the Sheriff's Office is working on expanding BWC deployment to cover all deputies on patrol. In 2021, the department will be obtaining the funds to deploy 325 cameras which will cover all of the five patrol sections.

VIOLENT CRIME

IN PERSPECTIVE

In 2020, there were a total of 2,057 violent crimes that occurred throughout the County, which accounted for an increase of 354 more violent crime occurrences, or 20 percent, compared to 2019. From the 2,057 violent crimes there were 2,327 suspects and 1,372 victims.

In review of the four violent crime categories, rape experienced a thirteen percent increase while robbery experienced a five percent increase in 2020 when compared to the prior year. Homicides increased by 39 incidents, or 108 percent when compared to the prior year. Aggravated assaults increased by 269 incidents, or 25 percent in 2020 when compared to the prior year.

COUNTY CRIME STATISTICS

Violent Crime

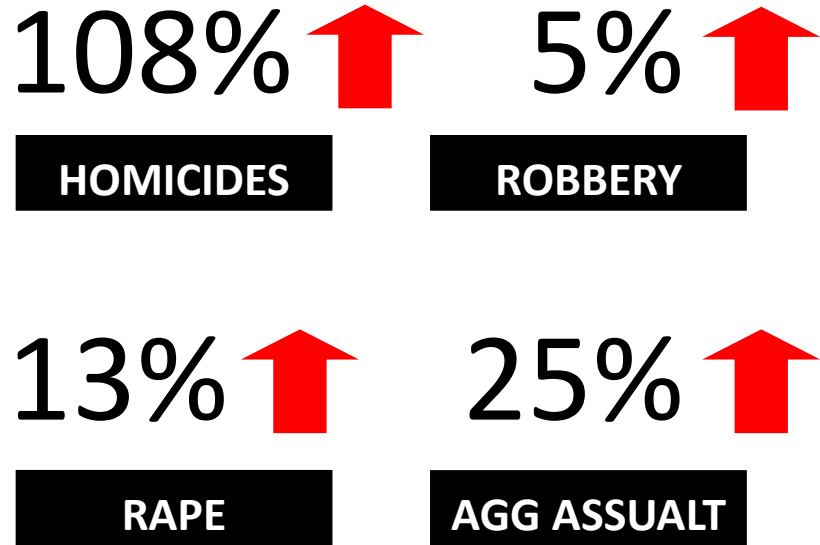
Of the 2,057 violent crime incidents (consisting of homicides, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults) which occurred throughout the unincorporated County. The County experienced 75 homicides in 2020, which was an increase of 39 incidents, or 108 percent, compared to the 36 homicides in 2019. The data reflects the ethnic breakdown of suspects involved in violent crime incidents during 2020: In 2020, a total of 1,023 out of the 2,327, or 44 percent, of the suspects involved in violent crime were Hispanic. During the same period, 829, or 36 percent, of the suspects involved in violent crime were White. Suspects involved in violent crime who were Black accounted for 328, or 14 percent. Lastly, 147 suspects, or six percent, of the suspects involved in violent crime were classified as Other or Unknown ethnic origins.

Part I Crime

In 2020, a total of 14,964 Part I Crime incidents (consisting of homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, burglaries/thefts from motor vehicles, personal/other thefts, arson, and auto thefts) occurred throughout the County. This number represents a four percent increase, or 582 incidents, compared to 14,382 incidents in 2019.

Part II Crime

In 2020, a total of 11,854 Part II Crime incidents (kidnap, other sex crimes, simple assaults, crimes against family/children, weapons violations, identity theft, fraud, forgery/counterfeiting, embezzlement, prostitution, disorderly conduct, and vandalism) occurred throughout the County. The 2020 total was a decrease of 839 incidents, or seven percent, less compared to the 12,693 incidents in 2019.



	2018	2019	2020
Homicide	55	36	75
Rape	184	152	172
Robbery	445	453	479
Agg Assault	1052	1062	1331
Total	1,736	1,703	2,057

— KERN COUNTY VIOLENT CRIME SUSPECTS BY REPORTED RACE —

Hispanic suspects accounted for 1,023 of the four cumulative violent crime categories, which represented 44.8 percent of the 2327 total violent crime suspects in 2020. White suspects accounted for the second highest group with 829 suspects, or 35.6 percent, of the total. Black suspects had the third highest count with 328 suspects, or 14 percent of the total. Other ethnic classifications (includes Asian/Pacific Islander) accounted for 44 suspects, or two percent, of the total. Race was not reported for 103 suspects, or four percent .

	Blk	Hisp	Wht	Other	Unk
Population	6.3%	54.6%	32.8%	2.1%	
Violent Crime	14%	44.8%	35.6%	1.8%	4.4%
Homicide	9.3%	36%	24%	1.3%	29.3%
Rape	8.8%	52.2%	32.9%	2%	4%
Robbery	18.6%	43.9%	28.3%	3%	6%
Agg Assault	13.3%	42.3%	38.7%	4%	1.4%



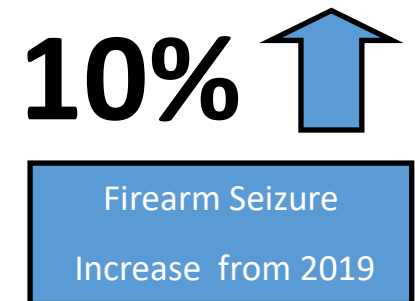
— KERN COUNTY VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS BY REPORTED RACE —

Hispanic victims accounted for 1,372 of the four cumulative violent crime categories, which represented 44.7 percent of the 3064 total violent crime victims in 2020. White victims accounted for the second highest group with 1043 victims, or 34 percent, of the total. Unknown victims had the third highest count with 293 victims, or 9.5 percent, of the total. Black victims accounted for 265 victims, or 8.6 percent, of the total.

	Blk	Hisp	Wht	Other	Unk
Population Percentage	6.3%	54.6%	32.8%	2.1%	
Victim Violent Crime	8.6%	44.7%	34%	2.9%	9.5%
Homicide	17.3%	49.3%	81.3%	2.6%	6.6%
Rape	5.2%	51.4%	38%	2.8%	2.4%
Robbery	4.9%	45.7%	21.7%	5.3%	22.1%
Agg Assault	9.9%	14.5%	38.1%	2.5%	5.8%

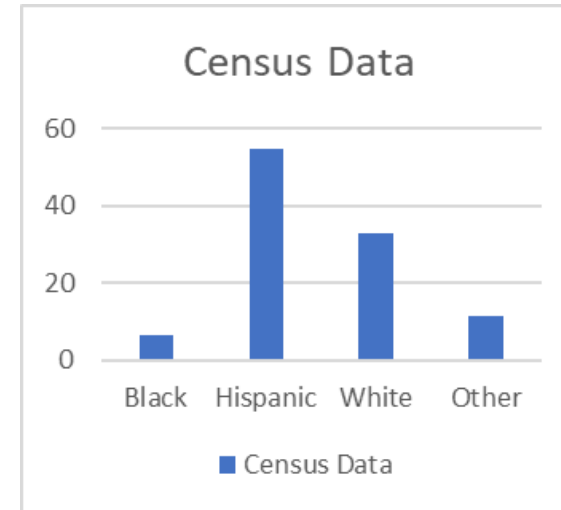
Kern County Sheriff's Office Seized Firearms

2018	908
2019	844
2020	928



COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

As of April 2020, the United States Census Bureau estimated the County population to be approximately 909,235 residents, living within a geographical area encompassing 8,163 square miles. Based on current estimates of 909,235 residents, Kern County is California's 11th most populous county.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEMOGRAPHICS

Sworn Department personnel of White descent account for the largest ethnic category of employees in the Sheriff's Office with 346 out of the 726 total sworn personnel, or 48 percent. The following depicts the remaining Department sworn personnel categories according to ethnicity, along with their respective totals and percentage breakdowns:

Ethnicity	No. of Individuals	Percentage	Population %
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	2%	5.4%
Black	15	2%	6.3%
Hispanic	336	46%	54.6%
White	346	48%	32.6%
Other	15	2%	2.1%

Sworn Personnel by Gender:

Males accounted for 610 of the 726 total sworn personnel, or 84% percent, and females the remaining 116 employees, or 16% percent.

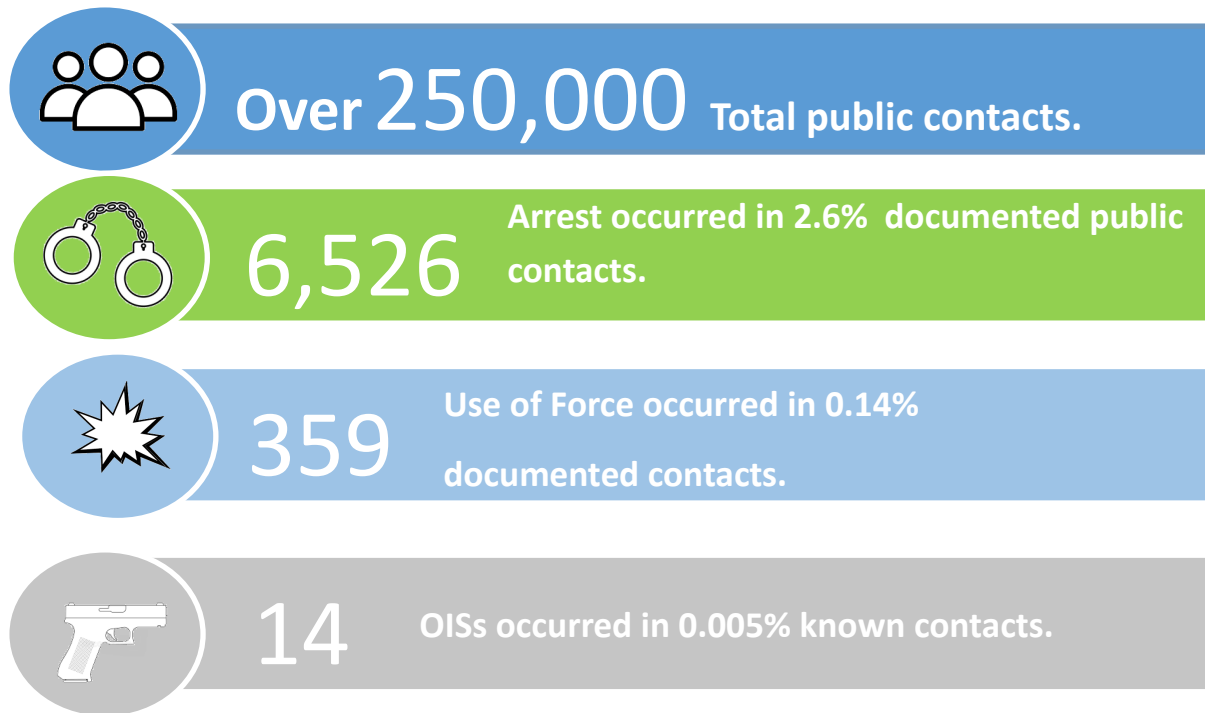
272
Vacant positions within the Sheriff's Office by the end of 2020

USE OF FORCE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Law Enforcement Bureau

It is important to note that a vast majority of deputy interactions with the public do not result in a use of force. In 2020, the Department had 75,526 documented public contacts in incident reports. Deputies responded to 177,548 calls for service with an average of two public contacts per call. During those contacts, 6,526 arrests were effected and 359 use of force incidents occurred (14 of which were OIS incidents).



LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

The Law Enforcement Bureau is comprised of all uniformed patrol staff throughout the county, as well as several primarily civilian units that directly support the functions of patrol. There are two Divisions within the Law Enforcement Bureau, the Patrol Division, and Substations Division.

The Patrol Division includes the Metro Patrol Section and the Watch Lieutenant Section, (which is responsible for on-duty management supervision of Sheriff's Office operations after regular business hours), and the Communications Section, which has the responsibility for receiving and dispatching all calls for service. Metro Patrol Section is broken up into four Zones within the unincorporated areas of Bakersfield City.

The Substations Division includes East Area Substations, Northeast Area Substations, North Area Substations, and South Area Substations. These sections are responsible for uniformed patrol throughout the county.

SOUTH AREA SUBSTATIONS

- Frazier Park Substation
- Lamont Substation
- Taft Substation

NORTH AREA SUBSTATIONS

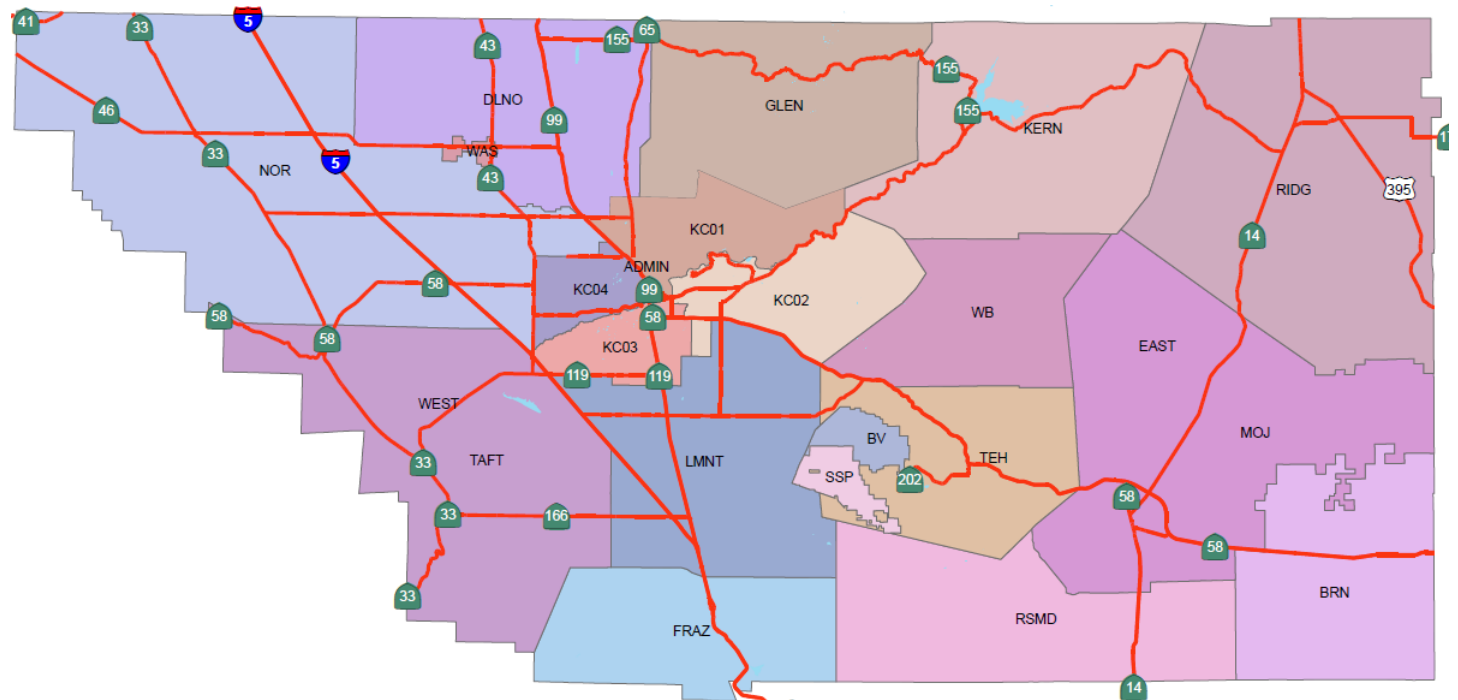
- Buttonwillow Substation
- Delano Substation
- Glennville Substation
- Wasco Substation (Contract City)

EAST AREA SUBSTATIONS

- Boron Substation
- Mojave Substation
- Rosamond Substation
- Tehachapi Substation

NORTHEAST SUBSTATIONS

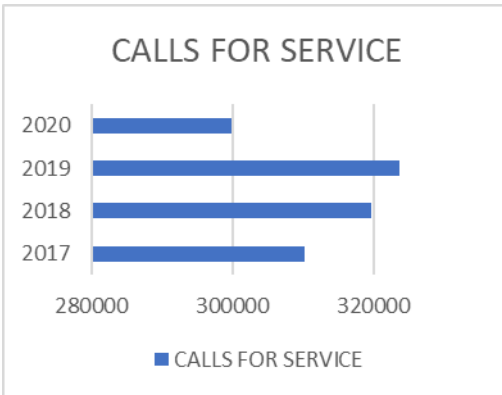
- Kern Valley Substation
- Ridgecrest Substation
- Walker Basin Substation



Sheriff's Office Call for Service Information

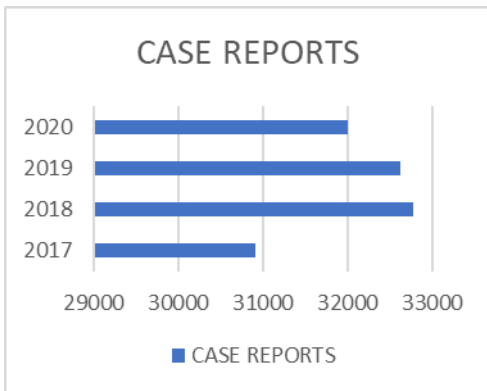
The Sheriff's Office received 299,876 calls for service in 2020, which was a decrease of 23,792 calls, or eight percent, compared to the 323,668 calls for service in 2019. In 2020, there were 17,930, or six percent, less calls for service than the 2017 through 2019 three-year annual average of 317,806 calls for service. Also, In 2020 the Communications Center answered 188,203, 9-1-1 calls and 1,350 Text-to-911 messages.

Deputies arrived on scene for 177,548 calls in 2020, of the 299,876 calls for services generated. The other 40% of calls were handled by the Telephone Report Desk, canceled prior to arrival, or transferred to another agency.

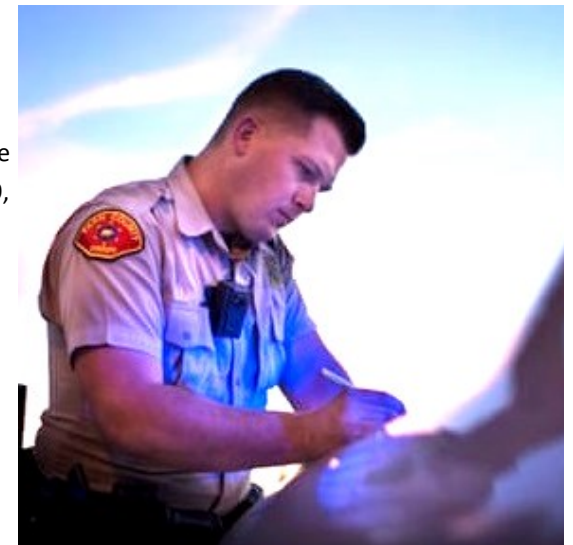


In 2020, the Metro Patrol Area accounted for the most calls for service with 100,456

of the total of 177,548, which represented 56 percent of all calls for service generated for the Sheriff's Office 15 geographical areas. Kern Valley accounted for the second highest call for service count with 12,431, or six percent, of the total calls for service. Wasco Substation had the third highest radio call count with 10,028 calls, or five percent of the total calls for service.



The Sheriff's Office wrote 30,792 incident reports from the Calls for Service responded to in 2020, which was a decrease of 467 investigations from 2019, or one percent less case reports compared to 31,259 reports in 2019.



Less-Lethal USE OF FORCE

The Sheriff's Office guiding value when utilizing force shall always be the Reverence for Human Life. When a situation warrants the use of intermediate force, personnel, when practicable, can utilize a variety of less-lethal force options to attempt to safely defuse a situation.

Less-lethal, or intermediate force options as defined by recent court decisions, shall not be used on a suspect or subject who is passively resisting or merely failing to comply with commands. Verbal threats of violence or mere non-compliance alone may not justify the use of less-lethal force. Personnel may use less-lethal force options when they have a reasonable belief that a suspect or subject is violently resisting arrest or poses an immediate threat of violence or physical harm.



Less-lethal devices can afford officers the opportunity to seek cover and maintain distance between themselves and suspects. The use of cover and distance are fundamental concepts that create time to allow for tactical decision-making. When officers are able to safely and effectively deploy less-lethal devices, the risk of injury to themselves, the suspect(s), and the public can be reduced. Less-lethal devices can also be effective tools to prevent the escalation of an incident to a higher, more serious level of force. The Sheriff's Office currently has a variety of less-lethal devices available to personnel for daily field operations and other tactical situations.

40-MILLIMETER (MM) LESS-LETHAL LAUNCHER

The Defense Technology Tactical Single Launcher Model 1425LA 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher is a single shot, 40mm launcher configured with a yellow stock, a rifled barrel, picatinny rail mounting system, and Sheriff's Office -approved optic. The yellow coloring of the launcher is consistent with the Sheriff's Office color code system for less-lethal devices and signifies that the 40mm launcher is for the Less-Lethal 40mm round only. The 40mm round is a point-of-aim, point-of-impact, direct fire round consisting of a plastic body and a sponge nose. It can be identified by its silver metal case and blue sponge material nose. These sponge rounds are designed to be non-penetrating and upon striking a target, distribute energy over a broad surface area. Due to the smokeless powder propellant, it has velocities that are extremely consistent. Originally authorized for use only by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), the 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher was later approved for deployment by patrol personnel in 2020.

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray is a chemical agent that is either extracted from cayenne pepper plants or produced by synthetic means. Oleoresin Capsicum spray primarily affects the eyes, the respiratory system, and the skin by generating an intense burning sensation. The mucous membranes may swell, causing uncontrollable coughing, gagging, and/or gasping. Oleoresin Capsicum spray can be an effective tool for law enforcement. However, it has proven to have varying degrees of effectiveness on individuals, with some even being unaffected or immune. Additionally, OC spray may contaminate enclosed areas, is susceptible to wind and other weather factors, and can have unintended effects on officers and/or the public in close proximity.

TASER

The Electronic Control Device (ECD), is a conducted electrical device that has the ability to cause the neuro-muscular incapacitation (NMI) of a subject. Neuro-muscular incapacitation is the involuntary stimulation of both the sensory and motor nerves, causing uncontrollable muscle contractions that inhibit a subject's ability to perform coordinated movement, thereby reducing the subject's ability to harm themselves or others. The Sheriff's Office issued TASER features a yellow body and removable black cartridge, which houses the probes and wires. The yellow coloring is consistent with the Sheriff's Office color code system for less-lethal devices and signifies that the TASER is a less-lethal device. The current model of ECD deployed by the Sheriff's Office is the model X26P manufactured by Axon. This model has the following additions from the previous generation:

- Consistent performance and complete data capture due to a new all-digital architecture;
- Improved ergonomics; and,
- Yellow color coding for easy identification by officers and the community.



The TASER has three activation techniques, listed below:

Probe Mode:

This is the most effective way to deploy the TASER and provides officers the ability to maintain distance from the intended target. This method utilizes the TASER cartridge to deploy two metal probes attached to wires. Once both probes make contact with the subject, NMI is possible.

Drive-Stun/Direct-Stun:

This method is used in close quarters situations and requires the device to be brought into direct contact with the subject's body or clothing. As soon as the TASER is moved away from the subject's body, the energy being delivered to the subject ceases. This feature may be used with or without a cartridge in place. If a cartridge is in place, the probes will deploy into the subject when the TASER is activated. The drive-stun mode generally will not cause NMI and is primarily a pain compliance option.

Three-Point Drive-Stun:

This is a technique where a drive-stun is applied with a cartridge in place. After deploying the probes from the cartridge into the body of the subject at a minimum of two inches, the officer applies a drive-stun to an area of the body away from the probe impact site. The spread between the deployed probes and the area of the applied drive-stun is used to create NMI. All uniformed officers assigned to the Patrol are required to carry a TASER on their person while working any field assignment.

FN-303 LESS-LETHAL LAUNCHER

The FN-303 Less-Lethal Launcher is a semi-automatic, shoulder fired device that fires non-lethal munitions and liquids. The device is powered by compressed air to fire the projectiles, which are loaded into an attached 15-round drum magazine. The Sheriff's Office approved the FN-303 Less-Lethal Launcher to be utilized by SWAT and SERT.

BATON

A baton is an impact and/or control device used to push, move, or strike individuals who exhibit unlawful or hostile behavior. Currently, the Sheriff's Office authorizes three versions of the baton for Sheriff's Office-wide use: a collapsible baton, 29-inch baton, and a 36-inch baton (only deployed during civil unrest situations).

STUN SHIELD

The Stun Shield is a concave Lexan shield coated with energy conductor strips. These strips, which resemble duct tape in appearance, are attached to an electronic, battery operated stun unit. Also, attached to the Stun Shield are two handgrip units that contain the trigger mechanism for the shield's stun unit. The Stun Shield may be operated as a standard riot shield, without activating the stun unit, or with the stun unit activated as an electronic immobilization and take down device.

RESTRAINT CHAIR

The restraint chair consists of a sturdy frame, padded seat and padded reclining back, arm rests, a foot rest, and a set of back wheels. Straps secure the individual at the ankles, wrists, shoulders, and waist in upright sitting position.

PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER

Pepperball Launcher is a semi-automatic, shoulder fired device that fires non-lethal munitions. The device is powered by compressed air to fire the projectiles, which are loaded into a hopper. The projectiles are plastic spheres that are filled with Oleoresin Capsicum II (O.C.) PAVA powder and designed to burst on impact. The Sheriff's Office approved the Pepperball Launcher to be utilized by SERT.



PATROL USE OF FORCE BY THE NUMBERS

In 2020, there were 359 reports written in the Law Enforcement Bureau documenting force. From those 359 reports, 1066 types of force options were used to control the suspect. 914 of the force options used were personal weapons. The Law Enforcement Bureau has seen an increase in use of force reports each year for the past four years.

The type of force used most was Hands and Feet at 76.32% (274 incidents).

Pushing/Shoving – 13% (37 incidents).

Pulling/Carrying – 29% (81 incidents).

Punches/Knees (personal impact weapons) – 8% (22 incidents).

Body Weight – 39% (109 incidents).

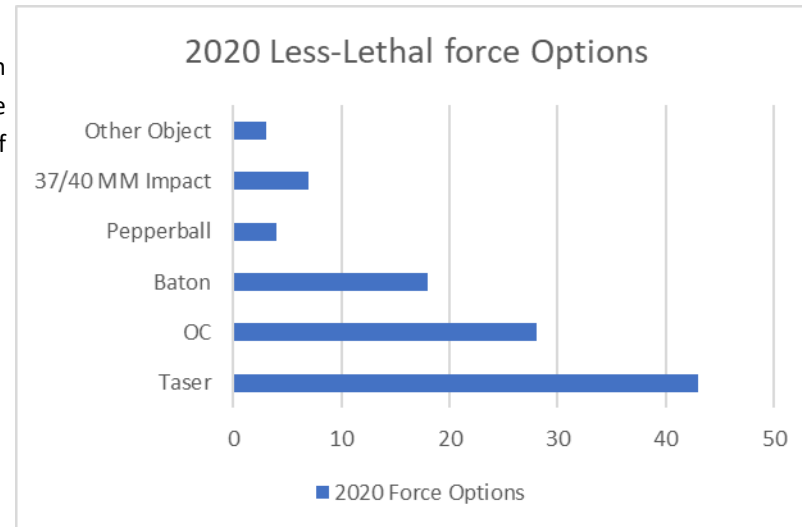
Other Use of Hands and Feet— 8% (23 incidents).

Control holds where force was used to overcome resistance were utilized in 68.52% (246 incidents).

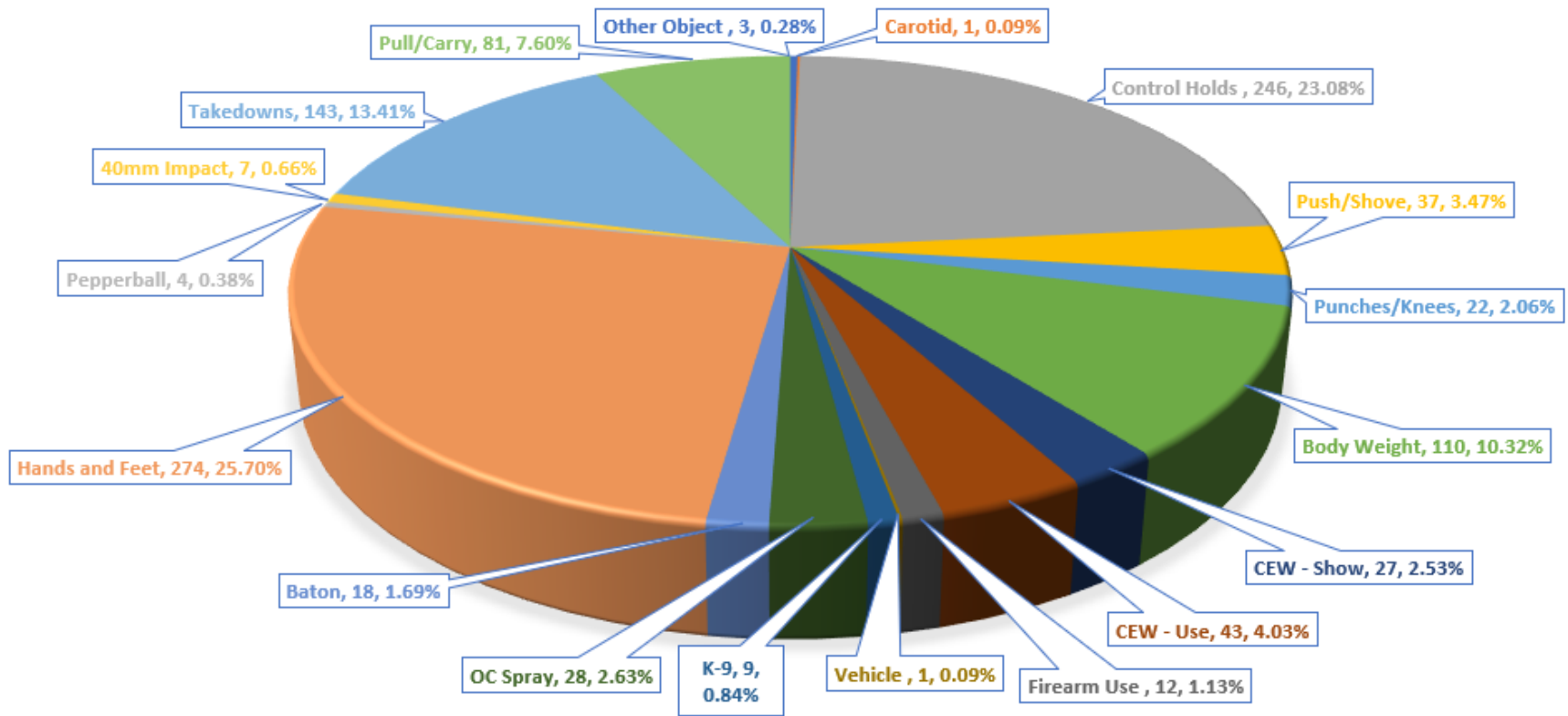
76%

Of Force Used was Personal
Weapons

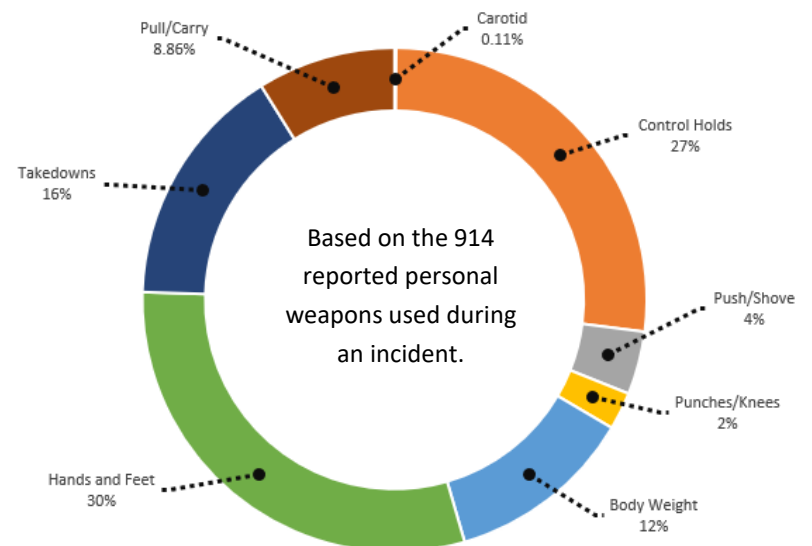
(Control Holds, Hands and Feet)



2020 USE OF FORCE



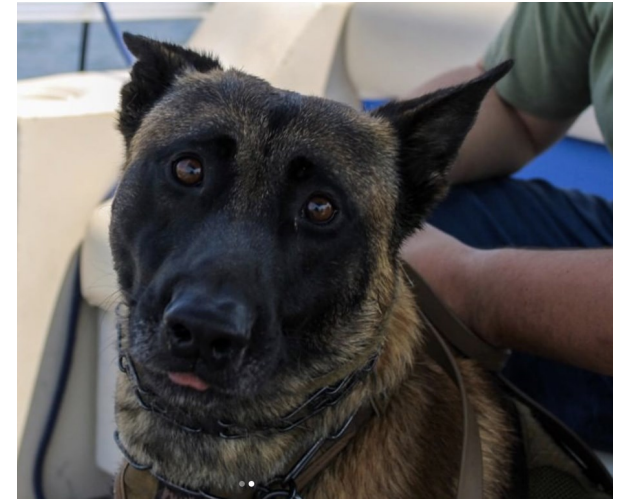
Personal Weapons Subcategory



INSIDE LOOK AT

K-9 Unit

AND THE UOF



In 2020, the Sheriff's Canine Unit was comprised of four Deputy and dog teams. Three teams are certified in narcotics detection while one is certified in the detection of explosives and dangerous materials. They are supervised by a Metro Patrol Section Sergeant who is trained and departmentally approved to coordinate all matters related to canine use. Members of this highly specialized unit service all 8,163 square miles of Kern County and are on call at all times.

The Canine Unit's primary purpose is to support members of the Sheriff's Office during searches for suspects, narcotics, items of evidence, dangerous materials, and the arrest of actively resistive and dangerous persons. Canine teams are used most commonly at vehicle pursuits, narcotics searches, violent felony crime scenes, and area searches. Prior to initiating the search for a suspect, an announcement is given in English and Spanish. Excepting an emergency circumstance, this announcement is provided three or more times. The announcements and warnings are intended to notify persons within the search area of the intent to use of a canine. This is to afford suspects an opportunity to surrender and to give community members an opportunity to enter their homes, businesses, and/or leave the area. In situations where noise or perimeter size is a factor, officers will use amplified sound systems such as bullhorns or the public-address systems on Department vehicles or helicopters to make the announcement. The search announcement and warning are additional attempts to de-escalate the situation and encourage the suspect(s) to voluntarily surrender before the canine is used.

CANINE TEAM BY THE NUMBERS

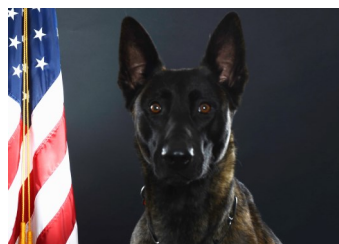
Sheriff's Canine Teams responded to 6,330 calls for service and were involved in 461 deployments during 2020. Of the 461 deployments, 239 were incidents during which a suspect was located but surrendered without being apprehended by the dog. A canine physically apprehended a suspect and used force on 9 occasions. The remaining 213 deployments did not involve any individuals. The 2020 annual ratio of located suspects versus suspects physically apprehended is 3.7%.



Canine Use of Force Occurred in 0.14% of the Total Canine Team Calls for Service

18% ↓

Canine Use-of-Force Incidents from 2019



Rico



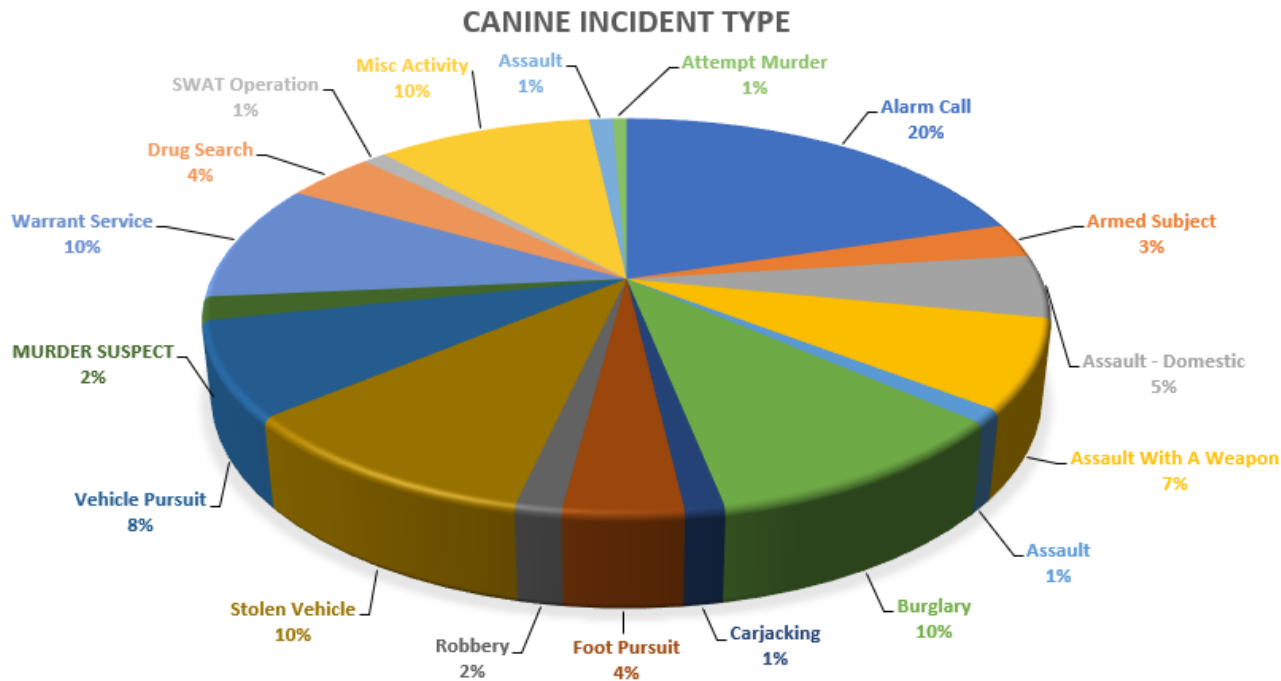
Drogo



Viktor



Hero



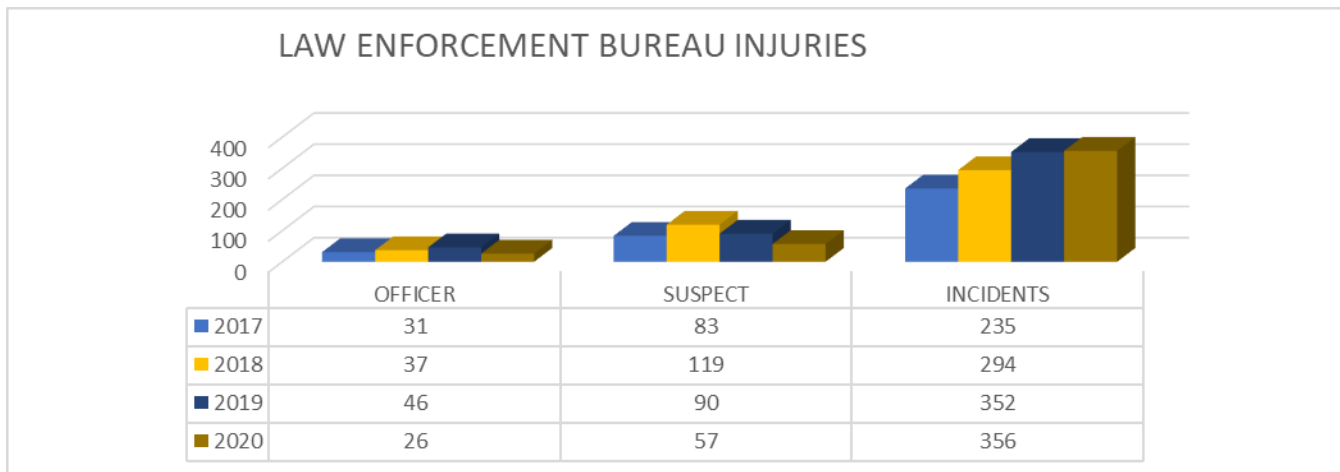
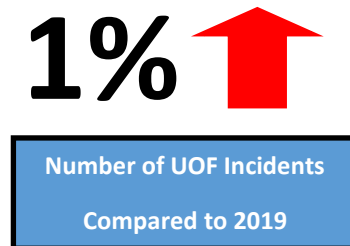
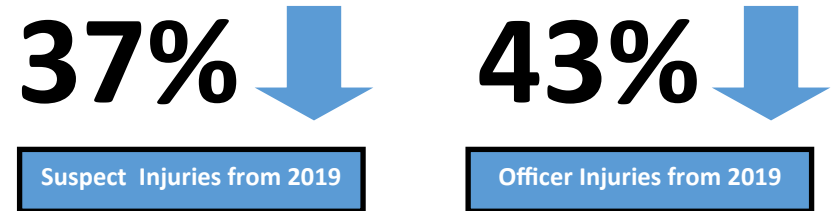
Injuries

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

Resulted from Suspect or UOF

The Kern County Sheriff's Office works closely with the Kern County Fire Department and the various ambulance companies throughout Kern County to provide immediate care and treatment of individuals injured during a use-of-force incident. When Injuries are sustained due to a use-of-force, or injuries are reported to the arresting officer, the individual will be looked at on scene by medical personnel. For minor injuries, the individual will be transported to the local hospital for medical clearance by the deputy. For more serious injuries, medical personnel will determine the safest mode of transportation. Once released from the hospital, the individuals medical treatment continues in custody by the Nurses and Doctors contracted by the Sheriff's Office.

All injuries are documented on an Incident report and a Use-of-Force tracking system. Each use-of-force is reviewed and it is determined if the force was within Policy and State Law. For those incidents found not to meet that standard, the incident is referred to the Internal Affairs Unit or the Professional Standards Unit for investigation.



OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INCIDENTS and OTHER WEAPONS

In 2020, there were 16 incidents during which deputies discharged their firearms. Of the 16 incidents, 14 involved a Deputy discharging their firearm at a person compared to 2 incidents in 2019. One incident involved a Deputy using his vehicle to stop a threat but the event ultimately resulted in an OIS. There were two shootings involving animals in 2020.



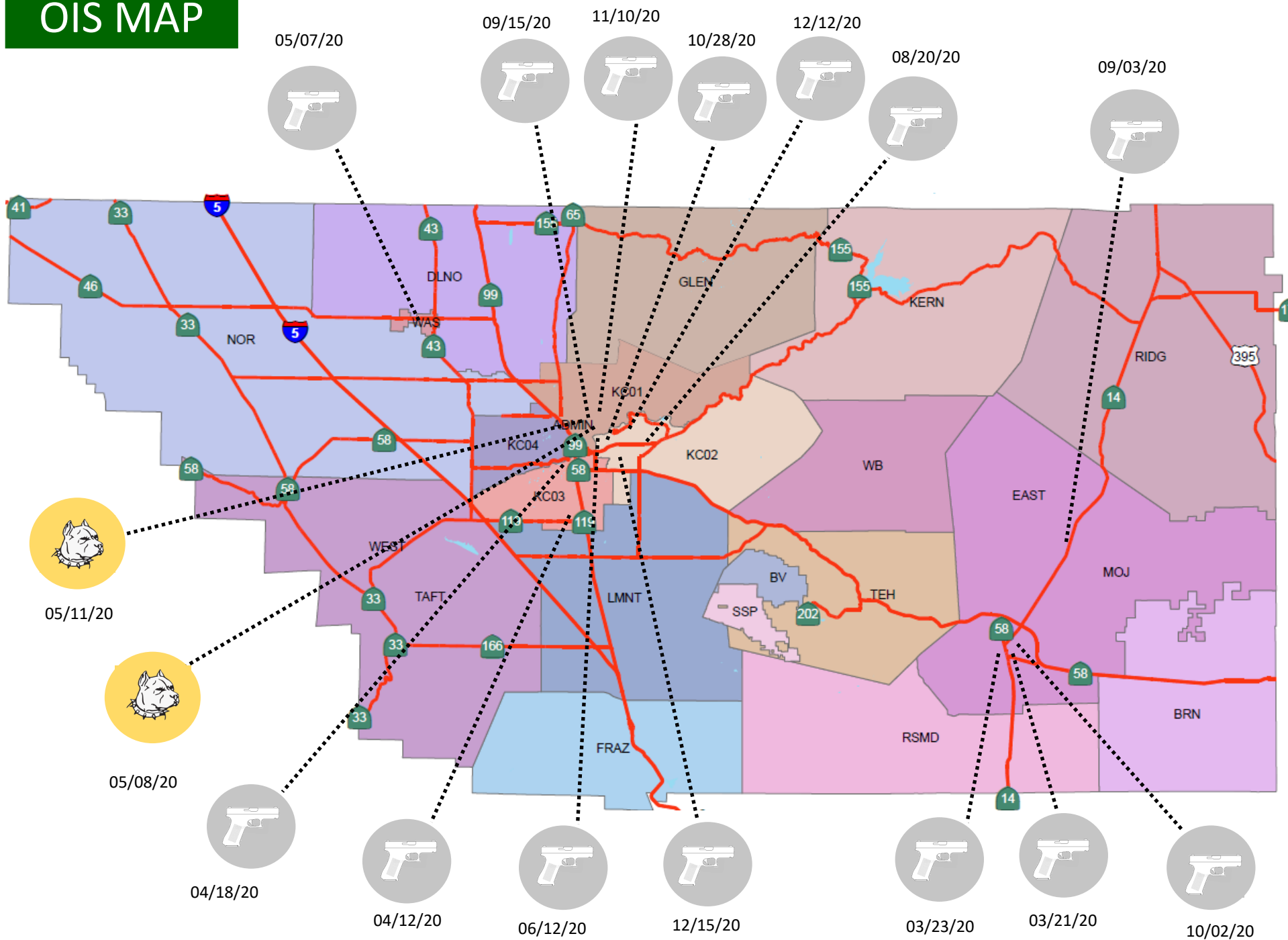
Suspect Weapon	No. of Incidents	Percentage
Handgun	8	57%
Long Gun	2	14%
Officers Weapon	1	7%
Knife	1	7%
Replica Firearm	1	7%
Attacked Officer	1	7%

78%
SUSPECT WAS ARMED
WITH A FIREARM or
Replica Firearm

Suspect Ethnicity	No. of Individuals	Percentage	County Population
Black	2	14%	6.3%
Hispanic	9	64%	54.6%
White	3	21%	32.8%
Other	0	0%	2.91%



OIS MAP



USE OF FORCE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Detentions Bureau

It is important to note that a vast majority of deputy interactions with individuals in-custody do not result in a use of force. In 2020, the Sheriff's Office had over 2.5 million inmate interactions. During those contacts, 1,211 arrests were effected and 400 use of force incidents occurred (0 of which were OIS incidents).



Over 2.5 Million inmate interactions



1,211 Arrests occurred in 0.05% of total inmate contact



400 Use of Force occurred in 0.016% of the total inmate interactions



0 OIS's occurred in the Detention Bureau



DETENTIONS BUREAU

The Kern County Sheriff's Office has the legal obligation to manage the needs of persons incarcerated within the County Jail System. The Sheriff's Office operates a system of professionally staffed detentions facilities designed to manage the complex process of providing for each of those needs. The Kern County Jail accepts approximately 46,000 new arrests annually. Each arrestee must be processed into a finite system of jail-beds (just over 2,800).

The Detentions Bureau is responsible for the provision of a variety of services within the scope of jail and court security. Foundational duties within the Detentions Bureau include jail security, court security, inmate processing, inmate transportation, and inmate classification. Other functional duties include activities associated with maintaining the welfare of those incarcerated (medical & mental health treatment, education, support services, and recreation). These obligations are managed by approximately 600 dedicated employees within the Detentions Bureau.



The Lerdo Facilities Division is comprised of the following Sections: Pre-Trial Facility, Justice Facility, Maximum-Medium Facility, Minimum Facility, the Compliance Section, Population Management Section, and the Inmate Services Section.

The Downtown Services Division is comprised of the following Sections: Central Receiving Facility, Court Services Section, and the Virtual Jail Section. The Virtual Jail was conceived as a mechanism to offset the growing numbers of persons entering the local jail system. The Virtual Jail features several alternatives to conventional incarceration such as Electronic Monitoring, Sheriff's Parole and Work Release.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office currently partners with the State of California to provide for the security of numerous Superior Court facilities. The Transportation Section provides logistical support for the many movements required within the Detentions Bureau. In fact, the Transportation Section facilitates the movement of thousands of inmates monthly.

The Detentions Bureau works in partnership with our community to provide inmate labor, inmate education, and utilizes alternative programs to reintroduce inmates into our community with the goal of significantly reducing the underlying causes that have historically contributed to recidivism.

Members of the Detentions Bureau remain committed to the provision of the highest levels of service and professionalism. Our commitment to the community remains foundationally predicated on the principles of service and duty. Those driving principles support the primary mission of the Kern County Sheriff's Office to enhance the quality of life for those in Kern County.

DETENTIONS USE OF FORCE

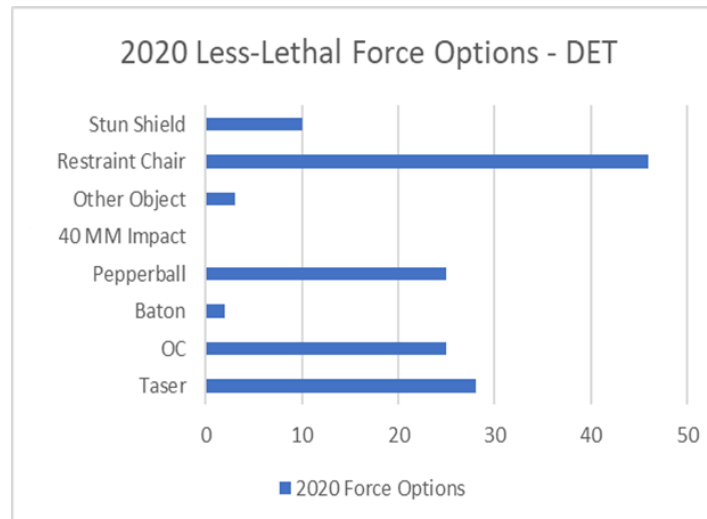
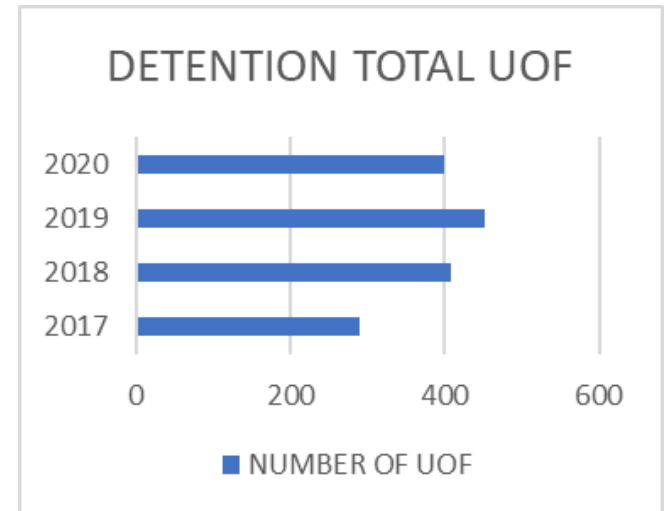
BY THE NUMBERS

In 2020, the average daily occupancy averaged 1,770 inmates for a total annual occupancy of 646,050. This was a decrease from the 1,915 inmate daily average in 2019.

In 2020, the Detentions Bureau had over 2.5 million interactions with individuals in custody. Interactions includes the booking process, daily counts, investigations, inmate movements, releases, transporting inmates to and from Court, and the interactions Court Bailiff's and Guards have with the public.

The Sheriff's Office Detentions Bureau wrote 13,917 reports from incidents that occurred in the correctional facility in 2020, which was a decrease of 170 investigations from 2019, or one percent less reports compared to 14087 reports in 2019.

Of the 13,917 documented incidents, 400 reports involved a use of force incident or 2.8 percent.



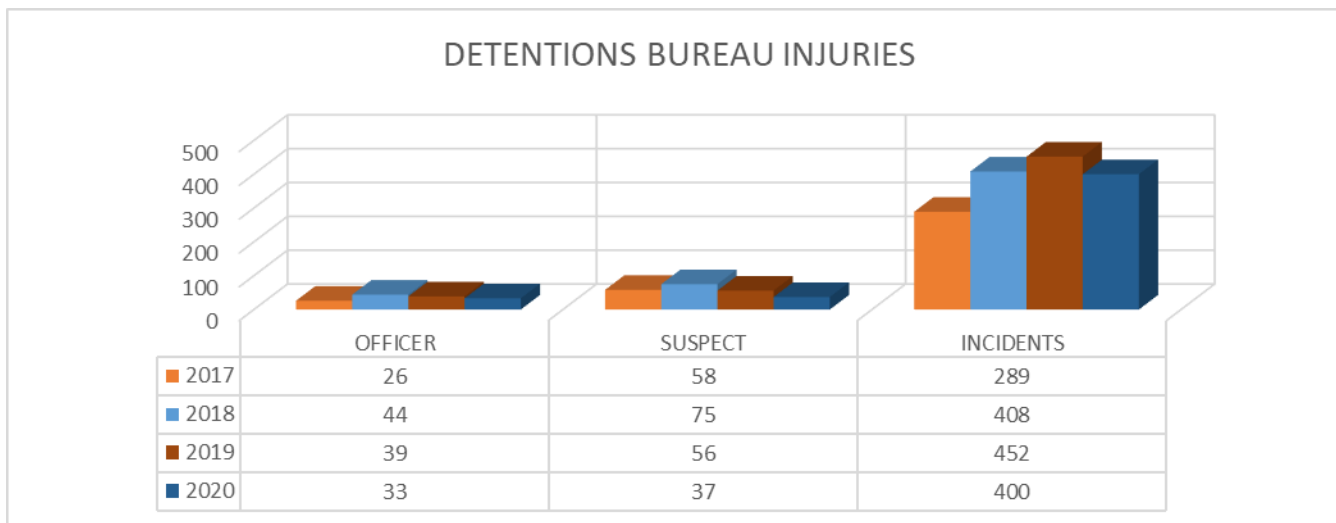
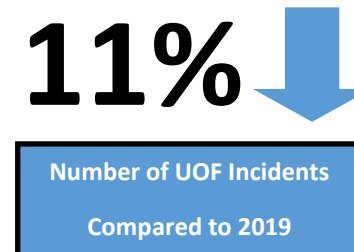
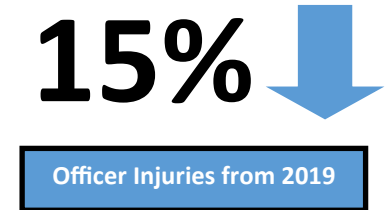
Injuries

DETENTIONS BUREAU

Resulted from Suspect or UOF

The Kern County Sheriff's Office works closely with Kern Medical and the various ambulance companies throughout Kern County to provide long term and immediate care and treatment of individuals injured while in custody. When injuries are sustained due to a use-of-force or they inform a deputy of an injury, the individual will be examined on scene by medical personnel. For minor injuries, the individual will be moved to the infirmary for medical clearance. For more serious injuries, medical personnel will determine the safest mode of transportation to the hospital for treatment.

All injuries are documented in an incident report and a Use-of-Force tracking system. Each use-of-force is reviewed and it is determined if the force was within policy and state law. For those incidents found not to meet that standard, the incident is referred to the Internal Affairs Unit or the Professional Standards Unit for investigation.



KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

OPEN POSITIONS

- DEPUTY SHERIFF
- DETENTIONS DEPUTY
- DISPATCHER
- SHERIFF'S AIDE
- SHERIFF'S SUPPORT TECH

VISIT KERNCOUNTY.COM/CAREERS TO
VIEW REQUIREMENTS AND APPLY
ONLINE



QUESTIONS? EMAIL
KCSORECRUITMENT@KERNSHERIFF.ORG

JOIN
OUR
TEAM