

# 2023 Annual Use of Force Analysis

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**Tualatin Police Department**

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Report prepared by:

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## Introduction

The Tualatin Police Department conducts an annual analysis of its use of force activities every calendar year. This includes an analysis of department policy and practices by every sworn officer, as required by the Oregon Accreditation Alliance standards 1.3.7 and 2.1.2. The use of force incidents analyzed are officers responses to calls with a display or use of force, requiring a supervisor's review and report per the department's Use of Force Policy.

A review of incidents of force may reveal patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment changes, and/or policy modifications. The process of collecting and reviewing the reports is also critical to this analysis.

This Use of Force Analysis was completed using Tualatin Police Department data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Tualatin Police Department used force in 69 cases in 2021, 69 cases in 2022 and 57 cases in 2023. Data graphed and charted within this report includes the following:

- Classification of Initiating Call (what officers responded to)
- Breakdown and Comparison by Gender and Race
- Resistance Encountered by Officers
- Level of Force Used
- Total Arrests and Calls for Service versus Total Use of Force Incidents
- Number of Officers Responding to a Use of Force Call
- Injuries to Any Person Including Officers
- Day and Time of Incident

## Synopsis

The 2023 Use of Force Report was completed using the Tualatin Police Department's Use of Force database which is maintained with Frontline's Pro Standards Tracker. The Tualatin Police Department responded to 22,378 calls, resulting in 653 arrests, with only 57 cases and 150 total incidents requiring use of force, as defined by the Tualatin Police Department. It is important to note that the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) and many agencies across the country do not include "handgun displayed" as a formal use of force for reporting purposes. This year, the Tualatin Police Department had 56 instances, statistically captured, where a handgun was displayed.

This analysis revealed the uses of force were down from 2021 and 2022. In 2023, it was determined that when comparing the volume of calls for service and actual arrests made by the Tualatin Police Department to the number of use of force incidents, only 8.8% of arrests .

During 2023, 51% of use of force incidents involving persons identifying as White, 31% involving Hispanic, 8% involving Black, and 2% each for Asian/Pacific Islander. Due to the relatively low number of use of force incidents, combined with a few subjects we frequently have contact with, a small difference in data points can sometimes indicate large percentage changes in the data. For example, one high risk traffic stop on a stolen vehicle, where guns are displayed, occupied by four people of a similar race, would make a significant swing in percentages. When reviewing Use of Force by Gender or Race there is no concerning information.

## **Officer Injuries**

Most use of force incidents (99%) were resolved with no injury to an officer. Of the 150 officers involved in use of force incidents, 2 (1.5%) resulted in a minor injury to the officer, in which the officer did not require medical attention and 1 (0.6%) required minor medical attention. A minor injury may include injuries such as a scratch, bruise or complaint of pain.

## **Other Persons Injured**

Most use of force incidents (73%) were resolved with no injury to any person. Minor injuries that did not require medical attention include injuries such as a scratch, bruise, or complaint of pain. Minor injuries that require medical attention, include injuries such as Taser barb removal, abrasions or head injuries from a fall, exposure to OC, etc... There were zero hospitalizations that came as a direct result of the use of force.

## **Level of Force Used**

The type of forced used by officers is broken down into 27 different types, some of which are seldom utilized. Display of a weapon is defined as the pointing or otherwise plain-view display of an officer's handgun, rifle or less lethal weapon, at a person as a means to gain compliance or in reasonable anticipation of a use of force. Due to the relatively low number of some uses, small differences in data points can sometimes indicate large percentage changes in the data. Again, changes in the data, positive or negative, are not always an accurate indicator of a trend or a result of officer actions.

Approximately 61% of the overall incidents of the use of force fell under the Firearm Display Only or the Wrap Restraint. The use of the Wrap Restraint is a device used to prevent the subject from physically resisting Officers which could include higher and more frequent uses of force.

## Total Arrests versus Total Use of Force Incidents

During 2023, Officers used force 8.8% of the time when making an arrest. During 2021, officers used force 9.6% of the time. This is a slight decrease, but not a significant change.

## Day of Week

Use of force incidents by day of week in 2023 ranged from 6 to 34 incidents. Most days of the week had between 6 and 14 incidents. Saturday had 17 and Monday only had 5.

There were only 6 incidents of use of force on Thursdays, while Tuesday had 34 incidents of Use of Force. There is no significant correlation as to differences per day with Force used.

## Use of Force Training

All sworn personnel receive various use of force instruction during basic police training including case law, defensive tactics, baton, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC), handcuffing, firearms, less lethal and more. Continuing education for all Tualatin police sworn personnel on use of force occurs multiple times each year. The formal use of force training during 2023 consisted of:

July 2023	.5 hour	Use of Force Policy Review
October 2023	3 hours	Firearms
October 2023	1 hour	Legal Updates
November 2023	4 hours	Defensive Tactics

The Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requires 8 hours of ongoing Firearms/Use of Force training each year.

All sworn officers also received numerous training bulletins on force issues. De-escalation training occurs during defensive tactics, force on force training and firearms training. In addition, several of the training bulletins were related to de-escalation. Training bulletins in 2023 that related to use of force included: de-escalation, stress recognition and mental health.

## Reporting

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 they believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis and related purposes, the Tualatin Police Department requires the completion of a Use of Force Report which is reviewed by a supervisor.

The current system continues to meet the needs of the department: the officers or supervisors enter their use of force data; a supervisor reviews the use of force and then the report is reviewed

by the Patrol Captain, the Chief and the Support Captain, before the report is filed away as a Threshold Event. Each use of force in 2023 was reviewed by a Sergeant or above. The use of force review includes policy adherence, training needs, equipment status and disciplinary issues.

## **Equipment Review**

The Tualatin Police Department has used Axon Body Worn Cameras (BWC) since 2022. All use of force incidents are reviewed by the Services Captain using the BWC system. The department also transitioned to the Taser 7 in 2022. Additionally we are equipped with multiple WRAP restraints that are available to all patrol shifts.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The review of use of force incidents during 2023 revealed the actions by the Tualatin Police Department members, in each incident, were justified and within policy. The force used reasonably appeared necessary to bring each incident under control; given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer(s) at the time of the event.

The Tualatin Police Department is a professional, progressive law enforcement family, whose members are our greatest asset. Continual training and vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force, to protect the public welfare, requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

