

2024 Annual Use of Force Analysis

Tualatin Police Department



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 2022, 2023 and 2024. The Tualatin Police Department used force in 69 cases in 2022, 57 cases in 2023 and 57 cases in 2024. 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 2024 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 23,852 calls, resulting in 665 arrests, with 57 cases and 122 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 45 instances, statistically captured, where a handgun was displayed.

This analysis revealed the uses of force were down from 2022 and 2023. In 2024 there was the same number of use of force incidents as there was in 2023 at 57 incidents each year. In 2024, 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 8.57% of arrests .

During 2024, 55% of use of force incidents involving persons identifying as White, 23% involving Hispanic, 4% involving Black, and 7% 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, 1(1%) resulted in a minor injury to the officer. A minor injury may include injuries such as a scratch, bruise or complaint of pain.

Other Persons Injured

Most use of force incidents (91%) 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 force 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 50% 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 2024, officers used force 8.57% 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 2024 ranged from 4 to 26 incidents. Most days of the week had between 13 to 24 incidents. Saturday had 26 and Wednesday only had 4.

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 2021 consisted of:

July 2024	.5 hour	Use of Force Policy Review
November 2024	3 hours	Firearms
October 2023	1 hour	Legal Updates

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 2024 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 2024 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. In 2024 Tualatin PD transitioned to the new Axon Body Camera 4 from the Axon Body Camera 3. All use of force incidents are reviewed by the Patrol 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 2024 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.

