



Port of San Diego
***HARBOR
POLICE***

Use of Force Report

2024

Introduction

Law enforcement agencies nationwide collect use-of-force statistics to review and analyze the reasonableness of force being used by officers. The Port of San Diego Harbor Police Department has several layers of review for each individual use of force incident, and annually a comprehensive statistical analysis is conducted on all use of force incidents. The comprehensive review process and annual statistical report provides accountability for our department and transparency to our community. Each year we use the review process to identify potential improvements in our use of force implementation and documentation.

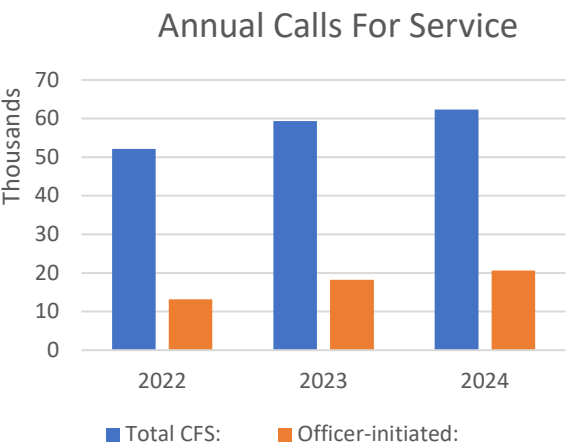
While the preservation of order and observance of the law are best achieved through voluntary compliance, enforcement of the law may at times require officers to use physical force and/or physical restraint. The higher the voluntary compliance and cooperation of the public, the less need there is for force. To that end, officers always seek to obtain voluntary compliance when possible. However, when the need for force arises, officers may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, overcome resistance, or defend themselves and others ([California Code, PEN 835a.](#)). It is the responsibility of the Department and all sworn personnel to ensure force and restraint are used in a manner that provides for the safety of the public and the safety of officers.

The Port of San Diego Harbor Police Department makes these statistics available to the public as part of our commitment to organizational transparency. This collection of data includes the use of all types of force by members of the Department and compares those incidents to the overall number of law enforcement contacts that occur in a year. We believe that providing this information to the public will clearly show how infrequently officers use force when compared to the overall number of calls for service and officer-initiated activities. These findings will be published annually and posted publicly.

“Call For Service” Activity vs “Officer Initiated” Activity:

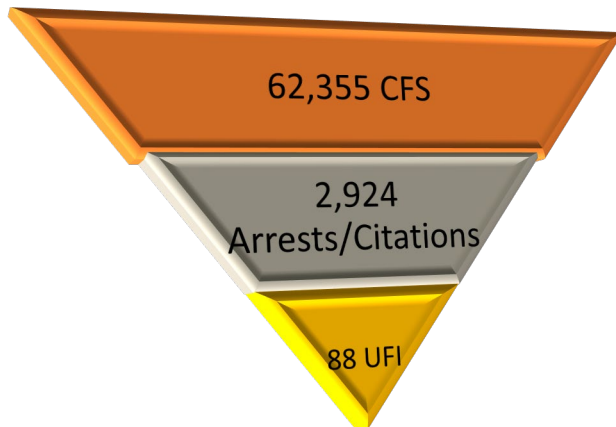
Before reviewing the use-of-force data, it is helpful to understand how an officer gets involved in a use-of-force incident. An officer either responds to a call for service or sees something happening that requires their response. The department tracks these responses as a **“call for service”** (CFS) and **“officer-initiated”**. A call for service is a request from a member of the public or another agency for public safety services, while officer-initiated activity results from an officer’s observation alone. Examples of officer-initiated activity include traffic stops, field interviews, or other situations where an officer on patrol observes something and initiates contact with a member of the public. The chart below shows a majority of Harbor Police activity in 2022-2024 was generated by “calls for service” from the public.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total CFS:	52,149	59,344	62,355
Officer-initiated:	13,169	18,256	20,627



Enforcement Activity and Use of Force Incidents (UFI)

It is also important to realize that only a small percentage of the total calls for service end with a citation or an arrest, and an even smaller percentage result in a Use of Force Incident.



In 2024, Port of San Diego Harbor Police had:

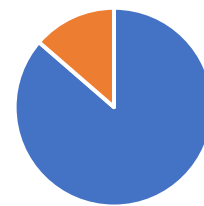
- 62,355 calls for service
- 2,924 citations/arrests
- 88 Use of Force Incidents

*Less than 6% of all arrests/citations involved a use of force
Only .14% of all calls for service involved a use of force.*

In 2024, Port of San Diego Harbor Police had 88 Use of Force Incidents (UFI).

- 76 originated with a “Call for Service”
- 12 originated after an “Officer-Initiated” contact

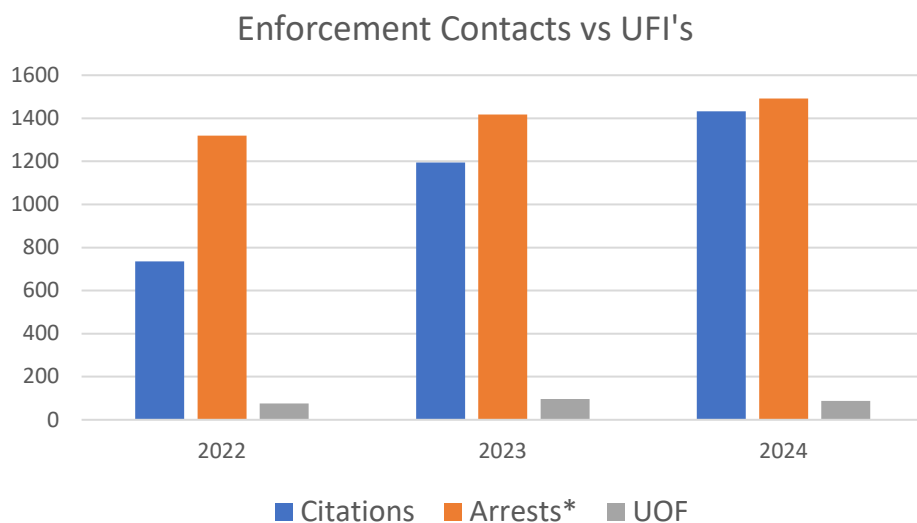
UFI Source



■ Call For Service ■ Officer Initiated

Enforcement Activity and Use of Force Incidents (UFI)

Our data shows that force is most likely to be used when officers are taking enforcement action, such as issuing a citation or attempting to place someone under arrest. When looking at the annual number of “Use of Force” Incidents that Harbor Police officers are involved in, it is helpful to compare that number to the total number of enforcement contacts officers are tasked with over the course of the year. The chart below gives a visual representation of those numbers and demonstrates how officers facilitate most enforcement contacts without force.



**Misdemeanor citations and arrests, felony arrests, mental health protective custody*

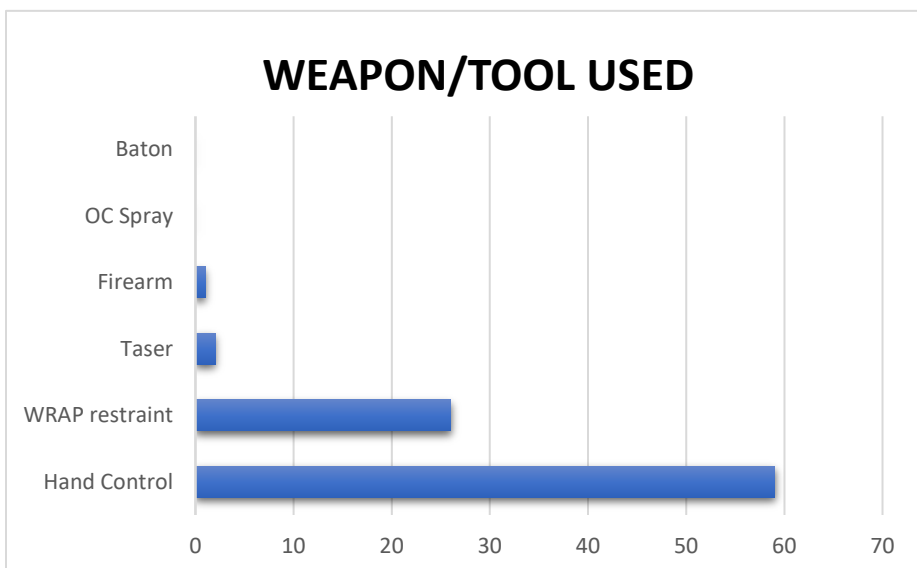
Type of Weapon or Tool Used:

Port of San Diego Harbor Police Officers primarily used two types of force in 2024.

- Hands-on control (59)
- WRAP restraint (26)

The WRAP restraint device is a safe restraint system designed to protect individuals and officers by temporarily immobilizing a subject's body. It restricts their ability to kick or harm others while prioritizing their breathing and protecting their head. It is designed to provide safe transport or control of an agitated subject, often under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. Below is a breakdown of weapons and tools used in 2024.

Weapon/Tool Used	
Hand Control	59
WRAP restraint	26
Taser	2
Firearm	1
OC Spray	0
Baton	0



Year to Year Changes

It can be helpful to see the department's historical trends in annual Calls for Service (CFS), Arrests/Citations¹, and Use of Force Incidents. Use of Force Incidents decreased by 9.3% from 2023 to 2024. Below is statistical information for Harbor Police for the past three years.

HPD Activity 2022	HPD Activity 2023	HPD Activity 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 52,194 Calls for Service• 736 Citations• 1,319 Arrests• 76 Use of Force Incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 59,614 Calls for Service• 1195 Citations• 1,418 Arrests• 97 Use of Force Incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62,355 Calls for Service• 1432 Citations• 1,492 Arrests• 88 Use of Force Incident

Department Use of Force Philosophy:

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved daily in numerous varied human encounters and when warranted, may use force in carrying out their duties. The use of force will only be utilized to effect lawful objectives in accordance with the circumstances authorized by law.

Officers must understand and appreciate the limitations of their authority. This is especially true with respect to officers overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of their duties. When the use of force has been determined to be necessary, only that force which is reasonable may be used to bring an incident under control.

The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. It is also understood that vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and protect the public welfare requires a careful balancing of all human interests. Any use of force which is unreasonable or excessive is prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

¹ **Citations** = Infraction citations **Arrests** = Misdemeanor cites/arrests + felony arrests + Mental Health Protective Custody
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