

# *2019 Annual Use of Force Report*



Austin Independent School District Police Department  
June 2020

Prepared by the AISD PD  
Training Unit

This annual report reviews the Austin Independent School District Police Department's use of force during calendar year 2019. Police may properly use force in effecting arrests, protection of others, and at times use force to control a person who may harm themselves.

AISD Police Department Policy Manual Chapter 1.03 requires that the Training Sergeant prepare an annual analysis for the Chief of Police on all Use of Force reporting. AISD PD prepares this report in order to better understand the conditions under which officers use force and to make improvements to training and policy when necessary. Preparation of an annual use of force report is not a requirement for police departments but is a common practice among recognized agencies. The AISD Police Department is recognized by the Texas Police Chief's Association as meeting best practices.

In 2019, the Austin Independent School District Police responded to 37,563 calls for service. One hundred forty-two of those contacts presented an individual with resistance, or assaultive behavior requiring the use of force by police officers. That is **.37%** of all police contacts which resulted in a use of force contact by police. Out of the 142 use of force contacts, 122 were of the least amount of physical force used by an officer in restraining an individual. **Furthermore, 22 incidents involved non –students over the age of 18.**

This report recognizes that most of the officer contacts were minimal in nature which amounted to the same force used by a teacher, counselor, or any school official for the purposes of preventing a student and others from hurting each other or someone else. The documentation is only required as a best practice for the purposes of identifying training needs. While most agencies report force options resulting in injury or serious in nature, this Department reports any and all contacts.

### **Key findings in the 2019 Use of Force**

- **In 2019, only .37% of all contacts where police were involved resulted in the use of force by AISD Police.** This represents a .23% increase in use of force encounters from 2018.
- **The calls for service had a small increase from 2018 to 2019.** In 2018, AISD Police reported 35,796 total calls for service and 37,563 in 2019.
- In 2019 the most frequent subject action resulting in a use of force by an officer was Active Aggression (69), followed by passive resistance.
- The most often used method of officers responding to resistance was **empty hand control**. Empty hand control was used in 85%, 122 of 142 documented use of force reports. Two contacts where force was used was the result of intermediate weapons; such as batons, pepper foam, less lethal munitions, or K-9 holds used by the officer. The threat or display of deadly force was also used **18** times within all contacts.

### **Background and Methodology**

A police officer's duty is to protect the life and property of persons in their jurisdiction. It is the policy of the Austin Independent School District Police Department that officers use only

minimum level of force which is reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control, while protecting the life of the officer and others. The amount of force used should reflect the level necessary to bring a situation under control. When an officer responds to an incident and when force is used to control a situation, AISD PD policy requires that the event be documented on the Use of Force Report Form, to include a description of the type of force used (i.e., hands, impact weapon, chemical weapon, Tasers (conductive energy devices), less lethal munitions, handgun, etc.). The Department voluntarily implemented collection of use of force information in effort to better understand the conditions under which officers use force, and to assist supervisors in reviewing use of force events. The Department also utilizes use of force data to improve training and policy.

### **Nature of Call**

A breakdown of the nature of the service calls shows that force was used most often on Crimes against Persons Offenses, 50 out of 142 Use of Force incidents.

City Ordinance Violations	0
Education Code Violations	5
Health and Safety Code	13
Property Offenses	12
Persons Offenses	50
Public Order Crimes	34
Traffic Code	3
Substance Abuse	3
Alcoholic Beverage Code	0
Family Code	1
Other	21
Public Admin	0

The use of force report captures identifying data about the subject of the report to include gender, age, race and ethnicity.

### **Gender of Subject**

Male	80
Female	62

### **Race and Ethnicity of Subject**

Caucasian	18	12.67 %
African American	39	27.46 %

Hispanic	84	59.15 %
Native American	0	0 %
Asian	1	.70 %
Other	0	0 %

#### **Age of Subject**

Less than 10	0
11-14	75
15-17	41
18-21	4
22-25	5
26-30	4
31-35	6
36-40	3
41-45	1
46-50	2
51-55	1
61-65	0

#### **Reasons for Use of Force**

The most often cited reason for using force was to effect an arrest (66). Other reasons that force was used included self-defense, defense of a third party, to prevent the commission of a felony and to restrain a person for their own safety.

Necessary to effect arrest	66
Necessary to defend officer	10
Necessary to defend another	34
To prevent a forcible felony	1
To restrain for subject's safety	30
Public Order	1

#### **Nature of Subject's Injuries**

8 of the 142 documented cases in which force was used resulted in injury to the subject (as minor as complain of pain). 1 required medical attention, (non-student, assaulted 2 officers as he fled a family violence/stalking incident).

Subject Injured	8
Subject rendered unconscious	0
Nature of injury:	
None	134
Minor	6

Medical Attention needed	2
Not Indicated	0

### **Level of Resistance**

Psychological Intimidation	5
Defensive Resistance	23
Verbal Threats	6
Active Aggression	69
Passive Resistance	28
Aggravated Active Aggression	10
Not Indicated	1

### **Numbers of officers present at the time of arrest.**

In 56 incidents, officers were alone when confronted with resistance. In 65 incidents, two officers were present when force was required. There were 21 incidents in which three or more officers were present when resistance was encountered requiring the use of force.

One Officer	56
Two Officers	65
Three Officers	21
More than Three Officers	0

### **Number of suspects that resisted or assaulted officer.**

In 21 incidents, there was more than one person who resisted or fought with officers and 120 incidents in which officers encountered resistance from a single subject.

One suspect	120
Two suspects	21
Three	1
More than three	0

### **Level of control generated beyond verbal directions**

Empty hand control was employed in 122 of the instances reported. Intermediate weapons; batons, pepper foam, less lethal munitions, or K-9 holds, was used in 2 of the instances. The display, or threat, of deadly force was used in 18 of the incidents in which force was used.

#### Empty Hand Control

Muscling Techniques	117
Joint locks	4

Pressure Points	1
Hand Strikes	0
Foot Strikes	0
Not Indicated	0
Intermediate Weapons	
Chemical irritant	0
Taser	2
Student subject	1
Non student subject	1
Impact weapon	0
Specialty Impact Munitions	0
Deadly Force	
Displayed	18
Discharged	0

## Officer Injuries

Officers were injured 18 times in the 142 resistance or assaultive encounters. Of these injuries, 9 required medical treatment.

## Training

Austin Independent School District Police Officers received 40 hours of training during one of the two summer training academies, far exceeding the state mandate of 40 hours of training every biennium. Additionally, new hires received 20 hours of state mandated training in de-escalation and recognizing and working with mental health individuals.

In 2019, AISD Officers were trained in the following topics relevant to the use of force, or topics intended to allow officers to redirect conflict in order to mitigate the need for force:

Practical use of Firearms	8 hours
Reality Based Training (scenario/yearly)	8 hours
Civilian Interaction	4 hours

New hires/certification requirements additional training

De-Escalation	4 hours
Adolescent-Development	4 hours
Mental Illness and Crisis Intervention	4 hours

Mental Health and Behavioral and Health Needs...	4 hours
Restorative Justice	4 hours
Mental Health	40 hours
Crisis Intervention for new hires	40 hours

**Conclusion**

The Department’s use of force policy requires that officers use the minimum level of force that is necessary to bring an incident under control. The Department’s primary consideration is public and officer safety to include the individual being retrained.

The Austin Independent School District Police Department collects use of force information in order to better understand the department’s use of force, and to determine if changes in policy, reporting, or training are called for. Reports made from this information are used to increase transparency and to enhance our service to the community. The percentage of force used increased when officers made an arrest; the report shows that the arrestee was much less likely to resist the officer’s arresting authority in 2018 than in 2019, resulting in an increase in use of force documentation for 2019.