



# **Bend Police Department**

## **Force Response Report**

### **2019**

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### Introduction

“Force response by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Bend Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.”

—Bend Police Department Policy 300, *Force Response*.

A law enforcement officer is authorized to respond with force in specific circumstances. An extensive investment is made to train an officer to make objectively reasonable force response decisions and to employ the appropriate level of force under a variety of scenarios. An officer typically faces numerous incidents during their career when a force response (i.e., restraining violent combatants) is appropriate. Should the level of force exceed the level considered justifiable and reasonable under the circumstances, not only the officer, but also the department and the city would be open for criminal and/or civil recourse. Law enforcement agencies around the country have come under intense public, judicial and legislative scrutiny over force response issues.

The people of the City of Bend and the State of Oregon have placed great trust in their law enforcement officers by granting officers the statutory authority to respond with force in an objectively reasonable, prudent and justifiable manner. Violating this expectation jeopardizes the ability of a police officer to effectively and efficiently perform their duties and it undermines the ability of the department to protect our community. For police officers to effectively protect themselves and the community they serve, a quality relationship must be maintained. Public and officer safety, constitutional policing and community trust are, thus, interdependent.

Force response by a police officer is a necessary part of the profession. However, no other element in this field of service elicits such heartfelt emotion and attention. The majority of police officers choose a law enforcement career to serve their communities and fellow citizens. Police officers do not wish to injure anyone intentionally or accidentally. The force response statistics that follow show Bend Police officers truly wish to uphold the mission, vision and values of the Bend Police Department.



## **Vision**

We are progressive, innovative, community based and acknowledge our most valued asset is the men and women who work at the Bend Police Department.

## **Mission**

To protect and serve

## **Values**

Teamwork, Integrity, Excellence

**Definitions.** To fully understand the information in this report, the following definitions are provided by the US Department of Justice.

<b>THREAT</b>	Any person resisting arrest or being lawfully controlled, and/or demonstrating the intent, and having the means and opportunity to inflict injury, serious physical injury, or death.  “Imminent threat” refers to an impending violent act or resistance that an officer reasonably believes will occur, based on the totality of the circumstances.
<b>ACTIVE RESISTANCE</b>	The subject’s verbal or physical actions are intended to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control, but are not directed at harming the officer. Examples include: walking or running away, breaking the officer’s grip.
<b>AGGRESSIVE RESISTANCE</b>	The subject displays the intent to harm the officer, themselves or another person and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons or other actions which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another.
<b>LETHAL RESISTANCE</b>	The subject’s actions are likely to result in death or serious bodily harm to the officer, themselves or another. These actions may include a firearm, use of blunt or bladed weapon, and extreme physical force.
<b>OC SPRAY</b>	A chemical irritant used as physical control to gain compliance from actively resisting Threats. OC Spray (oleoresin capsicum) is the distilled resin of various peppers in a solution carried by an aerosol propellant. Intermediate Force Option.
<b>TASER</b>	An electronic restraint device used as serious physical control to stun, restrain, control and incapacitate an actively resisting or combative Threat by way of delivering an electronic shock. Intermediate Force Option.
<b>FOCUSED BLOWS</b>	Strikes designed and used to distract, control, stun or incapacitate a suspect temporarily without causing severe physical injury or death. Strikes may include closed fist or open-hand punches, use of knees, elbows and/or head. Intermediate Force Option.
<b>IMPACT WEAPON</b>	Police baton, or ASP, or any other such instrument or device designed or used to block, jab, strike or temporarily restrain or control a suspect by way of physical impact or extending an officer’s ability to use control holds. Intermediate Force Option.
<b>LESS-LETHAL PROJECTILES</b>	Fired from a firearm or similar device, less-lethal projectiles are designed to stun or incapacitate a suspect temporarily, without penetrating the body or causing serious physical injury or death. Intermediate Force Option.
<b>PATROL CANINE (K-9)</b>	A canine trained for and employed by specially trained law enforcement officers, the use of which includes, but may not be limited to, handler protection and location and apprehension of suspects. Intermediate Force Option.
<b>PHYSICAL CONTACT</b>	Directing a subject by touch or use of physical restraints (e.g., handcuffs) or controlling a subject with an escort hold. Low Level Force.
<b>PHYSICAL CONTROL</b>	Use of chemical or organic weapons, pressure points, joint manipulation techniques or physical control holds.

<b>SERIOUS PHYSICAL CONTROL</b>	Use of focused blows and strikes, Taser, impact weapons, Police Canine and carotid restraint.
<b>DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE</b>	Deadly force is that degree of force, which is likely to produce death or serious bodily injury. Deadly force can also result from a force option being improperly applied. Deadly force is not limited to the use of firearms.

## Bend Police Department's calls for service:



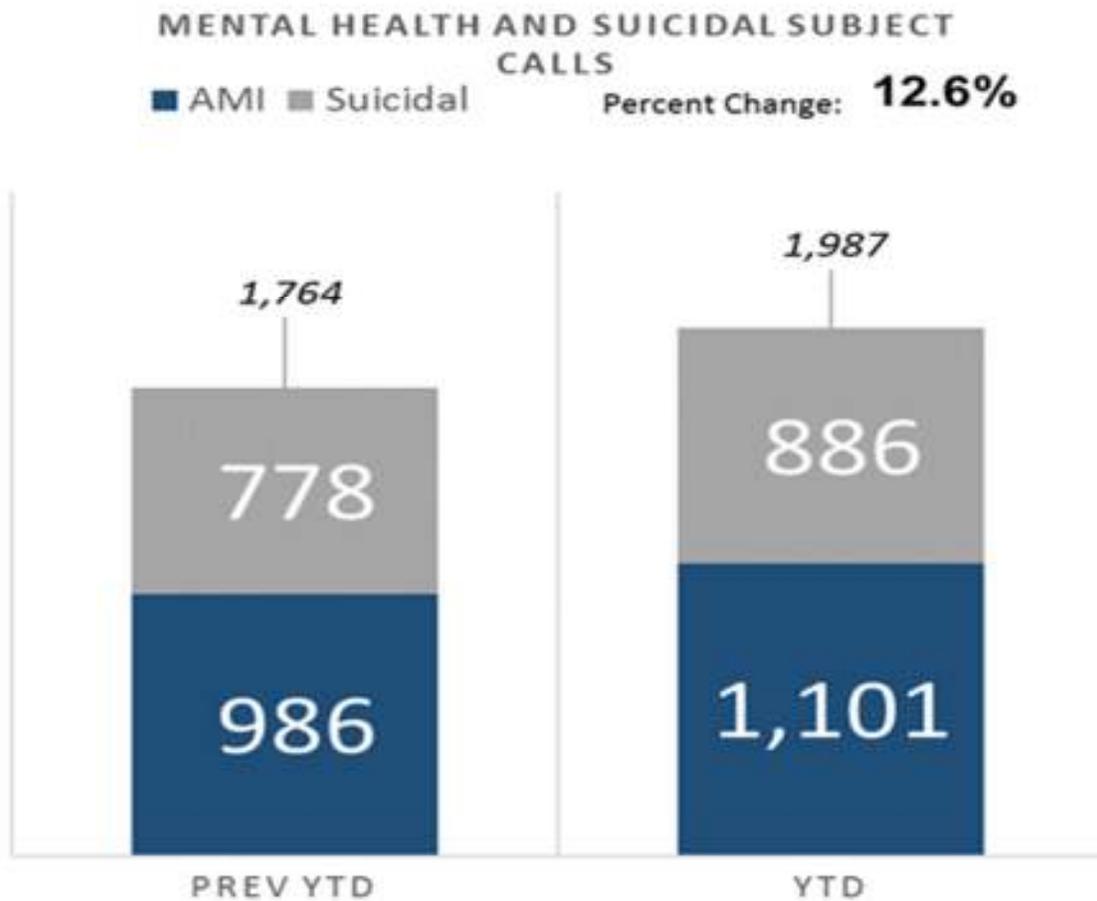
## How these types of calls impact the Bend Police Department

Calls come into the Deschutes County 911 Center and then they are dispatched to the Bend Police Department in three categories, 911 emergencies, Non-Emergency, and Officer Initiated. By looking at the graph above, you can see that the number of 911 emergencies increased by 5.6%, the Non-Emergency calls increased by 2.4% between 2018 and 2019. Officer initiated calls declined in that same time period by 3.8%. Calls for service for the Bend Police Department increased in two of three categories. The overall total calls for service decreased by .99%.

Another trend in calls for service is in the area of mental health crisis and suicidal subjects. This trend was on a steady increase by 44% from 2015 through 2017. Calls for service that involve a person having a mental health crisis are entered into the system as an “AMI” call. “AMI” stands for “allegedly mentally ill”. Calls for service for which a person has threatened to commit suicide, or has demonstrated the desire to kill themselves get entered into the system as a “Suicidal”. These calls for service often involve intoxicated subjects or people with mental health disorders, and require the officer to transport the persons to the hospital

for medical evaluation. These calls for service are very time consuming and often involve multiple officers due to the potential threats posed by intoxicated people and people suffering from a mental illness.

The graph below demonstrates that the City of Bend had a jump in these calls for service from 2018 to 2019. These calls for service had gone slightly down between 2017 and 2018. As stated above, these calls for service can be very time consuming and could have possibly contributed to the small drop in officer initiated activities.



# 2019 Bend Police Department Arrests Info based on total arrests

Totals	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Unique Arrests</b>	3,901	3,610	3,495	3,467	3,531	4,212	4,250
<i>Unique Adult Arrests</i>	3,292	3,112	3,158	3,129	3,174	3,868	3,848
<i>Unique Juvenile Arrests</i>	609	498	337	338	357	344	402

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Unique Female Adult Arrests</b>	973	944	881	883	911	1,118	1,054
<i>White</i>	887	867	817	792	792	977	916
<i>Black</i>	14	15	16	28	17	21	32
<i>Hispanic</i>	41	37	20	25	48	48	44
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	14	9	9	19	15	27	19
<i>Asian</i>	6	5	10	8	17	16	15
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
<i>Unknown</i>	11	11	8	11	22	28	28
<b>Unique Male Adult Arrests</b>	2,319	2,167	2,274	2,246	2,263	2,747	2,790
<i>White</i>	2,055	1,888	2,016	1,982	1,972	2,304	2,327
<i>Black</i>	92	69	64	70	64	93	110
<i>Hispanic</i>	112	125	127	125	148	193	207
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	24	29	22	22	25	27	17
<i>Asian</i>	11	8	13	8	18	15	11
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	-	-	2	4	2	1	4
<i>Unknown</i>	25	47	30	35	34	114	114

## Bend Police Department Force Response

When assessing the department-wide force response information, several factors are considered. Multiple officers may respond to a single incident. Multiple officers may also use a variety of force response options while attempting to gain compliance from a single threat. A single officer may also be confronted by multiple threats at the same incident.

**During 2019, reports reveal that Bend Police Department officers responded with force in 74 incidents, involving 76 people. In two of our force response incident, bystanders or acquaintances interfered in the arrest and officers were compelled to respond with force on them as well.** By comparison, during this same time frame in 2018 there were 93 force responses. In 2017, Bend Police officers responded with force 68 times. A force response is characterized as an incident wherein an officer uses a level of force equal to or greater than physical control. According to Bend Police Department, Policy 300–*Use of Force*, OC Spray and takedowns are considered physical control. Changes in patrol tactics, increases in scenario based training, CIT training, officer wellness and force response legal updates have helped maintain our low force response numbers.

## Force Response by Race and Gender

The table shown below details a race and gender breakdown of the subjects who were involved in a force response incident in 2019.

Force Response %	Male	Female
	2019	2019
American Indian Alaskan Native	1.3%	0.0%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%
Black	2.6%	1.3%
Hispanic	6.6%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%
White	69.7%	18.5%

## Types of Force

The next table shows the breakdown of different force response options used in 2019. *Other Takedowns* is the term used to describe a force response option where an officer uses a grabbing or shoving technique to take a suspect to the ground. The arm takedown accounted for highest percentage of all force options used by officers in 2019. The actual Force Responses for 2019 were 74 incidents, involving 76 subjects. The total Force Options used were 91. This accounts for times when officers were forced to use multiple force options to take a person into custody.

The table below compares the past 5 years by **type of force option** used by Bend Police officers.

Type of Force	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pepper Spray	5	18	2	6	2
Joint/Arm Takedown	10	4	20	45	36
Hair/Head Takedown	0	2	8	27	11
Other Force Used	2	4	17	20	6
Other Takedown	31	31	23	6	14
Taser	9	12	9	10	11
Focused Blows	1	4	7	8	3
K9 Capture	2	1	2	3	7
Impact Weapon	0	0	0	0	0
Less Lethal Projectile	1	0	0	2	0
Carotid Restraint	0	0	0	0	0
Deadly Force	0	1	0	0	0
Pressure Points	0	0	0	0	1
Road Block	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	61	77	88	127	91

# Total Arrests and Total Force Responses

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Arrests	3504	3486	3535	4199	<b>4250</b>
Total Force Responses	56	65	68	93	<b>76</b>

## Conclusion

During 2019, slightly over 69.7% of incidents in which officers responded with force, the suspect was male and his race was white/Caucasian. Male Hispanic suspects represented 6.5 % of these incidents. Black males represented 2.6 % of these incidents while White/Caucasian females were involved in nearly 18.4% of incidents.

Officers are trained to use a reasonable force response based on the level of threat presented. Bend Police Department policy and current case law dictates that officers use an objectively reasonable amount of force when a force response is justified.

The results of this report show that only a small percentage of police contacts with suspects involve a law enforcement force response. In 2017, 1 in 1,243 calls for service resulted in a Force Response or .08%. In 2018, those Force Response numbers changed to 1 in 1,053 calls for service or .09%. In 2019, Bend PD responded with force on 1 in 1,342 calls for service, or .07%.

- In 2019, Bend Police Department officers arrested **4250** individuals and responded with force on **76** of those subjects. (1.7% percent)
- **52%** of all the force responses involved an intoxicated or an AMI or Suicidal subjects.
- Moreover, of the averaged **98,000** citizen contacts, reasonable force was required in only **74** incidents, involving **76** people or .07%.

When a force response was applied, Bend Police Department officers typically used lower levels of force, such as physical control techniques. As a result, suspects were often uninjured or minimally injured (e.g., small bruises, abrasions or Taser-probe penetration).

While a force response is sometimes unavoidable, Bend Police officers strive to de-escalate a situation and find a peaceful resolution. **Since 2012, the Bend Police Department has focused its crisis intervention techniques toward de-escalation through a multi-modal approach. By implementing scenario-based training and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), officers focus on creating time and distance to gain greater compliance, rather**

**than having an event rise to the level of a need for force. CIT techniques allow an officer to implement creative, patient and flexible responses toward crisis resolution.** These two methods are also combined with force response legal updates to provide a comprehensive response to threats.

The Bend Police Department finds that these minimal force responses are a result of our commitment to Crisis Intervention training and our progressive training efforts, which are all in alignment with the departments' vision, mission and values.