



**Bend Police Department**  
**Force Response Report**  
**2021**

# Bend Police Department

## Force Response Report — 2021

### 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 objectively 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 objectively 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 totality of the circumstances, not only the officer, but also the department and the city could 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

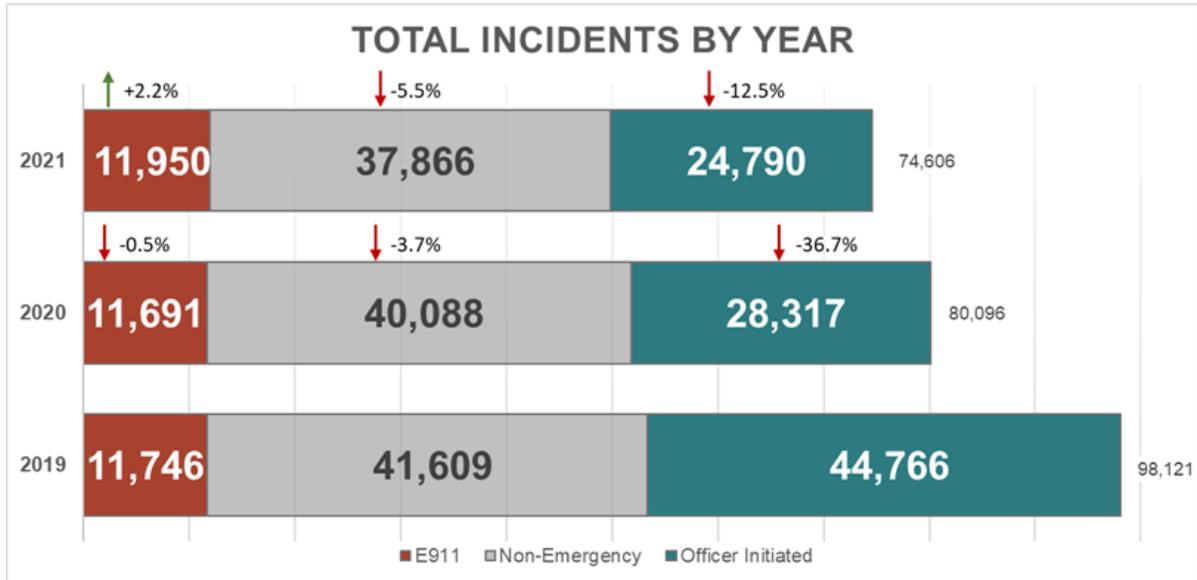
## Values

Teamwork, Integrity, Excellence

**Definitions.** To fully understand the information in this report, the following definitions may be relevant.

<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 objectively 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.
<b>OC "PEPPER 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.
<b>TASER</b>	An electronic restraint device intended to stun, restrain, control, or incapacitate a person by way of delivering an electronic shock.
<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.
<b>IMPACT WEAPON</b>	Police baton, or ASP, 40 MM projectile launcher, 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.
<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.
<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.
<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.
<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, and Police Canine.
<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.

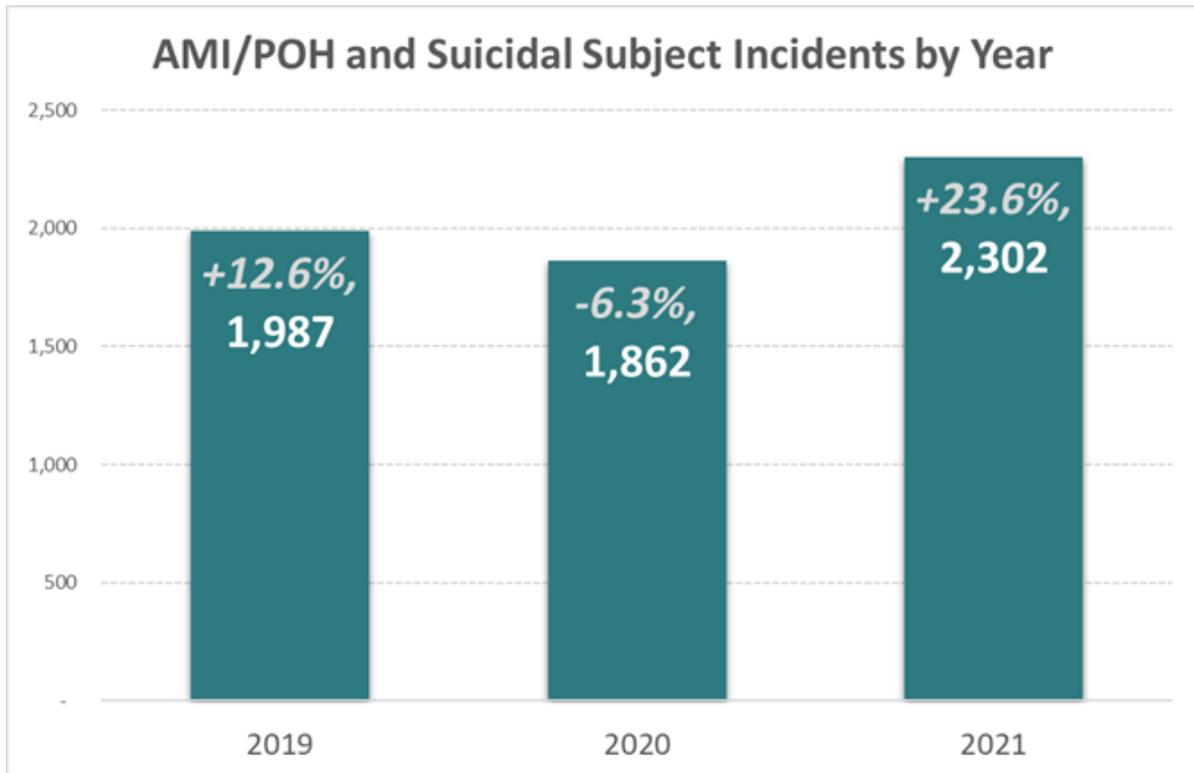
## Bend Police Department's Dispatched Incidents:



In 2021, the Bend Police Department was involved in 74,606 calls for service. Calls for service include: 911 Emergency calls, Non-Emergency calls to 911, and officer-initiated calls. While calls for service have decreased over the last three years, the numbers do not tell the entire story. It is important to recognize the type of calls that officers are responding to on a daily basis. For example, in 2021 the Bend Police Department responded to 2,302 calls for service related to alleged mental illness or suicide. This call type increased over 23% from 2020. Alleged mental illness and suicidal calls for service are complex and often require many resources and a multiple officer response. This resource intensive approach to mental illness and suicidal calls for service supports de-escalation and can reduce or eliminate the need for a force response by officers.

When calls are received by the Deschutes County 911 Center, they are dispatched to the Bend Police Department either as 911 emergencies or Non-Emergency calls for service. Officers can also self-initiate an incident (such as making a traffic stop). Officer initiated activity declined by 5.5% in 2021 from 2020. This is likely attributed to a decrease in officer staffing levels and an increase in the more complex calls officers are responding to on a routine basis.

## Allegedly Mental Illness/Suicidal Incidents:



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 or demonstrated the desire to commit suicide are entered into the system as a “Suicidal”. These calls for service often involve intoxicated or impaired persons and require the officer to transport the persons to the hospital or other appropriate facility for a medical evaluation. These calls for service are resource intensive involving multiple officers due to the unpredictability of intoxicated people and people suffering from a mental crisis.

The graph above shows that the City of Bend had a significant increase, over 23%, for these calls from 2020 to 2021. The Bend Police Department’s Crisis Response Team (CRT), a team of officers specifically trained to respond to people in mental health crisis, primarily conducts follow up work on these calls. Patrol Officers will typically handle these calls as primary officers until the situation stabilizes, and then CRT will focus on the long-term solutions for the individual.

## 2021 Bend Police Department Arrests

<b>Totals</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Unique Arrests</b>	<b>3,531</b>	<b>4,212</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>2,876</b>
<i>Unique Adult Arrests</i>	3,174	3,868	3,848	2,738	2,723
<i>Unique Juvenile Arrests</i>	357	344	402	214	153
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Unique Female Adult Arrests</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>688</b>
<i>White</i>	792	977	916	594	601
<i>Black</i>	17	21	32	21	25
<i>Hispanic</i>	48	48	44	27	31
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	15	27	19	19	9
<i>Asian</i>	17	16	15	11	11
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	-	1	-	1	-
<i>Unknown</i>	22	28	28	37	11
<b>Unique Male Adult Arrests</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,790</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>2,034</b>
<i>White</i>	1,972	2,304	2,327	1,653	1,684
<i>Black</i>	64	93	110	68	78
<i>Hispanic</i>	148	193	207	141	164
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	25	27	17	19	16
<i>Asian</i>	18	15	11	4	18
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	2	1	4	1	-
<i>Unknown</i>	34	114	114	141	74
<b>Unique Nonbinary &amp; Other Adult Arrests</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>White</i>	-	1	1	-	1
<i>Black</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hispanic</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>American Indian Alaskan Native</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Asian</i>	-	1	3	-	-
<i>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Unknown</i>	-	1	-	1	-

# Bend Police Department Force Response

When assessing the department-wide force response information, several factors are considered. Most incidents involve multiple officers. 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. Another relevant factor in assessing force response is the type of calls the officers are responding to on a daily basis.

## 2021 Force Response Incidents Review

A force response is 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, increased scenario-based training, CIT training, officer wellness and force response legal updates have helped maintain our low force response numbers.

The chart below provides a historical perspective of the total force responses and the number of force responses per year. 2021 force responses per arrest are consistent with percentages over the last 5 years.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Arrests	3535	4199	4250	2952	2876
Total Force Responses	68	93	76	60	70

In 2021, Bend Police Officers used force on 64 people in 70 police related incidents. In some cases, one subject may be involved in multiple incidents that required force. The table below shows the details of race and gender of the persons who were involved in a force response incident in 2021. The data shows that over 70% of the persons involved in force response were White Males, while White Females made up over 14%.

Force Response Percentage by Race and Gender	Male	Female
	2021	2021
White	70.31%	14.06%
Hispanic	4.68%	1.56%
Black	3.12%	1.56%
American Indian	1.56%	0%
Asian	1.56%	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1.56%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%

## Types of Force

The next table shows the breakdown of the total force response options used during 2021. The actual Force Responses for 2021 involved 64 people, with a total of 152 force options required to gain compliance. This accounts for incidents when officers were forced to use multiple force options to take a person into custody.

The table below shows the type and number of force options used in 2021 for Bend Police Officers.

Type of Force	2021
Takedown	33
Physical Restraint	29
Handcuffs	19
Strikes	14
Escort Hold	6
Tackle	6
Head Control	6
Impact Weapon/Less Lethal Projectiles	5
Pepper spray (OC)	6
Taser	15
Wrap Used	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>

## Conclusion

During 2021, officers used force in one incident for every 1066 incidents. Officers are trained to use objectively reasonable force responses based on the totality of circumstances of an event. Bend Police Department policy and current case law dictates that officers use objectively reasonable force when a force response is justified.

The results of this report show that only a small percentage of police contacts with members of the community result in a law enforcement force response.

- In 2021, Bend Police Department officers addressed **74,606** dispatched calls, made **2,876** arrests and responded with force on **70** individuals (2.4% of those arrested). This percentage is consistent with 2020.

When a force response was applied, Bend Police Department officers typically used force that had a less likelihood of a lasting injury, such as physical control techniques. As a result, suspects were often uninjured or sustained minor injury (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 requiring a force response. 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.