

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

# ANTELOPE VALLEY SEMI-ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT

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OCTOBER 2025

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2025 TO JUNE 2025



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# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S ANTELOPE VALLEY USE OF FORCE REPORT JANUARY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2025

It is my honor to present the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) semi-annual Antelope Valley (AV) Use of Force Report. This document provides an overview of the Department's use of force trends in the AV's Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriff's Stations during the period of January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025.

This is the second iteration of this report, providing an analysis of use of force statistics which will be used as part of the Department's ongoing efforts to improve its training, policies, and practices. It is produced as part of the Department's efforts to achieve compliance with the requirements of the 2015 Settlement Agreement with the United States Department of Justice for the AV. This report draws on publicly available dashboards on the Department's <https://lasd.org/transparency> website, and includes information on a range of topics, including crime, arrests, shootings, and other uses of force.

This Department continues making significant strides its commitment to transparency - including ensuring that data and information about our work are accessible to the public in a clear and understandable way. We remain committed to ongoing improvement and institutionalization of the principles of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our deputies, as they embrace the training and policy changes that have been the underpinning of the Department's work in these areas. I look forward to working together with our communities as we seek to make Los Angeles County a safer place for our residents to thrive.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUNA  
SHERIFF

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is to partner with the community.  
To proactively prevent crime,  
enforce the law fairly and  
enhance the public's trust through  
transparency and accountability.

## CREED

My goals are simple,  
I will always be painfully HONEST,  
work as hard as I can,  
LEARN as much as I can and  
Hopefully MAKE A DIFFERENCE in people's lives.

*– Deputy David W. March EOW April 29, 2002*

## CORE VALUES

Lead with Compassion,  
Serve with humility  
and courageously  
seek justice for **ALL**.



## **Part One: Overview of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department**

## INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is committed to the sanctity and preservation of life, human rights, and the dignity of every individual as described in Our Core Values. Department members are sometimes required to use force in self-defense, defense of others, and during the execution of lawful duties. In all situations, Department members are required to conduct themselves in accordance with lawful and constitutional standards.<sup>1</sup>

LASD is committed to meeting the requirements of the 2015 Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Antelope Valley (AV).<sup>2</sup> As part of its efforts to improve transparency and to ensure compliance with the agreement, in this report the LASD seeks to analyze force data from the Antelope Valley stations, including related outcome data, to identify significant trends, and address any deficiencies revealed by the analysis.

This is the Department's second Use of Force report for the Antelope Valley stations, focusing on the period January – June 2025, and providing a comparative analysis of Use of Force trends at the Antelope Valley stations over a five-year period. It aims to identify key patterns, assess contributing factors, and uncover areas for improvement based on the data.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has recently enhanced its data collection efforts, including information on suspect demographics, mental health, and the types of calls leading to use of force.<sup>3</sup> As these data-collection efforts and systems continue to improve, the Department will incorporate this data into future versions of this report. Members of the public can review the LASD use of force data for themselves, on the LASD website, within its transparency page which can be found at: <https://lasd.org/transparency/>.

In addition to the public reports, individual stations routinely conduct their own assessments of use of force and related metrics in internal meetings, such as the Risk Management Forum, where leadership presents data and discusses trends in crime, use of force, and community engagement. Through constant review of our data, the LASD seeks

<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Manual of Policy and Procedures: 3-10/000.00, <http://pars.lasd.org/Viewer/Manuals/11239>.

<sup>2</sup> Settlement Agreement, No. CV 15-03174, *United States v. Los Angeles County et al.* (D.C. Cal. Apr. 28, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> LASD data dashboards can be found on the transparency page of the LASD website: <https://lasd.org/transparency/>.

to continuously refine and enhance our data collection and reporting practices for future publications.

## ANTELOPE VALLEY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In August 2011, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) initiated an investigation into the LASD's Palmdale and Lancaster stations in response to community complaints and other general policing issues in the Antelope Valley. This resulted in a [Settlement Agreement \(Agreement\)](#) between LASD and DOJ, with the goal of ensuring that police services are delivered to the Antelope Valley in a manner that complies with the Constitution, effectively ensures public and deputy safety, and promotes public confidence in LASD's deputies.<sup>4</sup>

In the Agreement, LASD agreed to the following:

*“LASD will analyze the Antelope Valley stations' force data, including the force related outcome data, to identify significant trends, and identify and correct deficiencies revealed by this analysis.”* (Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 120).

*“LASD-AV's force analysis will include assessment of the frequency and nature of uses. of force that are: referred to IAB for investigation; the subject of misconduct complaints; the subject of civil suits; related to criminal obstruction- or resisting-arrest-type charges that are dismissed or declined by the prosecutor; or involve repeat-deputies or units.”* (Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 121).

*“LASD will determine whether policy or training curricula changes must be made as a result of its analysis of use of force incidents.”* (Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 122).

*“LASD will document the results of the use of force analysis in a public report.”* (Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 123).

The Department takes this Settlement Agreement seriously and has made great strides to compliance in the last two years. In the Antelope Valley Monitoring Team's [19th Semi-Annual Report](#), the approval of the critical use-of-force policy was highlighted as the most significant development during the reporting period. In the most recent [20th Semi-Annual Report](#), the Monitoring Team identified significant progress in the UOF provisions, including approval of compliant UOF training and on every provision related to the conduct,

<sup>4</sup> United States of America v. County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 2:15-cv-03174, [https://www.justice.gov/d9/antelope\\_valley\\_settle\\_4-28-15.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/d9/antelope_valley_settle_4-28-15.pdf).

investigation, and adjudication of force. A chart summarizing the progress the Department has made in complying with the terms of the Settlement Agreement can be found on the Department's website.<sup>5</sup>

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY

According to the 2020 Decennial Census, the Antelope Valley was 434,997, with 208,569 residents in North Antelope Valley (including cities like Lancaster) and 226,428 in South Antelope Valley (including cities like Palmdale).

In North Antelope Valley, the largest ethnic group is Hispanic/Latino, comprising 93,937 residents (45%), followed by White residents at 74,644 (36%). Black/African American residents’ number approximately 39,225 (19%), and the Asian population totals 8,647 (4%). Additionally, there are 3,583 (2%) Native American residents, while the "other race" category includes 49,207 (24%) individuals.<sup>6</sup>

In South Antelope Valley, Hispanic/ Latino residents are the largest ethnic group with a population of 130,041 (57%), followed by White residents at 74,527 (33%). Black/ African American residents total 25,390 (11%), and the “other race” category includes 73,356 (32%).<sup>7</sup>

### LANCASTER COMMUNITY PROFILE<sup>8</sup>

Lancaster Station Area	
Asian	4%
Black/ African American	18%
Hispanic/ Latino	46%
White	26%
Multi-Racial/ Other	6%

<sup>5</sup> [https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Transpraency\\_AVDOJ\\_MT\\_Semi-Annual\\_Report\\_Summary\\_June\\_2025.pdf](https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Transpraency_AVDOJ_MT_Semi-Annual_Report_Summary_June_2025.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *North Antelope Valley CCD, Los Angeles County, California: Race and ethnicity*. [https://data.census.gov/profile/North\\_Antelope\\_Valley\\_CCD,\\_Los\\_Angeles\\_County,\\_California?g=060XX00US0603792140#race-and-ethnicity](https://data.census.gov/profile/North_Antelope_Valley_CCD,_Los_Angeles_County,_California?g=060XX00US0603792140#race-and-ethnicity).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *South Antelope Valley CCD, Los Angeles County, California: Race and ethnicity*. [https://data.census.gov/profile/South\\_Antelope\\_Valley\\_CCD,\\_Los\\_Angeles\\_County,\\_California?g=060XX00US0603793090#race-and-ethnicity](https://data.census.gov/profile/South_Antelope_Valley_CCD,_Los_Angeles_County,_California?g=060XX00US0603793090#race-and-ethnicity).

<sup>8</sup> Data provided to LASD by Los Angeles County Internal Services Department, GIS section and represented as 2022 census data for Los Angeles County.

PALMDALE COMMUNITY PROFILE<sup>9</sup>

Palmdale Station Area	
Asian	4%
Black/ African American	11%
Hispanic/ Latino	59%
White	22%
Multi-Racial/ Other	4%

2025 CRIME STATISTICS

In the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, Part 1 crimes are serious offenses known to law enforcement, including homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, grand theft auto, and arson. Part 2 crimes are considered less serious offenses such as simple assault, fraud, and vandalism. The UCR reporting program is a collective effort on the part of the city, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies to present a nationwide view of crime.<sup>10</sup>

The 2025 crime statistics for the LASD are publicly accessible, allowing both the public and LASD personnel to review and analyze the data.<sup>11</sup> This transparency is part of LASD’s ongoing efforts to ensure accountability and openness in its operations. In addition to crime statistics, the Department has also publicly reported its use of force data. By regularly releasing these statistics, the LASD provides insight into the frequency and nature of incidents involving the use of force, which is crucial for public trust and the department's commitment to accountability.

The LASD employs a hierarchy system to report the most severe Part I crimes when multiple offenses occur. Homicide, Rape, and Aggravated Assault are reported by victim.<sup>12</sup> All other crimes are counted by incident, except for Arson, which is always counted individually, even when multiple offenses occur within a single incident.

The LASD has not yet transitioned to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) which, once operational, will remove this hierarchy system and count all crimes individually. While the LASD does not yet have a date scheduled for this transition, the

<sup>9</sup> Los Angeles County Internal Services Department, GIS Section, 2022.  
<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook*. [https://ucr.fbi.gov/additional-ucr-publications/ucr\\_handbook.pdf](https://ucr.fbi.gov/additional-ucr-publications/ucr_handbook.pdf).  
<sup>11</sup> The Sheriff’s Department Crime Statistics Dashboard can be located at <https://lasd.org/transparency/crime-stats-dashboard/>.  
<sup>12</sup> Incidents are recorded using the most egregious crime in incidents involving multiple crimes. For example, in cases involving both rape and murder of a single victim, the incident is classified under murder, which takes precedence, and only the murder is recorded in the statistics.

Department anticipates upgrading its technology to become NIBRS compliant in the next few years.<sup>13</sup>

### PART I CRIMES- DEPARTMENT-WIDE

Part I Crimes	January - June 2021	January - June 2022	January - June 2023	January - June 2024	January – June 2025	% Change (2024- 2025)
Criminal Homicide	153	97	91	78	75	-4%
Rape	426	425	381	366	404	10%
Robbery	1,488	1,868	1,912	2,108	1,844	-13%
Aggravated Assault	4,625	5,105	5,007	4,840	4,982	3%
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>6,692</b>	<b>7,495</b>	<b>7,391</b>	<b>7,392</b>	<b>7,305</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Burglary	3,596	4,890	4,876	5,232	4,678	-11%
Larceny Theft	14,361	15,673	16,014	16,771	15,157	-10%
Grand Theft Auto	7,671	7,470	7,742	8,109	6,753	-17%
Arson	281	282	276	274	281	3%
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>25,909</b>	<b>28,315</b>	<b>28,908</b>	<b>30,386</b>	<b>26,869</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Part I Crimes Total</b>	<b>32,601</b>	<b>35,810</b>	<b>36,299</b>	<b>37,778</b>	<b>34,174</b>	<b>-10%</b>

Overall crime levels remain elevated compared to 2021, but have slightly decreased year-over-year, with Robbery having the largest decrease of 13% in 2025. Rape has increased by 10% in 2025 after a three-year decline, while Aggravated Assault remains persistently high with no sustained downward trend.

<sup>13</sup> For more information about the NIBRS reporting program, please see the Department of Justice explanation provided at: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/national-incident-based-reporting-system-nibrs>.

## PART I CRIMES- LANCASTER STATION

Part I Crimes	January – June 2021	January – June 2022	January – June 2023	January – June 2024	January – June 2025	% Change (2024- 2025)
Criminal Homicide	13	4	19	13	11	-15%
Rape	44	43	40	44	51	16%
Robbery	140	191	166	146	164	12%
Aggravated Assault	454	575	507	541	500	-8%
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Burglary	283	385	430	394	337	-15%
Larceny Theft	634	791	671	685	609	-11%
Grand Theft Auto	563	592	743	835	724	-13%
Arson	42	35	25	31	30	-3%
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>Part I Crimes Total</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>-10%</b>

While overall violent crimes in Lancaster have decreased, increases in Rape and Robbery remain high, with Rape being the highest in 2025 with an increase of 16%. The rise in these two categories is of concern requiring targeted intervention, such as community programs, better victim support, or focused policing.

Property crimes have consistently declined across all categories, showing effective crime prevention strategies, such as the increased use of technology, partnerships, and focused enforcement efforts. Lancaster station partnered with local TRAP, California Highway Patrol, and Lancaster Police Department for enforcement efforts.

## PART I CRIMES- PALMDALE STATION

Part I Crimes	January – June 2021	January – June 2022	January – June 2023	January – June 2024	January – June 2025	% Change (2024- 2025)
Criminal Homicide	3	11	6	7	3	-57%
Rape	41	25	30	26	25	-4%
Robbery	69	107	104	134	109	-19%
Aggravated Assault	316	410	351	364	312	-14%
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>-15%</b>
Burglary	192	260	258	298	309	4%
Larceny Theft	641	792	877	932	853	-9%
Grand Theft Auto	343	375	364	597	489	-18%
Arson	15	22	12	27	22	-19%
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Part I Crimes Total</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,385</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>-11%</b>

Palmdale Station has seen a decrease in all categories, with violent crimes in particular decreasing 15%. Property crime is improving, but the increase in Burglary suggests a targeted issue.

Palmdale Station has partnered with Taskforce for Regional Auto Theft Prevention (TRAP) on numerous operations over the past year. These efforts have included saturation patrols and the use of Flock Safety cameras to assist in identifying and locating stolen vehicles. During patrol briefings, deputies are directed to focus enforcement on specific reporting districts with the highest incidents of vehicle theft. These targeted strategies have contributed to the decrease in property crimes, specifically vehicle theft.

## USE OF FORCE OVERVIEW

The Department's preamble to its Use of Force Policy provides:

*"The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is committed to preserving human life and dignity in a fair and unbiased manner while upholding the rights protected by the Constitution of the United States (Graham v. Connor), Federal law (Fourth Amendment), and State law (Penal Code 835(a)).*

*Sometimes it is necessary for Department members to use force in self-defense, defense of others, and during the execution of lawful duties. When Department members use force, they may only use that amount of force that is objectively reasonable, proportional, and which reasonably appears necessary at the time to defend others or themselves, effect an arrest or detention, prevent escape, or overcome resistance.*

*The use of force against vulnerable people (children, elderly persons, pregnant people, people with physical or developmental disabilities, people with mental health disabilities, etc.) can particularly undermine public trust and should be used as a last resort. Like any other use of force, the Department will consider the totality of the circumstances when evaluating a department member's use of force against a vulnerable person.*

*The Department is committed to lawful, professional, and ethical standards before, during and after force incidents. These include efforts to prevent force when safe to do so, tactical planning where appropriate, and objective review after every force incident."<sup>14</sup>*

## THE LEGAL STANDARD

Federal and State law provide the framework for Use of Force policy for all law enforcement agencies.

In *Graham v. Connor*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that an objectively reasonableness standard should apply when determining whether any force used was excessive. The Supreme Court wrote that:

*"The test of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application...The reasonableness of a particular use of*

<sup>14</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Manual of Policy and Procedures 3-10/000.00. <http://pars.lasd.sheriff.sdn/Viewer/Manuals/11239/Content/21026?showHistorical=True>.

*force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight...The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.”*

*Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397.

## DEPARTMENT POLICY

Key provisions of the Department’s Use of Force Policy include:<sup>15</sup>

- **Duty to Intervene:** Any Department member witnessing unreasonable force that is clearly beyond that which reasonably appears necessary (as determined by an objectively reasonable deputy under the circumstances) shall intercede to prevent or stop the unreasonable force when safely able to do so. Department members should consider the possibility that other Department members may have additional information regarding the threat posed by the subject.
- **Duty to Report:** Any Department member who is present and sees another Department member use force that they believe to be beyond that which reasonably appears necessary shall immediately notify the responding supervisor or a different supervisor if the responding supervisor was involved in the force they are reporting.
- **Proportionality:** A Department member may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe, based on the totality of the circumstances, is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.
- **Prohibition on Unreasonable Force:** Department members shall use only that force which is proportional, objectively reasonable and which reasonably appears necessary. Unreasonable force is that force that is excessive given the totality of the circumstances presented to Department members involved in using force, judged from the perspective of a reasonable deputy on the scene. Unreasonable force is prohibited. The use of unreasonable force will subject Department members to discipline and could result in criminal prosecution.

<sup>15</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Manual of Policy and Procedures 3-10/000.000-3-10/700. <http://pars.lasd.sheriff.sdn/Viewer/Manuals/11239/Content/21026?showHistorical=True>.

- Objectively Reasonable: The phrase “objectively reasonable” means that Department members shall evaluate each situation requiring the use of force in light of the known circumstances, including, but not limited to: the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the member or others, and whether the suspect is actively resisting, in determining the necessity for force and the appropriate level of force.
- Identification and Warnings: If reasonably safe and feasible to do so, members shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the Department member has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is already aware of those facts.
- Duty to Consider Background: Department members shall consider their surroundings and the potential risk to bystanders, to the extent reasonable under the totality of the circumstances, before discharging their firearm.
- Duty to Render Aid: When reasonable and safe to do so, Department members shall promptly summon or obtain medical assistance for any person injured, or who claims to be injured, resulting from the use of force. Properly trained Department members shall promptly provide medical assistance to the injured in these circumstances.
- Avoiding Injury: When force is utilized, it shall be deployed in a manner that avoids unnecessary injury to deputies and civilians. Department members maintain the right to self-defense and have a duty to protect the lives of others.

## CATEGORIES OF FORCE UTILIZED BY LASD

When evaluating force, the Department categorizes every force using the following definitions:<sup>16</sup>

- Pointed Firearm at Person (Reportable Incident): Involves a department member intentionally pointing a firearm (pistol, rifle, or shotgun) at a person.<sup>17</sup> Drawing from the holster, a slung rifle or shotgun, or displaying a firearm while pointing it in a low ready or other safe position if not pointed at a person’s body does not constitute a reportable Pointing Firearm at Person (PFP) incident.

<sup>16</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Manual of Policy and Procedures: 3-10/038.00- Reportable Use of Force and Force Categories.

<http://pars.lasd.sheriff.sdn/Viewer/Manuals/11239/Content/21026?showHistorical=True>.

<sup>17</sup> The Department is currently working on implementing a Pointing of a Firearm documentation and tracking system.

Pointing a Stunbag, Taser, Arwen, or other launcher or chemical irritant delivery system at a person does not constitute a PFP incident, as these are less-lethal force options and not firearms.

- Non-Categorized Force Incident (NCI):<sup>18</sup> Involves any of the following where there is no injury or complaint of pain from the suspect and no allegation of unreasonable force or other misconduct:
  - Resisted Hobble Application;
  - Resisted Searching and Handcuffing;
  - Resisted Firm Grip, Control Holds, Come-Alongs, or Control Techniques.
  
- Category 1 Force: Involves any of the following where there is no injury:
  - Searching and handcuffing techniques resisted by a suspect;
  - Hobbling resisted by a suspect;
  - Control Holds or come-alongs resisted by a suspect;
  - Take Downs;
  - Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray or Oleoresin Capsicum powder from a Pepperball projectile (when suspect is not struck by projectile) if it causes only discomfort and does not involve injury or lasting pain.
  
- Category 2 Force: Involves any of the following:
  - Any identifiable injury;
  - A complaint of pain that a medical evaluation determines is attributed to an identifiable injury;
  - Any application of force other than those defined in Category 1 but does not rise to the level of Category 3.
  
- Category 3 Force: Involves any of the following:
  - All shootings;
  - Force resulting in hospital admittance;
  - Any death following use of force;

<sup>18</sup> In 2018, Category 1 force was divided into two distinct classifications: Category 1 and Non-Categorized Incidents (NCIs). While the definition of Category 1 remained largely unchanged, the lowest levels of force were reclassified under NCIs.

- All intentional head/ neck strikes with an impact weapon;
- Kick(s) delivered from a standing position to an individual's head with a shod foot while the individual is lying on the ground/ floor;
- Knee strike(s) to an individual's head deliberately or recklessly causing their head to strike the ground, floor, or other hard, fixed object;
- Skeletal fractures except for minor fractures of the nose, fingers, and toes;
- Any use of improvised weapons/ techniques;
- All canine bites.

## REVISED USE OF FORCE POLICY

The LASD issued a new Use of Force policy in 2024, which became effective in 2025.<sup>19</sup> The new policy is consistent with California law and is aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and the overall effectiveness of law enforcement practices. This policy provides clear guidelines for deputies, ensuring consistent and appropriate responses in various situations. A significant change in the 2025 update includes the implementation of a category for the pointing of a firearm, providing clear directives on when and how deputies should point their firearms in response to potential threats. Details of the new force category have been included above. Future reports will include this data.

The Department is committed to regularly reviewing and updating the policy to align it with best practices, state law, and the evolving needs of the community.

## DE-ESCALATION

De-escalation is a core principle of sound tactical operations, and Department members shall consider de-escalation and crisis stabilization techniques to be part of tactical planning. The overall goal is to decrease the intensity of the situation by persuading the subject to voluntarily comply, allow the Department member to use additional options other than force, or to mitigate the need to use a greater amount of force to safely resolve the situation. De-escalation and crisis stabilization techniques, however, may not be appropriate in every situation, and Department members are not required to place themselves in danger or use de-escalation or crisis stabilization techniques in every instance.

<sup>19</sup> The full Department policy on Use of Force is available on the Department's public transparency page at <https://pars.lasd.org/viewer/manuals/11239>.

Whenever safe and feasible, Department members shall prioritize de-escalation and crisis stabilization strategies, which can prevent or reduce the necessity of force. This may include requesting additional resources, such as a field supervisor or Mental Evaluation Team, to support the situation. Department members must also avoid tactics or approaches that unnecessarily escalate the situation, as this can increase the likelihood of force being needed or the necessity of using greater force. Force should only be applied when absolutely necessary, in a manner that is proportional, objectively reasonable, and justifiable under the circumstances. As always, force should be a last resort when other options are not viable or safe.<sup>20</sup>

## LESS-LETHAL DEPLOYMENT

The primary purpose of less-lethal weapons is to temporarily disrupt a suspect's behavior. However, their use alone should not be relied upon to neutralize the suspect. These weapons serve as tools to create a window of opportunity, and deputies must be prepared to act swiftly to take the suspect into custody. This could involve a simple control hold or handcuffing, or it may require the repeated use of the less-lethal tool or the transition to other methods.

Continuous assessment of the situation and careful evaluation of the weapon's effectiveness are essential throughout the process.

Only qualified Department personnel, who have successfully passed Department training and are currently certified in the use of the weapon, shall carry and use a less-lethal weapon. Less-lethal weapons include, but are not limited to, the following devices covered under this section:

- Baton Launching Systems;
- Electronic Immobilization Device (Taser);
- 12-Gauge Stunbag;
- Pepperball Launchers, Noise/Flash Diversionary Devices; and
- Chemical Agents (small aerosol containers).<sup>21</sup>

## USE OF DEADLY FORCE AND FIREARMS

The use of deadly force is one of the most serious decisions a Department member may have to make. The authority to use deadly force is a tremendous responsibility given to Department members by the community who expect them to exercise that authority judiciously.

<sup>20</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Manual of Policy and Procedures, 3-10/009.00, De-Escalation - PARS Internal Viewer <https://pars.lasd.org/Viewer/Manuals/10008/Content/21028>.

<sup>21</sup> Manual of Policy and Procedures: 5-06/040.05- Use of Less-Lethal Weapons.

Department members are justified in using deadly force upon another person only when they reasonably believe, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of two reasons:

- To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the member of another person; or
- To apprehend a fleeing suspect for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if they reasonably believe that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

### USE OF FORCE REVIEW

The use of force in law enforcement operations, particularly incidents involving deputy-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, or the application of deadly force, prompts specific administrative reviews and procedures. These processes are designed to ensure accountability, assess adherence to policies and training, and identify any areas for improvement. The following outlines the key administrative review panels and committees involved in assessing critical incidents, force-related events, and disciplinary actions.<sup>22</sup>

TYPES	HANDLED BY	ADJUDICATED BY	DISCIPLINE AUTHORITY
FORCE (Non-Categorized, Category 1 & 2)	Unit	Unit	Chain of Command <sup>23</sup>
FORCE (Cat 3 that require roll-out)	IAB	EFRC	EFRC
HIT SHOOTING	Homicide & IAB	EFRC	EFRC
NON-HIT SHOOTING	IAB	EFRC	EFRC

<sup>22</sup> *Civilian Oversight Commission* (2024). [PowerPoint slides]. Professional Standards Division Archive.

<sup>23</sup> In LASD, the chain of command is the hierarchy of authority, starting from deputy and progressing up to the Sheriff. It ensures clear communication and accountability for proper decision-making throughout the organization.

## CRITICAL INCIDENT REVIEW (CIR) PANEL

Shortly after very serious incidents occur such as deputy-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, or the application of deadly force, a Critical Incident Review Panel (CIRP) is convened. The panel is managed by the Professional Standards Division (PSD) and consists of three commanders. The assigned investigator presents an overview of the incident to the panel, which may be supplemented by information from the concerned division chief or other experts. The panel reviews the incident to identify potential risks related to policy, training, tactics, current Department practices, and the actions of the employee(s) involved.

The division chief or director ensures that the employee(s) involved are notified of the panel's decision by the concerned unit commander. A Department memorandum is provided to the concerned employee(s) and the unit commander is responsible for implementing the Preventive Action Plan (PAP) and completing all required risk management or remedial measures within the designated time frame. Upon completion, the unit commander reports back to the CIRP, confirming that all corrective actions have been addressed.

## EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE (EFRC)

The Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force/ Shooting Response Team is activated to respond to the scene of and investigate force incidents involving inmate deaths, intentional shootings at a person by a Department member, and any force resulting in hospitalization. Once the IAB investigation is concluded, the Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) is convened to review the findings and assess whether the actions of Department personnel were consistent with established policy and procedures.

The EFRC, coordinated by PSD, includes three commanders, the concerned Unit Commander, the IAB investigator, and representatives from the Training Bureau, Advocacy Unit, Risk Management Bureau, County Counsel and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The EFRC evaluates the tactics used, the adherence to training, and the proper use of safety equipment. If a violation of Department policy is found, the EFRC may recommend disciplinary action. Additionally, the EFRC can return the case for further investigation and require that it be re-presented for a final decision.

## CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

In cases where disciplinary action is recommended – such as suspension without pay ranging from 16 to 30 days, demotion, or discharge – the Case Review Committee (CRC) conducts a review. This process involves collaboration between the concerned unit, division, Internal Affairs Bureau, Advocacy Unit, County Counsel, and the OIG. The CRC is

composed of the Undersheriff and two assistant sheriffs, who review the case and make the final determination on the appropriateness of the recommended discipline.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL REVIEW

Pursuant to California Government Code section 12525.3 (in effect as of July 1, 2021), the California State Attorney General's Office investigates all law enforcement shootings of unarmed individuals. For more information on this procedure, members of the public can review the materials found on the Attorney General's website at: <https://oag.ca.gov/ois-incidents>.

## IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINE

On a quarterly basis, the Department publishes the discipline imposed against members of the Department, for violations of law, rules, and policies. The discipline imposed is published on the Department website and found at: <https://lasd.org/transparency/discipline/>.

## CONFIDENTIALITY OF USE OF FORCE INVESTIGATIONS

Peace officer personnel records are generally confidential unless a specific legal exemption exists (such as sections 1043 and 1045 of the Evidence Code). Penal Code (PC) § 832.7(a) states: *"The personnel records of peace officers and custodial officers and records maintained by a state or local agency pursuant to 832.5, or information obtained from these records, are confidential."*

Because peace officer personnel records are generally confidential under PC § 832.7, they are also generally exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act ("CPRA").<sup>24</sup> However, several recent changes to California law permit the disclosure of certain peace officer personnel records. Pursuant to Senate Bill ("SB") 1421, SB 16, and SB 2 (codified as amendments to PC § 832.7), the following peace officer personnel records are deemed not to be confidential, and records related to the report, investigation, or findings of an incident are subject to disclosure under the PRA:

- The discharge of firearm at a person by a peace officer or custodial officer (PC § 832.7(b)(1)(A)(i));

<sup>24</sup> See GC §§ 7922.000 (records not subject to disclosure when public interest served by not disclosing clearly outweighs public interest served by disclosing), 7927.700 (PRA does not require disclosure of personnel, medical, or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), and 7927.705 (PRA does not require disclosure of records where such disclosure is exempt or prohibited pursuant to federal or state law).

- A use of force against a person by a peace officer or custodial officer that results in death or great bodily injury (“GBI”) (PC § 832.7(b)(1)(A)(ii));
- A sustained finding involving a complaint that alleges unreasonably or excessive force (PC § 832.7(b)(1)(A)(iii)); or
- A sustained finding that an officer failed to intervene against another officer using force that is clearly unreasonable or excessive (PC § 832.7(b)(1)(A)(iv)).

PC § 832.8(b) defines “sustained” as “a final determination by an investigating agency, commission board, hearing officer, or arbitrator, as applicable, following an investigation and opportunity for an administrative appeal pursuant to [the Peace Officer Bill of Rights Act or POBAR], that the actions of the peace officer or custodial officer were found to violate law or department policy.” A “sustained finding” with respect to Department officers for purposes of PC § 832.7 is a finding made by either: 1) the County Civil Service Commission; or 2) the Department after a *Skelly* hearing if the peace officer or custodial officer waives their right to appeal to the Civil Service Commission.

PC § 832.7(b)(8) specifically provides that pending administrative and criminal investigations are permissible reasons to delay disclosure of these records. The types of investigative records to be disclosed are also defined under this provision. PC § 832.7(b)(6)-(7) provides guidance on what information contained in disclosable records must be redacted. (e.g., personal data of officers, confidential medical information, identity of whistleblowers, complainants, and witnesses, and any information the disclosure of which would pose a significant danger to the physical safety of the officer or another person, or where the public interest served by not disclosing clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure).

The POBAR also provides certain rights to law enforcement officers during investigations, particularly those involving potential discipline. One of the key provisions of POBAR pertains to the confidentiality of certain investigative materials and information prior to any formal charges being filed or disciplinary action taken.

The public can visit the LASD website and access the "Transparency" section, where they can find detailed discipline records for department personnel, providing insight into any disciplinary actions taken.<sup>25</sup>

## EXECUTIVE PLANNING COUNCIL (EPC)

The Department also has an Executive Planning Council, comprised of the Sheriff and his leadership team, which meets weekly. The EPC is a forum for critical updates regarding issues impacting the department and includes, among other reviews, regular briefings

<sup>25</sup> The website can be found at: <https://lasd.org/transparency/discipline/>.

from the Audits and Accountability Bureau (AAB) on trends identified in audits regarding uses of force and other key issues. The EPC allows for management oversight of trends and operational decision-making.

## RISK MANAGEMENT FORUM (RMF)

Implemented in 2014, the Risk Management Forum was developed as a resource for Department Executives to examine statistical results of various risk-related issues facing their command, such as Use of Force, complaints, civil lawsuits, and mentoring programs for deputies. The process includes the collection of data on identified risk issues or concerns. The Office of Constitutional Policing, Data Analytics and Technology Advancement (DATA) Team, assists the host division by consolidating supporting documents and data into a comparative graphical format.

The Undersheriff and Unit Commanders from each Division attend and participate in an Executive-led, subject-by-subject discussion of the various risk management topics at issue, with area Captains and their staff members, as well as other relevant department stakeholders in attendance. The purpose of the discussion is to identify and discuss any potential problematic trends, as well as any commendable areas worthy of highlighting.

The Risk Management Forum is a continual, repetitive effort to bring into focus contemporary risk management issues. To that end, each identified division attends the forum semi-annually.

## TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR SWORN PERSONNEL

The LASD Training Bureau delivers the Department's training programs, both for academy classes and for advanced officer training. The curriculum integrates technical training with an emphasis on leadership development, personal growth, and ethical conduct. At the core of every course lies a commitment to the principles of Constitutional Policing, ensuring that all training aligns with the highest standards of accountability and integrity.

As a trusted provider of California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified courses, the Bureau serves not only the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department but also a wide array of other law enforcement agencies. Beyond law enforcement training, the Bureau's professional instructors also offer specialized training for staff and civilians across a diverse range of disciplines, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to excel in their roles. Whether for officers, staff, or civilian personnel, the Training Bureau plays a pivotal role in shaping a skilled, ethical, and well-prepared workforce.

## LASD TRAINING COMPONENTS

Department training can be broken down into the following six categories:<sup>26</sup>

- **POST:** Training that is required by the Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training.
- **STC:** Training that is required by the Standards for Training for Corrections.
- **State Mandated:** Training that is required by statute, which are monitored by both POST and STC.
- **Federally Mandated:** Training that is required by Federal law.
- **Department Mandated:** Training that is required by either departmental or regional policy.
- **Unit Optional:** Includes professional development training for individual employees desiring to enhance competence and skills, team training for units, training that might be required to meet local needs, and all other training.

### POST-MANDATED TRAINING

- **Continued Professional Training (CPT):** All sworn personnel must complete the CPT requirement of 24 or more hours of qualified POST approved training during every two-year CPT cycle. Sworn custody personnel who complete the required Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) fulfil the CPT requirements. In 2024, Lancaster and Palmdale had 98.2% and 100% rates of compliance, respectively, with CPT training requirements.
- **Perishable Skills Program Training (PSP):** Consists of a minimum of 18 hours in each two-year period, divided in the areas set forth below. PSP hours count towards the CPT requirement of 24 hours every two-year cycle. In 2024, Lancaster and Palmdale had 90.7% and 99.3% rates of compliance, respectively, with PSP training requirements.
  - 4 Hours- Arrest and Control
  - 4 Hours- Use of Force
  - 4 Hours- Driver Training/ Awareness or Driving Simulator
  - 4 Hours- Tactical Firearms
  - 2 Hours- Communications Training (either tactical, interpersonal, or web-based)

<sup>26</sup> Manual of Policy and Procedures: 3-02/080.01- Training Requirements for Sworn Personnel  
[3-02/080.01 - Training Requirements for Sworn Personnel - PARS Internal Viewer.](#)

### STANDARDS OF TRAINING FOR CORRECTIONS (STC)

All sworn personnel from the rank of chief and below assigned to a custody assignment, including deputies assigned to a station jail, and lieutenants and sergeants with the station jail collateral duty, must receive 24 hours each fiscal year of approved curriculum in custody subject matters (California Code of Regulations, Title XV, section 1025).

### STATE-MANDATED TRAINING

Recurring trainings (which count towards the CPT requirements) include the following but are not limited to:

- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), 4 hours:** A CPR refresher course must be completed every three years (13518 PC).
- **Domestic Violence:** Deputies assigned to patrol duties who respond to domestic violence calls for services or incidents shall complete a domestic violence refresher course once every two years (13519 PC).
- **First Aid, 8 hours:** A first aid refresher course must be completed every two years (13518 PC).
- **Racial Profiling:** All sworn personnel must attend once every five years (13519.4(i) PC).
- **Recurring Vehicle Pursuit:** All sworn personnel must complete this training on a yearly basis (13519.8 PC).

### FEDERALLY- MANDATED TRAINING

- **Security Awareness Training:** Once every two years, every member must attend the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) training (Federal Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Justice Information Services Division).

### DEPARTMENT-MANDATED TRAINING

LASD offers a variety of mandated trainings that consist of the following but not limited to:

- **Patrol Rifle Refresher:** All sworn personnel who deploy a patrol rifle must initially successfully complete the Patrol Rifle Certification training. Subsequently, certified personnel shall complete the Patrol Rifle Refresher training every two years to maintain certification.

- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC):** Each station shall conduct a minimum of one four-hour EOC exercise annually. This requirement may be satisfied by participation in a department exercise, unit-level training, or an actual emergency requiring activation of the EOC.
- **Active Shooter or School Safety Yearly Refresher Training:** Sworn personnel who could potentially respond to this type of incident shall attend a yearly refresher course.

### UNIT OPTIONAL TRAINING

All units shall provide training to personnel, whenever possible, which enhances the competence and skills required to meet unit needs. The training may consist of formal training sessions and/ or briefings as time and necessity dictate. Listed below are some examples of courses offered:

- **Ethics in Community Policing:** This training is available to all Department sworn personnel.
- **Child Abuse/ Neglect:** This training is available primarily to child abuse investigators (13517(c) PC).
- **Other training:** Unit commanders shall encourage or direct personnel under their command to participate in as much relevant professional development training as possible, provided station deployment and the Department training budget will support it.

### ANTELOPE VALLEY TRAINING

Antelope Valley Stations are continuing to offer their sworn personnel station-level training related to the AV Settlement Agreement which includes:

- **Use of Force Training**
  - In this period, AV sworn personnel attended Ground Control as well as Arrest and Control training.
  - Personnel are also receiving regular briefings via the [Briefing Room](#) platform on various use of force topics, as well as stops, biased policing, etc.
- **Constitutional Policing, Bias-Free Policing, and Train the Trainer**
  - All personnel assigned to an AV station are required to take this course once, which is taught by an outside instructor (Randy Means).

- These courses are individually taught on three separate days and are provided to newly assigned AV personnel twice a year. The latest session was offered in August 2025.
  - The Train-the-Trainer course is only for newly assigned supervisors and is related to the quarterly briefing training.
  - This course has a pass/fail rating, and if one fails the course, it must be taken again.
- **Quarterly Review Briefings & Scenario Training**
    - All AV sworn personnel must attend four different roll-call trainings that rotate quarterly on various topics emphasizing the importance of discriminatory policing.
    - Training includes PowerPoint, “Briefing Handout,” copies of all DOJ-related policies, Unit Orders, Newsletters, Field Operations Directives, and user guides/ pocket guides.
    - The trainings are documented on spreadsheets at the respective stations.
    - In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025, these trainings will be fully transitioned to the Briefing Room platform, which will also track completion and attendance.

### LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

In late 2024, the Department was able to begin utilizing the County LMS platform to provide and track training more effectively. Two key online training courses were recently launched via LMS, significantly improving training efficiency and ensuring better adherence to compliance standards. These courses were:

- Use of Force Policy Update 2024; and
- The Prohibition of Law Enforcement Gangs and Hate Groups Acknowledgement.

LASD will need to enhance its utilization of LMS to ensure effective tracking of training activities and to improve accessibility of training resources for all department personnel.



## **Part Two: Accountability in Numbers- Data on Use of Force, Arrests, and Civilian Complaints**

## USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY

The following data from 2021 to 2025 highlights the number of use of force incidents broken down by category. These categories reflect varying levels of force used in response to specific situations, ranging from minimal force to more severe interventions. Analysis of this data reveals trends in the frequency and severity of incidents over the years, providing insight into law enforcement practices and the evolving nature of use of force incidents during this period. The breakdown allows for a detailed comparison of how incidents were classified, and an assessment of the effectiveness of policies, training, and oversight related to use of force. It is important to note that incident numbers are current as of 09/23/2025; however, these numbers may change as new reports are added to the Police Records Management System (PRMS) and existing incidents are investigated and cleared.

### OVERALL USE OF FORCE: DEPARTMENT-WIDE

In the first six months of 2025, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) recorded 939 Use of Force incidents. This number reflects an overall decline in significant uses of force (Categories 1 through 3) when compared to the same six-month period in prior years.

Use of force incidents began to rise in 2022, reaching a peak with 1,190 reported incidents. This increase coincided with the overall crime rate, which was at its highest during 2022–2023. As reflected in the charts below, by 2025 use of force incidents declined to 939 incidents for the first six months of the year, representing a decrease of approximately 21% from the 2022 peak. This downward trend is likely due to implementation of the Department's new Use of Force policy and associated training.

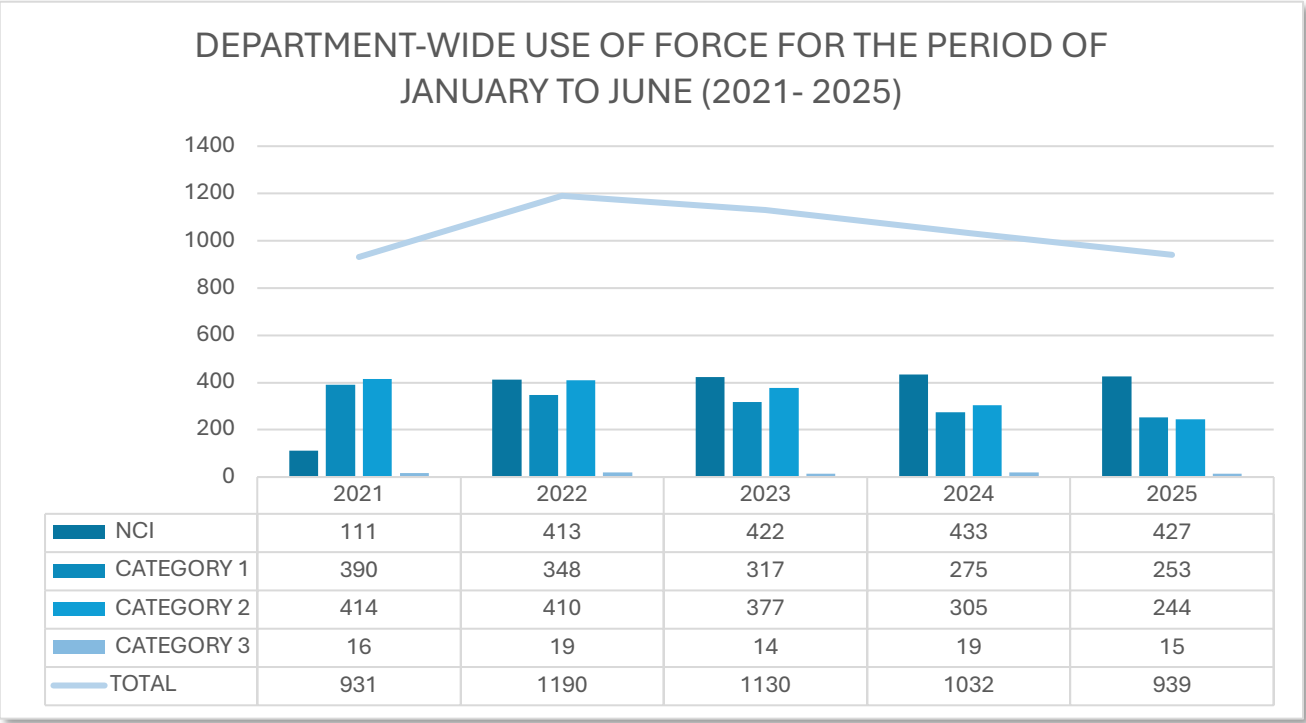


FIGURE 1: TABLE- DEPARTMENT-WIDE FORCE INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

As outlined in the chart above, the overall UOF data continues to indicate a shift in how force is applied. In this period, there is a reduction in higher force categories (Category 1 & 2), while Category 3 incidents remained consistently low and stable. The increase in NCI incidents (lower levels of force), suggests a shift in deputy behavior towards using lower levels of force more frequently, and resolving situations with minimal intervention before they escalate into higher force categories. The inverse relationship between rising NCIs and falling Category 1 and 2 incidents suggests a departmental emphasis on de-escalation tactics and less-lethal methods.

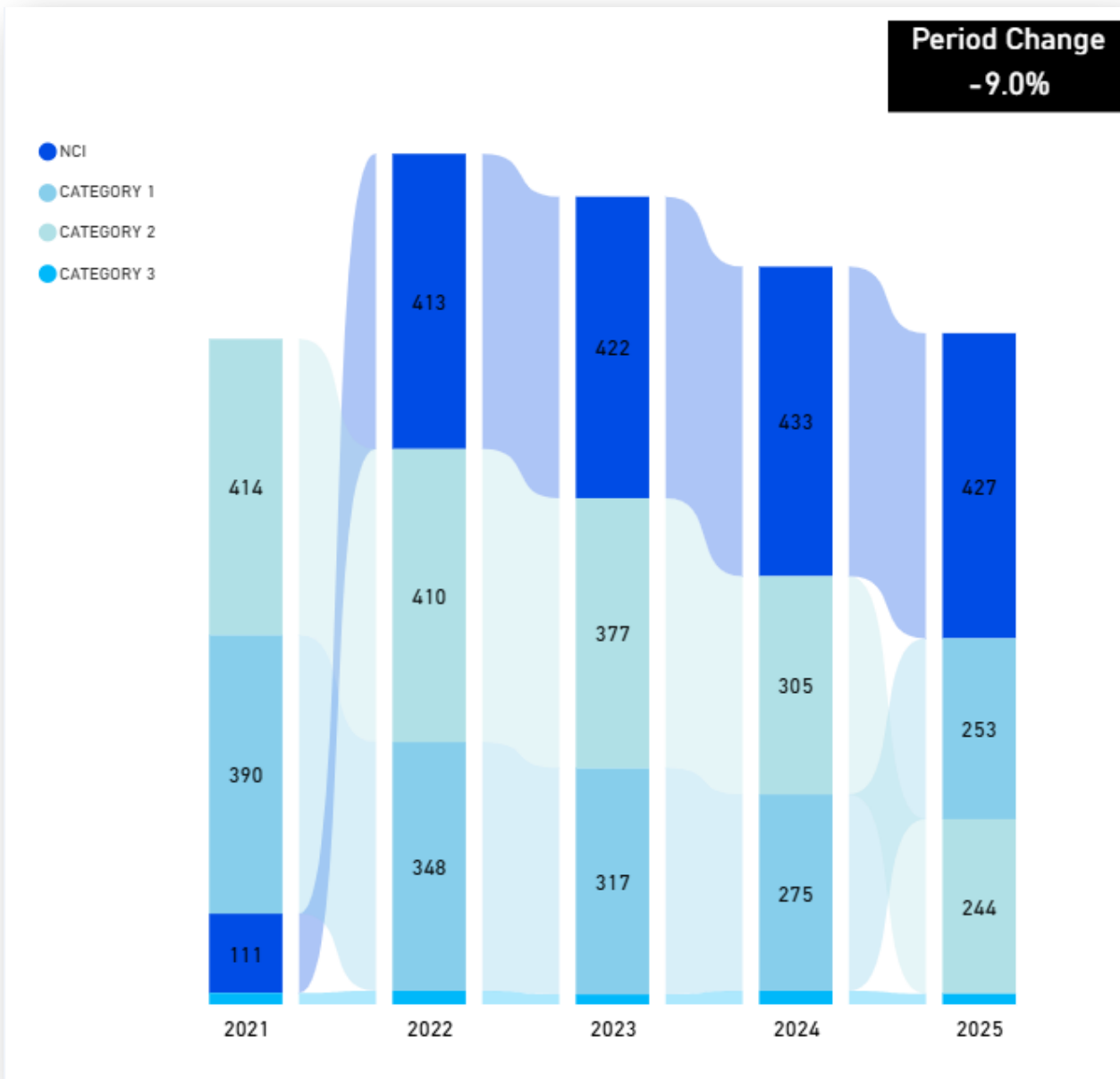


FIGURE 2: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE FORCE TRENDS BY INCIDENT FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

From January to June 2025, Use of Force incidents decreased by 9% compared to the same period in 2024, continuing the overall downward trend observed in recent years. Notably, the most significant reduction in the first 6 months of 2025 occurred in Category 2 incidents, which saw a 20% decline compared to the first half of 2024.

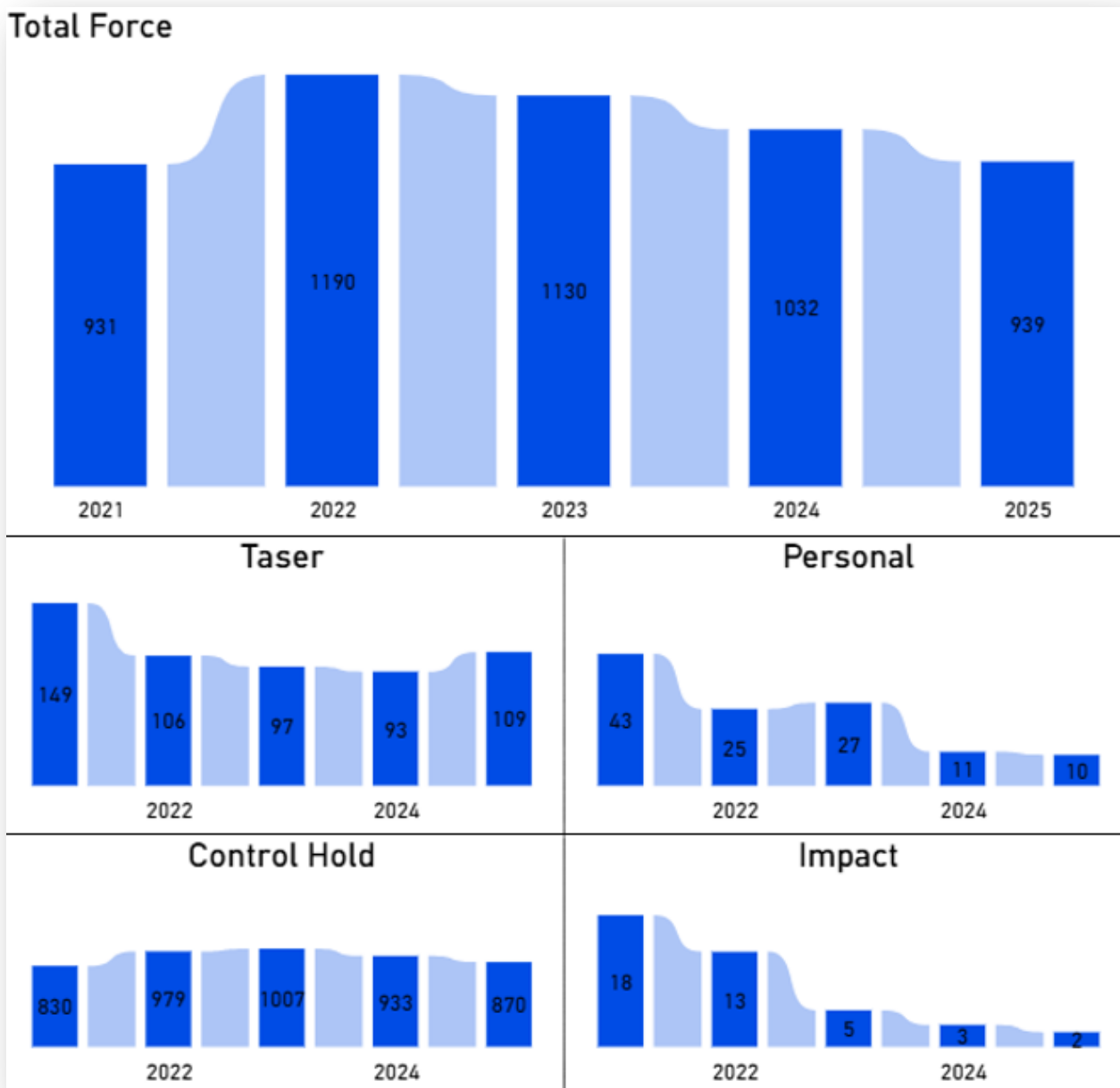


FIGURE 3: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE TOTAL FORCE INCLUDING TASER, PERSONAL WEAPONS, CONTROL HOLDS, AND IMPACT FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

Personal and Impact force types show the most dramatic reductions, with Personal force down 77% from its 2021 level for the first half of the year. Control Holds remain the dominant method, though they are also trending down. Taser usage increased slightly in 2025, reversing the downward trend identified in 2024. This can be attributed to recent deployment and ongoing training on the new Taser 10.

### OVERALL USES OF FORCE- LANCASTER STATION

In the first six months of 2025, Lancaster Station recorded a total of 173 force incidents, representing a slight increase over the same period the prior year. However, Lancaster deputies have made significant strides in reducing the use of the highest levels of force. This has led to a notable decline in overall incidents, particularly in Category 2 with a 33% decrease, compared to the same period in 2024. While there was an increase in NCI incidents, this demonstrates an alignment with the overall departmental shift towards lower-level interventions and greater emphasis on de-escalation.

Category 1 incidents at Lancaster ended slightly higher in the first six months of 2025 than 2024, although still much lower than in the same periods in 2022 and 2023. This trend is inconsistent with the Department’s overall decrease in Category 1 incidents and may reflect specific local conditions or types of encounters requiring a moderate level of force more frequently in Lancaster.

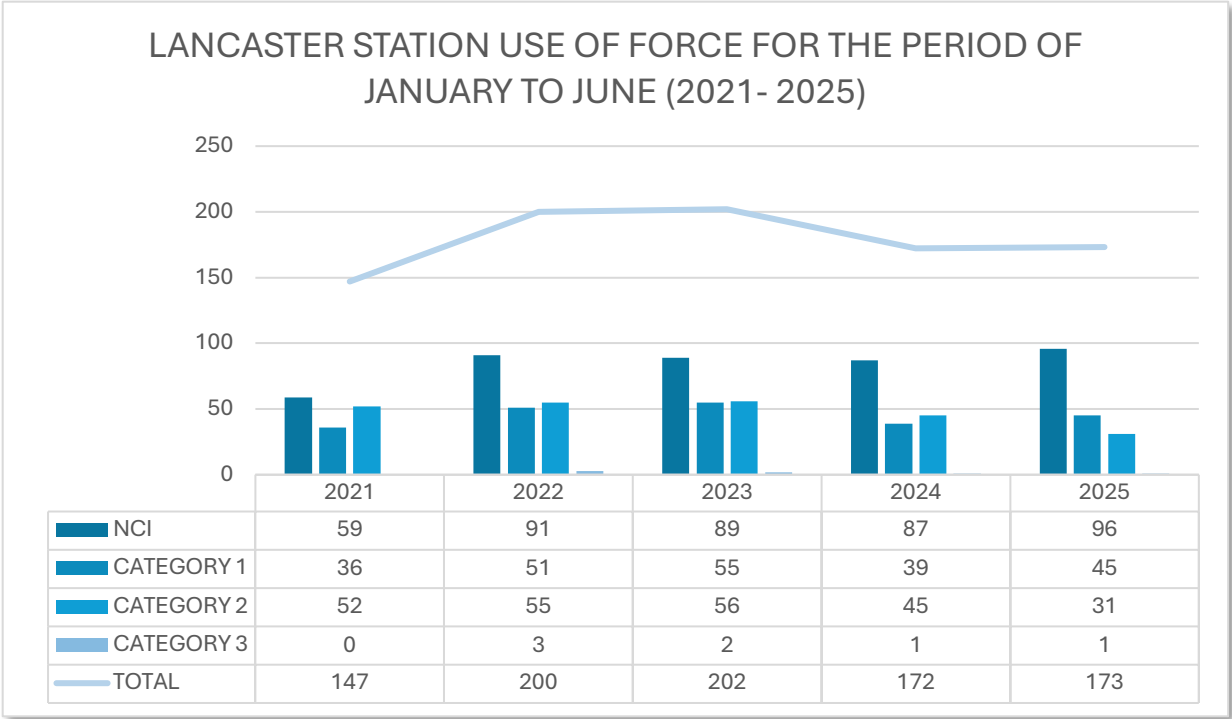


FIGURE 4: TABLE- LANCASTER STATION FORCE INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

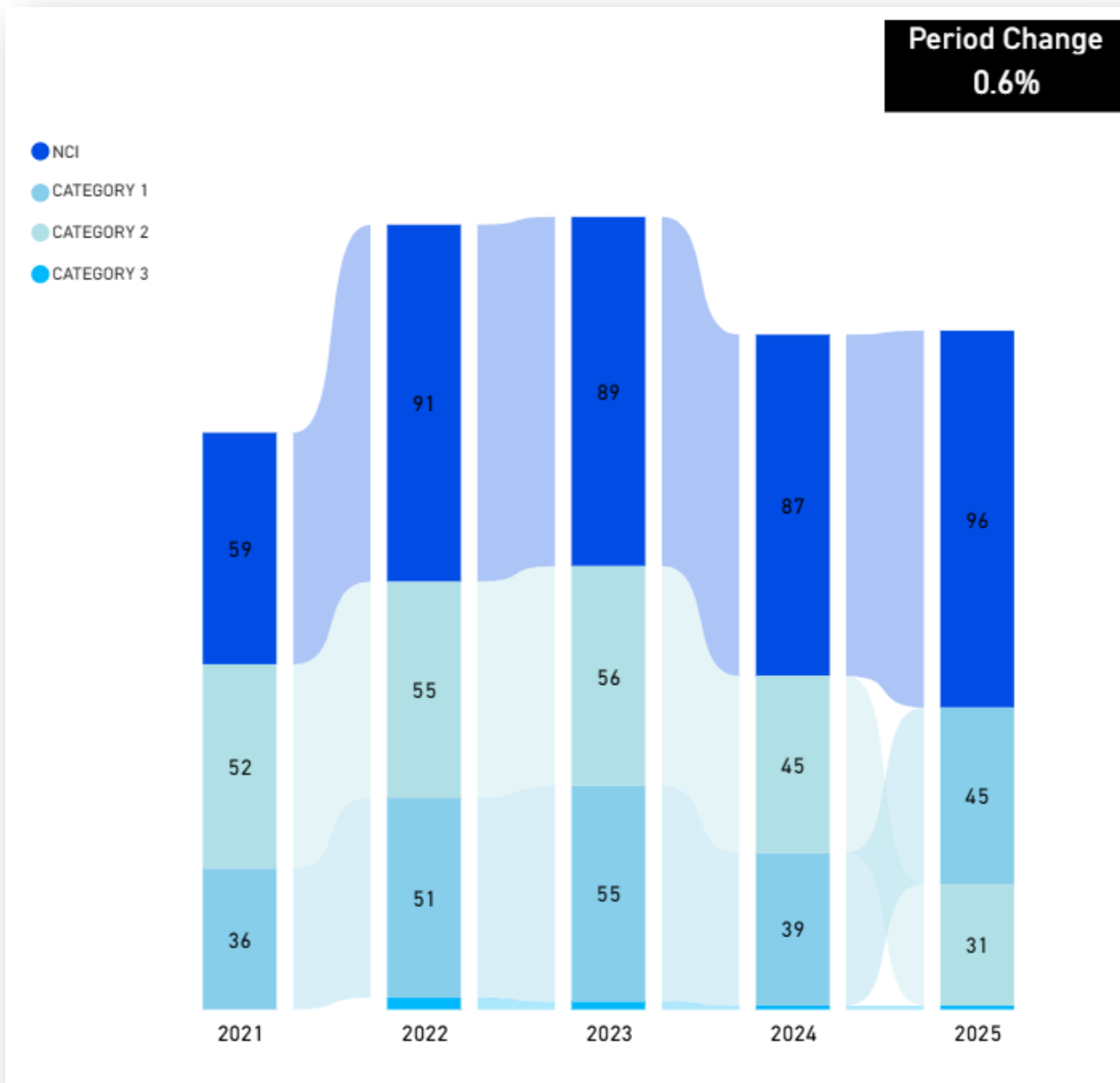


FIGURE 5: CHART- LANCASTER STATION FORCE TRENDS BY INCIDENT FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

Between 2024 and 2025, total Use of Force incidents in Lancaster across categories increased slightly by 0.06%. This change was driven by a 10% rise in NCIs (low-level force), reaching its highest point compared to the same 6-month period in prior years. Although NCIs have increased, there has been a steady decrease in the most significant level of force throughout the years.

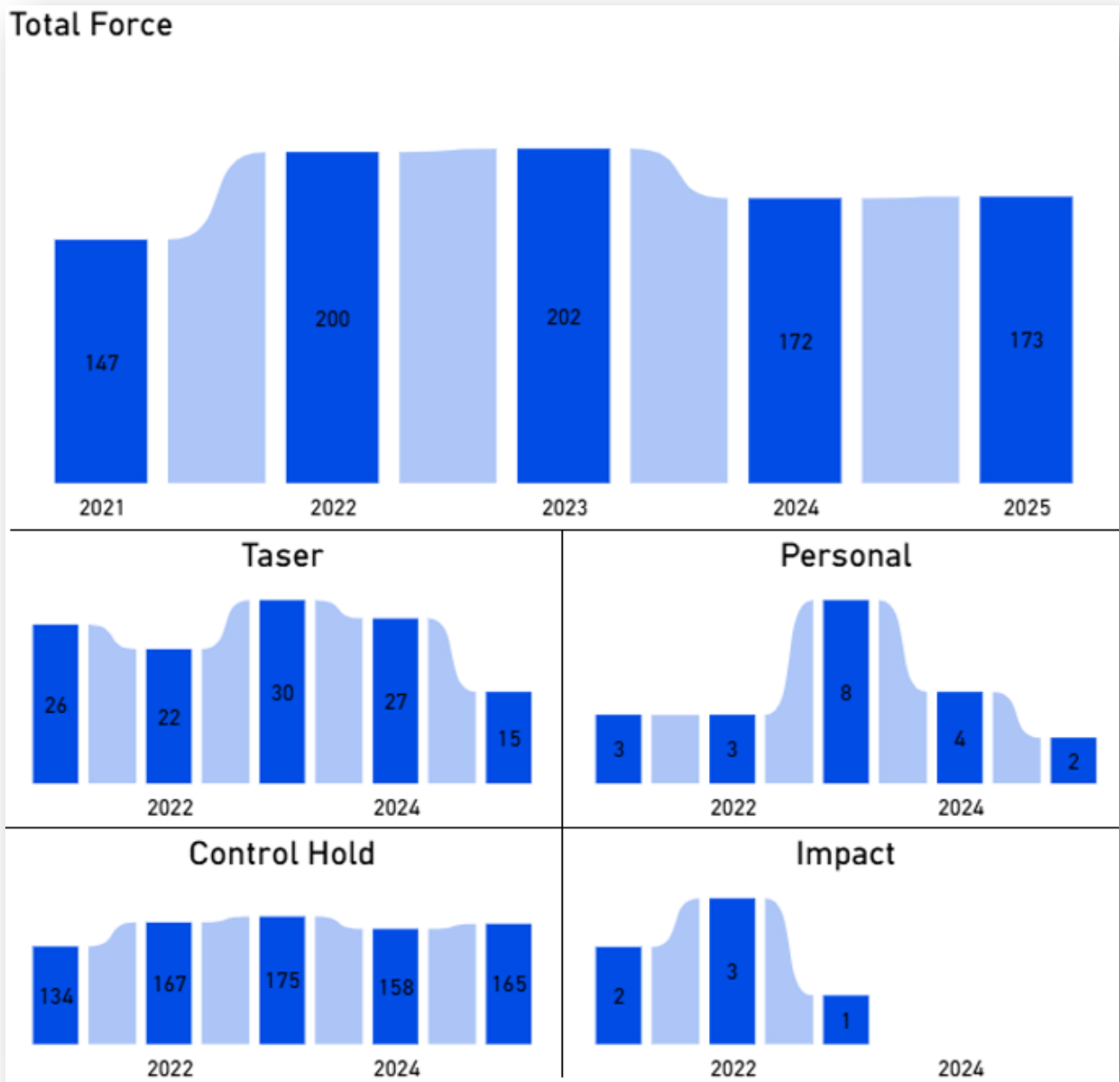


FIGURE 6: CHART- LANCASTER STATION TOTAL FORCE INCLUDING TASER, PERSONAL WEAPONS, CONTROL HOLDS, AND IMPACT FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

Lancaster has shown an overall downward trend in use of force across various methods between 2022 to 2025 (comparing the first six months of each year). The control hold

technique remains the most frequently used force type, with taser and personal force types have shown an overall decline, and impact weapons remain rare.

Uses of force by Lancaster deputies are becoming more proportional to the level of resistance exhibited by suspects, demonstrating better judgement and restraint. Notably, control holds have been the most frequently used form of force, attributed to an increase in deputies working together when responding to calls that may necessitate uses of force.

### OVERALL USES OF FORCE- PALMDALE STATION

In the first 6 months of 2025, Palmdale recorded 80 use of force incidents, representing a 9.09% decrease in all uses of force. Palmdale’s statistics are closely aligned with the Department’s overall trend of increases in the lower-level uses of force (NCI) and decreases in the more significant categories of force (Category 1 and 2). This suggests successful implementation of Departmental UOF polices.

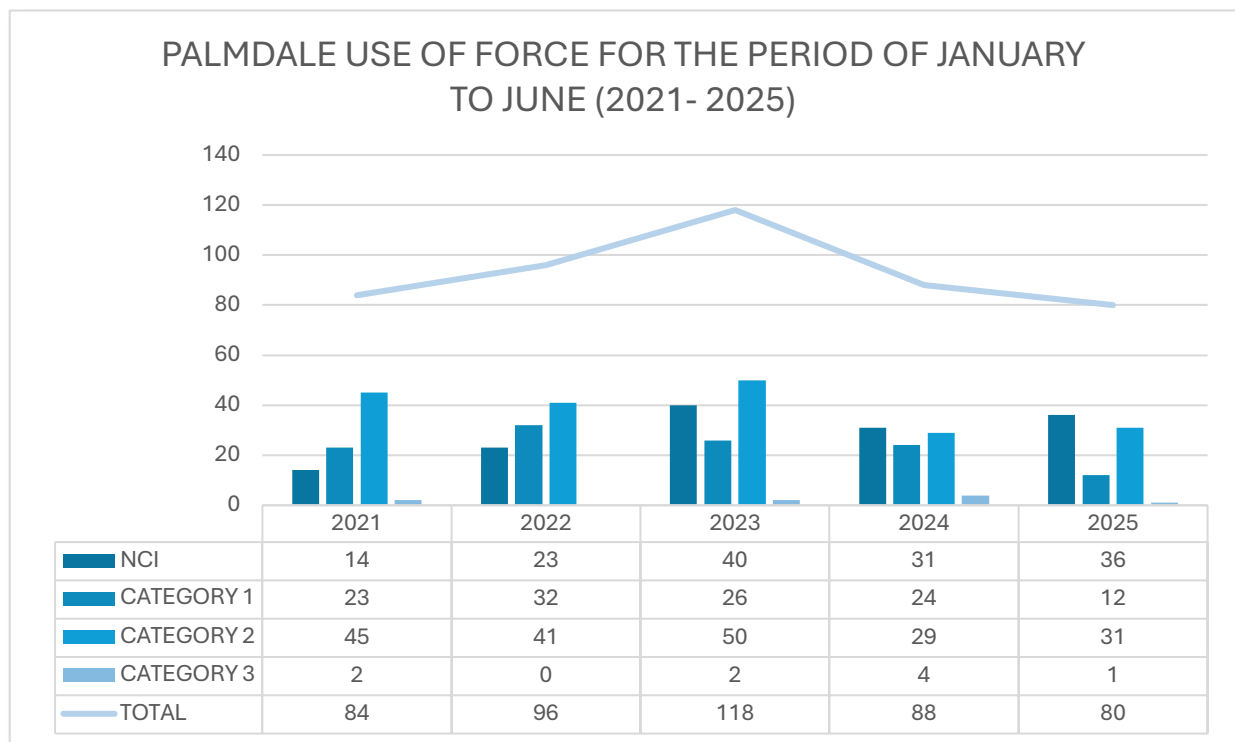


FIGURE 7: TABLE- PALMDALE STATION FORCE INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

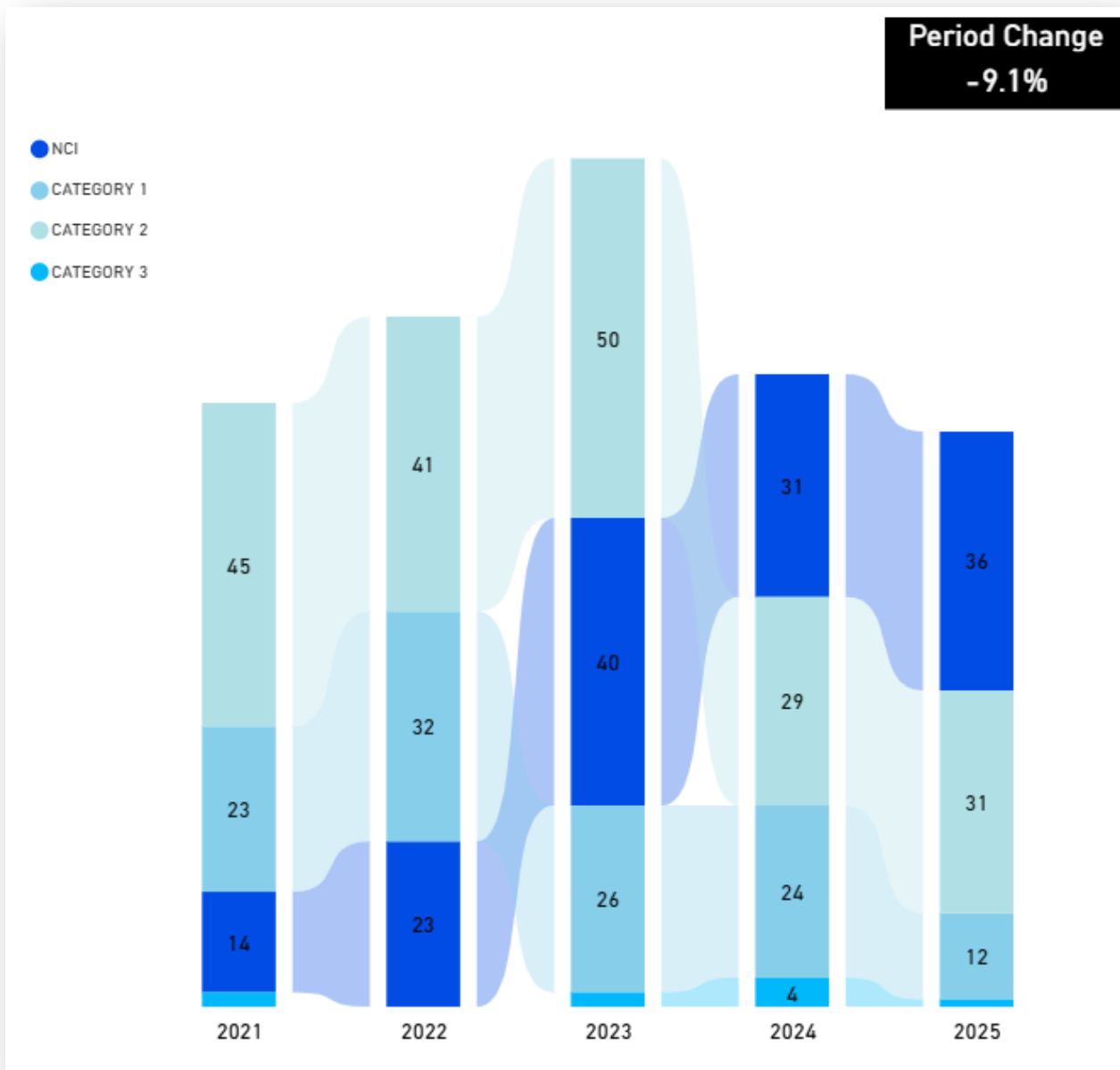


FIGURE 8: CHART- PALMDALE STATION FORCE TRENDS BY INCIDENT FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

Palmdale data demonstrates shifts across the five-year period, with increases in lower-level (NCI) force incidents from 14 incidents in the first 6 months of 2021 to 36 incidents in the first 6 months of 2025. However, the sharp decline in Category 2 uses of force drove an overall decrease of force by 9.1% across the period.

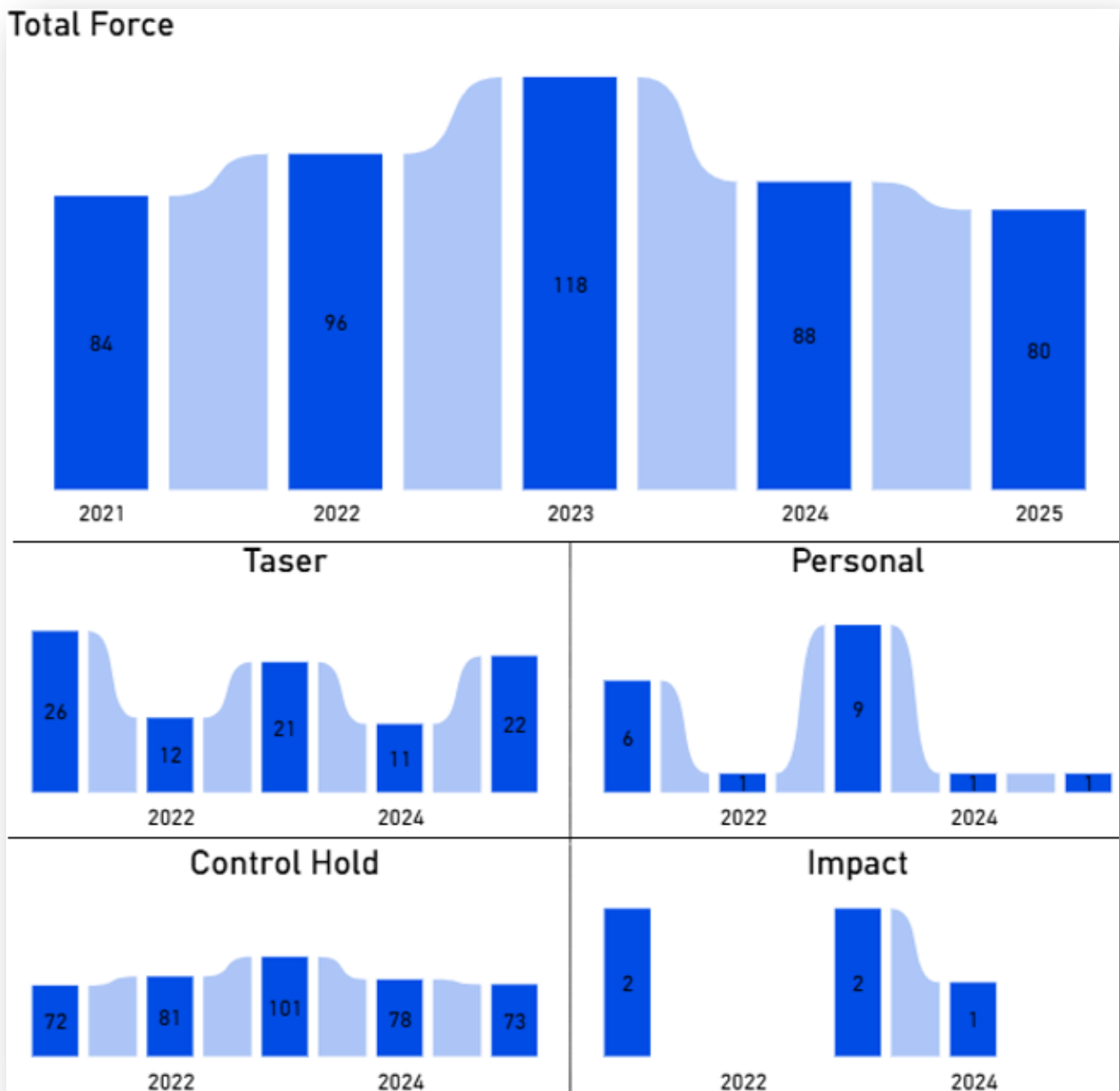


FIGURE 9: CHART- PALMDALE STATION TOTAL FORCE INCLUDING TASER, PERSONAL WEAPONS, CONTROL HOLDS, AND IMPACT FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

Palmdale data demonstrates a steady decrease in almost all force types, with the exception of Taser use which is consistent with Department-wide trends and attributable to the dissemination of the new Taser 10 devices. Palmdale leadership has taken proactive measures to train deputies on the use of this weapon, especially given a high influx of new trainees.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF SHOOTINGS

### TOTAL SHOOTINGS- DEPARTMENT-WIDE

In the first six months of 2025, the Department recorded nine (9) deputy-involved shootings (DIS), representing a 38% decrease compared to the same period the prior year. The downward trend may indicate the effectiveness of recent policy changes, training initiatives, or community engagement strategies across Los Angeles County. It also suggests a conscious and successful effort to resolve high-risk or otherwise volatile encounters without resorting to lethal force.

Department-wide, while the total number of deputy-involved shootings decreased, the number of armed suspects also decreased, with the number of unarmed suspects remaining relatively stable.

The following illustrations provide a detailed breakdown of the number of shooting incidents per year, offering a clearer view of trends over time.

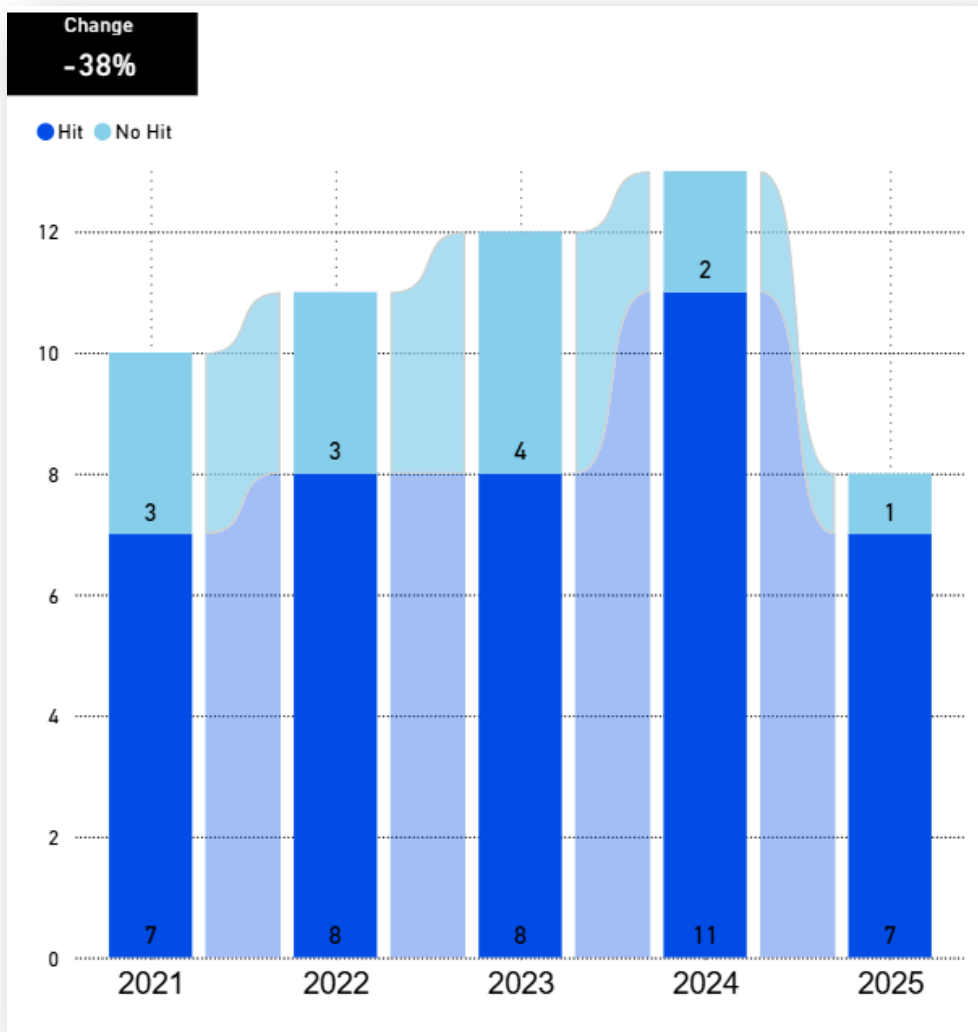


FIGURE 10: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE TOTAL DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021 - 2025).

### TOTAL SHOOTINGS- LANCASTER STATION

In the first half of 2025, Lancaster recorded one deputy-involved shooting, consistent with the same period over prior years. While lack of increases in this category can be seen as a positive indicator that incidents are not escalating despite operational or environmental changes, the absence of a decline highlights that opportunities may exist to further reduce these occurrences through continued emphasis on training, oversight, and community-focused strategies. Maintaining this steady trend demonstrates control and consistency, but achieving meaningful reductions will require targeted efforts to address the contributing circumstances that have sustained the rate at one incident per year.

Crucially, Lancaster reported zero unarmed suspects in a DIS incident in the performance period. This consistent absence of unarmed DIS suspects is a critical indicator of the judicious application of lethal force and suggests that stations are reserving use of firearms for situations when an armed threat is perceived.

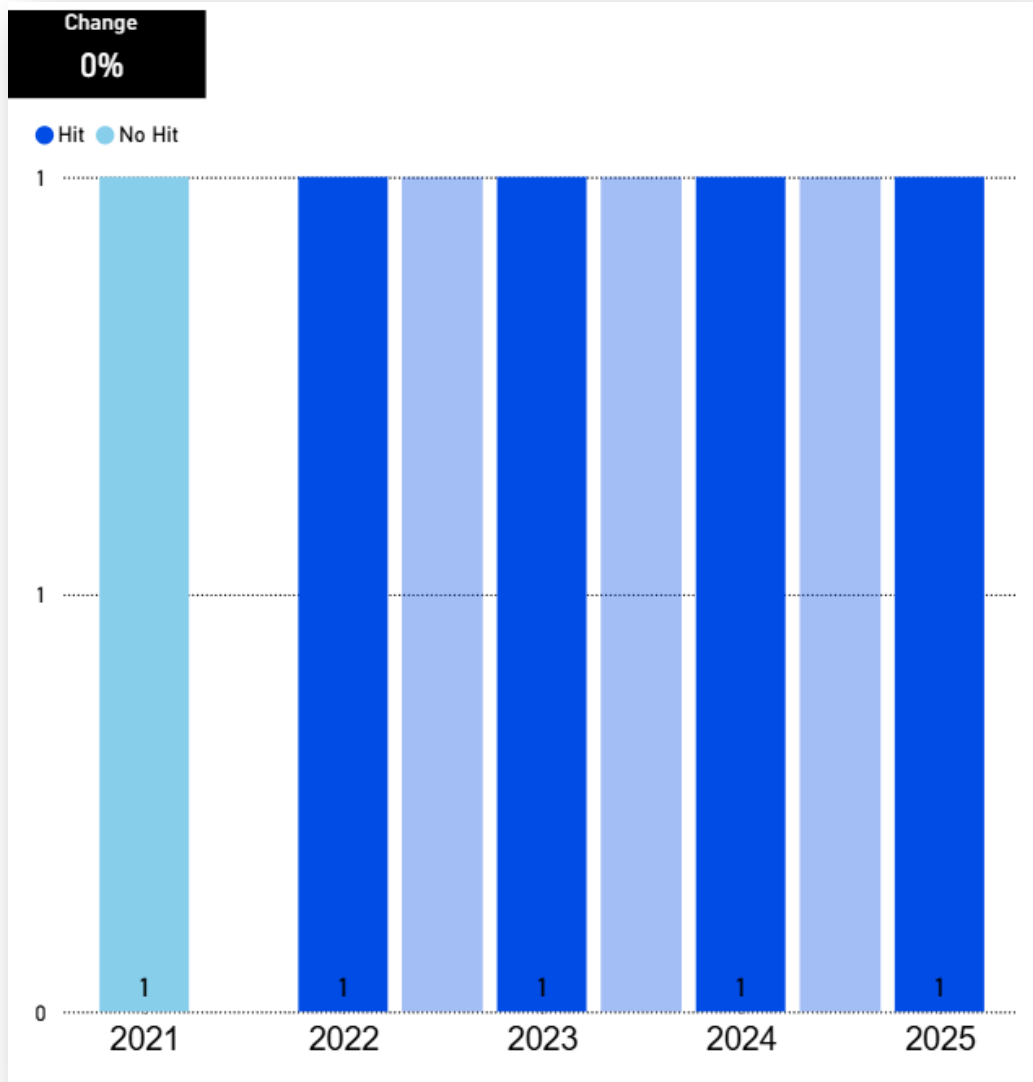


FIGURE 11: CHART- LANCASTER STATION TOTAL DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

## TOTAL SHOOTING- PALMDALE STATION

For the first 6 months of each year from 2021 through 2025, deputy-involved shootings have fluctuated at a relatively low levels, ranging between zero (0) to two (2) incidents. This pattern indicates that while incidents have occurred intermittently, the overall frequency has remained minimal and has not demonstrated a consistent upward trajectory. The return to zero (0) in the first 6 months of 2025 is a positive outcome, suggesting possible progress in prevention strategies, training, or operational practices.

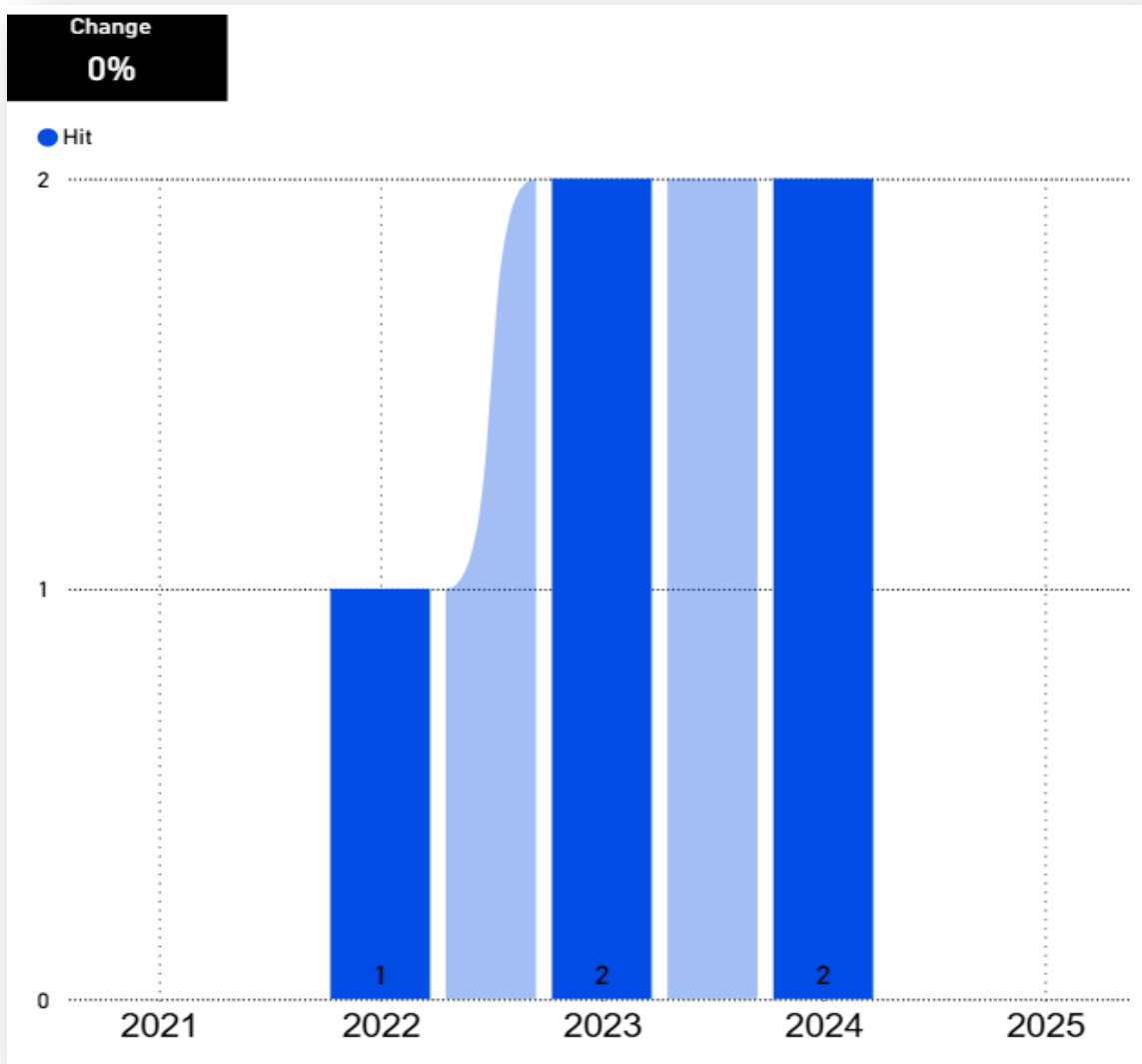


FIGURE 12: CHART- PALMDALE STATION TOTAL DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

## TOTAL NUMBER OF SUSPECTS ARMED IN DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS (DIS)

The data indicates that deputy-involved shootings involving unarmed suspects remain consistently low compared to those involving armed suspects. This suggests that deputies are generally using force in response to perceived serious threats, with a higher likelihood of engagement when suspects are armed. The low number of incidents with unarmed individuals may reflect effective de-escalation tactics and situational awareness. Continued monitoring of these trends is important to ensure that use of force practices remain proportional and targeted toward genuine threats, while minimizing risk to unarmed individuals.

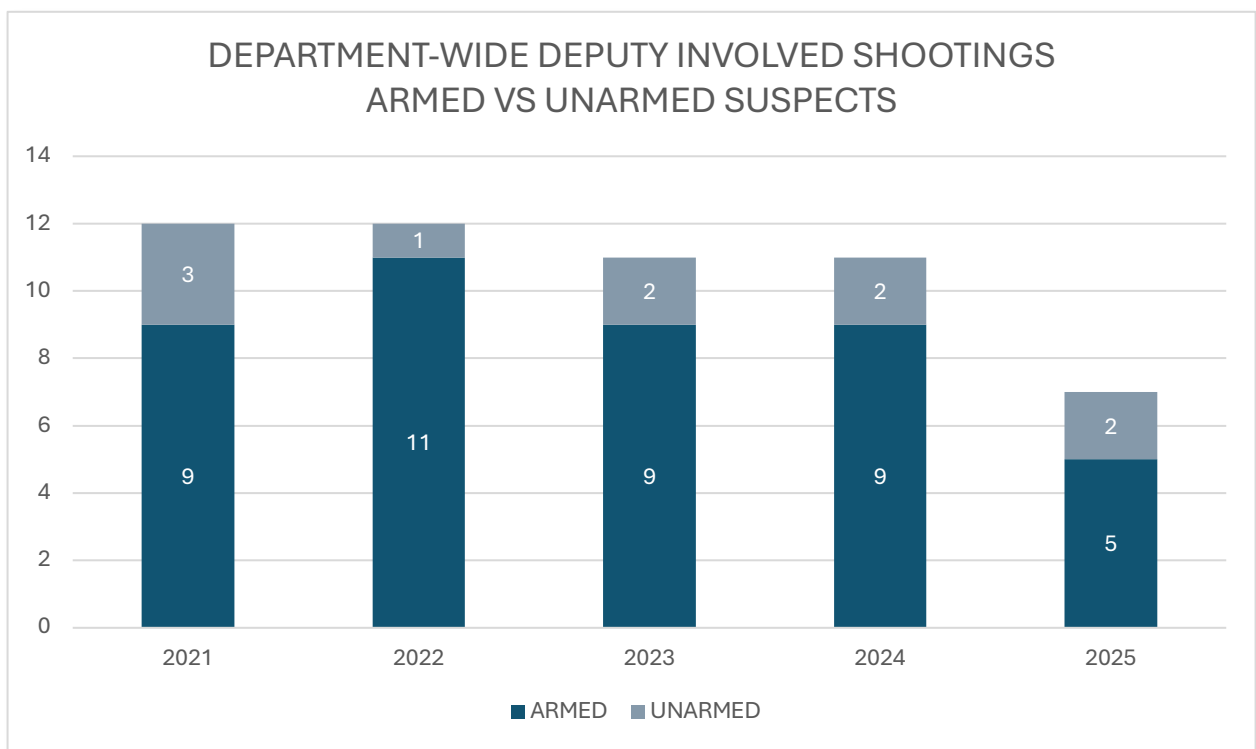


FIGURE 13: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE SUSPECTS ARMED IN DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

### SUSPECTS ARMED IN DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS- LANCASTER STATION

Lancaster Station shows no discernible trend in deputy-involved shootings, as there has only been one single incident, and the suspect was armed. This pattern is consistent with previous years, indicating that incidents remain infrequent and are associated with armed

suspects. The fact that all involved suspects have been armed suggests that deputies are exercising sound judgement in determining when the use of force is necessary.

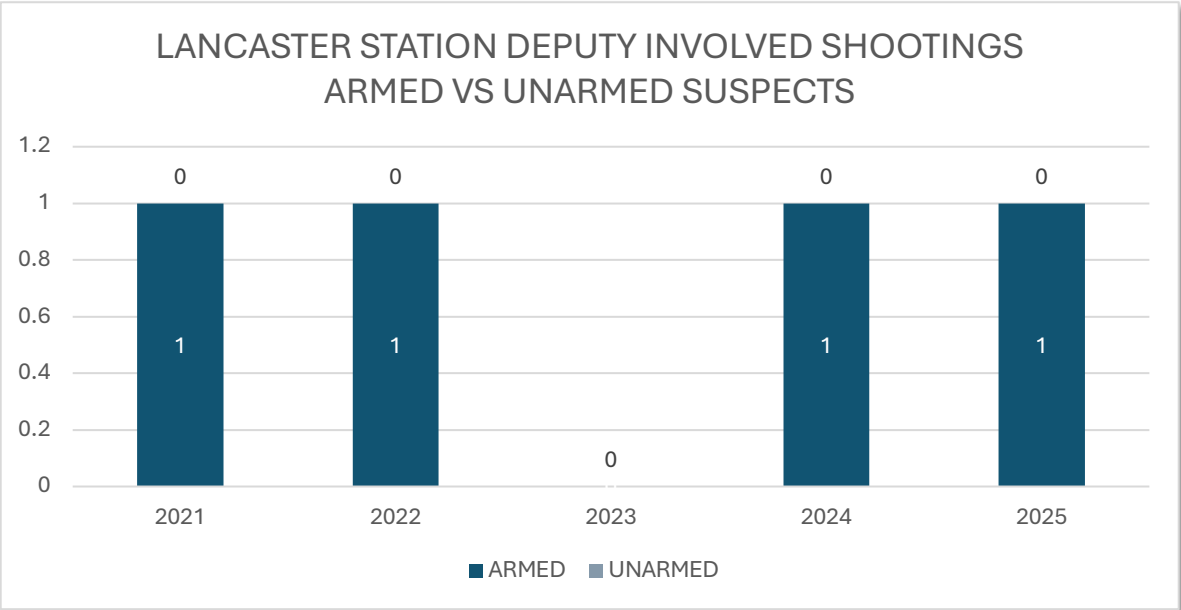


FIGURE 14: CHART- LANCASTER STATION SUSPECTS ARMED IN DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

### SUSPECTS ARMED IN DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS- PALMDALE STATION

Palmdale station exhibits a similar trend to Lancaster in that deputy-involved shootings remain low. However, unlike Lancaster, Palmdale has not had any shootings this year. Historical data shows that when incidents have occurred, suspects were armed, indicating that deputies have consistently exercised sound judgement.

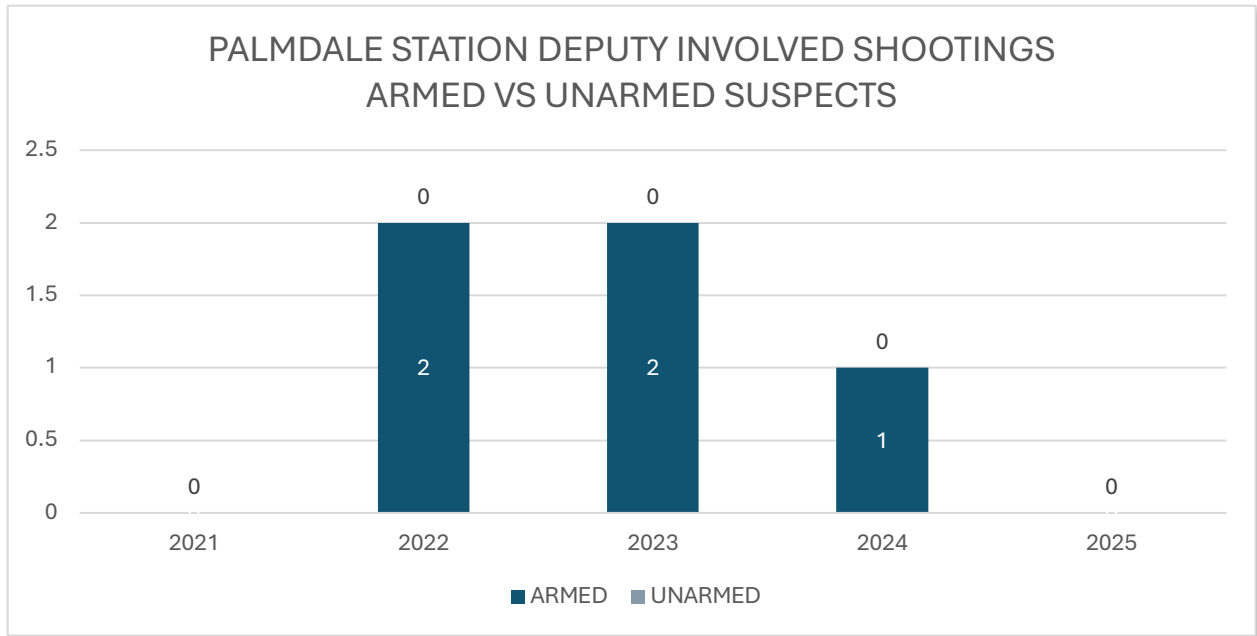


FIGURE 15: CHART- PALMDALE STATION SUSPECTS ARMED IN DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE (2021- 2025).

## SWORN PERSONNEL COMPLAINTS

Members of the public have the fundamental right to submit complaints regarding the conduct of Department personnel. The LASD encourages transparency and accountability through this process, which is vital to maintaining public trust and fostering constructive feedback.

### DEPARTMENT-WIDE COMPLAINTS

During the reporting period from January to June 2025, there was a 16.8% increase in overall complaints compared to the same period in the previous year. While most of these complaints continue to focus on personnel issues, there has been a significant rise in service-related complaints, which have increased by 71.43%. This increase may point to broader concerns about the quality or consistency of service delivery rather than isolated incidents involving individual staff members.

Discourtesy from deputies remains the most reported issue, as it has in previous years. However, there has been a notable shift in the nature of personnel complaints, with a 33.33% increase in reports of Neglect of Duty in 2025. This uptick suggests a growing perception among the public that some deputies are failing to meet their responsibilities

and adequately address community concerns. The simultaneous rise in both service-related issues and neglect complaints may indicate underlying operational challenges, such as inadequate supervision, resource constraints, or training deficiencies. Overall, the data highlights the need for a thorough review of both individual conduct and systemic practices to address the root causes of public dissatisfaction.

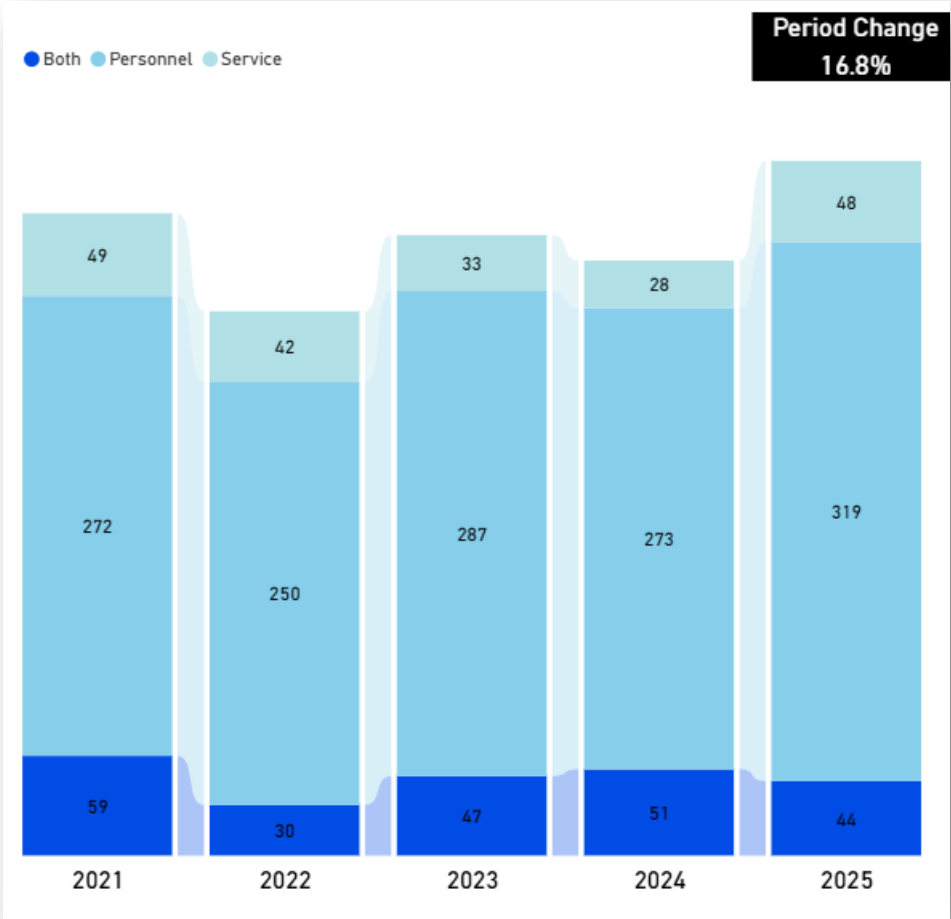


FIGURE 16: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE COMPLAINTS (PERSONNEL, SERVICE, OR BOTH) FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

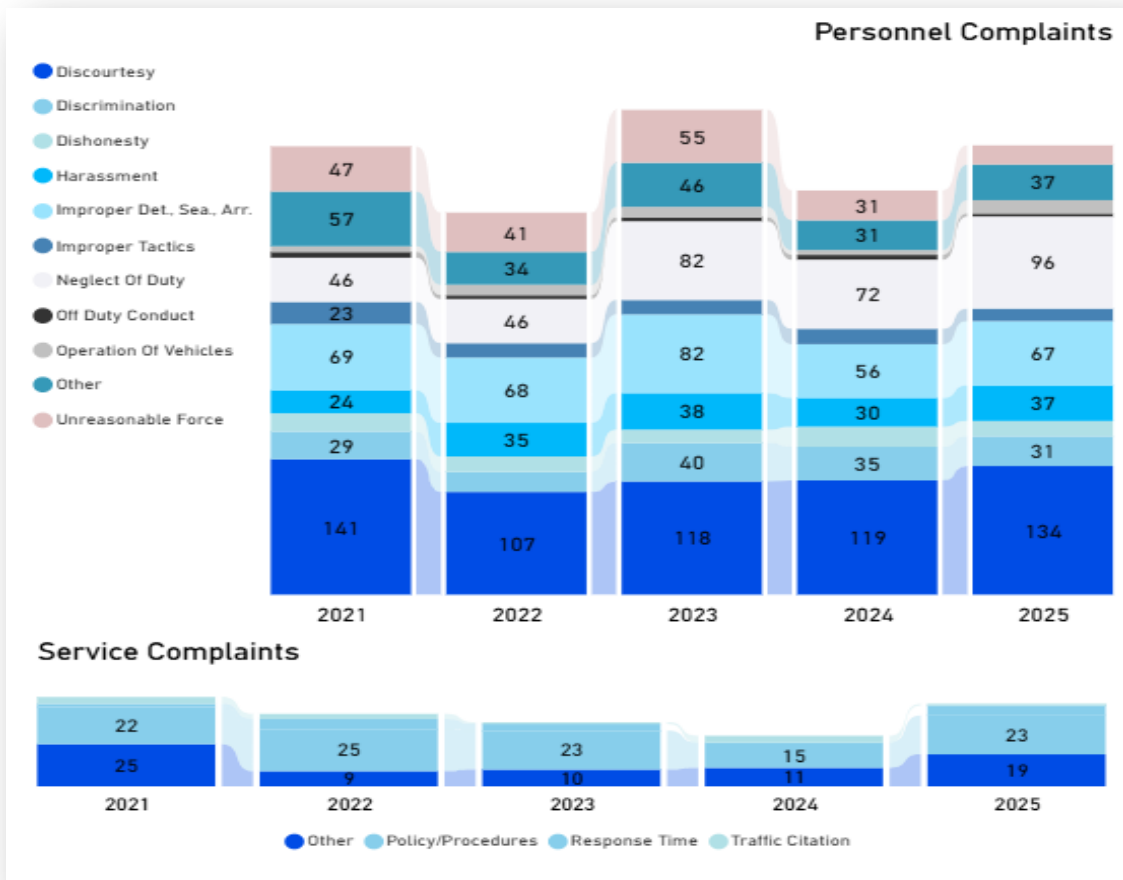


FIGURE 17: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE COMPLAINTS BY CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

## LANCASTER STATION COMPLAINTS

Lancaster experienced a 15% decrease in overall complaints during the reporting period of January to June 2025, marking a positive shift compared to the previous year and a positive trend when compared to Department-wide increases in overall complaints. Personnel complaints have consistently made up most of all complaints, with discourtesy by deputies continuing to lead in frequency. However, there has been a notable improvement in specific areas. Complaints related to improper detention and improper tactics have collectively decreased by over 65%. This significant reduction suggests that recent efforts in training and improved policy awareness may be having a measurable impact. The decline in these categories indicates that deputies are demonstrating a better understanding of procedures and appropriate field conduct, likely reflecting the effectiveness of departmental initiatives focused on accountability and professional standards.

Lancaster has significantly expanded its community engagement efforts, building on the foundation of community policing principles. The focus has been on strengthening collaboration with community-based organizations and increasing dialogue around public concerns. Notably, outreach to the Hispanic community has been a priority, with deputies participating in radio show appearances on SALVA, which serves the Salvadoran community, and hosting inclusive events such as "Conchas con la Comunidad" at Vallarta Supermarkets. Similarly, engagement with the Black community has deepened through partnerships with Black-owned businesses and the NAACP, highlighted by a Black History Month event held on Lancaster Boulevard.

These efforts have not only built trust but also allowed the department to proactively address issues before they escalate into complaints. By increasing visibility and accessibility in neighborhoods with higher crime rates and more frequent enforcement contact, Lancaster Station has shown a commitment to being present where the need is greatest. Of the 74 community events coordinated or attended during the reporting period, 24 specifically focused on these high-impact areas.

In conjunction with these in-person engagements, the station amplified its outreach through public safety announcements on local radio stations, promoting events like the Car Show, Open House, recruitment drives, and safety campaigns. Additionally, since the launch of the Virtual Deputy program in May 2025, there have been 76 digital submissions, demonstrating increased public willingness to engage with law enforcement through modern, accessible channels.

The launch of a quarterly event participation requirement for all sworn personnel in February 2025 has further institutionalized community engagement as a core responsibility within the Department. This consistent, Department-wide presence in the community appears to be yielding measurable results.

The combination of focused outreach, proactive presence in high-need areas, improved communication, and a strong emphasis on accessibility has likely contributed to the 15% decrease in public complaints during the January to June 2025 reporting period. By fostering trust, improving transparency, and addressing concerns early, Lancaster's community policing strategy is not only strengthening relationships but also reducing incidents that lead to formal complaints.

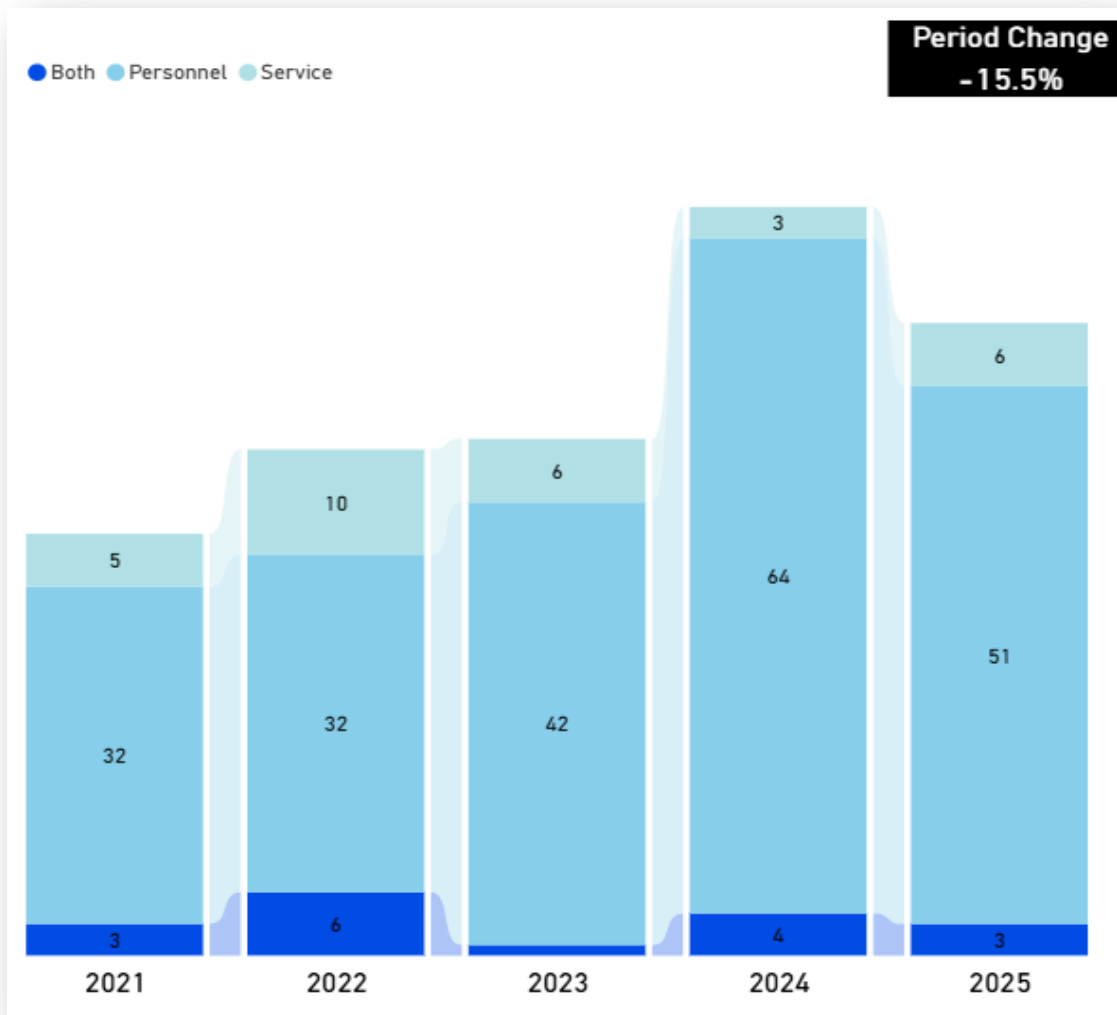


FIGURE 18: CHART- LANCASTER STATION COMPLAINTS (PERSONNEL, SERVICE, BOTH) FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

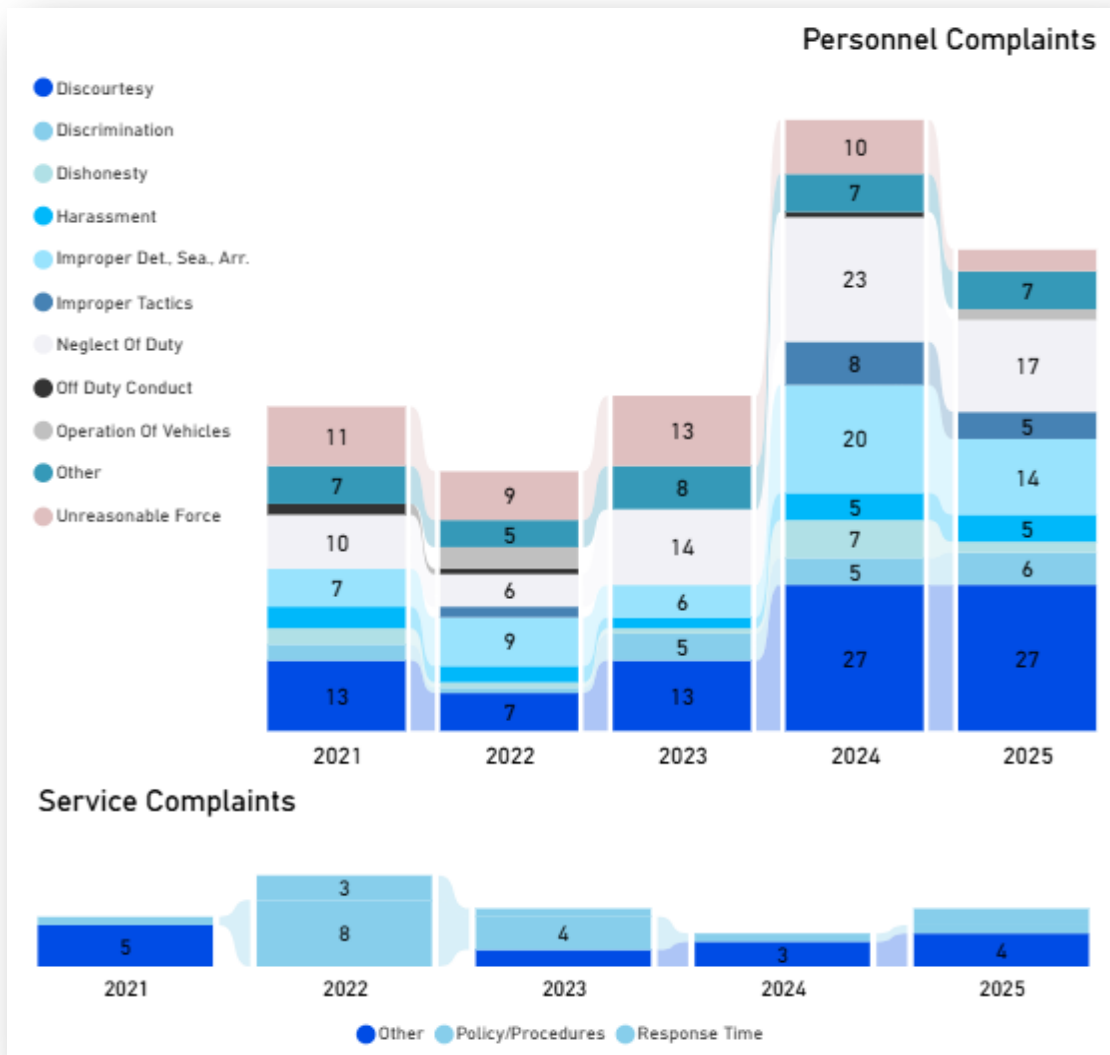


FIGURE 19: CHART- LANCASTER STATION COMPLAINS BY CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

### PALMDALE STATION COMPLAINTS

From January to June 2025, public service complaints saw a slight overall increase of 1.5%, driven primarily by a significant 75% rise in complaints related to neglect of duty. This suggests a growing concern around perceived lapses in follow-through or failure to act by personnel. This increase was offset by decreases in complaints involving unreasonable force, which dropped by 45.45%, and improper detentions, which decreased by 33.33%. These may indicate progress in critical use-of-force and procedural conduct and the impact of targeted training, oversight, and policy enforcement efforts during the same period.

Between July 2023 and July 2025, Palmdale has made notable strides in community engagement and operational efficiency that have likely contributed to the broader decrease in public complaints. One of the most impactful changes has been the dramatic reduction in response times, from 206 minutes in July 2023 to just 99 minutes in July 2025. This improvement is largely attributed to enhanced call management supported by performance data oversight and the successful implementation of the Virtual Deputy program, which allows for quicker triaging of non-emergency calls and improved resource allocation.

Increased visibility across the city has also played a key role. Directed patrol checks and strategic community events have made deputies more present and accessible in neighborhoods. Palmdale has leveraged City resources, including private security, to help fill staffing gaps. Additionally, city-funded specialized enforcement teams have actively targeted graffiti and encampments, while partnerships with the City Attorney's office have led to more effective action against nuisance properties through municipal code prosecutions.

Community engagement efforts have deepened across a broad spectrum. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has grown to reflect the city's diversity across culture, gender, and geography. Town halls are now hosted in rural areas where they were traditionally underserved. Palmdale has also expanded its outreach to faith-based groups, hosting its first inter-faith prayer breakfast and launching the "Service Through Faith" initiative. Engagement with youth has increased through the Youth CAC, and participation in events like the annual Pride celebration reflects a broader commitment to inclusivity.

Over the reporting period, the department attended or coordinated 60 community events, collected 327 full community surveys and over 150 micro surveys, and enrolled 65 residents in the "Partner with Us" program since its launch in August 2024. The Virtual Deputy program has seen overwhelming use, with 1,051 submissions since November 2024, further highlighting the community's willingness to engage with law enforcement through accessible, modern platforms.

Together, these operational improvements and inclusive community outreach efforts represent a comprehensive approach to trust-building, which is likely contributing to the overall reduction in complaints and increased public confidence in law enforcement.

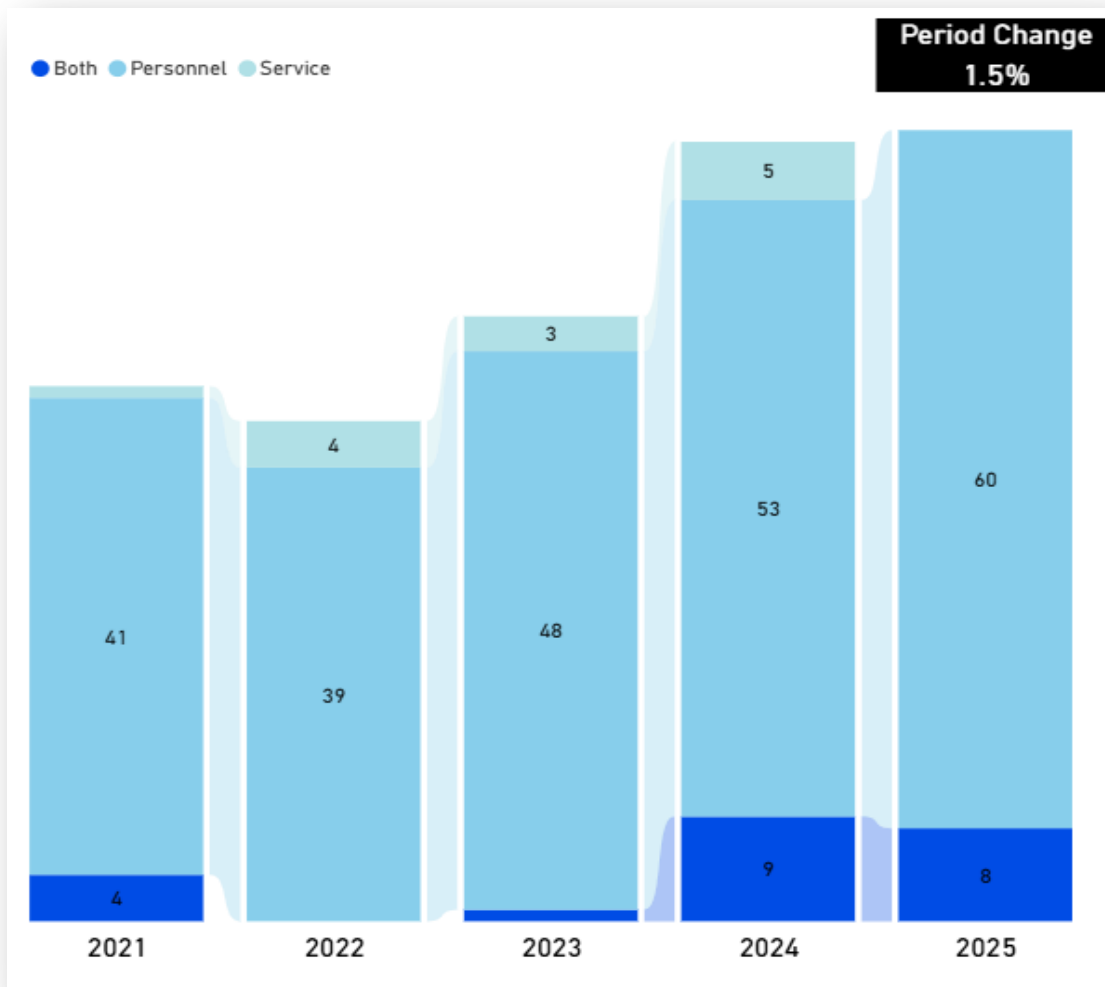


FIGURE 20: CHART- PALMDALE STATION COMPLAINTS (PERSONNEL, SERVICE, BOTH) FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

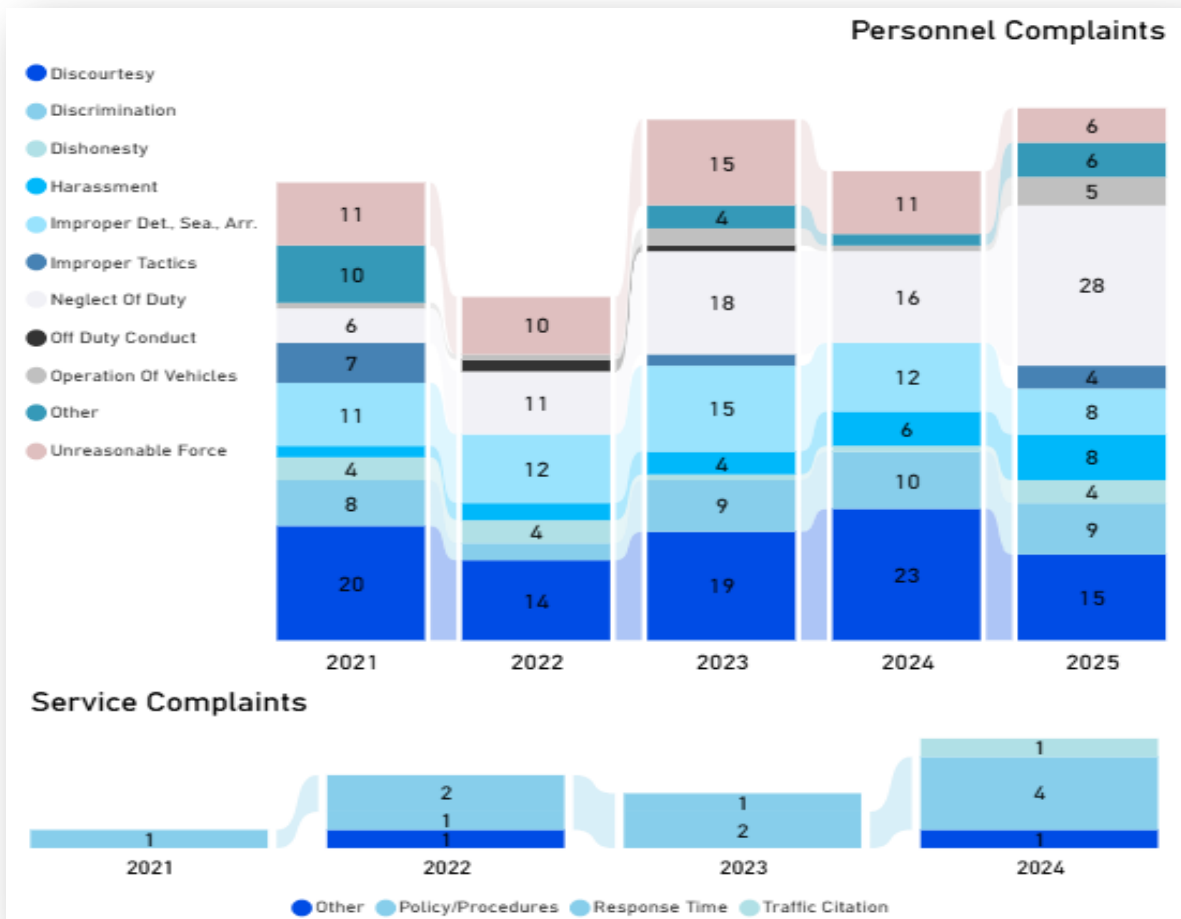


FIGURE 21: CHART- PALMDALE STATION COMPLAINTS BY CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PC 69/ 148(A) ARRESTS

Over the past year, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) has observed a notable decline in the number of deputy-related arrests involving Penal Code sections 69 (PC 69) and 148(a) (PC 148(a)). These sections pertain to offenses involving resisting or obstructing officers (PC 148(a)) and the use of force or threats to prevent an officer from performing their duties (PC 69). The overuse of these statutes as the basis for arrests is frequently suggestive to independent monitors and oversight bodies that ineffective law enforcement strategies may be employed.

The decrease in arrests related to these offenses could reflect several key trends or factors within both the LASD and the broader law enforcement landscape. First, it is possible that deputies are employing more effective de-escalation tactics, leading to fewer confrontations and, consequently, a reduction in incidents where force or obstruction

occurs. This shift could be indicative of a broader move toward prioritizing community engagement and the use of non-coercive methods to resolve potentially volatile situations.

While there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of arrests under Penal Code Sections 69 and 148 (PC 69/148) in recent years, there is a significant gap in the available data regarding the legal outcomes of these cases. The Department will be exploring additional methods to continue its analysis of this data in the future.

## DEPARTMENT-WIDE PC 69/ 148(A) ARRESTS

Arrests under Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a) have steadily declined over the years, reflecting significant changes in law enforcement practices and community relations. One key factor contributing to this downward trend is the heightened public scrutiny that law enforcement agencies now face. With greater awareness and demand for transparency, police departments have adopted a range of accountability measures designed to monitor and regulate officer conduct more effectively.

The widespread implementation of body-worn cameras is a prime example of this shift. These devices provide an objective record of interactions between deputies and the public, which not only protects citizens' rights but also holds officers accountable for their actions. The presence of body cameras encourages deputies to exercise greater caution and professionalism, knowing their behavior is being documented and subject to review. This often results in officers opting for de-escalation and alternative resolutions rather than resorting to arrests on charges that could be seen as subjective or potentially contentious. Together, these accountability tools have reshaped how deputies approach encounters with the public, encouraging them to use their discretion carefully and only file charges under Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a) when there is clear and compelling justification. This more judicious approach aligns with broader efforts to build trust between law enforcement and communities while minimizing confrontational incidents that can escalate tensions.

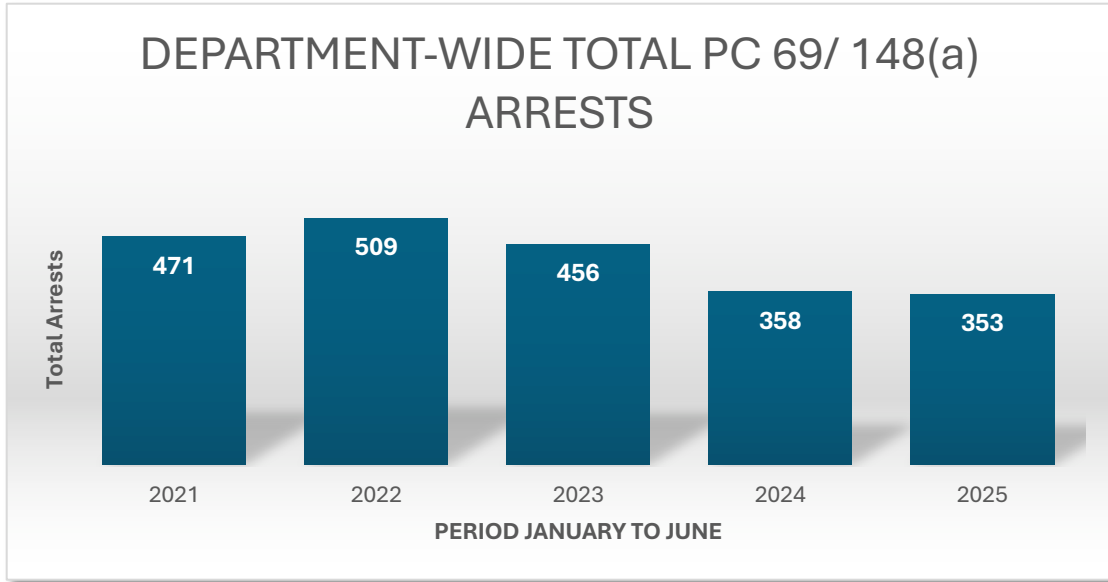


FIGURE 22: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE PC 69/148(A) ARRESTS FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

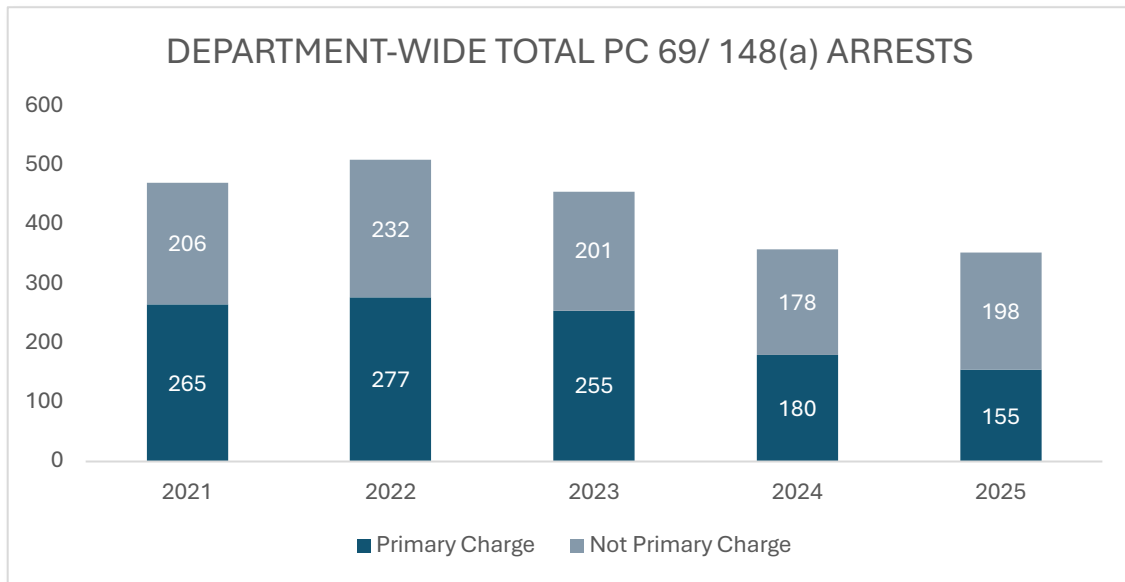


FIGURE 23: CHART- DEPARTMENT-WIDE PC 69/148(A) ARRESTS BY PRIMARY CHARGE AND NOT PRIMARY CHARGE FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

Based on a five-year analysis of arrests coded under Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a), it is evident that while the overall number of arrests has declined, the frequency of PC 69/ 148(a) being filed as the primary charge has remained disproportionately high. This sustained prioritization of PC 69/ 148(a) as the primary charge raises concerns, especially

given that LASD is unable to determine whether these charges were ultimately substantiated in court or dismissed by the District Attorney. The lack of clarity about case outcomes makes it difficult to assess whether the high rate of PC 69/ 148(a) charges reflects actual conduct or a pattern of overcharging. This trend warrants further investigation into charging practices and their alignment with legal outcomes. This gap highlights a need for more robust case tracking and accountability.

### LANCASTER STATION PC 69/ 148(A) ARRESTS

The increase in PC 69 and 148(a) arrests in Lancaster, from 20 in 2024 to 35 in 2025, a 75% rise marks a significant departure from the broader five-year trend of declining arrests under these charges across many jurisdictions. This upward shift may point to a rise in confrontational encounters between the public and law enforcement, potentially driven by increased enforcement activity, changing community dynamics, or isolated incidents that escalated into resistance or obstruction. It could also reflect a shift in departmental enforcement strategy, where deputies are now more inclined to pursue charges in situations involving non-compliance or interference, possibly due to stronger evidentiary support provided by body-worn cameras and other accountability tools. Additionally, localized factors unique to Lancaster, such as a rise in crime, staffing changes, or specific events requiring heightened police presence, may have contributed to this increase. While it is too early to determine whether this represents a sustained trend or a temporary spike, the data suggests a need for further examination of the circumstances surrounding these arrests.

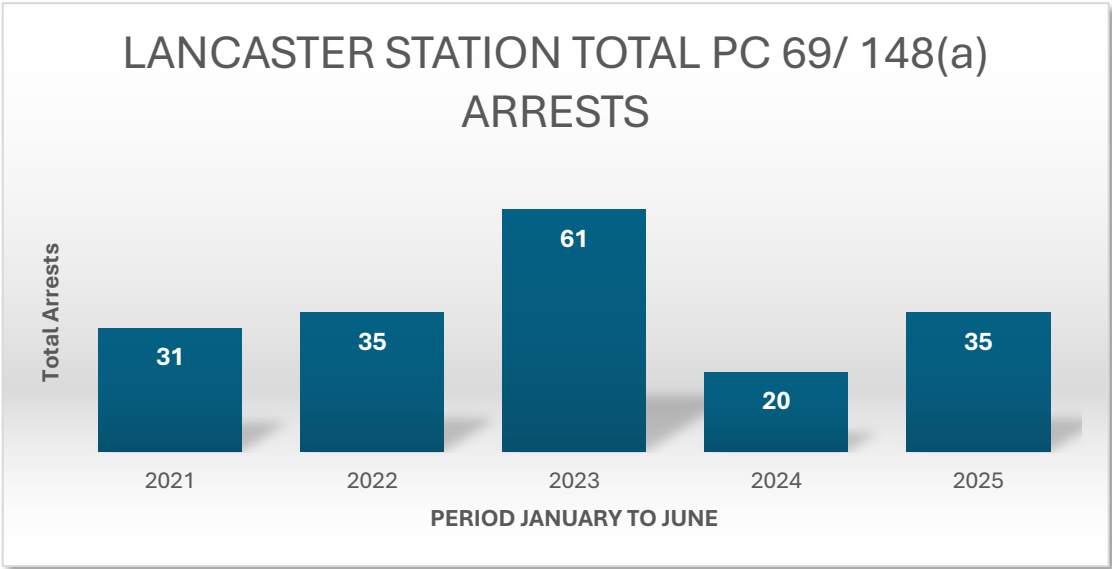


FIGURE 24: CHART- LANCASTER STATION PC 69/148(A) ARRESTS FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

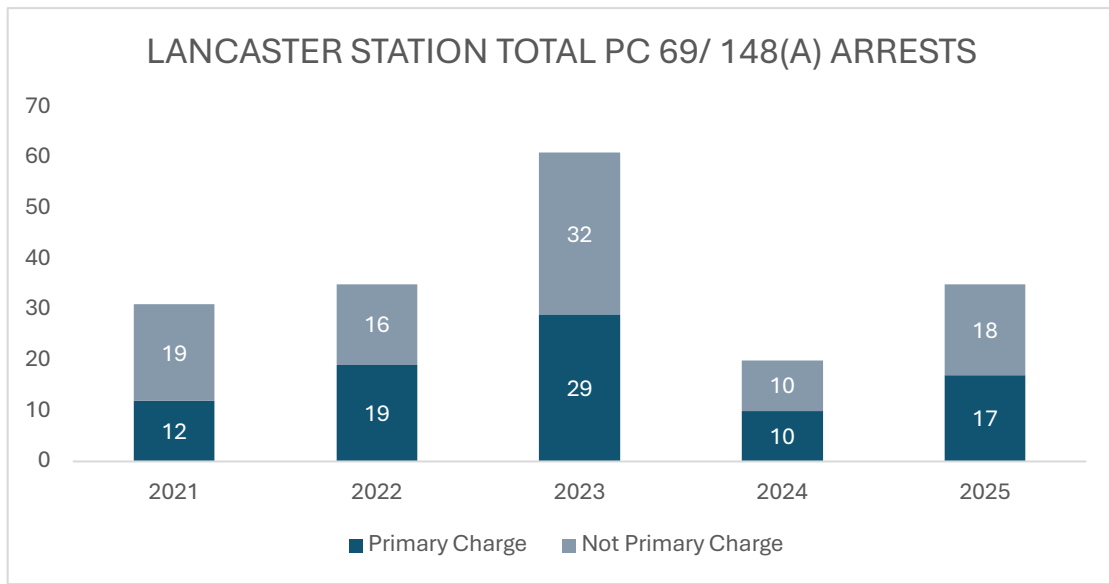


FIGURE 25: CHART- LANCASTER STATION PC 69/148(A) ARRESTS BY PRIMARY CHARGE AND NOT PRIMARY CHARGE FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

Of the 35 arrests made under Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a) in Lancaster during 2025, 17 were classified as the primary charge, meaning the arrest was based chiefly on resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer, rather than being secondary to another criminal offense. This is a significant detail, as nearly half (48.6%) of the total arrests for these charges were not tied to an underlying crime such as theft, assault, or drug possession, but instead stemmed directly from the individual’s interaction with law enforcement.

This proportion raises important questions about the nature of these encounters. A high number of primary charge arrests may suggest that deputies are encountering more individuals who are uncooperative or resistant during otherwise routine contacts, such as traffic stops or investigative stops, where no other criminal activity is evident. Alternatively, it could point to a lower threshold for applying these charges, possibly as a tool to maintain control or compliance during enforcement actions.

From an accountability perspective, primary charge arrests under PC 69/148(a) often draw greater scrutiny, as they can be viewed as more discretionary and subjective in nature. Without an accompanying offense, the justification for the arrest rests heavily on officer interpretation and conduct making documentation, such as body-worn camera footage and supervisor review, especially critical. The relatively high percentage of these charges as stand-alone offenses in Lancaster may warrant closer analysis to ensure consistency, fairness, and alignment with broader departmental goals around de-escalation and community trust.

### PALMDALE STATION PC 69/ 148(A) ARRESTS

Palmdale has shown a steady decline in arrests under Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a), continuing a downward trend that aligns with broader statewide patterns focused on de-escalation and accountability. In 2025, the total number of arrests dropped to 34, compared to 42 in 2024, a 19% decrease. This reduction may reflect an ongoing shift in enforcement practices, where deputies are increasingly emphasizing non-confrontational approaches and utilizing discretion more carefully in encounters that might otherwise lead to charges for resisting or obstructing an officer.

The decline could also be attributed to the impact of expanded training in areas such as crisis intervention, communication, and policy, which equip deputies to manage tense situations without escalating to arrest. Additionally, the presence of accountability tools like body-worn cameras and the influence of community oversight may encourage more measured responses during enforcement actions. This trend suggests that Palmdale is successfully aligning its policing strategies with evolving standards that prioritize public trust, proportionality in enforcement, and the reduction of subjective arrests where alternative resolutions are possible.

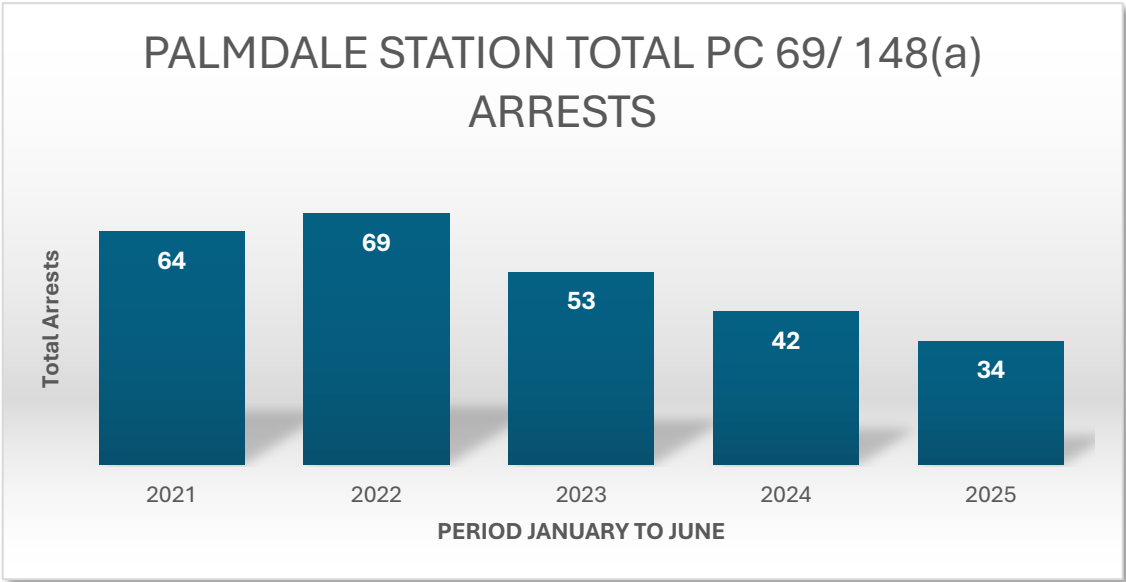


FIGURE 26: CHART- PALMDALE STATION PC 69/148(A) ARRESTS FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

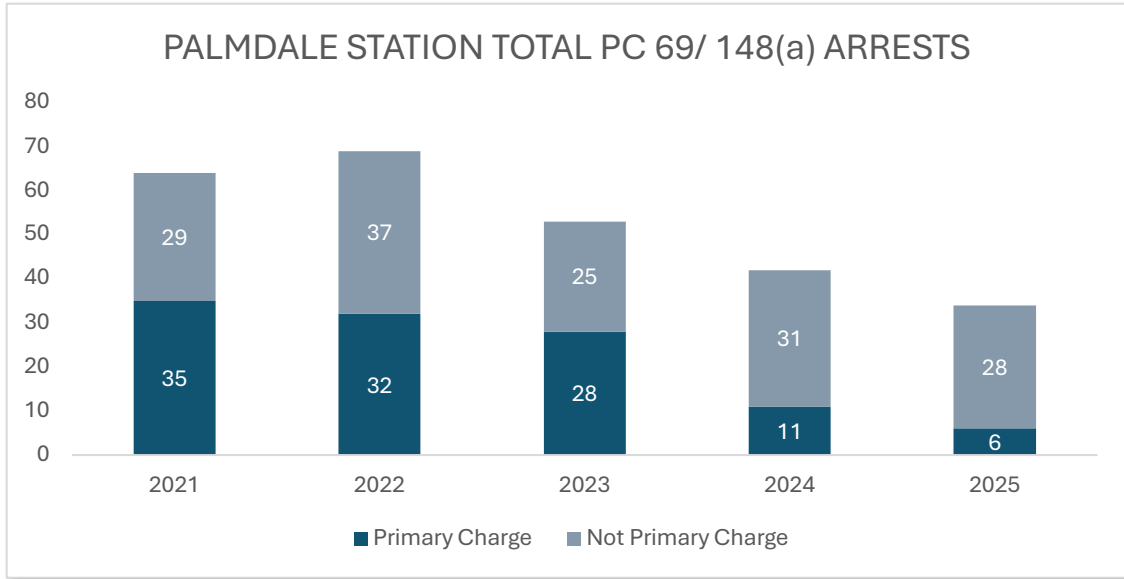


FIGURE 27: CHART- PALMDALE STATION PC 69/148(A) ARRESTS BY PRIMARY CHARGE AND NOT PRIMARY CHARGE FOR PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE (2021-2025).

In 2025, of the 34 total arrests in Palmdale under Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a), only 6 were classified as primary charges, while 28 were secondary to other offenses. This reflects a continued trend from 2024, when there were 11 primary charge arrests and 31 secondary charge arrests. The decline in both overall arrests and primary charge cases suggests a more restrained and targeted use of these charges, with deputies increasingly applying them in conjunction with other criminal offenses rather than as stand-alone charges.

This shift may indicate a heightened focus on ensuring that arrests for resisting or obstructing an officer are clearly substantiated and not used in isolation except when fully justified. The reduction in primary charges, often seen as more subjective in nature, could be attributed to improved officer training, the influence of oversight mechanisms, or evolving departmental policies that emphasize de-escalation. Overall, this pattern supports the idea that Palmdale is refining its enforcement practices to reduce reliance on charges that may be more subjective, while maintaining accountability and focusing on more serious underlying offenses.

## SUPERVISORY AND OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This section examines how supervisors utilize the Performance Oversight Information Tracker (POINT) to systematically integrate performance data into routine decision-making processes. By leveraging data captured through POINT, particularly related to use-of-force incidents, obstruction arrests, and civilian complaints, supervisors enhance

accountability, improve oversight, and guide operational and disciplinary actions. This analysis identifies ways in which performance information is documented, reviewed, and applied to promote consistent supervisory practices and strengthen organizational transparency. These efforts underscore the agency's commitment to evidence-based management and responsible policing.

The Performance Oversight Information Tracker (POINT) is an internal dashboard designed to provide supervisors with real-time data on active-duty deputies. POINT consolidates key performance indicators across several critical categories, including use of force, administrative investigations, personnel complaints, traffic accidents, shooting incidents, and arrests related to Penal Code sections 69 and 148(a). The system ranks deputies based on their activity and incidents within these categories, enabling supervisors to quickly identify patterns or emerging issues. By highlighting trends in deputy behavior, POINT serves as a valuable tool to support proactive oversight, early intervention, and informed decision-making.

Within the Antelope Valley Stations, captains and operations team regularly utilize POINT as a comprehensive case management tool to monitor deputy performance and behavior. On a quarterly basis, captains generate detailed reports by reviewing POINT data to identify, document, and analyze emerging trends related to use-of-force incidents, obstruction arrests, and civilian complaints involving their deputies. These trend analyses enable captains to assess performance patterns and determine if disciplinary measures or targeted interventions are warranted. Furthermore, captains participate in the Risk Management Forum twice a year and present on station-wide performance, using POINT data to highlight key trends, evaluate operational effectiveness, and support data-driven decision-making aimed at enhancing accountability and organizational transparency.

## LASD AUDITS AND ACCOUNTABILITY USE OF FORCE AUDIT TRENDS

The Department's Audits and Accountability Bureau (AAB) has been conducting audits of various factors related to uses of force on an ongoing basis to evaluate compliance with the relevant Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement provisions. In the AAB's recent 2025 Use of Force audits, auditors noted that the Antelope Valley Stations met the established compliance metrics during the audit time periods the areas of:

- Public Recording Interference
- Demanding Identification and/ or Reason for Public Recording
- Blocking or Obstructing Camera/ Recording Devices
- Seizing or Searching Camera/ Recording Devices without Warrant
- Use of Force Against Public Recording of Police Activity

- Detaining or Arresting an Individual for: Public Recording and/ or Violation to Prevent/ Retaliate for Publicly Recording Police Activity<sup>27</sup>

The Settlement Agreement includes requirements that law enforcement not interfere, obstruct, or hinder an individual’s attempt to record police activity in public spaces.<sup>28</sup>

Members of the public, including the press, have a First Amendment right to observe, photograph, and record video or audio of law enforcement activities occurring in any public area where they have a lawful right to be present.<sup>29</sup>

The auditors examined a total of 567 incidents, including administrative investigations, civil claims and lawsuits, obstruction-related arrests, use-of-force incidents, WCSCRs, and any case involving recording devices submitted as evidence from AV Stations, to assess whether any potential violations of public recording rights had occurred.

### Incidents Reviewed

AV Station	Administrative Investigations	Civil Claims	Litigations	Obstruction Arrests	PRELIMS	UOF Incidents	WCSCR
Lancaster	29	26	15	39	1	53	112
Palmdale	23	19	17	80	2	29	123
Sub-Total	52	45	32	119	3	82	234
<b>AV Total</b>	<b>567</b>						

<sup>27</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Audit and Accountability Bureau, Use of Force Audit: LASD Compliance with Public Recordings Rights Antelope Valley Stations, No. 2025-9-A, August 2025.

<sup>28</sup> A public space is an area that is open to the general public for use or recreation, such as a park, plaza, or street.

<sup>29</sup> Manual of Policy and Procedures 3-01/080.16- Photography, Audio, and Videotaping by the Public and Press.

## Summary of Compliance Metrics Findings

Obj No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total	Compliance Metrics %
<b>1</b>	<b>INTERFERENCE OF PUBLIC RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITIES</b>				
1(a)	<i>Ordering Cease of Photography or Video Recording</i>	100%	100%	100%	100% <sup>19</sup>
1(b)	<i>Demanding Identification and/or Reason for Publicly Recording</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%
1(c)	<i>Blocking or Obstructing Camera/Recording Devices</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%
1(d)	<i>Seizing or Searching Camera/ Recording Device without Warrant</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%
1(e)	<i>Use of Force Against Public Recording of Police Activity</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%
1(f)	<i>Detaining or Arresting an Individual for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Public Recording</i></li> <li>• <i>Violation to Prevent/Retaliate for Publicly Recording Police Activity</i></li> </ul>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>2</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION</b>				
2(a)	<i>Appropriate Actions Taken in Regard to Violations of Public Recording Rights</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%

Based on the procedures performed and the evidence obtained during the audit, the auditors concluded that the AV Stations are functioning effectively and fulfilling their responsibilities in accordance with the Agreement. No areas of concern were identified; therefore, no audit recommendations were issued.

Furthermore, the auditors found no instances in which Department members interfered with, threatened, intimidated, obstructed, or otherwise discouraged a member of the public, who was not violating any law, from photographing or recording law enforcement activities in areas where the individual had a lawful right to be.

The AAB conducted a thorough and comprehensive review, resulting in a clear assessment of compliance with Paragraph 106 of the Agreement.

The audit findings demonstrate that the AV Stations are operating effectively and in full compliance with the Agreement, reflecting the Department's commitment to transparency and accountability. The absence of any incidents involving interference or intimidation toward members of the public exercising their right to record law enforcement activities underscores a respectful and open relationship between the Department and the community.

By ensuring that individuals lawfully present can document police activities without fear of obstruction or retaliation, the Department fosters trust and cooperation with the public, which is essential for building positive community relationships and promoting mutual respect.

## OVERALL ANALYTICAL ANALYSIS OF DATA

A significant factor in the five-year data is the relationship between overall crime trends and use of force incidents. The spike in use of force in 2022–2023 parallels the rise in reported Part I crimes during the same period. However, while crime levels in 2024–2025 have remained elevated compared to 2021, use of force incidents declined sharply. This divergence suggests that the Department’s reforms, particularly de-escalation training, enhanced supervisory oversight, and expanded use of accountability mechanisms, may be breaking the historic linkage between crime volume and force incidents. In other words, deputies are finding ways to resolve encounters more safely and with less reliance on force, even in periods of higher reported criminal activity.

The relationship between crime patterns and use of force outcomes also reveals important insights into deputy decision-making. Department-wide data show that while overall crime levels remain higher than in 2021, use of force incidents have steadily declined since their peak in 2022. This suggests that deputies are increasingly capable of managing higher-risk environments with fewer force applications, further reflecting the success of de-escalation training and policy reforms.

At Lancaster Station, the 33% reduction in Category 2 incidents is also noteworthy. Category 2 represents incidents with identifiable injury, making them critical markers of public trust. That these incidents declined despite a slight increase in total force events indicate that deputies are leaning more heavily on control holds and other lower-impact tactics. This shift demonstrates operational alignment with policy emphasis on proportionality.

The complaint data adds another layer to this evaluation. The 16.8% increase in complaints Department-wide contrasts with Lancaster’s 15% decrease and Palmdale’s slight increase. Lancaster and Palmdale’s expanded community engagement efforts appear to be yielding measurable reductions in formal complaints, particularly in categories like improper detention and tactics. Palmdale, on the other hand, shows progress in reducing unreasonable force complaints but faces rising concerns over neglect of duty. This divergence underscores that while tactical reforms are reducing force-related complaints, broader perceptions of service quality and follow-through remain a challenge.

The training data also provide measurable connections to outcomes. Lancaster’s decline in improper detention and tactics complaints coincides with enhanced arrest and control training, suggesting that deputies are better equipped to handle resistant subjects without escalating force.

Finally, the data on Penal Code 69/148(a) arrests provides critical insight into deputy-community interactions. Lancaster shows progress in reducing Category 2 incidents but

faces concern with a sharp rise in PC 69/148(a) arrests, nearly half of which were primary charge arrests not tied to another crime. This practice, while lawful, risks undermining public trust if the arrests are not consistently substantiated in court. By contrast, Palmdale reduced both overall arrests under PC 69/148(a) and the proportion of those filed as primary charges, reflecting a more restrained and targeted approach.

# APPENDIX A

## METHODOLOGY

### Data Collection Methods

This report utilizes data collected from multiple official records to assess incidents of use of force within the law enforcement agency. The sources of data include:

- **PRMS** (Police Records Management System)
- **LARCIS** (LA Regional Crime Information System) and
- **Public Dashboards** such as Force Statistics and UCR Crime Statistics found in the LASD public website under *Transparency* ( [Transparency Main | Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department](#) ).

Data for this report was drawn from all **use of force incidents** within the specified timeframe of **January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025**. The timeframe ensures consistency and allows for a comprehensive analysis of trends over a five-year period during the same period of January through June for the respective year. It should be noted that these numbers can change over time, as use of force incidents complete their review. It is possible that force cases are re-categorized, or new evidence uncovered, resulting in the data points being updated. The most current information can be found on the Department's dashboards located on its webpage.

### Variables and Measures

For the purposes of this report, "use of force" is defined based on standardized agency criteria, encompassing various force tactics used by officers during incidents. Additionally, the report separately tracks **shooting incidents**, which are recorded in a specialized module and later merged into the overall dataset for analysis.

Incidents of use of force are categorized into various types, including:

- **Physical Restraint**
- **Non-lethal Force** (e.g., tasers, bean bag rounds)
- **Deadly Force**

The outcomes of these incidents are also recorded, including:

- **Injury**
- **Fatality**

- **No Injury**

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

The data is analyzed through quantitative methods, primarily focusing on trend analysis to identify patterns in the frequency, types, and outcomes of use of force incidents over time. This analysis examines variables such as the location of incidents (Bureau/Area/Division of occurrence), and the role of involved department personnel.

Categorical use of force incidents are analyzed across different annual totals, broken down by Bureau and Area/Division of occurrence. The data also differentiates between personnel involved in the incident based on their role in the use of force, including those who have received adjudication findings or have a pending finding for the relevant force type.

### **DATA LIMITATIONS AND RESEARCH CONSTRAINTS**

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data, case processing duration may lead to slight variations in the categorization of final outcomes, as incidents may shift between categories based on the adjudication process. Additionally, only Department personnel who were directly involved in the use of force (those who applied force or were involved in the tactical decision-making) are included in the analysis. Employees who were present at the scene but did not apply force or participate in the tactical decision-making are excluded from the report.

### *SCOPE OF DATA SUMMARY*

**Query Period:** All Use of Force incidents from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025.

**Bureau and Area/Division of Occurrence:** The location of each use of force incident is classified according to the Bureau and Area/Division where the incident occurred, regardless of where the incident originated or the location of the involved personnel.

**Personnel Involvement:** Only those Department personnel who received an adjudication finding or have a pending finding related to the use of force in each respective incident are considered "involved" for the purposes of this report.

### **Non-Categorized Incidents**

Non-categorized incidents (NCIs) were initially reported primarily at Custody, Lancaster Station, and Palmdale Station. However, starting in mid-2021, the reporting of NCIs was

expanded to include the entire department. This shift in reporting practices is reflected in the noticeable increase in the number of NCIs beginning in 2022.

## Data Analysis

Data collected for each incident, including incident type, force category, and location, is aggregated to provide an overview of trends over the reporting period. The analysis aims to identify any notable patterns, differences between types of incidents, and trends over time or across different regions. This analysis is used to inform departmental policies, training needs, and operational decisions, with the goal of enhancing accountability and improving the management of Use of Force incidents.

## APPENDIX B

### ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS

#### I. USE OF FORCE TERMS DEFINED

Force is defined as any physical effort used to control or restrain another or to overcome the resistance of another. Other terms used within this chapter are defined below:

- **Carotid Restraint:** A vascular neck restraint or any similar restraint, hold, or other defensive tactic in which pressure is applied to the sides of a person's neck that involves a substantial risk of restricting blood flow and may render the person unconscious to subdue or control the person.
- **Choke Hold:** Any defensive tactic or force option in which direct pressure is applied to a person's trachea or windpipe.
- **De-escalation:** The process of using strategies and techniques intended to decrease the intensity of the situation. The goal of de-escalation is to gain voluntary compliance of subjects, when reasonably safe and feasible, and thereby reduce or eliminate the necessity to use physical force. De-escalation includes the use of such crisis stabilization techniques as command presence, time, tone, advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, tactical repositioning, and summoning additional resources.
- **Deadly Force:** Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury. Deadly Force includes but is not limited to, the discharge of a firearm.
- **Directed Force:** Force used in the execution of one's duties under the immediate direction of a supervisor.
- **Emergent Circumstances:** Those circumstances which would cause a reasonable person or Department member to believe that a particular action is necessary to prevent imminent physical harm to an individual or the escape of a subject who poses an imminent risk of harm to others.
- **Feasible:** Considering the Department member's individual capabilities, training, and experience, reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the arrest or lawful objective without increasing risk to the Department member or another person.

- **Force Options:** Choices available to Department members in any given situation to overcome resistance, to effect an arrest, to prevent escape, in the defense of self and the defense of others, and to gain control.
- **Imminent Threat:** A threat of death or serious bodily injury is imminent when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable peace officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to a Department member or another person. A simple statement of fear for safety is not enough to justify the use of deadly force. There must be objective facts indicating that the threat needed to be instantly confronted and addressed.
- **Medical Assistance Force:** Any instance when a Department member restrains a subject under the immediate direction and supervision of a doctor, nurse, or other medical staff whom the Department member believes is qualified to administer medical care. All medical assistance force must be objectively reasonable, proportional, and reasonably appear necessary at the time.
- **Passive Resistance:** The subject is uncooperative and may be argumentative but is not a threat to the Department member or others. The following are some examples of uncooperative behavior: The subject is not responding to verbal commands and may refuse to move by standing still, sitting down, lying down, going limp, grabbing onto a fixed object, or linking arms with others during a protest or demonstration.
- **Proportional:** To be proportional, the level of force must reflect the totality of circumstances surrounding the situation at hand. Given the totality of the circumstances, there is a balance between the threat posed, the seriousness of the suspected offense, and the amount of force used. Proportional force does not require Department members to use the same type or amount of force as the subject. The more immediate the threat and the more likely that the threat will result in death or serious physical injury, the greater the level of force that may be proportional, objectively reasonable, and reasonably appear necessary to counter it.
- **Rescue Force:** Any instance when it is necessary for a Department member to use force to prevent harm from occurring to medical staff, professional staff, or any person not a member of the Department. All rescue force must be objectively reasonable, proportional, and reasonably appear necessary at the time.
- **Serious Bodily Injury:** A serious impairment of physical condition including but not limited to the following: loss of consciousness, concussion, bone fracture,

protracted loss, or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ, a wound requiring extensive suturing, and serious disfigurement.

- **Tactical Repositioning:** Moving to another location to lessen the level of danger, to gain an advantage over the subject, or to allow more time to explore additional options before resorting to use of force.
- **Totality of the Circumstances:** All facts known to the Department Member at the time, including the conduct of the member and the subject leading up to the use of force. Elements to be considered are listed in "Factors in Determining the Reasonableness of Force," MPP 3-10/020.00.
- **Unreasonable Force:** Force which is unnecessary or excessive given the totality of the circumstances presented to the Department members using force, judged from the perspective of a reasonable peace officer on the scene.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Manual of Policy and Procedures: 3-10/004.00- Use of Force Terms Defined.