

ISD Virtual Learning

Public Safety 10-12

April 20, 2020



Public Safety Lesson: April 20, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Use of Force

Gain an understanding of what is meant by use of force and learning how much is too much.

Warm Up

How many police officers are there in the United States?

How many of you have been stopped by the police?

How many of you contacted the police for one reason or another?

How many of you know at least one person who has either been contacted by or made contact with an officer?

In 2018, there were 686,665 full-time law enforcement officers employed in the United States. The number of full-time law enforcement officers reached a peak in 2008 with 708,569 officers, and hit a low in 2013 with 626,942 officers.



That's quite few interactions and contacts either initiated by them or by the citizens themselves.

"Police Misconduct Provision"

This law makes it unlawful for State or local law enforcement officers to engage in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives persons of rights protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States. (34 U.S.C. § 12601).

How many times are the police contacting people?

Among a variety of other findings, the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS), collected triennially since 1996, estimates the number of citizens who interact with police annually, how those interactions came about, and how citizens assess them. Because BJS conducts interviews with a sample (some 40,000 to 60,000 persons, depending on the year), then extrapolates to the larger population, the numbers are not perfect, but they do offer one reasonable indication of police contact with the American public. In 2011, the most recent year for which data is available, 62.9 million U.S. residents age 16 or older, or about one quarter of American adults, had at least one encounter, face-to-face or remote, with police. Half (49 percent) were police-initiated; traffic stops accounted for four of every ten encounters (42 percent), as did citizen requests for assistance (38.5 percent).

Complaints of excessive force seem overwhelming.





Perceptions Dictate Reality for Some

United States 626,942 officers.

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- During 2002 large State and local law enforcement agencies, representing 5% of agencies and 59% of officers, received a total of 26,556 citizen complaints about police use of force.
- About a third of all force complaints in 2002 were not sustained (34%). Twenty-five percent were unfounded, 23% resulted in officers being exonerated, and 8% were sustained.
- Using sustained force complaints as an indicator of excessive force results in an estimate of about 2,000 incidents of police use of excessive force among large agencies in 2002. (as an example year)

Use of Force defined:

Use of Force Continuum

Click on this link

Reflection

What have been some of the greatest weaknesses of Police Dept. connecting to their communities?

What is their greatest struggles to change this problem?

How effective do you believe these type of tactics will be?

Remember these questions as we move through this topic. How does the reputation of a department help or hinder the public perception of use of force?

Sources of Information

https://www.statista.com/statistics/191694/number-of-law-enforcement-officers-in-the-us/

https://www.justice.gov/crs/file/836401/download

https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6406

https://www.justice.gov/crt/addressing-police-misconduct-laws-enforced-department-justice

https://www.aclu.org/other/fighting-police-abuse-community-action-manual#gather

https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccpuf.pdf

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