



2021 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

USE OF FORCE STATEWIDE DATA COLLECTION

What needs to change?

There is no single source of information where the public can obtain information about the use of force by law enforcement officers in Washington State. However, there is broad agreement that all Washingtonians deserve clear, comprehensive, and contextual information to better understand and reduce violent interactions between law enforcement and members of the public. With these insights, we can capture the complete information needed to enact equitable policies, begin to build trust through transparency, and measure the effectiveness of policing reform strategies.

Washington's 2016 Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Deadly Force in Community Policing overwhelmingly supported standardized data reporting.

What is the solution? - [SB 5259](#) / [HB 1092](#)

Pass legislation that:

- Requires law enforcement agencies to report data resulting from an officer's use of force against a member of the public on a quarterly basis.
- Assign Washington State University or its successor to:
 - receive use of force data;
 - create an easily searchable, public facing website to display that data; and
 - update that data on a quarterly basis.
- Requires an objective summary report that will go to the Legislature on an annual basis.

“With use of force in the public consciousness, the United States is in need of a systematic way to measure and track incidents.”

– Police Chief Magazine

What are other jurisdictions doing?

Some local jurisdictions, including the Bellingham Police Department¹, Lynnwood Police Department², Spokane Police Department³ and Vancouver Police Department⁴ already share information with the public about a broad range of use of force incidents and the demographics of those involved.

- Spokane produces an annual report including:
- Incidents when the subject claims an injury resulting from a use of force, even if no injury is available
- All applications of lateral neck restraint
- Intentional pointing of a firearm

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- 1: <https://cob.org/gov/dept/police/news-police/use-of-force-statistics>
- 2: <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/police-department/documents/other-reports/2019-force-pursuits-and-collisions.pdf>
- 3: <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/use-of-force/>
- 4: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/police/page/use-force-data>