

2021 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BERGEN COUNTY

The following report contains a statistical summary of reports of police misconduct in Bergen County for **2021**. In addition, the report provides statistics for the disposition of these complaints. A review of the report and a comparison of this report with the reports prepared in prior years reveals the following:

(A) Summary- Complaints Filed

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Inc (Dec)</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Inc (Dec)</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Inc (Dec)</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Inc (Dec)</u>	<u>% change</u>
Excessive Force	39	31	-8	-20.51%	37	6	19.35%	38	1	2.70%	55	17	44.74%
Improper Arrest	15	8	-7	-46.67%	5	-3	-37.50%	6	1	20.00%	7	1	16.67%
Improper Entry	10	8	-2	-20.00%	3	-5	-62.50%	1	-2	-66.67%	3	2	200.00%
Improper Search	18	12	-6	-33.33%	17	5	41.67%	12	-5	-29.41%	3	-9	-75.00%
Other Criminal Violation	78	53	-25	-32.05%	45	-8	-15.09%	34	-11	-24.44%	49	15	44.12%
Differential Treatment	59	35	-24	-40.68%	34	-1	-2.86%	27	-7	-20.59%	22	-5	-18.52%
Demeanor	264	216	-48	-18.18%	170	-46	-21.30%	160	-10	-5.88%	146	-14	-8.75%
Domestic Violence	19	14	-5	-26.32%	13	-1	-7.14%	8	-5	-38.46%	8	0	0.00%
Other Rule Violation	466	479	13	2.79%	382	-97	-20.25%	258	-124	-32.46%	327	69	26.74%
TOTAL	968	856	-112	-11.57%	706	-150	-17.52%	544	-162	-22.95%	620	76	13.97%

(B) Number of Complaints Disposed

Excessive Force	49
Improper Arrest	6
Improper Entry	2
Improper Search	7
Other Criminal Violation	40
Diff. Treatment	23
Demeanor	130
Domestic Violence	10
Other Rule Violation	287
Total	554

(C) Criminal Dispositions

Cases Dismissed	0
Cases Diverted	3
Acquittals	0
Convictions	0
Total	3

(D) Administrative Disposition of Complaints

	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>NS</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>AC</u>
Excessive Force	1	17	24	7	0
Improper Arrest	1	3	1	1	0
Improper Entry	0	1	1	0	0
Improper Search	0	5	1	0	1
Other Criminal Violation	3	6	9	14	8
Differential Treatment	2	5	5	7	3
Demeanor	15	37	49	23	11
Domestic Violence	1	4	3	0	1
Other Rule Violation	174	41	34	17	27
Totals	197	119	127	69	51

(E) Trends

A comparison between the 2020 and 2021 year end summary reports revealed there was an increase of 76 cases for the year end 2021. The increases were in five (5) of the nine (9) types of complaints filed. There was a 45% increase in Excessive Force complaints, 17% increase in Improper Arrest complaints, 200% increase in Improper Entry complaints [from one (1) to three (3)], 44% increase in Other Criminal Violation complaints, and 27% increase in Other Rule Violation complaints. Decreases were noted in Improper Search (-75%), Differential Treatment (-19%), and Demeanor complaints (-9%). Domestic Violence complaints remained the same as in 2020 with eight (8) complaints.

(F) Complaints With Major Discipline:

Bergen County Sheriff's Office:

- 1 officer suspended for 7 days for Rules and Regulations violation
- 1 officer suspended for 10 days for Rules and Regulations violation
- 1 officer suspended for 25 days for Rules and Regulations violation
- 1 officer terminated for Rules and Regulations violation

Dumont Police Department:

- 1 officer suspended for 180 days for Rules and Regulations violation

Palisades Park Police Department:

- 1 officer suspended for 90 days for Rules and Regulations violation

Paramus Police Department:

- 1 officer suspended for 60 days for Rules and Regulations violation

Ramsey Police Department:

1 officer terminated for Rules and Regulations violation

Ridgefield Park Police Department:

1 officer suspended for 30 days for Rules and Regulations violation

Saddle Brook Police Department:

1 officer suspended for 123 days for Rules and Regulations violation

Westwood Police Department:

1 officer suspended for 15 days for Rules and Regulations violation

(G) Conclusions:

In summary, after compiling information from summary reports of 71 law enforcement agencies for 2021, there was an increase of 76 complaints filed compared to 2020. With regard to criminal violations, notifications are made to this agency along with the findings pursuant to Attorney General Guidelines.

(H) Recommendations:

Continue the availability of Internal Affairs training courses for all officers, specifically those responsible for conducting Internal Affairs investigations pursuant to Attorney General Guidelines. Departments should consider undergoing a certification process to ensure all rules and regulations are adequate and that all complaints of police misconduct, whether filed by agency personnel or citizens, are reported to Internal Affairs Units and investigated thoroughly.