

2019 REPORT TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND
NUMBER OF SERIOUS POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED INCIDENTS AND OFFICERS
DISCIPLINED
January 1 – December 31, 2019

In accordance with Public Safety Article §3-207(b) (1), the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) developed a system by which law enforcement agencies report to the Commission, as required by law, the number of serious officer-involved incidents each year, the number of officers disciplinedⁱ each year, and the type of discipline administered to those officers.

The PTSC approved the following definition of “serious officer-involved incident” at its January 3, 2018 meeting:

Incidents in which:

- (1) Criminal charges were filed against an officer; or*
- (2) Complaints of criminal misconduct have been investigated and sustained against an officer; or*
- (3) Complaints of excessive force have been investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person; or*
- (4) An officer/person contact directly results in the serious injury or death of a person.*

Serious Officer Involved Incidents

The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) staff developed an online reporting process for reporting this information. “Serious Officer Involved Incident” reported information included:

The agency name, address and county, as well as the name of the person completing the form, a contact phone number and a contact email address. Agencies were required to report the number of events for the following during calendar year 2019:

- (1) Direct officer contact that resulted in serious injury or death of the officer or person;*
- (2) Complaints of excessive force which were investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person;*
- (3) Complaints of criminal misconduct that have been investigated and sustained against an officer;*
- (4) Criminal charges were filed against an officer.ⁱⁱ*

Officers Disciplined

Information reported for officer discipline administered during 2019 included:

The agency name, address and county, as well as the name of the person completing the form, a contact phone number and a contact email address. Required reporting of administered officer discipline included the following information:

- (1) *Written Reprimand*
- (2) *Loss of Leave*
- (3) *Loss of Pay*
- (4) *Suspension Without Pay from Duty*
- (5) *Demotion*
- (6) *Dismissal from Employment*
- (7) *Monetary Fine*
- (8) *Other Type of Discipline*

The Commission's definition for "Serious Officer Involved Incident", as explained above, and reporting requirements for both serious officer involved incidents and administered officer discipline were shared with all Maryland Law Enforcement Agencies in a letter sent to each agency head in 2017.

2019 Law Enforcement Agency Reporting

There were 158 agencies employing approximately 16,000 Commission certified police officers in 2019. However, not all of the agencies were identified as being required to comply with Public Safety Article §3-207(b) (1) as some of the agencies have employees who are certified as law enforcement officers by the Police Training and Standards Commission but are not defined as law enforcement agencies under Public Safety Article §3-101(e). Therefore, a total of 139 agencies that were required to report officer discipline and serious officer incidents were identified for the 2019 reporting year and all of the agencies reported as required.

The cumulative totals for the reporting agencies are as follows:

2019 Serious Officer-Involved Incidents	
Direct officer contact that resulted in serious injury or death of the officer or person.	49
Complaints of excessive force which were investigated and sustained against an officer where the force resulted in serious injury or death of a person.	4
Complaints of criminal misconduct that have been investigated and sustained against an officer.	31
Criminal charges were filed against an officer. ⁱⁱⁱ	50

2019 Officer Discipline Administered^{iv}	
Written reprimand.	708
Loss of leave.	224
Loss of pay.	60
Suspension without pay from duty.	129
Demotion.	23
Dismissal from employment.	67
Monetary fine.	395
Other types of discipline.	197

ⁱ Reported information does not indicate association with Serious Officer-Involved incident data.

ⁱⁱ *An officer may be charged multiple times causing the reported numbers to appear disproportionate.*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Reported information is not sufficiently definitive to establish the number of officers who received criminal charges. This data is reflective of the number of total criminal charges placed and not adjudicated.*

^{iv} *In some instances, an officer received more than one form of discipline. In addition, incidents of discipline were reported once they were sustained and prior to any appeal process.*