

The Portland Police Bureau's (PPB) Behavioral Health Unit's (BHU) mission is to coordinate the response of Law Enforcement and the Behavioral Health System to aid people in behavioral crisis resulting from known or suspected mental illness and/or drug and alcohol addiction.

The BHU is a part of the Community Services Division, which is under the umbrella of the Chief's Office, oversees the four tiers of PPB's multi-layered police response to individuals with mental illness or in behavioral crisis. These layers include:

- The core competency of Crisis Intervention Training for all patrol officers
- The Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team, a group of volunteer officers that respond to mental health crisis calls.
- The proactive Behavioral Health Response Teams (BHRT); and
- The Service Coordination Team

As primary responders to crisis calls, all Portland Police Bureau officers receive basic Mental Health Response Training/Crisis Intervention Training, as well as annual mental health refresher training. All officers who work for the Portland Police Bureau receive 40 hours of Mental Health Response Training/CIT Training.

In addition, the Bureau has volunteer officers from a variety of patrol assignments on the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT). These officers respond to crisis calls that are determined to be related to an individual with mental illness. ECIT officers receive additional training in order to; identify risks during a behavioral crisis, utilize crisis communication techniques to help deescalate a person in crisis, and have knowledge of available community resources.

After a call is completed, the BHU has two follow-up functions to connect individuals to resources. Behavioral Health Response Teams (BHRT) pair a patrol officer and a qualified mental health professional from Cascadia Project Respond. The Portland Police Bureau has three BHRT teams. The officers and mental health professionals work proactively with individuals who have a mental illness and are identified as having multiple or high-risk contacts with police. The BHRT cars teams work to connect individuals to appropriate community resources in order to reduce their frequency of contact with police. Referrals to the BHRT cars teams are made through from patrol officers throughout the agency.

Moreover, the Service Coordination Team (SCT) strives to improve public safety, reinforce community livability and increase quality of life by coordinating law enforcement, criminal justice, and resources for individuals who are chronically in and out of the criminal justice system. The SCT Program offers housing, treatment, and robust services to address the underlying root causes of police contact and to help break the entrenched cycle of addiction and criminality.

## The Portland Police Bureau, Mental Health, and the Use of Force

From January 01, 2020 through May 31, 2021<sup>1</sup>, PPB was on the scene of 326,348 CAD calls for service in which an officer indicated whether the subject was suffering from an actual or perceived mental illness<sup>2</sup>. Of those calls, in 28,173 (9%) an officer responded affirmatively that the subject was suffering from an actual or perceived mental illness.

**Table 1: CAD Calls when an Officer was On Scene  
By If Mental Health was indicated on the call (Yes or No)  
01/01/2020 - 05/31/2021**

	Number	% of Total
No Mental Health	298,175	91%
Yes Mental Health	28,173	9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>326,348</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 28,173 calls that an officer responded affirmatively that the subject was suffering from an actual or perceived mental illness, 193 (0.7%) indicated that a force incident occurred.

**Table 2: CAD Calls when an Officer was On Scene  
By Mental Health was indicated on the call  
and if a Force Incident Occurred  
01/01/2020 - 05/31/2021**

	N	% of Total
No Force Incident	27,980	99.3%
Force Incident	193	0.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28,173</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 193 calls that an officer responded affirmatively that the subject was suffering from an actual or perceived mental illness and a force incident occurred, 106 (54.9%) were a Category IV level of force (see graphic for descriptions of force types).

**Table 3: CAD Calls when an Officer was On Scene  
By Mental Health was indicated on the call,  
if a Force Incident Occurred, and Type of Force  
01/01/2020 - 05/31/2021**

	N	% of Total
Category IV	106	54.9%
Category III	59	30.6%
Category II	28	15%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100%</b>

Force types under new 1010.00 policy	
*New force types shown in red	
Category 2-3	Category 4
(Control) Holds with Injury	Baton (Nonstrike)
Takedown	Controlled Takedown
Strikes/kicks	Resisted Handcuffing
Impact Weapons	Pointing of a Firearm
Less Lethal	Hobble Restraint
Aerosol Restraint	Firearm discharge to end the suffering of a wounded animal
CEW	Box-in
K9 Bite	Control Against Resistance
P.I.T.	
Firearm discharge to stop an aggressive animal	
Vehicle Ram	

<sup>1</sup> Data extracted on 06/22/2021. System records are continually updated and revised as additional information is received.

<sup>2</sup> It must be noted that there are various calls that do not warrant an indication of if mental health was confirmed on the call

## Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) and the Use of Force

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The ECIT team operates as a detached part of the BHU, though ECIT officers are not relieved of regular patrol duties. The Portland Police Bureau has approximately 140 ECIT officers. These patrol officers have received at least 80 hours of mental health response training (40 Hours CIT, 40 Hours ECIT) and are dispatched to mental health crisis call AND any of the following:

- Upon request of a citizen
- Upon request of a responding member
- The subject is violent
- The subject has a weapon
- The subject is threatening or attempting suicide
- The subject's behavior is escalating the risk of harm to self or others
- The call is at a residential mental health facility

From January 01, 2020 through May 31, 2021<sup>3</sup>, PPB was dispatched to 5,293 ECIT CAD calls for service. Of those 5,293 calls, in 87 (1.6%) indicated that a force incident occurred.

**Table 4: ECIT Dispatched CAD Calls  
By if a Force Incident Occurred  
01/01/2020 - 05/31/2021**

	<b>N</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
No Force Incident	5,206	98.4%
Force Incident	87	1.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,293</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 87 calls that an officer responded affirmatively that the subject was suffering from an actual or perceived mental illness and a force incident occurred, 47 (54.0%) were a Category IV level of force (see previous graphic for descriptions of force types).

**Table 5: ECIT Dispatched CAD Calls  
By if a Force Incident Occurred, and Type of Force  
01/01/2020 - 05/31/2021**

	<b>N</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Category IV	47	54.0%
Category II	26	29.9%
Category III	14	16%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100%</b>

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<sup>3</sup> Data extracted on 06/22/2021. System records are continually updated and revised as additional information is received.