

# A History of Progressive Policing

The Denver Police Department believes in a collaborative approach to public safety and values diversity of thought around complex issues. We strive to be a forward leaning agency focused on making Denver the safest, most equitable city in the country.

## Policy and Procedures

*Our policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and revised, keeping with the current research and community expectations to ensure the highest standards for public and officer safety, accountability, and social justice.*

## Highlights

- Our Use of Force Policy has evolved dramatically over recent years to include prohibiting shooting at moving vehicles, decision-making model, de-escalation training, and a complete policy revision in collaboration with members of the community. More recent revisions include clarification around the already prohibited use of chokeholds and duty to intervene and required officers to report pointing a firearm.
- Every use of force and officer involved shooting (OIS) is fully investigated with resources from the Denver Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Denver District Attorney’s Office, and Office of the Independent Monitor. [Click here for all completed OIS investigations and decisions.](#)

Denver Police Department  
Decision Making Model



*In 2019, fewer than 2% of arrests involved a use of force*

26,555  
Arrests Made

497  
Uses of Force Incidents



- In 2016, the department’s use of body-worn cameras was fully operational, requiring officers to use their cameras while contacting members of the community.
- Through collaboration with the community, we have one of the most progressive use of force policies in the country. Additionally, our Academy utilizes our Virtra-300 to improve officer decision making consistent with our policies.
- In 2019, the department started our Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program to take a trauma-informed and harm-reduction approach to mental health and substance misuse.

- Public input continues to remain a priority for the department, whether through proactive reviews and training to include First Amendment rights or biased policing policies; or whether members of the community bring specific concerns to our attention. This was the case recently with recent revisions to our show-up eyewitness identification policy made collaboratively with [Together Colorado](#), an organization dedicated to equity for all Coloradans.

## Looking Forward

- We are currently working through the OIM report recommendations to improve our response to similar events in the future.
- To read our Use of Force, Body-Worn Camera, Biased Policing, Show-Up Identification, and all other department policies, [click here.](#)
- Questions or comments? Email us at [dpdlistens@denvergov.org](mailto:dpdlistens@denvergov.org).

