



GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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February 3, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger , Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa 
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **ELIMINATION OF THE USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY
STAFF TRAINING ROLL OUT (SET ITEM NO. 1, AGENDA OF JUNE 25,
2019) 20TH QUARTERLY REPORT**

At the June 25, 2019, Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, following the Probation Department's (Department) report on the Elimination of the Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray, the Board took various actions, including instructing the Chief Probation Officer to provide quarterly updates on the roll out of staff training; and on conducting exit interviews with staff after the training sessions to determine if the provided training was sufficient. In addition, on December 20, 2022, on motion of Supervisors Solis and Horvath, the Board directed the Department to update our quarterly reports, starting with the 13th report, to include the following:

- The number of staff that still need training
- The percentage of trained staff per unit
- Updated timeline on the elimination of OC spray at each facility
- The number of staff who still carry OC spray post-training and, for those who do carry it, how often it is used

STAFF TRAINING UPDATE

The Department continues to provide ongoing training to Field Deputy Probation Officers to assist with the staffing needs in the institutions. As of September 16, 2024, the Department has trained 131 employees in the 2-hour OC Spray course.

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities

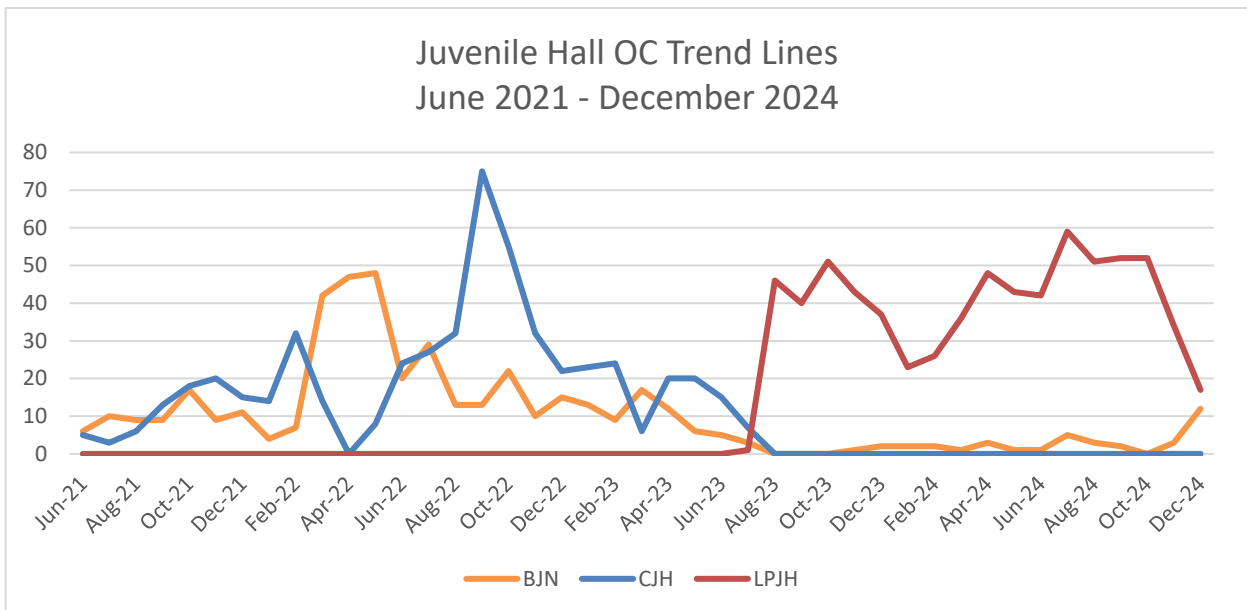
The Department has successfully completed the Gracie Survival Tactics training, a defensive tactics program aimed at equipping officers with the skills to verbally and physically de-escalate situations while effectively managing resistant or aggressive individuals in a humane manner.

The chart below illustrates OC Spray Incident by facilities totals from June 2021 through December 2024.

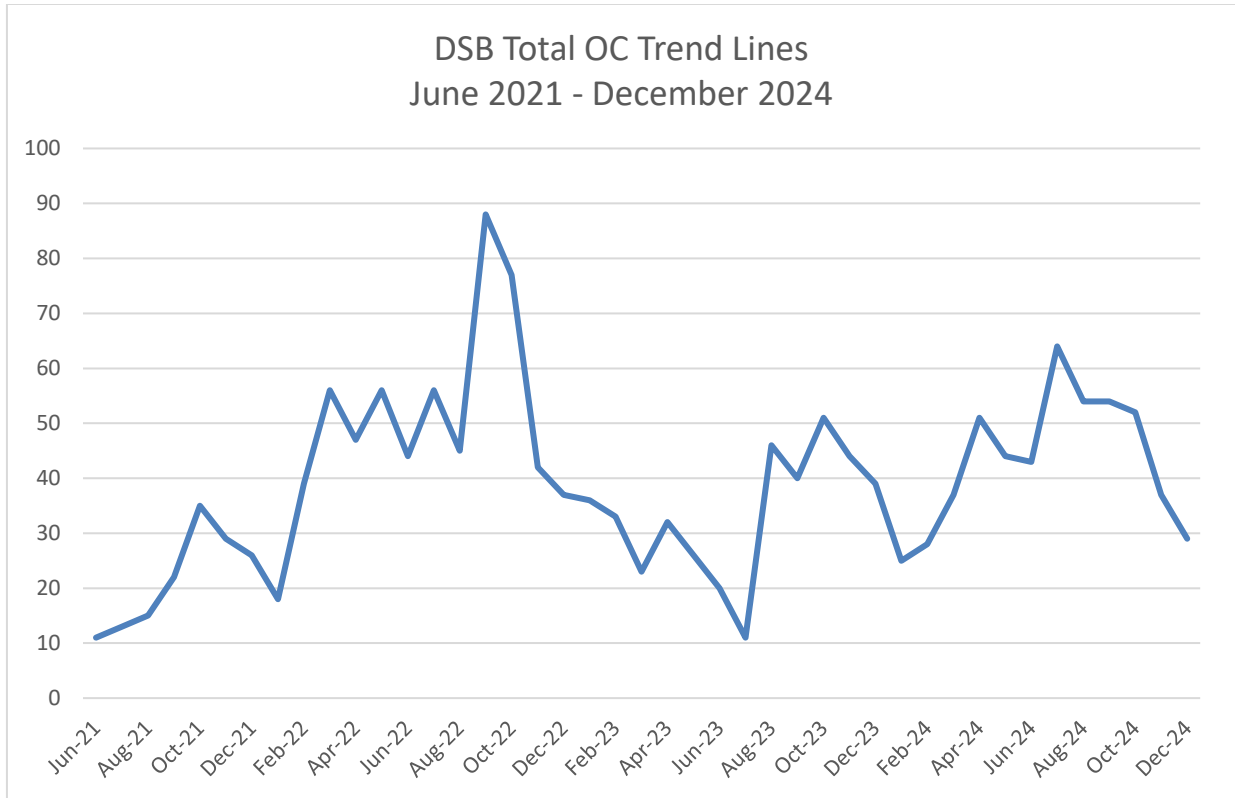
MONTH	BJN-SYTF	CJH	LPJH	MONTHLY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
June-21	6	5		11	11
July-21	10	3		13	24
August-21	9	6		15	39
September-21	9	13		22	61
October-21	17	18		35	96
November-21	9	20		29	125
December-21	11	15		26	151
January-22	4	14		18	169
February-22	7	32		39	208
March-22	42	14		56	264
April-22	47	0		47	311
May-22	48	8		56	367
June-22	20	24		44	411
July-22	29	27		56	467
August-22	13	32		45	512
September-22	13	75		88	600
October-22	22	55		77	677
November-22	10	32		42	719
December-22	15	22		37	756
January-23	13	23		36	792
February-23	9	24		33	825
March-23	17	6		23	848
April-23	12	20		32	880
May-23	6	20		26	906
June-23	5	15		20	926

MONTH	BJN-SYTF	CJH	LPJH	MONTHLY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
July-23	3	7	1	11	937
August-23	0	0	46	46	983
September-23	0	0	40	40	1,023
October-23	0	0	51	51	1,074
November-23	1	0	43	44	1,118
December-23	2	0	37	39	1,157
January-24	2	0	23	25	1,182
February-24	2	0	26	28	1,210
March-24	1	0	36	37	1,247
April-24	3	0	48	51	1,298
May-24	1	0	43	44	1,342
Jun-24	1	0	42	43	1,385
Jul-24	5	0	59	64	1,449
Aug-24	3	0	51	54	1,503
Sep-24	2	0	52	54	1,557
Oct-24	0	0	52	52	1,609
Nov-24	3	0	34	37	1,646
Dec-24	12	0	17	29	1,675
TOTALS:	444	530	701	1675	

The chart below illustrates the OC spray trend lines for facilities listed since June 2021



The chart below illustrates the combined total OC Spray trends for both SYTF and DSB facilities since June 2021.



PERCENTAGE OF TRAINED STAFF PER UNIT

Given the existing staffing shortages, it is not feasible to consistently assign personnel to a specific unit, as they are required to assist other units that are experiencing understaffing across the facility. Therefore, staff unit assignments are made according to the daily requirements of the facility. As a result, it is currently not possible to ascertain the percentage of trained staff in each unit.

NUMBER OF STAFF CARRYING OC SPRAY POST-TRAINING & USAGE FREQUENCY

As of July 23, 2023, BJN is no longer classified as a juvenile hall and is now a SYTF facility.

The number of staff at LPJH carrying OC spray fluctuates daily. The reason for the fluctuation is staff are not mandated to carry OC but if requested, a canister is issued. OC is strictly handled as an additional tool to either prevent or deescalate violence.

After a thorough assessment of the Department's resources is completed, we will be able to analyze the frequency of OC deployment by staff to better enable us to guide our phase out strategy. This approach aligns the Department with best practices in using data to formulate a methodical approach to the phase out process.

UPDATED TIMELINE ON THE ELIMINATION OF OC SPRAY AT EACH FACILITY

The Department continues to collaborate with the California Department of Justice court-appointed monitor to develop an updated OC spray phase out strategic plan. Probation is committed to downscaling and ultimately eliminating the use of OC, and a plan will be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2024.

CONCLUSION

The Probation Department remains committed to partnering with our stakeholders to promote a safe culture that supports staff and youth in a secure, stable, and healthy environment. In addition, the Department is committed to providing enhanced training to staff in our effort to discontinue the use of OC spray as instructed by the Board in February of 2019. We will continue to inform your Board of our training status and anticipate providing an update of any significant changes on a quarterly basis.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, Juvenile Services, at (562) 940-2513.

GVR:KE:ab

c: Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services
Lisa H. Wong, Director, Department of Mental Health
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
Max Huntsman, Inspector General
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission
Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Rene Philips, Acting Senior Manager, CEO
Justice Deputies