

# West Coast Agency Uses Smart Use-of-Force Reporting to Streamline Analysis and Compliance



Using Enterprise Software to Create, Review  
and Investigate Use-of-Force Reports



# Case Profile

## Chief Summary

Many law enforcement agencies still use paper systems to capture and review use-of-force reports. Not only does this approach risk creating operational bottlenecks – incomplete or incorrect reports can lead to hours of back-and-forth between supervisors and officers – it also makes it exceedingly difficult for agencies to holistically understand their use-of-force data.

## Time Spent with Little to Show

Before transitioning to Benchmark Analytics, the Agency's leadership spent hours creating reports that take minutes to generate in our system. Time-consuming reporting was a recurring – but necessary – exercise for the Agency to stay compliant with POST requirements and other oversight bodies. Every case had to be reviewed by a person with the outcome manually added to a shared spreadsheet.

Ultimately, they were left with a lot of data but very little insight.

The Agency wanted to use their data, not just collect it. They knew their decision making, dependent on an insufficient process, was slower and less informed than it needed to be.

The Agency's home-baked system grew out of what was available as well as inherited procedures. It wasn't designed for the challenges and demands of 21st Century Policing.

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## Benchmark Management System® Use-of-Force Module

Research drives everything we do at Benchmark Analytics.

Our experience as officers and public servants informed the design of our systems. This is the software we wish we'd had. With the BMS Use-of-Force module, an agency gets:

- ③ Provides a true wizard-like system that guides an officer through all of the important issues necessary for documenting force — only asking questions relative to type and context of force used.
- ③ Collects and organizes routine information for any incident involving use of force — officer/subject data, location, date and time, weather conditions, etc.
- ③ Records type of force applied . . . e.g., vehicle pursuit, physical action, OC spray, impact weapon, ECW discharge, firearm usage
- ③ Documents interactions involved with an incident — warnings, use-of-force sequence, charges, resisting arrest, injuries, etc.
- ③ Captures a detailed description of an incident, narrative reports and subject statements
- ③ Delivers a system that seamlessly streamlines and simplifies the way you are used to operating in a fully automated fashion