

Hilliard Division of Police

Annual Use of Force Analysis 2023

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Real People. Real Possibilities.

Division
of Police

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Executive Summary

The Hilliard Division of Police (HPD) is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of life in the community through exceptional service while upholding the constitutional rights of all. This mission is carried out based on the fundamental values of integrity, commitment, cooperation, and professionalism. The Division holds each officer accountable for their part in supporting the mission and core values.

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Daily, officers are involved in numerous and varied interactions with the public and, when warranted, may be required to use objectively reasonable force to carry out their duties. The Division recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice. Vesting officers with the authority to use objectively reasonable force to protect themselves and the public requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

The purpose of this Use of Force Analysis is to provide HPD information concerning officers' use of force and trends associated with these incidents. The analysis provides information on many factors including the subjects involved, officers, and environmental details. The document serves as a resource for HPD Command Staff and Division instructors for the development of training topics and lesson plans.

The report also serves to inform the community about the Division's use of force statistics, it holds the Division accountable for the actions of its officers and ensures transparency.

INTRODUCTION

The Division's Use of Force policies were reviewed in 2023. The purpose of the review was to ensure the policies meet the guidelines established by the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification (OCLEAC), the policies meet federal and state laws, the policies are in line with law enforcement best practices, and the policies are consistent with the Division's mission and core values.

HPD Policy 300 - Use of Force governs officer use of force and provides guidelines to ensure officers only use the degree of force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the safety of the officer and others. Officers are permitted to use force to:

1. Protect the officer, the individual, or others from immediate physical harm,
2. Restrain or subdue an individual who is actively resisting or evading arrest, or
3. Bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

Officers are required to report a use of force when a subject's actions or threatened actions require the officer to respond with a control tactic or weapon. Actions by officers such as handcuffing, searching, and escorting compliant subjects generally are not considered a reportable use of force unless injury or complaint of injury occurs.

Reportable use of force incidents is outlined in Policy 300, but commonly includes officer actions such as:

1. Physical control tactics such as pressure point control, takedowns, joint manipulation, kicks and strikes.
2. Chemical aerosol use
3. Taser deployment
4. Impact weapon use
5. Specialty impact munitions (beanbag round)
6. Deadly force

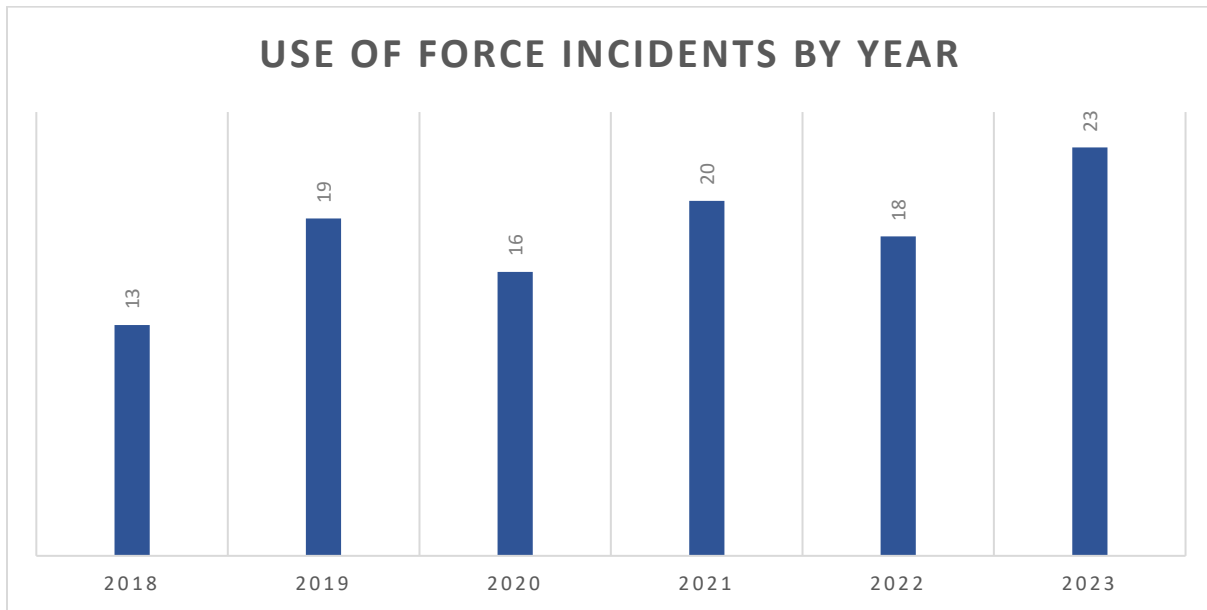
The on-duty supervisor investigates all incidents of force. The supervisor forwards the reports and findings to the respective Bureau Commander for a chain of command review and approval.

This analysis reviews all 2023 use of force incidents and analyzes force data from 2018 – 2023.

USE OF FORCE FREQUENCY

In 2023, there were 23 reported use of force incidents, five more than 2022.

For the years 2018 – 2022, there were 86 reported use of force incidents, which equates to an average of approximately 17 use of force incidents per year. Based on this information, 2023 was above the five-year annual average of force incidents.



Use of Force per Arrest

The rate of force incidents can be shown in relation to the number of arrests.

Based on the ratio of force incidents per arrest, for the years 2018 – 2022 the Division experienced approximately one to two force incidents per 100 arrests with an average of approximately two. In 2023, the use of force rate per 100 arrest was 2.28.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Force Incidents	13	19	16	20	18	23
Number of Arrest*	1019	932	708	705	875	1037
Use of force per 100 Arrests	1.27	2.04	2.25	2.83	2.06	2.28

*Data pulled from Division Records Management System includes total number of arrest not total charges.

Juvenile Use of Force Data

In 2023, six use of force incidents involved juveniles. The Division added this category to this report to be in compliance with Ohio Collaborative Standards – *Positive Youth Interactions*.

Race and Sex	2023
White/Male	2
White/Female	2
Black/Male	1
Black/Female	1

REASON FOR CONTACT

While any citizen-police contact has the potential for escalating into a use of force incident, understanding situations that have an increased likelihood of officers being involved in a use of force is important for developing tactics and training to minimize the risk presented in these situations. For this report, although a situation may fall in one or more “Reason for Contact” categories, the data collected focused on the primary reason for the initial call for service (CFS) or contact.

The data illustrates that CFS involving suicidal subjects and/or emotionally disturbed person(s), both which involve people in a mental health crisis are the most frequent type of call involving force.

Reason for Contact	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	Percent
Domestic Violence	3	2	3	2	1	2	13	12%
Disturbance	1	3	0	4	0	2	10	9%
Suicidal Subject	3	3	1	3	3	3	16	15%
Investigatory Stop	3	2	1	1	2	1	10	9%
Emotional Disturbed Person	1	2	1	3	2	3	12	11%
Disorderly Conduct/Intoxication	0	2	2	1	3	1	9	8%
Fail to Comply/Obstructing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
OVI arrest	1	1	1	3	2	1	9	8%
Medical Incident	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1%
Traffic Stop	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	3%
Fleeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Felony Arrest	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2%
Misdemeanor Arrest	1	2	0	0	2	4	9	8%
Fight in Progress	0	0	2	3	1	3	9	8%
Reckless Driving	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2%
Felony In-progress	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2%
Assist Another Agency	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Case Investigation	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Total	13	19	16	20	18	23	109	100.00%

USE OF FORCE ACTIONS

A use of force incident is made up of the subject's actions, an officer's response to resistance and special circumstances involved in the incident. This report dissects these aspects of a use of force incident in order to get a better understanding of the threats faced by officers, and the effectiveness of the officer's response.

Subject Actions

When looking at the subject's actions, a subject may exhibit one or more action throughout the incident. Officers are required to list all of the subject's actions that contributed to the use of force. The data shows that the majority of use of force incidents begin when a subject fails to comply with an officer's instructions.

SUBJECTS ACTIONS/THREATENED	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
No Response to Verbal Commands	13	18	16	20	15	21	103	94%
Verbal / Physical Danger Cues	10	10	14	16	12	21	83	76%
Physically Refusing to Comply	9	15	14	19	15	17	89	82%
Dead Weight / Refusing to Move	5	6	3	10	6	6	36	33%
Fleeing / Attempting to Flee	8	7	6	4	6	9	40	37%
Pushing / Wrestling	4	6	5	11	8	12	46	42%
Striking / Kicking / Biting	2	7	4	7	6	7	33	30%
Use of Weapon(s)	2	0	1	0	0	1	4	4%
Other	2	2	0	1	1	2	8	7%
Serious Physical Harm Assault	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Rendering Officer Defenseless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Causing Self Harm	0	1	0	1	2	2	6	6%

*The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2018 – 2023 which is 109.

Officer Response

Use of force data includes both the primary and secondary officers' responses. In addition, some incidents reflect more than one force application, as an officer may have to progress from one force option to another based on the actions of the subject or effectiveness of the force being applied.

By far, joint manipulation and take downs are the most common applications of force employed by officers.

OFFICER'S RESPONSE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
Joint Manipulation	8	11	9	13	13	11	65	60%
Take Down	9	12	11	12	11	17	72	66%
Pressure Point	4	0	0	2	1	1	8	7%
Taser	3	1	2	4	0	3	13	12%
Striking / Punching / Kicking	2	1	2	3	1	1	10	9%
Physically Restraining	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2%
Chemical Aerosol Use	0	0	1	2	0	1	4	4%
K-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
SIM (bean bag)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Pushing / Wrestling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Baton Strikes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vehicle strike	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Deadly Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%

*The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2018 – 2023 which is 109.

Canine (K9) Deployment

The Division has three K9 teams. Each team consists of an officer and a certified law enforcement canine.

In 2023, K9 teams recorded 352 patrol deployments. Deployments are defined as the use of the K9 in a law enforcement function. No bite incidents were recorded in 2023. For the years 2018 – 2023, there were no reported K9 bites.

Conductive Energy Weapons (CEW)

The Division equips officers with a CEW for the purposes of controlling violent or potentially violent subjects, with the goal of taking the subject into custody while minimizing injury to officers and subjects. The CEW used by the Division is Taser®.

In 2023, officers deployed a Taser® three times during a use of force incident (note: for the purpose of this report, deployment of a Taser means firing the Taser® for the purpose of gaining compliance). For years 2018 – 2023, officers deployed a Taser® in thirteen use of force incidents. This equates to approximately 12% of total use of force incidents during that timeframe.

In addition to tracking the deployment of Tasers®, the Division tracks when officers display their Taser®, the manner in which it was displayed, and the result. In 2023 officers reported displaying their Taser® twenty-one (21) times, resulting in a compliance rate of 86%. This means that officers were able to gain compliance in 86% of these cases without having to resort to the use of force.

How Initial Call Received

In 2019, the Division began tracking how the initial call for service was received. Approximately 73% of use of force incidents begin with an officer(s) being dispatched on a CFS.

How Received	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
Self-initiated	0	2	5	4	6	9	26	27%
Dispatched	0	17	11	16	12	14	70	73%
Total	0	19	16	20	18	23	96	100%

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2018 – 2023 which is 109.

Location of Incident

In 2019, the Division began tracking the general type of location of use of force incidents. The majority of force incidents occurred in a residence.

LOCATION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
School	0	3	0	4	3	3	13	14%
Commercial	0	2	3	2	5	9	21	22%
Residential	0	7	8	6	6	6	33	34%
Roadway	0	6	3	6	1	3	19	20%
Other	0	1	2	2	3	2	10	10%
Total	0	19	16	20	18	23	96	100%

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2018 – 2023 which is 109.

Special Circumstances

Special circumstances are subject/officer factors that are considered when determining the “objectively reasonable” standard for a use of force. One or more special circumstances may be present in an incident. For the years 2018 – 2023, approximately 46% of the subjects were under the influence of some type of alcohol/drugs, and approximately 38% of force incidents involved subjects suffering from some type of mental health crisis.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
Suspected Alcohol / Drug Use	8	10	10	10	7	5	50	46%
Suspected Mental Health Issues	6	10	3	7	6	9	41	38%
Special Knowledge of Suspect	3	6	3	6	6	11	35	32%
Closeness of Weapon	3	2	5	6	8	8	32	29%
Lack of other Options	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	4%
Multiple Suspects	1	0	3	1	4	4	13	12%
Officer on Ground	3	4	5	3	4	6	25	23%
Suspected / Wanted Felon	3	1	3	0	1	5	13	12%
Other	2	2	5	1	4	1	15	14%
Officer Injured or Exhausted	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2%

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2018 – 2023 which is 109.

Number of Officers Involved

The majority of force incidents involve more than one officer, with two officers involved accounting for 37% percent of use of force incidents for the years 2018 – 2023.

Number Officers Involved	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
One Officer	1	9	2	4	7	9	32	29%
Two Officers	5	6	9	3	6	11	40	37%
Three Officers	4	2	2	2	3	0	13	12%
Four Officers	3	2	1	3	0	2	11	10%
Five Officers	0	0	2	8	2	1	13	12%
Total	13	19	16	20	18	23	109	100%

Duty Status

For the years 2018 – 2023, 93% of use of force incidents occurred when the officer was on duty and in uniform. Only five incidents occurred with a plain clothes officer. In 2023, three special duty officers were involved in a use of force which is rare since none were reported the previous five years.

DUTY STATUS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
On Duty - Uniform	13	19	15	19	17	18	101	93%
On Duty - Plain Clothes	0	0	1	1	1	2	5	5%
Off Duty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Special Duty	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3%
Total	13	19	16	20	18	23	109	100%

OFFICER AND SUBJECT INJURIES

Officer Injuries

In 2023, eight officers reported being injured during a use of force incident. A review of the injuries reported in 2023 indicates the injuries consisted of cuts, contusions, abrasions, and lacerations. For the years 2018 – 2023, 24% of force incidents resulted in an officer being injured. For this period, the injuries were generally reported to be bite/bite marks, bruising, soreness, strains, lacerations, or abrasion.

Subject Injuries

In 2023, eight subjects were injured during a use of force incident. A review of injuries reported in 2023 indicates the injuries consisted of contusions, swelling, cuts, abrasions and taser probe punctures. For the years 2018 – 2028, 37% of use of force incidents resulted in an injury to the subject.

INJURIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	Percent
Officer Injuries	2	2	3	7	4	8	26	24%
Subject Injuries	5	9	7	8	3	8	40	37%

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2018 – 2023 which is 109.

USE OF FORCE REVIEW

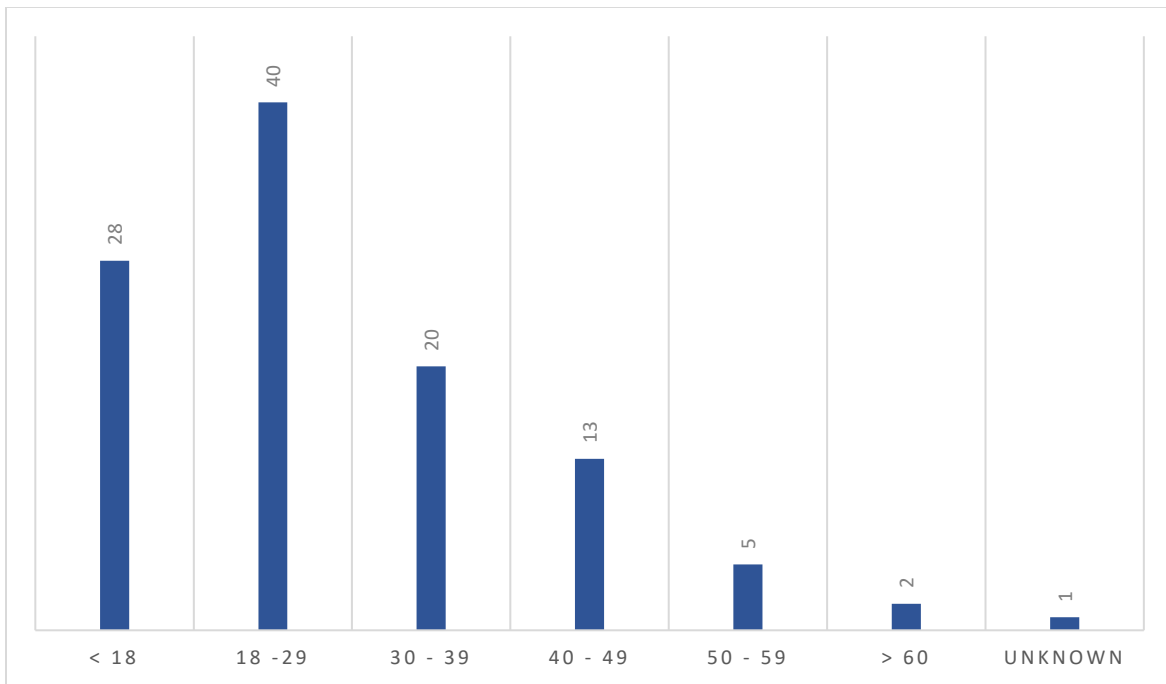
Use of force incidents are investigated by the on-duty supervisor and forwarded to the respective Bureau Commander for a chain of command review. For the years 2018 – 2023, only one use of force incident was found to be out of compliance with Division policy and procedures.

COMPLIANCE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
In Compliance	13	18	16	20	18	23	109	99%
Not in Compliance	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Total	13	19	16	20	18	23	109	100%

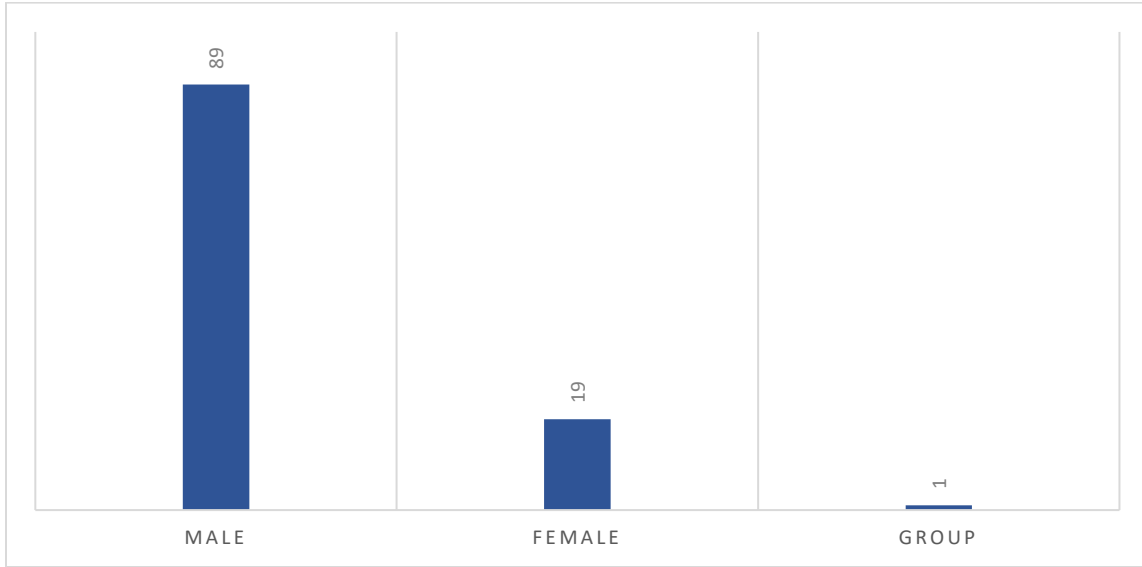
SUBJECT DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics data for 2018 – 2023 use of force incidents include subject age, gender, and race.

Subject Age

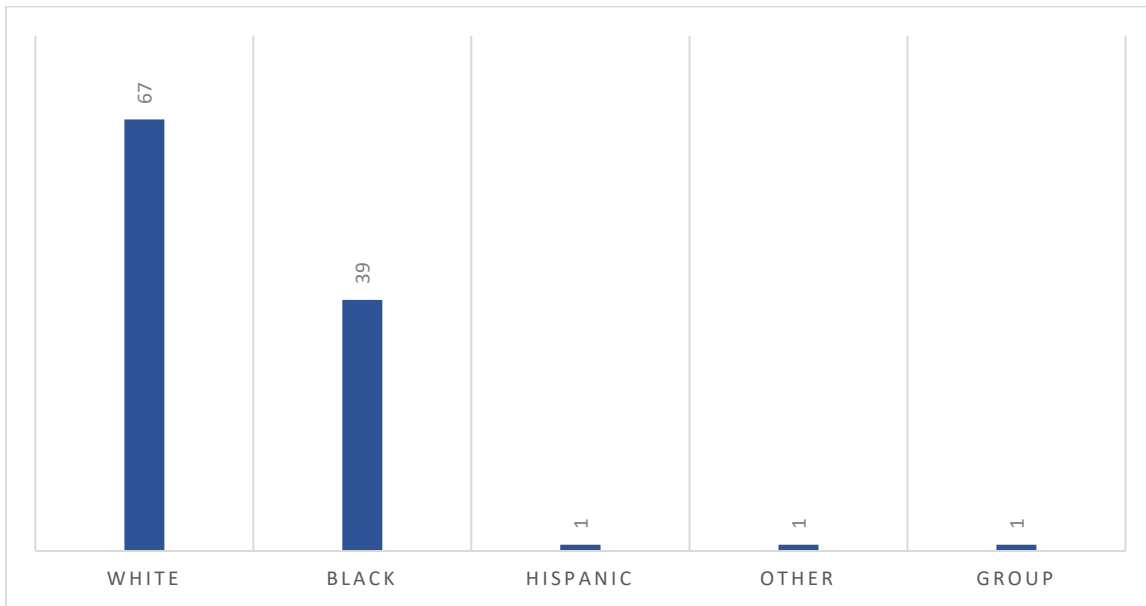


Subject Gender



Note: Group involved incident with multiple people

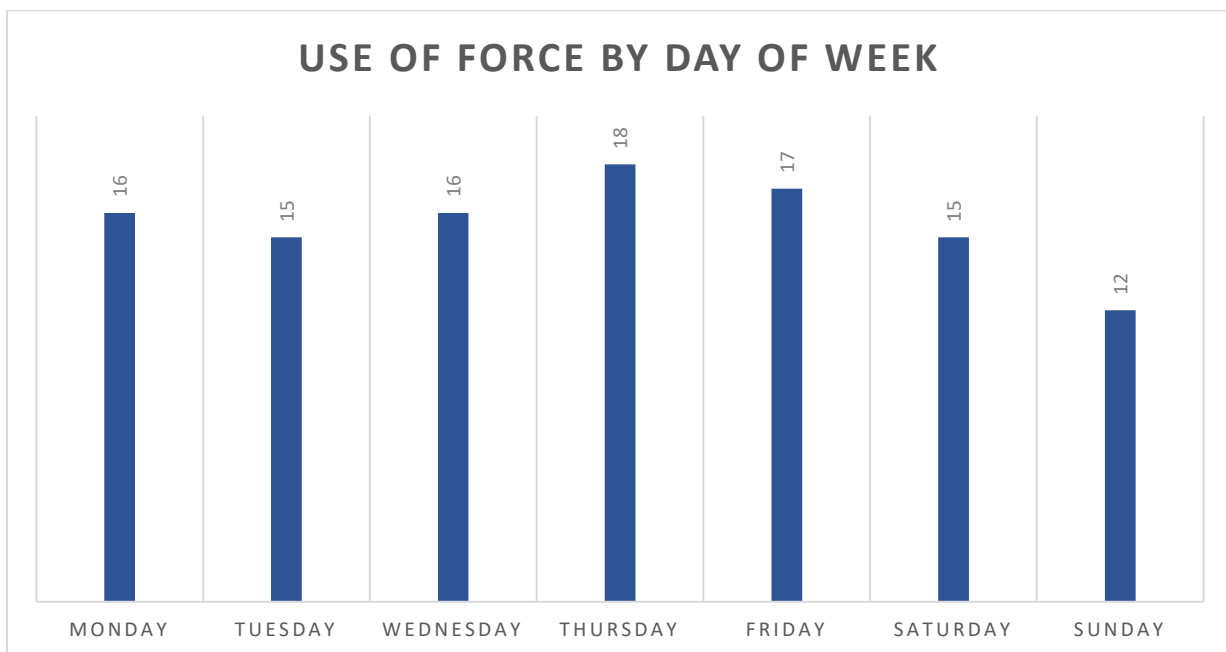
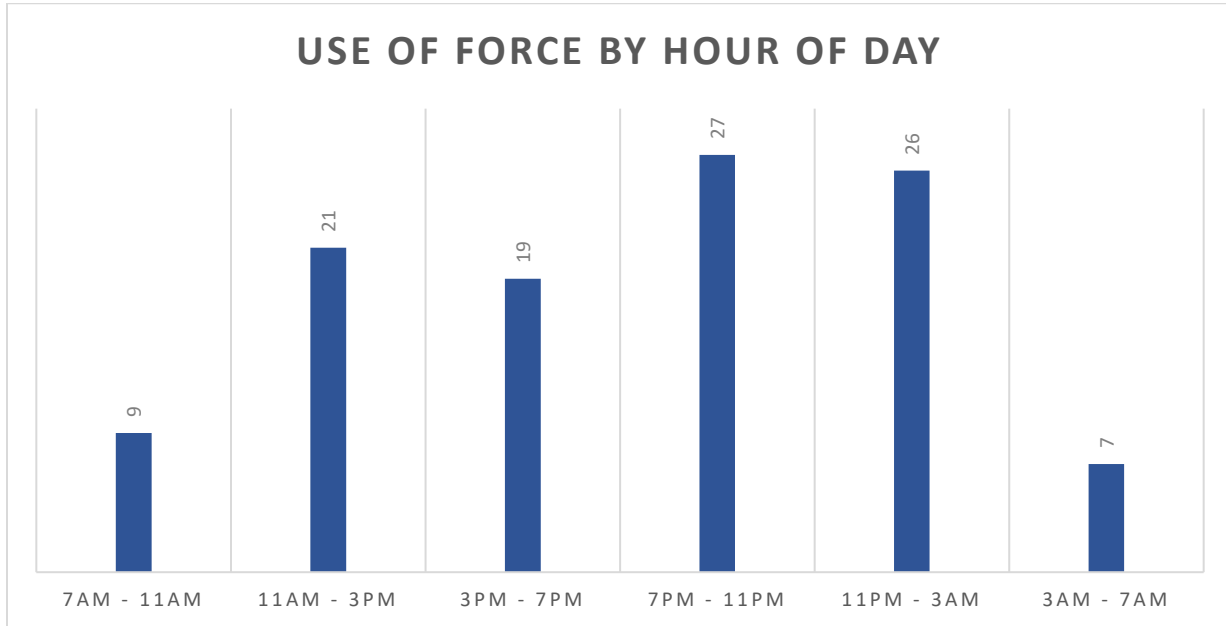
Subject Race

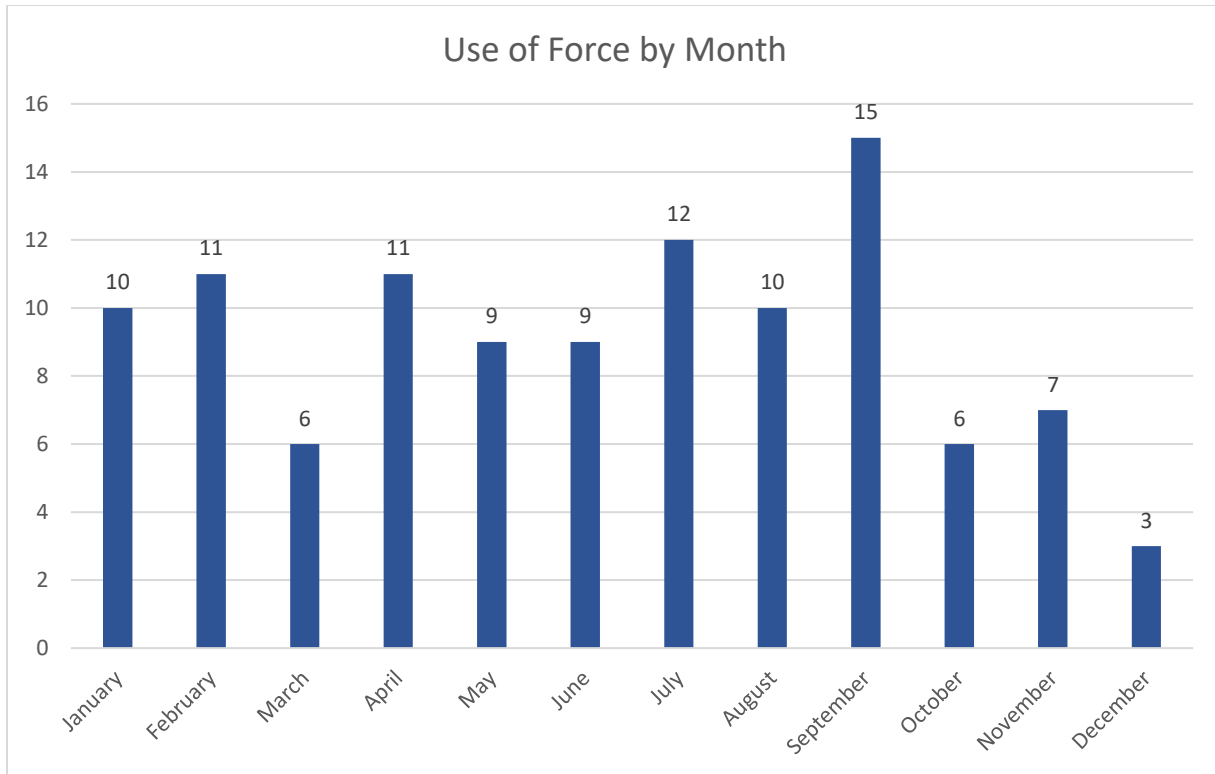


Note: Group involved incident with multiple people

USE OF FORCE MONTH/DAY/TIME

A use of force incident may occur at any time of the year, day of the week or time of the day. This data is included in the analysis to ensure the Division is adequately staffed when there is an increased likelihood of a use of force incident taking place. With the relatively low number of force incidents reported each year, coupled with current staffing levels, there is no discernable pattern that warrants staffing changes; however, the data shows that for the years 2018 – 2023, the majority of force incidents occurred between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.





MAIN FINDINGS AND TRENDS

Use of force incidents make up a small percentage of police interaction with the public. While officers have thousands of citizen contacts each year, an unfortunate subset of those contacts results in officers having to resort to force to accomplish a lawful objective.

Findings from this analysis include:

- Calls for Service involving people in emotional crisis are calls with a higher probability for a use of force.
- The majority of force incidents involve subjects under the influence of alcohol/drugs and/or subjects suffering from an emotional/mental issue.
- The majority of force incidents involve officers performing joint manipulation tactics and takedowns which is indicative of officers using a lower level of force to accomplish lawful objectives.
- Use of force incidents per 100 arrests has remained relatively the same over a five-year period.

- The use of the Taser® only accounts for a small percentage of force incidents.
- Police Canines were not involved in the use of force in the last five years.
- Deadly force has not been used by the Division in the last five years.
- While a force incident may occur at any time, the data shows the highest likelihood is between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.
- Administrative measures are in place to ensure policies are up to date, officers receive the proper training, and all use of force incidents are subject to a chain of command review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the purposes of this analysis is to identify use of force trends for employing risk reduction tactics, minimize injuries, establish training objectives, and reduce liability.

Recommendations include:

1. Continue training all officers in Critical Incident Training (CIT). The focus of this training is dealing with people suffering from emotional issues.
2. Continue use of force training (in-service/roll call) to include scenario-based training and de-escalation techniques.
3. Ensure defensive tactics lesson plans include joint manipulation and takedowns. The lesson plans should also include multiple officer responses, and scenarios involving people in emotional distress.
4. Ensure or re-enforce the practice of multiple officers assigned to CFS involving subjects suspected of being under the influence of alcohol/drugs, and subjects suspected of suffering from emotional/mental issues.
5. Ensure or re-enforce the practice of multiple officers assigned to CFS known to present a higher probability of turning into a force incident.
6. Ensure legal updates include areas of use of force cases.