

# Hilliard Division of Police

## Annual Use of Force Analysis 2025

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## Executive Summary

The Hilliard Division of Police (HPD) is committed to serving the community by protecting life, safeguarding rights, and enhancing the overall quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and visits the city. This commitment is guided by the Division's core values of integrity, commitment, cooperation, and professionalism. HPD officers are expected to uphold these values in every interaction and are held accountable for their actions.

Most encounters between officers and the public are resolved without the use of force. However, there are situations where officers may be required to use objectively reasonable force to protect themselves, protect others, or safely resolve a situation. HPD recognizes the seriousness of these encounters and respects the value and dignity of every person involved. The authority to use force carries a responsibility to ensure that it is used lawfully, fairly, and only when necessary.

This annual Use of Force Analysis is intended to provide the community and the Division with a clear and transparent overview of how and when force is used by HPD officers. The report examines a range of factors, including the circumstances of each incident, the individuals involved, and the environment in which the encounter occurred. By reviewing this information, the Division can identify trends, evaluate practices, and strengthen training to improve outcomes for both officers and community members.

By sharing this information openly, HPD seeks to build and maintain public trust, demonstrate accountability, and reinforce its commitment to continuous improvement. Transparency in reporting use of force is an important part of our ongoing partnership with the community and our dedication to fair, professional, and responsible policing.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Division conducts an annual review of its Use of Force policies to ensure they remain current, effective, and consistent with applicable standards. The most recent policy update occurred in 2024. The policy review process is intended to confirm that Division policies comply with the requirements established by the Ohio Collaborative, align with federal and state laws, reflect recognized law enforcement best practices, and support the Division's mission and core values.

HPD Policy 300 – *Use of Force* governs officers' application of force and establishes guidelines to ensure that only the level of force that is objectively reasonable is used to bring incidents under control while safeguarding officers, involved individuals, and the public. Officers are authorized to use force when necessary to protect themselves or others from immediate physical harm, to restrain or subdue individuals who are actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest, or to safely and effectively control unlawful situations.

Officers are required to document uses of force when a subject's actions or threatened actions require the application of a control tactic or weapon. Routine actions such as handcuffing, searching, or escorting compliant individuals are generally not considered reportable uses of force unless an injury occurs or an injury is alleged. Reportable uses of force, as defined in Policy 300, commonly include physical control tactics, chemical agents, conducted electrical weapons (Tasers), impact weapons, specialty impact munitions, and deadly force.

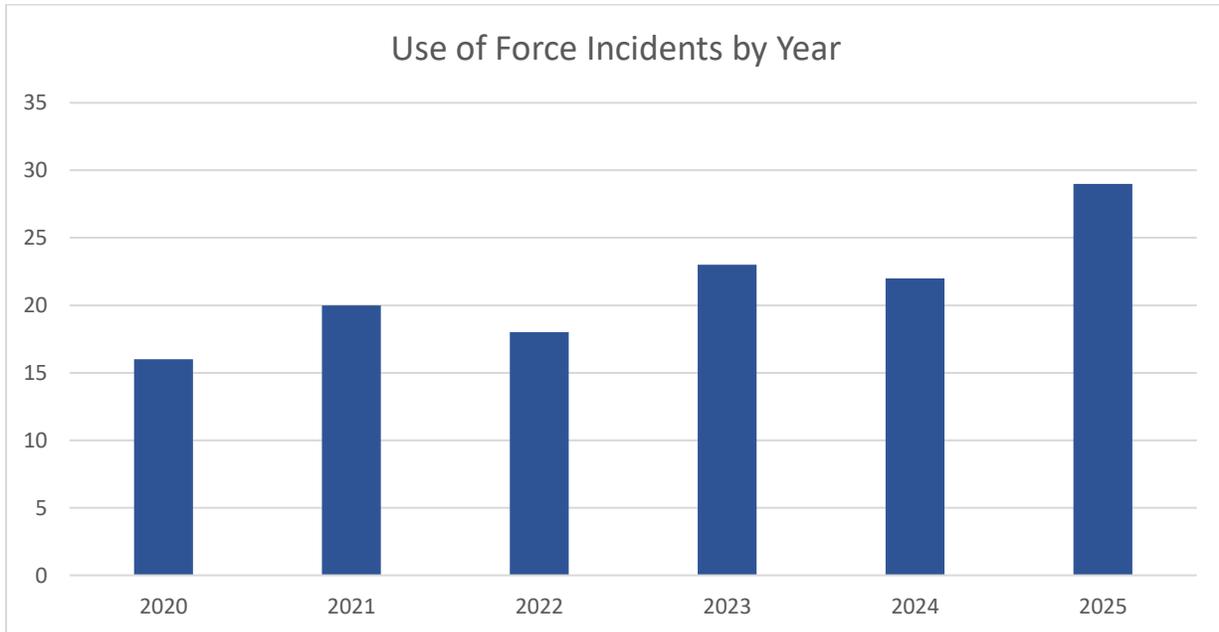
All reported use of force incidents are investigated by an on-duty supervisor and reviewed through the chain of command, culminating in approval by the appropriate Deputy Chief of Police.

This report analyzes all reported use of force incidents from 2025 and examines use of force trends and data spanning the years 2020 through 2025.

**USE OF FORCE FREQUENCY**

In 2025, there were 29 reported use of force incidents, which is a 32% increase over 2024.

For the years 2020 – 2024, there were 99 reported use of force incidents, which equates to an average of approximately 19.8 incidents per year. Based on this information, 2025 was above the five-year annual average.



**Use of Force per Arrest**

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

For the years 2020 – 2024, the Division experienced approximately 2.38 use of force incidents per 100 arrests. In 2025, the use of force rate per 100 arrest was 2.60.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Force Incidents</b>	16	20	18	23	22	29
<b>Number of Arrest*</b>	708	705	875	1037	828	1114
<b>Use of force per 100 Arrests</b>	2.25	2.83	2.06	2.22	2.65	2.60

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

### Juvenile Use of Force Data

In 2025, five use of force incidents involved juveniles. This category provides information required by the Ohio Collaborative Standards for Positive Youth Interactions. The number of force incidents in 2025 was consistent with 2024 data which was six.

Race and Sex	2024	2025
White/Male	3	1
White/Female	0	1
Black/Male	2	1
Black/Female	1	1
Hispanic/Female	0	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, while 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.

Reason for Contact	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	Percent
Domestic Violence	3	2	1	2	4	1	13	10%
Disturbance	0	4	0	2	5	4	15	12%
Suicidal Subject	1	3	3	3	2	1	13	10%
Investigatory Stop	1	1	2	1	2	2	9	7%
Emotional Disturbed Person	1	3	2	3	1	3	13	10%
Disorderly Conduct/Intoxication	2	1	3	1	0	4	11	9%
Fail to Comply/Obstructing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
OVI arrest	1	3	2	1	0	1	8	6%
Medical Incident	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1%
Traffic Stop	2	0	0	1	4	7	14	11%
Fleeing	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2%
Felony Arrest	0	0	1	1	1	3	6	5%
Misdemeanor Arrest	0	0	2	4	1	0	7	5%
Fight in Progress	2	3	1	3	1	1	11	9%
Reckless Driving	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1%
Felony In-progress	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2%
Assist Another Agency	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Case Investigation	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **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 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
No Response to Verbal Commands	18	16	20	15	21	22	112	95%
Verbal / Physical Danger Cues	10	14	16	12	21	15	88	74%
Physically Refusing to Comply	15	14	19	15	17	20	100	84%
Dead Weight / Refusing to Move	6	3	10	6	6	9	40	31%
Fleeing / Attempting to Flee	7	6	4	6	9	11	43	41%
Pushing / Wrestling	6	5	11	8	12	5	47	37%
Striking / Kicking / Biting	7	4	7	6	7	3	34	25%
Use of Weapon(s)	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2%
Other	2	0	1	1	2	0	6	4%
Serious Physical Harm Assault	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2%
Rendering Officer Defenseless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Causing Self Harm	1	0	1	2	2	1	7	5%

\*The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2020 – 2025 which is 128.

## 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
Joint Manipulation	9	13	13	11	10	13	69	54%
Take Down	11	12	11	17	17	25	93	73%
Pressure Point	0	2	1	1	2	1	7	5%
Taser	2	4	0	3	0	0	9	7%
Striking / Punching / Kicking	2	3	1	1	2	1	10	8%
Physically Restraining	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Chemical Aerosol Use	1	2	0	1	0	1	5	4%
K-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
SIM (bean bag)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Pushing / Wrestling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Baton Strikes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vehicle strike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Other	1	0	0	0	2	1	4	3%
Deadly Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%

\*The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2020 – 2025 which is 128.

## Canine (K9) Deployment

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

In 2025, K9 teams recorded 402 patrol deployments. Deployments are defined as the use of the K9 in a law enforcement function. No use-of-force incidents were recorded in 2025. For the years 2020 – 2024, there were no reported K9 use of force incidents.

### 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 a subject into custody while minimizing injury to officers and subjects. The CEW used by the Division is Taser®.

In 2025, officers did not deploy a Taser® during a use of force incident (note: for the purpose of this report, deployment of a Taser means firing the Taser® in order to gain compliance). For years 2020 – 2025, officers deployed a Taser® in nine use of force incidents. This equates to approximately 6% of total use of force incidents during that time frame.

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 2025 officers reported displaying their Taser® seven times, resulting in a compliance rate of 85%. This means that officers were able to gain compliance in 85% of these cases without having to resort to another use of force.

### How Initial Call Received

The Division tracks how the initial call for service was received that eventually ended with the use of force. Approximately 66% of use of force incidents begin with an officer(s) being dispatched on a CFS.

How Received	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
Self-initiated	5	4	6	9	9	11	44	34%
Dispatched	11	16	12	14	13	18	84	66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2020 – 2025 which is 128.

### Location of Incident

The Division tracks the general type of location of use of force incidents. The majority of these incidents occurred at a residence.

LOCATION	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
School	0	4	3	3	3	3	16	13%
Commercial	3	2	5	9	6	4	29	23%
Residential	8	6	6	6	8	10	44	34%
Roadway	3	6	1	3	5	7	25	20%
Other	2	2	3	2	0	5	14	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

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### 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.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
Suspected Alcohol / Drug Use	10	10	7	5	11	16	59	46%
Suspected Mental Health Issues	3	7	6	9	3	7	35	27%
Special Knowledge of Suspect	3	6	6	11	4	2	32	25%
Closeness of Weapon	5	6	8	8	5	3	35	27%
Lack of other Options	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Multiple Suspects	3	1	4	4	6	0	18	14%
Officer on Ground	5	3	4	6	6	4	28	22%
Suspected / Wanted Felon	3	0	1	5	2	5	16	13%
Other	5	1	4	1	3	2	16	13%
Officer Injured or Exhausted	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	2%

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2020 – 2025 which is 128.

### Number of Officers Involved

The majority of force incidents involve more than one officer, with two officers involved accounting for 38% percent of use of force incidents for the years 2020 – 2025.

Number Officers Involved	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
One Officer	2	4	7	9	5	6	33	26%
Two Officers	9	3	6	11	5	15	49	38%
Three Officers	2	2	3	0	8	4	19	15%
Four Officers	1	3	0	2	3	1	10	8%
Five Officers	2	8	2	1	1	3	17	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

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### Duty Status

For the years 2020 – 2025, 91% of use of force incidents occurred when an officer was on duty and in uniform. Only 5% of incidents occurred with a plain clothes officer. In 2025, one special duty officer was involved in the use of force.

DUTY STATUS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
On Duty - Uniform	15	19	17	18	21	27	117	91%
On Duty - Plain Clothes	1	1	1	2	0	1	6	5%
Off Duty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Special Duty	0	0	0	3	1	1	5	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

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### OFFICER AND SUBJECT INJURIES

#### Officer Injuries

In 2025, seven officers reported being injured during a use of force incident. A review of the injuries reported in 2025 indicates the injuries consisted of cuts, contusions, abrasions, lacerations, and soft tissue injuries. For the years 2020 – 2025, 25% of force incidents resulted in an officer being injured.

#### Subject Injuries

In 2025, five subjects were injured during a use of force incident. A review of injuries reported in 2025 indicates the injuries consisted of contusions, swelling, cuts, and abrasions. For the years 2020 – 2025, 34% of use of force incidents resulted in an injury to the subject.

INJURIES	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	Percent
Officer Injuries	2	3	7	4	8	5	29	25%
Subject Injuries	9	7	8	3	8	5	40	34%

The percentage is based on the sum of force incidents from 2020 – 2025 which is 128.

**USE OF FORCE REVIEW**

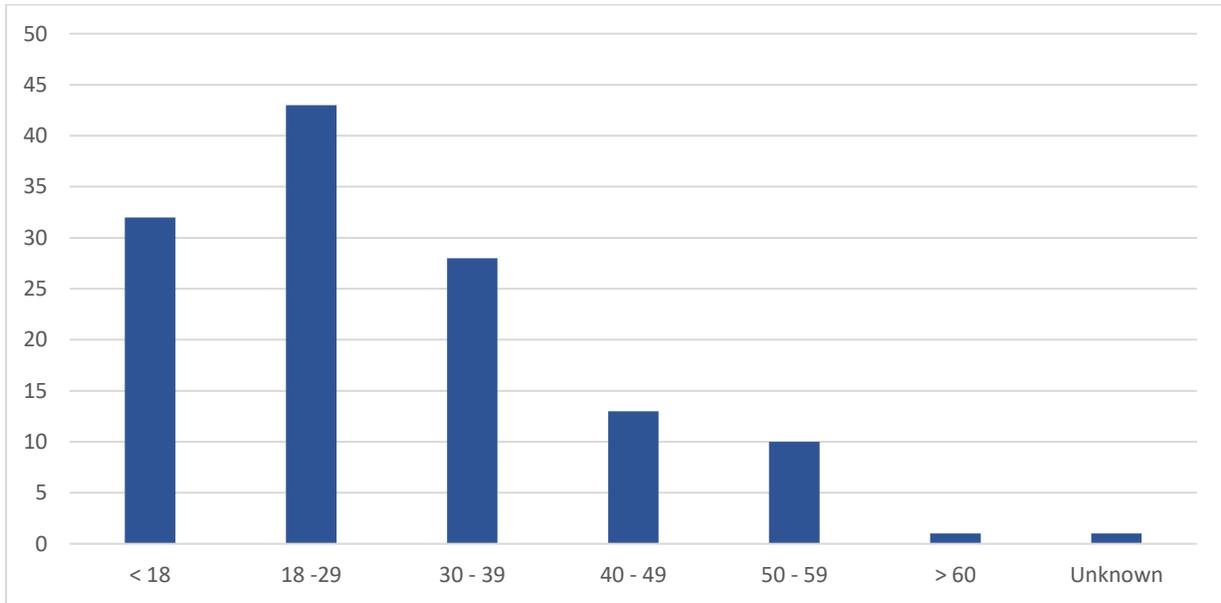
Use of force incidents are investigated by the on-duty supervisor and forwarded to the respective Bureau Commander for a chain of command review.

COMPLIANCE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	%
In Compliance	16	20	18	23	22	29	128	100%
Not in Compliance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

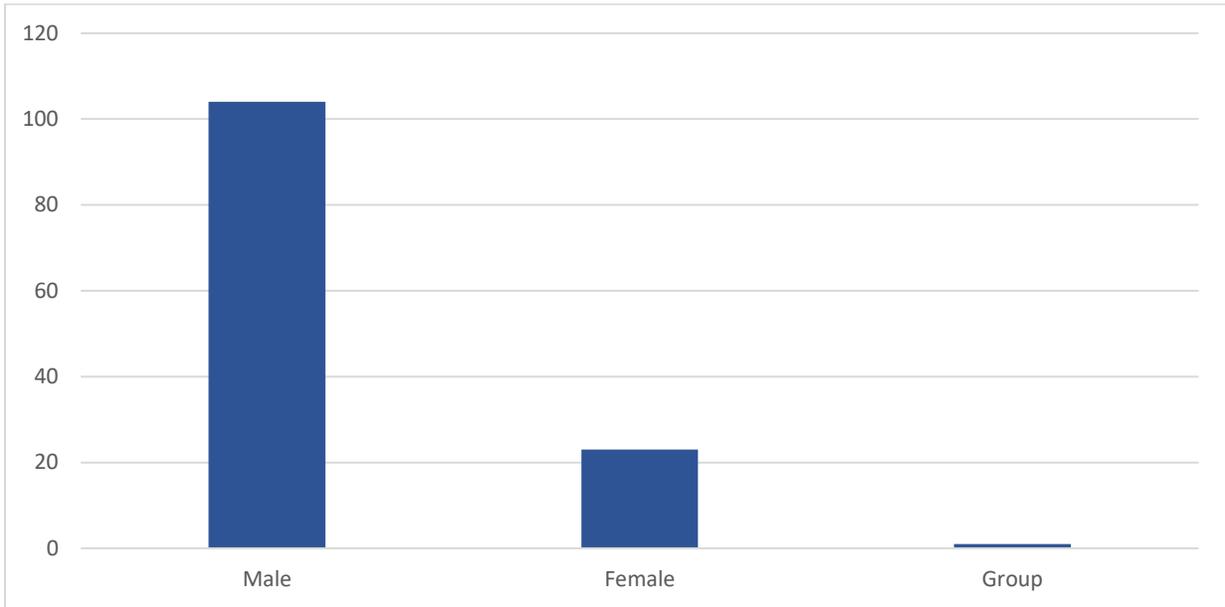
**SUBJECT DEMOGRAPHICS**

Demographics data for 2020 – 2025 use of force incidents include subject age, gender, and race.

**Subject Age**

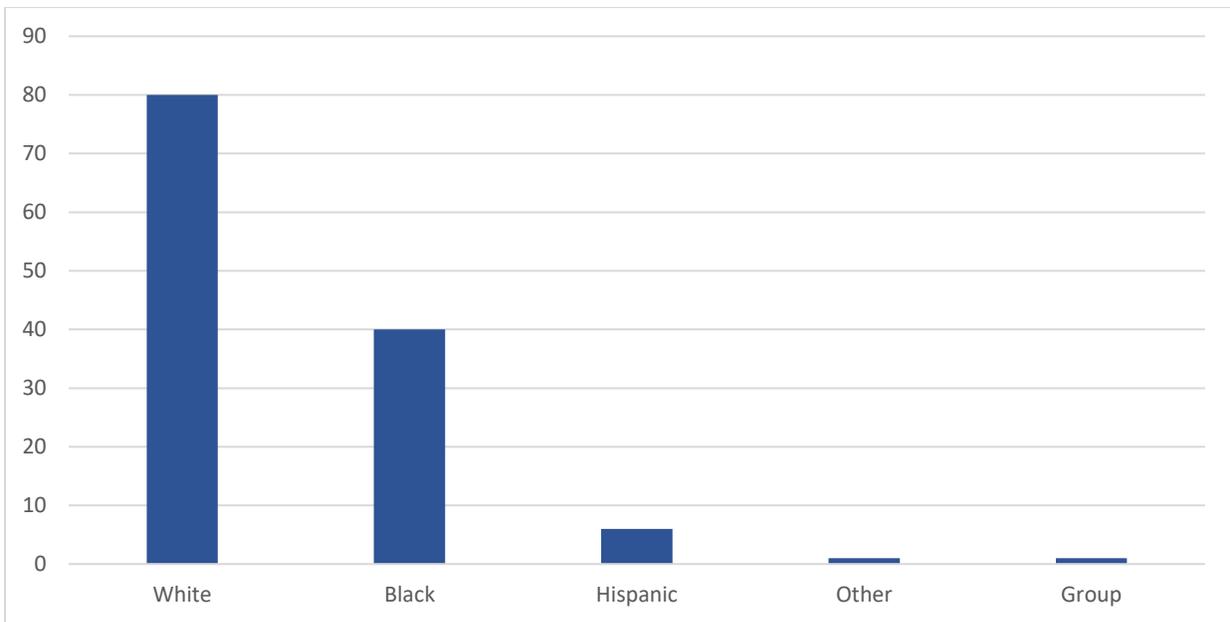


### Subject Gender



Note: Group involved incident with multiple people

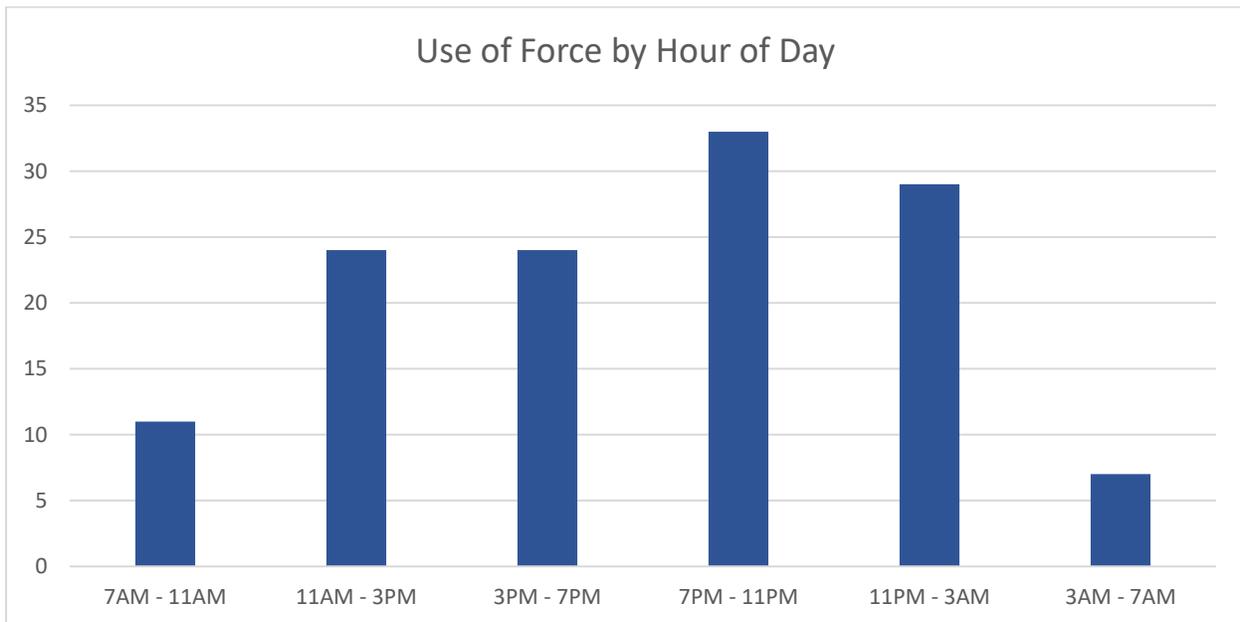
### Subject Race

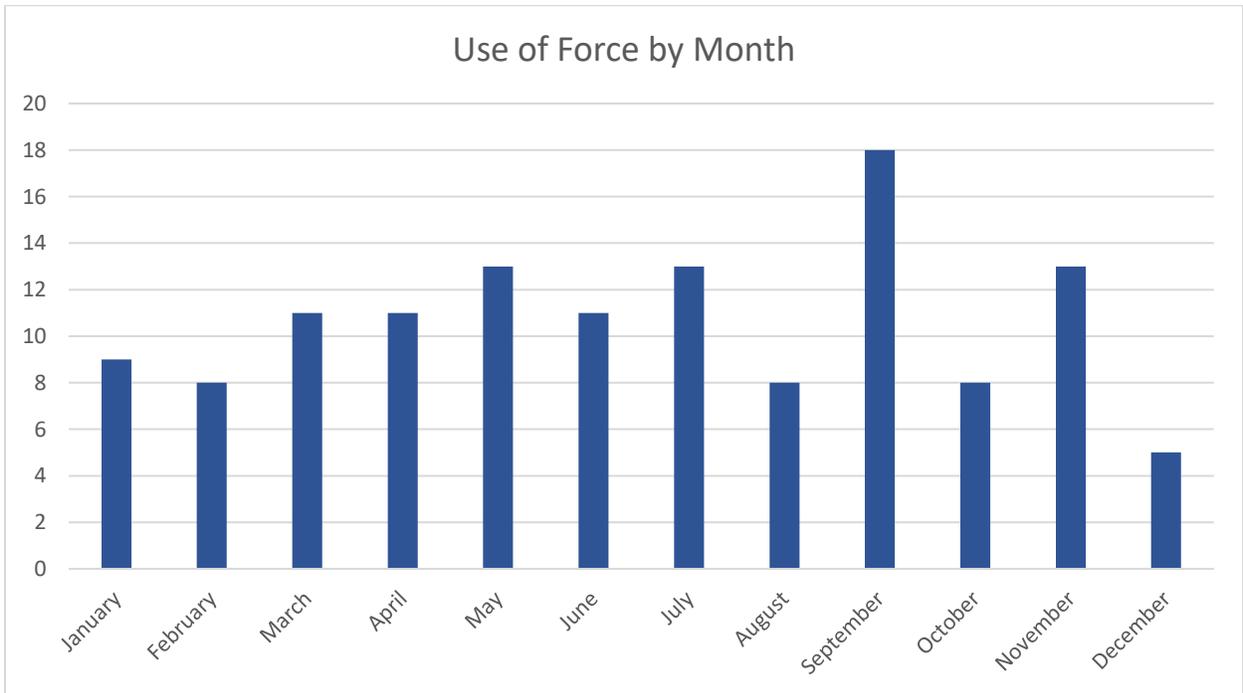
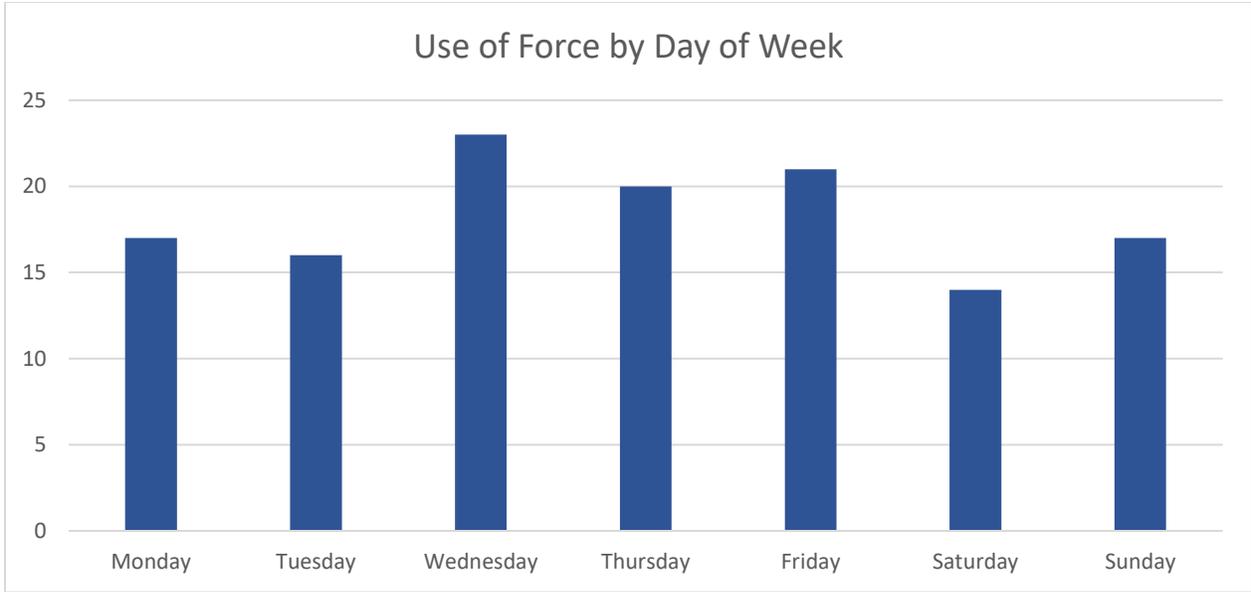


Note: Group involved incident with multiple people

## **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 2020 – 2025, the majority of force incidents occurred between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.





## **FINDINGS AND TRENDS**

This analysis shows that uses of force remain relatively infrequent when compared to the total number of police–community interactions each year. Officers engage in thousands of citizen contacts annually, and only a small fraction require force to resolve a lawful objective. When force is used, it is typically limited in scope and proportional to the resistance encountered.

Key findings include the following:

- A significant proportion of use of force incidents involve individuals who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, experiencing emotional or mental health crises, or both. These encounters present unique challenges and often require additional time, resources, and specialized response strategies.
- Most use of force incidents involve lower-level control techniques, such as joint manipulation and takedowns. This pattern indicates that officers generally rely on less intrusive methods to gain compliance and resolve situations safely.
- Although the total number of force incidents increased in 2025, the rate of force per 100 arrests has remained stable over the past five years. This suggests that the overall likelihood of force being used during an arrest has not increased over time.
- The use of a Taser® represents a small percentage of total force incidents. However, the display of the Taser® is an effective tool for resolving incidents.
- Police canines have not been involved in any use of force incidents during the last five years.
- Deadly force has not been used by the Division during the reporting period.
- While force incidents can occur at any time, data shows they are more likely during evening and overnight hours, particularly between 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., when call volume and high-risk encounters tend to increase.
- The Division maintains administrative oversight measures to ensure use of force policies remain current, officers receive ongoing training, and every force incident is reviewed through the chain of command for compliance, accountability, and improvement opportunities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The primary goal of this analysis is to identify trends that support risk reduction, injury prevention, effective training, and community trust, while minimizing liability for both officers and the Division. Based on the findings, the following recommendations are offered:

- Continue Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for all officers, with a focus on recognizing and responding to individuals experiencing emotional or mental health crises, emphasizing communication, patience, and de-escalation.
- Sustain regular use of force training, including in-service and roll-call sessions, with expanded use of scenario-based exercises and de-escalation techniques that reflect real-world encounters.
- Ensure defensive tactics lesson plans continue to emphasize joint manipulation and takedowns, coordinated multi-officer responses, and scenarios involving individuals in emotional distress or under the influence of substances.
- Reinforce the assignment of multiple officers to calls for service involving suspected substance impairment or known emotional or mental health concerns, when feasible, to enhance safety and reduce the likelihood of force.
- Continue to identify calls for service that present a higher probability of force, and reinforce response strategies that prioritize planning, backup, and communication before force becomes necessary.
- Ensure legal update training includes recent and relevant use of force case law to reinforce constitutional standards and evolving best practices.