

USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS 2020

CITY OF AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prepared in 2020 for 2019 Data

Prepared by: Jennifer Campbell

Reviewed by: Professional Standards Division

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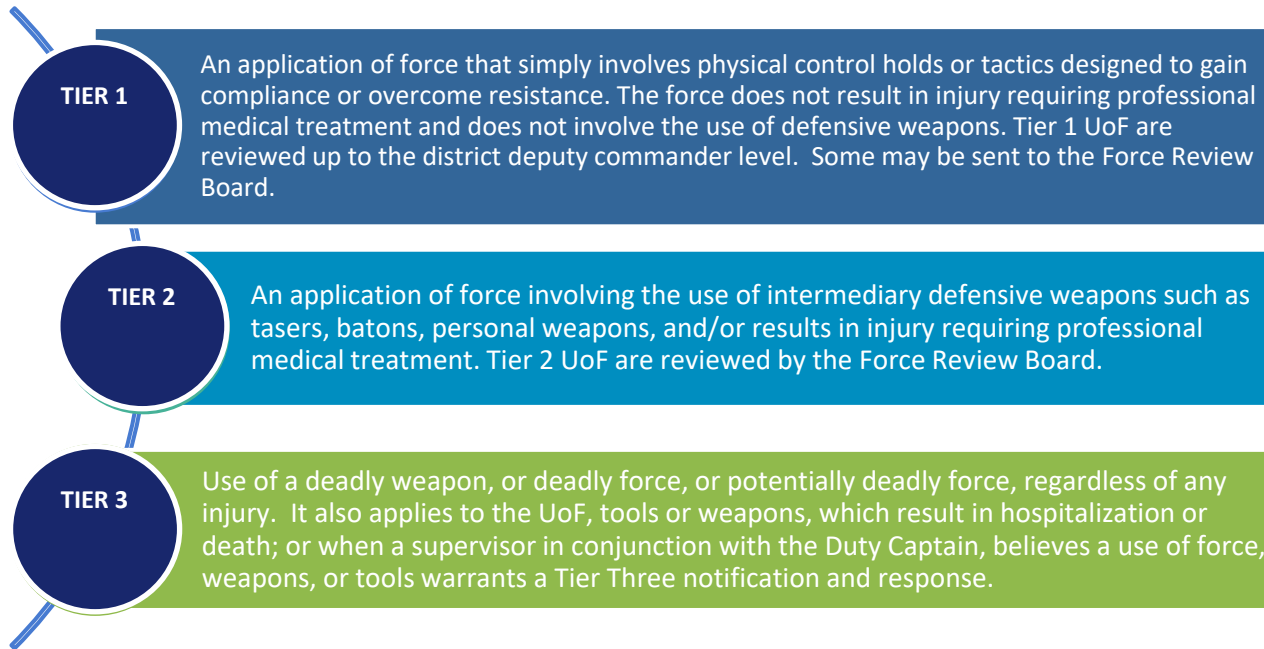
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INTRODUCTION

The Aurora Police Department's mission is to make Aurora safer every day. Making Aurora safer requires ongoing evaluation of the department's policies and procedures to ensure that they best serve the needs of the community and reduce crime. Consequently, the department conducted a significant restructure of its use of force directive, effective January 2016. Use of force (UoF) incidents are categorized into three tiers as follows:



The Force Review Board (FRB) consists of a body of sworn officers that reviews all Tier 2 and Tier 3 incidents. The FRB also reviews any Tier 1 incidents that are deemed by the respective chains of command to need additional consideration. The FRB reviews these cases for compliance with applicable state statutes and department directives, as well as identifying any training deficiencies.

Directive 05.04 Reporting and Investigating the Use of Tools, Weapons and Physical Force is the primary policy controlling the use of force within the police department. Directive 05.04 was revised twice in 2019. Two changes worth noting were the broadening of the Tier 3 definition, and the change to make photographs of the suspect injuries or lack thereof are now considered digital evidence to the case. Policies, practices, training and equipment are reviewed by academy staff as they prepare UoF instruction and present training for new recruits and at in-service (at least annually). The annual report, POST requirements and CALEA standards also prompt review and adjustment of policies, practices, equipment and training as necessary. The findings of this report will not effect any changes at this time.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The department tracks use of force statistics through Administrative Investigations Management (AIM) software. There were 591 Use of Force incident reports from January 1, 2019- December 31, 2019. A review of incidents has shown that departmental policies were followed in almost every use of force incident, with 98.6% of incidents closed as Policy Compliant.

Table 1 provides the ratio of Aurora’s UoF incidents to population, percentage of population change from year-to-year and the percentage change of incidents year-to-year. For 2019, the department had a .17% decrease in UoF incidents as compared to 2018. More significantly, it had a 1.9% decrease in the ratio of incidence per 1,000 residents. This drop means that the per capita use of force is decreasing in addition to the number of actual incidents, for the third consecutive year (reported in CALEA trends and patterns). **Table 2** provides a summary of incidents by geographic district and tier level and a count whether each use of force was effective for each subject.

TABLE 1. USE OF FORCE INCIDENT & POPULATION COMPARISON

Year	Incidents	Population	Ratio (per 1000)	% Change in Population	% Change in Incidents
2017	601	361,103	1.66	+ 1.05% ↑	- 12.6% ↓
2018	592	374,154	1.58	+ 3.61% ↑	- 1.5% ↓
2019	591	384,950	1.54	+ 2.89% ↑	- .17% ↓

TABLE 2. USE OF FORCE BY TIERS, DISTRICT & SUCCESS RATE

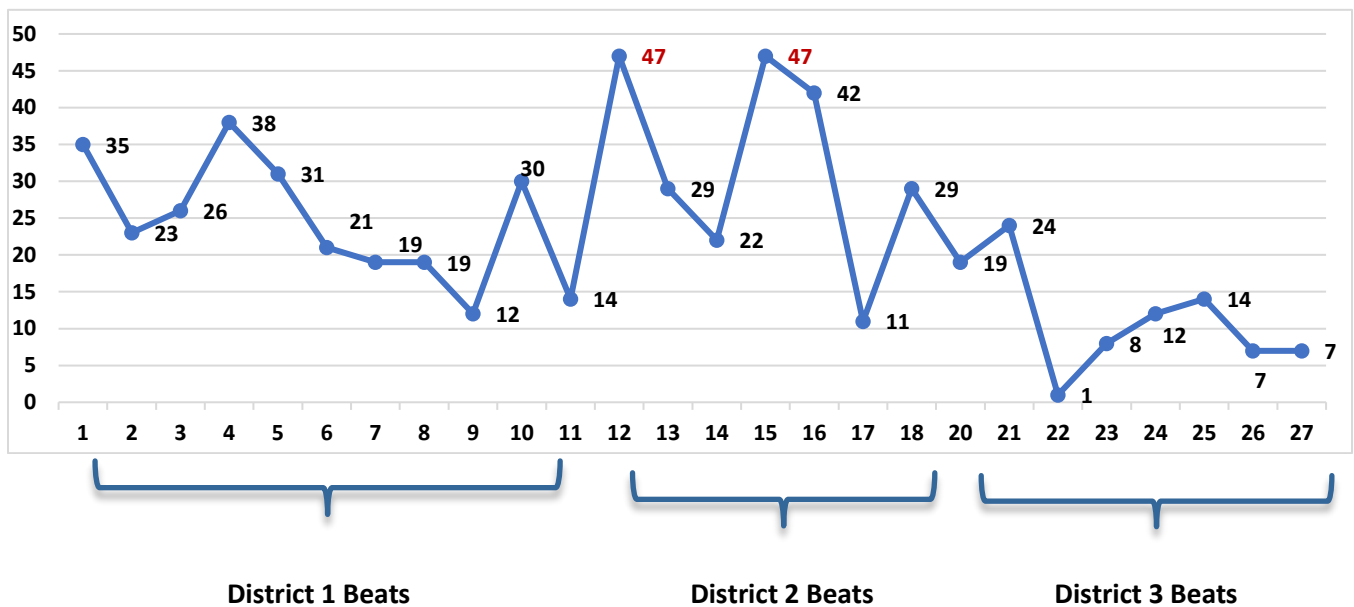
Incident by District			Incidents by Tier			Effectiveness ¹		
District 1	268	45.4%	Tier 1	423	71.6%	Successful	731	87.9%
District 2	226	38.2%	Tier 2	159	26.9%	Unsuccessful	101	12.1%
District 3	93	15.7%	Tier 3	9	1.5%			
Outside City Jurisdiction	4	.7%						

- There were no noticeable trends in the incidents per tier level over the past 3 years.
- The highest number of the incidents (65) occurred in August. This is consistent with 2017, but not 2018.
- The highest number of incidents (347) occurred on the swing shift from 1500-0100. This is consistent with the prior two years.
- The highest number of incidents occurred on Fridays and Saturdays (94 and 101 respectively); however, incidents were mostly evenly spread throughout the week. This is consistent with the prior two years.

¹ Effectiveness statistics reflect each separate use of force for each subject involved in an incident.

Figure A² below provides a graphical summary of incidents by patrol district and beat, except for four incidents that occurred outside the city jurisdiction (OCJ). The average count of incidents per patrol beat was 23, with the highest numbers in District 2 beats 12 and 15. The proportion of incidents per district has been stable over the past three years, except for a notable jump (6%) in incidents in District 2 in 2019. This jump is consistent with increase in criminal activity in this district, including a 13% increase in violent crimes, a 10.6% increase in major index crimes and a 6.8% increase in total arrests, over 2018. Districts 1 and 3, by comparison, have had decreases in major violent crimes and total arrests, as well as held steady and decreased, respectively, in major index crime³. One factor to consider is that Aurora is expanding in District 2 to encompass new housing and the new hotel and convention center Gaylord over the Rockies. District 1, which encompasses the most beats, still has the highest total numbers of incidents.

FIGURE A. USE OF FORCE BY DISTRICT & BEAT



² The figures and tables presented in this report are all conclusions based on the use of force report fields exported from the Administrative Investigations Management (AIM) program.

³ Data from 2019 Year-end NIBRS report

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INCIDENTS

OFFICERS

Officers Involved 1311 | Average age = 36 | Average years with the department = 7

There were 1311 officers involved in uses of force in 2019. Officers were counted each time they were involved in an incident, and most incidents involved multiple officers. There were 393 officers involved in one or more incidents, and each officer was involved in an average of three incidents. **Table 3** shows that the demographic breakdown for officers involved in use of force incidents closely reflects the demographics of the department’s sworn staff, indicating that the gender or race of the officer is not a factor that influences the use force.

The average years of service is trending slightly downward, from 8.7 in 2017 to 7 in 2019. This is likely due to the trend of the department having an increased number of newer officers, and not due to any changes in training for newer recruits. There was a downward trend in average years of service for the entire department, from 14.8 years 2017 to 12.5 years in 2019. The Department increased its lateral and basic recruit academies from two to four in 2018, which accounts for the increase in newer officers.

TABLE 3: OFFICER DEMOGRAPHICS⁴

Gender	Use of Force Sworn Staff ⁵	All Sworn Staff ⁶	Race	Use of Force Sworn Staff	All Sworn Staff
Male	91.6%	87.6%	American Indian	.8%	.8%
Female	8.4%	12.4%	Asian	2.1%	1.3%
			Black	2.5%	3.9%
			Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	.1%
			Hispanic	10.1%	9.7%
			Two or more Races	5.7%	4.0%
			White	78.8%	80.1%

⁴ Officers are counted each time they are involved in a separate incident, and each incident can involve multiple officers. A total of 393 officers were involved in Use of Force incidents in 2019.

⁵ This column for gender and race reflects demographics of staff involved in a use of force.

⁶ This column for gender and race reflects the sworn staff of the entire department, whether or not they were involved in force. Data on all sworn staff from personnel system APPs as of 12/31/19

SUBJECTS

Subjects involved: 611 | Average age = 31

There were 611 subjects involved in use of force incidents. Subjects who were involved in multiple incidents were counted each time, but most subjects were involved in only one incident. There were 584 people involved in only one incident, twelve involved in two and one person involved in three incidents. The average age of the subject was 31, which is consistent with the three prior years. Demographics for the current year subject demographics are found in **Figures B-C and Tables 4-6**, while three-year trends are shown in **Figures D-E**.

TABLE 4: SUBJECT DEMOGRAPHICS⁷

Gender			Race	Use of Force Population	Aurora Population ⁸
Male	489	79.7%	American Indian	.8%	0.9%
Female	122	20.3%	Arab	.1%	-
			Asian	1.6%	6.3%
			Black	47.3%	16.0%
			Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-	0.3%
			Hispanic	14.4%	26.1%
			Two or more Races	1.3%	5.4%
			White	34.5%	45.0%

FIGURE B. USE OF FORCE PERCENTAGE BY SUBJECT RACE

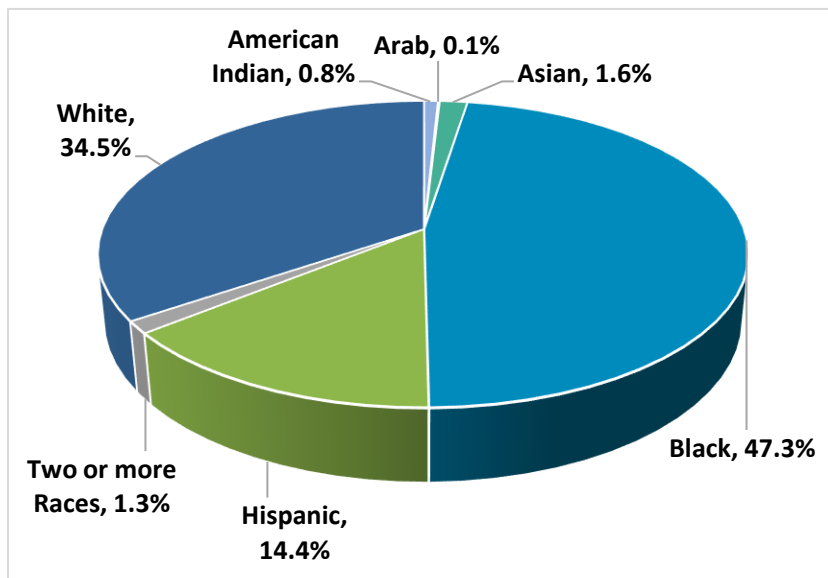


TABLE 5. SUBJECT RACE

Race	Count
American Indian	5
Arab	1
Asian	10
Black	290
Hispanic	86
Two or more races	8
White	211
Total	611

⁷ Subjects are counted each time they are involved in a separate incident, and each incident can involve multiple subjects.

⁸ From 2018 American Community Survey 5-year Estimate <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/auroracitycolorado>

TABLE 6. SUBJECT RACE BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICT

District	District 1		District 2		District 3		Outside City Jurisdiction (OCJ)	
American Indian	1	.4%	3	1.3%	1	1%	-	-
Arab	1	.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian	5	1.9%	3	1.3%	2	2.1%	-	-
Black	143	51.9%	109	46.6%	37	38.2%	1	25%
Hispanic	40	14.5%	38	16.2%	7	7.2%	1	25%
Two or more Races	3	1.1%	3	1.3%	1	1%	1	25%
White	82	29.8%	78	33.3%	49	50.5%	1	25%
Total	276		234		97		4	

FIGURE C. USE OF FORCE AGE COUNT BY SUBJECT GENDER AT AGE OF THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT

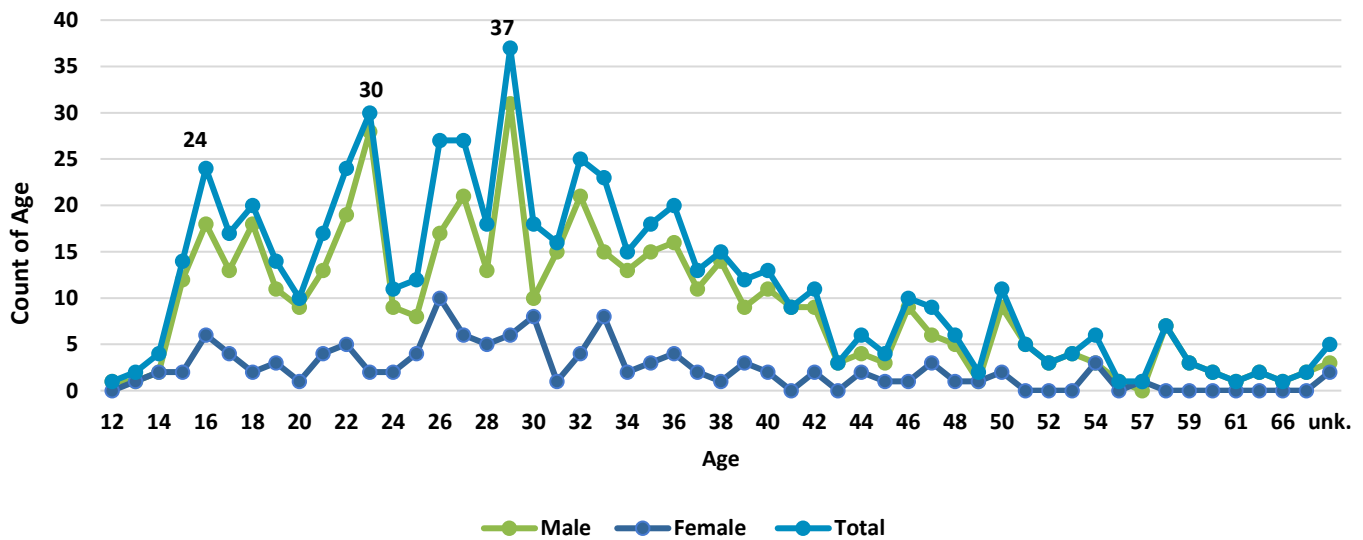


FIGURE D. THREE-YEAR TREND: SUBJECT GENDER BREAKDOWN

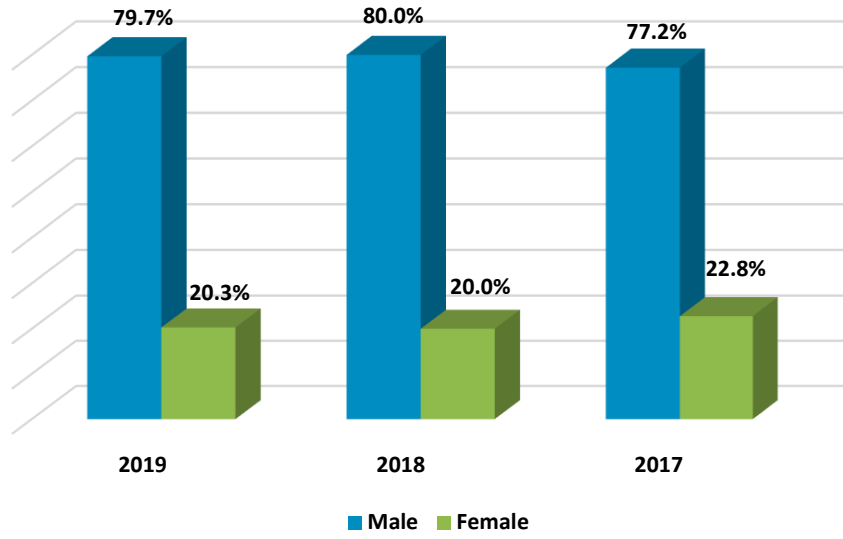
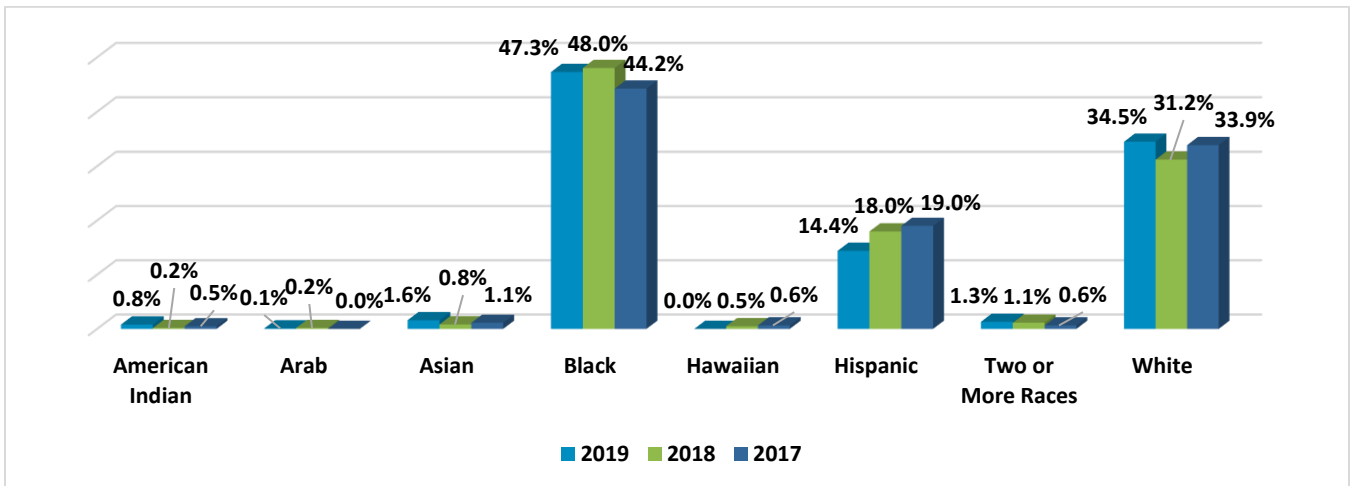


FIGURE E. THREE YEAR TREND: USE OF FORCE PERCENTAGE BY SUBJECT RACE



USE OF FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

TYPE OF OFFENSE

Figure F and **Table 7** show the kind of offense that each subject was contacted by police for in each use of force incident. They are presented by subject because more than one person could be contacted for different reasons within the same incident.

FIGURE F. TYPE OF OFFENSE PERCENTAGE BY SUBJECT

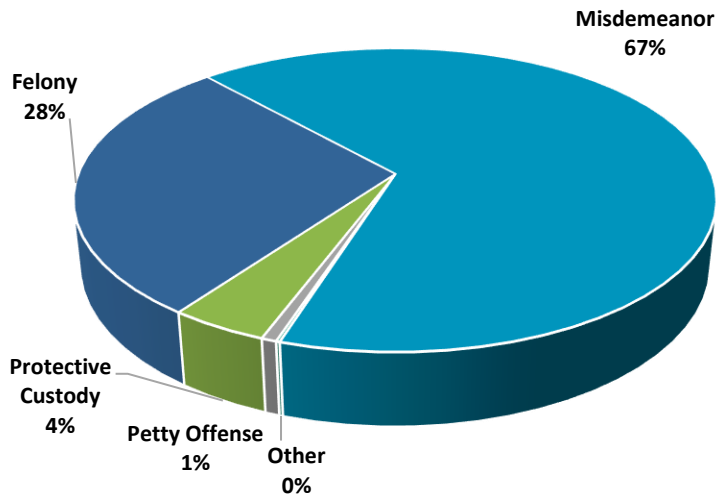


TABLE 7. TYPE OF OFFENSE COUNT⁹

Type of Offense	Count
Felony	173
Misdemeanor	407
Petty Offense	4
Protective Custody	26
Other	1
Total	611

⁹ The “other” type of offense refers to a subject who fit the description of a crime suspect but turned out not to be the suspect. Therefore, no offense was committed prior to police contact.

REASON FOR FORCE

Figures G and H show the reasons associated to why force was used by count and percentage. Note that the total count does not equal the total number of incidents nor the total number of subjects. This is due to multiple reasons being listed per incident to support why a UoF was necessary, corresponding to each incident. Most uses of force were necessary to overcome resistance to arrest, except for Tier 3 level force, which was primarily used for the safety of the officer.

FIGURE G. REASON FOR FORCE BY TOTAL COUNT

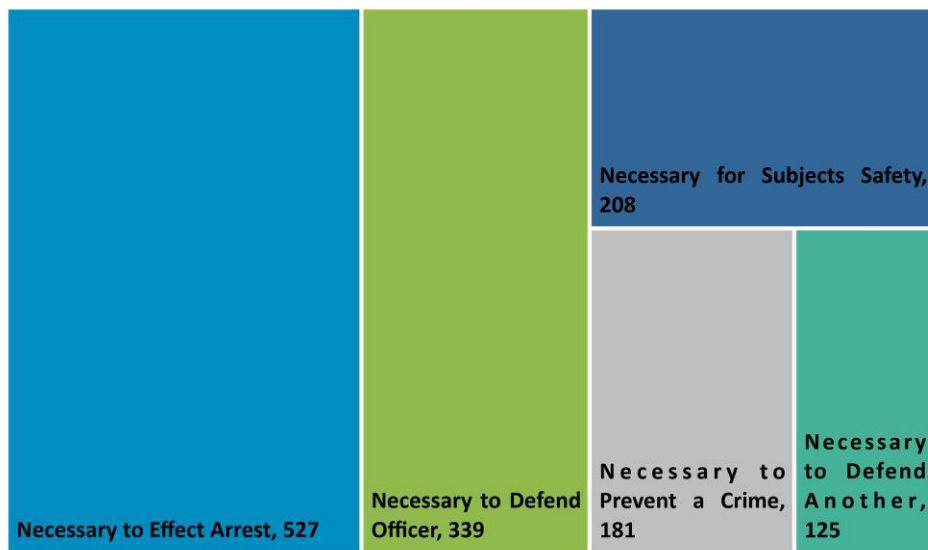
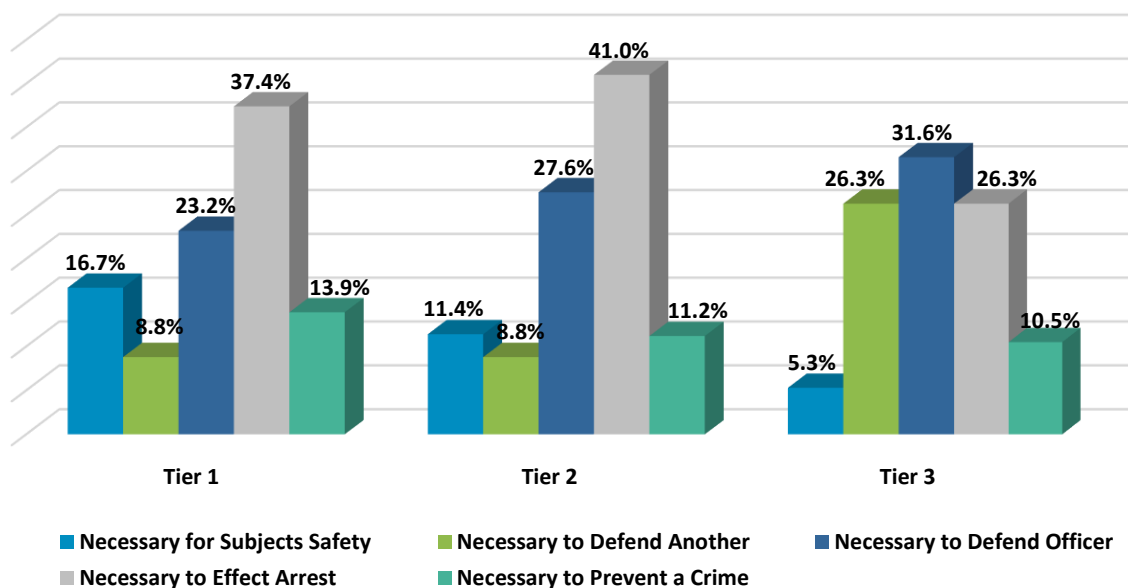


FIGURE H. REASON FOR FORCE BY TIER



EVALUATION OF ACTION TAKEN

Figures I and J show the action taken by a supervisor, review board or chief following the use of force by each officer. Most (98.6%) incidents were reported as being Policy Compliant. The number of dispositions is slightly higher than the number of uses of force by officers because some policy compliant cases were also recommended for additional training or counseling. The incident count for UoF dispositions is slightly higher than the total incident count for the same reason.

FIGURE I. DISPOSITION BY EMPLOYEE

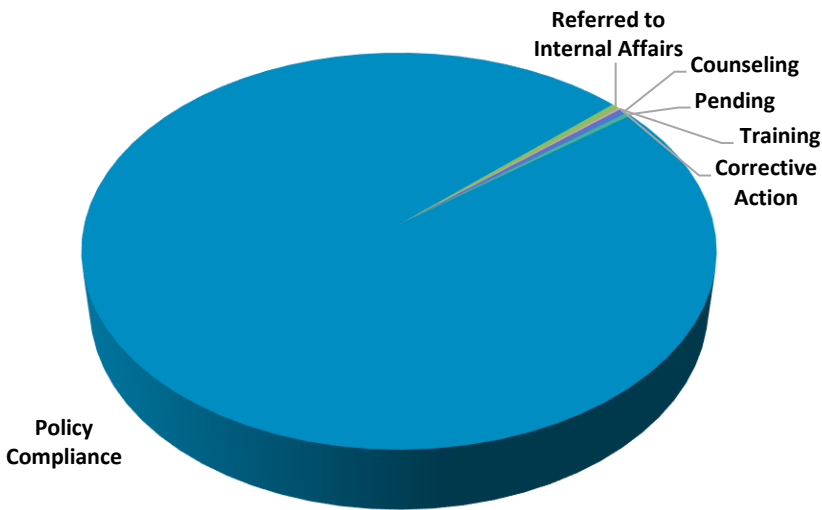
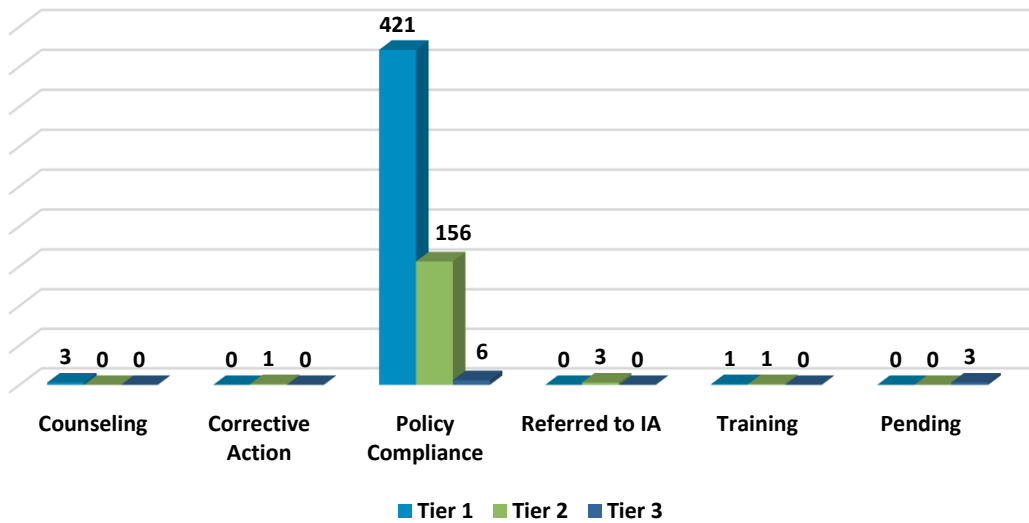


TABLE 8. DISPOSITION BY EMPLOYEE

Disposition	Count
Corrective Action	1
Counseling	5
Policy Compliance	1296
Referred to IA	6
Training	2
Pending	4
Total	1314

FIGURE J. DISPOSITION BY INCIDENT AND TIER



FORCE ANALYSIS

Tracking the type of force used is critical to evaluating if current practices among officers is having the intended outcome when dealing with subjects. **Table 9** provides a detail of types of force used for each tier. In 2019, there were 832 separate uses of force in 591 incidents involving 611 subjects. Some incidents had multiple uses of force. In most Tier 1 incidents, officers were able to gain compliance with minimal application of force. Of the 437 subjects involved in Tier 1 incidents, all but 53 became compliant after a single application of force, and only two subjects of the 53 required a third application of force.

For Tier 2 incidents, 161 of 165 subjects involved required multiple applications of force, which reflects the officers' strategy of responding with the lowest level of force possible and escalating only if it is unsuccessful. Nine incidents were Tier 3. They are comprised of five uses of deadly force and two incidents with multiple uses of force that culminated in deadly force, and four incidents that were Tier 3 because of the level of injury sustained by the subjects. **Table 9** reflects every type of force for each subject involved in an incident.

TABLE 9. TYPE OF FORCE OCCURENCES BY TIER

Tier 3	2018	2019
12-gauge sock round	-	1
Baton	1	-
Carotid Control Hold	1	2
Control techniques	1	2
Deadly force (firearm)	8	5
Hobble	1	-
Other	-	1
Other launchable munitions	-	1
Personal weapons	1	-
Police K9	-	1
Taser	1	3
Total Tier 3	14	16
Tier 2	2018	2019
12-gauge sock round	5	5
Baton	6	4
Carotid Control Hold	4	3
Control techniques (Tier 2)	89	89
Hobble	13	14
Other/Other restraints	15	8
Other launchable munitions	2	8
O.C. (pepper spray)	13	5
Personal weapons	28	32
PIT maneuvers	11	-
Police K9 (Deployments '18=1,289 / '19=1,282)	25	14
Taser	136	144
Total Tier 2	347	326
Tier 1	2018	2019

Baton used for leverage or push	3	1
Control techniques	379	426
Hobble	72	55
Other/Personal weapons	1	0
Other restraints	13	8
Total Tier 1	468	490

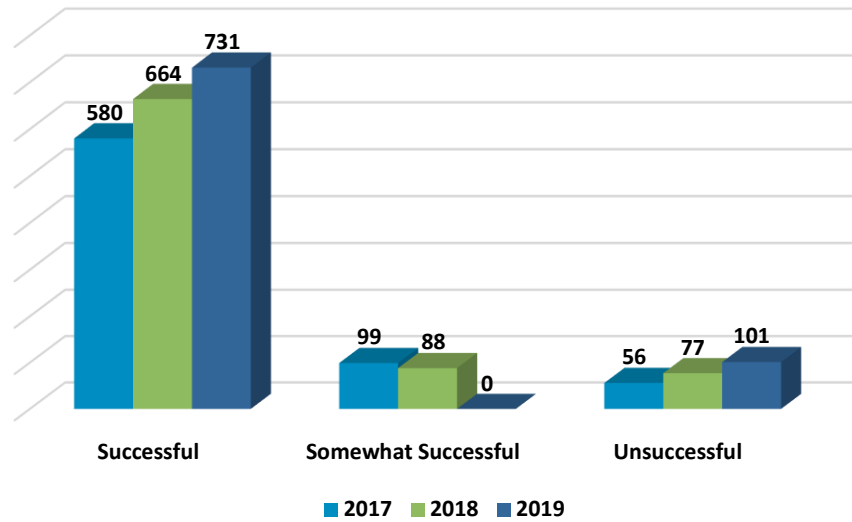
EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF FORCE

Table 10 shows the success rate of different types of force in gaining compliance from the subject. The chart shows that, in general, lower levels of force, such as control techniques are used most often and are highly effective. The Taser is the least effective. A possible explanation is that the Taser barbs must contact the subject to work, and bulky clothing, such as a winter coat, can get in the way. In 2019, APD did away with the “Somewhat successful” category of effectiveness, due to it being overly vague. The elimination of this category accounts for some of the increase of both successful and unsuccessful outcomes over 2018. **Figure K.** show the three-year trend of outcomes.

TABLE 10. EFFECTIVENESS BY USE OF FORCE

Type of Force	Total Uses	Successful		Unsuccessful	
12 Gauge Sock Round	6	5	83.3%	1	16.7%
Baton	5	5	100%	-	-
Carotid Control Hold	5	4	80%	1	20%
Control Techniques	517	490	98.4%	27	5.2%
Deadly force	5	4	80%	1	20%
Hobble	69	66	95.7%	3	4.3%
Other	8	7	87.5%	1	12.5%
Other Launchable Munitions	9	9	100%	-	-
Other Restraints	9	8	88.9%	1	11.1%
Pepper Spray (OC)	5	5	100%	-	-
Personal Weapons	32	30	93.8%	2	6.3%
Police Canine	15	13	86.7%	2	13.3%
Taser- Dart Probe	115	65	56.5%	50	43.5%
Taser- Stun Gun	32	20	62.5%	12	37.5%
Total	832	731	87.9%	101	12.1%

FIGURE K. THREE YEAR TREND: EFFECTIVENESS OF FORCE



INJURIES

Figure L. shows how many subjects and how many officers were injured in 2019 by incident. Both officers and subjects could be involved in multiple incidents with different outcomes. **Figure M.** compares the rate of injury for officers to the rate of injury to subjects for the past three years. The number of subjects injured is in line with previous years, but officer injuries increase by almost 11% in 2019.

FIGURE L. INJURIES BY PERSON AND INCIDENT

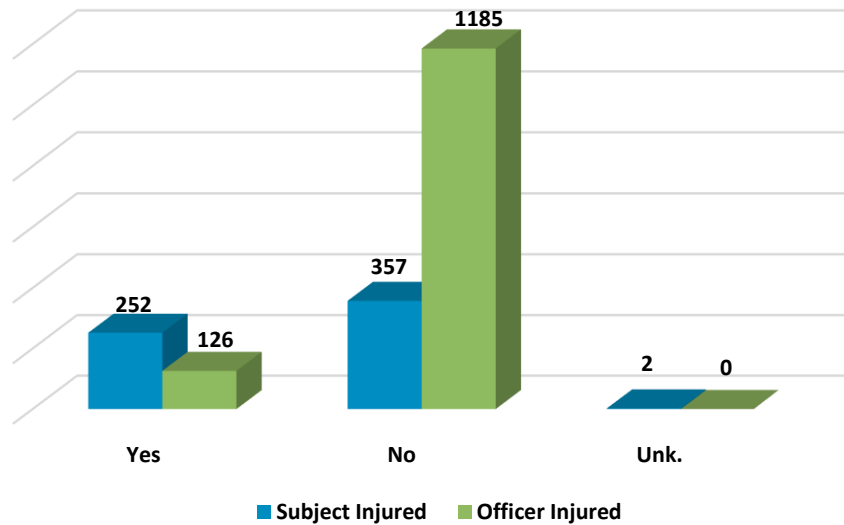
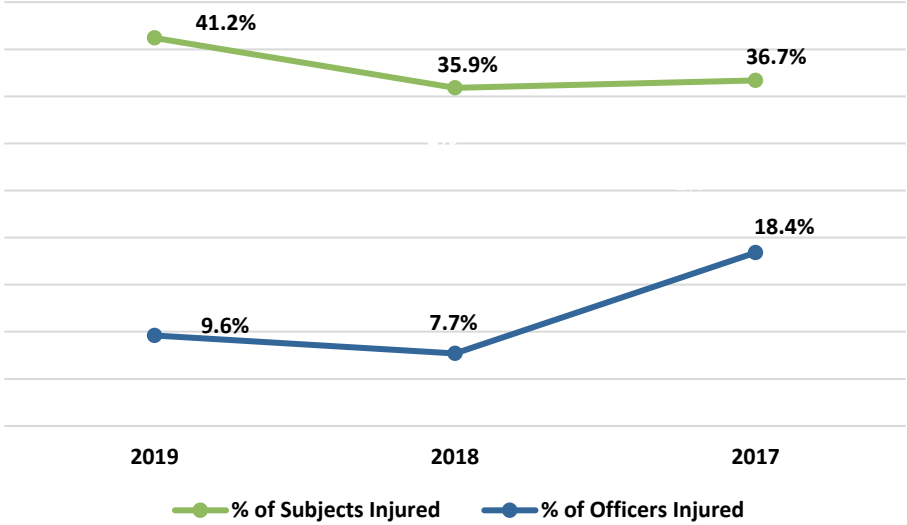


FIGURE M. THREE YEAR TREND: SUBJECT VS. OFFICER INJURIES



APPENDIX I – USE OF FORCE 2019 CALEA TABLE

2019 Use of Force	White Non-Hispanic		Black Non-Hispanic		Hispanic Latino Any Race		Other		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Firearm Discharge	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Firearm Display Only	DISPLAY NOT TRACKED								
Electronic Control Weapon (Taser) Discharge	31	6	83	3	20	2	2	-	147
Electronic Control Weapon (Taser) Display Only	DISPLAY NOT TRACKED								
Baton	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	5
Chemical/OC	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	5
Weaponless ¹⁰	174	47	235	68	69	13	19	7	632
Canine Release Only	GENDER AND RACE NOT TRACKED								1,282
Canine Release and Bite	3	1	4	1	4	-	2	-	15
Total Uses of Force	213	54	330	72	93	16	24	7	809
Total # of Suspects Receiving Non-Fatal Injuries	78	12	94	14	36	4	9	3	250
Total # of Suspects Receiving Fatal Injuries	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total # of Incidents Resulting In Officer Injury or Death	95	4	1	1	14	1	7	3	126
Total Use of Force Arrests ¹¹	138	40	206	50	63	10	14	6	527
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	1,934 ¹²	915	2,898	965	542	1,759	61	204	9,278
Total Use of Force Complaints	9	3	8	5	0	1	1	0	27

¹⁰ Weaponless uses of force include the hobble, control techniques, personal weapons, carotid control hold and other restraints. There were an additional 23 uses of force that are not classified for CALEA purposes, for a total of 832 uses of force. They include fifteen uses of other launchable munitions (including the 12 gauge sock round) and eight other uses of force.

¹¹ “Use of force arrests” are the subjects for which one reason for force is “necessary to effect arrest”.

¹² “The White custodial arrests” category includes 83 white subjects of unknown ethnicity, including 60 males and 23 females.

APPENDIX II - USE OF FORCE TIERS

TIER ONE - Use of Force with No or Minor Injury/Use of Restraint.

- * Take Down No Injury/Minor Injury
- * Use of restraints, capture pole or restraint chair to overcome resistance
- * Control Techniques used to overcome physical resistance with No injury/Minor Injury
- * Use of control weapons (Baton or SD-1) for leverage or control purposes (no strikes or thrusts)

Reporting Requirements: Determination to be made by supervisor, based on treatment status at time of release, if such UoF did not result in injury which required professional medical treatment. A GO is required, notification of supervisor and UoF in Electronic Tracking System is Required. Supervisor to document injuries or lack thereof and investigation to be completed by supervisor and tracked through the chain of command. Photographs of injuries or lack thereof must be taken.



TIER TWO - Use of weapon other than a deadly weapon to overcome resistance or when subject is injured by member's application of force and requires professional medical treatment.

- * Pepper Spray
- * Taser
- * Launchable Impact Weapons
- * Kicks
- * Carotid Control Hold
- * Baton
- * Police Canine
- * Pitting of Vehicle
- * Knees
- * Strikes
- * Punches
- * Any injury in Tier One requiring Professional Medical Treatment

Reporting Requirements: Notify Supervisor, UoF Report in Electronic Tracking System completed by Supervisor with documentation & investigation. Track UoF report through chain of command for review and ultimately to the Compliance and Professional Standards Division, Division Chief. Photographs of injuries or lack thereof must be taken.



TIER THREE - Use of a deadly weapon, or deadly force, or potentially deadly force, regardless of any injury. It also applies to the UoF, tools or weapons, which result in hospitalization or death; or when a supervisor in conjunction with the Duty Captain, believes a use of force, weapons, or tools warrants a Tier Three notification and response.

- * Use of Force/Critical Incident
- * Use of Deadly Weapon
- * Use of Deadly Force
- * Use of Potentially Deadly Force
- * Use of force, tools or weapons which results in hospitalization or death
- * When a supervisor in conjunction with Duty Captain believes UoF, weapons or tools warrants a Tier 3 notification & response
- * Any Training Accident involving a firearm when another person is struck by a bullet and/or dies

Reporting Requirements: Notification initiated to member's immediate supervisor, Duty Captain immediately notify Investigations Bureau Commander. Reported in Electronic Tracking System as well. Any training accident when another person is struck by a bullet requires notification of the Duty Captain. Supervisor will NOT conduct an investigation into a Tier 3 critical incident, however, the supervisor will gather & enter sufficient information to start a UoF report in Electronic Tracking System to be tracked immediately to the Compliance & PSS Bureau Division Chief only. Photographs of injuries or lack thereof must be taken.