

## **2014 Mid-Year Use of Force: Patterns and Analysis Spokane Police Department**

In the first six months of 2014, Spokane Police Officers used force in 59 incidents out of 67,009 contacts with individuals in the community. 5,008 of the contacts involved arrests and 4,742 involved citations. Many of the incidents involved multiple officers and more than one type of force.

### **Total Use of Force Incidents for the first six months of 2014: 59\***

\*In of the 14 incidents, a Use of Force report was created because an officer pointed a firearm, but no other force was needed. 45 incidents involved other types of force.

#### **Reason Force was used:**

- Resisting Arrest: 27%
- Assaulting Officer: 17%
- Fleeing (Felony): 17%
- Threat to Harm Others: 14%
- Suicidal/Harming Self: 12%
- Fleeing (Misdemeanor): 7%
- Assaulting Citizen: 5%

#### **Type of Call**

Suicide attempt was the most common type of call, involving 12% of calls. Domestic Violence calls comprised 8%. Other common types of calls included serving a warrant, Argument, and Suspicious Person, each representing 7%. The rest varied from Burglaries, Traffic Stops, Animal Problems, Shootings, Stabbings, Check Welfare, Assist Other Agency, Disorderly Conduct, Trespassing, Vehicle Theft, and so on. For the past five years, Domestic Violence calls were the leading type of call, but not in the first six months of 2014.

#### **Type of Force**

Note: Most incidents involve multiple officers and more than one type of force.

In the first six months of 2014, the most frequent types of force included: Body weight/manual force (also labeled Arrest Tactics), firearm-pointing, and Taser use. K9 Contacts and Lateral Neck Restraints were also common.

- Body Weight/Manual Force (also described Arrest Tactics) was used 21 out of 59 incidents, a total of 26 applications.
- Officers pointed their firearms 23 times in the first six months of 2014.
- Officers fired Taser probes 13 times in that time period.
- A total of 11 K9 contacts were made.
- Lateral Neck Restraint applications totaled 12 for the six month period. 6 applications were Level 1 restraints; 6 were Level 2.

- Other common types of force involved Takedown Techniques (10 applications), Personal Impact Tools\* (3 applications), Bean bag rounds (3 applications), and Impact Tools\*\* (2 applications).

\*Personal impact tools are commonly defined as an officer using part of their body for impact (for example, a knee strike to the torso while attempting to gain compliance to affect an arrest).

\*\*Impact tools are commonly defined as using a Department-issued tool such as an expandable baton.

Compared to prior years, there are more incidents involving Body Weight/Manual Force and more incidents that only involve the pointing of a firearm.

### **Neighborhood/Police Service Area**

19% of Use of Force incidents occurred in the Downtown service area, while 17% occurred in the Nevawood, South Central (formerly called Garry) and Northeast neighborhoods. Northwest followed with 14% of incidents. 8% of incidents occurred in the Southwest area (includes Browne's Addition and Peaceful Valley) and none took place in the Southeast. 1 incident occurred outside of Spokane (Spokane County) due to inter-agency cooperation. These statistics are similar to 2013, as 17% of incidents happened Downtown; Northeast comprised 14% of the incidents.

Please see attached Police District areas.

### **Type of Shift**

41% of Use of Force incidents took place on Power shift, 4 pm to 2:40 am. 29% took place on Swing shift, 10 am to 8:40 pm. 17% of incidents occurred on the Graveyard shift, 8 pm to 6:40 am. 14% took place on Day shift (6 am to 4:40 pm), which was a significant increase. Over the past five years, Day shift has accounted for less than ten percent. Another change was an increase in Swing shift incidents from prior years.

### **Type of Shift 2009-2013:**

2009: Power 48%; Grave 29%; Swing 17%; Day 2%  
 2010: Power 43%; Grave 30%; Swing 18%; Day 9%  
 2011: Power 46%; Grave 29%; Swing 19%; Day 6%  
 2012: Power 46%; Grave 30%; Swing 18%; Day 7%  
 2013: Power 44%; Grave 27%; Swing 26%; Day 3%

### **Time of Day**

During the first six months of 2014, force was most frequently used between 1800 and 2059 hours, and likely used in the later part of the day rather than early morning hours, as in 2013.

- 0000-0259 5%
- 0300-0559 3%
- 0600-0859 5%
- 0900-1159 8%
- 1200-1459 12%
- 1500-1759 17%

- 1800-2059 24%
- 2100-2359 17%

In contrast, Force was most frequently used between 2100 and 2359 hours during 2013.

- 0000-0259 20%
- 0300-0559 10%
- 0600-0859 2%
- 0900-1159 5%
- 1200-1459 5%
- 1500-1759 11%
- 1800-2059 22%
- 2100-2359 25%

### **Day of the Week**

The majority of incidents happened on Monday: 22%.

- Sunday: 17%
- Monday: 22%
- Tuesday: 8%
- Wednesday: 15%
- Thursday: 15%
- Friday: 8%
- Saturday: 14%

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

21 of the 59 incidents (36%) involved an intoxicated subject. 24% of Use of Force incidents involved alcohol; 13 (22%) incidents involved a suspect under the influence of drugs, but only twice were the specific drugs actually identified (in one case, meth, and in another, LSD). The other 11 cases (19%) involved unknown drugs. 6 of the incidents involved the suspect being under the influence of both drugs and alcohol.

### **Mental Health Factors**

In the majority of incidents during this time period, the subject's mental health was not a factor. However, the subject appeared mentally unstable in 14 of the 59 incidents (24%). Overall during the time period, Spokane Police officers responded to 583 incidents involving persons with a mental illness or mental disability, but force was only necessary for 14 (or 2%) of those calls.

7 Use of Force incidents occurred when officers were responding to Attempted Suicide calls. During the first six months of 2014, officers responded to 870 Suicide attempt calls, but only used force less than 1% of the time, as 7 cases required officers to use force to detain the subjects.

### **Racial/Ethnic Makeup of Subjects**

The racial/ethnic makeup was very similar to Spokane County racial demographics, with the majority of subjects being White (77%). 8% of subjects were Black; 10% Native American; 3% Hispanic; and 2% Asian.

According to the 2010 United States Census, the population within the City of Spokane was 208,916. Of the people living in Spokane in 2010 86.7% were White, 5.0% were Hispanic or Latino, 2.6% were Asian, 2.3% were Black, 2.0% were Native American, 0.6% were Pacific Islander, and 4.6% claimed two or more races.

**Circumstances of Note**

One subject exhibited Excited Delirium symptoms and was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

No officers were involved in six or more Use of Force incidents in this time period, except one K9 officer. K9 officers have a different threshold for activating the Early Warning System because their K9s are used so extensively. From January 1st to June 30th, 2014, SPD K9s were deployed 672 times, to assist with tracking, building searches, perimeter security, accelerant searches, explosive sweeps, evidence finds, and suspect apprehension. Deployments often were associated the following types of calls: burglary in progress, felony warrant service, vehicle theft, domestic violence, murder, assault, shooting, robbery, and so on. Canine contacts occurred 11 times, 1.6% of total K9 deployments.

One incident occurred outside of Spokane, in Spokane County, due to inter-agency cooperation.

## CITY OF SPOKANE POLICE DISTRICTS

P 1: Northwest

P 2: Central

P 3: Nevawood

P 4: Northeast

P 5: South Central

P 6: Southeast

P 7: Southwest

P 8: Downtown

